



**SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS  
CAMPS NZ  
TRUST BOARD**

**Annual Report  
2008**

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

## **Directory**

### **Trustees**

Shane Vermeer (Chairman)  
Ruth Bowers  
Norman Thompson

### **Camp Director**

Anita Vermeer

### **Bankers**

Kiwibank Limited

### **Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Dunedin

**Charities Commission Registration No. CC21040**

### **Address**

C/o Dunedin City New Life Church  
48 Stafford Street, Dunedin

PO Box 1298, Dunedin, New Zealand

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

This has been an amazing year for the trustees, the Camp Director and all those involved with the trust.

It was in 2006 that Anita Vermeer attended a Southern Cross Kids Camp in Australia. These camps are designed to provide happy memories for kids who have been victims of abuse, domestic violence or neglect. Time spent at the camp was filled with activities designed to build trust, self-esteem and confidence within each child.

You might well ask, can one week make a difference? The evidence says, emphatically, "yes!", particularly when children can attend several camps in successive years. Children take away from camp a sense of achievement and personal confidence; a fresh perspective for dealing with their past; life skills for the present; hope for the future; and memories of a great week with new friends.

Anita was so impressed with the concept she felt it must be introduced to New Zealand. We trustees have been privileged to be part of making that vision a reality.

The first camp was held in January 2008 at Camp Columba in Southland and was a brilliant success. We will leave it to Anita to tell that story.

We are extremely grateful to all the sponsors and people who provided assistance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miriam Mowat, who co-ordinated a significant part of the trust's fundraising programme. We deeply appreciate the support and practical assistance provided by members of Southern Cross Kids Camps in Australia, and Royal Family Kids' Camps in United States. Dunedin City New Life Church provided us with a base, office facilities, and continuing support, and for this we are truly thankful.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to our Director, Anita, who was the trust's inspiration, mentor and leader. Anita, like all the staff and buddies gives her time without expecting to be paid. Our volunteers are, quite simply, amazing!

Above all, we give thanks to God, our Heavenly Father, who made it all possible.

**We are now looking forward to the 2009 camp!**

Shane Vermeer  
Ruth Bowers  
Norman Thompson. Trustees

4 May 2008

## 2008 CAMP REPORT Compiled by Anita Vermeer



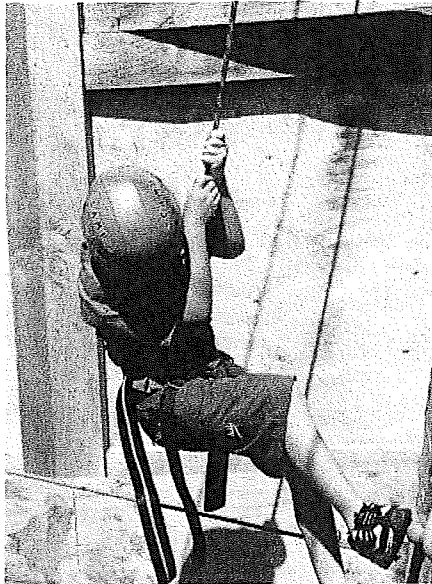
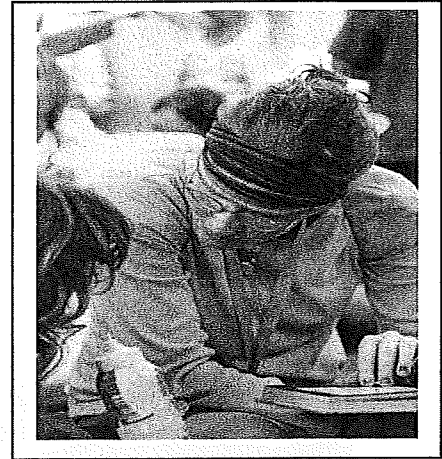
We held our first Dunedin Southern Cross Kids Camp from 20 to 25 January with 50 Staff and 27 Campers. The ratio of 1 Child to 2 Adults created a very supportive environment in which the children were given personalized and unique care. They had the opportunity to take part in many new and exciting activities. The Children overcame fear and tasted sweet success!

As this was the first camp in this country, it was a new experience for many of the staff. We were lucky to have volunteers from all over the country, from as far away as Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Cromwell. We also were privileged to have fantastic staff and buddies come from Australia and United States. The support and experience from the international team with the program, documents and staff, has been invaluable. All the team members were very caring, generous with their time and hardworking. This year we were also very blessed to have Carolyn Boyd (Founding director of Southern Cross Kids Camps in Australia) attend the camp. She provided support not only for me, but also for all the staff.



The major pool of volunteers represented 19 denominational churches, from all over NZ and around the world. We also had volunteers who were not connected with any church. A highlight was to see people from different regions, backgrounds, careers and cultures all come together as one and share in the opportunity for growing SCKC around NZ. Altogether, volunteers for the camp gave a total of upwards of 8400 hours of time which consisted of training pre-camp and working during and after the camp. The working Committee and Trustees spent at least a further 300 hours preparing and organizing for the camp, outside of working hours. The volunteers were incredibly dedicated. Bottom line - the calibre of volunteers was outstanding!

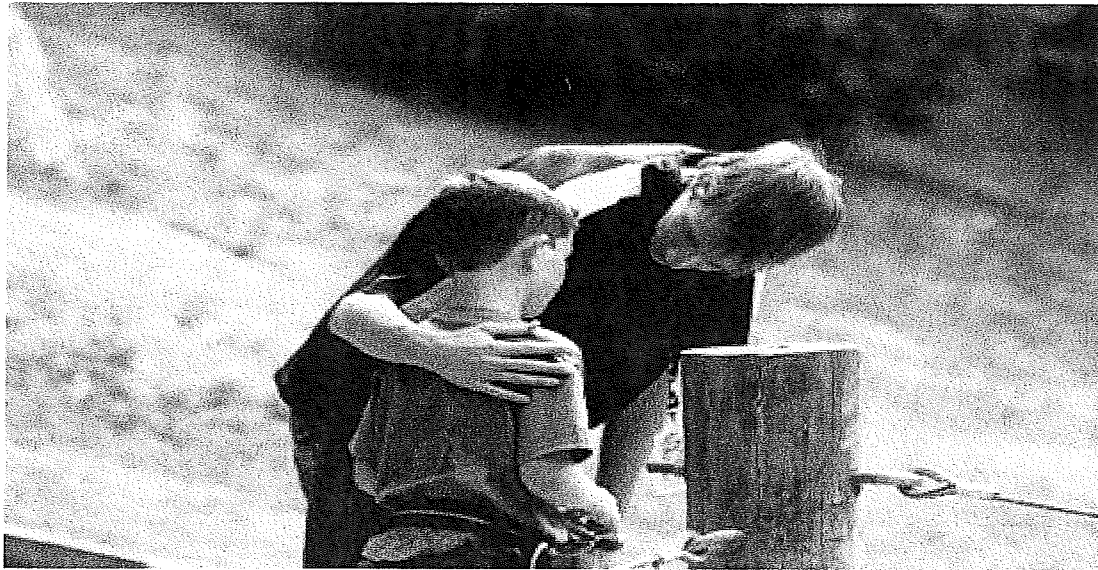
I knew the children would really be animated about their experience at camp, but I had no idea of the lasting effect the camp would have on the staff and buddies. At times, the staff felt challenged by some behaviour and saddened by some of the disclosures from children. They were sleep-deprived, exhausted from running around all day, and yet they poured out themselves to be the best life cheerleaders imaginable. These camps are so different from any other model I have seen, due to the relationships that are developed with safe, trustworthy role models. Most volunteers have already signed up for next year's camp.



The children were apprehensive about attending camp. The trip on the bus started off very quietly. However, even before the end of the first day, the children were beaming, yelling out that they were returning next year. The children surprised many with their encouragement and courtesy for each other and staff. A lot of the children showed good manners and responded well during the week to the teaching at J-Zone and Breakfast Club. The transformation deeply affected not only the children, but staff and buddies alike. The one-on-one attention the children experienced cured a lot of behavioral challenges by empowering them with choice and individual attention. It was clearly evident that the children felt secure, relaxed and were able to trust the safe environment.

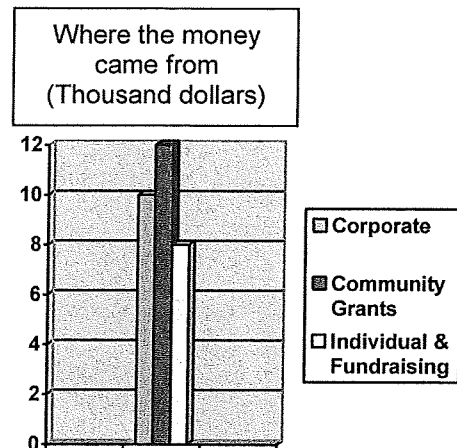
Southern Cross Kids Camps are designed to create happy memories for children who have been victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Some of the children who came to our camp have never attended school camps due to their high requirement for supervision. We are thrilled with the support, encouragement, and early applications that came in from Ministry of Social Development. Feedback has been tremendous. Social workers have commented on a noticeable difference in the children and have said it's deeply pleasing to see bright, smiling faces when the children walk around camp. They commented on how well the camp was organized, calling the staffing "superb".





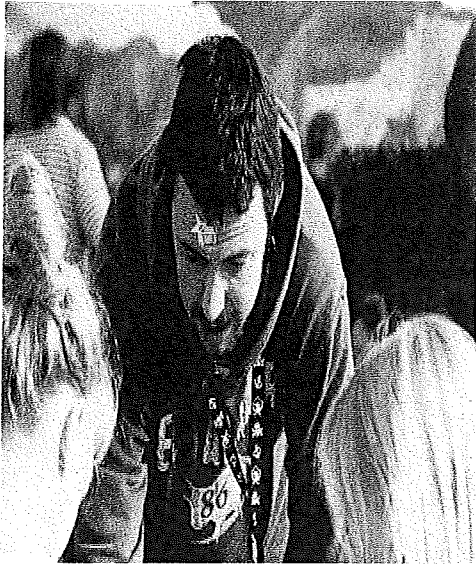
Our hosting Church – Dunedin City New Life, did a tremendous job of supporting us with administration help, and allowing us to use the facility on a regular basis throughout the year. Their prayers, encouragement, and passion for helping hurting children in our community undoubtedly contributed to the success of the camp, for which we are very grateful.

Fundraising has been a huge aspect of the camp. We can share testimony to God's grace and miracles throughout this time. His timing was perfect in getting money from sources which we could never have imagined. It takes a certain amount of faith to run with an idea, and hope to get close to raising \$30,000. It was wonderful to see the generosity of people in the community who gave with compassion for the children. This part of the camp was, for me, especially heart-warming.



Advertising and brand awareness has been successful thus far. We have had four reports written up about us in significant community newspapers. The out pouring from the community has been incredible. The credibility that SCKC has in Australia has paved the way here for NZ for all aspects of brand awareness and fundraising.

**We have learnt a huge amount, which will help us in planning and organisation for our next camp in 2009.**



**A special thanks to the Trustees, Committee, Staff and Buddies who made the 2008 camp possible. And our heart-felt gratitude to all the sponsors - without you, none of this would have been possible. I'm already looking forward to next year's camp!**

Anita Vermeer  
Camp Director



**(Our Awesome Drama Team) Banndyanna Bones & the Search for the "Tree of Life"**

## Feedback:



My camper couldn't swim. At the start of camp he wouldn't go near the water. Slowly throughout the course of the week he built up trust in the people around him and the camp and on the last day he went up to his shoulders in the water. This is testimony to the camp and the people around him that he trusted them enough to overcome his fear. (J.W. Buddy)

*There were so many moments when they trusted us and you could see the joy on their faces. My eyes well up with tears of happiness just remembering. Just seeing these kids running happily after their buddy and then later on proudly showing their photo albums to anyone who'll look, is enough to make you know it was all worth it. (Staff)*

A Foster Mum told me her 9 Year old boy loved camp so much, that he cried for three days after camp finished. He cried for his buddy too, he had made such an impact on the boy. She felt his self esteem and confidence had grown so much from the camp experience. She loved hearing about all of the cool experiences and opportunities he had while at camp.

*P.S. We hope he will be able to come back in 2009!*

T also had a fantastic time away and she really loved her buddy. Due to her enthusiasm, her younger foster brother is hoping he will be able to go next year. T cherishes the photo album she was given. The foster mum felt that the one-on-one attention and the opportunity for T to be one of the older girls helped T relax and have a good time. In the past she has been anxious about going on school camps. Also the caregiver was impressed and proud that T was so brave to go away with a group of complete strangers. Her bravery was rewarded with a wonderful experience.

Thanks for your vision and compassion for these children. Your organization and running of the camp is much appreciated by kids, families and social workers alike.

Katherine McEwing  
Child Youth and Family  
Social Worker



On Friday for Breakfast, I sat with a little girl who had been sexually abused the week previous to camp. I asked if she had enjoyed camp, to which she replied, "yes, she had". I then asked her "Of everything you have done at camp, and all the experiences you had this week, if you had to pick the best one, what would it be?" She thought for a few moments and then replied "D [buddy] has been really nice and kind to me all week....And I helped her climb the wall". (Staff counselor)

*"I was touched by how the simple things made such a difference for my camper. She was so overwhelmed and excited about having a tea party" (Buddy)*



## **We are especially grateful to the following major financial sponsors**

Blaxall and Stevens  
BP Mornington  
Calvert Broad Charitable Trust  
Cambray Holdings Limited  
Community Trust of Otago  
Delta Utility Services Limited  
GJ Paterson  
Leisure Dynamics

Lion Foundation  
McGuckin Trust  
Mitre 10 Mega  
Moray Place Investments Limited  
Nature Discoveries Dunedin  
Pub Charity  
Rotaryanne Club of Dunedin  
Scrapbook Paradise

## **We would like to thank the following who have assisted by providing sponsorships in a variety of ways:**

BGSM Enterprises  
Donaghys Industries Limited  
Espial Marketing  
Farnan Garthwaite Law  
Knox Chemist  
Meridian Pharmacy

Mornington Pharmacy Limited  
O'Neill Devereux  
Otago Packaging Limited  
Psychology Associates  
Rachel Callander Photographers  
St Matthew's Church

## **We have appreciated special assistance from:**

DA Pierce Photography  
Dunedin City New Life Church  
LaHood Chemists

Nicola Williams  
The Chat Bus  
Wing On Wholesalers Company

## **And, of course, nothing would have been possible without the wonderful 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.

Parents, foster-parents and caregivers.

And those fabulous kids who entrusted themselves to us for those five magical days in January.

## SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ TRUST BOARD

### Statement of Financial Performance For the year ended 31 March 2008

	\$
<b>Income</b>	
Donations and fund raisers	30,439
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Camp food	5,425
Rent of camp site	4,690
Transport to and from Camp	2,298
Cost of activities provided on site	1,112
Camper activities	7,455
<b>Direct Cost of Operating Camp</b>	<u>20,980</u>
<b>Training and Support of Volunteer Workers</b>	2,752
Administration and Insurance	1,452
Audit fees	2,500
<b>Cost of Administration</b>	<u>3,952</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>27,684</u>
<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u><u>2,755</u></u>

### Statement of Movements in Equity For the year ended 31 March 2008

	\$
<b>Opening Equity</b>	0
Capital Introduced	30
Surplus for period - total recognised income and expenses	2,755
<b>Closing Equity</b>	<u><u>2,785</u></u>

### Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2008

	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Kiwibank Current Accounts	5,193
Stock - Items for Next Year's Camp	1,375
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>6,568</u></u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Sundry Creditors	3,783
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>3,783</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
Total Funds held	2,785
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<u><u>6,568</u></u>

# SOUTHERN CROSS KIDS CAMPS NZ TRUST BOARD

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2008

### 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 the camp that is scheduled for January 2009. This stock is valued at cost. There is a stock of used material that is in storage following the camp held in January 2008. Together with other consumables, this has been written off against expenditure in the current year 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.

This is the first year in which the trust has operated. Therefore there have been no changes in accounting policies during the year.

### 2. Reporting Entity and Commencement of Trust

The trust is an incorporated society. It commenced its activities in April 2007 and became incorporated in August 2007.

### 3. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2008.

### 4. 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 not registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) and is therefore able neither to claim a GST refund on expenditure nor is liable for GST on receipts. Consequently all leviable amounts in the financial statements are shown gross, inclusive of GST.

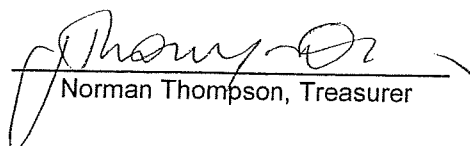
### 5. Comparable Figures for the Previous Financial Year

Because this is the first year of operation, no comparable figures are available.



Shane Vermeer, Chairman

4 May 2008



Norman Thompson, Treasurer

## Auditors' Report

To the members of Southern Cross Kids Camps N Z Trust Board

We have audited the financial statements on pages 1 and 2. The financial statements provide information about the past financial performance of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2008 and its financial position as at that date. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 2.

### Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2008 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

### Auditors' Responsibilities

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by the Trustees and reporting our opinion to you.

### Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- (a) the significant estimates and judgements made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements; and
- (b) whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the Trust, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

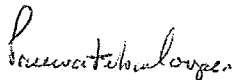
We have no relationship with or interests in the Trust other than in our capacity as auditors.

### Unqualified Opinion

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

In our opinion the financial statements on pages 1 and 2 fairly reflect the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2008 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

Our audit was completed on 4 May 2008 and our unqualified opinion is expressed as at that date.



Chartered Accountants

Dunedin