



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

SPORT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

2.00PM, WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026
COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

William Wood (Chairperson)

Leonie Hapeta (Deputy Chairperson)

Grant Smith (The Mayor)

Mark Arnott

Bonnie Kuru

Brent Barrett

Debi Marshall-Lobb

Vaughan Dennison

Billy Meehan

Lew Findlay (QSM)

Orphée Mickalad

Hayden Fitzgerald

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett

Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

SPORT & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

25 February 2026

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Karakia Timatanga

2. Apologies

3. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

4. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.

5. Public Comment

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this Agenda or, if time permits, on other Committee matters.

6. **Sport Manawatū Charitable Trust - Six-month Report for July to December 2025** Page 5

Memorandum, presented by Ann-Marie Mori, Policy Analyst.

7. **Marriner Reserve - Proposal to Grant an Easement on Reserve Land to Powerco** Page 41

Report, presented by Perene Green, Property Officer.

8. **Committee Work Schedule - February 2026** Page 47

9. **Karakia Whakamutunga**

10. **Exclusion of Public**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

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	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sport & Recreation Committee

MEETING DATE: 25 February 2026

TITLE: Sport Manawatū Charitable Trust - Six-month Report for July to December 2025

PRESENTED BY: Ann-Marie Mori, Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, General Manager Strategic Planning

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO SPORT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the Sport Manawatū Charitable Trust - Six-month Report to Palmerston North City Council for July to December 2025 (Attachment 1).

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The 2025-28 Strategic Partnership & Funding Agreement (the Agreement) with Sport Manawatū requires progress reporting to the Council on agreed outcomes at six-monthly and annual intervals.
- 1.2 Attachment 1 is Sport Manawatū's six-month report to the Council for the period 1 July to 31 December 2025 (representing year one of the current Agreement).
- 1.3 Representatives of Sport Manawatū will be in attendance to present their report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current funding Agreement and Strategic Partnership Plan with Sport Manawatū was signed under delegation by the Chief Executive in July 2025 for a term of three years.
- 2.2 The value of the funding in the Agreement for the 2025/2026 financial year is \$673,800 (excluding GST). This is made up of:

Operational grant	\$337,667
Sports Event Partnership Fund	\$294,741
Community Sport Recreation Fund	\$29,415

Active Communities Fund	\$11,977
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- 2.3 Sport Manawatū manages the Active Communities Fund, the Sports Event Partnership Fund, and the Community Sport Recreation Fund on behalf of the Council, according to the Support and Funding Policy.
- 2.4 An additional \$80,000 operational grant for Bike Ready (a cycle skills education programme) is included in the Agreement, with specific performance measures set. This grant is subject to the Council's annual budget process and cannot, therefore, be guaranteed for the full term of the Agreement.
- 2.5 The outcomes in the current Agreement reflect Council's current Long-Term Plan strategic direction:
1. Palmerston North is recognised as one of the most active and healthiest communities in New Zealand.
 2. Sports events provide great experiences and significant economic benefits to our city, creating vibrancy and widespread social benefits.
 3. Palmerston North residents embrace active transport as part of their daily lives, to enhance their health and well-being while contributing to a more sustainable future.

3. CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Challenges

- 3.1 The shift to 'results-based accountability' within the Agreement also marks a move away from the previous approach to performance measurement. This change has required some adjustments; however, the six-month report demonstrates the value of highlighting not only how many activities have been delivered but also their impact on the sport and recreation sector and the wider community.
- 3.2 At the six-month period, funding is fully expended for the Active Communities Fund, and the Sports Event Partnership Fund (SEPF) is close to being fully allocated. This situation limits Sport Manawatū's ability to support individuals and event organisers for the remainder of the year.

Opportunities

- 3.3 Sport Manawatū staff have made good progress in updating the SEPF Attraction and Retention Plan, which was originally prepared as part of a 2021 review of the SEPF. Engagement on updating this Plan has also been valuable in supporting the review of the Council's Support and Funding Policy.

- 3.4 Although not included in the six-month report, Sport Manawatū's main investment partner, Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, led a planning initiative last year with Council and Sport Manawatū staff to improve operational efficiency in common areas of business: spaces and places (e.g., parks and facilities), play, approach to multicultural communities, and insights, monitoring, and evaluation. Staff from the three organisations meet quarterly to monitor progress in each of these areas.

4. ACTIVITIES DEMONSTRATING GOOD CONTRIBUTION TO THE OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The following activities and insights are identified by staff as contributing to the outcomes prioritised by the Council.

- 4.2 **Outcome 1: Palmerston North is recognised as one of the most active and healthiest communities in New Zealand.**

Active Age Games – a successful event supporting active ageing that was delivered to a high level of satisfaction for participants.

Active NZ survey 2024/25 results – This national survey, conducted by Sport New Zealand, found that about 76% of the region's adults are active at least weekly, with walking the most common activity (emphasising the importance of walkable environments). This measure of activity is below the national average of 79.4%. The survey also showed that participation declines with age, that equity gaps remain, and that cost, time, and motivation are key barriers to physical activity.

Stakeholder engagement survey: Sport Manawatū ranked strongly in Partnerships (80%), Leadership (77%), and overall performance (79%), and outperforms other Regional Sports Trusts on these attributes.

Incorporated Societies Act 2022 readiness – Sport Manawatū have advised in its report that around 60% of sport and recreation societies have re-registered under the new legislative requirements; Sport Manawatū's support to achieve high levels of compliance is ongoing through workshops and guidance.

Advocacy – Sport Manawatū has highlighted the impacts of the Online Casino Gambling Bill on community sport funding and presented its submission to the Select Committee.

- 4.3 **Outcome 2: Sports events provide great experiences and significant economic benefits to our city, creating vibrancy and widespread social benefits.**

Sports Event Partnership Fund – To date, \$286,826 has been invested from the Fund in 24 sports events, which are estimated to generate \$10.56 million in economic value for the region.

Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards: 72 students were nominated, with several winners from Palmerston North schools.

4.4 **Outcome 3: Palmerston North residents embrace active transport as part of their daily lives, to enhance their health and well-being while contributing to a more sustainable future.**

Bike Ready programme: to date, 746 participants across eight schools have received Bike Ready instruction, and the report notes strong progress in cycle confidence as a result. Sport Manawatū staff rode with 150 students from Winchester School on the City's shared paths, indicating the success of the Bike Ready programme.

iMove (active transport) pilot: Planning is underway to reintroduce a successful initiative from over 20 years ago at two primary schools to encourage students to use active modes of transport to get to and from school.

5. **SUMMARY**

5.1 Sport Manawatū has supported a wide range of activities aligning with the outcomes set in the Agreement. The six-month report has shown:

- **Strong engagement** across the play, youth, and sports sectors of the community with meaningful progress in the areas of improving equity, active transport, and community-led activity.
- **Significant estimated economic return** from supporting 24 sporting events through the Sports Event Partnership Fund allocation to event organisers.
- **High satisfaction ratings** across events and programmes (see the Impact statements that show overall participant satisfaction, and Net Promoter Scores for some initiatives).
- **Growing leadership reputation** for Sport Manawatū (as evidenced by the Regional Sports Trust Stakeholder Engagement Survey).

6. **NEXT STEPS**

6.1 Council officers will continue to monitor progress for the next six months of the current period through regular check-ins with Sport Manawatū staff. A Council and Sport Manawatū staff hui was held in late January, building on a similar one held in October 2025.

6.2 Later in the year, Sport Manawatū will present its Annual Report for the 2025/2026 financial year to the Committee.


7. **COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No

Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these objectives?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
<p>The recommendations contribute to:</p> <p>Whāinga 1: He tāone auaha, he tāone tiputipu Goal 1: An innovative and growing city</p> <p>Whāinga 2: He tāone whakaihiihi, tapatapahi ana Goal 2: A creative and exciting city</p> <p>Whāinga 3: He hāpori tūhonohono, he hāpori haumaruru Goal 3: A connected and safe community</p> <p>Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city</p>	
<p>The recommendations contribute to these plans:</p> <p>6. Mahere rēhia</p> <p>6. Recreation and Play Plan</p> <p>The objective is: Support and fund for-purpose organisations and community partners</p> <p>Relevant actions:</p> <p>Support the community-activation and needs assessment activities of the regional sports trust (Sport Manawatū)</p> <p>Support people to take part in sport and recreation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Communities Fund (Sport Manawatū) • Community Sport and Recreation Fund (Sport Manawatū) <p>AND</p> <p>2. Mahere whakawhanake ohaoha</p> <p>2. Economic Development Plan</p> <p>The objective is: Attract and support major events and activities</p> <p>Relevant actions:</p> <p>Attract major events to the city, including national secondary school sports tournaments at Central Energy Trust Arena and other Council facilities</p> <p>Support major events in the city through the Major Events Fund, Arts Event Fund, Sports Events Partnership Fund (Sport Manawatū), Sponsorship Fund</p>	
Contribution to strategic	Sport Manawatū is a strategic partner of the Council that is

direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	essential for its contribution to all goals but particularly those outcomes related to Goal 2. To successfully implement the objectives and actions outlined in the Recreation and Play Plan, a collaborative approach with Sport Manawatū is necessary. As an organisation, they are well-positioned within the community to offer relevant activities and services on behalf of the Council that enhance social well-being
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Sport Manawatū Six-month report for the period 1 July to 30 December 2025 [↓](#) 

Palmerston North City Council

SIX-MONTH REPORT

July 2025 - December 2025



SPORTMANAWATU.ORG.NZ



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OVER THE PERIOD

1 July – 31 December 2025

	JUL 25	AUG 25	SEP 25	OCT 25	NOV 25	DEC 25
Rise & Thrive Summit						
MMC Pop Up Play						
Sport Manawatū Youth Advisory Panel						
Pounamu Project						
Youth Wellbeing Summit						
Active Age Games						
Rock around the Clock						
Regional Ki-o-Rahi Tournament						
Kind Hearts Events Collaboration						
Play Week Aotearoa 2025						
Palmy Play Festival						
Regional Sports Organisations Lead and Board Chair Dinner						
Mana Taiohi Workshop						
Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards						
Lower North Island Secondary School Sport Staff Conference						
What Moves You Campaign						

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OUTCOMES WITH SPORT MANAWATŪ AND PNCC

1. Palmerston North is recognised as one of the most active and healthiest communities in NZ.

Objectives

- To maintain or increase physical activity level within the community
- To uphold the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by building meaningful relationships with Māori, and to enhance the wellbeing of whanau hapu, and iwi through play active recreation and sport.
- To support the active recreation and sport sector, enabling the community to be healthy and active
- To establish and maintain a sustainable network of sport and recreational facilities throughout the city and surrounding region, through effective spaces and places planning.
- To strengthen and expand the existing play network within the city by engaging community play champions fostering collaboration among local organisations and ensuring accessible, inclusive play opportunities.

2. Sport events provide great experiences and significant economic benefits to our city, creating vibrancy and widespread social benefits.

Objectives

- To form strong and collaborative partnerships with event organisers that host strategically important sports events in the city.

3. Palmerston North residents embrace active transport as part of their daily lives to enhance their health and well-being while contributing to a sustainable future

Objective

- To promote/encourage residents to use active transport modes such as cycling and active wheeling

OUTCOME 1

PALMERSTON NORTH IS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE AND HEALTHIEST COMMUNITIES IN NEW ZEALAND.

Active Age Games

30 October 2025

Barber Hall was buzzing on Tuesday 30 October as more than 20 teams from local retirement villages gathered for the second annual Active Age Games. Delivered in partnership with the Lions Club of Palmerston North Clearview Park and Palmerston North City Council, the event celebrates active ageing, social connection, and fun through play.

The Games were initiated by Lions Club members Margaret and Gerald Gregory, who identified an opportunity to encourage older adults to stay active and socially connected. With support from Sport Manawātū and Palmerston North City Council, their vision has continued to grow, with strong participation for a second consecutive year.

Sport Manawātū led the delivery of eight play-based activation stations, supported by staff and community volunteers. Participants tested their skills, earned points, and enjoyed a highly social and inclusive experience.

A record 24 teams registered this year, including both kaumātua and matua groups, with 20 teams competing on the day. Cook Street Rest Home were crowned overall winners for 2025, with additional prizes awarded to the highest-scoring teams at each activation.

The Active Age Games align strongly with Sport Manawātū's mahi to support an age-friendly city and promote play at every life stage, reinforcing that being active and connected is important at any age.

Impact

What we did and why

We delivered the Active Age Games to provide older adults with a fun, inclusive opportunity to stay active, connect socially, and experience the benefits of play, supporting an age-friendly and connected community.

How well we did

The event was delivered to a high standard, achieving an overall satisfaction score of 89 percent (with 99 percent of participants reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied) and an NPS of 70.



What difference we made

Participants reported feeling welcomed, socially connected, and motivated to be active, with the event strengthening relationships with retirement villages and partners while reinforcing the value of play and active ageing for older adults.



OUTCOME 1

Manawatū Multicultural Council Pop Up Play

30 September 2025

This culturally themed pop-up play event engaged approximately 300 tamariki from the 4412 community at Highbury Whānau Centre. Tamariki took part in a range of culturally based games and activities that encouraged movement, connection, and shared play.

The event brought together children from diverse backgrounds, creating opportunities to play together, experience different cultural forms of play, and strengthen social connection through active recreation.



Whare Manaaki Munch and Move Pop-Up Play

8 July 2025

Around 50 local whānau came together at the Whare Manaaki community hub for an afternoon of active play, connection, and shared kai, with ice cream and a sausage sizzle generously provided by Y Central.

The event demonstrated the value of using trusted community spaces to engage whānau, strengthen local connections, and work collaboratively alongside community groups and the PNCC Play Advisor to support quality play experiences.



Youth Wellbeing Summit

16 August 2025

The Palmy Youth Council hosted the Youth Wellbeing Summit at the Palmy Conference Centre in collaboration with local youth services, bringing providers together to showcase their mahi to rangatahi. Sport Manawatū delivered an interactive activation station with jump challenges, basketball hoops, and giveaways, generating strong engagement and repeat participation throughout the day.

The event supported connections between rangatahi and youth service providers, highlighting the value of collaboration and a holistic approach to youth hauora and wellbeing in Palmerston North.



OUTCOME 1

Tertiary Partnerships

July - December 2025

A partnership was established with UCOL's Creative Workhub to support Sport Manawātū and community sport events. Through this partnership, a UCOL photography student was engaged to capture images across a range of activities, providing valuable real-world experience for the student while supplying Sport Manawātū and local sports organisations with high-quality imagery.

Sport Manawātū also partnered with Massey University and UCOL to host interns studying within the sport and recreation sector. These interns were provided with exposure to a wide range of activities across the organisation and supported staff in the delivery of events and sector initiatives.

Some events supported during this period included the Manawātū Secondary School Sports Awards, tamariki rugby programmes, multiple cricket events, and a volleyball events.

It is great to be able to support the future sector leaders and establish partnerships within the tertiary sector.

Youth Advisory Panel

July - December 2025

The Sport Manawātū Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) was established to embed rangatahi voice into organisational decision-making and day-to-day operations, supporting a culture of working alongside young people. The Panel provides advice on funding, event co-design, and Sport Manawātū initiatives.

An open expression of interest attracted 19 applicants, with 11 rangatahi appointed, including six from the Palmerston North City Council area. As of 1 December 2025, the Panel has held three meetings focused on whanaungatanga, capability building, and Tū Manawa Fund upskilling.

Further meetings and a 2026 work plan are planned, with continued development to enable the Panel to advise on Tū Manawa funding applications when the fund reopens.

Rock Around the Clock

29 September 2025

The local play trailer was activated in The Square, engaging approximately 100 community members who enjoyed the equipment and interacted with Sport Manawātū staff. The activation generated strong interest in Green Prescription and Active Families and Teens programmes, with an anticipated increase in self-referrals following these conversations. Whānau particularly enjoyed the horizontal bungee, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged participation and connection.

Pounamu Project

12 July and 29 August 2025

The Pounamu Project was a seven-month collaborative initiative focused on strengthening connections between youth service providers in Palmerston North through the kaupapa of "kaimahi by kaimahi". Youth Space, Palmerston North City Council, ACROSS Te Kotahitanga o Te Wairua, Sport Manawātū, Youthline Central North Island and Achievement NZ (Alternative Education) are the key partners with wider sector partners engaged in the group.

Five organisations shared a symbolic pounamu taonga to represent trust, shared contribution, and a collective commitment to rangatahi wellbeing. The project concluded with a hui at Youth Space, where participants reflected on the journey, the whakapapa of youth work, and the value of partnership between council, providers, and rangatahi.

Feedback highlighted increased confidence, stronger networks, and inspiration for new initiatives. There is strong interest in continuing the kaupapa through regular hui, broader collaboration, and increased youth and whānau voice, supporting a more connected and resilient youth sector.

OUTCOME 1

Rise and Thrive Summit

14 September 2025

The Rise & Thrive Summit created a safe and supportive environment for female coaches and men who coach female athletes to grow, reflect, and learn.

We were excited that the event attracted such a high calibre of sport leaders to our region such as Dame Sophie Pascoe, Whitney Hansen, Jody Cameron and Bev Preistman.

Based on participant feedback, bi-monthly online connection sessions will be introduced, facilitated by Dr Sarah Leberman with support from Sport Manawātū.

These sessions will provide ongoing development opportunities for coaches who have indicated a desire to continue learning and connecting. This approach will evolve as delivery is refined to best meet participant needs.



Attendee feedback

- Be authentic. Know who I am and why I coach, and come back to that frequently. Be concerned for the players as people first.
- This Summit exceeded my expectations. It was the best I have attended for women in leadership and head coaching roles. More powerful than I realised and exactly what I needed.
- A safe, supportive, positive space to encourage, listen, learn, and express.

Impact

What we did and why

We delivered the Rise & Thrive Summit to create a safe, supportive development space for female coaches and those coaching female athletes, strengthening confidence, leadership capability, and connection in response to identified gaps in women's coaching support.

How well we did

The Summit was delivered to a high standard, with attendees feeling inspired, empowered, and connected, and would recommend the event to other coaches.



of attendees felt inspired, empowered, and connected.



would recommend the event to other coaches

What difference we made

Participants reported increased confidence, clarity of coaching purpose, and a stronger sense of belonging, with ongoing bi-monthly connection sessions now established to sustain learning, relationships, and leadership development beyond the event.

OUTCOME 1

Kind Hearts Kids Events

5 - 6 August 2025

Sport Manawātū delivered a second year of sessions at the Kind Hearts Kids events, engaging approximately 1,100 tamariki from schools across the region in activities promoting kindness and positive sporting environments. Junior sessions included Animal Aerobics and the creation of “Positive Vibes Only” supporter signs for tamariki to take home and share with their whānau. Senior sessions began with an active icebreaker, followed by the same Positive Vibes Only sign-making activity.



The sessions provided an opportunity to show how feedback from tamariki in the previous year helped shape the Positive Vibes Only campaign, which supports local sports codes to create environments that are positive, supportive, and fun. Messages on the posters reflected strong encouragement and positivity, reinforcing the impact of the campaign.

Following the event, organisers requested Sport Manawātū return in 2026, highlighting the strength of the partnership and the value of the programme.



Impact

What we did and why

We delivered Positive Vibes Only sessions at the Kind Hearts Kids events to engage tamariki in fun, active activities that promote kindness and positive behaviour, supporting the creation of safe and supportive sporting environments.

How well we did

The sessions reached approximately 1,100 tamariki across the region and were well received, with organisers requesting Sport Manawātū return in 2026, indicating strong satisfaction with the programme.

1,100 tamariki attending

What difference we made

Tamariki demonstrated clear understanding of positive support through their messages and behaviour, reinforcing positive sideline culture and strengthening partnerships that support kinder, more inclusive sport environments.

OUTCOME 1

Palmerston North Funding Expo

17 July 2025

Sport Manawātū participated in the Funders' Expo, engaging with community groups to clarify eligibility, application, and reporting requirements for funds including Tū Manawa, the Sports Event Partnership Fund, and the Active Communities Fund. The engagement increased awareness of funding opportunities and resulted in a successful Tū Manawa project funded through the August Fast Fund round. The Expo also highlighted capability gaps, particularly around legal entity requirements, informing future support for grassroots organisations.

Takaro Mai Aotearoa Play Week

20 - 26 October 2025

Play Week Aotearoa 2025 celebrated the importance of play for tamariki, whānau, and communities, supporting creativity, connection, and lifelong participation in physical activity. Sport Manawātū delivered the Play Week Bingo Challenge to encourage whānau to explore local play spaces, with Palmerston North City Council supporting the initiative through spot prizes and social media promotion. Engagement from schools and community organisations was strong. Sport Manawātū staff also participated in daily bingo activities, while a pop-up chalk Play Trail in Te Marae o Hine – The Square, delivered with the PNCC Play Advisor and a local Play Champion, encouraged spontaneous community play during the week.

Blue Light Partnership Engagement

October 2025

Sport Manawātū met with representatives from Blue Light to strengthen relationships and explore opportunities to better support rangatahi across the region. The discussion focused on understanding Blue Light's current initiatives, including Biking in Schools, and identifying areas of shared interest and collaboration. The meeting also built on existing partnerships through Tū Manawa funding support and ongoing collaboration between Blue Light and Sport Manawātū's Cycle Skills programme. This engagement supports a coordinated approach to promoting safety, physical activity, and positive outcomes for rangatahi, with further opportunities for collaboration being explored.



Tu Manawa Quick Release Play Round

15 September - 17 October 2025

The Tū Manawa Quick Release Play Round supported Palmerston North-based organisations to deliver play-focused projects aligned with Play Week, celebrated nationally from 20 to 26 October. The round enabled organisations to apply for up to \$1,000 to deliver play-based activations that promoted the value of play for tamariki and rangatahi. In total, five organisations were funded, with \$4,688 invested to support a range of play initiatives across the city, contributing to local celebration and engagement during Play Week.

Palmy Play Festival

8 November 2025

Sport Manawātū supported the Palmy Play Festival by delivering an interactive stall that encouraged tamariki and their whānau to play, create, and connect. Tamariki used LEGO, playdough, and craft materials to build and share their favourite ways to play, while play equipment on the grass in front of the stall provided opportunities for whānau to play together. The activities were consistently well used throughout the event, demonstrating strong engagement. The Festival showcased diverse ways people play around the world and supported whānau connection through shared, quality play experiences.

OUTCOME 1

He Rā Ki Tua

Sport Manawatū, 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 Manawatū, 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.



Canoe polo development

Sport Manawatū has been supporting the Manawatū Kiwi Canoe Polo Club in its ambition to develop a stand-alone facility. In early 2025, an independent Needs Assessment was completed by RSL Consultancy.

The assessment confirmed a strong participation base and the regional significance of canoe polo, while also identifying several operational and environmental challenges at the club's primary training venue at Hokowhitu Lagoon. These challenges include water quality issues, limited capacity, and conflicts with other users of the lagoon.

The assessment recommended progressing to a detailed feasibility study and business case to identify a preferred site, confirm an appropriate operating model, and explore viable funding options.

Sport Manawatū is currently supporting the club through the next phase of this work by assisting with the engagement of a suitable consultant and providing guidance and connections to potential funding opportunities. A site assessment and feasibility study are now in a staged development. Regular meeting have occurred with both club members and Council officers.

OUTCOME 1

Advocacy on Online Casino Gambling Bill

October 2025

Sport Manawatū undertook advocacy to highlight the potential impact of the proposed Online Casino Gambling Bill on grassroots sport and recreation funding across the Manawatū, 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 Manawatū'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.



Regional Kī-o-Rahi Tournament

17 October 2025

The 2025 Regional Kī-o-Rahi Tournament brought together 288 rangatahi from across the rohe for a full day of sport, culture, and connection. Participation has continued to grow year on year, increasing from 190 in 2023 and 250 in 2024.

The event included both competitive and development pools, ensuring broad access and inclusion for rangatahi of all abilities. The development pool was introduced in response to growing demand and supported increased participation. Volunteers played a key role in event delivery across refereeing and administration.

Participant feedback was highly positive, with 96 percent reporting they thoroughly enjoyed the event. Rangatahi highlighted learning tikanga through play, connecting with other kura, and the positive, supportive environment. The tournament also strengthened collaboration between kura, iwi, and regional sport partners, reinforcing Kī-o-Rahi as a vehicle for cultural learning, physical activity, and community connection.



OUTCOME 1

Governance, Sustainability, and Competition Support

Sport Manawatū provided governance and sustainability support to a number of Regional Sports Organisations, alongside assistance with competition structures and discipline processes. Organisations involved included Manawatū Basketball, Manawatū Volleyball, Manawatū Cricket, Manawatū Netball, and Manawatū Hockey.

Our Business Improvement Manager has been supporting Hockey Manawatū with the development and review of health and safety policies, alongside providing HR support to ensure the organisation is meeting its compliance obligations and continuing to strengthen its operational practices.

Our Leadership and Coaching Advisor has been working with Manawatū Netball and Manawatū Cricket to explore a shared services model for competition management. This approach would see competitions managed collaboratively across seasons, with cricket utilising the service over summer and netball over winter. In addition, we are investigating a shared Development Officer role aimed at increasing participation growth in women's cricket and men's netball.

Arena 5 Development

Sport Manawatū has been actively involved in the Arena 5 development through participation in both the steering group and stakeholder working parties. This involvement has supported clear communication and early engagement with affected sports codes.

Codes have expressed appreciation for Palmerston North City Council's inclusive approach, particularly the regular project updates and clarity on next steps. Early consideration of code needs has strengthened confidence in the process and enabled meaningful input throughout the development journey.



Meetings on Grounds, Fees, and Facilities

Sport Manawatū facilitated meetings between indoor and outdoor sports representatives, Palmerston North City Council staff, and venues staff to discuss matters relating to grounds, fees, and facilities. Indoor sports represented included basketball, volleyball, futsal, netball, and roller derby, while outdoor sports included football, cricket, hockey, netball, touch, and softball.

The discussions provided an opportunity to clarify areas of concern, improve shared understanding, and identify practical actions. Agreed next steps include exploring improved timing of quotes, potential additions to service level agreements, and refinements to outdoor ground allocations for the 2026 season.

At Hokowhitu Park, we have worked with Council officers and park users groups to gather feedback on priority improvements they would like to see at the pavilion. This information has been provided to Council officers to help inform future planning and investment decisions.

We have been engaging with users at Vautier Park to identify practical storage solutions for netball and tennis, alongside addressing concerns regarding the security of equipment.

We have also been working with Manawatū Rugby and Central Football on ground allocation planning to ensure the most effective and efficient use of available fields. Once agreement is reached across the codes, we will engage with Council officers to progress agreed allocation approaches.

OUTCOME 1

What Moves You campaign

The What Moves You campaign encouraged community members to share how they stay active in everyday life, showcasing a wide range of activities and celebrating that movement looks different for everyone. Through community stories, the campaign normalised simple, achievable ways to be active, boosted engagement across platforms, and supported the goal of building a more active, connected, and healthier community.

The campaign features a range of local voices, including PNCC elected member William Wood.



Tū Manawa Fund

1 July - 5 November 2025

Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa is an activation fund that supports locally led projects creating quality opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi to build a lifelong love of being active. The fund focuses on reducing barriers and enabling young people to participate in play, active recreation, or sport in ways that work for them.

To date, 11 organisations within the Palmerston North City Council catchment have received a total of \$77,031, supporting projects that have reached approximately 1,435 young people. These initiatives help address barriers such as access, cost, and confidence, enabling greater participation across the city.

Additional organisations delivering projects across multiple regions, including Palmerston North, have also been supported. One such organisation, Blue Light, engages with rangatahi at risk of offending or reoffending, contributing to safer communities and positive outcomes for young people and the city overall.

Applicant	Amount
Awatapu College	\$1,000
Te Whirikoko o Rangitane	\$8,000
Snapback Gym	\$40,000
Niuvaka Trust	\$21,000
Te Aroha Noa Community Services	\$10,000
Manawatu Hapkido Club	\$5,000
Bluelight Ventures Inc	\$22,850
Palmerston North City Council	\$4,340
Manawātū Skateboard Association	\$8,872
Manawatu Horowhenua and Tararua Diabetes Trust	\$850
Manawatu Rohingya Association	\$2,438
Palmerston North Boys' High School	\$2,670
Longburn Primary School	\$1,379
Takaro School	\$2,482
Total	\$130,881

OUTCOME 1

Lower North Island Secondary Schools Sport Conference

15 and 16 September 2025

The Lower North Island Secondary Schools Sport Conference brought together more than 100 attendees from secondary schools across Wellington, Wairarapa, Whanganui, Taranaki, Palmerston North, Manawatū, Tararua, and Horowhenua.

The conference provided Sport Manawatū with opportunities to engage with sector leaders and peers, with sessions covering topics such as understanding the teenage brain, managing parent behaviour, and using AI and social media to better engage rangatahi. Sport Manawatū's Head of Communications and Impact co-presented a session on social media in sport.

A student panel representing schools from Palmerston North, Manawatū, and Horowhenua shared first-hand insights, while a representative from High Performance Sport NZ presented on managing time and wellbeing. The conference supported shared learning, sector connection, and improved understanding of how to better support young people in school sport environments.

Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards

23 October 2025

The Manawatū Secondary School Sports Awards were held at the Palmy Conference + Function Centre and celebrated excellence in sport, active recreation, and sporting administration across secondary schools in the Palmerston North, Manawatū, Tararua, and Horowhenua regions.

The event was supported by eight local sponsors: Steve's Tyre Service & Auto Care, Central Bicycle Studio, Massey University, The Verdict Café, Subway The Square, P3 Physiotherapy, Kitchen Studio, and Ebony Coffee Roasters.

The Awards highlighted the depth of talent, leadership, and contribution of rangatahi across the region, reinforcing the importance of recognising and supporting young people in sport and active recreation.

A total of 72 students were nominated across 10 award categories, recognising achievement both on and off the field. Students from Palmerston North secondary schools were awarded six categories:

- Student Administrator of the Year: Jakob Abernethy, Palmerston North Boys' High School
- Student Coach of the Year (Female): Elleanor King, St Peter's College
- Student Coach of the Year (Male): Reuben Rose, Palmerston North Boys' High School
- Student Official of the Year (Female): Izzy Brown, Awatapu College
- Student Official of the Year (Male): Josh Irwin, Palmerston North Boys' High School
- Student Athlete of the Year (Male): Jonty Williamson, Palmerston North Boys' High School



OUTCOME 1

Partnerships with the business community

Leveraging on our staff connections with the Business community, our Palmerston North Healthy Active Learning Advisor attended two 'Business Networking International' meetings in July and August.

The aim of attending these meetings was to bring businesses onboard with donations of equipment for local schools to use as Loose Parts Play. Loose Parts Play takes what adults may determine as junk or off cuts, and enables tamariki to create and use their imagination to reuse the equipment to play with.

A number of businesses jumped onboard with providing equipment, however it was Storage NZ in Longburn that supported the project into action with sponsored storage space to house the equipment provided.

Building equipment was donated by EB Building, and tyres through Steves Tyres, with many others offering contacts for businesses they thought may be able to help.

Since those meetings we have supplied Longburn Primary, Takaro School, and Bunnythorpe School with a variety of equipment, with more schools expecting equipment this year.



OUTCOME 2**SPORTS EVENTS PROVIDE GREAT EXPERIENCES AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO OUR CITY, CREATING VIBRANCY AND WIDESPREAD SOCIAL BENEFITS.****Sport Manawatū Update: Event Attraction & Retention Work**

Sport Manawatū has been working closely with PNCC's Marketing Manager and Manager Venues + Events to take a more strategic, coordinated approach to attracting and retaining events across the city. By aligning our planning, we're ensuring the annual calendar of events is clearly mapped, well-balanced throughout the year, and designed to minimise overlaps. This helps deliver high-quality visitor experiences while maximising the benefits for local businesses and the wider community.

As part of the review of the Sports Events Partnership Fund (SEPF) Attraction and Retention Plan, and in alignment with PNCC's revised Support and Funding Policy (currently underway), PNCC, CEDA, and Sport Manawatū are looking to develop an 'Events Funding Framework'. This framework will help ensure Council's event funding and sponsorship opportunities are targeted, efficient, and deliver the best possible outcomes.

The updated Plan will build on the work originally prepared for Sport Manawatū by Third Bearing Limited in the Sports Event Partnership Fund Review (June 2021).

Many of the recommendations from that review have already been implemented, and the 2026 update provides an opportunity to continue strengthening our approach.

While Sport Manawatū remains focused on sport and recreation events, being part of the broader strategic events group is essential. This collective view enables us to anticipate accommodation requirements, facility availability, and resource needs to ensure both attendees and local operators have a positive experience.

Looking ahead, the intention is to broaden this strategic group into an "Events Network" by inviting key stakeholders such as business chambers, tertiary institutes, and other relevant partners. This will strengthen collaboration across the sector, improve alignment of event opportunities, and ensure Palmerston North is well-positioned to attract and support a diverse range of events.

Ultimately, this coordinated approach supports a vibrant, active city and delivers significant economic and social benefits for Palmerston North and its business community.

Active Communities Fund

The terms of reference for the Active Communities Fund were updated to improve clarity and create a smoother application process for both applicants and administrators. Partnerships were also established with the Lido to help extend the annual allocation and support more residents experiencing financial hardship.

The fund fully allocated its annual budget within the first semester of the financial year, distributing \$12,455 to support 35 Palmerston North residents to overcome financial barriers and participate in sport and active recreation activities of their choice.

\$12,455 distributed
Carry over of \$458 included
35 Palmerston North residents

OUTCOME 2

Management of the Sports Events Partnership Fund

To date, the fund has invested \$286,826 across 24 events, generating an expected value add of \$10,558,236 for the city. Of these events, 19 are scheduled to be delivered before the end of 2025. The assessment panel is currently reviewing one application and is in negotiations to secure an additional event for delivery in June 2026.



Play activation at Badminton Teams National Championships.

Event	Increase in regional income (VALUE ADD)	SEPF Contribution
Badminton Jr Teams Nationals	\$373,737.00	\$30,000.00
TKD Star Series 2025 Tournament (Taekwondo)	\$19,366	\$1,800.00
National Tertiary Futsal Championships 2025	\$27,593.00	\$3,500.00
Archery NZ Indoor Nationals 2025	\$20,809	\$1,300.00
Lower North Island Secondary Schools Netball Tournament (LNISS)	\$811,874	\$15,000.00
Eveline Hankers Secondary Schools Tournament (Hockey)	\$806,391	\$2,611.00
Rugby First XV (High school)	\$538,612.00	\$15,000.00
2025 Target Shooting NZ Inter Secondary Schools Inter Island Match	\$33,653.00	\$1,250.00
Basketball NZ SS Nationals	\$2,447,700.00	\$60,000.00
National School Road Cycling Championships	\$635,915.00	\$10,000.00
NZ Road Relay Championships (Running)	\$424,650	\$4,000.00
Schools MTB Fest 2025 (Mountain Bike)	\$57,633.00	\$5,025.00
Manawatu Pacifica 7s Tournament (Rugby 7's)	\$10,837.00	\$2,000.00
Diwali Cup (Football)	\$28,973	\$2,500.00
Whakaihuwaka Intermediate Sports Tournament (Multi Sport)	\$309,574	\$1,840.00
Inter District Games (Football)	\$97,095	\$2,500.00
Palmerston North Marist Futsal Tournament	\$150,470.00	\$5,000.00
Manawatu Badminton Events	\$203,321	\$15,000.00
Manawatu Cricket Events	\$437,509	\$20,000.00
The NZ Racketlon Open	\$23,071.00	\$4,000.00
Ethkick (Football)	\$10,435.00	\$7,000.00
National Secondary Schools Volleyball Champs	\$2,708,466.00	\$70,000.00
Mayor's Cup (Football)	\$114,783.00	\$2,500.00
NZ Indoor Bowls Open and Masters Championships	\$265,769.00	\$5,000.00
Total	\$10,558,236	\$286,826.00

OUTCOME 2

KEY SPORT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Basketball NZ Secondary School Nationals



Special Olympics Manawātū Prizegiving



Manawātū Cyclones Game (Woman's Rugby)



2025 Hockey Manawātū Awards



Badminton New Zealand Junior Teams Champs



Active Age Games



Ki-o-rahi Regional Championships



Lower North Island Secondary School Netball



Davis Cup Tennis

OUTCOME 2

Regional Sports Organisation (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.

OUTCOME 3

PALMERSTON NORTH RESIDENTS EMBRACE ACTIVE TRANSPORT AS PART OF THEIR DAILY LIVES, TO ENHANCE THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Supporting Winchester School Shared Path End-of-Year Ride

4 December 2025

Winchester School invited Sport Manawātū to support its annual end-of-year bike ride by providing bikes and on-the-day support for students who required them. Approximately 150 Year 4–6 students took part, the majority of whom had recently completed Sport Manawātū's Cycle Skills Programme.

Students rode from the school onto the shared path network, with around 90 percent choosing the longer loop over the He Ara Kotahi Bridge and Fitzherbert Bridges before continuing into the Esplanade. The ride also included time on the forest pump track.

Seeing 150 students confidently using local shared paths demonstrated the impact of the Cycle Skills Programme, including improved riding skills, increased confidence, equitable access to bikes, and greater willingness to travel actively within the community.



OUTCOME 3

Bike Ready

July - December 2025

Between July and December, Sport Manawātū delivered the Bike Ready programme to eight schools within the Palmerston North City Council area, reaching a total of 746 participants. Of these, 26 students were identified as non-riders, seven were still learning to ride, 348 achieved Grade 1, and 335 achieved Grade 2.

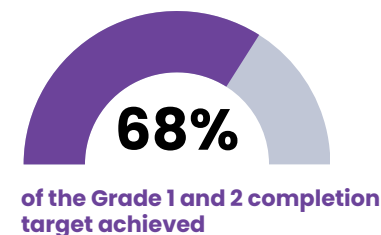
The programme was delivered at the following schools: Terrace End School, Roslyn School, Awapuni School, Parkland School, Cornerstone Christian School, Riverdale School, Winchester School, and West End School.

The results demonstrate strong skill progression and increased confidence among students, supporting safer riding and greater participation in active transport within the community.



Participant feedback

- “A parent contacted me and mentioned how proud she was of her child and the progress that they had made. Previously, her child had refused to ride a bike and now they are going out as a family on the local bike tracks. His confidence has soared.”- Anonymous Teacher
- “I know that Hugo couldn't ride and now he can! Such an important part of a child's upbringing learning to ride a bike!”
- “A very reluctant child took part and has since decided riding to and from school is their new favourite thing!”- Anonymous Teacher
- “The children as a whole group, enjoyed having access to the programme. They enjoyed the activities & the way it was run & are looking forward to going out on the road next year.”



746
participants

8
schools

348
students completed grade 1

335
students completed grade 2

26
new cyclists

OUTCOME 3

iMove

Sport Manawatū will pilot the iMove active transport initiative in 2026, aimed at increasing daily physical activity by encouraging tamariki to use active transport to travel to and from school. The initiative promotes regular participation by recognising and rewarding active travel over a designated week.

Tamariki will receive a stamp each day they use active transport to get to school. Those who achieve five stamps during the week will go into a prize draw, with prizes provided by Sport Manawatū.

The pilot will be delivered in two Palmerston North primary schools. Te Kura o Wairau will run the initiative in Week 3 of Term 2, followed by Milson School in Week 5 of Term 2. Sport Manawatū will work closely with each school to develop strategies that maximise participation and support a successful pilot, informing future delivery and potential scale-up across the city.

Both the schools that we have involved in this initiative be had travel plans developed for them, it is great to be able to continue the relationship with these schools in a positive manner.



Let's Get Moving initiative

The Let's Get Moving initiative, delivered by Sport Manawatū with support from Palmerston North City Council, is progressing well. The initiative supports adults aged 55+ to be more active by building their confidence in active transport (walking, cycling), and using our cities bus services.

Three free workshops have been organised for February, each focusing on a different form of active travel. These were shaped by insights from the 55+ community, who highlighted the need for practical and confidence-building information. Each session includes specialised speakers covering topics such as choosing suitable footwear, understanding and selecting e-bikes, and navigating Horizons bus timetables.

All venues, presenters, and logistics are confirmed, and promotion is currently underway.

We will provide an update on the success of the initiative in the Annual report.

INSIGHTS

SECTOR UPDATES: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, AND ADVOCACY

Active NZ Survey

The 2024/25 Active NZ* regional data shows that across the Sport Manawātū region, adults continue to demonstrate relatively strong participation in physical activity, with around three-quarters of adults achieving physical activity in the past seven days. This indicates a solid foundation of everyday movement across the region and reflects positively on the availability of spaces and opportunities that support being active, particularly in urban areas such as Palmerston North.

Walking remains the dominant form of physical activity for adults, reinforcing the importance of accessible neighbourhood environments, connected footpaths, parks, and open spaces. This finding aligns closely with PNCC's role in shaping walkable communities and investing in parks, reserves, and active transport infrastructure. The data suggests that everyday, informal activity continues to be the main way people stay active, rather than organised sport alone.

However, the data also highlights persistent equity gaps. Physical activity participation declines with age, particularly for older adults, and is lower for some population groups. This reinforces the need for age-friendly, inclusive environments that support low-impact activity and social connection, such as well-designed parks, safe walking routes, and accessible outdoor facilities. These are areas where local government levers can make a meaningful difference.

For young people, participation remains relatively high overall, but there are clear signals of drop-off as young people move through secondary school years. This points to the importance of providing informal, flexible activity opportunities outside of structured sport, particularly in urban spaces where rangatahi spend time. Public places that support unstructured play, social recreation, and free access activity remain critical.

Barriers to participation reported in the data are largely consistent with national patterns, with time pressure, cost, and motivation featuring strongly. While councils cannot directly influence all barriers, the provision of free or low-cost opportunities in public spaces, alongside environments that make being active the easy choice, plays an enabling role. Investment in multi-use parks, outdoor recreation facilities, and well-connected neighbourhoods helps reduce cost and access barriers at scale. Overall, the Active NZ data reinforces the importance of PNCC's ongoing investment in parks, reserves, active transport, and community spaces.

These environments support the most common forms of activity, reach the widest range of residents, and help sustain participation across the life course, particularly for those less likely to engage in organised sport.

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.

*Active NZ was refreshed in 2024/25 and, due to smaller regional sample sizes, results should be interpreted at a regional level only, with deeper analysis of sub-groups not possible.

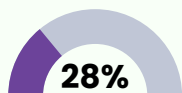
INSIGHTS

SECTOR UPDATES: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, AND ADVOCACY

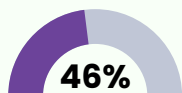
RST Stakeholder Engagement Survey

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



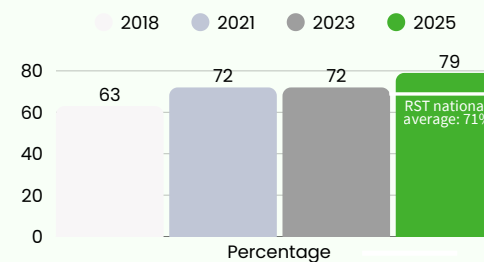
Sport Manawātū's stakeholder response rate

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.

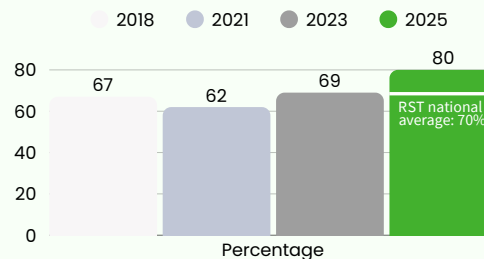
I would just like to note that the connections that have been made over the course of 2025 has been utterly positive, and I look forward to the continued partnership between both organisations.

Overall performance



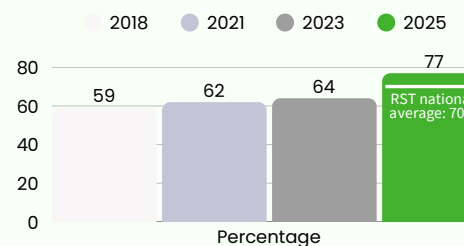
This shows that the lift in our systems, planning, communication, and sector support is being noticed.

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.

INSIGHTS

SECTOR UPDATES: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY, AND ADVOCACY

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.

APPENDIX

GREEN PRESCRIPTION

Insights

92%

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

92%

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

77%

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

88%

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

Working with those most in need of physical activity

About the programme

The Green Prescription programme (GRx) is about engaging individuals who are currently inactive and would benefit from an increased level of physical fitness. The programme helps to support participants with their health and fitness goals by linking them to appropriate and sustainable physical exercise options, whilst giving them the skills and education to make healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices.

One component of GRx 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.

648

GRx referrals from Palmerston North.

“

Participant feedback

- This has given me the kickstart I needed. It's shown me the importance of moving my body and doing activity that I enjoy - that way it is sustainable.
- My confidence has grown exponentially positive as opposed to the negative mindset that used to rule my day-to-day decisions.
- I would never have achieved what I have done without the support of the GRx programme.
- The power of being more physically active is not just great for your physical health but also your mental wellbeing.

SUCCESS STORY: SANDRA ORPIN

Sandra joined the Green Prescription (GRx) programme at the beginning of Term 2 and chose to continue into Term 3 after completing the programme. She describes GRx as the most positive step she has taken for her health in many years.

When Sandra started, she faced multiple barriers, including limited mobility, chronic pain from arthritis and disability, low fitness, and low confidence. With support from GRx and encouragement from a friend, she began attending sessions, gradually building strength and finding activities that worked for her, particularly band exercise and strength and balance classes.

Through the programme, Sandra learned how to set realistic, achievable goals focused on moving more easily and feeling better in herself. Her goals included improving her diet, reducing sugar intake, and exercising regularly through walking, gardening, and structured exercise. She now exercises most days of the week and has developed the confidence to continue independently using online GRx classes and other low-impact options at home.

Sandra reports improved physical strength, balance, and stamina, reduced pain, and increased confidence in daily tasks that were previously out of reach, including using a step ladder, painting, and walking the full length of the He Ara Kotahi shared pathway over time. She has also gained a better understanding of her own health, tracking progress and key health measures to stay motivated.

By the end of Term 2, Sandra had lost three kilograms and was exercising five times per week for 30 minutes. By the end of Term 3, she had lost a further three kilograms and was exercising six times per week for around 45 minutes. She has since encouraged others to join GRx, recognising the value of supported, accessible pathways to better health.

Sandra's journey demonstrates the impact of Green Prescription in supporting long-term behaviour change, improved wellbeing, and increased independence, particularly for older adults facing multiple health barriers.



PARNTERING WITH ELP TO SUPPORT NEW KIWI'S

The GRx team, in partnership with English Language Partners (ELP), supported learners at the Palmerston North campus by delivering classes throughout the past 6 months. These have proven a great success as we continue to support their learnings and confidence in sustaining healthy more active lifestyles.

‘The fortnightly GRx exercise sessions were something our learners looked forward to with great anticipation. Thank you for the energy, care, and professionalism your team brought into each visit. Kind regards, Maitreyee (ELP Tutor).’

We also delivered a GRx programme to learners at one of their community hub sites. 17 new learners registered for the programme. We will continue to expand our delivery scope and target further groups in 2026.

The complexity of language barriers, learning cultural norms and appropriate ways of engaging and for some participants, dealing with traumatic relocations has meant that our staff need to adjust their delivery style, activities and pace of the programme to suit the participants.

Play-based learning and engagement are key to these sessions. Implementing play into the programme creates a fun way to be physically active, builds rapport with and between participants and encourages activity that can be taken back into the home with tamariki and mokopuna.





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REPORT

TO: Sport & Recreation Committee

MEETING DATE: 25 February 2026

TITLE: Marriner Reserve - Proposal to Grant an Easement on Reserve Land to Powerco

PRESENTED BY: Perene Green, Property Officer

APPROVED BY: Glen O'Connor, Acting General Manager Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO SPORT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee approve notifying the public of the proposal to grant an easement at Marriner Reserve, to convey electricity, in accordance with Section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.
2. That the Committee note that the land area affected by the easement for Powerco is described as Lot 3 DP 29419.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS ANALYSIS FOR

Problem or Opportunity	<p>Powerco are planning to complete electrical upgrades within Marriner Reserve.</p> <p>While the current infrastructure is protected under Section 23 of the Electricity Act 1992, the proposed upgrades mean that Powerco will no longer be able to rely on these statutory rights. Therefore, a formal easement will be required to proceed.</p> <p>The Reserves Act requires that any utility services located on reserve land be covered by an easement.</p> <p>This report seeks Council approval to notify the public of Council's intention to grant an easement, in accordance with Section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.</p>
OPTION 1:	Notify the public of Council's intention to approve the proposal to grant an easement to Powerco at Marriner Reserve
Community Views	Community views will be sought during the public notification period.
Benefits	<p>Registering an easement is considered good governance.</p> <p>The upgrades will enhance the reliability, capacity, and safety of the local electricity supply, benefiting the community and future-proofing</p>

	infrastructure.
Risks	Council may be criticised for allowing the services to be installed on a recreation reserve as opposed to in the road reserve. However, this risk is low as no feasible location in the road reserve has been identified.
Financial	There are no financial implications with this easement as all costs are met by Powerco as the owner of the services.
OPTION 2:	Decline the proposal to grant an easement to Powerco at Marriner Reserve
Community Views	Community views will not be sought.
Benefits	The area will remain unchanged, this is regarded as a minor benefit.
Risks	Unexpected outages and delays in restoration could damage Powerco's reputation and lead to customer dissatisfaction. Council may be viewed as creating a barrier to Powerco mitigating unplanned power outages.
Financial	No costs would be incurred.

RATIONALE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY

- 1.1 Powerco are planning to complete electricity upgrades located within Marriner Reserve.
- 1.2 The Reserves Act 1977 requires that any utility services located on reserve land be covered by an easement. This report seeks Council approval to notify the public of Council's intention to grant an easement, in accordance with Section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.

2. BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 2.1 While the current infrastructure is protected under Section 23 of the Electricity Act 1992, the proposed upgrades mean that Powerco will no longer be able to rely on these statutory rights. Therefore, a formal easement will be required to proceed.
- 2.2 Powerco and Council officers explored locating the new infrastructure in the road reserve to avoid further impacting the reserve, but this was found to be unfeasible due to space constraints.

- 2.3 In general, Council encourages, wherever possible, service companies to locate their services in the road corridor. This allows service companies to operate under a standard roading corridor right-of-way.
- 2.4 However, as in this case where there is no suitable location within the road reserve, it is not always possible or an appropriate outcome, hence on occasion these utility services are required to be located within private property, including land owned by the Council.
- 2.5 The easement area is 15 square metres, which will include a power pole and underground cabling.
- 2.6 The location is shown in yellow on the aerial picture below in Figure 1.
- 2.7 Council officers sought feedback from Rangitāne at the Te Whiri Koko meeting held on 12 December 2025. Rangitāne supported the proposal but asked whether there were impacts of the proposed installation on the whenua. We have sought further information from Powerco which will be provided at the next Te Whiri Koko meeting. All feedback from Rangitāne will be included in the subsequent report.



Figure 1: Aerial location

- 2.8 Consultation feedback and a decision to grant an easement on reserve land will be brought to the committee in a subsequent report.

3. LAND STATUS

- 3.1 The legal description of the land to be subject to the easement and historic summary comments of this land are below:

Title	Reserve Status	Comment
Lot 3 DP 29419	Recreation Reserve	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977

4. DESCRIPTION OF OPTIONS

Option 1: Notify the public of Council's intention to approve the proposal to grant an easement to Powerco at Marriner Reserve

- 4.1 Option 1 involves Council beginning the easement process by notifying the public of the Council's intention to grant an easement in accordance with Section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.2 After the public consultation has concluded, submissions will be brought back to Council for consideration.
- 4.3 A Council resolution accepting the easement proposal would be required before an easement could be registered to Powerco.

Option 2: Decline the proposal to grant an easement to Powerco at Marriner Reserve

- 4.4 While the area would remain unchanged, the associated risks significantly outweigh this minor benefit.
- 4.5 Declining the proposal could be seen as Council placing a barrier to Powerco's intentions to reduce preventable power disruptions in the area.
- 4.6 Granting the easement proactively allows for planned, low-impact upgrades that mitigate risks.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Option 1 is considered good governance and will ensure the community views on the activity on the reserve are understood before the activity is formalised with an easement.
- 5.2 In addition, Powerco has agreed to meet all costs associated with this easement.

6. NEXT ACTIONS

- 6.1 Public notification of the proposal to grant the easement, seeking submissions and objections.
- 6.2 Provide the opportunity for any submitters that wish to be heard to speak to the Council.
- 6.3 Consider the objections and submissions and provide to Council on whether to accept, modify or decline the easement proposal.

7. OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- 7.1 Public Notice in Manawātū Standard and Palmerston North City Council website.

8. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these objectives?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to: Whāinga 3: He hapori tūhonohono, he hapori haumarū Goal 3: A connected and safe community	
The recommendations contribute to this plan: 6. Mahere rēhia 6. Recreation and Play Plan The objective is: Administering the Reserves Act 1977	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	This action ensures Council decision making is consistent with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 with regards to reserves planning and legislative requirements for utilities sited in reserves.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Sport & Recreation Committee

MEETING DATE: 25 February 2026

TITLE: Committee Work Schedule - February 2026

RECOMMENDATION TO SPORT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive its Work Schedule dated February 2026.

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2026

	Estimated Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction
1	25 February 2026	Six Month Report: Sport Manawatū	GM Strategic Planning		Terms of Reference
2	15 April 2026	Rural Games - Annual presentation			31 May 2023 Clause 88.11-23
3	15 April 2026	Te Āpiti Master plan - progress report	GM Infrastructure		26 April 2023 Clause 4- 23
4	15 April 2026	Hockey Turf – Annual Report	GM Infrastructure		
5	15 April 2026	Manawatū Athletics Track – Annual Report	GM Infrastructure		
6	15 April 2026	Draft General Policy Reserve Management Plan - Deliberations	GM Infrastructure		25 September 2024 Clause 34-24
7	12 August 2026	Play Policy Annual Implementation Monitoring Report	GM Customer & Community		Policy Action Plan
8	12 August 2026	Annual Report: Sport Manawatū 2025/2026	GM Strategic Planning		Terms of Reference

9	12 November 2026	PNCC Events - Annual Summary of Economic Impact and Benefits 2025/26	GM Customer & Community		25 October 2023 Clause 60-23
10	TBC 2026	Community Funding Allocation for sport groups - Annual Report.	GM Customer & Community		