

Māngere's 275 times



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

VIRAL HIT PAYS 'HOMAGE' TO MĀNGERE

The creative force behind a set-in-Māngere web series shares why telling local stories is so vital.

It's already hit 1.5 million views - and there's still six episodes to go.

But if you haven't seen *The 9-5ers* already, don't check your TV guide.

The viral hit, set in a fictional Māngere appliance store, is currently only playing on social media, with the support of NZ On Air, TikTok and Screen Australia.

The series is a mockumentary written and directed by proud Māngere local Regan Foa'i who you may also know as the host of Niu FM's Morning Shack or for his hilarious *Just The Norms* skits on Instagram.

Foa'i says the success of the 15-part series has shocked him and his producers Liz Laupepa and Danny Aumua from O Tamaiti Ltd.

"All together we've reached 15,000 followers and got 1.5 million views all up and we're only about halfway through so it will just keep growing.

"But I don't have any experience in this field as it was my first time writing and directing in something like this."

Foa'i, who went to Māngere East Primary and Southern Cross Campus, says securing this opportunity was equally surprising. He first

applied to NZ on Air in 2021 but was flatly denied. But come 2022, after re-pitching the project with Aumua's help, they were accepted into the Every Voice initiative which gives NZ storytellers the funding for the production of innovative TikTok content. Foa'i says acting was never something he seriously considered after high school and instead he worked his way up in a telecommunication business, becoming a regional manager for a company installing and maintaining power meters all around the North Island. But just before Covid-19 hit, he began creating short comedy skits under the name *Just The Norms* and once lockdown began, his videos quickly gained a massive following.



Regan Foa'i



"I've gone from doing music production and skits on social media to now being on a TV set. I look back and just see how far I've come - as I'm seeing the results of putting in the hours - so it's pretty buzzy."

The 9-5ers follows the lives of three overly qualified Pacific employees and their newly appointed "egghead" boss, and Foa'i says a big goal of the project was to tell relatable South Auckland stories.

"For me - being born and raised in Māngere - it was all about paying homage to where I'm from," adding that he's so

passionate about his local community, he even changed his middle name to Roell, which is the street he grew up on.

With the potential of a second series already on the horizon, Foa'i says the ultimate goal is to get the show produced for Netflix. And he hopes others in Māngere can take inspiration from the show's success.

"A lot in the media look down on where we stay and who we are and it can get quite discouraging - but there's so much talent that comes out of our streets. When the floods came, we all came together and just supported each other. "That's who we are - that's what we're really about."

Our Voice Counts

#MĀNGERE

OUR GENERAL ELECTION IS COMING UP, ARE YOU ENROLLED AND READY TO VOTE?

VISIT VOTE.NZ TO CHECK OR UPDATE YOUR DETAILS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION.



We are working with De La Salle, Māngere College and Southern Cross Campus to employ students to work in our voting places and headquarters.

They want to serve their communities and ensure young people are represented.

These students see the importance of voting and having their voices

heard. They want to have a say in what their future will be like. This year, youth-aged voters (18 to 24 years old) represent the **highest proportion of voters in Māngere**. The youth voice must be amplified.

OUR VOICE COUNTS

#MANGERE



We have an exclusive merch drop by **twosevenfive. clothing**

Go online or into their store in the Māngere Town Centre to order your merch to support and encourage others to have their voice be heard.



TE REO MĀORI VOTING LOCATION

At Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Māngere our staff will guide you through voting in Te Reo Māori.

We will also have two marae that will have te reo speaking staff. Haere mai.

Location: 82 Bader Drive, Māngere.

KEY DATES

VOTING STARTS:

Monday 2 October

ELECTION DAY:

Saturday 14 October

Make sure to enrol BEFORE 10 September to receive an EasyVote Card.

- Having an EasyVote card makes voting fast and easy
- Enrol online at vote.nz



VOTING AT AL-MADINAH SCHOOL

Al Madina School is providing a unique opportunity we will have two areas in the voting place. One area is for all to use and the second area will be an area for women only to vote.

We support our communities and value different customs and practices. We want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable when they vote.

Location: 8 Westney Road, Māngere

THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

Enrol, check or update your details now for the 2023 General Election.



Visit vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56



A CLIMATE-RESILIENT MĀNGERE/ŌTĀHUHU



The second Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Climate Change Workshop at the Māngere Community Law Centre.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu organisations came together this month, to talk about something that lots of us put in the too hard basket- climate change. After the devastating flooding and cyclone earlier this year, and the drought and water shortages last year, most of us have an idea of what this is going to look like for our community, but it's not too late for us to make some positive changes and

work towards a climate-resilient future for Māngere.

The workshops, led by ME Family Services and Te Ahiwaru Trust, were an opportunity for local groups to highlight some of the awesome initiatives that are already happening to reduce the impact of climate change and build a resilient community here in Māngere. Things like growing food in our community garden spaces, getting



our community out of cars and onto bikes, and regenerating local ecosystems. Participants were asked what a climate-resilient Māngere-Ōtāhuhu might look like, and talked about regenerating our ngahere (forests), increasing local food production and composting, a community recycling hub, better public transport, restoring our awa and wetland areas and making sure our stormwater systems are ready for the next weather event.

The solutions are already here, we just need more sustainable resourcing to increase the impact of this work. The workshops will feed into our local board's planning for future climate action funding. Please look out for opportunities in your neighbourhood to join a planting day or clean up, attend a workshop and support the groups working to build climate-resilient communities here in Māngere/Ōtāhuhu. And check out the climate policies of our local candidates for the upcoming general election.

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR MĀNGERE SINCE 1986



Some of the original staff from the Māngere Community Law Centre on the opening day Friday 20th Feb, 1987, with Prime Minister David Lange. Photo: Supplied

Established in 1986 to address unmet legal needs, the Māngere Community Law Centre has continued to serve as a strong pillar for our community.

Dedicated to promoting justice and equality, the centre offers an array of legal assistance services. From family law and immigration matters to employment issues and consumer disputes, it provides comprehensive support to residents facing various challenges.

The centre's impact extends beyond immediate solutions. Through services

like conveyancing, wills and estates, it empowers community members with essential legal knowledge. This comprehensive approach fosters informed decision-making and equips individuals with the tools to navigate the legal landscape confidently.

The centre's commitment to education is noteworthy. Through workshops, seminars, and outreach, it enhances legal literacy within the community, enabling individuals to navigate legal complexities with ease. This not only empowers

individuals but also strengthens the collective understanding of legal rights and responsibilities.

By offering affordable legal services, the centre plays a pivotal role in levelling the playing field for community members. Its dedicated staff and volunteers create a supportive environment where individuals receive guidance and advocacy, regardless of their socio-economic status.

In essence, the Māngere Community Law Centre exemplifies community-driven impact. With a history spanning decades, it remains dedicated to serving and empowering the Māngere community. Through its holistic approach to legal assistance and education, the centre continues to uphold its mission of speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. To advocate and judge fairly and to defend the rights of the poor and need.

For any queries please contact the Māngere Community Law Centre on 0800 100 254 or email reception@mangere.org.nz during usual business hours. Located at Unit 9, Shop 27, Mangere Town Centre.



FOOD SCRAPS BINS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECONNECT TO Papatūānuku



By Kim Meredith

Food scraps bins in Māngere will be a chance for people to reconsider how their waste impacts the land according to local composting expert, Lionel Hotene of Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae (pictured). Auckland Council have been delivering the pint-sized bins to households across the city in a bid to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

Māngere's food scraps bins will start appearing within the next month. Papatūānuku Marae has become renowned for its organic gardening, giving away produce to locals as well as supplying farmers markets around Tāmaki Makaurau with high-quality eco-friendly veges. It also provides education about ways to grow food and compost. Hotene says the introduction of food scraps bins could be

challenging for families but it will also be a learning experience for some. "I think it'll be a good idea, it's an awesome opportunity for our families to think about alternatives rather than throwing everything out into one bin."

He says in the past the introduction of the yellow-lidded recycling bins showed the community could adapt over time to separating out rubbish.

"The challenge is changing people's attitudes and behaviours around the perception of waste."

Auckland Council's general manager of waste solutions Parul Sood says the new rukenga kai (food scraps) service will help the city achieve its goal of having zero waste by 2040.

When asked about what are

some easy steps that could help households adjust, Sood says keeping the kitchen caddie near the new bin was a must to ensure an easy transfer of scraps.

"Not having the bin easily accessible ... it just takes a little bit of time to fine tune the first few times, once you have that in your mind it just becomes normal; [but] have to train your mind." And while she acknowledges those that already compost may question the need for such a service, this is all about reducing the amount of waste going into landfill - for the wider benefits that

brings for the climate.

"We've had so many [severe climate] events and the climate is changing, we need to help the environment and do things differently."

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MĀNGERE SIBLINGS BRING HOME GOLD FROM PERFORMING ARTS WORLD CHAMPS

Samoan siblings from South Auckland, Psalms Vaotuu and Maretta Brown have returned as winners from Los Angeles, after competing in the 26th annual World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA), held recently at the Hyatt Regency in West Hollywood.

The competition, often cited as the official "Talent Olympics" for aspiring performers and entertainers, welcomed performing artists from 34 countries around the world, in categories from acting, modelling, singing, instrumentalists and dancing. Maretta and Psalms travelled with 13 other performing artists as part of the New Zealand Blackstars team, and their support crew. Maretta, 19 yrs, was scouted in 2021 from Auckland Council's Stand up Stand out competition from St Marys College, Ponsonby as a singer/songwriter/musician. Soon after Maretta was selected, she was diagnosed with Wolfram syndrome, an

extremely rare condition that results in severe vision loss. She spent 2022 in a residence at BLENZN (Blind and Low Vision Education Network, NZ) in Manurewa to learn skills to cope with her low vision.

Maretta competed at WCOPA as a senior vocalist in four categories and won gold for self-accompanied original composition performance and silver for open composition and performance. She was awarded overall division winner and a scholarship to study musical performance at the prestigious New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.

Psalms, 15yrs, from De La Salle College competed in WCOPA as a junior instrumentalist in three categories. He won gold for original composition performance, gold for open performance, and silver for contemporary performance. He was awarded the overall division winner and was a semi-finalist for the junior grand champion.



Psalms Vaotuu



Maretta Brown (centre)

"I really enjoyed hearing positive feedback from all the industry people and ideas on how I can develop my craft," says Psalms, who has been playing drums since he was three-years-old. The pair's Dad, Tamausu Faalepo Vaotuu, a secondary school music teacher agrees: "The industry personnel had a lot of positive ideas and advice to keep Psalms motivated and growing as a young musician.

"It's about continuing to nurture his craft and growing his skill base."

Maretta is currently contemplating options for further study with the offer to study in New York at the Conservatory for Dramatic Arts as an option.

"I'm continuing to check out what's on offer and always content to rest in God's faithfulness," she says.

CALLED TO SERVE: AUPITO WILLIAM SIO REFLECTS ON 15 YEARS IN PARLIAMENT

Aupito William Sio signed off in style whilst proudly wearing the full traditional Samoan attire for his final speech to Parliament. But before bowing out, Aupito caught up with Justin Latif in his office in the Māngere Town Centre.

As we walk through the crowded town centre on a bright Saturday morning, Aupito William Sio warmly greets well-wishers with one hand, while carrying a freshly brewed mochaccino in the other. Despite his party's poll numbers, there's no sign his popularity is dimming in an electorate he has consistently won by around 15,000 votes.

In fact the only time his majority was less than 10,000 came in his first campaign when he was up against his old mate, Taito Philip Field who had left Labour a year earlier to run as an independent in 2008.

"Taito had such a huge profile as the first Pacific person to be an MP," he says.

Despite helping Taito become an MP in the 1990s, Aupito would replace him as Labour's chosen candidate for Māngere, after Taito was forced to resign over conflict of interest allegations.

"We were brothers in politics and I was basically his right hand person [during Taito's time in Labour]," Aupito says.

"So it was really emotional but also kind of awkward at the same time. He was very critical and challenging of our team and he put a lot of pressure on members to go with him and it split up our local Labour electorate committee."

While Aupito prevailed, the 2008 election spelled the end for Helen Clark's government and began what would be nine

"THE DAWN RAIDS APOLOGY WAS QUITE AN EMOTIONAL TIME ... AND WE LIFTED THE PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY."

years in opposition, which as he told Radio New Zealand, was a blessing in disguise as it was "the best time of learning".

A driving force throughout Aupito's career has been to see areas like Māngere and Ōtara having greater Pacific representation, which goes back to a family upbringing steeped in civil rights.

"I was born in 1960, two

However when he voted in favour of decriminalising abortion, he faced backlash from many in the church.

"I made that decision based on the situation here in Māngere, where a baby was left in a park rubbish bin by the mother.

"I got so many hate emails but I said to people, you may not support abortion but we're moving it from the criminal

80s.

But he says these achievements are tempered, knowing how much further he would like to see these policies progressed.

"The Dawn Raids apology was quite an emotional time - and certainly one of my highlights. And I thought the end result was that we lifted the pride in our community and we highlighted for those that didn't know, what happened, the trauma and how deeply painful it was.

"But the immigration part is what really disappoints me - and that still lies with the

"... YOU MAKE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO YOU, AND YOU MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR WORD ..."



years before Samoa became independent and our family were very much involved in the early days of Samoa's independence movement. My grandfather hoped I would become prime minister of Samoa and so there's always been that belief that there's no greater calling than to serve your community in public office."

Another key part to Aupito's success has been his strong ties with many Pacific church communities.

to the health realm because look at what's happened in our community."

Once Labour was elected in 2017, Aupito as the Minister

For Pacific Peoples would secure around \$734 million over successive Budget packages. He was also able to establish strategic wins like new language, wellbeing and housing strategies

and convince Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to make a formal apology for the Dawn Raids of the 1970s and



Immigration Minister.

"We've made some preliminary decisions in Cabinet - but it has to be followed through and that's work for the next generation."

The next steps are less certain, but reconnecting with family and health are two priorities.

"As I'm asthmatic one of the first things I'm learning is how to breath properly as I didn't realise that I needed to breath from my diaphragm. And I'm also going to spend some more time with my family so they get used to me being around."

He says given the outpouring of gratitude he's received since announcing his retirement - he can leave knowing he has made a difference to people's lives.

"One thing my elders taught me was that the greatest contribution I could make was to serve the poor, those in need and the elderly.

"And when you leave, the greatest satisfaction comes when they applaud you and say 'thank you' - so I'm proud of that."

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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



The McAuley High School Rugby League team who placed 3rd at the NZ National Secondary School Tournament.



The De La Salle Boys Premier League team who placed 3rd in the NZ National Secondary School Tournament.



Bader Intermediate Rugby 7s team who went to Tauranga to represent their school in the NZ Aims Games.



Māngere College Senior Girls Netball Team, winners of the Senior B Section for the Counties Manukau Secondary School Competition.



On Friday 25th August, ME Family Services and community members gathered to farewell our Taiao Manager, Justine Skilling. Justine's journey started as a waste minimisation facilitator, where her regenerative approach flourished and shaped our Talking Rubbish, now Taiao Team into what it is today. Justine has been an inspiration to us all through her dedication and leadership within ME Family Services and the Taiao Team. Her impact will be felt far beyond her time at ME Family Services. Justine's humble, calming presence, gentle advocacy, and tiaki for Te Taiao here in Māngere will truly be missed as she begins her doctoral journey.



Cast members from ALATINI Season 3.



Aorere College 1st XIII League player with his parents. The league team won the championship grade this year.



ENROL NOW FOR 2024 At Māngere College



**We are currently taking enrolments
at Māngere College for 2024!**

Māngere College is a school at the heart of its community. Our students come from the surrounding area and enjoy a welcoming and inclusive environment here at school. We prioritise academic achievement and expect that all students will leave the school with strong qualifications.

Head to: www.mangere.school.nz to enrol

LEON HENRY DRIBBLES FROM HOOPS TO HOMES

JOINING BARFOOT & THOMPSON MĀNGERE AS REAL ESTATE AGENT

SPONSORED CONTENT

Former professional basketball player Leon Henry is embracing a new challenge by transitioning from the basketball court to the real estate arena. He has officially joined Barfoot & Thompson Māngere as a licensed real estate agent, aiming to utilise his unique skills to assist clients in finding their dream homes.

Known for his remarkable basketball career on both local and international stages, Leon Henry's shift to real estate has piqued interest. With a competitive spirit and unwavering dedication, honed through his sports journey, Henry now turns his focus to aiding families and individuals in navigating the property market.

Barfoot & Thompson Māngere, a notable



real estate agency serving the greater Auckland region, welcomed Henry enthusiastically. Branch Manager Sarah Thompson stated: "Leon's drive and commitment are undeniable. We're confident his transition from the basketball court to the housing market will be seamless. His charisma and teamwork skills will undoubtedly resonate well with clients." The tagline "Hoops to Homes" aptly summarises Henry's journey from sports to real estate. Despite the apparent differences between the two fields, Henry believes his ability to strategise, communicate, and collaborate will seamlessly transfer. "Just like in basketball, real estate involves understanding the game, anticipating moves, and collaborating for the best outcome," Henry shared. Motivated by his experiences relocating homes during his basketball career and a



desire to positively impact the community, Henry's career shift is driven by a passion to help families find their ideal living spaces and contribute to Māngere's vibrant neighborhoods.

Leon Henry's transition has been warmly embraced by the Māngere community, with many residents expressing enthusiasm to work with the former athlete in his new role. His journey from sports to real estate showcases the diverse opportunities available for meaningful career changes. As he embarks on this new professional chapter, Leon Henry is determined to prove that his dedication and determination remain unwavering, whether it's on the basketball court or in negotiating real estate deals.

For inquiries and real estate assistance, Leon Henry can be contacted at 021 886 705.



FEES FREE

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Free light meal provided



Study weekday evenings 5.30pm to 9.30pm



Travel allowance

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Study Monday to Friday and get qualified faster. Call us to kōrero about your full-time study options

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Join the construction industry with the NZ Cert in Building, Construction and Allied Trades Skills Level 1 and 2

AUTOMOTIVE



Save money and learn to fix your own car with the NCEA Vocational Pathway Manufacturing and Technology Level 2



MANGERE

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*Applicants must be NZ Citizen or Permanent Resident. Applicants must not already have a Level 3 qualification

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BADER INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTION 'CHANNEL SURFING'

September 13 - 6pm, September 14 - 6pm at the Māngere Arts Centre. For ticket info Phone: 09 275 4332 or email: office@bader.school.nz

MĀNGERE CANDIDATES MEETING

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Venue: Māngere Town Centre - Centre Stage (Zumba)

Come along and hear from all our local candidates standing for Parliament for the 2023 NZ Elections.

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

- Join us in re-creating our community garden at Māngere East Community Centre, every Thursday, 12PM - 2PM.

CONTACT: www.mangereeast.org | phone 09 275 6161 |

or drop in 372 Massey Road, Māngere East

WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Here are our weekly FREE events at Whare Koa Māngere Community Centre for September (141 Robertson Rd):

- Every Tuesday: Papa Ota's Ukulele 10am-12pm (open to all ages and ukulele levels)

- Every Wednesday: 'Diamonds in the Rough' group 10am to 12pm (A community organisation that equips and empowers teen/young parents and whānau. Open to all young parents) Coordinator: Shilpa Wilson 022 685 72851 e: diamondsintherough19@gmail.com

- Every Friday: Polynesian Creative Artists 10am-2pm

- Thursday, September 21: Dot Art workshop for Adults with Recreators - register with Whare Koa

RESOURCE RECOVERY ROOM AT ME FAMILY SERVICES

If any family is needing support with clothing and other items please contact Georgina 0275711337 or email georgina@mefsc.org.nz. Pick up of items is from 16-18 Ferguson Street, Māngere East. Monday - Friday, 9am - 3pm.

FRIENDS OF THE FARM BEACH CLEAN UP!

Sunday, September 17, 3pm - 4pm. Come along and help clean up our beautiful waterfront! Meet at the car park by the playground on the Kiwi Esplanade, Māngere Bridge.

THREADS OF UNITY FILM PREMIERE

Friday, September 22, Māngere Arts Centre 5pm - 8pm.

A Queen Shirl'e Academy documentary grand debut!

GET CONNECTED TO EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION/TRAINING

Fortnightly Tuesdays, Māngere Town Centre Library, 10am - 12pm. Contact: ConnectedMangere@msd.govt.nz.



We are loving the extra hours of daylight and the warmer spring weather and there has also been much to celebrate this month in our beautiful suburb. Our local schools have had some great sporting successes (pg.6), the NZ elections are coming up (pg.2) and it is exciting to see our community band together to fight climate change (pg.3). Also, keep an eye out for a new podcast coming soon featuring Māngere College students and special local guests! (pictured above).

And if you want to support 275 Times financially, either as a sponsor or through donations, so we can continue to share our incredible community's stories, please head along to www.givealittle.co.nz and search for Mangere 275 Times or scan the QR code to your right.

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