

For the period 1 July 2025
to 30 June 2026

nzaee | Educating for Sustainability
Te Mauri o te Taiao

Welcome from the Chairs

Ko Ranginui e tū nei
Ko Papatūānuku e takoto nei
Kia haumanutia ko te tiao kia ora
Kia kumanutia ko te taiao kia mau
Kia tina! Tina! Hui, ē; Tāiki, e!

Tēnā tātou katoa

Reflecting on this reporting period from July 2025 to June 2026, it has once again felt like a year of two halves, with our main funding due to finish at the end of 2025, during a time when there were major changes being made in curriculum development.

NZAEE has received Networks of Expertise (NEX) funding since April 2021. As the main source of funds for our organisation it enables us to offer professional learning and development for teachers and environmental education providers through our website, online webinars and in-person events. With our contract due to end in December 2025, alongside curriculum reviews and consultation on the future of NCEA, we were unsure whether environmental education would remain eligible for funding. This meant planning our work programme and budget around two very different possibilities.

In December, we received welcome confirmation of a new NEX contract from 1 January 2026 to December 2028. However, where our previous funding supported professional learning across all school levels, the new contract focuses specifically on secondary education. This has required us to adapt our delivery while maintaining our wider commitment to environmental education across all stages of learning.

This contract has enabled Becky McCormack to continue with us as the National Learning Manager, and we welcomed experienced secondary teacher and facilitator Lyn Rogers to support with the contract delivery. We were also able to ensure organisational continuity, retaining Sarah Mills for member coordination and administration, and Thea DePetris for local group and networking projects, through membership subscriptions and retained income.

Welcome from the Chairs

Having our team in place meant that we were able to plan and deliver the very successful Tātaiao conference held in October 2026. Although outside this reporting period, planning was a significant focus during terms one and two this year. It was wonderful to see that mahi bring our community together to connect, share and learn.

Many thanks to the work of Becky, Lyn, Sarah and Thea for the expertise and commitment you bring. Having people who have been able to keep across all the curriculum changes and provide thoughtful input to the drafts at each stage has added so much value to the teachers and providers that we represent.

As a National Executive we see directly and hear from our members about the quality and professionalism of the resources, support and advice our contractors provide. We are proud of the standard of our delivery and reporting on our contract, and of the contribution that we are able to make to the wider education sector.

To our National Executive team, our members and partners across the motu, thank you for the time, knowledge and energy you contribute to this kaupapa in your classrooms and communities.

While we continue to navigate uncertainty, we remain grounded in our purpose. Reviewing our mission this year reaffirmed what sits at the heart of NZAEE. The importance of relationships between tangata and te taiao, and our role in strengthening them. Funding and curriculum changes will continue to shape how we work, but our commitment remains to support educators to help young people and their whānau to connect with, understand and care for their local environments.

Ngā manaakitanga

Erana Whaiapu and Paul Murray
NZAEE Co-Chairs
November 2026


Image: Sian Crowley

NZAEE's Strategic Focus

During the reporting year we reviewed the NZAEE strategic canvas, to ensure it continues to capture the organisation's kaupapa, and priorities of our members.

In May 2025, the NZAEE national executive team enjoyed the rare opportunity to mahi kanohi ki te kanohi in Tāmaki Makarau. The focus of our day was to engage in professional development as an executive team regarding Tangata Tiriti practice and application as an organisation, and to use this lens to re-examine our strategic framework.

We were privileged to be led in this training by Jo Wrigley, CE of Go Eco (Waikato Environment Centre). Since 2018, Go Eco has actively developed its organisational and governance frameworks to move beyond tokenism, exploring how operational rules, systems, and environmental projects intersected with colonisation and constitutional transformation (read more about this mahi here).

Over several of our monthly meetings, we reviewed our 2023 Strategic Canvas to test what was developed a few years ago against this learning. We wanted to ensure it captured both our aspirations, and how we approach our mahi in practice.

The conversation was as rich as the outcome. We found that the original document was still aligned, but we adjusted some wording and the format of the canvas to better illustrate the many interconnections in our work and how our values are reflected in our three workstreams, which remain the same.

The full, revised canvas is on the following page, and we have listed the three colour-coded workstreams below as we have continued to structure the reporting in this Annual Review following these elements.

CAPABILITY BUILDING

LOCAL SUPPORT

SECTOR LEADERSHIP

NZAEE Strategic Canvas 2026 Revision

Our vision is that people of Aotearoa are in flourishing and reciprocal relationships with te taiao and with each other.

To achieve this,

NZAEE's mission is to connect and inspire educators, ākonga and communities to learn, collaborate and take action for te taiao

We support a community of educators, with ākonga at the heart of our mahi. The VALUES we bring to our mahi are:

Caring - for each other and te taiao, ensuring a flourishing world for future generations.

Learning - from te taiao, honouring Te Tiriti, recognising diverse knowledge systems, and empowering each other through learning.

Connecting - building real and healthy relationships with te taiao and with each other, and recognising and celebrating these.

Respecting - the rights of everyone to a safe, equitable, and thriving future, amplifying young voices and promoting justice.

When we enact our values in our workstreams, we see:

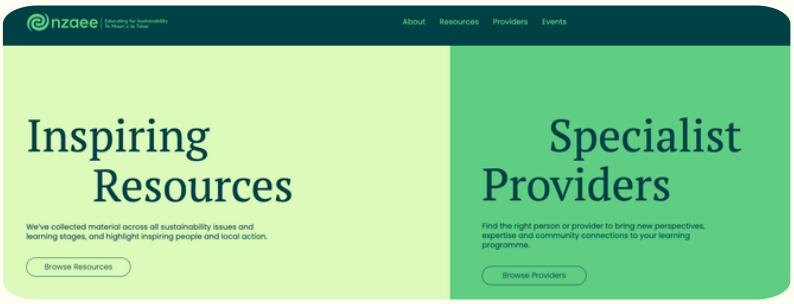
CAPABILITY BUILDING	Educators have access to resources and learning opportunities. Diverse perspectives and voices are showcased on the website content and features, and through the selection and facilitation of webinars. Seasonal resources linked to the maramataka provide regular inspiration.
LOCAL SUPPORT	Educators feel connected and inspired anywhere in Aotearoa. Profiles of local groups and providers connect people on our website, and local groups across the motu are supported to enable kanohi ki te kanohi connection and learning.
SECTOR LEADERSHIP	We provide a respected and united voice for the sector by bringing te taiao to education conversations, and advocating for young people to be part of environmental conversations. We maintain strong, professional connections with wider networks and provide regular information and support to our members so they are aware of sector issues and have a chance to provide input.

Capability Building

Educators have access to resources and learning opportunities. Diverse perspectives and voices are showcased on the website content and features, and through the selection and facilitation of webinars. Seasonal resources linked to the maramataka provide regular inspiration.

Capability building continues to be one of the key areas for delivering on our strategy. In this financial year we have continued to build educator knowledge and confidence through our website resources and stories, regular webinars and newsletters. We also had new projects in 2026 including our secondary education support led by Lyn Rogers, and planning for our national conference in October.

NZAEE Website



Our website is a central place to find support for environmental education, including a wide range of resources, a catalogue of environmental education providers, events and stories.

Our National Learning Manager, Becky McCormack, is an experienced educator who regularly updates the website and works with a range of people to share diverse stories. Since our new website launched in May 2022 we have seen steady growth in new users, while maintaining engagement with regular users.

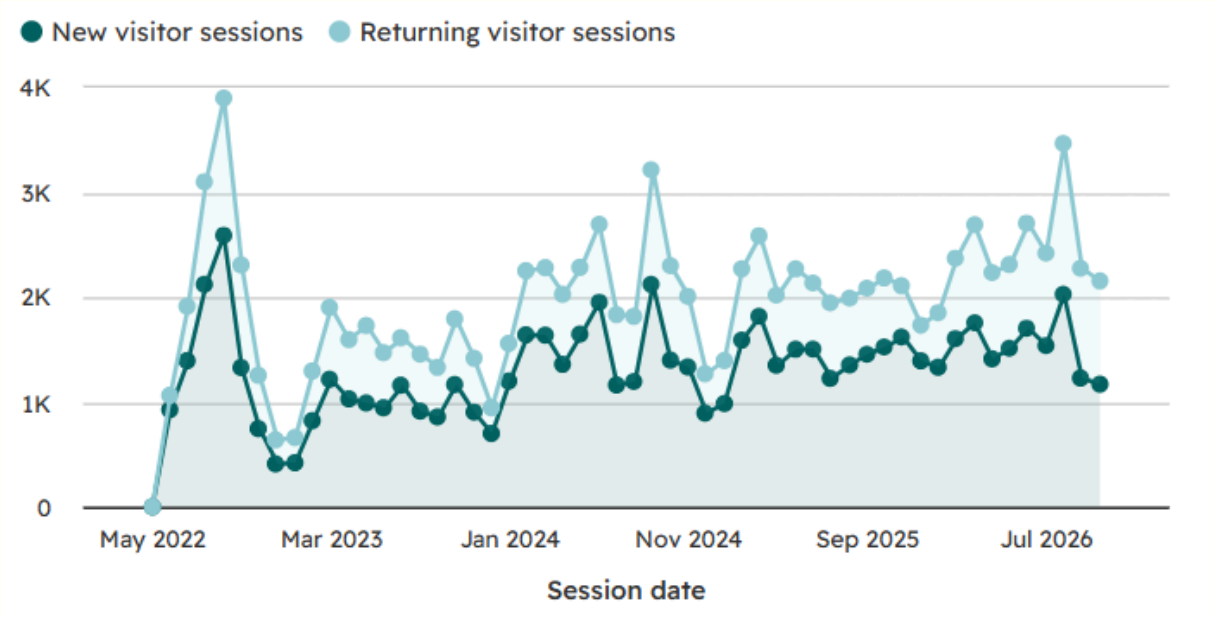
With the recent and ongoing changes to the national curriculum, our work has included curated collections and stories focused on mathematics, literacy and science, including ideas for integrating these into cross-curricular learning at primary, intermediate and secondary levels.

Popular Spotlight articles during this period have included Nature Books, Climate Education case studies, Nature Connection and seasonal collections such as Autumn and Matariki.

NZAEE Website

The 2025 - 2026 financial year has seen an increase in website users, compared to the previous year, with peaks related to seasonal newsletters and webinars. Our national conferences in October 2022, 2024, and 2026 led to peaks in user numbers and there is an expected drop in numbers over the summer holidays each year.

NZAEE Website Users May 2022 - October 2026



In this reporting period we had **32,000 website users** with higher engagement than usual during the summer holiday period. This is partly due to increased engagement with curriculum review work published in our News and Submissions section. It is also partly due to AI search tools registering as 'users', so we have filtered by NZ-only users to get a more accurate picture:

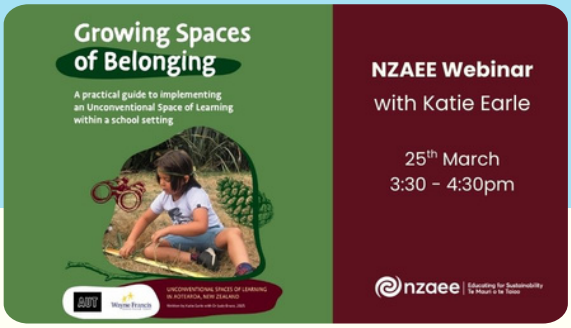
14,300 website users from NZ with an average engagement time of **1 minute 20 seconds**.

Resources landing page: 3,300 views **Resource catalogue:** 2,300 views

Providers catalogue: 1,800 views **Events:** 2,000 views

News and Submissions: 3,600 views

Webinars



We host free webinars throughout the year, with a range of topics and guest speakers including teachers and providers.

All of our webinars are recorded and made available in our Professional Learning catalogue so that educators can access the content when it suits them. Across Term Four 2025 to Term Two 2026 we offered six webinars.

Webinar	Registered	Attended Live	Video Views
Uplifting the Vision of Young People Angie Rayner and Sian Carvell (Nov 2025)	55	21	42
Secondary Sustainability Education: Exploring Change and Support in 2026 (February 2026)	55	27	42
Analysing the Draft Curriculum (Yr 0 - 10) with an Environmental Education Lens (February 2026)	68	28	78
Authentic Integration of Sustainability Education for Secondary Learners (March 2026)	40	15	14
Growing Spaces of Belonging (March 2026) Katie Earle	37	13	31
Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Changes (June 2026)	36	19	16
TOTALS	**291**	**123**	**223**

These numbers are similar to the previous year with ongoing engagement from educators.

Vimeo analytics for this reporting period:

508 views, 237 unique viewers, total time watched 83 hours

Total hours watched is lower than the previous period, but unique viewer numbers are similar.

Newsletters: Seasonal & Curriculum



Our termly newsletters highlight new resources and seasonal learning ideas.

These are sent just before the start of each school term and we receive a lot of positive feedback about how useful they are, for both teachers and environmental educators.

Our newsletter subscriber numbers have stayed steady when compared with the previous period, as highlighted in the table below. Engagement is indicated by email opens and clicks, with the most popular items including our seasonal events and new resource collections, along with links to register for upcoming webinars or local events.

Date	Delivered to	Open Rate	Click-Through Rate
2024 Term 3 July	985	49% 475 people	28% 133 people
2024 Term 4 Oct	973	48% 467 people	25% 115 people
2025 Term 1 Jan	1,045	42% 438 people	30% 118 people
2025 Term 2 April	1,087	23% 250 people	51% 127 people
2025 Term 3 July	1,044	42% 440 people	28% 125 people
2025 Term 4 Oct	1,046	51% 533 people	20% 105 people
2026 Term 1 Jan	1,026	49% 504 people	26% 132 people
2026 Term 2 April	1,073	39% 418 people	27% 113 people

"The newsletters are great for seeing examples of what other people are doing in other areas and what's working for people. The whole seasonal alignment is wonderful too."

Curriculum Updates

We have continued to review and share curriculum and assessment changes and have a specific newsletter to provide interested educators with updates (sign up here). Although this year most of the updates have been included in our general newsletter and within webinars. Previous newsletters can be found in our **News and Publications** section.

Secondary Education Support



Authentic Integration of Sustainability Education for Secondary Learners

Thursday 12th March 4 - 5pm

Our 2026 NEX contract is specifically focused on supporting secondary educators with professional learning and resources.

We have pivoted our Networks of Expertise (NEX) support based on our new contract which started in January 2026. This has a focus on supporting implementation of curriculum and assessment for Yr 11 - 13, with room to also support teachers with learning in Yr 9 - 10.

This new contract allowed us to bring on experienced teacher and Education for Sustainability (EfS) facilitator Lyn Rogers. In previous years we have not had the funding or facilitation capacity to support senior secondary teachers, so this has been a great opportunity to build a network of teachers and respond to the need for dedicated EfS support.

The key activities during the first half of the year have included:

- **Creating a national online group of EfS secondary teachers**
- **Offering regular Zoom drop-in sessions to connect and support teachers**
- **Individual planning and assessment support (online and in person)**
- **Attending and supporting regional secondary teacher events**
- **Webinars focused on the changes to secondary curriculum**
- **Shared resources to support the EfS standards and junior programmes**

Our EfS Secondary Teacher group now has 35 members from schools across twelve regions. We also have a growing database of secondary educators across the country, to help us map where and what is happening in the Education for Sustainability space.

We look forward to providing ongoing support as we help schools and teachers navigate the uncertainty related to changes to curriculum and assessment.

National Conference 2026



Our first in person conference in eight years was in Tāmaki Makaurau from October 5 - 7.

Although this event falls outside this reporting period, the planning started in late 2025 and was a significant highlight for our organisation this year. We would like to extend our thanks to all of the conference organisers, presenters and delegates, who all helped make it an amazing event.

TĀTAIAO

3 Keynotes and panels
31 Concurrent sessions
170 Delegates
Sessions included field trips, research, workshops, rangatahi presenters and case studies from educators.

"A highlight was getting to meet so many passionate people in the sector and learn from some of the inspiring sessions. It also helped restore my energy for this mahi."

Feedback collected after the conference (survey size = 60)

4.7 / 5 average rating for conference quality and range of speakers

4.8 / 5 average rating for organisation, venue and communication

Many participants valued the opportunity to reconnect and spend time outside, with highlights including the rangatahi panel and field trips.

"The energy, organisation and depth and breadth of topics was so inspiring. Thank you for such a wonderful 3 days packed with learning and aroha."



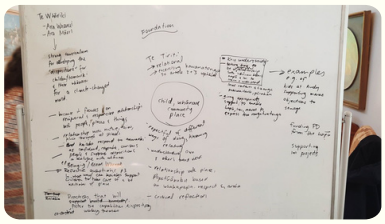
Support for Climate Change Education

Climate change education resources and support are one of the most common requests from educators in Aotearoa NZ, as our schools and communities experience climate-related events and seek meaningful understanding and action. NZAEE has supported the two projects below by 'holding funds on behalf' of the groups managing the project. We do this for projects that align with NZAEE's kaupapa by agreeing to a Memorandum of Understanding to outlines the roles of each party. When NZAEE administers funding, we 'ringfence' the funds that are managed on behalf.

Climate Change Education Guidelines for Aotearoa NZ

In 2025, some supporters of the Aotearoa Climate Change Education Coalition (ACEC) formed a Working Group to develop Climate Change Education Guidelines for schools across Aotearoa New Zealand. A draft of the Guidelines was distributed for consultation, nationally and internationally, including an in-depth review by 20 committed climate educators at a three-day hui in Wellington.





In August 2026, the Guidelines' **Dispositions and Capabilities** were published on the NZAEE website, with further feedback gathered at our national conference. The website will soon be updated to include the revisions. The ACEC Working Group is now looking ahead to the next phase of development, with a priority of creating practical, classroom-ready resources and case studies to support the implementation of the guidelines. If you are interested in contributing please get in touch with thea@nzaee.org.nz.

Climate Change Learning Programme

NZAEE continues to host the **Climate Change Learning Programme** (CCLP) on our website, with teachers completing a short registration process to access the resources. There are currently about **230 teachers from about 180 schools** who have access to the programme and the resource page continues to receive hundreds of views each month.

During this reporting period some highlights for this project have included the launch of the **CCLP website**, which shares the background and intent of the programme; articles and stories from those participating and using the programme – children and young people, teachers, and facilitators; programme evaluation; and partners and supporters.

We have also worked on a collaboration between NZAEE (NEX funding) and the CCLP to contract secondary educators to produce resources to support secondary schools. While the CCLP is aimed at Years 7-8, it can also be used in a Years 9-10 setting. However, due to its comprehensive and integrated nature, participants requested support for implementation at the junior secondary level. These resources will be shared in early December 2026.

Local Support

Educators feel connected and inspired anywhere in Aotearoa. Profiles of local groups and providers connect people on our website, and local groups across the motu are supported to enable kanohi ki te kanohi connection and learning.

NZAEE provides funding and support for local events and collaborative groups.

Our team of contractors provide support for local initiatives, by building connections and sharing examples of local collaboration. In 2026 Thea DePetris has been engaging with local groups and networks, to help inform updates to our website and ensure educators can access local support when needed. Outcomes have included changes to our **Local Groups** website section and plans for a webinar in December, to share stories of success from across the motu.

We have two sources of funding available to support local events:

Networks of Expertise (NEX) funding, which during this reporting period changed from more flexible support in 2025 to a specific focus on secondary support in 2026. With the flexible funding in 2025 we supported teacher PLD in Tāmaki Makaurau, Ōtautahi, Wairarapa, Waikato, Rotorua and the Kāpiti Coast. In Term One 2026 we supported Porirua kaiako to attend professional learning about climate change.



NZAEE Capitation funding is provided by allocating 30% of our membership fees to member initiatives. In 2025 we started using a contestable fund that groups across the motu could apply for, and this has continued into 2026. Projects need to align with the NZAEE strategic objectives and may include professional learning and development, networking events, community events, resource development, and building local collaboration. This year we provided some funding to support Greening Taupō Day and look forward to hearing from educators about future events.



We have also been working with local groups who were previously NZAEE branches, to provide administrative support for local events, and in some cases hold funds on behalf of those groups.

Local Event numbers for July 2025 - June 2026:

400 Educators
18 Events across 10 Locations

Sector Connection and Leadership

We provide a respected and united voice for the sector by bringing te taiao to education conversations, and advocating for young people to be part of environmental conversations.

We maintain strong, professional connections with wider networks and provide regular information and support to our members so they are aware of sector issues and have a chance to provide input.

Advocacy

We engage with a range of kaupapa that have an impact on environmental education, including submissions and wider advocacy for educators.

Our NZAEE Advocacy Subcommittee includes Cami Carty-Melis, Jocelyn Papprill, Chris Eames, Katrine Pringle, Bridget Palmer and Almaz Berenike Bergk, with contractor support from Becky McCormack.

Over the past 12 months, the Advocacy Subcommittee have continued working to ensure that environmental education and sustainability remain visible and valued within our education system. We have submitted on a variety of consultations including NCEA reforms, proposed curriculums, and other changes affecting our education system.

- Proposal to replace NCEA (September 2025)
- Phase 1 - 4 draft curriculum feedback
- Phase 5 curriculum feedback (senior subjects Yr 11 - 13)

You can find copies of our past submissions and member newsletters in the **News and Publications** section of our website.

In preparation for the 2026 general election, we also submitted a series of questions to political parties, as an opportunity for them to share their positions and commitments to environmental education, sustainability, mātauranga Māori, and the future in Aotearoa. Their responses were shared across our social media platforms.

Sector Connection and Leadership

Member Support

The 2025–2026 period marks our second year using NZAEE's updated membership structure. The system continues to work smoothly, making our membership tiers a clear way to recognise how diverse our network is.

As of November 2026, NZAEE has **206 active members in total**, broken down as follows:

- **Educator Bracket:** 94 members
- **Partner Bracket:** 89 members
- **Supporter Bracket:** 23 members

Total income from memberships for the financial year reached **$8,305.14**. This revenue directly supports our core membership services as well as the Capitation Fund. Members can apply to the Capitation Fund to run local Professional Learning and Development (PLD) sessions or educational events for educators in their region. If you have event ideas or questions about financial backing, please feel free to reach out to Sarah.

NZAEE remains dedicated to offering key resources and services that members rely on for ongoing professional development and connection. This includes regular updates on organisational initiatives, webinars, research projects, and conference planning, as well as access to educational tools and networking opportunities across our regional and national networks.

Our communication channels have shown strong engagement throughout the year. Membership emails are our main way of sharing important updates and news. Over the past year, these emails achieved an impressive 52% open rate, showing consistent interest and active participation across our community.

We'd like to thank all 206 members across the Supporter, Educator, and Partner tiers. Your ongoing subscriptions and involvement provide the vital support needed to keep NZAEE’s mission and core activities going.

As 2027 isn't a conference year, NZAEE plans to focus extra time on direct member engagement and check-ins. We'll share more details about these member check-ins early in the new year.

NZAEE National Executive 2025-26

The progress in the reporting period would not have been achievable without the time and expertise of our appointed National Executive members and the experts that we have been able to contract.

National Executive (elected and appointed) in November 2025:

Erana Whaiapu	Co-Chair
Paul Murray	Co-Chair
Chris Montgomerie	Treasurer
Cami Carty-Melis	
Katrine Pringle	
Almaz Berenike Bergk	
Bridget Palmer	
Sujata Rajagopal (retired June 2026)	

Contractors to NZAEE:

Becky McCormack	National Learning Manager
Sarah Mills	Networking Coordinator and Administration
Thea DePetris	Local Support and Evaluation Lead
Lyn Rogers	Secondary PLD Kaiārahi

ORGANISATION DETAILS:

New Zealand Association for Environmental Education

Address:	34 Hamilton Rd, Hataitai 6021, Wellington
Charitable Trust	CC37847
Incorporated Society	245189

www.nzaee.org.nz



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Te Mauri o te Taiao

New Zealand Association for Environmental Education

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