



WHĀNAU MANAAKI

Annual Report

2025/2026

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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR



Ko te Tamaiti te Pūtake o te Kaupapa

It's about the tamariki, nurturing their mana, confidence, belonging, and joy in learning.

Kia ora koutou, ko Kath Cooper tōku ingoa

Ko Pirongia te whenua me te maunga nāku nui ki te taha o tōku whaea.

ki te taha o tōku matua, ko Kent te whenua o te whānau.

E noho ana ahau i Aotearoa nā Te Tiriti o Waitangi, ā, ka whakahonore au i tēnei taonga, i tēnei haepapa. He mahi ahau ki te Herenga Waka.

Kia ora, I'm Kath. My mother's family grew up under the shade of the mighty Pirongia mountain, my father was raised in Kent, England, I work as a lecturer at Te Herenga Waka, and I am the chair of the HWM Board.

I've had a connection of some sort with He Whānau Manaaki for over 35 years in a range of ways. My children attended kindergarten and now my daughter works in a kindergarten.

One reason I joined the Board was the commitment from He Whānau Manaaki for tamariki to receive a great start in formal education in a caring, community-based environment. I'm proud that each kindergarten has its own programme, grounded in its place and community and at the same time sits within the support that He Whānau Manaaki offers. This maintains both individuality and consistent quality.

What has also consistently impressed me is the organisation's advocacy and courage to act on its values. One such example is the recent merger of Kindergarten Taranaki, who joined us formally in 2026. Although we have been walking alongside one another for some time, it feels good to have you join us in an official capacity.

In addition to Taranaki, we also welcomed into our fold West Otago's Kidzway Early Childhood Centre in August 2025, and Islington Early Childhood Centre, located in Dunedin, in July 2026. Our newest additions will be looked after by our amazing Te Waipounamu | South Island staff.

With Taranaki, Kidzway, and Islington joining us, that takes our kindergarten numbers to 136. We employ over 1,000 teaching staff and educators, and teach around 6,000 children. We are now the largest not-for-profit community-based ECE provider in Aotearoa.

The past couple of years have seen a significant shift in what the ECE sector is being offered. The volume and pace of change being pushed at our sector by the current Government has meant we have had to work hard to ensure that our staff, teachers, children, parents and whānau remain our top priority and are cared for by us.

Early childhood is the years when learning happens faster than at any other stage. We need to protect that, and with all of us working together we can make change happen for the better.

In closing, as someone who has worked in education for over 30 years, I am truly proud to be part of He Whānau Manaaki and its commitment to the power of education to make real and lasting change academically, socially, emotionally, and across generations.

Tena tatou katoa.

Kath Cooper

Board Chair, Whānau Manaaki

MESSAGE FROM CEO



Whānau Manaaki embraces the wonderful journey that is ours as we work to become a Tiriti o Waitangi-based organisation, deepening our understanding of Te Tiriti in today's world. *Te ara mutunga kore*; it's a journey that never ends.

Te Tiriti underpins our world-leading national early childhood curriculum, Te Whāriki, which provides us with the foundation on which high-quality early childhood education is provided to our tamariki and mokopuna. Each and every day, our Kaiako Matua (senior teachers), Kaitiaki o Kaupapa Māori, Kaiako, and Kaimahi work to embrace Te Whāriki and ensure that the magic of learning is ever present.

This past year has reaffirmed the place of community-based, not-for-profit early childhood education as a cornerstone of our wider education system, and Whānau Manaaki has played a leading role in that. With Kindergarten Taranaki, Kidzway Early Childhood Centre, and Islington Early Childhood Centre joining us, Whānau Manaaki is now the largest not-for-profit early childhood education provider in the country: an awesome privilege and an awesome responsibility. This provides us with the ability to have our collective voices heard, to be a leader in the provision of high-quality early childhood education, and an advocate for children and whānau.

Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi

With red and black the work will be complete.

By working together, we are stronger.

This advocacy extends into the amazing work of our Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services team. Formerly Amataga o le Folauga, Piri'anga Alofa has continued to build on its 16 years of serving communities. As part of Whānau Manaaki, it continues to deliver vital social and health services that help children, families, and communities thrive. We thank the transport team, community and social workers ("navigators"), coordinators, and support team, who work in culturally responsive ways to uphold the mana of all, particularly during these times of significant economic and social challenge.

We stand alongside other kindergarten associations and community organisations, offering guidance, learning from them, and gaining strength from our shared experiences.

This past year has seen government policy undermine community development through reductionist approaches to many issues, including early childhood education, education more broadly, health, housing, job growth, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Through it all, Whānau Manaaki has continued to reinforce the power of connection through staff, parents, and whānau working together to ensure our tamariki and mokopuna thrive. A huge thank you to our elected Governing Board of parents, whānau, and staff, who have provided this guidance and direction.

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**

Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

During the year, we saw a growing commitment across the education sector to continue honouring and giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. By year's end, 1,840 schools, representing around 74 percent of all schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, had publicly affirmed their commitment, joining a collective movement dedicated to supporting equitable outcomes for tamariki, whānau and communities.

Support also continued to grow across the early childhood sector, with 734 services, including kōhanga reo, kindergartens and playcentres, adding their voices. While the legislative changes did not directly affect early learning services, the response reflected a shared understanding of the importance of Te Tiriti as a foundation for strong relationships, belonging, and educational success.

Whānau Manaaki was proud to stand alongside schools and early learning services across the motu, reaffirming our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to the aspirations of the tamariki, whānau and communities we serve. Together, these commitments demonstrated the enduring value of Te Tiriti and the collective desire to see its principles reflected in practice for generations to come.

“As a Pacific person, being part of a Te Tiriti-based organisation means honouring Māori as tangata whenua, supporting equity, and embracing shared values. It's about walking alongside with respect, creating space for Māori voices, and building a more inclusive Aotearoa.”

- Survey participant



Above: Waiouru Kindergarten, Matariki celebrations.
Opposite page: Te Manawanui Kindergarten.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Baseline Survey

During the year, Whānau Manaaki completed its first organisation-wide Te Tiriti o Waitangi baseline survey, providing an opportunity to better understand how our people experienced and viewed our commitment to Te Tiriti across the organisation.

The survey was designed to establish a starting point for measuring where we are on our Te Tiriti journey and to help identify strengths, opportunities, and priorities for future development. Staff from across the organisation were invited to participate, ensuring a broad range of experiences and perspectives were represented. Through a combination of quantitative responses and written feedback, the survey explored how Te Tiriti based values and practices are reflected in our culture, leadership, relationships, and everyday work.

The survey provided an important snapshot of our organisation at a time when these conversations were being played out nationally. It captured a wide range of experiences and perspectives, reflecting both the progress we have made and the ongoing work required to strengthen our commitment to Te Tiriti.

The findings reinforced that Te Tiriti o Waitangi remains central to Whānau Manaaki's identity and purpose. They also highlighted the value of creating space for our people to share their experiences, insights, and aspirations.

The data gathered through the survey has established a valuable baseline that will help shape future planning, professional learning, and organisational development. Most importantly, it ensures that the voices of our people are helping to guide the next steps in our Te Tiriti journey.

As a Te Tiriti-based organisation, we know this work is ongoing. The survey has given us a clearer understanding of where we are today and provides a strong foundation for continuing to build an organisation that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi in our decisions, relationships, and everyday practice.

98%

Believe being a Te Tiriti-based organisation is positive and rewarding

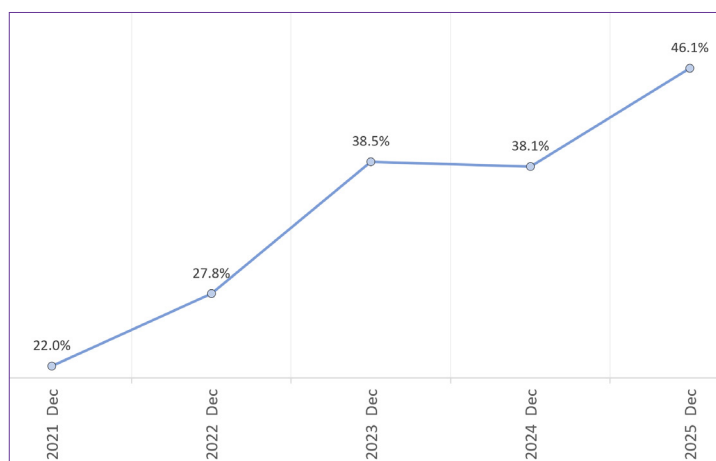
“

I am proud to be working in an organisation that has an authentic commitment to equity and partnership that is embedded in all aspects of our organisation. This allows me to continue to learn and deepen my own understanding and practice of bicultural partnership.

”

- Survey participant

Percentage of Whānau Manaaki Services Using Te Reo Māori More Than 11% of the Time (Annually).



Horowhenua Takiwa Service

Over the past year, Piri'anga Alofa Pacific and Community Services worked in partnership with Muaūpoko Tribal Authority to establish and deliver the Horowhenua Takiwa Service, improving access to healthcare for whānau across the region.

At the centre of the service was Navigator Nuuvea Fuamatu (Matu), who served as the Horowhenua Health Connector. Matu helped whānau navigate the health system, connect with the right services, and access support when they needed it most.

A key component of the service was coordinating online GP consultations through Practice Health Plus. This provided a practical and accessible option for whānau who face barriers to attending in-person appointments. The service also offered guidance on other health services available in the region and supported whānau to access after-hours care when required.

The response demonstrated the importance of accessible, locally supported healthcare. In June, Matu facilitated 80 online GP appointments, rising to almost 90 appointments in July. The demand reflected both the need for flexible healthcare options and the value of having a trusted connector helping whānau access support.

By combining technology with a personalised, whānau-centred approach, the Horowhenua Takiwa Service helped strengthen connections between people and healthcare providers.

The success highlighted the power of strong community partnerships and innovative approaches to service delivery. Through collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to wellbeing, Piringa Alofa and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority helped improve access to healthcare and contributed to better outcomes for whānau across Horowhenua.



Above: Horowhenua Health Expo 2026, led by Muaupoko Tribal Authority.
Back row, left to right: Nuuvea Fuamatu, Melvina Martin, Amos Telea.
Front row, left to right: Caroline Mareko, Alice Mose-Tuialii.



**Innovate and Continuously
Improve Teaching and Learning**

Successful conference – Ngā Oro (Voices)

Whānau Manaaki held a successful conference – in October 2025 with a record number of participants.

The theme of Ngā Oro – Voices – was reflected in the presentations, with a wide variety of voices from different parts of the community.

The conference celebrated 120 years of kindergarten in the Wellington region with a keynote presentation from Emeritus Professor Helen May, an early childhood researcher and historian.

Speaking at the whole staff meeting ahead of the conference, CEO Amanda Coulston expressed hope that the professional development opportunity would “uplift you, extend you, and enable you to share with others”.

The range of voices captured included award-winning teenager Anahera Eru Solomona who won the Manu Kōrero speech competition, state care survivor and former Black Power member Eugene Ryder and Afghani community leaders Bariz Shah and Saba Afrasyabi.

While many speakers had backgrounds in education, as academics, researchers and professional leaders, the conference also provides the opportunity for new ideas and challenges from those outside of the education sector.

With strands including pedagogy, learning support, community, social justice, dynamics of ECE and Hauora, there was something for everyone at the conference and the overwhelmingly positive feedback reflected the value our kaiako and kaimahi received from the conference.

*Top: Senior Teacher Anne Masterton and Senior Teacher Nga Ropu.
Centre: From front right, Whānau Manaaki CEO Amanda Coulston, Kurt Komene, Kahui Maunga, Ngāti Toa, Emeritus Professor Helen May, Whānau Manaaki Kaitiaki o Kaupapa Māori, Louana Fruean, Jemma Felgitscher and Pat Jepson.*

Opposite page: Birchville Kindergarten.



Creating Easier Access to Knowledge and Resources

Pouaka Pāraha o He Whānau Manaaki - a new central online space for staff to find tools, templates, guides and key learnings to support their work

A key example of our commitment to innovating and continuously improving teaching and learning this year has been the development of a new centralised resource hub on Te Kete Mātauranga.

Recognising the importance of providing teachers and staff with easy access to high-quality resources, the Communications Team partnered with Senior Teachers to create a dedicated online space that brings together tools, templates, guides, and professional learning resources in one location. This new hub will replace the former Resources section on Te Kete Mātauranga and will also become home to resources previously housed within Storypark Teacher's Toolbox.

The project was driven by a simple but important goal: make it easier for staff to find the information they need, when they need it. By streamlining access to resources and reducing the need to search

across multiple platforms, the new hub supports more efficient ways of working and creates greater consistency across our organisation.

As resources are progressively migrated from Storypark Teacher's Toolbox, the site is being regularly updated to ensure staff have access to the most current, relevant, and useful information. This ongoing approach reflects our commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring the platform evolves alongside the needs of our teaching teams and organisation.

The benefits extend beyond convenience. By providing a single source of truth for key documents, guidance, and learning materials, the hub helps strengthen professional practice and supports teachers to confidently implement best practice in their daily work with tamariki. It also encourages knowledge sharing and creates opportunities for staff to engage with new ideas, resources, and learning.

This initiative demonstrates how innovation can be applied in practical ways to enhance teaching and learning outcomes. Through collaboration, thoughtful design, and a focus on user needs, we have created a resource that empowers staff, strengthens organisational capability, and supports our strategic intention to innovate and continuously improve teaching and learning across our organisation.



Whānau Manaaki Toolbox

Welcome to Pouaka pāraha o He Whānau Manaaki

Kia ora and welcome to our Pouaka pāraha o He Whānau Manaaki - our Whānau Manaaki Toolbox. A central online space for staff to find tools, templates, guides and key learnings to support your work.

As we move our resources over from StoryPark, this page is regularly updated to ensure you have easy access to the most current and useful resources.

Explore different sections below. If you can't find a particular resource please contact your Senior Teacher.

If you would like more support around navigating this resource, or others on Te Kete Mātauranga please contact the [Communications Team](#).



Useful Links and Documents

- 2026 Conference - Mai te Ngākau
- How to Approve Leave
- How to Use Tūhonohono - Video
- 2026 Kindergarten Term Dates
- Kindergarten Reliever Information
- Kindergarten Fees and Whānau Contribution Information
- Kindergarten Tohu Process



TE MANAWA
Criteria for Weaving Te Whāriki



LEARNING SUPPORT
Nurture the Mana of Tamariki



COMPLIANCE
Safety Processes

Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten Featured in ECE Publication

Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten received national recognition through its contribution to a research project exploring the role Pacific-themed picture books play in children's learning and identity development. The research, undertaken in partnership with the University of Waikato, was published in *Early Childhood Folio*, New Zealand's leading early childhood education research journal.

The article, co-authored by university researchers and five kaiako from Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten, examined a 12-week programme in which teachers shared Pacific picture books with children. The study found that culturally relevant books were much more than reading resources; they became powerful tools for supporting language learning, literacy development and cultural identity.

Researchers found the books acted as “mirrors” for children, reflecting their languages, cultures and lived experiences back to them. The stories sparked conversations between children and teachers, encouraged storytelling and memory-sharing, and strengthened children's sense of belonging and connection to their cultural heritage. At the same time, the books provided opportunities for children to learn about cultures and ways of life different from their own.

The study also highlighted improvements in language learning and emergent literacy, with reading engagement being “re-energised” through the use of books that reflected children's identities and experiences. These findings align closely with Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten's philosophy, where Samoan, Tongan, English and te reo Māori are woven into everyday learning and whānau are active partners in children's education.

The publication represents an important contribution to the early childhood sector and showcases the leadership of Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten in promoting culturally responsive teaching and learning that celebrates Pacific languages, cultures and identities.



Above: A Pacific diorama designed to foster storytelling, imaginative play, culture and identity.



BERHAMPORE KINDERGARTEN
Real Fruit
ice cream shop

Fruit Word Mat



Strengthening our Financial
and Organisational Health

Responding to Whānau Needs Through Full-Year Kindergarten

During the year, Whānau Manaaki adopted a full-year kindergarten model, reflecting our commitment to meeting the changing needs of tamariki, whānau and communities.

For generations, kindergarten has provided high-quality early childhood education within a term-based structure. However, as family and employment patterns have evolved, so too have expectations around access to education and care. The move to full-year operation recognises that many families benefit from greater flexibility and continuity throughout the year.

From January 2026, all Whānau Manaaki kindergartens began operating on a full-year basis, enabling tamariki and families to access kindergarten services beyond traditional school-term schedules. Importantly, whānau continue to have choice, with attendance during traditional holiday periods remaining flexible.

Kindergartens are now open for up to 50 weeks of the year, providing greater flexibility and access to high-quality early childhood education, including most school holiday periods, with only a brief closure over Christmas and New Year.

Supporting our workforce remained a key focus. Teachers continue to receive six weeks annual leave and three weeks professional learning leave, while additional itinerant teachers and relievers help ensure continuity for children and teams throughout the year.

Maintaining quality has remained central. Whānau Manaaki continues its policy of employing 100% qualified and registered teachers in permanent and long-term regulated positions. Professional learning, teacher-only days and mandatory training continue to support high-quality teaching practice.



Above: Celebrating Cook Island language week at Arohanui Kindergarten.

Opposite page: Icecream shop at Berhampore Kindergarten.

Rather than changing the philosophy of kindergarten, the full-year model represents an evolution of service delivery. Whānau Manaaki has retained the elements families value most: qualified teachers, play-based learning, strong community connections and family involvement, while offering greater flexibility.

This change reflects Whānau Manaaki's commitment to innovation and responsiveness, aligning with our strategic intention "to ensure that our services are adaptable to the shifting needs of the communities we serve". By adopting a full-year model, we are better positioned to support modern families while providing greater continuity in learning and development, helping ensure kindergarten remains accessible and responsive for generations to come.

Growing Stronger Together: Kindergarten Taranaki Joins Whānau Manaaki

A significant milestone in the history of both organisations was reached on 2 March 2026, when Kindergarten Taranaki formally joined Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens, bringing together two respected Kindergarten Associations with a shared commitment to community based, not-for-profit early childhood education.

The merger followed an extensive period of planning, consultation and engagement with whānau, staff and communities. Throughout 2025, families participated in meetings, discussions and a formal voting process as Kindergarten Taranaki carefully considered its future and the opportunities that could be achieved through joining a larger association.

The amalgamation brought together Kindergarten Taranaki's network of 24 kindergartens, stretching from Pātea to Waitara, with Whānau Manaaki's extensive kindergarten network across the lower North Island and Otago. Together, creating the largest not-for-profit early childhood education provider in Aotearoa, strengthening the kindergarten movement and expanding its collective ability to advocate for tamariki, whānau and quality public early childhood education.

The decision to unite reflected the strong alignment between the two organisations. Both share a commitment to high quality teaching, community engagement, equity, and creating the best possible outcomes for tamariki. Kindergarten Taranaki's leadership recognised that joining Whānau Manaaki would provide greater organisational strength, sustainability and opportunities for the future, while preserving the unique identity and deep community connections of Taranaki kindergartens.

The outgoing chief executive of Kindergarten Taranaki Dawn Osman says the move will strengthen the kindergarten movement in Taranaki.

“It provides an opportunity to join a strong organisation that will be better for tamariki in our region.”

“This is what working collectively looks like – combining our strengths to ensure kindergartens thrive and remain resilient”.

A key focus throughout the process was ensuring continuity for children, families and staff. While administrative systems and governance structures changed, daily life within kindergartens remained the same. Teaching teams continued their work, whānau relationships remained at the heart of each kindergarten, and staff continued to be covered by the same national collective agreements.

For Whānau Manaaki, the merger represented more than growth. It was an opportunity to strengthen the collective voice of kindergartens and to support communities through shared expertise, resources and advocacy. Together, the combined organisation is better positioned to respond to future challenges, champion the value of early childhood education, and continue building stronger futures for children and their whānau, both Associations recognised throughout the process.

We are deeply grateful to the Toi Foundation and our many funding partners for their ongoing support, belief and the shared commitment to giving every child the best possible start in life.

Through your generosity, we are able to strengthen opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive while continuing to develop programmes and initiatives that make a lasting difference.



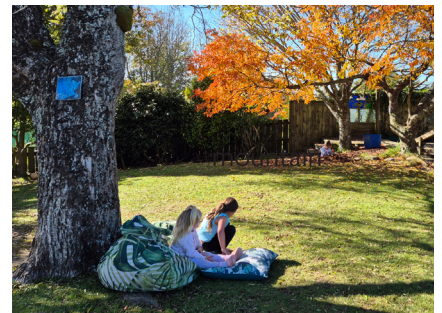


“

This is what working collectively looks like – combining our strengths to ensure kindergartens thrive and remain resilient.

”

– Dawn Osman



Nau mai haere mai Taranaki kindergartens.

Top: Bell Block Kindergarten
Left: Puketapu Kindergarten
Right centre: Avon Kindergarten
Above: Westown Kindergarten

Helping Whānau Navigate Fee Changes and Access FamilyBoost

As cost pressures continued to affect both early childhood services and families, Whānau Manaaki remained focused on supporting whānau to access affordable, high-quality early learning. During the year, fee increases were introduced in response to funding and operating pressures, with most kindergarten fees increasing by \$1 per hour from October 2025. Whānau Manaaki also communicated upcoming changes, including charging fees during term breaks when kindergartens are open, while encouraging families experiencing financial hardship to speak with their head teachers about available support.

Recognising that any increase in costs can create additional challenges for families, Whānau Manaaki placed significant emphasis on helping whānau access

the Government's FamilyBoost scheme. FamilyBoost provides a rebate on eligible early childhood education fees, and in 2025 the scheme was expanded, increasing the rebate from 25% to 40% of fees and extending eligibility to households earning up to approximately \$230,000 per year. These changes were designed to provide greater financial assistance to families using early childhood education services.

To help families benefit from the scheme, Whānau Manaaki put practical support in place, including issuing quarterly FamilyBoost statements to simplify the application process and providing dedicated information and guidance for whānau. Families were encouraged to register through Inland Revenue's myIR portal and were given clear instructions on how to submit claims and access rebates.

At the same time, Whānau Manaaki continued to advocate for families facing barriers to accessing FamilyBoost. Chief Executive Amanda Coulston highlighted that many whānau still face challenges navigating the system, including online registration requirements, the need to retain records and claim retrospectively, language barriers, limited access to technology, and eligibility issues for grandparents or other caregivers who may be paying fees. Whānau Manaaki also raised concerns that fee rebates alone do not address broader issues around fee affordability across the sector.

Through a combination of practical assistance, clear communication and sector advocacy, Whānau Manaaki worked to ensure families were informed about available financial support and better equipped to manage the costs of early childhood education, reinforcing its commitment to putting whānau at the centre of everything it does.



Image Above: Waiouru Kindergarten.

Diversified Models in Kindergarten

As well as all kindergartens moving to full year operations, we have continued to diversify our services, continuing to build relationships by offering alternatives that suit community needs.

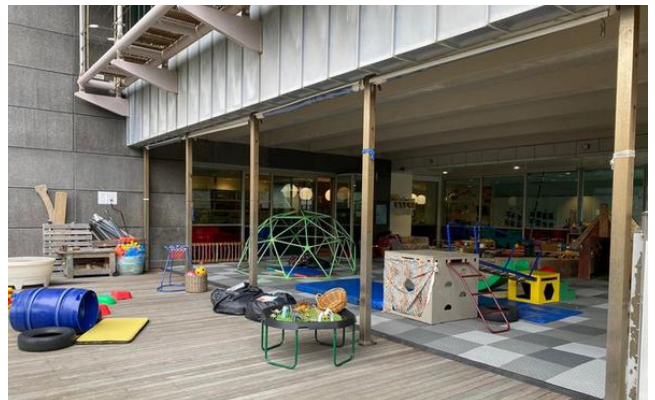
These have included rural service models that, for example, share facilities or operate on certain days to fit in with other local activity patterns.

Our Pacific kindergartens have continued to grow in celebrating language culture and identity around our regions.

Several of our kindergartens are also continuing the journey of moving towards kaupapa Māori services.



Waiouru Kindergarten, outdoor playground.



Tai Tamariki Kindergarten, Te Papa, Wellington.



Arohahui Kindergarten, Levin.



Paremata Kindergarten, Porirua.



Fanau Pasifika Kindergarten, Levin.



Brian Webb Kindergarten, Wellington.

A photograph of three young children outdoors, holding a bunch of green grapes together. The child on the left is a young boy with short brown hair, wearing a grey and blue long-sleeved shirt, looking down at the grapes. The child in the middle is a girl with curly brown hair, wearing a blue and black shirt, also looking down. The child on the right is wearing a white hooded sweatshirt with a yellow and blue graphic, looking down. They are standing in front of green foliage. The text "Improving Access for Tamariki, Parents and Whānau to Increasingly Relevant Services" is overlaid in white at the bottom of the image.

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

E Tū Kaha: Empowering Whānau Through Information and Advocacy

This year, our commitment to improving access to increasingly relevant services was highlighted through the growth of the E Tū Kaha campaign and the strengthening of how we connect with and inform whānau about issues affecting early childhood education. The campaign was developed in response to proposed changes to teacher qualifications, curriculum, funding, pay equity, regulations, and whānau engagement that could have far-reaching impacts on the quality and accessibility of early childhood education.

Through E Tū Kaha, we created accessible information, resources, videos, research summaries, and practical advocacy tools that enabled teachers, parents, and whānau to better understand the issues and participate in discussions about the future of early childhood education. Dedicated online resource pages were established covering key topics including teacher qualifications, *Te Whāriki*, funding, legislation, and parent and whānau engagement. These resources brought together expert commentary, research, videos, and information from across the sector in one easy-to-access location.

Kindergarten teams played a vital role by sharing information with families, participating in days of action, hosting local politicians, and helping whānau understand how proposed changes could affect their children and communities. This work reflected our belief that families should have access to clear, relevant information and meaningful opportunities to influence decisions that impact their tamariki. Supported by these resources, teachers were able to foster informed conversations and strengthen partnerships with parents and whānau.

The campaign demonstrates that relevant services are not only about the programmes we provide, but also about ensuring families have access to knowledge,



ENROL TO VOTE
in the 2026 election!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

Voting is important, but to do so you must be enrolled by 25 October.

You can enrol right here, right now by:

- Filling out the paper form
- Enrolling online on vote.nz

<https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online>

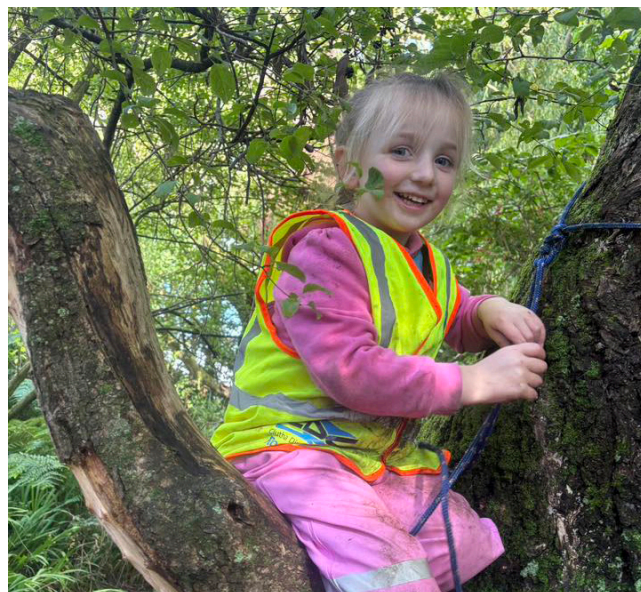



Image Above: Balclutha Kindergarten, Otago.

Opposite page: Kahurangi Kindergarten, Masterton.

advocacy opportunities, and a strong collective voice. By connecting communities with information and empowering them to engage in decisions that affect early childhood education, we have strengthened our ability to support tamariki, whānau, and communities now and into the future.

Whānau Manaaki Welcomes KidzWay Kindergarten

A significant milestone this year in delivering our strategic intention to provide increasingly relevant services for tamariki, parents, and whānau was the expansion of our organisation into West Otago with the addition of KidzWay Kindergarten in Tapanui.

Located in a rural community of around 800 people, KidzWay has been serving local families since 2008 as a not-for-profit early learning centre governed by a community Trust. When the Trust began exploring options to secure the long-term sustainability of the kindergarten, joining Whānau Manaaki emerged as a natural fit.

The transition reflected a shared commitment to ensuring high-quality early childhood education remains accessible for local families. Importantly, existing teachers, staff, and families remained at the kindergarten, providing continuity for children while gaining the benefits of being part of a larger organisation.

In communications with parents, KidzWay described Whānau Manaaki as a “Caring Family” a sentiment that reflected the values and relationships established throughout the transition process. The KidzWay team also expressed enthusiasm about the opportunities ahead, noting they were “really excited about the change and the learning we can gain from being part of a bigger organisation”.

The addition of KidzWay has strengthened our presence in the Clutha District, bringing the total number of Whānau Manaaki kindergartens in the region to seven. For tamariki, whānau, and teachers, this means improved access to the expertise, professional support, resources, and networks that come with being part of a larger association, while maintaining the unique identity and strengths of the local kindergarten.



Image Above: Staff at KidzWay Kindergarten at the welcome celebration.

The significance of this milestone was celebrated at a community event attended by our Chief Executive Amanda Coulston, senior teachers, and kindergarten leaders from across Otago. The occasion also recognised the contribution of the outgoing Trustees whose commitment and stewardship helped establish and sustain KidzWay as an important community asset. A commemorative plaque was unveiled to honour the kindergarten's history and its origins as a community trust.

By welcoming KidzWay into our whānau, we have strengthened access to high-quality, locally responsive early childhood education and reinforced our commitment to supporting thriving communities across the regions we serve.

Improving access to increasingly relevant services for tamariki, parents, and whānau means looking beyond education alone and recognising the factors that enable children to fully participate in learning. The Painga Project is an excellent example of this approach in action.

This year, Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens partnered with Painga to pilot a vision screening programme across selected kindergartens in Porirua and Levin. The initiative provided free vision screening for tamariki aged 12 months to four years, helping identify potential vision challenges at an early stage and reducing barriers that could impact learning, development, and wellbeing.

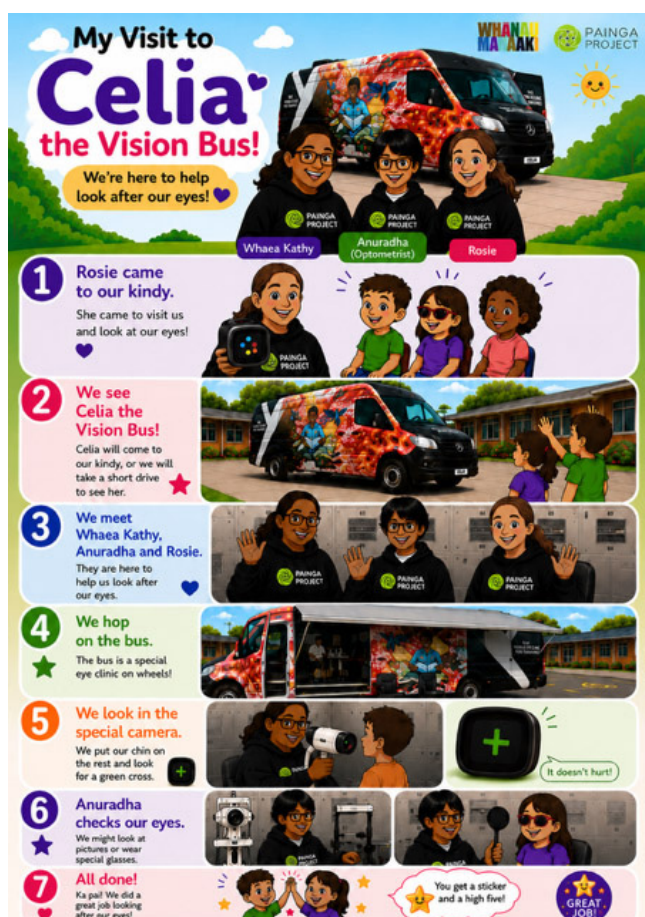
For many children, undetected vision difficulties can affect their ability to engage confidently in everyday

learning experiences. Through the pilot, tamariki requiring further assessment were identified and connected with the support they needed. As a result, children who were referred are now receiving glasses to assist their learning and development, enabling them to participate more fully in kindergarten and at home.

A particularly innovative aspect of the programme was the provision of two pairs of glasses for each child. One pair remains at kindergarten and one pair is kept at home, ensuring consistent support across both environments and reducing practical barriers for families. This simple but effective solution helps strengthen continuity of care and learning for tamariki.

The arrival of Celia, the mobile screening van, along with Rosie and the Painga team, brought services directly into communities, making specialist support more accessible for families who may otherwise face challenges accessing it. The success of the programme was made possible through the dedication of kindergarten staff, who supported tamariki throughout the screening process and worked closely with whānau.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Sarah Corson and her daughter Rosie, whose partnership and commitment helped bring this pilot to life.



The Painga Project demonstrates how targeted, community-focused services can remove barriers to learning, improve outcomes for tamariki, and strengthen support for whānau, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

A large crowd of people is gathered outside a building with a wooden roof and a red trim. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, with many people looking towards the entrance of the building. The building has a wooden roof with exposed rafters and a red trim along the eaves. There are several small, round, yellow lights mounted on the underside of the roof. The entrance of the building is visible in the background, with a glass door and a sign above it. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of a community event or gathering.

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

E sua le 'ava ae totō le 'ata

The next generation grows from what the previous generation has planted.

– *Samoan Proverb*

This proverb refers to harvesting or uprooting the 'ava plant while also replanting a cutting or seedling so that it can continue to grow.

Metaphorically, it means that as one generation moves on, the next is nurtured and prepared to carry forward the knowledge, values, culture, and learning passed down to them.

In a kindergarten setting, this reflects the partnership between tamariki, whānau, and teachers. Whānau bring their knowledge, language, culture, and values, while teachers help nurture and build on these foundations. Together, they create an environment where children can grow with confidence in who they are and continue carrying that learning into the future.

Whānau Come Together for Better Health Outcomes

Piri'anga Alofa and Community Services brought together health and community organisations for a Health and Wellbeing Event in Highbury, Palmerston North, creating a welcoming space for whānau to access support, information, and health services close to home.

The event provided an opportunity to connect with a community that had not seen many services delivered locally for years. A range of organisations offered support, including immunisation services, health screening, dental care, diabetes education, and wellbeing advice, helping whānau access care in a way that was convenient and culturally responsive.

Our Piri'anga Alofa team was proud to provide kai baskets to families attending the event, offering practical support while creating opportunities for

connection and conversation. These interactions helped us better understand the needs and experiences of local whānau and reinforced the importance of making support accessible and community-centred.

It was particularly encouraging to see strong participation from Māori and Pacific families, reflecting the value of delivering services in familiar, trusted environments.

The event highlighted the power of partnership, bringing together organisations with a shared commitment to improving health and wellbeing.

The positive response demonstrated that when services work together and meet people where they are, barriers can be reduced and connections created. The event was a powerful reminder that supporting whānau wellbeing is most effective when communities, providers, and families come together with a shared purpose.



PIRI'ANGA ALOFA
pacific and community services
making a positive impact on the life of others



Hardship and Hope: Recognising Community-Led Action

In 2025, Whānau Manaaki was honoured to be featured in *Hardship and Hope: Stories of Resistance in the Fight Against Poverty in Aotearoa*, a book by award-winning journalist Rebecca Macfie. Published by Bridget Williams Books as part of the respected BWB Texts series, the book highlights successful local initiatives that are addressing the impacts of poverty and creating opportunities for whānau to thrive.

The publication shines a spotlight on six community-led responses to poverty from across Aotearoa. Whānau Manaaki's inclusion recognises our long-standing commitment to supporting tamariki, whānau and communities through practical, relationship-based approaches that strengthen wellbeing and create pathways to opportunity.

At the Wellington launch of the book, Whānau Manaaki's Caroline Mareko spoke about the wide-ranging work of Whānau Manaaki and Piri'anga Alofa, particularly our efforts to support families in areas extending beyond early childhood education. These include initiatives focused on health, social services, employment, financial wellbeing, home ownership, youth safety and community connection. Her contribution highlighted the importance of working alongside whānau and community partners to address



Image: From left to right, Professor Tracey McIntosh, Amanda Coulston, Caroline Mareko..

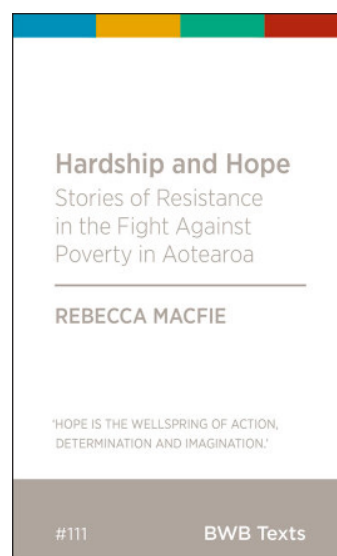
the broader challenges that can affect children's learning, development and future success.

Building on a series first published in the New Zealand Listener, Rebecca Macfie's book explores both the realities of poverty in Aotearoa and the innovative local responses that are creating positive change. Through stories from papakāinga, schools, marae and community organisations, the book demonstrates the power of communities to develop solutions that are grounded in local knowledge, lived experience and collective action.

A key theme of *Hardship and Hope* is the belief that positive change begins with hope. As Macfie writes, the people featured in the book "choose to wield fierce hope over passivity and cynicism to help shape a better future". This sentiment closely reflects Whānau Manaaki's own values and approach. Every day, our teams work alongside whānau to build capability, strengthen connections and create opportunities that enable children and families to flourish.

Being featured in *Hardship and Hope* acknowledges not only the work of Whānau Manaaki, but also the strength, resilience and leadership of the communities and whānau we are privileged to work with. It is a reminder that meaningful change happens when people come together with determination,

imagination and a shared commitment to creating a better future for the next generation.





Top: Give Away Day 2026

Bottom: From left to right: Josh Saua (Former Le Fale Operations Manager), Leia Euta (Community Navigator), Matafala Tavita (Le Fale Navigator), Carly Perrot (Etu Ao Visiting Teacher Team Lead), Presley Ah Hoi (Le Fale Navigator) (Front), Lealamanu'a Aiga Caroline Mareko (Community Services Senior Lead), Tali Mareko (Le Fale Navigator), Amanda Coulston (Whānau Manaaki CEO), Onjilique Va (Former Le Fale Admin Support).

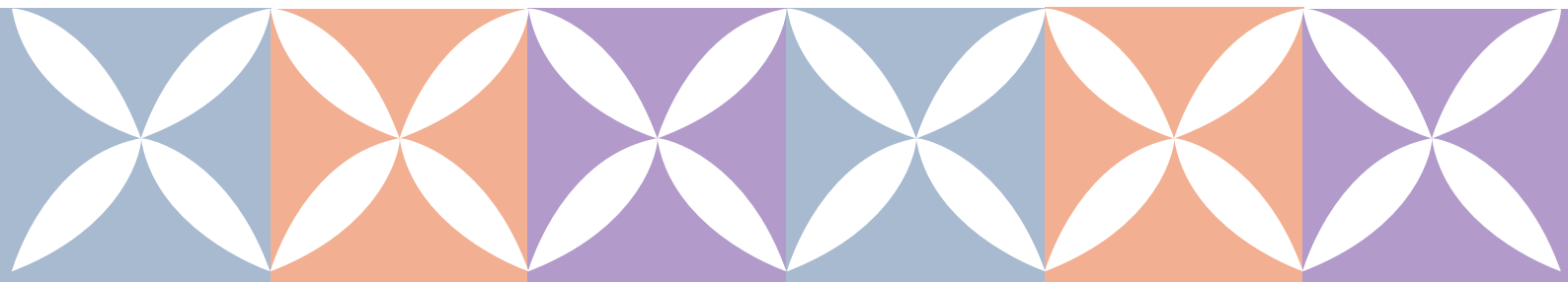
Le Fale Recognised for Excellence

Being named a finalist in the 2degrees Wellington Regional Business Excellence Awards was a proud achievement for Le Fale Jobs & Skills Hub and reflected the impact the service continues to make in the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

Le Fale was selected as one of five finalists in the Employer of the Year category, recognising organisations that demonstrate excellence in diversity, inclusion, and growing people. The recognition highlighted the team's commitment to creating supportive pathways into employment, training, and career development.

The achievement was a testament to the dedication of the Le Fale team and their people-centred approach, which places relationships, empowerment, and opportunity at the heart of their work. It also acknowledged the strong partnerships built with employers, community organisations, and whānau to help people realise their potential.

Being recognised among the region's leading organisations was a significant milestone and a reflection of the positive difference Le Fale continues to make across our communities.



Opening Pathways to Employment

Le Fale Jobs & Skills Hub is making it easier for people in Cannons Creek and wider Porirua to access practical support, build confidence and connect with real employment and training opportunities.

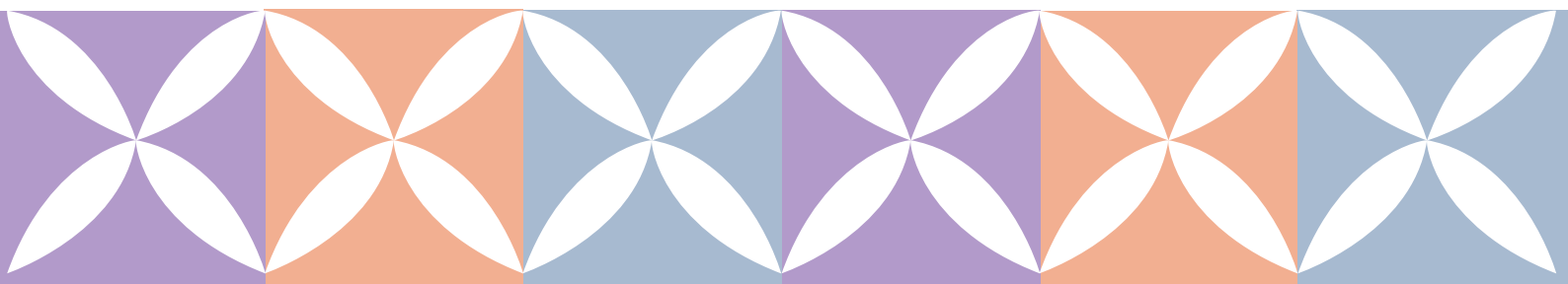
Regular Job Opportunities Seminars provide a welcoming, accessible space for people to hear about current vacancies, ask questions, complete expressions of interest and book follow-up support. The seminars connect participants with opportunities across a range of sectors, including electoral services, health and community support, construction and infrastructure, logistics and other local roles. They also provide a practical entry point for support with CVs, job applications, work readiness and connections to training.

Le Fale is also working in partnership with *Partners Porirua* through *Drive 4 Life* to help address a significant barrier to employment: gaining a driver licence. The partnership offers learner-licence support, including Road Code learning, practice theory tests and assistance to book licence tests. For many people, achieving a licence can open access to a wider range of employment, training and career opportunities.

Together, these initiatives reflect Le Fale's community-based approach - meeting people where they are, providing practical support, and helping create clearer pathways from aspiration to employment.



Top & bottom: Job Opportunities Seminar attendees.



Wellington PRIDE Festival

Whānau Manaaki proudly took part in the Wellington Pride Festival in 2026 for the first time, demonstrating our commitment to creating inclusive, welcoming environments for tamariki, whānau, and kaimahi across our communities.

Our presence at Pride was an opportunity to visibly support Rainbow communities and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our organisation. Throughout the festival, Whānau Manaaki representatives connected with whānau, educators, community groups, and allies, sharing conversations about belonging, respect, and the importance of ensuring every person can be their authentic self.

For many of our kaimahi, participating in Pride was

both a personal and professional moment of pride. They spoke about the value of seeing their identities reflected and celebrated in a public space, and the positive impact this has on creating safe and inclusive learning environments for children and staff.

The experience reinforced the importance of representation and visibility. By standing alongside Rainbow communities, Whānau Manaaki affirmed that inclusion is not just a principle we talk about, but one we strive to live every day.

Our first Wellington Pride Festival was a celebration of connection, acceptance, and aroha. It strengthened relationships, sparked meaningful conversations, and highlighted our ongoing commitment to nurturing communities where every child, whānau member, and kaimahi feels respected, valued, and able to thrive.



Image: Wellington Pride Festival 2026, From left: Head Teacher Erin Robertson, Hannah Rogers, Kitty Payne.

Engagement With Whānau is at the Heart of Our Mahi

Strong relationships with whānau and communities are central to who we are and how we work. Our commitment to partnership reflects our Strategic Intentions/Whāinga and Our Values/Uara, guiding us to listen, connect and work alongside others to achieve the best outcomes for tamariki.

Over the past year, Whānau Manaaki has continued to strengthen engagement with whānau in ways that honour their voices and recognise them as key partners in children's learning and wellbeing. Many parents have shown a strong interest in our E Tū Kaha campaign, actively participating by writing letters of support, contributing to government consultations, and meeting with MPs, both collectively and individually. Their willingness to advocate alongside us demonstrates the power of collective action and the importance of ensuring whānau perspectives are represented in conversations that shape the future of early childhood education.

Keeping whānau informed and connected remains a priority. Through quarterly pānui sent to all families, we share updates on sector news and advocacy, teaching and learning, learning support initiatives, regional activities, and stories from across our kindergartens. These communications help strengthen the sense of belonging and connection within our wider community.

At a kindergarten level, engagement is woven into everyday practice. Whānau contribute to children's learning journeys through Storypark, our online communication platform, and are supported to share their aspirations, perspectives and knowledge through whānau aspiration conversations and reviews of kindergarten procedures. These opportunities help ensure learning environments reflect the identities, cultures, languages and strengths of tamariki and their whānau.

WHĀNAU MANAAKI
For Whānau, not for profit
Whānau Pānui #8
August, 2026

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to our Whānau Manaaki Parent & Whānau Pānui | Newsletter

We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening across our organisation and the many ways our people continue to support tamariki and whānau every day.

This pānui is produced by Whānau Manaaki. Although we know you receive regular communication from your child's kindergarten or service, we decided to produce a regular newsletter that is published every 3 months or so, to provide you with information that impacts our network and Early Childhood Education in general.

Previous editions of our pānui can be found on our website.

In this issue we talk about:

- York Street becomes Pūrātā Kindergarten
- Islington Kindergarten Joins Whānau Manaaki
- Election Year – Enrolling to vote
- Teaching and Learning
- Around the Regions

Mō Matou | About Us

Whānau Manaaki Kindergarten Association operates the service that your tamariki attends. Whānau Manaaki pays staff, provides professional and pastoral support, and maintains properties of our kindergartens and home-based services.

We offer high-quality teaching and learning with our 100% qualified teachers and trained educators. We also provide transport, and support from social workers and community workers in some regions.

As you know, Whānau Manaaki tamariki get a great start in a caring community-focused environment.

Each kindergarten offers its own individual programme, based on Te Whāriki - our world leading early childhood curriculum.

We provide up to 20 hours free ECE for all children – regardless of age!

WHĀNAU MANAAKI
Visit us to find out more
www.wmkindergartens.org.nz

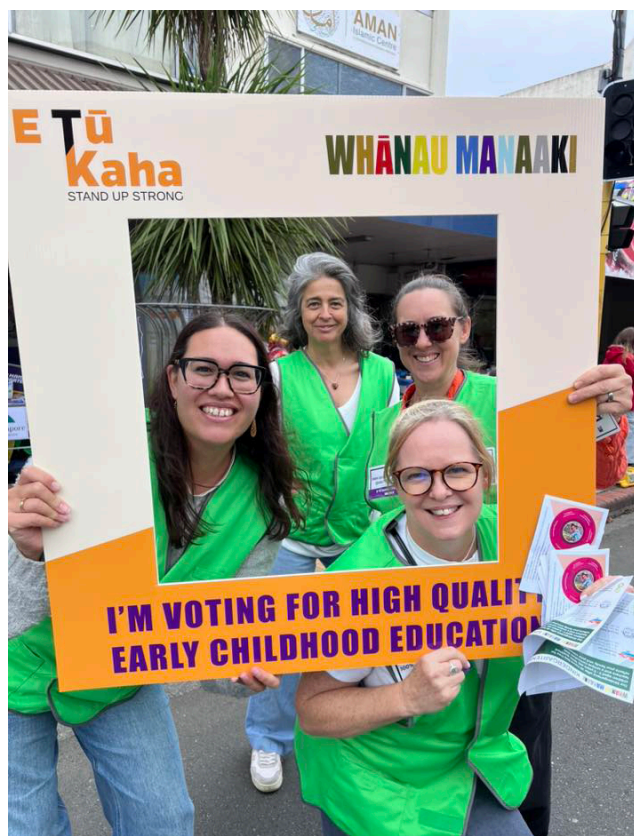


Image above: Left to right, Jess Cooper, Jadwyn Lowe, Toni Fraser, Ange Fieldes (front right).

Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens

Central Plateau

Ohakune

58 Arawa Street, Ohakune

Taihape

Toroa Street, Taihape

Waiouru

25 Kenningston Street, Waiouru

Horowhenua

Arohanui

74 Bartholomew Road, Levin

Betty Montford

46 York Street, Levin

Fanau Pasifika

76a Cambridge Street, Levin

Parsons Avenue

20 Parsons Avenue, Levin

Taitoko

36 Kincross Street, Levin

Te Manawanui

1 Grey Street, Shannon

Te Timatanga Hou

19 Wilton Street, Levin

Kāpiti

Ngahina

Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

Ōtaki

68 Waerenga Road, Ōtaki

Paraparaumu

27 Donovan Road, Paraparaumu

Raumati Beach

32 Raumati Road, Raumati Beach

Raumati South

45 Tiromoana Road, Raumati South

Waikanae

91 Russell Reserve, Ngaio Road, Waikanae

Manawatū

Kimbolton

4 Lind Street, Kimbolton

Otago

Balclutha

1 Lanark Street, Balclutha

Clutha Valley

2155 Clutha Valley Road, Clydevale

Goldfields

62 Whitehaven Street, Lawrence

Islington

16a Islington Street, Dunedin

KidzWay Kindergarten

22-26 Northumberland St, Tapanui

Milton

20a Coronation Court, Milton

Poupoutunoa Kindergarten

6 Westra Street, Clinton, South Otago

Rosebank

14 Naish Street, Balclutha

Petone

East Harbour

99 Muritai Road, Eastbourne

Petone

10a Tennyson Street, Petone

Petone Beach

20 King Street, Petone

Porirua

Adventure

18 Longitude Place, Whitby 5024

Ascot Park

175 Conclusion Street, Porirua

Awatea

19 Awatea Street, Porirua

Discovery

3 Pullen Lane, Whitby

Katoa

52 Takapuwahia Drive Porirua

Maraeroa

36 Astrolabe Street, Porirua

Moirā Gallagher

24 Hampshire Street, Porirua

Nuanua

5A Warspite Avenue, Porirua

Papakōwhai

5 Yarrow Place, Papakowhai

Paremata

51 Paremata Road, Paremata

Paremata Creche

69c Discovery Drive, Whitby Porirua

Plimmerton

8a Beach Road, Plimmerton

Pukerua Bay

1 Wairaka Road, Pukerua Bay

Tairangi

1 Omapere Street, Porirua

Titahi Bay

48 Herewini Street, Titahi Bay

Toru Fetū

36a Astrolabe Street, Porirua

Waitangirua

4 Kalingo Street, Porirua

Taranaki

Avon

2 Avon Street, Stratford

Bell Block Pohutukawa

39 Murray Street, Bell Block, New Plymouth

Brooklands

22 Upjohn Street, New Plymouth

Devon

411 St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth

Eltham

14 York Street, Eltham

Fitzroy

24 Sackville Street, Fitzroy, New Plymouth

Frankleigh Park

147a Govett Avenue, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth

Hāwera

4 Kauri Crescent, Hāwera

Inglewood

Cnr Ngaio & Kelly Streets, Inglewood

Kahikatea

357 Tukapa Street, New Plymouth

Kaitake

2 McKellar Street, Ōakura

Koromiko

26 Koromiko Avenue, Hāwera

Koru

90a Swansea Road, Stratford

Marfell

2a Cook Street, Marfell, New Plymouth

Merrilands

49a Lismore Street, New Plymouth

Ngāmotu

39a Marama Crescent, New Plymouth

Orapa

10 Wood Street, Waitara

Pātea

4 Derby Street, Pātea

Pukekura

34 Fillis Street, New Plymouth

Puketapu

15 Dillon Drive, Bell Block, New Plymouth

Stratford Central

50 Cordelia Street, Stratford

Tawhiti

5 Douglas Street, Hāwera

Waitara Central

18 Browne Street, Waitara

Westown

116 Clawton Street, New Plymouth

Upper Hutt**Birchville**

12 Amber Grove, Birchville, Upper Hutt

Brown Owl

5 Aniseed Grove, Upper Hutt

Cottle

117 Thackeray Street, Upper Hutt

Doris Nicholson

1122 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

*Above: Stratford Central Kindergarten.***Heretaunga**

9a Ruru Crescent, Heretaunga, UH

Irmgard Ritchie

88a McLeod Street, Upper Hutt

Matariki

6 William Durant Drive, Upper Hutt

Silverstream

51 – 53 Kiln Street, Upper Hutt

Trentham

19a Tawai Street, Upper Hutt

Totara Park

7a Denver Grove, Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt

14a McParland Street, Upper Hutt

Wairarapa**Carterton**

3 Victoria Street, Carterton

Greytown

1b McMaster Street, Greytown

Kahurangi

11 Surrey Street, Masterton

Lansdowne

30c Totara Street Masterton

Manaia

53 South Road, Masterton

Martinborough

Roberts Street, Martinborough

Masterton West

159 Cole Street Masterton

Meta Riddiford

17 Daniell Street, Featherston

Pūrātā

2 York Street, Masterton

South End

265 High Street South, Carterton

Una Williams

12 Macara Street, Masterton

Wellington Central**Matairangi**

112–114 Waipapa Road, Hataitai

Mount Cook

160 Tory Street, Wellington

Pikopiko Clyde Quay

Cnr Elizabeth & Brougham Streets, Mt Victoria

Tai Tamariki

55 Cable Street, Wgtn

Wellington North**Bellevue**

50 Link Road, Newlands

Brian Webb

28 Victory Crescent, Tawa

Campbell

25 Campbell Street, Karori

Churton Park

86 Churton Drive, Churton Park

Johnsonville West

34a Kipling Street, Johnsonville

Khandallah

24 Everest Street, Khandallah

Karori

155 Campbell Street, Karori

Newlands

13 Horokiwi Road West, Newlands

Ngaio

65 Ottawa Road, Ngaio

Northland

22 Albemarle Road, Northland

Onslow

1a Delhi Crescent, Khandallah

Paparāangi

10 Mark Avenue, Paparangi

Sunshine

21a Sunshine Avenue, Karori

Tawa Central

21 Oxford Street, Tawa

Tūi Park

12b Mexted Terrace, Linden

Wadestown

45 Oban Street, Wadestown

Waitohi

34 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville

Wellington South**Berhampore**

3-5 Stanley Street, Berhampore

Brooklyn

62 Todman Street, Brooklyn

Hataitai

8 Taurima Street, Hataitai

Island Bay

100 Melbourne Road, Island Bay

Lyll Bay

89 Apu Crescent, Lyall Bay

Miramar Central

32 Parast Street, Miramar

Miramar North

20 Whanganui Street, Miramar

Ōwhiro Bay

96 Happy Valley Road, Ōwhiro Bay

Seatoun

14 Gore Street, Seatoun

Strathmore Park

50a Strathmore Avenue, Strathmore

Te Ō Newtown

9 Hospital Road, Newtown, Wellington

Wellington South

103 Owen Street, Newtown

Whanganui**Aramoho**

15 Field Street, Whanganui

Barsanti

19 Rogers Street, Whanganui

Central

32 Keith Street, Whanganui

Durie Hill

25 Maxwell Avenue, Whanganui

Gonville

86 Alma Road, Whanganui

Harriette Vine

5 Watkin Street, Whanganui

Marie McFarland

40b Cornfoot Street, Castlecliff, Whanganui

Pākaraka

1655 SH3, Pākaraka, Whanganui

Pūtiki

21 Te Anaua St, Whanganui

St Johns Hill

19 Parsons Avenue, Whanganui

Tōtara Puku

Whanganui East School, Patapu Street, Whanganui

Whanganui East

58 Nile Street, Whanganui



Top: Pikopiko Kindergarten, preparing for Matariki celebrations.

Above: Mud garden at Puketapu Kindergarten.

Opposite page: Berhampore Kindergarten.



Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai

Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

- Whakataukī





Image: Mural at Waitara Central Kindergarten.
Artwork by Michael Montgomerie.



Top left: Taihape Kindergarten, police visit to kindergarten.

Top right: Matariki lanterns at Barsanti Kindergarten.

Above: Pink Shirt Day at Seatoun Kindergarten.

Centre Right: Strawberry harvesting, Silverstream Kindergarten.

Right: Mud garden at Devon Kindergarten, New Plymouth.



Mo tātou uara | Our Values

Our vision for Whānau Manaaki is firstly derived from our belief in the importance of quality early childhood education for the tamariki themselves, their whānau, their community and for Aotearoa New Zealand.

We strongly believe in the right to quality early childhood education for every child in Aotearoa, but understand that many children and whānau do not have access to the services they deserve.

We seek to be a leader in the provision of high-quality early childhood education, and by demonstrating what can be achieved, be seen as advocates for children and whānau and help to improve quality early childhood education across the motu.

Our strategic plan focuses on the following core values that we use as important guides for our everyday practices:

Nurturing the mana of tamariki

The vision statement in Te Whāriki, the national early childhood education curriculum, states: (for all tamariki) ... to grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind, body, and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society. (Ministry of Education, 2017)

This statement is underpinned by the concept of Mana – that the tamariki is empowered in many ways and which are represented in five domains of mana

Mana Atua | Well-being
Mana Whenua | Belonging
Mana Tangata | Contribution
Mana Reo | Communication
Mana Aoturoa | Exploration

Therefore, the mana of tamariki underpins the values that He Whānau Manaaki uses to guide our decisions and to govern how we work with others

Pono | Integrity

Our effectiveness in nurturing the mana of tamariki, in convincing others of the critical importance of quality, and in building strong partnerships ultimately depends on our credibility.

We must maintain integrity in all we do and say, so that our voice is listened to when we advocate for what is best for the developing tamariki

Kaitiakitanga | Stewardship and Sustainability

The concept of kaitiakitanga is often translated as guardianship, stewardship or the principles and practices of inter-generational sustainability.

We recognise the need to promote a holistic understanding of te taiao (the environment), how we interact with or impact on te taiao, and how we operate in relationship with mana whenua, and others encouraging environmental sustainability.

Kounga | Quality

International research and the depth and breadth of our own teaching and learning experiences over the last 100 years have confirmed that 'quality' in early childhood education makes a critical difference to the long-term outcomes for tamariki.

There is nothing more important than us continuing to demonstrate the truth of this and exemplify how it is best delivered.

Mahi Tahī | Partnership

We are not alone in desiring and contributing to what is best for tamariki. It is important that we act inclusively with others who are motivated like us to achieve the best outcomes.

We will seek to develop strong partnerships with parents and whānau, schools, other government agencies, community groups and all who are positively concerned with nurturing the mana of tamariki.



Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens

Unit F 15 John Seddon Drive,
Elsdon, Porirua 5022

