

**A** Auckland Pride  
Festival 2026

1—28 February  
2026



**NGĀ URI E!**  
Descendants of a Movement

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Aunty Alice** (she/her) (Ngāpuhi)  
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Auckland Pride Members inform the organisation's directions as they hold voting rights at our Annual General Meeting, with the opportunity to nominate and elect other Members to serve on the Board.

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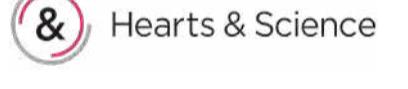
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# PRIDE PLANNER

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## ON FOR THE WHOLE OF FEBRUARY

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 P.24 Gemma vs The Normal Warmers  
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 P.44 Pride Lives Here: An Exhibition of Auckland's Queer History  
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 Inside the Closet - Fashion through the drag lens

## 1 FEBRUARY

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 P.45 Soft Sensory Reset  
 P.45 Express Yourself: Badge Making for the Whānau

## 4 FEBRUARY

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## 6 FEBRUARY

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P.45 Soft Sensory Reset

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# NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

## Welcome to Auckland Pride Festival 2026

'Tēnei au, tēnei au, tēnei au, ko te hokai nei i taku tapuwae,  
Ko te hōkai-nuku, ko te hokai-rangi, ko te hokai A tō tupuna a Tanenuiarangi

i pikitia ai ki te rangi-tū-hāhā, ki Tihi-o-Manono,

I rokohina atu rā ko lo-te-matua-kore anake

I riro iho ai nga Kete o te Wānanga: Ko te kete Tu-a-uri, Ko te Kete Tu-atea, Ko te Kete Aronui,

Ka tiritiria ka poupoua ki Papatūānuku

Ka puta te ira tangata ki te whaiao

Ki Te Ao Mārama!"

Stepping forward on the path laid by those before, on the pathways of earth and sky,

following the ascent of Tāne-nui-ā-rangi,

who climbed to the highest realms

and returned with the kete of knowledge.

Ko te kete tuauri.

Ko te kete tuatea.

Ko te kete aronui.

These baskets were not gathered for one person alone. They were brought back to be shared, anchored into Papatūānuku, so that humanity might emerge from Te Pō into Te Ao Mārama. From darkness into light. From singularity, isolation and claustrophobia into relationship, light and abundance.

**Ngā Uri E!** Descendants of a Movement; takes its name from this understanding. That to be an uri is not simply to inherit, but to carry forward. To hold responsibility as well as possibility. To remember that everything we create today stands on foundations built by others, within a shared and ever evolving whakapapa.

Throughout the pages that follow, you'll find artists and events that honour those who came before while imagining futures deserved. From artist residencies and world-class performance, to local gatherings and workshops, to community building and celebrations all across Tāmaki Makaurau. This programme reflects a festival which is not just a moment in time, but a living movement shaped by many hands, many bodies, many acts of courage.

As artists, organisers, and communities, we often reach instinctively for Te Kete Aronui, the basket of creativity, innovation and expression. This year, as we mark forty years since Homosexual Law Reform,

Auckland Pride asks us first to return to Te Kete Tuauri, the basket of peace, ritual, and spiritual grounding. A kete that reminds us that creation is inseparable from care.

Within the mātauranga of Te Kete Tuauri, we understand that as uri, we arrive in this world already loved. Across our waka traditions we hear this echoed: in Tainui, we speak of Hani and Puna who brought forth te pou taha tāne and te pou taha wāhine; in Te Arawa, we speak of Māhoranui-a-atea and Te Mangu; in Takitimu, of Io the parentless, of Māreikura and Whatukura. These atua, this deep knowing, existed long before Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

We share this to remind us all: before there was an earth mother and a sky father—there were queens.

To our kuini, our aunties, as well as our uncles, our sisters, our brothers, our trans and non-binary queer elders.

To the organisers who held the line.

To the artists who continue.

To those showing up now, carrying the kaupapa forward.

None of us arrived here by accident,

**Ngā Uri E!** We are the descendants.

## REMARKS FROM AUCKLAND PRIDE CO-CHAIRS

**Bhenjamin Goodsir & Katy Thomas**

Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, ngā uri o te kaupapa. Nau mai, haere ki ngā mahi toi, ki ngā hui, ki ngā whakanuitanga o ā hapori katoa.

This year's theme, *Ngā Uri E!*, calls us to stand in the footprints laid before us. Not to repeat them, but to learn from them and carry their wairua forward with care. To be uri is to inherit responsibility as much as possibility: to remember those who held the line, and to keep making a way for those who will come after.

As Co-Chairs of Auckland Pride's Board, we hold this organisation in trust for its members and for our Takatāpui and Rainbow Communities. Our role is kaitiakitanga, it is to manaaki the kaupapa, to tend what sustains us, and to protect what must endure beyond any single festival or any one team of kaimahi. We carry responsibilities for safety and wellbeing, for sustainability and accountability, for structure and decision-making that strengthens the movement and supports our sustainability not just for this season, but for the long road ahead.

Within Pride we speak of Te Niho Taniwha: the shark's tooth that turns so it remains sharp. Developed by te Rōpū Māori, this kaupapa Māori framework guides the organisation in working in a Kaupapa Māori ways. In our governance, the Board, te Rōpū Māori, and our Kaimahi each take their turn to meet the pressures of the moment, while the membership is held at the centre. It reminds us that sharpness is readiness: grounded protection, humble service, and steady care.

We honour the people who carry this mahi with steadiness, aroha, and each huge creative talent. We affirm our kaimahi leadership team, Hāmiora Bailey, Vic Walsh, and Blaise Clotworthy, and acknowledge the strength around them, including Bunty Bou and Katty Atafu Mayo, whose support and care holds so much of

what the public never sees. We also honour the leadership of our Rōpū Māori, led by Grayson Goffe and Pounamu Rurawhe, alongside Whaea Alice, Whaea Eunice, and Koka Fleur. Their guidance keeps us anchored in tikanga, in relationship, and in the whakapapa of this place.

We acknowledge, too, the living heart of Karangahape Road, the street that has held our communities when the world would not; the artists, organisers, kuini and kaumātua, the whānau made and found, the nights of joy and the days of struggle. Te Rori is not just a location in the programme it is a whare kāinga for many of our communities, and a reminder that we thrive through connection

And we do not pretend this work is finished. Pride is not an event we complete; it is a fire we keep alight. In the face of increasingly organised opposition to queer rights, we must return again and again to whakawhanaungatanga - to build connection, to strengthen each other, to stay clear in our values and brave in our presence.

On a personal note from Bhen, this will be my fourth and final festival as a Board member and Co-Chair. Over the past four years, Auckland Pride has been reshaped and re-grounded: in values, in place, and in the commitments that will outlast any one of us. It has been a deep privilege to serve. We look with excitement toward what comes next, as new faces take up this mantle, as uri of a movement that continues.

If you feel the call of *Ngā Uri E!*, we invite you to step closer. Become a member. Consider putting yourself forward for the Board. Auckland Pride belongs to our communities, and it is carried by those willing to ensure the niho remains sharp.

*Ngā Uri E! Ko tātou ngā uri. Ko tātou ngā kanohi ora. Tihei mauri ora!*

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# 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMOSEXUAL LAW REFORM

Hāmiora Bailey

Tēnei au tēnei au,  
hei uri o te kaupapa,  
hei kawe kōrero mō te hunga ora  
me te hunga kua ngaro ki te pō.  
I was not there in 1986, but I am here now  
because of it.

I am an uri of the movement. An uri of the kuini, queens, women, unionists, journalists, organisers, sex workers, club kids, and mischief makers who held the line long before the law caught up. An uri of Karangahape Road where community is never optional.

To be an uri is not simply to inherit a moment, but to carry a lineage of cultural practice, of dignity, of care, and responsibility. In Aotearoa, that lineage runs deep: from resistance for land and language, to national hīkoi and whenua occupations. Across generations, Tangata Whenua have risen again and again to assert motuhaketanga (sovereignty) and to imagine futures beyond settler colonialism.

At the heart of these movements were takatāpui. As Tā Lee Smith reminds us, takatāpui and tangata ira whiti were present at Waitangi, within Ngā Tamatoa, and central to Gay Liberation. These struggles were never separate. Māori resistance and takatāpui resistance share whakapapa. They share uri. They are part of the same long movement toward dignity, freedom, and life.

For the 2026 Festival, we mark forty years since Homosexual Law Reform in Aotearoa. In 1986, a door was forced open, ending the criminalisation of sex between men. While it was a hard-won victory that brought legal recognition, it did not bring our ultimate safety.

And yet that opening mattered. Through it, generations kept pushing: the Prostitution Reform Act in 2003; marriage equality in 2013; the removal of the CD4 threshold for people living with HIV, enabling access to antiretroviral treatment and leading to the principle of U=U; public funding of PrEP in 2018; the banning of conversion practices in 2022; and the introduction of self-identification for gender markers through the BDMRR Act in 2023.

Each moment widened the space first created in 1986. None completed the work, but together they trace a lineage of persistence and determination carried forward by those who refused to stop. Even as battles around puberty blockers, healthcare, trans sport and bodily autonomy emerge at the forefront today, as the far-right stokes transphobia, fueling it as distraction while committing their many atrocities.

The conditions our forebears faced are not the conditions we face now, and nor should they be. Responsibility does not mean replication. We do not honour them by attempting to become them, or by rehearsing their scripts as if history has stood still. Their courage was shaped by their time, just as ours must be shaped by this one. To be an uri is not to emulate, but to recognise the specificity of what they carried, what they risked, and what they made possible. Our task is not to look backwards for instruction alone, but to respond clearly and bravely to the realities before us now.

This year, as we mark forty years since Homosexual Law Reform, Auckland Pride asks us first to return to Te Kete Tuauri, the basket of peace, love, ritual, and spiritual grounding. A kete that reminds us that creation is inseparable from care. That our gathering must be held intentionally through wairua and that movements endure not only through the visibility or spectacle of their outputs, but through the small rituals enacted through principle, process and purpose.

Here at Auckland Pride, we understand ourselves not simply as a festival, but as a movement. A place where resistance and celebration do not collide, but coalesce. I honour Grayson Goffe, Pounamu Rurawhe, Te Rōpū Māori, our Board and Vic Walsh, Blaise Clotworthy, Katty Atafu-Mayo and Bunty Bou who have entrenched and insisted that we are accountable to this whakapapa beyond naming a theme, but living it and embedding this ongoing work into the core of Auckland Pride's strategic direction.

Within Te Ao Māori, we understand that

creation is not linear, te pakanga and te wehenga (struggle and separation) sit alongside renewal. From te pō to te ao mārama, from rupture to relation. Homosexual Law Reform belongs within this arc, not as an ending but as another arrival. What followed and what follows still, asks for care, vigilance, imagination, planning, and collaboration from us all.

The elders I honour in my everyday continuation of this work did not lead neat lives. They lived necessary ones, proudly their own. Through my Aunty Sande Mareroa-Gates, I grew up with the understanding that none of this arrived easily. That change was carried on backs already bent by grief, institutional discrimination, and social othering. That our queer joy was hard won, and often fleeting.

My Aunty Sande, like me, found her community on Karangahape Road. From her, I learned that family is not only who you are born to, but also who supports you to flourish from within. I am her uri. And through her, I learned that whakapapa extends beyond blood, into community and into place.

Forty years on, the work is unfinished. Violence has not disappeared. Inequity and facism remain patterned within the fibre of western civilisation and settler colonialism. Our trans and non-binary whānau continue to bear disproportionate harm. Law reform did not deliver liberation on its own. People did. And still, people must. As the descendants of these movements we cannot only remember these victories; we must also ask ourselves what it means to enact our own, valiantly.

Ka huri ake mātou ki ngā tini mate,

ki ngā kāhui takatāpui nā rātou i para te huarahi kia puta mai ai mātou ki te ao mārama.

E ora tonu ana ā koutou mahi i roto i a mātou ngā uri e.

Rātou ki a rātou, tātou ki a tātou.

Tihei mauri ora.



Stop

your snivelling

creek-bed.



This year, Wheke Fortress carries the smouldering ahi of Te Timatanga through Te Kura Raumati. A summer-long curriculum and a house of learning, this group exchanged and prioritised collective growth over traditional career mentorship. During the seasonal cycle of Hineraumati's warmer months, our five resident artists have rolled out the whāriki to deepen their relational practice of whakawhanaungatanga, contemplating what both the people and the place of Tāmaki inspire them to say. Te Kura Raumati has revealed curiosities, questions, and shared experiences navigating self and community in Te Ao Hurihuri.

Hone Taiao (1922-2008)

Te Kura Raumati has culminated in the creation of an experimental film, an offering and culmination of Auckland Pride's annual Te Timatanga artist residency. Created in whanaungatanga with resident Tuakana and Wheke Fortress co-director, Jessica 'Coco' Hansell, the experimental film titled, *URBAN TANIWHA*, speaks to the five takatāpui artists' whakapapa, tuakiritanga, and whanaungatanga, reflecting a regenerative, re-contextualised response to the aroha shared during Te Kura Raumati's curriculum.

Over the course of the last three months, our rōpū have been sheltered by the rising heat of many whare within our hāpori. We have allowed ourselves the time to slow down, reset, and listen to the teachings and practices of Hineraumati. Each whare has generously offered their manaaki during the cycles of our kura. Located in Onehunga and managed by Connie, Lara, and the Factory Theatre whānau, this blackbox theatre space provided a real chance to deepen our whakawhanaungatanga through weekly wānanga and play.

LAKA gallery and community space is also located in Onehunga and, like Factory Theatre, is considered another spatial sibling of Wheke Fortress (the relational interconnectedness of these spaces is a big part of what makes the neighbourhood so special). Our tangata tiaki Susana hosted a full day of Rongoā Māori and Mirimiri, facilitated by Whaea Wai-Sharne and Whaea Meesh from Maiden Tāmaki, a Kaimirimiri and Kairongoā Traditional Māori Healing kaupapa. Jars of tātarāmoa, kawakawa, and kumarahou, alongside the bark of tānekaha, filled the LAKA fale. Each of our experiences was wildly different – portals opening and Tūpuna singing, some chit-chat about the future (and some too sacred to share in

writing). We left with our puku full of whakapapa taiao.

On Maungakiekie sits another type of wānanga portal, too: Stardome Planetarium. Our good kare, Oriwa Karena-Lockyer, is a Māori Astronomer at the observatory, and they created a lecture for our Kura Raumati group especially. Leading us through the most incredible haerenga, navigating the heavens of Ranginui; maramataka, whetū, and Te Ao Tūkupu, we learnt about the cosmos through a Te Ao Māori lens and how that informs us in our daily lives as thinkers and creatives. Our experience with Te Ao Tirotiro, hosted by Te Rōpū Māori of Auckland Pride, took us on a hīkoi of collective resistance and regenerative movements. Our journey started at Hobson's graves, wove through Waimahara listening to taniwha, and finished at the City Art Gallery, unraveling the colonial myths and identifying resistance in the form of Tino-rangatiratanga. Ending in a sumptuous kai cooked up by ringawera Whaea Taniko at the Auckland Pride Tari. E mihi ana ki ā koutou mō tō manaaki, āwhina anō hoki.

*URBAN TANIWHA* is the culmination of shared visual imagery that moves away from the traditional narrative lens toward Indigenous ways of storytelling, in which multiple truths, paradox, and even conscious hypocrisies can all exist at once and still be true. This experimental film is influenced by pūrākau of the unseen presence: ancestral beings of manifestation and protection, dwelling between the liminal spaces of whenua and concrete, rākau Māori and asphalt; in memories of awa and clay.

Our existence blends the natural world with contemporary environments, balancing the knowledge of our tūpuna with the reality we inhabit. These films offer insight into how urban

takatāpui move through te ao hurihuri, borrowing the rhythms and pathways of the taniwha before us: slipping into the shimmering pools of Karanga-a-hape nightlife, flowing alongside the ororo of Onehunga-based musicians, gathering in fortresses full of kaupapa and kai, gazing into a 13.8-billion-year-old past at Stardome, sipping the whakapapa of tānekaha and tātarāmoa, folding and collapsing the wā, or crossing the ancestral portals of the past, present, and future (a.k.a. returning).

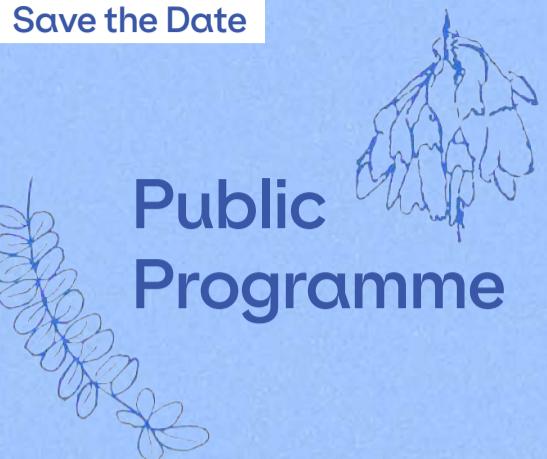
Te Kura Raumati cultivated growth as both artists and people. Within this space, Te Kura Raumati fortified creative confidence and deepened our connection to culture. This process became a foundation from which to envision futures where queer Indigenous storytelling is met with care, guided by clear intention, and upheld as a permanent collective responsibility.

The artists featured in this year's 2026 Te Timatanga Residency are:

- Allie Howell (Waitaha, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Pākehā)
- Asher McCarten (Ngāpuhi)
- Latamai Katoa (Ha'asini, Tonga & Māori)
- Pounamu Rurawhe (Te Rarawa, Ngaapuhi, Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Raukawa)
- Pūmanawa Rawiri (Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Marutuāhū, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Koheriki, Ngāti Aamaru, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki).

These artists have been mentored by Jessica Hansell, aka Coco Solid (Ngāpuhi, Samoa), a creative and trailblazer in both Māori art forms and spaces. Coco's practice centres collaboration, care, fun, and cultural authenticity, including the dynamic, complicated ways that manifests and is expressed within the expansive idea of 'Māori artistry'.

Save the Date



## Public Programme

Join Coco Solid alongside Te Kura Raumata alumni Asher, Latamai, Pounamu, Allie and Pūmanawa, sharing insights into the development of their new video work at Toi O Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery on the 14th of February, 2026.

Framed through Te Tīmatanga, the conversation traces Coco Solid's enduring inter-arts practice and grassroots activism, and considers how collective practice, mentorship and shared responsibility shape artistic and political futures.

14 February 2026 | 2 - 3PM  
Toi O Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery  
FREE



**Coco Solid**  
(Ngāpuhi/Samoa)

My wero for this mentorship was to go beyond a superficial career hierarchical experience and create a space to reframe what tuakanatanga can truly look like for our gifted Māori queer people on the frontlines of radical change — such as these five taonga. I wanted to affirm them in all their diverse expressions of what it means to be Māori, trans, queer, urban-based, creative... but mostly I just wanted them to have the space to be themselves. We strategised to centre the relational over the deliverable as I believe the sharing, digesting, and sound-boarding

of ideas is where the magic not-so-secretly happens. The deep learning, scholarship, jubilance and the more esoteric exchanges are where our strongest concepts and collaborations are formed. Too often the toxicity and industrialised idea of 'indigenous excellence' comes with a lot of pressure to bypass one's needs in order to survive in Te Ao Pākeha and it's inferred we must be superhuman and sociopathic to excel within it. I see this especially with prodigy rangatahi at the intersections of Indigeneity and visible queerness. Many are asked to perform to harmful and unrealistic degrees and if anything I wanted to 'teach' that we can imagine beyond this model — and yes — our art and outcomes are even better for it. Te Kura Raumati was my attempt to offer a new kind of tuakanatanga grounded in restoration, philosophy, rongoā, the Hawaiian whakaaro of 'talking story'



### Journey Through the Decomposition of an Adolescent

Latamai Katoa

Today, we have traveled to the same location as we normally do, 172 Trafalgar Street, the house of the fortress. Within the next 20 years, this place will disappear, as will the self I am now. The murals painted on its walls, the neon pink we never bought, the doors that seal the room, paint will chip. Although we travel physically, often and repeatedly, in search of beauty, I have become desensitized to it. Vast, "gorgeous" landscapes have never captured my heart, nor has the beauty of lands abroad. I have not yet been enamored or moved. Perhaps it's because I am constantly in awe of the others who take these journeys with me, those who join me in this pursuit of gorgeousness within ourselves.



**Allie Howell**  
(Waitaha-a-Hei, Ngāti Rangiwehī, Pākehā)

Our curriculum during Te Kura Raumati gave me something that feels increasingly rare: time. Time to learn, to kōrero, to listen, to sit with uncertainty, and to make mistakes without fear of consequence. Rather than producing outcomes under tight deadlines, this space prioritised process over product. That shift alone was deeply restorative.



**Asher McCarten**  
(Ngāpuhi)

This residency has been incredible, I am so grateful that I am able to create such meaningful works and spend quality time with other Māori creatives. I have been able to learn so much about myself and my artistry throughout this residency. No notes. Shoutout kura raumati. Tena koutou tena koutou tens across the board.



**Latamai Katoa**  
(Tongan/Māori)

In the beginning there was nothing, but now there is something, and that thing is pure puss hunny — from the source, whether that's in the way we gather or in the manner in which we are creating. Many of us create from that place, examining decentralisation in creative practices especially within this exploration of the passage of the urban taniwha. And the importance of rest in the life cycle of an artist practice have been imperative, exploring these concepts and putting them into praxis was convenient, but not only because they all hold so much potency, but because of the beings that were channeling the divine in waananga, and so Thinking back over the course of Te Kura Raumati, and the many side quests we went on from the stars and beach trips, the most important part of this work we have made was a reason to gather.



**Pūmanawa Rawiri**  
(Marutūāhū, Waikato Tainui, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki)

He maha ngā kaupapa e taea te whakapuaki; i tā mātou māoritanga, ngā take Irawhititanga, ngā take Takatāpuitanga. Engāri ki au nei, ka tino rehu te kite i ā au, i taku hāpori. I find that others tend to see our gender expression before our culture. Heoi anō, ko te tūmanako ki ā whakatāngata i ā mātou anō, hei māmā ake te hononga, mai tētehi ki tētehi. It's better to see me as a person like you.

Nā, ka tino wānanga. Ka kapo ake he kaupapa; Urban Māori/Taniwhā rānei. Ki au, he tirohanga ki te whakapae o Te Ao Hurihuri. The 'Ever-Changing' world. How we as Māori navigate te ao pākehā to sustain our everyday lives, accomplish materialistic ambitions, the environment of which Tāmaki is now known to be. That is a huge part of my reality; 'now known to be'. I can't help but to feel the full effect of colonisation and especially what my tupuna warned us about. In Te Ao Pākehā, Te Ao Hurihuri is relentless. Te Ao Hurihuri — nature is ever evolving, the world around us is ever evolving so then in turn we should evolve.

In my ngākau I hold the immense feeling of accountability. My people, my tupuna, Te Taiāo, ā, ki taku Ao Māori anō hoki. With that comes the responsibility to uphold tikanga, kawa, hītori, our way of life and how WE SEE THE WORLD.

He tupuranga au mai i ā Tāmaki Makaurau. Ko taku hononga Mareikura, ko Te Manukanuka ā Hoturoa te Moana, ā, Ko Hoturoa te Tangata. Ko taku hononga Whatukura, ka whakawhiti mai te waka ā Te Kotuiti mai i ā Tikapa moana ki kōnei ki Te Waitematā.

I also feel immense responsibility to the people, to the Māori here in Tāmaki Makaurau. I'd like to think my ahikātanga reassures not only myself but those around me. To assure those who don't feel like they know 'a lot' about our Ao Māori, that they have a place in our Ao Māori. They're in the right place at the right time with their Kete Aronui, their Kete Tuauri and their Kete Tuatea. Whatever we do is inherently MĀORI. Whakawhine mai, whakatāne mai, takatāpui mai. Ko ia, he Māori.

He ua ua te tino whakawetewete ngēnei take. Engāri, koia nei ngā take kua whakawhārikiha. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to share these reflections with others who feel the same as I do. To put these whakaaro into a piece of mahi that will show an answer to this. That is just to live it. Live in the duality of Whatukura and Mareikura, in the constant of Te Ao Hurihuri and staying true to who we are as Māori. Urban or not.

Tēnei ka tū i roto i ngā mātāpono o te tika, te pono me te arohā.



**Pounamu Rurawhe**  
(Ngaapuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngaati Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngaati Tukorehe)

Te Kura Raumati is bringing the HEAT to Auckland Pride this year! Our residency has been so special. I have really enjoyed slowing down during this raumati. Engaging in cycles that honour the season, the taiao and its warmth.

### The river is an island

Hone Tuwhare\*

You are river. This way and that and all the way to sea two escorts shove and pull you. Two escorts in contention.

Left bank or right bank, how can you be a river without either?

Thus are U bends made. Thus are S bends made. Your direction is assured and sometimes running perfectly and quite straight.

A low bank on your left holds your laughing stitches in. On our right side skips another hushing your loud protests.

You are river. Joy leaping down a greenstone stair-way: anger cradled in a bed of stones.

You're a harbour; a lake; an island only when your banks lock lathered arms in battle to confine you: slow-release you.

Go river, go. To ocean seek your certain end. Rise again to cloud; to a mountain — to a mountain drinking from a tiny cup.

Ah, river

you are ocean: you are island.

Special thanks to the Tindall Foundation, SkyCity Trust and Creative New Zealand Internship and Residency Fund for making Te Timatanga the permanent whakatūwhera of the Auckland Pride Festival.



## Justin Talplacido Shoulder & the Future Folklore Collective

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

Auckland Pride presents ANITO as part of Pride Connects, 2026. Playing 12th-14th February at Q Theatre in partnership with Auckland Live.

Pride Connects is a programme dedicated to deep relationship-building, cultural exchange, and long-term investment in artists and creative workers. It was created as Auckland Pride's deliberate response to both the Adhikaar Report (2022) and the Auckland Council Toi Whītiki Strategy.

This year it features offerings for audience goers and artists alike — award-winning theatre show ANITO, formal and relaxed opportunities for relationship building, workshops and presentations led by the visiting collective, and invitations for artists to see behind the scenes.

The Producers' Clinic, led by Jason Cross of Insite Arts, extend this kaupapa by offering the rare opportunity for our producers, emerging arts leaders, and creative workers to learn directly within the ecosystem that has supported Justin and Wikitoria's international success.

Jason has a profound understanding of how to sustain deeply personal, queer, and trans works within global circuits. His long-standing relationships with both artists has been built through years of touring, world-building, and shared cultural responsibility across continents. His practice as a producer is grounded in adaptability, deep listening and accountability.

Jason's involvement ensures that Pride Connects not only nurtures artistic excellence, but strengthens the structural

From Auckland Pride's Director Hāmiora Bailey:

Having both Justin Talplacido Shoulder and Wikitoria Hunt involved in Pride Connects is profoundly significant for the Auckland Pride Festival 2026, Ngā Uri E! As long-term collaborators, friends, and cultural carriers, their practices are interwoven through whakapapa, collective responsibility, and a commitment to creating art over time. Wikitoria, a wahine Māori holding space on the global stage, returns to contribute directly into our creative ecology, grounding her touring practice in mātauranga and rematriation. Justin's queer Filipino futurism, shaped through collective ceremony and ancestral memory, resonates deeply with our many diaspora communities whose local organising belongs to the global IndigiQueer resurgence.

With Wikitoria participating in this presentation of ANITO, in Aotearoa, as the work's movement mentor and as a performer, together her and Justin demonstrate what becomes possible when artists are given time to build worlds.

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It is a special privilege to be an ongoing partner with Auckland Pride on Pride Connects, presenting international artists whose work makes you double-take, work that pushes beyond the edge of what feels possible and rewrites the way we see the world.

In 2024, we hosted UK-based performance artist Krishna Isha and their show First Trimester — the mesmerising real-life blind-dating show looking for the 'perfect' sperm donor for him and his partner — and this year we're thrilled to be bringing Justin Talplacido Shoulder (Phasmahammer) from Australia with his work ANITO: A show for anybody interested in strange, dark, metamorphic work, ancient stories told in futuristic ways.

What I love most about working with Auckland Pride is our shared aspiration of creating a nourishing space for artists and arts workers. I'm looking forward to sharing the sophistication and experimentation of the team's artistry with Tāmaki Makaurau. But I'm especially excited about the opportunities we are creating for practitioners to spend time with, learn from, and deepen relationships with the ANITO creative team. This includes a behind-the-scenes session, a producing clinic and a future folklore lab for early-career artists, alongside more casual moments to spend time together.

These different nodes are our collective attempt to shift away from the more transactional mode of festival presentation that our industry has

gotten so used to, and to work towards slower moments that offer opportunities for sharing, relationship-building and inspiration.

For us at Satellites, this sits within our wider kaupapa of shifting the foundations. As an artist-led initiative seeking to connect the past, present, and future of Aotearoa Asian art, we do this through structural interventions: from our online archive of Asian artists and their work, to essays that dig deep into important conversations, to offering the Asian Artists Fund. Our visiting artist programme — which we run in partnership with different institutions across Aotearoa — is another piece of that puzzle, and is our way of connecting artists to the world.

## Public Programme

### Co-Creating ANITO

Tuesday 10 Feb | 3 — 5PM

An invitation for artists and curious hands to come hang out with the ANITO team and support its creation by helping to fill key set pieces with rice. This foundational ritual is a chance to contribute to the work, meet the artists in an intimate setting, and get to know one another before the show.



Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Behind the Curtain  
Friday 13 Feb | 11AM — 1PM  
Q Theatre

A special opportunity to meet the creative team behind ANITO and hear about their creative process and how they approached developing the show.



Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Producers' Clinic  
Tuesday 17 Feb | 2 — 4PM  
Te Oro

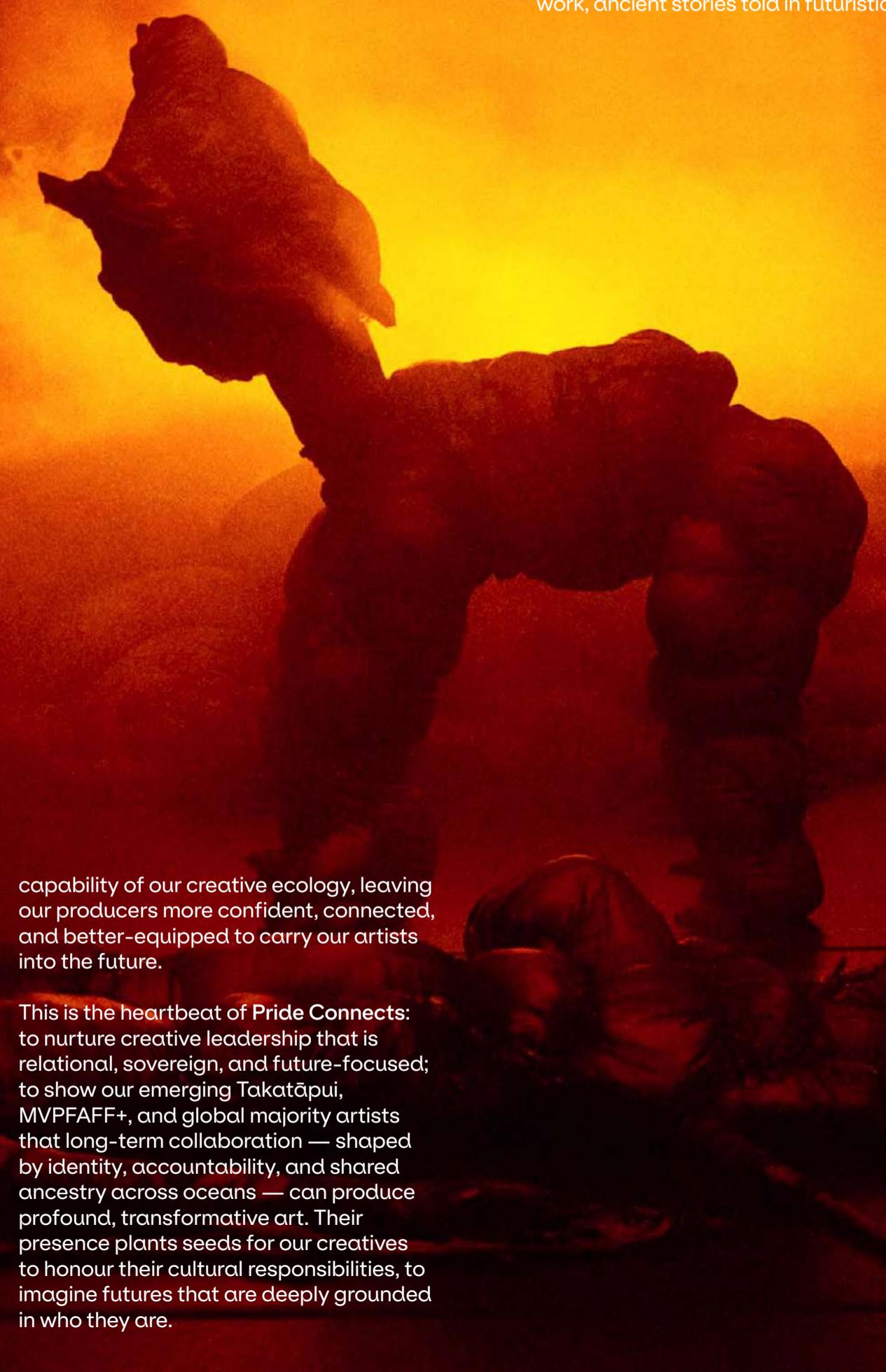
Jason Cross brings four decades of experience in the performing arts to this Producers' Clinic, creating space for open and responsive kōrero to support participants to develop their practice and problem-solve together.

Producers will be invited to bring a question, a skill they would like to develop, or a problem they would like to solve. Through conversation and practical examples, these will be discussed. Jason will also explore approaches to building and maintaining artist relationships, shaping new work, navigating funding, developing partnerships, touring, and working across cultures with care and clarity. This workshop offers producers dedicated time and space to explore their own pathways while learning from Jason's extensive industry experience.

Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Kaitahi  
Tuesday 17 Feb | 4 — 6PM  
Te Oro

To wrap up the artists' time in Aotearoa, you are invited to a casual hang at Te Oro. Bring a plate.



capability of our creative ecology, leaving our producers more confident, connected, and better-equipped to carry our artists into the future.

This is the heartbeat of Pride Connects: to nurture creative leadership that is relational, sovereign, and future-focused; to show our emerging Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+, and global majority artists that long-term collaboration — shaped by identity, accountability, and shared ancestry across oceans — can produce profound, transformative art. Their presence plants seeds for our creatives to honour their cultural responsibilities, to imagine futures that are deeply grounded in who they are.

**Justin Talplacido Shoulder  
& the Future Folklore Collective**

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

*Enter a future folkloric world that conjures parallel possibilities and reimagines Filipino mythologies through dance-theatre, diasporic club cultures, projections, sound design and elaborate craft.*

For early Filipinos, like many still today, it is believed that a life force or soul inhabits all entities, both animate and inanimate. These spirits are called Anitos.

Co-created by award-winning artist Justin Talplacido Shoulder (The Glitter Militia, Club Ate), ANITO combines collective craft, puppetry, dance and experimental electronic music to reimagine these myths and stories for the now. It's a work rooted in Sydney's underground queer and diasporic club scenes.

The collective behind ANITO create a 'Queer Filipino future folkloric space of storytelling' that centres the importance of nature spirits, intuiting with them as guides towards imagining possible parallel futures.

Performers Shoulder and Wikitoria Hunt transform into animal-human-plant-machine hybrids. In this world of sheer terror and tremendous beauty, they interrogate colonial wrongdoings and queer ancestral mythologies.



Buy  
Tickets

12 — 14 February  
2026

Q Theatre  
Rangatira

**LENGTH OF SHOW**

60mins

There is a preshow introduction by Matt Stegh before the show begins. The show is presented with a full lock out after the doors are closed.

All members of the Company live on Gadigal Country the traditional lands and waters of the Gadigal people, a clan of the Eora Nation, Gadigal Country refers to encompassing the area some people know as Sydney, Australia

**ANITO CREDITS**

**Directed, Performed and Co-Conceived**  
Justin Talplacido Shoulder

**Production Design**

Matthew Stegh  
J. Talplacido Shoulder

**Costume Design**

M. Stegh  
Anthony Aitch  
J. Talplacido Shoulder

**Sound Design and Live Score**

Corin Ileto  
**Performer, Mentor and Outside (Inside) Eye**  
Wikitoria Hunt

**Performer and Co-Generator**

Eugene Choi  
**Lighting / Vision Design**

Fausto Brusamolino

**Costume Design Technicians**

Brenda Lam  
Luna Aquatica  
A. Aitch

**Produced By**

Jason Cross at Insite Arts

**Special Thanks**

Marrugeku  
Talking Bodies  
Venue Partner & Creative Development was supported by Carriageworks.



**ANITO**  
**JUSTIN TALPLACIDO SHOULDER**



Anito was made with the support of the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative; Create NSW; the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by RISING, Sydney Festival and MONA FOMA. This tour is supported by Creative Australia.

**Justin Talplacido Shoulder  
& the Future Folklore Collective**

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

★★★★★ “An awe-inspiring work... An exemplar of the power of dance and art to deconstruct outdated and dangerous colonial and binary frameworks. Yet calling the performance simply a dance piece would be reductive. This is so much more.” – ArtsHub

“Justin Shoulder’s ANITO was an astonishing piece of illusionistic visual theatre,” – The Age

“This groundbreaking production challenges perceptions, ignites the imagination, and honours its cultural roots while forging new narratives for the future.” – Dance Life Australia



**Justin  
Talplacido  
Shoulder**

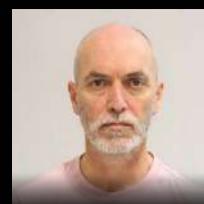
Justin Talplacido Shoulder is a shape-shifting artist and storyteller, working primarily in performance, sculpture, video and collective events. Also known as *Phasmahammer*, their practice is an eco-cosmology of alter personas based on queered ancestral myth. Creatures birthed are embodied through hand-crafted costumes and prostheses and animated by their own gestural languages. The artist uses their body and craft as an instrument of metaphysics towards a queer Filipina Futurism. Shoulder believes in performance and shared ceremony as communal medicine for difficult times. Shoulder is also co-director of collective Club Ate with artist Bhenji Ra. Inspired by their shared Filipina heritage and interest to create new narratives of motherhood and sisterhood the pair created a series of fundraisers, balls, and variety nights inviting and celebrating their local Asia-Pacific queer and trans family.



**Wikitoria  
Hunt**

Wikitoria is a transdisciplinary artist with bloodlines to Te Arawa, Rongowhakaata, Kahungunu, Ireland, Scotland, England and Norway. Born on unceded Kombumerri Country (Surfers Paradise), living on Bidjigal (Sydney), her work as a dancer, choreographer, director, dramaturg, photographer and film-maker examines Indigenous epistemologies within diasporic concepts of identity formation and belonging. Grounded in Mātauranga Māori, BodyWeather and IndigiQueer resurgence, she traverses the politics of Rematriation by inserting bodies into frameworks of power, for future ancestors. Hunt’s works have toured across six continents to critical acclaim.

Her recent work, *KŌIWI*, commissioned by the Art Gallery of NSW and Precarious Movements: Choreography and the Museum, gave form to a ‘protector’ entity and is currently travelling the world. She is co-founder of ‘Weather Beings’, a trans-national collective with 2S Métis artist Moe Clark (Tio’tia:ke/Montreal). She is artist-in-residence at Carriageworks, and recipient of the Creative Australia Dance Fellowship (2025).



**Jason  
Cross**

I live in Naarm amongst the trees & on the country of the Wiradjuri & Woiwurrung people, who are a part of the larger Kulin Nation. My mother is Anglo & my father is Scottish and they moved to Australia in 1969 when I was born.

I have worked in the performing arts industry since 1986 as a theatre maker, director, physical performer, as an artistic director of arts festivals & now a creative producer.

Since 2010, I have been a Director of Insite Arts & work as a Creative Producer overseeing the management of a cohort of independent artists, companies, and projects in contemporary performance, dance & theatre of emerging and established artists.

I work & have established relationships with a diversity of artists from different cultures & identities from across Australia and have presented or toured work to audiences around the world.



# VECTOR LIGHTS FOR AUCKLAND PRIDE

Page 18

13 – 21 February  
9PM – 12AM (Play Every 15 Minutes)  
Auckland Harbour Bridge

Vector Lights returns for the second year of a three-year partnership with Auckland Pride, illuminating the Harbour Bridge with powerful queer narratives that celebrate Takatāpui and Rainbow communities.

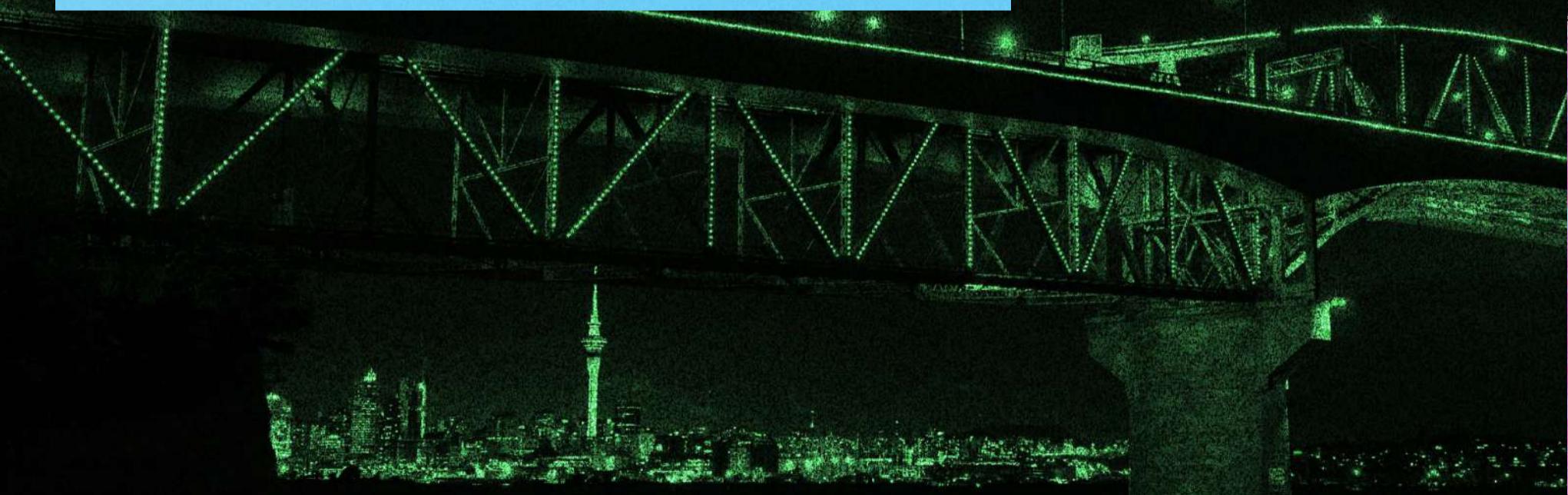
Interdisciplinary artist Mars Cook is at the helm of this year's show — An experimental artist working across painting, photography, performance, costume, music, and moving image. Fascinated by light and colour, Mars experiences a form of double vision that separates colors within artificial light, shaping his signature approach to painting and visual work. His practice explores emotion, identity, and social theory. Constantly experimenting across mediums, he transforms personal perception into theatrical, immersive, and thought-provoking experiences, creating work that invites audiences to see the world—and himself—differently.

Honouring the 40th anniversary of Homosexual Law Reform, Mars' collaboration with Vector Lights explores how this movement continues to shape contemporary queerness and inspire the next 40 years. Mars' bespoke light show will run 13–21 February, playing every 15 minutes from 9PM to midnight.

## The Morning People

19 February 2026  
6:30AM – 8:00AM  
Hobson Wharf

At sunrise on Thursday 19 February, The Morning People will host a Special Silent Disco at Hobson Wharf, activating the light show with an energising sunrise set on the DJ decks. On the decks, queen of hot girl techno, Love, Robbie.



Head to [vector.co.nz/lights](http://vector.co.nz/lights) and listen live from some of the best viewing places, including Silo Park, Bayswater Marina and Takarunga Mt Victoria.

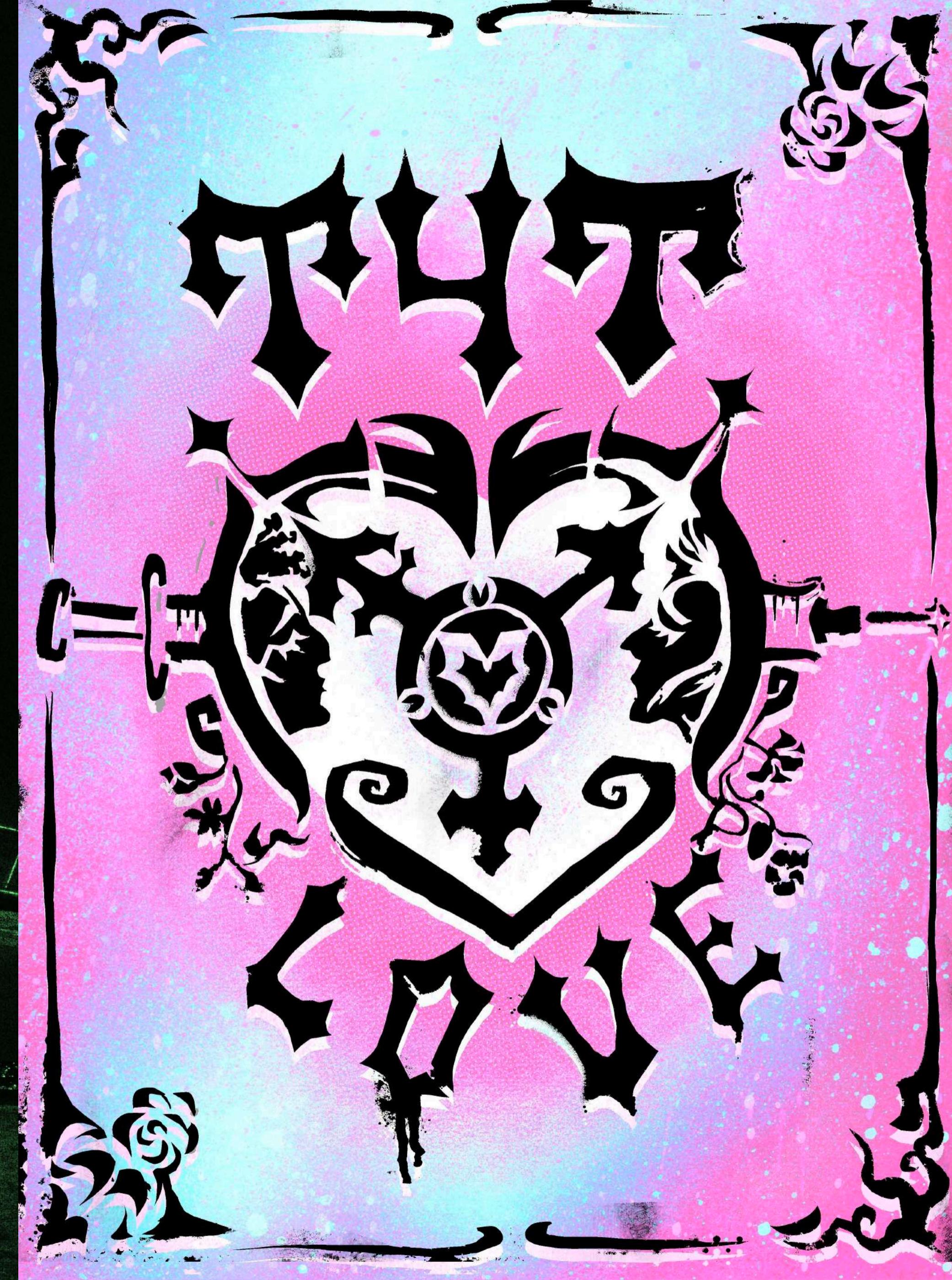


**Mars Cook**

Artist in  
Residence

Mars Cook is an experimental artist working across painting, photography, performance, costume, music, and moving images. His practice explores emotion, identity, and social theory. Fascinated by light and colour, Mars experiences a form of double vision that separates colors within artificial light, shaping his signature approach to painting and visual work. Constantly experimenting across mediums, he transforms personal perception into theatrical, immersive, and thought-provoking experiences, creating work that invites audiences to see the world, and themselves, differently.

Artist Photo By: Natsha Munroe Hurn



# OUT OF THE GUTTER STREET PARTY

28 February  
5PM – 9:30PM  
Beresford Square  
FREE

Auckland Pride's closing event, Out of the Gutter Street Party is the manifestation of our theme Ngā Uri E.

Conjuring HERO and Coming Out Days of years gone by, Out of the Gutter is a sunset party and market for all ages. Headlined by Ramon Te Wake, MCd by Hugo Grrrl, with a lineup of artists who have thrived in Aotearoa across generations, such as Buckwheat, Taiaroa Royal, Janaye Henry, Lijah Mavaega and more! On the 28th of February the Karangahape Gaybourhood offers even more glamour, grit and legacy than usual.

Auckland Pride has curated this event to call communities into our queer history. National politician Norman Jones denouncing Homosexual Law Reform with "as far as I'm concerned you can stay in the gutter" in 1985 isn't only a stain on the past, but familiar rhetoric in our present. Out of the Gutter is an event title deliberately chosen not only to reclaim language used against us, but to transform it. To remind us that expressing our joy is as much our legacy as is resistance towards those who seek to oppress us.

It is easy to be destabilised by our violent present and unsteady future. As queer diaspora scattered all over the

world we are part of something larger than ourselves, our lives inextricably bound with those we see, hear, and read about across oceans. Out of the Gutter is a night to strengthen our unique contexts as collectives in Aotearoa, to ground us in what has been built by and for us, to bring together generations who have fought for us with those who will continue the fight, to turn our attention to what is alive right here.

A closing night to remind us that Pride isn't only about where we've been, but where we're heading, a street party steeped in local history to bring us back home.



Ramon Te Wake

Headliner

Ramon Te Wake is a celebrated New Zealand filmmaker, musician, performer and television presenter. She first made her mark as a singer-songwriter, when she independently created her debut solo EP, The Arrival in 2002. Her next musical project Movement is Essential was created in 2008. Ramon performed at the HERO Festival in 2001, The PROUD PARTY in 2015 and she will return to the stage, for the 2026 Auckland Pride Festival.

Ramon has worked in the film and television space for two decades. She was one of the founding presenters of Takatāpui, the world's first indigenous queer series, which ran from 2004-2008. Ramon continues to champion trans and Takatāpui voices, creating stories that celebrate identity, resilience, and community including the festival favourite, Wait, Wait Now (2025), the award winning Trans & Pregnant (2024), Queer and Here (2022-2024), the critical smash hit, Inky Pinky Ponky (2023) and the pioneering, The Boy, the Queen & Everything in Between (2024).

# OUT OF THE GUTTER

STREET  
PARTY

28 February 2026  
5PM — 9:30PM

Beresford Square  
All-Ages Event  
FREE

Hugo Grrrl  
Buckwheat  
Taiaroa Royal  
Janaye Henry  
Lijah Mavaega

And more  
to be announced!



Auckland Pride  
Festival 2026



# PRIDE X SPLORE

Saturday 21st  
February



Patron Ticket

\$275

Community Ticket

Free

Tickets & Info

[splore.net/pridexsplore](http://splore.net/pridexsplore)

# PRAISE THE LORD PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY

7 February  
6:30PM  
Basement Theatre  
FREE

same  
same  
but  
different.



The next resident is:

Connor  
Amor-Bendall

Auckland Pride is delighted to announce the return of the Praise The Lord Playwright Residency, delivered in partnership with Auckland Theatre Company, Samesame But Different, and The Robert Lord Cottage Trust.

Established in honour of trailblazing gay playwright Robert Lord, the residency champions bold new queer storytelling and fosters the next generation of Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+, and Rainbow playwrights. Last year's resident, Joshua Iosefo (Mush), undertook a focused two-week development period at the Robert Lord Cottage in November, advancing their new musical *NUMB*—an electrifying work that blends poetry, friendship, and Pasifika futurism.



Reflecting on their residency Mush notes:

*"As an artist, the currency we can find ourselves craving the most is time and space. Whether we're in between bags, closing off one project and opening a portal to another while the engine of a spaceship is humming in the background. Having the dedicated time and space to clear the cache and build a proper shrine so that you can worship at the alter of creativity and imagination, truly made me realise why this opportunity is named the 'Praise the Lord Residency'.*

*Sometimes the idea that's been missing a few screws or needs an oil change, just requires a change of scenery. The southerly Antarctic wind in Ōtepoti also helps, hitting the nervous system with a needed reset button so that on a cellular level, both you and the work can feel like you're finally breathing together. In my case, I started my residency shortly after closing multiple portals and projects. True to my procrastinating nature, the last spaceship was the one I had left locked in a garage for 5 years with an expired WOF and registration. I packed my spaceship of a script in my suitcase, and surrendered to the calm and patient pitstop of the Robert Lord Cottage. A task I thought impossible was given life again, the tyres changed, the battery resparked and the engine now running. I felt permitted and encouraged to "do the hard thing" and the humming in the background was soothed by the songs of the surrounding manu. As opposed to static that fizzed and cackled sounds of 'you need to finish this'.*

*The queer lineage of the cottage echoed collective encouragement, reminding me as well as all artists that 'you were born to do this'. Creativity is divine, and I am so thankful that through the Praise The Lord Residency, I was able to meet the holy trinity of time, space and art, receiving their blessing before letting my spaceship ascend from her garage - Finally closing a portal, before opening another."*

Connor Amor-Bendall is a writer and actor who hails from Tairāwhiti. She has recently completed a Master of Creative Writing from The University of Auckland, and has a Master of Journalism from The University of Melbourne. She has written for the likes of Ensemble, Broadsheet (Aus), NINE News (Aus), Antithesis Journal, YoVocal Magazine, and InView.

In 2024 Connor's debut play, *The Clitoris Conundrum*, premiered to a sold-out season at Basement Theatre and will return to Q Theatre next month for Pride. Connor won the 2024 V48 Hours WIFT Best Female / Gender Diverse Script Award for her film *Down Slayment*. Her first short film, *What is Left Unsaid*, is in post-production and she is developing her second, *Lest We Forget*, as part of Day One 2025.

A graduate of The Actors Program, Connor's on screen credits include Cassy Beaton in *The Ridge*, Bridget Kinkelly in *Literally Dead*, Peter in *Sweet Tooth*, Alpha in *Power Rangers*, Celia in *Testify*, and Briar Linton in *Shortland Street*. Connor was a participant in Proud Voices on Screen's 2025 Queer Producers Incubator, and Auckland Theatre Company's 2025 Emerging Writers Table. She's passionate about making work that explores the nexus of art, queerness and the political sphere.

Auckland Pride Festival 2026 same  
same but different. AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Don't miss Connor Amor-Bendall's playreading at Basement Theatre on 7 February 2026 at 6:30PM, presented in partnership with Samesame But Different. Following this, they will undertake a paid writing residency at the Robert Lord Cottage, supported by Auckland Theatre Company, culminating in workshops to share elements of the work with peers, whānau, collaborators, and partners.



Get your FREE  
tickets here!



**Rainbow Riders Tāmaki  
Makaurau  
Yarn for Pride**

We're celebrating our LGBTQI+ community and the Karangahape Road cycleway with colourful yarn bombs this Pride Month! Take a stroll or cycle along K'Road to admire the bike parking decorated with joyful knitted and crocheted designs. We'd love for you to join in the fun and add your own decorations.

**Activation**

Feb 1-28, All day  
Karangahape Road  
FREE



**The Arts House Trust  
Chasing Rainbows**

Chasing Rainbows showcases works from The Arts House Trust Collection exploring the captivating spectrum of colour. Featuring contemporary artists from Aotearoa, this exhibition invites reflection on colour's enduring emotional and symbolic power.

**Exhibition**

Feb 1 - 28  
The Arthouse Trust  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



**Pride on TAP  
Mix & Mingle - Pride '26**

Kick off Pride '26 at Pride on TAP's signature mixer, Mix & Mingle. This inclusive social event brings together Auckland's LGBTTQIA+ community for some relaxed, Sunday Funday vibes. Meet new people, connect with friends, and celebrate the start of Pride Month with your rainbow whānau. All Rainbow community and allies welcome!

**Community**

Feb 1, 2 - 6pm  
Mr. Illingsworth  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



**Normal Company  
Gemma vs The Normal Worms**

Deep in the bowels of the Lost Worm Galaxy, two humans struggle to end all war. But first, they must escape from the stifling influence of... The Normal Worms. 15 hilarious audio episodes, infecting a mind near you. WARNING: Contains 420% references to sex, drugs, & psychedelic worms.

**Comedy**

Feb 1-28, All day  
Online Streaming  
From \$20  
Adults (18+ years)



**Blackout Poetry Aotearoa,  
PrideFest Out West  
Express Your Gender  
Collage Workshop**

In a world where strict, arbitrary definitions try to tell us who we should be, why not express your inner self by gluing hot pink boots on a frog! Or sticking an eyeball on a nice piece of mid-century furniture, I don't care! Scissors, glue, guidance, commentary, and weird old books provided.

**Craft**

Feb 9, 6 - 8pm  
MoveSpace  
FREE



**Theatre of Love and Ace-ssential  
Workers  
We're Weird for Other  
Reasons**

A world-first theatre project entirely devised by members of the Ace/Aro/Aspec community. This is a joyful and insightful exploration of our varied experiences and identities, brought to the stage for our community, friends, the curious and kind.

**Performance**

Feb 10-14, 8 - 9pm  
Basement Theatre  
\$8



**MOTAT  
Mile High Comedy Club**

Join MC Hugo Grrrl, trolley dolly Medulla Oblongata and classy comics Janaye Henry, the 'beary' talented Matt Coombe, and the award-winning James Mustapic for a night of cocktails, cockpits and LOLs. Grab your ticket today and brace for comedic impact, this is a ride you won't want to miss! Full line-up to be announced.

**Comedy**

Feb 12, 7 - 8.40pm  
MOTAT Aviation Hall  
\$20  
Adults (18+ years)



**Puketāpapa Climate Action  
Learn to Ride - Pride Edition**

Celebrate pride while getting confident on two wheels! Whether you've never ridden before or want to build confidence on a bike, this fun & inclusive workshop is for everyone – all genders welcome. You'll learn: balance, braking, pedaling, and practical tips to ride comfortably and safely. RSVP via Humanitix.

**Sports**

Feb 4, 5 - 7pm  
Bike Hub Mt Roskill  
FREE



**Dalley Sundar Law  
Rainbow Family Building**

Join Dalley Sundar Law at Auckland Pride for an empowering evening exploring how rainbow families are built and supported. From surrogacy and adoption to immigration solutions, donor agreements, co-parenting — our expert team will guide you through the legal landscape with clarity and compassion. Leave with practical insights to help you navigate your journey with confidence.

**Workshop**

Feb 5, 6.30 - 8pm  
39 Cafe & Bar  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



**Hugo Grrrl  
Drag King Megashow**

A camp and cocky cabaret featuring an enormous lineup of more than twenty incredible humping, thumping drag kings. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl. Starring Theo Throb, Large Hard Ron Collider, Haute Dish, Johnny Raven, Margarita Blades, Fizzy Pop, Kaizer, Stiffe Breeze, Dick Slayson, Finn Gerring, Mx Splicit, Freya Finch, and many more.

**Performance**

Feb 7, 8 - 10.30pm  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
\$30  
Adults (18+ years)



**Small Rave  
Small Rave Presents:  
Auckland Pride Festival  
Beginner DJ Workshop**

A hands-on beginner DJ workshop for anyone who wants to dive into mixing and curating music. This workshop includes a presentation on DJing led by SMALL RAVE's Fergus Waveforms and guest, and small-group sessions to try the equipment, listen, or observe. Includes a workshop booklet to take home!

**Workshop**

Feb 12, 7 - 9pm  
Small Rave  
\$5



**No Homo: Queer Comedy  
No Homo: Queer  
Comedy - Auckland  
Pride Edition**

No Homo: Queer Comedy is back for Auckland Pride in 2026! Join your host James Mustapic alongside Aotearoa's finest queer comedians for a fab night of giggles and gags!

**Comedy**

Feb 12-13, 7.30 - 8.30pm  
Phoenix Cabaret  
From \$25  
Adults (18+ years)



**Codeword Cabaret  
Codeword Cabaret:  
Enemies & Lovers**

A variety show that commits to the 'variety', Codeword Cabaret: Enemies & Lovers is guaranteed to surprise and delight. Expect everything from comedy, to song, to drag and burlesque. The Cabaret will be held at TAPAC on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th February. Face your enemies and meet your lovers – or vice versa.

**Performance**

Feb 13-14, 8 - 10pm  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
\$29.50  
Adults (18+ years)



**Equity New Zealand  
Gay Rage The Workshop**

A movement and emotional embodiment workshop for creatives. Connect with your anger and aggression through the body. Use it. Release it. Award-winning artist Hamish Annan guides you through safe, physical techniques to access emotion through movement, not memory. Impulse, breath, body, and voice. Register now.

**Workshop**

Feb 14, 10am - 12.30pm  
The Fale, Samoa House  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



# E pakihīwi tahi ana, Aotearoa.

## On your side, Aotearoa.

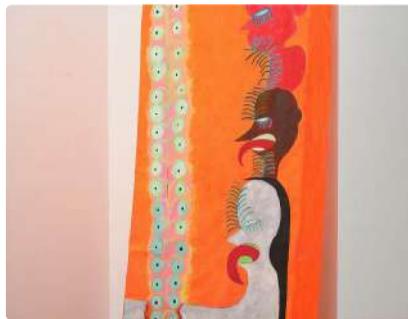
**JOIN US**

**AMI.CO.NZ**



## OPEN ACCESS

### Events



**Gus Fisher Gallery  
Pillow Painting**

Embrace your romantic side in this Valentine's pillow painting workshop to mark the exhibition opening of 'Dreaming from afar'. In this drop-in workshop, you'll borrow inspiration from Tyrone Te Waa's presentation of paintings on fitted sheets to hand-paint a pillowcase. Adorn a pillow for the romantic, platonic and self-love in your life.

**Craft**

Feb 14, 10.30am - 1.30pm  
Gus Fisher Gallery  
FREE



**Hugo Grrrl  
Hugo's Rainbow Show**

A musical, magical adventure exploring the science of the skies above. Expect original songs and stories, and of course outrageous costumes in this novel rainbow-reading-style experience about the magic of meteorology. Hugo's Rainbow Show is for everyone! But best for two to ten year olds and our neurodivergent whānau.

**Performance**

Feb 14, 1PM & 3PM  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
\$15

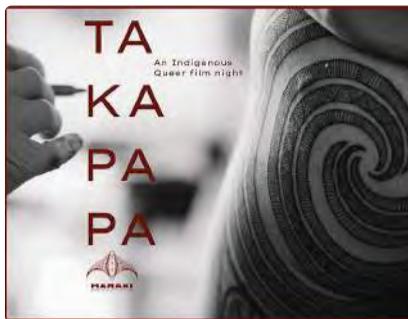


**Justice for Palestine  
QUEER AS IN FREE  
PALESTINE**

Ahlan wa sahan! Experience the joyful spirit of a Palestinian café here in Tāmaki. During the café we will host a kōrero with queer Palestinian New Zealanders, who will share their stories and wero for queer allies to tautoko their struggle for liberation. Come for the musiqa, fresh qahwa and halwa; stay for the solidarity and community vibes!

**Community**

Feb 14, 2 - 5pm  
OPEN Coffee  
FREE

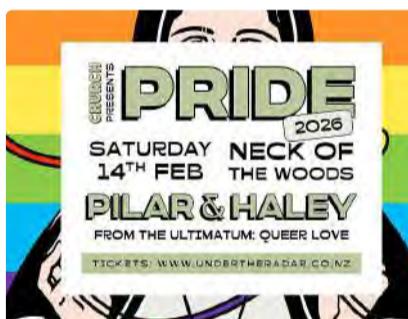


**Maraki Productions  
TAKAPAPA**

TAKAPAPA. An indigi-queer film night to celebrate the vastness of our queer identities, exploring intergenerational threads that bind whakapapa, identity and belonging. Join us at Basement Theatre, February 14th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

**Film**

Feb 14, 6.30 - 8.30pm  
Basement Theatre - Studio  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



**CHURCH  
CHURCH presents PRIDE**

Lobes will be graced with an aural journey of discovery and nostalgia, and limbs will be freed to expression. The congregation shall come together in a familiar, caring, and safe space—Neck of The Woods, located on Karangahape. Our collective exists to provide, create, and maintain a safe and inclusive space for our queer community.

**Party**

Feb 14, 10pm - 4am  
Neck of The Woods  
\$30  
Adults (18+ years)



**Burnett Foundation Aotearoa  
Big Gay Out 2026**

The queerest event of the year is back. Join us at Coyle Park on Feb 15th for music, markets, and ALL the vibes at the biggest rainbow event in Aotearoa. Follow our Facebook event or visit [biggayout.co.nz](http://biggayout.co.nz) for all the latest updates.

**Community**

Feb 15, 12 - 7pm  
Coyle Park  
FREE



**Hugo Grrrl  
Elder Queers Give  
Advice**

Spend quality time with a golden oldie! Our gorgeous rainbow kaitiaki will be available to chat with any keen youngsters, sharing advice, anecdotes and intergenerational visibility. Swing by our cosy space and soak up some wisdom. We can't wait to kōrero with you. Find details of each pop-up event online.

**Community**

Feb 15, 21, 28, Various times  
Various locations  
FREE



**Yeah Nah Productions x Peachy  
Productions  
The Clitoris Conundrum**

Can can't cum, and it's ruined every relationship she's ever had. After falling hard for Ava, she's ready to try anything to make this time different. After its sell-out debut season in 2024, Playwright Connor Amor-Bendall and director Sean Rivera are bringing The Clitoris Conundrum back.

**Performance**

Feb 17-21, 6.45 - 8pm  
Q Theatre, Loft  
From \$30

# OPEN ACCESS

## Events



### Haute Dish Potluck: a smorgasbord of drag talent!

Summer, Pride, and a whole lot of queer chaos. Drag king Haute Dish hosts Potluck, a nightly feast of drag where the menu changes every evening. Expect a smorgasbord of talent, mouth watering looks and sizzling performances. No two shows are the same! Come hungry for spectacle, leave with crumbs of queer magic (and maybe a new fave performer). Bring friends, bring pride, and bring your appetite.

#### Performance

Feb 17-21, 8 - 9pm  
Basement Theatre  
From \$17  
Adults (18+ years)



### UoA Queer Students Association Craft Carabiners & Keychains!

DIY keychains, carabiner charms, phone charms or whatever your heart desires! We'll provide all the materials - charms, carabiners, keychains, phone straps, and everything else you'll need. All you need to bring is yourself, your pride, and a friend (or come make one at the event)! RSVPs are essential! Find us on insta: @qsa.uoa

#### Craft

Feb 20, 2 - 5pm  
Queerspace  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### SPiCE Rainbows in the Reserve

Join SPiCE and Indian Origin Pride in celebration of our rainbow community! Bring a picnic and enjoy a fun and relaxed afternoon of activities and entertainment in Sandringham Reserve. Everyone welcome!

#### Community

Feb 20, 4 - 6pm  
Sandringham Reserve  
FREE



### RocketWerks Board Gaymer Night

Join our rainbow community and allies for board games at RocketWerks with views of Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. Enjoy games like Catan, Wingspan, Pandemic and more, or bring your own. We will offer a short studio tour plus light refreshments. Please arrive before 6 pm as tower doors lock. Spaces are limited so RSVP now.

#### Community

Feb 19, 5 - 8pm  
RocketWerks Studio  
FREE



### Ethnic Rainbow Alliance Queer Clay Club - ERA Edition

Design and decorate your own clay tile — a miniature artwork that tells a story that matters to you. It could be a memory, a symbol of identity, a moment of joy, or something you want to honour. No experience needed: just bring your voice, your imagination, and a willingness to play. Presented with support from Creative Henderson.

#### Community

Feb 19, 6 - 9pm  
Te Au o Te Koopua  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga & Vixen Temple The Magic of Her Body

'She enthrals me, enslaves me – her body absolute – is my worship.' Performance artist Vixen Temple, with historian Kerryn Pollock of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and musician Vicky Weeds, reads Katherine Mansfield's sensual diary entries and sapphic-coded short stories at gothic mansion Highwic (1862).

#### Performance

Feb 20-21, 6PM & 8PM  
Highwic  
From \$20  
Adults (18+ years)



### Hugo Grrrl Drag Queen Megashow

A glittering and gay drag extravaganza with an enormous lineup. Twenty fabulous local drag queens will be lighting up the TAPAC stage this pride. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl. Starring! Medulla Oblongata, Crystal Quartz, Margarita Blades, Carmen Composed, Fey Fapae, The Tea Gurl, Petty Cash (Tom Clarke), and many more.

#### Performance

Feb 20, 8 - 10.30pm  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
\$30  
Adults (18+ years)

# Pride & Play



No Buts...  
Just Be There



## Building Rainbow Families

Thursday 05 February 2026 - 6:30-8:00pm  
Café 39, Ponsonby, Auckland



# I HAVE SEXUAL HEALTH CHECKS

Drop-in HIV & STI testing, with same day results & treatment!  
Free and available to everyone.

3 Poynton Terrace, Auckland

Mon-Wed: 10am-5pm  
Thurs: 10am-8pm  
Fri: 10am-4pm

**test'n'treat**  
FAST • FREE • CONFIDENTIAL



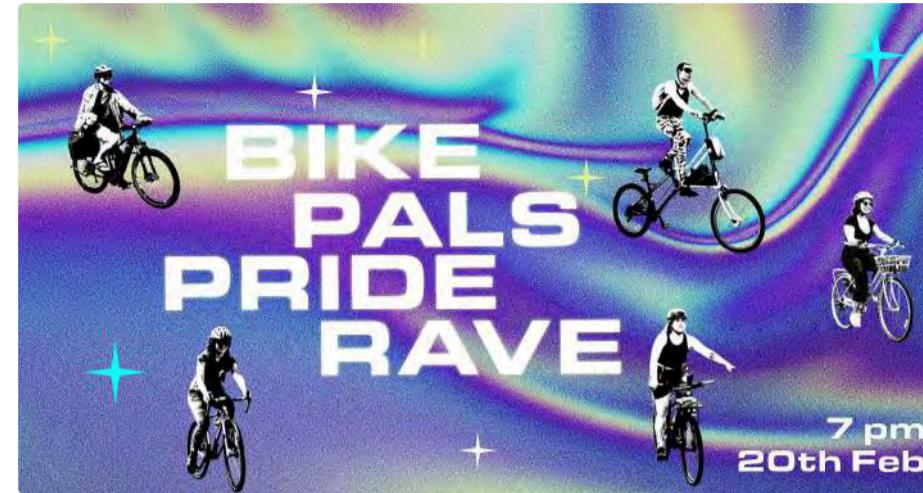
SAME DAY TREATMENT  
PREP • PEP • DOXYPEP  
BODYPOSITIVE.ORG.NZ





## OPEN ACCESS

### Events



#### Bike Pals Bike Pals Pride Rave

It's bike rave time! We're taking over the waterfront with bikes, lights and music. Join us at Bike Hub Queens Wharf from 7pm for tunes, quick safety checks, bike decorating and more. At sunset we roll out for an easy ride at a social-pace — lights on, music up — cruising 8km of separated paths, cut-throughs, and quiet streets. All bodies on all bikes welcome!

#### Community

Feb 20, 7 - 10pm  
Bike Hub Queens Wharf  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



#### Proud Voices On Screen Proud Voices On Screen at Auckland Pride

Join us for a day of short films, talks and networking with other lgbtqia+ voices in the Aotearoa screen industry. Watch great films, mingle and hear from queer filmmakers about their recent projects. All levels of experience welcome. Come and go as you please. 11am - 5pm. Schedule at proudvoicesonscreen.org.

#### Film

Feb 21, 11am - 5pm  
The Button Factory  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



#### The D\*List Embroidery for Crafty Queers

Learn to embroider with fellow queers from your tutor Von. In this three-hour workshop you will create a patch expressing what pride means for you. An introduction to embroidery, you will learn hand sewing hacks and basic stitch techniques. This course is designed to be a chill, fun opportunity to explore embroidery as a creative outlet.

#### Craft

Feb 21, 12 - 3pm  
The D\*List Community Hub  
FREE



#### Outrunnerz NZ Outrunnerz Pride Edition

Auckland's only LGBTQIA+, Takatāpui and MVPFAFF communities inclusive run club. Meet us on Saturday, 21 February, 7:30am, at Hobson Wharf for a vibrant, free community run/walk. Wear your favourite colour to flood the waterfront with Pride! After the run, stick around for a mini Pride party to celebrate inclusion, wellbeing, and connection. Tickets are free but must be booked to secure your spot.

#### Sports

Feb 21, 7.30 - 10am  
Hobson Wharf  
FREE



#### BARBA Presents BARBA AUCKLAND PRIDE 2026

On Saturday 21st of February, BARBA says "Hola Auckland" once again. Step into the BARBA realm, making its hot and sweaty return in Tāmaki Makaurau. The ultimate night for unapologetic queers. We're here to serve sex-positive realness, self-expression, art & music.

#### Party

Feb 21, 8pm - 2am  
Whammy Bar  
From \$25  
Adults (18+ years)



#### Sapphic Sounds Sapphic Sounds Presents: PRIDE 2026

Sapphic Sounds is back for PRIDE 2026, celebrating our mission to uplift our sapphic community, trans, non-binary people, and allies! Keep the vibes going after the Auckland Rainbow Parade at Mothership for a late-night afterparty. Dance, connect, and enjoy a stacked lineup of local and queer DJs and performances!

#### Party

Feb 21, 10pm - 3am  
Mothership  
\$30  
Adults (18+ years)

# OPEN ACCESS

## Events



### Theta Project PROPAGANDA: Pride Edition

Get ready for our BIG PRIDE PARTY on Saturday 21 February! Doors open at 8pm for sunset drinks on the deck after the Auckland Rainbow parade, before we party into the early hours. We're taking over Sweat Shop once again and turning it gloriously gay for the night. With a huge dance floor, covered deck, and multiple bars, it's the ultimate Pride party venue.

#### Party

- 17 Feb 21, 8pm - 4am  
Sweat Shop Brew Kitchen  
\$49  
Adults (18+ years)



### Misheard QUEER AUTUMN 2

QUEER AUTUMN returns to Whammy Bar on Sunday, the 22nd of February, with some of the best alternative bands in Tāmaki Makaurau playing loud songs and fighting for the rights on rainbow, takatāpui, and transgender kiwis before the election year plunges us into endless debates about whether or not we're allowed to exist.

#### Music

- 17 Feb 22, 5 - 9pm  
Whammy Bar  
From \$15  
Adults (18+ years)



### The D\*List and Bookish Ceremony Bookish Ceremony: queer disabled edition

Your favourite local queer book club, Bookish Ceremony, is connecting with The D\*List for a special queer disabled edition. Kōrero about books and connect with like minded folks! The book pick will be announced in January on Instagram @ bookish.ceremony.

#### Literature

- 17 Feb 23, 6 - 8pm  
The D\*List Community Hub  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)

# OPEN ACCESS

## Events



### The Open Book Rainbow Reading Party

Share space and queer titles with each other at our beautiful bookstore after hours. Perfect for booklovers, neurodiverse folk, and anyone who might be seeking a more low-key pride event. Expect a gentle evening of tea-drinking, browsing our bookshelves, mingling with other queer booklovers, and of course reading!

#### Community

- 17 Feb 27, 5.30 - 8pm  
The Open Book  
\$5



### Theia Music Ltd Theia: Girl, In A Savage World - Debut Album Release Show

This Pride, celebrate the release of Theia's critically acclaimed debut album GIRL, IN A SAVAGE WORLD. Don't miss the chance to experience Theia (Waikato, Ngāti Tipaā, Ngāti Aaamaru) in this intimate show at one of Tāmaki's most iconic music venues, Whammy.

#### Music

- 17 Feb 27, 7 - 9.30pm  
Whammy Bar  
From \$20  
Adults (18+ years)



SUMMER, PRIDE, AND A WHOLE LOT OF QUEER CHAOS. EXPECT A SMORGASBORD OF TALENT, MOUTH WATERING LOOKS AND SIZZLING PERFORMANCES. NO TWO SHOWS ARE THE SAME! COME HUNGRY FOR SPECTACLE, LEAVE WITH CRUMBS OF QUEER MAGIC (AND MAYBE A NEW FAVE PERFORMER). BRING FRIENDS, BRING PRIDE, AND BRING YOUR APPETITE.

FEB 17-21 | BASEMENT THEATRE | TICKETS FROM \$17

ADULTS (18+ YEARS)

# CHURCH PRESENTS PRIDE 2026



### Gamersphere NZ Pride & Play: Board Gayming... In Style

Enjoy up to five hours of interactive board games in a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere, complete with a free cocktail on arrival and hosted gameplay with the Gamersphere team. D&D fans can join a separate dedicated room featuring a Pride-themed quest run by a professional GM. Take in stunning views of the Auckland Harbour and Sky Tower as you play, meet new people, and enjoy great food in a premium setting.

#### Community

- 17 Feb 23, 5 - 10pm  
Bar Albert - voco Auckland City Centre  
\$40  
Adults (18+ years)



### The Dust Palace HAUS of YOLO

Party cabaret. Live sewing. World-class circus. One night only. Head designer (and part-time conman) Welt Couture will create their "Auckland" collection live on stage — as acrobats, models, and misfits bring each look to life through jaw-dropping circus and camp comedy. This is fast fashion - couture on a deadline.

#### Performance

- 17 Feb 24, 7 - 8pm  
Q Theatre, Rangatira  
From \$39



### Hugo Grrrl Fresh Tease: A Beginner Burlesque Revue

The hottest up-and-coming strippers, titillators and rule-breakers feature in this stacked lineup of exciting newcomers in the Tāmaki burlesque scene. Fresh Tease promises to be a bold, brash and brassy celebration of the rising stars of Auckland alternative arts. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl.

#### Performance

- 17 Feb 26, 7.30 - 9.30pm  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Hugo Grrrl Pride Pro Burlesque

The best in the burlesque biz! A star-studded cast of powerhouse professionals unite for this strip-show spectacular sure to leave you thoroughly hot and bothered. Starring the legendary Hannah Tasker-Poland, Kiki Kisses, Michelle Kasey, Lucy Lynch, Hells Bells, Cia Muller and Oli Craddock. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl.

#### Performance

- 17 Feb 27, 8 - 10pm  
TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### PRIDE FESTIVAL AT AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TĀMAKI

Saturday 28 Feb 2026

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki  
Pride Festival 2026 at  
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Celebrate at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki with a day of art, music, performance and self-expression. This festival brings together rainbow artists and communities in a joyful programme honouring creativity, identity and connection. No bookings required!

#### Community

- 17 Feb 28, 10am - 5pm  
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki  
FREE

# PILAR & HALEY FROM THE ULTIMATUM: QUEER LOVE

# OPEN ACCESS

## Events



### Pride Ceilidh Pride Ceilidh

A welcoming night of easy, guided Celtic social dances to live music — no partner needed, and a great way to meet new people. Enjoy a light supper, folk storytelling, and a musical item from queer folk band Moon Goose. Early dances are ideal for tamariki and beginners, with space later for faster movers.

#### Community

Feb 28, 5 - 8pm  
Auckland Old Folks Association  
From \$10



### New Zealand Fashion Museum Inside the Closet - Fashion through the drag lens

Visit Britomart and step inside the fabulous world where drag meets fashion. This outdoor exhibition on the Pavilion panels features life-size portraits of 13 remarkable performers — from legendary K Road queens to rising stars, drag kings to TikTok sensations — each wearing a colour from the Pride Progress flag.

#### Exhibition

Feb 1-28, All day  
Britomart - The Pavilions  
FREE

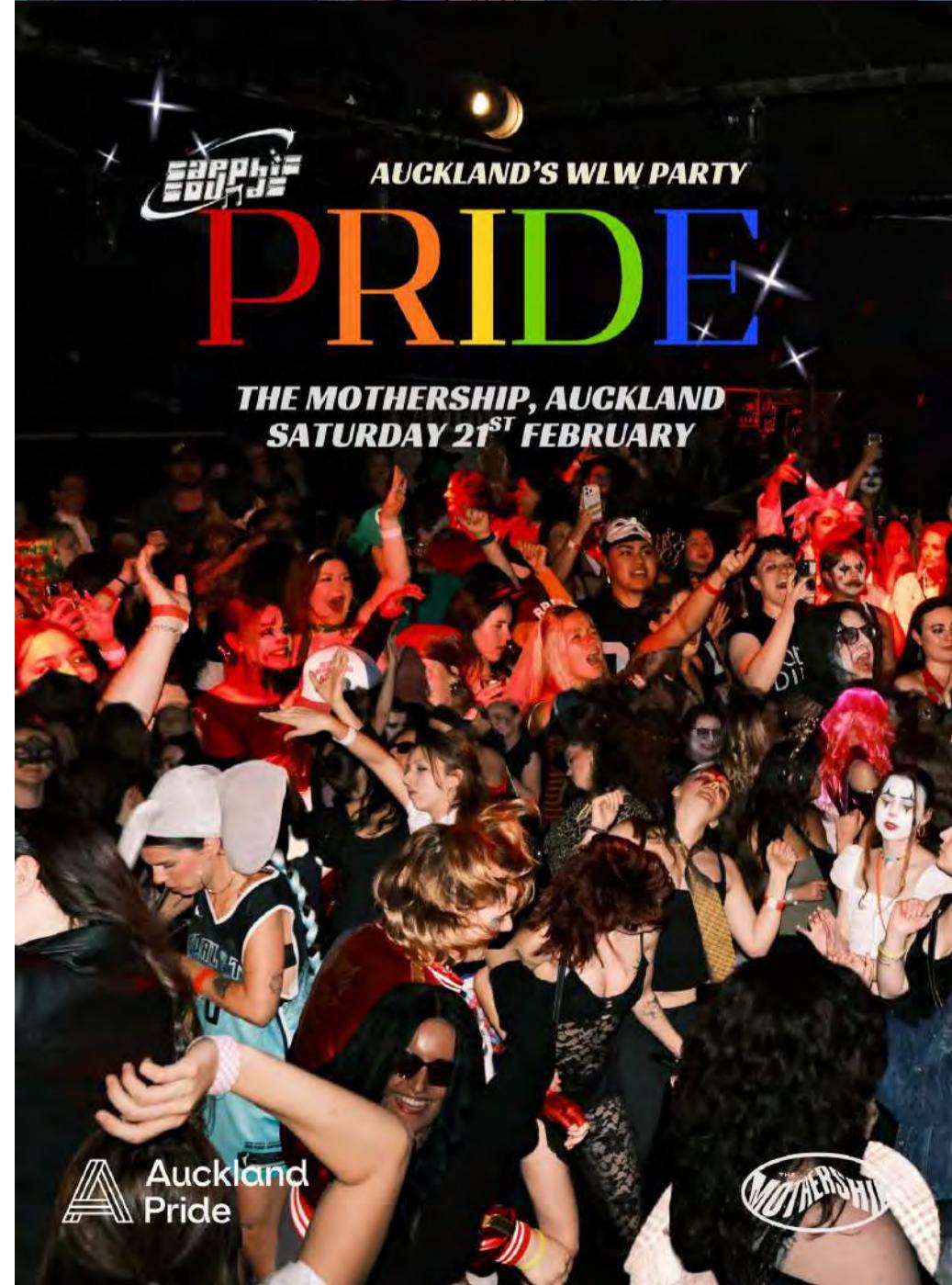
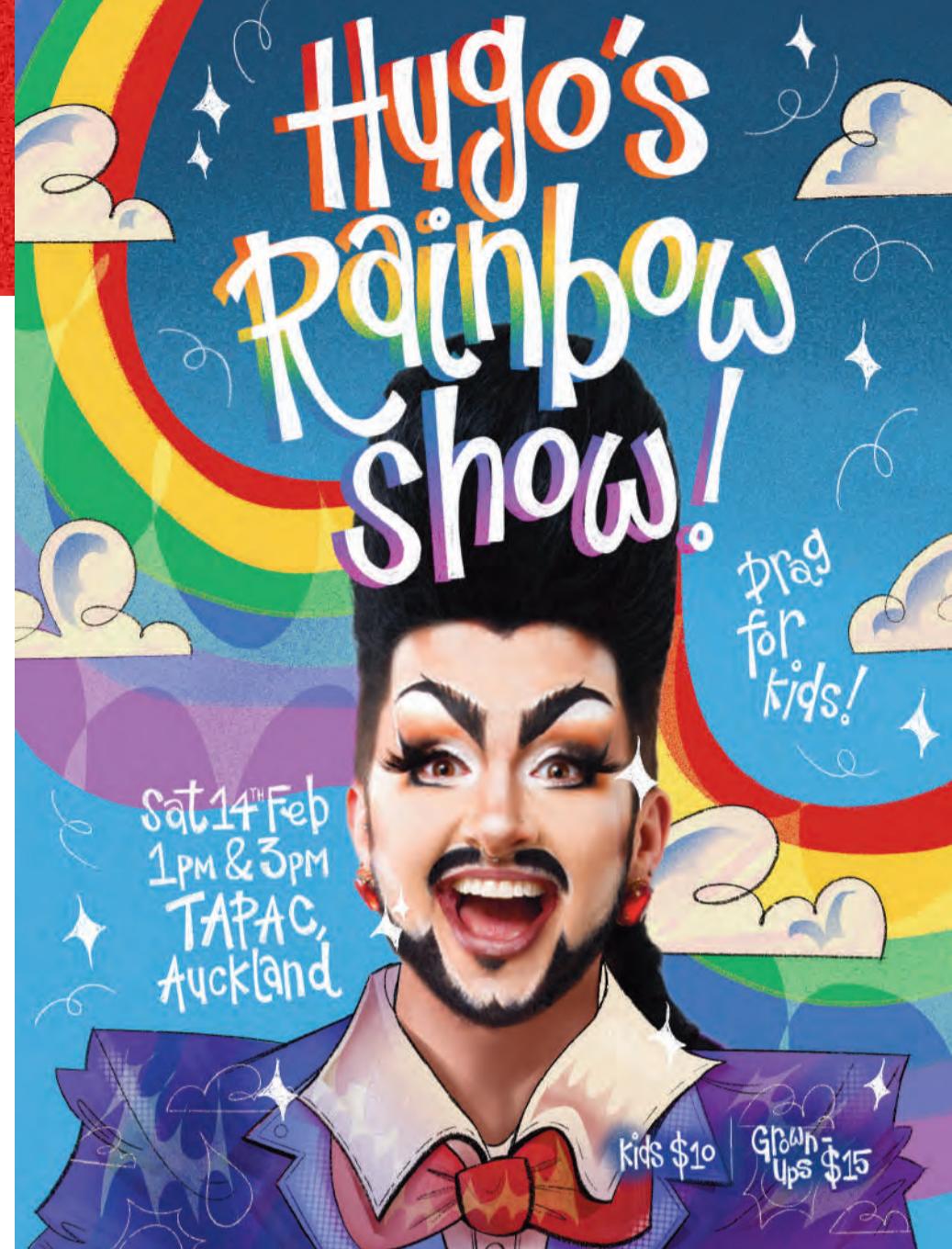


### Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum Pride Whānau Day

Express yourself at the Museum! Join us on a loud and proud Pride parade. Dive into our dress-ups, learn a chant and take part in a mini-parade in the Museum, led by silly, sparkly drag-king extraordinaire Hugogrrrl and friends. For quieter types, we'll have craft activities and face painting all day, and an artist-led workshop for older kids. Check out our website listing for further details.

#### Community

Feb 28, 10am - 3pm  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum  
FREE



# RADIQAL MOVEMENT PRIDE 2026

This Pride, Radiqal Movement is bringing you a full month of queer-affirming movement, community, and celebration. From group fitness classes to community activities and Pride-only events, everything on this page is part of our Pride 2026 programme — led by our wonderful kaimahi and volunteers.

Throughout February, you'll see a "PRIDE 2026 SPECIAL" pricing option on each eligible service (excluding bouldering & line dancing), alongside our regular sliding scale payment options. This Pride-only option offers a \$10 class special, making it even easier to move, connect, and celebrate together.

For more information about each event, go to: [radiqalmovement.com/pride2026](https://radiqalmovement.com/pride2026) or scan the QR Code.



### Q Total Body

A total-body class for every body this Pride.

1 Feb, 9AM  
 The Y Auckland  
 \$10



### Q Box

Build confidence and endurance in gloves this Pride!

3, 10, 17, 24 Feb, 6PM  
 The Y Auckland  
 \$10



### Q Mobility

Low-impact, mobility-focused movement in an adaptable space.

3 Feb, 7:15PM  
 The D\*List Community Hub  
 \$10



### Queer Line Dancing

Boot-scoot and groove this pride month w/ Sapphic Sounds & Radiqal Movement.

13 Feb, 7PM  
 Mount Eden War Memorial Hall  
 \$25



### Rainbow Tracks: A Pride Hikoi in the Waitakere Ranges

W/ The Charlotte Museum & Arataki Visitor Centre.

21 Feb, 10AM  
 Arataki Visitor Centre  
 FREE



### Q Yoga Vinyasa

Vinyasa flow, introducing core Āsana (yoga poses) in this pride special.

22 Feb, 8AM  
 Cadence Studio  
 \$10



### Mermascos Swim & Coffee

Reclaiming beach swims with likeminded merfolk this Pride!

22 Feb, 10:30AM  
 Point Chevalier Beach  
 FREE



### Q Zumba w/ Shawn

Dance, laugh, and celebrate Pride w/ Shawn & Radiqal Movement.

27 Feb, 6:30PM  
 Mount Albert War Memorial Hall  
 \$10



### Boulder Co. & Coffee

A fun Saturday trip to Boulder Co. for a climb & coffee this Pride!

28 Feb, 11AM  
 Boulder Co. Auckland  
 \$18



# THE CHARLOTTE MUSEUM TE WHARE TAKATĀPUI- WĀHINE O AOTEAROA



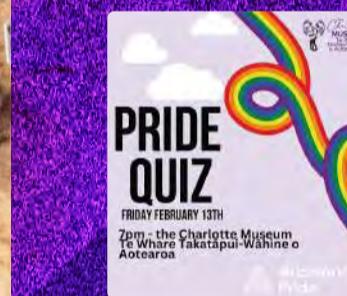
the  
**Charlotte**  
**MUSEUM**  
Te Whare  
Takatāpui-Wāhine  
o Aotearoa

## Queer Clay Club Exhibition

After a year of workshops around the motu, the Queer Clay Club is bringing together the finished plaques for a special opening night in Tāmaki Makaurau. Join us & Small Batch Pottery Co for an evening of story, memory, clay, and community.



17 4 - 28 Feb (Opening Night: 4 Feb, 6 - 9PM | 18+)  
The Charlotte Museum | FREE



Pride Quiz  
Join us for a Pride Quiz created by us!! Show off your queer knowledge and learn more about our histories and our present. Grab your team or come solo! It will be a fun night with our rainbow whānau at your favorite local Sapphic Museum.

13 Feb, 7 - 10PM  
The Charlotte Museum | \$15



Rainbow Tracks: a Pride hikoi in the Waitakere Ranges  
Join us, Radikal Movement, and the Arataki Visitor Centre for Rainbow Tracks: a Pride hikoi in the Waitakere Ranges. Welcoming all LGBTQIA+ and takatāpui folk, this event combines movement, connection, and Te Taiao for a wholesome Saturday outing you won't want to miss.

21 Feb, 10AM Arataki Visitor Centre | FREE

## COMING UP THIS YEAR

In 2026, The Charlotte Museum Te Whare Takatāpui-Wāhine o Aotearoa will launch Collective Perspective, a series of new exhibitions featuring local queer artists—offering emerging artists the opportunity to present their work within a museum setting, exhibiting alongside established creators whose practices have helped shape our cultural landscape.

By bringing these voices together, we aim to expand the narratives represented within the museum and affirm the vital role of queer perspectives in art. Through this project, we hope to cultivate an environment where artists gain meaningful experience working and exhibiting, while becoming part of a dynamic network of both new and seasoned voices.

Join us as we celebrate the diverse expressions within our community and support the beginnings of this exciting museum initiative! Keep an eye out on our website: [charlottemuseum.co.nz](http://charlottemuseum.co.nz)



# BEAR NZ WEEK 2026

4 — 8 February



For more information about each event, go to: [bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/](http://bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/)



**BUY TICKETS HERE**



17 8 Feb, 3 - 6PM | Cafe 39 | FREE | 18+ 18+

### Gear Social & Swap Meet

Event by Gear Up New Zealand. Their social events have become so popular they have added a relaxed monthly Sunday in the sun at Cafe 39 Ponsonby Rd. If you're looking for something to wear later at the Leather and Gear Party, we have a swap meet where you can try before you buy.



17 8 Feb, 2PM | Centurian | \$20 | 18+ 18+

### Wet Fur

A relaxing and steamy afternoon in Centurian's brand new premises! Discount entry available at \$20.



17 8 Feb, 6 - 10PM | G.A.Y. | \$20 | 18+ 18+

### Leather & Gear Party

Presented by Gear Up New Zealand, this is also our official Bear Week closing event. 6-10 pm at GAY, 262 Karangahape Rd. Tickets \$20, includes coat check. An introduction to the fetish scene in Tamaki Makaurau. Come to chat, dance, have a drink, compare gear, meet the Pups.



### Naked Yoga

Prepare for the excitement of Bear Week 2026 with a relaxing Naked Mens Yoga class. Suitable for everyone from beginners to experienced yogi. This calm, intimate experience sold out last year. As this is an intimate and structured event, the doors will be locked at 4pm.

17 4 Feb, 4PM | Studio One Toi Tū | \$10 (SOLD OUT) | 18+ 18+



### Meet & Greet

A civilised meet and greet to kick off Bear New Zealand Week 2026, in the Abstract Hotel's spacious courtyard. Bar available, snacks provided.

17 4 Feb, 6PM | Abstract Hotel | FREE | 18+ 18+



### Funny, Furry, Fierce!

The Funny, Furry, Fierce comedy show is always a standout event at Bear New Zealand week, and this year should be no exception! Host Neil Thornton has put together a stellar lineup of comedians to get us laughing.

17 5 Feb, 7PM | Classic Comedy Club | \$35 | 18+ 18+



### Underbear

**URGE**  
EVENTS

URGE Events presents the world famous Underbear party! The clothes are coming off, and the beats are turning up! Get ready to dance the night away at UnderBear Party, where the only dress code is your best undies. Cuddle room, coat check included.

17 5 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | Tickets from \$40 | 18+ 18+



### Urban Walk

Explore Auckland from a different perspective, join us as Cameron leads us through some of our urban highlights. Starting at 10am, and finishing at the Ponsonby International Foodcourt for lunch.

17 6 Feb, 10AM | Meeting Location TBC | FREE | 18+ 18+



### Ponsonby Lunch

After the Urban Walk, hungry bears will meet at the popular Ponsonby International Food Court for lunch. Hosted by Luca, 12 noon, 106 Ponsonby Rd.

17 6 Feb, 12PM | Ponsonby International Food Court | FREE | 18+ 18+



### Ass Class

Dr George's "Ass Class" teaches folks how to get the maximum pleasure and fun from their anal exploration. There's something for everyone in this class; come and pick up some new tips and tricks from the latest science in anal health pleasure. Arrive early and take advantage of Body Positive's sexual health clinic. (Test before the class, results after)

17 6 Feb, 2PM | Body Positive | \$15 (SOLD OUT) | 18+ 18+



### Haus of Bears

"Haus of Bears" is a concert and variety showcase that celebrates the creativity, talent, and diversity of LGBTQI+ communities in Tāmaki Makaurau. The project will bring together musicians, dancers, drag performers, choreographers, make-up artists, and technicians to create a professional, inclusive live event during Bear New Zealand Week 2026.

17 6 Feb, 7PM | Phoenix Cabaret | \$20 | 18+ 18+



### Mr Bear NZ 2026

Who will take the title of Mr Bear New Zealand this year? Join us for an unforgettable night as New Zealand's finest bears take the stage, competing for the coveted title.

If you would like to put your hand up to be a contestant, you can find out more info: [bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/](http://bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/)

17 6 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | FREE | 18+ 18+



### Bears & Board Games

It's neurospicy socialisation time! A fun afternoon playing board games at Dice and Fork board game bar and eatery. Come nerd out over some classic board games.

Free event, but registration required as capacity is limited. Snacks and drinks available at the venue.

17 7 Feb, 12PM | Dice & Fork | FREE | 18+ 18+



### Tri-Nations Party

Get ready for a night of hot, sexy, and safe fun with friends old and new—whether they're from across New Zealand or around the world. Plus, join us in welcoming the newly crowned Mr. Bear New Zealand 2026 to the spotlight.

17 7 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | \$40 | 18+ 18+



### Bear Brunch

Hilton and Keith's monthly Bears Meetup over Brunch has been an introduction to Bear friendship for many of us over the years. Join them at the Long Room, 114 Ponsonby Rd, at 12 noon.

Capacity is limited, so registration is essential.

17 8 Feb, 12PM | Long Room | FREE | 18+ 18+



**MOTAT**  
Science + Tech + Play

# Mile High Comedy Club

TAKING COMEDY TO NEW HEIGHTS



THURS 12 FEBRUARY

Auckland  
Pride



TICKETS AT MOTAT.NZ



Matt Coombe



Janaye Henry



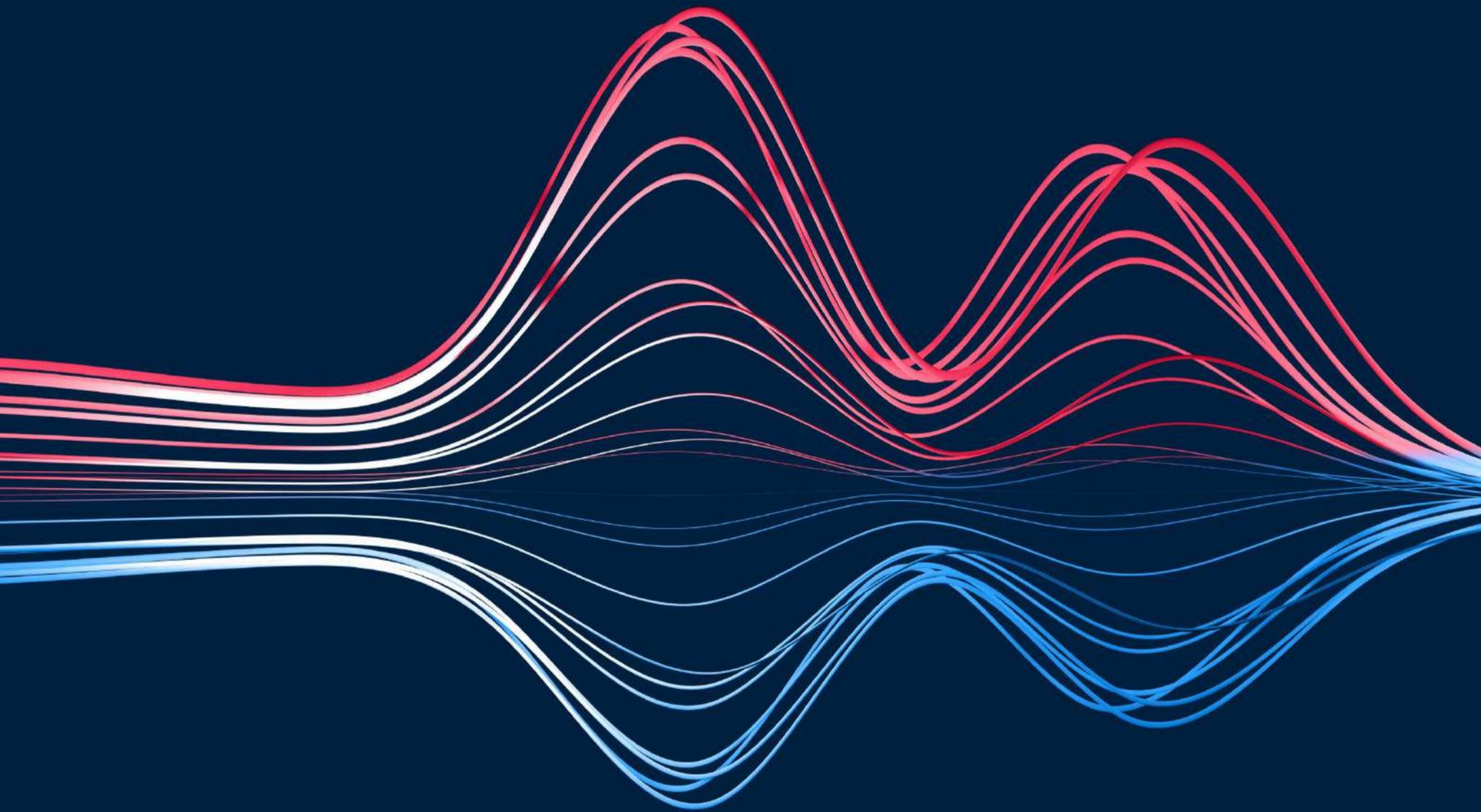
James Mustapic



To be announced



**DLA PIPER**



**Standing with pride,  
every day.**

We champion inclusive communities  
and equitable futures across Aotearoa.

[dlapiper.com](http://dlapiper.com)

## PROUD CENTRES

For the first time, Auckland Council and Auckland Pride have come to a written agreement which unequivocally *“recognises the unique social and artistic contributions of Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+ and rainbow communities throughout Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and their undeniable impact on the social wellbeing and cultural identity of this city.”*

This written recognition is the result of local demonstrations involving both cultural teams and frontline staff, a crucial response to the present and a commitment to the future. There have been many transformations of the relationship between Auckland Pride and Auckland Council over thirteen festivals, but the last eighteen months particularly has embedded our meaningful collaboration.

It's a collaboration which manifests through this year's festival with the return of Auckland Council Proud Centres, a programme of free and low-cost events throughout Tāmaki Makaurau in Libraries and Community Centres. This collaboration between frontline kaimahi at Libraries and Community Centres, Auckland Council Arts and Culture team and Auckland Pride has created opportunities for rainbow communities which last year-round.

In 2026, with nearly double the amount of programming in Proud Centres since the last Auckland Pride Festival, there is something for everyone to enjoy; from quilting workshops to queer bookclubs to exclusive author talks, prom to teen pride clubs, and over 150 others. These are events which reach beyond the city's urban hub to deliver new hobbies, friends, and much-loved favourites to your doorstep.



*“This programme may not reflect the final programming, please check online through this QR Code for all up to date info.”*



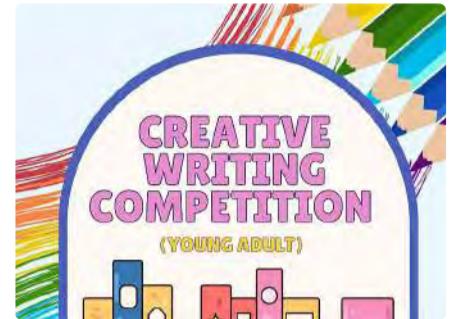


### Remuera Library Community Poetry Zine

Ever felt the call to write? Had the need to express something about your identity in short form? This could be your chance! We're putting together a small, poetry oriented zine that reflects the voices and talents of our Takatāpui and Rainbow community here in Tāmaki Makaurau. Submissions close on February 14th 2026.

#### Literature

Feb 1-14, All day  
Remuera Library  
FREE



### Botany Library Creative Writing Competition for Young Adults

Calling all young writers! Submit your original work anytime throughout the month to Botany Library. For age 12 and up. Exciting prizes up for grabs! Winners will be announced in early March. Prompt: "Hope grows where acceptance lives". Submissions closes: 28th February 2026 | 5:00pm.

#### Literature

Feb 1-28, All day  
Botany Library  
FREE



### Auckland Pride Love is Love: Take 3 Romances

Borrow three romance novels from Auckland Council Libraries or online with Libby, and you're in to win one of five \$100 GiftPay vouchers! Find your perfect match with our displays and reading lists curated by our librarians, from sweet rom-coms to steamy scenes, and ace/aro situationships to pan partners, whatever you fancy!

#### Literature

Feb 1-28, All day  
Auckland Council Libraries  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)

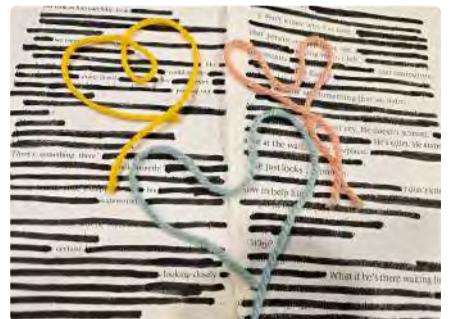


### Parnell Library Pride Lives Here: An Exhibit of Auckland's Queer History

Visit Parnell Library for a display celebrating the history and stories of Auckland Central's queer community. Through photos, posters, and other historical materials, explore pivotal moments and everyday life for LGBTQI+ locals over the decades.

#### Exhibition

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Parnell Library  
FREE



### Albany Village Library Blackout Poetry

Find your own meaning within the page of another's words! In this workshop we will be upcycling withdrawn library books and making blackout poems from the pages. This workshop will mix poetry and art as we create poems and works of art from the pages. Open to all ages, unleash your inner poet!

#### Literature

Feb 1, 2 - 3pm  
Albany Village Library  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West W\_acking for All: Punking/Waacking dance workshops

Step into the fierce and fabulous world of W\_acking and its roots in Punking - a style born from resistance, joy, and unapologetic identity. These sessions are beginner-friendly, uplifting, and designed to support mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Come celebrate Pride in a space that's joyful & safe for all!

#### Dance

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, 4 - 5.30pm  
Te Atatu Peninsula Community Hub  
FREE



### Kanga Training, PrideFest Out West Proud Parents Kangatraining

Kangatraining is a pelvic floor-safe postnatal fitness class for mums, dads, auntsies, uncles, grandparents, friends, and all forms of whānau. No babysitter needed - move, stretch, dance, and build strength while keeping pēpi close in a carrier. This is a safe, inclusive space for Rainbow whānau, allies, and friends. Registrations essential.

#### Sport

Various dates & times  
Various venues  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West Kotahitanga in Colour

A PrideFest Out West activation where our community comes together to build one giant, travelling Pride flag. Each workshop focuses on a single rainbow colour, exploring the meaning of the Pride flag while crafting a unique textile piece with recycled and sustainable materials. Guided by The Recreators.

#### Workshop

Feb 2, 7,14, 19, 21, 22, 26,  
Various times  
Various venues  
FREE



### Pride Fest Out West Synergize with Squad 180

A body-positive, inclusive Yoga/Pilates fusion class where every body is welcome. A flowing blend of Tai Chi, Yoga, and Pilates to help you strengthen, stretch, and reconnect with your body at your own pace. Synergize supports rainbow whānau, allies, friends, and anyone seeking gentle, empowering movement.

#### Sports

Feb 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19,  
22, 24, 26, Various times  
Te Atatu Peninsula Community  
Hub, New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE



### Auckland Central Library Our Stories on Screen: Daily Docos and Movies at Tāmaki Pātaka

Drop in and visit the FREE daily screenings of documentaries, movies and community stories at Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero, Auckland Central Library this February. Our large screen on the ground floor will be proudly broadcasting Takatāpui and Rainbow lens? Come and browse our curated Pride book displays at Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero, Auckland Central Library this February!

#### Film

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



### Auckland Central Library Proud Stories

Looking for takatāpui and rainbow themed reads? Keen to connect with our community stories? Want to know more about the rich history of Tāmaki Makaurau through a Takatāpui and Rainbow lens? Come and browse our curated Pride book displays at Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero, Auckland Central Library this February!

#### Literature

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



### Highland Park Library Clothing Swap at Highland Park Library

Support sustainability, inclusivity, and creativity! Bring up to 5 pieces of clean, undamaged clothing to swap (only give what you would be happy to receive) and get the opportunity to take home up to 3 preloved, new-to-you pieces of clothing. This event is for teens and adults. Register on Eventbrite to attend.

#### Community

Feb 1, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



### Messy Rainbows, PrideFest Out West Soft Sensory Reset (with Messy Rainbows)

A peaceful, neurodivergent-friendly space designed for adults who need a moment to breathe, regulate, and gently unwind. Move through low-pressure stations featuring fidget trays, dough for grounding motions, aromatherapy elements and more. Give yourself permission to slow down.

#### Workshop

Feb 3, 10, 11, 24, Various  
times  
Rānui Library  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



### Botany Library Express Yourself: Badge Making for the Whānau

Join us for a fun badge-making workshop! Design and create your own colourful badges to express your creativity and individuality. All materials provided - just bring your imagination and enjoy a relaxed, creative space! All ages session on Tuesday February 3rd. 12+ session on Tuesday 10th of February.

#### Craft

Feb 3, 10, 3 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE



### Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre Beginner Roller Dance with Skate Nation

Every Tuesday this February, join the fab team from Skate Nation for a month of FREE beginner Roller Dance classes! Learn the basics of Roller Dance by applying simple footwork to the beat of the music. You'll build coordination, practice quick weight changes, and explore rhythm and tempo in a fun, supportive environment.

#### Dance

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 7 - 8pm  
Te Atatu South Community  
Centre  
FREE



### Arataki Visitor Centre Tiny Activism: Badge Making at Arataki

Come along to Arataki Visitor Centre on Wednesday 4 February, from 1-3pm, and take part in Tiny Activism. Design and create your own Pride Pin to keep, take home and wear with Pride!

#### Craft

Feb 4, 1 - 3pm  
Arataki Visitor Centre  
FREE

## Events



**Queer Joy Quilt Aotearoa**  
Queer Joy Quilting Workshop

Join a quilting workshop series centred on queer joy. During the first workshop, we will connect and kōrero about what queer joy means to us, plan our patchwork squares, and learn some basic patchwork techniques we can use. The second workshop will be spent creating our patchwork squares using our chosen techniques.

**Workshop**

Feb 4, 11, 6 - 8pm  
Sandringham Community Centre  
FREE

**Studio One Toi Tū**  
Feelings in Moments - Elliot Thorp

Elliot Thorp's work explores the contrast between the soft domestic nature of a quilt and the anxious, hopeful, or uncertain thoughts we hold. Elliot's quilts capture the universal, everyday chatter in our minds, turning private vulnerability into a shared and colourful experience. Exhibition Opening: 4 Feb, 5-7pm.

**Exhibition**

Feb 5 - Mar 5  
Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE

**Studio One Toi Tū**  
Green Noise - Tove Spary

Green Noise is Tove Spary's reflection on her experiences with Ihī Ora, the Grafton based mental health services. Her work explores the lived disharmony between her trans-self and her material conditions. Ihī Ora, a brutal concrete and glass structure, is enveloped on all sides by the lush greenery of Pukekawa (Auckland Domain). Exhibition Opening: 4 Feb, 5-7pm.

**Exhibition**

Feb 5 - Mar 5  
Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE

**Queer Joy Quilt Aotearoa**  
The Queer Joy Community Quilt 2025 Exhibition

The patchwork quilt is a labour of aroha and kotahitanga, and the result of the makers' skill sharing, solidarity, and commitment to creating. The quilt is an expression of each artist's intersectional understandings of queer joy, reflecting cultural and personal histories. The exhibition opening is on February 4th, 5pm-7pm.

**Exhibition**

Feb 5 - Mar 5  
Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE

## Events



**Auckland Central Library**  
Life Hacks With Librarians – Pride Editions

Have a chat with our community librarians who can help you navigate a variety of life admin tasks such as finding information, locating resources, updating your CV, using digital devices, navigating applications for passports, updating driver licences and more. Our team is here to help!

**Community**

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 2 - 4pm  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE

**Botany Library**  
Express Yourself: Bracelet Making

Pop in and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of crafting as you create your own bracelets! Design them in the colours of the rainbow or colours that represent you! You can also make friendship bracelets to share with your besties and loved ones. Open to all ages | Adult supervision required for children under 8.

**Craft**

Feb 5, 3.30 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE

**Pakuranga Community Library**  
Rainbow Cookie Decorating

Join us as we decorate some delicious cookies with some Pride-themed rainbow icing! Suitable for all ages. Parental supervision required for younger participants.

**Craft**

Feb 5, 4 - 4.30pm  
Pakuranga Library  
FREE

**PrideFest Out West**  
Worthy: An Affirmation Workshop Series

An intimate, creative workshop series where you'll craft your own handmade affirmation medal - a personal taonga symbolising strength, healing, and self-worth. Guided in a safe, inclusive space, you'll work with discarded and unexpected materials, transforming them into something beautifully meaningful.

**Workshop**

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 5 - 7pm  
Te Atatu Peninsula Community Hub  
FREE

**Highland Park Library**  
Rainbow Perler Beads Craft Workshop at Highland Park Library

Craft trinkets that you, your friends and whānau can wear with Pride. Sit down, chat, relax and get creative. Expect a relaxed, inclusive space to connect and create. All materials will be provided and you can take home your unique designs. This session is for teens and adults. Booking required through Eventbrite.

**Craft**

Feb 7, 2 - 3pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE

**Botany Library**  
Express Yourself: Clothing Swap!

Join us again for the ultimate clothes swap! Trade your used pieces for fresh fits, express your style, and give your wardrobe a sustainable refresh. Plus, a sewing machine will be available on-site, so you can add flair, customise your finds, or make quick fixes - get creative and make your new pieces truly your own!

**Community**

Feb 7-8, 3 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE

**Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library**  
Pride Cross-Stitch Patches Workshop

Learn how to cross-stitch Pride patches to go on your favorite outfit. LGBTQIA+ patterns and material will be provided to start your creative journey with us, and to take home if you need more time. Suitable for beginner and experienced stitchers. This is a rangatahi (16+) and adult workshop.

**Craft**

Feb 8, 11am - 12pm  
Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library  
FREE

**Ellen Melville Centre**  
Trans Politics Workshop

What are your needs? Can we collectively organise to meet them? With advice from seasoned organisers and community participation, this session will take a grounded approach towards building a lasting trans people's organisation in Tāmaki Makaurau.

**Workshop**

Feb 8, 2.30 - 5.30pm  
Ellen Melville Centre  
FREE

## Events



### Mt Albert Library Rainbow Adult Storytime

A special themed Adult Storytime, celebrating the differences that make us unique - like a rainbow! Then participate in a craft session with creator Rosemary Peppermint and design your own flags and badges to celebrate what you're proud of! These sessions are designed for disabled adults, but are open to all to join in.

#### Community

Feb 10, 11am - 12pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE



### The Sisters Gay, Grey Lynn Library The Sisters Gay Present: Where Does It Hurt

Green around the gills? Taken a turn for the worse? Open wide, put your finger on the pulse, say "Ah", and we'll soon have you in the pink of health. In the latest literary salon for lesbians and other family, Sisters Gay play doctors and nurse practitioners in this grown-up storytime. Prebook on Eventfinda.

Feb 10, 6 - 8pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE



### Auckland Central Library Pride Author Talks

Join us on Tuesday evenings during Pride for a series of author talks celebrating Takatāpui and Rainbow authors. These relaxed conversations will be an opportunity to engage with their work and learn about our author's creative process. You might just discover your next favourite read!

Feb 10, 24, 6.30 - 7.30pm  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



### Onehunga Community Centre A Mini Version of Me

A casual, drop-in creative activity set-up in the foyer area of the centre. Participants can stop by at any time to create a small clay figure that represents how they see themselves. The foyer will be set up with clay, tools, paints, glitters, and a small display shelf with pre-made sample characters to inspire participants.

#### Craft

Feb 11-18, All day  
Onehunga Community Centre  
FREE



### Pakuranga Library Pride Badge Making

Join us for a fun, creative session where we'll design and make fabulously queer personalised Pride badges! Celebrate self-expression, meet new friends, and craft something you can wear with pride.

#### Craft

Feb 12, 4 - 4.30pm  
Pakuranga Library  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West W\_acking for All | Rangatahi Workshop

This 6 week Rangatahi W\_acking For All series breaks down in a beginner-friendly workshop through drills, musicality training, building confidence, and guided freestyle. Whether you're new to dance or looking to grow your skills, the programme invites you to show up as you are, move freely, and experience the joy of self-expression.

#### Dance

Feb 12, 26, 4 - 5.30pm  
New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE



### East Coast Bays Library Badge It With Pride

Create your own rainbow badges! Whether you are celebrating your identity, showing support for friends, or just love bright colors, this session is all about expression, community, and creativity. We'll have tons of supplies—pins, stickers, markers, glitter, and all the rainbow vibes you need.

#### Craft

Feb 12, 5 - 6pm  
East Coast Bays Library  
FREE



### Botany Library Express Yourself: Rainbow Tie-Dyed Ecobags

Pop in to tie-dye your own ecobag in bright, fun colours to create a sustainable and unique accessory that matches your identity and fits. For ages 12+, Registrations via Eventbrite.



### Botany Library Love Makes the World Go Round Rhymetime

Join us for Love Makes the World Go Round Rhymetime! Sing, move, and giggle along to songs and rhymes that celebrate kindness, being unique and love in all shapes and sizes - perfect for pre-schoolers and their caregivers!

#### Community

Feb 11, 10.30 - 11am  
Botany Library  
FREE



### Green Bay Community House Rainbow Cupcake Decorating

Are you Green Bay's hottest home baker? Join us for a cupcake decorating session. Can you make the biggest, brightest cupcake for afternoon tea? Free event but koha donations can be made to the Burnett Foundation.

#### Craft

Feb 11, 3 - 5pm  
Green Bay Community House  
FREE



### Samesame But Different PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy and Open Mic

Samesame But Different LGBTQIA+ readers and writers festival presents the 2026 PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy and Open Mic in association with Auckland Libraries and Studio One Toi Tū. Bring your original or favourite rainbow poetry to read or come along to listen and enjoy. With MC Michael Giacon and guest poet Hebe Kearney.

#### Literature

Feb 11, 5 - 7pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
(18+ years)



### valval smithsmithsmithsmith SOMEWHERE FRUITCAKE: a queer\*trans movement experiments workshop

Join us in a playful exploration of movement for the contexts of performance and art making. You can expect; Practices of Hope and Failure. Flaming Somatics Tests, Queer Feelings, Homo-Shamanism, Fun with Realness and Fakeness. Come as you are, no experience required. Facilitated by val smith.

#### Workshop

Feb 11, 6 - 8pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE  
(18+ years)



### Pt Chevalier Community Centre Queer Wears - Pre-BGO Clothing Swap

Need some new threads in time for BGO? Then join us for our Gender-Affirming clothing swap. A free event where you can donate unwanted items and source a new-to-you outfit for Pride! Clothing donations are welcome - you can drop them off at Pt Chev Library between 2nd-11th Feb during opening hours, or bring them on the day.

#### Community

Feb 12, 5 - 7pm  
Pt Chev Community Centre  
FREE



### Body Positive Test'n'Treat at Pride: Rainbow Sex & Wellbeing

Let's talk about queer sex, real questions, and what keeps us healthy. Join the crew from Test'n'Treat and Auckland Sexual Health, for an easy, open, judgement-free chat. We'll cover rapid testing, staying healthy, prevention tools like PrEP and DoxyPEP, and treatment options. Just good info and honest kōrero.

#### Community

Feb 12, 5 - 7pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



### Remuera Library Safe Space Crafternoon

Come and enjoy a safe space to be creative and celebrate our takatāpui and rainbow communities! Inspired by the Queer Joy! Project, there will be craft materials and inspiration for some amazing collage posters and bookmarks, as well as letter beads for bracelets. There's no rules! All ages, no registration needed.

#### Craft

Feb 12, 5.30 - 6.30pm  
Remuera Library  
FREE



### Avondale Library Queer Book Club

Join us for a queer book club! Here you can chat about your favourite books with queer themes and recommend them to others. Drinks and snacks will be available. For ages 18+. Please book your free ticket via Humanitix.

Feb 12, 6 - 8pm  
Avondale Library  
FREE  
(18+ years)

## Events



### Forest & Bird Youth Auckland Hub Reclaim Your Pride 2026

Let's give old fabric new life by making them into handheld pride flags! The unique patterns and textures make every flag personalised and unique to you. All fabrics kindly donated by Auckland tailors.

#### Workshop

Feb 13, 2 - 4pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



### Mt Roskill Library Messy Rainbows Potion Play

Get messy with us this Pride Month! Explore textures, colours, and sounds. Our messy sessions will be focusing on making potions to tea party concoctions where you'll be able to strengthen your motor functions and learn through play! Please note that this event is recommended for children 4+ with parental supervision.

#### Workshop

Feb 13, 3.30 - 5pm  
Three Kings Tennis Pavillion  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West Pronoun Badge Making

Drop in the Te Papa Rewarewa and make a badge that represents you! Decorate a unique badge with your pronouns, or anything that reflects who you are.

#### Craft

Feb 13, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Te Papa Rewarewa | New Lynn Memorial Square  
FREE

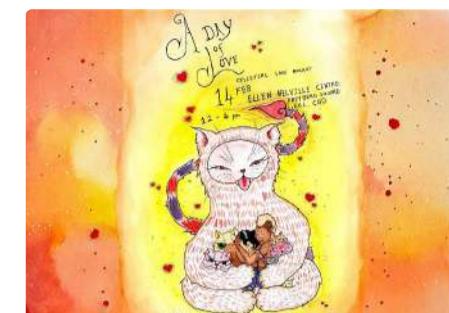


### Onehunga Oranga Hub Bingo Queen with Miss Trinity Ice

Hosted by queens, it's the only bingo where everyone wins! If it's not prizes, it's a great night filled with laughs and entertainment from beginning to end. This is a free event. Spaces are limited, so registrations are essential. This event is for people aged 18+.

#### Comedy

Feb 13, 6 - 7.30pm  
Fergusson Hall  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Celestial Corner Celestial Love Market

Celebrate love at the Celestial Love Makers Market in Freyberg Square this Valentine's Day. Curated by Celestial Corner, featuring handcrafted goods from queer makers and rainbow allies, atmospheric music, and Elote Cartel's American Mexican street kai. Join us for a vibrant, inclusive gathering.

#### Community

Feb 14, 12 - 4pm  
Ellen Melville Centre  
FREE

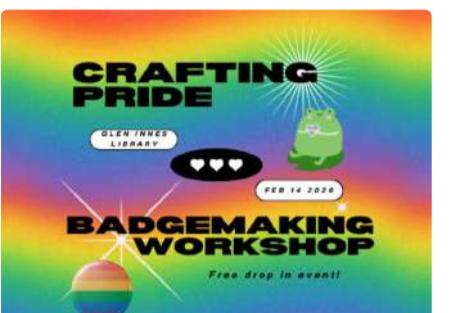


### Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini Waiata-i-te-Whare: Pride Edition

Nau mai, haere mai! Throughout the day you'll be able to create your own charms with Remy Schwenke, get your chosen family portraits taken, and enjoy a special surprise musician you definitely won't want to miss. This is a space to come together, create, sing, and celebrate the many ways we show up for each other.

#### Community

Feb 14, 12 - 8pm  
Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, Takanini Library and Community Hub  
FREE



### Glen Innes Library Crafting Pride: Badgemaking Workshop

Get creative and make a badge that shows what makes you unique! This activity is all about celebrating individuality and making something that represents you! Suitable for all ages—just bring your creativity!

#### Craft

Feb 14, 1 - 2pm  
Glen Innes Library  
FREE



### Onehunga Library Love Stories

Onehunga Library is celebrating Love is Love + Library Lovers Day + Valentines on February the 14th cos it's a such a lover-ly combination! Come to our Takatāpui and Rainbow Community focused book discussion for snacks and chats about your fave love stories and add to your 'must-read' list.

#### Literature

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Onehunga Library  
FREE



### GendAffirm GendAffirm Presents: The Spotlight Series Exhibition

Join us for GendAffirm's Spotlight Series Exhibition, a celebration of trans visibility and empowerment. This exhibition showcases powerful photographic portraits of trans and gender-diverse people thriving in a wide range of careers, showing our community that they can be anything they want to be.

#### Exhibition

Feb 14, 9am - 5pm  
Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, Takanini Library and Community Hub  
\$10  
FREE



### Dodgeball For All, PrideFest Out West Summer Rush Dodgeball Tournament

Whether you're a seasoned player or just here for the vibes, everyone's welcome on the court. Movement is for everyone, and we're proud to create a space where you can play your way in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. Come for the dodgeball, stay for the community. Grab your team and join us!

#### Sports

Feb 14, 9am - 5pm  
Te Atatū Peninsula Community Hub  
\$10  
FREE



### Titirangi Community House Rainbow Heart String Art

Craft your own Pride-themed artwork to take home. We'll provide the materials—wood, nails, and plenty of rainbow string. Come together, celebrate Pride, express yourself, and make something meaningful in a warm and welcoming community space. Everyone is welcome—bring your creativity and your colours!

#### Craft

Feb 14, 10am - 12pm  
Titirangi Community House  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Glen Eden Library Love Letters: Glen Eden

In The Love That Dares, queer love speaks its name through a wonderful selection of surviving letters between lovers and friends, confidants and companions. This event is a casual space to enjoy reading queer love letters aloud & share our thoughts. You are also welcome to make a bracelet or write your own love letter.

#### Literature

Feb 14, 11am - 12pm  
Glen Eden Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Studio One Toi Tū An ode to queer joy: making quilted plushie charms

Queer joy is a deeply relational experience for many of us, and is amplified through our community, loved ones and whānau. This Valentine's Day, we invite you to craft a quilted plushie charm- for, or inspired by someone who nurtures your queer joy.

#### Workshop

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library Proud Voices Memoir Writing Workshop

Join Lil O'Brien for a free memoir writing workshop on how to write about the loves of your life - exes, partners, friends, and whānau - while staying true to your own story and sharing your journey. This interactive workshop is for adults 18 and over - all materials provided. Spaces are limited, so book your spot today!

#### Literature

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



### Chinese Pride New Zealand Rainbow Parade Sign-Making 彩虹游行标语牌制作

Are you keen to walk with Chinese Pride New Zealand in the upcoming Rainbow Parade on 21 Feb? This is a banner/sign making session for anyone who is interested in making your own signs for the day. Materials will be provided but you are more than welcome to bring your own.

#### Community

Feb 14, 2 - 4pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



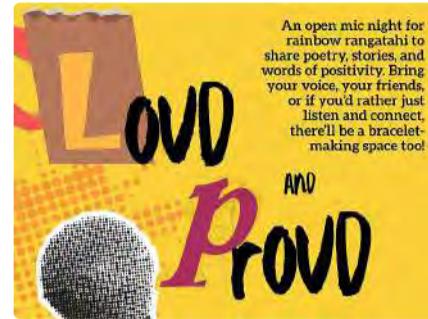
### Botany Library Pride in Every Stitch: Upcycled Denim Tote Bag Session

Bring along your old or abandoned jeans and transform them into a stylish tote! All sewing equipment will be provided, and our step-by-step demonstration makes it super easy even if you're a beginner. Come create something trendy, meaningful, and tote-ally you. For ages 16+. Registration via Eventbrite.

#### Craft

Feb 14, 3 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)

## Events



### Auckland Libraries Loud and Proud: Open Mic Night for Rainbow Rangatahi

An open mic night for rainbow rangatahi to share poetry, stories, and words of positivity. Bring your voice, your friends, or if you'd rather just listen and connect, there'll be a bracelet-making space too!

#### Performance

Feb 14, 4 - 7pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE



### Gibblehirst Community Hub Gibblehirst Hub Pride: Queer Prom

Welcome to Gibblehirst Hub's Queer Prom, where we invite queer people of all ages to come dance the night away as your authentic selves- whether that be in your own skin, with the partner you want or without- whatever you decide suits you best. Dress up or down, dance or sit on the sidelines, and show up however you want.

#### Community

Feb 14, 5 - 9pm  
Gibblehirst Community Hub  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West Love Between the Pages: Speed Dating

Join us for Love Between the Pages: Speed Dating — a 2-hour, platonic-focused social event for 18+ at PrideFest Out West. Facilitated by Danika and Kitty from Queer Speed Dating, this inclusive event invites you to mix, mingle, and connect in the welcoming sanctuary of the library. Booking required.

#### Community

Feb 14, 20, Various times  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



### Prismaticica Prismaticica

Plants have always brought people together in many ways - to grow for food to eat, to decorate gardens and houses, for collecting, and occasionally as lessons in financial models. Prismaticica is about coming together – to buy plants, meet other collectors and growers, talk about our shared passions, and learn from each other.

#### Community

Feb 15, 9am - 1pm  
Mt Eden War Memorial Hall  
FREE

## Events



### PithSwag Writers Club

Trying to write, but struggling to get into the routine? Working hard at your craft, seeking community? Wishing other writing clubs were on a Tuesday? If you answered yes to any of the above, this space might be for you! A quiet, focused co-working space for writers, followed by a structured peer feedback session.

#### Literature

Feb 17, 5 - 8pm  
Fickling Centre  
FREE



### Green Bay Community House Rainbow Wraps

Join us for a free lunch and make the best rainbow coloured wraps ever! We'll have a variety of brightly colored healthy wrap fillings for you to make a tasty lunch to enjoy with us in the sunshine. We'll be collecting donations for the Burnett Foundation.

#### Community

Feb 18, 12 - 1pm  
Green Bay Community House  
FREE



### Blackout Poetry Aotearoa, PrideFest Out West Express Your Gender! Collage Workshop

Drop in and make a unique collage or artwork, hosted by the team from Blackout Poetry Aotearoa! Using found images and upcycled materials, and transform these materials into vibrant and individual artworks that express your gender, or simply make any collage artwork! Free for all, all materials provided.

#### Craft

Feb 19, 4 - 6pm  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West Rainbow Roadshow - My Beautiful Whānau

Rauhina Cooper shares her beautiful bilingual pukapuka Tōku Whānau Rerehua: My Beautiful Family. Illustrated by Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, this joyful session celebrates diverse whānau, identity, pride, and belonging, inviting tamariki and their caregivers into a warm, welcoming space. Perfect for tamariki and their grown-ups.

#### Literature

Feb 20-21, Various times  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



### Pt Chev Community Centre Pt Chev Big Gay Out Rainbow Brunch

Start your BGO day in style! Enjoy the sweet sounds from DJ Devine, relax in the sun with a mocktail slushie, grab a barista-made coffee, spin yourself a smoothie with the pedal-powered smoothie bikes, and enjoy facepainters, the photo booth and, of course, a leisurely buffet brunch. This is a completely FREE event.

#### Community

Feb 15, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Pt Chev Community Centre  
FREE



### Rānui Library Terracotta Pot Painting for Adults

Decorate your own terracotta pot in any way that inspires you—rainbows, affirmations, bold colors, symbols of strength, messages of love, or anything that reflects you and your personal journey. Take home your pot along with seeds to plant—a living reminder of pride, resilience, strength, and new beginnings. Register now.

#### Craft

Feb 15, 11am - 1pm  
Rānui Library  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



### Studio One Toi Tū Life Drawing with a Model – Tony Guo

A fun life drawing class teaching you how to observe a model's pose in real life and translate it into a drawing. By the end of the class, you will complete a few drawings on some quick poses and a more detailed drawing from a longer pose.

#### Workshop

Feb 16, 6 - 8.30pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



### Highland Park Library Badge Making Workshop at Highland Park Library

Join us for a fun, hands-on activity where you can design and create your own badges to show your uniqueness and celebrate the beauty of diversity. Expect welcoming, inclusive space for all and an opportunity to express your identity through art. All materials for badge making will be provided. This workshop is for all ages.

#### Craft

Feb 17, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



### Mt Albert Library Rainbow Crafternoon

Join us for a special Rainbow Crafternoon with local creative craft expert Rosemary Peppermint. Design and make your very own unique creation to take home that celebrates who you are and what you're proud of! All materials provided. Open to the young and young at heart.

#### Craft

Feb 20, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE



### Te Manawa Rainbow Reels

Join us for a special Pride Month screening at Te Manawa! A knight from a futuristic medieval world must rely on his shapeshifting nemesis to prove his innocence when he is framed for a crime he didn't commit. Suitable for 11+ or with parental supervision. Please note that this event requires registration.

#### Film

Feb 20, 4 - 6.30pm  
Te Manawa  
FREE



### Wesley Community Centre PUKETAPAPA PRIDE CELEBRATION Bike + Train to the Pride Rave

Join us for pre-ride activities, including bike safety checks by Mt Roskill Hub mechanics, bike decorating, face painting, Zumba, and snacks and refreshments. Our ride to the Bike Pals Pride Rave departs Wesley Community Centre at 7pm.

#### Community

Feb 20, 5 - 7pm  
Wesley Community Centre and Roskill Youth Zone  
FREE



### Te Oro OHN RUNWAY WORKSHOPS

John Tanuvasa, founder and CEO of Ohn Clothing will be hosting four model workshops to build confidence, develop runway and posing skills, and introduce young talent to the world of fashion. These sessions will lead into a final-day fashion show, where participants will showcase what they've learned in front of an audience.

#### Workshop

Workshops: Feb 20, 21, 22, 27  
at Various time. Show: Feb 28  
Te Oro  
FREE



Glen Eden Library, Naomi Azoulay  
**A Collage Workshop: Stories Carried Across Waters**

Come relax & feel your flow state with the famous & fabulous artist Naomi Azoulay! Create intuitive collages that honour the many journeys, identities, and whakapapa that shape life in Tāmaki Makaurau. We will use images, colour, and texture to explore belonging, resilience, and the interwoven stories that connect us.

**Craft**

**Feb 21, 10am - 2pm**  
Glen Eden Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Geek Out For Pride!**

West Auckland's rainbow pop-culture celebration — a safe, inclusive festival for geeks of every flavour! Explore our artist alley packed with local creators, food trucks and more. Whether you're into comics, cosplay, gaming, crafting, collectibles, fantasy worlds or sci-fi obsessions, this is your space to celebrate it proudly.

**Community**

**Feb 21, 10am - 4pm**  
Te Atatu Peninsula Community Hub  
FREE



Te Manawa Community Hub  
**Author Talk: Laura Vincent, Author of Hoods Landing**

Hear author Laura Vincent discuss love, life and death across four generations of women in her debut novel. Described as "a Southern Gothic-via-rural South Auckland anti-tragedy", Hoods Landing is about shoddy pasts, ambiguous futures and the imperfect bonds that tie family together.

**Literature**

**Feb 21, 2 - 3pm**  
Te Manawa  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



The Quiet Chaos Club  
**The Quiet Chaos Club**

A community event where queer, neurodivergent, and disabled folks can come together in a stress-free environment. We invite participants to bring along a "side quest", whether it's a craft, tactile stim, or small project, so you can engage quietly while soaking in insights from our featured guest speakers.

**Community**

**Feb 22, 11am - 12.30pm**  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Avondale Library  
**Author Talk with Gina Cole**

A special author talk with Gina Cole, winner of the 2017 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Gina is best known for Black Ice Matter, and for her debut novel, Na Viro which explores the innovative subgenre of Pasifikafuturism. Our talk will focus on Gina's journey as a queer author and her approach to telling LGBTQ+ stories.

**Literature**

**Feb 25, 6 - 8pm**  
Avondale Library  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Pukekohe Library  
**Inclusive Storytime**

A 30 minute inclusive themed storytime session featuring stories, rhymes, singing and dancing. A great opportunity to encourage an interest in books while building language and literacy skills.

**Literature**

**Feb 26, 10.30 - 11am**  
Pukekohe Library  
FREE



Te Manawa  
**Find Your People (Rangatahi/Youth)**

Join us for a book kōrero celebrating rainbow reads – pukapuka | books by and about LBTTIQA+ experiences. Come along to meet other rangatahi who enjoy reading, chat with our friendly librarians, and leave with a kete of reading inspiration! This session is for youth aged 14–18. Book to secure a spot.

**Community**

**Feb 26, 4 - 5pm**  
Te Manawa  
FREE



Mt Roskill Library  
**Mt Roskill Teen Pride Club**

Join a welcoming space where LGBTQ+ teens and allies can connect, create, and be themselves. We'll have snacks, crafts, games, and plenty of time to chat in a relaxed, supportive environment. Come make friends, express yourself, and celebrate pride in community. Suitable for ages 13-18.

**Community**

**Feb 26, 4.30 - 6pm**  
Mt Roskill Library  
FREE



Auckland Central Library  
**Booknic**

Come join us for a Booknic to celebrate PRIDE. All ages welcome! We will provide some catering and library books. Meeting point is Central City Library before we venture up to Albert Park. Bring your favourite book and blanket and come have fun with other Takatāpui and Rainbow book lovers.

**Community**

**Feb 22, 12 - 3pm**  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



PithSwag  
**Tell Us What You're Reading!**

An open-mic for readers! Can't stop gushing to your friends about a novel? Compelled by a historical archive? Wish everyone on earth would read somebody's masters thesis? We want to hear about it! Sign-up online and prepare a slideshow presentation on your chosen text, or just come along to listen.

**Literature**

**Feb 22, 1.30 - 3pm**  
Fickling Centre  
FREE



Albany Village Library  
**Love Letters**

A casual space to enjoy reading love letters aloud from "The love that dares". Alongside the more famous names coexist beautifully written letters by lesser-known lovers. Together, they weave a narrative of queer love through the centuries, through the romantic, often funny, and always poignant words of those who lived it.

**Literature**

**Feb 22, 2 - 3pm**  
Albany Village Library  
FREE



Mt Albert Library, Earth Action Trust  
**Takatāpui and Rainbow Community Flood Resilience Workshop**

Held in partnership with Earth Action Trust, join us for this workshop on Flood Resilience designed for takatāpui and rainbow communities. Learn how to keep yourself safe and resilient in flood emergency scenarios, and have the opportunity to ask our experts any questions you may have in a safe and inclusive environment.

**Workshop**

**Feb 22, 3 - 4pm**  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE

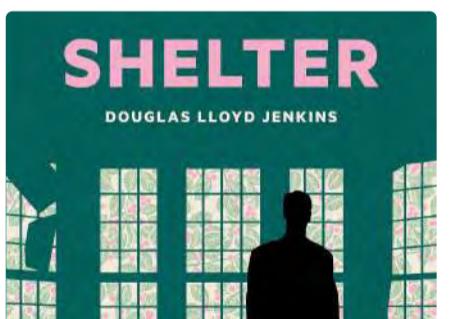


Te Manawa  
**Find Your People (Pakeke/Adults)**

Join us for a book kōrero celebrating rainbow reads – pukapuka | books by and about LBTTIQA+ experiences. We'll use guided activities to get the conversation going! Come along to meet others who enjoy reading, chat with our friendly librarians, and leave with a kete of reading inspiration! This session is for 18+.

**Community**

**Feb 26, 6 - 7pm**  
Te Manawa  
FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Remuera Library  
**Author Talk – Douglas Lloyd Jenkins**

Join local author Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, who will be interviewed by fellow author Stephanie Johnson about Douglas's book *Shelter*. Douglas Lloyd Jenkins is an acclaimed New Zealand writer, academic, museum director and television presenter. Despite winning numerous awards for his writing, this is Douglas's debut novel.

**Literature**

**Feb 26, 6:30 - 7:30pm**  
Remuera Library  
FREE



Positive Women  
**HIV & The Law: Report Launch & Community Awareness Event**

Join Positive Women Inc., Burnett Foundation, Body Positive, and Toitū te Ao for a special launch of a new report exploring the experiences of people living with HIV in Aotearoa. Based on a nationwide survey, the report offers fresh insights and clear recommendations to help ensure people living with HIV are informed, supported, and safe.

**Community**

**Feb 27, 3 - 7pm**  
Ellen Melville Centre  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Drag Bingo X Trinity Ice**

Join us for three hilarious and highly competitive games of bingo, hosted by our fabulous drag queen Trinity Ice! Spaces are limited - bookings are essential. Grab your ticket now!

@janelle.makes.a.mess

**Feb 27-28, 7 - 9pm**  
New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE

# PROUD CENTRES

## Events



### Queers & Wares Queers and Wares: Pride

Queers & Wares: Pride is an annual celebration of queer creativity, community, and connection. Come hang out, browse beautiful handmade pieces, vintage clothing, and art - all by local artists. We are proud to support small, sustainable businesses here in Tāmaki Makaurau.

#### Community

Feb 28, 10am - 3pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



### Mt Roskill Library Rainbow Crafternoon: Unconventional Self-Portraits

Join us for a fun, creative, and affirming art session where you'll design an unconventional self-portrait that celebrates your unique identity. No art experience needed—just bring your imagination. Connect with others, explore self-expression, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon of queer-centered creativity and community.

#### Craft

Feb 28, 2 - 3pm  
Mt Roskill Library  
FREE



### PrideFest Out West Something Colourful - Beading Workshop for Rangatahi

Join this two-hour beading session where you get to rummage through secondhand beads and give them a new life. Choose to make either a necklace or a keychain of your own! You can bring along inspiration or you can just let your creativity flow! For Ages 13 - 17. Facilitated by @janelle.makes.a.mess

#### Craft

Feb 28, 10am - 12pm  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Rewarewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



### Highland Park Library Rainbow Tie-Dye Workshop at Highland Park Library

Design your own wearable art using bold, brilliant colours. Whether you're an experienced maker or trying tie-dye for the first time, our facilitators will guide you through different techniques. All materials provided, leave with a one-of-a-kind creation! This session is for teens and adults. Booking required through Eventbrite.

#### Craft

Feb 28, 2 - 3pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



### Onehunga Library Live Art Comp

It's wild, it's fast and it's all on display. Join us at the Onehunga Library Live Art Comp where a talented team of queer artists will battle it out for on-the-day supremacy. Cheer on your fave and be inspired by awesome art.

#### Performance

Feb 28, 1 - 3pm  
Onehunga Library  
FREE



### Marydahfairy Braid + Paint with Marydahfairy

Braid + Paint is a calm, low-sensory creative workshop for teens and adults. Participants learn a simple braiding technique and weave their braid onto canvas, then build a gentle personal artwork using colour and texture. The session offers a quiet space for reflection, connection and closing Pride Month with softness.

#### Workshop

Feb 28, 2 - 4pm  
Onehunga Community Centre  
FREE



### Auckland Queer Writers The Auckland Queer Writers Anthology Book Launch

Come celebrate the launch of the Auckland Queer Writers Anthology 2026! A dozen queer writers from around Tāmaki Makaurau have come together to produce short stories and poetry on the theme of the Progress Pride Flag. We'll have live readings, free food and drink and books available to purchase.

#### Literature

Feb 28, 4 - 5.30pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)

## AUCKLAND PRIDE 2026

11-28 FEB

more info at  
[prowlproductionsnz](https://prowlproductionsnz.com)



### Open Rehearsal



Step behind the curtain at Aotearoa's first PROWL FEST and witness the magic of our award-winning show PROWL. This free open rehearsal gives you a front-row look at the attitude, energy, and fierceness of street dance-theatre in action.

11 Feb, 6 - 7:30PM | Te Oro | FREE / RSVP Required



13 Feb, 2 Sessions: 5:30 - 7PM & 7 - 8:30PM | Te Oro | FREE

### Waacking Battle Night



Step into the spotlight, darlings! PROWL FEST's Waacking Battle Night serves fierce theatrics, musical flair, and unapologetic queer excellence. Whether you're new to the style or a seasoned slayer, this battle is your moment to test your skills, flex your identity, and be seen.

14 Feb, 6PM | Raynham Park | \$10 - \$15 (FREE for Battlers)



17 Feb, 2 Sessions: 6 - 7:30PM & 7:30 - 9PM | Community Jam: 9 - 10PM | Ellen Melville Centre | FREE

### PROWL Show + After Parties



Back and revamped and reimagined, PROWL is a street dance-theatre spectacle exploring femininity, identity, and the fluidity of self. The show challenges traditional narratives while celebrating the fire, strength, and flair of femme expression.

27 - 28 Feb, 8PM | Raynham Park | \$18 - \$25

### PROWL Fest 2026

Presented by:  
Prowl Productions x Proud Centres x Raynham Park

Rise. Swerve. Prowl. This Pride, Auckland transforms into a queer, camp cabaret playground as Prowl Productions unleashes Aotearoa's first PROWL Festival, a celebration of femme power, street dance, and unapologetic expression. Every move hits with musical flair, theatrical energy, and camp cabaret magic.

For more information, follow us on Instagram: [@prowlproductions](https://www.instagram.com/prowlproductions/)

# COMMUNI-TEA:

## ANTI-BLACKNESS IN "INCLUSIVE" SPACES

Written by: Black people who are tired of your shit

### PREFACE:

This piece is offered with *aroha* and a deep commitment to the growth, safety, and flourishing of our *takatāpui* and wider queer communities here in Aotearoa. It emerges not from anger or to cause division, but from the *mamae* of lived experience of our Black whānaunga, and the hope that by naming uncomfortable truths, we can begin to build spaces that are genuinely inclusive, respectful, and grounded in solidarity. We envision a future where our diverse identities can thrive together—honoured, protected, and celebrated—not commodified or erased.

May these words be a step towards greater understanding, accountability, and collective uplift.

He waka eke noa.  
Tihei mauri ora.  
- the team at Utu-ā-Matimati

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Firstly, we want to acknowledge that the native people of Aotearoa and the people of the Pacific Islands have their own struggles, history, and systemic oppression. As *Tangata Te Tiriti* we acknowledge we are on Māori land and believe in Māori sovereignty. We also want to acknowledge that the Black identity is one many people across the world feel they share a connection to. This is thanks to our shared colonizers who did not care to understand our nuance and in the quest of dominance used the concept of race to rationalize their brutality. We are speaking specifically of people of African descent who were and are categorized as Black. Racialisation has been going on for centuries and we want to differentiate between being categorized as Black vs Black being a descriptive for having ample melanin. **All people of African descent can be categorized as Black but not all people with darker skin are of African descent.**

### THE MYTH OF UNIVERSALITY

Just because we're all POC that doesn't mean we have the same struggles and history.

Envision this: you go somewhere new for a holiday, and you see someone handing out moko kauae body stickers on the street. How would you feel if you saw non-Māori people wearing moko kauae because they felt like it was 'cool' or 'trendy' and washing it off when they felt like it? Without knowing what it means and how deep this tradition goes. What if that person was wearing it in a place that is meant to be a safe space for Māori? You'd probably think it was weird at best and downright offensive at worst, a slap in your ancestors' face.

It would seem obvious to have humility and respect when partaking in someone's culture, although this doesn't always happen, especially when non-Black people partake in Black culture. With how widely Black culture is appropriated on social media, people often don't know, or don't care to learn about the origins of the culture. They just think it's 'cool' and 'trendy'—that Black culture is basically just 'internet culture' or 'internet slang'.

### 'INTERNET SLANG'.. PLEASE IT'S NOT GIVING CUNT, IT'S GIVING COLONIAL

We're sure you've heard at least some of these terms—whether on social media or in conversations with your friends: 'Purr', 'Period', 'Periodt', 'Slay', 'AF' (e.g., 'tired AF'), 'Ate' (as in 'she ate'), 'Gagged', 'It's giving...', 'Ghetto', and 'Gowrl'.

You may have heard people call those terms 'Internet slang' or 'Gen Z slang'. And it may surprise you to know that it's not either of those, but rather AAVE.

AAVE (African American Vernacular English) is a distinct form of American English. While its exact roots are not clear, linguists agree that a large portion of the origin and grammar of AAVE arose from the enslavement of Black Americans.

It's sad to see that the dialect Black Americans created during enslavement and oppression is now just called 'internet slang' or 'Gen Z slang' when the roots of AAVE began long before corporations co-opted it on X.

 First published in Utu-ā-Matimati Zine #2. Find out more about this publication: [utuamatimati.com](http://utuamatimati.com)

### IT'S NOT 'JUST HAIR'

Hair oppression is a very real thing that Black people have endured for centuries. As much as non-Black celebrities can wear cornrows and box braids, it will never erase the fact that Black people have been—and still are—oppressed for our hair textures and styles. Cornrows and box braids are intrinsically tied to Black history, especially that of Black Americans. During enslavement, Black Americans used braids as escape maps, weaving pathways to freedom into their hair. They also hid rice grains in the braids to sustain them while escaping from the slave plantations.

### Our hair was used as a mode of survival.

It's undeniably linked to Black history and the struggles that Black people have faced. But now, non-Black people are using it to be 'trendy' and get likes on Instagram.

An unfortunate reality here in Aotearoa is that Black hair braiders often charge Pasifika and other non-Black minorities less to get their hair braided because their hair textures are considered 'easier to handle.' If you have 4b or 4c hair, you'll probably have to pay more to get your own cultural hairstyle done—despite needing your hair to be braided as a protective style specifically for your hair texture. Non-Black minorities don't need it to protect their hair as they have different hair textures than Black people do.

**For us, it's protection. It's our culture—our history. For them, it's just an aesthetic.**

### APPRECIATION VS APPROPRIATION, HUH.. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

You might be thinking, "Well duh, I know the difference." But I'd bet that most of you have not examined and attempted to rectify your internalised anti-Blackness.

When someone we know tried to communicate with people in an 'inclusive' space about them appropriating cornrows, the response they got was, "Of course we know about cornbraids, we're not stupid."

Sis. That's not even a hairstyle.

Anti-Blackness can show in moments like this: silencing Black people for your own comfort, instead of having the humility to acknowledge harmful behaviour and apologize.

We get it.... it's not all black and white, and there's some overlap of cultures being similar in some ways, but whenever we see non-Black people with wavy-ish hair (but claim it's curly) wearing box braids, it looks corny AF.

### It's giving early onset baldness.

Their hair textures are not meant for Black hairstyles, so it's not only damaging their hair follicles—it's damaging our spirits. **We're sick and tired of seeing that BS!**



### CULTURE IS SHARED, YES. BUT, IT SHOULDN'T BE STOLEN

We believe non-Black people should approach Black culture with the understanding that they are not a part of that culture or community—because they aren't. They should try to learn about Black culture, rather than commodifying pieces of it because they think it's trendy while ignoring the historical and cultural significance. Non-Black people do not have an ancestral connection to Black culture and Black history and should approach it with the curiosity and respect of an outsider instead of with the intention to benefit from or appropriate it.

Simply put, having melanin doesn't mean you can dig into everyone else's cultures as you wish. Too often, people cherry pick the aspects of Black Culture they see as being 'cooler' or useful for social elevation.

### Our culture is not a social propellant.

### WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A SPACE FOR US?

I remember attending a Ballroom event here in Aotearoa that was advertised as an 'inclusive' space for everyone, regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. The thought of having a space like that sounded so nice to me—especially because Ballroom was a space created by people like me, for people like me.

But when I got there, it wasn't anything like I thought it would be. There weren't any other Black people there. I felt like I didn't belong. I saw non-Black people wearing my cultural hairstyles and using AAVE. It made me feel isolated and uncomfortable and, while I tried to stay and have a good time, I couldn't ignore the lingering feelings of alienation and loneliness.

When it comes to other minorities in Aotearoa, people are often protective of their cultural spaces and customs, only wanting members of their community to be able to participate, which is understandable. However, when it comes to Black culture, people are all too eager to appropriate and share it with people who are not even Black. They wouldn't do this with their own cultural spaces, but when it comes to Black culture, they think it's acceptable.

#### BIPOC OR IPOC?

In these spaces—spaces that are meant to be for everyone, especially Queer POC—fewer and fewer Black people are attending. You might see elements of our culture, but we're barely there, and this isn't a coincidence.

In Queer spaces, people will acknowledge that these spaces exist because of Black and Brown queer people. For example, in Ballroom, they'll give a quick nod to the Black and Latin Americans who created and fought for it. However, that's as far as their allyship seems to go—it's tokenistic at best and performative at worst.

It's really disheartening getting excited for and showing up to events that claim to respect us, that talk about how our ancestors founded them—while in the same breath allowing the appropriation of our hair, speech and spirituality.

Being less than 1% of the population in Aotearoa, finding safe spaces for Black—especially Queer Black—folks is proving to be almost impossible. The anti-Blackness we experience bleeds down from every community as a by-product of colonialism, and we are the final bucket. It's hurtful from white people and it's more hurtful from people of colour.

Why is the space that was created for us and by our ancestors ultimately not safe for us? It's ironic how other minorities insist on appropriating AAVE and Black culture, yet they forget to include actual Black people in it.

#### CHECK YOUR ANTI-BLACKNESS

*"Race is real because we perceive it. Racism is real because we enact it."* - Adam Rutherford, *How to Argue With a Racist: History, Science, Race and Reality*

Anti-Blackness is deeply tied to the idea of proximity to whiteness—meaning that the closer someone is to whiteness, whether in appearance, culture, or social standing, the more privileges they tend to have. In contrast, Blackness is positioned as the lowest and most devalued identity in racial hierarchies.

Anti-Blackness doesn't just disappear because people claim to be 'not racist.' It requires actively unlearning biases, questioning the systems in place, and uplifting Black voices in meaningful ways. It means giving Black creators their credit, standing against colourism, and recognizing how neocolonial structures still impact Black communities today. It means seeing anti-Blackness for what it is—a system designed to uphold whiteness at all costs—and refusing to participate in it.

At its core, anti-Blackness means Blackness is devalued, but Black culture is constantly taken, repackaged, and profited from by Non-Black people. [Appropriating Black culture while ignoring anti-Blackness is just continuing the colonizer's work](#). Because if there's one thing history has proven, it's that Black people create, innovate, and thrive—despite a world built to keep us at the bottom. The question is, who benefits from keeping things that way?

And more importantly—what are we going to do about it?

#### ULTIMATELY—YOU MAY HAVE IT, BUT IT IS NOT YOURS

When questioned about their appropriation of aspects of Black Culture, Non-Black people will often respond with, "Well, the people of that community gave me the garment/jewelry/braids/etc., so it's mine now."

You may have the garment, but it's not yours. You may have the braids, but they're not yours. You are not connected to those things because you are not a part of that culture. They are not yours.

Ultimately, it is natural to want to learn more about other culture—humans are naturally curious beings, and there is a lot to celebrate. However, there comes a point when curiosity becomes entitlement to knowledge and experiences that are simply not your own.

You may have taken the language, hairstyle, the culture—but you will never carry the weight of its history. Give Black culture the same protection and respect you give your own.



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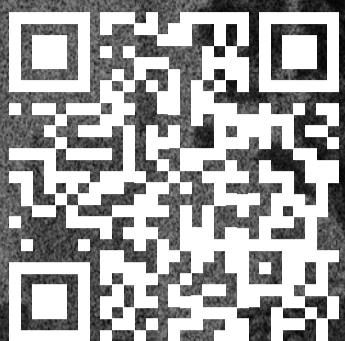
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