

South Waikato District Report

Date Range: 1st July – 31 December 2022

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ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE/S – Amy Marfell, Sport Waikato GM Regional Leadership

The work of Sport Waikato staff is guided by the Regional Strategy for Sport and Recreation in the Waikato – Moving Waikato – which is underpinned by a focus on 3 key areas: Our People; Building Communities; and Regional Leadership.



OUR PEOPLE

A focus on the provision of opportunities that meet the needs of the people of our region

MORE ADULTS, MORE CHILDREN
'OUT THERE AND ACTIVE'



BUILDING COMMUNITIES

A focus on quality local delivery of sport, recreation and physical activity experiences

HELPING COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

A focus on regional and national partners working together to lead change and enhance outcomes

LEADING AND DELIVERING CHANGE

For the 3rd year, Sport Waikato has led the Waikato Sport and Active Recreation Awards, which is a celebration of the work happening around the region to keep the communities of the Waikato active. With categories that celebrate community connection, sport and active recreation partnerships, outstanding active spaces, commitment to diversity and inclusion, community coaches, unsung heroes and those with a commitment to youth engagement, the awards are an excellent showcase of the passion, commitment and dedication people and groups in our region have to supporting sport and recreation. The 2022 awards received over 100 excellent nominations who will be celebrated at a special awards and networking evening on January 26th 2023. You can view the 2022 finalists here: [Sport Waikato - Awards](#)

It has been a busy year for the team of Regional Connectivity Coordinators and our Sport Waikato Insights Team as we have worked hard to support the review and/or creation of Local Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plans across our 10 districts and with our 10 Local Authorities. Having gathered and analysed a comprehensive data set following club, RSO and community engagement as well as Sport Waikato's sample boost of Active NZ data, 2023 will see the draft plans coming together for socialisation with Councils and Elected Members. We look forward to continuing to work together with your Council on this important project that will inform your LTP process.

For more details about the recent impact of Sport Waikato's work, please see our [2022 Annual Report](#)

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year from the Sport Waikato Team, and we look forward to connecting again in 2023







SOUTH WAIKATO SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES






STATUS	On Track	Some Challenges	High Risk	Complete
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Focus Areas	Progress	Further Considerations/ Proposed Future Actions	Status
<p>Opportunities for activity in the district are promoted via a central digital hub that is accessible to the community</p>	<p>Sport Waikato continues to promote this service and traffic to the website outlines that Be Active is the key reason community members visit the Sport Waikato website.</p> <p>Sport Waikato has engaged a Business Analyst to review the way Be Active is currently being used and what the future of this platform could be to ensure that it provides adequate information on Play, Active Recreation and Sport opportunities for all communities across the entire Waikato Region.</p>	<p>The Sport Waikato website will be split into two – with an organisational website created alongside a renamed and relaunched Be Active directory. Work is set to start on this in the second quarter of 2023</p>	
<p>Support activity deliverers in the district to better understand the needs of the participant (with a particular focus on target groups of children and young people, women and girls, and deprived communities)</p>	<p>Sport Waikato continues to support the local education, community and sport and recreation sector in the region to access Tū Manawa funding opportunities to support the delivery of sport and recreation programmes, activations and play for children (tamariki 5-11 years) and youth (rangatahi 12-18). The fund aims to provide quality opportunities in play, active recreation and sport for those who are missing out.</p> <p>Within the South Waikato district during this reporting period \$8,250 has been allocated to key initiatives including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Patatere 2. Bishop Edward Gains School <p>A further \$18,000 has been allocated to Regional initiatives delivering into the South Waikato District through The Star Jam Charitable Trust</p>	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to drive applications from the district, including but not limited to, among sports clubs, recreation providers and education settings (e.g. primary and secondary schools).</p> <p>Sport Waikato are actively looking to support delivery to happen in the South Waikato.</p> <p>We would also invite Council to consider application to the fund for the purposes of any play, active recreation and sport delivery projects that they may wish to implement.</p>	
	<p>We are working with future applicants for the next round of funding by providing support and advice through the expressions of interest process.</p>	<p>Continue to provide deliverers with connections and links to specific participation data, profiles and trends to assist with modifications in programming and or delivery methods to ensure quality experiences.</p>	
	<p>Sport Waikato’s website development will have further resources available to those delivering into the district to help better understand the needs of those participants.</p> <p>See below in the Regional Programme updates further information</p>	<p>Sport Waikato’s new website is due to be launched in March 2023. Sport Waikato will work alongside these deliverers to ensure they have awareness and access to these resources.</p>	








<p>Grow local sector capability through the provision of targeted workshops and education initiatives</p>	<p>Sport Waikato produces a weekly newsletter with information for Regional Sport Organisations on topics relating to sector capability provision including governance and funding. Whilst these newsletters are focussed at a regional audience, Sport Waikato realises that some of our local sector do not have access to this information and quarterly information is provided to the local sector through Sport Waikato's email contact information.</p>	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to work alongside the local sector to ensure awareness and access to these capacity building opportunities are delivered in a way that is suitable to them.</p>	
	<p>A large proportion of lead teachers in the Health and PE curriculum space in South Waikato have had professional development on play and balance is better philosophies.</p> <p>Sport Waikato had a spatial awareness workshop at Tokoroa Gym Sports for early childhood educators and junior teachers planned for the end of November. However due to sickness and end of year pressures, the workshop has been postponed to early next year. These workshops are designed to support kaiako in their teaching practice and their ability to support both tamariki mokopuna and their families to increase their physical capabilities and spatial awareness.</p>	<p>With balance is better understanding at a regional and teacher environment increase, Sport Waikato is planning to increase the understanding of these principles to other members of the sector to ensure that tamariki have quality opportunities to participate in physical activity.</p>	
	<p>The Primary Learning Partner for South Waikato schools has completed strength and needs analyses and action planning with all schools in the district and many of these schools have been working on achieving these actions. Of particular success is the work supporting Bishop Edward Gains school. As the school does not have a hall or indoor space, the Primary Learning Partner has supported the school to use the space at the Tokoroa Events Centre, including using the Play Gym space to provide professional development for the teachers.</p>	<p>The focus continues to be on building teacher and school capability to deliver Health and Physical Education in ways that support increased tamariki physical activity levels and feelings of wellbeing.</p>	
	<p>The Early Childhood team continue to work alongside the Primary team to promote Kahui Ako recognising the strengths of all age groups working together from birth to high school. In November, the Learning Partner with help from the wider community including bunnings donation of manpower, concrete and stones; built a sensory pathway at Aoga Amata Childcare Centre to install a sensory pathway to extend locomotion, manipulation and tactile experiences.</p>	<p>Tokoroa Kahui Ako is one of the strength areas in the region.</p>	





Support Coach Development in the district in both school and community settings	<p>Sport Waikato continues to facilitate the development and growth of those coaches in our region who influence, educate and develop others through our coach advisor and coach advisor (youth).</p>	<p>Continue to support the relevant RSO in working with their respective game deliverers to encourage the adoption of this philosophy through their channels in 2022</p>	
	<p>A Champion Coach Programme (CCP) was facilitated by coach trainers that focussed on identifying how to create climates of development and the value of reflection that leads to personal and athlete growth/development.</p>	<p>Coaches now have to identify and put learning into action in their environments.</p>	
	<p>A regional trainer workshop was delivered focussing on play or games-based coaching/skill development, sustainable system change and capability building, sporting environment (e.g. balance is better, good sport), appropriate coaching for the person.</p>	<p>Participants from the workshop have now been asked to be champions for these delivery focus areas to help develop tools and resources across the sector.</p>	
	<p>Work alongside the Provincial Rugby Unions in commitment to delivering quality rugby delivery for youth across the region continues with all three unions being invited to become part of national online huis on balance is better.</p> <p>Planning with WRFU to weave Good Sports and Balance is Better principles into their strategic plans has been postponed for the new year, however a strong focus on pathways and development for women and girls is being established to allow the WRFU to have more of a strategic focus in this space to increase capacity at a club level.</p>	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to work alongside the 3 Provincial Rugby Unions to support them in their planning for further quality provision for rugby across the union.</p>	
Lead the development and review of the district sport and recreation plan, in collaboration with the District Council	<p>Facilities Sport Waikato has been monitoring the progress of facility projects in the LTP such as the Glenshea Park resurfacing, the Putaruru Skatepark and the Tokoroa Pool Upgrade. With increasing costs for building products etc, there will be a challenge to access external funding to complete these projects to meet the needs of the participants.</p> <p>Feedback through the community surveys undertaken for the local play, active recreation and sport plan renewal shows a positive response to the upgrades on the Tirau Domain upgrades to date.</p>	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to support the project teams with these facilities to ensure they meet the needs of the needs of the community including identifying options for external funding.</p> <p>Sport Waikato will continue to connect with various teams within council to see what insights can be provided to support decision making on other facility projects such as playground developments</p>	








	<p>Maori and Pacific Peoples Participation A key priority for the South Waikato Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan is continued support and growth of Sports where there is a high participation rate of Maori and Pacific Island Peoples including Rugby. The appointment of a Maori Leader at WRFC has seen an increase in the number of Maori participating in rugby across the region.</p>	<p>There are potential learnings from this role that could be spread across other sports with high participation rates including Basketball, Netball and Rugby League.</p>	
	<p>Play Trailer and Magical Park The Regional Connectivity Coordinator worked alongside members of council staff that identified an opportunity to repurpose the old council “neighbourhood trailer” to support the provision of play in the district. A plan on how to develop this resource is underway with permission given from the asset team to use the trailer for this purpose.</p> <p>In 2021 the Regional Connectivity Coordinator won a year's subscription to Magical Park and it was decided that Elizabeth Park would be a good location for this. A planned activation event for Magical Park and an introduction to the play trailer concept was planned for the 16th November, however due to technical difficulties with Magical Park, the event has been postponed until next year.</p>	<p>Regional Connectivity Coordinator will continue to support the play trailer project including identifying potential funding for the painting of the trailer, reaching out to local businesses to supply the equipment required for the trailer and the processes involved in the use of the trailer by the community.</p> <p>Regional Connectivity Coordinator will continue to support council to activate their playground and recreation spaces using innovation such a Magical Park.</p>	
<p>Provide stakeholders with district specific insights to support decision-making and enable community conversations</p>	<p>Voice of the Coach (VOC) There were 404 responses from community/volunteer coaches through to performance coaches. 65% of responses are from the Tight 5 (Rugby, Netball, Football, Cricket, Hockey) giving us valuable insight about how to best recruit, support and retain coaches. The final report has been shared with RSO's and will be used to influence coaching systems and approaches throughout the region and district.</p>	<p>Ensure relevant parties have access and are aware of these profiles and look to assist district stakeholders to unpick the information to be able to support the decision-making process</p>	
	<p>Active NZ The key measure for our people, percentage of our people being physically active is measured through the Active New Zealand Survey.</p>	<p>Surveying was completed in 2021 and data is now available to all strategic partners upon request.</p>	
	<p>Voice of Tamariki (VOT) VOT seeks to understand the physical activity experiences of tamariki (children). 3 primary schools from South Waikato have undertaken the survey.</p>	<p>This information will be collated at a district level and be included as part of district insights for the South Waikato Play Active Recreation and Sport Plan.</p>	






	<p>Local Plans Three different surveys were conducted to support the development of the South Waikato Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan. These included surveys at Regional Sporting Organisations, Local Clubs and Organisations and Community Level. The data for the community surveys has been collated and is available at a regional level (which was shared with our council partners at the Regional Spaces and Place Forum at Seddon Park on 17 November), with the local club and organisation data currently being analysed and available early in the new year.</p>	All insights will be used to help inform the next iteration for the South Waikato Play Active and Recreation and Sport Plan.	
	<p>School Sport Census NZ Every year secondary schools are required to complete the School Sport NZ participation profiles or census. This provides a snapshot of participation rates, top sports, staff engagement and an indication of the coaches / managers that have committed to providing sport opportunities.</p>	The Youth Engagement team is working alongside secondary schools across the region to encourage their participation in the 2023 census.	
	<p>Discussion Piece – local elections In September the CEO for Sport Waikato featured a discussion piece on LinkedIn driven by insights targeted at those running in local elections. This helped to facilitate region wide conversation on the future of Play, Active Recreation and Sport opportunities at a local and community level.</p>		
<p>Contribute to Council conversations about play, active recreation and sport via regular meetings and collaboration on key projects</p>	<p>Sport Waikato would like to thank the South Waikato District Council for their willingness to allow the Regional Connectivity Coordinator a regular hot desk arrangement within council offices, specifically within the community facilities team, that has allowed for these types of conversations to take place on a regular basis.</p>	With South Waikato District Councils staff structure change it will be important for Sport Waikato to ensure they are engaging with key council staff across projects and business units.	
	<p>Waikato Regional Spaces & Places Forum – November forum centred around the development of the next Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan and involved presentations on insights, accessibility (Be.Lab) and Sport NZ facility updates and environmental sustainability, followed by workshopping on these issues/themes.</p>	Follow up has included a questionnaire to Mayors, CEOs and technical staff regarding their understanding and usage of the WRASP document, for further workshopping online in December, and a 4th edition being published in 2023.	



	<p>Play Workshop – Council staff attended a regional Play Workshop, facilitated by Sport Waikato in Matamata in November, in to discuss the role, opportunities, values, and benefits of Play to further promote community wellbeing.</p>	Internal PD workshop to be arranged in 2023 comprising council staff from across business units who could further develop play concepts within their respective planning, projects, and activities.	
	<p>Natural Bodies of Water - Access to natural water resources will ensure community physical activity needs are met and the network remains sustainable. Sport Waikato, through recommendations from the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan, has developed a proposed methodology for the development of a Regional Natural Bodies of Water Plan. This Plan will seek to gather information that identify any competitive advantages or opportunities for the Waikato region related to its water resources and activities and is a key optimisation initiative highlighted (WRASP).</p>	It is expected a Regional Natural Bodies of Water Network Plan will guide future strategic vision and direction for investment in spaces and places at a local community, district, sub regional and regional level, while highlighting spaces of international significance. This plan was presented to the CE Forum in December for endorsement for project commencement.	
	<p>Season Transition Guidelines – Conversation with staff to raise awareness of this partnership document between council, RSO and Sport Waikato. The guidelines support the idea of limited season lengths, creating a window for field transition and maintenance between seasons and sports, and ultimately increasing players welfare through reducing competing demands for time, and increasing the quality of player experience.</p>	Refreshing these guidelines within councils, where covid and staff turnover has created this need, and between councils.	
<p>Increase collaboration and connection between key stakeholders in play, active recreation and sport in the district through community partnerships</p>	<p>Kart Club – In October a meeting was held with members of the Kart Club alongside council staff to see how they could be supported to increase opportunities for their organisation to alleviate stresses on their committee members.</p>	Sport Waikato will continue to support local organisations with collaboration opportunities, especially into the Tokoroa area.	
	<p>Archery Club – Sport Waikato met with the local archery club in Tokoroa to discuss a potential hub opportunity with other clubs and organisations since they have moved into a new facility in Rosebury Street.</p>		



	<p>Putaruru Hub - Sport Waikato has supported the Putāruru Community Hub working group by taking them through the Sport NZ hub guide framework to develop an entity called the Putāruru Community Hub (PCH). The PCH vision statement is “Poipoia te kākano kia puawai”, Nurture the seed so that it will grow. The Hub exists to nurture and grow community clubs and organisations so that they may flourish, whilst still retaining their identity and history. Over this reporting period, the governance board has continued to work with Sporty to develop an online portal for their membership, has become an incorporated society with a bank account, and an administrator has been appointed to help lead the organisations vision and objectives starting in the new year. A workshop was planned in November to bring the membership and wider members of the community together for a workshop on furthering the commitment to collaboration. The workshop has been postponed until the new year.</p>	<p>The Regional Connectivity Coordinator has been seconded onto the governance board for the PCH for a year and will continue to provide support and build capability to both the Putāruru Community Hub board and member organisations through inclusion on the PCH Board and connection to the wider Sport Waikato organisation.</p> <p>The learnings from the Putāruru Hub will be instrumental in introducing a similar concept to the Tokoroa Community in the new year.</p>	
<p>Lead the development and review of the district sport and recreation plan, in collaboration with the District Council</p>	<p>Much of the work of the Sport Waikato Regional Connectivity Coordinator is informed by the district Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plans. This evidence-based plan combines local and regional insights, including participation and demographic trends.</p> <p>The plan is currently being renewed and timed to align with council's LTP processes. RSO and Club surveying took place initially, with community surveying in December. Following Data Collection and Analysis, a Draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport plan will be produced, with feedback and comment sought from a range of stakeholders.</p>	<p>Adopting a local play, active recreation and sport will provide key insights into the investment in the next iteration of the Waikato District Long Term Plan 2024 – 34.</p>	
<p>Identify opportunities to appropriately celebrate positive sport and recreation outcomes</p>	<p>In January 2023 – the Waikato Sport & Active Recreation Awards, hosted by Sport Waikato will be held at the Claudelands Event Centre.</p> <p>Following the success of the 2022 awards, despite being held under Covid Protection Framework, this community-focused celebration will recognise excellence across seven categories: Community Connection, Sport & Active Recreation Partnership, Outstanding Active Space Initiative, Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion, Community Unsung Hero, Community Coach, and Commitment to Youth Engagement.</p>	<p>Sport Waikato will continue to celebrate these new award categories, not least because they align with our strategic outcomes, but importantly because these individuals, groups and initiatives often go unrecognised without such an awards format.</p>	



	Finalists from the South Waikato for the Commitment to Community Engagement award include Axillia Tricking at Tokoroa High School https://www.wsara.co.nz/nominate/entry/148		
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REGIONAL SPORT WAIKATO PROGRAMME UPDATES

Programme	Programme Updates
Regional Sector Support - Sector Capability	<p>Increase capability of sector - Youth POET and WILSS were invited to attend a Mana Taiohi workshop alongside the Sport Development, Target Participation and Education teams at Sport Waikato. As key delivery partners in coach education, Good Sports, student leadership (WILSS) and active recreation (POET). Mana Taiohi is a principle based framework that informs the way people who work with young people work in Aotearoa</p> <p>Increase sector capability – Maori We have connected with Healthy Families Te Ngira driven by an iwi health coalition and led by Te Koohao Health – they have agreed to support our internal cultural capability journey and we will find ways to support their physical activity contract outcomes for HF through the work we are already doing.</p> <p>Balance is Better A pilot programme between Waikato Bay of Plenty Netball and Waikato Rugby is underway working on a club collaboration with a small selection of clubs to collaborate on workshops and capacity building on good sport and balance is better.</p>
Secondary Schools	<p>Sport Waikato assisted the WSSSA with updates to their constitution and By Laws to better reflect the role that WSSSA has in leading and influencing the value of sport in the secondary space. In addition, Sport Waikato has assisted the WSSSA to change the wording from “Event Sanctioning” process to “Event Endorsement”. The language change supports the purpose of the process to ensure secondary school events are competitions that are fair, safe and equitable and the partnership approach between secondary schools and Regional Sporting Organisations.</p> <p>The South Waikato Secondary Schools cluster meetings have been held successfully with supporting the school sport coordinators and leads including summer sports planning, rangatahi focus groups, challenges with participation, new sports being introduced, voice of the participant, census profile updates, NZSS Sports Conference and School Sports Plans or vision. Specific to the South Waikato was the review/feedback of Basketball in the district.</p>
Targeted Participation	<p>Sport Waikato shared 13 quality opportunities for women to be active with our networks and social media channels, three of which are This is ME® support activities (Pink Walks and Women’s 5-aside).</p> <p>A new direction for Sport Waikato’S This is ME® instagram posts was developed in recognition of the “instagram vs reality” trend. This has shown a higher reach and engagement.</p> <p>Sport Waikato continues to support South Waikato District Council in their exploration of accessibility facilitating a focus group with parents of disabled children at Tokoroa North School. South Waikato District Council now has a greater understanding of the needs of disabled children and their parents, which has solidified their commitment to accessibility through play, active recreation, and sport in the South Waikato e.g., council were unaware that the local pool had increased the age for access to the hydrotherapy pool to 16, which excluded disabled young people from participating where they feel most comfortable and confident.</p>

