

F2026 ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR END 31 MAR 2026



ABOUT US



OUR VISION: is a connected community where all young people know their worth and potential.

OUR MISSION: To make a positive difference in the lives of young people facing adversity, through social and creative initiatives, safe spaces, access to resources and tuition.

OUR VALUES:

AROHA - Giving our time, space & empathy inclusively for all rangatahi

TIKA - Doing what's right, doing what's good and doing what's best for rangatahi.

PONO - Being open, honest, transparent and working with integrity.

Te Karanga Charitable Trust is a multicultural community organisation in Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa (Auckland, New Zealand). We have been building and strengthening our communities through creative and social initiatives since 2004. We provide free, safe, accessible spaces, activities, and resources for young people facing adversity. Through strengths-based mentoring, alternative education, and social programs, we nurture our participants' creative interests and develop their confidence, resilience, transferrable skills, and sense of belonging. Led by a culturally diverse team of youth workers, artists, and community leaders with lived experience, we champion youth voice, leadership, and meaningful participation in community life.

OUR COMMITMENTS:

- **KAUPAPA WHAKAPUTANGA** - we acknowledge He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as foundational to Aotearoa (New Zealand). We recognise the authority and status of Māori as the indigenous people of this land and are committed to reflecting indigenous perspectives in all that we do.
- **FOR US BY US** - Our staff and governance team reflect the community we serve, with strong representation from youth, Tangata Whenua (Māori), and Pacific peoples. Most of our team began their journey as participants — a testament to both the strength of our programme and the lasting relationships it fosters.
- **YOUTH & COMMUNITY LED** - We listen, respond, and co-create with our participants and their whanau, ensuring our programmes meet their needs and aspirations. Over 80% of our team started as participants, showing the lasting impact of our work and the strength of the relationships we build.

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

(As stated in our trust deed)

- To facilitate the promotion of a multicultural and diverse artistic and educational community. This includes mentoring and support for members of the community by our volunteers from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- To promote inclusivity, connectedness, participation, and to create an environment where youth of diverse ethnic backgrounds can come together and share ideas in a safe and understanding place;
- To focus on nurturing career pathways, education and the arts;
- To administer the premises as a venue for youth development programs, discussion groups, visual arts and audio arts and to facilitate its function as a meeting place, and in particular administer, and facilitate the use of the premises as a working art gallery, community radio station, practicing work space, community theatre and venue for films and documentaries;
- To assist individuals and Charitable Bodies and Community Organisations to further any Charitable Purpose;
- To liaise and work with other charitable organisations and groups with a similar mission.
- To acknowledge and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to embrace Hapu, Iwi and Whanau of the land in which we live.

YEAR TO DATE...

We have worked throughout the year with youth and young adults, many of whom are facing adversity. We deliver programmes across a range of mediums including discussion groups, vocational education, one-on-one and group mentoring, physical education, public speaking, broadcasting, multimedia, music, arts, and film. These mediums are used to support young people to work together, build understanding of different cultures, and develop pathways toward education, employment, and vocation. Through our strengths-based programmes, we have supported young people to find a sense of belonging, identify a vocation, and progress into foundation courses, tertiary education, internships, and apprenticeships. Many participants go on to become role models and peer leaders for younger youth, with over 80% of our current staff having started as participants.

Te Karanga Trust takes a holistic approach and welcomes all to participate, while also recognising that our community is only as strong as those facing the greatest challenges, so we pay special additional attention to the aspirations of:

- Rangatahi Māori
- Pasifika youth
- Youth from refugee and migrant communities
- Youth excluded from mainstream education
- Youth facing or transitioning from incarceration
- Youth in protective custody
- Youth experiencing isolation, anxiety, or depression
- Youth who identify within the rainbow community

DATA TOTALS

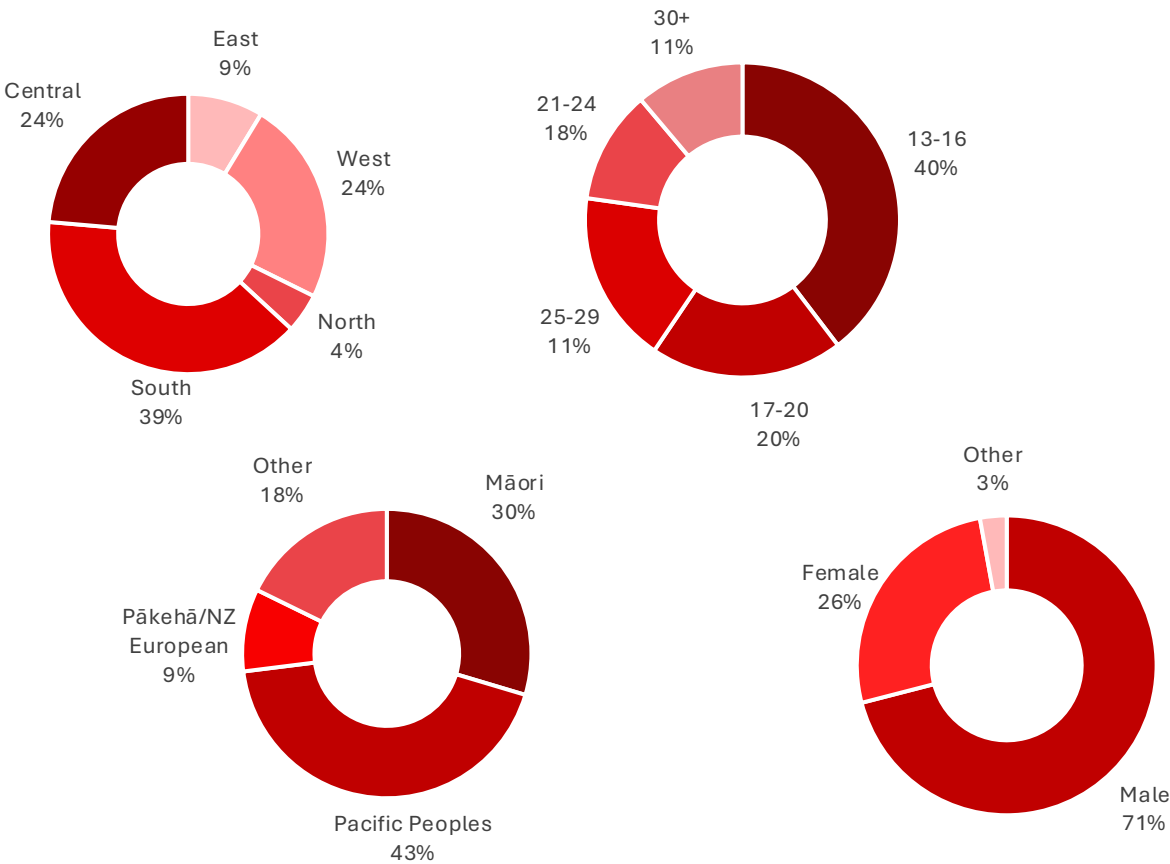


KEY ACTIVITIES AND NUMBERS

PROGRAM	CONTENTS	PARTICIPANT NUMBERS	2026	2025
Creative Pathways	Page 6		138	146
Navigators	Page 10		430	366
Tuakana & BTG	Page 14		493	369
Creative Labs	Page 19		154	179
Talanoa Tuesdays			-	34
Rap'n'Rec youth justice			-	18
Internship: Music in Parks			-	8
Total Participants per program*			1,215	1,120
Other Activities				
Events (approx.)	Page 23		550	450
Professional Development	Page 27		28	31
Weekly Averages				
Unique youth participants per week			175	224
Youth development programs per week			35	38
Key staff			20	24

* Figures represent unique participants unless otherwise stated. Some participants engage in multiple programs
** Some programmes (Talanoa Tuesdays, Rap n' Rec, and Music in Parks Internship) were not delivered during this reporting period due to funding and capacity constraints, with plans to reinstate where possible in future periods.

PARTICIPANT STATS: 1,215



RANGATAHI HIGHLIGHTS



The best thing for me participating in the programme was connecting and being surrounded by music minded people, getting good advice from well experienced artists and improving my music skills gradually just by attending regularly 🙌💯



Having the leaders there to spark music discussions and to force me to expand my knowledge e.g. coming in just wanting to rap, but engaging in group games like playing songs from different eras and really getting a better grasp on music as a whole.



The community, kindness and love that's in South Auckland is unmatched... and the talent. It was also dope to have guest speaker Haz Beats and having the opportunity to ask him questions.

Access to High quality studio's and equipment that would take me years to get myself. Also access to the biggest artists (e.g. Church & Melodownz) in New Zealand who are far along into the pathways that myself and others would like to down.

Navigators as a whole is so awesome! Ive been able to attend a few for a while now and its something i really look forward to through out the week. From the people, the talanoa, the creative the community, to the performances all together its such a blessing and im so grateful to be able to be a part of it!!!

The energy between the girls - it very much feels like a bunch of sisters and cousins . How the space feels so safe to be vulnerable and creative .

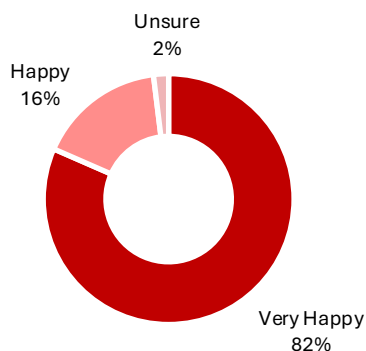
The best part about participating in navigators is that it is a safe space to not only express our creative work but also any things that we are experiencing in life that we might just want to offload . I really enjoy listening to others share their words of affirmation / pieces as it helps me not only improve my craft but also my way of storytelling.



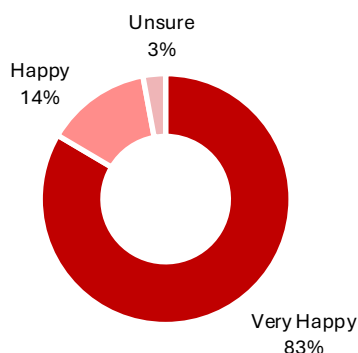
FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

HOW OUR RANGATAHI FEEL

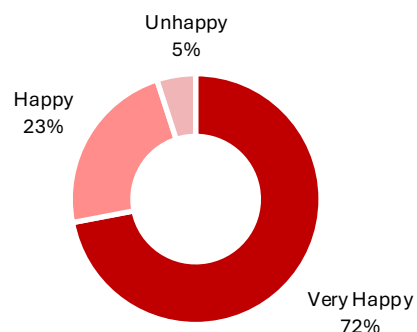
HAPPY WITH THE PROGRAM



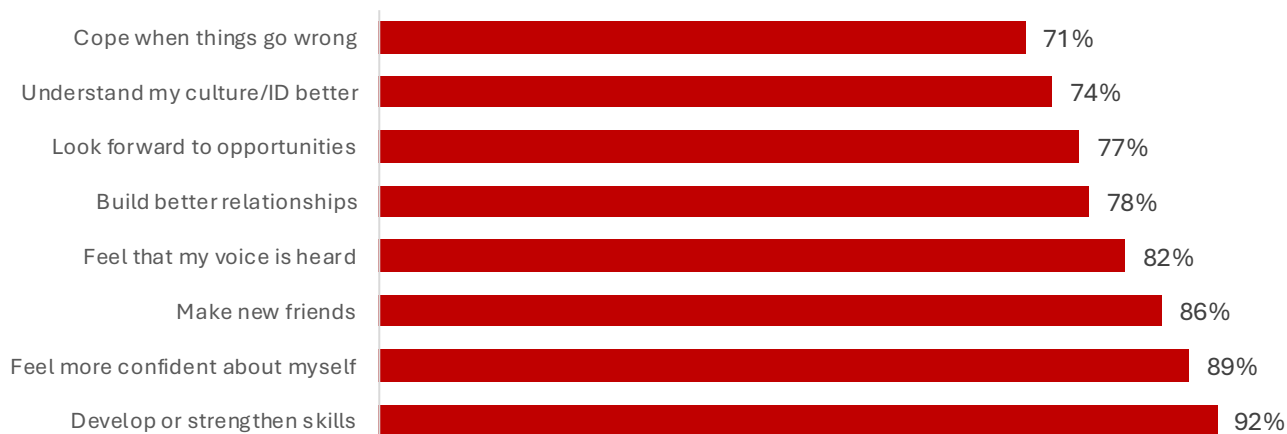
HAPPY WITH THE FACILITATORS



HAPPY WITH THE FACILITIES/VENUE



THE PROGRAMS HELPED ME TO...



WHAT COULD BE BETTER

38% indicated that no improvements were needed.

34% Requested increased access (more time, days, or sessions)

22% Highlighted the need for improved studio capacity and equipment.

18% Wanted expanded opportunities (guest speakers, projects, support)

11% Mentioned food and comfort enhancements.

8% Identified accessibility and communication improvements.

CREATIVE PATHWAYS



OVERVIEW

Creative Pathways is a strengths-based youth development programme that engages marginalised young people who have been excluded from mainstream education. We deliver project-based learning that combines discussion groups with creative expression across writing, music, and the arts, while building transferable skills such as digital literacy, confidence, and creative thinking. The programme is designed to activate disengaged youth through positive, hands-on learning experiences, with a strong focus on using participants' interests to explore and develop pathways into employment, entrepreneurship, and future opportunities (ages 13-17).



CREATIVE PATHWAYS

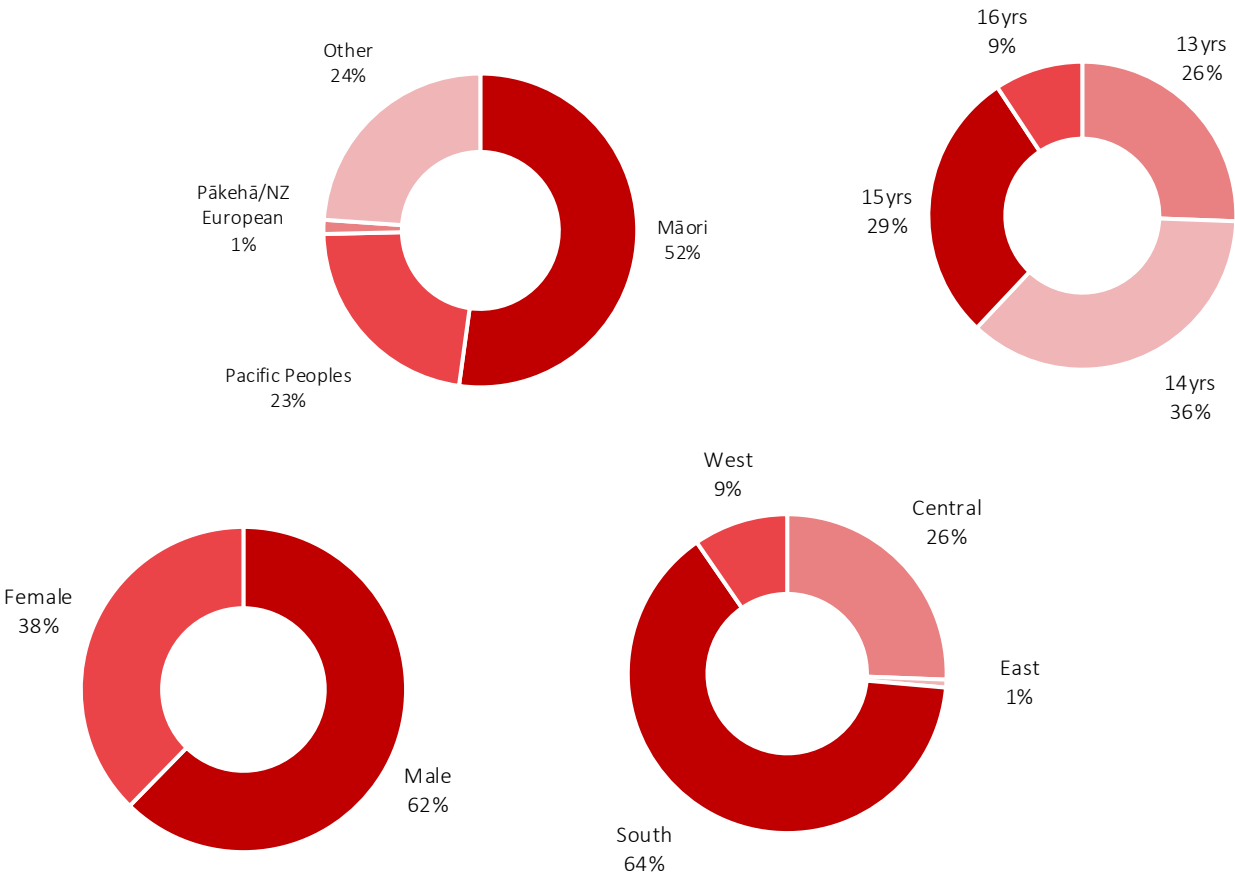
SUMMARY



Facilitated by Hariata Makiha, Albert Purcell, Lincoln Keepa & Thomas Steed.

Creative Pathways delivered programmes across Tāmaki Makaurau, working with young people who are not engaged in traditional learning environments. The programme focused this year on using digital design and street art as accessible entry points into creativity, supporting participants to explore identity, culture, and self-expression in ways that felt relevant to them. Over the year, participants progressed from developing concepts using the iPad app ‘Procreate’ with digital Apple pens to producing physical outcomes such as street-art style pieces on large boards, logo development and design imagery for printed garments. We supported participants to create a clear and tangible connection between their ideas and real-world creative pathways for merchandise creation and entrepreneurship. Key highlights included strong engagement and noticeable growth in confidence, creativity, and pride in their work. Many participants who were initially hesitant became more invested over time, particularly as they saw their ideas come to life in physical form. Peer collaboration became a consistent strength, with participants supporting each other’s progress and contributing to a positive and inclusive group dynamic. Ongoing challenges reflected the nature of the environments we work within, where attendance can be impacted by external factors and competing priorities. This, alongside varying group dynamics and limited access to devices in larger classes, required ongoing flexibility in delivery to ensure all participants could engage meaningfully and progress at their own pace. Overall, the year reinforced the importance of meeting young people where they are, providing creative pathways that are practical, hands-on, and relevant to their lived experiences. The strongest outcomes were seen when participants could take ownership of their work, see tangible results, and feel supported within a space that values both their creativity and their voice.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 138



CREATIVE PATHWAYS

PHOTOS



CREATIVE PATHWAYS

PHOTOS



NAVIGATORS



OVERVIEW

Navigators is a free, weekly open-door creative programme with a dual focus: supporting young people to connect socially through group discussions, and to express themselves in healthy ways through creative practice. The programme provides a safe, inclusive space for rangatahi to build relationships, share experiences, and explore their creativity across a range of art forms. Weekly check-ins and workshops foster a strong sense of belonging, meaningful connection, and collaborative project development. Designed for both beginners and more experienced creatives, Navigators offers a diverse mix of activities including Talanoa (group discussions), guest speakers, collaborative projects, creative workshops, professional development opportunities, and live showcase events. These experiences support skill-building, confidence, and pathways into further creative and personal development. At its core, Navigators prioritises connection — bringing young people together through shared experiences, culture, and creative expression (ages 15-34).



NAVIGATORS

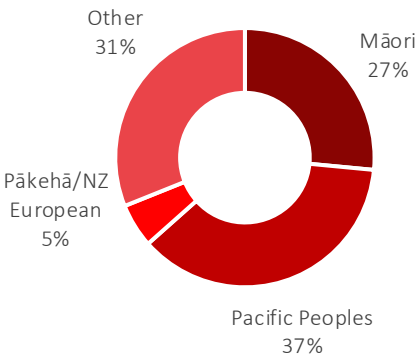
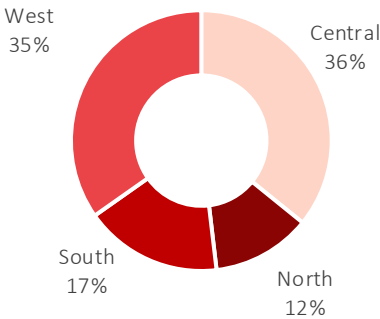
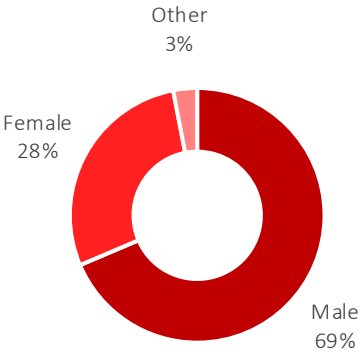
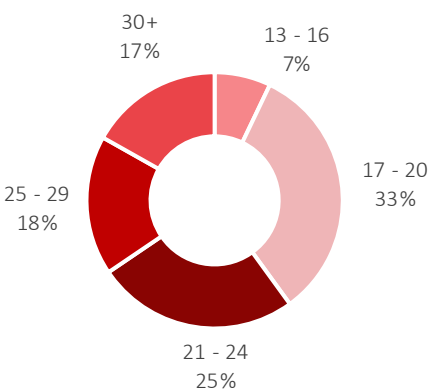
SUMMARY



LOCATIONS: Shore Junction, Zeal West, Wesley Community Centre, OMAC, Whare Koa Māngere Community House.

Navigators provided consistent creative spaces across the year where young people were supported to grow as individuals, explore their identity, and develop confidence in both their creativity and everyday lives. Through a balance of talanoa and creative practice, the programme created environments where young people could express themselves in ways that felt authentic to them, while being guided by facilitators who adapted to different group dynamics, spaces, and levels of experience. One of the strongest highlights was the way young people grew in confidence and connection over time. Many participants who were initially reserved began to open up, contribute more in discussions, and share their creative work with others. This often showed up in small but meaningful ways — from supporting new participants as they entered the space, to initiating collaborations, or helping guide group energy during sessions. Across all spaces, a genuine sense of belonging developed, with relationships extending beyond sessions and creativity becoming a shared language for connection. Attendance and engagement naturally shifted throughout the year, often influenced by external factors such as school commitments, exams, work, and seasonal changes. This, alongside varying energy levels within groups, required facilitators to remain responsive in how sessions were held — adjusting the balance between talanoa and creative time to meet young people where they were at on any given day. These moments reinforced the importance of flexibility and presence in maintaining spaces that feel both consistent and relevant. Overall, the year reinforced that the impact of Navigators sits in the relationships built within the space. When young people feel safe, seen, and supported, they are more willing to take creative risks, share their voice, and grow into themselves. The programme continues to show that creativity, when held in the right environment, becomes a powerful tool for confidence, connection, and personal development.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 366



CENTRAL
95
SOUTH
82
WĀHINE
66
WEST
107
SPOKEN WORD
30
NORTH
42

NAVIGATORS

PHOTOS



NAVIGATORS

PHOTOS



TUAKANA



OVERVIEW

A one-on-one and small group, weekly mentoring and social support programme that provides ongoing, consistent guidance for young people. The programme aims to inspire participants to become mentors themselves and grow into youth leaders, strengthening their confidence, sense of identity, and social networks. It responds to a key gap we see across our community: the need for regular, informal support and trusted relationships with positive role models who are closer in age and cultural background. Through this approach, Tuakana offers both practical support and relational connection, while also acting as a bridge to referrals and wider support services, helping young people access the additional care they may need (ages 13-24).

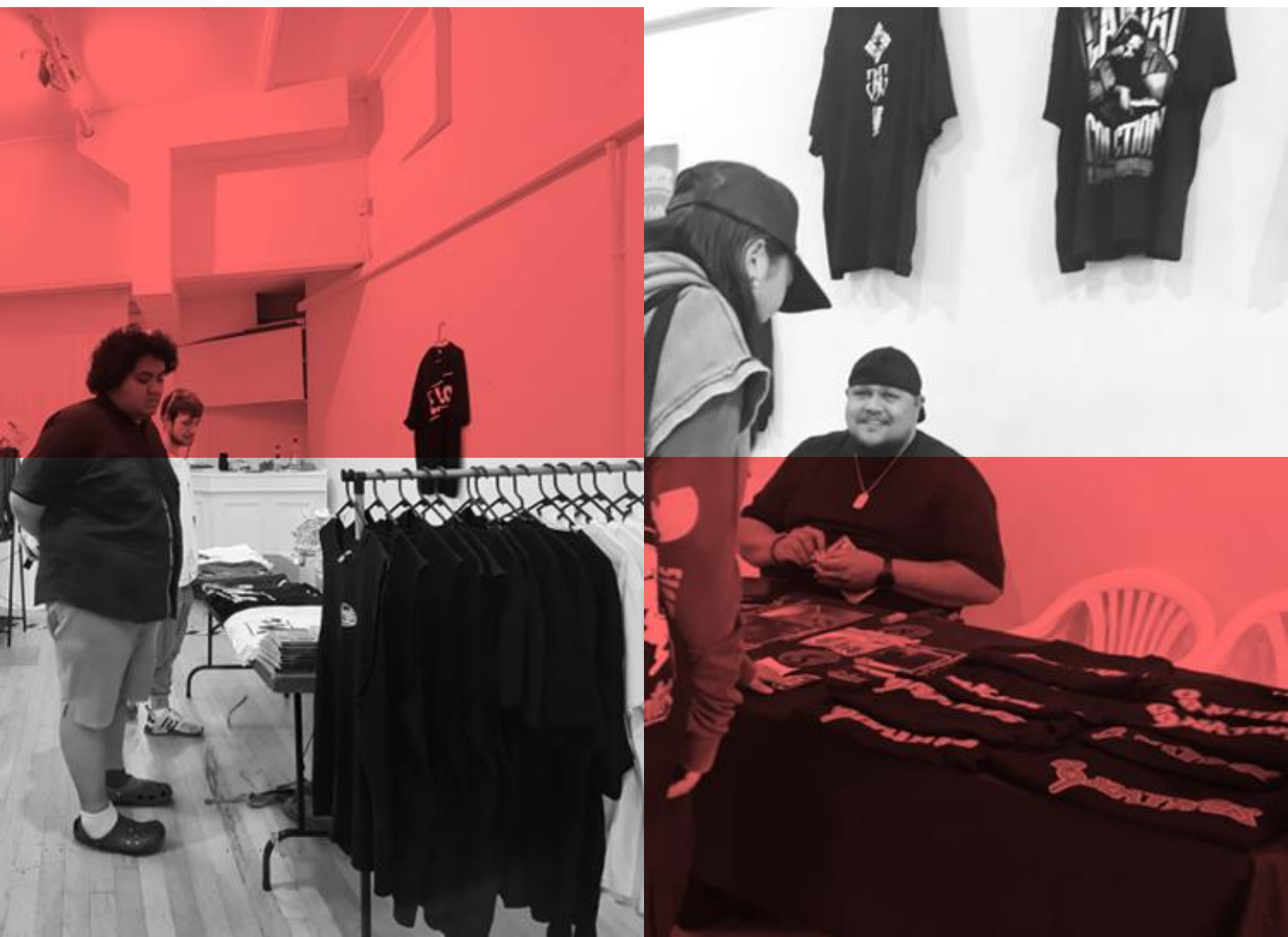


BRIDGE THE GAP



OVERVIEW

An enterprise programme that extends from the Tuakana programme, supporting young people who want to start a business or develop an enterprise, while also guiding participants earlier in their journey toward an entrepreneurial mindset. Participants connect with and are mentored by some of Auckland's most innovative young creative entrepreneurs, gaining real-world insight and inspiration. Through the programme, they develop viable business plans, refine their ideas or vocational direction, and can access seed capital to support launching their initiatives. Alongside this, participants build essential skills for long-term success, including communication, teamwork, perseverance, creativity, critical thinking, and goal setting (ages 15–30).



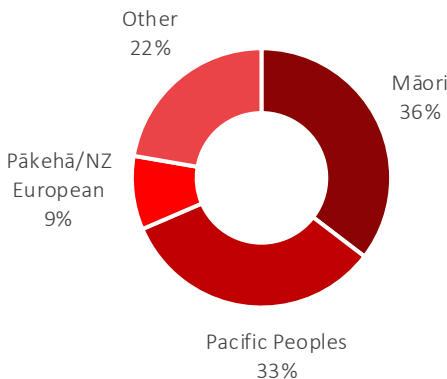
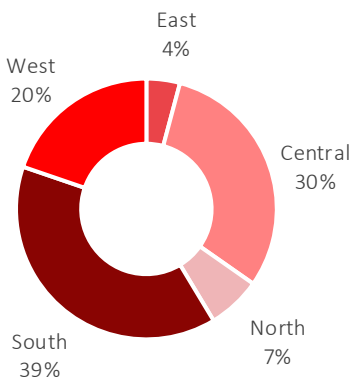
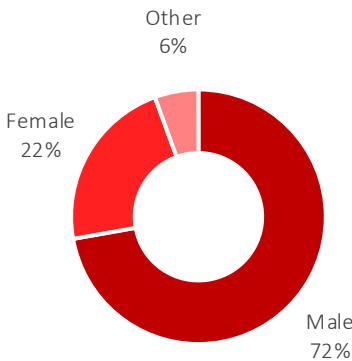
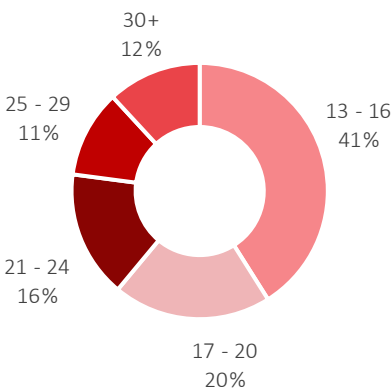
TUAKANA & BRIDGE THE GAP

SUMMARY



Tuakana and Bridge The Gap supported young people to deepen their creative practice while building real-world skills in mental health, physical health project delivery, collaboration, and self-management. Over the year, participants worked through their full personal and creative journeys with our facilitators, from sharing life's stories and challenges, to developing ideas and recording music to releasing projects, creating merchandise, and stepping into live performance and entrepreneurship. We created space for young people to take ownership of their life and their work, while being supported through consistent mentoring and guidance. A key highlight was the growth in confidence and commitment shown by participants over time. For many, this looked like showing up more prepared, taking initiative in sessions, asking for help, and becoming clearer in how they wanted their work to sound, look, or feel. There were strong moments of progression, from first-time recordings through to completed projects and live performances, with young people beginning to back themselves and take their creative goals more seriously. At times, maintaining momentum required careful navigation, as young people balanced different responsibilities, readiness levels, and personal circumstances outside of the programme. This meant facilitators needed to remain flexible — adjusting expectations, pacing, communication and support to ensure each participant could stay engaged while still moving forward in a way that felt achievable for them. Overall, the year reinforced the importance of meeting young people at their level and growing with them. When given the space to take responsibility for their work, alongside consistent support and guidance, young people not only develop their creative skills but also build confidence in their ability to follow through on what they start.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 493



TUAKANA & BRIDGE THE GAP

PHOTOS



TUAKANA & BRIDGE THE GAP

PHOTOS



CREATIVE LABS



OVERVIEW

Open to all young people in the community, Creative Labs provides access to equipment, resources, and support to learn music production, create and record songs, and explore a range of creative practices including film, photography, design, and digital skills. Delivered primarily through after-school and Saturday workshops, the programme offers an inclusive, empathetic space where participants can connect, collaborate, and develop their creativity in a supportive environment (ages 15–30).



CREATIVE LABS

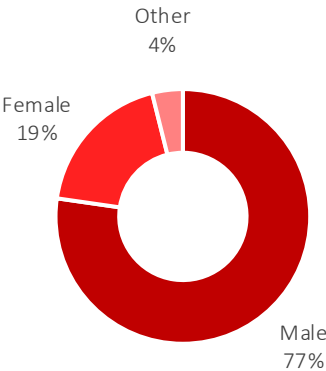
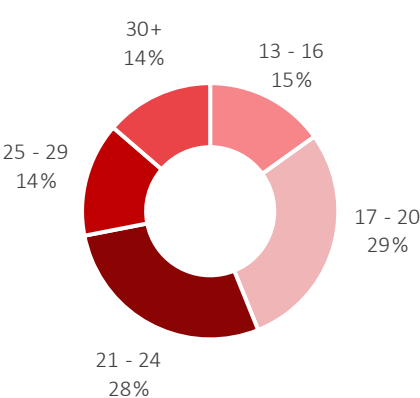
SUMMARY



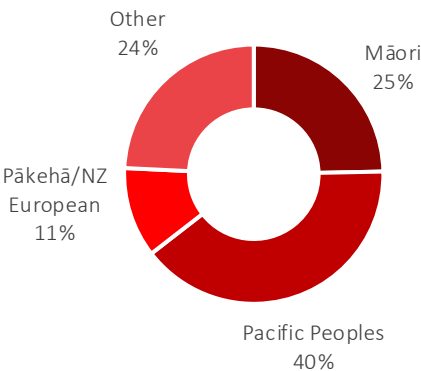
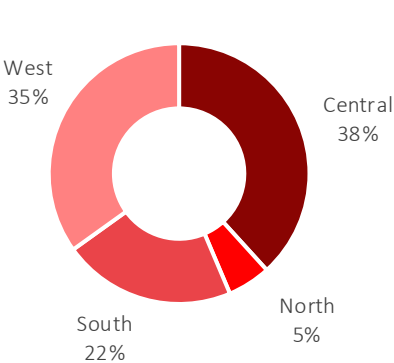
LOCATIONS: South, Central, West

Creative Labs provides an open-access studio environment where young people can develop their music skills, explore creativity, and work independently at their own pace. The space was intentionally low-pressure, allowing participants to come in, create, and use the studio in a way that suited their process, while still having access to support when needed. Over the year, young people engaged in recording, producing, and refining their work, with the programme adapting to changes in studio access while maintaining a consistent and reliable space. One of the strongest highlights was the consistency of engagement, with many young people returning regularly and building the studio into part of their weekly routine. Over time, participants became more confident not just in their creative output, but in how they approached the studio itself — experimenting more freely, collaborating with others, and in some cases beginning to run their own sessions. Growth often showed up in subtle but important ways, from learning how to record themselves, to completing and releasing music, or simply becoming more comfortable sharing their work with others in the space. Demand for the studio remained high throughout the year, which at times created pressure around access and availability. With limited time and resources, facilitators needed to carefully manage bookings and expectations to ensure the space remained fair and accessible, while still allowing participants enough time to make meaningful progress. Changes in studio access and equipment also required flexibility, reinforcing the importance of clear communication and adaptability within the space. Overall, the year reinforced the value of a self-directed, supported environment. When young people are trusted to lead their own creative process, while knowing support is there when they need it, they build not only technical skills but confidence, independence, and a stronger sense of ownership over their work.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 179



CENTRAL
81
SOUTH
38
WEST
35



CREATIVE LABS

PHOTOS



CREATIVE LABS

PHOTOS



EVENTS



OVERVIEW

We host quarterly Navigators Showcase events and support participants to engage in a range of additional performance opportunities, including running their own fully youth led events, many of which are paid, across different venues each quarter. These events provide a platform for young people to share their work with peers, whānau, and the wider community, often for the first time, within a safe and supportive environment that builds confidence, experience, and real-world exposure (ages 0–100)



EVENTS

SUMMARY



Events this year focused on creating accessible, youth-led platforms where young people could perform, connect, and gain real-world experience. Over the year, this included regular spaces such as ‘Dojo’ (our new regular youth led event), alongside live showcases, open mic events, workshops, and participant-led events such as album releases and solo shows. These spaces were designed to reflect youth culture and provide both emerging and experienced artists with opportunities to share their work, while also creating pathways into more professional opportunities.

A key highlight was the growth in confidence and capability shown by young people stepping into real performance environments. This was especially evident during summer events such as Music in Parks and Pasifika Festival, where participants were booked through our programs or networks and paid for their performances, demonstrating their ability to operate at a professional level. Alongside this, Dojo added another layer of depth to the programme through bringing in guests to dive deeper into their creative intentions. Sessions with established and successful artists such as Melodownz and Mekomōkai gave participants insight into songwriting and the intention behind creative work while other events explored several creative opportunities for participants. While these sessions were more intimate, they held strong impact, with those who attended deeply valuing the opportunity to learn directly from artists they look up to.

Events also played an important role in strengthening community connection and belonging. Spaces like Dojo became consistent touchpoints where young people could come together, test ideas, collaborate, and support one another in a low-pressure environment. Seeing participants move from attending events, to performing, and then stepping into delivering their own shows highlighted the strength of the pathway being created and the confidence built over time.

As the year progressed, it became clear that young people are engaging with creative opportunities in different ways, with many placing increasing focus on building their online presence alongside live performance. This required ongoing reflection in how events are positioned and delivered, ensuring they remain relevant while still holding the value of live experience and connection.

Overall, the year reinforced that events are most impactful when they are meaningful, youth-driven, and connected to real outcomes. When given the opportunity to step into these spaces, young people not only build confidence in their performance, but also develop the skills and belief needed to navigate creative industries in a more professional way.

EVENTS

PHOTOS



EVENTS

PHOTOS



PREOFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



OVERVIEW

Te Karanga Trust offers an alternative pathway into youth development, counselling, and community work, grounded in the 'wounded healer' concept. This programme draws on established frameworks including Mana Taiohi, Te Whare Tapa Whā, the Circle of Courage/Mana strength-based model, and the Ara Taiohi Code of Ethics, supporting participants to build culturally grounded, ethical, and reflective practice. The focus is on developing future youth leaders and positive role models, equipping them with the skills, insight, and lived experience to support others effectively. Participants are supported to work toward a Korowai Tupu application for registration with Ara Taiohi, ensuring alignment with recognised industry standards and best practice (ages 17–40).



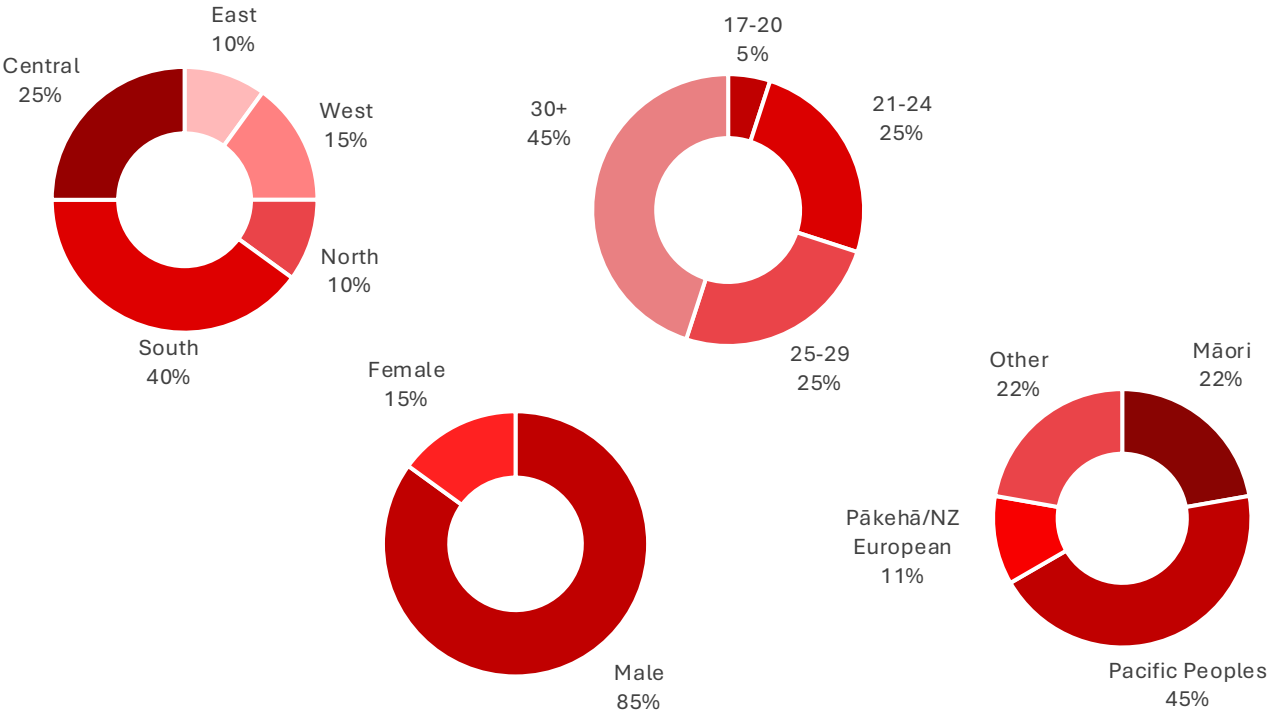
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



OVERVIEW

We deliver regular training in strengths-based youth development to all staff and volunteers. We use 'Mana Taiohi', 'Te Whare Tapa Wha' and the 'Circle of Courage/Mana' youth development models, as well as the 'Ara Taiohi Code of Ethics'. The focus is on safe and sustainable best practice as youth workers, developing our future youth leaders and positive role models for younger youth. 85% of our current staff started as participants and are now registered youth workers. Each participant works towards a Korowai Tupu Application for registration with Ara Taiohi – to ensure best practice is held to an industry standard.

TOTAL STAFF: 20



MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES

