

# Māngere's 275 times



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

## 'COMING HOME' FOR GOOD COFFEE



Coffee Island owners Jeremy Toka and Lote Fakatava, located at the Māngere Arts Centre

**When the opportunity arose to run a cafe in their neighbourhood, Jeremy Toka and Lote Fakatava didn't hesitate to apply to become the new Māngere Arts Centre cafe operators.**

Both Jeremy and Lote, alumni of Southern Cross Campus, have worked in the hospitality industry for many years. But they were excited for the chance to finally bring their expertise back to the community that raised them.

"When the opportunity came about, it was a chance to come home," Lote says. "To give back the skills we've acquired over the years,

create a space where we can harness those skills, and enhance and support our community."

An important part of establishing the cafe was contributing to the Māngere Town Centre without creating unnecessary competition.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel but to provide good coffee and Island food. We just wanted to add to the Māngere Town Centre and Māngere as a whole," says Jeremy.

For Lote and Jeremy, offering high-

quality coffee was a top priority.

"We wanted to create a space that serves great coffee," Lote states.

"There's definitely a need for it." Jeremy also highlighted their vision of giving back by training local students for careers in hospitality.

"One of our goals is to bring students in for work experience so we can teach them about hospitality," he says.

"With our combined years in the industry, we have a lot to offer—from customer service to barista and chef skills."

Jeremy invites everyone to experience the cafe for themselves.

"Come have a coffee, try it yourself, and relax in this space. We created it for this community."

**"COME HAVE A COFFEE...  
AND RELAX IN THIS SPACE.  
WE CREATED IT FOR THIS  
COMMUNITY."**

# MĀNGERE COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLANNING

**STREET CHATS**  
kai & korero

*For Māngere, By Māngere*

SCAN TO REGISTER



## DROP-IN SESSIONS & COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

- ✿ Recovery awareness
- ✿ Trauma healing
- ✿ Resilience building
- ✿ Community needs assessment

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

### WORKSHOP #1

**Date:** Monday 10 March

**Time:** 9.30am - 12pm

**Venue:** ME Family Services 16-18  
Ferguson St, Māngere East

### WORKSHOP #2

**Date:** Thursday 20 March

**Time:** 9.30am - 12pm

**Venue:** Te Karaiti Te Pou Herenga  
Waka Marae Church, 35A Cape Road

### WORKSHOP #3

**Date:** Monday 24 March

**Time:** 6pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Māngere Bridge TBC

### WORKSHOP #4

**Date:** Monday 31 March

**Time:** 6pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Te Karaiti Te Pou Herenga  
Waka Marae Church, 35A Cape Road

# LOCAL PERFORMING ARTIST DROPS DEBUT SINGLE



## Adyhana Urika Filifilia Makes Her Musical Debut with Soulful Single 'Anchor'

One of New Zealand's most promising young vocalists, Adyhana Urika Filifilia, steps into the music scene with her debut single, *Anchor*. After years of captivating audiences on stage and screen, she is ready to make her mark with original music.

Deeply connected to her Samoan heritage, Adyhana uses music to share her personal experiences. Through her soulful vocals, she offers an intimate glimpse into her journey as a young Pasifika woman navigating tradition and modernity. *Anchor* encapsulates the challenge of balancing cultural expectations while carving her own path.

The song dates back to Adyhana's final year of high school, where she first wrote it with a close friend on guitar. Originally intended for the Smoke-Free Tangata Beats competition, it remained unreleased until now. She describes it as a deeply personal piece, born from self-reflection and uncertainty. *Anchor* symbolises the struggle to stay grounded amidst pressures of identity, faith, and personal growth while acknowledging the stabilising force of family and faith.

Adyhana's artistic journey has been shaped by Sae Siva Creatives, a performing arts collective that nurtured her talent from a young age.

There, she discovered the power of storytelling through Siva Samoa and song, deepening her



Photo: Leila Ann Photography

cultural connection.

Despite her talent, Adyhana was hesitant to step forward as a solo artist. However, encouragement from family and mentors gave her the courage to pursue her musical dreams. She sees *Anchor* as a victory for her entire community, reflecting the support that has shaped her journey.

Influenced by Aaradhna, Fiji, Nesian Mystik, and Vaniah Toloa, Adyhana stays authentic to her roots. She hopes her music will inspire others to embrace their identity and heritage.

*Anchor* is now available on all streaming platforms. Fans can watch the behind-the-scenes video on Kueva Productions Instagram and YouTube to embrace their identity and heritage fearlessly.

Adyhana's debut single, *Anchor*, is now available for download on all streaming platforms. Fans can also watch the behind-the-scenes video on the Kueva Productions Instagram and YouTube.

**Is your family facing housing difficulties? Monte Cecilia is here to help.**

**As a South Auckland-based Community Housing Provider, we provide housing support for families in need.**



\*Stock photo - not image of actual residents

For more information please call us on 0800 624 848. Our Whanau Support Coordinators are available to provide guidance and assistance.



**MONTE CECILIA**  
Empowering Families To Live Well

# ECOFEST COMES TO MĀNGERE



Some of the team from ME Family Services

## GET INVOLVED: ECOFEST 2025 EVENTS IN MĀNGERE AND NEARBY

Here are just a few exciting local events that you won't want to miss:

### Moth Plant Busting in Māngere East

Sat 22 March 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
16-18 Ferguson St, Māngere East  
Join us to tackle the invasive moth plant, which threatens our native biodiversity. Hosted by ME Family Services – Taiao Team.

<https://ecofest.org.nz/event/moth-plant-busting-mangere-otahuhu/2025-03-22/>

### Māngere Bridge Repair Café

Sat 29 March 10:00 am to 1:00 pm,  
Māngere Bridge Library  
Give your cherished household items a second life with the help of skilled volunteers. Reduce waste and learn practical repair skills in a fun, supportive environment. Hosted by Friends of the Farm. Koha is appreciated.

<https://ecofest.org.nz/event/mangere-bridge-repair-cafe/>

### E-waste Collection Day – Māngere

Sat 5 April 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Ambury Park Centre  
Dispose of your unwanted electronics responsibly for FREE at this drive-thru e-waste collection event. Let's keep hazardous materials out of our landfills! Hosted by Echo Tech and Friends of the

Farm.  
<https://ecofest.org.nz/event/e-waste-collection-day-mangere/>

### EcoFest Whaanau Fun Day

Sat 12 April 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Auckland Botanic Gardens  
Bring the whole whaanau for a day of fun, learning, and connection with nature. Enjoy interactive activities and celebrate sustainability together! Hosted by the Beautification Trust.  
<https://ecofest.org.nz/event/ecofest-whaanau-fun-day/>



A previous Māngere Bridge Repair Café event, run by Friends of the Farm

## EcoFest 2025 brings 200+ events across Auckland, including a vibrant South Auckland program led by the Beautification Trust.

From March 22 to April 22, enjoy free and ticketed events like workshops, repair cafés, open gardens, and environmental action days—all designed to inspire sustainability and community connection.

As environmental challenges grow, EcoFest empowers local action, proving small steps make a big impact. Join the movement and celebrate 13 years of eco-friendly initiatives! Local groups Friends of the Farm and ME Family services are also hosting many of these events

Explore events: [www.ecofest.org.nz](http://www.ecofest.org.nz)



## Discover, Inspire, Act.

# ECOFEST

22 March – 22 April 2025  
Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

Discover what's on at [ecofest.org.nz](http://ecofest.org.nz)

# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

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



The opening of the 'Fafangu: To awaken' exhibition at the Māngere Arts Centre. The exhibition runs through to the 29th of March.



The Nga Hau Māngere Bridge Bike Rave, organised by Triple Teez, Crank and Auckland Transport with Queen Shir'l'e as MC.



Congratulations to Angitu for their success at Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga in Pukekura/Bowl of Brooklands in New Plymouth. They won the KAIRANGI O TE MITA O TE REO MĀORI - TE REO EXCELLENCE TROPHY, 1st place in WAIATA Ā RINGA - TE TAONGA A IKAROA and WHAKAWĀTEA - TE TAONGA WHAKAMAUMAHARA KI A TE AMORANGI WI TE TAU HUATA RĀUA KO RINGAHORA HUATA in the Aggregate section. Many members of the rōpū Angitu hail from Māngere.

Photo: Te Matatini Society Incorporated (Facebook)

## FOOTBALL FOR FREEDOM FESTIVAL UNITES COMMUNITIES IN MĀNGERE



Photo: Joe Curry

The annual Football for Freedom Festival, organised by a dedicated group of local volunteers, including members of Manukau City AFC and Manukau United FC, brought together communities in Māngere East to stand in solidarity with Palestine.

Recognised globally as one of the top 11 charitable football events in 2022, this initiative has been running since 2013, following a partnership being formed between Nuseirat Sports Club in Gaza and Manukau

City AFC in 2012. The festival's primary goal is to raise awareness about the injustices in Palestine, support the call for freedom, and fundraise for charitable projects in Gaza. The event attracted over 300 participants, with 18 teams competing in both mixed and men's categories. One of the highlights was the diverse representation of communities from around the world, demonstrating how unity can be built through sport.

Beyond football, the festival featured food stalls offering ethnic cuisine, live DJ performances, and activities like Hungerball and inflatable games for children. Donations of pre-loved football boots were collected to support local communities in need. The presence of Banners and Bikes for Palestine further amplified the festival's message of justice and solidarity. With a strong turnout and an atmosphere filled with aroha, the event successfully raised funds to aid communities rebuilding in Gaza. Hone Fowler, one of the organisers, emphasised the importance of using platforms like sport to stand against oppression, foster inclusivity, and promote a safer world for all.

"This is hope in action," Fowler shared.

"We must continue to demand freedom and justice for Palestine."

# DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF WOOL AT FREE MĀNGERE EAST WORKSHOPS



## A unique series of wool workshops are coming to Māngere East.

The Silent Skies Wool Innovation Workshops by Liz Mitchell (pictured below right) aim to introduce locals to the beauty of wool while raising awareness about the harmful effects of synthetic fabrics. Mitchell, who is an award winning fashion designer and Campaign for Wool NZ's Ambassador, is passionate about wool's incredible benefits. "Wool regulates temperature, absorbs sound, is fire-retardant, antimicrobial, sustainable, and health-affirming," she says. These free community workshops will explore weaving, felting, embroidery, stitching, upcycling, and craftsmanship. Mitchell believes Māngere's rich cultural connections make it the perfect place for this initiative.

"Māngere has a strong multicultural creative community that will thrive with wool, sparking new ideas and artistic expression," Mitchell says.

A special focus will be on Tivaevae quilting, a cherished Pasifika tradition. Mitchell sees wool felt as a durable, colorful material that could enhance this art form.

"Tivaevae is a beautiful Pasifika expression, but modern fabrics are often low-quality polyester blends. Wool felt could offer a sustainable alternative, adding warmth and depth to embroidery."

Beyond creativity, the workshops will highlight wool's role in creating healthier homes.

"With wool blankets, rugs, curtains, and upholstery, homes can be safer and healthier. Wool is long-lasting, repairable, and biodegradable—unlike synthetic materials filling our landfills," she says. Mitchell also aims to educate people about

the dangers of synthetic fabrics. "Synthetic, oil-based textiles have been marketed as affordable, but they are toxic, non-biodegradable, and contributing to massive waste. It's time to rethink what we bring into our homes and wardrobes." **Go to [mangereeast.org/community-courses](https://mangereeast.org/community-courses) to sign up for a workshop.**



## COLLECT WEEDS AND WIN \$1000 CASH!



Zamira Pirake from the 'Kuki Podsters' who won last year

## The Pest Free South Auckland Moth Plant Competition is taking registrations and the picking has begun.

The Moth Plant weed is everywhere in our community and causes significant harm to our trees and our health. Simply collect the most moth pods and small plants and win up to \$1000 cash. This fantastic competition, supported by the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, gives you the opportunity to get out there, learn about pest plants and give back to te Taiao. You can enter as a small team of up to 10, an Early Childhood Centre or as a large group in the Open category. You can enter as a whanau, a church, a sports team, a school, an ECE, a Marae or an entire sports club. Make it work for you. Last year this small group of cousins the 'Kuki Podsters' collected over 5,000 pods!

**To enter just email [pfsa@otarawaterways.org.nz](mailto:pfsa@otarawaterways.org.nz)**

# HĀNGI AT THE HUB

## ACTIVATION DAY BRINGS CONNECTION AND LEARNING



Rata Taiwhanga from Etū Rākau (centre) with students from Māngere College

**Tamati Ngāti Adams was among the 15 Māngere College students who experienced a day of learning, connection, and service at the Māngere Enviro Hub with a Hāngi and Activation Day, run by Etū Rākau.**

Reflecting on the event, Tamati described it as an eye-opening experience, highlighting the warmth and dedication of the community.

"It was quite mind-opening just to see

how open and good the community is, especially here, and also how much mahi they're doing," he shared.

One of the standout moments for Tamati was participating in the blessing of the compost bins.

"It was my first blessing that I've ever done. It was a privilege," he said, reflecting on the significance of the moment. This ceremonial aspect underscored the connection between cultural traditions and environmental sustainability, reinforcing the

deep ties between people and place. Rata Taiwhanga, organiser of the event and founder of Etū Rākau reflects on a successful event.

"Today was really a dream session for these rangatahi to start dreaming big about Māngere, seeing how the vision and future, how they also fit into the equation. I think that's been the main thing I've been really talking about today is how these kids can really participate and be active in their community."

The whole event was focussed around the hāngi, with hāngi prep taking place the afternoon before at the school, and students arriving at 6.30am to help put the hang into the ground.

Taiwhanga says "the hāngi was a key element, where everyone could contribute in doing mahi, if it was chopping vegetables, to peeling potatoes, to cutting up cabbages, to getting the rocks in and just to be present on the day is probably the most important thing for that."



Tamati Ngāti Adams (far right) helping to test the water at Te Ararata Stream

## UPDATE FROM OUR LOCAL BOARD



**Let's look at what's been happening recently:**

- Oriental fruit fly restrictions lifted in Papatoetoe/Māngere – Since 13 February, controls on fruit and vegetable movement have been lifted after no further fruit fly evidence was found. Kerbside collections, including food scraps, are now back to normal.
- Congrats to Vinesh Kumaran for his successful Massey Station exhibition capturing the spirit of the Manukau Live Steamers club in Māngere. Visit the club Sundays at, 141R Robertson Rd, Māngere East.
- Triple Teez had a fantastic Nga Hau Māngere Bridge Bike Rave on 22 February as part of Māngere Streets for People. A great turn out riding through the new cycle lane on Coronation Road with entertainment and giveaways.
- Thank you to everyone who took part in the dog access and cemetery bylaw consultations.

### WHAT'S COMING UP:

#### Annual Plan 2025/2026 Have your Say

The 2025/2026 Annual Plan is open for public feedback until 28 March 2025. Join us for a kōrero at the Siva Afi Festival drop-in session on 7 March at Māngere Arts Centre, the Ōtāhuhu Family Fun Day and Fijian community meeting on 22 March, 10am-12pm at Māngere Centre Park



The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

stadium lounge.

#### Ōtāhuhu Family Fun Day

Saturday, 15 March, Fairburn Reserve, Mason Avenue. A FREE family-friendly event, fully funded by us – everything is free! Bring the whole whānau. Brought to you by a community committee, Tōia Library - Te Pātaka Kōrero o Ōtāhuhu and the Ōtāhuhu Business Association.

#### Fafangu: to awaken exhibition

22 February – 29 March at Māngere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku. This exhibition reimagines Tongan concepts of

ongo (sound), mate (death), putu (funeral rites), and fonua (people and place), focusing on the fangufangu, a bamboo nose-flute used to awaken chiefs in the practice of fakatakatoāfā.

#### Next monthly business meeting

Wednesday 19 March, 5pm at our local board office inside the Māngere Town Centre and is open to the public.

#### Free meals with LIFE Community Kitchens

Every Wednesday at 5:30pm at Moana Nui a Kiwa Pools and Recreation Centre – proudly funded by us.

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## MĀNGERE EAST CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday 22 March, 10am - 2pm at the Māngere East Village Green. Youth markets, food & merch, arts & crafts, entertainment and more! Contact [info@mangereeast.org](mailto:info@mangereeast.org).

## LOVE YOUR MAUNGA - COMMUNITY HĀNGĪ FUNDRAISER

Saturday 22 March, 10am - 3pm at Māngere Mountain. Hāngi, weaving, Māra hūpara workshops, Ki-o-rahi sessions and much more! For more info visit [www.maunga.nz](http://www.maunga.nz)

## TWOSEVENFIVE DAY - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Contact [vendor@twosevenfive.co.nz](mailto:vendor@twosevenfive.co.nz) if you are interested in being a stall vendor, performing or sponsoring Māngere's special annual event. Organised by TwoSevenFive.\_.

## LIFE COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Free meals every Wednesday 5.30pm at Moana Nui a Kiwa Pools and Rec Centre.

## MĀNGERE EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Transport, Kai and Activities for 5-13 year olds.

### FREE CLASSES

**MONDAYS:** Te Reo Māori (10am - 12pm & 6pm-8pm), Pono Boxfit (6pm - 7pm)

**TUESDAYS:** Te Reo Māori (12.30pm-2.30pm), Hulafit (6pm-7pm), Ethnic Arts & Crafts (6pm-8pm) Sewing for beginners (10am - 1pm) in Māngere East Library

**WEDNESDAYS:** SILENT SKIES Wool Innovation Workshops with Liz Mitchell MNZM (12:00PM - 3.00PM)

**THURSDAYS:** Sewing for beginners (10am - 1pm) in Māngere East Library

**FRIDAYS:** Korowai Class (10am - 2pm), Parenting Programmes (various dates/times)

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:** [www.mangereeast.org](http://www.mangereeast.org) | [info@mangereeast.org](mailto:info@mangereeast.org)

## WHARE KOA MĀNGERE COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

### TERM 1 SCHEDULE:

**MONDAY** - Emerge Aotearoa 10.30am-12.30pm

**TUESDAY** - Ukelele Class 10am-12pm, Raise Up Youth 4.30pm-6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY** - Diamonds In The Rough 10am-12pm Adullum Art With Sio 6.30pm-8.30pm

**THURSDAY** - Tiare Taina Mamas 10am-2pm Eva Ma Le Koko 10am-2pm, New Programme (TBC) 6pm-8pm

**FRIDAY** - Polynesian Creative Arts 10am-2pm

## JIU JITSU 275 - MARTIAL ARTS FOR MĀNGERE

FREE Jiu Jitsu Classes for Youth. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.30pm-5.30pm. Ages 13+. Māngere Town Centre stage area. Wear shorts. To register head to IG @jiu\_jitsu\_275

## PONO BOXFIT (FREE)

Mondays 6pm - 7pm, Māngere East Community Centre  
Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Aorere College. Check us out on FB or Insta for more details. For men & women. Free.

## LOVE PLAYING CARDS?

Learn Bridge for free from March 24. Papatoetoe Bridge Club, Kolmar Centre, Hunters Plaza. Monday nights from 6:45. Contact [pcbc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcbc@xtra.co.nz) or 0210 815 4931

## BLUE-GREEN FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECTS IN MĀNGERE

Auckland Council's Healthy Waters & Flood Resilience invites you to two community hui:

- **Te Ararata Creek:** Wed, 26 March, 6-8:30 PM

- **Harania Creek:** Thurs, 27 March, 6-8:30 PM

LOCATION: Te Karaiti te Pou Herenga Waka, 35 Cape Rd, Māngere.

Get updates on proposed designs, construction, and traffic impacts. These Blue-Green Network projects will reduce flood risk for hundreds of homes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:**

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

[te-ararata-creek](http://te-ararata-creek)

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

[/harania-creek](https://www.facebook.com/harania-creek)



## EDITORIAL

Selwyn Lilley (right) and Aupito Su'a William Sio at Selwyn's 65th Birthday

It takes a village, and 275 Times wouldn't be possible without all the people who have supported us over the years.

That's why we'd like to give a shout out to one of our supporters Selwyn Lilley who voluntarily delivers 275 Times around Māngere East and Middlemore Hospital. He recently had his 65th birthday in Samoa and had the time of his life. You'll often find him volunteering at community events, passionately picking up rubbish, and helping manage waste amongst other things. So a huge acknowledgment to Selwyn but also to everyone else who supports us in various ways.

We are aiming to increase our distribution around Māngere so if you would like to volunteer to hand out some copies of 275 Times to your local spot please get in touch! Contact details below.

On another note, local Para Boxer John 'Boulder Shoulders' Fiu has been selected to box in Poland this year as part of the NZ Para Boxing team! Let's rally behind him—scan the QR code and donate to his Givealittle page to help him get there.

SCAN TO SUPPORT JOHN TO GO TO BOXING EVENT IN POLAND



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