

# Māngere's 275 times

Our stories, our people, our Māngere  
Kōrero paki ō tatou, Tāngata ō tatou, Ngā Hau Māngere ō tatou

## MĀNGERE'S TALENT ON SHOW AT SCHOOLS EVENT



Bader Intermediate students about to perform on stage



Māngere East Primary School teachers



Mountain View Primary teachers with Rachel Viliamu, (front)



Māngere Bridge Primary Kapa Haka group performing on stage



Kala Boyes and her son Jacob getting ready for his performance

**Nestled under Māngere Mountain at Mountain View School, 13 schools came together from across the area to celebrate their unique cultures through performance and to build community pride.**

Mountain View School teacher Rachel Viliamu was one of the main organisers of the Beatz of Māngere event and says the day was a huge success.

"It's been really good, the team has been really 'on' for the schools, and the schools have been really organised.

"It's been great seeing the kids celebrating their culture, seeing other schools perform and actually having a day for them as young ones has been a mad highlight, seeing them enjoy it without high school kids barging through."

One important aspect of the day for Rachel was to ensure it had a local focus. "All of our vendors are from Māngere and all schools are from Māngere," she says. "Seeing Māngere come together and being proud of us as a community and enjoy each other and celebrate with each other. "I'm hoping what happens from today onwards is that when they're in the Māngere

**"IT WAS SO MUCH FUN...TO SEE OUR RANGATAHI FROM AROUND MĀNGERE SHOWCASING THEIR TALENT"**

Town Centre or just walking down the street and they see someone that they saw at Beatz, they'll actually say hi and not give them the eye." Parent and Māngere resident Kala Boyes

really enjoyed the day and was proud to watch her son perform.

"It was heart-warming to see my son up on stage embracing and embodying his multicultural heritage at Beatz this year." Her son Jacob attends Mountain View School and he was in two performances. "He showed up and showed out for the Niuean group and also the Kapa Haka

rōpu! Kia kaha te reo Māori! Fakatūleva e vagahau Niue! "It was so much fun and also fulfilling to see our rangatahi from around Māngere showcasing their talent and keeping their many diverse cultures alive through waiata and koli (song and dance).

"It was a really cool experience, big shout out to MVS and everyone that made that day happen!"



# PACIFIC COUNCILLORS EXPRESS DISMAY AT LOSING MĀORI SEATS VOTE



By *Khalia Strong*

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Pacific councillors have expressed their frustration at Auckland Council's Governing Body decision to reject the establishment of Māori seats in the next local election. The amendment was put forward by Manukau ward councillor Alf Filipaina (pictured), but voted down by eleven to nine votes.

Filipaina says he's disappointed by the decision.

"They said they were against it because we need more time. We've been talking about this since 2017. What more time do they need?"

"We don't have a Māori voice that's mandated to speak for Māori around the Governing Body table. It was just a sad day for Māori."

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki ward councillor

Jo Bartley was also critical of her fellow councillors.

"The vote against Māori seats today shows the absolute tokenism around our council table. People say they support Māori and can even rattle off a few words in te reo, but that is where Māori stay - on the outside.

"Yes, we need you for powhiri, iwi and mana whenua consultation, karakia, lovely Māori designs on buildings for when international visitors come, but when it comes down to it in sharing power, by having a place at decision making table, it's a no. Shame on those who voted against."

Some councillors wanted to wait for the election outcome. Others questioned whether the seats were necessary in addition to the Māori Independent Statutory board, which can only make decisions on a committee level. Further work to consider Māori representation in Auckland will now move to a Joint Governance Working Party, who will report back by December next year.

But Filipaina says it will be up to someone else to push this through.

"This is my last term, so there'll be somebody new who will be fighting for us in the Manukau ward, so let's see what happens."

## FREE SUPPORT FOR STORM-AFFECTED LOCALS



While most of Auckland has moved on from the storms earlier this year, many of those impacted are still struggling.

Māngere is a priority area for the Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery Office, being one of the worst hit communities, with greater support needs, and complex existing challenges.

Many of the people we work with are often overwhelmed with everything that needs to be done. Good guidance and support can make a real difference.

This is why we have launched the Storm Recovery Navigation Service. Whether you have questions about decisions being made about your home, your insurance situation, getting connected to financial or legal assistance, or need help dealing with the emotional and mental toll, our team of Recovery Navigators offer free and confidential support.



Tāmaki Makaurau's Storm Recovery Navigation team is growing

### GET IN TOUCH

If you were impacted by severe weather events earlier this year, you can connect with a local Navigator,

- by emailing [navigators@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:navigators@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)
- or visiting us at our regular drop-in clinics.

(sponsored content)

### MĀNGERE DROP-IN CLINICS

Every Tuesday from 14 November, 10am – 4pm  
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Office,  
Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive, Māngere Town Centre

For more information, visit our Tāmaki Makaurau recovery website [ourauckland.nz/recovery](https://ourauckland.nz/recovery).



# MAANGERE HOUSING STORIES: #3 MONICA LIVA



**Dr Monica Liva (pictured) sits down with MAU Studio about her experience as a GP at Turuki Healthcare and how her patients influenced her to advocate for more socially and environmentally connected homes in Maangere.**

"I've been a GP for over 13 years and have lived in Maangere for nearly 40 years. As a GP in Maangere, I have patients who live in all sorts of housing – from emergency housing to social housing to families renting or owning

their own homes. I can hear first hand how living situations affect the health of our families. For example, the health impacts of overcrowding and damp homes can lead to health conditions such as skin infection, asthma and alarmingly high rates of rheumatic fever equivalent to that of third world countries. Stressful environments can lead to our elderly patients not prioritising their health plans. So, for a while, it felt like I was working at the bottom of the cliff and

not influencing much of my patient's life outside the clinic room.

So, when the opportunity to join the Maangere Housing Advocacy Group came up, I saw it as a chance to learn more about the Kāinga Ora housing developments to better inform our community and my patients on housing initiatives across Maangere. Part of my role in the Advocacy Group is to share other health services that can support families to create more stable home environments. Our environment from housing to education in schools and local eateries, are important social health determinants that influence health outcomes. These areas need major investment to prevent the overwhelming of local health services.

At Turuki Healthcare in Maangere, we have a Sustaining Tenancies team and Health Coaches that help our whaanau/aiga/kainga in Maangere and South Auckland with any housing and health-related issues that may put them at risk. Help is different depending on the needs of the whaanau. It could be supporting whaanau who have drug or alcohol-related problems, helping with financial literacy, and even supporting whaanau from transitional housing into more permanent housing in Maangere. The Sustaining Tenancies programme is like a bridge that connects our whaanau to other organisations locally and governmentally so that they can create more stable and healthier homes.

Being part of the Advocacy Group allows me to amplify the voices of our whaanau who want to live here long term in Maangere. My family has been in Maangere for three generations, and my parents still live here. I wouldn't want my parents or other families displaced because they couldn't afford to live here. I want to ensure that our neighborhood retains our sense of the "275" community and celebrates our cultural diversity. And this sense of connection is vital to our personal and collective health in Maangere.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A "FOOD SCRAPS BIN LEADER" FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?



We are a few weeks in now, since the food scraps bin roll out started and we are looking for people who would like to support our community to use their bins.

**If you are interested, or know someone that would be interested, please contact Colleen at Māngere East Family Services for a kōrero at [colleen@mefsc.org.nz](mailto:colleen@mefsc.org.nz)**

MANGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS

# Māngere East

end of year

## Festival 2023

Sat 25 Nov

10:00AM  
02:00PM

**WALTER MASSEY PARK**  
(next to Manukau City AFC)  
378 MASSEY ROAD  
MANGERE EAST

**FREE Bouncy Castles & Kids entertainment**

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**FOOD STALLS**

Sports Activations

Info Stalls

Prizes & Giveaways

Local Performances

For a stall or to perform or volunteer and other info please email or phone:  
[info@mangereeast.org](mailto:info@mangereeast.org) | 09 2756161

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# ‘HAVE YOUR SAY’ ON MĀNGERE’S FUTURE

**Please help shape the design of the latest cycling improvements to happen in the Māngere West area, linking the Māngere Town Centre to the Nga Hau Māngere Bridge.**

Māngere’s cycling champion, Teau ‘Mr Tee’ Aiturau (pictured above right) is encouraging locals to have their say on shaping the future of Māngere through Auckland Transport’s upcoming cycling improvement consultation,

**“I want to encourage the Māngere community to get involved. For Māngere, by Māngere, all day Māngere!”**

Teau, who runs the Māngere BikeFIT community hub, says he’s really excited about being proposed upgrades for our community.

“The Māngere West Cycling Improvements helps cyclists to be more safe commuting or just getting around and connecting to the wider network which ever direction you go.” Teau has a vision to see Māngere become the bike capital of the Pacific, and has been part of the consultation process with Auckland Transport to improve cycling connections in Māngere to help this vision become a reality.

Changes are being made to make it easier and safer for people to travel by bike from one end of Māngere to the other. From the Ngā Hau Māngere Bridge to Māngere Town Centre and connecting with the existing shared path to the airport along George Bolt Memorial Drive.

## Consultation from Auckland Transport around new cycling improvements began in 2020.

During this consultation, the Māngere community told AT they wanted to be more involved developing and designing their streets. This kicked off a Collaborative Forum process with local representatives to revisit the design, which AT is now sharing with the wider community for feedback. The project team will be at the Māngere Town Centre Market on Saturday, 18 & 25 November, and Māngere Bridge Village Market on Sunday, 19 & 26 November if people want to chat. All feedback is welcome, Auckland Transport wants to hear from locals about the new design.



## What are the benefits of the project?

- Easier and safer travel by bike between Māngere Bridge, Māngere Town Centre, Auckland Airport, Onehunga, the Southwestern Cycleway and more key locations.
- By making our streets better for all kinds of travel, we ensure young people have more freedom to get around now, and in the future.
- Creating dedicated room for people to bike and scooter leaves the footpaths free for those who need them.
- More trips by bike means fewer cars on the road, which results in fewer transport emissions and better outcomes for our environment. It also means less traffic congestion and more reliable travel times.
- The new design reduces the impact on on-street parking by over 40 per cent compared to the 2020 design.



MW = Māngere West, current project for public consultation. Green = existing cycling network

## IMPORTANT DATES

Public consultation for feedback opens on **Monday 13th of November** and closes on **Monday 4th December**.

Please scan the QR code above right for more info; then to have your say from Monday 13th November.



# PACIFIC YOUTH CUP HIGHLIGHTS SPORT'S GROWING POPULARITY AMONG GIRLS



By Matt Manukuo

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Several hundred teenage girls took part in a Pacific rugby league competition in early October.

Girls from Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue and Maori were all represented at the second ever Pacific Youth Cup - highlighting why it's one of the fastest growing sports for females.

Over the three-day tournament at Walter Massey park in Māngere East, the players took the opportunity to proudly represent their communities and island, which Rugby League Samoa New Zealand

coordinator Feleti Lefao says is another reason why rugby league is increasing in popularity. "A lot of the girls have come through clubs so it's a big honour for them to represent Samoa, and get the right people on board especially the community to support Samoa," he says "And as you see in the media the past couple of years, the girls' and women's space has

taken off and we wanted to provide a pathway for our young females to aspire to."

Lefao says despite preconceptions in the past that the sport was too physical for girls, these competitions are helping to disprove these assumptions.

"It was probably very taboo back in our days for women to play contact sports, but it's been welcomed with open arms by our families.

"Times have changed and our Pacific girls are physically up for these kinds of sports. "Rugby league has taken off in Auckland for the girls space, [and] I think this year all the clubs have had a girls team and it's flowed on to these tournaments." Auckland Cook Islands Rugby League chairman Henry Turua says the popularity of the sport is reflective of the success of professional competitions for women like the NRLW (which is the NRL's womens' league competition). "We're only at the start of it, it's only our second tournament and already we're seeing the interest in playing. It's also about getting our communities involved, to see how great the tournament is."



## IS CHATGPT THE FUTURE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING?

By Aui'a Vaimala Leatinu'u

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Will artificial intelligence (AI) replace the role of a language teacher? One Samoan language teacher says no.

ChatGPT is an AI chatbot which is causing waves around the world for its ability to provide users highly specialised answers to a range of subjects, including being able to write detailed essays and articles on almost any topic.

Where some have praised ChatGPT for how advanced the technology is, others have criticised it for threatening job security. Additionally, Massey University science communication lecturer Collin Bjork, recently wrote about how ChatGPT is a threat to language diversity, as its algorithm prioritises the "Queen's English over other languages and ways of writing".

Auckland University Samoan language lecturer and former Māngere College teacher Lemoa Henry Sevesi Fesulau'i says artificial intelligence like ChatGPT can be a threat if it feeds into "one dominant language".

"It could diminish the value of our languages, however, as a teacher we tend to try to use resources such as Google translate," Lemoa says.

Recently universities activated software that could detect the use of AI in assignments with a 98 per cent accuracy rate to flag students for cheating.

Lemoa says that this is unlikely to be an issue as the context of language remains important, where Samoan has formal, informal and written structures that differ from one another.

"If you chuck in an English paragraph to be translated to Samoan it will be something totally different because it follows that dominant algorithm of language." Lemoa says they use various teaching tools, such as textbooks and audio, including "authentic spaces" like sessions in the university's Fale Pasifika. "You can't get that with AI because it's kanoahi ki te kanoahi (face to face); Fa'asaga atu, fa'asaga mai (face to face)." Lemoa if the day comes that artificial intelligence can sustain language respectfully then he is all for it. "With any translation, some of our students, translators or interpreters can make it too



Gagana Samoa teacher, Lemoa Henry Fesulau'i.

literal as they follow the English structure without knowledge of the Samoan structure," Lemoa says.

"That's what our people are concerned about. Is it done the right way?

"Is it done respectfully? Is it upholding our values?"

"At the end of the day, we're not robots. And that's what makes us different when we teach these language programmes."



# ADAPTIVE BOXER FINDS SOLACE AND INSPIRATION FROM THE SEA

By Grace Tinetai-Fiavaai, Te Rito Journalism Cadet  
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Boxer turns abuse from online haters into motivation to succeed.

When boxer John "Boulder Shoulders" Fiu needs a break from the challenges of life, he finds solace on the beach, listening to the waves.

Fiu is an adaptive boxer from the Samoan villages of Salelologa and Faleatiu.

Faleatiu is also the village of famous boxer David Tua.

Adaptive boxers fight from wheelchairs, on a floor-level ring.

Since Covid 19, Faleatiu, 35, has endured numerous setbacks, including the postponement of his upcoming November bout, which was originally scheduled for October.

Fiu says he also endures hateful social media messages.

But they give him the strength and

motivation to train harder.

"I've lost count of all the negative and hate messages because of me and my disabled community - because of my fights," he says.

The boxer also finds solace in sitting on the beach, enveloped in the peace that the waves bring.

Going into this November fight, he has won all 18 of his bouts.

He is currently training six times a week with two days off.

Ten of his past fights were won by TKO, and he is confident his next fight will be his eleventh.

"It's going to be a TKO."

If he wins, he will take his title back to Faleatiu in Samoa.

"I want to be the first ever New Zealand Adaptive wheelchair boxing champion," Fiu says.

He also wants to see the sport included in the 2024 Paralympics.

**Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air**



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## EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES: QUEEN SHIRL'E ACADEMY'S IMPACTFUL INITIATIVES

Discover the impact of creativity at the Queen Shirle Academy! The QS Academy youth podcast classes, supported by Māngere Arts, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board & the Ōtāhuhu library have been empowering young voices, fostering friendships, and sharing inspiring stories on platforms like Spotify's 'Youth in the Booth.' The academy is also hosting their "BRING THE NOISE" music & artist development graduation and showcases on November 11th, 5PM, in partnership with MAC & hosted at the Māngere Art Centre. Come along and witness the talent nurtured. Free entry, light refreshments provided.

**Exciting news: New QS Academy youth podcast & creative arts classes starts November 9th, every Thursday after school at the Māngere East Library. Limited spaces, register now at the Māngere East Library front desk!**




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# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Email [275times@gmail.com](mailto:275times@gmail.com) if you want to include a photo here.



Te Puru tangata o te hau tonga performing at Te Ahurea Tino Rangatiratanga, which was at Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwae this year. The combined group are from Aorere College, Māngere College and Otāhuhu College. Photo supplied by Aorere College.



Polynesian Creative Artists (PCA) working on their tivaivai at the Whare Koa Māngere Community House. They meet every Friday 10am-2pm. Check out [facebook.com/WhareKoa](https://www.facebook.com/WhareKoa) for info on other community activities.



Harania Stream Fun Day on the 28th of October. Over 50 locals showed up to learn about the stream, the ecosystem and how to care for it. Ran by the Taiao Team, ME Family Services. [facebook.com/taiaoteam](https://www.facebook.com/taiaoteam)



The crew from Diamonds in the Rough at Whare Koa. If you are a young parent wanting to connect with a group that provide support, aroha and community, contact Shilpa 022 685 7251 or email [diamondsintherough@hotmail.com](mailto:diamondsintherough@hotmail.com), this may be just the group for you! Diamonds in the Rough meet every Wednesday 10am-12pm at 141 Roberston Road Māngere.



Rise Up Academy after their performance at Beatz of Māngere



Nga Iwi Primary students learning road safety with Triple Teez and Share the Road NZ



The Firm Souls youth collective, te Taiao Team from MEFS, Triple Teez crew, & local volunteers at the new Community Enviro Hub. Watch out for the official launch of the Enviro Hub coming up!



Māngere College received two new vans as part of a generous donation from Hugo Charitable Trust. Watch out for the new vehicles in the neighbourhood!



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## POLYNESIAN CYCLING CELEBRATION 2023

November 1st-11th. We're celebrating 11 days of Polynesian cycling, a challenge to have a go to encourage and educate the community on the fundamentals of owning and riding a bike safely. All on at the Māngere Bikefit Community Hub at Waddon Place. Check out [facebook.com/tripleteez](https://facebook.com/tripleteez)!

## QUEEN SHIRL'E ACADEMY

- 'GO WITH THE FLOW' - Free Youth Podcast/Creative Arts 7 week programme. 9 years+. Beginning November 9. Every Thursday 4pm-6pm at the Māngere East Library.  
- **BRING THE NOISE SHOWCASE** - Graduation Showcase on Sat Nov 11, 5pm at the Māngere Arts Centre.

## SHARE SOME JOY WITH THOSE SPENDING CHRISTMAS IN PRISON

Create and write holiday cards to brighten their days during this challenging season. FREE, all equipment supplied. All ages are welcome! Pop in between 12.30-3.30pm, Sunday 26th November 2023, Māngere East Library  
Event hosted by Māngere East Library and the Prison Correspondence Network (PCN).

## MĀNGERE SCHOOLS HAVE A TRY-ATHALON

Friday 1st December 2023, at the Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa centre, 9.15am. 100m swim, 4km bike, 2km walk/run. Ages 9-12 years old. Email [admintimetothrive@gmail.com](mailto:admintimetothrive@gmail.com).

## MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

- **Before School Care and After School Care**  
- **FREE Adult Education Classes:** English for Speakers of Other Languages, Te Reo Māori, Hulafit, Korowai and more.  
- **Venue & Bus Hire:** We have our Hall and Kowhai Room and we also have a 32 seater bus and 2 Mini-Buses for hire.  
- **FREE Parenting Programmes**  
- **Community garden:** Join us in re-creating our community garden at the Māngere East Community Centre, every Thursday, 12PM - 2PM.

**CONTACT:** [www.mangereeast.org](http://www.mangereeast.org) | phone 09 275 6161 or drop in 372 Massey Road, Māngere East

## PLUNKET PLAYGROUPS

### Ōtāhuhu Playgroup

Tue 9-11 am  
3 Alexander St, Otahuhu  
Akl

### Tiny Jandals Playgroup

Tue 12-2.30pm  
Wed/Fri 9.30am-12pm  
5 Taylor Rd, Mangere Bridge  
Akl

### Māngere Bridge Playgroup

Mon, Tue, Thur 9.30am-11.30am  
5 Taylor Rd, Mangere  
Bridge Akl

### Contacts:

Rubi-Lin Kita-Mokalei  
CSC Plunket Counties  
Manukau  
[rubikita@plunket.org.nz](mailto:rubikita@plunket.org.nz) or  
021 2464206



The final election results came out at the start of November, confirming that National will lead a new government, with ACT and NZ First as coalition partners. In Māngere, Labour's Lemauga Lydia Sosene is our new local electorate MP, becoming the first woman to hold this seat - which is a great achievement (as pictured).  
But the result that's most concerning is the number 63.13%. That's the percentage of enrolled people in Māngere who voted and it's the lowest election turnout in NZ - alongside Panmure-Ōtāhuhu. It's understandable why many have chosen not to take part in this year's election, given the flooding and cost of living crisis. But it also means almost 40 per cent of our community aren't having their say - and we are all poorer for their lack of participation. I don't have the answer, but when more of us take part in elections, the more seriously our community's concerns will be taken by Parliament - so for that reason alone, we must all consider how we can address this.

# Streets ahead in Māngere.

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