

# **SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ**

## **Annual Report 2011**

# **SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ TRUST BOARD**

## **Trustees:**

Shane Vermeer (Chairman)  
Ruth Bowers  
Norman Thompson  
Hamish Thomson  
Anita Vermeer

## **National Director:**

Anita Vermeer

## **Bankers:**

Kiwibank Limited

## **Auditors:**

PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Dunedin

**Charities Commission Registration No. CC21040**

## **Address:**

48 Stafford Street, Dunedin.

PO Box 1298, Dunedin, New Zealand .

*Cover picture:*

*A buddy makes a world of difference*

# **2011 Annual Report of the Trustees of SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ**

This has been an exciting year for the board. Our plans to expand SCKC camps beyond Dunedin are bearing fruit. In addition to the Dunedin camp in January 2011, a camp was held in Wellington during April 2011, after the end of the financial year.

## **The Dunedin Camp**

The fourth Dunedin camp was held at Camp Columba, in January 2011. This was attended by 35 children and 65 volunteer workers and was, again, very successful. Anita, the Camp Director, gives a more detailed account of the camp, commencing on page 4.

## **The Wellington Camp**

The first Wellington Camp was held at the Palm Grove Christian Camp site. 20 children attended this camp, under the direction of Lyn Too, as Wellington Camp Director. The Wellington Camp Committee did a truly wonderful job in raising funds and in supporting Lyn and her team of volunteers. The National Camp Director's report has more on this event.

## **The Trust Board**

Eddie Davies and Charlotte Tonks have resigned from the board, and been replaced by Hamish Thomson, who was on the Wellington Camp Committee, and Anita Vermeer, the National Camp Director. We are very grateful to Eddie and Charlotte for their significant contributions to the work of the board.

This has been a busy and challenging year for the board, in that it has during the past year: organised directly the Dunedin camp; set up and supported the Wellington Camp Committee which organised the Wellington camp; and commenced to lay the foundations for the future structure of the trust. There is still much to do in regard to establishing the structure.

## **Finances**

Financially the year has again been very successful, with a surplus of \$8,798. The major reasons for this excellent outcome are:

- Dunedin funders have been very generous to SCKC. We are deeply grateful for their consistent support. We have listed funders on page 7.
- The Wellington camp committee has done an excellent job in fund raising, both in raising grants and in undertaking direct fund-raisers. Because almost all of the Wellington funding was received in the current financial year, much of it must be included as income in this year, even though there is no corresponding expenditure. This has had the effect of increasing this year's surplus by \$5,087.
- The members of our staff have continued to be commendably frugal and we spent less than we had budgeted on the Dunedin camp.

This has enabled the trust to go into the new year with nett current assets of \$23,625. While a large amount of this is “earmarked” for the Wellington camp, the trust is, nevertheless in a strong financial position. One of our aims is to build up adequate financial reserves that will enable us to function in the longer term in a robust and stable manner.

### **People Who Helped**

Many people helped behind the scenes. We take this opportunity to thank all those who attended trust board and committee meetings, raised funds, facilitated training for volunteers, prepared equipment etc for camps, helped in planning....the list is endless!

The volunteer staff who attend camp are simply wonderful. These people give up a week of their holidays to help the children. They are the backbone of the camp.

Dunedin City New Life Church generously provided a base, storage and office facilities, together with their continuing support.

The Abundant Life Church in Wellington, similarly, has functioned as a base for the Wellington camp. We are deeply grateful for their support and assistance.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to our Director, Anita, who is the trust's inspiration, mentor and leader.

And, above all, we give thanks to God, our Heavenly Father, who made all this possible.

*Shane Vermeer  
Ruth Bowers  
Norman Thompson  
Hamish Thomson  
Anita Vermeer*

Trustees.  
July 2011

# Southern Cross Kids' Camps

## New Zealand

*Camps that provide a safe week of happy memories, building self worth and confidence, learning life skills and creating hope for the future for children who has experienced abuse.*

Directors Report

2011

**Quick update:**

2011 has brought many changes and growth within the SCKCNZ organization. One of the major areas of growth is that Wellington have held their first camp. Twenty children from the Wellington region have now had a chance to experience their first SCKCNZ camp.



## The Children

I have often pondered on why these camps are making a difference in the lives of children. I think the best way to describe this would be to give you a general idea of the background of a child that comes to an SCKC. Our typical camper might have the following comments noted on their application form:

Child A has ADHD, (8 years old) she is having trouble at school and home and is currently in care. She has an anxiety disorder, habitually lies, and experiences nightmares.

Child B (9 years old) comes from a background of domestic violence, and as the oldest boy tries to protect his siblings. He often exhibits aggressive behavior, soils himself and runs away from home.



**The children experience many activities that help grow confidence, overcome fears and build self-esteem**

Child C's father committed suicide just over 3 years ago, since then she has wet the bed, her behavior is disruptive and she tends to lie. She has had such a difficult time with her Mother's parenting style that she has been removed from the family home.

Child D (11 years old) He struggles at times to make and keep friends. His behavior is often inappropriate but has slowly started to improve with counselling, he will really benefit from some one on one time.

A lot of the children who come to camp have been in and out of foster homes, 80% are on medication and some of them simply do not get to go to other camps or holiday programmes due to difficulties in managing their behavior.

Southern Cross Kids' Camps are especially designed to cater for children who have experienced trauma through abuse, neglect and abandonment. A large percentage of children who come to camp have difficulty making and keeping friends and their learning ability is significantly hindered. I have observed over the last 6 years of being involved in these camps the growth that happens when a child is cared for, accepted and loved for who she or he is.



## DUNEDIN CAMP

*We had 35 children attend the Dunedin camp in January 2011. Out of those children 11 boys and 10 girls graduated from camps. 10 of these children had attended all four camps, while the others attended two or three camps. This camp was especially emotional and during the graduation there were lots of tears as the children began to say goodbye to their friends. The children had learned that even with this sadness it was fine to express their emotions and that they were in a safe place to deal with them. We finished our graduation night with a disco which the children loved - and the mood lifted. On the last night of camp I went around and said goodnight to every child (usually only the Grandparents do this), but this was truly my privilege. A highlight for me was to talk with the kids about the things that were on their minds and to share with them how proud I was of their participation and brilliant achievements while at camp. Just to remember just how peaceful they were is for me is a treasured memory. I know life hasn't been easy for these children but just to be able to see how resilient they are and hear of the hopes and dreams they hold. I have observed huge growth, big smiles, and more settled children who were incredible to be around. In fact I cannot impress upon you the difference in these children over the years we have had the privilege to be involved with them. One week really does make a huge difference to children. A structured routine, great teaching programme, words of encouragement and a genuine belief in the child to reach their full potential is an incredible gift. This inspiration is given by a buddy working one on one with the child making a difference to a child who is craving attention. I strongly believe that as we model alternative choices while a child is open and impressionable, the benefits can have long term effects. We are but one small part in that child's life but we get to see something very special.*

Southern Cross Kids' Camps New Zealand Directors Report

## Wellington Camp



Wellington Camp was in one word AMAZING! The camp was a multi-cultural experience with 20 children from the following ethnic groups: NZ European/ Pakeha, Maori, Pacifica, Asian and African. The unity from people of different backgrounds and the upbeat atmosphere was superb! They were an incredibly hard working and dedicated team. I have not ever seen such vibrant young and older people work 16 – 17 hour days and be the first to put up their hand to fulfill a need. They worked tirelessly for the greater cause without complaining or resentment. This is such a credit to volunteers throughout the Wellington region. They were supported by experienced buddies and staff from Dunedin and Christchurch.

The majority of the children who attended camp were from incredibly poverty stricken backgrounds, where you fight to survive, and you guard yourself from trusting anyone. I actually felt my heart break when children shared their fears and anxieties.



A 7 year old boy spoke of watching horror movies, and playing adult play station games that were so unsuitable and that had clearly shaped the way he views the world and people in authority. While at the Wellington camp (The fifth Southern Cross Kids' Camp convened in NZ) we had our first accident. A child broke his arm falling off a swing. Three staff including me transported him to hospital. We then transported his Dad, stepmum and sister to the hospital. His father was very upset and quite threatening in appearance, covered in gang tattoos and twitching and scratching his arms as if he had a

methamphetamine addiction. The love and embrace between child and father upon reunion touched my heart so much. As the child and father wept together, I was struck by just how much we allow our differences whether in status or belief cloud our judgement. After 7 hours in the Wellington Accident and Emergency department supporting the family, father decided he would return home to pack his bag, and come back to hospital in the morning. I could not leave this little child by himself so spent the night there.

I learnt three things from my hospital stay:

1. The Father had no-one he could call upon to meet his needs – the community is very fragmented due to lifestyle choices and poverty.
2. Bunk rooms / beds are really not that noisy or uncomfortable compared to hospital beds.
3. There is nothing better than waking up next to gorgeous brave boy with a big smile!

Building a trusting relationship with children while they are young is so incredibly vital and is a huge blessing. I woke up to a gorgeous smile from a little boy waving his fingers in his cast.

## National Director

I have taken on the role of the National Director for Southern Cross Kids' Camps New Zealand and have been appointed a Trustee on our Board. I will not be directing the 2012 Dunedin camp, rather, I will be supporting a new camp director and local committee get established. My goal is to see strong relationships built between service providers, better policies put in place to assist with future proofing this community organization, and serving our local camp directors and volunteers.

I am so very passionate about seeing these camps reach in to all corners of New Zealand to meet a huge need that we sadly have. Could you just imagine what things may look like for our next generation of hurting kids if we can intervene now and share the hope we have to make a difference for their future. Anita Vermeer



## Changes from the children:

*Let me share with you a buddy's experience:*

At camp, camper H had shown himself to be a leader, and our very own camp lifeguard. While at the pond camper H would go out into the water and wait, and offer encouragement to the younger children then he would wait there and catch them when they jumped off the wharf. The younger children would jump trusting in the words of camper H.

On arrival back in Dunedin we meet with camper H's parents. I told them the story of camper H, about how trusted, respectful and responsible he was, and as I told the story the woman's eyes filled with tears - tears of disbelief and pride. I had been told how camper H was the kid not to get in with at school, because he was 'trouble'. She cried because we testified to different reality, and she was amazed, awed, proud and encouraged. Here, at SCKC he did not have to be defined by what he was told he was at school. The boy who is labelled 'trouble' had the capacity and the chance to prove that he was so much more than that. At camp he was defined by who he could be, and became a gentle, trusted leader.



## Volunteers and Donors:

*These camps would be nothing more than a dream had they not given.*

I am so very grateful for the volunteers who well exceed 100 people who give up their annual leave and time during the year. This is at a financial and often personal cost to themselves and their families to come and serve for hours with these camps.

I have experienced a variety of camping experiences over the years however the planning and co-ordination that goes into a Southern Cross Kids' Camps NZ is mammoth. From the monthly meetings with the Trust Board, local committee, fundraising team and the planning team which meets for training, band practice, drama practice, craft creations and the list goes on. The volunteers are constantly amazed with just how well the programme flows and that everything is thought of to provide routine and security for the children. It truly is like no other camp I have attended. With each camp we refine the process further with our ultimate goal being to meet the needs of our V.I.P.s - the children. I am incredibly grateful for the support and work that these volunteers so generously provide.

Life is so short. More than ever the desire of my heart would be to give my life to seeing children reach their potential, to see cycles of abuse and mistrust broken, to see hope and self-esteem blossom and beauty rise out of the ashes. Seeing the poverty in parts of Wellington has stirred an urgency to seek to give my life to this work which I know changes lives.

Thank you to every person and organization who has financially supported this not-for-profit organization. I can give testimony to the fact that these children who attend camp grow in confidence, release hurt, find joy and allow trustworthy people to speak truth, kindness and encouragement in to their lives. I am convinced more than ever that the results are not only in the children but in the young people who serve diligently in the camps within New Zealand. They make our Community proud.

Anita Vermeer

National Camp Director



## Next Camp Dates:

Wellington Camp is scheduled for January 2012 from Sunday 15 - Friday 20th of January.

Dunedin Camp: To be advised.

**We are especially grateful to the following major corporate sponsors who contributed towards operational costs:**

Kingston Sedgfield Charitable Trust	\$9,000
United Way	\$7,000
Healthcare Otago Charitable Trust	\$6,245
Otago Community Trust	\$5,000
NZ Lottery Grants Board	\$5,000
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust	\$5,000
Dunedin City Council	\$2,500
Lion Foundation	\$2,300
Pelorus Trust	\$2,000
Pub Charities Trust	\$ 654

**and also:**

Nicola Williams, Barrister  
Psychology Associates  
Rotoract Club of Dunedin

...and all the other people who so generously made financial contributions towards the work.

Farnon Garthwaite Law  
Cilla Dickinson

**We have appreciated practical help from:**  
NZ Vanlines Limited                            NZ Post Limited  
The network of Scrapbookers throughout New Zealand co-ordinated by Trina McClune  
St Lukes Anglican Church Ladies' Group

**And nothing would have been possible without the co-operation and support received from:**

The staff and buddies who donated a week of their lives.  
Child, Youth and Family Service of the Ministry of Social Development and its wonderful Dunedin staff; the Open Home Foundation;  
Parents, foster-parents and caregivers,  
and  
all those kids who entrusted themselves to us for five days of camp.

# SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ TRUST BOARD

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2011

### 1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies are adopted in the preparation of these financial statements;

- (a) General: The financial statements are prepared using the historical cost basis.
- (b) Stock: This consists of items that have been purchased in advance with the intention that they be used in future camps. This stock is valued at cost. There is a stock of used material that is held in storage following previous camps. Together with other consumables, this has been written off against expenditure in the year in which it was purchased and is carried in the accounts at nil value.
- (c) Income: Income is recognised in the period it is received and banked.
- (d) Differential Reporting: The trust qualifies for differential reporting because it is not publicly accountable and is not large. All available exemptions have been applied.

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the year.

### 2. Reporting Entity

The trust is an incorporated society.

### 3. Taxation

The trust is registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. As such, gifts to the trust are deductible by the donor as donations for tax purposes. Any surplus of income over expenditure is not taxable.

The trust is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST). All moneys paid and received are shown nett of GST.

### 4. Grants Received in Advance

At 31 March 2011, grants totalling \$9,954 had been received to assist with the funding of the camp at Wellington, which was scheduled for April 2011. The camp was held in April, and the funds were spent as required by the terms of the respective grants. At 31 March 2011 there was one grant of \$2,500.00 received in advance for the Dunedin Camp. (At 31 March 2010 there were no grants received in advance.)

	Dunedin Camp	Wellington Camp	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust		5,000	5,000
Dunedin City Council	2,500		2,500
Pelorus Trust		2,000	2,000
Pub Charities		654	654
Lion Foundation		2,300	2,300
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>9,954</u>	<u>12,454</u>

**5. Income**

Details of income in respect of the current year are as follows:

	<u>Dunedin/ National</u>	<u>Wellington</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Kingston Sedgfield Charitable Trust	9,000		
United Way	7,000		
Healthcare Otago Charitable Trust	6,245		
Otago Community Trust	5,000		
NZ Lottery Grants Board	5,000		
Total grants from Community Trusts etc.	32,245	0	32,245
Donations from individuals	4,632	850	5,482
Non-cash donations	1,857	543	2,400
Fundraisers	350	9,504	9,854
Camp fees	6,087	0	6,087
Interest Received	485	0	485
	<u>45,656</u>	<u>10,897</u>	<u>56,553</u>

**6. Depreciation**

Fixed assets are valued at cost and depreciation is provided at the following annual rates:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Book Value</u>		<u>Annual Rate</u>	<u>Deprecn</u>	<u>Book Value end of year</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>1/4/10</u>			
Computer and Photographic Equipment	7,620	6,293	20%	1,523	4,770
Sound Equipment	1,810	1,719	20%	362	1,357
Crockery and Cutlery	1,821	1,244	33%	607	637
Office Furniture and Equipment	191	175	10%	19	156
Storage Shelving	1,498	1,386	10%	150	1,236
Tent (purchased during this year)	400		20%	67	333
<u>Total Fixed Assets</u>	<u>13,340</u>	<u>10,817</u>		<u>2,728</u>	<u>8,489</u>

**7. Expenditure**

2010/11 has been a transition year for the trust board: During previous years, its major task has been to run a camp for children in Dunedin and Otago, together with providing training and development for potential leaders in other centres. However during this year, the board has had the additional task of functioning fully as a national board, in which role it has developed, provided training for, and supervised the setting up, of the Wellington camp. The board has been blessed, in that there have been more than sufficient funds to allow it to do this within the conditions under which the various grants and other income have been received.

As at 31 March 2011, very little had been spent on the Wellington camp; most of the expenditure in Wellington during the current financial year was on planning, training and fund raising. The Wellington committee has been most diligent in raising funds and we are confident that all local costs will be fully met from funds raised in that city.

The expenditure as between Dunedin/National and Wellington was as follows:

	<u>Dunedin/ National</u>	<u>Wellington</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Camp Site, food and transport costs	14,392	300	14,692
Camper activities	10,930	0	10,930
Family fun day	411	0	411
Depreciation on fixed assets	2,728	0	2,728
Training and support of volunteer workers	5,864	841	6,705
Administration	4,919	496	5,415
Audit fees	2,000	0	2,000
Fundraiser costs	0	4,173	4,173
Promotional material	701	0	701
<u>Total</u>	<u>41,945</u>	<u>5,810</u>	<u>47,755</u>

**8. Contingencies**

There are no contingent liabilities and no contingent assets as at 31 March 2011. (2010: Nil)

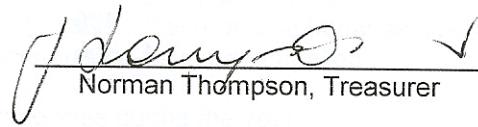
**9. Related Parties**

There were no related party transactions during the year (2010: Nil)



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Shane Vermeer, Chairman

  
Norman Thompson, Treasurer

26 June 2011



## ***Independent Auditors' Report***

Southern Cross Kids Camps NZ Trust Board

### ***Basis for Qualified Opinion***

In common with other organisations of a similar nature, control over the revenues from fundraising and donations prior to being banked is limited. It was not practicable to extend our examination of donations beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the accounting records of the Trust, or to determine the effect of the limited control.

### ***Qualified Opinion***

In our opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have been necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning fundraising and donations as described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements on pages 1 to 5 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2011, and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

### ***Restriction of Distribution or Use***

This report is made solely to the Trust's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's members those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trust's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

*(Handwritten signature)*

Chartered Accountants  
26 June 2011

Dunedin