



# Council Agenda

Wednesday 02 September 2026, 8:30  
am

The meeting will be held at the Manawatū District Council  
Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and a video  
recording made available on

**[www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz)**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Chairperson**

His Worship the Mayor, Michael Ford

### **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Grant Hadfield

### **Members**

Councillor Bridget Bell  
Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins  
Councillor Rob Duindam  
Councillor Colin Dyer  
Councillor Sam Hill  
Councillor Raewyn Loader  
Councillor James McKelvie  
Councillor Jerry Pickford  
Councillor Andrew Quarrie  
Councillor Alison Short



Shayne Harris  
**Chief Executive**

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

## PAGE

### 1. MEETING OPENING

Oriana Paewai from Aorangi Marae.

### 2. APOLOGIES

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6

#### ***Recommendation***

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held 19 August 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.*

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Notification from elected members of:

- 4.1 Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and
- 4.2 Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

### 5. PUBLIC FORUM

There are no public forum speakers scheduled for this meeting.

### 6. PRESENTATIONS

#### **6.1 REPRESENTATIVE FUND – WORLD HIP HOP DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP, ARIZONA**

Oscar Hansen Wall & Lenny Hansen Wall will be in attendance to speak to Council about their attendance at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship in the USA.

#### **6.2 REPRESENTATIVE FUND – NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Kaylee Miller will be in attendance to speak to Council about their attendance at the NZ Secondary Schools Swimming Championships.

### 7. NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting, that item may be dealt with at that meeting if:

- 7.1 The Council by resolution so decides; and
- 7.2 The Chairperson explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public the reason why the item is not on the agenda, and the reason why

the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There are no recommendations from committees.

## 9. NON-COUNCIL MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

Minutes of the following Community Committees meetings are uploaded to the Council's website, as they become available.

Liaison councillors will have the opportunity to provide a verbal update.

The below meetings took place from 19 August – 01 September 2026:

| COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bainesse-Rangiotu – Cr Raewyn Loader                                                                                                                                                                              | • 19 August 2026 |
| Cheltenham – Cr Rob Duindam                                                                                                                                                                                       | • 25 August 2026 |
| Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford                                                                                                                                                                               | • 27 August 2026 |
| Rangiwahia – Cr Grant Hadfield                                                                                                                                                                                    | • 26 August 2026 |
| <a href="https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans">https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans</a> |                  |

| MARAE                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|
| Aorangi Marae - Cr Rob Duindam            |
| Kauwhata Marae – Cr Raewyn Loader         |
| Parewahawaha Marae – Cr Alison Short      |
| Poupatatē Marae – Cr James McKelvie       |
| Taumata-o-te-rā Marae - Cr Colin Dyer     |
| Te Hiiri Marae – Cr Sam Hill              |
| Te Rangimārie Marae – Cr Jerry Pickford   |
| Te Tikanga Marae – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins |
| Ngāti Te Au – Cr Grant Hadfield           |
| Ngāwhakaraua marae – Cr Andrew Quarrie    |

## 10. OFFICER REPORTS

### 10.1 SPORT MANAWATŪ 12-MONTH REPORT 14

Report of the General Manager – Community.

### 10.2 AMENDMENT TO SILVER FERN RALLY CLOSURE 74

Report of the General Manager – Infrastructure.

### 10.3 SYSTEM OF VOTING 80

Report of the General Manager – Corporate.

**11. CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS****12. PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**

COUNCIL TO RESOLVE:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Confirmation of Minutes; 19 August 2026

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter                                                                                                                                                                     | Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13. Confirmation of Minutes; 19 August 2026     | <i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 19 August 2026.</i><br><br><i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i> | s48(1)(a)                                                      |

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

**15. MEETING CLOSURE**

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 19 August 2026, which commenced at 8.30 am at the Manawātū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

|                |                                |                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PRESENT:       | Mayor Michael Ford             | Chairperson                      |
|                | Councillor Bridget Bell        |                                  |
|                | Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins |                                  |
|                | Councillor Rob Duindam         |                                  |
|                | Councillor Colin Dyer          |                                  |
|                | Councillor Grant Hadfield      |                                  |
|                | Councillor Sam Hill            |                                  |
|                | Councillor Raewyn Loader       |                                  |
|                | Councillor James McKelvie      |                                  |
|                | Councillor Jerry Pickford      |                                  |
|                | Councillor Andrew Quarrie      |                                  |
|                | Councillor Alison Short        |                                  |
|                |                                |                                  |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Shayne Harris                  | Chief Executive                  |
|                | Hamish Waugh                   | General Manager – Infrastructure |
|                | Frances Smorti                 | General Manager – Corporate      |
|                | Kate Jarvis                    | General Manager – People         |
|                | Lyn Daly                       | General Manager – Community      |
|                | Ash Garstang                   | Governance and Assurance Manager |
|                | Lisa Thomas                    | Strategy Manager                 |
|                | Matthew Mackay                 | Principal Policy Planner         |
|                | Richard Hills                  | Senior Policy Planner            |
|                | Ross Patching                  | Development Navigator            |
|                | Axel Malecki                   | Policy Adviser                   |

MDC 25-28/351

#### MEETING OPENING

Cr James McKelvie opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/352

#### APOLOGIES

#### RESOLVED

**That the apology for Councillor Andrew Quarrie for lateness be approved.**

**Moved by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins**

**Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer**

**CARRIED (11-0)**

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

MDC 25-28/353

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Council meeting held 05 August 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.**

**Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield**

**Seconded by: Cr Alison Short**

**CARRIED (11-0)**

MDC 25-28/354

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/355

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/356

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND – FOOTLOCKER U18 BASKETBALL NATIONALS IN AUCKLAND

Luca Giordiani and Brock Piper were unable to attend the meeting.

MDC 25-28/357

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND - U18 NATIONAL MENS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT, TAURANGA

Max Dodunski was in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights:

- The team made it to the semi-finals and lost in a shoot-out to Auckland, who went on to win the tournament.
- Max has been selected for the Central Falcons team. He will participate in an upcoming testing and match play, after which the team will be narrowed down to 20 players.

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

MDC 25-28/358

## PRESENTATION - DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY REVIEW

Lisa Thomas (Strategy Manager) was in attendance speaking to Council about the Development and Financial Contributions Policy Review.

*Cr Andrew Quarrie arrived at 8.43 am.*

MDC 25-28/359

## FEILDING AND DISTRICT PROMOTION - ANNUAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2026

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting Feilding & District Promotion's Annual Report for the period ending 30 June 2026 as required under the grant funding agreement between Feilding & District Promotion and Manawātū District Council.

Evan Tull (Chair) and Sarah Gilbertson (Manager) from FDP spoke to the item.

### RESOLVED

#### That Council:

- 1. Receives the Feilding & District Promotion Annual Report for the period ending 30 June 2026.**
- 2. Accepts that Feilding & District Promotion has satisfactorily met its service delivery outcomes and reporting obligations specified for 2025/26.**

**Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford**

**Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer**

**CARRIED (12-0)**

*The meeting was adjourned at 10.10 am and reconvened at 10.33 am.*

MDC 25-28/360

## NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/361

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

MDC 25-28/362

## COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committees, Community Committees meetings were notified for information.

| COMMITTEE MEETINGS      |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Manawatū Water Services | • 12 August 2026 |

| COMMUNITY COMMITTEES               |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader         | • 18 August 2026 |
| Kimbolton – Cr Rob Duindam         | • 10 August 2026 |
| Pohangina Valley – Cr Bridget Bell | • 12 August 2026 |
| Sanson – Cr Alison Short           | • 13 August 2026 |
| Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie     | • 17 August 2026 |
| Waituna West – Cr Sam Hill         | • 12 August 2026 |

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Manawatū Water Services – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins. The key item was to adopt the workplan for the 2026/27 year. Information was also provided around the DIA reporting requirements. A key discussion was around the possibility of water metres – the current thinking from staff is that water metering is not required.
- Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader. There have been a number of sporting and maths competition successes at Hiwinui, which were celebrated at their meeting. The Committee did question the variable speed sign outside of the school – it is currently 40 km/h, but they would like to reduce it.
- Kimbolton – Cr Rob Duindam. The new Chair is in place. The Committee rolled over some of their funding. A few of the projects they were looking at are already being partially fulfilled by Council, so the Chair will liaise with Council staff on these. A few points of concern around the Kiwitea water scheme, which Cr Duindam will refer to the Manawatū Water Services Committee.
- Pohangina Valley – Cr Bridget Bell. Acknowledged Stacey McLaughlin's attendance online. They had a County Fair Committee member attending who wanted to know who was responsible for the Branch Road Walkway – this Committee no longer has the capacity to continue the maintenance, and they want to know if Council will have the capacity to take over this work. The temporary rock placement concept from the Roding Team – the Committee would like to know when this work will commence.
- Sanson – Cr Alison Short. There was no quorum, due to sickness, so the August meeting was cancelled.
- Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie. Some of the hall cladding has been repaired and replaced. There are still concerns around river erosion, particularly where it is undermining Scott Ferry Road.

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

- Waituna West – Cr Sam Hill. The Chair spoke about the upcoming cemetery upgrade plans. They plan to have a covered memorial wall where plaques can be placed. They are also going to install park benches and more planting. They have enquired about public access to the Rangitikei River down by the dumpsite on Rangitikei Valley Road.

MDC 25-28/363

#### MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided a verbal update on their attendance at marae meetings.

- Cr Bridget Bell – met with the Chairman of Te Iwi Tekau Marae, Aorangi Marae, and the Chairman of the Kauwhata Committee at Council.

MDC 25-28/364

#### ENDORSEMENT OF THE COUNCIL STRATEGY

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council endorsement of the Council Strategy (Annex A) for use as the strategic framing for Council's 2027-37 Long-term Plan (LTP). This will enable the Strategy to be used to help guide prioritisation and decision-making for the LTP project.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Council endorse the Council Strategy (Annex A) and agree to its use in setting the strategic direction for Council's 2027-37 Long-term Plan.
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve any final edits required to the Council Strategy (Annex A) prior to its use in setting the strategic direction for Council's 2027-37 Long-term Plan.

***Note: The Strategy will be finalised and adopted alongside the 2027-37 Long-term Plan, following consultation and Council's final decisions on the contents of the Plan.***

**Moved by:** Cr Alison Short

**Seconded by:** Cr Jerry Pickford

**CARRIED (12-0)**

MDC 25-28/365

#### ADOPTION OF THE HALLS MANAGEMENT POLICY

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council's adoption of the revised Halls Management Policy (Annex A). The revised policy modernises the governance framework for the management of community halls, clarifies the respective roles of Council and Hall Committees and aligns the policy with Council's current strategic direction.

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

## RESOLVED

1. That Council adopts the Halls Management Policy 2026 (Annex A).
2. That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make minor editorial amendments to the Halls Management Policy prior to publication, provided those amendments do not alter the policy's intent.
3. That Council notes that adoption of the policy does not predetermine future decisions on the retention, renewal, repurposing, divestment, disposal, depreciation, or funding of individual halls, which remain subject to Council decision-making through the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, Financial Strategy, asset management planning, and applicable engagement requirements.
4. That Council notes that a more substantive review of the community hall network, including service levels, funding and depreciation settings and network configuration, is intended to be undertaken after the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 review cycle.

Moved by: Cr Sam Hill

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

**CARRIED (12-0)**

MDC 25-28/366

## ADOPTION OF THE ROAD STOPPING POLICY

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council's adoption of the proposed Road Stopping Policy, attached as Annex A.

## RESOLVED

1. That the Council adopts the Road Stopping Policy, attached as Annex A, with effect from 19 August 2026, as amended:
  - Remove "where relevant" from bullet point 4 of section 2.1 of the Policy.
2. That the Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make minor editorial amendments to the Road Stopping Policy prior to publication, provided those amendments do not alter the policy's intent.

**Note:** That the accompanying report should more appropriately say "where a proposal may affect mana whenua, Council will identify and engage with the affected parties at an early stage of the assessment process."

Moved by: Cr Bridget Bell

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

**CARRIED (12-0)**

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

MDC 25-28/367

## CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/368

## PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

### RESOLVED

**That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:**

1. **Confirmation of Minutes: 05 August 2026**
2. **Community Honours 2026**

**That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:**

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter                                                                                                                                                                    | Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13. Confirmation of Minutes; 05 August 2026     | <i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 5 August 2026.</i><br><br><i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i> | s48(1)(a)                                                      |
| 14.1 Community Honours 2026                     | s7(2)(a) – privacy<br><br><i>To protect the privacy of the nominees and nominators.</i>                                                                                                                                          | s48(1)(a)                                                      |

**This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.**

**Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford**

| MEETING MINUTES          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| COUNCIL                  | TIME    |
| WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 | 8:30 AM |

**Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader**

**CARRIED (12-0)**

*The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.24 am. For items MDC 25-28/369 to MDC 25-28/371 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 12.05 pm.*

MDC 25-28/372

#### MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.05 pm.

#### Meeting Video

<https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>

## **Council**

Meeting of 02 September 2026

Business Unit: Community

Date Created: 20 May 2026

## **Sport Manawatū 12-Month Report**

### **Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo**

To present the Sport Manawatū 12-Month Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, as required under the contract between Sport Manawatū and Manawatū District Council.

### **Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga**

That Council:

1. Receives the Sport Manawatū 12-Month Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
2. Accepts that Sport Manawatū has satisfactorily met its service delivery outcomes and reporting obligations specified for 2025/26.

Report prepared by:

Adie Johansen

Community Services Manager

Approved for submission by:

Lyn Daly

General Manager - Community

## **1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri**

- 1.1 Manawatū District Council entered into a contract with Sport Manawatū Charitable Trust for the provision of “Manawatū District Sport Services”. The term of the contract was from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2021 with the total value of the contract over that term being \$450,000 excluding GST. The contract was extended for a further three-year period until 30 June 2025.
- 1.2 Council have further extended the contract for a year from 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026. The annual value of Council’s contract with Sport Manawatū is \$110,000 excluding GST.
- 1.3 Under the terms of the contract, Sport Manawatū is required to provide six-monthly and annual reports within six weeks of the end of each reporting period. This report covers the full 12-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and represents the final report under the current contract extension.

## **2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki**

- 2.1 The contract between Sport Manawatū and Manawatū District Council contributes to all of Council’s priorities:
- 2.2 A place to belong and grow: Sport Manawatū supports community wellbeing by enabling inclusive, accessible opportunities for play, active recreation, and sport. Programmes delivered during the reporting period focused on rangatahi, tamariki, whānau, people with disabilities, and priority communities, supporting social connection, confidence, and participation.
- 2.3 A future planned together: Through programme delivery, sector engagement, and data-informed insights, Sport Manawatū provides Council with locally relevant information on participation trends, emerging needs, and system pressures. This supports informed decision-making for future investment in programmes, partnerships, and facilities.
- 2.4 An environment to be proud of: The partnership supports active lifestyles through initiatives that encourage everyday movement, use of public spaces, and active transport. This includes play activations, walking and cycling initiatives, and support for informal, low-cost activity opportunities in local communities.
- 2.5 Infrastructure fit for the future: Sport Manawatū plays an active role in regional facility planning and sector coordination, supporting Council to understand demand, identify gaps, and plan for equitable access to fit-for-purpose sport and recreation spaces.
- 2.6 Value for money and excellence in local government: The contract provides Council with access to Sport Manawatū’s specialist expertise, established relationships across the sport and recreation sector, and ability to attract and administer external funding. This extends the reach of Council’s investment and supports delivery of programmes, events and initiatives that would otherwise require additional Council resource or investment.

### 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

3.1 In accordance with the contract, Sport Manawatū has provided a six-month report outlining delivery against agreed outcomes. A summary of performance for the period is outlined below. Full detail is contained in the attached reports.

3.2 Outcome 1: The Manawatū district develops a strong foundation for community wellbeing through play, active recreation, and sport.

Throughout the year, Sport Manawatū worked with schools, clubs, community organisations and Council to increase opportunities for people to participate in play, active recreation and sport. Delivery included targeted programmes for children and young people, support to remove cost and equipment barriers, initiatives for people with disabilities and other groups who may face barriers to participation, and support to strengthen the capability of local organisations to provide ongoing opportunities.

3.3 At Hato Pāora College, Sport Manawatū worked directly with students to identify activities they wanted to try outside traditional school sport. This resulted in opportunities to participate in boxing, indoor bowls, paintball and golf with local providers. Sport Manawatū also continued its partnership with REPLAY NZ, connecting donated sports equipment with schools, community organisations and individuals where cost was a barrier to participation. This included more than 60 items redistributed directly to the community through the Play, Pass it On, Replay event, alongside equipment provided to Sanson School, the Halcombe community play bin and individuals identified through local community connections.

3.4 Sport Manawatū also provided targeted support through programmes such as Green Prescription and its work with Saint Dominic's. At Saint Dominic's, activities were developed around participant interests including darts, basketball, biking, table tennis and volleyball, while staff were supported to build the confidence and capability to continue delivering activities independently. The programme is featured on pages 6–7 of the magazine ([Harikoa magazine - Pathways](#)).

A significant contribution of the partnership is Sport Manawatū's ability to connect local organisations with external funding. During 2025/26, **\$152,989 of Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding** was allocated to organisations delivering opportunities for children and young people in the Manawatū District, particularly where barriers to participation exist. Sport Manawatū also administered the **\$100,000 NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund**, providing another source of funding for local initiatives that increase participation in play, active recreation and sport.

3.5 Outcome 2: People have the skills to safely and confidently ride a bike on our roads, shared paths, and cycleways.

Sport Manawatū continued to deliver cycle skills training across the district, with a particular focus on rural schools and the home-school community. In December, the programme was delivered to the home-school community for the first time, with 26 students of varying ages and abilities participating in practical cycle skills training, including on-road riding for more experienced participants.

During the second half of the year, the programme was extended to rural schools, with 209 students across six school settings participating in cycle skills training. Of the 11 students who were unable to ride a bike at the beginning of the programme, five learned to ride, and there was a 16.5% increase in students identifying themselves as very confident riders following the training.

- 3.6 Outcome 3: Sport and Recreation facilities (Places and Spaces) across the District meet community requirements.
- 3.7 Sport Manawatū continued to support Council and the wider region with planning for sport and recreation facilities through the implementation of He Rā Ki Tua, the Horizons Regional Spaces and Places Plan. This included bringing councils from across the Horizons region together in Feilding and supporting a consistent, evidence-based approach to future sport and recreation facility planning.
- 3.8 During the first six months, Sport Manawatū supported Manfeild Park by facilitating engagement with regional sporting organisations and potential users to identify existing capacity constraints, with feedback sought from sports including volleyball, basketball, netball, futsal, tennis, pickleball, badminton and bowls.
- 3.9 Sport Manawatū also worked alongside Council officers and Sport New Zealand to support the Makino Aquatic Centre feasibility study. Through He Rā Ki Tua, Sport Manawatū connected the project with regional facility planning, provided access to Sport New Zealand guidance and resources, and secured a \$15,000 contribution towards the engagement of consultants to undertake the feasibility study. Council officers have also used the He Rā Ki Tua network to learn from other councils, collaborate with regional facility practitioners, access local and national insights from Sport New Zealand and industry experts, and share approaches to common facility challenges. This has helped inform and align Council's thinking on facility planning with work occurring across the wider region.
- 3.10 Outcome 4: Sports and community sport events create social and participation opportunities as well as economic benefits and contribute to hauora. Minimum of ten events per year.
- 3.11 Sport Manawatū exceeded the contractual requirement to deliver or support a minimum of ten events during the year. Events ranged from neighbourhood and school-based activities through to district, regional and national sporting events. Some of these activities are also referenced under the outcomes above and are not additional to that delivery.
- 3.12 Across the year, Sport Manawatū delivered or supported community events and activations including Feilding Farmers Market pop-up play; Play, Pass it On, Replay; the school holiday Basketball Pop-Up; Rural Day Relay; the Disability Sports Festival; four Feilding Blue Light Street Parties; two January school holiday pop-up play sessions; Play Along the Way; Have a Go Day; Family Fun Day; Tamariki Toa; Mt Biggs Tough Kids Challenge; the Lytton Street School 125th Jubilee Gala Day; the Falls Prevention Workshop; Tangimoana Rippa Rugby Tournament; Dash and Splash; and the International Day of Play sensory play session.
- 3.13 Sport Manawatū's role varied depending on the event. In some cases, it led or co-delivered the activity, while in others it provided staff, equipment, promotion,

connections to sporting organisations or event delivery support. For example, at Council's Family Fun Day, Sport Manawatū activated the Community Hub Libraries Play Trailer and provided sports equipment for children and young people. For Splash and Dash at Makino Aquatic Centre, Sport Manawatū provided promotion, staff and equipment, with the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund enabling the event to be provided free of charge. At the Tangimoana Rippa Rugby Tournament, Sport Manawatū coordinated officials through Manawatū Rugby and provided first aid, timekeeping and scoring support for more than 100 children from eight rural schools.

- 3.14 The year also included larger events with significant reach. Have a Go Day attracted 1,122 people and 21 clubs and organisations, providing residents with free opportunities to try different sports while giving local clubs direct access to potential new participants. Tamariki Toa involved more than 800 children from six schools, while the Mt Biggs Tough Kids Challenge attracted more than 850 children from surrounding schools.
- 3.15 Sport Manawatū also supported regional and national sporting events during the year, including the National School Road Cycling Championships, NZ Road Relay Championships, Manawatū Inter Secondary School Athletics and Manawatū Secondary School Cross Country. The NZ Road Relay Championships alone brought approximately 1,000 runners and walkers across 145 teams from Auckland to Dunedin to roads around Feilding and Halcombe. The Secondary School Cross Country at Timona Park attracted 225 students from 15 schools, a 32% increase in participation from the previous year. This support included practical event delivery, for example assisting with course set-up and delivery for the Manawatū Secondary School Cross Country and working alongside the organising committee to support delivery of the event across Rongotea, Halcombe and Manfeild for the National School Road Cycling Championships.

#### **4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru**

- 4.1 There are no risks associated with the recommendation to receive this report. Sport Manawatū has fulfilled its reporting obligations under the contract, and no decision is being sought that would alter service delivery or create new risk.

#### **5 Engagement Te Whakapānga**

##### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

##### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

##### Community Engagement

- 5.3 No additional community engagement is required. The report reflects delivery of services already agreed through the existing contract.

## **6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere**

- 6.1 The report summarises delivery of outcomes under an existing service contract. There are no new operational impacts for Council.

## **7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni**

- 7.1 The annual value of Council's contract with Sport Manawatū is \$110,000 excluding GST. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 In addition to the services, programmes, events and specialist advice provided through the contract, the partnership provides access to external funding and resources that support sport, recreation and community participation within the Manawatū District.
- 7.3 During 2025/26, Sport Manawatū administered **\$152,989 of Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding** to organisations delivering play, active recreation and sport opportunities within the Manawatū District. This funding is targeted particularly towards children and young people where barriers to participation exist.
- 7.4 Sport Manawatū also secured and administered the **\$100,000 NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund** for the district. This fund supports local initiatives that increase participation in play, active recreation and sport. During the year the fund supported local activities, including enabling Dash and Splash at Makino Aquatic Centre to be delivered free of charge to participants.
- 7.5 Through the He Rā Ki Tua Spaces and Places programme, Sport Manawatū also provided a **\$15,000 contribution towards the engagement of consultants for the Makino Aquatic Centre feasibility study**, alongside providing Council with access to Sport New Zealand guidance and resources.
- 7.6 Together, these funding streams represent **\$267,989 of funding and financial support** directed into the Manawatū District during 2025/26 from sources outside Council's \$110,000 contract. This is in addition to the services delivered through the contract, including community programmes and events, support for clubs and community organisations, facility planning expertise, sector connections and advice to Council.
- 7.7 The wider programme of work delivered by Sport Manawatū in the district is not funded solely through Council's contract. Sport Manawatū accesses funding and resources from across the sport, health and education sectors for activities that align with those sectors' priorities and responsibilities, extending what can be delivered locally alongside Council's investment.

## **8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture**

- 8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

## **9 Next Steps Te Kokenga**

- 9.1 Council has extended the current contract with Sport Manawatū for a further 12 months, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

- 9.2 Council officers will continue to work closely with Sport Manawatū over the coming year and look forward to discussions regarding the future partnership and its contribution to play, active recreation and sport across the Manawatū District beyond 30 June 2027.
- 9.3 These discussions will provide an opportunity to review the current contract outcomes and consider future service priorities, taking into account the value delivered through the partnership and the needs of the Manawatū District community.

## **10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga**

- 10.1 Sport Manawatū: January - June 2026 report
- 10.2 Sport Manawatū: July - Dec 2025 six-month report

Manawātū District Council

# SIX MONTH PARTNERSHIP REPORT

1st January - 30th June 2026



## Sport Manawatū Regional Sports Awards 2026

The communities of the Sport Manawatū region came together on Thursday June 11 to celebrate the achievements of athletes, officials, teams, clubs and volunteers at the 2026 Sport Manawatū Regional Sports Awards.

Held at the Palmy Conference & Function Centre, the awards celebrated service, dedication, leadership, resilience, community impact and excellence at every level, from grassroots through to the high-performance stage.

A highlight of the evening was the powerful welcome from the Kapahaka students from MANUKURA which set the tone for the event.

These sports awards recognised more than results alone. They acknowledged the countless hours worked behind the scenes, the support required to achieve at a high level, and the passion and pride that sport brings to the region. The theme for the night was “where grassroots meets greatness”, and that is exactly what the night was all about.

The evening was made possible through the support of sponsors, including Manawatū District Council and Central Energy Trust, alongside a range of other local partners. With just under 300 people in attendance, the event brought together athletes, coaches, and officials to celebrate their achievements at regional, national, and international levels.

It also provided an opportunity to recognise the vital contribution of volunteers and sport partners, who play a key role in ensuring sport remains accessible within our community.

Legends of Sport were honoured and recognised for the lasting impact they have made across the region. Those inducted on the night as Legends of Sport were Jacob Oram, Ian Gray, Alan Adamson and Steve Stannard.



## Sport Manawatū Regional Sports Awards 2026

Among the evening's top honours, Kaipo Olsen-Baker was named Female Sportsperson of the Year, Te Pae Oranga o Ruahine o Tatarua Māori Sportsperson of the Year, and also awarded the Central Energy Trust Supreme Sportsperson of the Year.

Dane Cleaver was named Harcourts Team Manawatū Male Sportsperson of the Year, Reuben Rose the Ricoh Male Junior Sportsperson of the Year and the Snap Fitness Female Junior Sportsperson of the Year was won by Maia Davis.

Other key award winners included:

- Central Energy Trust Administrator of the Year - Vanessa Hodge (Athletics)
- Sport Manawatū Grassroots Volunteer of the Year - Craig Turner (Hockey)
- Rotary Manawatū Community Impact of the Year – ACROSS Social Services (Basketball)
- Manawatū District Council Official of the Year - David Tomlinson (Hockey)
- Manawatū & TRC Toyota Coach of the Year Award - Kristina Sue (Rugby Union)
- Manawatū Standard Team of the Year – MANUKURA Girls Rugby
- Robèrt Embroideries Club of the Year – Manawatū Skating Club
- Trophy Specialists & Engraving Sports Partner of the Year – Subway & Paul Boness
- St Dominic's School for the Deaf Charitable Trust Disabled Sportsperson of the Year (Intellectual) – Ryan Smith (Special Olympics Athletics)
- St Dominic's School for the Deaf Charitable Trust Disabled Sportsperson of the Year (Physical) - Guy Harrison (Golf / Triathlon / Swimming)
- Recognition of Resilience – Josh Hartwell (Golf)

Post-event feedback from both attendees and sponsors was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the success of the evening and reinforcing the importance of reinstating this event within the regional calendar.



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OUTCOMES WITH SPORT MANAWATŪ AND MANAWATŪ DISTRICT COUNCIL

This report builds on the first six-month report delivered earlier in the year. Below are the agreed outcomes.



The Manawatū District develops a strong foundation for community wellbeing through play, active recreation, and sport. Active recreation and community sport events create social opportunities and contribute to Hauora.



People have the skills to safely and confidently ride a bike on our roads, shared paths, and cycleways.



Sport and Recreation facilities (Spaces & Places) across the district meet community requirements. Sports and community sport events create social and participation opportunities as well as economic benefits.



# THE MANAWATŪ DISTRICT DEVELOPS A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING THROUGH PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION, AND SPORT

## Have a Go Day 2026

On 22 February 2026, Sport Manawātū, in collaboration with Feilding District Promotions and Manfeild, delivered the second annual Have a Go Day. The event welcomed 1,122 attendees, connecting local clubs with the community in a fun, inclusive environment.

The event was free to attend, with kai and water provided to support participants throughout the day. Growth was evident in its second year, with an increase in both attendance and participating clubs. Have a Go Day provided the community with the chance to try a wide range of sports and activities in one place, helping reduce barriers such as cost and access while encouraging tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau to get involved.

The event also gave clubs the opportunity to promote their sport, connect with new participants, and build awareness at no cost.

A total of 21 clubs and organisations attended, mostly from Feilding and surrounding areas, with strong interest from further afield. Feedback from both attendees and clubs will help shape the future growth of the event and ensure it continues to meet community needs.



*Braxton would never normally feel confident enough to try gymnastics, but it was here and everyone was doing it, so he did – now he wants to take some classes, we didn't know they did tumbling."*

— **Parent**

*"We had a great day and have already had some enquiries from the day, so it was well worth our time."*

— **Sarah Taylor** Kung Fu Academy



## Play Along the Way

On Thursday 5 February, Sport Manawātū delivered Play Along the Way, a community activation designed to bring the Makino Pathway to life and encourage whānau to get active through play, movement, and exploration.

The initiative highlighted key community assets, including Feilding Lions Mini Putt, the Skatepark, and the Makino Pathway, while creating an accessible and engaging experience for people of all ages. By linking these spaces through a playful, family-friendly approach, the event supported both active recreation and community connection.

Delivered in partnership with a range of local organisations, the event provided a free afternoon of activities. More than 65 people participated in complimentary mini putt, over 200 sausages were provided, and it is estimated that more than 250 people attended across the afternoon. A thank you to the councillors and Manawātū District Council staff who came along and supported the event, including cooking sausages on the day – it was great to have you all involved.

Contributing partners included Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata, Manawātū District Council, Manawātū Community Hub Libraries, Makino Aquatic Centre, Manawātū Skateboard Association, Feilding Blue Light, Next Level Athletes – Rangatahi, Feilding Lions Mini Putt, and the Feilding Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Makino Slip ‘n Slide was a key highlight, with warm weather contributing to high levels of participation and enjoyment. Feedback from attendees reflected strong engagement, with one local participant sharing, “It was super fun and I loved the slip and slide. I wish this happened every week.”

Play Along the Way demonstrated the value of partnerships and place-based activations in supporting community wellbeing through play, active recreation, and sport.



*“It was super fun and I loved the slip and slide. I wish this happened every week.”*

# 250+

Participants



## Pathways Programme (Saint Dominic's)

Over the past 12 months, Sport Manawātū has worked alongside staff and whaiora at Saint Dominic's to increase activity levels and build staff confidence to lead sessions independently.

The shift in engagement has been significant. When the programme began, we were often unable to get residents to come out of their units. Now, participation is consistent, relationships are strong, and residents are confidently engaging both in sessions and with us out in the community.

Activities have been shaped by participant interests, with football and cycle sessions proving particularly popular. This passion for cycling led to Saint Dominic's successfully securing funding through the Sport Manawātū NZCT Active Communities Fund, resulting in bikes, scooters, and helmets now being available for ongoing use.

Residents are now regularly attending our Green Prescription (GRx) programme at Evolve Fitness, committing to weekly Thursday sessions and making progress in their health and wellbeing journeys. Their continued participation highlights the lasting confidence, connections, and positive habits developed through the programme.

In June, Sport Manawātū returned with the bike trailer to check in on how residents were tracking since our last engagement. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm that remained, with several participants keen to get back on the bikes. Supported by the Cycle Team, participants rode on the cycle track for the first time, completing a 7km loop. Staff noted that this is an activity they intend to continue regularly.

The final session saw staff independently delivering activities with high engagement, demonstrating their confidence and capability to continue this work moving forward. Overall, the programme has created a meaningful shift in participation, connection, and wellbeing, and is now well-positioned to be sustained by staff into the future.



## REPLAY NZ

The REPLAY project has delivered significant impact across the Manawātū District by removing barriers to participation in sport and active recreation. The distribution of equipment has directly enabled tamariki and rangatahi to attend trials, take part in training and games, and remain engaged in physical activity, while also supporting more informal and whānau-led opportunities to be active.

REPLAY was also named as one of Sport New Zealand’s finalists in their Environmental Sustainability Award category for their 2026 New Zealand Sport & Recreation Awards.

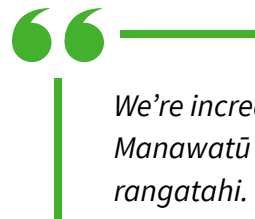
Sport Manawātū has played a critical role in enabling this impact, acting as a key connector between schools, community organisations and the REPLAY network. Through strong local relationships, Sport Manawātū has helped identify and verify need, coordinate the distribution of gear, and ensure it reaches those facing the greatest barriers in a way that is trusted and maintains dignity. This locally led approach has ensured the programme is both responsive and effective, strengthening community connection across the Manawātū District.



Empowerment and Potential: “Ashlyn joined our EP Fitness & Wellbeing Hub in March after moving to Feilding with her father. She quickly stood out as a polite, energetic young person who takes pride in her environment.

When Ashlyn started our Box-Fit programme, I noticed she didn’t always have appropriate footwear and was borrowing sneakers just to participate. After reaching out for support, Megan and Sport Manawātū were able to help. The reaction when Ashlyn received her new sneakers was pure joy. It was more than just footwear, it meant she was seen, valued, and able to fully participate.

Ashlyn continues to thrive in the programme and now supports others, including her father who has since joined.”



*We’re incredibly grateful to Sport Manawātū for their ongoing support of our rangatahi. This is what strong community connection looks like.”*



## Feilding Blue Light Mana Gym and Mentorship Programme

Sport Manawātū approved **\$10,000** of Tū Manawa funding to support Feilding Blue Light's Mana Gym and Mentorship Programme.

The programme provides regular physical activity and mentoring opportunities for rangatahi aged **12–18** years across the Manawātū, combining gym sessions, outdoor recreation activities and positive mentoring relationships. The programme supports young people facing significant barriers, including disengagement from education, social isolation and involvement with the youth justice system.

Prior to funding approval, Sport Manawātū Community Lead Megan Hennessy worked alongside Police, Feilding Blue Light and key stakeholders to explore opportunities to sustain and grow the programme following the positive outcomes already being achieved. Led by youth mentor Ned Houkamau, the programme is currently supporting some of the highest-risk rangatahi in the district through consistent mentoring, physical activity and life skills development.

Early outcomes have been encouraging, with one 16-year-old participant successfully transitioning into employment at the local meat works and maintaining regular attendance at work.

Feedback from community partners has highlighted both the significant impact of the programme and the ongoing demand for this type of intervention. The approved funding will help ensure more rangatahi can access positive pathways through physical activity, mentoring and meaningful community connections.

# \$10,000

Tū Manawa funding



## Feilding Farmers Market Collaboration Holiday Play Session

On 23 January Sport Manawātū delivered a play session alongside the Feilding Farmers Market and Feilding District Promotions.

Delivered during the school holidays, the session supported community play and engaged a number of young tamariki and whānau. Feedback from participants included:

- Sessions helped participants feel more motivated to be active.
- Participants loved the free event and would like to see more opportunities like this during the school holidays.
- Common barriers to being active included weather, cost, and motivation, highlighting the importance of creating fun, accessible opportunities that encourage tamariki to get involved.



## Halcombe Community Play Bin – Gear Support & Community Impact

Sport Manawātū supported the Halcombe community through the redistribution of donated sports equipment to their community play bin, using gear sourced via REPLAY NZ and collected from the REPLAY donation station at the Manawātū Community Hub Library.

The bin was stocked with a mix of items including balls, racquets and small play equipment, helping remove cost and access barriers and making it easy for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to get active at their local courts.

Community feedback shared through social media highlighted strong and regular use of the equipment, with the Halcombe community showing a clear sense of ownership. Local users acknowledged the support from Sport Manawātū and REPLAY NZ, as well as community members who have added extra gear to keep the bin well stocked and accessible for everyone.



*“Thank you once again for the balls and equipment you gave us. They are well used and keep our kids active. We are really pleased and appreciate it.”*

*Ka nui te mihi,  
Lucinda  
HCT*

## Blue Light Street Party Support

Sport Manawātū continued to support the Feilding Blue Light Street Parties, attending the McCorkindale Street Party on 12 February and the Monmouth Street Party on 5 March.

These fun, community-based settings created opportunities for play, connection, kōrero, and gathering insights into what tamariki are currently participating in, as well as the barriers they identify to participation.

Insights gathered showed that most sport opportunities are being successfully delivered through schools, with basketball identified as an activity tamariki would like to do more of. Sport Manawātū has shared this feedback with Basketball Manawātū who are exploring opportunities to deliver a holiday event in the Feilding District.

Common barriers to participation included weather, time pressures, and tamariki spending more time on devices, highlighting the importance of creating fun, accessible opportunities that encourage tamariki to get involved.



## Pop-up and Plays

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Sport Manawātū delivered two school holiday pop-up play sessions using the MCHL Play Trailer on the green space, alongside additional activities including volleyball, soccer, and long jump. Using this green space also highlighted the neighbouring active basketball space and the community library. Approximately 150 tamariki engaged across the two pop-up play sessions.

Tamariki and whānau came to check out the activities and games on offer, and it was great to see people of all ages getting involved in a diverse range of activities suited to varied physical capabilities. The gazebo provided much-needed shade in an area with limited shelter, although the heat appeared to be a barrier on the day. The 22<sup>nd</sup> January session was moved inside the library due to the weather, creating an opportunity to deliver indoor games and show whānau how easy it can be to stay active at home and indoors with minimal equipment and effort.

Delivering the activation alongside the market and during the school holidays supported strong community engagement, capturing those already in the area. A lively environment, including music and games, created an inclusive space that appealed to all ages.

150+

Tamariki  
Engaged



*“I have never tried volleyball before, and I think I am better than Dad.”*

*“It was fun playing with other kids in town.”*

*“It is cool having adults play with me.”*

Insights highlighted the joy of play in a community setting.



## Family Fun Day – 22 March

Sport Manawatū supported Family Fun Day, a free community event organised by Manawatū Community Hub Libraries and Manawatū District Council, that created opportunities for whānau to connect with local clubs, organisations, and community play activities.

Sport Manawatū activated the community play trailer and provided sports gear and equipment for tamariki and rangatahi to use throughout the day. The event also provided an opportunity to promote upcoming Sport Manawatū activities, connect with local clubs and organisations, and strengthen awareness of available funding support and Sport Manawatū’s presence in the community.

Insights gathered on the day will help inform the design and delivery of future community events.



## Mt Biggs Tough Kids Challenge

On Friday 27 March, Sport Manawatū partnered with Mt Biggs School to deliver the Tough Kids Challenge at the Mt Biggs School grounds. Now in its sixth successful year, the event aims to get tamariki active through a fun, supportive, and community-based challenge.

The day included running across countryside, completing challenges and obstacles, and promoting physical activity in a social, community setting. More than 850 children participated from several surrounding schools, helping strengthen connections across rural schools and communities.

The event also supported leadership development, with Feilding High School Sport Leadership volunteers involved on the day. This helped create opportunities for smaller village communities to take part in active recreation in a non-competitive, supportive, and community-focused environment

Feedback from the day included:

“

*“We look forward to Tough Kids all year. It is our favourite day of the year — way more fun than cross country. We love the music in the truck too, and dancing with the other schools.”*

— **London, aged 10**



## International Day of Play Sensory Play Session at MCHL 11 June

To celebrate International Day of Play, Sport Manawātū partnered with Manawātū Community Hub Libraries to deliver a sensory play session for tamariki and whānau. The session focused on providing an inclusive, low-barrier play opportunity that supports exploration, creativity, and sensory development. This play session created an opportunity to share information with parents and whānau about the value of recreational play and simple ways to support play at home and in the community.



## Tamariki Toa

On Friday 13 March, Sport Manawātū supported Lytton Street School to deliver Tamariki Toa, a tough kids challenge held at Timona Park in Feilding. The event brought together more than 800 tamariki from six schools across the Sport Manawātū district, including Ashhurst School, Bunnythorpe School, North Street School, Lytton Street School, Manchester Street School, and Feilding Intermediate.

Sport Manawātū provided staff and equipment to support set-up and assist with activity delivery on the day. The event created opportunities for tamariki to be active in a non-competitive environment that encouraged physical activity, participation, resilience, challenge, and community spirit.

Throughout the day, tamariki supported one another to complete challenges, with many trying activities for the first time. As an annual event, Tamariki Toa is something many tamariki look forward to and aim to improve on year after year.

Teacher and participant feedback highlighted the value of the event.



*Many of these children are more likely to complete this with their peers in a fun, non-competitive environment that feels more like a game than a race. For the kids who want the speed challenge, it is there, but for others it is about the challenge of participating in something physical and completing it."*

— **Manchester Street School**

*"I love how at the end we can go on the water slide as many times as we want. Even though you are so tired and puffed, you just keep going because it is so fun."*

— **Alliyah Ofee, Year 7, Feilding Intermediate**



## Regional Play Hui – 12 March

In March, Sport Manawātū hosted a Regional Play Hui at MCHL for council staff from across the region, creating the space to connect, share insights, and strengthen alignment around play provision. The hui focused on current priorities, challenges, and opportunities within council-led play spaces and initiatives, with presentations from each TA around play equity, nature-based play, and developing inclusive play spaces.

Participants valued the opportunity to exchange practical approaches and build relationships, with momentum generated for ongoing collaboration between councils.

Feedback from attendees was positive, with an NPS\* score of 83.3 and an average satisfaction rating of 9 out of 10. 100% of the participants reported the hui increased their connection and relationships with other councils in our region.



*“I think it was great connecting with some of the new staff within SM and also from the other councils. I find you get a lot out of these opportunities, and it really helps build relationships so we can all work together to provide play and fun for everyone.”*

*“Worth doing. Good collaborating and support opportunity.”*

*“Well facilitated thank you! Lots of important insights from across park teams from the TAs.”*

**83.3  
NPS  
Score**

**9 out of 10  
Satisfaction  
Rating**

**100% of the participants  
reported the hui increased  
their connection and  
relationships with other  
councils in our region.**

*\*NPS = Net Promoter Score.*

Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a tool that measures customer satisfaction. It asks one question on a scale from 0 to 10: "How likely are you to recommend us?" Scores group people into Promoters (9-10), Passives (7-8), and Detractors (0-6). Subtracting the detractor percentage from the promoter percentage gives the final score.



## Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa Funding Manawatū District

Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa provides funding for programmes or projects delivering play, active recreation, and sport experiences for Tamariki and Rangatahi. It is particularly focused on groups where barriers cause them to be less active.

The purpose of the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa Fund is to provide quality experiences that are accessible, create a lifelong love of being active and meet the needs of tamariki and Rangatahi.

### The Fund helps to cover programme or service delivery costs including:

- Programme or project delivery e.g., venue or equipment hire, transport.
- Equipment as part of the programme or service.
- Officials, where these are required for the delivery.
- Programme delivery

| Organisation                                    | Amount           |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Next Level Athletes Charitable Trust            | \$9,920          |
| Bhutanese Society of New Zealand Inc (Manawatu) | \$8,400          |
| AUMĀIA SPORTS CLUB                              | \$4,379          |
| Parafed Manawatu                                | \$12,618         |
| IHC                                             | \$17,940         |
| Sense Rugby (NZ) Trust                          | \$15,300         |
| Rongo Mauri Trust                               | \$8,333          |
| Manawatu Badminton Association                  | \$43,570         |
| Feilding Bluelight                              | \$10,000         |
| <b>Total for 6 months</b>                       | <b>\$130,460</b> |
| <b>Total amount for 12 months</b>               | <b>\$152,989</b> |

This table includes organisations and their projects that received Tū Manawa Funding between January 1 and June 30, 2026.



# PEOPLE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAFELY AND CONFIDENTLY RIDE A BIKE ON OUR ROADS, SHARED PATHS, AND CYCLEWAYS

## Bike Ready Programme – Manawatū District Schools

Sport Manawatū delivered the Bike Ready programme across six Manawatū District schools, supported by New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and Manawatū District Council. Participating schools included Sanson, Waituna West, Kiwitea, St Joseph's, Colyton, and Manawatū Home School, with **209 students** from Years 4 – 8 taking part.



The programme focused on increasing cycling confidence, safety knowledge, and participation, particularly within rural schools new to Bike Ready. Students completed bike and helmet safety checks, basic road safety education, and practical riding skills through both Grade 1 school-based and Grade 2 road-based sessions. A bike trailer carrying up to 16 bikes also ensured all students could participate regardless of access to equipment.

The programme delivered strong outcomes. Of the 11 students identified as non-riders at the beginning of the programme, five successfully learned to ride and completed the Grade 1 syllabus. New pre and post-programme surveys also showed increased rider confidence, with a 16.5% increase in students identifying as “Very Confident”.



*“I have already recommended you guys to another local school. The program was a real success for my class. The children were very proud of themselves.”*

**St Josephs School**

Kiwitea School welcomed Constable Allan McLean from Feilding Community Police. He reinforced key bike and helmet safety messages and shared practical advice for riding safely on rural roads.

**Sanson School** Principal Grayson shared: *“Since the session we now see nearly 70% of our students bringing their bikes to school and using them at break times... these students are now always on their bikes, riding correctly, and showing off their new skills to their friends. It is awesome!!”*

### **Kiwitea School:**

*“This programme was incredibly well run. It was delivered in an interactive way that included child friendly references. It catered well for all levels of confidence and ability. The facilitators were warm, friendly and well organised. The confidence developed in these sessions was incredible. One of my students who was very apprehensive now eagerly brings her bike to school and proudly shows off her new confidence and skills.”*

**209**   
student participants

### On Ya Bike – School Holiday Bike to the Market Challenge

On Friday 17 April, Sport Manawātū delivered the “Bike to the Market Challenge” alongside the Farmers' Market, encouraging active transport across the Manawātū region. More than 30 participants cycled to the event, while over 50 people engaged with bike safety activities and conversations throughout the day.

The activation promoted safe and confident cycling through practical bike safety checks, including helmet fitting and tyre inspections, alongside education on riding safely on roads and interactive activities that helped build rider confidence. The Sport Manawātū bike trailer was also showcased as a resource available to local schools.

Holding the activation alongside the Farmers' Market during the school holidays supported strong community participation by engaging people already visiting the area. A vibrant atmosphere, featuring music and games, created an inclusive and welcoming environment for people of all ages.

The event also provided valuable insights into local cycling behaviours and perceptions. Feedback showed that while many participants regularly ride on footpaths and within their neighbourhoods, confidence riding on roads remains low. Safety concerns continue to be a significant barrier to increasing cycling participation, highlighting the ongoing need for education, skills development, and opportunities to build rider confidence.



# SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES (SPACES AND PLACES) ACROSS THE DISTRICT MEET COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS. SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SPORT EVENTS CREATE SOCIAL AND PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS ECONOMIC BENEFITS

## He Rā Ki Tua Spaces and Places

Over the past six months, Manawātū District Council and Sport Manawātū have continued to actively participate in the implementation of He Rā Ki Tua, the Horizons Regional Spaces and Places Plan. Progress has focused on embedding the Plan's principles with Officers into local planning and project development, strengthening regional collaboration through the Steering Group meetings, advancing priorities such as indoor facility capacity investigations with Manfield, and increased utilisation of existing community assets. Regional implementation has also progressed through the development of a dedicated website, and ongoing support for councils and community groups to apply a consistent, evidence-based approach to sport and recreation facility planning across the region.

## Makino Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study

Sport Manawātū has worked alongside Manawātū District Council officers and Sport New Zealand to support exploration of future development opportunities for the Makino Aquatic Centre. Through the He Rā Ki Tua Spaces and Places programme, Sport Manawātū has helped connect the project to regional facility planning, provided access to Sport New Zealand guidance and resources, and a contribution of **\$15,000** to investigate how the facility can meet future community needs. This was for the engagement of consultants to carry out the feasibility study.



**15k**

Contribution



**makino**  
aquatic centre

## Lytton Street Jubilee – 28 March

Sport Manawatū supported Lytton Street School’s 125th Jubilee Gala Day by bringing along the MCHL Play Trailer. As a Healthy Active Learning school, Lytton Street School continues to value opportunities that support tamariki to be active, engaged, and connected through play. The event was a celebration of the school’s 125-year history, bringing together school memories and a wide range of family-friendly activities.

The day saw a strong turnout from the community. The Play Trailer was a popular activity and stayed consistently busy, with tamariki exploring and engaging with the equipment throughout the day.

## Tangimoana Rippa Rugby Tournament – 15 May

Sport Manawatū supported the Te Kawanui Cluster Rippa Rugby Tournament at Tangimoana School, with over 100 tamariki from eight schools participating.

Sport Manawatū coordinated officials through Manawatū Rugby, provided first aid, timekeeping and scoring support, and helped ensure a well-run day of fun, healthy competition.

For smaller rural schools, events like this provide valuable opportunities to participate in winter sport, connect with other schools, and build community through sport.

## Falls Prevention Workshop – 23 April | *In collaboration with Hato Hone St John*

On 23 April, Sport Manawatū, in collaboration with Hato Hone St John, delivered a Falls Prevention Workshop for the community. More than 40 people attended and participated in the event.

The workshop was co-designed in response to community need, with Hato Hone St John identifying an increase in fall-related emergency calls among older adults. This highlighted the need for a prevention-focused approach that addressed potential pre-fall risk factors and supported people to stay safe and confident at home.

Sport Manawatū provided staff to deliver a strength and balance-focused class, alongside information about the Green Prescription programme. The session included practical ways to stay strong, steady, and safe at home, with the aim of reducing the risk of falls.



Pauline from Hato Hone St John shared that feedback from the day was positive, with 36 of the 40 participants who provided feedback responding positively to the workshop content. Suggested improvements related mainly to room layout, event timing, and personal preferences around food. Overall, it was a highly successful event, with participants reporting that they felt more confident when they left.

Participant feedback included:

“

*“Great information. I will continue with the chair yoga. I didn’t know anything about the alarms before this.”*

*“This informed me how important strength and balance are to my safety as I age, and what preventative care can look like.”*

*“I’m not alone in my fears. It was nice to know this. Information gives me confidence.”*

*“I learnt the importance of not putting myself in unsafe situations.”*

## Community Hauora Health Day 4 June

Sport Manawatū joined several other health organisations at a health promotion day hosted by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata.

Sport Manawatū promoted the Green Prescription programme, a programme that supports people to increase their physical activity with guidance from trained advisors.

On the day, Sport Manawatū received 10 referrals to follow up for the programme and engaged with more than 30 community members about health, wellbeing, and the support available. The event brought together a range of community health organisations, creating valuable opportunities for networking, connection, and shared learning among local health advocates.



## Workplace Challenge May

Sport Manawatū delivered the annual Workplace Challenge in May, with participation increasing from 217 participants in 2025 to 252 in 2026. The Challenge included participants from across the Manawatū region, with Manawatū District Council, Feilding Health Care, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries, and Feilding & District Promotion taking part.

Feedback was highly positive, with 98% of participants recommending the challenge and 84% reporting increased physical activity. The challenge also had a strong impact within workplaces, with 90% of participants reporting improved team connection, increased movement throughout the day, and more conversations around health and wellbeing.



## Dash and Splash 24 May

Sport Manawatū supported Dash and Splash in collaboration with Makino Pool. Sport Manawatū provided promotion, staff, and equipment for the day.

This community event combined running and swimming in a supportive, inclusive environment suitable for tamariki of all fitness levels and abilities. The NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund enabled the event to be delivered free of charge, including pool entry, helping reduce barriers for whānau to attend.

Feedback from both participants and parents was positive. Tamariki shared that they had fun, enjoyed the mix of swimming and running, and would like the opportunity to take part again. Parents also commented positively on the atmosphere and format of the event and appreciated having a community-based opportunity for children to challenge themselves in a supportive environment.

Future improvements include moving the event to a summer date and scheduling it on a Saturday to improve attendance and reduce clashes with winter sport. There is also an opportunity to expand the event into a larger community pool party following completion of the races, utilising the outdoor 50m pool, Makino inflatables, and council assets.

## Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu – National Volunteer Week 14 – 20 June

Throughout May, Sport Manawātū – Feilding and surrounds ran a campaign calling for nominations of volunteers in the sport and active recreation space. Selected volunteers were acknowledged during Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu – National Volunteer Week.

The calibre of nominations was outstanding, with eight individuals selected by a panel to be featured daily across Sport Manawātū’s social media platforms during the week. Many of the selected nominees were recognised as pillars within their communities, highlighting the important role volunteers play across local sport and active recreation.

The campaign supported the capacity of clubs by raising awareness of the value of volunteering and generating positive recognition for those who give their time to community sport and active recreation. The selected nominees included two youth volunteers, helping raise the profile of young people who are contributing to the future of coaching and community sport.

Facebook analytics showed strong engagement with the campaign. Net engagement, including reactions, clicks, comments, and shares, increased by 7,903% compared with the previous 14 days. Across the week, **2,641** people actively engaged with the individual posts shared, while the first individual profile post received more than **10,000** views. This response demonstrated the strong community support for celebrating volunteers and the positive impact of recognising those who contribute to active community spaces.

Sport Manawātū also engaged with Feilding First to acknowledge the clubs and nominees, helping publicly enhance the mana of volunteering within the community. Nominees shared that they were grateful for the campaign, which celebrated existing volunteers while also encouraging others to get involved.

 2641 people actively engaged

**10,000+**  
National Volunteer Profile Post



## Manawatū Inter Secondary School Athletics (MISSA) – 18 March

The annual MISSA event was held at the Manawatū Community Athletics Track. Palmerston North Boys’ High School led the delivery of the event, with support from Athletics New Zealand and Mark Harris from MATS Timing, who managed the results and online scoring throughout the day.

This year, we incorporated our Positive Vibes Only campaign, ensuring it was highly visible across the event. Bright pink “Positive Vibes” hi-vis vests were worn by staff at each event station, who also engaged with students to promote the campaign. This helped increase visibility and awareness, encouraging students to carry these positive behaviors back into their school environments, not just within sport.

Participation had a 5% increase from 2024 with a total of 525 students competing across a range of events.

School sports coordinators rated the event an average of 10/10, while student satisfaction remained high at approximately 89%, highlighting the overall success of the event.



## Manawatū Inter Secondary School Cross Country – 19 May

The Manawatū Secondary School Cross Country event was held at Timona Park, where 225 students participated across various race distances. This represented a 32% increase in participation when compared to 2025.

The event was hosted by Ngā Tawa Diocesan School with support from Sport Manawatū and the Feilding Moa Harrier Club, who made a significant contribution through course setup and delivery of the event on the day.

It was great to see representation from 15 secondary schools across the region, with students taking part in a positive and active environment. Schools from across the district were well represented, with Feilding High School achieving top three placings across seven team events.

Event feedback showed 91% of students loved the event, with a school sport coordinator satisfaction rating of 9.4 out of 10.



## Parks Week – 2nd to 9th March

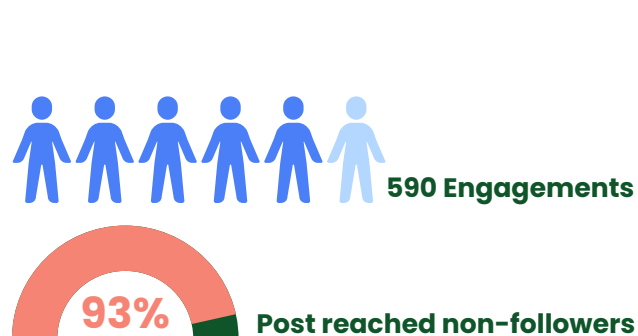
Sport Manawatū supported Australasian Parks Week 2026 through a targeted social media campaign showcasing village parks across the Manawatū region. Each day featured a different park, providing information on accessibility, suitability for different ages and activity levels, and highlighting opportunities for physical activity in rural settings.

A “Pic of the Park” competition was also run to encourage community members to actively visit and explore local parks throughout the week.

Engagement grew steadily across the campaign, with Mt Lees Reserve emerging as the most popular post. The post reached 9,259 views, generated 590 engagements, and reached a high proportion of non-followers (93.3%), indicating strong community reach beyond Sport Manawatū’s existing audience.

Community response highlighted a strong connection to local parks, with comments reflecting regular use and enjoyment of spaces such as Kowhai Park and Mt Lees Reserve. Feedback reinforced the value of open spaces, play opportunities, and natural environments for whānau, with many noting the variety of activities available and the appeal of exploring these spaces across seasons.

Overall, the campaign successfully increased awareness of village parks, encouraged community exploration, and demonstrated the ongoing importance of accessible green spaces in supporting active recreation and wellbeing.



*Community response highlighted a strong connection to local parks, with comments reflecting regular use and enjoyment of spaces such as Kowhai Park and Mt Lees Reserve.*



## Pedestrian Crossing Advocacy

Sport Manawātū has been supporting community advocacy for a pedestrian crossing from the local library towards the red bridge, following ongoing feedback around safety and accessibility in this high-use space. Support letters from Manchester Street School Principal Jared Fretwell and Senior Constable Sarah Cree have been provided to strengthen the case.

Michael Taylor, Community Assets Manager has progressed this to the Roding Team, with initial discussions being positive. The next step is to undertake surveys to better understand pedestrian use of the area and help inform future decisions. Community feedback continues to be positive, and Sport Manawātū looks forward to supporting this space as the project moves forward.



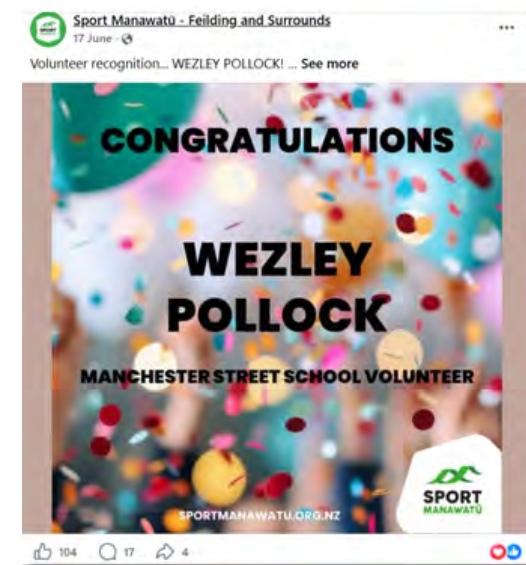
## Social Media Update: July 2025 – June 2026

The Sport Manawātū – Feilding and Surrounds Facebook page continues to be a valuable communication channel for connecting with the Manawātū District community, promoting local opportunities, and celebrating community activity.

From 1 July 2025 to 23 June 2026, the page received more than 233,000 views and generated over 13,000 engagements, including reactions, clicks, comments, shares, and saves.

The strongest engagement occurred during Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu – National Volunteer Week, where the campaign celebrating local sport and active recreation volunteers generated a significant increase in community interaction. This highlighted the value of sharing local stories and recognising the people who contribute to active communities.

The page continues to show strong growth and engagement, supporting Sport Manawātū to promote local initiatives, strengthen community connection, and share opportunities that encourage tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, clubs, and community groups to get involved.



## NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund

The NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund of **\$100,000 administered by Sport Manawatū** was fully subscribed by the end of March 2026 with 69 individual applications (up to \$500 per application) and 29 applications received from schools, clubs, and community organisations (up to \$5,000 per application).

In a challenging economic climate, the fund has played a significant role in reducing financial barriers for more than 1,500 people, helping them to become or remain physically active.

The impact has been wide-ranging across the region. As an example, schools have been able to provide swimming lessons with qualified instructors, as well as purchase sporting equipment that supports both school use and wider community connection in rural areas. Sports clubs have also benefited, with funding enabling teams to purchase new uniform items and essential safety gear without passing those costs on to whānau.

The reach and value of this fund has been substantial, and we would like to acknowledge and thank NZCT for entrusting Sport Manawatū to administer this important fund for the Manawatū region.



**69**   
individual applications

 **\$500**  
per application

**29** schools, clubs,  
community  
organisations

 **\$5K**  
per application

# APPENDIX

Source: Disruptor Scan June 2026, Sport New Zealand.

Sport NZ's quarterly scan highlights potential disruptors to sport and recreation over the next two to five years. It serves as a tool for discussions on their implications and whether adjustments to current approaches are needed. The following disruptors have been identified as potentially relevant to MDC. This information is from the June Disrupter Scan

### Governance and regulation

Central restructuring and post-review reforms are accelerating consolidation, asset rationalisation and role clarification, tightening scrutiny on stewardship and community value, and forcing play, active recreation and sport providers to renegotiate access, collaborate more and adapt delivery models as control of local facilities shifts.

### Socio-economic inequality

Persistent low incomes, housing stress and the high cost of disability exclusion are entrenching participation divides, making equity-focused investment, targeted subsidies and inclusive design central to sustaining play, active recreation and sport for disadvantaged groups.

### Disposable income

Rising winter energy and food costs, alongside higher debt servicing, are eroding household spending power, pushing families to cut club fees, equipment and travel, and increasing demand for local, low-cost, equipment-light opportunities to be active.

### Health and medical

Advances in biomarkers and early-detection tools are reinforcing prevention and healthy-ageing narratives, strengthening the case for sustained, life-course participation strategies and partnerships between sport, health and community providers to keep older adults active longer.

### Space and place dynamics

World Environment Day campaigns and urban-design narratives about regenerative, 15-minute, climate-resilient neighbourhoods are reinforcing a shift toward greener, multi-benefit local spaces where play, active recreation and sport are woven into everyday streets, parks and blue-green networks.

### Active Transport

Global and Australian evidence on mode-shift programmes, alongside local congestion and emissions debates, is strengthening the case for integrated active-transport investment, positioning play, active recreation and sport as key partners in creating safe, low-carbon movement networks.

### Athlete and participant wellbeing

High-profile sideline-abuse incidents and growing concern about enhancement drugs underscore a harder edge to participation culture, accelerating moves toward stricter codes of conduct, stronger wellbeing systems and more youth-centred environments that prioritise safety, enjoyment and long-term engagement.

### Workforce (including volunteers)

Persistent cost-of-living pressure, migration and rising expectations of collaboration and capability are stretching already-thin paid and volunteer workforces, pushing organisations to rethink roles, offer better support and explore new models that share back-office functions and reduce admin load.

### Changing leisure patterns

Persistent high screen time, rapid growth in gambling-adjacent prediction markets and tightening online-safety regulation are intensifying competition with traditional activity while also opening space for digitally mediated, safer and more ethical play, active recreation and sport.

### Wellbeing

Escalating concern over youth distress, deepfake abuse and harmful online content is hardening the wellbeing agenda and pushing sport and recreation organisations to treat belonging, psychological safety and digital safeguarding as core participation duties, not optional extras.

### Changing nature of work

Economic headwinds and contested narratives about AI-driven job loss are amplifying insecurity, time-poverty and care burdens, especially for women, making it harder to sustain paid and volunteer roles in clubs and shifting demand toward flexible, low-commitment participation offers.

## Incorporated Societies Act 2022

*Re Registration process: April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026*

Continuing the work carried out in 2025, at the start of 2026 Sport Manawātū identified contact details and connected with all of the Manawātū based Incorporated Societies associated with sport and active recreation who were yet to re-register under the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act. The purpose of the connection was to ensure organisations had an understanding of the need to re-register and the potential implications for their organisation and office holders of not re-registering prior to the cutoff date of 5 April 2026.

Support was provided by Sport Manawātū to those organisations who requested it. This ranged from phone calls, email support, providing connections to information available through National Sports Organisations and in some cases, sitting with key contacts to help them work through the process in person.

Over the January – April period, there was only one organisation that was unable to be contacted despite numerous attempts and one organisation that voluntarily dissolved. All of the other organisations were successfully re-registered

## School Sport NZ Census Results

Results from the School Sport NZ Census show continued growth in the secondary school sport sector, with participation increasing by 9.6% over the past three years. This equates to 332 more students participating in secondary school sport compared with 2022.

The Census shows that traditional sports such as rugby, volleyball, basketball and netball continue to attract high numbers of participants. It also highlights growth across a range of emerging and alternative sports, creating more opportunities for rangatahi to engage in sport and physical activity.

These findings reflect the strong and evolving secondary school sport sector across Manawātū schools, with both traditional and emerging sports providing a growing range of opportunities for rangatahi to participate, connect, develop skills and be active.

## Online Casino Gambling Bill Submissions

The Online Casino Gambling Act has been amended to include a community funding return, with 4% of gambling duty ringfenced for distribution to community groups through the Lottery Grants Board. While this addresses initial concerns and introduces a new funding stream, there remains uncertainty about how it will impact existing gaming funding, which currently provides significant support to community sport. A Government review after two years will assess these impacts.

For Sport Manawātū and MDC, while the introduction of a community return from online gambling is a positive step, it still signals a potential overall reduction in funding available to community sport. The new funding stream is unlikely to fully replace existing pokie-based funding if participation shifts online. This means the long-term outlook remains uncertain, reinforcing the importance of continued local investment to help sustain participation and accessibility across the district.

### Teresa's Green Prescription Success Story:

When Teresa Browne joined the Green Prescription programme in Term 2, 2026, she was determined to improve her health. At 56 years old, she had been referred to the programme by her GP after concerns about her high HbA1c levels. Although Teresa was exercising every three to four days, she describes her overall health at the time as "obese, unfit, and depressed."

Since joining Green Prescription, Teresa has transformed both her physical health and confidence. What started as a commitment to improve her wellbeing has grown into a daily exercise routine. She now exercises every day and has found a real passion for gym-based workouts. "I enjoy going to the gym," says Teresa. "I enjoy feeling the burn during a workout and even the next day. It proves to me that I've done something positive for myself."

The results have been remarkable. Teresa has lost 13 kilograms, her anxiety has reduced significantly, and she has much more energy. One of her proudest achievements has been lowering her HbA1c levels to the point where she is no longer considered pre-diabetic.

Beyond the physical changes, Teresa has also experienced important personal growth throughout her journey.



“ —

*"I've learned that I'm the boss of me," she says. "I've learned to stand up for myself and the importance of warming up before exercise."*

Teresa credits the support she received through Green Prescription as a key factor in her success. She particularly valued the encouragement, practical information, and variety of exercises provided through the programme.

"The support, information, and exercises have been amazing. The programme has absolutely met my needs."

The programme has helped her feel more comfortable leaving the house, being around other people, and making positive lifestyle choices. She also learned a great deal about nutrition, including how to make healthier food choices and what to look for when buying food, which has helped her feel more confident managing her wellbeing.

Looking ahead, Teresa is determined to continue building on her success. Her goals are to join a gym and a swimming pool and to keep challenging herself to achieve even more.

When asked if she would recommend Green Prescription to others, her answer was immediate: "Hell yes!"

Teresa's journey is a powerful example of how small, consistent changes, combined with the right support, can lead to life-changing results. Through commitment, determination, and the guidance of Green Prescription, she has improved her health, regained her confidence, and created a brighter future for herself.



**GRx Adult**

Total referrals Jan – June 2026: 158

Total referrals July 2025– June 2026: 304

**Impact MDC GRx Adult**

100% of participants reported being more active since engaging with the programme

100% of participants feel more confident about doing Physical Activity since engaging with the programme

60% of participants have developed better nutritional habits since engaging with the programme

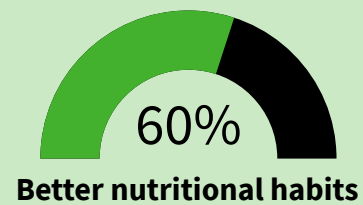
100% of participants have noticed positive health changes since engaging with the programme

100% of participants feel that they have been prescribed activities that are relevant and appropriate to their needs/wellness goals



*"It has helped me understand how I can make positive changes for my health. It's a great programme. All the presenters that came along were very interesting and I learnt a lot."*

*"I have learnt to trust myself and that I'm in charge of me!"*

**GRx Active Families/ Active Teens**

Total referrals Jan – June 2026: 12

Total referrals July 2025 – June 2026: 21





## CONTACT US

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Manawatū District Council

# SIX MONTH PARTNERSHIP REPORT

July 2025 - December 2025



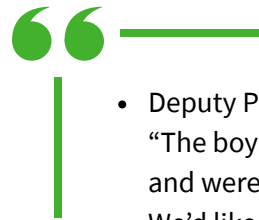
# THE MANAWATŪ DISTRICT DEVELOPS A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING THROUGH PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION, AND SPORT.

## Hato Paora – Rangatahi Activation

On Tuesday 23 July, Sport Manawātū staff, supported by kaimahi at Hato Pāora College, delivered a co-design session with rangatahi to understand which physical activities they were most interested in beyond mainstream sport. This feedback informed the Rangatahi Activation Programme, delivered during the College’s teacher only day on Tuesday 26 August.

Students participated in boxing, indoor bowls, paintball and golf, delivered by local clubs. The activation encouraged rangatahi to step outside their comfort zones and try new activities, with several students discovering new interests. Clubs were able to connect directly with rangatahi about future opportunities. Arena Paintball, responding to strong interest, has since registered as an incorporated society and is exploring funding options to improve youth access.

The activation was enabled through connections established by Joey McKechnie, Youth Connector at Manawātū District Council. The event strengthened relationships between the school, community and clubs, creating momentum for ongoing engagement.



- Deputy Principal, Hato Pāora College: “The boys absolutely enjoyed the day and were buzzing for many days after. We’d like to keep the momentum and work together again.”
- Hato Pāora kaimahi: “Those who excelled at paintball don’t normally participate.”
- Reuben, Feilding Golf Club: “There is strong potential to build on the momentum and offer ongoing opportunities.”
- Hyrum, Arena Paintball: “We’re already looking at how this can become something sustainable.”



## OUTCOME 1

### Replay NZ – Sanson School

In term two, Sanson School reached out to their Healthy Active Learning advisor for some support with shoes and large balls to be used at recess time. In partnership with Replay – NZ, shoes and large balls were delivered to some very happy tamariki shortly after the request was made.



“We want to send a massive thank you to Replay - NZ for their extremely kind donation of sports balls and shoes, and to Joel from Sport Manawatū for all your help. Our students were so excited to see some new gear for the PE shed, which will be a huge help for our PE lessons and lunchtime games. Your generosity means a lot to us!!!! Thank you!”



### Kind Hearts Collaboration

Sport Manawatū delivered a second year of sessions at the Kind Hearts events, engaging 1,100 tamariki from schools across the region, including three MDC schools and 131 tamariki, in activities focused on promoting kindness and positive sporting environments.

- Day 1 (Juniors): Activities included Animal Aerobics and creating “Positive Vibes Only” supporter signs for tamariki to take home to their whānau.
- Day 2 (Seniors): Sessions began with an active icebreaker, followed by the same sign-making activity.



The sessions shared how feedback from tamariki in the previous year shaped the Positive Vibes Only campaign, which works with local codes to support positive, fun, and inclusive sport environments. Poster messages showed strong positivity, such as “You can do it” and “Go team,” reinforcing the campaign’s impact. Following the event, Raewyn requested this segment be booked again for next year, highlighting the strength of the partnership and the success of Sport Manawatū’s involvement.



### Next Level Rangatahi – Manawatū Turbos

On Wednesday 17 September, Sport Manawatū’s Sports Advisor for Leadership and Coaching, David King, connected Manawatū Turbos players Kyle Baker and Drew Wild with Next Level Fitness on their final day of term. Together, they shared encouragement, guidance, and practical tips with student leaders who had been supporting

younger athletes throughout the programme. Supported by the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund, the programme highlighted strong potential within these young leaders and supported their continued development in coaching and leadership.

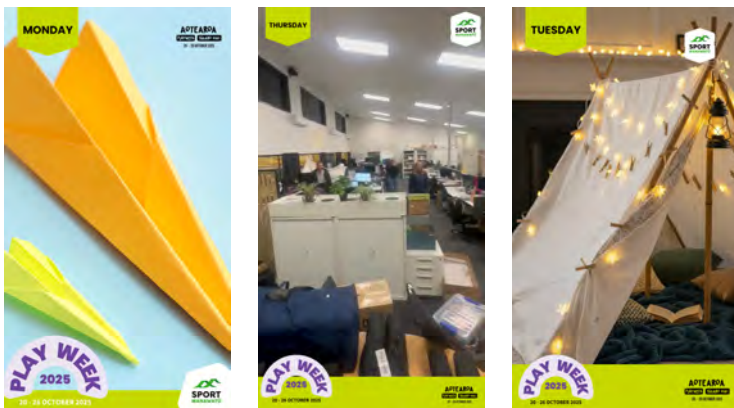
## OUTCOME 1

### Tākaro Mai Aotearoa Play Week 2025

Play Week Aotearoa 2025 celebrated the value of play for tamariki, whānau and communities across Aotearoa. Play provides freedom and opportunities to take risks, supporting tamariki to build a lifelong love of being active, make sense of the world, express creativity, build friendships, and develop key skills.

To promote the week, Sport Manawātū delivered the Play Week Bingo Challenge, a free initiative designed to encourage whānau to explore local play spaces and complete playful activities throughout the week. The challenge was shared widely by local organisations and schools through both printed and online channels.

To build momentum and strengthen community engagement, Sport Manawātū also assigned a bingo activity to each day of the week for staff to take part in. This supported staff to increase their understanding of the value of play and build confidence promoting play within their own areas of mahi.



### Tākaro Mai Aotearoa Play Week 2025

The Quick Release Play round allowed various Manawātū District Council based organisations to deliver Play projects while promoting Play Week.

For this "Play" round, organisations can apply for up to \$1,000 to support Play related projects for tamariki and rangatahi.

Two organisations received \$1,531 to support the delivery of play-based activations across the district.

**2** applications

**\$1,531**  
funded

## OUTCOME 1

### Play Along the Way

Due to weather conditions, the Play Along the Way event scheduled during Play Week Aotearoa 2025 was cancelled after two attempts.

Despite this, Sport Manawatū progressed other elements of the initiative by working alongside James at Manawatū District Council to install a new swing beside the skatepark, supported by the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund.

A range of organisations continued to support the kaupapa, including Manawatū District Council, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries, Feilding Volunteer Fire Brigade, Feilding Blue Light, Feilding Lions Mini Golf, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata, Makino Aquatic Centre, Next Level Athletes – Rangatahi, and the Manawatū Skateboard Association.

While the event was not delivered this year, strong collaboration and community support were maintained, and Sport Manawatū will be delivering Play Along the Way in February 2026.



SIX MONTH PARTNERSHIP REPORT | Manawatū District Council | July 2025 - December 2025

### Feilding Farmers Market

On 11 July, Sport Manawatū delivered a pop-up play session alongside the Feilding Farmers Market, in partnership with the Manawatū Community Hub Library and their play trailer.

Recently refreshed with new equipment, the trailer attracted strong engagement, with around 150 people taking part before rain brought the session to an early close.

The activation promoted the play trailer, encouraged active play, and provided an opportunity to gather quick insights from tamariki and whānau about how they spend their school holidays and what they would like to see more of.

Feedback highlighted interest in organised games, obstacle courses, and active outdoor play, with many families already making good use of parks, beaches, and time with whānau. These insights were shared with the Hub team to support future planning.



### Play, Pass it on, Replay

On 26 September, Sport Manawatū delivered Play, Pass it on, Replay on the green space outside the Manawatū Community Hub Library, supported by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata, Manawatū Community Hub Library, and Replay NZ.

Over the previous 12 months, Sport Manawatū had collected sports and play equipment and redistributed it back into the community, enabling schools, organisations, and whānau to access gear and reduce barriers to participation in sport, active recreation, and play.

The event created a relaxed and welcoming environment where people could view available equipment and take items home to support being active. Around 100 people attended throughout the day, ranging from preschool tamariki to older adults, with more than 60 items rehomed, including rugby balls, cricket bats, boots, and footballs.

The initiative demonstrated immediate value, with equipment costs identified as a barrier for many whānau. By providing free access to quality gear, the event supported participation straight away and reinforced the value of community-led solutions.



## OUTCOME 1

### Basketball Pop-Up Session

Sport Manawatū partnered with Basketball Manawatū to deliver a school holiday Basketball Pop-Up session at the Civic Centre on 29 September.

Building on learnings from previous sessions, the partners strengthened community connections and promotion to improve engagement. Demand exceeded capacity, with registrations closing early. Two sessions were delivered, with 21 girls participating in the morning and 35 boys in the afternoon. The sessions focused on skill development, drills, and 3x3 games. Parent feedback was very positive, with strong appreciation for having local opportunities available. Tamariki also completed a short survey, with 85.7–90.5 percent indicating they would like to see more sessions like this.

As a direct outcome, a three-week 3x3 competition was established at the Civic Centre, attracting 17 teams from schools across the Manawatū District. Basketball Manawatū has since explored funding options to continue the programme into 2026.



### Rural Day Relay

On Friday 3 October, Sport Manawatū worked alongside Feilding & District Promotion and Allan McLean to support and deliver the Rural Day Relay as part of Feilding's annual Rural Day event.

The relay attracted businesses, schools, and community teams from across the Manawatū, creating a fun and competitive atmosphere in the town centre. A new Rangatahi Open/Family category was introduced, encouraging participation from a wide range of ages, whānau, and community groups.

New obstacles were added this year, including digging through lambs' tails to find ear tags and a slide, both of which were crowd favourites and added energy and enjoyment to the event. The relay reinforced the value of connection, play, teamwork, and friendly competition within the community.



Thank you so much for your incredible support and contribution to Rural Day last Friday. It was a fantastic celebration of our community, and we truly couldn't have done it without your support.

— Sarah Gilbertson, Feilding & District Promotion.

### Disability Sports Festival

On 18 and 19 October, Sport Manawatū partnered with ParaFed Manawatū and the Halberg Foundation to deliver a two-day Disability Sports Festival at the Civic Centre. Thirty participants, alongside their whānau, took part in a range of inclusive play, active recreation, and sport activities.

Activities were delivered by local providers and included boxing, golf, football, pilates, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, boccia, and wheelchair basketball. Guest speakers shared their experiences, inspiring participants and encouraging conversation about opportunities in play, active recreation, and sport.

The festival provided opportunities for participants to try activities outside their usual routines, with some discovering new interests and connections. Local clubs were also able to engage directly with participants about ongoing opportunities.

The event was made possible through strong collaboration between Sport Manawatū, ParaFed Manawatū, and the Halberg Foundation, and strengthened connections between participants, whānau, clubs, and community organisations, supporting future inclusive opportunities.



## OUTCOME 1

### Feilding Blue Light Street Parties

Sport Manawatū supported the Feilding Blue Light Street Parties held on 13 November in Campbell Street and 4 December in Fitzroy Street, Feilding.

The events brought together local organisations to create a safe, community-focused environment that engaged tamariki and rangatahi in active play. Sport Manawatū delivered a vertical jump activity, which attracted strong participation, with many tamariki returning for repeated attempts. Whānau also took part, with encouragement from the crowd creating a positive and connected atmosphere.



- “I wish we had one of these at school to practise my basketball jumps with my friends.
- It was fun that Mum and Dad had a turn too.

Allan from Police noted Sport Manawatū's ongoing support and the popularity of the vertical jump challenge, which contributed to the positive atmosphere at each event.

The street parties provided opportunities for play, connection, kōrero, and insight gathering around participation and perceived barriers for tamariki. Insights from these events are being collated following the final street party in March.



### Saint Dominic's Programme

Sport Manawatū worked alongside staff and whaiora at Saint Dominic's to increase activity levels and build staff capability. The focus was on developing staff confidence to independently deliver sessions, with a longer-term goal of transitioning some participants into Feilding GRx classes.

A co-design session at the start of the term provided clear direction, with interests identified including darts, basketball, art, biking, table tennis, and volleyball. This feedback informed the development of a programme schedule running through to March 2026, after which staff will be well positioned to continue delivery independently.

Engagement throughout the programme was strong, with ongoing improvements in confidence, participation, and teamwork observed each week. A highlight was the cycle session, where bikes and scooters created a high-energy and inclusive environment and proved to be the most successful session to date.



## OUTCOME 1

### Youth Advisory Panel

The Sport Manawātū Youth Advisory Panel was established to create a centralised group of rangatahi within the organisation, embedding a culture of working alongside young people and ensuring their voices informed day to day operations. The panel was designed to provide advice on areas such as funding panels, including Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa, co-design of relevant events such as Manawātū Secondary School Sports Awards, and feedback on past, current, and future Sport Manawātū initiatives.

Nineteen applications were received, with 11 rangatahi selected to form the panel, including two representing the Manawātū District. No applicants were excluded, with some choosing to withdraw or being unable to be contacted to confirm interview times.

As at 1 December 2025, the panel had held three meetings with distinct objectives. These included an initial whanaungatanga session and project overview, a full-day onboarding focused on team building, professional development, and future planning, and a Tū Manawa fund development and upskilling session.

To support ongoing development, further meetings are planned for the new year, alongside the development of a 2026 work plan. The focus remains on building capability in key areas, including funding processes, with the intention of the panel advising on applications once the fund reopens.

### What Moves You Campaign

The What Moves You campaign is running during December and January and encourages community members to share how they stayed active in everyday life. The campaign showcases a wide range of activities and reinforces the message that movement looks different for everyone. Through community stories, the campaign normalises simple and achievable ways to be active, increases engagement across platforms, and supports the goal of building a more active, connected, and healthier community.

The campaign features a range of local voices, including Mayor Michael Ford and Manawātū District Council executive staff members Lyn Daly and Hamish Waugh.



### Advocacy on Online Casino Gambling Bill

*October 2025*

Sport Manawātū undertook advocacy to highlight the potential impact of the proposed Online Casino Gambling Bill on grassroots sport and recreation funding across the Manawātū, Tararua, and Horowhenua districts. This included bringing together Regional Sports Organisations and the local Member of Parliament to discuss concerns and gather evidence of local impact.

Sector insights informed a media release outlining risks to community sport funding if no replacement mechanism is introduced. In addition, Sport Manawātū's Chief Executive presented to the select committee at Parliament in Wellington on Monday 8 October, advocating for amendments that protect community benefit from gambling revenue.



## RSO / Sport Codes Dinner

1 December 2025

Sport Manawatū hosted the RSO and Sport Codes Dinner as an end-of-year opportunity to bring codes together to reflect on 2025 achievements and discuss shared challenges facing the sector. Attendees included representatives from Rugby, Football, Basketball, Hockey, Touch, Rugby League, Gym Sports, Netball, Softball, Badminton, Parafed, Cricket, Volleyball, and Lawn Bowls.

The evening provided a valuable forum for open discussion on priority issues, including governance and volunteer capacity, facilities pressures, financial sustainability, and competition structures. These conversations have helped inform Sport Manawatū's focus for targeted support and sector-wide initiatives in 2026.

Feedback from the event was positive, with high overall satisfaction and a Net Promoter Score of 67, indicating strong value in Sport Manawatū's role as a connector and facilitator across the system

## Key Insights

### A capable and sustainable sport system

Local sports organisations are experiencing increasing pressure from volunteer shortages and governance capacity constraints, limiting long-term planning. There is strong interest in shared services and capability support to improve sustainability and reduce duplication across the sector.

### Safe, inclusive, and equitable experiences

Facility access and quality are emerging as key barriers to participation, particularly for the growth of girls' and women's sport. Sports organisations also seek practical support to translate safeguarding policies into consistent behaviour across coaches, parents, and sidelines.

### Strong and trusted partnerships.

Sport Manawatū is valued as a neutral connector between sports organisations and Council, with a clear preference for coordinated, system-wide approaches over individual code solutions.

### Effective use of data and evidence

Sports organisations want clearer benchmarks and shared measures to better understand demand, organisational health, and what 'good' looks like.

### Priority issues across the sector

Ongoing challenges include financial sustainability, volunteer recruitment, governance capability, and competition structures that attract and retain participants.

# Impact

## What we did and why

We hosted the RSO and Sport Codes Dinner to celebrate sector achievements, strengthen relationships, and create a shared forum for codes to discuss challenges and inform Sport Manawatū's support priorities for 2026.

## How well we did

The event was well received, with 100 percent of respondents satisfied or very satisfied and a Net Promoter Score of 67, indicating strong value in the opportunity to connect and engage.



## What difference we made

The discussions provided clear, sector-led insights into governance, facilities, funding, and competition challenges, directly shaping Sport Manawatū's targeted support and advocacy approach for 2026.

# PEOPLE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAFELY AND CONFIDENTLY RIDE A BIKE ON OUR ROADS, SHARED PATHS, AND CYCLEWAYS.

## Cycle Skills in rural schools

This year, Sport Manawatū strengthened engagement with rural schools to build understanding and awareness of cycle safety on country roads. Planning was completed to deliver the cycle skills programme in Term 2, 2026, for students and teachers from Kimbolton, Waituna West, Sanson, Kiwitea, and Colyton Schools.

The programme was designed to build confidence and practical skills for both students and teachers, supporting safe and active travel within rural communities.

## Homeschool Session

On 10 December, Sport Manawatū worked alongside the home-school community to deliver the Cycle Skills programme for the first time. A total of 26 students participated, with eight riding on the road and 18 using the court area.

The session was successful, with strong engagement from tamariki across a wide range of ages and skill levels. The session established a positive foundation for future delivery with the home-school community.



# SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES (PLACES AND SPACES) ACROSS THE DISTRICT MEET COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS. SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SPORT EVENTS CREATE SOCIAL AND PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

## He Rā Ki Tua

Sport Manawātū, in partnership with Sport Whanganui and Sport New Zealand, hosted a Regional Steering Group meeting at Te Āhuru Mōwai in Feilding on 9 October. The Steering Group included representatives from all councils within the Horizons region.

The meeting began with a guided tour of the recently redeveloped Te Āhuru Mōwai Library and Community Centre, the Makino Aquatic Centre, and surrounding park facilities. The tour provided attendees with a clear overview of the range and quality of facilities available in Manawātū, with the redevelopment positively received by participants.

The meeting also included discussion on a new initiative led by Whanganui District Council, involving the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly to inform decision-making on the future of the city's 100-year-old aquatic facility. The Assembly comprised 39 residents aged between 14 and 80 years, selected to reflect community demographics. Participants followed a structured deliberative process, supported by expert input and facilitated discussion, to assess eight options while balancing community need, feasibility, and financial considerations. The process supported increased public understanding of council decision-making and resulted in strong participant engagement throughout the process.



Manawatū Funding Forum

The Manawatū Funding Forum, held on 20 August at Te Āhuru Mōwai, was delivered by Manawatū District Council in partnership with Eastern & Central Community Trust and the Department of Internal Affairs. The forum brought funders and community groups together and provided a valuable opportunity for connection and information sharing.

Sport Manawatū participated in the forum and connected directly with community groups about the Tū Manawa, Sports Event Partnership, and Active Communities funds. Across the afternoon and evening, more than 10 meaningful conversations took place, strengthening relationships and improving understanding of available support. Attendees valued the opportunity to speak face to face with funders, particularly around eligibility, legal entity requirements, and application processes.

The forum reinforced the importance of ongoing, accessible support for smaller community groups, and Sport Manawatū welcomed the opportunity to be involved in future funding forums.

Tū Manawa Fund

Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa is an activation fund designed to provide quality opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi and support a lifelong love of being active. The fund supports locally led projects that reduce barriers and enable young people to be active in ways that suit them. To date, six organisations within the Manawatū District Council catchment received a total of \$22,259.07 to support locally delivered projects. These initiatives supported approximately 530 young people to overcome barriers to participation in play, active recreation, and sport.

| Organisation             | Amount      |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Hato Paora College       | \$3,000.00  |
| Central Football         | \$2,419.00  |
| Colyton School           | \$4,049.63  |
| Skills Academy           | \$2,382.00  |
| Manchester Street School | \$4,792.00  |
| Basketball Manawatū      | \$5,886.44  |
| Total                    | \$22,529.07 |

## OUTCOME 3

### Manfeild Indoor Facility Needs Assessment Assistance

Sport Manawātū supported the Manfeild Park Trust Chief Executive to develop a needs assessment for a proposed indoor arena facility. This included facilitating an information-gathering session on 2 December to identify capacity constraints across Regional Sports Organisations and potential user groups.

The session included codes such as volleyball, basketball, netball, futsal, tennis, pickleball, badminton, and bowls. Surveys were also distributed to potential users to gather wider feedback.

Sport Manawātū continues to support Manfeild Park Trust through this process to inform future planning and development.



### Manawātū Secondary School Sports Awards

The Manawātū Secondary School Sports Awards were held on 13 October 2025 and celebrated achievements in sport, active recreation, and sporting administration by secondary school students across the Sport Manawātū region. A total of 72 students were nominated across 10 award categories.

Students from Feilding High School were recognised as winners in the following categories:

- Athlete with Disability Jonty Howland
- Female Athlete of the Year: Zahara Slatter
- Team of the Year: Clay Target Shooting Team

It is wonderful to see such a high calibre of success from across region and puts the Manawātū in good stead for future representation.



Athlete with a Disability: Jonty Howland



Female Athlete of the year: Zahara Slatter



Team of the Year: Clay Target Shooting Team

## OUTCOME 3

### National School Road Cycling Championships

26 - 28 September 2025

The 2026 National School Road Cycling Championships were held across the Manawātū region from 26 to 28 September, delivered by the Cycle NZ Events Team. The event brought together the country's top emerging cycling talent, with competitors travelling from across New Zealand to race across multiple districts.

Local schools were well represented, with Palmerston North Boys' High School, Palmerston North Girls' High School and Bike Manawātū Composite team including Feilding Ag High School placing in the top ten overall, and Palmerston North Intermediate School finishing second at the conclusion of the Championships.

The event was delivered across three locations:

- Saturday: Team Time Trial in Rongotea
- Sunday: Road Race in Halcombe
- Monday: Points Race at Manfeild

The Championships showcased the Manawātū region's ability to host high-quality national sporting events while supporting youth development and local school participation. Sport Manawatu worked along organising committee to ensure a positive experience was had by all participants.

### NZ Road Relay Championships Awards

4 October 2025

The event was run on the roads around Feilding and Halcombe with about 1000 runners and walkers representing 145 teams from Auckland to Dunedin entered.

The Whippets Running Project, which featured runners from Auckland and Christchurch, made it three years in a row when winning the senior men's title, with the finish line at the Halcombe Recreation Reserve. Hosting these large events has a positive economic benefit across the entire region.

Sport Manawātū utilising its positive relationship with Athletics New Zealand has secured a number of future events including New Zealand Masters Marathon Championships.



### NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund

Sport Manawatū successfully secured the NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund (MACF) for a second consecutive year, providing a \$100,000 funding pool to support individuals, clubs, schools, kura, and community organisations working to remove barriers to physical activity for residents within the Manawatū District Council boundary.

The fund was established in partnership with New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) in response to ongoing financial barriers that limit participation in sport and active recreation. The application process was intentionally designed to be clear, flexible, and accessible, ensuring funding could reach those most in need with minimal administrative burden.

To date, 33 applications have been approved, with \$58,000 distributed across the district. Funding has been used to directly reduce cost and access barriers through support such as gym memberships and swimwear for individuals, delivery of free self-defence workshops, reduced-cost or no-cost access to programmes and activities across the district, equipment purchases for clubs, venue hire, school swimming lessons, and instructor and coaching costs. This practical approach has enabled both individuals and organisations to participate in, or deliver, activities that may otherwise have been inaccessible.

The initiatives supported through the fund reflect the diversity of the Manawatū community and cover a wide range of sports and physical activities, including kung fu, swimming, pilates, tennis, rugby league, gymnastics, boxing, running, rugby, and kapa haka. The diversity of activities ensures opportunities for people of different ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds to engage in regular physical activity.

In its inaugural year (2024–25), the MACF supported 103 successful applications and positively impacted 2,122 people aged between 7 and 73 years, demonstrating strong community demand and reach. The second year of the fund was officially launched in September at the Feilding Civic Centre, attended by representatives from NZCT, Manawatū District Council, local organisations, businesses, and previous fund recipients, highlighting strong community partnerships and alignment with local wellbeing outcomes.

Sport Manawatū acknowledges the continued support of NZCT and local partners. The 2025–26 NZCT Manawatū Active Communities Fund remains open, with applications remaining open until all funding is allocated.



“Sport Manawatū have been fantastic funding partners. They are really well embedded in the community and have been able to channel our funding into previously hard to reach places.” — Ben Hodges, New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT).



## Active NZ Survey

The 2024/25 Active NZ\* regional data indicates that the majority of adults in the Manawātū region are physically active, with around three-quarters reporting participation in physical activity in the past seven days. This reflects a strong base of everyday movement and highlights the importance of environments that support people to be active as part of daily life.

Walking is the most frequently reported form of physical activity. For Manawātū District, this reinforces the value of well-connected towns, safe footpaths, local parks, and open spaces that support walking for recreation and transport. These environments enable participation across a wide range of ages and abilities and support activity outside of organised sport settings.

Participation patterns also show a decline with age, underlining the need for age-friendly infrastructure. Accessible parks, flat walking routes, seating, and safe crossings help older adults remain active and socially connected. Investment in these features supports wellbeing outcomes and aligns with the needs of an ageing population across the district. Young people remain active overall, but participation drops during the teenage years. This points to the importance of informal, flexible activity opportunities that do not rely on structured sport or formal facilities. Public spaces that support social recreation, casual play, and free access activity are particularly important for rangatahi, especially in smaller towns where options may be limited.

Cost and time pressures continue to be key barriers to participation. While councils cannot address all barriers directly, the provision of free and low-cost opportunities in public spaces plays a significant enabling role. Multi-use parks, shared paths, and adaptable community spaces help reduce access and affordability barriers while supporting high levels of community use.

Overall, the Active NZ data supports the continued focus of Manawātū District Council on place-based approaches to physical activity. Investment in parks, reserves, walking and cycling infrastructure, and community spaces supports the most common participation behaviours and helps sustain activity levels across the district.

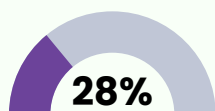
### Insights

- Around **three-quarters** of Manawātū adults were physically active in the past seven days, indicating a strong baseline of everyday activity.
- **Walking** is the most common form of physical activity, highlighting the importance of walkable neighbourhoods and quality open spaces.
- **Participation decreases with age**, reinforcing the value of age-friendly parks and low-impact outdoor activity options.
- **Young people remain active overall**, but participation drops during secondary school years, pointing to the need for informal, flexible spaces.
- **Cost and time remain key barriers**, with free and accessible public spaces playing a critical role in reducing these barriers.
- **Informal, self-directed activity** accounts for a larger share of participation than organised sport, emphasising the value of multi-use, adaptable public spaces that support different ages and abilities.

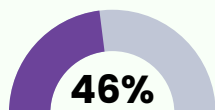
## RST Stakeholder Engagement Survey

16 September - 9 October 2025

The national RST Stakeholder Engagement Survey, conducted by Sport NZ in September and October, provides insight into how the sport and recreation system is performing and where pressure points are emerging. Stakeholders continue to view Sport Manawātū as a credible and trusted organisation with a strong understanding of the regional sport and recreation landscape, supporting effective collaboration and system leadership. Thank you to all of our key stakeholders who took the time to complete this survey, your feedback is invaluable.



**National stakeholder response rate**



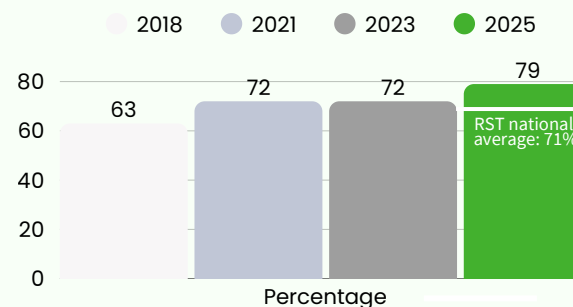
**Sport Manawātū's stakeholder response rate**

Always a pleasure to connect and collaborate with Sport Manawātū!

Thank you for supporting our communities. It definitely makes a difference in many lives who we serve.

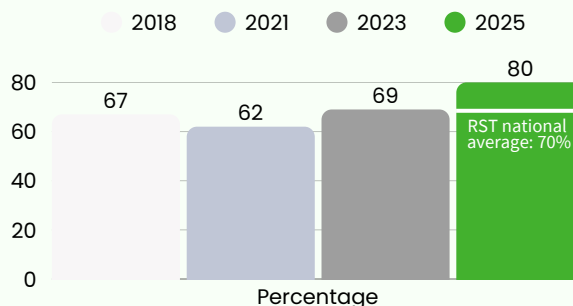
I would just like to note that the connections that have been made over the course of 2025 has been utterly positive, and I look forward to the continued partnership between both organisations.

## Overall performance



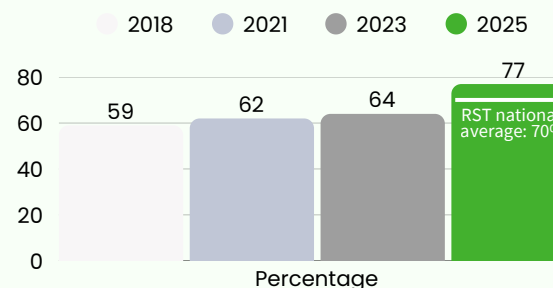
This shows that the lift in our systems, planning, communication, and sector support is being noticed.

## Works in partnership to achieve shared outcomes



Partnership performance has lifted to 80%, and is notably higher than the national average, reinforcing our reputation as strong collaborators.

## Shows leadership in the play, active recreation, and sport community



Our leadership across play, active recreation, and sport is rated at 77 percent, showing a strong improvement and trust in our regional role.

## Incorporated Societies Act 2022 – sector readiness update

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 replaced the 1908 legislation and introduced new governance, reporting, and constitutional requirements for all incorporated societies. From 5 October 2023, existing societies were able to begin re-registering under the new Act. All societies incorporated under the 1908 Act are required to re-register and adopt a compliant constitution by 5 April 2026. Organisations that do not meet this deadline will be removed from the register and will no longer be legally incorporated.

Across the Sport Manawatū region, progress towards compliance is tracking steadily. As at January 2026, approximately 60 percent of incorporated societies have completed re-registration, with around 146 organisations still to transition.

Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs) are generally well advanced in their own compliance and are actively supporting affiliated clubs through the process. While some clubs are expected to re-register later in the transition period, it is also anticipated that a small number of organisations may choose not to re-register due to size, inactivity, or a decision to operate without incorporated status.

Sport Manawatū has taken a proactive, system-based approach to supporting the sector through this change. Since the Act came into force, Sport Manawatū has delivered and promoted governance workshops, circulated information and webinar opportunities provided by Sport New Zealand and NZASA, and shared access to compliant constitution templates and guidance materials.

Regular follow-ups have been undertaken with RSOs to track re-registration progress and to support them in assisting their affiliated clubs. In addition, Sport Manawatū staff have provided direct guidance to organisations that have requested assistance.

Support is delivered through RSOs as the primary connection point to clubs, reflecting the structure of the sport system and the practical challenges of maintaining current contact details for volunteer-led organisations. Sport Manawatū will continue to monitor progress, share updated information, and support RSOs and clubs as they work towards compliance ahead of the April 2026 deadline.

# WHAT'S COMING UP

- Have-a-go Day 2026
- Play Along the Way
- Street Parties – McCorkindale Street & Monmouth Street
- Family Fun Day
- Tough Kids Challenge
- Fall Prevention Workshop
- Tamariki Toa
- Regional Play Hui
- Rural school cycle delivery



# APPENDIX

## Green Prescription – Getting the Manawatū active!

### Insights

89%

of participants reported being **more active** since engaging with the programme

100%

of participants feel **more confident** about doing physical activity since engaging with the programme

67%

% of participants have developed **better nutritional habits** since engaging with the programme

100%

of participants have noticed **positive health changes** since engaging with the programme

100%

of participants feel that they have been prescribed activities that are **relevant and appropriate** to their needs/wellness goals

### About the programme

The Green Prescription programme (GRx) is about engaging Manawatū residents into sustainable physical exercise and giving them the skills and educational advice to make healthy nutritional and lifestyle choices. Community classes are offered in Feilding, which run for four 10-week cycles through- out the year.

A component of the GRx programme is to support sustained positive health outcomes for participants upon graduation from the programme. Education on the opportunities available in the community is key to supporting this outcome, and is achieved through collaboration with local health agencies, sports clubs, and recreation providers. Promotion of local sports clubs and events, local parks, and reserves, including walking, tramping and cycle tracks throughout the district is a continued focus.

### Key statistics

- A total of 147 Manawatū District residents were referred to the GRx programme during July - December 2025.
- Seven Manawatū residents who could not attend Feilding classes engaged with the GRx Phone Support programme, benefiting from health, activity, and nutritional guidance.
- Sport Manawatū continues to link participants in with Evolve Gym, and the Makino Aquatic Centre, to deliver the GRx programme.

147

GRx referrals from the Manawatū District.

# SUCCESS STORY: NGĀTI KAUWHATA COMMUNITY

Sport Manawatū, in collaboration with Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata, delivered a GRx programme tailored to the needs of the community.

The five-session programme provided participants with clear, practical education focused on a range of health initiatives, supporting improved health literacy and long-term outcomes for whānau. Participants across a wide age range were actively engaged, with strong participation throughout all sessions.

Kirsty Kauri, Kaitiaki Toiora Māori and Whānau Wellbeing Practitioner, noted that the sessions were highly valuable and inclusive, with age not acting as a barrier to learning. The programme was supported by strong community connections and local knowledge, ensuring the content was relevant and well received.

Clear structure, consistent facilitation, and opportunities for participant feedback supported a community-led approach, with participants contributing to the focus of the final session.





## CONTACT US

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## Council

Meeting of 02 September 2026

Business Unit: Infrastructure

Date Created: 19 August 2026

## Amendment to Silver Fern Rally Closure

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To consider the addition of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension to the approved road closure for the Silver Fern Rally 2026, in order to allow a route change for the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru stage.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council, pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, permit the following roads to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic between 08.55am and 01.25pm on Thursday 3 December 2026, for the purpose of allowing Ultimate Rally Group Ltd to conduct the Silver Fern Rally 2026. This remains subject to the receipt of current Public Liability Insurance and an approved Traffic Management Plan.

Roads proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

**Sandon Block Road** - from its intersection with Waipuru Road/Mangamako Road until its change into Sandon Block Road Extension.

**Sandon Block Road Extension** - from its intersection with Sandon Block Road, until 200metres before its intersection with State Highway 54 (Cheltenham Hunterville Road)

**\* Note: To assist with the stage security, the closure is also to include 120 metres of each adjoining road, from where it intersects with the road being applied for.**

**Adjoining Roads:** Mangatieka Road (no exit).

Report prepared by:

Amy West

Technical Infrastructure Support Officer

Approved for submission by:

Hamish Waugh

General Manager - Infrastructure

## **1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 3 June 2026 Council approved closures for two stages of the Silver Fern Rally to be held on 3 December 2026.
- 1.2 Following the organiser's visits/letter drop to residents, it was identified that the timing of the Rally coincides with fawning season for a deer farm located on the Mangamako Road section of the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru Stage.
- 1.3 In the 2018 event a speed restriction for rally participants was enforced outside this property in an attempt to mitigate the stress caused to the fawning hinds, however after discussions between the organisers and the property owner it was agreed that the most suitable resolution was to amend the route to avoid Mangamako Road.
- 1.4 Ultimate Rally Group subsequently contacted Council requesting that the road closure process be initiated for the closure of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension. This would enable the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru Stage to be amended to remove the Mangamako Road section from the proposed route.
- 1.5 A concern was also raised by a Peep-O-Day Road resident regarding the road closure. To address this concern, Ultimate Rally Group proposed relocating the stage start position on Peep-O-Day Road so that, if the amended route is approved, the resident's property would no longer be impacted by the closure.

## **2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki**

- 2.1 Not applicable as this is a legislative / operational item.

## **3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia**

- 3.1 Ultimate Ultimate Rally Group have been proactive and responsive in addressing the concerns raised and have demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively with affected residents and Council to identify practical solutions that accommodate the needs of all parties involved.
- 3.2 No objections to the proposed closures of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension were received.
- 3.3 Should any major damage occur as a result of the Silver Fern Rally, the cost of repairs would be recovered from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd.

## **4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru**

- 4.1 This road closure application carries an element of reputational risk for both Council and the event organisers in terms of proceeding, or not. There are economic benefits to the region in supporting this, however if it is not supported then this traditionally biennially run event may select alternative regions to conduct the rally.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

### Community Engagement

- 5.3 Public notice of the intention to temporarily close the roads was placed on the public notices webpage on 22 July 2026.
- 5.4 The closure information was sent out to the relevant community committees for distribution to local residents while the objection period was open.
- 5.5 A letter drop was undertaken on behalf of Ultimate Rally Group to all affected properties on Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension.
- 5.6 Signage will be installed on all roads once the road closure is approved to notify residents and provide contact information and instructions should there be a matter arise whilst the Rally is in operation.

## 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications with this report. Any major damage to the road would be recouped from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd who are required to have public liability insurance.

## 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 sets out the statutory requirements associated with proposals for temporary closure of roads.
- 8.2 Council must approve applications under section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 Schedule 10 for temporary prohibition of traffic on a Council Road.

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 A decision to temporarily close the roads is requested from the Council to enable prior public notice of the closure to be given to residents of the Manawatu District.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Appendix 1 Residents Letter Revised Peep-O-Day Waipuru Road Stage Route



# NZ Silver Fern Rally 2026 Proposed Road Closure

Dear Resident

The Ultimate Rally Group, organisers of the NZ Silver Fern Rally, has applied to the relevant local councils for the temporary closure of several roads in your area for the running of the NZ Silver Fern Rally 2026 Motorsport Event, to be held from Saturday 28 November to Friday 4 December 2026. The NZ Silver Fern Rally has been conducted throughout New Zealand for more than 20 years. During this time, The Ultimate Rally Group has built a strong reputation for working alongside local communities, schools, businesses, service organisations, and volunteer groups. The success of the event relies heavily on community support, and we actively create fundraising opportunities for local groups to become involved. If you know of a school, sports club, community organisation, or service group that may be interested in fundraising, or individuals who may like to volunteer, we will welcome the opportunity to hear from them. The process of obtaining approval for the proposed road closures involves consultation with multiple councils, agencies, and affected communities and can take several months to complete. This letter is intended as an early notification of the proposed road closures and an opportunity for residents to raise any questions or concerns. Once approvals have been granted, a second notification letter will be delivered confirming the approved road closure details, emergency contact procedures, access arrangements, and other important information. This notification is typically delivered between 7 and 21 days before the event.

Details of the proposed road closures are as follows:

**Stage Name: PEEP-O-DAY / WAIPURU ROAD**

**Date and Time of Closure: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026 8:55am – 1:25pm**

**Name of Roads:**

**Peep-O-Day**, from house number 793 to its intersection with Upper Pakihikura Road (at Waituna Tapuae Road), including its intersection with Irelands Road (no exit).

**Upper Pakihikura Road**, from its intersection with Peep-O-Day to its intersection with Mangapapa Road (at Lower Pakihikura Road).

**Mangapapa Road**, from its intersection with Upper Pakihikura Road to its intersection with Waipuru Road.

**Waipuru Road**, from its intersection with Mangapapa Road to its intersection with Mangamako Road (at Sandon Block Road).

**Sandon Block Road**, from its intersection with Waipuru Road to 200m from its intersection with HWY 54

**STAGE MAP**





# NZ Silver Fern Rally 2026 Proposed Road Closure

We acknowledge that the proposed road closures may cause some inconvenience to you and your family. However, we hope you will also take the opportunity to enjoy the event and experience some of New Zealand's leading rally drivers and historic rally vehicles in action.

Should the road closure application be approved, signs advising of the closure will be placed throughout the area approximately 7 to 21 days before the event. At the same time, residents will receive a second notification confirming closure times, access arrangements, emergency contact details, and other relevant information.

The event is managed from a central NZ Silver Fern Rally Base, supported by a comprehensive radio communications network, experienced event officials, and dedicated medical services. In the event of an emergency during the road closure period, these resources may also be available to assist residents. Full contact details will be provided in the second resident notification. To ensure the safety of residents and competitors, The Ultimate Rally Group does not permit competitors to undertake practice runs or reconnaissance on event roads before the rally.

If you require access to or from your property during the road closure period, further information will be provided closer to the event. Wherever possible, the NZ Silver Fern Rally Base will facilitate restricted access under escort, subject to event safety requirements.

All relevant organisations, including local authorities, emergency services, school bus operators, rural mail contractors, transport operators, milk tanker operators, artificial insemination technicians, and other rural service providers will be advised of the proposed road closures.

We would also appreciate your assistance in notifying, where applicable, absentee landowners, landlords, tenants, sharemilkers, contractors, and other regular users of the affected roads.

If you have any questions, comments, or submissions regarding the proposed road closures, please do not hesitate to contact The Ultimate Rally Group using the details provided below, quoting the stage name and date referenced in this notice.

**The Ultimate Rally Group is proud to support the New Zealand Rural Support Trust. Together, we would like to thank local community groups, volunteers, residents, and businesses for their assistance in making events such as this possible. We greatly appreciate the goodwill and support of your community as we work through the approval process with your local council.**

Kind regards

**Peter Martin**  
Event Director



## Council

Meeting of 02 September 2026

Business Unit: Corporate

Date Created: 17 August 2026

## System of Voting

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To seek a decision on what voting system the Council will use for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, and any associated elections.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council:

1. Retains First Past the Post (FPP) as its system of voting for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, and any associated elections.

**OR**

2. Adopts Single Transferable Vote (STV) as its system of voting for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, and any associated elections.

Report prepared by:

Ash Garstang

Governance and Assurance Manager

Approved for submission by:

Frances Smorti

General Manager - Corporate

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## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Every six years local authorities must reassess their system of voting. There are two options; First Past the Post (FPP) and Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- 1.2 The Council's current system of voting is FPP. This was resolved in 2023, for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections. Despite this, Council can now make a new resolution for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.
- 1.3 In the 2025 local elections, FPP was used by 62 councils and STV used by 15 councils. Within the Manawatū-Whanganui region, Palmerston North City Council and Ruapehu District Councils used STV.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The decision on which electoral system to use for the 2028 and 2031 local elections aligns with Council's strategic priority of **A future planned together**. The electoral system provides the mechanism through which the community elects its representatives and participates in local democracy.

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 Council is asked to resolve whether to use FPP or STV for the 2028 and 2031 triennial general elections and any associated elections. Associated elections include any elections to fill extraordinary vacancies held between the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, or after the 2031 triennial election but before the subsequent triennial election in 2034.
- 3.2 FPP is broadly considered to be the simpler system of voting out of the two options, and has the following characteristics:
  - Voters may cast as many votes as there are positions to be filled.
  - The candidate or candidates with the highest numbers of votes are elected.
- 3.3 STV is considered to be more complex and has the following characteristics:
  - Voters have one vote but can rank-order some or all of the candidates listed on a voting ballot form, from 1 (most preferred candidate) to x (least preferred candidate). Voters must rank at least one candidate.
  - At the vote counting phase, software is used to calculate a quota and distribute votes.
    - The quota is calculated by dividing the number of valid votes cast (less non-transferable votes) by the number of vacancies plus one. Candidates who reach or exceed the quota are elected.

- o If an elected candidate has more votes than the quota, the surplus proportion of their vote is transferred to other candidates according to voters' subsequent preferences.
  - o The quota is recalculated during subsequent iterations of the count to account for any additional non-transferable votes.
  - o If there are still vacancies to be filled and no further candidate reaches the quota, the lowest-polling candidate may be excluded and their transferable votes redistributed according to voters' subsequent preferences.
  - o This process of transferring votes, recalculating the quota and, where necessary, excluding candidates continues through successive iterations until all vacancies are filled.
- STV allows voters' preferences to be more fully reflected in the election result, as voters can rank candidates in order of preference rather than simply indicating which candidates they support. However, the voting and counting process is more complex than FPP, and election results can be more difficult for voters to understand and interpret. Despite arguably producing a fairer representation of voter preferences, this complexity may reduce transparency and risk undermining voter confidence in the electoral process.

3.4 Officers do not recommend one voting system over the other. The choice between FPP and STV is ultimately a matter of philosophical preference as to how votes should translate into representation, including the relative importance placed on simplicity and ease of understanding compared with the ability for voters to express preferences between candidates.

## 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 There are minimal risks associated with the decision sought in this report. The main risk relates to public understanding and confidence if Council decides to change from the existing FPP electoral system to STV.
- 4.2 FPP is a familiar and relatively simple voting system. A change to STV would require voters to use a different method of voting and would introduce a more complex vote-counting process. Some voters may initially find the change confusing or be concerned about why Council has changed the electoral system.
- 4.3 This risk could be managed through clear and timely communication ahead of the 2028 election, explaining how to vote under STV, how votes are counted, and the reasons for Council's decision. This would help voters understand the change and maintain confidence in the electoral process.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report.

### Community Engagement

- 5.3 No community engagement is required.

## 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications associated with this report.

## 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 If Council changes to STV, some additional expenditure may be required to support communications and voter education ahead of the 2028 election.

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 FPP and STV are the only two systems of voting that can be used for local elections, as per sections 5A and 5B of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA 2001).

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 Officers will notify the decision from this meeting to the public in accordance with section 28 of the LEA 2001 and inform them of the right to demand a poll. This public notice must be made by 19 September 2026.
- 9.2 Any poll demand must be in writing, signed by at least 5% of the number of electors enrolled as eligible to vote at the 2025 triennial election, and submitted to Council no later than 11 December 2026.
- 9.3 Any valid poll demand would require the Council to notify its Electoral Officer of the need to conduct a binding poll. A binding poll would present the two options (FPP and STV) to eligible voters, and the option with the highest vote must be adopted by Council.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Nil.