

# Māngere's 275 times

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

## FESTIVAL WELCOMES IN SUMMER

On Saturday, November 25, the Māngere East Community Centre put on their 13th annual End of Year Festival with the support of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. This year the festival was taken up a notch from previous years with the support of CLM Community Sport, allowing the event to be held at Māngere East's Walter Massey Park. Their set up of an amazing kids and whānau entertainment area included giant games, free play area with costumes, bouncy castles and a hungerball arena which kept young and old entertained. With thousands of locals coming through throughout the day and listening, dancing



Tongan Cultural Group. L-R: Konrad, Timote and Kaison

and watching our outstanding local talent, it was a day to be remembered. A big thank you to

Nga Iwi Primary School for the use of their portable stage. Thank you to all the organisations who came along and

gave info and giveaways and a massive thank you to our whānau who came out and supported the local kai vendors, performers and had fun in the sun with our community. Thank you to our community volunteers and groups who help make these events happen. We look forward to next years event!

**Maia Fowler**  
Centre Manager, Māngere East Community Centre



SCAN FOR MORE PICS

## CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE & SERVICE

The eighth Sunpix awards on Friday, November 10 at the Due Drop Centre in Manukau, acknowledged the spectrum of Pacific success. Tagata Pasifika's Marama T-Pole and John Pulu were the MCs for the night. Pulu says: "These awards are an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge our Pacific peoples contribution to Aotearoa."

Here are three of our Māngere winners.

Photo credit: Sunpix



Shir'e Fruean aka Queen Shir'e, won the Community Leadership Award.



Katalina Ma, Ministry of Education Pacific Education Award Winner - South Auckland Maths Challenge



Julia Arnott, alongside Eteroa Lafaele from Fibre Fale, won the Pacific Enterprise Award

# BADER INTERMEDIATE TO REP NZ AT WORLD NFL YOUTH FLAG CHAMPS



Bader Intermediate took part in the very first NFL Flag National Tournament held at NZCIS in Wellington. They were the only South Auckland school to make it into the finals, where they played Takapuna

Intermediate. It was 16-all at half time, but with two minutes to go they scored and managed to hold the lead until the final hooter. Emotions were high after the game, proving all the hard work

over the last few months was worth it. Bader Intermediate will now represent New Zealand at the World NFL Youth Flag Tournament to be held in Orlando, Florida, USA in February. Lutu Moala was named MVP of the whole tournament. And as a special highlight, the students got to hang out Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley. Here is what some Bader Intermediate team members had to say:  
 "We were all new to this game and it has been exciting to learn the competition and then winning. I never thought we would make it this far and now we get to represent NZ in America!" says Lennox Ah Wong Walker, student.  
 "The team's dedication and teamwork shone brightly as they clinched the championship, making history in our community. This achievement has fostered a sense of pride and unity. As a staff member, witnessing our students' triumph has given us a profound sense of accomplishment, knowing we've made a lasting impact on their lives and brought new found excitement to our community to represent as the first NZ team in America!" says Chrystal Otunuku, teacher.

**If you would like to financially support the team to get over to Florida, email Chrystal at [cotunuku@bader.school.nz](mailto:cotunuku@bader.school.nz)**

# TEENS OF THE 275 PODCAST AIMS TO FOSTER FUTURE STARS OF THE MEDIA

**A new podcast is giving Māngere students a chance to grill some of the Pacific's leading media personalities.**

*Teen of the 275* is a podcast aiming to inspire young people to take on new opportunities by giving students the chance to interview those who have managed to break down stereotypes and succeed where others haven't. The podcast is produced by PMN News in partnership 275 Times and in the first two episodes Māngere College's Kasey Wehi, Tulei Salu and Manuia Fox-Romia hosted two amazing guests who have excelled in journalism and fashion, Mariner Fagaiava-Muller and Ernestina Bonsu-Maró. In the first episode, the students spoke with Fagaiava-Muller about his journey from a shy kid at De La Salle College in Māngere East to becoming one of NZ's most well-known Pacific media personalities. Fagaiava-Muller also speaks about what he sees as the biggest challenges facing his community and how we need to see more Pacific youth getting into the world of journalism. In the second episode, the students interviewed Bonsu-Maró, who is a former



Miss Cook Islands NZ and radio host, about how she went from being a carefree Māngere College student to starting her own modelling agency and hosting a show on 531pi.

For the debutant hosts, the experience of interviewing guests on a podcast has made an immediate impact.

Year 12 student Tulei Salu says it's already one of the most "memorable moments" of her life. "It has helped me in so many ways possible, from enhancing my confidence skills to making new connections," she says. Kasey Wehi, who's in his last year at college says interviewing successful Māngere residents was particularly inspiring.



**SCAN TO LISTEN**



"I learnt that regardless of your upbringing, you are able to thrive in 'white spaces' and you can succeed in any career of your choosing."

The youngest of the hosts, year 11 student Manuia Fox-Romia, says she was initially quite nervous about hosting a podcast, but the PMN staff and her fellow hosts "made me feel super comfortable and supported". And she hopes others are inspired.

"I hope that young people especially the ones in Māngere see themselves in these successful role models."

# COMMUNITY RALLIES BEHIND FAMILIES DEVASTATED BY MASSIVE FIRE



From left; Siasi Tokaikolo 'ia Kalaisi minister Rami Nicholas, three boys who survived the fire and Frank Kolo.

**Much needed donations of money and clothes have been flowing in for families affected by the massive fire in Māngere Bridge.**

"Nothing was left." That's how Frank Kolo

summarised the devastating scenes next to his church, following a fire that destroyed four homes in the early hours of November 30 in Māngere Bridge. Kolo, who's acting as



What's left of the houses that were destroyed in Māngere Bridge

spokesperson for the Siasi Tokaikolo 'ia Kalaisi Tongan church, says the survivors have literally been left with the clothes on their backs. But he says both the congregation and the wider community have been quick to offer support to the 18 affected people who were living in the destroyed cabins. "They were just in singlets and pyjamas when they got out, so one of the first things members brought was blankets," he told 275 Times. "And one of the first people

who came was the principal of Māngere Bridge Primary to offer their support - and to make sure our children have what they needed so they won't have to miss out on the school's end of year celebrations." Kolo, who's a trustee with the church, says around 14 fire trucks attended the fire. The church was originally built around 1996, and Kolo says the church has long been a place of refuge: "It's become iconic for the Tonga community." **Visit 275 Times' Facebook for donation details.**

### DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2023

<b>MON</b> 18TH DEC Ambury Farm	<b>TUE</b> 19TH DEC BEACH DAY bring towel and sunscreen	<b>WED</b> 20TH DEC Wheels Day Bring your scooter, skateboard or rollerblades	<b>FRI</b> 15TH DEC Park Crawl	<b>FRI</b> 22ND DEC Karaoke - Party
<b>THU</b> 14TH DEC Movie Time	<b>THU</b> 21ST DEC Christmas party			

### JANUARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2024

<b>MON 8 JANUARY</b> Maritime Museum	<b>TUES 9 JANUARY</b> Crazy Hair Day	<b>WEDS 10 JANUARY</b> All aboard the Ferry!	<b>THURS 11 JANUARY</b> Park Crawl	<b>FRI 12 JANUARY</b> Jungle PARTY!
<b>MON 15 JANUARY</b> POOL DAY!	<b>TUES 16 JANUARY</b> Strawberry Day!	<b>WEDS 17 JANUARY</b> Picnic by the Springs	<b>THURS 18 JANUARY</b> SPORTS Day	<b>FRI 19 JANUARY</b> PYJAMA PARTY!
<b>MON 22 JANUARY</b> MAUNGA DISCOVERIES	<b>TUES 23 JANUARY</b> GARDEN DAY!	<b>WEDS 24 JANUARY</b> Water Fun Day!	<b>THURS 25 JANUARY</b> Science in a Van visits!	<b>FRI 26 JANUARY</b> Beach Day
<b>MON 29 JANUARY</b> CENTRE CLOSED AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY	<b>TUES 30 JANUARY</b> FOOD!!! 275 Cook Off	<b>WEDS 31 JANUARY</b> COSTUME PARTY!	mangere east community centre	

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMME HOURS**  
7:30AM - 6:00PM  
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## YOUNG MĀNGERE ARTIST PRODUCES FIRST HIT SINGLE

Tāmaki Makaurau welcomes a new talent to its music scene as debutant artist and producer Kzz has proudly released his first single, Brown Skin. At just 18 years old, the South Auckland-born Samoan artist from Māngere is ready to make his mark in the Aotearoa music industry. Brown Skin highlights the incredible diversity and creativity pulsating through the heart of Aotearoa's music landscape. The catchy track is a celebration of brown-skinned Poly (Polynesian) girls. In its rhythm and lyrics, the song serves as a reminder of how beautiful, gentle,



powerful, and loved they are. When asked how the single came to be, Kzz shared, "I originally produced Brown Skin for another artist. I put it together around 2 AM in just 30 minutes. "A friend sent me a sample, and I built a drum loop around it. I started freestyling lyrics, and it turned into a song just like that."



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## MOANA NUI A KIWA (POOLS) UPDATES

The outdoor pool officially opens for the summer season on December 9 – until the end of February 2024.

The MNaK Leisure will be closed on Christmas & Boxing Day & open every other day during the holidays.

## MĀNGERE EAST LIBRARY COMMUNITY LUNCH

Thursday December 14, at 12pm. All welcome! Bring a plate.

## MĀNGERE CHRISTMAS AT THE BIKE HUB 2023

Friday December 15, at 3pm. Will have Music, Entertainment, Kai, Prizes and Giveaways, Bikes to Ride, Smoothies, 20 Preloved Bikes to giveaway and a Preloved E-Bike to be won. If you would like to be part of this event or volunteer please email [admin.timetothrive@gmail.com](mailto:admin.timetothrive@gmail.com)

## MĀNGERE EAST THANKS GIVING CHRISTMAS EVENT

Everyone is welcome to the J-Hustle and RepFM Christmas Event of the year! Sat Dec 23. 12pm-4pm, Massey Homestead. FREE food, performances, gifts and activities for the kids!

## 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

## STORM RECOVERY SUPPORT DROP-INS

If you or your whānau need assistance and would like to find out about support services available for anyone affected by the January storm, come along to one of the upcoming drop-in sessions. **Location:** Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Office, Māngere Town Centre. **Time:** 10am-4pm. **Dates:** Tuesday 12 Dec 2023, Tuesday 19 Dec 2023, Tuesday 9 Jan 2024, Tuesday 16 Jan 2024, Tuesday 23 Jan 2024 and Tuesday 30 Jan 2024.

## THANK YOU TO THE MĀNGERE-ŌTĀHUHU LOCAL BOARD

We want to extend our utmost thanks to the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board for the Quick Response grant we have received so we could buy a new iPhone 15 for our photography and videos for 275 Times social media and print. 275 Times is a charity, run by volunteers and so we are deeply grateful for this extra support to ensure this community service continues.



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## EDITORIAL

Photo: Manawaharepu Udy

Just before we finished this magazine, hundreds have been gathering around the country, including in Māngere as part of the Nationwide Action Day, Toitū te Tiriti in response to the government's plans to reduce the place of te reo Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi in our civil society. This is very much a backward step for our country and also an unnecessary distraction given so many are struggling with the housing and cost of living crises. To follow our ongoing coverage of further events make sure you stay tuned to our Instagram account. As we head into the Christmas break, we would like to take this opportunity thank each of you for your support this year in keeping 275 Times going. Every time someone picks up a copy of 275 Times at your local eatery or library, every time you like or share a post - it all helps.

A final thank you to all of our sponsors and advertisers this year!

Without your support, we would not be able to print this awesome community magazine especially just for Māngere.

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