

Māngere's 275 times



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

STEPPING OUT FOR HER CULTURE

'Take that leap' is Meiya Lemafa's message to other young people wanting to pursue their dreams.

Next month Meiya will be following her own advice when she walks down the runway at Pacific Fusion Fashion Show, after being selected as the event's Face of Fusions 2024. The prestigious position, which is awarded each year before the marquee occasion, will see her feature in the show's marketing as well as play an integral role in the evening's activities.

The show, which will take place at Te Komititanga - Downtown Ferry Terminal on December 7, is NZ's largest Pacific fashion event and puts the spotlight on clothing produced by Pacific and Māori designers.

For Meiya, taking part in this fashion extravaganza is all about expressing her culture and community.

"I love showcasing the talent that comes from our small community to a wider audience," she says.

"Being the Face of Fusions allows me to carry my roots with confidence and pride."

The sixteen-year-old year 12 student from Māngere Bridge, is also a

promising basketball player, and was chosen last year for the Face of Fusion role from a pool of 60-80 models.

The judges say she stood out for "the highest level of professionalism, impact, and presence both on and off the runway".

Meiya, who is of Sāmoan and Cook Islands heritage, also hopes she can help others to pursue their dreams in fashion.

"My message to those interested in modeling or fashion is to take that leap and step outside your comfort zone. Youth is the best time to try new things.

"I know it can be challenging in this generation, with social media and the judgment that can come with it. But if you never try, how will you ever know?"

She also wants to express her gratitude to those who have supported her in her fashion journey.

"A special Faafetai Lava to the PFFS team: Nora Swann, Sherry, Nellie, Sammy Salsa, Louis, Phil (Lipo), Devereaux, Apryl, and Kirin."

Tickets for the Pacific Fusion Fashion Show 2024 are available at eventfinda.co.nz. So make sure to support Meiya and our local Pacific and Māori models and fashion designers.



Photo: Faanati Mamea

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GARAGE
AUTOMOTIVE





NO SLOWING DOWN FOR TRIPLE TEE



to inspire people to incorporate biking into their daily lives for fitness, transportation, and recreation.” Teau says despite many ups and downs, the greatest satisfaction has been seeing how many lives have been changed.

Ten years ago Teau Aiterau and his mates got together with the goal of inspiring Māngere and the wider community to get healthy and to do it on a bike.

A decade later, the Time to Thrive charity has introduced thousands to the joys of cycling, as well as giving away hundreds of bikes. The charity even has its own bike hub in the centre of the suburb to help people with repairs and for running workshops and events.

Teau (pictured above right) says the group celebrated their anniversary with a special event, inviting past and present members and the community leaders to reflect on all they’ve achieved since 2014.

“It was a heartwarming reminder of how far we’ve come and a chance to look forward to the future,” he says.

“When my brothers and I founded Time to Thrive, our goal was to build a strong active and healthy vibrant community through physical activities ... and I wanted

to inspire people to incorporate biking into their daily lives, not just physically but also socially and emotionally.”

Looking ahead, Teau says they want to keep advocating for better cycling infrastructure in the community as well as seeing more people get moving.

“We want to continue building a supportive network that encourages people to ride more, whether for recreation, commuting, or fitness.”

NO WAY - THIRSTY LIQUOR WICKMAN WAY

The Thirsty Liquor Wickman Way bottle store first set up shop in 2014, following the grant of an alcohol licence by the Auckland District Licensing Committee (DLC).

The bottle store was set up directly across the road from Southern Cross Campus and Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe.

At the time, the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board objected and gave evidence against the grant of the licence together with Southern Cross Campus.

Since then the community has taken every opportunity to challenge that bottle store licence, by appearing at DLC hearings and taking appeals to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority (ARLA).

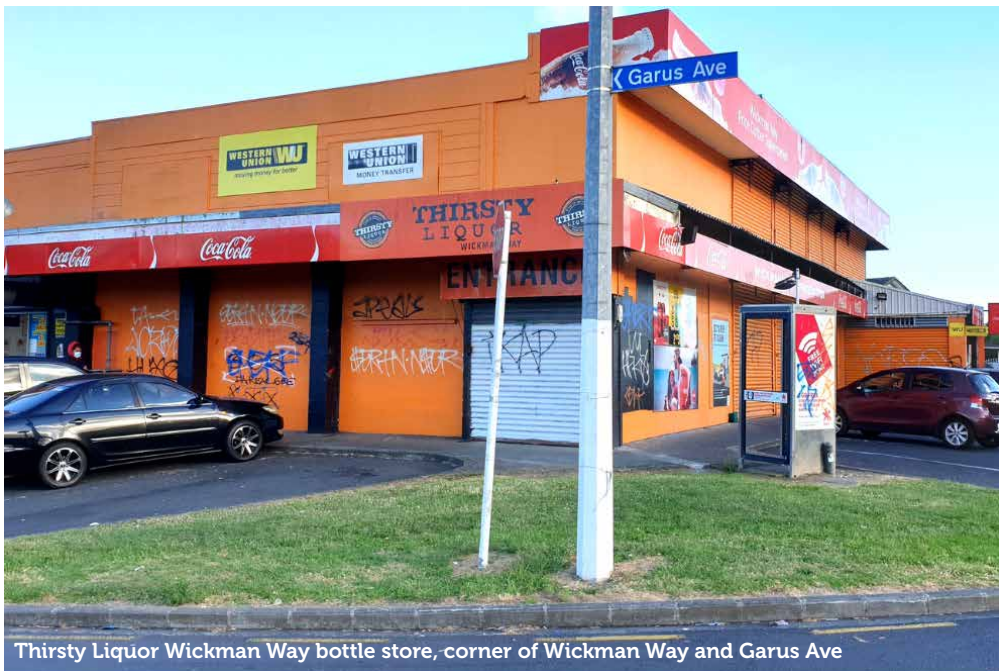
This year saw the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, the two schools and the community appear again before the DLC objecting to the bottle store off-licence.

This time round the Alcohol Licensing Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health also opposed the licence.

Unfortunately, the Police were unopposed this time (although the Police had opposed in the past).

To the dismay of the community and the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, the DLC granted the licence again.

Appeals were again made to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority, who



Thirsty Liquor Wickman Way bottle store, corner of Wickman Way and Garus Ave

again upheld the decision of the DLC. However, this time, things have not ended at ARLA and the Inspector has now taken an appeal to the High Court.

Among other questions being put before the High Court, the Inspector is asking whether the evidence of the community, gathered over a substantial time period, should have been preferred in terms of the bottle store’s effect on the area?

And, did ARLA fail to properly apply the object of the Act that alcohol-related harm should be minimised?

The High Court will hear these questions and make a decision in 2025 about whether Thirsty Liquor Wickman Way should stay or go.

- Written by Dr Grant Hewison, Communities Against Alcohol Harm



MĀNGERE YOUTH VOICES PROJECT



Welcome to our fourth Māngere Youth Voices Project section! Empowering Māngere's youth through community storytelling, fostering deeper connections between residents and local schools, and bridging the gap by showcasing the excellence within our local educational institutions. A huge thank you to the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board for sponsoring five editions in 275 Times and a \$50 prezy card voucher per school's



AL MADINAH DAZZLES AUDIENCE WITH PRODUCTION



Al Madinah's *The Jewel Thief* at the Mangere Arts Centre

Our school's recent production *The Jewel Thief* brought together our entire community in a dazzling showcase of talent, teamwork, and passion. The months of dedicated preparation demonstrated the unwavering commitment of all involved. From the cast mastering their lines, to the crew orchestrating the intricate details of sets, lighting, and costumes,

the experience allowed students to cultivate skills they had not previously realised. Many who had never set foot on stage found themselves performing with confidence, impressing even their closest peers and teachers with their newfound abilities. The personal growth exhibited

throughout the process was extraordinary. Several students who initially doubted their capabilities discovered a natural affinity for acting, while others thrived in behind-the-scenes roles, gaining valuable insights into collaboration and responsibility. Drama became an avenue for creative expression, allowing participants to explore new dimensions of their abilities and

boosting their self-confidence. The transformative power of performance allowed students to uncover hidden talents that will undoubtedly shape their futures. The on-stage presentation was nothing short of captivating. Each scene was meticulously crafted to ensure that the story of *The Jewel Thief* unfolded with intensity and flair. The narrative, built around the compelling themes of greed, jealousy, and deception, engaged the audience while offering a deeper exploration of human nature. These universal themes not only entertained but also provided thought-provoking reflections on the consequences of selfishness and unchecked ambition. Above all, *The Jewel Thief* underscored the true strength of our school community. The experience not only highlighted hidden talents but also demonstrated that with passion and opportunity, remarkable achievements can be realized, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.

Aaron Hussein
Head Boy and Director

SAMOA MALAGA - MĀNGERE COLLEGE STUDENTS PAY HOMAGE TO MRS AH SAM

O le malaga sa fuafuaina e si o matou tina ua fai lagi le folauga, le Afioga Melegalenu'u To'alepaiali'i Ah Sam. Sa taumate fa'amea ta'ita'i i le ato pe o'o, ae o le agaga fa'agae'etia ona sa mafai ona fa'ataunu'uina pea le malaga o lenei tausaga ona le lagolago a nisi o faiaoga.

First, I would like to acknowledge our tinā, Melegalenu'u To'alepaiali'i Ah Sam. Without Mrs Ah Sam, we wouldn't have had this valuable opportunity to visit our homeland on such a significant level. I never would have expected this trip to be so emotional. My knowledge of Samoa's beauty has always started from where I hail: Samatau to Salamumu and stops at Apia, yet this trip allowed me to see all of the adventures that Samoa holds.

I had a better experience in Malaga than I had anticipated. I was happy to be able to travel with my classmates and teachers to the stunning island of Savai'i, as I hadn't been there in more



Students from Mangere College visit Mrs Ah Sam's grave in Samoa.

than ten years. Numerous fascinating and enchanted tales of past warriors and lovers were told to us. With the assistance of Ms Tualualelei and her lovely family, I was able to experience what it's like to prepare an umu and be a part of one, something I was never allowed to do as the youngest daughter, niece, and granddaughter in my family. This Malaga gave me a lot of lifelong memories that I will always treasure, and it also taught me what it's like to live in a home full of girls. The vehicle journeys, debriefing sessions, and engaging in



activities that challenged us to step outside of our comfort zones were, in my opinion, our group's highlights. As a group, we have become closer, seen several of Samoa's stunning beaches, gone fale'o'o, and jumped from a cliff into the refreshingly cold water. This journey has improved our lives by allowing us to explore more of what our stunning homeland has to offer, and I suggest that it continue since it will help the next generation experience the Fa'asamoa way of life.
Janaia Levao, Student Leader

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Email 275times@gmail.com if you want to include a photo here.



RANGATAHI REPAIR CAFE

ME Family Services hosted the very first, Rangatahi Repair Cafe. "The Cafe was designed to encourage positive, long term behaviour change towards consumerism in the community. Using the repair cafe framework to empower our local youth to lead the initiative."

Overall, seventeen locals aged 13 - 27 were involved in educating, repairing & leading the event.

Special mentions to: Climate Action Network, AKL Council, Repair Cafe Aotearoa, Triple T, 275 Times.



ZERO WASTE AWARDS

Destiny Harris from ME Family Services was nominated for the Rangatahi Leadership Award at the Zero Waste Awards. She was nominated for developing sustainable curriculums for ECE's utilising a tikanga Māori approach. With the goal to normalise zero waste at the youngest ages. "I am thankful that I was even nominated for such an award! It was a beautiful event. Filled with amazing people and inspiring stories."



The Polynesian Creative Arts Māmās (above) celebrating the closing of their Tivaivai exhibition: Te Rima Ora o te Metua Vaine - The Living Hands of the Māmās, at the Māngere Arts Centre.



Māngere College Year 13 Prizewinners 2024



Māngere College Head Students 2024 signing out!
L-R: Henry Mataora (Head Boy), Ramona Tomuli Pritchard (Deputy Head Girl), Alfie Lafoou Lusa (HoD Careers), Tulei Salu (Head Girl), Avi Narayan Reihana (Deputy Head Boy)



Island Breeze recently performed at Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae (below). The group are also pictured above getting their hands dirty and giving back with weeding, composting and refilling garden boxes, and also spreading the Gospel.



MĀNGERE EAST END OF YEAR FESTIVAL

10AM - 2PM
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AUCKLAND PASIFIKA SCHOOLS CHOIR

A group of Southern Cross Campus students had the honour of performing five National anthems at the recent NRL Pacific Championships, at the Go Media Stadium, as a part of the Auckland Pasifika Schools Choir. This choir is a new initiative lead by Adeaze's Nainz Tupa'i, with the goal of uniting Pasifika students through the power of music. The choir consists of stellar vocalists from Southern

Cross Campus, De La Salle, Avondale College, Glen Eden Intermediate, Marcellin College, Manurewa High School, Marist College, St Mary's College and St Paul's College. Their debut performance was at the recent Pacific Music Awards and they continue to go from strength to strength as they represent their schools, culture and whanau as they share their talents with the world.



MOVING CEREMONY HERALDS NEW TE REO MĀORI NAMES

By Mary Afemata

The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu community has recently celebrated 21 te reo Māori names being given to sites around the area, enriching the cultural heritage of these places.

As high school students sang uplifting waiata, mana whenua gathered in Te Taahuhu (Criterion Square), alongside community leaders, to celebrate the gifting of 21 te reo Māori names for sites around the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area.

The blessing ceremony was attended by members of Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū, Ngāti Tamaoho, and Te Ākitai Waiohū and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board chair Tauanu'u Nick Bakulich says the Māori names and narratives honor the area's rich cultural heritage.

"The whakarewatanga ceremony was a powerful and moving event led by mana whenua," he says.

"This initiative not only celebrates our Māori community but also enriches the cultural fabric of our entire area, inviting everyone to connect with and appreciate our shared history."

In March 2019, mana whenua were invited by the board to give dual names to 123 parks. In February 2021, sixty-two of these names were adopted, and in June 2023, a further 21 were adopted. Another 27 parks and three libraries are currently being worked on



being named by mana whenua.

Bakulich says that a key theme in their local board plan is Ō Tātou Wāhi or "our Places".

"Key to that is letting mana whenua lead the way and actively promoting Māori names for parks, facilities, roads, and other public spaces," he adds.

All sites are intended for naming as dual names where the Māori name is added to the existing name, and nothing is taken away. Te Ākitai Waiohū, Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngaati Te Ata Waiohū are the three iwi that provided the names for these sites.

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FRIENDS OF THE FARM: REPAIR CAFE

Recently, Friends of the Farm Māngere Bridge held their eighth Repair Café. The Māngere Bridge Library was busy on Saturday morning, with the usual Justice of the Peace in attendance, plus the pre-school music session, and with an additional treat of two lambs visiting. The lambs (Gordon Ramsay and Nadia Lamb) came in to see the children and were happy to be patted and admired. Local electricians Mark and Joel Swords from Mark Swords Electrical repaired a range of items, including sandwich makers, fan heaters, CD players, blenders, irons, and hairdryers.

Several electrical items could not be opened up for investigation or repair, which led to a discussion about the Right to Repair legislation currently before Parliament. In April 2024 the Consumer Guarantees Act (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill was pulled from the Members' Ballot



and is currently being considered by Parliament. It is intended to strengthen our Consumer Guarantees Act by making it mandatory for products to be repairable and requiring the supply of repair information, tools and parts. New Zealand has the unwanted distinction of having one of the highest per capita rates for sending e-waste to landfill. But Repair Cafes are important for keeping items out of landfills. At our eighth Repair Café we saved 271kg from landfill and prevented 2453 kg of CO2 emissions. That's equivalent to growing 41 tree seedlings for ten years!



MINI-WOOLIES A HIT FOR SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Sir Keith Park School is a specialist school for children and young people who have intellectual disabilities or complex special needs. It provides specialist learning programmes for students from the ages of 5 to 21 years. Sir Keith Park School is comprised of a base school (the Favona site) and nine satellite classes hosted at local primary, intermediate and secondary schools.

The school says it is fortunate to have partnered with Woolworths and Fujitsu to incorporate a Mini Woolies Sir Keith Park learning store. Sir Keith Park School is the site of New Zealand's fourth Mini Woolies. The Mini Woolies Programme is an educational

tool for students with disabilities to engage in hands-on learning experiences where they can practice new skills in a safe and comfortable environment. Each of the Mini Woolies sites are designed as an educational resource for specialist schools and post school providers to offer hands-on learning experiences that can help build confidence and independence. Each site is designed to replicate the operations of a Woolworths supermarket with fresh food, shelving for groceries, ticketing, and signage and to create an immersive educational experience. The programme will engage students in a simulated supermarket experience that can be pathway to seek new skills and confidence.

By 'Alakihihifo Vailala
A Tokelauan early childhood centre in Māngere, founded by dedicated parents, has grown into a cultural hub for language preservation and community pride.

Rooted in humble beginnings, “proud” is how an early childhood teacher describes the journey of New Zealand’s first Tokelauan early childhood education (ECE) centre.

Estella Rimoni known to the kids as Auntie Stella, is the assistant supervisor of Mataliki Tokelau Akoga Kamata, a Māngere-based ECE that promotes Tokelau culture and language.

The centre was established in the late 1980s by a small group of Tokelauan parents and it eventually grew when two mothers received their qualifications to become bonafide ECE teachers. Rimoni reflected on the journey the school has embarked on which now has a roll of more than 100 children and 27 staff.

“We started off in garages and then we founded this place back in the late 90s and 2001 was when we got licensed.”

She’s worked at the school for almost 15 years and says her children also attended the school.

“Just to see the growth of Mataliki and the work we continue to do for our language it’s amazing,” she says.

“I’m so proud of the school, our children,



CHILDHOOD CENTRE PRESERVES TOKELAUAN LANGUAGE

our teachers, and our families.

“We have ex-students who are now bringing their children to Mataliki.

“We have ex-students who are teachers here at Mataliki so I’m proud of our work here.”

Sticking to the theme of sustainability, Rimoni is hopeful the language will continue to be preserved for future

generations.

“It’s important for us Tokelauans to celebrate and acknowledge our aganuku ... My hope is that our children will continue to learn and to celebrate our Tokelauan language.”

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MĀNGERE TOWN CENTRE SECURITY PARTNERSHIP A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By Mary Afemata

Stopping brazen ram raids and robberies is an ongoing challenge for businesses in Māngere, but a local security firm is stepping up to safeguard the community. The Māngere Town Centre, thanks to its Auckland Council targeted rates, has recently appointed a local firm to manage security operations to crack down on these ongoing issues.

And it’s a full-circle moment for Luke Mealamu, the founder and owner of Mealamu Security. He recently posted on social media his pride to now be protecting the community he has spent so much time in.

“Growing up, we spent many days here—shopping, eating, swimming, everything.”

Mealamu says its meaningful not only for him, but his whole team.

“Because we’re all locals, even our general manager, we all grew up in Māngere. So it’s only fitting that we come and look after our own area, because we know everybody.”

Māngere Town Centre is one of Auckland Council’s Business Improvement Districts (BID) and is able to fund this partnership thanks to the targeted rates businesses pay to council.

But it all began when Mealamu allocated two patrol staff at the town centre earlier this year to reassure families worried about their kids’ safety while catching public transport.

“We were visible in the space, and it was more for the community,” he says.

He says another key factor has been the newly appointed town centre manager Vicky Hau.

“Vicky Hau’s been awesome. Her being a local girl as well, and now the new town manager, [has made] our transition great.”

Crime and vandalism remain issues in the town centre, but Mealamu says over time they will help reduce these types of incidents.

“We’re not perfect, but everyday we’re trying to strive to be better.”

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board chair Tauanu’u Nick Bakulich is pleased the Māngere Town Centre has invested in its security by partnering with a South Auckland business.

“It’s important given the history—Mealamu is well connected and understands our community,” he says.

“And given Mealamu’s track record, I think there’s certainly a feeling of confidence in what they’re able to provide.”

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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), Sewing for beginners (5pm – 8pm)

TUESDAYS: Te Reo Māori (12.30pm-2.30pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm)

WEDNESDAYS: Parenting Programmes (various dates/times)

THURSDAYS: T.R.E.E.S Hub (Gardening, waste, kai etc) (12-2pm), ZUMBA (7pm – 8pm)

FRIDAYS: Korowai Class (10am – 2pm), Sewing for Beginners (1130am – 2pm)

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

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

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TERM 4 SCHEDULE:

MONDAY - Emerge Aotearoa 10.30am-12.30pm

TUESDAY - Ukelele Class 10am-12pm

Tongan Youth Trust 3pm-7pm

WEDNESDAY - Diamonds In The Rough 10am-3pm

THURSDAY - Tiare Taina Mamas 10am-2pm

Eva Ma Le Koko 10am-2pm, Tongan Youth Trust 3pm-7pm

FRIDAY - Polynesian Creative Arts 10am-2pm

PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

Koha Cafe operating hours: Thursday 10am - 2pm, Friday 10am - 2pm & NOW Sunday 10am - 2pm. 141R Robertson Rd.

MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE - NOVEMBER

NJPW PRO WRESTLING OCEANIA CUP FINAL - LIVE PRO WRESTLING WITH FALE DOJO.

Friday, 15 November, get your tickets from Eventfinda.

FREE MUSIC COMPOSITION WORKSHOPS

Presented by Dr Opeloge Ah Sam, Wed November 20, Māngere Arts Centre. 11.30am-1pm.

Email opeloge@hotmail.com for more information.

MĀNGERE SCHOOLS HAVE A TRY TRY-ATHLON

Time to Thrive event! Friday 29 November 2024, 9.15am. 100m swim, 4km bike, 2km walk-run, from 9-12 years old. Register at Moana Nui a Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre. Email sokko.timetothrive@gmail.com for more information.

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION AT LOVE YOUR MAUNGA!

Join us on Saturday, November 23, 2024, 10am-3pm for the Love Your Maunga event at Te Pane o Matacho / Te Ara Pueru / Māngere Mountain! The Tūpuna Maunga Authority in partnership with the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board invites everyone to this special gathering at the Whānau Ātea.

Whats happening? Community Hāngī Fundraiser: Enjoy a delicious hāngī for just \$10! Kēmu Māori and Cultural Workshops. Tūpuna Maunga Information Hub. Maunga Clean-Up - Etū Rākau will lead a clean-up activation.

'GO WITH THE FLOW' WITH QUEEN SHIRL'E

The Queen Shirl'e Academy Youth Podcast programme "GO WITH THE FLOW" is on at the Māngere East Library every Thursday and at the Ōtāhuhu Library every Monday from 4pm-6pm. These classes were sponsored by Pasifika Success (Auckland Council) & Foundation North so it's free to participate! Open for all youth ages 8yrs+.



Papatuanuku Marae's Koha Atū Koha Mai board at their Koha Cafe

How incredible is our Māngere community? I want to highlight just a few of the many local champions who make a real difference.

Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae launched their Koha Cafe six months ago, and through their Koha Atū, Koha Mai initiative, (pictured above) they've recently shared that 500 meals have been paid forward. This is a powerful testament to the generosity of the people of Māngere and the manaakitanga led by Papatuanuku Marae. They're setting a strong example of giving, from their Kai Ika programme that feeds hundreds each week to their ongoing mahi both on the Marae and in their gardens. They host people from all around the world and collaborate with other local groups to improve outcomes for our neighbourhood.

Another community champion featured is Time to Thrive, which celebrates its 10-year anniversary on page 2. They have been a vital part of improving the health outcomes for our community, and their ongoing commitment to well-being through cycling and staying active continues to inspire.

On a broader note, this November, the Government introduced The Treaty Principles Bill in Parliament. We believe that Te Tiriti is an essential founding document for our nation and we stand in support of those taking action against any attempt to undermine it. As tangata Tiriti, we aim to work alongside Tangata Whenua to build an equitable and cohesive Aotearoa. Toitū Te Tiriti.

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