

Māngere's 275 times

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



MĀNGERE COMES TOGETHER AFTER FLOOD



Support Crew outside Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa, the Civil Defence Centre for Māngere



Severe flooding in Māngere



Turuki Healthcare CEO Te Paea Winiata. Turuki have been supporting flood victims & community groups.



The Manukau Urban Marae Authority foodbank team getting ready to distribute food to flood victims.

The floods that hit Māngere on Friday, January 27 confronted our community with one of its greatest challenges in recent times. But our collective spirit has also risen to match these rising waters and highlighted once again the resilience and strength of our people, as so many stepped up to support those most affected. The recovery from this won't be easy, but as we've already shown, when we work together - we can get through even the toughest times. **Go to our back page for info on services available.**

NEW YEAR HONOURS FOR 275'S FINEST



Brian Sagala. Photo: Jo Latif

As Ma'a Brian Sagala fights back the tears, he recalls the first words that went through his mind when he found out he was a recipient of a Queen's Service Medal.

"Dad, if it wasn't for you - I wouldn't have this opportunity" as he recalls the sacrifices his Dad made for him.

Sagala, who was among a number of Māngere residents to be named in the New Year Honours, received his QSM for services to the Pacific community and for his work as a producer and presenter on 531PI.

He says Covid in particular has been one of the most challenging times of his career.

"It was certainly very mentally taxing but I always knew my 'why'. It was a responsibility, but also a great privilege as it enabled me to get a sense of the collective strength of our Pacific community.

"I would drive into work every day and no one else was on the roads or in the studio but I knew it was really important I was there and we were playing our part to serve our people."

Sagala says becoming one of the most well-known Pacific voices on our airwaves was



Betty-Anne Monga from Ardijah Photo: RNZ / Dan Cook

never something he aspired to.

He moved to Auckland in 1988, working in a range of office jobs, but thanks to his gift for public speaking, he became known as a go-to person for MCing community events.

"Getting into the media was really a happy accident," he says.

"I was working in a job I really didn't like and I remember praying to God to help me find something that utilised my strengths and then I got this call out of the blue to work at 531PI.

"It just came at the right time."

Sagala says whether he's interviewing Prime Ministers or up-and-coming musicians - he's never daunted by who it is "because my questions come from a place of curiosity not an agenda".

And what drives his passion for serving our community?

"I'm a proud resident of Māngere and to show another side to our community and tell our Pacific stories - compared to the usual narrative that you see in the mainstream media - is what I'm proudest of."



Robin Young. Photo: Justin Latif

SERVICES TO COMMUNITY IN MUSIC AND BUSINESS RECOGNISED

Alongside Brian Sagala, two more locals were acknowledged in the New Year Honours list.

Betty-Anne Monga who is Ngā Puhī, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāiterangi, Tainui and Tūwharetoa, was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Monga is a musician and producer with the award-winning band Ardijah, which formed in 1979. Monga, who went to Māngere College, received the award for her services to music. Over the last decade, she has also helped raise the profile of young and emerging artists, as well as supporting numerous fundraising and advocacy campaigns.

Robin Young also received a Queen's Service Medal for services to the community. Young has been a member of the Māngere Rotary Club since 1979.

He also owns a petrol station in Māngere Bridge and has supported and fundraised significant amounts of money for a range of local and region-wide causes.

ERNESTINA - MĀNGERE'S NEXT TOP MOGUL



Ernestina Poukia-Bonsu Maro. Photo: Justin Latif

Ernestina Poukia-Bonsu Maro is quickly going from up-and-coming journalist to modelling mogul thanks to her growing talent agency business - and she wants to bring others from Māngere along for the ride.

Ernestina, who grew up in Māngere attending Nga Iwi Primary and Māngere College, is launching EBM Artistry as a talent agency primarily focused on giving locals and those of Māori, Pacific, and multicultural backgrounds a platform to succeed in modelling, dance, and acting.

She says EBM will help those with a passion for the ever-expanding fashion and creative industry to carve their own pathway - using her already established networks and knowledge from her own successful career, as a model, journalist, dancer, and pageant winner.

"I'm a connector and a storyteller and there's so much talent here but I can give our people that extra support through my experiences."

For Ernestina, modelling began almost by accident as she entered her first pageant while studying at university. She's gone on to model at New Zealand Fashion Week, the Pacific Fusion fashion show, while continuing to host a radio show on 531PI. "I was going to do journalism and instead I kind of fell into this. But it's through these experiences I can teach others how to present themselves, how to speak in public and how to market yourself."

Ernestina's ultimate aim is to see Māngere become a creative hub for people to come to for all kinds of creative expressions.

"I want to be Māngere's Tyra Banks (who hosts the America's Next Top Model show)!" "And something I've learned in my career is that the answer is always right here - we just need others to see that."

And what's her message for those not feeling confident to put themselves out there? "You are enough! Believe in yourself and how God has made you."

Go to ebmartistry.com for more info.

CENSUS: WHY YOU NEED TO BE COUNTED

Census 2023 is coming soon, so to find out why you should take part, we spoke with Asilika Aholelei, Regional Manager – Census Community Engagement (Auckland South), Stats NZ to find out more.

When is Census Day and what is the census?

Census Day is on 7 March 2023. The census is the official count of everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand, and where they live or stay overnight on Census Day. The census is a snapshot of our society that happens every five years and tells us how life in New Zealand is changing over time.

I understand Stats NZ is going to be sending people to neighbourhoods in Māngere? What information do I need to provide and do I need to prepare anything?

Households in Māngere can expect a visit from a census collector from around mid-February. You don't need to prepare anything in advance of them visiting! Census collectors will be visiting to provide you with what you need to fill out the census (such as the paper forms) and information about filling out the census, and to answer any questions.

Why is filling out the census so important?

The census aims to collect the latest information about communities around Aotearoa New Zealand. It is the only survey that includes everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Iwi, community groups, local and



central government, and businesses use this information to make decisions about services that affect you and your community, like schools, public transport, and health services. It's important you take part to ensure you and your community are represented in the data.

I've heard that the census involves taking our personal info - is there any risk this gets used by other government agencies or businesses?

Stats NZ will never share your personal information with another organisation - that includes Work and Income, Immigration NZ, Kāinga Ora, the Police, and other

government organisations. The census data that is published is always about groups and communities, never individuals. There is no way for you to be identified in the published data. In fact, Stats NZ is required by law to keep your information safe. We have many processes and safeguards in place to protect your information and identity.

If I'm still feeling nervous about sharing personal info - is there someone I can contact to ask further questions?

You can visit: www.census.govt.nz/your-info for more information. Or call **0800 CENSUS – 0800 236 787** or talk to the census collector when they come to your door.



DATA PROTECTS AND PRESERVES OUR LANGUAGES
HEI TAUTIAKI TĒNEI MEA TE RARAUNGA I Ō TĀTOU REŌ

Census data has helped the Vagahau Niue Trust to support the opening of the first bilingual teaching unit at Favona School.

As the Niue population of New Zealand has grown, the Vagahau Niue Trust has focussed on the retention, protection and development of Niue language. But despite this population growth, census information showed the number of people speaking Niue in New Zealand was actually declining. The Vagahau Niue Trust and Favona Primary teacher Mele Nemaia used this information to help open the first bilingual language unit at Favona School. Here the children are learning to speak Niue and connect with their culture, which helps the whole Niue community thrive and move forward. **Go to census.govt.nz for more information.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA / MĀNGERE POOLS

Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa's annual Family Fun Day is on Feb 18th (10am-4pm). This will be the first Fun Day in two years!

MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

Out Of School Care – Quality & Affordable Before School Care (7am – drop off to school) and After School Care (2pm-6pm) including transport and kai. 5-13 year olds.

FREE Adult Education Classes available including English for Speakers of Other Languages, Te Reo Māori, Hulafit, Korowai and more.

Venue & Bus Hire – We have our Hall (capacity 120) and Kowhai Room (capacity 35) and we also have a 32 seater bus and 2 Mini-Buses available for hire at affordable rates.

FREE Parenting Programmes – Ohomairangi Trust provides a variety of Parenting Programmes for our whānau, plus FREE transport, childcare and kai.

CONTACT: www.mangereeast.org | phone 09 275 6161 | or drop in 372 Massey Road, Māngere East

TE ARA-RATA STREAM

The Te Ararata Stream team need volunteers for monitoring. A great opportunity for students who need work experience. Keep an eye on the FB group 'Te Ararata Stream Team'.

TWOSEVENFIVE CLOTHING

TwoSevenFive Clothing shop is opening on the 11th February at the Māngere Town Centre, 10am-2pm. (Next to Jolly Goods)

MANUKAU MAGPIES WOMEN

Women's league training every Friday 6.30pm at Moyle Park. All past, present and new players welcome!

FLOOD RESPONSE SUPPORT

MĀNGERE CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE

Located at Moana-Nui-A-Kiwa Recreation Centre. Anyone who has been affected by the floods can come along for support. Check out our social media pages for updates.

CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS

If you have been affected by the floods you may be entitled to a payment. Call 0800 400 100 or email AAAP-advocates@aaap.org.nz for help with the application.

MANUKAU URBAN MARAE AUTHORITY

Manukau Urban Marae Authority at Nga Whare Waatea Marae have a flood response team where you can call **0800 866 862** for any flood related support. for donations, email info@muma.co.nz.

ME FAMILY SERVICES - 16/18 FERGUSSON ST

The Resource Room is full of clothing, bedding and household items, and essential furniture needs. Please contact georgina@mefsc.org.nz to make a time to visit. If you have something to donate, please email desmond@mefsc.org.nz. Their social work team is supporting families affected by the flooding in Māngere. Call **09 256 0810** for support.

TURUKI HEALTH CARE

Turuki have a Flood Response Line - 0800 887 854 (8.00am-7.00pm Mon-Sun). They can provide support to our South Auckland whānau that may need kai, hygiene packs or clothes. They can also help you to access MSD and civil defence support.

MANGERE COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE

For free legal support contact (09) 275 4310 or email reception@mangerelaw.org.nz.

AOTEAROA MUSLIM YOUTH NZ

Contact 022 3171 114 or FB @AotearoaMuslimYouth for any support with cleaning up after the floods.

Māngere's 275 times

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EDITORIAL

'le toga (fine mats), photo albums, sporting certificates and treasured gifts from loved ones that we've brought with us to New Zealand. These are the things we may never replace, regardless of insurance cover or government grants. And now the memories tied to these precious taonga will forever carry the scars of this flood and the ensuing trauma of trying to recover what we could. But while we may have lost much, we have also gained something through this time. As we've helped our neighbours clear their flooded homes or as we've donated towels and clothes or as we've consoled friends and family, we have reaffirmed the bonds that make this community so special. Māngere has always been place where we look out for each other and make sure no one is left behind so as you consider the damage that has been reeked over the past month, know also that we are a stronger, more resilient community for how we have supported one another through these unprecedented challenges. And that's also why we started 275 Times. To inform, connect and build up this community and as we've relaunched this magazine we're having a special event on March 14 to mark this new season. So if you would like to find out more email 275times@gmail.com to RSVP.

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