

ACCELERATING AOTEAROA INCORPORATED

8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th August 2015

Report from the Chief Executive

Now in our 11th year of operation I am increasingly inspired by the potential Accelerating Aotearoa has to create change for those most underserved and deeply humbled by the encouragement we receive from those who engage in our delivery.

We now have 11 years of service to those communities most in need leveraging digital access as the foundation for wellbeing and economic growth, bringing together the like-minded to support journeys from education to skilled work, health and prosperity by:

- Creating collaboration across both public and private sector organisations
- Establishing sustainable social solutions for under-served communities.

I am pleased to report that the organisation is in good heart with an impressive 2015 report card and a strong forecast for 2016.

Overview

Work remains focused in South Auckland through the ACCELERATING AUCKLAND programme bringing next generation's tech superstars through to support industry's talent needs in a tech-enhanced New Zealand ...and using that opportunity to bring prosperity to South Aucklanders.

Since January 2014 7,000 south Aucklanders have taken part in Accelerating Auckland, a range of locally delivered programmes connecting local families and young people with local digitally skilled and passionate professionals to better understand the skilled work opportunities of technology sectors.

Delivery

Mangere Park Jam in April 2015 attracted 5,000 participants. At the Mangere Town Centre Library the door counter clicked over 2051 visitors - more than 3 1/2 times the number visiting on a usual Saturday .

14 workshops on offer included augmented reality, game making, coding, animation, makey makey, robotics and 3D printing while outside live local performances, face painting, free BBQ and ice blocks and even a bouncy castle completed the perfect day out.

We hugely appreciated the incredible team of 47 volunteers mentored workshop participants, painted faces, BBQ'd sausages and made sure the day went smoothly.

The following week "**Geek Camp 275**" hosted 60 local youth to build on Park Jam learnings at 9 workshops ranging from social media, web development, animation, robotics, game development, PC assembly and disassembly and more. Workshops were led by 21 volunteer mentors and delivery team members.

The finale - the Community Celebration, was held at Robertson Rd School where students presented their achievements from Park Jam and Geek at a special event with family and local dignitaries. We were thrilled to share the evening with Councillor Anae Arthur Anae, Local MPs Su'a William Sio and Jenny Salesa, Māngere Ōtāhuhu Local Board Chair Lemauga Lydia Sosene and Board Member Nick Bakulich and Special Guest To'aletai David Tua.

Work is now to establish community run, permanent co-working/ co-learning "Innovation Spaces" - digital capability building and production environments supporting new skills growth and development of professional acumen and relationships in a real work context, on real work projects.

Our plan is that Innovation Spaces will become vibrant "ideas shops", attracting local, and regional business hungry for new ideas and fresh thinking. Potential to establish Spaces as Social Enterprises is factored for sustainability. Two sites have been identified, Lovegrove Crescent on Otara and Mangere Town Centre; the Lovegrove Crescent site has been offered for our use by its owner and we've already begun to move in. Generous offers of equipment have been made by Counties Manukau District Health Board, Auckland Council and Auckland Libraries.

Partnership

We are pleased to announce the establishment of formal connects with the University of Waikato, Good Seed Trust, A-MAN (STEM International Science Discovery and Learning), Golden Key Honours Society, Outlook for Someday and world leading social media organisation Coconut Wireless. We remain hugely grateful for the class set of Samsung Notes that support our programme delivery both in our partner schools and in our own programming. Discussions are further progressing with High Tech Youth as a foundation for further work together.

Further details of these partnerships will be announced over the months ahead.

New Members

A special welcome to new members Michele Robinson Photography, Eyes Wide Open – The Email Group, The Outlook for Someday, Gerard Martin and Early Learning Auckland

Priorities for the conclusion of 2015 and beyond

- Now: Establishing the Otara Innovation Space
- October: Mangere Short Film Competition
- November 7: Mangere Park Jam, Short film winners announced
- November 12 & 19: Geek Camp 275
- November 20: Mangere Community Celebration
- February March 2015: Otara Park Jam
- December: Outlook for Someday Awards – Aotea Centre: **Accelerating Aotearoa Young Voices For Change Award:** For a film motivating young people and/or decision-makers to be change-maker

We will keep you informed on further developments.

In closing

At this time it is fitting to express our appreciation to those that have ensured these encouraging outcomes; Cr Arthur Anae who as programme sponsor is unfailing in his vision and encouragement, our unfaltering Chairman John Holley, Pete Macaulay our Treasurer, John, Pete and Filemoni Timoteo our Funding Sub-Committee and our incredibly supportive Core Group.

Most importantly I wish to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Tony Marinovich who leads our finance and operational capability, along with our programme Steering Groups and delivery teams, without whom we would be unable to deliver this remarkable work.

Sincere thanks to each and all of you, we are indeed most fortunate to have your support.

*Judy Speight, Chief Executive
27th August 2015*