

2024 Sport Waikato Annual Report

**Mahia te mahi hei
painga moo te iwi**

*We strive every day to 'do the work
for the betterment of the people'*

-Te Puea Herangi



**SPORT
WAIKATO**

Hei painga moo te iwi

Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards - February 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Phil Taylor
Board of Trustees Chair

On behalf of the Sport Waikato Chairman Phil Taylor, Board of Directors and Staff in our 38th year, it's a privilege to present the 2024 Annual report.

Sport Waikato's focus and drive continues to be aligned to Moving Waikato - the region's 2020 – 2030 strategy for play, active recreation and sport, and by default Sport Waikato's strategic plan as well. Timely as we near the halfway point in the decade and this cycle to reflect on progress, on impact, on relevance.

The three foundation pillars remain core to our strategy and our why:

Our People → Grow participation in Play, Active Recreation and Sport.

Building Communities → Grow and develop the capacity and capability of our targeted partners.

Regional Leadership → Influence those who make things happen by building solid relationships and solid evidence.

Equally our now embedded 'way of working' linked to the three pillars is complementary and aligned as expressed below:

- Sport Waikato's purpose is to increase the physical activity levels of people in the Waikato region through play, active recreation and sport.
- Sport Waikato achieves this by providing high value strategic regional leadership in play, active recreation and sport.
- What this looks like is a Regional Sports Trust that operates a strategic,



Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive

75%

“ As we exit Horizon 2 of the Moving Waikato strategy, we have had a clear focus and intent to improve the quality of experience for our tamariki, rangatahi and those who have had less opportunities to be active. ”

collaborative (partnered), regional approach that influences the play, active recreation and sport system with quality people backed by quality evidence – Sport Waikato not necessarily doing the delivery but influencing those who do.

As we exit Horizon 2 of the Moving Waikato strategy, there has been a clear focus and intent to improve the quality of experience for our tamariki, rangatahi and those who have had less opportunities to be active.

In the first quarter of 2025, we will be reviewing Moving Waikato, reflecting on the successes of Horizon 2 while at the same time acknowledging the areas of focus that still require work. Out of this review we will develop the roadmap that is Horizon 3 of Moving Waikato that takes us to 2030, based on the learnings of the first two horizons alongside the emerging new societal trends.

The opportunity that clearly presents itself for Horizon 3 is innovation, digital and e-sports alongside traditional methods, particularly for our young people. We can't just think in context of the Waikato region any more, especially with our tamariki and rangatahi.

We must embrace global technology and innovative solutions linked to our core mandate to increase participation via movement, in order to keep pace and keep engaged with the next generation or we run the risk of becoming redundant.

The arrival of Leanne Bats is a strong signal of our intent to innovate, to think and embrace future.

Out of the Covid era it certainly has been a time of challenge in the play, active recreation and sport sector throughout 2024. The global economy has taken a significant dip in recent years and its impact locally in the Waikato region has not been spared. A new Government with its clear vision and focus to address the economic situation naturally must make hard decisions on what they see as the primary focus versus secondary focus.

What we must highlight with a consistent legitimate voice is not to forget the social return on investment (SROI) related to one's health and wellbeing when you play, when you recreate and when you participate in sport. Whilst SROI might not have the tangible benefits of bricks and mortar, it does tick the box on the intangible benefits on better health, better contribution, better impact and a better society.

To back this up, in October 2022 Sport NZ commissioned the Social Return on Investment (SROI) of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand study to better understand, demonstrate and communicate the contribution of recreational physical activity to the wellbeing of people living in New Zealand.

The study found that for every \$1 spent, there was a social return of \$2.12 to New Zealand, meaning that the value of the wellbeing outcomes for New Zealand is greater than the costs of providing these opportunities, making recreational physical activity a potentially cost-effective investment.

I think in 2024, this is now a conservative figure and one where Sport Waikato will continue to advocate strongly for the sport and recreation sector with those decision makers defaulting to perceived 'core focus' against perceived 'nice to have'.

What is pleasing as you read this year's annual report is the quality engagement, performance and impact occurring throughout the various work streams from the Sport Waikato staff. I acknowledge and thank you all. The engagement deliberately cross functional, the engagement complimentary and always aligned to the gifted Waikato Tainui Tongikura – ***Mahia te mahi hei painga moo te iwi*** / *We do the work for the betterment of the community – Te Puea Herangi.*

Kua hinga te tootara i Te Waonui-a-Taane.

In late August and with sadness, the reign of Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII (1955 – 2024) came to an end with his sudden passing. We had the privilege and honour of Kiingi Tuheitia opening our building – Brian Perry Sports House on the 10th of October 2008. Personally, I also had the pleasure of meeting Kiingi Tuheitia on several occasions and always found Kiingi Tuheitia kind in heart and spirit with all people; passionate, driven and committed for his people.

E te rangatira, moe mai raa.

We acknowledge the new leader of the Kiingitanga movement, Kiingi Tuheitia's daughter Kuini (Queen) Ngaa Wai hono i te po Paki. We were honoured that Kiingi Tuheitia played a significant role in the appointment of Sport Waikato's new kaumatua, Sam Toka in June this year. Sam has already made a significant impression and impact with staff, and will provide his guidance and wisdom as we genuinely and authentically continue our focus to learn, understand and grow in Te Aao Maaori, Tiikanga and our commitment to Ti Tiriti o Waitangi to enhance our offer in the play, active recreation and sport space.

In September, sadly co-founder of Sport Waikato along with John Parker, Paul Fear passed away. Paul was a major reason why Sport Waikato exists today in our 38th year.

It was Paul's and original Chief Executive, John Parker's dream back in 1985 to start the first Regional Sports Trust. Paul loved sport and recreation and was passionate about the Waikato region.

He was a leader who did what was right for the Waikato region and not what was always politically correct or deemed the appropriate process.

So, while he may have left a few bruised along the way, he has certainly left legacy and importantly got things done. Sport Waikato is one of his legacies he was always very proud of, and we were proud of Paul.

GOVERNANCE

Phil Taylor – Sport Waikato Chair

The Sport Waikato Board continues to provide a solid platform to allow the executive and team to undertake our important mahi of getting people more active. We were delighted to strengthen our governance team even further with the onboarding of Regan Webb at the start of the year. As well as his excellent governance and financial skills, Regan brings a health sector perspective to the Board which is a crucial insight into the future direction of Sport Waikato.

Early this year the board undertook its bi-annual governance evaluation. It was noted that the Sport Waikato Board should be pleased with the progress they have made since the last governance evaluation (2022), especially the implementation of an outcomes-based strategy, ensuring that the board remains focused on strategic rather than operational issues.

Also critical to Sport Waikato was the appointment of our new Kaumatua, Sam Toka. It was a delight to be able to be at the Mihi Whakatau mo te Kaumatua to celebrate this important connection.

Finally, a personal highlight was joining the wider Sport Waikato team to participate in the Wall Walk presentation. Better understanding of the past improves our ability to positively influence our future.

Overall, my thanks to the executive for your outstanding mahi and results during my tenure on the Board.

And finally, my utmost appreciation and gratitude to my fellow trustees. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead such an outstanding group.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Matthew Cooper – Sport Waikato Chief Executive

In my capacity as Chief Executive I would like to pay a special tribute to our outgoing Chairman for the last three years and board member for eight years in Phil Taylor. A Chairman so passionate about the mahi that we are privileged to lead, advocate and influence across the Waikato region. A Chairman driven by impact and results; equally a chairman unafraid to be curious and challenge; but most importantly a chairman who cared deeply for the vision and the organisation.

We also acknowledge and pay special thanks also to Jacqui Gage-Brown who has stepped down after five years excellent contribution, especially her expertise in support of our re-brand and storytelling around that significant change.

In terms of our full year financial result for 2023-2024, we are reporting a total operating surplus of \$602K. Included within this is \$345k income from interest and dividends earned from investments. Our investment portfolio plays an important role for Sport Waikato which will become even more so as we look to the future. Our investment decisions are guided by several governance policies including our Cash Reserves Policy that was created in 2023.

This policy ensures that Sport Waikato is sustainable over the long term and can achieve its strategic objectives by channelling our investment proceeds either into the operating model to supplement our external funding, a factor that is becoming more critical for us in these tougher economic times, or by ring-fencing funds that we can invest into projects of scale that sit outside of the core mahi of our teams.

Regardless of our financial result, the reality is that all funding we receive is channelled back into the communities to support the growth of sustained physical activity in all its forms.

To those who support Sport Waikato and our overarching vision – “Everyone Out There and Active”. We thank you. Specifically funding partners; Sport NZ, Trust Waikato, Te Whatu Ora Health NZ, our ten Territorial Local Authorities, Lion Foundation, Grassroots Trust and New Zealand Community Trust.

Some have been alongside us for many years and your loyalty and belief is never lost on us,

even as we have appropriately recalibrated iterations along the way to ensure our relevance and our fit for purpose status remains solid and intact. We will continue to make brave decisions based on evidence, quality experience and the emerging global trends that we are seeing in our own ‘Waikato centric world’ to ensure our relevance.

We acknowledge with pride those Sport Waikato staff that we have welcomed in 2024 and thank those who have departed for their mahi and contributions.

One departure that was tinged with sadness but at the same time with a real sense of pride and excitement was General Manager Amy Marfell’s appointment as the new Chief Executive of Waikato Rugby. An inspirational and dynamic leader whose appointment reflects our ‘M.O’ that we are deliberately creating and developing here with our quality workforce.

Finally, to two of our long-timers, Communications and Marketing Manager, Lisa Bishop and Sport Waikato Professional Learning Partner (PLP), Anton Barr, congratulations to you both for achieving the outstanding 20-year milestone in July and October of this year respectively. 2024 marks two decades of committed, quality and loyal service to Sport Waikato, the region’s communities and the education sector you both serve.



Phil Taylor
Sport Waikato Chair



Matthew Cooper
Sport Waikato Chief Executive

Statement of Service Performance

“Mahia te mahi, hei painga moo te iwi – do the work for the betterment of the people” (Te Paea Herangi).

This gifted Tongikura reminds all of us at Sport Waikato about why we do the work that we do. Our ‘why’ is to increase both the levels and enjoyment of physical activity for people in the Waikato region and our vision is to have ‘Everyone Out There and Active’ and with a lifelong love of being active in all its forms.

“Kotahi te koohao o te ngira e kuhuna ai te miro maa te miro pango me te miro whero - There is but one eye of the needle through which the white, black and red threads must pass” (Kiingi Potatau).

The role we play for the play, active recreation and sport sector within the Waikato region is articulated through our second gifted Tongikura which talks to partnerships, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge to achieve a common goal. The manifestation of this is through Moving Waikato, the partnered, regional strategy for play, active recreation, and sport for which Sport Waikato is the lead partner.

Sport Waikato's specific role as lead partner is to be a strategic influencer and guide which sees us as the provider of high-quality data, insights, metrics and research, supplemented by the practical working experience of our team of subject matter experts. This evidenced-led approach enables us to work collaboratively with those that either make decisions about or deliver, play, active recreation or sport opportunities.

Moving Waikato was first developed in 2015 and has been broken into distinct stages, or horizons, of which we are currently approaching the end of Horizon 2. The focus under Moving Waikato for the last four years has been the provision of quality experiences for play, active recreation and

sport opportunities, with an emphasis on the 5–18 year-old age group, Maori, young women and girls, high deprivation areas and those that are less active.

Motivating us to achieve the desired outcomes from Moving Waikato is Sport Waikato's vision statement, “Everyone Out There and Active”. Under our evidenced-led approach, Sport Waikato has and continues to develop a set of measures and markers for this aspirational goal and our strategic objectives that lead us to this vision. Progress on some of the key indicators for our current focus areas, tamariki and rangatahi, are detailed below.

The quality of experience for physical activity for young people

While our ultimate strategic objective is to see 75% of the region regularly participating in quality physical activity and building a lifelong love of these experiences, it is the ‘quality’ aspect which is Sport Waikato's current focus. Understanding what a positive experience means for our tamariki and rangatahi is key to us being able to support those that deliver play, active recreation and sport opportunities.

As a quality experience is a predetermining factor in participation in physical activity, we use key metrics from our Voice of Rangatahi survey, for which we partner with Sport NZ and our own Voice of Tamariki survey.

The Voice of Tamariki survey is a partnership between Sport Waikato and primary and intermediate schools that we directly work with, and was first launched in 2022. After two years, we have grown the survey both in terms of the number of schools and students participating. This enables Sport Waikato to gain a more

Tamariki (7-8 school years) results

Key indicator question - “I like doing Physical Education with my class”

Voice of Tamariki survey	Total Responses	Schools Involved	Response to question “Yes”
Baseline measure from VoT Survey 2022 calendar year	1828	24	62%
Voice of Tamariki 2023 Calendar year	2345	36	62%

accurate picture about the participation of physical activity amongst our tamariki and to use this data in meaningful ways with the schools that we work directly with.

As an example of this latter point, for the 2023 calendar year, for seventy-one schools Sport Waikato has worked with to moderate to high levels of engagement, we have been able to achieve some positive shifts to how physical activity is delivered in these schools:

- 72% have been in both quantity and quality.
- 73% have seen an increase in the number of hours and/or days in which physical activity has occurred.
- 91% have seen an increase in the quality of the delivery of physical activity.

In terms of the results of the survey for 2023, what we can see is that the primary and intermediate schools Sport Waikato involved have maintained positive engagement with physical activity at the same level, year on year.

expectation that every school we work with completes the survey every year. However, we do encourage schools that wish to partner with us to participate in the survey at some point and preferably early in the partnership to allow us to establish good baseline data to work with.

The 2023 survey saw five new schools participating and nine repeat schools, and from this we have seen a shift in the satisfaction rating of our rangatahi's experience of physical activity at school - with 34% having very or extremely high levels of satisfaction to this key question being asked.

Pleasingly for Sport Waikato, this result was driven primarily by the schools repeating the survey for a second time, with 39% of those schools having very or extremely high levels of satisfaction to this key question. This is evidence of our influence with these partner schools and shows what can be achieved through a collaborative approach.

While this key indicator is still a long way from where we need it to be, we acknowledge the progress being made and also the unique

Rangatahi (7-13 school years) results

Key indicator question - "How satisfied are you with your overall experience of physical activity at school?"

Voice of Rangatahi survey	Total Responses	Schools Involved	Very/Extremely Satisfied
Baseline measure from VoR Survey 2021 calendar year	1070	9	27%
Voice of Rangatahi 2022 Calendar year results	4937	20	22%

Given that twenty-seven of the thirty-six schools participating in the 2023 survey are relatively new to the journey with Sport Waikato, we see this as being a great blended result.

The Voice of Rangatahi survey is a Sport NZ initiative which they conduct across all regions within New Zealand in partnership with Regional Sports Trusts such as Sport Waikato.

Over the last three years Sport Waikato has made a concerted effort to engage both schools and students to participate so that we can accurately assess the satisfaction levels of rangatahi with their experience of physical activity in a secondary school setting.

Completing surveys such as this during class time is challenging and it is not Sport Waikato's

challenges that this particular age group faces as they transition from childhood into adulthood.

Concluding Statement

The information contained within this Statement of Service Performance gives a vital snapshot of two specific target groups for Sport Waikato.

Greater context and a deeper look at the many initiatives Sport Waikato has underway to understand and overcome the barriers to physical activity as part of its revitalised strategy is contained within the rest of the annual report and this statement needs to be read in conjunction with it.



OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

Sport Waikato is committed to achieving the outcomes of Moving Waikato, a partnered strategy for play, active recreation and sport, published in November 2016, and reviewed following the completion of Horizon One in 2019. Moving Waikato has the vision of 'everyone active' and a goal of 75% of the region (adults and young people) active enough to positively impact their wellbeing by 2030. Moving Waikato is guided by three strategic pillars:

- **Our People:** more physically active tamariki, rangatahi and whaanau
- **Building Communities:** helping communities to help themselves
- **Regional Leadership:** leading and delivering change

Partners to Moving Waikato include: local, regional and central Government; sport and recreation providers, education providers (tertiary, secondary, primary and intermediate), health providers, philanthropic partners, trust and gaming funders.

The second horizon of Moving Waikato involves a regional focus on increasing physical

activity levels among the following targeted communities:

- **Children (tamariki) 5-11 years**
- **Young people (rangatahi) 12-17 years**

With particular focus on: Maaori, deprived communities, women and girls, disabled people, and low participation groups or those who tend to miss out (e.g., ethnic minority groups).

The strategy prioritises key settings and focus areas including education settings, play and active recreation settings, community sport settings, coaching, and facilities, spaces and places planning.

Importantly, Moving Waikato sees Sport Waikato staff united in their work through a shared vision and goal that translates to a 'one team' approach to working that is premised on collaboration within and across teams in the organisation. It is through this approach that system-change is enabled.

MOVING WAIKATO
A STRATEGY TO GROW PARTICIPATION IN PLAY.
ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT IN THE WAIKATO REGION

**ONE VISION
EVERYONE OUT
THERE AND
ACTIVE**

Moving Waikato is an evidence based strategy for physical activity through play, active recreation and sport for the Waikato region, and gives focus and clarity towards 2025.

It seeks to build on the positive momentum of existing partnerships and to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation and quality experiences for the people of the region.

OUR PEOPLE
A focus on the provision of opportunities that meet the needs of the people of our region
MORE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE TAMARIKI, RANGATAHI AND WHAANAU

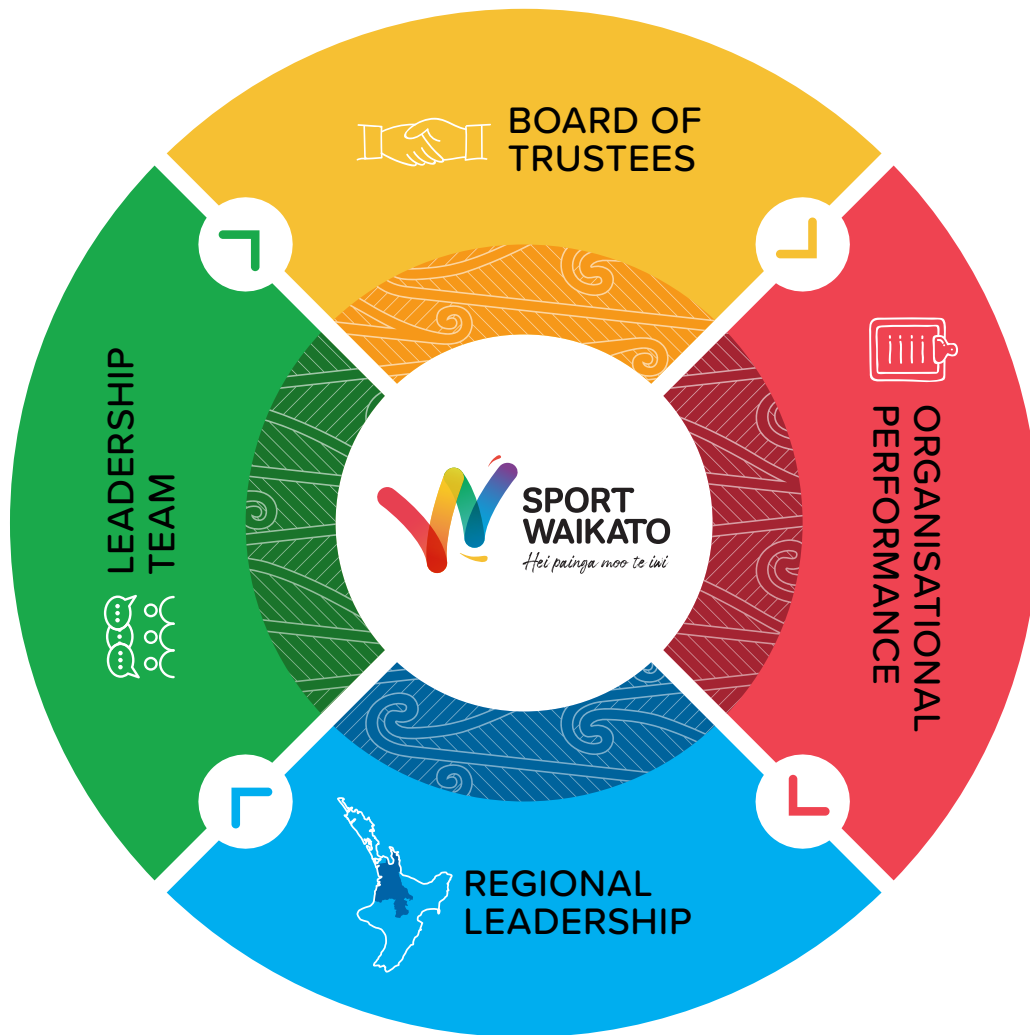
BUILDING COMMUNITIES
A focus on quality local delivery of play, active recreation and sport experiences
HELPING COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP
A focus on regional and national partners working together to lead change and enhance outcomes
LEADING AND DELIVERING CHANGE

ACHIEVING SUCCESS THROUGH WORKING TOGETHER

Sport Waikato

ONE TEAM



[VIEW OUR PEOPLE](#)

HEALTHY ACTIVE LEARNING (HAL)

Healthy Active Learning is a partnered, national initiative developed and endorsed by Sport NZ, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health that seeks to elevate the levels of physical activity among tamariki in schools by growing teacher capability, confidence and commitment to deliver regular and quality Health and Physical Education (HPE) lessons for students, while increasing connections between schools and communities to ensure tamariki are engaged in regular opportunities to be active through play, active recreation and sport.

It is an initiative based on a broad methodology of assessment, action planning and implementation that sees schools and kaiako empowered to deliver regular and quality HPE, physical activity through play and sport, and strengthen connections to the community.

The initiative has been delivered in the Waikato since 2021 by Sport Waikato, in partnership with Te Whatu Ora – Health NZ (Waikato), Sport NZ and schools across the region. Its introduction coincided with the disestablishment of the long running Project Energize programme – an initiative based solely on implementation that saw a local workforce enter primary schools to deliver physical activity and nutrition sessions to tamariki.

Since its inception, HAL Waikato has significantly influenced the physical activity levels and overall health and wellbeing of tamariki in the region. School and kaiako engagement remain high, and targeted interventions are effectively ensuring that the schools and tamariki most in need are receiving the necessary support.

13 Kaahui Ako engaged in HAL

88 HAL Champions developed in primary and intermediate settings

Over **20,000** tamariki impacted, over

38% of tamariki impacted are **Maaori**

Our approach of working alongside and through Kaahui Ako (clusters of schools), is unique to the Waikato and one that is proving instrumental when it comes to influencing system-level change in schools – there is a commitment for the need to deliver HPE differently and in more tamariki-centred ways, throughout all levels of schools.

Perhaps the most important marker of the impact of HAL Waikato is the change in both quality and quantity of physical activity delivery happening in schools across the region. As is evidenced throughout this report, a number of schools have made positive strides with the support of Sport Waikato and are now facilitating increased levels of physical activity among their tamariki.

72 schools who have had moderate to high levels of engagement with Sport Waikato have made positive changes to physical activity delivery in a school setting.

The Sport Waikato team are proud of the continued progress being made through HAL Waikato and we are buoyed by the level of ongoing engagement of our partner schools.

82% have been in both quantity and quality
89% have been an increase in quantity (e.g., number of days, length of session)
93% have been an increase in quality (e.g., HPE is now planned and delivered in a meaningful way)

** Importantly, change has also been observed in schools with low engagement*

We very much look forward to continuing to support school senior leadership and kaiako to understand their role in the provision of quality physical activity and to find ways to incorporate this regularly and meaningfully into their daily teaching practice.



Rhode Street School

Rhode Street School is located in the southwestern Hamilton suburb of Dinsdale.

The school was established in 1959 on Ngaati Maahanga whenua and to this day, continues to deliver effective learning and matauranga for their Year 0 to Year 8 aakonga (learners), including **139 Tamariki Maaori** and **28 Pasifika students**.

The Rhode Street roll currently sits at **221** and has an equity index of **538**.

The Equity Index (EQI) is a statistical model that estimates the extent to which students face socio-economic barriers to achievement at school.

Rhode Street School faced a shortage of physical activity equipment for students to use during break times and Physical Education classes. This lack of resource has hindered their ability to engage students in active play and learning. The equipment they previously had was often misused, damaged, or taken.

Rhode Street School was experiencing unprecedented behaviour issues in the playground due to sheer boredom and a lack of play equipment for the aakonga. Teachers were also not able to deliver quality Physical Education lessons as there was no equipment or resources available to do so.

Over a period of 12 months, Rhode Street School sent their HPE Lead teacher to the termly Sport Waikato led, He Waka Eke Noa Kaahui Ako, PLD Days. During this time, the lead teacher explored various resources and quality teaching practices. They gained new insights and ideas to rejuvenate Physical Education, physical activity, and play at their school. After each of these termly PLD sessions, the lead teacher, with support from the Ministry of Education Curriculum Advisor and Sport Waikato PLP, conducted professional learning sessions for



the entire school staff. These sessions focused on utilising the MoveWell Resource, Ata and Oho, and promoting a whole-school approach to quality physical activity and education.

In addition to the learning, productive discussions around the 'Voice of Tamariki' survey feedback, from aakonga, highlighted the need for Rhode Street School to apply for Sport NZ's Tū Manawa funding. This funding would help equip their PE shed and provide breaktime equipment, promoting physical activity and reducing behavior issues during breaks, as highlighted by the students below.

SNAPSHOT

18+ months

↑ increase in quality and quantity of physical activity

↑ increase in participation in interschool sports activities

↑ increased access to equipment

high engagement

“ PE at school every day with more choices with PE. - Year 8 Girl ”

“ Provide more games and activities around the school - Year 7 Boy ”

“ Give us more time to play at lunch - Year 4 Girl ”

“ Playing more games with my class - Year 6 Boy ”

“ More outside games with equipment like balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops, volley balls - Year 5 Boy ”

28% of tamariki say there is equipment to use to play games and activities at lunchtime.
40% said 'sometimes', 28% said 'no'

What could be done to improve tamariki wellbeing?

What equipment would tamariki like to use during break times?

- 1 **Balls**
 - Basketball
 - Football
 - Rugby ball
 - Netball
 - Hand ball
 - Tennis balls
 - Bouncy balls
- 2 **Bikes**
- 3 **Hockey equipment**
- 4 **Miscellaneous (eg. balance board, stilts, skipping rope etc)**

After the successful Tuu Manawa application, Rhode Street School visited another school in the He Waka Eke Noa Kaahui Ako to examine their systems and processes for managing equipment. This visit aimed to ensure that the funding would lead to the long-term sustainability of the purchased gear.

The purchase of equipment for the PE shed and lunchtime games has significantly improved life at Rhode Street School.

A survey of staff and students revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, showing increased exposure to quality physical education and a notable decrease in behavior issues during break times.

100% of teachers at Rhode Street School reported that the new equipment has allowed them to deliver more quality Physical Education, Sport and play.

Rhode Street School has developed student leaders through the PALs (Physical Activity Leaders) program, equipping them with the

skills to manage and oversee the systems and processes for the equipment.

The HPE lead teacher at Rhode Street School notes that:

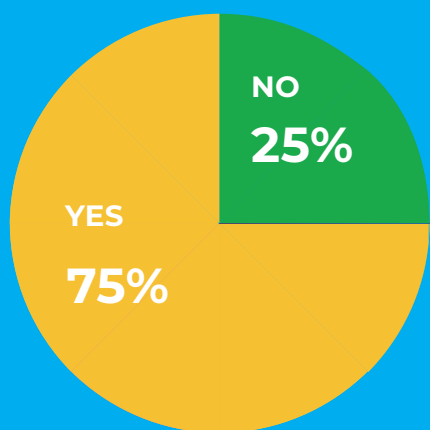
“ *The students have taken real ownership and responsibility of the gear, treating the PE shed with great respect.* **”**

Student leaders manage the delivery and return of equipment to classroom teachers, ensuring the shed remains secure, well-maintained, and orderly. This system has also alleviated a barrier for teachers, making it easier for them to access equipment for quality HPE lessons.

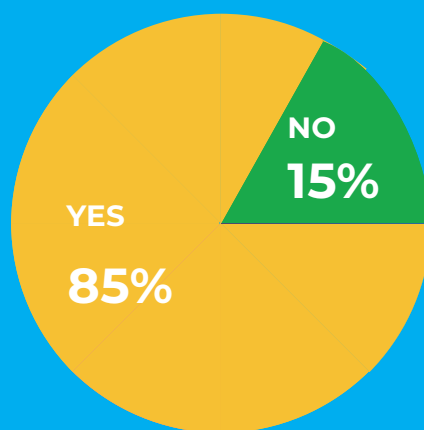
Teachers have reported that they have seen a huge increase in Physical Education time. A year ago, teachers mentioned they might have gone out for Health and Physical Education (HPE) once a week. Now, this has increased to at least two sessions of 45 minutes each per week, with some teachers reporting up to four sessions a week.

Rhode Street School continues to thrive in this space, and they are consistently committed to teacher upskilling around quality pedagogy in HPE. They have also seen a huge increase in sport participation numbers among the tamariki and for the first time ever, have entered hockey, netball and rugby teams into local competitions. We will continue to work with Rhode Street School in the coming years to support their progress and to ensure their tamariki remain active and well. The students reported the following:

Do you think your movement time has increased because of the gear provided?



Have you enjoyed the new PE, lunchtime games and sport equipment that you received?



SPORT DEVELOPMENT

A targeted approach with key sector leaders to create positive environments to enhance participant experiences has driven the work in sport development. A focus on retention of participants is the strategy to grow overall participation over time. Collecting and using evidence and insights to drive and support change continues to influence the direction and scope of our mahi.

In 2024, Sport NZ and High Performance Sport NZ collaborated on a research led Sport Pathways Framework. Our Sport Development team is successfully applying the framework in our conversations with regional sport leaders to illustrate the participant journey in sport and the opportunities to improve accessibility to sport.

Alongside this framework, we continue to advocate for system change through alignment to Good Sports and Balance is Better, and a clearer focus on People, Programmes and Environments within our sporting contexts.

[Sport Pathways Framework | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa](#)

COACH SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

Coaches are key players in the experience a young person has in sport, with research showing a clear link between wellbeing and involvement in coached sport.

Our Regional Coaching team works with regional, school and community coach leaders to grow understanding about how to recruit and retain coaches, as well as provide positive experiences and environments for participants to thrive.

In 2024, we have worked into targeted communities to identify and grow capability with local school and community champions

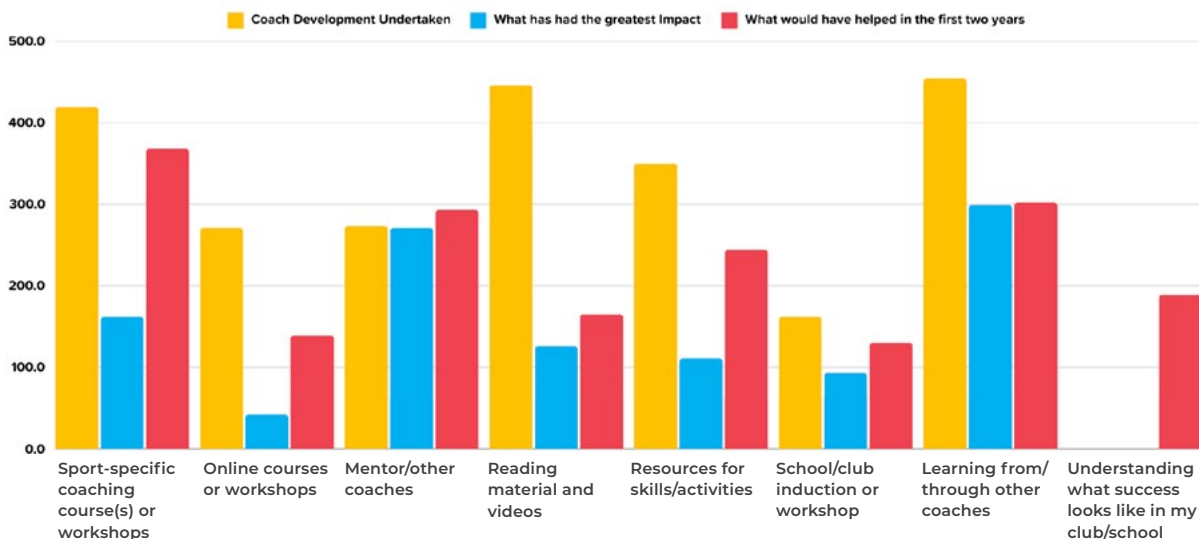
to lead coach support and development within their settings. This work continues to focus on retention of coaches by creating support systems and networks, and facilitating the development of coaches to better understand games-based and person-centred training session content.

This year, we have conducted the third iteration of the regional Voice of the Coach survey. In 2024, 699 coaches completed the survey across 59 different codes, although 32% of coaches said they coach more than one sport. :

Key findings are:

- **Having access to a mentor or other coaches is the number one factor that has assisted, or would assist, in their development and enjoyment. However, only 17% of coaches have received this type of support.**
- **Time constraints, lack of engagement from players and parents were identified as the top 3 challenges**
- **People who have been coaching for 2 years or less are the least satisfied with their experiences, whilst those coaching for 10 or more years are the most satisfied**
- **Almost 60% of respondents are parents or whaanau members of those they coach**

These findings reinforce our work plans to better support and connect coaches through the establishment of Communities of Practice at Regional and Community levels, as well as growing the capability of coaches to build more positive and engaging relationships with players and parents.



RE:PLAY PROJECT

The focus of Re:Play is to build a platform for children to co-design their sporting experience and allow for children to have positive, playful experiences in sport. Results from a pilot held in January 2024 indicated that the participants really enjoyed this approach, but there was still work to do to support coaches in this delivery model.

We have partnered with the University of Waikato to extend this pilot to deliver and conduct research on three play based coaching sites in Te Awamutu, Hauraki Plains and Tokoroa. Our coaching team are working with champions within these communities to:

Next steps: establishing Communities of Practice at regional and community levels, and the identification of champions to lead these. Continue the Re:Play project – phase 2 to provide evidence that coaching in the Re:Play way enhances enjoyment and improves fundamental movement skills for tamariki.

- Increase the satisfaction of tamariki and rangatahi
- Build the capability of those involved in delivering sport and learn the best practice coaching methods
- Develop a framework and resources to support coaches in positive youth sport delivery across the Waikato region
- Better understand the connection between play-based/person-centred coaching and physical literacy through academic research
- Use the principles of Re:Play to connect, support, and grow the volunteers and stakeholders of sport in the Waikato region.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Recognising and utilising student voice to identify ways to improve sport offerings for rangatahi continues to lead our work in secondary schools. This year, we moved away from the Voice of Rangatahi (VoR) survey to design our own Moving Waikato Youth Survey (MWYS).

In 2024, we had our largest number of responses with more than 6,700 students across 21 schools completing the survey. We now have over 70% of Waikato schools who have collected student voice in the last two years to assist with designing opportunities to grow participation and enjoyment in sport.

The key drivers for participation in this age group are fun, social interaction and being with friends; our Youth Engagement Advisors work with schools to identify how they can provide access to activities that enable this. Another important consideration is that rangatahi want more flexible offerings that fit into their busy lives.

Providing co-curricular or intra-school sport is becoming more important to keeping secondary aged students engaged. In 2024, our Secondary team has targeted schools with fewer than 45% of their students participating in sport to try to retain and/or grow participation in these schools.

Developing a connected school sport staff network is another important aspect of our work with secondary schools. Each term, we hold regional cluster meetings to enable secondary sport staff to connect, share ideas, and keep up to date with sport development trends and research.

We also send weekly communication to schools highlighting opportunities for students to participate in and access sport. Important initiatives that supported the recognition and development of school sport staff were:

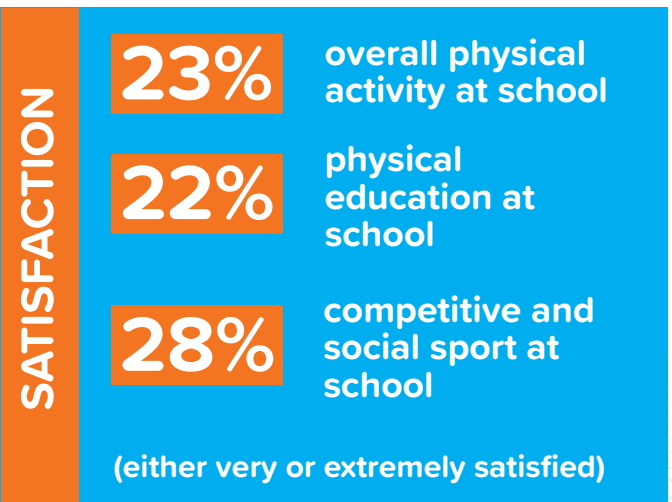
- provision of over \$6,000 in funding support through the Waikato Secondary School Sport Association (WSSSA) for 14 Waikato schools to attend the National School Sport Conference
- the delivery of 49 “Big Shout Out” goodie packs to each of our region’s schools to acknowledge the work sport staff do to support volunteers

Our partnership with the WSSSA remains strong and they are influential advocates for the value of sport in secondary school. This year, along with funding support for the National School Sport Conference, they have also funded 15 secondary schools to implement the Positive Vibes Only (PVO) campaign. Schools applied for and will receive funding to partake in a PVO education and planning workshop, and then implement their plan in 2025.

Creating positive environments for players, coaches, officials and parents within the school setting will provide invaluable support to the work already happening within school competitions being delivered by Regional Sport Organisations (RSOs). Improving and enhancing the sporting experiences of secondary school students and volunteers is the desired outcome from this initiative.

Our secondary school team supported the establishment of the Waikato Eastern Principals Network (WEPN) as an entity to collaborate across schools in the Matamata-Piako, Thames Valley, Hauraki and Coromandel districts. Amongst other school related mahi, they have developed and are leading a sport strategy for their region with a primary focus on equal opportunities for all students to participate. This Principal-led entity is committed to providing physical activity and sport opportunities to meet the needs of all of their rangatahi and allow more enjoyment for students.

A SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG PEOPLE *in the Waikato region*



ACTIVE AS

The six schools identified as part of the Active As project (Thames High School, Ngā Taiātea Wharekura, Te Kuiti High School, Taumarunui High School, Piopio College and Ōtorohanga College) have completed the first year of their three year projects to grow and improve the physical activity, wellbeing and achievement levels of their students.

While a variety of initiatives have started, there are common themes around providing access to equipment and activities at school for students to enjoy alongside their peers. The desire for less

formalised and structured opportunities has come through clearly from student voice. At the end of the first year, there have already been small shifts in some key indicators such as satisfaction with their physical activity experience, happiness levels and sense of belonging at school.

Next Steps: Currently, only 28% of Waikato secondary school students are very or extremely satisfied with their sporting experience. Shifting this dial is imperative through the introduction of a variety of flexible sport offerings, improving coaching practice and creating positive environments for all.



SECTOR CAPABILITY

We work with sporting leaders and key adult influencers throughout the sector with the important goal of enhancing the experience that young people have in sport to retain and grow participation.

We have continued to build and strengthen the Regional Sport Organisation (RSO) network this year through regular sector update communications, regional forums and collaborative action focused projects. The sector updates (emailed fortnightly) and regional forums (held three times this year) have a purpose of sharing key information about current trends and learning from regional, national and global projects.

The engagement in these forums is high, with an obvious commitment to working collaboratively to address issues in youth sport in order to improve and enhance the experience of all participants. Our most recent forum was attended by sporting leaders and decision makers

from secondary schools, RSOs and Councils who identified a number of valuable opportunities to work together to create participant centred experiences, optimise use of facilities and spaces, and improve school facility access.

The Waikato Sport Collective is a smaller group of RSOs who we have supported to address sideline and adult behaviour in youth sport through the Positive Vibes Only (PVO) campaign. We currently have 17 Waikato regional organisations who have implemented PVO or are in the process of rolling this out in the summer season.

In addition, we have worked alongside four other Regional Sports Trusts (Sport Hawkes Bay, Sport Taranaki, Sport Whanganui and Sport Bay of Plenty) to introduce PVO in their region and work collectively to help create positive environments for all participants in sport. Utilising the Balance is Better and Good Sports frameworks to guide this work, we are supporting organisations to focus on good People, good Programmes and good Environments.

POSITIVE VIBES ONLY AT AIMS GAMES

An exciting partnership with the Zespri AIMS Games and Sport Bay of Plenty saw Positive Vibes Only launched at the 2024 event.

This year, nearly 13,000 year 7 & 8 students from 395 schools across 27 sporting codes attended, making it an ideal event to partner with.

A post event survey identified that 48% of respondents who had previously attended the event thought that sideline behaviour was more positive than in previous years because of the PVO campaign.

"I have been to Zespri AIMS Games three times. Supporter sideline behaviour is much improved."

"As a parent watching, and part of the Physio team attending injuries I was impressed with the change in attitude of coaches/managers this year (compared to 7-10yr ago) with player well-being being placed above team placement outcome. Your initiative was evident- well done"

Event organisers are keen to expand on this relationship in 2025 and grow the presence across venues and sporting codes

Next Steps: Work with RSOs and schools to embed PVO in their processes, systems and programmes to work towards positive long-term change in behaviours in sport. Further develop partnerships and connection across the sector to action collaborative work to retain tamariki and rangatahi in sport.



Positive Vibes Only

Zespri AIMS Games

CASE STUDY

Sport Waikato approached Sport Bay of Plenty to identify whether there was an interest and partnership opportunity to introduce the 'Positive Vibes Only' (PVO) campaign at the Zespri AIMS Games in 2025. After an initial email introduction, the three organisations partnered to launch PVO at the 2024 event across three venues – Blake Park, Mercury Baypark and Gordon Spratt Park. Kelly Schischka (Tournament Director) and Jo Finlay (AIMS Games Team Member) developed and provided both RSTs with a campaign plan that included actions linked to signage, messaging, education and Ambassador roles for the games. PVO at the Zespri AIMS Games was born!



Sport Waikato and Sport Bay of Plenty share a couple of Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs) that cross the boundaries of both Waikato and Bay of Plenty. These RSOs, having experienced PVO in the Waikato, were keen to see it become part of the Zespri AIMS Games and could see the value for the largest junior sporting event in Australasia. In 2024, there were nearly 13,000 from 395 schools across 27 sporting codes. It was an ideal event to launch PVO, and aligns with one of their 'why' statements:

“ To encourage active participation whilst teaching the skills of winning and losing with dignity and educating of the importance of the positive affirmation of team members, fellow competitors, officials and supporters. ”

We know that poor sideline and adult behaviours can have a detrimental effect on young people who play sport. We also know that officials and coaches can be negatively impacted by these behaviours. Reinforcing the importance of creating positive environments at youth sport events, through the PVO initiative, was something we all believed would be hugely valuable. It also aligned nicely with existing initiatives – the Mercury Wonderful Energy Awards and Sportsmanship medals. The collaboration was seamless because of this shared buy in and belief.



“

I spoke with two dads about the campaign, and they started to joke about the ref from Rotorua (opposition team based in Rotorua) and laughed. I shared that refs were teens volunteering their time. Hard to get refs and keep them, especially young people if all they get are negative comments. They agreed they would be our future volunteers and officials.

”



On review, one of the main challenges was providing enough visual presence and impact of the campaign across three large spaces and venues. With limited budget and a short time frame, there was only so much that could be done. Sourcing enough volunteers to spread the message was also a challenge, although a local student and Sport BOP staff did most of the heavy lifting in this space and did a great job! Sport Waikato, Sport BOP and the Zespri AIMS Games team reviewed the initial launch and are committed to PVO at the games in 2025 after very positive feedback and responses. Some key learnings and opportunities identified for next year are:

- Allow more lead in time and promotional opportunities pre event
- Encourage more supporters and spectators to dress up and get into the ‘vibe’
- Encourage event co-ordinators, officials and referees to all wear PVO pink. Dressing up helped to break down barriers and allow valuable feedback and conversations to take place
- Offer PVO education opportunities with sport staff, officials, parents

The general consensus was that the players loved it and the PVO initiative opened up more opportunities to have conversations with parents and supporters.



IMPACT

PARENTS

“Positive vibes great idea!”

“I have been to Zespri AIMS Games three times. Supporter sideline behaviour is much improved.”

“Absolutely loved the vibe of AIMS this year...”

“There was a more stronger sense of **positive sportsmanship** overall this year. Our basketball team was highly praised for that.”

“Overall, a very positive experience and the right emphasis on competition and fun.”

“As a parent watching, and part of the Physio team attending injuries I was impressed with the change in attitude of coaches/managers this year (compared to 7-10yr ago) with **player well-being** being placed above team placement outcome. Your initiative was evident- well done”

“

For one particular futsal game that was quite tense and close I sat on the side with one of the schools parents and could see them getting quite tense, agitated and nervous about the game. I sat amongst them and without speaking to them they knew what Positive Vibes meant and were more conscious about escalating their behaviour.

At half time, I stood up and sat with the other team who were equally excited and tense about the scoreline and after chatting to the teaching staff who were spectating about what Positive Vibes was they said “Oh we better watch how we are behaving” and they seemed to become less agitated and calmer whilst cheering on their side.

”



Parents: 40% thought the sideline behaviour was ‘slightly’ or ‘significantly’ more positive than previous years.



TEAM MANAGERS

“The **“Let them play”** approach was great and minimised competitive parental behaviours that had been observed previously.

”

Team Managers:
41% thought the sideline behaviour was ‘slightly’ or ‘significantly’ more positive than previous years

A student from rugby shared how she felt down about losing the game at half time, but at half time saw the PVO sticker on the coach and this switched her mindset to being positive about the game, experience and what she could do to make the team positive.

Some coaches asked for a full roll of stickers to hand out to their teams. It made them feel hopeful going into games and bring them good luck!

SCHOOL STAFF

“We only experience one occasion where one man was not sharing his positive vibes towards his own team and coaching management.”

“Really great vibe - enjoyed!”

“Our netball team had a fantastic time. Sideline behaviour was great but it was my first time attending, so I have nothing to compare it to.”

School Staff: 52% thought the sideline behaviour was ‘slightly’ or ‘significantly’ more positive than previous years.



TARGETED PARTICIPATION

After 7 years of encouraging, supporting, and celebrating women and girls of all ages and abilities to move their bodies their way, and empowering providers and communities to meet women and girls' physical activity needs, this year we made the decision to 'retire' the brand of This is ME®.

Why? The goal with any social change initiative is to leave things in a better place than when it started, and we truly believe that this is what has been achieved through This is ME®.

The landscape of physical activity has changed for women and girls. Body positive messaging is widespread and stereotypes of females being active are shifting, alongside a sector whose capability continues to grow and females who are increasingly confident to participate in forms of movement which they enjoy.

This flagship initiative spearheaded by Sport Waikato was the first of its kind back in 2017 and was created to address a resounding lack of quality female physical activity opportunities.

Since then, 10,000+ women and girls have engaged in activations, Sport Waikato has

partnered with over 300 sector and cross-sector organisations and facilitated around 150 collaborative relationships and physical activity opportunities; not to mention the number of female leaders that have been developed, schools engaged with, and locally and community led initiatives that still exist today.

Over 7000 women and girls have been reached via social media to impact the way they think about and participate in physical activity:

While the This is ME® 'brand' is no more, Sport Waikato have continued to champion quality experiences and welcoming and inclusive opportunities for women and girls to be active their way, alongside other targeted groups whose physical activity needs are not addressed in traditional approaches.



“ I have loved seeing how many ways there are for wahine to be involved in getting active and amongst it, in our communities! ”

“ I've loved seeing new sports/fitness activities showcased, inspiration to try something I'd never have considered before ”

“ I've loved that you've brought attention to women only avenues to be active at any level removing the need to “be good before giving it a go” ”

“ How it encouraged girls and women of any age, race, size etc to be brave and give things a go and to find the type of movement that brings them joy, not just typical sports. Loved the body positivity and the message that being active is a positive influence on physical health yes but also the social and mental health aspects. I loved the links and how you shared so many different activities females could get involved in. ”

“ I've loved seeing the different activities out there and how fun it is to be active. You have broken down the barriers for me and I'm so grateful for that. I know I can be out there and active without feeling I'm not good enough ”

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SPACES AND PLACES PLANNING

Sport Waikato staff continue to work closely alongside our region's ten Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) to support decision-making about and investment into play, active recreation and sport in our Waikato communities. This is supported through a partnership approach and collaborating on key local and regional strategies that support community physical activity outcomes.

LOCAL PLANS

Over the past 12-months, all of our ten Territorial Local Authorities have continued to work towards the adoption of the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plans (PARS). These plans have been developed alongside council staff, workshopped with a number of elected members and are in the process of adoption. These plans have been designed for a number of key purposes:

- To bring together Council and Sport Waikato workstreams across Play, Active Recreation and Sport
- To influence activity levels and overall wellbeing of the Waikato Region
- To provide guidance for strategic investment and fully optimised facilities
- Help to inform and provide guidance to Council during their long-term planning (LTP processes) and other investment decision-making processes

The plans are evidence-based and make recommendations for priority projects to enhance opportunities for physical activity through play, active recreation and sport, including where collaboration is paramount to achieve community wellbeing outcomes.

WAIKATO REGIONAL ACTIVE SPACES PLAN

First published in 2014, the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP) focuses on the ongoing provision of a network of facilities, spaces and places for play, active recreation and sport that are affordable and accessible to meet the changing needs of participation for people and communities in the Waikato region.

As regional leaders of this space, we continue to ensure that the WRASP remains up to date and provides sound and expert guidance to facilities and spaces and places planning in the Waikato. Subsequently the fourth edition of the WRASP was endorsed at Mayoral Forum level in March 2024 and will continue to be funded by all ten of the Waikato region's TLAs for the 2024-2027

period.

Although the fourth edition of the plan has focuses on increased investment into existing infrastructure, The Sport Waikato led plan has identified significant gaps in the provision and quality of play, active recreation, and sport infrastructure to meet the needs of an aging population and a region in growth mode including 24 priority facility development priorities requiring investment of more than \$400 million, while the local sport and recreation sector has identified they require investment of an estimated \$110 million to develop and maintain existing infrastructure to overcome participation barriers.

In the 2024-year engagement among Councils with the WRASP has been high, with several Councils relying heavily on support from Sport Waikato to advance key recommendations of the WRASP, while providing advocacy for improved infrastructure outcomes. This included:

- **Three forums with Council Technical Managers** –workshopping priority areas of the WRASP and planning for enhanced regional collaboration across the Sector. Feedback included “*case studies presentations were great*”, “*I appreciate updates on new strategies and toolboxes that are available*”
- **Nine Long-Term Plan Submissions** to Local and Regional Territorial Authority – Submitted on 53 items on which 38 were adopted in final plan with projects totalling \$302M
- **Regional Rate Advocacy** to advance regional investment into infrastructure of need - Presentations at Mayoral Forum in March 2024 along with presentation on regional requirement to Minister Chris Bishop (Minster for Sport and Recreation, Infrastructure and RMS Reform) alongside the re-established Waikato Regional Sport Precinct Charitable Trust which Sport Waikato Chairs

2024 saw the development of two Regional Strategies, [Waikato Regional Natural Bodies of Water Network Plan](#) and Regional Aquatic Plan, both outlined as priorities in the WRASP, while progression was made towards key outcomes outlined in the [2023 Sub-Regional Artificial Turf Study](#) and the 2024 Hamilton Gymnastics Facilities Network Study, both studies were facilitated by Sport Waikato on behalf of partners. Key outcomes from studies and plans include:

- Identification of 5,015 asset contributing to Play, Active Recreation and Sport Outcomes across our regional Natural Bodies of Water

(Lakes, Rivers, Beaches). Discussions with Regional Council, Harbourmaster, Water Safety Advisory Group on use of information to advance regional outcomes is ongoing.

- Facility demand and supply requirements of our regional aquatic network clearly mapped out at ward level which will help identify opportunities to overcome supply shortfall
- Development of the Region’s first sport field artificial turf in Hamilton
- Progression of Gymnastic Facility concept in Hamilton at Eastlink. Hamilton City Council to agree in principle support based on gymnastic study findings

Regionally and nationally, we continue to work with key funders to support investment in Play, Active Recreation and Sport infrastructure outcomes that align with the WRASP. Examples include:

- Working with Wel Trust around investment into lighting across key sport fields and courts – including Gallagher Hockey Centre
- Partnering with Matamata-Piako District Council who received \$500k from Trust Waikato and \$250k from Lion Foundation for the Matamata Community Hub project
- Supporting successful submission to the Lotteries Facilities Grant - Hamilton Artificial Turf (\$300k) and Waihi Community Forum (\$200k)

- Supporting Northern District Cricket with the distribution of their Regional Facilities Fund - \$250k

Locally Sport Waikato continues to support areas of community significance through contribution to conceptual planning and sector leadership, examples include:

- Reroofing of Swimzone Matamata (Sport Waikato led)
- Centennial Park Masterplan – Te Kuiti
- Campbell Park and Morrinsville Recreational Ground – Morrinsville
- Reserve Strategy Development – Otorohanga
- Tokoroa Pool Upgrade – Tokoroa
- Squash & Community Hub Proposal – Taupo
- Gallagher Hockey Centre – Hamilton
- Open Recreational Water Spaces – Hamilton Lake (including engagement with Waka Ama NZ), Lake Ngaa Roto, Lake Karapiro

While all facility development initiatives prioritised in the 2024 edition of WRASP in years 1-3 are currently progressing:

Image 2 and Table 7 below includes a regional overview of the sub-regional and regional facility and active spaces development priorities. More detailed understanding of these priorities and rationale is highlighted in **Table 2** and relevant sections of **Appendix 2 (Facility and Active Spaces)**.

Image 2 –Facility and Active Spaces Development Priorities (Map)



2024 FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

Facility Type	Recommendation (Facility Lifecycle Stages 2024/27)	Partners (and location of opportunity where applicable)	Progress
Indoor Courts	HAMILTON - 8 Courts	Hamilton City Council, Neighbouring Territorial Local Authorities, Key Sports Codes, Community and Education Partners, Iwi, Venue Managers	Exploration of future site options completed as part of Hamilton Indoor Court and Aquatic Provision Report – August 2023 Sport Waikato continues to work with Hamilton City Council via the Community Facilities Working Group to progress more detailed options exploration.
	PLAN > DESIGN		
Community Indoor Aquatic	HAMILTON	Hamilton City Council and Neighbouring Territorial Local Authorities	Exploration of future site options completed as part of Hamilton Indoor Court and Aquatic Provision Report – August 2023. Sport Waikato continues to work with Hamilton City Council via the Community Facilities Working Group to progress more detailed options exploration.
	PLAN > DESIGN		
Indoor Courts	MATAMATA-PIAKO - 2 Courts	Matamata Piako District Council, Matamata College, MoE and Iwi	Support by Sport Waikato via Project Steering Group, this project is progressing in line with WRASP recommendations. Council have approved project and advancing contractual arrangements for build commencement expected in December 2024.
	DESIGN > BUILD		
Sub Regional Indoor Aquatic	THAMES-COROMANDEL/HAURAKI	Thames Coromandel District Council and Neighbouring Territorial Local Authorities	Concept design completed for local and sub-regional aquatic options. We continue to work with council around advancing prefer options to developed design. Council have financially committed to project outcomes in the Long-Term Plan.
	PLAN > DESIGN > BUILD (Complete a business case to determine appropriate Sub Regional need)		
Gymsport - Regional Hub	HAMILTON (Eastlink)	Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Waipa and Waikato District Councils and Gymnastics NZ	Sport Waikato commissioned an updated Gymnastics Network Plan for Hamilton City in collaboration with Gymnastics NZ and the two city clubs. Subsequently Hamilton City Council has approved in principle support for the development of a Gymnastics Facility at Eastlink.
	PLAN > DESIGN > BUILD (Explore as part of Eastlink Hub Masterplan – Hamilton)		
Squash – National Level Facility (Regional Hub)	HAMILTON (Eastlink)	Hamilton City and Squash NZ. Neighbouring Squash Facilities (Hamilton, Ruakura, Huntly, Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Morrinsville)	Sport Waikato supported Hamilton City Council and the Eastlink Board through the development of an Eastlink Master Plan which has identified opportunities for Squash facility development. Work is ongoing to identify next stage for Masterplan implementation.
	CONCEPT > PLAN > DESIGN (Explore as part of Eastlink Hub Masterplan – Hamilton)		

Facility Type	Recommendation (Facility Lifecycle Stages 2024/27)	Partners (and location of opportunity where applicable)	Progress
Badminton – Regional Hub	HAMILTON (Eastlink) – Regional Hub Extension/ Upgrades	Hamilton City and Waikato Badminton	Sport Waikato supported Hamilton City Council and the Eastlink Board through the development of an Eastlink Master Plan which has identified opportunities for Badminton facility enhancements.
	CONCEPT > PLAN > DESIGN (Explore as part of Eastlink Hub Masterplan)		Work is ongoing to identify next stage for Masterplan implementation.
Hockey	HAMILTON - 3rd Turf Development Hamilton	Hamilton City, Waipa District, Waikato Hockey, Satellite Sites	Sport Waikato continues to support Waikato Hockey with their Waikato Hockey Centre investment strategy which includes renewal of existing turf and placement of possible 3rd turf at Innes Common while ongoing discussion around Hockey Turf in Cambridge.
	HAMILTON/HAURAKI – Hub Upgrades (amenities/ changerooms)	Hauraki District, Valley Hockey	
PLAN > DESIGN > BUILD			
Sport Fields Artificial Turf	Increase capacity of fields through provision of targeted flood lighting, reallocation of users, improved turf management or multiuse artificial turf (cost benefit required for each)	Artificial Turf	Sub-Regional Artificial Turf Study completed in July 2023 across Hamilton, Waikato District and Waipa. Learnings to be applied at regional level in 4th edition of WRASP, with recommendations being actioned by stakeholders including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Artificial turf at Marist Park Detailed site analysis completed for next locations Stakeholders have progress planning and development of key sport grounds across the region including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Munro Sports Block – Pookeno Centennial Park – Te Kuiti Otorohanga Reserves Strategy Morrinsville Recreational Ground Campbell Park – Morrinsville Leamington Domain Owen Delany Park – Taupo Hugh Hayward Domain - Ngatea Sport Waikato continues to partner with ActiveXChange to populate regional membership data to predict future demand requirements. 8 Regional Sport Organisations have signed up to the platform, including WaiBOP Football which has 16,000 members.
	Ensure any new Sport Fields have adequate amenities, shade, parking and storage facilities where required and that there is a focus on climate change initiatives	Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council, Waikato District Council, Iwi, Rototuna High School, Cambridge High School, WaiBOP Football, Waikato Rugby	
DESIGN > BUILD		Sport Field Hubs – Key Investment Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Kuiti/ Otorohanga Pookeno Northern Hamilton/ Waikato District Southern Hamilton/Waipā Thames-Ngatea Morrinsville Te Awamutu 	

Facility Type	Recommendation (Facility Lifecycle Stages 2024/27)	Partners (and location of opportunity where applicable)	Progress
Tracks and Trail Network	<p>Waikato Cycle Network - boundaryless regional cycling network. Maintain experience of Regional Trails including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Awa and Waikato River Trails (Enhancements) and connection via NZTA planned works (SH1/SH29) Otorohanga and Waitomo Trail Connection Taupo (Enhancements) Hauraki Rail Trail (Enhancements) and explore extensions (i.e Waihi Beach) 	<p>Territorial Local Authorities, Waikato Regional Council, Iwi, Trail Trusts, NZTA, MBIE, Timber Trail, Hauraki Rail Trail, Waikato River Trails, Te Awa Cycle Way Trust, Bike Taupo</p>	<p>Tracks and Trail Project Investment were outlined in Council's long-term plans including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Hauraki Rail Trail extension Continued Partnership investment into Hauraki Rail Trail
	CONCEPT > PLAN > DESIGN		
Sport and Community Hubs	<p>TAUPO - Owen Delany Park</p>	<p>Taupo District Council, and Neighbouring Territorial Local Authorities. Key Sports Codes, Iwi</p>	<p>Owen Delany Masterplan was completed in 2024, and implementation actions are being progressed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Sport Field Lighting Development of new Community Hub Building and associated change facilities
	PLAN > DESIGN > BUILD		
Indoor Courts	<p>TAUPO – Taupo Events Centre and Turangi Community Hub</p>	<p>Taupo District Council, and Neighbouring Territorial Local Authorities.</p> <p>Key Sports Codes, Community and Education Partners, Iwi, Venue Managers Including considerations around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock-climbing Wall Squash Centre Report Tauhara College upgrades 	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to support Taupo District Council around options analysis for indoor sport provision. In 2024 we continue to work with Squash Taupo around their facility concept and progressing discussion with Council around future planning across Taupo and Turangi. Council have included the following in the long-term plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$17.8M for Turangi (27-29) \$12.9M for Taupo (28-30)
	CONCEPT > PLAN > DESIGN (District Wide Indoor Court Options Analysis)		

A key success of the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan was the development of the Gallagher Recreation Centre in Te Kuiti which opened in 2023. A year on the centre has seen:

- Over 70,000 visits
- Growth in school programming and events – Basketball, Futsal, Volleyball, Gymnastics and Netball
- 18,200 visits to the Fitness Centre

PLAY

Sport Waikato advocates for play opportunities for tamariki in a range of settings - including communities and education - and defines play as much broader than the use of formal play infrastructure (e.g., playgrounds). Play is freely chosen activities with no predetermined outcome. Play is spontaneous, fun, accessible, challenging, social, repeatable, and occurring anywhere at any time.

Play for tamariki is personally directed with limited or no adult involvement but can also be undertaken together by whaanau. Play can occur anywhere, including facilities, spaces and places for sport and active recreation (e.g., parks, gullies, waterways and open spaces for tree climbing or kicking a ball), as well as 'playing on the way' and neighbourhood play in streets and on footpaths.

Over the last 12 months, Sport Waikato staff have continued to work closely with Councils to ensure play is considered as part of local planning.

Sport Waikato has continued to work with Councils to support the development of Play Champions among Council staff to help them

become internal advocates for influencing positive impacts for Play. Sport Waikato staff have also facilitated an all staff, interactive workshop with Waitomo District Council.

The focus of this workshop was to provide an opportunity to think about Play differently within their community. The workshop encouraged staff to work together, providing some education alongside creative opportunities to think about what Play could look like.

We wanted to challenge the thinking that play opportunities don't always have to include playgrounds, encouraging the thinking of different and creative opportunities within natural environments.

We have also focussed on activating play across district communities. In partnership with Hamilton City Council, there has been an activation of a Play Trail specifically to encourage people visiting to explore and engage with the Hamilton CBD and the river in a 'Playable' way. The trail aims to help our rangatahi, along with their families, to reimagine Hamilton and to create opportunities for play and recreation that is free.



TU MANAWA ACTIVE AOTEAROA FUND

A total of \$1,810,380 was distributed by Sport Waikato for the 2023-2024 financial year to a range of successful Tū Manawa applicants across the region. The fund enables organisations to provide new and innovative opportunities for young people to be active through play, active recreation and sport.

Often, this fund removes barriers to participate and improves accessibility to physical activity with our priority groups. Participant voice is an important component of every application to ensure that projects and initiatives are meeting their needs.

Sport Waikato received 194 applications in the 2023/2024 financial year, from which 107 were approved. Applications categorised as 'Active Recreation' projects made up 50% (53 total) of approved applications. 46 applications (43%) were focused on supporting 'Sport', with a total of \$696,163 distributed to encourage participation in a wide range of codes. This is up from last year's 36% of approved sport applications. \$156,732 of the fund was approved across eight organisations who prioritised 'Play' in their initiatives, making up 7.5% of the total that was distributed.

In the next 12 months, there will be an increased focus on ensuring we are intentionally identifying target communities and committing funding allocation to areas of highest needs.



Te Awamutu Junior Rugby Pilot



Whitianga Skate School



Te Whaanga Waves



Strathmore School

WAIKATO SPORT & ACTIVE RECREATION AWARDS

The fourth edition of the Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards (this year sponsored by Craigs Investment Partners) was held in February 2024 at Claudelands Event Centre, featuring Honey Hireme-Smiler as MC, with leaders from the play, active recreation and sport sectors as well as Sport Waikato key partners from around the region attending.

Featuring a record 110+ nominations in eight categories and 25 finalists, the bar was set high and gave the judges a tough task to find winners amongst them.

The awards are a celebration and acknowledgement of those who provide active opportunities around the region, and those in the community who support sport – the community coaches and unsung heroes.

For the first time since the 2019 Brian Perry Waikato Regional Sports Awards, the Hare Puke Leadership in Sport award was presented to our MC for the evening, Honey Hireme-Smiler. With her family secretly surprising her as she received her award, it was a very special and emotional moment. Honey has an extensive list of accolades to her name and was an extremely deserving winner of this prestigious award.

Added to the category lineup this year was a new category for youth lead projects – Outstanding By Youth For Youth Initiative. This category was for projects predominantly lead by youth for the benefit of young people.

While this event has been a very successful part of Sport Waikato's mahi, we have had to make the difficult decision to move away from the awards format going forward. The cost of running such an event as a not for profit organisation even with the fantastic support of our wonderful sponsors is not something we can continue to do. Aside from the cost of the event itself, the amount of work it takes to put on an event of this nature – from nominations to judging and event planning take up a considerable amount of time from our people who already have large workloads.

We are working through a plan to redesign how we celebrate and acknowledge the good things and people happening around the region, and look forward to a new way forward in 2025.



2023 WINNERS



Community Connection - Te Awamutu Rugby Sports & Recreation Club



Sport & Active Recreation Partnership - Waikato Multi Sport Holiday Programme



Commitment to Accessibility & Inclusion - Connected Dance Co.



Outstanding Active Space Initiative - Tirau Domain Project (SWDC)



Commitment to Youth Engagement - Te Awamutu Boxing Academy



Outstanding By Youth for Youth Initiative - Jamie Hopson (Jajamie Juda Club)



Community Coach - Gabi Peach



Community Unsung Hero - Vicki Skill

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Events and activities		113,038	92,239
Lion Foundation Grant		120,000	120,000
Other Government Grants		1,372,475	1,319,500
Other Grants	5	749,881	968,564
Sport NZ Grants		1,754,874	1,786,858
Trust Waikato Donations		750,000	750,000
Total Revenue from non-exchange transactions		4,860,268	5,037,161
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Dividends		86,224	85,626
Interest		259,010	181,445
Other Operating Revenue		96,351	95,240
Realised gain/(loss) on investments		(18,610)	(13,519)
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments		237,934	270,835
Total Revenue from exchange transactions		660,910	619,626
Total revenue		5,521,179	5,656,788
Expenses			
Amortisation	12	994	2,981
Audit Fees		23,000	22,169
Employee Related Costs		3,096,618	3,177,024
Events and Activities		577,850	709,913
Depreciation	11	80,870	58,885
Donations		1,339	-
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets		-	22,867
Other operating expenses	6	919,031	935,464
Total expenses		4,699,702	4,929,303
Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		821,477	727,485
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses			
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses		-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses		-	-
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses		821,477	727,485

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	1,143,438	1,328,560
GST		50,758	23,186
Investments	9	2,956,786	2,662,936
Prepayments		-	31,609
Receivables from Exchange Transactions	10	24,414	91,075
Receivables from Non Exchange Transactions	10	371,820	410,740
Total Current Assets		4,547,216	4,548,106
Non-Current Assets			
Intangible Assets	12	124,831	50,812
Investments	9	5,224,921	4,856,369
Property Plant and Equipment	11	297,803	337,322
Total Non-Current Assets		5,647,555	5,244,503
Total Assets		10,194,771	9,792,609
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Creditors	13	164,120	136,899
Employee Entitlements		201,969	267,959
Income in Advance		170,957	551,503
Total Current Liabilities		537,046	956,362
Total Liabilities		956,362	956,362
Net Assets		9,657,724	8,836,247
Equity			
Trust Fund		1,500,000	1,500,000
Accumulated Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses		8,157,724	7,336,247
Total Equity		9,657,724	8,836,247

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements (full financial statements available on our website). Signed for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees who authorised these financial statements for issue on 10th December 2024:


Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive


Phil Taylor
Board of Trustees Chair



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