

JULY, 2014

## EDITORIAL

Matariki - the Māori New Year - starts with a joint government-Auckland Council commitment to focus our collaborative actions in the year ahead on improving youth education, training and employment; improving health; improving housing supply and quality; raising educational achievement; and improving economic outcomes for South Auckland.

The 2013 Census data indicates that 26.6% of the population in TSI area is aged 0-14 years.

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A participant uses a digital stylus to explore his artistic talents at the July Geek Camp.

## LEADING THE WAY WITH DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES

Accelerating Auckland is a programme that focuses on increasing digital capability where it is most needed – in under-served communities. Underpinning their work is a focus on linking with community, public and private sector entities to support local success.

“Our goal is to connect young people, families and the whole community to the digital world by showing hands-on how digital tools fit in everyday life. We believe digital skills directly impact success in education and access to skilled work” explains Judith Speight, CE of project leaders Accelerating Aotearoa.

Supported by The Southern Initiative, and under the Accelerating Auckland umbrella, there are three workstreams that support the link between digital capability and community well-being:

- Digital Foundations - preparing preschoolers for school
- Geek Camp - free digital school holiday programmes

- Park Jam - free digital community events.

Geek Camp was first launched in January 2014. With support from The Trusts Community Foundation, Samsung, Auckland Council, Auckland Libraries, Fresh Gallery Ōtara and Tomizone, a further 50 students from Manurewa intermediate schools attended the July school holiday programme. The next camp is scheduled for January 2015.

Geek Camps provide opportunities to explore digital creativity, develop skills and support pathways to digital jobs through mentoring and collaboration.

To find out more, visit [www.acceleratingauckland.co.nz](http://www.acceleratingauckland.co.nz) or [www.facebook.com/accelakl](https://www.facebook.com/accelakl)



Members of the Digital Foundations think tank with pilot facility representatives at the programme launch on 24 June 2014.

## GROWING EARLY DIGITAL LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Accelerating Auckland has formed a think tank of community-based organisations, with the purpose of increasing access to digital skills for preschoolers in high-need communities.

“We could see that many of the early learning services in South Auckland were under-served in terms of access to effective early digital learning resources and were concerned about the impact that

might have on children’s educational success in the longer term,” explains Judith Speight, CE of Accelerating Aotearoa, who are leading the project with the support of Auckland Council and the TSI.

The think tank has developed the Digital Foundations programme, which will promote effective digital teaching and learning practice for children at early childhood education (ECE) centres in the TSI area. During 2014, they will conduct a survey of ECE services in the area; deliver a pilot programme with six facilities based in Ōtara and Māngere; and run a research programme to measure outputs. Think tank members include Good Seed Trust, Fountain of Knowledge Trust, Auckland and Manukau Kindergarten Associations, Auckland Council, Kuddles, COMET and ERO.

## TSI INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM WORKSHOPS

The newly-formed The Southern Initiative Infrastructure Consortium Māori and Pasifika Trades Training held their first workshops on 2 July and 28 July in Manukau. As announced in June, the group is one of 12 government-funded consortia across New Zealand. The consortium’s Governance Board/Consortium Partners have been confirmed as the TSI, Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Alliance Health Plus, Papakura Marae, Downer New Zealand, Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction, Higgins Group, NorthPower, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, Connexis, C-Me Mentoring, Solomon Group, and the AIMHI schools; with support from Contact

Energy, Electrix New Zealand (Utilitech Training Centre), Hawkins Group, Leighton Contractors, MSD and COMET Auckland.

Next steps include ensuring that training and support is closely tailored to employers’ needs; developing graduate profiles; and working on recruitment material.

**Are you or do you know a Māori or Pasifika person aged 18-34 who is ready to take on the challenge of helping to build Auckland’s infrastructure?**

If so, please contact Graeme at Solomon Group (0800 747 687 or [graeme@solomongroup.co.nz](mailto:graeme@solomongroup.co.nz)) or John at C-Me Mentoring (09 270 4071 or [john.kotoisuva@c-me.org.nz](mailto:john.kotoisuva@c-me.org.nz)).



## UNLEASHING POTENTIAL IN ŌTARA YOUTH



On Thursday nights at Tupu Youth Library in Ōtara, a group of young people can be found busy studying as part of the inspiring Unleashing the Vault project. Guided by volunteer tutors and mentors, they're fulfilling their personal study aspirations to reach their academic potential.

Nadeen Papali'i, a high school teacher from Ōtara, coordinates the weekly study workshop which she started as a way to address low academic achievement that she

observed, especially amongst Pasifika high school students.

"The idea came from the story of our God-given talents, and bringing forth fruit from those talents," she explains.

The workshops have been running for three years, and are offered for Year 9 to first year university students, creating a space and a culture which promotes and celebrates academic achievement. Starting with a small group of eight students, there are now 93 registered students that attend. Nadeen has received great feedback from parents, who have seen their children become more focused and confident. The free workshops are made possible through the support of their volunteers and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate, and the partnership with Tupu Youth Library.

## A PAPA KĀINGA FOR ŌTARA

The Kokiri Te Rahuitanga Charitable Trust papakāinga development in Alexander Crescent, Ōtara was included in the first tranche of the Special Housing Areas (SHAs) announced by the Minister of Housing in October 2013. An additional area on the north-west side of the road has also been included in the proposed third tranche of SHAs announced in May this year. The Kokiri Trust is a not-for-profit group providing affordable and social housing.

The trust is looking to provide 148 affordable dwellings including 4 and 5 bedroom homes on its six-hectare site and social services to its community of interest – predominantly Māori and Pacific communities in Ōtara. The development is modelled on papakāinga principles and will include kaumātua housing,



whānau housing, whānau whānui housing, rangatahi housing and other community resources such as vegetable gardens and social services.

The project fits well with Auckland Council's priorities of increasing the quality and supply of housing in Auckland. The project also contributes to council's targets of increasing access to quality and affordable housing for Māori and Pacific communities in Auckland. The broader public outcomes of this project are positive for the local community and the TSI continues to support the work of the trust.

## TANU GAGO, PHOTOGRAPHER AND ARTIST

South Auckland based photographer Tanu Gago was commissioned as the artist for the 2014 Auckland Festival of Photography Annual Fine Arts Commission by Sacred Hill. Each year, the festival selects an Auckland-based photographer for the commission.

Tanu, who is based in Papatoetoe, is well known for his photographic and film work.

His culture is one of the driving forces behind his artistic expression. Born in Samoa and raised in South Auckland, Tanu is part of a large family with a diverse cultural background. He draws on his unique perspective to create images concerned with issues of representation around contemporary Pacific experiences. They examine facets of his own cultural heritage and look at aspects of identity, gender, sexuality and popular culture amongst Pacific communities. Tanu says he was grateful to be offered the opportunity to produce a new body of work for the festival – which was featured during June 2014 at Silo 6 gallery on Auckland's waterfront.

Titled *Tama'ita'i Pasifika Mao'i*, 2014 – which translates as "real Pacific women" – the work explores Pacific female identity. It is exciting to hear that Tanu has been invited to exhibit the new work at a photography festival in Japan, later this year.

Tanu Gago with his commissioned work for the Auckland Festival of Photography. Photography by Ngariki Nagatae.



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The implication of this on how we deliver our services, and to whom, is always in our minds. Ensuring we educate our young people to meet the government's NCEA Level 2 targets and beyond is essential for our largely Pacific, Māori and Indian population. When they leave school, we will focus on connecting them to jobs with major employers through our Infrastructure Consortium.

Secure jobs and apprenticeships in electricity, telecommunications, water and wastewater, and civil engineering (e.g. building roads) is the infrastructure connection which underpins the growth economy. By next Matariki, we will have expanded into the construction sector, working with our industry partners.

We welcome Rob Mitford-Burgess, a well-respected leader in education from Papakura, as our first Relationships Manager. As Auckland Council develops our next 10-year budget (the Long Term Plan 2015-2025), significant resources need to be redirected to South Auckland to unleash the talents of our young people and enhance the growth and productivity of Auckland. The new government could well consider a special cabinet committee on South Auckland to bring a whole-of-government focus to the issues and opportunities for our community.



John McEnteer  
General Manager  
The Southern Initiative

## AUCKLAND SOUTH CORRECTIONS FACILITY BOOSTS LOCAL ECONOMY



Construction in progress at Wiri.  
Photograph courtesy of SecureFuture.

The new prison site at Wiri continues to be busy with building work, with an average of 400 people on site every day working to bring its 29 buildings to completion.

Comprised of new cell blocks, training, education and health buildings, the new \$300 million, 960-bed men's prison is due to open next May. The facility is being designed, financed, built, operated and maintained by the SecureFuture consortium through a Public Private Partnership.

"The building project has also provided a huge boost to the local economy, with businesses within 10 kilometres having won sub-contracts worth \$36.6 million," said Corrections Minister Anne Tolley.

Once operational, there will be approximately 250 employees in a wide variety of positions, providing opportunities for the local community. The new prison director, Mike Inglis, has been appointed, and recruitment for the majority of roles is scheduled to begin in August.

The new prison will have two names. Its formal name is Auckland South Corrections Facility. It will also be known as Kohuora – which translates as "coming out of the mist into the new world of the living" – a name recommended by mana whenua iwi, Te Akitai Waiohua.



## MOU WITH CANCER SOCIETY AUCKLAND

In early July 2014, The Southern Initiative signed a memorandum of understanding with Cancer Society Auckland (CSA).

The MOU is based on two Smokefree targets that are part of the Auckland Plan: that all parks and reserves, children's play areas and other public spaces will be Smokefree by 2025; and that the level of residents 15 years and over that smoke will fall below 3% in the TSI area by 2025.

It is well known that Smokefree policies can play a significant role in reducing cancer inequalities and preventable cancers caused by tobacco. However, smoking rates in the TSI area are the highest in Auckland and effective action is needed to reach the targets.

The TSI is pleased to partner with CSA and are already collaborating on a range of Smokefree strategies. It's About Tamariki is a project about developing a Smokefree bylaw model appropriate to the South Auckland community with a high level of community engagement. Another goal of the TSI is to establish a Smokefree Manukau precinct. Both of these projects aim to de-normalise smoking in The Southern Initiative area and help to create a future with less cancer for our tamariki and mokopuna.