

Smiles all round at the first Ki-o-Rahi Ponēke festival 1 October 2011

On Saturday Wellington held its first ever Ki-o-Rahi Ponēke festival. Ki-o-Rahi is a Traditional Maori Game which is similar to Touch but played on a circular field. The day was a social occasion to showcase the game and highlight some of the amazing games that were almost lost.

The highlight of the day was all the kids that participated in the game. Most of the teams were predominantly kids, with many past and present Active Families kids participating!



There was a great level of competition and everyone worked hard for their team's success. A special 'have-a-go' Active Families session was also held and this was the best time to learn the game. Kids of all ages and abilities came together to play the game they had been watching older siblings play, and they had a blast! The game was simplified so children as young as four could run around and have a chance to touch a Pou and throw the ball at the Tupu.



The theme of the day was manaakitanga and the Active Families game was a great example of how much respect there was for everyone's cultures, beliefs and actions.

In the end, the main thing was that the weather was glorious, the sun was shining and everyone had a fantastic time playing together!

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