

Community Development Committee Agenda

Date: Thursday, 21 August, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitihi, 9 Rust Avenue

Elected Members: Cr Gavin Benney (Chairperson)
Cr Carol Peters (Deputy Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

1. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga	
2. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai	
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7. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui	

Recommendations contained in the agenda are not the decisions of the meeting.

Please refer to minutes for resolutions.

Community Development Committee – Terms of Reference

Membership

Chairperson	Councillor Gavin Benney
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Carol Peters
Members	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Councillors Nicholas Connop, Ken Couper, Jayne Golightly, Phil Halse, Deborah Harding, Patrick Holmes, Marie Olsen, Scott McKenzie, Simon Reid, Phoenix Ruka and Paul Yovich
Meetings	Monthly
Quorum	7

Purpose

To oversee functions of Council that interact, support and provide services for the community, including to disburse funds as determined by the Whangarei District Council Grants, Concessions and Loans Policy.

Key responsibilities

- Policy and planning for the provision of community development, culture, arts and heritage and events
- District venues and community events
- Libraries services (Central Library, Branch Libraries, Mobile Library services)
- Customer Services
 - Customer Services Civic Centre and Ruakaka Service Centre
 - Contact Centre Services
 - Isite services
 - National Claphams Clock Museum
 - Request system
- Community services
 - Community sector liaison and support (Advisory Groups)
 - Community safety (City Safe, CCTV)
- Pensioner housing
- Property asset management
 - Pensioner housing

- Forum North
- Community halls
- Civil Defence Emergency Management
- Heritage, culture, arts and creative industries sector liaison
- Community development led programmes
- Operational accountability of performance including:
 - Health and Safety
 - Regular reporting on service delivery
 - Compliance
 - Sustainability
 - Finance
- Reporting on capital projects
- Procurement – general procurement relating to the areas of business of this committee, within delegations
- Shared services – investigate opportunities for shared services for recommendation to council
- To carry out the funding process in accordance with the Whangarei District Council Grants, Concessions and Loans Policy in an objective, fair and transparent way.
- Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) – monitoring the financial and non-financial performance of CCOs whose functions would otherwise fall under the scope of this committee. Includes trading CCOs (CCTOs) and those CCOs exempted under the LGA. Responsibilities include:
 - advising on the content of annual Statement of Expectations to CCOs
 - agreement of the Statement of Intent
 - monitoring against the Statement of Intent
 - for exempted CCOs, monitoring and reporting as agreed between Council and the organisation
 - quarterly reporting on performance

CCO accountable to this committee:

- Hatea Art Trust (HAT)
- Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC)
- Whangarei Art Museum (WAM)
- Northland Events Centre Trust 2021 (NECT2021)

Delegations

- (i) All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities, including, but not limited to:
- a) approval of a submission to an external body.
 - b) establishment of working parties or steering groups.
 - c) adoption of strategies and policies relating to the key responsibilities of this committee (except for those that cannot be delegated by Council under Clause 32(1)(f) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act (LGA).
 - d) the approval of expenditure of less than \$5 million plus GST.
 - e) the power to adopt the Special Consultative Procedure provided for in Section 83 to 88 of the LGA in respect of matters under its jurisdiction (this allows for setting of fees and bylaw making processes up to but not including adoption).
 - f) the power to delegate any of its powers to any joint committee established for any relevant purpose under clause 32, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Committee does not have:

- I. The power to establish sub-committees.
- II. The powers Council is expressly prohibited from delegating as outlined in Clause 32(1)(a)-(h) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; being:
 - the power to make a rate
 - the power to make a bylaw
 - the power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan
 - the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report
 - the power to appoint a chief executive the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement
 - the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.

Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 17 July, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue

In Attendance	Cr Gavin Benney (Chairperson) Cr Carol Peters (Deputy Chairperson) Cr Nicholas Connop Cr Ken Couper Cr Deborah Harding Cr Patrick Holmes Cr Scott McKenzie Cr Marie Olsen Cr Phoenix Ruka Cr Paul Yovich
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Not in Attendance	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Cr Jayne Golightly Cr Phil Halse Cr Simon Reid
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Scribe	D.Garner (Democracy Adviser)
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1. **Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga**

No interests were declared.

2. **Apologies / Kore Tae Mai**

Cr's Jayne Golightly, Phil Halse and Simon Reid (absent). His Worship the Mayor was absent on Council business.

Moved By Cr Marie Olsen

Seconded By Cr Deborah Harding

That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Community Development Committee Meeting / Whakatau Meneti

3.1 Minutes Community Development Committee held on 19 June 2025

Moved By Cr Deborah Harding

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

That the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Thursday, 19 June 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

4. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

4.1 Community Funding - July 2025

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

That the Community Development Committee approves Whangārei Communities Fund grant allocations as follows:

1. Parakao Hall Society – Playground, shade sail, and deck upgrade\$25,000
2. Ruakaka Surf Lifesaving Patrol – RSLP rebuild project design phase\$100,000
3. Waitotira Community Hall – Insurance\$2,000
4. Waipu Cycle and Walkway Group – Cultural artwork for Waipu Cove Trail\$10,000
5. Waipu Public Coronation Hall and Library – Kitchen roller doorsDecline
6. Waipu Tennis Club – LED lighting projectDecline
7. Whangarei A&P Society – Show transport\$1,465

Carried

5. Information Reports / Ngā Pūrongo Kōrero

5.1 Kiwi Art Trail 2024 – 2025 Post Event Review

Moved By Cr Paul Yovich

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the Committee:

1. Receives the Kiwi art trail post event report

Carried**5.2 Community Services Group Operational Report July 2025****Moved By** Cr Gavin Benney**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the Community Development Committee receives the Community Services Group Operational Report for June 2025 at the July 2025 meeting.

Carried**6. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata**

There was no business held in public

7. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

The meeting concluded at 10:23am.

Confirmed this 21st day of August 2025

Cr Gavin Benney (Chairperson)

4.1 Community Funding – August 2025

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Cindy Fields, Community Funding Adviser

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To determine Whangarei Communities Fund (WCF) grant allocations and a Community Loan allocation for August 2025.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee:

1. Approves Whangarei Communities Fund grant allocations as follows:

a. Kamo Community Inc for Te Kamo Spring Clean	\$8,182
b. Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust for Celtic Barn floor resurfacing	\$20,000
c. Whangarei Country Music Club Inc for new sound system	\$6,000
d. Whangarei Croquet Club Inc for repairs to clubroom exterior walls and roof	\$31,980
2. Gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive to determine community funding allocations from the Whangarei Communities Fund (WCF) over the local government election period of October and November 2025.

3 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

In this period, four Whangarei Communities Fund applications are presented for the Committee's consideration, and all are recommended for support.

WCF applications breakdown

Applications	Facilities	General	Total this month	Total YTD
Total received (and recommended/ approved)	2 (2)	2 (2)	4 (4)	7 (5)
Total requested	\$57,390	\$14,182	\$71,572	\$187,889
Total recommended	\$51,980	\$14,182	\$66,162	\$138,465

3.1 Financial/budget considerations

The proposed allocation this month is \$66,162.

This is within the target budget range for the month. The year-to-date allocation including this month's proposed allocation, would use 20% of the total year budget. The budget is track for the year.

Facilities account for 78% of this month's proposed allocations, slightly above our target of 70%.

3.2 Assessment of applications

The table below summarises the applications received. This is followed by staff's assessment comments.

Summary of WCF applications - August 2025

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria	Score	Requested	Recommended	Budget
Kamo Community Inc	Te Kamo Spring Clean	Arts, Culture, and Heritage	84	\$8,182	\$8,182	General
Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust	Celtic Barn floor resurfacing	Recreation and Sport	57	\$25,410	\$20,000	Facilities
Whangarei Country Music Club Inc	A new sound system for the Whangarei Country Music Club	Community Well-being	60	\$6,000	\$6,000	General
Whangarei Croquet Club Incorporated	Repairs to outside walls and roof of Club Rooms	Recreation and Sport	74	\$31,980	\$31,980	Facilities
				\$71,572	\$66,162	

Kamo Community Inc

This request is to support the Te Kamo community clean-up day, in particular the creation of a new mural (Liquorland site) and the refurbishment of the existing mural at Kamo Four Square.

The Spring Clean event, aligned with Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean Up Week, will also involve water blasting pavements, restoring bench seats, and expanding the village gardens. The total project cost is \$15k with the balance funded by the applicant with a contribution from the benefitting business.

The group sought expressions of interest for the new mural and selected an experienced local artist. They also engaged the original artist for the refurbishment of the existing mural, which is damaged and faded. Their financial statements indicate this project would be difficult for them to manage without funding support.

The project shows good collaboration with the community and builds on the success and momentum of last year's event. It is an excellent example of community-led development, where the community is actively engaged in addressing an issue they have identified as important – taking pride in their village. It is recommended for support in full.

Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust

This request is for the resurfacing of the Celtic Barn floor, which is showing signs of failing. The floor is uneven and lifting in places, creating a hazard for the many sports players that

use the facility. This is supported by letters from the Pickleball, Senior Women's Netball clubs, and social basketball club.

The budget shows that the total project cost is \$36k (including court marking) for which they have a \$5k grant confirmed. They have not shown how the balance would be funded, but presumably this would be from their own funds. They are in a good financial position with regular annual profit of c. \$25k. They are keen to have the work completed as soon as possible to prevent further damage and cost.

Supporting this request is recommended. Noting their financial position, other applications received this month, and how we are tracking to budget, a partial contribution is recommended.

Whangarei Country Music Club Inc

This request is for a new sound system and speakers for the country music club. The club has 68 financial members and 60-80 regular attendees at their weekly club afternoons for singing and dancing. The members are senior citizens, making this an important part of social connection and keeping active.

The club's existing sound system for recorded and live music is no longer fit for purpose. The existing system needs to be packed in and out from a heavy lock box. "The speakers are 8-9 years old, they are very heavy and cumbersome to move and have to be lifted onto poles that are 2 metres tall. Unfortunately, most of our committee members are in their seventies and eighties and it is becoming more and more difficult for them to handle this equipment."

The proposed new sound system is recommended for their needs to remedy the transport and set up issues, while delivering quality sound for live bands and their audience.

The total cost is \$8,420 and they are contributing the \$2,420 balance. The Club has limited financial resources and has not applied to us before; therefore, this is recommended for full support.

Whangarei Croquet Club Inc

This request is for the repair and paint of the clubroom exterior walls and roof. This is a 1901 historic building with a unique shape. It is still used as the clubrooms for this inner-city croquet club.

The application is strong, clearly demonstrating the need for the project and Council's support. Weatherboards are failing with rot evident in the photos provided.

The club has worked hard over the last few years to repair the facilities despite their financial limitations. With a membership of just 35 this is a significant investment. However, it supports seniors to remain active and engaged and will see the club (and this historic asset) continue for decades to come. The club is also the base for the Northland Croquet Association, regional competitions, and occasional school and business groups.

The club does not have the income to support this beyond the 30% required contribution they have committed to. It is therefore recommended to support this in full.

3.3 Method of assessment

A fair, equitable, and consistent approach is applied in considering grant applications. Staff aim to provide the best outcomes for the community and for Council's available grants budget.

In assessing applications and deciding on the best allocations, the following are considered:

- eligibility and alignment with criteria and Council priorities
- completeness and quality of the application
- community need and impact, and a desire for equitable outcomes
- the project's readiness and the applicant's ability to deliver

- the level of risk
- how we have funded similar projects
- if the applicant organisation has been funded already recently
- how the application compares to the others received (including its assessment score)
- our available budget and allocations made against the four funding criteria.

Assessment score

Grant applications are provided a score as one means to help guide decision-making. The totals are weighted as shown for the following measures:

Project planning (30%)	The project idea is clear and well-developed. The application demonstrates a clear and strong community need or benefit.
Alignment (30%)	The application demonstrates clear alignment with our Funding Priorities and objectives. The application demonstrates support for a target sector of the community (under-represented communities or people, place, or attribute).
Budget (20%)	The budget is clear and realistic.
Supporting information (20%)	Supporting information provided is appropriate for the requested level of investment.

3.4 Policy and planning implications

The Community Funding Policy, revised in June 2024, was applied in the consideration of all applications, and is reflected in the recommendations made.

3.5 Delegation over the election period

With Council being in hiatus over the election period, decision-making on grants would also cease over this time (November and December 2025).

To ensure that Council continues to meet its community funding timeframes and that community continues to be supported, delegated authority to act would need to be granted to the Chief Executive for this period.

Community funding recommendations will continue to be made in the same manner, but with decisions made under the authority of the Chief Executive. These decisions will be reported to the new Council in early 2026.

No decisions are proposed to be made in January. Decision-making would resume in February, subject to the new Council's preferences.

3.6 Risks

No risks were identified for the recommendations proposed.

Should delegated authority not be given, grant applications received after 20 August would not receive a decision until late February at the earliest.

4 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

4.2 Community Loan application – One Tree Point Bowling Club

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Cindy Fields, Community Funding Adviser

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To consider a community loan application made by One Tree Point Bowling Club for their artificial turf project.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee:

1. Notes staff's assessment and accepts the risks as included in the report,
2. Approves an interest-free Community Loan of \$80,000 on a term of 8 years to One Tree Point Bowling Club, and
3. Delegates the Chief Executive to finalise terms and conditions of the funding agreement including drawdown, repayment terms, and security.

3 Background / Horopaki

The council offers community loans to eligible organisations for the development of community assets for recreation purposes.

4 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

This request is to install a new artificial green for the One Tree Point Bowling Club.

In February, the Club was granted \$100,000 from the Whangarei Communities Fund towards this project, and they have been fundraising to meet the balance of the \$368,000 project. They are now just \$80,000 short of their goal and are seeking an interest-free loan so that work can proceed.

They have requested an interest-free 8-year term with quarterly instalments of \$2,500 (\$10,000 per annum).

Community Loan applications are assessed by the Community Funding Adviser for its alignment with funding criteria and its community benefit. It is also assessed by Finance and Legal staff as subject matter experts. These assessments are outlined below.

4.1 Community Funding Adviser's assessment

The Club presents a strong case for support and are "shovel ready". They received a loan from Council previously which they paid off in 2022. They are in a good financial position, have multiple sources of steady income, and good community support.

The Club receives regular income from membership fees, bowling fees, sponsorship, bar sales, and fundraising.

This loan application and the February grant application both scored over 85%.

The Club's cashflow forecast and financial reports indicate that the proposed loan repayments are achievable.

The Community Funding Adviser recommends this application for support.

4.2 Finance and Legal Advisers' assessment

Staff raised some questions on the Club's cashflow forecasts which the Club promptly answered. Their revised and additional cash flows as well as the commentary provided were reviewed.

The club's cashflow projections over the life of the loan reflect modest favourable cash flow of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 per year after repayment of the loan instalment.

These cash flow projects are reliant on the revenue assumptions and costs assumptions being able to be achieved. Staff have some reservations on some of the assumptions.

The club received a loan for \$40,000 previously from council and have a positive track record of meeting those loan obligations. It is noted that this loan application is for \$80,000, double the amount that council has previously granted and therefore places more strain on their cash flow to meet the repayments.

Based on the information provided and the review undertaken this application is considered a moderate risk to council.

Council finance and legal advisers state that they are satisfied the loan can be awarded subject to fulfilment of the legal requirements including having security applied.

4.3 Financial/budget considerations

New community loans are not budgeted for as part of the Long-Term Plan (LTP) or Annual Plan (AP). Loans are considered on an application basis and funded through a cash backed reserve.

Council currently has six community loans with a total balance owing of \$173,213. This is down from \$228,959 as at 30 June 2024.

4.4 Policy and planning implications

Community Loan conditions are as follows:

- Generally, the first \$100,000 will be interest free and any further portion will be interest bearing.
- Generally, the maximum repayment period shall be 8 years.
- Frequency of repayments will be negotiated with the borrower.

- Legal expenses will be the responsibility of the applicant but may be included in the loan.
- Loans will be formally executed and will be secured as Council deems appropriate.
- Loans are generally not available to retire or restructure current debt, but Council may consider this in exceptional circumstances, such as where the ongoing viability of an organisation is under threat.
- Loans may be subject to other conditions imposed by Council.
- Loan drawdowns may be by instalment at Council's option and Council may require copies of applicant's invoices from suppliers to which the loan relates.
- For GST registered organisations, the GST portion of costs will not be funded by the loan.
- Financial statements will be provided to Council annually during the term of the loan.
- In the case of any default on repayments, Council will work with the organisation to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.
- If the financial position of an organisation deteriorates to the point that the loan repayment is not possible, Council will exercise its rights as specified in the loan agreement.
- Any arrears of repayments will be reported to the Community Development Committee.

4.5 Fund criteria

The applicant has demonstrated meeting community loan criteria.

Community Loan criteria	Applicant
Must be a not-for-profit incorporated society or charitable trust with a constitutionally open membership.	Yes
Must be in a stable and sound financial position.	Yes, good income levels
Contribute 50% towards the project (this can be from grant funding including WDC).	Yes
Can demonstrate the ability to repay the loan within 8 years.	Yes
Can demonstrate the ability to maintain and run the facility well into the future.	Yes
The recreational facility is to be within the Whangārei District.	Yes
There is a demonstrable need and benefit for the wider community or a sector of the community.	Yes, membership and usage is strong
The community and/or affiliated regional or national bodies supports the proposal.	Yes, support letters from Northland Bowls, Jane Mander Retirement Village, Educare, and several local businesses/corporates.
The project aligns with Council priorities as identified in our strategic and planning documents.	Yes, Recreation and Sport funding priority, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy

4.6 Risks

Based on the information provided and the review undertaken this application is considered a moderate financial risk to council. Applying security to the property is recommended to mitigate this.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

4.3 Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2028

Meeting: Community Development Meeting
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Victoria Harwood General Manager Community Services
 Bea Mossop Venues and Events Department Manager

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To present the final Statement of Intent 2025–2028 from the Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust Te Pae Taurima o Te Tai Tokerau, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Committee:

1. Receives the report Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust; Statement of Intent 2025–2028.
2. Approves the Northland Events Centre Trust (2021) Final Statement of Intent 2025–2028
3. Acknowledges the commitment and work of the Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust Board members and staff.

3 Background / Horopaki

The Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust (NECT2021) is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) established by Whangārei District Council (WDC) to manage and operate Semenoff Stadium as a multipurpose community facility. Under Section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provides that Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs) must have a Statement of Intent (SOI) for the year ahead.

The purpose of a SOI is to state publicly the activities and intentions of the CCO, to provide an opportunity for Council to influence the direction of the organisation, and to provide a basis for accountability. Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) have legislative timeframes under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to provide a draft Statement of Intent (SOI), and subsequent final SOI to Council.

These timeframes include:

- A draft SOI is provided to Council by 1 March
- Council considers the draft SOI and provides any feedback to the CCO by 1 May
- A final SOI is provided to Council by 30 June

4 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Strategic Plan and Objectives

The Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust 2025–2028 Statement of Intent outlines the Trust's strategic direction across six key pillars:

Community	Strengthen our role as a valued community asset by deepening meaningful relationships with Tangata Whenua and local communities
Identity	strengthen our unique brand and cultural significance to enhance our regional and national reputation
Environmental Sustainability	enhance sustainable practices to reduce the venue's environmental impact
Utilisation	maximise venue use by attracting a diverse range of events and ensuring year-round activation
Financial Sustainability	drive financial sustainability through strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and revenue generating opportunities
Infrastructure	continuously improving facilities and services to enhance the experience for all visitors and event organisers.

- Financial
- Reporting
- Health Safety and Wellbeing

Council's expectations for NECT2021 as per the Statement of Expectations 2024-2025:

- Transparent and accountable
- Demonstrate good governance
- Provide benefit to the community
- Promote value for money and provide Community Services on behalf of Council
- Statements of Intent are concise and include meaningful performance measures

Performance Measures

Key initiatives including new performance measures based on the updated strategic plan include:

- Hosting a minimum of 10 large events annually, increasing to 12 by 2027/28.
- Strengthening relationships with Tangata Whenua and local communities.
- Increasing sponsorship and food/beverage revenue streams to improve financial sustainability.
- Developing and submitting a long-term infrastructure plan for inclusion in WDC's Long Term Plan.
- Committing to carbon reduction and sustainable event practices.
- Maintaining governance best practices and meeting all statutory reporting obligations.

4.1 Financial/budget considerations

It is noted that the Trust anticipates financial deficits in Years 1 and 2 primarily due to reduced revenue opportunities associated with the planned roof replacement project.

Surplus and Loss

The Trust has forecast operating losses for the next two years associated with, in year 1, the current challenging economic climate and in year 2, impacts from the roof replacement with associated loss of revenue.

	Budget to 30 June 2026	Budget to 30 June 2027	Budget to 30 June 2028
Net Surplus/(Loss)	(\$46,399)	(\$282,809)	\$4,275

The Trust have equity to off-set those losses at this stage, but it is anticipated the use of this reserve will reduce it below the Trusts reserves policy amount, under \$669,942 as the table below demonstrates. But the Trust has adequate cash reserves to absorb those losses in years 1 and 2.

Equity, Cash and cash reserves

	Budget to 30 June 2025	Budget to 30 June 2026	Budget to 30 June 2027
Total Equity	\$882,120	\$599,311	\$603,586
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$902,060	\$721,148	\$717,026

Current Council Funding

Council has allocated funding to the Northland Events Centre 2021 Trust in the LTP 2024-34 as follows:

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
Operating grant	696,986	713,025	729,396
Rent concession	750,000	750,000	750,000
Total	1,446,986	1,463,025	1,479,396

Council's expectation is that the Trust will attract external funding to support facility development and event delivery to mitigate financial losses.

4.2 Risks

- In the same way that the cost of living has increased, so too have operational costs for Council and its CCO's. Due to its status as a CCO, the Trust has some additional costs that are out of its control, such as auditors and difficulties with qualifying for some external funding streams
- The budgeting is not fully aligned at this stage with the current asset management plan
- The financial forecasts are based on the roof replacement project timeline; on the assumption the onsite construction will start November 2026.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website or Council News or Facebook or any other channel currently used to inform customers.

6 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust Statement of Intent 2025 -2028



NORTHLAND
EVENTS CENTRE (2021) TRUST
TE PAE TAURIMA
O TE TAI TOKERAU

2025-2028

Statement of Intent

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1 Introduction

The Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust (NECT), a Whangarei District Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), was established on 1 December 2021.

The four Council appointed Trustees and Trustee appointed Chief Executive have successfully developed and implemented a Strategic Plan (Vision, Purpose, Strategic Pillars and Values), Statement of Intent, Annual Plan and Budget that aligns to Whangarei District Council's (WDC) Statement of Expectations for CCOs.

2 Purpose of the Statement of Intent

This statement of intent is prepared in accordance with section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002. It outlines the activities and intentions of NECT2021 for the next three financial years, and the objectives to which those activities will contribute. It provides a basis for accountability to WDC and the public for the performance of the organisation.



3 Nature and Scope of Activities

NECT is responsible for:

- Delivering events for the benefit of Northland Te Tai Tokerau
- Demonstrating financial sustainability and solvency
- Operating a multipurpose, community facility for the benefit of Northland
- Managing on a commercial basis according to industry best practice
- Adhering to WDCs reporting requirements
- Demonstrating social, cultural and environmental responsibility and sustainability
- Compliance with relevant legislation, obligations of a PCBU under the Health and Safety Work Act 2015
- Acting in accordance with the Trust Deed, Good Governance practice and the Deed of Lease.

WDC's expectations for NECT as per the Statement of Expectations 2025-2028:

- Be transparent and accountable
- Demonstrate good governance
- Provide benefit to the community
- Promote value for money and provide community services on behalf of WDC
- The Statement of Intent is concise and includes meaningful performance measures
- Attend WDC meetings on the Statement of Intent, Annual Report, and Half-yearly report
- Compliance with rules and legislation.



4 Approach to Governance

The governance of NECT is the responsibility of a board of four Trustees appointed by WDC.



Paula Savage
Chair



Hetty Van Hale
Deputy Chair



Steve Armitage
Trustee



Andre Hemara
Trustee

The following four Trustees have been appointed based on their wealth of experience in diverse sectors:

- Paula Savage (Chair)
- Hetty Van Hale (Deputy Chair)
- Steve Armitage
- Andre Hemara

In addition, the following committees have been established by the Trust to ensure best practice:

- People and Performance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee

NECT's actions and direction is governed by the Trust Deed, Board Charter, policy framework and Strategic Plan. These key documents detail the objectives of NECT which includes governance and management of Semenoff Stadium and delivery of events to the region.

5 Vision, Purpose and Strategic Pillars

Vision

Northland's favourite gathering place for unforgettable events

Purpose

Hosting exceptional events which celebrate and connect our region

Strategic Priorities

1. Community

Strengthen our role as a valued community asset by deepening meaningful relationships with Tangata Whenua and local communities

2. Identity

Strengthen our unique brand and cultural significance to enhance our regional and national reputation.

3. Environmental Sustainability

Enhance sustainable practices to reduce the venue's environmental impact.

4. Utilisation

Maximise venue use by attracting a diverse range of events and ensuring year-round activation.

5. Financial Sustainability

Drive financial sustainability through strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and revenue-generating opportunities.

6. Infrastructure

Continuously improve facilities and services to enhance the experience for all visitors and event organisers.

6 Performance Targets and Measures

Performance Measures			
Objective	Year 1 2025/2026	Year 2 2026/2027	Year 3 2027/2028
1. Community			
Strengthen our role as a valued community asset by deepening meaningful relationships with Tangata Whenua and local communities			
1.1 Develop metrics to understand our communities' perception of NEC as a community asset	Establish a baseline measure and targets for our communities' perception of NEC as a community facility	Achieve our target for community perception	Achieve our target for community perception
1.2 Foster strong relationships with Tangata Whenua and local communities.	Establish community engagement plan	Deliver on community engagement plan	Deliver on community engagement plan
2. Identity			
Strengthen our unique brand and cultural significance to enhance our regional and national reputation			
2.1 Enhance the venue's cultural narrative through Te Ao Māori integration and upholding our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.	Refresh brand collateral to reflect values and new strategy	Establish plan to develop venue identity	Deliver venue identity enhancements
2.2 Develop a distinctive brand positioning that reinforces our place as Northland's most dynamic gathering place.	Establish a baseline measure and targets for our brand identity	Achieve our target for brand identity	Achieve our target for brand identity
3. Environmental Sustainability			
Enhance sustainable practices to reduce the venue's environmental impact			
3.1 Enhance our environmentally responsible practices, reducing our carbon footprint.	Establish a baseline measure and targets for our carbon footprint and landfill diversion rate	Develop plan to reduce our carbon footprint and landfill diversion rate	Meet our carbon footprint and landfill diversion targets
3.2 Adopt sustainable event management principles and encourage hirers to do the same.	Develop sustainability clauses for hire agreements	Have sustainability clauses in 100% of event hire agreements	
4. Utilisation			
Maximise venue use by attracting a diverse range of events and ensuring year-round activation			
4.1 Host events for the benefit of the Northland Te Tai Tokerau community.	Host 10 or more large* events *Large event defined as	Host 8 or more large events	Host 12 or more large events

Performance Measures			
Objective	Year 1 2025/2026	Year 2 2026/2027	Year 3 2027/2028
	400px+		
4.2 Maximise venue use by attracting diverse events.	Develop a plan to strengthen partnerships with event organisers, national bodies, and regional stakeholders	Event confirmed with one new partner	Event confirmed with one new partner
4.3 Increase use of underutilised spaces.	Increase the usage of our underutilized spaces by 5% on baseline	Increase the usage of our underutilized spaces by 10% on baseline	Increase the usage of our underutilized spaces by 15% on baseline
5. Financial Sustainability			
Drive financial sustainability through strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and revenue-generating opportunities			
5.1 Increase surplus through sponsorships and partnerships	Increase the value of sponsorships and funding by 5%	Maintain sponsorship and fund level (roof project affected)	Increase the value of sponsorships and funding by 10% on baseline
5.2 Increase surplus through food and beverage opportunities.	Increased our food and beverage surplus by 5% on baseline	Maintain our food and beverage profit margin (roof project affected)	Increased our food and beverage profit by 10% on baseline
5.3 Develop new revenue streams to support the financial sustainability of the venue.	One new revenue stream	One new revenue stream	Two new revenue streams
6. Infrastructure			
Continuously improve facilities and services to enhance the experience for all visitors and event organisers			
6.1 Develop and implement long term infrastructure plan to enhance the commercial appeal of the venue to attract high-profile events.	Develop a long-term infrastructure plan and this is submitted to WDC's Long Term Plan	Funding requirements submitted to Long Term Plan	Long term infrastructure plan funding secured
6.2 Develop and maintain asset management plan for WDC and NECT assets	Develop asset management plan for NECT assets	Review our asset management plan	Review our asset management plan
7. Financial			
7.1 NECT2021 will operate in accordance with Board approved financial budgets and delegated authority.	The overall surplus/deficit is in line with the approved budget	The overall surplus/deficit is in line with the approved budget	The overall surplus/deficit is in line with the approved budget
7.2 Meet all financial obligations to Charities Services including annual returns and reporting	Submission of annual returns within 6 months of financial year end to Charities Services.	Submission of annual returns within 6 months of financial year end to Charities Services.	Submission of annual returns within 6 months of financial year end to Charities Services.

Performance Measures			
Objective	Year 1 2025/2026	Year 2 2026/2027	Year 3 2027/2028
requirements.			
7.3 Meet financial reporting standards for a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)	Submission of financial reports to Council as per CCO reporting standards	Submission of financial reports to Council as per CCO reporting standards	Submission of financial reports to Council as per CCO reporting standards
8. Reporting			
8.1 NECT2021 will report on its achievement against the strategic objectives as outlined in the Statement of Intent.	Strategic objectives (reported in the half yearly and annual report).	Strategic objectives (reported in the half yearly and annual report).	Strategic objectives (reported in the half yearly and annual report).
9. Health, Safety and Wellbeing			
9.1 Meet our PCBU Health and Safety Work Act responsibilities.	100% of critical incidents are reported in the Half-Yearly Report and Annual Report.	100% of critical incidents are reported in the Half-Yearly Report and Annual Report.	100% of critical incidents are reported in the Half-Yearly Report and Annual Report.
	Two annual deep dives into critical risks.	Two annual deep dives into critical risks.	Two- deep dives into critical risks.

8. Information to be provided throughout the financial year

A half-yearly report will be provided to WDC by 28 February each year. This will include a comparison of performance against the performance targets and measures set out in this Statement of Intent, and unaudited financial statements.

An annual report will be provided to WDC by 30 September each year. This will include a comparison of performance against the performance targets and measures set out in this Statement of Intent, an explanation of any material variances from the Statement of Intent, audited financial statements, and an independent auditor's report on the financial statements and the performance targets and measures.

To ensure there is timely notification of any major issues, NECT commits to a no surprises approach beyond the formal reporting requirements. This means that NECT will inform WDC as soon as possible of any major issues that arise in the course of operations. NECT will proactively inform WDC when their operations could: create a major issue for NECT or WDC; trigger public interest; have political implications; or gain significant media attention.

Appendix 1: Accounting Policies

1 Statement of accounting policies for the year ended 30 June 2025

1.1 Reporting entity

NECT is incorporated as a trust under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, is domiciled in New Zealand and registered under the Charities Act 2005, registration number CC59521. NECT is a Council Controlled Organisation as defined under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The Board has elected to apply the Tier 3 (NFP) standard (previously referred to as Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (NFP) on the basis that NECT2021 does not have public accountability (as defined) and has total annual expenses of less than \$5 million.

All transactions in the financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the assumption that NECT2021 will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. NECT2021 is reliant on WDC's annual operating grant and continued support of its operations. WDC has included ongoing funding for NECT2021 in its 2024-2034 Long -Term Plan.

2.2 Goods and services tax

NECT is registered for GST. All amounts in the financial statements are recorded exclusive of goods and services tax, except for debtors and creditors, which are stated inclusive of goods and services tax.

2.3 Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars.

2.4 Revenue and expenses

Revenue comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and services, excluding goods and services tax, rebates and discounts. Revenue is recognised as follows:

- i. Grants: Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grant is initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the conditions of the grant

are satisfied.

- ii. Interest income: Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.
- iii. Sale of goods: Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the goods are sold to the customer.
- iv. Volunteer services: Volunteer services received are not recognised as revenue or expenditure as NECT is unable to measure the fair value of the services received.
- v. Rental revenue: Rental revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Rental revenue is received one month in advance and is recognised for the month it relates to.
- vi. Advertising, marketing, administration, overhead and fundraising costs: These are expensed when the related service has been received.

2.5 Bank accounts and cash

Bank accounts and cash include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

2.6 Debtors

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

2.7 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment (excluding donated assets) are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. NECT does not revalue its property, plant and equipment. NECT undertakes periodic impairment assessments of its property, plant and equipment.

- i. Donated assets: Donated assets are recognised upon receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised.
- ii. Asset sales: For an asset to be sold, the asset is impaired if the market price for an equivalent asset falls below its carrying amount.
- iii. Use of assets: For an asset to be used by NECT, the asset is impaired if the value to NECT in using the asset falls below the carrying amount of the asset.
- iv. Depreciation: Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Class of PP&E Leasehold	Estimated useful life	Depreciation rates
Improvements	10-100 years	1%-10%
Office equipment	2-10 years	10%-50%
Plant and equipment	6-60 years	1.6%-20%
Computer equipment	2-5 years	20%-50%

2.8 Investments

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks, listed bonds, and listed shares. Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it is written down to the expected recoverable amount.

2.9 Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

2.10 Lease expenses

Lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.11 Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied

NECT has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

Appendix 2: Forecast Financial Information

PROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

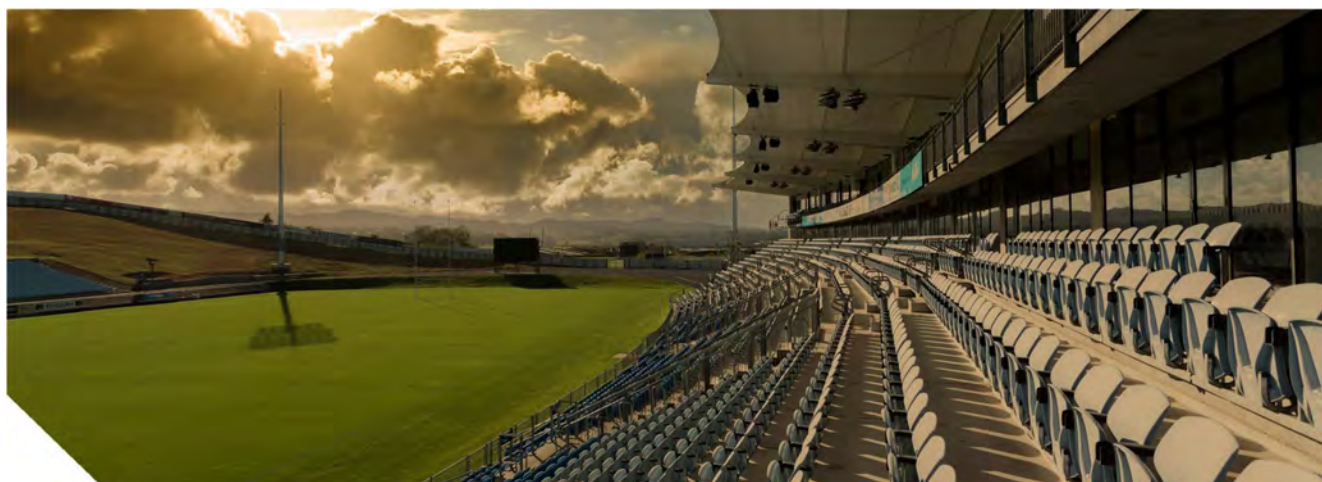
	Budget to 30 June 2026	Budget to 30 June 2027	Budget to 30 June 2028
Income			
Revenue	\$1,582,826	\$1,394,636	\$1,789,207
Grants	\$1,450,122	\$1,464,825	\$1,479,121
Interest	\$65,232	\$26,875	\$25,500
Total Income	\$3,098,180	\$2,886,336	\$3,293,828
Less Expenses			
Expenses	\$3,106,419	\$3,130,183	\$3,249,813
Total Expenses before depreciation	\$3,106,419	\$3,130,183	\$3,249,813
Net Surplus (Loss) before depreciation	-\$8,239	-\$243,847	\$44,016
Depreciation	\$38,160	\$38,961	\$39,741
Net Surplus (Loss) before tax	-\$46,399	-\$282,809	\$4,275
Tax Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Surplus/(Loss)	-\$46,399	-\$282,809	\$4,275

Note 1: The three year financial forecasts provided within this Statement of Intent have not been fully reconciled with the WDC asset management plan as at date of writing

Note 2: The Year 2 financial forecast includes the financial impact of the stadium roof project assumed to commence in November 2026 for completion in June 2027.

Note 3: In accordance with NECT's reserves policy, \$669,942 is reserved for a prudent reserve. Based on the impact of the roof replacement, it is estimated in years two and three that cash reserves fall below this threshold.

Note 4: The three year financial forecasts provided within this Statement of Intent include an annual CPI increase in the annual operating grant.



PROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

	Budget to 30 June 2026	Budget to 30 June 2027	Budget to 30 June 2028
Opening Equity as at 1 July	\$928,519	\$882,120	\$599,311
Plus Profit (Loss) for the year	-\$46,399	-\$282,809	\$4,275
Total increase (decrease) in equity	-\$46,399	-\$282,809	\$4,275
Closing Equity as at 30 June	\$882,120	\$599,311	\$603,586

PROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Budget to 30 June 2025	Budget to 30 June 2026	Budget to 30 June 2027
Equity			
Total Equity	\$882,120	\$599,311	\$603,586
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$902,060	\$721,148	\$717,026
Stock on Hand	\$7,763	\$7,763	\$7,763
Trade and other receivables	\$77,625	\$10,530	\$32,629
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables and accruals	\$258,720	\$251,794	\$263,524
Working Capital	\$728,728	\$487,647	\$493,894
Non Current Assets			
Property plant and equipment	\$153,392	\$111,665	\$109,692
Term Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Net Assets	\$882,120	\$599,311	\$603,586

4.4 Whangārei Art Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2028

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Victoria Harwood - General Manager, Community
 Jacki Cooper - Manager, Community Development

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To approve the Whangārei Art Trust Statement of Intent 2025-2028.

2 Recommendations / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee:

1. Receives the report Whangārei Art Trust Statement of Intent 2025-2028.
2. Approves the Whangārei Art Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2028.
3. Acknowledges the commitment and work of the Whangārei Art Trust Board members and staff.

3 Background / Horopaki

Section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provides that Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs) must have a statement of intent (SOI). The purpose of a SOI is to state publicly the activities and intentions of the CCO, to provide an opportunity for Council to influence the direction of the organisation, and to provide a basis for accountability.

CCOs have legislative timeframes under the LGA to provide a draft Statement of Intent (SOI), and based on feedback, a subsequent final SOI to Council for approval. Under schedule 8 clause 4 of the LGA, The Whangārei Art Trust that encapsulates Hundertwasser Art Centre and the Whangārei Art Museum now presents their finalised SOI under Section 64 and schedule 8 of the LGA for Council approval.

The Whangārei Art Trust (WAT) is responsible for operating the Whangārei Art Museum (WAM) and the Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC). The Wairau Māori Art Gallery (WMAG) is housed within the Hundertwasser Art Centre. The Whangārei Art Museum and the Hundertwasser Art Centre are located beside the popular Hatea loop walk and Whangārei's Town Basin marina.

In 2011, Deloitte was commissioned to assist in determining the feasibility of the Hundertwasser Art Centre project, and to consider it in the wider context of Council's strategy

and vision, as well as the economic impact that such a development would have on the region.

The report stated that HAC was not expected to start making profit until after June 2025. At the time of writing the report did not consider the turbulent economic environment brought about by the covid pandemic, or the severe weather events cutting off Northland from the rest of the country.

An Economic Impact Assessment was carried out separately to the feasibility study. The assessment found that, if there was a significant shortfall in visitor numbers, the Hundertwasser Art Centre could require additional funding to support continued operations.

4 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Following a challenging initial three years of operations, marked by Covid-19 lockdowns, restrictions on international visitors, and weather-related issues affecting main highway access, the Whangārei Art Trust has adjusted its staffing levels and refined its accounting and operational systems to better reflect the current economic climate.

Over the last 12 months the Trust has also revised its strategic plan and implemented a new marketing plan. The Hundertwasser Art Centre has also served as a strong draw for cruise ships to Northport.

The Trust remains prudent in its financial projections, and it has signalled that it will be reliant on ongoing support from Council to continue to operate as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Strategic Plan Objectives

The Trust's revised strategic plan focusses on four strategic objectives - sustainability, connection, experience and team culture (refer page 6). The plan informs the future focus of the Trust and its operations. To align with the plan, the Trust also updated some of their performance measures to align with the plan.

The table below details the Trust's four strategic objectives and sub objectives for each category:

Sustainability	<p>Develop opportunities that are considerate of our environment and are future focused.</p> <p>Develop and maintain diverse income streams in order to become more financially sustainable.</p> <p>Actively develop and maintain resilient and fit for purpose systems and processes.</p> <p>Ensure the Trust are aware of and invested in a shared vision underpinned by best practices</p> <p>Ensure financial management and controls are of the highest calibre, robust and accountable, and all operations are within budget.</p>
Connection	<p>Diversify and maintain connections to better understand and develop relationships with the communities and public we serve</p> <p>Improve and pursue key relationships which support our vision and mission</p>

	<p>Actively engage with iwi/hapu in meaningful and mana-enhancing ways</p> <p>Be responsive and agile in seeking out opportunities to collaborate with others</p>
Experience	<p>Provide varied opportunities for creative practice and exploration.</p> <p>Provide worldclass, attractions that attract local, national and international visitors and bringing civic, social and economic benefits to Whangarei.</p> <p>Develop offerings which address the needs of our diverse audiences and communities</p> <p>Ensure our offerings are innovative, exciting and visitor-focussed</p> <p>Develop and deliver offerings which encourage community engagement with the arts.</p>
Our Team	<p>Be a great place to work where we value and nurture our team</p> <p>Ensure our team has the right tools and support to succeed and deliver</p> <p>Maintain the necessary tools and systems to ensure the seamless running of the buildings and organisation</p> <p>Support our people to grow in their roles</p>

The Trust's focus areas (outlined pages 7-10) are directly aligned to Council's Statement of Expectations, received by the Trust, November 2024.

Performance measures

While some performance measures remain largely the same as the year before, the Trust have included 10 new performance measures in this year's iteration of the SOI, including:

- Developing an effective means to measure economic impact of HAC and WAM on Whangarei by end of 2026
- A budget being provided in time for inclusion in the draft and final SOI
- Providing WDC with an annual report on fundraising/grant applications
- Annual audits being completed within statutory timeframes
- Maintaining a positive relationship with Wairau Māori Art Gallery Board
- Local representatives of the (Hundertwasser) Foundation are to provide annual reports on (the) relationship between WAT and the Foundation
- 10% year-on-year increase in event-related income through to 2028
- Presenting 7 exhibitions
- Evidence of at least 10 programmes, events or initiatives developed or in development annually
- A risk assessment against the risk register will be conducted annually with a three-year review cycle.

When the Trust submit their Annual Report in September and their Half-Yearly Report in February each year, Council can assess KPI progress against the expectations of the council and the Trust's Statement of Intent.

4.1 Financial/budget considerations

Trust Surplus and Deficit Forecasts

The financial forecasts for the Trust for the next two years have modest profits before depreciation and amortisation, which when added, leave the Trust in a financial deficit year on year.

In the Statement of Intent year three (which is the council long-term plan year 4, 2027-2028) there is no additional funding to the Trust administration or the Hundertwasser Art Centre, only funding allocated for the Whangarei Art Museum. Therefore, there is forecast a significant deficit of -\$458,416 before depreciation and amortisation for the Trust.

Statement of Intent Financial Forecasts	2025/2026 (LTP Year2)	2026/2027 (LTP Year 3)	2027/2028 (LTP Year 4)
Total Income	\$2,646,318	\$2,699,743	\$2,279,991
Total Expenditure excluding depreciation and amortisation	\$2,631,191	\$2,682,657	\$2,738,407
Surplus/(deficit) BEFORE depreciation and amortisation	\$15,127	\$17,086	(\$458,416)
Depreciation and amortisation	\$960,101	\$960,101	\$960,113
Net Surplus/ (deficit) AFTER depreciation and amortisation	(\$944,974)	(\$943,015)	(\$1,418,529)

Cash Flow

The table below shows the forecasted cash position at the end of the next three financial years

Statement of Intent Forecast	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
Cash and cash equivalents	\$808,751	\$810,837	\$337,421

The Trust acknowledges the need to secure external funding to support ongoing operations, however, the Trust have also made council staff and elected members aware that it is finding this difficult, due in part to their status as a Council Controlled Organisation but is also indicative of the current funding landscape and the scarcity of grant funding available to community organisations.

Going Concern

The Trust have stated they are reliant on the council's financial support to be certain it can continue to operate as a going concern. The Trust has prepared the financial statements on the basis that it will need council support to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

The Trust are currently planning how to address the loss in year three.

Current Council Financial Support

The Whangarei Art Museum operations are managed within the annual operating grant 2025/2026 \$440,367 provided by council and are supported by a significant rent concession of \$278,460 for a portion of the Town Basin Hub building, which has recently been increased by council, of which they could not occupy the premisses without. A snapshot of the financial support for the Whangarei Art Museum is shown below:

Whangarei Art Museum	Council Financial Support 2025-2026
Annual Operating Grant	\$440,367
Rent Concession	\$278,460
Total for 2025-2026	\$718,827

The Hundertwasser Art Centre and Trust Administration is currently supported by an operating grant provided for in year 2 and 3 of the long-term plan 2024-2034. A snapshot of the financial support provided to the Trust for administration and support of the Hundertwasser Art Centre is provided below:

Whangarei Art Trust and Hundertwasser Art Centre	Council Financial Support 2025-2026
Funding provided through Long-term plan 2024-2034	\$480,000
Total for 2025-2026	\$480,000

The **total funding** Council has committed for the next three years to the Trust is provided below:

Funding type	2025/2026 (LTP year 2)	2026/2027 (LTP year 3)	2027/2028 (LTP year 4)
Annual Operating grant WAM	\$440,367	\$450,501	\$460,844
Additional operating grant year 2 and 3 of the LTP 2024-2034 Trust Administration and Hundertwasser Art Centre	\$480,000	\$480,000	-
Rent concession for the Whangarei Art Museum	\$278,460	\$278,460	\$278,460
Total Funding	\$1,198,827	\$1,208,961	\$739,304

4.2 Risks

- In the same way that the cost of living has increased, so have operational costs for CCO's. Due to its status as a CCO, the Trust has some additional costs that are out of its control, such as the choice of auditors which has increased costs recently.
- There are also large insurance costs for the facility

- Not qualifying for some external funding opportunities due to WAT's CCO status, some of the larger funding bodies i.e. Foundation North, will not fund CCO's.
- The Trust is unable to build a prudent reserve for unforeseen expenses
- The Trust is unable to set aside a reserve which would normally align with the depreciation of the building to provide for future renewals. The equity value of the asset is reducing by approx. \$960k per year.
- Without an Asset Management Plan the potential annual requirements for repairs and maintenance is hard estimate accurately.
- The future operation of the Hundertwasser Art Centre (with Wairau Maori Art Gallery housed within the building) is unknown at this time. The challenging financial situation, based on the current financial forecasts, will mean council will have to work through future funding and / or use options for the Centre in the next 12-18 months through the next long-term plan 2027-2037 process.
- The Trust has made clear the ability of the Hundertwasser Art Centre to progress into the future without continued financial support from Council is unlikely at this stage.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via Agenda publication on the website.

6 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

- Whangārei Art Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2028



Whangārei Art Trust

FINAL STATEMENT OF INTENT

1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2028

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Introduction from the Chair

The Whangārei Art Trust (WAT) is responsible for the operation of the Whangārei Art Museum (WAM) and the Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC). The Wairau Māori Art Gallery (WMAG), an independently governed institution, is situated within the Hundertwasser Art Centre. Both the Whangārei Art Museum and the Hundertwasser Art Centre are located adjacent to the popular Hātea loop walk and Whangārei's Town Basin marina.

The Hundertwasser Art Centre, designed by the renowned artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, is dedicated to celebrating art and ecological sustainability. It features the Hundertwasser exhibition, the Wairau Māori Art Gallery, a museum shop, an activity centre, and a restaurant with a terrace overlooking the waterfront. In line with Hundertwasser's philosophy, the building incorporates 'tree tenants' and a rooftop forest comprising fruit trees and rare native species.

Following a challenging initial three years of operations, marked by Covid-19 lockdowns, restrictions on international visitors, and weather-related issues affecting main highway access, the Whangārei Art Trust has adjusted its staffing levels and refined its accounting and operational systems to better reflect the current economic climate. As a result, the Trust is now well-positioned to face future challenges with confidence and optimism. The Strategic Plan has been revised and enhanced, and a new, forward-looking, comprehensive Marketing Plan is in place.

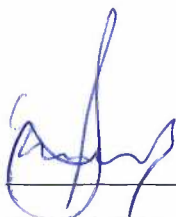
The Whangārei Art Museum proudly stands as one of the country's leading art institutions, with Director Simon Bowerbank poised to introduce an array of dynamic exhibitions and creative initiatives that promise to enrich the future.

Despite the initial challenges of the first three years, innovative marketing and the dedication of Director Joost de Bruin's team have quickly established the Hundertwasser Art Centre as a celebrated tourism landmark in Whangārei and New Zealand. Its growing reputation already serves as a strong draw for cruise ships to Northport. This trend is set to bring lasting benefits to the local economy when the cruise industry regains momentum. While we are mindful in our expectations for immediate gains from cruise traffic, we view this as an exciting avenue for future growth.

New Zealand's economic recovery is unfolding at a slow but steady pace, a development that many now agree bodes well for enduring prosperity. For the Whangārei Art Trust, this gradual improvement inspires genuine optimism for more sustainable business conditions in the hospitality sector over the coming years. While we remain prudent in our financial projections, we recognise that increasing the Trust's commercial and fundraising revenue by \$500,000 annually over the next two years is a challenging hurdle.

The steadfast support from the Whangārei District Council through its Long-Term Plan has significantly reinforced the optimism and confidence among Trustees and staff, empowering us to build upon the positive transformations already underway.

As Chair of the Trust, I am excited by the outstanding calibre of our staff and the unwavering dedication of the Trustees who share this journey with me at the Board table.



William (Bill) Shepherd, QSM
Chair

Purpose of the Statement of Intent

In accordance with section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002, this Draft Statement of Intent publicly states the activities and intentions of the Whangārei Art Trust (WAT) for the next three financial years, and the objectives to which those activities will contribute. This Draft Statement of Intent has been created through liaison with Whangārei District Council (WDC) and includes performance measures and targets as the basis of organisational accountability.

Nature of the Organisation

WAT was established in 1996 as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and incorporated as a Board under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957. The Trust's name was changed from Whangārei Art Museum Trust to Hātea Art Precinct Trust in June 2021 and has changed again (under request from the Hundertwasser Foundation and with WDC approval) to Whangārei Art Trust in April 2023.

Purpose of the Organisation

WAT was established 26 years ago to collect, display, conserve, and promote art in Northland.

The purpose of WAT is to operate and manage two separate art facilities in Whangārei; 1.) Whangārei Art Museum, the public art gallery of the Whangārei District, 2.) The Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery, which opened to the public on February 20th 2022 and operates as an independent institution. The HAC-WMAG is internationally oriented, carried by Hundertwasser's reputation and his existing brand-value. The HAC is operated in co-operation with the Hundertwasser Non Profit Foundation (HNPF).

Approach to Governance

The governance of WAT is the responsibility of a Trust board of six Trustees, three appointed by the Whangārei District Council with the Trust able to appoint a further three Trustees.

WAT actions and direction are determined by the Trust Deed, which details the objectives of the Trust. These include both the operation of the Art Museum and the requirement to support, stimulate and enhance the artistic and cultural life of the Whangārei District.

Nature & Scope

WAT plays a key role in creating a vibrant, attractive, and thriving District through art. It particularly supports the values of being proud to be local and being positive about the future.

Whangārei Art Museum provides a great opportunity for people of all ages, both visitors and residents, to experience art. Hundertwasser Art Centre is a significant drawcard and a reputation giver, a cultural and touristic asset, both with the international acclaimed Hundertwasser more human architecture, art, ecology and philosophy for Whangārei.

Hundertwasser Art Centre

The Hundertwasser Art Centre is operated under a Cooperation agreement with the Hundertwasser Foundation located in Vienna, Austria. The agreement gives the Foundation authority over the nature of the operations, and the protection of the authentic presentation of Friedensreich Hundertwasser's legacy in New Zealand. As required under this agreement, The Hundertwasser Art Centre is managed by a Director responsible for the operation of the Centre with the corporate services supplied by a separate unit of WAT. There is space for public programmes, fixed Hundertwasser exhibition galleries, a museum shop, and a café-restaurant leased to a private operator.

Whangārei Art Museum

WAM is managed by a Director, and also receives corporate services from another unit of WAT. WAM is responsible for maintaining, cataloguing, conserving and displaying works of art held in the Council's art collection. WAM organises and holds local exhibitions, including both internally curated exhibitions and touring exhibitions, designed to showcase the full diversity of creative art practice in Northland, New Zealand, and beyond.

Corporate Services

Corporate services are also a separate unit of WAT supplying operational assistance to both facilities including finance, HR, property maintenance and Board Services. Revenue and expenses for each facility are tracked separately for internal business purposes, although the Trust remains a single financial entity.

Wairau Māori Art Gallery

Wairau Māori Art Gallery Board (WMAGB) is an independent Charitable Trust, responsible for funding and curating art exhibitions for the Wairau Māori Art Gallery, which is located within the Hundertwasser Art Centre. The collaborative relationship between the WAT and WMAGB is governed by an Operational Agreement (yet to be agreed), which enables daily functioning and support for the Wairau Māori Gallery by WAT.

He Rautaki Toi ā Rohe ō Whangārei

A strategy for arts, culture and heritage in the Whangārei District 2025-2029

WAT is well positioned to be a key partner to WDC and Creative Northland in carrying out He Rautaki Toi ā Rohe ō Whangārei strategy, which aims to support the vitality of the arts in the Whangārei District and further afield.

Strategic Plan

WAT's Strategic Plan has four strands:

Sustainability

We will strive to:

- Develop opportunities that are considerate of our environment and are future focussed
- Develop and maintain diverse income streams in order to become more financially sustainable
- Actively develop and maintain resilient and fit for purpose systems and processes.
- Ensure our Trust are aware of and invested in a shared vision underpinned by best practices
- Ensure our financial management and controls are of the highest calibre, robust and accountable, and all operations are within budget.

Connection

We will strive to:

- Diversify and maintain connections to better understand and develop relationships with the communities and public we serve
- Improve and pursue key relationships which support our vision and mission
- Actively engage with iwi/hapu in meaningful and mana-enhancing ways
- Be responsive and agile in seeking out opportunities to collaborate with others

Experience

We will strive to:

- Provide varied opportunities for creative practice and exploration.
- Provide world-class, attractions that attract local, national and international visitors and bringing civic, social and economic benefits to Whangarei.
- Develop offerings which address the needs of our diverse audiences and communities
- Ensure our offerings are innovative, exciting and visitor-focussed
- Develop and deliver offerings which encourage community engagement with the arts.

Our team

We will strive to:

- Be a great place to work where we value and nurture our team
- Ensure our team has the right tools and support to succeed and deliver
- Maintain the necessary tools and systems to ensure the seamless running of the buildings and organisation
- Support our people to grow in their roles

Performance Measures & Targets

WAT will continue to work internally, and with Council, on the development of performance measures, as it continues to refine the long-term strategic direction. The updated Strategic Plan objectives, as adopted at the February 2025 board meeting, are outlined below with updated targets outlined.

Objective	We will Strive To ...	Focus Area	Performance Measures 2026-2028
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop opportunities that are considerate of our environment and are future focussed • Develop and maintain diverse income streams in order to become more financially sustainable • Actively develop and maintain resilient and fit for purpose systems and processes. • Ensure our Trust are aware of and invested in a shared vision underpinned by best practices • Ensure our financial management and controls are of the highest calibre, robust and accountable, and all operations are within budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with relevant legislation including the Local Government Act 2002, Public Records Act 2005, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Privacy Act 2020 and Employment Relations Act 2000 • Comply with the Trust Deed. • Ensure that the organisation's information on the Charities Register and the Charitable Trust Register is accurate and up to date. • Provide Half-Yearly and Annual reports to Council at the appropriate times under the LGA. • Provide a draft and final Statement of Intent to Council at the appropriate times under the LGA. • Update any changes or amendments to practice or financial performance to keep Council abreast of ongoing operational delivery situation. • Provide board meeting full agendas and after board meetings the minutes to the GM Community. • Provide updates through board meetings on the health of the relationship between WAT and the Hundertwasser Foundation. • Demonstrate financial sustainability and solvency. • Achieve good value for money and work within agreed budgets. • Seek opportunities to widen revenue base and fundraise. • Prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an effective means to measure economic impact of HAC and WAM on Whangarei by end of 2026 • The Half Year and Annual Reports are provided within the LGA timeframes • A budget is provided in time for inclusion in the draft and final SOI • Provide WDC with report on fundraising/grant applications annually • Trust is operating with agreed budgets • Annual audits are completed within statutory timeframes

Performance Measures & Targets continued ...

Objective	We will Strive To ...	Focus Area	Performance Measures 2026-2028
Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversify and maintain connections to better understand and develop relationships with the communities and public we serve Improve and pursue key relationships which support our vision and mission Actively engage with iwi/hapu in meaningful and mana-enhancing ways Be responsive and agile in seeking out opportunities to collaborate with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a good relationship with Council. Work with Council and support the District Vision. Commit to a no surprises approach. Invite relationship points of contact to Board meetings to maintain clear communication and relationships. Engage effectively with General Manager Community and Manager Community Development as relationship points of contact and, when required, relevant departments and staff to ensure an all-informed network. Contact General Manager Community or Manager Community Development by email or phone when needed. Update council on the ongoing health of the relationship between WAT and the Hundertwasser Foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive relationship between WAT and WMAG Board – Local representatives of the Foundation are to provide annual reports on relationship between WAT and Foundation.

Performance Measures & Targets continued ...

Objective	We will Strive To ...	Focus Area	Performance Measures 2026-2028
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide varied opportunities for creative practice and exploration. • Provide world-class, attractions that attract local, national and international visitors and bringing civic, social and economic benefits to Whangarei. • Develop offerings which address the needs of our diverse audiences and communities • Ensure our offerings are innovative, exciting and visitor-focussed • Develop and deliver offerings which encourage community engagement with the arts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and review business plans addressing marketing, exhibition planning, long-term planning, collection management, for the Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC) with Wairau Māori Art Gallery. This planning is done exclusively by HAC employees in co-operation with the HNPF. • Develop and review business plans addressing marketing, exhibition planning, long-term planning collection management by WAM. • Maintain steady operations. • Promote health and safety and operate as a PCBU under the Work Act 2015 with the primary duty of care. • Promote and maintain a best practice health and safety policy and a current up to date H and S register and site-specific safety plans for HAC in co-operation with HAC director. • Promote and maintain a best practice health And safety policy and a current and up to date H and S register and site specific safety plans for WAM in co-operation with the WAM Director • Identify and manage risk including reputational, legal, operational, and financial risk. • Reveal yearly HAC budget • Work to agreed WAM budget • Decision-making reflects Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi, consideration of Māori values, and promotes better outcomes for Māori. • Collaborate with iwi and hapū. • Mitigate negative environmental impacts. • Promote diversity on the board. • Work towards a zero-waste events strategy. • Engage with the community. • Commit to working with Creative Northland and supporting Artist Groups in the community to promote and encourage the Arts and be involved in a district Arts Strategy. • Build and maintain the relationship with the Hundertwasser Foundation and carry out the requirements of the Cooperation Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% year-on-year increase in event-related income through to 2028 • At least 85% of visitors are satisfied • Present 7 exhibitions • Less than 1% of artworks in the collection and works on loan suffer damage • Maintain Qualmark Gold Star rating • Evidence of at least 10 programmers, events or initiatives developed or in development annually

Performance Measures & Targets continued

Objective	We will Strive To ...	Focus Area	Performance Measures 2026-2028
Our Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a great place to work where we value and nurture our team • Ensure our team has the right tools and support to succeed and deliver • Maintain the necessary tools and systems to ensure the seamless running of the buildings and organisation • Support our people to grow in their roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a trustee skills matrix. • Provide an induction for any new board members. • Be a good employer. • Maintain a good reputation. • Have a clear purpose and to stay focused on it. • Have clear roles and responsibilities that separate governance and management. • Invest in effective relationships built on trust and respect. • Be clear about accountabilities and transparent about performance against them; manage risk effectively and ensure that you have good information, systems, and controls. • Take proactive measures to build, maintain and ensure a positive relationship is held with the Hundertwasser Foundation from a governance and operations perspective, including following all requirements of the Cooperation Agreement. • Identify and manage risks including health & safety, legal, operational, reputational and financial risks • Maintain good records in line with the Public Records Act 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills matrix reviewed annually in March • All areas of trustee skills matrix are covered by trustees and co-opted members • Risk assessment against Risk register is conducted annually with a three year review cycle

Information to be Provided Throughout the Financial Year

Half-yearly Report

The half-yearly report will be provided to Council within 2 months of the first half of the financial year to 31 December 2024. It will include:

- Commentary on operations for the relevant six-month period, including commentary on both the financial and non-financial results.
- A comparison of performance against the objectives and performance targets set out in the statement of intent, such as:
 - a comparison of actual spending against the budget
 - annual survey results on visitor experience
 - evidence of community initiatives developed or in development
 - changes in visitor numbers.
- Un-audited financial statements including a statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements.

Annual Report

The annual report will be provided to Council within 3 months of the financial year ending 30 June 2025. The annual report will include all the information necessary to enable an informed assessment of operations, including:

- A comparison of the performance targets and measures outlined in this statement of intent, and the actual performance of WAT for the financial year, such as:
 - a comparison of actual spending against the budget
 - annual survey results on visitor experience
 - evidence of community initiatives developed or in development
 - changes in visitor numbers
 - collection management
 - Any material variances from the expected performance of WAT, and explanations for those variances.
 - The amount of any compensation WAT has undertaken to obtain, or has obtained, from Council.
 - Audited consolidated financial statements for the financial year including a statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements.
 - An independent auditor's report on the financial statements and the performance targets and other measures by which WAT's performance against its objectives may be judged.

No Surprises Approach

To ensure there is timely notification of any major issues, WAT commits to a no surprises approach beyond the formal reporting requirements. This means that WAT will inform Council via email or phone as soon as possible of any major issues that arise in the course of operations. WAT will proactively inform Council when their operations could; create a major issue for WAT or Council, trigger significant public interest, have political implications, or gain significant media attention.

Compensation Sought or Obtained

Council Funding

WAT receives funding from WDC for WAM, and through community donations and grants. The financial statements show the split between funding from WDC, and other sources of revenue.

In 2024/25 WAT has received \$430,903 via a grant from WDC for WAM and \$186,100 as a rent concession for WAM. Additionally, WAT received a one-time grant of \$92,610 to support extra education programs for WAM and to cover operational losses for HAC, partly due to prolonged roading issues with SH1 to Auckland.

From the 2026 year WAM is expected to receive an additional \$92,360 as a rent concession for the Foyer space pending an updated lease agreement.

The LTP has allocated an additional \$480,000 for the years 2026 and 2027 to cover operational losses.

HAC is a major tourist attraction for Whangārei. It brings in both domestic and international visitors. The attached accounts show a forecast operational surplus before depreciation of \$1,804, \$751 in years to June 2026, 2027 and a deficit before depreciation of \$478,306 in 2028.

While we do not expect the challenges of COVID, storms, roading disasters and the current recession, to continue we wish to be prepared for future challenges.

Fundraising

The Trust is responsible for fundraising for the HAC. This is a significant undertaking for the Trust, given that few art museums in New Zealand operate without local government support. WAT is committed to continued delivery against the principles of the founding Trust Deed, delivery of the actions relating to the Museum in this Statement of Intent, and preservation of the Centre's authentic representation of Hundertwasser's art and philosophy.

WAM relies on continued support from the community through fundraising, to ensure the sustainability of art acquisition, restoration, and conservation of the collection. The collection is something for Whangārei to treasure and WAT is committed to its ongoing preservation.

Being a CCO has limited the Trusts ability to seek outside funding from some providers, as CCO's are specifically excluded as beneficiaries.

Appendix 1: Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Whangārei Art Trust - For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Statement of accounting policies for the year ended 30 June 2025

Reporting Entity

The Whangārei Art Trust (WAT) is incorporated as a trust under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, is domiciled in New Zealand and registered under the Charities Act 2005, registration number CC28917. It is a council controlled organisation under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2. Summary of material accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The Board has elected to apply the Reporting requirements for Tier 3 Public Sector Entities (Tier 3 (PS) standard) on the basis that the Trust does not have public accountability (as defined) and has total annual expenses of less than \$5 million.

All transactions in the financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

The performance report has been prepared on the assumption that the Trust will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Going Concern

The Trust is reliant on Whangārei District Council's financial support to be certain it can continue to operate as a going concern. The Trust has prepared the financial statements on the basis that it will need Council support to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Council has included funding for the Trust in its 2024-2034 Long - Term Plan.

Goods and services tax

The Trust is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST). All amounts in the performance report are recorded exclusive of GST, except for debtors and creditors, which are stated inclusive of GST.

Specific Accounting Policies

REVENUE

General funding received from central or local government, grants from non-government organisations and capital grants

General funding or grants with no documented expectations over use.

General funding received from central or local government, grants from non-government organisations and capital grants are recorded as revenue when the funds are received if there are no documented expectations over use.

General funding or grants with documented expectations over use.

If funding is subject to documented expectations over use, the funds are initially recorded as deferred revenue. As the documented expectations over use are met, the deferred revenue is reduced and revenue is recorded.

Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue

Donations and bequests received with no documented expectations over use

Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue with no documented expectations over use are recorded as revenue when cash is received.

Donations and bequests received with documented expectations over use

Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue with documented expectations are initially recorded as deferred revenue. As the documented expectations over use are met the deferred revenue balance is reduced and revenue is recorded.

Donated assets

Revenue from donated assets is recorded on receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. If the assets are difficult to value such as intangible assets, highly specialised assets, or heritage assets these are not recorded.

Revenue from service delivery

Admission Fees

Admission revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

Other revenue

Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recorded when the goods are sold to the customer.

EXPENSES

Employee remuneration and other related expenses

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries, and leave entitlements.

Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

Independent contractor costs are expensed as contractors provide services and become entitled to fees.

Other expenses related to service delivery

These costs are recorded as an expense when the related good or service has been sold or received.

Management Fees

Management fees are recorded as an expense on a straight-line basis over the period.

Audit Fees

Audit fees are recorded as an expense in the period subject to audit.

Cash and short-term deposits

Cash and short-term deposits comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call or with original maturities of three months or less. Cash and short-term deposits are measured at the amount held.

Debtors

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recorded and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

Prepayments

Prepayments are recorded when the payment is made and are measured at the amount paid that relates to future goods or services that the Trust will receive. Prepayments are only impaired if it is unlikely that the Trust will receive the goods or service that it has paid for.

Once the Trust receives the benefit that it has paid for, the prepayment (or a portion of it) is transferred from prepayments and is recorded as an expense if it is operational in nature, or as an addition to property, plant and equipment if it is capital in nature.

Inventory

Inventory is recorded at the lower of cost or net realisable value. When inventories are sold, exchanged, or distributed, the carrying amount of those inventories shall be recorded as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recorded.

Investments

Investments comprise investments in terms deposits with banks.

Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment (excluding donated assets) are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. The Trust has not elected to revalue any of its classes of property, plant and equipment after initial recognition. The Trust undertakes periodic impairment assessments of its property, plant and equipment.

Purchased artworks are recorded at cost. Donated assets are recorded on receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. Significant donated assets that current values are not readily obtainable for are not recorded, but are disclosed in the notes to the performance report. Artworks have an indefinite useful life and are not depreciated. Impairment is recorded if identified as below.

For an asset to be sold, the asset is impaired if the market price for an equivalent asset falls below its carrying amount.

For an asset to be used by the Trust, the asset is impaired if the value to the Trust in using the asset falls below the carrying amount of the asset (for example, the Trust no longer provides the service supported by the asset).

If there is any indication that an impairment charge recorded in prior periods may no longer exist or has reduced, an impairment reversal is recognised. The reversal of impairment shall be all or part of the previous impairment charge. However, it must not result in the carrying amount of the asset (net of depreciation) being recorded at more than it would have been had the impairment not been recorded.

For all property, plant and equipment assets, except land and artwork, depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Class of property, plant and equipment	Estimated useful life	Depreciation rates
Leasehold improvements	10 - 50 years	2% - 10%
Office equipment	2 - 16 years	9% - 100%
Plant and equipment	5 - 30 years	5% - 33%
Computer software and website	2 - 7 years	20% - 100%
Artworks	Indefinite	-

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are recorded when a transaction occurs that creates the payment obligation.

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Employee costs payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recorded when an employee has earned the entitlement.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recorded when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue is recorded when a significant donation, grant, or bequest with documented expectations over use is received. Deferred revenue is initially recorded at the amount received. As documented expectations over use are met the deferred revenue is reduced and revenue is recorded.

Provisions

The Trust records a provision for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that expenditure will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Budget figures

The budget figures are derived from the statement of intent, as approved by the Board at the beginning of the financial year. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with the Tier 3 standard, using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted by the Board in preparing this performance report.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied

The Trust has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

Changes in Accounting Policies

The Trust applied the Tier 3 (PS) standard for the first time this year.

Significant aggregation changes to items in the statement of financial performance and statement of financial position were also required on first time application of the Tier 3 (PS) standard. Comparative amounts have been presented in accordance with the requirements of this standard. Please see applicable notes for further details on how the application has affected the Trust.

There have been no other changes in the Trust's accounting policies since the date of the last audited performance report.

Appendix 2: Forecast Financial Information

Prospective Statement of Financial Performance

Whangārei Art Trust
For the years ended 30 June

	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast
Trading Income			
Income			
Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising revenue	171,259	186,259	196,259
General Funding received from central or local government	1,230,446	1,240,573	775,154
Interest	26,459	17,465	13,451
Revenue from service delivery grants/contracts	1,143,483	1,175,945	1,210,076
Other Revenue	74,671	79,501	85,051
Total Income	2,646,318	2,699,743	2,279,991
Expenses			
Employee Related Costs	1,321,001	1,360,630	1,401,447
Depreciation & Amortisation	960,101	960,101	960,113
Other expenses	1,310,190	1,322,027	1,336,960
Total Expenses	3,591,292	3,642,758	3,698,520
Total Trading Income	(944,974)	(943,015)	(1,418,529)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(944,974)	(943,015)	(1,418,529)

Capital Expenditure			
Plant & Equipment	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Capital Expenditure	15,000	15,000	15,000

Prospective Statement of Movements in Equity

Whangārei Art Trust
For the years ended 30 June

	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast
Opening Equity	31,549,679	30,604,705	29,661,690
Plus Profit (Loss) for the year	(944,974)	(943,015)	(1,418,529)
Total	30,604,705	29,661,690	28,243,161

Prospective Statement of Financial Position

Whangārei Art Trust
For the years ended 30 June

	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast
Total Equity	30,604,705	29,661,690	28,243,161
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash equivalents	808,751	810,837	337,421
Inventories	450,000	450,000	450,000
Trade and other receivables	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Current Assets	1,278,751	1,280,837	807,421
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables and accruals	145,000	145,000	145,000
Total Current Liabilities	145,000	145,000	145,000
Working Capital	1,133,751	1,135,837	662,421
Non Current Assets			
Property plant and equipment	29,470,954	28,525,853	27,580,740
Total Non Current Assets	29,470,954	28,525,853	27,580,740
Total Net Assets	30,604,705	29,661,690	28,243,161

5.1 Community Funding Annual Report for 2024-25

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Cindy Fields, Community Funding Adviser

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To recognise Council's support to external parties through the Community Funding Programme in the year to 30 June 2025.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee notes the details of the Community Funding annual report for 2024-25.

3 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Since 2015, staff have provided an annual report of Council's support to the community via its various grants, concessions, and interest-free loans.

The annual report provides a look back at the community grants allocated in the financial year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

It provides a summary and analysis of Whangarei District Council's support to the community sector across the Community Funding Programme as well as other support mechanisms facilitated by Council. It is not an assessment of impact or return on investment report.

The 2024-25 year saw significant changes for the Community Funding Programme.

A new funding model (adopted May 2024) was implemented, along with a refreshed policy and criteria. A new grants management system was also introduced, transforming the process of grant-seeking and grant-making.

The annual report is attached.

3.1 Financial/budget considerations

None.

3.2 Policy and planning implications

None.

4 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

5 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Community Funding Report 2024-25

Community Funding 2024-25

Annual Report



Food sharing shed at Kaurihohore community hall

Introduction

This annual report provides a look back at the community grants allocated in the financial year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

It provides a summary and analysis of Whangarei District Council's support to the community sector across the Community Funding Programme as well as other support mechanisms facilitated by Council. It is not an assessment of impact or return on investment report.

A new beginning

The 2024-25 year saw significant changes for the Community Funding Programme.

A new funding model (adopted May 2024) was implemented, along with a refreshed policy and criteria. A new grants management system was also introduced, transforming the process of grant-seeking and grant-making.

New funding model

The key features of the new funding model are:

- Centralisation into the Whangarei Communities Fund, on an 'apply any time' basis
- Flexible funds for better budget management and prioritisation according to need
- Multi-year funding for District Amenities Fund operating grants
- Flexible and enhanced facilities funding
- Amended Community Associations Grants to include ratepayer groups and now marae trusts that demonstrate community advocacy
- Amended criteria, including to limit to local organisations
- Online grants management portal
- Capability development reserve of \$25,000 for initiatives to support the community sector.

Case study – Hikurangi Christmas Festival



Hikurangi Mountain Lions Club Trust organises the annual Christmas festivities for the Hikurangi community. The popular festival includes a parade and entertainment including performances, bouncy castles and rides, and a market.

In the 2024-25 year, the Trust applied for grants for their 2024 event and then again for the 2025 event. They were granted \$6,000 and \$6,405 respectively. The Trust seeks support from multiple sources – grants, business sponsors, and its own fundraising – to fund the event.

For the 2024 event, two other grant applications of theirs fell through putting the event in jeopardy. “If it wasn’t for WDC support through grant funding [...] this event would not have happened.” They prudently applied early for the 2025 event.

With the changing grant landscape and the increasing scarcity of grant funds, the reliability of Council’s Community Funding Programme can make all the difference for groups like Hikurangi Mountain Lions Club.



Community Funding Programme

The Community Funding Programme (CFP) is the officially recognised community support mechanism offered by Whangarei District Council. The CFP falls within the scope of the Community Funding Policy (Policy 031) and is managed by the Community Development Department.

The Community Funding Programme supported the community sector with almost \$3m in the 2024-25 year.



This includes our flagship Whangarei Communities Fund, operating grants through the District Amenities Fund, Community Association grants and Youth Week grants. It also includes community rent concessions, which is the waiving of lease/rent payments owed by community groups in council-owned property.

The Community Funding Programme activity in 2024-25

Fund	Source	Successful applications	Requested	Allocated in 2024-25
District Amenities Fund	Community funding programme (non-contestable)	24 out of 24	\$1,909,574	\$1,716,227
Whangarei Communities Fund	Community funding programme (contestable)	79 out of 119	\$1,779,925	\$974,037
Rent Concessions	Community funding programme (non-contestable)	11 out of 11	\$271,929	\$271,929
Youth Week Fund	Community funding programme (contestable)	7 out of 14	\$22,404	\$10,454
Community Associations Grant	Community funding programme (non-contestable)	8 out of 10	\$7,500	\$6,000
			Total	\$2,978,647

The Community Emergency Recovery Fund (CERF) also forms part of the Community Funding Programme. It can be activated for response or recovery following emergencies, redirecting budget from other Community Funding mechanisms on an interim basis. CERF was not activated in the 2024-25 year.

Across the four CFP funds, 167 grant applications were submitted this year.



This is slightly down on the previous year's total of 181, which can be attributed to a slow start to the new year and new model, with community groups gradually learning about the changes and that applications can now be made at any time.

There was also a misconception that funding was on hold until the new SmartyGrants platform was implemented. The new platform was fully operational by the end of January, and the January to June period saw 105 of the 167 applications received. This rate of growth is expected to continue into 2025-26 as awareness of Council's community funding increases.



Whangarei Communities Fund

The new Whangarei Communities Fund replaces the previous Community Fund, Community Facilities Fund, and Partnership Fund. It is a fully flexible fund, supporting a full range of projects and activities, from \$250 to \$100,000, and on an 'apply anytime' basis.

In its first year, the new Fund had a success rate of 66% based on number of applications received. However, for all eligible and complete applications, the success rate was 92%.

This reflects the unusual position that Council was able to support most applications presented for decision this past year. Increased competition is expected going forward, in line with the trend from previous years.

Application triage

Under the new model, staff now also triage applications before they go forward for decision.

This involves working with applicants to get their application decision-ready, deferring applications if it is in the applicant's best interest to do so, holding incomplete applications, and declining any ineligible ones.

For the Whangarei Communities Fund, 30 of the 119 applications received failed to pass triage stage. The majority of these were declined as ineligible, mostly unaware of the new criteria where eligible applicants must be based within the district.

Eligible but incomplete applications were placed on hold until sufficient information was provided to progress with the application. Some of these did not complete their application and are included in the number declined at triage.

Funding priorities

The CFP has four funding priorities or criteria which applications must meet to be eligible. They are:

- Arts, Culture, and Heritage
- Recreation and Sport
- Environment
- Community Wellbeing



The **Arts, Culture and Heritage** funding priority received the highest portion of council's support across the programme (\$1.46m or 49%).

This reflects the high proportion of applications this category receives as well as its representation in the District Amenities Fund for our museums and galleries.

Flax weaving with Bream Bay Combined Arts Group

The **Environment** funding priority continued to track low in terms of the number of applications received and the proportion of allocations – 9% overall.

However, 100% of eligible applications were approved funding.

*School visit to the native plant nursery
- Bream Head Te Whara Conservation Trust*





The **Recreation and Sport** funding priority received 21% of support across the CFP (same as Community Wellbeing).

Due to the higher levels of support for facilities, this priority received the highest proportion of support from the Whangarei Communities Fund (50%).

Breaking in the new turf at Onerahi Bowling Club

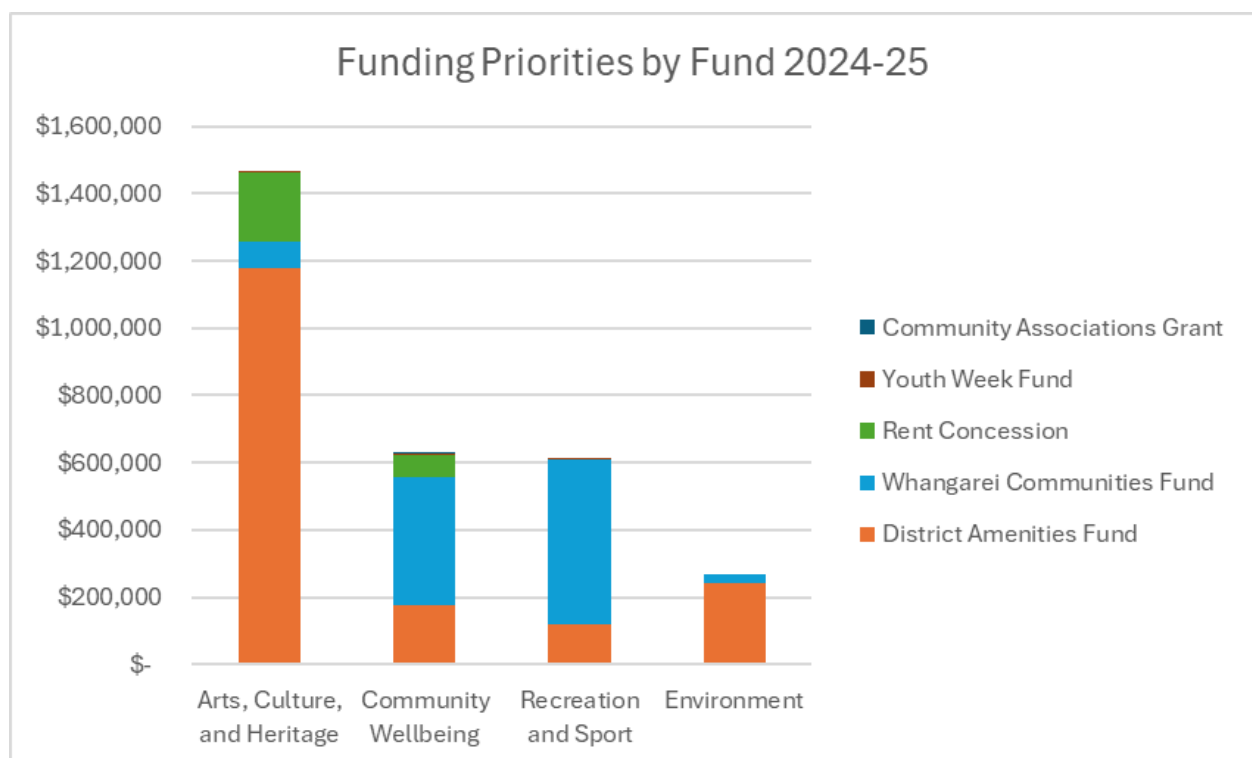
The **Community Wellbeing** funding priority (21% of CFP support) continues to be the main priority applicants apply under. It is a broad category with wide scope.

It accounts for 55% of the total amount requested and 101 of the 167 grant applications received in 2024-25. Less than half of these requests were able to be supported.

Youth Creators Market 'Fish Tank' during Youth Week



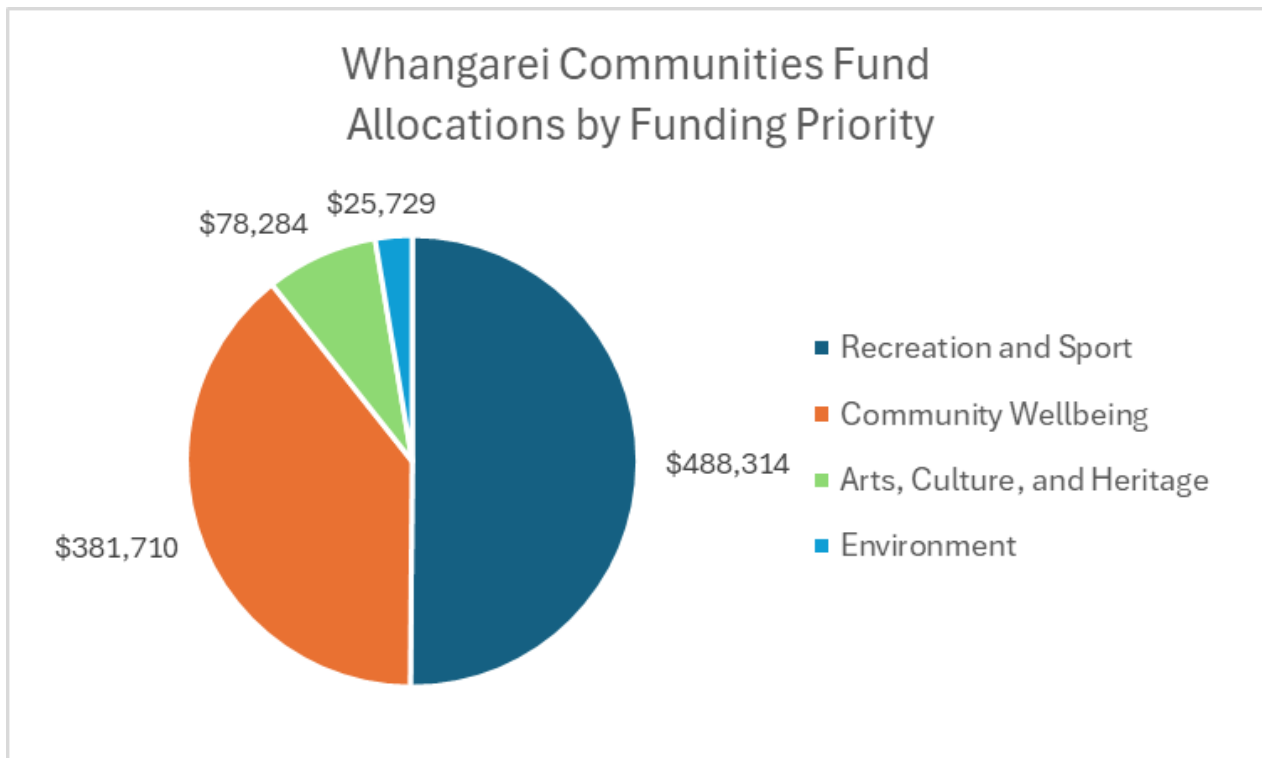
The following graph shows the allocations (\$) under the four funding priorities as it relates to each of the CFP funds.



Note the proportionately high allocation for Arts, Culture and Heritage under the District Amenities Fund is largely due to the size of the fund and some of the operating grants allocated.

It also shows that the Environment criteria is mostly supported through the District Amenities Fund.

The following graph shows the allocations by funding priority, focusing on the Whangarei Communities Fund only.



Facilities funding

The Whangarei Communities Fund has two tiers of funding, each with budget lines attached:

- general grants (up to \$20,000),
- facilities grants (up to \$100,000).

The aim of the Fund is to allocate 70% of the total budget to facilities, in line with the previous facilities' budgets under the Partnership Fund and Community Facilities Fund. Council met this goal in 2024-25:

	\$ Granted	% Granted
Whangarei Communities Fund (CFP)		
Facilities	\$ 680,781	69.89%
General	\$ 293,256	30.11%
Grand Total	\$ 974,037	100.00%

Case study – Waioitira Public Hall Society



From drab to fab - before and after photos of Waioitira Hall kitchen

Following on from their successful 2023-24 Partnership Fund grant to refloor the hall, the Waioitira Public Hall Society was successful in securing \$10,000 from the Whangarei Communities Fund to install and kit out a new kitchen.

Through their working bees and fundraising efforts, the hall has been completely transformed and is now an attractive and functional facility the locals are rightly proud of.

This project demonstrates the power of community working together, along with the significant impact a community grant can make.

The new kitchen can handle catering for up to 80 people, meaning more community gatherings like this fundraising morning tea.



Fundraising morning tea for Waioitira School

Youth Week Fund



The refreshed Youth Week Fund saw a significant increase in applications from 3 in 2023-24 to 14 in 2024-25.

This is attributable to improved marketing and promotion, and improved processes and guidelines, with more mentoring of the young applicants to help them achieve their vision.

This fund for youth-led initiatives is still in the growth and development stage with more changes and improvements to be implemented. Going forward, the support offered by the Fund will be enhanced by more facilitated mentoring, and a dedicated Youth Week Festival supported by Council's Venues and Events team.

The successful applicants delivered events and activities during Youth Week 2025 that included a sports day, youth market fish tank, design-your-own-tote workshop, dance workshops, script development, world building in Minecraft, and the Northland Amateur Film Festival.



Youth Week events run by youth, for youth.

Acknowledgement needs to go to the community mentors that supported these applicants:

- Solomon Group
- Volunteering Northland
- Rainbow Youth
- ONEONESIX Trust
- NGEN Room.

Community Associations Grant

The Community Associations Grant received fewer than expected applications. Invitations to apply were sent directly to resident and ratepayer groups and marae (new to the fund). Only 10 applications were received this year from an expected 20-25.

While the requirements are kept to a minimum for this fund, it may be perceived that the reward of \$750 does not make applying for this a priority for these often-under-resourced groups. It should be noted that these groups can seek support for administrative costs from the Whangarei Communities Fund and some have been funded this way for community coordinators.



SmartyGrants



This year the new grants management system, SmartyGrants, was implemented.

The entire lifecycle of a grant is now online through the portal – from application to grant completion report. It has reduced the administrative burden of managing grants and streamlined the funding process for both funder and applicant.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

- *Your new application system is so easy and fabulous!*
- *I thought it was very user friendly and had no problems.*
- *Appreciate the 'hints' as to what to add to each box. Helps me to give you the information you are after.*
- *As a first-time user of the online system, I found the site was fairly easy to navigate overall, and the clear user-friendly layout was helpful. [Staff were] a great help in resolving a few issues I encountered, and the ability to share the submission with other committee members was invaluable.*
- *This system is so easy to use - thank you!*
- *Clicking through [the Letter of Offer form is] easier than accepting via email for me, as it makes expectations quite clear and outlines the process and what to expect well.*
- *Being able to save progress & come back to complete is very helpful as often there has been a piece of the puzzle that I've been waiting on to add to our application.*
- *We found the online application platform clear and user-friendly, with helpful guidance at each step. The structure made it easy to organise our responses and upload supporting material.*
- *Great, straight forward easy to understand application which allows for reflection and accountability.*

Other grants

Alongside the Community Funding Programme, there are other support mechanisms that Council provides. Most of these are funded externally via central government initiatives and are managed by different Departments as subject-matter experts. These are outlined in the table below.

Other Funds' activity in 2024-25

Fund	Source	Successful applications	Requested	Allocated in 2024-25
Creative Communities Scheme	Creative New Zealand (with WDC top up)	28 out of 65	\$327,495	\$102,339
Waste Minimisation Fund	Waste Disposal Levy, Ministry for the Environment	10 out of 13	\$277,889	\$98,816
Papakāinga Fund (new fund)	Better Off Funding (Three Waters Reforms), Department of Internal Affairs	2 out of 2	\$40,477	\$40,477
Puanga Matariki Events Fund (new fund)	WDC Events	9 out of 16	\$89,575	\$24,034
Event Development Fund (ceasing)	WDC Events	5 out of 8	\$164,197	\$84,000
Bike and Scooter Parking Fund (new fund)	WDC Transport	3 out of 4	\$16,994	\$14,344
			Total	\$364,010

Council also provides some direct support for events through sponsorship agreements with our Venues and Events team, or the Mayoral Events Fund managed by the mayor's office.



Kai Ora Fund

Council is a proud partner in the multi-agency Kai Ora Fund, which supports food security and community resilience across Te Tai Tokerau.

In the 2024–25 financial year, Whangarei District Council contributed \$10,000, along with operational support, to the Fund.

This contribution formed part of a total \$182,877 distributed across 47 community-led projects throughout Te Tai Tokerau. Within the Whangarei District, \$49,043 was allocated to 15 projects.

Community Loans

Council's Community Loans scheme offers interest-free loans for the development of recreational facilities.

In the 2024-25 year, one loan was paid off and no new community loans were applied for or allocated. There are currently six community loans with a total balance owing of \$173,213.

Debtor	Purpose	Balance at 30/06/25	Balance at 30/06/24
Kamo Bowling Club	Artificial green project	65,000.00	75,000.00
Kensington Club Inc	Artificial green project	48,302.99	65,334.12
Ngunguru Sports and Recreation Society	Carpark sealing	4,285.50	9,999.82
Northland Badminton	Premises development	30,000.00	40,000.00
Waipu Bowling Club Inc	Artificial green project	18,750.00	23,750.00
Waipu Golf Club	Extensions to their existing clubhouse	Nil	500.00
Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust	Stage 2 – Accessibility project	6,875.00	14,375.00
TOTAL		173,213.49	228,958.94

Community Loans provide a useful backstop alongside Council's grants, should a community group still be short of funds to finish their project.

In their words

A few words from those supported by the WDC Community Funding Programme:

- *Thank you so much for your support, this is such good news for people living with disabilities and people who are isolated or marginalised, or who face financial barriers to Arts participation in Whāngarei. We really appreciate it.*
- *We are very grateful for the support and feedback on how we can strengthen our application for next time. Thank you for supporting grassroot organisations such as ours.*
- *Thank you very much for the positive outcome around our application for funding. It is very much appreciated and will be a good start to our much-anticipated new project.*
- *Really appreciate your support! Without you this would not happen.*
- *We are thrilled to receive this grant and greatly appreciate your support as our Association grows :)*




Multicultural Whangārei · Follow

July 15, 2024 · 🌐

THANK YOU!!!

Multicultural Whangārei extends its deepest gratitude to the [Whangarei District Council](#) for your support through the District Amenities Fund. This funding helps us continue our service and assistance to our diverse community. Your belief in our mission and contribution to our success is truly appreciated.

[#whangareidistrictcouncil](#) [#gratitude](#) [#communitysupport](#)


Sistema Whangarei - Toi Akorangi ▶ Whangarei District Council

July 18, 2024 · 🌐

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Whangarei District Council. They have supported us since we started in 2013, the very beginning of our musical journey here in Whangarei and Northland. They provide annual funding through the District Amenities Fund and they provide space in the Old Library for very little cost so that we can continue to provide our services to you and your tamariki free of charge.

All of the work that is being done to and around the Old Library benefits the Whangarei music community. In this time of rising rates, please know that a portion of your rates is going to keep community music alive and well and accessible to ALL young people in Whangarei and Northland, delivered in a warm, safe, welcoming space. Thank You WDC!





Volunteering Northland is 😊 feeling thankful.

July 8, 2024 · 🌐

...

Thank you, [Whangarei District Council](#)!

We are incredibly grateful to the Whangarei District Council for supporting our operational costs through the District Amenities Fund. This funding makes a crucial difference in our ability to continue providing valuable services and support to our community. Thank you for believing in our mission and contributing to our ongoing success!

[#WhangareiDistrictCouncil](#) [#CommunitySupport](#) [#VolunteerEngagement](#) [#Gratitude](#)



Waiotira Pony Club · [Join](#)

Amanda Ball · July 17 at 5:35 PM · 🌐

...

🌱 Thank You Whangarei District Council! 🌱

A big thank you to the [Whangarei District Council](#) for supporting Waiotira Pony Club with a grant to help cover the cost of mowing the Waiotira Domain and surrounding areas.

Keeping our grounds well-maintained is so important — not just for the safety and enjoyment of our riders and their ponies, but also for the wider community who use and enjoy the domain. This support also helps us keep the roadside and grass areas around the Waiotira Community Hall tidy and presentable for all who visit or pass through.

Regular mowing ensures the space stays safe, usable, and welcoming — whether it's for pony club rallies, community events, or just enjoying the outdoors with whānau.

We're truly grateful for this support — it helps keep Waiotira looking its best! ❤️

[#WaiotiraPonyClub](#) [#ThankYouWDC](#) [#CommunitySupport](#) [#GrassrootsSport](#) [#WaiotiraDomain](#)
[#Grateful](#) [#KeepingWaiotiraBeautiful](#)



Mangakahia Sports Complex is 😊 feeling thankful. · [Follow](#)

July 2 at 8:53 PM · 🌐

...

Mangakahia Sports and Community Complex is here for our people only because we are supported by the [Whangarei District Council](#) 😊

Thanks for your support [Whangarei District Council](#) 🙏



Northland Youth Theatre · [Follow](#)

August 1, 2024 · 🌐

...

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to [Whangarei District Council](#) for supporting us through the District Amenities Fund.

This funding is an incredible help to us and everything we do here at Northland Youth Theatre. We are deeply grateful for their support and belief in our organisation.

With this funding, we can continue to support our young people in their creative and theatrical journeys as well as continue to create awesome shows for Whangarei!



Ruakaka Recreation Centre

July 11 at 6:19 PM · 🌐

...

The Ruakaka Recreation Centre has once again received an Annual Operating Grant from the [Whangarei District Council](#) and we're super thrilled! We are very grateful for the financial support we have received from WDC over the years 😊 The Annual Operating Grant allows us to continue the service we provide to our great community!


Whangarei Quarry Gardens

July 9 at 12:57 PM · 🌐

...

Nga mihi [Whangarei District Council](#)! Thank you for your ongoing support of Whangarei Quarry Gardens. Funding via the District Amenities grant helps us maintain, develop, and grow this beloved community treasure.

To name just a few things that our volunteers have been up to....

🌱 We created a pathway across the big waterfall, so rock hopping across the stream is no longer necessary to get to our native garden at the far side of the lake, improving accessibility for all.

🌱 We installed a more sustainable watering system, powered by a solar pump.

🌱 We hosted two major events for the community: Garden Discovery in November 2024 and Sculpture Northland in May 2025.

🌱 And of course we planted, dug, weeded, and planted, dug and weeded some more!

Thank you from the whole team at Whangarei Quarry Gardens.


Habitat for Humanity Northern

July 9 at 10:18 AM · 🌐

...

From freezing to flourishing: the power of a warm home 🏠💚

"OMG the difference in the house is amazing!" After two years of sickness, stress, and sky-high power bills, this incredible woman finally got the warmth and rest she deserved. Her home was sitting at just 14–15°C most days, far below what's healthy, especially in winter. But with a few simple changes, including turning off the HRV system and installing curtains, her home warmed to 19°C in just hours.

The result? Better sleep, better health, and a renewed sense of joy. She's now sleeping in her bedroom again, singing at work, and even her dog is happier 🐕💚

Cold homes are more than uncomfortable; they can be dangerous. Prolonged exposure to low indoor temperatures can worsen respiratory conditions, increase the risk of heart problems, and contribute to mental distress. For many, especially those already unwell or on tight budgets, winter can be a season of real hardship.

That's why this work matters. Thanks to the support of [Whangarei District Council](#), our team was able to make a real difference. Because of their support of our staff, we can continue creating warmer, drier safer homes for kiwi families.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe"-huge gratitude to you [Whangarei District Council](#)!


Totara Grove Playcentre · Follow

June 11 · 🌐

...

Food Forest Update 🍎🍌🌳

Our new Food Forest was planted over the last school holidays. Our Playcentre whānau had a blast planting together. It has been so wonderful to watch our forest grow!

Huge thanks to [Whangarei District Council](#) for the grant that made this possible, and to Permadynamics New Zealand for the design and installation.

If your family is keen to check out our Food Forest, come and visit our centre on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings 8:30-12:30. We'd love to show you around!

Appendices

- Table of Community Funding Programme allocations by applicant
- Table of Community Funding Programme allocations by fund

2024-25 Community Funding Programme - in applicant order				
Applicant	Project Title	Fund	Grant	
Alzheimers Society Northland Incorporated	Dementia education workshops	WCF	\$	3,000
Anawhata Museum Trust (Packard Motor Museum)	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$	9,785
Angel Luke Hayward	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$	1,800
Athletics Whangarei Incorporated	National Schools Cross Country Event	WCF	\$	13,259
Ayesha Simperingham	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$	2,000
Best Dog Trust	Community Dog Desexing Programme	WCF	\$	20,000
Black Ball Maritime Society	The Whangarei Maritime Festival	WCF	\$	15,000
Brain Injury Association (Northland) Inc.	Telecommunications Upgrade	WCF	\$	1,817
Bream Bay Combined Arts Group	Replacement Kiln	WCF	\$	5,620
Bream Bay Sports Trust	Give Sport a Go Festival 2025	WCF	\$	4,000
	Sports Club Coordinator wages	WCF	\$	10,000
Bream Head Te Whara Conservation Trust	Native Forest Restoration and Educational Nursery	WCF	\$	7,000
CCS Disability Action Northland	Connection to town services	WCF	\$	14,000
Children with Disability NZ	Sensory Sensations five book series	WCF	\$	6,000
Creative Northland	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$	270,000
Dyslexia Plus Whangarei Inc	Council building lease	Conc	\$	3,098
English Language Partners New Zealand Trust	Operating costs	WCF	\$	6,000
Friends of Motu Matakohē-Limestone Island	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$	68,000
Glass Ceiling Arts Collective	Programme Costs April-Dec 2025	WCF	\$	8,000
Grayson Sutherland	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$	2,000
Habitat for Humanity Northern Region	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$	20,000
Hihiāua Cultural Centre Trust	Council building lease	Conc	\$	61,700
Hikurangi Historical Museum	Operational costs	WCF	\$	10,083
Hikurangi Mountain Lions Club Charitable Trust	Hikurangi Christmas Festival 2024	WCF	\$	6,000
	Hikurangi Christmas Festival 2025	WCF	\$	6,405
I Have A Dream Charitable Trust	Community and Whanau Event 2025	WCF	\$	7,000
Interchurch Northland Urban Rural Mission Inc	Community Sector Support	WCF	\$	5,250
Jack Morgan Museum Inc	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$	5,319
	Security for historic cottage	WCF	\$	4,400
Jasmine Fisher-Johnson	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$	1,154
Kamo Community Inc	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$	750
	Community Coordinator	WCF	\$	9,900

Applicant	Project Title	Fund	Grant
Leisl Musto	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$ 2,000
Literacy Aotearoa	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 10,317
Mangakahia Sports and Community Complex	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 42,000
Mangapai Hall Incorporated Society	Tennis Court Toilet Block	WCF	\$ 9,222
Marsden Yacht and Boat Club	Roof replacement	WCF	\$ 2,866
Mata Public Hall Society	Community hall repairs	WCF	\$ 11,226
Matapouri Hall Society Incorporated	Matapouri Hall Exterior Repaint	WCF	\$ 10,520
Maungakaramea Bowling Club	Bar fridge	WCF	\$ 2,500
Maungakaramea Recreation Society	Community CCTV set up	WCF	\$ 15,500
Maungakaramea Sports Club Incorporated	Maungakaramea ANZAC Day Service 2025	WCF	\$ 250
Maungatapere Village Inc	Community Coordinator	WCF	\$ 9,828
Menzshed Waipu	New building	WCF	\$ 20,000
Mt Manaia Bowling Club	Greens sprayer and concrete pad replacement	WCF	\$ 5,000
Multicultural Whangarei	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 12,509
	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 6,487
	Welcoming Diversity/Celebrating Unity 2025	WCF	\$ 2,970
Ngunguru Bowling Club Inc.	New Clubhouse Roof	WCF	\$ 10,926
Ngunguru Golf Club Inc	Estuary Bridge Rebuild	WCF	\$ 52,500
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Society Inc	Re-roof the main club	WCF	\$ 69,259
Northland Astronomical Society Incorporated	Air conditioning in the Planetarium	WCF	\$ 7,623
Northland Craft Trust (Quarry Arts Centre)	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 92,000
Northland Multiple Sclerosis Society Inc	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 2,112
Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust (Fale Pasifika)	Pasifika Fusion Festival 2025	WCF	\$ 12,000
Northland Society of Arts (Reyburn House)	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 42,000
	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 38,110
Northland Youth Theatre	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 28,840
Oakura Reserve Board	Oakura Hall stage ceiling repairs and carpeting medical room	WCF	\$ 4,130
Ocean Beach Residents' Association	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
One Tree Point Bowling Club	Create new artificial green	WCF	\$ 100,000
ONEONESIX Trust	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 31,000
Onerahi Bowling Club	Artificial green	WCF	\$ 100,000
Onerahi Community Assn	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
Opera North Inc	Container for storage	WCF	\$ 4,000
Opuawhanga Community Hall Trust	Support for Insurance Costs	WCF	\$ 2,000
Otaika Public Hall Society	Otaika Public Hall exterior wall repairs	WCF	\$ 10,000
Parent to Parent Northland	Operating costs	WCF	\$ 4,000
Parua Bay Cemetery Trust	Cemetery mowing grant 2025	WCF	\$ 2,400

Applicant	Project Title	Fund	Grant
Pataua Area Ratepayers and Residents Association (Inc.)	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
Pehiaweri B1B Ahu Whenua Trust	Pehiaweri Oranga Whenua	WCF	\$ 13,580
Phoenix	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$ 800
Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 57,297
Questionable Research Labs	Sandbox Fandom Festival 2025	WCF	\$ 9,158
Regent Community Trust	Manaia Baptist Camp tank replacement	WCF	\$ 7,924
Rotary Club of Whangarei South	Rotary Heath Expo	WCF	\$ 4,364
Ruakaka and One Tree Point Community CCTV Project Inc.	Safer Cities Proposal	WCF	\$ 6,670
Ruakaka Recreation Centre	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 46,350
Ruatangata Public Hall Society	Tree removal, tennis courts maintenance, and hall cleaning	WCF	\$ 5,000
Sam Benson	Youth Week Events	YWF	\$ 700
Sistema Whangarei	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 24,720
Springfield Domain Inc	Insurance, power, balance of bathroom repair invoice	WCF	\$ 2,000
Stonehaven Village Trust	Village parking	WCF	\$ 10,000
Table Tennis Northland	Office and Entrance Upgrade	WCF	\$ 35,000
Tai Tokerau Emergency Housing CT	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 22,000
Tangihua Lions Lodge	Ablution Block Upgrade	WCF	\$ 64,731
Te Kowhai Print Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 23,400
Teal Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
Tennis Northland Incorporated	Regional Facility Court Maintenance Project	WCF	\$ 52,431
Tiaho Trust	Facility hire & other expenses	WCF	\$ 5,049
Totara Grove Playcentre Charitable Trust	Food forest development	WCF	\$ 4,800
Tutukaka Coast Ratepayers and Residents Assn.	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
Tutukaka Landcare Coalition Trust	Community weed control programme 2024-25	WCF	\$ 6,005
Urquharts Bay Association Incorporated	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
Volunteering Northland	Community mentoring programme	WCF	\$ 5,019
	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 5,217
	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 24,000
	Youth Week Events	WCF	\$ 7,214
Waiotira Pony Club	Waiotira Mowing	WCF	\$ 1,800
Waiotira Public Hall Society	Waiotira Community Hall kitchen	WCF	\$ 10,000
Waipu 2000 and Beyond Community Chest	Basketball half court Waihoihoi Park	WCF	\$ 13,262
Waipu Business and Community Inc (Promote Waipu)	Waipu Santa Parade	WCF	\$ 3,300

Applicant	Project Title	Fund	Grant
Waipu Business and Community Inc	Winter In Waipu Festival	WCF	\$ 5,000
Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust	Celtic Barn alarm system upgrade	WCF	\$ 4,000
Waipu Caledonian Society Inc	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 32,300
Waipu Centennial Trust Board (Museum)	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 81,082
Wandering Angels Animal Sanctuary	Flooring for maternity suite	WCF	\$ 3,000
Whangarei A&P Society	Free buses for A&P Show 2024	WCF	\$ 3,972
Whangarei Camera Club	New club projector	WCF	\$ 3,000
Whangarei Citizens Advice Bureau	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 85,490
Whangarei Community Connect (Pumanawa Awhina)	Kensington Games 2024	WCF	\$ 3,500
Whangarei Heads Citizens Association	Community Associations grant	CAG	\$ 750
	McLeod Bay Hall Roof Replacement	WCF	\$ 14,581
Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust (Kiwi North)	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 600,000
Whangārei Pregnancy Support Charitable Trust	Assistance towards operating costs	WCF	\$ 1,522
Whangarei Proud	Whangārei Pride Festival 2025	WCF	\$ 5,691
Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 115,000
Whangarei Rape Crisis	He Hapori Whakaae Community of Consent	WCF	\$ 5,000
Whangarei Riding for the Disabled	Operating costs	WCF	\$ 10,000
Whangarei Tennis and Squash Club Inc	Hosting National Junior Squash Tournament	WCF	\$ 2,000
Whangarei Theatre Company	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 7,567
Whangarei Youth Music	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 70,000
Whangarei Youth Space	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 31,000
	Operating grant (multi-year)	DAF	\$ 16,480
	Raising Daughters to Lead	WCF	\$ 2,010
Within Nature	The Whakapakari Whenua Project	WCF	\$ 10,000
Women's International Newcomers Group (WINGS)	Council building lease	Conc	\$ 2,976
Women's International Newcomers Group Social (WINGS)	Operating costs	WCF	\$ 2,000

2024-25 Community Funding Programme - in fund order				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria	Fund	Granted
District Amenities Fund				\$ 1,716,227
Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust (Kiwi North)	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 600,000
Creative Northland	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 270,000
Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	E	DAF	\$ 115,000
Northland Craft Trust (Quarry Arts Centre)	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 92,000
Whangarei Citizens Advice Bureau	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 85,490
Waipu Centennial Trust Board (Museum)	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 81,082
Friends of Motu Matakohē-Limestone Island	Operating grant (multi-year)	E	DAF	\$ 68,000
Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	E	DAF	\$ 57,297
Ruakaka Recreation Centre	Operating grant (multi-year)	RS	DAF	\$ 46,350
Mangakahia Sports and Community Complex	Operating grant (multi-year)	RS	DAF	\$ 42,000
Northland Society of Arts (Reyburn House)	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 38,110
Waipu Caledonian Society Inc	Operating grant (multi-year)	RS	DAF	\$ 32,300
Northland Youth Theatre	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 28,840
Sistema Whangarei	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 24,720
Volunteering Northland	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 24,000
Te Kowhai Print Trust	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 23,400
Tai Tokerau Emergency Housing CT	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 22,000
Habitat for Humanity Northern Region	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 20,000
Whangarei Youth Space	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 16,480
Anawhata Museum Trust (Packard Motor Museum)	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 9,785
Whangarei Theatre Company	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 7,567
Multicultural Whangarei	Operating grant (multi-year)	CW	DAF	\$ 6,487
Jack Morgan Museum Inc	Operating grant (multi-year)	ACH	DAF	\$ 5,319
Rent Concessions				\$ 271,929
Whangarei Youth Music	Council building lease	ACH	Conc	\$ 70,000
Hihiaua Cultural Centre Trust	Council building lease	ACH	Conc	\$ 61,700
Northland Society of Arts (Reyburn House)	Council building lease	ACH	Conc	\$ 42,000
ONEONESIX Trust	Council building lease	ACH	Conc	\$ 31,000
Whangarei Youth Space	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 31,000
Multicultural Whangarei	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 12,509
Literacy Aotearoa	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 10,317
Volunteering Northland	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 5,217
Dyslexia Plus Whangarei Inc	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 3,098
Women's International Newcomers Group (WINGS)	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 2,976
Northland Multiple Sclerosis Society Inc	Council building lease	CW	Conc	\$ 2,112
Whangarei Communities Fund				\$ 974,037
One Tree Point Bowling Club	Create new artificial green	RS	WCF	\$ 100,000
Onerahi Bowling Club	Artificial green	RS	WCF	\$ 100,000
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Society Inc	Re-roof the main club	RS	WCF	\$ 69,259
Tangihua Lions Lodge	Ablution Block Upgrade	CW	WCF	\$ 64,731
Ngunguru Golf Club Inc	Estuary Bridge Rebuild	RS	WCF	\$ 52,500
Tennis Northland Incorporated	Regional Facility Court Maintenance	RS	WCF	\$ 52,431
Table Tennis Northland	Office and Entrance Upgrade	RS	WCF	\$ 35,000
Best Dog Trust	Desexing Programme	CW	WCF	\$ 20,000
Menzshed Waipu	New building	CW	WCF	\$ 20,000
Maungakaramēa Recreation Society	Community CCTV set up	CW	WCF	\$ 15,500
Black Ball Maritime Society	Whangarei Maritime Festival 2025	ACH	WCF	\$ 15,000
Whangarei Heads Citizens Association	McLeod Bay Hall Roof	RS	WCF	\$ 14,581
CCS Disability Action Northland	Connection to town services	CW	WCF	\$ 14,000
Pehiaweri B1B Ahu Whenua Trust	Pehiaweri Oranga Whenua	CW	WCF	\$ 13,580
Waipu 2000 and Beyond Community Chest	Basketball half court Waihoihoi Park	RS	WCF	\$ 13,262
Athletics Whangarei Incorporated	National Schools Cross Country Event	RS	WCF	\$ 13,259

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria	Fund	Granted
Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust	Pasifika Fusion Festival 2025	ACH	WCF	\$ 12,000
Mata Public Hall Society	Community hall repairs	CW	WCF	\$ 11,226
Ngunguru Bowling Club Inc.	New Clubhouse Roof	CW	WCF	\$ 10,926
Matapouri Hall Society Incorporated	Matapouri Hall Exterior Repaint	CW	WCF	\$ 10,520
Hikurangi Historical Museum	Operational costs	ACH	WCF	\$ 10,083
Bream Bay Sports Trust	Sports Club Coordinator wages	RS	WCF	\$ 10,000
Otaika Public Hall Society	Hall exterior wall repairs	CW	WCF	\$ 10,000
Stonehaven Village Trust	Village parking	CW	WCF	\$ 10,000
Waiotira Public Hall Society	Waiotira Community Hall kitchen	CW	WCF	\$ 10,000
Whangarei Riding for the Disabled	Operating costs	CW	WCF	\$ 10,000
Within Nature	The Whakapakari Whenua Project	CW	WCF	\$ 10,000
Kamo Community Inc	Community Coordinator	CW	WCF	\$ 9,900
Maungatapere Village Inc	Community Coordinator	CW	WCF	\$ 9,828
Mangapai Hall Incorporated Society	Tennis Court Toilet Block	RS	WCF	\$ 9,222
Questionable Research Labs	Sandbox Fandom Festival 2025	ACH	WCF	\$ 9,158
Glass Ceiling Arts Collective	Programme Costs April-Dec 2025	CW	WCF	\$ 8,000
Regent Community Trust	Manaia Baptist Camp tank replacement	E	WCF	\$ 7,924
Northland Astronomical Society Incorporated	Air conditioning in the Planetarium	ACH	WCF	\$ 7,623
Volunteering Northland	Youth Week Events	CW	WCF	\$ 7,214
Bream Head Te Whara Conservation Trust	Native Forest Restoration and Educational Nursery	E	WCF	\$ 7,000
I Have A Dream Charitable Trust	Community and Whanau Event 2025	CW	WCF	\$ 7,000
Ruakaka and One Tree Point Community CCTV Project Inc.	Safer Cities Proposal	CW	WCF	\$ 6,670
Hikurangi Mountain Lions Club Charitable Trust	Hikurangi Community Xmas Parade	CW	WCF	\$ 6,405
Tutukaka Landcare Coalition Trust	Community weed control programme 2024-25	E	WCF	\$ 6,005
Children with Disability NZ	Sensory Sensations five book series	CW	WCF	\$ 6,000
English Language Partners New Zealand Trust	Operating costs	CW	WCF	\$ 6,000
Hikurangi Mountain Lions Club Charitable Trust	Hikurangi Christmas Festival 2024	CW	WCF	\$ 6,000
Whangarei Proud	Whangārei Pride Festival 2025	CW	WCF	\$ 5,691
Bream Bay Combined Arts Group	Replacement Kiln	ACH	WCF	\$ 5,620
Interchurch Northland Urban Rural Mission Inc	Community Sector Support	CW	WCF	\$ 5,250
Tiaho Trust	Facility hire & other expenses	CW	WCF	\$ 5,049
Volunteering Northland	Community mentoring programme	CW	WCF	\$ 5,019
Mt Manaia Bowling Club	Greens sprayer and concrete pad replacement	RS	WCF	\$ 5,000
Ruatangata Public Hall Society	Tree removal, tennis courts maintenance, and hall cleaning	CW	WCF	\$ 5,000
Waipu Business and Community Inc (Promote Waipu)	Winter In Waipu Festival	ACH	WCF	\$ 5,000
Whangarei Rape Crisis	He Hapori Whakaae Community of Consent	CW	WCF	\$ 5,000
Totara Grove Playcentre Charitable Trust	Food forest development	E	WCF	\$ 4,800
Jack Morgan Museum Inc	Security for historic cottage	ACH	WCF	\$ 4,400
Rotary Club of Whangarei South	Rotary Heath Expo	CW	WCF	\$ 4,364
Oakura Reserve Board	Oakura Hall stage ceiling repairs and carpeting medical room	CW	WCF	\$ 4,130
Bream Bay Sports Trust	Give Sport a Go Festival 2025	RS	WCF	\$ 4,000
Opera North Inc	Container for storage	ACH	WCF	\$ 4,000
Parent to Parent Northland	Operating costs	CW	WCF	\$ 4,000
Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust	Celtic Barn alarm system upgrade	CW	WCF	\$ 4,000
Whangarei A&P Society	Free buses for A&P Show 2024	CW	WCF	\$ 3,972

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria	Fund	Granted
Whangarei Community Connect (Pumanawa Awhina)	Kensington Games 2024	RS	WCF	\$ 3,500
Waipu Business and Community Inc (Promote Waipu)	Waipu Santa Parade	CW	WCF	\$ 3,300
Alzheimers Society Northland Incorporated	Dementia education workshops	CW	WCF	\$ 3,000
Wandering Angels Animal Sanctuary	Flooring for maternity suite	CW	WCF	\$ 3,000
Whangarei Camera Club	New club projector	ACH	WCF	\$ 3,000
Multicultural Whangarei	Welcoming Diversity/Celebrating Unity 2025	CW	WCF	\$ 2,970
Marsden Yacht and Boat Club	Roof replacement	CW	WCF	\$ 2,866
Maungakaramaea Bowling Club	Bar fridge	RS	WCF	\$ 2,500
Parua Bay Cemetery Trust	Cemetery mowing grant 2025	ACH	WCF	\$ 2,400
Whangarei Youth Space	Raising Daughters to Lead	CW	WCF	\$ 2,010
Opuawhanga Community Hall Trust	Support for Insurance Costs	CW	WCF	\$ 2,000
Springfield Domain Inc	Insurance, power, balance of bathroom repair invoice	CW	WCF	\$ 2,000
Whangarei Tennis and Squash Club Inc	Hosting National Junior Squash Tournament	RS	WCF	\$ 2,000
Women's International Newcomers Group Social (WINGS)	Operating Costs	CW	WCF	\$ 2,000
Brain Injury Association (Northland) Inc.	Telecommunications Upgrade	CW	WCF	\$ 1,817
Waiotira Pony Club	Waiotira Mowing	RS	WCF	\$ 1,800
Whangārei Pregnancy Support Charitable Trust	Assistance towards operating costs	CW	WCF	\$ 1,522
Maungakaramaea Sports Club Incorporated	Maungakaramaea ANZAC Day Service 2025	CW	WCF	\$ 250
Community Associations Grant				\$ 6,000
Kamo Community Inc	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Ocean Beach Residents' Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Onerahi Community Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Pataua Area Ratepayers and Residents Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Teal Bay Ratepayers and Residents Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Tutukaka Coast Ratepayers and Residents Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Urquharts Bay Association Incorporated	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Whangarei Heads Citizens Assn.	Community Associations grant	CW	CAG	\$ 750
Youth Week Fund				\$ 10,454
Ayesha Simperingham	Youth Week Events	ACH	YWF	\$ 2,000
Grayson Sutherland	Youth Week Events	ACH	YWF	\$ 2,000
Leisl Musto	Youth Week Events	CW	YWF	\$ 2,000
Angel Luke Hayward	Youth Week Events	RS	YWF	\$ 1,800
Jasmine Fisher-Johnson	Youth Week Events	ACH	YWF	\$ 1,154
Phoenix Sigley	Youth Week Events	ACH	YWF	\$ 800
Sam Benson	Youth Week Events	RS	YWF	\$ 700

5.2 Creative Northland Play Trailer Six-Monthly Report June 2025

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Isaac Watts, Community Development Advisor

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To provide the Committee with an update on use of the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer in the Community as reported by Creative Northland as per the memorandum of understanding reporting requirements to council.

2 Recommendation/ Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee

1. Receives the Creative Northland Play Trailer Six Monthly Report June 2025

3 Background / Horopaki

In 2020 Council received funding for the development of a play trailer via the Sport Northland Tū Manawa Fund. The purpose of the trailer was to support increased community engagement and to enhance community participation in play opportunities.

While managed by Council community access to the trailer was very limited due to a lack of dedicated staff resource and difficulty accessing the trailer from its location, then Maunu cemetery.

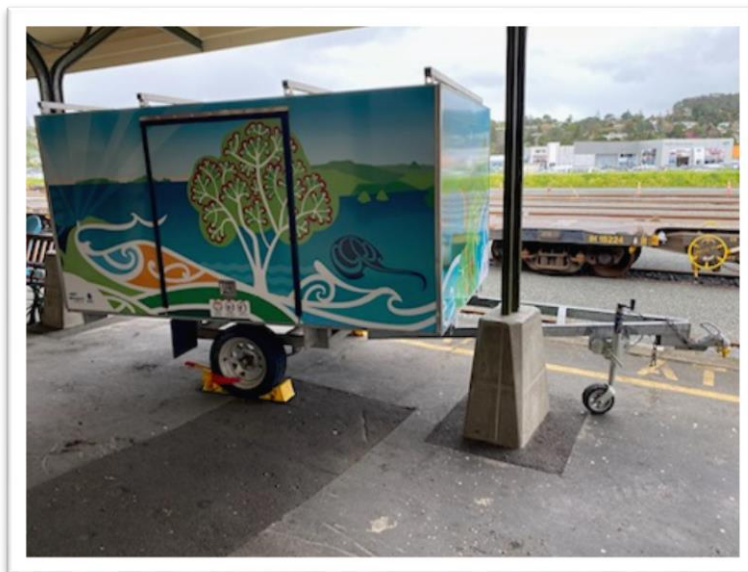
To increase ease of access to the trailer for community groups and reduce administrative burden on Council, Community Development explored a trial partnership with Creative Northland for management of the trailer. Creative Northland was identified as a suitable fit for the trial due to their central location, regular presence at community events, and capacity to manage play trailer bookings.

In February 2025, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and Creative Northland, management of the trailer was transferred to Creative Northland and the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer was moved to their premises.

Under the MoU Creative Northland is reimbursed for administration associated with the trailer, including health and safety inductions for users. The trailer remains a Council asset and as such, Council is responsible for maintenance of the trailer.

Council staff worked with Creative Northland to develop safety policies, guidelines, and processes for the safe use of the trailer, in accordance with Council's own high standard for

public safety. Safety documentation forms part of the Play Trailer hire agreements and a copy of the User Manual is kept in the trailer for a hirer to refer to on site during an event. agreements also place obligations and responsibilities for safety on the hirers, including the need for a Health and Safety Event Plan and public liability insurance.



4 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Under this new arrangement, the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer has helped remove barriers for community use, including cost, location, and confidence, making play more accessible. It has created safe, welcoming spaces where people of all ages can connect, relax, and engage in creative play.

The report indicates that over the past six months, the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer has been used at six different community events across the Whāngarei district. This exceeds the expected number of engagements for that period as set out in the MoU. The report indicates that across all events, over 600 people have used equipment from the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer.

The increased presence of the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer in the community has also created opportunities for rangatahi leadership development and given families new ways to learn and play together. These positive outcomes are a direct result of the partnership between Creative Northland and Whangarei District Council, showing how partnerships can build stronger, more connected communities.

4.1 Financial/budget considerations

No budget impact. Costs associated with management and maintenance are covered by the department's existing budgets.

5 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

6 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Attachment 1: Creative Northland PlayTrailer Six-Monthly Report June 2025

Creative Northland Executive Summary:

The Play Trailer has been a vital outreach initiative that brings creative, inclusive play experiences directly to communities across Whangārei. By removing barriers of cost, location, and confidence to connect and socially engage. This vehicle ensures that access to the arts and play is not a privilege but a right, especially for rural and underserved whānau. Its calming, low-pressure approach makes it a safe and welcoming space for individuals of all ages and abilities, supporting wellbeing through quiet creativity, sensory engagement, and play. This mobile model also builds strong connections across communities, fostering social cohesion, friendship, and collective pride in local expression.

Beyond access, the Play Trailer nurtures long-term community capability. It offers rangatahi meaningful leadership opportunities, supports homeschooling families with hands-on learning, and embeds mātauranga Māori through culturally grounded activities and use of the reo to be practiced in new environments along with creative kits that celebrate cultural identity and connection to whakapapa. As this outreach continues to grow, the Play Trailer is laying the groundwork for a more connected, resilient, and innovative region. One where creativity is not only encouraged, but woven into the fabric of everyday life.

CN would like to thank the partnership with WDC to manage and deliver this resource to the wider community.

Ngā mihi nui,

A blue ink signature that reads 'Olivia Garelja'.

Olivia Garelja
Director CN

PURPOSE & KEY TARGET AREAS

Play. Create. Connect.

This kaupapa is about bringing arts access to the people – by removing barriers of location, cost, or confidence. It also enables partnerships/engagement with community groups. The supportive focus keeps tamariki off the streets, away from screens and engaged with community values in mind.



1

Deliver creative experiences across Te Tai Tokerau

with a focus on rural communities. This means taking creativity on the road to reach whānau in places where access to the arts is limited or non-existent.

2

Support community wellbeing

by offering gentle, accessible forms of engagement – ideal for individuals with social anxiety or those who prefer quiet, creative spaces. These experiences are intentionally designed to be calming, low-pressure, and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities.

3

Develop tamariki and rangatahi leadership and creative skills

particularly supporting homeschoolers. Through hands-on experience and mentorship, young people can grow their confidence, voice, and sense of contribution to their communities.

4

Embed mātauranga Māori in creative play

through dedicated toi Māori kits. These kits honour tikanga, language, and mātauranga by offering culturally grounded activities that celebrate identity and connection to whakapapa.

Six Months of Creative Impact

Since launching, the play trailer has travelled across Te Tai Tokerau, connecting with over **630 participants** at five public events. It has provided hands-on access to creative kits, offered calm spaces for community wellbeing, and introduced a new model for accessible, mobile arts engagement. This kaupapa has laid the foundation for deeper community relationships, and continues to grow a vision for inclusive, locally led creativity in the region. It is positive to note there has been a great adapted process/ induction followed around hireage, health and safety when transporting and using the trailer with no incidents to report.

Activity Summary (First 6 Months):

EVENTS
DELIVERED

6

RELAY FOR LIFE
29/03/25

200

ARTBEAT CARNIVAL
12/04/25

350

OTHER EVENTS

- NORTHLAND HIPHOP DANCE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME - JUNE 24
- RAUMANGA COMMUNITY DAYS - ONGOING

YET TO COME:

- PRINTAPALOOZA - AUG
- ST JOHN ACTIVITY DAY - 24 JUNE

TOTAL
INTERACTIONS

630

KITS ADDED

- ROCK PAINTING
- OAMARU STONE CARVING
- DRAWING & PAINTING.

MOST POPULAR KITS

- PRINT MAKING
- ROCK PAINTING
- AGILITY GAMES

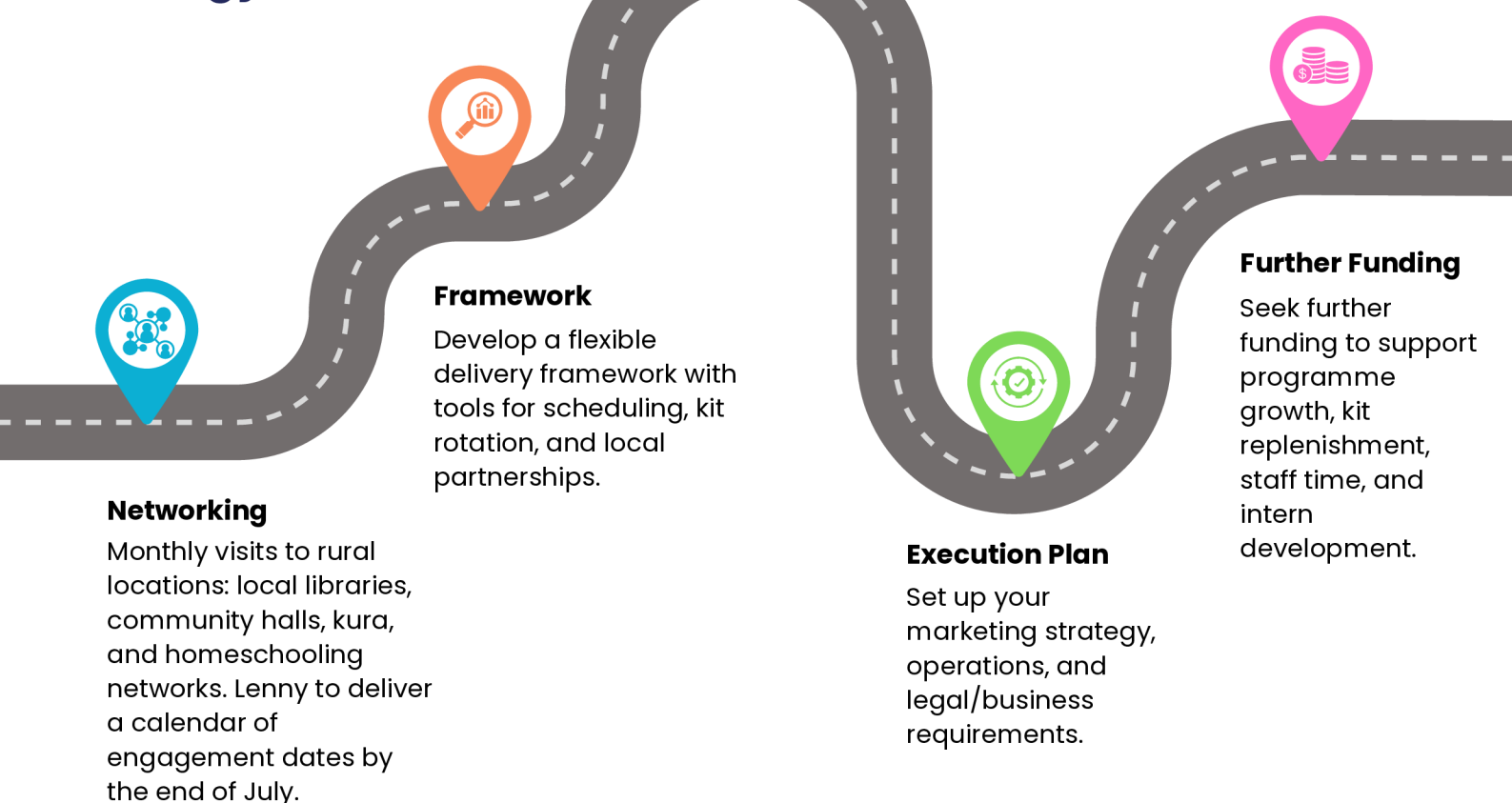


Community Feedback

- “Amazing access and opportunity for community to connect, play and make friendships through play and creativity”
- Whānau expressed appreciation for inclusive, creative, non-verbal engagement options
- Requests for more rural delivery, hands-on kits, and whānau-friendly sessions at marae-Whakapara to test with weaving Kaupapa



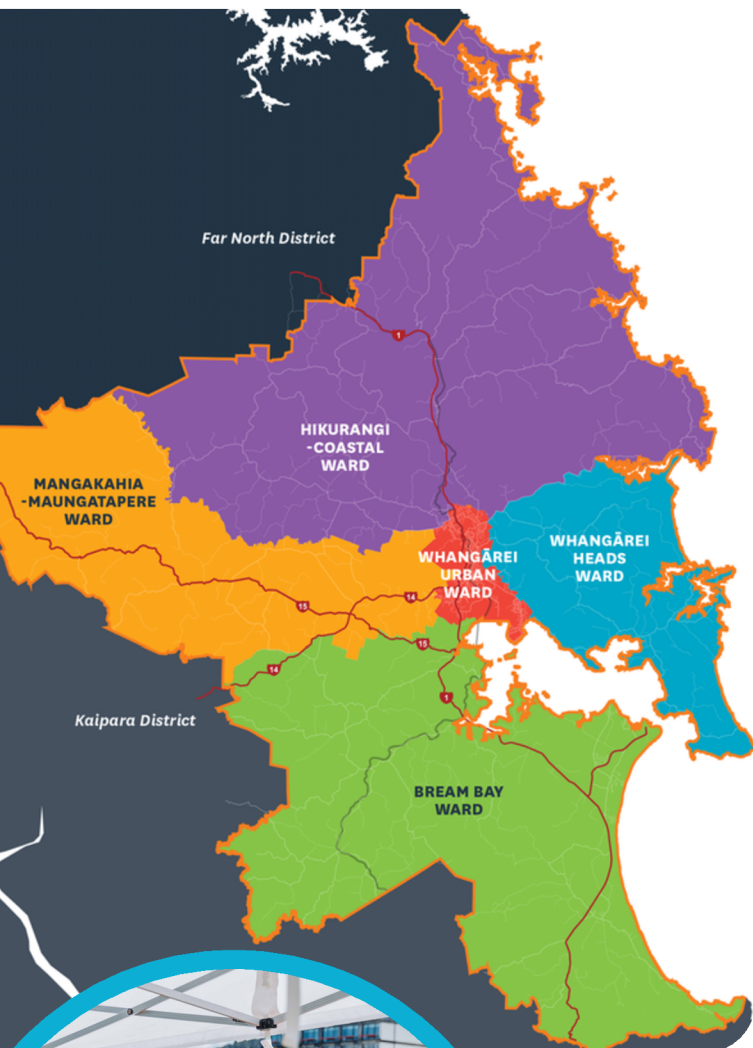
Rural Engagement Strategy:



Goals for the next 6 Months:



AREAS TO ACTIVATE



Northern / Coastal:

- Hikurangi Memorial Hall
- Whananaki Community Hall
- Helena Bay Hilltop School grounds
- Oakura Hall
- Matapouri Beach Reserve (during low season)
- Ngunguru Hall

Eastern:

- Parua Bay Community Centre
- Whangārei Heads Community Hall
- McLeod Bay Reserve (casual pop-up space)
- Ocean Beach Reserve (low peak times)

Central Villages: (*fringe/rural edge of Whangārei*)

- Glenbervie School grounds
- Whareora Hall
- Kamo Village Green (fringe-rural, but strong community hub)
- Tikipunga Marae (depending on invitation)

Western / Inland:

- Mangakahia Community Hall (Poroti)
- Titoki Hall
- Maungatapere Hall
- Kokopu School grounds
- Pakotai Hall
- Whatitiri Marae / Community space

Southern / Southwest:

- Maungakaramaea Hall
- Tauraroa Area School grounds
- Waipu Coronation Hall
- Ruakaka Recreation Centre
- One Tree Point Hall
- Bream Bay Combined arts facility

SPACES

- MARAE
- RETIREMENT VILLAGES
- COMMUNITY HALLS & CENTRES
- LIBRARIES
- HOME SCHOOL GROUPS



“Play. Create. Connect.” will be professionally applied as vinyl lettering to the sides of the trailer. This simple phrase captures the essence of the trailer’s kaupapa inviting tamariki, whānau, and communities to engage in open-ended creative play while fostering connection that then builds community.

In addition to the slogan, the trailer will get the following vinyl applied:

- Contact details for CN so community groups, schools, and marae to book or access the trailer
- The Creative Northland logo
- The Waka Tākaro logo

These visual elements will help build brand recognition and trust while reinforcing the trailer’s role in supporting play, creativity, wellbeing, and community cohesion across Whangārei. As it moves throughout the region, the trailer becomes a more visible symbol of play and creative accessibility supporting ideas of equity and community engagement.



5.3 Puanga Matariki Festival 2025 Post Event Report

Meeting: Community Development Committee

Date of meeting: 21 August 2025

Reporting officer: Bea Mossop – Manager, Venue and Events
 Anna Terwiel – Team Leader, Major Event Planning and Administration
 Hayley Clark - Cultural Events Coordinator

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To provide to the Committee the Post Event Report for the Puanga Matariki Festival.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee:

1. Notes the Puanga Matariki Festival 2025 Post Event Report and provides feedback on the outcomes and future opportunities.
2. Receives the Puanga Matariki Festival 2025 Post Event Report, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of hapū, community, and local businesses in delivering a successful and culturally rich program.

3 Discussion / Whakawhiti kōrero

Puanga Matariki 2025 was held across the Whangārei District from 27 May to 24 June. The 2025 Festival featured a month-long program celebrating cultural heritage, community engagement, and mātauranga Māori. Key events included Whai storytelling workshops, community-led hautapu and kapa haka performances, planting activities, and initiatives such as Mana Wahine and Tere Talks, which highlighted kōrero tuku iho and local leadership.

A notable feature of this year's festival was the strengthened collaboration between hapū, community groups, and local businesses. This partnership enabled broader participation, resource sharing, and the co-design of events that reflected local identity and aspirations. The festival also supported contemporary Māori performance, blending tradition with innovation. Strong community participation and recurring contributors have helped embed the festival as a valued annual event in the district's cultural calendar.

Council Sponsorship - Whangārei District Council sponsored 10 events to a value of \$24,733 significantly enriching the overall festival programme and expanding the diversity and reach of activities offered.

Sponsored events

- Bream Bay Kāhui Ako Matariki Festival

- Hihiaua Cultural Centre - Hosted 3 events: Exhibition, Manu Raupō, Wiremu Sarich, and Tere Talks
- Wairau Māori Art Gallery - Open Day
- Onerahi Community Matariki Celebration
- Light Up Hikurangi: Matariki Celebration
- Mana Wāhine – A series of events featuring 4 female speakers held at the central Library
- Nukunuku - Dance Performance, developed and performed locally at OneOneSix
- The Night Library & Café
- Whangaruru Matariki Remembrance Hīkoi & Community Tree Planting
- Whangai i te Hautapu

It is estimated over 6000 people from the district attended a sponsored event averaging around \$4.00 spend per person.

Notable Activities from the Festival

- **Expanded Geographic Coverage:** Events were delivered across a broader range of locations within the Whangārei District, including Hikurangi, Bream Bay, Whangaruru, and Onerahi.
- **Cultural Integration:** Collaboration with Mark Scott enabled the inclusion of Puanga content in the festival booklet and ensured alignment with Maramataka dates.
- **Opening and closing:** Formal opening and closing to be planned at earlier stage this is an area that will be improved and grown for future years.
- **Community Collaboration:** Increased cooperation among community groups led to stronger support and cross-promotion of events.
- **Event Volume and Accessibility:** A total of 57 events were held, with 44 offered as free or koha-based, enhancing accessibility for all.
- **Puanga on a Plate:** Cancelled due to low registration from local restaurants due to the burnout event. Invitation to be extended to dine in cafes to increase participation for 2026.
- **Positive Feedback:** Participant responses highlighted the festival's success in fostering community pride and engagement.
- **Social media:** Puanga Matariki page and posts reaching over 38,086 views over the Puanga Matariki Period.

3.1 Financial/budget considerations

The event was developed and run within the existing allocated budget.

4 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via this agenda publication on the website.

5 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

1. Puanga Matariki Festival 2025 Post Event Report



PUANGA MATARIKI FESTIVAL 2025

GENERAL

The 2025 Puanga Matariki Festival was delivered across the Whangārei District from 27 May to 24 June, offering a month-long programme of events that reflected the district's commitment to cultural celebration, community engagement, and the revitalisation of mātauranga Māori. The festival served as a platform for cultural exchange and education, with a strong focus on inclusivity and intergenerational participation.

Key events included **Whai workshops**, which supported the restoration of traditional storytelling practices; **community-led hautapu and kapa haka performances**, which reinforced tikanga and traditional practice; **community planting activities**, aligning with the traditional significance of Matariki as a time for preparation and renewal. Initiatives such as **Mana Wahine** and **Tere Talks** provided contemporary spaces for sharing kōrero tuku iho, celebrating the stories and contributions of influential community members. The festival also supported the development of contemporary Māori performance, providing space for innovation and creative expression that bridges traditional knowledge with modern artistic forms.

The festival attracted event registrations from consistent community groups, who have become regular contributors to the Festival. This ongoing commitment has helped embed the festival within the cultural calendar of the district.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2 Community Hui – these are well attended and provide a great foundation the overall festival.

Invitations went out to last year's attendees, and publicly on Eventfinda, Facebook and WDC Website.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Broader spread of Events across the wider Whangārei District.
Including, but not limited to, Hikurangi, Bream bay, Whangaruru and Onerahi.

Support from Mark Scott to include information of Puanga in the booklet and aligning dates with the Maramataka dates.

Better use of Print marketing – having 4 full pages in the Advocate as well as the Full list of events was great value for money.

Community groups working together and supporting each other's events.

SPONSORSHIP

17 SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS were received.

10 SPONSORSHIPS GRANTED

- *Bream Bay Kāhui Ako Matariki Festival
- Hihiaua Cultural Centre- (3 events) Exhibition, Manu Raupo, Wiremu Sarich, Tere Talks
- Wairau Māori Art Gallery Open Day
- Onerahi Community Matariki Celebration
- Light Up Hikurangi - Matariki Celebration
- Mana Wāhine (4 events)
- Nukunuku
- The Night Library & Café
- Whangaruru Matariki Remembrance Hikoi & Community Tree Planting
- Whangai i te Hautapu

Hika-Riki 2025 – Cancelled due to venue renovations

Whangarei Gospel Choir – Withdrawn due to personal reasons

Wairau Māori Art Gallery – Reduced their funding request, to scale down event.

** Not sponsored from the Puanga Matariki Budget.*



MATRIX OF SUPPORT FOR SPONSORSHIP

PROJECT NAME	FUNDING REQUEST (\$)	Kaupapa Māori	Audience Numbers	Aligns with Puanga Matariki Values	Cost per person (funded \$ ÷ Audience numbers)	TOTAL SCORE out of 20
1 = No/Not really 5 = Yes 100%						
1= <100 2= 100-300 3= 300-600 4= 600-800 5 = >800						
1 = No/Not really 5 = Yes 100%						
0 = >101 pp 1= \$41-\$100 pp 2= \$21-\$40 pp 3= \$11-\$20 pp 4= \$5-\$10 pp 5 = <\$5 pp						
Cost per person (funded \$ ÷ Audience numbers)						
Te Kāhui Ako o Te Ākau Matariki Kapa Haka Festival	\$15,469.00	5	5	5	3	18
Hika-Riki 2025	\$3,000.00	4	5	3	5	17
Puanga/Matariki at Wairau Māori Art Gallery	\$3,500.00	4	4	5	4	17
E Tū Ngahere - Puanga- Matariki ki Hihiaua	\$3,521.00	5	2	5	3	15
Onerahi Community Matariki Celebration	\$2,500.00	5	2	5	3	15
Whangai i te Hautapu	\$900	5	1	5	4	15
Puanga Matariki: Mana Wāhine	\$2,000.00	5	2	5	1	13
Nukunuku	\$3,375.00	4	2	4	3	13
Whangarei Gospel Choir	\$4,000	3	3	2	4	12
The Night Library & Cafe Puanga Matariki Edition	\$1,610	1	3	3	5	12
Whangaruru Rugby Club Matariki Celebration	\$4,500.00	3	2	5	2	12
Honoring the Past, Igniting the Future*	\$2,900	1	5	1	5	12
Matariki Mahingakai E! Ki Te Ruapekapeka	\$19,750.00	5	1	5	0	11
Tūrama	\$13,600.00	5	1	5	0	11
Light Up Hikurangi - Matariki Celebration	\$2,050.00	1	2	3	4	10
The Journey	\$2,800	2	2	2	3	9
Whānau Movie Night	\$5,000.00	1	2	1	2	6
\$90,475.00						

Not reflected in the Matrix

- Matariki Mahingakai E! Ki Te Ruapekapeka 2025 - Was an event outside Whangarei District
- Tūrama - Cost per person was \$200
- Honoring the Past, Igniting the Future - Application gave audience numbers which did not reflect the capacity of the performance space.

SUCCESSFUL EVENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The following are **summarised versions** of the original application descriptions for each successfully funded event. They outline the **intended plans and objectives** and differ from the **post-event reports**, which detail what was actually delivered, including any adjustments, challenges encountered, and final outcomes.

WAIRAU MĀORI ART GALLERY OPEN DAY**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead:** Wairau Māori Art Gallery Trust, Larissa McMillan, Gallery Director**Location:** Wairau Māori Art Gallery, Whangārei**SmartyGrant Application**

The *Puanga Matariki at Wairau Māori Art Gallery* series is a collection of free, community-focused events celebrating the Māori New Year through contemporary Māori art and performance. The programme includes:

Dance Response by Gabrielle Thomas to Turumeke Harrington's exhibition *Ta, Tau*, blending movement and visual art to offer new ways of engaging with Māori artistic expression.

Artist Activation with Turumeke Harrington, who will speak about her work and engage directly with the community to deepen understanding of Māori art practices.

Open Day featuring family-friendly activities including creative workshops, storytelling, and performances, with *Ta, Tau* on public display.

The programme reflects core Māori values including manaakitanga (care), kotahitanga (unity), and aroha (love and respect), while offering accessible experiences that strengthen community ties and celebrate the evolving nature of Māori identity and culture.

Wairau Art Gallery reduced their request to \$1000

Sponsorship Request:	\$3500
Sponsorship Granted:	\$1000

ONERAHI COMMUNITY MATARIKI CELEBRATION (HAUTAPU)**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead:** Kaumātua Fred Tito (Te Parawhau)**Location:** Wai A Ariki Food Forest Onerahirahi and St Stephens Church**Community Collaboration:** Onerahi Community**SmartyGrant Application**

This annual dawn service invites the community to gather and observe the rising of Matariki, accompanied by waiata, karakia, and a remembrance ceremony. The service is followed by a shared breakfast, fostering connection and participation.

The event promotes the use of **te reo Māori** and **tikanga Māori**, with cultural practices such as karakia and waiata central to the experience. It provides an inclusive opportunity for multicultural whānau, new migrants, and newcomers to engage with Māori language, customs, and traditions through the celebration of Matariki.

Sponsorship Request:	\$2500
Sponsorship Granted:	\$1800

WHANGAI I TE HAUTAPU (WHANGARURU)**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead:** He Puna Ruku Mātauranga o Whangaruru (Te Uri o Hikihiku, Ngā Hapū o Whangaruru)**Emailed Application**

This event, hosted by Whangaruru School, brings together tamariki, whānau, and the wider hāpori to celebrate Matariki through a range of kaupapa-aligned activities. In the lead-up to the Hautapu ceremony, students participate in arts and crafts, storytelling, music, haka, science, and nature-based learning.

The celebration culminates in a shared kai and performances where tamariki showcase their creative work and kapa haka. The event fosters intergenerational learning, with opportunities for tamariki to connect with kaumātua and kuia, gaining insights into traditional practices and stories. It highlights the strength of rural community engagement and the value of cultural education in a kura ā iwi setting.

Sponsorship Request:	\$900
Sponsorship Granted:	\$700



LIGHT UP HIKURANGI

Event Type: Free/Koha

Lead: Hikurangi Friendship House Charitable Trust

Location: Hikurangi Township

Community Collaboration: Hikurangi local businesses, Hikurangi Historical Museum, Hikurangi Primary School, Hikurangi Police, Hikurangi Community Development Co-ordinator, Hikurangi Volunteer Fire Brigade.

SmartyGrant Application

Now in its third year, *Light Up Hikurangi* is a free, community-led Matariki celebration that brings together locals and visitors to honour the Māori New Year. The event fosters inclusivity and cultural appreciation, welcoming participation from Māori, Pākehā, and other ethnic communities.

The celebration features a community waiata, kapa haka performances by local schools, live music, and storytelling from kaumātua. Market stalls run by local vendors offer kai and crafts, promoting and supporting the local economy. Interactive displays created by tamariki and artists highlight local stories and traditions.

The event strengthens community bonds, supports cultural education and preservation, and provides economic opportunities for local businesses.

Sponsorship Request:	\$2050
Sponsorship Granted:	\$1225

MANA WĀHINE

Event Type: Free

Host: Whangārei District Libraries

Location: Whangārei

SmartyGrant Application

Mana Wāhine is a four-part lunchtime talk series held at Whangārei District Libraries, featuring wāhine Māori from Ngāpuhi nui tonu. Each speaker shares personal narratives rooted in whakapapa, hītori, and pūrākau, reflecting on their journeys as rangatira, māma, and karani māma. These talks explore the stages of life—he kōtiro, he wahine, he kuia—and how each wāhine has successfully navigated and occupied diverse spaces, with a view to the future.

The series originated from a desire to amplify the voices of wāhine Māori from Te Tai Tokerau, whose life experiences are not yet widely recorded or published. Inspired by *Nuku100*, a book profiling 100 Indigenous women (available in the Te Puawānanga collection), the talks aim to create a similar legacy of local storytelling.

The talks are open to the public and include a Q&A session to encourage dialogue and intergenerational exchange which supports leadership development and ensures that the wisdom of wāhine Māori is passed on to future generations.

Sponsorship Request:	\$2000
Sponsorship Granted:	\$2000

NUKUNUKU**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead Artist:** Gabrielle Thomas (Ngāi Tahu, Te Ātiawa ki te Tau Ihu)**Location:** ONEONESIX Theatre, Whangārei**SmartyGrant Application**

Nukunuku is an original contemporary dance theatre that explores themes of migration, urban drift, displacement, and reclamation, drawing on Māori histories and lived experiences. It reflects on the shift of Māori from rural to urban settings and the resulting impact on identity, whenua, and whānau.

The work is developed through an interdisciplinary and collaborative process, incorporating design, movement, and tikanga Māori. It aims to create a bicultural exchange between performers and audiences, using elements of pōwhiri to frame the theatre experience and connect people to te ao Māori.

The presentation offers a unique opportunity for Whangārei audiences to engage with experimental Māori dance theatre and supports the development of sustainable, professional performance opportunities in the region. Through three performances, *Nukunuku* aims to reach approximately 300 attendees and celebrate the resilience and adaptability of Māori through movement and storytelling.

Sponsorship Request:	\$3375
Sponsorship Granted:	\$3375

WHANGARURU MATARIKI REMEMBRANCE HIKOI & COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead:** Whangaruru Rugby Football Club Incorporated**Location:** Whangaruru and Omapere**SmartyGrant Application**

This two-part event, led by the Whangaruru Rugby Football Club, brings together the local community to celebrate Matariki through environmental action and cultural connection. The day begins with a native tree planting activity, to promote environmental awareness and stewardship. Educational components focus on the significance of native species, care for newly planted trees, and the broader impact of conservation efforts.

The second component, a community dinner is held at the rugby club, followed by storytelling from local kaumātua (Ngātiwai ki Whangaruru), sharing traditions and histories of the area. The event supports a rural, low-socioeconomic community by providing an accessible and meaningful way to engage with Matariki. It fosters cultural celebration, education, inclusivity, and long-term community strengthening.

Sponsorship Request:	\$4500
Sponsorship Granted:	\$2000



BREAM BAY KĀHUI AKO MATARIKI FESTIVAL**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Host:** Bream Bay College**Organiser:** Junie Shelford – Deputy Principal, Bream Bay College**Collaboration:** Julian Cosgrove – Tūmuaki, Bream Bay College and Shirley Winters – Tūmuaki, OTP Primary & Kāhui Ako Lead Principal**Location:** Bream Bay College Auditorium**SmartyGrant Application**

The *Te Kāhui Ako o Te Ākau Matariki Kapa Haka Festival* is a collaborative celebration hosted by Bream Bay College, bringing together three primary schools, one secondary school, and multiple Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, including a Kōhanga Reo. The theme, *Matariki ki te Wai*, reflects the deep connection between Matariki and the waterways that sustain life, with particular significance for Mana Whenua, Patuharakeke, whose identity is closely tied to the moana and awa.

Each kura will present a 20–30 minute kapa haka performance, celebrating Māori culture through haka and waiata. The event promotes whanaungatanga, kai, and Te Ao Haka, strengthening community ties and cultural pride and reinforcing cultural values and community unity.

Sponsorship Request:	\$15469
Sponsorship Granted:	\$8233.92

THE NIGHT LIBRARY & CAFÉ**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Lead:** The Night Café team: Verena Pschorn and Patricia Santos**Location:** Whangārei District Libraries**SmartyGrant Application**

The Night Library and Café returns for Puanga Matariki, offering a gentle, inclusive evening experience at Whangārei District Libraries. The concept draws inspiration from night cafés in Europe and South America, designed as a quieter alternative for socialising—particularly for introverts and those seeking a more reflective, healthier space to connect.

Guided by the Puanga Matariki theme, the library will be transformed into a whimsical, exploratory space. Activities will include:

Storytelling and a special tour of the *Te Puawānanga* collection.

Interactive photography and visual tributes to the local taiao.

“Tiny Stories” postcard competition inviting reflections and aspirations.

It provides a safe, welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn, reflect, and celebrate Puanga Matariki together.

Sponsorship Request:	\$1610
Sponsorship Granted:	\$1000



E TŪ NGAHERE – PUANGA MATARIKI KI HIIHIAUA**Event Type:** Free/Koha**Host:** Hihiaua Cultural Centre**Location:** 56-58 Herekino Street, Whangārei**Programme Outputs:** 1x Exhibition (with opening), 2x Wānanga, 1x Tohunga Talks event

This multi-day programme of events is designed to celebrate Puanga Matariki through **art, wānanga, and kōrero**, guided by the overarching theme: *E Tū Ngahere*.

Exhibition: Featuring Māori and local artists, the exhibition will be guided by tikanga Māori and local kaumātua. It offers cultural, emotional, and economic benefits to artists and visitors.

Wānanga: Focused on *mahi toi* and *mātauranga Māori*, these sessions will be facilitated by Alicia Courtney—an experienced workshop leader at Hihiaua—and Wiremu Sarich, a taonga tākaro expert. The *Manu Raupō* and *Whai/Storytelling* wānanga offer hands-on learning and knowledge sharing, helping to keep traditional practices vibrant and relevant.

Tohunga Talks: Continuing the tradition of *whai kōrero* and *kōrero tuku iho*, this highly anticipated event invites tohunga to share seasonal wisdom and ancestral knowledge in an intimate, culturally rich setting.

Sponsorship Request:	\$3521
Sponsorship Granted:	\$3400



THE PUANGA MATARIKI FESTIVAL CALENDAR 2025 (registered events)

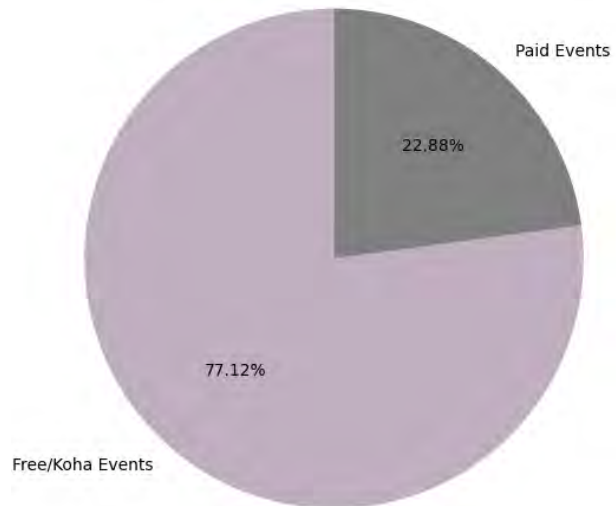
DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION
WHIRO TUE 27 MAY	Puanga at the Polytech	Te Huinga
WHIRO TUE 27 MAY	Hau Oro: Threads of Sound	Opera North
ALL DATES	Voices of Dissent Exhibition	Te Kowhai Print Trust
HOATA THU 29 MAY	Mana Wāhine - Geva Ngāpō Downey	Whangarei District Libraries
HOATA THU 29 MAY	The Night Library & Café	Night Café Whangārei
ŌUENUKU FRI 30 MAY	Pōhutakawa ki Poutama	Haven Falls Funeral Home
ŌKORO SAT 31 MAY	E Tū Ngahere - Puanga Exhibition Opening	Hihiaua Cultural Centre
ŌKORO SAT 31 MAY	Building bridges betw'n Puanga Matariki and Astronomy.	Northland Astronomical Society
ARIROA THU 5 JUNE	Cafe Reo	Te Wananga o Aotearoa
ARIROA THU 5 JUNE	Mana Wāhine - Dorothy Waelford	Whangarei District Libraries
ARIROA THU 5 JUNE	Constellation Quilt	Whangarei District Libraries
ARIROA THU 5 JUNE	Pohutukawa Coast community planting	WDC Parks and Rec
HUNA FRI 6 JUNE	Rarama Glimmer	The Quarry Arts Centre
MĀWHARU SAT 7 JUNE	Manu Raupo (Kite Making)	Hihiaua Cultural Centre
MĀWHARU SAT 7 JUNE	Building bridges betw'n Puanga Matariki and Astronomy.	Northland Astronomical Society
ŌHUA SUN 8 JUNE	Whangaruru Matariki Remembrance Hiko	Whangaruru RugbyFootball Club
TURU TUE 10 JUNE	Matariki Art Exhibition	Northland Society of Arts Inc
RĀKAUMATOHI THU 12 JUNE	Cafe Reo	Te Wananga o Aotearoa
RĀKAUMATOHI THU 12 JUNE	Mana Wāhine - Nicki Wakefield	Whangarei District Libraries
RĀKAUMATOHI THU 12 JUNE	Constellation Quilt	Whangarei District Libraries
TAKIRAU FRI 13 JUNE	Whangai i te Hautapu	He puna ruku matauranga o Whangaruru
TAKIRAU FRI 13 JUNE	Portals to Venus II	Bailartheskies
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE	Storytelling with Wiremu Sarich	Hihiaua Cultural Centre
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE	Honouring Mana: Adorning Scarves for Kuia & Kaumātua	Wairau Maori Art Gallery
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE (MATINEE)	Portals to Venus II	Bailartheskies
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE (EVENING)	Portals to Venus II	Bailartheskies
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE	Red Shield Musical Matinee	Whangarei Salvation Army
OIKE SAT 14 JUNE	Building bridges betw'n Puanga Matariki and Astronomy.	Northland Astronomical Society
KOREKORE RAWEA MON 16 JUNE	Matariki at the Museum Trilogy Two	Whangārei Museum / Kiwi North
KOREKORE WHAKAPIRI TUE 17 JUNE	Matariki Preschool Funtimes Tikipunga	Whangarei District Libraries
TANGAROA-Ā-MUA WED 18 JUNE	Onerahi Community Matariki Celebration	Multicultural Whangarei
TANGAROA-Ā-MUA WED 18 JUNE	Bream Bay Kāhui Ako Matariki Festival	Bream Bay College
TANGAROA-Ā-MUA WED 18 JUNE	Movies in the Theatre for Puanga Matariki	Forum North
TANGAROA-Ā-MUA WED 18 JUNE	Matariki Paint n Sip	Van Gogh & Vino
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Matariki Preschool Funtimes	Whangarei District Libraries
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Cafe Reo	Te Wananga o Aotearoa
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Mana Wāhine - June Pitman	Whangarei District Libraries
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Constellation Quilt	Whangarei District Libraries
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Tere Talks	Hihiaua Cultural Centre
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Page to Stage Māori play reading – Purapurawhetu	N8TV Stage Collective
TANGAROA-Ā-ROTO THU 19 JUNE	Whangarei Film Society	Whangarei Film Society
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Puke Kopipi Winter Planting for Matariki	Puke Kopipi Native Plant Restoration
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Community Tree Planting	Whangaruru RugbyFootball Club
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Wairau Māori Art Gallery Open Day	Wairau Maori Art Gallery
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Light Up Hikurangi - Matariki Celebration	Hikurangi Friendship House
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Exhibition Opening—Ngahuia Harrison	Whangārei Art Museum
TANGAROA-WHAKAPAU FRI 20 JUNE	Building bridges betw'n Puanga Matariki and Astronomy.	Northland Astronomical Society
TANGAROA-WHĀRIKI KIOKIO SAT 21 JUNE	As Matariki Rises.....So Do We - InnoNative	He Puna Marama Trust
TANGAROA-WHĀRIKI KIOKIO SAT 21 JUNE	Cultural Songs that say "This is Uniquely NZ!!"	Whangarei Choral Society
TANGAROA-WHĀRIKI KIOKIO SAT 21 JUNE	Puke Kopipi Winter Planting for Matariki	Puke Kopipi Native Plant Restoration
TANGAROA-WHĀRIKI KIOKIO SAT 21 JUNE	Building bridges betw'n Puanga Matariki and Astronomy.	Northland Astronomical Society
ŌTANE SUN 22 JUNE	Hau Oro: Threads of Sound	Opera North
ŌTANE SUN 22 JUNE	The Journey	Sistema Whangarei-Toi Akorangi
ORONGONUI MON 23 JUNE	Nukunuku	ONEONESIX
MUTUWHENUA TUE 24 JUNE	Nukunuku (Matinee)	ONEONESIX
MUTUWHENUA TUE 24 JUNE	Nukunuku (Evening)	ONEONESIX
MUTUWHENUA TUE 24 JUNE	Light the Way for Hato Hone St John Whangarei	Hato Hone St John

Everything in Plum was Free/Koha

57 Events

44 Events were Free/Koha (77.19%)

Please note: exhibitions are counted as a single event, as recurring gallery open days are considered business-as-usual (BAU). In contrast, other recurring events are counted individually because they are created specifically for the festival and are not BAU. This distinction is important as it acknowledges the sustained efforts of community groups who consistently participate, open their doors, and offer free activities across multiple days. Each occurrence of these activities is considered a valid event and is counted accordingly.



PUANGA on a PLATE

The initiative did not proceed in 2025 due to insufficient registrations from restaurants. This outcome was unexpected given the positive and encouraging feedback received from participants in 2024. In 2026 we plan to include dine-in cafés, to increase participation.

OPENING AND CLOSING

Due to feedback from 2024 we planned to include an open and closing event, this only partially happened due to late engagement with Te Huinga. This is an area that will be improved on.

PUANGA MATARIKI FESTIVAL MARKETING

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION

Radio Campaign:

- The Hits Northland
- Iheart + podcast network

Digital billboards:

- Lumo
- The Business Finder
- WDC Civic Screen
- Whangarei Airport

Social Media

- Meta boosted post to promote the festival
- WOW and Puanga Matariki FB pages
- Native Performance Ads nzherald

Print

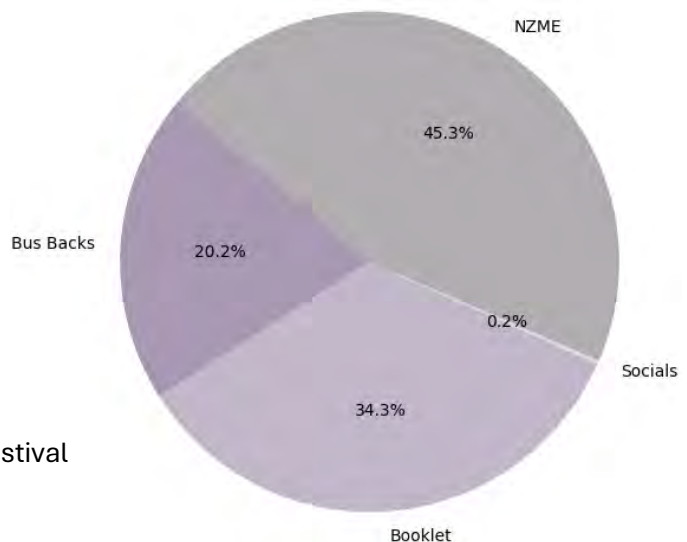
- Advocate 4x Full page ads and weekly quarter page banner ads
- Huaki Full page

Booklets

- 2000 printed and distributed

Bus Backs

Billboards





NZME CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
18	19	20	21	22	23 Radio starts	24 Advocate full page
25	26 Digital starts	27 Festival Starts Advocate ¼ page On-air mention	28 Phoneout	29 On-air mention	30 Huaki Full Page - Q&A	31

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 On-air mention	3	4 On-air mention	5 Advocate full page	6	7 Advocate ¼ page
8	9 Phoneout	10 Festival full page	11 On-air mention	12 Advocate ¼ page	13 On-air mention	14
15	16	17 Advocate full page	18 On-air mention	19 Advocate ¼ page	20 On-air mention	21
22	23	24 Festival ends	25	26	27	28
29	30					

RADIO BREAKDOWN

- 60 x 30 second radio ads.
- 10 on air mentions on The Hits Northland show.
- 20,000 audio plays iheart+podcast network.

				T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S																																			
Station	Len	Type Tail	Timezone	May 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Qty	Rate	Amount	
WHACO	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	5.00	85.00
WHAFL	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	5.00	85.00
WHAHT	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	5.00	85.00
WHAZB	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	8.00	136.00
WHAZM	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	8.00	136.00
WHGFM	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm																								2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17	5.00	85.00
																															102		612.00						
				S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M																																			
Station	Len	Type Tail	Timezone	Jun 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Qty	Rate	Amount		
WHACO	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	5.00	215.00	
WHAFL	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	5.00	215.00	
WHAHT	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	5.00	215.00	
WHAZB	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	8.00	344.00	
WHAZM	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	8.00	344.00	
WHGFM	30	Any	Prime 6am-8pm			2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1										43	5.00	215.00	
																															258		1,548.00						
																															360		2,160.00						

On Air Promo Scripts:

As the stars of Matariki rise, The Hits Northland invites listeners to celebrate those who shine brightest in their lives.

This Puanga Matariki Festival, brought to you by Whangārei District Council, take a moment to recognize someone special – a whānau member, friend, or community hero who deserves acknowledgment.

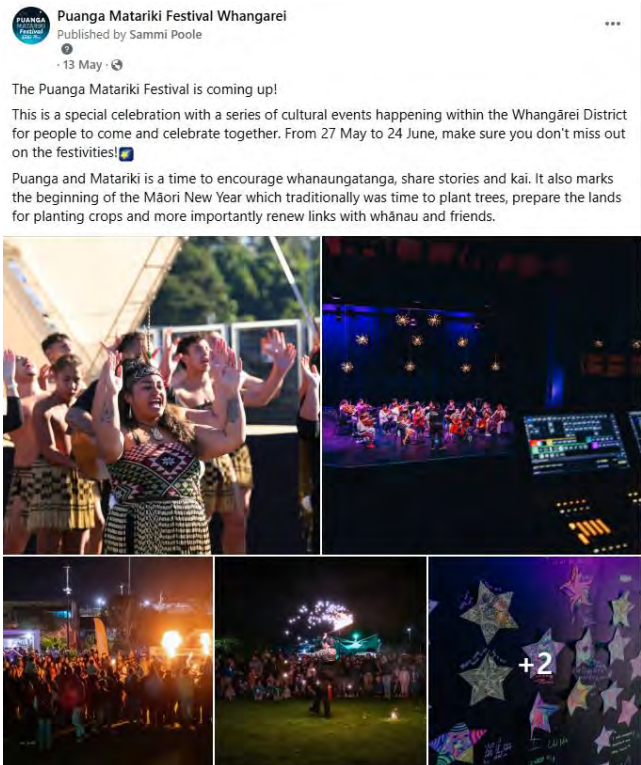
Text your Matariki Shout-Out to 4487, and one nominee each day will be celebrated!

That special someone will receive a Matariki Prize Pack!

Share who lights up your world with The Hits Northland Matariki Shout-Outs.

Digital Media

- Native Performance Ads on nzherald.co.nz .
- Meta Boosted Hype posts 2 weeks prior to Festival start dates.
- Social Media Campaign across WoW and Puanga Matariki pages. (Utilising WoW themed graphics when shared across as a collaborated post).



PUANGA MATARIKI FESTIVAL 2025 SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- **Strong Community Buy-In**
Widespread support for Puanga Matariki as a national celebration, with genuine engagement from local groups.
Notably, there was an increase in Event registrations from across the wider district, including Hikurangi, Ruakākā, and Whangaruru — reflecting growing regional participation and interest.
- **Effective Community Hui**
Pre-festival hui successfully unites the community, establish themes, reinforces kaupapa, promotes funding opportunities, and manages expectations.
- **Event Appropriateness and Self-Critique**
Community groups are thoughtful about aligning their events with the festival’s kaupapa, ensuring authenticity and relevance.
- **Annual Planning Integration**
Many groups begin preparations ahead of the hui, indicating Puanga Matariki is embedded in their annual planning cycles.
- **National Focus was on Puanga (2025)**
Alignment with the national theme help provide awareness around Puanga.
- **WDC Sponsorship**
Support from Whangarei District Council helps reduce event costs, enabling most events to be free or koha-based, increasing accessibility.
- **Effective Marketing Tools**
Festival booklets were highly successful; 2,000 copies were distributed with demand for at least 500 more.
- **Strong Internal WDC Support**
Collaboration with WDC’s Māori Outcomes and Communications departments aided the festival’s delivery, visibility, and cultural integrity.
- **Events Marketing**
The addition of a dedicated marketing person to the Events team enabled a more robust and strategic marketing approach, improving outreach and visibility. When the marketing lead was away during the first two weeks of the festival, the Comms team stepped up to ensure continuity and strong promotional coverage.
- **Consistent Programme Delivery**
Key organisations like Whangarei Library, Wairau art Gallery and Hihiaua Cultural Centre provide consistent and reliable programming, contributing to festival structure and continuity.

- **Efficient Use of Sponsorship Funds**

Sponsored groups demonstrated budget-conscious planning and contributed significant in-kind support, allowing a wide distribution of sponsorship.

- **Print Media Promotion**

We utilised the NZME print space more effectively including:

- Full calendar page containing all event listings
- Puanga information
- Photo highlights showcasing all the amazing events happening.

- **Effective Social Media Strategy**

Boosted posts proved to be cost-effective and impactful in reaching the community.

- **Streamlined Sponsorship Application Process**

Making the sponsorship support application available online via SmartyGrants was a significant success. It ensured a fair, transparent, and straightforward process for applicants. Special thanks to Cindy from Community Funding, whose vital support helped get the system up and running in time for the festival.

WEAKNESSES

- **Limited Availability of Marketing Lead**

The new marketing person was unavailable during the first few weeks of the festival (through no fault of her own), resulting in increased reliance on the Comms team to maintain promotional momentum.

- **Compressed Timeline Between Sponsorship Confirmation and Festival Launch**

Although additional lead-in time had been factored into planning, the earlier-than-expected festival dates meant the window between sponsorship confirmation and the festival launch was still too short. This created unrealistic time pressures for some event organisers and limited preparation time. Thanks to Mark Scott, we have dates locked in now for 2026.

- **Branding Compliance Issues**

Some community groups did not use correct WDC branding on promotional materials, which remains an ongoing challenge.

- **Perception of WDC as Event Organiser**

The festival relies on community-led events. When popular events do not return (e.g., the lantern parade), it reflects poorly on WDC, despite our role being primarily promotional rather than organisational.

- **Financial Year Crossover**

Festival dates overlapping the WDC financial year complicate sponsorship processes and budget planning.

- **Partial Sponsorship Challenges**

Providing partial sponsorship sometimes leads to groups withdrawing or significantly altering their events to fit reduced budgets.

- **Delayed Engagement with Te Huinga**

Engagement with Te Huinga was initiated too late, leaving inadequate time to develop a strong opening and closing ceremony. This was a missed opportunity that will be addressed in 2026.

- **Challenges with Large-Scale Outdoor Events**

There is increasing pressure to deliver large-scale outdoor events during a time of year that is typically cold and prone to rain. Many groups who have previously delivered these events are no longer willing to do so due to weather risks and limited resources.

Importantly, Puanga Matariki is a time for **wānanga, reflection, planning, planting and spending time with whānau** — values that are not always aligned with large, outdoor gatherings in harsh winter conditions.

With a limited budget to support community-led events, we have to choose to either support one large event at the expense of supporting multiple smaller community-led events. This trade-off can impact the diversity and reach of the overall festival programme.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Enhanced Social Media Strategy**

Planning for more boosted posts on social media could improve visibility and engagement. This could be achieved by requesting multiple graphics in advance to support a staggered and targeted promotional campaign leading up to the festival.

- **Earlier Sponsorship Process**

Now that SmartyGrants is successfully set up for sponsorship applications, with a few adjustments, the process can be opened much earlier and closed by the beginning of April. This would give community groups more time to plan and prepare their events.

- **Engaging Schools**

This year saw more schools register their own events than ever before, highlighting a growing interest. We have an opportunity to promote the festival to schools/teachers who may be interested in attending events, participate in workshops, or develop student-led activities.

- **Strategic Collaboration with Te Huinga**

Workshop Puanga Matariki 2026 with Te Huinga this year to co-develop an overarching vision. Early engagement will encourage more hapū-led events and ensure a more cohesive and meaningful festival.

THREATS

- **Budget Reductions**

Any reduction in available funding threatens the ability to support community-led events and maintain the festival's accessibility and quality.

- **Burnout Among Local Organisations**

Many local groups go above and beyond their business-as-usual expectations to deliver

events. Continued pressure without adequate support risks burnout and reduced participation in future festivals.

- **Weather-Related Cancellations**

Sponsored outdoor events are vulnerable to cancellation due to poor weather conditions, which can impact festival momentum and community engagement.

- **Limited Funding for Community-Led Events**

If we want community events to remain affordable and reflect the values of Puanga Matariki, we must be able to provide the necessary pūtea (funding). Without this, the festival risks losing its grassroots character and inclusivity.

FEEDBACK

How do you rate your overall experience at the event?	Great!
Which elements of the event or festival did you like the most?	The amount of people the variety of activities
Which elements of the event or festival could we improve on?	Advertising opur specific kaupapa
What kind of events would you like to see in the future?	
Would you choose to participate in one of our events or festivals again?	Yes
Do you have any suggestions or further comments?	Well organised from WDC persepective - great comms

How do you rate your overall experience at the event?	Great!
Which elements of the event or festival did you like the most?	Loved that there were so many small events, to wananga and enjoy community
Which elements of the event or festival could we improve on?	NA
What kind of events would you like to see in the future?	
Would you choose to participate in one of our events or festivals again?	Yes

How do you rate your overall experience at the event?	Great!
Which elements of the event or festival did you like the most?	I love the variety of events in the festival and how there is something for everyone. A great festival to show Aotearoa's culture and history, to bring people together and spend time with loved ones.
Which elements of the event or festival could we improve on?	
What kind of events would you like to see in the future?	
Would you choose to participate in one of our events or festivals again?	Yes

How do you rate your overall experience at the event?	Great!
Which elements of the event or festival did you like the most?	being able to remember those loved ones who had passed over the year
Which elements of the event or festival could we improve on?	nothing, it was great
What kind of events would you like to see in the future?	
Would you choose to participate in one of our events or festivals again?	Yes
Do you have any suggestions or further comments?	We will participate every year it was lovely to give back to our community.

Kia ora Hayley

Thank you for your help with our Matariki event, I appreciated the Puke Kopipi mention on WDC website.

Inadvertently we ended up with a photographer volunteering at Matariki Friday Planting - I asked him if he would rather take photos than plant!

Attached some photos from Dyego Cortina. I have them full size but just sending in medium size to you.
Let me know if you would like them or some in higher resolution, or can forward you them in Google Drive.

I will send group email/Thank you next week, will copy you in.

Nga mihi Hayley
Robyn



I am sorry I am unable to attend the in person community debrief next week.

I am happy to give some now.

Northland Astronomical Society

From the Beginning of June to the beginning of July we had 16 groups through the planetarium and Observatory.
This included schools, special schools and businesses.
There were 128 Adults and 174 children in that period.

Many when asked where they had seen our events mentioned the Punanga/ Matariki booklet – online or in the booklet.
There were times when our shows were mentioned in the Advocate so we did get some walk ins who had not booked. Luckily, we were able to accommodate them.
We had 2 new members join after attending our shows.

It was a busy month, but the feedback was very good with many people still not aware that there is a planetarium just out of Whangarei- more work to do there!

Thank you Clark, for your input and assistance in the Puanga/ Matariki Festival.

Regards
Naomi McFarlane
Secretary
Northland Astronomical Society

POST EVENT REPORTS

The following attachments are the **Post-Event Reports** which provide a detailed account of what was delivered—e.g., a **summary, photos, attendance numbers, and SWOT analysis**.



Kōrerotia e ngā Mana Wāhine

This year we offered a series of talks celebrating Mana Wāhine from Te Taitokerau who live and work in their local communities. The women were given the option to speak, perform, or tell stories that pertained to their Kaupapa.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Description
Registration numbers	Nil – Walk-in
Number of attendees	Approximate numbers * see note next page
Number of attendees – out of district	Unknown.
Reason for participation	To listen, ask questions, curiosity, some of the audience members knew the speaker/s, new experience.
Participation satisfaction rate	100% satisfaction.

Name	Date	Numbers (approximate)
Geva Ngāpō Downey	29 May 2025	10
Dorothy Waetford	5 June 2025	15
Nicki Wakefield	12 June 2025	12
June Pitman	19 June 2025	10

This year we changed the time from a 10am start to 12 lunch time. This was motivated by including people who may want to come and listen to the speakers in their lunch hour. The numbers of people attending is still something that needs to be looked at in terms of increasing the number.

Some solutions maybe:

- Create a database of attendees
- Hold the event at night
- Advertise the event earlier
- Create other activities on the same day
- Send the dates for this event out at the beginning of the year to local high Schools to calendar into their planning for the year.

All of the kai kōrero spoke for 45-60 minutes. Each speaker talked about their particular Kaupapa.

The audience were very appreciative and interested in all of the talks. There was audience participation through questions and comments. We had a small number of regular attendees who came to each weekly talk.

Geva recalled her time growing up around her whanau, her experiences at university, and art appreciation and education. Geva currently works in education at Wairau Māori art gallery where she is employed.

Dorothy recounted her whanau life and early experiences as a dancer in a fledgling all Māori dance group. A new direction led her to learning and becoming a ringa uku, and also be involved in Toi Māori Aotearoa.

Nicki Wakefield remembers her life at Portland, and the importance of being in the Taiao, she is now working with her hapu and iwi in Whangarei reclaiming cultural heritage.

June Pitman revisited memories of growing up on her tribal whenua at Tamaterau with her grandmother, her love of music, writing, and gardening. June is a published author and is currently researching material for another book.

Geva, Nicki and June have generously shared their Kaupapa kōrero on utube.

Puanga Matariki concepts of remembrance, celebrating the present and looking to the future were easily and naturally incorporated in each of the talks by our speakers.

June Pitman



Ko Manaia toku maunga
 Ko Terenga Paraoa toku awa
 Ko Mātaatua, Ngātokimatawhaorua, Te Awara, Tainui ngā waka
 Ko Te Tāwera o Ngāti Pūkenga, Patuharakeke, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngā Puhi nui tōnu nga iwi
 Ko Tamaterau tōku whenua
 Ko Pakikaikutu tōku turangawaewae
 Ko June Pitman ahau

Brought up on ancestral lands at Tamaterau, June Pitman was raised by her mother, grandmother, older sister, and wider whānau in a pākeha-influenced Māori environment. She describes herself as a 'free-range' Pākeha-looking Māori kid who enjoyed a childhood freedom of roaming both ngāhere and moana, gathering kai, collecting plants, closely connecting with te taiao (the natural world); particularly the sounds (or music) of nature.

June is a creative expressionist: singer/songwriter, story-teller, published author, poet, organiser, and voracious gardener, who is committed to supporting her hapū, and helping uphold mana Māori within the cultural heritage space throughout Whangārei.

June treated the audience to a historical and powerful kōrero. June's talk is available on youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFFryi_XpUI&list=PL15LGszH18WC2TU0MBAz6q_lvRnsqLaz9

Nicki Wakefield



Nicki Louisa Wakefield - He Uri o Ngā Hapū Tini o Whangārei, Te Whakatōhea, Te Arawa, Ngai Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Pakeha

BSc

Raised in Portland, Nicki connects into the north with her whānau of 5, through taiao mahi over generations and supporting our hapū of Whangārei through Te Paparahi o Te Raki Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry. Nicki is keen to return hapū into the future of our whole community and restore our cultural landscapes where we all live.

Nicki reiterated her experiences working with iwi and hapū in terms of te taiao and mana whenua. Nicki also questioned what Māna wāhine is and has her own whakaaro of what that really means and how it relates or is linked with the whenua.

Nicki's talk is available on youtube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRX2eie8Kr4&list=PL15LGszH18WC2TU0MBAz6q_lvRnsqLaz9&index=2

Dorothy Waetford

Ko Onekainga te maunga,
Ko Te Wairahi te awa,
Ko Ngāti Rehua, Te Whānau Whero me Ngāti Hine ngā hapu,
Ko Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi-nui-tonu ngā iwi

Dorothy lives and works from the whānau homestead in Matapouri.

Raised in both Māori and Pakeha ways, she was encouraged by both sides of her whānau to pursue her natural creative talents.

Before her tertiary training, Dorothy danced with Te Kanikani o Te Rangatahi and Taiao Māori Dance. Teaching introduced Dorothy to Ngā Kaihanga Uku Māori Clay Workers Collective, Te Ātinga Contemporary Māori Visual Arts and Toi Māori Aotearoa. She currently works for Māori and indigenous artists' networks as a kaimahi and ringa uku, supporting cultural creative aspirations through advocacy agencies including Toi Ngāpuhi.



Dorothy spoke about her early experiences working alongside Māori artists like Colleen Urlich and Manos Nathan from Te Tai Tokerau. Some of the pieces she bought in were gifted from various artists including Manos Nathan, and clay artists from America. The sculpture in the photograph is by Dorothy depicting the Māori vowels. These are the fruits of a journey of discovery for her. The audience were treated to an artist who is very humble and reserved sharing her experiences as a ringa uku and her early life dancing with Taiao Māori Dance. Dorothy elected not to have a recording done of her talk.

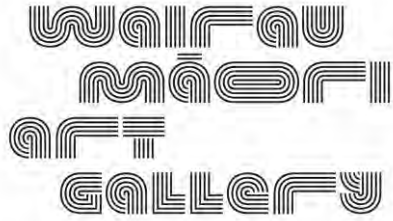
Geva Ngāpō Downey



Ko Moehau te Maunga
 Ko Tikapa te Moana
 Ko Harataunga te whenua
 Ko Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki ki Ngati Tamatera ki Ngapuhi oku iwi
 E mahi ana au hei Kaimānga Mātauranga ki Wairau Māori Art Gallery

Geva Ngāpō Downey is mamma to Hemi and Mossy, an art educator and has a music degree from Otago University. She has worked in Aotearoa's Public Art Gallery sector for over 20 years and is the Kaimānga Mātauranga for Wairau Māori Art Gallery, here in Whangārei. She is passionate about contemporary Māori art and loves hearing the stories people share when they are moved by works of art.

Geva's talk is available on youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v31DKJQ-l4E&list=PL15LGszH18WC2TU0MBAz6q_lvRnsqLaz9&index=3



Puanga Matariki Post Event Report

Submitted to: Whangārei District Council

Delivered by: Wairau Māori Art Gallery

Dates of Events: June 2025

What Happened / Summary

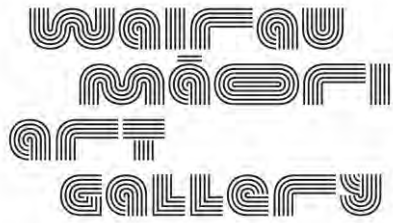
The Wairau Māori Art Gallery hosted a series of successful Puanga Matariki celebrations around June 2025, offering a range of free, inclusive, and enriching experiences for the Whangārei community. Centred around the exhibition '*Tā, Tau*' by artist **Turumeke Harrington**, the events included artist-led activations, workshops, and family-friendly art-making. This gathering honoured the Matariki season by creating a space for reflection, remembrance, and collective renewal.

Event Highlights (Photographs below)

- **Turumeke Harrington's Activation:** The artist shared kōrero about *Tā, Tau*, her connections to whakapapa and whenua, and the deeper meaning behind her creative practice. Her open, generous approach sparked meaningful dialogue among attendees. **Creative Workshops:** Engaged 3 groups—local creatives (approx. 20), rangatahi from I Have a Dream (approx. 12), and teacher aides/support workers (approx. 15)—in a kaupapa Māori art-making experience inspired by Harrington's themes and working with whenua as a medium.
- **Silk Scarf Workshop:** 12 scarves were created in a wānanga led by Kaimānga Mātauranga Geva Downey. Participants gifted their taonga to kaumātua or loved ones – embodying manaaki and aroha.
- **Free Whānau Day:** Attracted over 250 attendees to enjoy hands-on activities, performances, and gallery visits, fostering intergenerational connection and cultural learning.

What We Would Do Differently

- **Earlier Promotion:** While attendance was strong, earlier outreach would increase participation from schools and whānau outside the central city.



- **More Workshops:** Due to high demand, future iterations could include additional workshop slots or facilitators to support larger numbers.

Health & Safety Incidents

There were **no Health & Safety incidents** to report. All risk management protocols were followed, including supervision of workshops and safe handling of materials.

Community Feedback

Attendee Satisfaction

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing appreciation for the opportunity to engage in free, high-quality Māori-led arts programming.

Testimonials

“It was beautiful to create something meaningful to gift to my kuia – I left feeling more connected to who I am.”

– Workshop participant

“The kids were so inspired by Turumeke – seeing a Māori artist speak so openly about her work really lit a spark.”

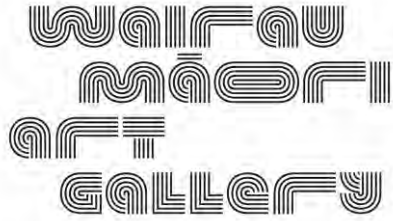
– Teacher aide

“We don’t get to do these kinds of things often. Thank you for making it free and accessible.”

– Parent

Delivery of Agreed Sponsorship Benefits

- The events were free and open to the public, in line with our funding agreement.
 - Acknowledgment of Whangārei District Council was made in printed signage and online promotions (Facebook, Instagram).
 - Extensive photography captured the event’s vibrancy, showing strong community participation and engagement with Māori art. (Photos have been submitted.)
-



Waste Management

- Recycling and compost stations were provided throughout the venue.
- All workshop materials were reusable or biodegradable.
- An estimated **70% of waste** was **diverted from landfill**, through proper separation of recyclable and compostable waste.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Strong artist engagement and meaningful kaupapa.
- High community turnout despite winter weather.
- Inclusive, intergenerational programming.

Weaknesses

- Limited workshop capacity.
- Reliance on a small team for large-scale delivery.

Opportunities

- Expand regional partnerships for wider outreach.
- Develop school-specific workshops.
- Build annual Puanga/Matariki programming.

Threats

- Weather limitations for future winter events.
- Capacity constraints if growth outpaces funding.

Key Performance Indicators

- **Number of Event Team:** 4 (core staff, facilitator, artist support)
- **Volunteers:** 3 volunteers contributing approx. **48 hours** collectively
- **Audience/Participation:**



- Puanga Event (Open Day): **250 attendees**
- Workshops (3 roopu): **Approx. 47 participants**
- Silk Scarf Workshop: **12 taonga created**

Conclusion

Puanga Matariki 2025 at Wairau Māori Art Gallery was a significant cultural event, enriching Whangārei's arts calendar and fostering deep community connection. We're grateful for the support from Whangārei District Council, which made it possible to offer these events free of charge. We look forward to building on this momentum for future Matariki programming.

Nga mihi,

Larissa McMillan

(Te Parawhau, Ngāpuhi)

Te Ringa Hautu Toi | Gallery Director at [Wairau Māori Art Gallery](#)

[Subscribe to our Pānui](#)

Mobile: +64 212588184 | **Email:** gallery@wairau.org.nz

2 Quayside, Whangārei 0110, New Zealand | www.wairaumaoriartgallery.co.nz

WAIKATO MŌRĪ ART GALLERY

Turumeke workshops:



WAIFAU MORFI ART GALLERY



Wairau Māori Art Gallery

Silk Scarves

Puanga/Matariki Creativity
Honouring Mana: Silk Scarves for Kuia & Kaumātua
Saturday 14 June 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This workshop invites participants to adorn silk scarves as gifts for kuia or kaumātua.

Free!

Recommended for ages 12 and up.

Registration essential – limited availability

To register, email: education@wairau.org.nz

Location: Wairau Māori Art Gallery, 81 Dent St



WAIFAU MAORI ART GALLERY



WAIKATO MŌRĪ ART GALLERY



WAIFAU MŌRŌ ART GALLERY



WAIKATO MŌRŪ ART GALLERY



WAIFAU MĀORI ART GALLERY



WAIFAU
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WAIKATO MŌRĪ ART GALLERY



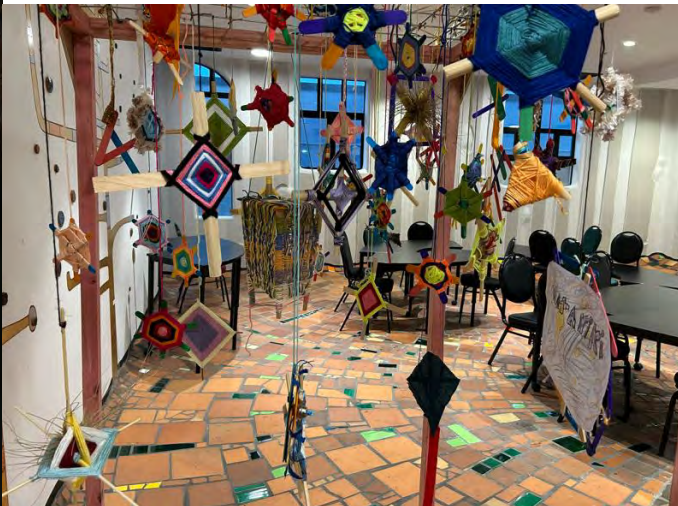
WAIKATO MŌRĪ ART GALLERY



WAIKATO
MŌRĪ
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WAIFAU MŌRĪ ART GALLERY



Matariki Festival Report 2025

On Wednesday 18 June, Bream Bay College proudly hosted the Bream Bay Kāhui Ako Matariki Festival, a celebration that brought our community together through cultural performances, shared kai, and collective learning.

The event featured nine rōpū, representing the full spectrum of our learning community—from early childhood centres to primary and secondary kura. It was a powerful expression of unity, culture, and whakawhanaungatanga across the Kāhui Ako.

The festival was free and open to the entire community, with no registration required. While we initially anticipated around 2,000 attendees, it is estimated that closer to 3,500 people participated throughout the day. Many travelled from both near and far, particularly to watch and support their whanaunga and mokopuna performing on the Matariki stage. There were also reports of passers-by who, upon witnessing the celebration, chose to stop in and share the afternoon with us, adding to the sense of connection and community that defined the event.

The event holds significant importance for our community, as it remains the only local celebration where traditional cultural practices and the observance of Matariki are formally shared and honoured together.

Feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly praising the use of the large outdoor screen and the livestream setup, as well as the student chaperones assigned to each group as direct liaisons. Although the livestream represented a significant cost, it elevated the festival experience by enabling many more community members to safely enjoy all the performances, overcoming historical venue capacity limitations.

We are extremely grateful for the support of Whangarei District Council funding, without which the festival would have been far more challenging for our community to participate in.

The waste management aspect of the event provided an opportunity to review our existing practices and implement changes aligned with more sustainable approaches. Several clearly labelled recycling stations were set up around the venue, supported by rubbish marshals who assisted attendees with correct waste disposal. The success of this initiative has prompted the school to adopt these waste stations as a standard practice moving forward, reinforcing our commitment to environmental responsibility.

Attached are a selection of photos offering a quick glimpse into the festivities and vibrant atmosphere of the day. I will also include the promotional material that acknowledged Whangārei District Council (WDC) as the event's major sponsor, which served as the backdrop for our stage. WDC's contribution was also acknowledged during the event by our kaumātua, kuia, and members of the Kāhui Ako leadership team.











EVENT REVIEW

The Night Library & Caf 

Puanga Matariki Edition

29 May, Thursday, 6 – 9pm

Whang rei Central Library

Report: Verena Pschorn

The 3rd edition of the Night Library came back with a special Puanga Matariki edition! Several hundred visitors, library lovers and night owls came out to enjoy the library at night while sipping on a fresh hot chocolate or coffee!

The focus of this Night Library at W nanga Whakatupu M tauranga | Whang rei Central Library was on Te Puaw nanga, the M ori collection. Te Puaw nanga sports a vast selection of modern and ancient stories, of cultural and traditional knowledge, as well as the opportunity to discover and learn more about Puanga Matariki. Moana Rankin ran kite making and flax weaving workshops throughout the evening.

Visitors were able to enjoy tales and waiata on Puanga Matariki. This was possible thanks to matua Fred Tito who talked about the importance of Puanga Matariki and Te Tiriti, and Opera North Choir who performed a series of themed choir pieces. We also welcomed Ko Hiwa Short Movies, thanks to Tema Fenton, a movie series about the stars of Matariki.

Visitors were invited to create lanterns and light and join the mini lantern parade around the library. Many enjoyed the arts activities, library tours, the Typorium and writing short stories and entering the Tiny Stories Postcard Competition and the library tours.

No.7 Espresso Caf  opened for this special occasion, thanks to the owner Joseph, and was buzzing with activity throughout the night. Live music was performed by Senior Sounds, a ukulele group, the Lavendril Quartet, a string ensemble, and James Fenwick, a singer-songwriter.

The library showcased their He K kano Collection, the library of things, and offered cricut design making, badge making and colouring in, as well as board games. The Sensory Room offered a quiet, sensory-friendly space for visitors needing a space to rest.

Many visitors just picked up a book, found their favourite cozy reading nook and experienced the library at night.



This event was initiated by Night Café Whangārei, and is a collaboration between Night Café Whangārei and Whangārei District Libraries, with support from Multicultural Whangārei and Whangārei District Council.

EVENT PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Location
6.35pm	Karakia & Welcome	Te Puawānanga
6.45pm - 7.30pm	Lavendril Quartet (Strings)	Café
6.45pm onwards	Senior Sounds	Te Puawānanga
7.00pm	Library Tour: Te Puawānanga + 1st Floor	Te Puawānanga
7.00pm	Children's Stories	Children's Corner
7.30pm	Opera North Choir	Main Foyer Stairs
7.45pm	Library Tour: Ground Floor	Meeting Grand Stairs
7.45pm	Lantern Parade	Meeting Teen Section
8.00pm - 8.45pm	James Fenwick Music	Café
8.30pm	Bedtime Story	Children's Corner
8.50pm	Goodbye	Café

Activities throughout the night

Location	Topic	Responsible
Te Puawānanga	Kite Making	Moana
	Putiputi Making out of Kōrari	
Upstairs Main Space	Interactive Art Installation	Patricia & Alan



	The Typorium Writer's Corner	Patricia & Astrid
	Postcard Tiny Story Competition	Patricia
Upstairs in the back	Ko Hiwa - Matariki Art Installation Māori Sci-Fi Drama	Patricia & Tema
May Bain Room	Sensory Room	Zahna and LJ
Teen Section	Lantern Making	Verena
	Colouring in tables	
Outside Leonard Room	He Kākano Cricut Activities	Karlie/ Zahna
Leonard Room	Board Games and Puzzles	
Counter	Blind Date with a Book	Cosima
By counter	Welcome Desk	Verena
Café	Music	Fiona

THE NIGHT LIBRARY IN NUMBERS

VISITOR NUMBERS	TINY POSTCARD STORY COMP ENTRIES
~ 300	17
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS / ARTISTS INVOLVED	VOLUNTEER STATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opera North Choir (choir of 35) • The Lavendril Quartet (youth string quartet) • James Fenwick (solo guitarist and songwriter) • Tema Fenton (artist & dancer) • Alan Squires (photographer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 co-organisers (around 60 volunteer hours each) • 12 volunteers, 7 of them youth volunteers (3 – 8 hours each)



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Typorium (typewriter short story project) • Multicultural Whangārei (funding umbrella and volunteers) • matua Fred Tito (whakatau + Puanga Matariki talk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 librarians on duty • ~ 180 volunteer hours
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SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beautiful library setup • event for social introverts • free and accessible • indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of setup time • storm warning beforehand
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot of community involvement possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad weather warning

Community Voices - Feedback

'With limited/zero options in Whangarei for a quiet evening out, the night café at the library was a welcome event. It wasn't just about extending library hours; the Night Café team transformed the space into a relaxing and engaging environment. The Night café offered a mix of activities that were both stimulating and calming, a rare combination. It provided a fun way to interact with the library and its staff in a casual setting. The library tour was fascinating, highlighting the librarians' dedication and passion for literature. The team behind the night café did an excellent job creating a welcoming space for those who yearn for quiet and cozy interactions.'

'I learned so much at the library tours! We come to the library quite often, but through the tour, we realised we only know about the areas we gravitate to. We were so excited to learn about all the initiatives and other things the library is up to.'

'This event really brings people of all ages together. And the decorations are amazing! What a cool night.'

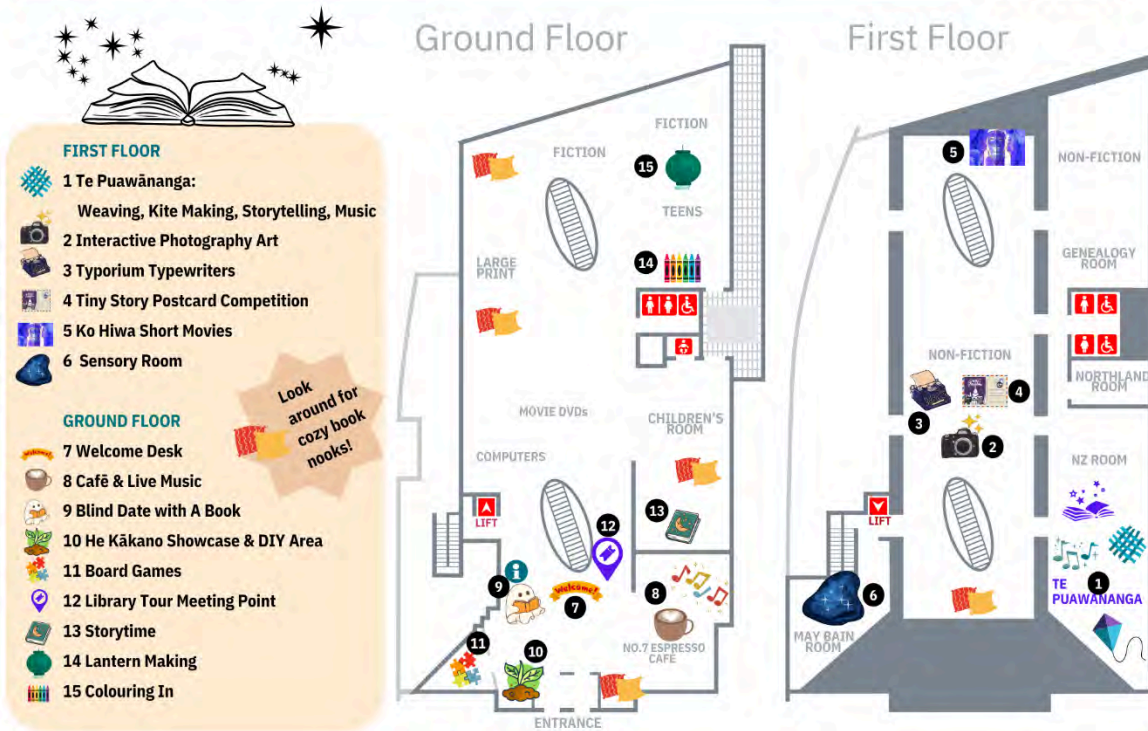
'Dear library team, thanks for an amazing event, especially the sensory room. It made it a great event especially for my neurodivergent boy. Thanks, a mum'

PICTURES



The Night Library at Whangārei Central Library

Whangārei District
Libraries











Event Summary: Light Up Hikurangi Matariki Celebration

The Light Up Hikurangi Matariki Celebration was a vibrant and inclusive community event that brought together whanau of all ages to celebrate the Matariki holiday. The event featured a diverse array of activities, including performances by local DJs, a kids' karaoke competition, an art exhibition, interactive activities for children, a hay ride, food stalls, and entertainment provided by local performers. Local daycares participated, contributing to the festive atmosphere, along with volunteer fire fighters who showcased their community spirit. The event successfully fostered a sense of unity and cultural appreciation within the community.

Involvement and Participation:

Number of people/businesses involved in organizing: 10

Number of attendees/participants: 800

Number of volunteers: 20

Estimated volunteer hours: 160 hours

Waste Management: Sureflo (local business) provided us with 6 large waste bins that we set up around the area – I believe all of them were pretty full as well as the local public rubbish bins – This was disposed of at our local dump.

This is a very new event and truly we are learning everything from scratch – so far the response has been amazing and every year we improve and learn more.

A recent write up from our local bulletin:

The Light Up Hikurangi Matariki Celebration was a fantastic success, drawing a massive crowd of around 800 people! Attendees enjoyed an energetic kids karaoke competition, a vibrant market with loads of stalls, and the ever-popular hayrides. The event was filled with delicious food, lively entertainment, and community spirit. A huge thank you to Doug Te Puni for organizing the food, Maurice Temarama, Craig Cooper and DJ Dan for their incredible DJ sets, Rachel Burnard and the Friendship House Trust, Wayne Fowell and the HBA, Corey Haslam from Sureflo, Rouse Motorcycles for the epic hayrides, Virginia Guy & her amazing immersive movie room, Little Minors, Educare Hikurangi and the Hikurangi

Volunteer Fire Brigade for their support. It was a truly memorable celebration illuminating our community for Matariki!

SWOT Report

Strengths Internal: Great local support, great location, awesome resources from local community groups, Hikurangi is pretty self sufficient. We did well with our social media marketing and can continue to improve on that. As a little village when people come together in the town center it is a really cool vibe. We have a large lower socio-economic population and our community comes together to give these families and children an event that is inclusive, affordable, we offer free activities etc.

Strengths External: Location – the center of our village is a hub for not just Hikurangi but also the surrounding rural areas – Marua, Hukerenui, Opuawhanga, Whananaki, Kauri, Whakapara. We have a very diverse population with people from all over the world who contribute to our community but also a very important Maori presence. We can continue to tap into these cultural aspects to make our Matariki celebration really spectacular.

Weaknesses Internal: funding – we could have done with more – probably getting started sooner with gathering funds, doing fundraising and also getting volunteers on board. We could improve with our volunteer base and get more people involved. Can always improve on marketing, and we could probably get more cool free stuff for kids if we planned earlier.

Threats External: I am always worried about the weather if it rains we may not have a great turn out – lucky the last 3 years our weather has been good! The market stalls are inside and outside, and we have food stalls in the empty section next to the hall that is owned by the council. If the council were willing to let Hikurangi fundraise to build a huge cover over that empty section it could be an amazing opportunity for the community to hold year round events – just like Matakana has their covered market spaces. Hikurangi holds so much promise – this would change the weather from being a threat to our events to not affecting us at all.

We found that we did not have any competition – lots of people came from Whangarei for our event – it was massive! I just hope we can keep making it better and better each year!









He Puna Ruku Mātauranga o Whangaruru



Ngāti wai ki uta, Ngāti wai ki tai
Kia Tika Kia Manaaki Kia Ako Ngātiwai Kia Tū Rangatira ai

MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI KI MOKAU

· **What Happened/Summary:** Our Matariki event was held on Thursday 12 June 2025 located at our Rongomaraeroa ki Mokau, all tamariki, parents and whānau arrived for a wā whakatau, tikanga o te marae and prepared for a Kapa Haka performance followed by a shared dinner - kai tahi. The mokopuna performance showed mana, ihi and wehi and the sense of pride for all parents and whānau. Our values of Kia tika, being respectful, Kia manaaki be nurturing, Kia ako a Ngātiwai and Tū Rangatira being a leader - were put into action at our marae. Following 6am we travelled up our maunga Huruiki to view Matariki - reciting karakia and mihi for our loved ones who have passed away, listening to tukuihotanga, stories of our tupuna and te wehenga o Ranginui raua ko Papatuanuku. On the arrival to the marae we engaged in Mau rakau within our Ahorangi kaupapa with Matua Arama Morunga. While our kaimahi Whaea Tessa McQueen and parents were preparing a massive Matariki Parikuihi. After some manaakitanga we hikoi down to our awa ki Mokau for streamlife investigations, checking the mauri of our awa, water clarity and temperature, using kick net and sorting and classifying invertebrates from our awa. Checking our traps and nets to our surprise was a long fin tuna, which was released to continue to cleanse and heal our awa.

· **Highlights:** Performance Kapa Haka Nga mahi a Tānerore me Hinerēhia, Huruiki maunga experiences, Kai, mau rakau and Taiao investigation with in our Awa o Mokau.

· **H&S Incidents to report:** Nil incidents

Feedback from community ie. satisfaction of the event. Whānau voice -

“Miharo mana Great kapa haka, Love they perform our Ngatiwai waiata

“Very proud of our kura and tamariki”

“breathtaking up on our maunga”

“Very successful event with amazing kai”

“first time ive been up on maunga”

“Let’s do a kaupapa every week”

“Our tamariki know their kaupapa”

“Wow they know the karakia well”

Details/evidence of the delivery of agreed sponsorship benefits. Unfortunately our hautapu was unable to have the fire pit due to weather conditions wind and rain, so we have shared kai representing all our whetu Tupuarangi foods from heavens, Tupuanuku foods from the earth - / Waiti - foods from the awa and Waita foods from the sea which were contribution from the our parents and whānau.

- Photos from the event showing community participation. - attached pdf
- Waste Management: Measurement of waste diverted from landfill - 2 black bags with plastic and 3 buckets of pig food

Key Performance Indicators (numbers)

- Event team Tumuaki Delwynne Simon Pouako / Staff Morore Piripi, Tesaa McQueen, Marg Hing, Rangatahi - Rhythm Taua-Glassie, Matekino Randell
- Volunteers - parents and whānau
- Audience/participation numbers (workshops and exhibition) 60 - 80 mokopuna, tamariki, rangatahi, advisor, parents and hapori, community members

Thank you to Whangarei District council for the support and funding to ensure this event is a success for our Kura a iwi. Mauri Tu, Mauri ora.

MATARIKI MĀ PUANGA

HE PUNA RUKU
MĀTAURANGA O
WHANGARURU

Ngāti wai ki uta, Ngāti wai ki tai
Tukuihotanga



Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki

Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi

Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te Tau.

Whano, whano Haramai te toki ata huakirangi

Haumi e Hui e Tāiki e!



MATARIKI AHUNGA NUI

Celebrating the present gathering together to give thanks for what we have. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate our mokopuna with a performance that displayed ihi, wehi and mana. We are grateful for Whaea Tere Manihera and our whānau for tautoko, aroha and awahi. Our Kapa haka acknowledges Te whakapapa o te wai, Tukuiho o Ngatiwai, Rangatiranga and our kaitiaki Tukaiaia.



MĀNAWATIA MA MATARIKI KI MOKAU MARAE

Kia Tika Kia Manaaki Kia ko a Ngātiwai Kia Tū Rangatira ai

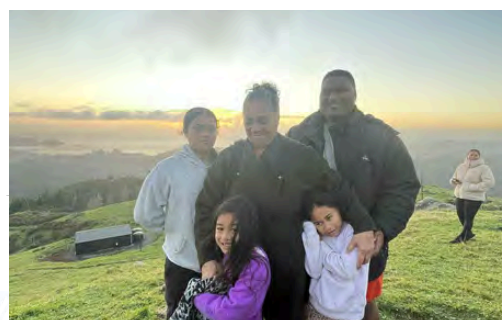
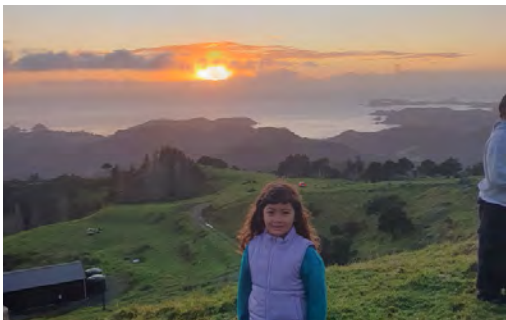
MATARIKI MĀ PUANGA

HE PUNA RUKU
MĀTAURANGA O
WHANGARURU*Ngāti wai ki uta, Ngāti wai ki tai*
Tukuhotanga

Takiri ko te ata ki runga Huruiki
Kei raro hikihihi, e tatari atu ana
Kia koutou e ngā iwi
Hei hoa to ake i te waka whenuaroa
kei Mokau e

**MATARIKI HUNGA NUI**

Honouring our loved ones who have passed with karakia and waiata, as we hikoi up our maunga Huruiki to view Te Atakura – raising dawn as shared korero from Papa Morore Piripi, Matua Paora Glassie & Matua Arama Morunga. On return to Mokau marae we engaged in mau rakau with our Ahorangi kaupapa and celebrate with kai Parakuihi Matariki breakfast together with all our whānau. In being kaitiaki of our taiao we then walked to Mokau awa to take action of streamlife investigation with Mountain to sea connections.



Kia Tika Kia Manaaki Kia ko a Ngātiwai Kia Tū Rangatira ai

MATARIKI MĀ PUANGA

HE PUNA RUKU
MĀTAURANGA O
WHANGARURU

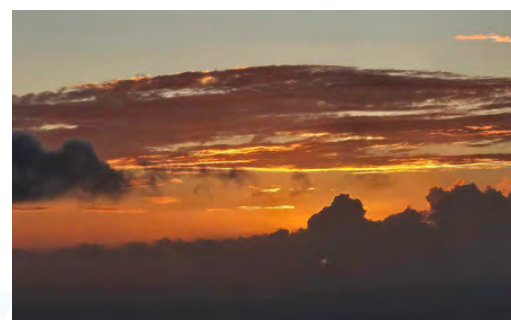
Ngāti wai ki uta, Ngāti wai ki tai
Tukuihotanga



Ngāti Wai ki te taha moana
Ngāti Wai ki te tua whenua
Ko te paiheretia ki Punaruku e
Ko te paiheretia ki Whangaruru e

**MATARIKI MANAKO NUI**

Matariki Manako nui looking to the future and setting goals, reflecting and looking forward to the promise of the new year. At our marae we were able to share our whaingā goals using our whare tapa whā, it was a great time to connect and enjoy each other company overnight under the warmth of Rongomaraeroa marae ki Mokau. We were blessed to have the arrival of our new pepi ki te whai ao ki te ao marama! Nga mihi to all our mokopuna, tamariki, parents, rangatahi and whānau who were able to awhi, tautoko being aroha to the our kaupapa for 2025.



Kia Tika Kia Manaaki Kia ko a Ngātiwai Kia Tū Rangatira ai

Whangaruru Rugby Football Club

Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī & Community Planting Day Post-Event Report for WDC

Event Overview:

The Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī and Community Planting Day were held as part of a series of community-focused events celebrating Matariki and promoting environmental sustainability. Both events attracted a significant number of participants and were made possible through the generous support of Whangārei District Council. The events celebrated Māori culture, fostered social connections, and supported the ongoing environmental efforts within the community.

Event Details:

- **Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī:**
 - The hikoi took place along Oakura Beach, followed by a community hāngī at Te Whare Hākinakina o Whangaruru. The event aimed to engage the community in Matariki celebrations while promoting environmental sustainability and cultural heritage.
 - **Community Planting Day:**
 - The planting day was held at the Oakura walkway on Wharua Road as part of our ongoing commitment to conservation. The event encouraged community members to come together and contribute to local environmental efforts by planting native trees. It was a hands-on opportunity for participants to help restore the local ecosystem and engage with nature. The planting was followed by kai at Te Whare Hākinakina o Whangaruru.
-

SWOT Analysis:

Strengths:

- Good community participants at both events.
- Strong support from volunteers, making both events a success.
- Positive community feedback regarding the cultural, social, and environmental aspects of the events.

Weaknesses:

- Limited accessibility for attendees with mobility challenges at both event locations (beach and planting site).

Opportunities:

- Potential for more extensive marketing and outreach for future events to increase attendance.

- Expanded environmental initiatives, such as offering more tree planting days or educational workshops on conservation.
- Possibility for increased sponsorship.

Threats:

- Weather disruptions, particularly for outdoor events.
 - Continued reliance on volunteer support for event staffing and logistics.
-

Attendee Numbers:

- **Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī:**
 - Hikoi: 60
 - Hāngī: 100
- **Community Planting Day:**
 - Total: 50

All attendees were from within the district.

Reason for Participation:

- Participants joined the events to celebrate Matariki, engage in cultural practices, and contribute to local environmental efforts.
 - The events provided an opportunity for whānau, tamariki, and individuals to come together and connect over shared cultural values and community-driven initiatives.
-

Attendee Satisfaction Rate:

- **Key Themes from Feedback:**
 - The hikoi and hāngī were appreciated for their cultural significance, providing participants with a deeper connection to Matariki traditions.
 - Whānau particularly valued how welcoming and family-friendly the events were.
 - The tree planting day was a great success, with many participants praising the chance to contribute to the environment and learn more about conservation efforts.
-

Sponsorship Benefits:

Our sponsors enjoyed a range of benefits that contributed to positive cultural, social, economic, and environmental impacts:

- **Cultural Impact:** WDC were seen as active supporters of Māori culture, aligning their brands with Matariki celebrations and the promotion of cultural heritage.
- **Social Impact:** Their support enabled community members to connect through both cultural and environmental initiatives, promoting inclusivity and unity.
- **Economic Impact:** WDC gained exposure to a local audience and demonstrated their commitment to community development.
- **Environmental Impact:** WDC contributed to our waste diversion efforts, eco-friendly practices, and tree planting initiatives, strengthening their reputation as environmentally responsible organizations.
- **Reputation Enhancement:** By associating with these well-attended, community-oriented events, WDC fostered a positive public image, reinforcing their commitment to both cultural and environmental stewardship.

Additionally, the WDC tear-drop flag was flown at both events, and their logo was prominently displayed on all advertising materials, reinforcing their involvement and support for these important community initiatives.

Waste Diversion:

- **Waste Diverted from Landfill:** Over both events, an estimate of 8kg of organic waste was either fed to pigs or composted, and 5 kg of recyclables were sorted.
- Efforts included feeding food scraps to pigs, composting paper plates, using recyclable materials.

Health and Safety Evaluation:

Both the Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī and Community Planting Day events were carried out with a strong focus on health and safety. Key measures included:

- **Risk Assessments:** Pre-event risk assessments were conducted for all activities, identifying potential hazards such as uneven terrain during the hikoi and planting activities.
- **Health and Safety Briefings:** Attendees were provided with safety information, including instructions on staying hydrated, appropriate footwear for the hikoi, and safe planting practices.
- **First Aid:** First aid kits were available at both events, and trained volunteers were on-site to respond to any medical emergencies.
- **Environmental Safety:** Volunteers ensured that all participants were aware of their surroundings during the activities.
- **Waste Management:** Waste diversion efforts reduced the risk of environmental hazards, promoting a clean and safe event site.

Overall, the events were safely managed with no significant incidents reported, ensuring a positive and secure experience for all participants.

Conclusion:

The Matariki Hikoi & Hāngī and Community Planting Day were both resounding successes, thanks to the strong community involvement, support from WDC, and contributions from volunteers. These events not only celebrated Matariki but also promoted cultural awareness and environmental sustainability. We look forward to expanding on these successes in future years and continuing to build strong community connections.

Keri Wynyard

Event Co-ordinator

24 June 2025







Post Event Report: Puanga Matariki: Celebration with Onerahi Community at St Stephen's Hall

Event Overview:

The Puanga Matariki event at St. Stephen's Hall in Onerahi on June 18th was a fantastic success! Around 90 people gathered for a Matariki dawn service, followed by a community breakfast that was open free of charge to everyone.

The event created a wonderful platform for cultural exchange and learning. It brought together multicultural whānau, new migrants, newcomers, and existing community members, allowing everyone to participate, learn, and share in the experience. Through focusing on language, tikanga, and culture, the event helped foster a deeper cultural understanding and build a more inclusive community.

This celebration also strengthened community collaboration within Onerahi. It helped build stronger relationships and a greater sense of belonging amongst participants.



Aims and Achievements:

The event successfully aimed to create a learning environment focused on Matariki, specifically fostering whanaungatanga. It achieved this by bringing together whānau, hapū, iwi, and the wider community in an inclusive setting. The event's welcoming nature, which embraced other cultures and nationalities, further extended this whanaungatanga by actively promoting understanding and connection across the broader community.



Community Benefits:

The community event successfully fostered broader awareness of Matariki, sharing knowledge with a wider audience. This initiative cultivated greater interest and understanding of Māori culture across diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant community.

The event also facilitated intergenerational learning by providing a welcoming space for Māori to share stories and knowledge about Matariki. This allowed younger generations to connect with their cultural heritage, guided by their elders. Furthermore, the event's collaborative spirit has opened doors for future partnerships with other cultural groups and organizations. By working together, these groups can create even richer and more diverse Matariki celebrations in the years to come.



Overall, the Matariki community event was a valuable opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen cultural identity, and build connections within and beyond the community. Thank you Whangarei District Council for your support.



•
SWOT Analysis: Puanga Matariki Event at Onerahi

Strengths:

- **Strong Community Engagement:** Approximately 90 attendees, indicating good interest and participation from the local community.
- **Accessibility:** The event was "accessible to everyone in the community," which is crucial for fostering inclusivity.
- **Cultural Exchange and Learning Platform:** Successfully provided an opportunity for multicultural whānau, new migrants, newcomers, and existing residents to participate, learn, and experience together.
- **Promotion of Cultural Understanding:** Focused on sharing language, tikanga, and culture, leading to a deeper appreciation and applicable understanding of Māori traditions.
- **Fostering Whanaungatanga:** Actively built relationships within the community, inclusive of whānau, hapū, iwi, and the wider community, embracing other cultures and nationalities.
- **Strengthened Community Collaboration:** Supported collaboration with the Onerahi Community, indicating existing partnerships and a willingness to work together.
- **Positive Reputation:** Described as a "wonderful event" and a "fantastic success," suggesting positive feedback and a good reputation for future events.

Weaknesses:

- **Funding Reliance:** financial support is required to keep the community breakfast free and accessible to all.

Opportunities:

- **Broader Marketing and Outreach:** Reach an even wider audience, including neighboring communities or specific demographic groups, to further enhance diversity.
- **Partnerships with Local Organisations:** Deepen existing collaborations or forge new ones with schools, local businesses, or cultural groups to co-host or sponsor future events.

Threats:

- **Funding Cuts:** Withdrawal or reduction of funding could jeopardise the event's scale or continuation.
- **Weather Dependency:** As a dawn service is part of the event, adverse weather could impact attendance or the experience.
- **Maintaining Cultural Authenticity:** As the event grows, ensuring the integrity and authenticity of Māori cultural practices remains a priority.

Waste Minimisations: We placed out designated bins to ensure separation of rubbish, recycling, compost and food scraps.

What Happened/Summary

I worked with eight performers over five weeks. The performers were: Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher-Johnson, Jasmin Fisher-Johnson, Zara Skuse, Jenn Ruka, Lutz Hamm, Vincent Nathan, Tema Kwan. With a varying schedule required to accommodate the jobs of the cast, and with me working full time on the project, we managed to pull together a full length show with a running time of 1 hour. The show explored themes of migration, the Māori Battalion, the Urban Drift, Tuberculosis, whakapapa and reclamation. Nukunuku is a dance theatre piece that uses movement and moving images to tell stories. This was also explored with the use of sign language and with writings recorded as voice over. The performers contributed ideas through conversation and writing, improvisation and movement devising. It was overall a very powerful and fulfilling project to be involved in and direct. I loved working with the cast. They brought all of themselves to the work and were generous and courageous. Nukunuku was presented three times over two days (2x evening performances, 1x Matinee) for the Puanga Matariki Festival. We presented two more shows the following Friday/Saturday. We had a sell out season with standing ovations. Overall it was a very successful event.

Highlights

- Lighting the show with Scott Wynne was an absolute highlight. We explored and extended ourselves creatively and Scott is such a great person to work with
- Working with the extraordinary cast
- Having Jesse Samu and Scott Wynne make music
- Having Jesse Samu photograph the work
- Editing Jan's writing with her was a very joyful and exciting day. I loved unpacking her text and her story. Making her whakapapa section with the potatoes and researching Te Tai Tokerau, the kauri forests, gum diggers and the Tarara community was fascinating
- Watching Tomasin's first run through of her solo with Vincent's text
- Being allowed to use candles and seeing them lit with the red thread
- talking to audiences afterwards and having people approach me in town days after the event. People were full of emotion and wanted to discuss the themes. Teenagers also told me that they didn't know that Māori soldiers weren't given land like pākehā soldiers. Those conversations are what make me want to keep making work.

What you would do differently/improvements?

I would really like to sort out the connections with schools so that we can have matinee/school performances with Q&A. I was frustrated that the schools said they wanted it and would bring 100 students and then we ended up with less than half of that and had to sell tickets to the public. I would also make sure that the work gets reviewed and filmed properly. Not having a producer made my job ten times harder. I just couldn't get all the things done. Next time I will need to include a fee for a producer to be able to get the most out of the season for promotion and future opportunities.

H&S Incidents to report

There were no health and safety issues to report. ONEONESIX staff briefed us through their safety protocols.

Feedback

Community

From Jess Collins:

Nukunuku, I've been twice now and I loved it even more the second time I saw it. Tales of migration, urban drift, war and how we as humans live through and pass on our

experiences, with story or just by being.

[Gabrielle Thomas](#) with a stunning crew of locals has created a beautiful work. Super proud of their commitment, strength, movement, storytelling, I love the symbolism used

throughout. With what is happening in the world ATM I think this show is a reminder that generations remember, generations feel their tupuna and those experiences inform and shape the world that follows.

From Octagon Theatre:

We just attended the opening night for Nukunuku at [ONEONESIX](#) and we loved it!

nukunuku: (verb)(-a,-hia,-tia) to move frequently, shift, move to one side, move about.

A spectacular contemporary dance piece created and performed by local artists. Everything told a part of the story, from lighting design, the use of props as story devices to the choreography/movement, and more!

The show was a moving and innovative dive into themes such as urban drift, whakapapa, displacement, shelter, exposure and reclamation.

Estevez Gillespie:

Some subtle and masterful storytelling. Gabrielle Thomas has moved from Dancer, to choreographer to VR screen director and has now created a piece of multidisciplinary theatre which is totally unique and very watchable. Her collaborators are beautifully truthful on stage and together they spin a whimsically poignant story where some of the kaupapa and visuals will slap you in the face to wake you the fuck up before embracing you in a warm nostalgic dream.

Audience member:

Hopefully, NukuNuku will go on tour. The world needs to see and feel this creation.

Alivia Carrington Hall:

The artistry and emotion on display are truly remarkable!! I was absolutely spellbound. Love!!

Cast

Lutz Hamm:

Being part of *Nukunuku* has been a transformative experience for me. Under the generous, fearless leadership of Gabby Thomas, this production has become far more than a show — it's been a space of real wānanga, of risk, of heart, and of genuine artistic growth. To be in a local production, telling local stories, grounded in the whenua and the lived experience of people in our communities — that in itself is powerful. But to do so within an environment where deep care is taken for both the kaupapa and the artists — where you are pushed and held in equal measure — is rare and deeply moving. *Nukunuku* has challenged me, stretched me, and allowed me to grow not just as a performer but as a collaborator and storyteller. It's rare to feel like your work contributes meaningfully to the shape of things to come, but that's exactly what this has been: a chance to stand at the edge of something vital in the evolution of Aotearoa's performing arts. I'm beyond grateful to have been a part of this.

Tema Kwan:

Nukunuku is a *haerenga wairua*—a dance theatre work that explores the quiet violence of displacement, *te pakanga*, *te ope Māori*, and the echoes of trauma that continue to tremble through the generations. It was dark and tender, full of wisdom and truth. For me, as a performer, it gave me permission to voice the quiet struggles we often hold within.

Gabrielle's direction is a gift. Her ability to draw out the storyteller in each performer, to weave narratives with deep care, and to hold a space of true mana—from inception to the final bow—is extraordinary. She treats every story as sacred, every offering as *taonga*. When you're surrounded by that level of *manaaki*, giving to a work becomes organic and effortless.

Although I joined late—stepping into the space only in the final days before opening—I was welcomed with warmth by the entire **Nukunuku** whānau (including our whare ONEONESIX and all its people). The work felt grounded, and I felt completely safe, instantly. I was honoured to share *karakia* and *karanga* into the piece, and deeply honoured by the trust the dancers and director had in me to do so.

The dancers and performers are phenomenal. The collective level of skill, presence, and *wairua* is otherworldly. Someone shared a comment from an audience member who said, “Where did you find these people?!”

Nukunuku wasn’t just a show—it was a reclamation, a remembering, a call home. And I am so grateful to have been a part of it.

Vincent Nathan’s testimonial: Rediscovering Myself Through Nukunuku

As a performer, Nukunuku was not just a show, it was a reclamation. A remembering. A reckoning. It called me back to myself in ways I hadn’t known I was missing. Being part of this work cracked open something sacred in me. I was invited, no, compelled! to dig deeper, to uncover the roots of our stories, to feel the weight and wonder of our ancestors pulsing through every beat, every breath.

My body, once dormant, was stirred from its slumber, coaxed into movement that felt ancient and new all at once. It twisted, reached, recoiled, and soared into forms that felt foreign yet deeply familiar. My voice became an instrument of emotion, poetry laced with longing, song drawn from somewhere below the ribs, dance infused with both defiance and grace.

As a cast, we wove our lives together, stories of war, whakapapa, displacement, and urban drift. We leaned into one another’s truths, built a wharenui of shared experience, and emerged from the shadows with offerings from another time, another world. We did not just tell these stories, we became them.

Gabrielle Thomas, our producer and director, held us like taonga in the hollow of her hands. With reverence. With mastery. With fierce compassion. She guided us through each thread of story, each rehearsal breath, each moment of surrender with unwavering presence and artistry. Under her guidance, we felt safe enough to go further, deeper.

Though this was only a first development, it already felt whole, yet somehow still reaching forward, yearning for its next incarnation. And still now, I feel its echo reverberating in my chest, calling us back when the time is right. I am endlessly grateful for the honour of being part of Nukunuku. It changed me. It refined me. And it reminded me of who I am when I am most fully alive. I cannot wait to see where this extraordinary piece journeys next.

Production Team

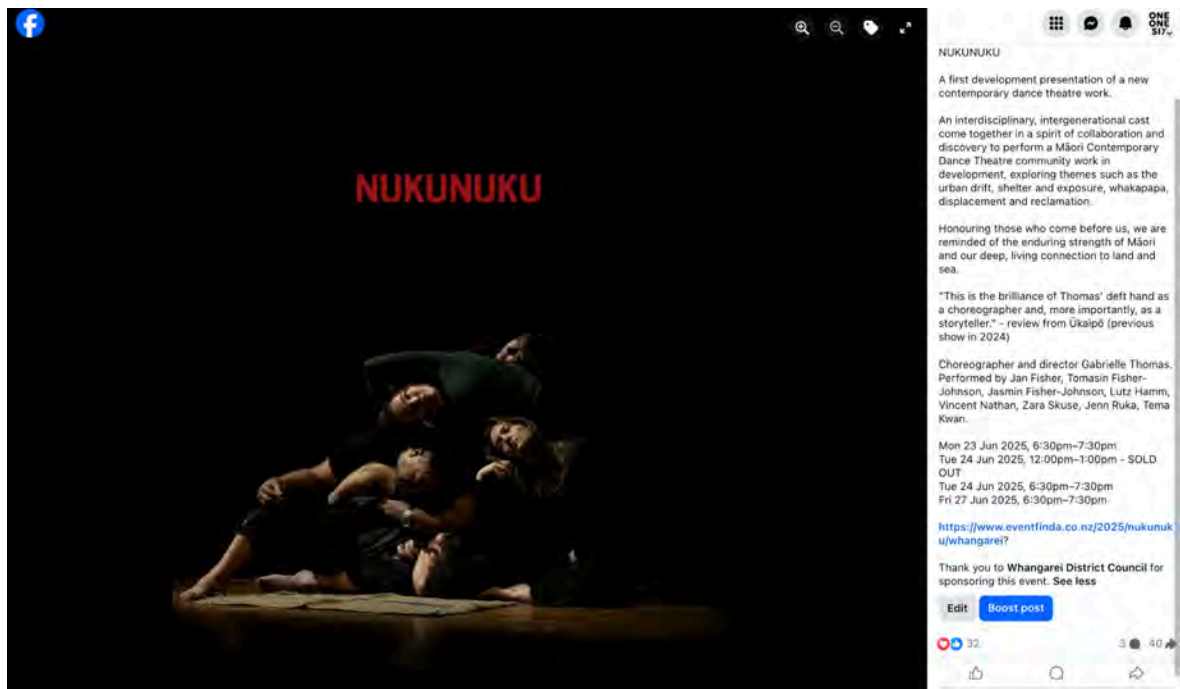
Scott Wynne:


Working on Nukunuku as the sound and lighting designer was an incredibly meaningful and formative experience. The show was a powerful expression of contemporary Māori storytelling, confronting the impacts of colonialism and war through movement, sound, and striking visual language. It was an important piece for audiences to witness — raw, honest, and deeply moving — and it gave young theatre-makers a real sense of what's possible when kaupapa and craft come together. I'm proud to have contributed to a work that honoured te ao Māori and pushed boundaries, both technically and emotionally. It also marked a big step forward in my own creative development, reminding me why I do this work.

Details/evidence of the delivery of agreed sponsorship benefits

(Lots of photos from the event showing community participation)

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=nukunuku>





ONEONESIX
Published by Metribooi
June 20 at 10:07 AM

As Puanga rises, we gather to reflect, remember, and look forward. This is a time for honouring our whakapapa and reconnecting with the stories that anchor us to land and sea.

Join us for the first development presentation of NUKUNUKU, a new Māori Contemporary Dance Theatre work by choreographer Gabrielle Thomas.

An interdisciplinary, intergenerational cast comes together in a spirit of collaboration and discovery, exploring themes of urban drift, shelter and exposure, whakapapa, displacement, and reclamation. This work honours those who came before us and acknowledges the resilience of Māori through movement, memory, and shared space.

Featuring Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher-Johnson, Jasmin Fisher-Johnson, Lutz Hamm, Vincent Nathan, Zara Skuse, Jenn Ruka & Tema Kwan.

With support from Whangārei District Council

KOHA ENTRY


Mon 23 Jun 2025 6:30pm–7:30pm
Tue 24 Jun 2025, 12:00pm–1:00pm
Tue 24 Jun 2025, 6:30pm–7:30pm
Fri 27 Jun 2025, 6:30pm–7:30pm

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/nukunuku/whangarei>

#Puanga #Matariki2025 See less

Edit Boost post

2 37



ONEONESIX
Published by Metribooi
June 22 at 10:01 AM

"Nukunuku acknowledges the Māori Battalion, specifically Company A from Te Tai Tokerau known as "The Gumdiggers". It touches on themes of colonization and felling of the ancient kauri forests here in Northland.

Migration and whakapapa are present in the work. Urbanisation, tuberculosis and reclamation have been explored through motifs, props, improvisation and the beautiful writing of Vincent Nathan."

- Gabrielle Thomas, Director/Choreographer

Join us as we gather to reflect and remember.

With support from Whangārei District Council

KOHA ENTRY

Mon 23 Jun 2025 6:30pm–7:30pm
Tue 24 Jun 2025, 12:00pm–1:00pm
Tue 24 Jun 2025, 6:30pm–7:30pm
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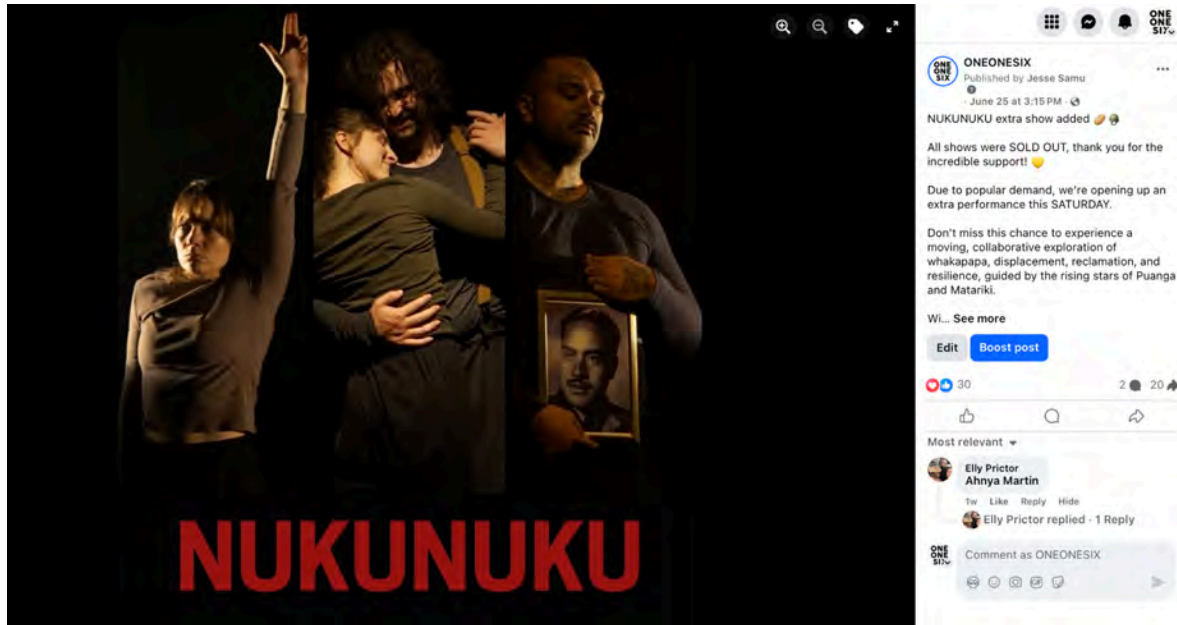
<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/nukunuku/whangarei>


#Puanga #Matariki2025 See less

Edit Boost post

13 14

Comment as ONEONESIX





Date: June 23rd, 24th, 27th & 28th

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Entry: Koha

Where: Main Hall

[GET TICKETS](#)

A first development presentation of a new contemporary dance theatre work.

An interdisciplinary, intergenerational cast come together in a spirit of collaboration and discovery to perform a Māori Contemporary Dance Theatre community work in development, exploring themes such as the urban drift, shelter and exposure, whakapapa, displacement and reclamation. Honouring those who come before us, we are reminded of the enduring strength of Māori and our deep, living connection to land and sea.

"This is the brilliance of Thomas' deft hand as a choreographer and, more importantly, as a storyteller." – review from Ūkaipō (previous show in 2024)

Directed by Gabrielle Thomas. Performed by Stormy Kay, Vincent Nathan, Lutz Hamm, Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher Johnson, Zara Skuse and Jasmin Fisher Johnson.





Thank you to Whangārei District Council for sponsoring this event.

[Get tickets](#) | [Back to all events](#)

Directed by Gabrielle Thomas. Performed by Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher-Johnson, Jasmin Fisher-Johnson, Lutz Hamm, Vincent Nathan, Zara Skuse, Jenn Ruka, Tema Kwan.

Thank you to [Whangārei District Council](#) for supporting this event as part of the [Puanga Matariki Festival](#).

**Content may disturb some viewers. Touches on themes of war and suicide. Some loud sirens and flashing lights.*

 6:30pm 23rd, 24th & 27th June
 12pm Tuesday 24th June
 ONEONESIX, 116a Bank Street
 Koha

Photos by Jesse Samu



NUKUNUKU (dance)

An interdisciplinary, intergenerational cast come together in a spirit of collaboration and discovery to perform a Māori contemporary dance theatre community work in development, exploring themes such as urban drift, shelter and exposure, whakapapa, displacement and reclamation.

Honouring those who come before us, we are reminded of the enduring strength of Māori and our deep, living connection to land and sea.

Directed by Gabrielle Thomas and performed by Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher-Johnson, Jasmin Fisher-Johnson, Lutz Hamm, Vincent Nathan, Zara Skuse, Jenn Ruka, Tema Kwan.

Thank you to Whangārei District Council for sponsoring this event.

Date Monday 23rd–Friday 27th June
Time See Eventfinda for show times
Tickets Koha



[BOOK NOW](#)

27

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Nukunuku

116a Bank Street, Whangarei, New Zealand 0110

Tue, Jun 24 Tue, Jun 24 **Fri, Jun 27** +1

About Discussion

8 people responded

Event by ONEONESIX

116a Bank Street, Whangarei, New Zealand 0110

Duration: 1 hr

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

An interdisciplinary, intergenerational cast come together in a spirit of collaboration and discovery to perform a Māori Contemporary Dance Theatre work in development. Exploring themes such as the urban drift, shelter and exposure, whakapapa, displacement and reclamation. Honouring those who come before us, we are reminded of the enduring strength of Māori and our deep, living connection to land and sea.

"This is the brilliance of Thomas' deft hand as a choreographer and, more importantly, as a storyteller." - review from Ūkaipō (previous show in 2024)

Choreographer and director Gabrielle Thomas. Performed by Vincent Nathan, Lutz Hamm, Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher Johnson and Jasmin Fisher Johnson.

Thank you to Whangārei District Council for sponsoring this event. [See less](#)

Whangarei Boys' High School

Rugby Park

Whangarei A & P Society

Laurie Hall Park

Whangarei Central Library

Caffer Park

Whangarei

Bank St

ANDRUS STREET

Whangarei Aquatic Centre

Elliott Reserve

Putahi Park

Hundertwasser Art Centre

PAK'nSAVE

The Quay

116a Bank Street, Whangarei, New Zealand 0110

116A Bank St, Whangarei 0110, New Zealand

A first development presentation of a new contemporary dance theatre work.

An interdisciplinary, intergenerational cast come together in a spirit of collaboration and discovery to perform a Māori Contemporary Dance Theatre community work in development, exploring themes such as the urban drift, shelter and exposure, whakapapa, displacement and reclamation. Honouring those who come before us, we are reminded of the enduring strength of Māori and our deep, living connection to land and sea.

"This is the brilliance of Thomas' deft hand as a choreographer and, more importantly, as a storyteller." - review from Ūkaipō (previous show in 2024)

Choreographer and director Gabrielle Thomas. Performed by Jan Fisher, Tomasin Fisher-Johnson, Jasmin Fisher-Johnson, Lutz Hamm, Vincent Nathan, Zara Skuse, Jenn Ruka, Tema Kwan.

Thank you to Whangārei District Council for sponsoring this event.

Waste Management: Measurement of waste diverted from landfill

ONEONESIX venue managed the waste from our event. We do not have any direct measurements of the waste diverted. However, we know they have a clear and rigorous recycling system and a worm farm for food scraps.

SWOT

Strengths

- Having a cast of varying backgrounds collectively skilled in multiple areas of performance.
- Production support from Laurel Devenie, Kait Scott and Scott Wynne.
- Support from ONEONESIX who accommodated us. The venue support included rehearsal space, lighting and tech support and the venue itself brings audiences.
- Receiving the funding from WDC was a real driver to complete the work.

Weaknesses

The very small budget and the performers' struggle to come to rehearsals (their limited availability due to working their other jobs to pay the bills) definitely posed a threat. It took hundreds of unpaid hours for me to make this project happen, which is the nature of making work in the regions independently. There is absolutely no way I would have been able to do it without the support of ONEONESIX. I also had a performer pull out (for personal reasons) and it slowed things down

Opportunities

There are definite future opportunities for Nukunuku but it's a matter of having the promotion videos and reviews to promote it. I think we will need to do another season at ONEONESIX and make sure when it gets remounted that we film the work really well.

Threats

This work was made with lots of good will from the cast and ONEONESIX team. Although this was a strength behind the mahi, it also means that without secure financial backing for artists it is difficult to keep making, we might not be able to retain our performers, to give this work a longer life and develop it more extensively.

Key Performance Indicators (Numbers)

Number of Events team:	10	Number of Volunteer hours:	697hrs
Audience/Participation numbers:	500	• Director	225hrs
		• Lighting/sound	40hrs
		• Performers (av. 50 each)	400hrs
Other in-kind Support	\$Value	• Bar/FoH (16 volunteers)	32hrs
Production support (30 hours)	\$1110		
Venue fee - show week	\$722.5		
Venue fee – rehearsals	\$2100		

Post Event Report - Puanga ki Hihiaua

SWOT Analysis

(Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)

Key Learnings

- We did not agree with the photographer on a turnaround time for photos. This was our mistake. We were still really happy with the photographer and the quality of the products, it just would have been good to post the photos faster after the event happened.
- The celebration of Puanga-Matariki is becoming much more popular in the community, which is exciting to see.
- We used Eventbrite to register our events but found it hard to use - we only receive a doorlist the morning of the event, and to navigate the website is difficult.
- Working with Whariki, who held a Makete the afternoon prior to Tere Talks, was really successful. There is definitely room to grow partnerships with other organisations and events. In saying that we need to be purposeful in these partnerships to ensure shared values, and smooth logistics.

Challenges

- Staff shortages due to illness. This time of year, there are always winter bugs and so our usual set of staff and volunteers are not as reliable in terms of being able to man events. This is something we will continue to work on, growing the capacity of our staff and volunteers.
- The lead-in time for Puanga events is tight. We didn't receive confirmation of funding (from TPK and Council) until a few weeks before. We totally understand the position our funders are in, waiting to confirm funding themselves, but we need to figure out a way to be able to plan with confidence in advance. It may mean our own board taking the risk to cover costs if funding does not come through.

Opportunities

- Next year we may look at doing ticketed events (for a small amount), to demonstrate the value of the event, and to also help our centre's financial sustainability.
- We worked with TWA this year to do a sponsorship agreement, which was really great in principle, but there was room to make that sponsorship model more beneficial to both parties.

Customer/attendee satisfaction of the event

The events benefitted whanau and the community through offering a space where they could genuinely engage with matauranga and practices of our tupuna, as a way of celebrating this special time of year. We had a lot of positive feedback, some of which I've included here:

"Koia kei a rātou!!" - Janine Kapa, Tere Talks attendee

"It was epic! Thanks Alicia Courtney and Hihiaua Cultural Centre." - Mary Britton, wānanga participant

"Hihiaua Cultural Centre Miharo katoa nga manu aute, ka rawe koutou. Well done, whanau. Manawatia a Matariki, a Puanga." - Max Thompson, wānanga participant

"Such a beautiful day - great memories and great skills! Thank you Alicia and Hihiaua and everyone one who was there making it so magic!!" - Arana Horncy, wānanga participant

"Thanks Alesha that was a fast & furious stint of making manu aute for me...& running into another good friend relation hadn't seen for awhile creating manu Aute too for Puanga" - Vanessa Wihongi, wānanga participant

Details of the delivery of agreed sponsorship benefits

We are very grateful for the funding we received from WDC to support our Puanga-Matariki programme of events. To be clear, although we have reported below on the full programme of events, we only used the WDC funding for the wānanga, Tere Talks, and marketing, as per our agreement.

We were able to host an exhibition of works from local, and Māori artists, over the month of June. We had an opening event, partnering with Fale Pasifika who also opened an exhibition of their own, titled “Koe Moana Tupuhake - The Rising Ocean”. It was great to collaborate on the opening event, with our kaumatua, and kaikorero beginning the event with a waerea to open the space, and settle the works. We then offered a kai so our manuhiri could whakanoa before interacting with each other and the artworks.

Over the next two weekends we held wananga. Our first papamahi was creating manu raupō (kite making) facilitated by Alicia Courtney. Our whare was full with whānau who came to learn the techniques and skills of Manu Raupō. We were lucky enough to have raupō remaining from our Ruru Mōki kaupapa, which we repurposed the left over raupō for this papamahi.

Our next wananga we had Wiremu Sarich return to Hihiaua to share with us ngā taonga tākorō. Exploring interactive story telling through tākorō, our whānau were taken through a series of activities, engaging our inner child’s playfulness, curiosity and agility.

For our final event we held our inaugural Tere Talks. Six local voices wove together their stories and insights, each contributing their unique perspective to our collective understanding of this year’s theme “E Tu Ngahere - E tū ana te ngahere i runga i te mana o te kōtahitanga”.

Our speakers were Justice Hetaraka, Ashleigh Zimmerman, Te Awa Neumann, Ngahuia Harrison, Maia Hetaraka and Peowhairangi Witana.

Photos

<https://ccstudiosltd.pixieset.com/puangafestivalteretalks/>

<https://ccstudiosltd.pixieset.com/puangafestivaltakaro/>

<https://ccstudiosltd.pixieset.com/puangafestivalaute/>

Key Performance Indicators

Registration numbers	Manu Raupo workshop: 40 registrations Taonga Takaro workshop: 30 registrations The Exhibition opening, and Tere Talks were not ticketed events and so registration numbers were not collected.
Registration numbers - out of district	Manu Raupo workshop: 3 registrations Taonga Takaro workshop: 3 registrations
Number of attendees	300-350
Number of attendees – out of district	Sorry, we did not collect this information
Reason for participation	Sorry, we did not collect this information
Participation satisfaction rate	Sorry, we did not collect this information. We did however collect some verbal and written feedback (included above) and had no complaints or negative feedback.
Event Waste Minimization	We tried to minimise the amount of waste we created.

	<p>Compostable packaging (e.g. paper cups and bamboo stirrers for hot drinks) were composted alongside food scraps. Overall there was approx. 60 litres of organic waste composted.</p> <p>Waste sent to landfill included some food packaging that was not compostable or recyclable, as well as a small amount of 'contaminated' waste (e.g. recyclables or compostables that were put in the wrong bin by attendees). Waste sent to landfill overall was approx. 60 litres.</p>
Any H&S	None





















5.4 Community Services Group Operational Report – August 2025

Meeting: Community Development Committee
Date of meeting: 21 August 2025
Reporting officer: Victoria Harwood, General Manager, Community Services

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To provide an overview of operational activities occurring in the month of July 2025 across the Community Services Group that the Community Development Committee govern under their Terms of Reference.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Community Development Committee receives the Community Services Group Operational Report for July 2025 at the August 2025 meeting.

3 Background / Horopaki

This report provides an overview of operational activities and highlights for July 2025 including the five Community Services Group Departments and two Council Controlled Organisations (CCO's) and provides commentary on future activities planned.

3.1 Financial/budget considerations

Any significant financial risks are raised in the individual agenda items. Financial and budget activities within the Operations Report are business as usual activities.

4 Significance and engagement / Te Hira me te Arawhiti

The decisions or matters of this Agenda do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda publication on the website.

5 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Attachment 1: Community Services Group Operational Report August 2025

Community Services Group Operations Report

AUGUST 2025

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3. Community Projects	10
4. Community Development	12
5. Customer Services	20
6. Libraries	27
7. Venues and Events	30
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1. Community Services Group Overview

1.1 Health and Safety

- Health, Safety and Wellbeing for front facing staff in the Community Services Group.
- Ensuring the Community Services Group public facilities are maintained and meet health and safety requirements
- Ensuring H&S issues are logged through the Assura system and addressed promptly by staff.
- Staff undertook Health and Safety training regarding demonstrating H&S through Leadership.

1.2 Current Priorities

General Manager Community Services Group current focus areas:

- Recarpeting Central Library – **Central Library will be closed to the public on Saturday 23 August 2025**
- Delivery of Key Priority Projects as per list within Operations report Section 3.
- Northland Events Centre 2021 Trust relationship management.
- Whangarei Art Trust relationship management.
- Five council departments staffing and operations.
- Long-term plan 2024-2034 – work programme delivery 2025-2026.
- Pensioner housing, new and portfolio review
- Infrastructure Projects –
 - Old Municipal Building restoration
 - Stadium Roof replacement
 - New tsunami siren network
- Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MACC) Design Team
- Northland Events Centre Roof Working Group

Agenda items outside the Community Development Committee

- External Events Strategy
 - Briefing and endorsement Te Karearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee, 7 August
 - Adoption Council 28 August
- Road closures for events

Other Operations

- Supporting ICT projects to enhance staff and customer experience (DXP system)
- Welcoming Communities Plan
- Customer Request improvements and training delivery
- Knowledge Precinct Project and Knowledge Education Arts Hub
- Redevelopment Forum North and support of new Theatre project
- Continue engagement and collaboration with NZ Police on safety issues
- Collaboration of NZTA, Transport and District Development destination signage for Town Basin

1.3 Current challenges/issues

- Ongoing antisocial behaviour in the city
- Council Controlled Organisations financial forecasts

1.4 Future focus areas

- Department Strategy implementation and work programmes
- Annual Plan 2025-2026 delivery

NZTA, Transport and District Development destination signage for Town Basin – update

Agency representatives have had initial discussions. There is a focus is on internationally recognised symbols, and making signs concise e.g. food, toilets, museums, fuel, rest stop etc. which are universal and easily recognisable to all people regardless of language. All non-compliant signs across the country will be removed or updated as they become no longer fit for purpose.

Budgets in both NZTA and Council are limited and are based on replacing signs at the end of their lifespan, not adding new options. Outcomes of the initial discussions of the group is to develop both short- and long-term solutions for tourism and destination management pathways into Whangarei. One option council staff are now exploring is potentially adding symbol stickers or overlays to existing brown signage for the Town Basin as an interim measure, highlighting amenities and attractions.

The longer-term solution will include possible removal and replacement of signage if funding can be secured in future years.

2. Council Controlled Organisations – Monthly reporting

2.1 Whangarei Art Trust

2.1.1 Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC) with Wairau Māori Art Gallery

Health and Safety

No Health and Safety issues to report on for July.

Current Priorities

A meeting was scheduled for the end of July attended by NZTA Waka Kotahi, Northland Inc and Whangārei District Council to discuss tourism signage for Whangārei.

Overview of Operational Activities for July

Temperature and Humidity Readings

The BMS server was replaced at the beginning of July after damage incurred during a flood. Electronic readings can now be recorded in the new system.

Admission and shop sales July

Admission and shop sales for July 2025 were at 52% and 50% (as 23 July).

The break-down of visitors for the period 1-24 July 2025:

Visitors in July 2025	Totals %
International	21%
Auckland	42%
Northland	18%
Other NZ regions	19%

The Māori All Blacks vs Scotland game led to an increase in foot traffic on Sunday, 6 July as a result of the 2-for-1 promotion.

A search in Google now brings up the Online Shop and the product range has increased from 46 products to 206. More customised Hundertwasser Art Centre products are being made and will be included when available.

The slow-moving stock has been reduced to \$61,220.

Marketing

Financial Year	Number of Visitors in tour groups
2023-2024	733
2024-2025	1,310
% increase between years	79% increase in visitors on tours

Good results are being seen out of famils organised by Northland Inc:

- Social media coverage from a Tourism New Zealand famil for an influencer/content creator Greta Gercovich.
- Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery listed first for those searching for an [accessible itinerary](#) when visiting Northland.

- An article about Northland including the Hundertwasser Art Centre in [Travel Monitor](#).
- Inclusion in [Urban List](#)

Public programme

In the 2024-25 financial year **2,571 people participated in organised public programmes**. During July the public programme included:

- A NorthAble LYNKZ group
- Four school holiday workshops
- A weekend exhibition held in collaboration with “I have a Dream” group
- Gentle Conversations about Death and Dying (previously called Whangārei Death Café)
- A talk hosted by the Director to the University of the Third Age group in Whangārei.
- Sustainable Business Network - Northland launch breakfast

Schools programme

The Home School Programme continues to grow and in Term 3 group sizes are approaching full capacity.

2.1.2 Whangārei Art Museum

Health and Safety

No Health and Safety issues to report on for July.

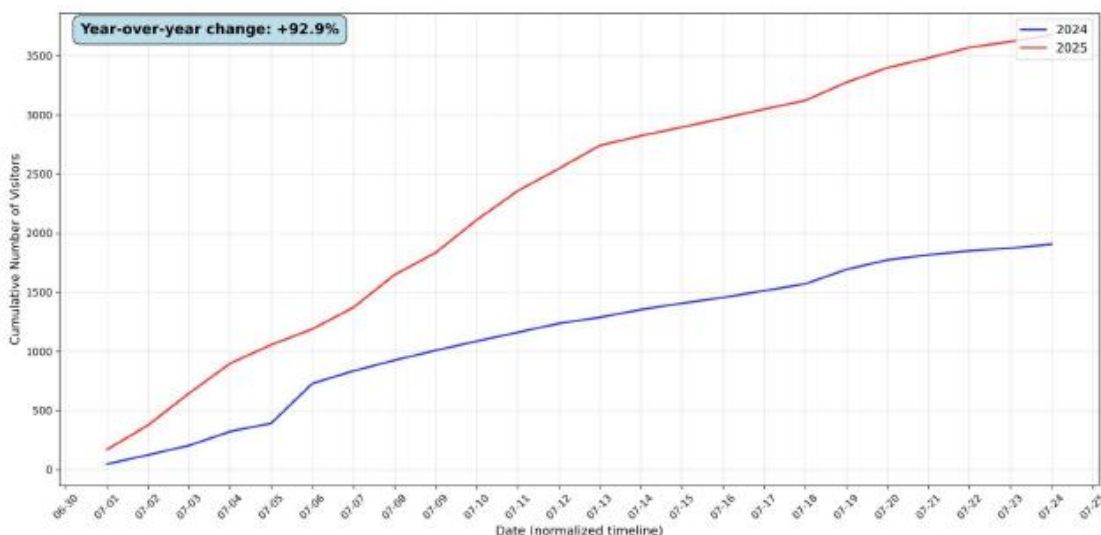
Overview of Operational Activities for July

Visitor Numbers

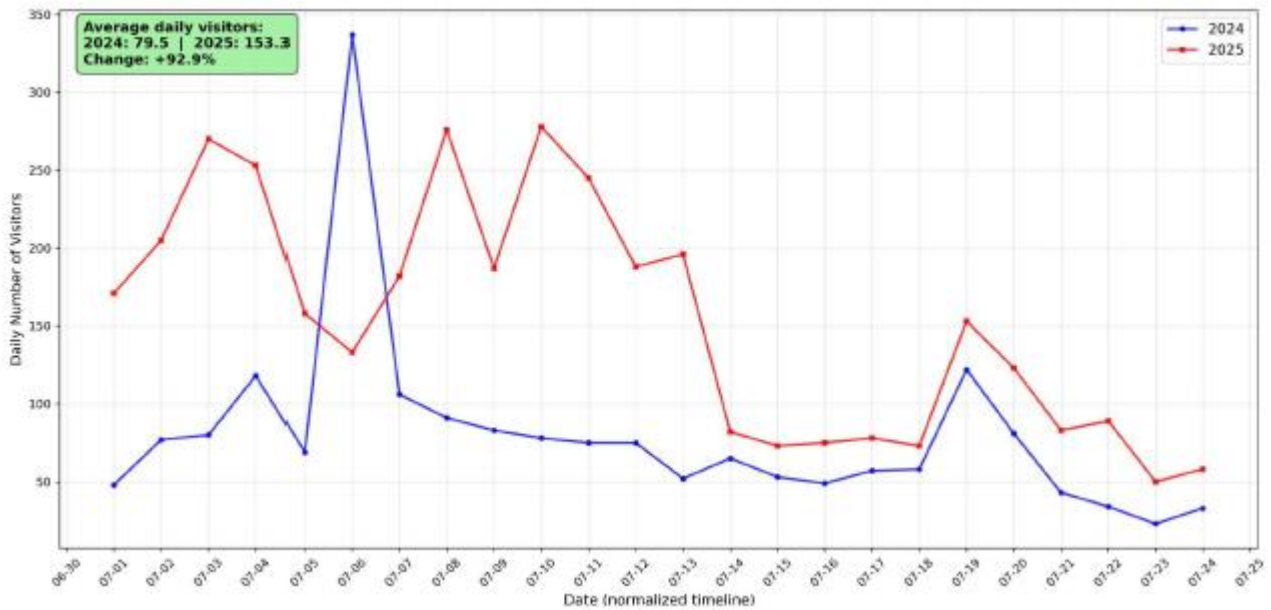
From 1- 24 July 2025, Whangārei Art Museum welcomed 3,679 visitors, nearly doubling the 1,907 visitors recorded during the same period in 2024. This marks an increase of 1,772 visitors, or approximately +92.9% year-on year.

	1-24 July 2024	1-24 July 2025
Average per day	79.5	153.3
Min day	45	88
Max day	102	240
Total Visitors	1,907	3,679

Cumulative Visitors



Monthly Visitors



Property

<i>Foyer</i>	The lease agreement for the rent concession of the foyer was reviewed at the July Board meeting.
<i>Flooding</i>	A roof leak caused flooding that narrowly avoided damaging the \$8m art collection. Mitigation included removing we carpet, deploying sandbags and buckets, and suspending art movement. Monitoring continued during subsequent heavy rain events.
<i>HVAC</i>	Following Airzone's assessment that the current stand-alone HVAC unit is beyond repair, WDC will install a desiccant dehumidifier supplemented by a heat pump provided the existing ducted unit in the current HVAC system is in good condition.

Future Planning / What's coming next?

Current Exhibitions:

The Net by Ngahua Harrison (Ngātiwai) unites new photographic and moving image works by Harrison with 14 historic photographs from Whangārei Art Museum's collection. This exhibition closes on 5 October.

Upcoming Exhibitions

- A group exhibition (Oscar Perry, Mike Parr, Marie Shannon, Darpa Press and Samuel Holloway) entitled Detokenisation 18 October 2025.
- Rea Burton (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Pākehā) 18 October 2025
- Sonya Lacey – Solo exhibition scheduled for early February 2026

2.2 Northland Events Centre (2021) Trust

Health and Safety

- New critical risk standard developed approved by the Board for medical emergencies
- Redevelopment of the risk register
- Health and Safety induction complete
- Finalising Stadium Hirers Guide and revised emergency planning documentation with Reliance Risk
- Māori All Blacks delivery 5 July 2025

Current Priorities

- NPC Season starting next week, 1st home game 8 August
- Funding application for Fireworks Spectacular
- UB40 featuring Ali Campbell concert secured for 5 February 2025 with tickets going on sale on 6 August



Performance measures and compliance

- Audit ongoing
- Annual Report being finalised

Current challenges/issues

- Field drainage. Maintenance plan and secondary drainage system is needed to ensure the surface is maintained to a high standard

Overview of Operational Activities for July

- **Internal (lounges) bookings** – July 2025 = 12 total spaces hired. 609 attendees. 36 upcoming internal events confirmed. 100% of hirers surveyed would use the venue again.
- **Rugby League Northland Grand Finals** (U8s, U16s and Men's finals) held on 26 July attracted 1,051 people. It was a fantastic event for the community with some of the U16s players and their whanau never been to the stadium or Whangārei before which was a buzz for them.
- **The 2025 Club Rugby Finals**, held on 12 July attracted a crowd of approximately 2,250 attendees. Mid Northern took out the Senior Men's Final 56-12 against the Western Sharks and the Reserve Men's Final 24-19 against Kaihu Valley.
- **The Māori All Blacks v Scotland and Black Ferns v Black Ferns XV double header** held on 5 July drew an impressive crowd of 10,150 people. In a special moment for the region, the Tino Rangatiratanga flag was raised alongside the New Zealand and Scotland flags for the Māori All Blacks match. The event received excellent feedback from the community. The event was a great opportunity to host top-tier international and national rugby in Northland.

- **Rugby For Life** Fundraising event held in Level 2 the night prior to the Māori All Blacks Game



Future Planning / What's coming next?

- Proposal submitted to NZ Rugby in collaboration with Council and NRU to host Black Ferns games in October 2026 and September 2027.
- Whangārei Fireworks Spectacular 30-year anniversary on 1 November
- Work still in progress to secure a Super Rugby Blues fixture for 2026
- Working on securing another summer concert booking
- Working towards having some Touch and Softball events at the Stadium.

3. Community Projects

Community Services Group Projects Timeline 2025-26

Project	2025						2026											
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General Manager Community Services																		
Draft Annual Plan Delivery	Complete																	
WAT Trustee Recruitment Hapu Representative	Complete																	
Support Knowledge Precinct development - Forum North and New Theatre.																		
Design team for CDEM Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MACC)																		
Support Section 17A Review CDEM Services																		
Libraries																		
Re-carpet procurement Central Library																		
Library Pou Restoration																		
New Wrap for the mobile library																		
Take Te Kakano to other locations																		
Re-Roof Central Library																		
Central Library Maintenance																		
Central Library Lighting (internal)																		
Central Library Boiler Assessment																		
Customer Services																		
Digital Experience Platform (DXP) Project																		
Disability Strategy Implementation - Hapai card																		
Security Glass for Ruakaka Service Centre																		

Community Services Group Projects Timeline 2025-26

Project	2025						2026											
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Claphams Clocks Website																		
Name De-duplication Project																		
Procurement of CCTV for all sites																		
Venues and Events																		
Review Event Development Fund and Kaupapa																		
Filming on Council Land policy and framework																		
Permit for events on Council Land framework																		
Security Upgrades																		
Multi-Cultural Arts Festival																		
Stadium Roof Replacement																		
Community Development																		
Old Municipal Building Confirm Tenancy																		
Pensioner Housing new builds																		
Pensioner Housing Future Delivery Report & Review																		
Old Municipal Building Restoration																		
Age Friendly City Plan																		
Regional Accessibility Strategy																		
Civil Defence Emergency Management																		
New Tsunami siren network installation																		
Tsunami Boards new inundation modelling signage																		

4. Community Development

4.1 Health and Safety

At the time of reporting, there have been no serious Health and Safety incidents reported for July, with routine monthly health and safety reporting to be received in due course.

4.2 Current Priorities

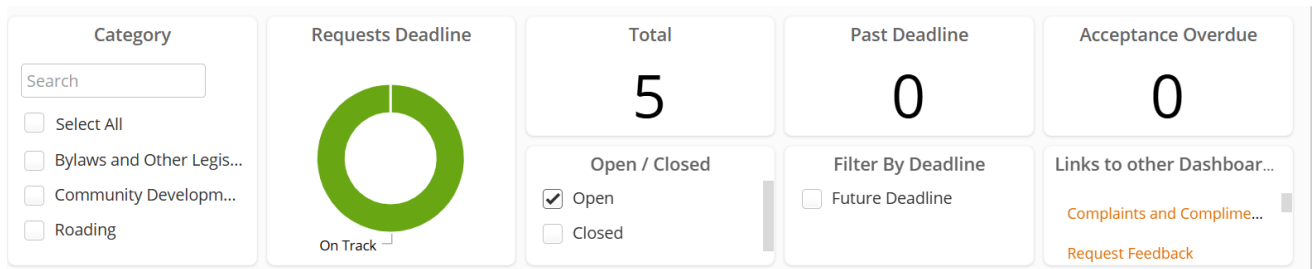
<i>Advisory Groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Advisory Groups decision – new Advisory Group structure, new Terms of Reference and enhancements.
<i>Community Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing future growth and delivery options for Pensioner Housing Developing draft Welcoming Plan Implementation of Community Impact Partnership Development of Age Friendly Whangārei Action Plan
<i>Community Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing Whangārei Community Fund outcomes from last Committee meeting Processing outcomes from Round 1 Creative Communities Scheme CCS process improvements including applicants' hui Triage/recommendations for WCF for next Committee meeting
<i>Community Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work through the implementation of structure changes that affect the Community Safety CCTV Network.

4.3 Performance measures and compliance

	Measure	Target	Result	Outcome
9.2.1	Percentage occupancy rate of housing for elderly residents	≥ 90%	99.45%	Achieved
9.2.2	Housing residents' satisfaction with the standard of housing for elderly residents	≥ 80%	98.9%	Achieved
9.3.1	Percentage of residents who are aware of Council's Community Funding Programme	≥ 70%	39%	Not achieved
9.3.1 Commentary: This is a new measure and a new question in the annual Residents Survey. A low result was expected, given Council's promotion of the programme is limited. This result gives us a benchmark to improve on. An increased focus on marketing and storytelling of grant funding impacts will help improve the awareness of the many community initiatives that the community funding programme supports.				
9.3.2	Ranking (1-10) of how well residents think the Community Funding Programme supports the district's social and cultural wellbeing.	≥ 7	7	Achieved
9.4.1	Effectiveness of Advisory Group engagement with Council to inform projects, programmes, and District Development.	≥ 80%	66.5%	Not achieved
9.4.1 Commentary: This result continues an observed decline in satisfaction over the last few years and is why an independent review of Advisory Groups was commissioned. Changes have been made in response to the review.				

Community Safety: Annual Residents Survey Results	
Satisfaction with Council's support of a Crime Free District	48%
Perceptions of Safety in the District.	66%
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Community Safety questions included in the Residents Survey are not related to Council performance measures, however, they do provide Council with an indication of whether it is heading in the right direction in terms how people feel able safety in the district.</p> <p>In relation to Council's support of a crime free district, this year the question was reworded to describe the initiatives Council supports including CitySafe and CCTV. Although the result is still low, when compared with the previous year (34%) there has been a positive shift in the right direction.</p> <p>Perception of safety in the District is slightly up on the previous year's results (62%) continuing the slow but upwards trend of the past three years.</p>	

4.4 Request system dashboard update



4.5 Current challenges/issues

<i>Community Safety</i>	Daily breaches of the liquor ban, drunkenness and smoking cannabis in the inner city; along with continued graffiti vandalism, continues to negatively impact the city as being a safe and welcoming destination.
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4.6 Overview of Operational Activities for July

Advisory Groups

<i>Council Advisory Groups</i>	All groups have been invited to an event to acknowledge the service of members and the disestablishment of the Positive Ageing and Disability Advisory Groups. Working on new Terms of Reference for both the new Accessibility Advisory group and the Youth Advisory Group
<i>Disability Advisory Group (DAG)</i>	In July, DAG had its last meeting. It was a separate meeting from PAAG this time. Topics focused on were the Spine Path (Pohe Island) project and the Corporate Planning Cycle. Members provided feedback on which Council services were of most value and how best to engage with the disability community for Annual and Long-Term Plan consultations.

Community Led Projects (CLP)

<i>Positive Ageing Advisory Group (PAAG)</i>	At the last PAAG meeting the members received an update on all projects which had come to them this year for feedback and insights. The members discussed what training, and support would be helpful for new members on the groups and ways to maintain momentum on submission previously made advocating for older adults needs and desires. Members also received an update on the Silver Festival and Age Friendly Action Plan.
<i>Youth Advisory Group</i>	The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) received an update regarding the future of Advisory Groups. On Wednesday the 9 th of July, the YAG and a YAG member appeared as part of a three-person panel at the Covid-19 Royal Commission of Inquiry public hearing in Auckland to present insights into youth experiences of the 2021 lockdowns and the vaccine mandates.
<i>Onerahi Community Led Project</i>	The group are keen explore CCTV in light of ongoing and recent anti-social behaviour in the suburb. They will be consulting with the community about this.
<i>Maungatapere Village Inc (MVI)</i>	MVI hosted a workshop at the Community Church for other community groups and organisations in the area to come together to build on their collective visions for Maungatapere. Together they celebrated what has been achieved in the community, shared plans for development and activities for the next three years-5 years and identify potential areas for collaboration and support.
<i>Raumanga Community Roopu</i>	The Roopu mobilised their local community and supporters to come together for a peaceful whanau friendly petition to Waka Kotahi for safety improvements to the Otaika crossing. The roopu are continuing to advocate for immediate action to ensure the ongoing safety of pedestrians. The roopu came together for a weekend wananga to work on the next stage of their strategic plan. Refreshing their vision, including what future 10 years looks like for Raumanga and the priorities of this group, challenges, strengths, success measures and succession planning.
<i>Waipu River Walk</i>	The Waipu River Walk Committee met in July. The decision was made on the location to install a cairn as a reference to Scottish heritage in the area. Contributions from individuals and businesses to the development of the walk continue. They are a clear indicator of how much the wider community value the walk.
<i>TikiPride</i>	Discussions are underway about whether to establish a community coordinator role.

Community Development

Kai Ora Fund

The first workshop for Kai Ora Fund recipients was held at Maunu Gardens in July. This was an excellent opportunity for different groups to come together to share and learn about each other's projects. Attendance was very strong compared to previous years with over 35 people in attendance from 15 different community initiatives.

Waka Tākaro Play Trailer

Creative Northland has provided the first six monthly report about the activities of the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer. This report demonstrates the effectiveness of partnering with Creative Northland to

activate the use of the Waka Tākaro Play Trailer by the community. This is covered in a separate agenda item in this committee meeting.

Welcoming Communities

Welcoming Plan

- The Welcome Plan Engagement Group Hui happened on the 8th of July 2025. The group was updated on the feedback from the public consultation and was presented with a structure of the Welcome Plan for their feedback. The group decided to provide their collective feedback on the plan by the end of August. The draft has been shared within the group.
- The Newcomer's guide is being updated in consultation with key departments.
- Internal engagement on the Welcome Plan continues with input being sought from key departments to improve the impact of the plan.
- The Welcoming Communities coordinator attended the National all-coordinator's hui in Mangere Refugee Centre, Auckland. The workshop was focused on building a business case for the Welcoming Communities programme.
- Multi Ethnic Collective Whangarei recently achieved a 5-year milestone of serving the ethnic community in Whangarei. The collective highlighted the importance of the Welcoming Communities program for their future aspirations and mapped out their focus for the next 5 years.



Upcoming Events:

- The last public consultation event for the Welcome Plan is focussed on POU Whai Hua - Opportunity will be held in August. [Welcoming Plan Community Engagement Hui: Pou Whai Hua – Opportunity - Whangarei District Council](#)
- This year Welcoming Week runs from 5-14 September 2025. Staff are collaborating with a range of departments and community organisations to build on the success of previous events.

Age Friendly Whangārei Plan

- The low quality of data analysis results received from the Hague researchers has not helped to support a better understanding of older adults in Whangarei, and delayed the project timeline. Internal staff are assisting in further analysis and interpretation. Two focus group workshops will take place in August to prioritise themes and actions.

Community Property

<i>Pensioner Housing occupancy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99% of the units are occupied. Six units were completed and refurbished for 2024/25. 48 applications are on the waiting list (45 single bedroom and 3 double bedroom).
<i>Procurement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New contracts for Pensioner Housing Tenancy Management and Pensioner Housing Grounds Maintenance have been awarded, and services will continue with no delays.
<i>Asbestos testing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos testing continues to be rolled out for Community buildings, halls, and residential housing. Interior testing for pensioner housing units will be undertaken as units become available, prior to refurbishment.
<i>Building condition assessments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building condition assessments are scheduled for all Community buildings to assess the internal and exterior condition and structure of the buildings. This will identify any areas of risk and maintenance requirements over a 10-year life cycle. This will also support the forward planning and budgeting for the Long-Term Plan.

Pensioner Housing Review – Stage 3

The report on future delivery options for pensioner housing is almost complete. A workshop to discuss the findings of the report will be held with elected members.

Community buildings and halls

Leases for The Men's Shed, Ngunguru Hall, Old Library, Old BNZ Building and Civic Arcade are in the process to be reviewed for renewals.

Old Municipal Building Tenancy

Community Hub tenants (Multicultural Whangārei, Volunteering Northland, WINGS, Literacy Whangārei, Multiple Sclerosis Society and Dyslexia Plus) have been confirmed as the ground floor tenants.

Community Safety

Trends for July

CitySafe Trends Reporting

Trend Key:

Trend Key	
Significant increase over previous month's reporting	↑
Slight increase over previous month's reporting	↗
Similar to the previous month's reporting	→
Slight decrease under previous month's reporting	↘
Significant decrease under previous month's reporting	↓

- *CitySafe Monthly Totals*

10% decrease in overall reporting for the month	↘
6% decrease in anti-social behaviour reporting	↘
29% decrease in bylaw reporting	↘
12% decrease in other reporting	↘
July provisional overall reporting is slightly down on the reporting month	↘

- *CitySafe – Day Anti-Social Behaviour*

No change in reported daytime anti-social behaviours that comprise 49.5% of total reported anti-social behaviours	→
Public urination and vomit	↑
Breach of liquor ban and drugs	↗
Assault and damage	→
Disorder and drunks	↘
Dishonesty (no reported fighting or gangs)	↓
July provisional daytime antisocial behaviour reporting shows a slight increase for the month to date, but is seeing significant increases in assault, dishonesty, fighting, gangs and public urination.	↗

- *CitySafe – Night ASB*

10% decrease in nighttime antisocial behaviour that comprises 50.5% of total reported ASB	↘
Dishonesty, disorder, drunks, gangs and vomit	↑
	↗
	→
Breach of liquor ban, damage, drugs and public urination	↘
Fighting	↓
CitySafe nighttime General Vibe: 65 - average 7.2 per night (5 is good - 15 is bad)	↗
CitySafe nighttime Bottle Count: 247 - average 27 per night	→
July provisional nighttime antisocial behaviour reporting shows a significant decrease for the month to date, with significant decreases in all reported behaviours apart from fighting and public urination, and an improvement in the vibe (54 - 6.7 average) and with a decrease in the number of liquor vessels being picked up (175 - 22 per night)	↘

- *CitySafe Bylaw and Other Reporting*

14% decrease in general bylaw and other reporting this month	↘
Bylaw Reporting: 29% decrease in total bylaw reporting with a 7.5 fold increase in dog incident reporting	↘
Other Reporting: 12% decrease in other reporting, with a significant increase in truancy reporting	↘
CitySafe Maintenance Requests: 34 - predominantly for graffiti and rubbish, being 5% of the total CitySafe reporting	↗
July provisional bylaw and other reporting is slightly down and maintenance requests are significantly down at 17, being 2.7% of the total CitySafe reporting.	↘

Overview

<i>Societal Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nighttime antisocial behaviours for June for breach of the liquor ban, disorder and public urination, predominantly in the vicinity of the Laurie Hall Carpark and this trend has continued into July. • Daytime antisocial behaviours continue to be drugs, breach of the liquor ban and disorder, which continues to be exacerbated by people likely to be experiencing homelessness, mental health and addictions, as well as, some youth, and truancy. • Homelessness in the inner city has seen a 39% decrease in total reported activities to 109, of which 46 were coded as Homeless, and
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	<p>34 were antisocial behaviours associated with homelessness. July, to date, has seen a 61% increase to 176 reported activities, of which 75 were coded Homeless and 41 were antisocial behaviours. There are still people living in tents and vehicles, as well as rough sleeping behind buildings, under bridges, in carparks, parks and reserves, including occupying the unused Old Boys Rugby Clubrooms at Okara Park. Social agencies continue to be critical in supporting the homeless and permanent vehicle dweller residents about the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires have been lit on several occasions in the inner city, with Fire and Emergency attending four separate fires around the Water Street Carpark area, with the first occurring in June when a major fire occurred at the homeless encampment under the Water Street Carpark resulting in the destruction of personal belongings and the loss of 8 carparks above due to safety concerns about the structural integrity of the carpark. Three fires were lit in July, with two occurring under the Walton Street Bridge destroying two tents and personal property, and the most recent fire being a scrub fire lit on the railway embankment. A separate controlled burn was also reported to Council at the unused Old Boys Rugby Clubrooms at Okara Park by the homeless residents occupying the clubrooms who had been pruning trees at this location. • Youth reporting has seen an 19% decrease in total reported activities to 166 for the month, of which 37 were coded youth, 84 for truancy and 12 antisocial behaviours were associated with youths. July, to date, has seen a slight decrease for 149 reported activities, of which, 33 were coded youth, 53 for truancy, but a substantial increase to 25 reported antisocial behaviours for assault, breach of the liquor ban, drugs, drunkenness and fighting. Youths riding unregistered dirt bikes without helmets continue to cause safety concerns in the community, particularly those being ridden at speed and in a reckless manner on roads, parks and shared pathways, with our CitySafe staff assisting Police with these reports and providing CCTV footage.
<i>CCTV Network</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3-year Proceeds of Crime funded Community CCTV project has finished in June and a final report is being prepared for Police on the installation of the Whangarei, Kamo and Hikurangi funded programmed works. • ICT and Business Support have prioritised upgrading the network infrastructure, along with the Rose Street Bus Terminus construction, which have taken priority over the Northland Events Centre camera installation in Okara Drive, and this project has been deferred to August.
<i>Graffiti</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During June 100 tags over 35 jobs were reported in the Stop Tags database. July, to date, has seen a reduction to 55 tags removed over 21 jobs. The predominant areas for graffiti removal being the Inner City and Raumanga.

4.7 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Nothing to report.

4.8 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to report.

4.9 Legislation changes or updates

Nothing to report.

4.10 Future Planning / What's coming next?

<i>Community Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Te Tai Tokerau Regional Accessibility Strategy implementation plan • Age Friendly Whangārei Plan analysis planned for August. • Community Impact Partnerships – triage and assessment.
<i>Community Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whangārei Communities Fund applications ongoing • Supporting management of other Council funds on SmartyGrants platform. • CCS applicant's hui
<i>Community Property</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the Asset Management Plan for the Community Property portfolio. • Condition reports for Community properties, halls and buildings. • Complete asbestos testing in Community buildings and halls.
<i>Community Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning CCTV to Business Support and ICT.
<i>Welcoming Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Plan public engagement workshops • Newcomers' guide update.

4.11 Capital Works

Major Projects –	Current Stage	Estimated Construction Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
Old Municipal Building (OMB)	Construction	July 2023	January 2025
<p>Summary: The project remains on budget.</p> <p>Lift Annex: Construction of the new lift annex is well underway. Structural steel, precast stairs, and roof trusses were installed in July. Installation of the lift, roof cladding, and windows is scheduled for August, with interior fit-out to follow in September.</p> <p>1910s Ground Floor: Internal finishing trims and painting are 90% complete. Installation of light fittings, door hardware, and carpet is planned for August.</p> <p>1910s First Floor: Interior work on Level 1 is currently on hold while WDC, ARCO, and the incoming tenant finalise the terms of agreement. This work lies on the critical path, and the expected duration is likely to extend project completion into January.</p> <p>Contractor: ARCO</p>			

5. Customer Services

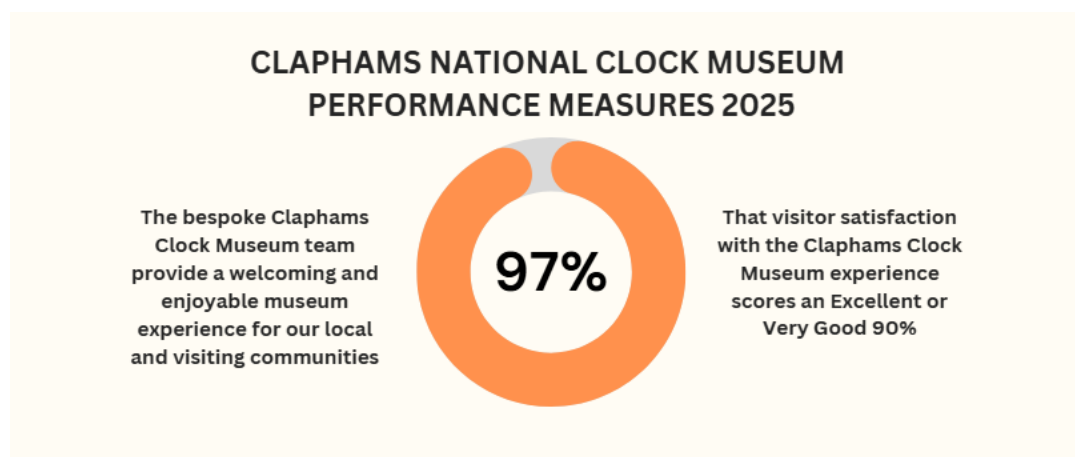
4.1 Health and Safety

- Four incidents reported for the isite 1 theft (retail), 3 break in (cafe), 2 aggressive customers one has been added to the Code Orange Register.

4.2 Current Priorities

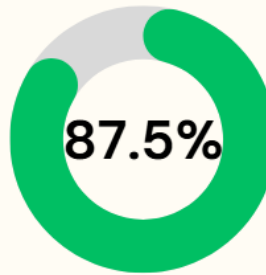
<i>Claphams National Clock Museum</i>	Coverage from the Customer Services Manager during the Team Leader's leave. Content and imagery for a saleable booklet (designed by WDC Graphics) and updates to black museum signage to correct any factual inaccuracies.
<i>Customer Services</i>	The installation of security glass at the Ruakaka Service Centre will be completed in mid-August. Once finalised the services of the on-site security guard will be discontinued, resulting in a significant cost saving.
<i>Contact Centre</i>	The month of July has been very busy for the Contact Centre with dog registration and the first instalment of rates going out to customers. Many customers have been using the website to update their dog details as people sometimes do not update their details with us during the year ie: dog passed away, desexed.
<i>Customer Requests</i>	The Requests team provided training to staff managing escalated mayoral and councillor requests, aiming to improve response quality and communication. The process is being monitored to ensure consistency.
<i>Coordinators & Site Support</i>	The frontline staff have been busy with dog owners eager to take advantage of the early bird registration period. There has also been an increase in the number of customers visiting Te Iwitahi to apply for their rates rebates for the new financial year.
<i>isite</i>	Team Lead attended ' <i>Behind the counter</i> ' shoplifting seminar and the quarterly isite Upper North Island Regional Meeting: an opportunity for isite Managers to share and compare national statistics, isite NZ team also provided update on current projects.

4.3 Performance Measures and Compliance



ISITE PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2025

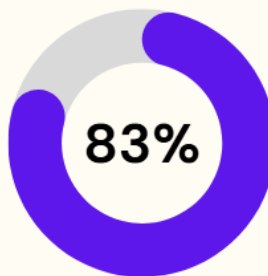
The isite team provide a welcoming and informative visitor information and booking service to our local and visiting communities



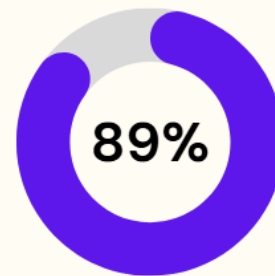
Visitor satisfaction with the service provided by Information Consultants at our Information Centre scores an Excellent or Very Good 90%

CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT CENTRE AND SERVICE CENTRE PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2025

The community has access to Council's activities through our Service Centres and Contact Centre, both which provides a 'first point of contact' service



Contact Centre calls answered in under 40 seconds >85%



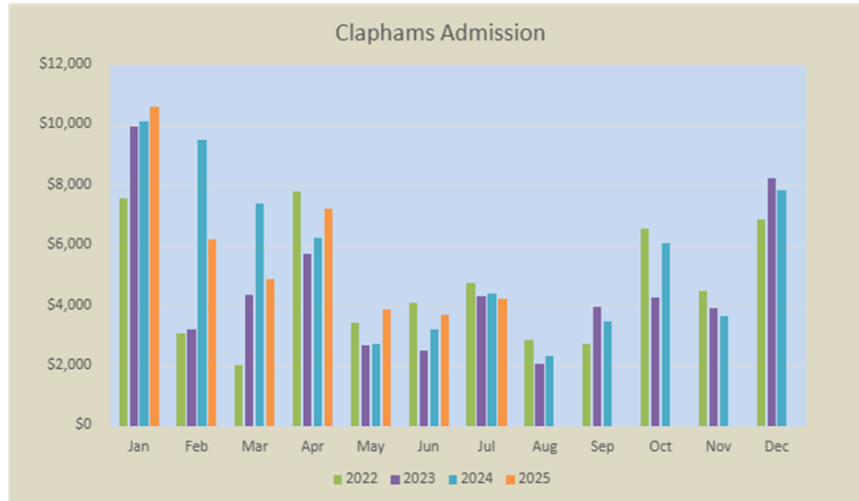
That the Service Centre teams action and close 'Request for Service' assigned to them within 3 working days > 80%

4.4 Current challenges/issues

<i>Claphams National Clock Museum</i>	Nothing to report.
<i>Customer Services</i>	Staff are experiencing negative feedback at work and in the community related to recent Council decisions, including rates increases and changes to dog registration fees. This can be hard on the team, as staff are continually required to listen to complaints about decisions made at a governance level.
<i>Contact Centre</i>	The increase in Requests for the month of July can be attributed to customers changing or updating their dog details for registration
<i>Customer Requests</i>	Any issues identified following the recent process change for mayoral requests have been worked through and the process updated. Ongoing support is available.
<i>Coordinators & Site Support</i>	Customers struggling financially due to the recent rise in rates and dog registrations have been asking for payment plans. Additionally, there has been a surge in requests to update dog ownership details, adding to the overall workload.
<i>isite</i>	<p>Increase in incidents (as per above) - H&S to attend quarterly team meeting in August.</p> <p>Visitor numbers affected by the weather. Retail sales are down slightly. Domestic market are not spending, instead looking for free activities.</p>

4.5 Overview of Operational Activities for July

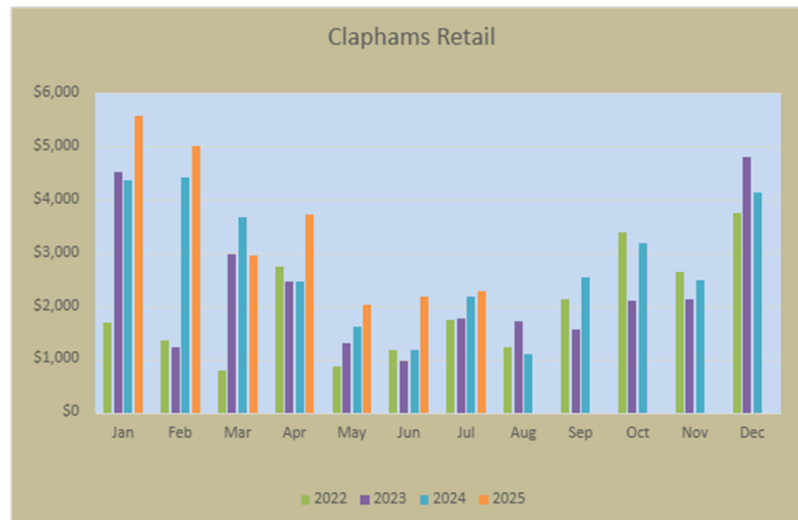
Claphams National Clock Museum



Visitor numbers (door count) – 2,639 (down 10.7% on July 2024)

Paid admission numbers – 602 (down 7% on July 2024)

Admission revenue - \$4,232 (down 3.7% on July 2024)

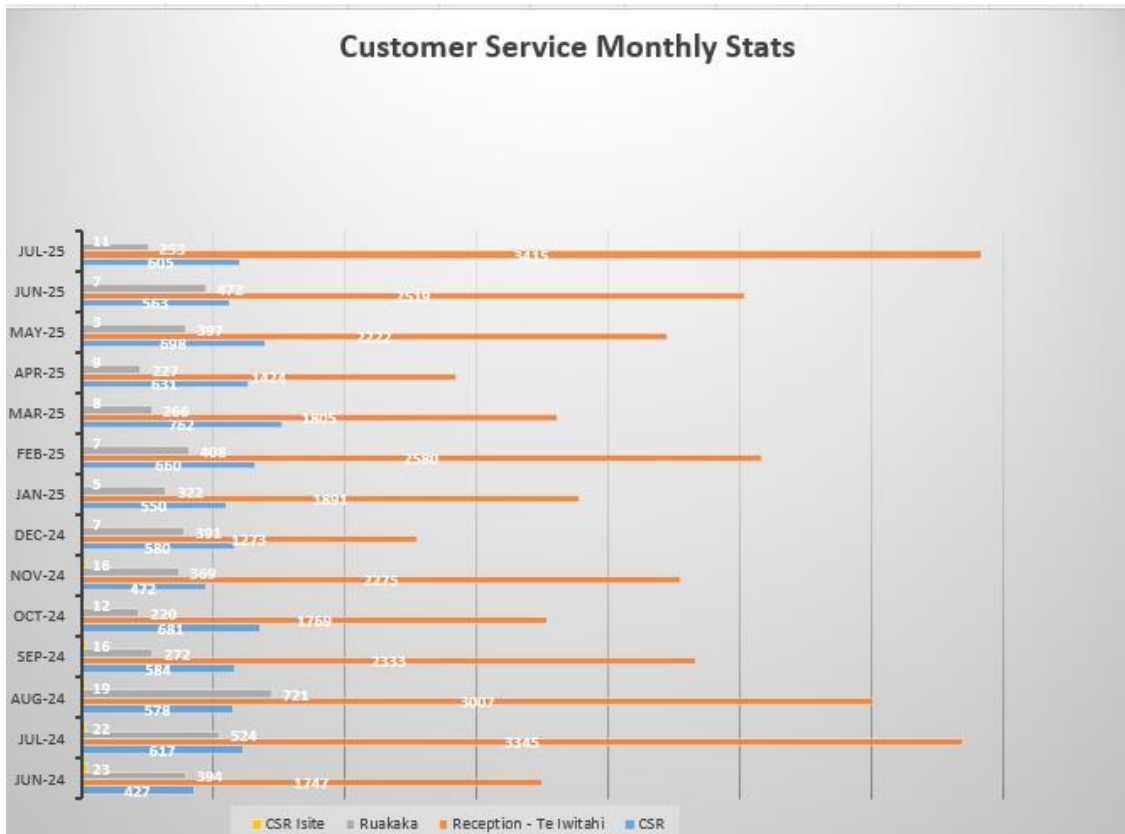


Net retail revenue - \$2,291 (up 5.5% on July 2024)

Total revenue for July 2025 - \$6,523 (down 0.6% on July 2024)

Customer Services – Te Iwitihi Civic Centre and Ruakākā

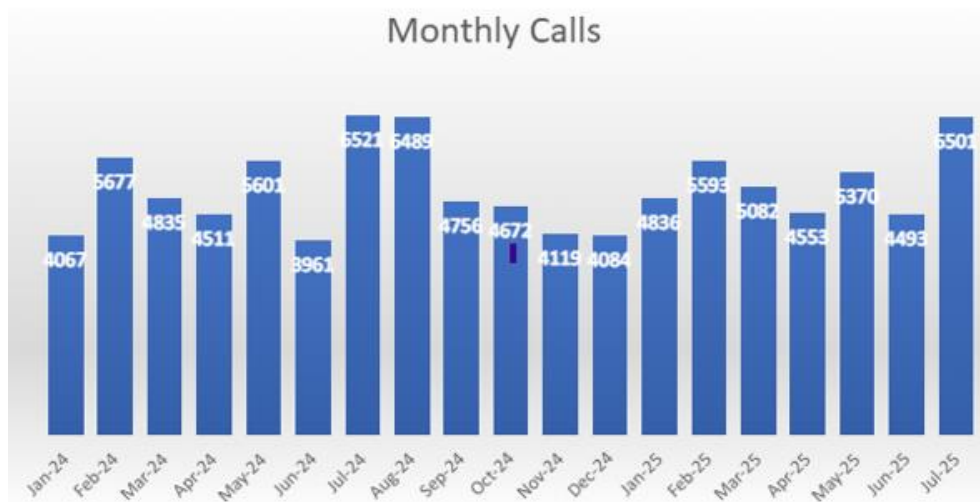
The following graph shows the activity for Customer Services Representatives and Coordinators.



Key

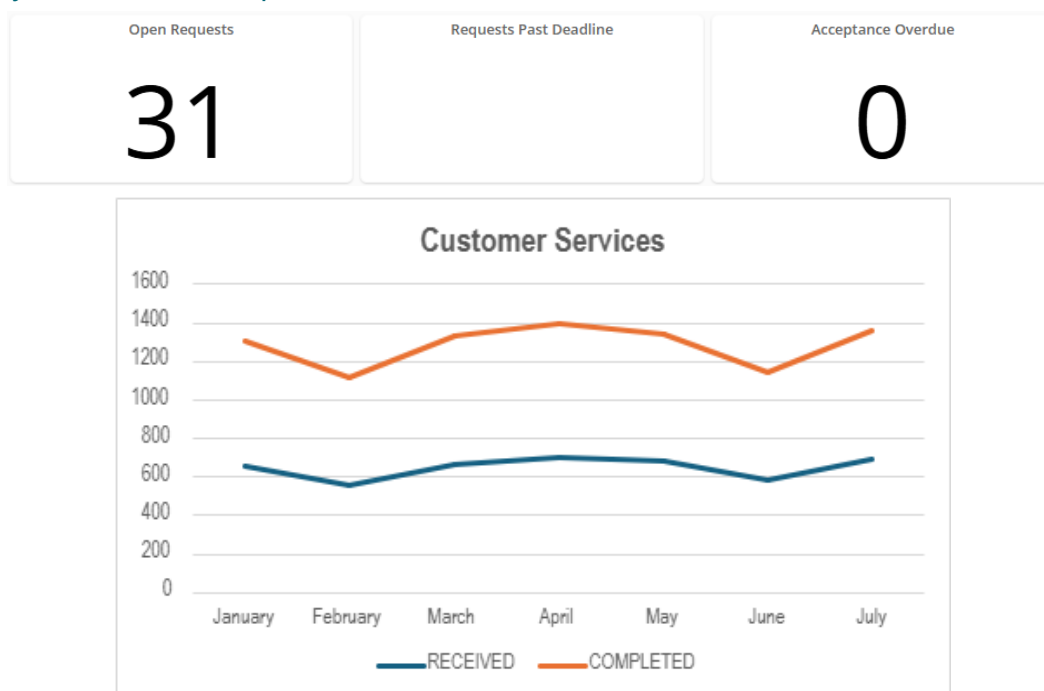
	Number of applications received at the front counter – includes Over 70 parking, LIM requests and any other over-counter applications
	Number of applications handled by Customer Services at Te Iwitihi – includes vehicle crossings and public utility applications
	Number of applications handled by Ruakaka Service Centre
	Number of applications handled at iSite

Contact Centre





Request system dashboard update for Customer Service



Request Categories	Number of Requests
Household recycling bins request (internal only)	343
Request a property search	185
Building consent, vehicle crossing, public utilities & other enquiries	49
General enquiries	43
Parking permits enquiries	11
Duty Building Officer enquiries	8

Compliments for Customer Services – star rating

CS2512385 – 5-star rating – good team here at Ruakaka branch - always quick to respond

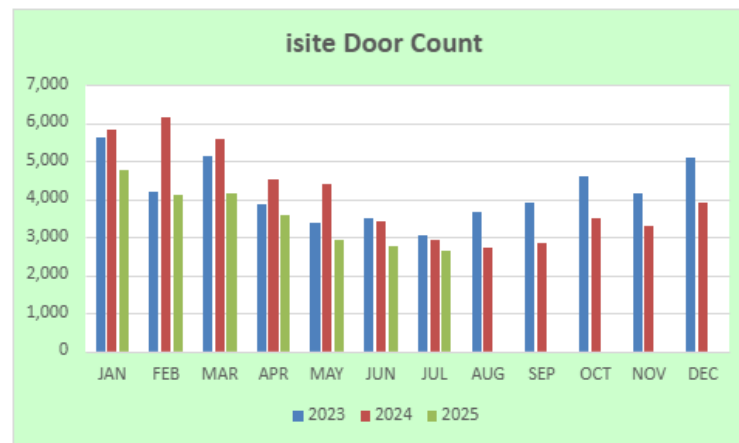
CS2512058 – 5-star rating - Very prompt response to my query and information received very quickly. Thanks so much.

CS2512040 – 5-star rating - Great and fast reply with details requested, thank you

Customer Requests

- Animal Control received support from the Requests team and Customer Services to help clear the backlog and ensure records are updated promptly.
- Currently, requests submitted via the Council website automatically create a new name record in TechOne. If a duplicate is identified, the Requests team are merging it with any existing records to maintain a single, accurate, historical entry per person.

isite



Visitor numbers were 2626 down 11% on July 2024



Booking revenue was \$430 down 7% on July 2024



Retail revenue was \$2,294 down 8% on July 2024

isite facilities used in July 2025 (as recorded by NDS static guard 9 am – 4.30 pm daily)

Toilets	7,684
Showers	207

4.6 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Nothing to report.

4.7 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to report.

4.8 Legislation changes or updates

Nothing to report.

4.9 Future Planning / What's coming next?

Claphams National Clock Museum	Team Lead on annual leave August to mid-September 2025.
<i>Customer Services</i>	Collaborate with ICT, Finance, and the Building team to address the issue where building consent fees did not align with the published fees and charges at the start of the financial year.
<i>Contact Centre</i>	More training to be done with the team to use DXP more efficiently.
<i>Customer Requests</i>	Continue to monitor communications within the Requests system to help strengthen engagement with the community and support a positive reputation for Council.
<i>Coordinators & Site Support</i>	Explore the installation of PayWave at the front counter, as more customers are expecting to use contactless payment options when making transactions.
<i>isite</i>	Quarterly Team Meeting (August) - guest speaker Mary Cook from H&S – discuss incident reporting in Assura isite Conference (September)

6. Libraries

6.1 Health and Safety

- Central Library will be closed to customers on **Saturday 23 August 2025** due to works required to renew flooring.

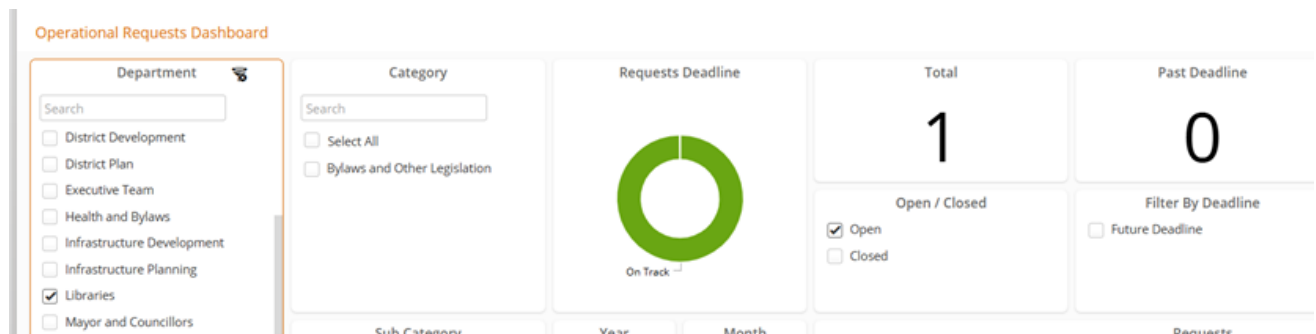
6.2 Current Priorities

- Children's Room air conditioning
- Security upgrade
- Central Library Flooring upgrade

6.3 Performance measures and compliance

	Measure	Target	Result	Outcome
9.1.1	Number of items in the collections per capita	≥ 1.4	2.21	Achieved
9.1.2	Number of libraries visits per capita per year	≥ 3.5	3.84	Achieved
9.1.3	Number of loans per capita per year.	≥ 5	7.83	Achieved

6.4 Request System dashboard update



6.5 Current challenges/issues

- Roof repairs (leaks in the library roof)
- Homeless dweller in Tikipunga Library car park

6.6 Overview of Operational Activities for July

Heritage Talk: Lonehander: A Whaler's Memories



Image above: a group of whalers in a small whaling boat, rowing away from the sharp-toothed jaw of a sperm whale in 1898, similar to an experience described by George Howe Cook where the whaleboat's bow was between the jaws of a whale that has risen up from below. Alexander Turnbull Library Ref: MNZ-0004-1/4-F.

Lindsay Alexander presented an account of the daring world of George Howe Cook - a fearless Northland whaler who hunted giants of the sea with hand-held weapons from small open boats. This fascinating talk provided insight into a nearly forgotten chapter of New Zealand's maritime heritage.

Attendance at Sandbox Fandom Festival



Library staff took the Mobile Library and attended the Sandbox Fandom Festival at Forum North. They provided interactive activities and promoted library services, graphic and fantasy novels and teen books.

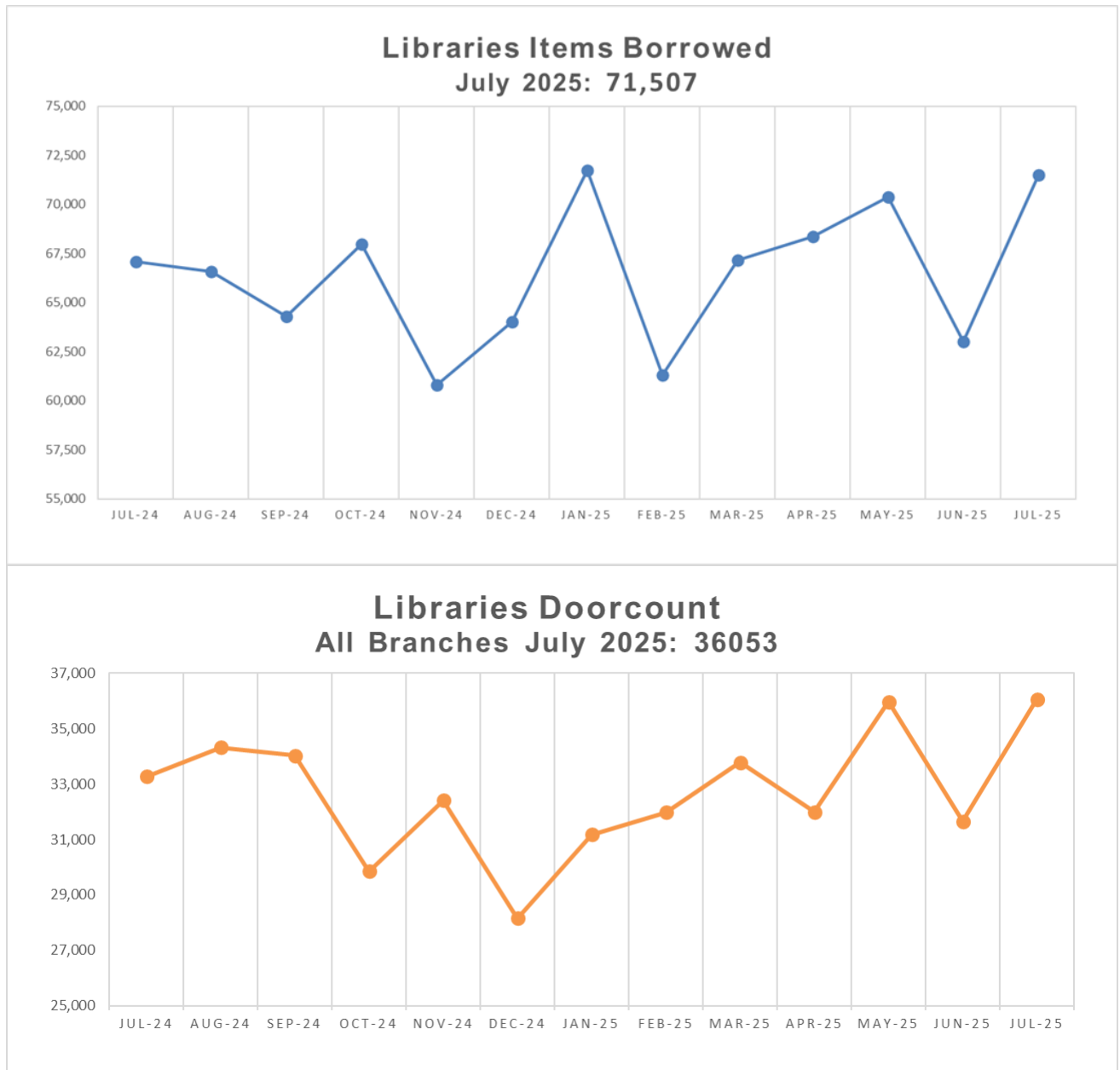
School Holiday Programmes



School holiday programmes for children and teens were held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the July holidays. Sessions were very successful with more than 600 attendees. Sessions were themed around music, stories and craft-making. Each session in the Children's area

featured an interactive performance or demonstration from a local musician or musical group which was greatly enjoyed.

Statistics



6.7 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Nothing to report.

6.8 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to report.

6.9 Legislation changes or updates

Nothing to report.

6.10 Future Planning / What's coming next?

- Digi-coach Programme – a joint programme with *Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa* to provide tech support to customers
- Recruitment for vacant position: Technical Services Team Leader

7. Venues and Events

7.1 Health and Safety

There were no health and safety issues to report in July.

7.2 Current priorities

The Venues and Events department is currently focused on the detailed planning and delivery of the 2025/2026 Events and Festivals calendar. With a diverse and exciting line-up ahead including:

- Rugby League
- Rugby, Hockey, Netball, the Maunu World Championships
- Music festivals, and more,

The year is shaping up to be another highly successful one for the Whangārei district. In parallel, staff are developing the Major Events Plan for 2025/2026, aligned with Year 2 of the Long-Term Plan (LTP), with a strong emphasis on:

- Strategic event development
- Fostering regional partnerships
- Ensuring alignment with community aspirations and infrastructure capacity.

Staff are also in the process of closing out the 2024/2025 Major and Community Events Plan, which has been marked by strong collaboration between venues, community organisations, and event organisers across the district, alongside the successful delivery of the Māori All Blacks vs Scotland match.

Our bi-monthly Events and Venues Round Table meetings continue to be a key platform for interdepartmental and community engagement, strengthening relationships, improving coordination, and supporting safety across Council-supported events. Key projects include:

- Completion of the Events Strategy 2025–2030, ready for Council adoption in August;
- Ongoing support for the Northland Events Centre stadium roof replacement;
- Completed flooring upgrades for Forum North;
- Refit of Cameron Street canopy lighting to align with the canopy bridge;
- Phase 3 of the Forum North Garden area project, which includes lighting and CCTV to reduce homelessness.
- Scheduled review of an Event Development strategy in November 2025.

<i>Events Strategy</i>	Adoption and implementation of the 2025 –2030 Events Strategy
<i>Silver Festival</i>	Our district Festival celebrating our older adult community
<i>Christmas festival</i>	Christmas Trees, Parades, Santas grotto and more
<i>Multi-Cultural Arts Festival</i>	Development of a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural Arts Festival for Whangarei. 2-year project. Activation possibly 2027
<i>Major event activity plan and implementation</i>	Driving event activity plan for Māori All Blacks vs Scotland Game July 5, 2025, to assure good community engagement, legacy activation, business ignition and city-wide engagement.
<i>Events Team</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film Permit Process – in development • 2025/26 calendar of events • Continued regulatory improvements for permitting events

<i>Forum North Venue Team</i>	Ongoing training including elevated work platforms (EWP) and harness training. Bookings are underway for 2026 with the venue booking up fast.
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7.3 Performance measures and compliance

How We Performed - Levels of service

9.5 Our venues and events will deliver the outcomes of the Experience Local: Whangārei Events Strategy and will provide for customer satisfaction.			
9.5.1 Percentage of Council delivered events that include two or more of the local experience categories (as per the strategy).			
2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	2023-24 Result	2022-23 Result
100%	100%	100%	100%
2024-25 Achieved			
9.5.2 Regulatory support for events across our District. Requests submitted via our operational request dashboard to be successful completed in a timely manner. Measured monthly by the operational request dashboard: Reported in the community operational report.			
2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	2023-24 Result	2022-23 Result
≥ 80%	85.3%	New measure	New measure
2024-25 Achieved			
9.5.3 Attracting, growing, and sustaining loyal audiences to events and satisfaction with the venues. Measured via the Audience Participation Survey – result is the average across all sampled events through the year.			
2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	2023-24 Result	2022-23 Result
≥ 60%	77%	New measure	New measure
2024-25 Achieved			

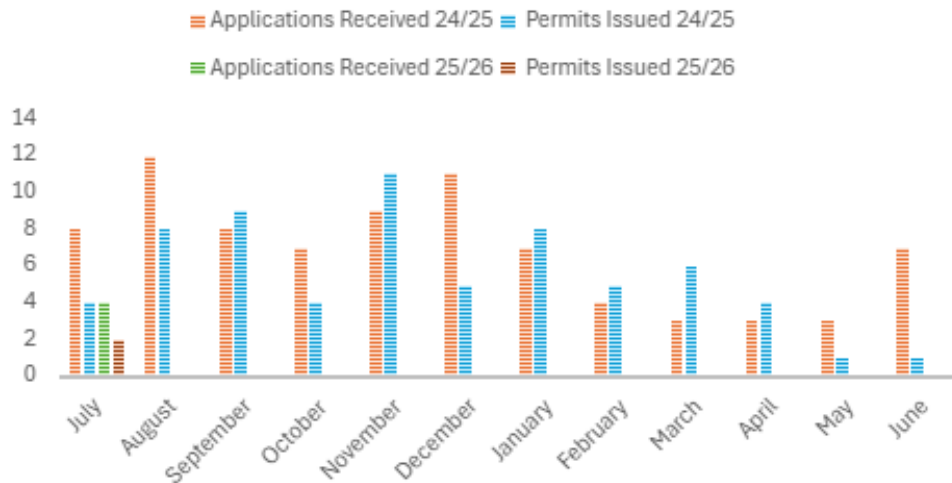
Monthly Measurement – Regulatory support for events across our district.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES



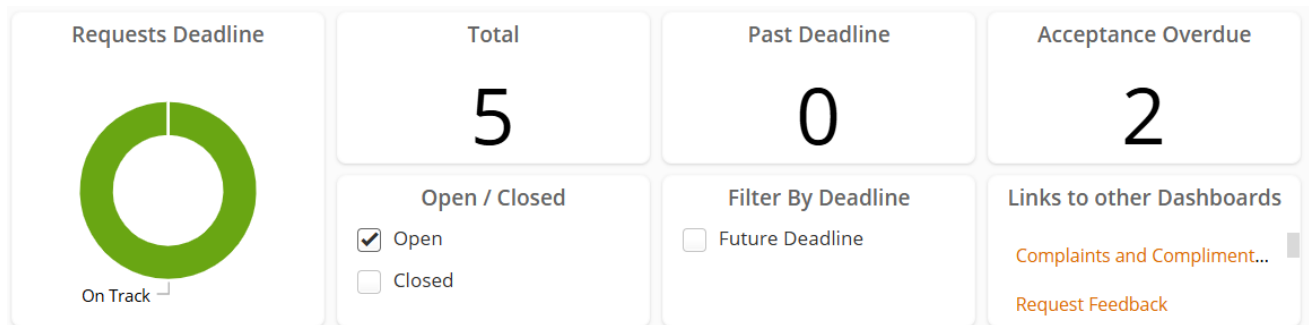
Temporary Road Closure's currently being processed: 4

EVENTS ON COUNCIL LAND



Events on Council Land Permits currently being processed: 11

7.4 Request System dashboard update



July 2025

7.5 Current challenges/issues

Whangārei's growing profile as a premier destination for major events is a testament to the city's distinctive appeal, the dedication of Council's events team, the support of the Northland Events Centre as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), and sustained investment in the events sector. However, this success is driving a substantial increase in demand across all aspects of event delivery.

There has been a marked rise in event-related activity, including venue bookings, sponsorship applications, and regulatory support requests. In particular, the number of event organisers seeking assistance with compliance, traffic management, health and safety, and iwi engagement has grown significantly, placing considerable strain on current resources. The team is navigating high workloads, the need for ruthless prioritisation, and the challenge of balancing competing demands while continuing to deliver high-quality outcomes. These pressures will be a key consideration in planning for the upcoming financial year, as we work to ensure sustainable delivery and continued success in positioning Whangārei as a leading events destination.

7.6 Operational Activities for July

Over the month of July 2025 Forum North hosted

- **5 Commercial Event over 6 days**
- **11 Community Events over 14 days**

Forum North July Summary:

Eventfinda Ticketing Sales July 2025:

Total tickets sold 2,107

Gross Revenue \$82,892

Net Revenue \$72,784

Marketing

In addition to specific event marketing, including a new July/August What's On brochure, new initiatives include:

- e-newsletters and page ads of Forum North events sent out to over 8,000 Eventfinda subscribers;
- Restructure of Forum North marketing package options for better Return on Investment to Forum North;
- New Forum North posters to be displayed at venue, and new Forum North advertising on Locky Docks.



Forum North Positive Feedback:

Magic Men Australia:

"A big Thank You for having Magic Men on a Sunday great show, well received. Thank you for making the event run so smoothly and let your staff know job well done, great hospitality."

Base Entertainment:

"Thank you to the entire team for a wonderful day yesterday. It was a great show!"

Events/Festivals

<i>Supported Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double Header - Māori all Blacks vs Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 powhiri ○ MAB and Black Ferns Town Basin signing event ○ Game Day
<i>Puanga Matariki Event Wrap up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hui – debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 17 July 12-1pm Manaia Room <p>Event Feedback forms have gone out to all registered events.</p>

Maori All Blacks vs Scotland Double Header



On Saturday, 5 July 2025, Whangārei hosted a thrilling rugby double-header at Semenoff Stadium, drawing a crowd of over 10,000 people from across New Zealand and abroad. The event began with a Black Ferns vs Black Ferns XV trial match showcasing emerging talent and fierce competition. Followed by the highly anticipated clash between the Māori All Blacks and Scotland, marking 25 years since their last encounter.

The match celebrated not only elite rugby but also a rich cultural exchange, with local iwi, Whangarei District Council and Northland Rugby playing a key role in welcoming the teams and fans. The atmosphere was electric, reflecting Whangārei's growing reputation as a host for major national sporting events.

Local Goodie in a Hoodie Campaign

Launched: Wednesday 25 June

Partners: Venues and Events + District Development

Platform: MoreFM Whangārei

Launch Highlights

Live Show Surprise: Flash, Toast, and Pip teamed up with District Development to surprise nominated Local Goodies live on air.

Community Engagement: Text nominations flooded in throughout the morning, showcasing a wide range of everyday heroes.

Social Media Reach: Follow-up video posted on MoreFM's social channels received **8,500 views**, encouraging further nominations.

Campaign Details

Duration: 1 year

Recognition Frequency: Monthly Local Goodie celebrations

Purpose: To honour individuals who embody *manaakitanga* and *whanaungatanga* — generosity, care, and connection.

Strategic Alignment

Levels of service: Supports growing:

- a. Local Confidence and Local Connection
 - i. Grow local confidence and pride of place
 - ii. Enhance Whangārei's place-identity and destination profile

- iii. Contribute to an authentic and distinctive point of difference - Our Unique Whangārei story
- iv. Promote and celebrate community cohesion, local diversity, and inclusion for all

This month's winners:

Denis Pothan

- **Location:** Kiripaka Road near Otuihau Whangārei Falls
- **Contribution:** For the past 2 years, Denis (age 86) has walked daily at 6:30am to the Falls carpark to inspect and remove graffiti, using his own materials and funds.
- **Impact:** Quietly maintaining the beauty and mana of a beloved public space, showing dedication and pride in his community.

Verena Pschorn

- **Contribution:** Volunteering tirelessly across youth-focused initiatives including:
 - Questionable Lab Research
 - SandBox
 - The Night Library
 - Welcoming Communities
- **Impact:** Creating inclusive, engaging spaces for youth in Whangārei, with visible positive outcomes in community connection and youth empowerment.

7.7 Future Planning / What is coming next?

<i>Forum North Venue Upcoming Events</i>	<p>In August there are 17 events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Commercial and 13 Community events • 17 days of events in the Theatre • 12 days of events in the Conferencing Area
<i>Events team Upcoming Events/Festivals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Honours 2025 (5 September) • Te Wiki o Manaaki 2025 (5-14 September) • Silver Festival (1-14 October) • International Rally of Whangarei (6-9 November) • Christmas Festival 

7.8 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Nothing to report

7.9 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to report

7.10 Legislation changes or updates

Nothing to report.

7.11 Capital Works

Major Projects – Venue & Events	Current Stage	Estimated Construction Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
Stadium Roof	Design	November 2026	June 2027
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Project Status: Detailed Design</p> <p>The project remains in the detailed design phase, with the 50% design release scheduled for 8 August.</p> <p>The third Working Group meeting was held on 28 July, where the Project Team and Steering Group discussed prioritising scope items by order of importance. This approach is intended to de-risk the tender phase and help ensure the project can be delivered within either the current LTP budget or the reduced budget cap. The Chair of NECT2021 was also present at the meeting to discuss the priorities of the trust board in the discussions as part of the inclusive approach to this project.</p> <p>Programme:</p> <p>The programme has not slipped since the last update (0 working days delay).</p> <p>Key milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% Detailed Design Release: 8 August 2025 • Procurement Plan Sign-Off: September 2025 Council Meeting • Detailed Design Completion: September 2025 • Tender Period: November–December 2025 • On-site Construction Start: 9 November 2026 <p>Designer: BECA and Matakahe Architecture</p> <p>Contractor: TBA</p>			

8. Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM)

8.1 Health & Safety

Nothing to report

8.2 Current Priorities

<i>Tsunami Resources</i>	Tsunami Siren Replacement Project is ongoing with 43 constructed / installed (98%) for WDC District (45 total). Waipu and Parua Bay to be installed. Work is well underway for installing for the remaining districts which is total at 95.7%. Tsunami signage will be updated with the blue zone.
<i>Community</i>	Community and Organisational engagement, with specific attention to meeting Iwi Māori and isolated communities to continue developing strong relationships. – Once second EMS is familiar with their new role.
<i>Service Level Agreement</i>	The SLA for 2025/26 is now signed by the Chief Executive
<i>Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MACC)</i>	The Variation to the Heads of Agreement between the four Northland Councils is currently being signed off by each Councils Chief Executive. Then the Development Agreement between Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and the Northland Regional Council (NRC) can be completed. The preliminary design for the building has been completed by the design team, made up representatives from council, NRC, FENZ and a Quantity Surveyor. The next stage is the procurement for the detailed design and costs.
<i>Section 17a review of Shared Services</i>	Simplexity have been contracted to undertake a LGA Section 17a review of the CDEM shared services in the region. A selection of CDEM Stakeholders will be interviewed at the end of August, where a report and recommendations will be provided regarding the current arrangements as aligned with the national Disaster Resilience Strategy (DRS).

8.3 Performance measures and compliance

Assessment of the Northland CDEM Group Plan 2021-2026 will be undertaken by the Northland CDEM Group office staff at intervals.

8.4 Request System dashboard update

Nil Requests

8.5 Current Issues and Challenges

Recruitment of a local recovery manager

8.6 Overview of Operational Activities for July

Staff Updates

New Whangarei District Emergency Management Specialist (EMS) has been appointed and started on 11th August. Their focus is the Whangarei Communities and Marae, as well as supporting in the Council space.

A new role of CDEM Partnerships Manager has been appointed and started in the role. Their focus is strategic and ongoing partnerships with all Councils and Relationship Managers and stakeholders.

Service Level Agreement

The annual service level agreement has been completed for CDEM Shared Services between the council and the Northland Regional Council.

Responses

- There have been **no** WDC EOC activations for July.
- **Heavy rain and thunderstorms** have created some weather Watches and Warnings of which the council CDEM Duty Officer and Local Controller, alongside council infrastructure asset managers monitored and reported on impacts to services. There were no major issues during this time and all incidents were managed in usual processes
- There was a **Tsunami Threat** warning issued on 30th July for all coastal New Zealand from an 8.8M earthquake near Russia. No reported impacts to the Northland coast, including Tutukaka Marina. The Tutukaka Marina management team took all response actions required to evacuate the live aboards from the marina for the duration of the warning, which included two nights. Local community support saw all those evacuated cared for where required without council CDEM support being required. A great example of community resilience.
- The WDC EOC Welfare team were activated for preparations but were not needed during the tsunami event, with support provided to one member of the public during the severe weather event.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC):

- Monthly Training has continues for the EOC Function Leads.
- CIMS and Function training occurred for some WDC staff in July.

Community engagement activities include:

Community engagement activities for the month of July have slowed in this area due to the EMS Community vacancy but has covered some contact and communications with each Community Response Group (CRG) to support their activity and work continues on developing Preparedness Plans for numerous Marae. All community coastal community response groups were contacted during the Tsunami warning event.

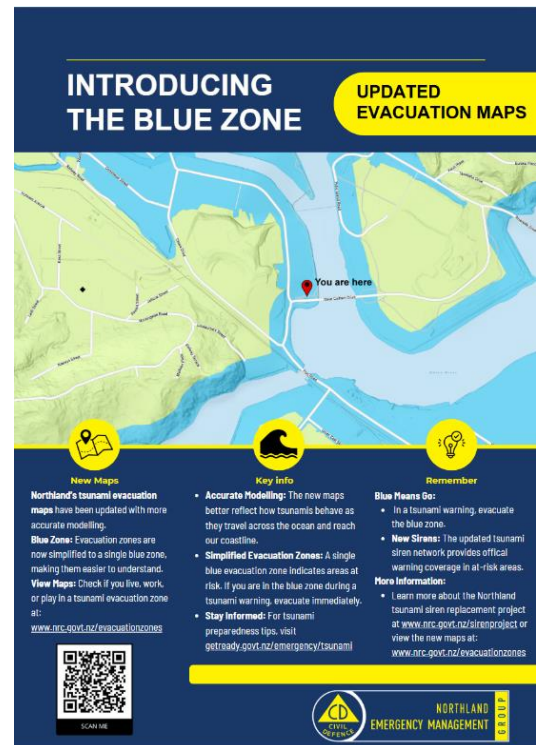
We are working through providing a **First Aid course** to Community Response Groups. This will be for 10 groups for up to 12 people per course. These started in July and will continue to late August.

Tsunami Evacuation Modelling Project

The updated tsunami modelling is complete and new GIS models have been completed using both the three-zone and **blue-zone mapping**. With the release of a new Directors Guideline in 2025 all regions are directed to change to blue-zone mapping, which Northland has done as part of this project.

The new evacuation models show significant reductions in the zoning for some areas. This change will take some in depth community engagement, as will the change to using blue zones.

Work is underway to replace the tsunami information boards throughout Northland with new maps because of the evacuation modelling project. This should be complete by end of September. There are 64 signs to replace in the Whangarei District.



8.7 Risk to the Tiriti Relationship

Nothing to report.

8.8 Delegated Financial Authority Policy

Nothing to report.

8.9 Legislation changes or updates

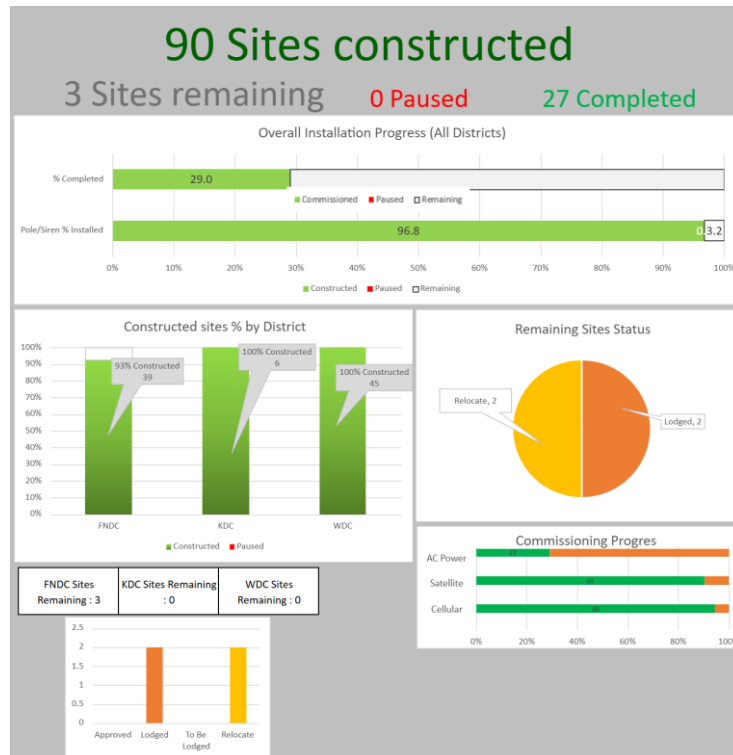
New work is underway on the Emergency Management Bill, a review of the CDEM Act 2002, which had been put on hold by the new Government. The Northland CEG/Coordinating Group are providing a combined submission on the Bill from a Northland perspective. This has been submitted in June.

8.10 Future Planning / What's coming next?

<i>Shared Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 17a Review of CDEM services in Northland – starting end of August 2025
<i>Community Engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marae Preparedness Plan and Māori Engagement within Whangarei District Council Flood Resilient Māori Communities and Maraе Project
<i>Tsunami Sirens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tsunami Siren Replacement project nearing completion Tsunami Board with new Evacuation boards
<i>Upcoming Training Courses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIMS4 8-9 September Planning Function 10 September Welfare Function 11 September Logistics Function 12 September CIMS4 3-4 November Intelligence Function 5 November Welfare Function 7 November EOC Training Exercise 7 November Controllers Course TBA Regional EOC Exercise 19 November.
<i>Multi-agency Coordination Centre (MACC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with partners on the next steps

8.11 New Tsunami Siren Project Overview – Northland Region (WDC / KDC / FNDC):

- Two WDC sirens need relocating - Parua Bay and Whananaki South.
- 24 still AC power to be connected (note – they currently have solar battery capability, so can be utilised in an event).



RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**Move/Second**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
1.1 Update on 469 State Highway 14	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 198	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, are as follows:

Item	Grounds	Section
1.1	To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or it the subject of the information. To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(b)(ii) S7(2)(i)

Resolution to allow members of the public to remain

If the committee wishes members of the public to remain during discussion of confidential items the following additional recommendation will need to be passed:

Move/Second

"That _____ be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of his/her/their knowledge of Item _____.

This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because _____.