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Board Members



Board Chair
Victoria Sinclair



Deputy Chair
Charlotte Murch



Board Member
Mike Wyeth



Board Member
Lisa Shaw



Board Member
Chris Kennett



Board Member
Erin Cross

Life Members

Gaynor Logan	Karen Purdue
Wendy McArthur	Winy van Rossum
Robin McCall	Gil Wikstrom
Diane McWhirter	Pauline Smith

Leadership Team

Senior Teachers - Robyn Leckie and Wendy McLachlan

Lead Administrator - Sheryl Harrison

Finance Manager - Annemey Everson

Property & Maintenance Manager - Joseph Sanginiti

General Manager - Patrick Edwards

The Year in Numbers

Over
160
Staff

24
locations across
Southland

including the addition
of Northern Southland
Kindergarten in
Lumsden.

20
Kindergarten's now signed
to the Enviro-schools
programme

We have over
8000
tamariki
within Southland



A message from the Board

This year has been another exciting year for Kindergarten South. We have continued to stabilise our Association, our team, and our operations.



Some of the many exciting growth points for our organisation during the 2022 year have been:

- Progression towards the purchase of our new Kindergarten South House - a space for our leadership team to work from, and also a place to connect with the many elements of our Kindergarten South whānau/community.
- Ongoing culture development - we are excited about the direction of travel for our team. While this can at times feel uncomfortable, it is important to stop and appreciate how far we have come together.
- Continued growth within the Leadership Team (and in 2023 the recent employment of Catherine Frost as our HR Manager).
- The continued transition across the Association to a full-year model. This is providing ongoing financial sustainability for our association, with minimal change for our whānau/community. Thank you to our staff who have approached this change with courage and strength.
- Engaging Peer Review Business Consultants to work with the Board as they develop a strong strategic plan for the 10-15yr growth of Kindergarten South.
- Ongoing implementation of professional and personal development for all of our Senior Leadership Team.

It is important to note that our financial performance has also continued to improve, due in no small part to the willingness of our team to adapt and change to new proposals, and work in new ways for better overall outcomes. A special thank you to Mark Hamilton and the team at Findex, providing support over and above contractual obligations - thanks for keeping us on the straight and narrow!

In education, the landscape continues to change. As a primary teacher, I can attest to the constant morphing of our pedagogy and philosophy as we learn more about how tamariki learn best and how we can deliver our curriculum more effectively. This can at times be very challenging and confronting - we have got to be prepared to release some of the things we have held tightly in order for positive change and opportunities to arise.

Kindergarten South has a rich history of being leaders in Early Childhood Education, and on many occasions has led the way in significant changes to the ECE landscape.

I am proud to lead this organisation as we continue to look forward to the exciting changes ahead, and encourage all members of our Association to embrace new opportunities and be open to positive changes as they are presented to us. Who knows what great things may be achieved when we work together for the good of our collective communities?!

We are making a difference in the lives of each and every child (and their whānau) in our care - what an incredible impact we have across Southland. Our amazing kaiako, and our surrounding support staff, are change-makers for these little lives. This work is of utmost importance, and I wish to acknowledge that each and every day, our Kindergarten South team bring their very best to the kindy floor - truly providing a home away from home for our tamariki.



Oxford Kindergarten | Learning with friends.



Longbush Kindergarten | A great example of tuakana-teina



Rockdale Park Kindergarten | Mokopuna
sketching possum solution

I wish to acknowledge our current Board members, Erin Cross, Chris Kennett, Lisa Shaw, and Charlotte Murch.

You have worked hard to ensure our ship is steady, and forward-moving. Your commitment to Kindergarten South is appreciated, and your experience and expertise in governing our Association is outstanding.

I also acknowledge Mike Wyeth, who has been part of the Board for the past 2 years and is now taking a step back. Thank you Mike for all you have contributed to our team, specifically your financial and business acumen. We wish you well for the future.

We have a wonderful Senior Leadership Team. Wendy, Sheryl, Nikki and Joe, you provide outstanding support to our tamariki in all of the ways you work with our Kindergartens. I appreciate your passion and commitment to the Association, and also to our tamariki. You have been willing to come on this change-journey with us, and although it isn't always smooth sailing, I am incredibly proud and grateful that you have shown strength of character as we work through the exciting challenges that are presented. I am looking forward to the next year, and all of the possibilities that lie ahead.

Kindergarten South is fortunate to have a team of staff who are committed and loyal to our tamariki and our Association. There are a large number of staff who have been with us for extended and significant periods of time. I wish to acknowledge each of these outstanding kaiako, and especially those who have come to the end of their working careers or felt it time to move on. Thank you for all you have done for the tamariki in your care, and the whānau/communities you have influenced.

During the past year, we farewelled two of our Senior Team members. Firstly, Annemey Everson our Financial Manager moved to Christchurch to be closer to family. Thank you Annemey for your extremely challenging work as you set-up our financial management in-house systems. We wish you well.

We also farewelled Robyn Leckie from the team. Robyn worked to support and advocate for both kaiako and tamariki within the Association. We will miss Robyn's expertise and passion, and wish her well for the future.

And finally, I wish to thank Patrick, our General Manager. I am extremely proud of your willingness to step up and face the challenges of your role head on. It isn't always straightforward, and more often than not, the road is a bumpy one. But you have allowed yourself to reflect and grow, and you have continued to lead this Association with passion and vigour. Thank you for always being positive and forward-thinking. I hope you can look back at the past year and be proud that the overall direction of travel is very positive - a great platform for the year to come.

In a world where so often life isn't stable for our tamariki, I consider it a great privilege to lead an organisation that has a direct impact on the lives of so many Southlanders, both little ones and big ones!

The possibilities for Kindergarten South in 2024 are endless - let's remain open-minded, positive and passionate about the incredibly important mahi we are part of and take every opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the little people we serve.

Victoria Sinclair
Board Chair
Southland Kindergarten Association

Elsie Street Kindergarten | Exploring in nature



Longford Kindy | Ruby and Sophie looking for caterpillars at Bush Kindy!

From the General Manager

Ngā mihi mahana kia koutou katoa.

**Hello to everyone and thank you for
taking the time to read our annual
general report for 2022.**

The last 12 months has seen a changing environment in ECE across the country as the impact of New Zealand's financial economic situation starts to take hold. This is on top of further COVID lockdowns and impact to personal lives for our staff and community. However, despite these challenges and changing environments, our Association continues to deliver an excellent ECE service which is evolving to suit the needs of our tamariki and their whānau.

Our financial year end reflects the impact of these challenging environments we have experienced. While our staff have worked hard to implement and utilise the new operational models provided to ensure our financial sustainability, the 2022 year ended with a negative balance. While this balance is minimal compared to historic negative year ends, it is not a situation that any of us hoped to be reporting on. However, we are pleased to have supported our staff through 2022 and beyond with additional COVID entitlement sick leave acknowledging the unusual situation we as New Zealanders found ourselves in during that time. In addition to this, and due to a conclusion delay, we were required to carry forward a small MOE project funding into 2023 which essentially took us beyond a break even position. We have set a budget for 2023 FY that we hope will continue to put us back on to a positive trajectory for our financial sustainability.

Kindergarten South continues to innovate with the use of technology for our reporting and staff rosters which will see a model that empowers our kaiako at a kindergarten level. Our work with New Zealand Kindergarten network proves to be invaluable with the internal mentoring carried out along with the sharing of resources and information.

2022 saw our Association grow to 24 locations across Southland with the addition of Northern Southland Kindergarten in Lumsden. The opening of this new centre would not have been possible without the hard work of Wendy and Sheryl who, along with the new team at Northern Southland, embraced the needs of the community to deliver another kindergarten that delivers on excellence and quality.

I believe that 2023 and beyond will continue to see the needs of ECE change for our whānau. Our role numbers and waiting list continue to be a challenge which trend downwards. With the ongoing competitive nature of ECE this continues to be a challenge our Association will access. While MOE have implemented a new network management framework that will bring about future controls of new ECE providers, this new model is going to take some time to adjust the ECE sector. However, if we look historically over the past 100 years, we should be proud of the way we have embraced changes as an Association and how we have morphed and reshaped to meet these needs. I am confident our Association is stable and sustainable for our future journey, along with being supportive of our community to continue this assessment of needs and delivery accordingly where needed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all our staff who have worked hard through 2022 delivering our model to over 800 tamariki within Southland. To our operational staff and Kaiako who moved on through the 2022 year, your work and support to the Association during your time here will be felt for many years to come. I would like to also acknowledge the on-going support of our Board of Governors who donate their time and support to the Association. Our Board Chair Vic Sinclair who has been available at all times to support us all and to represent our Board. The governance and mahi of our Board is exceptional and has allowed us to operate with confidence under their guidance.

Our Association is something that we should all be proud of, delivering ECE for over 100 years through times that will be looked back in history as unprecedented. I am excited to be working with you all as caretakers of the Association building a platform for another 100 years plus to come.

Patrick Edwards
General Manager



Clarendon Kindergarten | Finding joy
in exploring working theories.

Enviroschools



Longford Kindergarten | James and Jesse investigate a bug!

The number of Kindergarten's, now signed to the Enviroschools programme has risen from 17 to 20, and these Kindergartens are supported by two active Kindergartens South facilitators.

The Enviroschools kaupapa of – “creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together,” is evident at each of these kindergartens.



Kew Kindergarten | New Enviroschool sign.

Our connections with the Toimata Foundation and Environment Southland remain strong. We seek advice and support from Toimata, to ensure our kaiako have access to the latest resources and information. We work closely with the lead facilitator at Environment Southland enabling us to provide interesting informative workshops for our kaiako and to continue to grow our connections within the wider Southland community.

Kindergartens South holds the Enviroschools kaupapa in Early Childhood Education in Southland and we are proud to have this as a key point of difference for our Association.

Taiao Tūhura/ Discovering Nature

This year saw the introduction of a choice of exciting new destinations, including Myross Road, for Taiao Tūhura.

These being Anderson Park hikoi tahi and rua, Seaward Bush, Thomsons Bush, Kilmock Bush, and the Ōtātara Scenic Reserve. All these sites offer opportunity for tamariki, kaiako and whānau to have fun; enjoy peaceful moments; and experience challenge, excitement and wonderment.

We employed two van drivers to drive tamariki and kaiako, in our newly sign written van, to their chosen destination.

When young tamariki learn about the concept of kaitiakitanga, and learn to be kaitiaki, they learn to respect, care for, and protect people places and things that are important to us all.

“Nature alleviates the impact of life stress on children and helps them deal with adversity. The greater the amount of nature exposure, the greater the benefits” (cited in Buchan 2015)



Ranui Kindergarten | Airport excursion.



Elston Lea Kindergarten | Our tamariki returning from a great day out at Taiao Tūhura.

Kindergarten Highlights



Bluff Kindergarten | Tamariki planting kakano in the Māra.

Bluff Kindergarten

Bluff Kindergarten celebrates and cherishes the uniqueness of its location and the whenua to which we sit.

This year there was a big focus on growing our Māra Kai (Garden) learning about what it means to look after and grow kai for our whānau and community. Kaiako and tamariki together, learnt what it means to be a kaitiaki of the whenua and provide manaaki and aroha to our whānau. We learnt about the Atua that tautoko the growing as well as the sustainable practices that help support the Kaupapa. Starting off with kakano (seeds) and seedlings and taking care of them over the months, supported tamariki to development of their own ecological identity and footprint. We have collaboratively grown a flourishing Māra that has produced Peas, Potatoes, Strawberries, Spinach, Herbs, Cucumbers, Lettuces and lately an abundance of Tomatoes! It has been a true labour of love and commitment. Growing and sharing our Kai has been a wonderful way to nourish the tinana and wairua of those we love and beyond.

“He kai kei aku ringaringa”

Arohanui



Drummond Kindergarten | Safety Day.

Clarendon Kindergarten

The curriculum design and internal evaluations for 2022, focused on creating and strengthening connections with our parents, whānau and our wider learning community. Kaiako utilised social media platforms to connect with the wider community, to share the learning of tamariki and to build the kindergartens name within the community. The roll increased steadily over the year and kaiako strengthened connections with new whānau by providing opportunities to get together, to connect with new whānau and to celebrate their tamariki and their learning journey.

We held a kindergarten sports afternoon and picnic lunch, where we welcomed the Kingswell Fire Fighters, and the Invercargill Police. The year finished with a drive through movie evening, which had an amazing turnout of whānau highlighting the growth of the kindergarten over the year.

To support tamariki with the development of oral language, literacy packs were put together for tamariki to take home and share with their whānau. Kaiako worked in collaboration with a speech therapist, to provide a range of resources and strategies to support the development and use of oral language.

Targeted funding was used to remove barriers to learning for tamariki by providing breakfast for tamariki daily. A kindergarten vegetable garden was created, the kai grown was harvested and shared with the kindergarten community. Clarendon Kindergarten has recently become an Enviro Kindergarten and we are looking forward to sharing this learning journey with our tamariki, whānau and learning community.

Drummond Kindergarten

E iti noa ana, nā te aroha.

The tamariki, kaiako and whānau of Drummond Kindergarten spent a great deal of time celebrating whanaungatanga and the importance of being active contributors to the wider community. Celebrating together and engaging in Murihiku wide events enabled us to build Hononga/Connections and empower our tamariki to value the vital roles that they bring to their whenua.

Community events such as Murihiku Polyfest, sharing the culture and identity of our Kura; creating the Haast Eagle for the Matariki event at Queens Park; joining our local communities Matariki art festival which hosted hundreds of community members and whānau; Winning 1st in the cultural award for our Papatūānuku artwork; creating a Christmas door and then attending Moore's Reserve Christmas event; as well as our famous Pet Day, celebrating our rural outlook! These events offered opportunities for tamariki to actively engage in experiences that they may not get outside of Kindergarten.

The importance of caring for our natural world through sustainable approaches such as planting and harvesting in our māra, conserving water, discovering the water cycle, and the extension of Te Mea homai noa, our sharing shed led Drummond to reflect upon, and successfully gain Bronze as an EnviroSchool – something we are all so proud of.

The rural atmosphere and sense of Turangawaewae here at Drummond evokes many positive partnerships developed between tamariki, Kaiako, whānau and our wider community.

Elsie Street Kindergarten

Throughout the year kaiako attended professional learning and development around Oral Literacy, provided by a SELO contract with Helen Cartwright. This mahi enhanced kaiako teaching and learning strategies to implement with our ESOL tamariki and whānau. This linked to the internal evaluation which focused on “how effectively do kaiako use the talk tools of ‘fostering pair communication, extending vocabulary, descriptive language strategies and talking about feelings, to foster the oral language learning and development of our tamariki?”

Throughout the year ngā kaiako me ngā tamariki worked towards gaining ‘Silver’ status in the Enviroschools journey, continuing the sustainability focus through the sharing table, caring for te mara, and extending our understanding caring for the environment.

The 10 eldest tamariki attend the Nui Ferns programme at Dolamore Park, a valuable opportunity to build relationships with nature in an unhurried manner. Through their interactions and experiences with our natural environment ngā tamariki experience situations to build their self-confidence, to problem solve, develop perseverance, and take risks, whilst learning to care and respect their natural surroundings.

Ngā tamariki me ngā kaiako built relationships within the community incorporating a visit to the Fire Station to coincide with our ‘All about me programme’; a visit to the Gore Public Library, and a visit to Gore Main School to learn about their Enviroschools programme. The kindergarten whānau were also involved in the Gore Christmas Parade.

Elston Lea Kindergarten

The biggest highlight for our tamariki in 2022 was our return to ILT Stadium Southland to perform at Polyfest. The learning and conversations around this are still evident as tamariki revisit pictures of themselves dressed up and on the big stage.

We also had a successful full kindergarten excursion to the SIT concert, again another opportunity for a bus trip and event which tamariki thoroughly enjoyed.

Many of our outdoor garden areas have been better utilised over the last 12 months, we have had surplus peas, broccoli, carrots, and apples for our whānau to share. Gardening also provided rich opportunities to link in with the wider community. Our kindergarten whānau have been involved in the planting of fruit trees at McQuarrie Street Park and we plan to foster an apple tree for planting there, in the spring of 2023.

Taiao Tūhura continues to be a highlight for the eldest tamariki. The learning from this is deepened at kindergarten as we focused on our children’s understanding of being kaitiaki and developing a relationship with the natural environment.

The whānau committee chose to undertake some fundraising late last year and after a very successful raffle, we were able to purchase some monkey bars and two new swing attachments. These pieces of equipment support tamariki to develop their upper body strength to swing and hang. Tuakana-teina relationships, the more able tamariki showing their peers how to use the equipment, is evident.

Elsie Street Kindergarten | Paper brick making – a sensory process our tamariki enjoy participating in.






Fiordland Kindergarten | Our 'Welcome to Spring Party' was well supported by our whānau and a firm favourite of the tamariki at Fiordland Kindergarten.

Fiordland

Throughout last year, Fiordland Kindergarten kaiako worked hard to re-establish and cement the values of whanaungatanga and manaakitanga within the environment. Part of building these connections involved celebrating and gathering together for a number of events including a Matariki Disco; a Welcome to Spring party at Ivon Wilson Park; a Christmas Party at Kindergarten, and entering and winning the local Santa Parade.

Taiao Tūhura started back up in Term 2. The weekly sessions were supported by two whānau members. The diversity of learning during these sessions between tamariki, whānau and kaiako evolved each week. During term three, we had the older tamariki from Mararoa Primary School attend as part of their school's leadership programme, tuakana teina was strong. Tamariki were supported to be kaitiaki at Taiao Tūhura. Links were made between Ivon Wilson Park, Kindergarten, our homes and within our beautiful backyard known as Fiordland. Ecological identity was our curriculum design focus. Our strong relationship with Te Anau Primary School continued with weekly school visits and kaiako from school popping over to visit us from time to time. 

We farewelled Mrs Shaw who retired after 40 years of teaching at Fiordland Kindergarten. We celebrated all those years of dedication and aroha with a gathering at Ivon Wilson Park. Many people attending were from not only our Kindergarten community but from the wider community. Chuchu Wu was welcomed to the team mid-year.

Moving into 2023, we are excited for the learning journey ahead!

Glengarry Kindergarten

It is almost two years since we moved to the full year operating model.

Tamariki attended Taiao Tūhura at Myross Road on a fortnightly basis and are looking forward to heading into some different bush areas in 2023.

We enjoyed several spontaneous excursions into the community, including visits to Bluff, Kew and Rockdale Park Kindergartens.

Participating in Murihiku Polyfest and the Matariki celebrations were a highlight of our year and we always receive huge support and collaboration from our whānau for these events.

Our focus for 2022 was around literacy. Our tamariki enjoyed learning about the alphabet, NZ Sign Language, rhymes, word games, stories, writing their names and basic words, alongside having more in depth conversations with both kaiako and peers.

Our kindergarten pets are a valuable learning tool to support tamariki at times of stress - to help calm and regulate their emotions. They include a praying mantis, a frog, two tanks of fish, a turtle that was kindly donated by Middle School and three new hens.



Glengarry Kindergarten |  watching our turtle Shelton.

Grasmere kindergarten

The focus was on social and emotional learning. We did this by using the metaphor of bucket filling and we have many resources to support this learning. We received great feedback from our whānau about how they see and hear related language at home from their tamaiti.

Through social and emotional learning the tamariki are creating strong foundations to get them ready for school and beyond. Having these foundations embedded in our daily programme supports the tamariki to build positive self-identity and gain the confidence to set themselves learning goals. A big focus for setting their own learning goals is challenging themselves physically and mentally. We encouraged tamariki to take risks as this supports them to learn through smaller risks and helps to prevent the larger risks in the future. When tamariki are given the opportunity to set their own learning goals they learn what it means to keep going until that goal is achieved and this supports the enhancement of their positive learner identity. The pride radiating from their faces when they finally achieve their goal is priceless.

A small highlight of the year was the new tee-shirts Grasmere Kindergarten gifted to each tamaiti for Christmas, these were loved by everyone.

Kew Kindergarten

The biggest highlight of 2022 was being awarded our Silver Enviro-schools award. It was 5 years of mahi, korero, investigations, problem solving and projects that lead us to achieving this status and boy did we celebrate! We invited all our whānau and Kew community to join us at the Pantry at South Alive. In predicted rain and thunderstorms, our amazing whānau, equipped with umbrellas, came on this hiko with us. The amount of pride, manaaki and joy was so evident amongst our whānau. Once there, we had our award ceremony, where all tamariki got an award and a silver medal, before a delicious morning kai together, around our handmade decorated table. To finish off the celebration was a play in the play pod. This was whānau and our community celebrating together, strengthening relationships, making memories and celebrating all our hard mahi!

This was a Bucket Filling Day! Noah shared “we are champions. It was amazing! Shaking your hand and getting my medal. I looked snazzy. The table looked like a florist. It was amazing!”

Thanks to all our tamariki, whānau, community and South Alive for helping us on this incredible journey.



Grasmere Kindergarten | Tamariki creating elaborate lifestyle housing with the magnatiles.

Lees Street Kindergarten

Last year we continued to support tamariki with deepening their understanding of supporting others within our community, through using the sharing shelf and thinking of other ways we can support people outside of our hāpori. Tamariki were developing knowledge and understanding of manaakitanga, what this looks like and how we practice this within our daily interactions.

In term four tamariki propagated sunflower seeds, caring and nurturing them to grow into strong healthy plants. As the term came to an end, discussion and inquiry learning focused on 'the gift of giving' rather than receiving. Tamariki decided it would be great to share our sunflowers with our neighbours and others within our community. Tamariki and kaiako walked around the neighbourhood delivering sunflowers to others. Tamariki enjoyed meeting some of the neighbours and were left feeling proud, knowing they had made others feel fantastic from the sunflower they had gifted. Tamariki received many cards of thanks and appreciation, acknowledging their hard work and the kindness they showed. We were sent photos from some neighbours showing the growth of their sunflowers. Experiences like these support tamariki to develop and strengthen their ideas of being active citizens within their world.




Lees Street Kindergarten | Tamariki gifting their sunflower plants to the neighbors in our community.



Lees Street Kindergarten | Tamariki proudly displaying their sunflower artwork.

Lindisfarne Kindergarten

The highlight for 2022 was the joy, excitement and learning that our tunnel house and garden beds provided. Seeing the excitement from ngā tamariki as  planted their first seeds; becoming curious as they watched them grow; asking about what will happen next; making their own hypothesis; monitoring the progress each day and waiting in anticipation of what may have grown seamlessly overnight.

It has been very rewarding as we harvest the produce which has been gifted so generously from Papatūānuku from our gardens and heritage apple tree.

This mahi supported our commitment to the Enviroschool Kaupapa which is all about encapsulating the importance of creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together.

Taiao Tūhura (Nature Discovery) continued to provide our tamariki with a degree of physical challenge and reasonable risk, encouraging curiosity and exploration in nature. It was great welcoming Kellie to our teaching team and becoming a full year model to support the needs of our existing whānau and prospective whānau.

The shared vision for our back garden expansion and the collaborative efforts made, for a new fence and new updated whānau room, provided a sense of kotahitanga as whānau came together to fundraise for these projects.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tuohu koe me maunga teitei.

Pursue that which is precious and don't be deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain.

Lindisfarne Kindergarten | Building confidence in action.



Longbush Kindergarten

Longbush Rural Kindergarten promotes getting back to basics, encouraging, and supporting the foundation skills of tamariki. We are very fortunate to have the farm area where tamariki can challenge themselves to extend these skills.

Last year we had two donations given to us from the Dacre and Rimu Rural Women Divisions. We purchased a slack line with many attachments and tamariki have had fun challenging their balance, swinging and problem solving together.

As an Enviroschools kindergarten, growing, tending to, and preparing our own vegetables continues to be a strong part of our programme. This supports tamariki to learn lifelong skills for sustainable living. We were pleased to be able to have whānau back for our annual potato dig, after a hiatus due to the events of last three years, tamariki and the whānau enjoyed the competitive nature of this event, raising community spirit.

Longbush Kindergarten | Great persistence practicing on the monkey bars.



Longford Kindergarten

Mā te kimi ka kite. Mā te kite ka mōhio. Mā te mōhio ka Mārama

Seek and discover. Discover and know. Know and become enlightened.

This whakataukī embraces valued learning through Mana aotūroa exploration. Our learning community become curious to find out about the world we live in and the different ways that we can express our thinking! An interest that sparked our wonder was bugs! Tamariki and kaiako explored different ways to represent our thinking. From drawing, clay mahi, light box investigations, taking care of our caterpillar whānau to discovering the bugs that live in our space. Our learning grew working theories and problem solving. We were also able to go to listen to the bug man Rudd Kleinpaste! What an amazing experience – tumekel!

Our Taiao Tūhura (Bush Kindy) programme and Enviroschools mahi continued to support our kaitiakitanga learning. Our Bush Kindy and kindergarten spaces overtime have integrated to create a place-based approach inspiring all tamariki to become curious of our natural living worlds in our environment.

2023 continues with our inquiry into our kaitiakitanga learning, growing our connections to others, our local spaces and to Papatūānuku.

Ngā mihi nui



Longford Kindergarten | Indie, Cassie and Ruby taking a look at the insect clay mahi!

Newfield Kindergarten

What a year 2022 was for the Newfield Kindergarten hapori. The year offered opportunities for us all to heal, remember and revisit the way things were 'before'.

We worked hard as a hapori to acknowledge the emotional rollercoaster we had been on. We were able to continue utilising and refining our newly learned strategies for emotional regulation in a variety of new contexts together.

The biggest highlight of 2022 was getting back out into the community again!

We loved the challenge of PolyFest! We practiced our songs and our dancing for weeks leading up to the performance. We enjoyed having whānau back in kindergarten to help with costuming, teaching us our songs and beautiful Cook Island/Māori dance. A big shout out to Liana Marie, and the Pule whānau! The day was electric, and our tamariki were so excited and performed so well! Cheehoo!

We also enjoyed working together to create a star for the Matariki display at the stadium. Ngā tamariki loved going to visit our star and coming back to kindy to tell us all about it! Ka rawe!

Thank you to our wonderful kindergarten whānau! We are looking forward to a year where we continue to re-establish and strengthen connections within our community, after the great start in 2022!



Newfield Kindergarten | Friends.



Newfield Kindergarten | Polyfest 2022.

Northern Southland Kindergarten

2022 was a big year for us at Northern Southland Kindergarten, as we opened our doors for the first time and welcomed our new whānau and their tamariki.

There was a lot of learning as we began our journey as a new team, deciding what kind of place we wanted to create for ngā tamariki and the wider Lumsden community. One of the great highlights of our 2022, was establishing both a garden within our kindergarten and at the community gardens! Ngā tamariki, kaiako, and whānau worked hard to create these beautiful spaces and at the beginning of this year we have seen the fruits of our labour, being able to harvest strawberries, herbs, peas, and potatoes. These we have all used in our baking and cooking at kindergarten.

At the end of last year, we celebrated our first year of operation as we said farewell to our whānau for the holiday period with a fabulous Christmas Party, full of fun, laughter, and a giant bouncy castle that we had the best time exploring. We are excited for the growth and adventure 2023 will bring.

Nga mihi nui.



Northern Southland Kindergarten | Tamariki putting on performances for each other using our wonderful real microphone!

Otatara Kindergarten

As we reflect over the past 12 months, we realise whanaungatanga and manaakitanga are strongly woven in our community. Our community came together to bring to life our collective vision of building a 'lean to' on our building, offering more shade and shelter in the outdoor learning environment.

Our parent whānau group worked together, with a local kindergarten Dad builder – to create a plan and budget a cost.

Whānau, tamariki and kaiako rallied together to gather raffle prizes, donations, sell tickets and raise the required money needed to complete our build. This was a great success.



Otatara Kindergarten | Lewis 'Catboy' Hendl' selling raffles outside Otatara 4 Square.

Throughout the course of 3 months, kaiako saw, felt and heard how it brought whānau connection and relationships back into the physical kindergarten space. This project was able to bring us all back together and drive towards something we are all proud of.

Our kindergarten has woven together through our mahi tahi and we look forward to seeing the next steps unfold.

Oxford Kindergarten

2022 saw us returning to a new normal, living in a world with a pandemic. Here at Oxford Kindergarten learning is steeped in social and emotional competence. This is achieved through fun and laughter as we learn together. Learning about how our brain works and how to be the boss of it has seen our tamariki thrive in our inclusive learning environment. We are a bucket filling kindergarten; this means we fill our own and others imaginary buckets. We show kindness, empathy and respect for people, places, and things. We believe that bucket filling and brain learning are the foundation to learning for everyone, today, tomorrow and into the future.

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. Tis the people, tis the people, tis the people.



Oxford Kindergarten | Team Learning.

Ranui Kindergarten

As we approached the end of 2022, we planned and engaged in excursions to support our curriculum design focus 'Confident and Competent Me'.

During the year some alternative destinations for our Taiao Tūhura programme were visited, the best one being a visit to Invercargill Airport, where ngā tamariki were hosted by Customs. An exclusive look at what happens behind the scenes in the jet lounge was very intriguing, especially when backpacks were put through the x-ray machine.

To demonstrate how confident and competent tamariki are, we took them to Stadium Southland and utilised the very cool play pods that are available. Confidence courses and challenging play experiences, could be set up.

The next excursion was to the Invercargill Central Fire Station. Here, ngā tamariki got up and personal with fire fighters, the equipment they use and the machinery. Station staff were brilliant, and every child got to experience what it was like to put out a fire.

Promoting Ranui Kindergarten is taken seriously, and so when the opportunity to enter the Richardson's Truck Museum "Build Your Dream Truck" competition came along, ngā tamariki entered with gusto. Much planning and construction took place over several days to produce a winning entry.

Tamariki helped decorate boxes for the Kindergartens South Christmas tree at the Stadium. A small group of tamariki travelled to the stadium to view all the stunning entries, and to write their letters to Santa.

The year was wrapped with a very successful whānau night at the Model Engineers Society, with a visit from the big red guy himself, who arrived on a train!



Ranui Kindergarten | ILT Stadium play pods.

Riverton Kindergarten

Last year we continued with enhancing our community relationships by working collaboratively with Aparima Collage, our local high school. We approached them about a project we had, to represent our local pūrākau of Kewa and Kiwa in pictorial form, at the kindergarten. A group of year 12 ākonga visited us and heard from our tamariki about the things that were important to them about Riverton/Aparima. These things were then woven into the mural depicting the pūrākau. They came up with a concept board and revisited us with this. We were so excited by this as they had nailed our ideas, and we were super excited when they revealed the finished artwork. We are so stoked to have our special taonga for many years to come.



Riverton Kindergarten | Bush Kindergarten reflections.

Riverton Kindergarten | Catching food for the frogs.



Rockdale Park Kindergarten

We awahi mokopuna and whānau to develop a true sense of belonging and partnership. Alongside whānau we aspire for ākonga/learners to develop a strong sense of mana and to become confident and competent communicators, explorers, problem solvers, decision makers, creators and kaitiaki. A sense of wonder, curiosity and creativity is fostered, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.

We ventured out into the community, developing an ecological identity and a coming-to-know the people, places and things that make up our community.

We participated in Polyfest and valued the contribution of whānau to enhance our performance and our art installations. When we cannot participate in local community events, we use initiative and celebrate mokopuna mahi in other ways.

We are committed to ensuring we meet our responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and draw inspiration from the 100 Languages of Reggio Emilia. Through the 100 languages mokopuna have developed an awareness of what it means to be a kaitiaki in our kindergarten space. This was shown through sketches, working collaboratively with and sharing knowledge with mokopuna from Aurora College; developing a relationship with the workers at the neighboring COVID testing station; thinking of others before oneself; coming to know manu that visit our space; exploring native ecosystems; working alongside Environment Southland; recognizing 'local legends' – people in our community who are amazing; a curiosity with a visitor, this became an inquiry known as the 'Possum Paradox'; working on ideas that were sustainable for putting fruit in the trees for manu; and much more.

Rockdale Park Kindergarten | Mokopuna manu curiosity.



The Cottage Kindergarten

2022 was a busy year, where we welcomed new whānau, tamariki and staff within our community, the support of our whānau was fantastic.

Our curriculum design and focus was around building oral literacy for all tamariki and supporting our ESOL tamariki to have a sense of belonging in their own language and culture while learning a new language.

One of our termly focus to support the health and wellbeing of tamariki was investigating sun safety, which included entering a competition through Melanoma New Zealand, showing all the wonderful learning we had undertaken. This resulted in us winning this national competition. A new sunshade for our kindergarten will be put up in 2023, and we have purchased a set of new sun hats for all tamariki to use.

We were also very excited to participate at Polyfest where our tamariki thrived and shined not only on stage but showed a great sense of pride in all the hard work and practice leading up to the event.

We enjoyed having whānau support within our learning environment with some very artistic parents spending time being creative with tamariki and having Mary (previous teacher) come in and read with the tamariki on a Tuesday morning.



The Cottage Kindergarten | Sun smart celebration.

Waikiwi Kindergarten

One of the main highlights was the completion of our art piece Tūturu. This was a long term project which was well supported by our local community and our wider kindy whānau. Following our Polyfest performance we had an unveiling and blessing of our carvings, which are reflective of our hopes and aspirations for the tamariki that attend the kindergarten.



Waikiwi Kindergarten | Māra kai – our greenhouse in use with our tamariki. It has become a firm favourite experience as we learn more about kaitiakitanga.

We were able to deepen our learning around Enviroschools and with the support of our kindergarten whānau we were able to purchase a greenhouse and start a Māra kai, edible garden. We have lots of enthusiastic tamariki who love to water and check on the plants. Harvesting was also a highlight with tamariki sharing the rewards of their mahi with their whānau. This has also been a great provocation for learning around bugs and insects, and how seeds grow. We look forward to deepening this learning in the coming year.

Waverley Kindergarten

Our Internal Evaluation focus was to look at how to continue to strengthen our environmental practises while going through change. This was in response to the changes brought about by changing to a full year model, as well as having a large turnover of tamariki. Our aim is to ensure that we continue with our environmental journey while making our processes visible for tamariki, whānau and all other kaiako coming into our kindergarten.

We introduced a special kai time area in our conservatory that each group has a turn at going to, through the week. This gives kaiako a quiet space to have meaningful conversations with tamariki about our sustainable practices and a chance for tamariki to contribute their ideas about caring for te Ao.

Memorable events during the year included being able to take part in Polyfest at the stadium, celebrating Matāriki with whānau and having Waste Free Wanda come to visit kindergarten. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate these events with whānau. We were able to also hold Whānau Nights like our Teddy bear's Sleepover and have our Christmas Party at the Bike Park.



Waverley Kindergarten | Metamorphosis of the butterfly brings excitement to kindy.



Waverley Kindergarten | Jonty investigates a snail.



Winton Kindergarten | Tamariki performing at Polyfest “show us your pukana”.

Winton Kindergarten

Throughout the year ngā Tamariki participated in many community events such Polyfest art awards, Polyfest performance, Winton photography competition and the Winton flower shows.

Curriculum design had a focus on Ngā Atua, Anna alongside ngā tamariki wrote their own song called Tānemahuta, which was recorded on to a vinyl record. We later performed this waiata on stage at Polyfest. Tāne Mahuta holds a special place in our kindergarten, and we welcome our manuhiri with our waiata.

Our Art piece of Tangaroa won first prize at the flower show. And our video about the sleeping kiwis from our Taiao Tūhura programme won first place in the children’s section of the photography competition.

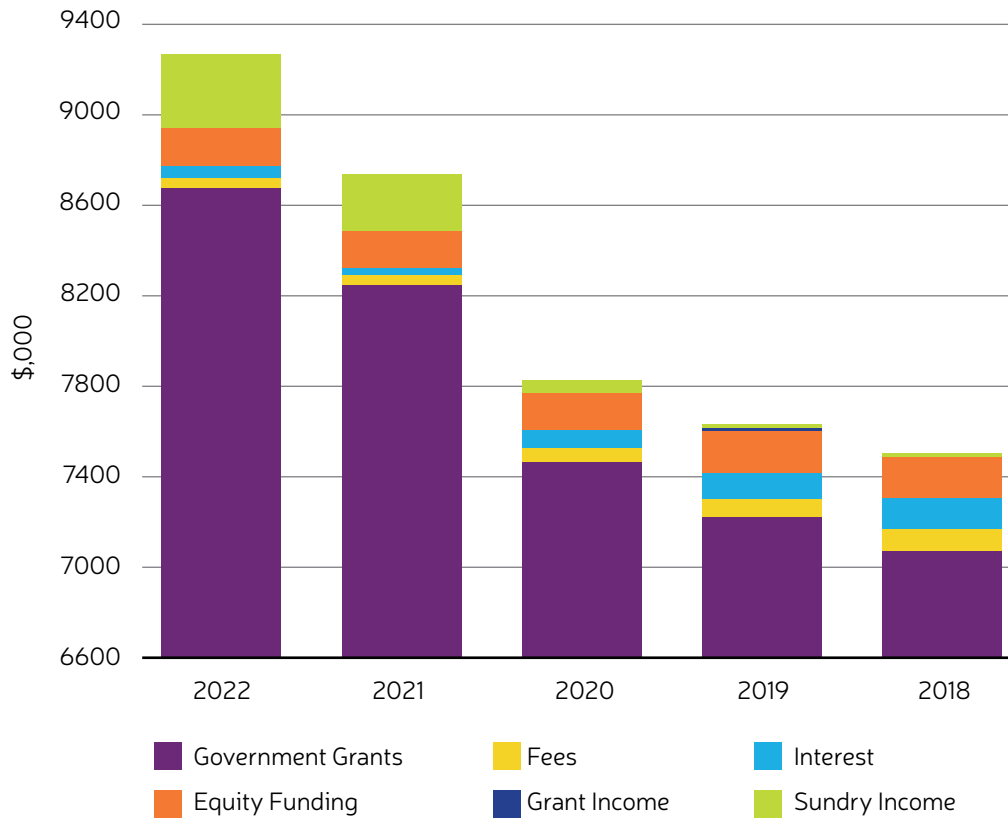
Unfortunately, we observed the removal of many beautiful trees along the main street of Winton last year. Ngā kaiako used this as an opportunity for our tamariki to have a voice and have their say. Ngā tamariki made a pukapuka to present to the Oreti Community Board. Here are a few snippets of what our tamariki had to say. “Tānemahuta tells us about the trees. They go up, up, up! We like Tānemahuta” “I feel very sad because I don’t want them to cut down the trees. I want them to get power from the rain so that they can grow and grow. I like that trees really grow tall like a big castle, they get so tall”. “The Trees are sooo giant. They grew and grew and grew. They are perfect for birds to make nests. If the trees go the bird’s nests will be broken”.

Financial Performance

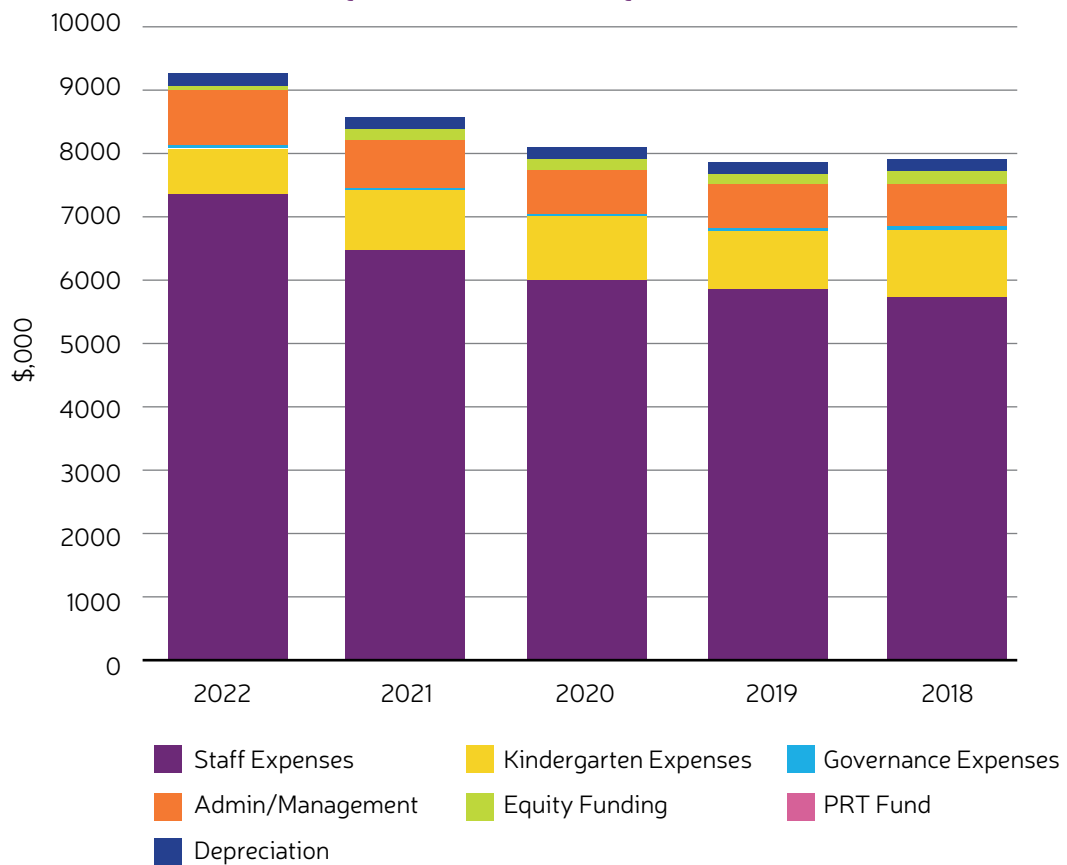
Southland Free Kindergarten Association Financial Information 2018-2022

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
Financial Performance					
Income					
Government Grants	8674	8248	7468	7228	7080
Fees	39	35	56	78	90
Interest	61	36	80	121	143
Equity Funding	167	166	178	181	182
Grant Income	2	0	0	14	0
Sundry Income	317	250	49	14	6
Total Income	9260	8735	7831	7636	7501
Expenses					
Staff Expenses	7366	6515	6047	5892	5759
Kindergarten Expenses	715	953	1004	911	1049
Governance Expenses	50	37	26	39	36
Admin/Management	901	747	712	696	729
Equity Funding	60	166	143	173	179
PRT Fund	0	0	0	1	10
Depreciation	194	149	145	151	150
Total Expenditure	9286	8567	8077	7863	7912
Net Surplus/Deficit before Transfer from Reserves	-26	168	-246	-227	-411
Plus allocation from Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	-26	168	-246	-227	-411
Financial Position					
Current Assets	4887	4551	5011	4636	4526
Fixed Assets	2634	2608	2568	2688	2812
Total Assets	7521	7159	7579	7324	7338
Liabilities	2293	1900	2488	1986	1773
Net Assets	5228	5259	5091	5338	5565
Ratios					
Net Surplus to Income %	-0.28	1.92	-3.14	-2.97	-5.48
Staff Expenses as a % of Bulk Funding	84.92	78.99	80.97	81.52	81.34

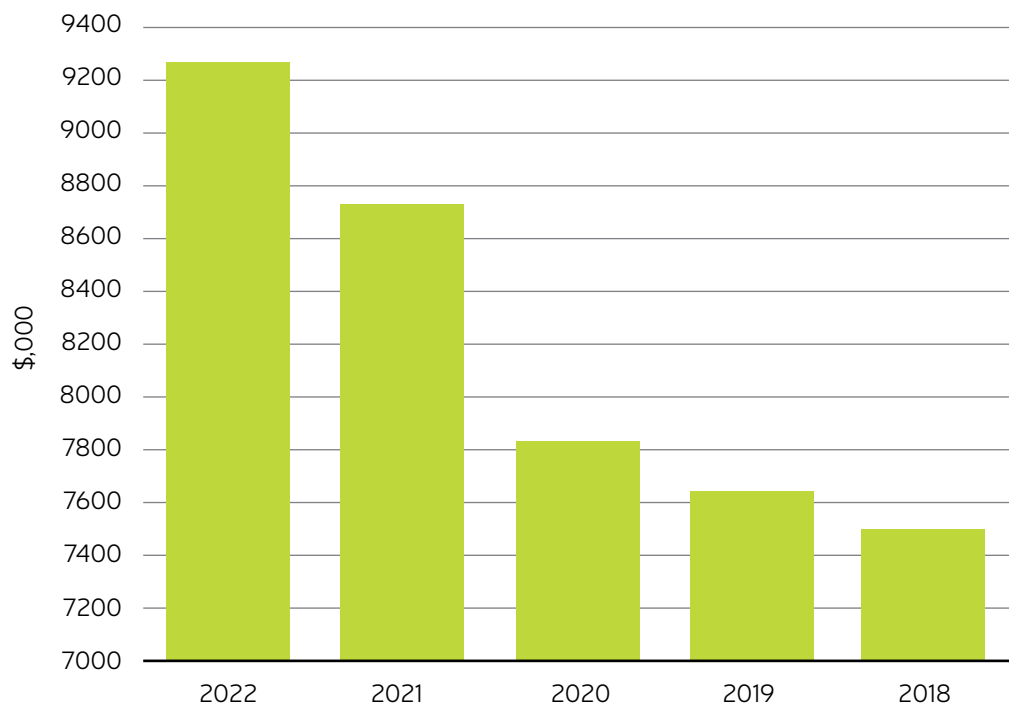
Components of Income



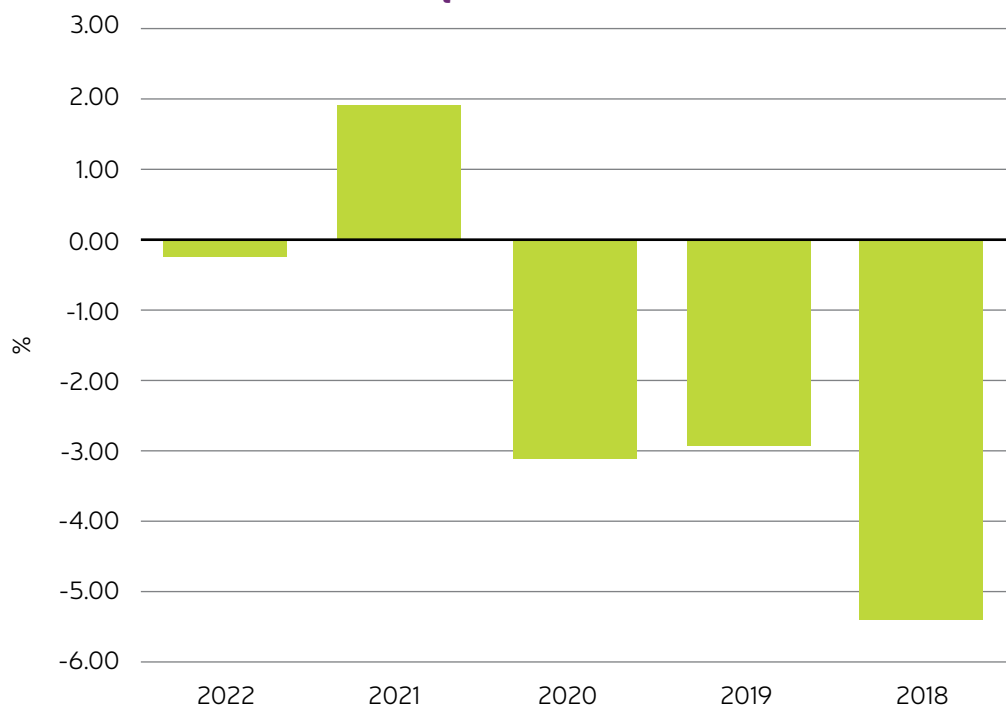
Components of Expenditure



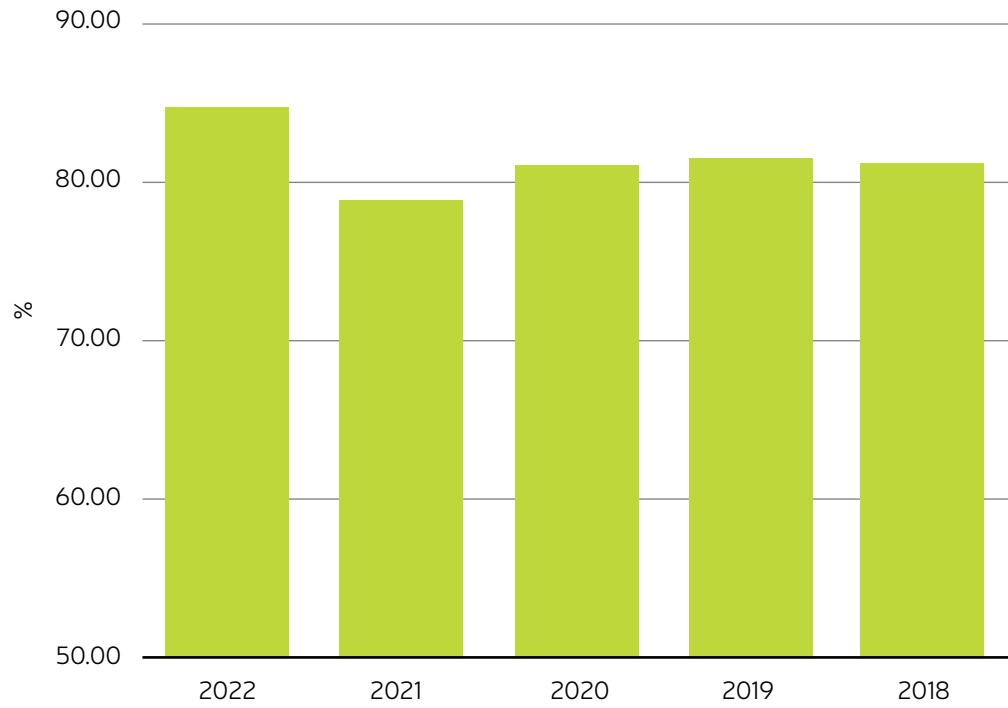
Total Income for the Year



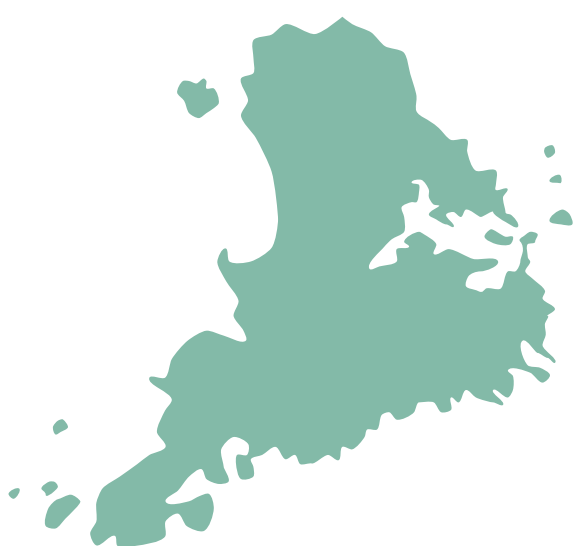
Net Surplus to Income %



Staff Expenses as a % of Bulk Funding







Our Kindergartens

Invercargill

Clarendon Kindergarten
Elston Lea Kindergarten
Glengarry Kindergarten
Grasmere Kindergarten
Kew Kindergarten
Lees Street Kindergarten
Lindisfarne Kindergarten
Newfield Kindergarten
Otatara Kindergarten
Ranui Kindergarten
Rockdale Park Kindergarten
The Cottage Kindergarten
Waikiwi Kindergarten
Waverley Kindergarten

Gore

Elsie Street Kindergarten
Longford Kindergarten
Oxford Kindergarten

Rural

Bluff Kindergarten
Drummond Rural Kindergarten
Fiordland Kindergarten
Longbush Rural Kindergarten
Northern Southland Kindergarten
Riverton Kindergarten
Winton Kindergarten

Opposite page: 1. Elston Lea Kindergarten: Mastering the new monkey bars, 2. Bluff Kindergarten: Drive in Movie Day, 3. Longford Kindergarten: Ollie and Jesse making discoveries on the light box, 4. Northern Southland Kindergarten: Ngā tamariki bird proofing our vegetable garden, 5. Ranui Kindergarten: Fire station excursion, 6. Lindisfarne Kindergarten: Excitement of Harvesting, 7. The Cottage Kindergarten: enjoying our new sun hats, 8. Waikiwi Kindergarten: Tūturu; the end result of the hard mahi of our community in place looking ataahua, 9. Winton Kindergarten: Tamariki exploring Ivy Russell



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