

Kai Ora Fund 2026

Application form (2026)

Application No. Kai-083 From Donnellys Crossing Community Group

Form Submitted 17 May 2026, 11:49AM NZST

About you

*** indicates a required field**

Introduction

In this Kai Ora Fund application, you'll be asked to provide:

- contact details for yourself, your organisation, and other organisation details to confirm eligibility
- a detailed project proposal clearly outlining who this will support, why it is needed, and why we should consider supporting it
- a clear project budget that lists what your project will cost and how you intend to fund it
- supporting documents including proof of bank account, form of ID, quotes or evidence of costs, and a letter of support from the community. Please note if you are applying under an umbrella organisation you will need an additional letter of support from them.

You'll also be asked to agree to our grant terms and conditions.

Save your progress regularly.

Key project contact

Enter the contact details of the main contact for this project and application.

Applicant Project Contact

Nigel Corbett

Project contact's role

Chair Person

Project contact phone number

+64 22 666 7629

Must be a New Zealand phone number.

Project contact email

nigel@mckorbett.co.nz

Must be an email address.

Project Group / Community group name (if applicable)

Donnellys Crossing Community Group

Organisation details or umbrella organisation (if applicable)

Organisation name *

Donnellys Crossing Community Group

What legal status does your group have? *

Charity

EG: charitable trust, incorporated society, educational institute, trust etc.

Is this an umbrella organisation?

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Yes No

Registration numbers

If you know your charities register number (CC...) or NZBN number (12 digits) please enter them below and select Lookup.

Applicant NZ Charity Registration Number (CRN)

New Zealand Charities Register Information
Reg Number
Legal Name
Other Names
Reg Status
Charity's Street Address
Charity's Postal Address
Telephone
Fax
Email
Website
Reg Date

Must be formatted correctly.

Applicant NZBN

New Zealand Companies Register Information
NZBN
Entity Name
Registration Date
Entity Status
Entity Type
Registered Address
Office Address

Must be formatted correctly.

Are you GST registered?

Yes No

GST Number

Secondary contact person

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Enter the details of a second person we can contact about this project if we need to. If you are applying under an umbrella organisation, please provide a contact from there.

Admin contact

Derrick Unwin

Admin contact's role

Secretary

Admin contact's phone number

Must be a New Zealand phone number.

Admin contact's email

scubadel@hotmail.com

Must be an email address.

About the project

*** indicates a required field**

Give your project a name

Project Title *

The Uey Kai Garden

Must be no more than 250 characters.

What type of project is this? (select all that apply) *

- Business / Social Enterprise
- Education Workshops & Wānanga
- Environmental Stewardship & Regeneration
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Maara Kai (Food Garden)
- Riparian Planting (Waterway planting)
- Other:

Which of Kai Ora's mission statements does your project align with? (Please select one or more). *

- Increased availability, promotion, or utilisation of local healthy food to increase health and wellbeing (oranga).
- Increased self-sufficiency and community resilience (rangatiratanga).
- The sharing of food and knowledge, including customary techniques (kaitiakitanga and mātauranga).
- Community cooperation and connection and benefits for the wider community (whanaungatanga).
- Increased regional economic development and local employment opportunities.

Which of Kai Ora's priorities does your project align with? (Please select one or more). *

- Whanaketanga: Engage multiple partners and strengthen cooperation and regional

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development.

- Promote Equity: Prioritise lower socio-economic communities (and in particular children), or people with food security and accessibility issues.
- Whakapapa: Strengthen whānau, hapu, iwi and Māori communities.
- Sustainable: We will prioritise projects that show they can sustain their work and impact beyond the initial grant.

Have you applied for Kai Ora before? And if so when? *

- First time applicant 2025 2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019
 2018 2017 2016 2015

If you previously applied, please provide the project name(s).

Location of project

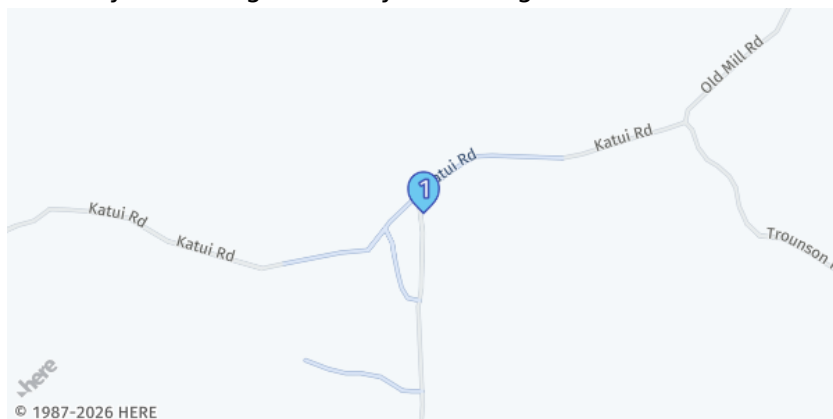
In which Council district is the project located? *

Kaipara

Where is the project located? *

3 Donnellys Station Rd

Donnellys Crossing Donnellys Crossing 0379 New Zealand



Address Line 1, Suburb, and Town/City are required. Country must be New Zealand

Project proposal

Successful applicants answer the following questions thoroughly.

What are you planning to do? *

Build a garden for ourselves that feeds us, feeds our connections to the land, our connections to each other and our connections to the local iwi.

We are building a community kai garden on the Uey - the central reserve in the heart of Donnellys Crossing.

This is six raised garden beds, a community food stand, and storage, on a site we already maintain and use. We hope it will be the kickstart of something larger: our remote rural community remembering how to be, with food as the reason for gathering and indigenous principles as part of the frame from the beginning rather than the end or an add on.

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The Things:

Six raised garden beds (2.4m × 1.2m × 0.4m, H4 treated pine)

A community food stand

A kids' plot, with the local school invited to be part of it

Soil and compost from local suppliers

Signage acknowledging Kai Ora and naming the kaupapa

Timeframe:

Bed construction autumn 2026.

Soil delivery within two weeks of build.

First planting autumn 2026.

Food stand operational by spring.

The annual community picnic sports day - dormant for two years - returns next year (probably February), hosted at the gardens.

Key people and relationships:

DCCG (22 active volunteers). A lead group of experienced gardeners to plant, teach, and pass on knowledge.

Some gardening CV's:

-I have some knowledge in seed germination/ soil conditioning preparation work towards setup of gardens.

-10+years verity of our greens alot of them are basic with no physical efforts like courgette, pumpkin, kamokamo cucumber they pretty much grow themselves with good ground conditions.

-Can grow the odd fruit tree from seed but takes a while. just put in my window veges which are doing great so far. so has Doug. seed saving is very easy. just dry them out on a sunny windowsill.

-Additionally I was thinking, down the line I could help pickle, ferment, dry and excess harvest. I've got the basics to start doing that ready for action.

-I have my Level 2 in horticulture, NZQA accredited. I've been growing veg and some fruit trees for about 10 years. I have worked part-time as a gardener at Wild Forest Estate until I had a non work related accident. I now work as a landscape gardener at Kauri Park Top 10.

-I have experience in seed collection, sowing, germinating, pricking out, transferring, planting, pruning, staking and harvesting. Also, weeding, composting and fertilizing.

-Whilst I'm new to growing anything but headaches ;), I have quite an extensive collection of seeds that I was saving

Te Roroa Matua Snow Tane has given his blessing to the kaupapa and we are liaising with Te Roroa iwi.

We visit Waikarā Marae on Tuesday (19/5/26), coinciding with an Aranga School Visit, to learn from their papakāinga gardens project, which is three years ahead of where we're starting.

We aim to create a relationship with the school. As well as the DC local children, we are planning that they will tend the kids raised bed.

We will also visit Waimamaku Community Garden.

We will continue to reach out to surrounding marae and communities.

Local DC'ers have diggers, trucks, tractors, and craft skills. Sheep wool dags from local

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farms become mulch. We already have working bees. Now, as well as grass-cutting and weed-eating they will grow food for our community.

Resources we need: The grant from Kai Ora. Everything else - tools, machinery, knowledge, labour, energy and enthusiasm, local supply relationships - is already in the community.

Please give details of the steps you are taking in your project, timeframe, key people involved, resources you need and other groups you are working with.

What have you already done? *

The Donnellys Crossing Community Group has run as the village's community organisation for years. We maintain the Uey, the central reserve in the heart of Donnellys Crossing,

We have built the BBQ shelter that sits on it.

The site is already in active community use and we have held three very successful market days there in the past two years.

A community food stand already operates a few hundred metres down the road. We'll move this to the Uey.

In adjacent community work, DCCG has recently led a fire preparedness initiative - fire extinguishers and blankets being distributed, safety burn kits planned, a Fire Service workshop confirmed. The food security thinking that led to this application sits within a wider DCCG focus on rural resilience.

Provide background on the project and the group applying. What have you already done/set up/researched/confirmed?

What difference will your project make? *

Donnellys Crossing is a small remote rural community on the Kauri Coast. The nearest supermarket is in Dargaville, half an hour away. Fuel costs, the rising cost of living, and the distance from supply all press on household budgets in ways that urban food projects don't have to think about. Some here run low on food. They shouldn't.

This project puts food in reach. Spray-free, organic, grown here, available at a discreetly designed community food stand where anyone can take what they need. Children can walk up and take what they need. Elders on fixed incomes can walk up and take what they need. The food stand answers a real condition.

The project unlocks knowledge that has always been here. Donnellys Crossing has gardeners with decades of experience working in their own gardens. They have agreed to teach. We have preservers, cooks, builders, woodworkers, engineers, farmers. The garden gives all of this knowledge a reason to come into the same place, to be passed on, to be share with the community.

It engages children directly. A dedicated kids' plot with school involvement. Children learning to grow alongside the elders who hold the knowledge. The annual community picnic sports day -dormant for two years - returns next year at the gardens. This is mainly an event for the kids.

This project builds relationship with mana whenua. The kaupapa carries Te Roroa's blessing. The visit to Waikara Marae on Tuesday begins a learning relationship with a marae three years ahead of us. This is a community garden that grows alongside theirs from the beginning.

It gives the community group a credibility moment. DCCG has the energy and the people but has needed a project of this scale and visibility to demonstrate what it can do. The trust earned through delivering it opens the door to the next things - wider food security work, deeper partnerships, the resilience kaupapa Donnellys Crossing is already moving toward.

The project will be well documented. So other communities can borrow. What works in Donnellys Crossing - the designs, the knowledge systems, the relations with mana whenua,

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the working bee rhythm and timing - these are transferable. Other small rural communities will look at what DCCG built know how to do it themselves.

The results we expect to see, in the first eighteen months:

Six productive beds producing kai consistently

A community food stand stocked regularly

A working group of six to eight lead gardeners with named roles and a maintenance rhythm

Twenty-plus DCCG members and Donnellys Crossing residents who can point at a bed and say "I'm growing that"

An ongoing relationship with Waikarā Marae

A children's plot active across the school year

The picnic sports day re-established at the gardens

Why are you doing this project? What results do you expect to see?

Who will you work with? *

Donnellys Crossing Community Group is the lead organisation.

DCCG has around 22 active volunteers and a working committee. We are the organisation for the project and carry the ongoing responsibility.

Te Roroa.

The project sits within Te Roroa rohe. Matua Snow Tane has given his blessing to the kaupapa and pointed us toward the wider network of marae and community contacts in the area.

Waikarā Marae. Three years into their own papakāinga gardens, feeding the Waikarā community.

Several DC people will be visiting Waikarā on Tuesday to begin a learning relationship - to hear their story, what's worked, what they wish they'd known at the start.

We will also explore working alongside them on emergency preparedness, which sits naturally with the food security kaupapa.

Surrounding marae and communities.

We are beginning to reach out beyond Waikarā, with iwi leaders guidance, to connect the project into a wider network of food-sharing, knowledge exchange, and rural resilience.

The gardeners of Donnellys Crossing.

They lead the working group, plant out the beds, and teach. This project brings their knowledge into the community.

The local school.

Invited to be part of the kids' plot. Children learning to grow alongside community elders who hold the knowledge.

What support (other than financial) would help your project? *

A few things, in order of value to us:

Ongoing connection to the Kai Ora network.

Being part of the wider Kai Ora kaupapa beyond the grant itself - attending the Kai Ora Workshop, meeting other funded projects, learning from communities that have been there, done that

Introductions to other Kai Ora-funded projects in Northland.

Particularly any that have built community food stands, run children's growing programmes,

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or worked through the relationships between Pākehā-majority community groups and mana whenua.

Advice on year two and beyond.

This grant kicks the project off. But what sustains it - how can we make sure the working group stays energised, how the food stand continues to be stocked through winter, how the school relationship deepens, how the marae partnership grows. Guidance from Kai Ora or from projects further along would shorten the learning curve.

Visibility and storytelling.

The story of this project is worth telling - for ourselves mostly. But other small rural communities considering similar work, and for the wider conversation about food sovereignty in Aotearoa. Help in telling that story, in the ways Kai Ora finds useful, would be welcomed.

Acknowledgement of what's already here. Donnellys Crossing brings a lot to this project that doesn't need to be funded - the gardeners, the equipment, the local suppliers, the existing community traditions, the relational ground already opened with Te Roroa and Waikarā. Being seen as a community that's already capable, that's using this grant as a kick-start matters to us.

EG. reflect on factors that will impact your ability to complete the project; whether you have team experience, skills of team members in things important to the project such as marketing, gardening skills, community networks, etc. If this project is being run by an ECE or school, let us know how the project will be supported over holiday periods.

Budget and request

*** indicates a required field**

Your request

How much funding are you applying for? *

\$4,530.00

Must be a dollar amount.

Be realistic and only ask for what you need. Most successful applications are between \$500 and \$5,000.

Project budget

Project Budget (Expenditure)

Please outline your project expenses in the expenditure table below. Add more rows as needed.

Expenditure description	Expenditure amount (budgeted)	Notes
Provide clear descriptions for each budget item. Examples of expenses could include 'onsite power & water for 6 months'.	Enter the total amount to be expended on this budget item. Must be a dollar amount.	Add notes if you need to provide more context.

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Raised garden beds — timber, screws, and weed matting for 6 beds (2.4m × 1.2m × 0.4m, H4 treated pine, community-built)	\$1,400.00	DIY community build. Materials priced from Bunnings Whangārei. Includes weed matting. Build day labour provided by DCCG volunteers.
Soil and compost — approximately 7m ³ of garden mix to fill 6 beds	\$900.00	From Kaipara Landscape Supplies, Dargaville. Includes delivery to Donnellys Crossing. Price subject to phone confirmation with supplier (0800 769 843).
Community food stand — materials for a weatherproof roadside stand designed for discreet use	\$450.00	Community-built using local labour. H3 treated framing, corrugated roofing, exterior ply, paint and fixings.
Initial seed and seedling stock — mixed vegetable seeds and seedlings suitable for Northland year-round growing	\$200.00	Kings Seeds NZ for seeds, Awapuni Nurseries or local Bunnings/Mitre 10 for seedlings. Sized to plant out 6 beds plus kids' plot.
Signage - main project board acknowledging Kai Ora plus bed labels and "what's in season" board	\$250.00	Main board commissioned from D&D Signs Whangārei (quote pending). Smaller labels DIY by community.
Deisel and other associated fuel costs	\$400.00	This is just an estimate. The way things are going, we have no idea really.
Fruit trees — 6 trees (lemon, mandarin, 2 feijoa, plum, peach) suited to Northland climate	\$450.00	Sourced from Northland nurseries. Varieties chosen for year-round nutritional value and proven productivity in the local climate.
Banana plants — 3 cold-tolerant variety plants (Misi Luki or Ladyfinger)	\$150.00	Sourced locally where possible. Productive within 12-18 months.
Tree stakes, ties, and initial mulch for fruit trees and bananas	\$180.00	Stakes and ties from local supplier. Mulch supplemented by sheep wool dags (in-kind from local farms).
Contingency (approx. 5%)	\$150.00	For unexpected material costs or supplier price changes.

Project Budget (Income)

If you are receiving money from other sources to fund this project (or hope to), please provide the details below.

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Income description	Is this funding confirmed?	Income amount (budgeted)
Examples might be other grant funding or sponsorship		Enter the total amount expected. Must be a dollar amount.
DCCG in-kind contribution: tools, machinery, expertise, working bee labour	Confirmed	\$0.00
DCCG in-kind contribution: local equipment access (diggers, trucks, tractors, mowers) provided by community members	Confirmed	\$0.00
DCCG in-kind contribution: sheep wool dags from local farms for mulch	Confirmed	\$0.00

Declaration

*** indicates a required field**

Acknowledgements and agreements

By submitting this application, you confirm that you are duly authorised to submit this project proposal on behalf of the applicant organisation and agree to:

1. Openly share project information and allow details of the project and key contact details to be shared/used in marketing if your project is successful.
2. Be responsible for the health and safety of the project and ensure all plans/training are completed before the project commences.
3. Engage with the Kai Ora team and be part of the Kai Ora Network. We ask that you tag or mention Kai Ora in project marketing.
4. Complete contract and receive funds into an organisational bank account. Must ensure they are used as per agreement and this spending is tracked.
5. Submit a report on project completion.
6. Confirm that key project people or representatives will attend a Kai Ora Workshop.

I confirm I am duly authorised to make this application and I accept the application agreement *

Yes

How did you hear about the Kai Ora Fund?

- Social media
- Newspaper article
- Newspaper ad
- Past project
- Family/friends/network
- Other:

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Supporting information

Bank account information

We will only pay into the legal bank account associated with the named organisation applicant.

Applicant bank account

Account Name: Donnellys Crossing
Community Group

Account Number: 123098001164000

Must be a valid New Zealand bank account format.

Upload supporting information

Proof of bank account

No files have been uploaded

Must show account name and number, such as a bank statement header, deposit slip, or letter from your bank.

Form of ID

Filename: Nigel Corbett DL Back.jpg

File size: 842.1 kB

Filename: Nigel Corbett DL.jpg

File size: 142.6 kB

Drivers License, Passport or Birth Certificate

Quotes or other evidence of expense costs

No files have been uploaded

Letter of Support

Filename: DCCG_Letter_of_Support.docx

File size: 9.6 kB

Please include a letter of support from your community.

Umbrella Organisation - Letter of Support

No files have been uploaded

If you are using an umbrella organisation please include their letter of support here

Any other supporting documents you'd like to provide

Filename: Snow Tane Email.pdf

File size: 34.8 kB

Filename: Waikarā email.pdf

File size: 165.9 kB