

01 JUL - 30 SEPT



# Q3 PROGRAMS REPORT 2023

prepared by:  
TE KARANGA

# OVERALL SUMMARY

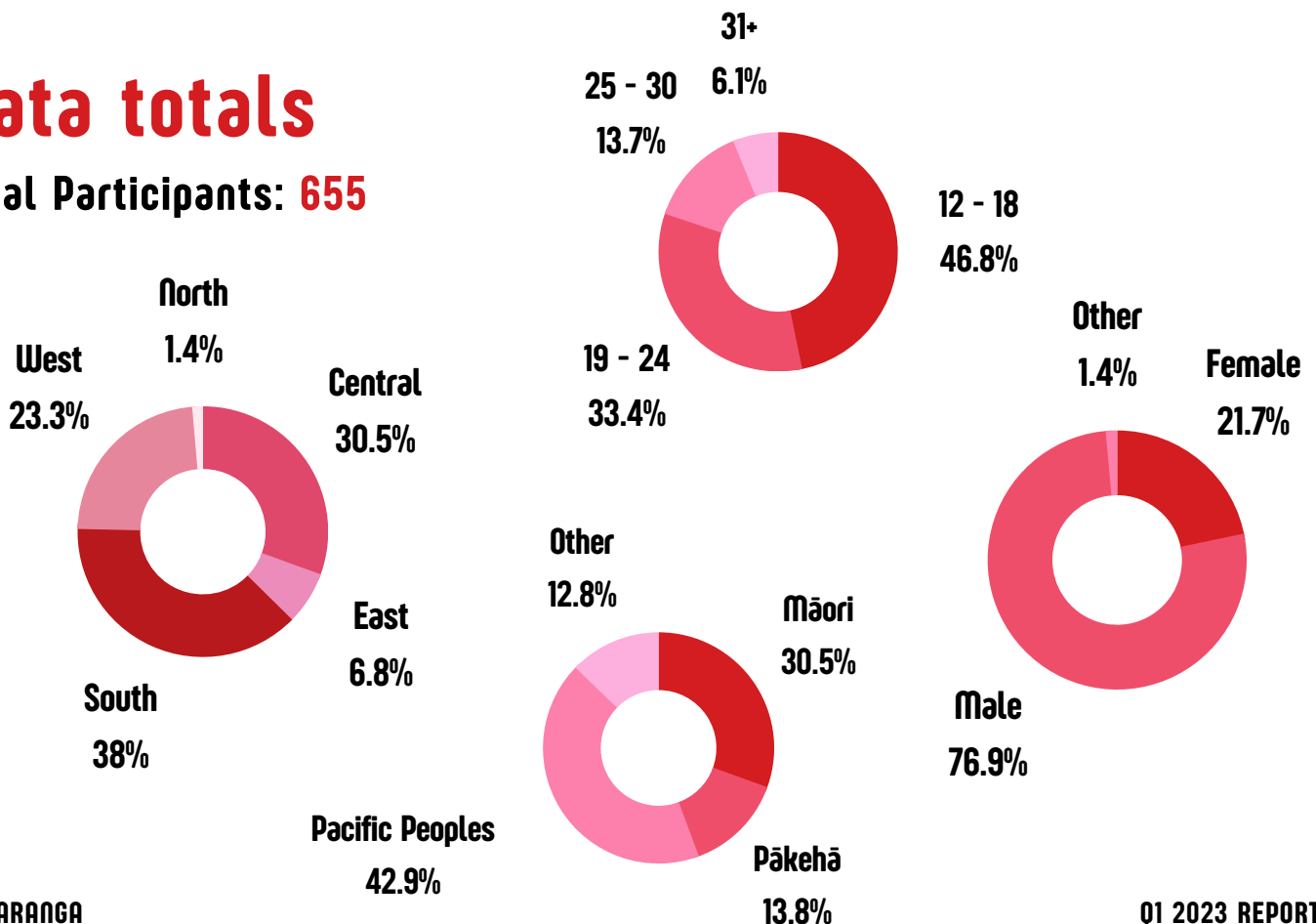
## TK White



This quarter has been marked by a sense of intimacy in our programs, fostering stronger connections with our participants. We are delighted to report a positive shift in their level of engagement and active involvement. Attendance and participation in our programs have increased, even with some changes having occurred. We have taken feedback on board and made necessary adjustments to enhance program experience and ensure its utmost benefit for our rangatahi. The social aspect of our programs has been instrumental in highlighting the numerous successes we have achieved as a youth service. It has been a joy to witness newcomers flourishing and regular participants seizing more foundational opportunities to enter the NZ music industry. We have prioritized listening, responding, and creating a space for our rangatahi to nurture their journeys in this world. We have provided them with the necessary support, resources, and opportunities to enhance their mana. In addition, we have successfully launched two new programs: Talanoa Navigators, which focuses on meaningful conversations through the sharing of personal stories, and North Navigators, which has allowed us to engage with creatives in the previously unconnected North Shore community. We are pleased with the response to all our programs and eagerly anticipate the final quarter of 2023.

## Data totals

Total Participants: **655**





# KEY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## & contents page

With hyperlinked titles

### [Creative Pathways | Page 4](#)

A weekly program for youth not in education or employment aged 13-17, with the aim of sparking positive experiences with learning and creativity, while identifying passions, skills and career pathways.

### [Navigators | Page 7](#)

A weekly music-based creative workshop that engages and connects young people, finding common ground by sharing experiences, stories, music and creativity. This is a free program for youth aged 16-24 (not exclusively) with an 'open doors' approach

### [Creative Labs | Page 32](#)

Providing youth with access to resources, equipment and tuition in their local community. We are nurturing the next generation of artists and musicians, creating a safe and supervised space to connect with like minded people, and get creative!

### [Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives | Page 40](#)

Our youth Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives program prepares rangatahi for future work environments and supports those with their own business ideas - now focusing on aspiring artist professional, personal and business development.

### [Rap-n-Rec | Page 45](#)

Rap-n-Rec is a music writing program that is delivered within the youth justice residency at Whakatakapōkai to empower rangatahi to share their stories and normalise the use of music as a means of communication for expressing emotions, thoughts, and opinions.

### [Tuakana / Teina](#)

We provide one on one support through regular one on one mentoring sessions & check ins, creative mentoring, personal and professional development, whānau support and community connectedness.

# CREATIVE PATHWAYS PICTURES



# CREATIVE PATHWAYS / SUMMARY

Facilitated by Matte Rongo, Hari Makiha, Mana Nightingale, Ben Tuimaseve.

Report by Hari



This term, our program responded to the many kaupapa that occurred such as Matariki and several language weeks. For Matariki, we did raranga/weaving where we aimed to understand the tikanga and whakapapa of raranga through a te ao Māori lens during Matariki. During Tongan language week, we made 'Otai, a traditional Tongan drink usually made with watermelon and coconut milk. Then during te wiki o te reo Māori we made mussel and corn fritters. In between Matariki and language weeks, we invited Poetik, Lucky Lance & Melodownz (NZ Musicians) to come and speak to our rangatahi about their backgrounds, establishing their enterprises and their music journeys, hoping to shed light, encourage, and inspire our rangatahi.

## HIGHLIGHTS

During the raranga sessions, we encouraged the rangatahi to weave their own flowers. Each participant created 1 or 2 flowers, and together, they formed a beautiful bouquet that now sits proudly in their classrooms. It was heartwarming to see that some classes even chose to give the bouquet to a teacher they admired. The engagement from the rangatahi during the language weeks was amazing. They were highly engaged when making Ōtai & Fritters. We divided them into groups, allowing them to have some control over the outcome, which was really exciting for them. What was even more outstanding was that this experience fostered a sense of belonging and responsibility among the participants, even in groups that wouldn't usually spend time together. Having guest speakers who could relate to the rangatahi through their upbringing, culture, way of life, and art was incredibly impactful. It encouraged the rangatahi in a way that felt familiar and created a space where they could truly connect and be honest. It's these meaningful connections that truly make a difference.

# CREATIVE PATHWAYS / SUMMARY



## CHALLENGES

Some challenges we faced were the distractions during classes, like disruptions, constant chatter, and conflicts. These things had a huge impact on our sessions, and we had to provide more one-on-one support or extend the session. Another challenge was trying to create a safe space for rangatahi to open up during our group discussions. We would go around the room and share our feelings on a scale of 1 to 10, as well as our highs and lows. However, some rangatahi were really shy and would withdraw from the group. We're hoping that with time, building rapport, and repetition, they will feel more comfortable. Lastly, there was a lot of inconsistent attendance in the class, due to issues out of our control, which led to constant changes in dynamics.

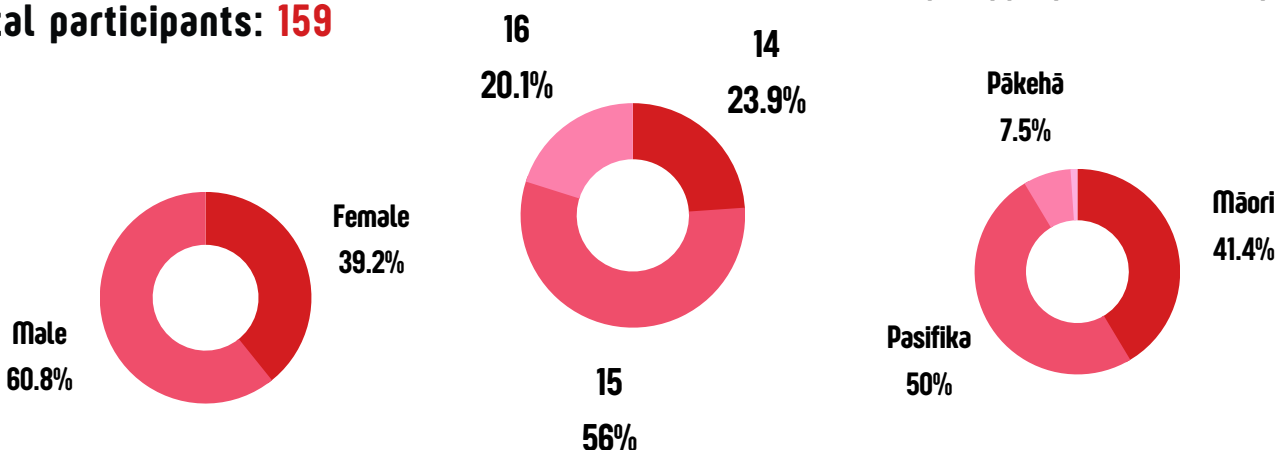
## LEARNINGS

Rangatahi respond better to practical activities. They are more engaged and excited compared to traditional classroom-style sessions. We also discovered that students are genuinely interested in learning about their cultures and take pride in representing them. It has been valuable to figure out what works and what doesn't work in each class. Like some classes need more one-on-one time with the rangatahi, while others don't. We also noticed that certain things may not resonate with one class, but another class will be really interested in it. It's all about adapting to the rangatahi and learning how to cater to them based on where they are at in the moment.

## SUMMARY

Total participants: **159**

This term we delivered several interactive and inspiring programs to our rangatahi.



# NAVIGATORS SHOWCASE / SUMMARY



## TK White

**19 August 2023, Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

Approx. attendance: 100 people

During this quarter, we successfully organised and launched another Showcase event, which served as a practical platform for our rangatahi to showcase their performance skills in front of a live audience. This showcase was held at Wesley Community Centre hosted by Central Navigators. We ensured a high-quality production by setting up a well-equipped stage, complete with professional lighting and sound systems. Additionally, we provided refreshments and a BBQ outside the venue. The final show of the day was an open mic which really brought out participants confidence. The event was a resounding success, allowing our rangatahi to shine and demonstrate their talents.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Without a doubt, the participants performances! The talent is crazy at Navigators, and those who came to perform really represented their corner well! Our rangatahi brought so much musical diversity to the table, from traditional hip hop to emo-punk-rap. Central Navigators brought theatrics and embraced a unique range of music. And the Wāhine were a vibe! It was their second time performing together as a collective, and you could see the tight bond they had on stage, showing unity and connection. The atmosphere at Wesley was whanaungataga, with a BBQ outside creating a space for people to network over a kai. This indoor-outdoor chemistry really created a sense of community at the event. And the open mic section was a massive high. Some people stepped up to perform for their first time whether in a duet, or solo. One duet, who had been working together in the studio, performed together for the first time and birthed a new chemistry as a duet. It was so special! This showcase was a real testament to our commitment of empowering rangatahi through creativity.

# NAVIGATORS SHOWCASE / SUMMARY



## CHALLENGES

One of the challenges we encountered during this quarter's Showcase event was the difficulty in engaging participants from one of our Navigator's programs to perform. Unfortunately, we only had one representative from this program at the Showcase, which was disappointing considering the immense talent they all possess. However, it is important to note that this was the only challenge we faced during this quarter.

## LEARNINGS

Based on valuable feedback from our rangatahi after the previous showcase, we identified several key areas for improvement. Timely promotion, venue selection, and audience participation emerged as common themes. To address these, we implemented a comprehensive promotional strategy, commencing one month in advance of the event. This included a diverse range of promotional materials such as posters, videos, and testimonials from both facilitators and participants. In terms of venue, we carefully selected a space that facilitated an enjoyable indoor-outdoor flow, accommodating the needs of our audience. To ensure the comfort of our elderly audience members, designated seating areas were provided, while other attendees stood in support. A significant learning from this experience was the tremendous value of the open mic section, as it provided participants with a platform to express themselves freely and showcase their true talents.





# NAVIGATORS SHOWCASE

## PHOTOS

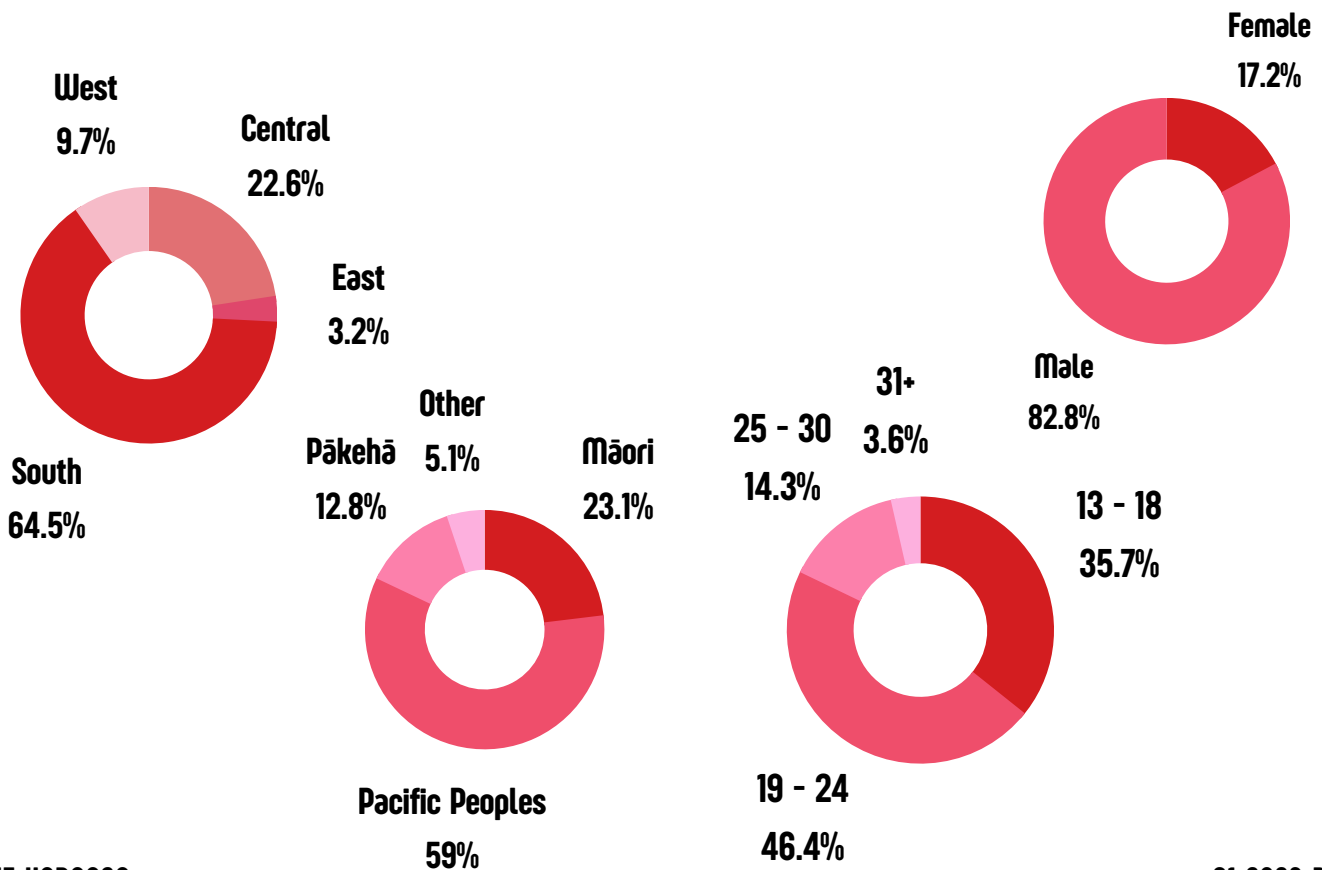


# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH



## SUMMARY

Total participants: **29**





# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

**Monday 7pm at OMAC, Ōtara**

**Facilitated Oliva Luki, Ben Tuimaseve & Noah Taviti**

**Report by Ben**

During the winter quarter, South Navs faced some barriers with fluctuating human energy, mirroring the unpredictable weather. However, our team remained resilient and determined. We persevered to prepare for, and deliver, a successful showcase, we embraced participants individual music releases and we launched a captivating group song accompanied by a professionally recorded video. Our sessions remained productive, fostering meaningful conversations and sparking creativity inspired by the unique experiences of winter. Additionally, we bid farewell to our long-term facilitators Siose and Rizvan, who departed South Navs to establish North Shore Navs. While their departure was bittersweet, we are excited for their return to their hometown and the new opportunities that await them.

## HIGHLIGHTS

We've had several positive highlights this quarter. Firstly, we welcomed new participants who quickly found a sense of safety and belonging within our community. Their ability to break out of their shells and openly share their personal experiences is a testament to their courage and the inclusive environment we have collectively created. Our group song and video allowed participants to express their deep love for South Auckland. Additionally, we had the privilege of witnessing a participant release a song that had previously only been performed live. It was awe-inspiring to witness their personal growth and resilience as they overcame challenges to share their art with the world. These accomplishments highlight the positive impact we are making in the lives of our participants, and we are grateful for the support that has made it all possible.

# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

## CHALLENGES

Despite the continued sense of closeness within the group, there were moments when the creative process felt somewhat stagnant. The abundance of writing activities, coupled with the winter season, contributed to this feeling. While these activities served as valuable practice and showcased the participants' impressive skills, it became apparent that they were eager for new opportunities to apply and explore their talents in different ways. Recognizing the need for variety and fresh inspiration, we are committed to continuously seeking innovative ways to engage and challenge our participants.

## LEARNINGS

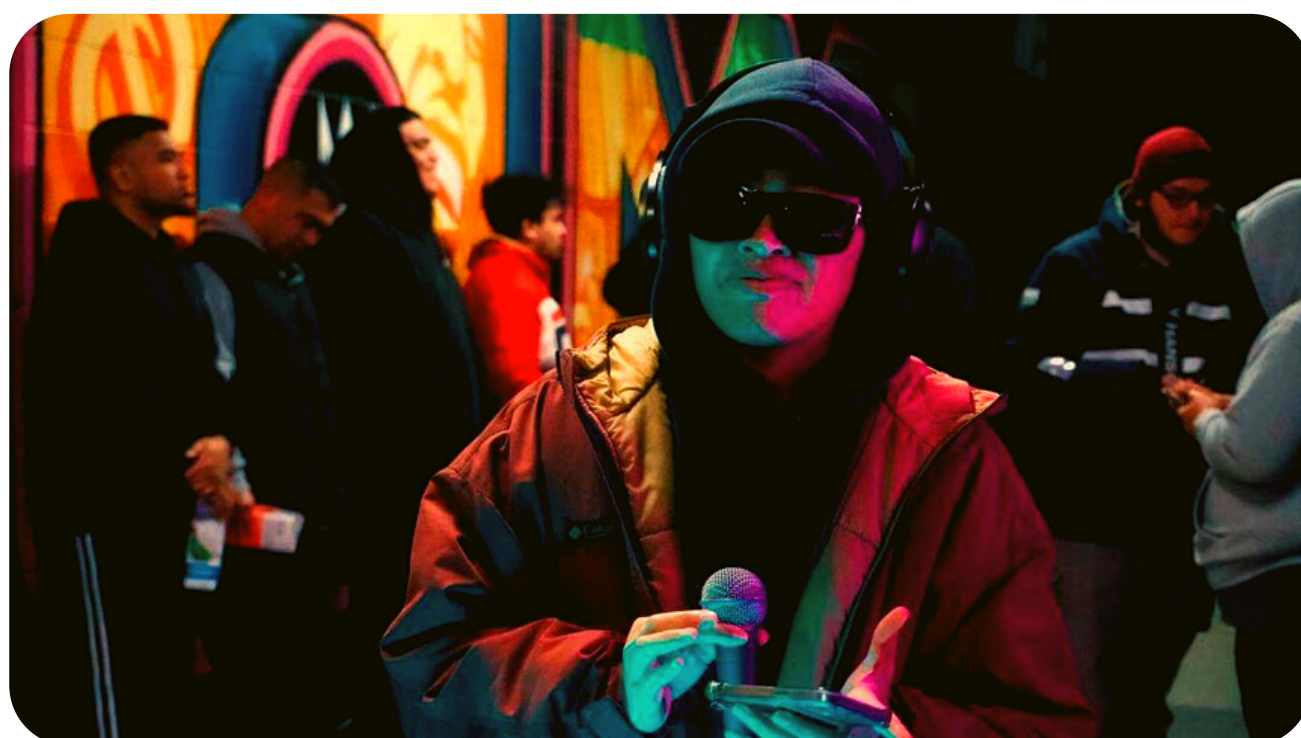
Our participants are long serving ones and although we have a few newer participants, they're all receptive to our forever growing environment. Maintaining a safe space for our attendees is important to us, but also giving them a space to grow and blossom into the aspiring artists that they are is a collective goal we have discussed. Giving them more knowledge, experience and practical activities is on the agenda for the next quarter.





# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

## PHOTOS





# NAVIGATORS / BEATS

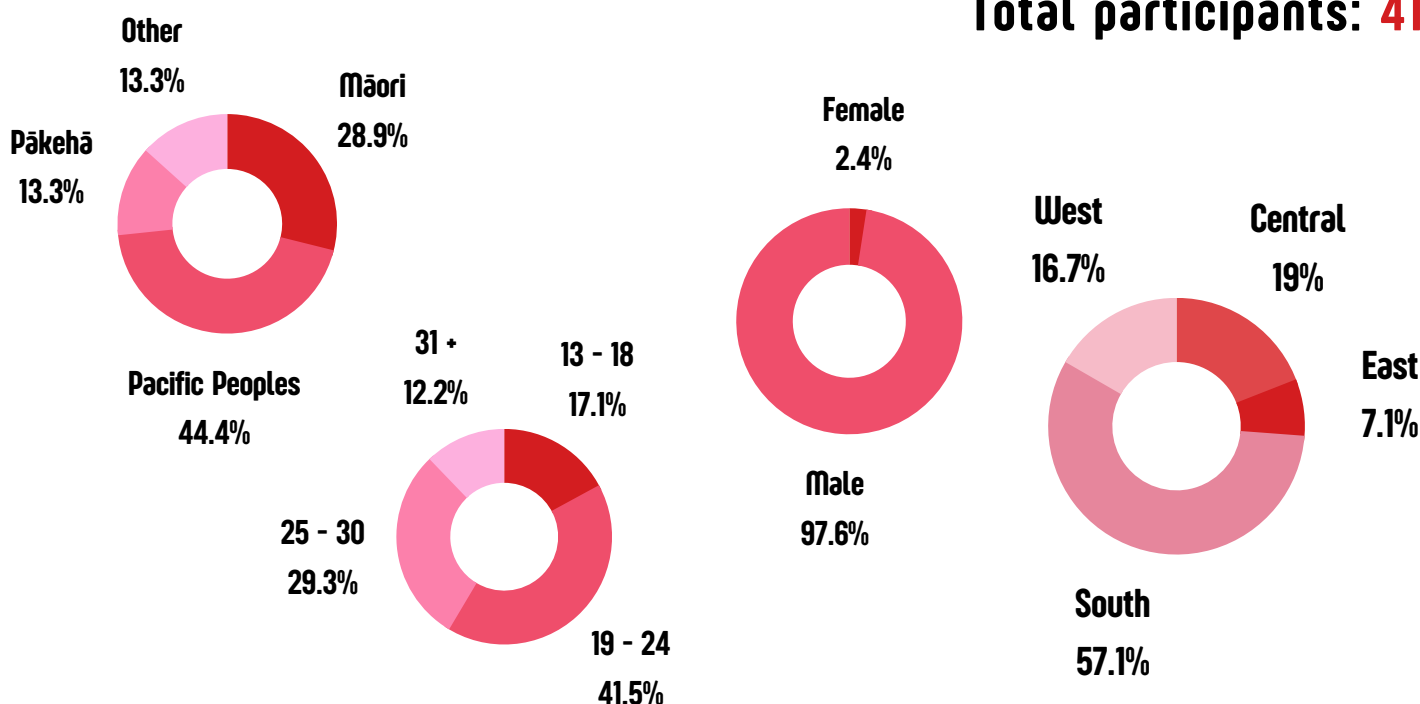
Tuesday 7pm at OMAC, Ōtara

Facilitated Oliva Luki, Dera Meelan & Christiaan Toailoa

Report by Oliva

## SUMMARY

Total participants: 41



Beat Navigators is a special place for producers and beat makers to congregate. As producers and beat makers we tend to stay in our own shells, hidden away from the public eye but still stay steady on our craft. Introverted perhaps. So many producers and beat makers have taken that step to join a creative community who share the same goals, passion and interest. We have had numerous producers open up about how much Beat Navs means to them, its a place where they can talk about the geeky tech stuff that no one really understands.



# NAVIGATORS / BEATS

**Tuesday 7pm at OMAC, Ōtara**

**Facilitated Oliva Luki, Dera Meelan & Christiaan Toailoa**

**Report by Oliva**

## HIGHLIGHTS

Having participants feel safe enough to talk about things that they kinda wouldn't share with others. One participant has built the courage and confidence to start putting his beats online and share his music with the world. Now getting hit up from rappers and singers for collaboration. Another participant never creates with us in the creative segment but has attended every week since he first came. He loves the company, he loves to share things about his music journey, he loves that he can be himself without any judgement.

## CHALLENGES

One of our main goals was to get more people involved in our program, but we could have done a better job with our promotion and marketing efforts. Sometimes we had a good turnout with around 10 participants, but there were other times when only 3 people showed up. This inconsistency made it difficult to maintain a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere for everyone. Moving forward, we are determined to improve our promotional strategies to attract a larger audience and create a more engaging experience.

## LEARNINGS

We understand the importance of constantly exploring new approaches to keep our participants engaged. Following the same routine week after week can sometimes feel stagnant and unproductive. So we are committed to embracing innovation and experimenting with fresh ideas to ensure that our program remains dynamic and impactful.



# NAVIGATORS / BEATS

## PICTURES



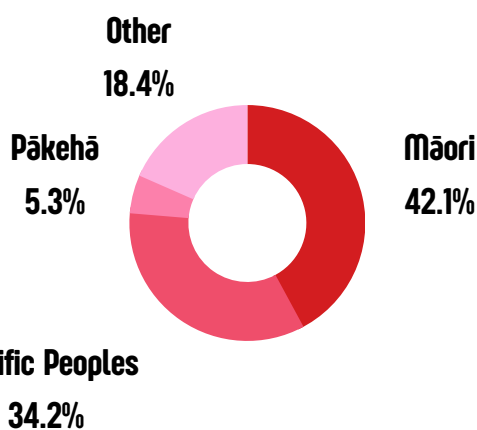
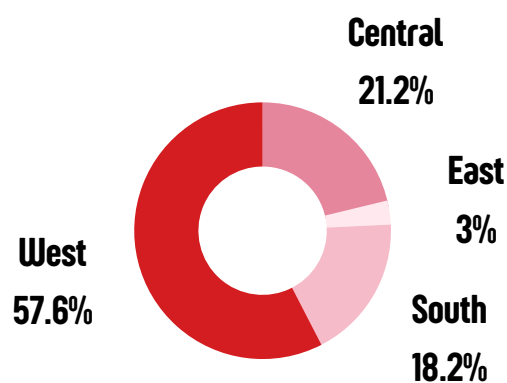
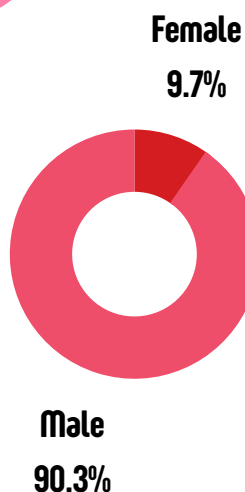
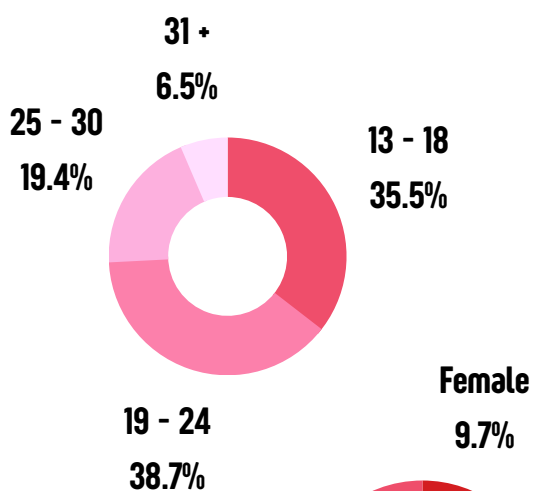


# NAVIGATORS / WEST

## SUMMARY



Total participants: **31**



# NAVIGATORS / WEST

Wednesday 7pm Te Manawa Library, Massey

Facilitated Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine & Bronson Price

Report by Aidan

Our primary objective was to cultivate a supportive environment for young artists and creatives, encouraging self-expression, talent development, and connections with fellow aspiring artists. "Battle of the Booths" is a dynamic activity that encourages collaborative songwriting and recording among participants, promoting teamwork and artistic growth. Our program culminated in a showcase event, where our participants had the chance to perform their original music live at the Wesley Community Centre, hosted by Central Navigators, in front of their peers and supporters.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

One of our standout highlights has been achieving greater consistency in our program. Despite facing challenges due to staff changes in previous months, we've now established a consistent and reliable team out West. This consistency is invaluable for our participants, as they can rely on the same group being present each week. Additionally, we've made significant progress in engaging the participants from Grace foundation who are on bracelet/home detention, by tailoring our topics to their interests and making our discussions more hands-on and interactive. This accomplishment is particularly significant, as it has helped some participants who found it difficult to open up to become more engaged and involved in our sessions.





# NAVIGATORS / WEST

Wednesday 7pm Te Manawa Library, Massey

Facilitated Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine & Bronson Price

Report by Aidan

## CHALLENGES:

One of the ongoing challenges we've encountered is our collaboration with the Grace Foundation. A significant portion of their cohort frequently refrains from active participation in our group discussions and creative activities, such as booth recording. Given their substantial numbers attending the program, this reluctance to engage can sometimes create an environment that is less open and inclusive. This is noticeable when other participants, who might otherwise be more expressive, tend to hold back. While adapting our sessions to better suit the Grace Foundation members has been beneficial, it has also raised concerns that some other participants might feel somewhat excluded or less catered to in the process.

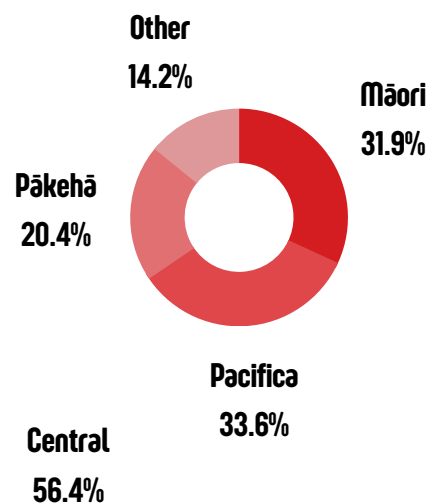
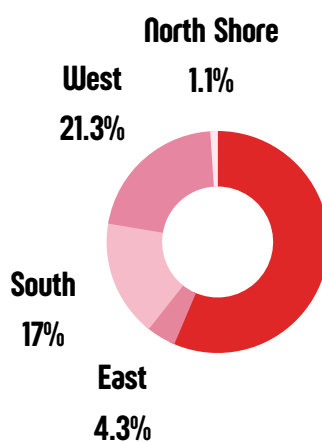
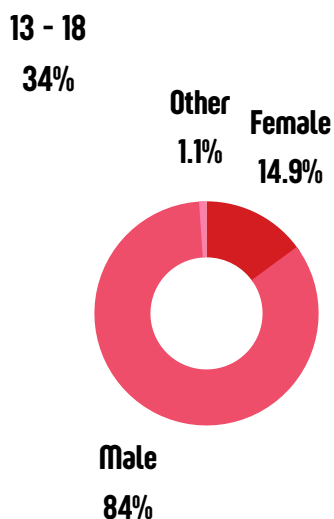
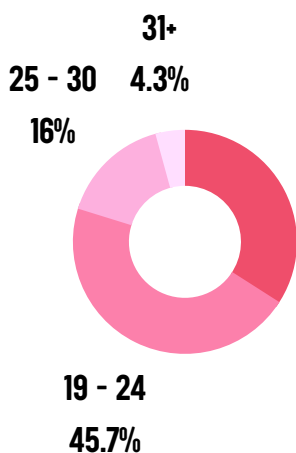
## LEARNINGS:

Through our experiences, we've gained valuable insights. We've learned that tailoring our content to match the participants' preferred discussion styles significantly boosts their engagement. Additionally, we've discovered that participants tend to thrive when our discussions are concise, allowing more time for writing and recording, which they find most enjoyable. To maintain a more balanced and inclusive atmosphere, we've also found that capping the number of participants from the Grace Foundation at five has been beneficial, ensuring that no one feels left out or overshadowed in our sessions.



# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL SUMMARY

Total participants: **94**





# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL

**Wednesday 7pm Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

**Facilitated by Aidan Fine, Bronson Price, Matte Rongo & Dera Meelan**

**Report by Aidan**

Our primary goal this quarter was to provide a nurturing environment for young artists and creatives to foster self-expression, enhance their talents, and establish connections with fellow aspiring artists. Each session began with a group discussion where participants shared their weekly experiences, followed by engaging conversations on various topics, such as family, gratitude, and musical influences, aimed at empowering and inspiring our young creatives. After the discussion, we typically move into "Battle of the Booths," a dynamic activity where everyone splits into groups to collaborate and record songs with their peers, fostering teamwork and artistic growth. Additionally, we brought in exciting guest artists who the participants greatly admired, such as Solo (Pasifika-Australian producer, artist & engineer) creating opportunities for valuable mentorship and inspiration. We also held a showcase event, where our participants performed their original music live in front of their peers and supporters - right in the Wesley Community Centre.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Central Navigators had an impressive quarter filled with several notable highlights. The record-breaking attendance, being 32 participants in one night, is a clear testament to the program's positive impact on participants, not only through the benefits they experience but also by their enthusiastic word-of-mouth referrals. This influx of new faces attending highlights the program's growing reputation in the community. On a social level, it's heartwarming to witness young creatives stepping out of their comfort zones during group discussions, sharing their life experiences, and connecting with their peers. These sessions have played a pivotal role in building a sense of community and support among participants. Moreover, the transformation of hobbyist artists into full-fledged professionals is truly remarkable. Our "Battle of the Booths" activity has not only provided a platform for creative collaboration but has also empowered participants to take their craft to the next level. Seeing them release music, perform around the city (outside of the Te Karanga Showcase), and even sell merchandise and CDs underscores the tangible impact of the Navigators programme.



# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL

**Wednesday 7pm Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

**Facilitated by Aidan Fine, Bronson Price, Matte Rongo & Dera Meelan**

**Report by Aidan**

## **CHALLENGES**

Handling the increasing number of participants has presented challenges for us, both in terms of physical space limitations (we often run out of chairs!) and maintaining a consistent level of mentorship for each individual. As the program expands, it's essential to ensure we provide stable and reliable support every week without fail. Additionally, conducting in-depth group discussions can be challenging when accommodating nearly 40 people including facilitators within a limited time frame, making it a continuous area for improvement.

## **LEARNINGS**

Our experience has taught us the critical importance of consistency. During a challenging period marked by low attendance and morale, especially when our head facilitator was on leave, we discovered that unwavering dedication and persistent efforts were essential from the team. Through continuous energy and a commitment to reviewing and improving our approach, we successfully boosted the program. As a result, we have now reached an all-time high in attendance, and the overall mood and morale among our participants has never been better. This reinforced the notion that consistency and perseverance are fundamental factors in the success of our program.



# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL PICTURES

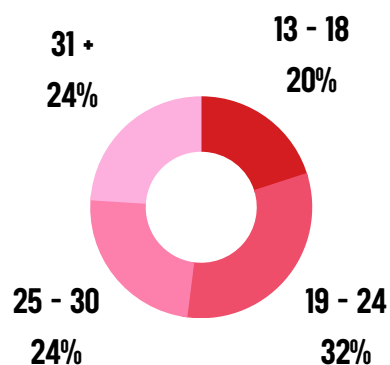
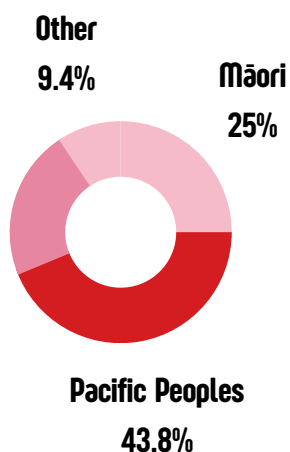
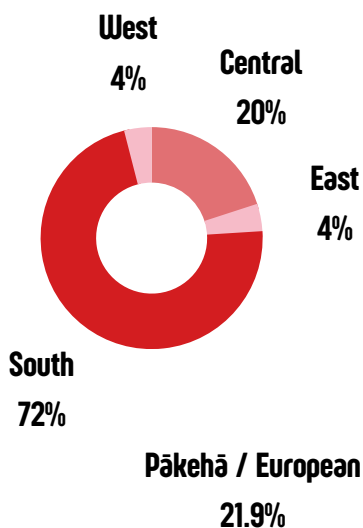




# NAVIGATORS / TALANOA

## SUMMARY

Total participants: **25**







# NAVIGATORS / TALANOA

**Tuesday 7pm Taro Patch Collective, Papatoetoe**

**Facilitated Rizván Tu'itahi, Siose Solo & Ben Tuimaseve**

**Report by Siose**

This quarter, we launched a new program called Talanoa Tuesdays, which takes place at the Taro Patch Creative space in Papatoetoe. It's a cozy and welcoming setting where people can come together for meaningful conversations. We wanted to create a safe and nonjudgmental space, and that's exactly what we've achieved. We've had guest speakers each week sharing their journey. At the end of each session, we summarize the key points discussed, and close with a song or karakia.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

We are seeing momentum in growth within the program. We have regular attendees who have expressed their gratitude for having a space where they can freely share and be themselves. We've also had guest speakers, which has been a really cool experience. Some of our own staff members have shared their inspiring stories, including a Paralympian and a musician who is launching their unique merchandise. We have also brought in guests from the music industry, which has added an exciting dynamic to our sessions. The location itself is incredibly comfortable and contributes to a homely vibe, which has been well-received by everyone. Overall, it has been a great start to this quarter, and we are excited to continue building on these successes.

## **CHALLENGES**

Because we're relatively new, we haven't experienced any challenges yet.

# NAVIGATORS / TALANOA

Tuesday 7pm Taro Patch Collective, Papatoetoe

Facilitated Rizván Tu'itahi, Siose Solo & Ben Tuimaseve

Report by Siose

## LEARNINGS

Participants benefit greatly from attending the space they have a place that is safe, nonjudgmental, inclusive they feel comfortable to be themselves. We've also booked a few guest speakers in for next quarter which is exciting.





# NAVIGATORS / WĀHINE

**Tuesday 7pm Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

**Facilitated by TK White, Hariata Makiha & Jasmine Pene**

**Report by TK**

Wāhine Navigators is still quite a new program, but we have been able to flourish organically. This quarter we collectively performed twice in public settings: once in an external event, the other with the Te Karanga Showcase. We've had two guest speakers share their story with us: Pono by Dom, who is a maker and events collaborator. She invited us to perform at the external event; and Amanaki Lelei Prescott-Faletau, actor, writer, dancer, choreographer, producer, director who is Fakaleitī and recently released a short film. Both guest speakers brought out magical moments for our wāhine. From Dom, some of our participants were able to perform live for the first time. From Amanaki, some of our takatāpuhi participants were able to express their sexuality more confidently.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Hands down the external gig was a major high light for Wāhine Navigators. The event was for Takurua - Ti'iti'i Sacred Knowledge, a Pacific cuisine infused theatre show held at the Viaduct Events Centre. Wāhine Navs were the pre-show entertainment. This was especially significant for us because in the rehearsal period, our wāhine really blossomed as humans and artists. Their confidence really improved as they created music and rehearsed it. Relationships between the wāhine grew stronger, and ongoing collaborations emerged. They also booked time outside of Navigators to attend Creative Labs (studio sessions) to record and engineer their collaborations for performances. The energy in our space has been warm, welcoming and open. Our discussions have grown deeper, participants confidence to ask perceivably embarrassing questions has improved, social anxieties have decreased both at Navigators and external activities. In the beginning of our program, we set creative intentions, and some of our participants have already met the intentions they've set. Some of our wāhine integrated into the Navigators society by attending other Navs on other nights. The growth has been unreal. Our tikanga is "Be confident to be confident" and the transformation of our wāhine is a testimony to the application, and manaakitanga of that tikanga.

# NAVIGATORS / WĀHINE

## CHALLENGES

There are no significant challenges at the moment, it is just still difficult trying to convince other wāhine to join us. People are always saying it looks awesome, but they've yet to attend. Most people just need to take the first step and attend to truly know the impacts it will have on their confidence, their growth as an artist, as a wahine and human being. We're not lacking in numbers at all, but there are so many more wāhine we could be working with that just haven't taken that leap of faith yet.

## LEARNINGS

People are constantly talking about Wāhine Navigators like it's a secret society, and so many non-wāhine participants, and staff, want to join us to see what we're doing differently. It's not a sacred space, and we've been welcoming of men into the space before (those who've turned up to the wrong Navs or who've given their friends a ride). Suppose the major difference is the ability to speak freely about kaupapa that only wāhine can truly resonate with: sex, relationships, responsibilities of a woman, periods, child-birth, sexuality, self-worth, appearance etc etc etc. The facilitators are also prime catalysts in our space. We are all on the same page with the tikanga, and we make sure it's being upheld and honoured.



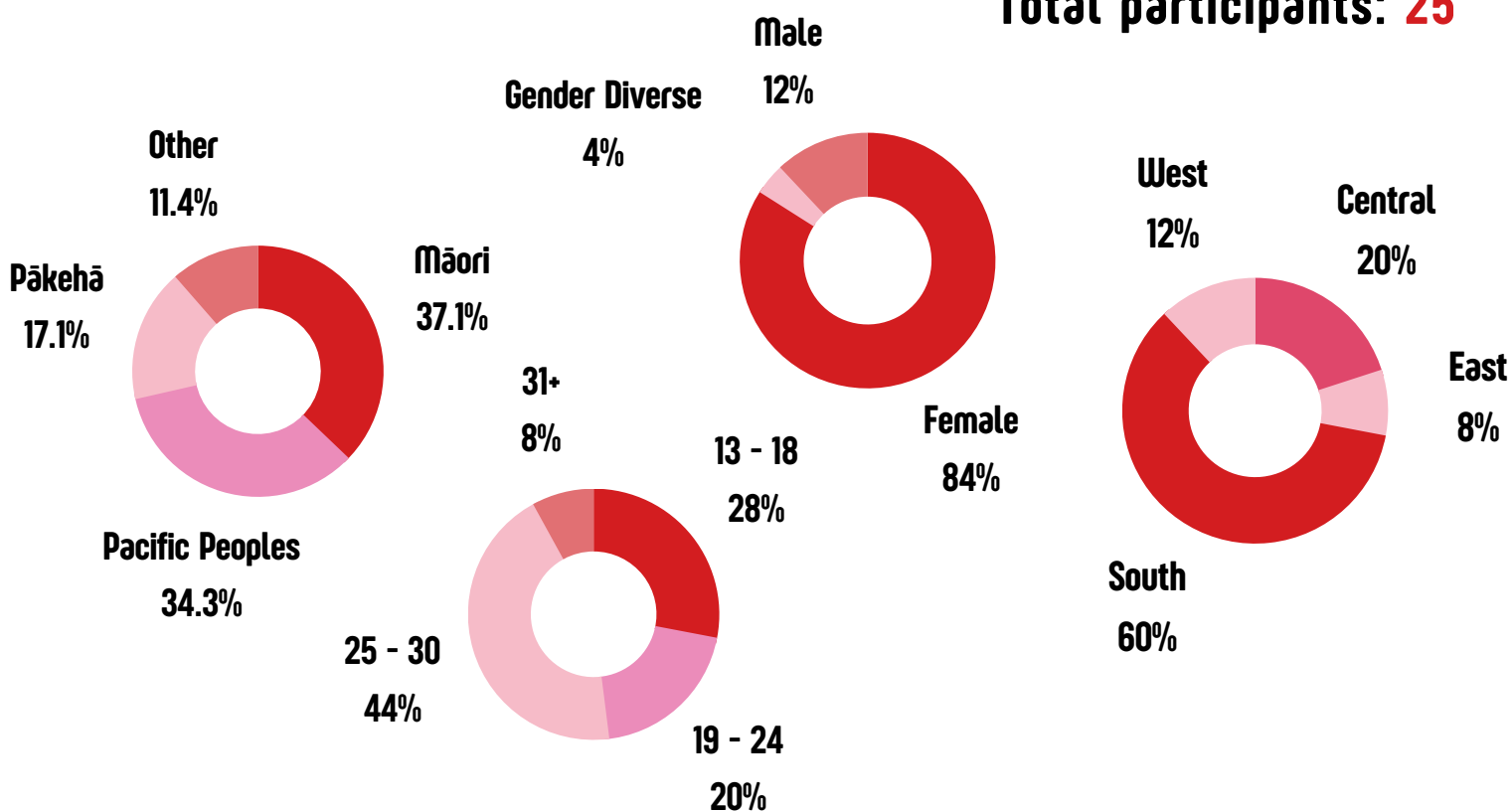


# NAVIGATORS / WĀHINE

## SUMMARY



Total participants: **25**





# NAVIGATORS / NORTH SHORE

**Tuesday 7pm Northcote Community House, North Shore**

**Facilitated by Rizván Tu'itahi & Siose Solo**

**Report by Siose**

North Navs is only a month old, but we are excited to finally establish this program in this community. Both facilitators are North Shore natives, so there is already the establishment of connection to the community. We've seen some organic attendance and growth over the past four weeks and some feedback has already confirmed the need for this program to be here.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

It's been cool to see how this program is making a real difference for the local youth creatives in the surrounding neighborhoods. We've had a solid turnout with 7 participants on our first night, and we've been seeing steady regulars returning.

## **CHALLENGES**

Because North Navs has only been around for a month, we haven't faced any challenges yet.

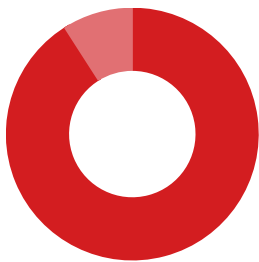
## **LEARNINGS**

We understand the importance of setting the standard of the space making sure it's safe, nonjudgmental and respectful space for participants to feel comfortable.

# NAVIGATORS / NORTH SHORE SUMMARY

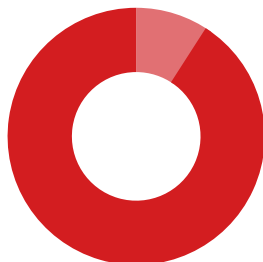


Other  
9.1%



Pacific Peoples  
90.9%

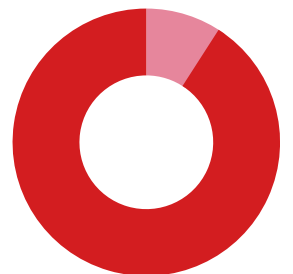
Female  
9.1%



Male  
90.9%

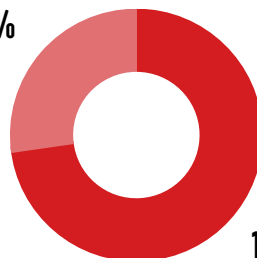
Total participants: 11

South  
9.1%



North  
90.9%

25 - 30  
27.3%



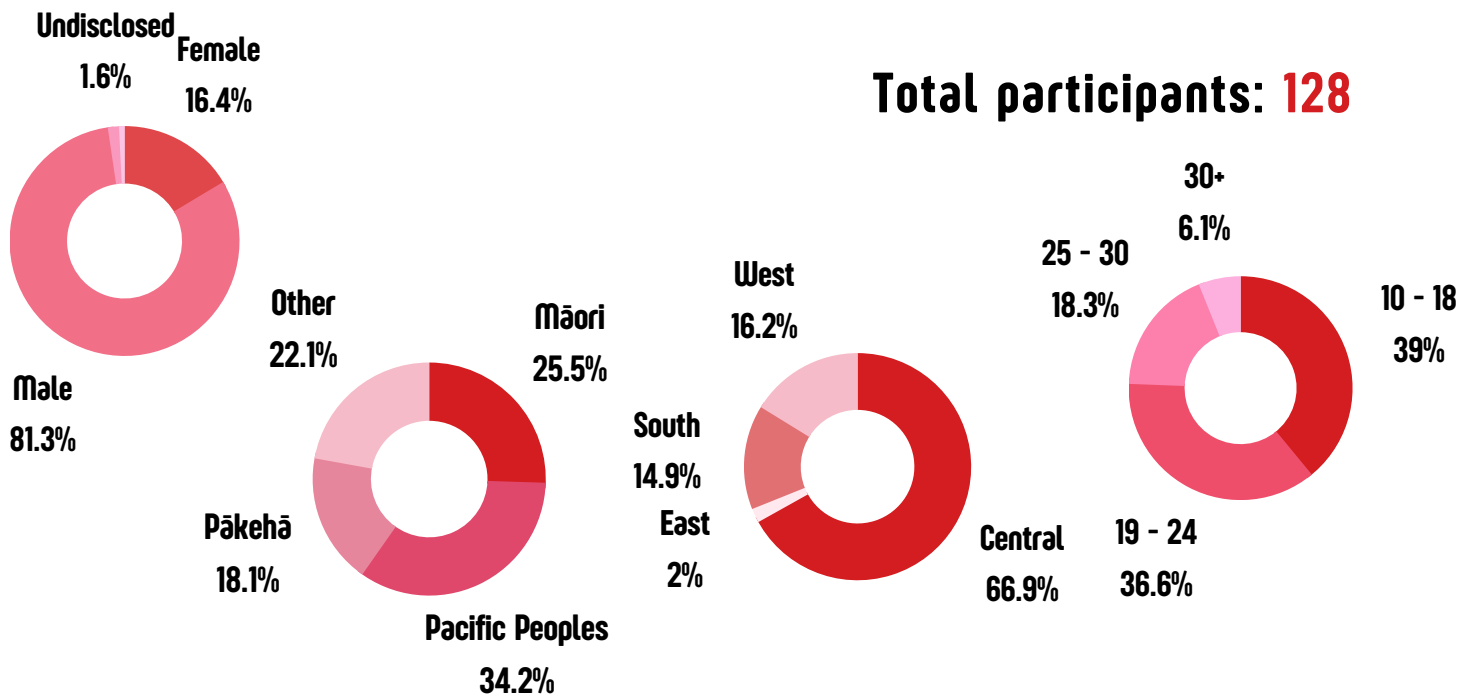
19 - 24  
72.7%



# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL

## SUMMARY

Total participants: 128





# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL



**Mon, Weds, Thurs, Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

**Facilitated by Aidan Fine, Dera Meelan & Taimana Davis**

**Report by Aidan**

Creative Lab (C-Labs) is an innovative initiative that offers our Te Karanga community a versatile and inspiring space. Operating three days a week, we provide access to three high-quality creative equipment and recording booths. While participants from our other programmes frequently utilise these resources, a significant portion of the bookings comes from young creatives who seek a more independent and boundary-free creative experience. C-Labs is a haven where individuals can unleash their creativity without constraints or formal instruction. They have the freedom to craft their music at their own pace, collaborate with whomever they choose, and seek guidance from our in-house professional musicians and mentors as needed, all at no cost. Additionally, we offer a complimentary mixing incentive, allowing artists to have their songs professionally mixed by our in-house engineers, further supporting their creative endeavours.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

This quarter has seen numerous exciting developments and highlights. Firstly, we've upgraded two of our booths with powerful iMac computers, ensuring that all three booths now boast top-notch technology. Additionally, we've replaced old and broken headphones with new ones, enhancing the overall quality of the recording experience. To boost efficiency, we've successfully implemented a new booking system, streamlining the process for our users. Lastly, we've introduced a food budget to provide nourishment for our participants each week, further enhancing their experience and ensuring they have the energy and sustenance needed to fuel their creative endeavors. These improvements signify our commitment to providing a cutting-edge and user-friendly environment at C-Labs.

# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL



**Mon, Weds, Thurs, Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

**Facilitated by Aidan Fine, Dera Meelan & Taimana Davis**

**Report by Aidan**

## **CHALLENGES**

We have encountered several challenges in the past quarter. Firstly, the absence of soundproofing in our facilities has proven to be a significant issue, as it can result in some participants' recordings inadvertently capturing noise from neighboring and louder rooms, affecting the quality of their work. Additionally, we've had to implement some rules around the studios to ensure that they are kept tidy as participants would leave the room in undesirable states after their sessions. Lastly, some of our participants have faced some significant personal challenges this quarter, which has required our ongoing support for their personal health and safety through our mentoring service and network of referrals and providers for follow up support.

## **LEARNINGS**

Firstly, the implementation of a new booking system has not only increased the number of bookings but has also significantly improved our overall efficiency. Secondly, the introduction of the "no food" rule has successfully reduced mess and potential damage to the recording booths. Moreover, we've learned that teaching users how to operate the equipment and master the Logic Pro software, rather than doing it for them, has yielded exceptional long-term results. This approach has empowered certain participants, enabling them to develop their skills and grow stronger with both the equipment and software. This newfound independence is incredibly powerful, fostering self-reliance and enhancing the overall experience for our users.



# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

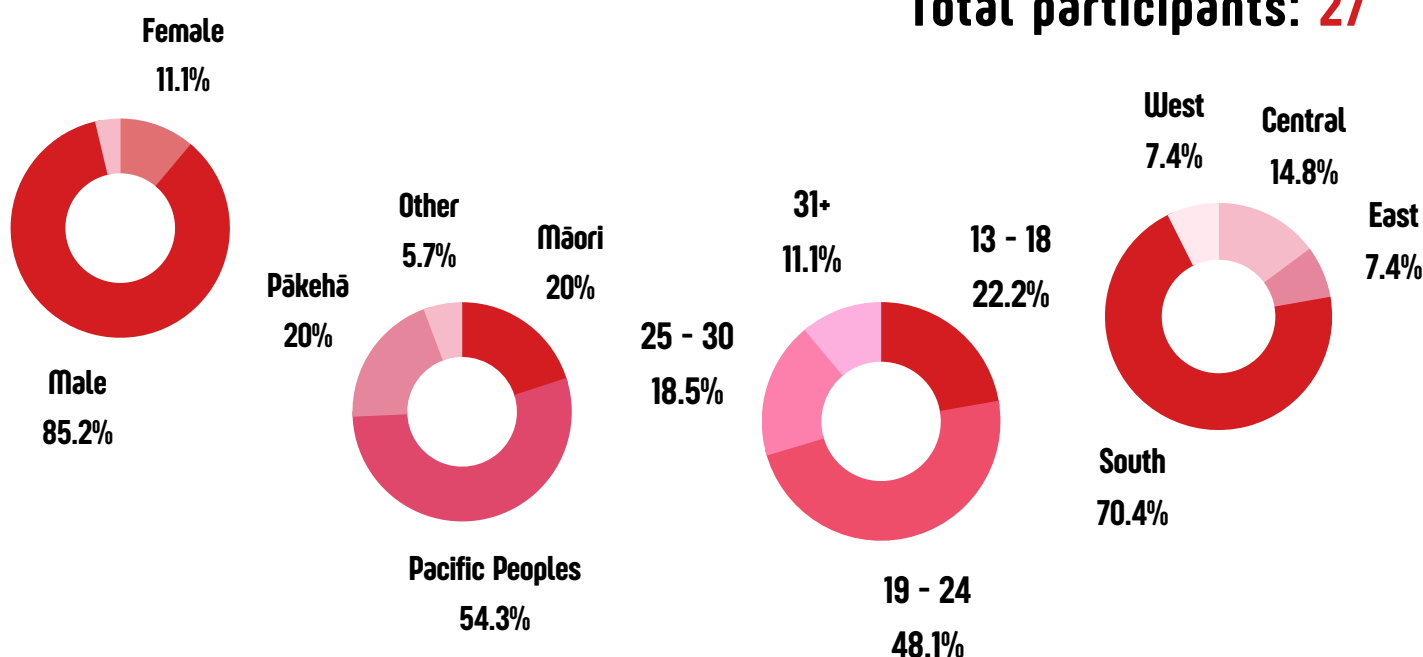
Mon & Tues OMAC, Ōtara

Facilitated by Oliva Luki

Report by Oliva

## SUMMARY

Total participants: 27



This quarter has been quite busy for us. We have seen a significant increase in participants booking our studio to record their music. Many of them find the studio to be a helpful environment for writing and drawing inspiration. It seems that being in the studio motivates them to get their work done, especially when they struggle to write on their own. Other than recording, we have also had participants seeking guidance on releasing their music. Some have come to me for second opinions on their songs and production. It's been a productive period with a lot of creative energy flowing through our doors.

# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH



## HIGHLIGHTS

One participant from South Navs has truly blossomed during this quarter. Despite being quiet and introverted, he took the initiative to reach out and book our studio. What's even more impressive is that he had never recorded before in his life but he has now successfully recorded two songs and is currently working on another one that he plans to release. It's super inspiring to see his growth and confidence in pursuing his passion for music.

## CHALLENGES

One significant challenge is the issue of having well-produced songs that never see the light of day. Regardless of the participants' talent and dedication, there seems to be a lack of confidence in releasing their work. Instead, they tend to focus on future aspirations without taking the necessary steps to put their music out there. This low self-confidence is hindering their progress and preventing them from sharing their creativity with a wider audience.

## LEARNINGS

Participants tend to engage and take initiative when they feel prepared and comfortable so we should provide a supportive environment that encourages their creativity and growth. Also, it's important to always affirm participants' talent and potential as professional musicians. By doing so, we can boost their confidence and motivation. Furthermore, addressing the challenge of low self-confidence and hesitancy in releasing songs is crucial. Exploring strategies to overcome this obstacle and encouraging participants to take the leap in sharing their music would greatly benefit their progress and development.

# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

## PICTURES





# CREATIVE LABS / ACES

**Mon & Fri, 520 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, 520 Queen Street, Auckland CBD**

**Facilitated by Rizvan Tu'itahi, Oliva Luki & Ben Tuimaseve**

**Report by Ben**

This program is delivered on-site at Aces Alt-Ed. New term, new approach! Last term we did t-shirt printing and this term we set out to do the same but wait, there's more. We added an extra challenge of writing and recording a song too and shout out to the team and participants - we got both done! Along the way we did quizzes and ice breakers to start with something light which seemed to help engagement most times.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

The students personal stories behind their designs were cool and was a gateway for insight into learning more about them as individuals. Having hands on activities such as design, allowed them to express themselves without having to say too many words but we saw their pride after their finished products. For two students who jumped on the mic for a song deserve credit. The growth they demonstrated to write and deliver verses with more confidence was dope!

## **CHALLENGES**

A few school closures allowed for less time to complete our goals and the students attention spans of some students started to tap out in the second half of the term where they were hungry quite a lot. Always challenging to keep a hungry person engaged as they are easily distracted but to achieve the term goals is a credit to both the team and students.



# CREATIVE LABS / ACES

Mon & Fri, 520 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, 520 Queen Street, Auckland CBD

Facilitated by Rizvan Tu'itahi, Oliva Luki & Ben Tuimaseve

Report by Ben

## LEARNINGS

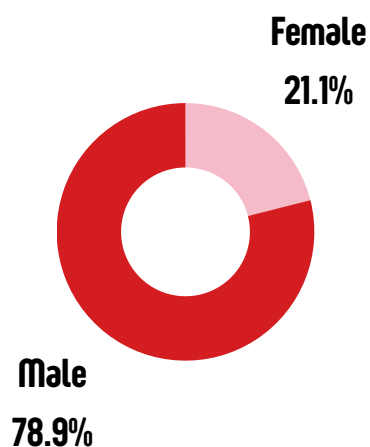
Music is still a challenge to create at times as it depends on what mood the students are in and requires a bit more courage for them to share something publicly whereas with design, they can do it without having to express too much verbally.



## SUMMARY

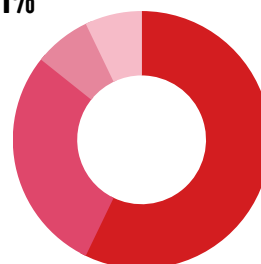
Total participants: 14

All participants between 13 - 16 yrs



Pacific Peoples  
28.6%

Other  
Pākehā 7.1%  
7.1%



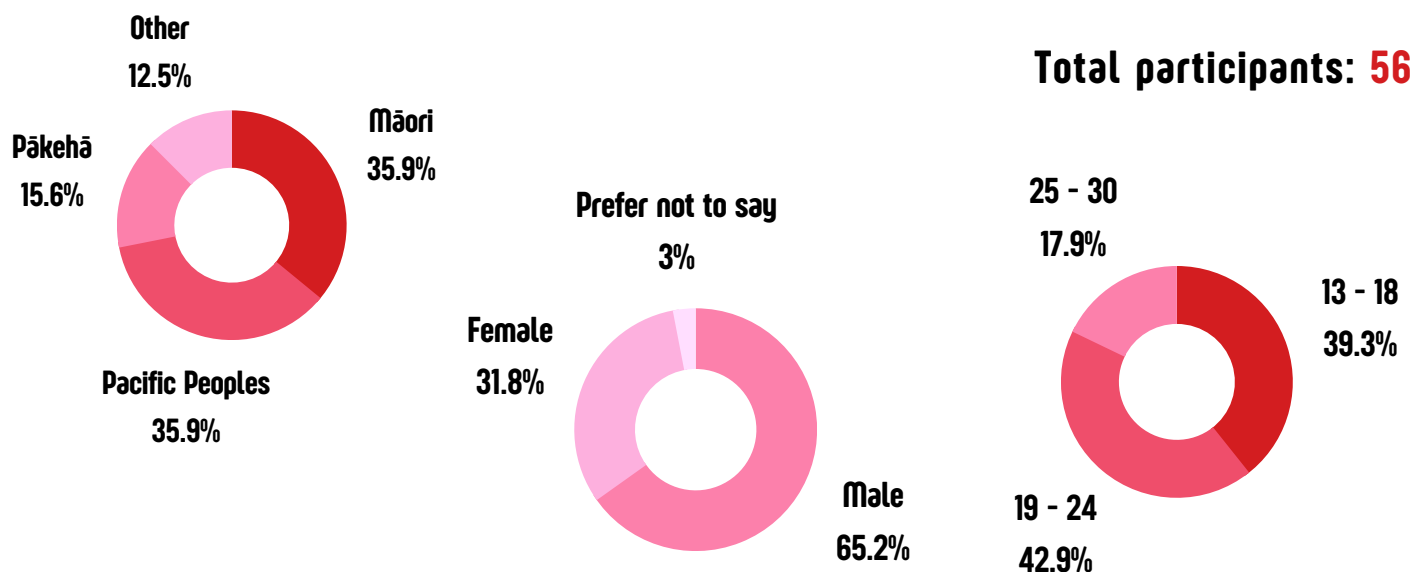
Māori  
57.1%



# Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives

Facilitated by Rizván Tu'itahi, Abraham Kunin, Elijah Manū, Hariata Makiha, Taimana Davis, & Oliva Luki

Report by Elijah Manū, Hariata Makiha & Will Mark-Brown



## HAUMAKO

This quarter of Haumako we introduced new mentors and participants into the program. This has allowed us to create new offerings, centred around brand building, events and merchandise, responding to needs and interests of participants. We've also started to roll out seed funding availability for those participants looking to branch out into creative enterprise. The idea of this funding is to help facilitate their ideas and bring to life their vision, while building capital for momentum. This will also introduce them to business planning and strategy. Participants have been taking the lead on implementing what they've learnt on the program in the outside world.



# Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives



## STUDENT OF THE GAME

We have filmed and released publicly several of our guest speaker talks of local creative entrepreneurs, and will be releasing approximately one per month, allowing us to reach a wider audience.

## NGĀ KĀKANO

This quarter, 'Ngā Kākano' has shifted from an existing weekly program into a bi-monthly program as an extension of Haumako, in collaboration with Big Fan Studios. The newly developed idea of the program is a 2-day weekend collaborative workshop for rangatahi to explore their technical, creative and collaboration skills under pressure in a time limited, professional high-end studio environment, with the support and technical expertise of a professional producer and our mentors. Participants build skills and confidence for new potential income streams as an artist, such as audio engineering, session vocal work, session musician and production work.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights would include more work being completed. More consistent attendance. With Rizvan's new visual arts and content mentoring, there's been an influx of fresh, high quality social content created by Haumako Participants. I've also been happy with the amount of time our participants have spent working on their crafts & products. We are seeing real tangible skill base improvement in participants. This is an essential part of growth and the progression from creative sessions to finished work have been getting stronger every week. All of this has assisted a number of our participants into new exploration of sounds, income opportunities, releasing new music, merch and hosting gigs independently. We can't forget to mention the rapport and personal connections between staff participants and whanau, and the confidence and wellbeing improvement we are seeing in participants.

# Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives



## CHALLENGES

A challenge of this term was making sure all the staff can optimise their time, especially with some of our higher needs participants struggling with personal situations & crisis, sometimes meaning they lose engagement, momentum, or don't attend after booking slots. This forced us to move staff around, do several planning/reflection sessions and be adaptable at all times, following up with alternative approaches and support for participants that needed it. Often sessions were booked for practical skills development but became more of a korero and informal counselling or reflection session. Several high risk participants have required further support, whanau liaison and relevant referrals for escalated wellbeing/risk management support.

A few challenges in the development of Ngā Kākano is providing consistency for earlier participants as we aren't providing those Ngā Kākano weekly group sessions anymore. Our solution was to actively invite them to the other group programs we hold and follow up with care, also invite them to one-on-one sessions with previous Ngā Kākano facilitator Taimana, or other haumako facilitators where suitable.

## LEARNINGS

I think the biggest learning in this space would be understanding the importance of definition. Meaning, how do we best communicate this offering to participants and prep them for it? How do we best measure our successes and challenges? This is a question we are constantly asking ourselves and improving our approach as the program grows and evolves, but we believe the more we do the work the easier it's becoming to define. Haumako & Ngā Kākano has gone through several evolutions but one aspect has remained true the entire time, and that is that we are giving participants as many experiences, holistic tools and transferrable skills as we possibly can for them to utilise in the real world during and after their time with us. It requires more planning, reflecting and admin time than previously anticipated to grow and evolve as needed, to ensure a meaningful, consistent and high quality offering.

# Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives



## PICTURES



# Professional Development & Entrepreneurship for aspiring creatives



## PICTURES





# RAP-N-REC

Facilitated by Rizván Tu'itahi & Siose Solo

Summary by TK White

Rap-n-Rec is a music writing program that is delivered within the Youth justice residency at Whakatakapōkai. The program was established by Rizvan Tu'itahi in 2018 to provide incarcerated rangatahi with an outlet to express themselves through songwriting and recording, with a focus on hip-hop / rap. The primary goal of the program is to empower rangatahi to share their stories and normalise the use of music as a means of communication for expressing emotions, thoughts, and opinions.

Following on from last quarter, we are pleased to report that our program continues to run with two dedicated facilitators consistently offering studio sessions for our rangatahi every Tuesday and Thursday. The program remains ongoing, and we have seen a rotation of youth participants benefitting from our ongoing support to deliver this impactful initiative. Their eagerness to record is truly inspiring, and we look forward to continuing to provide them with the necessary guidance and resources to nurture their creative talents.

More information about Rap-n-Rec is found [here](#).

## SUMMARY

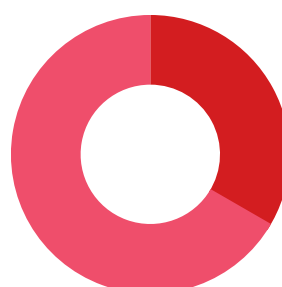
**Total participants: 15**  
All participants between 14 - 17yrs

**Pākehā**  
13.3%



**Māori**  
86.7%

**Female**  
33.3%



**Male**  
66.7%

# RANGATAHI

## HIGHLIGHTS

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"I was nervous going in for the first time but soon as I got inside the facilitators gave me an experience I never imagined I would have."

"The opportunities to connect with industry professionals and utilise their guidance, knowledge, and feedback to build a career in music has been invaluable."

"This space is as close as you could get to a creative dojo for artists."

"Thanks to C-LAB a year later I'm releasing music as an independent artist and have performed at 2 sold out shows."

"Bro what I like most is you guys are doing something we all need and needed, it's a blessing."

"Very future focused and directly benefits the needs of us as students no matter our backgrounds, it's always a very safe and healing place."

"The collective as a whole is truly changing lives."



# RANGATAHI

## FEEDBACK

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"Hold more events like the open mic night, or even inter-workshop events."

"More guests would be cool to see as they also bring a lot of knowledge for me to feed on."

"As a whole across all the navs I'd like to see more performance get together."

"It would've been good if we could work on one track for a couple of weeks so we can shoot a cypher-like music video."

"Maybe just more direct promotion like telling local businesses to help get the word out there."

"Better sound treatment in the booths."

"More recording. More Q&A's with the rappers hosting the courses."



# MORE PICTURES





# MORE PICTURES



# MORE PICTURES



# MORE PICTURES



# MORE PICTURES

