

150

chapman tripp

Celebrating 150 years of impact



# Community Report 2024

Investing in a more resilient and more sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand

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Kia ora koutou,

## It is a privilege to bring you our latest Community Report.

In 2024, many of our Community Partners achieved remarkable milestones. Wellington City Mission celebrated its 120th anniversary and opened its transformational community hub, Whakamaru. In Christchurch, Māia Health Foundation opened Kahurangi, a new outpatient facility for Child and Youth Mental Health. Other Community partners also celebrated significant anniversaries: The Aotearoa Circle's fifth, BLAKE's 20th and First Foundation's 25th, along with awarding its 1000th scholarship.

In 2025 we are excited to be celebrating our own milestone – 150 years of Chapman Tripp. This anniversary signifies a century and a half of excellence in the legal profession, handling the largest, most complex, and high-value transactions, projects and disputes for our clients. Our impact extends beyond our clients to our communities, offering funding, legal expertise, and volunteer time to make a meaningful difference across New Zealand.

This report reflects on our Community Programme in 2024 and, in recognition of our 150th anniversary, highlights some of the broader community impacts we have been proud to support over the years.

We look forward to celebrating our anniversary throughout 2025 with special Community initiatives. Together with our communities, we will continue to make a meaningful impact.

Ngā mihi,





**Greer Fredricson**  
Community Director



**Pip England**  
Chief Executive Partner

 65 pro bono clients\*

 3000+ hours of pro bono work\*

 \$1.9m+ of pro bono work\*

 2 volunteer days for all staff

\*Figures from the financial year: 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024



# Celebrating 150 years of impact

Over the next few pages, we hear from our  
Community Partners and our people.



# FIRST FOUNDATION

**Kirk Sargent**  
Chief Executive Officer



## Chapman Tripp’s support has been instrumental in helping First Foundation drive positive change in our community.

**First Foundation** supports talented students from low socio-economic households to navigate the pathway from secondary education to tertiary and professional success.

Since its establishment, First Foundation has grown in both scope and impact. Over 25 years, we’ve developed a unique four-year programme that combines wrap-around support, financial assistance, mentorship and exposure to the world of work. It is a long-term investment in New Zealand’s future.

Our evolution reflects our mission of expanding access to higher education to those who might otherwise be left behind. Today, First Foundation’s work is about not just supporting scholars, but creating transformational change that extends across generations.

Since 2014, Chapman Tripp has provided both financial backing for scholarships

and pro bono legal assistance. This support means we can stay laser-focused on our mahi and focus our resources where they have the greatest impact. In turn, more young people across Aotearoa can pursue higher education and break the cycle of poverty.

It’s an incredible example of Chapman Tripp’s commitment to justice and equity. They have directly enabled ten talented young Kiwis from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their tertiary education with the benefit of mentoring, professional contacts, and financial support. We recently appointed Chapman Tripp Partner, Michael Harper, as First Foundation’s Chair. This signifies the strength of our relationship and commitment to our shared vision.

In 2024, we achieved a milestone, awarding our 1,000th scholarship – representing generational impact and reaching thousands of lives through education.

Another standout initiative is our expansion to support students from rural regions, responding to the “diverse and unique needs” of communities across New Zealand. This expansion, along with our annual celebration event, connects scholars, mentors, and supporters, fostering a network of change-makers aligned with the values Chapman Tripp champions.

Looking to the future, First Foundation is excited to continue working with Chapman Tripp to create a brighter and more sustainable future by nurturing the potential of our youth.

Our ambitious goal is to support an additional 1,000 scholars by the end of this decade, reaching 2,000 total. Achieving this will require us to further expand our network, deepen regional engagement, and continue prioritising the areas of greatest need. Together with Chapman Tripp and other partners, we will continue to empower more young people to unlock their potential.

The future is about building more enduring partnerships and readying future generations to step into leadership roles, create change and inspire their communities.

**First Foundation scholars do paid work experience each year, allowing them to grow their skills and relationships in a safe work environment. Chapman Tripp was excited to welcome our tenth scholar in 2024. Learn about one of our 2024 scholars, Supina Iorive, below.**

“First Foundation has allowed me to make connections with other students and professionals. The programme starts in year 13, with workshops about a range of things such as financial literacy, then comes into full force at the end of the year with work experience. There’s so much to love, but my highlight has definitely been my time at Chapman Tripp. It’s been cool to experience different areas and see the practical side of my study!

I also have an amazing mentor through the programme, who checks in on me monthly. Sometimes we talk about uni, but also about life.

I am studying Law and Commerce but am not sure what I want to do when I graduate yet. This experience has definitely broadened my options.”





### Chapman Tripp Community Director, Greer Fredricson shares more about BLAKE.

“Chapman Tripp has been a proud supporter of BLAKE since its inception and I’ve had the privilege of working closely with the BLAKE team for a number of years. I’ve had a front-row seat to witness the incredible ways BLAKE is working to achieve its vision that all generations are inspired and enabled to be kaitiaki o te taiao.



We are pleased to have been able to align part of our support of BLAKE towards the launch, and subsequent growth, of the BLAKE Explorers programme. It is exciting to see this programme go from strength to strength, including expanding to participants in other parts of Aotearoa New Zealand. Hearing the feedback BLAKE receives about the impact BLAKE Explorers has on participants, is truly heartwarming.”



“For a small non-profit, it is incredibly valuable having the backing of an organisation with the professionalism and expertise of Chapman Tripp – it gives us increased confidence to pursue our goals and, without question, has increased the impact we have.

As the legacy organisation of Sir Peter Blake we try to remain true to the kaupapa of BLAKE Expeditions, through educating people about the natural world and supporting them to become environmental leaders. In the 20 years of **BLAKE**, we have evolved in a number of ways:

- We’ve embraced the use of technology (including VR), and now deliver our NZVR ocean education programme to over 40,000 students each year.
- We’ve recognised that our reach can grow exponentially through supporting teachers, and now have a professional development programme for teachers that helps them become more confident environmental educators.
- We’ve expanded our teams to Wellington and Christchurch, and we make regular visits to regional Aotearoa.

James Gibson  
Chief Executive



Chapman Tripp has supported us in many ways, including advising on commercial contracts, employment, constitutional, governance and board secretarial matters and IP. Every interaction has been of the highest possible quality – they’ve been a vitally important contributor to the impact BLAKE has had over the past 20 years.

BLAKE launched its three-day Explorers programme in 2020, which with Chapman Tripp’s support has recently expanded to reach approximately 300 intermediate-aged students and 30 teachers each year. The feedback we received from Sylvia Park School stands out:

“Activities like snorkelling, surfing and ecology trails aren’t something our students have the chance to do and when we saw the joy and excitement it brought them, it was clear this programme

is something that many New Zealand children would benefit from.

As well as the educational benefits, we have noticed a change in our students at school; they have stronger friendships, their confidence has sky-rocketed and they have become leaders in their own right. Weeks after BLAKE Explorers they are still talking about the amazing time they had and all the incredible things they did.”

While oceans remain a key focus for us, we’re increasingly addressing climate change as an issue. Given this may be the single greatest challenge our young people will face, we feel it is important to support strong climate change education in our schools, and we will be launching a climate change version of NZVR in 2025.

In addition, we’re looking to add a new university level programme to connect students with leading New Zealand businesses to better understand how business can lead the change to a more sustainable future for Aotearoa.

We also hope to continue our expansion and establish a team in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty area. Finally we hope to expand our impact through new partnerships that enhance the quality of the programmes we can deliver and extend our reach to new audiences.



Michael Flatman  
Chief Executive



Since partnering with Chapman Tripp in 2021, we have been fortunate to benefit from their exceptional support and collaboration as we have opened Kahurangi.

As a relatively young charity, Māia is still building its “presence” in the community. Partnering with a well-established and respected organisation like Chapman Tripp has been invaluable to helping build Māia’s credibility. Māia is proud to have contributed to some fantastic projects that will benefit the community for many years to come. Two, in particular, stand out:

1. Since the earthquakes in Canterbury in 2010 and 2011, the demand for mental health services for tamariki and rangatahi has surged. Clinical interactions have increased 157% and around 640 young people now receive treatment every month. This treatment was taking place in facilities that were, simply put, dire and not fit-for-purpose.

After being approached by the then Canterbury DHB, Māia committed funding towards a new facility for the Child, Adolescent, and Families Mental Health

Outpatients Service. This wonderful new facility, Kahurangi (meaning Blue Skies), opened in December 2024 and it is an amazing place for healing and growth, which is nothing less than our young people, and the people treating them, deserve.

Kahurangi is a welcoming, light, bright, safe and supportive space providing comprehensive psychiatric assessment and therapeutic intervention for children and adolescents 0-17 years (or older if still at school) in their family context.

The project cost \$15 million, with Māia Health Foundation raising \$6 million to ensure that the facility is of the highest quality, elevating the healthcare system in the South Island.

2. Christchurch Hospital was the only tertiary hospital in New Zealand without a helipad on-site. In fact, rescue helicopters

had to land in the nearby Hagley Park and patients were transferred to the Hospital via ambulance, a process that took, on average, 13 minutes.

With the redevelopment of Christchurch Hospital and the construction of Waipapa Christchurch Hospital providing the opportunity, Māia contributed \$2m for an enhanced future-proofed rooftop helipad, along with a rooftop clinical support unit so life-saving measures can be provided immediately on touchdown. As noted by former Emergency Physician and Clinical Lead at Christchurch Hospital, Dr David Bowie, “there’s no doubt it will result in a drastically improved patient experience and also in improved outcomes for the over 800 patients per year who are transported to Christchurch Hospital via helicopter.”

Going into 2025 and beyond, Māia will continue to raise funds for much needed projects that help the health system. Whilst the details are yet to be confirmed, it is likely that Māia will be supporting a major redevelopment of the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit at Christchurch Women’s Hospital and the organisation will continue to provide assistance where the need is greatest.

New facility, Kahurangi, includes a dedicated outpatient physio treatment space, state-of-the-art observation spaces for assessments, play, and family therapies, specialty rooms for child psychotherapy, purpose-built clinic rooms for physical needs, spacious group therapy rooms, a welcoming and culturally safe whānau room, and extensive outdoor landscaping with therapeutic interaction options.

Chapman Tripp Partner, Nick Letham, shares his thoughts on the new space and the impact it will have.

“Kahurangi is a beacon of hope for our community, providing a safe and supportive environment for our young people to receive the care they need.

The facility is truly impressive and will have a profound impact on the lives of many, offering a place for healing and growth.

We are proud to support Māia in the important work they do.”





Photos of Whakamaru supplied by HOWIE.

**In November, Wellington City Mission opened their new facility, Whakamaru. Chapman Tripp's Rosa McPhee reflects on this milestone.**

“Although originally intended to be a simple renovation, the project soon developed into a new build, including a wide range of facilities to enable connection between all members of the community.



Chapman Tripp is proud to have played a key role in this project since 2018, advising on a wide range of matters, from the acquisition of the site, through to assisting with design and construction contracts, leasing arrangements with third parties who will provide services from Whakamaru, and other transactions including the sale of properties to raise funds for the project.

Whakamaru is the result of years of hard work from the incredible team at the Mission and will have a profound effect on the community it serves. We feel very privileged to be able to use our skills to assist.”



**Murray Edridge**  
Wellington City Missioner



## “The relationship between Chapman Tripp and the Wellington City Mission shows the real impact businesses can have when they choose to give back.

The Wellington City Mission has been working for the people of Wellington since 1904. As Wellington society has changed, so has the work of the Mission. The Mission’s evolution over this time has been influenced by the changing needs of the less fortunate citizens of the Wellington area.

Resources have always been limited but the needs of the day have directed the work. Trustees, missionaries, staff, volunteers, donors, and sponsors have all made great contributions to the lives of people needing help.

Chapman Tripp genuinely cares and has a willingness to get involved in our mahi. Chapman Tripp’s partnership with the Wellington City Mission is a meaningful example of the good that can happen when organisations come together with a shared purpose.

In 1989, the Mission moved its head-offices to Newtown, initially opening on Riddiford Street as a Drop-In Centre to raise funds for special Mission projects. This office became the base for many of the Mission’s key modern services, such as our Social Supermarket (opened in 2021) and Tā te Manawa (our community lounge).

In late 2024, in the year of the Mission’s 120th anniversary, Wellington City Mission opened Whakamaru. A \$50 million project, Whakamaru is a transformational community hub for everyone in Wellington. It is home to a ‘contribute-what-you-can’ café called Craig & Gail’s, 35 long-term transitional housing apartments, a social supermarket, health care services, laundry facilities and meeting rooms.

A place where there is no ‘us and them’, the long-term vision for Whakamaru

is that it will help to re-shape how our community cares for itself.

Since 2016, Chapman Tripp has provided pro bono legal advice to the Mission. Their support has contributed towards our projects including the construction of Whakamaru and the launch of additional services such as expanded transitional housing. We acknowledge the significant investment of time and resources by Chapman Tripp, particularly in the legal aspects of the design and construction of Whakamaru, which has greatly contributed to our success.

In addition, Chapman Tripp made a significant donation to the building of Craig and Gail’s Cafe in Whakamaru and we have a plaque in the café in acknowledgement of this.

For many years, volunteer groups from Chapman Tripp have helped us out during the lead up to Christmas, sorting and packing donations and helping at the Toy Store. In 2024, we also welcomed Chapman Tripp volunteer groups on two other occasions, once sorting donated food, and another time sorting donated shoes and pyjamas.

The groups are always respectful, kind and appear genuinely happy to be giving back to the Wellington community.”



**Helen Robinson**  
Manutaki/CEO/Auckland City Missioner



**Chapman Tripp’s support has been pivotal to Auckland City Mission – Te Tāpui Atawhai’s ability to serve those in need. For nearly 30 years, their donations of legal advice, financial contributions, food, and volunteer time have allowed us to extend our reach and deepen our impact.**

Their most significant single-project contribution was the legal expertise provided for the development of HomeGround. Three years on from opening its doors, HomeGround offers 80 permanent homes and integrated services, providing a place of transformation and healing for people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Chapman Tripp’s ongoing partnership continues to help us create lasting change, empowering individuals to transform their lives with dignity and support.

Over the past 105 years, [the Mission](#) has continuously adapted to the evolving needs of Tāmaki Makaurau while staying true to the values of our founder, Reverend Jasper Calder. Established in 1920, in response to the devastating

effects of World War 1 and the Spanish Flu epidemic, the Mission has always been driven by a commitment to providing practical support to those in need.

Today, our services reflect the changing social landscape, focusing on care, respect, and tailored, mana-enhancing support for individuals. We remain dedicated to offering genuine help in ways that meet the unique needs of each person we serve.

In recent years, opening HomeGround has been an absolute highlight. Another defining moment was our response to COVID-19. While many other services closed, we remained open, providing housing, food, and healthcare support to those in greatest need. Our Calder Health

Centre became a testing and vaccination site, and in 2021 alone we delivered over 60,000 boxes of food to families and individuals in need.

Other recent milestones include embracing a Te Tiriti led Te Ao Māori approach, launching a wāhine only transitional housing programme, and advocating for systemic change in Aotearoa.

Looking ahead, the Mission remains focused on addressing the growing need for housing, food, and healthcare support.

A key priority for 2025 is the opening of a dental clinic at HomeGround, providing free dental care for those experiencing homelessness or poverty – an important step in our holistic health approach. Poor oral health often affects both physical and mental well-being, and this clinic will help address that gap.

We are also excited to implement our new food sovereignty strategy, offering a diverse range of food support to enhance people’s overall wellbeing.

Additionally, we continue our journey to becoming a good Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner.

**The annual Auckland City Mission Cook-Off brings together business leaders and top chefs for a special evening of good food and great company. In 2024, Chapman Tripp participated for a second year, with our People & Culture Director, Tania Restall, taking on the challenge to cook at the event and raise at least \$10,000.**

“Led by top chefs Mike Van de Elzen, Petra Galler and Gareth Stewart, we cooked a delicious three-course meal for 150 Mission guests, many of whom experience homelessness or face a daily struggle to put food on the table.



I joined Michael on ‘team entrée’ and some of our other Chapman Tripp people also volunteered on the night.

The event raised almost \$200k towards the Mission’s services and was a very special night for everyone involved.”





**Chapman Tripp Consultant, Mike Woodbury, reflects on our long-standing relationship with Circa Theatre and the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust.**

“When our relationship with Circa began in 1987, corporate arts support was all but non-existent. However, we were drawn to the excellence, innovation and creativity of the artists at Circa, and we saw in them key values we aspired to have at the core of our firm – collaboration, dynamism and the principle that our people define us, not the other way around.



Throughout our relationship, we have seen Circa overcome many obstacles to become a celebrated pillar of professional theatre in Wellington.

We were excited that, through our introduction, Circa has begun a relationship with Wellington City Mission, and arranged to collect food and toy donations during their annual Pantomime, starting with their 2023 season of Treasure Island.



**Dame Carolyn Henwood**  
Founding member of Circa Theatre and the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust



**Caroline Armstrong,**  
General Manger, Circa Theatre



“It was with much excitement that we met with partners of Chapman Tripp in the mid-1980s, as support for professional theatre was rare.

In 1987 we set up the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust to support artists to obtain a more viable career, and Chapman Tripp was the first founding sponsor. They have remained with us since that time, nearly 38 years – an amazing achievement for us both.

The Theatre Artists Charitable Trust focusses on supporting creative artists (including actors, playwrights and directors) and the wider arts ecosystem. The model provides for an innovative co-operative system, where financial resources are directed straight to creative artists and practitioners around those artists responsible for bringing works to the stage at Circa.

By this model, The Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (through Circa) is able to have a direct community impact, delivering a wide variety of productions, events and educational experiences that

involve, challenge and appeal to diverse audiences and participants.

For more than 20 of the 38 years in which Chapman Tripp has been involved with Circa, the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards were an annual event to acknowledge the accomplishments of the wonderful professional theatre community in Wellington. Those awards were retired, but Chapman Tripp remained with Circa, bringing clients and friends to see the productions and using the theatre for corporate TED-type talks and debate.

It was with huge gratitude and respect that we honoured Chapman Tripp at an event hosted by the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro in 2023 at Government House Wellington.

We estimate that over all those years, individual theatre artists who have benefited from Trust grants would number in the thousands.

“The partnership between Chapman Tripp and Circa Theatre began in the 1980s and has flourished since then.

Chapman Tripp’s continued support of our artists’ creative work and everything we do at Circa epitomises what any organisation could hope for in a partner.

Circa Theatre is a champion of New Zealand Theatre, staging 20–30 shows each year and providing the Wellington theatre-going audience a diverse bill of entertainment!

Circa works with a range of collaborators and is a hub for others who develop and nurture new work, such as the Kia Mau Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, NZ Fringe Festival, and Tahī Festival. Circa encourages accessibility to the arts for all audiences and supports theatre educators, schools, and drama schools throughout Greater Wellington.

We all look forward to celebrating this great relationship through 2025 in our beautifully renovated building with a fabulous programme of productions.



Photographer credits: Rigoletto: Jinki Cambronero; Le comte Ory: Lewis Ferris

# NZ OPERA

**Brad Cohen**  
General Director



Chapman Tripp has been a valued supporter of opera in Aotearoa for nearly 30 years. This long-standing partnership has enabled NZ Opera to evolve how we serve and grow our community reach and engagement.

Since 1995 [NZ Opera](#) has undergone significant transformation; from Auckland Opera to Opera New Zealand in 1995, then a merger with The National Opera of Wellington (formerly Wellington City Opera) into one organisation in 2000, becoming The National Business Review New Zealand Opera. A further merger with Southern Opera in Christchurch in 2012 allowed the company to maintain a nationwide presence and stage work in all three cities. Presently, we are the only full-time professional opera company in Aotearoa.

Chapman Tripp initially supported our NZ Opera Chorus, enabling new opera talent to gain experience and flourish on the main stage; some of whom would go on to international success. We now proudly bring back to the New Zealand stage some of the former Chapman Tripp NZ Opera Chorus members as featured

principal artists in our productions and national tours. Such opera stars include Amitai Pati in *Rigoletto*, Moses MacKay and Wade Kernot in *Le comte Ory*, Bianca Andrew in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Phillip Rhodes in *Macbeth*.

From 2015 Chapman Tripp's support (as a development sponsor, artistic partner, and currently, gold partner) has helped us build and grow, ensuring we will continue to evolve and deepen our community engagement, whilst following best practice in the industry.

We are extremely grateful that we continue to benefit from Chapman Tripp's expert legal advice and generous financial support, which has fostered the career development of such esteemed Directors as Jacqueline Coats and Eleanor Bishop and artists including Matthew Kereama.

In recent years we began our bi-cultural journey to recognise and value Māori culture, identity and voice, and Te Ao Māori into the heart of the way we do things: through the stories we tell, the communities we engage with, the audiences we attract, and the artists we support. In 2024 we established a new strategic role of Manu Tū Rae to ensure we continue to honour the unique and rich cultural identity of Aotearoa, embedding it into the culture of our organisation.

In 2025 we launch an exciting new groundbreaking work: a community-focused and community-driven opera in which young and community singers and players stand proudly shoulder-to-shoulder with their professional counterparts, and in which both are integral. *The Monster in The Maze* has been extravagantly praised by audiences, participants and reviewers worldwide, and in its Aotearoa debut season, it will serve as a gorgeous articulation of NZ Opera's reciprocal community kaupapa.

**'Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou,  
ka ora ai te iwi'**

'With your basket and mine  
the people will thrive'

**Chapman Tripp Partner,  
Edward Scorgie reflects on our  
relationship with NZ Opera over  
the years.**



"We are proud of how our multi-decade relationship has evolved in parallel with NZ Opera itself. As well as the chorus' spectacular performances over the years for our staff and clients at St Matthew-in-the-City and carols at Christmas, we have been privileged to support NZ Opera as it has become a truly national performing arts company.

We're excited to continue to offer that support as the Company transforms the performance of opera in New Zealand, as an art form that speaks to, and about, our communities and peoples, through the power of the human voice.

And maybe the challenge of an on-stage presence for Chapman Tripp in NZ Opera's next production *The Monster in the Maze*, which invites community participation!

Kate Wilson Butler, Chapman Tripp's Director - Climate, Sustainability & ESG, says:

"It has been a privilege to partner with the Circle since its inception, and to have collaborated on five pro bono projects to further the Circle's vision of sustainable prosperity for Aotearoa New Zealand. Our 2024 report identified key trends in climate and sustainability reporting and trade measures that are shifting the global operating environment for New Zealand companies, supporting our exporters to keep pace with fast-changing expectations across international supply chains."



 **View the reports:**

[2019: Sustainable Finance Forum Interim Report](#)

[2020: A toolkit for Directors](#)

[2021: Legal duties of New Zealand trustees to manage climate change-related risk to trust investments](#)

[2023: NZ Director duties to manage nature-related risk and impact on natural capital](#)

[2024: Protecting New Zealand's competitive advantage](#)



“Chapman Tripp's work has helped galvanise the governance community's shift to consider climate and nature.”

**The Aotearoa Circle's** vision since our inception has been to halt the decline of our natural environment and restore it for true sustainable prosperity.

Encouragingly, we've seen an evolution in awareness about the link between healthy ecosystems and sustainable prosperity since we started six years ago but there is more to be done.

We know what we need to achieve but time is running out. The science tells us we still have an incredible amount of work to do if we are to restore our natural taonga and ensure a liveable planet and place for future generations.

The impacts of climate change on nature are already being felt. We need to strengthen our resilience to these impacts but also restore and protect our natural capital, or we face the risk of a biodiversity crisis which may be hard to come back from.

Vicki Watson  
Chief Executive Officer



or proposed. This presents challenges (but also opportunities) for our exporters who are crucial to the success of New Zealand's economy.

This report, delivered by Chapman Tripp and commissioned by the Circle, prompted constructive discussion among New Zealand exporters and garnered media interest. It also gained the support of organisations like NZTE, which organised two webinars to help educate a broad community about our work. The report also prompted our export community to look at its own ESG reporting, demonstrating the growing shift towards climate and nature considerations.

Chapman Tripp's ground-breaking nature related *Legal Opinion for Directors* is another example of New Zealand standing out and front-footing this important material, well ahead of other markets. This work on New Zealand director duties to manage nature-related risk and impacts on natural capital makes me very proud. In fact, the number of times Chapman Tripp's work has been quoted and referenced demonstrates its reach, value, and impact.

The Circle and its members are driving more impactful conversations, growing awareness and collective action to enable our environment to thrive. We're grateful for your contributions.



“Since our inception, Chapman Tripp has been a key source of support and expertise for our organisation.”

The Centre for Sustainable Finance: Toitū Tahua (CSF) works closely with the Government, financial institutions, and financial services providers to facilitate and accelerate finance for a resilient and prosperous Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our work is anchored in the Sustainable Finance Forum’s 2030 Roadmap for Action, which calls for an all-of-system approach to financing transformation, transforming finance and changing mindsets. This will enable Aotearoa New Zealand to maintain our global reputation and market presence.

The Roadmap was developed over a two-year timeframe in consultation with 200+ market participants, including representatives from Chapman Tripp.

One of the Roadmap’s recommendations was a Stewardship Code to provide guiding principles for stewardship for responsible investors in New Zealand.

CSF, alongside Responsible Investment Association Australasia, formed an industry-led committee which developed The Stewardship Code for over 18 months, launching in 2022.

Chapman Tripp’s Penny Sheerin, Nicola Swan and Emma Dale, provided pro bono legal expertise to the committee throughout this process, with Penny also a member of the Leadership Group for the Sustainable Finance Forum. Emma Sutcliffe participated in the Technical Working Group.

The Code’s nine principles guide investors to incorporate ESG matters in their investments, design and implement engagement policies, vote responsibly at shareholder meetings and disclose the nature and outcomes of their stewardship, as well as aiming for greater collaboration, including with policy makers.

In 2024, Chapman Tripp and MinterEllisonRuddWatts teamed up on a joint legal opinion for CSF, *KiwiSaver investing in private assets*, which identified key legal and regulatory disincentives that discourage KiwiSaver providers from investing in private assets.

These findings may mean that New Zealanders aren’t benefiting from investment options that can provide potentially higher financial returns, and may also bring long-term positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

The opinion outlines proposed legislative and regulatory amendments that would help remove some of those disincentives, and in December, the Government announced consultation on proposed changes to KiwiSaver requirements to enable greater scope for KiwiSaver funds to invest in private assets.

 **View the publications:**

- [Sustainable Finance Forum’s 2030 Roadmap for Action](#)
- [New Zealand Stewardship Code](#)
- [KiwiSaver investing in private assets](#)

**Chapman Tripp Partner, Tim Williams, was one of the authors of the 2024 legal opinion: *KiwiSaver investing in private assets*.**



“We are pleased to see that, following the release of the legal opinion, the Government is now consulting on the KiwiSaver framework, and that hopefully, changes are made that allow for greater ability for investment diversity and opportunity to benefit New Zealand.

Adopting the changes raised in the opinion could free up capital for important sustainable infrastructure projects, as well as delivering better long-term value to KiwiSaver members.

We are also pleased to continue to contribute our expertise to the valuable work of CSF. Separately, our Finance team is currently assisting CSF to develop a framework for New Zealand’s Sustainable Finance Strategy, alongside the Government.”

# Our reflections

“

I've always enjoyed working within our pro bono and community programme, helping organisations who are doing amazing things in our communities. One significant project our team worked on, back in 2019 was supporting [Mary Potter Hospice](#) with its plans to build an apartment complex next to its in-patient facility in Wellington.



The construction project was intended to create long-term sustainable revenue for the Hospice, allowing it to continue giving free end of life palliative care. As the Hospice must fundraise a substantial amount each year to provide its services, it was very rewarding to be able to use our expertise to support this project.

”

**Bradley Kidd**

“

In mid 1995, I was approached to assist in establishing a new charitable trust, aimed at providing access to the arts for communities or sections of the population that might otherwise lack such opportunities.



The term “arts” was to include all forms of creative and interpretive expression by all people, but including in particular: people with physical or other disabilities, people disadvantaged by their social conditions, homeless or at-risk young people, and people on remand or in prison. In short, the purpose of the new organisation would be to eliminate barriers to participation across all fields of creative expression.

The first project Chapman Tripp undertook was to produce the charitable trust deed for [Arts Access Aotearoa](#). Whakahauha katoa o hanga (Encouraging all to create), which was executed in 1995.

I became the new trust's honorary solicitor. While I have been reappointed as such at successive Annual General Meetings ever since, in reality that role has been a collective one – shared with many Chapman Tripp colleagues with more appropriate skills across diverse fields at different times.

Chapman Tripp has now supported Arts Access Aotearoa for over 30 years. I have taken much pleasure at seeing the results of the Arts in Corrections service that the trust provides – not just the objects of beauty that are created, but also the recognition that arts and creative expression can be a powerful tool in supporting both the rehabilitation process and reintegration on release.

”

**Grant David**

“

For several years, we have provided pro bono support to Gisborne based [Mātai Medical Research Institute](#), a not-for-profit leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) software and artificial intelligence.



Initially, our work with Mātai was focussed on assisting with funding contracts and in particular the interface between IP and mātauranga Māori. Our relationship with Mātai has evolved to include patent advice and more recently, working alongside Mātai, Trust Tairawhiti and Gisborne Holdings on their vision to develop a campus, including a research facility, education and training, collaborative spaces for students and the public, accommodation, and community gardens.

We are proud to partner with Mātai and support their vision to uplift Māori in the research, science and technology spaces to provide Māori-led responses to health and well-being, and transformational change in health equity.

”

**Te Aopare Dewes**

“

I really enjoyed working on [Auckland City Mission's](#) Whitney Trust application, which involved a historical gift to the Mission in 1933. We successfully obtained orders from the High Court varying the Trust's deed, allowing the Mission to apply the (significant) trust assets towards its new purpose-built supportive housing and social services facility, HomeGround.



”

**Daniel Maier-Gant**





# 2024 Community Programme highlights

# Community Speaker Series

 In 2024 we launched our Community Speaker Series, which provided our people with the opportunity to hear from exceptional leaders and deepen their understanding of the incredible work happening in our communities. We are grateful to all the speakers for sharing their insights and experiences with us.



Izzy Fenwick and Carolyn Mortland spoke to us about [Futureful](#), the online job site with an innovative matching system that takes into account a job seeker's values and expectations, as well as their skills and experience. Their aim is to enhance job satisfaction and productivity by finding the perfect fit and enable diversity in talent pools with special anti-bias and inclusion features.



[Wellington City Missioner](#), Murray Edridge, discussed the many ways the Mission helps the community, and its exciting new facility, Whakamaru, which opened its doors to the Wellington Community in November.



Victims Advocate Ruth Money discussed her work dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault matters, and how the legal system deals with those cases. Chapman Tripp's Laura Fraser and Emily James joined the session to discuss their recent work acting for a group of survivors of serious sexual offending, including in relation to name suppression matters.



Michael Flatman, CEO of [Māia Health Foundation](#) shared his passion for improving health services in Canterbury and the South Island, and highlighted the impactful projects Māia is leading, in particular Kahurangi, the new Child, Adolescent, and Family Outpatients Mental Health facility.



Chief Children's Commissioner Dr. Claire Achmad spoke about the role of [Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission](#). Claire highlighted the challenges our tamariki are facing and spoke about what we can do in our profession and as citizens to ensure a good life for every child in New Zealand. She emphasised that this is a collective endeavour, and as the independent advocate working for and with tamariki, she invited everyone to play their part.



[NZ Opera](#) General Director Brad Cohen was open about the struggle opera has been through in recent years, with declining funds and weakened community connection. This had spurred the company's reinvention, centred on building community, widening access, and telling stories relevant to New Zealanders, through the unique power of song.

# Pro bono initiatives

## Debtfix

↘ We have recently started providing pro bono legal advice to [Debtfix Foundation](#), Aotearoa's first registered hardship and debt solution charity. Debtfix Foundation aims to improve the financial, mental and physical wellbeing of individuals, and help reduce the impact of personal debt on New Zealand society. Our role includes preparing and filing applications to approve insolvents' proposals under the Insolvency Act 2006 and appearing in court on behalf of Debtfix on the approval applications.

Litigation Solicitor, Sam Yang, said, "Being in debt can feel like a hopeless challenge. Being able to help people overcome that and feel in control again is really rewarding."

## Community Law Centre

↘ Edward Scorgie and Liora Bercovitch presented at the [Community Law Centres Aotearoa](#) annual conference.

Liora said, "The session was of reciprocal value and interest, and an opportunity to engage with CLC lawyers on real-life scenarios and challenges. This contribution reflects Chapman Tripp's commitment to empowering community-focused legal services through knowledge-sharing and collaboration."

## YouthLaw Aotearoa

↘ We supported [YouthLaw Aotearoa](#) on its research project "LGBTQIA+ and the Education System", which examines the law, policy and how to navigate uncertainty for schools and LGBTQIA+ young people in the education system.

YouthLaw General Manager Darryn Aitchison, said, "Chapman Tripp's support has been extremely valuable. As well as consolidating our knowledge, it has given us some great new insights in certain areas and will help us speak with greater confidence on these topics."

Elin Harris, said, "It was a privilege to be involved in this incredibly important and meaningful project, especially in the first year of my career."

## Community Energy Whaingaroa

↘ Members of our Property team advised [Community Energy Whaingaroa](#) on their proposed solar garden project in Raglan. Community Energy Whaingaroa is a community enterprise that aims to minimise energy hardship and increase energy efficiencies in the Whaingaroa region.

This community-based project promotes sustainability by providing a supply of renewable solar energy alongside local food production. Set to be the first of its kind in New Zealand, the initiative follows in the footsteps of similar successful projects overseas.



## Kaicycle

Our team has provided governance advice to [Kaicycle](#), a regenerative urban farm and composting site, based in Newtown, Wellington. The farm has been designed to develop techniques and models to productively grow food, while working within the natural system and using regenerative practices based in Te Ao Māori.

Most recently, as part of our pro bono work, we assisted in modernising the society's rules and ensuring compliance with the new Incorporated Societies Act.

The team at Kaicycle acknowledged our support by hosting Tom Jemson and Sarah Spicer for a tour of their urban farm.



## Hillary Outdoors

Our Private Client, Resource Management and Property teams have been working with [Hillary Outdoors](#) on their new Marine and Conservation Centre, which opened in January 2025. Set amongst 340ha of native bush on the Coromandel Peninsula, the centre offers a unique setting for outdoor education and adventure.

Chapman Tripp assisted with the acquisition of the property (funded by the incredibly generous support of a private benefactor). Hillary Outdoors Coromandel was envisioned as the organisation's third Centre. However, due to the myriad of challenges in operating a remote island Centre, 2024 saw the close of Hillary Outdoors Aotea, in which Chapman Tripp provided legal support throughout the process.

Private Client Partner, Jarrod Walker, says, "The fantastic Coromandel location will give many young New Zealanders the opportunity to develop crucial and empowering skills in a beautiful environment. Hillary Outdoors has been around for 50 years now and our firm has supported them for much of that time.

This is the latest project of many we have been privileged to be involved in over the years, and will assist Hillary Outdoors set itself up for the next half century of service to the community. I would like to thank all members of the firm who have supported this project."

## Citizens of the Sea

Pro bono client, Cawthron Institute, alongside New Zealand Geographic and Illumina, recently launched [Citizens of the Sea](#) - a charitable organisation that aims to map the health of our oceans. The initiative will equip sailors with tools that empower them to collect valuable environmental DNA (eDNA) to inform ocean conservation and management efforts. In May 2024, the first full scale trial was launched, with twenty-five boats participating in the four-to-six-month long Pacific Rally, equipped with cutting-edge DNA monitoring technology, photogrammetric reef modelling and environmental sensors.

Chapman Tripp's Nicola Swan, Julia Carrington and Sarah Spicer, advised Cawthron Institute on their sponsorship with Illumina, a global leader in genomics.

Our role in advising Cawthron was both challenging and rewarding. Crafting a preliminary memorandum of understanding required attention to detail and an understanding of both the scientific and commercial aspects of the partnership. Additionally, providing governance advice on the appropriate entity structures for Citizens of the Sea involved a thorough analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each option, tailored to the specific needs of the organisation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a project that aligns with our values and has the potential to make a lasting impact on our understanding and preservation of the ocean.



**Listen** to an interview about [Citizens of the Sea](#) on RNZ.



Where in the world are their sailors?  
**View map.**

# Other ways we've helped



Some of our Clients & Markets team spent the morning at Auckland City Mission's donations sorting centre, helping to sort and prepare clothing and household goods for distribution to their op-shops.



Some of our people participated in the Auckland Marathon in November and raised funds for the Mental Health Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting mental well-being, providing resources, and advocating for positive mental health initiatives across the country.



All of our offices supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. The Breast Cancer Foundation does essential work in education, research and support for individuals and families affected by breast cancer.



"We love that Chapman Tripp cares about sustainability as much as we do. Period products are a necessity, not a luxury. We provide at risk and marginalized rangatahi access to menstrual products without them worrying about how to pay for them."

Dignity



"After 3hr 19mins, 20,366 steps and 17.81km, we arrived at Homeground, Auckland City Mission's hub. It was really special to take part in the Big Mission Home and help make a difference to Aucklanders in greatest need."

Gracie Jones, Alyssa Bullof and Cameron Jacob-Sauer

We were thrilled to once again sponsor the Arts & Culture Award at the 2024 Canterbury Girlboss Awards. Congratulations to the winner, Rena Oliphant. These awards recognise trailblazing young women who are defying stereotypes and creating change in their communities.



Our staff have two paid volunteer days each year, which can be used to volunteer in their local community and do something that is important and meaningful to them. Josef Strauss helped out at Cats Protection Wellington, cleaning cages, rearranging and tidying the shelter, and feeding and socialising the cats.



“Sorting donations from the Wellington City Mission and New World’s Family2Family appeal was a privilege. It was very impactful to hear stories about how the social supermarket supports people, from first-time shoppers to those struggling with unexpected expenses amidst rising living costs.”

Chelsea Scott, Project Services

Some of our Wellington team helped the Wellington City Mission sort over 600 pairs of near-new shoes donated by Shoe Clinic.



“I had the privilege of helping Auckland City Mission to distribute Christmas food and gift parcels. It was such a humbling experience and reminded me to be grateful for what I have. There are so many in need and the Mission is so caring and organised.”

Ilana Kramer, People & Culture

Some of our Clients & Markets team volunteered at Auckland City Mission’s breakfast service, where they prepared and served food, washed dishes, restocked supplies, and tidied the dining area.



Our Christchurch Resource Management and Property teams volunteered at their local Ronald McDonald House where they cooked dinner and dessert for guests staying at the house. This was a great opportunity to help families with sick children.



We were proud to support our long-standing pro bono client, Q Theatre, in their mission to raise funds for their venue and aging equipment. Q Theatre continues to be a vital hub for the arts, hosting events like the NZ International Comedy Festival and enriching the cultural landscape.



By switching from physical business cards to e-cards in 2023, we have enabled Tree-Nation to plant nearly 2,000 trees as part of different projects around the world including in Madagascar, Tanzania and Kenya. This equates to 285 tonnes of CO2 captured.



Our people donated six boxes of books to Auckland University Law Students’ Society’s inaugural Books for Prisons Appeal. This appeal aims to help close the gap in prison resourcing, providing incarcerated individuals with greater opportunities to engage with their culture, history, wellness and learning.

We helped Victoria University of Wellington’s Rainbow Law Society with its 2024 Rainbow Moot. This explored non-binary protections in the workplace under the Human Rights Act 1993 and required participants to consider several complex legal issues.



# About our Community Programme

Our Community Programme invests in a more resilient and more sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand.

We aim to make a difference in our communities by applying our time, skills and funding, and by seeking to reduce our own environmental impact.

We do this through the provision of pro bono work and financial support, community involvement (volunteering) and our own sustainability initiatives.



### We support:



Individuals, organisations and issues that align with our values



Individuals who are vulnerable



Organisations who are best placed to deliver positive community outcomes and who are having (or have the potential to have) a significant impact on one or more of our communities.

### Our Community Programme focusses on:

- supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of Aotearoa New Zealand and New Zealanders, through a commitment to vulnerable New Zealanders and supporting young New Zealanders through training and education;
- reducing our own environmental impacts and promoting innovative and sustainable practices in Aotearoa New Zealand;
- acknowledging the importance of a strong arts and cultural environment to the wellbeing of Aotearoa New Zealand and New Zealanders; and
- facilitating access to justice for those who do not have it.

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We support a wide and diverse range of pro bono clients.

Supporting worthwhile organisations is part of life at Chapman Tripp. Since our pro bono programme began, we are immensely proud to have provided legal support to more than 700 individuals and organisations.

# Our environmental sustainability


**We support the country’s target of net zero emissions by 2050.  
We are committed to managing and reducing our emissions and have developed a GHG emissions management plan and reduction targets.**

## Toitū certification and emissions reduction

Since 2018, we have met the requirements of Toitū’s carbonreduce certification, having measured our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in accordance with ISO 14064-1:2006 and committed to managing and reducing our operational emissions (Scope 1, 2 and material Scope 3 categories). For our 2023 financial year, we achieved Toitū carbonzero certification. We are seeking the same certification for the 2024 financial year.

We have recorded total emissions reductions across several areas from our 2018 base year. Like many organisations, our emissions bounced back after dropping over the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure a sustainable trajectory, our ongoing focus is to embed the practices that have led to the reductions to date, while identifying where further savings can be achieved.

We are currently considering how we might move toward emissions reductions targets that reflect our ambition and progress to date.

 [Read our Toitū carbonreduce certification summary](#)



## Our memberships



We are proud to be a member of the Sustainable Business Network. We are committed to improving our sustainability performance, working together to empower business so people and nature prosper, and supporting the restoration of New Zealand’s waterways through our membership contribution to Million Metres.



As part of the firm’s commitment, we are members of the Sustainable Business Council, a membership organisation connecting businesses, partners, and sectors to create impact that no single business could achieve alone. The council holds its members to account by asking them to fulfil published member commitments.

## net zero lawyers alliance

We were the first New Zealand law firm to become a member firm of Net Zero Lawyers Alliance – a collaboration of top-tier law firms committed to accelerating the transition to net zero emissions by 2050. Member firms recognise their own role in the transition towards global net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, both directly and through the legal services they provide.

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Chapman Tripp is a dynamic and innovative commercial law firm at the leading edge of legal practice. With offices in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, the firm supports clients to succeed across industry, commerce and government. Chapman Tripp is known as the 'go to' for complex, business-critical strategic mandates across the full spectrum of corporate and commercial law. Chapman Tripp's expertise covers mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, banking and finance, restructuring and insolvency, Māori business, litigation and dispute resolution, employment, health and safety, government and public law, privacy and data protection, intellectual property, media and telecommunications, real estate and construction, energy, environmental and natural resources, and tax.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication. However, the items are necessarily generalised and readers are urged to seek specific advice on particular matters and not rely solely on this text.

Our thanks to our Community Partners that provided images for this report.

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