

Celebrations as Te Oro turns a year old

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One year after opening, East Auckland's multi-million dollar music and performing arts centre continues to draw the crowds.

Te Oro Music and Performing Arts Centre in Glen Innes celebrated its first anniversary on May 9.

Te Oro facilities manager Jenni Heka says since the centre's opening, almost 24,000 visitors have passed through its doors.

The centre has also delivered 280 programmes to the community.

"When we opened our biggest fear was whether people would come, and you know what, they have.

"For the first couple of months we had people coming through the doors left, right and centre.

"Since then it has been building a diverse arts programme," Heka says.

Te Oro is developing an identity as a development space for artists, Heka says.

"The space allows for people to test their work, when you are a musician or performing artist a space like this can be sometimes hard to find," she says.

The community uptake of the centre has been the biggest highlight for Heka.

"Our most popular programmes are those run by local



Te Oro first opened its doors on May 9, 2015.

practitioners.

"Introducing students to the professional world that we know has been awesome and to see professional companies working with our students is incredible.

"Companies like the Pacific Underground really take the time

to answer questions and are open to passing on knowledge to students," Heka says.

Te Oro is funded by Auckland Council and operated through a committee of local board and community members.

The name Te Oro, meaning a tonal reverberation or sound

within a chamber, was gifted by Ngati Poa with the endorsement of Ngai Tai ki Tamaki and Ngati Whatua Orakei.

The name is inspired by the low drone created by winds moving over Mt Wellington's volcanic crater and the idea of the community's voices creating music

and arts from the centre.

Te Oro, along with The Good The Bad art gallery, hosted an Auckland Arts Festival Event called the Bradley Lane Murals in March.

This was the first time a an Auckland Arts Festival event had been held in Glen Innes.