

WĀNAKA FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

TE KAUPĒKA RAU

PRESENTED BY



IMPACT REPORT 2025

festivalofcolour.co.nz



The circus show was absolutely fantastic. The Crystal Palace. The waste reduction initiatives. It inspired me and excited me!!! Thank you, don't ever stop.

2025 audience member



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E KOE KOE TE TUI,
E KĒTEKĒTE TE KĀKĀ,
E KŪKŪ TE KERERU

The tūi squawks,
the kaka chatters,
the kereru coos
It takes all kinds of people



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The joy and enthusiasm of the audience, performers and volunteers - all of which contributed to a really special vibe. Never felt it to that level before at a Festival of Colour event.

2025 audience member



TRUST OVERVIEW

The Southern Lake Arts Festival Trust (SLAFT) is a registered charitable trust based in Wānaka. Since 2005, the Trust has run the biennial Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau, the only multi-disciplinary professional arts festival in the region and one of the leading regional arts festivals in the country. SLAFT also presents the stand-alone Aspiring Conversations festival of ideas and kōrero.

We have a strong sense of place and season, with the sharply vivid colours of autumn around the lake, the warm days and the chilly nights, and the relationship of people to the hills and mountains, the rivers and lakes. We have deep roots in our community, who have backed us from the start and regularly share with us a sense of ownership and pride.

The Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau continues to benefit from enduring partnerships with key funders whose sustained investment underpins the success and longevity of the event. Long-standing support from organisations such as the Otago Community Trust, Central Lakes Trust, Creative New Zealand and Milford Asset Management, as well as partnerships including local businesses, reflects strong alignment with the festival's commitment to delivering arts experiences that support cultural depth and community

wellbeing. These multi-year relationships not only provide essential financial stability but also allow for long-term planning, innovation, and greater community reach. Their backing reinforces the festival's reputation as a trusted and high-impact cultural event that delivers consistent social, artistic and economic returns. We also received generous and engaged support from the Lloyd Morrison Trust that enabled the festival to confidently proceed for 2025, and we continue to give our thanks to them.

And our loyal community of individuals, our Creative Circle, Patrons and Benefactors Creative Circle supporters not only make our festivals viable, they confirm what we know to be true: Wānaka is a place where the arts thrive.

Our heartfelt thanks to our community, partners, funders, collaborators and, of course, the extraordinary artists - it's you who make it all possible. Together, we've created 20 years of unforgettable arts experiences.



VISION

South Island’s premier Arts Festival, enriching our Southern Lakes’ communities through world-class arts, transformative experiences and ideas.



MISSION

The Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust delivers diverse and captivating top-quality arts and ideas events that entertain, challenge, and celebrate our people, place and culture, fostering a deep sense of engagement and appreciation among our audiences.



VALUES

Manaakitanga
Wellbeing

We welcome and care for all - locals and visitors alike.

Whanaungatanga
Relationships & Inclusion

We build strong community connections and meaningful impressions.

Kaitiakitanga
Sustainability

We protect and respect our environment.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

We continue to live in strange and challenging times... and right now the arts are more essential than ever, reminding us that we are not alone and that we share a universal human experience.

As unfathomable wars rage on, global temperatures rise and we struggle to find authenticity in the onslaught of misinformation and as the global political landscape grows increasingly uncertain, community connection and solidarity have never been more important.

We acknowledge the immense suffering of many, both near and far. Yet, we recognise our responsibility to celebrate the power of art to challenge, provoke, and inspire change.

The 2025 Festival looked to the horizon. We leaned into difficult conversations, presenting sessions that engaged with pressing social and political issues, from climate change to human rights and amplifying voices that call for justice and equity. Pieces like these serve as a testament to the arts’ ability to not only to reflect society but to actively help shape its future, harnessing creativity as a force for positive change.

We delved deep into themes of identity, belonging and self-expression, inviting our audiences to explore diverse perspectives and personal narratives. We honoured the richness of cultural diversity with works that celebrate various ethnicities, languages, religions as well as our own rich cultural history. We emphasised the festival’s commitment to inclusivity and the importance of deepening our understanding of living in a multicultural and bicultural land.

In 2025, we celebrated the unique heritage of Wānaka and its region, drawing inspiration from local legends, history, traditions and rituals. These sessions payed homage to the stories and events that have shaped our community, grounding our festival with a strong sense of place and identity.

We continue to marvel at the extraordinary talent of our artists who travel from near and far to share their hard-earned craft with us all. We acknowledge that it takes huge courage and dedication to create and present their work. We emphasise the value of shared experience to our collective wellbeing, presenting events that lift our spirits, spark joy, laughter, dancing and a sense of reinvigoration.

Our audiences immersed themselves in the 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour, not just observing, but participating, connecting with an open heart and mind, and embracing the opportunity to be transformed.

Sophie Kelly
Artistic Director

REFLECTIONS

Just a BIG THANK YOU to you all. I am inspired, uplifted, amazed and grateful. These were outstanding shows.

2025 audience member



Fabulous vibe in town and meeting other festival goers, and of course the talent, thoroughly enjoyed the events we got to.

2025 audience member

CHAIR'S REPORT

The eleventh Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau was the highlight of another successful year for the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust. We offered a fantastic programme in 2025, attracting full houses, positive feedback and ever-increasing engagement across our whole community. The festival is very much at the heart of this community and this region.

A special thank you to our naming rights sponsor for the Festival, Milford Asset Management, and to the Lloyd Morrison Trust. Thank you also to our Patrons, Benefactors, Creative Circle supporters and Sponsors, many of whom support both the Festival of Colour and Aspiring Conversations and who see the value of each of these festivals, providing them with an annual sponsorship presence.

We have continued successful partnerships with our key grant partners, Creative New Zealand, Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust and Queenstown Lakes District Council. These four organisations act as our cornerstone funders along with the valued partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Many thanks to our Trustees, who all give their time voluntarily, and to our valued Trust Advisors. Thank you, too, to our wonderful community of festival goers – you are why we do what we do. We look forward to delivering another fantastic Aspiring Conversations festival of ideas in March 2026 and the twelfth Festival of Colour in April of 2027.

Alistair King
Co-Chair – Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENT

It’s been a privilege to lead the 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau and to finish my tenure as Executive Director on such a high note. This year saw our strongest community engagement yet and reflected the power of long-term planning, world-class programming, and meaningful connection.

I want to acknowledge our small, dedicated team whose care and commitment brought this Festival to life. We extended our reach through Pay it Forward ticketing, free events, community partnerships and stronger connections with our growing, diverse community - all while celebrating the essential role of the arts to our collective wellbeing.

My thanks to the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust Board for their support, and to our generous sponsors – especially Milford Asset Management, the Lloyd Morrison Trust, and our many local business partners - whose backing made this success possible.

The results speak for themselves, with strong audience numbers, artist participation, and clear regional impact. These achievements belong to everyone who contributed - artists, donor supporters, volunteers, and audiences alike.

Thank you for the trust and belief in this kaupapa. I look forward to seeing the festival flourish in the years ahead.



Ruth Heath
Executive Director



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S COMMENT

From the magical coming together of our inaugural dawn plunge to open the festival, through to Tōrua weaving colour and movement through the CBD, and the riotous opening night with Canadian circus stars Cirque Alfonse, the 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau was a true celebration of creativity, connection and community.

Our eleventh festival brought together an extraordinary line-up of artists from across Aotearoa and beyond, offering audiences a rich programme of theatre, music, kōrero, dance and interactive arts.

This year we were especially proud of the way the festival deepened its reach – engaging schools, delivering our largest and most ambitious community programme to date, and creating spaces where people of all ages could participate, be inspired, and share in the magic of live performance. The energy of the week was felt not only in our theatres and venues but also throughout the town, with thousands of visitors adding to the buzz in the Wānaka CBD and giving local businesses a welcome boost.

The success of the festival is only possible through the dedication and generosity of so many. My heartfelt thanks to the incredible artists, our sponsors, patrons and benefactors, the hardworking festival team, our wonderful volunteers, and of course our audiences – your enthusiasm and support bring the festival to life.

We are immensely proud of what was achieved in 2025 and excited to carry this momentum forward as we continue to grow the Wānaka Festival of Colour as one of Aotearoa’s truly special arts events.

E koekoe e tūī, e ketekete te kākā, e kūkū te kererū.

The tūī squawks, the kākā chatters, the kererū coos – it takes all kinds of people.



Sophie Kelly
Artistic Director



OUR FESTIVAL

*Congratulations on a stellar week!
I could wax poetic about the diverse
and inspiring content... thank you on
behalf of the arts-loving residents of
the Upper Clutha.*

Sponsor and audience member



29 MARCH–6 APRIL 2025

NINE DAYS OF ARTS AND IDEAS, EMBRACING THE EXTRAORDINARY

The 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau presented a bold, diverse, and inspiring programme spanning theatre, music, dance, visual arts, kōrero, circus, comedy and site-specific works. Our community was treated to 84 events across nine days, presented in indoor and outdoor venues in Wānaka, Hāwea, Bannockburn and Queenstown.

Our kaupapa was underpinned by Te Kaupeka Rau, our name gifted by Kāi Tahu which references seasonal change. We reinforced our commitment to inclusive and courageous storytelling, cycles of creativity, and meaningful engagement with tangata whenua, diverse voices and local communities.

The Festival of Colour is very much Wānaka's festival, and more than 120 volunteers joined this year, helping with everything from ushering to ticket scanning to driving our performers to and from Queenstown Airport. Our volunteers truly make our festivals possible, and create the kind of intergenerational, community-driven energy that makes a place special.

For the first time, we launched the festival with a Dawn Plunge, which was followed by our largest Community Whānau Day yet, a vibrant town-centre celebration. Other new initiatives for 2025 included our high-profile Ambassador Programme, featuring Sir Sam Neill, Suzanne Ellison, Prue Wallis and Mark Verbiest; new carbon tracking and waste minimisation strategies, achieving 77.4% landfill diversion and a near-zero waste Community Day; a new festival waiata, Ko mātou tēnei te rōpū o Wānaka Moana; daily mihi whakatau to acknowledge mana whenua and provide a warm welcome to performers, speakers and other guests; as well as our Pay It Forward scheme, which supported access for individuals experiencing financial hardship.



VALUING THE ARTS

Our 2025 festival delivered significant value to the Upper Clutha region, both social and economic. With strong growth in attendance, deep community engagement and substantial visitor spend, the festival continues to serve as a powerful regional catalyst by supporting local businesses, fostering wellbeing and enhancing Wānaka’s reputation as a creative and connected place to live and visit.

This year’s Festival attracted 8,624 ticketed attendees (up 6% from 2023) and an estimated 7000 attendees at free events - nearly double the previous Festival. Importantly, 84% of attendees were local, up 13% from 2023, due primarily to the increase in the size and scope of our Community Whanau Day, reinforcing the Festival’s strong roots in the community.

Overall, the 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau generated an estimated net regional benefit of more than \$2.19 million. Our events also delivered extensive value through supporting local businesses and suppliers and increased foot traffic during the festival period.

Online, our festival garnered more than 230,000 social media impressions and 41,609 unique website visits, while our printed festival brochure was distributed widely throughout the Upper Clutha and beyond. Sponsors and funders benefited not only from high visibility and brand alignment but also from direct connection with audiences who value creativity, sustainability and community.



KEY STATS

16,000

More than 16,000 total attendance

\$2.19m

Net regional economic benefit estimated at \$2.19 million

5.4

5.4 nights average length of stay for visitors

85%

85% of survey respondents said the festival makes the region a better place to live

120

More than 120 volunteers

230,000+

230,000+ people engaged with our digital content



OUR 2025 PROGRAMME

In 2025, the Wānaka Festival of Colour embraced the extraordinary. The line-up celebrated cultural diversity and Wānaka’s unique heritage, and invited the community to celebrate the arts, connect with whānau and friends and discover something new.

The festival started with a 7am Dawn Plunge into the waters of Lake Wānaka, co-delivered with WAI Wānaka. At least 30 brave souls joined us to celebrate water, place and wellbeing. Our free Community Whānau Day featured a full day of entertainment at Wānaka’s Dinosaur Park, as well as at other locations in the town centre and along the lakefront. The day featured kapa haka, performances by students from local schools and MINT Charitable Trust, Capoeira, Filipino and Japanese performers, interactive art-making, international food stalls, aerial performances from Circus Space Central Otago and Silk & Circus, workshops, street theatre, Art in the Park with MINT Charitable Trust, Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust and Wānaka Primary, and a packed open mic night at the Pacific Crystal Palace, presented by Creative Juices Wānaka.

Our ticketed programme showcased two international acts. Award-winning Canadian circus troupe Cirque Alfonse came to town with their latest show ANIMAL, while the sensational Australian cabaret An Evening Without Kate Bush had the audience in the Pacific Crystal Palace on their feet.

For classical fans, highlights included Chamber Music New Zealand’s Reimagining Mozart; Subtle Dances, a spellbinding fusion of contemporary dance and live music by BalletCollective Aotearoa, featuring choreography by Loughlan Prior, Sarah Knox, and Cameron McMillan, accompanied by NZTrio He Taonga Wairere; and Irish Airs & Graces with composer and guitarist Dave Flynn and the New Zealand String Quartet.

Our audiences loved the range of theatre offerings, including Upu, curated by award-winning poet Grace Iwashita-Taylor, which celebrated Māori and Pasifika literature. Be Like Billy? was a cabaret tribute by Rutene Spooner to his childhood hero and the greatest Māori showman, and In Other Words starred Jennifer Ward-Lealand and Michael Hurst in a poignant exploration of Alzheimer’s and the connection between love and music. And Trick of the Light Theatre returned to our festival to present Suitcase Show, a whimsical journey through shadow play and storytelling.

Comedy took centre stage with Te Radar’s Cookbookery, an amusing dive into quirky Kiwi cookbooks, and Wilson Dixon’s hilarious show Love Don’t Live Here Anymore, You Do. Musical highlights included indie icons The Veils, Noir Folk artist Jazmine Mary, Delaney Davidson’s signature country noir, and Battle Chorus, a rowdy group sing-off led by Jason Te Mete and Rutene Spooner. Nathan Joe’s Dirty Passports also returned after a sellout event in 2024, spotlighting Aotearoa’s finest BIPOC storytellers and musicians. In our end of year survey, several respondents noted the “diversity” in our programme, citing Dirty Passports in particular, in answer to the question, “Please tell us what you enjoyed the most about Wānaka Festival of Colour 2025”.

Our 2025 programme was our biggest and most diverse yet, and audience feedback described the festival as uplifting, inspiring and an essential local asset. We look forward to continuing to bring a wide range of arts and ideas to our community in the years to come.

KEY STATS

84

84 events presented over nine days

12

12 venues

300

More than 300 artists and performers from Aotearoa and abroad

9/10

Audience satisfaction rated 9/10

17%

17% of attendees were first-time festival goers - welcome to the whānau!

1

1 book launch



ASPIRING CONVERSATIONS

With twelve sessions, our Aspiring Conversations again delivered a range of thought-provoking discussions and kōrero with notable guests exploring a range of topics. Audiences were invited to gather, listen, discuss and reflect on the issues that affect us all in our community and the world at large, as well as to meet with some of the speakers and have books signed by authors at the PaperPlus book stall.

This year’s Conversations included a book launch, with Ruth Shaw introducing her brand-new memoir *Three Wee Bookshops at the End of the World* – the line for the book signing table was long!

Our speakers delved into poverty (Poverty By Design with investigative journalist Rebecca Macfie and researcher/ writer Max Rashbrooke), war reporting (Breakfast with Papers with journalists Lisette Reymer, Susie Ferguson and Mike McRoberts) and the state of the Treaty of Waitangi (Tearing Up the Treaty with ActionStation’s Kassie Hartendorp, Auckland University Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond and Otago University Professor Michael Stevens).

Many of the Aspiring Conversations were chaired by Radio NZ’s Kathryn Ryan, whose experience, warmth and wit added depth to each discussion.

Foodies enjoyed a foraging workshop with wild plant expert Peter Langlands, while young readers headed to the Waterfall Equestrian Centre to join writer Rachael King for a reading from *The Grimmelings*, which is set on a horse riding stables by a beautiful South Island lake. And the legendary Topp Twins not only discussed their memoir, *Untouchable Girls*, but they treated the audience to a musical performance that was as moving as it was unforgettable.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

You may not be sure of yourself, but there's an honesty and vulnerability to that, which your audience will respond to. Learn who you are as a performer.

Jazmine Mary, to Music workshop students



FREE EVENTS

The arts are for everyone. To ensure no-one in our community misses out on getting involved with the Wānaka Festival of Colour Te Kaupeka Rau our programme of free events has grown with every festival. In 2025 we offered 28 free of charge performances, the most-ever for the Festival of Colour.

This included two free gigs in the Pacific Crystal Palace: indie-folk pop duo Ersha Island, featuring Chinese-Pākehā siblings and classically-trained musicians Dani and Tee Hao-Aickin and Fiona & The Glow, the new indie rock project from Wānaka's own Fiona McMartin.

Our Community Whanau Day was entirely free of charge and more than 7000 people headed into central Wānaka to take in a full day of performances and workshops and enjoy five food stalls run by members of our region's Mexican, Japanese, Argentinian, Brazilian and Filipino communities.



PAY IT FORWARD

This year saw the introduction of our new Pay It Forward initiative. A collaboration with Community Link Upper Clutha, Pay It Forward offered festival-goers the opportunity to gift tickets to community members who otherwise might not have been able to attend ticketed events. Thanks to the generosity of our amazing community, we were able to gift 70 tickets. Recipients represented a wide range of locals, from young families, to over 65s, to solo parents. Family-friendly events were particularly in demand. Feedback from Community Link Upper Clutha noted that "recipients were really surprised and grateful.. this was a really successful initiative that brought some joy and shared the festival with a whole different demographic."



SCHOOLS

Our Trust is committed to offering the kind of up-close arts and educational experiences our tamariki and rangatahi do not normally have access to living in a rural community. More than 2230 students participated in the 2025 Wānaka Festival of Colour Schools Programme with pupils from Hāwea Flat School, Makarora Primary School, Tarras Schools, Te Kura O Take Kārara, Wānaka Primary School, Te Kura O Tititea Mount Aspiring College and the homeschool community participating in performances, workshops and talks.

Workshops included music-making and songwriting with Jazmine Mary, instrument crafting with Davey’s One Man Skiffle Band and a clown workshop with Fraser Hooper, who spent more than a decade as the clown tutor at The National School for Circus Arts in London. And, celebrated children’s author Rachel King worked with English students on their writing.

Īhaka Martyn presented He Māori?, a one-man show exploring identity with a mix of stand-up, waiata and theatre, to senior secondary school students, while the exquisite puppetry and storytelling of the award-winning children’s theatre company Birdlife Productions’ Aya & the Butterfly was a heartwarming tale of transformation for young school students.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

This year’s festival saw new and strengthened partnerships with a range of not-for-profit organisations and community groups.

WAI Wānaka, who work to accelerate local action for freshwater, helped us by delivering morning tea and offering support for our inaugural Dawn Plunge; the MINT Charitable Trust team, who empower intellectually disabled individuals, returned once again to perform for our Community Whānau Day and joined native habitat restoration advocates Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust to run an interactive art stall for our community day; Welcoming Communities Queenstown collaborated with our team to bring the international food stalls, which represented some of the region’s migrant groups, to our Community Whanau Day; Wānaka Wastebusters assisted with our sustainability and waste reduction initiatives; and Community Link Upper Clutha worked with us on the Pay It Forward initiative.

Wānaka is a community that cares and it was a pleasure to keep moving forward with the festival’s deepening commitment to wellbeing, inclusivity, environmental responsibility and cultural celebration.

KEY STATS

28

28 free events

7,000

More than 7,000 people attended our Community Whānau Day

70

70 free tickets distributed through Pay It Forward scheme by Community Link Upper Clutha

5

Food stalls representing the cuisine of 5 countries

2,230

More than 2,230 tamariki and rangatahi took part in our Schools Programme

7

7 schools, including the home-school community



SUSTAINABILITY

The Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust has developed a waste minimisation plan, including targets for specific waste stream reduction, to ensure our events are run sustainably.

In 2025 initiatives for reducing emissions included sharing performers with the Dunedin Arts Festival which cut transport emissions from performer travel, supporting volunteers with carpooling and encouraging active transport and ride-sharing to our events.

Our targeted waste reduction initiatives included reducing our printed programme run by 30% and creating signage and tee shirts that are designed to be reused in the future. We also increased communication around sustainability / kaitiakitanga through all of our channels, including on our website and in newsletters, messaging in artist and speaker itineraries and promotion of the climate conscious touring plan created by Trick of The Light theatre company.

We aimed for zero waste from our community day. We set-up a waste station facilitated by students from Mount Aspiring College, who did dish washing runs all day to and from the Lake Wānaka Centre. We borrowed the SUCfree cup tree for mugs and hired all the cutlery, plates and bowls needed for our food vendors.

To ensure comprehensive recycling, we set up waste stations at the Pacific Crystal Palace, Lake Wānaka Centre and all satellite venues to separate glass, paper, cans, cardboard and food waste, ensuring they were properly processed. Over the nine days of the 2025 festival, 77% of our waste was diverted from landfill through recycling and composting.

And, finally, our Technical Manager used a bicycle for all of his transportation!



KEY STATS

77%

77% of waste diverted from landfill

30%

Our targeted waste reduction initiatives included reducing our printed programme run by 30%

82

82 people participated in the inaugural Dawn Plunge



AMBASSADORS



Prue Wallis

As a co-founder of the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust 20 years ago, I’ve seen firsthand how the arts can transform a community. I’m proud to support the Festival as an Ambassador. I have watched it inspire, connect and enrich our community while fostering a love of the arts for future generations.



Sir Sam Neill

I am delighted to now be an Ambassador for the Wānaka Festival of Colour. This festival is a celebration of everything that makes us wonderfully human - including music, theatre, dance and those moments of connection that stay with us long after the curtain falls. The Arts can inspire, challenge and even enlighten us – and have the capacity to bring us all a little closer together. I am very happy to be a little part of the Festival of Colour and its vision of bringing the extraordinary to life in one of the most Beautiful corners of the world.



Suzanne Ellison

Wānaka, Hāwea, Tāhuna and the tuawhenua / inland areas are places that call to Kāi Tahu; we want to be part of the history and whakapapa of the land and to feel the same winds that our tupuna felt when they lived and moved in these areas. I love that the Festival has embraced that dimension of Kāi Tahu’s enduring presence across the tuawhenua / inland areas and has looked for ways to creatively express that history and explore both historic and contemporary understandings of being Kāi Tahu in this southern, inland place. It has provided a platform for expression of who we are. Naia te mihi ki a koutou.



Mark Verbiest

I love the vibrancy and fun that the arts bring to our community —without them, life feels less rich. The festivals create a buzz that energises Wānaka and introduces us to diverse, thought-provoking experiences. As an Ambassador, I’m proud to support something that enriches our community so deeply in multiple ways, especially seeing how it inspires young people and brings joy and connection to everyone.



PATRONS, BENEFACTORS & CREATIVE CIRCLE

Our heartfelt thanks to our Creative Circle supporters, our Benefactors and our Patrons. Without you, our festivals would simply not be possible.

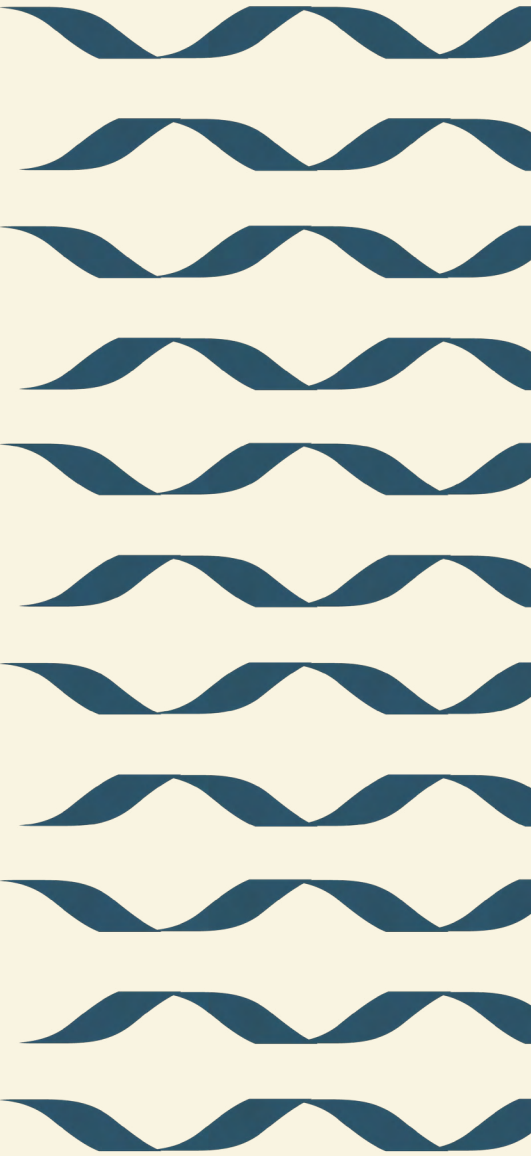
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- Many thanks to these donors who assisted us in investing in our special venue, the Pacific Crystal Palace**
Anonymous
John Charrington & Pamela McBride
Otago Community Trust
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Ngā Apataki Syndicate
Verbiest Family



SPONSORS


We extend our gratitude to the businesses and organisations that have generously supported this year’s festival.

Naming Rights Sponsor




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Te Atamira
Lindsey Schofield

- Words that work
ParkMate
Bella Vista Wānaka

Thank you to Stars In Your Eyes for the risers, and Wānaka Hotel and Amigos for hosting the Crystal Palace on the lawn.

Supporting Funders
Lion Foundation, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Perpetual Guardian, Alexander Harold Watson Charitable Trust

FESTIVAL WAIATA

TE REO

First verse
Ko mātou tēnei te rōpū o Wānaka Moana
Kā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Ki kā manuhiri tūaraki e
Haere mai rā
Nau mai, piki mai, tauti mai
Kia ora rā

Second verse
Ka eke mai nei koutou mā
ki tēnei Kaupeka Rau
Hono mai tātou
i te manaaki e
Ki kā manuhiri tūaraki e
Haere mai rā
Nau mai, piki mai, tauti mai
Kia ora rā

Coda
Mai i Kāi Tahu, te iwi,
Haere mai rā

Ko mātou tēnei te rōpū o Wānaka Moana

TRANSLATION

First verse
We here are the party of people from Wānaka Moana (Lake Wānaka)
A big welcome to you all,
[Including to] those visitors from afar
Welcome, thrice welcome
[And] hello!

Second verse
Come forth all of you to the Festival of Colour
Let us all join together in hospitality
[Including] those visitors from afar
Welcome, thrice welcome
[And] hello!

Coda
From Kāi Tahu, the iwi, welcome!

Contributed by Peter Rollo and Annis Somerville



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