

Coromandel Independent
Living Trust
Te Roopuu Whaiora

Annual Report 2025



Coromandel
Independent
Living Trust
TE ROOPUU WHAIORA

Welcome

Haere Mai

We're proud to present the *Coromandel Independent Living Trust's* Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

This annual report showcases:

- information about our organisation
 - highlights from over the year
 - our overall operational performance
-

Whakataka te hau ki te uru

Cease the winds from the west

Whakataka te hau ki te tonga

Cease the winds from the south

Kia mākinakina ki uta

Let the breeze blow over the land

Kia mātaratara ki tai

Let the breeze blow over the ocean

E hī ake ana te atākura

Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air

He tio, he huka, he hau hū

A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day

Tīhei mauri ora!

Behold, there is life!

Image: Coromandel coastline.

Ihirangi

Contents

1 Our organisation

From our chairperson	4
About us	7
From the general manager	8
Strategic plan	10
Our key highlights of 2025	11

2 Programme reports

Te Pūtahi Whaiora	14
Financial Mentoring & Foodbank	15
Whānau Social Services	16
Kapanga Kaumātua Flats	17
Te Mana Tangata	18
Artists in The Making	19
The Bizarre	20

Community Grants Scheme	21
The Goldmine	22
Te Puāwai—Native Plant Nursery	23
Human Resources	24

3 Financial summary

Summarised financial statement	26
Disclaimer	27

4 Final remarks

Our partners	29
Special thanks	30
Closing remarks	31

Image: Te Puāwai—Native Plant Nursery & Mānuka Kai

Pūrongo Tiamana

Chair Report

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the strength, resilience and commitment that continue to define the *Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT)*.

While 2025 has been a year of change, it has also been a year of opportunity—one that has reinforced the importance of community, collaboration and our shared purpose.

In February, I had the privilege of stepping into the role of Chairperson. I do so with immense respect for the work of my predecessor, Vicki Sephton, whose thoughtful leadership guided *CILT* from 2017 until earlier this year. Vicki has helped shape the organisation we are today—one that is values-driven, community-focused and committed to making a genuine difference in people's lives. I am pleased that she continues to serve on the Board, and I look forward to continuing to benefit from her experience and insight.

I am also delighted to welcome Gary Stroobant and Sunny Petley-Ihaka as new members of our Board. They each bring valuable knowledge, diverse perspectives and a strong commitment to serving our community. Together, we are building a Board that reflects the values, aspirations and future direction of *CILT*.

This year also saw the appointment of Kevin Ngapo-French as our General Manager. Kevin brings extensive experience in community leadership and a collaborative style that aligns strongly with *CILT's* values.

The Board is excited to work alongside him as we continue to strengthen our organisation and respond to the changing needs of our communities.

I would also like to acknowledge Josie Katene, whose calm leadership and dedication ensured a smooth transition during this period. Her contribution was invaluable, and we are sincerely grateful for her commitment.

This year marks the halfway point of our 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, providing an opportunity to reflect not only on what we have achieved, but also on where we are heading. Over the past three years, our strategic priorities have provided a strong foundation for our work. We have continued to invest in programmes that support social wellbeing, disability, housing and education while responding to emerging community priorities through greater emphasis on youth, arts and environmental initiatives.

It is encouraging to see our services continue to evolve in response to the voices of the people we exist to serve. Partnerships remain at the heart of everything we do. Working alongside iwi, community organisations, government agencies, funders and local stakeholders has strengthened our ability to support people facing complex challenges. These relationships are built on trust, shared purpose and a collective commitment to improving outcomes for our communities.

Pūrongo Tiamana

Chair Report

Equally important has been our focus on ensuring *CILT* remains a strong and sustainable organisation. The Board has continued to prioritise good governance, organisational capability, financial resilience and the ongoing integration of Mātauranga Māori into our work.

These investments may not always be visible to the community, but they are essential to ensuring *CILT* can continue delivering meaningful services well into the future.

Like many community organisations, we are also navigating a changing funding environment. This year marked the conclusion of the final contracts and grants established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe weather events that affected our region. While we are proud of the support *CILT* was able to provide during those challenging times, the conclusion of this funding reminds us that sustainability cannot be taken for granted. It reinforces the importance of innovation, strong partnerships and identifying new

opportunities to ensure we can continue meeting the needs of our community.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank our General Manager, staff, volunteers, partners, funders and everyone who supports the work of *CILT*. We are fortunate to have passionate staff, dedicated volunteers, supportive partners and a community that continually demonstrates resilience and generosity.

These strengths give me confidence that *CILT* is well positioned to meet the opportunities ahead while remaining true to our purpose.

As we move into the second half of our Strategic Plan, our vision remains unchanged: a community where all people are empowered to reach their full potential.



Naaku iti hoa, naa

Anna Galvin

Chairperson, *Coromandel Independent Living Trust*



1

Tō Mātou Whakahaere

Our organisation

Image: Seedlings in *Te Puāwai's* polytunnel.

Mō Mātou

About Us

Established in 1995, the *Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT)* is a charitable trust dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals across the Upper Coromandel Peninsula. We identify the unique needs of our communities and create programmes designed to address them.

Our wide range of services includes transport assistance to help people attend medical appointments in Thames and Waikato hospitals, social and family support for whanau in need, initiatives tackling rural isolation and promoting digital connectivity and literacy, as well as programmes supporting individuals with disabilities and other barriers to participation.

At *CILT*, we pride ourselves on our family-oriented work culture. Thanks to the diversity of our programmes and the expertise of our dedicated staff, there is a natural flow of support and collaboration between different services. This flexibility allows us to connect individuals with relevant resources, both within *CILT* and in the broader community.



Image: Morning staff wellbeing activity.

Pūrongo Kaiwhakahaere Matua

General Manager report

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present my first annual report as General Manager of *Coromandel Independent Living Trust*. Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded that meaningful community development is never achieved by one person alone. It is built through relationships, shared purpose, and the collective commitment of people who genuinely care about the wellbeing of others.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our Board for the confidence they placed in me as I stepped into the role of General Manager. Their governance, guidance, and encouragement have provided a strong foundation throughout a year of transition and growth.

I also wish to acknowledge our senior leadership team and senior staff, whose knowledge, professionalism, and unwavering commitment have ensured continuity while embracing new opportunities for the organisation. Their support has been invaluable.

As I have settled into this role, I have been continually inspired by the people who make *CILT* what it is. Our staff and volunteers bring compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to our community every single day. They work alongside individuals, whānau, kaumātua, rangatahi, and people from all walks of life with empathy and respect.

Often going well beyond what is expected. Their dedication is the heartbeat of our organisation. And I feel privileged to lead such an exceptional team. This year has reinforced what has always been at the heart of *CILT's* kaupapa: community.

Across every area of our organisation, we have continued to respond to the changing needs of the Upper Coromandel with services that are community-led, accessible, and centered on people. While each programme has its own focus, together they reflect our shared commitment to empowering people to reach their full potential. One of the greatest strengths of *CILT* is our ability to work collaboratively.

Throughout the year we have continued to strengthen relationships with iwi, community organisations, local government, health providers, funders, businesses, and many others who share our vision for thriving communities. These partnerships are fundamental to the way we work, and they allow us to respond more effectively to emerging needs and ensure our services remain relevant and grounded.

Like many community organisations, we continue to operate in an environment of increasing demand and shifting funding priorities. The conclusion of COVID-19 and emergency response funding has required us to think strategically about the future and how we continue delivering high-quality services in a sustainable way.

Pūrongo Kaiwhakahaere Matua

General Manager report

While these challenges are significant, they have also encouraged us to strengthen our organisational capability, improve our systems, diversify funding opportunities, and continue investing in our people.

We remain committed to building an organisation that is resilient, adaptable, and well positioned to meet the needs of future generations. Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities before us.

Our focus will continue to be on strengthening partnerships, growing sustainable funding, and investing in our people. If there is one reflection I take from my first year in this role, it is this: our greatest asset is not our buildings or our programmes or our resources. It is our people, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

Every success we celebrate in this report has been made possible through the collective efforts of our board, staff, volunteers, community partners, funders, and the many individuals and whanau who place their trust in us.

Thank you for your continued belief in our kaupapa and for the role each of you play in strengthening our communities. Together we are building an organisation that is responsive, resilient, and deeply connected to the people it serves.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the past year and I look forward with confidence and optimism to the journey ahead.

Ngā mihi Aroha nui.



Naaku iti noa, naa

Kevin Ngapo-French

General Manager, *Coromandel Independent Living Trust*



Strategic Plan 2022–2027

OUR VISION

A community where all people are empowered to reach their full potential.

OUR PURPOSE

To work collectively to strengthen our community, in response to need

OUR VALUES

MANAAKITANGA — Care for all people

WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA — Respectful relationships

KAITIAKITANGA — Our responsibilities

GOAL ONE

Make a positive difference to people's lives by providing services which are guided by the voices of our community

- Deliver quality services and programmes to meet identified needs.
- Maintain our focus on social wellbeing, disability, housing, and education.
- Continuously review our effectiveness to ensure we are making a positive difference.

OUTCOME — Empowered Community

GOAL TWO

Build connections and support opportunities to work collaboratively by engaging with iwi, community and stakeholders

- Promote effective and regular communication with our community, partners and stakeholders.
- Advocate locally, regionally, and nationally for the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.
- Embed our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi in our relationships and decision making.

OUTCOME — Strong Networks

GOAL THREE

Strengthen and consolidate our projects through continuous improvement of culture, capability and infrastructure to maximise impact

- Equip staff with the skills and capabilities they need to deliver quality services.
- Strengthen social enterprise projects.
- Improve and embed understanding of Mātauranga Māori.
- Be financially sustainable and resilient.

OUTCOME — Sustainable Organisation

Ngā kaupapa hirahira o te tau

Highlights from the year

Community kiln

We were lucky to be the recipients of a working pottery kiln, gifted to us by a local community member in 2025. The kiln will have its own space at *CILT*, for use by *Te Mana Tangata*—who continue to have regular pottery-making days—and the wider community in exchange for a koha.

Work on this space will begin in 2026.

General Manager appointed

In August, we excitedly welcomed Kevin Ngapo-French on board as General Manager of *CILT*.

Kevin hails from Coromandel, Kennedy Bay and Manaia, where he was born and raised, and is of Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Pūkenga, and Ngāti Porou heritage. He is no stranger to our organisation, having previously served on our Board of Trustees, he also draws on valuable experience gained during his time with the *Department of Corrections*. We look forward to seeing the changes he implements throughout *CILT*.

Image: The *Te Korowai* team and *CILT* team at our community Hauora Day.



Hauora & Open Day

In December, *CILT* hosted our first Hauora & Open Day, where we welcomed health, wellbeing and social service providers to showcase what they can offer our community. This was a great opportunity for Coromandel to discover what services are available in the area.

This day was made possible with the support of all the amazing providers who joined us on the day and our dedicated team.

Mural installation

This breathtaking mural has been a massive project, incorporating elements from participant paintings inspired by Coromandel. The painting of this mural began in 2024 and completed in 2025 after an enormous amount of planning and collaboration between participants, kaimahi and local artist, Caitlin Moloney.



Image: *Te Mana Tangata* and the mural.

Ngā kaupapa hirahira o te tau

Highlights from the year



Image: Rangatahi and kaimahi outside the kiosk.

Launch of Sip n' Scoop

December saw the launch of *Sip n' Scoop* at *The Bizarre*, which opened to the public before the Christmas period.

CILT was lucky to be gifted temporary use of the kiosk and land, which we turned into a 10-week community-led initiative for local rangatahi to learn essential employment skills and gain hands-on work experience. All proceeds from this programme help to fund *The Bizarre Community Grants Scheme*.

Lions Exhibition 2025

Our incredible *Artists in The Making* had the honour of exhibiting their work again at the 2025 *Whitianga Lions Expo*—an exhibition to raise funds for the *Cancer Society Lions Lodge*. This is the second year in a row that our participants have sold artwork through this event. It was a proud moment to see our artists step into the spotlight again and share their creativity with the wider community.

60 years of The Bizarre

June 2025 marked 60 years of operation at *The Bizarre*—a huge milestone for our community, which was celebrated with our grand auction night. All proceeds from this night went towards *The Bizarre Community Grants Scheme*—an annual funding round for local initiatives.



Image: Attendees at *The Bizarre Auction 2025*.

EveryBite me

In February and May, *CILT* facilitated their own *EveryBite* 4-week programmes. *EveryBite* helps identify ways you can reduce your environmental impacts by tracking food waste, organising your kitchen and getting creative with leftovers.



Image: Attendees at *EveryBite 2025*.

2

Pūrongo kaupapa

Project reports

Image: Raranga art created by *Artists in The Making*.

The Hub Te Pūtahi Whaiora

In 2025, *Te Pūtahi Whaiora* remained the community's "resource centre" and *CILT's* base of operations, operating from our purpose-built office that was completed in 2023. Our office houses some of *CILT's* projects, including *Whānau Social Services*, *Coromandel Financial Mentoring Service* and the *Coromandel Foodbank*.

Te Pūtahi Whaiora continued offering free computer and WIFI access, and photocopying/printing services to the public in exchange for a koha towards equipment costs. In 2025, two new computers were purchased for the community to use, with one being set up at a new wheelchair-friendly space in a continued effort to make our space more accessible. Our staff managed bookings for transport via our weekly Thames shuttle and volunteer drivers, and rooms for service providers and *Heartlands* tenants over the year. We were also lucky to have the *Coromandel Mobility Van* donated to us by the *Coromandel Community Services Trust*, providing transportation to those with limited options, particularly the elderly and disabled.



Image: Our base of operations, *Te Pūtahi Whaiora*, and *Te Mana Tangata*.



Image: One of the *CILT* vans in use by the public.

One of the challenges *Te Pūtahi Whaiora* faced in 2025 was mechanical issues with the vans. This caused trouble with the coordination of bookings, as the vans spent the majority of the time in-use by the public and other organisations who had ongoing arrangements.

Heartlands, funded by the *Ministry of Social Development*, helps rural communities access government services and overcome isolation. Through online, phone, and in-person support, it ensures equitable access while strengthening connections between individuals, government agencies, and community services. Our *Heartlands* centre served as a vital community hub, offering face-to-face support in areas where services are limited.



5,703
In-person
enquiries

4,841
Phone
enquiries



686
Firstport PC
users

541
Hospital trips
by volunteers



Ratonga Kaitohutohu Pūtea

Financial Mentoring Service & Foodbank

The Coromandel Financial Mentoring Service & Foodbank supports individuals in becoming financially capable, assists the community with applications, advocates for consumer rights and provides debt management guidance, as well as supports whānau with emergency food assistance.

In 2025, our team continued to deliver financial mentoring support to members of our community affected by hardship. A total of 110 sessions were conducted by our two financial mentors, providing support with a range of budget-related queries and problems. This year saw an increase in clients making *Kiwisaver* hardship applications with assistance from our mentors. One mentor was successful with every application submitted over the 2025 year—a massive achievement for our service and clients.

Earlier in the year, our mentors were invited to facilitate a presentation for the employees of *Moana New Zealand*. This was a great opportunity to work with other organisations/businesses, and strengthen our presence and connection within the community.



Image: Produce being planted in *Te Puāwai's* māra kai—grown for the foodbank and pātaka kai.



Image: Kai delivery from Hauraki Māori Trust Board.



110

Budget
advice sessions

388

Kai parcels
provided



183

Families
supported

230

Produce
seedlings grown



Although securing funding for the foodbank was more difficult than previous years, we were lucky enough to receive ongoing support via food donations from ADCR—*Aotearoa Disaster and Community Resources* and the *Hauraki Maori Trust Board*. These donations enabled our team to continue supporting our community with much needed food and hygiene supplies. Another key resource has been *Te Puāwai's* māra kai (food garden), which has allowed us to continue stocking the foodbank and pātaka kai (street pantry) with fresh herbs and produce.

Over the course of 2025, the foodbank supported 183 different families with over 388 food parcels, an increase from last year's total distribution.

Ratonga Pāpori Whānau Whānau Social Services

Over 2025, the *Whānau Social Services* team supported vulnerable individuals and families across the Coromandel through social work, counselling, advocacy, and referrals. The team worked closely with police through the *Integrated Safety Response (ISR)* and collaborated with *Oranga Tamariki, Department of Corrections*, local doctors, and schools. They also facilitated the *Strengthening Families* programme to provide coordinated, whānau-centred support.

Housing, mental health, addiction, and income assistance were among the most common needs, and clients were connected with internal and external agencies.

Guided by strong relationships within the community and frameworks like *Te Whare Tapa Whā*, the team delivered culturally grounded, impactful support throughout the year.



Image: Our kaimahi, Josie and Fiona, and Kaiarahi, Coral, at an event highlighting our services.



47
Whānau
supported

221

ISR
interventions



The rangatahi support programme continued making significant strides in supporting young people's personal and professional growth. During 2025, we supported 40 rangatahi with drivers licensing education and held defensive driving courses, receiving positive feedback from participants who reported improved driving skills, increased confidence, and a stronger sense of road safety responsibility.

In 2025, we were supported by the *Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs*, a programme created in collaboration with the *Ministry of Social Development*. Because of this initiative, our kaiarahi were able to provide 15 restricted licenses, 15 full licenses, 2 defensive driving courses, 2 Licence Controller Qualification certificates, and trained 1 rangatahi in pre-employment.



40
Youth supported
with licenses

1

Defensive
drivers course



Ngā Tau Mīharo Incredible Years Programme

The Incredible Years Parent Programme, run by CILT and funded by the *Ministry of Education*, is a 14-week course for parents of children aged 3 to 8, focusing on managing behavioural challenges and promoting positive outcomes. In 2025, 17 caregivers from Whitianga and Coromandel participated in the course.

Ngā Kāinga Kaumātua o Kapanga **Kapanga Kaumātua Flats**

The *Coromandel Independent Living Trust* owns and maintains 14 affordable housing units conveniently located near the heart of Coromandel township, just 200 metres from medical centres, shops, and social services. 7 of these flats are bedsits, acquired from the *Thames-Coromandel District Council* in 2008 with support from the *Housing Innovation Fund*, while the remaining 7 are one-bedroom, purpose-built units, completed by *CILT* in 2012.

We ensure all units meet healthy homes standards and assist low-income tenants in accessing the *Income-Related Rent Subsidy*. *CILT* is committed to finding innovative solutions to address housing needs in the upper Coromandel

In August 2025, long-time tenant, Cyril Strongman, sadly passed away. Cyril was a Coromandel town icon and had resided in flat 7 for many years. He will be greatly missed by our social services and social housing team.

Over the year, different upgrades and maintenance was undertaken on the kaumātua flats, particularly on flats 1-7, in order to follow-through with our commitment to providing healthy and safe homes. Outdoor maintenance on the grounds and outer walls was undertaken, as well as flat 6 getting completely gutted and renovated, with new carpeting, wallpapering and more to make the flat much more inviting for future tenants.



14
Social
housing units

17
Kaumātua
housed



Image: Coromandel Town Information Centre at Samuel James Reserve.

Te Rāhui o Samuel James **Samuel James Reserve**

The small heritage building, now home to the *Coromandel Town Information Centre*, was built in the 1880s and moved to *Samuel James Reserve* in the late 1920s. By 2004, the building was in poor condition and set to be demolished. Led by Mike Noonan, *CILT* brought together a group of locals to explore saving it. Over four years, they raised funds, gathered donated materials and labour, and partnered with *Thames-Coromandel District Council* and the *Ministry of Social Development* to restore it.

In 2013, after the local *i-SITE* closed, the *Coromandel-Colville Business Association* approached *CILT* to help set up a new information centre, which has been operating from the building ever since.

During the course of 2025, *CILT* continued it's partnership with *Green By Nature* in the managing of the the public bathrooms inside the *Samuel James Reserve* building.

The Work Co-op **Te Mana Tangata**

Te Mana Tangata is a programme for people facing barriers to participation. Funded by the *Ministry for Social Development*, this group is for those in our community facing barriers to get together in a welcoming environment and learn new skills, socialise and participate in various types of art. The programme operates from a refurbished building leased from the *Thames-Coromandel District Council*, next to *Te Pūtahi Whaiora*.

In 2025, *Te Mana Tangata* ran 5 days a week, enjoying a range of different activities each day including gardening, cooking, painting and pottery. The most popular activity continued to be pottery, with artist Caitlin Moloney joining us occasionally to teach participants more claywork techniques. The donation of the kiln was an exciting addition as participants will soon be able to fire their creations on site.



One highlight from the year was the finalisation and installation of the mural on the front of the *Te Mana Tangata* building. The mural had been a massive project, designed by Caitlin Moloney and incorporating elements from participants' paintings inspired by Coromandel.

The wood material was kindly donated by *Coromandel ITM*, while the paint was donated generously by *Whitianga Flooring Xtra*. The mural had been in the works since the beginning of 2024, with hours of painting, planning and collaboration going into its creation, and the completion of this project was a major milestone for our team.



24
Participants

202
Pottery pieces
created



We were lucky enough to have *Driving Creek Pottery* offer places for participants in workshops in November 2025, with one notable workshop being an Ipu Ki Te Whenua class, where they learned to create clay vessels designed to hold placenta or ashes that are then returned to Papatūānuku. This was an incredible and meaningful opportunity generously provided to our participants. Participants also were able to visit 6 studios participating in the *Open Studios Art Tour* over Labour Day weekend. This was a fabulous opportunity for our members to talk to other local artists in Coromandel and learn techniques that they can then put to use in their own art work.

Ngā Kaimahi Toi i te Wā Tupu

Artists in The Making

Artists in The Making is a creative support group designed for individuals facing barriers to participation to develop their artistic skills in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. The group met every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in 2025, offering a space to connect, create, and build confidence. While the primary focus was on mosaics, wool crafts, and painting, *Artists in The Making* also introduced new arts and crafts based on participants' interests, like raranga and creative story writing.

In 2025, longtime *Artists in The Making* coordinator Lizzy Leckie went on extended leave, but this didn't slow the group down—participants had the opportunity to display and sell their artwork at the *Whitianga Lions Art Expo*, an annual fundraiser for cancer research held in May/June. Two of the artists had individual art stands, alongside an *Artists in The Making* group exhibit. One of our participants was very successful with six sales over the course of the expo.



Image: Artists in The Making participants during a raranga workshop.



Image: Artists in The Making participants during the Mercury Bay Art Escape tour.

In July, 3 participants were chosen to take part in the *IHC Art Awards 2025*, with 2 of the artist's works selling within the first weekend of the awards exhibition to buyers all the way in Wellington.

We had multiple artists from the local community come in and teach workshops on their chosen specialty, including a raranga workshop with Raewyn Hildreth, pottery with Lisa Kearney and a 6-week painting course with Leanne Adams. These were amazingly valuable for our participants, enabling them to build skills with these different arts and sell them at multiple Whitianga-based markets.

Over the year, we saw participants build confidence and gain new skills, which has supported them outside of *Artists in The Making*. Many of the participants have gained employment in the community, at places such as the local plant nursery and for news carriers delivering papers. One of our participants was lucky enough to be chosen to attend a 21-day *Outward Bound* course in Anakiwa—a course that encourages people to get out of their comfort zone and build confidence in an outdoor setting.



23
Participants

3

IHC Art Awards
nominations



Te Rerekē The Bizarre

The Bizarre is a community-focused secondhand and recycling shop owned and operated by *CILT*. Our mission is to provide quality goods and clothing at affordable prices, while promoting sustainability and reuse. The shop is supported by a dedicated and passionate team of staff and volunteers, many of whom have generously contributed their time and expertise for multiple years.



During 2025, *The Bizarre* celebrated its sixty year anniversary. This was an extremely important event for the older members of the Coromandel community, who still remember when the shop operated out of the old building, and prior to that at the *Anglican Church*. This anniversary was celebrated with three days of events that brought together past and current volunteers, and the community. To end the celebration, *The Bizarre* threw their second annual auction event, raising money for the 2026 *Community Grants Scheme*.



\$25K
Raised for the
BCGS in 2025

18

Successful
CGS applicants

December 2025 saw the opening of *Sip n' Scoop at The Bizarre*—a community-led initiative with the purpose of giving rangatahi in our community valuable work experience and teaching them new skills. We were able to begin this ten-week long programme due to the generosity of a Coromandel local who kindly offered us free use of the property beside *The Bizarre*—a courtyard and small kiosk, which has worn many hats, but most recently operated as a coffee and ice cream stand.

Proceeds from *The Bizarre* directly support *The Bizarre Community Grants Scheme*, providing funding to support projects and activities that enhance the social, cultural, and environmental well-being of people within the Coromandel-Colville Ward. This grant aims to empower local initiatives that make a meaningful difference in our community.

In 2025, the fund continued its tradition of giving back, with a total of \$24,000 allocated to 18 organisations, including the *Colville Bay Preschool* and *Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Harataunga*. This reinforced *The Bizarre's* long-standing commitment to community support and sustainability.



Kaupapa Tuku Pūtea Hāpori Community Grants Scheme

In 2025, a total of \$24,000.00 was allocated to 18 community groups, covering a range of different initiatives that enhance the social, cultural, and environmental well-being of people within the Coromandel-Colville Ward.

The following groups and organisations received funding to enable their projects:



Boot Scootin' Coromandel	Hall hire for line dancing group.	\$400.00
Colville Bay Preschool	New sand and water toys, and storage replacement.	\$1000.00
Coromandel Rugby Football & Sports Club	Club improvement.	\$1547.80
Coromandel Playgroup	Creating an organic garden.	\$500.00
Harataunga Marae Trust	Building repairs.	\$2000.00
The Combined Clubs of Coromandel	Upgrade the existing grass bowling green.	\$5000.00
Coro Super Stars & Coro Sparkles	Stage make-up, props and costumes for upcoming annual performances.	\$1000.00
Elizabeth Park Body Corporate	Building and installation costs of a lockable cabinet.	\$500.00
Manaaki Harataunga	Non-perishables to be stored in a container in case of road closures.	\$1500.00
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Harataunga	Development of outdoor spaces.	\$900.00
C.A.S: Sports Department	Medical kits.	\$1623.80
The Colville Project	Installation of a water tank.	\$1300.10
Te Pūtahitanga o te Rukenga o Ngā Wai	Funding for an outdoor dome shelter for outdoor play.	\$1623.80
Coromandel Community Library	Book dividers and a cash register.	\$600.00
Uepu-a Hine	For the creation of a korowai.	\$500.00
Manaia Mako Rugby League	Gear for the season and later years.	\$1689.10
C.A.S: Māori Kaupapa Unit	Travel attire for overseas trip.	\$1579.20
Colville Tennis Club	Building repairs.	\$1000.00

Te Keri Kōura **The Goldmine**

The Goldmine is a reuse shop with the main mission of diverting usable items from landfill and selling them back to the community at low cost. The shop is operated by a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who are committed to the protection of our environment and supporting our community with secondhand goods for low prices.

Over the 2025 year, this project continued to fulfill its purpose and over 49,421 kilograms of goods were saved from the adjacent landfill.



One key highlight for the year included receiving a huge amount of positive feedback each week by local residents and tourists alike on the shop's visual appearance and staff's work ethic. Another highlight was the renovation of the shop roof, which was changed from polycarbonate roofing to iron. This made the conditions inside the shop much more tolerable as temperatures in the Summer months would often grow to unsafe levels. This work was undertaken by *Total Span*, who kindly donated their time and materials.



In development for 2026, *The Goldmine* is looking to introduce an e-waste initiative that will enable those in our community to safely dispose of electronics. These electronics will then be repaired or recycled by an outsourced company, with suitable pieces being onsold. This will close a gap at our local *Refuse Transfer Station*, as they do not have any e-waste recycling options as of 2025.



36.1K
Items reused



49.4
Tonnes saved
from landfill

Ruapara o Kapanga **Coromandel Refuse Transfer Station**

Over the course of 2025, *CILT* continued their partnership with *Waste Management* in the management of staff at the *Coromandel Refuse Transfer Station*. This collaboration has proven to be an asset for *The Goldmine* in enhancing efficiency and prioritising landfill diversion.

To Blossom

Te Puāwai—Native Plant Nursery

Te Puāwai is a community-led native plant nursery dedicated to growing eco-sourced riparian and restoration plants that support the regeneration of local ecosystems across the Coromandel. We work alongside schools, environmental groups, and community initiatives to strengthen biodiversity, promote kaitiakitanga, and provide hands-on learning opportunities for rangatahi and volunteers. *Te Puāwai*, meaning “to blossom” in te reo Māori, reflects our vision of growing strong, thriving ecosystems and connected communities.

Te Puāwai began as a school-to-work transition programme, supported by *The Len Reynolds Trust*, created to engage local students in environmental care while building valuable skills and pathways to employment. Since then, we’ve grown into a thriving nursery and community hub. We’ve proudly supplied bulk quantities of native plants for riparian planting throughout the Coromandel-Colville Ward, supporting catchment restoration and waterway protection efforts.



Image: *Te Puāwai* coordinator, Riyah, with volunteers from the Coromandel Community Garden.

In the beginning of the year, we provided the space to run an adobe brick garden bed workshop, run by the *Coromandel Community Garden*, who continue to share our space.



Image: *Moana New Zealand* workers helping to build the pergola.

We were also lucky enough to have workers from *Moana New Zealand* on site in an effort for them to give back to the community. With their hardwork, we were able to build a new pergola, which allows staff and visitors to sit and enjoy the outdoors, while also providing our nursery staff with a safer place to take breaks out of the sun.

In 2025, *Te Puāwai* grew over 6,500 native eco-sourced riparian plants and over 35 different produce in the māra kai, with over 230 items being distributed to the local community through the foodbank and pātaka kai (street pantry)—a great accomplishment when, during the height of summer, an error in the watering system put many of the seedlings and plants at risk.



6.5K
Native plants
propagated

230
Produce
grown



Pūmanawa Tangata

Human Resources

In 2025, *CILT* provided employment for 10 full-time and 38 part-time employees across our programmes, and services.

A highlight of 2025 was welcoming Kevin Ngāpo-French as our General Manager. As a local who was already well known and respected, and having previously also served as a trustee of *CILT*, Kevin brought with him an understanding of our organisation, our community, and our values. His leadership has brought a sense of stability and continuity that has been felt across the whole team, and the positive impact is already well and truly evident. We look forward to continuing to grow and thrive under his guidance.



Left to right: John Gaffkin-Cowan, Alison Carter, Anna Galvin (Chairperson), Mike Noonan, Margaret Harrison.

In 2025, we were supported by around 50-60 volunteers who give their time generously across many parts of our organisation. From keeping the shelves stocked and the doors open at *The Bizarre* and *The Goldmine*, to our dedicated team of volunteer drivers who transport community members to hospital appointments and run our weekly trip to Thames, their contribution is invaluable. *CILT* simply could not do what it does without them.



Image: Te Pūhaki Whaiora staff with Anna Galvin, Chairperson, celebrating Pink Shirt Day 2025.

To acknowledge and celebrate volunteers not just within *CILT* but across our whole community, we hosted a morning tea open to all volunteers in the community. It was a wonderful occasion bringing together the many generous people who give their time to make our community a better place. We remain grateful to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers whose commitment, skill, and community spirit continue to make a real difference to the lives of people across the Upper Coromandel.

During the year, our office staff supported *Pink Shirt Day 2025* and raised \$208.52 for *Wig Wednesday 2025* with contributions from our local community. These events were highlights of the year, gathering our staff in support of this important kaupapa.



Image: Te Pūhaki Whaiora, Te Pūāwai, and Te Mana Tangata staff and participants on Wig Wednesday 2025.

3

Tirohanga Pūtea

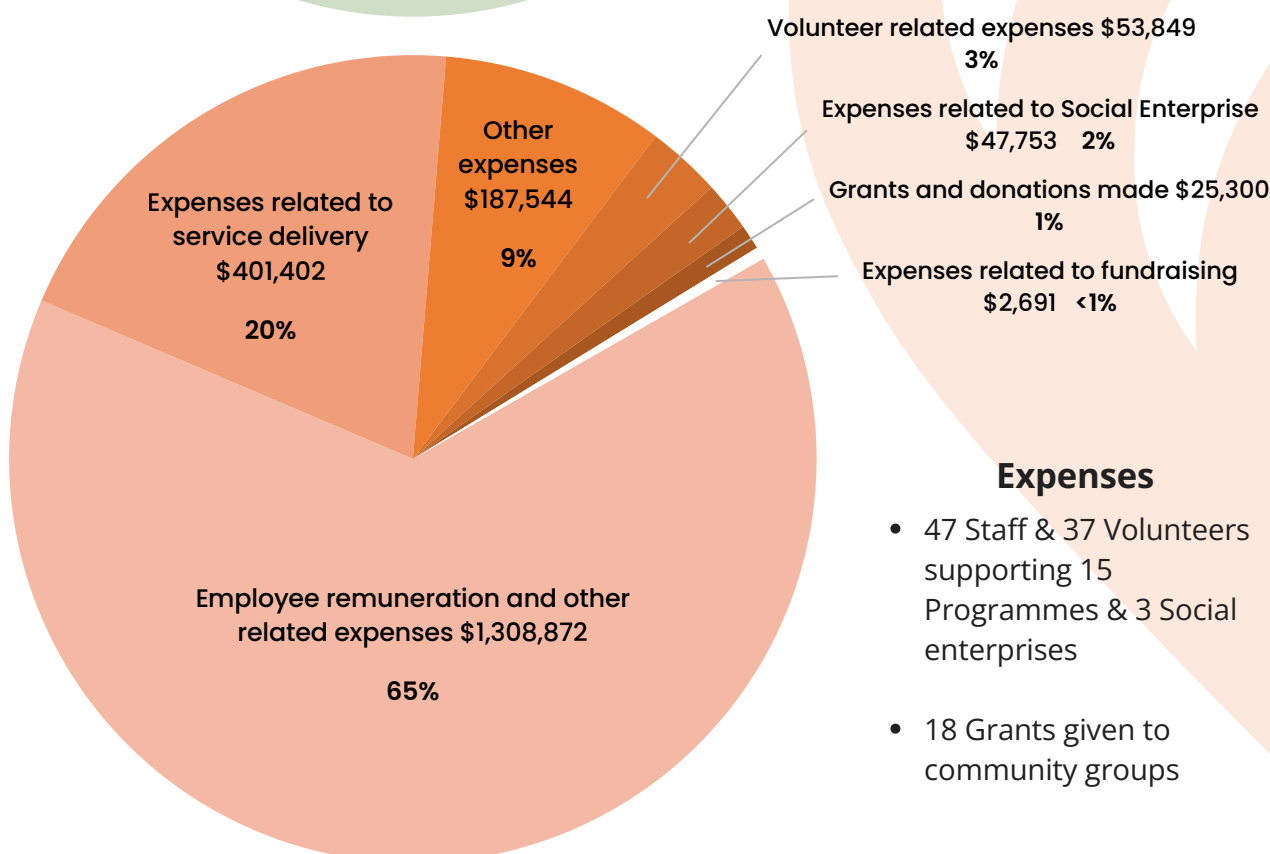
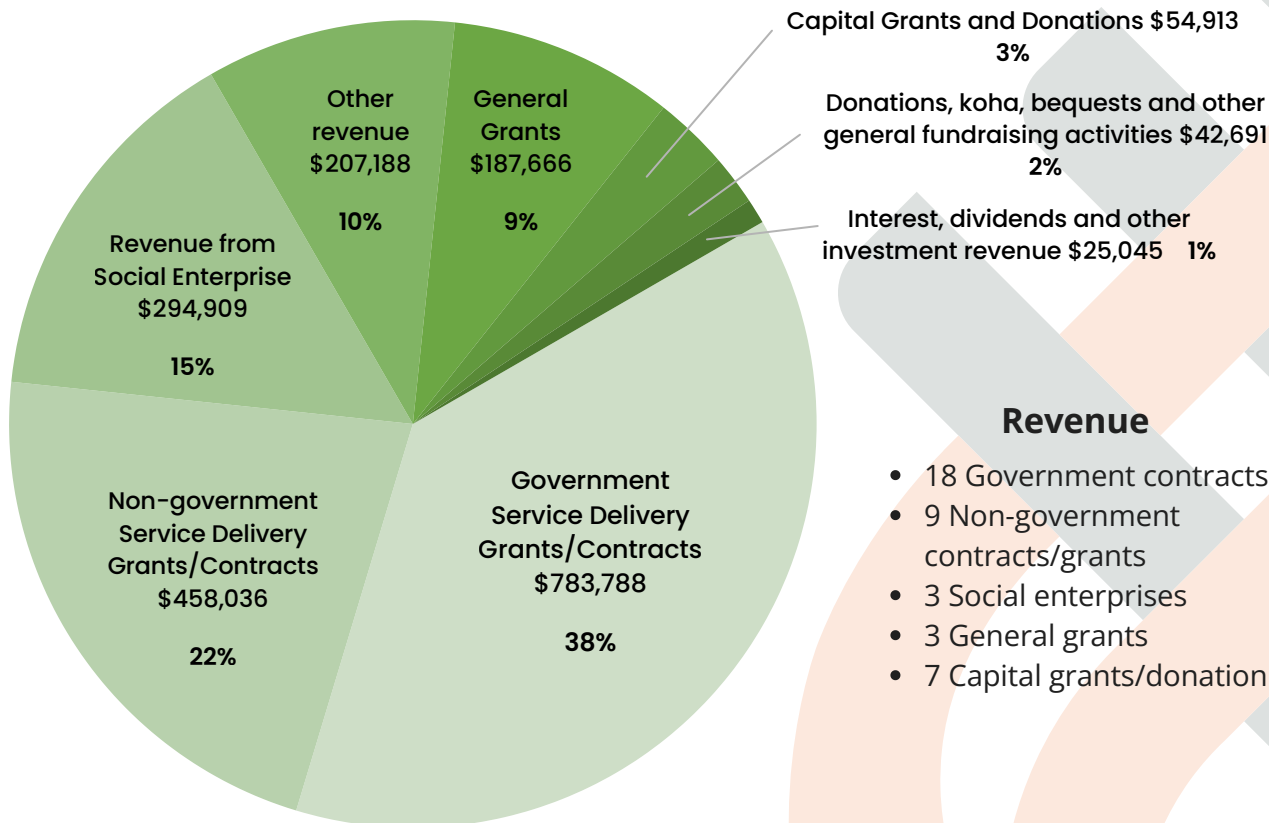
Financial overview



Image: C.A.S Student Volunteer Army planting in our nursery.

Taukī Tahua Pūtea Whakarāpopoto

Summarised Financial Report



Taukī Tahua Pūtea Whakarāpopoto

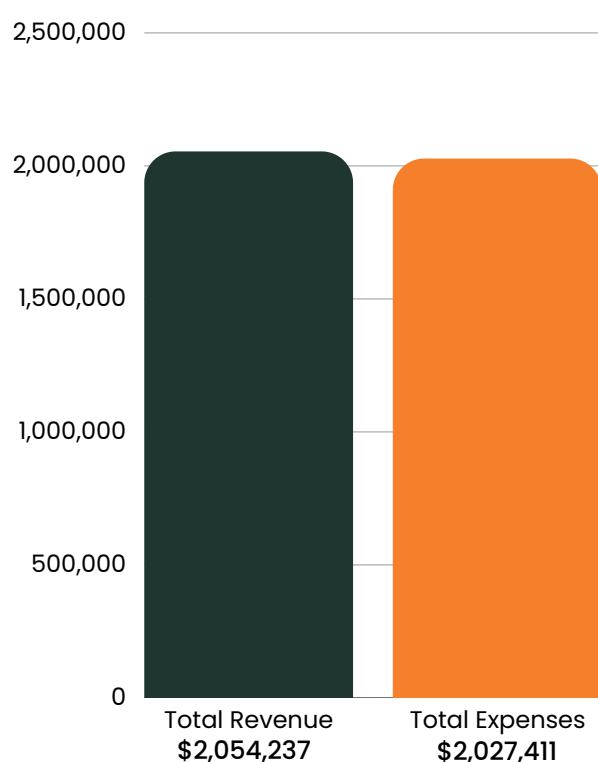
Summarised Financial Report

Our Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment	\$4,628,565
Bank Accounts and Cash	\$655,487
Short-term deposits	\$489,219
Debtors and prepayments	\$81,719
Other non-current assets	\$25,686

Our Liabilities

Creditors and accrued expenses	\$43,058
Other current liabilities	\$70,647
Employee costs payable	\$221,518
Deferred Income	\$340,448
Housing Loans	\$609,142



Summarised Financial Report

The financial information presented in this Annual Report comprises a summary of the Trust's audited financial statements and does not include all of the information and disclosures contained in the full audited Performance Report.

For a complete understanding of the Trust's financial position and performance, the full audited Performance Report should be read in conjunction with this summary. A copy of the full audited Performance Report is available from the Coromandel Independent Living Trust's website: www.cilt.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Signed-PR-CILT25-1.pdf

4

Ngā Kōrero Whakamutunga
Final remarks

Image: *Artists in The Making* and their harakeke art.

Ngā Hoa Haere **Our Partners**

- Te Patukirikiri
- Ngāti Tamaterā
- Ngāti Pukenga ki Waiau
- Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga ki Mataora
- Ngāti Huarere ki Whangapoua
- Thames-Coromandel District Council
- Coromandel Area School
- Colville Social Services Collective
- Driving Creek Railway Ltd.
- Coromandel-Colville Community Board
- CAPS Hauraki
- Whitianga Social Services
- Whangamata Resource Centre
- Waihi Resource Centre
- Thrive Coromandel
- CAPS Hauraki Youth Services
- Age Concern Thames
- Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki
- Thames Hospital
- Manaaki Centre
- Coromandel Family Health Centre
- Creative Coromandel
- Community Mental Health Services
- Oranga Tamariki
- Department of Corrections
- Te Ahi Kaa
- Ministry of Education
- Kainga Ora
- Ministry of Social Development
- Seagull Centre
- Trust Waikato
- Waikato Regional Council
- Greener by Nature
- Sir John Logan Campbell Residual Estate Trust
- Hauraki Māori Trust Board
- New Zealand Lottery Grants Board
- Len Reynolds Trust
- Contact Energy

- Community Organisation Grants Online
- NZ Police
- SPAN Trust
- Waste Management NZ
- D.V. Bryant Trust
- Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand



CILT is a member of or affiliated with:

- Community Housing Aotearoa
- Community Networks Aotearoa
- Inclusive NZ
- Social Servicer Providers Aotearoa
- Techsoup
- Firstport
- ACE Aotearoa
- Hauraki Family Violence Collective - Eastern Hub
- Waste Management Institute NZ
- Disabled Persons Assembly (NZ)
- Volunteering Waikato
- Community Recycling Network NZ
- Federation of Disability Information Centres (NZFDIC)
- NZ Disability Support Network
- Arts Access Aotearoa

Mihi Motuhake Special Thanks



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

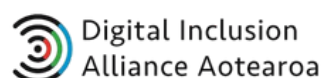


Image: Kaimahi and visitors at the Hauora & Open Day at Te Putahi Whaiora.



Kupu Whakamutunga

Closing Remarks

None of our accomplishments this year would have been possible without the passion of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the trust of our community. We look forward to building on this momentum and expanding our impact in the year to come.

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For more information, visit www.cilt.org.nz



**Coromandel
Independent
Living Trust**

TE ROOPUU WHAIORA