



WAITARA
TAIOHI
TRUST

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026





OUR STORY SO FAR

The Waitara Taiohi Trust continues to stand as a vibrant source of hope, strength, and connection for the taiohi of Waitara. Now marking five years of continuous community presence, the Trust has matured into a vital, trusted anchor in the community. Our guiding vision remains clear and true: to see every taiohi woven into their community, whole in their identity, and winning in their future.

Over the 2025–2026 year, we intentionally scaled our depth and reach, actively running 12 core programmes alongside our flourishing social enterprise, Manaaki Coffee. Every initiative is intentionally designed around the evolving needs of our youth, carving out sustainable pathways into employment, wellness, and self-worth. Whether they are navigating life through our daily mentoring at Waitara High School, stepping up to run community gatherings, or mastering technical barista skills in our coffee cart, our taiohi are walking with mana and growing exponentially in confidence.

Our kaupapa is completely relational; we know that meaningful transformation always begins with genuine connection. Our dedicated team of youth workers walk face-to-face and heart-to-heart with our young people, cultivating high trust environments where they feel safe to unpack challenges and look toward their futures. The outcomes this year speak for themselves: measurable increases in self-worth, strengthened mental wellbeing, and a rising number of taiohi successfully transitioning straight into tertiary qualifications and meaningful mahi. Side by side with whānau, hapū, kura, and our wider community networks, we aren't just supporting the next generation we are watching Waitara's young leaders rise.

VISION/PURPOSE/ THEORY OF CHANGE

At Waitara Taiohi Trust, everything we do flows from our vision: He puna wai koropupū ko Waitara – a place of refreshing where taiohi are woven, whole and winning. Our purpose is to awhi taiohi in building a deep sense of belonging, identity, and confidence (He pūrengi mātou hei tautoko i ngā pou taiohi).

All our programmes and mahi are grounded in our Theory of Change, which guides us to walk alongside taiohi through mentoring, trusted relationships, life skills, and rangatiratanga (leadership development). Whether it's through weekly youth groups, school-based mentoring, cultural spaces, or real-world training, each initiative supports taiohi on a pathway to thrive.

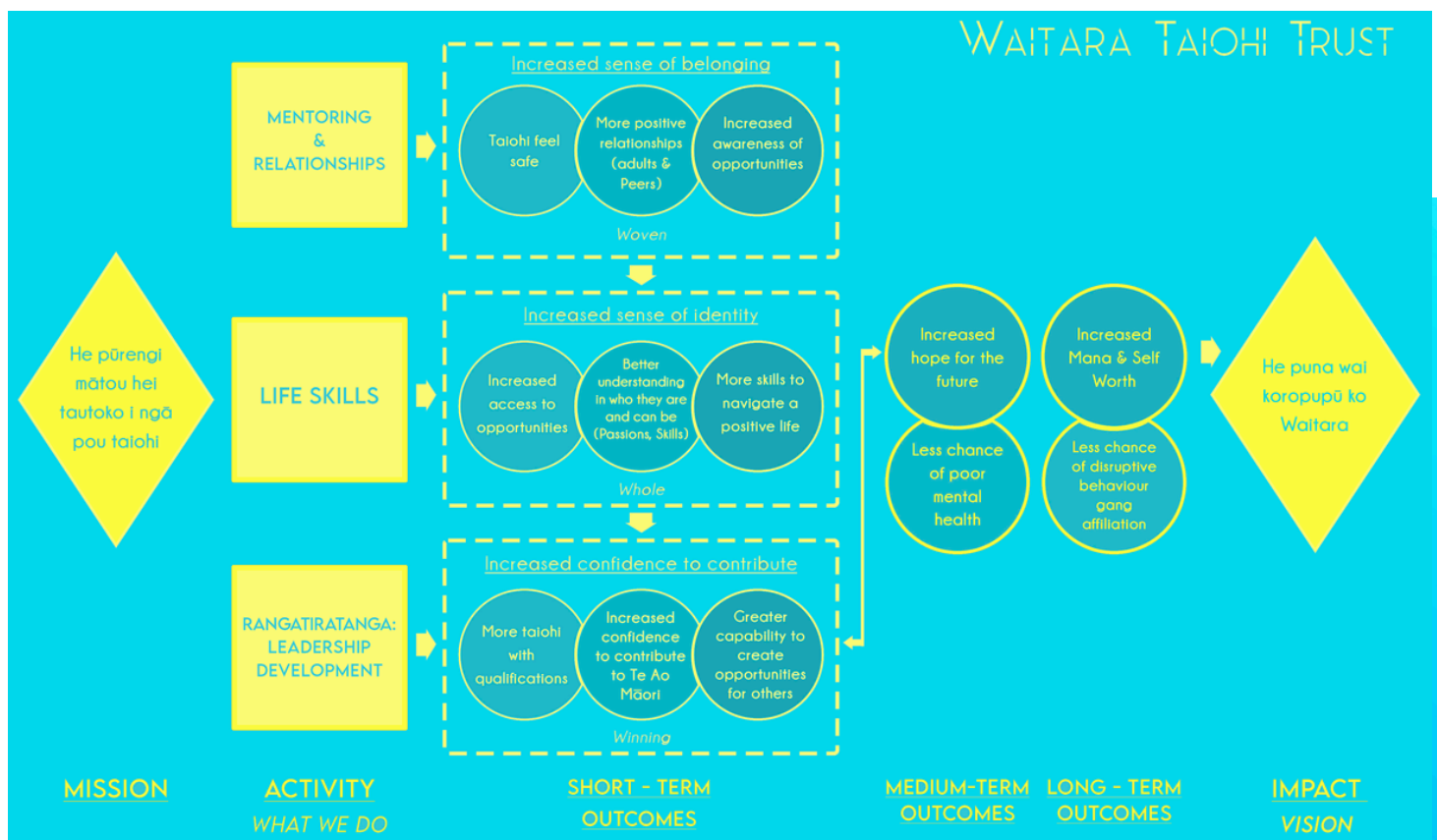
Our Vision

He puna wai koropupū ko Waitara A place of refreshing where taiohi are woven, whole and winning.

Our purpose

He pūrengi mātou hei tautoko i ngā pou taiohi To awhi taiohi in building a deep sense of belonging, identity and confidence.

Our relationships and programmes facilitate this ara through: mentoring and relationships, life skills and Rangatiratanga: leadership development.



TESTIMONIALS



"Before I connected with the Trust, I was really shy and kept to myself. My best friend dragged me along to a Wednesday night youth group, and it completely changed my path. Getting involved with the Manaaki Coffee cart has been huge for me—it didn't just teach me how to make a great coffee, it taught me how to talk to people and back myself. The youth workers here show so much genuine kindness and belief in us. Because of their support, I've stepped out of my shell, built real skills, and grown into a strong, confident wahine proud of who I am becoming."

"Before the internship, I had goals but no clear path, and I often felt stuck. The Trust didn't just give me a qualification; they gave me a family and a safe space to realize my worth. Transitioning from being an intern to a fully qualified youth worker has completely transformed my life. Now, I get to wake up every day and do mahi that I absolutely love—walking alongside our taiohi, believing in them the same way the Trust believed in me, and watching them discover their own mana."



"Before I found the Waitara Taiohi Trust, I didn't have much guidance or support. I had goals in my head but no clear path or anyone to turn to. At times, I felt stuck and misunderstood. Since being involved with the Trust, everything has changed. They've given me a safe space to grow, learn, and just be myself. Whether it's one-on-one support, group programmes, or just someone to talk to, they've helped me find my confidence and realise my worth. They've shown me that my past doesn't define my future. I've now got people who genuinely care and believe in me — and because of that, I'm in a much better place and excited for what's ahead."



WAITARA TAIOHI TRUST PROGRAMMES

LOYAL LEADERS 2022 - NOW

Loyal Leaders is a dynamic programme offered by the Waitara Taiohi Trust, empowering young individuals aged 14 to 25 to grow as leaders and make a positive impact in their community. Through a series of engaging activities and structured sessions, participants develop essential life skills, build meaningful relationships and connections, and cultivate leadership qualities rooted in rangatiratanga principles.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better understanding of who they are and can be, and greater capability to create opportunities for others.



2022 - NOW WAITARA TAIOHI TRUST INTERSHIP

The Internship program by the Waitara Taiohi Trust is a transformative journey aimed at creating employment pathways for taiohi (young people) by providing comprehensive professional training as qualified youth workers. Through this program, taiohi gain invaluable practical experience, mentorship, and educational support to kickstart their careers in the field of youth work. Qualifications offered include a Certificate in Youth Work, Diploma in Youth Development, and Bachelor in Youth Development.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better understanding of who they are and can be, and greater capability to create opportunities for others.

INSPIRE 2023 - NOW

The Inspire Program by the Waitara Taiohi Trust is a dynamic initiative designed to ignite passion, creativity, and personal growth among taiohi (young people). Through engaging workshops, mentorship, and community projects, the program aims to inspire taiohi to discover their strengths, pursue their dreams, and make positive contributions to their communities.

This program is run during club time at Waitara High School as well as on weekends. It has already led to four community events, all created and run by taiohi.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better understanding of who they are and can be, and greater capability to create opportunities for others.



2023 - 2026 DUB ACADEMY

The Dub Academy, a flagship programme of the Waitara Taiohi Trust, is where passion meets skill on the basketball court. With expert coaching, state-of-the-art facilities, and a supportive environment, taiohi can hone their basketball prowess while building confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. Join us at the Dub Academy and unleash your full potential on and off the court.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, Mastery of skills and passions.

EPIC YOUTH 2024 - now

Epic Youth is where over 160 taiohi gather each week to experience a vibrant community built on aroha and acceptance. Here, you can forge meaningful connections, embrace your uniqueness, and have an absolute blast! Hone your leadership skills alongside inspiring youth workers who fuel your dreams and ignite your passion and spirit. Epic Youth is your go-to destination for positivity, growth, and endless possibilities. Come join us, and let's make miracles happen together!

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better understanding of who they are and can be, greater capability to create opportunities for others, and opportunities for taiohi to lead and learn (rangatiratanga).



2024 - now

WAITARA HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WORK

Waitara Taiohi Trust and Waitara High School are proud to jointly fund and support three dedicated part-time youth workers at Waitara High School. These contracted youth workers provide over 30 hours of on-location support each week, offering essential pastoral care and mentoring. They lead a variety of events and programs throughout the school year, creating opportunities for students to connect, grow, and thrive. Together, Waitara Taiohi Trust and Waitara High School are committed to fostering a positive and nurturing environment that empowers youth to reach their full potential through dedicated service and impactful programs.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better understanding of who they are and can be.

TALANOA TAINA'S 2024 - now

A safe and empowering space for young Tāne to kōrero openly about life, mental health, and identity. Talanoa is all about connection, brotherhood, and breaking down the barriers that stop young men from reaching out. Through shared stories, challenges, and support, taiohi grow in confidence and learn they're not alone.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better connections to the community, greater capability to create opportunities for others.



2021 - 2025 WAITARA CREATIVE ACADEMY/BRIDGE

The Waitara Creative Academy is a vibrant hub for young minds to explore and unleash their creative potential. Through hands-on design and creative projects, the academy empowers taiohi to express themselves artistically, develop new skills, and turn their imaginative ideas into reality.

Bridge is a dynamic music programme designed to help taiohi grow their musical abilities while actively producing and releasing music for their peers to enjoy.

Whether it's songwriting, beat-making, recording, or performance, Bridge provides a space for young artists to refine their talents and share their voices with the world.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Mastery of skills and passions

AFTER SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE YOUTH DUB T - TAIOHI 2024 - NOW

Join our vibrant After School Intermediate Program, a place where taiohi from the intermediate age group come together for games, team-building activities, and inspiring input sessions. Our goal is to encourage and empower taiohi to achieve their dreams while fostering leadership skills and building confidence. It's not just a program; it's a community where older youth can step up as leaders, showcasing their rangatiratanga and contributing to the positive growth of their peers.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, and Opportunities for taiohi to lead and learn (rangatiratanga).



2022 - NOW WTT EVENTS

Experience the excitement of Waitara Taiohi Trust (WTT) events! Our events are designed to provide safe and fun environments for taiohi, ensuring they have memorable experiences while building lasting connections. From pool parties and sports competitions to cultural celebrations and community gatherings, we offer a diverse range of activities that cater to the interests and needs of the taiohi we work with. Join us and be part of the vibrant and engaging events that promote well-being, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging for all participants.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Building positive connections with the community, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, Mastery of skills and passions

LIMINAL SERIES 2023 - NOW

Embark on a transformative journey with the Liminal Series by Waitara Taiohi Trust (WTT)! Our Liminal Series is all about stepping out of familiar spaces and venturing into the beautiful landscapes of Taranaki Whenua. It's a unique opportunity for taiohi to explore new environments, engage in talanoa (conversation), and reflect on their experiences. Through the Liminal Series, we facilitate meaningful connections with nature, culture, and community. Taiohi are invited to immerse themselves in the natural beauty of Taranaki Whenua, fostering a deeper appreciation for their surroundings and encouraging personal growth.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions



2024 - NOW GIRLS GROUP

Girls Group is a space where young wāhine come together to build confidence, share openly, and grow in self-worth. It's a place of support, friendship, and fun — where taiohi explore identity, learn life skills, and feel seen and valued just as they are.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions

TE REO SESSIONS 2025 - NOW

These weekly sessions create a space where taiohi can grow in confidence and cultural identity through the reo. Delivered in partnership with Ngā Rāhiri, the programme weaves together language, tikanga, and connection — helping taiohi strengthen their sense of belonging to te ao Māori. It's a place to learn, speak, and live the reo in a way that feels real and empowering.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better connections to the community, greater capability to create opportunities for others.



2023 - NOW

SUPER TOUCH

In an amazing partnership with Waitara Whanui Sports and Arts, we've pioneered an exhilarating touch rugby competition that has brought together over 60 enthusiastic taiohi. This initiative also saw us entering two teams into the Waitara touch competition, showcasing our commitment to fostering sporting excellence and camaraderie among our taiohi. The touch rugby program provides a safe and supportive environment for taiohi to develop their rugby skills while having an absolute blast. With skilled coaches and mentors, our taiohi are empowered to learn and grow, building not only their sporting abilities but also their confidence and teamwork.

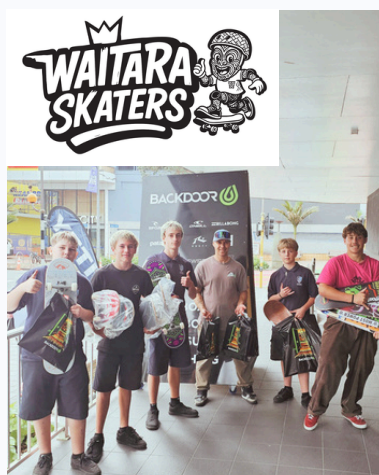
Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions

WTT COMMUNITY 2022 - NOW

At the core of Waitara Taiohi Trust's kaupapa is the cultivation of positive connections within our community. We constantly seek opportunities to uplift Waitara and collaborate with community groups to enhance our wonderful town. Whether through events like the Waitara Night Markets, running lunchtime activities at Manukorihi Intermediate, or partnering with local hapū, we strive to establish connections that enable our taiohi to flourish. By fostering these partnerships, we create spaces for our taiohi to thrive and engage meaningfully with their surroundings. Through collaboration and community support, we aim to empower our youth, promote cultural pride, and contribute positively to the vibrant spirit of Waitara.



Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, better connections to the community, greater capability to create opportunities for others.



2025 - NOW

WAITARA SKATERS

Roll into Waitara Skaters – a youth-led skating crew where tamariki and taiohi build confidence, skills, and friendships on wheels! Guided by passionate young mentors, Waitara Skaters creates a safe and energetic space for learning new tricks, developing skating technique, and growing resilience through practice and persistence. More than just skating, it's about fostering a sense of belonging, celebrating individual identity, and supporting one another to push limits and achieve success.

Through Waitara Skaters, taiohi gain increased access to opportunities, discover who they are and who they can become, and develop the confidence and capability to create opportunities for others. It's about mastery of skills, passion, and a community that rides together.

KIDS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2023 - 2023

During the holidays, Waitara Taiohi Trust organized an incredible holiday programme that brought together over 40 kids for a memorable experience. It was a time filled with laughter, learning, and lots of fun activities. What made this programme even more special was witnessing our amazing taiohi step up as leaders, taking care of and mentoring the tamariki of Waitara. It was heartwarming to see the bonds formed, the skills developed, and the joy shared among everyone involved. The holiday programme was a true testament to the spirit of community and the commitment of our taiohi to make a positive impact on the younger generation.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions, and Opportunities for taiohi to lead and learn (rangatiratanga).



2024 - 2024

MORNING GYM, WEIGHTS & WELLBEING

Run by taiohi, for taiohi — this early morning programme creates a solid space to kickstart the day with purpose. Focused on physical fitness, discipline, and mental well-being, it's about more than just the gym. It's about showing up, supporting each other, and growing stronger together — in body and in mind.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions

WĀHINE ON WAVES 2023 - 2023

Step into the "Wāhine of Waves" program, a safe and empowering space for wāhine to experience the exhilarating world of surfing for the first time. Led by exceptional surfing instructors, this program not only teaches the art of surfing but also fosters a sense of confidence and connection with the ocean.

At "Wāhine of Waves," safety is paramount, ensuring that every participant feels supported and empowered as they catch their first waves. Our skilled instructors guide wāhine through the basics of surfing, helping them navigate the waves with grace and ease.

Outcomes: Increased access to opportunities, Better understanding of who they are and can be, Greater capability to create opportunities for others, mastery of skills and passions.



A HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO OUR DEDICATED FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS, WHO MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.





Social Enterprise that is Brewing Purpose with Every Cup

Manaaki Coffee is more than just a coffee cart; it's a social enterprise run by taiohi, for taiohi. Through this kaupapa, young people gain hands-on experience in customer service, barista skills, stock management, and small-business operations, all while receiving ongoing training and mentoring.

A huge mihi to the Toi Foundation for funding the cart's purchase. Your support made this dream a reality. We also want to thank Proof and Stock for providing expert training and helping us get set up with the right equipment and supplies. Together, you've helped empower our taiohi with tools, confidence, and real-world skills.

Since launching, Manaaki Coffee has popped up at 18 different markets and community events – and this is just the beginning. We're now actively exploring a permanent space where the cart can operate regularly, giving taiohi even more opportunities to build confidence, develop skills, and serve the community with pride.



7 Taiohi Trained/work experience through the coffee cart



Provided Coffee at 18 Markets and Events

“Before I started with Manaaki Coffee, I had no idea how to make coffee or what it was like to actually work with customers. At first, I was nervous, but the team showed me step by step how to do everything. I got to learn real barista skills, including how to take orders and deal with people in a calm and professional manner. Now I actually feel confident talking to people, and I've even applied for part-time jobs. Manaaki gave me the boost I needed – I've got experience now, and I know I can do it.”



WAITARA TAIOHI TRUST IMPACT STATISTICS

2025 - 2026

Across 2025–2026, our programmes engaged over **466** individual taiohi, with **411** attending more than three sessions — showing real consistency and commitment. Through weekly groups, mentoring, events, and leadership spaces, taiohi gave strong feedback across all areas.

Based on more than **362** feedback forms, the following highlights the average outcomes after participating in Waitara Taiohi Trust programs:

99%

Felt a strong sense of Belonging

95%

Saw improved access to opportunities and support

94%

Grew in their cultural identity and self-worth

94%

Experienced better mental health and empowerment

92%

Said their confidence had grown

98%

Reported they valued having positive role models

96%

Felt more hopeful about the future

92%

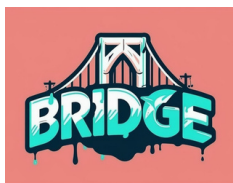
Believed their skills and knowledge had increased



These numbers reflect the deep impact of consistent, relational, strengths-based youth work in the Waitara community.



RECENT AND ONGOING PROGRAMS WITHIN THE PAST YEAR:



WAITARA TAIOHI TRUST EVENTS STATS

43

Waitara Taiohi Trust ran 41 events over the year, at Waitara high school, Manukoriki Intermediate, Epic Youth, Night Markets +

5284

Taiohi attended Waitara Taiohi Trust events over the year.

16

14 of the Taiohi-Led events where organised by youth from Inspire, Loyal Leaders, Talanoa Tāne, Girls Group.



WAITARA TAIOHI TRUST INTERNSHIP STATS

“Waitara Taiohi Trust staff have been an incredible support system throughout my studies with Praxis. The internship offers a balanced work and study environment that has been super fun to be a part of. The Trust has provided me with the assistance I need as I work toward my professional portfolio goals, while also allowing me space when needed for my personal health and development” Intern

100%

Pass Rate for WTT Interns.

14 out of 14

All 14 interns achieved their qualification with a 100% pass rate. Nine are now working in youth work with organisations including Manahome, Te Heru Marpara, the Y, Zeal, and Waitara Taiohi Trust.

2025 - 2026 Intake:

4 Certificate
1 Diploma



