

# Philanthropy News

THE MAGAZINE OF PHILANTHROPY NEW ZEALAND

ISSUE 80, July 2020



## The impacts of Covid-19 on philanthropic funding and grantmaking

From immediate response onwards

**Sustainable and mana-enhancing food systems**

John McCarthy, The Tindall Foundation

**Covid-19 collaboration – the Waikato way**

Dennis Turton, Trust Waikato

**The global Covid wave and international responses**

Yvonne Trask, Philanthropy New Zealand



**Philanthropy New Zealand**

*Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa*

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## From the CE

### Tēnā koutou katoa

There could only be one theme for our July edition – Covid-19's implications for community and philanthropy.

Despite Aotearoa's health success to date, the economic and social cost is huge and evolving.

Our **survey** of funder members highlighted the immediate impact on and responses of philanthropic funders and grantmakers. This estimated a 5% funding drop over the next 12 months, and showed changed funder approaches.

The stories from the Waikato Community Funders Group and Bay of Plenty funders in this publication are examples of changed approaches, including the trend towards more collaboration. The Bay of Plenty story also highlights the helpful available resources, including **PNZ's guide** for funders on preparing for, responding to and helping communities recover from major events.

The articles on the digital divide and food rescue and distribution are examples of the systemic issues and existing inequity that Covid-19 exacerbated. These are just two of a number of areas of serious community need where philanthropy and grantmakers are seeking significant progress.

In terms of need, the Working Together More Fund survey shines a light on Covid-19's impact on not-for-profits serving their communities. As this edition goes to print, results from a major survey of community organisations by Hui E! Community Aotearoa, Volunteering New Zealand, Philanthropy New Zealand and the Centre for Social Impact will add to this picture.

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait highlights the strengths of Te Ao Māori in terms of the response, which The Tindall Foundation's story also touches on in relation to food.

Moving offshore, Yvonne Trask highlights key global trends and impacts. And wrapped around all of this, impacting the ability to give and community need, is the uncertain economic outlook. Bevan Graham, Managing Director of AMP Capital, a platinum sponsor of PNZ, provides this context through the enclosed economic update.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Sue McCabe**

*The articles in **Philanthropy News** do not necessarily reflect the views of Philanthropy New Zealand.*

*Magazine design and layout by Gusto.*

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# Working Together More Fund

## A Covid-19 survey summary



The Working Together More Fund (WTMF) supports New Zealand community organisations to work together to make a greater difference for the people and communities they serve. WTMF funders are **J R McKenzie Trust, Todd Foundation, The Tindall Foundation, Hugh Green Foundation, DV Bryant Trust, Len Reynolds Trust, Lindsay Foundation** and **Wayne Francis Charitable Trust**.

WTMF undertook a survey to consider how they might respond to Covid-19 recovery. They asked grantees from 2018–2020 how WTMF might assist them to overcome impediments to their collaborations and mergers created by the lockdown. Here are some key points from the survey.

### Extra demand on services due to Covid-19

Community organisations found that Covid-19 amplifies the hurdles people experience. They have seen the need to develop additional initiatives and upscale support, especially for essential services that are experiencing increased community need. The flow-on effect of extra demand has resulted in larger workloads, overheads and additional funding needed to cover the cost of extra staff and work hours.

### Halt on progress

Due to lockdown the progress and implementation of many community-based projects ground to a halt and a significant number of activities had to be cancelled. In addition to cancelled events, organisations faced increased logistical challenges due to pauses in work or spaces being closed. A number of organisations felt a loss of momentum and connection through not being able

to meet face to face. The lockdown has created large amounts of work to be done to achieve the year's objectives. To relieve the pressure some organisations are asking for additional funding to hire more staff.

### Loss of funding streams

Funding is one of the biggest challenges community groups face as financial sustainability has become uncertain due to the economic downturn. The funding environment has changed due to loss of funding from gaming trusts and reduced investments available for distribution from energy, community trusts and other types of trusts. Others reported they are seeking alternative revenue streams as they prepare for local government budget cuts. There is medium to long-term impact on groups as two to three month delays in meeting July funding deadlines mean missing opportunities to apply to 2021 funding rounds.

### More sector connection

Covid-19 helped some groups connect in the sector as they had regular Zoom meetings to raise issues. Some found that there was more appetite to help, collaborate and share premises given the challenges of working from home.

### Sudden pivot to digitisation

Many who answered the survey found themselves needing to quickly move online for programmes to be delivered. Changes to programmes were made as they were not able to work as usual and processes needed to be automated. The IT support required to enable staff to work remotely incurred extra costs and online programme development requires further funding.

### Wellbeing

The disruption of Covid-19 took a toll on participants of programmes and staff. Increased stress levels occurred due to the uncertainty around the duration of lockdown and the return to work as usual. As there was increased demand on services staff worked extra hours to keep on track and deliver, further impacting mental health.

### What's next?

Based on this information and a targeted survey of current grantees, WTMF has established a special budget to reduce barriers to completing existing collaborations and mergers. Further responses will be developed as new needs unfold.

*“Community organisations found that Covid-19 amplifies the hurdles people experience. They have seen the need to develop additional initiatives and upscale support, especially for essential services that are experiencing increased community need.”*

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# Supporting sustainable and mana-enhancing food systems

At the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, feedback from community organisations made us aware of the critical position in which many households found themselves regarding food supply, and of the sudden increase in families requiring support from food banks and other community service organisations. The Tindall Foundation (TFF) partnered with a number of key organisations to quickly respond to the rapidly emerging needs of communities. They included Kiwi Harvest, the Student Volunteer Army (SVA), Iwi and Whānau Ora organisations.

Through their past experience with crises such as the Canterbury earthquakes, the SVA had the ability to mobilise a large number of student volunteers quickly. They were able to support those who required assistance by providing a reliable source of vetted and willing volunteers to provide a grocery delivery service. With the help of TFF funding, they were able to expand their services from four regions to 14 across New Zealand. SVA's inclusion of large numbers of young people in the Covid response effort was an additional long-term benefit. SVA's work has been so successful, it will continue beyond the Covid-19 lockdown. You can read more at [tindall.org.nz/sva](https://tindall.org.nz/sva)

We also connected Tindall Foundation Trustee, Rukumoana Schaafhausen, with Kiwi Harvest. Ruku is Chair of Waikato-Tainui – the tribal authority that represents 76,000 tribal members across their region. Alongside Sam Morgan's Foundation, TFF co-funded Kiwi Harvest to establish the New Zealand Food Network (NZFN), a bulk collection and distribution network for rescued food. Through Ruku, TFF connected NZFN to a network of marae around New Zealand.

Marae, as a central space for families at the heart of Iwi, acted as collection and distribution points for NZFN-sourced food, and distributed that food to hundreds of whānau. In a pilot run on the Thursday before Easter, 6.25 tonnes of rescued food was delivered to Waahi Marae in Huntly. That was distributed through 18 local marae to 600 whānau. The food included products from Sanitarium and Griffins, a range of fresh produce, five pallets of fish heads from Moana – and 24,000 Easter eggs from The Warehouse. Marae have storage facilities, personnel, and experience in managing large volumes of food, and so were ideal distribution points. They also know the whānau in their areas best, and are intergenerationally connected.

The marae-based approach also provides a mana-enhancing and dignifying service delivery style that avoids whānau queuing for food banks, and also allows whānau to be in contact with people who already hold a strong connection with one another, based in manaakitanga (caring) and responsibility to one another. Ruku says that in times of crisis many whānau won't go to food banks or food distribution centres for

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*“We need to appreciate the stigma that surrounds queueing for food. The processes that Iwi have set up for volunteer bases to deliver essentials to whānau honour the mana of those in need at a very stressful time.”*

fear of being judged. “We need to appreciate the stigma that surrounds queueing for food. The processes that Iwi have set up for volunteer bases to deliver essentials to whānau honour the mana of those in need at a very stressful time.”

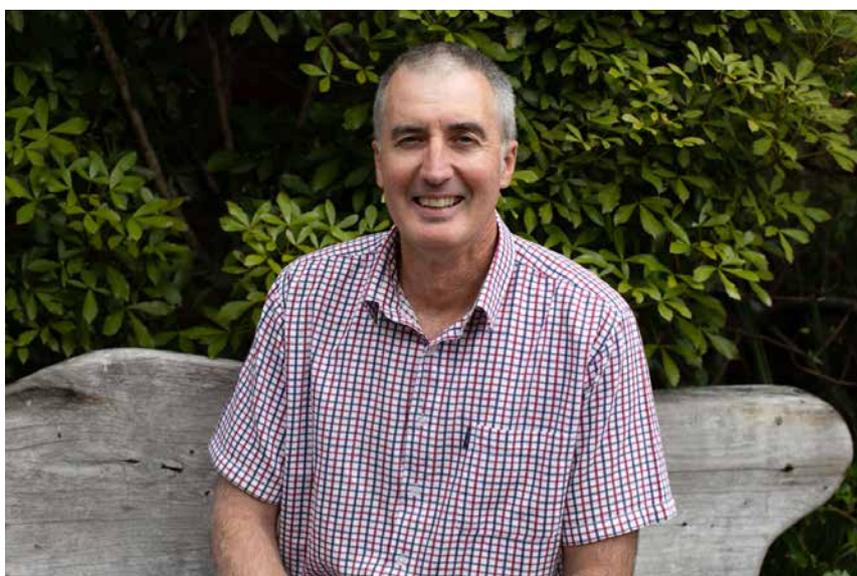
NZFN will not replace food banks and other social services, but it will get bulk amounts of rescued and donated food to frontline organisations that can do ‘the last mile of delivery’ to households with insecure food supply. The other benefit is the reduction in wasted food. Huge quantities of food are wasted every year in New Zealand, while a significant proportion of the population struggles to access food. NZFN receives and distributes bulk food that would otherwise not be consumed. As well as a significant waste of food, the estimated 125,000 tonnes of food waste each year has an impact in terms of climate change, responsible for releasing around 300,000 tonnes of CO2-equivalent greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each year. Reducing food waste has multiple benefits.

TTF’s experience during the Covid lockdown also led us to reflect further with Ruku and others about better ways to support ongoing food resilience in communities for families. That’s resulted in two other pieces of work.

There will be longer-term, economic and social consequences that will affect large portions of New Zealand over the next few months and years, resulting in financial hardship, job losses, and business closures. However, this also creates potential opportunities for small business development and employment. Alongside three Iwi, TTF has co-funded pilots being established in three regions to look at opportunities for the development of local Māori food growing and harvesting enterprises using whānau/hapū land, and access to rivers and coastline. This food could be either for direct distribution or purchase by whānau, or for sale to NZFN, which needs to purchase some supplementary food in order to maintain a regular and reliable supply. These pilots will also show whether food enterprises could also lead to transport and other types of enterprise development and employment.



*Rukumoana Schaafhausen, Tindall Foundation Trustee and Chair of Waikato-Tainui*



*John McCarthy, Manager of The Tindall Foundation*

The second piece of work has started with a conversation with Kore Hiakai [zerohunger.org.nz](http://zerohunger.org.nz), the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services project examining the food system in New Zealand. Its members operate many of the larger food banks in centres across New Zealand. They have begun examining alternative ways of ensuring families receive food, rather than through the traditional food bank model. TTF has relationships with many of those organisations because they are also TTF Local Donation Managers, so we have offered support (if needed) to help complete that work.

We were pleased to see that the Ministry of Social Development has now included NZFN and Māori food enterprise development as part of its new food framework. There may be potential to connect up these separate strands – NZFN, Māori local food enterprises, Kore Hiakai and Government – to develop more sustainable and mana-enhancing systems of ensuring reliable access to food at all times for families – and especially in times of crisis.

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*By John McCarthy, Manager of The Tindall Foundation*

# Covid-19 collaboration – the Waikato way



Whanau in Taumaranui

## Why

The Waikato Community Funders Group (WCFG) met on 18 March to discuss a collective response to Covid-19. While the impact on our communities was unknown at this stage, evidence from experiences in Italy suggested that there would be a heavy toll on New Zealanders.

***We knew that for-purpose organisations in the Waikato region would respond to the impending crisis and we understood that our role was to support these organisations with a fast and efficient funding response.***

It was decided a collective approach to funding would be actioned. This involved developing a single, simplified application form, which would be administered by Trust Waikato, whilst individual funding organisations would retain their own Covid-19 budgets and make their own funding decisions. This approach overcame the issue of different geographical boundaries and priorities that funders within the Waikato have.

***Collectively, our goal was to help the most vulnerable in our community by getting funds to where they were needed most urgently.***

## How

- Trust Waikato provided the administration for the WCFG, using Microsoft Teams, Zoom and FLUXX (grant management system).
- A targeted response was agreed to, with a list of for-purpose organisations expected to lead the response contacted and invited to apply for funding.
- Organisations completed a very simple application form. Once the applications were assessed they were posted to Microsoft Teams for individual funders to make a decision on whether to fund the application.
- Grants advisors set up sector teams for deeper engagement with targeted communities. This work was essential in understanding the issues different communities were facing. Key issues we discovered included that:
  - ethnic communities were facing increased racism as the lockdown progressed,
  - some geographical areas were not receiving food-related civil defence funding.

This approach enabled the WCFG to quickly mobilise funding.

## Learnings

### Relational funding approach

All funders within the WCFG are active in the community, which means that we were already aware of the organisations that were mobilising to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The relational philanthropy approach builds high trust, which allowed for faster decision-making and distribution of funding. Most importantly, this allowed community organisations to quickly respond to serving our communities.

### Collaborative funding model

For the collective funding approach to work, funders had to commit time, resources, and energy to achieve our goal.

By having a collaborative working model with Waikato funders, we were able to develop simplified application and accountability forms, and a streamlined assessment process.

Funders were trusted to follow the process, make timely decisions, and contribute at the many Zoom meetings. Everyone had an equal voice – a bigger funding budget did not equate to a greater say – and everyone's perspective was listened to.



Volunteers in Tokoroa

## Innovations

We witnessed many innovations and collaborations throughout the Covid-19 lockdown from extensive food distribution on a mass scale, to new digital initiatives to support wellbeing.

### Claudelands Food Relief

Led by Wise Group, Hamilton City Council and Montana Food and Events, and supported by over 20 community organisations and agencies, this colossal initiative resulted in thousands of freshly cooked meals being prepared and frozen. Community groups and volunteers then delivered the meals throughout the region to vulnerable individuals and families/whānau.

This innovation achieved:

**457,514**

total units of care (this has been calculated on the total individual meals provided from both food parcels and frozen meals).

**90,290**

individuals served.

**62,042**

frozen meals distributed to providers.

**8,110**

food parcels distributed to providers.

**886**

daily average for frozen meals.

**145**

daily average for food parcels (this has been calculated on a 7-day average).

**10**

weeks of operation.

### Here to Help U initiative

The website [heretohelpu.nz](https://heretohelpu.nz) enabled Hamilton residents to access social service support during the Covid-19 lockdown and beyond. Support includes free assistance with food parcels, prepared meals, collection of items, mental health support, and safe social connection. Wise Group led this collaboration, with support from the

WCFG and community service providers. There are plans to grow the service throughout the region.

### Waikato Rangatahi Collab

During the Covid-19 lockdown, grants advisors were tasked with understanding what was happening in our communities across key sectors. A few of the larger youth organisations were brought together in a Zoom meeting to discuss the challenges for young people during lockdown. Groups participating in this meeting included Graham Dingle Waikato, Waikato Queer Youth, Zeal Hamilton, Seed Waikato, Te Ahurei, Young Workers Resource Centre, Number Twelve Te Kuiti, and Creative Waikato. During this initial meeting, the group decided that this online platform could be a space for the Waikato youth sector to continue to work together.

The Waikato Rangatahi Collab continues to meet fortnightly on Zoom to touch base with how the sector is looking, identify any issues within the sector, and look for ways to solve these while working together. The group membership has continued to expand and now includes 49 different organisations and individuals within the youth sector. The group is continuing to add different organisations into this space who are working in the region to join the collaboration so that youth voices from across the Waikato region can be heard.

### Kotahitanga: inclusion through creativity

Due to a rise in bullying and racism over the lockdown period, WCGF looked to implement an anti-racism campaign in the region to help educate, raise awareness, and show aroha to all peoples in the Waikato. Championed by Creative Waikato, the Kotahitanga Project uses art and creativity to share messages of hope, inspiration, and inclusion. A dedicated website will be launched and an exhibition opened at the Meteor Gallery on 14 July, with selected artworks featured at Trust Waikato's Annual Public Meeting.

## Community Collaboration

Community groups banded together with support from grants advisors, to help some of the region's most vulnerable people. Care and support were given to many rural and isolated communities (South Waikato, Taumarunui, Te Kuiti, Ōtorohanga, Coromandel), Pasifika and ethnic families, marae/iwi, youth, and the elderly.

Food providers in the region have also collaborated to ensure a coordinated approach among the food banks and pantries, community centres, social service agencies and related organisations.

## Into the future

Research is currently underway to review the actions taken by the WCFG to assess how we can progress and improve our approach, systems and processes moving forward. The collaboration with the funding organisations within the WCFG will continue to strengthen our collective insights and decision-making ability. A new initiative, which is currently under development, is a website to showcase the funders available for groups in the Waikato region, helpful resources and impact projects.

We will also continue to build our relational philanthropy to ensure we understand the challenges, needs and opportunities that exist for community groups to enable funding allocations which will create a positive, long-term impact.

## Links to news articles during the Covid-19 lockdown:

[trustwaikato.co.nz/post/unprecedented-community-response-to-covid-19](https://trustwaikato.co.nz/post/unprecedented-community-response-to-covid-19)

[trustwaikato.co.nz/post/millions-more-in-funding-for-covid-19](https://trustwaikato.co.nz/post/millions-more-in-funding-for-covid-19)

[trustwaikato.co.nz/post/help-during-covid-19](https://trustwaikato.co.nz/post/help-during-covid-19)

[trustwaikato.co.nz/post/funders-covid19-response](https://trustwaikato.co.nz/post/funders-covid19-response)

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By Dennis Turton, Trust Waikato Chief Executive

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# Time to prioritise equity



**Covid-19 has changed the landscape; in our private lives and the economy. The government and business leaders are now concentrating on tackling economic recovery and ensuring job loss will be minimised. It is a daunting task and one I think all three sectors must be active in at this time; public, private and not-for-profit.**

I was impressed with the efforts of community, Māori and local social service providers during lockdown.

I Chair the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency and saw first-hand how Māori providers responded when they knew the vulnerable families they support would have to be isolated in their homes during lockdown. They know their communities so well they took action as soon as they became aware we could be looking at weeks of lockdown, not just a few.

Māori providers already have infrastructure in place to tap into. They have extended families, local Marae and flaxroots outreaches that can swing into action at a moments notice. And they did. Panic buyers didn't help matters and vulnerable families became worried because they didn't have disposable dollars. Would there still be food and other supplies left on the shelves? Whānau Ora providers alone delivered over 100,000 hygiene and food packs to families to see them through the weeks of isolation.

When times get tough the tough get going. Local and community service providers prove their worth time and time again. They are in every community attempting to reduce inequities that have built up over many years. Some have contracts with various government departments others depend solely on fundraising and grants from charitable

trusts to provide the necessary funds to enable them to carry out their work.

The landscape has changed for the philanthropic and charitable sector too. We are keeping a watchful eye on our investments but we know we will not have the same level of grants to distribute, at least in the foreseeable future, as we had in the past. I think it is time to look carefully then at who needs our support most at this time. Do you know your local Māori service providers whose services will be crucial to community wellbeing during the "build back" months ahead. The services now expected to do more with less. They will be stretched and could run the real risk of collapse. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Do not sit and wait for applications to appear. If you are not sure what these providers do and how you can help, ask them? What would make a difference to their workload? Is it funding for a specific activity or better co-ordinated services?

What resources and information do we have that could be applied in a different way? Philanthropy has an important role to play by being alongside providers who made a valuable contribution during lockdown but more importantly will continue to contribute to the Covid-19 pandemic response. I believe it is time to give equity a strong focus when it comes to prioritising funding applications. Engage with Māori providers to give them confidence they are being engaged equally and Māori communities equal consideration.

We can make the future less frightening for vulnerable families when we work with those who understand the factors and circumstances contributing to their current situation. It is our time to get going.

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*By Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, member of Rotorua Energy Trust and Lakes District Health Board, Councillor at Rotorua Lakes District Council.*

***“Philanthropy has an important role to play by being alongside providers who made a valuable contribution during lockdown but more importantly will continue to contribute to the Covid-19 pandemic response.”***

# The collective resilience of our Pasifika community



*Pacific Leadership Forum governance meeting Mount Wellington, Auckland*

**In the immediate Covid-19 response phase, Pacific communities were able to lean on each other, while sectors and providers regrouped and recalibrated their services and resources to the lockdown environment. Pacific leaders soon realised the enormous potential in adapting to online platforms (for church services and events), which has become a catalyst for exploring these mechanisms further.**

Hainoame Fulivai, Advisor (Pacific) at Foundation North comments, “I witnessed first-hand the collective resilience of our Pasifika community, as they organised themselves, repositioned and responded to the challenges and also made demands for action and accountability at all levels of government. There were many providers who were agile enough to move within the gaps and support our vulnerable communities sufficiently, which was a relief.”

Those who played a significant role of impact and influence include Pasifika Futures and the Pacific Leadership Forum (PLF). Pasifika Futures were one of the few essential Pacific health and service providers for food, emergency accommodation and necessary supplies, and received a \$100,000 grant from Foundation North in early April to support the distribution of Covid-19 packages of support to Pacific families in Auckland.

The Pacific Leadership Forum, with a membership of over 400 Pacific church and community leaders and coverage for all Pan-Pacific ethnic groups nationwide, became a ‘go-to’ for organic data and information regarding the critical challenges faced at the grassroots. PLF played a crucial role in leading vulnerable Pacific communities to comply with lockdown rules and expectations, and they continue to advocate through their regular Zoom meetings, social media presence and engagement with key government agencies.

Investing in the known indicators and prompters for building resilience within the current and post Covid-19 environment will be critical for Pacific communities to adapt to change. Many Pacific groups, organisations and communities will be interested in engaging with granters and funders for this reason. Understanding that the

inequalities for Pacific peoples have widened, and they are further restrained through uncertainty should be important considerations for funders.

Funders and granters can support Pacific communities by actively listening and learning from them and investing in maintaining the multifaceted layers of community that support all Pacific peoples in New Zealand. Supporting social enterprises, innovative ideas, new platforms for outreach and engagement and community-led initiatives presents opportunities to strengthen and protect Pacific cultural capital and wellbeing at this time. The climate is right for open talanoa and strengthening relationships for impactful change and social mobilisation towards sustainable outcomes for the Pacific Peoples of Aotearoa.

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By *Foundation North*

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# The global Covid wave and international responses



For many nations, Covid-19 is our first experience of a pandemic in living memory and we have begun to realise how fortunate we in Aotearoa New Zealand have been. As the virus spreads around the world in a wave, we have watched governments react to protect their population in a variety of ways. It has been interesting to note funders' responses as they seek to support their communities to survive the health, economic and social implications of Covid-19. In this piece Philanthropy New Zealand's Relationships and Events Manager, Yvonne Trask, looks at examples of this response.

## Australia

Philanthropy Australia conducted member research to gauge grantmakers' reactions to Covid-19. The majority indicated an increase of flexibility in funding (72%), untying restricted funding (48%), increasing financial support (42%) and establishing dedicated Covid-19 grant programmes (32%). 38% are increasing their grants this year and 22% plan to further increase their funding in the next financial year. Special focusses follow global trends with some funders advocating for an increase in online mental health funding and further support for indigenous people.

## Pacific

Currently relatively unscathed by the health effects of Covid-19, Pacific nations learned a great deal from Samoa's measles epidemic, and they shut down and closed their borders early. The impact of Cyclone Harold hitting during lockdown was severe for a number of

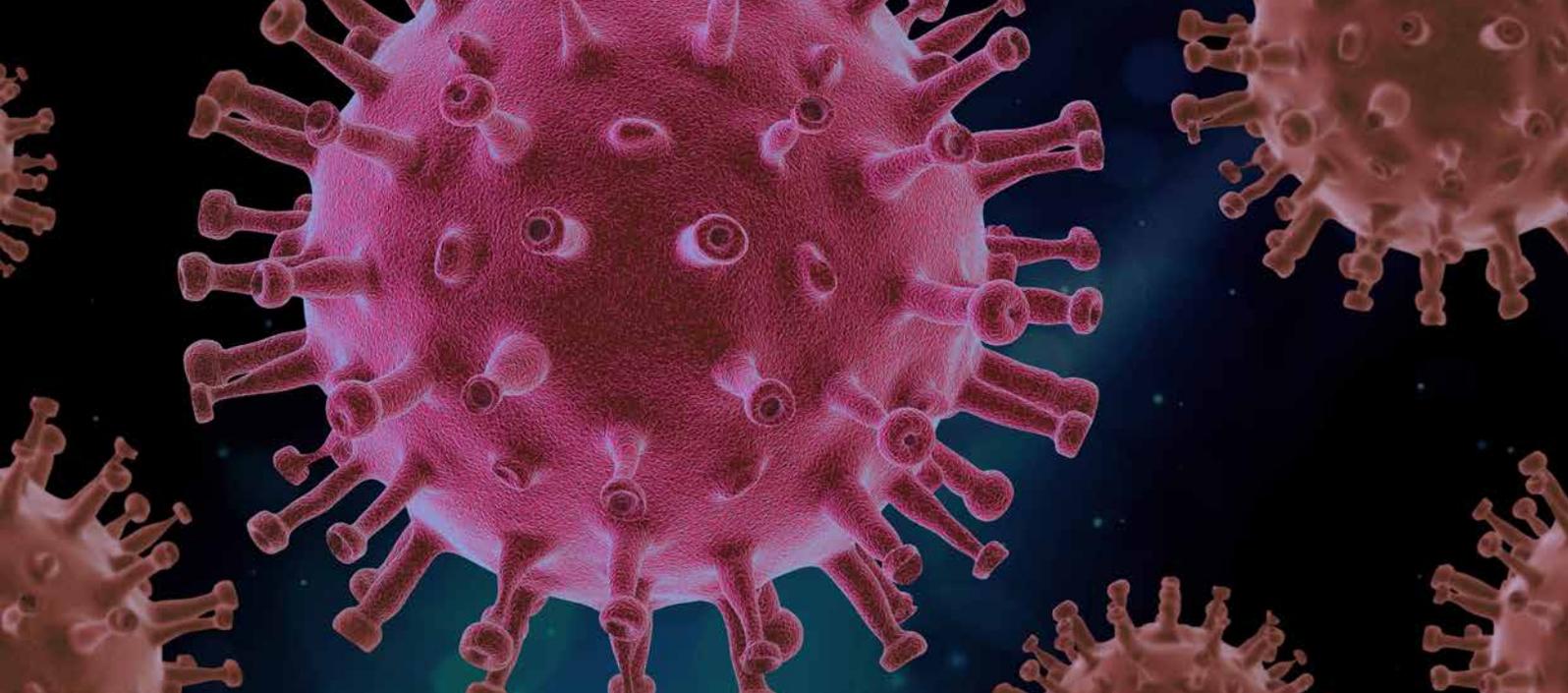
island nations and they worked hard to avoid international NGO and aid agency workers bringing Covid-19 across their borders. Some funders are advocating supporting women through this time and alleviating domestic violence, a global issue during Covid-19.

## Asia

Overcrowding and a lack of access to fresh water allowed Covid-19 to have a field day in some Asian nations while others, who have in recent years experienced epidemic illness, have been more prepared, ensuring better outcomes. The Asia Venture Philanthropy Network has created a platform to showcase investment and funding opportunities and to alleviate the difficulties of applying for funding in lockdown. Philanthropic donations have often been directed to the provision of PPE, sanitisers and other preventative products to support frontline workers and those quarantined.

## Africa

Relatively late in the wave of the pandemic, the African continent's 54 nations are adapting to the crisis in different ways. One positive trend is the move from the traditional 'aid from the West' philanthropic support to a partnership model that has African nations and NGOs leading responses with global and local philanthropic assistance. Projections for Africa are less than positive, with more than 150 million African jobs at risk. Fragile healthcare systems would struggle with an inundation of Covid-19 patients and there is grave concern that services and funding would be diverted away from long-term health issues as HIV/AIDS and malaria. Jeff Skoll and Richard Branson have funded African companies to mass-produce ventilators and other equipment to sell to other nations, placing these countries at the forefront of Covid-19 alleviation. Africa is leading the world in learnings around contact tracing



after the 2014 Ebola epidemic and communities have been engaged to fight the virus.

## Europe

Racial inequities have become increasingly evident in European statistics. Funders have supported frontline workers and worked within the global trends of flexibility and increased funding. They are now increasingly working in advocacy. Many are looking at deep and lasting change in their nations' economies, in gender and race imbalance, and some are finding data that brings up new funding opportunities. For example, only 40% of European students have teachers with the skills to integrate into a digital environment. 50% of frontline health workers are experiencing PTSD and more than 63% of the public are suffering depression or anxiety due to the pandemic. In the UK it is estimated that nine out of 10 black and minority ethnic NGOs are about to cease trading and yet it is these very groups that need more support than ever. Philanthropy is coming to acknowledge that their knowledge of the NFP sector is wide, but it is their frontline providers that have the real knowledge. As Dame Julia Unwin says in *Alliance magazine*, 'the ability of philanthropy to aggregate knowledge is important but so too is the ability to recognise where real expertise lies'.

## USA

The sheer size and diversity of the US population makes it difficult to generalise. Philanthropic leaders are urging cooperation, connecting, collaboration, convening and recognition of issues confronting the US. They are listening to their grant partners while also fighting to include one of the largest public outcries over institutional racism in the nation's history. The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Native American and African American communities has been evident and many funders are advocating for change to both alleviate this and to prevent the factors contributing to this from continuing.

## Global trends

While responses to the pandemic have varied widely, cutting-edge trends we have seen repeated in multiple locations around the world include the digital wonders that are online giving platforms. Funders are urged by the Centre for Disaster Philanthropy to ensure they move power to local actors rather than lead a national or international response. They are encouraged to ensure food distribution ends in the right hands (as that last mile is often the hardest) and to prioritise inclusion; to assist the caregivers who are everything right now; and to advocate for systems change.

Climate change alleviation has been accidentally given a boost in lockdown with car-less roads and closed heavy

industry. Women bear the brunt of the pandemic with everything from PPE being designed for men and the gender balance leaning toward women in the field of nursing, leading to a higher infection rate in female health professionals. Alongside the increased issue of domestic violence during the lockdown and the larger economic impact on women who fill more casual work roles, many funders are considering a female lens in their funding. LGBTIQ+ communities have experienced exclusion and increased abuse in many countries. Covid-19 has disproportionately affected Native American and African American communities. Racism has been declared a public health crisis by the City Council of Cleveland, Ohio, lending credence to the words of such philanthropic leaders as Darren Walker, an outstanding advocate for an end to systemic racism. Funders are urged to advocate and to exercise their privilege of often having the ear of government.

There has been an increase in military presence in many countries and in some cases, this has led to a concerning brutality toward curfew breakers. Philanthropy's Big Moment is here, and it is with great curiosity and concern that we in New Zealand watch the world to see how major change can occur in such a challenging environment.

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By Yvonne Trask, Relationships and Events Manager

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# Left behind in an increasingly digital world

Anjum Rahman, writes about the inequities and inequalities further revealed in our move to the online world in response to Covid-19. Diversity in designing and implementing solutions is needed to bridge the digital divide.

The most common thing I've heard people say about the Covid-19 pandemic is how clearly it brought out inequities and inequalities, both within our country and in other places across the world.

One of the inequities, access to online learning, became visibly apparent as schools shut down and moves were made to provide students with online learning. The Government **announced a package** to get devices and modems into homes, with an estimated 17,000 devices delivered. It highlighted to the country the depth of the digital divide.

There was the socio-economic aspect. People were not able to afford devices themselves, or connection costs, monthly Wi-Fi and data charges. The price for access to the online world can be high. For many young people, connecting via social media to their social circle happened at the local library. But these were closed during lockdown, which meant an isolation much more severe than those who could connect electronically.

There was also the logistics aspect. We heard from those in rural communities who had no access to broadband and who had no data or mobile connectivity and had to drive



*Anjum Rahman, Trust Waikato trustee and project lead for Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono*

23 kilometres to find a mobile phone connection. For those in vulnerable and abusive situations, this makes the 1737 mental health line inaccessible, in terms of a quiet call behind a shed.

Increasingly government agencies are moving to online and phone access. Some agencies do not cover calls from mobile phones. For those with a limited number of minutes per month, spending 45 minutes to an hour on hold, with another half an hour or more needed to discuss the issue, phone calls might not work.

Those who are vulnerable to housing insecurity are unlikely to have a landline, so mobile is the only option, if they can afford the device and the charges. The other option is to send an email, and that's fine if you have a sufficient level of English literacy. There are any number of reasons why a person wouldn't have this: English may be a second language with low levels of written ability, people may have learning disabilities or may have visual impairments. While people in these categories may well be able to discuss their situation face to face,

taking interactions online removes autonomy and independence.

One of the biggest problems, though, is digital literacy. In many homes where devices were provided for educational purposes, parents did not have sufficient skills and information around risks to monitor their children's use. Lack of monitored use puts children in an unsafe situation. It also means that children are unable to be supported in their learning.

While there is work happening in addressing some of these issues, there is a need for greater coordination between agencies and with community organisations that receive funding in this space. There is particularly a need for more diversity in designing and implementing solutions, so that people with disabilities and people from ethnic minority and rural communities can have a part in designing solutions that work for them.

In an increasingly online world, we cannot forget how many get left behind.

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*Written by Anjum Raham, Trust Waikato trustee and project lead for Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono*

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# Disaster planning, it pays to be prepared

At the Acorn Foundation in the Western Bay of Plenty, preliminary work to determine the part that Acorn might play to recover from a local disaster began back in 2017. Nicky Wilkins, Acorn's GM from 2006 through 2018, gathered information from community foundations in Canada, the UK and Australia to determine what role more mature CFs played in disaster response.

Although the disaster planning didn't proceed at that time due to the age and stage of the foundation, the early work of the Acorn disaster plan was used by Community Foundations of New Zealand in the production of *When Disaster Strikes: A Guide for Community Foundations*. This document was used to help the Christchurch Foundation team after the Christchurch mosque shootings, with the Eastern Bay of Plenty Community Foundation after the Whakaari/White Island eruption and for the development of the PNZ Readiness, Response and Recovery guide.

Following the Christchurch shootings, the Acorn team received approval from the Board to finish this disaster planning work, and we built a relationship with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's civil defence team. Together, we produced a recommendation that was taken to the three local mayors in late 2019. During that same time, the local funders developed closer working relationships when TECT and Acorn both moved into The Collective at the end of 2018, actively seeking out ways to work together with BayTrust to benefit the local community.

The plan went into effect in March 2020 when Covid-19 hit. A possible pandemic was never in our thinking, but a natural



Acorn Foundation Chair, Lesley Jensen and General Manager, Lori Luke

disaster is always a risk in the region, whether from an earthquake, tsunami or volcanic eruption. The three local funders and Tauranga City Council (TCC) began discussing a coordinated funding response the week of 16 March, and by 30 March, the Acorn Board had approved our participation. The BayTrust and TECT boards agreed with the plan, as well as the management of TCC's Community Development Team. By 2 April, the Western Bay of Plenty Rapid Response Fund was created with a total of \$600,000 and a guarantee of a two-week turnaround. Our first payments reached local recipients by 7 April.

Our key success factors of collaborative giving included:

- A single point of contact (managed by Paula Hudson of TECT)
- A simple, single application form (approved collectively on the Smarty Grants system)
- Delegation of authority from the Boards to management, with each participating organisation having two representatives who met weekly via Zoom

- Community participation enabled with Acorn offering a way for locals to contribute to the fund via our website
- Frequent communication via local media and social media platforms.

Rapid Response was structured to last around eight weeks, and by late May, we were collectively working on Phase Two: Recovery Fund. Additional funds were introduced, including community donations, to create a fund that now sits at \$777,000. We anticipate that the recovery phase may last six to 12 months, with the focus on supporting the long-term recovery of the community sector and intended to work in conjunction with government funding. We plan to implement our third phase, the Resilience Fund, during year two, seeking ways to support the resilience and reinvention of the social sector in the local region.

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By Lori Luke, Acorn Foundation General Manager

# Economic impacts of Covid-19 in New Zealand

We started the year with the view that increased disruption and structural economic shifts would impact the global economy and investment markets. But few could have predicted the impact of Covid-19 on New Zealand and around the world. There has been much debate about the short-term economic and investment impact of coronavirus – on economic activity, unemployment, interest rates, house prices, etc. However, the magnitude of the shock means it will have medium to longer-term implications as well.

The June quarter of 2020 will likely see the biggest-ever quarterly decline in New Zealand's economic activity. That reflects the pace at which everything shut down everywhere, and the collateral damage will be significant. The hit to economic activity has been huge, resulting in a lot of spare capacity that will take years to be used up. We don't see global and domestic economic activity getting back to pre-coronavirus levels until late next year or 2022.

As in all recessions and despite the best efforts of the Government, many firms won't make it through. Life will remain particularly tough for those sectors reliant on the flow of people across borders, including airlines, airports, tourism, hospitality and export education.

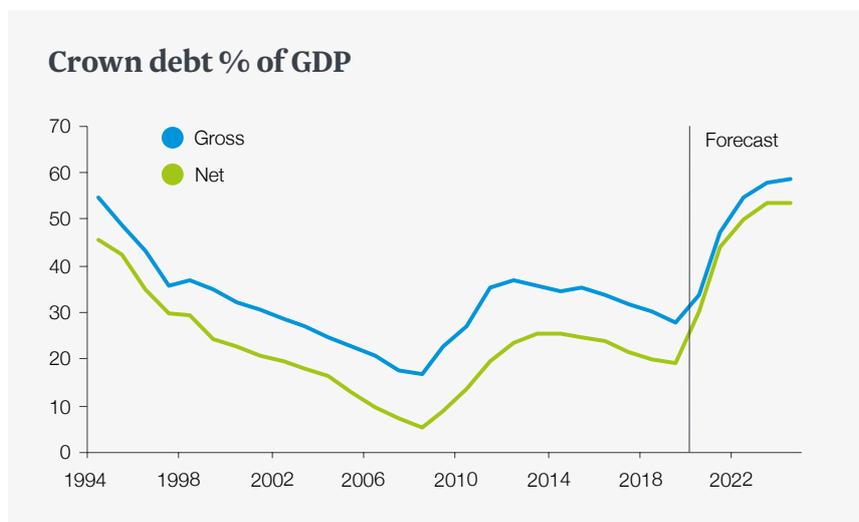
Many that do survive will emerge in a different shape as business owners look to lock in productivity gains achieved through the lockdown. Firms have had a few weeks of working in a new way, including the greater use of technology as self-isolation dramatically accelerated the move to a digital world.

## Many have now embraced online retail, working from home and virtual meetings

While many businesses will come back more match-fit, the downside is in the labour market. The wage subsidy helped firms retain their employees through the crisis, but the Government can only continue to support vulnerable firms for so long. Some businesses will inevitably fail leaving the unemployment rate elevated for some time.

The combination of firms not surviving and others locking in the productivity gains means getting back down to full employment will be hard work and it will take time. A disproportionate number of jobs will also be lost in the low-skill sectors, including hospitality and tourism. Tourism will be one of the sectors that takes longest to recover as it requires the re-opening of borders for full recovery.

The downside is the upside in the public debt profile as debt issuance rises to \$190 billion over the next five years.



Source: NZ Treasury



*During lockdown AMP Capital's Managing Director and Chief Economist Bevan Graham took part in our post Budget 2020 webinar and gave his insights into areas of focus for the Government following the pandemic. In this follow-up article Bevan provides an update and a longer-term view of Covid-19 and the potential economic impacts to factor into philanthropic grantmaking and decision making.*

Debt at that level is not unprecedented but the coronavirus crisis has likely added to support for government intervention in economies and the tolerance of higher levels of public debt – particularly given that it may have enhanced perceptions of inequality, with well-paid white-collar workers being able to isolate and work at home while lower paid workers have been stood down or have to continue working in less safe conditions. Aggressive measures to address inequality could reduce productivity growth and hence economic growth.

The Global Financial Crisis (GFC) led to a wariness and a degree of investor caution on the part of households. This has been evident in investors nominating bank deposits and paying down debt as the 'wisest place' for their savings. The coronavirus pandemic and its hit to incomes and job security has likely reinforced this. It is also likely that household caution will remain

for some time, resulting in higher precautionary saving and more conservative investment strategies.

There are a number of factors impacting inflation in the near term, but the balance will see downward pressure on inflation over the next few quarters. While it's hard to see inflation becoming an issue in the next few years, the combination of rising public debt, money printing and more protectionism risks a longer-term pick-up in inflation, particularly if central banks don't reverse easy money quickly once spare capacity is used up.

The Government is throwing the kitchen sink at its response to the Covid-19 crisis. Of course, it is only able to do this because of the fiscal restraint shown in the prior decade as the fiscal buffers were rebuilt following the GFC and the Christchurch earthquakes. Once we are into recovery, the same fiscal restraint will need to be shown by the Government of the day so we can be ready for the next crisis.

*“Several of these longer-term implications will constrain economic growth and hence potential investor returns – notably the reversal of globalisation, public debt, consumer caution and lower immigration.”*

### **The good news is that as the recovery progresses, new opportunities will emerge, and those opportunities will require a skilled workforce to ensure their success**

The Government's commitment to a significant investment in trades and apprenticeships is an important part of the response to support productivity-enhancing skills development as the recovery evolves.

Several of these longer-term implications will constrain economic growth and hence potential investor returns – notably the reversal of globalisation, public debt, consumer caution and lower immigration. The faster embrace of technology will work in the other direction though to boost productivity and lower for longer interest rates are positive for growth assets.



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## **Special thanks to those who contributed to this edition:**

Foundation North, Bevan Graham, Lori Luke, Bede Martin,  
John McCarthy, Anjum Rahman, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait,  
Yvonne Trask and Dennis Turton.

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