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17 June 2026,

Kia ora koutou,

As we head into winter, it's a great moment to reflect on the continued transformation of Auckland's city centre. [A recent Stuff article](#) highlights how a decade of change has reshaped downtown, with foot traffic soaring and precincts like Commercial Bay now welcoming around 13 million visitors annually.

Across downtown, that momentum is continuing to build, from new electric ferry initiatives and upcoming Matariki celebrations to activations at Queens Wharf Village that are helping shape a more welcoming and connected downtown.

Ngā mihi,

Auckland Urban Development Office

Questions? Contact us**Downtown electric ferry project**

Auckland Transport, alongside Fullers360, hosted the mayor and key stakeholders at Queens Wharf recently to showcase their first electric-hybrid ferry, Waitematā 1. The visit provided an opportunity to see the vessel up close following sea trials, and to highlight the progress being made as part of AT's Mission Electric programme to reduce emissions across the ferry fleet. [Read more here.](#)

The ferry is expected to enter passenger service on the Devonport to Downtown route this month, with further vessels to follow later this year.

For enquiries, please contact 09 366 6400 or email info@at.govt.nz

Read more on the downtown ferry charging project



Vector upgrade works

Vector is upgrading parts of the electricity network in central Auckland, with work underway on Fort Street and in the Chancery/Shortland Street area. The main stage of work which started in late May is planned to run to mid-July 2026. These works are being delivered in three to four stages during this period, with most work taking place between 7am and 10pm. These improvements will support a growing CBD and help deliver a more reliable power supply for the city.

On Fort Street, works include new ducts, cabling and other electrical upgrades, including activity near the Fort Street/Fort Lane intersection. Temporary traffic changes and pedestrian detours will be in place at times, with work staged carefully to maintain access and minimise disruption for businesses, residents and visitors.

In the Chancery/Shortland Street precinct, upgrades are already underway and will continue until the end of September 2026 before moving into the next stage. While some vehicle access routes will change at times, access to businesses and car parks will remain available, supported by signage and traffic management on site.

If you have any queries about the construction, please contact Fleur.Williamson@vector.co.nz

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Queens Wharf Fenceline Exhibition

Now showing: Auckland Festival of Photography (AFP)

Queens Wharf Village is currently hosting a striking outdoor exhibition as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography, New Zealand's leading international photography festival.

Featuring 24 works by NZ Herald visual journalists, the exhibition transforms the Queens Wharf fencing into a public gallery, offering a powerful snapshot of contemporary storytelling through photography. The display runs until 21 June and is free for all to experience while moving through the waterfront.

[Read more about the exhibition here](#) and [here](#).



Saturday Markets at Takutai Square

Takutai Square comes alive every Saturday 8am-2pm with the [Britomart Saturday Market](#) which is a vibrant mix of fresh produce, artisan goods, and local eats in the heart of the city. It's a great spot to grab a morning coffee, browse unique stalls, and soak up a relaxed weekend atmosphere.

More details here



Matariki at Te Tōangaroa

Celebrate Matariki in the heart of Te Tōangaroa at Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei's **twilight market** featuring local kai, mahi toi, Live entertainment, markets stalls, kids activities and more

Twilight Market

Saturday 27th June, Friday 10th July and Saturday 25th of July | 4–9pm
Mahuhu-ki-te-rangi Park | 13-19 Mahuhu Crescent

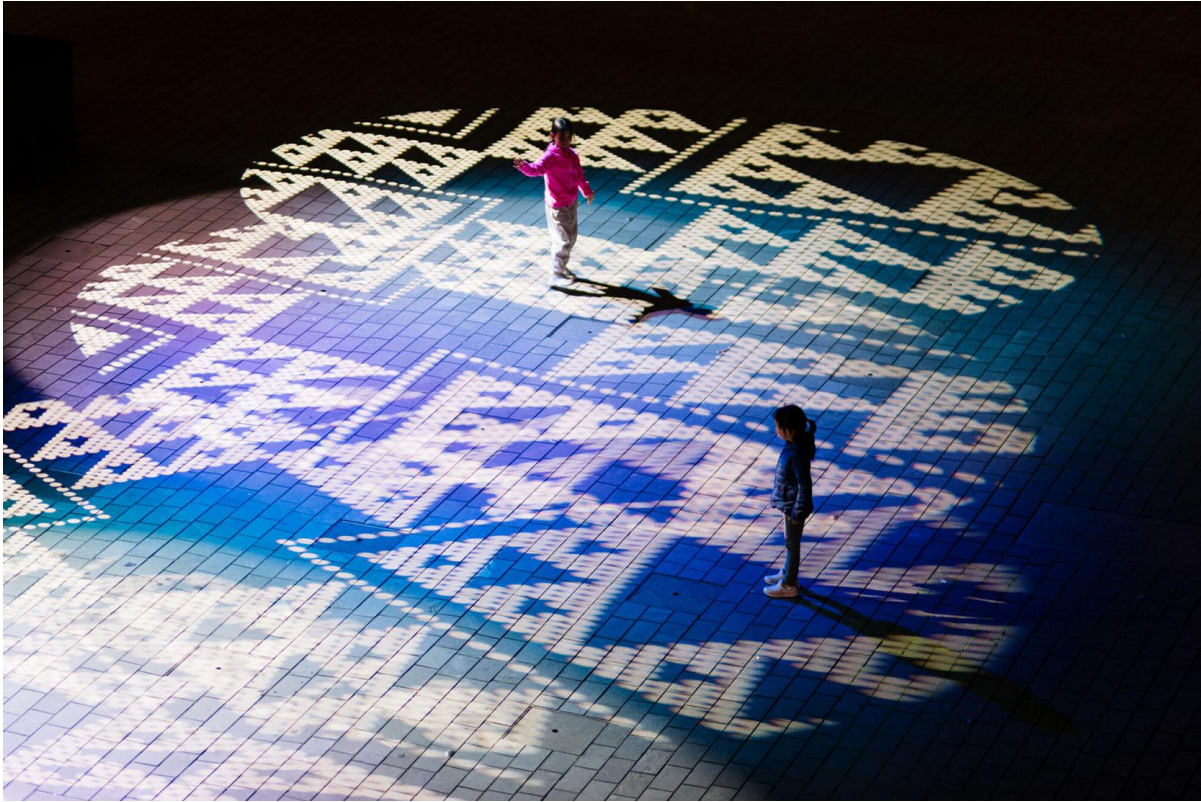
Also check out '**Tūhono**' - an immersive ara toi (art trail) celebrating Matariki through

light, storytelling and contemporary Māori design

Tūhono

Saturday 27 June - Friday 31 July | 24 hours

Te Tōangaroa

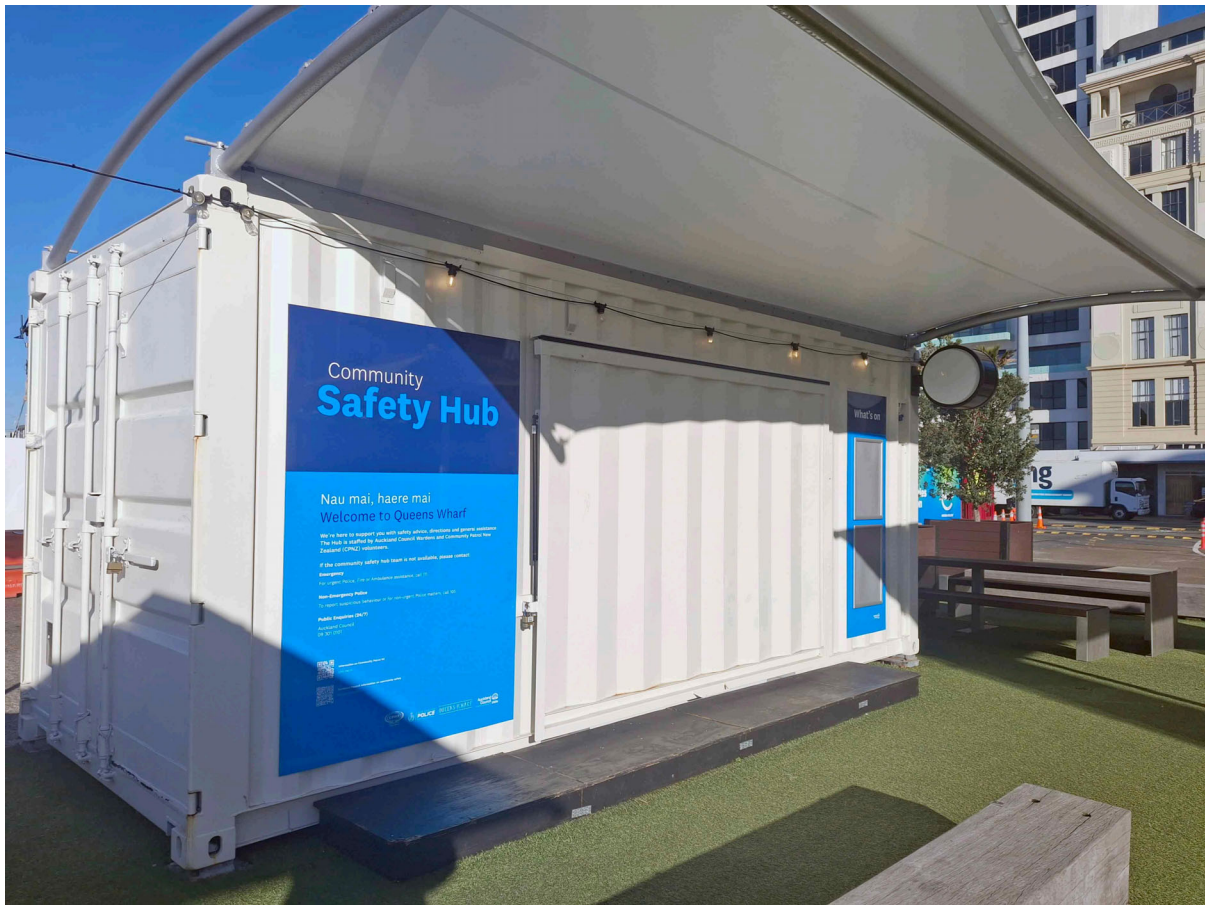


Matariki at Takutai Square

Celebrate Matariki in Takutai Square with a vibrant lineup of [free events hosted by Britomart](#). From striking light and sound installations to live performances, kapa haka, and cultural experiences, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

A special highlight is 'Mangōpare' - a light installation by Arama Tamariki-Enua (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Tumu-te-Varovaro (Rarotonga)) in collaboration with Angus Muir and Catherine Ellis. Accompanied by a soundscape by Peter Hobbs, Mangōpare will be on display in Takutai Square from Friday 26 June to Thursday 16 July as part of the immersive ara toi/art trail, Tūhono.

[More details here](#)



New Community Safety Hub Signage

A welcoming new addition has arrived at Queens Wharf Village with the installation of updated Community Safety Hub signage. Designed to be clearer, more visible and more inviting, the new sign makes it easier for visitors to find help and access important safety information.

Whether you're after advice, support, or just a friendly point in the right direction, the hub is here to help keep everyone safe and informed on the waterfront when open.



Team Up 2 Clean Up – Downtown Success

A big thank you to everyone who took part in Earth Action Trust's recent Team Up 2 Clean Up event along Beach Road and surrounding areas.

Together, more than 50 volunteers helped remove over 156kg of rubbish, including 70kg of recyclables, achieving an impressive 45% diversion rate. From streets and steps to green spaces, the collective effort has made a visible difference to the downtown environment.

The day highlighted the impact of community-led action and shared responsibility for keeping our city centre clean and welcoming.

Keep in touch!

Thank you for your continued support as we work to shape a more welcoming and connected city centre.

If you'd like to report a community safety or support issue, [you can do so here](#).

For general questions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you at citycentre@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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