



# Māngere's 275 times



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

## 'KNOCKOUT SPECIALIST' TO PROVE DOUBTERS WRONG

**Wheelchair boxer John "Boulder Shoulders" Fiu hopes his upcoming fight shows the public what people with disabilities are capable of.**

John Wesley Fiu will be aiming to emulate his hero and mentor David Tua when he competes in his first ever fight night for people with disabilities this coming month. The Samoan Auckland resident, who goes by the boxing nickname "Boulder Shoulders" due to his powerful physique, hopes this upcoming event is one more step towards his goal of competing internationally. John says the event is primarily about showcasing the sport of adaptive boxing and he acknowledges he wouldn't be where he is without his coach AJ Pouoa, his wider boxing team at Ryze Fitness and his family. "I just love the people and the team that I have. "I have so many people to thank and if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here today - I'm truly blessed." John says another inspiration in his journey has been the legendary hall of fame heavyweight boxer Faumuina David Tua, who he also trained under for three years. "He's my mentor because like him I'm in the heavyweight division and



**"PEOPLE SAY DISABLED PEOPLE CAN'T DO CERTAIN THINGS - BUT I JUST WANT TO CHANGE THAT."**

I'm also a knockout specialist." John trains at his gym three times a week, and does the rest of his training from home. The sport, which takes place in a floor ring rather than on a raised platform, is growing in popularity both here and overseas but is not yet

included at the Paralympics. And John says this bout feels like "do or die" as it's his chance to progress towards higher levels in the sport. "This event is about showing what we're capable of," he says. "There is a lot more that we go through compared to an able-bodied

athlete - just getting out of the house is a challenge, plus we have to use special wheelchairs just for boxing. "It's a massive team effort." To many in Māngere, John is a familiar face due to his role as a town centre ambassador. He says supporting people, particularly ensuring there's awareness around disability access is another passion of his. "I just help out where I can - and helping out here is kind of like my downtime away from boxing and helping the community to be aware of people like me, and people with different disabilities. "People say disabled people can't do certain things - but I just want to change that." John says helping others comes from having been in a dark place himself. "I was eating a lot, watching a lot of TV and thinking I wish I could do this and that," he says. "I thought I was worthless. But at the end of the day it was the networks, and my family support that was able to get me out of that dark place. "So no matter what you're aiming for, or if you're in a dark place - just get some good support behind you." *Used with permission from Pacific Media Network.*





## DESTINATION PLAYGROUND COMES TO MĀNGERE

Māngere's first ever destination playground will not only provide endless fun for the community's children, but it will also help tamariki reconnect with the land it sits on and why it's so special.

The playground, which will be constructed over three stages with the first stage to be done by November, 2023, is in David Lange Park and will be named Te Riri oo Maataoho.

Te Ākitai Waiohūa Iwi Authority and

Te Ahiwaru have led the design and establishment of this impressive play facility and it is hoped that its unique structures will enable children to learn more about the stories mana whenua would have been familiar with, prior to the arrival of early settlers.

Kathleen Wilson from Te Ākitai Waiohūa shared stories she grew up with for the playground's design and she hopes this playground will bring those stories to life for a new generation.

"Fairy tales like Goldilocks serve a function to inspire kids and also teach them about social norms - and so for us as mana whenua we also grew up listening to our own stories too.

"Our stories helped to personalise the places we lived in, so we would want to take greater care of them as kaitiakitanga (guardianship of our natural environment) is shared from an early age.

### DESIGN EXPLANATION:

The towers represent Mataaoho.

- The design panels represent volcanic lava and ash that he creates.

- The slides are an extension of Mataaoho's limbs and also the different connections to walk to Te Pane o Mataaoho (Māngere mountain)

- The bridges between the two towers represent the walking routes at Te Pane o Mataaoho.

The playground was built by Playground People.

"So, the inspiration behind the playground is Mataaoho - who is our local god of volcanoes and eruptions.

"This is really a story of how Tāmaki Makaurau came into being. Tāmaki Makaurau was once flat, with forests and green cover, as far as the eye could see". Kathleen explains that fairies and giants woke Mataaoho up from a deep sleep, causing him to rise in anger saying something like: "who disturbed my sleep?" And the different geological features around Māngere have different names related to how Mataaoho arose from the ground.

Te Pane o Mataaoho refers to the forehead of Mataaoho, while his nose or Ihu is where Ihumatao is and where you have Sturges Park, its Māori name is Te Tapuwae a Mataaoho - which means the footprints of Mataaoho.

She says the deeper purpose behind this project is to help children form a greater bond with their area so they can also play a part caring for it. "We want our tamariki to know who Mataaoho is, and we want them to feel like he's theirs too."

*Te Ākitai Waiohūa wish to acknowledge, that there are many stories of Mataaoho and how Tamaki Makaurau came to look as it does today and this is just one of the many stories to be told.*

## LET'S TAKE INSPIRATION FROM OUR ANCESTORS TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: PACIFIC TECH CEO

Pacific communities can be both "creators and controllers of future digital space", says the chief executive of a tech organisation aiming to help Pacific young people get into the growing technology sector.

Fibre Fale CEO and Favona resident Julia Arnott-Neenee (pictured in between Fibre Fale's Head of Education and Delivery Eteroa Lafaele and Head of Digital and Content Saphron Matamua) says given one in four Pacific households don't have wifi at home, it's important for people to know there's also many organisations willing to help.

"Our ancestors were technologists and so there's no reason we shouldn't be seeing ourselves as technologists in these modern industries," she says.

Arnott-Neenee describes her team as a Pacific-led, wahine-led, rangatahi-led tech organisation and they offer a range of

services and initiatives to upskill young and old, as well as creating pathways for those wanting to work in the tech sector.

"It's incredibly important we have the same opportunities to access the digital world, whether it's for social good, for education needs, or for financial or job pathways, and also to make sure we're part of designing the digital future so we're not just consumers of it but also being creators of it," she says.

Fibre Fale will be running one-day immersive conferences helping people learn more about the tech sector and the next Auckland event is on 4 August. "We're trying to bring the technology industry closer to the community and giving the community a chance to explore, ask questions and also meet Pacific leaders who are designing the



digital future," she says.

And Arnott-Neenee says her organisation has a number of initiatives to help people get internet access, devices or learn more about a career in the tech sector.

**Go to [www.fibrefale.com](http://www.fibrefale.com) for more info.**





Selevasio Tu'ima (left) plays Alatini, and Urika Filifilia (right) plays Princess Kalani



# ALATINI PRODUCTION GIVES VOICE TO YOUNG PACIFIC PERFORMERS

By Matt Manukuo, used with permission from Pacific Media Network

A performing arts group has given young Pacific people a chance to shine, in a blazing re-telling of the classic Aladdin story.

Sau e Siva Creatives' production *Alatini* made its return by popular demand for a second season at the Māngere Arts Centre, following on from its last showing that was held at the Q Theatre in Auckland's CBD.

Sau e Siva Creatives co-founder Italia Hunt says their mission is to give the best opportunities for young Pacific peoples in performing arts.

"There's so much talent in our backyard. Unfortunately, there's not enough spaces that can cater to our people," she says.

"We're trying to create that platform as nowadays we don't have pathways to get into performing arts as much."

Hunt adds the production also gives younger cast members a way to showcase their talents to more influential members of the industry.

"Who knows who's watching in the audience. Some agents or so can pick one or two of our performers and say 'I like this

person or like that person'. Then they can sign them up, and who knows where their future will go."

The opening night welcomed a range of important guests including Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni.

Sepuloni applauded the Sau e Siva Creatives for the important role it plays in the creative space for young Pacific peoples.

"It's an amazing opportunity – this is why we bought our kids, to be inspired, to see themselves, their own cultures, their own people on stage.

"To take confidence in themselves, it is so good for the confidence of young people and it will set them in good stead with every part of their lives."

Sepuloni adds that the show, which was sold out, is a testament to what Pacific people are capable of in the creative space.

"Our people have been doing this for quite a long time, the fact this show has been sold out shows there's an appetite and an audience for it - and I wish them all the best, so they continue to put shows like this on."

Many of the younger cast members have been involved with Sau e Siva's productions

for many years, including Māngere local, *Alatini* lead Adyhana Urika Filifilia who plays Princess Kalani.

Adyhana, 19, who has been involved with Sau e Siva since she was 9, says given Auckland Council's proposed funding cuts to art programmes, the show underlines why supporting Pacific productions is so important.

"I think it's a really good opportunity to show those who have the power to make those decisions, so they can understand why these platforms are needed for our Pacific people.

"For our young generations that are coming up, we're so passionate and so full of talent. If they cut all of these funds that help run these events – they're cutting out the dreams, the passion, the future of our generations as well.

"That's why this show, and many other shows that are happening – it's really important to show the people who have the power to make a change."

*Alatini* season 2 sold out its 10 shows.

**Check out Sua E Siva's Facebook page for more photos as well as information on how to get involved in future shows.**

# ANZAC DAY - COOK ISLANDS REMEMBRANCE



A dedicated Cook Islands ANZAC Day service was held at the Cook Islands Development Agency NZ. This special event has been



going for six years now and was packed with special guests and dignitaries. It was a moving ceremony, and guests were treated to the sounds of the brass band from Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School.



Congratulations to Maurice Sinclair who was recognised for his 25 years of service to the Te Ara-rata Stream. Maurice is part of the Te Ara-rata Stream team.

**If you would like to know more about the stream team - head to [www.facebook.com/groups/tearatastreamteam/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/tearatastreamteam/)**



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## TWOSEVENFIVE DAY

**Date:** 27.05.23 **Time:** 4pm-9pm **Location:** To be confirmed  
A fun filled day with over 60 stalls. Music, food, entertainment and so much more - celebrating our neighborhood - Māngere! **Follow @twosevenfive\_ on fb/insta for more info.**

## AMBURY REGIONAL PARK PLANTING DAYS

Be part of the ongoing protection and restoration of the foreshore, wetlands, freshwater wetlands, salt marsh and salt meadows along the Ambury Foreshore. **Dates:** 14th, 21st and 27th May, 11th and 18th June. 10am till 1pm.  
If you would like to know more please contact: southernsectorevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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

## CALLING THE COMMUNITY! THIRSTY LIQUOR WICKMAN WAY OBJECTORS – WE NEED YOU.

Let's fill Day 2 of the DLC Hearing with people and show that we don't want a liquor store opposite our schools!  
9.30-10am Thursday 11th May 2023, Māngere Central Community Hall, 241 Kirkbride Road, Māngere.  
**Need more info? Communities Against Alcohol Harm**  
[https://linktr.ee/C\\_A\\_A\\_H](https://linktr.ee/C_A_A_H)

## GARDEN TO TABLE - MĀNGERE EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are looking for volunteers to work with our teachers/classes in the kitchen or the garden. No prior experience needed - just an hour or two of your time each week. **Please contact Stephanie Anich on 09 276-4689 x 858 or principal@meps.school.nz**

## TAIAO TEAM- ME FAMILY SERVICES

Help us care for our community fruit trees in Ashgrove Reserve, Māngere. Join us for a mulching session, Saturday 27 May 8-11am. Meet at the entrance to the park on Mascot Ave, across the road from Nga Iwi School. **Please contact Raquel for more information: [raquel@mefsc.org.nz](mailto:raquel@mefsc.org.nz)**

**WELL4U** - An information-based session to focus on the return to employment options and supports that are available from work and income for those who have a health condition. Venue: Māngere Community Link – 93 Mascot Road Māngere. Date: Tue 9th May Time: 10am to 12pm Ground Floor: Puriri Room. **To register - email [kawa.pikaahu001@msd.govt.nz](mailto:kawa.pikaahu001@msd.govt.nz) or call 09-9161663**

## MANAAKI WHANAU FUN DAY

Sat 17 June, 10am-2pm, at Walter Massey Park, Māngere East  
FREE Food, Live Music, DJ, Games, Performances and more!



**Editorial Team:** Jo and Justin Latif

✉ [275times@gmail.com](mailto:275times@gmail.com)

📷 [275Times](https://www.instagram.com/275Times)

📘 [www.facebook.com/275times](https://www.facebook.com/275times)

🌐 [www.275times.com](http://www.275times.com)

**Want to advertise with 275 Times or have a story idea? Email [275times@gmail.com](mailto:275times@gmail.com)**

# 50TH EDITION: WE MADE IT

In 2014, Jo and I thought it would be cool to start a community magazine to give the voices of Māngere a platform to shine. And somewhat miraculously, here we are 50 editions later! Over the last nine years, with a range of different editors, including ourselves, Roger Fowler, Hone Fowler, Belinda Fowler and Hermann Arp, this media initiative has proudly shared the stories of this great community. It certainly hasn't been easy at times, but thanks to so many who have supported through deliveries, sponsorship or helping out with articles and social media, we've managed to keep this going. And for the next 50 editions, we hope to grow this to be bigger and better than ever. Thanks to our content sharing agreement with Pacific Media Network, we will have stories from some of NZ's best Pacific journalists. Thanks to sponsorship from Foundaton North, we will soon be able to start a podcast which will bring to life stories in an audio-visual way. And finally, we aim to build on our growing networks within high schools to enable 275 Times to be a platform for our youth to share their stories and content. So watch this space, and if you'd like to support in any way, feel free to get in touch.

Nga mihi nui,  
Justin and Jo Latif



Our first edition of 275 Times, printed in September 2014.

# Streets ahead in Māngere.

List your place with Māngere's number one real estate company.

**BARFOOT THOMPSON &**  
ESTABLISHED 1974

**Māngere**  
09 257 5680

