

PROGRAMS REPORT

2024 QUARTER 4 OCT - DEC



TE KARANGA
CREATIVE COMMUNITY

OVERALL SUMMARY



Prepared by TK White

This quarter has been one of significant growth and achievement for our programs. We're proud to see a marked shift in both the wellbeing and participation of our young people, as their confidence continues to blossom in ways that will set them up for future success.

One of the most noticeable changes has been the increased openness of our participants. They're becoming more comfortable with vulnerability and are sharing more of their personal stories with us, allowing us to provide more targeted support. This newfound openness is a direct result of the ongoing work we've done throughout the year to build trust and self-assurance. As a result, we're seeing participants not only engage more deeply with our programs but also step out and seize new opportunities. In fact, this quarter alone, our Navigators participants made up over half of the successful applicants for other external programs, expanding their skills, knowledge, and experience within the creative and events sectors. They've expressed how supported and encouraged they felt within our programs, which has empowered them to take on these new challenges with confidence. Our commitment to building confidence in our participants is paying off in real, tangible ways, as they now feel ready to explore diverse career pathways. We are proud of their accomplishments and excited for what's to come.

At the same time, our Youth Workers continue to grow and evolve alongside our participants. This quarter, they have navigated new challenges and delivered new programs with dedication and passion. Our team is constantly learning and adapting, ensuring that we provide the best possible support for our young people. The culture of collaboration and care we've fostered at Te Karanga has truly come to life this quarter, creating an environment where both staff and participants thrive.

One of the highlights of the quarter was our 20th-anniversary celebration, which included a Showcase at Neck of The Woods and a pop-up shop on Karangahape Rd—where Te Karanga's journey began. The pop-up shop provided participants with the unique opportunity to design, print, and sell their own custom merchandise. Over five days, they honed invaluable customer service skills while running their own stalls. One participant sold all of his merchandise and gained valuable entrepreneurial experience. Best of all, each participant was able to keep the profits from their sales, reinforcing the practical skills and confidence they've developed.

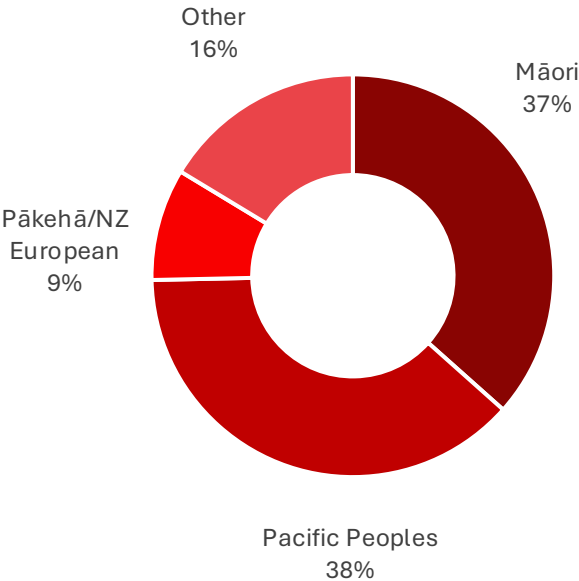
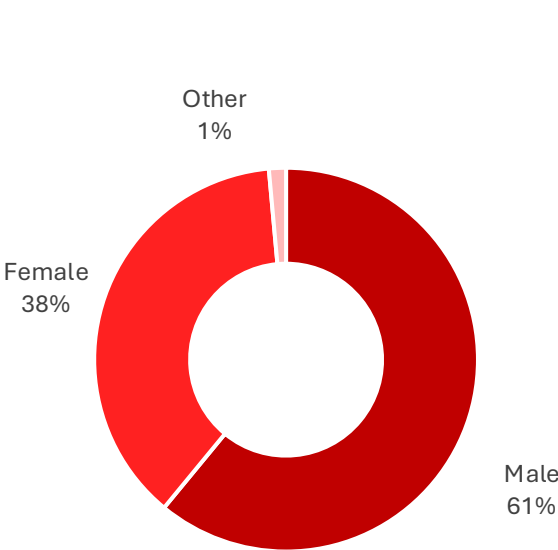
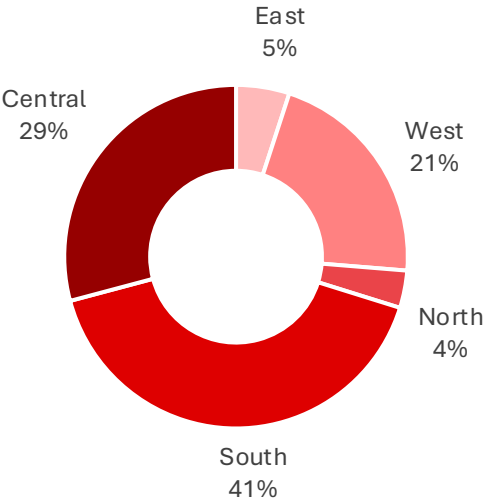
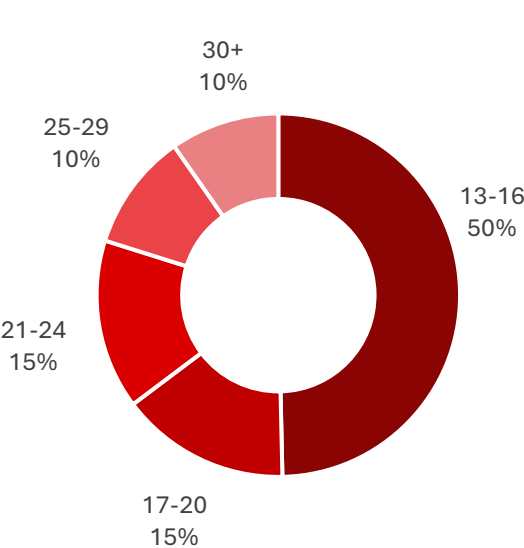
The Showcase was a defining moment this quarter, marking not only a major success for our programs but also a profound milestone in the personal journeys of our participants. This event was a celebration of their incredible transformation—from inexperienced writers to confident, dynamic performers over one year. With over 160 attendees, the Showcase was a powerful reflection of the growth our young people have experienced throughout the year. We saw the confidence and creativity of our participants shine through in ways we hadn't imagined at the start. Poets took the stage as rappers, studio artists became live performers, and an Events Management graduate took to stage managing for their first time. These participants have truly stepped into their potential, and the experience will no doubt serve as a powerful addition to their music CVs, opening doors to bigger stages and more opportunities in the industry.

As we close out this year, we are deeply grateful for the support we've received in bringing these initiatives to life. The outcomes have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to continuing this journey in 2025, building on our successes and expanding the opportunities we offer to our young people.

DATA TOTALS



Total participants this quarter: **866**



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Offering personalised support through mentoring sessions, creative guidance, personal and professional development, whānau support, and community connections.



CREATIVE PATHWAYS



OVERVIEW

A weekly program for 13-17-year-olds not in education or employment, fostering positive learning experiences, creativity, and career exploration. Delivered to several providers across Tāmaki Makaurau.



CREATIVE PATHWAYS



Facilitated by Hariata Makiha, Albert Purcell, Lincoln Keepa, Shekinah Peneha & Ben Tuimaseve.

Report by Albert Purcell

Our main goal for this quarter was for our students to become more familiar, and confident, in using the appropriate iPad apps for logo designing and the heat-press for merchandise creation (T-Shirts & Hats). The app we used was Procreate, which is a paid app on iOS. We provided iPad's for the students to use thanks to a recent generous donation from Apple, and we also provided the heat-press designs, heat press machine, hats and t-shirts.

HIGHLIGHTS

The main high for this quarter was definitely seeing the participants press their final designs on to their t-shirts and trying them on for the first time. The way they reacted, the joy and confidence of successfully creating their own garment and the respect they had for us at the end was appreciated by our team. A lot of students mentioned to us that they always looked forward to the days that we come in to teach them, because they enjoy having us around, which we thought was sweet! We also felt that seeing the process of how their designs can be transferred digitally to t-shirts, and how easy it is, surprised a lot of the students and it was pretty clear that this program, in particular, was more interesting and engaging than others. Throughout the process, they were always asking questions which showed us that they were really into it. For our first time doing this, we were able to finish all of the students t-shirts in time, except some that missed attendance, and although we had a few obstacles along the way, we quickly adapted to change for the next session, so that we could improve our practice each time. This has also been a high for us as a team as well, learning alongside the students. We had a guest professional in for several sessions to show us how to do everything properly, and it was cool to be surprised with our students when we learnt something new.

CHALLENGES

There were a lot of challenges this term, not so much with behaviours or attitudes, but the logistics of delivering the program successfully, and as a first time program - things like meeting the wants of every student, whether it be a specific design, a coloured tee, certain sizes, or getting things done in a timely manner. We had to make sure iPad's were allocated to each student and record that allocation, otherwise they would be on another iPad and their designs aren't there. Where students were absent, they fell behind in their designs which delayed their printing deadlines. Sometimes students didn't quite understand the initial tutorials and getting them up to speed one on one became challenging as we had to move forward for the majority, but couldn't leave anyone behind.

LEARNINGS

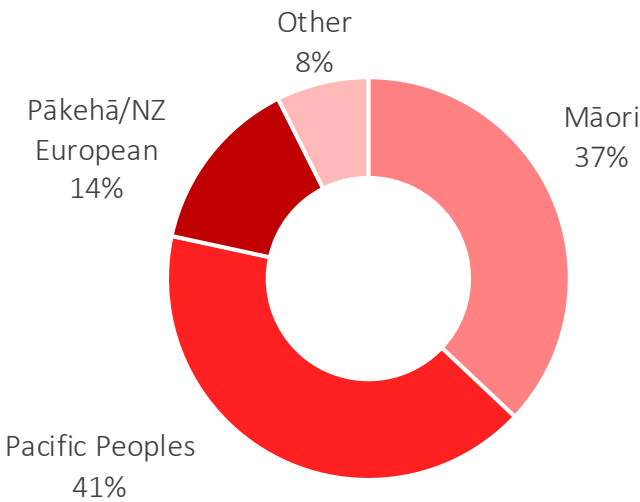
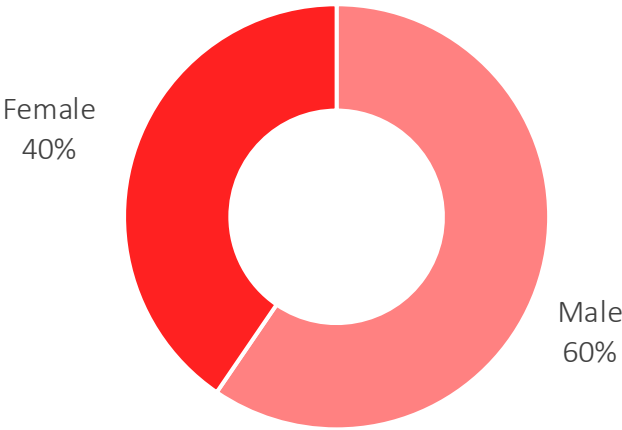
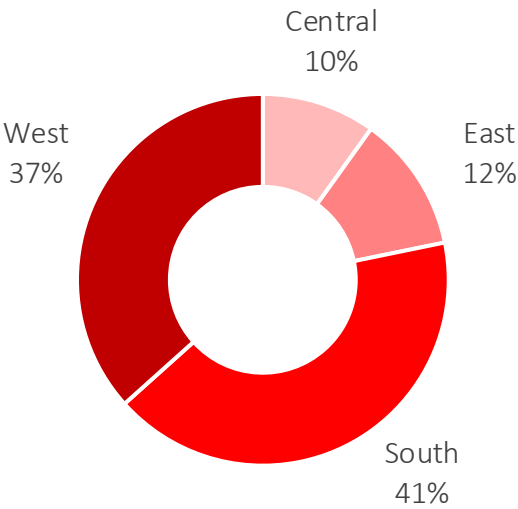
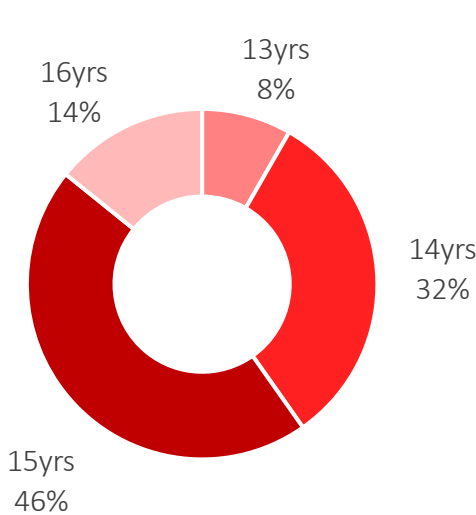
I feel like we learnt a lot this term, from learning how to use Procreate, how to use the heat press - Skill wise, we feel like we learnt a lot and have more confidence now in running this program. Not just skills that we can use in the workplace, but also in our own personal lives. We also learnt a lot through the things that we didn't do particularly well in and we aren't too proud to admit that, particularly around timing, planning and setting realistic and achievable goals. We learnt a lot of ways to make this course run more efficiently for us as facilitators, and for our students for next time.

CREATIVE PATHWAYS

SUMMARY

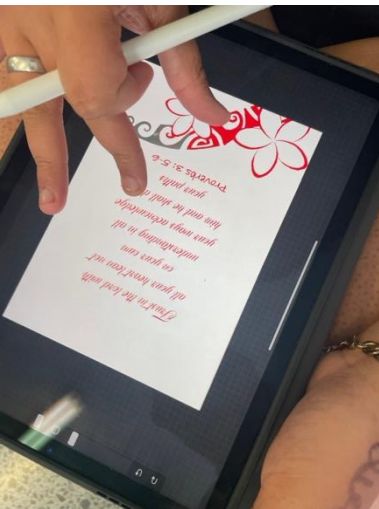


Total participants this quarter: 196



CREATIVE PATHWAYS

PHOTOS



NAVIGATORS



OVERVIEW

Navigators (Navs) is a free weekly music workshop, delivered across several locations in Tāmaki Makaurau, connecting & engaging young people through shared experiences, stories, and creativity. Open to youth aged 16-24.



NAVIGATORS SHOWCASE



Prepared by TK White

This year, we held a Showcase attracting over 160 attendees. The event brought together a diverse audience—ranging from alumni of past programs and industry scouts to family and community supporters—all united in their celebration of our participants' journeys.

Hosted at Neck of The Woods, the Showcase featured a dynamic lineup from all our Navigator programs, with five headliners selected for their exceptional growth and promise throughout the year. These headliners had either released new music or demonstrated significant artistic development. One standout participant, just 18 years old, has already made a name for himself by performing at Boiler Room and securing a spot on the Laneway Festival lineup. Other headliners had also released major projects this year, and it was a privilege to elevate their experience by giving them the stage at such a prominent venue.

What stood out most at this Showcase was the incredible transformation we witnessed in our participants. Several took to the stage for the first time but performed with the confidence and skill of seasoned artists. The sense of community among our participants was evident throughout the event, reflecting their experiences in our Navigators program. One group even took a moment to shout out to the entire Navigators community, showing the unity and collective spirit that runs through our programs. There were also exciting cross-program collaborations, with participants from South, Wāhine, Central, and West coming together to perform as newly-formed bands and collectives.

A particularly proud moment for us was seeing a participant take on his first-ever stage management role. Having just completed an events management course, we saw it as the perfect opportunity to broaden his experience. The feedback from both facilitators and participants has been overwhelmingly positive, confirming that he executed the role with professionalism and precision.

We also made sure to support our under-18 participants, enabling them to perform under supervision. One 17-year-old had the opportunity to perform at a club for the very first time, a milestone that has given him the confidence and drive to continue pursuing a career in music.

The Showcase was a resounding success, and we are beyond grateful for the opportunity to host such a transformative event. A huge thank you to Neck of The Woods for providing the venue, and to all the families and supporters who continue to champion our young people's dreams and help make their goals a reality.

NAVIGATORS **SHOWCASE**

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / NORTH



Facilitated by Rizvan Tu'itahi, Siose Solo & Tamzin Naicker

Report by Tamzin Naicker

Monday's, Onepoto Āwhina, Northcote, North Shore

This quarter we focused on building stronger, more meaningful connections with our participants. We touched on topics like pathways and opportunities within music for participants, cost of living crisis and navigating finances, managing conflict, tiggers and 'ah ha' moments, cultural identity and standing up for what we believe in. Further, in our creative segments we explored topics such as 'what are you grateful for', 'write in relation to your favourite colour', and 'identity and belonging'.

HIGHLIGHTS

A massive highlight for us facilitators is the growth we've seen in participants over the past year. Their confidence in sharing personal stories in the space and holding others opinions with respect and contributing their own opinions has increased drastically and shows in the comfortability we all feel in the space. As well as their growth with creativity, from tone and delivery, content in writing and confidence in sharing and running it back if they need or want to. We've seen them come out of their shells and their artistry develop beautifully. So much so, that we had one representative for North Navigators at the Te Karanga Showcase, after missing the last 3 showcases because our participants hadn't built up the confidence to perform yet.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge that we've faced this quarter is attendance and participation. We have a handful of regulars who make the biggest effort to join us, however, we haven't had new participant join us in a while. And we have explored this community, attending events, handing out flyers, putting up posters, connecting with other youth organisations in the area, making ourselves seen, but our participation is still quite low.

LEARNINGS

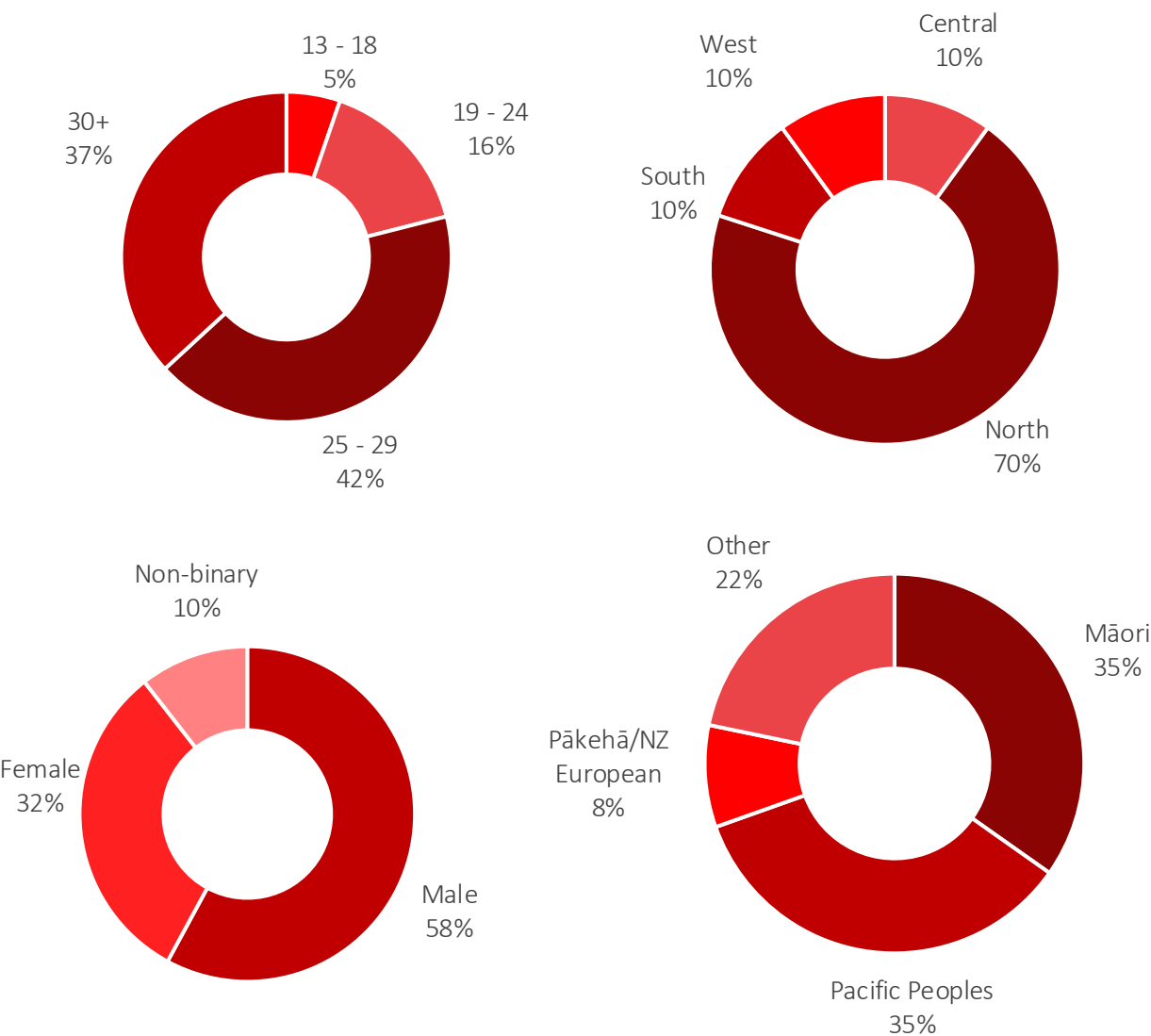
As we come to the end of the year, we have reflected deeply about how we can increase participation in our program within the area we are based, and all of our facilitators are committed to doing whatever it will take to achieve this. Our efforts haven't gone unnoticed in this community, but we definitely could do more as a team. We are currently exploring a potential venue change and promotional campaign for 2025.

NAVIGATORS / NORTH

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 19



NAVIGATORS / NORTH

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / WEST



Facilitated by Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine, Bronson Price & Mana Nightingale

Report by Elijah Manū

Tuesday's, Zeal West, Henderson

We spent a lot of time this quarter getting into new explorations of the creative process, and how we can adapt our skill sets to suit group collaboration. This has both a powerful social and creative outcome for participants. As facilitators, we think it's important that collaboration be welcomed and celebrated, so we really wanted to make it a point of emphasis for our program this quarter. This led to more creative focused sessions where we would build songs from scratch and every week try to bring our own flavours to mix together with the cohort. We have collaborated with Producer Navigators this quarter and prepared for our end of year showcase at Neck of The Woods.

HIGHLIGHTS

One of the main highlights has definitely been the participants openness to explore collaboration. No matter what role we play in the composition process, it's all pivotal and contributed to the end product, and most participants have been receptive to working with others. It has also allowed participants to think not only as writers and beatmakers, but as producers or composers. Building songs from the ground up. That's been a massive highlight. Also bringing in Producer Navigators for a session really was exciting for everyone involved, as they explored different ways to produce music and our participants were able to write and record songs over original beats made in the room that day. Finally, the showcase was a massive high as we had three participants perform three songs each and they were all fully prepared and held themselves well. One participant had a massive shift this year in his music journey. At the beginning of the year, he was asking a lot of questions about live performance and was nervous to jump on stage, and by the end of the year, he performed a whole set live, and mostly solo. The transformation of this participant has shown us the benefits of Navigators in building confidence within those who attend.

CHALLENGES

We've had minor challenges this quarter. Sometimes our venue door won't open which has either locked people out or in. And participation in Talanoa is a bit of a challenge. There are times where participants are much more engaged with the creative segment than Talanoa, however, this has been a common theme for West Auckland participants. Also, getting a line up for the Showcase was a minor challenge. While we want to encourage everyone to perform, we also have to respect peoples readiness for live performance, however, it is at a risk of not having a line up for West Navigators in general. We ended up with a good line up on the night though.

LEARNINGS

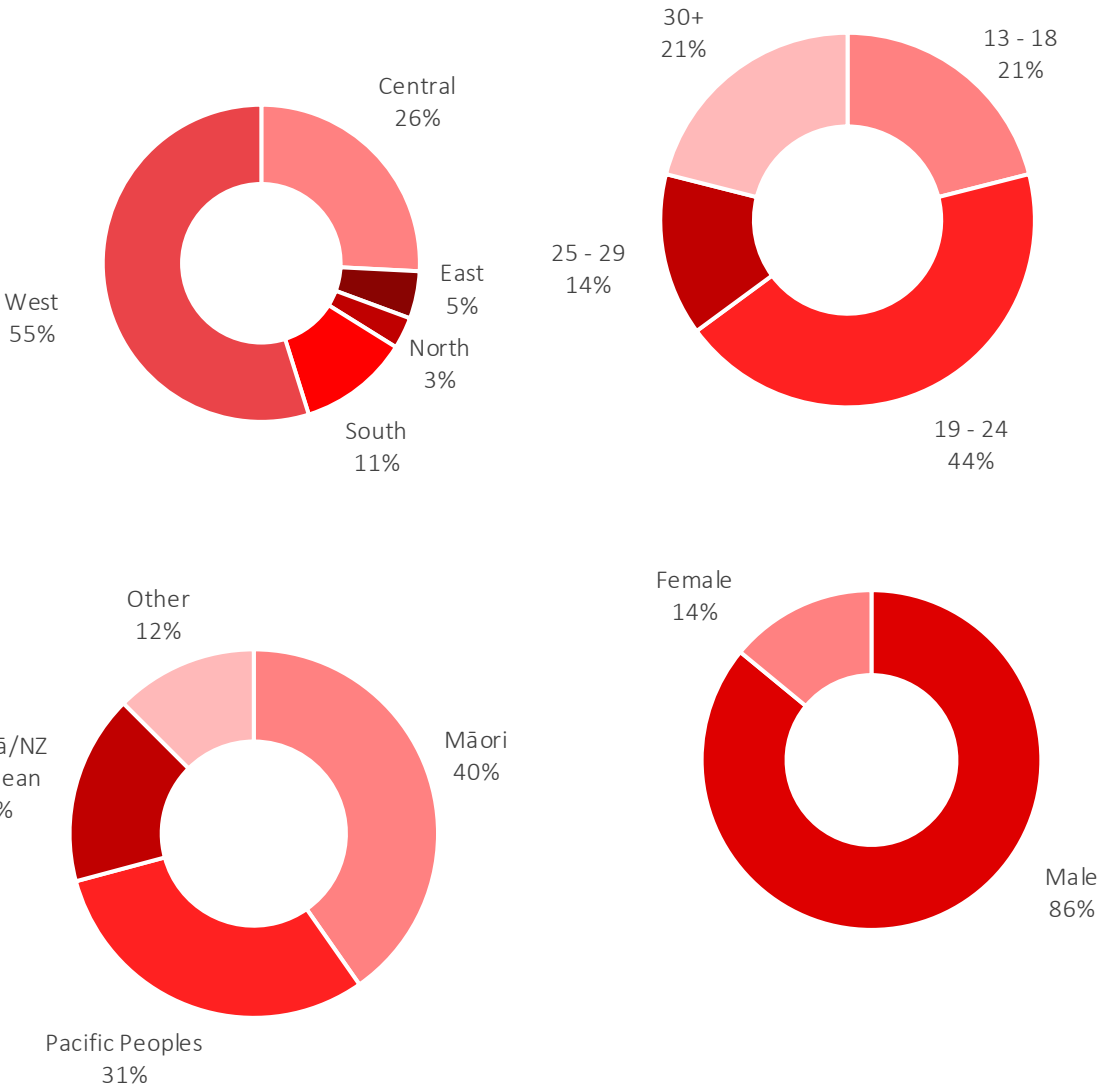
Collaborating is a great way to build confidence in participants individually and collectively. We've also learned to create with what we have and problem solve during the process. We have utilised the voice memo app a lot, building percussion from sounds around the space or beatboxing melodies. We've learned that it's a lot of fun when you think outside of the box. Lastly, we know that Navigators holds space for growth, but seeing that growth translate into tangible action reaffirms our belief in what we do.

NAVIGATORS / WEST

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 57



NAVIGATORS / WEST

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / WAHINE



Facilitated by TK White, Hariata Makiha, Jasmine Pene & Tamzin Naicker

Report by TK White

Tuesday's, Wesley Community Centre, Sandringham

Wāhine Navigators has had a steady final quarter. One of the more interesting kaupapa that has occurred in our space this quarter is that we had a documentary film crew come through to film one of our facilitators. They're called The Little Big Community, from Canada, and are travelling Australasia filming indigenous people doing great things in their communities. Another epic adventure we endeavoured on was a paid gig in collaboration with Youth Arts NZ (YANZ), who asked Wāhine Navigators to perform for a mock gig they set up for their Event Pathway Planning Program, where 10 young Pasifika and Māori participants learn all about setting up a live event from scratch. Furthermore, we are also rehearsing for our Showcase in early December. We have built a strong connected group culture, while still welcoming new participants in warmly.

HIGHLIGHTS

One of the major highs of this quarter was the mock gig with YANZ. There were 7 performers in total. They all worked together to fill 45 minutes and each performed 2 songs. One of the most beautiful parts was that every performer was from a different ethnic group. We had Samoan, Tongan, Māori/Cook Island, Mexican, Niuean, Indian/South African. They were also diverse in music genres with pop, RnB, Hip-hop, Trap and Neo-Soul. It was also a paid gig where they were each given a koha from YANZ. This is so special for us as we realised that we are engaging with a wide range of women in our community, and they are proud to represent us on the stage. Furthermore, when the documentary team came through, we had a kaitahi (pot-luck) and did a rehearsal for the YANZ gig, with lighting and an audience, and it truly made the performers feel like superstars. They welcomed the doco crew into their space and made them feel included and it was such a wholesome vibe in the room. Regardless of cameras being around, they were all still very comfortable to share and be vulnerable, which has truly reflected the culture we've created in our space. Lastly, their wellbeing has improved heaps since last quarter! Those who were experiencing difficult times have had a positive shift the past three months and their mental health has improved a lot, and they're expressing that growth in our space.

CHALLENGES

We have seen a slight decline in attendance this quarter and haven't been able to truly identify why. However, we have had some inconsistencies with Facilitator attendance too as some of us have been sick, or had other commitments resulting in cover staff attending, which may have contributed to the attendance drop.

LEARNINGS

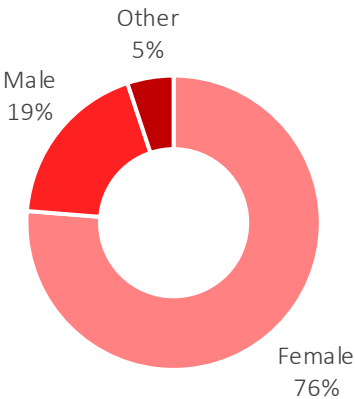
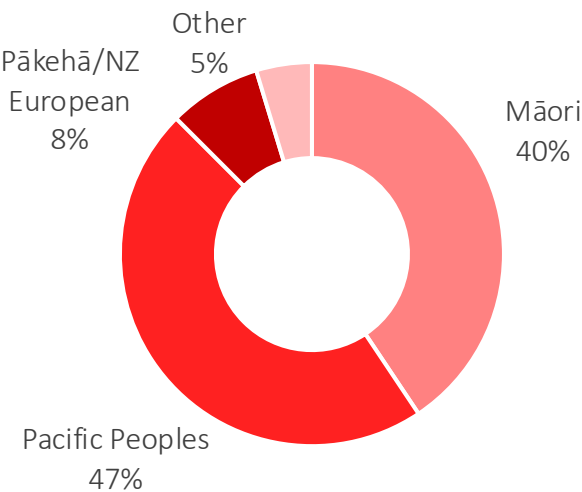
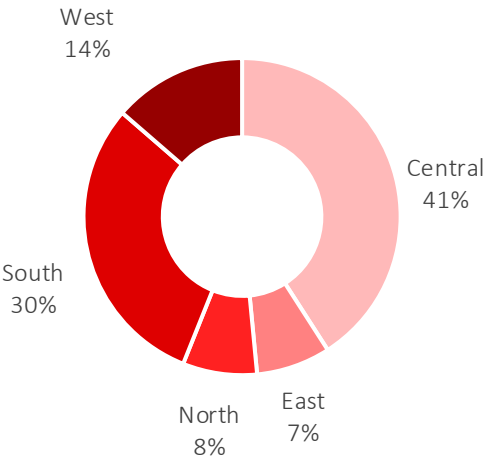
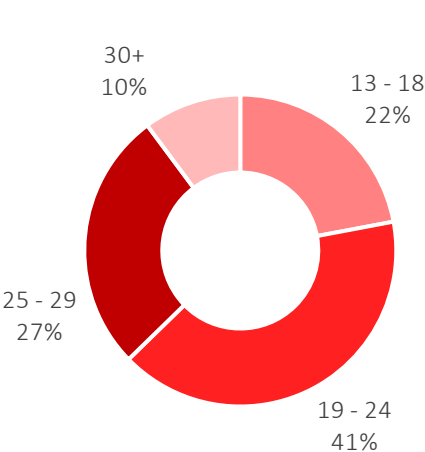
Creating safe spaces for young people to be vulnerable has incredible impacts on their wellbeing. We have allowed young women to cry & vent without judgement or apology, and although they are battling difficult situations, they are able to face them with solutions once they've let it all out. Also... We have some serious talent in our community and they're determined to make something of themselves in this industry, and being able to work through the mental, emotional and spiritual obstacles that arise, with a community of supportive women around them, helps them achieve their goals with more ease than they would alone.

NAVIGATORS / WAHINE

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 59



NAVIGATORS / WAHINE

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL



Facilitated by Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine, Bronson Price & Dera Meelan

Report by Dera Meelan

Wednesday's, Wesley Community Centre, Sandringham

This quarter, we welcomed new participants, adapting our content to help them feel comfortable and included. We engaged the group in collaborative music-making where participants shared their favourite instruments and recorded songs incorporating live instruments. In smaller groups, participants worked on writing and producing songs from scratch, with guidance on songwriting techniques and beat production. We also focused on broader creative discussions, including topics like the role of money in the music industry, the importance of the artist image and branding, and the future of hip-hop and music genres. We also did a tutorial on Logic Pro (a music recording software) to enhance technical production skills, and participants had time in the recording booths to experiment with their own musical ideas. Overall, the quarter was focused on fostering creativity, technical growth, and personal reflection within a supportive, collaborative environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

We experienced many standout moments that highlighted the impact of our programme. One of the most rewarding aspects was seeing past participants return, even if only for a session or two. Their willingness to reconnect showed the continued sense of community and belonging that our programme fosters. Equally exciting was welcoming several newcomers who had never been to our space before. Many of them have since become regulars, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to our sessions while building their own connections within the group. Another major highlight was the hands-on creative sessions, where participants had the opportunity to develop new skills and experiment with their musical talents. These moments not only deepened their creative practice but also built confidence and encouraged peer-to-peer learning. Watching participants share their progress, celebrate each other's achievements, and grow both socially and artistically has been a testament to the power of the safe, inclusive environment we strive to create.

CHALLENGES

This quarter presented several challenges. Surprisingly, after a long period of extremely robust attendance, attendance at a few sessions was lower than usual. After some follow up check ins and resulting rise in attendance we have chalked it up to circumstances of participants and busy time of year. Additionally, this term there was a noticeable increase in situations that required extra participant social support with follow up care, whanau liaison, referrals and mentoring. Although hard to measure exactly what caused this increase in distress among participants, it is a pattern toward the end of the year we have observed previously, although a clear theme among the distress has been lack of resources, independent living and financial challenges causing mental distress. Extra support for staff has been provided to ensure that the team are working in a sustainable manner through these challenges. Despite these challenges, the team remained focused on providing a supportive environment and helping participants work through these moments with care, confidentiality and respect.

LEARNINGS

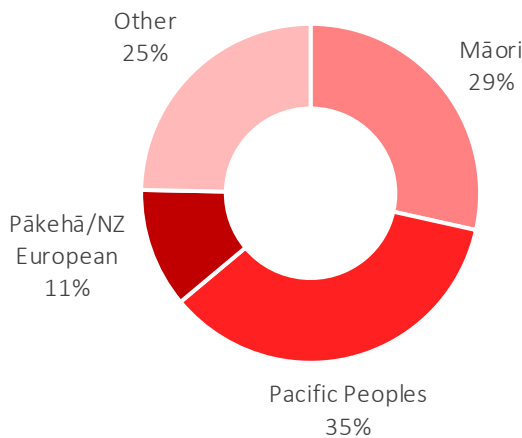
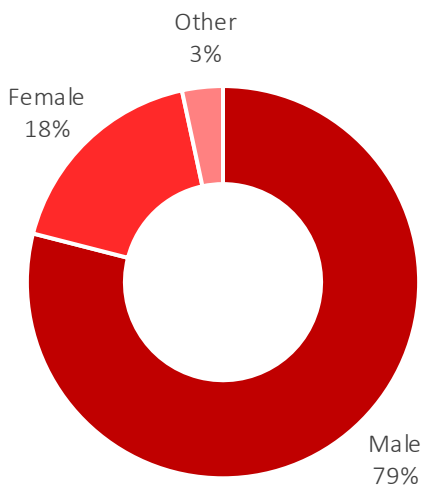
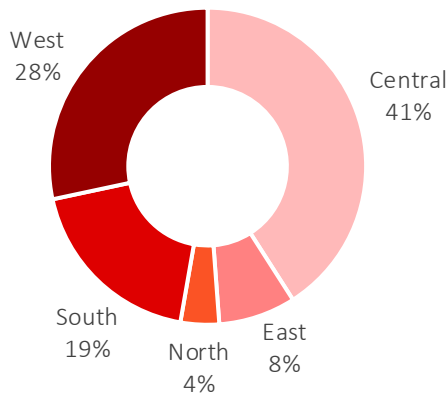
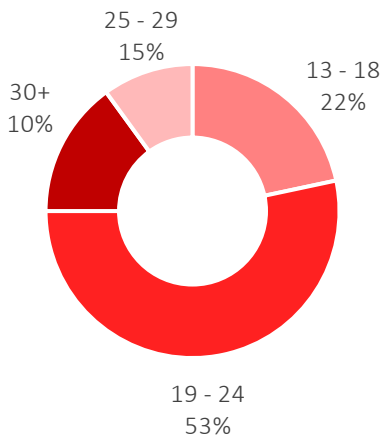
This quarter provided valuable insights. It highlighted the real-world impact our programme has on participants, particularly during moments when they encounter personal difficulties. This emphasized the importance of maintaining a supportive and consistent environment where participants feel safe and valued. We also learned that attendance can be unpredictable—some weeks saw smaller groups, while other weeks had larger turnouts, often without an obvious pattern. Most importantly, we discovered the resilience and adaptability of our team, who were able to respond effectively to varying attendance and unforeseen challenges, ensuring that the sessions remained productive and meaningful for those present.

NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 120



NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / PRODUCER



Facilitated by Oliva Luki, Dera Meelan & Raneem Caco

Report by Raneem Caco

Tuesday's, OMAC, Ōtara

This quarter we have had steady attendance and we focused more on long-term goal setting and sharing/brainstorming ideas about participants future projects, which influenced our creative segments. We also joined West Navigators twice this quarter, to explore collaboration as producers and give our participants experience with artists to further develop their skills as producers.

HIGHLIGHTS

While this quarter was not particularly dense with big moments, it's been a delight to see two participants in particular slowly blooming in their confidence and ability. Week by week they were adding more to the discussion panel, approaching conversation and ideas with more nuanced perspective, and showcasing increasingly more impressive work during the cypher segments. One such participant made the leap to perform at the Navigator Showcase. A few months ago, he would have almost certainly sat out, so to watch him sprout from a learner to a professional performing artist to hundreds of audience members at Neck of the Woods has been a huge high for our team. Participants are also expressing their affinity for the program as a means for connection with other creatives, taking action to make collaborations happen outside of the program. For our team, this is the best outcome we can aim for, giving fresh legs to new creatives who begin taking initiative outside our guidance.

CHALLENGES

One notable challenge we faced was the collaboration with West Navigators. Although this was a solid initiative that had many social benefits, it also clashed with what the other programs usually achieve in their creative sections. For example, while our participants were making beats, the West Navigator participants had to wait until the beats were finished before they could start their creative process, which is limiting when there is only an hour allocated to this section. It was good learning for us facilitators, as we realised that collaboration needed to be more structured rather than organic on time limiting programs. This sort of initiative would have been better with a full day, rather than during a program.

LEARNINGS

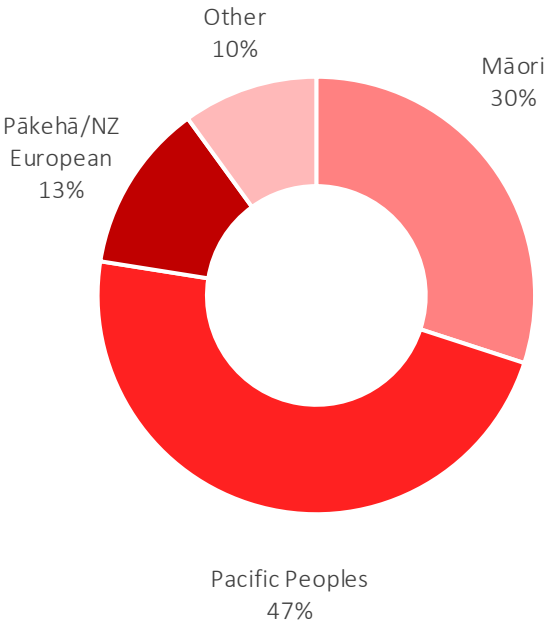
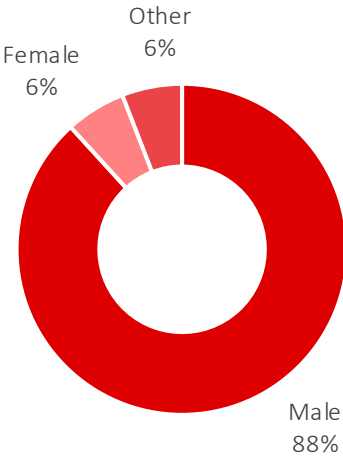
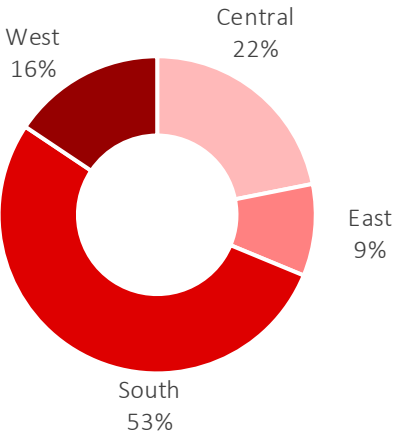
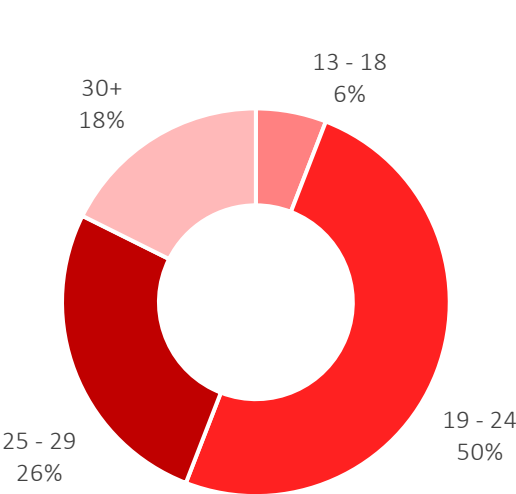
One of the main things we have learnt this quarter, or this whole year, is that the different skill levels walking through our doors at Producer Navigators can also be a barrier. It's not like the other Navigator Programs, where people start learning how to write raps, or songs, because you need access to certain digital programs and devices to be able to exercise your learning and grow your skills. With that being said, we have explored several routes to provide something more for our participants, which has been quite full on for our facilitators, and at times we've found that we just need to return to the foundations of Navigators and be more simple on this program.

NAVIGATORS / PRODUCER

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 34



NAVIGATORS / PRODUCER

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / SOUTH



Facilitated by Oliva Luki, Ben Tuimaseve & Noah Tauiti

Report by Ben Tuimaseve

Monday's, OMAC, Ōtara

Last quarter saw a resurgence of energy in the space with new comers becoming regulars and blessing the space with a freshness of creative energy. The skill has always been present but with new people, comes new style and personality to add an excitement in the air of old and new navigators to once again expand the beauty of the space. We also prepared for our showcase, filling up our time with a huge and diverse line up of talented individuals representing South Navigators.

HIGHLIGHTS

There has been quite a few people who have released their debut projects at South Navigators and to witness that is one of the many pleasures of being a facilitator, especially knowing a bit of their journey to get there and the challenges they overcame such as perfectionism, confidence in self and creative logistics. We've also seen a spike in enthusiasm from our participants, as newcomers bring heightened energy and exchange new stories and knowledge with those who have been here longer. One of the other highs was preparing for the Showcase and watching participants push themselves to do things that may be out of their comfort zone, but absolutely do it well. They were all making music that had a community theme, connecting with other Navigator's to create a Navigators family, and honour the wider program rather than solely being South Side representatives. Our culture at South Navigators is all about the collective. Our youngest participant released his debut album this quarter and sold out his merchandise at a pop-up shop, and performed at a club for the first time and the fact that we can offer those opportunities to young, aspiring artists is one of the reasons why I, personally, wake up every day.

CHALLENGES

It's been challenging to co-ordinate a group project, especially getting information, participation, commitment and responses from our participants, but from our experience as facilitators, we have learnt a lot. We have also limited our creative output this quarter as we have limited access to other spaces in OMAC, such as the music studios, which would be cool to access on the nights we are in the space. Other than that, we haven't had many, if any, major challenges this quarter.

LEARNINGS

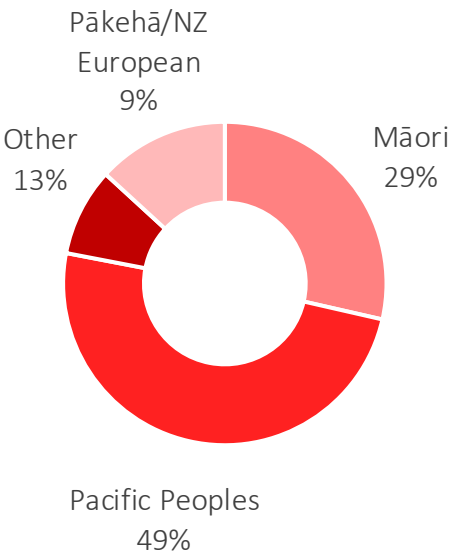
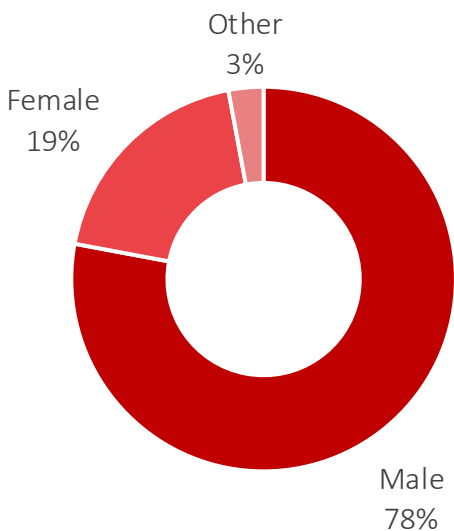
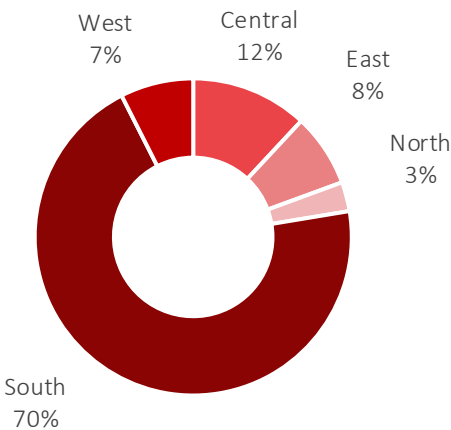
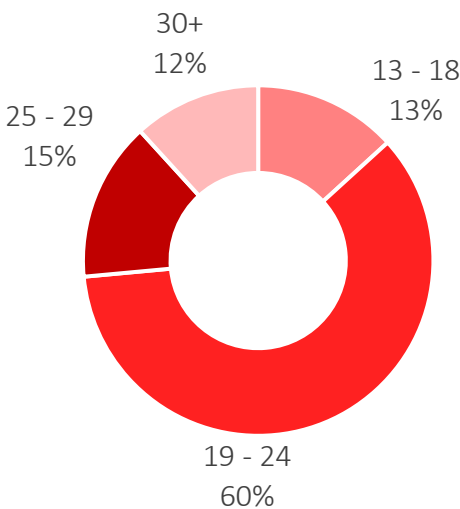
South Navigators is a creative community that people love to come to for creativity, humanity and a space to be nothing but themselves and this is such a dope way to start our weeks every Monday. People always walk away from South Navigators feeling like their cup is filled.

NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 68



NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

IMAGES



NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD



Facilitated by Noah Tauti & Luani Nansen

Report by Noah Tauti

Wednesday's, OMAC, Ōtara

We've seen a lot of growth this quarter. Having been invited, as a program, to AUT Open Mic, we saw a few participants push through their internal obstacles and perform live for the first time. Participants who we're more reserved have come out of their shells a bit more this quarter. We've had many new participants join us, as well as returning participants who haven't been in a while. Finally, we were able to put together a collective spoken word piece to perform at the Showcase.

HIGHLIGHTS

A highlight within this space that can be spoken heavily about is the growth, development and comfortability among our participants who are fresh to the Te Karanga Trust 'Navigators space'. Specifically, one of our participants has doubted their ability to write and speak weekly since their first appearance here. In mid-November, this participant has really grown in their confidence and openness in sharing with the wider group. One major highlight was locking in as a team to create a group Spoken Word piece for the Showcase, referring to Spoken Word Navigators as "A Box of Favourites" (the chocolates). As facilitators, we felt like this piece drew our participants together in a way that the process and product felt like a collective, family-vibe, piece of art. Another major high has been the safety we have held within the Talanoa section. As a facilitator, it is often assumed that the talanoa is run by us, however, for the whole year our participants have led the conversations. It's like everyone is giving virtual hugs, passing around the metaphorical kava bowl in Talanoa. It has been beautiful watching our participants navigate their program, empathising with each other and provoking conversation and thought that goes beyond small talk.

CHALLENGES

It's now the end of the year and everyone everywhere is wrapping up programs, work, school, Uni, early Christmas events, other gigs etc so participation has been a lot lower than usual due to everyone's commitments elsewhere, but we still have good numbers considering the many who haven't been able to join us.

LEARNINGS

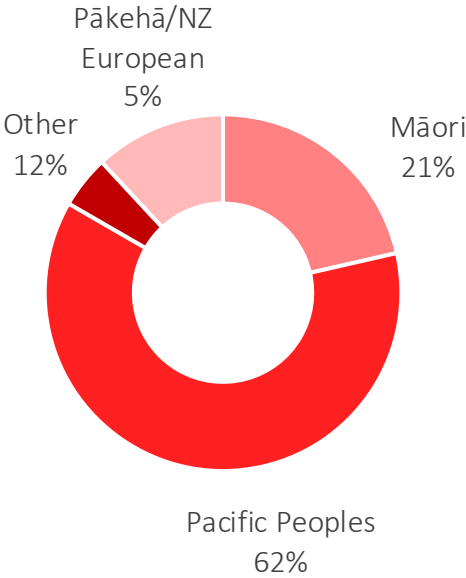
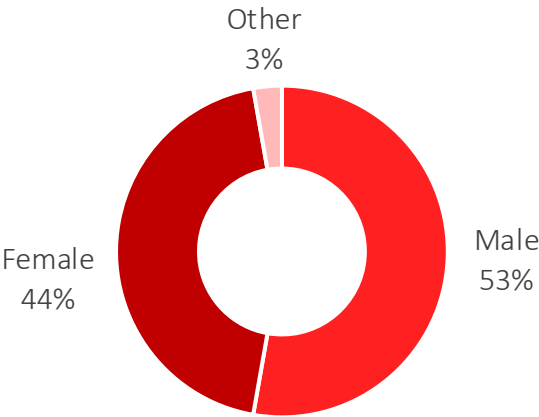
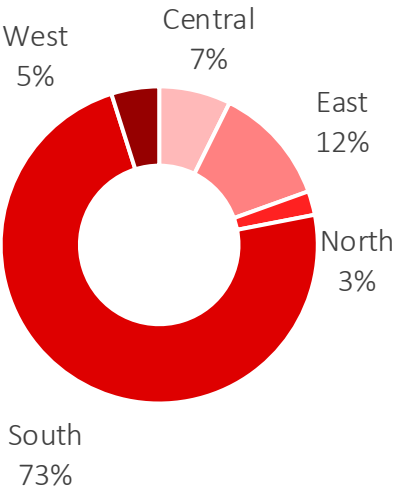
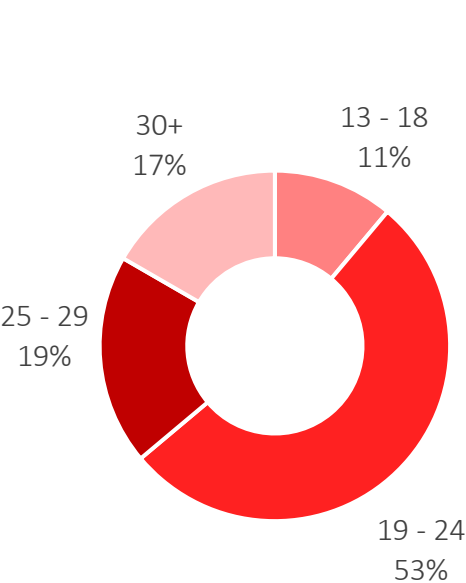
Spoken Word Navigators is a space many can use to wind down and offload safely. One thing that has been beautiful within this space is the unsolicited giving of 'flowers' (compliments) to each other, which amplifies confidence in our participants, but also in ourselves. Everybody in the world deserves love. The ability to receive it in a space where everyone is often a stranger first, and that practice can be seen as intimidating in this nature, it is great that positivity can be passed back and forth.

NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: **36**



NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD

IMAGES



TALANOA TUESDAY'S



Facilitated by Rizvan Tu'itahi, Siose Solo & Ben Tuimaseve

Report by Ben Tuimaseve

Tuesday's, Taro Patch Creative, Papatoetoe

A lot of reflective sessions were had for our last quarter, about the year we've all had and what parts of ourselves have been tested, outgrown and improved in all areas of life whether it be personal relationships, careers or within us. A year of Talanoa was had, and through that consistent space to do so, we got to ask ourselves better questions in hopes to get better answers and getting perspectives outside of our own bias allowed us to consider other possibilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

We tried different approaches to Talanoa this quarter such as the lalaga game (a card game that uses Pasifika wisdom to help people connect and share stories), playing board games and smaller group discussions. It was really cool exploring different ways to Talanoa, and also gave participants a better understanding of what was more comfortable for them and what was least comfortable, giving us all the opportunity to Talanoa further about why this may be. Having a good balance of male and female at our sessions was also cool because a lot of spaces are generally outweighed by one gender. Having a good balance reduces the boundaries between the genders and allows better understanding between the two worlds to emerge.

CHALLENGES

As we have seen throughout the year, attendance has probably been our biggest challenge, however, for the few that do attend, they have had significant transformations over the year. Also, we've had some challenging times for our facilitators this year, where we've had to take a bit of time off for personal reasons, which has broken the flow a bit in our space, which meant that structure and planning was crucial at times.

LEARNINGS

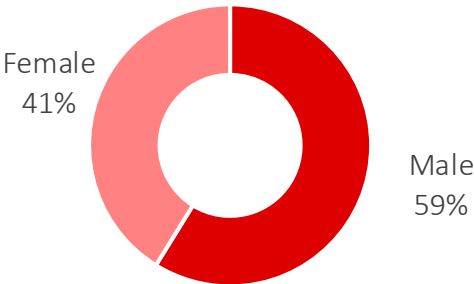
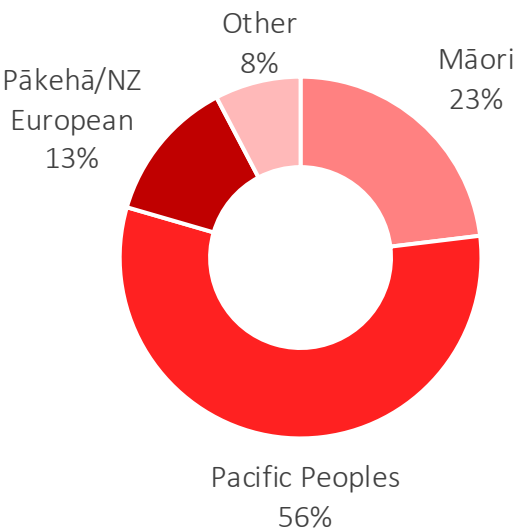
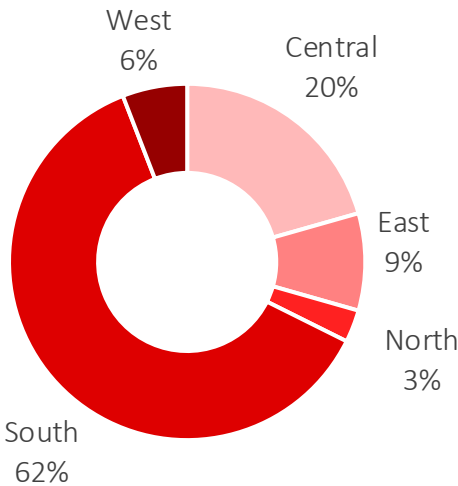
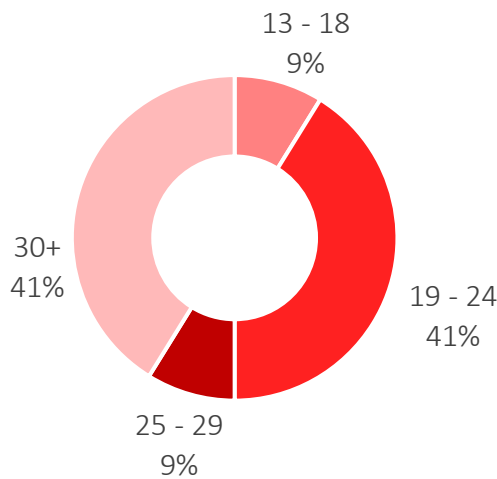
The big learning is that the Talanoa space is of real value but has been hard to promote widely whilst maintaining the integrity and of the program and participants. We are keen to explore other ways to promote this program so that more people can be exposed to it, and more people can be interested in joining it. To this end we are planning a series of guest speakers with themed conversation topics for 2025.

TALANOA TUESDAY'S

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 34



TALANOA TUESDAY'S

IMAGES



CREATIVE LABS



OVERVIEW

Free weekly studio program that empowers youth with local resources, equipment, and guidance. Fostering creativity, connecting like-minded individuals, and nurturing the next generation of artists and musicians.



CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL



Facilitated by Taimana Davis, Raneem Caco, Dera Meelan & Aidan Fine

Report by Dera Meelan

Mon, Weds, Thurs, Wesley Community Centre, Sandringham

This programme provided a safe, consistent space for young people three days a week, offering a fully equipped studio environment with free access to recording equipment. Participants had the opportunity to work on their songs, performances, and productions under the guidance of experienced facilitators skilled in music production and songwriting. Our facilitators not only supervised the studio space, but we also offered hands-on guidance, tutoring, teaching, and mentorship to support the growth of young musicians, producers, and artists.

HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter brought several highlights that showcased the success of our programme. Many participants became regular attendees, fully utilizing the studio space and resources to further their creative and personal growth. One participant, in particular, stood out for us at Central Creative Labs as she progressed from being a complete beginner to confidently using the skills she learned from our staff to produce her own music. Not only has she developed her own abilities, but she now shares her knowledge with others during sessions, creating a positive ripple effect within the group. Additionally, we were able to enhance the space with new equipment, including headphones and cables, which has kept the studio running smoothly and at a high standard. These upgrades have ensured that all participants have access to professional-quality tools, allowing them to achieve their creative goals more effectively.

CHALLENGES

This quarter was relatively smooth, with only a few minor challenges. We encountered occasional no-shows or last-minute booking cancellations, which disrupted the schedule at times. Additionally, a pair of headphones went missing, which has prompted us to be more diligent about double-checking the booths after each session, especially when new participants are using the space. While these issues were manageable, they highlighted the need for consistent oversight and clear processes to ensure the smooth running of the programme.

LEARNINGS

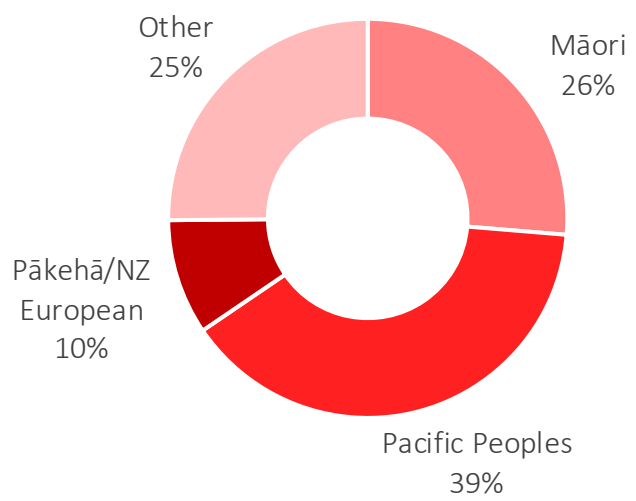
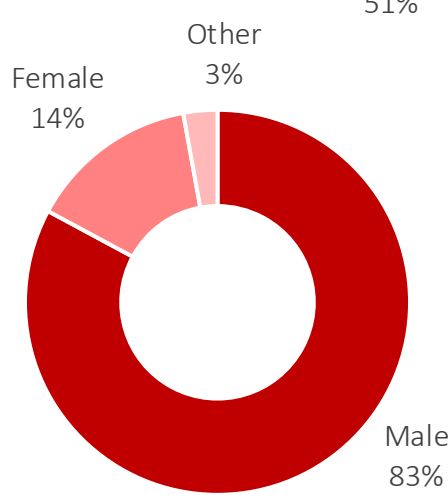
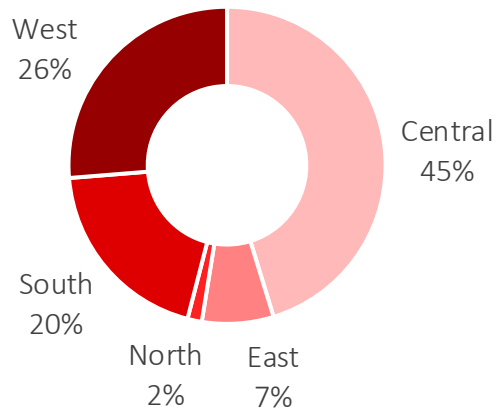
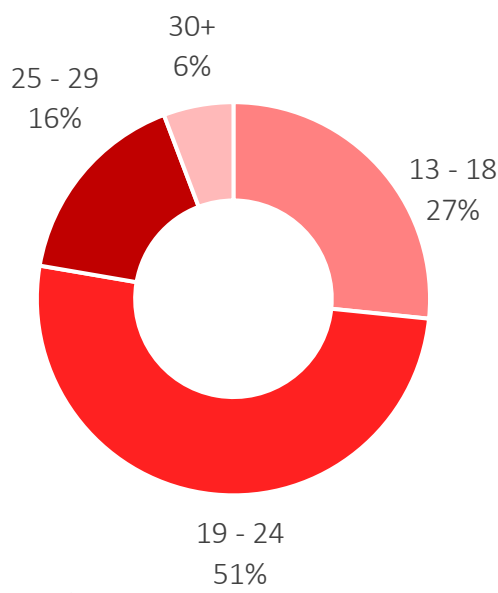
This quarter highlighted several important learnings. Our processes, such as the booking sheet, are working well and should continue to be followed consistently. However, we learned that we can't assume all participants understand the expectations of our community, particularly regarding respecting the space and equipment. The missing headphones emphasized the need to remain vigilant and clearly communicate these expectations, especially to new participants. We also found that encouraging participants to let us know if they can't make their bookings works well, as it provides opportunities for others to use the space instead. Finally, we were reminded of how valuable the programme is for participants. It offers both knowledge and personal growth, whether for those driven to learn and improve their skills or for those who prefer to work independently at their own pace, creating songs and developing in a way that feels natural to them.

CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 140



CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL

IMAGES



CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH



Facilitated by Oliva Luki

Report by Oliva Luki

Mon, Tues & Weds, OMAC, Ōtara

Over these past 3 months we have had a lot of new participants book sessions at South C-Lab. Having their confidence grow at Navigators makes it easy to book a session because of that relationship built. Have also had a good amount of participants finish and release their projects this quarter after working on the projects throughout the year. Part of this process was guiding them through the release process and how to upload their music to distributors like DistroKid or TuneCore. We had 4 releases in total.

HIGHLIGHTS

Seeing the participants commit to their projects and being satisfied with releasing it to the world has been a huge high because C-Labs is often a 'demo' space, where people experiment and record demos that often don't get released publicly. For two of the participants, it's their first official EP release. One of those participants is only 17 yrs old and has the potential to be the next big thing here. His commitment to this program and his ambitions have been inspirational and actually sets an example for the other, older participants as well. He has actually been a highlight this whole year and his pathway in music looks promising. Another high is seeing participants record for the first time and seeing them light up after hearing their music back. This light is the thing that keeps them coming back and continuing to record, potentially unlocking strengths they haven't yet tapped into.

CHALLENGES

Participants not showing up to their bookings without letting us know is frustrating because there is never enough time to find someone else to fill the slot at the last minute, so we have implemented a one session 'stand down' if there is not a reasonable reason for poor coms or no-shows. We also had some hick ups with distributors too, where we had the wrong release dates set, because of American formats which was cool to have that happen so participants could learn how to navigate that if it ever happened again.

LEARNINGS

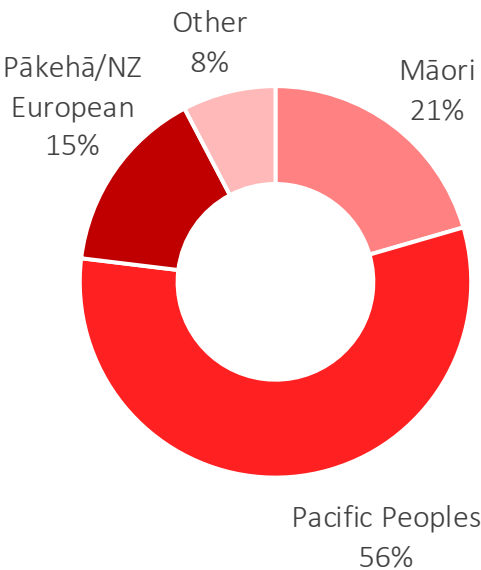
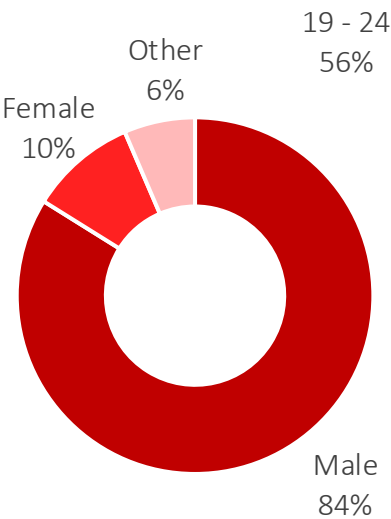
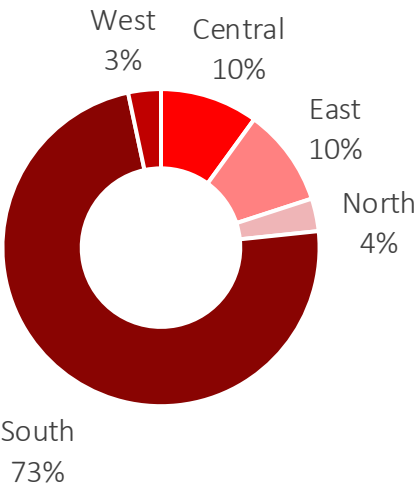
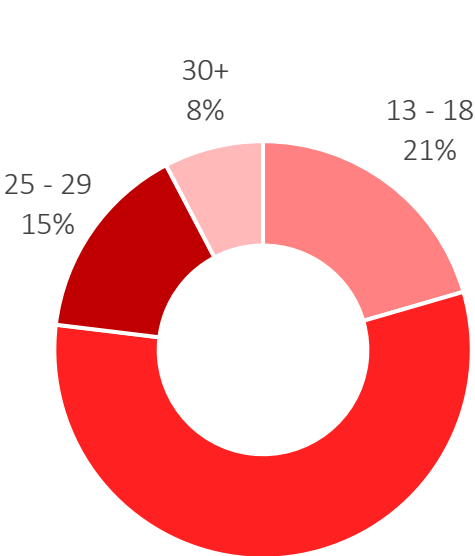
Planning is key and structure really helps achieve goals in our space. The reason why these projects were released was because there was a plan set in place, and we did it on a shared document where they could contribute to the planning in their own time, and we would always refer to the plan in each session to see where we needed to be that day. Other participants who haven't completed a plan are still sitting on unreleased demos, but are seeing other participants successes, so we are hopeful that this will support a positive movement in this area of planning and executing their goals.

CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 31



CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

IMAGES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



OVERVIEW

An internal program preparing aspiring creatives for future work environments. Supporting rangatahi with business ideas and focusing on artist professional, personal, and business development within the arts.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Facilitated by Elijah Manū, Rizvan Tu'itahi, Abraham Kunin, Oliva Luki & Raneem Caco

Report by All facilitators

This quarter has seen some significant growth and wins in Bridge the Gap (BTG). With several participants on the production team we have organised an end of year showcase event at Neck of The Woods which is renowned for big music gigs in Auckland, and have headlined 5 participants who have released albums in the last 6 months. We launched a pop-up shop where 9 participants developed, designed and created personalised merchandise to promote and sell. We have also had 2 participants upsell their old clothes in the pop-up shop and online. Furthermore, one participant has recently picked up DJ'ing and is really good at it, so we have used him as our in-house DJ for the pop-up shop and the main DJ for the showcase. Further to this, he has been offered the opportunity to play his first DJ'ing gig at Neck of The Woods following our showcase and is steadily building his business plan as a professional DJ. The selection of participants who created merchandise, have also just dropped their debut albums. Merchandise distribution is another form of income for musicians, and we wanted to capitalise off those participants who recently released a body of work to teach them how to earn money off their strengths in other ways. Furthermore, one of our participants have recently signed a publishing deal with Big Pop Studio's where she is given free access to their studios to record her music, they have offered to mix and master and distribute her music for free. Finally, one of our younger participants, who has just turned 18, has been announced on the line up for Laneway Festival at Western Springs in February 2025 and negotiated fees and contract. This quarter has truly highlighted the diverse talents and growth of our participants, with many milestones achieved across different areas of the music industry. The continued development of our participants' skills and careers remains a central focus, ensuring they are well-equipped to participate in the economy.

HIGHLIGHTS

If it isn't obvious, we are celebrating several highs this quarter! The launch of our participant pop-up shop pilot is a massive high as we are now tapping into the entrepreneurial opportunities on a more focused scale, and doing so with success. These participants have learnt how to budget for, design, create, promote, market and sell merchandise such as personalised clothing brands, artwork and CD's. They've learnt how to use an eftp machine and develop customer service skills. One of the major highs is their glow during the pop-up. They have held themselves with much pride, and have felt valued in our space. One participant was able to make his money back with profit within the first 2 days of launching. Another highlight is the amount of participants having released their first album. Albums may take a few years to put together, and for some of these participants, they have worked on a body of music for the past year and a half. So seeing the fruits of their labour be brought to life is such a huge high, not only for us as an organisation, but for them as individuals who are chasing their dreams.

CHALLENGES

There haven't been many challenges this quarter. Across the board, we have experienced less of previous commitment issues, for example, not being able to attend a session, or turning up late to session bookings. Further, we've found that participants are learning along the way from experience and hands on stuff, rather than from the advice of our facilitators, for example, participants were advised to promote their merchandise for the pop-up shop well before opening day, so they could have customers lined up. However, some of them didn't do that and have found that their support isn't as strong compared to other participants who did promote themselves prior.

LEARNINGS

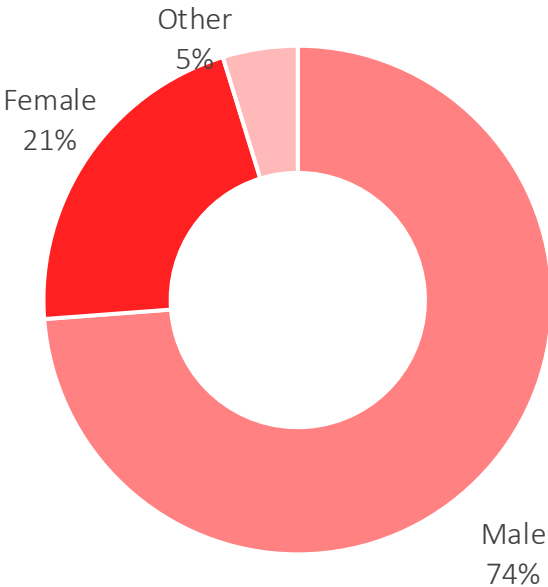
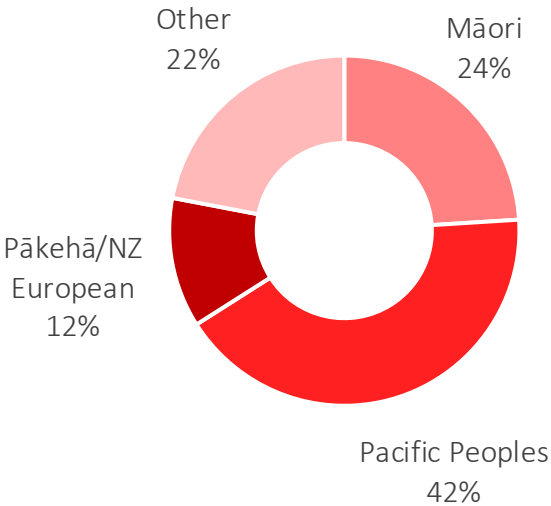
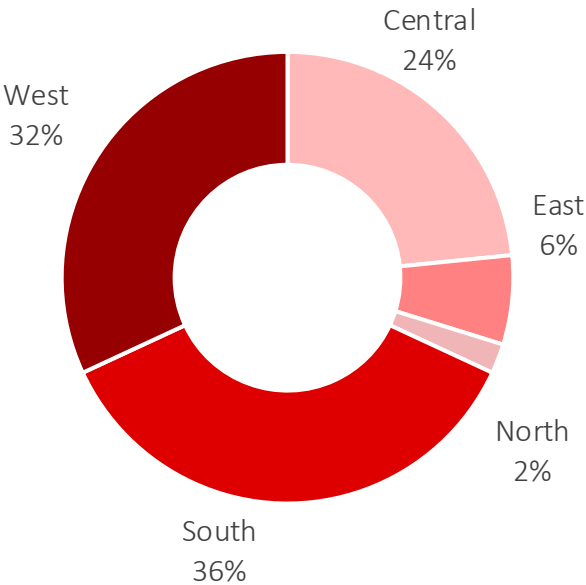
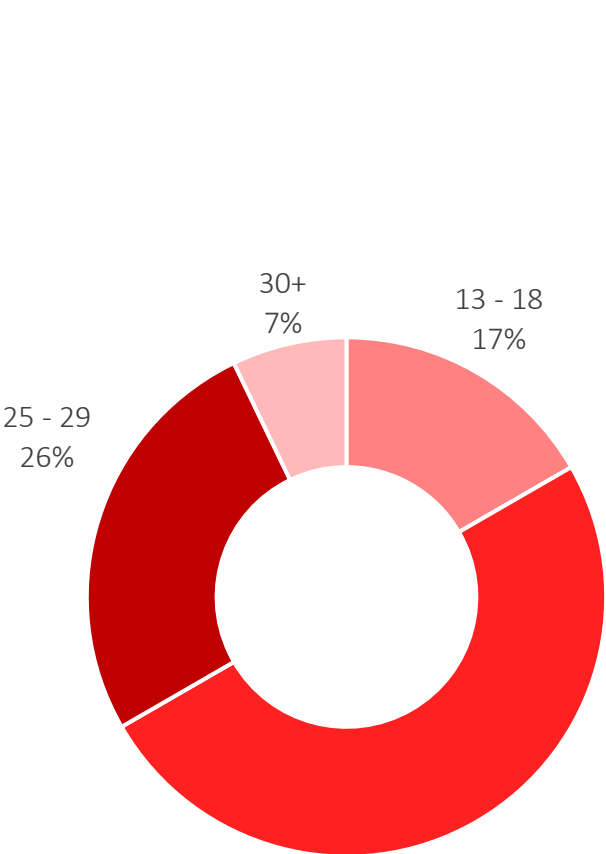
As we come to the end of this year, we've seen the fruits of our participants labour really blossom this quarter. Their determination and hard work has really paid off and they've been able to secure opportunities and transferable skills that will benefit them in the long run. Our facilitators are experts in their fields, and it shows through the experiences and outcomes of these participants on our programs. What we have achieved this quarter is a solid blueprint for entrepreneurship opportunities in music.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 42



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMAGES



OVERVIEW

Rap-n-Rec is a music program delivered to young people in youth justice or schools, empowering them to share stories through music to normalise music as a means of emotional expression.



RAP N REC YJ



Facilitated by Rizvan Tu'itapu

Report by Rizvan Tu'itapu

Tues, Whakatakapokai Youth Residence

This quarter we focused on the small handful of young people in the Whakatakapokai Youth Justice residence. Helping them to write and record their songs. Most of the ideas come from them because they practice throughout the week to instrumentals or backing tracks on YouTube. We go in there every week on a Tuesday afternoon between 4PM-6PM and record their vocals, mix them and play it out loud at the end of session for the whole unit, including staff to listen back to.

HIGHLIGHTS

It's been a massive high getting a few full songs completed. Most of the time these young people just rap a random verse or a few sentences here and there, without actual preparation but for a few of the participants, we were able to structure a full song, which consisted of a chorus, intro and outro. Playing the music out loud to everyone in residence is also a new initiative, but one that gives the participants a bit more pride in their work and everyone works towards positive affirmations, reinforcing each others mana through the sharing of music. It can be a vulnerable task, sharing your music, but we've worked really hard to create a culture of support to encourage participants rather than tear them down.

CHALLENGES

The young people here are very open about how they feel when they are not having a good day. They won't talk about it, but they definitely show you when you walk in, and this can hinder our creative process as they often don't want to record, or write so we've had to adapt to these emotional states and find other ways to connect. Sometimes these sessions turn into listening sessions where we just explore different artists on YouTube and play music, connect and hopefully have a conversation or reflection of the music being played.

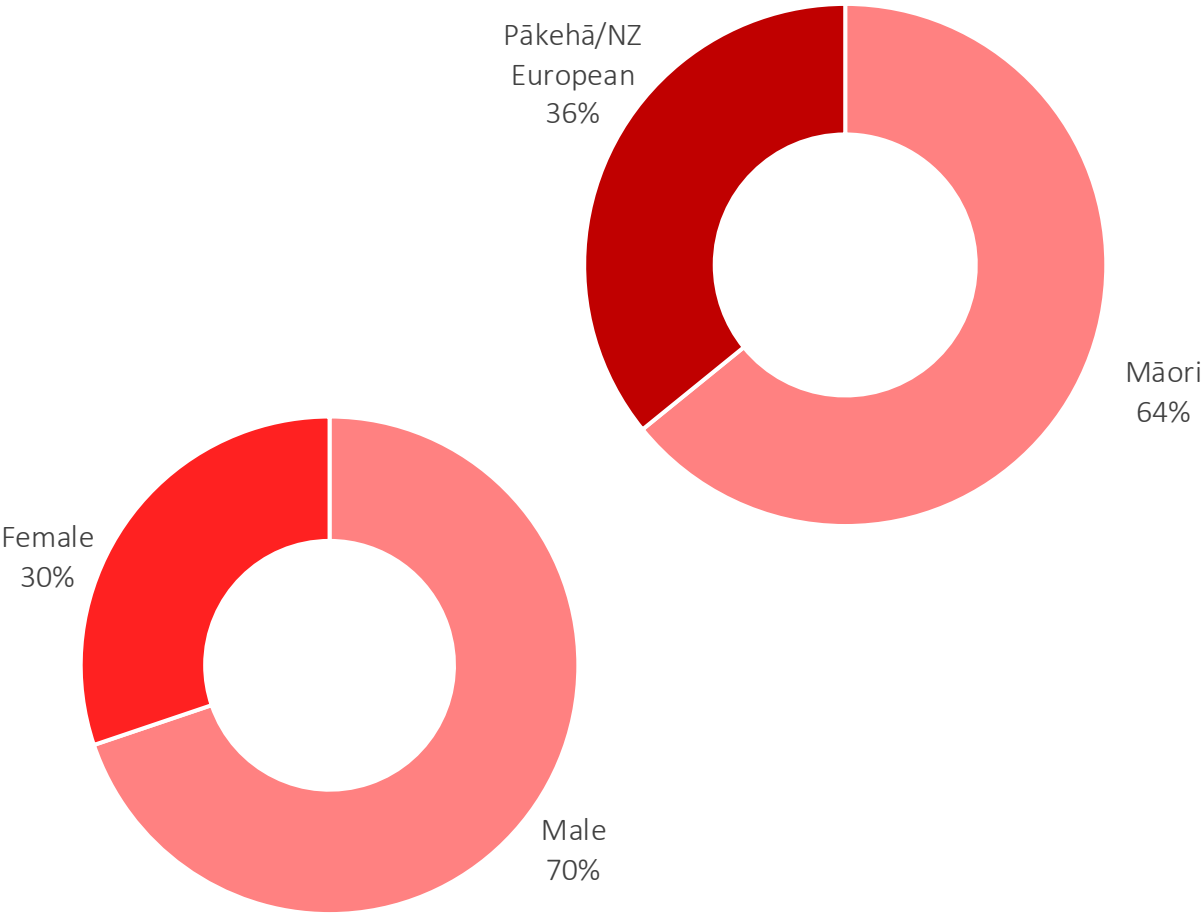
LEARNINGS

Not much changes in this space. A new cohort of young people come in with the same issues, and the same traumas, and within the little time we spend together, we have a huge responsibility to affect positive change and music has been a solid vehicle for that change to happen. Through consistently showing up, both as a facilitator and a participant, before we know it, some goals have been achieved and we're seeing growth, even within the small amount of time we get together. This quarter is usually the toughest in other years, due to becoming fatigued, however, preserving energy and using it at the right times, rather than every single time, has helped a lot in getting to the end comfortably.

RAP N REC / YJ

SUMMARY

Total participants this quarter: 41
All participants between 14 – 17 yrs old



RANGATAHI HIGHLIGHTS



I really like the opportunities of performing in different environments and stages, the healthy competition that pushes for a fun environment, the invaluable safe space accompany by emotional maturity.



The best thing about participating in the Wahine Navigators program was the chance to connect with inspiring wahine, share experiences, and build a sense of sisterhood. The program offered invaluable guidance and tools that empowered me to navigate challenges and embrace my personal growth journey.



I like the connection we have with one another and just how tight everyone is in the space we have, and all the advice they give

Writing exercises, challenges and incorporating groups helped me majorly creatively and helped me to connect more with other creative people.

It is hard to find creative/social spaces where the interactions don't feel forced and I think that is important to think about this in terms of the youth especially as they are still developing their sense of self.

I hope you guys get your funding cause I think this is one of the cases where the collectives is actually worth funding lmao

The people are really supportive and welcoming and create a safe space for people to express and get support from.

MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES



SPOKEN WORD NAVS 15...

CONNECTION. FRESH FACES & SOME
FAMILIAR. FAMILY VIRES, So IF YOU'RE
A STRANGER - PULL UP! PULL UP FOR
A FRESH SIP OF COCONUT WATER, cos
SPOKEN WORD NAVS.. IS REFRESHING.
OPEN AIR. EARS OPEN FOR EMPTY
BELLIES.. cos SPOKEN WORD NAVS
IS ALSO... FOOD NAVS. KITCHEN

CONNOISSEURS FROM THE STREETS,
SO STREET CUISINE IS A MUST HAVE!

HETA BROUGHT THE SNACKS FOX VS
BIG BACKS, BIG BACKS WITH NAT
SLANDER & THE POLITICAL STATE OF
THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE EATING
CORN BEEF LIKE COW EATING COW,
SPOKEN WORD NAVS IS WHERE IT
GOES DOWN! *POSE*



MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES



MORE IMAGES

