

Māngere's 275 times

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

TWO SEVEN FIVE DAY - A DAY FOR US

It's time to celebrate Māngere.

That's the message from Fitz and Ema Manase, the brother and sister duo who have spent almost their entire lives in Mangere, and who are helping organise Two Seven Five Day, along with Toko Manuel from Rep FM.

The trio say the 27th of May, given its numerical date spells out 27/5 and is also the suburb's old phone prefix number - is the perfect day to come together and mark what makes this place so great.

"It really should be the birthday of Māngere," Ema says, who's a community connector with I AM Māngere.

Fitz agrees: "There's plenty of people who don't get [what 275 means] but it's not really for people to get."

"It's for our community who know what it is, our community has a positive connection to those numbers because it's all about being proud of our community."

This will be the third Two Seven Five day in three years after Fitz ran the first one from his Twosevenfive barbershop on Māngere road.

"The reason I started it was to promote more of Māngere, by bringing all of Māngere's businesses into one area, so our people know who's out there and



Fitz Manase (left) and Toko Manuel (right)

what businesses they can support."

Toko says 275 Day "is a must. We've got so much talent, we need an event to showcase it."

This year the event will be outside the Māngere Town Centre Library and will feature 35 stalls including health providers, social services, local businesses as well as a range of delicious food options.

"We've got huge potential as a community to be self-sustainable," says Fitz. "We have 850 businesses here, so more than enough for Māngere to support Māngere and with everything that's happening - we have to support each other."

FLYING HIGH: From former refugees to world-beaters

Māngere has many world-class sportspeople, but what you may not have realised is that it's also home to New Zealand's top Sepak Takraw players.

This coming July, the Māngere-based Sepak Takraw New Zealand national squad is heading to Thailand to take on the world's best in a sport similar to volleyball, but instead of hands, they use their feet. Eh Myo Oo, who's the team's coordinator, is hoping his community of Māngere can get behind the group. The team, who are all former refugees from the Burmese region in South East Asia and arrived in Māngere in 2016, have been working hard to fundraise for the World Champs and are looking for sponsors



NZ Sepak Takraw players in action (above) and Eh Myo Oo (right).



to help fund their travel.

The sport has a huge following throughout Asia and one day could be an Olympic sport, so if there are budding athletes wanting to make a name for themselves on the international stage - this could be the opportunity.

To support our local team representing New Zealand at the Sepak Takraw World Championships or to book a demonstration search Sepak Takraw New Zealand on Facebook.

Hover over the QR code on the right with your smart phone camera for the fundraiser page.



Connection and collaboration key to Komal's success

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From left to right back row: Ema Manase, Ria Mulipola, Lillie Refiti, Victoria Hirovanaa-Silva, Ana Kahui-Ariki, Arepa Kahui-Ariki
L-R front: Toni Helleur, Lina Matagi, Piki Kahui-Ariki, Rachel Viterbo, Luz Manalo and Toha Wade.

Covid was hard for Komal Lata, like for many of us, but thanks to getting more connected to her community she's been able to get through and even start a new business.

Komal and her family first came to New Zealand in 2014 - but things did not pan out how she thought.

While her husband had work, she struggled with immigration services, along with caring for young children and securing a job for herself.

"It was quite hard when we came here," she says.

"When we came my husband was only earning minimum wage and we had young children. When the first lockdown hit we were just staying in a converted garage which had no heating. Because of the lockdown we had zero income and that's when I got hold of Toni."

Toni Helleur is the co founder and community connector of I Am Māngere, a community-led charity focused on connecting individuals or the community to reliable support services or help you find numerous volunteer or community groups and activities to join.

Komal says I Am Māngere connected her to social workers, food parcels and a housing provider who eventually arranged an emergency housing spot.

"Toni also helped me with my visas and motivated us with starting my own business. She and others supported the journey, that helped me start a food

business making Fijian food, curries and roti."

Komal is now regularly selling her food at weekend markets as well as providing catering for companies and family events.

"It has helped lessen our money burdens and the business is going well."

And now Komal is supporting others who have faced similar challenges to her by setting up a migrant support group for Indo-Fijians.

Helleur says with funding support services from her organisation, has allowed Komal to fill a much-needed gap, particularly for those from Fiji who come here with little family or community connections.

"What Komal has found is there are so many mothers who need help and we have supported her as a community connector to do that," Toni says.

"What's so awesome about Komal's story - is that it's an example of what you do when there are no doors opening.

Komal has worked really hard, opened her own food business - and it's still a journey - but it's a pretty cool Covid journey as she's coming out the other end and doing really well.

"And what this story really shows is that when you collaborate and work together, things can work really well."

Along with helping Komal, the I Am Māngere team also provide strategic support to the community in a range of ways, including guiding others on how to hold their own events, providing vulnerable and advocacy services, connection support with employment, food, wellbeing and assists stakeholders with community engagement services.

"The thing we keep trying to promote with I Am Māngere is that whether you're an individual, a single street, community group or an NGO, if you just start working together, things will start to fall into place when supporting the community."

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I AM
MĀNGERE



MĀNGERE SPORTS Highlights ³



U9 King Hawks - Mangere East Hawks



Manukau United Mana Wāhine



U12 Mangere East Hawks Girls



Manukau Rovers Premier Development team



Mangere College 1st XV 2022 team



Southside Assist Basketball/Mangere United Basketball Holiday Workshop



Manukau Magpies Women's team



Māngere Ngahere Project

L-R: Justine Skilling, Verne Togiata (ME Family Services), Kara Goddard (Community Park Ranger) at the Ashgrove Reserve

Did you know that Māngere is the suburb with the least number of trees in the whole of Auckland?

This is really bad for our health and wellbeing, especially as the climate warms, and the sun beats down on our houses and streets. It hasn't always been this way. Māngere used to be a thriving wetland, cloaked in pūriri forest, and teeming with life. Later, it was a patchwork of flourishing gardens - the food bowl of Tāmaki Makaurau. We still have patches of ngahere and flourishing maara kai around our neighbourhoods, but with all the housing intensification happening at the moment, families are losing their backyards, so we need to get creative about where we plant. ME Family Services is excited to be working with Kāinga Ora and

Uru Whakaaro on the Māngere Ngahere project, which aims to see more trees and gardens planted in our area. We've been developing a community vision for the project and working with Mana Whenua to establish some guiding principles. This Winter will see Māngere schools getting involved in a Tiny Forest project, which supports them to plant small areas of native trees on their land. And a planting project at Ashgrove Reserve in Māngere central will give park neighbours an opportunity to help develop a fruit tree orchard and mini-ngahere in their neighbourhood. From tiny seeds, big forests grow, and we hope that future generations will be able to enjoy the shade, food, medicine, wildlife and beauty that these trees and gardens will bring. **Justine Skilling** Talking Rubbish, ME Family Services

Community Notices

TIME TO THRIVE (BIKE HUB - next the pools)

- QUEENS BIRTHDAY BIKE SHOW: Mon 6th June 11am-2pm
- WAHINE RIDERS: Every Sunday 8am, meet at the bike hub
- MATARIKI PARTY: Celebrate Matariki Holiday with a bike ride followed by a hangi! Friday 24th June, 11am-2pm.
- 2 Job Positions available - Bike Instructor and Bike Mechanic. Paid positions. Contact Mr Tee on 022 360 5748.

NGA MANGA O MĀNGERE NETWORK MEETING

Māngere's community network meeting. Meets the last Thursday of each month. Contact harry.toleafoa@mangerelaw.org.nz for details.

HULAFIT

Every Tuesday night 6.30pm at the Māngere East Community Centre. Changing the way we exercise, come hula and have fun at the same time! FREE.

MĀNGERE COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Support this amazing annual event! Wed 15th and Thurs 16th June, 6.30pm. \$10 from the school office.

MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE - FREE CLASSES:

MONDAY

Boot camp 6PM - 7PM
(All fitness levels welcome)

TUESDAY

Ethnic Arts and Crafts
6PM - 8PM

WEDNESDAY

Te Reo Maori 10AM - 12PM

All classes are free - register at mangereeast.org or just turn up on the day!

MANUKAU UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Join today! Register before the end of June.
Go to www.manukauunited.co.nz/register

Digital Literacy

11.30AM - 12.30PM (55+)

Tai Chi 12.30PM - 1.30PM

Korowai 6PM - 8PM

THURSDAY

Korowai 6PM - 8PM

FRIDAY

Korowai 10AM - 2PM



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WE'RE BACK!

In case you needed reminding, the last print edition of 275 Times was in August 2018 which was published by the awesome team at the Māngere East Community Centre. A lot has happened since then, including massive things like the Protect Ihumātao campaign prevailing in their incredible work, Lemauga Lydia Sosene becoming our newest local MP, and small things like Māngere getting a Taco Bell. And it would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the work of an amazing group of passionate locals who have helped to keep 275 Times alive online. They are Roger and Hone Fowler, Shirle Fruean, Mez Aue and Ernestina Bonsu-Marō - so much love must go to them all for their tireless work - particularly during Covid when we all so desperately needed quality information being shared. But after a four-year break, we've decided to put together this one-off edition to help support this special day and as we look forward, we really believe a printed magazine can be a vital tool to help us all to reconnect and re-engage after what has been a challenging few years. So if you want to jump onboard with advertising or sponsorship - let us know - and watch this space - because we're back! Many blessings on you all, Justin and Jo Latif

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Our branch is open and we're raring to go! Call Team Māngere now for a chat or a no-obligation property appraisal.



Munish Bhatt

Branch Manager

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