

Community

Networks Aotearoa

Annual Report 2025 – Published November 25

Executive Committee



Holly Snape,
Chair



Top left to right: Liz Davies, Deputy Chair. Andrew Beyer, Secretary. Chris Glaudel, Treasurer. Tess Casey, Committee Member.
Bottom left to right: Jayden Cromb, Committee Member. Liz Hawes, Committee Member. Te Urikore (Papa Julius) Waenga, Kaumātua. Dr. Warren Williams, Committee Member.



CNA Staff



Ros Rice,
Executive Officer.



Patrick Davies,
Engagement Officer.



Dan & Lydia Campbell-Robinson (Aye Studios)
Part Time Communications Officer.

Holly Snape,

Chair's Report



Community Networks Aotearoa



Tēnā Koutou Katoa, and welcome,

This year has been shaped by both challenge and achievement. Ros, who has continued to lead the organisation with great strength while recovering from significant surgery, has provided steady direction and vision. Paddy and Dan have carried an enormous workload, turning out high-quality work at an impressive pace. As a committee, we are proud of the resilience and commitment shown by our small but mighty team.

Our committee is made up of committed CNA members from across the country. While most of our work happens online, we make every effort to come together in person when we can, to connect and to support the team. This mix of local knowledge and national perspective keeps us grounded in the realities of the sector, while ensuring CNA has strong governance with connections across the country.

From a governance perspective, our focus has been on strengthening CNA's role as a sector leader and ensuring our work continues to deliver value for members.

Some highlights include:

- Exploring technology solutions to ease compliance pressures for Tier 3 and 4 organisations, including a potential app.
- Marking CNA's 50th anniversary, celebrating our history and reaffirming our relevance.
- Seeing over 1,000 people complete Tick for Governance training, strengthening boards across the motu.
- Continuing to grow Neighbourly Natters and the popular Sharp Strategies Zoom sessions.
- Preparing for the 2026 State of the Sector Survey, to launch in February, which will give us vital data for advocacy.
- Exploring the opportunity to host an election panel with Sue Barker in February (to be confirmed), ensuring the sector's voice is part of national conversations.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of MSD, JR McKenzie Trust, and Lotteries, whose funding enables us to continue this work.

As a committee, we are proud of the direction CNA is heading in and grateful for the trust of our members. Our role is to provide good governance, ensure accountability, and back the incredible mahi of our team. Together, we are building on 50 years of history to ensure a strong, connected, and resilient community sector for the future.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Holly Snape
Chair, Executive Committee**

Ros Rice,

EO Report



Community Networks Aotearoa



Kia ora,

Starting back at work in January of this year following my illness, I rapidly needed to come back up to speed as the organisation was forging ahead with incredible and fantastic projects. Rather than repeat what Holly and Chris put in their reports I want to cover in this report.

Staff work; new projects on the go; collaborations and the future.

Staff Work I can't begin to describe my great fortune in working with two of the hardest working blokes I have met. Patrick simply never stops. He actually relishes deadlines, events, and to this day I haven't been able to decipher his filing system, but that's ok, he tells me where to find stuff.

Dan is the man with the colour, design and PR knowledge that churns out our newsletters, our PR projects, and plans for our years social media and our research designs. He has become a part of our small CNA family, and his sister Lydia also works for us, from Spain. They are quite the duo, and we are mighty glad they are with us sharing day to day lives.

Collaborations:

This past year has been full of collaborations for CNA. Starting with working with other NGOs to fight the proposed taxes on NGOs. Make no mistake the issue of the IRD trying to tax care is not over yet.

We have been regularly collaborating with Pointsbuild who are the platform for the Tick for Governance on-line training. We work with them to update when there is new legislation or to update some of the things in the course. This regular collaboration takes place several times a year. We have been collaborating with Steven Moe and Louisa Joblin and Sue Barker when doing our on-line zooms on different subjects. These three lawyers are very generous with their time and donate time to us when appropriate. (Steven is also our organisation's lawyer.)

We are working on a collaboration with WiseComply to develop a compliance app that organisations can use for organisation management, with a compliance dashboard and reminders alongside guided workflows for registration updates, annual returns and rule changes. We hope this inexpensive app will greatly aid our governance boards and staff to keep up with the ever-increasing compliance requirements we are all currently facing.

We enjoy being part of the Constellation. This group of multiple Wellington NGOs and some regional networks is working together on several projects, and we like being able to work together with these other non-profit bodies.

We also work collaboratively with Brett Jeffries from NZSAE which is the New Zealand Society of Association Executives. When issues such as legislative changes arise, Brett brings together staff association members to combine their skills and ideas for submissions. We are always part of these think tanks and the sharing of information and advice from senior executives in multiple organisations is invaluable to us.

We have just finished our celebrations for our 50th year as an organisation. We are already looking toward our 2026 Conference, and this year we are very hopeful that this next conference will be a collaboration between us and another large Wellington non-profit. Watch this space.

The Future

2026 will be my last year as Executive Officer of CNA. After 19 years in this job, I think it is not only time for me to slow down, but also time for new eyes on CNA from the EO view.

With a new EO in 2027 and with input from some new Board members, the future is bright and exciting. I hope you will be there to share our changes with you.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Ros Rice
Executive Officer**



2025

Activities

Our Activities over the Last Year



Engagement: **Hui25 Forward Stronger + 50th Celebrations**

A record number of member organisations, guests, friends, and former Executive Committee members came to the BNZ Partnership Centre to network, chat, and celebrate.

This provides a face-to-face event, still so valuable for smaller organisations. We thank the Bank of New Zealand for opening up its incredible Partnership Centre to host our Hui – Rachel Woodhouse, Niro Singh, and Karishma Jina.

We very much thank our presenters for donating their skills, knowledge, and kōrero.

Our panel of ‘Getting the Dosh’, Holly Snape (Community Waikato), Murray Edridge (Wellington City Mission), and a special thank you to Linn Araboglos, the new Chief Executive of J R McKenzie, who stepped in when Poto Williams became unavailable. Facilitated by Ros Rice, it was a lively discussion from varying perspectives in the funding field.

Another late step in was MC Sarah Doherty taking the first afternoon session ‘Stories from Strength’ grouping attendees to share what makes us stronger and successful in going forward. Our afternoon was rounded out with Belinda Gorman showing us ‘Collaborating Beyond the Usual’

Midday we walked (called our ‘Happy Hīkoi’) all our attendees into the Wellington sunshine to our 50th Celebrations and lunch in the Great Hall at Parliament. Fitting, given that the New Zealand Council of Social Services / CNA began in Parliament in 1975. The celebrations featured a walk down memory lane, and numerous stories of CNA’s journey that brought smiles and applause for the people and the work achieved, followed by a fabulous lunch.

CNA was happy to provide 5 prizes of a \$200 prezzy card to represent each decade of existence. The cherry on the top of our day.

As special thank you to Sarah Doherty as MC, who enlivened the vibe and kept us flowing smoothly and effectively through the programme. Her cheerful and professional manner kept our focus throughout an amazing day.

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Hui25: Forward, Stronger!

Engagement: Sharp Strategies WebEvents + YouTube

A lot of organisations utilise YouTube and we recognise as we increase our comms output that we were due to start the next 50 years with a fresh new look. Our Sharp Strategies are up and looking good and we'll be adding in our history of clips, including presentations to Select Committees, and adding more to our playlists.

A new type of engagement, CNA created 'Sharp Strategies' to answer questions directly from our Sector. Usually, a webinar is based on a presentation, here we strive to give most of the time to addressing questions and issues sent in so that we got to the serious issues early on and could address our Member's concerns in a case-by-case way. This supports CNA's very pragmatic way to discuss issues – the 'take home' you can actively use in your organisation.

We were blown away by the attendance and the range of questions asked of our experts.

Our four topics for this premiere season were:

Financial Kōrero for 'For Purpose' Organisations

Patrick Davies in Kōrero with Fiona Brennan (ANCAD), Garth Nowland-Foreman (LEAD) & Chris Glaudel (Community Housing Aotearoa)

Using PR and Strategic Communications to Support Effective Advocacy

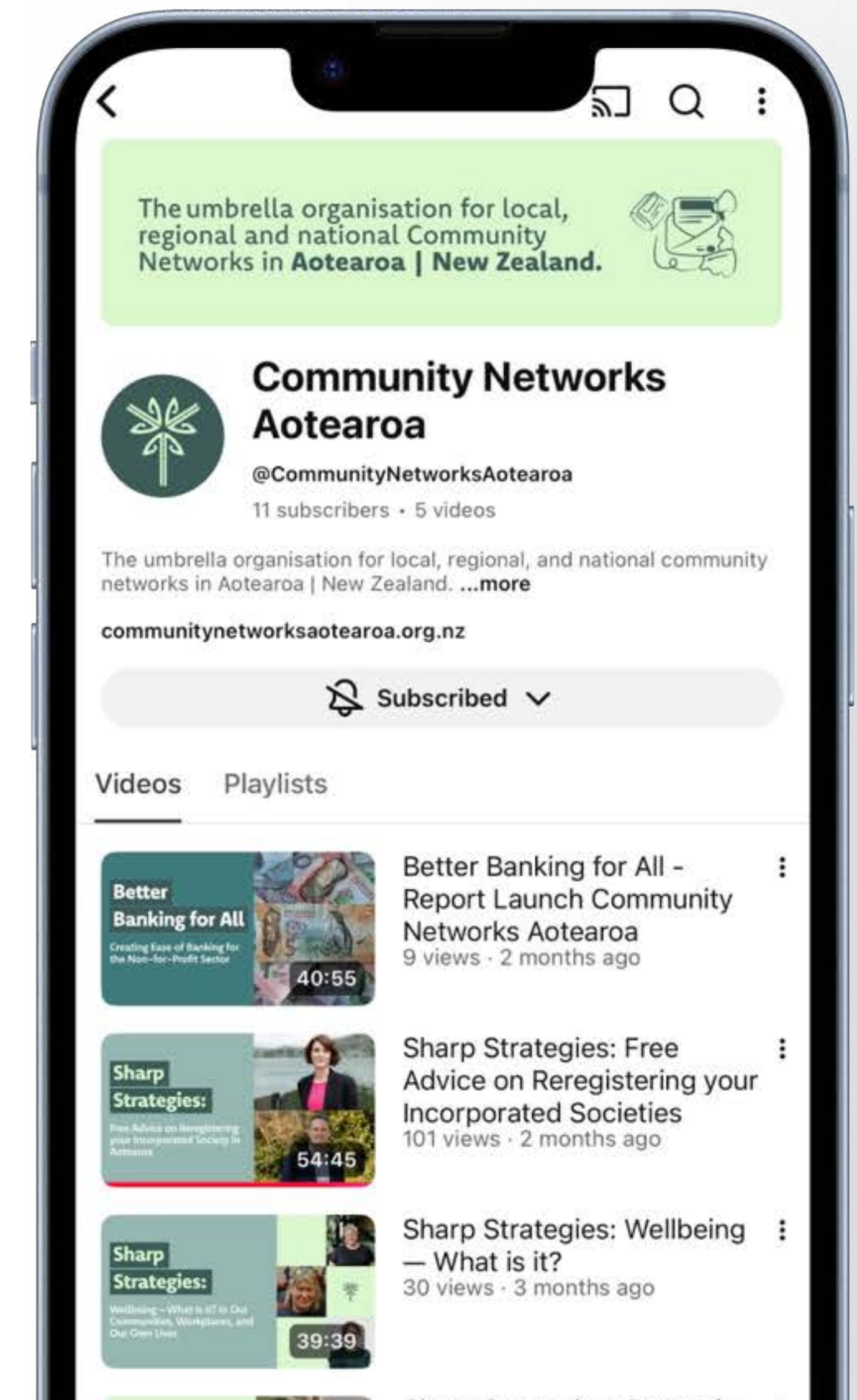
Ros Rice in kōrero with Daniel Paul (The PR Company)

Wellbeing – What is it?

Patrick Davies in kōrero with Liz Hawes (SEWN), Lisa Woods (Amnesty NZ), & Tess Casey (NZ Association of Counsellor)

Free Advice on Reregistering your Incorporated Societies

Ros Rice in kōrero with Steven Moe (Parry Field Lawyers) and Louisa Joblin (Moran Law)



Engagement: Neighbourly Natters

In recognition that CNA has expanded its membership greatly in the last couple of years we have begun our 'Neighbourly Natters'. Getting our Members within each region to have a quick meet and greet. Some are old friends already and some are new, so it was great to see connections being made and new friendships with possible collaborators being forged.

Our 2025 season was specifically for Members only; and we have had numerous enquiries as to if we'll be widening the catchment next year.

It is important to CNA that we don't replicate the wheel but add to the journey. In 2026 we'll deepen our members connections and continue to strengthen ties between new friends and old mates in our Sector.



Representation: Select Committees

CNA continues to step up to be the voice of our Members and the wider Sector by ensuring our concerns are heard as legislation is debated. It may be visits to Ministers, MPs, and to Opposition Parties' members; and it can also be by advocating for our whanau in Select Committees:

Online Casino Gambling Bill:

CNA supports the Bill's intent to regulate currently unregulated online casino gambling and to reduce gambling harm. However, we are deeply concerned that the Bill, as currently drafted, omits a critical principle that has long underpinned public acceptance of gambling in New Zealand: the obligation to return a share of gambling proceeds to the community. Without this safeguard, the Bill risks weakening the social contract that justifies gambling's legal status—and further eroding the already-declining funding available to community, cultural, sporting, environmental, and social service organisations.

Anti Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism Amendment Bill:

This submission responds to the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Amendment Bill, advocating for proportionate compliance measures for small charities and community organisations. It emphasises minimising unintended burdens, protecting civil society space, and ensuring consultation with the sector in designing and implementing AML/CFT regulations.

Taxation and the Not-For-Profit Sector:

Community Networks Aotearoa's submission in response to the government's discussion paper on Not-for-Profit taxation highlights sector concerns about proposed changes. It calls for a more equitable, informed approach that recognises the diverse nature and value of NFPs, and advocates for policies that support their ongoing contribution to communities across Aotearoa.

Supporting Signatories:

Whau Pasifika; Connected Murihiku; ACBC Finance Mentors; Kidz Need Dadz; Lyttelton Community Trust; Energise Otaki; CAPS Hauraki; Reconnect Family Services

Sector Projects:

Better Banking for Non-for-Profits

We continue to educate banks and meet with relevant Government agencies to keep the pressure on to make Sector inclusive decisions. We remain cautiously optimistic and committed to these ongoing conversations. We continue to monitor the effects of DIA umbrellaing the active arm of the AML/CFT (Anti Money Laundering and the Countering of Financing of Terrorism) legislation.

CNA remains on the CBDC Forum (Central Bank Digital Currency), though progress has slowed due to a different approach and while the onboarding of the new Governor Dr. Anna Breman occurs.

First Credit Union still maintains its boutique Not for Profit banking option.

Collaborators:

Ministry of Justice; Reserve Bank of New Zealand; Department of Internal Affairs; BNZ



Sector Resource: WiseComply

Mid-2025 saw us teaming up with WiseComply to beta-test an app that would enable small organisations to remain compliant as our Sector becomes harder to navigate continuing re-legislation.

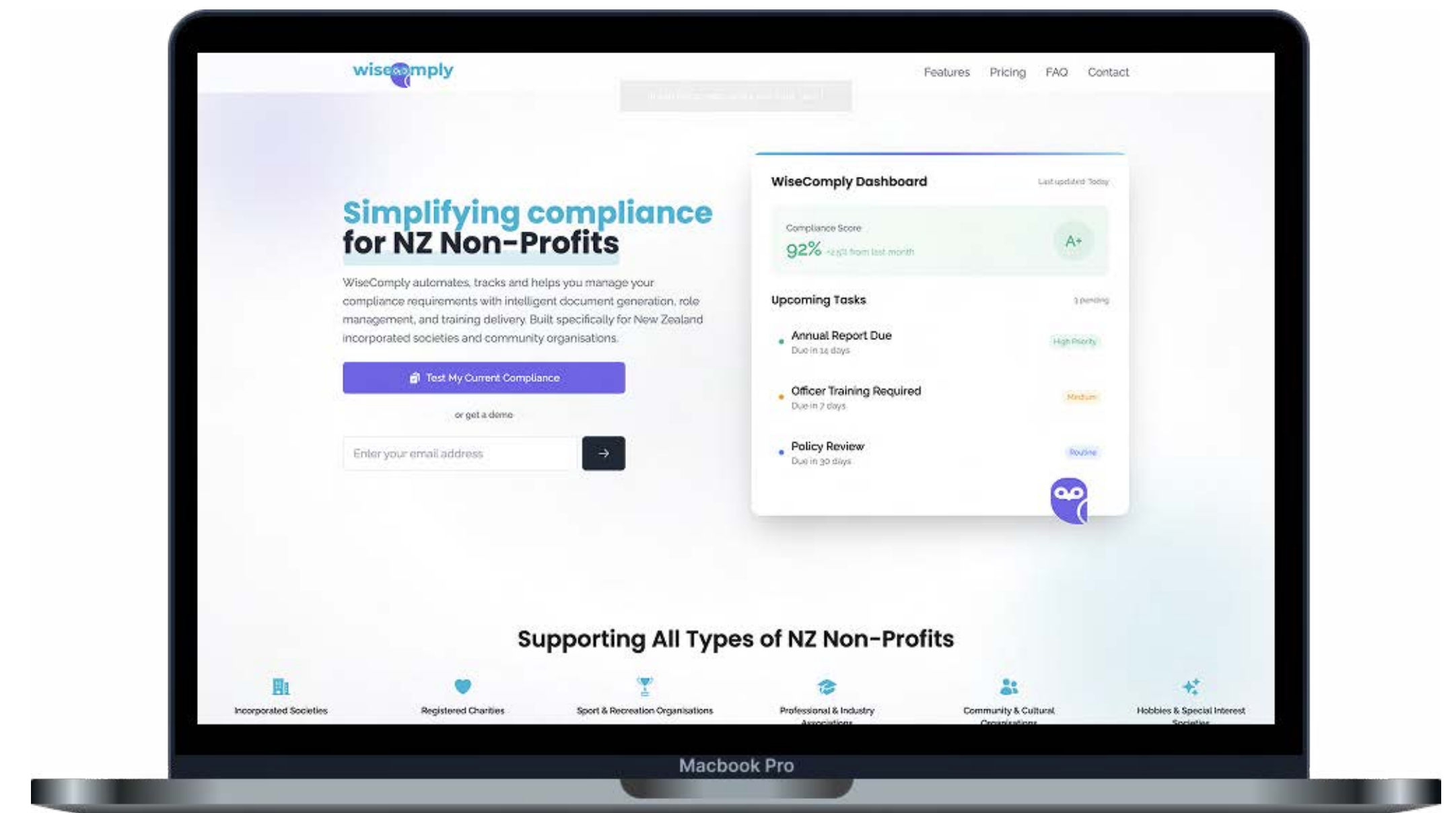
WiseComply is the brainchild of Eugene Cash and Sarah Sinclair who recognised the difficulty of incorporated societies re-registering by April 2026 to remain in-line with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Accessed online, each organisation can securely upload their information. Looking at documents, public information, and legislation, WiseComply creates a plan of action – when to do what, and reminders – to keep you compliant with legislation and all your important dates in your calendar.

CNA acquired funding to allow 60 organisations of varying types to secure a license and to ensure the app is fit for purpose. We began our first tranche of testers in November and will continue in 2026.

We strive to ease pain points for small, community organisations in an increasingly compliance heavy sector – we feel WiseComply will be advantageous to NFPs.

Collaborators: WiseComply



2025

Financials

CNA Treasurer, Chris Glaudel



CNA Financial Report 2025:

CNA completed our fiscal year 2024-25 in a good position to continue delivering on our priorities. The year ended with a modest deficit of \$36,385 which is an improvement from the prior year. Annual revenue was \$386,895 and total expenses were \$423,280. This result was forecast, and the Executive Committee and staff continue to work on increasing our revenue to match the needs of our members. As staffing makes up around two-thirds of our expenses, we are committed to focus on growing our capabilities rather than trimming during a time of increased complexity and need for our leadership.

We can make this decision based on the prudent oversight of our financials over many years resulting in accumulated funds of \$350,976 at year end. Support from the Ministry of Social Development is appreciated and represents the majority of our revenue. This year we also received \$15,000 from the JR McKenzie Trust and the same from Lottery Grants Board. We are slowly growing our earned income and relationships with values aligned funders to ensure our sustainability through changing fiscal cycles.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I express our thanks to the solid work of staff and our accountant Christine Young. You can review the full results in the Statement of Service Performance and letter from the review;

- [CNA YE Performance Report](#)
- [Management Letter – Club Management Association of New Zealand Incorporated \(Review\)](#)

I also thank the members of the Finance Subcommittee Andrew Beyer and Holly Snape, who along with the CNA Executive Committee continue to work to support our team and members. We will continue to prudently oversee CNA and balance better outcomes with managed levels of risk.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Chris Glaudel
Treasurer, Executive Committee**

Ngā mihi nui.

Community Networks Aotearoa is an umbrella organisation for local community networks. Our membership includes not-for-profit and voluntary social service organisations all over the country. We are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are guided by our membership.

Get in touch!

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