

Ākina Colour Shamozzle



Malatest
International



Student led event 'for girls, by girls' which encouraged participation for female rangatahi.

When I say the whole school came together, I mean the whole school just came in. (Student Organiser)

Hastings Girls' High School received Tū Manawa funding from Sport Hawke's Bay in 2020 to run a student led event: the Ākina Colour Shamozzle. The event combined athletics and active recreation, including a colour run and tug of war.

'Ākina' is Hastings Girl's High School's motto and it means to strive hard or go forward. 'Colour Shamozzle' refers to a colourful organised chaos of events. The full name encourages everyone to go forward into the colourful organised chaos of events.

The day was designed, organised and delivered by the Student Sports Committee (SSC), who are Year 9 through 13 students at the school, with support from the Sports Department. It was 'for the girls, by the girls'.

Active Recreation
Rangatahi (12-18)



73% of students participated

Outcomes

Access to play, active recreation or sport opportunities

Improved personal relationships

Improved confidence

How the outcomes were achieved

- Access to an opportunity to participate
- Access to a safe/familiar environment to participate in
- Access to the necessary equipment to participate with

- Activities with a group of peers
- Activities that include hapori (e.g. school staff)

- Activities that promote increased self-esteem, self-acceptance or self-worth
- Provision of a safe space without fear of judgement or discrimination



What was the need?

The SSC and Hastings Girls' High School's Director of Sport identified a need to increase participation in school events after observing declining participation rates in sports and very low participation in a local cross country event in 2020. Due to COVID-19, they expected sports participation to decrease even more.

The SSC and Sports Department found out about Tū Manawa through the school's pre-existing relationship with Sport Hawke's Bay's Secondary Schools Sport Director.

Sport Hawke's Bay were adjusting their strategy to focus on health and wellbeing and wanted Tū Manawa to be used to encourage rangatahi and tamariki to be active in a way that they want to be active. They highlighted to the Director of Sport the importance of participant voice and that the funding was not just for traditional sports, and suggested a colour run as an option.

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle Tū Manawa application was the Director of Sport's first time applying for funding. The SSC and Sports Department worked closely with Sport Hawke's Bay's Community Partnership Advisor to refine their fast-fund application.

[The application process] was pretty smooth sailing. [...] I had a look over it before their final submission just to make sure that they're on the right track. And if there was anything missing from there. (Sport Hawke's Bay Staff Member)

The funding was for colour powder, a DJ to provide entertainment and announcements throughout the day, and post-event cleaning costs.

How was the need met?

The aim of the Ākina Colour Shamozzle was to create a fun active recreation event that students would want to participate in.

The event combined competitive and non-competitive House activities and was run on the last Friday before senior students went on study leave to encourage high participation levels. The SSC had an ice cream truck come at lunch time (student funded) and organised burgers for their Ministry of Education funded school lunch. A student photographed the day.

What role did the SCC play?

The Sports Department encouraged the SSC to lead the design of the day to make sure the event was something students would want to participate in.

I was relying on the girls to kind of, you know, guide me in the right direction, because I didn't want to do it and then it's my event. (Project Lead)

On the day, the SSC led and participated in the activities. They helped students with disabilities participate and ran the colour run with younger students.

I think a huge part of it is that the girls also led, even though they were participating, to show that it wasn't just for others, but that they were having fun and leading by example so the other girls can have fun as well. (Project Lead)

[The participants] would ask us what's next and they'd get all excited. I feel like because we as students knew what was happening [...] we were able to share it with the girls so they they knew what was happening, what was coming up. (Student Organiser)

What's next?

Due to the success of the 2020 event, the SSC and Sports Department have successfully applied for Tū Manawa funding to deliver another Ākina Colour Shamozzle in 2021. They want to further increase participation of Year 10-13s and encourage participation by new Year 9s. They are changing the name to Ākina Colour **Shemozzle** to reflect it being an event 'for the girls, by the girls'.

The fact that girls that weren't there are already asking when's the next one, because they regret not being there and they could see how much fun the rest of the school had, just kind of spoke volume of the impact that it had, even though they weren't there. (Project Lead)

Since we're doing it again, the girls will feel like we're listening to them [...] our thing at our school, we say 'our' girls, meaning the school pays attention to each girl as an individual and who they are [...] and so having this [...] it will give it more meaning and girls will believe in that a lot more and be there for each other as well. (Student Organiser)

The difference the Ākina Colour Shamozzle made

Who participated?

417 students (73% of total school students) participated. Hastings Girls' High School is a Decile 3 school which means the majority of participants in the event came from low socio-economic or poorer communities. 2021 Education Counts statistics show that just under half (44%) of total school students identified as Māori, while 18% identified as Pacific.

What did the SSC and Sports Department think?

The SSC members we talked to were very positive about their experience of the day and discussed how much fun they had.

At lunchtime, we just had the DJ going, girls had their lunch, came over to the speakers, had a huge [dance] rave sort of thing. They got their own coloured powder pocket things and you could just throw it up and do whatever you wanted. (Student Organiser)

Everybody was just so excited to to be at school for that one day. (Student Organiser)

The SCC members also shared their positive memories of organising the event.

I feel like for me, helping to organise this, it was a good way for me to work on my leadership skills and find my weaknesses and strengths. (Student Organiser)

As the planning went on, we just found more and more reasons as to why it was such a good idea to do it [...] and that just kind of made it even better. (Student Organiser)

The Sports Department discussed the positive impact the day had on the school.

That following week when we came back to school, girls were a lot more positive just reflecting on what happened last week. (Project Lead)

Having this experience, planning an event for a massive group of people, I just think is invaluable. (Project Coordinator)

What did participants think?

Hastings Girls' High School students enjoyed the day and how it brought the students together.

[Why did you participate?] It just sounded like fun. And it wasn't about who wins or loses. It was just for everyone to give it a go and have fun. (Participant).

The Shamozzle [...] was an amazing way to end the year where everyone got involved, smiled and had a good time. (Participant, 2020 School Magazine)

I enjoyed [the Shamozzle] and seeing everyone give their best in the events, as well as having fun. There was lots of house spirit amongst everyone. (Participant, 2020 School Magazine)

Access to play, active recreation or sport opportunities

School events are an opportunity for Hastings Girls' High School students who are not connected to sports clubs to access active recreation and sport opportunities.

If your family is new to sport, like you just started out sport because you thought it'd be fun, you don't have [connections to sports clubs] like other girls do. [So school events are quite important to getting them involved in sports?] Yeah. (Student Organiser)

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle was designed to be an event 'for the students' to remove the barriers that stopped them from participating in other school events.

Because the shamozzle was such a big deal, and because it was so big and so much fun, girls just kind of ignored the excuses [fear of embarrassment, exposure, friends not participating] [and participated] [...] just for the day. (Student Organiser)

[The day] disguised getting active [...] if we can do some sort of fun activity that does involve running that people have forgotten that even running was involved, that's super successful. (Project Coordinator)

Improved confidence

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle provided an opportunity for the SSC members to experience organising a school event and gain confidence to create future 'out of the box' events or projects.

Going into [the next year's] swimming sports and athletics, we were able to be like, 'Okay, so this worked at the shamozzle, we can do it this time'. (Student Organiser)

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle created a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for students to participate and feel confident participating.

I feel like if someone completely outside of the school didn't know us at all, was to sit in the middle of the field and just listen and feel everything that was happening around them, it would be awesome. They'd feel and want to join in as well. (Student Organiser)

Improved personal relationships

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle provided a space for students to build new connections and friendships.

I think some of the time your friends aren't in the same House, and so it's having to find other people around to mingle with during school events. And so I think having that has made completely different friendships throughout the school. (Student Organiser)

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle created a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

When I say the whole school came together, I mean the whole school, like everyone in the school just came in. (Student Organiser)

It gave them a sense of belonging at the school, both from a staff and student perspective. (Project Lead)

The Ākina Colour Shamozzle created a space for students and staff to see different sides of each other.

[The students] could see the staff in a different light ... where, instead of them or certain individuals being told off by certain teachers, they were actually throwing colour at each other and having a laugh. (Project Lead)

A lot of the staff, they got involved and they were even doing the colour run and so it was really cool watching that. (Student Organiser)