

## **Kia ora Panama People: Celebrating a Great Turnout as we Continue Our Good Work Together**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our special guests, Damien Powley and Linda Sun from Isthmus Group, Landscape Architects and Design, for sharing their expertise as guest presenters. We are also deeply grateful to the NZ Police, NZ Fire Brigade, DIA, Nga Hau Maingi, and the many residents for their incredible turnout and support. A special mention also to Patrick O'Meara from the Panmure Historical Society for sharing, (see link below). Together, you all helped make "Happy Thursday" in August 2024 truly remarkably insightful and inspiring!

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The Panama Greenways Project is exciting and dynamic and this hui transformed into a collaborative workshop for all participants. This gathering provided an opportunity for community members to once again continue to actively contribute their ideas and share their vision for the future of Panama Riverside, making the event both fun and enjoyable for everyone involved.

#### **Presentation by Isthmus Group**

A highlight of the hui was the presentation by Damien and Linda from the Isthmus Group, who introduced the potential "Panama Greenways Project" in more detail. Their presentation was highly informative, offering valuable insights into the new spaces and opportunities that could soon be a part of the Panama Riverside landscape. The project aims to enhance our community by creating green spaces that foster well-being, connection, and sustainability.

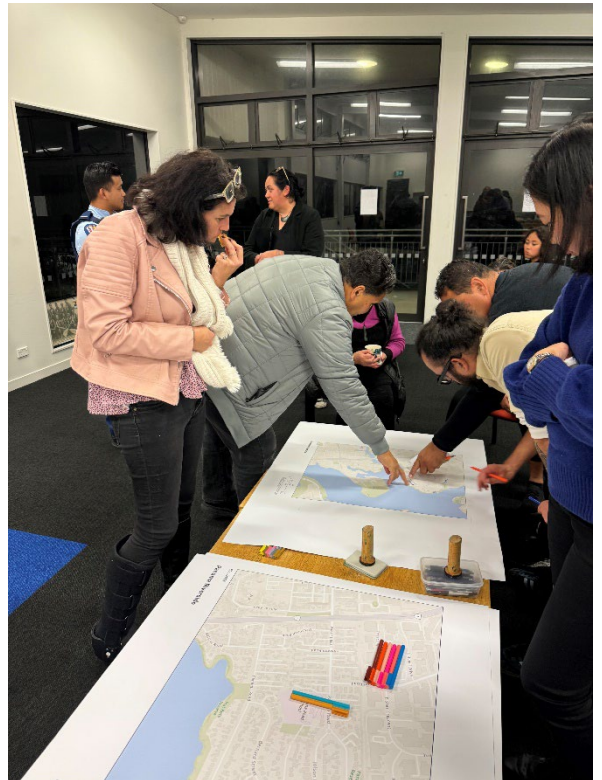
#### **Community Engagement and Vision Sharing**

The hui quickly evolved into a hands-on workshop, where attendees were encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations. This interactive format allowed for a deeper engagement with the project and fostered a sense of ownership and excitement among community members. Many participants expressed their enthusiasm for the project and agreed that with the collective vision and effort, the dream of the Panama Greenways could indeed become a reality.

The workshop atmosphere was filled with creativity and collaboration, highlighting the community's passion for creating a vibrant and sustainable future for Panama Riverside. The discussions focused on expanding the vision of the Greenways, ensuring it reflects the diverse needs and desires of our community.

## Moving Forward

The momentum generated at this hui underscores the importance of continued community involvement in shaping the future of Panama Riverside. The enthusiasm and ideas shared at the workshop have set a strong foundation for moving forward with the Panama Greenways Project. There is a shared belief that by working together, we can turn this vision into a tangible reality that benefits everyone in our community.



## Access to Project Documents

For those interested in learning more about the Panama Greenways Project, documents from the hui, including details of the presentation and workshop outcomes, are available to view on the Panama Riverside Friends Society Inc (PRFSI) website: [www.panamariversidefriendsociety.org](http://www.panamariversidefriendsociety.org).

The Panama Greenways Project represents a significant opportunity for growth, development, and community cohesion. As we continue to build on this vision, we invite all community members to stay engaged and contribute to this exciting journey toward a greener, more connected future for Panama Riverside.

## Panama Matariki 2024

The Panama Riverside Matariki event was a resounding success, achieved through several key factors, including effective use of funding, engaging activities, and strong community participation. The funding received from Te Puni Kokiri, Mercury Energy, and the DIA played a crucial role in achieving the event's objectives. Feedback indicated a significant boost in awareness and understanding of Matariki, a cornerstone in Māori culture symbolizing the Māori New Year. The event's hands-on learning experiences, such as traditional crafts, storytelling, and Waka Ama paddling, fostered a deeper appreciation for Māori traditions (mātauranga) and promoted active participation and cultural engagement. This not only strengthened community ties but also sparked interest among youth to join

local cultural clubs, demonstrating a lasting impact on community involvement. The event, which attracted 400-500 residents, created a welcoming and inclusive environment, fostering a sense of unity and shared identity. The positive response and anticipation for future events have laid a solid foundation for continued cultural celebrations and enhanced community well-being. Overall, the Matariki event successfully met its goals of community education, cultural engagement, and promoting unity, demonstrating the effectiveness of combining meaningful cultural activities with strategic funding support.

### **Panama Riverside Community Plan**

The Panama Riverside Community Plan (2024-2034) outlines a strategic framework to transform Panama Riverside into a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community. Addressing challenges such as inadequate facilities, limited green spaces, and a need for more youth and adult engagement programs, the plan sets both short-term and long-term objectives. Key initiatives include renovating the community hall, revitalizing local shops, creating temporary and permanent green spaces, enhancing youth programs, and improving public transport. The plan also focuses on economic revitalization, fostering community engagement, promoting mental health, and integrating technology. By implementing these initiatives, the plan aims to enhance the quality of life for all residents and build a stronger, more connected community. The full document can be viewed on the website.

### **Patrick O'Meara - Panmure Historical Society [Information Sharing]**

Do you want community assets sold?

On July 24th the Mount Wellington Licensing Trust (MWLT) announced the Sale of the Panmure Historic Hotel and the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre. The MWLT controls the Mount Wellington Trust Hotels Ltd who manage the hotels. We are petitioning the Trustees to immediately halt the proposed sale on the grounds that the Board members did not at any time seek a mandate from the community.

If you want to be consulted and have a say on the future of your community assets, then support our online petition. The link is below.

[https://www.petitions.net/stop the sale of mt wellington community assets](https://www.petitions.net/stop%20the%20sale%20of%20mt%20wellington%20community%20assets)

This is a private petition which has been organised by Panmure Community Action Group.

### **Next "Happy Thursday" network gathering - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Join us at the next meeting! This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with others, share insights, and collaborate on new ideas. Whether you are looking to contribute your thoughts, learn from others, or just connect with like-minded individuals, this meeting promises to be both stimulating and productive. We encourage everyone to come and discuss recent developments, brainstorm solutions to challenges, and explore future opportunities. Your unique perspectives and experiences are what make these meetings invaluable. Let us come together to inspire and be inspired, fostering a creative and supportive environment for all.