



# Community Good Report 2025

# Our Mission

We offer a unique venue for gatherings, exploration, learning and adventure, one that acknowledges, encompasses, and gives back to our diverse multicultural community.

Our trust, its facilities and its programmes support the uninhibited sharing of knowledge, culture and optimism – within our walls and

throughout our community. We understand the mana inherent in our South Auckland location; we celebrate this, we learn from it every day, and we contribute to it in any way we can.

Our campus is more than the sum of its facilities and greater than any single activity it enables,

a versatile space that allows the entire community to benefit from the transformative nature of experience.

Our belief in the concept of shared betterment helps us to make sure our venue is a place where horizons are expanded, adventures are enabled, and relentless curiosity is always encouraged.

*Thank you for your support as this enables a platform for long term financial stability. It is this sustainability that creates subsidised access to the facilities and programmes which are designed to engage with our community inspiring them to set a goal, follow through and achieve.*



# Kia ora

*It is with great pleasure that we present our Community Good Report for the year ending 31 December 2024. Despite facing a challenging year, our facilities remained in high demand, and the continued success of our commercial bookings has played a crucial role in supporting our school programme at Due Drop Events Centre and Vector Wero Whitewater Park.*

Initially, our goal was to reach 100,000 students with our school programme by 2025, a target we surpassed two years ahead of schedule. This year, our objective was not only to maintain this momentum but to exceed it. We are thrilled to announce that we not only achieved our target but also outperformed our results from 2023. We remain proud to be New Zealand's largest School Programme partner outside of the classroom.

Throughout 2024, we dedicated significant effort behind the scenes to the development of Wero Climb, the latest addition to Waka Pacific Trust, which is set to open in June 2025. This has been a long-held vision for the Trust, and we are excited to see it finally come to life. Wero Climb will be an extraordinary facility for the South

Auckland community and beyond, offering a unique blend of cultural elements that will set it apart.

The Due Drop Events Centre remains the largest school programme provider outside a classroom focused on the creative arts and cultural events. Over the past year, 99,156 children and young people have utilised this facility, benefiting from free or subsidised workshops, activities, and events. Our esteemed Programme Partners, including the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Atamira Dance Company, Manukau Symphony Orchestra, Tim Bray Theatre Company, National Youth Theatre, Duffy Books in Homes, and the Pacific Arts Centre, have provided students with memorable experiences outside the classroom.

Vector Wero Whitewater Park stands as the largest provider of school water safety programmes globally. This year, 18,385 students and youth took part in our dynamic moving-water safety sessions. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that every student in South Auckland has access to our subsidised water safety programme during their school years.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our supporters and sponsors, with special thanks to the Due Drop Foundation and Vector Limited for their continued partnership as naming rights sponsors. Without the invaluable support of these organisations, and many others, we would not be able to make such a meaningful impact in our community.




John Bongard  
ONZM CRSNZ  
Chairman




David Comery  
Chief Executive



# Due Drop Events Centre Schools' Programme



In 2024, the schools and community programme enabled by Due Drop Foundation provided 99,156 children and youth with access to subsidised or fully sponsored creative arts events.

We were able to collaborate with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Tim Bray Theatre Company, Pacifica Arts Centre, National Youth Theatre, Atamira Dance Company, Duffy Books in Homes, Māori Myths by the Sandman and various schools with their Dance Concerts providing students a wide variety of experiences.

The Trust with the support of Due Drop Foundation was able to support schools and community events by covering artists fees, venue hire, labour, and AV technical costs.

# Royal New Zealand Ballet

## DANCEwithME and Ballet in a Box

In September, the Royal New Zealand Ballet held their annual DANCEwithME and Ballet in a-Box school programmes at the BNZ Theatre.

These events have become an important part of the Due Drop Events Centre’s school programme, with more schools joining every year.

This year, six schools—Te Papapa, Riverina, Wymondley, Prospect, Stanhope, and Redoubt—participated in DANCEwithME. In the weeks leading up to the performance,

the students created and rehearsed their dances to perform on stage for an audience of fellow students and their families.

The students pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones, proudly presenting their choreographed pieces and making the day a vibrant celebration of talent.



The Royal New Zealand Ballet performed Dazzlehands to 1,905 students across five shows. This fun, engaging, and inspiring experience provided an opportunity that, for many, might not have been accessible if not for being free of charge.

My favourite part was:

*“When the pig went ‘oink!’ at the end of the story. I like the ballet!”* – Max (Year 9), Oaklynn Special School

*“I like seeing how strong the sheep was. The show was funny”* – Camden (Year 5), Waitakere Free Rangers Homeschool Group

*“The ballerinas dancing and dazzlehands”* – Te Paki (Year 2), Fineson Park School

*“Absolutely enjoyed the show and our students were able to experience all in Te Reo. Not necessarily an opportunity afforded to our school”* – Hira, Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe Teacher



# Manukau Symphony Orchestra



National Youth Theatre presented Disney's The Lion King Jr. with two sold out school shows with their cast of young people from local communities.



In August, we proudly hosted the Manukau Symphony Orchestra's first ever schools concert. The Schools Programme included four performances, with a total of 2,152 students attending.

These concerts showcased well-loved pieces for children, with stories narrated by Suzy Cato. The programme was a tremendous success, providing students with the chance to experience a live orchestra first hand.

My favourite part was:

*"The swan piece because I really liked how it sounded, it was really calming. I loved listening to Suzy Cato read the stories. Thank you so much for letting me come and listen to the wonderful music, you did a great job."* – Emily, Year 4

*"The reading of the stories and listening to the music that went with them."* – Manaaki, Year 3

*"Listening to the different instruments."* – Tobias, Year 3

# Duffy Books in Homes



We hosted Duffy Books in Homes for their Assembly Role Model Day at the Sir Woolf Fisher Arena, celebrating their 30th anniversary. A total of 2,870 students from 30 schools attended across two sessions.

Duffy invited special guests including Phoenix Karaka, Daniel Faitaua, and several Warriors players. During the assembly, the MC hosted a Q&A

session with the guests and led conversations about the importance of reading.

The event was a huge success, with schools thoroughly enjoying the experience. We look forward to welcoming Duffy Books in Homes back in 2025!

TIM BRAY  
THEATRE COMPANY

# Tim Bray Theatre Company



Tim Bray Theatre Company brought two shows to Due Drop Events Centre in 2024 and as always, a huge success!

We've been fortunate to collaborate with the Tim Bray Theatre Company over the years, as they have offered countless opportunities for students, youth, and families in South Auckland to experience world-class theatre. It is with great sadness that Tim Bray has made the difficult decision to close permanently. This leaves a significant gap in the Arts community, but we are deeply grateful for the entertainment and inspiration they've brought to our community.



# Funfest

Every January, tens of thousands gather to celebrate at Funfest, Auckland’s premier annual summer event. Offering free entry, parking, rides, and prizes, it’s an experience like no other.

Funfest is all about uniting families and communities in a vibrant and positive atmosphere. No other event matches Funfest in terms of attractions, scale, and commitment to social responsibility.

As a cherished annual tradition, we are proud to support this event as a chance for our community to come together and celebrate unity.



# Brass Bands

For the first time, the Due Drop Events Centre hosted the Pacific Festival of Brass, chosen for its location in a region home to the largest concentration of Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

The event brought together the Pacific community and celebrated the rich multicultural essence of brass band music.

The Pacific Festival of Brass has set a new benchmark for brass band events in New Zealand, offering a platform for cultural exchange and fostering community connections.

This event provided an exciting opportunity for local communities to experience the dynamic energy of brass bands up close.

International bands from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Tonga added their unique flair to the festival, enhancing its global appeal. Their participation elevated the event, transforming it into a vibrant, pan-Pacific celebration of brass music.





# Due Drop Events Centre Statistics 2025



**99,156**

children and youth engaged in school and community events



**\$757,601**

total community good value



**175**

schools participated in LEOTC programmes



## Momentum Hub

In 2024 we had Youthtown join Momentum Hub as our new fully sponsored tenant.

Youthtown is an excellent addition to the Momentum Hub. Their presence brings significant value as they provide meaningful opportunities for students and young people in South Auckland.

not only benefits the students but also contributes to the growth and development of the entire South Auckland community.

With a strong commitment to empowering youth, they help nurture the skills, talents, and potential of local young people. Youthtown



# Vector Wero Whitewater Park

Vector Wero Whitewater Park remains committed to offering the world's largest schools and community programme for whitewater experiences.

With the support and sponsorship of Vector Ltd and the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation, we have had another successful year, with 18,385 students taking part in our school programmes and gaining vital water safety skills for life.

By fully sponsoring or subsidising our programmes, we remove the financial barrier, allowing all children and

youth the chance to learn essential survival skills in moving water. Activities such as river crossing, water safety, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and rafting not only engage students but also teach lifesaving skills, providing them with an experience they will never forget.



## Our other partners at Momentum Hub

- John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams
- Hillary Outdoors
- Life Education Trust
- Canoe Slalom New Zealand
- YMCA Raise Up
- Navigate Performance
- Manukau Symphony Orchestra
- Manukau Counties Rugby League



# John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation

In partnership with John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation we more than doubled the amount of fully funded opportunities we were able to provide to children and youth from around the South Auckland area.

With 18,385 participants engaging in whitewater rafting, white water river crossing and an optional swim on our Tamariki River.

*“My favourite part of the programme was floating down the river.” – Ngatokotoru, Year 6, Riverhills School.*

*“I learnt if you come across a river always check for how fast the river is by throwing a stick on it. Check if there is an exit on the other side. Always go with a friend or adult in order to cross the river.” – Alisi, Year 7, Clendon Park School.*

*“We got to learn the importance of water safety.” – Megan, Year 6, Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate.*

*“Something I learnt is sometimes you have to be cautious because when you’re crossing a river, the current could be very powerful and blow you away.” – Steven, Year 8, Clendon Park School.*



# Parafed Waikato

Parafed Waikato are a not-for-profit sport organisation dedicated to providing sports and recreation opportunities for individuals with physical and visual impairments.

In 2024, we were proud to support 50 members and their families, offering them the unique opportunity to experience white-water rafting in a safe and controlled environment.



# FENZ Rescue Training

FENZ uses our park to complete swift water rescue training in our Grade 3 River. They simulate real life scenarios our emergency responders face.



# Vector Wero hosts Global Youth 7s

Vector Wero Whitewater Park hosted the Global Youth 7s, where USA Rugby enjoyed taking on Grade 3 River Rush and the waterfall.

It was a fantastic day with the team, providing athletes an unforgettable experience during their visit to New Zealand.



# Vector Wero Whitewater Park 2024



**167**

attendances from schools



**18,385**

students attended free or subsidised programmes



**\$603,743**

total community good value

# Wero Climb

In 2024, we announced that the Wero Climb project had officially commenced, following the successful signing of the contract between Waka Pacific Trust and German manufacturer Kristallturm.

This marked a significant step forward in bringing our vision to life.

The groundwork for the project began in 2024, laying the foundation for the upcoming frame installation commencing in April. With careful planning and preparation, the project is on track to have the facility fully operational and ready for opening by mid-2025.

We are excited for Wero Climb to be up and running, knowing it will become a source of pride for South Auckland as another iconic attraction in the area.



# Wero Climb Sponsors

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors. Your support has been instrumental in helping us reach this point.



And thank you to our generous supporters/ambassadors.



Our goal for the first year of operation is to fund 15,000 students and youth through Wero Climb. Currently, we have 11,265 students on the waitlist, all ready to take the leap!



# The Highlights

## Due Drop Events Centre

- 99,156 children and young people attended or participated in events, programmes, competitions, concerts, graduations and other activities held at the venue.
- We provided customised experiences for children and adults with autistic spectrum disorders and special needs.
- Community Good Value is \$757,601.

## Vector Wero Whitewater Park

- 18,385 students and youth have joined our whitewater and water safety programmes.
- We provided customised activities for children and youth to learn survival skills in moving water.
- 3,139 students participated in fully funded programmes.
- Community Good Value is \$603,743.

## Momentum Hub

- Professional Development for Momentum Hub tenants powered by Navigate Performance and co-sponsored with the Joyce Fisher Trust.

## Wero Climb

- 11,265 students on the waitlist for a funded experience

# Total Community Good Value

# \$1,361,344



**Social return on investment**  
**\$1 : \$3.30**

**Every \$1 invested in Waka Pacific Trust results in \$3.30 returned to New Zealand**

 **ImpactLab**

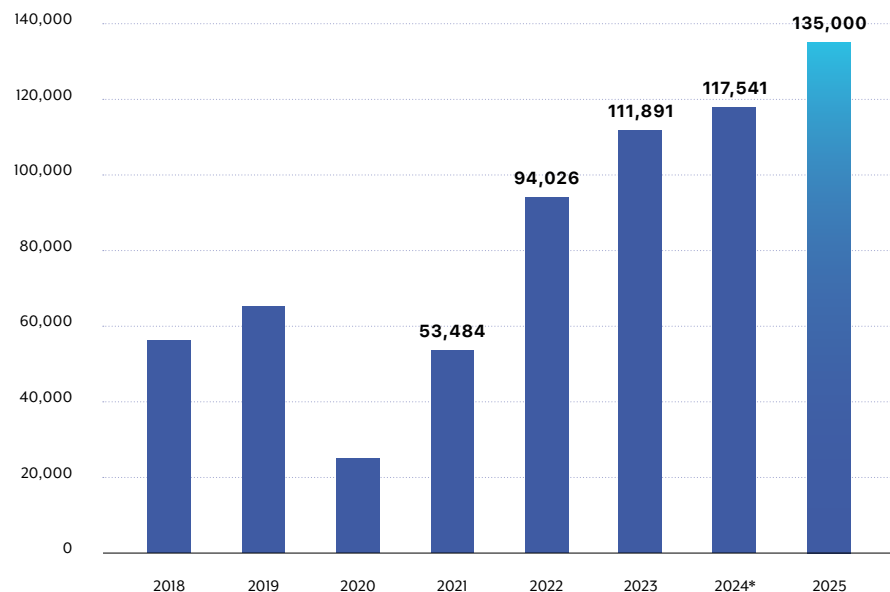
# Our Progress

Our goal for 2024 was to build on the momentum from 2023, not just by maintaining our commitment to providing 100,000 students and youth with free or subsidised access to our school programmes, but also by expanding our efforts.

We're proud to say that we've achieved both goals, but the hard work continues. With Wero Climb, we're excited to take on new challenges, aiming to give an additional 15,000 students the chance to experience our high ropes courses within the first year of operation. Looking ahead to

2025, we are focused on the goal of supporting 135,000 students and youth, using our school programmes to enhance their classroom learning and development.

*Join our Trust, whanau and communities and take the challenge!*



# Thank you to our Sponsors







**ONEFORONE**  
YOU EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

Every time you use our facilities you help support our youth through our water safety and creative arts programmes.

ONE of yours will make a difference FOR ONE of ours.



**WAKA PACIFIC**

Waka Pacific Trust

Proud custodians of Due Drop Events Centre, Vector Whitewater Park and Wero Climb on behalf of the community.

770 Great South Rd, Manukau 2104

[www.wakapacific.org.nz](http://www.wakapacific.org.nz)