



Photo: Dr Jancy Young's NZ Tour (Auckland)

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



Life-long learners on a continuous journey

Tui Trust is a small Hamilton Charity that supports the well-being of children predominantly in the Waikato region. Over the past few years, we have worked to empower teachers, parents, and caregivers with the knowledge and skills they need to support children with learning difficulties like dyslexia/neurodiverse. Through professional development workshops and networking opportunities, Tui Trust provides educators and caregivers with access they need to create inclusive and supportive learning environments for children with learning difficulties over and above the strong literacy objectives in the National Curriculum. We are all lifelong learners on a continuous journey. Research is ever evolving, and we must remain open to questioning and ready to shift our thinking as new insights emerge.

Welcome to the team!

We welcome Natalie Muller to our Board! Natalie has been our education advisor for many years and has stepped up to support Tui Trust as a Board Member—welcome Natalie we look forward to working with you in a new capacity.

Connecting teachers with quality PD

Dr Nancy Young, international literacy education consultant, visited New Zealand in January 2025. Nancy is best known for her Ladder of Reading and Writing, a framework that acknowledges a continuum of ease of learning for different students. We attended *Dr Jancy Young's NZ Tour (Auckland)* and provided scholarships for four teachers to attend via *Lifting Literacy Aotearoa*. Dr Nancy Young developed *The Ladder of Reading and Writing* which is a tool in translating research into practice. It highlights the continuum of learning—some students ascend quickly, while others take more time. Understanding this diversity is essential as we support brain rewiring through reading development. One-size-fits-all instruction doesn't serve the needs of our learners. Differentiation is essential—not just for our most vulnerable

students, but equally for our high-achieving learners. Every child deserves instruction that meets their unique point on the learning ladder. Controlled texts and decodable books are valuable scaffolds, especially for emergent readers. Using the right tool at the right time is critical to avoid missed opportunities for growth. Instructional equity means ensuring all students—regardless of their current level—receive what they need to thrive. This includes targeted support for those struggling as well as enrichment for highflyers.

Supporting older students

We are mindful that learning to read doesn't end at primary school, all too often we experience a culture of the *learning to read* process ending at primary level, however we should still be adding to the literacy ability throughout a child's educational journey. There are many children at intermediate and high school level who are behind their peers and while the strong literacy objectives was launched nationwide January 2025 it is limited to years 1-8. The Government announced limited support for teachers and students in High Schools, which is the area that we will focus on for the next year or two. The teachers in the communities we support *want to know how* better to support students who arrive in their classrooms with poor reading and writing skills. Connecting these teachers/educators with quality PLD is essential. Our commitment to educational and equity is unwavering, as we continually seek ways to support our educators, whānau and students. In our quest to elevate literacy and learning, we prioritise meaningful professional development opportunities and quality resources that empower teachers to bridge the gaps in reading and writing proficiency.

Supporting children in Raglan

Tui Trust continues to support Raglan cohort of children over 2025. We look forward to reporting on this later in the year. This is the third year working with our amazing Laura Coleman, a committed literacy intervention specialist.

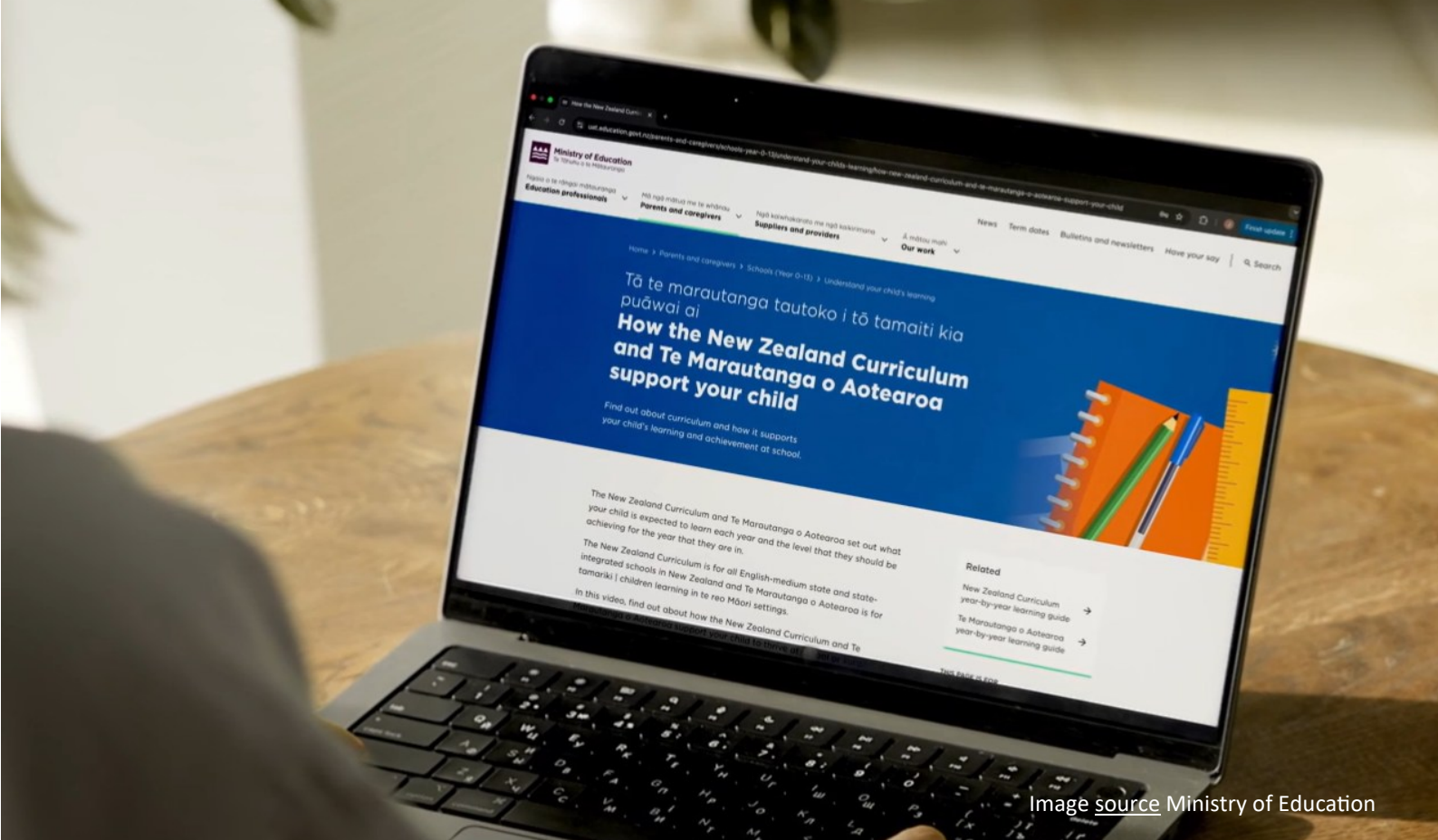


Image source Ministry of Education

Empowering whānau to take an active role in their child's education

New Parent Portal launched on May 4, 2025

He aratohu mā ngā akoranga o Te Marautanga o Aotearoa i ia tau Te Marautanga o Aotearoa year-by-year learning guide. The Parent Portal sets out what your mokopuna are learning at kura each year, and how you and your whānau can support them to achieve. How parents, caregivers and whānau can access information, resources and guides on the school curriculum, and assessment practices.

WATCH [NOW](#): Duration: 2m 56s

Parents and caregivers - Information and guidance about your child's learning and development from early learning to school and kura. The Parent Portal houses practical videos, activities, and resources to support learning that are easy to understand – empowering whānau to take a more active role in their child's education.

This includes 'parent-friendly' versions of both the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, so they'll know exactly what their child is learning, why it's important, and when they'll be learning it.

The new portal includes engaging videos that provide parents, caregivers and whānau with guidance on topics such as preparing for the first day of school or kura, understanding the first six months of learning, and resources and activities for supporting learning at home.

As the national curriculum continues to be refreshed over the next few years, the portal will keep adding a wide range of activities designed to cater to different year levels and learning needs. The goal is this section becomes a tool for every family, regardless of their child's learning journey or language needs. The portal includes:

- About the NZ Curriculum
- Guide to Curriculum
- Phonics Checks
- Preparing for parent-teacher interviews
- The *hour a day* initiative
- The NCEA literacy and numeracy co-requisites

The below feedback/comment is the most common Tui Trust receives. We watch with interest as this new Parent Portal develops over time in the hope that parents with struggling students will become more involved and empowered with their child's learning:

Can someone help me? I find communicating with the school about my struggling child exhausting, upsetting and seemingly fruitless, there is an overall lack of communication between parents and teachers. Are there any professional advocacy services that help families communicate with schools?





Tui Trust Social Impact Report

Improving Literacy for a
Lifetime of Change

April 2025

Prepared by



Measuring the *Social Impact* of our work— a Wellbeing Study

Improving Literacy for a life time of change - Three Year Study published

Mā te whakarongo, ka mōhio, mā temōhio, ka mārama, mā te mārama, kamatau, mā te matau, ka ora.
Through listening, comes knowledge, through knowledge, comes understanding, through understanding, comes wisdom,
through wisdom, comes wellbeing.

Contextual Overview

Education plays a critical role in promoting and supporting the wellbeing of children and young people. Access to quality education can also enable children to reach their potential and aspirations and address broader inequities.

In order to ensure the intergenerational wellbeing of tamariki and whānau it is important that they are provided with equal opportunity and are able to thrive and confidently engage in meaningful and quality education.

Core to education, literacy is both a key learning area in its own right as well as an enabler for educational outcomes across the curriculum and students’ lifelong learning journey.

Literacy rates in New Zealand are a key concern, with a 2020 report from UNICEF finding 35.4% of fifteen year olds struggle to read and write. People with lower literacy are more likely to have lower income and worse health outcomes, while conversely, high levels of literacy are associated with better health and economic prosperity.

Tui Trust, a charity founded in 2003 that is focused on supporting initiatives that improve educational, environmental, social and cultural development outcomes for children, has therefore identified literacy as a key focus area. Tui Trust is determined to improve literacy rates across Waikato, with a particular focus on neurodiverse, dyslexic and struggling students.


Through supporting teachers with resources and professional learning as well as funding for targeted literacy support to students in need, Tui Trust is seeking to ensure the next generation do not face the same literacy challenges as those before them.

As well as being committed to improving literacy in their region, Tui Trust is also committed to understanding their impact and has therefore partnered with social impact measurement agency Huber Social since 2022 to measure the effectiveness of their literacy interventions. From 2023-24, Huber has worked with Tui Trust to collect data and has already completed a baseline and an interim report that has been utilised internally to understand the needs of the young people the trust is supporting as well as the impact that the work is achieving.

This final report is the culmination of the partnership and presents combined results from data collected in 2023 and 2024. Tui Trust can use this report to both demonstrate the impact of their work as well as to inform refinement of their approaches.

The report paints a picture of an organisation that is working at both the structural and personal level to improve literacy in the Waikato.

Our three year study is now complete and can be found [here](#).



Tui Trust Social Impact Report

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Tui Trust Social Impact Report

Executive Summary

Key Findings

1. Wellbeing is maintained for both tamariki and whānau

For both tamariki and whānau, wellbeing was maintained across the measurement period. Typically, wellbeing trends down during the teenage years and so this result suggests that literacy education is supporting the wellbeing of young people. It is encouraging that literacy education likely supports the wellbeing.

2. Tamariki have improved literacy

Reflection data from school teachers and assessment data from tutor students shows that literacy improved among students. 100% of teachers agreed that their students’ literacy, phonics and spelling ability had increased, while tutor students saw consistent improvement across their time with their specialist tutors. Tui Trust is clearly achieving one of its key goals - improving the literacy of the young people they support.

3. Tamariki and whānau alike value their improved literacy

Qualitative analysis was also completed, with the results showing clearly that both groups see the impact of the work. Tutor students were particularly strong in their praise, with one stating, “It’s changed my life because it helps me learn and it’s encouraged my learning.” Similarly a parent wrote that the tutoring session “has taken [our child] from being unable to write full sentences to confidently writing paragraphs, and reading whole stories! Our child has definitely been empowered by their improved literacy skills.”

4. Teachers and tutors feel supported by Tui Trust

100% of teachers and tutors agreed that they had felt supported by Tui Trust across the last two years, showing that it is not just about the resources and training provided, but also the way the work is carried out that is appreciated.

5. Whānau More Knowledgeable of Support Services

The majority of shifts observed for whānau cluster around the outcome of access to structures and services, with families showing increased understanding of how to access support for their child’s needs. While the small sample size means these results were not statistically significant, it is still encouraging to see results heading in the right direction in key areas.

Conclusion

While Tui Trust may want to engage in further measurement to create a stronger dataset to affirm these findings, the organisation can be confident that their work is already having a positive impact in the community.

With the New Zealand Government’s current focus on improving literacy across the country, Tui Trust is providing a strong complement to these national efforts, ensuring that no one falls through the cracks along the way.



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Measuring the *Social Impact* of our work— a Wellbeing Study

Improving Literacy for a life time of change



Executive Summary

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