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Kia ora 2026
and welcome back to Able Gardeners!

Kia ora koutou katoa, Jana here! As the new year gets underway, I wanted to pause and look back on a very successful year for Able Gardeners. We have now completed our first full year of gardening since starting at the end of 2024, and we are very happy with how things have gone.

It has been a year full of learning and growth, muddy boots, and great conversations in gardens across the community. Along the way there have also been plenty of holes in our gloves, a few broken tools, and the odd piece of equipment left behind!

Growing Our Skills

At Able Gardeners we focus on meaningful work experiences, and learning about plants and ourselves, and 2025 gave us lots to be proud of.

Wade has had a standout year. Alongside his regular gardening work, he completed his Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture at NMIT, which is a huge achievement and a very positive learning experience.

I've also been busy behind the scenes and out in the gardens, working towards my Level 3 Certificate through the Open Polytechnic, and continuing to build skills that support our team and our kaupapa.

By the Numbers

Here's a snapshot of what 2025 looked like for Able Gardeners:

- 51 unique gardens cared for

- 50% of our gardens are now maintained on a regular basis

- 585 hours worked by Wade in 2025

Favourite moments from the gardens

Looking back on the year, I asked Wade what his favourite gardening experience was, and his answer was: "It's gotta be the one with the helicopter ride!"

For me, one of the highlights was planting natives in the Moutere. Seeing new plants go into the ground and imagining what the area will look like in 20 years' time was very rewarding.

We are genuinely proud of the work we do and love working in every single garden we go to, big or small, even when we have to backtrack

for forgotten tools.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We will be back at work in the week starting Monday 12 January, and we will be in touch with our regular clients to get back into the rhythm of ongoing garden care.

As we move into 2026, our focus is on continuing to grow in a thoughtful and sustainable way. We want to create more hands-on work experience, offer further paid employment opportunities, and keep building our knowledge of practical, sustainable gardening, while holding on to the fun, teamwork, and pride that come with a job well done.

Thank you!

A big thank you to our wonderful clients and supporters. You make this work possible. We are really looking forward to another year of working together and seeing what we can grow in 2026.

Here's to another year of good gardens, good people, and well-used tools

Ngā mihi,

Jana

Director | Able Gardeners

Able Gardeners

- ✓ Weeding
- ✓ Lawn Mowing
- ✓ Planting
- ✓ Hedge Cutting
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Greenwaste removal

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