

MĀTA TĀMAKI

▲ FROM GLEN INNES TO THE WORLD

JOSIAH MAAMA ON THE
'GI RISE' PROGRAMME
AND SPORT AS A TOOL
FOR WELLBEING.

▲ SONSK8 INDOOR SKATEPARK

BUILDING COMMUNITY
ONE TRICK AT A TIME.

▲ OWN IT WHĀNAU

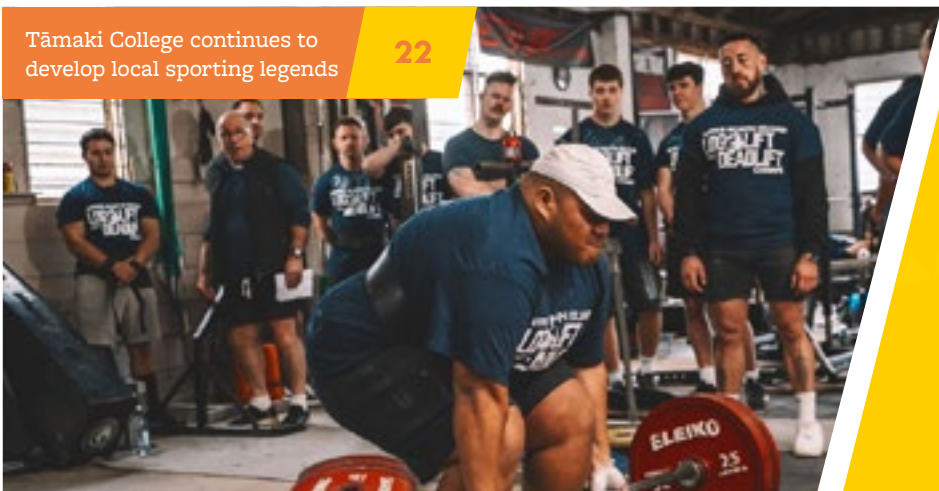
JACKIE AND TONY MACARTHUR
ON HOW THE OWN IT
PROGRAMME HELPED THEM
BECOME HOME OWNERS.





SonSk8 Indoor Skatepark in
Glen Innes

14



Tāmaki College continues to
develop local sporting legends

22



Andy Rodgers and Ashley Edwards welcome you
to the Panmure Lagoon Pool and Leisure Centre

24



The MacArthurs:
Life in our new home

10



Josiah Maama:
From G.I to the World

06

IN THIS ISSUE

Kōrero from Shelley Katae, CEO of Tāmaki Regeneration Company (TRC)	4
Josiah Maama: From G.I to the World	6
Welcome to the Panmure Lagoon Pool and Leisure Centre	8
The MacArthurs share about life in their new home	10
See if the OWN IT programme is right for you	12
Meet TRC's new General Manager for Social Transformation: Amy Rice	13
SonSk8: Building community, one trick at a time	14
Ruta Paniani on the Tāmaki Jobs and Skills Hub	16
Reserve Tāmaki turns proximity into progress	18
Chris Hiko is helping give a voice to local rangatahi	20
Tāmaki College student column: Chasing gains but gaining community	22
Gloria Tuitupou: The value of education in our community	24
Meet Joe Watene: Healthy homes, happy people	26
Celebrating 10 years of Te Oro	27
The importance of co-design in community development	28
Housing Development updates in Tāmaki	30

EDITORIAL TEAM



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JAIMIE HUTTON – GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Based in Panmure as a multi-disciplined graphic and digital artist with 12 years of industry experience in motion, print and online based mediums. He is the Senior Graphic Designer at TRC.



JESSE MARSTERS – PHOTOGRAPHER

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HAVE FEEDBACK OR A STORY TO SHARE?

Contact us at communications@tamakiregeneration.co.nz

TĀMAKI

GLEN INNES / POINT ENGLAND / PANMURE



KŌRERO FROM THE CEO

SHELLEY KATAE

Kia ora e te whānau,

I love reading the stories of local whānau in Mai Tāmaki, I hope you do too.

When I sat down for a kōrero with our shared home ownership team last week, I had Jackie and Tony's inspiring story as new homeowners on my mind.

If you haven't met Ari and Erin from the Own It team, and our Service Support/Rehousing superstar Dana, I am sure you would have heard of them around town. Dana gave me an update on her work with

some of our Tāmaki Housing Tenants (THA), and these last few months she has been connecting with close to twenty of our THA families currently living in social housing homes who are paying close to market rent.

Off of the back of those engagements, Ari and Erin are working with six of these families who are now ready to purchase a new home in Tāmaki through our shared home ownership programme Own It, and four of the six families have already been allocated a home for them for purchase!

“I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE THE INCREDIBLE MAHI TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE COMMUNITY.”



It's achievements like this where I feel deeply grateful to be involved in this mahi, to see our whānau not only succeed for themselves, but for future generations.

Have a read of Jackie and Tony's story as they share their experiences of overcoming barriers and reaching goals to keep on track of their journey as homeowners.

We encourage you to reach out to our team or check out our website if you want to start your own journey towards home ownership. Recently, some of our TRC team took part in the 'Iwi of Origin' tournament, check out the photo above!

Even though we had an ex-Silver Fern playing for us (one of our new tenancy managers, Amorangi) there were a couple of ACC claims; many bodies that didn't move so well the day after, and we still got our butts kicked on average by about 20 points a game!

Reading the stories of Josiah, Aaron, Lorenzo, Andy and Ashley reminds us how important it is to move, give things a go, and look after our tinana.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible mahi taking place across the community, including by the Jobs and Skills Hub and local businesses, much of which is shared in the following pages.

Building capabilities in our whānau through this work is crucial to look after our future generations and to building the pathways for meaningful engagement and growth.

Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this edition of Mai Tāmaki to life. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed capturing these stories.

Feel free to drop in and connect with our team at anytime.

Mauri tū, mauri ora.

Stand together in life and in wellness.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Shelley Katae

Chief Executive, Tāmaki Regeneration

JOSIAH MAAMA: FROM G.I TO THE WORLD

The name Josiah Maama is quickly becoming synonymous with basketball success in New Zealand, and his visibility is gaining recognition on the junior basketball world stage too. Closer to home and heart though, Josiah co-founded GI Rise Basketball alongside his brother Sione who shares the same passion for the sport and strong principals of giving back.

“I WANT TO
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OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.”

Born and raised in Tāmaki, the Maama brothers are proud Glen Innes (GI) locals who grew up utilising all the local sports fields, playgrounds, and basketball courts in the area, so they know first-hand the benefits of providing room for local youth to thrive. Through GI Rise, they offer free coaching and mentoring to aspiring basketballers to help develop their skills, and what started as humble pre-season trainings back in 2017 has quickly grown into a well-established grassroots programme for youth in East Auckland.

In a world where young people are increasingly craving connection, leadership, and a sense of purpose, GI Rise strives to offer all three. Over the years, the programme

“You can learn so much about life through sport, from discipline to teamwork and mental resilience.”

has blossomed into a safe place for local talent to rub shoulders with some of the best, including professional players from the likes of the Auckland Tuatara and the NZ Breakers. The name says it all: GI Rise allows the young people of Tāmaki to see what’s possible when you set your sights high, and Josiah has felt fulfilled watching it all come to life with his brother by his side.

“There’s so much talent here, and I want to make sure these opportunities are available for all our young people, so they can see and understand their own potential. To take these skills grown right here on our local courts and showcase them further,” he says.

Josiah is passionate about sharing the message that success isn’t just about your performance in a game; it’s also about who you become in the process. For both brothers, the chance to create a culture where it’s okay to work hard, to be vulnerable, and to support one another is more important than any on-court achievements.

“You can learn so much about life through sport, from discipline to teamwork and mental resilience, these skills can be used in everyday life.

“The bonds we create with the kids show what building meaningful connection looks like, that team players can become family. We also want to remove the stigma around sharing feelings too, because for some of them,



a gym session or basketball court is the only place they feel comfortable enough to have those kinds of conversations.”

Adding to Josiah’s growing list of achievements is his recent appointment as the Head Coach of the Junior Tall Blacks, redefining what it means to represent your community at the highest level. Earlier this year he took the team to the 2025 FIBA U19 World Cup in Lausanne, Switzerland, and under his leadership, the team achieved a historic fourth-place finish, narrowly losing their playoff match against Slovenia. This is the best result New Zealand has ever achieved at this level, having previously come 13th in 2019, 11th in 2017 and 13th in 2009.

For Josiah however, success has never been about personal accolades. Grounded deeply in his Tongan heritage and East Auckland roots, he sees every achievement as a win for his fāмили and a chance to give back to the wider community.

“There were four of us, and Mum raised us on her own. She held multiple jobs whilst making sure we were fed, sheltered and loved every day. She’s always been a hard worker and put others first, so naturally, that was our example of how we all navigated life and treated the world. The Tongan traditions and culture were embedded in us by mum, and our grandparents helped shape who I am today. Nena especially taught us that everything is done together. If someone succeeds, we are all contributors to that, and if someone is struggling, we are all responsible to help uplift them.” In his spare

time, he finds time to visit other schools and groups in the area. This includes sharing motivational kōrero with GI Eagles Basketball Club, and Coach and Co-ordinator, Manuel Waaka, is grateful for Josiah’s continued contribution. Manuel says, “For us, it means a lot when Josiah comes back to GI, it inspires our tamariki that if ‘he can do it, they can make it too!’ with whatever dreams they put their mind and heart to.”

When asked about what is next, Josiah is open to continue sharing his expertise on the world stage. No matter where his path leads him, he is adamant that there is never anywhere quite like home. “Everything we do through GI Rise is about carrying that forward and giving back to the neighbourhood that got us here.

We want to keep East Auckland on the radar, to keep making a statement,” he says with a smile, “Because it’s a flex to be from Glen Innes.”



ANDY RODGERS AND ASHLEY EDWARDS

WELCOME TO THE PANMURE LAGOON POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE

Travelling down Lagoon Drive, it's hard not to miss the Lagoon Pool and Leisure Centre with the pristine blue water and huge water slide.

The space provides top facilities in Panmure, and new YMCA manager, Andy Rodgers, is keen to get the good word out to raise their profile and showcase the dedicated staff. Formerly Swimarama, the Auckland Council-owned centre is a hub for local leisure and fitness, with access to heated indoor pools, spa, and saunas all year round. They offer swim programmes for all ages, a fitness centre and classes, huge outdoor pool, splash pad, and mammoth slide which operates during the summer months.

A fitness enthusiast at heart, Andy was previously based at the Y Shakesphere Lodge in Whangapāroa promoting outdoor education, but exciting plans around a new baby brought him and his partner closer to the city for work in Panmure, and so far, he's loved getting to know the area better.

"It's definitely different here in Panmure, but in a good way. It's interesting, because although this location has been here for a long time, there are still pockets of people who live nearby that don't know much about the facilities we provide.

But I guess it comes down to us putting ourselves out there too, and the importance of connecting with local groups, people and organisations. There are some upgrades happening near the basin, and quite a bit of development, so it's set to get a lot busier around here. Although progress feels a bit slow at times, we're getting there, and it's a good feeling."

Andy also oversees the busy Lagoon Stadium located across the road, which provides a space for badminton, basketball, volleyball, futsal and the fast-

growing craze Pickleball. There is also a dance studio space and boxing gym available for hire.

Ashley Edwards is the Aquatic Supervisor and has been employed at the centre for five years. She lives locally and is proud of the top-tier services they provide. Her journey has been nothing short of inspirational, and the proud mum is always keen to share her story in case it resonates with someone on a similar journey.

"As a single parent, I wanted to invest in something positive for my son. I needed the money, and I saw a poster advertising a job for a swim instructor. I was looking for something that would suit my son's school hours, and this sounded perfect. I went in to reception and asked if they were hiring, and the manager, Helen, who is still the manager today, she told me to come back for an interview the next week. Then I was so happy when I got the job." After three years as a swim instructor, Ashley then moved into an admin role, and one year ago, applied for her current supervisor position.

"I wanted to see what I could achieve for myself. I absolutely love working here and the people and relationships I've made. My son goes to school nearby, and he's grown up here. This job has provided me with so many opportunities, and I have an amazing aquatics manager who helped me develop my knowledge and growth."

Andy was inspired by Ashley's story and is seeking to partner with local tertiary providers to see how they can offer opportunities to create similar employment pathways. "Even though I went to university, I didn't finish high school. But I knew my passion, which was fitness training and gym, and that has put me where I am today. So we'd love to be able to create something similar for promising students and graduates."

THE MACARTHURS SHARE ABOUT LIFE IN THEIR NEW HOME

Jackie and Tony MacArthur had been renting for over 10 years with their young tamariki, and the thought of being homeowners didn't even cross their minds. Today, they are the happy owners of a four-bedroom home in Tāmaki, and they're questioning why they waited so long to join the Own It programme.

Jackie says, "I just never thought we would qualify, that we could even do it. I grew up in social housing, and no one ever spoke about buying a house or owning their home. It wasn't a conversation anyone had."

The MacArthur whānau are grateful to the Own It team for the extra encouragement and boost they needed to get on board, and they admit the hardest part was being vulnerable enough to share their financial situation and sending in all their documentation.

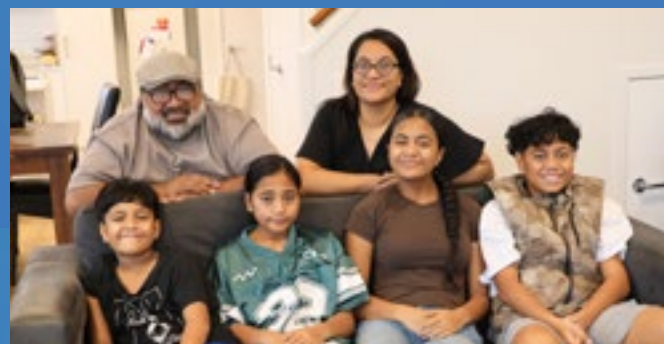
“IF YOU’VE EVER DREAMED OF OWNING A HOME, JUST PUT YOUR NAME DOWN, BECAUSE YOU’LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU DO.”

"We looked at the amount of debt we had and we were too embarrassed to share those figures with anyone. It was definitely scary, because we grew up thinking debt was normal, and things like credit cards and After Pay were how everyone paid for things. We couldn't imagine how we would make purchases without borrowing money, using layby or hire-purchase."

After completing the Own It financial workshop, they implemented the skills they learnt to lower their debt, cancel accounts like Afterpay, and learnt to save and live within their means and buy what they needed, when they needed it.

The financial literacy workshops are offered in-house when you first register for the Own It programme. The workshops have been a game changer for many whānau who improved their financial situation by learning ways to save, invest and manage debt.

Today, the MacArthurs are keen advocates of the Own It programme, encouraging friends and family to just sign up, even if they're still on the fence about it.



The MacArthur whānau in their new home.

"After seeing an ad on Facebook, we just took a chance and registered. Then we were surprised to get a call back straight away. So if you've ever dreamed of owning a home, just put your name down, because you'll never know unless you do. We never imagined we'd be one of those whānau you read about, but here we are."

Husband Tony admits he was apprehensive throughout the process, but now fully supports the programme and has encouraged his work colleagues to register.

"We didn't have many people visit us at home before, because our last rental home was too small. I used to dread times when everyone would be home, like during the school holidays we'd be getting in each other's hair. Now we're excited to host our relatives when they



“IT FEELS GOOD COMING HOME EACH DAY, KNOWING THAT THIS IS ALL OURS, OUR OWN HOME. IT’S GIVEN US HOUSING SECURITY FOR OUR KIDS, THEY DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MOVING.”

visit from overseas, and we have get-togethers with groups from our church. Everyone loves coming over, and they can stay if they want, because we have the space now and everything is new,” he says.

Having grown up in Panmure and Glen Innes, it was important for Jackie to raise her tamariki in the area she loved, enjoying the same outdoor spots and community spaces that she enjoyed as a child. Jackie and Tony both work in education, and their children attend local schools within walking distance, which is a bonus for the busy whānau.

Jackie says, “We absolutely love our new home. We have a playground right across the road, and the kids can scooter down to the awa with their friends whenever they want. There’s a dairy and shops right there at the corner. We’ve been enjoying all the local community events and celebrations happening at Te Oro and the library.”

Since becoming homeowners, Jackie and Tony

now have the freedom to expand their dreams, way beyond what they imagined and hoped for their children.

“It feels good coming home each day, knowing that this is all ours, our own home. It’s given us housing security for our kids, they don’t have to worry about moving. We’re not nervous anymore about decorating our house how we want, or whether we can put holes in the walls to hang our family photos.

Owning a home was our dream, and we’ve achieved that. We need a new dream. Now we’re asking each other, ‘what’s our new dream now?’”

Learn more at tamakiregeneration.co.nz/ownit

**OWN IT**

**TAMAKI**
GLEN INNES / POINT ENGLAND / PANMURE



Together, let's
make the first move
into home ownership.

See if the programme is right for you: tamakiregeneration.co.nz/ownit

MEET AMY RICE

TĀMAKI REGENERATION'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

For Amy Rice, the path to leadership has always been grounded in the Samoan proverb 'O le ala i le pule o le tautua - The path to leadership is through service.' It's this very spirit of service that has defined not only her career but her commitment to community development, and Tāmaki Regeneration is delighted to welcome Amy as the new General Manager for Social Transformation.

Over the past seven years, Amy's professional journey through TRC has seen her involved in nearly every part of the organisation; from Business Support and Strategy to Placemaking and Development Engagement. It's her newest role however, that truly aligns with her passion: helping to establish pathways for long term, inter-generational equity.

"This space carries incredible opportunities to make a difference. To support the Tāmaki community to grow into the future," Amy shares. "On a personal level, I feel a deep connection to this kaupapa."

The Social Transformation team leads initiatives that support whānau through affordable housing pathways, job and skill development, and local economic growth. But for Amy, it's more than just delivering programmes. It's about empowering a community to reclaim its narrative and to build foundations that will serve future generations. Her leadership is deeply informed by her lived experience. "My mum is Samoan and migrated here in the 70's and my dad has whānau roots that stretch back to Scotland. My parents were both public servants and we spent our early years living in public housing,



before mum and dad could work towards purchasing their own home. We were raised with a strong understanding of the importance of hard work, sacrifice, support and connection to both community, whānau and whakapapa."

For Amy, Tāmaki is not simply where she works. From childhood memories of jumping off the Panmure Wharf, to running events in the Glen Innes Community Hall as a youth leader, to now spending time with her sister's whānau in GI, Amy's personal story is interwoven with that of our area. "The vibrancy here isn't just in the landscape, it's in the people. There's a beautiful connection this community has to this whenua and to one another. It makes this place feel like no other."

Looking ahead, Amy envisions a Tāmaki that continues to celebrate its people and amplify its unique identity. A place where you can see, taste, touch, smell, and hear the culture and history of the community. As a māmā to two young boys, Amy's approach to both leadership and social transformation is shaped by the legacy she wants to leave behind.

"I often reflect on the idea of sowing the seeds of trees we will never lie under. As a parent, that concept drives me every day. I want to help contribute to something that ensures our future generations are better off, and that goal truly sits at the core of the work carried out by the Social Transformation team."

SK8

SK8 HUB

Indoor skatepark



HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon- Fri: from 4pm, Sat: 12-10pm, Sun: 12.30-6pm

SON SK8 BUILDING COMMUNITY, ONE TRICK AT A TIME

Tucked down Omaru Lane in Glen Innes, you'll find Son Sk8, New Zealand's one and only indoor skatepark. SonSk8 is operated by East Skate, a charity-based space run by skate enthusiast Aaron Martin.

Aaron started East Skate as a labour of love back in 2020 hoping to create a safe space for youth who love to skate. Every dollar spent there goes directly back into keeping the doors open and improving the space for the community. The dream first came to mind when he experienced the lack of skateparks around East Auckland and wanted to create a shared place where youth, whānau and skate fanatics could ride and enjoy. As a key location in Glen Innes, the large warehouse is leased to them by neighbouring Grace International Church, which is home to other groups like the GI Eagles, and residents who utilise the shared building to partake in activities like ping pong and Tai Chi.

“Glen Innes and the wider east Auckland community have always been home to kids who love skating but often have limited access to safe facilities. Our roots are local, and I've seen firsthand how skateboarding can change lives. I've been skating for most of my life - rollerblading, skateboarding, and just about anything with wheels. I've dedicated my time and energy to making it accessible for young people who don't always connect with traditional sports. I live, work, and raise my family here, so this isn't just a project - it's personal,” he says.

The SonSk8 team of volunteers run different programmes and lessons for people of all levels, and they deliver free after-school programmes funded by sports organisations, school clubs and outreach programmes. Using their East Skate contacts, they also coordinate community activations and events in outdoor parks across Auckland as opportunities to broaden their

network and keep connected in the local skating world. The specialist crew ensure the services they provide are inclusive and they run fun classes for those living with neurodevelopmental conditions, ADHD, autism and other disabilities. Everyone is welcome to come along and take part. In just a few years, SonSk8 has engaged thousands of young people, provided a safe indoor venue during winter and evenings, and become a cornerstone for skate culture in east Auckland. Aaron says, “Skating keeps kids off devices, builds resilience, teaches risk-taking in a safe way, and gives them a community where they feel they belong. We've given tamariki and rangatahi a positive outlet, and we've built pathways for some riders to reach Olympic-level aspirations.

The coolest part is seeing people of all ages and backgrounds come together. To skate, chill and just hang out. Old people and youth, with different backgrounds and abilities. People who otherwise wouldn't have connected outside of SonSk8 if we didn't provide community spaces like this.” Although skating culture has been slowly fading over the years, Aaron is using his experience, connections, and passion to help reignite and grow his beloved sport. He is always on the lookout for partners and sponsors who are willing to lend a hand to help keep their doors open and lights on.

“Without community partnerships, a place like SonSk8 can't exist. Our biggest barriers have been funding and awareness. Indoor skateparks aren't cheap to run, and skating hasn't always been recognised as a legitimate sport. For many, it's the first time they've been part of something that isn't about winning or losing, but about progression, creativity, and connection. We rely on local boards, schools, funders, and families to help keep the lights on, coaches employed, and ramps maintained. In return, we provide a space that grows healthy, connected, and active youth, and we prove our impact with data, partnerships, and stories of real lives changed.

A huge shout-out goes to our volunteers, parents, and local skaters who give their time and energy to keep things moving. The more people who back SonSk8, the more young people we can reach and the stronger the skate community becomes. So spread the word, bring your kids, book parties, volunteer time, or connect us with potential sponsors. Even small contribution - financial or in-kind - go a long way.”



Ruta's mum, Kalo (left) has been a huge inspiration for getting her where she is today

RUTA PANIANI ON THE TĀMAKI JOBS AND SKILLS HUB

Ruta Paniani is a true example of community in action, using her position to champion outcomes through her role as Manager of the Tāmaki Jobs and Skills Hub

It feels like a full circle moment for the Glen Innes native, having grown up a few streets down from her office, and using the very support services she now promotes to her hub clients. “There’s beauty in growing up surrounded by that kind of support, and the feeling of being connected. I have so much respect for those that are still here, still doing the hard work, because it shows

the strength and resilience of our community, and the heart that is still present here today.”

Ruta runs a close-knit team down at the hub, who share her passion of breaking barriers and smashing stereotypes, especially when it comes to local rangatahi and creating positive employment opportunities.

The team offer free support services for those seeking employment, and run work training programmes and workshops for people looking to develop their skills. They also offer partnership opportunities for potential employers who are seeking confident workers that are well equipped and work-ready.

“There is a generation of youth coming though that are really shy, which makes it hard for them to engage. So just imagine how hard that is for a young person trying to get a job, and a job interview would be overwhelming for them.

“ WE HAVE SO MANY HELPFUL SERVICES IN GLEN INNES THAT NOT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT. WE HAVE PLACES LIKE THE GLEN INNES FAMILY CENTRE WHO DO AMAZING MAHI FOR THE COMMUNITY. ”

We work closely to equip them with the tools to be able to put themselves out there with more confidence, and that takes time and trust.”

Since the hub’s inception, they have helped link locals with close to 1800 jobs, and provided free driver’s licenses for over 1200 people, a feat Ruta is proud of. She credits her previous manager, Alice Taupau for setting the strong foundation and clearing the path for her own journey and progression.

“We work closely to equip (people) with the tools to be able to put themselves out there with more confidence.”

Ruta also mentions the Tāmaki Budgeting service for helping her whānau keep on track with their spending and budgeting as she grew up in the area.

She says Tāmaki Budgeting is an essential and valuable service which doesn’t get emphasised enough.

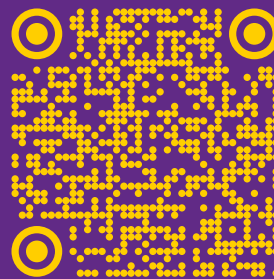
“When I first came to the hub, Alice saw something in me that I didn’t see. The way she continuously encouraged me and my career development really boosted my confidence and set me up for success. So a huge part of where I am is because of her love, support and guidance.”



“We have so many helpful services in Glen Innes that not everyone knows about. We have places like the Glen Innes Family Centre who do amazing mahi for the community.

If you’re needing any type of assistance, just reach out or ask around. Yes, times are hard, but there are people out there who can help you, especially if you’re struggling. Because we all need a hand sometimes.”

The team at the Jobs and Skills Hub are here to help. Whether you are someone looking for a job, a local employer looking for some extra hands or are just interested in learning about what we get up to, more information is available on Tāmaki Regeneration’s website, via the QR code below.



Instagram - @tamakijsh

Facebook - @TamakiJobsAndSkillsHub

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in front of a brick wall. The man is on the left, wearing a black sweater, and the woman is on the right, also wearing a black sweater. They are both smiling. The background is a red brick wall. On the far left edge of the image, there is a vertical strip of yellow triangles pointing downwards.

RESERVE TĀMAKI TURNS PROXIMITY INTO PROGRESS

PHYSICAL SPACES CREATING CONNECTION

Walking into Reserve Tāmaki (ReserveTMK), the sweet, soulful sounds of Erykah Badu are playing, and the bubblegum pink feature wall adorned with Māori, Pasifika and street art catches your eye as soon as you enter. The room feels alive, where colour, music and culture combine to create a space that invites creativity.

When ReserveTMK first opened in 2024, it arrived at a time when working from home was the new norm. The pandemic had normalised home offices and video calls, but the absence of real connection left gaps that digital tools could not bridge. Research shows that remote work often deepens silos, while in-person environments create the chance encounters and shared energy that drive innovation. ReserveTMK was deliberately created to restore those in-person interactions, offering entrepreneurs a place to share ideas in the moment, *kanohi ki te kanohi*, and not just through a screen.

Intentionally local and founded with Tāmaki in mind, ReserveTMK was always intended to be more than desks and Wi-Fi.

It was envisioned as a launchpad, a place where people who live in Tāmaki could grow their businesses close to home, supported by their community. Three years on, ReserveTMK feels like working proof that physical space still matters. It sits proudly in the Glen Innes Town Centre at 133 Line Road, operated by Tāmaki locals Kim and Ra Beazley, entrepreneurs in their own right. “We’ve always believed in creating aspirational spaces that feel like they belong here and brave spaces where people can take risks and thrive. Having a place in the heart of Glen Innes means entrepreneurs can grow close to home, supported by the people and culture that shaped them.

For us, it’s always been about showing that innovation belongs in Tāmaki and that local talent doesn’t need to leave the neighbourhood to succeed,” Kim says.

“ ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PARTS OF HAVING A PHYSICAL SPACE IS SEEING THE UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS THAT HAPPEN HERE. PEOPLE WHO MIGHT ONLY EVER PASS EACH OTHER AT THE LOCAL SHOPS END UP SITTING SIDE BY SIDE, SHARING IDEAS OR SKILLS.”



ReserveTMK's kaupapa encourages people to see themselves as part of a collective rather than competitors in the same space. The community it nurtures is built on openness, sharing contacts, resources and insights, with the understanding that collective progress lifts

“For us, it's always been about showing that innovation belongs in Tāmaki and that local talent doesn't need to leave the neighbourhood to succeed.”

everyone. In practice, this might look like an entrepreneur sharing equipment with a young podcaster whose social enterprise is testing new content. Small exchanges build confidence, and over time those connections have the potential to build real momentum.

Ra says, “One of my favourite parts of having a physical space is seeing the unexpected connections that happen here. People who might only ever pass each other at the local shops end up sitting side by side, sharing ideas or skills. When those relationships spark without us even needing to step in, that's when the magic happens.

You start to wonder, what ripple effects will come from this? What new opportunities will grow just because people had the chance to be together in one place?”

A sense of belonging is reinforced by cultural cues woven into the environment. From the art on the walls to the warmth of the space, it affirms identity, and with many young Māori and Pasifika entrepreneurs collaborating in the space, it is empowering to see a space that reflects who they are. As part of Auckland's wider innovation network, ReserveTMK connects Tāmaki into a citywide ecosystem, while remaining firmly grounded in its community. Its impact will not only be measured in businesses launched, but in the confidence of young people choosing to start here, and in the revitalisation of Glen Innes as a centre of creativity and entrepreneurship.

ReserveTMK shows that physical spaces are more than backdrops, but catalysts that have the potential to provide the spark of collective imagination, the daily encouragement that makes people believe their ideas are possible, and the proximity that turns strangers into collaborators.



CHRIS HIKO

HELPING GIVE A VOICE TO LOCAL RANGATAHI

Growing up in Glen Innes, Chris Hiko has always had his heart set on working in the community he loves. Years later, with a diploma in teaching and a degree in counselling under his belt, he now mentors and counsels local rangatahi in the very area he credits for raising him.

**“THERE WEREN'T MANY MEN
IN SUPPORT SPACES, ESPECIALLY
FOR YOUNG MALES WHO WERE
HAVING A HARD TIME AND HID THEIR
FEELINGS. I WANTED TO DO MORE.”**

Chris is proud to have grown up humble on Taniwha Street, attending the local schools with the peers he grew up with. The life lessons he learnt have helped shape the work he does today, and he feels inspired to be able to give back.

“In my first year of teaching, I felt like I wasn't giving enough trying to share lessons to a large class. I felt the resources were spread thin. There weren't many men in support spaces, especially for young males who were having a hard time and hid their feelings. I wanted to do more, so I returned to study where I could create a bigger impact.”

After graduating from Laidlaw Bible College with a degree in counselling, he was happy to secure his first job as a youth mentor/counsellor at the Tāmaki Development Community Trust. At the same time he was coaching the 1st XV rugby team back at his old school, Tāmaki College.

The move into coaching was a pivotal change in his journey for Chris, who had represented Tonga's under-20s as a player after rising through the grades in Tāmaki. Under his coaching, Tāmaki College's first XV won the Auckland 1C title and earned promotion to 1B.

“I FEEL BLESSED TO BE IN A POSITION WHERE I CAN REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, TO HELP GIVE THEM A VOICE.”

“After I graduated, I knew I wanted to stay near home and give back to the community that has given me so much. Those rugby achievements were one of my proudest moments, and Tāmaki College has been my backyard and stomping ground most of my life. I just want to breathe life through these boys. It’s important to teach them the tools while they’re young, to know how to share their feelings in a constructive way, because there’s so much happening all around us. I want to show them that there is more honour in giving back to your community through service and positivity. The work I do in this community keeps me grounded; the sport and the boys do too.”

Born in Tonga, Chris and his family migrated to New Zealand when he was seven years old, the youngest of five siblings. He carries his Tongan culture and values with him everywhere he goes and holds ‘respect for others’ in the highest regard.

“My parents were my massive motivation and drive. I just wanted to make them proud. I want to fulfill their dreams of success for me, because as a kid I had other dreams, like things that involved money and freedom. And I see myself in some of these kids. But my dreams quickly changed as I got older. I feel blessed to be taught humility, because we didn’t have much growing up, but we had what we needed. I wore the cheapest rugby boots, no labels or brands, but it didn’t phase me back then because I just wanted to play rugby.”

Tāmaki College was an influential place in his life, and as a newly graduated educator, he returned to spend time as an assistant teacher there. But his view was different this time around, because he saw gaps in the services provided to students who were struggling.

Chris began to envision the support he could provide in that space and returned to study as a counselor.

“I have seen many changes around me, good and bad. I believe we need to prioritise being happy, because some of our kids encounter barriers that are so huge. Then they worry about juggling these barriers with school and home, which can be difficult. Barriers can be badly set up systems, and some of our youth and their families are trying to get by on the bare minimum. Our rugby team has had to fundraise for what others take for granted, like decent rugby gear. We’ve had to jump hoops. Although it’s draining, the end result can be more rewarding because you know the hard work that was put into it.”

As a teen, Chris saw first-hand the uncertainty that difficult times create, and the life experience has helped to equip him with the skills to overcome adversity. As the youngest sibling, he felt the pressure to succeed and do well, and credits his parents’ love and dedication for his successes.

Today, he feels he is in a good space, leading to greater purpose through his faith and service to God. “I’ve been here for almost 30 years. And yes, there’s good and bad everywhere, but you have to know when to do the right thing. I feel blessed to be in a position where I can reach the most vulnerable people in the community, to help give them a voice. I want to offer support where it will mean the most.

Mum would always say to us, ‘Koe mo’ui oku faingata’a, kae ‘oua fo’i he fai lelei- through the challenges that life brings, never stop doing good,’ and I’ve taken her words with me everywhere I go.”

“My parents were my massive motivation and drive. I just wanted to make them proud.”

TĀMAKI COLLEGE STUDENT COLUMN

CHASING GAINS BUT GAINING COMMUNITY

This column was written by Tāmaki College students Alona Lyn Andales, Sina Brown, and Limiteti Telefoni.

From the courts and fields of our local community to stadiums and podiums around the world, Tāmaki College continues to develop local sporting legends.



Pictured: Lorenzo Faulo

Inspired by the likes of Doris Taufateau, Eliesa Katoa, and Maiaakawanakaulani Roos, who walked once our halls before playing for international audiences, the next generation of sporting superstars are ready to follow in their footsteps. In late 2024, a small group of promising Tāmaki College students hit the gym in pursuit of their own personal excellence - little did they know this would spark the beginning of a record-breaking journey.

“THIS IS A SAFE SPACE FOR BUILDING STRONGER BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, AND THOSE IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.”

Among the founding members was Tāmaki College Attendance Counsellor Palekuola Lorenzo “The Juggernaut” Faulo, who discovered his love for weightlifting through a mate at the gym. Lorenzo, who has since been crowned an Australasian Natural

Strongman Champion after achieving a drug-free, world-record breaking 210kg Atlas Stone lift, has now set his sights on developing the next generation of strongmen from our very own neck of the woods. “What drives me to keep going is the next generation – seeing the untapped potential in the hood drives me to push and excel in the sport to create more opportunities.”

Alongside Tāmaki College Sports Coordinator Mike Manu and weightlifting coach Dan, Lorenzo went on to launch a dedicated weightlifting team who were soon ready to test their skills at the local Raise the Bar competition.

With Lorenzo’s support and their whānau cheering from the crowd, many of the Tāmaki boys went on to smash personal bests. For Lorenzo though, the highlight of the event was “seeing [the weightlifting team] become more comfortable in themselves, and knowing that this is a safe space for building stronger bonds of friendship with each other, and those in the wider community.”

For 2023 Tāmaki College graduate Alo Hingano, Raise the Bar was a chance to put his newly developed skills to the test. Alo, who first discovered weightlifting through his schoolmate and friend, Diego Tuala-Tagalao, recalls, “I saw him on Instagram lifting the log, carrying the farmers and all that, and it got me inspired”.

Initially shy, Alo overcame his nerves after joining City Fitness, where he met the now close-knit weightlifting group. What began as a small step into the gym quickly became a journey of self-discipline, confidence, and faith. Once unable to bench 100kg at school, Alo now pushes 120kg and has even surpassed the friends he once looked up to.

“God was really there for me, he really guided me through it,” he says. “When I got that 100kg log, I couldn’t believe it. That was my biggest achievement.”



Pictured: Alo Hingano

Alongside Lorenzo, Diego, and other members of the TC weightlifting crew, Alo reached new heights at the Upper North Island Log and Deadlift Champs 2025. Breaking the National Junior Record with a 100kg log lift, Alo has undeniably made an incredible mark for a young man who was initially afraid to hit the gym.

As for Diego, the schoolmate who first inspired Alo, the 2025 competition saw him set a new benchmark for Tāmaki College weightlifting. At just 17, House Captain Diego claimed gold with a national record-breaking 220kg deadlift. His drive, he explains, comes from the woman who raised and shaped him – his late Nana, Siufaga.

“I didn’t really see it as something to do forever. It wasn’t until my Nana passed that I found that maybe the gym is where I can put all of my stress onto the bar. I put all my stuff – like trauma and stuff I went through – onto the bar.” For Diego, the gym is more than muscle; it’s a source of healing and confidence. “It’s helped me a lot mentally. I used to be shy because my confidence was low,” he says. To him, record-breaking lifts are mean more than

mere numbers on a board; every lift represents strength, resilience, and purpose. Even as he pushes his body further, it’s the emotional strength behind every lift that truly defines him.

As for his record-breaking achievements, Diego admits another special person pushes him to keep going. “My favourite song is One Step at a Time by Jordin Sparks. I listen to tracks like that when I’m lifting, but I make sure I turn it down a bit, so the boys don’t hear it.”

While Lorenzo was inspired by a vision to uplift the next generation, Alo drew strength from faith, and Diego was motivated by the woman who raised him. Although their journeys took different turns, each arrived at the same core truth: strength is about much more than the number of kilograms you can lift above your head. Strength comes from the bonds, the character, and the resilience that you build along the way.



GLORIA TUITUPOU

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

“ I want to learn more about how we can bridge the gaps to create better outcomes for everyone.”

With a mother as an educator and an aunty as the school principal of Tāmaki College, it was only natural for Gloria Tuitupou to follow their footsteps in pursuit of higher education. After graduating from Tāmaki College with a dream to work in the health sector, Gloria went on to gain a Bachelor of Science at Auckland University.

Since then, she has taken on several roles mentoring and advocating as a familiar face in Tāmaki, first as a member of Tāmaki Youth Council, a youth advocate at Tāmaki RISE, and now as a Community Practitioner at Rākau Tautoko.

“Attending college with my mum as a teacher and my aunty as the school principal was interesting. I think I was definitely more hyper aware of how I carried myself, because it would reflect on them. I did play up a little bit in class once though. I thought it was okay because it was my mum, and I thought I’d get away with it, but it didn’t end well,” she says with a laugh. During her university studies, Gloria lived at the university hall, which was uncommon for a young Pasifika woman, but a positive experience.

“It was exciting, because I had always wanted to get out and experience something different, something bigger than what I was used to. It was a good time for me, living on my own and away from my family for the first time.

“ I ENVISION A TĀMAKI WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING AND THEY’RE AWARE OF ALL THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR THEM THROUGH SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION. ”

I was staying in the city and that was really cool in terms of independence, but also very scary for someone who grew up sheltered like me. I learnt a lot about myself during that time though, I think it was crucial for my growth.”

Having worked for years with local rangatahi, Gloria knows first-hand the real-life problems they encounter, and stresses the importance of providing safe space for all voices to be heard.

“Young people are the core of our mahi, so it’s important to be reminded why we’re in service, and who we’re serving. In previous experiences I’ve had, youth work can feel like we’re working ‘to them’, as opposed to ‘with them’, so I’m constantly trying to be active in that mindset and that practice.

I think if I was a young person in high school, I would have loved to have someone relatable in the youth age bracket to talk to and not feel like I have to censor myself.”

For the future of Tāmaki, she dreams of a community that is well connected, not only relationship wise, but with services and organisations too.

“I envision a Tāmaki where young people feel a strong sense of belonging and they’re aware of all the resources that are available for them through support and collaboration. I want them to cement their sense of belonging and identity here. I think that’s

important with all the regeneration happening and the new people coming to the area.”

Gloria enjoys working in Pacific communities, but at some point, she hopes to return to Tonga to implement the skills and knowledge she has accumulated through her learnings to help create better health outcomes in the Islands.

“There are so many areas that I would love to work in that are taboo in our culture, like mental health, sexual health, and reproductive health. That’s why I chose this pathway, because I love science. I want to learn more about how we can bridge the gaps to create better outcomes for everyone.”

Gloria is grateful to her mother for instilling the value of education into her upbringing and fostering her love for community and family through humility and service.

“I’m an only child, so my mum and I have a really strong relationship. The support from my mother in every sense of the word has been so integral in my life. My aunty as well, she’s been like a second mum and always so supportive.

All this greatness stems from my grandma, I look up to her so much. In my family there are so many strong and intelligent women. My grandma is one of them, and so is my mum and I guess that’s me too.”

HEALTHY HOMES, HAPPY PEOPLE

MEET JOE WATENE

For Joe, working in the Maintenance Team at Tāmaki Housing is about much more than just fixing things; it's about making a real difference in people's day-to-day lives.

With a background as a Tenancy Manager at Tāmaki Housing prior to joining the maintenance team, Joe brings a deep understanding of tenant relationships to his work.

"There's sometimes a bit of reluctance from tenants to get work done. We totally get it. Allowing tradespeople into your home can feel daunting. But part of our job is building those relationships and helping families feel comfortable," Joe says.

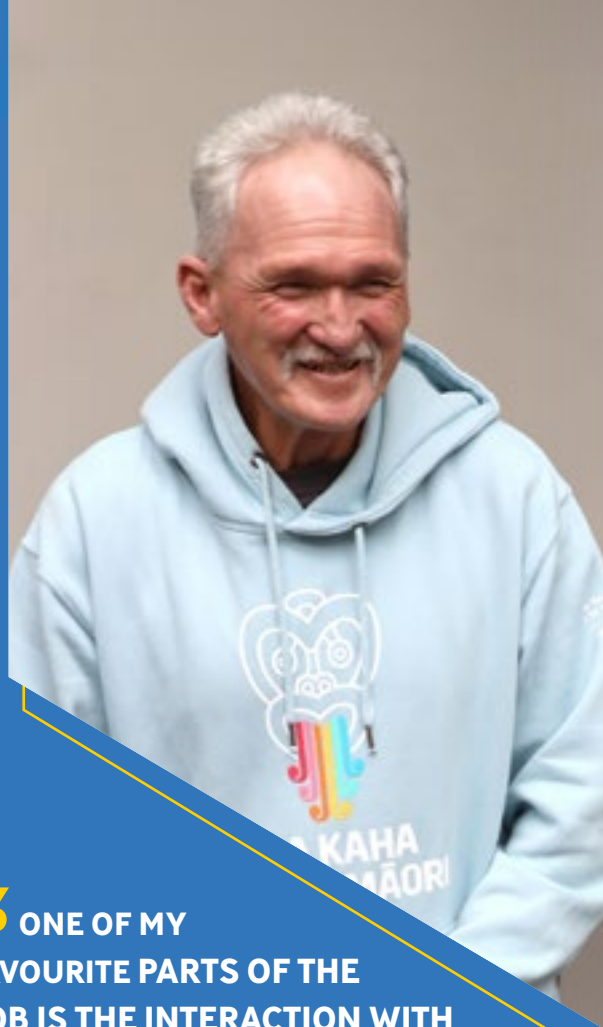
Tāmaki Housing's maintenance team work alongside a team of contractors at Spencer Henshaw, who handle the physical repairs. The team at Spencers has worked across the Tāmaki area for over 30 years, and handle all sorts of requests, from carpet replacement, painting, broken windows, electrical work, and more.

Joe explains that every job begins with understanding what the home needs and how the team can best support tenants to get the work done with the least disruption possible. Ultimately, tenant wellbeing is always front and centre.

"There's a whole crew of us working behind the scenes who genuinely care about each other, our tenants, and the mahi we do. It's a satisfying space to be in because you can see the positive outcomes every day."

"When the work is done, especially in homes where there's been more significant maintenance required, you can see a huge difference in how well the home meets their needs," says Joe.

"The improvement in their wellbeing is really clear. When someone feels safe where they live, it changes everything. It gives them comfort and a better quality of life."



**“ONE OF MY
FAVOURITE PARTS OF THE
JOB IS THE INTERACTION WITH
PEOPLE. THAT HUMAN CONNECTION
MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”**

For Joe and the maintenance team, there's no better feeling than knowing their work has helped make that possible. His advice to whānau? Don't be afraid to reach out.

"If something goes wrong or needs fixing, there's no whakamā, no shame, no embarrassment. We're here to help. We only do a few visits to properties each year, so if things aren't reported, we might not know. Please give us a call anytime. We'll work with you to get it sorted."

If you are a Tāmaki Housing tenant, you can report maintenance issues in your home by calling the team on 0800 521 555 and press 1. Alternatively, you can report online via our website here:



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TE ORO





THE IMPORTANCE OF CO-DESIGN IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The official sod-turning ceremony for Tāmaki Regeneration's (TRC's) Epping Evandale N2.4 site recently marked a significant milestone in the future of housing opportunities in Glen Innes.

“BRINGING TOGETHER CULTURAL LEADERSHIP, CONSTRUCTION EXPERTISE AND A SHARED VISION, YOU GET DEVELOPMENTS THAT TRULY DELIVER FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.”

The ceremony brought together Hon. Chris Penk MP, Minister for Building and Construction, alongside our key project partners Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, NZ Strong Group, and RCP. More than the beginning of construction, it was a moment to showcase partnership in action, a reflection of the intentional, collaborative journey we are on together to build a stronger, more connected Tāmaki community.

“Choosing the right partners is key to the success of our housing developments. Bringing together cultural



leadership, construction expertise and a shared vision, you get developments that truly deliver for the community for years to come” says TRC's General Manager for Development and Construction, Daniel Henderson.

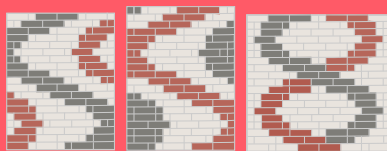
At the heart of this development is a deep commitment to co-design with Mana Whenua. From the earliest stages, this has shaped the project's vision, ensuring that Māori identity, aspirations, and cultural values are woven into its plans.

The influence of co-design can be seen in the architectural choices, the use of native planting, the selection of paving and materials, and even in the colour palette of the homes. Guided by mātanga of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, these elements will reflect the land, and the whakapapa of those who have long held connection to the whenua. This intentional cultural integration aims to foster a sense of belonging and pride, not just for iwi, but for the wider community who will call this neighbourhood home.



HE HUE, HE KUPENGA

The hue (gourd) vine is imagined as an intertwined kupenga (fishing net), with Ōrea (long-finned eel) and Kātaha (yellow-eyed mullet) swimming amongst the vine.



TANGAROA ARA RAU - TANGAROA OF MANY PATH

Here Tangaroa personifies eels which move sinuously by so many paths that no matter the number caught, many are sure to evade the eeler

RAUMATI
SUMMER

NGAHURU
AUTUMN

TAKURUA
WINTER

KŌANGA
SPRING

HE HUE, HE KUPENGA (STAIRWELLS)

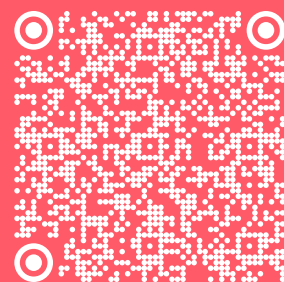
Each stairwell is customised with a background shade to represent the seasons

Working with NZ

Strong Group as the build partner ensures the delivery of this vision is in capable hands. With proven expertise in high-quality, community-centred construction, the NZ Strong team bring the experience required to deliver complex developments with integrity and care.

This project demonstrates that affordability, efficiency and cultural identity are not mutually exclusive but rather deeply intertwined. As the N2.4 development begins to take shape, it will not only provide much-needed homes but also reflect local history in Tāmaki's built environment for generations to come.

More information about the Epping Evandale N2.4 development, including architectural and site plans, can be found on our website here:

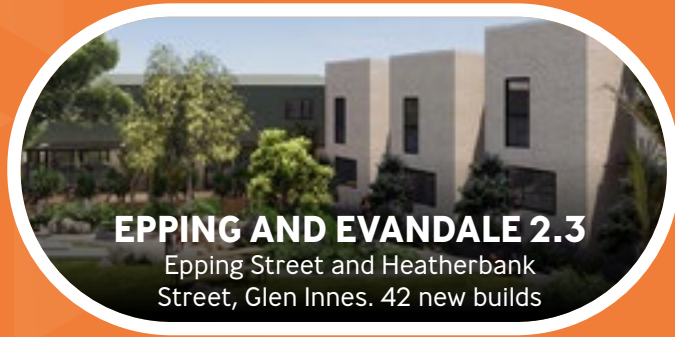
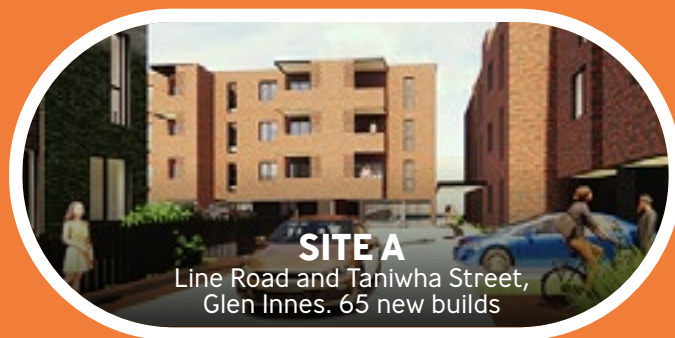
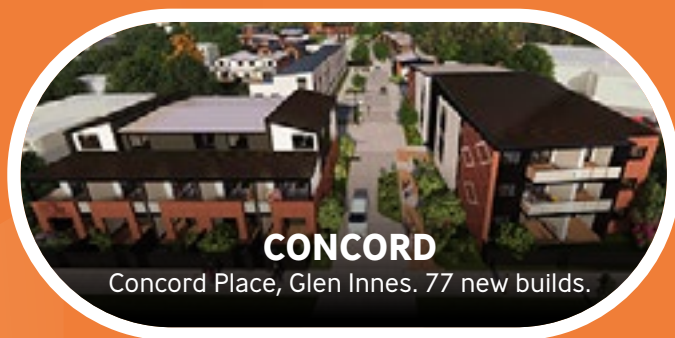
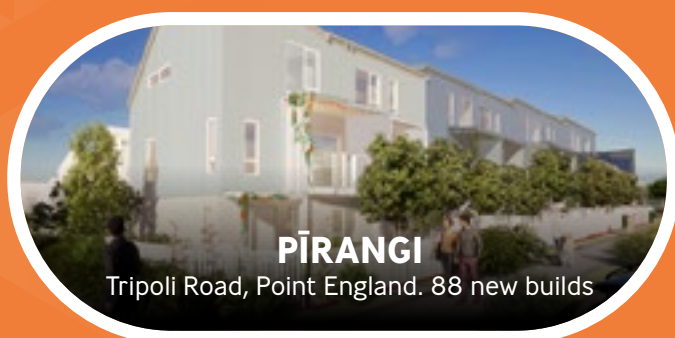


HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATES IN TĀMAKI

Tāmaki is evolving in exciting ways. As many of our current housing developments reach key milestones and new projects prepare to break ground, the momentum of construction is already having a real impact. High-quality homes designed with whānau in mind, our new builds aim to genuinely meet the needs of our diverse community.

We are partnering with trusted builders to deliver 10,500 new homes in Tāmaki, re-purposing old social housing buildings that are no longer fit for purpose.

Creating a mix of social and affordable housing, we are committed to supporting lasting improvements in housing, income, employment, health, and education across Glen Innes, Panmure and Point England. As part of this work, Auckland Transport, WaterCare and Auckland Council are supporting the upgrade of many of our local roads and utilities, ensuring they are fit for purpose. More information about what can be expected around these upgrades in the community can be found on the news section of our website.

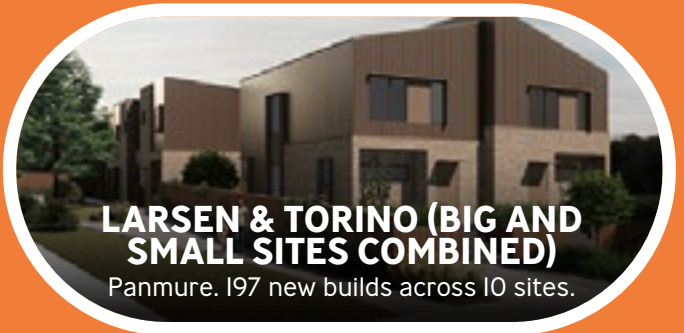
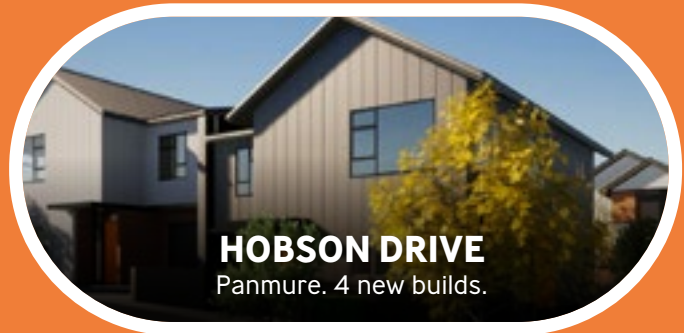
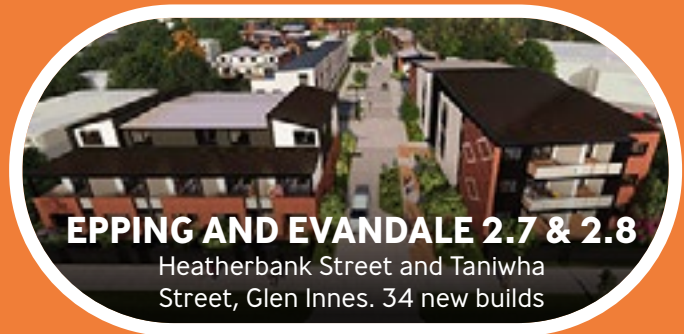




More information about upcoming community upgrades can be found here.



More information about our current and upcoming developments can be found here.





MAI TĀMAKI

Mai Tāmaki is produced for the people of Tāmaki about the people of Tāmaki.
The magazine is published by Tāmaki Regeneration Company.

The proposed Tāmaki Regeneration as depicted in this publication is indicative only and is intended to give an idea of what the final Tāmaki Regeneration might be like. Some parts of the development are still at an early planning stage and the final development therefore may differ materially from that shown in this publication. Some applicable regulatory consents and approvals are yet to be obtained. Some of the photographs and artwork in this publication are included for artistic purposes only and may not be accurate representations or reproductions of actual places or facilities at or in the vicinity of the proposed Tāmaki Regeneration.

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