



**Ngā Pūmanawa e Waru**  
the eight beating hearts

# Partnering to deliver social change

**“It’s a partnership that brings together people and organisations, in a structured way to bring about social change.”** – Adam Ellis,  
Director of Technology, Nga Pūmanawa e Waru



## About the Collective Impact Union

- A partnership between Nga Pumanawa e Waru, Noel Leeming Group and their partners - make up the Collective Impact Unit (CIU) based on a Stanford University study exploring how to solve complex issues using a collective impact approach
- Began in 2014
- Working with 50+ schools in the Rotorua region
- The team works with schools, to consult and recommend best practice in bringing technology into classrooms.
- **The team facilitates across 5 focus areas:**
  - Community Engagement
  - Technical Support
  - Leadership
  - Pedagogy - assisting in methodology and practice in teaching
  - Measurement & Evaluation

## “We leverage off the collective strength of our partners - finding solutions to complex issues that plague NZ learners” – Adam Ellis,

Director of Technology NPeW

Across Rotorua, school students come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with many living in poverty. While the emergence of technology in schools is changing the way we learn and teach, it is also creating a digital divide. The learning inequality this can create, is becoming more evident than ever, with impacts on school attendance, engagement, and achievement levels.

To help address these issues, in 2014 Noel Leeming Group, the Mayor of Rotorua and Nga Pūmanawa e Waru (NPeW) began exploring how their combined expertise could help deliver equal opportunities for students. At that time, NPeW were working on what they now call the ‘Collective Impact Model’ to help make Rotorua ‘a great place to learn’ based on a partnership that brings together the right people to implement social change.

## Helping shape the future

NPeW & Noel Leeming have since worked with 52 schools in Rotorua, with a focus on providing access to digital technologies, networks, teacher development, and helping to facilitate a modern learning environment. The teams provide the schools with a plan following best practice with advice, guidance, support, and leadership for schools, teachers, parents and whanau in the community.

Through the partnership, schools have access to funding thanks to the ‘Community Finance Model’ which was created to help lift the financial burden for most families. It introduced ‘affordable loans’ into the community. This financial model has been ground breaking in its success with schools. More than 800 families have applied for financing and have received the financial support they need.

**“Imagine the power of partnerships like the one we have with Noel Leeming. We both learn from each other and when that happens, transformation happens.”**

– Adam Ellis, Director of Technology NPeW



**Based on the model's 5 focus areas we have constructed a sustained process of change in the schools and our community. This is only possible when a collective impact model is applied and you have 100% trust in your partners.**

- Adam Ellis, Director of Technology, NPeW

#### **Facing the issues**

**“We found with many of the schools that parents and whanau were not engaged with their child's learning, and teachers lacked the skills to bring technology into the classroom.”** - Adam Ellis, Director of

Technology, NPeW

Being a region where many live in poverty, schools also lacked the funding and support to access the technology. In order to sustain the level of teaching and learning, schools needed the professional learning development and technical training that was fundamental to the students' achievement.

To address these challenges, the partnership works closely with schools to identify their individual needs and limitations. It follows, what's called the 'Collective Impact Model', a framework to deliver a strategic e-learning plan.



**“We now have a relationship with the wider community and are part of their journey right from the beginning. We meet with NPeW regularly to discuss the schools we are working with and look to fine tune our processes and solutions”**

– Dan Pereira NLG, Commercial Business Manager

Through NPeW and Noel Leeming's partners, they are also able to assist with financing and sustainability. For many Maori immersion schools, this meant providing access to professional learning development for teachers in Te Reo Maori, ensuring the school's values and Te Aho Matua were intact.

Engaging a disconnected community meant finding ways to reconnect with parents and whanau in their own environment. Having Noel Leeming as a key partner, meant schools were able to reach their school's community through the local stores.

#### **Delivering a measurable outcome**

Today the partnership, in its fifth year, has evolved from Noel Leeming being the tech supplier to being a holistic part of the team and more involved in the relationship with schools.

**“This is what I love about my job, working in a team to help deliver real change. We're influencing the future.”** - Dan Pereira NLG, Commercial Business Manager

Together Noel Leeming and NPeW has brought measurable social change to the region. Adam's team at Nga Pumanawa e Waru monitor and report on results through their regular surveys and are seeing the impact this work is having.

By regularly interviewing schools, students and teachers, NPeW is able to closely monitor the impact on the local schools, and they have the data to continue to adapt and enhance the partnership's work. The team are seeing shifts in greater connectivity for learning across the district, school leaders and teachers becoming more knowledgeable about future-focused learning and actively collaborating inside and across schools, and the team are seeing green shoots emerging for student achievement.

**“The results so far, are a reflection of the power of a collaborative partnership, we are now seeing positive shifts and improvements across the district.”**

- Adam Ellis, Director of Technology, NPeW.

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