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EDITION #78

DEC/JAN 2025

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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



## MĀNGERE'S OPERA BROTHERS

The feature documentary *Tenor: My name is Pati* is set to hit the screens in the new year, featuring Māngere raised opera singing brothers Pene Pati (left) and Amitai Pati (right). Story on page 4.

**He kura te tangata**

Be part of the solution

Study Social Services  
[twoa.ac.nz/manaaki](http://twoa.ac.nz/manaaki)

Te Wānanga  
o Aotearoa The logo for Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, featuring a stylized 'A' shape inside a circle.

# EDITORIAL



Te Paea Memorial Marae reopening  
Photo: Zane Wedding

We would first like to congratulate Te Paea Memorial Marae in Māngere Bridge on its reopening after two and a half years of closure.

The reopening ceremony on 5 December also coincided with the marae's 60th anniversary, marked with a pōwhiri and community celebrations, with Te Arikirini Kuini also in attendance.

After months of major

refurbishment, the marae is once again ready to serve the community, continuing the legacy of its namesake, Te Paea Hērangi (Princess Te Paea).

As we reflect on the year that's been, we also want to acknowledge the incredible support that has helped Māngere's 275 Times continue to grow and thrive.

This financial year we printed and distributed 25,000 newspapers across Māngere, including Māngere Bridge, the Auckland Airport area, Māngere East, and even Middlemore Hospital (thanks to our volunteer Selwyn). We increased our page count from 8 to 16 and now have 47 distribution sites.

We would like to thank all our advertisers and sponsors, as well as the cafés and community spaces that allow us to host our stands.

Lastly, a huge thank you to our readers, for taking the time to read and support the stories of Māngere and its people.

Stay safe over the Christmas break, and we'll see you in the new year!



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## CONTENTS

3	Top 7 Budgeting Tips
4	Māngere's Opera Brothers
5	New Attendance Kaimahi
6	Spoken Word by Te Arawa
7	Māngere Bridge Santa Parade
8	Housing concern for Pasifika families
9	I MUST NOT SPEAK NIUEAN
10	Te Rito Ora 10 years
11	Te Ara-rata Stream Team
12	New dialysis resource
13	Eddie Jo Williams
14	Business Classifieds
15	What's on in Māngere
16	Community Directory

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL MP

**Talofa lava, warm pacific and festive season greetings. Labour recently announced a new policy to support doctors and nurse practitioners with low-interest loans to set up new practices or buy into existing ones.**

Christopher Luxon promised to make the cost of living better, instead he's made it worse. Nearly 650,000 New Zealanders cannot afford to see their local doctor when they need to.

Labour's new Family Doctor Loan Scheme will provide up to 50 loans per year, prioritising areas that have no GP practices. We are focused on what matters most – ensuring healthcare is there where you need it, when you need it.



Your voice matters, for you and your family."

Times have been tough, and we acknowledge you've had to be resilient. Rest assured, Labour is focused on real action on cost of living – to make life better for you and your loved ones.

Māngere Electorate office will be closed from Monday 22 December 2025 to reopen Monday 12 January 2026. Please direct your queries to the staff on 09-2731150 or email [Mangere@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Mangere@parliament.govt.nz).

Manua tele  
Lemauga Lydia Sosene  
MP Māngere

Approved by Lemauga Lydia Sosene  
MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Funded by Parliamentary Service  
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# TOP 7 BUDGETING TIPS FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WITH MĀNGERE BUDGETING SERVICES TRUST

Seven simple tips to help reduce stress, save money, and enjoy the holidays together.



## 1. SET A BUDGET

Decide how much you can realistically spend in total.  
e.g. gifts + food + travel.

## 2. AVOID BNPL

Try to avoid Buy-Now-Pay-Later where possible.  
If you do, set a repayment plan and stick to it.



## 3. POTLUCK MEALS

Everyone helps! If you are the host, get your whānau to bring:

- a dish
- a dessert
- drinks
- snacks



## 4. FOUR-GIFT RULE

Try kids gifts around:

- Something they want
- Something they need
- Something to wear
- Something to read
- Simplifies choices and keeps spending focused



## 5. USE YOUR PANTRY FIRST

Before buying ingredients for your Christmas meal:

- Look at what you already have
- Build your menu on existing items
- Buy what you are missing

## 6. TALK WITH WHĀNAU

Set expectations early:

- Set budget on gifts
- Secret Santa instead of gifts for everyone
- Bring a plate or
- Kids-only gifts



## 7. START PLANNING AHEAD

- You can start a weekly/fortnightly savings pot
- Buy gifts through the year
- Keep a simple checklist of who you will buy for



 Māngere Budgeting Services Trust  
Budgeting • Family Support • Housing Advocacy • Food Relief



 Eveni PACIFIC

# MĀNGERE'S OPERA BROTHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

TWO BROTHERS. ONE DREAM

## TENOR X MY NAME IS PATI



**The remarkable story of how two Samoan brothers from Māngere took their singing talents from modest church halls in South Auckland to grand opera houses around the world will soon be hitting movie screens.**

The film *Tenor: My Name is Pati*, which premieres on March 5, traces the journey of Pene and Amitai Pati from their humble beginnings to forming Sol3 Mio alongside baritone Moses Mackay, to going on to perform at some of the world's most iconic music venues.

It also dives into the solo careers of the pair following their platinum-selling success with Sol3 Mio. Pene is now considered one of the world's leading tenors - and has even been favourably compared to Luciano Pavarotti - having been named Best Male Singer at the Opera Critics' Awards and Opera Magazine Readers' Award at the International Opera Awards. While Amitai, who began his solo career in 2022, is quickly drawing critical acclaim for a string of performances at the Opéra National de Paris, Deutsche Oper Berlin,

Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, following his graduation from the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco.

The documentary is described as a tale of faith, family and determination and is directed by award-winning

"When Rebecca first approached us I thought, 'why would anyone make a film about us?' But as production went on I realised how much has happened since Amitai and I started - the obstacles, the tests, the doubts, the tears, and ultimately, the success.

"Our journey wasn't easy or obvious, but if it sparks someone else to chase their own dreams, then that's the real win."

The movie traverses seven countries, including Samoa, and takes audiences behind the curtain at some of the world's greatest opera houses, capturing rare moments between the brothers and their family, and features never-before-seen home footage filmed by their sister Torres Pati. But Tansley says it's more than a story about opera singers.

"It's about family and culture, and a beautiful testament to the transformative power of music - of all kinds. It was a privilege to be able to make this film, to access some incredible places, and to get to know not just Pene and Amitai but their aiga."

***Tenor: My Name is Pati* will be released in cinemas across Aotearoa on March 5, 2026.**

**"OUR JOURNEY  
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filmmaker Rebecca Tansley. But when the idea of a film was first pitched to Pene, he was unsure it was a story worth telling.

"I didn't think our story was remarkable," he says.

# BACK TO SCHOOL: ME FAMILY SERVICES INTRODUCE NEW ATTENDANCE KAIMAHI

Following COVID-19, school attendance became a nationwide challenge across Aotearoa. While the long lockdowns may feel like a distant memory for some, many families in Māngere are still struggling to get their children to school consistently. That ongoing challenge is now set to receive extra support, with the introduction of Attendance Kaimahi who will work closely with local schools through a new service run by ME Family Services, an initiative of the Ministry of Education.

The charity's chief executive Carole Tana-Tepania says her organisation's well-known holistic approach, as well as their deep knowledge of the community means they can really tackle this challenge.

"We understand that getting a child or young person to school is not just about the student, it's about the wellbeing of the whole family and their connection to the community," says Carole.

"We want to work with families to identify and resolve underlying causes and where appropriate we will offer alternative ways for young people to connect, build confidence, and gain a sense of purpose to improve attendance."

And she's confident that with the community's support this new service can make a real difference.

"Together, we can ensure every child in Māngere



Attendance Kaimahi pictured. Back row (L-R): names...Priscilla Waller Subritzky, Lafaele Pereira, Serena Rorani-Ah To, Anthony Kavana. Front row (L-R): Anika Channa (Manager), Lillie Refiti, May Ngatuakana. Absent: Wiremu Melbourne-Reedy, Ashley Tonga

has regular attendance and the opportunity to thrive in education. So look out for future updates as we launch this vital service in 2026."

## MĀORI MUSICIAN'S REO MĀORI JOURNEY LEADS TO WĀNANGA KAIAKO ROLE

Musician and kaiako, Jordyn Rapana, also known as Jordyn with a Why, began her reo Māori journey with her husband, Thomas Rapana (Ngāpuhi), during her pregnancy with their eldest child. Their goal was to raise their tamariki in a Māori-speaking home.

"Iahau e hapū ana, i te whakaaro māua ko taku tāne, you know what, kei te hiahia māua kia tupu Māori mai ngā tamariki," says Jordyn.

Growing up in South Auckland with Samoan heritage on her mum's side, Jordyn's upbringing was heavily influenced by Samoan culture, while her connection to her Māori heritage on her dad's side (Tainui a Whiro and Ngāti Koata ki Whaingaroa) remained dormant.

When the couple started their own whānau in 2017, they shared a desire to ensure their tamariki felt a strong connection to their Māori whakapapa. Their commitment to this accelerated in 2019 when they enrolled in Te



Wānanga Takiura in Auckland for a year of learning reo Māori via total immersion.

Soon after this they enrolled at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and completed Te Aupikitanga ki te Reo Kairangi Level 6 at the Māngere campus. Jordyn's brother and sister-in-law joined them on their reo Māori journey, allowing them to grow their learning

(sponsored content)

environment and expand their reo speaking community.

The transition to speaking Māori at home has been challenging. While their tamariki adapted quickly, making te reo Māori the primary language amongst adults has proven to be more difficult.

"Kei te huri tonu te reo Māori hei reo mātāmua i waenganui i a mātou, i ngā pakeke, to be honest, nā te mea ko te reo Pākehā te reo tūtakitaki," she says.

Jordyn admits that learning te reo hasn't been easy for her and her partner, but her tamariki and the desire to honour her dad, were significant motivators.

For those wanting to learn te reo Māori and make it a part of their daily life, Jordyn says, "don't be mistaken, acquiring the language is a life-long journey. So do the mahi now so that your kids don't have to do it."



Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

# BETWEEN SKIN AND WHAKAPAPA

## SPOKEN WORD BY TE ARAWA MCIVOR

I look in the mirror, and the world tells me a story that doesn't belong to me. Pale skin, light hair, features that don't match the lines of my whakapapa. They see white, they don't see the river that runs in my veins, the whenua buried in my bones, the tūpuna standing quietly at my back.

I say, Ko wai au? But my tongue feels heavy. My reo stumbles, my heart aches.

People ask, "Oh, you're Māori? You don't look it." Like whakapapa is a shade card, like bloodlines are visible under shop lighting.

It's hard to feel proud when your proof is questioned every time you speak. When you're told you're not "Māori enough" by strangers, sometimes even by your own.

Like my skin is a locked door between me and the marae, and I'm still searching for the key.

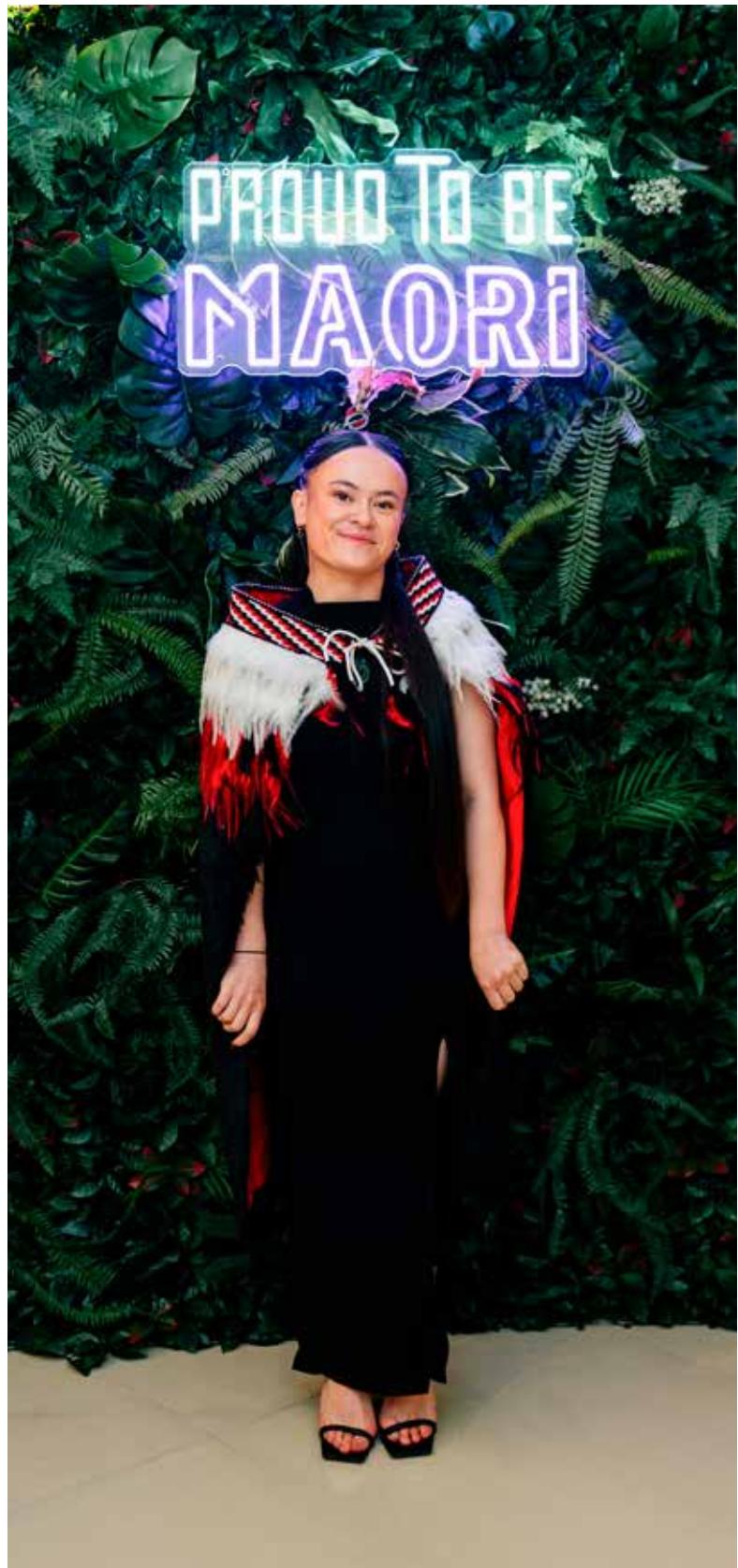
But I know the truth. My tūpuna didn't fight for my right to look the part, they fought for my right to be. To stand in this body, and still carry their names, their stories, & their mana.

Being Māori isn't something you wear. It's something you live. It's the way you stand when the karanga calls, the way your spine straightens when you hear the haka, and the way you feel the pull of the land beneath your feet, even if the world doesn't see it.

So, me, I will walk in both worlds. White skin, Māori blood. A bridge between what is seen and what is known.

And one day, when my voice stops shaking, I will speak my whakapapa with my chest, loud enough for my tūpuna to hear it, loud enough for the doubters to fall silent. Because I am Māori. And no shade of skin will ever change that.

*Submitted by Te Arawa McIvor, a 2025 student at Hāpai Tūhono. <https://hapaituhono.co.nz/>*



# A CHRISTMAS TRADITION: SANTA PARADE BRINGS MĀNGERE BRIDGE TOGETHER



**Māngere Bridge was once again buzzing with festive fun as Santa Claus and a range of local organisations, schools, musicians, and community leaders marched down Coronation Road and through the village on December 4.**

The Santa Parade, which drew massive crowds down both sides of the street, as well as packed out Naomi and Bill Kirk Park, has been attracting families from around the area for over 25 years and was another huge success - helped in part by the stunning summer weather.

The event also featured circus rides, food stalls, face-painting and a live DJ, which was all pulled off thanks to event organiser and Māngere Bridge Village manager Kate Adams (pictured

above inset) and her team.

She says one of her biggest highlights is seeing the reaction to the main star of the event: Santa Claus.

"The excitement on the kids' faces when they see Santa coming down always makes it feel super rewarding."

This was Kate's 11th year running the parade and she paid credit to funders and community organisations for making it such a memorable time for all.

"Funding this is always hard, but we are fortunate enough to have some great funders like the Māngere Market trust, Four Winds, the Local Board and local businesses.

"Also all our great helpers and suppliers who come on board to make the event run so smoothly. Friends of the Farm are also a huge help with helping with bin stations and waste management."

Kate says the event is also an

important way to highlight what makes the area so special.

"It's such a great family event and it's nice to see all the local kids from Māngere Bridge and surrounding areas in the parade. It also attracts a lot of visitors from neighbouring suburbs and showcases how great Māngere Bridge is."

**"IT'S SUCH A  
GREAT FAMILY  
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BRIDGE IS."**

# PACIFIC FAMILIES STILL SHUT OUT AS RENTAL PRICES COOL ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Auckland Action Against Poverty's Agnes Magele (left) and Brooke Pao Stanley (right)

*By Aui'a Vaimaila Leatinu'u*  
**A third of new tenants are paying less rent this year, but a housing advocate warns Pasifika whānau face rising costs, unstable tenancies, and ongoing discrimination.**

At least one third of new tenants have reported paying lower rents this year, but a Pacific advocate warns this relief is not reaching many low-income families.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports that 30 per cent of new tenancies since January have had lower weekly rents compared to the previous tenants, using a sample of about 33000 homes.

The Ministry attributes this cooling in the rental market to reduced construction demand and slowing migration. The HUD Rental Price Index shows that nationwide rents were 0.1 per cent lower in July compared to the

same period last year. In Auckland and Wellington, rents have decreased by about two per cent over the past year, with many landlords cutting prices to secure tenants.

But Agnes Magele, the coordinator for Auckland Action Against Poverty (AAAP), which has an office next to the Māngere Town Centre, says the relief is not benefiting many low-income Pacific families.

She says rents are still around 25 per cent higher than they were before the Covid-19 pandemic, creating more challenges. Magele says the situation is compounded by rules that allow landlords to increase rents once every 12 months, as long as they give tenants at least 60 days' written notice.

"They can also end the tenancies with the no-cause eviction. That means that families are still facing huge increases in rent, but also

unstable housing. So there's no protection really there for our Pasifika aiga [families]."

Magele says low income, high competition for housing and discrimination continue to lock Pacific families out of the market. For example, she explains that a family of four, with one parent earning \$30 an hour, could be paying \$670 a week in rent, leaving them with about \$380 for all other expenses.

"The reality is they're not even able to afford their bills. More than half of the income is going on rent, and they're still struggling. For a lot of our Pasifika aiga as well, one of the barriers is also discrimination. If you have bad credit, our Pasifika aiga are likely not going to get looked at.

"They can have low income, and they're applying for a rental property, and say, for example, there's another family who earns a little bit more than them, our Pasifika aiga are never going to get looked at in terms of getting into that private rental."

Magele says many Pasifika families struggle to find stable long-term rentals. She says even when they find a place, landlords can terminate periodic tenancies with 90 days' notice, sometimes with no justification, leaving families feeling insecure and unable to plan for the future. Magele reports there's also been an increased demand for support from AAAP.

"There's a huge need for advocacy out there," she says. "Housing is a human right, and our whānau should be able to get safe, stable and long-term housing that suits their needs."

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Email: [editor@275times.co.nz](mailto:editor@275times.co.nz) to find out more

# THE GENERATION REFUSING TO LOSE VAGAHAU NIUE



Photo: Anric Sitanilei



Left: A scene from the play at the Māngere Arts Centre. Top Right: Leki Jackson-Bourke at the premiere of the play. Bottom Right: Production poster - 'I MUST NOT SPEAK NIUEAN' featuring Haanz Fa'avae Jackson

By Susnation Seta

## A new theatre work confronts the silence around Niuean language loss and a new generation ready to break it.

For many young Niueans in Aotearoa, the question "What does it mean to be Niuean?" carries both pride and heartbreak.

It is a feeling shaped by a history their parents rarely talk about - a history where thousands of Niuean children were punished for speaking their own language.

Now, two Niuean creatives are bringing that truth to the stage.

Māngere local playwright Leki Jackson-Bourke and award-winning actor Haanz Fa'avae Jackson are leading a new creative project that confronts the painful legacy of colonial schooling.

In an interview with PMN Niue, the pair say it's time to break the silence that has influenced Niuean families for decades.

"Vagahau Niue is so important to us because we didn't grow up in Niue," Jackson-Bourke says.

"Those of us who were born in New Zealand are longing for a connection back to Niue, and the main connection that we have is the language."

Their play, *I must not speak Niuean*,

is the result of an eight-year journey.

Jackson-Bourke says he held off releasing it because the subject was so sensitive for older Niueans, many of whom still find it too painful to talk about.

"I kept it for about three years, and then Covid hit, and now it's time to bring it out," Jackson-Bourke says.

From the 1970s through to the 1980s, Niue's education system, like many across the Pacific, followed a colonial model where English was seen as the key opportunity. Speaking Niuean at school could result in punishment.

Tifaole Ioane, chairperson of the Niuean Language Commission, previously told RNZ shared how she was forced to write "I must not speak Niuean" over and over as a child.

"In my own time, you know, having gone to school here, I can remember having to be punished for speaking Niuean and having to write lines 'I must not speak Niuean. I must not speak Niuean'."

That silence didn't end in the classroom. It followed families to New Zealand. It shaped how children were raised, how identity was spoken about and how it wasn't.

Jackson-Bourke says the silence explains why so many young Niueans today cannot speak their language.

"It might be triggering and confronting for some people, but if we don't talk about it, it just gets swept

under the rug like everything else. "We're not trying to say one way is right or one way is wrong.

"We're just trying to shine light on what happened and where we can problem-solve for the future."

Fa'avae-Jackson, recently named Creative New Zealand's Emerging Pasifika Artist of the Year, says the show is not about blaming previous generations but about reconnecting them.

For Fa'avae-Jackson, performing as a Niuean on stage brings both responsibility and pride.

"It's always a special moment to be kissed by a Niuean person, on a performance stage."

*I Must Not Speak Niuean* was performed at the Māngere Arts Centre on 12 and 13 December.

More than a theatre piece, it is a moment of cultural resistance, a chance for Niueans to reclaim what was almost lost, and for younger generations today: we know who we are, and we're taking our language back.

Jackson-Bourke hopes the work helps families start conversations they've held inside for too long.

"It's time to open it up, heal, and move forward together."

Watch the full interview on PMN Niue's Facebook page.

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# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TE RITO ORA BREASTFEEDING SERVICES



For the past 10 years, Te Rito Ora has been funded to deliver breastfeeding and infant nutrition services to the maamāa and whāanau of Counties Manukau. The team is thrilled to announce that as of October 2025, Te Rito Ora became

a permanent member of the Counties Manukau whāanau.

Now a trusted name in the community, Te Rito Ora's success was built on answering a need in the community and building strong partnerships. This

is reflected in results showing that families enrolled with Te Rito Ora consistently achieve higher breastfeeding continuation rates than the national average.

Jenny Lester, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Lactation Consultant, tells us that the team is looking forward to the future.

"It means we can securely continue the work we do, providing continuous care for maamāa, whāanau, community, and health professionals, and plan for the future with confidence. "Being made permanent is more than just funding security. It's recognition of the trust we've built with our community, the outcomes we've achieved,

and the importance of keeping this kaupapa strong for the next generation of maamāa and peepi," she says.

Together, the team of five dedicated kaimahi, which includes Lactation Consultants and Kaitipu Ora Community Breastfeeding and Nutrition Advisors, supports around 3,000 clients each year and this continues to grow.

In this last year alone, Te Rito Ora provided 3,255 home visits as well as phone and text support, virtual consultations.

*If you have friends who need support with breastfeeding or infant nutrition, email [teritoora@middlemore.co.nz](mailto:teritoora@middlemore.co.nz).*

## A LEGACY OF CULTURE AND QUALITY

(sponsored content)

You may have seen their stunning elei shirts or puletasi's worn around town but Eveni Pacific is more than just a business creating stylish fashions.

It is a 96-year-old family enterprise deeply interwoven into the fabric of the Pacific community. The story began nearly a century ago as a general merchant store in Samoa, before evolving into a clothing brand that stands for authenticity, high quality, and unwavering community values.

Lauren Blakelock-Toma helps run Eveni Pacific's flagship store in the Auckland Airport Shopping Centre, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary. She is also a descendant of Irving "Eveni" Carruthers, who founded the business in 1929.

She says being able to

carry on the family legacy is something she is "very proud to be a part of".

"Going forward, our goal is really just to spread the word here in New Zealand, as we're already very well known back in Samoa," she says.

"We want to grow as much as we can while still keeping to our core values - being committed to service and honouring our community ties and Samoan heritage in everything we do."

The brand offers a unique product designed and made in Samoa, distinguished by authentic Samoan prints and high-quality materials. This commitment to craftsmanship ensures customers receive beautiful items that also hold genuine cultural value, positioning Eveni Pacific as one of the



Laaui Hansell (left) and Lauren Blakelock-Toma (right)

premium brands in Samoan fashion.

But Eveni Pacific's commitment to family and culture goes beyond its retail stores. This year they participated in the 2025 New Zealand Fashion Week along with other designers under the umbrella of the Pacific Fusion Fashion Show. They have also

sponsored and supported the Tokelauan community through its Tokelau Royale Winter Ball in July. And they also sponsor numerous sporting events and teams, including Toa Samoa, Manu Samoa, Manusina, the Pasifika Youth Cup and the Auckland Samoa RFU 2025 competition for both 15s and 7s."

# TE ARA-RATA STREAM TEAM COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE JOURNEY

Contributed by the Stream Team

Te Ara-rata Stream Team (TST) has been recognised as trusty voice for stream side residents for te taiao and tangata.

This is the second year Auckland Council Healthy Waters has funded the group's Community Flood Resilience work, as the effects of the January 2023 floods continue to be felt across the community. While no lives were lost, a number of our older residents experienced a decline in health.

Alongside regular stream health monitoring, TST rolled out a series of projects aimed at helping residents better understand flooding and prepare for future events. While climate change and sea level rise are beyond local control, the team believes communities can still reduce risk by changing behaviours, sharing knowledge, and learning from past floods.

Funding was confirmed later than expected, which meant the team missed valuable summer engagement time and worked unpaid in the early months. Despite this, TST's work was driven by a committed group of volunteers, guided by Kuia Julia Tu'ineau, Treasurer Trevor Wilson, and Stream Champion Maurice. Education and science lead Pragna stepped into the role of Community Flood Resilience Coordinator, supported by new Administrator Etina, a recent Environmental Science graduate. Town Planning graduate Deon Dean has also been trained to help carry the work into 2026.

Support from local organisations played an important role, with labour provided by groups including the Church of the Latter-day Saints Missionary Division. TST says reducing waste through education and growing local involvement will be a focus next year.

One of the key projects, Let it Flow, helped residents understand overland flow paths and how unsecured items can become dangerous during flooding. The project also addressed widespread confusion about stormwater and wastewater. Auckland Council manages public stormwater systems,



The stream team at the new bike path opening



Testing and education



Planting and monitoring



Māngere College students



LDS missionary volunteers set to do some stream clearing

while homeowners and landlords are responsible for infrastructure on private property. Simple actions, such as keeping gutters clear, can make a significant difference.

Surveys also revealed many residents were unaware that oil and wet wipes should never go down drains, as they cause major blockages.

**"WHILE CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE ARE BEYOND LOCAL CONTROL, THE TEAM BELIEVES COMMUNITIES CAN STILL REDUCE RISK BY CHANGING BEHAVIOURS, SHARING KNOWLEDGE, AND LEARNING FROM PAST FLOODS."**

Other initiatives, including Stream Sleuths and Crazy Catchpits, reinforced these messages while improving stream health. Drain protectors were installed to prevent contaminants entering waterways, supported by chalk stencil messages

around the neighbourhood reminding people that "Only Rain Down the Drain".

Door-to-door engagement was introduced through a project called Kōrero Mai Tangata, although work briefly paused after a dog-bite incident required new safety planning.

A highlight of the year was a well-attended hikoi delivered in partnership with Triple Teez. A video of the event, produced by local media group 5Rings Media, will be released soon. Planning has also begun on Flood Pou signage that would share water-level information and local stream stories.

Matariki remained a cornerstone of the group's calendar, with five planting days and ten clean-ups held throughout the year. New flags now fly at the Elmdon Envirohub, where TST is based. The team has also announced plans for a multilingual youth speech competition in 2026 and says community engagement, both online and on the ground, continues to grow.

**Head to their facebook group Te Ararata Stream Team for more info.**

# 'IT'S HOMELIER THAN A HOSPITAL':

## HOW A NEW DIALYSIS MODEL IS SAVING LIVES



From left: William Ropata, Kidney Society chief executive Kath Eastwood, Sally Fox from Te Whatu Ora, client Mama Francis, Savele 'Fitz' Refiti, and Jenny Ili at the 21-year celebration at Wallace House, Māngere East.

By Mary Afemata

### A partnership between Health NZ and The Kidney Society is reshaping care by bringing treatment into communities.

A world-first South Auckland dialysis model is being praised for saving lives, restoring dignity, and easing pressure on Middlemore Hospital, but its future growth depends on government backing.

More than 235 South Aucklanders have already been helped by dialysing close to home instead of travelling to hospital.

The Kidney Society's (TKS) three community dialysis houses have proved so successful that Te Whatu Ora is considering opening a fourth.

But the number needing help is expected to grow, with the dialysis population forecast to increase by about 30 per cent in the next

decade.

The three TKS facilities, run in partnership with Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau, allow trained patients to manage their own dialysis at flexible hours, typically three to five times a week.

Dr Chris Hood, clinical director of medicine at Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau, say the facilities are meeting current demand but will soon need to expand.

"They're not full. They're filling up. So we're thinking about getting a fourth."

Last month, TKS hosted a community celebration marking 21 years of its dialysis houses.

Savele 'Fitz' Refiti, who began dialysis in 2014, says the flexible hours changed his life.

"With these houses you get flexibility ... you could come at



William Ropata and Jenny Ili cut the 21-year celebration cake.

midnight or 10 o'clock ... and then in the morning you can go to work," he says. "It just feels homelier than a hospital."

Hood says the houses were designed for patients who can safely manage treatment after a short training period.

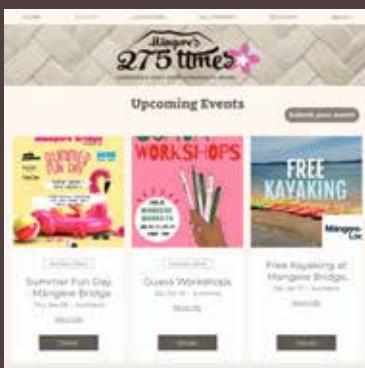
"It takes somewhere between eight and 12 weeks to train somebody to do their dialysis," he says.

South Auckland remains the only region with three dedicated community houses run in partnership with Te Whatu Ora.

"Hospitals can't really do that ... but if we team up with a charity, then the charity might be able to provide the facility."

"This was a world first when it happened," Hood says of the model's success.

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## 275 TIMES EVENTS

### Stay up to date with all things Māngere!

Check out our events calendar at [www.275times.com/events](http://www.275times.com/events) to find all the latest events happening in Māngere.

Got an event of your own? It's easy to add it! Just head to the calendar on our website, Click on 'Submit

your event' and fill out the form with details of your event. Once submitted, your event will be reviewed and uploaded. Or, if you'd prefer, simply email the details to us at [editor@275times.co.nz](mailto:editor@275times.co.nz) and we'll add it for you. Let's keep Māngere connected.

# ‘BIG EDDIE’: THE SĀMOAN STRONGMAN USING FAITH TO LIFT HIS COMMUNITY

By Aui'a Vaimaila Leatinu'u  
**From Māngere to the world stage, the top Australian strongman says his upbringing and faith drive him to inspire others through strength, music, and humility.**

Eddie Jo Williams, known globally as “Big Eddie”, says faith and community have guided his journey from a Sāmoan family home in Māngere to competing among the world’s strongest men.

Williams is a two-time Australia’s Strongest Man winner and a competitor in the World’s Strongest Man competition. Based in Adelaide, South Australia, he is recognised as one of the world’s top strongmen.

Speaking with *Pacific Huddle* host Tuilagi William Leolahi, Williams says he first discovered the sport of strongman while trying to get fit after his rugby days. But he says he initially felt out of place in the gym because “no one [looked] like me”.

“A friend of mine told me about strongman. I looked into it and I was like, ‘whoa, those dudes look like me and they’re doing things that I can do myself’,” Williams says.

He says being the “go-to” person for helping family and friends move houses, which made the strongman sport a natural fit for him. But he adds there is a lack of Pacific participants in the sport.

“I did my first competition and I ended up winning it. I was



Eddie Williams was part of Netflix's 'Physical: 100 Asia' (source: Facebook)



Eddie Williams on a Mr Beast YouTube video: '100 Kids Vs World's Strongest Man!'

like, ‘okay, if I can win my first competition with no training, no experience, imagine what I can do if I apply myself and learn the techniques?’”

That victory set him on a path that led him being crowned Australia’s Strongest Man in 2017 and 2018. Williams recently participated in a YouTube video with social media star MrBeast, which has racked up over 111 million views since it was posted two weeks ago.

“So Mr Beast was really cool. I was over at a competition and then we got asked to do a video with him. My kids love him to bits, they love his content. Again, another God moment. [God] makes room for you at tables that you feel like you don’t deserve.”

Earlier this year, Williams was a contestant on Netflix’s *Physical: 100 Asia*, where he represented Australia and showcased his

strength and character in the pan-Asian competition series. The 190kg athlete is also a trained singer who performed at weddings for 10 years before fully committing to professional strength sports.

His musical performances at international strongman events, including singing at the Royal Albert Hall during the Strongman Classic, have earned him a unique reputation in the sport.

Williams says his strength and success come from God, describing his faith as central to surviving the sport’s challenges.

“God revealing that, ‘I’ve made you strong for a reason but I’ve also made you gentle and caring’, all the stuff that doesn’t normally come with being an alpha. Breaking cycles, breaking generational curses that have always hovered over our people.”

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# MĀNGERE BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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

## Outrigger Ventures

Team building waka ama experience on the Manukau Harbour. Ph: +64 210 330 884  
<https://outriggerventures.co.nz/>

## Hands On Massage Therapy

Māngere Bridge. Kezia Siakimotu. IG @itskeziahands\_on. Book via <https://linktr.ee/itskeziahandsong>  
Email: keziasiakimotu@gmail.com

## Midas Onehunga

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

## Uncommon Print & Supply

Custom T-shirt printing & more  
1/203 Kirkbride Rd, email [uncommonprintandsupply@gmail.com](mailto:uncommonprintandsupply@gmail.com)

## Five Rings Videography

Filmmaking, Videography & Photography. Email:  
[thomas.mosby@outlook.com](mailto:thomas.mosby@outlook.com),  
Instagram: @5\_rings\_films

## Emz Pineapple Pies & Desserts

Available at Nesian Collective Shop, Māngere Town Centre  
[emzpineapplepies@gmail.com](mailto:emzpineapplepies@gmail.com)

## Cleean.co

Cleaning Service  
Email: [Cle3an.co@gmail.com](mailto:Cle3an.co@gmail.com)  
Ph: 021 164 8920

## Mark Swords Electrical

Fully registered Master Electricians  
Ph: 027 275 0097  
Email: [mse.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:mse.ltd@gmail.com)  
<https://mseltd.co.nz>

## Aunty Enahs Hangis

Food - Unique Hangis  
Email: [Auntyenaskai@gmail.com](mailto:Auntyenaskai@gmail.com)  
Ph: 022 373 9141  
FB: Aunty enahs Kai  
IG: [aunty\\_enags\\_hangis](https://www.instagram.com/aunty_enags_hangis)

## Takoha Ora Barbers

91 Mangere Road Otahuhu  
Email: [Admin@takohaora.com](mailto:Admin@takohaora.com)  
Ph: 0273431436  
IG: [@takohaorabarbers](https://www.instagram.com/takohaorabarbers)

## Alliance Electrical

Electrical services  
[info@allianceelectrical.co.nz](mailto:info@allianceelectrical.co.nz)  
Ph: 027 414 1718  
FB: Alliance Electrical

## MĀNGERE TOWN CENTRE

Ph: 09 275 7078  
[office@mangeretowncentre.nz](mailto:office@mangeretowncentre.nz)  
[www.mangeretowncentre.nz](http://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	022 421 0957
Māngere Budgeting Services Trust	0508 22 22 83
Māngere Dental Centre	09 275 7754

## Aunty Enahs Hangis

Food - Unique Hangis  
Email: [auntyenaskai@gmail.com](mailto:auntyenaskai@gmail.com)  
Ph: 022 373 9141

## Facade by Sade LTD

Cosmetic teeth whitening & Nifo koula  
Email: [Facadebysade@gmail.com](mailto:Facadebysade@gmail.com)  
Ph: 02904503518  
IG: [@facadebysade](https://www.instagram.com/@facadebysade)

## Remnant Brothers Tree Experts Ltd

[remnantbrothersltd@gmail.com](mailto:remnantbrothersltd@gmail.com)  
Ph: 2108495876  
IG/FB: [@remnantbros\\_treexperts](https://www.instagram.com/remnantbros_treexperts)

## Precision Lawn Care

Lawn mowing & landscaping  
Email: [info@precisionlawn.co.nz](mailto:info@precisionlawn.co.nz)  
Ph: 022 042 1516 IG: [cprecisionlawn](https://www.instagram.com/cprecisionlawn)  
Fb: Precision lawn care

## MĀNGERE BRIDGE VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Ph: 021 776 139  
[info@mangerebridgevillage.co.nz](mailto:info@mangerebridgevillage.co.nz)  
[www.mangerebridgevillage.co.nz](http://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

## 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 Laudromat Shop 27

## LAWYERS

Mason and Mortimer 09 2960037

## REAL ESTATE

Ray White 09 6369992

## 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

## GUAVA WORKSHOPS

### FREE SUMMER GUAVA WORKSHOP SERIES

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 10am-1pm at the Māngere Markets. Follow @guava\_collective for more.

### MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE

**Exhibition: 8 [Contemporary] Cook Islands Artists.** 13 December 2025 - 14 February 2026.

**COLLAGE WORKSHOP** – Saturday 17 January, 11am – 1pm. FREE

Create with the exhibiting artists in a hands-on collage.

**PANEL TALK** – Saturday 14 February, 11am.

### FABRIC FLOWER MAKING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 14 January 2026. The Re-Creators are coming to Māngere East Library for a fun Fabric Flower making workshop.

### MOANA NUI-A-KIWA POOLS

The outdoor pools will be open from 6 December 2025 until the end of February 2026.



The MĀNGERE STYLES COMP is an OFFICIAL QUALIFIER for the 2026 Z Manu World Champs!

Competitions begins, Saturday 10 January at Moana Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre. Grand Finals are the Moana Auckland Festival, on Saturday 14 March 2026.

### SUMMER FUN DAY AT MĀNGERE BRIDGE

Thursday January 8 and Friday January 9, 2026 at the Māngere Memorial Hall. Family friendly event with DJ music, bouncy castles, face painting and a variety of food and beverage vendors.

### FREE KAYAKING AT MĀNGERE BOATING CLUB

Saturday 17 January 2026. Free kayaking experience, 32A Kiwi Esplanade. Tickets available on 2nd January at [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

### MĀNGERE EAST CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday 7 March in the Māngere East Village Green and Library. Save the date!

### FREE XTREME-HIP HOP

Free step classes every Wednesday at the Māngere Town Centre (Zumba Stage) with Phatboifit.

### MĀNGERE BIKEFIT

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

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

### MURA MURA ĀTEA: CREATIVE EMPOWERMENT SPACE

Free Woodblock carving workshops, Wed 10am-12pm, Thur 1pm-3pm. 68d Tidal Rd. Mike - 021 262 7087

### BOXFIT (WITH PONO BOXFIT)

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

### TURUKI HEALTHCARE

Head to [www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings](http://www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings) for an amazing range of community classes & workshops:

**Low Carb Cooking Class, Romirohi, Walk & Talk, Maramataka, Art Therapy, Raranga Hauora.**

MUST BOOK - [jcannons@thc.org.nz](mailto:jcannons@thc.org.nz) [https://www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings](http://www.turukihealthcare.org.nz/bookings)

### PORTAGE CROSSING WAKA AMA - FREE SESSIONS

Try out Waka Ama for FREE, every Sunday 10am at the Māngere Bridge Boat Ramp.

Email [portagecrossing@gmail.com](mailto:portagecrossing@gmail.com).

### MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Last day 2025:** Friday, December 19

**Reopen 2026:** Monday, January 12

Before & After School Care & Holiday Programmes.

### FREE CLASSES

**Mondays:** Te Reo Māori (10am-12pm & 6pm-8pm), Pono BoxFit Classes (6pm-7pm)

**Tuesdays:** Sewing for beginners (10am-1pm), Te Reo Māori (12.30pm-2pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm)

**Wednesdays:** Law in a nutshell (6pm-8pm), Te Reo Māori (6pm-8pm), Zumba (6.30pm)

**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)

### REGISTER TODAY:

[www.mangereeast.org](http://www.mangereeast.org)  
[info@mangereeast.org](mailto: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 Ukulele: 10am-12pm, Fale Pasifika Parenting Programme 1pm-3pm

**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, Brownālfa 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.

### 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, Māngere 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

## Ngatapuuae 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.iamhapori.co.nz  
connect@iamhapori.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@

auklandcouncil.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

### Barnados Aotearoa

33 Cape Road | Ph: 09 625 3600  
aukland@barnardos.org.nz

### B4Baby Breastfeeding Support (Turuki Healthcare)

b4baby@thc.org.nz | 0800 242 229

### Family Start (Turuki Healthcare)

Home visiting service designed to support whāanau facing challenges  
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

### Victim Support

0800 VICTIM – 0800 842 846  
contactservice@victimsupport.org.nz