

MATA TĀMAKI



▲ WEAVING TE PĀ

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED DESIGNER KIRI NATHAN'S VISION IS TO CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE COLLECTIVE SPACE IN GLEN INNES

▲ TĀMAKI'S NEXT GENERATION OF TRADESPEOPLE

PRECISION CONSTRUCTION AND TĀMAKI COLLEGE TRADES ACADEMY PARTNER ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

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EDITORIAL TEAM



SHARLEEN HAIMOTU-TAVAI – WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER

With roots in Mutalau, Niue and Nukunuku, Tonga, Shar is someone who has always known the meaning of whānau. Life with a big, blended family keeps her constantly on the move, and she wouldn’t have it any other way. A natural storyteller with an extensive background in writing, she loves getting out into the community and finding the human thread in every story. Shar brings all of that heart to her role as Senior Communications and Content Specialist at TRC.



JESSE MARSTERS – PHOTOGRAPHER

Born and raised in Glen Innes and hailing from the Cook Islands, Jesse is a freelance photographer who founded his own business, Marsters Media, in 2021 and has been helping TRC tell captivating visual stories ever since.



JAIMIE HUTTON – GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jaimie is a multi-disciplined graphic and digital artist and passionate about brand authenticity. He has 13 years of industry experience in motion, print and online mediums and is the Graphic Designer at TRC.



ALLY SAYWELL – EDITOR

Born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau, Ally has spent a large part of her career working in Tāmaki. With a background in public health communications, Ally’s passion is creating content that amplifies local voices. Ally is the Marketing and Communications Lead at TRC.

HAVE FEEDBACK OR A STORY TO SHARE?

Contact us at communications@tamakiregeneration.co.nz

KŌRERO FROM THE CEO

SHELLEY KATAE

**Ka ū mai te hā o te haukū, ka ao te rangi.
E ngā mata kua ngaro ki te pō,
piataata mai, okioki ai.
Hurihia mai e te ao ki a tātou o Tāmaki,
Tīhei mauri ora!**

**When the first of the frosts appears,
we turn and enter a new world.
To those who have been left to the night,
shine bright and take your rest.
May the world continue to turn towards us all,
Let it be done.**

I would like to begin my kōrero by first acknowledging with deep sadness, the passing of two prominent members from the Tāmaki community.

Aotearoa has farewelled G.I. legend and founding Herbs member Dilworth Karaka, whose influence and artistry resonated far beyond these shores. I also want to acknowledge the passing of Sharon Hawke, who was a respected and fearless kaitiaki for Tāmaki. Their legacy will live on through the people and places they loved, and through the enduring strength of their whakapapa. Sending aroha to the Karaka and Hawke whānau, and to all those feeling these losses across the whenua.

As we head into the cooler months of the year, it's important to acknowledge kuia, kaumātua, and young whānau living in older whare. If you are a Tāmaki Housing tenant and heating your home has become a struggle, please reach out to your Tenancy Manager. We've setup an arrangement with Mercury Energy to help support whānau facing difficulties signing up with a power provider.

I want to recognise the significant amount of building and roadworks currently underway across Tāmaki.



Members of the community have provided feedback about their frustrations with the disruptions, whether it's the queues from traffic or the sound of machinery early in the morning.

As part of this work, we've partnered with Auckland Council and central government to upgrade stormwater, water, and sewage systems across the area to help protect the community from flooding, improve drinking water quality, and significantly reduce sewage overflows into the Tāmaki River.

Over time, you'll also see upgraded parks and green walkways emerging, and while it's challenging now, it's an important investment in the future of the community. Once it's complete, Tāmaki will have a much more resilient and advanced infrastructure network in Auckland.

**You can visit our website
to view current and
upcoming developments
by scanning the QR code.**



Lastly, I want to acknowledge some of the incredible community and mana whenua leadership I've connected with over the past month:

Community Liaison Committee - Thank you to all members who have recently distributed funding to support impactful local initiatives. What makes this committee special is they are made up of people from this very community, so be sure to read about the amazing Tool Shed who upgraded their space through a CLC grant.

Councillor Bartley - Our thoughts are with Milo and Jo following last month's incident. It's encouraging to see advocacy for stronger dog control measures, an issue that matters to many members of the community.

Kiri Nathan and TE PĀ - It's exciting to see this vision come to life near the Glen Innes train station. With several shops already open featuring local Māori and Pasifika designers with more to come, this space is becoming a vibrant gateway to Tāmaki.

Tāmaki College Trades Academy - A big acknowledgement to the team supporting rangatahi into trades and employment! The success of last year's cohort shows what's possible, and we share some of their successes in this issue. Alongside this mahi, the Tāmaki Jobs and Skills Hub continues to support local whānau into employment opportunities across Tāmaki, with more than 120 locals employed this year and 17 local apprentices/cadets currently working on sites. If you or your whānau are interested in exploring opportunities, the team can help get you work-ready and connected into employment. Reach out to the team at jobshub@tamakiregeneration.co.nz

Shared Home Ownership whānau - Over recent months, many local whānau have taken the incredible step into home ownership. Their journey is a reflection of what can happen when you have the right support around and how that impact can create a path for the generations that follow.

We were honoured to host Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki through one of our newest show homes. Seeing whānau take those first steps toward home ownership is always a special moment and a reminder of why this kaupapa matters. If you're

interested in joining the OWN IT programme, register your interest and our team will be in touch to kōrero. **Visit tamakiregeneration.co.nz/ownit**

Congratulations to Stephanie Cooper-Poka on stepping into her role as CEO of Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust. Alongside the board, this leadership will help guide exciting papakāinga developments in Tāmaki in the years ahead. I also want to acknowledge Zoe Witika-Hawke's mahi down at Ki Tua o Matariki (based out of the old Scout Hall in Fenchurch Te Whare Piringa) where she is leading the delivery of vital social services in the community.

It's been great to bump into so many people throughout the month and be reminded of the incredible impact being made right across Tāmaki.

The team at St Mary's Tool Shed (open every Tuesday and I reckon they can fix just about anything you bring in), Everybody Eats (open Wednesday to Sunday 6-8pm) where you can enjoy warm kai and pay what you can, and Georgie and the crew at Ruapotaka Marae, thank you for the awesome mahi you continue to do for the Tāmaki community.

Across all of these stories, what stands out is the strength of Tāmaki and the way community show up for each other. I also want to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible mahi happening right across the community, from local organisations and partners to the volunteers, mentors, and everyday champions who continue to give their time and energy. Together, you are helping to build a connected, resilient, and thriving Tāmaki for the future.

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who helped bring this edition to life. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we've loved sharing them with you.

Our door is always open, feel free to drop in and connect with our team anytime.

Mauri tū, mauri ora.

Stand together in life and in wellness.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Shelley Katae

Chief Executive, Tāmaki Regeneration

BUILDING TE PĀ

A FASHION AND ART PRECINCT IN GLEN INNES

A special coming together of designers is taking place in Glen Innes.

The building at 260 Apirana Avenue is being transformed to Te Pā, a fashion and art precinct showcasing Māori, Pasifika, and other Indigenous designers through fashion, jewellery and art all in one location.

The first known concept of its kind, the aspiration was brought to life by celebrated fashion designer and visionary Kiri Nathan (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Paoa) alongside husband and business partner Jason Te Ahu Renata Nathan with support from Tāmaki Regeneration.



Kiri pictured with designers Jacob Coutie (J'AKE Studio) and Czarina Wilson

While working on international runways and red-carpet events worldwide, Kiri recognised the limited opportunities available to indigenous designers. This experience sparked her drive to mentor and empower the next generation of creatives to help strengthen diversity and visibility in the fashion industry.

The building is home to the innovative retail movement, Kāhui Collective, located right beside Kiri Nathan's own fashion boutique. Operating as a curated communal space, the Kāhui Collective provides a platform where designers and entrepreneurs can come together to collaborate and highlight their own unique brand. Kiri says, "This building holds so many memories for me, even more special having experienced it through different stages of my life. I've known it as a kid, a teenager, and a young woman.

To be able to return and create something in this whare for the community has been a genuinely authentic

relationship. It's allowed us to build something that is truly by the community, for the community."

Kiri's exceptional work has always been woven with marks to her whakapapa, and the Collective will provide exclusive opportunities for up-and-coming creators to learn and excel under her wing. What initially started as eight or nine designers has now grown to over forty, and each creative entrepreneur can display and connect their fashion or art within Te Pā, adding to the rich story of Aotearoa fashion right here in the heart of G.I.

"The KIRI NATHAN - Te Āhuru Mōwai space has become so much more for us and everyone who visits. It has a warmth to it, a sense of shelter, a haven for the Kāhui Collective and all who support. It's a retail and operations space, a sample room, a place to shoot collections, host events, and prepare for NZ Fashion Week and other various events. It's been amazing to see the space fully utilised."

What continues to set the KIRI NATHAN brand apart from the rest is its distinct style, steadfast and immersed in Te Ao Māori, integrating traditional weaving techniques (raranga) and storytelling into stunning modern fashion pieces - high-end garments, pounamu jewellery, and intricately handwoven kākahu, bringing Māori culture to a global audience.

Established artists with work on display include Shona Tawhiao, Adrienne Whitewood, HORI, Nichola, J'AKE



“ TO BE ABLE TO RETURN AND CREATE SOMETHING IN THIS WHARE AND PRECINCT FOR THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN A GENUINELY AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP ”

Studios, ARDC, Pania, Jeanine Clarkin and Ake Ake Ake, who stand proudly alongside a new generation of emerging talents.

Among them are Taiea, Daīna Hugh, Obsolescence, Noku Kākahu, Waiapu Road, Hunaarn, Stirling Collective, Kino Az, and Kaistor St, each bringing fresh perspectives and bold creativity through every piece. A welcome return for label Czarina Wilson another local G.I talent.

As the first Māori designer to open for NZ Fashion Week, a historical moment back in 2023, Kiri's rise to success wasn't a conventional one, which makes her journey even more inspirational.

After leaving Tāmaki College as a teen, she followed her passion to study fashion at the Manukau Institute of Technology. During this time, Kiri became a single mother, balancing busy studies with raising a young child. Through dedication and perseverance, she went on to graduate with a Diploma in Visual Arts.

Life temporarily led Kiri on a different path away from fashion, and she spent 14 years building a new career - first as a flight attendant then as an in-flight manager for various airlines including Air New Zealand. Even while working in a different field, her heart remained connected to fashion, entering design competitions in her spare time. A defining moment came in 2008 when she won the Supreme Award at Style Pasifika - a pivotal achievement that pushed her to build her own

fashion label. Kiri's decision to establish a space back in Glen Innes has been a life-changing experience as she has always had her sights set on investing back into the community.

“I'm G.I hard, for life, so being able to come back in this capacity is awesome. There's something really special about having people I went to school with and their parents and whānau, walking past, saying hello, popping in and catching up over a cup of tea and old memories. People who have moved out of the area, or are visiting from overseas, come through to connect. They're genuinely really happy to see a local, familiar face still here in G.I.” Despite her international recognition, Kiri's heart still remains connected to the area that helped lay her path to success, something she hopes to pass on to her children.

“As a whānau, it's been a lot of hard work to get this space ready. Even through the eye rolls, my tamariki are learning what it takes to build something from nothing, to create from their own imagination and hands, and to understand the reality of running a business - both the challenges and the rewards.”



BUILT HERE, BY HERE

TĀMAKI'S NEXT GENERATION OF TRADESPEOPLE

Since the writing of this story and as a result of the partnership, three Trades Academy students have now secured apprenticeships with Precision Construction at TRC's Concord development.

Precision Construction has partnered with Trades Academy students from Tāmaki College, offering a mentoring partnership to help foster future-focused career options in the construction industry.

Across Tāmaki, the Regeneration Programme is creating hundreds of new homes and building infrastructure and community spaces alongside dedicated build partners. This scale of work is building a strong pipeline of employment with the potential to connect and strengthen the community.

Precision Construction is delivering 77 new public and affordable homes at our Concord Place Development

site directly opposite Tāmaki College, and through this partnership, the Trades Academy students have supervised access to view the live worksite, while gaining hands-on experience in the industry.

Each week, students are taken to the site to track the progress of the build, from structural works through to subtrades like electrical and plumbing.

Each visit is a chance to connect their classroom learning with industry knowledge under close guidance and supervision, and to see where a future in construction could take them.

At the heart of the initiative are Tāmaki College Principal Soana Pamaka, Deputy Principal Russel Dunn, Precision's GM Strategic Partnerships Rob Moule and Director of Trades Academy Rob Thomas - the dedicated team helping to make it all happen.

2025 Tāmaki College Head Boy and Trades Academy student, Auckland Faamita, has taken it all in his stride having discovered a passion in construction during his senior year that influenced the trajectory of his career path.

“I come from a proud Samoan family that's always encouraged me to work hard in everything I do. At first, I wasn't completely sure what I wanted, but the more I learned about trades, the more I realised how much I enjoy working hands-on and building things from the ground up.



**“ I’VE GAINED CONFIDENCE AND DISCIPLINE,
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AND TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU DO ”**

Tāmaki College has supported me with so many opportunities through this partnership. What really inspired me was seeing how tradespeople use their skills to create something real and useful. That’s what led me to join the Academy, and working with qualified builders on real development sites has been one of the best parts of the programme.

It has connected me with people already working in the field and given me a taste of what the job is actually like - learning how to use tools properly, working safely, and being part of a team that gets things done. It’s a whole different level of learning that you can’t get just in the classroom. I’ve gained confidence and discipline, and I have a better understanding of what it means to work hard and take pride in what you do.”

Tāmaki College principal, Soana Pamaka, is a key advocate of the trade partnership, and has been a strong voice for students.

“Through this experience, these students have gained trade skills and are work-ready. I want to offer out a challenge to all our partners. The relationships we’ve created here are special, so I’m calling for more

employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

Give these young men the chance to help build in the community where they live and where they grew up, because those successes would mean so much more.”

After completing his senior year of studies, Auckland hopes to gain an apprenticeship in building and construction to continue learning on the job, gain more experience, and eventually become qualified in the trade.

He says, “I love the people and the sense of community in Tāmaki. Everyone looks out for each other, and there’s a lot of pride in where we come from. It’s a place that’s full of culture, hard-working families, and young people trying to make a difference.”

“Advice I would give to others on the same path? Stay focused. Don’t be afraid to step up and be sure to make the most of every opportunity. Time goes by so fast when you’re young, and everything you do now shapes who you become later. So, stay true to your values and always keep going, even when things get tough.”

**“I love the people
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NEW HOMES FOR GLEN INNES WHĀNAU

Nine new, warm, dry homes are now complete and ready for Tāmaki whānau. We recently celebrated the first of our brand-new homes on Concord Place in Glen Innes where five new Tāmaki Housing and four new Shared Home Ownership homes are now completed. These whare will provide whānau with security and long-term stability right in the heart of Tāmaki.



Precision Construction Team



Precision Construction Team at Concord



Ribbon Cutting at Concord



Ribbon Cutting at Concord



OWN IT

If you're saving for a deposit, you should know this option is available.

You could buy your first home through the OWN IT programme and get your foot in the door with a low deposit and less to borrow.

Scan the QR code to see if the programme is right for you:



*T&Cs and eligibility criteria apply.

COMING HOME

HOW AIREEN AND MOA FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO TĀMAKI

Years ago, when Aireen Ahkui moved away from Panmure for a work opportunity in South Auckland, she vowed the next time she returned to the area, it would be to buy a house in the community she loved.

Seven years later, through hard work and perseverance, she fulfilled that dream by moving into a brand-new home with husband Moa, purchased through the OWN IT shared homeownership programme.

Aireen loves being back in the neighbourhood, living close to family again and enjoying all the local amenities surrounded by the familiar places she grew up with.

The couple admit it wasn't an easy journey, they feared their debt would hold them back and with the help of supportive people like household advisor Erin from the OWN IT team and mortgage lender Barbara from Westpac, they began to envision the possibility.

She says, "Buying a house was always on my mind, but with keeping up with life, our debt had grown. I began to think we would never be in the position to be approved for a home loan, that we'd be stuck forever."

With further guidance from Barbara, everything shifted in February last year. Barbara was direct, practical, and honest, and that moment Aireen says, was the turning point. Barbara helped the couple consolidate their debt into one manageable payment, and recommended they move their banking

"Barb doesn't beat around the bush. She told us exactly what we needed to close down, what to pay off, and shared advice on how to strengthen our finances. And for the first time ever, we could see the

end in sight. We thought, oh shoot, this might actually happen!"

Alongside Barbara was Erin from the OWN IT team, a steady supporter who helped guide Aireen through consistent check-ins via emails, phone calls and texts. Erin's sound advice became the solid backbone of their homeownership journey.

"It can be scary, being vulnerable and sharing all your account information, but Erin kept in touch with us throughout the entire journey. At times I avoided her emails because it was confronting, having all our numbers and figures laid out to see. But if she wasn't so involved, we would have given up."

"And that's the point of difference with this programme. The honesty, practical support and guidance. Having people walking alongside us, step-by-step, and answering all our questions.



Aireen and Moa celebrate their new home with the OWN IT team.

There is genuine love and care. You rarely see that anywhere else." For Aireen and Moa, it meant having honest financial conversations, something that can be difficult to discuss openly in Pasifika households. Once they quickly learned financial literacy and built healthy habits, they watched their debts reduce month by month and they eventually became debt free."



“ WALKING THROUGH THE HOME MADE EVERYTHING MUCH MORE REAL FOR US. WE WERE ABLE TO PICTURE WHAT OUR LIFE THERE WOULD LOOK LIKE ”

“Finance is not an easy topic in relationships. But this journey taught us how important it is to talk openly. We worked together, and that made a huge difference.”

From February 2025 onward, their progress was tracked. By August, they had submitted their application and September and October were filled with documents, emails, and preparation. Then Erin invited them to view the house.

“Walking through the home made everything much more real for us. We were able to picture what our life there would look like, little things, like where our furniture would go. We could see our future with children.”

By December, the couple had received the key to their brand-new home and moved in. Now, back in Panmure where she belongs, Aireen is grateful for their journey as homeowners and thankful to the team of supporters who helped along the way.

“It really feels like a real home. It took us a while to settle, to realise it was all real. But this feels right and we

absolutely love it here. The way the home is designed, it suits our lifestyle and is perfect for us as a couple.”

Today, they’re discussing things like rates, house maintenance, and long-term planning, and the happy couple are enjoying being homeowners, financially stable and debt free. Aireen is grateful to TRC and the OWN IT programme for caring deeply about the people they serve.

“A lot of people think buying a house is too hard and just the thought of it is overwhelming. They think the journey is too difficult and there isn’t enough support - but there is. They really care about the families they look after. Keep believing and reach out to the OWN IT team.”

Learn more at tamakiregeneration.co.nz/ownit





BESIDE EVERY WHĀNAU

BARBARA HE ON THE HUMAN SIDE OF MORTGAGE LENDING

The thought of homeownership can feel overwhelming for first home buyers, leaving many families unsure of where to begin. The OWN IT team is proud to partner with Westpac Home Loan Expert Barbara He, who supports whānau as they navigate the journey toward purchasing their first home.

As a busy mum who is always on the go, Barbara's path into banking wasn't traditional. After moving to New Zealand in 2003, she worked a range of hospitality jobs before building her career at Westpac and credits those early experiences with shaping the way she works with people today.

"Some families arrive feeling intimidated or believing they won't qualify for the programme. But it's okay to come and talk to us, because we're here to help. My diverse background has helped me become a people person, so I understand different life experiences and apply that in my work."

With 15 years in banking and five years dedicated to the shared homeownership space, Barbara's connection to the programme runs deep.

"I always think about how I would want my parents or family members to be treated if they were sitting in front of someone at the bank.

“ I STILL CRY AT HANDOVERS. SEEING FAMILIES MOVE INTO THEIR HOME IS SUCH AN INCREDIBLE MOMENT ”

That’s how I treat every family. It’s helped me build strong relationships, and I feel really close to this community. I just love helping people.”

Barbara works closely with the OWN IT team to ensure applicants are well prepared, educating them on best practices for building savings, managing debt, and understanding the lending process so they can approach the bank with confidence.

For Barbara, the work has never been about numbers alone. The conversations she has with whānau are the most meaningful part of her job, and every successful journey reminds her why she loves what she does.

“I like to meet every whānau face to face to hear their story in person. I feel so lucky to journey alongside them as they work toward their dreams. When you get to know them personally, it becomes so much more meaningful.

“But it’s always a team effort. The OWN IT Household Advisors do incredible work preparing families, so when they come to the bank, they understand the process and feel confident.”

One of the biggest barriers Barbara encounters with families is hesitation - particularly the fear of rejection.

“I usually spend the first meeting explaining the programme and how it works. It’s not about jumping straight into numbers - it’s about helping people understand what to expect. I take time to get to know them so we can build trust.

“People often think they need to pay off all their debt or save a large deposit before speaking to a lender. But that’s not true. Come and talk to us. There’s no pressure, no rush, and it’s free to check where you’re at. Sometimes people think

they’re not ready when they actually are.”

The OWN IT team have seen how misinformation can hold families back, especially when debt feels like a major obstacle. Together, they take a solution-focused approach to help families reduce small debts, adjust spending habits, and build savings over time.

Barb explains, “Many people believe they need a 20 percent deposit, but through OWN IT, you may be able to start with as little as five percent, depending on your circumstances. There are more options than people realise.

“Families might say, ‘I can’t buy a home because I still have debt,’ but often we can work through that together. If someone isn’t ready yet, we’ll create a plan - maybe aiming for six months down the track. Instead of focusing on the problem, we focus on how to get families to where they need to be. The most important thing is knowing you’re not alone in the process.”

Of all the work she has done throughout her career, supporting first home buyers remains the most meaningful for Barbara. While loan approval is a major milestone, the moment she treasures most is settlement day when families receive the keys to their new home.

“I still cry at handovers. Seeing families move into their home is such an incredible moment. I’m so grateful the OWN IT team invite me to be involved - it’s really special.

“We see people buying and selling homes all the time, but first home buyers will always be the most important to me. You experience every emotion alongside them. It will always be very close to my heart.”

“You experience every emotion alongside them. It will always be very close to my heart.”



IKUNA YOUTH BAND PAVING PATHWAYS THROUGH MUSIC

Local brothers Semisi and Viliami founded the Ikuna Tongan Brass Band to give youth a positive space to grow through music and serve their communities. Celebrating their Tongan and Christian heritage was a bonus.

Thanks to the generous support of the Community Liaison Committee grant, the band was able to purchase seven new instruments for young members. The funds also provided financial relief for families by keeping participation costs down. The new instruments reduced the need for sharing and seven young and excited musicians were happy to receive two new baritones, four tenor horns, and one high-end cornet.

Semisi says, “Their excitement when they picked up their new instruments was unforgettable. The grant has helped us ensure more youth can participate fully, improve the overall quality of our sound by retiring older equipment, keep fees low for families, and more than anything, the grant has reminded our young people that their talents matter and that their community believes in them.”

The additions have already made a real impact by opening more doors for the band to perform at events, lifting the standard of sound at their concerts, and improving overall sound quality, most recently as part of the annual Santa Parade on Queen Street in Auckland.

“After just two months of focused practice, they were already confident enough to perform at other public events like the Auckland Brass Contest -which was a huge milestone for the entire band. Without that support, many of our young people simply wouldn’t have access to this opportunity. We are deeply grateful.”

The band play at a wide range of events throughout the year which include ANZAC Day parades in Panmure, funeral commemorations, church and faith-based services, and cultural festivals. They have also

performed at major sports and stadium events such as MMT (Mate Ma’a Tonga), Moana Pasifika, Counties Manukau rugby matches, and more notably, a key movie feature in the popular Red, White & Brass film.

The brothers find joy mentoring young people to discover their God-given gifts to grow in confidence through music. Seeing shy children lift their heads for their first solo performance on stage, and watching families gather to support their children with pride.

Semisi says, “Keeping rangatahi engaged through music is the greatest reward of all. Although we’ve performed on big stages and marched down iconic streets, our greatest achievement isn’t a single event. It’s what happens every Friday night when our kids show up ready to learn, ready to grow, ready to be together.

Watching them progress from shy beginners to confident musicians and leaders is the highlight we celebrate year after year. The safe, positive space we create for them is the true success story of Ikuna.”

Nearly three decades since they first came together, the heart of Ikuna remains the same: faith, music and service. Many band members call Tāmaki home as they live, study and worship in Glen Innes, Panmure and the surrounding suburbs of East Auckland.

“This area holds a special place in our story. It’s where we rehearse, mentor our rangatahi, and continue to build a strong, vibrant musical community. It’s really important to us that we preserve Tongan brass and Pacific music traditions, while broadening exposure to diverse genres.

We have a clear vision for the years ahead. We want to improve access to quality instruments and tutors, so no one is turned away because of cost. We aim to strengthen pathways from beginner to advanced, so young people can progress from Junior Band or Strings right through to leadership or even professional study.

We want to deepen our roots in Tāmaki, build stronger partnerships with local schools, churches and community groups. Our main priority is keeping Ikuna a safe and inspiring space where youth feel they belong, are proud of their culture and are equipped to continue serving the community”



ST MARY'S TOOL SHED

WHERE TOOLS, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY ARE FREELY SHARED

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) grants continue to bring valuable local initiatives to life. St Mary's Church is among the latest recipients, receiving support to strengthen their community Tool Shed.

The shed operates on site as a lending library, offering access to tools for residents to use and return. The free service is a huge help for those needing to do repairs around their home but have limited access to resources. All the tools are kindly donated from friends and members of the community.

The initiative operates as a high-trust, community-

centred model, and the CLC funding has enabled upgrades to the shed which include the addition of a veranda, and plans are underway to build further shelter to ensure the space remains accessible in wet weather.

Brian Walker is one of the many hands who help run the service, and he enjoys being part of the team of volunteers who offer their time to assist with repairs and provide guidance, reinforcing the spirit of shared knowledge and support.

He says, "I love that this space provides an opportunity for people to stay connected with the community. Most

“ I LOVE THAT THIS SPACE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY. MOST OF US HERE ARE OLDER AND RETIRED BUT BEING A PART OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS MAKES US FEEL VALUED ”

of us here are older and retired but being a part of something like this makes us feel valued. It lifts our spirits to give back. Knowing we can still make a difference and contribute to society with our years of knowledge and experience.”

St Mary’s Church has long served as a welcoming community hub, providing space for other local groups to use, and the tool shed initiative has also welcomed new helpers like Ben Singh, who is studying Engineering at Auckland University.



Ben says, “I live nearby just up the road, and one day I thought I’d come and check it out. Since I’ve been involved it’s been a cool experience getting to know everyone. We’re all kind of learning along the way from each other, but I’m learning so much more from these guys.”

Church Minister and jack-of-all-trades, Joel Carpenter, wears a few different hats that have proven beneficial at the shed, which include being a house painter.

He says, “The shed is an investment in the community, and we are grateful for any support we can get. Sometimes, people’s needs can feel complex when they really aren’t, all they need is some guidance, and sometimes, a simple practical solution.

What we’ve started here has also opened a safe space for people to come and talk with us. We listen and we do our best. It’s all about connecting. Because no one is perfect, we all have our moments, but at the end of the day we still care.

The community is changing, so we’ve been evolving to fill what the need looks like, and we’re working to prepare the space for the future – whatever those needs may be.” You can find the team there on site every Tuesday, 9am to 2pm.

Feel free to pop in for a chat or if you need to borrow or donate a tool, the shed is located in 132 Taniwha Street, in Glen Innes.

“The community is changing, so we’ve been evolving to fill what the need looks like”

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO TĀMAKI HOUSING

This April, we warmly acknowledged the incredible kaimahi behind Tāmaki Housing who have spent the past decade supporting tenants and helping families live well in their homes.

From frontline teams to behind-the-scenes support, every role has mattered and every contribution has helped shape the journey to where we are today.

Here's to the people and the partnerships that continue to guide this important work, congratulations on 10 years of service in Tāmaki!





NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVATION

Our most recent neighbourhood activation took place in Overlea/West Tāmaki, bringing together a wonderful mix of residents to enjoy company and share breakfast together.

Many whānau have busy lives with study, work, whānau or church activities, which can make it hard to find time to meet day-to-day, and these types of events create a welcoming space for neighbours to meet and build relationships.


This newly built neighbourhood of 23 households at Overlea Road and West Tāmaki Road is made up of homeowners and Tāmaki Housing homes, and nearby residents were also invited to be part of the morning gathering.

Residents enjoyed hot beverages and breakfast foods, and Tamariki enjoyed the bouncy castle on site while parents got to know each other better.

Place Manager, Emelda Pagai says, “Getting to know the people who live around you is an important part of creating a better-connected neighbourhood, and these activations help bring people together in a more relaxed space. Being a caring neighbour helps our wellbeing, it also strengthens our sense of belonging, especially in times of need.”

There is an active Residents Society that helps to manage the shared spaces across this and other sites, so the team were pleased to have Ellie Johns from Strata Title Administration Ltd and several of the residents who are members of the society’s committee attend the breakfast.

Thank you to all those who contributed and donated to the success of the event. A special mention to Place Managers Ashley Taufa & Nikki Joe doing amazing mahi around the Tāmaki Community.



Amanda Butland from 'Everybody Eats'

A SEAT AT THE TABLE EVERYBODY EATS IS FEEDING CONNECTION IN TĀMAKI

Everybody Eats transforms rescued food into delightful 3-course meals on a pay-what-you-can basis, using food that otherwise would go to waste. Some of the city's top chefs have been cooking up quality dishes at the two locations on Karangahape Rd and Onehunga Mall, and the heartfelt initiative made its way to Tāmaki in 2023, by opening a restaurant in Glen Innes.

Since then, the restaurant has become a key fixture of Line Road, helping to reduce food waste and food insecurity while offering a space for locals to gather and connect. Restaurant Manager, Amanda Butland, has been there since the beginning, and serving the community has remained at the heart of her mahi.

She says, "It's in my nature to serve and to help. Giving is easy - all it takes is a little time. I believe everyone should be treated with respect and dignity because we all deserve a seat at the table."

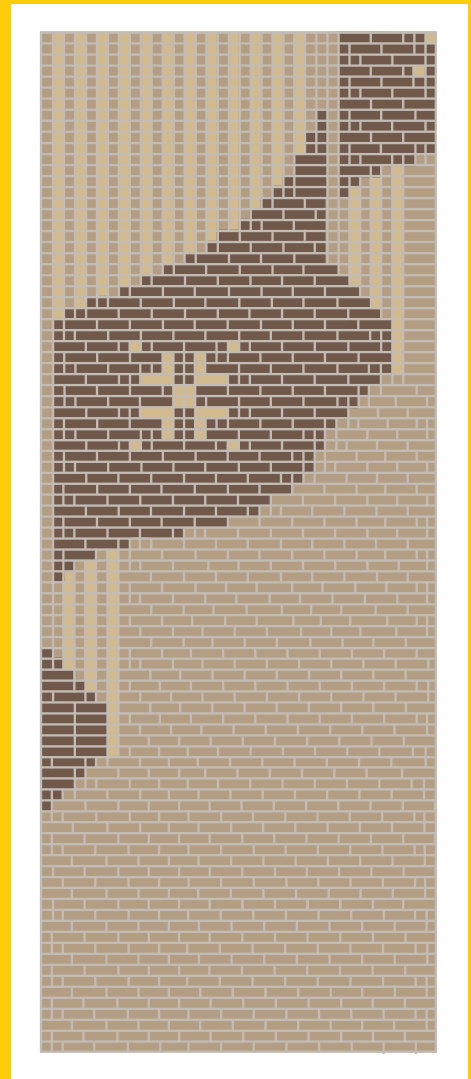
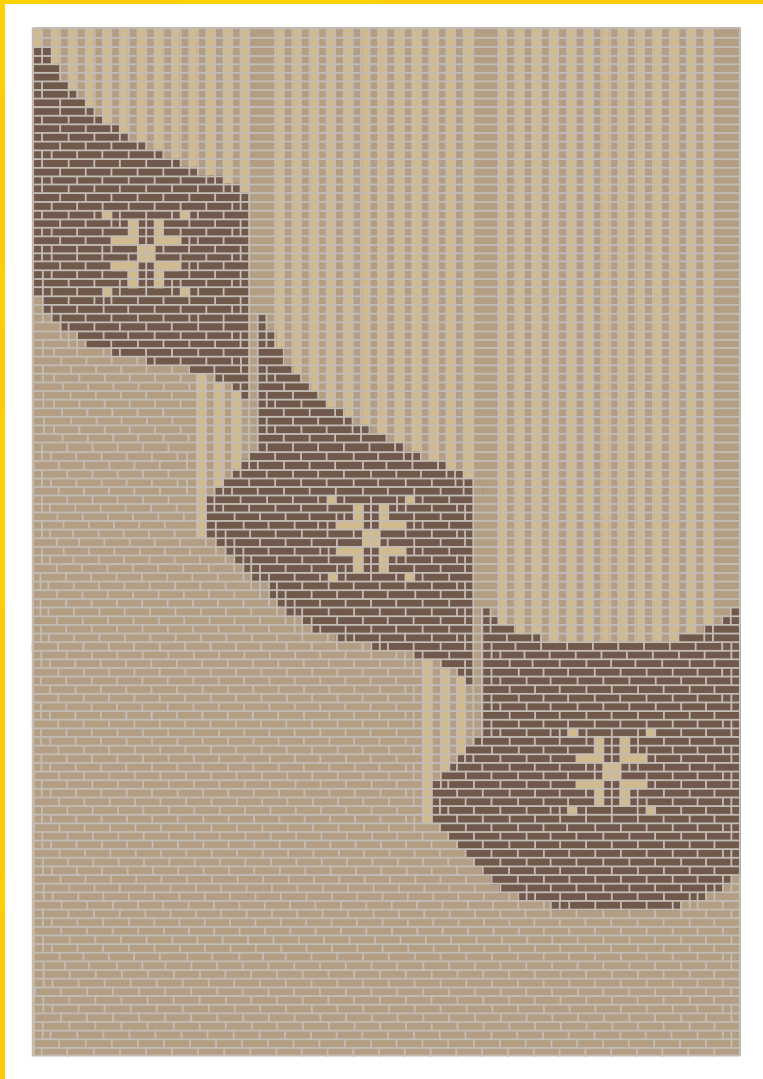
Two years ago, that community spirit led to a partnership with Gratitude NZ, when they opened their doors as a gift-packing space during the holiday

“ WHAT MAKES TĀMAKI SPECIAL IS ITS PEOPLE. THE STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING, THE WAY EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE, AND THE GENUINE COLLABORATION THAT EXISTS HERE CREATES A COMMUNITY THAT LOOKS OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER ”

season. This later helped connect Gratitude NZ with the Tāmaki Regeneration Company (TRC), igniting a close partnership working together with the same goals in mind. Amanda and the team were proud to support the Tāmaki Festive Gala, serving free food for the Tāmaki community at the event.

Amanda says, "What makes Tāmaki special is its people. The strong sense of belonging, the way everyone knows everyone, and the genuine collaboration that exists here creates a community that looks out for one another. It's this spirit that makes giving back feel natural."

Looking ahead, Amanda will continue to have her heart set on making sure no one goes without, and most of all, that no one goes hungry.



MAHI TOI

BRICK PATTERNING AT OUR PN087 DEVELOPMENT ON TRIPOLI ROAD

Created in partnership with Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki and Tika Creative, this brick patterning resembles the drape of a Kaitaka (fine muka cloak) with vertical brick corbelling of the buildings' architecture used to represent the vertical aho (weft). A tāniko border connects the adjacent walls.

FIND OUT MORE

tamakiregeneration.co.nz/regen/about/key-projects





KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WORKS IN TĀMAKI

We recently launched a new interactive map on our website that shows a range of activities happening across the area.

These include current and upcoming Tāmaki Regeneration developments, roadworks, waterworks and landscaping work updates from partner organisations.

You can check out the map by scanning the QR code here:





Groundbreaking group picture.



Ground Breaking



Ground Breaking

BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW ACCESSIBILITY- FOCUSED HOMES

Construction has now begun on one of our latest sites in Panmure, marking an exciting step forward in meeting local social housing needs.

The project will include a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, with a strong focus on accessibility.

Up to six whare will be fully wheelchair accessible, featuring specialist modifications such as side-opening ovens and lowered bench heights.

Once completed, the development will provide healthier, more adaptable homes for our community.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY





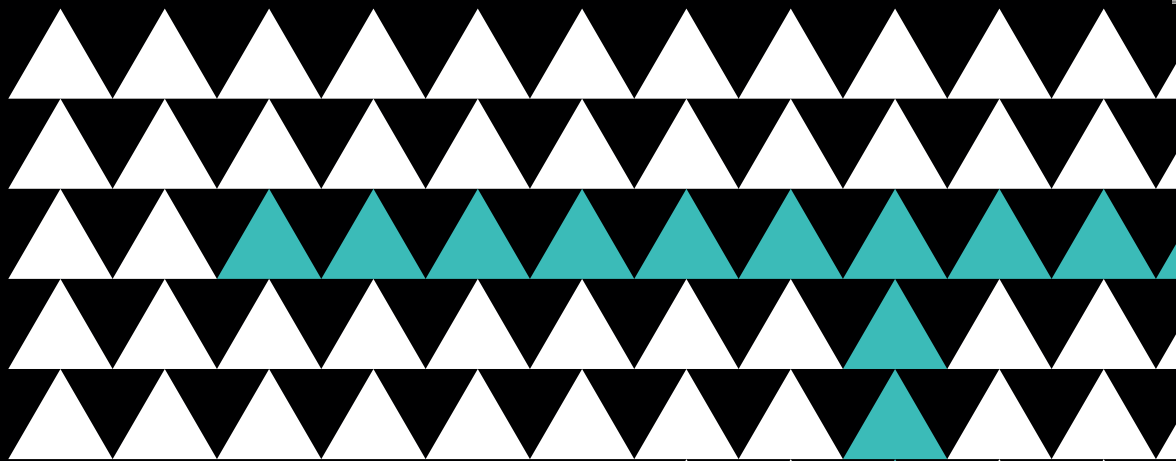
Signature Construction Team Expo stall



Well done team on the awesome event



Thanks team!



MAI TĀMAKI

Mai Tāmaki is produced for the people of Tāmaki about the people of Tāmaki.
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Any plans, renders or development information in this magazine are accurate at the time of printing and may be subject to change as the project progresses and regulatory consents are obtained.

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