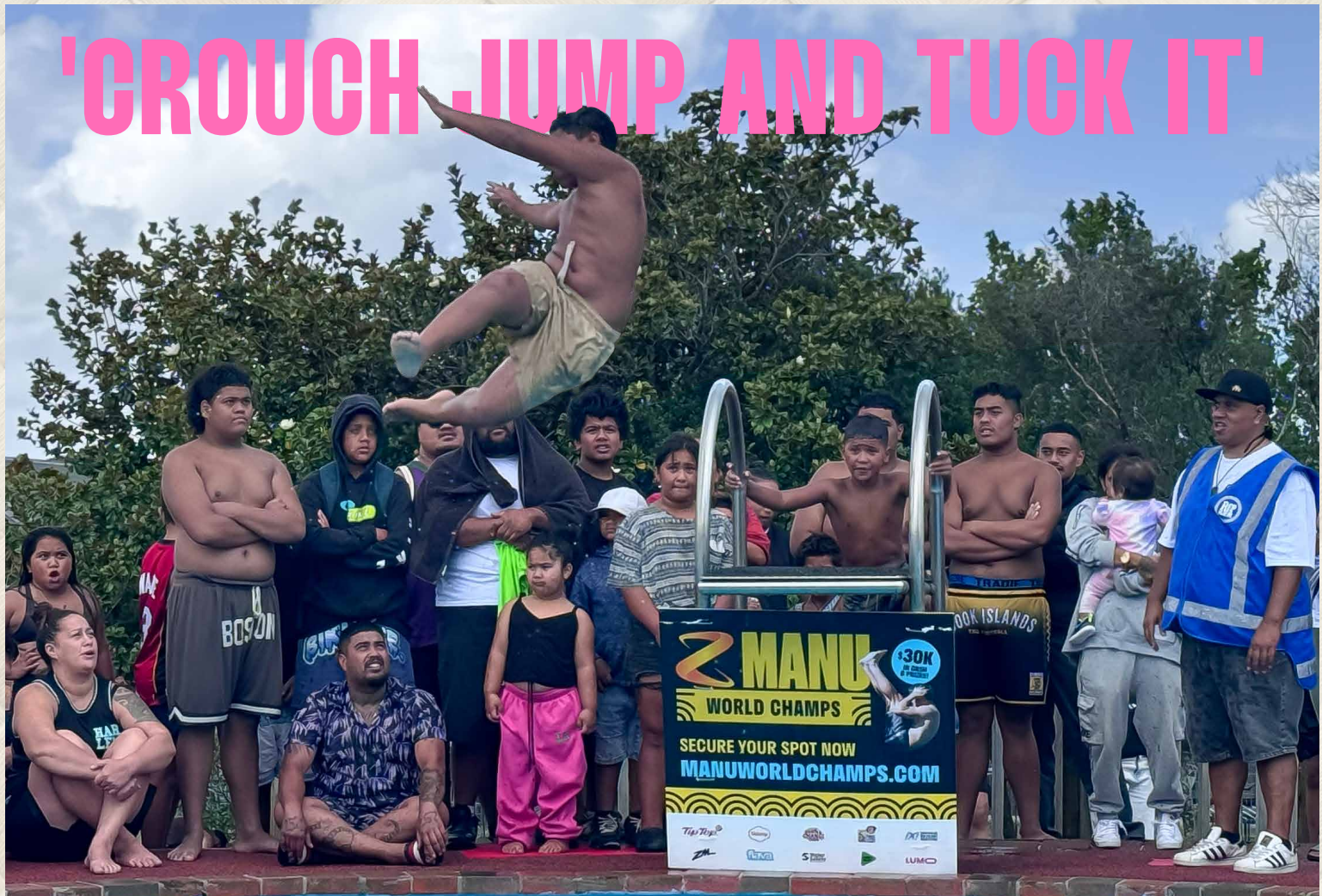


Māngere's 275 times



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

'CROUCH, JUMP AND TUCK IT'



The Moana Nui-a-Kiwa Pools in Māngere played host to an incredible bombastic competition on Auckland Anniversary Weekend.

The event saw the suburb's best proponents of the "manu" trying to qualify for the World Manu Championships that are jumping off next month at Auckland's Viaduct Harbour. For the uninitiated, water bombing or "manus" involve people jumping into water onto their lower back, which

is then judged based on style and splash size. Event organiser and Rep FM founder Toko Manuel says seeing the joy it brought to so many, made all the hard work behind the scenes worth it. "It was insane seeing the smiles on all those kids faces. It was priceless." Toko ran the event alongside his son JHustle who also performed between the heats, including his track "Crouch, Jump and Tuck It" that was specifically written for the competition. Toko says it's great being able to combine

music and sports. "It was just something that JHustle's interested in and so we wanted to just support the sport that we could see a lot of people wanted to come and do it here." And the ultimate goal is to see bombing become another sport for Māngere's best to gain national recognition in. "We're looking at creating a team for Māngere then we'll go against other areas, like how you've got sports teams like the Māngere East Hawks who go and play other teams around the city. "We've got the Māngere

bombing pool and so it makes sense to invite other areas to come here and then vice versa." Given the event took place one year since the pools were used as an evacuation centre during the Auckland Anniversary floods, for Moana-a-Kiwa Pools centre manager Waitangi Mika, it reinforced how important this facility is to the wider community. "It's a community centre - not just a pool and it was a prime example of community collaboration."

POLYFEST PARODY ROCKS THE STAGE IN MĀNGERE



Photo: Trey Josiah Photography

By Atutahi Potaka-Dewes
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Audiences were taken on a nostalgic ride watching the Pacific theatre version of the American cheerleading film *Bring It On* (2000), which played to sold-out crowds at the Māngere Arts Centre.

Pring It On!, which is a show described as a Polyfest-parody, was produced by Leki Jackson Bourke and Saale Ilaua by their newly established company Strictly Brown. The show follows the trials and tribulations of Penina Toleafoa (played by Māngere local Adyhana Urika Filifilia), a NZ-born Samoan in her last year of school who

auditions for the Samoan Cultural Group, while challenging the status quo, as well as navigating love and haters.

Ilaua said after reading through the script idea with his co-director, he knew it was a point of difference for the theatre space. "It's also for people who aren't from that community or who've not experienced Polyfest and it could be an eye-opener. That's an insight into our little world and they can come and be a part of that as well. It's so inclusive."

Ilaua says cast and crew gave everything to the company's first project.

"Things are slowly coming into fruition and



really ticking and happening for us."

And Ilaua says there's been plenty of sacrifices and dedication to get to this stage.

"It's incredibly rewarding. Leaving the whole 9-to-5 was a new thing for us, because we've got families that we need to support and provide for.

"To be able to do something like this, something creative, something that we really love - is incredible."

MAANGERE HOUSING STORIES: #4 JO LATIF



Jo Latif sat down with MAU Studio to discuss her journey with the Maangere Housing Advocacy Group and what motivates her to advocate for genuine community engagement with Maangere residents when building in Maangere.

"My journey with the Maangere Housing Advocacy Group started in 2019 while I was working at Maangere College. The Kāinga Ora development on the corner of Bader Drive

and McKenzie popped up, and the community was really concerned. Aupito Su'a William Sio (former Maangere MP) called the community to see if anyone wanted to be in a housing group. People had to volunteer, and you applied through a form you filled out. I was selected along with Vicki Sykes, Harry Toleafoa, Hone Fowler, Helen Tua, Campbell Roberts, Ronji Tanielu, Lama Tone, Peter Stowers and Bill Peace — who are all a collection

of really passionate, really skilled people in our community with experience with the housing sector.

We all started trying to understand what was happening and ensure we could connect with Kāinga Ora (HLC - Homes, Land, Community back then). We wanted HLC to understand our frustrations and concerns about their housing developments. It's been a long journey of ups and downs, such as the restructuring of HLC to Kāinga Ora and the constant changes in their staff, which made it harder for our group to ensure our message was heard. But what has been good is that Kāinga Ora is now starting to understand the importance of engaging with community groups like ours more meaningfully before they begin the design and build process. I can see that Kāinga Ora's Māngere Development team have been trying to work alongside our group even though they can be constrained by different government policy changes.

But my ultimate message to our new government and Kāinga Ora is that we need housing that reflects the changing needs of people's lives. I know the Government might look at housing developments as simply a numbers game but it would help if instead they looked at who lives in these homes and how it will impact the wider community. Many homes are not ideal for multi-generational families or aren't suited to people with disabilities and as our population ages, the importance of housing that values the changing needs of our communities will be so important. It's also so crucial for there to be more outdoor and green spaces connecting our families and neighbourhoods to allow for greater access to healthy living. So if we build our homes right from the beginning, it will save our Government money in the long run. If we aren't looking after the most vulnerable in our society, we all suffer. By engaging meaningfully with residents and allowing us to be part of the decision-making process, only then will we have a healthier society - and a healthier Maangere."

BADER INTERMEDIATE MAKE WINNING START AT NFL YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Pics from Bader Intermediate' opening victory at the NFL Youth Flag Football Championships in Florida, where they have represented New Zealand.



stormbirds
Growing through natural disaster

ME Family Services brings to you a school-based programme building resilience after the storm

A year after the Auckland Floods we reflect on the effects this event has had on our community and more importantly our children. As a part of our commitment to the recovery of our community, ME Family Services is rolling out STORMBIRDS in some Mangere Schools.

What is 'Stormbirds'?

'Stormbirds' is a programme designed to help children and young people as they process their experiences and learn knowledge and skills to support their recovery after the floods. The trauma, loss and grief experienced as a result of this natural disaster are complex and ongoing, potentially impacting the mental health and well-being of children, young people and adults.

Who is it for?

Children and young people aged 6-18 living with the effects of a natural disaster.

'Stormbirds' has four sessions (50-60 minutes) and the content of each session reflects key themes for the children and young people as they process their experience and learn knowledge and skills to support their recovery. The programme incorporates a wide range of age-appropriate activities including writing, drawing, discussion, stories, role plays, music, guided meditation and journaling.

To find out if this programme is running in your child's school, contact our Manaaki Tangata Team or your Social Worker in School

Potential is right here in

09 281 3473
referrals@mefsc.org.nz
More Information
www.mefsc.org.nz

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Danni Nicole Gray (left), Māngere East Hawks player, on her Manly Sea Eagles U19 Debut on Saturday February 10. Beating the St George Dragons 52-0!



The roof of the Māngere Town Centre is set to be replaced, thanks to advocacy from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, our local councillors and community leaders like Fitz from twoseventive, with \$767,000 from council's long term plan allocated for it.

Email 275times@gmail.com if you want to include a photo here.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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 | phone 09 275 6161 or drop in 372 Massey Road, Māngere East

MĀNGERE EAST CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 16, 10am-2pm. Māngere East Village Green (outside library) To perform or to have a stall contact info@mangereeast.org or 09 275 6161.

WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Term 1 Schedule: (Located 141R Robertson Rd ph:09 379 2030)

TUESDAY /RĀTU - Tongan Youth Trust (2.30pm-7pm)

WEDNESDAY/RĀAPA - Diamonds in the Rough (10am-12pm)
- Te Vaerua i te Rangi (5pm-7pm)

THURSDAY/RĀPARE - Tiare Taina Māmā's (10am-2pm)
- Eva Ma Le Koko (10am-2pm)

FRIDAY/RĀMERE - Polynesian Creative Arts (10am-2pm)

PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

KAI IKA PROJECT: Every Wednesday and Friday, 10.30am at Māngere Centre Park, Robertson Rd. Fish heads and frames + sometimes veggies and other food. Bring aluminum cans to swap if you can or just turn up to collect. A partnership between the Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae and Phoenix Metals.

MĀNGERE EAST HAWKS - PLAYER REGISTRATION

Registration for ALL grades are now open, (Mini, Mod, Junior Int, Senior, Boys, Girls) for more info contact merlfc@xtra.co.nz or check out www.mangereeasthawks.co.nz

ART BATTLE MĀNGERE-ŌTĀHUHU

Come along to the live painting competition at the Māngere Arts Centre on Thursday February 22, 6-10pm. Come & support our local talent. Grab a bargain as all the artwork will be for sale at the silent auction at the end of the night. Free tickets available on EventBrite!

MĀNGERE BRIDGE PUMP TRACK OPENING - TRIPLE TEEZ

Saturday Feb 24, 10am-1pm. Opening of the pop-up pump track at the Waterfront Reserve. Free event! Kai, face painting, games, music and more.

ME FAMILY SERVICES - RESOURCE ROOM

Email or text message Georgina to book an appointment. georgina@mefsc.org.nz, 0275711337. Hours are Monday-Friday 9am - 3pm. 16-18 Ferguson Street, Māngere East.



This time last year, our community was right in the middle of recovering from the January 27 floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. The picture above was taken outside Moana-Nui-A-Kiwa, our local pools and community centre, not long after the flood. It became the main hub that people came to for all their recovery needs. It was full of local everyday heroes who worked tirelessly to care for those who were badly affected by the floods, many of them who also had been flooded.

As we have seen on the front page with the Manu Competition, Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa continues to be a place of community, collaboration and celebration for Māngere. Once again highlighting why Māngere is so great and what encourages us to continue to share these stories.

ME Family Services are running a programme called 'STORMBIRDS' in Māngere primary schools to help with flood recovery. Check out page 3 for more info.

Also you can contact the Storm Recovery Navigators - navigators@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call 09 884 2070 for help.

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