



Sport Waikato Annual Report 2021

Mahia te mahi hei
painga moo te iwi

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

- Te Puea Herangi





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Mark McCabe
Board of Trustees Chair



Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive

On behalf of the Sport Waikato Board and staff in our 35th year, we present the 2021 Annual Report.

Another year of challenge as the country's strategy for managing the Covid-19 pandemic has shifted from initially trying to eliminate the virus, to now where we are focused on living with it alongside a vaccination programme that is our pathway towards a new normal.

During the first six months of 2021, the Waikato region operated in alert level 2 where Sport Waikato operations were effectively business as usual. Winter community and school sport and recreation operated efficiently and participation numbers were excellent. Life was becoming normal again!

In late August, all of New Zealand fell into a level 4 lockdown for two weeks after the arrival of the delta variant in Auckland. Auckland have continued to operate under alert levels 3 and 4 ever since. Significant parts of the Waikato region including Hamilton City joined Auckland initially in alert level 4 and then 3 status on the 3rd October and as at writing this report, these restrictions have finally eased. This has meant that 36 out of our 40 staff (90%) had to operate for most of the second half of the year remotely from home.

The positive after embedding our 2020 transformational change - where this Regional Sports Trust has moved away from hands on delivery of programmes and events to instead shift into strategic influencer roles within the same settings (e.g., district communities, sport, schools and Maaori settings) - the mahi (work) has continued whether you are 'face to face' or 'virtual'. Equally, the driver



“SPORT WAIKATO’S EXCITING SHIFT IN APPROACH HAS COINCIDED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF NEW ‘SPECIALIST’ STAFF OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS”

for change – increased impact - has been enhanced. We certainly commend all Sport Waikato staff for the resilience and positive attitude displayed throughout this time of disruption.

Sport Waikato’s exciting shift in approach has coincided with the arrival of new ‘specialist’ staff over the last 12 months who are subject matter experts (SMEs) in their area of strength whether that be cultural capability, sport development, education, community, facilities planning or insights and intelligence. We are very proud that the leaner Sport Waikato staff have all bought into the vision, purpose and big audacious goal (BHAG) of 75% of Waikato adults and youth meeting the national physical activity guidelines by 2030. Our ‘one team’ approach means we are now capitalising on the complementary strengths of these super enthusiastic Sport Waikato SMEs to collectively contribute towards our clarity, focus and pleasingly after change – increased impact.

While we know that our new way of working will have significant long-term impacts, we have also seen a number of short-term ‘wins’ that reinforce our decision to change and highlight the importance of influencing change at the right levels across the sector. Here is a snapshot summary of some of the milestones achieved over the last 12 months that reflect our commitment to influencing both the decision makers and the system BUT also partnering with the important deliverers of sport, recreation and play.

- Territorial Authority 10-year LTP submissions completed and received across all 10 TAs - recommendations across all endorsed with a record spend by Councils on play, active recreation and sport
- King Country Community Indoor Stadium project build agreed and underway

- Sport Waikato led Waikato Primary Association Professional Learning Development Day hosted
- National Partnership between Sport Waikato’s This is ME®, AWWA – ‘period poverty initiative’ and local Te Kuiti Maori physical activity provider Kotahi Aroha
- Waikato, Thames Valley, King Country Rugby Unions adopt Balance is Better and Good Sports approaches in a partnership with NZ Rugby, Sport NZ and led by Sport Waikato
- New Regional Awards format ‘Let’s Move Waikato’ focused on community participation trialled, implemented and now adopted ahead of the traditional format
- Increases in Voice of Rangatahi surveying in Secondary Schools – 26 expressions of interest, nine completed
- Six hubbing projects underway across four districts in the region
- Increased communication focus linked to a clear strategy and plan to engage predominately via social media channels but also traditional media channels

The Sport Waikato ‘one team’ in parallel have invested time and commitment to bring our internal cultural capability strategy to life throughout 2021. Sport Waikato engaged in Core Education throughout the year where our collective competency, knowledge and appreciation of key areas: Te Reo Maori, Maori culture and tikanga; our responsibilities as articulated in Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and importantly the needs of the Maori communities we serve, have been enhanced.

GOVERNANCE



"In my 6th and final year as Chairman of Sport Waikato it has a pleasure to govern alongside a very committed board of 11 trustees with diverse skills and attributes who all play a very important governance role and stewardship for staff to execute strategy.

Over the past 12 months we farewelled Trustee Ian Handcock after four excellent years. A real strength of Ian's through his own business in the rural industry was focused on culture and people wellbeing, and through a significant time of change for Sport Waikato Ian's contribution was highly valued and respected.

I would like to thank all trustees for their time, input and valuable contributions over the last 12 months. Your passion and commitment as the guardians of Sport Waikato is never taken for granted.

I would like to acknowledge Matthew and his leadership as Sport Waikato builds momentum, executing on our revised strategy. We have seen the meaningful impact Matthew and Sport Waikato has had, leading and influencing our team and community across the year.

As I step down as Chair and Trustee I have absolute confidence in the strategic direction of Sport Waikato, the Leadership of Matthew Cooper and his leadership team and the diversity of the board to deliver on the strategy and have impact in and for our community.

It has been a privilege to be Chair and I will always value my time with Sport Waikato, the relationships I have made and supporting the mahi the team does to get everyone in our community out there and active."

Mark McCabe

Sport Waikato CEO comment:

Chairman Mark McCabe joined the Sport Waikato Board in July 2011. Ten years on, with six of those as Chairman, we will farewell Mark at the AGM after an outstanding contribution to Sport Waikato and the sector over the last decade. Mark 'walks the talk' in relation to the Sport Waikato vision by living the importance of including physical activity as a not negotiable in his life. His sharp and professional financial mind has enabled Sport Waikato to not only navigate challenging times but also steer and advise to benefit the organisation's relevance, sustainability and influence.

Personally, I have been very fortunate to have been in partnership with Mark as Chief Executive as we have navigated significant and appropriate change in recent times. Always positive, always testing, always thought provoking and always linking back to our strategy. Most importantly, after healthy debate my ultimate decisions were Mark's decisions where I always knew my Chairman was on my shoulder and for that I acknowledge and thank you Mark. Transformational change is never easy. History will reflect that Sport Waikato were extremely fortunate to be under the astute leadership from 2015 to 2021 of Chairman Mark McCabe.

Ngaa mihi nui and haere raa.

FINANCIAL RESULT

The 2021 financial year was a challenging year for Sport Waikato to navigate as it captures a timespan when we, like the entire country, were grappling with the continued Covid-19 pandemic and as an organisation, were undergoing a significant transformation which included a major restructuring and downsizing of the organisational staff structure.

The end result for the year saw us realise a better-than-expected operating surplus of \$242k vs the budgeted \$196k. The main contributing factors for the variances on the expense side of the ledger were less than expected remuneration costs due mainly to recruitment delays for the new roles created out of our restructure in a tight labour market, less than anticipated costs to support our transformational change process and lower operational costs due both to the period spent in lockdown and the resulting impact that had on some of our activation plans as part of our mahi across the region.

On the income side of the ledger and again due to the impact primarily of Covid-19 on our ability to execute fully some of our objectives for the year, we worked with our major funders to agree



an extension on some of our contracts which has resulted in us carrying forward some funds from the 2021 Financial Year to the 2022 Year. In a year as challenging as this we are pleased that through careful financial management and the support of our funders we have been able to produce a result which is reflective of the strategic objectives and achievements of Sport Waikato for the year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the most outstanding features of a year of continual challenge with the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic has been the unwavering support of Sport Waikato's key partners, stakeholders and funders. On behalf of the Sport Waikato board and staff we say *ngaa mihi nui* – thank you sincerely for your commitment to our mahi, commitment to our vision – “Everyone in the Waikato region out there and active.”

Special mention to Sport New Zealand where your support, influence and partnering not only to Sport Waikato but within the Waikato sport, recreation and play ‘ecosystem’ is nothing short of outstanding. We also acknowledge the region's Iwi, Waikato DHB, Trust Waikato, our ten Territorial Local Authority partners, the Waikato Regional Council, the Waikato Regional Sport and Recreation Organisations, Waikato Secondary School Sports Association, Waikato Primary Schools Association and the University of Waikato for their partnership and collaborative efforts towards achieving the outcomes of [Moving Waikato](#).

To Grassroots Trust, Lion Foundation and NZCT, your collective long-time support enables and

consolidates our new approach to ensure we stay true to the aims of Moving Waikato which places a lens on the provision of quality participation opportunities for the people and communities of the Waikato region.

Finally, to the Sport Waikato staff – this Regional Sports Trust's number one asset is its people – ‘one team’. We are very excited about the calibre, unity and focus of you all – the quality staff tasked to implement strategy, influence the decision makers and the system you connect in. We have clarity, we have purpose and we have a 2030 BHAG we are striving for. Thank you for your commitment and your excellent mahi in a disruptive year. Most of all, *ngaa mihi* for demonstrating by action and passion our beautiful *tongikura* gifted to us by Waikato Tainui who we acknowledge.

Mahia te mahi hei painga moo te iwi – we strive every day to ‘do the work for the betterment of the people’

– Te Puea Herangi



Mark McCabe
Board of Trustees Chair

Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive

SPORT WAIKATO 2021

Our new way of working

In 2020, Sport Waikato underwent a significant organisational transformation to reposition ourselves as strategic leaders in play, active recreation and sport in the Waikato region. In so doing, we stepped away from being a delivery agency in favour of a focus on influencing decision-makers and providers to ensure quality physical activity opportunities are offered to the people and communities of the region.

In 2021, we have solidified this new way of working, which has included the recruitment of capable subject matter experts who offer strategic and thought leadership to a range of organisations and groups (e.g. Local Territorial Authorities, Early Childhood Centres, Primary and Secondary Schools).

While we know that our new way of working will have significant long term impacts, we have also seen a number of short term 'wins' that reinforce our decision to change and highlight the importance of influencing schools, Local and Regional Recreation Organisations, Local and Regional Sports Organisations and Community Groups) while transitioning away from a range of the traditional delivery-oriented Sport Waikato programmes (e.g. Project Energize, U5 Energize, the District Coordinator Model).

Importantly, this change has seen Sport Waikato strong through the 2021 Covid-19 lockdown whereby our staff have been able to continue to work and importantly, to be effective, as a result of our shift to influence rather than delivery.

The achievements throughout the year are detailed in this report, but a high level summary of some of the milestones is featured below:

- » **Long term plan submissions completed and received across all 10 Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) - recommendations across all endorsed with a record spend by Councils on play, active recreation and sport**
- » **King Country Indoor Stadium project build agreed and underway**
- » **Sport Waikato-led, Waikato Primary Association Professional Learning Development Day hosted**
- » **National Partnership between Sport Waikato's This is ME®, AWWA period underwear and local Te Kuiti Maaori physical activity provider Kotahi Aroha**
- » **Regional Rugby Unions adopt Balance is Better and Good Sports approaches**
- » **New Regional Awards format focused on community participation adopted**
- » **Increases in Voice of Rangatahi surveying in Secondary Schools**
- » **Six hubbing projects underway across the four districts in the region**

Strategic insights and planning

The Insights and Evaluation Team continue to drive data collection, analysis and dissemination at Sport Waikato and during the transformation placed considerable effort on aligning workstreams, providing evidence for change and developing logic models for the evaluation of impact through Sport Waikato's new way of working.

INSIGHTS

Investment into insights and evidence has enabled Sport Waikato to critically look at its impact on physical activity within the region. Having high quality data and insights underpins our new way of working.

Sport Waikato adopted Moving Waikato as a blueprint in 2019, and have adopted its measures as measures of success. The key measure for the 'Our People' pillar, is the percentage of our region's people being physically active and is measured through the Active New Zealand Survey.

The 2017 sample boost has enabled partners in Moving Waikato to establish a robust baseline with sub-group analysis at a district level and to monitor the results across the ten years of the strategy. In 2021, Sport Waikato and its partners have committed to continue investment in developing a richer and more robust set of information to enhance our insights and create milestone measures of success.

Listening to the voice of our people

In 2021 we surveyed over 1200 participants and coaches across the Waikato region to better understand their preferences, motivations and barriers to participation. Students and coaches were surveyed from a range of schools/organisations, demographics and backgrounds.

In a year of development and re-building, it has been critical to establish a robust dataset that informs both programme/initiative development and establishes the impact of the new way of working.

Inaugural Voice of Tamariki survey conducted in one primary school, with 84 responses

"Sweating is my worst enemy, I hate the attention on me"

- Year 7, Girl

"Getting puffed and then going back to class"

- Year 6, Boy

Over 1000 students physical activity preferences and behaviours surveyed across 9 Secondary schools - Voice of Rangatahi survey

"Students always make fun of me. I absolutely love soccer and basketball, but no one ever included me so I've never chosen to do sports again..."

- Year 12, Female

"With PE, I feel dissatisfied because when I don't bring my PE gear I can't participate."

- Year 8, Female

“For tournaments there are girls’ and boys’ teams, not mixed and it’s irritating!”

- Year 8, Female

“For people who are not super sporty, there’s not many social teams. I would like to just join a social team, not so competitive.”

- Year 10, Female

“I don’t like competitive sports. If there were more options for other types of non-competitive fitness (e.g.yoga, self defence, pilates) it would be neat.”

- Year 13, Female

“Because PE is fun and we play lots of games that helps me be active”

- Year 7, Female

Inaugural Voice of Coach survey
across 17 sporting codes

“Opportunity to give back, as sport has given me so much that I want to ensure youth have the opportunities to experience part of what I did as an athlete/coach/official”

“I love enabling other people to play the sport that I love, developing players and fostering a great team environment”

“It is so dependant on each person’s situation and time so of course while it is hugely rewarding, it can also be very challenging and it’s important to be aware of this before committing”

“Only once have I been observed coaching and would like that to happen more often so I know what to work on”

Voice of RANGATAHI Survey

WATCH
VIDEO HERE

<https://youtube.com/user/GOsportwaikato>



Voice of Rangatahi (VOR)

The Voice of Rangatahi survey continues to be a crucial tool in our work into the Rangatahi (teenage) space. It is being used extensively within our organisation, participating secondary schools and interested providers to inform quality experiences for our young people. In 2021 we surveyed nine schools despite the disruption of Covid-19.

Cambridge High School signed up for a second year of surveying in 2021 and already we are seeing changes in conversation with regard to inclusive physical activity opportunities within the school. The Director of Sport in 2020 was unsure of the value of VoR when they first signed up, but after receiving a bespoke profile (produced internally at Sport Waikato) he was 'impressed by the value the survey provides'. He stated that the 'survey was both honest and authentic and provided opportunities for discussion on where to from here'. The school has used the 'Voice of Rangatahi' to continue to develop programmes that best suit the needs of the students inside and outside of the classroom.

EVALUATION

Moving Waikato has a well-established theory of change, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was developed to ensure that Moving Waikato as a regional strategy is meeting the proposed aims and outcomes of the initiative.

The framework aims to provide staff with clear guidance of monitoring and evaluation tools and templates to support its implementation and improvement. Alignment of Sport Waikato's work with Moving Waikato required a considerable amount of time resetting and refreshing key outcomes, activities/interventions, measures and ultimately team business plans and individual KPIs. This has been driven through a series of education modules for staff led by the Insights and Evaluation team.

IMPACT REPORTING

Sport Waikato's new way of working has enabled the organisation to have a seat at the table at a number of regional working groups with initiatives and events featured in the Waikato Plan and Waikato Wellbeing newsletters.

A focus on smarter and more targeted impact reporting to our funders has illustrated our new streamlined approach and outcome-focused mahi. Each programme team reports to a specific set of short, medium and long-term outcomes that contribute to Moving Waikato's big goal of 75% of people in the Waikato region active by 2030. The logic models have become the foundation documents for Sport Waikato that clearly define the pathway and impact of Sport Waikato within the communities of focus.

The Moving Waikato Evaluation and Monitoring framework and the additional logics are live documents and are intended to remain flexible. We will take learnings from this year, and subsequent years, to inform the future work programme.

Sport Waikato will continue to invest in evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to support our role as regional leaders in the provision of insights about play, active recreation and sport participation in the Waikato region. This will include updating district and demographic participation profiles following the 2021 Active NZ Survey, of which we have again invested to boost our regional sample to provide a lens at a district level. We will continue to support our key partners and stakeholders with insights and look to partner with others to increase the insights we are able to provide.



Targeting Maaori participation and increasing our cultural capability

In 2019 Sport Waikato developed a Maaori strategy and an Internal Cultural Capability implementation plan to support the need for us to play a role in addressing inequalities for Maaori in play, active recreation and sport.

While many of the team at Sport Waikato had a basic understanding of Te Ao Maaori, we are committed to ensuring that all staff are capable and confident in cultural capability and Maaori language (Reo) to ensure we are better able to service and engage the communities in which we work. The Waikato has a high population of Maaori and our hope is that with this knowledge we are better able to engage, co-design and work alongside Maaori to ensure our mahi (work) can help address inequities within the wider health system.

As part of the strategy rollout, this year we have engaged the services of CORE Education, a specialist Maaori education provider, to provide us with a 6-month curriculum focussing on the history of Aotearoa, Te Reo, Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments and Maaori tikanga. Through these sessions with CORE Education and alongside our own Cultural Capability Advisor, Sport Waikato has learnt about Te Tiriti O Waitangi, New Zealand Maaori history, Tikanga, Maatauranga Maaori and more local Iwi/Hapu knowledge.

These sessions have been delivered through a mix of six half day face-to-face workshops, webinars, and

online self-paced tutorials. The first two face-to-face sessions were delivered in June and have been extremely well received by staff. CORE Education have done a great job in objectively presenting some, at times, challenging content.

There is an appetite from our people to learn in this space and the work that has been progressed since the beginning of the year has created an environment for our people to be safe as they embark on or continue their own personal cultural journeys.

Alongside an internal focus on cultural capability, Sport Waikato have also begun to engage externally about the future of the delivery of Sport New Zealand's He Oranga Poutama programme, which we have delivered for over a decade. Through our insights work on the participation barriers of Maaori in the Waikato region, we have identified what we feel is a need for a more regional model. Alongside Sport New Zealand, we are now engaging local iwi leaders to look to opportunities to co-design a regional Maaori participation intervention that better supports the physical activity needs and aspirations of Maaori in the Waikato.

We are already starting to design what Sport Waikato's Cultural Capability journey will look like in 2022 in alignment with the Poutama approach as outlined in our Internal Cultural Capability strategy. While we recognise we have made great progress, we are also committed to developing further. Staff have embraced the cultural journey to an extent we are now looking to add a fourth poutama to the strategy, as we work to "know better, do better".

We will continue to engage and plan for a regional He Oranga Poutama approach alongside Sport New Zealand and our region's iwi.

Sport Development (Coaching, Secondary Schools and Sector Capability)

In 2021, the Sport Development team was formed with the aim of enabling innovation, building collaboration and influencing system-level change that focuses on ensuring that providers and enablers of youth sport understand and meet their needs. This team consolidates Sport Waikato's previous focuses on secondary schools, coaching and sector capability, and features increased focus on influencing changes to delivery in youth (rangatahi) sport settings (e.g. school and community).

At Sport Waikato, we have adopted the nationally-driven 'Balance is Better' philosophy, whereby it is encouraged that influencers of youth sport better consider and cater to the needs of youth sport participants, allowing them freedom to choose to play a range of codes in their formative years. We also advocate for the creation of a climate of development (rather than a climate of performance) using 'Good Sports' as a tool to influence deliverers of sport.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Under our new way of working, we have transitioned from supporting secondary school sports events to working with Principals, Directors of Sport, Sport Coordinators, Boards of Trustees and Regional and Local Sports Organisations. Our focus is on providing strategic leadership to the school sport sector in order to increase the quality and quantity of sporting opportunities that meet the needs of the Waikato region's young people. In 2022, a second role will be filled to assist in this space, but potentially with more focus on Diversity and Inclusion.

Our work with secondary schools is insights-led and involves understanding the unique participation barriers and motivations of the students in order to co-design, with the school, strategies to engage rangatahi. Voice of Rangatahi (VoR) surveying has been key in this approach and hugely valuable in building a picture of participation that can then be enhanced through targeted interventions.

- 26 secondary schools expressed an interest to complete the VoR survey in 2021
- 9 secondary schools completed VoR. The remaining schools will be followed up in 2022
- 16 secondary schools supported to deliver inclusive interventions
- 39 Waikato secondary schools completed the Secondary Sport New Zealand Census at the end of 2020 – data illustrating participation numbers in each sport, and coaches, managers and officials contributing to sport in each school. In 2021, we hope to have all 43 Waikato Secondary School Census returns.

Of course, Covid-19 and the changing alert levels have presented our region's schools with many challenges, and certainly having our region in two different levels at various times has proven difficult to navigate from a sport perspective. Sport Waikato has worked closely with Sport New Zealand and Secondary School Sport New Zealand to ensure schools and RSOs have the most current and up-to-date advice with regards to sport delivery. Our



continued partnership with the Waikato Secondary School Sport Association (WSSSA) has been invaluable in supporting the advice and decisions for youth sport to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all students, staff, officials and volunteers.

In the interest of collaboration, Sport Waikato has led the formation of the Waikato Secondary Schools Basketball Advisory Group - a collective of Principals, Basketball Association representatives and basketball school support staff tasked with co-designing a renewed and equitable basketball competition for secondary schools in the Waikato region. This work has seen a once 'at odds' group of individuals come together to support a quality competition for rangatahi of all sporting abilities. In the interim, Sport Waikato led the 2021 competition in order to enable the region's young people to play this growing code.

In 2022, our mahi with the WSSSA will involve supporting the development of their next three year strategy to align with Moving Waikato, as well as leading the Waikato Secondary Schools Basketball Advisory group to ensure basketball is accessible for all participants. We will also continue our insights-led approach with Secondary Schools via VoR surveying and the subsequent design of engagement strategies that address the barriers identified through this mechanism.

COACHING

Coach Development

In 2021, our network of Coach Leads, Trainers and Coach Developers has continued to grow in both impact and influence. We implemented a new insights mechanism - Voice of Coach - to better understand how these groups go about creating positive coaching environments, but also the role of Sport Waikato staff in supporting our region's coaches to grow the breadth and depth of their impact throughout the sporting landscape.

This year has had its challenges, however some of the successes included:

- 15 trainers engaged who lead and design coach development systems within the region
- 15 group sessions led and 80 individual sessions held over the year
- Regional collaboration
- Sport Waikato taking a lead in the upskill, development and alignment of regional coaching structures
- Applying Sport New Zealand's Balance is Better principles
- Working with our partners on developing coaches and coaching structures that support leaders' understanding and skills in designing and delivering environments focused on engaging participants in experiences that meet their needs

This group's recognised success and work developing future leaders has led to over ten new trainers and new staff from national and regional sporting bodies joining this group to close out 2021. We have now partnered with the trainer groups as well as a number of national sporting bodies to deliver to over 120 Coach Developers via eight workshops (internal and external), including trialling a popular online version and providing individual support to Coach Developers via 20 sessions.

A range of different sports have been visible in our Coach Development forums in 2021 including rugby, netball, cricket, badminton, volleyball, cycling, athletics, football, rowing, waka ama, table tennis and more.

Community Coaching

Sport Waikato have continued delivery of the Good Sports programme alongside our national and regional partners, such as NZRU, in order to bring Balance is Better to life in the region. We have worked at a strategic level to identify how our partners can influence and create sustainable change that creates environments that support inclusive engagement in youth sport.

- 7 Good Sports workshops delivered
- 48 Good Sports Champions Developed
- 14 Good Sports Community Initiative support connections



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GOOD SPORTS
INITIATIVE

AKTIVE
DEVELOPED BY

Identified Champion/Role Model Coaches

In 2021, we have continued our work with those coaches in our region who have been identified and remained engaged from past programmes such as the PCA or C4C (Performance Coach Advance or Coaching for Character Program). These connections have been one on one. It is worth noting that many of our past coaches have significant influence in their sporting networks, having gone on to influential roles in coach leadership. Examples include: lead roles across Secondary Sport, Northern Districts coach lead, WaiBOP Football Coach lead, Waikato Hockey coach lead, and National Performance Manager - to name a few. Following the growth in the Sport Development team, and using the insight provided by the Voice of Coach survey, this is an area that requires additional work in 2022.

We will continue to work with the sporting leaders through the Coach Leads, Trainer and Coach Developers. We will look at partnership opportunities to work with others to grow our reach in the Trainer, Coach Developer, Community Coach and identified Coaching group. We will increase our presence in the Secondary School space with the aim of supporting coaches of Secondary School-aged youth. We will continue to embed the Balance is Better principles and apply a Good Sports philosophy in our messaging and partnerships across the region. We will also look to spread Coach Development and Good Sports developer training throughout the region as we seek to develop a sporting landscape that meets participants' needs.

SECTOR CAPABILITY

Under our new way of working, Sport Waikato has shifted its sector capability focus from leadership and governance to a sport development approach that aims to increase the quality of sport delivery across the region through increases in participation and development opportunities and innovative formats that better meet participant needs.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have also turned our attention to increasing collaboration between sporting codes and organisations so as to increase the sustainability of the regional sport network. This work includes influencing fundamental changes to the ways that sports and recreation is structured and delivered in the Waikato region, alongside bringing together organisations who have often worked against rather than with one another.

Our work has included meeting with more than 20 Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs), building

profiles of each sport from these meetings and utilising longitudinal data from our Insights and Evaluation team to better understand the participation challenges associated with each code. These profiles will form the basis of targeted support for sports to grow their capability to deliver positive, participant-centred programmes and initiatives.

This year we have worked with a number of codes including Cricket, Squash, Rugby, Football and Golf to ensure their sporting offer is relevant, meaningful and inclusive to a variety of participant groups (e.g. women and girls, children and young people).

Waikato Regional Season Transition Plan

The Waikato Regional Season Transition Plan continues to be a work in progress, with both Cricket and Rugby signing the agreement along with three of our Territorial Local Authorities (Hamilton City, Waipa and Waikato Districts). The underlying principles and purpose of this Plan are to provide high-level regional guidance to assist all parties involved in the process of delivering sport to people and communities, with a direct lens over the provision of quality playing experiences (e.g. from ground maintenance, to competition structures and participation opportunities). We are working with Netball, Hockey and Football to be the next sports to sign on, as well as the Waikato Secondary School Sports Association (WSSSA) and further Territorial Local Authorities.



Waikato Regional Sport Season Transition Plan for Community and School Sport | October 2021

Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa Fund

As part of our sector capability work, Sport Waikato have taken the strategic opportunity to leverage Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa (Sport NZ's targeted fund for the activation of children and young people) to work more closely with the play, active recreation and sport sector. In 2021, 1.58mil of funding was distributed to 102 physical activity projects across the region, each of which was worked with by a Sport Waikato staff member to ensure all activities funded responded to participant need and were measurable in terms of their outcomes.



Rangatahi & Tamariki have Got to Get Out programme

In 2022, Sport Waikato will continue to implement a sport development approach with a lens on provision to and for young people. We will enhance our relationships across the codes and secondary schools, having solidified many of these through our change in 2021. Our work with the WSSSA will continue with the purpose of aligning our strategic intent and working deeper into the secondary school environment with the aim of supporting schools to better understand the needs of their students as sport participants. In so doing, our aim is to bring secondary schools and RSOs together to work in partnership in the delivery of school sport.

We will increase our offer of coaching support into the secondary school setting in recognition of the dissatisfaction of secondary school-aged young people in coaching in our region, with the aim of reversing the participant drop-off.

We will continue to look for ways to enhance collaboration among sports codes, including through the Season Transition Plan, but also for the sustainability of their organisations in a Covid-19 impacted world.

We will continue to distribute Tu Manawa Active Aotearoa funding on behalf of Sport NZ and we are interested at looking towards opportunities to work more closely with Trust Waikato as a major philanthropic funder of sport and recreation in our region.

Facilities, spaces and places planning

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

Now in its third iteration, the Plan has an expanded scope beyond just sport, and continues its focus on benchmarking operational performance of existing facilities to grow sustainable outcomes, delivering community hub (partnered models) and extending the focus on the sharing of knowledge and support.

The Plan's expanded scope is in response to changing participation trends and preferences that indicate the need to better understand and provide for opportunities to play and actively recreate in the Waikato region, as well as to align with the focus of Moving Waikato. In doing so, the Plan includes a focus on the regional network of play infrastructure and active recreation, and physical activity facility provision for running/walking and recreational cycling alongside spaces and places for sport.

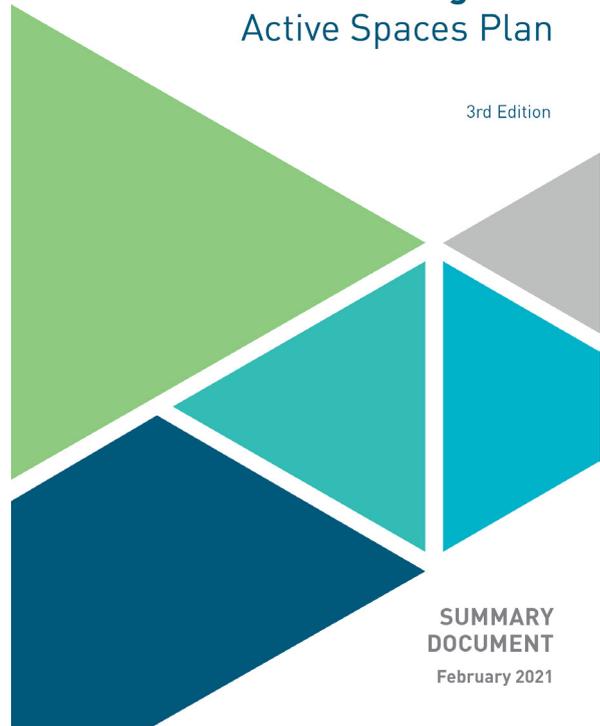
The timing of the review has been completed in accordance with the Long Term Plan cycles of our local government partners to ensure that relevant priorities are able to be fed into the annual planning and forward commitments of our key Plan partners.

The Plan is jointly funded in delivery by our ten Local Authority Partners and governed by an Advisory Panel with representatives from Sport New Zealand, Sport Waikato and four Local Authority CEOs. The 2020 iteration of the Plan was adopted at the Waikato Mayoral Forum in February of 2021.

The Plan continues to focus on core planning principles and decision-making criteria to guide stakeholder investment and decision making.

Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan

3rd Edition



The influence of the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan was apparent in the latest round of Local Authority Long Term Plans (LTPs) adopted in 2021. With the support of Sport Waikato personnel, Councils in the Waikato region set aside \$350m for investment into key community infrastructure projects across the sector and it was evident that key principles of the Active Spaces Plan guided this investment. A wider investment into active recreation and play was adopted with a considered focus on the changing demographics (at a district and regional level) of communities and the ever-changing lifestyles of people in the region.

Sport Waikato continues to guide the progression of facility development priorities as outlined in the

Plan, along with supporting partners with spaces and places planning advice, growing the region's facilities planning network.

This year saw a landmark milestone reached in the planning of the King Country Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre with the Waitomo District Council formally entering into a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Education and Te Kuiti High School Board in October, which resulted in a shared ownership agreement and Council assuming responsibility for the building and operational management of the facility. Sport Waikato's involvement in the steering group alongside Sport NZ, the Ministry of Education, Council and The Game on Charitable Trust was instrumental in moving the project forward.

Sport Waikato are continuing to support the other seven key priority projects outlined in the Active Spaces Plan including Indoor Court Provision projects in Matamata and Hamilton, and Aquatic Facility Provision in Thames Coromandel and Hamilton, where there continues to be a strong focus on collaboration between key stakeholders such as Territorial Local Authorities, funders and the Ministry of Education.

Optimising the existing facilities' infrastructure in the region continues to be a focus of the Active Spaces Plan. Sport Waikato provides advocacy, guidance and support for these local initiatives and in 2021 supported six such initiatives in the Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and South Waikato districts, along with Hamilton City.

As well as support for hubbing, Sport Waikato also supports Local Territorial Authorities with district level planning - these plans sit underneath the regional plan, providing guidance to local facilities projects and priorities. In 2021, both South Waikato and Waitomo local plans were advanced and adopted by each Council, both of which incorporated a broad focus including play, alongside active recreation and sport. Ongoing work is underway with the other Local Territorial Authorities regarding the renewal of their local plans to help support local decision making across the sector.

Sport Waikato continues to encourage and support the optimisation, rationalisation and/or amalgamation of clubs and groups particularly in areas with static or declining population through the development of community hubs (partnered models). Hubbing allows for the formation of bespoke, locally led governance structures which

increases the opportunity for sharing of knowledge, support and facility optimisation across local groups to best meet local needs.

In 2021, Sport Waikato was involved in six hubbing discussions across four districts, in which four hubbing governance groups have either been established or are in the process of being established, while our Regional Connectivity Coordinators have been involved in various urban and reserve planning discussions with key stakeholders with focus on increased opportunities for play, active recreation and sport.



The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan provides a roadmap for spaces and places planning and increased opportunities for participation. The next 12 months will see the development of regional plans such as the Natural Bodies of Water Plan and Provision for Older Populations Plan to help inform future decision making and investment.

Covid-19 has ensured that there needs to be an increased focus on sustainability and optimisation in spaces and places planning. Sport Waikato continues to acknowledge and thank the Waikato Mayoral Forum, Local Authority Partners and Sport New Zealand for their continued support and advocacy of facilities, spaces and places planning across the Waikato region. The Plan is jointly funded in delivery by our ten Local Authority Partners and governed by an Advisory Panel with representatives from Sport New Zealand, Sport Waikato and four Local Authority CEOs.

Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards/ Let's Move Waikato

January 2021 saw Sport Waikato host the inaugural stakeholder event, Let's Move Waikato. The event was developed as an opportunity to bring together key stakeholders from across the region with a view to showcase Sport Waikato's new way of working. It also featured the announcements of the winners of the Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards along with networking opportunities with all Sport Waikato staff.

Let's Move Waikato replaces the previous ten district awards and Brian Perry Waikato Regional Sports Awards which were predominantly focused on elite sport, and is our key event of the year.

The event provided an opportunity for all staff – especially those new to their role – the ability to network with their key connections across the sector and region, while providing some insight into Sport Waikato's new way of working. Emceed by CEO Matthew Cooper, with Ian Foster as guest speaker, the relaxed atmosphere provided a much more informal setting, while showcasing the winners of the Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards.

In 2020 Covid-19 provided an opportunity to realign our awards season at a community level. What eventuated was a very heartwarming, local and community focused celebration where we were able to acknowledge innovation, partnerships, collaboration, diversity and the people doing the work. Because of its success, the decision was made to continue this new format into the future.

The 2021 Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards encouraged nominations from those in the community who went above and beyond to deliver programmes and initiatives that met the needs of the participant and helped create a more active region. 2021 saw new categories added – Community Coach (aligned to Balance is Better and Good Sports principles), Community Unsung Hero (those unpaid voluntary roles and replaced Service to Sport) and Commitment to Youth Engagement (those initiatives that help grow participation of young people 0-24).



"GOSH, THERE ARE WONDERFUL NOMINATIONS. IT'S A GREAT REMINDER, OF EVERYTHING GREAT HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES. VERY UPLIFTING AT THIS TIME. WITHOUT SPORT WAIKATO ENABLING THIS, WE WOULD NEVER KNOW SUCH THINGS."

- Te Awamutu Sports Club

The new awards format aligns with Sport Waikato's partnered strategy, Moving Waikato, and the shift to working at a strategic level to support and grow the capability of those who influence play, active recreation and sport in our region, with the aim to grow participation to at least 75% by 2030.

Finalists for 2021 have been judged, and winners will be announced at Let's Move Waikato, Thursday 27th January 2022 (Covid level dependant). This year finalists and their supporters will be able to attend with winners announced on the night.

"THESE PEOPLE, THESE INITIATIVES ARE DOING SOME INCREDIBLE WORK IN PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT, OFTEN UNPAID AND UNDERFUNDED, AND IT'S TIME THAT WE PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THEM. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HELPING TO DRIVE PARTICIPATION RATES UP BY PROVIDING WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS WANT, AND ENSURING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE TO KEEP THEM COMING BACK."

- Matthew Cooper





LET'S MOVE WAIKATO, JANUARY 2021





OUR MISSION

This is ME® is an initiative led by Sport Waikato that encourages, supports and celebrates women and girls of all ages getting out there and being active THEIR way.



Targeting women and girls: This is ME® initiative

Through Sport Waikato’s targeted women and girls initiative This is ME®, we continue to encourage, support and celebrate women and girls of all ages getting out there and being active THEIR way. In the past year, This is ME® has facilitated physical activity opportunities for over 430 women and girls across the Waikato region, by focussing on partnerships, co-design and regional leadership.

PARTNERED ACTIVATIONS AND DELIVERY CHANGE

This is ME® has continued to build and maintain sector and cross-sector partnerships, including with National and Regional Sporting Organisations, local providers and community groups, to grow the quality and quantity of opportunities for women and girls to be active.

In 2021, these partnerships have facilitated beginner friendly boxing and squash combined sessions, ongoing cricketing opportunities through Backyard Smash, Zumba and Futsal for Muslim women, and community-led physical activity programmes for women and girls in Te Kuiti.

Our work has also resulted in some significant delivery changes. For example, a Coffee & Squash activation in Hamilton led a local Squash club to expand their offering to a 6-week programme and provide a shortened membership option based on feedback from the women involved. Similarly, the success of the Twilight Golf Series in partnership with Golf New Zealand encouraged Taupō Golf Club to introduce a \$100 Get into Golf membership, consisting of 10 x 9 holes and 10 x buckets of range balls.



CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG WOMEN

We continue to work alongside our six partner schools to grow the quality of delivery for girls throughout the Waikato region.

Disruptions caused by COVID-19 have meant that entry into secondary schools was limited throughout 2020 and 2021, which has required This is ME@ to take other approaches to engage with staff and students. For example, we have attended Sports Coordinator and interagency meetings, and used the Sport NZ Voice of Rangatahi (VoR) survey to gain insights into young women and girls' sport and active recreation experiences and feelings towards physical activity. This approach has created opportunity for discussion around current female engagement and barriers that may need to be addressed to improve the experiences of young women and girls.

In 2021, This is ME@ has also facilitated policy and delivery changes. A four-year partnership between Waihi College and This is ME@ led the college to allocate funding towards This is ME@ activities within their school. This will support the continuation of successful activations which have been co-designed by students such as yoga, Tough Guy and Gal Challenge, pop-up lunch time sport and girls-only gym time. This funding allocation allows more females opportunities to be physically active and demonstrates the college's commitment to meeting the sport and active recreation needs of its female students..

"I enjoy the PE we do but feel we can do more on the fitness side of things, and not just sport skills"

- Year 7, Female

"They (the school) always say no matter your gender you will always do well and I really like that."

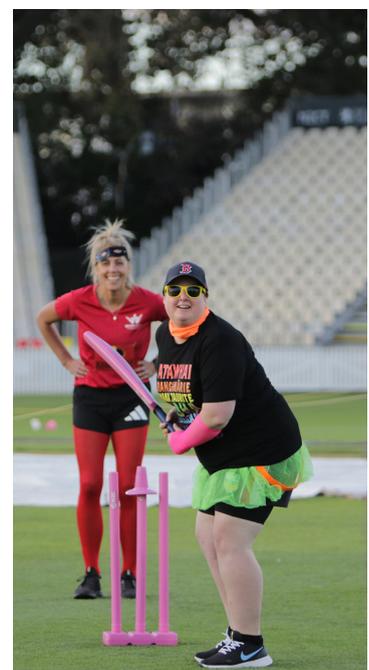
- Year 7, Female

"I'd like to see more non sport related ways of becoming physically active."

- Year 11, Female

"I always have something to do after school and my coaches care about me and always make it fun."

- Year 9, Female



LEADING AND ENCOURAGING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

This is ME® maintains a focus on innovative approaches to breaking down barriers for women and girls to be physically active and encourages providers to do the same.

In response to a conversation with Kotahi Aroha's Erina Wehi-Barton, we co-designed an ikura (period) workshop for sixteen young women (11-16 years old), in partnership with AWWA Period Care, to remove barriers to physical activity associated with menstruation and period poverty. AWWA generously donated three pairs of underwear to each of the young women, who left the workshop with an understanding of how to use the underwear and increased confidence in their ability to manage their period.

We were honoured to receive the Northern Districts Cricket Community Engagement Strategy Award for the 2020-21 year, acknowledging our work on the Sista Smash and Backyard Smash initiatives. This award highlights our influence and thought leadership in the development of these activations, which drew in over 300 women and girls to participate in a modified game of cricket.

Similarly, we are providing thought leadership to the Waikato based implementation of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022; our aim is to support the formation of strategies to engage more women and girls in Cricket.

This is ME® are also designing an online workshop which includes six modules, as a capability building tool to support providers to understand and deliver quality physical activity opportunities that meet the needs and aspirations of women and girls. We are aiming to pilot this workshop early next year for wider release in mid-2022.

This is ME® were also originally asked to host a regional hub as part of a regional focus for the Sport NZ Women + Girls Summit, but alert level changes meant that this face-to-face event had to be cancelled. Instead, This is ME® decided to adapt to the situation and find a way to share some of the amazing mahi happening in the Waikato region, by hosting a webinar.

The This is ME® - Quality Experiences Matter webinar took place on 28 September and was an inspiring and engaging session facilitated by Kate Rawnsley, and excellent speakers from around the region. 56 people registered for the event, and 44 watched the webinar live. Most of our attendees were located

regionally and nationally, but there were a few international guests as well. We have since followed up with attendees to facilitate connections in other regions and begin conversations to support and develop more opportunities for women and girls in the Waikato region.

This is ME® will strengthen its alignment with Sport New Zealand's Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. The This is ME® Secondary School Programme will continue to support partnership schools, and we will build on our work with local leaders, providers, and communities to progress strategies designed to get more women and girls moving. A key focus remains on celebrating women and girls getting moving THEIR way, as showcased across our digital channels.





THIS IS ME

Quality Experiences Matter Webinar

Delivering physical activity to women and girls

Hear personal experiences of waahine in our region, celebrate some of the awesome kaupapa/programmes being facilitated, and learn more about how you can provide quality physical activity opportunities to women and girls.



Erina Wehi-Barton
Kotahi Aroha



Kate Marley
Waikato Dalgies



Naomi Matthews
Northern Districts Cricket Association



Jessie Smith
OIA World Champion



Tori Peeters
NZ No. 1 javelin



Kate Rawnsley
Women in Rugby Activator

Facilitated by Kate Rawnsley, Co-Founder of W24 - Women in Rugby Activator

fb.com/thisisMENZ @ thisisme_nz www.thisisme.org.nz

10.00-11.30am
TUESDAY
28 SEPTEMBER
2021 ONLINE

CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER





Targeting young people's participation

Under our new way of working, Sport Waikato have stepped away from physical activity delivery in Early Childhood and Primary School settings in favour of providing leadership and Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum delivery support to teachers as well as a focus on fundamental movement skill acquisition support for Early Childhood Centre Educators.

This approach has seen the development of a new Sport Waikato workforce of highly capable and experienced educators, whose role is to support the continued development of our region's teachers to feel capable and confident to deliver quality physical activity and HPE experiences for tamariki (0-11 years).

HEALTHY ACTIVE LEARNING (HAL) | TAAKARO ORA

A significant achievement under our new way is marked by a collaborative partnership between ourselves, Sport NZ and the Waikato DHB to continue funding into the Waikato region to support in-school interventions targeted at increasing the physical activity levels of tamariki in primary schools through HPE. This approach has enabled Sport Waikato to

advance the provision of the national Healthy Active Learning (HAL) Approach in the region following a successful pilot of Taakaro Ora (an initiative focused on working at the level of Education Kaahui Ako or Communities of Learning in Hamilton) over the past three years.

Importantly, this new approach has seen Sport Waikato staff delivering a number of Professional Learning Development days into Kaahui Ako in partnership with Education Professionals from the University of Waikato to support teacher learning and professional development in HPE – an area that has often been overlooked to the detriment of tamariki physical activity levels.

As an example of the new way of working, the Community Connector has been working with the Puketaha School Principal regarding the next steps for integrating a whole school approach where Good Sports messaging will guide the 'Puketaha Way' and inform parent and volunteer expectations. The Community Connector is working to propose a high impact Good Sports community evening which will include the wider cluster of schools around Puketaha and a collective cross-team engagement within Sport Waikato.

To date:

- 7 Kaahui Ako have been engaged with Sport Waikato's new way of working, these are in Hamilton's North East, Waitomo, Otorohanga, Tokoroa, Putaruru, Ohinemuri and Waihi which include some of the region's areas of highest deprivation and inequitable access to both physical activity opportunities and support. We have also started engagement with the Ngaruawahia Kaahui Ako and Thames Kaahui Ako and are looking to grow the work into those areas more fully in 2022.
- 8 PLD deliveries have occurred with teachers (some of these included teachers from multiple schools).

Key themes explored throughout the PLD days include integrating the Health and Physical Education curriculum across the other curriculum areas, teaching hauora in the classroom and transformational practice around physical activity events (e.g. cross country) in schools. These sessions all aimed to challenge what the teachers knew about HPE, encouraging different ways of thinking about delivery that sit outside of the traditional and often limiting ways that HPE is typically taught in primary schools.

The sessions are ultimately designed to 'demystify' HPE, prompting critical thinking among teachers about the ways they can and should integrate HPE into their teaching for the benefit of health and wellbeing outcomes for tamariki.

"I will be looking to Integrate the P.E curriculum (and Te Whare Tapa Whaa) throughout other areas of my planning eg. Math and Reading. The icebreakers also got me thinking of ways/ activities to use in my programme that can be integrated throughout other curriculum areas."

"CHANGING MINDSETS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND PE CURRICULUM. NOT AN EXTRA. IT CAN BE ADDED TO WHAT WE ALREADY DO."





BEYOND SPORT: A TRUE UNPACKING OF THE HPE CURRICULUM CONFERENCE

Alongside our work with teachers, staff have also engaged at the level of senior leadership. In partnership with the Waikato Principal's Association (WPA) and with support from regional partners Waikato DHB, Ministry of Education and Sport NZ, a Sport Waikato-led professional development day was held in June with over 140 Principals and Health & Physical Education (HPE) lead teachers coming together at Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton to challenge the traditional structures of sport and physical education in the region's primary schools and kura and explore what a holistic approach to physical education would look like.

The Beyond Sport: a true unpacking of the HPE curriculum conference marked an integral day in the history of Sport Waikato, highlighting the role of the Regional Sports Trust as a partner in supporting schools and kura to deliver quality physical activity and play experiences for all tamariki.

The conference brought together speakers from around the north island, including Julie Morrison from Sport NZ, Dame Karen Poutasi from Waikato District Health Board, and Dr Lucy Hone from the New Zealand Institute of Wellbeing & Resilience who delivered a powerful presentation on the science and practice of wellbeing in education. The day also hosted a number of providers that schools could connect with, from Hamilton City Council to Bikes in Schools, playground providers, Life Education Trust and many others.

Through thought provoking questions, evidence and insights, and powerful stories of change, school leaders left this forum with a broader understanding of how physical education contributes to wellbeing, and some small changes they could make within their own settings.

With representation from school leaders across all districts within the Waikato region, this event was a celebration of a new commitment and journey between Sport Waikato and the Kaiako within the region – providing a great opportunity to bring Sport Waikato's recent transformation to life.

“THROUGH OUR STRATEGY OF UPSKILLING KAIAKO AND FACILITATORS IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL JOURNEY, WE ARE SUPPORTING TAMARIKI TO BE EXPOSED TO AND EXPERIENCE QUALITY MOVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR HOME AND FROM A CENTRE.”

EARLY CHILDHOOD

With the national Healthy Active Learning (HAL) focus targeting Primary and Intermediate education settings, Sport Waikato has made the decision to extend their work into the early childhood setting also.

In 2021, Sport Waikato have been working with 19 Central Kids centres from He Piko he Taniwha (Huntly, Hamilton, Te Awamutu) and Te Waihou (Matamata, Putaruru, Tokoroa) as well as other private centres across the Waikato.

Building whanaungatanga with kaiarataki (professional leaders) and Kaiwhakaako (head teachers) has allowed us to travel their journey with them, and we have shared Professional Development workshops, as well as 1:1 interaction to provoke deeper thinking around how to implement fundamental movement skills into centre planning structures. Central Kids have a philosophy 'Where your child will learn through Play' which aligns beautifully with our Moving Waikato strategy (Our People, 'active play in different ways every day').

Alongside our work with Centres, we work with under five organisations such as Plunket and the Libraries so we can reach both tamariki and whaanau. Our work is premised on the belief that the first 1000 days are vital for brain growth through movement, and therefore our mahi is to upskill facilitators in infant massage (3-6months), infant movement (4-7months) and facilitation techniques. This ensures that they are confident with how quality movement in a family environment can be experienced and continued through life.

We believe by working with both centres and organisations, we have the tamariki at heart. Through our strategy of upskilling kaiako and facilitators in their individual journey, we are supporting tamariki to be exposed to and experience quality movement opportunities in their home and from a centre. This will allow for a wider understanding of physical activity and play to wrap around the child and thus, will promote a lifelong love of movement (physical literacy).

In 2022, Sport Waikato will expand our work with Primary Schools to engage more Kaahui Ako, including in Ngaruawahia and Thames Coromandel. We will continue to prioritise an approach that builds teacher capability. The Early Childhood team will work more closely with the Primary School Team within Kaahui Ako groups to better weave the work of ECEs and schools. Hauora and Transitions have been identified as the main two connections, and this is an area we will unpack further to deepen and enhance our understanding of how the two can align.





Play

Sport Waikato advocate for play opportunities for tamariki in a range of settings - including communities and education, and defines play as much broader than the use of formal play infrastructure. Play can occur anywhere including facilities, spaces and places for sport and active recreation (e.g. parks and open spaces for tree climbing or kicking a ball), as well as 'playing on the way' and neighbourhood play in streets and on footpaths.

In 2021, Sport Waikato staff have been working with territorial authorities to incorporate play in local Plans. This saw the development of the local Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plans for South Waikato and Waitomo District Councils. Staff have also supported Hamilton City Council staff to develop and deliver on an Action Plan for their nationally recognised Play Strategy - this action plan identifies key project opportunities and focus areas that will help achieve the intended outcomes of the strategy.

Projects progressed in partnership between Sport Waikato and Hamilton City Council include the development of the Play Champions Team within Hamilton City Council, support for Play Streets and Play Trailer concepts and non-traditional Play Infrastructure project discussions. Sport Waikato recognise that the benefits for play are wide reaching and therefore bringing together key influencers and decision makers in play through forums such as the Play Champions Team has exponential benefits.



Regionally, Sport Waikato continues to embed play principles and support play concepts through our regional support structure. In 2021 this included incorporating play concepts in the education curriculum and school environment through our Professional Learning Partners and Community Connector at Primary School and Early Childhood Education level, supporting play opportunities through This is ME® including launch event activities for the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2022 while supporting avenues to increase opportunities for play through Tu Manawa funding.

The next 12 months will see a focus on regional support for play through the renewal of Local Territorial Authority district plans, which will be widened in scope from their current sport and active recreation focus. We will aim to create a network of play champions across our region's Councils who will come together and share their work in advocating for play across their Council business units. Sport Waikato will aim to encourage play conversations across different Council teams from sport and recreation focused teams, to policy and infrastructure.

Regional Projects

SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL LOCAL AUTHORITY LONG-TERM PLANNING

This year we have supported our ten Territorial Local Authorities to plan their next ten years of investment in play, active recreation and sport. Our work included ten written submissions, followed by ten presentations to elected members, which helped to guide thinking about the best use of limited fiscal resource to support enhanced physical activity participation through the provision of local infrastructure across the districts. We were pleased to see the influence of the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan in Council planning for increased network opportunities for cycling and walking.

Our work in 2021, has seen an incredible \$350mil of investment put forth to support communities across the region to move more.

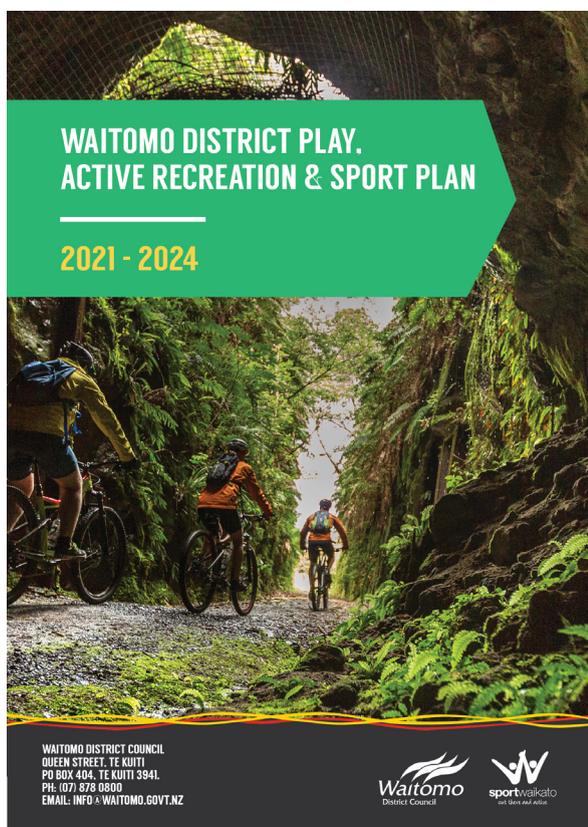
INCREASING CYCLING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE REGION

Sport Waikato continued to lead the Regional Cycling Education Plan, working with partners from all local authorities, Waikato Regional Council, NZTA/Waka Kotahi, Cycling NZ and the Home of Cycling. The objective of the plan is to grow opportunities to ride a bike safely and equitably, taking a collaborative approach to the provision of Bikes in Schools and Cycling Education under the national BikeReady system.

Bikes in Schools is a school-led venture with the main objective being to enable all New Zealand children to ride a bike on a regular and equal basis. Students experience the 'joy of biking' and the many positive social, health and learning outcomes that result from having access to bikes during the school day. Today we have grown to 21 completed community projects spread across the region, with another 13 underway.

BikeReady cycle skills instruction sees an increase in those developing safe road skills, becoming empathetic road users who appreciate cycling as viable transport, creating more active and healthy communities.

Our work has increased the numbers of students regularly riding bikes, as we promote the relevance of cycling activities within school curriculum. Our collaborative approach has also allowed us to develop more sustainable projects, as we facilitate deeper connections between schools and their wider communities.





WAIKATO WELLBEING PROJECT

The Waikato Wellbeing Project is a regional initiative to achieve a more environmentally sustainable, prosperous and inclusive Waikato region by 2030. Maatauranga and Te Ao Maaori (Maaori world view) principles are embedded in the Waikato Wellbeing Project. Sport Waikato are joint Manu-Taki with the Waikato District Health Board, Progress to Health and Creative Waikato for the sustainable development goal three (SDG3): Good health and wellbeing. The target for SDG 3 by 2030 is to reduce the rates of non-communicable disease and mental illness and improve associated health equity outcomes for target groups.

We have been engaged in the project since its inception in 2020, and are part of a working group establishing a cross organisational approach to improving Waikato people's health and wellbeing. In the most recent update to the Waikato Wellbeing Project (November) the This Is ME® Period Poverty initiative was showcased as an innovative approach to wellbeing for local rangatahi wellbeing.

THE WAIKATO PLAN

The new Sport Waikato approach was recently showcased in front of The Waikato Plan Strategic Partners forum, and Sport Waikato has subsequently been included in their latest newsletter (under Community Connectivity).

The Waikato Plan collaborative (including Sport Waikato) seeks to enable, through our partners, region wide initiatives that help make the Waikato and its communities to be their best. Partners range from Territorial Authorities, Waikato Regional Council, critical businesses, social enterprises, non-for profits (like us), police, MSD etc.

The Plan is more than a document; it is a reflection of close working relationships between leading organisations in the Waikato. This united approach will help coordinate and guide decision-making on complex regional-scale issues like population change, transport, water, economic development and the environment. It identifies long-term regional priorities to ensure challenges that don't sit neatly with one agency, are captured and planned for. The Plan does not duplicate regional or local initiatives already planned or underway, but supports a number of those initiatives. Importantly, the Plan provides our region with a strong, united and collective voice to Central Government and others on key issues.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
Revenue from non-exchange transactions	5		
Sport NZ grants		1,636	1,909
Other Government grants		2,176	3,671
Lion Foundation grant		114	130
Other grants		825	1,278
Trust Waikato donations		750	750
Events and activities		40	229
		5,541	7,967
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Events and activities		59	113
Dividends		54	21
Interest		72	119
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments		382	(89)
Realised gain/(loss) on investments		17	(8)
Other operating revenue		108	124
		692	280
Total revenue		6,233	8,247
Expenses			
Employee related costs		3,780	5,050
Events and activities		685	1,110
Interest expense		-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	10,11	78	97
Audit Fees		16	-
Other operating expenses	6	1,033	1,241
Total expenses		5,592	7,498
Total surplus/(deficit) for the year from continuing operations		641	749
Other comprehensive revenue and expenses		-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year		641	749

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	2,081	2,979
Investments	9	1,700	2,227
Receivables from exchange transactions		37	108
Receivables from non-exchange transactions		692	641
Inventories		-	4
		4,510	5,959
Non-current Assets			
Intangible assets	11	11	14
Investments	9	4,710	3,411
Property plant and equipment	10	168	237
		4,888	3,662
Total assets		9,399	9,621
Current liabilities			
Trade and other creditors		623	1,687
Employee entitlements		240	323
Income in advance		712	428
Total liabilities		1,575	1,184
Net assets		7,824	7,183
Equity			
Trust Fund		1,500	1,500
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		6,324	5,683
Total net assets		7,824	7,183

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements (full financial statements available on our website). Signed for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees who authorised these financial statements for issue on 7th December 2021:



Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive



Mark McCabe
Board of Trustees Chair



Hamilton Office

Brian Perry Sports House, 51 Akoranga Road,
PO Box 46, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand



07 858 5388



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