

# OUR Auckland

TŌ TĀTOU TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

HŪRAE-ĀKUHATA JUL-AUG 2022 ISSUE 110

**IN OUR  
HAPPY  
PLACE**  
Kids share  
their top  
spots

OURAUCKLAND.NZ

## Climate action

Why more trees will  
keep us cool

**BUS, TRAIN,  
BIKE, WALK**  
Now's the  
time to cut  
emissions

**GET INTO  
WINTER!**  
Fun for  
the whole  
whānau





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## NEED TO KNOW

**Plastic pause**  
Up for a challenge?  
Take part in Plastic Free  
July and aim to reduce  
your single-use plastic  
waste by choosing more  
sustainable options for  
the month. Why not opt  
for a reusable coffee cup  
or switch to shampoo

and conditioner bars?  
Give it a go and make  
a real difference!

**Save the dates**  
Auckland's local elections  
are just around the  
corner, so if you're keen  
to make a change in  
your community, save  
these dates: candidate  
nominations are open  
from 15 July until midday  
12 August. Voting starts  
16 September and closes  
midday 8 October. For  
all things elections, visit  
**voteauckland.co.nz.**

**Repurposed rubbish**  
Our community recycling  
centre network is growing  
with new centres opening  
in Onehunga in August and  
Waiōrea (Western Springs)  
later in the year. You can  
drop off unwanted items  
to help divert material  
from landfill, with some  
centres also accepting  
green waste for composting.  
Most centres also have  
a shop on site where  
they re-sell recycled  
items they receive. Visit  
**aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**  
to find your nearest centre.

## Contact us

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you can learn what it means  
at maoridictionary.co.nz

**OurAuckland:** ourauckland.nz  
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govt.nz

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



## From our Mayor

In June, councillors supported my proposed Climate Action Budget, including the Climate Action Targeted Rate.

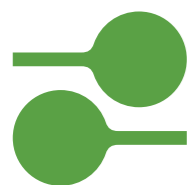
The Climate Action Budget will enable more than \$1 billion of investment to reduce emissions and tackle climate change across Auckland. This will include more than \$600 million to deliver new and extended frequent bus routes throughout the region, 79 new electric or hydrogen buses, six to seven new electric and low-emissions ferries, 35km of improved footpaths and pedestrian crossings, cycling and walking connections and thousands of new large native trees in predominantly low-income areas that lack

extensive canopy coverage.

It lays the foundation to deliver on Auckland's Climate Plan, and backs Auckland Council's Climate Emergency declaration with the resources we need to progress in reducing carbon emissions.

With last year the hottest on record in New Zealand, sea level rises of up to 30cm in some parts of Auckland expected within two decades and more frequent and severe weather events, we need to act now. The Climate Action Budget is a critical step towards tackling climate change but much more will need to be done to protect our children and grandchildren from the effects of global heating.

**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



**940**

play areas, playgrounds and destination play spaces around the region.

**26**

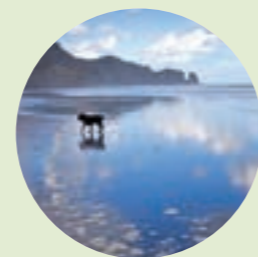
different languages in book collections across Auckland Council Libraries, including Afrikaans, Samoan, Tagalog and Urdu.

**28**

stunning regional parks across Auckland to explore with your whānau.

**200+**

dedicated volunteers support the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT).



**1800+**

beaches, parks and reserves have off-leash dog areas.



## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

### Spotlight on stories.

The whole whānau can celebrate Auckland's readers, writers and the stories that bring us together with We Read Auckland | Ka Pānui Tātau i Tāmaki Makaurau. Hosted by Auckland Council Libraries from 15-28 August, there will be a variety of free events – live and online – involving storytelling, craft and more. "Our libraries have endless opportunities for learning, entertainment and exploration, and we're excited to share our passion for reading and storytellers with the communities of Tāmaki Makaurau," says Catherine Leonard, Head of Library and Learning Services. "We're inviting all Aucklanders to join us for this year's fantastic programme of events and discover the lifelong benefits of reading for pleasure and wellbeing." Visit [aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/WeReadAKL](https://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/WeReadAKL) for details.



### THE BRIEFING

News and inspiration from Council HQ.



## SHINING LIGHTS

### Supporting talented youth.

Keen to see the best young vocal, instrumental and dance talent from across Tāmaki Makaurau? You're in luck! The student music and dance showcase Stand Up Stand Out (SUSO) is kicking off in August, with the big finale set for 24 September at Auckland Town Hall. Gene Rivers, Auckland Council's programme manager for SUSO, says the creative expression of youth from all backgrounds and musical genres strengthens and enhances the city's music scene, with past performers including Arjuna Oakes, Sonatane Kaufusi and Silika Isaia (who have opened for L.A.B.). "The impact of SUSO alumni on the local and international scene is becoming apparent," says Rivers. "These young people will be significant contributors to the industry for years to come."

## IN THE LOOP

### City centre cycling update.

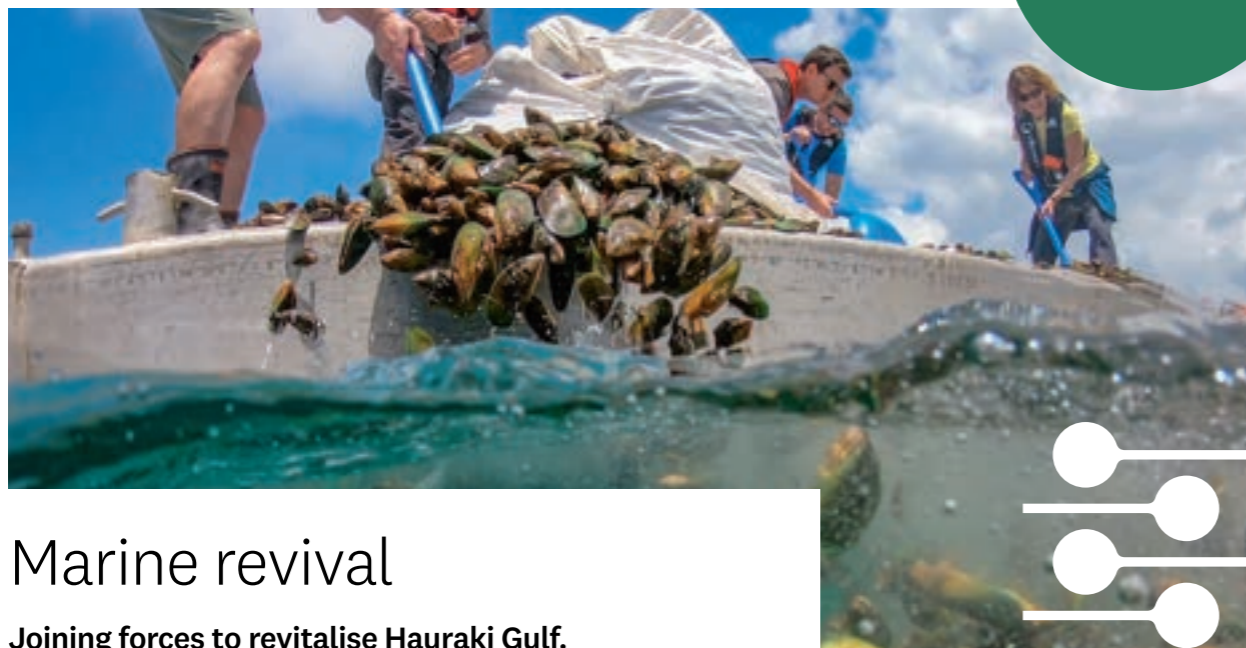
It's now easier than ever to get around the city on two wheels. With the recent upgrade to the Quay Street Cycleway and the completion of work in Wynyard Quarter, Aucklanders can now zip safely around the city centre on cycle paths that are entirely separated and protected from traffic. The 6.7km City Centre Cycle Loop runs from Quay Street to Upper Queen Street and Karangahape Road via the Grafton Gully Path, then down Te Ara I Whiti - The Lightpath and along Nelson Street to Wynyard Quarter, as well as connecting to the wider cycling network, including links to the Tāmaki Drive and Northwestern cycle paths. Visit [AT.govt.nz/cyclemaps](https://AT.govt.nz/cyclemaps) to download a map of the loop.



# AROUND AUCKLAND

## LOCAL NEWS

### The latest from your community



## Marine revival

### Joining forces to revitalise Hauraki Gulf.

A hundred years ago, the waters of Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana were clear and full of marine life, but today marine scientists say it's in a "biodiversity crisis". Fixing this problem will require more protected marine areas to allow natural recovery, and active restoration of certain key species. One of these is the humble green-lipped mussel. The inner Hauraki Gulf once had about 80,000 rugby fields worth of sub-tidal mussel reefs, which were used as a food

source and dredged out by 1965. The Revive Our Gulf project is a combined effort by the University of Auckland, The Nature Conservancy and the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT), along with industry partners and multiple iwi groups. So far, more than 222 tonnes of mussels have been placed in test beds from Mahurangi to Ōkahu Bay and east of Waiheke Island. "Mussels filter the water and provide habitat and food for marine life," explains Peter Miles from

MRRT. "You bring them back and everything else follows." Ōrākei Ward Councillor Desley Simpson adds: "It's incredible to think that improving water quality can be achieved through mussel beds, one of nature's most effective water filters. We need to also acknowledge the many levels of leadership behind this project, from government and iwi to Council, local boards and community groups." Visit [reviveourgulf.org.nz](http://reviveourgulf.org.nz) for more information on the project.



reach the point where we could make this decision to take the house forward and help it to realise its original purpose."

MUSSEL IMAGE / SHAUN LEE

### A new chapter

Sixteen years in the making, Shadbolt House in Titirangi has taken a step toward becoming a writer's retreat following a decision by Waitākere Ranges Local Board. The board recommended transferring the property – former home of famed writer Maurice Shadbolt – to the Going West Trust. It also recommended

leasing the land to the Trust to create a writer's residency at the location, which was the original intention for the site when it was purchased in 2006 by Waitākere City Council. Currently, the buildings need significant repairs, which the Trust will now be responsible for. Waitākere Ranges Local Board Chair Saffron Toms says it is a red-letter day. "It was quite an emotional moment to finally

### Korowai blessing

#### Wrapping babies in love.

More than 60 korowai have been gifted to Middlemore Hospital's Bereavement Care Service. The anahera (angel) cloaks are made by the women of Whiri Aroha and go to Middlemore for all parents grieving the loss of a pēpē (baby). Keeping korowai skills alive, weavers craft the tiny cloaks at classes held at Ngāti Tamaoho headquarters in Karaka. Each korowai surrounds the baby with love, with many parents keeping the cloak afterwards, while others leave it with their baby. Weaving tutors Christine Smith, Ida White and Denise Wiki were among those on hand when kaumatua Ted Ngataki recently blessed the korowai, and they've stopped counting how many cloaks have been provided. White says making korowai



From left: Ngāti Tamaoho kaumatua Ted Ngataki, Middlemore Bereavement Care Service head Reon Scharvi, Ngāti Tamaoho kuia Helen Teiarere Rawiri, Whiri Aroha members Christine Smith, Ida White and Denise Wiki, with Middlemore's Esther Harriman.

takes patience, but anyone can learn. "This is about something made with love going to someone who needs to be shown it." Papakura Local Board Chair Brent Catchpole says the board provides the group with grant funding. "But what we provide in terms of a little support to cover costs is nothing next to what these special women give. "Our funding helps us support Māori culture and identity, which

is very much part of who we are here in Papakura, and it also means the classes are free to anyone who wants to learn." Middlemore's Bereavement Care leader Reon Scharvi says whānau are often overwhelmed to find that there are people creating something to acknowledge their loss. "Families, Māori or otherwise, are often quite emotional when they see their baby with a korowai."



This is a Roktopus, invented by Kiwi Theo Jacques, and Onehunga locals are very proud to have this one at the Buchanan Park playground. You'll find Buchanan Park off Arthur Street in Onehunga Town Centre.



### Pests no more

#### Weeding out the problem.

Hundreds of people traded weeds for a free native plant when Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Boards teamed up with Pest Free Urban South to urge locals to root out moth and rhamnus plants. The weed swap initiative was part of the pest-free project that both local boards are funding.



**Treat your canine companions to a change of scenery at these dog-friendly parks.**

**Sanders Reserve, Paremoremo**  
Wander along Sanders Dog Lovers Path and you'll end up at the fenced dog exercise area where your pup can run free.

**Te Henga / Bethells Beach, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park**  
Beach-loving dogs can get their paws in the sand here during winter, where off-leash hours are from sunrise to sunset (excluding the south end of the beach – check the signposts).

**Rooseville Park, Pukekohe**  
A variety of walking tracks weave through the trees here and there's also a signposted off-leash area for dogs with a bit of extra energy.

**Churchill Park, Glendowie**  
A slice of country life in the city, this farm park has an off-leash area as well pastures where dogs must stay on-leash due to grazing cattle.

Visit the Parks and Recreation section on Auckland Council's website to check the rules before heading out with your pooch.  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation)



**FAMILY SPACE**  
Fun for the whole whānau

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

**Our pick of outings and adventures for all ages.**

**AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM**  
Gather your grandkids, nieces or nephews and take a trip to the museum, as there's always something new to see. Get up close to Peter, the rare black T. rex skeleton on display in the atrium until 4 September, learn about the fascinating lives of Ancient Greeks in a new exhibition from the British Museum, or get hands-on in the Weird & Wonderful Discovery Centre. If you want to make a day of it, pack a picnic to enjoy in Pukekawa / Auckland Domain afterwards. [aucklandmuseum.com](http://aucklandmuseum.com)



**ROYAL RESERVE, MASSEY**  
Wrap up against the winter chill and get some fresh air while the kids burn some energy. This playground has it all, from climbing and swinging to a super-long slide and mini trampolines.

Younger children will love the learn-to-ride bike and scooter paths that weave around the playground, complete with stop and give way signs. Enjoy a friendly family game on the basketball court or soccer field, or make use of the BBQ facilities and have a delicious picnic.

**AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI**  
Everyone can be an artist at Auckland Art Gallery's free Whānau Drop-in sessions! Held in the North Atrium, families can come together to make works of art with activities inspired by current exhibitions. The programme runs on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and every day during the school holidays, with new activities every week. [aucklandartgallery.com](http://aucklandartgallery.com)



**JOSH, 11, PARNELL** – I love Mt Hobson. It's got really flat land to kick a ball around. It's very special because my grandma used to love walking up here before she passed.



**ISSY, 11, SILVERDALE** – I love hanging out at Ōrewa skatepark with my friends. I really enjoy learning new tricks on my skateboard and being outside in the fresh air.



**LEO, 9, WATTLE DOWNS** – I really enjoy coming down to St Annes Reserve to zip around on my scooter and check out the great views of the water.



**DUSTAN, 8, TITIRANGI** – Auckland Museum is my favourite place. I love the Spitfire because planes are kinda my thing. They let me learn about machines and are really interesting.

**MY TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU**  
What our tamariki love to do around the region

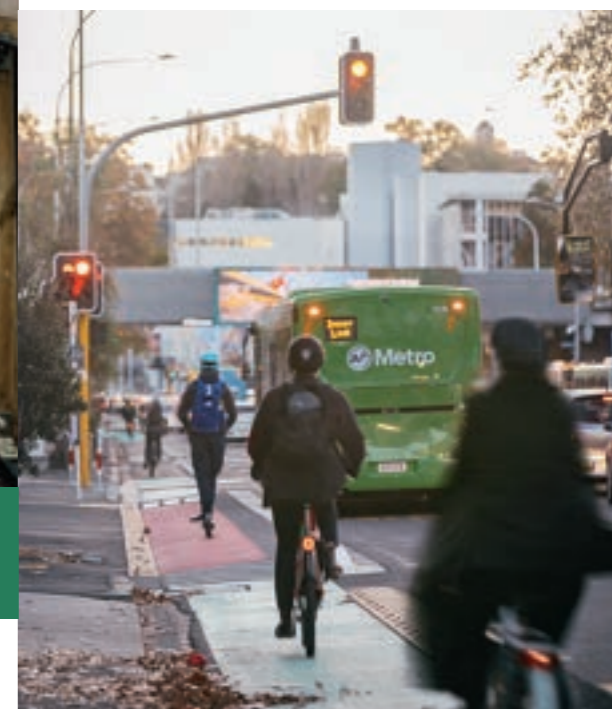


**CHARLIE, 11, MT ALBERT** – My favourite place in Auckland is the zoo. I really like the zebras. I love their little manes and watching them wander around is pretty cool.



**POPPY, 9, REMUERA** – Cornwall Park is special in spring when you can see all the lambs. My favourite area is the secret grotto where you can sometimes find painted rocks.

IMAGES / DANIEL HARRIS & EMILY CHALK



Everyone in the family can do something to help reduce emissions and protect our environment, like choosing public transport, cycling or walking.

# Making a MOVE ON EMISSIONS

When it comes to the future health of our city, there is no time to waste. Small changes can lead to big results – and we need to make those changes now.

It's a big ask: Auckland needs to reduce transport emissions by 64 per cent over the next eight years to support our goal of halving total emissions by 2030. That means we need to make it easier to get around without a car.

It's vital that we cut down on car trips, as 43.4 per cent of Auckland's emissions come from vehicles. Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan sets out our approach to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The City Rail Link, buying zero-emissions buses and expanding the Rapid Bus network are three major transport changes already underway. The council also proposed a Climate Action Targeted Rate that will invest over \$1 billion in a range of initiatives to make it easier for Aucklanders to reduce car trips.

Auckland Council's community climate action team manager Lucy Hawcroft says

while Kiwis have been concerned about climate change for some time – especially as we've seen an increased frequency of extreme weather events in recent years – often we're confused about what we can do as individuals that will have the greatest effect.

"Research shows that many New Zealanders think recycling and producing less waste is the best thing they can do to prevent climate change," says Hawcroft. "And while that is an awesome thing to do, it won't have as much impact on emissions. Driving less will."

That means using public transport, cycling or walking rather than getting behind the wheel of your car whenever possible. Even just taking the bus to work a few times a week will help, says Hawcroft – it doesn't have to be all or nothing.

"Sometimes we have this mentality that we have to change everything to make a difference, and while that would be great, it doesn't mean we've failed if we can't cycle or walk or use the bus every

BUS IMAGES / JAY FARNWORTH; GIRL AND DOG / EMILY CHALK

time we go out. Realistically, in Auckland, there are times when people need to drive. But if you can cut down your car trips by a few every week, it helps."

In Auckland, most of our transport emissions come from journeys under 6km, and many of those trips are less than 2km. One way of making a difference is to consider alternatives rather than reaching for the car keys if you need to pop to the dairy for milk, for example. Could you walk or cycle instead? Or can you hang on until you need to go out on other errands and do several tasks in one outing (a practice known as trip chaining)? Can you organise your routine so that you can walk the kids to school a couple of times a week? Is it possible to carpool to work or arrange ride-shares to get your children to after-school activities or sports games?

Often it's a matter of adjusting our thinking and



**“Even just taking the bus to work a few times a week will help – it doesn’t have to be all or nothing.”**

adopting new habits, says Hawcroft. “We’re pretty adaptable. When plastic bags were banned from supermarkets, it only took most people a few weeks to get used to using their own bags. If it was easier to walk and cycle and take public transport in Auckland, people would soon get used to doing it, and probably be healthier and happier because they’re spending less time sitting in traffic. A lot of the countries overseas that have the highest quality of life ratings are those that have great urban design and public transport systems.”

Auckland Council has been putting a lot of time, energy and resources into making it easier for Aucklanders to drive less.

“To reduce transport emissions we need to provide people with better low-carbon transport options,” says Matthew Blaikie, Chief Sustainability Officer for Auckland Council. “We need to deliver reliable, convenient and well-integrated public transport and a network of safe walking and cycling infrastructure that connects people to their destinations. Delivering a low-carbon transport system that provides people with better choice is essential for reducing emissions and enhancing quality of life.”

To make it easier to get around without a car, Auckland Council is making investments to improve the frequency and coverage of bus and train services, priority for buses so they don’t get caught up in traffic, and bus stops and public transport stations where people can feel safe. “A low-carbon transport system is also going to be a more equitable transport system. It will give people more choice in how they travel and put people in a better position when faced with increasing fuel costs.

“Traffic congestion and car-dependent lifestyles negatively impact on the economy and people’s health



An aerial view of Arataki Visitor Centre in Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

through lost productivity and encouraging inactive lifestyles. Walking to the bus stop or train station, or choosing to make a trip on foot or by bike, allows you to incorporate physical activity into your day. The physical and mental health benefits can be huge – there’s also the emissions benefit, of course,” shares Blaikie.

The Climate Action Targeted Rate will bring 170,000 more Aucklanders within 500m of a frequent bus route, and provide additional safe and connected walking and cycling infrastructure. It will fund 10 new frequent bus routes and improvements to 69 existing routes, with upgraded services being available to more than a million Aucklanders. It will also decarbonise our ageing ferry fleet, which currently makes up around 20 per cent of Auckland’s public transport carbon emissions.

Blaikie lives close to frequent bus services so is able to bus to work. He can arrive at the bus stop without needing to check the timetable, knowing that a bus will be arriving shortly. His commute is much quicker than if he was to do the same journey by car, it also provides an opportunity to read and he enjoys the walk to and from the bus stop. Before moving to a part of Auckland without connected cycling infrastructure, Blaikie rode his bike to work every day and never felt happier living in Auckland.

For more information about Auckland’s pathway to reduced emissions and sustainable transport, visit [aucklandforever.co.nz](http://aucklandforever.co.nz)

CROSSING IMAGE / GINO DEMEER

New Zealand now has **4.4 million** registered vehicles: the **3rd highest** per capita in the OECD



**43%** of Auckland’s greenhouse gas emissions are from transport

**70%** of that comes from driving cars

**14.1** years is the lifespan of cars in New Zealand

# 10 surprising facts about... TRANSPORT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Aucklanders drive more than

**10 billion km** each year



That’s the equivalent to driving around the planet **250,000** times



Without making any changes to the way we live, Auckland’s net greenhouse gas emissions are expected to rise by

**19% by 2050**

**1/2** of all our car trips are under **6km**

That’s **12.4 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide: the equivalent of **28,768,000** barrels of oil!

Ditching short car trips twice a week could save New Zealand **100,000 tonnes** of CO2 emissions each year



Which is roughly the average amount of carbon dioxide stored annually by **4800ha** of pine trees: the equivalent to two Rangitoto Islands



Getting exercise and saving money on fuel are just two of the reasons Darren chooses to cycle.



## MISSION POSSIBLE

Why these Aucklanders love their carless commutes.

### DARREN MILLINGTON E-BIKE

Sitting in long traffic queues in his car and watching the fuel gauge steadily drop helped convince Darren Millington to try cycling to work instead of driving. Then seeing someone whiz past him on an e-bike while he struggled up a hill persuaded him that electric power was the way to go.

Community support worker Millington has been riding an e-bike from his home in Glen Eden to Pt Chevalier since January, and he's glad he made the switch.

"It feels good to know I'm cutting down on emissions and

doing my bit," he says. He also uses his bike on the weekend for short trips, but still drives his car when he does the shopping or ferries his son around.

He used to spend around \$130 a fortnight on petrol; it's a fraction of that now as he usually does the daily 22km round trip on his bike. He can typically do two days of riding to work and back before needing to recharge. Some days he rides a lot more, taking his son to and from school and working between a few sites, using up nearly a full charge in a day.

He can travel the 11km to work in around 20 minutes, compared to the 30-45 minutes it could take driving a car in heavy traffic. Millington can handle cycling in

the rain, but if there are weather warnings he generally uses the car.

"The bike cost \$4300 but I'm saving a lot of money, and eventually it will pay for itself," he says. He used some savings for the initial purchase and is now putting the money saved on fuel back into savings, which is around \$700 since he bought the bike in January. "I'm also getting exercise and reducing my footprint which are big pluses for me."

He's grateful for the support he's had from the EcoMatters Bike Hub in Henderson, where cyclists can get help with bike repairs and maintenance. "If you take your bike in for a service, they get you to do it, using their tools, and they show you what to do. It gives you some independence. It's great to know there is somewhere like that you can go for help."

New e-bikes start from around \$2000, but there are second-hand and rental options available too.

### QUEETY AKERS FERRY / BUS



Regularly catching the convenient commuter boat between Gulf Harbour and downtown Auckland, Queety Akers has discovered a strong ferry community.

"I've made some really good friends on the ferry, there are lots of expats here and it's such an enjoyable way to travel," she says.

Originally from the UK, Akers worked in law enforcement and rose to the rank of detective. But after 19 years on the force, Akers and her husband decided they wanted a quieter, safer place to raise their children, so they moved to New Zealand.

Close to 20 years later, they now live in idyllic Army Bay, about 47km north of central Auckland. That might sound like quite a distance to some, but Akers says it's a breeze to get into the city thanks to public transport.

"On the two days I work in the office, I either take the ferry from Gulf Harbour or I drive to the Silverdale Park and Ride and take the bus. When you come from the UK, that sort of commute is nothing," she says. "The ferry takes 50 minutes; for the bus, it's just a 25 minute drive to Silverdale, then another 25 minutes to the city because the bus goes pretty fast in the bus lane."

"Bussing from Silverdale also gives me more flexibility now that my son is at KingsWay School in Red Beach, because I'm literally parked just down the road if I'm needed for any reason."

Commuting time isn't wasted either. "I love reading and I always take a book on the bus or the ferry, and both modes of transport are great for de-stressing. On the way home, I let work thoughts go, so by the time I get home I'm ready for part two of my life, which is all about family."

Akers also likes how part of her commute is on foot. "I'm an active person, so I really enjoy being able to embrace the vibe of the city. When I walk up Queen Street or Albert Street, I like to see all the different people and feel a part of what's happening. Living in Army Bay, then having the ability to travel into the city by bus or ferry, really is the best of both worlds."



By land or by sea, Queety makes the most of her commute from Whangaparāoa into the central city.



*Disclaimer: These photos are for illustrative purposes only. Auckland is at the Orange setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework's traffic light system. A face mask must be worn on-board and while you are waiting at stations if you are a ākonga (student) Year 4 and above, as well as adults. This includes school buses, bus and train stations, bus stops and ferry terminals.*

IMAGES / EMILY CHALK





Travelling to school is quick and easy for Hahna and Jak.

## HAHNA AND JAK VAIGALU TRAIN

Hahna and Jak Vaigalu reckon public transport is hands down the best way to get around Tāmaki Makaurau.

The 15-year-old twins take the train from Glen Eden to Mt Albert Grammar School each day, and they say it takes significantly less time than any other form of transport they could use.

“We take the train from Glen Eden and get off at Baldwin Ave, and that takes 20 minutes, then it’s just a 15-minute walk to school,” Jak explains.

“We catch the bus sometimes,

but if we ever go by car it’s heaps slower,” Hahna adds.

Not only is the train faster than a car, Jak likes that you can also listen to music or catch up with friends online.

“Some people do their homework,” Hahna says. “You see them working on their laptops, and some train stations even have wifi.”

The twins are both studying science, with Hahna doing double science and Jak focusing on business and general science. They are well aware that transport choice has an impact on climate change.

“We definitely know it makes a difference to the environment.

The trips we take by train mean less emissions are released,”

says Hahna, who also likes using public transport on the weekend to go to the gym and see friends.

“I also like to take the train to the pools, because a lot of Auckland pools are quite close to the stations,” Jak adds.

There’s also a social element to it, with the siblings catching up with friends from other schools and old classmates from intermediate and primary.

“We really like public transport because it’s handy, fast and easy to use. And on the weekends it’s free for kids under 16,” says Jak.

“Depending on what line you’re on, the views are amazing too,” says Hahna. “The Eastern Line goes close to Tāmaki Drive so you can see the water. But the coolest thing about the train is that it gets you places quickly.”

It’s not difficult to see why the twins prefer travelling by train – not only is it convenient and affordable, it’s good for Auckland too.

## ON YOUR BIKE

### Making cycling easier across Auckland.

Cycling is a great way of cutting carbon emissions, but if you’ve never used pedal power to get around, it can seem a bit daunting. Help is at hand thanks to numerous community-run groups across Auckland called “bike burbs”.

Operated independently but linked to Bike Auckland, bike burbs are all about encouraging people to cycle and helping them do it safely. Many bike burbs offer guided rides around their local areas to help build confidence, and enthusiastic volunteers provide safety advice.

Community bike hubs can also assist with maintenance and repairs, and some offer bikes for hire or sale. These are mostly housed in repurposed shipping containers on land owned by Auckland Transport (AT), Auckland Council or Eke Panuku Development Auckland.

AT’s Community Bike Fund and local boards have provided grants to communities that are encouraging more people to ride bikes, and Auckland Council considers the bike burbs an important part of engaging with people about new infrastructure.



Ōtara Bike Burb offers weekly guided bike tours.

“Many of the bike burbs also advocate for safer bike paths, as 60 per cent of Aucklanders say they would ride a bike if they felt safe enough,” says Macaila Pescud, Community Activations Manager for Bike Auckland.

Ōtara Bike Burb was started in 2020 by parents whose children became cycling fans after taking part in a wheelie stunt contest.

Leader Lee Naniseni says, “There was no central point for our rangatahi (youth) who love riding, so we wanted to create a space where they could hang out and also fix their bikes.”

Based in Ōtara Town Centre, the bike burb may have started as an initiative for youngsters, but it now caters for all ages and backgrounds and offers bike

maintenance, repairs and safety checks for low prices or koha.

“There’s definitely been interest from people looking at cycling as a way to get from A to B, so we try to make it easier for them to jump on a bike,” says Naniseni. “The safety side of it is a big thing. I feel like our infrastructure in Ōtara doesn’t really cater to that, so one thing we’d like to see is more bike lanes.”

Naniseni says it’s challenging trying to shift people’s mindsets around climate change, but even reaching a few at a time will make a difference. “We try to make it easy to understand how important it is to think about climate change and what we can do. Cycling instead of driving is a great start!” Visit [bikeauckland.org.nz](https://bikeauckland.org.nz) for more information.

### Future plans

Auckland Council has already committed to more than 500 climate-friendly transport projects. These include the City Rail Link, which will move 54,000 Aucklanders around the region each hour – the equivalent of an

additional 16 lanes of traffic, or three Auckland Harbour Bridges. Auckland Transport has also bought zero-emission buses that run on hydrogen or electricity, and is expanding the Rapid Bus network, with plans to improve the Eastern Busway to Botany, and the Northwestern busway.

Future plans include buying zero-emission ferries – as ferries are currently responsible for around 20 per cent of Auckland’s public transport emissions – and spending more than \$228 million to upgrade walking and cycling infrastructure across the region.

*Disclaimer: These photos are for illustrative purposes only. Auckland is at the Orange setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework’s traffic light system. A face mask must be worn on-board and while you are waiting at stations if you are a ākonga (student) Year 4 and above, as well as adults. This includes school buses, bus and train stations, bus stops and ferry terminals.*

IMAGES / EMILY CHALK



# In the SHADE

Increasing Tāmaki Makaurau’s canopy cover will help cool the region down as the earth heats up.

Expanding tree cover across the region will not only give us more green spaces to enjoy like in Kaipātiki (pictured), but will also contribute to our local climate goals.

## HELP GROW THE CANOPY

### Play your part

Plant a tree at your place. Winter is the best time to do this as it’s wetter and roots have time to get established before the dry summer months. Do your research first so that you choose the right tree for the right area, and remember that trees need space below ground for their roots to spread out, so avoid planting them right beside driveways or buildings. Here are some ideas:

### Don’t have much room?

Native kōwhai ‘Dragon’s Gold’ is great for a small section as it grows just 1.5-2m. Its golden flowers provide nectar for native birds in spring.

### Need something hardy?

Mānuka is tough. It can survive windswept clifftops, so will cope with heavy clay soil or a windy spot in your garden.

### Free food

In a couple of years, trees such as apples and plums will fruit, but they also have beautiful blossoms in spring (which pollinators like bees and butterflies love) and will eventually provide leafy shade in summer.

### Bring in the birds

Pūriri provides fruit, seed and nectar for birds year-round. Don’t overlook our Aussie cousin the bottlebrush either – its red flowers are beloved tūi tucker.

### Autumn colour

Compact *Cercis* species like Judas trees and redbud ‘Forest Pansy’ produce pink flowers on bare wood in spring, and heart-shaped leaves that turn orange and burgundy in autumn.

We all know that trees are cool – Papatūānuku (Mother Earth) thinks so too. That’s because tree canopies (made up of the leaves and branches) do an excellent job of blocking sunlight, preventing it from reaching the ground and reducing the overall temperature.

Canopies also cool the air through transpiration, a process where a plant cools itself by sweating water vapour through the pores in its leaves, which lowers the temperature of the air.

With Auckland’s climate predicted to increase by 1.5-3.75 degrees Celsius by the end of the century

(depending on how successful we are at reducing carbon emissions globally), we need more tree cover to cool the region down. Auckland Council’s Urban Ngāhere (forest) Strategy has a goal of increasing the city’s tree canopy to 30 per cent across our urban areas.

Assessments that were first undertaken in 2013, and again in 2016/2018 using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology, show that we’re currently averaging 18 per cent canopy across the region. But coverage is disproportionate and there is an inequity of trees across different areas. The only local

board to have met the target so far is Kaipātiki on the North Shore, which has maintained 30 per cent canopy since it was first mapped in 2013.

Auckland Council’s principal urban forest advisor Howell Davies, known as the “tree whisperer”, says one of the main reasons for that is because the area’s steep bush-clad gullies were not worth farming and harder to build on. In comparison, Davies says that tree coverage in South Auckland suburbs is much lower due to them being developed on agricultural land more recently and as a result, tree planting was not prioritised.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board had only 9 per cent canopy in 2013, which increased to 10 per cent by the 2016/2018 period. “A 1 per cent increase in an area where you’ve got low tree cover is actually quite substantial versus if you maintain your tree cover,” says Davies.

To help local boards meet their target, the Department of Conservation and Kāinga Ora have also provided funding for trees in some areas. And Ōtara-Papatoetoe’s canopy is set to get another boost of living shade when KiwiRail holds a staff planting day on council

land in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe this winter.

One of the challenges the region faces is continuing to grow the canopy at the same time as established trees are being removed on private land.

“We don’t want to lose all of the big stuff because it will take us back 50-100 years. That’s where the challenge is – to try and navigate a way that we can hopefully preserve some of those trees while allowing urban development.” For more info on planting trees, search “Plant for your ecosystem” at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

TREE CANOPY IMAGES / EMILY CHALK

# WHAT'S ON JULY-AUGUST 2022

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



Celebrate Māori New Year in Tāmaki Makaurau with **Matariki Festival** (until 16 Jul), brought to you by Auckland Council with iwi partner Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Gather your friends and whānau to enjoy live music, kōrero, kapa haka and more across the region.

National Youth Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning family musical **Oliver!** (1-3 Jul) at Aotea Centre, city centre.



**Matariki on the Waterfront** (Sat 2 & Sun 3 Jul) offers a range of free family activities and entertainment, food trucks and more at Silo Park, Wynyard Quarter.

Help plant trees at **Waitawa Regional Park Planting Day** (Sat 2, Sun 10, Sun 17 & Sat 23 Jul), **Tāwharanui Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 3 Jul & Sun 7 Aug), **Ambury Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 10 & Sun 17 Jul), **Shakespear Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 17 Jul), **Mutukaroa Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 24 & Sat 30 Jul) and **Duder Regional Park Planting Day** (Sun 31 Jul).



Tim Bray Theatre Company presents **Badjelly the Witch** by Spike Milligan at The PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna (2-22 Jul) and Māngere Arts Centre – Ngā Tohu o Uenuku (26-30 Jul).

Auckland Theatre Company presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning **Long Day's Journey into Night** (5-30 Jul) at Q Theatre, city centre.

**Kia Ora Shorts** (Fri 8 & Sat 9 Jul) with Wairoa Māori Film Festival presents a selection of shorts from filmmakers of Māori descent at Corban Estate Arts Centre, Henderson.

**Paradise City** (Sat 9 Jul) offers an evening of electronic music with DJs Monkey Safari, Sanoi, Beacon Bloom and more taking the stage at Lilyworld Cafe, Mt Smart Stadium, Penrose.



Visit [ourauckland.nz/schoolholidays](https://ourauckland.nz/schoolholidays) for fun, local and affordable activities across the region over the **Winter School Holidays** (9-24 Jul).



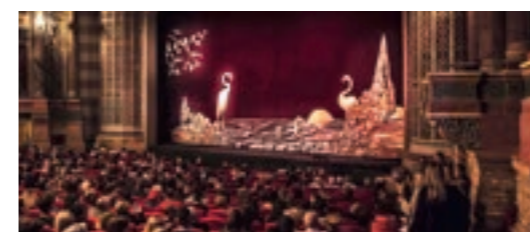
**Shrek the Musical** (12-16 Jul) brings the hilarious story of everyone's favourite ogre to life on stage at Aotea Centre, city centre.

**Elemental AKL** (14-31 Jul) celebrates the culture, cuisine and creativity of Tāmaki Makaurau with a festival line-up of more than 30 curated experiences across the region.



Matariki Festival closes with **Te Korakora** (Sat 16 Jul), a free live concert in Wynyard Quarter with world-class Māori musicians Trinity Roots, Kings, AJA and LaCoco, and food trucks to delight your puku.

Taking you on a magical mystery tour of The Beatles' hits, **All You Need Is Love** (Wed 27 Jul) combines the talents of Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Annie Crummer and Laughton Kora at Aotea Centre, city centre.



With films direct from Cannes and other major global festivals, and New Zealand films, **Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival** (28 Jul – 7 Aug) opens at The Civic in the city centre and plays at ASB Waterfront Theatre in Wynyard Quarter and The Hollywood in Avondale.

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

**Auckland Symphony Orchestra presents Film Favourites** at Bruce Mason Centre (Sun 14 Aug) in Takapuna and Auckland Town Hall (Sun 21 Aug) in the city centre. These free family concerts include film music from *Star Wars*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and more.



With more than 100 specially created menus and events, **Restaurant Month** (1-31 Aug) is the perfect time to eat your heart out in the city centre.

**We Read Auckland | Ka Pānui Tātau i Tāmaki Makaurau** (15-28 Aug) presents free live and online events at Auckland Council Libraries across the region, with a line-up of fiction and non-fiction authors, and fun opportunities for whānau to discover the joy of reading.



Auckland Theatre Company and Pacific Underground present Oscar Kightley's contemporary classic **Dawn Raids** (16 Aug – 3 Sep) at ASB Waterfront Theatre, Wynyard Quarter.

Royal New Zealand Ballet presents a sparky, stylish twist on the classic tale of **Cinderella** (10-13 Aug) at Aotea Centre, city centre.

Enjoy good times and great ideas with the world's best writers and thinkers at **Auckland Writers Festival Waituhi o Tāmaki** (23-28 Aug). Free and ticketed events include conversations, readings, debates, performances and more at Aotea Centre, city centre.

TE KORAKORA IMAGE / TRINITY ROOTS BY VANESSA RUSHTON PHOTOGRAPHY; WHĀNAU MĀRAMA: NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IMAGE / VERONICA MCLAUGHLIN; RESTAURANT MONTH IMAGE / SACHA STEJKO; CINDERELLA IMAGE / ROSS BROWN



## PUKEMATEKEO LOOKOUT

**Location: Summit Road (off Scenic Drive), Waitākere**

If you're in the mood for a Sunday drive and fancy seeing Auckland from a new angle, check out the stunning 360-degree views from Pukematekeo Lookout. On a clear day you can see the furthest extremes of the region in almost every direction, from Auckland City, Rangitoto Island and the outer Hauraki Gulf, to the Waitākere Reservoir way down in the valley, and right around the West Coast.

Have a picnic lunch on the grassy knoll, or explore the short loop track that includes the remnants of an historic bridge. We recommend driving up to the lookout from the south (Mountain Road end), as there are no safe parking or turning areas on that part of Scenic Drive. Please note that winter opening hours are 6am-6pm, and there are no rubbish bins or toilets on site.



## Colours of Hidden Auckland

Enjoy the tones of Tāmaki Makaurau at home all year round



**Resene**  
the paint the professionals use

IMAGES / EMILY CHALK

# Auckland's Housing Future



**In August, Auckland Council will ask for public submissions on proposed changes to our city's planning rulebook - the Auckland Unitary Plan.**

**And what you have to say about these changes will be crucial to Auckland's housing future.**

Our city is growing fast. We're approaching 2 million people with a million more expected in the next 30 years.

Central government has taken a stronger role in how Auckland grows by requiring the council to enable more housing at greater building height and density. We must change the Auckland Unitary Plan to allow for more apartments and townhouses across our city.

**What does this mean for Auckland?**

Central government requires us to enable apartments of six storeys or more within walking distances to the city centre, other large urban centres, and train stations and rapid busway stops and more medium density three storey homes across most Auckland suburbs.

This means big changes for how our city grows and to the rules for how you can choose to develop your property.

Some exemptions are allowed to limit building heights and density for things important to our city or where it may not be suitable, such as places with infrastructure challenges or at risk from natural hazards.

**Be heard on Auckland's housing future**

In August, Auckland Council will ask for public submissions on proposed changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan - this is called 'publicly notifying' a plan change.

Making a submission is how you can get involved in changes to our city's planning rules by giving your views and suggestions to be considered by an independent panel of experts.

This is your most important opportunity to be heard on what will ultimately be decided about how Auckland grows.

## Making decisions to enable more housing

**Central government has introduced a new way for making decisions on its requirements for more high-density housing. It includes different roles for the council, an independent expert panel and the government.**

- 1 Auckland Council publicly notifies proposed changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan - this is not the final decision, rather it allows people to make a submission.
- 2 Your submission gives your views on all changes to our city's planning rulebook. You can do this on the council's website. You will have 30 working days.
- 3 When public submissions close, an Independent Hearings Panel will review all submissions, any evidence provided, and hold hearings with people who submitted.
- 4 This panel will then make recommendations to the council on any changes they think should be made to the Auckland Unitary Plan.
- 5 The council must then decide whether to accept or reject each of the panel's recommendations.
- 6 If the council rejects a recommendation, the Minister for the Environment makes the final decision. There are no appeals to the Environment Court allowed.

For more information, visit [ourauckland.nz/growingtogether](http://ourauckland.nz/growingtogether)



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