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SEPTEMBER 2026

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Our stories, our people, our Māngere
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WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE?



Māngere and Tāmaki Makaurau electorate candidates for the general election. Go to pages 8 & 9 for more.



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G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**

EDITORIAL



Bader Intermediate students in the production *Crossroads* at the Māngere Arts Centre, which will feature in our next edition of 275 Times.

This edition is our Election Special. We're excited to share who our Māngere and Tāmaki Makaurau electorate candidates are, standing to represent us in Parliament for the 2026 general election. For more on each candidate, head to pages 8 and 9. We also have two stories highlighting why it's so important to make sure your voice is heard through voting, on pages 7 and 11.

Māngere currently has one of the lowest enrolment figures in New Zealand, and this means our community's voice carries less weight in decisions that affect us. This year, we want to see that change. To make sure you're enrolled ahead of the cut-off date on 25 October, head to vote.nz. It only takes a few minutes, and if you've moved house, changed your name, or turned 18 since the last election, you'll need to check your details are up to date.

In other news for 275 Times, our team is growing. We're excited to introduce Poutoa Papali'i as our new Sales and Marketing Administrator. You can reach him on advertising@275times.co.nz for anything advertising related. We'll also be appointing a new Media Intern soon, so keep an eye out for that announcement in a coming edition.

We want to congratulate all of our students and teachers for making it to the end of term 3. It's been a big term, and you've earned a restful break. For those looking for things to do these holidays, check out the local programmes on offer, including at Māngere East Community Centre, Moana Nui-a-Kiwa, and activities running at our local libraries.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of 275 Times. This paper exists because of this community, and we love hearing from you. If you have suggestions, article ideas, or feedback, get in touch at editor@275times.co.nz. We'd love to hear from you.



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AIRPORT CLEANERS DEMAND FAIR PAY AND DIGNITY

Every day before travellers arrive, Jingle Calicdan is already at work, keeping Auckland Airport clean and safe. Now she and her fellow cleaners are asking Māngere to stand behind them in their fight for fair pay and dignity.

Jingle is an E tū Campaign Leader for the Safe Airport Campaign and a cleaner herself. "This campaign is very close to my heart," she says.

"Right now, we feel undervalued, understaffed and underpaid for the important work we do," Jingle says. Cleaners work hard every day to keep the airport clean, shaping the first impression for travellers. They are calling for the Living Wage, safer staffing levels, and to be treated with dignity. "We shouldn't have to work two or three jobs just to survive. We believe one job should be enough to provide a decent life for our families, and still allow us quality time with the people we love."

Jingle knows that struggle firsthand. She moved to New Zealand from the Philippines with her family, hoping for a better life. "We struggled to find stability, find jobs, and sometimes struggled to put food on the table," she says. "My story is not just my story. There are other cleaners like me who came here hoping to build a better future. We are not asking for anything extraordinary, just the chance to live with dignity from the work that we do."

E tū has been supporting cleaners



Auckland Airport cleaners at the Table Talks event that was held at Manukau Rovers, campaigning for fair pay.

to organise and be heard through a series of Table Talks with workers from other sectors. On 10 September, cleaners, workers and community members gathered at Manukau Rovers for one such event. "It gave us a space to come together, hear each other's stories and show that the struggle of airport cleaners is not something we have to face alone," Jingle says.

Next up is the official launch of the Safe Airport Campaign, bringing cleaners, airport workers, and community and faith groups behind the call for a Living Wage. "The responsibility for creating a Living Wage airport belongs to all of us, not just the cleaners, the employers or the workers," Jingle says.

"The airport is in Māngere, and many of the workers who keep it

running are part of Māngere and the surrounding community," Jingle says. "We are asking the Māngere community to stand in solidarity with us. We want a community where people who work hard can earn enough to live, provide for their families and be treated with dignity."

Go to etu.nz/campaigns.safe-airports for more info.

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UNDERPAID FOR THE
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MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL MP

Talofa lava and warm pacific greetings. Recently I attended the Koroneihana, Turangawaewae Marae, alongside our Mamas and Papas from Mangere, to celebrate the anniversary of the coronation of the current Monarch.

I also attended the Middlemore Hospital, Emergency Department to see the Health system, and understand their current demands.

By the way, if you haven't heard already, 2026 is election year. And there's a couple of key changes that you should know about.



check if you're enrolled to vote at www.vote.nz. I want to acknowledge everyone in Māngere who has been working very hard this year. These have not been easy times, but you continue to push through.

Please feel free to contact my office on 09-2731150 or email me at Mangere@parliament.govt.nz.

Manuia tele
Lemauga Lydia Sosene
MP for Māngere

The rules have changed in relation to registering to vote. Unlike last election where you could enrol and vote on the same day during the early voting period or on election day, this election you must be enrolled to vote by October 25. You can

*Approved by Lemauga Lydia Sosene MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington
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G.J. Gardner. HOMES

ACHOO! LOCAL AUTHOR GIVES AUCKLAND'S VOLCANOES A NEW STORY

Māngere author Qiane Matata-Sipu has released her sixth book, a bilingual children's story that introduces young readers to Mataoho, the tupua (deity) said to live beneath Tāmaki Makaurau's volcanic maunga.

Matihe! Achool! out now through Penguin Group, tells the story of a grumpy tupua whose tossing and turning causes Papatūānuku to tickle his nose with soil, triggering the sneezes that shaped Auckland's craters.

"I wanted to write something that was for younger tamariki, and that introduced them to Mataoho in the first instance, and also helped our tamariki to learn the original names of many of our maunga in Tāmaki Makaurau," Matata-Sipu said.

She said many maunga carry Māori names that sit alongside older, lesser-known names tied to Mataoho, such as Te Pane o Mataoho and Te Ipu Kai o Mataoho - names that she said are often lost from history.

The story holds personal significance for Matata-Sipu, who comes from both Te Ihu o Mataoho at Ihumātao and from Ngā Tapuwae o Mataoho at Pūkaki. She said Mataoho holds a significant place in her own whakapapa and in the places she is from.

The book began three years ago as a te reo Māori story written during a teaching placement, first shared with Kōhanga Reo o Makaurau Marae and her mother's early childhood centre, at Māngere East Family Services.

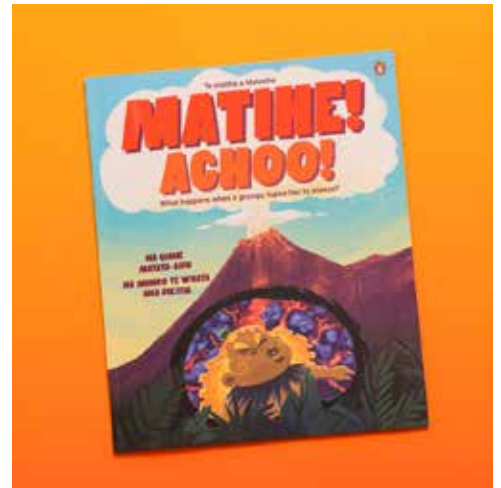


Matine! Achool! Book launch event at Te Pane o Mataoho, Māngere Mountain Education Centre.

A waiata with actions sits at the back of the book, alongside a QR code linking to a video filmed at Te Pane o Mataoho on Māngere Mountain, featuring Matata-Sipu's nieces, nephews and daughter, all from Ihumātao themselves.

The book launched with Māngere Bridge School's Māori full immersion unit and Kōhanga Reo Pōhutukawa, at Te Pane o Mataoho and Te Ihu o Mataoho, including a reading, waiata, and a volcano science activity.

Through term four, Te Ihu o Mataoho, the Indigenous Centre for Learning at Ihumātao, is offering bookings for schools, kōhanga and early childhood centres to take part in a book reading, learn the waiata, and try the volcano activity on site, followed by a short walk to a lookout point over Tāmaki's



Matine! Achool! Available at bookhero.co.nz and all good bookstores.

maunga.

Schools and centres can book through teihuomataoho.com or by emailing bookings@teihuomataoho.com.

Matihe! Achool! is available now from bookhero.co.nz and all good bookstores.



1PUNCH2MUCH: TURNING POTENTIAL INTO PURPOSE



Students involved in the 1P2M programme at the MMA gym City Kickboxing gym.



De La Salle students involved in the 1P2M programme.

A violence-prevention programme is helping rangatahi across South Auckland build the confidence, resilience and leadership skills to make positive choices.

Supported by the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Boards, 1Punch2Much (1P2M) works with young people before problems escalate, connecting them with positive role models, practical support and opportunities to lead.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board chair Kaea Walter Inoke-Togiamua says early support can make a lasting difference.

"Giving young people the right support at the right time can change the direction of their lives. That's what 1P2M is all about — surrounding

rangatahi with positive role models and practical opportunities to build confidence, resilience and leadership skills they can carry well beyond the programme."

Developed with Walk Without Fear Trust and One Eighty Turn Charitable Trust, 1P2M brings together schools, Police, youth organisations and community leaders to help young people strengthen their decision-making and create positive pathways inside and outside the classroom.

Following successful pilot programmes that reached more than 600 students, this year's programme continued with in-school workshops, a two-day Young Leaders Programme at renowned MMA gym City Kickboxing, and a four-day residential leadership camp at Āwhitu Youth Camp.

Students from six local secondary schools took part in practical sessions focused on staying calm under pressure, conflict de-escalation,

teamwork, leadership and developing self-belief through challenge.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board chair Apulu Reece Autagavaia says, "There is a Samoan proverb: E fofo le alamea le alamea. If you stand on the poisonous Crown-of-Thorns starfish, flip it on its back to suck the poison out. This proverb explains that we, as a community, have our own solutions to our own problems.

"This programme brings our tupulaga or youth, together with role-models and local leaders who look like them, speak like them, come from the same communities, and lived experiences. I pray our youth know their worth and that the best is yet to come - make the best choices!"

Students from Māngere College, De La Salle College and Southern Cross Campus highlighted the importance of a collective community approach to addressing youth conflict. They shared that stopping bullying and violence in schools and helping young people navigate challenging situations, especially around fighting are essential steps towards building confidence and emotional control.

A student representative says,

"For us, it's about learning how to manage ourselves, understanding the consequences of conflict and violence, and keeping the peace."

Beyond the programme itself, regular meetings between secondary school principals and deputy principals create space to share insights, strengthen relationships and work together to improve school safety and support young people. 1P2M is about more than preventing violence. It is about unlocking potential, strengthening connections and supporting rangatahi to become leaders who create safer, more connected communities. By investing in young people today, we are helping shape a stronger future for South Auckland.

'DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE'

INFO EVENT ENCOURAGES LOCALS TO ENROL TO VOTE

Māngere residents gathered at Māngere East Community Centre on 17 September for "Together We Count! Enrol to Vote!", an info night on getting ready for the NZ General Election.

Event co-facilitator Emily Worman said enrolling is a lot easier than people think.

"It's surprisingly easy, especially if you use a paper form, because you don't need ID," she says. "If you can't get one, just come into the Māngere Community Centre and we can sort you out. But if you don't do the paperwork, you won't be able to vote."

Emily also shared key dates to remember. "Get ready to vote today. You can't enrol after the 25th of October, so if you leave it too late, you won't be able to vote," she says.

"YOU CAN'T ENROL AFTER THE 25TH OF OCTOBER, SO IF YOU LEAVE IT TOO LATE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO VOTE."



Locals attending the *Together We Count! Enrol to Vote!* event at the Māngere East Community Centre.

Voting itself opens on 26 October, Labour Day, giving people two weeks of advance voting. "Put it in your calendar now. Don't leave it till last minute."

For attendee Carlene, the night answered a personal question. She came to check whether her mother, who has aphasia and cannot speak, was enrolled. "I found the website vote.nz and I was able to check my mum's information, which showed that she's enrolled," Carlene says. She also learned she can support her mum at the booth. "I found out that I can go with her and be in the booth with her, and vote alongside her or help her

vote."

Carlene was surprised to learn whānau overseas can vote too, and plans to pass that on. "Now I can message them all and encourage them to vote."

Her advice to everyone is simple. "Do your research. Go online and find out about the parties and candidates in Māngere, what their values are and how they might align with yours. It's definitely an honour to be able to vote."

Their next election info event is on Wednesday 21st Oct 5-8pm at Māngere East Community Centre.

Māngere East Primary School Enrolments for 2027

The Board invites applications for enrolment for all new students wishing to attend Māngere East Primary School in 2027. **Parents of students who live within the home zone should also apply** by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year. The Enrolment Form is on our school website (www.meps.school.nz). Students who live in the home zone are entitled to enrol at the school.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an Enrolment Scheme, which is available from the school office or website. The deadline for applications for **out-of-zone places** is **3 pm, Wednesday 14th October 2026**.

The Board has determined that there will be approximately the following places available for out-of-zone students next year:

Te Poho o Rāwhiti (Māori) - Year 1 = 10 spaces, Years 2-4 = 5 spaces, Y5&6 = 4 spaces
O Lou Ala i Mālo (Samoan) - Year 1 = 9 spaces, Y2-4 = 0 spaces, Y5-8 = 0 space
Kafa Taha (Tongan) - Year 1 = 8 spaces, Year 2-6 = 0 spaces.
Cook Islands Māori - Year 1 = 9 spaces, Years 3-6 = 9 spaces.
Kahu (English-Medium) - Years 7-8 = 0 spaces
English-Medium - Year 1 = 5 spaces, Y2-4 = 0 spaces, Y5-8 = 0 space

The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone. If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot is required, it will be held on **Wednesday 21st October 2026**. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

If you require a copy of the enrolment scheme and enrolment forms, please visit our [school website](http://www.meps.school.nz) or for more information, please contact Ange on 276-4689 x802 or email office@meps.school.nz. All applications must be received **online** no later than **3 pm, Wednesday 14th October 2026**.



WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Welcome to our Election Special candidates page, highlighting the people wanting your vote, so they can represent us in Parliament during the next term of government. We have featured candidates for both the Māngere and Tāmaki Makaurau electorates, so you can do your own research about who aligns most with your values when it comes time to vote. Remember, the cut-off for enrolment is 25 October and the final day of voting 7 November. Also, if you're of Māori descent, make sure you check whether you're enrolled on the general roll or the Māori roll before casting your choice.

Scan the QR code or visit vote.nz for more.

**SCAN TO ENROL
TO VOTE**



HINE AFEAKI
NZ OUTDOORS AND
FREEDOM PARTY

Favourite place to eat in Māngere: Wild Wheat café.

What is special to you about Māngere? I love Māngere as it's where I grew up and I have had the most

amazing life raising our four kids here.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

I am advocating for the people of Māngere, so they have the final say on all the main issues that affect their lives here and I will work tirelessly to bind Parliament to ensure the peoples wishes are followed. Community priorities may be rent-to-buy housing programmes for whanau to enjoy the stability of being in one fixed place and maintain settled routines.



ROSEMARY BOURKE
NATIONAL PARTY

Favourite place to eat in Māngere: 275 Markets.

What is special to you about Māngere? Māngere is home. I'm proud to have lived most of my life here

and raised all four of my children here.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

I will listen to our community and keep advocating for more opportunities here, especially for our young people, and for pathways that help them build a future for themselves and their families. I want to make sure opportunities reach our community and that Māngere has a strong voice in Parliament.



VICKY HAU
NEW ZEALAND FIRST

Favourite place to eat in Māngere: Māngere Town Centre.

What is special to you about Māngere? I was born and raised here, went to

church here, built my career here and learned here what community really means.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

Rewarding hard work, protecting our seniors and creating opportunities for the next generation. Our parents and grandparents came to Māngere with hopes and dreams for their families. I want everyone in our community young and old, to continue turning those aspirations into a great life here in our home.



BEN LANE
OPPORTUNITY PARTY

Favourite place to eat in Māngere: Māngere Bridge Takeaways.

What is special to you about Māngere? Māngere is home to so many cultures, languages and stories. Its

sense of community comes through in the way people make time for you and speak openly about what matters to them, what isn't working and what they want for Māngere.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

I'd advocate for people in Māngere to be heard before decisions are made, not after. I'd keep turning up, listen to what people are dealing with, push for action on housing and the cost of living.



MICHEL MULIPOLA
GREEN PARTY

Favourite place to eat in

Māngere: Mr. Katsu.

What is special to you about Māngere? What's special about Māngere is the people. Everyone who makes up our wonderfully

diverse community brings something special and unique to Māngere and that's our strength.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

One thing I'd advocate for is how to address the cost of living crisis. With the Green Party, our KiwiPower policy would help reduce our power bills and KiwiMart would help bring the prices of groceries down. Both of these policies would do well in alleviating the pressures the people of Māngere face.



MANU SINGH
ACT PARTY

Favourite place to eat in Māngere: Flying Fish Restaurant.

What is special to you about Māngere? Māngere is where I have lived and still own property today. It's

the heart of South Auckland - a community defined by hard work, diverse cultures living side by side, and people who look out for one another.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

I'd advocate for backing local small businesses and tradespeople with less red tape and smarter, more targeted immigration settings, so Māngere's economy keeps creating real jobs and opportunities for local families.



LEMAUGA LYDIA SOSENE

LABOUR PARTY

Favourite place to eat in

Māngere: Sushi Time in

Māngere Town Centre.

What is special to you about Māngere?

What's special about Māngere is the diversity of people, in age and ethnicity. It is such a significant place with many natural features: Te Pane-o-Mataaho, Ambury Regional Park, Kiwi esplanade walkway, and Walter Massey Park to name a few.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for the people of Māngere?

With the cost of living at its highest in 2026, our local communities need assistance to make life more affordable.



DR TIMOTI TE MOKE

INDEPENDENT

To find out more about Dr Timoti Te Moke, follow @temoke2026 on instagram or head to www.temoke2026.nz. (answers to questions were not provided by the deadline).

MĀORI SEAT CANDIDATES - TAMAKI MAKAUURAU



KERIN LEONI
LABOUR PARTY

What is your favourite kai?
Oysters.

What is significant to you about Māngere? I love the many cultures in Māngere Māori and Pacific community. So many great people hail from Māngere, it's a

place of dreams determination and achievement. David Tua, Valerie Adams Willie Jackson and Joseph Parker were all raised in Māngere.

If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for Māori in Tamaki Makaurau?

One thing I would advocate for would be to entrench Te Tiriti o Waitangi. There are so many more but it needs to definitely be the most important document that binds us all together.



FLORENCE TE OHAERE
GREEN PARTY

What is your favourite kai?
Kaimoana.

What is significant to you about Māngere?

It is a place where whānau, Māori and Pasifika communities have built strong connections, and raised generations

of tamariki. Māngere reminds me that our communities already hold the solutions, and our job in politics is to listen, and make sure they have the resources and opportunities to thrive. **If you get into Parliament, what is one thing you would advocate for Māori in Tamaki Makaurau?**

Upholding Māori voices, Constitutional Transformation, Whānau wellbeing, and Te Taiao. I do believe that housing is a priority, we all need secure, and affordable homes for stability.



ORIINI KAIPARA
TE PATI MĀORI

To find out more about Oriini Kaipara, follow @oriini_kaipara on instagram or head to www.maoriparty.org.nz/oriini_kaipara (answers to questions were not provided by the deadline).

NEW TAIAO PROGRAMME TURNS SCREEN TIME INTO STREAM TIME FOR MĀNGERE RANGATAHI



CJ holding his seedlings he planted. CJ is a graduate of the programme who now works for ME Family Services.

A six-week programme connecting Māngere rangatahi to the natural world is changing lives, with one graduate going from spending his days on his phone to arriving ten minutes early for work.

Te Ara Rangatahi Ki Taiao, run by ME Family Services, gives rangatahi aged 15 to 24 hands-on experience in nature-based work, with an eye on future careers in environmental employment. The programme runs four modules, Kai Sovereignty, pest animal and plant management, Living Sustainably and Resourcefully, and Harania Stream Ecology and Regeneration, with two-hour sessions running Tuesday to Friday.

Taiao Team Manager Colleen Smith said the goal is simple: give young people time in nature and watch what happens.

"We know that providing opportunities for rangatahi to



One of the previous Te Ara Rangatahi Ki Taiao cohorts.

experience nature often activates or ignites in them a passion to take action to care for the environment, as well as being positive for their wellbeing," Smith said.

The programme is achieving what it set out to do, Smith said, reaching rangatahi the mainstream system hasn't always worked for, and evolving alongside the young people taking part.

One standout example is CJ, a graduate of the first intake who now works part time with the team as their Pest Free Assistant.

"Before the programme he was just sitting at home on his phone and devices all day," Smith said. "And now he has something to get up for. And he's always here, like ten minutes early."

Programme lead Tuatea Chapman-Watarawi has watched CJ's transformation up close.

"From being easily grossed out at the sight of slime, stench and grime to having a deep appreciation for ecological harmony, CJ has shown huge growth since he first came through Te Ara Rangatahi Ki Taiao," Chapman-Watarawi said. "Now employed as the rangatahi mentorship programme assistant, CJ does an incredible job of connecting the next cohort of rangatahi to the taiao by applying kaitiakitanga, compassion and understanding."

Recent sessions have covered everything from soapmaking to stream ecology, with rangatahi getting into the Harania Stream to learn about its regeneration first-hand, an experience Smith said is new for most participants, and one they love.

The programme was made possible with funding support from Foundation North, which Smith said enabled it to go "from an aspiration to a reality."

The next intake begins 6 October. Rangatahi interested in enrolling, or wanting more information, can get in touch with ME Family Services directly.

Scan the QR code below to enrol in the programme.



"CJ DOES AN INCREDIBLE JOB OF CONNECTING THE NEXT COHORT OF RANGATAHI TO THE TAI AO BY APPLYING KAITIAKITANGA, COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING."

'WHY IS VOTING IMPORTANT?'

STUDENT REPORTER POSES THE QUESTION



Anushka Charan receiving a prezzy card for her time spent writing this article.



Anushka (centre) with teacher Mr Tane Moore (left) and Shya Goodwin Tupau (right) who she interviewed for this story.



This is the third written piece by Māngere College Media Club students as part of the 275 Times Youth Mentorship Programme sponsored by the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. This is an opinion piece about the NZ General Election and why voting matters.

As New Zealand prepares for the 2026 General Election, people are beginning to think about voting, leadership and the importance of having their voice heard. Elections give New Zealanders the opportunity to choose representatives and have a say in decisions that can affect their everyday lives.

To hear some perspectives from within Māngere College, I spoke with Year 12 student Shya Goodwin Tupau (12RBF) and Social Science teacher Mr Tane Moore about what the general election means to them and why they believe voting is important.

For Shya, having a general election means giving people the freedom to make their own choice about who they want to represent them. She believes everyone should have the opportunity to participate in the voting process. "Having a general election means to me that I, as well as other people, will have the choice to vote for who we

think would be the best candidate," Shya said

She also believes elections matter because they allow people to express their opinions and make their voices heard. For Shya, being able to choose who people want to vote for is an important part of having a voice. "I think it matters because this ensures that people know they have a voice and they know they have the option to pick who they want to," she said.

When asked what makes someone a good leader, Shya said that leadership is about more than simply being in a position of authority. She believes a good leader should be fair, listen to others and guide people and take responsibility for their actions.

"What makes someone a good leader is someone that could be fair, someone that can listen and guide people and someone that can take responsibility," Shya said. Mr Moore also shared his thoughts on the importance of voting. He said voting gives people an opportunity to express their opinions about decisions

that can affect themselves and others. "Voting's important because it gives an opportunity to everyone in New Zealand to voice their opinions," Mr Moore said.

He explained that decisions made by people in leadership positions can have wider effects because they do not only impact the person making the decision.

"The decisions people make don't happen in a vacuum and they affect other people," he said.

Mr Moore also believes the economy is something voters should consider. Rather than focusing only on earning money, he said economic decisions should also be considered in terms of how they can be used to improve people's lives. "The country's economy shouldn't just be about earning money," Mr Moore said.

The interviews highlighted different perspectives on the general election, while both Shya and Mr Moore recognised the importance of people having a voice. As the election approaches, their views show why voting, leadership and understanding how decisions affect others are important topics for the Māngere College community.

'UNLEASH THE BEAST INSIDE': MY FIRST YEAR OF RUGBY LEAGUE



Khymorah Leaupepe-Ikahihiho (centre) with her family at the Māngere East Hawks prizegiving ceremony.

RANGATAHI CONTRIBUTION

By Khymorah Leaupepe-Ikahihiho

Before I started rugby league, I was a sporty kid with big dreams of one day playing in the NRLW. I wanted to play, but I didn't really have the confidence to show people what I could do.

Then my mum encouraged me to give it a go. I had been watching all these kids playing rugby league, seeing some of them get picked to play in the NRL and NRLW, and looking at all the cool sports gear. It made me want to be out there too. So, I started my first year of rugby league with Māngere East Hawks.

From strangers to sisters.

I still remember my first training session. I was welcomed by a group of girls who soon became like my sisters.

At first, I felt like I was the odd one out because I didn't know anyone and had never played before. But when we started doing Broncos (running drills), I remember thinking, "Keep going, show them what you got. Make a good impression on the coach."

I quickly learnt that rugby league was nothing like it looked like on TV.

On TV, the players make the physical impact look like it doesn't hurt, they don't look exhausted from all the sprinting back and forth. They make it look easy. I got the biggest surprise when I had my first hit up. Getting tackled actually hurts a lot more than it looks. There's a lot more running than I thought and sometimes my lungs felt like they were on fire. I was so sore the next day.

As I continued to show up to training I started to get used to the hits, the tackles and the running, it didn't feel like my lungs were burning as much as they used to.

I started to feel like I really belonged when the girls came up to me, said hi, hugged me and talked to me after training and games. That was when I knew I wasn't just part of a team. We had become sisters.

Learning to be a prop

I was put into prop by my coaches, and one of my favourite things about being a prop now is taking the first hit.

I like taking that first hit, I feel like a beast and when I run hard it boosts the girls confidence that they know I've got them and it's on!

But playing prop is not just about hitting people. I need to be fit to keep up, I need to be courageous but also

disciplined to know when it's on and when it's not, but most of all the mental toughness to keep going even when your body is tired.

The moment everything changed

One of the biggest moments of my season was the grand final.

I was nervous. This was my first real big-game experience. Once we got out there, something changed. All the nerves in my body just went away. My body just knew it was time to lock in.

That was when I realised we were in this together. We weren't alone. Every game we've played, all our supporters, our parents, family and friends who came out and watched this season, it was all for this moment ... for them and for us!

Making the grand final in my first year is probably the thing I am most proud of. When I think about all the teams we had played against and everything we had done at training, it made me happy knowing that my hard work had finally paid off.

More than just rugby

My family has supported me throughout the season, but most of all, my mum.

My coaches, teammates and family have taught me that giving up is never an option when you have a team behind you. Working together will always beat trying to do everything on your own.

They also taught me that mistakes are just lessons that help us get better for the next game.

I am a different player now compared to the girl who started the season.

I used to be really scared and nervous before games. Now I feel super excited to run onto the field with my sisters.

I can run much faster without getting tired, and my passing and tackling have both got way better.

Even when our team is losing, I don't get sad anymore. I just keep trying hard and running fast until the game is finished. Rugby league has also taught me things that I can take into the rest of my life, like how to be a really good friend. How to work hard and work together and to keep trying, even when it gets hard.

CLIMATE ACTION: GROWING A LEGACY - FOOD FOREST AT OOTUATAUA STONEFIELDS



Planting in action with some of the Te Ahiwaru whaanau.

Nestled within the ancestral landscape of Ootuatua Stonefields Historic Reserve, a transformative vision is taking root.

What began as aspirations shared by Te Ahiwaru whaanau during a series of waananga exploring their 200-year vision for their whenua has grown into a thriving food forest that is helping shape a more resilient future for Ihumaatao and Maangere. The food forest emerged through Te Ahiwaru's long-term intergenerational planning process and was initially supported through the Maangere-Otaahuhu Climate Action Network Programme. Since its establishment in October 2025, the project has already demonstrated the abundance and potential of the whenua, with whaanau harvesting more than 500 kilograms of kai, including corn, tomatoes, kamokamo, yacon, and other seasonal produce. Today, the food forest stands as one of Te

Ahiwaru's most ambitious environmental restoration initiatives. More than 10,000 plants have been established across the site, including food-producing species, rongoaa plants, and native raakau. Together, these plantings are restoring ecological functions, increasing biodiversity, enhancing climate resilience, and reconnecting people with the maara kai traditions that have sustained Te Waioohua communities across this landscape for generations. Ootuatua Stonefields is widely recognised as one of Aotearoa's most significant ancestral maara kai landscapes, carrying a rich history of cultivation, innovation, and food production. The food forest honours this legacy while creating new opportunities for future generations to reconnect with the cultural and environmental knowledge embedded within the whenua. For Te Ahiwaru, the project represents far more than a planting



An aerial view of the food forest at Ootuatua Stonefields Historic Reserve.

initiative. It is a long-term investment in kai sovereignty, food security, and whaanau wellbeing. By creating a space where environmental restoration, sustainable food systems, and maatauranga Maaori intersect, the food forest supports aspirations for greater self-determination while strengthening community resilience in the face of social, economic, and climate-related challenges. It also aligns closely with both the Maangere Ngaahere Strategy and Auckland's Urban Ngaahere Strategy, demonstrating how locally led action can contribute meaningfully to regional climate adaptation and ecological restoration goals. Importantly, the food forest has been designed as a living classroom.

Schools, community groups, rangatahi, and whaanau can engage in hands-on learning about maara kai, native ecosystems, rongoaa Maaori, climate resilience, and the cultural history of the whenua. The project is strengthening connections between people and place while nurturing the next generation of kaitiaki. As the ngahere continues to flourish, the vision remains clear: a landscape where people, culture, and nature thrive together. The Te Ahiwaru Food Forest is a powerful example of how long-term whaanau aspirations can be transformed into tangible action, creating enduring benefits for both community and environment while restoring the reciprocal relationship between tangata and whenua.

MĀNGERE BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A LISTING HERE. STARTING AT \$25 PER CLASSIFIED

Super Lawns lawn Mowing & Garden Care, Māngere

Need your lawn looking tidy? I offer affordable lawn mowing and basic garden maintenance.

- Lawn mowing
 - Edging and trimming
 - Weed removal
 - General garden tidy-ups
- Friendly, reliable service.
Free quotes available send picture to 0224790822.

Landscaping Services Māngere

Ahi Tahutahu
kaitiaki@teahiwaru.co.nz
Ph: (09) 242-2068

Kevin Madsen Wooden Fence Repairs

Ph 021 027 73498
Located in Māngere Bridge.
Replace posts, pailings etc.

Employee Advocate - Help for Work Related Disputes

Teresa Brown (Māori, Tongan, Samoan) (LLB, LLM)
teresa@brownpower.co.nz

Terry Allat

Māngere-based lawn mowing service. Also offers 2 free lawn mows for elderly on Fridays.
027 802 7526.

P Builders Ltd

NZCB & LBP qualified builders.
Phone: 021 025 07428
Email: pnaidu@pbuilder.co.nz
pbuilder.co.nz IG: pbuilder.snz

K&N Cleaning.

We specialise in Move In/Move Out cleans, Deep Cleaning, and Builders Cleans.
021 292 2253 or via email at kncleaning@outlook.co.nz.

Tali The Mowing Magician

Gardener & Landscaping
Ph: 0226464761
Email: talifakava@outlook.com
Socials: Fb, IG, Tiktok @talithemowingmagician

MĀNGERE TOWN CENTRE

Ph: 09 275 7078
office@mangeretowncentre.nz
www.mangeretowncentre.nz

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Mr Katsu Māngere	0210376358
Pacific Fresh Fish	09 257 5135
Pizza Curry Corner	09 257 5100
Sushi Time	09 275 0893
Zara Kebab	0212105602

RETAIL

Feathers	09 257 0909
Jit Shoes	09 275 0405
Māngere Fashions	09 256 0303
Māngere Jewellers	09 255 5907
Māngere Mini Mart	022 636 1371
Māngere Post Shop	021 762 478
Megastar Fashions	09 275 6962
My Hairdressers & Barbers Salon	09 218 9161

Nesian Collective	027 255 2049
One Stop Pak Māngere	09 215 8383
Pacific Fashions	021 510 071
Regal Apparel International Ltd/	
Megastar Fashions	09 275 6962
Sunlight clothing shop	021 301 987
TechFixers Māngere	09 255 5105

SERVICES

BaderDrive Doctors	09 275 858
Beauty By Harpi	022 182 0071
Māngere Budgeting Services Trust	0508 22 22 83
Māngere Dental Centre	09 275 7754

Kaitiaki O Manawa

Restores headstone art and inscriptions. Jade Rehu
Facebook page: Kaitiaki o manawa
Email: aotearoa102030@gmail.

Arizto

Real Estate company, based in Māngere Bridge. Team Suz and Kate 02108398909 / 021776139

Dessy Sportswear

Custom team uniforms for school and team sports. Email dessysports@gmail.com

Midas Onehunga

Car service, repairs, tyres, WOF, transmissions etc. 09 634 5983
26 Selwyn St, Onehunga

MĀNGERE BRIDGE VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Ph: 021 776 139
info@mangerebridgevillage.co.nz
www.mangerebridgevillage.co.nz

CAFE/RESTAURANT/TAKEAWAYS

Brandy's Roasts	09 6363998
Hong Kong Takeaways	09 6347159
Neptune Seafoods	09 6369171
Lucky Café	09 6369400
Ros Bake	09 6345475
Coronation Restaurant	09 6340969
Burger Shop	09 2186327
Happy Horse	09 6365053
Ruby Red Café	09 6346454
Phnom Penh	09 6363586
Hong Kong Bakery	09 6367756
Village Butcher	09 6367856
Black Box Pizza	09 6369999
Butter Chicken Factory	09 2560500
Golden Sunrise Bakery	09 6348365
Māngere Bridge Takeaways	09 6342463

CHILDCARE

Small Kauri Educ Centre	09 6360644
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HAIR/BARBER/BEAUTY

Village Barber	021 135 6370
Keith the Barber	027 478 3598
Bridge Beauty	09 3201667
Hair Zone	09 6365747

HEALTH

My Dental Mangere Bridge	09 2421130
MB Pharmacy	09 6364249
Dr Usha Chand	09 6342542
Local Doctors	09 2544290

LAUNDROMAT

Coronation Laundromat	0221093125
Sunrise Laudromat	Shop 27

LAWYERS

Mason and Mortimer	09 2960037
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REAL ESTATE

Ray White	09 6369992
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RETAIL

Bridge Mini Market	09 6365433
Post Shop	09 8926109
St Vincent de Paul	09 6361290
Coin Save	Shop 33
Coin Max	Shop 34A
Hammer Hardware	09 6367084
Māngere Bridge Flowers	09 6221292
Māngere Floral Studio	09 6366291
Fresh Choice	09 6368424

WHAT'S ON IN MĀNGERE

NGAA MAANGA O MAANGERE

Community Network Meeting

Thursday 29th October 10am-12pm, at the Māngere Community Law Centre. All welcome.

MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE

Head to eventfinda.co.nz for events.

LO'U OLOA – THE BEGINNING

At Māngere Arts Centre on Thursday 8 October. The Beginning is a story of women, resilience and new beginnings, told through Siva Samoa.

MĀNGERE BRIDGE FUN RUN AND HALF MARATHON

Sunday 27th September. The Māngere Bridge FUN Run, Walk, Stroll and Stride is a FUN time for the whole family. 5, 10 or 21km. More details here: <https://mangerebridgerun.com>.

FREE KAI @ MOANA NUI-A-KIWA

Every Wednesday 5.30pm. Ran by Life Community Kitchens. All welcome.

TURUKI HEALTHCARE

Head to www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings for an amazing range of community classes & workshops:

Low Carb Cooking Class, Romiromi, Walk & Talk, Maramataka, Art Therapy, Raranga Hauora, Kuia/Kaumātua programme.

<https://www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings>.

MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

MON 28 TH SEP Park Crawl 	TUE 29 TH SEP Wheels Day 	WED 30 TH SEP Ferry Ride 	THU 1 ST OCT Sports Day 	FRI 2 ND OCT Games Day 
MON 8 TH OCT Arts and Crafts 	TUE 9 TH OCT Gymnastic Trampoline 	WED 10 TH OCT Botanic Garden 	THU 11 TH OCT City Discover 	FRI 12 TH OCT Crazy Hair Movie Day 

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME HOURS
7:30AM TO 6:00PM
(Bus leaves centre at 9:30am for trip)
FEES: \$35 PER CHILD/PER DAY
WINZ SUBSIDY AVAILABLE
The above programme may vary

www.mangereeast.org/holiday-program
OR CONTACT ANDRE TODAY.
ANDRE ESTAY
Oscar Coordinator
oscar@mangereeast.org
(09) 275 6161 | 0297730146
372 Massey Road, Māngere East

PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

KAI IKA. Bring cans to swap for free fish head and frames. Māngere Centre Park car park. Wednesdays & Fridays: 11.00am.

KOHA CAFE. Open Thursday, Friday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

FRIENDS OF THE FARM

Head to aboutmangerebridge.nz.

MĀNGERE BRIDGE REPAIR CAFE:

Sat 17 October, 10am-12pm at Māngere Bridge Library. It's the final Repair Cafe of the year! And it's also INTERNATIONAL REPAIR DAY! From repairing small appliances and household items to mending and darning clothing. Get some advice from our tech gurus for your cellphone, laptop and IT challenges. Enjoy a cuppa while you wait.

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

The date for the Pumpkin Competition is estimated to be in late February 2027. All pumpkins must be registered for the competition with Friends of the Farm and have received a seedling from Friends of the Farm – email friends@fof.nz.

BOXFIT (WITH PONO BOXFIT)

Free community boxfit fitness classes. Mondays 6pm, Māngere East Community Centre. Wednesday nights 6.30pm Aorere College.

MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREE CLASSES

Mondays: Pono BoxFit Classes (6pm-7pm)

Tuesdays: Sewing for beginners (10am-1pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm)

Wednesdays: Beginner sewing (5pm-8pm)

Thursdays: Sewing for beginners (10am-1pm)

Fridays: Korowai Class (10am – 2pm) FREE Parenting Programmes (Ante Natal, 3yr-8yr etc) Daily ESOL Classes (English for speakers of other languages) .

Venue hire plus bus and van hire also. OSCAR Programmes.

REGISTER TODAY:

www.mangereeast.org
info@mangereeast.org | Ph: 275 6161

WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

141 Robertson Rd, ph:(09) 275 4920. FB: @WhareKoa

IG: @wharekoamangere

Email: naomi.tuaeu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for bookings and more info.

MONDAY: Emerge Aotearoa: 10am-12.30pm, Sew Simple: 1.30pm-4.30pm.

TUESDAY: Akatangi Ukarērē: 10am-12pm, Fale Pasifika Parenting Programme 1pm-3pm

WEDNESDAY: Diamonds In The Rough: 10am-12pm, Tuitu'u Heilala: 1pm-4pm.

THURSDAY: Tiare Taina Māmās 10am - 2pm.

FRIDAY: Polynesian Creative Arts: 10am-2pm, That Rental Plug 10am - 12pm.

THE MĀNGERE BRIDGE WALKING GROUP

Meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 8.50am outside the Hong Kong Bakery for an hour's walk followed by time at one of the cafes. All Welcome.

PROBUS CLUB OF MĀNGERE BRIDGE

Active retirees are invited to come along for morning tea, fun, friendship. Meets 4th Friday of each month. Bridge Park Bowling Club, 27A Taylor Road.

Community DIRECTORY

A COMPACT LIST FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY. CONTACT EDITOR@275TIMES.CO.NZ FOR ANY UPDATES

ADVOCACY

Auckland Action Against Poverty
Māori Wardens Office, Waddon Pl
advocates@aaap.org.nz

Citizens Advice Bureau Māngere
Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive
www.cab.org.nz | 09 275 6885
0800 367 222 | mangere@cab.org.nz

Communities Against Alcohol Harm
contact@communitiesagainstalcoholharm.co.nz

Māngere Law Centre
Shop 27, Māngere Town Centre
reception@mangerelaw.org.nz
https://communitylaw.org.nz/centre/
auckland/mangere/ Ph: 09 275 4310

MP for Māngere
Māngere Electorate Community
Office, Shop 9, 93 Bader Drive
Mangere@parliament.govt.nz

BUDGETING

Māngere Budgeting Services Trust
Shop 8B, Māngere Town Centre
appointments@mbst.org.nz
0508 222 283 | www.mbst.org.nz

Viola Budgeting
Māngere Baptist Church, Bader Dr
vpibs@vaiola.org | 09 256 9639
www.vaiola.org/contact.html

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Cook Islands Development Agency NZ
287 Kirkbride Road, admin@cidanz.co.nz
https://www.cidanz.co.nz

Maangere Mountain Education Centre
100 Coronation Road, Māngere
Email: info@mangeremountain.co.nz
Ph: 09 634 7305

Māngere Arts Centre
Cnr Bader Drive and Orly Avenue
mangereartscentre@aucklandcouncil.
govt.nz | 09 262 5789

Māngere East Community Centre
372 Massey Road | Ph: 09 275 6161
info@mangereeast.org
https://mangereeast.org

Māngere Bridge Library
5/7 Church Road | 09 377 0209

Māngere East Library
370 Massey Road | 09 377 0209

Māngere Town Centre Library
IG: @mtc_lib | 09 377 0209

Moana-Nui-A-Kiwa (Pools & Leisure)
66R Mascot Avenue | 09 275 8979
mangerepools@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ngatapuwa Community Centre
phil.d@strive.org.nz | 09 275 4470

Old School Teaching Garden
299 Kirkbride Rd | https://
aucklandteachinggardens.co.nz/

Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae
141R Robertson Road, 027 256 1472
admin@pkm.org.nz | https://pkm.org.nz

Whare Koa Community House
141 Robertson Road | 09 379 2030
https://www.facebook.com/WhareKoa

COMMUNITY SAFETY

**Auckland Council Animal
Management Team (report dogs)**
Ph: 09 301 0101 | 0800 462 685

Neighbourhood Support Māngere
022 010 4707 | ns4mangere@gmail.com

**Neighbourhood Support Māngere
Bridge** | mangerebridgens@gmail.com

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bader Health Care
09 275 8598 | info@bdhealthcare.co.nz

Turuki Healthcare
32 Canning Crescent | 0800 493 552
www.turukihealthcare.org.nz

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

LinkPeople
0800 932 432 | linkpeople.co.nz

Kāhui Tū Kaha
09 531 4040 | 0800 678 323
reception@kahuitukaha.co.nz

HOUSING SUPPORT

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust
30 Windrush Close, Māngere,
0800 624848.

Pacific Healthy Homes Initiative
(Support e.g. curtains, heating, insulation)
Cause Collective: 027 301 3326
thecausecollective.org.nz/contact-us
AWHI Healthy Homes Initiative:
referrals@awhi.co.nz or 0800 100642

Strive Community Trust
294A Massey Road, Māngere
Ph: 09 255 0144 | info@strive.org.nz

SUPPORT

**Fale Pasifika (Pacific Womens
Refuge)** Ph: 09 6220572
Crisis Line: 0800 733 843
admin@falepasifika.org.nz

I AM Mangere
027 348 9454 | www.iamhapori.co.nz
connect@iamhapori.co.nz

Māngere Work and Income
93 Mascot Ave Māngere
www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-
and-income/contact-us/index.html

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board
mangereotahuhulocalboard@
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz | 09 301 0101

Manukau Urban Marae Authority
Foodbank, Whānau Services + more
0800 686 232 | www.muma.co.nz

Martin Hautus Foundation Trust
0223920189 | talei@mhfoundationtrust.
org.nz | www.mhfoundationtrust.org.nz

Taime Pasifika Cancer Support
021 0248 5177 | https://taime.co.nz

**Te Oranga Kaumatua Kuia Disability
Support Services Trust**

64 Mascot ave | 09 255 5470
kingi.martin@teorangaak.org.nz

**Te Whanau Rangimarie (Women's
Refuge, Favona)** Ph: 09 275 1230
Free Phone: 0508 626 2254
Email: admin@twr.org.nz

WHĀNAU/AIGA SERVICES

Baderdrive Community Trust
Advocacy, Whānau Ora, Social
Services Support | Bdct.org.nz
09 254 4340 | info@bdct.org.nz

Barnados Aotearoa
33 Cape Road | Ph: 09 625 3600
auckland@barnados.org.nz

B4Baby Breastfeeding Support
(Turuki Healthcare)
b4baby@thc.org.nz | 0800 242 229

Family Start (Turuki Healthcare)
Home visiting support service
familystart@thc.org.nz

Good Seed Trust
Strengthening families to thrive &
succeed | www.goodseedtrust.co.nz
info@goodseedtrust.co.nz

ME Family Services
ECE, social services, environment, &
more | mefsc@mefsc.org.nz
09 256 0810 | https://mefsc.org.nz

Ohomairangi Trust
Free parenting programmes
372 Massey Road, Māngere East
www.ohomairangi.co.nz
admin@ohomairangi.co.nz

Strive Community Trust:
- Family Service Centre Department
familycentre@strive.org.nz | 09 2573424
- KEYS – Youth Services Department
ysadmin@strive.org.nz | 0800 787 483