

TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



New training initiative for rangatahi

[Tūtaki Youth Inc.](#) has partnered with Flo-Jo Coffee Cart and Stratford District Council's Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to form a new training initiative for rangatahi. The initiative provides paid work placements, on-the-job learning, and training for rangatahi to transition into the workforce. The Flo-Jo Coffee Cart is located directly outside Tūtaki, which provides a sense of familiarity. It also means rangatahi have access to pastoral support that Tūtaki provides while they are training and transitioning. As workforce shortages hit an already overwhelmed hospitality sector, this initiative is an excellent model for training provision that centres on the learner, for the benefit of the wider sector. Partnerships like this help to share the workload, and are key to creating career pathways, filling labour shortages, and enabling rangatahi to learn valuable skills in a sustainable and supportive way.

Workforce capability research project underway

NZ Super have partnered with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) to determine the feasibility of an initial 1gigawatt clean energy associated wind power project in South Taranaki. The CIP / NZ Super consortium have recently commissioned a research document to assess the Taranaki energy industry's capability to support the offshore wind opportunity. The consulting report will be presented at the Ara Ake / Venture Taranaki conference "Offshore Renewable Energy" in March 2023.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



Consumer spend growth remains strong in Taranaki.

Electronic card consumer spending in Taranaki shows an increase of 9.8% over the year to September 2022. When comparing to the same period last year, Taranaki ranks as the top growth region compared nationally and New Zealand overall (7%). *Source: Informetrics Sept 2022*



Median house prices in Taranaki have decreased by 1% in November 2022 (compared to November 2021), to \$620,000.

The housing and rental affordability index indicates Taranaki is generally more affordable relative to the national average. *Source: REINZ 2022*



The total unemployment rate has decreased by 0.8 percentage points since September 2021.

The current unemployment rate is 3.2%, compared to 4% in the previous year. This follows a long-term trend of falling unemployment, with unemployment decreasing from 4.5% over a 10-year period (Sept 2012). *Source: Household Labour Force Survey*

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES/EVENTS/UPDATES

- Employment opportunities continue to increase in Eltham, with Carac Group recently acquiring Hotter Engineering.** This acquisition will see Carac Group increasing their global offerings and increasing the number of employees as needed to keep up with demand. Carac Group provides training opportunities and looks to support the employment of local residents and young people.
- Green School New Zealand, based in Ōakura, has become the first school in Aotearoa to offer The New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways.** From Term 1 of this year, ākonga at Green School can enrol in this Certificate which aims to provide students with the academic skills, capabilities, knowledge and attributes needed to prepare for higher level education or employment.
- Local Government continue to struggle recruiting staff.** With staffing numbers expected to increase in the coming years, and with constraints around pay, local government are struggling to recruit enough staff to cover current vacancies. This is expected to be exacerbated in coming years with the pipeline of work expanding and demand for staff growing as a result. The [Taranaki Regional Council](#) is currently recruiting for close to 20 positions and have opted to leave all roles open until filled, in an attempt to attract more kaimahi.



RSLG SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

WHY ORA (Whakatipuranga Rimu Rau Trust)

Established in 2010, Why Ora is a not-for-profit Taranaki based collaborative organisation empowering Māori career and employment aspirations so that whānau can flourish.

With an evolving, holistic approach grounding in Manaakitanga (pastoral care), Tūhononga (connection) and Umanga (career pathways), Why Ora works directly with taiohi and whānau to identify aspirations, and to experience and engage in meaningful and rewarding careers that work for them.

Why Ora works in collaboration with health, education and other sectors. This includes all Taranaki secondary schools, iwi, government agencies, employers, whānau and community. To date Why Ora has supported over 200 taiohi and adults into careers. Local graduates include 9 Doctors, 1 Dentist and 59 Nurses; as well as facilitating career related opportunities and experiences for many thousands of others.

Why Ora also has a strong focus on innovation and transformational systems change, working through joint ventures, collaborations and partnerships to identify systemic barriers, grow Māori leadership and to facilitate equitable, flourishing whānau futures.

For more information visit - <https://www.whyoraco.nz> or contact Sherrie Flanagan – Pou Arataki/Operations Manager.
Email: sherrie@whyora.co.nz

REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLAN UPDATE

The Taranaki Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) continue to progress their mahi. Focus continues on progressing actions in the current Regional Workforce Plan (RWP). The RSLG is also looking at the training and workforce needs in the Kaiāwhina Health workforce, and supporting Hauora and Wellbeing in the Construction sector. These findings will be the focus of the 2023 Regional Workforce Plan, to be released in June 2023.

Our focus for the next 2 months

- Meeting with a range of businesses and training providers within the health and construction sectors to gain a deep understanding of the differing skills and training needs around the region.
- Working with identified stakeholders to progress actions that make up part of the Regional Workforce Plan.

Co-chairs Newsletter

The Taranaki RSLG Co-chairs newsletter is an opportunity to keep up to date with the mahi the RSLG are undertaking, and to hear progress updates on the RWP actions. If you would like to sign up to receive this newsletter, please contact TaranakiRSLG@mbie.govt.nz

More information about the Taranaki RSLG and their Regional Workforce Plan can be found [here](#).