

# OUR Auckland

TŌ TĀTOU TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

WHIRINGA-Ā-RANGI-HAKIHEA NOV-DEC 2021 ISSUE 106

## CANINE CRUSADERS:

Meet the dog  
detectives  
sniffing out  
kauri dieback

## BEST FOOT FORWARD:

Family-friendly  
walks



Discover our  
secret spot at  
Maraetai

# Natural wonders

Auckland Council  
supports our heroes in  
community conservation

OURAUCKLAND.NZ



# Flock to Wynyard Quarter today



## A new celebration of Aotearoa's manu (native birds) has come home to roost in Wynyard Quarter.

The large water pump in Amey Daldy park has been transformed by Mai i ngā Maunga ki te Moana (from the mountains to the sea), a mural that reminds us of the need to exercise kaitiakitanga (guardianship) over our endemic birdlife.

Urban contemporary artists Janine (Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara, Ngāti Pāoa) and

Charles (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi) Williams were appointed unanimously by nine mana whenua entities.

The husband-and-wife team are well known for breathing life into locations through eye-catching murals, both in Aotearoa and abroad.

This is just one of the many unique artworks commissioned by Eke Panuku from mana whenua across

Tāmaki Makaurau, part of a mission to celebrate our culture and heritage while creating spaces for Aucklanders to love.

*"Mai i ngā Maunga ki te Moana reflects the interwoven relationships within te taiao [nature] and the importance of these connected ecosystems."*

Janine and Charles



Find out more about the work between mana whenua and Eke Panuku on our website: [www.panuku.co.nz/about/mana-whenua](http://www.panuku.co.nz/about/mana-whenua)

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## NEED TO KNOW

### Stay safe around drains

Some catch pits or street-side drains hold excess water. Make sure children don't play near drains, open or covered, as their grated covers occasionally become dislodged. And if something drops in, don't lift the cover

yourself. To report a damaged or missing grate, or retrieve an item, call Auckland Council, **09 301 0101**.

### Library fines removed

From September 2021, Auckland Council libraries no longer charge fines for overdue books. Our libraries provide valuable kaupapa for local communities and global trends show that fines become barriers to accessing those opportunities. For more information on Auckland

Council Library Services visit [aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](http://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)

### Where's your bin?

Roadside collections will continue during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season but remember rubbish, recycling and food scraps (if applicable) collections will be one day later than usual. All collections will return to normal on 10 January 2022. Check your collection details at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/collectionday](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/collectionday)

## Contact us

**Auckland Council:**  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
09 301 0101 (24/7)  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus)  
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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](http://maoridictionary.co.nz)

**OurAuckland:** [ourauckland.nz](http://ourauckland.nz)  
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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.

COVER PHOTO AND CONTENTS IMAGE / TONY NYBERG



## From our Mayor

Thank you to the Aucklanders who have helped keep our community safe by following the COVID-19 guidelines and stepping up to get vaccinated this year. Lockdowns are challenging, but Aucklanders have done a fantastic job of supporting each other to help slow the virus.

COVID-19 restrictions allowing, we will look forward this summer to getting out and enjoying our parks and reserves, maunga and beaches.

Aucklanders love and value our natural environment: our regional parks, Gulf islands, and the glittering waters of our harbours and beaches.

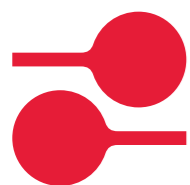
With Aucklanders' support, Auckland Council is working hard to bring forward the

clean-up of our beaches, streams and harbours, and to protect our native species from pests, predators and introduced species.

We're also tackling climate change, with \$152 million of new investment into climate action in our 10-year Budget. This will enable us to bring forward the electrification of our bus fleet, plant more than 200 hectares of new native forest in our regional parks, and expand our zero-waste network.

Protecting our natural environment is our responsibility and our legacy to our children and grandchildren, and will help ensure Auckland remains a fantastic place to live, work and visit.

**Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland**



### Discover OurAuckland.nz

Get weekly updates on news and events across Auckland at [ourauckland.nz/enews](https://ourauckland.nz/enews)

Follow us on social media: [@aklcouncil](#)

### BY THE NUMBERS



## 4000+

parks across the Auckland region, including 27 regional parks, 228 dedicated sports parks and over 800 winter sports fields.

## 9

members on the Seniors Advisory Panel, which identifies important issues for senior citizens; and provides advice on regional strategies, policies and plans.



## 120,200

trees grow in local parks across Auckland.

## 595

crystals adorn Reuben Paterson's spectacular 10m-tall waka sculpture, which can be found at Auckland Art Gallery's forecourt pool.

## 66

schools now compost thanks to grants from Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund.



## LOOK, LOCK & LEARN

**Water safety is everyone's responsibility.**

Drowning is one of the biggest killers of tamariki under five, so here are a few simple steps to keep them safe:

- Keep your eyes on them at all times.
- Teach them to swim.

When using private pools:

- Keep gates closed and ensure latches are working.
- Secure faulty gates or fences until they can be fixed.
- Don't put climbable objects near the fence.
- Don't prop fences open.

Homeowners, landlords and property managers should ensure private pools are fenced securely, and tenants must keep pools secure and report issues immediately.

Even when pool fencing meets all safety and security regulations, supervise children when they are in or near water, and don't get distracted. Let's keep our whānau safe. See more at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/poolsafety](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/poolsafety)



## HELP US PROTECT THE HAURAKI GULF

### Top tips for boaties.

Before you head out on your boat this summer:

- check for pests (ants, skinks and their eggs)
- check and clean all bikes and kayaks
- clean and dry all fishing gear
- clean your hull and all equipment
- close all food containers
- plan to leave no waste behind.

Visit [ourauckland.nz](https://ourauckland.nz) to find out more.



## PROPERTY REVALUATIONS 2021

### New information on Auckland properties.

In December, the region's updated property valuations will arrive in mailboxes, inboxes and made available online. These values are one of the factors that help us determine the amount of rates you will pay from 1 July 2022. The last revaluation took place in 2017. The planned 2020 revaluation was deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information on revaluation is available on our website at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/revaluation](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/revaluation)

HOUSES IMAGE / SHANE WENZLICK; BOAT IMAGE / JEREMY BISHOP, UNSPLASH

# AROUND AUCKLAND

## LOCAL NEWS

## The latest from your community

### In short

News and updates from all over the region.

#### Te Puawai Kōwhai:

Warkworth's new public space. Situated on Baxter Street, the space between Warkworth Library and the Masonic Hall now opens up to Mahurangi River. Rodney Local Board funded the project and worked in collaboration with Ngāti Manuhiri and the local community to develop it.

#### Hoop dreams come true:

It's time to shoot hoops (COVID-19 restrictions allowing) at the new 3x3 court located at Freyberg Park, Browns Bay. The local board officially opened the court earlier this year with a blessing and it's bound to be popular over the summer months for casual games and early morning trainings.

#### Fired up:

A hot performance at the Whau Pacific Festival Fiafia night earlier this year (below). Run by the Whau Pasifika Komiti in partnership with Saintz Up Dance Academy and funded by Whau Local Board, it combined Pasifika workshops, maketi (markets) and celebrations, and was attended by approximately 1000 people.



Daren Kamali with SPACE poets Richard Whalen, Joeli Balelakutu, John Joseph Hughes, Filipino Tu'u and Tim Gray.

## Poetry in motion

### Rough sleepers find new ways to be heard.

Rough sleepers are finding their voices through poetry with support from Waitemata Local Board.

The board provided \$5000 towards the establishment of The Street Poets and Artists Collective Enterprise (SPACE), an initiative led by Auckland Libraries Pacific Heritage Advisor and published poet Daren Kamali.

A partnership between Auckland Libraries and Auckland City Mission, SPACE is providing opportunities for rough sleepers to speak up and be heard says Daren.

"I tell them, don't tell me too much, just show me in your writing. We might start with phrases like 'I hope', 'I said', 'I prayed' or 'I wish'. It's really moving what people write and I've seen subtle changes in them. They are vulnerable but in a safe place to share what's inside them," he says.

Waitemata Local Board Chair Richard Northey says the board was pleased to help get Daren's group off the ground.

"One of our board's priorities is to respond meaningfully and effectively to homelessness. We want people in our local board area to have access to opportunities and facilities, and to have a sense of belonging in the community."

Daren says the group plans to publish a book of poetry in March 2022 called *Rough Lives Matter*.

AWARDS IMAGES / CARMEN BIRD; VOLUNTEER IMAGE / SHANE WENZLICK (ALL IMAGES TAKEN IN ALERT LEVEL 1)

### Howick stars shine

#### Celebrating our sporting excellence.

Black Caps star Glenn Phillips was named Internationalist of the Year at Howick Local Board's recent annual sports awards evening.

The event brought more than 150 people together to celebrate sporting excellence in the area.

The Howick Sports Awards are funded by Howick Local Board: "It was an honour to acknowledge the talent of our local sportspeople, and those coaches, administrators and volunteers who support our many sports clubs," says Chair Adele White.

"We are always amazed by the level of talent and commitment of the nominees at this annual event."

Pakuranga United Rugby Club operations manager Amanda Dyason says, "It was wonderful to hear from some amazing sporting legends present in the room. Hearing from Olympian boardsailor Barbara Kendall, who was raised in Bucklands Beach, about the challenges she faced to get to the Olympics was a surprise for most in the audience.

"A great lesson from her speech was to never let anyone make you feel like you've lost because you're not on the top, referring to how she was made to feel when she won Olympic silver instead of gold."



Howick Pakuranga Hockey Club receives an award from Board Deputy Chair John Spiller.



## Over the mountain

### Native plantings enhance Māngere landmark.

Around 13,000 new native trees and shrubs have been planted on Te Pane o Mataoho / Te Ara Pueru / Māngere Mountain. As part of the restoration programme, approximately 150 pest plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan were removed. No native, scheduled or protected trees were removed.

The new plantings (see artist's impression above) have been positioned to enhance sight lines to and from the tihi (summit), and over time will create a native ecosystem that reflects what was originally present on the maunga. A new habitat for native ornate and copper skinks has been created on the northern side, incorporating more than 600 new low-growing native plants.

Significant track enhancements and a \$1 million playground development are also planned for 2022.

### Getting behind biodiversity

#### Volunteer groups bringing nature to the neighbourhood.

Biodiversity-focused volunteer groups from Pt Chevalier to Mt Eden and Epsom now get support from Urban Ark coordinators thanks to funding support from Albert-Eden Local Board.

Urban Ark coordinator Paul Whitfield and facilitator Phil Simpson will work towards expanding the work into local neighbourhoods that don't already have organised groups.

"It's great to be able to provide support to volunteer groups to enhance their efforts so they can then keep doing what they love," says Albert-Eden Local Board Chair Lee Corrick.

If you would like to join a group or start one, contact Paul at [paul@urbanark.nz](mailto:paul@urbanark.nz) or call him on 021 150 8284.

WHAT'S ON



**Get festive**

Make your spirits bright this festive season with entertainment, wonder and fun activities for the whole whānau. Enjoy spectacular attractions in the heart of the city including Aotea Square's big Christmas tree, the Vector Lights 12 Days of a Kiwi Christmas show on Auckland Harbour Bridge, Silo Park movies, street performances and food to bring cheer to all. See the city sparkle, while region-wide local board events will delight everyone further afield. Covid restrictions permitting, the season begins with the annual Santa Parade at the end of November and runs through to Christmas Eve.

**Music and movies**

Round up friends or whānau for another FREE season of Auckland Council's Music and Movies in Parks (9 January – 3 April 2022). Soak up live music from Auckland's talented musicians, with roots and reggae, opera, electronica and more. When night falls, enjoy a movie under the stars at your local park. Visit [musicinparks.co.nz](http://musicinparks.co.nz) and [moviesinparks.co.nz](http://moviesinparks.co.nz) from late November to see what's on offer!

A refreshing walk in your local area is one of life's simple pleasures. It's good for the soul, the mind and the body. Here are three of our favourites you can do with your family.



**FAMILY SPACE**  
Some of Auckland's best walks for a breath of fresh air.

**KOHUORA SHORT LOOP PATH  
PAPATOETOE**

Kohuora Short Loop Path is a scenic, flat walk through restored wetlands where you can spot pūkeko, kingfisher (kōtare) and white-faced heron (matakū moana). It's next door to a toddler-friendly playground and an off-leash dog exercise area. Suitable for all ages, this 1km short walk will add around 1200 steps to your daily tally.

**Best for tots**



Please be mindful of the current COVID-19 alert level requirements when you plan your outing. For more local walks to do with your family see [aklpaths.co.nz](http://aklpaths.co.nz)

**MATIATIA HEADLAND PATH  
WAIHEKE ISLAND**

Older children will love Matiatia Headland Path. It is a chance to see the best of the natural environment and get active too. It starts next to the ferry terminal, crosses the foreshore, and rises up through regenerating forest before returning via a loop route. It takes in views of the sea and vineyards, and has signage about the inner Hauraki Gulf. This 2.8km walk is not buggy-friendly and takes around 90 minutes.

**Best for teens**

**STANMORE BAY BEACH PATH  
WHANGAPARĀŌA PENINSULA**

Stanmore Bay Beach Path is a 3.2km flat beachside walk. You can take the path or walk on the shore at low tide. It's a quintessential Auckland beach with soft white sand, shady trees and rock pools. There's also a cave to explore at its northern end.

**Best for children**



**MY TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU**

**HISTORIAN SOFI PUA**

*Sofi Pua is a passionate historian, who has been guiding tours along Ponsonby and Karangahape Roads for 15 years.*

*"My dad, who had his own Samoan language radio programme in the 1970s, inspired me to create this walking tour of the old Karangahape Road. When neighbourhoods change, lots of the places from our past are not there any more.*

*"Like many Pacific people, my family has lived in this part of Auckland, gone to school, attended church, and worked, since my parents migrated here in the 1950s. Thursday night shopping in Karangahape Road was huge. If you wanted to know where your family was, you'd just go up to Karangahape Road and find them. There was always an army of Pacific people passing through. In the 1970s, during the dawn raids, police would sit in their cars waiting to arrest people. We got used to it.*

*"We are all historians. We all have a part to play, telling our stories so that the next generations can be inspired or rise up and feel a part of this multicultural society."*

*The New Zealand Government recently offered a formal and unreserved apology to Pacific communities and expressed its sorrow, remorse and regret that the dawn raids and random police checks occurred.*

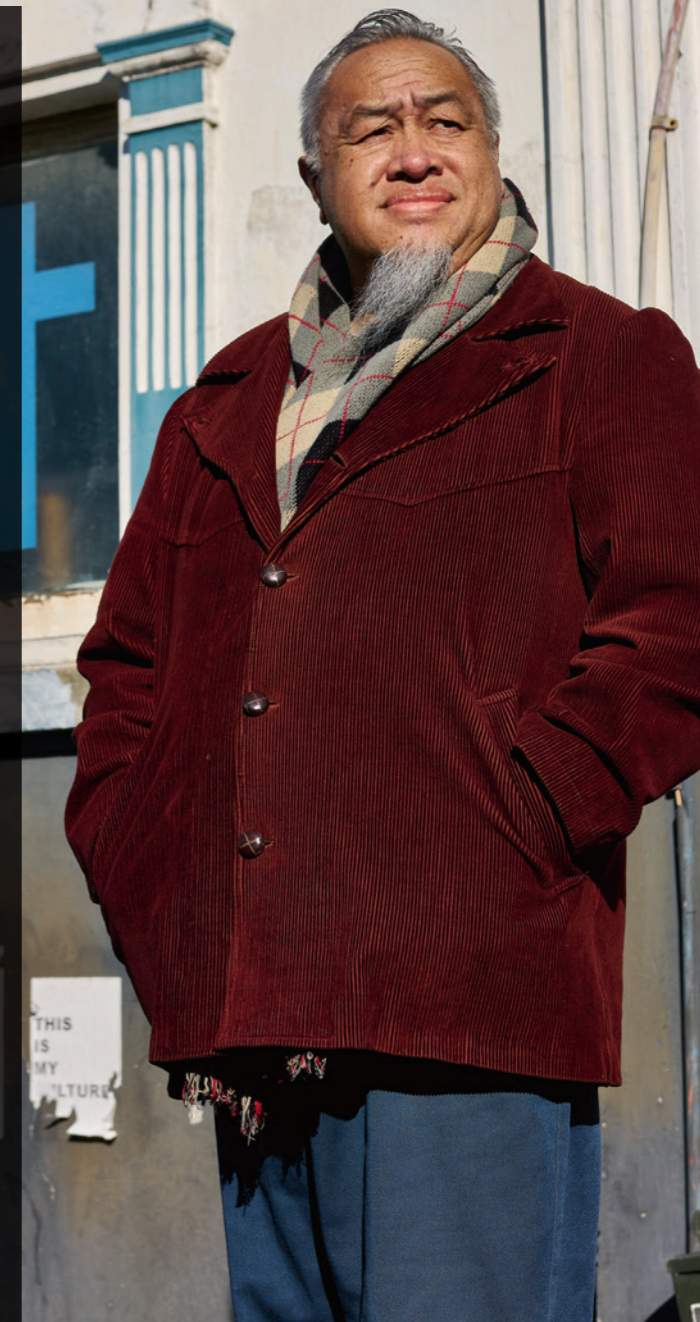


IMAGE / TONY NYBERG



# Natural Heroes



## Auckland Council support sees community conservation initiatives thrive.

Not all heroes wear capes. In fact, many of them wear gumboots and carry traps.

They are our eco heroes, those people in our community who work to protect Auckland's natural spaces and resources. We chat to three passionate conservationists who partner with Auckland Council to help protect the endangered dotterel, restore our native forests and declare war on wildlife pest, the stoat.

FEATURE IMAGES / TONY NYBERG; WRITER / SHARON STEPHENSON



## ● Forest restorer, Pāora Puru

Pāora Puru has his grandmother to thank for teaching him the “traditional esoteric Māori ways of the natural environment”.

“She was in tune with nature and taught me that when we have a healthy ecosystem, we have a healthy people,” says Puru.

A member of the Te Taiao Kaitiaki team at Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua, which covers Tāmaki Makaurau (Waiohua whakapapa) and Northern Waikato (through Waikato-Tainui lineage), Puru is responsible for regenerating the mauri (life force) of forests and waterways.

“It’s about restoring the natural balance that’s been thrown out by everything from the introduction of exotic plant species such as pine and macrocarpa, introduced animal pests and polluted waterways which impact

on the native riverbank vegetation, as well as fish, birdlife and insects. Our aim is to regenerate the landscape because if we look after Mother Nature, she’ll look after us.”

One of the key projects for the iwi is at Āwhitu Peninsula, in partnership with Āwhitu Landcare and Auckland Council, where fencing and planting native trees such as mānuka, kānuka, māhoe and harakeke flax is underway on selected areas, including cultural sites.

“Traditional planting is informed by the lunar calendar (maramataka), so we’ll plant according to the moon cycle. We also plant trees according to the trees’ whakapapa or lineage, which involves planting rimu, tōtara and mataī together because they’re a whānau and their roots can intertwine. In waterways, we’ll plant raupō, wharariki and harakeke, because they’re a family group.”

● **The trapper,  
Matt Maitland**

Fact: about 40 North Island brown kiwi chicks are killed every day by stoats. That's 15,000 kiwi chicks killed every year.

Matt Maitland has spent 25 years battling these deadly pests and the Senior Ranger Open Sanctuaries for Auckland Council says the war against them continues, particularly at Shakespear and Tāwharanui Regional Parks, which Maitland oversees.

"It's certainly very different now than it was early in my career when our ability to control stoats was uncertain" says Maitland.

Eradicating stoats and pests, with only the odd one or two stoats found in both regional park sanctuaries each year, is something they'd successfully achieved. Up until late last year, that is, when it's believed a lone female stoat had up to 11 offspring somewhere in Shakespear's 500 hectares. And those offspring are getting smarter about being caught.

"We've ramped up our buffer control efforts and volunteers have also set traps up to 7km away from the predator-proof fence. So far we've trapped eight of the female's young but it's a race against time because in spring, the remaining stoats will start breeding."

What's at stake are the vulnerable populations of little spotted kiwi, tīeke, hihi and pāteke in Shakespear, as well as a recovering seabird population.

It's why Maitland and his team have employed thermal imaging cameras, a stoat detection dog, and even AI thermal signature image recognition to help locate the pests.

"The ultimate aim is to have abundant native species to the point where we could tear down the fences and they could move beyond the sanctuary."



● **Dotterel defender, Lesley Gardner**

They're rarer than kiwi, with only around 2500 left in Aotearoa. That's why Lesley Gardner and her husband Richard started Te Henga Tūturiwhatu, a group at Bethells Beach (Te Henga) dedicated to protecting the tūturiwhatu, or dotterels.

"We estimate around 30-60 dotterel eggs have been laid over the past decade at Bethells Beach," says Gardner, who's lived there for five years.

"Yet only one of those chicks survived and was able to fly away. They've been trapping and baiting rabbits here since 2002 but we're focused on predators such as dogs, cats, stoats, harrier hawks and black-backed gulls. The chicks are tiny and two hours after hatching in the dunes they leave the nest to forage for food. That leaves them incredibly vulnerable to predators."

Even well-behaved dogs can be an issue, says Gardner, because the dotterel parents will try to frighten off the dogs, leaving their chicks at the mercy of aerial predators who swoop in to grab them.

For the Gardners and their 20-plus strong group, it's about raising awareness of these native birds. Their work, along with countless others throughout the country, has seen an improvement in the bird's conservation status from "declining" to "recovering".

"We put a lot of effort in, educating people about the need to keep their dogs on leads, to keep cats inside at night and not take kelp which provides food for the dotterels to feed on. Between 2011 and 2017, no dotterel chicks were fledged - able to fly away - but for the first year of our group, one chick fledged. This year we've managed to fledge two chicks that were recently spotted around Karekare."



**Where dotterels nest:** They usually nest in open sites, typically low-lying sand or gravel banks and sandbars close to beaches and lagoons. Often they'll be found close to residential or developed areas.





Handler Kerryn Johnson with kauri dieback sniffer dog Pip on a training run.

**Kauri is one of our most important native species. Here's how Auckland Council is helping to protect it.**

Auckland has come a long way when it comes to the highly contagious and deadly disease, kauri dieback. Projects to manage the spread and impact of the disease have included closing tracks in the Waitākere Ranges and many other favourite urban walking routes, and it has been a sacrifice. But we are now celebrating the reopening of some of these much-loved trails and enjoying reconnecting with our forest canopy as scientists and researchers continue to make progress in their understanding of the disease.

Associate Professor Bruce Burns of the University of Auckland has studied kauri for 25 years – long before kauri dieback raised its head. “Kauri is a multifaceted species. It’s charismatic and it’s underrated,” he says, in terms of its size, its age and the way it dominates the ecosystem around it.

“The worry is that we lose all or part of the kauri forest we have, and the opportunities that they provide for us won’t be available in the future,” he says. For instance, says Burns, although some people think of kauri as slow growing, given fertile soil and the right conditions, it is actually the fastest-growing native species we have. It also absorbs carbon faster than any other native tree both in its wood and in the soil.

“In terms of a strategy to store carbon, the best thing we could do is plant kauri,” says Burns. “There are big opportunities that kauri dieback is holding up.”

But Burns is optimistic for the future: “There are still large areas of kauri forest



Auckland Council Kauri Dieback Manager Lisa Tolich with Pip and Mawhai.

that don’t have the disease. If we can give ourselves time to work out how to manage kauri dieback, that gives me a lot of hope.”

**Turning the corner**

Lisa Tolich, Kauri Dieback Manager at Auckland Council, agrees with Burns that there are reasons for optimism.

“Precautionary measures, including the rāhui placed by Te Kawerau ā Maki and the decision to close Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and other kauri-dominant parks and tracks provided breathing room for scientists and researchers to better understand the relationship between the pathogen, the environment and its host,” she says.

“The risk of losing kauri is great, but we are closing the gaps in our knowledge.” Tolich explains that a long-term

FEATURE IMAGES / TONY NYBERG; DIEBACK IMAGE / LISA WALDNER; WRITER / ZOE HAWKINS



**What is kauri dieback?**

A plant disease caused by the microscopic soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida*. Spores from the pathogen infect tree root systems, preventing the intake of water and nutrients and causing tree death.





monitoring survey is underway, measuring the presence of disease in the kauri population as well as identifying risks and impacts associated with it.

Along with upgraded tracks and foot-cleaning stations, Auckland Council also focuses on education to help ensure people stick to the tracks and clean their footwear to avoid spreading the pathogen that causes kauri dieback.

## The sniff test

Included in Auckland Council's defences against kauri dieback are two specially trained sniffer dogs, Pip and Mawhai.

They can accurately detect the microscopic pathogen (*phytophthora agathidicida*) that causes kauri dieback and they can efficiently check footwear, search equipment and materials used to create walking tracks. They also inspect nursery premises and plants before they are transported into kauri-forested areas.

"Finding something natural that we can't see is pretty special," says the dogs' handler, Biosecurity Advisor Brian Shields. "And they give everyone a lot of joy too."

Here's how to be mindful of kauri, when out and about and at home:

- Avoid any area with kauri roots. Draw an imaginary circle around a kauri that is three times the size of its drip zone (the outer circumference of the branches), and avoid entering this area.
- Consider your footwear if you are entering any kauri zone. Clean your shoes to avoid any possibility of carrying the pathogen between areas.
- Ensure your dogs stay on the track – this is best done by keeping them on a leash.
- If you are weeding an area with kauri trees, compost your weeds onsite rather than taking them off the property.

Visit [kauriprotection.co.nz](http://kauriprotection.co.nz) for more information.

**Above:**  
Biosecurity Advisor Brian Shields in the back of his ute with kauri dieback sniffer dog Mawhai.

**Above left:**  
The dogs are put through their paces at the training facility.



## Mind myrtle rust

Myrtle rust is another serious fungal disease that affects plants including pōhutukawa and mānuka. It's a growing problem in the Auckland region. Now is the time to identify and remove any infected plants from your garden before spring growth. To find out how to remove this pest plant safely go to [myrtlerust.org.nz](http://myrtlerust.org.nz)



MYRTLE RUST IMAGE / KIM STARR



# Saving our species

## Auckland communities are at the heart of efforts to control invasive pests.

Many of New Zealand's plants and animals have evolved to be very different from the rest of the world, due to our isolation. Some of our species are so unusual it has been said that New Zealand is as close as we will get to the chance to study life on another planet.

However, since the arrival of people, ecosystem clearance and the introduction of exotic plants and animals have gravely threatened many of our native species.

Tāmaki Makaurau is among the worst affected regions: we've lost 75 per cent of our original indigenous ecosystems to land clearance and our remaining natural areas are threatened by ongoing pressures such as animal pests.

Wetlands and coastal ecosystems are especially at risk, but the region's remaining forests continue to be damaged by pests and the scourge of kauri dieback disease. We spoke to a few local legends and found that Auckland's communities are making impressive progress in the fight against predators such as possums and rats as well as invasive weeds to protect and restore our native species.

## A changing environment

Co-chaired by Glenn Richards, Te Arahikoi is an umbrella group that coordinates and supports community pest-control efforts in the Franklin area along with local iwi.

"We give educational sessions and supply pest-control equipment. There's a huge amount of community engagement here, we don't have to convince people," says Richards, who points out that



introduced predators like rats, stoats and ferrets have been decimating native bird populations for decades. Te Arahikoi was only established two years ago but Richards has already seen proof that native species are returning to the area.

"The environment has changed fast," he says. "I've got a big group of kākā – native parrots – in my trees for the first time in years. The possums are almost completely gone, native birds are thriving and the environment is noticeably different than it was when we started."

## The urban effort

Paul Whitfield is a coordinator for Urban Ark, a collection of community groups working hard to control pests such as rats, possums and stoats in inner west Auckland. "We're here to help people come together and take action," says Whitfield. "It's a chance to feel part of a community and do something positive. In the past month alone we've set around 120 traps in backyards and parks in our area."

Just like Richards, Whitfield has seen kākā and other native birds flourishing and returning to the area following the group's efforts, but he says there's still a lot of work to be done.

"We need a trap in roughly every fifth back garden here," he says. "In a suburb like Pt Chevalier, that's over 600 traps."

## Did you know?

- Some special native species can survive in urban habitats, but they need our help to flourish e.g. giant kokopu in Māngere.
- Rare native mistletoe is hard to find in the wild, but you can see it at Auckland Botanic Gardens. It's here groups learn how to care for this special plant.
- Kaka are now often seen in Auckland after pest control has enabled them to breed and spread.



Above:  
Paul Whitfield taking time out after checking traps at Eric Armishaw Park's waters edge.

Above left:  
Glenn Richards of Te Arahikoi at work on traps in the Franklin area.

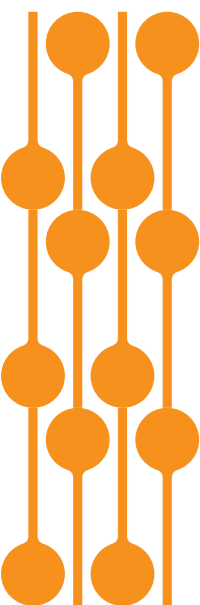
## Auckland Pest

### Free 2050

"Conservation is a job that no one agency or group can do on their own," says Rachel Kelleher, General Manager Environmental Services at Auckland Council. She points out that if we are to achieve the Auckland Pest Free 2050 goal, the whole community needs to get involved.

"Small things can make a big difference if we all do them. Helping could be as simple as setting a trap in your garden, planting native trees and removing pest plants, or just volunteering with a community group when you can."

Keen to do your bit to restore Auckland's biodiversity? Visit [TiakiTāmakiMakaurau.nz](https://www.tiamakimakaurau.nz) for local event details and information about how to control invasive plants and animals at your property.



KOKAKO IMAGE / SY; PORTRAIT IMAGES / TONY NYBERG; WRITER / BEN TUTTY

# Support your Teen to live their Ultimate Life!



Research shows lack of sleep is contributing to increasing rates of teen stress, anxiety, depression, behavioural disorders and even alcohol and drug abuse in teens. SleepDrops® has created TeenSleep & Stress, a high strength supplement containing critical nutrients 9 to 19 year olds need to support their sleep, mental health and emotional resiliency so they can live their ultimate life. If your teen is struggling to cope with exams, competitions, bullying, illness, life changes or other teen pressures, this convenient capsule provides day and night support when they need it most.



JANINE - SEPTEMBER 2021 VERIFIED PRODUCT REVIEWER

Wow, fantastic product! We've had a few years of sleep issues and daytime anxiety. Now sleep comes easily and I have a more resilient child!



NIKKI - SEPTEMBER 2021 VERIFIED PRODUCT REVIEWER

My teen has started to feel differently about a week after taking TeenSleep & Stress, and they have certainly helped with his sleep and his stress management during a very challenging time.



SARAH - SEPTEMBER 2021 VERIFIED PRODUCT REVIEWER

This product is fantastic, my daughter was feeling anxious and stressed about lockdown and this helped her get a great night's sleep.



CAROLINE - SEPTEMBER 2021 VERIFIED PRODUCT REVIEWER

Really good product. Definitely helped settle my teens to sleep. At this time of stress for kids with exams, lockdowns and general pressure it has been great to know they are having better sleep.



If you would like to further support your teen's sleep and mental health, please call our specialised, caring team at our **Sleep and Wellness Centre** on **0800 345 999** or book a consultation today online at [www.sleepandwellnesscentre.co.nz](http://www.sleepandwellnesscentre.co.nz)

**Can't sleep?** Combining our award winning products is an effective way to create your own individual sleep and stress programme.

Available at:

[www.SleepDrops.co.nz](http://www.SleepDrops.co.nz)



TAPS: Read the label. Take only as directed. SleepDrops® International

# What's on IN AUCKLAND



Go to [ourauckland.nz/events](http://ourauckland.nz/events) for all the up-to-date information on what's happening around the region.



# REGENERATING MIDTOWN



Already a popular place to live, work, study and play, Auckland's midtown is on the threshold of an exciting future.

Once the City Rail Link's Aotea Station is open, travel to and from the area will be frequent, safe and convenient. It will take just three minutes to get to either the downtown Britomart Station or Karangahape Road Station and six minutes to Mt Eden Station.

Greater travel options and shorter journey times, brought about by the City Rail Link, will double the number of people within 30 minutes' travel of the city centre. Construction is well underway.

This world-class station sits on the doorstep of midtown, a

neighbourhood where performing arts, art, civic, cultural, education and commercial activities meet with a growing residential population.

**Responding to that growth, Auckland Council is breathing new energy into midtown. The regeneration programme, outlined in the 20-year City Centre Masterplan, has kicked off.**

Within five years it is envisaged the programme will see Auckland's history, art and culture spill out into public life. People will choose to spend time and socialise in a more attractive midtown. It will be a residential backyard, a gateway to two universities and an extension of work environments.

All of this builds on the appeal of living in a city centre that puts people first.

Completed projects like Wynyard Quarter, Te Wānanga / Downtown, and Karangahape Road enhancements have already improved public transport links, cycleway networks and pedestrian connections with upgraded street environments.

The midtown regeneration programme includes upgrades to Federal Street, Myers Park Underpass, Wellesley Street, Victoria Street, Queen Street, High Street and parts of Hobson and Albert Streets.

A number of private developments, in the planning phase, will see

more housing enabled by the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Investment from central government and private developers will see a 21-storey building over Aotea Station by MRCB, enabled by Eke Panuku, Auckland City Mission Homeground and the Kāinga Ora development on Greys Avenue, among other developments in the pipeline.

When Aotea Station opens, the new public spaces and improved infrastructure will be a catalyst for positive change and bring thousands of pedestrians to the area.

We're getting midtown ready.

## BEACHFRONT TE KUITI COTTAGE

**Location: Duder Regional Park, Maraetai**

A gentle tide laps against a white sandy beach. You're enjoying a casual picnic in front of your holiday cottage. There's barely a soul in sight. Te Kuiti Cottage on Umupuia Beach near Maraetai is one of 22 council-owned baches Aucklanders can book. It is a cosy property, with views across Hauraki Gulf to Waiheke Island, that sleeps up to four people in two bedrooms. The beach is ideal for swimming and there are plenty of park walks to explore: everything you want for a relaxing weekend away. Check availability and book online at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/holidayplaces](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/holidayplaces)

SECRET SPOT



## Colours of Hidden Auckland

Enjoy the tones of Tāmaki Makaurau at home all year round



**Resene**  
the paint the professionals use

Check the latest progress at [ProgressAKL.co.nz/midtown](http://ProgressAKL.co.nz/midtown)

**AUCKLAND'S FUTURE IN PROGRESS**



IMAGE / JAY FARNWORTH

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