

Village Managers Report - AGM 2024

Good evening, everyone,

This year has brought notable changes to our village, and I am excited to share some highlights.

We warmly welcome our new café, "The Gaff." They faced some initial challenges with their liquor license affecting dinner service, but they are now open for dinner. In other food news, the Village Butcher has closed but will reopen as "Wholesale Meats." Ruby Red has also expanded impressively, providing much-needed space, now with their dinner service just in time for our summer live music events on the café strip.

We've encountered some hurdles with Auckland Transport (AT) as they work determining the best route for a cycleway connecting Onehunga, Mangere, and the airport. They are actively engaging with the community throughout this process, and I encourage everyone to participate.

In terms of village upgrades, we successfully revamped our planter boxes to minimize damage from vehicles. The Naomi and Bill Kirk gardens have also been cleared and replanted, enhancing safety and visibility for everyone. Additionally, we replaced the park benches outside Keith's Barbers after they were damaged by a vehicle.

Kids Markets: In response to local families' requests, we've scheduled our kids' market for November 17th. Perfect for a pre-Christmas declutter, Stall bookings are coming in and we already have 15 stalls registered.

Hanging Baskets: These have now been replanted and will be hung on Tuesday 29th November I'd like to extend a special thank you to Sepali from Mangere Floral for generously donating the plants and her time to plant them all for us.

Mangere Bridge Fun Run and Half Marathon: This year marked our biggest year yet for this event, which was amazing. Was great to see so many people out enjoying this event. Unfortunately, we had a medical emergency during the event. Christian suffered a cardiac arrest and, sadly, passed away a week later. We've kept in close contact with his family, and many event members attended the funeral.

Quiz Night: We're organizing another quiz night to raise funds for community assets. Last year's event helped fund a defibrillator now installed at Fresh Choice.

Santa Parade: Join us for this year's festivities on Thursday, December 5th, from 4-8 pm. Enjoy free activities for all ages, with the parade starting at 6 pm from the War Memorial Hall and proceeding down Coronation Road. This event always brings the community together and attracts many visitors.

Family Festival: We're thrilled to revive the festival after its hiatus due to COVID-19 and funding challenges. Was such an amazing day and we're excited about its potential for future growth in our 2025 events calendar.

Chairperson update: Pauline Anderson will be stepping down as chairperson at the AGM We will welcome a new Chairperson in her place. It will be sad to see Pauline leave; she has been an amazing chairperson for the past 10 years and has achieved many wonderful things for our village. Her attitude and determination to make things happen will be missed. We all wish her all the best and I'm sure we will all still see her around from time to time and we will keep in touch.

I've also divided my responsibilities and brought on Corinne Cameron, a passionate local mother, to assist with village duties. Together, we are committed to achieving great things for our community.

Unfortunately, we will lose our office space in the village on January 15, 2024, as the new owner plans to start a new business in that location. We are actively searching for a new space and will keep everyone updated once we have confirmation.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of the year. Here's to some sunny days and warmer weather ahead!

Thank you.

Kate Adams

Village Manager

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