



event summary

techweek2026



whanganuitech
te tarahiti whatunga hangarau o Whanganui

16 engaging events 450+ attendees

On behalf of the Whanganui Tech Network Trustees, I'm thrilled to share this wrap-up of yet another successful Techweek in Whanganui.

Over seven days our community delivered 16 events across five venues, bringing together innovators, educators, rangatahi, businesses, and community members to celebrate technology and its important role in Whanganui's future. With 400+ attendees, including more than 200 rangatahi engaged through the Rangatahi Tech Expo, Techweek once again demonstrated the appetite and energy for technology in our region.

Of particular note this year were our two keynote events being **The Regional Energy Outlook** and **Shaping Whanganui's Tech Future**, each of which hosted **over 60 attendees**. These events alone demonstrated Whanganui's growing interest to be involved in an ever-evolving tech ecosystem.

As always, this programme would not have been possible without the support of our principal partners — **Whanganui & Partners**, with additional support from our friends at **Hive HQ** and **UCOL**. Their commitment, along with the contributions of our wider partner network, enabled us to showcase local talent, connect our community, and inspire the next generation.

Alan Nixon – Trust Board Chair



7 daysLocal events across
18–24 May 2026**16 events**Workshops, talks, demos,
and community activations**5 venues**

Across Whanganui

**450+
attendees**

Total event participation

120+ peopleCombined attended
our 2 Keynote events**220+ rangatahi**Engaged through the
Rangatahi Tech Expo

Over seven days, Whanganui delivered a diverse programme of 16 Techweek events across five venues, attracting more than 450 attendees from across the community.

From daytime koreros to evening panels and hands-on experiences, the programme showcased the creativity, expertise, and collaborative spirit that defines our region.

Techweek '26 brought together local innovators, educators, iwi partners, entrepreneurs, and national organisations, creating a week where ideas and opportunities were shared openly. The diversity of events reflected the unique fabric of Whanganui's tech community — from AI, digital inclusion and rangatahi pathways to local tech sector and energy sector growth.

One of the standout achievements was the strong balance between professional development and community engagement.

Business leaders and tech professionals connected around growth and innovation, while rangatahi explored future careers through culturally grounded and interactive experiences.

This collective effort highlights the growing strength of Whanganui's tech ecosystem and reinforces the importance of technology as both an enabler and connector for our region.



Library Community EVENTS



Fri, 22 May, 6pm - 9:30pm NZST
**Call of Cthulhu:
Techweek Adventure...**
Alexander Library, Whanganui,
New Zealand



Thu, 21 May, 3:30pm - 4:30pm NZST
Cyber Thursday
Davis Library, Whanganui, New Zealand



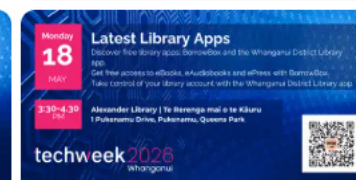
Wed, 20 May, 3:30pm - 4:30pm NZST
Minecraft @ the Library
Davis Library, Whanganui, New Zealand



Wed, 20 May, 10am - 12pm NZST
**Heritage Helpdesk FAQs:
Tech tips for researchin...**
Alexander Library, Whanganui,
New Zealand



Tue, 19 May, 1:30pm - 3pm NZST
Goodreads @ Gonville
Gonville Library, Whanganui, New Zealand



Mon, 18 May, 3:30pm - 4:30pm NZST
Latest Library Apps
Alexander Library, Whanganui,
New Zealand

To ensure strong visibility and community engagement, Techweek '26 was supported by a promotional campaign across digital, outdoor, radio and print media.

Two of Whanganui's busiest digital billboards carried Techweek messaging leading up to and throughout the week, achieving 90,000+ impressions across the city centre. These displays also featured our primary partners ensuring their support for Techweek was visible in a highly public and impactful way.

On social media, a dedicated campaign through LinkedIn and Facebook generated more than 18,500 impressions, reaching targeted audiences across Whanganui and the wider region. Our promotional posts also highlighted the contribution of sponsors, linking their brands directly with their high-profile events.

Community coverage was further extended through a 2.5 Page Advertorial in the River City Press, Whanganui's largest circulating newspaper, which reaches 19,500 households weekly.

Together, these promotional channels delivered a combined 130,000+ impressions, providing strong exposure for sponsors and reinforcing their role in making Techweek '26 possible."

Monday
18
MAY

Regional Energy Outlook: Insights and Opportunities

Join us for an evening of discussion on the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the energy landscape.

5:30-8:00
PM

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery
4 Pukenu Drive
Whanganui

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Hosted by Tim Easton of Whanganui & Partners and the Whanganui Tech Network at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, was an enjoyable evening of insight and discussion on energy, infrastructure, investment, and regional opportunity.

Over 60 people joined us for an evening of discussion on the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the energy landscape. Bringing together sector voices

and local leaders, the session explored the forces influencing energy infrastructure, investment, innovation, and regional growth, and what they could mean for Whanganui and the wider region.

Upon arrival, guests connected with fellow attendees before the session began, with further opportunities for informal discussion and networking afterwards in the foyer of the Sarjeant Gallery.

“Over 60 people joined us for an evening of discussion on the trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the energy landscape.”



Wednesday
20
MAY

Celebrating Tech - Networking event

Techweek is Aotearoa New Zealand's national festival of tech and innovation. The Whanganui Tech Network and Hive HQ celebrate Techweek by co-hosting a networking event intended for anyone interested in making connections within our local tech ecosystem.

5:30-7:30 PM

Hive HQ
Level 2, 120 Victoria Ave
Whanganui

proudly supported by



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Whanganui



Whanganui
& Partners
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Proudly supported by UCOL, the Whanganui Tech Network and Hive HQ celebrated Techweek by co-hosting a networking event intended for anyone interested in making connections within our local tech ecosystem.

UCOL Whanganui campus leadership team representative Jan MacGibbon spoke to the two dozen engaged attendees of the increasingly important role tech is playing in

the education sector both now and in the future.

Jan's genuine passion for education in general was well received by guests who enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of Hive Lounge, whilst making meaningful connections over light nibbles and refreshments which set the tone for an enjoyable evening of networking.

“UCOL are proud to support regional innovation, help strengthen industry connections, and contribute to the local tech ecosystem.”

-Jan MacGibbon



Friday
22
MAY

Shaping Whanganui's Tech Future: A conversation about innovation, growth and opportunity

Join us for an evening exploring the future of technology in Whanganui.

6:00-9:00 PM

**Hive HQ
Level 2, 120 Victoria Ave
Whanganui**

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“A conversation about innovation, growth and opportunities in the Whanganui tech sector” was a catered evening exploring the important topic of future of technology in Whanganui.

Attended by local leaders, industry voices, and community stakeholders, this event introduced the **Whanganui Tech Sector Proposal**. The proposal was a starting point for discussion, collaboration, and future

action to help grow a strong and future ready tech sector in our region.

Hosted by MC Michael Law, and presented by David Alexander from Hive HQ and the Trustees of the Whanganui Tech Network, **Over 60 guests** connected with fellow attendees before the seated session, with many enjoying further informal discussion and networking later in the evening.

Shaping Whanganui's Tech Future
A starting point for discussion

Tech Sector Proposal

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The test for every initiative
Attract, retain, develop

- Attract people, enterprise, ideas, investment, customers
- Retain talent, capability, ambition, momentum
- Develop skills, confidence, leadership, pathways

Every choice should strengthen at least one part of this frame.

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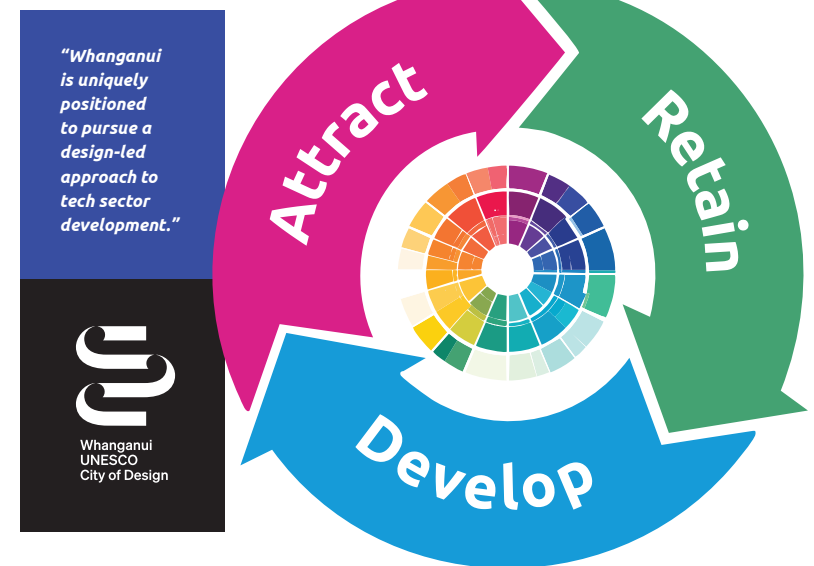
“this event introduced the Whanganui Tech Sector Proposal as a starting point for discussion.”



How we shape Whanganui's Tech Future is our next important korero

The Tech Sector Proposal was prepared by the Whanganui Tech Network to provide guidance on the development of Whanganui's technology sector over the medium 3 – 5 year horizon. It outlines a clear direction for how technology, design, creativity, and innovation can contribute to the region's economic development, while identifying practical actions that can be progressed in the near term.

Intended as a document to initiate a wider korero on the future of Whanganui's tech sector, the proposal is grounded in three foundational principles — **Attract, Retain, and Develop** — which together provide an economic development lens for shaping Whanganui's tech sector, guiding the priorities, initiatives, and investment considerations.



The Rangatahi Tech Expo, delivered as part of Techweek 26, was a vibrant celebration of innovation, digital skills, and future-focused thinking.

Te Kaahui o Rauru proudly hosted its third annual Rangatahi Tech Expo in association with the Whanganui Tech Network, bringing together eleven innovative technology experiences delivered in partnership with pakihi Maaori, community organisations, and industry leaders.

More than 220 rangatahi attended the Expo, immersing themselves in hands-on activities, emerging technologies, and future-focused learning opportunities. From digital innovation to creative problem-solving, the event showcased the exciting pathways available in the rapidly growing tech sector.

The Expo also challenged rangatahi to think beyond future careers and consider the role they can play in building and strengthening our very own Maaori-led tech ecosystem. It was an inspiring day of exploration, connection, and innovation, demonstrating the incredible potential of our rangatahi to shape the future.

Kia rangatira te tuu, kia rangatira te whakaaro!

The expo demonstrated the power of partnerships with iwi, kura, and industry to inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders.

“Kia rangatira te tuu, kia rangatira te whakaaro!”

“Be a leader, be a leader!”

Featured **EVENT**

RANGATAHI TECH EXPO

**220+
rangatahi
engaged**





Whanganui is full of opportunity — and no one is more invested in helping us seize it than Whanganui & Partners.

As a Principal Partner of Techweek '26, W&P plays a vital role in supporting local enterprise, innovation, and community capability.

Support from Whanganui & Partners allowed two keynote events focused on economic development to be hosted during Techweek '26.



Over 60 people attended each of the keynote events thanks to the support from Whanganui & Partners

Here's what Tim Easton, Team Leader Economic Development at W&P, had to say:

"Whanganui has untapped tech potential, and Techweek is where we make it visible. Tech Network's work to activate that potential – building momentum, connections, and skills in our tech community – stands to deliver real economic benefit for the district. Sponsoring this event is how we back that work and signal our commitment to growing this sector locally."

With support from W&P, Techweek '26 is more than a tech festival — it's a chance to see how digital tools, local creativity, and economic development come together to

"Whanganui & Partners played a pivotal role in supporting Techweek's two keynote events."

– David Alexander, Whanganui Tech & Hive HQ

A big thank you to Tim Easton and the entire Whanganui & Partners team for being a principal partner of our Techweek '26 whānau.





Thanks to our
venue partner

HIVE is more than just a building — it's a vibrant catalyst for innovation, collaboration and community-led growth.

The Whanganui Tech Network is delighted to have Hive HQ as a key supporter of Techweek. Following the success of Techweek '25 and the kaupapa of The Backhouse, we're especially proud to have our new home Hive serve as our central venue for Techweek' 26.

Alex Novak, Treasurer of the Whanganui Tech Network Trust Board, comments:

"Hive HQ is that 'hive of activity' that creates the warmth and welcomeness to support a thriving tech and innovation ecosystem. We're thrilled to have them as our anchor venue and foundation partner for Techweek 2026."

As Whanganui's home of innovation and centre for excellence, Hive supports startups, creatives, enterprises, and rangatahi through:

- Business growth and innovation capability
- Co-design and design thinking workshops
- Incubation and mentorship
- Pathways to further education and tech enablement
- A kaupapa of inclusion, creativity, and possibility

Here's how David Alexander, of Hive HQ, describes the kaupapa:

"Hive has a vision and kaupapa of enabling and supporting innovation and technology businesses to thrive, grow and be bold! The Whanganui Tech Network is part of this kaupapa and Techweek is the showcase as Whanganui celebrates its tech talent."



Hive HQ isn't just where Techweek happens — it's where Whanganui's tech and innovation ecosystem grows.



Hive HQ, 120 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui, NZ

Techweek '26 was delivered through the collective support of principal partners, additional funding partners, and in-kind contributions from the Whanganui Tech Network community.

This collaborative approach ensured that a week-long programme could be delivered with strong promotional reach and community impact, while remaining cost-effective.

The support of Whanganui & Partners, Hive HQ and UCOL was particularly critical in underwriting core costs and enabling wide community access.



The Numbers

Principal partners funding:	\$ 21,000
Venue partner contribution:	\$ 1,500
Other partners In-kind support:	\$ 3,500
Total Event Investment:	\$ 26,000

Hosting, Venues & Hospitality	\$ 14,550
Marketing & promotion:	\$ 4,850
Coordination & administration:	\$ 5,250
Total Expenditure:	\$ 24,650

Numbers exclude GST, rounded for summary purposes only

“Looking ahead, Whanganui Tech Network is committed to growing the scale and reach of Techweek...”

Future Support

Looking ahead, Whanganui Tech Network is committed to growing the scale and reach of Techweek, with a particular focus on rangatahi engagement, business capability, and digital inclusion. Continued partner support will be essential to sustain momentum, secure larger venues, and expand promotional reach.

By investing in Techweek, partners not only strengthen Whanganui's technology ecosystem but also showcase their role in driving positive social and economic outcomes for our community.

Interested in supporting Techweek '27?

Drop us an email:
kiaora@whanganui.tech

Building on the momentum of Techweek '26, Whanganui Tech Network is focused on growing the scale, reach, and impact of Techweek in 2027 and beyond.

Our vision is to strengthen partnerships, participation, and engagement ensuring that Techweek continues to be a platform where community, business, and rangatahi come together to explore technology's potential.

A key focus will be on attracting high-profile events, speakers, and partners from outside Whanganui, bringing fresh perspectives while showcasing our region's own innovation story. By broadening the programme, we can deliver even greater opportunities for capability building and sector connection, ensuring local talent and enterprises are exposed to national and global expertise.

These efforts are closely aligned with the Whanganui Tech Network's strategic pillars: supporting our community to attract and retain tech talent, enabling businesses to grow through innovation, and developing the skills and confidence needed to thrive in the digital economy.

Techweek in Whanganui will continue to be a space where technology drives collaboration, creativity, and growth, ensuring our region is not just participating in the digital future, but shaping it.

Techweek '26 showed what's possible when community, tech and innovation come together. Our partners are at the heart of that and Hive HQ was an absolute anchor for this kaupapa, hosting several well-attended events and helping us deliver yet another hugely successful Techweek."

Alan Nixon- Trustee

The Whanganui Tech Network Charitable Trust



Techweek '26 again proved what can be achieved when collaboration, creativity, and community come together.

Across seven days, more than sixteen events brought Whanganui's tech ecosystem to life — connecting innovators, educators, rangatahi, businesses and communities in a celebration of ideas and opportunity.

The week delivered strong outcomes for both the community and our partners, with numerous impressions across outdoor, digital, radio and print channels ensuring exceptional visibility for every organisation involved. Techweek once again positioned Whanganui as a region that embraces innovation and demonstrates leadership in growing technology capability.

To our sponsors — **Whanganui & Partners, Hive HQ** and **UCOL** — and to all supporting partners, contributors and volunteers, we extend our sincere thanks. Your investment, enthusiasm, and belief in Whanganui's potential have been instrumental in this success.

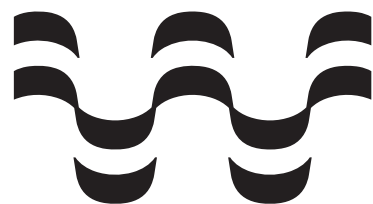
Looking forward to Techweek 2027, we are again eager to build on this momentum: growing partnerships, focusing on local interest, expanding participation, and continuing to tell the story of a region that is connected, capable, and ready for an emerging tech and energy-driven future.

“ ... and to all supporting partners, contributors and volunteers, we extend our sincere thanks.”



A BIG thanks again to
all our supporters

Thank you to the generosity of our
sponsors, event hosts and **presenters**



**Whanganui
& Partners**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



UCOL
Te Pae Mātauranga ki te Ao
Universal College of Learning



Meridian.

Serious Strategy



TE MANU ATATŪ



Interested in supporting Techweek '27? Drop us an email: **kiaora@whanganui.tech**