

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Tātai whetū ki te rangi,  
tātai tāngata ki te whenua.



**STARDOME**  
OBSERVATORY  
PLANETARIUM

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2023 was a year of transformation. It marked the second year of 'A New Vision', our 2021–2026 strategic plan. This is a vision that will ensure Stardome is a place of trust and integrity for celestial stories, astronomy, mātauranga Māori and cosmological science; one that honours and shares the first stories told about the skies over Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa; that upholds the mana of Maungakiekie; is environmentally and financially sustainable; and inspires and excites the minds of our tamariki and rangatahi.

It was a year when we emerged out of COVID restrictions, and for Stardome, a year of physical transformation of our whare arorangi. Thanks to a combination of capital reserves and the generous support of funders, we were able to replace our failing roof, install new planetarium seating, and perhaps most significantly for our manuhiri, transform our gallery experience to one that places mātauranga Māori alongside western scientific traditions.

The roof project necessitated a six-month closure to the public not anticipated when 'A New Vision' was launched. During this time, the Stardome team relocated to temporary premises and our education team offered an outreach programme. It was a welcome return to our whare on 19 June in time for 2023 Matariki celebrations.

While the 2022–2023 financial year saw a long-awaited respite from COVID-19 disruptions, the year was not without its bumps in the form of two flooding events in early 2023 and the brutal theft of copper from the Edith Winstone Blackwell Telescope dome in May.

These events caused some setbacks to our reopening, however on 19th June, in time for Matariki, we were thrilled to reopen to the public with dawn karakia and

whaikōrero led by Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei. It was an extraordinary and fitting way to reopen Stardome, setting the tikanga and kaupapa for our refreshed operation.

As a Tier Two charity, this year, the annual report includes our statement of service performance against our strategic goals. We are proud to present our annual report here, organised according to our six strategic goals, to demonstrate how we have progressed each throughout this year.

Ngā mihi maioha,

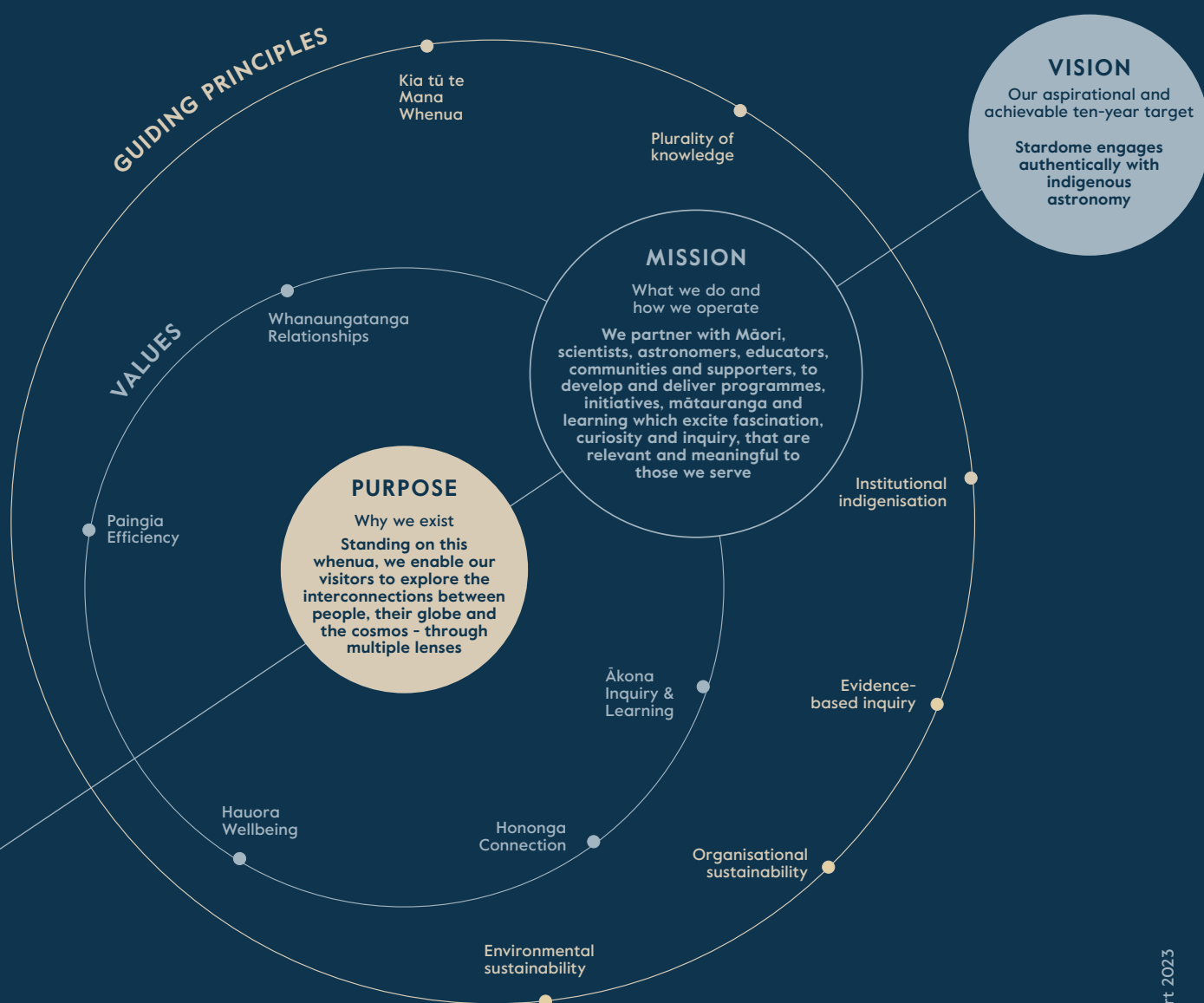


Richard Sorrenson  
**Chairperson**



Victoria Travers  
**Chief Executive**

The Strategic Plan sets a course for transformation over five years. This framework articulates not just what we will do, but the kaupapa that underpins our mahi.







# Be a trusted centre for sharing astronomy and mātauranga.

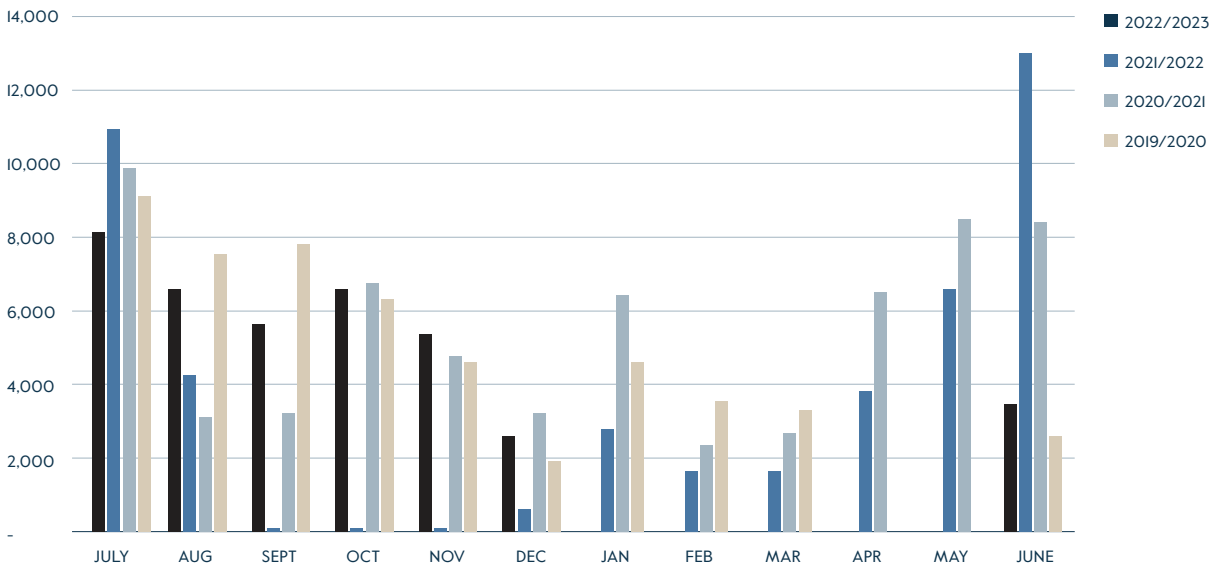
We are committed to being a place of trust and integrity for celestial stories, astronomy, mātauranga Māori, pūtaiao and cosmological science.

GOAL ONE



Our roof replacement and renovation of our galleries necessitated closure of our building to the public for approximately half of the financial year (from 24 December 2022 – 19 June 2023), and this is reflected in our total visitation for FY23.

## VISITATION PER MONTH



Despite this, our visitation for the two quarters (when we were open to the public) was strong for evenings, weekends, and venue hire. Visitation in July reflects the tail-end of the 2022 Matariki season<sup>1</sup>.

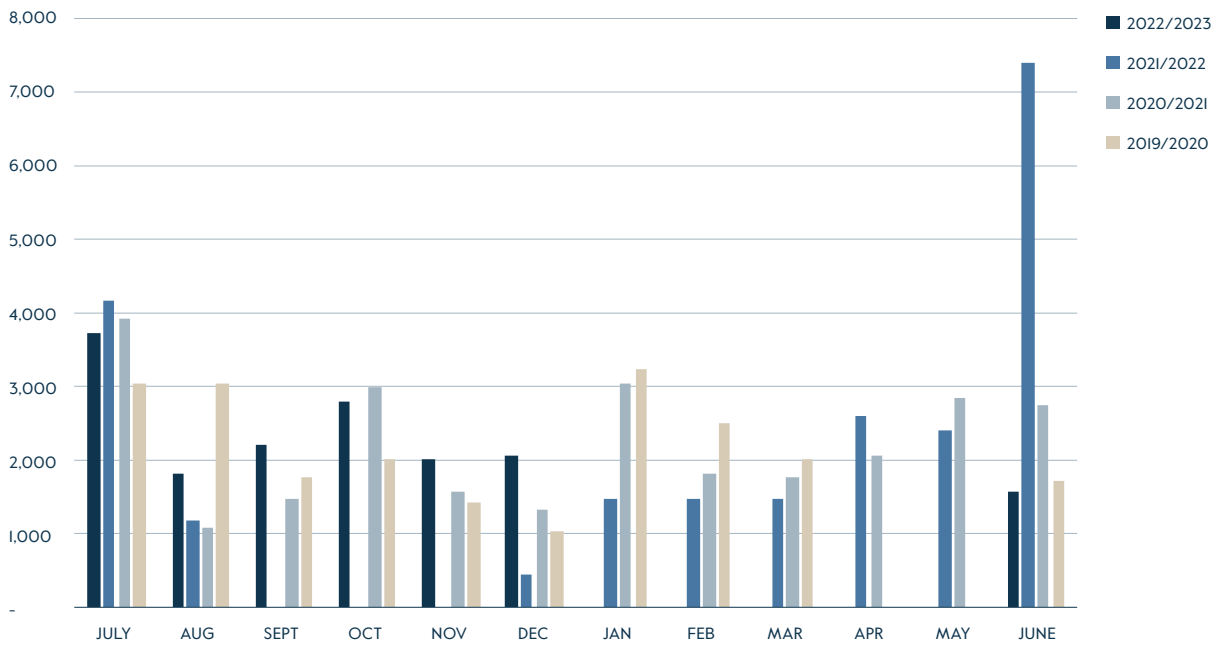
Because these two quarters were the last two of the calendar year, education visitation was still recovering from COVID-19 which heavily impacted schools through 2022. During 2022, schools were negotiating many pressures including catching up on missed learning and high illness-related absences.



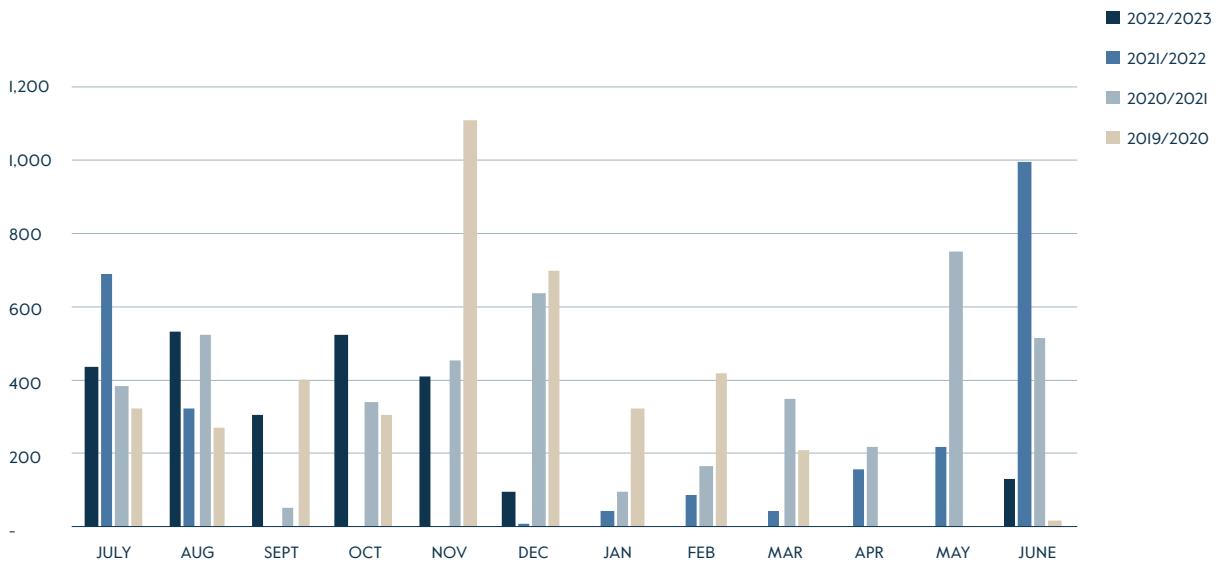
*‘Highly supports learning in terms of the inquiry, creating higher order thinking. A perfect time for our bilingual unit to connect our learning in our bilingual settings.’*

<sup>1</sup>A note on Matariki – Since the introduction of a public holiday, the peak of Matariki visitation is now just prior to the national day, whereas in the past it was over a 6-12 week period between May and August. To look at the overall success of each Matariki season, which straddles two financial years, it is helpful to look at visitation of the last two months of the previous financial year. Because the official public holiday moves each year between June and July, this impacts on the pattern of visitation.

## VISITATION EVENINGS &amp; WEEKENDS



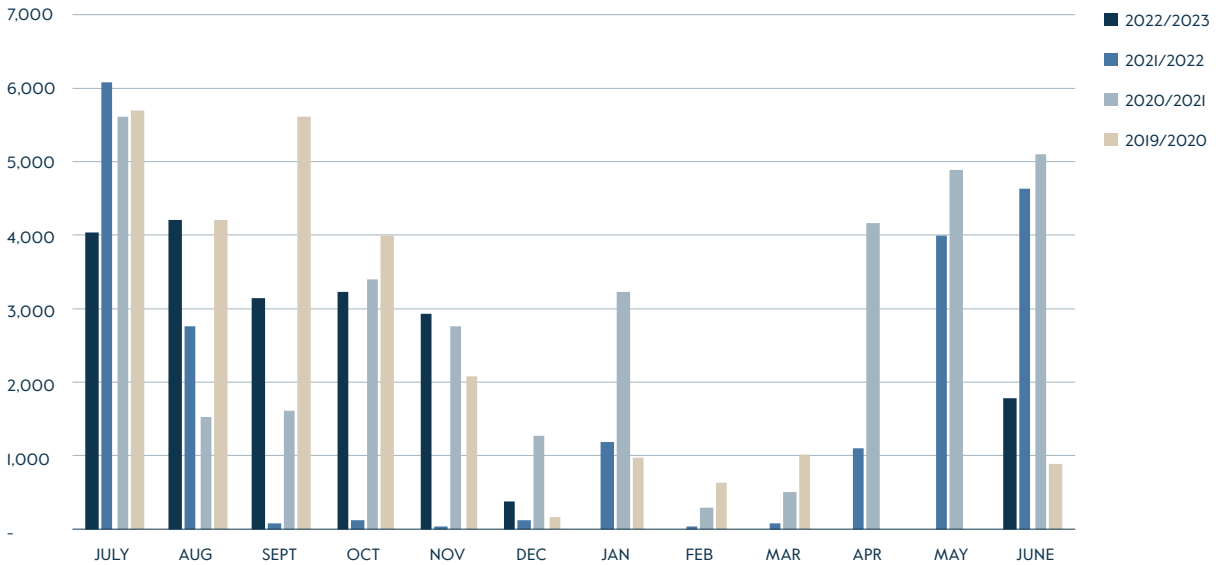
## VISITATION VENUE HIRE



*'We all loved our session at Stardome and had a wonderful time. The entire topic was relevant to our class learning... We really appreciate your hard work, enthusiasm and engaging facility. Thanks again!'*



## EDUCATION VISITATION

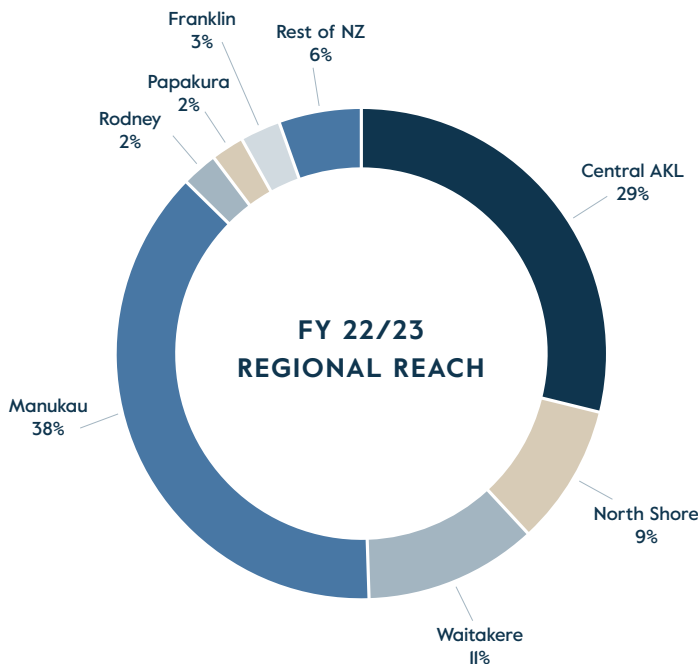


## LEARNING AT STARDOME

We are always proud of how we deliver for kura kaupapa, kōhanga reo, preschools and schools across Tāmaki Makaurau, with education visitors making up between 40% and 50% of our total visitation. Many Aucklanders who visit as adults can trace the beginning of their relationship with Stardome to a school visit when they were ākonga.

Our education visitation reflects the diversity of Auckland, both geographically and demographically. We were also proud to continue to reduce the barriers for schools with limited means to be able to visit through our equity programme. This programme (previously called the low decile schools' programme) subsidises transportation for schools of decile 1-4 (2022), or those with an Equity Index of 432 or higher (since 2023).

The period of closure saw the introduction of an outreach programme for schools. There was steady demand for this, and we delivered to 1,136 learners.



*'Love your kōrero  
Mātua thank you,  
ngā mihi'*

## MATARIKI 2022 AND 2023

Because the Matariki season (May–July) straddles two financial years, the annual report reflects parts of both Matariki 2022 (July, August 2022) and Matariki 2023 (May, June 2023). Now that there is a public holiday set aside for Matariki, with a specific day marked, the pattern of Matariki visitation alters year to year around this date.

For the final event of Stardome's bumper Matariki 2022 celebrations, visitors were treated to three evenings of live music from world-renowned Māori musicians AJA, Riki Gooch, and Mara TK. These intimate performances were held in the planetarium, free of charge to visitors, across three successive Fridays in July.

Developed in partnership with Auckland Council, each evening of Matariki on the Move featured multiple sessions where visitors were taken on a deep-space voyage to the Matariki cluster and back, soundtracked live by the artists – making every show unique.

On reopening, we debuted a new planetarium show, Matariki – Ngā Whetū o te Tau Hou (Matariki – The Stars of the New Year). It received overwhelmingly positive responses from our visitors and was sold out for the remaining part of the financial year. This new programme was developed by our own kaimahi.

## NEW PLANETARIUM SHOWS

As well as Ngā Whetū o te Tau Hou, a number of new planetariums shows were added to our programme during FY2022–2023 including 3-2-1 Liftoff! for our family audience, Birth of Planet Earth, Atlas of a Changing Earth, Te Marama – the Moon, and The Year in Space 2022.

*'Amazing information and show to enrich and embed the learning around Matariki and Te Ao Māori.'*



## PATH 99 – NZ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

As a partner venue of the New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF), Stardome welcomed cinemagoers to a full-dome film held across four screenings in July and August.

Path 99, a New Zealand-made film, uses information, discarded as 'invalid data' by geoscientists, to create a full-spectrum audio-visual experience of a continent's shifting weather systems.



## RESEARCH ROUND-UP 2023

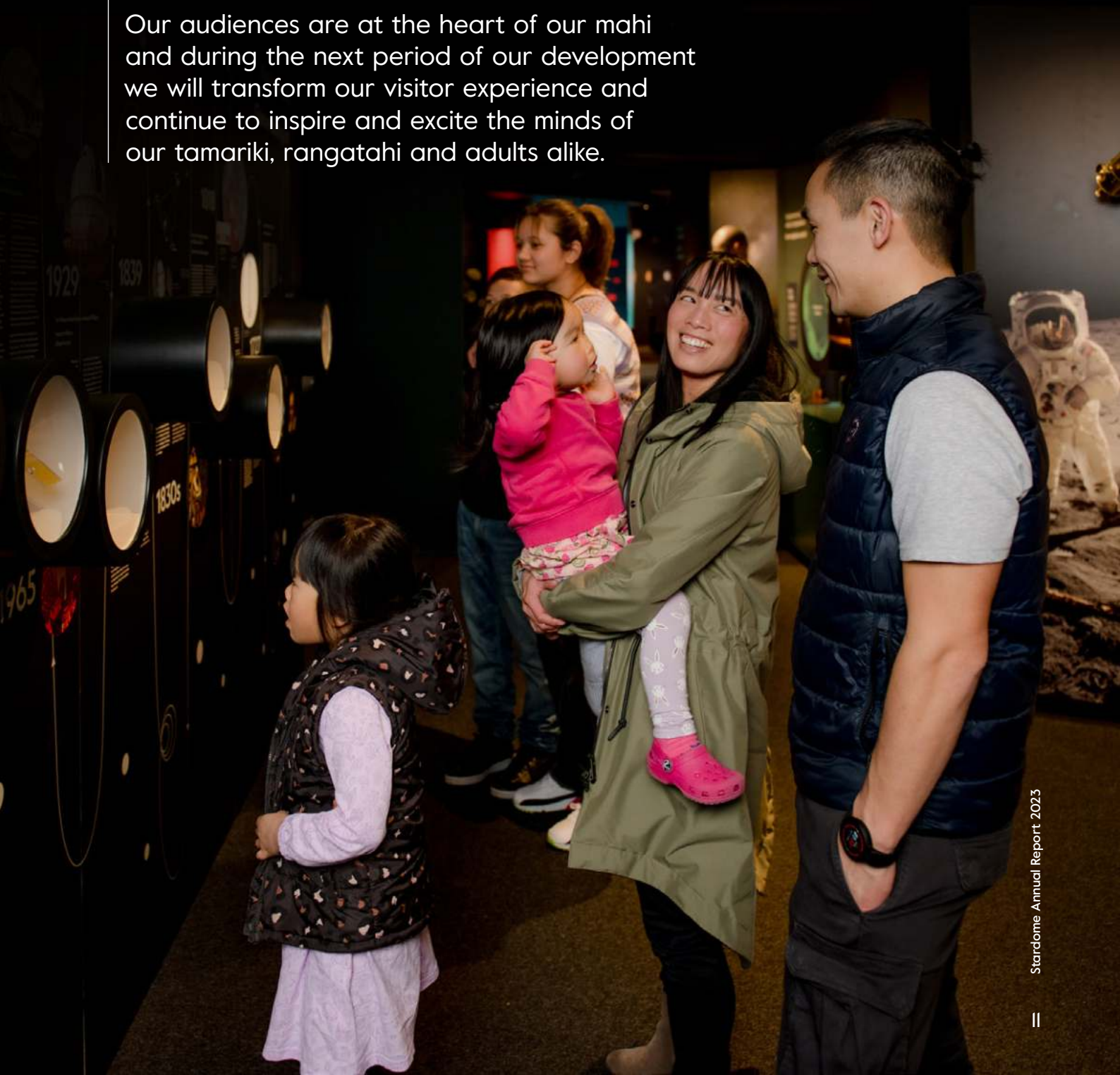
Since 2004 Stardome's research has been primarily in the new science of gravitational microlensing.

All the stars in our galaxy are in motion. Microlensing occurs when the light from a very distant star is briefly magnified by the gravity of a massive object, usually a star, that happens to pass exactly in-between as seen by our telescope. These brief, rare, stellar alignments typically last from hours to months – and they never repeat.

We work closely with our professional collaborators at Ohio State University (USA) and Peking University (China). Both of these groups are leaders in the application of the new science provided by microlensing events.

# Transform our visitor experience

Our audiences are at the heart of our mahi and during the next period of our development we will transform our visitor experience and continue to inspire and excite the minds of our tamariki, rangatahi and adults alike.







## GALLERY TRANSFORMATION

After six months of closure, it was our enormous pleasure to reveal our new and improved galleries which place mātauranga Māori alongside western scientific tradition. This represents our most significant upgrade in more than 20 years.

We are the first place in Aotearoa to offer a comprehensive star map with over 100 Māori names of whetū (stars), planets (arorangi) and constellations. The new galleries are bilingual and divided into five main sections – the solar system; stars; celestial navigation; meteors, asteroids and comets; and astronomical technologies. Each section aims to enhance visitors' understanding of what lies beyond Earth and how we in Aotearoa New Zealand are connected to the night sky.

The kaupapa of all the galleries is to reconnect Stardome's visitors to the cosmos and is expressed by the whakatauki Tātai whetū ki te rangi, tātai tāngata ki te whenua; a cluster of stars above, a gathering of people below.



*'This was an awesome experience for our students and the new features were amazing!'*



# Ensure organisational sustainability

We will continue to plan, prioritise and deliver the best outcomes for Aucklanders and maximise the resources we have available.

GOAL THREE



## RETAIL

This was our first full year of operating our online retail store. The store performed well, particularly during the Christmas period and while we were closed to the public. For the year ending 30 June 2023, online retail made up 4.3% of total retail sales.

As part of the refurbishments our retail store was relocated and given a facelift. The new retail store is bright and fresh, with several new products available for purchase.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL WORKS

As well as transforming the visitor experience, the significant capital works carried out during this year have ensured our facility is fit for purpose and maintains the sustainability of our facility. The upgrade of our galleries and roof replacement were identified as priorities in our Asset Management Plan (created in 2020), so to have achieved these upgrades has been very satisfying for management and the board.

Thanks to an unexpected grant, we were also able to upgrade our planetarium seats. The new seats are wider and more comfortable than the existing seats and are removable to increase access for our wheelchair-using manuhiri.

Since its inception, the AMP is reviewed each year, with a continuous assessment of priorities that are actively undertaken to ensure the sustainability of our facility.

While significant works were carried out to improve our building assets, we did unfortunately experience setbacks. The first of these was flood damage due to two extraordinary weather events: the Auckland Anniversary weekend storm, followed two weeks later by Cyclone Gabrielle. The storms caused flooding throughout the building and added some delays to our building programme as we worked through the insurance claim and undertook repairs.



The second setback was the theft of copper from the dome of our iconic Edith Winstone Blackwell Zeiss telescope. This was an upsetting event for not just the Stardome team, but for Aucklanders, many of whom reached out to us to share their aroha and support. As we enter the 2023-2024 financial year, the telescope remains out of action as we work to raise the necessary funds to replace the dome.

## OUR PEOPLE

We finish the year with a total of 28 kaimahi across our daytime and evening teams – a total of approximately 15 FTE. This year our people demonstrated their resilience and flexibility relocating to temporary offices for six months. During the closure period, many of our team, particularly part-timers, used the time for training and development, increasing their astronomical knowledge and skills in developing new planetarium programmes.



# Improve our environmental performance

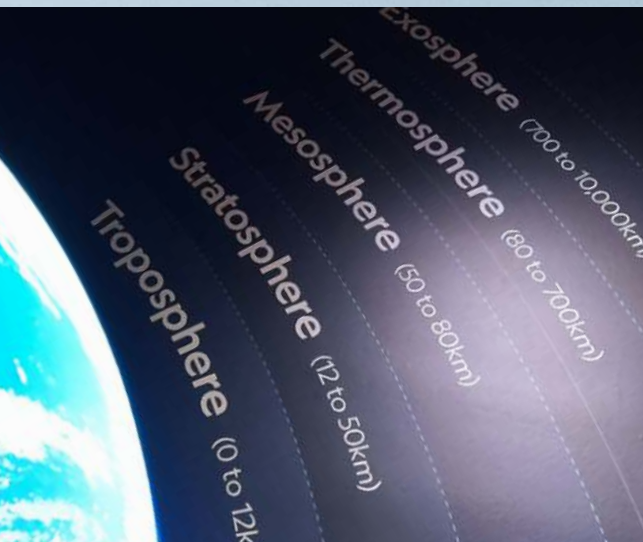
We have a responsibility to contribute to Auckland's goals for a sustainable environment for future generations through our operational practice and communication with our audiences.



## CARBON NEUTRAL

We couldn't be prouder to have achieved a huge milestone in January 2023 – receiving 'net carbon zero' certification from Toitū Envirocare.

The certification process is rigorous and holistic and involved significant work to understand our emissions; audit process; reduction and offset. This is a meaningful achievement toward our strategic goal and represents an enormous amount of work carried out over the past few years.



## ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGING IN OUR GALLERIES

Included in our new gallery is content concerning our atmosphere and climate as a planetary system. The content includes discussion on climate change and steps visitors can take to mitigate their impact.

## WASTE MINIMISATION

We continue to maintain our waste minimisation practices throughout the year using the principles of 'reduce, reuse, recycle', in that order of priority. This has also become a consideration in our procurement practises and has led to a change in suppliers of drinks and ice creams to Aotearoa-based businesses that prioritise minimal waste and carbon reduction.





# Become a bicultural organisation

As part of our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and in our role as leaseholders to uphold the mana of Maungakiekie, bicultural practice will become integral to how we operate.

GOAL FIVE





## MĀTAURANGA MĀORI

Our newly developed galleries mark a significant contribution to Māori astronomy. A key purpose of our redeveloped galleries is to give our manuhiri, both tangata whenua and tangata tiriti, access to knowledge about our skies that should be available to all of us. Not only do we now include mātauranga Māori alongside western science and astronomical understanding, but the galleries are also fully bilingual.

From reopening, Stardome hosted a winter season of Matariki shows giving visitors an authentic way to connect to the night sky in the lead up to and during the Māori New Year.

In FY2022-2023, 33.8% of our programming was Māori astronomy or related kaupapa. All programmes include the use of te reo Māori in greetings, and kupu Māori for whetū, arorangi, and other celestial bodies.

## KAIMAHI DEVELOPMENT AND CAPABILITY

Building the understanding and capacity of our kaimahi around Te Ao Māori is a core tenet of our operation, including tikanga, te reo Māori and mātauranga Māori (particularly kōkōrangī Māori/Māori astronomy). Our staff's understanding of kōkōrangī Māori, and particularly Matariki continues to deepen year on year. We continue to work with kaumātua, tuākana and other Māori knowledge holders to develop tikanga appropriate for our kaupapa that upholds the mana of Maungakiekie.

*'Nga mihi for your knowledge gifts and mahi.'*





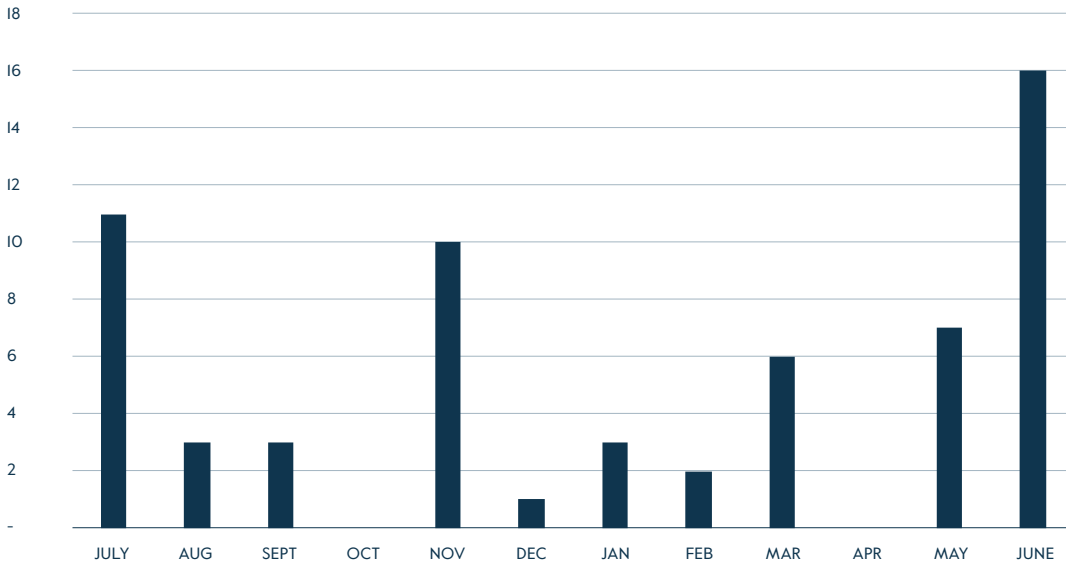
# Tell our story

Our story is rich, having been part of the fabric of Auckland since 1967. We will continue to champion the work we do and the experiences that we offer.

GOAL SIX



NUMBER OF MEDIA MENTIONS PER MONTH

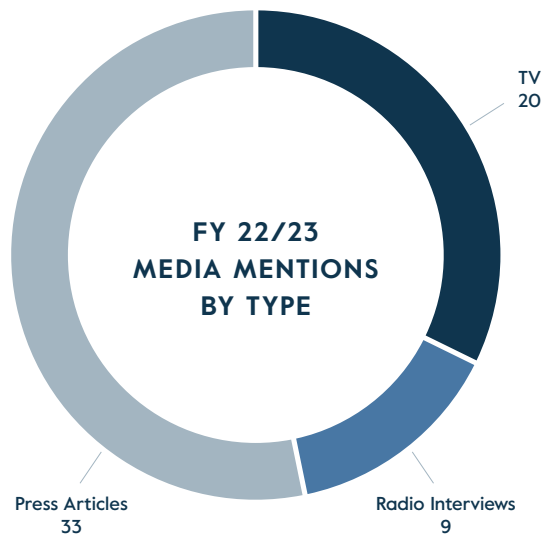


COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MEDIA COVERAGE

We had a very successful year of media coverage, with a total of 62 media articles and mentions. The majority of these were press articles, followed closely by TV and radio. These peaked over the Matariki season, but also around a lunar eclipse in November 2022, the theft of our copper dome, and the lead up to our reopening on 19 June 2023.

BRAND

Work on our rebrand progressed in 2023, including establishing the scope of a rebrand and, alongside mana whenua, exploring a te reo Māori name for Stardome. This work did not progress at the rate originally envisioned when 'A New Vision' was created, however, to ensure that our brand authentically reflects our refreshed kaupapa, it has been necessary to extend the project's timeframe so that we can get it right first time.







### QUALMARK CERTIFICATION

In September, we were delighted to receive Qualmark Silver certification under the Sustainable Tourism Business criteria. Qualmark New Zealand is tourism's official quality assurance organisation, providing a trusted guide to quality travel experience in New Zealand. It provides instant recognition for customers that a business will deliver a quality experience.

A Silver award is “evidence of a sophisticated tourism business that consistently exceeds visitor expectations. Proactive leadership and management ensure that a culture of high performance is evident throughout the entire business. The business will have a real focus on continuously improving their economic, social and environmental performance to ensure the tourism products they deliver is a genuine, constantly improving sustainable experience.”

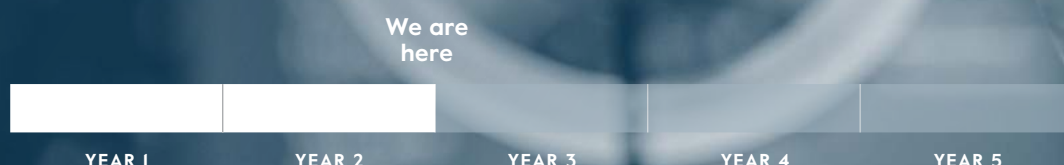
Being a Qualmark certified organisation gives us the opportunity to leverage off work that Tourism NZ carries out and gives us extensive opportunities for promotion through their endorsed channels (e.g. Air New Zealand will only partner with or promote Qualmark certified organisations).



### BEST DESIGN AWARDS

In early October, we were thrilled to win two Gold Pin awards (alongside our designers, Creature Post) in the Designers Institute of New Zealand Best Design Awards for our Matariki Lights experience. The awards were for Spatial Design, and Exhibition and Temporary Structure Design.

The second year of our five-year strategic plan has achieved significant physical transformation at Stardome. While the necessary closure to the public for six months has set back our visitation goals for 2023, we believe we are still on track to deliver on our five-year aspirations.



ACHIEVED



PROGRESSING



NOT YET ACHIEVED - DELAYED DUE TO COVID-19 AND GALLERY UPGRADE

## Goal 1: Be a trusted centre for sharing astronomy and mātauranga in Tāmaki Makaurau

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Continue to develop and deliver trusted astronomy programmes that are relevant for our audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grow our visitation year-on-year to a total visitation of 95,000/annum by 2026.*</li> <li>By 2022, 6,000 visitors/annum participate in evening experiences especially during the Matariki season.</li> <li>By 2023, deliver education programming to 45,000/annum from a representative geographic spread across Auckland.*</li> </ul>	<div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div>	<div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div>
Contribute to research in astronomy and mātauranga Māori through making our facility available to researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A research programme operates out of Stardome that partners with research institutions and individuals in astronomy, mātauranga Māori and other related fields.</li> <li>By 2026, a succession plan is in place for the research programme.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>
Develop and deliver new Māori astronomy programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2023, at least 30% of our yearly programme offering is Māori astronomy and related kaupapa.</li> <li>Partnership agreements for research and/or content co-development are in place with knowledge holders in the fields of Māori astronomy, traditional navigation, Maramataka, and other relevant areas.</li> <li>Matariki programme attendances is at 80% capacity every year.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>

\*It has not been possible to grow our visitation on last year as our capital works (which weren't anticipated when the SP was written in 2021), necessitated us being closed to the public from 25 December 2022 – 19 June 2023, nearly half of the financial year. Similarly, this is the reason why we have not been able to deliver our education programme to 45,000.

## Goal 2: Transform our visitor experience

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Provide outstanding, accessible planetarium programming which is locally relevant for our visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2022, develop at least one new planetarium experience per annum using local creatives.</li> <li>Grow our visitation year-on-year to a total visitation of 95,000/annum by 2026.*</li> <li>95% customer satisfaction rate.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>—</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>
Refresh our education offering, ensuring we are a vital resource for teachers and learners, in line with current pedagogical practice and curriculum development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2023, deliver education programming to 45,000/ annum from a representative geographic spread across Auckland.*</li> <li>95% satisfaction rate from teachers.</li> <li>By 2023, deliver new education programming that reflects current pedagogy and is considered an exemplar for education outside the classroom and STEM.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>—</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>
Ensure the gallery experience is vibrant and up-to-date, unique to our location and kaupapa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By January 2023, new galleries are installed and open to the public.**</li> <li>By end 2023, a feasibility study is undertaken for longer term capital development of the site including partnership opportunities with mana whenua and other key stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>

\*It has not been possible to grow our visitation on last year as our capital works (which weren't anticipated when the SP was written in 2021), necessitated us being closed to the public from 25 December 2022 – 19 June 2023, nearly half of the financial year. Similarly, this is the reason why we have not been able to deliver our education programme to our target of 45,000.

\*\*the new galleries were delivered in June 2023, not January 2023 as originally intended when the SP was written in 2021. This is because at the time the SP was created, we were not anticipating putting on a new roof. This came about largely because of an unanticipated capital grant from TAU as a contribution to the new roof.

### Goal 3: Ensure organisational sustainability

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Sound fiscal, operational, fiduciary, asset management practices are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All statutory and reporting obligations are met in a timely manner.</li> <li>Appropriate policies and procedures are in place, and adhered to, for all fiscal, operational, and fiduciary matters.</li> <li>By July 2021, an Asset Management Plan is developed and activated.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>
Kaimahi, board, and volunteer capability is continuously developed to meet organisational requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2022, a staff professional development programme is developed and reviewed each year, aligned to strategic objectives.</li> <li>By December 2021, a formal volunteer structure and programme is in place that provides meaningful work and contribution.</li> <li>Maintain a purpose-built board made up of members who have the skills, networks and capability to lead and oversee the successful operation of the organisation.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>—</div> <div>✓</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>
Maximise self-generated income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2023, at least 50% of our income is self-generated.***</li> <li>By 2026, sound retail management results in a year-on-year increase in ATV (average transactional value).</li> <li>By July 2023, a funding strategy is developed that aligns with our values and principles.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>
Stardome is considered a great place to work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By July 2022, best-practice welfare policies and health and safety procedures are in place.</li> <li>Remuneration scales are based on accepted market values within relevant sectors, with a minimum benchmark of maintaining pay parity with the market.</li> <li>Turnover of staff is lower than average for other similar organisations.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>

### Goal 4: Improve our environmental performance

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Reduce the environmental impact of our operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2022, environmental initiatives and targets are determined and achieved each year.</li> <li>By July 2022, all procurement includes consideration of environmental and social impact of product and services.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>
Environmental messaging is included in our programming and communicated with the public wherever relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By December 2022, a new education programme is developed on the topic of climate change.</li> <li>By December 2022, a new planetarium experience is developed on the topic of climate change.</li> <li>By January 2023, new galleries will include messaging about climate and climate change as a planetary process.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>
Create a carbon reduction roadmap to 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By January 2022, a roadmap to carbon neutrality is developed that determines achievable targets and initiatives.</li> <li>Goals for carbon reduction are set and achieved each year.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>

\*\*\* Self-generated is defined as grants received through independent fundraising activities and through trading. This was not achieved in 2023 – again largely because we were not open to the public for two out of four quarters due to our capital works, the roof project in particular (which set the schedule).



## Goal 5: Become a bicultural organisation

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Develop and maintain meaningful relationships with Mana Whenua and Tangata Whenua.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of a strong relationship with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority, including contributing to the outcomes, obligations, and aspirations for Maungakiekie.</li> <li>By 2022, kaumatua guidance is in place to advise on matters relevant to our operation.</li> <li>Partnership agreements for research and/or content co-development are in place with knowledge holders in the fields of Māori astronomy, traditional navigation, Maramataka, and other relevant areas.</li> </ul>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>
Understand and uphold our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biculturalism is entrenched through policies and procedures, tikanga, and everyday practice.</li> <li>Ensure staff maintain and develop their skills and competencies in tikanga, Te Tiriti, bicultural practice, te reo Māori.</li> <li>By 2023, a programme is in place to provide pathways for rangatahi interested in science, astronomy, and mātauranga.</li> <li>By January 2022, understand and follow the tikanga specific to our location and kaupapa.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>✓</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>
Increase capability of our kaimahi, board, and volunteers' bicultural practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By July 2023, we have sufficient qualified staff who can deliver programmes in te reo Māori.</li> <li>By July 2022, identify training and development needs of kaimahi and develop an ongoing programme of professional development.</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>

## Goal 6: Tell our story

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Develop and maintain a brand which is future-fit and reflects our kaupapa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2022, a new brand is developed and launched.*****</li> <li>By 2026, 5% year-on-year increase in brand awareness with Aucklanders.</li> <li>By December 2022, market research metrics consistently show a positive trend in brand equity (including loyalty, awareness, associations, perceived quality, conversion measures, ROI, and favourability measures).</li> </ul>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>↗</div> <div>↗</div> <div>✓</div>
Develop an effective, brand-aligned communications strategy that clarifies audience, key messages, and customer platform preferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By December 2021, brand health is measured and benchmarked, and year-on-year targets set.</li> <li>By June 2022, a new communications strategy is developed, identifying year-on-year targets.</li> </ul>	<div>—</div> <div>↗</div>	<div>✓</div> <div>↗</div>

\*\*\*\*\* though the rebrand project commenced this year, the work was not able to be completed according to the initial timeframe. We decided to pause this work as the transformation of the galleries was underway. With the offer of a TRM name by mana whenua following the gallery opening, we have decided it is prudent to work through this with them as the new name will be central to the new brand work.



# AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

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**STARDOME**  
OBSERVATORY  
PLANETARIUM

# Directory

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr Richard Sorrenson -  
Chairperson  
Mr Michael Spraggon  
Mr Mukseet Bashir  
Dr Niven Brown  
Ms Victoria Silwood  
Mr Bill Thomas  
Ms Cadence Kaumoana  
Ms Catherine Foster  
Ms Shannon Thomas

## NATURE OF BUSINESS

The principal activity of the organisation is research, education and entertainment services in the science of Astronomy from its premises located in One Tree Hill Domain, Auckland.

## REGISTERED OFFICE

670 Manukau Road  
Royal Oak, Auckland



# Statement of Responsibility

For the year ended 30th June 2023

The Board is responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and the preparation and integrity of the financial report, which includes the financial statements, statement of service performance and related information. The independent external auditors, RSM Hayes Audit, have audited the financial report and their report appears on pages 46 and 47.

The Board is also responsible for the systems of internal control. These are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance as to the reliability of the financial report, and to adequately safeguard, verify and maintain accountability for assets, and to prevent and detect material misstatements. Appropriate systems of internal control have been employed to ensure that all transactions have been executed in accordance with authority and correctly processed and accounted for in the financial records. The systems are implemented and monitored by suitably trained personnel with an appropriate segregation of authority and duties. Nothing has come to the attention of the Board to indicate that any material breakdown in the functioning of these controls, procedures and systems has occurred during the year under review.

The financial report is prepared on a going concern basis. Nothing has come to the attention of the Board to indicate that the Trust will not remain a going concern in the foreseeable future.

In the opinion of the Board:

- The statement of comprehensive revenue and expense is drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the surplus/(deficit) of the Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2023;
- The statement of financial position is drawn up so as to present, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2023;
- The statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the cashflows of the Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2023;
- The statement of service performance is drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the service performance for the year ended 30 June 2023 in accordance with the entity's service performance criteria.
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay their debts as and when they fall due.

For and on behalf of the Board.

  
Board Member

27 September 2023

Date

  
Board Member

27 September 2023

Date

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## I. WHO WE ARE:

Stardome Observatory and Planetarium has proudly stood on Maungakiekie since 1967, offering Aucklanders an opportunity to view and be inspired by the skies above us, echoing what our ancestors and tupuna have done for millennia – stared up at the heavens and wondered, told stories, made order of their lives, and tried to make sense of the universe and its many questions.

Stardome moves into the future with a vision that will ensure we are a place of trust and integrity for celestial stories, astronomy, mātauranga Maori and cosmological science; one that honours and shares the first stories told about the skies over Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa; that upholds the mana of Maungakiekie; is environmentally and financially sustainable; and above all inspires and excites the minds of our tamariki and rangatahi.

### PURPOSE (why we exist):

Standing on this whenua, we enable our visitors to explore the interconnections between people, their globe and the cosmos, through multiple lenses.

### MISSION (what we do and how we operate):

We partner with Maori, scientists, astronomers, educators, communities, and supporters, to develop and deliver programmes initiatives, mātauranga and learning which excite fascination, curiosity and inquiry, that are relevant and meaningful to those we serve.

### VISION (our aspirational and achievable ten-year target):

Stardome engages authentically with indigenous astronomy.

## 2. OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

### GOAL ONE: Be a trusted centre for sharing astronomy and mātauranga

We are committed to being a place of trust and integrity for celestial stories, astronomy, mātauranga Māori, pūtaiao, and cosmological science.

### GOAL TWO: Transform our visitor experience

Our audiences are at the heart of our mahi and during the next period of our development we will transform our visitor experience and continue to inspire and excite the minds of our tamariki, rangatahi and adults alike.

### GOAL THREE: Ensure organisational sustainability

We will continue to plan, prioritise and deliver the best outcomes for Aucklanders and maximise the resources we have available.

### GOAL FOUR: Improve our environmental performance

We have a responsibility to contribute to Auckland's goals for a sustainable environment for future generations through our operational practice and communication with our audiences.

### GOAL FIVE: Become a bicultural organisation

As part of our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our role as leaseholders to uphold the mana of Maungakiekie, bicultural practice will become integral to how we operate.

### GOAL SIX: Tell our story

Our story is rich, having been part of the fabric of Auckland since 1967. We will continue to champion the work we do and the experiences that we offer.

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT JUDGEMENTS

In compiling the Statement of Service Performance report, management has made judgements in relation to which initiatives and measures best reflect our performance against our strategic plan.

Stardome delivers targeted outputs in accordance with its strategic plan and budget. These outputs are designed to achieve the outcomes that will enable us to accomplish our mission to partner with Maori, scientists, astronomers, educators, communities and supporters to develop and deliver programmes and initiatives, mātauranga and learning that excite fascination, curiosity and inquiry, that are relevant and meaningful to those we serve. The related outcomes and goals are grouped in six key areas in this report.

Key success measures for this Statement of Service Performance have been selected for reporting for external stakeholder purposes. The full strategic plan can be found on our website ([https://yc.cldmlk.com/hjclmg2m2cd50sszaghf3nvjzg/I6383995I9522\\_Stardome\\_Strategic\\_plan\\_22Oct21\\_web.pdf](https://yc.cldmlk.com/hjclmg2m2cd50sszaghf3nvjzg/I6383995I9522_Stardome_Strategic_plan_22Oct21_web.pdf)).

## 4. PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC GOALS

The first two years of A New Vision, our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, have been heavily impacted by significant periods of closure to the public in each of those years. In 2021, COVID-19 caused operational disruption for a total of 227 days. Of this, 125 days we were closed to the public due to lockdown and red traffic light setting, and for the other 102 days, we could only operate at 50% capacity due to distancing requirements. In 2022, a major capital project, the replacement of our roof, necessitated closure to the public for a period of approx. six months (from 24 December 2022 – 19 June 2023). This impacted on our visitation targets, which we were not able to achieve over either of these years, and related self-generated income. The disruptions also caused delay to the achievement of some initiatives including our rebrand, education review, and gallery refresh.

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## Goal I – Be a trusted centre for sharing astronomy and mātauranga

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Continue to develop and deliver trusted astronomy programmes that are relevant for our audiences.	• Grow our visitation year-on-year to a total visitation of 95,000/ annum by 2026.	45,459	38,372
	• By 2022, 6,000 visitors/annum participate in mātauranga Māori public programme experiences especially during the Matariki season.	4,584	2,379
	• By 2023, deliver education programming to 45,000/ annum from a representative geographic spread across Auckland.	20,165	19,666
<p><b>FY 21/22 REGIONAL REACH</b></p> <p><b>FY 22/23 REGIONAL REACH</b></p>			
Contribute to research in astronomy and mātauranga Māori through making our facility available to researchers.	• A research programme operates out of Stardome that partners with research institutions and individuals in astronomy, mātauranga Māori and other related fields.	Stardome's research telescope used by researchers a total of 154 nights.	Stardome's research telescope used by researchers a total of 72 nights (not able to be used during the roof works).
	• By 2026, a succession plan is in place for the research programme.	Not yet achieved	Not yet achieved
Develop and deliver new Māori astronomy programmes.	• By 2023, at least 30% of our yearly programme offering is Māori astronomy and related kaupapa.	Not measured	33.8%
	• Partnership agreements for research and/or content co-development are in place with knowledge holders in the fields of Maori astronomy, traditional navigation, Maramataka, and other relevant areas.	Not measured	Content co-development of galleries with Prof Rangi Matamua.
	• Matariki programme attendances is at 80% capacity every year.	76% (6 June – 26 June, public holiday observed on 24 June)	89% (26 June – 16 July, public holiday observed 14 July) NOTE – Matariki season fell over two financial years in 2023)



# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## Goal 2 - Transform our visitor experience

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Provide outstanding, accessible planetarium programming which is locally relevant for our visitors.	• By 2022, develop at least one new planetarium experience per annum using local creatives.	12 May 2022 – Nga whetū o Matariki launched	7 July 2022 – Ngā Tohunga Whakatare - The Navigators 1 October 2022 – Te Marama: Our Moon 1 December 2022 – The Year in Space 2022 19 June 2023 – Matariki: Nga whetū o Te Tau Hou
	• Grow our visitation year-on-year to a total visitation of 95,000/annum by 2026.	45,459	38,372
	• 95% customer satisfaction rate	Not yet measured	Not yet measured – formal procedures for measuring are currently being developed
Refresh our education offering, ensuring we are a vital resource for teachers and learners, in line with current pedagogical practice and curriculum development.	• By 2023, deliver education programming to 45,000/annum from a representative geographic spread across Auckland.	20,165	19,666
	• 95% satisfaction rate from teachers.	Not yet measured	Anonymous surveys are sent to teachers for all education visits. Ratings are provided for categories on a 5-point scale from 'very poor' to 'exceptional. 99% rated their satisfaction with Stardome as 'good' or higher.
	• By 2023, deliver new education programming that reflects current pedagogy and is considered an exemplar for education outside the classroom and STEM	Not yet achieved	Not yet achieved – education review completed in December 2022
Ensure the gallery experience is vibrant and up-to-date, unique to our location and kaupapa.	• By January 2023, new galleries are installed and open to the public.	Not yet achieved	19 June – new galleries opened to the public

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## Goal 3 - Ensure organisational sustainability

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Sound fiscal, operational, fiduciary, asset management practices are maintained.	• All statutory and reporting obligations are met in a timely manner.	Quarterly reports submitted to ARAFB. Audited annual report submitted 30 September (ARAFB), 31 December (Charities Commission)	Quarterly reports submitted to ARAFB. Audited report due 30 September 2023 (ARAFB), 31 December (Charities Commission)
	• By July 2021, an Asset Management Plan is developed and activated.	Capital expenditure: \$358,535 Major projects – upgrade of bathroom	Capital expenditure: \$2,471,156 Major projects – Gallery redevelopment, roof replacement, planetarium seats
Kaimahi, board, and volunteer capability is continuously developed to meet organisational requirements.		Number of Staff: 29 FTE: 14.5 Board: 9 Board appointments: 1	Number of Staff: 26 FTE: 15 Board: 9 Board appointments: 3
Maximise self-generated income.	• By 2023, at least 50% of our income is self-generated (i.e., not from the ARAFB grant).	42%	47%
	• By 2026, sound retail management results in a year-on-year increase in ATV (Average transactional value per visitor).	ATV – \$2.08pp	ATV – \$2.22pp

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## Goal 4 – Improve our environmental performance

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Reduce the environmental impact of our operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By July 2022, all procurement includes consideration of environmental and social impact of product and services.</li> </ul>	New suppliers of drinks, ice creams, uniforms that are either carbon neutral or actively working to lower carbon.	New air conditioning units installed with lower-carbon outputs.
Environmental messaging is included in our programming and communicated with the public wherever relevant – what we say to our visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By December 2022, a new planetarium experience is developed on the topic of climate change.</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	Not yet achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By January 2023, new galleries will include messaging about climate and climate change as a planetary process.</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	New galleries opened to public 19 June 2023 which included messaging about climate change.
Create a carbon reduction roadmap to 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goals for carbon reduction are set and achieved each year.</li> </ul>	Goal set: carbon neutrality by 2023.	Net carbon zero certification received from Toitū Envirocare.

## Goal 5 - Become a bicultural organisation

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Develop and maintain meaningful relationships with Mana Whenua and Tangata Whenua.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreements for research and/or content co-development are in place with knowledge holders in the fields of Maori astronomy, traditional navigation, Maramataka, and other relevant areas.</li> </ul>	February 2021 - workshops held with Māori knowledge holders.	Co-development of galleries with Prof Rangī Matamua.
Understand and uphold our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2023, a programme is in place to provide pathways for rangatahi interested in science, astronomy, and mātauranga.</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	Not yet achieved

# Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 30th June 2023

## Goal 6 - Tell our story

INITIATIVE	SUCCESS MEASURES	2022	2023
Develop and maintain a brand which is future-fit and reflects our kaupapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2022, a new brand is developed and launched.</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	Not yet achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2026, 5% year-on-year increase in brand awareness with Aucklanders.</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	Independent survey on health of brand carried out December 2022 (Morris Hargreaves McIntyre). This research will form the baseline for measurement year-to-year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By December 2022, market research metrics consistently show a positive trend in brand equity (including loyalty, awareness, associations, perceived quality, conversion measures, ROI, and favourability measures).</li> </ul>	Not yet achieved	As above
Develop an effective, brand-aligned communications strategy that clarifies audience, key messages, and customer platform preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications plan developed each year</li> </ul>	<p>Delayed</p> <p>Marketing &amp; communications expenditure: \$163,083</p>	<p>Communications plan developed December 2022/January 2023</p> <p>Marketing &amp; communications expenditure: \$153,532</p>



# Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the year ended 30th June 2023

	Note	30 June 23	30 June 22
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions</b>			
Covid-19 Subsidies Received		-	99,130
Government Grants		106,878	106,848
Operational Grants		1,610,293	1,531,766
Donations & Adopt a Star		14,113	25,039
<b>Total revenue from non-exchange transactions</b>		<b>1,731,284</b>	<b>1,762,783</b>
<b>Revenue from Exchange Transactions</b>			
Entrance Fees		273,052	321,542
Interest Received		16,814	1,867
Shop Income		82,403	80,935
Event Hire Income		43,619	40,516
Investment Income Received	10	10,448	3,744
Depreciation Recovered		-	4,076
Fair Value Adjustment on Endowment Investments	10	(1,597)	(21,114)
<b>Total revenue from exchange transactions</b>		<b>424,739</b>	<b>431,565</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>2,156,024</b>	<b>2,194,348</b>
<b>LESS EXPENSES</b>			
Communication & Computer Expenses		88,739	89,588
Cost of Sales		53,361	59,311
Development Expenses		29,795	2,021
Financial Expenses		77,857	76,781
Interest		57,729	52,356
General Administration Expenses		74,410	60,056
Maintenance		206,830	153,946
Promotion		170,589	191,456
Shows/Displays		62,917	123,895
Wages & Salaries		1,039,752	1,035,653
Utilities, Rates and Insurance		97,856	55,628
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,959,834</b>	<b>1,900,692</b>
<b>Operating Surplus for the year</b>		<b>196,189</b>	<b>293,656</b>
Special Purpose Capital Grants Received		677,512	243,998
<b>Less Other Expenses</b>			
Depreciation	7	214,596	215,394
Loss on disposal of PPE		124,845	194,730
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>534,260</b>	<b>127,530</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year.</b>		<b>534,260</b>	<b>127,530</b>

# Statement of Movements in Equity

For the year ended 30th June 2023

	30 June 23	30 June 22
EQUITY AT START OF PERIOD	1,682,662	1,555,132
Total Comprehensive Revenue / (Expense) for the year	534,260	127,530
EQUITY AT END OF PERIOD	2,216,922	1,682,662

# Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2023

	Note	30 June 23	30 June 22
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		2,216,922	1,682,662
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>2,216,922</b>	<b>1,682,662</b>
Represented by:			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	595,293	1,185,318
Short Term Investments		-	-
GST Refund Due		179,620	610
Accounts Receivable & Prepayments		58,216	205,821
Inventories - Good held for re-sale	6	11,589	25,066
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>844,718</b>	<b>1,416,814</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	4,047,855	1,916,140
Endowment Investment Pool	10	377,289	378,886
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>4,425,144</b>	<b>2,295,026</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,269,863</b>	<b>3,711,840</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable		542,597	112,660
Income in Advance		69,210	24,348
Accruals		154,243	168,220
Regional Facilities Auckland Loan	8	34,000	34,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>800,051</b>	<b>339,228</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Regional Facilities Auckland Loan	8	1,652,890	1,689,950
Loan from Related Party	9	600,000	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,252,890</b>	<b>1,689,950</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,052,941</b>	<b>2,029,178</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,216,922</b>	<b>1,682,662</b>



# Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30th June 2023

	30 June 23	30 June 22
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Receipts from Operating Grants	1,921,648	1,700,051
Receipts from Special Purpose Grants	677,512	83,998
Receipts from Donations	14,113	25,039
Receipts from Shop Sales	82,403	80,935
Receipts from Admissions	273,052	319,025
Receipts from Functions and Events	43,619	40,516
Receipts from Other transactions	10,448	7,820
Receipts from Government Grant	-	99,130
Interest Received	16,814	1,867
	<b>3,039,610</b>	<b>2,358,380</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Payments to Suppliers	(447,568)	(732,320)
Payments to IRD - GST	(170,996)	771
Payments to Employees	(1,066,746)	(1,030,225)
	<b>(1,685,309)</b>	<b>(1,761,774)</b>
<b>Net Cash from operating activities</b>	<b>1,354,301</b>	<b>596,607</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
<b>Payments</b>		
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	(2,449,536)	(164,724)
Short Term Investments	0	395,116
Endowment Investment Pool	0	(400,000)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(2,449,536)</b>	<b>(169,609)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
<b>Payments</b>		
Interest Paid	(57,729)	(52,356)
Repayment of Borrowing	(37,060)	(34,000)
Receipts from Private Line of Credit	600,000	-
<b>Net cash from in financing activities</b>	<b>505,211</b>	<b>(86,356)</b>
Net cash increase (decrease) for the period	(590,025)	340,642
Cash at the beginning of the period	1,185,318	844,675
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>595,293</b>	<b>1,185,318</b>

# Notes to Financial Statements

## I. REPORTING ENTITY

The reporting entity is Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board trading as Stardome. Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board is incorporated under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

The financial statements are presented for the year ended 30 June 2023.

These financial statements and the accompanying notes summarise the financial results of activities carried out by the organisation.

These financial statements have been approved and were authorised by the Board of Trustees on the date indicated on page 28.

## BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand ("NZ GAAP"). They comply with Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards ("PBE IPSAS") and other applicable financial reporting standards as appropriate that have been authorised for use by the External Reporting Board for Not-For-Profit Entities. For the purposes of complying with NZ GAAP, the organisation is a public benefit not-for-profit entity and is eligible to apply Tier 2 Not-For-Profit PBE IPSAS on the basis that it does not have public accountability and is not defined as large.

The Board of Trustees has elected to report in accordance with Tier 2 Not-For-Profit PBE Accounting Standards and in doing so has taken advantage of all applicable Reduced Disclosure Regime ("RDR") disclosure concessions.

## 3. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

### 3.1 Changes in accounting policy

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements. There were no changes in accounting policies.

The Trust Board has applied the following standards for the first time in the financial report in the year ended 30 June 2023.

- PBE IPSAS 41 Financial Instruments. There has been no effect on the measurement of financial instruments in the financial statements as a result.
- PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting. See Statement of Service Performance.

### 3.2 Basis of measurement

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, as modified by fair value measurement of investments.

### 3.3 Functionality and presentational currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (\$), which is the organisation's functional currency. All information has been presented in New Zealand Dollars.

### 3.4 Foreign Currency Translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially accounted for at the ruling rate of exchange on the date of the transaction.

Trade creditors denominated in foreign currency are reported at the statement of financial position reporting date by applying the exchange rate on that date. Exchange differences arising from the settlement of creditors, or from the reporting of creditors at rates different from these at which they were initially recorded during the period, are recognised as income or expenses on the period in which they arise.

# Notes to Financial Statements

## 3.5 Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the organisation and the revenue can be reliably measured. The operations of the organisation are reliant on services provided by volunteers. Volunteer services are not recognised as revenue or expenditure. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received. The following specific recognition criteria must be met before revenue is recognised.

### Revenue from non-exchange transactions

#### Donations

Donations are recognised as revenue upon receipt and include donations from the general public for Stardome open days, and any donations from the general public.

#### Grant revenue

Grant revenue includes grants given by other charitable organisations, government agencies, philanthropic organisations and businesses. Grant revenue is recognised when any use or return conditions attached to the grant have been complied with. Where there are unfulfilled conditions attaching to the grant, the amount relating to the unfulfilled condition is recognised as a liability and released to revenue as the conditions are fulfilled.

### Revenue from exchange transactions

#### Entrance Fees

Fees charged for show entry are recorded as revenue when the show takes place.

#### Shop income

Purchases of retail items are recorded as revenue at the time of purchase.

#### Event income

Fees charged for functions and events are recorded as revenue when the function or event takes place.

#### Interest income

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

## 3.6 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the organisation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

The organisation derecognises a financial asset or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or are waived, or the organisation has transferred its rights to receive cash

flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party and either:

- The organisation has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or
- The organisation has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

### Financial assets at amortised cost

This category of financial assets is the most relevant to the Trust. Financial assets at amortised cost are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Such assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gain or losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense when the financial assets are derecognised or impaired.

The carrying value of financial assets at amortised cost approximates their fair value. Financial assets at amortised cost comprise trade receivables, other receivables, and cash and cash equivalents. These are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date, which are classified as non-current assets.

### Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit

Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit include items that are either classified as held for trading or that meet certain conditions and are designated at fair value through surplus or deficit through initial recognition. The endowment investment pool financial asset is classified in this category.

### Impairment of financial assets

The organisation assesses at the reporting date whether financial assets carried at amortised cost are credit impaired. Loss allowance for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.

### Financial Liabilities – at amortised cost

The organisation's financial liabilities include trade and other creditors (excluding GST and PAYE), employee entitlements, loans and borrowings and deferred income (in respect to grants whose conditions are yet to be complied with).

All financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value (plus transaction cost for financial liabilities not at fair value through surplus or deficit) and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.



# Notes to Financial Statements

## 3.7 Cash and cash equivalents | Short term investments

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held on call at banks and are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Short term investments comprise term deposits which have a term of greater than three months and less than one year.

## 3.8 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, with due allowance for any damaged and obsolete stock items.

Cost is calculated on an average basis and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring inventories and bringing them to a location and condition available for sale.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business.

## 3.9 Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

### Additions and subsequent costs

Subsequent costs and the cost of replacing part of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the organisation and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value at the acquisition date.

All repairs and maintenance expenditure are

charged to surplus or deficit in the year in which the expense is incurred.

### Disposals

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal.

When an item of property, plant or equipment is disposed of, the gain or loss recognised in the surplus or deficit is calculated as the difference between the net sale proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset.

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. Depreciation is charged at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of the assets less any estimated residual value over its remaining useful life:

Buildings and Dome	2.0% - 13.5%
Fixed Astronomical Equipment	2.0% - 10.0%
Telescopes and Accessories	2.6% - 30.0%
Planetarium Equipment	10.0% - 25.0%
Furniture and Fittings	2.0% - 33.0%
Projection and Sound System	6.7% - 6.7%
Computers	9.0% - 30.0%
Displays and Exhibits	3.8% - 25.0%
Upgrade Project	10.0% - 33.3%

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and are adjusted if there is a change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset.

# Notes to Financial Statements

## 3.10 Leases

Payments on operating lease agreements, where the lessor retains substantially the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## 3.11 Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are expensed in the period they occur. Borrowing costs consist of interest and other costs that an entity incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds.

## 3.12 Employee benefits

These include wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave.

Liabilities for wages and salaries, and accumulated annual leave are recognised in surplus or deficit during the period in which the employee provided the related services. Liabilities for the associated benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

## 3.13 Income tax

Due to its charitable status, the organisation is exempt from income tax.

## 3.14 Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except for receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a net basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department is classified as part of operating cash flows.

## 4. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of the organisation's financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the accompanying disclosures.

### Judgements

In the process of applying the organisation's accounting policies management has made the following judgements, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

#### Useful lives and residual value

The useful lives and residual values of assets (as detailed in note 3.9) are assessed using the following indicators to determine potential future use and value from disposal:

- The condition of the asset
- The nature of the asset, its susceptibility and adaptability to changes in technology and processes
- The nature of the processes in which the asset is deployed
- Availability of funding to replace the asset
- Changes in the market in relation to the asset

## 5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include the following:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash at Bank	595,293	1,185,318

## 6. INVENTORY

Inventory held for sale or provision of goods and services at commercial terms:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Inventory Holding	11,589	25,066

# Notes to Financial Statements

## 7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Cost as at 30/06/22	Accum. Dep as at 30/06/22	NBV as at 30/06/22	Additions/ Disposals	Depreciation 2023	Cost as at 30/06/23	Accum. Dep as at 30/06/23	NBV as at 30/06/23
Building and Dome	2,225,136	1,009,513	1,215,624	39,380	67,909	2,264,515	1,077,422	1,187,095
Fixed Astronomical Equipment	232,339	128,696	103,643	0	8,298	232,339	136,995	95,345
Telescopes and Accessories	104,651	47,841	56,811	0	7,690	104,651	55,531	49,121
Planetarium Equipment	717,885	405,954	311,931	399	65,902	718,284	471,856	246,429
Furniture and Fittings	213,946	183,701	30,245	4,393	7,874	218,339	191,575	26,764
Projection Sound System	40,770	40,770	0	0	0	40,770	40,770	0
Computers	204,826	190,363	14,464	3,544	9,644	208,371	200,007	8,364
Displays and Exhibits	439,207	268,633	170,575	(124,845)	41,432	19,198	14,900	4,298
Upgrade Project	158,946	156,855	2,091	0	2,091	158,946	158,946	0
Work in Progress	10,756	0	10,756	2,423,440	3,755	2,434,196	3,755	2,430,441
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,348,463</b>	<b>2,432,325</b>	<b>1,916,140</b>	<b>2,346,311</b>	<b>214,596</b>	<b>6,399,610</b>	<b>2,351,757</b>	<b>4,047,855</b>

## 8. LOANS

### Regional Facilities Auckland

As part of the funding of Auckland Observatory and Planetarium redevelopment the Board obtained a loan of \$1,000,000 from Auckland City. An additional \$865,000 was provided by Auckland City in September 2008 to complete the upgrade.

As part of the restructure of the governance of the Auckland region the Auckland Council assigned these loans to Regional Facilities Auckland under the vesting order on 1 November 2010. In 2016 these loans were re-negotiated into a single loan with principal repayments of \$34,000 per annum from July 2020.

The interest rate on the loan at balance date is 3.0% and the final maturity date is 30 March 2073.

The fair value of this loan has not been disclosed as the Trustees consider that it is not practicable to estimate that value within an acceptable level of reliability within the restraints of timeliness and cost.

## 9. LOANS FROM RELATED PARTY

### Private Line of Credit

To assist with funding the major capital works undertaken in 2023, the Trust Board obtained a line of credit of up to \$600,000 from a Trust which is related to Dr Niven Brown, a board member, commencing 7 March 2023.

The interest rate on the line of credit is:

- 10% if payment is made within 7 days of the due date.
- 15% if payment is made after 7 days of the due date.

The term expiry date is 31 January 2026.

The principal sum is repayable in part or in one lump sum at anytime prior to the term expiry date.

# Notes to Financial Statements

## 10. ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT POOL

In November 2021 the Trust Board moved to adopt a Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) which sets out the objectives and policies that govern investment decisions relating to gifts that the Board's Trustees have accepted, or decided to treat, as suitable to be invested in an Endowment Investment Pool.

The Trust Board moved to invest \$400,000 attributable to the long-held gift from the Edith Winstone Blackwell Trust. In February 2022 this investment was placed with Trust Investments Management Limited's ESG Balanced Fund.

These are recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and are classified as financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit after initial recognition, gains or losses on recognition are recognised through surplus or deficit.

A summary of Endowment Investment Pool activity is as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Investment Placed</b>	<b>378,886</b>	<b>400,000</b>
Fair Value Adjustment	-1,597	-21,114
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>377,289</b>	<b>378,886</b>
Distributions received	10,448	3,744

## 11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The key management personnel, as defined by PBE IPSAS 20 Related Party Disclosures, are the members of the governing body which is comprised of the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer, and senior Management.

No remuneration is paid to members of the Board of Trustees. The aggregate remuneration of key management personnel and the number of individuals, determined on a full-time equivalent basis, receiving remuneration is as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
	449,396	377,031
<b>Number of people (FTE)</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3</b>

## 12. LEASES/COMMITMENTS

As at reporting date, the Board of Trustees has entered into the following non-cancellable operating leases:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Less than 1 Year	29,656	60,357
Between 1-5 Years	54,750	84,406

## 13 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At reporting date, the Trust Board has \$374,000 commitments remaining for the roof replacement project, to be completed in the first half of the next financial year. \$1,326,000 has been spent on the project to date. (2022 capital commitments: \$734,009).

## 14 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At reporting date, the Trust Board has two insurance claims being assessed:

1. Damages to fixtures and fittings caused by a severe weather event resulting in flooding inside the building on 10 February 2023. Post reporting date the settlement from the claim was confirmed at \$169,584.45, including GST.
2. Theft of copper sheets from the Zeiss telescope dome on 31 May 2023. The telescope is unable to be operated until the damage is repaired.  
(2022:Nil)



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Trustees of Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board

#### Opinion

We have audited the general purpose financial report (hereinafter referred to as "financial report") of Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board ("Trust"), which comprises the financial statements on pages 36 to 45 and the statement of service performance on pages 29 to 35. The complete set of financial statements comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of movements in equity, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the service performance for the year ended 30 June 2023 in accordance with the entity's service performance criteria

in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)) and the audit of the statement of service performance in accordance with the ISAs (NZ) and New Zealand Auditing Standard (NZ AS) 1 *The Audit of Service Performance Information*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, the firm has no other relationship with, or interests in, Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board.

#### Other matter

The corresponding service performance information for the year ended 30 June 2022 is unaudited.

#### Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information on pages 2 to 28 (but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon), which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial report

The trustees are responsible, on behalf of Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board, for:

- (a) the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and statement of service performance in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board;
- (b) service performance criteria that are suitable in order to prepare service performance information in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime; and
- (c) such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements and statement of service performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless those charged with governance either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole, and the statement of service performance, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the XRB's website at:

<https://www.xrb.govt.nz/assurance-standards/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-14/>

## Who we report to

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Auckland Observatory and Planetarium Trust Board and its trustees as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of 'RSM' in blue ink.

