

Chairperson's Report for Strath Taieri Connect Charitable Trust



Annual Report for the Year Ending April 2025

Our trust was founded with the purpose of Enhancing Community Wellbeing through Connection, Engagement and Growing Competency, each year we strive to uphold these principles to make a positive impact in our small rural community. This year has brought a remarkable mix of accomplishments and challenges that have reaffirmed the importance to me of what as a trust we do.

Throughout the year, we have asked for and received feedback from our community on how the Trust can make a positive difference, based on that feedback, we have expanded our efforts to meet the growing needs of our community. As we heard in Rebeccas earlier presentation we have delivered on a wide and varied array of projects, events, funding applications and social interactions. In addition to this, we continue to provide “umbrella” services—managing finances for smaller community groups that may not yet have the infrastructure to do so themselves.

Careful management of resources has enabled us to achieve more with limited funding; I am particularly pleased that we have once again secured funding for our coordinator’s position. This is and will remain our number one priority as it is the basis on which we can deliver on our purpose and goals

We are very grateful for the financial support from our funders, DCC Placed Based Funding, NZ Lotteries, DIA COGS and Catalytic foundation.

To our sponsors and donors, volunteers and community members that have worked with us to deliver on our goals of having a connected thriving community we thank you. It is quiet staggering what has been achieved in the short time the trust has been in operation.

Like any organization, we will continue to face challenges, the number one being the decreasing pool of funds we can draw from. It is likely that programs such as Place Based Funding will continue to have less money available and may even cease to exist in the future. As such we need to be vigilant in our search for new funding opportunities and ensure that we run an efficient and fiscally responsible organization. In funding opportunities, we need to highlight our points of difference, champion our successes and show the multiply effect we can have on funds that pass through our Trust.

As Chairperson, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding work of our trustees and staff.

At our last AGM, we saw two of our founding Trustees, Jock Frew and Richard Emmerson, step down from the board. We extend our sincere thanks to both for their dedication, vision, and ongoing support of the Trust.

We were pleased to welcome two new trustees, Bridget Roulston and Barry Taylor, who have already made a strong and positive impact. Their fresh perspectives have encouraged us to explore new ways of engaging with our community.

Our Trustee and Treasurer, Emily Jones, has worked tirelessly this year to implement a modern and professional accounting system. This has not only enhanced our credibility with funders but also made it easier to meet our reporting obligations. Thank you, Emily, for your mahi and commitment.

Carmen, thank you for always keeping us grounded and reminding us that our purpose is to serve the people. And of course, thank you for the lovely suppers you provide at our meetings—they're very much appreciated.

To Robin, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your support, guidance, and wisdom during my first year as Chair. Your steady hand has kept the Trust focused and on track, and I am truly grateful for your time and dedication.

Connection relies on communication, and I want to thank Jackie Lucas for managing our social media presence so professionally and consistently. Your insights and expertise around marketing and communications have been invaluable at the board table.

A big thank you to Diane (Didee), our number-one minute taker. On behalf of the Trust, we sincerely appreciate you giving your time to ensure we have accurate records of our meetings—even when we stray off topic!

Lastly, to our Coordinators—the faces of our Trust—you are the driving force behind everything we achieve.

Emma, you have been an outstanding right hand to Rebecca. We're incredibly grateful for your dedication and the valuable support you've provided.

Rebecca, the work you have delivered on behalf of the Trustees over the past year has been extraordinary. The list of accomplishments achieved under your leadership is truly impressive. Your commitment to engaging with our community—seeking input, listening to feedback, and ensuring we remain community-led—has been a cornerstone of our success.

On a personal note, it's been a pleasure to witness your professional growth. You now confidently write reports, have taken on multiple public speaking opportunities, and successfully completed your Te Reo course. Your development and the way you deliver on the Trust's objectives is something to be proud of.

My sincere thanks to our entire team for your mahi, heart, and unwavering commitment to the vision and purpose of our Trust.

In summing up, I'd like to reflect on the recently held—and very successful—sausage-making course. It's a great example of how simple, community-led projects can deliver powerfully on our Trust's goals. This idea came directly from the community, and it brought people together in a fun, inclusive environment. It also offered a practical skill—one that supports whānau to prepare healthy, nutritious food at home.

It's initiatives like this that remind us how connection, engagement, and growing capability can be achieved via a simple platform.

The work of Strath Taieri Connect Trust is a reflection of collective efforts, shared values, and a steadfast commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those that live in our community

Thank you all for making that happen.

Lynnore Templeton

Chairperson

Strath Taieri Connect Trust

20th May 2025