

# OUR Auckland

TŌ TĀTOU TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

HARATUA MAY 2019 / ISSUE 91

ŌRĀKEI

## NATURAL GROWTH

A CLOSER CONNECTION TO NATURE IS GOOD FOR THE HEAD, GOOD FOR THE HEART AND GOOD FOR THE LUNGS. SO WHAT ROLE DOES GREEN SPACE PLAY IN MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING? HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT IT? AND WHAT'S BEING DONE TO CREATE MORE OF IT?

**Auckland  
Council**

Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



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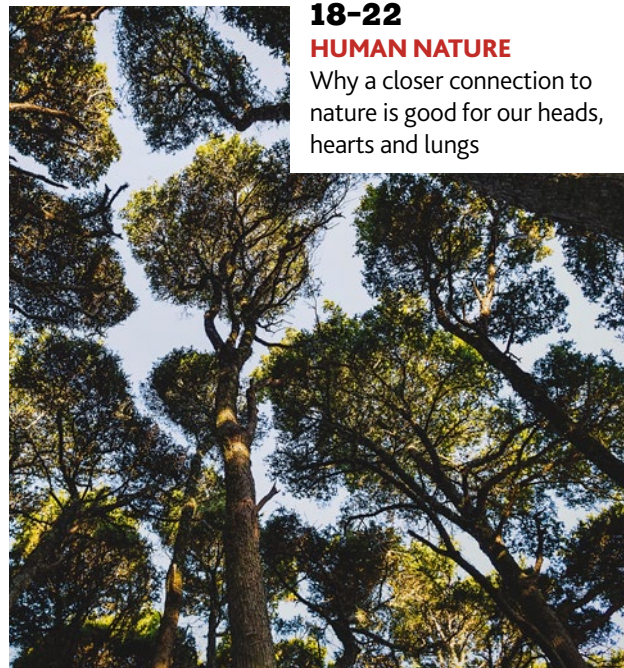


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## CONTACT US

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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](http://maoridictionary.co.nz)

### OurAuckland

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## NEED TO KNOW

### Taking Safeswim to the world

Auckland Council has entered a partnership with

engineering firm Mott MacDonald to turn the council's Safeswim water-quality monitoring system into a multimillion-dollar global product.



### Building smokefree communities

In April, Auckland Council approved 'Auahi Kore Hapori Whānui – Action for Smokefree Communities' to develop an evidence-based, targeted approach to help high-priority communities become smokefree, as outlined in its Smokefree Policy and Implementation Plan approved in 2017.



# All aboard

Over the past year, we have seen more of the positive results that investment in our public transport network brings, with a record 98 million passenger trips. Each additional trip on public transport means one less car adding to congestion on our roads.

Bus rapid transit patronage is up 23 per cent in the past 12 months and rail patronage hit 21 million trips in the year to March. More than 5.3 million trips are taken along the Northern Busway every year and it continues to see double-digit growth year on year.

In April, we kicked off work on a development that will be similarly transformational for Auckland. The \$1.4 billion Eastern Busway project will deliver a dedicated, congestion-free busway between Panmure, Pakuranga and Botany town centres, connecting

eastern communities to education and employment opportunities and helping to unlock the economic potential of east Auckland. It will allow people to travel from Botany to Britomart in 40 minutes, cutting a third off travel time.

Work on the project has been accelerated thanks to Aucklanders' contribution through the Regional Fuel Tax, which will enable around \$743 million of the total cost and allow us to bring forward construction times.


For too long, Auckland's transport system had to accommodate growth without the additional investment needed to support it. With extra investment now available, the transport projects we need are finally under way.

*Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland*



## GET CONNECTED WITH OUR AUCKLAND.NZ

Discover more at [ourauckland.nz](http://ourauckland.nz)  
 Get weekly updates on news and events across Auckland at [ourauckland.nz/enews](http://ourauckland.nz/enews)  
 Follow us on social media

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## BY THE NUMBERS

### \$1.4 billion

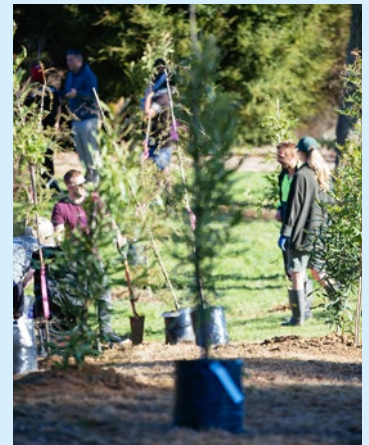
The amount Auckland Council has invested in acquiring and developing public open spaces and parks

### 13,272

The number of dwellings consented in the region in the year ending January. That month, 46 per cent of consents were houses and 30 per cent were apartments

### 59.1 million

The kilometres travelled per year by all buses in Auckland after implementation of the New Network, up from 44.6 million. That's the equivalent of 154 trips to the moon



### 30%

The targeted canopy cover in the city under the council's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. It currently sits at 18 per cent

### 7.4 million

The number of tourist guest nights in Auckland in the year to January, up from just over five million in 2007

### \$55 million

Cost of the new trade training school to be built at Manukau Institute of Technology, facilitated by Panuku Auckland Development as part of its Manukau regeneration programme



# HEY, GOOD LOOKING

At Phantom Billstickers we're suckers for a gorgeous campaign. The team at No Ugly certainly came up with the goods. First, they created a range of delicious wellness tonics. Then they asked Phantom to craft a schedule that placed their clean, classy posters in the path of consumers. No Ugly boss Aaron Taylor says Phantom provided a smart way to boost sales around stockists in Auckland and Wellington while building the brand's credibility. "Street posters are part of the social fabric," is the way he puts it. If you've got a brand that would look good on posters, Phantom has over 6,500 frames nationwide to choose from. That should ensure a beautiful outcome.

# THE BRIEFING

## INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FROM AUCKLAND COUNCIL HQ



## IN WITH THE NEW

Over the past three years, Auckland Transport has redesigned the public transport network across all of Auckland to make it simpler, cheaper, more frequent and more accessible. And the New Network is now live, so if it's been a while since you took a ride, check out the changes.

You can now travel by public transport from Warkworth to Port Waikato – a journey of 147km – and access new

destinations such as Wellsford and Hibiscus Coast. More frequent all-day services mean you can just “turn up and go” rather than having to plan your trip, and with zone fares it's often cheaper to get around.

The New Network is one of the key elements in achieving Auckland Council's targets for public transport, which include doubling patronage from 70 million in 2012 to 140 million in 2022.

Following the network's implementation, 551,000 Aucklanders now live within 500m of a frequent public transport stop, up from 215,500 before, and in March, 10 million trips were made on buses, trains and ferries in the region, the highest number since the 1950s.

Visit [AT.govt.nz/newnetwork](http://AT.govt.nz/newnetwork) to find out how you can make the most of the biggest change to public transport in the city's history.

## STAYING SAFE

The road toll last year – 382 – was the worst since 2009. And 2019 is shaping up to be as bad, with 26 people dying in seven days in early April.

Road Safety Week 2019, which takes place between 6-12 May, aims to draw attention to the carnage on our roads and find ways to reduce fatalities and injuries.

The theme of the project, which coincides with the United Nations' Global Road Safety Week, is 'leadership for road safety'. Organised by the Brake charity, it's an opportunity to promote a road safety campaign in your town, company, club, school or kindy.

Sixty-four people died in crashes on Auckland's roads in 2017 (44 per cent of them were speed related).

That's a 78 per cent increase since 2014. A further 749 were seriously injured.

Auckland Transport is working in partnership with national agencies to improve road safety in the region and its Road Safety 2018/28 strategy includes spending on a range of safety engineering projects at high-risk locations and areas. It is also running behaviour-change campaigns and proposing speed restrictions to reduce road deaths and serious injuries.



## FOR THE GREATER GOOD

We've made changes to the Auckland Council Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 and they will take effect on 1 October.

The changes will help to protect people from nuisance or unsafe behaviours and activities in public places.

The bylaw is wide-ranging and the changes deal with many issues, including using a drone; activities in a park or civic space or on a beach; rules

around fireworks, fires, fences and set netting; leaving or storing items in public places; and nuisance or unsafe behaviours.

You can read the bylaw and obtain copies online at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bylaws](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bylaws) or at libraries or council service centres (printing charges may apply).

If you have concerns about nuisance or safety issues in public places, phone us on 09 301 0101.



Come  
down  
before  
you  
drive

# LOCAL NEWS / ŌRĀKEI

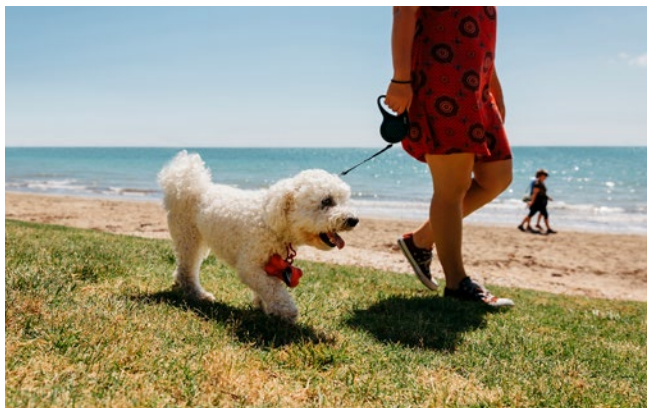
SPRAY-FREE GARDENING, DOG RULES REVIEWED, GREEN SPACES VALUED, AND ENTICING BACK SONGBIRDS



## IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

### COMMENT / DOG RULES

The council is aiming to make its dog policy and dog management bylaw more customer friendly by reducing duplication and introducing more consistency throughout the region. Consultation on the proposals is open until 10 May. Visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay) to tell us what you think.



### GROW / ŌRĀKEI COMMUNITY GARDEN (ABOVE)

Volunteer at the Ōrākei Community Garden and help to grow spray-free vegetables for your fellow residents. Gardening sessions take place every Wednesday behind the Ōrākei Community Centre at 156 Keba Road. Find out more by phoning the centre on 09 379 2030.

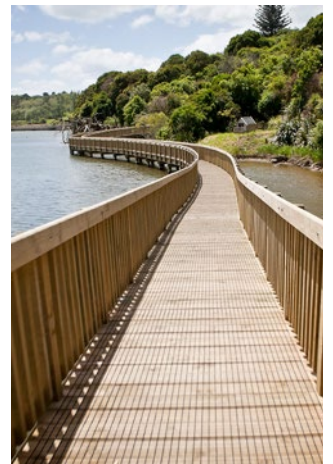


### HELP / THE POUREWA RESTORATION GROUP

Pourewa Valley is one of Auckland's last urban forests and the Pourewa Restoration Group of volunteers is restoring the greenbelt that stretches from Ōrākei to Glen Innes. Find them on Facebook or Instagram.

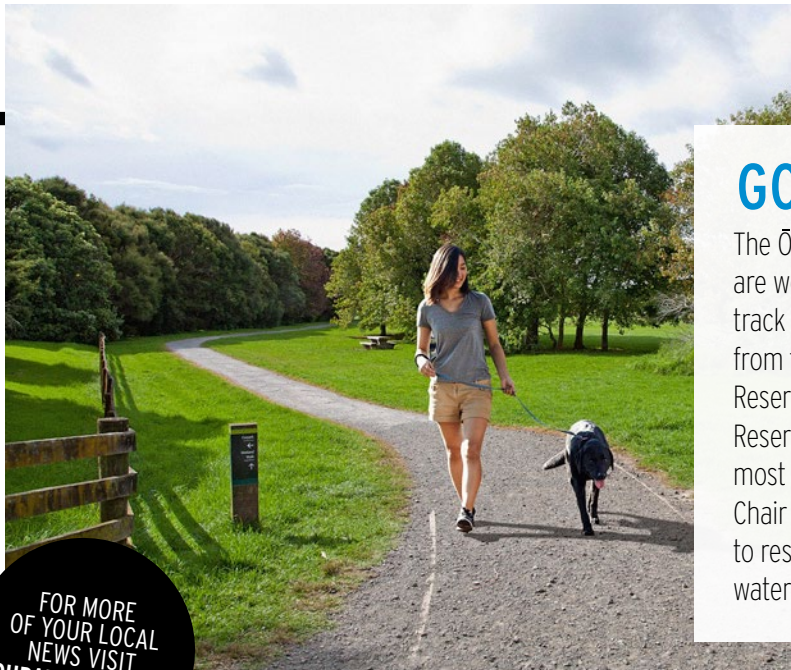
### EXPLORE / AUCKLAND PATHS

Looking for somewhere close to home to take a stroll, run or cycle? Check out the Akl Paths digital platform, which allows you to discover more than 200 paths across the Auckland region, including Ōrākei. The easy online tool lets you choose a path that suits the activity you want to do. Go to [aklpaths.co.nz](http://aklpaths.co.nz) and start exploring.



MAIN PHOTO, DOG RULES, AUCKLAND PATHS AND TRAPS / JAY FARNWORTH; GO GREEN AND PARK UP / THEO LEACH





## GO GREEN

The Ōrākei Ward has many beautiful green spaces that are well worth checking out. It's easy to find a walk, track or trail close to home that provides a refuge from the urban jungle. The Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve, Kepa Bush Reserve, St Johns Bush, Waiatarua Reserve and Dingle Dell Reserve are among the most impressive in the area. And Ōrākei Local Board Chair Kit Parkinson says it's a priority for the board to restore, enhance and improve access to the bays, waterways and bush in the ward.

FOR MORE  
OF YOUR LOCAL  
NEWS VISIT  
OURAUCKLAND.NZ

## PARK UP

As Auckland grows, green spaces and parks will become even more important. Ōrākei Ward Councillor Desley Simpson is pleased to see Ōrākei Ward benefit from a Governing Body decision to invest \$43.7 million to buy parks. The 2327sqm area at 5 Ngapipi Road backs onto Whakatakataka Bay and has potential for picnicking and passive recreation. "This is a beautiful spot overlooking the water and the city but separated from the rush of city life," she says. "Finding open space to buy, particularly in intensified areas, is not easy but the community has requested acquisition of this location for some time and it's great to be able to finally deliver for them."



### ŌRĀKEI WARD

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## TRAPS TO RESTORE NATIVE SONGBIRDS

ERADICATING PESTS WILL ENTICE BACK WILDLIFE, VOLUNTEERS HOPE

An Ōrākei Local Board-supported project designed to bring native songbirds back to the Eastern Bays is proving so popular that residents outside the scheme's area are following suit.

The Eastern Bays Songbird Project covers 1380ha directly facing the pest-free islands of the Hauraki Gulf. It includes the suburbs of Glendowie, St Heliers, Kohimarama, Mission Bay and Ōrākei.

So far, more than 600 traps have been set on private properties in the target areas to help control rat numbers.

"We aim to restore and regenerate the natural ecosystems of the Eastern Bays to create a sanctuary alive with birds, enhancing the lives of our residents and visitors," says the project's website, songbird.org.nz.

Kieran Tibble, who lives outside the project's target area, has been setting traps in nearby Meadowbank and St Johns alongside other locals and has seen good results.

He has a vision to make those suburbs pest-free, too, so native birds and other wildlife will thrive.

# CULTURE CLUB

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world. And the Auckland International Cultural Festival sees many of the city's ethnic groups come together in literal harmony. This year's event, which featured representatives from 56 countries, took place on 7 April, and following the Christchurch mosque attacks, it had added symbolism as a tangible example of Auckland's commitment to multiculturalism. Here's what some of the performers and stallholders had to say about their own cultures and what they love most about living in Auckland.

## 2. MAX BU, MR MASK

**Tell us a little bit about your performance.** In China's traditional opera, people have different emotions, from sad to happy, so the mask has different colours. We show this change of emotion fast by changing the mask.

**How do you celebrate your culture in New Zealand?**

I will still continue to use the face-changing mask, but maybe I will make a new mask that could have a carving on it.

**Do you enjoy living in Auckland?**

Of course. New Zealand's all combined. I don't worry about a lot of things because people are so friendly. There are people with different backgrounds and cultures, and I have learned a lot living in New Zealand.



2



1

## 1. JESSIE TULISI, SAU E SIVA POLYNESIAN DANCE GROUP

**Tell us a little bit about your background and your culture.**

I'm Niuean-Tongan. I don't know much about my Samoan side, so my Samoan aunty got me onboard [with the group] and helped me with my passion for dance.

**How do you celebrate your culture in Auckland?**

Through dance, and spending time with my family.

## 5. JEZANA RAWIRI, SAMĀORI COFFEE

**Tell us a little bit about your background and your culture.**

I'm a cross of Samoan and Māori. We combined the two and made it Samāori so that we could embrace both our cultures at the same time.

**How do you celebrate your culture in Auckland?** I do kapa haka and involve myself in the different cultural worlds, just like what we do at the Auckland International Cultural Festival.

**What do you love about living in Auckland?** I like the different cultural feels, and how they can all be together in one place.



5

## 6. DIANA PRIETO, COLOMBIAN DANCE GROUP

**Tell us a little bit about your background and your culture.**

I was a dancer in Colombia for about 20 years. We have a very happy and hardworking culture, and a lot of parties. Every region has a different rhythm. That's why we have different costumes. It's a mix between Spanish and African descendants.

**How did you get the group started?**

It was always my dream to have a dance group when I moved to Auckland. I missed this part of my life, and through the group I have met these beautiful people from other countries in South America.

3



**3. ALFDANIELS MABINGO, DOMINION ROAD MUSICAL**

**Tell us a little bit about your background and your culture.** I come from the Baganda people of central Uganda. That's the largest tribe in my country. It's known for agriculture and we live by the shores of Lake Victoria, which is the second-largest freshwater lake in the world.

**How do you celebrate your culture and heritage?** I play music. Every time I get an opportunity, I get friends together and share the music and dance traditions. That's what's so great about the cultural festival – different cultures coming together and creating one place to make music and more.

**What do you love about living in Auckland?** I love the fact Auckland is diverse and there are pockets where that diversity crosses over. That makes it a unique city and, so, a place I call home. Hopefully I will call it home for some good time.

4



**4. SILVIA GOMEZ-PINEDA, NANITAS COCINA MEXICANA**

**Tell us a little bit about your background and your culture.**

My culture is very pre-Hispanic and indigenous. I mix with the Spanish but I want to bring more about the indigenous Mexican culture, before the Spaniards conquered my country. I'm very proud of my ethnicity and to show that, I make genuine, handmade food, like tortillas, steamed tamales and empanadas, and lots and lots of tacos – pulled-pork tacos, steak tacos, vegan tacos, vegetarian tacos ... I want to show and to share the knowledge about my food with New Zealanders.

6



**7. OLIVER BRAMAH, ETHNO NZ**

**Tell us a little bit about your performance, your background, and your culture.** I'm an English New Zealander. Ethno New Zealand is a group with songs from all over the world. People teach each other different tunes and different parts of their culture, then we perform those for everyone else.

**What do you love about living in Auckland?** I really like the fact that there is a wide range of cultures around the place and that they are able to really show their culture. Events like the Auckland International Cultural Festival are great because those cultures are celebrated.

7



PHOTOS / MICHAEL ROOKE

# The beat goes on

"Music is the most democratic of the art forms," says Mark Roach, Recorded Music NZ's special projects manager. "It underpins absolutely everything. Everyone's got a piece of music they love in them somewhere – even the most hardened heart." And we celebrate it in Auckland all year round with our diverse and lively music scene. This uniqueness and vibrancy was recognised internationally in November 2017 when Auckland was designated a Unesco City of Music. So, with New Zealand Music Month taking place in May, we talk to Roach about why it was selected, what it means to Aucklanders, and how music can make our region more liveable.

## **OurAuckland:** Tell us what it means to be a Unesco City of Music.

**Mark Roach:** Unesco Creative Cities is a global network that started in 2004 and has grown to 180 cities in seven different fields. Dunedin, for example, is a City of Literature. The concept is to make cities more liveable, and you do that through culture. This music designation [31 cities have it] gives Auckland a vehicle to get everyone around the table – council, music organisations and others – to talk about what we can achieve together.

## **OA** Why does Auckland have such a strong music sector?

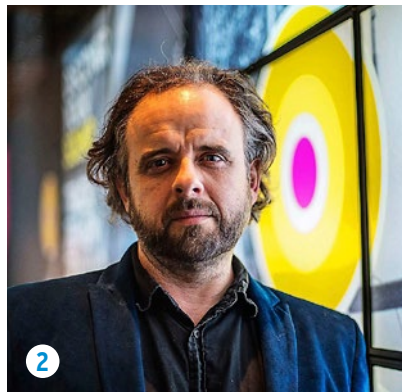
**MR** Partly, it's heritage. The industry has coalesced here and has had a really strong pathway – from the '50s, when Bill Sevesi was doing gigs in the Orange Ballroom, through to reggae in the '80s and the hip-hop explosion in the '90s. We've had these powerful movements, and every generation stands on the shoulders of that heritage.

## **OA** What are the main strategy goals of this designation?

**MR** The strategy has two parts: local and international. Internationally, we are looking mainly at how we can strengthen our global networks, talk



1



2



3

1. Laneway Festival
2. Mark Roach
3. Matariki Festival: Te Korakora on Federal

with other cities, and send more music out into the world. Locally, there's a lot of work to be done, particularly around grassroots venues – making them more accessible, for example.

## **OA** What will you be doing to ensure these goals are met?

**MR** There are four action areas: a live music taskforce, the economic evaluation of the sector, promotional marketing – which will include projects like a video series of Aucklanders telling us what music means to them – and the heritage development, like music trails and music tours of the city.

## **OA** What's the benefit of being a City of Music to the average Aucklander?

**MR** It will give the public far more awareness of how powerful Auckland actually is in this space. Day to day, I would hope there are more gigs to see. We're looking at how we can put more music into public spaces. And it should hopefully provide a breeding ground for the next generation to make music their careers.

## **OA** Do you see Māori music spreading internationally?

**MR** The global networking of Māori music is an action we're going to develop. I'd love to get collaborations going, putting Māori music together with a brass band in Belgium, for example, just to see what happens. I know from my travels Māori music is our calling card. Acts like Moana Maniapoto were a huge success. Te reo is just so unique; it really separates us from the rest of the world.

## **OA** How would you describe the music scene in Auckland?

**MR** It's really vibrant and diverse. There's this amazing new generation of musicians coming through who just blow you away, like Missy, Lexxa and Miss June. When I started in music, I felt like I was just groping around in the dark. A lot of musicians these days seem to come out fully formed.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [AUCKLANDCITYOFMUSIC.NZ](http://AUCKLANDCITYOFMUSIC.NZ) AND CHECK OUT THE 'MADE IN AUCKLAND' PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY TO HEAR A SELECTION OF CITY SOUNDS.**

# LIVE AT THE MUSEUM

CELEBRATE HOMETOWN TALENT WITH  
FOUR GIGS IN AUCKLAND MUSEUM'S  
STUNNING GRAND FOYER

---

**WED 1 MAY**

Finn Andrews & Reb Fountain

---

**MON 6 MAY**

Mara TK & Hollie Smith

---

**MON 13 MAY**

Holly Arrowsmith & Alae

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**MON 20 MAY**

Warren Maxwell

**6.30PM**

**FREE, bookings essential**  
[aucklandmuseum.com](http://aucklandmuseum.com)



**NZ  
MUSIC  
MONTH**  
.CO.NZ  
MAY2019

Tāmaki  
Paenga Hira  
Auckland  
War Memorial  
Museum

**AAM**



Matt Montgomery says the council is spearheading new green technology

## Green machines

Some of Auckland's most important environmental work is being guided by technology. **Hayden Donnell** looks at how it is helping to make the region's sustainability initiatives more effective and efficient.

About two weeks ago, an unusual collection of people gathered in a modern office at Wynyard Quarter on Auckland's waterfront. There were 10 farmers, 20 agriculture-industry professionals, 20 sustainability specialists, 10 academics and 10 people from the tech industry. They'd been brought together to brainstorm at Auckland Council's innovation hub, Hatchbox. Their purpose: to develop a scheme to transform farming in the region through the use of technology.

When people think of government and community efforts to improve the environment, some form of physical labour often springs to mind. It could be tree planting, pest trapping or rubbish collection. But Auckland Council's Head of Innovation, Matt Montgomery, says technological solutions, often designed in collaboration with other organisations, are an increasingly important part of the council's efforts to preserve the city's environment.

"Technology allows us to do more with less and to be better informed with what we're doing; to monitor better and make sure that the interventions we're taking are the right interventions, and that we're doing it in the most cost-effective way possible."

The scheme devised by the 70-strong group at Wynyard Quarter went into effect in Auckland recently. Dubbed Farms and Food for the Future, it has seen the council install large numbers of sensors in its working farms, monitoring everything from soil quality to cow growth.

Montgomery says the sensors will help the council to create a "digital twin" of the farms, which it will use to measure the effects of different farming practices in precise and granular detail.

"It's figuring out how we manage the farm as a holistic system so that we can balance it being a green space, a productive farm and a key part of the

natural environment," he says.

Other council initiatives aimed at using tech-assisted data collection to improve Auckland's environment include the Bio Tree App, which allows council officers to record information about the location and condition of important trees around the region using their phones, and the internationally acclaimed Safeswim programme, which uses sensors to assess water quality across Auckland.

Tech also plays an important role in automating physical, time-consuming environmental work, Montgomery says. He cites a system the council is developing for the pest traps it sets in remote areas across Auckland. The system alerts the council when traps have been sprung.

"It takes us a lot of time to check those traps and we have a limited amount of time before animals start to unnecessarily suffer," he says. "This will allow us to cover much greater areas and do more trapping because we go only to those traps that we know have animals in them."

Montgomery says the council can also play a role in spearheading new green technology. For example, all of the results and data from the Farms and Food for the Future programme will be made available to private-sector farms across the region. "Farmers' livelihoods are directly dependent on the productivity of the farm. We're lucky in that we can take a bit of risk that others can't."

The promise of new technology is exciting, and it will make future sustainability initiatives easier. But he warns against the temptation to view it through a utopian lens. In the end, it can only inform us, and make some tasks easier. We still have to do the real work of saving the world and making our city a better place, he says. "Technology won't save us. It is us who will save us. But technology can be an enabler. We have to integrate technology into what we do."

**MATT MONTGOMERY WILL JOIN SPEAKERS IN THE 2019 INNOVATION SHOWCASE ON 20 MAY, PART OF THE TRIPARTITE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MEETING BETWEEN AUCKLAND, LOS ANGELES AND GUANGZHOU, AND OF TECHWEEK19 (20-26 MAY).**

## SPONSORED CONTENT

was astounding – employees and HR loved it,” Linnell says. “Within the first three months of operation, we’d raised more than \$3000 for local charities.” She is now expanding Park Angel to include companies in high-density areas and cities with the goal of raising \$250,000 for charities over the next 12 months.

With well-being on the top of the political agenda this year, this is the perfect time for companies to take steps to look after their staff. In Auckland alone, nearly 400,000 workers commute without access to a company car park. More companies are offering flexible working hours, putting demand for flexible car parking in big cities at an all-time high.

The Park Angel service is easy to use. Companies simply register their details online, select the charities they would like to support and set a fee that staff are charged for using the spare park. They also need to upload a car-park map, which Park Angel can create if there isn’t one.

The company is then issued with a login to give to staff. Employees who have a car park can go online to record their absence, and those looking for a car park can search the system to see if there are any spaces available.

Once car and park make that happy connection, the driver can go to the secure payment gateway and choose the charity they would like to support. The service is aligned with five charities: CureKids, New Zealand Hospice, the SPCA, The Hunger Project and Voice of Hope, but companies can also nominate five charities of their own.

Only staff with an email address linked to the company can access the secure web portal, so there are no issues with security or strangers roaming the car park.

Park Angel’s inspired concept saw it win the People’s Choice prize at the 2018 NEXT magazine Her Own Boss Awards. If empty parks are beckoning at your office, Park Angel can provide a simple way to make a difference.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [WWW.PARKANGEL.CO.NZ](http://WWW.PARKANGEL.CO.NZ), EMAIL [ADMIN@PARKANGEL.CO.NZ](mailto:ADMIN@PARKANGEL.CO.NZ) OR CALL 09-392 7275.**



# Park Angel helps fill empty spaces, and charity coffers

A prize-winning web-based service is enabling employers to make best use of staff car parks and, at the same time, raise money for worthy causes.

While more and more people are using public transport in Auckland, many still need to take a car to work, whether it’s for visiting clients or racing to childcare or school pick-ups. But only a few have access to a company car park. Those who don’t are often faced with high prices at parking buildings or a long walk to the office.

Meanwhile, those precious company car parks frequently sit empty while the “owner” is away at work meetings or on annual leave. It’s a lose-lose situation, but thanks to a new web-based service, it’s now possible to make better use of that precious inner-city real estate.

Park Angel is a new, award-winning

car-parking solution that enables companies to help their staff. Using the internet, staff can book their company’s unused car parks, and they donate a small fee to a charity of their choice for the convenience.

Businesses get the advantage of making the lives of their staff easier and helping a worthy cause. There’s also the drawback of an increase in productivity, as workers don’t need to fret about where they’ve parked, dash out to feed hungry meters, or peek out the window to spot parking wardens.

The service’s founder, Elaine Linnell, successfully launched the concept when she worked at Sovereign in 2016. “The feedback

# The birds & the bees

The songs of the kōkako, bellbird and other native taonga may ring out stronger in Auckland's forests as the council's new pest-control programme starts to make headway. Aiming to make the region pest free by 2050, the initiative wants the help of locals to protect and encourage biodiversity across Auckland – and as **Sam Button** reports, you can do it in your own backyard.

## TRAPPING

Rats, stoats and possums kill approximately 25 million native birds nationwide each year. Trapping is a great way to control these pests and starting is as simple as laying a few devices in your yard. First, you'll need to identify which predators you have. Chew cards are great for this and can be bought online (for instance, at [predatorfreenz.org](http://predatorfreenz.org)). Finding suitable traps should be easy enough, says Auckland Council's Pest-Free Auckland Project Director, Brett Butland. "For average home use you don't necessarily need the more

high-powered traps. In fact, we've heard great stories of secondary school students building their own traps for their communities." Once you've sourced them, lay them where the chew cards were bitten. To help new starters, the Department of Conservation is hosting trapping workshops from April through to June. And there are always community trapping groups looking for more help if you want to take out a few more predators.

You can do your bit to stop predators like rats, possums and stoats killing native birds by laying traps on your own property or joining trapping groups.



## WEEDING AND PLANTING

It's not just about getting rid of the predators, says Butland. "We support groups doing a lot of things, not just predator removal. There's weed and restoration work, initiatives to plant native species and build plant nurseries." There were around 400 conservation groups doing community work in Auckland when the pest-free programme started in 2017; now there are more than 2000.

"What we want to see is regenerative gardening practices," says Sarah Smuts-Kennedy, founder of For the Love of Bees, a project trying to make Auckland as bee-friendly as possible. Knowing how to safely get rid of irritating weeds such as nightshade and wild ginger is an important starting point. "One thing we can do is get chemicals out of the ecosystem: stop using insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides," says Smuts-Kennedy. "If you have pests in your garden, you don't have strong microbial soil – and the best way to get that is to have 8-15 different types of plants in close

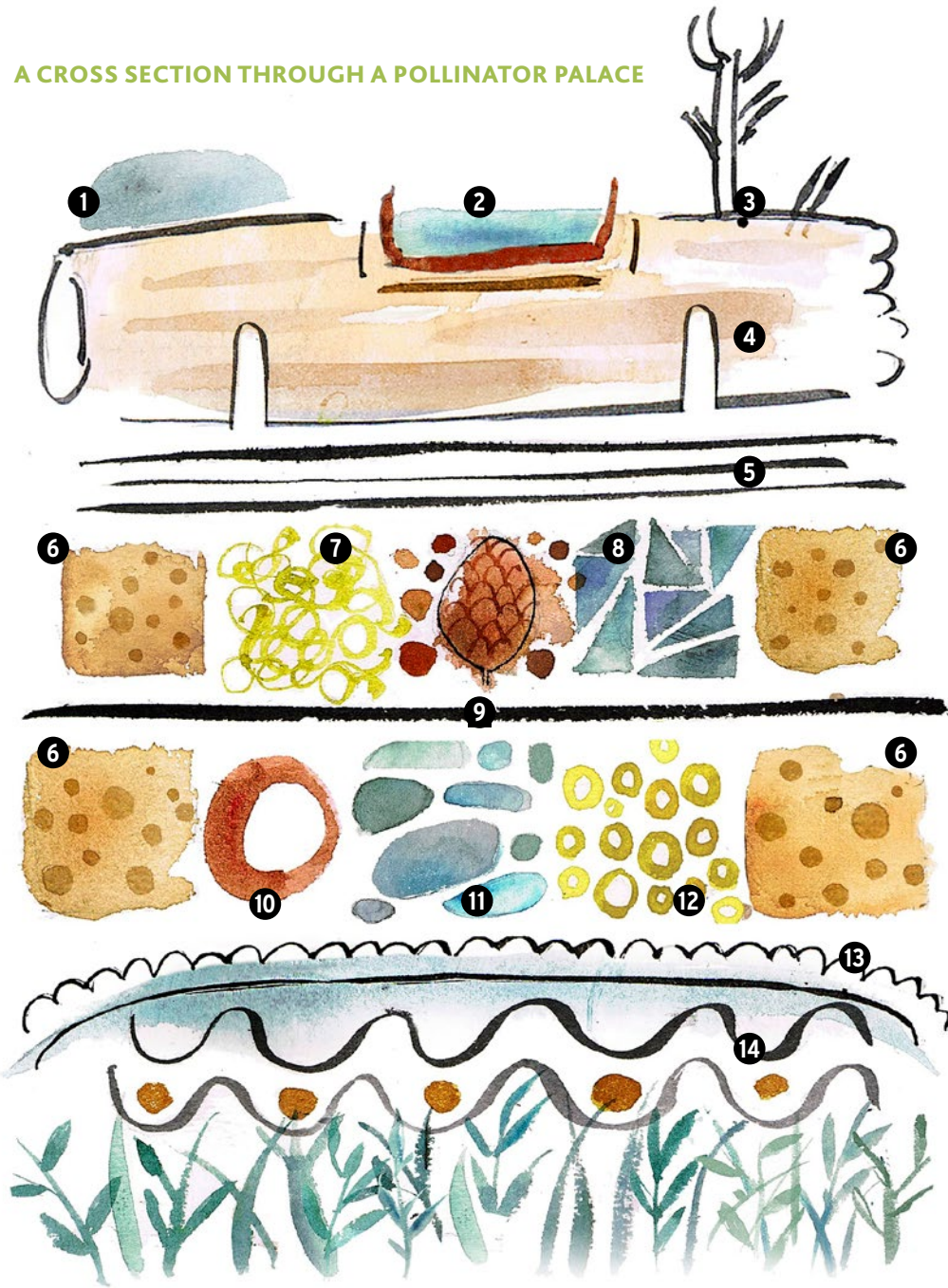


proximity to each other." This helps microbes to capture carbon and build healthy soil – in turn helping to grow plants and feed pollinators. For the most part, weeds can be thrown into green waste or even used in compost.

The council's efforts couple eradication with regeneration, too. Its Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy is aiming to have an average of 30 per cent tree cover across the region, and more than 750,000 trees have been planted by the council since 2017. These trees are a lifeline for our native birds and insects, providing habitat, improving air quality



## A CROSS SECTION THROUGH A POLLINATOR PALACE

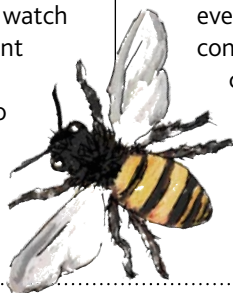


## HOW TO BUILD POLLINATOR PALACE LAYERS

1. Flat rock for butterflies and lizards to bask in sun
2. Shallow terracotta plant tray filled with clean water set into wooden log (for stability) for birds, butterflies and lizards
3. Optional tree branch to provide perching site for birds and butterflies
4. Holes drilled 18mm wide x 90mm long in underside of untreated piece of wood for wētā
5. Layers of hessian or palm fibre netting for insects
6. Lengths of untreated timber with different-sized holes drilled in sides for insects and solitary bees
7. Hay or straw to provide refuge for small and burrowing insects
8. Broken pieces of terracotta pots and different-sized tree branches and/or pine cones for slugs and insects
9. Rows of untreated timber slats, with 30mm gaps between each piece
10. Terracotta drainpipe for frogs and lizards
11. Piles of different-sized stones and rocks for lizards, slaters and slugs
12. Different-sized bamboo canes for solitary bees
13. Pieces of old carpet for slaters and other damp-loving insects
14. Two or three layers of onduline separated by 10mm dowel for lizards.

and removing carbon from the atmosphere.

Building backyard nurseries can help with this, says Butland. "Growing shrubs and trees in the backyard is not as difficult as people might imagine. From a family perspective it could be quite fun: plant your seeds in bags or pots to begin with, watch them germinate and then plant them in the garden when they're ready. Then you get to a point where those shrubs and trees start to flower and fruit, and the birds will start coming back."



## CREATING

Since one out of every three mouthfuls of food is made possible by pollination, consider building pollinator-friendly spots in your garden. Upside-down pot plants, rock piles, log piles, nectar-rich flowers that bloom at different times or even a 'pollinator palace' – a construction of wooden pallets, dead logs with drilled holes, broken bits of terracotta pots, hay and straw – all give bees and other pollinators a safe home to raise their larvae.

"Take a look at an aerial view of suburbia with the squares and shapes of backyards," says Butland. "If each of those attracted birds with habitats, provided shade and had healthy soil, we would start to get a mosaic of connected corridors that our invertebrates like wētā or our native birds could start moving between. This is a classic example of the power of the collective. If everyone does their part, the aggregate difference it makes is huge."

**IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE, CHECK OUT [AUCKLANDCOUNCIL.GOV.TZ/PESTFREEAUCKLAND](http://AUCKLANDCOUNCIL.GOV.TZ/PESTFREEAUCKLAND)**

# HUMAN NATURE

An increasing body of evidence suggests that a closer connection to nature is good for our heads, our hearts and our lungs. But as Auckland grows, our precious green spaces and trees are increasingly under threat. **Elly Strang** looks at the many benefits of green spaces and the many organisations trying to protect them.

## HEADS

Humans have long believed that being in or around nature has healing properties. But the idea was previously more intuitive than evidential – a warm glow rather than hard science. Now, with large-scale public-health problems such as obesity and depression being linked to a rise in technology, a disconnect from the outdoors and more time spent inside, researchers are showing renewed interest in the topic, and studies from around the world are finding that those who live close to green spaces enjoy positive impacts on both their physical and mental wellbeing.

A new Danish study has found that when children grow up with green space around them, they have 55 per cent less risk of developing a range of mental-health problems later in life. Researchers from Aarhus University found that the more greenery a person is exposed to up to the age of 10, the lower the risk of 16 mental disorders, including anxiety and depression, even when controlling for factors such as socio-economics and urbanisation.

“Our findings affirm that integrating natural environments into urban planning is a promising approach to improve mental health and reduce the rising global burden of psychiatric disorders,” the study’s authors say.

Closer to home, a team led by University of Canterbury professor

Simon Kingham has studied the effects of public and private green spaces on physical health. The research analysed the activities of 12,500 New Zealanders, including 2500 Aucklanders, and found they were less likely to be overweight or suffer from obesity if they lived close to a park.

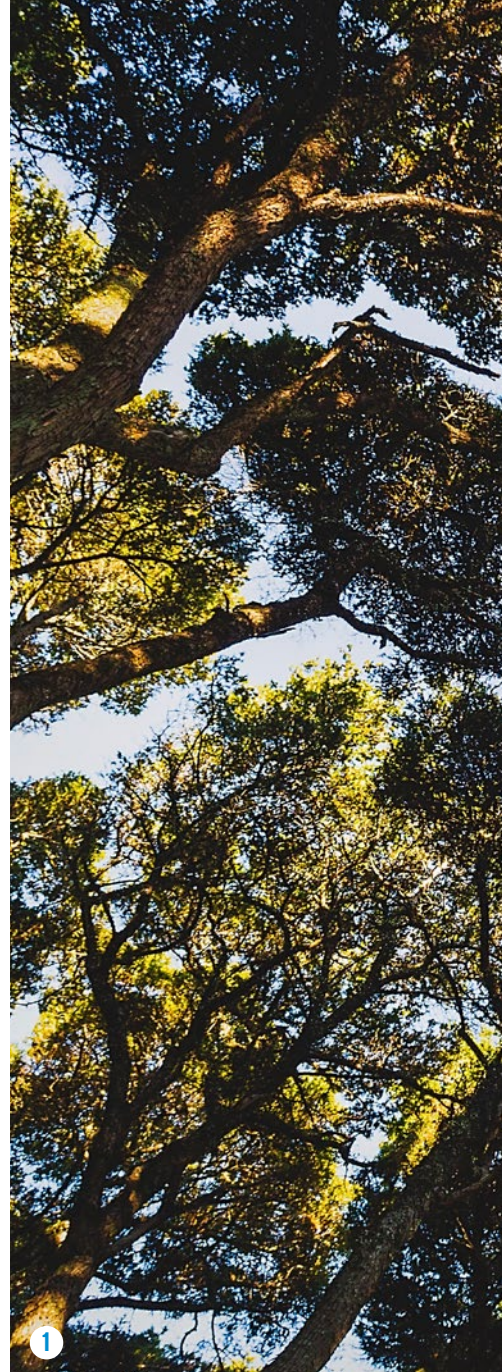
“Globally, nearly every study I’ve read says the more green space you’ve got near where you live, the better your health is,” Kingham says. “Park creation and planting in existing public spaces may serve as low-cost disease-prevention options.”

In its 10-year budget released last year, Auckland Council boosted funding for parks, open spaces and community facilities to \$3.7 billion, with \$1.4 billion set aside for acquiring and developing public open spaces and parks. This was ahead of infrastructure as the single biggest increase within the budget.

Kingham says another finding of his team’s study was that people in lower-socio-economic areas tended to have less access to good-quality green spaces. “All green space is not the same.”

This is why Auckland Council’s Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy is vital to the health of the city. It aims to address the unequal distribution of trees across the region and increase the benefits of a green city for all.

It also aims to undo some of the damage done by urbanisation, rising inequality and climate change. The plan is to increase Auckland’s average tree-canopy cover from 18 to 30 per

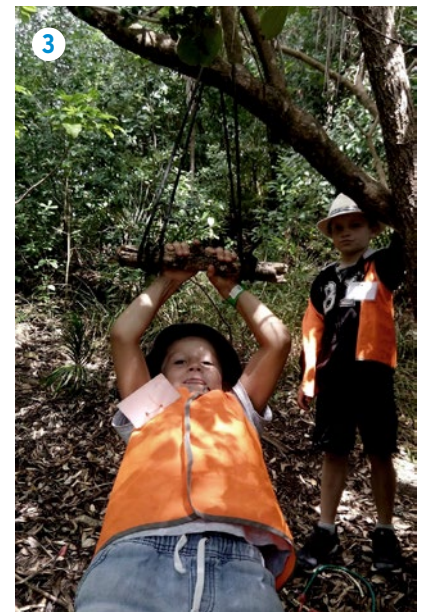


cent, while targeting areas where cover is scarce, such as parts of south Auckland, so that all local board areas have at least 15 per cent cover.

Councillor Penny Hulse, chair of the council’s Environment and Community Committee, says Auckland’s rapid urban growth has swallowed up native bush and open spaces.

“It hasn’t always been the norm to replant trees in areas that have been developed since the 1980s,” she says. “With higher-density housing we’ve lost a lot of urban trees, as people haven’t always valued them as much as they should.”

Hulse says so-called “leafy suburbs” have fantastic tree cover, but the urban canopy is not evenly distributed across Auckland. In some neighbourhoods, streetscape planting



1. Experiencing nature can have a positive impact on health 2. At Auckland Zoo 3. A Conscious Kids participant

– where trees are planted along the roadside – is also lacking.

“The amalgamation of Auckland’s former councils means we get to look across the whole region to see where those gaps are,” she says. “Among the lowest on the canopy cover statistics are places like Ōtara and Papatoetoe. We’d like to make them as leafy as the suburbs in Waitemātā, not just because it’s beautiful, but because it’s better for communities.”

The Urban Ngāhere Strategy is underpinned by a three-pillar framework: knowing, growing and protecting. This involves tracking the size, health, condition and distribution of trees around Auckland and increasing the number to boost the benefits and address inequity, while also protecting existing trees.

Hulse says local boards are organising planting in areas that have been degraded, and Mayor Phil Goff’s Million Trees programme is a great example of a planting project making big strides. Under the scheme, 648,000 trees were planted around Auckland in the first two planting seasons, and the millionth tree is being planted in Tōtara Park on 14 June. Auckland Council collaborates with a range of groups on the plantings, from schools, to community groups, to prison inmates.

“We’re getting huge numbers of volunteers for planting,” Goff says. “They’re not as fast as the professionals we use, but they’re there and ready. It’s all about what you want to leave as a legacy. I went and planted 50 native trees, and I’m going

to take my grandkids back there and show them the trees when they’re 30, 40, 50 metres high. People get a thrill out of that and know we’re undoing some of the damage done; they see it as a way they can make a difference.”

Hulse says planting more trees now is crucial to combat growing inequity as the climate gets warmer.

“Climate change is talked about as an inequity magnifier. In other words, the people most vulnerable to climate change are those at the challenging end of the social scale, and if you look at where the least tree cover is, it’s the vulnerable areas. Internationally, it’s been shown that communities who live in areas where there are lots of trees are able to adapt to warmth more easily, so let’s address those two things together.”

## HEARTS

It's not just the council leading the way on promoting the importance of green spaces. Citywide, there has been a huge push from community groups to better protect nature and expand our connection to it by increasing awareness, restoring native trees and improving biodiversity.

One group teaching these skills from the ground up is Conscious Kids. It was founded in 2015 out of a desire to have a more conscious and holistic form of education for children aged five to 13, with a mission to plant "little seeds for the future" and reconnect them with the outdoors.

It now runs programmes in Western Springs, Devonport, Blockhouse Bay and further afield.

Co-founder Maria Mariotti says learning through nature promotes cognitive and physical development, grows social and emotional skills and can have a hugely positive impact on a child's health and sense of wellbeing.

"It has been proven by many researchers that unstructured, frequent childhood play in informal outdoor settings engenders deep conservation values – more so than any other factor," Mariotti says. "It is human nature to want to protect what we love, so to make conservation efforts endure, we must emotionally connect children with nature. They are our future and the future of this beautiful endangered planet."

Another group making a difference is Trees That Count. It counts the number of trees being grown nationally, while also encouraging more plantings through its marketplace, which allows individuals, businesses or families to fund or gift native trees. These are matched with planters on Trees That Count's marketplace throughout the country. In Auckland, it has recorded more than 1.4 million trees planted.

Melanie Seyfort, head of marketing and partnerships, says the organisation's goal is to see 200 million native trees planted in the next 10 years. It also wants to create a culture where planting or gifting native trees becomes a Kiwi way to celebrate or commemorate occasions.

"At Christmas, I think there were almost 30,000 native trees gifted.



4. Beside Tōtara Park bike track, Manukau  
5. Friends at Underwood Park, Mt Roskill  
6. Even a fallen tree can be a beautiful thing

What we plan to do this year is lead campaigns to help inspire that kind of behaviour. That doesn't mean all of that has to come as money through our marketplace; it could be New Zealanders create their own new traditions, where they plant a tree at home."

Trees That Count is a partner in the council's Million Trees programme and Seyfort says that this year, it'll be hosting an event for families during Matariki where anyone with a new baby can plant a tree in their honour. A similar campaign in 2018 saw around 11,000 trees donated.

Another community group, Gecko Trust, offers encouragement, advice and resources to help people and communities create healthy environments. General Manager Tim Corbett says its purpose is all about

people healing nature and nature healing people.

"Everyone wants to make their own backyard look great – they don't want to have rats or noxious weeds, and they would love tūi and kererū at the end of their driveway – so they work on their own backyard, and their neighbour does too," he says. "It becomes a community, and then that steps up to our ideal model, which is a living neighbourhood, where households are joining together to do teamwork on private land, parks, creeks, and all the stuff that doesn't fall into their boundary line."

Corbett points to a neighbourhood in South Tairāngi where about six households increased the quality of their own green spaces alongside a facilitator appointed by Gecko Trust.





Now, the community has about 300 households involved and is on the brink of becoming self-sustaining and self-led, while also having enough confidence to start lobbying the council for participants' needs.

Corbett says if you want a community to be healthy, getting together and working on common projects is one of the best things you can do. "It improves social health and connections between neighbours and perceptions of safety. Elderly people die from loneliness with intensification and, ironically, the closer our sections get to each other, the less we interact with each other."

He says Japanese and British GPs are even prescribing "nature bathing" for mental health as it reduces

cortisol levels and is proven to have positive effects.

Auckland Zoo is one of the city's most impressive green spaces and is also promoting the environment's effect on wellbeing and passing this wisdom on to visitors. From July, it will be making more of an effort to tell visitors about the work it does that may go unheard of, such as helping the Department of Conservation (DOC) protect New Zealand's wildlife, teaching conservation education to schoolkids and supporting conservation projects.

It recently teamed up with DOC and the Mental Health Foundation to collaborate on the Healthy Nature Healthy People programme, which is all about promoting and strengthening the connection between health, wellbeing and nature.

"DoC has recently identified the zoo as a key partner for the movement, as we already reach so many people and promote the health and social benefits of connecting with nature and wildlife," says Auckland Zoo Head of Marketing and Communications Jooles Clements.

He says the zoo can act as a place of entertainment and fun for people to enjoy, while at the same time increasing environmental awareness, optimism and empathy.

"A good zoo should be entertaining. That's the first step to building empathy and that is the foundation for conservation action," he says. "As long as entertainment isn't at the expense of animal welfare, we're all for it. Just because we are a science-based organisation doesn't mean you can't have fun when you visit us."

## LUNGS

Not only do green spaces allow us to unwind and rebalance, but they can also help combat common problems faced in urbanised areas, such as poor air quality and soil erosion.

Soil erosion can cause infrastructure damage by blocking roads, drains and waterways, but planting trees helps to counteract this by protecting soil from the impact of rain, vaporising large amounts of water and binding it to sloping land with their roots.

Cities are also renowned for producing higher greenhouse-gas

## TRIM AND PROPER

Under the Auckland Unitary Plan, most trees over 4m tall on park land and road reserves are protected, and thousands of notable trees on both private and public land are also protected for their heritage, botanical and cultural significance.

The council contracts firms with teams of arborists who assess trees' health, size and maintenance requirements on average once every eight years.

Those that show poor health or structure or are potentially unsafe are often removed under urgency, while others that are in declining health are often cared for and monitored.

Meanwhile, energy company Vector has a programme called Vector Urban Forest under which it plants two native trees for every tree it cuts down to protect Auckland's power lines. The goal is to raise awareness of the need to keep trees well clear of the lines, as well as to encourage people to choose the right species to plant.

"We are aiming to encourage Aucklanders to help us contribute positively to regenerating Auckland's ecosystems and increasing canopy cover across the city," Vector Chief Networks Officer Andre Botha says. This is especially important considering the company's climate modelling predicts a significant increase in the number of hours when winds will exceed 70km/h, which means damage to the lines network will be likely.

Vector launched the Urban Forest programme last year by planting 16,000 trees, shrubs and grasses in Puhinui Reserve in two days; more than 500 people attended.

Its 2019 planting day is on 12 June from 9.30am until 3pm at Tōtara Park, and all are welcome. No experience is necessary, and Vector will provide everything needed for planting, and lunch.

emissions, but trees absorb carbon dioxide and other potentially harmful gasses and release oxygen. It's estimated one large tree has the ability to supply a day's worth of oxygen for four people. Trees can also cool the air, land and water by offering shade and moisture. As the planet warms, this is significant, because the temperature in urban areas often runs many degrees warmer than areas with heavy tree cover. This is why our green spaces need protecting, and the ecosystems they operate within need to be nurtured, too.

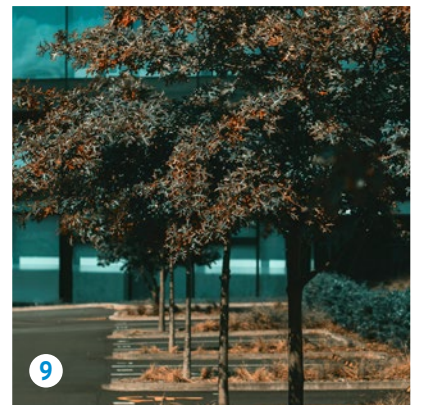
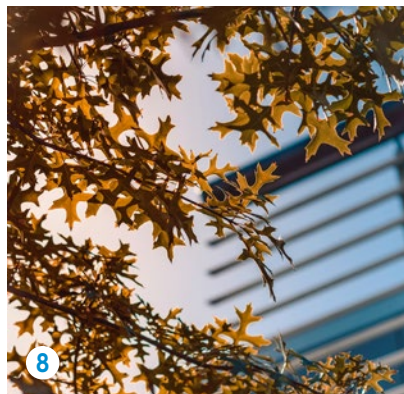
David Irwin, creative director of integrated design studio Isthmus, says the health of our environment should be the baseline for any urban design or architecture work within a city. "Our land needs to be healthy to allow us to be healthy. We can't live the lifestyle we want if we can't swim in our water or live in our cities. Out of everyone, it's Māori who are saying it very clearly: the environment is the bottom line, the requirement."

Westgate's Kopupaka Reserve was named World Landscape of the Year in 2016 due to work on rebuilding a coastal edge that was considered "space left over after planning" when a new motorway was built. Isthmus used green infrastructure to recreate the stormwater reserve, improve its waterways and create higher-quality green spaces for wildlife.

Isthmus has also been contracted by Panuku Development Auckland to work on its Northcote Masterplan. Over the next five years, 364 Housing New Zealand properties from the 1950s and 1960s will be replaced by up to 1200 modern homes. This means increased housing density, which calls for closer attention to the creation and maintenance of high-quality green spaces – something Isthmus plans to achieve by creating an urban park or "shared backyard" that will link Lake Road to the town centre.

Irwin says the way to get people more engaged in the care of ecosystems around them is to give local communities a key role in the design and decision-making process.

"It's the way forward for Auckland. They're empowered to get their hands



7. Kopupaka Reserve at Westgate  
8 & 9. The natural beauty of trees moderates the impact of development

dirty to do it and there's a sense of ownership and education that reinstates those values."

Getting the community reconnected with nature is significant, considering a recent report by the council found that much of the tree loss in Auckland is happening on private land. It tracked tree loss in the Waitemata Local Board area over the decade to 2016 and found that 61.23ha of trees – at least 12,879 – had been removed.

There was no evidence of an increased rate of canopy loss, but the authors of the report described it as "death by a thousand cuts" because more than 90 per cent of the clearances were very small, yet accounted for almost two-thirds of the removals. A significant chunk of this clearing occurred on privately owned land in suburbs such as Freemans Bay, Grey Lynn, Parnell, Ponsonby and Western Springs.

Groups like Gecko Trust and Trees That Count are organising community action at a grassroots level to counteract this loss, while initiatives

like the Million Trees programme are creating opportunities for people to get involved with plantings. There's also significant work being done across Auckland to reduce the spread of kauri dieback.

Councillor Hulse says what you can plant depends on the size of your garden. The Auckland Botanic Gardens have experts who can give advice on what types and plants will work best in different areas – visit their website to find out more.

"I'd also say of those trees that might be annoying you: think about how they contribute to the wider community; think a bit about how they contribute to link the Waitakere Ranges with the Hauraki Gulf and how they form bird corridors; just think a little bit wider than just your own property."

Understanding the role green spaces play in our own wellbeing and the health of the city means that while Auckland's population is predicted to hit two million within the decade, it can still have a bright green future.

**Metro** has its own  
website (again)! **Food**  
**Restaurants Cheap Eats**  
**Drinks Bars Cafes Arts**  
**Theatre Music Film**  
**TV Contemporary Art**  
**Books Society People**  
**Schools Business**  
**Politics Power Crime**  
**Auckland City Life**  
**Events Sport Property**  
**Travel Urban Design**  
**Transport Top 50**  
**Bars Cafes Cheap Eats**  
**50 Under \$50 Wine**  
**Restaurant of the Year**  
**metromag.co.nz**

   @metromagnz

# WHAT'S ON?

VISIT [OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS](http://OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND HUNDREDS MORE, AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS



## ASB SEASON OF THE AUDIENCE

8-23 MAY

Adult from \$69, concession from \$47, senior from \$64 (+ fees)

Deep inside Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II has held weekly meetings with her prime ministers since 1952. These conversations have never been disclosed. From Peter Morgan, creator of Netflix's *The Crown*, and starring Theresa Healey, this Auckland Theatre Company play boldly imagines what is spoken behind closed doors. *ASB Waterfront Theatre, Wynyard Quarter*

## AUCKLAND ART FAIR 2-5 MAY

Adult \$30, student/senior \$26, child \$15, Premier Art Pass \$150, Opening Night (1 May) \$95, Art Party \$40

Don't miss NZ's premier showcase for contemporary art from the Pacific Rim. View and buy artworks from more than 40 leading galleries from across Aotearoa, as well as Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Shanghai, Jakarta, Rarotonga and Santiago. *The Cloud, Queens Wharf, CBD*



## KIDS LEARN 2 RIDE

SAT 4 & 11 MAY,  
10AM-NOON

FREE

Whether your kids are just starting out or making the transition to a pedal bike, Auckland Transport's team of qualified instructors is there to help. Drop in any time during the sessions (4 May – Forrest Hill, 11 May – Avondale) and get your kids riding. *Greville Reserve, Forrest Hill, & Central Reserve, Avondale*

## WAIUKU STEEL 'N' WHEELS FESTIVAL

SUN 12 MAY,  
10AM-2PM

Gold coin donation

See vintage and classic cars, hot rods, trucks, tractors, military vehicles, bikes, FMX stunts, a war re-enactment and even chainsaw racing. There's also live music, carnival activities, and a huge food and craft market.

*Waiuku Town Centre*







**AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL**  
**13-19 MAY**  
*Prices vary – some free events*

Auckland Writers Festival offers audiences the opportunity to see and hear from the very best local and international writers of contemporary fiction and non-fiction, scientists, economists, poets, journalists and public intellectuals. Come along to be enriched by innovative thinking, challenged by new ideas and inspired to discover more about our world.  
*Aotea Centre, CBD*

## LIFE, LIVE IN CONCERT



On 22 and 23 May, the award-winning BBC series *Planet Earth II* will come to life on stage at the ASB Theatre, with the 70-strong Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra performing the score live. Narrating will be the nation's 'First Man', Clarke Gayford. He explains what audiences are in for.

**Why should people come along, rather than just fire up their Netflix?** Are you telling me that Netflix at home could possibly compare to a live score by the world-class APO to works created by some of the best composers on Earth while watching stunning imagery that has rewritten the rules of how wildlife is captured on a brand-new, imported LED screen? Being completely immersed in the aural and visual aspects on display is to truly experience how incredible this work is. **Why do we need a guest narrator?** I help to set the scene for what is about to unfold. Providing a bit of context and detail really helps bring the audience into the vision. **What are your favourite scenes and/or animals in *Planet Earth II*?** I was admiring a Buller's albatross off the Canterbury coast recently thinking about their guest appearance in series two. But knowing about the many, many years of failures before they captured the snow leopard sequence makes that a piece of cinematography to admire. **Will there be any interpretative dance involved?** Maybe a re-enactment of the sloth swim or the komodo dragon fight? Only if Jaquie Brown joins me on stage. **Were you a little bit jealous when Jacinda met Sir David Attenborough in Davos?** Did he pass on any tips for the show? Completely jealous. She actually wound me up, spending a whole evening doing the old 'you'll never guess who I am meeting' routine. She talked to him about the fact I was doing it and said he seemed genuinely thrilled. No tips, though. **How do we save the planet?** By calling out racism when we see it. By appreciating our teachers' abilities to bring up the next generation correctly. By encouraging the media to find ways to make a broader audience engage with what's at stake. By recognising how much climate deniers have set us back, but instead of focusing on the negative, turn our present problems into opportunities for the future. The world's next wave of billion-dollar ideas will all be mass-producible, sustainable solutions.

**MISSED OUT ON TICKETS TO *PLANET EARTH II LIVE IN CONCERT*? TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW WHEN FINAL TICKETS ARE RELEASED AND SIGN UP TO THE WAITLIST, VISIT [AUCKLANDLIVE.CO.NZ/SHOW/PLANET-EARTH-II](http://AUCKLANDLIVE.CO.NZ/SHOW/PLANET-EARTH-II)**

AUCKLAND ART FAIR / ART BY ED BATTIS, BEN PEARCE & GRACE WRIGHT, AUCKLAND ART FAIR 2018. PHOTO: MATT HUNT; CLARKE GAYFORD / MIKE BHANA

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## NZ INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL WITH BEST FOODS MAYO 2-26 MAY \$10-\$89 (+fees)

Prepare to binge on almost a full month of comedic delights, as the Comedy Fest returns for its 27th year. Bursting with more than 140 shows and featuring comedians from 17 countries, there's sure to be something to tickle every taste. The comic collection above? 1. Becky Lucas (AUS), 2. Melanie Bracewell (NZ), 3. Pax Assadi (NZ), 4. Paul Sinha (UK), 5. Chris Parker (NZ), 6. Alice Snedden (NZ). The hilarity starts on 2 May with the Best Foods Comedy Gala hosted by Rhys Nicholson at The Civic. *Various venues*

## KIDS ARTS FESTIVAL – ANIMALIA SAT 4 MAY, 10AM-4PM FREE

Spend the day exploring, discovering and creating, with exhibitions, workshops and live performances inspired by how animals look, walk, talk, work, rest and play. Bring along a picnic lunch or visit one of the food trucks.  
*Corban Estate Arts Centre, Henderson*



## FRANCES HODGKINS: EUROPEAN JOURNEYS 4 MAY - 1 SEP, 10AM-5PM DAILY Adult \$14, concession \$12, child free

Bringing together works from here and around the globe, this exhibition traces Hodgkins' life through France, Morocco, Spain and England, and examines the influence of travel on her development as a modernist painter.  
*Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, CBD*



## TECHWEEK19 20-26 MAY Prices vary – some free events

Techweek is New Zealand's annual festival of innovation, amplifying ideas that are good for the world. Techweek19 will see hundreds of events held around the country, showcasing everything from the latest in healthcare and food tech, to battling robots and Māori innovation. There's something to inspire everyone. *Nationwide*

FRANCES HODGKINS, WINGS OVER WATER, 1931-32, LEEDS ART GALLERY

# THE PUMP TRACK



## Avondale!

The Pumptrack will be at the old 3 Guys site next to Avondale Central Reserve from 10 April until the end of June. It's free for all ages, so bring your bike or scooter and have a go before it moves to the next neighbourhood!



Tag your pics  
**#pumptrack**

If you have an onsite issue,  
please call Auckland Council 09 301 0101

 [panuku.co.nz](http://panuku.co.nz)  [@PanukuAKL](https://www.facebook.com/PanukuAKL)

**Panuku  
Development  
Auckland**   
An Auckland Council Organisation

# WHAT'S ON?

VISIT [OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS](http://OURAUCKLAND.NZ/EVENTS) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND MORE



**THE AMBASSADORS**  
2-30 MAY,  
MON-THU 9AM-7PM,  
FRI 9AM-5PM,  
SAT 9AM-4PM  
**FREE**

An exhibition by Scott Savage featuring his 'nonimal' figures.  
*Studio One Toi Tū, Grey Lynn*



**GRAD GALA**  
THU 2 MAY, 7.30PM  
**FREE**

A concert from the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra and School of Music rising stars.  
*Auckland Town Hall, CBD*

**UNCOVERING NZ'S MARITIME HISTORY**  
THU 2 MAY, 6PM **FREE**

Join Heritage NZ archaeologists for this free Archaeology Week event.  
*NZ Maritime Museum, Viaduct Harbour*

**NZ MUSIC MONTH AT ELLEN MELVILLE CENTRE**  
3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 MAY,  
FRIDAYS 4PM-7PM **FREE**

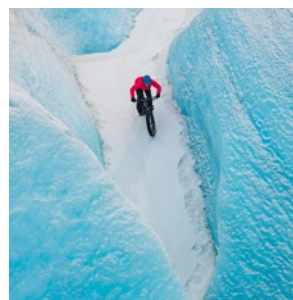
95bFM Drive Island DJs and live bands, plus a 24/7 projected poster-art exhibition by Murray Cammick.  
*Ellen Melville Centre, CBD*

**PAPAKURA STREETFEST**  
SAT 4 MAY, 10AM-2PM  
**FREE**

A family fun day with kids' activities, food stalls and entertainment.  
*Great South Road, Papakura*

**THE GIANT POP-UP JUNK PLAYGROUND**  
SAT 4 MAY, 10AM-2PM  
**FREE**

Creative, child-led play meets the rubbish and recycling pile.  
*Western Springs Garden Community Hall*



**THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT**  
4-7 MAY  
Adult \$22.50, junior \$16.50 (+fees)

Showcasing the best cycling short films from around the globe.  
*Academy Cinemas, The Vic Cinema & Waiheke Island Cinema*

**MAY THE FOURTH**  
SAT 4 MAY, 6.30PM,  
8PM & 9.30PM  
Adult \$25, child \$15

Embark on a 360-degree journey flying to galaxies far, far away.  
*Stardome Observatory & Planetarium, One Tree Hill Domain*

**THE SPIRIT OF ANNIE ROSS**  
4-25 MAY  
Adult \$29, senior \$26,  
student \$15 (+fees)

Howick Little Theatre presents this funny and sometimes serious play.  
*Howick Little Theatre, Pakuranga*



**BLACK GRACE 20FOR20**  
WED 8 MAY, 7.30PM  
\$20 door sales only

A mix of iconic favourites and new dance works.  
*Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden*



**BAYLEYS PRESENTS DAHLESQUE**  
SAT 11 MAY, 11AM & 2PM  
Adult \$40, student/child \$19 (+fees)

The APO and artist Elise McCann present a concert

inspired by Roald Dahl's stories.  
*Auckland Town Hall, CBD*

**A SPECIAL STARDOME MOTHER'S DAY**  
SUN 12 MAY  
Adult \$12, child/senior/student \$10

Free entry for mum (or motherly figure) per paying person on 12 May.  
*Stardome Observatory & Planetarium, One Tree Hill Domain*

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S 200TH**  
SUN 19 MAY, 10AM-4PM  
Adult \$16, student/senior \$12, child \$8, under 5 free

Enjoy a day with the villagers and the launch of the Queen Victoria 200th exhibition.  
*Howick Historical Village, Pakuranga*

**LONG BAY REGIONAL PARK PLANTING DAY**  
SUN 19 MAY, 10AM-1PM  
**FREE**

Join rangers and volunteers to plant trees and help save the planet.  
*Long Bay Regional Park*



**MEERA**  
31 MAY - 2 JUNE  
Adult \$79.90, senior/child \$74.90

A musical-theatre experience immersing you in a world rich with love and devotion.  
*ASB Waterfront Theatre, Wynyard Quarter*

THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT / BLUE, FREYA FENWOOD, 20FOR20 / JOHN MCDERMOTT

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# THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND OVER 80 YEARS



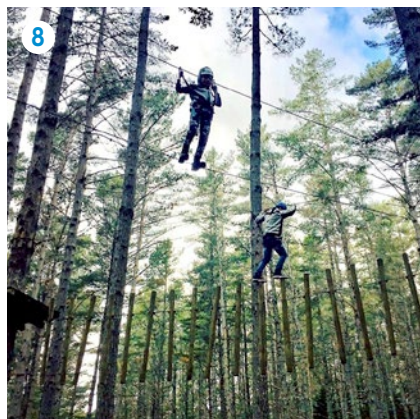
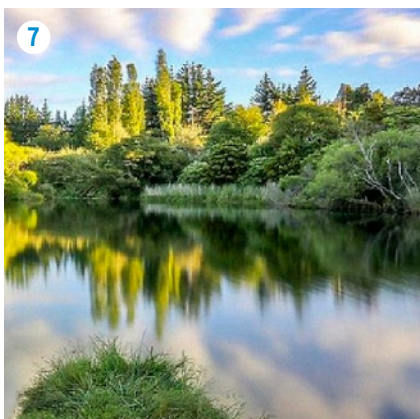
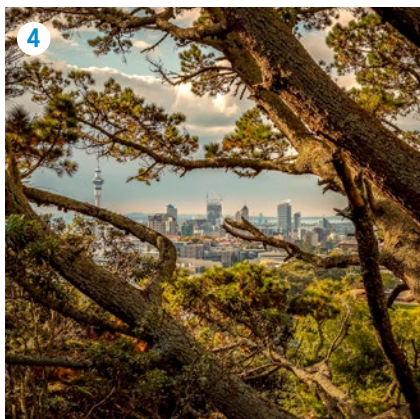
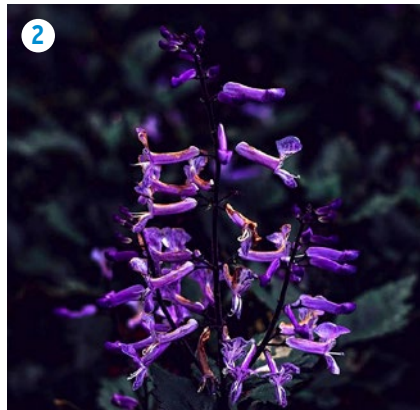
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# SEE HERE NOW

FROM BACK GARDENS TO REGIONAL PARKS, AUCKLANDERS LOVE BEING OUTDOORS. SO WE SEARCHED INSTAGRAM FOR SOME GREAT SHOTS OF OUR GREEN SPOTS.

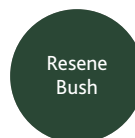
TAG #OURAKL ON YOUR AUCKLAND AUTUMN INSTAGRAM PICS AND BE IN TO WIN GREAT PRIZES @AKLCOUNCIL



1. Domain Wintergardens @abigailhannah 2. Auckland Botanic Gardens @cmdrshane 3. Kitekite Falls @thecountshakula 4. From Mount Eden @phomadic 5. Tāwharanui @photog\_jjt 6. Upper Nihotupu Reserve @yogaguy.nz 7. Warkworth @photography\_byheidi 8. Woodhill Forest @vera\_milovanova 9. Parris Park @redandthings

## COLOURS OF AUCKLAND

ENJOY THE COLOURS OF AUCKLAND AT HOME ALL YEAR ROUND



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the paint the professionals use

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Downer



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# Selling in Auckland? We're across it.

Wherever you live in Auckland, you're in an area that's very close to our hearts. We love this place; we're involved in the local schools and community activities. So when it comes to selling your property, we have the enthusiasm and local knowledge to help you achieve a successful result.

And with 1,700 salespeople who know the area like the back of their hands, it's little wonder that Barfoot & Thompson makes one in three of the property sales across Auckland every day. When you're ready to talk about selling, just call your local branch, and talk to the best in town.

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