

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022/23

# Sport Waitākere



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# SPORT WAITĀKERE

Sport Waitākere makes a positive difference in the lives of people in West Auckland. We help build the capability of providers, encourage and support health promoting environments and enable participation in play, sport and recreation. Sport Waitākere operates within the geographical boundaries of the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau Local Boards and has extensive networks across sport, recreation, play, education, community and health sectors.



# Strategic Plan

TE MAHERE  
RAUTAKI  
2019-2022

## OUR VISION

Everyone connected, healthy and active  
Kia tuia, kia ora, kia tū

## OUR PURPOSE

Enabling healthy and active lives  
Kia tū ora, kia ngangahau

### LIVE

Our community environments enable healthy, active choices and people are motivated to prioritise these choices.

### LEARN

Our learning environments actively promote and prioritise regular physical activity and healthy choices.

WE MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN  
WEST AUCKLAND BECAUSE:

values { We grow LEADERSHIP Rangatiratanga  
We embrace our PARTNERS Whanaungatanga  
We group together as a TEAM Mahi Tahi  
We strive for EXCELLENCE Hiranga

## OUR STRATEGIC POU

**We Will**

Our organisation is healthy, vibrant, culturally responsive and high performing. We have great people who love working here, are well supported and can share great community stories.

### WORK

Our workplaces actively support the health and wellbeing of their employees.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Enable Māori wellbeing and actively respect the special relationship of tangata whenua to West Auckland

Be relevant and valuable working for our community of West Auckland

Continue to be a learning, adaptive and innovative organisation

Build on community leadership, knowledge and local partnerships

Focus on long term change to positively benefit our community

### PLAY

Our community participates in quality sport, recreational and play opportunities through organised and informal settings that promote healthy, active choices.

### OUR CORE STRATEGIES

#### Enabling Participation

Supporting our community to provide more and better participation outcomes

#### Building Capability

Working alongside community leaders to improve capability

#### Transforming Environments

Supporting key settings to become health promoting

# *Message from the Chair and CEO*

## HE PĀNUI MAI I TE HEAMANA ME TE MANAHAUTŪ

Kia ora koutou katoa

This year has been one of significant learning and growth for Sport Waitākere and our extended whānau. The 12 months have seen a number of notable changes for the organisation.

- In October we farewelled Lynette Adams, our CEO and inspirational leader of more than 17 years. David George took over the role of Chief Executive on 1 January 2023.
- In December we moved from our 'temporary' site of six years at Waitemata Rugby Club to 545 Don Buck Road, which many of our long serving Westies will be familiar with as the old Massey Library Building. The team have been really excited about this move, particularly as it signals Sport Waitākere's ability to build

a community hub that is a place where community development organisations can come together to collaborate to improve the wellbeing of our West Auckland community.

- In May, our Board Chair Jarrod Walton stepped down after seven years in the chair seat and our Deputy Chair, Dr Katie Bruffy, was unanimously voted in as the new Chair.
- In June, a significant restructure was finalised at the Ministry of Health, now Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora. This related directly to our key Healthy Families New Zealand (HFNZ) kaupapa, however through appropriate lobbying and a history of significant impact, we saw a comfortable level of continuity maintained, including seeing some of the key HFNZ personnel kept in place.

### **WEATHER EVENTS**

Amid all this change, West Auckland was severely affected by the devastating weather events of January and February 2023. As passionate and proud West Aucklanders, we were extremely saddened to see some of our community quite literally on its knees, and our hearts went out to those significantly affected.

As with the Covid 19 pandemic, we were proud to see how our team pivoted amazingly to ensure we supported our community with the clean-up and support services. From supporting our frontline community partners to deliver food, sort clothing donations and help with clean ups, our team was standing up for our community. It goes without saying that despite the devastation, these events bring out the very best in community. The connection, collaboration and 'community first' attitude that

our team and our key partners demonstrated (especially through West Auckland Together) once again showed the genuine care that our people have for their community and that underpins all that we do. Our thoughts remain with those displaced as we continue to support and awhi (embrace) these communities as and where appropriate.

## NEW STRATEGY

Sport Waitākere used the year to undertake a significant deep dive into our purpose in an effort to define a new and meaningful strategy to take us into the future. This new strategy, which takes effect from 1 July 2024, is the result of significant time and energy invested in the insights process, the design and testing process and indeed the final writing. We are humbly indebted to our Board, to our team, especially Kerry Allan, and our key stakeholders and community who openly contributed their time and knowledge. Also, thanks must go to Annie Uelesi who so ably walked us through the early stages of the process by helping us critically reflect on our purpose. As a result, this strategy takes us out to 2043, with significant focuses identified as we double down on our equity approaches, especially for Māori, to make our community Connected, Healthy and Active.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

We are proud to report that despite the challenges of 2022/3, we have maintained a financially solid position and have also played a pivotal role in acting as an umbrella and enabling extra resource to be distributed straight to our community. Some specific examples include:

- Foundation North distributed funds for us to provide financial support to organisations at the forefront of the flood relief. We saw in excess of \$50,000 disseminated to these core services.
- JR McKenzie Trust continued to support the West Auckland Together collaboration with \$100,000 funding, and Auckland Council contributed \$25,000.
- The Trusts provided \$15,000 for Sporting Chance, providing financial assistance to individual school students aged 7-18 years with a genuine financial need, helping them to take part in active recreation and sport opportunities.
- \$950,000 was distributed through Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa for projects or programmes to deliver play, active recreation and sport experiences for tamariki and rangatahi.

## SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Our extensive work in the community is made possible by the highly valued support of our many funders, sponsors and supporters. We thank them all.

Our focus on advocating for equity of resource deployment in the West to strengthen our community underpins all that we do, and we thank you all for your support and for the value that is placed on us as a resource for our West Auckland community.

## COMMUNITY SPORT AND RECREATION

Our Community Sport and Recreation team has continued to work closely across Auckland with our partners Aktive, Harbour Sport, Sport Auckland and CLM Community Sport as we strengthen our community to co-create a system that supports tamariki and rangatahi to participate in play, active recreation and sport. We have spent the year embedding the principles of our collective strategy 'Te Ahu Whakamua' that aligns and prioritises our community sport work for the next three to five years. We are also delighted to see further growth in our relationship with Aktive, and are enjoying growing strength and impact in our collaborative relationship.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES WAITĀKERE

Our Healthy Families Waitākere kaupapa has again gone from strength to strength and we have been delighted to have been able to have shared a number of kanohi ki te kaniohi (face to face) events, and share our mahi across national partners.

Grounded in the fundamental understanding that people are the experts, the team has continued working closely with local champions to prioritise West Auckland communities' health and wellbeing with solutions designed by local people, not for local people. The strength of the Healthy Families approach lies in its principle building block of collaboration for collective impact. Each and every initiative the team undertakes is developed alongside local people, community groups, agencies and ministries, collectively working to reprogramme our public structures to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone. We acknowledge the unsettling times that have occurred within what was the Ministry of Health in the design and restructure to Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora, however are really happy to see that with collective advocacy not only is the immediate future of the Healthy Families NZ kaupapa locked in, the key staff at Te Whatu Ora remain in leadership roles.

## KAUPAPA MĀORI

As mentioned, our new strategy sees an amplified process on equity, especially as it relates to our special relationship with Māori. This year we have seen three staff employed into specifically designed kaupapa Māori roles, meaning not only are we putting the words into strategy, we are proactively targeting resource into this space. When added to the Māori governance we have at board level, we are proud to report that we have Māori leadership at all levels. Let that not indicate that the job is done, more so that we have set a platform from which we plan to not move backwards or stay still.

## EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

We are happy to report that Sport Waitākere was named a finalist in the Community Impact category of the NZ Sport and Recreation Awards, for the Active Whakapapa initiative. This kaupapa is now at a stage where not only are we finding unprecedented interest from local and national partners, but also Mana Whenua have seen huge value in the kaupapa, even using it as a tool for engagement with visiting iwi from around the motu.

## OUR BOARD

The writing of a new strategy throughout the year has added a lot of work to our already busy voluntary board who so generously donate significant time to our organisation. It goes without saying that we cannot thank these individuals enough for their time and commitment and hope that they can see their influence within our operations, and that they understand how important their role is to our organisation. Thank you all, so much.

During the year we farewelled Dan Collins, who embarked on an exciting role as a board member with the Henderson Massey Local Board. We are very fortunate to have someone of Dan's connections on the board, and trust that despite missing his physical presence we will continue to see him as an advocate and friend of our mahi.

## OUR PEOPLE

Our talented team are the very life blood of our organisation. The commitment, the innovation and dedication to our community is something that is tough to put into words. Members of our team were affected directly by the devastating flood of early 2023, and as we still navigate the tail of the pandemic, their resilience and commitment to community outcomes is simply

inspirational to see.

Nothing we do is possible without you all, so from the Board and leadership team, *nga mihi ki a koutou*, and we look forward to seeing how the new strategy and premises only add to this impact. *Ma te ngakau iti, ka mihi.*

Lastly, to every person and every partner we have taken this journey with, *ngā mihi nui ki a koe*. We are servant leaders who can only deliver the role we do with genuine community engagement and buy in. We eagerly look forward to the next part of our journey with new leadership, a new strategy and the beginnings of our community hub.

*He toa takitini  
taku toa chara  
i te toa takitahi.*



**David George**  
**Chief Executive**



**Katie Bruffy**  
**Chairperson Board  
of Trustees**

## Jarrod Walton

This year saw Jarrod step down from the role of Chair after six and a half years. Jarrod joined the Sport Waitākere Board in May 2015, stepping up to the chair role less than two years later. In that time, Jarrod has overseen three strategic cycles, two building relocations, 20 fellow board members, 85 board hui and guided us through arguably one of the toughest times in the organisation's history as we navigated Covid. Under his guidance, we have seen significant strengthening of the organisation, and a board that has a really strong commitment to growth and evolution, particularly as it relates to our Māori responsiveness. Jarrod hasn't left us quite yet, as with one year left to run on his third three year term, he is keen to ensure he goes out making sure he has given everything he can. *Nga mihi nui, Jarrod from all of us, past and present, at Sport Waitākere.*



# *Governance*

## MANA WHAKAHĀERE

Sport Waitākere is [governed by a Board of Trustees](#), made up of eight members chaired by Dr Katie Bruffy. As a group the Board has expertise across fields including sport and community leadership, finance, education, business, te ao Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and governance.

The Board of Trustees is committed to meeting its partner obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and embedding the Treaty principles of partnership, protection and participation within the organisation.

These Trustees generously volunteer their time and play an important role in overseeing the governance and strategic direction of the organisation, working closely alongside Chief Executive David George.

During this reporting period, the Board committed to and attended 12 board meetings including two half day strategy workshops in February and April 2023.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Our Board is committed to identifying and overseeing potential risk to the organisation. The finance and risk committee meets regularly to review finances and oversee the annual external financial audit process. There are several processes in place to formally support this including conducting a full annual review of risks and reviewing the risk register together. Sport Waitākere's health and safety policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it meets necessary legislative requirements. The Sport Waitākere Board is ably supported by Karyn Hill, specifically with tasks related to administration of meetings, policy and process.

### SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Our Board operates a number of sub-committees and working groups to ensure focused governance and

actions in line with the organisation's strategic priorities. The current sub-committees and working groups are as follows.

### SUB COMMITTEES

- Finance and Risk: Nicola Mills (Chair), Jarrod Walton and Katie Bruffy
- Māori Effectiveness: Stephanie Bidois, Michael Holmes and Robin Taua-Gordon
- High Performing Board: Ivan Harré (Chair) and Katie Bruffy
- CEO Development: Jarrod Walton (Chair) and Katie Bruffy

### WORKING GROUPS

- Increasing Investment: Nicola Mills, Nick Rowland, Daniel Collins (until December 2022)
- Impact Strategy: Ivan Harré (Chair) and Katie Bruffy

### BOARD ATTENDANCE

There were 12 meetings in 2022/23, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Meeting attendance was as follows.

**Jarrod Walton**, 12 meetings

**Katie Bruffy**, 12 meetings

**Michael Holmes**, 11 meetings

**Nick Rowland**, 11 meetings

**Nicola Mills**, 11 meetings

**Ivan Harre**, 8 meetings

**Robin Taua-Gordon**, 6 meetings

**Stephanie Bidois**, 4 meetings (unavailable for 6 meetings due to parental leave)

**Dan Collins**, 3 meetings (resigned in December 2022)

# Community Sport and Recreation



## Young People and Schools

## NGĀ TAMARIKI ME NGĀ KURA



## Future Leaders

Sport Wāitakere hosted 220 West Auckland primary and intermediate students at our 2022 Future Leaders Day at Waitemata Park.

Future Leaders Day aims to develop leadership capabilities of every student and show what leadership roles look like across a variety of sectors. The popular event provides students the opportunity to grow their leadership skills, practice whakawhanaungatanga, learn from each other and make new friends. We look forward to seeing these tamariki become leaders in our community in the years to come and are proud to be able to help them on their journey.

A special thanks to Attitude NZ, Halberg Foundation, The New Zealand Olympic team, Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon New Zealand, Timi Tairi and the rangatahi from Massey High School who volunteered to help the day go smoothly.

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The event was well organised with inspirational speakers and engaging activities. Our children got a lot out of the day - one of our leaders shared with our potential 2023 leaders the characteristics of leadership that she had learnt from the day."

Participating teacher

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Excellent transfer of knowledge. Such a great event for our tamariki. The day was well executed. Thank you, we'll be back!"

Participating teacher



## Waterskills for life

Waterskills for Life provides 8-10 lessons for year 3 to 6 students in lower decile schools. The programme is aimed at increasing knowledge and water safety awareness in and around pools, and at beaches. Over the last year approximately 7,800 students from 20 schools have participated in Waterskills for Life lessons. This initiative is run during curriculum time and would not be possible without the engagement and support of community partners, such as local swimming schools and pools.



## Secondary school sport

During the year Sport Waitākere successfully advocated for two West Auckland secondary schools to be part of the Sport NZ - Active As pilot. The pilot will see Liston and Waitākere Colleges working with Aktive and Sport Waitākere to design and implement their own physical activity initiatives through until December 2026 to improve the wellbeing of rangatahi through movement.



# Healthy Active Learning

Healthy Active Learning is a joint government initiative between Sport New Zealand, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand and the Ministry of Education to improve the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi through healthy eating and drinking, and quality physical activity in primary and intermediate schools. This year we have seen the initiative expand to support 40 schools in West Auckland.



## Supporting schools

The team has supported schools by guiding teachers through over 40 workshop sessions, providing new ideas for physical education games and planning units of work with school leaders and teachers. They have also been working with beginner teachers to unpack the fundamentals of physical education and health, working with student leaders, and increasing knowledge around cultural and traditional games.

The annual [Healthy Active Learning Opportunities](#) Day was attended by approximately 50 teachers and senior leaders from around West Auckland. Other successful workshops have included the [Principals' breakfast](#), taonga tākaroa, traditional games, health education, [Hui Hub](#) and the Play Tour.

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It was wonderful for the tamariki to see that their ideas and voice had power and influence, not just within their own school but also amongst the wider community.

By creating fun and challenging events we hope the experiences will go some way to encourage a life-long love of physical activity."

Christian Curtis, Sport Waitākere

11

It was just marvellous to see so many of our Pomaria whānau show up and it really underpinned our Kura's approach to creating a sense of tūrangawaewae for our whānau. The children and their parents had a blast and we look forward to building closer relationships with them and Sport Waitākere to provide more active opportunities in the future."

Achmat Esau, Pomaria School



## *Rainbow youth*

In collaboration with CAYAD (Community Action against Youth and Drugs), we co-designed workshops to gather insights from rainbow students around movement and sport within the schools. Further funding was secured for professional development (PD) for educators to ensure they had the tools to provide a safe and inclusive space for Rainbow rangatahi.

As a result of the additional funding, Inside Out provided further PD to other organisations such as Netball New Zealand, Netball Waitākere, CLM Community Sport, Harbour Sport and Sport Auckland. See [here](#) for more on our recent journey.

## *Sporting Chance*

Students from across a number of West Auckland schools have received a helping hand into sport and recreational activities, thanks to a \$10,000 funding grant provided by The Trusts. Facilitated by Sport Waitākere, The Trusts Sporting Chance Grant provides financial assistance to school-nominated students aged 7-18 years who face a genuine financial barrier to being active. The grant of \$250 per recipient is designed to support their participation in a physical activity opportunity across either sport, active recreation or play and is used to purchase equipment or footwear, or to pay registration fees. Sport Waitākere continues to strive to support our tamariki and rangatahi and we thank The Trusts for their partnership and significant contribution. This year a lot of the funds went towards tamariki and rangatahi who were affected by the Auckland flooding.

# Whau Cluster

This cluster of 14 schools, supported by GoodSports and Balance is Better philosophies, has been changing their approach and mindsets over the last three years. The focus has shifted from strictly sport-focused delivery and tournament schedules to including more 'have-a-go' days, play and recreation opportunities and targeted events for almost 5,000 students.

The inaugural [Whau Cultural Festival](#), with the support of community partners, offered tamariki five inclusive opportunities to learn more about and connect with Māori and Pasifika cultures. Activities included kapa haka, taonga tākaro, poi throwing, Kī o Rahi and Pasifika games.

The cluster's first [Kōtiro Festival Day](#) offered a similar format but with a focus on girls who were new to sport and/or physical activity. Activities included skateboarding, Hungerball, cheerleading, hip hop, parkour, Circability and more. Our focus is engaging 'those who are missing out' with unique opportunities and providing safe and pressure-free spaces so they can try something new, find their feet and develop their confidence.

80% of the 115 girls who attended said they tried something they never thought they would. An astounding 100% said they would attend a similar event if it was offered again.



11

*It was really valuable just having girls at the festival. We found they were more willing to have a try. All our girls were fully engaged and they gave everything a go, even if they had never tried it before. The people running each station were super friendly."*

Teacher, Waterview Primary

# Play Out West

A new approach in West Auckland is putting tamariki in charge of how they play – with great success.

The [Neighbourhood Play System](#) (NPS) is an exciting approach to urban play design that places tamariki at the centre of the process. Three communities - Pātiki, Henderson North and Rānui - have been looking at play opportunities through the eyes of the tamariki, both within the school environment and also within a one kilometre radius of the school. They are telling us where they play, how they play, what's preventing them from playing and most importantly they are telling us what play opportunities they want to see in their local community. This then helps to shape the support that we can offer to enable play to happen.

School play is an exciting growing space and to help schools discover how they can implement play opportunities, this year's Play Out West Forum held its inaugural Play Tour with 25 participants from schools, play providers, council and Aktive. It was an opportunity to visit Massey Primary to see their sensory area and loose parts play, Western Heights Primary where we were treated to a bush play experience including fire lighting, and our final visit to Henderson North Primary to see loose parts play in action.



# Magic Play Box

Mā te Tākaro kia rere te wairua.

Play lets the spirit soar.

The Magic Play Box social enterprise is celebrating its third year and we are grateful to The Trusts for their continued support hosting us in their warehouse.

Over the last year we have continued to hear that play is more important than ever in the lives of tamariki, and especially following Cyclone Gabrielle which caused chaos and devastation across many parts of Aotearoa.

We have received steady orders for Magic Play Boxes this year, with an increased demand following them being featured in a story on TVNZ's Seven Sharp, about Tamariki 'unpacking their emotions through play' following [Cyclone Gabrielle](#).

Our relationships with suppliers continue to grow with a number of new suppliers contacting us to see how we can help divert their junk from landfills.

In the past 12 months, 39 schools and two non-school organisations (including Kainga Ora) were supplied with 79 Magic Play Boxes. This provided 11,094 tamariki with access to junk play via a Magic Play Box, as well as repurposing 4,600 kilograms of junk and diverting it from landfill.



# Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa



The Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa fund allows community organisations support to deliver a range of activities for children and young people. These activities and projects can be new or existing, and the fund has a particular focus on communities who may need a hand up to have positive opportunities to move for their health and wellbeing. These groups include women and girls, the disabled community and those people living in higher deprivation communities. We work closely with Aktive, CLM Community Sport, Sport Auckland and Harbour Sport to disseminate this funding across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The fund is split into two funding streams called the 'Local Fund' and the 'Fast Fund'. The Local Fund is for applications over \$10,000 and the Fast Fund is for projects up to a maximum of \$10,000. Over the last year, more than \$900,000 has been provided to 63 projects across West Auckland.

All of the recipients of this year's funding are listed [here](#).

# *Clubs and Community Sport Organisations*

NGĀ KARAPU  
ME NGĀ  
TŌPŪTANGA  
Ā HAPORI



## *Club capability*

Sport Waitākere offers development opportunities for clubs through advice, support, and leadership by providing resource, connection, and/or facilitation. Over the last year Sport Waitākere has seen a shift in the support from the delivery of workshops to facilitating face to face using the Club Health Check to generate valuable conversations. Through this facilitation, clubs are able to identify priorities to help them build a stronger club.



## Volunteers

We've partnered with One New Zealand to celebrate awesome volunteers across West Auckland. This kaupapa is about recognising and celebrating volunteers who make a difference in the community and deserve to be recognised for their time and talent shared with others.

Those recognised through the year have included:

- Larrisa Mutton, Auckland Roller Sport (November 2022)
- Tua Teio, Awhi Shed (February 2023)
- Cameron Curry, Western Districts Hockey Club (March 2023)
- Joanne Armstrong, Active Zone Community Programme (April 2023)
- Tyra Ibbott, Auckland Climbing Youth Development Club (May 2023)



## Weather response

The severe weather events early in 2023 had a significant impact on the wider community, including sports clubs. Sport Waitākere reached out to the region's clubs to assess how the weather events had impacted them. While some went unscathed, the feedback we received highlighted a spectrum of damage. Advice and support was provided to all affected clubs around the Aktive Emergency Relief Fund. Across Auckland, 75 clubs were successful in accessing support, including 19 West Auckland clubs that received a combined amount of \$37,393.08.

# Community Coach Development

Our [Leadership through Sport](#) workshop was designed and driven by insights gathered from our West Auckland secondary student coaches and sports coordinators at the end of 2022. The main themes from the insights were to grow the capability and confidence of our student coaches to engage more effectively with their players and ultimately, to help deliver quality coaching.

The event, held at Te Pai Netball Centre, brought together 33 West Auckland student leaders. There was a strong focus on the exploration of leadership through coaching, equipping coaches with tools and activities to create a positive team environment and culture, as well as practical application of developing skills for their players. The intent was to develop a better understanding of the importance of a student-centred coaching approach.

A raft of positive feedback was received after the event from the student leaders who are now putting into practise their learnings in the 2023 sports season. The student coaches along with the school sports coordinators are now more connected to and supported by coach developers from Netball Waitākere, Northern Region Football, Volleyball NZ, North Harbour Rugby and Community Basketball who were all present at the Leadership Through Sport event. We hope to continue this opportunity for our community moving forward.

“

*It gave me the opportunity to reflect on myself and my strengths and areas to work on.”*

*Avondale College student*

“

*Learning new stuff by doing it and then applying it through games was great.”*

*Waitākere College student*



# Good Sports and Balance is Better

Reinforcing the importance of the Good Sports and Balance is Better philosophies has continued to underpin our work over the last 12 months. Good Sports is a behaviour change initiative aimed at key adult influencers within youth sport with a focus on supporting children to have a positive experience - ensuring they become lifelong participants in sport. Balance is Better is an evidence-based philosophy to support quality sport experiences for all young people, regardless of ability, needs and motivations. It is about young people staying involved in sport for life and realising their potential at the right time.

A recent series of student-led workshops, run by Sport Waitākere at [Waitākere and St Dominic's Colleges](#), has been encouraging rangatahi to understand how they can incorporate these philosophies into their own sporting and coaching experiences to ultimately deliver better quality experiences for themselves, their team mates and those they are coaching.



"

*A good teammate looks like someone who is supportive and someone you can talk too."*

student

"

*These girls have the tools, they just needed some guidance to be confident in holding some standards around what behaviours they want to be a part of their sporting experiences."*

Jemma Palmer, workshop facilitator, Sport Waitākere

"

*There is a lot of participation, and everyone is smiling and having fun. We built our team culture at the start of the year, and it has really helped."*

Greer, student coach

# Community NGĀ HAPORI



# Active and engaged communities

## WAITĀKERE RANGES LOCAL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Carrying on from the mahi undertaken over the past year our focus has been on the activation and improvement of greenways and parks in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.

Key highlights include partnering with several organisations that have delivered activity in the rohe. Two significant projects we worked with were Te Korowai Ariki and Surf Life Saving NZ (Northern Region). Te Korowai Ariki used the principles of Te Whare Tapa Wha to allow rangatahi to reconnect with themselves and others and the land through movement.

Surf Life Saving NZ Northern engaged with local clubs but namely at Te Henga. The initiative brought together 59 rangatahi to become more confident in coaching, with a focus on developing a young community of coaches who will have a large impact across the beach network.

## WHAU LOCAL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This year has proved to be a busy one for the Sport Waitākere and Whau Local Board partnership, with one team member sitting on the Whau Ethnic Collective and another sitting on the Whau Pasifika Komiti. We are extremely proud of this, and it allows us to have an influential voice in the area.

We have supported greater insight gathering into how the community sees the local area thriving into the future. Over the past two years we have been working on lifting the play aspirations of the community and off the back of this we have begun planning a neighbourhood play system accessible to local tamariki.

Other highlights have included the Whau Cluster schools' inaugural Cultural Day and the third Hui Hub being held at Avondale Intermediate School. In addition, Synergy Indoor

Sports Centre has become a popular space for indoor active recreation, particularly as a place for our Asian community to gather and play.

## HENDERSON MASSEY LOCAL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Henderson Massey Local Board and Sport Waitākere partnered to consult with stakeholders to gain insight into how we can best improve the sport and recreation spaces and places in the area, with a plan for the area due in early August, 2023.

Te Atatū Community Centre has been a central point for much of our mahi over the past year. This has allowed us to keep working with the community to achieve their aspirations. During this time, the second Hui Hub saw 120 people and 67 organisations gain connections, as well as workshops covering Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa and wider funding, and our Kotiro Day.



## Gear Up!

Sport Waitākere's Gear Up! initiative has continued to grow, bringing play to tamariki in local communities.

Sport Waitākere's Gear Up! initiative has continued to grow, bringing play to tamariki in local communities. It sees a box full of play and sports gear placed where whānau congregate. An initial 14 boxes have now grown to 26 boxes, with many of these being funded by Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa. We now have boxes in schools, community hubs, marae, libraries and youth hubs.

The [Pātiki Hub at Eastdale Reserve](#) is a great example of how having this equipment available has allowed family members to participate in activities when other events have been happening such as the West Connect initiative that was taking turbo touch to the Avondale Community. The Gear Up! equipment was available at the same time allowing all family members to participate.

## Ethnic activities



### PASIFIKA

In May an inaugural Pasifika Governance 101 workshop took place, with a focus on providing more support to help our Pasifika communities to participate in governance roles across community and sport organisations in West Auckland.

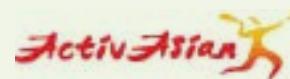
Sport Waitākere and Healthy Families Waitākere, together with MPHS Community Trust and Lead NZ worked collaboratively to develop the governance training project to:

- Increase the confidence and competence of Pasifika communities to participate in governance in West Auckland.
- Increase the diversity of boards in community and sport organisations across West Auckland.

Facilitated by Samoan Pastor Steve Mataia of Lead NZ, the workshop covered a range of topics focused on increasing Pasifika governance across West Auckland. The workshop was attended by a range of people, from

those new to governance to those with many years' experience. Participants voiced their curiosity to continue this learning, alongside changes needs to make board environments more culturally inclusive.

## ACTIVASIAN



Sport Waitākere continues to lend support, ranging from providing guidance around developing legal structures to support the growth of community groups, to co-designing cultural play activities for youth. These activities not only enrich participants' wellbeing but increase cross-generational understanding between the old and the young, and cross-cultural learning between different ethnicities.

Funded by Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa, Sport Waitākere partnered with Synergy Community Trust to engage with more than 40 Asian tamariki over 20 sessions to learn traditional Chinese dances and games in July 2022. This project culminated with a showcase in October at the Synergy Centre, with more than 60 attendees of all ages.

As well as supporting the elderly groups to deliver youth projects, we have also connected them to local schools, growing Asian cultural competency across the wider community. A presentation of traditional Asian drums and dragon dancing from the Chinese community was held at the Healthy Active Learning team's HALO event, offering professional development for teachers. This encouraged teachers to improve their understanding of Asian culture through interactive workshops.



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*Our intention is to lead Chinese and our young people to adapt to the New Zealand culture. We came to New Zealand and our future generations will all live here. New Zealand is our second home. We want to promote Chinese culture, connect our people together, connect ourselves to our own culture, and eventually blend in with the NZ culture."*

*zhu, Chairperson, West Auckland Chinese Association*

# Women and girls



The last 12 months have seen a number of women and girls' initiatives and programmes starting up using the Tū Manawa Aotearoa funding. These have covered everything from football to skateboarding, ice skating to self-defence and everything in between. We have seen high engagement with active recreation opportunities and have supported students to advocate for their own opportunities to be active.

Since mid-2019 the Whau Local Board has funded a Community Waitākere Community Developer, Shalema Wanden-Hannay, to facilitate and support the strengthening of community in New Windsor. This work led to the creation of the New Windsor Community Hub, which is now a Charitable Trust.

A key project has been development of culturally-appropriate [women-only pool sessions](#) that are providing multiple life-changing benefits for West Auckland women. The swimming sessions have now expanded and are running at Kelston Girls School, Massey High School and New Windsor School.

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*A good number of the women had never been in a pool before, to immerse in the water and to float. I realised just how much I took for granted the opportunities I've had in my life to experience and form a bond with water."*

*Shalema, Community Waitākere Community Developer and Lifeguard*

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Many refugees and migrants come from landlocked countries and have no experience of water and how to interact with it. Women-only pool sessions are enormously beneficial and contribute to good mental health, wellbeing, self-confidence, and help to create and strengthen social and support networks."

Fahima, New Migrant and Settlers Trust (NFACT) and member of the West Auckland Pool Session Collaboration Group



# Healthy Families Waitākere

A healthier Aotearoa starts in the places where we live, learn, work and play. In healthier environments, children learn better, workplaces are more productive, people are healthier and happier and communities thrive.

At Healthy Families Waitākere, we work alongside community to think differently about the underlying causes of poor health and identify the changes we can make together - in our schools, workplaces, sports clubs, marae, and other environments that will support making the healthy choice, the easy choice.

Healthy Families Waitākere is a Te Whatu Ora funded initiative and one of eleven locations across Aotearoa supporting change for better health and wellbeing in order to prevent the rise of chronic diseases.





# HE ORANGA WHĀNAU WAITĀKERE



## Active Whakapapa

The Active Whakapapa kaupapa is bringing people together to learn local Māori histories through pūrākau (oral storytelling), while being physically active and present in the taiao (natural environment). The hīkoi has brought hundreds of people together to share in this unique storytelling experience, most recently workplaces and agencies from across the motu.

Recognising the holistic benefits of Active Whakapapa, workplaces such as the National Placemaking Team at Kainga Ora, Healthy Families Rotorua, a group of Family Court Navigators, and more have taken part to support whakawhanaungatanga (relationship building).

Understanding the aspirations of Te Kawerau a Maki for Active Whakapapa, funding has been secured from Auckland Council's Western Initiative team to build capability of four-six rangatahi to deliver and host Active Whakapapa events for the iwi.

From the beginning, Healthy Families Waitākere considered ourselves the temporary holders of Active Whakapapa, with the long-term goal of handing the initiative to Te Kawerau a Maki (Mana Whenua) to use and develop.

For more information on Active Whakapapa, view the case study [here](#).



# Mana Motuhake o te Kai

Mana Motuhake o te Kai food secure communities' framework was created by the West Auckland Māori Thought Leadership Collective for people who want to learn how mātauranga Māori principles can inform growing, sharing and preparing kai.

The initiative is backboned by Healthy Families Waitākere, with the team currently simplifying the framework and socialising it across West Auckland community groups and Local Boards. The framework has been recognised by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board in its Climate Action Plan, alongside being integrated across Sport Waitākere's Healthy Active Learning team to support their work in local schools.

This initiative is exploring how to grow community connections through kai and create conditions for local food resilience. Funding has been sourced from the Department of Internal Affairs to support villages in Massey and Kelston, in the Glenavon and Massey Matters community hubs. Massey Matters is currently a pop up for fresh fruit and veggies, Imperfectly Perfect food bags for \$15 each. Perfectly Imperfect has been well received by local people, with orders on the boxes regularly topping 100 each week.

Glenavon is currently trialling a partnership with Kaitahi Kai 4 Communities, providing healthy meals at local events.

Kāhui Kai Maara is another outcome from the initial Kai Villages wānanga, supporting schools to collaborate on gardening efforts to create sustainable and productive gardening activities which can provide fresh produce for the local community.

# Kai Villages



Also aligning to Mana Motuhake o te Kai, Kāhui Kai Maara is currently being piloted in several West Auckland schools which are supported by the Healthy Active Learning team from Sport Waitākere.

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Our village approach is built on a kaupapa of care and support for our neighbours and allows for whānau to be able to feel like they can reciprocate the aroha, by becoming involved, and seeing themselves as part of the Kai Village."

Rebecca Thomson, Hub Coordinator,  
Glenavon Hub



## Tāfesilafa'i



The team is backboning a steering group of organisations to support 11 Aoga Amata across Auckland to increase access to culturally appropriate support and resources to improve aiga (family) and faiaoga (teacher) health and wellbeing.

During phase three of the initiative, SAASIA (steering group member) hosted regular professional learning and development days for faiaoga, covering essential topics such as funding opportunities for Aoga Amata, Education Review Office reporting, creative resource development and more. All professional learning and development took place in the Samoan language.

The phase two evaluation report can be found [here](#) and the case study can be found [here](#).

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We know the Tāfesilafa'i approach works for faiaoga and aiga. We can see it in the Aoga Amata. In a time when early learning centres (mainstream and language nests) attendance is in decline due to the ongoing ramifications of Covid-19, the Aoga Amata attendance levels have increased. The continuing support from the stakeholders, who have been instrumental in establishing this initiative, to enable our aoga amata, teachers, children and parents to dream their dreams, to grow and to achieve what they may never have thought possible before. Faiaoga share the children are happy and engaged in their learning, and we are the living evidence, our children, parents and communities – this is all the evidence we need to see to know Tāfesilafai is working."

Irene Paleai'i-Forotu, Fa'atonusili, SAASIA Director



## Ola Malosi

Through Tāfesilafa'i, faiaoga recognised the necessity of a culturally appropriate resource kit for Samoan communities. In collaboration with faiaoga, Healthy Families Waitākere is presently engaged in crafting this toolkit to benefit Aoga Amata and their aiga (children) by enhancing access to culturally fitting resources and equipment. Adopting a co-design approach, the development of the toolbox incorporates elements of physical activity, healthy eating, and language development. This collaborative process ensures that the toolbox accurately aligns with the needs and desires of faiaoga (teachers), Aoga Amata (Samoan language nests), and aiga (children and families).

## Te Moana Nui a Kiwa

Te Moana Nui a Kiwa has been developed through collaborative efforts to ensure that Pasifika communities in West Auckland receive the necessary resources and inclusion in the upcoming Auckland Council Local Board three-year plans. Once finalised, Te Moana Nui a Kiwa will be a comprehensive Pasifika Wellbeing Strategy that enhances the wellbeing of targeted Pasifika community groups and community organisations, facilitating their engagement and cooperation with the Pasifika community.

# Navigating Rathgar Road



Henderson's Rathgar Road is home to five schools, with students ranging from primary to high school age. Notorious for its road congestion and lack of active travel assets for students, Healthy Families Waitākere is working alongside 50 Māori and Pasifika students to explore how they would like to travel to and from school every day.

Understanding the importance of cultural narratives in our neighbourhoods, Pasifika navigation and wayfinding are being woven through the exploration process and ideation.



# Urban farms in West Auckland

This initiative focuses on identifying food growing sites to cultivate kai (food) and strengthen local food resilience, thereby increasing access to affordable fresh produce in West Auckland. To achieve this goal, we have utilised a feasibility study as an engagement tool to delve deeper into the challenges and build a compelling case for change.

Engagements have taken place with various stakeholders, including Auckland Council team members, organisations and academics from across the country, who generously shared their insights and experiences regarding this issue. Our case for change encompasses proposed alterations to zone definitions, guidelines pertaining to selling produce, and improved processes involving planning and land advisory teams.

We have also drawn inspiration from Christchurch City Council's successful approach to enabling local food production after the earthquakes, aiming to apply similar principles to Auckland Council. The resulting report played a pivotal role in assisting the Auckland Council Kai COP (Co-led by TSI) in developing their internal food action plan.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

# Kainga Ora collaboration

We are working with Kainga Ora to support its team in taking a localised approach to each development, to ensure the agency is deeply connected to the needs of the residents, the whakapapa of the area and the wider local community.

A handful of locations have been identified in Waterview and New Lynn, where we are supporting Kainga Ora with activations to engage with community including through mihi whakatau and several events to encourage outdoor play and shared kai.

Building strong and trusting relationships between Kainga Ora and the residents it supports is at the heart of this initiative, recognising the opportunity to scale across other Healthy Families locations.

# Locky Docks



We have collaborated with Locky Docks, a national social enterprise, focused on increasing awareness of cycling routes and offering free secure parking and charging facilities for e-bikes and scooters. Under the guidance of Healthy Families Waitākere, an equity lens was applied to confirm eight Locky Dock stations in West Auckland communities. The initiative has successfully launched, rolling out in stages across the region. These locations are being installed throughout 2023.

# Creating safer communities:

## COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO RESPONSIBLE DRINKING IN WEST AUCKLAND

Our collaborative efforts with The Trusts have been driven by a shared strategic intent to understand peoples relationships with alcohol and how we might collectively work to ensure safe and responsible drinking in West Auckland communities.

In 2022, Healthy Families Waitākere developed a comprehensive briefing for The Trusts, highlighting international best practices for alcohol outlets in relation to minimising levels of unsafe alcohol consumption. This included tools such as limited opening hours, discontinuation of single sales, reduced advertising and store visibility (particularly near schools), and a gradual phase-out of tobacco products. Three out of the five proposed initiatives were successfully actioned and implemented by The Trusts: reducing storefront advertising, disestablishing single sales, and phasing out tobacco.

In 2023, Lynette Adams, the former CEO of Healthy Families Waitākere's lead provider Sport Waitākere, assumed a new role within The Trusts as the Community Engagement Manager. Since then, we have been working closely with Adams on various projects, including a joint submission to the consultation process for the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act.





## WEST AUCKLAND TOGETHER

The essence of the whakataukī **“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini”** beautifully encapsulates the profound truth that success is not borne from the efforts of a single individual, but rather emerges from the collective contributions of many working together harmoniously.

West Auckland Together (WAT) is a collective of community organisations, committed to improving outcomes for Māori and Pasifika in West Auckland. A foundational building block to actualise this is to support the development of Māori and Pasifika leadership and aspirations through a strong collaborative effort by enhancing our relationships with the West Auckland Māori Thought Leadership Collective (WAMTLC) and the Waitākere Pasifika Collective (WPC). Identifying and learning more about the conditions required that enables the building and strengthening of relationships with these collectives is a key priority for WAT.

As a way to reinforce this work, partner organisations in WAT will continue to build on their

own internal capabilities in this area. WAT aspires to ‘hold the space’ for organisations and community to participate, be involved and ultimately lead in collective mahi that contributes to their own aspirations.

Sport Waitākere continues to be one of the key members of West Auckland Together, with representation on the strategy group and participation in a number of working groups. Sport Waitākere also employs the Collaboration Broker and holds funds on behalf of the collective.

A significant testament to the collective’s effectiveness is its swift response to the extreme weather events that struck in 2023. In the wake of these challenges, West Auckland Together immediately mobilised funds, ensuring that they reached the forefront of relief efforts. Additionally, the collective played a pivotal role in creating a user-friendly web-based resource that condensed critical assistance information, demonstrating their ability to effectively communicate key details to the public and other agencies engaged in relief efforts.

The impact of West Auckland Together is readily apparent through various notable accomplishments. Initiatives like Kai West have emerged from the collective, channelling efforts towards the local food system. Additionally, the focus on kai sovereignty has gained significant traction, with the establishment of the Mana Motuhake o te Kai framework and the mobilisation of substantial central government funding for related endeavours.

As West Auckland Together continues to forge ahead, its trajectory remains focused on deepening collaboration. Key strategies encompass close collaboration with essential collectives, encouraging member organisations to recalibrate their structures to better serve Māori and Pasifika communities, validating findings through community representatives, and augmenting cultural competence among partners. Through these concerted efforts, West Auckland Together not only thrives as a powerful collaborative entity but also facilitates transformational change that West Auckland so rightfully deserves.



With Sport Waitākere's vision of Everyone connected, healthy and active | Kia tuia, kia ora, kia tū, and Aktive's vision: Auckland – the world's most active city | Tāmaki Makaurau – te tāone ngangahau rawa o te ao", our kaupapa are aligned and focused on the same direction.

Throughout 2022/23, Aktive and Sport Waitākere have worked closely together to advance positive outcomes for Waitākere and Tāmaki Makaurau more broadly. This has spanned areas and initiatives such as Healthy Active Learning, Youth Sport, Women and Girls, Play, Active Recreation, Disability and Inclusion, Cultural Competency, Insights and Evaluation, Spaces and Places, and the distribution of Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa investment, with \$889,689.00 available to support tamariki and rangatahi to participate in play, active recreation and sport in Waitākere. There is no shortage of opportunity and indeed challenge, and that provides a strong motivator and aligned kaupapa for both of our teams to collaborate on.

Recent years have seen ongoing challenges from Covid-19 and the start of 2023 saw a new challenge, extreme weather events. This devastating time again saw Sport Waitākere roll up their sleeves to support their communities in greatest need. Aktive was pleased to support this local response by establishing a Regional Emergency Relief Fund to provide some financial relief to sport and recreation

organisations that were impacted. This would not have been possible without the support of Foundation North and Sport NZ who responded promptly and generously to Aktive's advocacy and request for support.

We were delighted to see the appointment of David George as the new Chief Executive and are looking forward to seeing the relationship between our two organisations continuing to go from strength to strength.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Jarrod Walton who recently stepped down as Chair of Sport Waitākere and who will complete the short time remaining within his maximum term as a Trustee of the Board. Jarrod's contribution has been significant, and we wish him well for his future endeavours which I have no doubt will continue to involve service to community.

**Jennah Wootten**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Aktive**



Healthy Families NZ is an innovative, proven prevention initiative that is community-led, systems focused and grounded in mātauranga Māori. The initiative aims to improve people's health where they live, learn, work and play by taking a 'systems change' approach to preventing chronic disease. Healthy Families NZ recognises that no one organisation, sector or community can work alone in achieving pae ora (healthy futures). Healthy Families Waitākere is one of ten Healthy Families NZ locations across Aotearoa. Our lead providers are best placed to work collaboratively with and alongside communities and partners in their location, to utilise systems thinking and social innovation to create sustainable change.

Healthy Families Waitākere have continued to make significant progress, contributing to improved health and wellbeing in their community. Some examples of key achievements are the release of Active Whakapapa 'A hīkoi of discovery', utilising the Waitākere Urban Farms Report for engagement with sector partners, the West Auckland Kai Villages mahi, the continued work by the team to backbone the Tāfesilafa'i initiative and the Pātiki Play Systems project. A massive congratulations to Healthy Families Waitākere for being invited to share the transformative work of

Active Whakapapa and Tāfesilafa'i at the World Community Development Conference, held in Darwin, Australia in June 2023.

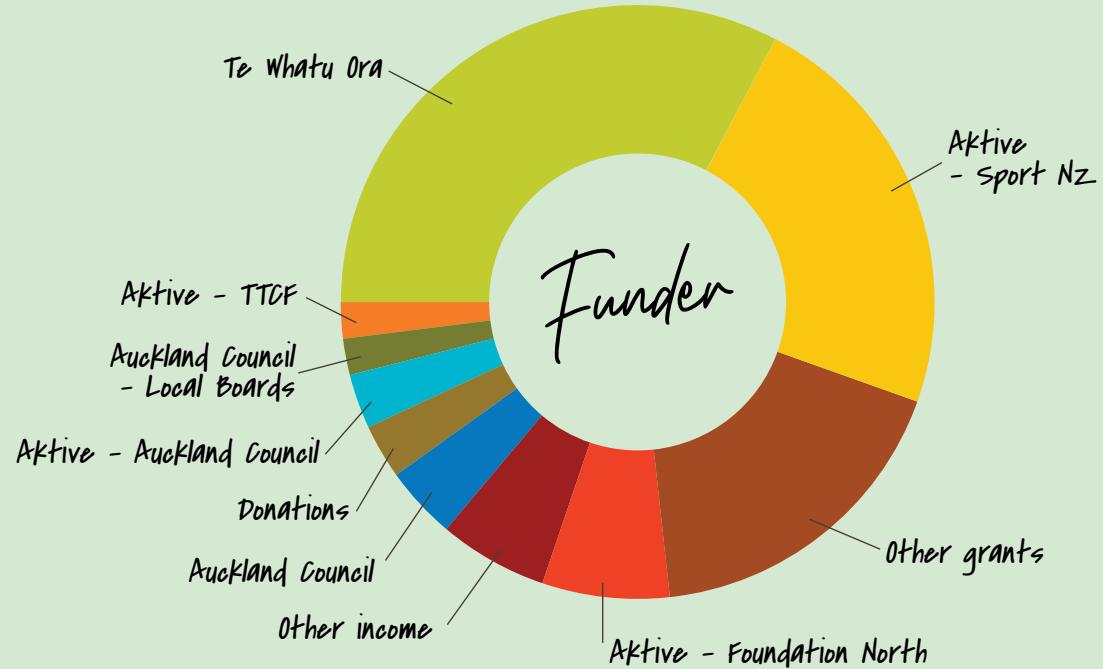
Healthy Families Waitākere continues to play an integral and pivotal role in the wider Healthy Families NZ movement. A special thanks to Kerry Allan, Manager of Healthy Families Waitākere for her leadership of the Healthy Families Waitākere team.

As we enter in to our tenth year of Healthy Families NZ in West Auckland, I would like to thank the Healthy Families Waitākere team, Sport Waitākere and all partners for the commitment and passion you bring to this kaupapa. I look forward to seeing the impact of Healthy Families Waitākere for years to come.

**Melanie Turner**  
**Senior Portfolio Manager**  
**Te Whatu Ora**

## FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our investment, contract, funding and awards partners and supporters for helping us achieve our vision of a community where everyone is connected, healthy and active.



Sport Waitākere is a registered Charitable Trust and receives funds and grants from various sources to fulfil its role in the community. The majority of this funding is 'tagged', which means it is provided to Sport Waitākere for a particular purpose. Sport Waitākere can only use it for that specified purpose and must report back to the funding provider about how funds are spent or else return them.

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

**Total 2023 Revenue \$3,959,663**

89%

Revenue from grants and donations

11%

Revenue from exchange transactions

**Total 2023 Expenses \$3,855,891**

63%

Employee and volunteer related costs

37%

Other expenses

For full details of Sport Waitākere's financial statements for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 please visit [www.sportwaitakere.nz](http://www.sportwaitakere.nz)

### SPORT WAITĀKERE ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP:

JR McKenzie Trust

Ministry of Education

Hutt City Council

West Auckland Trust Services (The Trusts)

NZ Community Trust (NZCT)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



*www.sportwaitakere.nz*