

# Māngere's 275 times

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

## POLYFEST 2024 'CARRYING MY VILLAGE'S NAMES WITH PRIDE'



Southern Cross Campus Tongan group



Māngere College Samoan group with Head Girl Tulei Salu as Taupou, centre



Southern Cross Campus Cook Islands group



Māngere College Niuean group



Māngere College Kapa Haka roopu

The 2024 ASB Polyfest was another vibrant celebration of culture and identity for Māngere's young people. Southern Cross Campus Deputy Head Girl Josie Poa, says it gave her the chance to show pride in her community and her heritage. "I'm wholeheartedly grateful to represent the Samoan stage because it felt like I was being

watched by my ancestors and carrying my village's names with pride." While Māngere College Head Girl Tulei Salu cherished the opportunity to hold the Taupou role in her Samoan group, particularly the importance of being "graceful and calm" in her performance. "It was a big role for me, you know. I had to step up and just

do really well for my school." Salu also reiterated the importance of Polyfest to her and her peers' development. "It is a way for students to connect back to their ancestors and mother tongue and so it is really important that we continue this tradition." And leaders from our local schools affirmed the value this festival plays for pupils. Maila

Alatasi, Southern Cross Director of College highlighted that "the joy and pride in the faces of our rangatahi" shows why it's invaluable they participate, while Māngere College's Acting Principal Jonathan Hardy said: "Our students performed exceptionally and represented our school with pride." **Head to our website [www.275times.com](http://www.275times.com) for more.**

## Te Whāinga

Māori culture for beginners

Learn about Tikanga  
[twoa.ac.nz/whainga](http://twoa.ac.nz/whainga)

Te Wānanga  
o Aotearoa



# VR IS A 'GAME-CHANGER' FOR BADER INTERMEDIATE



## Bader Intermediate School is giving its students a glimpse into the future of education through the innovative use of virtual reality technology.

Led by Bader Intermediate's Technology Head of Department Brent Julius and school Dean and Media Design Lead Milly Murphy, the school has adopted ClassVR, a virtual reality solution tailored for education, after exploring various options. "We visited EduTech in Melbourne to find a VR solution for education," Brent says. "There was no shortage of AR and VR on offer, but after lots of demonstrations, it

was clear that ClassVR was the only solution designed specifically for education – which made it the best choice for us."

The school has now integrated ClassVR into a range of teaching methods, enabling students to both consume and create VR content aligned with the curriculum. Brent says it's been a "game-changer".

"Being able to create our own VR content, then test and explore it in ClassVR, has been phenomenal," explains Brent. "Students are using ClassVR to create animated stories, design rollercoasters and build parkour games. ClassVR has really opened up the learning potential with

technology, giving students the tools that make the impossible, possible!" According to Milly Murphy, this approach has also enhanced engagement, especially for students with diverse learning needs. "The ClassVR headsets and design processes we use have had a profound effect on our neuro-diverse learners [and] their increased levels of engagement," Milly says. And Milly is particularly excited to see how the school can push the boundaries of what can be achieved with the technology. "We are blown away by our progress

in such a short space of time. Next step is for us to engage with the additional professional development that's available locally.

"We know that ClassVR has so many more capabilities and we're excited to explore and use these to empower our students even further."

The school aims to expand its VR program across all curriculum areas and explore additional features like the AR merge cube. Overall, Bader sees ClassVR as a crucial tool to keep preparing students for the future where technology will play a central role.



# SHOULD NZ CITIZENSHIP BE REINSTATED FOR SAMOANS WHO HAD IT STRIPPED IN 1982?

By Atutahi Potaka-Dewes  
First published on [PMN.co.nz](http://PMN.co.nz)

"They're (New Zealand government) not the boss, the Privy Council is the boss!" These are the fiery words of Māngere local Tofilau when asked about his thoughts on the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982.

He's talking about a law that Robert Muldoon's government rushed through in 1982, that resulted in stripping Samoans of their entitlement to NZ citizenship.

But this law went against a decision by the Privy Council, which prior to the establishment of the Supreme Court was the highest court of appeal in NZ, which ruled that Samoans born between 1924 and 1948 were in fact entitled to NZ citizenship, given Samoa was under NZ administration during this period.

Tofilau, who is a nephew to Samoa's fifth Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana, says the Privy Council's decision should have stood.

"The NZ government at that time saw us as a problem. But the Privy Council made that decision and you don't touch that.

"Because NZ is not independent like Samoa, they tried to fool us. Not now." But a member's bill, brought by Green MP Teanau Tuiono, is looking to undo Muldoon's legislation and reinstate this citizenship entitlement to Samoans born between 1924 and 1949.

And given the bill's first reading is only weeks away, Pacific Media Network (PMN) headed to the Māngere Town Centre for locals responses to Teanau's member's bill.

A young woman, who did not wish to be named, says elderly Samoans who are still here deserve to be compensated for losing their citizenship unfairly.



"Yes I think they should [get compensated]. I just think they came here for a better life so they should be treated well while they're here." After talking with PMN, one woman admitted she didn't realise these Samoans were still be restricted from citizenship. "I didn't realise that that was the case. I mean I knew it was back then but for my own mother ... [she] didn't have automatic citizenship, and it took her

years [to get it]." Adaptive boxer John Fiu believes restoring citizenship could also begin the conversation around changing other immigrations laws. "I feel for Pacific Islanders that come through the [NZ] border and get stopped because of their Pacific identity. It should be a welcome to all."  
**Head to [PMN.co.nz](http://PMN.co.nz) to learn more.**

# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Email [275times@gmail.com](mailto:275times@gmail.com) if you want to include a photo here.



The blessing of the resurfaced netball courts at the Māngere Ōtāhuhu Netball Centre. Thank you to the local board for helping to fund this project.



De La Salle 'Ra Siva' group at the Māngere East Cultural Festival.



The Koha Cafe has just opened up at Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae, open every Thursday and Friday 10am-2pm. Head along for tasty, healthy kai and coffee, donate a koha or receive a free meal if in need.

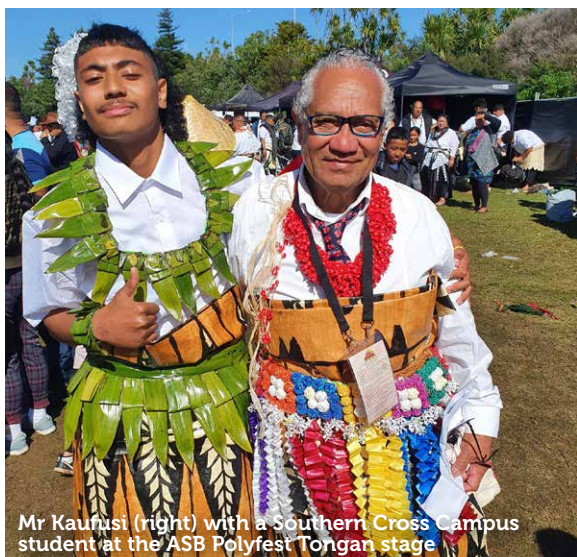


Congratulations to John "Boulder Shoulders" Fiu for winning his first adaptive boxing match, thanks to the support of Ryze Fitness.



Photos from the annual international Siva Afi Festival, which was held at the Māngere Arts Centre by Siva Afi Aotearoa.

## THANK YOU MR KAUFUSI: TO SIR, WITH LOVE



Mr Kaufusi (right) with a Southern Cross Campus student at the ASB Polyfest Tongan stage

**Mr Tevita Kaufusi arrived to New Zealand in 1989 and started his teaching career in NZ at Kelston Girls.**

**He moved to Tamaki College in 1991 and eventually found his home in 1994 at Southern Cross Campus where he has remained teaching Science to this day.**

Mr Kaufusi has been involved in Polyfest since 1990 and has been a key figure in the Tongan Stage management for the last 20 years. He is a staunch supporter of the ASB Polyfest and recalls the early days of supporting Kapa Haka at Nga Tapuwae College, organising parent meetings, fundraising and liaising with the wider community to support the

sharing of cultural knowledge through song and dance.

When asked about the importance of Polyfest, he sums it up in one word: "connections", like the building and strengthening of connections between students and parents.

His favourite memory of Polyfest is always about the journey to the big stage and walking around the school to the sounds of the Cook Island drums, the singing from the various groups and most importantly seeing the pride in the faces of our students.

Thank you Mr Kaufusi for your service and support of an opportunity like Polyfest that affirms and values the cultures of our students. Enjoy your retirement!

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

### Before & After School Care & Holiday Programmes:

Transport, Kai and Activities for 5-13 year olds.  
Pick Ups & Drops offs: Māngere East Primary, Papatoetoe North Primary, Kingsford, Kedgley Intermediate, Aorere College.

### FREE CLASSES

**Mondays:** Te Reo Māori (10am – 12pm & 6pm-8pm), Pono BoxFit for ladies (6pm – 7pm)  
**Tuesdays:** Te Reo Māori (12.30pm-2.30pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm)  
**Wednesdays:** Parenting Programmes (various times & days)  
**Thursdays:** T.R.E.E.S Hub (Gardening, waste, kai etc) (12-2pm)  
**Fridays:** Korowai Class (10am – 2pm)

**Bus Hire** (32 Seater bus & 2 Mini Vans), Hall & Venue Hire

**FREE Parenting Programmes** (Ante Natal, 3yr-8yr etc...)

**Daily ESOL Classes** (English for speakers of other languages)

**CONTACT/REGISTER TODAY:** [www.mangereeast.org](http://www.mangereeast.org) |

email [info@mangereeast.org](mailto:info@mangereeast.org) | phone 275 6161 or drop in

372 Massey Road, Māngere East

## WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

**Term 1 Schedule:** (Located 141 Robertson Rd, ph:09 379 2030)

**MONDAY/RĀHINA** - Emerge Aotearoa

**TUESDAY/RĀTU** - Ukulele Class (10am-12pm)

- Tongan Youth Trust (2.30pm-7pm)

**WEDNESDAY/RĀAPA** - Diamonds in the Rough (10am-12pm)

- Te Vaerua i te Rangī (5pm-7pm)

**THURSDAY/RĀPARE** - Tiare Taina Māmā's (10am-2pm)

- Eva Ma Le Koko (10am-2pm)

**FRIDAY/RĀMERE** - Polynesian Creative Arts (10am-2pm)

## FOOTBALL AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

This FREE fun football tournament and community event will be held on Saturday 13 April, 9am-3pm at the Manukau City football club, Walter Massey Park. We invite teams to register now: <https://manukauunited.net/footballfest>

## PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

**KAI IKA PROJECT:** Every Wednesday and Friday, 10.30am at Māngere Centre Park, Robertson Rd. Fish heads and frames + sometimes veggies and other food. Bring aluminum cans.

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

**Flexible Childcare Assistance:** [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/flexible-childcare-assistance.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/flexible-childcare-assistance.html)

**Assistance - Work and Income:** Work and Income may be able to help with the costs of informal childcare e.g. a babysitter, if you can't access formal childcare programmes while you're at work or in employment-related study/training.

**Need to upskill digitally:** Check out the free digital passport for quick short modules that can confirm your digital knowledge - [www.digitalpassport.co.nz](http://www.digitalpassport.co.nz)

**Job seeking:** [www.connected.govt.nz/support-for-you/find-work-now/](http://www.connected.govt.nz/support-for-you/find-work-now/)



Some of Māngere College Cook Islands group members

After the storms and flooding of last summer it has been wonderful to finally get an extended period of relatively settled weather this March. And the added bonus of this has meant we've been able to enjoy events like Pasifika, the Māngere East Cultural Festival, the Siva Afi Festival and Polyfest without too much disruption. Given Polyfest just celebrated its 49th anniversary, it's also timely to remember all the amazing hard work, fundraising, community building and leadership development that has been fostered through this incredible event and given next year will be the 50th year, here's hoping some extra sponsorship can be secured to make it the best Polyfest ever. Speaking of events, next month will see our increasingly famous 275 day, so make sure you get in touch with Fitz at twosevenfive if you want to be part of this special event for our community. Lastly, as we head into winter, when many in our community are struggling with the stresses created by NZ's current economic challenges, please make sure you watch out for your neighbours, your friends and your family and don't be scared to speak up if you need support yourself.

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Editorial Team: Jo and Justin Latif

✉ [275times@gmail.com](mailto:275times@gmail.com)

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