

Report to the Mangere Bridge Business Association AGM

Introduction

This year has presented ongoing challenges for the Mangere Bridge Progressive Business Association, particularly in terms of funding. Due to various cutbacks, we've struggled to secure the financial support required to sustain our full calendar of events. Despite this, we remain committed to delivering quality, free community events for our local residents and surrounding areas. We continue to seek alternative funding sources, sponsorships, and partnerships to maintain and grow our program.

2025 Calendar of Events & Initiatives and will remain the same for 2026 .

Summer Season: Thursday Night Live

- - Duration: February to end of March (8 weeks).
- - Summary: Live music on Thursday evenings along the café strip.
- - Impact: Created a vibrant community atmosphere; increased patronage for local businesses.
- - Future: Planned to return in 2026 due to its strong success.

Teddy Bears Picnic (Planned for March 2026)

- - Location: Naomi and Bill Kirk Park.
- - Target Audience: Young families.
- - Format: Informal picnic with light activities for children.
- - Cost: Free community event; BYO rug and picnic.

St Patrick's Day Integration

- - Integration with: Thursday Night Live during March.
- - Format: Live music, green-themed decorations, and dress-up prizes.
- - Funding: Minimal; creatively integrated into existing programming.

Annual Family Festival (April)

- - Time: 10am–4pm.
- - Activities: Live music, local performances, food vendors, market stalls, and free children's entertainment.
- - Support: Strong turnout from the community and local businesses.
- Supported by Friends of the Farm for our waste management

Light Display Evening (April)

- - Location: Naomi and Bill Kirk Park.
- - Details: Family-friendly evening with lights, food trucks, and glow products.
- - Goal: Low-cost night out fostering community spirit.

Winter Quiz Nights

- - Purpose: Fundraiser to support community events.
- - Sponsors: Fresh Choice and others help offset costs (e.g., food).
- - Audience: Teenagers and adults.
- - Outcome: Successful small-scale fundraiser and social event.

Annual Fun Run & Half Marathon (September)

- - Status: Now a fixture on the Auckland running calendar.
- - Participants: Approx. 800 in 2025.
- - Funding: Supported by local business sponsorship; generates revenue.
- - Growth: Continues to expand year on year.
- Friends of the farm support waste management

Shop Local Campaign (October)

- - Format: Weekly prize draws and one major prize for local shoppers.
- - Goal: Encourage local spending and support businesses.
- - Incentive: \$5+ purchases qualify shoppers to enter.

Village Cleanup Day (November)

- - In Partnership With: Friends of the Farm and local business owners.
- - Activities: Painting, cleaning shopfronts, general tidy-up.
- - Objective: Improve the village's visual appeal ahead of summer.

Kids Markets (Nov–Dec)

- - Format: Market stalls run by children.
- - Purpose: Encourage entrepreneurship and holiday clean-outs.
- - Timing: Prior to Christmas for added relevance.

Annual Santa Parade (First Thursday of December)

- - Legacy: Over 20 years of tradition.
- - Community Impact: Widely attended, high community engagement.
- - Timing: Early December – a key date in the local calendar.
- Supported by Friends of the farm for our waste management

Bridge Kids Athletics

- - Ages: 2–8 years old.
- - Focus: Introduction to fundamental athletic skills.
- - Format: Gold coin donation, with light sponsorship.
- - Community Value: Accessible and local for families with young children.

Additional Updates

Old ASB Building – Village Update

- - Status: Leased to SPCA Op Shop coming soon

Conclusion

Despite financial challenges, the Mangere Bridge Progressive Business Association has remained resilient and proactive. Our events continue to foster a strong sense of community, boost local business engagement, and offer accessible entertainment and enrichment for all age groups. We will persist in seeking new partnerships and support to ensure our village continues to thrive.