

Annual impact report

2025–2026

Recreation Aotearoa
Te Whai Oranga

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Nau Mai • Welcome

From our Co-Chairs and Chief Executive







Karanga mai te Manawataki
Whiria te tāngata
Whiria te taiao
Honoa te haumi ko te unuatahi
Hui ē, tāiki ē!

We call upon the rhythm of life
To weave the people
To weave the natural world
Bind us together – join us as one waka.
Unify us!

Recreation is not a nice-to-have. It's a cornerstone of a healthy, connected and resilient Aotearoa. The impact of our industry is not measured in programmes, events and facilities, but in the wellbeing of communities, places and our natural environment.

2025–2026 was the first year of our new strategic period and an important year for building momentum. Te Whai Oranga 2025–2030 is about pursuing near and far horizons. We have remained steadfastly focused on our long-term vision of re-creating a nation, while prioritising the short- to medium-term actions that will help us realise that goal.

Underpinning everything we do is our deep commitment to te whai oranga o Te Tiriti o Waitangi – realising the promise of te Tiriti o Waitangi. For us, this is about partnership, elevating Māori leadership, building sector-wide cultural capability and growing understanding of te whai oranga and ao Māori perspectives. In August 2025, our Board came together with Te Kāhui Kura Māori at Apumoana Marae in Rotorua for our annual noho marae. Here Te Manawataki was born: an agreement to establish a mahi ngātahi Tiriti relationship that realises the potential of working in partnership to make a sustainable, positive difference to outcomes for iwi, hapū, whānau and all New Zealanders.

Our annual member survey in March 2026 gave us a good insight into how our members feel we are performing. Encouragingly, satisfaction scores were up across all areas. This year, for the first time, we asked members to tell us about their work in two key strategic areas – reducing environmental impact and regenerating te taiao, and delivering culturally relevant, inclusive opportunities for their communities. The results – highlighted in this report – show that collectively we are taking meaningful steps to create a more sustainable, equitable, inclusive Aotearoa. We will continue to track this over time to build a longer-term picture of industry impact.

Recreation Aotearoa exists to unite the recreation sector, strengthen its voice, and support the people who deliver recreation every day. In 2025–2026, we delivered and supported 42 events for more than 2000 attendees. This included our flagship conferences, wānanga, hui, masterclasses, regional events and online forums.

We advocated for our members across more than 20 different issues, and we provided support, advice, guidance, quality assurance and accreditation through our suite of member programmes and services.

None of this would be possible without our strategic and industry partners, sponsors, supporters, board and committee members, staff and, most importantly, Recreation Aotearoa members.

Re-creating a nation through recreation will always be a collective effort, and we are hugely grateful to you for being on this journey with us.

We are proud to present this impact report. It outlines some standout achievements from the last 12 months and celebrates the people and successes of the recreation industry. We hope that as you read, you, too, feel proud to be part of an industry that is making a tangible and meaningful difference to the wellbeing of Aotearoa.

Ko te pae tawhiti whāia kia tata,
ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina
Ko tātou tonu ēnei, e ngā miro o ngā
mahi a rēhia e kōtuia nei.
Tēnā koutou katoa

We seek out the distant horizons, while cherishing achievements at hand. We are the threads of recreation being woven together.

Greetings to all

Bobbi Clark-Heu & Kirsty Knowles – Co-chairs
Sarah Murray – Kaiurungi Matua Chief Executive





Mō mātou · about Recreation Aotearoa

Tō mātou kaupapa • our purpose

Recreation Aotearoa exists to unite the recreation sector, strengthen its voice, and support the people who deliver recreation every day.



Individual members:

1,704

Organisation members:

103

Te Whai Oranga 2025–2030

At its heart, Te Whai Oranga 2025-2030 recognises the interconnectedness of people, place, and the natural environment – past, present, and future. Using a voyaging narrative, it describes where Recreation Aotearoa has come from and where we are heading. Using the concept of ngā pae – the many horizons – the strategy reflects on the past and looks to the future:

Te pae rangi –
the stars that guide us, our aspirational vision.

Te pae tawhiti –
the far horizon, our long-term outcomes.

Te pae tata –
the near horizon, our short-term outcomes.

Te pae rangi • our vision

Re-create a nation



Te pae tawhiti • our long-term outcomes

Te whai oranga o te taiao

The natural environment is cared for and regenerated by the recreation industry.

Te whai oranga o te whenua

The places where recreation occurs are enhanced by the recreation industry.

Te whai oranga o ngā tangata

More New Zealanders enjoy and benefit from a wider range of inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities.

Te whai oranga o Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Mātauranga Māori is embedded in the recreation industry; the potential of the Māori recreation sector is unlocked.

Te pae tata • our short-term outcomes

More recreation providers reduce their impact on the environment and take action to regenerate te taiao.

More places and spaces meet quality assurance standards and follow good practice guidance.

More inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities are available for all New Zealanders.

More Recreation Aotearoa members and higher levels of member engagement.

More mutually beneficial relationships with iwi, hapū and kaupapa Māori organisations enhance recreation.

Visit our website to read Te Whai Oranga 2025-2030

Ngā mātāpono · our values

Wairuatanga

We acknowledge and nurture the mana, mauri and spiritual dimension of all living things.

Rangatiratanga

We lead and influence, providing a strong, independent voice for recreation.

Whanaungatanga

We build and nurture mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships.

Kotahitanga

We unite the recreation industry to achieve collective impact.

Manaakitanga

We respect, care for, and uplift the mana of others. We are a place for everyone in the recreation industry.



Tauutuutu

We practise reciprocity, acknowledging the efforts and contributions of individuals, groups, and the natural environment.

This is the thread that weaves or binds our values together.

Ngā muka tāngata • our people



Recreation Aotearoa Board

Co-Chairs: » Bobbi Clark-Heu » Kirsty Knowles

Board Members:

» Amanda Davies » Antoinette Campbell » Watene Hema » Kiri Pope » Paora Te Hurihanganui (until February 2026) » Doug Cole (from February 2026) » Rob Gulley, Aspiring Director (from August 2025) » Maria Burnett, Aspiring Director (until May 2026) » Jasmin Carr, Aspiring Director (from May 2026)

Te Kāhui Kura Māori

» Bobbi Clark-Heu » Johnnie Freeland » Paora Te Hurihanganui » Robin Quigg » Tracey-Lee Repia » Kuruho Wereta » Erin Roxburgh (from March 2026) » Heather Ruru (from March 2026) » Rosalie Reiri (from March 2026) » Nikki Penetito-Hemara (from March 2026)

Staff • Kaimahi

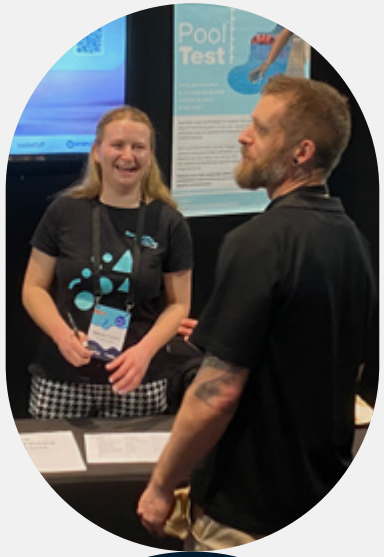
» Sarah Murray – Chief Executive Officer » Tracey Prince-Puketapu – General Manager Operations » Sam Newton – Advocacy Manager » Kuruho Wereta – Kaiwhakahaere Whaihua Māori » Daniel Evans – Business Services Manager » Rhiann Collins – Aquatics Programme Manager » Kieran Smith – Parks, Play & Open Spaces Programme Manager » Jenny Jordan – Community Recreation & Outdoors Programme Manager » Katie Owen – Disability & Inclusion Programme Manager » Jess Pratt – Programmes Coordinator » Wendy Russell – Finance & Membership Coordinator » Olivia Silverwood – Communications & Marketing Manager » Colleen Pugh – Communications & Marketing Coordinator » Maryanne Cheater – Events Manager

Regional Chairs

Auckland / Northern: Natalie McNulty
Central: Leanne Stewart and Shane Brodie
Midlands: Jasmin Carr
Wellington: Peta McMillan
Canterbury: Emma Pavey and Kieran Wall (Co-Chairs)
Otago / Southland: Cassandra Horton

Regional Advisory Group

» Garth Dawson » Leanne Stewart » Brendon Rope » Cat Wylde » Waharai Waitohi » Keith McRobie



Audit, Finance & Risk Committee

Chair: » Richard Booker

Committee:
» Amanda Davies
» Watene Hema (until February 2026)
» Antoinette Campbell
» Doug Cole (from March 2026)

Outdoor Recreation Sub-Committee

» Mark Bruce-Miller » Ben Corcoran » Simon Graney » Tracey-Lee Repia » Duncan Watson » Rebecca Clews

Outdoor Accessibility Working Group

Chair: » Andrew Leslie

Working Group: » Simon Alefosio-Tuck » Jezz Williams » Kimberly Graham » Raewyn Hailes » Claudia Boyles » James Littlejohn » Dave MacCalman » Matt McKone » Mark Mandeno » Quentin Smith » Jeff Daley

Accreditation (ARPro) Committee

Chair: » Geoff Canham

Committee:
» Robyn Cockburn » Bevan Grant » Rob Greenaway » Samantha Strong » Richard Lindsay » Amy Waller » Tina Harris-Ririnui

PoolSafe® Advisory Group

» Alex Calwell » Sarah Clarke » Sarah Cresswell » Rowan Foley » Lynden Noakes

PoolSafe® Assessors

» Leah Burgess » Stephen Cook » Kayla Davies » Kendall Gray » Matt Greenwood » Darryl Hamilton » Dot Legget » Nick McConaghty » Dave McKenzie » Keith Martin » Steve Prescott » Kristin Raynes » Matthew Rolands-Gardner » Andrew Smith » Craig Heberley » Daniel Smith » Mike Page » Simon Terry » Jen Baen-Price » Nick Warwick

Green Pavlova Programme Committee

» Brad Ward » Gina Scott » Jason Chee » Jenn Benden » Jeremy Paterson » Jo Soanes » Kane Rangi » Maria Barrie » Mark Bowater » Mark Curr » Mel Barnett » Phil Gould » Renei Ngawati » Robert Gulley » Rodica Morgan » Sam Strong » Sandy Hodge » Shane Brodie » Sophie Heusel

Recreation Leaders' Summit Programme Committee

» Robyn Cockburn » Richard Lindsay » Jasmin Carr » David Bailey » Kuruho Wereta

Waves Programme Committee

» Carmena Wong » Keith Walker » Matt Greenwood » Rowan Foley » Dave McKenzie » Nick McConaghty » Sarah Clarke » Irene Smith

Aquatics Awards Judges

» Alex Calwell » Yvonne Hughey » Chris Rivera » Kristin Raynes » Glenn McGovern » Esther Hone » Brendon Rope » Brendon Ward » Phil Waggot » Tracey Hickman » Amy Waller » Simon Battrick » Steve Prescott » Kiri Pope » David Bennison







Outdoors Awards Judges

» Celia Hogan » Simon Graney » Peter Drew

Parks Awards Judges

» Charlotte McKibin » Duncan MacDougall » Emma Pavey » Jeremy Paterson » Lindsay Hyde » Mark Bowater » Phil Oster » Sam Strong

Recreation Awards Judges

Chair: » Deb Hurdle

Judges: » Dave Tippett » Simon Battrick » Shyrel Burt » Jasmin Carr » Mark Hammond » Wiremu Tāpara » Cassandra Horton » Alison Law

Green Flag® Judges

» Annetta Purdy » Bill Wheeler » Brad Ward » Christine Whildhaber

» David Bruce » Duncan MacDougall » Jenn Benden » Karl Nesbett » Kelly Crandle » Kieran Smith » Lyndsay Hyde » Mark Naude » Rosie Stoney » Stephen Sutton » Stuart Leighton » Thomas Dixon » Wayne Carlson

NZCCC Ngā Rau Hotu Advisory Committee

Chair: Daniel Chrisp

Members: » Sheree Stout – Deputy Chair » Ricky Mulqueen – Deputy Chair » Craig Morton » Nikki Nelson » Zephaniah Love-Bell » Tarsy Koentges » David Edlington » Ben Knott

Skate Collective Committee

» Amy Gautier » Holly Whitaker » Kenny Dunn » Gina Scott » Parrish Evans

Generate Committee

Co-Chairs:

» Maria Burnett (until April 2026) » Jasmin Carr (from May 2026) » Rob Gulley

Committee:

» Ciarán Dunnion » Tom O'Neill » Jasmin Carr » Tui Boteju » Anna-Leigh Gillies » Natalie McNulty » Steph Lovelock » Samantha Strong

Recreation Aotearoa Fellows

» Jane Aickin » John Allen » Gordon Bailey » Dr Kay Booth » Mark Bowater » Geoff Canham » Robyn Cockburn » Jamie Delich » Fay Freeman » Steve Gibling » Bevan Grant » Rob Greenaway » Joe Griffin » Graeme Hall » Richard Hollier » Deb Hurdle » Alan Jolliffe » John Latimer » Jennifer Leaf » Richard Lindsay » Catriona McBean » John Mills » Gareth Moore-Jones » Robin Pagan » Garry Page » Chris Rutherford » Bill Steans » Bruce Stokell » Neil Tonkin » Peter Watson » Dr Digby White » Jo Wiggins » Brendon Rope » Stella Luoni Morgan

Recreation Aotearoa Life Members

» Ralph Boggust » Lex Bartlett » Graham Bradbourne » John Cousins » Jamie Delich » Neil Drain » John McGuiness » John Masters » Gordon Soper » Colin Way » Chris Rutherford

Accountant

» BDO

Auditor

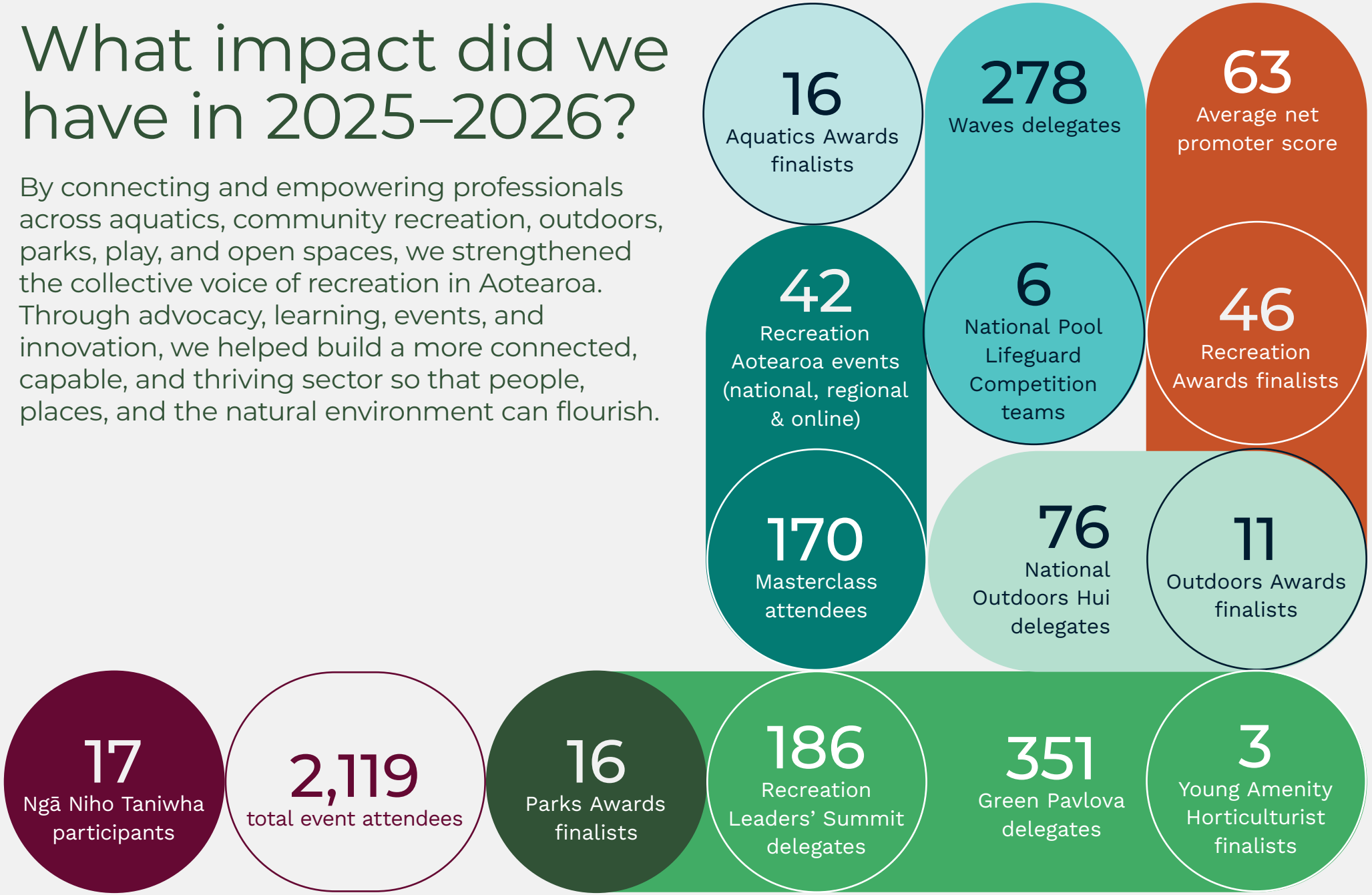
» Baker Tilly Staples Rodway

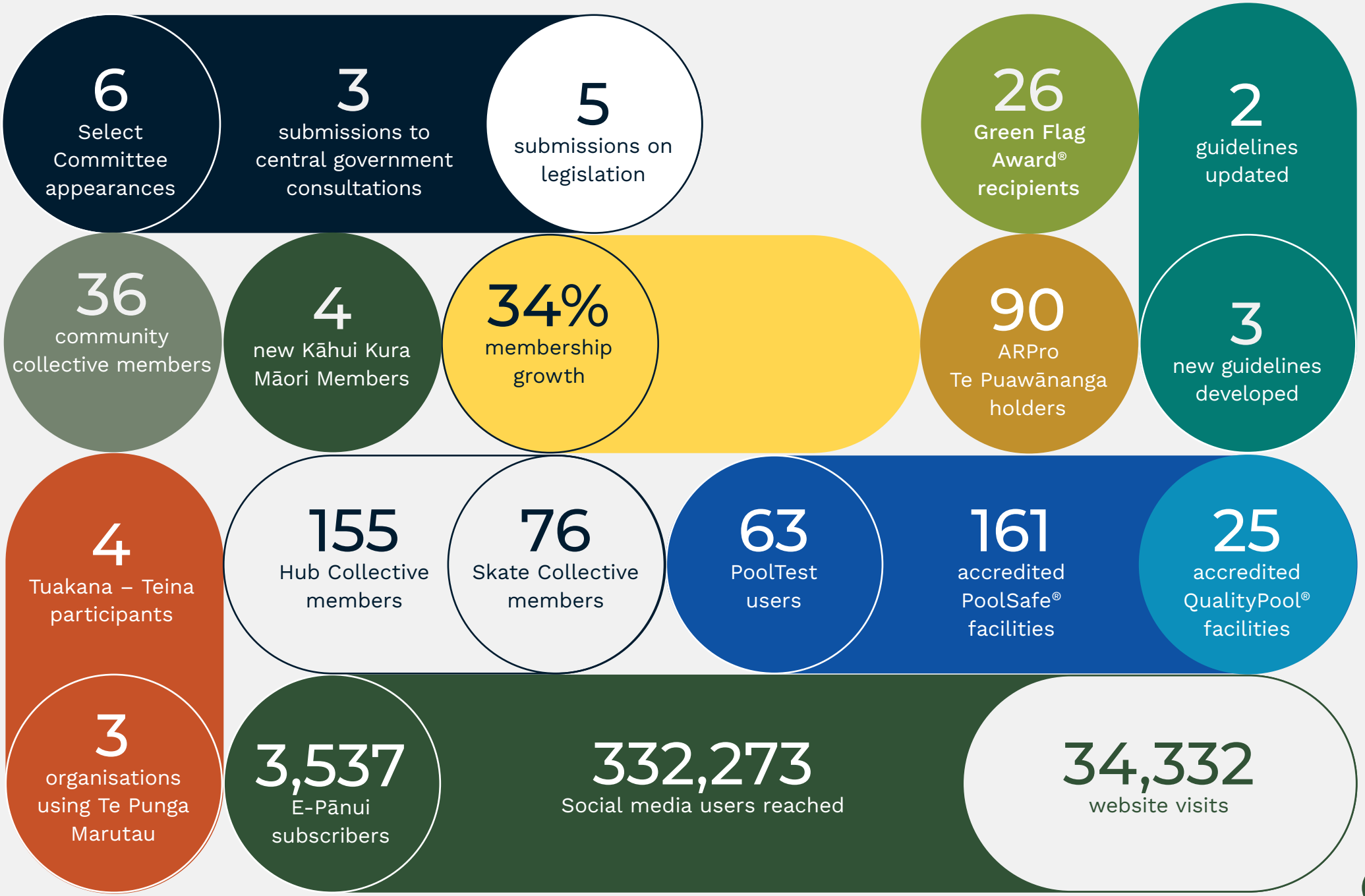


Ō mātou whakatutukitanga • our impact

What impact did we have in 2025–2026?

By connecting and empowering professionals across aquatics, community recreation, outdoors, parks, play, and open spaces, we strengthened the collective voice of recreation in Aotearoa. Through advocacy, learning, events, and innovation, we helped build a more connected, capable, and thriving sector so that people, places, and the natural environment can flourish.




6
Select Committee appearances
3
submissions to central government consultations
5
submissions on legislation
26
Green Flag Award® recipients
2
guidelines updated
36
community collective members
4
new Kāhui Kura Māori Members
34%
membership growth
90
ARPro Te Puawānanga holders
3
new guidelines developed
4
Tuakana – Teina participants
155
Hub Collective members
76
Skate Collective members
63
PoolTest users
161
accredited PoolSafe® facilities
25
accredited QualityPool® facilities
3
organisations using Te Punga Marutau
3,537
E-Pānui subscribers
332,273
Social media users reached
34,332
website visits

A strong voice for recreation

In 2025—2026, we advocated on behalf of our members on the issues affecting the recreation industry. We made submissions, contributed to consultations, strengthened relationships with government agencies and worked with our members and partners to provide a strong voice for recreation.



Legislative engagement

We engaged in key legislative processes and reforms including:

- **Planning and Natural Environment Bills:** We called for recreation, public open space and green networks to be explicitly recognised as essential infrastructure and as core contributors to community wellbeing, public health and climate resilience. We recommended strengthening planning settings to ensure equitable access to quality green space and recreation opportunities for generations to come.
- **Conservation Amendment Bill:** We opposed the proposed shift in statutory purpose and inclusion of economic opportunities within the Department of Conservation's functions. We urged that conservation remain the primary purpose of public conservation land with recreation recognised as a principal public benefit. We advocated for a permanent concession exemption for not-for-profit outdoor education providers to address the longstanding anomaly whereby they are treated as commercial operators.
- **Local Government (Systems Improvements) Bill:** We opposed the removal of wellbeing from the purpose of local government and called for cemeteries and crematoria to be recognised as essential core services. We urged the Government to protect councils' ability to deliver recreation, play, and remembrance spaces that keep communities active, healthy, resilient, and connected.
- **Online Casino Gambling Bill:** We added our voice to the many from across the sector calling for the Government to embed the principle that "gambling should benefit the community" and ensure a substantial share of online casino revenues supports community sport, recreation, and wellbeing. The bill was amended in response to sector advocacy.

- **Life Jackets for Children and Young People Bill:** We supported the bill and its goal of reducing New Zealand's high drowning rate. Together with Water Safety New Zealand and the wider sector, we called for the bill to be extended to all New Zealanders. This bill was amended to include all New Zealanders, regardless of age.

Broader policy and consultation

We also engaged in critical areas, such as:

- **NCEA Replacement Proposals:** We strongly opposed the proposal to reclassify outdoor education as a vocational-only subject. Alongside others across the sector, we argued that OE is an academically rigorous discipline that plays a vital role in student engagement, wellbeing, tertiary pathways, workforce development, and outdoor safety.
- **Physical Education Curriculum:** We submitted on the Year 0–8 and Year 11–13 Physical Education curriculum. Our response focused on the outdoor, aquatic and physical education curricula. We called for changes to address critical gaps and ensure the curriculum is safe, realistic, and inclusive for all rangatahi.
- **New Zealand Disability Strategy Refresh:** We submitted that accessible recreation is critical to realising the strategy's principles of accessibility, participation, and inclusion, and is a fundamental contributor to New Zealanders' wellbeing. We advocated for accessible recreation infrastructure to be recognised as central in achieving the strategy's goals.

Government and stakeholder relationships

We strengthened our relationships with key government agencies and stakeholders. We continued to represent our members on the DOC Recreation Sector Forum and via regular meetings. We continued our advocacy for workforce development and training by establishing relationships with the new Industry Skills Boards. We worked together with key stakeholders and partners to amplify and strengthen our collective voice.

The year ahead

With a general election in November 2026, Council Long Term Plan deliberations in 2027 and local government amalgamations looming, we have been focused on laying the groundwork for the coming year. Championing the value of recreation as essential infrastructure and a critical public service continues to be central to our approach.

Visit our website for more information about our Advocacy work.



Trans and Gender Diverse Guidelines

Creating inclusive and welcoming environments for everyone.

Find the Trans and Gender Diverse Guidelines for Exercise and Recreation Providers on our website or scan the QR code below.

We partnered with Exercise New Zealand, Qtopia and InsideOUT to develop the Trans and Gender Diverse Guidelines for recreation and exercise providers.

The resource was created in response to requests from recreation and exercise providers seeking practical guidance on creating more inclusive and welcoming environments for trans and gender diverse people.

The guidelines support providers to strengthen inclusion through leadership, policy, staff capability, facility design, communication, and community engagement. Grounded in research and lived experience, they recognise that trans and gender diverse people often face additional barriers to participating in recreation and physical activity, including concerns about safety, belonging, and discrimination.

Designed as a practical tool, the guidelines include checklists, case studies, FAQs, and examples of good practice from Recreation Aotearoa member organisations across Aotearoa. They help providers assess their current approach, identify opportunities for improvement, and build environments where everyone can participate with confidence.

The guidelines reflect Recreation Aotearoa's commitment to supporting a recreation sector that is inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for all.



New Zealand Mountain Bike Trail Design Guidelines

A single standard for safe, consistent, sustainable trails

Find the New Zealand Mountain Bike Trail Design Guidelines on our website or scan the QR code below.

In August 2025, we launched the updated New Zealand Mountain Bike Trail Design Guidelines and new Trail Builders Handbook.

We partnered with ACC, DOC, Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa, MBIE and Ngā Herenga New Zealand Cycle Trail to revise and update this important guidance. Developed alongside the trail building and mountain bike communities, and supported by an expert advisory group, it is for land managers, trail designers, builders, auditors and anyone else involved in trail management.

The updated guidelines provide practical, comprehensive advice and agreed national grading specifications for mountain bike trails. It includes new guidance on safety signage, updated advice on accessible trail design, new grading symbols and new guidance and templates for trail auditing.

A new Trail Builders Handbook provides practical, easy-to-use guidance for each trail grade. It is available to download on mobile phones or in hard copy via Trail Fund NZ or Recreation Aotearoa.

These new resources respond to recommendations from two Coroners on the need for consistent national standards for mountain bike trails and better guidance around safety signage.

Following the launch, two deep dive webinars were held, one targeting trail managers and one targeting trail builders. These were attended by people from around the country and are available via the members' Webinar Library.

A huge mihi to the project leads, the Kennett Brothers, and all members of the expert advisory group.



Aquatic Facility Guidelines

Supporting New Zealand's aquatic sector with clear, practical guidance.

We completed a major update of the New Zealand Aquatic Facility Guidelines to reflect current best practice and legislative changes.

The latest version has a refreshed structure and design and new links to relevant tools and resources.

The guidelines are designed to help our members:

- Operate safe and efficient facilities
- Meet industry standards
- Access practical tools and templates.

They provide guidance across a range of facilities including public swimming pools, school pools, spas and thermal parks and pools at hotels, motels and holiday parks. They also cover features such as hydro slides, wave pools and lazy rivers.

Find the New Zealand Aquatic Facility Guidelines on our website or scan the QR code below.

Ngā mihi nui to the Recreation Aotearoa PoolSafe® Advisory Group, Water Safety New Zealand and Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa for their input into the review. A big thanks also to Royal Lifesaving Australia for generously sharing their resources and guidance.





Find the Play Space Design Guidelines on our website or scan the QR code below.

Play Space Design Guidelines

Creating spaces that inspire, include and connect.

In June 2026, we proudly launched the Play Space Guidelines aimed at creating spaces that are welcoming, inclusive and meaningful.

Developed with input from practitioners, designers, mana whenua, accessibility advocates, and communities, the guidelines promote a holistic approach to play. They emphasise creating spaces that are inclusive, engaging, culturally meaningful, and connected to their surroundings.



They provide a framework to support decision-making throughout a play space project, from planning and design to delivery and maintenance. They support play spaces that:

- Encourage fun, creativity, and exploration
- Welcome people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds
- Reflect the stories and identity of the place
- Support health, wellbeing, and social connection
- Are durable, sustainable, and adaptable over time

The guidelines provide a foundation for collaboration and innovation. They are designed to help create a connected network of play opportunities that meet the needs of communities now and into the future.



Good Practice Guide: Camp Cooking and Fire

The Good Practice Guide: Camp Cooking and Fire was revised and updated in 2026 in partnership with Education Outdoors New Zealand.

Updates include:

- advice on fuel caps for liquid fuels
- guidance for hāngī and umu
- fire safety

The Good Practice Guide was released to members in April 2026 via e-Pānui and social media.

Find the Camp Cooking and Fire Good Practice Guide on the Support Adventure website or use the QR code below.





Te whai oranga o te whenua

The places where recreation occurs are enhanced by the recreation industry

Green Flag Award®

The Green Flag Award® recognises and rewards parks and green spaces that are providing high-quality and innovative recreational experiences for our communities.

In 2025-2026, 26 parks and open spaces were successful in achieving Green Flag Award® status.

Congratulations to the councils, trusts, and organisations who put their spaces forward, and to the incredible parks and open spaces professionals from around the motu who judged and presented awards this year.

Recreation Aotearoa has managed the Green Flag Award® in New Zealand since 2019 under licence from Keep Britain Tidy.

In 2026, we decided to exit from the international programme and test the feasibility of an Aotearoa-centric parks and open space quality assurance programme. This work is being supported by an advisory group from across the sector.

For more information, contact KieranS@nzrecreation.org.nz.

New Zealand Green Flag Award® parks and open spaces

- **North Shore Memorial Park** Auckland Council
- **Te Piringa / Cascade Kauri, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park** Auckland Council
- **Kaipātiki** Auckland Council
- **Cornwall Park** Hastings District Council
- **Flaxmere Park** Hastings District Council
- **Frimley Park** Hastings District Council
- **Havelock North Village Green** Hastings District Council
- **Driscoll Reserve** Horowhenua District Council
- **Jubilee Park** Horowhenua District Council
- **Thompson House Park** Horowhenua District Council
- **Holben Reserve** Horowhenua District Council
- **Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park** Horowhenua District Council
- **Te Maire Park** Horowhenua District Council
- **Pukekura Park** New Plymouth District Council
- **Pou Tu O Te Rangi Harding Park** Kaipara District Council
- **Motutawa Avalon Park** Hutt City Council
- **Yatton Park / Tutarawānanga** Tauranga City Council
- **Jubilee Park** Western Bay of Plenty District Council
- **Huharua Park** Western Bay of Plenty District Council / Tauranga City Council
- **TECT All Terrain Park** Western Bay of Plenty District Council / Tauranga City Council
- **Randwick Park** RPSC Trust and For A Cause Ltd, Auckland
- **Te Mata Park** Te Mata Peak Trust, Hastings
- **Henley Lake** Henley Lake Trust, Masterton
- **King Edward Park** Stratford District Council
- **Mountfort Park** Auckland Council
- **Riverhead War Memorial Park** Auckland Council



PoolSafe®

The PoolSafe® Quality Management System (PoolSafe®) is an independent assessment of public lifeguarded pools. PoolSafe® is a voluntary management system designed by the industry for the industry.

As of 30 June 2026, we had **161 accredited PoolSafe® facilities,** an increase from the previous year.

PoolSafe® Advisory Group

The PoolSafe® Advisory Group provides advice, industry feedback, and leadership on the scheme.

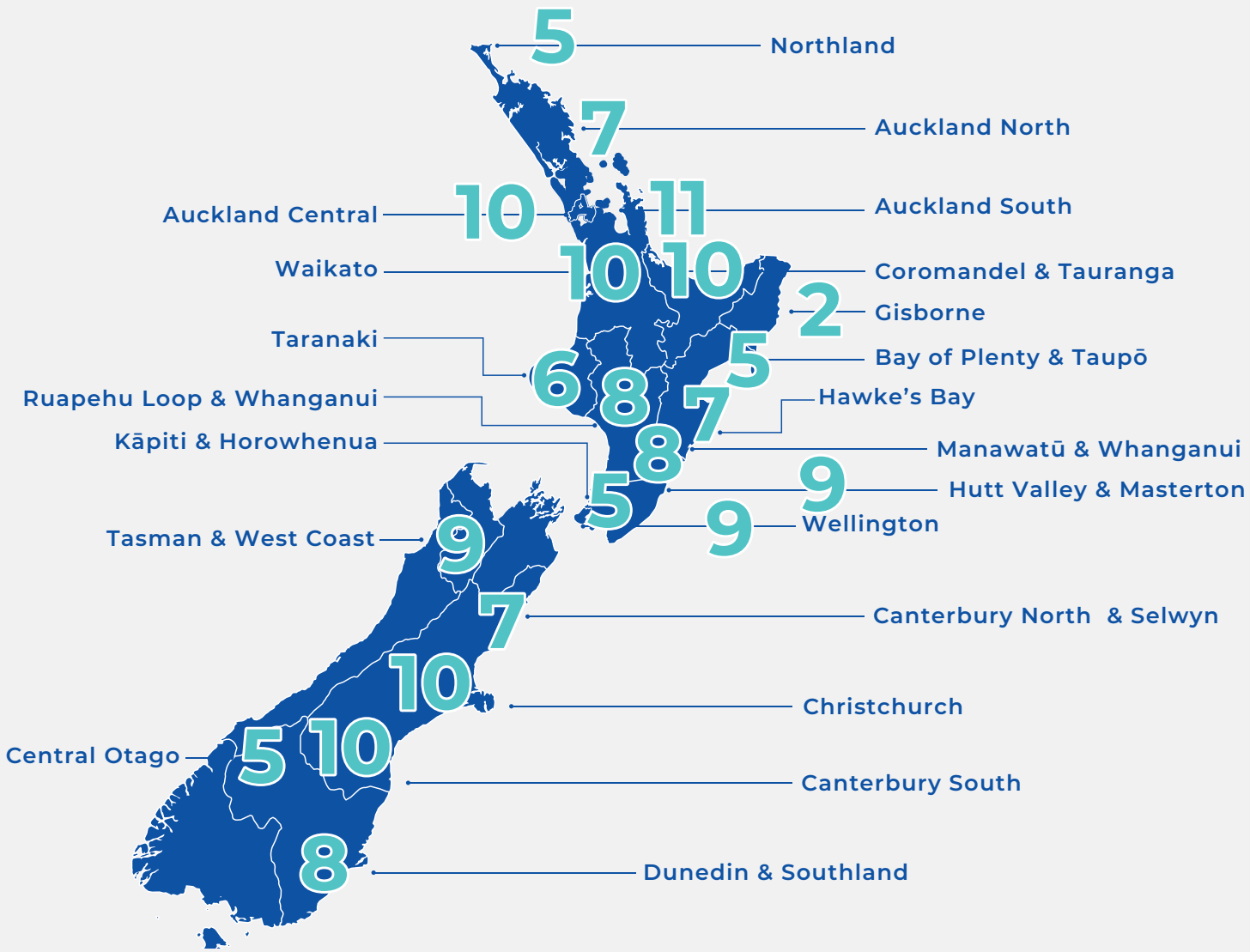
PoolSafe® Assessors

PoolSafe® Assessors are volunteers from across the aquatics industry. They are chosen for their experience, skills, and knowledge. Each year, Assessors review the operations of PoolSafe® facilities to ensure they meet the required criteria.

Assessors also act as advisors. They share insights with the facilities they visit and take valuable learnings back to their own organisations.

Visit our website to find information about PoolSafe®.

PoolSafe® facilities



Region	Number
Auckland North	7
Auckland Central	10
Auckland South	11
Bay of Plenty & Taupō	5
Central Otago	5
Canterbury North & Selwyn	7
Christchurch	10
Canterbury South	10
Coromandel & Tauranga	10
Dunedin & Southland	8
Gisborne	2
Hawke's Bay	7
Kāpiti & Horowhenua	5
Hutt Valley & Masterton	9
Manawatū & Whanganui	8
Northland	5
Taranaki	6
Tasman & West Coast	9
Ruapehu Loop & Whanganui	8
Waikato	10
Wellington	9
Total	**161**

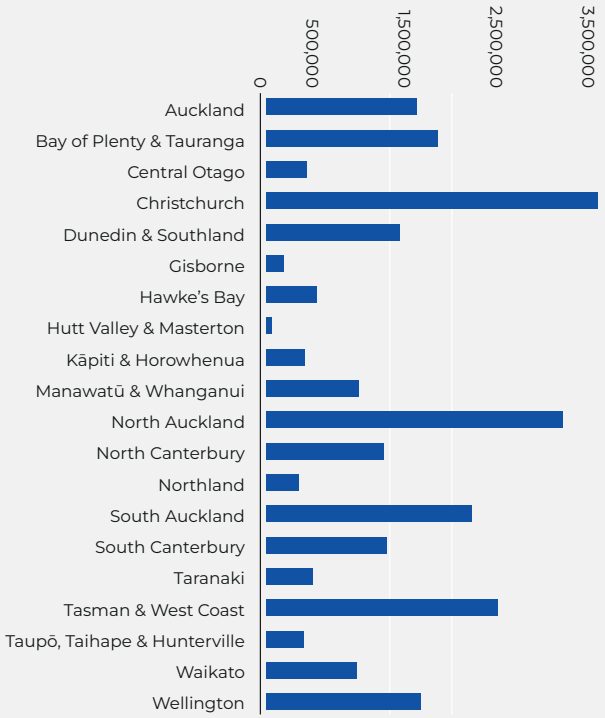
PoolSafe® facility attendance and incidents

Each year, we collect information from our PoolSafe® members on facility attendance and incidents, including rescues. Incidents are reported as either notifiable or non-notifiable events.

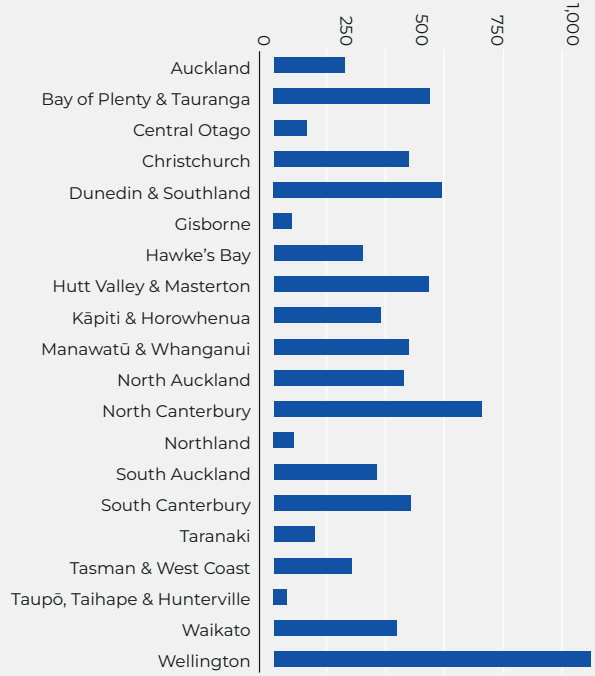
We collate these figures to build a clear picture of how many people use PoolSafe® facilities and the types of incidents that occur. The data helps us identify trends, inform policy and procedure changes, and contribute to the national picture of water-related incidents through Water Safety New Zealand.

In 2024-2025[1], PoolSafe® aquatic facility attendance numbers rose from 23.5 million to 25.5 million visits. Despite this, the incident rate remained steady at one incident for every 3,344 visits.

Attendance



Incidents



25.5 million Visits

1 in **3,344** Incident rate

[1] PoolSafe® attendance and incident data are based on the latest available figures.

PoolSafe® facility incidents

The following information on incidents is based on reports submitted to Recreation Aotearoa by PoolSafe® facilities.

In 2024—2025, there were 32 non-fatal drowning incidents at PoolSafe® facilities, and five fatalities, all due to medical events, alongside 59 non-fatal medical events. In comparison, 2023—2024 recorded five non-fatal drowning incidents and five medical fatalities, alongside 115 non-fatal medical events.

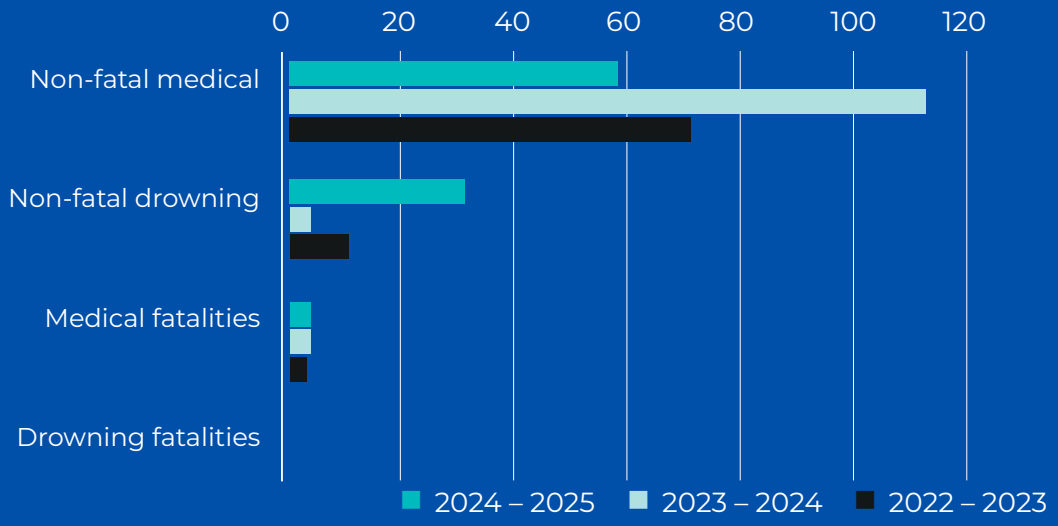
Incident reporting requirements for PoolSafe® facilities

PoolSafe® facilities must report any notifiable incident to the Recreation Aotearoa Aquatic Programme Manager within 24 hours. An incident report must also be submitted for that event. In addition, facilities are required to complete an annual report of all accidents and incidents that occurred at their facility during the year.

Incidents 2024–2025

- **0** Drowning fatalities
- **5** Medical fatalities
- **32** Non-fatal drowning
- **59** Non-fatal medical

Incidents 2022–2025



Labour force overview

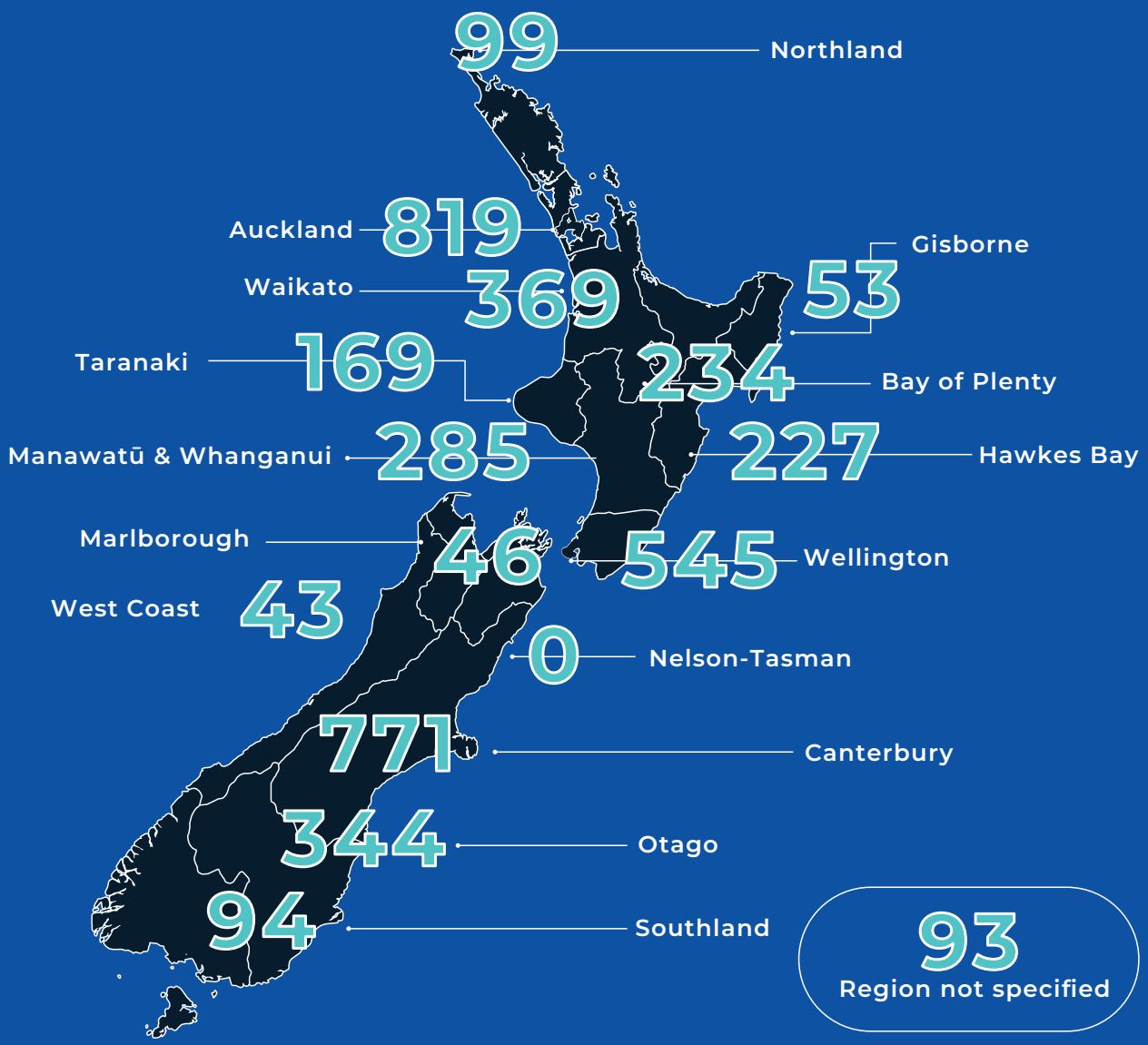
The New Zealand Register of Recreation Professionals is an independent public register. It recognises the qualifications and experience of sport and recreation professionals in New Zealand.

As of 30 June 2026, the following numbers were registered:

- Lifeguards (Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate only): **4,191**
- Swim teachers: **645**

PoolSafe® facility incident data is based on the latest available figures.

Lifeguards by region



Region	Number
Northland	99
Auckland	819
Waikato	369
Bay of Plenty	234
Gisborne	53
Hawkes Bay	227
Manawatū-Whanganui	285
Taranaki	169
Wellington	545
West Coast	43
Nelson-Tasman	0
Marlborough	46
Canterbury	771
Otago	344
Southland	94
Region not specified	93
Total	4,191

Qualifications

Te Mahi Ako is a tertiary education organisation that specialises in work-based learning for people in active recreation, leisure, and entertainment.

As of 30 June 2026, the following numbers show learners registered for, or who have completed, aquatics industry qualifications:

792 Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate (PLPC)

407 New Zealand Certificate in Aquatics (Pool Lifeguard) (Level 3)

212 New Zealand Certificate in Aquatics (Swim and Water Safety) (Level 3)

11 New Zealand Apprenticeship: Aquatic Treatment Systems (Level 4)

4 New Zealand Apprenticeship: Senior Pool Lifeguard (Level 4)

13 New Zealand Apprenticeship: Specialised Swim and Water Safety Teacher (Level 4)

Qualifications available to the aquatics sector

- Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate (PLPC)
- New Zealand Certificate in Aquatics (Pool Lifeguard) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Certificate in Aquatics (Swim and Water Safety) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Apprenticeship: Senior Pool Lifeguard (Level 4)
- New Zealand Apprenticeship: Specialised Swim and Water Safety Teacher (Level 4)
- New Zealand Apprenticeship: Aquatic Treatment Systems (Level 4)



QualityPool®

QualityPool® is an independent assessment of non-lifeguarded and private swimming pools.

Developed in collaboration with Water Safety New Zealand, QualityPool® supports motels, hotels, holiday parks, retirement villages, private gyms, health clubs, and schools.

Users have access to tools and resources that help provide a safe aquatic environment for customers and communities. Each facility completes an annual review of safety procedures, water quality (NZS 5826:2010), and health and safety documentation to ensure compliance with QualityPool® standards.

In 2025—2026, one new facility joined QualityPool®, bringing the total number of accredited pools to 25. This growth demonstrates the programme's increasing reach in promoting safe, well-managed aquatic environments across New Zealand.

Visit our website to find information about QualityPool®.

QualityPool®

Yardstick

Yardstick is a global best practice programme for parks and recreation, developed by the industry for the industry.

Delivered by our Strategic Partner, Xyst, Recreation Aotearoa supports Yardstick as a valuable tool for parks and recreation managers. Yardstick helps to track and compare data across councils, report on metrics and stay aligned with best practice across Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

Yardstick now operates as a bespoke online tool. Users are supported by a site visit from a Yardstick auditor and input from the Yardstick survey team.

In September 2025 the redesigned Yardstick Sport and Recreation Facilities Benchmarking programme was launched, adding to the suite of tools available through the Yardstick programme.

Visit our website to learn more about Yardstick.

Yardstick

Te whai oranga o ngā tangata

More New Zealanders enjoy and benefit from a wide range of inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities



Collectives

Our Collectives are special-interest groups that connect people. Participants meet to share insights with one another.

Hub Collective

The Hub Collective connects local government staff, Hub operators, and stakeholders to share knowledge on multi-purpose community facilities.

In 2025–2026, Hub Collective membership grew to 155 participants. Six online hui were held, reaching more than 150 participants. Highlights included case studies from Sport Taranaki and Kaitake Community Sports Hub, a presentation on cost-effective facility solutions, and a Wellington City Council perspective on hubs.

Skate Collective

The Skate Collective brings together local and regional authorities, sports trusts and consultants to share knowledge on skate park design and provision.

In 2025–2026, Skate Collective membership grew to 76 participants. Six online hui were held, reaching around 233 participants.

The topics presented and discussed included DIY Skate, maintenance and refurbishment, indoor skate facilities, data-led planning and design, rethinking skate spaces for girls, and skatepark design for different styles, spaces and users.

Speakers shared insights from Skateboarding NZ, Girls Skate Auckland, Wellness Riders, Kāpiti Coast District Council and Wellington City Council.

Community Collective

Established in 2025, the Community Collective brings together people working in community recreation across the motu.

As of 30 June 2026, 36 community recreation professionals had joined the collective. One online hui was held reaching 27 participants. Topics covered insights on accessibility, inclusive recreation design, and how community facilities can better support people with low vision, and the impacts of the fuel crisis on participation, programme delivery and the strategies to maintain access and equity.

Visit our website for more information about the Hub Collective.

Visit our website for more information about the Skate Collective.

Visit our website for more information about the Community Collective.

Conferences & hui

Our conferences and hui bring recreation professionals together to connect, learn and grow.

Waves 2025

Ōtautahi Christchurch

The Waves 2025 theme was Te piko o te māhuri, tērā te tupu o te rākau – Excellence in Aquatics: From good to great.

278 delegates attended the conference, making 2025 one of our biggest Waves ever.

Speakers explored strategic planning and advocacy for aquatic infrastructure, AI lifeguarding technology, industry best practice, sustainability and leadership. Delegates visited Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre, Te Pou Toetoe Linwood Pool, Kings Swim School, Selwyn Aquatic Centre and Matatiki Hornby Centre.

NPS
71

278
Delegates

National Pool Lifeguard Competition 2025

Jellie Park Sport and Recreation Centre

Held the day before Waves 2025, the National Pool Lifeguard Competition brought together six teams from across the motu, including Auckland Council, CLM, Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council, Hamilton City Council and Marlborough Lines Stadium.

Exercises tested skills and teamwork across a range of challenges, scenarios, and knowledge tests.

Auckland Council claimed the top spot for the third year in a row with their team Guardians of the Deep End, Vol. 3.



Recreation Leaders' Summit 2025

Ōtautahi Christchurch

In November 2025, we hosted the first Recreation Leaders' Summit. The theme was He Awa Whiria – Leading Together: Innovation, Inclusion, Impact.

This newly shaped event replaced our annual Recreation Conference with a shorter one-day format and renewed focus on industry leadership.

186 delegates attended the summit, including established and emerging leaders from across the motu. Speakers and panellists explored re-indigenising recreation, international trends in sport and recreation, social return on investment measurement, leadership in complexity and challenge, AI leadership and more.

NPS
59

186
Delegates



Masterclass: Planning for Spaces and Places in Challenging Times

Ōtautahi Christchurch

We partnered with RSL Consulting and Sport NZ to deliver a new Places and Spaces Masterclass.

Held the day after the Recreation Leaders' Summit, the masterclass provided an opportunity for delegates to stay on and deep dive into the evolving places and spaces planning landscape. 96 delegates attended the masterclass.

Delivered by industry experts and drawing on real-world examples, delegates explored how to make smarter, more sustainable, and more impactful decisions in their places and spaces mahi.

Green Pavlova 2026

Kirikiriroa Hamilton

The Green Pavlova 2026 theme was He Taiao, He Tāngata, He Oranga | Our Places, Our People, Our Future.

The conference attracted 351 delegates, slightly fewer than in 2025, as this year's event was not held alongside the biennial Ngā Rau Hotu New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Conference.

The theme honoured Te Arikinui Kuīni Ngā Wai hono i te pō and was supported by Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa, a collective of hapū from Kirikiriroa.

Speakers explored kaupapa Māori approaches to environmental stewardship, inclusive and equitable access to play, sustainable open space management, measuring impact and global perspectives. Field trips showcased play spaces, parks and programmes across the city.



NPS
67

351
Delegates

Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year 2026

Hamilton Gardens

Held the day before Green Pavlova, the 2026 competition brought together three finalists from across the motu, showcasing emerging talent in the sector.

Finalists took part in a series of challenges that tested technical knowledge, practical skills, problem-solving and communication. The competition concluded with the Young Leaders and Industry event where contestants delivered their prepared speeches – a new addition to the competition format for 2026.

Meg Spittal was named Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year at the Parks Awards 2026.



> "Winning Young Amenity Horticulturist supports me to grow as a leader in the sector I love"
> – Meg Spittal



Masterclass Series: Cemetery Operations and Planning

In 2025, we helped deliver a Cemetery Operations and Planning Masterclass series, facilitated by our Strategic Partner Xyst.

Building on the successful 2024 Parks Planning Masterclass series, this year's events were held in Cambridge, Kāpiti, Ashburton and Alexandra. 74 participants attended.



74
Participants

Ngā Niho Taniwha 2026

Wairau Blenheim

Ngā Niho Taniwha supports practitioners to explore how traditional Māori concepts and philosophies can inform recreation and physical activity in Aotearoa.

This year, the wānanga returned to Wairau Blenheim and was hosted in partnership with Rangitāne. Held at Ūkaipō Cultural Centre, participants experienced mātauranga in practice, grounded in local tikanga, kōrero and taiao. The immersive noho marae setting fostered whanaungatanga, reflection and connection.

With support from the Rātā Foundation, we provided places for three local rangatahi, part of our ongoing commitment to tauutuutu (reciprocity).

Participants learnt that 'recreation' in Te Ao Māori extends beyond Eurocentric definitions. By grounding activities in whakapapa, local pūrākau, kēmu, and taonga pūoro, they learnt how to transform their approach and develop new tactics and strategies.

> "It has made me want to really highlight the whenua and the environments I move through with students in my work as places of history and culture, rather than just ways that we can challenge ourselves."
> – Ngā Niho Taniwha participant

NPS
80

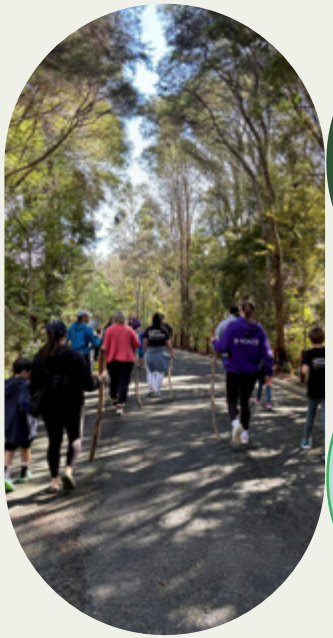
National Outdoors Hui 2026

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington

The 2026 Outdoors Hui brought together outdoor leaders, practitioners, educators and policymakers from across Aotearoa.

Held at the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre in Wellington, the hui was attended by 76 delegates. This year's hui included the annual Outdoors Awards.

Participants explored key sector challenges and opportunities. Sessions covered conservation law reform, qualifications and workforce development, adventure activity regulations and guidelines, te ao Māori in outdoor settings and the new Integrity Code for Sport and Recreation.



76
Delegates

NPS
70



Net promoter scores

In 2024-2025, we moved to measuring the Net Promoter Score (NPS) for our events and services.

NPS measures how likely participants are to recommend an event or service, with higher scores indicating stronger satisfaction and loyalty.

What is a good NPS?

Good
0-30

Great
30-70

Excellent
70-100

Developing our people

ARPro Te Puawānanga

The Accredited Recreation Professional ('ARPro') scheme strengthens professional standards in the recreation sector. ARPro is an independent assessment and recognition of individuals who show competence, ongoing professional development and commitment to best practice. It supports a skilled and professional workforce.

ARPro continues to play a central role in building professionalism, competence and growth across New Zealand's recreation workforce. Feedback from practitioners shows strong engagement and appreciation for a structured, transparent approach. As of 30 June 2026, 90 practitioners held ARPro Te Puawānanga accreditation.

In 2026 we welcomed four new members onto the ARPro Committee – Richard Lindsay, Amy Waller, Tina Harris-Ririnui and Samantha Strong. The purpose of the Committee is to assess the suitability of candidates for accreditation as Accredited Recreation Professionals, and to guide the ongoing development and delivery of the ARPro programme.

1
accreditee
Te Pūtake – The base foundation (Level 1)

3
accreditees
Te Aka Tipu – The sprouting vine (Level 2)

86
accreditees
Te Puawānanga – The clematis flower – guiding light (Level 3)



Visit our website for more information about the ARPro Te Puawānanga accreditation scheme.

Tuakana – Teina Mentorship Programme

The Tuakana – Teina Mentorship Programme (Tuakana – Teina), developed in partnership with Generate NZ, is a mentoring programme that pairs participants by experience to foster mutual learning and professional growth.

In 2025-2026, we refreshed the programme to create more flexibility for participants. Instead of running as a fixed cohort, it now operates on an as-requested basis. This allows participants to join when the time is right and shape a mentoring relationship that works for them.

In 2025-2026, the programme supported four participants. Feedback has been positive, with mentors and mentees reporting strengthened networks, enhanced skills and valuable sector insights.

Webinars

Our webinars continue to provide valuable content for our members. Each session includes opportunities for questions and answers, followed by additional relevant information shared afterwards. This helps to grow the capabilities of webinar attendees.

In 2025–2026, we hosted seven webinars with a total of 316 participants. Topics ranged from legislation updates and guidance to a deep dive into the Mountain Bike Trail Design Guidelines.

NPS
49

7 Webinars

316 Participants





Visit our website for more information about the Tuakana – Teina Mentorship Programme.

Visit our website for more information about future webinars.

Regional events 2025–2026

Regional events are low-cost, local opportunities that bring recreation professionals together to share knowledge and connect.

Run by our six Regional Committees, regional events include site visits, social functions and learning and development opportunities.

In 2025-2026, 13 events were held across Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Hastings, Oamaru, Porirua, Selwyn and Taupō with a total of 393 registrants.

Attendees connected with peers and explored places, spaces and projects that have embraced accessibility and cultural connection. They also unpacked new guidelines and visited sites recovering from severe weather events.



6 Regional Committees

393 registrants

13 Events





Generate Network NZ

Generate Network NZ (‘Generate’) is a network for new and emerging recreation professionals. It exists to grow future leaders, strengthen connections across the motu, and ensure the recreation sector is a great place to work.

Generate Conference 2025

In September 2025 the annual Generate Conference brought together emerging leaders from across Aotearoa for two days of learning and connection.

Held in Tauranga, the theme of the conference was the Future of Our Sector: Shaping Tomorrow: Bold Voices, Brave Action. 81 delegates from across the country attended the two-day event.

The conference opened at Te Rere o Ōmanana and field trips were woven throughout the programme. Speakers covered a wide range of topics from cultural and environmental restoration to leadership, research and climate change.

The conference was led by Generate Conference Committee members Tom O’Neill, Sam Strong, Jasmin Carr, Beau Bennett and Issac Beetham.

Jason Husband Memorial Scholarship

This new scholarship celebrates the life and legacy of former Generate Co-Chair Jason Husband.

This scholarship supports a Generate Member to attend the Generate Conference, including providing funding for travel and accommodation.

The inaugural recipient was Parrish Evans from Wellington.

Breakfast Series

The popular Generate Breakfast Series continued, with events in Auckland (Breakfast for Dinner) and Dunedin. These events were about strengthening connections across the sector — bringing together experienced leaders, emerging professionals, and volunteers for kai, kōrero, and inspiration.

Governance update

In April 2026, Maria Burnett stepped down as Generate Co-Chair. Jasmin Carr became Co-Chair alongside Rob Gulley. They are supported by Tui Boteju, Ciarán Dunnion, Anna-Leigh Gillies, Steph Lovelock, Tom O’Neill, Samantha Strong and Natalie McNulty on the Steering Committee.



108
Total Members

Learn more about Generate Network NZ on their website or scan the QR code.

NZCCC Ngā Rau Hotu

The past year has been one of progress and stability for the New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective (NZCCC) Ngā Rau Hotu.

Earlier this year, our Chair had the privilege of attending the Funeral Directors Association Conference and the Master Monumental Masons Association conference. Both these industry bodies are key partners for NZCCC, and we continue to benefit from our strong partnership with them. An example of this is the close work we have done with NZMMMA around their new compliance app that will benefit their members and ours.

Over the past year, we have also noticed increased engagement of our members through our member hub on our website; we are thrilled by this as it has mostly been organic and not strategic. Our industry is very specialised, the value of networking cannot be overstated. We are thankful for the work of Recreation Aotearoa and the investment into our website that has allowed this.

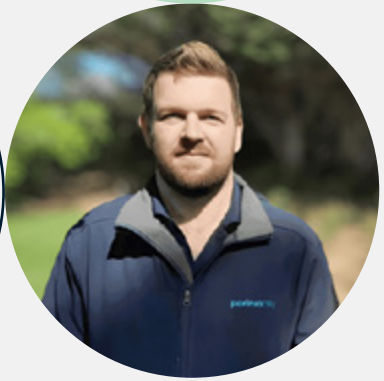
Part of our work programme is the development of Best Practice Guides for the industry. We have now released eight of these for our members. We hear feedback from members consistently around new cemetery development and lack of useable land. This has led us to look seriously into Limited Tenure Plots. We have set up a working group to investigate this for the New Zealand context; this is a large piece of work as the concept is very new to us in Aotearoa. The desired output will be another Best Practice Guide and public FAQs.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen our Collective and to supporting you, our members, with the resources, partnerships, and advocacy that ensure cemeteries and crematoria remain valued and well-supported across Aotearoa.

Daniel Chrisp
NZCCC Ngā Rau Hotu Chair

nzccc
ngā rau hotu

Learn more about NZCCC Ngā Rau Hotu on their website or scan the QR code.



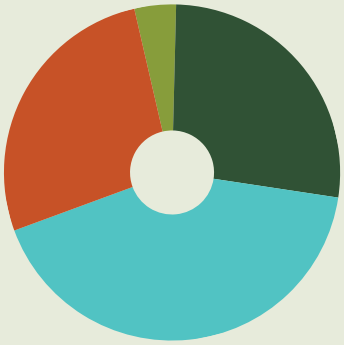
Growing provision of inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities

In 2026, we asked Recreation Aotearoa members to tell us about their work to increase the number of inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities available across Aotearoa.

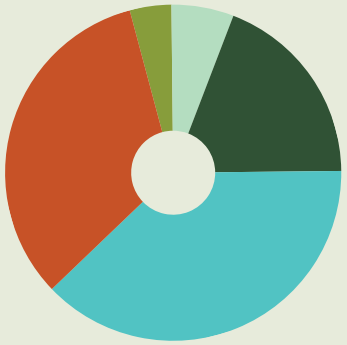
Included in our Annual Member Survey for the first time, this data helps to build a picture of how the recreation industry is evolving to better provide for all New Zealanders.

This year's results provide baseline data we can use to track trends over time.

To what extent does your organisation actively provide culturally relevant and responsive opportunities (e.g., for Māori, Pasifika or ethnic minorities)?

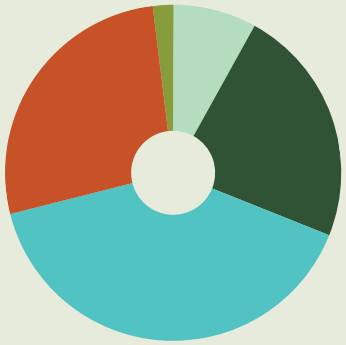


To what extent does your organisation actively provide inclusive recreation opportunities (e.g., for disabled people, older adults, LGBTQIA+ communities, or people facing barriers to participation)?



- Not at all
- Somewhat (Low)
- Moderate focus (Medium)
- Strong focus (High)
- Core part of our work (Very High)

How confident is your organisation in its ability to provide culturally relevant, inclusive recreation opportunities?



- Not confident
- Somewhat confident
- Moderately confident
- Very confident
- Extremely confident



Te whai oranga o te Tiriti o Waitangi

Mātauranga Māori is embedded in the recreation industry. The potential of the Māori recreation sector is unlocked



Te Kāhui Kura Māori

Formed in 2019, Te Kāhui Kura Māori (‘Te Kāhui’) is our Māori Navigational Group. It is made up of Māori working across the wider recreation sector. Te Kāhui guides our journey to bring our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi to life. Te Kāhui are the manu that fly ahead of our waka hourua, seeking out new horizons.

Te Kāhui members bring deep knowledge of mātauranga Māori, te ao Māori, ngā mahi a te rēhia and tākaro. Over the past six years, they have offered guidance, direction, and navigational support, including co-creating Te Whai Oranga 2025–2030 alongside the Recreation Aotearoa Board.

Te Kāhui and the Board meet regularly at least once a year on marae across the motu. These wānanga have become an important part of our governance rhythm, deepening connections and creating space for new perspectives to emerge.

In 2024, the role of Te Kāhui Kura Māori was formally enshrined in the Recreation Aotearoa constitution, recognising the critical role the rōpū plays in our collective Te Whai Oranga journey.

Te Manawataki

Te Manawataki embodies the intention of Recreation Aotearoa and Te Kāhui Kura Māori to establish a mahi ngātahi Tiriti relationship.

The concept of Te Manawataki emerged during a joint wānanga held at Apumoana Marae in Rotorua in August 2025. Its purpose is to create a mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationship based on tikanga Māori, that realises the potential of working in partnership to make a sustainable positive difference to iwi, hapū, whānau and all New Zealanders in Aotearoa.

It is a binding commitment to move in unison and remain synchronised in pursuit of Te Whai Oranga. Te Manawataki is the heartbeat that holds that rhythm.

Ka tākina te manawa ora

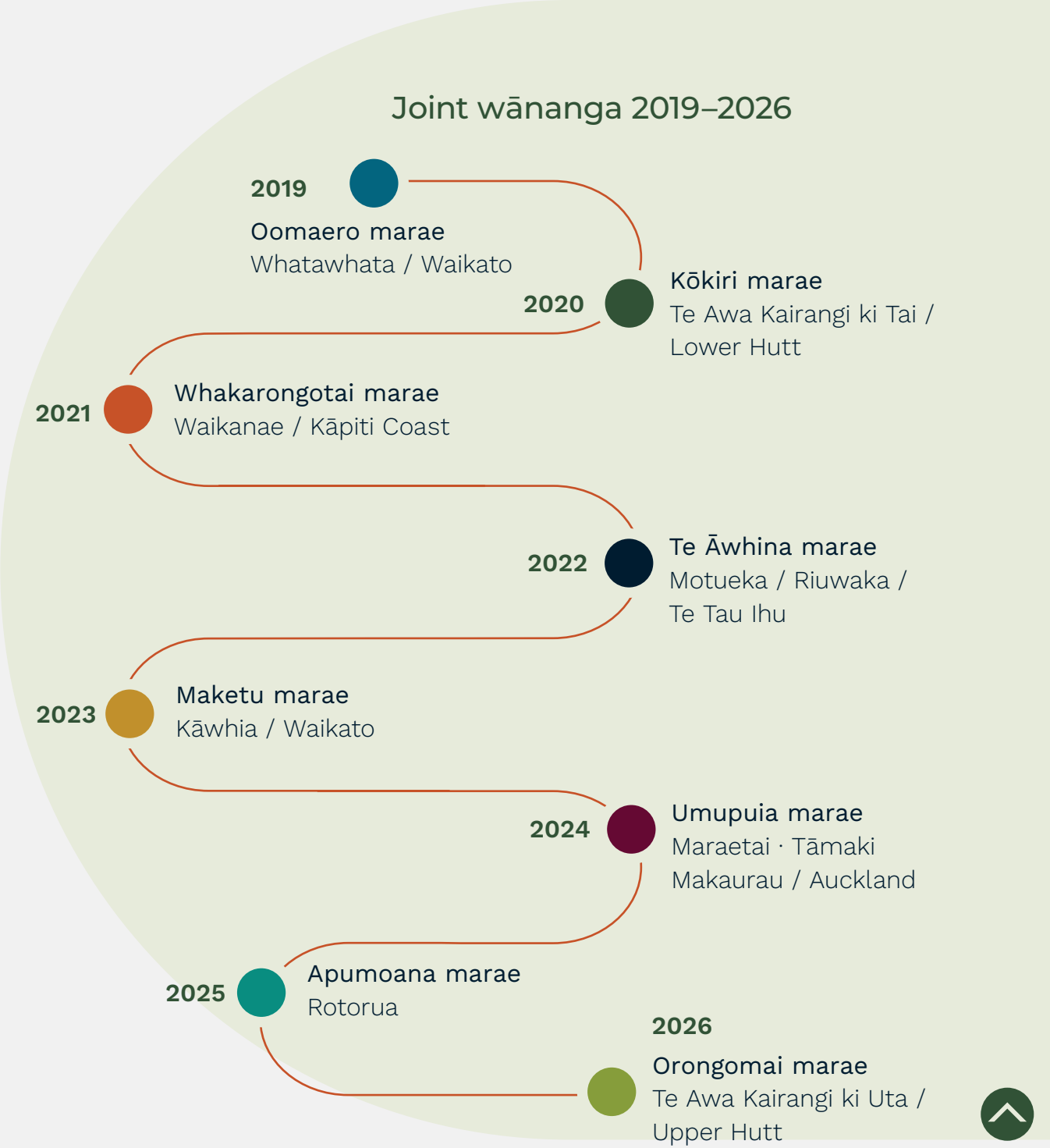
Ko te manawa nui

Ko te manawa roa

Ko te manawa ora

Ko te manawa taki

Te Manawataki



Engagement & partnership with iwi & hapū

Our engagement with iwi and hapū reflects the diverse context in which we operate. While maintaining a national framework, our approach adapts to each region. We aim to build meaningful dialogue, strong relationships and practical partnerships that support our programmes and events.

In 2025, we worked with Ngāi Tūāhuriri to support Waves and the Recreation Leaders' Summit. In 2026 we worked with Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa to support Green Pavlova.

We partnered with Rangitāne to deliver our third Ngā Niho Taniwha cultural capability programme in Wairau Blenheim. In the spirit of tauutuutu, we provided three scholarships for mana whenua rangatahi to attend.

In August 2025, the Recreation Aotearoa Board and Te Kāhui Kura Māori held their annual wānanga at Apumoana Marae, in Rotorua. The rōpū once again took to the water in waka hourua at Lake Ōkāreka.

In February 2026, we held a staff noho marae at Whakarongotai Marae in Waikanae as part of our ongoing commitment to building our cultural capability.

Te Pae Hononga

Te Pae Hononga is a tool we have developed to help improve the quality of our relationships with mana whenua, hapū, iwi and kaupapa Māori partners.

Grounded in our organisational values, it provides a framework to help us bring Te Whai Oranga to life through our relationships with Māori. In 2026 we began using Te Pae Hononga to assess how well we are upholding our values and where we can strengthen relationships further.







> The reflections really open conversations that we potentially wouldn't have had otherwise
> – Te Punga Marutau user.

Te Punga Marutau

Te Punga Marutau is a cultural capability tool designed to support Recreation Aotearoa staff and members through gamified learning.

Grounded in Te Arawhiti core competencies and Whāinga Amorangi, Te Punga Marutau continues to build momentum as both an internal tool and a sector-wide catalyst for change. Rather than viewing cultural capability through a training lens or treating Treaty responsiveness as an institutional problem to solve, this tool reframes the journey as an evolving opportunity to innovate, lead and grow together.

The Shifts We Are Seeing

By using interactive storytelling, reflection and tākaro, teams are shifting from compliance to curiosity, approaching cultural learning as a space of creativity and leadership.

Engaging with the tool has challenged inherited, rigid ideas of what cultural capability looks like, empowering organisations to step out of the box and into a circular way of thinking.

Internal teams and sector peers are using this kaupapa not as a static, one-off checklist, but as an adaptable baseline that continuously evolves alongside our collective understanding.

Three member organisations are now actively using Te Punga Marutau, building cultural confidence within their teams and shaping positive change in their organisations.

Our goal is to continue growing this resource to inspire and support our members, and the wider recreation sector, in their own cultural capability journeys.

Visit our website to find out more about Te Punga Marutau.



Te whai oranga o te taiao

The natural environment is cared for and regenerated by the recreation industry

Our commitment to carbon reduction

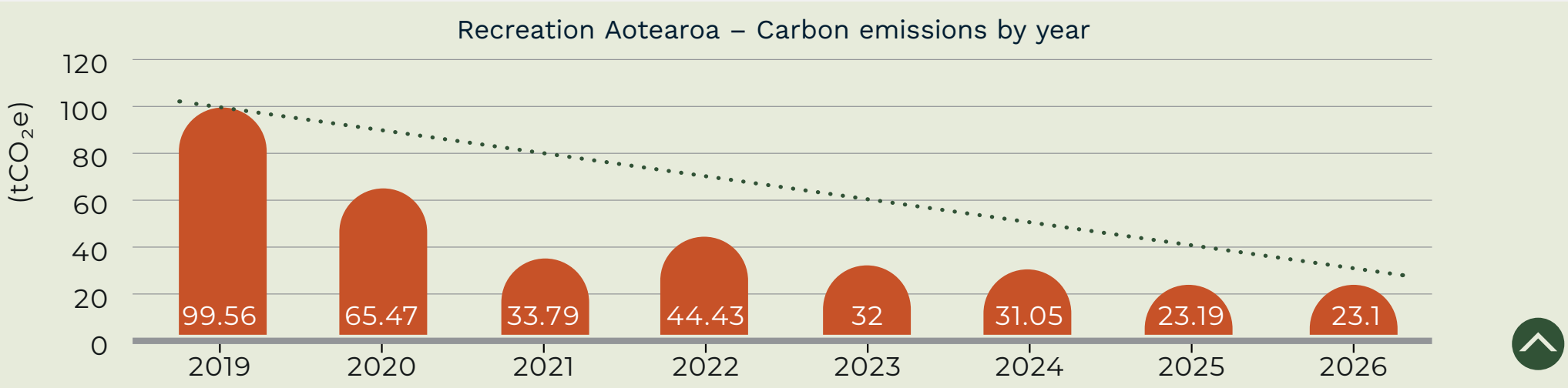
Since 2018, we have been measuring our total carbon emissions and offsetting them by purchasing carbon credits. This is part of our wider efforts to reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

To offset part of our 2025—2026 emissions, we partnered with Project Rameka. This carbon sink project in Golden Bay Mohua focuses on forest restoration, biodiversity and walking and biking opportunities.

We also partnered with Trees That Count. We purchased 50 native trees as speaker gifts for Green Pavlova 2026, which were planted by Waiorongomai Valley Farms to support local nature recovery.

Our journey so far

Our annual carbon emissions were broadly unchanged, at 23.1 tonnes CO_2e in 2026 compared with 23.19 tonnes in 2025. Since 2018, we have achieved a 75% overall reduction in annual carbon emissions.



Reducing our collective impact

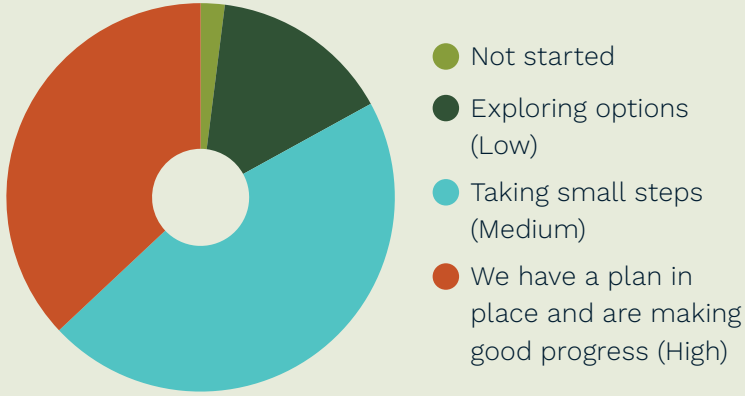
In 2026, we asked Recreation Aotearoa members to tell us how they are reducing their impact on the environment and restoring te taiao.

Now part of our Annual Member Survey, this data helps us understand how the recreation industry is enhancing the wellbeing of the natural environment.

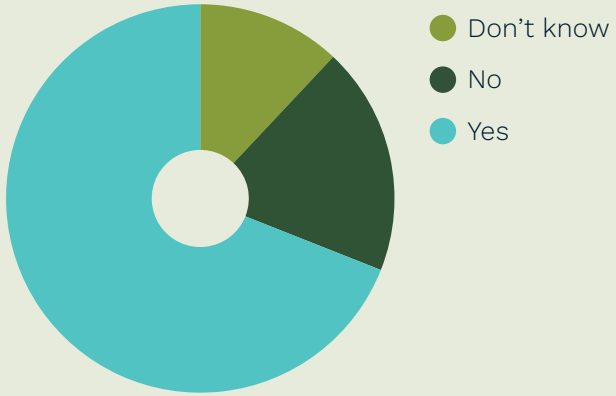
Across Aotearoa, our members are undertaking a wide range of activities to reduce our collective impact including:

- Pest control
- Weed management
- Waste management and recycling
- Using locally sourced materials
- Education and awareness
- Installing LED lighting
- Modernising facilities to be more energy efficient
- Ecological restoration
- Planting
- Community group support
- Technical advice
- Partnering with DOC
- Minimising travel
- Ride sharing
- Carbon offsetting
- Reducing emissions
- Beach clean-ups

How would you describe your organisation's current efforts to reduce the environmental impact of its activities?



Is your organisation currently involved in any activities that support the regeneration or restoration of the natural environment?





Ngā Tohu • awards

Celebrating excellence within the recreation industry

Aquatics Awards 2025

On 21 August 2025, we celebrated excellence in the New Zealand aquatics industry.

Aquatic Innovation — Programmes

Selwyn District Council – WAVES: Swimming Inclusion for ALL

For its impact, professional development opportunities for swim teachers, and ongoing dedication to meeting each child's unique needs.

Aquatic Innovation — Operations

Selwyn District Council – The Deep End of Innovation: AI and Pool Safety

For introducing New Zealand's first public pool AI lifeguarding system and demonstrating a real commitment to community wellbeing and innovation.

Outstanding Pool Award

Bay Venues – Mount Hot Pools

For its natural integration into its environment, its accessibility programmes, and its ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Lifeguard of the Year

Kate McMullan – Auckland Council

For her exceptional professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the aquatics industry. Kate has contributed significantly to training initiatives, developed network-wide programmes, and played a key role in enhancing competency frameworks.

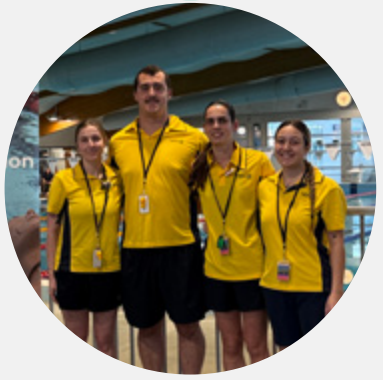
National Pool Lifeguard Competition

Auckland Council – Guardians of the Deep End, Vol. 3

For winning the National Pool Lifeguard Competition for the third year in a row. Once again, the team demonstrated their knowledge and expertise, rescue skills, first aid, teamwork, customer service, and creativity.







Outdoors Awards 2026

On 11 June 2026, we celebrated excellence in New Zealand's outdoors industry.

Te Tohu Whaiao Māori • Māori Outcomes Award

Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust – Kaitiaki Rangatahi Projects

For authentic integration of kaupapa Māori, te reo, tikanga, whakapapa, whenua, and rangatahi leadership throughout these programmes.

Te Tohu Tiakina Taiao • Environmental Leadership Award

YMCA North and Te Wairoa River Restoration Project – Nature's Classroom at the Y-Camp Adair

For a grounded and authentic environmental programme with strong hands-on learning and connection to place.

Te Tohu Whakaaweawe Kaupapa • Outstanding Event/Programme

Scouts Aotearoa and Autism Kids collective – Adventure Series.

For an inclusive, whānau-centred programme designed to remove barriers to participation for autistic young people and their families.

Te Tohu Manu Kura • Supreme Award

Mark Mandeno

For impactful and influential leadership over many years, with a strong focus on mentoring, accessibility, inclusion, and empowering others.

















Parks Awards 2026

On 14 May 2026, we celebrated excellence in the New Zealand parks, play and open spaces industry.

Community Park of the Year

Auckland Council, Resilio Studio, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Pāoa – Eastview Reserve

For transforming an underutilised reserve into a place of cultural connection, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

Playspace of the Year (Under $500,000)

Tauranga City Council – Bubbles Play Pod

For bringing a burst of joy into the heart of Tauranga city with this imaginative and fully relocatable play space.

Playspace of the Year (Over $500,000)

Auckland Council and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki – Barry Curtis Park

For creating a vibrant, intergenerational destination where tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau can play, connect, and thrive.

Parks Leader of the Year

Cassandra Horton – Invercargill City Council

For her contribution to the long-term development of parks and open spaces that support community wellbeing, recreation, and environmental outcomes, and for fostering strong sector connections and supporting emerging professionals.

Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year

Meg Spittal

For her practical capability, leadership potential, and industry knowledge.







Recreation Awards 2025

On 20 November 2025, we celebrated excellence across New Zealand's recreation industry.

Outstanding Community Recreation Programme

Christchurch City Council – Gear Up Ōtautahi

For making sport and recreation more accessible across Christchurch by encouraging families to donate outgrown or unused sports gear, which is then distributed at local events to support active, healthy communities.

Outstanding Event Award

Scouts Aotearoa, Māngere College and CLM Community Sport – Girl, Get Out There!

For bringing together over 180 predominantly Pasifika students for an unforgettable experience exploring the outdoors in a safe, inclusive, and culturally grounded way.





Outstanding Park Award

Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, Resilio Studio and Auckland Council – Kaipātiki Reserve

The Kaipātiki Reserve embodies a principled approach to co-governance, weaving together Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Pākehā worldviews toward "Whiwhi Ngātahi – the collaborative creation of a bespoke play space and regeneration strategy for the wider reserve.

Outstanding Project (Under $500,000)

Selwyn District Council – Innovation, AI and Pool Safety

For introducing New Zealand's first public pool AI lifeguarding system and demonstrating a real commitment to community wellbeing and innovation.

Outstanding Project (Over $500,000)

University of Auckland – Hiwa Recreation Centre at Waipapa Taumata Rau

Hiwa is an eight-storey sport, recreation and wellness centre that redefines the student experience and strengthens the University's connection to the wider Auckland CBD.







Outstanding Recreation Facility

Tauranga City Council – Te Papa Retireti – Tauranga Destination Skatepark

Te Papa Retireti – Tauranga's Destination Skatepark is a purpose-built, 3,000+ sqm flagship facility that combines innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Outstanding Research, Policy & Planning

Invercargill City Council – Play Strategy

For a first-of-its-kind strategy that reimagines the entire district as a citywide playground, guided by the vision that "Invercargill is a city where play excites and connects everyone."



Emerging Recreation Leader

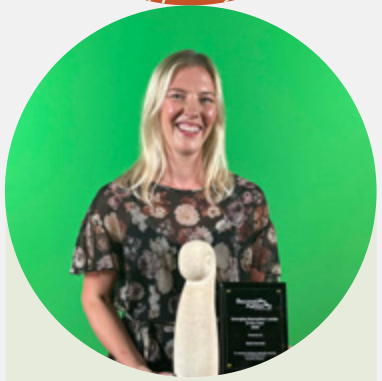
Maria Burnett – Central Otago District Council

For leading with vision and heart – championing community voice, environmental resilience, and equitable access to quality open spaces.

Paul Stuart Memorial Award

Selwyn District Council – James Richmond

For visionary leadership that combines strategy, innovation and empathy, inspiring others across New Zealand and transforming how communities experience recreation.



Ian Galloway Memorial Cup

Michele Frey – Gisborne District Council

For outstanding leadership across conservation, regional and urban parks, recreation, tourism, and emergency management to advance the wider recreation industry.



Mark Mitchell Memorial Trophy

Simon Battrick – Queenstown Lakes District Council

For exceptional leadership that has driven the growth, redevelopment, and innovation of facilities that directly improve community wellbeing, accessibility, and participation in sport, recreation, the arts and other community opportunities.





Statement of Service Performance

Financial year 2025–2026

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga Incorporated



Opinion

We have audited the performance report of Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga Incorporated ('the Society') which comprises the entity information on page 3, the statement of service performance on pages 5 to 18, and the financial statements on pages 19 to 31. The complete set of the financial statements comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of financial performance, the statement of changes in net assets/equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information and the financial position of the Society as at 30 June 2026,
- the financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the service performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 in that the service performance information is appropriate and meaningful and prepared in accordance with the Society's measurement bases or evaluation methods
- in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities ('Tier 3 (NFP) Standard') issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board, the applicable reporting framework.

Our report is made solely to the Members of the Society, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members as a body, for our audit work, for our report or for the opinions we have formed.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) ('ISAs

(NZ)') and the audit of the service performance information and entity information in accordance with the ISAs (NZ) and New Zealand Auditing Standard 1 ('NZ AS 1') (Revised) The Audit of Service Performance Information. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in the Society.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Performance Report

The Board is responsible on behalf of the Society for:

- the preparation and fair presentation of the entity information, the financial statements and the statement of service performance in accordance with the applicable reporting framework;
- the selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present service performance information that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with the applicable reporting framework;
- the preparation and fair presentation of service performance information in accordance with the Society's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the applicable reporting framework;
- the overall presentation, structure and content of the service performance information in accordance with the applicable reporting framework; and
- such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Board is responsible on behalf of the Society for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Other Information

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the performance report and our auditor's report thereon. The annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the performance report does not cover the other information, and we will not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the performance report, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the performance report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. When we read the other information, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance report.

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Audit Limited

Wellington, New Zealand
23 October 2026



A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance report is located at the External Reporting Board's website. Visit the website or scan the QR code.

Statement of Service Performance Overview

The purpose of this statement is to present service performance information for Recreation Aotearoa resulting from the delivery of the programme of activities agreed to in the business plan for the 2025/26 financial year.

This report provides a summary of the performance information that the Board considers to be important and relevant for readers' overall understanding of Recreation Aotearoa service performance. It does not include all organisational results measured against the Business Plan.

The information is organised by Strategic Priorities in the Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga Statement of Strategic Direction and the activities that sit beneath them.

In 2025, the Board approved a new Strategy and Statement of Strategic Direction. This includes new and revised measures and targets for the period 2025-2030. Where required, this report describes changes in measures, measurement methodology and where comparable prior year information is and isn't available.

The report includes tables and graphs to give a visual summary of the operational targets and results for 2025-2026 and includes the results from 2024-2025 for comparison.







Tō Mātou Kaupapa • Our Purpose

Recreation Aotearoa exists to empower, support, and connect the recreation industry so that all New Zealanders can access quality recreation experiences. We are a collective voice for recreation in Aotearoa, representing all parts of New Zealand's diverse recreation industry.

We connect, empower, educate, advocate, and influence to achieve what no single organisation or sector group could achieve alone. We help the recreation industry flourish so that people, place, and the natural environment flourish.

Te Pae Rangi • Our Vision

Te Pae Rangi sits above the horizon. It is the stars that guide us. It is where our aspirations lie. Our aspiration is an Aotearoa where recreation has created a mutually flourishing connection between atua, taiao, whenua, and tangata.

Where tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti approaches are woven together for the betterment of all. Where recreation reconnects, restores, and regenerates the wellbeing of people, place, and the natural environment. Where all New Zealanders can re-create in ways that work for them – supported and enabled by a connected, knowledgeable, and flourishing recreation industry.

Te Pae Tata • Short-term Outcomes

Te Pae Tata is the near horizon. It is where we aim to arrive during the life of this strategic plan.

- More recreation providers reduce their impact on the environment and take action to regenerate te taiao.
- More places and spaces meet quality assurance standards and follow good practice guidance.
- More Recreation Aotearoa members and higher levels of member engagement.
- More inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities are available for all New Zealanders.
- More mutually beneficial relationships with iwi, hapū, and kaupapa Māori organisations enhance recreation.

More recreation providers reducing their impact on the environment and taking action to regenerate te taiao

	2025-2026 Target	2025-2026 Actual	2024-2025 Actual
Programme content focused on reducing the recreation industry's impact on the environment and taking action to regenerate te taiao[1].	40%	18%	New measure[2]

1 This measure assesses the extent to which Recreation Aotearoa programme content aligns with the strategic outcome 'more recreation providers reducing their impact on the environment and taking action to regenerate te taiao'. By curating programme content to focus on key strategic areas, we seek to inspire and influence change within the recreation sector. Programme content is defined as content presented at conferences, hui, events and webinars. The result is calculated by reviewing and categorising conference presentations, hui and event sessions and webinar topics.

2 This is a new measure in 2025-26. As such no comparative data is available.

More places and spaces meeting quality assurance standards and using good practice guidance

	2025-2026 Target	2025-2026 Actual	2024-2025 Actual
Number of aquatic facilities achieving PoolSafe®[1]	158	161	154
Number of parks and open spaces awarded Green Flag[2]	30	26	26
Number of aquatic facilities achieving QualityPool®[3]	35	25	24

1 Number of aquatic facilities that held PoolSafe accreditation at 30 June 2026

2 Number of parks and open spaces that were awarded a Green Flag during the 2025-26 financial year. Note: this programme has been discontinued as at 1 July 2026.

3 Number of aquatic facilities that held QualityPool accreditation at 30 June 2026.

More inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities are available to all New Zealanders

	2025-2026 Target	2025-2026 Actual	2024-2025 Actual
Programme content focused on creating inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities[1]	40%	23%	New measure[2]
Number of organisations using Te Punga Marutau	10	3	2
Number of Ngā Niho Taniwha participants	30	17	15

1 This measure assesses the extent to which Recreation Aotearoa programme content aligns with the strategic outcome 'more inclusive, culturally relevant recreation opportunities are available to all New Zealanders'. By curating programme content to focus on key strategic areas, we seek to inspire and influence change within the recreation sector. Programme content is defined as content presented at conferences, hui, events and webinars. The result is calculated by reviewing and categorising conference presentations, hui and event sessions and webinar topics.

2 This is a new measure in 2025-26. As such no comparative data is available.

More mutually beneficial partnerships with iwi, hapū and kaupapa Māori organisations

	2025-2026 Target	2025-2026 Actual	2024-2025 Actual
Number of mutually beneficial relationships with iwi, hapū and kaupapa Māori organisations[1]	5	6	5

1 This measure is assessed using Te Pae Hononga, a qualitative tool we have developed to assess and improve the quality of our relationships with mana whenua, hapū, iwi and kaupapa Māori partners. This is a subjective assessment carried out by relationship managers and moderated using an internal review panel process.

More Recreation Aotearoa members and higher levels of member engagement

	2025-2026 Target	2025-2026 Actual	2024-2025 Actual
Number of Recreation Aotearoa conferences and events	43	42	42
Attendance at conferences and events[1]	1,224	2,119	Revised measure[2]
Average Net Promoter Score for conferences and events[3]	30	63	57
Number of Recreation Aotearoa members[4]	1,522	1,704	1,273
Recreation Aotearoa reach (members and subscribers)[5]	5,500	5,241	5,167

Footnotes on the next page

1 This measures the total number of attendees at Recreation Aotearoa conferences and events. Conferences and events are defined as: industry conferences, national hui and wānanga, regional events, and online events, including webinars and collectives. Conference attendance includes attendance at all or part of a conference, for example, awards dinners or masterclasses. To avoid double-counting registrations, all field trip and pre-event function tickets are removed from the data.

2 This measure has been revised in 2025-26 and is presented as a combined total for all Recreation Aotearoa conferences and events. This includes regional event attendance data, which has not been previously reported. As such, comparative data is not available. This data will be available from 2026-27 onwards.

3 NPS is a reputable and widely used measure of customer satisfaction and loyalty. NPS data is collected at conferences and events and analysed using the SurveyMonkey online NPS calculator.

4 Members are defined as individual and organisational members who hold a current membership as at 30 June 2026.

5 Reach is defined as the number of people who are subscribed to Recreation Aotearoa e-Pānui as at 30 June 2026. This number includes individual and organisational members, and non-member subscribers.

Statement of financial performance			
Recreation Aotearoa - For the year ended 30 June 2026			
Revenue	**Notes**	**2026**	**2025**
General grants	4	10,000	22,301
Government service delivery grants/ contracts	4	1,046,865	1,191,082
Interest revenue	4	10,536	13,247
Membership fees and subscriptions	4	148,435	131,662
Non-government service delivery grants/ contracts	4	1,153,269	1,237,852
Other revenue	4	2,268	2,616
Total revenue		**2,371,372**	**2,598,760**
Expenses			
Costs related to rendering of services	5	836,743	1,087,509
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	5	1,353,334	1,344,174
Other expenses	5	121,605	115,066
Total expenses		**2,311,681**	**2,546,749**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**59,691**	**52,010**

Statement of changes in net assets/equity			
Recreation Aotearoa - For the year ended 30 June 2026			
Members funds - accumulated revenue and expense	**Notes**	**2026**	**2025**
Opening balance		485,985	433,975
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		59,691	52,010
Total Members Funds - Accumulated Revenue and Expense		**545,676**	**485,985**

Statement of financial position			
Recreation Aotearoa - as at 30 June 2026			
Assets			
Current assets	**Notes**	**30 June 2026**	**30 June 2025**
Cash and cash equivalents	6	343,286	423,720
Debtors and prepayments	7	384,792	338,644
Investments	9	298,322	161,311
Total current assets		**1,026,400**	**923,676**
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	22,342	19,536
Investments	9	8,131	12,557
Debtors and prepayments	7	-	4,874
Total non-current assets		**30,472**	**36,967**
Total assets		**1,056,872**	**960,643**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	4,118	3,839
Creditors and accrued expenses	10	79,323	142,719
Employee costs payable	11	68,605	53,996
Deferred revenue	12	334,892	271,330
Other liabilities	13	24,258	2,775
Total current liabilities		**511,196**	**474,658**
Total liabilities		**511,196**	**474,658**
Net assets		**545,676**	**485,985**
Members Funds			
Accumulated revenue and expense		545,676	485,985
Total members funds		**545,676**	**485,985**

Statement of cash flows			
Recreation Aotearoa - For the year ended 30 June 2026			
Statement of cash flows	**Notes**	**2026**	**2025**
Cash flows from operating activities, cash was received from			
Non-government service delivery grants/ contracts received		1,129,718	1,281,913
Government service delivery grants/ contracts received		1,119,380	1,104,575
Interest received		10,625	13,517
General grants received		10,000	22,301
Membership fees and subscriptions		169,918	103,457
Other cash received		2,268	2,616
Total cash was received from		**2,441,909**	**2,528,379**
Cash was applied to			
Payments to suppliers		(909,784)	(1,147,931)
Employee remuneration and other related payments		(1,338,725)	(1,351,364)
Goods and services tax paid		(18,253)	(18,651)
Other payments		(120,471)	(115,066)
Total Cash was applied to		**(2,387,231)**	**(2,633,012)**
Total Cash flows from operating activities		**54,678**	**(104,633)**
Cash flows from other activities, cash was received from			
Receipts from the maturity of investments		-	56,794
Total cash was received from		**-**	**56,794**

Statement of cash flows (continued)			
Recreation Aotearoa - For the year ended 30 June 2026			
Statement of cash flows	**Notes**	**2026**	**2025**
Cash was applied to			
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment		(2,806)	(6,198)
Payments to purchase investments		(132,585)	(173,868)
Total cash was applied to		**(135,391)**	**(180,066)**
Total cash flows from other activities		**(135,391)**	**(123,272)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash		(80,715)	(227,905)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		419,882	647,787
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		339,167	419,882

The statements on pages 71–72 should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes on pages 73–83.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Recreation Aotearoa

For the year ended 30 June 2026

1. Reporting entity

The Performance Report presented here is for the entity Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga Incorporated, trading as Recreation Aotearoa (“RA”).

The principal activity of RA is the promotion of recreation and recreation facilities and this principal activity is not for financial return to any members. For this reason it is designated as a Public Benefit Entity (“PBE”).

The nature of RA’s activities has not changed during the year under review.

RA is registered with Charities Services, registration number CC43214.

2. Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

The entity has elected to apply XRB’s Tier 3 PBE (NFP) standard. This is on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than $5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

(b) Basis of measurement

The performance report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost.

(c) Functional and presentational currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars ($), which is RA’s functional currency. All financial information presented in New Zealand dollars has been rounded to the nearest dollar.

(d) Changes in accounting policies

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements as set out below have been applied consistently to both years presented in these financial statements.

(e) Comparatives

The comparative financial period is 12 months.

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to RA and revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received. The following specific recognition criteria must be met before revenue is recognised.

Grant revenue

Donations and grants with a documented expectation regarding use have been recognised as revenue over time as the expectation is satisfied.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income received from conference sponsors is recognised in the period in which the conditions have been met, usually when the conference has taken place.

Rendering of services

Sales of services are recognised in the accounting period in which the services are rendered, by reference to completion of the specific transaction assessed on the basis of the actual service provided as a proportion of the total services.

Membership fees

Fees and subscriptions received in exchange for monthly access to members’ facilities are initially recorded as revenue in advance and recognised in revenue evenly over the membership period.

Interest and dividend revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Financial instruments

Trade receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when RA becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

At initial recognition, short-term receivables and payables are measured at the original invoice amount if the effect of discounting is immaterial.

RA derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which RA neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and it does not retain control of the financial asset.

Financial Assets

RA's financial assets are classified as loans and receivables. RA's financial assets include: cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments in the form of term deposits and receivables.

All financial assets are subject to review for impairment at least at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired when there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Different criteria to determine impairment are applied for each category of financial assets, which are described below.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Short-term investments

Short-term investments comprise term deposits which have a term of greater than three months and therefore do not fall into the category of cash and cash equivalents.

Financial liabilities

Recreation Aotearoa's financial liabilities include trade and other creditors (excluding GST and PAYE), and employee entitlements.

All financial liabilities are recognised at the amount owed.

Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition. Depreciation is charged on a diminishing value or straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. Depreciation is charged at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of the asset less any estimated residual value over its remaining useful life:

Office equipment	30% - 67% DV, 3 years SL

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and are adjusted if there is a change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset.

Wages, salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised in surplus or deficit during the period in which the employee provided the related services. Liabilities for the associated benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Equity/Member funds

Equity is the members' interest in Recreation Aotearoa, measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity consists of accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense being Recreation Aotearoa's accumulated surplus or deficit since its formation.

Income tax

Recreation Aotearoa is a registered charity. As such it is exempt from income tax under Section CW41 of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Goods and services tax

The financial statements have been prepared using GST exclusive figures, with the exception of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable which are stated on a GST inclusive basis.

Statement of Cash Flows

Operating activities include amounts received from investment income and other income sources and payments to employees and suppliers to manage the day-to-day running of RA.

Investing activities are those related to the purchase and disposal of investments and property, plant and equipment.

Financing activities comprise loans and borrowings and distributions to members of RA.

4. Analysis of Revenue		
General grants	**2026**	**2025**
Grant revenue	10,000	22,301
Total General grants	10,000	22,301
Government service delivery/grants/contracts		
ACC	35,100	13,900
Sport New Zealand	1,011,765	1,177,182
Total Government service delivery/grants/contracts	**1,046,865**	**1,191,082**
Interest revenue		
Interest income	10,536	13,247
Total Interest income	**10,536**	**13,247**
Membership fees and subscriptions		
Membership income	148,435	131,662
Total Membership income	**148,435**	**131,662**
Non-government service delivery/grants/contracts		
Advertising revenue	7,400	6,225
Aquatics revenue	191,330	200,206
Branch revenue	1,327	-
Cems & crems revenue	44,287	123,852
Community revenue	381	2,286
Conference revenue	757,144	741,205
Ngā Niho Taniwha income	24,253	10,810
Other service revenue	16,645	23,338
Parks revenue	35,602	29,480
Partnership revenue	74,900	100,450
Total Non-government service delivery/grants/contracts	**1,153,269**	**1,237,852**
Other revenue		
Other revenue	2,268	2,616
Total Other revenue	**2,268**	**2,616**

5. Analysis of Expenses

Costs related to rendering of services	2026	2025
Administration expenses	18,730	5,955
Aquatics expenses	41,935	51,278
Cems & Crems expenses	10,661	77,506
Communication expenses	4,379	5,190
Community expenses	-	67,954
Conference expenses	460,168	479,511
Contractors	-	16,000
Disability & Inclusion expenses	9,691	14,033
Information technology	3,390	9,120
Legal expenses	2,850	8,535
Membership expenses	26,861	49,218
Ngā Niho Taniwha expenses	22,210	9,706
Outdoor expenses	21,769	70,324
Parks expenses	21,591	22,857
Recruitment expenses	1,645	816
Rent and office expenses	120,311	132,462
Revenue strategy expenses	29,500	7,750
Staff training	14,085	12,130
Strategy and partnership expenses	4,244	22,888
Strengthen & Adapt expenses	3,204	4,298
Sustainability expenses	1,289	1,665
Travel expenses	18,230	18,315
Total Costs related to rendering of services	**836,743**	**1,087,509**

5. Analysis of Expenses (cont.)		
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	**2026**	**2025**
ACC Levies	2,778	2,514
Staff remuneration	1,350,556	1,341,660
Total Employee remuneration and other related expenses	**1,353,334**	**1,344,174**
Other expenses		
Accounting expenses	38,303	44,078
Audit fees	21,030	20,530
Bad debts	12,522	5,200
Bank fees	1,134	2,402
Depreciation	7,262	8,528
Governance expenses	28,663	26,791
Insurance	7,184	7,024
Interest expense	13	6
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	5,495	508
Total Other expenses	**121,605**	**115,066**

6. Cash and cash equivalents

Current asset	2026	2025
Auckland bank account	12,926	13,902
Canterbury bank account	5,080	5,781
Central region bank account	3,472	3,561
Generate bank account	990	-
Head Office bank accounts	222,131	231,172
Midland bank accounts	11,818	12,052
Otago/Southland bank account	6,112	5,080
Wellington bank accounts	25,112	23,672
Term deposits with original maturity of 3 months or less	55,645	128,501
Total Current asset	**343,286**	**423,720**
Current liability		
BNZ credit cards	4,118	3,839
Total Current liability	**4,118**	**3,839**
Total Cash and cash equivalents	**339,167**	**419,882**

The interest rate on the term deposit is 1.70% (2025: varied from 2.10% to 2.25%). The maturity date is 22 July 2026 (2025: varied from 4 July 2025 to 23 July 2025).

7. Debtors and prepayments		
Current assets	**2026**	**2025**
Accounts receivable	110,521	86,970
Accrued interest	1,252	1,341
Government service delivery grants/contracts accrued	165,996	167,876
Other accrued income	-	7,073
Prepayments	107,023	75,385
Total Current assets	**384,792**	**338,644**
Non-current assets		
Prepayments	-	4,874
Total Non-current assets	**-**	**4,874**
Total Debtors and prepayments	**384,792**	**343,518**

8. Property, plant and equipment	2026	2025
Office equipment	52,939	53,510
Less accumulated depreciation on office equipment	(30,597)	(33,975)
Total Property, plant and equipment	**22,342**	**19,536**

Reconciliation of the carrying amount at the beginning and end of the period:	2026	2025
Opening book value	19,536	22,374
Additions	15,562	6,197
Depreciation	(7,262)	(8,528)
Loss on disposal of assets	(5,495)	(508)
Total Property, plant and equipment	**22,342**	**19,536**

9. Investments		
Current term deposits	**2026**	**2025**
BNZ term deposits	298,322	161,311
Total Current term deposits	**298,322**	**161,311**
Non-current term deposits		
BNZ term deposit	8,131	12,557
Total Non-current assets	**8,131**	**12,557**
Total Investments	**306,453**	**173,869**

Interest rates on term deposits vary from 2.70% to 4.35% (2025: 3.5% to 5.0%). Maturity dates range from 20 July 2026 to 23 August 2027 (2025: 21 July 2025 to 22 February 2027).

10. Creditors and accrued expenses	2026	2025
Accrued expenses	39,062	48,870
Accounts payable	30,420	65,756
GST payable	9,842	28,093
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	**79,323**	**142,719**

11. Employee costs payable	2026	2025
Accrued holiday pay	32,440	25,468
Wages payable	36,164	28,528
Total Employee costs payable	**68,605**	**53,996**

12. Deferred revenue

Current liability	2026	2025
General grants	10,000	10,000
Non-government partnerships	9,000	2,500
Rendering of services	77,026	88,411
Government service delivery grants/contracts	233,532	166,424
Membership fees and subscriptions	5,334	3,995
Total Current liability	**334,892**	**271,330**
Total Deferred revenue	**334,892**	**271,330**

Income in advance from memberships relates to services to be provided in the 2026/2027 financial year.

13. Other liabilities

Funds held on behalf	2026	2025
Staff social club	1,908	1,998
CK Doig Award Funds	22,200	-
Simcock Award Funds	149	777
Total Funds held on behalf	**24,258**	**2,775**
Total Other liabilities	**24,258**	**2,775**

Funds held on behalf are made up of staff social club funds taken directly from wages paid.

The Simcock Award was awarded to Kuruho Wereta, the Manager of Māori Outcomes, and is spent at his discretion.

The CK Doig Award was awarded to Sarah Murray, Kaiwhakahaere Matua Chief Executive, and is spent at her discretion.

14. Lease commitments

The future non-cancellable minimum lease payments under operating leases as lessee at reporting date are detailed in the table below:

The below commitment represents the leasing of premises in Wellington.

Lease commitments	2026	2025
Not later than one year	36,506	36,506
Later than one year, not later than five years	51,716	88,222
Greater than five years	-	-
Total Lease commitments	**88,222**	**124,727**

15. Related party transactions

Kirsty Knowles is a board member, and a Director of Community Leisure Management (CLM). $10,000 was received in the current year from CLM in partnership income (2025: $10,000). Kirsty is also a Director at Te Mahi Ako Board and during the year there are sponsorship transactions associated with the organisation totalling $13,000 (2025: $13,000).

16. Events after the balance date

There were no significant events after the balance date.

17. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at balance date (2025: $Nil).

18. Contingent assets and liabilities

There were no contingent assets or liabilities at balance date (2025: $Nil).

Entity Information

Recreation Aotearoa – For the year ended 30 June 2026

Legal Name of Entity:
Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga Incorporated

Trading as: ('Recreation Aotearoa')

Entity Structure:
Incorporated society (#550061) and registered charity (#CC43214).

Nature of business:
To champion high-quality recreation for the benefit of New Zealand.

Entity Governance Arrangements:
We are a charitable body governed by a national board of seven people. Our local networks and service delivery are governed by six regional committees. Separate advisory groups and committees have been established to support the development and delivery of our programmes.

Registered office:
29 Brandon Street
Te Aro, Wellington 6011

Bankers:
Bank of New Zealand

Chartered Accountants:
BDO Wellington Limited

Level 1, 50 Customhouse Quay
Wellington

Auditors:
Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Audit Limited

Wellington

The Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services:
Up to 128 members of Recreation Aotearoa volunteered their time and contributed to our member services and deliverables during the year.



Board Members

Interests and Meeting Attendance

Bobbi Clark-Heu

Board Co-Chair | Chief Executive Performance Committee Member | Te Kāhui Kura Māori Member

Term commenced: February 2021

Board meeting attendance: 6/7
CE Performance Committee attendance: 2/2

Directorships

- Sport Integrity Commission | Te Kahu Raunui - Director and Member of Te Ope Tāmiro, Māori advisory group
- Te Tuia Sports Club – Chairperson
- Waikato Institute of Leadership & Sport Studies (WILSS) – Trustee
- Wairere Sports Club – Board Member
- DBH Investments Limited – Shareholder & Director
- MVP Cars 2023 Limited – Shareholder & Director
- PA Holdings Limited – Shareholder & Director

Other related interests

- PWC PricewaterhouseCoopers – Manukura Cultural Manager.

Kirsty Knowles

Board Co-Chair | Chief Executive Performance Committee Member

Term commenced: February 2021

Board meeting attendance: 7/7
CE Performance Committee attendance: 2/2

Directorships

- Community Leisure Charitable Trust – Trustee
- Skills Active Aotearoa – Director
- Te Mahi Ako – Director

Other related interests

- Community Leisure Management – Director of CLM, Sponsor/Partner of Recreation Aotearoa

Amanda Davies

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee Member

Term commenced: December 2023

Board meeting attendance: 6/7
Audit, Finance and Risk Committee attendance: 5/5

Other related interests

- Tauranga City Council – Portfolio Manager: Community Projects
- Institute of Directors – Member

Antoinette Campbell

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee Member

Term commenced: December 2024

Board meeting attendance: 5/7
Audit, Finance and Risk Committee attendance: 4/5

Other related interests

- Ōpōtiki District Council – Group Manager Strategy & Development
- New Zealand Planning Institute – Member

Doug Cole

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee Member | Outdoor Recreation Sub-Committee Board Representative

Term commenced: February 2026

Board meeting attendance: 3/3
Audit, Finance and Risk Committee attendance: 2/3
Outdoor Recreation Sub-Committee attendance: 2/2

Kiri Pope

Chief Executive Performance Committee Member | Regional Advisory Group Board Representative

Term commenced: December 2024

Board meeting attendance: 7/7
Regional Advisory Group attendance: 6/6

Other related interests

- RSL Consultancy – Senior Consultant

Paora Te Hurihanganui

Te Kāhui Kura Māori Member

Term commenced: March 2023
Term ended: February 2026

Board meeting attendance: 3/4

Other related interests

- Sport New Zealand – PhD Student (Insights Team) April 2021
- Te Arawa Whānau Ora – Employee

Watene Hema

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee Member (until December 2026) | Outdoor Recreation Sub-Committee Board Representative (until March 2026)

Term commenced: August 2023

Board meeting attendance: 6/7
Audit, Finance and Risk Committee attendance: 2/2
Outdoor Recreation Sub-Committee attendance: 4/4

Directorships

- New Zealand Māori Golf Association – Trustee
- Tane Whai Ora - Canterbury Men's centre - Trustee

Other related interests

- Te Tauraki – Employee

Kuputaka · Glossary

This glossary translates te reo Māori words that appear in the report without an English translation. Other te reo Māori terms are translated within the text, so they are not repeated here. The glossary is here to support understanding.

Aotearoa – New Zealand
Aroha – to love
Awa – river

Hapū – sub-tribe
Hoe urungi – steering paddle
Hui – meeting

Iwi – tribe

Kaimahi – staff
Kaitiakitanga – guardianship
Kaupapa – purpose, programme, initiative
Kēmu – game
Kōrero – to speak, talk
Kotahitanga – unity, solidarity, collective action

Mahi – work
Mahi ngātahi – working together, partnership
Manaakitanga – respect, care for others
Mana whenua – tribal people of a particular area
Manu – bird
Mātauranga Māori – Māori knowledge
Mauri – life force
Mihi – acknowledge, thank
Motu – country

Ngā mahi ā te rēhia – recreational activities
Ngahere – bush, forest
Noho marae – marae stay

Pūrākau – story
Puawānanga – clematis

Rangatahi – young people
Rangatiratanga – leadership or self-determination
Rōpū – group

Taiao – natural world
Tākaro – to play
Tamariki – children
Tangata Tiriti – non-Māori peoples
Tangata whenua – indigenous Māori peoples
Tauutuutu – reciprocity
Taonga – prized object
Taonga tākaro – toy
Taonga pūoro – musical instrument
Te ao Māori – the Māori worldview
Te ao Pākehā – the western worldview
Te Whai Oranga – the active pursuit of wellbeing
Tikanga – correct procedure

Wairua – spirit
Wairuatanga – spirituality
Waka hourua – double-hulled canoe
Wānanga – to meet and discuss, conference
Whai – stingray
Whare tapere – entertainment, house of entertainment
Whāinga Amorangi – structured framework
Whakawhanaungatanga – process of establishing relationships
Whānau – family
Whanaungatanga – relationships
Whenua – land

Recreation Aotearoa
Te Whai Oranga

Mihi to our Strategic Partners

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

syngenta

xyst

Te Mahi Ako

Watershed Property, Projects & Aquatics + People

FPC A division of Watershed

Mihi to our Industry Partners

CLM

belgravialeisure

Architecture HDT

Beca

Mihi to our Supporters

nzct Community Trust

Rātā Foundation

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