

Annual Report

2024/2025



WHĀNAU MANAAKI



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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR



The past year has been one out of the ordinary with the volume and pace of change being pushed at our sector by the current Government. As a result, the last twelve months have seen us increasingly working together through our collective organisation, Kindergartens Aotearoa.

Kindergartens Aotearoa, sometimes known as KA, represents six regional kindergarten associations. Together we represent around 260 kindergartens and several homebased services and playgroups. More than 12,000 children attend our services each day. That's 12,000 whānau interactions every day – 60,000 opportunities every week for our kaimahi to influence how people think about ECE in New Zealand.

As a group, we have held several hui to help shape our thinking about the way forward in a time of challenge to our values about early childhood education as a public good, not a commercial opportunity. This has enabled a consistent and unified message as we engage with the government on proposals which we know are detrimental.

In December, the government released its review about how our services are regulated, which were then approved by cabinet.

Since then, the Ministry of Education has consulted about some changes to licensing criteria, based on reducing compliance costs for business at the expense of children and families. While some changes could be acceptable with modifications, we strongly

oppose several, particularly those that leave families out of the programme.

This engagement has taken a lot of focus. As well as an agenda for change in our sector, we have engaged with other dramatic pieces of legislation such as the Treaty Principles Bill and the Regulatory Standards Bill.

While these bills have sought to undermine te Tiriti o Waitangi, they have also energised the electorate, including our kaiako, who have responded by engaging in the democratic process in large numbers.

On the flipside, the last year has brought some fantastic wins for Whānau Manaaki, including the launch of Piri'anga Alofa and the ability to step in and help communities such as Kimbolton in Northern Manawātū, Clutha Valley in South Otago and Tapanui in West Otago to ensure continued access to high quality, relevant ECE in their communities.

In addition, I would like to make a special mention of the exemplary outcome of our recent ERO review – the time and effort that goes into such reviews these cannot be overestimated, and it isn't by accident that we received a glowing report across the organisation. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Our board is proud of the work we do and in our approach in adhering to our values of doing right by children. It is a balancing act to take a financially prudent approach while maintaining a quality affordable service for all, as well as seeking to consolidate and expand what we do.

This year we celebrate 120 years of kindergarten in our region, and we are determined to stay the course and remain relevant to our communities for the next 120 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Robinson', positioned above a solid red horizontal line.

Martin Robinson
Board Chair, Whānau Manaaki

MESSAGE FROM CEO



This year has reaffirmed that kindergarten is more than education - it is a cornerstone for community growth and hauora. The inclusion of Kimbolton, Clutha Valley, and Kidzway Kindergartens into our Whānau Manaaki whānau reflects our commitment to equity, access, and quality. These communities, each with unique needs, now share in the support and strength of our network.

Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services, formerly Amataga o le Folauga, continued to build on its 15 years of serving Pacific communities. As part of Whānau Manaaki, it continues to deliver vital social and health services that help children, families, and their communities to thrive.

Our kaupapa is grounded in manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, ensuring every child is celebrated as a learner. We remain committed in our journey to become a Tiriti o Waitangi-based organisation, deepening our understanding of Te Tiriti in today's world.

We stand alongside other associations, offering guidance, resources, and solidarity. In a time when collaboration is essential, we're committed to helping the early childhood sector not just survive, but thrive.

As we celebrate 120 years of kindergarten in our region, we honour the founder of kindergarten, Friedrich Froebel's radical idea that "Play is the highest expression of human development." His philosophy continues to shape our practice. We're deeply grateful

to Professor Helen May, whose scholarship preserves our history and strengthens our future.

This year has continued to reinforce the power of connection when staff, parents, and whānau unite, wonderful learning happens. A huge thank you to our board and staff for your amazing mahi – you rock!

In an environment where policy increasingly prioritises profit over people, we remain powerful advocates for tamariki. We believe that quality early childhood education is a public good, not a commodity. Our work is driven by values, not margins, and we will continue to speak out, act boldly, and serve with integrity.

Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi
With your basket and my basket, we will
sustain everyone

Amanda Coulston
 Chief Executive, Whānau Manaaki



**Strengthening our Capability
and Capacity as a Te Tiriti
o Waitangi Led Organisation**

Treaty Principles Bill

Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens through our collective organisation, Kindergartens Aotearoa, had the chance to be heard by the Justice Select Committee on our submission on the Treaty Principles Bill in March 2025.

Over 340,000 submissions were received by the Select Committee, and some of the organisations and individuals were invited to make oral submissions, including Kindergartens Aotearoa. Tara Solomon from Kaitiaki Kindergartens in North Auckland represented Kindergartens Aotearoa, speaking about the place of Te Tiriti in early childhood education and how it is embedded in our everyday practice as well as our curriculum.

Since 1989, when centres were required to have a charter which included clauses relating to the Treaty, early childhood services have been on a trajectory to recognise and honour Te Tiriti.

Tamariki Kapa Haka

November marked the annual Tamariki Kapa Haka performance at Te Papa Tongarewa. This year's performance was truly uplifting said Kaitiaki o Kaupapa Māori Louana Fruean, with 700 people in attendance.

The annual Kapa Haka performance provides a vibrant, authentic space for tamariki to connect with their culture. Younger tamariki watch in awe as older performers take the stage, fostering inspiration, pride, and a strong sense of whanaungatanga across generations.

Tai Tamariki, Katoa, and Toru Fetū Kindergartens, as well as Fernlea, Wainuiomata, Kōnini, and Kelson schools performed.

Regular adult Kapa Haka takes place at the Whānau Manaaki Porirua offices. Participants in Lou's adult Whānau Manaaki Kapa Haka group come together for a performance at the association's annual conference in October.

**The Treaty is not just
a historical document.
It is a living promise.**

– Moana Jackson

Joleen's Sabbatical Story

*Ko Takitimu me Kurahaupō ōku waka,
Ko Tāwhirangi, Whakapūnake, me
Maungaharuru ōku maunga,
Ko Mōhaka me Wairoa ōku awa,
Ko Ngāti Kahungunu me Rangitāne ōku iwi,
Ko Ngāti Pāhauwera me Ngāti Mātangirau
ōku hapū,
Ko Waipapa-a-iwi me Whākirangi ōku marae,
Nō Mataura ahau,
Kei Iwikatea tōku kāinga ināianeī.
Ko Joleen Barclay tōku ingoa.*

Joleen Barclay from Balclutha Kindergarten found her Head Teachers' sabbatical gave her a chance to reflect and grow as a kaiako and as a wahine Māori.

After 15 years at Balclutha, it provided an opportunity to step outside the role, giving another teacher a chance to step up.

"Letting go of the weight of leadership, even just for a while, gave me the clarity and calm (mauri tau) I didn't realise I needed. It also gave me a much - needed reminder of the privilege it is to be a head teacher and the responsibility to children that comes with that privilege."

Joleen used the time for her studies for a Master's degree, completing five papers. It gave her a chance to look afresh at leadership and consider ways to further nurture others.

"I want every kaiako in my team to feel like a leader. Not just when I'm away, but always. That's the kind of leadership I believe in; one that lifts everyone."

Joleen recommends sabbaticals to other Head Teachers. "It gave me energy, perspective, and joy in my mahi again. I never imagined I could study at this level, full stop, let alone while still teaching and caring for my whānau, but I did. And if I can, anyone can."

She advises Head Teachers to see this time as a necessity, not a luxury. "Please take it. Use it. You deserve it."

The sabbatical gave her time to rest, to deepen her learning, to challenge assumptions, and reclaim space as a Māori woman in education. "These studies have transformed how I lead, teach, and see myself."

Joleen says she now leads with manaakitanga and wairuatanga, "I am embedding kaupapa Māori into everything, from assessment to leadership. I trust the power of pūrākau, relationships, and resilience to shape pedagogy."

"The standout was 'if something does not feel tika/right, we have a responsibility to find out why and speak up,' not simply agree. Every voice has value."



Top image: Joleen with her two sons & partner

Below image: With her parents & siblings

Blessing of Te Tiriti Taonga in Balclutha

In November 2024, Whānau Manaaki held a blessing for our Clutha office at Te Pou O Mata Au Clutha District War Memorial and Community Centre. The ceremony was led by local Waikoaou Rūnanga representative Timikuka Walker and included senior leaders, CEO Amanda Coulston, Kaitiaki o Kaupapa Māori Louana Fruean, kaiako, and members from the Clutha community.

At the ceremony a symbolic Te Tiriti O Waitangi taonga was unveiled. Louana spoke of its importance and significance, and how it stands as a reminder of our association's values.

The ceremony was a showcase of how we have united and worked together with the Clutha district an important part of our collective whānau.



Tamariki from Pukerua Bay supporting the kaupapa.

Hīkoi mō te Tiriti

Te Hīkoi mō te Tiriti, was held from the 10th to 19th November 2024, to protest against the Treaty Principals Bill.

Around the motu kindergartens marked this significant march to parliament in different ways, with activities to support Te Tiriti o Waitangi, from dressing up, crafts and activities with tamariki, or mat time learning and listening to stories about the importance of the potest for Aotearoa.

Whānau Manaaki staff from our support offices, senior leadership, teachers and other kindergarten staff took leave to take part. Board members, including our board chair Martin Robinson, as well as many parents and whānau from our kindergartens attended alongside their tamariki.

Our kindergartens remained open, and many took the opportunity to learn about the history of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the role of protest action within democracy. This day was Kotahitanga in action and history in the making.



Flags flying high at the hīkoi from Frank Kitts Park to Parliament.

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**Innovate and Continuously
Improve Teaching and Learning**

Ngā Meo O Te Hinengaro 2024

Our 2024 conference (Nga mea o te hinengaro, Habits of mind) provided our major opportunity for professional development and growth of all our staff as we came together.

The conference presentations provoke thought, change practice, and provide inspiration for the year ahead.

A highlight of the conference was the presence of Lady Tilly and Sir Tamati Reedy, who we presented with a taonga, a painting from renowned Māori artist Darcy Nicholas to recognise their support for our organisation and our sector over many years.

The conference heard from a diverse range of speakers, through both keynote presentations and smaller groups based on particular themes.

Keynote speakers included Dame Anne Salmond, who spoke of New Zealand's history, and of how impressed the missionaries were to see the progressive child-rearing practices of Māori that valued children's voice and contribution.

Dame Anne stressed that all our children are taonga to be cherished, and teachers have the opportunity to give children the warmth and stability that enables them to have a strong foundation for life.

Nanaia Mahuta, a former foreign affairs minister, in her keynote presentation recognised the role of early childhood kaiako in providing a relevant local

curriculum that meets children where they are and understand their context, as well as promoting justice, fairness, cultural diversity and inclusion.

Entertainer and actor Tofiga Fepulea'i our final keynote speaker provided his trademark humour at conference. He also recognised the role of early childhood education, having attended kindergarten as a child and returning to kindergarten more recently as a parent.



Top image: Our wonderful kaiako from East Harbour Kindergarten at one of the presentations

Below image: Participants on the hīkoi tour with Dr Robin Skinner

Results of ERO

Between 22 July and 11 September 2024, the Education Review Office (ERO) conducted its scheduled evaluation of Whānau Manaaki, as part of the Governing Organisation Evaluation introduced through changes to the Education and Training Act. The review included visits to our kindergartens, Etu Ao Homebased service, and discussions with our senior leaders and head office to assess how we support and govern our services.

ERO was welcomed at our Porirua office with a session attended by teaching staff, office teams, senior leaders, and Board members. A ceremony was held to establish the Va - the relationship and space between ERO and Whānau Manaaki.

New look for Te Kete Mātauranga

Whānau Manaaki and our communications team have worked to make it easier for teachers to access the resources we have available for them. This means having all the resources in one place and therefore moving away from using StoryPark.

Te Kete Mātauranga has been updated with a new look and layout and is home to all our teacher resources. It is also where our weekly internal newsletter the Kōrero is published.

Having all our resources in one place means things can be more accessible and user friendly for everyone and can be easily updated.

Whakanuia

Ka huri whakamuri, kia ahu whakamua, ka neke. To improve and move forward we must reflect back to what has been.

In 2025, Whānau Manaaki celebrates 120 years of kindergarten in our region!

Kindergarten pioneer Mary Richmond established the Richmond Kindergarten Union, the forerunner of the Wellington Kindergarten Association, in 1905, with the first kindergarten opening the following year.

Emeritus Professor Helen May is supporting our Whakanuia project with her research and writing, tracing the story from the roots of the kindergarten movement in Europe to its flourishing in Aotearoa today.

We are grateful for her scholarship and hard work.



The Association had its roots in the Froebel Society established by Mary Richmond in 1897. In 1905 she formed the Richmond Kindergarten Union that established the first free kindergarten in the city.

Learning support

This year, our Learning Support team placed a strong emphasis on emotional regulation support. Hui explored key topics such as emotional thresholds, the fight-flight-freeze response, and how these differ for neurodiverse children. Discussions also covered the reasons behind big emotions and how understanding these helps Kaiako and whānau respond more effectively.

Anna McMillan from the Learning Support team explained, “All tamariki under five are learning about emotional regulation, beginning with coregulation with a trusted adult. Through repeated practice, they develop the ability to self-regulate their emotions and behaviours over time.”

Understanding the developmental roots of emotional responses is essential. Tamariki may struggle to express emotions due to how the brain redirects activity from the speech centre to the emotional core during heightened states. This is especially evident in neurodiverse children, who may face additional challenges in communication and regulation.

Children also have limited capacity for emotional regulation due to the gradual development of the prefrontal cortex, which supports planning and self-control.

Additionally, most children do not develop ‘Theory of Mind’ - the ability to understand others’ perspectives - until around age six or seven, which can lead to misunderstandings and emotional outbursts.

By recognising these developmental realities, we can better support tamariki through strategies such as identifying triggers, offering distractions, and using play-based approaches to help them navigate emotional experiences.

All tamariki under five are learning about emotional regulation, beginning with coregulation with a trusted adult. Through repeated practice, they develop the ability to self-regulate their emotions and behaviours over time.

— Anna McMillan

Developing our Leaders

Our commitment to nurturing leadership continues to be a cornerstone of our growth and success. Over the past year, we've deepened our focus on developing the skills and confidence of our leaders through targeted professional development.

A highlight was our series of workshops with Chris Rowan from Impact Us Leadership Development. These sessions brought together our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Team Leaders for an engaging and thought - provoking journey into effective leadership practices. Chris's approach challenged us to think differently, communicate more intentionally, and lead with purpose.

These workshops not only strengthened individual capabilities but also fostered a shared leadership culture across our organisation, one that values collaboration, reflection, and continuous improvement.

Our Child Protection professional development course has been developed and facilitated with a Whānau Manaaki - specific lens by staff member Lorraine Coulston and clinical psychologist Lesley Ayland. This course is comprehensive, practical, and supportive, guided by expert insight and tailored to the unique needs of our kindergartens.

Lesley Ayland brings a wealth of experience as a clinical psychologist, having spent nearly a decade working in sexual violence prevention, rehabilitation, and child protection. Her deep knowledge ensures our staff, particularly teachers and community navigators, are well-informed about what to look for and how to respond appropriately when concerns arise.

Child Protection – Professional Learning Development

Whānau Manaaki is deeply committed to ensuring that all staff working with tamariki and whānau are equipped to identify signs of potential abuse and take appropriate, informed action. As part of our professional learning and development programme, we offer courses that address child abuse and child protection, including key indicators of possible harm.

Whānau Manaaki actively collaborates with experts to ensure our training is of the highest quality and relevance.

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a pink wide-brimmed hat, a light green dress with a purple floral pattern, and pink sneakers, is smiling and climbing a blue rope on a jungle-themed play structure. The background is a lush green jungle scene with large trees and foliage. The image is framed by decorative geometric patterns of triangles in white, blue, and orange along the left and right edges.

Strengthening our Financial and Organisational Health

Launch of Parent Pānui

We have developed a regular parent pānui which is emailed to every family and printed off in every kindergarten, to keep families in touch with Whānau Manaaki.

This means families know that their local kindergarten has the support of a wider Kindergarten Association. It also details some of the work that we do to make sure that our staff and our families are well supported.

The pānui has promoted our advocacy work, in particular our E Tū Kaha campaign which is about protecting the best of the kindergarten movement for current and future generations.

As well as news about the wider early childhood sector and changes that are happening at a national level, the pānui includes parenting information about child development, learning support needs, and play suggestions.

We include photos from around our regions, so families can have a sense of the different kindergartens under our umbrella, and the communities they reside in.

Photocopying Services Changes

Changes in the funding environment led Whānau Manaaki to explore and consider ways to reduce costs that didn't affect our kindergarten environments. We found one of our major expenses to be photocopying services and consequently worked hard to ensure that we were getting the best value for our money, to find the best solution we invited multiple vendors to submit proposals that met our specific needs.

We considered several key factors such as cost, cultural fit, device functionality, print volumes, geography and proximity, accessibility and room availability.

We were able to determine the best fit for our needs was Canon, and we started the process to transition to our new photocopying service provider.

A group of senior teachers was involved in finalising device locations to ensure that where devices are located was a good fit.

We were confident that teams would still be able to operate safely and effectively and increased interaction between teams, could create benefits to come out of those relationships. This was a situation where the change was going to strengthen our organisation, it would help teams grow together, and it was effectively improving our financial health, an essential part of future - proofing.

Piri'anga Alofa Partners Event

Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services held a morning tea at the Whānau Manaaki Porirua office in early 2025 to meet community partners and supporters.

Those attending included local MP and Labour's Finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds, Ngāti Toa Rangatira chief executive Helmut Modlik, and Porirua Deputy Mayor, Kylie Wihapi.

Others attending came from the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Kainga Ora, Porirua City Council, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Central Pacific Collective, Southcoast Construction, Whitireia/Weltec Polytechnic, Partners Porirua and the Porirua business community.

As well as a chance to acknowledge support from partners and community leaders, the event was an opportunity to introduce Joshua Saua, operations manager for Le Fale Jobs and Skills hub.

The event helped cement Le Fale's position in the community as a service to create real pathways for people into employment, training and leadership.



Top image: MP Barbara Edmonds and Fa'amatuainu Tino Pereira, CE of Central Pacific Collective.



Below image: Piri'anga Alofa Community Service Senior Lead, Caroline Mareko and Leona Kitiseni, MSD Director | Employment Programmes.

Working with Kindergartens Aotearoa

This year, we continued to work as part of Kindergartens Aotearoa and to consolidate our relationships with other Associations within the collective.

These are Inspired Kindergartens, Napier Kindergartens, Kidsfirst Kindergartens, Kaitiaki Kindergartens and Taranaki Kindergartens as well as Whānau Manaaki.

We have worked with the not-for-profit specialist organisation, For Purpose, to develop our website and social media presence.

We have participated in several forums to work closely with member organisations and allies during this time of change and challenge within our sector. We have included other kindergarten associations which may be interested in working with us or joining us, particularly in areas such as advocacy.

We have established a Kindergartens Aotearoa Kaitiaki Council of academics and experts in early childhood education: Professor Jenny Ritchie, Retired Professor Linda Mitchell, Emeritus Professor Helen May, Professor Alex Gunn, Professor Carmen Dalli and Associate Professor Jacoba Matapo.

The Kaitiaki Council will be a guiding group and resource for Kindergartens Aotearoa. We have released press releases and made submissions on issues of concern within the Kindergarten Aotearoa organisation.

We have worked particularly closely with the Taranaki Kindergarten Association, which has been exploring joining Whānau Manaaki at some stage in the future.

Piri'anga Alofa launch new website

In May we launched the new Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services website. It provides a space to display the meaningful and important work of our Pacific-led unit who have been proudly serving our communities for over 15 years.

It also provides an opportunity for future growth allowing branding to be reinforced and making it easier to connect with services.



Operational Review for Le Fale Jobs & Skills Hub

Le Fale Jobs and Skills Hub provides a trusted space for the community, supporting people into employment, training and personal growth. The team has built strong trusted relationships and delivered real impact through their mahi.

Le Fale recently welcomed Josh Saua as Operations Manager. With a background in the Army and construction, Josh is focused on understanding community needs, and identifying ways to make day-to-day work more effective.

A review focused on improving internal processes, clarifying roles, and streamlining how services were delivered. Staff were engaged throughout, and their insights shaped the changes. The Le Fale hub remains community - led and values - driven, now with stronger systems to support its purpose.

Le Fale continues to grow as a place of opportunity and transformation, backed by a team that's connected, confident, and ready for what's next.



Josh Saua, Le Fale Operations Manager and his family.

During 2024, Le Fale Jobs and Skills Hub

234

Client engagements at Le Fale Jobs & Skills Hub

43

Clients were placed into job vacancies

17

Community workshops held

Improving Access for Tamariki, Parents and Whānau to Increasingly Relevant Services

Political Submissions

Whānau Manaaki took the opportunity to speak up for tamariki and whānau in July 2024 and made submissions on two government bills that were before select committees at parliament.

The Residential Tenancies Bill made it easier for landlords to evict tenants from rental properties. Whānau Manaaki opposed this as it adds to housing instability, adversely affecting families, leading to worse outcomes for health, wellbeing, and educational achievement.

The repeal of Section 77A of the Oranga Tamariki Act. The proposed changes to the Oranga Tamariki Act meant that Oranga Tamariki would not have to consider Te Tiriti O Waitangi when placing Māori children. The Waitangi Tribunal found that this could harm Māori children who are over-represented in state care.

Whānau Manaaki asked to meet the relevant select committees to elaborate on our concerns. Select committee submissions are analysed and put before the committee considering the bill, and laws can change as a result.

In person submissions can be powerful as committee members hear from those affected by proposed laws. Many MPs say select committees are where the real work of parliament occurs. All parties are represented on select committees.

Toru Fetū Pasifika Literacy Programme

The project focused on increasing literacy among Pacific children by supporting reading in different heritage languages as well as English.

Through the project, kindergartens gained resources, training and support to improve the literacy of the children in their kindergartens, and their families.

Alana Nootai, Assistant Head Teacher from Toru Fetū Kindergarten, spoke about the programme and its impact on Toru Fetū, one of the kindergartens involved.

As part of the programme, every year, each child received five books to keep - one in each language. These books would go home with the children.

This directly increased the availability of books in the children's homes. The children would come to kindergarten telling their teachers about the stories they read at home. Alana says they would also hear from their parents and grandparents, it was of great benefit to the whole family.

Another benefit was the workshops and professional development provided through the programme, for both teachers and whānau members. Programme facilitators held special sessions focused on increasing reading and other forms of literacy for Pacific children in homes and early childhood.

Data and evidence collected revealed overwhelming benefits of the project. To this end, the cancelling of the contract by the Ministry of Education was particularly disappointing.

E tū Kaha Stand up for Children

Whānau Manaaki continues to champion high - quality early childhood education through our E Tū Kaha campaign, which reflects our commitment to protecting early learning as a public good and strengthening our organisation's purpose and impact.

Amanda Coulston says “it is well recognised that the early years in a child’s life are the most important.” This underpins our advocacy efforts to ensure early childhood education remains high quality and accessible, benefiting tamariki, whānau and communities.

In June 2025, Amanda participated in a panel discussion hosted by NZEI Te Riu Roa, highlighting the risks of shifting education from a public service to a profit - driven model. She spoke to the real impacts this shift has on tamariki, kaiako, and communities.

Whānau Manaaki has actively informed our community around this issue, encouraging submissions and collective action.



Top image: Kaiako at Te Timatanga Hou Kindergarten in Levin.

Below image: E Tū Kaha display at Tui Park Kindergarten in Linden.

Early childhood is ... a period of momentous significance for all people growing up in (our)culture... By the time this period is over, children would have formed conceptions of themselves as social beings, as thinkers, and as language users, and they will have reached certain important decisions about their own abilities and their own worth.

– Donaldson, Grieve, and Pratt in *Te Whāriki national early childhood curriculum*

MPs visit Kindergartens

Kaiako have been encouraged to invite their local MPs to visit their kindergartens. Recently, MP Suze Redmayne visited Kimbolton Kindergarten in her Rangitikei electorate. She shared a post to her Facebook page, describing the visit as “a fantastic start to my day visiting the incredible team and kids at Kimbolton Kindergarten.”

“With help from Whānau Manaaki, it’s a buzzing hub of connection, belonging, and strong early learning for our local children. To the amazing staff - Cindy, Leigh, Malu, and Aleisha - thank you for having me. It was a pleasure to spend time with you and your awesome community.”

This proves the value of our kindergartens connecting with our local MPs, building relationships, making MPs and their staff feel welcome, and building support for quality early childhood education. Kimbolton’s Head Teacher Cindy Hawkins says both she and Senior Teacher Leigh Owen stressed the value of qualified teachers in our sector.

We continue to encourage growing relationships with our government, to share the importance of what we do.

Children’s Day

The first Sunday of March marked Children’s Day, a special occasion to honour and celebrate our tamariki. This year, it coincided with the vibrant Newtown Festival, which drew a crowd of over 80,000 people.

Kaiako from Te Ō Newtown Kindergarten and Berhampore Kindergarten hosted a stall at the festival as part of our E Tū Kaha campaign.

Throughout the week, other Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens also held events to celebrate Children’s Day and to champion the rights and wellbeing of our tamariki. Kindergartens welcomed whānau to join in special activities, while also shining a spotlight on our campaign promoting high - quality early childhood education.



Top image: MP Suze Redmayne at Kimbolton Kindergarten.

Below image: Balclutha Kindergarten keeping tamariki at the heart of everything they do.



Celebrating cultures and languages around our kindergartens

We celebrate the rich cultures and diversity of our kindergartens through everyday learning, shared stories, kai, and kōrero.

From language weeks to whānau led events, we create spaces where identity and belonging is celebrated and can thrive.

Left top image: Te Manawanui Kindergarten celebrating Pacific Language Week.

Right above image: Chinese New Year at Birchville Kindergarten.

Left bottom image: Holi-Hindu Festival at Sunshine Kindergarten.

Right below: Celebrating Matariki with kai at Balclutha Kindergarten.



**Improving the Quality and
Effectiveness of our
Community Relationships**

Our Navigators have been busy...



Mau Te Rongo Navigators

In early 2025, Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services of Whānau Manaaki launched an initiative to help keep young people in Porirua City safe.

The people working for this initiative 'Mau Te Rongo Navigators' are all local with good connections to the community.

Caroline Mareko, Community Services Senior Lead for Piri'anga Alofa, said the initiative had been two years in the making, after school principals raised concerns about rangatahi being assaulted at the Porirua railway station.

Porirua mayor Anita Baker said having the navigators around helps the public feel safer. "We want everyone to feel safe and welcome in Porirua, so we're happy to have been able to help pull this fantastic initiative together," she said.

The Mau Te Rongo Navigators have now expanded with six people employed to help keep people safe in other parts of Porirua.

Giveaway Days

Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services holds regular Giveaway Days for the wider communities. These are an opportunity for families to access high quality and sometimes new clothes, furniture, shoes, toys, and household items. They provide an opportunity to connect with community, as well as occasionally access health checkups, an example of our rounded care.

Caroline Mareko, the Community Services Senior Lead for Piri'anga Alofa, says one of her favorite things is children being able to fill a bag of things just for them - clothes or toys, whatever it may be, is a joyful experience.

Health services provided include adult and children's Immunisations. Events like these are so essential to the community, as often getting help can be inaccessible or bring feelings of shame. Giveaway Days remove obstacles and bring help to the community in a straight forward and proven way.



Top image: Mau Te Rongo Navigators.

Middle image: Our amazing helpers at Giveaway Day.

Bottom image: Lots of good quality items available at Giveaway Day.

Welcome Kimbolton Kindergarten

In September 2024, Whānau Manaaki opened a kindergarten in the northern Manawatū settlement of Kimbolton.

An existing centre faced closure but the Whānau Manaaki Board decided to keep it open, re-naming it Kimbolton Kindergarten.

Families from the district who faced losing their early childhood centre say they were excited and grateful upon hearing about the decision. Parent Georgia Jenkins, part of a group of parents who advocated for the centre to stay open, said she was relieved.

Many local children would not have had access to early childhood education as parents couldn't travel further to attend other services. Whānau Manaaki really understood the realities of country life, and the need to keep rural early childhood education alive.

With community support and guidance from the Ministry of Education, Whānau Manaaki worked to open the new kindergarten as soon as possible. Board Chair, Martin Robinson, said the Board was concerned when they read about the closure of the centre. "Kindergarten has a proud 120+ year old history of being nestled in local communities. This means rural communities as well.

The challenges of running ECE centres, particularly in rural communities, are significant, but rural communities should not go without. Our Board is made up of parents, whānau and kindergarten staff, so we understand the pressures on families. We wanted to do everything we could to maintain a service in Kimbolton - we have great community support, so let's give it a go!"

Whānau Manaaki also operates kindergartens in Taihape and Shannon, both about an hour away from Kimbolton. Kimbolton is an important addition to Whānau Manaaki and is essential for the community.

O A'u O le Samoa Holiday Programme

In July 2024, Whānau Manaaki's Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services organised a Samoan cultural holiday programmes for rangatahi in the Whānau Manaaki Porirua office. The course is run in partnership with Excel Pacific and Epiphany Pacific Trust.

The programme brought an outstanding result, succeeding beyond expectations, with 26 primary and secondary students taking part. Piri'anga Alofa received positive feedback from students and their families. The O A'u O le Samoa sessions give young people a greater understanding of and appreciation for their culture and heritage and helps to improve inter-generational understanding.

The course provides a basic understanding of Fa'asamoa, it provides learners with relevant information about the values and practices of Samoan culture and language, and beyond that it gives an understanding of how these can be applied to the lifestyles of those born and raised outside of Samoa.

Content includes the history of Samoa, cultural protocols, traditions, values and language as well as learning how to prepare an umu. Students prepare a feast for their families and present to them at the end, introducing themselves in Samoan and explaining their connections to their villages.

They also highlight a practical part of the skills they have learnt, for example how to call guests to a meal in a respectful way, or how to acknowledge the presentation of fine mats.

O A'u O le Samoa helps students feel confident in their culture, it strengthens family ties and it helps form friendships among students from different schools, from the shared experience.

Programmes such as O A'u O le Samoa contribute significantly to developing a strong understanding and knowledge of language, culture and identity which supports educational success. This short programme can be invaluable and life changing for the people who engage in it.



Preparing the celebration umu at the end of the programme.

Clutha Valley Kindergarten

In early 2025, Whānau Manaaki opened a new kindergarten in South Otago, in the Clydevale/Greenfield area, 25 km inland from Balclutha. Clutha Valley Kindergarten is on the grounds of Clutha Valley School.

The kindergarten shares the premises with the Playcentre and operates four days a week Monday to Thursday, with Playcentre on Friday.

A dawn blessing was held in February led by local mana whenua and attended by members of the community, including the Clutha District Mayor Bryan Cadogan. Whānau Manaaki Chief Executive Amanda Coulston attended the blessing, and said there was a lovely positive atmosphere as everyone came together to celebrate the future of early childhood education in the community.

Parent Natalie Tunnah was one of those working with Whānau Manaaki to get the kindergarten established. She said it is great for children, families, and the school. Natalie has three daughters aged 5, 3 and 1 and said having the kindergarten will make a big difference for her family and many others.

Before Clutha Valley Kindergarten opened, many families had to travel to Balclutha for early childhood education, a commute that involves significant time and travel costs. The kindergarten also offers support to migrant families who work in the dairy industry. The opening of Clutha Valley Kindergarten has proven to be a huge success, illustrating the importance of being responsive to community need.

Piri'anga Alofa Health & Wellbeing Events

Since the COVID response our Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services has created events that incorporated health and wellbeing .

In 2024/2025 the third Vaxx2Volley volleyball tournament was held, that encourages health through engaging in a sporting events, with health check - ups and vaccinations. Vaxx2Volley provides accessible, easy, and fun community - based healthcare without any barriers. These events connect people with and allow them to get involved and engaged in their own health as well as within their community. It is a holistic approach that has proven rewarding. Piri'anga Alofa has now held three Vaxx2Volley events

Piri'anga Alofa also held a Pacific Health and Wellbeing service at the Horowhenua Pasifika Festival earlier in 2025.

In addition, Piri'anga Alofa ran U-Matter events, focusing on men's health and raising awareness around autism. These were delivered through sports based initiatives such as volleyball, golf, flag, and rugby. These events offer free health checks, screenings, and vaccinations. Participation requires completing health services, with full team disqualifications if members skip screenings- this ensures community uptake, and we have found these to be very successful events.

In June 2025, at Tōtara Puku Kindergarten in Whanganui held a health evening where families could attend and be supported by the health teams that were on hand. Some of the services provided at the event included; child immunisations, dental checks, health screenings, before school checks, cervical and breast screenings, as well as general health advice, all available free to the local community.

Events like this were also held in Porirua, Levin and Berhampore.



Top image: Various health services available on the day.

Middle image: Some of the wonderful Piri'anga Alofa staff.

Bottom image: Vaxx2Volley tournament team in action.



**Whānau Manaaki is in the
Heart of our Communities**

Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens

Adventure

18 Longitude Place, Whitby 5024

Aramoho

15 Field Street, Whanganui

Arohanui

74 Bartholomew Road, Levin

Ascot Park

175 Conclusion Street, Porirua 5024

Awatea

19 Awatea Street, Porirua

Balclutha

1 Lanark Street, Balclutha

Barsanti

19 Rogers Street, Whanganui

Bellevue

50 Link Road, Newlands

Berhampore

3-5 Stanley Street, Berhampore

Betty Montford

46 York Street, Levin

Birchville

12 Amber Grove, Birchville, UH

Brian Webb

28 Victory Crescent, Tawa

Brooklyn

62 Todman Street, Brooklyn

Brown Owl

5 Aniseed Grove, Upper Hutt

Campbell

25 Campbell Street, Karori

Carterton

3 Victoria Street, Carterton

Central

32 Keith Street, Whanganui

Churton Park

86 Churton Drive, Churton Park

Clutha Valley

2155 Clutha Valley Road, Clydevale

Cottle

117 Thackeray Street, Upper Hutt

Discovery

3 Pullen Lane, Whitby

Doris Nicholson

1122 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Durie Hill

25 Maxwell Avenue, Whanganui

East Harbour

99 Muritai Road, Eastbourne

Fanau Pasifika

76a Cambridge Street, Levin

Goldfields

62 Whitehaven Street, Lawrence

Gonville

86 Alma Road, Whanganui

Greytown

1b McMaster Street, Greytown

Harriette Vine

5 Watkin Street, Whanganui

Hataitai

8 Taurima Street, Hataitai

Heretaunga

9a Ruru Crescent, Heretaunga, UH

Irmgard Ritchie

88a McLeod Street, Upper Hutt

Island Bay

100 Melbourne Road, Island Bay

Johnsonville West

34a Kipling Street, Johnsonville

Kahurangi

11 Surrey Street, Masterton

Karori

155 Campbell Street, Karori

Katoa

52 Takapuwahia Drive Porirua

Khandallah

24 Everest Street, Khandallah

Kimbolton

4 Lind Street, Kimbolton

Lansdowne

30c Totara Street Masterton

Lyll Bay

89 Apu Crescent, Lyall Bay

Manaia

53 South Road, Masterton

Maraeroa

36 Astrolabe Street, Porirua

Marie McFarland

40b Cornfoot Steet, Castlecliff, Whanganui

Martinborough

Roberts Street, Martinborough

Masterton West

159 Cole Street Masterton

Matairangi

112-114 Waipapa Road, Hataitai

Matariki

6 William Durant Drive, Upper Hutt

Meta Riddiford

17 Daniell Street, Featherston

Milton

20a Coronation Court, Milton

Miramar Central

32 Parast Street, Miramar

Moirā Gallagher

24 Hampshire Street, Porirua

Miramar North

20 Whanganui Street, Miramar

Mount Cook

160 Tory Street, Wellington

Newlands

13 Horokiwi Road West, Newlands

Ngahina

Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

Ngaio

65 Ottawa Road, Ngaio

Northland

22 Albemarle Road, Northland

Nuanua

5A Warspite Avenue, Porirua

Ohakune

58 Arawa Street, Ohakune

Onslow

1a Delhi Crescent, Khandallah

Ōtaki

68 Waerenga Road, Otaki

Ōwhiro Bay

96 Happy Valley Road, Ōwhiro Bay

Pākaraka

1655 SH3, Pākaraka, Whanganui

Papakōwhai

5 Yarrow Place, Papakowhai

Paparārangi

10 Mark Avenue, Paparangi

Paraparaumu

27 Donovan Road, Paraparaumu

Paremata

51 Paremata Road, Paremata

Parsons Avenue

20 Parsons Avenue, Levin

Paremata Creche

69c Discovery Drive, Whitby Porirua

Petone

10a Tennyson Street, Petone

Petone Beach

20 King Street, Petone

Pikopiko Clyde Quay

Cnr Elizabeth & Brougham Streets, Mt Victoria

Plimmerton

8a Beach Road, Plimmerton

Pūtiki

21 Te Anaua St, Whanganui

Poupoutunoa

6 Westra Street, Clinton

Pukerua Bay

1 Wairaka Road, Pukerua Bay

Raumati Beach

32 Raumati Road, Raumati Beach

Raumati South

45 Tiromoana Road, Raumati South

Rosebank

14 Naish Street, Balclutha

Seatoun

14 Gore Street, Seatoun

Silverstream

51 - 53 Kiln Street, Upper Hutt

South End

265 High Street South, Carterton

St Johns Hill

19 Parsons Avenue, Whanganui

Strathmore Park

50a Strathmore Avenue, Strathmore

Sunshine

21a Sunshine Avenue, Karori

Tai Tamariki

55 Cable Street, Wgtn

Taihape

Toroa Street, Taihape

Taitoko

36 Kincross Street, Levin

Tairangi

1 Omapere Street, Porirua

Tawa Central

21 Oxford Street, Tawa

Te Manawanui

1 Grey Street, Shannon

Te Ō Newtown

9 Hospital Road, Newtown, Wellington

Te Puna Ako ki Tōtara Puku

Whanganui East School, Patapu Street,
Whanganui

Te Timatanga Hou

19 Wilton Street, Levin

Titahi Bay

48 Herewini Street, Titahi Bay

Toru Fetū

36a Astrolabe Street, Porirua

Totara Park

7a Denver Grove, Upper Hutt

Trentham

19a Tawai Street, Upper Hutt

Tui Park

12b Mexted Terrace, Linden

Una Williams

12 Macara Street, Masterton,

Upper Hutt

14a McParland Street, Upper Hutt

Wadestown

45 Oban Street, Wadestown

Waikanae

91 Russell Reserve, Ngaio Road, Waikanae

Waiouru

25 Kennington Street, Waiouru

Waitangirua

4 Kalingo Street, Porirua

Waitohi

34 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville

Wanganui East

58 Nile Street, Whanganui

Wellington South

103 Owen Street, Newtown

York Street

2 York Street, Masterton



Top image: Celebrating Matatini at Katoa Kindergarten in Elsdon.

Below image: Mānawatia a Matariki at Brooklyn Kindergarten.



He Taongā Te Tamaiti

A child is a treasure

- Whakatauki



Grant Funding

Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens wishes to acknowledge and thank those organisations that continue to give generously to our kindergartens.

We rely heavily on grants from community organisations to keep our kindergartens well resourced and to assist with their ongoing development and maintenance.

Your gifts are appreciated by us, by our communities and most importantly by those tamariki who benefit from attending our kindergartens.

In the year to 30 June 2025 the following organisations contributed to our kindergartens:

Carterton District Council
Clegg Family Charitable Trust
Dunedin Casino Charitable Trust
Four Regions Trust
Four Winds Foundation
Greytown Trust Lands Trust
Havelock Commonage
Hutt Mana Charitable Trust
Kāpiti Coast District Council
Masterton Trust Lands Trust
New Zealand Community Trust
Otago Masonic Charitable Trust
Pelorus Trust
Philipp Family Foundation
South Wairarapa District Council
The Lines Company
The Lion Foundation
The Vogelmorn Foundation
The Trusts Community Foundation
Thomas George Macarthy Trust
Trillian Trust
Trust House Foundation
Waihikurangi Trust
Wairarapa Building Society
Wellington City Council



Turning five at Strathmore Kindergarten.

Aku mihi nui ki a koe, Thank you!







Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens
Unit F 15 John Seddon Drive,
Elsdon, Porirua 5022
P.O. Box 50-743 Porirua 5240

