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MARCH 2026

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Māngere's 275 times

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



**BLAZING
A TRAIL**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY TO
FUTURE OF SIVA AFI FESTIVAL**

Read on page 7

GET PEACE OF MIND WITH A NEW BUILD

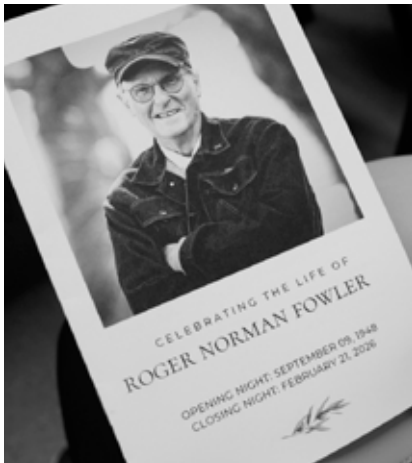
Remove and rebuild with GJ's "It was the better option to knock down and rebuild than try to renovate. Just the peace of mind you have because its brand new." – York Family

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KUA HINGA TE TŌTARA I TE WAONUI A TĀNE

This month, we wanted to acknowledge the passing of one of our community's most beloved leaders, Roger Fowler.

As many of you would know, Roger did so much, for so many, whether it was through his work at the Māngere East Community Centre, or through the many campaigns and protests he supported and led - which has made this a better place for us all. We also want to acknowledge the whole Fowler whānau, for graciously hosting many of us at the community centre so we could pay our last respects. Our thoughts are with you always.

But what many may not realise, was Roger as also instrumental in supporting 275 Times, particularly when we didn't have the capacity to keep it going. In 2016 when our second child was on the way, we knew we could not keep running the magazine. But we knew Roger was passionate about newspapers, having been an editor himself in the past for a range of publications.

We reached out to Roger and Hone Fowler to discuss the idea of handing

over 275 Times to them to keep it going and to keep the community informed and we were blown away when they said yes.

Roger and a team of amazing people, including Hone, Belinda Fowler and Herrman Arp successfully ran the publication for two more years and it was incredible to see it in such good hands, and with people who had the same heart for the community. They were able to use the magazine to help grow the movement to protect Ihumātao, as well as bring a range of other voices and perspectives to the publication.

Roger always led by action and lived with empathy, giving an example we can all live by.

We are forever grateful for what Roger has done for us, as a whānau, and this media initiative, but more importantly what he has done for this whole community and the legacy he has left for us all to carry on.

Truly a mighty tōtara has fallen, but we are all blessed to have spent time in his shade.

Rest in love, Roger Fowler.

**"ROGER
ALWAYS LED
BY ACTION
AND LIVED
WITH EMPATHY,
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EXAMPLE WE
CAN ALL LIVE
BY."**

HOLOGA NIUE 2026:



The Niue Church community from Māngere PIPC who not only participated this year, but also led their own village groups.

In the lead up to Hologa 2026, 275 Times spoke with Niuean youth deep into their preparations about how this event helps strengthen cultural knowledge, and reconnects them with their ancestral roots.

For many, Hologa 2026, which took place on February 28 in Henderson, is more than a showcase of song and dance; it is a vital expression of identity and intergenerational unity. With 13 villages participating this year, song leader Epi Hakeagatoa says Hologa's power lies in its ability to bring people together. Teaching music to the Hologa Lakepa Maleloa group, Epi sees the event as a bridge between generations, helping young Niueans understand their history and the legacy of their ancestors.

One of her fellow participants Nogiata Tukimata highlighted how learning dances and songs can also help preserve the Niuean language.

"It has been hard but it's been worth it," she says.

"We're able to just leave it on the stage and represent our village, our tupuna, our ancestors."

She explains that Hologa, meaning "descendant," reflects the initiative's purpose: connecting youth with elders so language and traditions continue to thrive.

For choreographer Amazing Milouollin Fanaua, who represents multiple maanga (village groups), including Makefu and Tuapa, it's all about serving others in any way possible.

"I'm basically an all-rounder. I'm the

go-to person that if they need to question in terms of what's happening on the day - they can."

Representing the next wave of leaders, young performer Azrielle Ikihele says she'd like see the event grow so performers can deepen their understanding of cultural knowledge, as well as ensure Vagahau Niue, remains alive for future generations. "I hope that it can keep expanding, so we can learn more about our culture and to expand on the songs and the dance."

And Azrielle's message for the wider community is simple: "I think if you do get the opportunity to join any cultural groups, join things like Hologna, just do it. It's a good way to learn your culture, your language."

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL MP

Talofa lava, and warm Pacific greetings, Times continue to be tough for New Zealanders, as the costs of food, electricity, and housing continue to be unaffordable for many Kiwis. Christopher Luxon has promised to make the cost of living better, but has instead made it worse.

The latest figures show 23,700 more children living in hardship compared to two years ago. That's one in four Māori and one in three Pacific children facing hardship. That's disgraceful.

I want our community to know that Labour has a plan to prioritise a more affordable New Zealand.

This election year, it is important to remember to register to vote.

A recent law change means



there will no longer be same day enrolment. The last day to enrol before the general election on 7 November will be Sunday 25 October, so ensure your details and address are correct on www.vote.nz.

Recently, I hosted the annual Māngere Prayer Breakfast. The event brought together many of our local community leaders, Reverends, Ministers, and community. It is important to thank our community for their hard work as we begin the new year.

If you have any queries, please email Mangere@parliament.govt.nz or speak to the Māngere Electorate Staff on 09-2731150.

Manuia tele
Lemauga Lydia Sosene
MP for Māngere

*Approved by Lemauga Lydia Sosene
MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington
Funded by Parliamentary Service*

(sponsored content)

MIDAS TOUCH: A SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST

(sponsored content)

When you walk into Midas Onehunga, you're not just another customer - you're whānau. That's the secret to this busy, community-driven workshop where honesty, fast service, and genuine care sit at the heart of everything they do.

Office manager Angie Ray knows this well. After 26 years in the automotive industry - starting in the workshop before deciding she preferred clean hands - she now runs the front office with straight-up honesty and a whole lot of heart. Born and raised in Māngere, Angie proudly carries her community with her.

"We're Māngere through and through," Angie says. "Me and Paul, we root for Māngere every chance that we can. We're family-orientated, so we treat our customers like family too."

That family-focused spirit flows through the workshop, led by long-time staff like Paul Bartley,

who has been with Midas for an incredible 20 years. Of Samoan descent and a proud Māngere local for nearly two decades, Paul knows the importance of trust, clarity, and community. "It's a good, friendly business," he says. "We help each other, and we help our customers understand their cars." At Midas Onehunga, customers can expect no mucking around - just reliable service, honest advice, and quality workmanship. The team prides themselves on fast turnarounds and full transparency. They offer WOFs, servicing, repairs, courtesy cars, and flexible payment options including Afterpay, making



The Midas Onehunga team with Angie (centre) and Paul (left)

it easier for busy families to keep their vehicles safe and on the road. And of course, as Angie puts it: "Paulie's got the Midas touch." From Māngere to Onehunga and everywhere in between, Midas Onehunga is the workshop you can trust - local people, real service, and a team that treats your car like their own.

CONTACT - Phone: 09 634 5983
Email: onehunga@midasnz.co.nz

TWO SEVEN FIVE DAY IS BACK, AND HOPING TO BIGGER THAN EVER



Māngere East Primary School performing last year



Drone shot of last years event by SwankySeriez



Fitz (left) at the 2025 TwoSevenFive Day

Photo by Jasminexxphotography

Māngere's much-loved community celebration is back for its seventh year, and organisers are once again backing the strength, pride and generosity of our neighbourhood to make it happen.

Even with some of the big costs involved, confidence remains high for Fitz and his team at TwoSevenFive.

"Right now the event will cost 90k to 100k. We've got 12k funding. But we still plan because every year it always works out," he says.

"I'm confident in the community and what we bring. I've already booked the stage, I've already booked everything and then we just figure out the rest on the way."

At its core, the day is about celebrating Māngere and shining a light on the people who make this area so special.

"First and foremost, it's celebrating Māngere," Fitz says.

The event brings together local organisations, small businesses and young performers so the community can connect and

support each other.

With Fitz reiterating that the day isn't just about fun & food but also for getting to know "which organisations do what in the community" to build a more resilient suburb.

"Māngere is big enough to just create our own economy," he says.

Young talent also plays a huge role on the day.

"Our young performers, we're giving them a platform to perform, showcase their talent. That's all. That's the whole concept."

Each year, organisers listen closely to feedback and make improvements. After families raised concerns about food prices, changes were made.

"One of them was more affordable food for some of our families, which is understandable," Fitz says.

"So last year we said, this is the cap. You can't sell anything here over this."

Strong partnerships with local schools have also helped the event grow.

"Last year we encouraged kids

not to take days off, but teachers were messaging us [so they could come] for school trip," he says, with even bigger numbers expected this year.

More than anything, the event is about telling Māngere's story, from the inside out.

"It's all just about us, our people in Māngere, showing how vibrant our community is and what we have to offer - [because] we get to write the narrative of Māngere."

But to ensure the event is another success further community support would be welcome, Fitz says, which can be as simple as just showing up.

"Support can look like turning up on the day... volunteering your time... Or just sharing it to someone else because someone might know someone who can help, so just sharing the message is also important."

But he also adds, one word of advice: "Only help within your means."

Head to www.tsffoundation.org.nz/ if you wanting to support the event.

NEW BILINGUAL ALPHABET BOOK *W IS FOR WAHINE TOA* CELEBRATES THE STRENGTH OF WOMEN FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A new bilingual Māori alphabet book celebrating the strength and potential of wāhine has launched in Aotearoa just ahead of International Women's Day.

Written by acclaimed Māori-Pasifika storyteller and Māngere local Qiane Matata-Sipu, *W is for Wahine Toa* introduces readers to the beauty of te reo Māori while sharing messages of courage, identity and strength.

Far from a traditional alphabet book, the kaupapa behind it reaches beyond tamariki. Each letter offers a reflection on qualities that build confident, resilient wāhine, making the book a guide and source of inspiration for readers of all ages.

The sold out launch event was supported by Hāpai te Hauora and brought to the stage empowering koorero by wāhine who embody the theme of the book, including high-performance athlete, coach and broadcaster Jenny-May Clarkson, māmā and best-selling author living by Māori philosophies Hana Tapiata and multi dimensional artist Te Kahureremoa, who entranced the audience with her unique ancient-futuristic musical style with taonga pūoro.

Matata-Sipu describes the book as a collection of life lessons she hopes women and girls will carry with them.

"This book is my advice to women and girls. It's about the values and strengths that help us walk confidently in the world, knowing who we are and where we come from. It draws deeply from my own experiences; over 20 years championing mana motuhake for Indigenous communities, working for my marae and hapū, and leading movements like Protect Ihumātao and NUKU. Those experiences taught me the importance of standing tall, speaking up and leading with heart, lessons I wanted to pass on.

"We all deserve to see the strength of wāhine reflected back to us. Through language, storytelling and the stunning imagery by renowned artist Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, this book reminds us that courage, wisdom and leadership live within all of us."

W is for Wahine Toa continues Matata-Sipu's growing body of work championing wāhine and Indigenous storytelling. Her landmark publication NUKU: Stories of 100 Indigenous Women brought together the voices and portraits of 100 Indigenous wāhine, creating what many have described as a powerful snapshot of Indigenous leadership and lived experience across Aotearoa and beyond. The book was shortlisted for the 2022 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards for illustrated non-fiction.

In recent years, Matata-Sipu has also released several acclaimed children's books including *My First Ikura / Taku Ikura Tuatahi*, a groundbreaking puberty book exploring first menstruation through a Māori cultural lens, and *Ngā Kupenga a Nanny Rina / Nanny Rina's Amazing Nets*, which celebrates traditional knowledge.

A respected creative leader and storyteller, Matata-Sipu was awarded the Women of Influence Arts and Culture Award in 2021 and was appointed a Member



Qiane Matata-Sipu, at the book launch of *W is for Wahine Toa*



Stacey Morrison speaking at the book launch

of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2023 for her services to the arts and her contribution to amplifying Māori and Pasifika voices.

Launching alongside global celebrations of International Women's Day, *W is for Wahine Toa* reflects the same kaupapa: recognising the power, leadership and influence of women in shaping our communities and our future.

At its heart, the book is both a learning tool and a celebration, a reminder that when we uplift women, we uplift generations.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY TO FUTURE OF SIVA AFI FESTIVAL



Siva Afi Festival Director Amo Ieriko.
Photo: Pacifica Arts Centre



Siva Afi Māngere Academy students



Academy student Brichelle Dennison



Wāhine Toa Afi Category 2026,
1st Place Emi Iliganoa Pritchard

The annual Siva Afi Festival at the Māngere Arts Centre once again lit up the stage this year, drawing performers and supporters from across Aotearoa and overseas. But organisers say the future of the beloved community event now depends on greater support to ensure the festival can continue in 2027 and beyond.

Now in its seventh year, the Siva Afi Festival has become a major platform for fire knife performers in New Zealand and the wider Pacific. The competition is also the first international event in the global siva afi calendar each year, attracting competitors from places including Samoa, Tahiti, Australia, the Cook Islands and the United States.

Festival Director Amo Ieriko said despite the festival's growth and international reputation, funding challenges mean the event's future is uncertain.

"At this stage, 2027 is pretty much not happening in terms of funding,"

Ieriko said.

"But the community have said we have to continue the Siva Afi Festival because it brings everyone together. It's the highlight for New Zealand every year."

Ieriko explained that many community events are now competing for a shrinking pool of funding, making it harder for festivals like Siva Afi to secure the support they need.

Instead, organisers are now looking closer to home for help.

"For us to say it's truly a Māngere event, we need Māngere businesses on board," Ieriko said.

"We're not asking for hundreds of thousands. Every little bit counts."

He said the festival not only celebrates Pacific culture but also provides opportunities for the local community, including food vendors, young entrepreneurs and performers who may not otherwise have the chance to compete internationally.

"Māngere is the home of Siva Afi in New Zealand," Ieriko said.

"Everything started here - the workshops, the festival, even the only all-female Siva Afi group.

"This is our testing ground and our playground."

The impact of the festival can already be seen in young performers like 10-year-old academy student Brichelle Dennison, who has been part of the Māngere Siva Afi Academy for three years.

"I feel really privileged," she said. "It's very scary at the start, but when you get on stage it just feels natural — like you belong there."

Dennison said performing teaches patience and resilience.

"Sometimes you drop the stick and you have to try again and again," she said. "But when you get it right you feel really proud of yourself."

For organisers, stories like Brichelle's highlight exactly why the festival matters.

With continued support from local businesses, organisations and the wider community, Ieriko hopes the Siva Afi Festival can remain a free and accessible event that keeps Māngere firmly on the international cultural map.

Go to sivaafiaotearoa.co.nz for more info.

HONOURING HERITAGE AND HOLDING TRUTH: NEW EXHIBITION OPENS AT MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE



Siah Finai next to one of his artworks



Modern day malofie tools on display



One of Siah's signature pieces, Sāpātē



Galumalemana Su'a Sione Sialaoa next to his malofie tools on display

The Māngere Arts Centre has opened a powerful dual exhibition that brings Samoan creativity, ancestry, and cultural responsibility into sharp focus.

The combined exhibition, which runs to April 11, features the works of emerging artist Siah Finai and traditional tattoo practitioner Galumalemana Su'a Sione Sialaoa - two creators whose practices are deeply rooted in family, culture, and the stories that shape Samoan identity.

For Siah, whose exhibition *Talamai lo'u Nu'u: Stories of my Homeland/Community/Family* showcases sculptural works inspired by familial

love and cultural memory, the opening holds personal significance.

"It's honoring not only my cultural heritage, but also my loved ones," he says.

His pieces pay tribute to his parents, siblings, and the traditions of Bayi Sa'amu. One of Siah's most striking contributions is a contemporary re-imagining of the pātei, a traditional Samoan drum. Drawing on his background in spatial design, Siah embeds 3D-modelled topographical maps into the underside of the drums - as a "cool hidden feature," he says, and a nod to his father, who taught him to drum as a child.

His largest work tells the origin story of Te Tau, tracing the journey of sisters Taima and Tilapainga and the fateful chant that determined who in Samoa would receive tatau.

In the adjoining gallery space, Galumalemana presents *Journey, Truth, and Respect*, his first-ever public exhibition.

An eight-year practitioner of traditional tapping tattoo, he sees the show as an opportunity to preserve knowledge that is too often misunderstood.

"It's not just important to keep it going," he explains. "Without the truth, it's no use."

His notebooks - three volumes of personal writings and notes documenting his tattooing journey - may soon become a published resource for future generations.

For both artists, the exhibition is a reminder: Samoan stories are living, real, and rooted - and Māngere remains a place where they continue to thrive.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

Email: editor@275times.co.nz to find out more

MĀNGERE STUDENTS 'HAPPY AS' WITH GENEROUS BIKE DONATION



Bikes donated by Ride Holidays.



Māngere College staff (left) with Triple Teez crew (right) and sponsor Martyn Reesby plus Karl Woolcott from Ride Holidays (centre right).

A generous donation of 30 brand-new mountain bikes from Ride Holidays is set to make a lasting impact at Māngere College, opening the door for more students to experience the freedom and confidence that comes with cycling.

The bikes are helping bring to life a three-year initiative led by Sport New Zealand, delivered in partnership with Auckland Transport and Triple Teez/Māngere BikeFIT. Māngere College is one of 60 schools nationwide funded to create more opportunities for students to be active.

As part of the nationwide programme, Māngere College is one of 60 schools funded to improve opportunities for students to be more active. Active As Coordinator Caitlin Manase has spent the past three years building new pathways for young people to participate in physical activity, guided by annual student surveys that capture what the school community wants and needs.

A chance meeting at 275 Day between Manase, AT Transport's



Matua Maehe blessing the 30 bikes gifted by Ride Holidays.

Jay Fa'ata and Sam Kemp sparked the idea of a cycling programme that could outlast the initiative itself.

"I needed something sustainable," says Manase. "Something our school could continue long after my role ends."

With support from the PE Department, cycling was woven into the Year 10 PE curriculum. AT Transport connected the school with Triple Teez/Māngere BikeFIT, whose operations manager, Sokko, tailored a multi-week programme teaching bike mechanics, road rules, safety and practical riding skills.

The impact was immediate - helped by an extraordinary donation of 30 brand-new

mountain bikes by Karl Woolcott and the team from Ride Holidays, plus the entire BikeFIT programme delivered at no cost to the school.

Triple Teez founder's Mr Tee says the excitement of seeing the new bikes was unforgettable.

"They were shocked, overwhelmed, happy as - just wanting to jump on and ride."

As the programme continues, the goal is bigger than biking. It's about independence, safety, active transport, and setting a new standard for youth in Māngere.

"We're so grateful," says Manase. "This partnership is helping our students see what's possible."

Follow @m.c_active on instagram to stay up to date with all things sports related at Māngere College.



MĀNGERE BLUE-GREEN PROJECT UPDATES

Drone photos showing the progress of the Walmsley Rd Bridge/Te Ararata Creek site (left) and the Harania Creek Flood Resilience Project (right). For more information head to www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search for Blue-Green network projects.





THE GIANT PUMPKIN TAKEOVER BRINGS FUN TO MĀNGERE BRIDGE LOCALS

Brought to the community by Friends of the Farm and local gardening enthusiast, Meegan Jade, huge pumpkins have been bringing huge amounts of fun to the local community.

Around 30 pumpkins, all grown by members of the local community, arrived for weigh-in at Ambury Park, on the cattle scales between 9 – 10am Saturday morning. The pumpkin seedlings had been handed out previously in October 2025, giving these pumpkins the opportunity to grow for about four to five months. Subsequently, what was delivered was a spectacle of pumpkins, ranging in all different shapes, sizes, colours and patterns. Once weighed, pumpkin-growers could decide to enter their harvest according to any of the available categories: cutest

pumpkin, most beautiful pumpkin, ugliest pumpkin, weirdest pumpkin and best carved pumpkin, as well as automatically entering in the weight category. Then, all pumpkins were put on display giving the public an opportunity to judge and have their say for their top picks in each category. Once the votes were in and the champions announced, floral bouquets and ribbons were awarded to the winners of each category, thanks to local florist Sepali, from the Māngere floral studio, and volunteer Betty, who hand-made the rosettes. As well as these awards, winners were also gifted a \$50 gardening voucher. Thank you to Friends of the Farm and co-organiser Meegan Jade for putting on such a fun event. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the giant pumpkin growing competition, and of course, a huge congratulations



to our winners: Peter for the biggest pumpkin, Robyn for the cutest pumpkin, Millie for the best carved pumpkin, Jonothan for the weirdest pumpkin, Leif and Chiara for the ugliest pumpkin, and finally, JB for the most beautiful pumpkin! Don't miss these two other great Friends of the Farm events in March.

The first Repair Café for 2026 is on Saturday 21 March at the Māngere Bridge Library from 10am – 1pm. Bring along household items for repair.

On Saturday 28 March there will be an E-Waste Collection from 10am – 2pm at the Ambury Riding Centre (66 Wellesley Road). Bring your old TVs, computers, phones, printers, fridges, washing machines and other E-Waste for recycling and repurposing.

For more details visit aboutmangerebridge.nz



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2026 ASB POLYFEST BEGINS!

The Manukau Sports Bowl will burst into life this March with the 51st staging of the ASB Polyfest.

From March 18-21, the venue will reverberate with traditional song and dance from Auckland's youth.

Students will perform and compete in speech, song and dance across five cultural stages this week - Cook Islands, Niue, Samoan, Tongan, and a Diversity stage comprising cultures such as Chinese, Fijian, Tokelau, Indian, Korean and Sri Lankan.

ASB Polyfest Director Seiuli Terri Leo-Mauu is looking forward to getting the festival underway saying, "we are excited to welcome our youth back and see them on an ASB Polyfest stage. There will be nerves, but we can't wait to see the pride they have in representing themselves, their families, their culture and their school."

In describing the importance of the festival, Leo-Mauu says, "the ASB Polyfest brings people together, and heals ones need to feel connected to their culture. It is also where we celebrate indigenous joy."

The four day festival will see 10,000 secondary school students from across the Auckland region perform on stage, with 264 performing groups entered from 73 schools.

The festival starts with a flag-raising ceremony from 7am. The ceremony will be led by our festival kaumatua alongside the Pacific and Diversity stage representatives who each will bless their flags and sing traditional songs as the flags are raised.

ASB has been the festival's title sponsor for 41 years. ASB Executive Manager Commercial Partnerships Mark Graham says, "ASB Polyfest brings many cultures together, creating an amazing sense of community. It's fantastic to have been part of this event for so many years and to see it progress into the festival it is today. We look forward to supporting the students



Māngere College Samoan group 2025



Southern Cross Campus



De La Salle Niue group 2025



Māngere College Cook Islands group 2025

as they proudly perform for their families and their schools this week."

Describing ASB Polyfest, ASB Community Engagement Manager and co-chair of the ASB Pasifika Network, Niuafolau Joel Amosa says: "I think of the amazing food, the colours of our cultures on display, and the months of preparation that go into every performance. Seeing whanau and friends beam with pride as students perform, and the roar of the crowd when they finish. It's a privilege for ASB to be part of this event."

The theme for this year's festival is – "Ko au ko te Taiao! Ko te Taiao ko au! He Toa Taiao Taiohi nō te Moana nui a Kiwa, āke, ake, ake!" which translates to – "the environment lives in me, as I live in it - a 'Pacific Youth Eco-Warrior' for generations to come."

ASB Polyfest continues to be the largest cultural festival of its kind and organisers are expecting huge crowds. People are encouraged to



Photo: BC Photography

ASB Polyfest Director Seiuli Terri Leo-Mauu



Photo: BC Photography

Niuafolau Joel Amosa

purchase tickets online at iTICKET to save money and avoid long queues.

WHĀNAU IDEAS EMERGING TO TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY IN MĀNGERE



Ray Tuala (above) presenting about the *He kai kei aku ringa* report at a Māngere Leaders Hui at the Māngere Congregational Church of Jesus Samoa, and pictured right.



Health Coalition Aotearoa and Healthy Families South Auckland are meeting with Māngere residents throughout March and April to talanoa in response to rising food insecurity across South Auckland.

The hui follows the release of Health Coalition Aotearoa's recent report, *He kai kei aku ringa – There is food in my hands*, which highlights the urgent need for stronger local and central government policies to address food inequality.

Healthy Families South Auckland's Ray Tuala, who is helping organise the hui and has been closely involved in the research process, says community voices have shaped every aspect of the report.

"Our whānau have told us loud and clear what's working and what's not. *He kai kei aku ringa* captures their solutions, but the real mahi is ahead of us," he says.

"That's why we're hosting a series of community hui in March and April here in Māngere. It's important that whānau lead the next steps and help shape how this initiative grows."

Following a year-long research process with the Māngere community, the report identifies systemic solutions across planning and zoning reform, the food environment around schools, fiscal and regulatory tools, and broader economic settings.

Recommendations include unlocking unused public land for community kai initiatives; expanding and permanently funding Ka Ora, Ka Ako - Healthy School Lunches, potentially through tools such as a sugary drinks tax; and enabling communities to have a greater

say over the number and placement of fast food outlets in their neighbourhoods.

HCA co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn says New Zealand urgently needs to acknowledge the scale of the food crisis.

"Aotearoa is an export nation excellent at growing our own kai – enough to feed 40 million people, in fact. And yet we have 42% of children in South Auckland regularly going hungry, which clearly isn't solely caused by the 5% of people who are unemployed. We must debunk the narrative that our nation's food issues are about parents not working hard enough."

He is calling for collaborative action across local and central government to allow communities' energy and innovation in local food systems to thrive, while also limiting the dominance of the industrial food system and its promotion of unhealthy food.

"Many of the solutions are simple – like more community gardens on unused public land and removing junk food advertising from Auckland Council and Auckland Transport contracts, and within 500 metres of schools."

Swinburn says *He kai kei aku ringa* provides the solutions, and Health Coalition Aotearoa is seeking partnership with organisations to progress the findings.

"What we're seeking now is show of hands from those bold enough to tackle the solutions to New Zealand's food issues. We have the answers. Now we want to implement change."

The *He kai kei aku ringa* foundation report can be found online at www.healthcoalition.org.nz/resources.

MĀNGERE-ŌTĀHUHU'S FUTURE LEADERSHIP CONFIRMED FOR 2027

By Taelegalolo'u Mary Afemata

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board has locked in its future leadership recently, confirming Te'o Harry Fatu Toleafoa will step into the chair role in 2027 under a shared leadership agreement.

Current Chair Kaea Walter Inoke-Togiamua and Deputy Chair Christine O'Brien will remain in their roles until 26 April 2027.

Te'o will then lead the board through the second half of the term, alongside Joe Glassie-Rasmussen as deputy chair.

The board confirmed the leadership change while facing a \$1 million shortfall amid wider council cost pressures.

Te'o used the board's first business meeting of the year to reflect on his time on the board.

"For two terms, ever since I've started this role, there has been nothing but emergencies.

"We had COVID, which led to \$800 million in cuts, we had the floods, which we had to sustain, and now our local board is facing the challenge of plugging a \$1 million shortfall."

The community is doing it tough, he said.

"There's challenges left, right and centre, and people say that we live in problem areas.

"I just want to say, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu is not a problem to be solved, but a potential to be realised."

Local board funding is determined through Auckland Council's budget formula, based on factors including population and deprivation. Boards must then prioritise spending within those limits.

"We don't get our fair share of the slice of the pie. We're often left out of discussions. It's a real charge for us to act justly."

In an emotional moment with family present, Te'o formally delivered his declaration yesterday, promising to perform the role in the best interests of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board.

Although the board was inaugurated in 2025, Te'o said he was unable to publicly mark that milestone with his family due to the death of his nana.

He said the support shown by colleagues during that period "demonstrated the love and care that makes me proud to serve this local board".

"I was taught by our councillor, Lotu Fuli. She was my English teacher back in the day, and it's quite humbling that we're able to sit together and work for the betterment of the community."

Te'o acknowledged Hau Kainga and mana whenua, including Te Ākitai Waiohua, Te Ahiwaru and the Wilson whānau, alongside the broader auspices of Tainui and the Māori queen, before turning to those closest to him.

"Politics starts at home. And from a young age, I was rich in that experience. I witnessed how a family was run ... I witnessed how the welfare, how to balance books. It was all these things that I was able



Kaea Walter Inoke-Togiamua, current Chair of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, with Te'o Harry Fatu Toleafoa, who will lead the second half of the 2025–2028 term



Members of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board for the 2025–2028 term

to witness and be privy to."

He paid tribute to his parents, mentors and extended family, and "most importantly" his wife, who he described as an integral support. Their son was also present.

"Our greatest hope and desire is that we do our work, we lay down the foundations for future generations, so when this guy... comes through, we leave this community in a better place."

He described council staff work as "a thankless job", acknowledging the long hours and emergency calls that support elected members.

Drawing on Micah 6:8, he said his leadership would be guided by three principles: "to act justly ... to love mercy ... and to walk humbly before the Lord."

Councillor Lotu Fuli, who once taught Te'o, congratulated him.

"Even then, I saw in Harry the leadership potential ... we've sort of come full circle now."

She also acknowledged the late Fa'anana Efeso Collins, "our good friend and brother" and "a very good mentor for Te'o and for many of us around the table."

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MĀNGERE BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A LISTING HERE. STARTING AT \$20 PER CLASSIFIED

Kevin Madsen

Wooden Fence Repairs

Ph 021 027 73498

Located in Māngere Bridge.

Replace posts, pailings etc.

Julian Iosia

Māngere Based Accountant

02108236985

julian.iosia@gmail.com

Tali The Mowing Magician

Gardener & Landscaping

Ph: 0226464761

Email: talifakava@outlook.com

Socials: Fb, IG, Tiktok @

talithemowingmagician

K&N Cleaning.

We specialise in Move In/Move Out cleans, Deep Cleaning, and Builders Cleans.

021 292 2253 or via email at

kncleaning@outlook.co.nz.

Dessy Sportswear

Custom team uniforms for school and team sports. Email dessysports@gmail.com

The Queen Shirl'e Academy

Performing arts training, personal life coaching, podcast education, adult speed dating events, MC & event hosting. Ph 021 274 9979 qsacademy101@gmail.com.

Midas Onehunga

Car service, repairs, tyres, WOF, transmissions etc. 09 634 5983 26 Selwyn St, Onehunga

Applied Electrical

Māngere based electrical business. www.appliedelectrical.co.nz 021 157 1864

Patrick@appliedelectrical.co.nz

Riva hub Ltd (+64 22 423 6306)

Riva Logistics - house moving and truck rental company

Classic Cleaner's - commercial and residential cleaning company

Riva Blossom - hand crafted flowers and earrings.

Email: riva.hub@outlook.co.nz

MĀNGERE TOWN CENTRE

Ph: 09 275 7078

office@mangeretowncentre.nz

www.mangeretowncentre.nz

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Mr Katsu Māngere	0210376358
Pacific Fresh Fish	09 257 5135
Pizza Curry Corner	09 257 5100
Sushi Time	09 275 0893
Zara Kebab	0212105602

RETAIL

Feathers	09 257 0909
Jit Shoes	09 275 0405
Māngere Fashions	09 256 0303
Māngere Jewellers	09 255 5907
Māngere Mini Mart	022 636 1371
Māngere Post Shop	021 762 478
Megastar Fashions	09 275 6962
My Hairdressers & Barbers Salon	09 218 9161
Nesian Collective	027 255 2049
One Stop Pak Māngere	09 215 8383
Pacific Fashions	021 510 071
Regal Apparel International Ltd/	
Megastar Fashions	09 275 6962
Sunlight clothing shop	021 301 987
TechFixers Māngere	09 255 5105

SERVICES

BaderDrive Doctors	09 275 858
Beauty By Harpi	022 182 0071
Māngere Budgeting Services Trust	0508 22 22 83
Māngere Dental Centre	09 275 7754

Kaitiaki O Manawa

Restores headstone art and inscriptions. Jade Rehu

Facebook page: Kaitiaki o manawa

Email: aotearoa102030@gmail.com

Custom Designz Workshop

Pacifika 21st keys & wall art 020 4889 258

Applied Electrical

Māngere based electrical business. www.appliedelectrical.co.nz, 0211571864, patrick@appliedelectrical.co.nz

A Rat's Tail

Māngere based Ethical Rattery, Online Store and Pet Boarding. aratatail@gmail.com. https://www.aratatail.co.nz/

MĀNGERE BRIDGE VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Ph: 021 776 139

info@mangerebridgevillage.co.nz

www.mangerebridgevillage.co.nz

CAFE/RESTAURANT/TAKEAWAYS

Brandy's Roasts	09 6363998
Hong Kong Takeaways	09 6347159
Neptune Seafoods	09 6369171
Lucky Café	09 6369400
Ros Bake	09 6345475
Coronation Restaurant	09 6340969
Burger Shop	09 2186327
Happy Horse	09 6365053
Ruby Red Café	09 6346454
Phnom Penh	09 6363586
Hong Kong Bakery	09 6367756
Village Butcher	09 6367856
Black Box Pizza	09 6369999
Butter Chicken Factory	09 2560500
Golden Sunrise Bakery	09 6348365
Māngere Bridge Takeaways	09 6342463

CHILDCARE

Small Kauri Educ Centre	09 6360644
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HAIR/BARBER/BEAUTY

Village Barber	021 135 6370
Keith the Barber	027 478 3598
Bridge Beauty	09 3201667
Hair Zone	09 6365747

HEALTH

My Dental Mangere Bridge	09 2421130
MB Pharmacy	09 6364249
Dr Usha Chand	09 6342542
Local Doctors	09 2544290

LAUNDROMAT

Coronation Laundromat	0221093125
Sunrise Laundromat	Shop 27

LAWYERS

Mason and Mortimer	09 2960037
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REAL ESTATE

Ray White	09 6369992
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RETAIL

Bridge Mini Market	09 6365433
Post Shop	09 8926109
St Vincent de Paul	09 6361290
Coin Save	Shop 33
Coin Max	Shop 34A
Hammer Hardware	09 6367084
Māngere Bridge Flowers	09 6221292
Māngere Floral Studio	09 6366291
Fresh Choice	09 6368424

WHATS ON IN MĀNGERE

FREE GIRLS HAVE A GO DAY

With Onehunga Māngere United. Saturday 21st March and registrations are now open! The event is open to girls of all ages and is completely free. You'll find the event on the www.facebook.com/OMUAFc facebook page.

MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE

Not another Dance show?

Saturday 28 March, 1pm and 7pm.

The Worm.

Saturday 25 April, 6pm.

Saumolia: King of the Ocean

Thursday 7 May, 7.30pm.

Head to eventfinda.co.nz for tickets

PROBUS CLUB OF MANGERE BRIDGE

Active retirees are invited to come along for morning tea, fun, friendship. Meets 4th Friday of each month. Bridge Park Bowling Club, 27A Taylor Road.

**WATERLEA SCHOOL PTA PRESENTS
BRICK SHOW**

Saturday 28 March 2026
10.00am - 3.00pm
Waterlea School,
17 House Ave, Mangere Bridge

Cool LEGO® Displays - Student showcase
Bake Sale - Sausage Sizzle
Preloved Kids' Toy & Book Sale
Visit from Harold the Giraffe
Brick Pit - Raffles - & More!

Open to the community!
EFTPOS & Cash Available

\$5 Entry Per Person
\$20 Family pass*
Under 3s Free
*Up to 2 adults and 4 kids.

Brought to you by All Blacks LEGO® User Group and sponsored by:

RayWhite, W, BARFOOT THOMPSONS, WATERLEA SCHOOL

MURA MURA ĀTEA: CREATIVE EMPOWERMENT SPACE

Free Woodblock carving workshops, Follow their facebook page for info. 68d Tidal Rd. Mike - 021 262 7087

BOXFIT (WITH PONO BOXFIT)

Free community boxfit fitness classes. Mondays 6pm, Māngere East Community Centre. Wednesday nights 6.30pm Aorere College.

FREE XTREME-HIP HOP

Free step classes every Wednesday at the Māngere Town Centre (Zumba Stage) brought to you by Baderdrive Community Trust with PhatBoi Fit. Bookings a must via IG: [bdcommunitytrust](https://www.instagram.com/bdcommunitytrust). Beginners - 6pm-6.45pm. Intermediate - 7pm-7.45pm

NGA MANGA O MĀNGERE COMMUNITY NETWORK MEETING

Thursday 26th March, 10am-12pm at the Māngere Community Law Centre. All welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE FARM

REPAIR CAFÉ - Saturday 21 March, 10am- 1pm Māngere Bridge Library. Skilled volunteers will be on hand to repair broken household items, mend small electrical appliances, fix wobbly bikes, mend and repair clothes, and assist with IT queries.

E-WASTE COLLECTION - Saturday 28 March, 9am – 3pm. Ambury Riding Centre, 66 Wellesley Road, Māngere Bridge. Volunteers will help unload and sort your e-waste.

MĀNGERE BIKEFIT

Bikefit Repairs, Tue/Wed/Thur 11am-4pm, Sun 11am-2pm.

WOW Rides Wednesday's On Wheels. 5pm. Waddon Place.

ME FAMILY SERVICES

Living Resourcefully Pop-up Shop
Dates: March 27, May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug 28, Sep 18, Oct 30, Nov 27. 10am - 1pm. 16-18 Fergusson St. Mending & sewing station, seedlings for sale, artwork for sale, pest free info station, clothes for koha. Living Resourcefully Workshops. Rag mat making - turn your old clothes into colourful rugs, soap making, learn how to make a beautiful cushion using soft plastic.

TURUKI HEALTHCARE

Head to www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings for an amazing range of community classes & workshops:
Low Carb Cooking Class, Romiromi, Walk & Talk, Maramataka, Art Therapy, Raranga Hauora, Kuia/ Kaumatua programme.
MUST BOOK - jcannons@thc.org.nz
<https://www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings>.

MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREE CLASSES

Mondays: Te Reo Māori (6pm-8pm), Pono BoxFit Classes (6pm-7pm)
Tuesdays: Sewing for beginners (10am-1pm), Te Reo Māori (12.30pm-2.30pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm)
Wednesdays: Zumba (6.30pm-7.30pm), Beginner sewing (5pm-8pm),
Thursdays: Sewing for beginners (10am-1pm), Zumba (6.30pm)
Fridays: Korowai Class (10am – 2pm) FREE Parenting Programmes (Ante Natal, 3yr-8yr etc) Daily ESOL Classes (English for speakers of other languages) .
Venue hire plus bus and van hire also. OSCAR Programmes.
REGISTER TODAY:
www.mangereeast.org
info@mangereeast.org | Ph: 275 6161

WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

141 Robertson Rd, ph: 09 379 2030, FB: @WhareKoa

IG: @wharekoamangere

MONDAY: Emerge Aotearoa: 10am-12.30pm, Sew Simple: 1.30pm-4.30pm

TUESDAY: Akatangi Ukarērē: 10am-12pm, Fale Pasifika Parenting Programme 1pm-3pm, Spoken Word Navigators: 6.30pm-9pm

WEDNESDAY: Diamonds In The Rough: 10am-12pm, Tuitu'u Heilala: 1pm-4pm, Adullum Art: 6.30pm-8.30pm

THURSDAY: Tiare Taina Mamas & Eva Ma Le Koko: 10am-2pm

FRIDAY: Polynesian Creative Arts: 10am-2pm, Brownālfā Creative Lab: 4pm-8.30pm

SATURDAY (MONTHLY): Naitisian Fijian Mothers: 5pm-9pm

PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

KAI IKA. Bring cans to swap for free fish head and frames. Māngere Centre Park car park. Wednesdays & Fridays: 11.00am.

KOHA CAFE. Open Thursday, Friday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

FREE KAI @ MOANA NUI-A-KIWA

Every Wednesday 5.30pm. Ran by Life Community Kitchens. All welcome.

Community DIRECTORY

A COMPACT LIST FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY. CONTACT EDITOR@275TIMES.CO.NZ FOR ANY UPDATES

ADVOCACY

Auckland Action Against Poverty
Māori Wardens Office, Waddon Pl
advocates@aaap.org.nz

Citizens Advice Bureau Māngere
Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive
www.cab.org.nz | 09 275 6885
0800 367 222 | mangere@cab.org.nz

Communities Against Alcohol Harm
contact@communitiesagainstalcoholharm.co.nz

Māngere Law Centre
Shop 27, Mangere Town Centre
reception@mangerelaw.org.nz
https://communitylaw.org.nz/centre/
auckland/mangere/ Ph: 09 275 4310

MP for Māngere
Māngere Electorate Community
Office, Shop 9, 93 Bader Drive
Mangere@parliament.govt.nz

BUDGETING

Māngere Budgeting Services Trust
Shop 8B, Māngere Town Centre
appointments@mbst.org.nz
0508 222 283 | www.mbst.org.nz

Viola Budgeting
Māngere Baptist Church, Bader Dr
vpibs@vaiola.org | 09 256 9639
www.vaiola.org/contact.html

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Cook Islands Development Agency NZ
287 Kirkbride Road, admin@cidanz.co.nz
https://www.cidanz.co.nz

Maangere Mountain Education Centre
100 Coronation Road, Māngere
Email: info@mangeremountain.co.nz
Ph: 09 634 7305

Māngere Arts Centre
Cnr Bader Drive and Orly Avenue
mangereartscentre@aucklandcouncil.
govt.nz | 09 262 5789

Māngere East Community Centre
372 Massey Road | Ph: 09 275 6161
info@mangereeast.org
https://mangereeast.org

Māngere Bridge Library
5/7 Church Road | 09 377 0209

Māngere East Library
370 Massey Road | 09 377 0209

Māngere Town Centre Library
IG: @mtc_lib | 09 377 0209

Moana-Nui-A-Kiwa (Pools & Leisure)
66R Mascot Avenue | 09 275 8979
mangerepools@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ngatapuwaē Community Centre
phil.d@strive.org.nz | 09 275 4470

Old School Teaching Garden
299 Kirkbride Rd | https://
aucklandteachinggardens.co.nz/

Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae
141R Robertson Road, 027 256 1472
admin@pkm.org.nz | https://pkm.org.nz

Whare Koa Community House
141 Robertson Road | 09 379 2030
https://www.facebook.com/WhareKoa

COMMUNITY SAFETY

**Auckland Council Animal
Management Team (report dogs)**
Ph: 09 301 0101 | 0800 462 685

Neighbourhood Support Māngere
022 010 4707 | ns4mangere@gmail.com

**Neighbourhood Support Māngere
Bridge** | mangerebridgens@gmail.com

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Bader Health Care
09 275 8598 | info@bdhealthcare.co.nz

Turuki Healthcare
32 Canning Crescent | 0800 493 552
www.turukihealthcare.org.nz

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

LinkPeople
0800 932 432 | linkpeople.co.nz

Kāhui Tū Kaha
09 531 4040 | 0800 678 323
reception@kahuitukaha.co.nz

HOUSING SUPPORT

Monte Cecilia Housing Trust
30 Windrush Close, Māngere,
0800 624848.

Pacific Healthy Homes Initiative
(Support e.g. curtains, heating, insulation)
Cause Collective: 027 301 3326
thecausecollective.org.nz/contact-us
AWHI Healthy Homes Initiative:
referrals@awhi.co.nz or 0800 100642

Strive Community Trust
294A Massey Road, Māngere
Ph: 09 255 0144 | info@strive.org.nz

SUPPORT

**Fale Pasifika (Pacific Womens
Refuge)** Ph: 09 6220572
Crisis Line: 0800 733 843
admin@falepasifika.org.nz

I AM Mangere
027 348 9454 | www.iamhaponi.co.nz
connect@iamhaponi.co.nz

Māngere Work and Income
93 Mascot Ave Mangere
www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-
and-income/contact-us/index.html

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board
mangereotahuhulocalboard@
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz | 09 301 0101

Manukau Urban Marae Authority
Foodbank, Whānau Services + more
0800 686 232 | www.muma.co.nz

Martin Hautus Foundation Trust
0223920189 | talei@mhfoundationtrust.
org.nz | www.mhfoundationtrust.org.nz

Taime Pasifika Cancer Support
021 0248 5177 | https://taime.co.nz

**Te Oranga Kaumatua Kuia Disability
Support Services Trust**
64 Mascot ave | 09 255 5470
kingi.martin@teorangakk.org.nz

**Te Whanau Rangimarie (Women's
Refuge, Favona)** Ph: 09 275 1230
Free Phone: 0508 626 2254
Email: admin@twr.org.nz

WHĀNAU/AIGA SERVICES

Baderdrive Community Trust
Advocacy, Whanau Ora, Social
Services Support | Bdct.org.nz
09 254 4340 | info@bdct.org.nz

Barnados Aotearoa
33 Cape Road | Ph: 09 625 3600
auckland@barnardos.org.nz

B4Baby Breastfeeding Support
(Turuki Healthcare)
b4baby@thc.org.nz | 0800 242 229

Family Start (Turuki Healthcare)
Home visiting support service
familystart@thc.org.nz

Good Seed Trust
Strengthening families to thrive &
succeed | www.goodseedtrust.co.nz
info@goodseedtrust.co.nz

ME Family Services
ECE, social services, environment, &
more | mefsc@mefsc.org.nz
09 256 0810 | https://mefsc.org.nz

Ohomairangi Trust
Free parenting programmes
372 Massey Road, Māngere East
www.ohomairangi.co.nz
admin@ohomairangi.co.nz

Strive Community Trust:
- Family Service Centre Department
familycentre@strive.org.nz | 09 2573424
- KEYS – Youth Services Department
ysadmin@strive.org.nz | 0800 787 483