

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Whau Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

WHAU LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.21

Mihi

“E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,
e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,
e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei
hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,
hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
kia oho te mauri, kia māriri o koutou wairua,
kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.
Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihi o Te Pae o te Rangī,
i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,
e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai,
e kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiu, i āia ai te pūpūtara ki uta.
Nāu nei te tono kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū a Kupe
ki Te Waonui a Tiriwa me te Pae o te Rangī,
Kia titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o Puketōtara,
kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere
kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua ko Te Whau.
Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o
Te Whenua me te Kawerau a Maki,
ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei ai te nohoa
o tēnei moka o te rohe
e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.,
Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,
i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.
I whaikiko ai te kōrero,
“Ko te hāpori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea motuhake,
rerenga kē.” Kia
hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.

To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,
to the revered leaders of the people, to my
treasured heirlooms, the lesser and the greater parts of me,
you who are my refuge in life,
my shelter from the storms of time.
My objects of affection,
let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at peace,
let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to you all.
Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangī,
where the land had been laid bare,
and the roaring wind of the west whispers
that I would not survive the blast of the northerly wind, that
would drive the paper nautilus to shore.
It was you who commanded me to ascend from the raised
seas of Kupe,
to the forest of Tiriwa, and Te Pae o te Rangī.
So I look inland to Puketotara,
at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river
on one side stands Massey and on the other - Te Whau.
Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau a Maki,
the original settlers, they laid the way for later travellers
to make a home here.
They cast their footprints in stone upon these precincts of the
region, and so made settlers of us all.
Which gives substance to the adage,
“Communities connected to their natural environment
are unique and diverse.”
Let us grow with vigour.

◀ On the cover: Locals enjoying the newly reopened Blockhouse Bay Library

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Whau Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It’s part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council’s Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Whau Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we’re delivering for Auckland.**

▼ Locals potting up a storm in New Lynn.
Photo credit: EcoMatters



Contents

About this report	3
From the chairperson	4
Your board	5
Projects and improvements	6
Our performance report	8
Local flavour	13
Funding impact statement	14

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

As Chair of Whau Local Board, I am proud to present our annual report for 2024/2025.

Despite extreme weather and financial constraints continuing over the past year, we improved facilities and delivered events for Whau residents. This included redesign and construction of a new roof for the Blockhouse Bay library, officially reopened on 28 June 2025. We completed detailed designs and began enabling works for the construction of Te Hono — Avondale’s new library, community hub and upgraded town square. We installed Te Whau Pou Maumahara at the Rata Street Bridge, as celebrated on 25 September 2024.

Our environmental groups continued working towards ecological restoration, pest control and improved waterway quality across Whau. Last winter, for example, the Whau River Catchment Trust planted 1,225 native trees using an estimated 1,822 volunteer hours. Food forests are being trialled in some Whau schools as part of our ‘Kai Across the Whau’ programme. Ocean rowing and kayak events co-hosted by the Whau Coastal Walkway Environment Trust and the West End Rowing Club proved popular and brought attention to the awa.

Recognition of Whau’s diverse population was evident with the successful ethnic seniors’ event organised by Whau Ethnic Collective. The collective continues to organise a range of events to foster cultural diversity and promote social inclusion across the community. Other events funded by the local board include the Whau Chinese New Year Festival, the Whau Pasifika Festival and the Whau Arts Festival.

Other achievements include successful targeted engagement with youth, completion of the Whau Local Board community and business emergency response plans, and whakarewatanga (celebrations) at Tiakina / Sister Rene Shadbolt Park as part of the Whau Te Kete Rukuruku dual naming programme.

Auckland Council’s introduction of Fairer Funding provides greater flexibility to respond to the needs of our community in the new financial year. Our priorities include identification of a site for the Whau Pool, funding a youth co-ordinator to provide activities and engagement for our rangitahi, and providing more events and activities in our libraries, community centres, hubs and open spaces. We will also continue to advocate for acquisition of land at the Avondale Racecourse to retain significant green space.

Ngā mihi,

Kay M Thomas

Kay Thomas
Chairperson,
Whau Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Whau

Whau Local Board



▲ (L to R) Valeria Gascoigne, Ross Clow, Fasitua Amosa (Deputy Chairperson), Warren Piper, Kay Thomas (Chairperson), Sarah Paterson-Hamlin, Catherine Farmer

Contact us



31 Tōtara Avenue, New Lynn 0600



Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142



09 301 0101



whaulocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/whau

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Whau projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

✓
Delivered projects

- 1 Brains Park - upgrade park amenities
- 2 Blockhouse Bay Community Centre - renew roof and exterior of the building
- 3 Gittos Domain - renew park tracks (stage 2)
- 4 New Lynn Community Centre - renew toilets, kitchen and ventilation
- 5 Te Whau Pou Maumahara - design and install
- 6 Green Bay Domain - renew amenity block, playground and park furniture
- 7 Blockhouse Bay Library - renew roof and building
- 8 Ambrico Studio - refurbish building including roof

🚶
Current projects

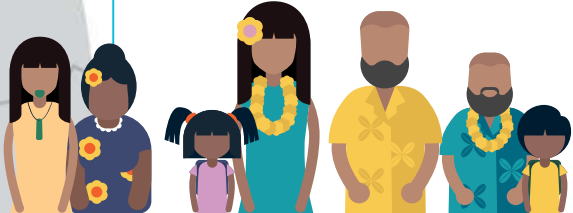
- 1 Avondale - develop new community centre and library - Te Hono
- 2 New Windsor Area - park upgrades
- 3 Canal Reserve - upgrade playground and park furniture
- 4 Riversdale Reserve - refurbish amenity block
- 5 Mānu Reserve - playground renewal
- 6 Olympic Park - renew sand play area

Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Motorway
- Major road
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road



We are home to more than **80** local parks and **3** libraries



A diverse population with:
11% identified as Māori
38% identified as European
42% identify as Asian
20% identify as Pasifika

Includes the major town centres of **Avondale** and **New Lynn**



Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024).

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

●●●● Achieved ●●●● Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) ●●●● Not achieved ●●●● Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We maintained local parks, community halls and recreational facilities for our residents. Highlights included completing the interior and exterior refurbishment of the Blockhouse Bay library and the renewing of tracks throughout Gittos Domain. We supported strong, diverse communities, including the Whau Ethnic Collective and Whau Pasifika Trust. We continued our commitment to libraries and literacy, arts, culture and initiatives to increase the vibrancy of local town centres through placemaking activities.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	341,000	406,686
	2024	426,569	438,237

The 2025 annual target was set lower than last year due to the temporary closure of the Blockhouse Bay Library for repairs.

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	100%	99.9%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Whau Libraries had three closures this year, all at New Lynn Memorial Library and totalling just 3.5 hours – or 0.1 per cent of the total planned hours. Overall, Whau libraries remained operational and dedicated to serving their communities.

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	85%	91%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	15	19
	2024	New measure	New measure

Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	90%	95%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	93%	87%
	2024	New measure	New measure

7.5 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 4.9 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets - such as bins, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and seating - have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition. Next financial year, the board will receive an increase of \$3.6 million for capital spend through fairer funding, the majority of which has been allocated to renewals funding.

Number of trees planted in the Urban Ngahere programme⁴	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	25	30
	2024	New measure	New measure

When setting targets, we use average market rates for tree stock and labour costs. During actual delivery, however, we focus on achieving the best value for money, both in tree costs and labour. This approach allows us to plant more trees within the same budget. The overall budget doesn’t change; rather, we find ways to optimise costs and achieve higher planting numbers

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of “Community Facilities” and “Local open space assets” please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.
4. Urban Ngahere delivers specimen trees intended to be over 3m tall. Additional plantings occur outside this programme.

Local planning and development

We maintained our support and collaboration with our four Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to help create vibrant town centres and improve local economic development.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations

	Target	Result
2025	100%	100%
2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

We partnered with the Ecomatters Trust to deliver sustainability-related programmes and events and continued to support initiatives such as the Climate Action Network, the Whau Wildlink programme and the New Lynn Bike Hub. We contributed towards programmes to protect our waterways including industrial pollution prevention and the Manukau Harbour Forum.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Number of participants in sustainable initiative programmes

Participation in sustainability programmes exceeded the target, reflecting strong community interest in environmental initiatives.

	Target	Result
2025	4,660	6,284
2024	New measure	New measure

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in ‘Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau’ (Council’s Māori outcomes framework).

	Target	Result
2025	Set baseline	23
2024	New measure	New measure



◀ Locals enjoying the newly reopened Blockhouse Bay Library



▲ Newly upgraded Brains Park playground in Kelston



▲ Whau River Clean Up. Photo credit: Whau River Catchment Trust

▼ Whau Pasifika. Photo Credit: Iefata Tuialii



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Raising up Whau’s youth

A group of young leaders in Whau is making a big impact—and gaining valuable life skills along the way.

The Whau Raise Up Crew, supported by Whau Local Board, is made up of 25 young people from local schools who meets weekly at the New Lynn Community Centre. Together, they plan and deliver youth-led events and outreach activities that support their peers and activate community spaces.

A highlight of the year is the Raise Up awards night, where crew members are recognised for their growth and contribution. Awards include Crew Member of the Year, New and Nailing It, Personal Growth, or MVP.

In 2024, Whau crew member Nemani Dakiragata took home the prestigious Crew Member of the Year (across all crews nationwide) and Volunteer of the Year after amassing an incredible 220 volunteer hours in under a year.

Nemani says that winning these awards has allowed him to reflect on his growth and grow confidence in his skills and abilities.

“Winning those two awards reflected who I was becoming and helped me realise how much I had grown as a person, from all the different events, workshops, and outreaches I had participated in.

“It truly made me happy to have the realization of having that commitment to opening my horizons and trying new things,” he said.

Raise Up

Raise Up is a youth development programme through the Y and is made up of crews across Aotearoa. From its inception in 2002, the programme has empowered young people aged 13-18 to make an impact in their community through planning events, workshops, and community outreach activities for youth.



▲ Members of the Whau Raise Up Crew at the 2024 awards night.

The Whau Crew

The 25-strong Whau Raise Up Crew has organised local community events including a Halloween party with 85 young people in attendance, finance workshops, and a music competition for local youth called New Found Sound West.

The crew collaborates with Whau Local Board to enhance the New Lynn Square to make it a safe and vibrant space. Summer activities included music events in the square, food trucks, games, and a pop-up barber shop.

The crew also lends volunteer hours to many community outreach programmes including beach cleanup events and pay-what-you-can community meal programme Everybody Eats.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		18,166	18,166	16,769
Targeted rates		915	960	940
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		34	27	27
Fees and charges		185	209	247
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other		121	73	98
Total operating funding		19,422	19,436	18,080
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	12,521	12,815	12,505
Finance costs		4,683	4,683	2,921
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,792	1,792	2,019
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		18,995	19,290	17,446
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		426	146	635
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	4,686	7,951	12,464
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		4,686	7,951	12,464
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		1,451	5,177	208
- to improve the level of service		1,334	420	7,397
- to replace existing assets		2,327	2,500	5,494
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		5,112	8,097	13,099
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(426)	(146)	(635)
Funding balance		0	0	0

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. Payment to staff and suppliers were below plan mainly due to budget including a cost allocation for regional cemeteries. The actual cemetery related costs have been incurred regionally.
2. We spent less than expected on capital projects and payments to staff and suppliers, which left us with extra funds. Because of this, we didn't need to borrow as much as originally planned.
3. Capital expenditure was below budget mainly due to project funding for Te Whau Pathway Section 2, Wingate Street to Rata Street being deferred. The focus this year was on delivering Section 5 - Roberts Field to SH16.



▲ Te Whau Pou at the Rata Street bridge

Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

ISSN 2624-2214 (Print)
ISSN 2624-2222 (PDF)