

21 Landscape Road  
Pukekohe

5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

***To Whom it May Concern***

I write in support of Te Whangai Trust in their application to ASB Community Trust – Catalyst for Change fund.

At the time Te Whangai Trust was being set up by Adrienne and Gary Dalton in 2007, I was the Mayor of the then, Franklin District Council. I was particularly enamoured by the passion for the environment and also their unique ability to harness this passion to give direction to their ‘employees’ – the long term, at risk unemployed. They very much live their motto “*Nurturing people to nurture the environment*”.

I have watched the Trust grow and develop over the years as they find practical solutions to some of our community's more difficult issues. Their 2 nurseries provide immeasurable and necessary work skills which results in the Trust not only growing plants but Citizens also.

From the fledgling nursery at Miranda the Trust has responded to community need by opening another at NZ Steel in Glenbrook, where, together with the most vulnerable members of our community, have succeeded in nurturing a ‘corporate responsibility’ and in so doing have gained valuable long term employment.

This self-sustaining enterprise has an innate ability to work at a deep AND broad perspective which works alongside the strategic approach of both Government departments and Big-business.

It is through the Trusts unrelenting pursuit of their vision that they have built strong community partnerships enabling the development of what is now referred to as the quadruple bottom line – social, economic, environmental and cultural.

I have no hesitation in commending the fantastic work of the Trust as they endeavour to provide holistic solutions to some of the county’s most debated and problematic issues, by delivering training, skills and practical experience in a very collaborative manner.

Yours,

***MRBall***

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