

OUR Auckland

TŌ TĀTOU TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

**TE WIKI O TE
REO MĀORI**
Embracing
Māori language
through music



The magic of
mictown

Regenerating the
city centre

**AUCKLAND
COUNCIL
WHĀNAU**
Our community
heroes

 **GET INTO IT!** Shows,
events, festivals & more



Every year

16,151,570

pirates, dragons
and detectives
come alive



Auckland's libraries

Part of the
Auckland Council
whānau



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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.

NEED TO KNOW

Labour Day rubbish collections 24 October
Heading away for the long weekend? Don't worry, your rubbish will still be collected once you're back. Following the holiday weekend,

all Auckland Council roadside collections will be collected one day later. **All collections will return to normal on 31 October.**

Getting sorted
Auckland's recycling sorting facility is getting a major upgrade to better separate paper and cardboard. There'll be no disruptions to roadside collections while siteworks take place. Check out

makethemostofwaste.co.nz for updates and waste reduction tips.

Clear the books
Spring into your library before 30 September for our lost books amnesty. All you need to do is chat to one of our friendly staff about your lost or damaged books and we'll remove all charges from your library account. Visit aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/welcomeback to learn more.

Contact us
Auckland Council:
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
09 301 0101 (24/7)
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus
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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:
Visit ourauckland.nz or email ourauckland@aklc.govt.nz

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COVER IMAGE / BRYAN LOWE; CONTENTS IMAGE / MIKE ROOKE



From our Mayor

Over the past six years, we have made significant progress delivering on our goal of creating a world-class Tāmaki Makaurau. We have invested record levels of funding into transport, with new busways, progress on the City Rail Link, and new cycleways and walkways.

We have tackled long-standing problems, such as wastewater spilling onto our beaches, by getting the \$1.2 billion Central Interceptor project underway, and we have increased water supply by 100 million litres a day to meet the needs of growth and climate change.

Under the Mayor's Million Trees programme, we have planted millions of native trees and have reduced predator numbers to protect our native birds and bush, while opening more than 100km of kauri-safe tracks for people to enjoy across the region.

New public spaces are transforming our city centre: Te Komititanga outside Commercial Bay, Karangahape Road, the upgraded Quay Street, Te Wānanga on the waterfront and many more are making Auckland a

more people-friendly and vibrant place to live, work, shop, visit and spend time.

We have consented record numbers of new dwellings and made inroads in the housing shortage. We have managed effectively the massive impact of the COVID-19 crisis on council finances. We have saved hundreds of millions of dollars for ratepayers through increased council efficiencies and finding cost savings.

This year we passed the Climate Action Budget, which will enable more than \$1 billion of investment to reduce emissions and tackle climate change across Auckland. This is the biggest climate investment in Auckland's history and will lay the foundation for the urgent action necessary to play our part in securing a stable future for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you to all the Aucklanders who have placed their trust in me over two terms. It has been an immense privilege to serve as Mayor and I'm proud of what we have achieved for our city.

Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland

BY THE NUMBERS



3.45km is the length of the new City Rail Link connecting Britomart and Mt Eden.



133 trees were planted along Quay Street, including several mature trees that had previously been removed for protection during the area's upgrade.

21 storeys is the planned height of The Symphony Centre, which will include retail outlets, commercial spaces and residential apartments above the new Te Wai Horotiu Station (Aotea).



38,000+ people are currently estimated to be living in Auckland's city centre.



THE BRIEFING

News and inspiration from Council HQ.

CAST YOUR VOTES

Help choose your local representatives.

It's time to elect a mayor, councillors and local board members in the 2022 Auckland local elections – and your vote counts! If you're a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident aged 18 or over, make sure you're enrolled to vote. Visit vote.nz to check your enrolment details.

- Your purple voting pack will arrive in your letterbox from Friday 16 September.
- Read the guide and tick the circle next to candidates you want to vote for.
- Drop your orange envelope in the mail by Tuesday 4 October, or take it to a vote box at your local library, council service centre or Countdown supermarket by midday Saturday 8 October.
- If you don't get your voting pack, call 0800 922 822 for a special vote.

For all things elections, visit voteauckland.co.nz



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

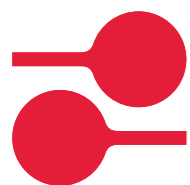
Check out the Zoo's South East Asian wildlife habitat.

Auckland Zoo's South East Asia Jungle Track, the biggest project in its history, fully opens at Labour Weekend. The award-winning track, featuring interconnecting wildlife habitats with a lake and wetlands at its heart, is a highly immersive nature experience that has transformed one fifth of the zoo's grounds. Habitats include a 'high canopy' for orangutans and siamangs, 'lowlands' for Sumatran tigers and Asian small-clawed otters, and an 'Indonesian swamp forest' for fish, Sunda gharial crocodiles and other reptiles, living within a large climate-controlled dome. The first of its kind in New Zealand, the swamp forest will be an authentically tropical 28°C year round and features species that are all new to the zoo. The \$62 million transformation was funded through Auckland Council's long-term plan. Visit aucklandzoo.co.nz/south-east-asia to find out more.

HOUSE RULES

Making it easier to build more homes.

Some of the planning rules for how you can develop your property have recently changed to enable more homes to be built across our city. For many Auckland property owners, this means you no longer need a resource consent if you want to build up to three homes of up to three storeys on your site. Of course, you'll still have to comply with other requirements for developing your property – such as approval for earthworks – that are really important for reducing impacts on our environment and neighbours. We're here to help you navigate these changes, so visit ourauckland.nz/housingrules for more information.



Discover OurAuckland.nz

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

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

AROUND AUCKLAND



LOCAL
NEWS



The new boardwalk in Albany is built around large trees to protect vulnerable roots.

A walk in the bush

Better pedestrian access.

Locals and visitors are finding it easier to explore Fernhill Escarpment Reserve thanks to the recently completed walkway upgrade. The reserve – located next to Massey University – is a significant ecological area and home to many large mature trees, including a huge 25m-tall tōtara. As a focus of Upper Harbour

Local Board’s walkway project, which cost around \$700,000, the upgrade enables more people to use the park and replaces many of the old slippery sections of track that were difficult to navigate. The new tracks are accessible at Bush Road and Albany Highway. While the work on the walkway is complete, the bridge over Oteha Stream is still being built and will open later this year.

Arborists, ecologists, structural engineers, and track specialists have been consulted throughout the project to improve the

forest’s ecological health and reduce carbon emissions.

Board Chair Lisa Whyte says the walkway is an important piece of Albany’s off-road path network, with the park located between two busy roads.

“Some locals loved the previously more challenging bush experience, but this beautiful place is too special to remain one of Albany’s best kept secrets,” she says. “It’s an oasis of nature in the heart of Albany which our growing population will treasure and enjoy for years to come.”

Western Springs gets FIFA-ready

World-class upgrades for football club.

Western Springs Association Football Club (WSAFC) are upgrading their current facilities to include a gender-neutral changing room, thanks to Waitemātā Local Board.

The changing room renewal will comply with requirements for next year’s FIFA Women’s World Cup. Works include

installing grooming stations, baby changing facilities, breastfeeding areas and individual showers. WSAFC has been chosen to be a training venue for one of the teams competing in the tournament, making these upgrades crucial.

WSAFC is Auckland’s largest football club, with more than 2500 active players, including a strong female membership of around 600.

The club is also undergoing pitch upgrades and turf resurfacing with support from Auckland Council.



Fresh turf will soon be installed as the club prepares for next year’s world cup tournament.

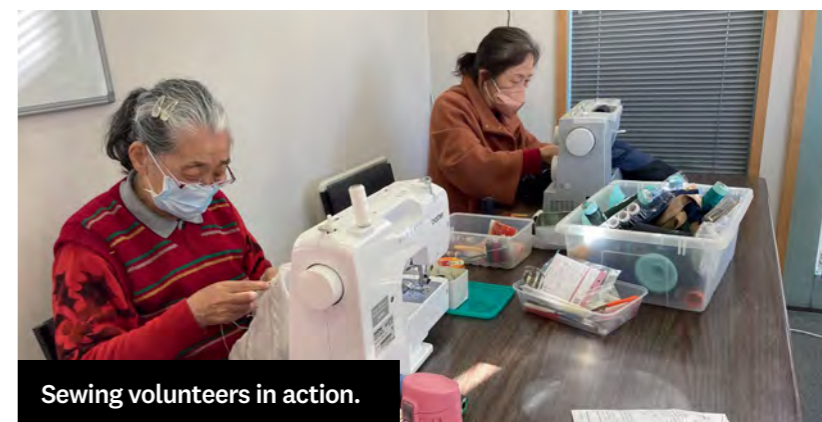
The latest from your community

Be repaired

Locals put their skills to good use.

The fix-it skills of Repair Cafe volunteers stop about 90kg of waste going into landfill every time the community-led event is held at Western Springs Garden Community Hall. Over the course of a day, the group can repair as many as 40 items, giving new life to household appliances, furniture and clothing, keeping them from landfill and saving their owners money along the way.

And the willing volunteers don’t just fix items, they pass their skills on to others, encouraging them to join the DIY revolution



Sewing volunteers in action.

in a bid to further reduce waste. Using funding from Albert-Eden Local Board, the Repair Cafe is run by the Chinese Conservation and Education Trust, which prioritises climate action and protecting the environment. Board Chair Margi Watson says:

“In a society that’s increasingly geared to throwing things out as soon as they don’t work, the Repair Cafe is great because it helps reduce waste and shares skills. It’s also a place where people are able to connect with each other in a social setting.”

Have your say

Retiring councillor’s call to action.

After serving as an elected representative for nearly two decades, Dr Cathy Casey, councillor for Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa Ward, is encouraging all Aucklanders to vote in the upcoming local elections in October. “Voting is a privilege,” she says.



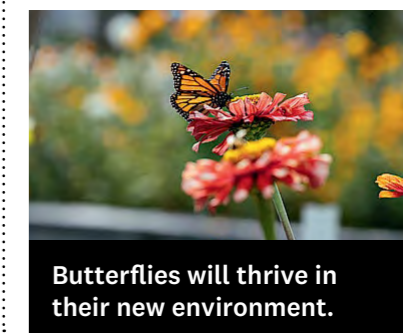
- Here are her top reasons to vote:
- 1. Issues that matter** “By voting, people can put their weight behind issues that matter to them or their communities, thereby making Auckland a more inclusive city.”
 - 2. Representing your community** “We cherish Auckland as a diverse city, and by voting we ensure everyone is represented and heard.”
 - 3. Shaping the future** “Our votes can influence how we live today to make a better, more sustainable future.”

Monarch Park magic

Hillcrest gets a natural boost.

Recent enhancements to Monarch Park’s ‘enchanted forest’ have been completed, with new additions including tepee frames and stacks for hut building, ‘hotels’ for butterflies, bees, wētā and lizards, as well as refurbishment of the existing play features.

“The changes create a naturalised area at the forest entrance and include a planted butterfly meadow, a nature trail through the northern side with balancing poles and beams, a log scramble and an entrance feature,” explains Kaipātiki Local Board Chair John Gillon.



Butterflies will thrive in their new environment.

Nature’s playground

Embracing the magic of our maunga.

A groundbreaking whānau ātea (community gathering space) is taking shape at Te Pane o Mataoho / Te Ara Pueru / Māngere Mountain.

The new community taonga will include a tomokanga (formal

entrance), renewed skatepark and basketball court, natural play spaces, the kī-o-rahi (traditional ball game) field, hāngī pit, picnic tables, a wharepaku (toilet) block and more. Two new accessible parking spaces will also be added.

“Many of our mana whenua and Māori whānau are a part of this community and we wanted to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy the maunga,” says Paul Majurey, chair of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

DID YOU KNOW?



Food waste makes up 45 per cent of the average Aucklanders' rubbish bin

Each year, around 100,000 tonnes of household food scraps end up in landfill across the Auckland region. Not only does this waste money and often perfectly edible food, it also impacts the environment. Auckland Council is helping to overcome this through its Love Food Hate Waste fund, which supports community projects that are actively reducing food waste. There will also be a food scrap collection service rolling out across urban Auckland next year. Here are some simple ways you can do your bit:

- Make a shopping list for the week ahead and stick to it to help cut down on extra purchases.
- Learn the best ways to store your food so it lasts longer, such as putting your salad greens in an airtight container.
- Attend a composting workshop, donate food to a community fridge or volunteer with a food rescue group.
- Take part in the Zero Food Waste Challenge. Running from 19-25 September, the aim is to not put any food in the bin for the whole week. Visit zerofoodwastechallenge.com to sign up and find out more.

For food storage advice, meal planning tips, recipes and more ways you can reduce your food waste, check out lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz



FAMILY SPACE

Fun on the farm and a fabulous festival.

AMBURY FARM

43 AMBURY ROAD, MĀNGERE BRIDGE

Did you know Auckland Council is also a farmer? Ambury Farm is a tranquil oasis in the middle of Tāmaki Makaurau that lets city families experience a taste of farming life practically in their backyard. Visit any day and you could find yourself petting a lamb or watching the daily milking. At the annual Farm Day on 30 October you'll be able to watch shearing,

make butter and more (see page 20 for details).

Once the site of a garden next to the pā on Te Pane o Mataoho / Te Ara Pueru / Māngere Mountain, the farmland became one of Auckland's first dairy co-ops supplying the city with milk, before becoming a regional park. Now it's an award-winning fun and educational place that welcomes visitors of all ages.



AUCKLAND DIWALI FESTIVAL

AOTEA SQUARE AND QUEEN STREET

Celebrated by more than a billion people worldwide, Diwali is a festival that symbolises the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and the renewal of life. Auckland Diwali Festival – New Zealand's premier Indian festival – returns to the city centre on 8-9 October, so mark your calendar and bring the whole whānau along to join the celebration. Enjoy performances on three action-packed stages, rangoli workshops, competitions and giveaways, wander through vibrant stalls of art, crafts and fashion, and savour authentic Indian cuisine. The festival is delivered by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited with support from founding partner the Asia New Zealand Foundation. aucklandnz.com/diwali

AMBURY FARM IMAGE / DAVE OLSEN; DIWALI FESTIVAL IMAGE / DAVID WATSON

MY TĀMAKI MAKAURAU

ARCHAEOLOGIST DAVID VEART

David Veart is a lifelong Aucklander whose career has taken him from lawyer to teacher to archaeologist. His connection to Tāmaki Makaurau runs deep. During the Auckland Heritage Festival, he is giving a talk on the mysterious fate of Takararo / Mt Cambria, one of the region's missing maunga.

"The first of my family arrived here in 1847. My great-great-great-grandfather was an Irish soldier who decided in the middle of the famine that he'd be better off coming here to be a Howick Fencible soldier.

"I live in Devonport, in the house my father grew up in – although until my wife and I bought it, the family had never owned it. My grandfather worked at the Devonport gasworks and this was a gas company worker's house.

"The place where Devonport Museum sits, Takararo, is part of the landscape. Unfortunately like a lot of Auckland's maunga, it's pretty much gone.

"We've still been destroying the maunga until quite recently – some of them within the last 50 years – so it's important to look after the ones we've got left."

David's talk *The missing maunga: where is Takararo / Mt Cambria?* is part of the Auckland Heritage Festival, running 1-16 October. Visit heritagefestival.co.nz to find out more.





An artist's impression of the Wellesley Street entrance to Te Wai Horotiu Station (Aotea).

With downtown and the waterfront completed, the regeneration of midtown is on. We're making it a better-connected, greener and more vibrant place. The first developments are happening and they will accelerate as the opening of Te Wai Horotiu Station (Aotea) draws closer.

Auckland Council-led projects, in partnership

with mana whenua, will enhance the area's arts and entertainment venues, celebrate its natural and built history, as well as spurring growth, productivity and a more sustainable environment.

We spoke to Aucklanders who are already thriving in midtown and learn more about developments transforming the area, including Federal Street and Myers Park.

GRAHAM TIPENE IMAGE / BRYAN LOWE

GRAHAM TIPENE ARTIST

Graham Tipene's artwork can be found across Tāmaki Makaurau, from the impressive concrete panels in the Waterview Tunnel and Albany's stunning Tirohanga Whānui walking and cycling bridge, to the Central City Library and Te Ao Mārama (South Atrium) at Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira.

Tipene (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Manu) is one of the most in-demand artists and consultants for projects that ensure te ao Māori is an intrinsic part of the urban landscape.

"I grew up in Auckland at a time when the only place to see Māori representation in art was in the museum or the statue in downtown," he says, referring to Molly Macalister's 1967 bronze sculpture *A Māori Figure in a Kaitaka Cloak*. "I thought it wasn't good enough and we needed to do better for our kids who don't see themselves in their environment."

When a maths teacher told him that drawing would never get him anywhere, Tipene took it as a challenge and went on to study Māori design before becoming a tā moko (traditional Māori tattoo) artist. In the early 2000s, he started adorning places as well as people.

Tipene always takes a holistic approach to ensuring Māori voices and values underpin his work. "I tell people, 'Don't build it and then ask us [Māori] to come and make it look pretty,'" he says. "That sort of thinking belongs to the past, not today where we have a seat at the table from the beginning."

He's currently working on the City Rail Link's Te Wai Horotiu Station (Aotea) and transforming the city-end underpass entrance to Myers Park, using art as a way to recognise Queen Street's history as a wetland valley and to honour Horotiu, the kaitiaki (guardian) of Te Wai Horotiu stream.

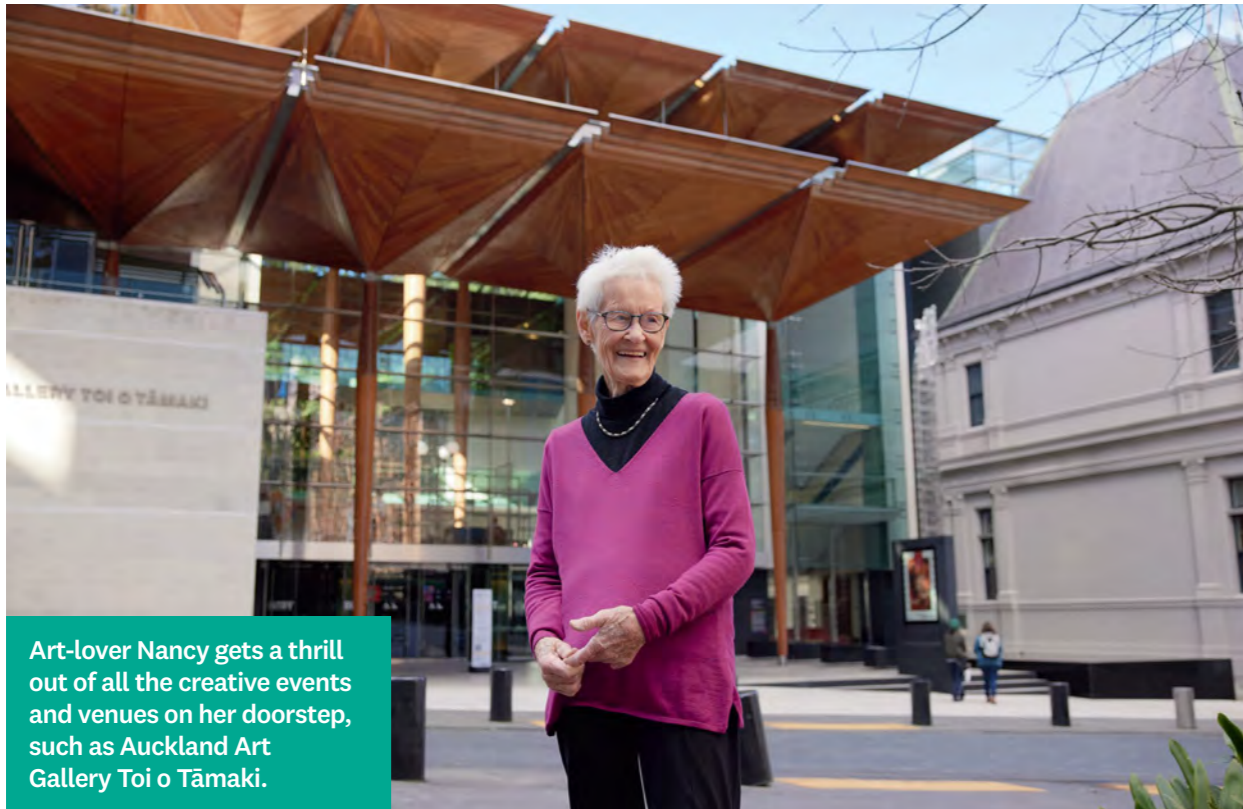
"With most artwork, you stand in front



Graham's mahi ensures Māori see themselves in our urban landscape, including his creative vision for the Myers Park underpass (below).



of it. But I wanted to think differently with this one, so you prepare your senses to look, feel and listen," Tipene explains. "It's about whakarongo – listening – and trying to make an emotional connection. If you sing the right notes – the tune, the pitch – this artwork will sing back to you."



Art-lover Nancy gets a thrill out of all the creative events and venues on her doorstep, such as Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

NANCY KEAT

ART ENTHUSIAST

Born and raised on a farm in Karaka, Nancy Keat has lived in various suburbs around Tāmaki Makaurau, but now calls the central city home. The 90-year-old art lover says her two-bedroom inner city apartment overlooking Myers Park could not be more perfectly located.

“Public transport around here is just brilliant. I head out of my apartment, walk through St Kevins Arcade and I’m at the bus stop.

“I can walk to the supermarket and Uber back home with my groceries, and I’m close to venues for theatre, the film festival, the Auckland Writers Festival and Artweek Auckland,” she says, adding that it’s also just a five-minute walk to

get to the gym she trains at twice a week.

In 2018, Keat completed a master’s degree in art history studying public art in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her love of artistic expression, especially in public spaces all over Auckland, saw her start walking art tours for members of her gym and Ponsonby U3A (University of the Third Age).

While Keat can’t name a favourite public artwork – “there are too many” – seeing creativity and street art playing a more prominent role in design and landscaping makes her happy.

Finding places for good coffee and lunch with a range of price options is also pivotal to the success of her tours. Luckily, the city is packed with perfect places, including the cafe at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

“I love living in the city,” says Keat. “Let’s just say, the living is easy!”



Justine Smith

Actor, presenter and comedian:

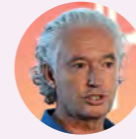


“The beautiful historic block of Queen Street between Mayoral Drive and the Town Hall has been a haunt of mine since The Classic Comedy and Bar opened in 1997. With the addition of the magnificent Q Theatre, combined with some of the best Asian food joints in the city, this block holds a special place in my heart. I’ve performed and eaten there so many times!”



Pak Peacocke

Live entertainment director, producer and writer who staged *Pacifica the Musical* at The Civic:



“I’ve had an office in the Lister Building on the corner of Lorne and Victoria Streets for years, and I’ve worked in Auckland’s midtown venues all my life. I like the energy in cities where there are lots of people, different kinds of businesses and people with different reasons for being there – from those who are passing through to students studying to residents.”



RYAN CHOW

PRESIDENT OF AUT’S STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY AND FOUNDER OF THE NEW ZEALAND YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

Ryan Chow has been a proud Auckland since arriving from Canada three years ago to study at AUT. Although lockdowns have disrupted many, Chow is relishing life in his adopted city, where he says there’s a tight-knit and friendly community.

He’s been quick to make his own contribution, becoming president of AUT’s Student Volunteer Army, founding three clubs and launching the New Zealand Youth Film Festival, which students aged 15-24 from all over the country can enter for free.

Chow regularly uses an e-scooter and says although there are hills in Auckland, these make it more interesting than “boring grid layouts on flat land.” He’s particularly appreciative of the trees that line city streets, the parks near AUT and the University of Auckland, and access to the waterfront.

A strong advocate for public transport, Chow is eagerly awaiting the City Rail Link’s 2025 opening because, based on past experience in Singapore and Hong Kong, he’s seen the difference mass transit systems make to cities. He says they produce flow-on effects which are good for businesses and improve the quality of life for residents.

Having previously lived in Singapore, where urban design is pivotal to the look of the city, Chow also supports using this to enhance the look and feel of neighbourhoods, as well as to tell stories about a place and its people.

“It helps add to the attractiveness of a location and its appeal,” he says. “That way it isn’t simply just boring concrete everywhere.”



Studying in central Auckland was a no-brainer for Ryan.

NANCY KEAT, RYAN CHOW IMAGES / MIKE ROOKE
PAK PEACOCKE IMAGE / GETTY

ASH SUPÉ MUSICIAN

Currently studying music production, Ash Supé's aim is to become a self-sustaining singer, songwriter and freestyle rapper.

"Being in the city makes everything easier," he says. "There are other artists to work with, music promoters, gigs to see that motivate and energise me and venues to perform at. And because it has the best of both worlds, there are places like Myers Park where I can go to rest, relax and write songs."

Supé is particularly fond of Auckland Town Hall, where he's attended a handful of gigs and says its architecture and grandeur, history and acoustics make for great event experiences. While he's performed at venues like Cassette Nine in Vulcan Lane, he aspires to one day perform at the Town Hall.

He's also a fan of Auckland's more intimate pedestrian-only or shared spaces such as Vulcan Lane, Fort Street, Elliott Street and Freyberg Square, which have a laneway feel and connect pedestrians to other spots like the great eating options in Chancery Lane and High Street.

"Having a network of these spaces and pathways is a good idea because it makes things more free-flowing and easier to move around."



The city centre hits all the right notes for musician Ash.



Nathan Joe
Programming assistant at Basement Theatre and creative director at Auckland Pride:



"Auckland's city centre is an arts capital! I don't think people realise how true that is, especially when they walk past the buildings on lower Greys Avenue, where there's a whole network of creatives dreaming away, concocting spreadsheets and planning great shows and entertainment. When there are events and activations, it's lovely to see the place bursting with energy."

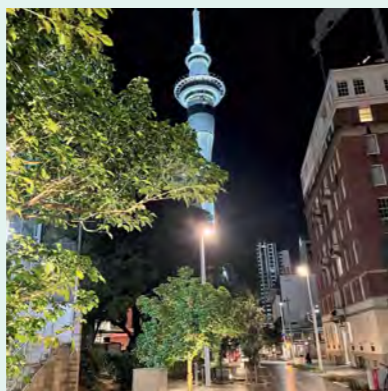


A place to gather

People can now enjoy Auckland's newest shared space, the latest in a proposed laneway circuit to inject new life and create a greater sense of connection in the central city.

The southern end of Federal Street has been transformed through an Auckland Council-led project in partnership with mana whenua, where compassion and connection were two of the driving narratives for its redesign.

Consultation with stakeholders such as St Matthew-in-the-City



and Auckland City Mission – Te Tāpui Atawhai was pivotal to transforming the 100m stretch of road into a welcoming laneway

which complements the values of these organisations: compassion, community, home and wellbeing.

This has been achieved through creating a fully-accessible ramp and stairs from Mayoral Drive, adding new lighting and installing seating and shelter so people can gather.

Some 13 native trees - pūriri, tānekaha, rewarewa and white maire - have been planted to accompany St Matthew's famed pōhutukawa while nine rain gardens filter stormwater before it reaches waterways.



Pia (right) says it's easy to find fun activities for Sophia and Sebastian in the city.

GEORGE FARRANT FORMER PRINCIPAL HERITAGE ADVISOR AT AUCKLAND COUNCIL

During his four-decade career, George Farrant has overseen some of the major restoration projects pivotal to midtown's latest advances, including The Civic, Auckland Town Hall and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

The expansion of cultural institutions and venues has fuelled the development of midtown, as has its increasing desirability as a place to live. Although change has been incremental, Farrant says that with a growing residential population and the coming together of our built and natural history, art, urban design and culture, the city centre is about to make further progress.

Now retired, Farrant is hopeful that more secrets from quieter corners of the city will also be revealed. Take the area from Victoria Street Car Park to the south side of Freyberg Place, for example: it was once a volcanic cone known as Rangipuke, which erupted some 145,000 years ago, depositing thick ash all over the Queen Street valley and damming Te Wai Horotiu stream to create the wetland so important to Māori. "There's so much of that sort of stuff that can be teased out," he says.

ASH SUPÉ IMAGE / MIKE ROOKE; THE VILLARAMA-BEST FAMILY IMAGE / GUY COOMBES; GEORGE FARRANT IMAGE / DANIEL HARRIS



George Farrant in front of Auckland icon The Civic.

THE VILLARAMA-BEST FAMILY

Shane and Pia Villarama-Best say returning to the city with their two children could be viewed as an extreme move given they lived on Waiheke Island for three years beforehand.

As magical as island life was, their decision to relocate was due to the convenience of everything they enjoy being on their doorstep. "We realised most of the activities we liked doing were in the city: trying new restaurants, watching shows, Uber Eats anytime, catching up with friends and family."

Working in banking and parenting two children – Sophia, six, and Sebastian, four – the couple find that creating a community in a residential building is easy. "Everyone's so friendly and we share the same interests. We look out for one another. Whether it's a cocktail delivery or a freshly-baked sourdough drop-off, we know our neighbours are there to give us a boost."

With so much to see and do, it's not hard to keep the kids entertained with visits to art galleries or the Sky Tower, play dates at Victoria Park and more choice for brunch.

"We're of the mindset that our kids learn from experience, so every chance we get to experience new tastes, sights and sounds, we just walk out our door and go!"



At your service

Passionate people are at the heart of our community.

The hard-working Auckland Council whānau do their best to provide a wide range of services which are used by hundreds and thousands of Aucklanders every day. Here, we meet some of the people who help us make the most of living in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Mona Metha
Programme and activation coordinator,
Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini – Takaanini Community Hub

From the outside, the newly built Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini – Takaanini Community Hub is visually striking. But it's what happens inside that makes it a truly special facility for the area – and a wonderful place to work, says Mona Metha, who has been part of the team there since it opened in March 2021.

The South Auckland hub combines a library and community centre. “We offer everything you’ll find in other libraries, like helping people find books, helping with their devices if they need to know how to download an app, or our public computers if they want to do something like print a document, or write their CV,” says Metha. “We have a variety of programmes for children and older people like Reo and Rhymes or Coffee and Colouring.

“But because we are also a community centre, we have things like a play area with a slide and table tennis. Parents can do some work while their children play. We have a kitchen with a microwave and oven, and a community fridge with donated food for anyone who needs it. We also have a shower for people to use, and a sewing machine. We have a lady who

will come in to help anyone if they don't know how to use the machine.”

The feedback from those who use the facilities is great, Metha adds. “We really try to make it feel like a home for people and give them a sense of belonging. We get a good response and I enjoy working here so much. It is so good to be able to help people.”

Chris Ingram
Sailing manager,
New Zealand Maritime Museum

Along with fascinating displays explaining the impact the sea has had on Aotearoa's development, the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa, located next to the Viaduct Harbour, gives visitors the chance to experience what it was like sailing around the region in days gone by.

Trips can be taken on several heritage vessels including *Ted Ashby*, a replica typical of the flat-bottomed boats used to transport



everything from logs and wool to sand and gravel across the harbour in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Chris Ingram is one of the skippers on *Ted Ashby*, as well as the museum's sailing manager, and says that taking people out onto Auckland's stunning harbour hardly feels like work. “One of the most enjoyable aspects of the job is that people just have so much fun. They get to haul on lines and see how a sailing boat works, and they get to see a completely different perspective of the city,” says Ingram, a keen sailor who started working for the museum after semi-retiring.

“A lot of people say they have lived all their lives in Auckland and never been out on the harbour. It's a wonderful way to view the city. Visitors have a great time, and the fact that the crews are volunteers who are doing this because they love it also gives it a different vibe.”

Amy Psaila
Customer service representative,
Albany Leisure Centre

First-time visitors to Albany Leisure Centre on Auckland's North Shore are often surprised by the range of facilities on offer, says customer service representative Amy Psaila.

“I think people assume we're just a lap swimming pool, but then they realise there are three pools, including a kids' pool with a big slide and water features, and a leisure pool with a rock wall for climbing as well. Plus we have a spa and sauna and a fully equipped gym, with everything from weights and machines to a group fitness room. There's a lot in one place, and people often don't think about it all being available through the council.”

For the last 18 months, former part-time swim teacher Psaila has been providing support to people using the facilities. She says the customers make the job so enjoyable that she never has a problem getting out of bed on the days she starts work at 5.15am. “We get a lot of regulars who chat to us and it's nice getting to know them – they can really make your day. And I am lucky to have really awesome co-workers.”

MORE TO EXPLORE IMAGES / JAY FARNWORTH, BRYAN LOWE

More to explore



Take a ride on the historic MOTAT tram to Auckland Zoo. You can hop off halfway to enjoy a picnic at Western Springs Lakeside Park.



Explore our many walkways, coastal paths and bush walks.



Take the kids to a local pump track to work on their wheel skills.



Enjoy a spring walk in the glorious beauty of Auckland Botanic Gardens. The Huakaiwaka Visitor Centre and Cafe Miko are an added bonus.

The power of SONG

This Te Wiki o te Reo Māori / Māori Language Week, reo champion Stacey Morrison celebrates embracing Māori language through music and waiata in Tāmaki Makaurau.



Rewaken from Manurewa High School performing *Aroha* in the Stand Up Stand Out 2022 heats, at Ōtara Music Arts Centre.



Bella Kalolo lent her voice to *The Lion King Reo Māori*, and Six60 (opposite) are bringing bilingual Māori music to the masses.

City of Music

Auckland is officially a City of Music, joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2017. An Auckland Music Strategy Te Rautaki Puoro o Tāmaki Makaurau 2018 – 2021 was then developed through collaboration between Auckland Council, its council-controlled organisations (CCOs) and Auckland’s music sector. Music plays a key role in forming the identity and telling the stories of a city.

We express ourselves through music, and in turn that music expresses who we are. For Māori, music is a divine gift passed down by the gods. It is embedded in traditional ceremony and preserves stories of the past. These stories live on today, woven into our culture and city. As time passes, our stories will mix with the songs and sounds of the future, creating a new chorus and adding to the ever-evolving story of this place, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

The beauty of te reo Māori in song is embraced in Tāmaki Makaurau. From kapa haka celebrations that fill Spark Arena like Tāmaki Hakangahau did in July, to the national competition Te Matatini that Auckland will host in 2023, these traditional arts are becoming more modern with new lyrics and compositions.

But kapa haka is not the only domain of Māori language songs anymore. Radio stations in New Zealand played more waiata reo Māori than ever last year, and not just during Te Wiki o te reo Māori / Māori Language Week.

Leading the change

The growth in our bilingual music landscape can’t be talked about without mentioning Dame Hinewehi Mohi, the driving force behind the songs, albums and performances of *Waiata / Anthems*. From Six60

to Lorde and Dave Dobbyn, *Waiata / Anthems* is the overarching kaupapa (project) Mohi created to reimagine hit songs in te reo Māori.

When Matiu Walters, lead singer of Six60, stood on stage at Western Springs in 2020, his jacket showing the words ‘Kia mau ki tō ūkaipō’ – the Māori language version of their song *Don’t Forget Your Roots* – he may not have realised the huge crowd gathered would lift their voices to sing along in te reo Māori.

Mohi lit the fire for this, decades after she was criticised for singing the national anthem only in te reo Māori at the 1999 Rugby World Cup in England. Her performance was pitch perfect, yet off-key for media commentators and others who derided her choice. The debate cooled, and warmth for the inclusion of te reo Māori grew – now children sing the bilingual version of our anthem, quite likely

unaware that it used to be different.

Mohi is now Pītau-whakarewa / Māori Membership Growth and Development Leader for APRA AMCOS NZ, one of the partners for Tāmaki Makaurau UNESCO Pā Puoro – Auckland UNESCO City of Music. This growing celebration of our local music scene features a programme of events around Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, which begins on 13 September, as well as other events throughout the year. One of those is Auckland Council’s youth music and dance competition Stand Up Stand Out, where students can showcase their creative talents to their peers, whānau and the music industry. This year’s final takes place on 24 September at Auckland Town Hall.

The circle of life

One incredible singer who has performed in parks, stadiums,

concert halls and surely most stages in Auckland is Bella Kalolo. A powerhouse of musical talent, Kalolo first won a role in the huge Australian stage production of Disney’s *The Lion King* in 2004. This year during Matariki, The Civic hosted the premiere of *The Lion King Reo Māori*, with Kalolo singing the iconic songs, this time on the big screen in te reo Māori.

“We were all so proud. There was literally a raranga (weaving) of pride through all of us who had the opportunity to be part of it,” says Kalolo. Having previously performed the songs in English, Kalolo said singing them in Māori “felt different, sat different, and felt like it carried more mana (prestige).”

There was a rapturous response from the crowd at the premiere that night, and Kalolo says the whole experience felt like the cast were part of a family. Musical director

and lyricist Rob Ruha and song co-ordinator Cilla Ruha led that feeling for Kalolo.

“They were like the joints in the body that led to my ngākau (heart, emotions),” she says. “They believed in my taha Māori (Māori side) and were key to me being able to feel comfortable speaking te reo Māori, mucking up, trying again and getting it right.”

The Matewa Media production of *The Lion King Reo Māori* got it more than ‘right’, with crowds across the country ensuring their local theatres and schools put on screenings.

Local music star Stan Walker is the only artist Sir Elton John has allowed to perform a non-English version of *Can you Feel the Love Tonight* – an honour Walker has taken to great heights with “Tāiri Te Aroha”, which had the crowd at The Civic lighting up the theatre

with their cellphone torches. Everyone felt the love that night.

A new generation

Then there’s Anika Moa, who takes the title of ‘Baby Whisperer’ very seriously. That’s because her three *Songs for Bubbas* albums are huge hits for kids and adults around the country. She says her live gigs for these are like a mosh pit at a heavy metal gig.

The magic has happened at Auckland Council Libraries, when Moa has performed, singing waiata reo Māori to tots. “The kids know all the words, and it helps the adults as well. Counting to 10, colours, animal names – it makes te reo more accessible to everyone!” she says.

While Moa is not a fluent te reo speaker herself, she continues to learn. “I need to show my kids it’s fun, and they have the right to learn their language.”

WHAT'S ON SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

VISIT [OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS](https://ourauckland.nz/events) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND HUNDREDS MORE.

Black Grace presents **Life - O Le Olaga** (Sun 4 Sep), choreographed by Neil Ieremia and featuring some of the best contemporary and traditional Pacific dancers at Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, city centre.



New Zealand comedy's biggest stars take to the stage for **Best Foods Comedy Gala** (Fri 9 Sep) at The Civic, city centre.

Explore the latest products and give your tastebuds a treat at **Chocolate & Coffee Festival** (Sat 10 & Sun 11 Sep) at The Cloud, city centre.



New Zealand Opera presents **Macbeth** (21-25 Sep) with a stellar cast of Kiwi talent at Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, city centre.



Tim Bray Theatre Company presents **The Whale Rider** by Witi Ihimaera as a children's theatre show at The PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna (24 Sep - 15 Oct), Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau (19-22 Oct), Te Oro in Glen Innes (26-29 Oct), Playhouse Theatre in Glen Eden (1-5 Nov) and Māngere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku (8-12 Nov).

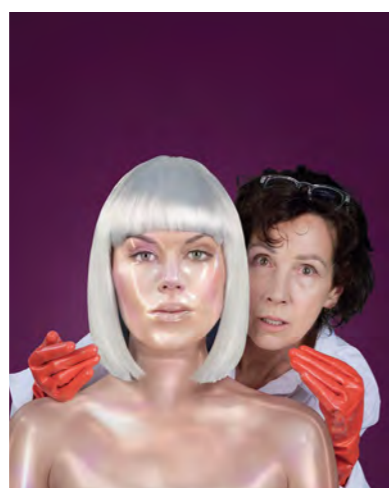
ATSNZ Disability Expo (Wed 28 & Thu 29 Sep) is a free showcase of products and services for seniors and people with disabilities at Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau.

Dominion Road Moon Festival (9-11 Sep) presents a free programme of street music, cultural performances and installations, with fantastic food for sale and more across the Balmoral area.

Ellerslie Fairy Festival & Pirate Party (Sun 11 Sep) is a free family event with fairies, pirates, princesses, superheroes, a unicorn, **General Collective Kids Market** and more in Ellerslie Village.



Enjoy an evening of culture and tradition at **Howick Moon Festival** (Sat 10 Sep), a free family event with cultural performances, food stalls and more at Barry Curtis Park, Flat Bush.



Auckland Theatre Company presents **The Made** (20 Sep - 8 Oct) by Emily Perkins at ASB Waterfront Theatre, Wynyard Quarter.



Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan (29 Sep - 6 Nov) is a free international touring exhibition at Central City Library, presented by Auckland Libraries, The Japan Foundation and Consulate-General of Japan in Auckland.

Ōtāhuhu Food Festival (Sat 1 Oct) serves up more than 100 food stalls celebrating Auckland's ethnic diversity and free live entertainment on stage with Mai FM.

Tina - Simply the Best (Sat 1 Oct) is an electrifying tribute concert brimming with Tina Turner's hits from the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna.



Discover something new about the topography, taonga and trailblazers of Tāmaki Makaurau at **Auckland Heritage Festival** (1-16 Oct). Brought to you by Auckland Council and presented by Ryman Healthcare, the festival has more than 170 events across the region, many of them free or low cost.

Visit ourauckland.nz/schoolholidays for fun, local and affordable activities across the region over the **Spring School Holidays** (1-16 Oct).



Art in the City (7-16 Oct) is a free celebration of art and creativity with exhibitions, temporary art installations in laneways, **Late Night Art** (Thu 13 Oct) and more in the city centre.



Join the free festivities at **Auckland Diwali Festival** (Sat 8 & Sun 9 Oct), showcasing the best of Indian culture with food, music, dance, fashion and more in Aotea Square and on Queen Street, city centre.



Held over Labour Weekend, **Arts in the Ville** (22-24 Oct) is a free annual festival and art trail where you can view and purchase art from artists in the Helensville area.

Try new food, experience diverse cultures and enjoy free entertainment for the whole family at **Sandringham Spring Festival** (Sat 29 Oct) in Sandringham Village and Reserve.



Ambury Farm Day (Sun 30 Oct) is a free-entry family day where you can meet farm animals, watch sheep shearing, take a tractor ride, check out **General Collective Farmers Market** and more at Ambury Regional Park, Māngere Bridge.

Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra presents **Community Classics Central: Snow & Ice** (Sun 30 Oct), a free family concert including *Frozen's* iconic *Let It Go* at Auckland Town Hall, city centre.

THE WHALE RIDER IMAGE / NOA CAMPBELL BY DAVID ROWLAND ONE-IMAGE.COM; YOKAI PARADE IMAGE / UTAGAWA KUNIOYOSHI, IN THE RUINED PALACE AT SOMA; AUCKLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL IMAGE / AUCKLAND LIBRARIES HERITAGE COLLECTIONS 743-9343; ART IN THE CITY IMAGE / SACHA STEJKO; AUCKLAND DIWALI FESTIVAL IMAGE / TATAKI AUCKLAND UNLIMITED

SECRET SPOT



ROCKY BAY / WHAKANEWAH BAY

Location: Waiheke Island

Just a short drive or bus ride from Oneroa or Onetangi, on Waiheke's quieter southern side, you'll find Rocky Bay. With its bush-clad hills and winding roads, it feels a world away from the bustle - almost like the Waiheke of 30 years ago. If you're here on the weekend, don't miss the locally run cafe in the community hall, the only coffee you can find in this area. On any day of the week, take the opportunity to walk the beachfront path, which will take you past colourful Instagrammable boat sheds, or take a dip in the ocean (the bay is a safe place for swimming at high tide). Just a short way along MacMillan Road you'll find the kids' playground at Mary Wilson Reserve, complete with its cute and wonky cartoon cubby house.



Colours of Hidden Auckland

Enjoy the tones of Tāmaki Makaurau at home all year round



Resene
the paint the professionals use

BOAT SHED IMAGE / GINO DEMEER



Developing your property?

The planning rules have changed to enable more housing. Many Auckland property owners are now able to build up to three homes of up to three storeys without resource consent, provided you comply with all other development rules and standards.

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