

OUR Auckland

TŌ TĀTOU TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

FROM *Garden* TO TABLE

Nurturing Auckland's Climate Plan

HARATUA-PIPIRI MAY-JUNE 2021

OURAUCKLAND.NZ



How to celebrate
MATARIKI

GET ACTIVE
the easy way



CONTENTS

Fast Frequent Frugal

The bus is the easy way to the central city, every 6 minutes in peak on rapid bus services*. No parking, no drama, no matter the weather - just turn up and get on.



Auckland buses

Let's go there



*Rapid bus services run every 3-10 minutes during peak. Average wait time 6 mins.

COVER PHOTO, CEMETERY PHOTO / BRYAN LOWE, CHRISTMAS AT HOWICK VILLAGE PHOTO, @SKYVIEWPHOTOGRAPHYNZ

05
MAYOR'S LETTER
Pathway to the future

07
THE BRIEFING
Information and inspiration from Council HQ

8-9
KEEP IT LOCAL
What's happening in your area



10-13
ACTION STATIONS
Auckland's Climate Plan is under way

14-15
NO SWEAT
Three easy ways to get active

NEED TO KNOW
Bylaw changes
Changes in effect from 1 March 2021 make Council's Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2014 easier to understand.



16-17
MATARIKI
Celebrating Māori New Year

19
ON WITH THE SHOW
The changing events landscape



20-21
WHAT'S ON
Festivals, shows, free events and fun across the region

22
SEE HERE NOW
The year in celebrations



All information is correct at the time of going to print. Should event details change due to COVID-19 alert levels, please see our website, **OurAuckland.nz**, for the most up-to-date information.

CONTACT US

Auckland Council
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
09 301 0101 (24/7)
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus
Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142
facebook.com/aklcouncil
twitter.com/aklcouncil

About OurAuckland
OurAuckland keeps you up to date with council services, projects and events and helps to fulfil our legislative obligations to keep Aucklanders informed. We conduct regular research to ensure *OurAuckland* is an efficient way of doing this.

Te reo Māori
We're proud to use te reo Māori in *OurAuckland*. If you come across a word you don't know, you can learn what it means at maoridictionary.co.nz

OurAuckland
ourauckland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
ourauckland.nz
Subscribe to *OurAuckland* e-newsletter at ourauckland.nz/enews

Designed by Auckland Council Design Studio and published by Auckland Council. Printed by Ovato, using sustainably FSC sourced paper.

or council service centres (printing charges may apply).





MOTAT

Bringing you three nights of Auckland's BEST FOOD TRUCKS and entertainment.

21 - 23 MAY 2021
5.30pm - 8.30pm **FREE ADMISSION**

MOTAT.NZ


★ FOOD TRUCK ★
ROUND UP
★★★★★



55 MINUTES
FROM MEETINGS TO
mates

Relax at one of Auckland Council's baches and holiday parks this autumn.
Book your escape today at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/holidayplaces

AUCKLAND COUNCIL HOLIDAY PLACES




Pathway to the future

Earlier this year, I announced the new Auckland Transport Alignment Programme (ATAP) with Transport Minister Michael Wood. At \$31 billion, ATAP is the largest capital programme ever allocated for Auckland transport infrastructure and services, and will help Auckland meet the long-term challenges of climate change, traffic congestion and housing.

The package aims to increase public transport, walking and cycling journeys over the next decade from 23 per cent to 29 per cent of morning peak trips, which is good news for addressing the problems of traffic congestion and carbon emissions. This includes \$1.3 billion – \$500 million more than the previous ATAP – for buses and ferries to help boost public transport trips by 91 per cent, and \$1.5 billion for local boards and walking and cycling initiatives.

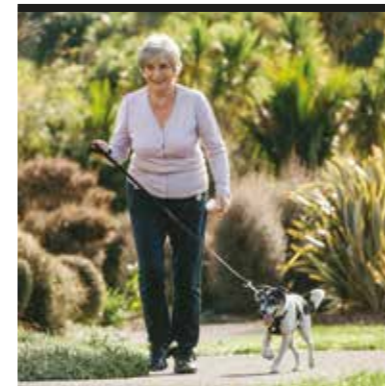
Particularly welcome in this ATAP is the trial of Community Connect, which will give 200,000 low-income earners a 50 per cent reduction in fares on all trips by train and bus. This is important to the council's goal of Auckland being inclusive for all its people, and will have the further benefits of helping to address traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

ATAP also aims to reduce the Auckland road toll by 65 per cent by 2031, which means around 1700 fewer deaths and serious injuries over the decade. Last year, real progress was made, with deaths on local roads reducing by 40 per cent compared to the previous year.

To meet Auckland's projected population growth, ATAP provides extra transport infrastructure to bring forward the building of 17,000 new homes in areas of the city that are being regenerated.

By itself, ATAP does not solve all of Auckland's transport problems, but it will allow us to make inroads into the increasingly serious problems of carbon emissions, traffic congestion and housing shortages.


Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland



GET CONNECTED WITH **OURAUCKLAND.NZ**

Discover more at ourauckland.nz

Get weekly updates on news and events across Auckland at ourauckland.nz/enews

Follow us on social media
 [@aklcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/aklcouncil)

BY THE NUMBERS

49

blue whales would weigh the same as the 7417 tonnes of rubbish kept out of landfill through the on-property inorganic collection service since it started a few years ago, giving unwanted items a second life.



150

languages are thought to be spoken daily by residents of Auckland, New Zealand's most culturally diverse city, which has around 100 ethnicities.

\$2.9 MILLION

has been granted through Auckland Council's Manaaki Fund to Māori partners supporting whānau impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

280

Auckland schools are on an EnviroSchools sustainability journey. They work to protect their local environments in collaboration with their communities on projects such as worm farms, reducing waste, removing pest plants and choosing Fairtrade products.

500

stars make up the Matariki cluster, but only nine are visible without a telescope.

3200km

The length of the coastline in the Auckland region.

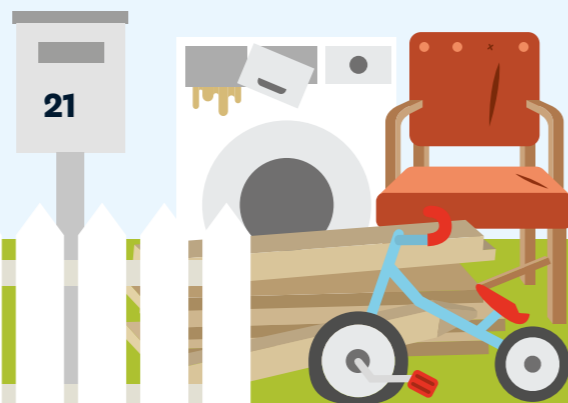


NOW'S THE TIME FOR A CLEAN OUT

Book your annual Auckland Council on-property inorganic collection today and help reduce waste to landfill.

You can book your Inorganic Collection in the way that works best for you:

- ▶ Online at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/inorganic
- ▶ Over the phone at **09 301 0101**
- ▶ Or visit your **local service centre**



Together we can protect our land and waste nothing.
Find out more at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/inorganic



THE BRIEFING

NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM COUNCIL HQ

AUTUMN IS THE IDEAL SEASON TO PLANT



Did you know the best time to plant trees and shrubs in your garden is after the arrival of autumn rains?

The roots will have time to develop and get established before the dry summer months. When the weather warms in spring, your plants will be ready to thrive. The exceptions are frost-sensitive subtropicals, which should be planted in late spring when frosts have finished.

Planting at this time of the year, in autumn, will make a garden

more resilient to drought and more likely to thrive.

When planting, you should dig a hole about twice the width of the root ball and work in some compost and natural fertiliser. Plant the tree at the same depth as it was in the planter bag/container and then press in well with your foot.

Staff at Auckland Botanic Gardens in Manurewa say that success in gardening depends on having the right plant in the right place and giving it the right treatment.

To help find the right plant, head over to the easy-to-use online database of plants, tested for excellence in Auckland conditions.

To find out more, visit aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz and click on the Plants for Auckland link.

The centre of your community

If you've ever wondered what's on in your local Auckland Council-supported arts, community and events venues, it's easy to find out – just head to thecentre.co.nz

With more than 80,000 offerings throughout the year, you can join a painting class, learn a language, visit the markets or maybe take in an exhibition. There are so many ways to make the most of your neighbourhood.

Or perhaps you have a great idea for an event in your local venue. Do you want to be a part of our annual festivals and events?

Auckland Council supports more than 200 venues where Aucklanders can run activities, programmes and events for their community.

From Wellsford to Franklin, Ōhau to Maraetai, it's easy to get involved in your local area. Just submit an Expression of Interest to our centres anytime or look out for our annual call for proposals for our festival programme. Visit thecentre.co.nz



Major city-centre development



A 21-storey tower with a mix of retail, commercial and residential space will be built at the heart of Auckland's public transport network.

The development, above Aotea Station at the corner of Mayoral Drive and Wellesley Street, will be a joint project by Panuku Development Auckland and international property developer Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad.

Corporation Berhad.

The station, currently under construction and destined to be Auckland's busiest, has been designed to revitalise the mid-town precinct.

"The project will replace what was once a car park with modern, well-designed and high-density housing, as well as shops and commercial spaces in the heart of our city," says Mayor Phil Goff.

"The apartments and businesses it creates will have a great location, situated above the City Rail Link Aotea Station and close to attractions such as the Art Gallery and Aotea Centre."

Share Auckland's unique Māori stories

A programme to celebrate te reo Māori and share the stories of Tāmaki Makaurau's rich Māori history has reached a milestone, with several local boards adopting the first tranche of dual names for local parks.

Whau, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Ōtara-Papatoetoe are among 15 local boards participating in the naming component of Te Kete Rukuruku programme.

It's led by iwi in partnership with the boards and will result in the nominated sites having both a Māori and an English name.

Each of the boards also confirmed a park in its area to receive a suite of bilingual signs throughout. These include regulatory and wayfinding signs and an interpretive sign with the name and story in English and Māori.

The signs will feature a QR code

so people can scan and hear the pronunciation. The locations approved for bilingual signs are Tahurangi / Crum Park (Whau), Te Ara-Tāwhana / Moyle Park (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu), Waanganui / Allenby Park (Ōtara-Papatoetoe) and Te Pua / Keith Park (Manurewa).

At the heart of the programme is the aim of ensuring te reo Māori is seen, heard, learnt and spoken as part of everyday life.

PLANTING AND DANCING IMAGE / BRYAN LOWE

The more we scan, the safer we will be



Using the NZ COVID Tracer app keeps you, your whānau and businesses safe from COVID-19.

The app helps health officials to trace any potential spread of the virus, and ensures that you'll receive notifications if you have been in contact with COVID-19.

Please continue to scan QR codes, and turn on Bluetooth tracing – if you haven't already.

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

Find out more at Covid19.govt.nz

Unite
against
COVID-19

New Zealand Government

LOCAL NEWS / AROUND AUCKLAND

THE LATEST FROM OUR REGION

IN SHORT

Look up at the night sky
Check out the nine Matariki stars that rise in our night sky throughout June.

HEAT kit

Borrow a Home Energy Audit Toolkit from your local library. It provides tools and information to figure out which parts of your house are using the most energy.

Local board grants

Local boards around the region are responsible for allocating grants to projects and events that benefit their local area. If you are planning something this year, it's worth investigating if there is funding available. Visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants for information on how to apply.

Taste local

Have you tried the local restaurant near where you live? Perhaps now's the time to do so. These small local eateries often have some of the city's most authentic flavours.



Sports centre facilities hailed as world class

A dream that started more than 30 years ago is finally becoming a reality with the Ngāti Ōtara Multi-sports Centre about to open.

The complex offers world-class sporting space for local talent to train and practise.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board member and immediate past chair Lotu Fuli says the opening will mark a monumental moment for not just the board but also the entire community. "This upgrade has been a long time coming. I used to play sports here growing up and it feels amazing to deliver a fit-for-purpose, world-class facility that our community can truly call home."

Manukau Ward Councillor Alf Filipaina says the whole community will benefit from the new centre. "For me, this has been an incredibly long journey, which started eight years ago when \$4.2 million was secured for the build.

"Everyone involved has worked continuously to make this happen and I'm glad it's here.

"Working together with the local board has been crucial in the completion of this work. This facility is truly something we all can be proud of."

Visit ourauckland.nz to read more about the centre.

COFFEE PHOTO / KELLIE BLIZZARD, SPORTS CENTRE PHOTO / GINO DEMEER



Planting days like this one held at Matheson Bay Reserve near Leigh, Rodney, are a great way to connect with nature. Last year, volunteers planted more than 11,250 trees and put in more than 2700 hours working in local parks.

Visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for information about upcoming planting days and how you can volunteer to help.

Colour, music, adventure, fun

Work is under way to create a play area that connects the sea, sand and land to the play experience at the new Selwyn Reserve playground on the Mission Bay waterfront.

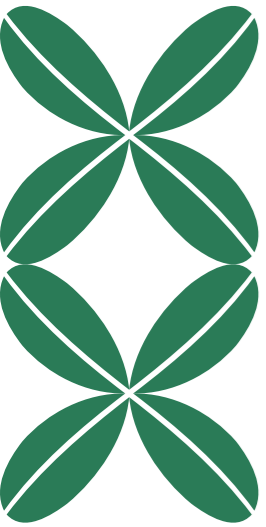
"The community has been asking for an upgrade to this playground for years, so it's great to be able to provide such a wonderful design for residents and visitors alike," says Ōrākei Local Board Chair Scott Milne.

"It's colourful, musical, and has a range of climbing and adventure elements. The shade and seating around the playground are being improved, and the design criteria also included protecting the reserve's Norfolk pines and Melanesian Mission buildings and referencing the long history of Māori and European occupation of the site."

CHANGE STARTS HERE

Can you imagine a better Auckland? A region where birdsong drowns out a passing truck? Where our beaches are sparkling and safe for swimming all year round? Where we're spending less on energy yet our houses are warmer and drier?

Where our communities are healthier and better connected?



It's your future and it's starting right now – Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan is under way. Our goal: to halve the region's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, reducing to net zero by 2050.

Auckland Council is working with you, your community, local businesses, industry and the Government to make this a reality.

"Aucklanders have given us a mandate to act," says Councillor Richard Hills, chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee. "We have developed this plan with Aucklanders, for Aucklanders.

"We are committed to deliver on the goals, but they are ambitious and more than Auckland Council can achieve on its own. That's why we

are partnering with the Government, mana whenua and local communities to show what's possible when we resource sustainable living solutions. It's not going to be easy, but we must tackle climate change together."

One person really can have impact. Every action counts. This is how change happens.

As individuals, we can each speak up to advocate for the future we want, and that creates a mandate for business, industry and the Government to act. It's going to take all of us working together to achieve our goals.

Here are six innovative ways Auckland Council is partnering with communities across Tāmaki Makaurau to make low-carbon living a reality:

ENVIROSCHOOLS Low-carbon learning



If your kids talk about their worm bins or know about pest plants, chances are they are attending one of the 280 Enviroschools across Auckland.

Enviroschools is an Auckland Council-supported programme that empowers students to design and lead sustainability projects in their schools and neighbourhoods. Papatoetoe West School is an enthusiastic participant. Its gardens produce seasonal fruits and vegetables that help kids learn how to choose, produce and prepare food to reduce their impact on the environment. The kale, tomato and herbs they grow in

their Garden-to-Table programme upgrade a pizza lunch. They collect snails from the vegetable beds to feed to the four resident chickens, who also gobble up the school's food waste and, in turn, produce eggs for cooking classes.

"There are so many benefits," says Papatoetoe West tumuaki/principal Diana Tregoweth. "The children are trying new foods, developing their taste palates and skills to put meals together for their families, and acquiring the knowledge to try putting in their own garden at home. Also, we have possibly the best-fed chickens in the country."

ENVIROSCHOOLS STUDENT PHOTO / BRYAN LOWE

ZERO-WASTE DECONSTRUCTION

Waste to riches

Each of the eight priorities of Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan (outlined on page 13) has specific action areas. For example, in the Built Environment, one is to develop and support initiatives to minimise construction and demolition waste.

Houses once earmarked for demolition are starting to be deconstructed or renovated to reduce waste, increase reuse and provide training and employment. Rimu floorboards, copper wiring, vintage textured glass and roofing iron are among the valuable materials that can be reused and recycled. Such resources are currently the largest source of waste to landfill.

An average new house build produces 4.5 tonnes of waste, including materials worth more than \$31,000 if they were saved rather than sent to landfill. Auckland Council partnerships are working to minimise construction waste. As old dwellings are removed to make way for Kāinga Ora housing developments,

organisations are working with the council to develop hubs where houses once destined for demolition will be deconstructed or renovated and on-sold. Sales of recyclable materials will generate income to sustain and grow the deconstruction hubs.

All this activity creates jobs. James Cook High School student Jasnil Chander is taking part in an Ara Education Charitable Trust initiative which offers final-year students from 20 South Auckland colleges the chance to work one or two days a week in construction. The project is supported by Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation Innovation Fund.

"I had no idea construction and demolition are the highest cause of waste that ends up in landfill," says Chander, who has already decided he wants a career in building. "I am having so much fun. It feels good to work on a project that helps make a difference in reducing the impact on the planet."

REDUCING HOME ENERGY USE

Time to save water?

A simple egg timer has proved way more useful in the bathroom than in the kitchen for Aucklander Gareth Shute. He put one in the shower after auditing his home energy consumption and realising his family could cut its hot water use. "It's turned showering into a game for our son; now, he challenges himself to keep shower times under four minutes, which is a win for us in terms of saving water, money and time."

Auckland Council's Home Energy Audit Toolkits (HEAT) are available to borrow for free from your local library.

The tools will help you to work out which areas of your home use the most energy and how you can make it healthier and warmer, save on energy bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

To find out more, ask at your local library or go to aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search HEAT kit. If you would prefer one-to-one help, book a free consultation from one of our home performance advisers.



EATING WELL FOR Papatūānuku

Waste not, want not



Finding a few surprises in the back of the fridge is a regular event for many of us. Mouldy bread, last week's leftovers, a shrivelled orange – it all adds up. In fact, the average New Zealander

throws away the equivalent of three supermarket trolleys full of groceries each year.

"Half of the world's food is wasted," says Aucklander Bindi Chouhan. "That's a waste not just of food but of money." New Zealand's yearly food waste from households alone produces 409,234 tonnes of carbon emissions. To offset this, we would need to take 150,453 cars off the road for one year or plant 163,693 trees.

Surveys show eight out of 10 Aucklanders want to throw away less food but many are unsure where to start. That's where Chouhan is making an impact with her Love Food Hate Waste cooking classes aimed at inspiring

them to prepare delicious foods, reduce waste and save money. Each class centres around delicious recipes with information on meal planning and food storage and how to get the best bang from their food bucks. Enjoy this favourite low-carbon plant-based recipe from her classes:

MASALA BREAD

Kiwis waste a staggering 15,174 tonnes of bread each year.

Transform 4 slices of old bread using these ingredients:

Heat 2 tbsp oil and ½ tsp mustard seeds

Add your favourite spice mix, such as

½ tsp turmeric

½ tsp red chilli

¼ tsp asafoetida (optional)

Salt (to taste)

Stir in 4 slices of bread cut like croutons

Add 2 tbsp yoghurt

Garnish with fresh coriander.

TRANSPORT

Tackling emissions



Tackling our transport emissions is one of the biggest challenges we have because 40 per cent of the region's carbon emissions come from transport, and we all need to be able to get around the city we love.

Auckland's train system is already almost completely electrified, and our first electric buses are gliding around Waiheke and on the new AirportLink route between Manukau and Auckland International Airport.

From this year (earlier than previously planned), all new council-funded buses contracted to Auckland Transport will be electric or hydrogen powered and by 2030, half of the bus fleet will be zero-emissions. More people now commute over Auckland

Harbour Bridge in a bus than a car during rush hour.

And there's more to come. Together with the Government, we're building the City Rail Link to further assist Aucklanders to travel safely without a car. It will carry more than 54,000 people an hour during peak periods – the equivalent of 16 extra traffic lanes.

Through our partnership with the Government we're also aiming to boost the number of trips on public transport by 91 per cent, with a \$1.3 billion injection into bus and ferry services, and investing \$1.5 billion through local boards to complete cycleways throughout the region.

BIKE HUBS

Bike buzz

They say you never forget how to ride a bike – but how about repair a puncture, oil a chain or check the brakes? For Aucklanders keen to get into cycling, Bike Hubs are springing up all over Auckland, from Ōtara to Waiheke to Sandringham and beyond, where savvy volunteers offer cycles at minimal or no cost and share their know-how on keeping them moving.

The hubs were started because of concern about the number of bikes going to landfill that could be made roadworthy with a few easy repairs.

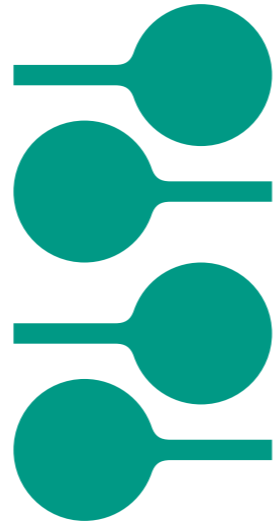
"It's such a buzz on the weekend," says Damon Birchfield of EcoMatters, an Auckland Council partnership organisation that set up the Bike Hubs in New Lynn, Henderson and Glen Innes. "We've seen a real willingness to donate used bikes to the hubs. When they're open, they're a hive of activity, with volunteers supporting the community to fix bikes, while the novelty bikes are really popular to take for a ride while a repair is being made."

The environmental benefits of getting people into cycling are clear: fewer bikes in landfills, more bikes and fewer cars on the road.

There are also important health, social and financial benefits: the cyclists are getting active, making community connections and saving money on petrol and parking.

"The whole point of our service is that we don't just do it for you," says Birchfield. "You learn it so you can go away and do it yourself."

Visit ecomatters.org.nz/on-bikes to find your nearest bike hub. For more info on how the Climate Plan supports cycling and walking infrastructure, check out climateakl.co.nz



BIKE REPAIR PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ECOMATTERS ENVIRONMENT TRUST, WATERING PHOTO / BRYAN LOWE



TWO THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

CHECK YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Visit futurefit.nz and take a quick quiz to find out where your household carbon footprint stands in comparison with the rest of New Zealand. No judgement! It's a great way to see where you're already making a difference and find new ideas. Already the initiative has saved an estimated 940,000kg of carbon dioxide emissions. This is the equivalent of driving from Auckland to Wellington in a medium-sized car 6838 times.

CONNECT TO PROTECT

Visit livelightly.nz, an Auckland Council initiative to connect people and provide fresh ideas on how to live well and take care of the planet.



EIGHT PRIORITIES OF AUCKLAND'S CLIMATE PLAN

These will help us get to a resilient, low-carbon Tāmaki Makaurau.



Natural environment: a vibrant natural environment that enhances the health and connectedness of Aucklanders.



Transport: a low-carbon transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.



Built environment: a city that's built to promote healthy, low-impact lifestyles.



Communities and coast: communities that reduce emissions and prepare for our changing climate and coastlines.



Economy: a resilient, low-carbon economy, guided by our kaitiaki values, where Aucklanders thrive.



Energy and industry: a clean energy system powered by renewable, low carbon fuels and reduced emissions.



Te Puāwaitanga ō te Tātai: flourishing intergenerational relationships (whakapapa) of taiao (nature), whenua (land) and tangata (people). Together with resilient, self-sustaining and prosperous Māori communities.



Food: a local food system that provides Aucklanders with access to seasonal, fresh and healthy food.

Visit climateakl.co.nz to find out more about our plans.

EASY DOES IT

You don't have to be super sporty to get active in Tāmaki Makaurau. Across the region, you'll find Aucklanders of all ages and stages getting their bodies moving in ways that are easy and fun. Meet three locals who exercise their own way.

On yer bike

Opanuku Stream Path, Henderson

Tracey-Lee Pettifer likes to find activities and places that everyone in the family can enjoy together. Based in Northcote Point, Takapuna is a favourite local spot. "The kids go to school in Takapuna so we're there a lot, but we like to explore all sorts of different places," she says.

Further afield, the 8km Opanuku Stream Path stretching from Great North Road to Henderson Valley Road fits the bill.

Perfect for walkers, runners and bikers, it follows the stream and weaves through lush native bush. At the Henderson Valley Road end, you also have the Corban Estate Arts Centre, supported by Auckland Council, and its cafe.

Pettifer, who is also an administrator of the Bike Auckland with Kids Facebook page, says a bike ride along the path and a visit to the arts centre is a perfect half-day

activity for her and her boys Theo, 9, and Hadlee, 7. "I really like that you can go to the arts centre - that was really cool. When you're out with the kids, it's quite nice to know there's something else that can be involved. The combination with the art gallery and cafe is great."

The set-up of the path, which has art features along the way and plenty of picturesque and spacious stopping spots, makes it ideal for individuals and groups. For animal lovers, there's also a lot to look out for, with horses, pūkeko and ducks visible from the path.

"The really nice thing about it is it's suitable for all ages and levels of confidence," Pettifer says.

The way the path is designed is also helpful when you're riding in a group with different speeds and ages. "One of the things I look out for on the map is road crossings," Pettifer says. "The nice thing about [Opanuku Stream Path] is even though it has a couple, they are designed so you go uphill to them. You aren't going to get kids going downhill just riding across the road."

For those wanting to add something else onto the day, there's the option of catching the train to the path. Henderson Station is a few minutes' walk from the arts-centre end, which also has a playground and public toilets.

Discover more paths at aklpaths.co.nz



Morning motivation

Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Leisure Centre, Pakuranga

You'll find Steve Hassett at the Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Leisure Centre every weekday morning. The retired builder clocks in about 7.30am. His hour of exercise at the centre's first-floor fitness facility has been a ritual for the past 15 years. Of course, COVID-19 lockdowns caused a bit of disruption - however, it's a habit he won't be giving up anytime soon.

"I do a workout for an hour in the gym and that sets me up for the day," Hassett says. "The reason is I'm 75. It gets me out of bed and gets me moving. I do that to keep me motivated and focused."

Hassett says one of the best things about the Auckland Council-run gym is its friendly and community-minded environment. The open-plan space has cardio machines, weights, a large floor area and views of the expansive park grounds the centre sits in. It also overlooks the swimming facility below and has plenty of natural light.

Importantly, it's a place where all types of people can feel comfortable - particularly because it offers members a bit more than your average gym.



"As well as physical attributes, it's got social attributes," Hassett says. "I enjoy the company of the people, especially the older people in my age bracket that I've got to know over the years. You talk to each other, interact and have a laugh."

The Tuesday morning "Forever Fit" gathering is a favourite of his. The 45-minute gentle stretch and mobility class caters specifically to members aged over 65.

"There's usually 15 to 20 of us in the room, sometimes 30," Hassett says with a big grin.

For those after variety, the group fitness timetable offers Aqua Works in the pool, Sh'bam dance classes and Body Pump in the studio.

The lap pool, spa and sauna are also popular, and for those with young kids, it's hard to miss the indoor Splash pool. There's also a dedicated learners' pool complete with a ramp that can be accessed using one of the centre's water wheelchairs.

Find your local Auckland Council-run leisure centre at aucklandleisure.co.nz

Moving to the beat

Ura Tabu dance classes, Citywide

Iunisi Paea is an Ura Tabu dance class loyalist. The high-school teacher attended her first Pasifika Mind & Body class with the female-led, Pacific dance collective four years ago. Now, the group's early-morning Sunday dance session at Kohimarama Beach is a highlight of her week.

"I've known about Ura Tabu for years," she says. "I actually registered on my own [for their classes], but when I got there, I found other friends were going, too. That was a bonus."

The classes, suitable for all levels of experience and fitness, provide a unique and empowering way to be active. Movements draw on Sāmoan, Hawaiian, Cook Island and Tahitian concepts and dance techniques. Challenging and uplifting, they are designed to release

tension and build strength and stamina.

For Paea, the cultural grounding in Pacific cultures is also important. "I just love how inspiring it is to be with that group and participate in these sessions. If you're looking for that spiritual, physical and mental recharge, Ura Tabu can do that with their sessions. They also have that cultural-ties aspect to it, and you feel like you belong when you attend."

Founded by dancer-choreographer Charlene Tedrow in 2008, Ura Tabu is made up of indigenous dance practitioners from the Pacific. Since its inception, the collective has built a strong reputation in the creative and performing-arts spaces in New Zealand and overseas.

It also works closely with communities to offer Pasifika Mind & Body classes. These are run all year round, with sessions in Manurewa, Kohimarama and Onehunga. Zoom classes are also available during lockdowns. It is \$40 to register.

See Ura Tabu Pacific Dance on Facebook for more details.



BIKING FAMILY, GYM PHOTO / BRYAN LOWE

STARS IN OUR EYES

The Matariki star cluster has heralded the Māori New Year for many generations, but in 2022, it will become a public holiday for the first time. We look ahead to what this means for Tāmaki Makaurau and consider how we might celebrate Matariki as a whānau and a region.

When it's dark outside in mid-winter, wrap up warm and take a look up at the pre-dawn sky. Find the three stars of Tauroru / Orion's Belt, then follow a line northwards until you spot a little cluster of bright blue stars. You're seeing Ngā Mata o Ariki Tāwhirimātea (The Eyes of the God Tāwhirimātea), or Matariki.

Also referred to as Te Iwa o Matariki, the cluster can be seen throughout the year in New Zealand, except May. Its reappearance heralds the Māori New Year, in line with the lunar calendar, or maramataka.

It will become a public holiday for the first time on 24 June 2022.

"Matariki will be a distinctly New Zealand holiday; a time for reflection and celebration, and our first public holiday that recognises te ao Māori," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said when announcing the holiday.

Māori Crown Relations Te Arawhiti Minister Kelvin Davis added: "The reappearance of the Matariki stars in our sky each year marks the beginning of a new year, and in recent years has become a time of celebration not just for Māori, but for many people across Aotearoa."

For Anahera Higgins (Ngāti Konohi, Rongomaiwahine, Te Āitanga-a-Hauiti), Matariki and Te Tau Hou Māori (Māori New Year) is the time to acknowledge those we have lost, whakawhanaungatanga (our relationships) with those who are still with us, and plan for our future generations. Historically, it was a time to wānanga (learn).

"Matariki is when Papatūānuku [Earth] is at her coldest, so it's the perfect time for reflection and planning the next 12 months," says Higgins, who is programme manager of Te Kete Rukuruku, a programme led by mana whenua in partnership with Auckland Council. The programme aims to restore Māori

place names and narratives to public spaces in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Higgins says acknowledging Matariki as a public holiday highlights the way all New Zealanders can discover our own culture and identity and learn about some of our traditional practices, and even potentially reinstate them.

"I think that, as someone who grew up in a time when Matariki wasn't discussed, to see it now celebrated on a national scale is empowering for me as tangata whenua and great for my son to experience as a normal event in his life. The challenge to us all is to learn about this wonderful season."



Nani Noeleen Rupapera received her moko kauae (chin tattoo) during the daily Matariki activities at Ruapōtaka Marae in Glen Innes.

Nine named stars in Matariki

The Matariki cluster contains 500 stars, nine of which can be seen with the naked eye.

Their Māori names are:

- ✦ Waitī
- ✦ Waitā
- ✦ Waipunarangi
- ✦ Tupu-ā-nuku
- ✦ Tupu-ā-rangi
- ✦ Ururangi
- ✦ Pōhutukawa
- ✦ Hiwa-i-te-rangi
- ✦ Matariki



Ani Makea, marae adviser for Auckland Council's Ngā Mātārae – Customer and Community Services, views Matariki as being about celebrating new beginnings – "a time of growth and renewal".

Says Makea (Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Whāwhākia, Ngāti Makirangi, Ngāti Tamainupō): "Prior to the first COVID-19 lockdown, our community of Glen Innes was privileged to host the Matariki Light Trail. A week-long celebration brought our surrounding communities together to partake in not only the visual spectacle of the light trail but also a showcase of culture, art and music."

Family members volunteered to support this kaupapa, and, post the Alert Level 4 lockdown, the whānau held daily activities at Ruapōtaka, their community marae.

"One year, we held a session about toi tuku iho [Māori art], specifically concentrating on the moko kauae [chin tattoo]. We invited anyone from the community who was interested in experiencing and witnessing this ancient teaching to come along. It was well attended, and gave

people who may never have had the opportunity to see this mahi toi [art] up close and personal a better appreciation of this teaching."

Victoria Travers, chief executive officer of the Stardome Observatory and Planetarium, believes that honouring Matariki with a public holiday shows New Zealand's maturity as a nation.

"It's appropriate that we are privileging such an important marking in the first calendars that we used here. They're the markers to which the rhythm of this country, and of this part of the world, are set. It's just fantastic and wonderful to see this mainstreamed."

For Aucklanders who'd like to learn more about the stories of Matariki and the stars themselves, the Stardome's planned Matariki show will take them deeper. It will also offer more precise instructions on locating the cluster. Revamped in 2020, the show will run for six weeks from 24 June this year.

Travers says many people recall narratives about the stars from Greek or Roman stories, but

A matter of perspective



Matariki is a national tradition, not an Auckland-specific festival, but not every iwi in

New Zealand celebrates it in the same way.

Ani Makea, marae adviser for Auckland Council's Ngā Mātārae – Customer and Community Services, explains that tribal nuances are a direct result of the differing environments and surroundings of where each tribe is located at the arrival time of Matariki.

Matariki sits low in the sky so it may not be seen, depending on the geography of where people are standing, says Stardome's Victoria Travers. Instead, she says, some iwi and hapū use different stars as markers of the New Year, for example Puanga, a nearby star with similar significance which sits higher in the sky.

Travers says it's also important to understand that Matariki's appearance is not a set date each year. It's informed by the maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar, and shifts. In 2019, it fell on 10 June, but in 2020, it was celebrated on the 22nd.

The Government has set up a Matariki Advisory Group of experts in te ao Māori and mātauranga (knowledge) associated with Matariki and the maramataka to manage the public holiday's timing in keeping with the lunar calendar and different iwi traditions.

she's excited about the way that celebrating Matariki can connect a broader number of New Zealanders to Aotearoa's own indigenous stories of the sky – a rich and deep narrative a thousand years or more in the making.

Auckland Council's Matariki Festival

Celebrate the Māori New Year in Tāmaki Makaurau with the Matariki Festival. Taking place from 19 June to 11 July, the festival will have plenty for the whole whānau to see and do. Visit matarikifestival.org.nz for more info.

A world of events in Auckland

The best in entertainment from around the globe and the magic of unforgettable moments await you right in your own backyard! Whether it's joining a standing ovation at the spectacular Jersey Boys musical or challenging yourself to Swim the Bridge, there are plenty of reasons to have a staycation in Auckland this Autumn.

And there many reasons to experience even more of your city, with events like The International Comedy Festival and Auckland Writers' Festival just around the corner. There's also a plethora of world class restaurants and entertainment options to indulge in, as well as world firsts like The All Blacks Experience and Weta Workshop Unleashed.

Whatever your calling, you'll find it here.

[Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.](#)

aucklandnz.com/events



AUCKLAND
IS CALLING



Photo: Lyndon Katene



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

In a year of sudden disruptions caused by COVID-19 alert level changes, **Sophia Wang** asked the people behind some of our region's most beloved events how they have coped, adapted and, in some cases, thrived.



Auckland event organisers have worked hard to adapt to the climate of uncertainty that comes with organising mass gatherings during a global pandemic. Events are one of the attractions of living in our region – Auckland is renowned globally as a major sports and events city – and the cancellation of big community gatherings over the past year has been challenging for both organisers and residents.

One of the high-profile events affected by the changing alert levels is Matariki Festival, which celebrates Māori New Year and spans four weekends and three weeks over June and July.

"For the 2021 festival, we are working with a third less budget due to emergency budget savings," says Luana Walker, Auckland Council's arts and culture programme planning manager. Although some elements of the festival have had to be changed due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is still scheduled to proceed.

Auckland Unlimited, the council organisation responsible for providing world-class experiences and events, had to navigate the disruption to both the Summernova festival and the America's Cup caused by a change to alert level three, meaning events had to be

either postponed or cancelled.

General Manager Destination Steve Armitage says those decisions were ultimately made by the event organisers.

"Island Time on Motutapu, an event supported by Auckland Unlimited as part of Summernova Festival, was pushed out by a month because of the set-up required. Likewise, with Waterbourne, New Zealand's biggest beach festival, organisers had to make the call to reshape the event from what they had actually planned and pushed it out by a week as a result."

Armitage says everything was planned with COVID-19 considerations in mind, and contingency plans were prepared for various scenarios.

"Auckland Unlimited have come up with creative initiatives," he says. "For instance, with Diwali Festival in October last year, they offered it regionwide rather than just in a central-city location.

"Even though Auckland Lantern Festival in March ultimately had to be cancelled because of a sudden change in alert levels, it was ticketed this year in order to manage who was coming and so that we could notify people directly of any changes."

CultureFest, which attracted around 8000 Aucklanders to Mt Roskill War Memorial Park in March, was an example of a large gathering that could go ahead only because the region was in level one. Auckland Council Event Development Manager Leanne Roche says if alert levels had risen, it couldn't have been postponed to another date because the park's fields needed to be

readied for the winter sports season.

"We have to consider our event customers as well as our other customers, like sports players and field users," she says.

CultureFest, successor to the long-standing Auckland International Cultural Festival, was the finale to the 10-day World of Cultures festival. Roche says any of the other events could have been postponed to days within the festival programme or held independently outside it.

"These activities are delivered by community groups and we would have worked with those groups on the best option for them and their attendees if any alert level changes had disrupted their plans."

The World of Cultures team were forced to rethink their original plans, using the lessons learned from the 2020 Auckland Heritage Festival, which was successfully delivered during alert level two last year.



World of Cultures was a new initiative in 2021, created so that if a large festival couldn't proceed, there would still be smaller activities happening in community centres, Roche says.

"The biggest bonus of this is that the whole of Auckland was able to get involved and celebrate our multiculturalism."

PHOTOS / BRYAN LOWE

WHAT'S ON MAY-JUNE 2021



PLEASE FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL CHANGES AND VISIT [OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS](https://ourauckland.nz/events) FOR UP-TO-DATE EVENT INFORMATION.



Silent Disco Citywalk Kingsland, Papaya Stories

The free **Urban Walking Festival** (22 Apr - 16 May) features urban hikes, guided tours and sensory explorations, as well as talks, films and more across the region.

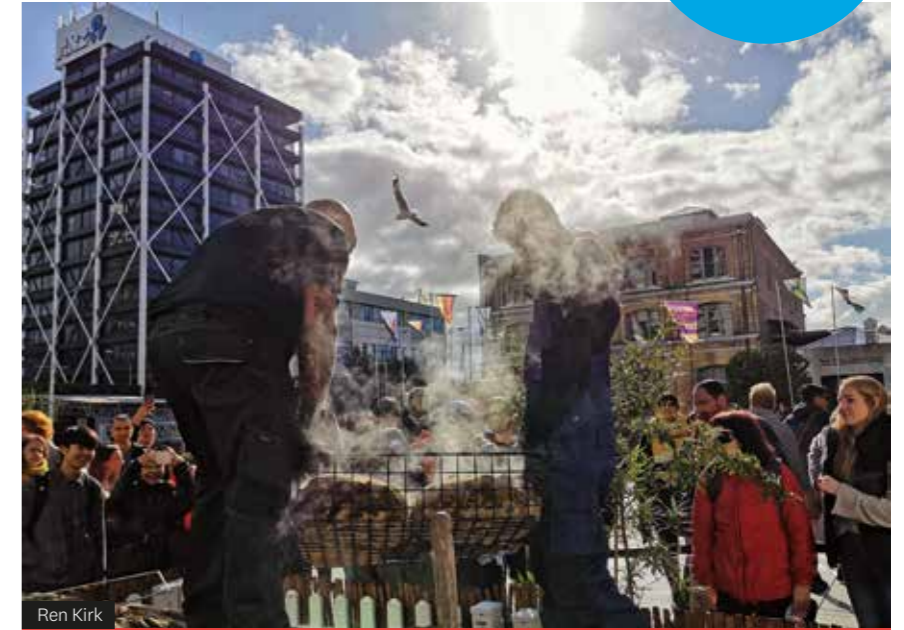


Auckland Theatre Company presents the NZ premiere of **Single Asian Female** (27 Apr - 15 May) at ASB Waterfront Theatre in Wynyard Quarter.



Ross Brown

Romantic, mystical and lyrical, the Royal New Zealand Ballet's critically acclaimed **Giselle** (27-29 May) returns to delight fans at the Aotea Centre in the city centre.



Ren Kirk

Celebrate Māori New Year in Tāmaki Makaurau with **Matariki Festival** (19 Jun - 11 Jul). With kai, kōrero and more, there's plenty to see and do for the whole whānau.



NZ International Comedy Festival (30 Apr - 23 May) serves up a great line-up of laughs from the best Kiwi comedians presented in specialty seasons: Keen Observers, Party Shows, Crowd Pleasers, Trust Us, Something to Say, Good Weird, Billys, Yes and..., and Fresh Faces.



David Rowland, One-Image

A Lion in the Meadow and Other Stories - Live on Stage brings to life Margaret Mahy's timeless children's tales at The PumpHouse in Takapuna (17 Apr - 1 May), Te Oro in Glen Innes (4-8 May), Māngere Arts Centre (11-15 May), Glen Eden Playhouse (18-22 May) and Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau (25-29 May).

Heart of the City cafes, bars and eateries are serving up **Cheap & Cheerful Eats** (1-31 May), more than 75 eating-out offers for \$15 or less in the city centre.

Celebrating Cultures (Sat 1 May) is a free family day with food stalls, a kids' fun zone, performances, exhibitions and more at Barry Curtis Park in Flat Bush.

Queen: It's a Kinda Magic (Sat 1 May) at Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna celebrates the legacy of Queen and Freddie Mercury.

Papakura StreetFest (Sat 8 May) is a free family fun day with markets, local entertainment, food specials, kids' activities and more.

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki presents **The Walters Prize** (15 May - 5 Sep). This free exhibition provides an opportunity to discover the pulse of contemporary art in the country today.

Jump, crawl, splash and slide your way through the 3km **Adult Obstacle Challenge** (Sun 16 May) at Mt Smart Stadium in Penrose. There's also off-course entertainment with food, drinks and live music.

Join park rangers and volunteers to help plant trees at **Long Bay Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 16 May), **Tāwharanui Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 6 Jun) and **Shakespear Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 20 Jun).



High Tide Don't Hide

The Academy Award-qualifying **Doc Edge Festival** (3 Jun - 11 Jul) gives film lovers the chance to experience the best documentaries from NZ and around the world. This year's festival is being held at SkyCity Theatre and The Civic in the city centre, as well as online.



Looking out from within, Julia Fullerton-Batten

Auckland Festival of Photography (3-20 Jun) presents a region-wide, NZ and international programme of free exhibitions and events under the theme of 'isolation' at major galleries, other venues and public sites across Auckland.

Explore the exciting world of tourism, meet employers and discover study pathways at the free **Go with Tourism Expo** (20-22 May) at ASB Showgrounds in Epsom.

Discover something new at the **Nathan Homestead Whānau Open Day** (Sat 22 May) in Manurewa with free class demonstrations, children's art activities and more.

Auckland Libraries presents **We Read Auckland: Tāmaki Makaurau - One Place, Many Stories** (31 May - 13 Jun). This free programme of live and online events features favourite authors, celebrity readers and family fun at community venues and libraries across Auckland.

New Zealand Opera presents Mozart and Da Ponte's **The Marriage of Figaro** (8-13 Jun), one of the most popular and enduring operas ever written, at the Aotea Centre in the city centre.

Take a wild ride with Indian Ink's powerful new play **Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream** (9-26 Jun) at Q Theatre in the city centre.

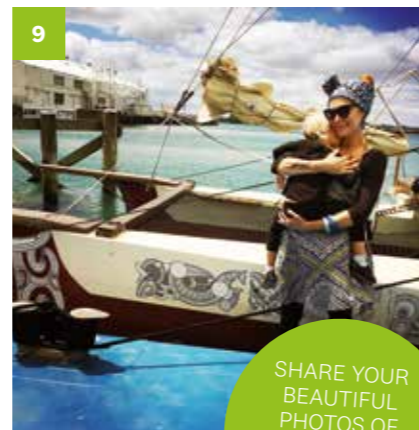
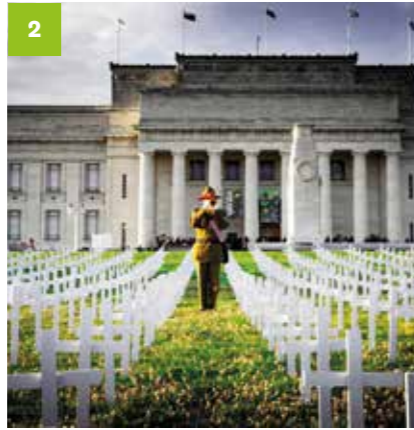
Join Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra at Auckland Town Hall in the city centre for **Paddington Bear's First Concert** (Sat 12 Jun), a delightful tale for the whole family.



See MOTAT in Western Springs aglow with artistic light installations at **Night Lights** (25-27 Jun), a family event blending art, culture and live entertainment.

SEE HERE NOW

WE SEARCHED INSTAGRAM FOR INSPIRING PHOTOS OF AUCKLAND'S EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. VISIT OURAUCKLAND.NZ FOR INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS ACROSS THE REGION.



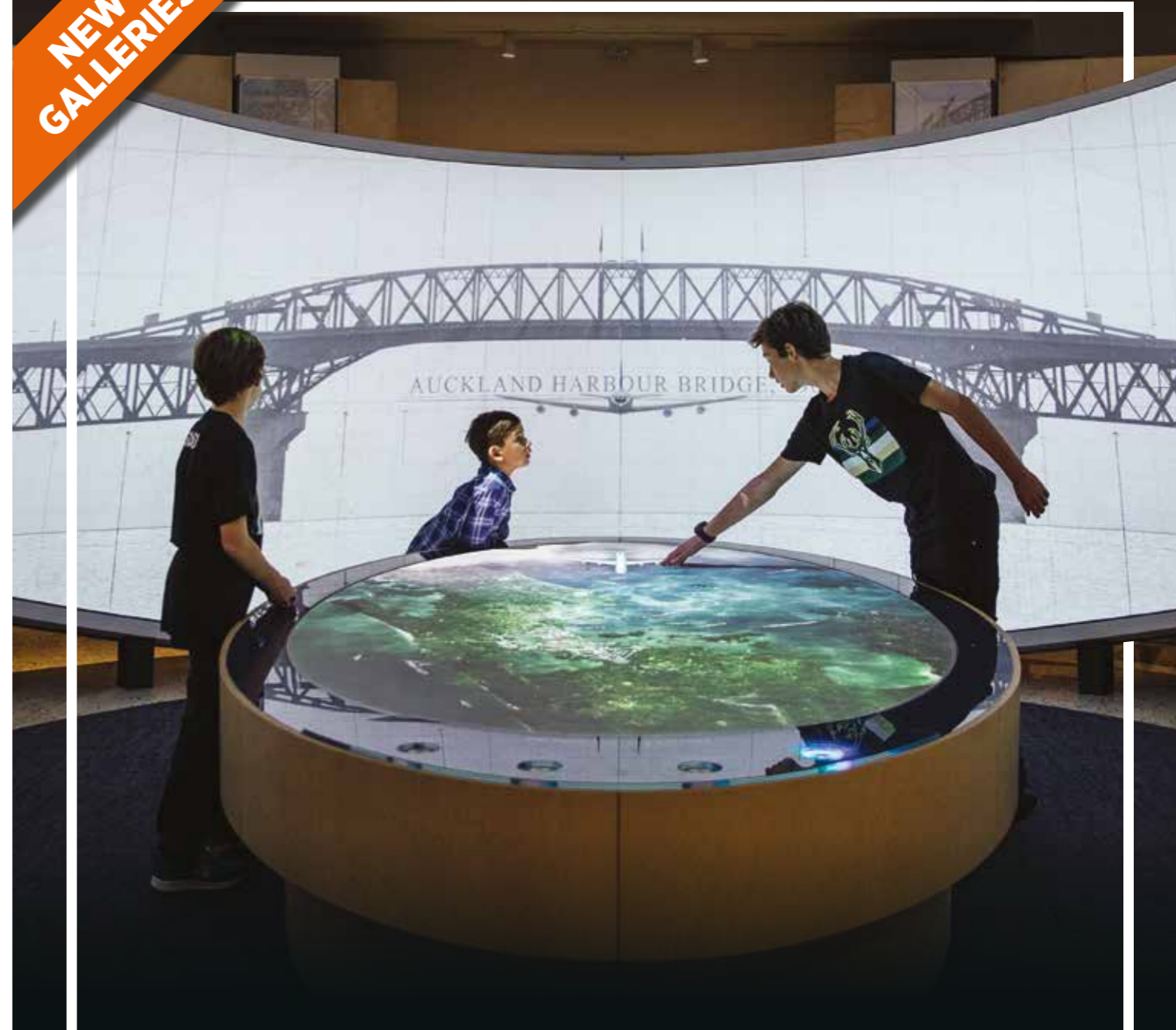
1. Christmas, Howick Village
[@skyviewphotographynz](#)
2. Anzac Day, Auckland War Memorial Museum
[@sogunso](#)
3. New Year, Sky Tower
[@s85reejith](#)

4. SeePort, Captain Cook Wharf
[@juliewagener](#)
5. Big Gay Out, Coyle Park
[@proudcentres](#)
6. Diwali, Hobsonville
[@paul_smith_photography](#)

7. Artweek, Khartoum Place
[@law_shoots](#)
8. Matariki, Takutai Square
[@matarikifestivalakl](#)
9. Tāmaki Herenga Waka Festival, Captain Cook Wharf
[@boba.m.baluchova](#)

SHARE YOUR BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS OF THE AUCKLAND REGION USING [#OURAKL](#)

NEW GALLERIES



SEE AN AUCKLAND YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

The incredible stories of Auckland are waiting to be discovered in Tāmaki Herenga Waka, four new galleries at your Museum. Come and take a look. Open daily.



22.04 – 16.05. 2021

Discover the beauty of your neighbourhood through free guided walks



#UrbanWalkingFestival

f UrbanWalkingFestival

urbanwalkingfestival.nz

URBAN WALKING FESTIVAL

