

REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD 2026

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 12-months we revisited our core purpose and worked to refine our focus by deepening our commitment to achieving outcomes for reconciliation and justice. Within this process we continued to explore what it means to be a Tangata Tiriti organisation grounded in The Gospel and the life of Jesus Christ.

Specifically, we believe BAF has a unique role to play by focusing more intentionally on three things:

1. *Supporting reconciliation*
2. *Helping Aotearoa face our shared past with honesty and care*
3. *Using our expertise to help build a future of equity and social cohesion*

We have also completed a robust review of our trust deed and governance structure over the past 12-months and now acknowledge Bishop Philip as the next patron for BAF, building on his legacy as the founder of this vision and also building on the legacies of our previous Patrons in Sir Paul Reeves and the Hon Sir John Sentamu.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK

The Sir Paul Reeves Centre

The Bishop's Action Foundation is supporting the development of The Sir Paul Reeves Centre – Te Manu Hononga within the Taranaki Cathedral.

Our strategic leadership role includes creating a Theory of Change to guide the work plan of the Centre over the next 3-years and developing sustainable funding pathways as well as mapping the unique place of the Centre within the ecosystem of reconciliation within Aotearoa New Zealand.

In a landscape full of programmes, Te Manu Hononga (The Sir Paul Reeves Centre) stands apart. It is not just a provider of content—it is a place of encounter. At Te Whare Hononga, visitors confront Aotearoa's shared history with mana whenua and are invited into long-term reconciliation work, becoming peacemakers rooted in relationship. This mission is grounded in reconciliation, bicultural partnership, faith-informed formation, and the unique history of Pūkākā.

We have identified several fragmentations that weaken the current reconciliation ecosystem:

- History is taught without context & relationship
- Pākehā identity is disconnected from whenua
- Faith communities lack rigorous truth-telling
- Initiatives are transient, with few sustained over time.

– One-off workshops raise awareness but don't necessarily shape practice

Te Manu Hononga offers a unique post-awareness space where people can reflect, wrestle with new understanding, grieve, reorient, and commit to transformation. Within the Taranaki Cathedral precinct, the remediated cathedral will demonstrate social transformation through educational work of Te Manu Hononga.

Kawenata Trust

The Bishop's Action Foundation is supporting the development of the Kawenata Trust. The purpose of the Trust is to advance reconciliation, equity, and community wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand through Te Tiriti-centred partnership, diplomatic advocacy, Wairua-led leadership, and indigenous philanthropy for charitable purposes.

In particular, the Trust will:

- Promote reconciliation, justice, and equitable relationships through Te Tiriti o Waitangi-based advocacy, facilitation, and diplomacy across Aotearoa New Zealand and the South Pacific.
- Support and develop Māori, Pacific and Tangata Tiriti faith-based charitable entities, initiatives and organisations.
- Provide grants, scholarships, and financial assistance for leadership development, education, and indigenous philanthropy.
- Organise and host events, wānanga, and gatherings that promote whakapono encounter and engagement, cultural connection, and equitable partnership.
- Provide training, education, and resources in indigenous governance, leadership, and Te Tiriti-based practice.

As a catalyst for change BAF will support the incubation and growth of Kawenata as it works to advance reconciliation in Aotearoa as we move towards the 200th anniversary of Te Tiriti Waitangi.

Within the work of Kawenata will be the ongoing development of KIWA (indigenous governance) and Rukua Te Rētōtanga (Te reo Māori immersion)

Manna Youth Transition Service

Our transition to adulthood programme run through Manna Home continues to support young people to develop the life skills, training and connections they need to move towards independence. Within our programme young people are also supported to explore and deal with the issues they have faced (including trauma for some of our young people).

As noted in our 2025 report, due to the difficulty for young people to find suitable housing we have also partnered with Catalyst Housing Ltd (BAF's charitable housing company) and have secured funding to purchase and manage 3 tiny homes that will provide our most vulnerable young people with an independent living option as the next stage of their journey. We are excited that our first two tiny homes arrive on-site at the beginning of September 2026.

The Wheelhouse - not-for-profit capacity building

444 people from 142 different community organisations were supported through the delivery of 40 training events. In addition, we have placed 12 emerging board members into their first not-for-profit board roles through our Get on Board initiative. Two cohorts of 10 community sector mentees were matched with mentors through The Mentoring Foundation of NZ programmes we run.

Seasons for Growth

298 children and 20 adults were supported to complete the Seasons for Growth programme responding to experiences of grief and loss. They were supported through 82 separate programmes with the help of a pool of 61 active volunteer companions who we trained and supervised.

Bashford-Nicholls Trust

The Bashford-Nicholls trust (managed by BAF) awarded over 60 scholarships at certificate, undergraduate and post-graduate levels with a total scholarship funding amount of \$250,000. In addition, we contributed \$50,000 to the co-funded PIVOT research and innovation partnership with Massey University. 2026 will also saw us partner with Parininihi ki Waitotara (PKW) as the inaugural funder of their new 50th year anniversary scholarship which will focus on more deeply understanding the whakapapa of whenua within Taranaki.

OUR IMPACT

BAF continues to implement a narrative form of evaluation by creating changemaker stories to demonstrate our impact as a catalyst for change alongside the great outcomes being achieved by the people and organisations we support.

Our changemaker stories will continue to evolve as a record of our influence over time and can be viewed on our website at <https://www.baf.org.nz/our-impact/>

A detailed outline of our current research and full project portfolio can be found on our website www.baf.org.nz.