

## Rent concessions report – 2024

Organisation	Value
Dyslexia Plus	\$3,098
Grinters Glass	\$43,123
Hihiaua Cultural Centre Trust	\$61,700
Literacy Aotearoa (not provided)	\$10,317
Northland MS Society	\$2,112
ONEONESIX Trust	\$31,000
Whangarei Youth Music	\$70,000
WINGS	\$2,976



Whangarei District Council Rent Concession Report for the year to 30 June 2024  
Attn. Community Funding Committee

Dyslexia PLUS Whangarei continues to be a place where parents/grandparents/social workers concerned about the school progress of their child/grandchild/client can make contact for advice and support, and are then able to choose if they want to access the fees-for-services we can offer. Primarily we are able to offer specialist teaching services that aim to individualise the tuition for each student. We also aim to support our member families with information, networking, resources, and camaraderie.

#### **For our members**

During the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 Dyslexia PLUS Whangarei has:

- Responded to enquiries by phone, email, through our website, or in person to 51 people; People have mostly made the initial contact through our website. Those making an enquiry were mainly family members (parents and grandparents); some were social workers, some were referred to us by their friends or the child's school teacher. The benefits have included advocacy support to concerned parents and provided a pathway of support.
- Provided weekly 1:1 lessons with one of our team of 8 specialist teachers for 31 students, aged from 7 - 15 years old and attending 6 different primary schools, 4 Intermediates (Pompallier College and Excellere College included), 3 high schools, and 1 homeschooler. The benefits have included a noticeable lift in self-esteem and increased literacy skills to better show their knowledge and understanding at school.
- Hosted a weekly small group structured literacy class over terms 2 and 3, completing this in October 2023 for 4 students. They were senior students at 3 primary schools. The benefits included not feeling alone (there are others like me), actively supporting each other, and improving their literacy skills.
- Completed, in October, an 8-month course for parent and child combos. These three and a half hour workshops were focused on Executive functions (life skills). 11 combos

registered; most parents attended on alternate months. The young people who attended were in years 5 - 8 from 9 different schools and 1 homeschooler.

The benefits included family awareness of and practice in, life skills such as time management, organisation, and taking initiative. An added benefit was the enjoyment of learning alongside others as part of a very supportive group.

- referred 9 families to the assessors who work for those of our members requesting a formal educational psychological assessment

The benefits of this included the steps that affirmed to the parents that they were understood and that professional checks and balances were put in place before the family decided on a formal assessment, which was available locally rather than having to travel to Auckland.

- maintained a specialist library for our members to use

The benefits of having such a library includes support for our families of parent books and learning games to enjoy with their child/ren, alongside providing 'community' resources (professional books, readers, equipment, and learning activities) for our teachers to supplement the core programme they base their lessons on.

- been able to offer scholarships to subsidize the cost of lessons to the 2 families who applied for this assistance

The benefit of a scholarship is that it lessens the financial commitment families have to meet to pay for these weekly lessons when seeking support outside the school because their child's needs are not being met at the school

### **In the community**

During the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 Dyslexia PLUS Whangarei has:

- emailed a newsletter each term both to members and to all who have made contact with us; we have 198 email subscribers

The benefits of this include celebrating student success in different areas of their lives, informing of (and reporting back from) events we have hosted, advising readers of resources they can consider, and sharing an article about one of the many people who have found fulfillment in a wide variety of careers in spite of school being a challenge for them.

- participated in the 2023 Christmas Tree festival held at St John's church

The benefits of this include coming together at a workshop to make the new decorations and to have a public face alongside other organisations taking part in the festival

- celebrated the International Dyslexia Awareness month in October by participating in the Whangarei Hidden Books project; our members donating the books, placing them in plastic bags and 'hiding' more than 70 in public spaces

The benefits of this were two-fold: involving our members to come together to ready the donated books for 'hiding' and to involve the public in the thrill of finding these books encouraging them to 'read and re-hide'.

- hosted an evening for five year 8 and older students, accompanied by a parent, when a former student (after her year 13 final exams) shared from her experiences, titled 'Tackling Learning Challenges at High school'

The benefit of this was to give these year 9 and older students in 2024 some personal insights of how to cope with the demands of secondary school that they might be more aware of how they learn best, to be advocates for themselves, and to know that persistence and practice are keys to success

- continued to be a member of the Tai Tokerau Literacy Association
- continued to be a member of Volunteering Northland

The benefit of belonging to these local groups is to foster networking and support for each other.

- sustained a working relationship with Te Ora Hou; one of our teachers has worked with two of their students and has contribute to the training of one of their Learning Assistants
- The benefit of this is to be able to share our knowledge and expertise for the students and the Teacher Aide, extending their skills.

- had members willing to be a reader/writer for students sitting exams at secondary schools; this year we were asked to do this at Whangarei Boys' High School
- The benefit of this is to support the students with special assessment conditions (SACs).

From the small team of passionate and long- serving members of the teaching team and the committee members we are pleased with what we have achieved in serving our members and community. With the support of the Whangarei District Council, we are grateful to have an office base in the CBD.





GRINTER GLASS

Annual Report for Whangarei District Council  
September 2023 to August 2024

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## Community Benefit

There are many ways in which the Grinter Glass Studio provides benefit for the community:

1. Visitors and locals have free access to watch glass blowing in the studio when the Burning Issues Gallery is open.
2. We run workshops to teach anyone over the age of ten the amazing art of glass blowing.
3. We rent the studio to other glass artists so they can make their own work without owning and running a glass studio.
4. Four full time staff make a living in Whangarei blowing glass and assisting with all the day-to-day operations in the studio.
5. Two trainees working at the studio are learning glass blowing and the business of running a glass studio.
6. Two trained glass blowers working at Grinter Glass are developing their skills and knowledge of this challenging business.
7. The glass art we make is available to a wide demographic because we make a range of pieces from small to large, simple to complex and cheap to expensive.
8. Glass art from the studio is sent to over 40 galleries and design outlets around New Zealand. We also sell small items through our website to people both in New Zealand and overseas. Our national and international profile increases the visibility of the glass studio, the Town Basin and Whangarei to potential visitors and customers.
9. We use social media to effectively promote our work and workshops and thus draw people to the Town Basin.
10. The glass studio is an integral part of the Town Basin experience which is one of the key attractions in Whangarei.
11. Through workshops, training new glass blowers and providing a place for experienced glass blowers to practice their craft, the glass studio helps ensure the survival of the ancient art of glass blowing.

### *Needs, challenges and aspirations.*

There is no longer anywhere in New Zealand that teaches glass blowing to a tertiary level qualification nor is there an approved apprenticeship scheme. To ensure the future of glass blowing in Whangarei I have employed a master glass blower, Brendon Sole and two trainees, Shirah Andrews and Sergio Bloemen. Brendon and I have developed a curriculum to facilitate their training. This is a considerable expense for the studio but necessary to help ensure the future of the studio in Whangarei and glass blowing in New Zealand.

The poor state of the economy has been a challenge over the last year. I am finding ways to reduce expenses and keep cash flow positive. The reduced orders over the last few months has meant our costs are greater than our income. There are signs that this will improve by the end of the financial year. As a result of the slow sales we have been able to allow our trainees more time to practice the skills we are teaching them.

One of the delights of blowing glass in the Town Basin studio is seeing the enthusiasm of visitors to the studio. Thanks to the Hundertwasser Museum the number of visitors and the resulting sales have held up well compared to the rest of the country (as shown by the drop in

sales for our the galleries that represent us around the rest of the country). Seeing us working with glass helps people realise that they too can pursue their dreams if they have the passion.

The stable team I now have working in the studio gives me confidence that we can create a succession plan so I can retire at some point. I have found a local accountant who should be able to guide us towards this plan.

Because we all work different days, we usually meet early on Wednesdays for a team meeting and coffee at the local café to catch up on studio business and training progress.

### ***Meeting concession requirements***

The team all work hard to make sure someone is in the studio blowing glass every day of the year, apart from the compulsory statutory days off. There are usually two people in the studio, which frees someone to talk to visitors when needed and allows the main glass blower to concentrate on glass blowing. Once a week, usually on Wednesdays, we need to fill the furnace with the raw ingredients to make the clear glass we use.

### **Return for Community Benefit for the reporting period.**

To work out if we give the Whangarei District Council value for the rent concession I have calculated:

1. The benefits of free viewing for visitors.
2. The discount I give for workshops.
3. The discount I give glass blowers who rent the studio.
4. The extra cost of working over weekends and public holidays.

<b>Community Benefit provided 2023-24</b>	
Visitors	\$58,435
Workshops	\$3,540
Studio Renters	\$4,422
Weekends and statutory holidays	\$26,444
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$92,841</b>

### **Visitors**

We welcome visitors to watch glass blowing in the studio free of charge. Few other studios in New Zealand are able to allow the public to watch glass blowing every day.

I calculate the value of free watching based on what other studios charge. I have kept a record of visitor numbers for the last 5 years and seen an increase in average monthly numbers from about 2000 to 5000 in that time. The table below shows the figures for the last year. Assuming 10% of the viewers would pay to watch us blowing glass, I estimate this gave a return of about \$58,000 to the council over the last 12 months. This is based on \$10 per person charged for

families, by Lava Glass, near Taupo. They charge \$12.50 per person for everyone else. They do give a refund of the entry fee if you buy something from their shop<sup>1</sup>.

Date	Visitor Count	Visitor Value
Aug-24	2580	\$2,580
Jul-24	3378	\$3,378
Jun-24	3122	\$3,122
May-24	2769	\$2,769
Apr-24	5472	\$5,472
Mar-24	5803	\$5,803
Feb-24	7439	\$7,439
Jan-24	10603	\$10,603
Dec-23	8046	\$8,046
Nov-23	832	\$832
Oct-23	5098	\$5,098
Sep-23	3293	\$3,293
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58435</b>	<b>\$58,435</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>4870</b>	<b>\$4,870</b>

Note the increase in visitor numbers over the summer months when the heat makes blowing glass in the studio a bit of a challenge.

Comparison with the visitor numbers over the last five years shows there was a 50% increase in visitor numbers at about the time the Hundertwasser Art Centre opened and a 5% decrease in visitors over the last reporting year. This coincided with increased visitors after the Covid lock downs and a significant economic downturn over the last year.

Year	Visitor total	Percent change	
2023-24	5013	-5.20%	
2022-23	5288	50.83%	Hundertwasser open
2021-22	3506	1.09%	
2020-21	3468	20.86%	
2019-20	2870	35.39%	
2018-19	2120		

(Note: The Hundertwasser Art Centre opened on 20 February 2022)

## Glass Blowing Workshops

The Council concession allows me to offer workshops at a discounted rate compared with the cost of running the studio and paying the tutor. I offer a workshops at \$240 per hour, a discount

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<sup>1</sup> Note: I am very pleased to offer free viewing of glass blowing to visitors. When our children were young, we could not afford to watch the glass blowing at Höglund Glass when we visited Nelson.

of \$30. This gives the council a return of \$3,540 on their investment in the studio. In the last 12 months we spent an average of 10 hours per month running workshops.

Month	W/shop hrs	Discount
Aug-24	4	\$120
Jul-24	8	\$240
Jun-24	5	\$150
May-24	17	\$510
Apr-24	6	\$180
Mar-24	9	\$270
Feb-24	6	\$180
Jan-24	7	\$210
Dec-23	19	\$570
Nov-23	21	\$630
Oct-23	5	\$150
Sep-23	11	\$330
<b>Totals</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>\$3,540</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$295</b>

### Value of Studio Rental

Thanks to the Council concession we can offer a discounted rate for studio renters. To cover studio costs, I would need to charge \$250 per hour without the concession. The discount of \$70 per hour created a community benefit of about \$4,400 for the period of this report. Note that the glass blowers who rent the studio stayed away in January and February to avoid summer heat.

Date	Renters' hrs	Discount
Aug-24	11	\$778
Jul-24	7	\$495
Jun-24	4	\$283
May-24	3.5	\$248
Apr-24	5.5	\$389
Mar-24	2	\$142
Feb-24	0	\$0
Jan-24	0	\$0
Dec-23	7.5	\$531
Nov-23	0	\$0
Oct-23	7.5	\$531
Sep-23	14.5	\$1,026
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$4,422</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$369</b>

### Value of working weekends

An important way to fulfil the concession requirements is to blow glass when there are most visitors. This means we try to work weekends, public holidays, school holidays as well as

through the heat of the summer. I estimate that working for 51 weekends and on 9 statutory holidays during the last year was worth about \$26,000, based on standard overtime rates and the average wage.

<b>Weekend and stats cost</b>			
Average Wage per annum	\$82,836	Per day =	\$318.60
<b>Day</b>	<b>Days Blowing</b>	<b>Extra Cost</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	49	\$15,611.40	Double time
<b>Sat</b>	52	\$8,283.60	Time and a half
<b>Stat Days</b>	8	\$2,548.80	Double time
<b>Value of community benefit</b>		<b>\$26,443.80</b>	

## Productivity

We have blown glass and entertained visitors every day we could for the last twelve months. We were working but not open to the public on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May because gallery staff were all away due to Covid19.

We were closed Christmas Day, Easter Friday, Anzac Day and Matariki. I expected to be blowing on Matariki but the gallery decided not to open.

We had a major breakdown at the beginning of November, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The UV sensor that detects the flame of the burner in the main glass furnace failed and so did my spare (see later for more details). We were able to hire Justin Culina's studio for some of the three-week outage which meant we could keep up with orders, although it cost a lot to hire his studio. I stayed at the Town basin studio to assist the electricians and talk to visitors, who were not able to watch glass blowing while the repair was carried out.

Date	Days In Month	Hrs Blowing	Days Blowing	Days Batching	Productivity	25kg Bags Glass Loaded
Aug-24	31	164	27	4	100%	17
Jul-24	31	160	26	5	100%	21
Jun-24	29	147.5	25	4	100%	14.5
May-24	30	164.5	26	5	100%	18
Apr-24	28	173	26	4	107%	22
Mar-24	31	167	27	3	97%	15.5
Feb-24	28	165	25	4	104%	16.5
Jan-24	31	175	26	5	100%	23
Dec-23	30	184.5	27	3	100%	18
Nov-23	30	122.5	5	1	20%	4.5
Oct-23	31	161	26	4	97%	22
Sep-23	30	160	26	4	100%	20.5
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1944</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>46</b>		<b>212.5 Bags</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>162.00</b>	<b>25.58</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>17.71</b>
<b>Closed</b>	<b>Easter,</b>	<b>Christmas,</b>	<b>Anzac, Matariki</b>	Total Batch	loaded	<b>5.31 (tons)</b>

## **Financial management and solvency.**

The studio grew every year from when I bought it in 2013 until 2022. The last two years have seen a reduction in sales but I am optimistic that we will see improved sales for the rest of the year. I have worked hard to keep in touch with our outlets and keep price rises to a minimum to keep cash flow positive. I have been proactive in generating orders from both existing and new outlets.

## **Profit and loss and cash flow.**

I have not heard back from my accountant about the last financial year but expect that we made a loss. This winter has proved to be worse than last year resulting in negative cash flow. I have called on cash reserves to keep the studio going. The economic downturn has, however, enabled us to do a lot of training with our two inexperienced glass blowers.

## **Growth**

We have picked up a few new outlets in the last year including Sculptureum in Matakana who have proved very successful in selling our work.

## **Succession Planning**

I hope to carry on running the studio for the next five years of the current lease. The plan is to continue to develop my staff with the skills they need to take over the studio when I retire. Another option would be to sell the business to another party but I would rather pass the studio on to my current staff.

To help with this process I plan to change to a local accountant once my current accountant has finalised last year's accounts. I believe I have found the right person to help me develop a plan and set the studio up in a way that makes the studio viable for many years.

I have recently asked my staff to start writing their own business plans for the studio. The idea behind this exercise is threefold:

- Firstly, I need to rethink the business plan to survive the current financial downturn.
- Secondly, I want to include their input in my succession plan.
- Thirdly, it helps me training my staff to think about the studio from a business point of view.

This has already resulted in some great feedback. One trainee is keen to see us develop work using more advanced techniques and the other wants us to have a greater online presence. I have put my project management hat on to develop these ideas with the team and find a path to achieve them.

## ***Health, safety and Training***

### **Grinter Glass Handbook**

I have spent much of the last year consolidating various documents into the Grinter Glass Handbook. This includes:



- Safety guidelines
  - Records of safety training
- Processes for orders
- Information on various aspects of glass blowing.
- Procedures for starting, shutting down and running the equipment.
- Checklists for setting up the studio for blowing and shutting down at the end of the day.
- Maintenance schedules
- Breakdown procedures
- Curriculum for our trainees
  - Records of trainee progress
- Reviews of sections of the handbook at our Wednesday meetings.

## Studio policies, guidelines and principles.

### *Our guiding principles are:*

- Look after yourself.
- Look after each other.
- Look after the premises and equipment.

### *To fulfil the needs of the rent concession I follow the policies below:*

- Maximise time spent blowing glass to entertain studio visitors.
- Work over weekends, public holidays and school holidays when there are more visitors.
- Keep the studio open for the hot summer months when there are more visitors. (The previous owner shut down for six weeks from Christmas).
- Minimise disruption to blowing by scheduling maintenance in the off-season and school term time.
- Build a spare furnace to enable a one-week change over instead of taking a six week break from blowing while the old furnace is demolished and then rebuilt. The latter is standard practice in many glass studios.
- Keep critical spare parts to minimise down-time when we have a breakdown.
- Set prices low enough to maximise sales and keep the studio busy all year but high enough to pay staff decent wages and keep the studio solvent.
- Use multiple streams of income to insulate the studio from financial uncertainty:
  - Develop cheaper items, like drinking glasses and paper weights, to sell in the studio directly to visitors.
  - Offer workshops to introduce new people to the amazing art of glass blowing.
  - Rent the studio to other glass blowers so they can make a living from glass blowing and create variety for visitors.
  - Continue to develop the network of galleries and stores that sell our work.
  - Develop our social media profile and website to increase visitor numbers and online sales.

## *Sustainable Creativity:*

Promote harmony between personal, business and social goals.

There are several aspects to achieving sustainable creativity in the studio:

- Make a profit so we can reinvest in the studio and keep it viable.
- Find time and develop procedures to create new ideas.
- Aim at continuous evolution of current production to keep up with changing demand and fashion.
- Glass blowing is hard physical work and many glass blowers break down after a few years by trying to do everything themselves so we need to look after everyone's health and well-being by:
  - Having enough staff to share the load
  - Train staff to manage stress on mind and body.
  - Allow for staff members individuality and personal needs.
  - Provide protective equipment like masks, Kevlar gloves and safety glasses.
  - Train staff in the use protective equipment and record training.

## Act with care and reverence for the world and its creatures<sup>2</sup>

I would like to do more to minimise the impact of the studio on the environment.

- I am looking after and expanding a small piece of native bush that helps offset some of the CO<sub>2</sub> we create by burning natural gas to melt the glass batch<sup>3</sup> and keep the glass molten.
- The furnace uses a recuperator to heat the incoming air from the flu gases which reduces gas use by about 20%.
- I use an electric bike for getting to and from the studio and on errands around Whangarei.
- I have installed solar power at home and use Ecotricity for my power supply (100% renewable).

I have thought about replacing the gas furnace with an electric furnace. ClimaTech calculated that we probably have enough power at the studio but an electric furnace would probably need to be filled with cullet. The best quality cullet comes from the Czech Republic and is manufactured using electricity generated with 70% coal and 30% nuclear power. We would then need to use more power to remelt the cullet. Our natural gas generates 55% of the heat we need from hydrogen and 45 from carbon, so it is currently the cleanest option.

My long-term goal is to buy an electric, continuous flow furnace that can be filled with batch and also avoid the need to spend a day per week batching. This would increase the time

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tlc.ac.nz/about-us/experience-the-learning-connexion-video/about-us/philosophy/>

<sup>3</sup> Batch is the term used for the premixed ingredient to make glass. Cullet is pre-made glass that needs to be remelted for use. We use Glasma 705a batch from Sweden which is pelletised. This reduces the risk from the silica dust when handling the batch and loading the furnace.

viewers can watch the glass blowers in action and enable us to increase productivity. This would require a large investment, with a return over at least 10 years.

### The Creative Spiral.

1. Idea
2. Action
3. Feedback
4. Review
5. Evolve

Ideas are not usually generated in a vacuum. They can come from:

- Abstract and figurative drawing
- Research
- Commission
- Making mistakes when blowing and discovering new ideas as we try to make the piece into something useful.
- Travelling
- In response to a problem
- Stimulated by chance events
- Created through bouncing ideas between people
- Comment from visitors

We follow the Creative Spiral in many aspects of both the art and business of glass blowing.

The actions to realise an idea may or may not be successful. Both success and failure are valid results. We often learn glass blowing by stuffing up: losing control, breaking glass or failing to create what we want.

When we make mistakes we need to:

- Gather feedback
- Think about what went wrong.
- Evolve the idea
- Try again to see if we can achieve a successful outcome.

If the action is successful it is still important to review and see if we can develop the idea further. As time passes what may have been a great idea can become not so great as circumstances and fashions change.

I was talking to fellow glass blower recently who had lost his enthusiasm for glass blowing and was struggling to keep going. Reflecting on his issues I realised that there are many advantages to having a group of glass blowers working at the Town Basin studio:

- We work as a team so can encourage and help each other.
- We give each other feedback to generate and develop ideas.
- It helps our bodies survive a demanding physical nature of glass blowing by sharing the weight of large pieces and taking turns at the various repetitive physical tasks.

- We get enthusiastic feedback from visitors that helps us appreciate the remarkable craft we practice.
- Teaching both our trainees and workshops helps us renew our respect for the skills we have mastered for this challenging craft.

## Studio Activity

### *Workshop Participants*

We continue to get great feedback from our workshops. We try to be flexible and run them to suit the customers' needs. Brendon is an excellent teacher and our students thoroughly enjoy the workshop experience (see appendix for a few recent reviews).

### *Glass blowers who rent the studio*

#### Rebecca Heap

Rebecca can be seen blowing glass every second Friday, sometimes assisted by Sergio or Shirah. Rebecca trained in Sweden and so has a different approach to glass blowing from most other New Zealand studios (except Høglund). She has an extensive network of galleries that sell her work throughout New Zealand. She also has a gallery at home and holds regular open studios.

#### Mishka Patterson

Mishka usually blows glass on alternate Fridays for half a day. He sells work through Burning Issues and other galleries and sells work from his home studio. Mishka also creates stain glass windows, sculpture and painting.

#### Justin Culina

Justin has a studio in Parua Bay area. He rented the studio on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to fulfil an urgent order while his furnace was shutdown. Justin enjoys using our furnace and equipment but does not enjoy working in public.

## *Galleries*

### **New Galleries and commissions**

Our best gallery outlet is Burning Issues, who sell three or four times as much as our other main galleries. Burning Issues and about six galleries generate most of our sales of larger work.

The only new outlet we acquired in the last year was Sculptureum, the sculpture park near Matakana. They have proven to be an excellent outlet selling similar amounts of work to our other top selling galleries.

We had several small commissions over the year.

- We created some "Roman" bowls for a movie set in Auckland.
- A local couple asked for some custom light shades and were very happy with the results.
- A clear, thick-walled vessel to fit in a sculpture.

- Combining blown glass with Patte-de-Verre in collaboration with Sue Hawker
- We have made memorial orbs for a few customers over the last year; including the ashes of loved ones in colourful paperweights. Both Brendon and I were fortunate to work with Peter Visnick at some point in our careers. Memorial orbs were an important part of Peter's glass blowing business and, as well as learning the techniques required, we both learnt the importance of being respectful and careful when dealing with the ashes of family members.

### **Sales trips.**

I continue to make the road trips to visit our galleries and promote the studio a couple of times a year. Taranaki will be my main destination in September, where I will deliver a few boxes of stock to Kina Gallery. I will then head to Wellington and the South Island to visit more galleries to keep our good relationships with them.

### ***Partner organisations***

#### **Burning Issues**

Burning Issues have now become our best gallery by far. A few years ago they were selling similar amount to two other galleries. Now they are selling five times as much. I think this reflects the improvements in our work and the increased foot traffic in the Town Basin.

#### **Big Fish Creative**

We continue to advertise the studio in the Whangarei Visitors Guide and Map.

#### **Riversdale Art Society**

We were invited by the Riversdale Art society to show our work again after a break of a few years. We sold most of the pieces we sent to their successful fundraiser.

#### **Whangarei District Council**

The support from the Whangarei District Council is essential for the success of the glass studio, particularly during the difficult trading conditions we are experiencing this year.

#### **Various Charities**

I am happy to donate a piece of our glass work for fundraiser events when ever asked. This year we gave pieces to the Hundertwasser, the Anglican Care Centre, a school and a few others.

#### **Numerous Galleries**

We are represented by 43 galleries throughout New Zealand. We also sometimes supply our work to a gallery in Sydney, Australia.

## Equipment, Maintenance and Improvements

### **New Furnace**

The new furnace we built and started in June 2021 is still running and giving us reasonable quality glass. It suffered a bit of damaged in because of the sudden shut down in November 2023 and we are getting tiny white “stones” in the glass occasionally. We are working on the new furnace and will instal that once we have it completed and the quality of the glass indicates that it is time to replace it.

### **Major breakdown**

I was called by Sutherland at 19:00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 for a low temperature alarm and went to the studio to check the furnace temperature. The furnace had stopped so I tried restarted it but was unable to. I diagnosed the problem as the UV sensor failing. This sensor ensures there is a flame and stops the gas supply if it cannot detect a flame. I installed the spare UV sensor but that also failed to work. After trying some old UV sensors I had to give up at around midnight and wrap the furnace so it cooled slowly. On Friday I tried to source a new UV sensor but discovered they were obsolete and there were none available in NZ or Australia. (I eventually located a possible source in England but it was too late by then). After discussing my problem with a supplier, I drove to Auckland to pick up a different sensor and the control box it needed (\$4,000 cf. \$1,000 for the old sensor and controller). ClimaTech came in the next week but we realized the whole system needed to be redesigned to work with the new sensor and controller. We ended up completely re-wiring the furnace controls over the next three weeks. All the wiring is now up to standard, labelled and documented. Once the work was completed and we had worked out how the new controller functioned, we got the furnace restarted and heated up slowly over the next week. This involved me staying overnight to monitor the rate of heating and keep furnace damage to a minimum. During the restart process the new sensor proved to be more sensitive and reliable than the old one. When we next swap out the furnace for the one we are building now we hope to be able to automate the restart after a power cut. This will help ensure a long life for the next furnace.

### **Second Glory hole**

We have installed the spare glory hole (reheating furnace) and it has been running for most of this year. We have rebuilt the old glory hole and will instal it when we shut down the furnace to replace it. There is a some of electrical work and testing that needs doing which will disrupt the normal operations of the studio.

### **Annealers**

The red annealer turned off unexpectedly several times in April. This has been an intermittent problem since I took over the studio in 2013 but suddenly got worse. I asked ClimaTech investigated the problem at the end of April and we decided it needed a complete rewire. They removed three transformers, simplified the wiring, made safety improvements and replaced several components. It has worked reliably since.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August Brendon noticed the blue annealer was heating up slower than usual. We called ClimaTech and they replace the contact breaker and so fixed the problem. This is an expensive component that fails every few years (\$850).

### **Power cuts**

There was a major power cut on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June due to a power pylon falling over near Auckland. We were on site so were able to cover the flu and wrap the furnace to minimise heat loss and the damage that results from fast cooling. The power was off for about three hours and we lost a day of production.

### **Blowing Irons**

We got some new medium sized blowing irons made for us by Justin Culina which proven very useful. While not quite as good as the ones I normally buy from the USA they are cheaper because of the current high cost of international shipping.

### **Building Maintenance.**

We are enjoying the new roof installed by the council. There have been no more leaks over the sales area and only the occasional flood during ridiculously heavy rain.

### **Fuse Board.**

The new fuse board installed by the Whangarei district Council last year has provided more reliable power. Several circuit breakers had failed over the previous years and were also hard to reset sometimes. The old board was overcrowded, potentially dangerous and inadequate for the studio.

### **Building Leaks and other issues.**

The new roof has fixed most of the leaks in the studio. As notified to the Council previously there are still leaks and problems in the following places:

1. The sump for the main roof gutter occasionally overflows into the studio during torrential rain. I believe this is because the “down” pipe is too small, partly because it runs horizontally from the sump. Also, the overflow hole is too small to cope during heavy rain if the downpipe gets blocked, as it did once with a discarded water bottle.
2. There is still a leak somewhere in the wall behind the furnace. This needs to be investigated when we next stop the furnace for replacement.
3. The central louvred skylights do not close properly. Water sprays into the studio during heavy rain and hail.
4. The studio floor drains into the gully traps outside the studio, in the car park. One of the gully traps needs to be repaired so it does not fill with storm water during a major flood. Both the gully traps need to be made higher to keep water out of the sewer system and out of the studio during the next major flood.
5. The toilet cistern was replaced a few years ago but resulted in the water splashing over the seat when it is flushed. This is not a big issue but probably does not meet building standards.

## Summary

We hope to be able to work towards a new normal after the rigors of Covid19, Cyclone Gabrielle, the financial downturn, major equipment failures and frequent closures of the Brynderwyn Hill road. Brendon, Shirah, Sergio and I have settled into a good routine in the studio and are all committed to blowing glass here for the long term and making the glass studio a viable business in the long term. Having more staff gives me more time to concentrate on running the business as well as developing my paintings on glass and canvas. I hope to use these to increase the studio profile and get into the higher priced art market.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

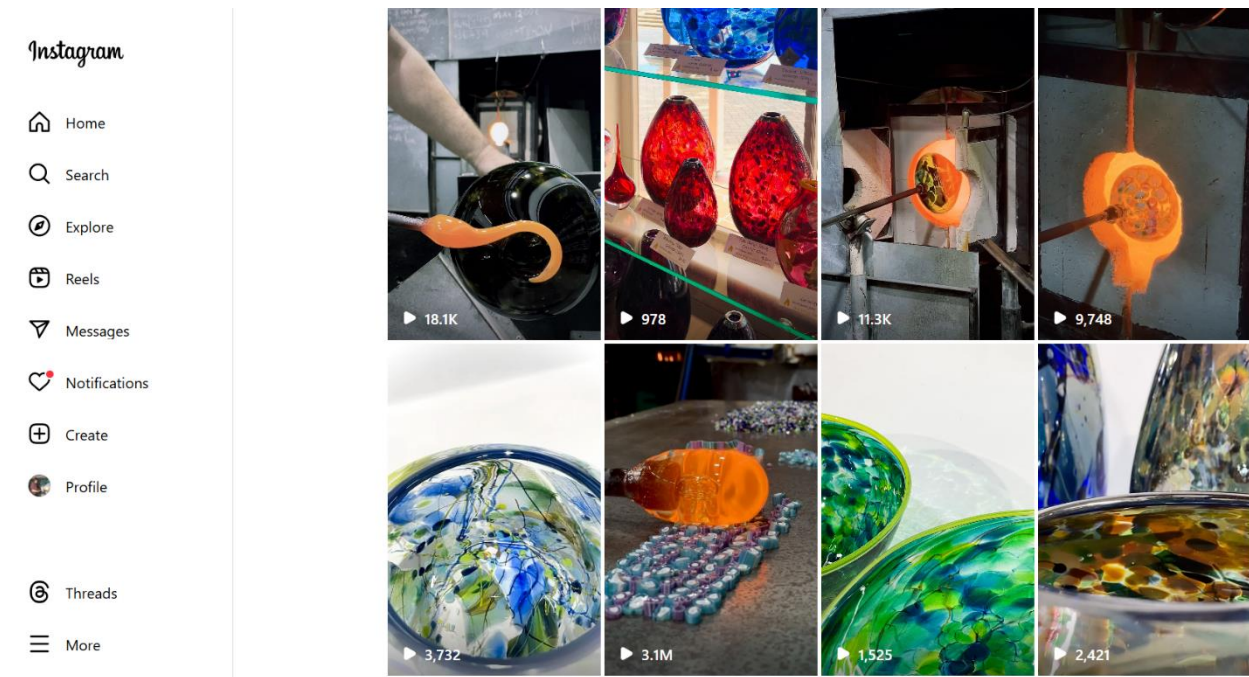
Keith Grinter,

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024



## Appendix 1- Feedback

3.1m views on Instagram



[Laura Tosio](#)

Local Guide • 59 reviews • 3 photos

\*\*\*\*\* Yesterday

We booked a workshop to make a first clear piece, a paper weight, and a blown piece each.

To start there's a safety chat, then it's straight into learning/working glass. The workshop is hot, so recommend taking electrolyte drinks or drinking lots of water. Afterwards the glass needs to anneal (slowly cool) in an oven for a day or so before you can pick it up or have it couriered.

It was an amazing experience; learning about the tools, working molten glass, feeling the heat, choosing colours, and listening to the discarded glass explode in the buckets (not annealed). I didn't like the occasional smoke when the newspaper wasn't wet enough, but not enough to stop me wanting to go back.

Brendon was hands on to help whenever needed and hands off when we could handle things. Thanks so much for the really fun day!

[Emily Hargrave-Thomas](#)

Local Guide • 9 reviews • 6 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 3 days ago **New**

We travelled up from Auckland to do a glass blowing workshop. 4 people for 4 hours. It was a fantastic experience. The teacher, Brendan, was very knowledgeable and clear. We learned so much and made some cool items: a small marble to learn the techniques, a colorful paperweight, and a blown item (glass, vase, plate, bowl, etc.) Thank you!

[Emma](#)

5 reviews • 0 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 4 weeks ago **New**

My three kids enjoyed watching the glass making process, friendly guy and the kids love their drinking glasses they each bought. Great place.

[craig barraclough](#)

Local Guide • 399 reviews • 2676 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 47 weeks ago

Lots of lovely pieces of art, glass, ceramics.and cast pieces.

Also has a viewing area to watch glass blowing

HIHIAUA CULTURAL CENTRE TRUST



NGĀ HAU E WHĀ, CARVED BY TE WARIHI HETARAKA

# IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



# HE PAKU KORERO FROM THE TRUST

The Hihiaua Cultural Centre continues to build its reputation as an internationally recognised centre for Māori and Oceanic arts and culture, but also as a welcoming and accessible gateway to Northland for domestic and international visitors. While it is fundamentally committed to cultural and community development, the diverse range of events attract people to visit and stay in Whangarei.

The Hihiaua trustees and staff have continued to work tirelessly to build on the success of Stage 1 by starting in October 2023, the renovation of the old A'fare function centre as the first chapter of Stage 2. This project has entirely transformed the vacant, tired building into a beautiful addition to the Hatea Loop. Approval has also been granted for the building of a stone carving workshop area within the Stage 1 building which will provide added space and facilities for carvers to create artworks from stone and bone.

The Trust continues to attract funding for operational and cultural activities while strategically planning for further development - a performing arts venue with exhibition and other multi-functional spaces. The centre has increasingly been the chosen venue for other community groups and agencies to showcase their products and build a more cohesive community through collaboration and a commitment to excellence.



# INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



Stage 1 of the Hihiaua Cultural Centre was opened during Matariki of 2019. Since then the centre has continued to be a hub of tikanga and mātauranga Māori. It is the manifestation of the wish of our kaumatua to build a contemporary Māori precinct where our community can live, learn, earn and play while rebuilding our cultural capacity and capability.

We are extremely grateful to the local community, government agencies, and funders that support our work financially. The following report outlines how we have worked towards our aspirations with the funding we received.

The Hihiaua Cultural Centre continues to help make transformational social and cultural change for our artists, our community, and so many others beyond that. We continue to build on our practice to be the best we can, through guidance from kaumatua and tohunga, engaging with our wider local community and, our strong relationships with local and national government.

The following report details our achieved outcomes. We are proud to share our story here.





## THE PAST YEAR IN NUMBERS

# 10

Exhibitions

# 23

Wānanga and  
workshops

# 27

Major events

# 70+

Ringatoi and artists  
supported





## **OUTCOME 1: WORLD-CLASS CENTRE OF MĀORI ARTS AND CULTURE THAT OFFERS AN AUTHENTIC CULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

Hihiaua has, and continues to be, a source of pride for the Whangarei community and the Northland region. The building itself is a work of art and has enhanced the Hihiaua peninsula and the Hatea Loop walkway. Our reputation as a world class centre (physically and socially) can be seen simply in the many deliveries of wood from the community because they trust it will be respected and well-used here, as well as the many requests for advice on taonga, tikanga and toi (treasures, protocols, and art) we get from the community. At Hihiaua our heritage is preserved, cultural identity strengthened, and cross-cultural connectedness encouraged. Tikanga and mātauranga Māori thrive and our knowledge holders meet and share with each other and the community.

Additionally, a goal of the Trust has been to provide visitors with authentic experiences and interactions that uplift them at Hihiaua. They may learn new knowledge and skills, or be inspired to take part in authentic and mana-enhancing cultural exchange. Our tohunga, Te Warihi Hetaraka, always reminds us that Hihiaua is a place where everyone can stand proudly in their own cultural heritage, and where we as tangata whenua can reclaim, restore, and renew our own cultural identity through mahi toi.

## HIHIAUA CULTURAL CENTRE TRUST

Our reputation as a world-class centre of Māori arts and culture that offers an authentic cultural experience has been demonstrated in the last year in:

- The involvement of Hihiaua kaiwhakairo and artists in significant local and national projects, including:
  - Te Kawau waka for Ngāti Whatua ki Orakei which launched in June 2024.
  - Maihi and Amo for the Kamo High School Wharenuī refurbishments.
  - Contemporary Māori artworks for DHB new Manaia House building.
  - Pakikaikutu Pou for Ngāti Pukenga ki Tawera.
- The use of Hihiaua for ten exhibitions, including:
  - Kakariki Powhaitere by Taiohi Taioha, Toi Ngāpuhi
  - Taitokerau Weavers Exhibition
  - Printapalooza by Te Kowhai Print Trust
  - Ramat Kor Kur by Ainu artists
  - ID Entity by Pasifika artists
  - Te Auahi Turoa - A Eulogy to Tobacco by Hapai Te Hauora
  - Whakakahangia Te Wairua - Puanga ki Hihiaua exhibition
  - Te Hā o Ngā Tupuna Tihei Wā Mauri Ora by Mama Moving Mountains
  - Back to the Roots by Soil of Cultures
  - Matariki Portraits by Te Kapehu Whetu
- The use of Hihiaua for various and numerous events, which have drawn many local, national, and international visitors, including:
  - Ainu Cultural Exchange, and workshops
  - Northland Pasifika Fusion Festival 2024
  - Ngāi Tahu Roadshow
  - Puanga ki Hihiaua - our annual celebration of Puanga and Matariki
  - Te Kete Hononga a Tai - Reconnecting Northland Awards Event
- Relationships with hapu, local organisations, and tourist attractions, including:
  - Ngatiwai Trust Board
  - Te Parawhau
  - Toi Ngāpuhi
  - HĀ - History of Aotearoa
  - Te Kiato
  - Mama Neke Maunga
  - Wairau Māori Art Gallery, Whangarei
  - Quarry Arts Centre, Whangarei
  - Fale Pasifika, Northland
  - Creative Northland
  - Akau, Kaikohe
  - Matakōhe Architecture and Urbanism



Feedback from visitors:

"Make's you feel at home as soon as you enter this place." - Loren demar Phillips, Google, 2024

Such a gorgeous space. The wairua was present hanging from every piece of taonga that adorned the walls. We attended the Runanga Iwi o Ngapuhi Roadshow and was a fitting venue." - Erana Tahere, Google, 2024

Beautiful space to wananga. Attended the Ngapuhi roadshow and the vibe was fitting. The exhibits and art was a slice of what Te Ao Maori is in a very urban space." - ET, Google, 2024

"Hihiaua Cultural Centre so welcoming and knowledgeable. Sharing insight into local authentic Maori artists, the work is amazing!" - Anita Wilson, Google, 2024

"Beautiful Māori art on display. There was some really nice Japanese pieces also. A few work shops happening which visitors could take part in. Soft live music playing too. Made for a really nice atmosphere." - Te Arani, Google, 2024





## OUTCOME 2: ACCESS TO WORLD-CLASS LEARNING FACILITIES AND EXPERTS

At Hihiaua the artistic community of Taitokerau can increase their capabilities and determine their future. We provide world class learning facilities, all levels of facilitators, and workshops/wānanga, demonstrations, and mentoring. We have also provided space for artists in residence on multiple occasions.

The space also encourages teina-tuakana-tohunga (beginner, intermediate, expert) relationships to form where learners and students can easily and comfortably engage with experts, teachers, mentors, and other artists of the highest calibre in an authentic cultural setting.

Finally, Hihiaua provides an exhibition space for professional and amateur artists, which was a key need identified in the research for the Piki Tū Rangitia Ngāpuhi Arts Strategy. Part of our mahi at Hihiaua is about growing young and/or emerging artists to fulfil their potential and so we will continue to welcome artists who are new to exhibiting and supporting students of the local tertiary education institutes to learn, create and exhibit.



Our reputation as a world-class learning facility that provides access to cultural and artistic experts, has been demonstrated in the last year in the regular use of our space by artists, both experts and learners, to engage with others, workshop their ideas, and create their pieces.

Examples of usage:

- The students of Te Warihi Hetaraka (tohunga whakairo), and Korotangi Kapa-Kingi and Kawiti Wiremu (past kaiako whakairo for Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and NorthTec), who learn and create in what is affectionately known as 'the shed'.
- Formal wānanga and workshops covering raranga, whakairo, maramataka, uku, kokowai, whainga, tapu and noa, tarai waka, and textiles.
- Informal workshops and mentoring from resident artists and ringatoi
- Wānanga, demonstrations, and talks run by other groups including HĀ - History of Aotearoa, Mama Neke Maunga, Para Kore, Whariki, and He Puna Marama Trust.
- Weekly Te Ataarangi classes for kaimahi and whanau of Hihiaua to learn te reo Māori.



Feedback from artists and learners:

"Just finished doing a wood block workshop. Had the best time in such a beautiful space. Wonderful people with such an awesome vibe. Thank you Hihiaua Cultural Centre" - Moana Witehira, workshop participant

"Thoroughly enjoyed our gospel workshop with you today Lee Morunga <3 thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with us all!! Definitely coming back again" - Parekiriwai Kerei

"I absolutely loved the wanānga. Numa was fantastic, very well prepared and dedicated to his students all day. He is probably the most generous artist I've ever met, letting us use his huge assortment of hand carved blocks. The sequencing of choose, get ink applied, do your own printing and then heat set on that nifty machine was amazing. Everyone made more than one. I loved how people were taking off their shirts and jackets and printing them. So spontaneous! There were a lot of people attending, so it must have been well advertised. I am travelling in the US right now and I loved that wananga so much that have been telling people about it and showing pictures. Thank you so much for organising it. Oh, the taonga purist added an extra beautiful element to it also" - Tricia Culina, workshop participant







## **OUTCOME 3: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION FOR THE COMMUNITY**

Hihiaua is a creative and entrepreneurial hub for a unified community to gather, be inspired, and build relationships and hope for a shared future. At Hihiaua Māori feel a sense of belonging, are resourced with mātauranga and tikanga, and are empowered by the leaders and knowledge holders that visit and reside here. At Hihiaua young people can strive for a better future grounded in tikanga, and our artists can benefit economically and reputation-wise. Most importantly, as our Te Warihi always reminds us, 'ko Hihiaua tātou whare' - Hihiaua belongs to all of us, to the whole community, and so we should all have access to the transformation the space offers.

In a practical sense this outcome means ensuring that the artists, who learn and share with Hihiaua are supported to make their passion financially sustainable, and that the kaimahi who help to make Hihiaua a special place are fairly compensated. In the last year the Trust has maintained the role of a full time Operations Manager and officially employed a Curation and Events Coordinator. We have also upgraded our exhibition space, and held or hosted events that promoted the mahi toi of the artists who use our space so that they could reap economic benefits as well as the social and cultural benefits they receive from learning and creating at Hihiaua.

There were also many important events in the last year that supported social and cultural transformation for our community, including:

- Te Auahi Turoa - A Eulogy to Tobacco, a national touring exhibition led by Shane Hansen for Northland. The exhibition aimed to illuminate the vision of a smokefree Aotearoa through compelling and visually striking pieces of art and to instigate conversations regarding the repercussions of smoking. It sought to end the smoking culture which has been deeply ingrained in our culture for over a century and intertwined in the narrative of colonisation.
- Mātātuhi (Block Printmaking) with Numa McKenzie. Numa shared knowledge about traditional and contemporary printing techniques of the moana, and facilitated over 100 attendees from the community to do their own fabric printing. Attendees were able to express themselves and their heritage proudly with different blocks provided by Numa.
- Ron Te Kawa's sewing workshops, a week of creativity, colour and joy, which offered participants a space to explore whakapapa, mental health, and cultural identity through quilt-making.

Hihiaua has also been used by many local community groups for meetings, events, and engagement in cultural practices, including HĀ - History of Aotearoa who run part of their Kakano and Kahikatea programmes from the space, Para Kore who have installed and maintain a community compost hub on site, and Te Kowhai Print Trust, who used the space to run their annual fundraising event, Print-a-palooza.



## WHO BENEFITTED

- Toi Māori artists and those who appreciate Toi Māori, who were given access to a world-class centre of Māori culture and arts
- Toi Māori artists at all stages of learning who were able to engage in a teina-tuakana-tohunga framework and have access to world-class learning facilities
- Toi Māori artists who used our facilities to create works and then exhibit and sell their art through our exhibition space - developing their economic base, and artistic reputation
- Kaumatua and other community leaders who were treated as the invaluable knowledge-holders they are, and compensated accordingly when they shared their gifts at Hihiaua
- Tourists who were offered an authentic cultural experience and were able to purchase authentic toi Māori
- Economic benefits for those that offered their service to help Hihiaua Cultural Centre thrive including our Operations Manager, and Curation and Events Coordinator
- The local community who could access a hub of social-cultural transformation
- All those who were able to visit Hihiaua and see authentic and innovative Māori art on display, and partake in authentic cultural exchange



Dr Maia Hetaraka, Distinguished Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Dr Jennifer Martin, Professor Jenny Lee-Morgan and Herearoha Skipper together at Hihiaua for Kaupapa Māori Hui



## **NORTHLAND MS SOCIETY TENANT REPORT**

**ENTITY STRUCTURE:** The Northland Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society is an incorporated society and Non-Profit Charitable Organisation.

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.** A part time administrator is employed and responsible for operating the central office. A part time Field Worker is employed to visit members of the Society. The Field Worker is a NZ Registered Nurse. We utilise approx. 7 volunteers as needed and more are appointed for the annual awareness and street appeal week.

**SERVICES OFFERED:** We provide information and support services to all those living with MS within the Northland region along with their Whanau/Families. There are 95 patients who regularly access our services (excluding Whanau/Family members) and we also provide support to many others with MS in the community, namely those who have not yet joined the Northland MS Society and those newly diagnosed.

**WHAT WE PROVIDE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS;** We provide up to date knowledge of MS and of its day to day management, brochures, information on MS, free advocacy services, and referrals to appropriate agencies including other health professionals. Liaison with other services such as home-based care providers, community health services, and Income support to co-ordinate our patient needs. Our support is also offered to patient's spouses or partners, carers, whanau/family members, and friends. We provide social contact and support for people with MS, usually in a group setting. Currently we offer a free weekly MS exercise class, and games of ten pin bowls, (one of the few sports those in wheelchairs can participate in). A coffee Support group meets monthly in Whangarei and another is held monthly in Kerikeri for our mid-north patients with excellent numbers attending both. In May this year with the help of a funding grant we took our patients on the 2-hour Whangarei Harbour Cruise which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and new MS friendships were forged on the day.

Other achievements over the past 12 months included; A successful 'Scoot the Loop' public event held in November on the Town Basin loop walkway for raising more awareness of MS. It was a pleasure to have Mayor Vince join us in 2023 and become part of our 'Men in Tutus' brigade on the day. Letters of recommendation were written to help support funding applications for one Patient needing help to purchase a modified vehicle with hand controls, and other support letters for those needing assistance in purchasing a wheelchair and mobility scooter due to their disease progressing and mobility had worsened. All the applications were successful. Our free Advocacy service once again proved to be successful with good resolutions occurring in a workplace environment, Work and Income NZ, and medical centre scenarios. We were able to intervene on behalf of a patient wanting to renew her Drivers Licence and facing unwarranted difficulties in procuring the required Medical Certificate. With our help we have managed to keep MS patients contributing to the workforce, participating within their community, and able to live in their own homes for longer, without the need for rest home intervention and/or government assistance.

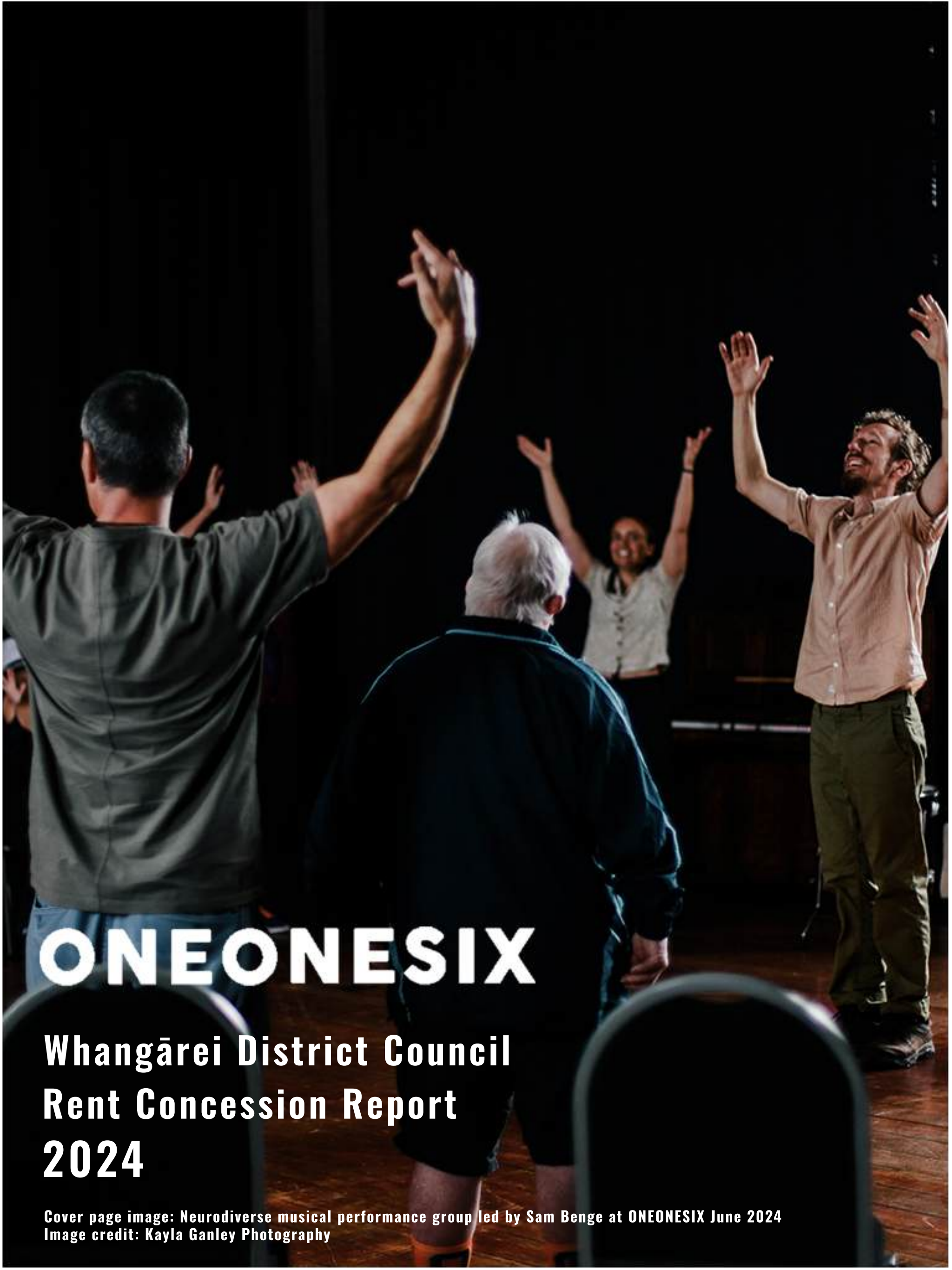


**UTILISATION OF OUR SERVICES:** The central MS office is currently temporarily based in the upstairs offices in the Civic Arcade and is the main contact point for all our patients along with members of the general public. The Office is open to access information on MS. Other services the Society offers include a free library service, MS newsletter, (circulation of approx. 702 p.a.) updates on MS information, plus the latest in research developments, and all are dispatched from the central office. We hold presentation talks, committee meetings etc, and it is the place our patients (or their whanau) contact first via a visit or phone call when additional support, advice, or any information on MS is required. We cover a wide demographic area from Wellsford to Cape Reianga – coast to coast; the Society Field Worker travels these areas to conduct one on one visits with our patients in their own homes.

**RESOURCES:** As with any charitable organisation it is an ongoing struggle to obtain sufficient funding. Aside from our annual street appeal, we undertake other small fundraising ventures (raffles) but with the varying levels of disability/mobility issues among our members it is often difficult to find sufficient volunteers to assist. Our main source of funding comes from Grants, however with the ever-increasing number of new registered charities this has become even more difficult during the past 12 months. We have been unable to source any new partnerships or grant funding providers who operate in Northland region.

We appreciate the WDC rent concession that we have received for many years since 1983. The rent concession has enabled the Society to continue to offer and to provide quality services for the Whangarei district. With careful management we manage to keep our monthly expenses within the estimate figure allowed for. Our funding priorities are for patient welfare, and operational costs including wages.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS:** The Society shall continue to offer the current range and level of services provided to the local Whangarei and districts community. This has proved successful over past years in meeting the needs of those living with an incurable and insidious disease known as MS.



# ONEONESIX

## Whangārei District Council Rent Concession Report 2024

Cover page image: Neurodiverse musical performance group led by Sam Benge at ONEONESIX June 2024  
Image credit: Kayla Ganley Photography

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# Outline the community need, challenge, or aspiration ONEONESIX addresses for the Whangārei district

The objectives of ONEONESIX are to:

- provide opportunities for people of all abilities, identities and ethnicities to participate in the performing arts in Whangārei
- meet our audience demand to see contemporary Aotearoa performing arts (theatre, music, comedy and dance)
- support the development and mentoring of emerging artists, particularly rangatahi and those under-represented in the performing arts in Whangārei
- continue the development of a professional performing arts context in Te Taitokerau

The last year has seen the trust undertake a strategic change in direction to focus on artist development and community engagement. ONEONESIX remains critical as the base for the trust’s operations and as the venue for the programme of contemporary performance works but there has been a conscious decision to move service delivery from “inside to outside” the building. This has seen ONEONESIX staff become more engaged with other organisations to deliver creative programmes and practices that they have asked for. This change has also been in response to feedback and demand from our audience as well as to the success of the Play it Forward artist development programme and the Community Engagement programme. These programmes, funded by CNZ, will become BAU in the coming year.

## Demonstrate the impact or difference ONEONESIX has made over the last 12 months to the Whangārei community

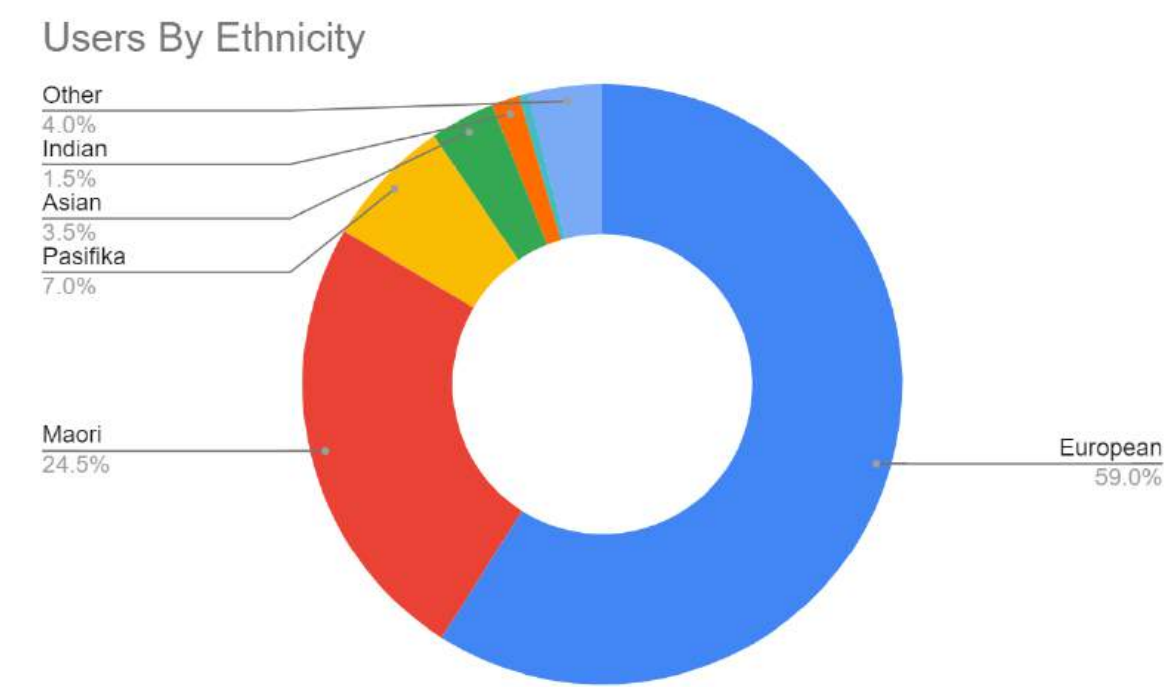
We gather audience demographics each year in our annual survey period. We use this sample to extrapolate ethnicity and age demographics which we require for DIA and Foundation North impact reports. Between 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, ONEONESIX had 19,434 visitors. This was a 6% decrease in usage over the same period for the previous year explained by 2023-2024 being a Fringe out year. October 2022 (the last Fringe) saw 3,658 visitors whereas October 2023 saw 1,965 visitors, a difference of 1,693. The total difference between this year and the previous year was 1,333 visitors. We will expect to see an increase in usage in the following year with Fringe taking place in September and October of this year.

Please also see the ONEONESIX 2024 Audience and User Feedback Survey for detailed feedback from artists and community users on the benefits of ONEONESIX.

### Users By Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number	%
NZ European / Pakeha	11,466	59%

Ethnicity	Number	%
Māori	4,761	25%
Pasifika	1,360	7%
Asian	680	4%
Indian	292	2%
African	97	1%
Other	777	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,434</b>	

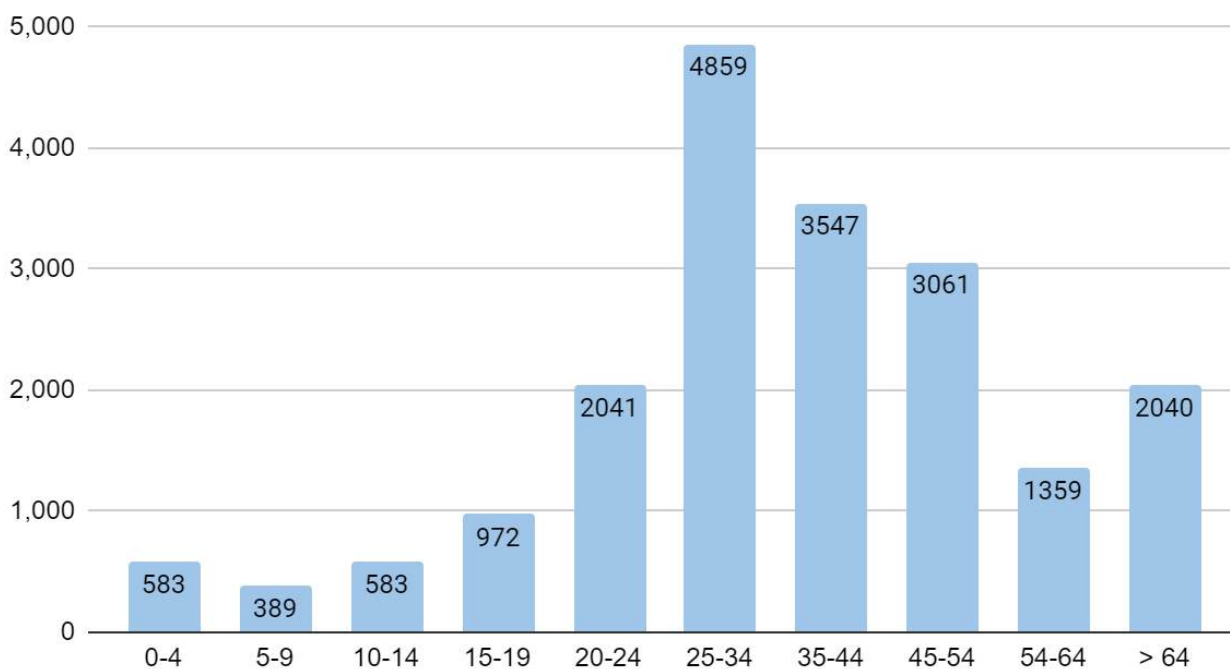


Users By Age Band

Age Band	Number	%
0 to 4	583	3%
5 to 9	389	2%
10 to 14	583	3%
15 to 19	972	5%

20 to 24	2,041	11%
25 to 34	4,859	25%
35 to 44	3,547	18%
45 to 54	3,061	16%
55 to 64	1,359	7%
Over 64	2,040	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,434</b>	

## Users By Age Band



## Activity at ONEONESIX

### Staffing

Significant increases in operational funding have enabled the trust to employ, with the assistance of MSD funding, a combined Front of House and Administrative Support role. From September 23rd the trust will employ a Community Engagement Adviser to implement the new Community Engagement Strategy.

The trust will now employ 6 people in a mix of full time and part-time roles. Of these staff, 4 are in their twenties, 3 whakapapa Māori and one staff member is of Pasifika descent.

## Inventory

The last 12 months of the financial year, April 1st 2023 - March 31st 2024 saw ongoing improvements in the venues technical inventory including:

- new lighting desk
- new MacBook PC for performance operation
- new deep fryer

## General Performance Activity, Audience and use of the Space

We have a commitment to supporting the development and presentation of contemporary NZ artistic content to the people of Whangārei. ONEONESIX has hosted 49 performance events in the last year.

## Rangatahi Focused Events

ONEONESIX hosted the following rangatahi focused events:

Whangarei Boys High Shakespeare	Gigstarters
Huanui College School Show	NYT Cabaret
Finn Johanson Youth Workshop	NYT performance rehearsals
Ready Set Gig	Heart Go Boom
Basement Gig	Mock Gig Masterclass
Borderline Gig	Massive Company Workshop
Mars experience	Capital E
Holly Smith Workshop	The Bubble Show
Springboard Two	Io Solutions Youth Prizegiving
Taioro Prize Giving and Presentation	StarJam
Vinyl Cafe - Youth Gig	Huanui Shakespeare Rehearsals
Play it Forward Facilitation Workshop	

## Support for local artists

Increases in operational funding will see the Play It Forward artist development programme become part of ONEONESIX's BAU operations in the coming year. The trust's goal is to see at least 2 locally developed and produced work travel to the annual Performing Arts Network New Zealand (PAANZ) Festival in Tāmaki Makaurau in March 2025. There has not been any work from our region presented at the last 5 PAANZ festivals which is a reflection of both underfunding and a lack of advocacy and leadership in the performing arts sector. ONEONESIX's funding from CNZ to identify and support local artists practitioners to create new work combined with the development of a Community Engagement Strategy is starting to redress this. An example of this is the work ONEONESIX has done to uncover and foster local performers resulting in 66 of the acts participating in this year's Fringe being from Te Taitokerau.



*Play it Forward story pitch session - photo credit Matt Keene*

## Community Activity

As with the previous year, increased operational funding and staff hours has allowed us to grow ONEONESIX's reach in the community, and offer more support to people using space. Our volunteer base remains strong and ONEONESIX could not function without the 2,100+ hours of volunteer time people give each year.



## Providing Access to Contemporary NZ Performance

ONEONESIX remains the only venue in Whangārei consistently programming contemporary work performed by professional Aotearoa theatre and dance companies. We have maintained strong relationships with Red Leap Theatre, Massive Theatre, Te Pou Theatre, Basement Theatre, Silo Theatre Company, and Atamira Dance Company. These companies use ONEONESIX as a development space because they get an engaged audience, a cost effective venue, wrap-around support, and a low-risk environment to try out their new works.

We have continued to grow engagement with kaupapa Māori theatre companies and performers as we respond to community demand for this work. Audience development for ONEONESIX's Māori audience has accelerated because of the employment of a new staff member fluent in Te Reo and who is deeply embedded in both kura and kapa haka communities.



*Vinyl Cafe performance - photo credit Ruby Kaiwiti Photography*

## Rangatahi Engagement

We continue to focus on providing opportunities for young people to participate in the performing arts. The relationship with NYT remains productive and ONEONESIX staff provide mentorship to trainee directors and NYT staff as well as co-directing performances and mentoring performers. Engagement with high schools in the area is strong as students are directly invited to performances and workshops.

The Rangatahi Emerging Musician programme continued throughout the year with ONEONESIX providing the venue (fully subsidised), technical mentoring and inventory for young musicians to produce all age live music performances. There is a strong cohort of young

musicians emerging from the programme and a number of these bands are now recording their own original music as well as playing as support acts for touring bands.

The number of rangatahi using the space over the last 12 months grew from 3,836 to 4,319 which represents a 4.5% increase over the previous year and reflects the trust's strategic focus on youth engagement.

### He Tupu Internship Programme

In May 2024 ONEONESIX designed a programme to provide part time paid work for 4 rangatahi aged 16-24 years of age. We received funding from the SkyCity Auckland Community Trust to deliver the programme and in July we sought applications. We received over 20 applications and interviewed all the applicants. The quality of the young people in our community is amazing and because of the high standard we made the decision to expand the programme and offer 7 young people an internship. In total the trust is paying these rangatahi a combined 59 hours a week to support ONEONESIX in its delivery of BAU services as well as support Whangārei Fringe. The interns are learning skills in the following 4 areas:

- Community Engagement - Helping to tell the story of arts organisations in Whangārei, engaging with other organisations and welcoming people to ONEONESIX
- Theatre Directing & Producing - Producing original work to present at Whangārei Fringe focussing on budgeting, scheduling, creative process and planning
- Technical Operation - Assist in setting up and operating sound, lighting, and video equipment for performances and events, help troubleshoot technical issues during rehearsals and live shows, liaise with theatre companies and performers
- Production Management - Assist in creating content and collateral for performances at ONEONESIX, assist in developing marketing strategies for performances and events, contribute to the creation of press releases and media kits for upcoming productions

In addition we have been able to offer free mentoring to the applicants who were unsuccessful and a number of the rangatahi have taken this offer up as well as participate in the bi-weekly roopu to help the trust develop its Youth Engagement Strategy.

### Whangārei Fringe Festival 2024

Whangārei Fringe opens at the end of September and October and will run for 17 days. 26 venues throughout the city will be activated with over 115 unique events and hundreds of performers. 66, over half the performances, are produced by local practitioners. There are over 30 free or koha events and 11 family focussed events. A number of WDC venues are being activated including the new Library, Te Iwitihi civic centre, Forum North as well as a circus tent at Pūtahi Park. The festival will have a positive financial impact for local hospitality providers.

## Neurodiverse and Disabled Music Creativity Programme

This programme, jointly funded by the WDC Community Fund and ONEONESIX, enabled two local practitioners to share their skills with 38 members of the community over a 12 week period, culminating in a sold-out performance event at ONEONESIX. The project has resulted in a number of other ongoing opportunities for deepening the collaboration between the organisations involved and ONEONESIX. This was a successful pilot project which achieved what it set out to do:

- Develop key collaborations between artists and organisations in our community
- Pilot a programme that can become part of ONEONESIX's business as usual delivery
- Support two local artists to develop their skills in working in community arts
- Build ongoing performance opportunities for a broader and under-represented group of people in our community



*Neurodiverse and Disabled Music Creativity Programme - final public performance ONEONESIX June 2024 - photo credit Kayla Ganley Photography*

## Outline the governance and financial management in place for ONEONESIX

We have a governance board of 7 people all resident in Whangārei. Our trustees have extensive experience in the creative sector as well as long term experience in governance of not for profit organisations. Our trust deed and income level does not require the preparation of audited annual accounts, however, our annual financial performance reports are prepared by local firm Villa Accounting.

### Funding

We receive operational funding from DIA, Foundation North, Creative New Zealand and SkyCity Auckland Community Trust. We have received facilities funding from WDC as well as the annual rent concession for ONEONESIX.

### Board

The current board is: Laurel Devenie, Thomas Gowing, Matt Keene, Penny Fitt, Jess Collins (co-chair), Jesse Samu and Jason Taylor (co-chair).

## Filing requirements for ONEONESIX operating in accordance with trust deed

ONEONESIX Trust continues to operate in accordance with its trust deed. The 2024 Charities Register annual return was filed in September 2024.

## Outline partner organisations worked with over the last 12 months and how this has benefited the Whangārei community

The graphic and table on the following pages displays the organisations we have worked with or engaged with in the last 12 months. The number of organisations that ONEONESIX actively engages with has grown from 45 to 72, a 60% over the previous year which is directly attributable to the Community Engagement programme run over the last year. These are active and ongoing relationships and we believe there is a clear benefit to the Whangārei community on a number of levels:

1. Increased opportunities for all members of Whangārei's community to participate in the creative arts. The trust focuses on people who have been historically under-represented and marginalised in terms of access to participating in the creative arts
2. Establishing new relationships and networks that have come out of invitations to events at ONEONESIX
3. Economic benefits of activity generated at ONEONESIX (touring theatre companies, wages to local staff and contractors)
4. Social benefit of people connecting with each other at the venue





Organisation	Kaupapa	ONEONESIX Engagement / Collaboration
A Supported Life	Support and development of neuro-diverse performing artists	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, subsidised venue hire
Apra Amcos	Collection and distribution of royalties for professional musician	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, workshops
Atamira Dance Company	Professional kaupapa Māori dance company	Audience development, touring support
Basement Theatre	Professional theatre company	Audience development, touring support
Beagle Radio	Community radio station	Ongoing collaboration interviewing touring performers. New programme training neuro-diverse students from Blomfield Special School
Blomfield Special School	Education and opportunities for neuro-diverse and disabled youth	Blomfield students mentored to deliver radio shows on Beagle Radio

Circus Kumarani	Community-based organisation using circus, creativity, and social arts to promote wellness and build connections	Regular collaborator, audience development, youth workshops
CNZ	Creative New Zealand	New programme to partner in development of Whangārei community engagement and audience development strategy
Company of Giants	Professional theatre company	Development of new, original community theatre, technical support, subsidised venue
Creative Northland	Regional creative sector development agency	Collaboration to support marketing, subsidising tech support, venue hire for emerging artists
Creative Technology Northland	Regional creative technology network group	Support with fully subsidised meeting space
Dance Plant Collective	Creating politically challenging and transformative performance work grounded in an ecological framework	Regular touring partner to ONEONESIX, community workshops at ONEONESIX
Deaf Aotearoa	Service and support provider for Deaf community	Audience development for Deaf community, Fringe collaborators
Disruptive Performers	Semi-professional theatre company	Audience development, provision of technical support and mentoring
English Language Partners	NFP teaching English to migrants and people with a refugee background at 21 language centres around Aotearoa New Zealand	Open day at ONEONESIX planned where we will host this group at the space for a performance event to reduce barriers and welcome community into ONEONESIX
Fale Pasifika Te Tai Tokerau	Support and representation of Pacific peoples living in Te Tai Tokerau	Audience development, engagement on development of Pasifika performing arts
Giant Drop-in Choir	Community choir focused on elderly community connections	Ongoing collaboration connecting predominantly elderly community members in weekly choir sessions
Gig Starters	Youth focused development of pathways to professional musical careers	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, workshops
Glass Ceiling Arts Collective	Charity which supports people from marginalised communities, especially young people with disabilities	Collaborative resource sharing, ONEONESIX helps to provide participants for GCAC programmes
Going Local	Regional musician support network	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, workshops
Hawaiki TŪ	Kaupapa Māori Performance Practitioners specialising in Haka Dance Theatre	ONEONESIX audience development support, venue for workshops for Te Tai Tokerau tour
Hihiaua Cultural Centre	Kaupapa Māori organisation build the cultural capacity and capability of Māori, rangatahi Māori	Board to board engagement on development of performing arts and kaupapa Māori theatre in Whangārei
Huanui College	Local secondary kura	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, subsidised venue hire
IDEA Services	Supports people with intellectual disabilities to	Programme in development to mentor neuro-diverse and

	enjoy great lives as part of their communities	disabled performers through creative practice and performance workshops
Independent Music NZ	Organisation supporting professional musicians in Aotearoa	Developing pathways for emerging and establish musicians in the regions to a professional musician context
Indian Ink	Professional theatre company	Regular touring collaborator for work performed at ONEONESIX
Kerikeri Theatre Company	Community theatre company	Provision of technical support and mentoring
Male Survivors Te Tai Tokerau	Support organisation for male survivors of sexual violence	Fully subsidised meeting room hire, networking
Māmā Moving Mountains	Kaupapa Māori organisation supporting young mothers	Subsidised venue hire, subsidised access to theatre shows
Massive Theatre Company	Professional youth focused theatre company	Regular touring collaborator
Multicultural Whangārei	Support organisation for newcomers from overseas to settle into Te Tai Tokerau	Subsidised venue hire, free office space, networking, audience development
Mutes from (Mars)	Neurodiverse rock band	Subsidised venue hire, tech support, audience development
NAFF	Development of youth focused original short films	Subsidised venue hire, technical support, audience development
New Zealand Fringe	Umbrella organisation for Aotearoa regional Fringe festivals	Provide mentorship for new regional Fringe festivals, promoting Te Tai Tokerau performers to participate in other regional Fringe festivals
National Māori Theatre Hui	Bi-annual hui of Māori theatre practitioners from all around Aotearoa	ONEONESIX staff and trustees attendees and held the tono to host the hui in Te Tai Tokerau in 2025
Ngāti Hine FM	Kaupapa Māori training organisation	Development of Māori audience for performing arts
Ngātiwai Kaumātua kapa haka	Reintegration of Kapa Haka into lives of Ngātiwai kuia and kaumātua	Growing connection with our community and workshop opportunities
Nga Hua Toi Te Tai Tokerau	Advocacy project for Māori Theatre & Dance practitioners	Subsidised venue hire, audience development, tech support
NorthAble Disability Services	Education and opportunities for neuro-diverse and disabled youth	Programme in development to mentor neuro-diverse and disabled performers through creative practice and performance workshops
NorthTec	Te Pūkenga vocational training network	Technical support, mentoring for emerging artists and performers
NYT	Youth focused theatre company	Collaborating to create pathways for performers to professional performing arts
NZ Music Commission	NZ Music Commission	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, workshops
Octagon Theatre	Semi-professional theatre company	Audience development, provision of technical support and mentoring
OneMusic	Music licensing, support for professional musicians playing live music	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, workshops

Para Kore	National kaupapa Māori zero waste organisation	Subsidised venue for wānanga, zero waste collaboration
PAYPA	Community of artists and organisations dedicated to performing arts by, with and for children and young people in Aotearoa.	PAYPA mentoring ONEONESIX creative director, hui about growth of youth focused work
Playmarket	Script advisory services, representation for playwrights	Workshops to develop regional theatre
Quarry Arts Centre	Community arts centre	Programmes to deliver multi-disciplinary capability building for local artists
Questionable Research Labs	Incubator for experiments in science, tech and design	Subsidised venue hire, rangatahi engagement
Raukatauri Music Therapy Trust	Music therapy services provider to individuals with special needs	Building cohorts of rangatahi musicians, rangatahi mentoring
Red Leap Theatre	Professional theatre company	Regular touring collaborator, MOU to premiere development work
Silo Theatre Company	Professional theatre company	Regular touring collaborator, audience development, touring support
Square Sums & Co	Arts/artist management and creative production	Pasifika audience development
Taurima Vibes	Kaupapa Māori training organisation	Engagement to develop tikanga processes, national Fringe network development
Taimahi Trust	Vocational training for young adults with disabilities	Engagement to develop a programme working with Taimahi clients to create a music based live music event
Taioro	Premium artistic education within Te Tai Tokerau	Delivery of rangatahi musician workshops and live events at ONEONESIX
Te Ahu Kaitaia	Multi-functional community facility in Kaitaia as a performing arts	Development of Te Tai Tokerau regional touring network
Te Pou Theatre Company	Kaupapa Māori professional theatre company	Regular touring collaborator, audience development, touring support
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi	Kaupapa Māori tertiary education with delivery in Te Tai Tokerau	Venue for Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi's Level 4 Māori Performing Arts kaupapa
The Meteor	Hamilton theatre venue	Collaboration on audience development in the regions, processes, and procedures for regional venue operations
Toi Ngāpuhi	Kaupapa Māori advocacy and support agency working across Te Taitokerau	Engagement to develop Māori theatre capability and development of audience for performing arts
Toi Whakaari	National training organisation for performing artists	Mentoring students on regional performing arts development, hosting senior solos
Tokotoko Solutions	Kaupapa Māori / Pasifika youth focused vocational training organisation	New programme training neuro-diverse students from Blomfield Special School



Turner Centre	Kerikeri theatre venue	Development of a regional touring network, creative sector capacity building
UPSURGE Festival	Bi-annual arts festival based in the Bay of Islands	Collaborate on touring network to make it viable for artists from around the motu to perform in Te Tai Tokerau
Venues and Events Whangārei	Venues and Events Whangārei manages, operates and promotes the Forum North Entertainment Centre	Regular programming meetings and support (putea and resources) from V and E to enable ONEONESIX to deliver contemporary performing arts in Whangārei
Volunteering Northland	Community connector for Te Tai Tokerau	Networking through volunteers engaging with ONEONESIX
Whangārei Boys High School	Local secondary kura	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, subsidised venue hire
Whangārei District Libraries	District library network	New programme with Beagle Radio to surface library's projects, engagement with young families
Whangārei District Council	District council	Venue partners, promo, and marketing, delivery of workshops for WDC
Whangārei Fringe Festival	Bi-annual community performing arts festival	Festival headquarters, operations and management team, main venue, tech support
Whangārei Girls High School	Local secondary kura	Mentoring emerging musicians, technical support, subsidised venue hire
Wow! Productions	Professional theatre company	Audience development, touring support, technical support, subsidised venue hire

## Outline the number of paid and volunteer staff ONEONESIX uses to run your services locally

### Paid Roles

The following roles are paid - all staff roles have a rate at or above \$27 / hour. The ONEONESIX interns are paid \$26 / hour.

Venue Manager (37.5 hours / week)

Creative Director (8 hours / week)

House Technician (20 hours / week)

Cleaner (5 hours / week)

Front of House & Admin support (30 hours / week)

7 youth interns (combined hours 59 hours / week)

Community Engagement Adviser (starting 23rd September 2024) (35 hours / week)

### Volunteer Hours

ONEONESIX has over 75 active volunteers who contributed over 2,100 hours of volunteer time in the last 12 months.

## Outline what ONEONESIX expects to deliver to Whangārei over the next 12 months

Because of the growth in services delivered, staff numbers and operational funding, the board is aiming to consolidate for the next 12-18 months. The increased operational funding will enable ONEONESIX to operationalise to BAU the Play it Forward (artist development) and the Community Engagement projects. ONEONESIX will still have a range of significant new events and programmes to be delivered late 2024 and throughout 2025 including:

### Fringe Festival 2024

Since the inaugural Fringe in 2020, Whangārei Fringe has become the 2nd biggest Fringe festival in Aotearoa measured by events and audience size. One of the goals of the Play it Forward programme is to enable local performers to create more work that will be performed in Fringe 2024 and go on to develop and grow after the fringe. Fringe will once again be based at ONEONESIX and all ONEONESIX staff and interns have been involved in planning the festival and will further contribute to its running.

### Community Engagement

Increased operational funding has enabled the trust to create a new role for a Community Engagement Adviser who will be responsible for implementing the Community Engagement Strategy. The role will focus on the following:

- Identifying key areas / gaps for young people in Whangārei and ensuring this feeds into the ONEONESIX Community

### Engagement Strategy

- Deepen existing artist and audience relationships within the community
- Build additional networks within the wider Whangārei community, including community groups and organisations
- Provide support to individuals and groups who are interested in utilising our space for their events, assisting them in fleshing out ideas related to participation and delivery
- Identify and engage with members of the Whangārei community who are currently not part of our ONEONESIX community but have a desire to participate in arts activities
- Use insights from meetings and community hui to identify service gaps and develop strategies for deeper engagement with underserved segments of the community

### Neurodiverse and Disabled Music Creativity Programme

Sam Benge, the main facilitator of the programme, is now working directly with NorthAble to continue the delivery of musical creative practices. Northable, acknowledging the benefit to their clients, found the resources to continue the relationship with Sam. The programme will culminate in another performance by the Northable community at the Whangārei Fringe Festival in October alongside professional Auckland-based neurodiverse band The Mutes from Mars. They will perform together at the Old Library, and it will be a chance to grow and develop their performance skills from earlier in the year. This project is an example of ONEONESIX playing a brokering role between local performing arts practitioners and community, organisations, industry and audiences.

### Play It Forward

The Play it Forward artist development programme will continue in the coming year. The programme facilitators will look to expand the number of participants and the scope of workshops and mentoring opportunities available. The outcomes of the project will continue to be to foster the development of new, original, contemporary work that will in time be strong enough to tour out of the region.



*Play it Forward lighting workshop - photo credit Kayla Ganley Photography*

## Rangatahi Kaupapa Māori Performance Group

This new group of young Māori performers is being developed using the framework of Play it Forward programme with a kaupapa Māori protocol. The participants have been gathered and mentored by ONEONESIX's whakapapa Māori staff.

## Kaupapa Māori Writers Group

Participants in this group will be selected and mentored by ONEONESIX's whakapapa Māori staff. The goal will be to develop new work by local writers and, working in conjunction with the Kaupapa Māori performance group, workshop this so that it progresses towards presentation to local audiences.

## Red Leap and Indian Ink Premiering New Work

In the coming months Red Leap Theatre Company and Indian Ink Theatre Company will premiere brand new work at ONEONESIX and Whangārei's audiences will be the first in the motu to see this work. This is an example of ONEONESIX's positioning as a development or try-out space for national theatre companies who come here because the space is low-risk economically, ONEONESIX provides the support they need logistically and technically, and Whangārei audiences provide feedback to the producers and performers that helps them develop their show.

Whangarei Youth Music  
PO BOX 5022  
Whangarei



22 September 2024

Community Funding Officer  
Whangarei District Council  
Private Bag 9023  
Whangarei

Attention: Cindy Fields

Dear Cindy

In accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding with Whangarei District Council for occupancy of the Old Library Building, 7 Rust Avenue, please find this report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**What benefit is provided to the community by what your organisation does?**

Whangarei Youth Music (WYM) has now been musically delivering to youth in Whangarei for over 40 years. It has recovered well from disruptions caused by the pandemic, groups are all active, and numbers have built up again.

WYM has groups catering for orchestral and concert band instruments as well as voice. These groups are the Choir, Orchestra, Briosio Corde Ensemble, Junior Strings, Explorer Strings, Concert Band, Cadet Band, Recorder groups, Explorer Reeds, Explorer Brass and Explorer Flute. The groups are run on a Friday afternoon.

WYM's Annual Opononi Summer Music Camp (a week in January) continues to flourish and is a highlight of the musical year for brass, wind and percussion members. Participants stay at a local Marae, use Opononi School hall for rehearsal (8Km away), and perform a concert at the end of the week for parents, friends and the local community. The total music playing time at this camp is equivalent to a whole year of WYM Friday practices. It provides motivation, develops self organisation and is a great way to get members connected musically and socially at the start of the year.

WYM contributes to the musical development of all its participants. The opportunity to perform at concerts on stage at our mid-year or end-of-year concert is an unforgettable experiences for young people.

**What community need, challenge or aspiration does your service or offering address?**

WYM facilitates musical development through our different groups, to varying levels of musical competence, for youth and young adults wanting to learn a musical instrument.

WYM aims to develop individual skills in instrumental performance as well as providing ensemble experience. Our young people also have the opportunity to develop skills such as conducting, managing groups and organising concerts.

Music teachers throughout Northland encourage their students to attend Whangarei Youth Music in order to apply and extend their music skills and knowledge. WYM collaborates in particular with Northland Sinfonia and Sistema, sharing conductors, music libraries and concert opportunities. This facilitates a wider learning of different genres, stylistic features and performance techniques.

WYM has also made space available at the Old Library for the Opera North Music Library, and storage of the Northland Performing Arts Competitions Society trophies.



A strong focus on building and maintaining relationships across many musical and performing arts groups is always a priority. The Old Library has become a thriving musical hub for the community. More to come on this is a separate Report in October.

WYM organises and performs a mid-year concert at the Old Library, and an end of year concert, often in Forum North. These public performances provide opportunities for members of all groups to perform on stage, learn about stage presence, and work under pressure in front of an audience. WYM continues to perform on invitation, (rest homes) and of its own initiative, in other locations such as the Mall and Town Basin, particularly in the summer months.

WYM continues to manage the Old Library Building booking system to enable other performing arts groups to rehearse and perform in the space. The Old Library space is sought-after for a myriad of performing arts activities. See future Report on Library usage. See snap-shot of typical week below.



## What impact or difference does your service or offering make?

WYM is a unique community of young people, families and supporting adults. The group breaks communication barriers through the love of performing music. Young musicians are connected through WYM and develop social networks in a supportive and safe environment, under the guidance of mentoring adults who run the Friday rehearsals.

WYM supports but provides a different experience from the work of Sistema Whangarei, with a number of senior students involved in both groups as tutors. Both groups are training grounds for young musicians who may then move on to the Northland Sinfonia.

Our Explorer and Recorder groups provide for beginner musicians. Some conductors/mentors provide private lessons, as well as private music teachers within Whangarei.

WYM has a range of instruments available for hire, for families who want to try out an instrument with minimal financial commitment.

## What capacity and control exist to ensure concession requirements will be met?

WYM has a well established committee with members elected annually in accordance with the WYM constitution. The committee meets monthly to organise and oversee all WYM activities. Committee members are all volunteers, and include players, family members and conductors. At least two youth members are on the committee, to help maintain a youth focus.

WYM requires the use of a large multi-roomed facility, with several rooms which can accommodate 30 to 50 players. WYM members pay a yearly fee and further income is obtained by hiring the building out, and fundraising. There is a large amount of volunteer input to maintain the building.

The Old Library bookings are currently managed by Dorothy Gatland. Many groups and individuals use the building for performances, meetings, teaching, and workshops. The committee seeks to maximise use of the facility and has so far tried to keep a music and the arts theme. Providing the space for others has helped network with other community organisations and has enabled WYM to support a wide range of performing arts groups.

WYM assists in hosting and promoting other concerts through our website, newsletter and active facebook page. We encourage our members to attend other music events to observe and learn from professionals, and to broaden involvement in art and culture.

WYM promotes itself through two concerts each year, and also through a website <https://www.whangareiyoungmusic.co.nz>, an active facebook page and Instagram account.

### **What partner organisations do you work with and why?**

We support the activities of Sistema Whangarei, the Whangarei Intermediate School Enrichment Programme through a string and wind programme, the Northland Sinfonia, Opera North, Whangarei Music Society, Northland branch of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers, Northland Performing Arts Competitions Society, a Folk Group, Ragtag adult beginner string group, and Starjam.

Many of our brass players perform with, and are members of, the Whangarei District Brass Band. Our Youth Choir has also partnered with the Whangarei Choral Society and other local choral groups in the past.

We continue to collaborate with the Kerikeri High School Music department and Omapere School for our annual Opononi Summer Music camp.

Northland Sinfonia has an enclosed trailer that they generously lend to WYM to transport instruments to gigs.

### **Who benefits from your service or offerings?**

Young musicians and their families in Northland (Whangarei, Dargaville & Kerikeri) with a wide range of musical abilities benefit from their involvement in WYM. We cater for beginners right through to advanced musicians. We are regularly joined by international exchange students for a term or two through to a year. We regularly entertain the general public at our mid and end of year concerts and other performances at the Town Basin and Cameron St Mall and WYM encourages members to use their musical skills to bring joy to others.

WYM always welcomes past members (such as our university students) to join the performance groups when they return to Whangarei in the holidays.

### **How many people benefit from your service or offerings?**

WYM has approximately 75 families, at the time of writing this report.

Our concerts attract a good audience of family and supporters. Some are held at the Old Library and some are held off site at venues such as the Anglican Church or Forum North.

The wider musical community benefits from our training opportunities for youth, and for the ability to use our senior students for other musical activities.

The wider music community benefits from the way we manage a booking system for the building. As well as those groups previously listed, WYM provides teaching space for private music teachers, for piano, ukulele, violin, viola, cello. and saxophone.

WYM's booking system includes coordinating users, arranging access, vetting users, and helping users to get the best out of the building by facilitating the sharing of equipment such as sound boards, staging, music stands, a grand piano, and other instruments.

An average week during school term time would see around 350 people come through the building.

### **What, if any, roles do volunteers or community provide in your service or offering?**

Whangarei Youth music is operated entirely by volunteers. WYM committee contributes a great deal of time and effort to keeping the WYM activities running smoothly.

Roles within the organisation include: conducting, mentoring and managing groups, membership administration, Old Library bookings management, staging and seating setup, music library management, newsletters, website creation and maintenance, events, gigs, concert organisation, Opononi camp management. All of these rely on volunteer effort from throughout the organisation.



### **Group Reports**

Please find recent reports from the conductors of each ensemble at WYM.

### **Explorer Strings**

Explorer Strings is an all inclusive beginner orchestra for stringed instruments. These instruments include violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students learn as very beginners in a mixed ability and mixed age ensemble setting. The abilities range from the person who has never touched an instrument to those who have a basic understanding of reading music and can find a basic set of notes on the instrument.

The intention for this group is a starting point for learning and to create a space where more people have access to playing an instrument. Students are able to use the instruments made available from Sistema Whangarei and Whangarei Youth Music.

The approach to learning is one of fun and engagement ahead of precision and perfection. I have seen young people making great progress this year and noticed the connection between the players who have formed good friendships. Many of the young players have developed in confidence as well as their ability to play the instrument together. One particular young person was often in tears and seemed as though it was very difficult for her to be in the space. Now she can be as silly as the rest of them whilst also able to play everything that we bring out. Another student, just this week, made it through the whole 30-minute session rather than leaving after 10 minutes. She was thrilled, as was her previously anxious parent. Something more than music is happening here.

As the group has mixed abilities there is a need to rotate the learning focus so that every player can feel the zone of learning. For those not in the “zone” and feeling out of their depth, this requires

repetition of previous learning. You would assume that this would be a detriment to learning but surprisingly it serves as a strength. For those in repetition, they become tuakana and also get to check in with technique, and those who are out of their comfort zone get to be inspired and are often able to reach further than they thought. WIN WIN.

What there is to note is that the real power in this is to have 2 people in the leadership team, one person in the front and the other which I call a “sweeper” inside the orchestra. The sweeper looks for students who need some extra help and guidance to support the learning from close range. The person at the front directs the learning. I am very grateful to Michelle Lewry for being the super sweeper in this case.

I believe that Explorer Strings has been a gateway for many young people to experience music making and without it they would not have had the chance.

Conductor: Sam Winterton

## **Concert Band**

The Concert Band is in good health. Many junior members have been nurtured to step up into this senior group from Cadet Band. There are 30 regular members, mostly young adults under the age of 26, supported by a few experienced adult members. In 2024 there has been a focus on new repertoire that members are engaged with, such recent movie themes and pop songs (Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Abba, How to Train Your Dragon, Pirates of the Caribbean, Oye Como Va) The pieces are fun to practice and perform and encourage a love of learning.

The Concert Band attended the NZ Concert Band Festival in Hamilton at the beginning of August. This was a great opportunity to play for a wider audience, hear other bands, and socialise together over the weekend. The WYM Concert band was awarded a silver certificate of commendation. One band member also performed as a soloist (with a fellow band member as accompanist) and two other band members performed as a duo. These two performances were also recognised as achieving silver status.

The band is currently preparing for a performance at the Maritime Festival.

Public performances include:

Mid-Year Concert	Old Library
End of Year Concert	Capitaine Bougainville Theatre
Maritime Festival	Town Basin
Art Beat	Town Basin
Concert Band Festival	Hamilton

This senior group and an inspiration for younger members who wish to get to this level.

Conductor: Matt Watson

## **Choir**

### **Introduction**

This year has been a period of growth and reflection for the Whangarei Youth Music Choir. The choir continues to offer young singers a safe and nurturing environment to develop their vocal skills, and we have made strides in expanding our presence within the local community.

## Structure and Rehearsals

In 2023, the Youth Choir was divided into two distinct groups to accommodate the varying ages and abilities of our singers. The Junior Choir consists of children under 13, with a particularly enthusiastic group of nine children aged 6-7. Additionally, we have two children aged 10-12 who have the unique opportunity to sing in both the junior and teen groups.

The Teen Choir is smaller, comprising three boys and two girls, with two adult members from the Youth Music program stepping in to help provide richer harmony and guidance. This structure has allowed the teens to experience more advanced singing despite the challenges of a smaller ensemble.

The decision was made to keep the two groups separate during rehearsals due to the significant age difference, though they still come together to perform as one choir for concerts.

## Performances

2023 has been a mixed year for performances. Although we had intended to sing at the Matariki celebrations, this was unfortunately not possible due to the absence of key members. However, the Mid-Year Concert proved to be a wonderful success. It was a safe and supportive platform for our young singers, many of whom were performing for the first time.

We have plans for the Youth Choir to perform at Vera's upcoming student concert as well as the highly anticipated End of Year Concert, which will give the children another opportunity to showcase their hard work.

## Growth and Future Outlook

The Junior Choir is growing steadily in popularity, and we are optimistic about its future. If this growth continues, we expect to offer even more performance opportunities and reach new heights as a choir. However, the Teen Choir may face challenges going forward, as its small size makes it difficult to sustain. It is possible that this group might not continue next year unless more members join.

In the meantime, we are grateful for the accompaniment of Nam Kyung Kim, who has been a tremendous asset to our performances.

## Challenges

One of the key challenges we've faced this year is finding a suitable rehearsal space within the Old Library. The current environment, shared with other instrumental groups, is less than ideal for young singers whose voices struggle to compete with the sounds of other instruments and groups. Despite this, we appreciate the understanding and patience of the recorder and flute department, who have graciously allowed us to use their space. Moving forward, we hope to find a dedicated rehearsal area that better suits the needs of our growing choir.

## Conclusion

It has been a joy to work with these talented youngsters, and I see great potential in this group. As we continue to grow, I look forward to seeing the choir mature and take on more ambitious performances in the future. Though we face challenges, the passion and dedication of the children keep the program moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

Conductor: Vera Dirksen Pluijlaar



## **Orchestra**

This group is conducted by Callum Anderson, with occasional cover by Naotake Fukuoka and Michal Pearce. This Senior Group collaborates with other groups to bring a variety of experiences and opportunities for the members.

Performances:

WYM Mid-Year Concert

- End of Year Concert
- Maritime Festival

Musical repertoire

- The Blue Danube, Johann Strauss II

Tuia Combined Concert with Sistema and Northland Sinfonia

- Ode to Joy, Swallowtail Jig, Irish Washerwoman
- Twinkle Symphony
- Salut d'Amour, Edward Elgar
- Finlandia, Sibelius
- Trumpet Concerto, Joseph Hayden
- Symphony no.8, Antonín Dvořák

I have very much enjoyed conducting the orchestra so far this year (2024). They have been a fantastic group of people to work with. They have handled some challenging repertoire, and the group's ability has been constantly increasing. The Youth Orchestra performed well at the WYM Mid-Year Concert, and the Tuia Combined Concert was a fantastic opportunity to play some longer pieces with a larger sized orchestra. More concerts like this would definitely be something I would support in the future. The orchestra is looking forward to playing at Rhapsody Rotorua in 2025.

The group has up to 30 members, mostly high school students supported by a few adults.

Conductor: Callum Anderson

## **Brioso Corde**

Brioso Corde is a string ensemble for advanced players. Sadly, three players left this group at the end of last year. One graduated and two moved to Australia with their families. In addition, one adult who was a long-time Brioso member has left the group. Currently, there are 7 members (5 violinists, 2 cellists). All of them are wonderful young musicians. They are enthusiastic and willing to play along with the music. This group has a good repertoire.

Brioso has performed in WYM concerts, and held their own concerts for a Mother's Day Payout at Somerset Retirement Village (May) and at an Old Library Lunchtime Concert (August). Also, two chamber music groups of Brioso members performed at the NZ Secondary Schools Chamber Music contest in June.

Conductor: Atsuko Fukuoka

## **Cadet Band**

Cadet Band has grown this year, with students coming through from the Explorer groups. It is currently in a rebuilding phase with a small but enthusiastic group of beginners and adult supporters. There are currently 10 students and 8 adults, thus providing the opportunity for one to one support and mentoring for some of the youth. The timetable of the evening has been arranged so that there is a brief period of time when Cadet Band players can join in at the end of Concert Band rehearsal in order to get a taste of the next level up. Cadet band performed successfully at the WYM midyear

concert. A wide variety of music is played, starting out at a basic level and increasing in difficulty as the year progresses.

Conductor Michal Pearse

### **Junior Strings**

This Group helps young players learn how to play in a group/ensemble situation. This year the group has made steady progress, and has welcomed players from Explorer Strings as part of the group succession program. The role of Conductor has been shared between long standing conductors, Felicity and DJ.

DJ is a young adult developing his musical career He has been active in WYM and Sistema and has been through Youth Music. He has also attended University doing performance flute.

Junior Strings has plenty of violin players but would like more cello members. There are young viola players taking the opportunity to learn this instrument. A wide range of music is chosen to support the different levels of players.

At the mid-year Concert the group performed a full String Pops Suite which took considerable work to get to a good performance level. A public performance for the Hospice Memorial Day at the Quarry Arts Centre is being worked towards.

Conductor: Felicity Christian assisted by DJ Hopkinson

### **Explorer Brass**

The function of this group is to provide a beginners and training class for brass instrument players at all levels. Priority is given to beginners. From here, graduate players move on to other WYM groups, as well as non WYM groups such as Whangarei School groups, Whangarei District Brass Band, Ratana Band, Salvation Army Band, and Sistema Whangarei.

At present the roll is 30, comprising 23 of student age, 3 tutors, and 4 parents of students (also learning to play). Average attendance is 18 in the weekly class held on Fridays 4-5pm during school terms. Performances over the year have been at 2 WYM public concerts, plus some students performing extensively in some of the above-mentioned groups.

Conductor/Tutor: Rodney White

Assisted by Matt Watson, Specialist Tutor and Jenny Bishop, Tuba Tutor.

### **Explorer Reeds**

We have a lovely culture of musicians who help each other out with teaching and providing support to the group where needed. We currently have 7 alto saxophone and 3 clarinet players, with one clarinet player recently changing to sax. Occasionally we are joined by a tenor sax.

For the first half of our session, we split into 3 groups which are:- 3 advanced sax players working on challenging trios; beginner saxophone working on new notes and group pieces; and clarinets working on duets with a talented teenager.

In the second half, we come together to play simple trios and quartets.

We usually try a song by ear to improve listening and for those who find reading music a challenge.

This term we are trying a Disney song played together, accompanied by music, as a fun challenge.

We have scope to move some players on to bass clarinet and baritone sax in the future.

Conductor: Lee Jones

## Recorders

Recorder group offers entry level music for very young members from 5+. This is where music learning begins, particularly for wind and reed instruments. Presently there is a beginner and an advanced group. The three tutors include a senior student who is being mentored into a tutoring role. At this early stage of a child's musical path, tutors feel it is particularly important to make learning fun and engaging. Although the groups are small, they still perform duets and ensemble music, and perform at the mid and end of year concerts.

Conductors: Dorothy Gatland, Renate Slykerman, Jessie Slykerman

I trust this report will be a useful summary of Whangarei Youth Music activities and events for the 2023/24 year. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Gatland

President



Whangarei Youth Music



# 2024 Community Benefit Test – Rent Concession Holders

Outline what community need, challenge, or aspiration your organisation addresses for the Whangarei district.

WINGS: A Community of Support for Women

Established in 2006, WINGS has been a cornerstone of the Whangarei community for over 17 years. Our organisation is comprised of a diverse membership, including indigenous women, migrant women from around the world, and local women seeking connection.

Originally founded to support migrant women in their transition to New Zealand life, WINGS has expanded its reach to welcome all women. Whether you're new to the country, relocating within New Zealand, or simply looking to meet like-minded individuals, we offer a supportive and inclusive environment.

We understand that moving to a new place can be challenging, and WINGS aims to bridge that gap. By providing social opportunities, information sharing, and a sense of belonging, we help women navigate their new surroundings and build resilience.

Our family-friendly events and activities extend beyond women-only gatherings, ensuring that partners, children, and friends can also benefit from our community.

WINGS offers a wide range of activities, from networking and cultural exchange to arts and crafts, walking groups, book clubs, and social gatherings. Our office in the heart of Whangarei serves as a welcoming space where women can drop in for a chat, seek advice, or connect with others.

In recent years, we've recognised the importance of providing a safe, women-only space for our members. This environment fosters open dialogue and allows women to address sensitive issues without fear of judgment.

By creating a strong sense of community, WINGS helps women thrive in their new surroundings and contribute positively to the wider Whangarei community.

## Our principles:

- **Empowering Women:** Providing a supportive network for women from diverse backgrounds.
- **Building Community:** Fostering connections and promoting social integration.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Celebrating diversity and sharing cultural experiences.

- **Personal Growth:** Offering opportunities for learning, development, and well-being.
- **Advocacy:** Supporting women's rights and addressing community needs.

### **Mission Statement**

The Women's International Newcomers Group Social is a friendship network where we can exchange traditions and knowledge, share settlement issues, build connections and create a sense of belonging in our community.

### **Values**

- Encourage cultural inclusiveness and enrichment
- Foster a positive attitude toward migrant settlement whilst encouraging cross-cultural awareness and education

### **Long-term Goals**

- Provide a vibrant community within WINGS for women new to New Zealand and/or the Whangarei District wherein friendship can be found
- Facilitate the sharing of cultural knowledge and traditions
- Ease integration into New Zealand, local culture and community
- Assist settlement
- Encourage a positive attitude that supports integration and benefits the Whangarei community
- Encourage settlement and a feeling of belonging through social activities





Clearly demonstrate the benefit you've provided to the Whangarei community over the last 12 months. Include data on programs, events, and connections made. Outline any new initiatives introduced. **Please see the attached Annual Report for data**

In recent years, New Zealand has witnessed a significant influx of residents, both returning Kiwis and domestic migrants from other regions within the country. This shift has been particularly evident in our district, with a noticeable increase in newcomers seeking to establish their lives here.

New Zealanders, many of whom have relocated from other parts of the country, such as Auckland or Christchurch. These individuals, along with those returning from overseas, often face similar challenges in integrating into their new communities. Without a strong support network, they may struggle to establish connections and find their place within the local society.

As a cross-cultural organisation, our mission remains steadfast: to promote diversity and inclusivity within our community. The attached pie chart demonstrates the diverse backgrounds of our members and followers, reflecting the rich tapestry of cultures that contribute to our district's vibrant character.

### **WINGS: Fostering Friendship and Integration**

At WINGS, we're dedicated to supporting women from all walks of life, whether they're newcomers to New Zealand, returning Kiwis, or domestic migrants. Our goal is to help women feel welcomed, connected, and empowered within the Whangārei community.

### **Cultural Integration and Community Engagement**

We strive to bridge the gap between newcomers and the local culture, offering opportunities to participate in community events and activities. Over the past year, we've been actively involved in various initiatives, including:

Informative Stalls: Participating in community events like Pacifica Fusion, Taste of Whangarei and Multicultural Day, Volunteer Fair and the Christmas Tree Festival

**Community Partnerships:** Multi Ethic Collective, English Language Partners, Multicultural Whangarei, the Whangarei Women's Club, NZ Police, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Volunteering Northland

### **Regular Events and Activities**

To foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie, we offer a variety of regular events:

- Coffee Groups: Weekly coffee mornings at Sabio Café and Botannix Café, providing opportunities for casual conversation and friendship.
- Book Club: the first Tuesday of the month meetings at Botannix Cafe.
- Card Games: Weekly sessions at the WINGS office for those interested in arts and crafts.
- Soaring With WINGS: Wellbeing and Fitness weekly classes

By participating in these activities and fostering a welcoming environment, WINGS aims to create a lasting impact on the lives of women in the Whangārei district



What difference did you make? Clearly demonstrate the impact or difference your organisation has made over the last 12 months to the Whangarei community. You should include data on who and how many you have reached.

Over the past year, WINGS has been instrumental in fostering a more inclusive and vibrant community in Whangārei. Our efforts have focused on supporting both newcomers and returning Kiwis, helping them integrate seamlessly into the local culture and contribute positively to the district.

Our outreach initiatives have reached a number of individuals. Through our various programs and events, we have directly connected with women, providing them with support, resources, and opportunities for social interaction.

WINGS has played a crucial role in promoting cultural understanding and dispelling negative stereotypes. By facilitating interactions between migrants and locals, we have fostered a sense of belonging and appreciation for diverse cultures. This has not only enriched the lives of our members but has also contributed to a more vibrant and welcoming community for all.



In times of distress or hardship, WINGS has been a reliable source of support. Our coordinator has been instrumental in reaching out to members who may be feeling isolated or in need of assistance.

#### Community Partnerships and Collaboration

Our success has been underpinned by strong partnerships with other organisations in Whangārei. For example, our collaboration with Volunteering Northland resulted in WINGS members volunteering as stewards at a local event. These partnerships have not only expanded our reach but have also strengthened the overall fabric of the community.

WINGS is committed to continuing its work in promoting cultural integration, supporting newcomers, and fostering a thriving community. By providing a platform for connection, understanding, and mutual support, we are helping to create a Whangārei that is truly inclusive and welcoming for all.

[Outline the governance and financial management in place for your organisation, including whether you have a local governance board or are managed by a national body, and whether you have audited financial accounts.](#)

WINGS is an incorporated society and registered charity. We have an elected committee of members who manage WINGS. Yes we do have an accountant that audits our financial accounts annually.



WINGS has a part time coordinator as well as a part time media and database administrator who manages the website, social media and Mailchimp for monthly newsletters and any other notices.

Confirm you are up to date with filing requirements for charitable trusts and/or incorporated societies and that you are operating in accordance with your trust deed/society rules.

WINGS' filing requirements are up to date. Charities Registration Number: CC40444

Outline what partner organisations you have worked with over the last 12 months and how this has benefitted the Whangarei community.

Situated in the heart of Whangārei's Civic Arcade, WINGS is surrounded by other non-profit organisations, including Multicultural Whangārei and Literacy Aotearoa. This strategic location has fostered strong relationships and collaboration among these groups, enhancing our collective impact on the community.

Our open-door policy and accessible location have made WINGS a welcoming space for individuals seeking information, support, or simply a place to connect. The high foot traffic in the Civic Arcade has increased visibility for our organisation, attracting curious passersby and encouraging them to learn more about our services.

In addition to our internal collaborations, WINGS has established strong partnerships with external organisations such as Volunteering Northland, Whangarei District Libraries, the Indonesian community, and the Whangārei District Council. These partnerships have enabled us to participate in numerous community events throughout the year, providing opportunities for our members to engage with the local community and build lasting connections.

We believe that these opportunities for involvement are essential in helping newcomers feel welcomed and integrated into Whangārei. By participating in community events and activities, our members can develop a sense of belonging and contribute positively to the district's vibrant culture.

Outline the number of paid and volunteer staff your organisation uses to run your services locally (use Full Time Equivalent numbers, e.g. 40 hours per week = 1 FTE). If this has changed to last year, please comment.

WINGS has a paid part time coordinator who works 15 hours a week and a paid part time media and database administrator who manages the website, social media and our monthly newsletters working 5 hours a week. The WINGS office is now open 4 days a week. Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at other times, there may be volunteers in the office.

We also have hosted several events & activities at the office, please find details in our attached activity report, outlining participation as well as volunteering hours.

Outline what you expect to deliver to Whangarei over the next 12 months, including whether you will be operating 'as usual' or whether services will be changing (increasing, decreasing, different offering).

WINGS has proven to have a successful formula, having developed over the last 16 years. Our plans are to operate as usual while also evolving with the demands of our community.

We are aiming and succeeding in attracting younger members as well as retaining the older age group. WINGS no longer charges a membership fee and we aim to offer more workshops, programs and events that are free, accessible and inclusive to and for the women in our community.







Women's International Newcomers Group Social

## ANNUAL REPORT

**2023 – 2024**

**WINGS**

**CIVIC ARCADE, Level 1, 37 BANK STREET, WHANGAREI**

## **WINGS ANNUAL REPORT April 2023 - March 2024**

### **Chairperson's Report by Suzzette**

This year, your committee has embarked on an exciting journey to revitalize WINGS and solidify its role as a cornerstone for women in Whangarei. Our vision for the future is one of inclusivity, empowerment, and fostering strong connections across generations.

With a Welcoming Space for all we remain dedicated to building a vibrant community where women from all walks of life can connect, build lasting friendships, and feel a sense of belonging. To achieve this, we're eliminating membership fees and making all our events free and open to the public. Donations (koha) will be warmly welcomed to support our initiatives.

Empowering Women of All Backgrounds, WINGS will be a platform where women of diverse ethnicities, races, nationalities, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds can feel encouraged, empowered, and inspired. We aim to provide a supportive environment where women can connect and find the strength to reach their full potential.

We are actively reaching out to a broader demographic within Whangarei. Our goal is to ensure all women feel welcome and can participate in our events and initiatives.

In an exciting new chapter for WINGS, we look forward to creating a more inclusive and impactful organization that will continue to empower and uplift women in Whangarei for years to come.

Sincerely,



Suzzette Monroe  
Co-Chairperson, WINGS

## MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

### **Mission Statement**

The Women's International Newcomers Group Social is a friendship network where we can exchange traditions and knowledge, share settlement issues, build connections and create a sense of belonging in our community.

### **Values**

WINGS is an organisation for women in Whangarei, we are dedicated to creating a sense of belonging, support, connection and to empower and improve their well-being through a range of engaging social activities.

### **Long-term Goals**

- Provide a vibrant community within WINGS for women new to New Zealand and/or the Whangarei District wherein friendship can be found
- Facilitate the sharing of cultural knowledge and traditions
- Ease integration into New Zealand, local culture and community
- Assist settlement
- Encourage a positive attitude that supports integration and benefits the Whangarei community
- Encourage settlement and a feeling of belonging through social activities

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Suzzette Monroe  
Chairperson & Grant Writer  
(From November 2023)

Gwen Ras  
Vice Chairperson

Jessie Manney  
Officer

Julia Nuechter  
Co – Vice Chair &  
Grant Writer

Deirdre Nicholls  
Secretary

Avi Damerell  
Treasurer

Geraldine Cammell  
Officer

Kameela Abdul Wahab  
Officer

Janina Fraser  
Officer

## Election of Officers

### **Committee Members standing for another year**

- Avi Damerell
- Deirdre Nicholls
- Kameela Abdul Wahab
- Jessie Manney
- Suzette Monroe

## Nominations

- Jean Tier
- Nimo Ahmed
- Ava Ryerson

## Wednesday Themed Evening Monthly Meeting 2023-2024

- April 2023 – Ramadan Month & Eid ul Fitr Celebration
- May 2023 – WINGS AGM
- June 2023 – Deirdre's UK & Europe trips with her Granddaughter
- July 2023 - New Focus NZ
- August 2023 – Cecilia's experience of a wedding in Spain
- September 2023 – Papua New Guinea Night
- October 2023 – Good Bitches Baking
- November 2023 – Meet & Greet
- December 2023 – WINGS 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- January 2024 – No Meeting
- February 2024 – No Meeting
- March 2024 – No Meeting

## Regular Activities

- Monthly Meetings: first Wednesday of the month at the Whangarei Women's Club with guest speakers, cultural evenings, notices, food, raffle, fun
- Friday Coffee: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 am at Sabio Coffee, Lower Dent Street
- Thursday Coffee: 10.30 a.m. at Sabio Coffee, Lower Dent Street
- Book Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at Café Botannix
- Tai Chi
- Ladies who lunch – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (Different location each time)
- Restaurant night
- Events, outings, visits - organised by Events Planning Group

## Community Events

- Leis making workshop – Whangarei Central library
- Festival of Christmas trees – St. John Church
- Stall at ArtBeat 2024
- Stall at Pasifika Fusion Festival
- A&P Show Barge Park, volunteering as Equestrian Stewards



## Other events of 2023-2024

- 10 Pins Bowling
- Walk and Talk from A.H Reed Park to Whangarei Falls and back
- Whangarei Friendship Garden Group
- Visit Northland Rescue Helicopter at Western Hill Drive followed by Lunch
- Mother's Day Walk
- Women's International Day walk
- Biscuits Decoration workshop
- Water Colour Workshop
- Leis Making Workshop
- Family Picnic
- CATE – Teachers' Conference, volunteering

## Achievements for 2023-2024

WINGS applied for and received funding from Lotteries, COGS as well as assistance from Whangarei District Council.

- COGS granted \$2,000 for operating costs
- A grant from WDC received (Districts Amenities Fund) - \$ 4,000. On top of the grant, Whangarei District Council provides WINGS with a significant rent reduction on the office space.
- Lotteries \$ 12,000
- WINGS Auction fundraiser - \$ 440.17 and Raffles \$405 (January to March, '24.)
- Membership Fee + Donations + Fundraisers \$980 (April – December '23)
- WINGS volunteered as Equestrian Stewards at the Whangarei A&P show and received a donation of \$1000.
- WINGS volunteered as Waitresses at the Teachers' Conference (CATE events) and received \$3000
- Subscriber database – 609 & Members – 92 (with 2 Lifetime members and 1 Honorary member)

## Goals for 2024-2025

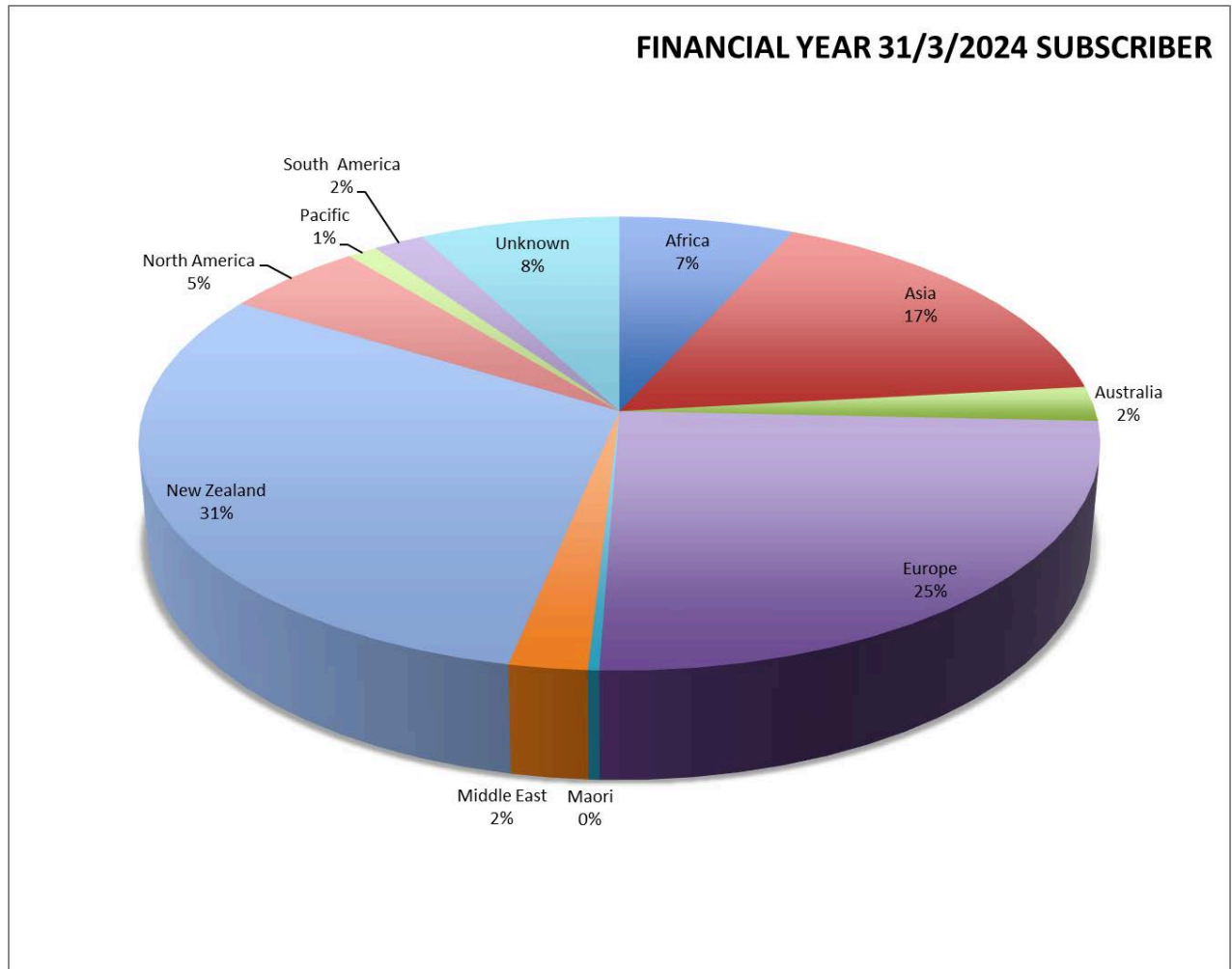
- Financial Stability sustainability
- Sponsorship opportunities and collaboration with Businesses
- Regular Funding events
- Volunteer training opportunities at the office

- WINGS to continue as a well-organised and sustainable group
- Increasing promotion of membership and participation of WINGS
- Offering a wide range of quality social opportunities to the women in our community
- Representing WINGS at other community organisations events
- Working cohesively with Multicultural Whangarei, Volunteering Northland, CAB, and other community groups
- Participate in local community events to raise WINGS profile

### Current Position of WINGS

- We are in a precarious position financially with an anticipated shortfall for this next year. Revenues from grants and donations have decreased, though door charges at the monthly meetings, subscription memberships, fundraising events and profit from activities are helping to fill the hole.
- In the present climate of economic hardship for companies, Foundations and individuals, funding sources have become challenging. In the short term to medium term, our membership and fundraising activities will become particularly important.
- We continue to use our revenue appropriately, providing value to our sponsors, without whom it would be difficult to operate effectively.
- WINGS is continuing to follow its mission of welcoming women to Whangarei, supporting them in friendship and providing volunteering opportunities within our organisation and a springboard to work and volunteering.

**Region – wide Subscriber Base 2023-2024**



### Budget for 2024-2025

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administrator & Media /IT Support	\$34,000.00
Office supplies	\$1,500.00
Office and hall rental	\$2,500.00
Telephone, mobile, website costs	\$2,000.00
Accounting and Auditing fees	\$900.00
Meeting cost, guest koha and catering	\$800.00
Volunteer Training & Appreciation	\$1,000.00
Events expenses	\$1,800.00
Promotional Material (cards, adverts)	\$1,500
Parking	\$1,560.00
Project: Soaring with WINGS (Wellbeing)	\$8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,560.00</b>