

Māngere's 275 times



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

MANAMEA 'BRING IT HOME' FOR MĀNGERE



Manamea production at the Māngere Arts Centre complete with singing, siva dancing and a live band



The Pacific dance theatre production, Manamea, by Sau E Siva Creatives has just completed a sold-out second season of this much-celebrated love story at the Māngere Arts Centre.

Founder of the show and Sau E Siva Creative Director Troy Tu'ua says this production has been particularly special, given "the whole point of creating this story was for our people here [in Māngere]".

"When you go to the city, you worry about car parking and expensive tickets, so we said, 'we've got to bring it back home'.

"And we got some beautiful support from the Māngere-

Ōtāhuhu Local Board, as well as the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and the Māngere Arts Centre.

"So we were just really grateful and everything just fell into place."

He adds that seeing how both young and old enjoyed it shows their hard work was worth it.

"Seeing our elders come here and honour our type of storytelling and get up and be proud, whether they come in wheelchairs or walking sticks, they were up and dancing, "If this is how our people are reacting and responding to our work, then we've got to continue on because if we don't do it, who's going to do it?"

Fellow Sau E Siva Creative Leki

Jackson-Bourke agrees.

"It's really rewarding to see our community come to the theatre. It's awesome to see them believe in our work and in our stories and value it.

"And a lot of these performers are inexperienced and untrained, but they're so talented. They're literally from the streets or straight from school.

"And we've brought them into this program that we run, Sau e Siva."

Siana Vagana played the leading role of Palepa Junior in the show. She says playing such an important part had extra significance.

"It felt like an honour, especially with it being their 10 year

anniversary show so I felt a lot of pressure but I just really wanted to give the role justice and make sure the story is the best for our audiences and stuff."

Tu'ua says while theatre might not be for everyone, it's making a real impact.

"We've got 40-something in here, living their best lives on stage, singing and dancing their hearts out. So I'm grateful for our Sau E Siva team to create this type of platform for our people to keep thriving in. But yeah, we just need more support, more moola."

Check out facebook.com/sauesivacreatives/ for more info.

Toi Maruata

Māori art for beginners

Study Māori Art
twoa.ac.nz/maruata

Te Wānanga
o Aotearoa

FIRST PACIFIC FOOTBALL FERN RECOGNISED AT SPECIAL EVENT IN MĀNGERE



Rosie Ah Wong after receiving her debut cap at Walter Massey Park.

New Zealand's first Pacific women's footballer has finally received her debut cap four decades after taking the field against Australia.

Rosie Ah Wong, who began playing for the Football Ferns in 1979 and scored the Ferns' first ever goal against Australia's Matildas, was presented her cap by New Zealand Football (NZF) president Johanna Wood at Walter Massey Park in Māngere last month. Ah Wong says it came as a complete

surprise when NZF got in touch about the presentation. "It's humbling and it's also recognition of those people who have supported me along the journey. "I'm so glad that I've come back to the club to receive this honour. It makes me feel happy and it's really nice to see my old friends." Wood says the capping ceremony is part of a wider program the organisation has undertaken to

present caps to all past players who originally missed out.

"I think we've now handed out about 160 caps to past Ferns. From 2019, if you were a debutante, you got your cap at the time, which is the way it should be. So while we can't change the past, we can reconnect with our past."

Ah Wong, who lives between New Zealand and Sāmoa, says it's been special to return

to her old club in Māngere and see how much has changed.

"To see where the club is now, from that time, and how it's growing and the diversity of the ethnicities - it's wonderful to see." The presentation took place before a women's five-a-side and men's seven-a-side tournament kicked-off called Football Fest.

Current club chairperson Hone Fowler says Ah Wong's recognition is an important reminder that football is a sport for Pacific communities just as it is for other ethnic groups who more visibly represented.

"I think I've heard her being referred to as the Pele of the women's game of the Pacific in her time. And so she was a very special young talent, who came through as a teenager to play for the New Zealand team. And I think it just speaks to the potential that we're still tapping into of our Pacific and Māori communities."

And Fowler says he hopes Ah Wong's recognition is part of wider work to realise the potential of South Auckland's footballing talent.

"Football is a global sport and so we're trying to we're creating pathways that are more accessible, particularly for our Pasifika, our Māori communities and other minority communities here in Auckland."



Chelsea Cuthers-Munro speaking at the premiere of 'The Vaka That Waited'

'REDISCOVERY, RECONNECTION AND RECLAMATION' THE VAKA THAT WAITED

By Atutahi Potaka-Dewes
First published on PMN.co.nz

Chelsea Cuthers-Munro says her first step towards cultural reconnection wasn't an easy one, but it has now led to the premiere of a heartfelt short film *The Vaka That Waited*.

A proud NZ-born Cook Islands single mother of "two beautiful children" and Niu FM Days host, released the doco last month, which is about her journey to reconnect with her culture. But as Cuthers-Munro explains in the film, being fair looking, not being able to speak her Cook Islands language and only having cultural exposure at events like funerals or weddings made it hard for her to come to terms with her identity.

She even experienced criticism from listeners when she talked about her Cook

Island heritage on the air.

She recalls one particular incident when she produced a video on the Cook Islands' dish Mainese.

"I let my mum know I did my first Cook Islands piece so I was feeling really good about it," Cuthers-Munro says.

However some viewers began questioning her heritage, saying things like, "tell this white girl to leave our culture alone" and "whose family is she from? Embarrassing". However she now looks back on that as a turning point, given it led her towards learning the Cook Islands national anthem.

"As a 27-year-old, I had never heard it before in my life," she says.

"Music is a really great tool for me to catch on to speaking and pronunciation."

Cuthers-Munro says she was then asked to sing with popular Cook Islands musician

Rex Atirai and from that point on she told herself: "This is a problem that I can either cry about or do something about it."

She then set a goal of doing an annual Cook Islands project for each Cook Islands Language Week, with *The Vaka That Waited* being her "biggest one yet".

Her short film, which has been in the works for three years, covers Cuthers-Munro's journey towards rediscovery, reconnection and reclamation of her roots in the Cook Islands, highlighting the struggles of many who may feel disconnected from their cultural heritage.

The documentary emphasises themes of healing and empowerment with Cuthers-Munro finding solace, a renewed sense of identity and a profound feeling of belonging as she sets sail on her vaka, navigating back to her roots.

THIRTY YEARS OF PUTTING MĀNGERE EAST'S FAMILIES AT THE CENTRE



Chief exec Carole Tana-Tepania, Māngere College Head Girl and event MC Tulei Salu and ME Family Services board member Liz Muliaga.

ME Family Services (ME) has marked its 30th anniversary with a community-focused celebration that acknowledged all the people who have made it such an integral part of this area.

Founder, current chairperson and former chief executive Reverend Pete Sykes says he started it partly in response to finding a baby abandoned at Walter Massey Park and realising how vulnerable some families were.

"Thirty years ago there were no support services for local schools and our families," Sykes says.

"There were no community-based early childhood centres. There were no community-based social workers. There were no groups that would speak for Māngere East as a village in its own right.

"So part of it was about supporting the school and give them some support with families who were struggling."

Sykes adds the sign of the organisation's success has been its ability to evolve and adapt to the community's needs.

"I'm really pleased that one of the tests I guess as a founder is that the team that replaced me have continued on the kaupapa and they've made it their own place."

Current chief executive Carole Tana-Tepania says seeing how many families have been impacted by ME has been a special part of the 30th celebrations.

"It's been great, actually really humbling, you know, that the families that have come to join us for the day and celebrate not only our success of still being here for 30 years, but their journey and allowing us to be a part of their lives."

Early childhood centre manager Karen Matata, who's been at ME since it began, says its longevity is quite a unique

achievement.

"I think about the number of services that are no longer here 30 years later. Yet how many organisations in Māngere can say that they've been going solid for 30 years and still planning for the future to be strong moving forward?"

And she adds that seeing the inter-generational impact is another thing that makes ME so special.

"I love that the children of the children [who came here] are still coming. That's a really great thing. I love the whole whanau-feel across all the teams within our center, with each other, but also with other families that we work with. You know, you work with a family and they're here for like a lifetime."



Rev Peter Sykes receiving a special gift acknowledging his service to ME.

TREE PLANTINGS & REDUCING WASTE - PROVIDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY FOR ALL

It's official. The sausages were sensational at the Ambury planting days last year. Good news is, it's happening again soon.

Volunteers at last year's planting days were outspoken in their appreciation of the tasty treat to round out their morning of hard work, planting over 10,000 trees towards restoring the wetland area on the foreshore of the farm.

Friends of the Farm supported the rangers by providing a sausage sizzle and will again be purchasing the goods from the lovely butcher in the Bridge. Of course, they will also be supplying vegetarian options for those who prefer that choice.

PLANTING DATES THIS YEAR:

Sunday 12 May 10am-1 pm

Sunday 19 May 10am-1 pm

Saturday 25 May 10am-1 pm

Sunday 2 June 10am-1 pm

Local Diane says, "tree planting is a great family outing. It's satisfying to plant trees with your children and when you come back six months later you can see how the trees have grown and the difference they make to the landscape. It's also teaching children to care for the planet and make a difference."

Wear sturdy shoes or gumboots and bring a spade and gloves if you have them. If not, some will be provided. Follow the signs when you get to the park. The sausage

sizzle will be held after the tree planting at the Barn, which is close to the car park and toilets.

Friends of the Farm is a group of volunteers based in Māngere Bridge whose aim is to build a caring, connected and waste-wise community. They organize a wide range of free, family-orientated activities, and aim to encourage and involve people in reducing and recycling waste and raising awareness and connection within our neighbourhood.

Repair Cafe

Among Friends of the Farm's recent activities were a Repair Café at the Māngere Bridge Library and an E-waste day. Repair Cafes are a growing movement in New Zealand, and Friends of the Farm have held five in the last two years. Skilled volunteers are on hand to repair and fix broken items for free. In March, 52 items were repaired and locals were thrilled. The next Repair Café at Māngere Bridge Library will be on Saturday 13 July 2024.

E-waste day

For the E-waste day in early April, Friends of the Farm partnered with Penrose-based company Computer Recycling to run the day. Over 400 cars came through and around five tonnes of waste was collected. Computer Recycling repurposes and recycles what they can and extracts



valuable materials that is otherwise destined for landfill.

For further information check out our website <https://aboutmangerebridge.nz>

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Football Fest Tournament at Walter Massey Park.
Photo credit: Phototek



The Māngere Nui (Māngere College) Cook Islands group performing at the Māngere Arts Centre. A beautiful showcase for families to view their ASB Polyfest performance.



The Manamea season two cast and crew.





Some of the Mau a Sāmoa I Le Sitiseni 2024 group including Faumuina To'aletai David Tua, marching through the Māngere Town Centre to raise awareness of the importance of making submissions to Parliament on the Restoring Citizenship Removed by the Citizenship (Western Sāmoa) Act 1982 Bill.



Nick Wolfgramm (left) and Keith Hanley (right) from the Manly Sea Eagles and three Māngere East Hawks players in the centre. A Female Pathways partnership has been launched recently between Manly Sea Eagles and the Māngere East Hawks, providing opportunities for young female players.



The Whare Koa Ukulele class. Every Tuesday 10am-12pm.



ALCOHOLFREE
SMOKE&VAPEFREE
EVENT

FREE EVENT
XEROEWASTE

TWOSEVENFIVE

Day

MONDAY 27TH MAY 2PM-8PM
MĀNGERE TOWN CENTRE CARPARK (ORLY AVE)

FOOD VENDORS | LOCAL SERVICES | GIVEAWAYS

HOSTED BY ROSÉ93 & REGAN ROELL
SUPPORTED BY DJ TWOSEVENFIVE

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
STALLYANO • LOPZ • EVANDER
CHAMEZ • CHRISTY SAUFOI • CWO • DHOUSTLE • KLIXNDAZ FROM ISHIN
LOPZ & DA RASTAZ • MC COOK ISLAND GROUP • PILA MC • QUEENS SHIRLEY ACADEMY
SWEET & IRIE • SOUTH PAC ENT. • TUIGA DANCE ACADEMY

A DAY TO CELEBRATE MĀNGERE

Mangere
Favona

FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

PMN COOK ISLANDS RECOGNISED AT PRESTIGIOUS MEDIA AWARDS

Among recent Pacific media to be recognised with award nominations, the PMN's Cook Islands show's fine work has been acknowledged.

In the NZ Radio & Podcast Awards for the category of Best Pacific Language Programme - the PMN's Cook Islands show has been given a special commendation due to the quality of its entry (while an overall winner won't be announced for this award due to insufficient entries). The show, which airs on 531pi, is will hosted by Tauraki Raea, Jeannie Pera, Susnaton Seta, Ernestina Bonsu-Maró, Caroline Bishop, Ngaire Karati, and Tavake Kamana. The commendation also includes PMN's Language Programme Director Matt Tufuga, General Manager of Content Susana Guttenbeil. Airing every Monday from 3 PM to Tuesday at 6 AM, the show encourages Cook Island communities from around the world to speak their language and share their community notices and stories. They also have a Facebook page where you can catch interviews you may have missed.

<https://www.facebook.com/PMNCookIslands/>



"From the moment I knew I had a home it was like a burden lifted off me, I have security for once in my life that I've never had. I just hated giving my money away to nothing, [so] knowing it was going towards my mortgage was the best feeling ever." - Melanie, Habitat homeowner

Habitat's rent to buy programme has supported hundreds of people into homeownership, bringing them housing stability and financial security so that their families can thrive.

Habitat currently has eight rent to buy homes available in Māngere East, ready to move in

this year. The two-bedroom houses are brand new, located on a safe cul-de-sac and close to public transport, schools, parks and the supermarket. The rent to buy model means that there is no deposit needed, and all rent payments go towards paying off the home.

This is an opportunity that could change your future forever, so if you're interested, please do apply.

To learn more or apply visit: <https://habitat.org.nz/northern/how-we-help/pho/>

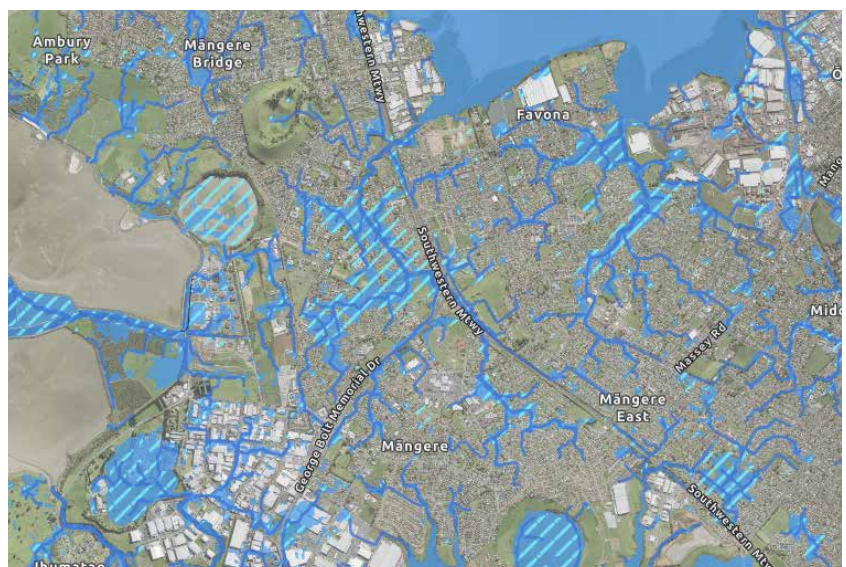
PREPARING MĀNGERE FOR FLOODING THIS WINTER

Protecting the community through more unpredictable weather requires a team effort. Auckland Council is removing blockages from streams, catchpits and sinkholes more often – especially ahead of heavy weather.

There will also be more support for local community organisations to do stream clean-ups and planting that will help maintain water flow and stream health. Households can help protect their whānau by preparing their

property for flooding, including clearing drains and gutters, not blocking overland flow paths, and reporting blockages in the stormwater network that need attention to 09 301 0101. Search 'Flood Viewer' online to find out more about your home's flood risk and how you can prepare.

- **Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery**



'MUCH LOVED MATRIARCH' LEAVES LEGACY OF NURTURING HER STUDENTS AND GAGANA SĀMOA

"E iloa oe i lau tu, i lau savali ma lau tautala"

(A person is known by the way they carry themselves, by the way they walk and by the way they speak - Sāmoan Proverb).

- Fuatino Melegalenuu To'alepaiali'i Ah Sam MNZM

A pioneering Sāmoan educator and community leader is being remembered for her work at ASB Polyfest, EFKS and Māngere College.

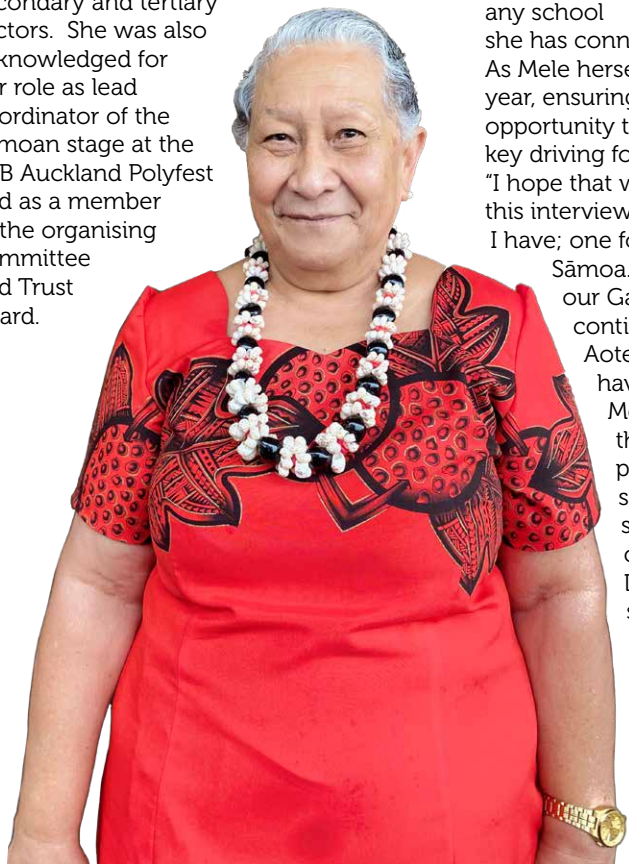
Fuatino Melegalenuu To'alepaiali'i Ah Sam, MNZM (known as Mele), Acting Principal of Māngere College, died peacefully on Monday, 15th April, surrounded by her loved ones, just days short of her 76th birthday.

Prior to her senior leadership roles at Mangere College, Mele was HOD Commerce and HOD Languages. She was a pioneer in the establishment of a languages block at Māngere College in 2012, aimed at enriching Māori and Pacific learning.

Mele will be remembered for her passion for teaching, her promotion of Gagana Sāmoa and her advocacy for Pacific Languages. In 2021 she was honoured as one of the first recipients of a Tautai o le Gagana Language Champion Honours Award, an initiative of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP).

In 2022 she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to Pacific Language Education. Her citation noted that she was a founding member and executive officer of Fotu o Malama, the Association for Teachers of Sāmoan Language and Culture in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

She was also acknowledged for her role as lead coordinator of the Sāmoan stage at the ASB Auckland Polyfest and as a member of the organising committee and Trust Board.



Mele was also a Deacon and Treasurer of EFKS New Zealand New Vision Church.

Auckland University's Sāmoan language lecturer, former colleague and friend Lemoa Henry Fesuluai says Mele made a significant contribution to the education sector.

"Her work extends to NZQA and MoE with many contractual service roles to ensure Quality Assurance for both Internal and External exams. She helped develop resources for NCEA and NZC (New Zealand Curriculum) for Sāmoan language, which benefited generations and the development of Pacific languages."

Fesuluai says Mele's left behind an incredible legacy.

"Mele was a proud Māngere person and protected [us from] criticisms regarding Mangere, Mangere College, South Auckland and Pacific - she would fight and ensure we were never looked down at or frowned upon. This attitude and her qualities, she passed on and shared with colleagues, friends, families and generations of all ages."

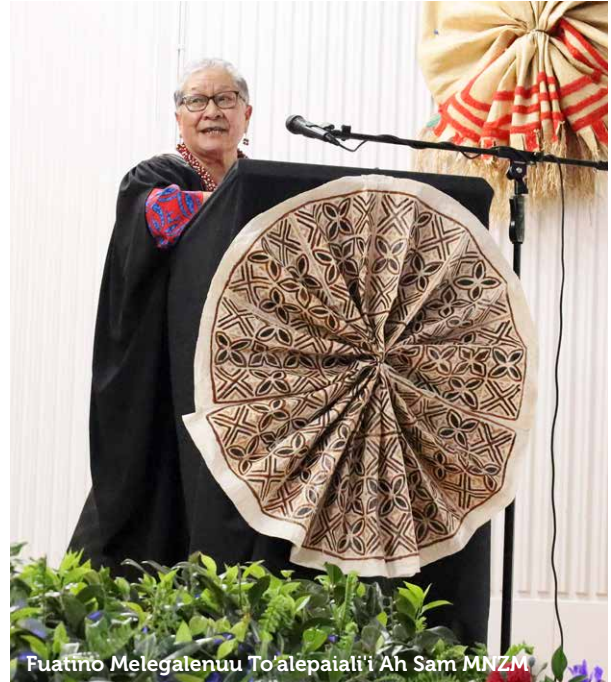
"She always is present or makes an effort to support local music, performing and creative artists, especially her past students of any school she has connected with."

As Mele herself said in an interview last year, ensuring her students had the opportunity to learn their language was a key driving force in her life.

"I hope that whoever is going to listen to this interview will get the same passion that I have; one for our language, our Gagana Sāmoa. And then, number two, for our Gagana Sāmoa to develop and continue to flourish in this island of Aotearoa that we and our aiga have now called our home."

"SHE BECAME OUR MUCH LOVED MATRIARCH, ROLE MODEL, MENTOR, BUILDER OF BRIDGES AND SELF-ESTEEM."

Mele was also known to thousands of students who performed on the Sāmoan stage at ASB Polyfest, where she'd worked as the lead coordinator since 1993. During the memorial service at Malaeola, long time friend and colleague Viv Maskell shared the passion Mele demonstrated for the students and Sāmoan language, but also mentioned the love that she showed to her



Fuatino Melegalenuu To'alepaiali'i Ah Sam MNZM

colleagues.

"Our staff are grateful to Mele for the wisdom, love and kindness she showed us. She became our much loved Matriarch, role model, mentor, builder of bridges and self-esteem. She took an interest in us and our families, celebrating events and supporting

us in times of trauma or need." PMN Cook Islands radio host and former Māngere College student Ernestina Bonsu Maro called her the "Queen of Māngere

College" and says Mele will be sorely missed by the community.

"The last event I saw her at was at the beginning of this year for our Māngere College students and I still remember the words 'I am proud of you Tina, keep serving your people.'"

Several memorial events were held on Thursday 18 April, and a final service was held on Monday 22 April at EFKS Vaimoso, before burial at the nearby family cemetery.



Lemoa Henry Fesuluai and Melegalenuu Ah Sam

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 |

email info@mangereeast.org | phone 275 6161 or drop in

372 Massey Road, Māngere East

WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Term 2 Schedule: (141 Robertson Rd, ph: 09 379 2030)

MONDAY/RĀHINA - Film Club with Brōwnalfā (6pm-7pm)

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

- Tongan Youth Trust (3pm-7pm)

WEDNESDAY/RĀAPA - Diamonds in the Rough (10am-3pm)

- Te Vaerua o te Rangī (5pm-9pm)

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

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

- Raise Up Youth (4.30pm-6.30pm)

- Tongan Youth Trust (3pm-7pm)

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

MOANA NUI A KIWA

The pools annual indoor pool maintenance shutdown starts on April 29th until May 12th and reopening on May 13th.

ME FAMILY SERVICES

PEST FREE TEAM - Free rodent control education and resources are available for the community, request link is bit.ly/freerattrapkit or email Nelly at pestfree@mefsc.org.nz.

HARANIA STREAM DAY - Saturday 25 May, 1pm-4pm, Blake Rd Reserve, Free sausage sizzle. Bring: Gloves and a Wheel Barrow. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/MEFSC>

TE ARA-RATA STREAM TEAM

On three Saturdays - 11th, 15th, 27th of May, there will be monitoring events for water quality, water bugs, and photo checks, the community are welcome to come and be involved. Weather is a factor - check out www.facebook.com/groups/teararatastreamteam for updates.

PAPATUANUKU KOKIRI MARAE

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

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Flexible Childcare Assistance: 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

Job seeking: www.connected.govt.nz/support-for-you/find-work-now/

Not sure of your employment rights?:

<https://www.connected.govt.nz/support-for-you/employee-rights/>



The Manamea stage production by Sau e Siva Creatives

With May rolling around again, it's that time of year to start preparing for TwoSevenFive day, which this time will be on a Monday, on 27/5 if you needed further clarification.

This will be the third official TwoSevenFive day and it is such a great event! Full credit to Fitz and his team from twosevenfive. for making this such an important date on our community's calendar. And while there's been plenty to celebrate lately, we particularly wanted to highlight another incredible show by Sau E Siva Creatives, called Manamea. This amazing production really showed off the best Māngere has to offer in terms of dancing, and musical talents as well as the logistical skills of the Sau E Siva Creative team to coordinate and choreograph a cast of over 40 people.

But the last month has also given us cause to commiserate, given the sad passing of Mele Ah Sam. As you'll read in the article on page 7 she was a beloved educator and leader in our community. And it's clear she has also left a special legacy which will be carried on by all who had the privilege of knowing her. May you rest in love, Mele.

YOUR AD COULD GO HERE

AD PRICES START AT \$50 FOR A CLASSIFIED AD.
PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS TO LOCALS AND HELP
SUPPORT 275 TIMES TO HELP COVER OUR PRINTING
COSTS. EMAIL 275TIMES@GMAIL.COM.

Māngere's
275 times

Editorial Team: Jo and Justin Latif

✉ 275times@gmail.com

📷 [275Times](https://www.instagram.com/275Times)

📘 www.facebook.com/275times

🌐 www.275times.com

💖 givealittle.co.nz/org/mangere-275-times

Want to advertise with 275 Times or have
a story idea? Email 275times@gmail.com