

SOME NORTH SHORE SUBURBS

Prepared for the Mairangi Bay and Castor Bay Presbyterian Church

Please note that these figures are based on the latest Census figures – that is, from 2006. A number of things may have changed since then.

Your Brief:

Covering the area of the coast in the East to the Northern Motorway in the West
We are likely to take in some areas of Unsworth Heights and Rosedale

Rosedale has no census figures as an area, so Windsor Park has been included.



Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church



Castor Bay Presbyterian Church

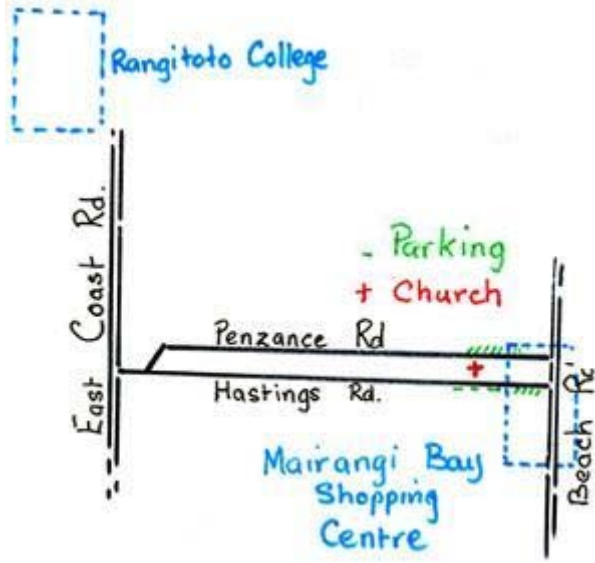
What is now **Mairangi and Castor Bays Presbyterian Parish** was initially ministered to by Rev Morgan Richards from Takapuna and services were held in the Campbell Bay School. The area was then one of holiday homes, rough roads which became quagmires in the rain, reliance on sea transport and no reticulated water or sewage systems.

Both the **Castor Bay and the Mairangi Bay churches** were built in troubled times. Castor Bay was opened on 10 December 1933 and had been built with the help of men out-of-work during the Depression. Mairangi Bay had its beginnings in the Second World War years and was opened incomplete on Easter Sunday 1942.

All Hallows, the Anglican church which now forms part of the **Castor Bay Church Complex**, had had several moves before the local Anglicans and Presbyterians joined resources in 1979. This inter-denominational sharing of buildings is the only such venture to have survived on the North Shore into the new millennium.

Two histories have been written and are available from the church office or local libraries:

- *Fifty Years on Good Soil; a Brief History of the Presbyterian Church in Castor Bay* by Marjorie Warwick
- *Pressing on Regardless* by Betty Dance (The story of Mairangi Bay church)





Moonrise over Rangitoto from Castor Bay (courtesy [Flickr.com](#))



Milford Shopping Centre (courtesy [Flickr.com](#))

In each of the following tables, the figures are given for eight areas, plus the comparative Auckland stats, along with a few brief comments.

Population	2006	2001	Percentage increase
Rothesay Bay	5019	4413	13.7%
Murrays Bay	4581	4278	7.1%
Mairangi Bay	5277	4776	10.5%
Campbells Bay	2316	2205	5.0%
Castor Bay	2877	2784	3.3%
Pinehill	2700	1410	91.5%
Unsworth Heights	5169	4620	11.9%
Windsor Park	1800	1245	44.6%
Auckland	1303068	1158891	12.4%

Note the very big increase in population in both the Windsor Park and Pinehill areas, and the minimal increase in Castor Bay. Do you know the reason for this?



Mairangi Bay (courtesy of [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/14811170@N00/))

The figures in the next graph are from the Presbyterian stats for 2008, the latest that we have. Most of this information will be familiar to you (!)but it is included for reference. And of course they apply to only one (not particularly average) month of the year.

Mairangi And Castor Bays Presbyterian Church		As at June 2008	
Members	123		
Associate Members	18		
Roll Members			
Female under 25	0	Male under 25	0
Female 26-45	1	Male 26-45	0
Female over 46-65	17	Male over 46-65	9
Female over 65	63	Male over 65	33
Roll Associate Members			
Female under 25	1	Male under 25	2
Female 26-45	2	Male 26-45	3
Female over 46-65	3	Male over 46-65	1
Female over 65	3	Male over 65	3
Baptism		Other	
Children Under 13	4	Dedications	0
Adults 13 and over	0	Confirmations	0
		Persons under pastoral care	103
		Families engaged by Mission	120
Worship			
Females under 13	4	Males under 13	1
Females over 13	41	Males over 13	24
Number of worship events	12		
Christian Formation		Leadership	
Under 13	5	Elders	26
13-17	8	Lay Pastors	0
Over 17	12	Other Pastoral workers	22
		Worship Leaders	4
		Youth Leaders	2
		Sunday School Leader	1
		Admin Staff	1

In two particular areas, Roll Members and Worship, women outnumber the men by almost two to one.

Age and Sex	under 15	65 and over	15-64
Rothesay Bay	20.1%	9.8%	70.1%
Murrays Bay	19.8%	9.6%	70.6%
Mairangi Bay	18.8%	11.7%	69.5%
Campbells Bay	22.3%	11.7%	66.0%
Castor Bay	17.7%	13.9%	68.4%
Pinehill	24.6%	6.9%	68.5%
Unsworth Heights	21.0%	5.5%	73.5%
Windsor Park	15.5%	24.7%	59.8%
Auckland	22.1%	9.9%	68.0%

*How do these figures compare with the church stats for the area?
Windsor Park appears to be an area where the older people are (re-)settling,
though there are still plenty of young people there.
Unsworth Heights and Pinehill are almost the opposite.*

Ethnicity	European	Maori	Pasifika	Asian	MELAA	Other
Rothesay Bay	73.7%	2.9%	0.9%	14.7%	0.9%	11.6%
Murrays Bay	74.5%	3.0%	1.0%	16.6%	0.7%	9.7%
Mairangi Bay	74.6%	3.5%	0.8%	14.2%	1.0%	11.4%
Campbells Bay	83.1%	3.0%	0.8%	4.8%	0.8%	12.0%
Castor Bay	78.4%	3.1%	1.0%	10.7%	1.2%	10.8%
Pinehill	44.7%	2.3%	1.3%	46.8%	1.1%	7.6%
Unsworth Heights	51.9%	5.9%	2.9%	29.1%	8.6%	8.1%
Windsor Park	57.1%	2.7%	1.2%	32.8%	2.4%	8.1%
Auckland	56.5%	11.1%	14.4%	18.9%	1.5%	8.1%

Unsworth Heights and Windsor Park are both similar in terms of European population compared to Auckland as a whole; however they both have a large number of Asians in their area, proportionately more than Auckland in general, and the former has more MELAA people. Pinehill has a smaller European population and the largest Asian.

Campbell Bay is small in terms of Asian people.

Maori are small in number in all areas, though Unsworth Heights has twice as many as anywhere else. It also has the largest number in the MELAA category.

(MELAA = Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.)

Is there any co-relation between the church stats and the ethnic ones?

Marital	Never Married	Married	S/D/W	Live with Partner
Rothsay Bay	30.2%	57.1%	12.7%	19.3%
Murrays Bay	29.4%	59.0%	11.7%	15.2%
Mairangi Bay	28.9%	58.0%	13.2%	15.3%
Campbells Bay	25.7%	61.6%	12.8%	19.5%
Castor Bay	26.9%	59.2%	13.9%	19.8%
Pinehill	30.5%	58.9%	10.4%	19.6%
Unsworth Heights	33.5%	54.4%	12.0%	19.2%
Windsor Park	27.6%	54.4%	18.2%	16.4%
Auckland	35.7%	48.7%	15.6%	25.7%

S/D/W = Single, Widowed, Divorced

Windsor Park has the highest number of SDW, which may be due to the older age group in the area.



Lake Pupuke, Sylvan Park, Milford, North Shore City (courtesy [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/14811170@N00/10000000000/))

Education	Post School Qualification	School Qualification	No Qualification
Rothsay Bay	47.1%	40.2%	12.7%
Murrays Bay	48.6%	41.3%	10.1%
Mairangi Bay	49.6%	40.1%	10.3%
Campbells Bay	52.9%	37.8%	9.3%
Castor Bay	52.5%	37.7%	9.8%
Pinehill	40.4%	46.7%	12.9%
Unsworth Heights	45.1%	41.6%	13.3%
Windsor Park	42.1%	41.9%	16.0%
Auckland	42.5%	37.2%	20.3%

*Post School Qualification percentages are in general higher than the Auckland average (apart from Windsor Park and Pinehill)
 Campbell's Bay and Castor Bay are close to the Auckland average.
 None of the areas are high, compared to the Auckland average, in terms of No Qualifications, which is interesting given the mixes in the ethnic scene in the earlier graph.*



Rangitoto College

[Rangitoto College](#) is in Windsor Park. It is a coeducational secondary (years 9-13) school with a decile rating of 10 and a roll of over 3000 students aged 13 to 19. Founded in 1956, it is now the largest secondary school in New Zealand. Approximately 5% of the school population is made up of international students.

Work	Unemployment
Rothesay Bay	3.5%
Murrays Bay	4.6%
Mairangi Bay	3.7%
Campbells Bay	3.3%
Castor Bay	2.6%
Pinehill	6.2%
Unsworth Heights	4.2%
Windsor Park	6.8%
Auckland	5.6%

*Windsor Park and Pinehill beat the Auckland average.
 Castor Bay is half the Auckland average.*

The median income equals the figure where half earn more, and half less, than the amount shown.

Income	Median	\$20,000 or less	\$50,000 or more
Rothsay Bay	29400	38.7%	27.8%
Murrays Bay	29300	39.7%	30.0%
Mairangi Bay	30200	38.4%	29.3%
Campbells Bay	35700	33.7%	37.1%
Castor Bay	35800	30.7%	35.7%
Pinehill	19200	51.0%	21.8%
Unsworth Heights	29400	38.6%	23.2%
Windsor Park	20700	48.7%	17.2%
Auckland	26800	40.9%	21.6%

Windsor Park and Pinehill come in well below the Auckland average in terms of median income, and well above in terms of the number of people on low incomes. Is this because of larger number of people in the older age group in the former's area? Does that mean that these older, retired people don't have incomes over and above their pensions?

But what about Pinehill?

Campbell's Bay and Castor Bay are well above the average in terms of incomes over \$50,000.

Families	Couples without children	Couples with children	One parent families
Rothsay Bay	34.1%	52.3%	13.6%
Murrays Bay	32.7%	54.6%	12.7%
Mairangi Bay	36.2%	51.3%	12.1%
Campbells Bay	36.4%	54.8%	8.8%
Castor Bay	44.9%	45.6%	9.4%
Pinehill	24.8%	59.9%	14.9%
Unsworth Heights	31.1%	54.6%	14.3%
Windsor Park	41.2%	44.8%	13.3%
Auckland	34.8%	46.3%	18.9%

Several places are well above the Auckland average in terms of couples with children.

Castor Bay and Windsor Park are well above the average for couples without children.

In general, one parent families are less visible in these areas.

Households	One family household	One person household	Average household size
Rothesay Bay	80.1%	14.1%	2.9
Murrays Bay	81.7%	13.0%	3.0
Mairangi Bay	78.6%	15.8%	2.9
Campbells Bay	83.1%	13.4%	2.9
Castor Bay	78.2%	16.4%	2.7
Pinehill	80.7%	11.0%	3.5
Unsworth Heights	81.0%	9.5%	3.2
Windsor Park	65.4%	29.0%	2.5
Auckland	70.3%	19.6%	2.9

Windsor Park has the largest percentage of one-person householders, and the smallest percentage of one-family households – presumably in relation to the number of older people living there. Unsworth Heights is low in one-person households.

Communication	No Access	Cellphone	Telephone	Fax Machine	Internet
Rothesay Bay	0.4%	83.0%	96.9%	39.5%	81.0%
Murrays Bay	0.4%	83.9%	98.0%	42.3%	82.7%
Mairangi Bay	0.3%	81.8%	98.6%	40.5%	81.5%
Campbells Bay	0.0%	87.4%	98.0%	44.7%	84.6%
Castor Bay	0.3%	84.0%	97.4%	45.9%	80.5%
Pinehill	0.4%	82.0%	97.6%	42.4%	80.8%
Unsworth Heights	0.2%	83.1%	97.6%	34.5%	80.7%
Windsor Park	1.3%	71.7%	98.2%	30.9%	68.2%
Auckland	1.8%	76.4%	92.6%	28.9%	65.5%

Very few people with no access at all. Cellphones and telephone access, fax and internet access, are all is higher than the Auckland average. Only Windsor Park is lower than the national average on cellphone usage.



Cellphone/Computer/Office (courtesy of [Flickr.com](#))

Transport	Access to 3 or more vehicles
Rothesay Bay	23.9%
Murrays Bay	25.3%
Mairangi Bay	22.4%
Campbells Bay	26.0%
Castor Bay	24.1%
Pinehill	23.2%
Unsworth Heights	21.8%
Windsor Park	13.9%
Auckland	17.7%

Windsor Park is lower than the average, not surprisingly in view of the other tables.



Three car garage (courtesy of [Flickr.com](#))

Ownership	Own Dwelling	Not Owned	Family Trust
Rothesay Bay	59.0%	24.0%	23.0%
Murrays Bay	57.0%	22.5%	24.5%
Mairangi Bay	57.7%	23.0%	24.0%
Campbells Bay	51.4%	16.0%	27.0%
Castor Bay	51.0%	20.0%	27.0%
Pinehill	57.9%	25.0%	17.1%
Unsworth Heights	63.0%	27.0%	13.0%
Windsor Park	64.2%	24.5%	13.0%
Auckland	50.7%	32.0%	12.5%

Windsor Park and Unsworth Heights both excel in the home ownership area, but have a lot less to do with family trusts than the other areas. Campbell's Bay is very low in terms of the number of houses not owned.

Please note that the figures in this graph are rougher than those in the other tables, due to specific stats being less available.

Religious Affiliation, 2006 Census							
Religion	Anglican	Catholic	PCR	NFD	Methodist	Pentecostal	Baptist
Rothesay Bay	681	609	468	339	168	117	150
Murrays Bay	753	630	405	219	135	90	189
Mairangi Bay	780	693	555	285	192	123	171
Campbells Bay	447	300	204	126	72	39	66
Castor Bay	546	438	273	141	75	33	69
Pinehill	228	360	267	129	99	105	36
Unsworth Heights	468	963	339	213	120	153	147
Windsor Park	294	213	177	93	48	72	96

PCR: Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed. NFD= not further defined
These figures are for affiliation, not necessarily for attendance. PCR trail Anglican and Catholics in all the areas.

Note the very large number of Catholics in Unsworth Heights. Is the population more Filipino?

Religious Affiliation by Age, 2006 Census

Religion	Maori	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Judaism/ Jewish	New Age Religions	Other	None
Rothesay Bay	3	60	30	27	12	12	9	1839
Murrays Bay	3	105	36	18	9	15	9	1545
Mairangi Bay	6	84	12	15	30	24	9	1806
Campbells Bay	0	15	9	9	18	12	6	846
Castor Bay	0	42	9	15	12	18	9	999
Pinehill	3	162	57	18	3	12	24	927
Unsworth Heights	18	141	213	207	15	21	30	1563
Windsor Park	0	72	27	27	6	3	15	483

Unsworth Heights has relatively large numbers of people with religious affiliation to Asian religions, reflecting the ethnic make-up of the area. Pinehill is similar, although with a much reduced Muslim population. Curiously, the same doesn't apply to Windsor Park. Note also the large numbers of people stating they have no religion.

Some other churches/church groups in the area, including those that are online:

[Mairangi Bay Community Church](#)

[St John's Anglican Church](#)

[Windsor Park Baptist Church](#) and Sunnynook Baptist.

Reformed Churches of NZ, Mairangi Bay

[Christian Men's Network](#), Mairangi Bay

Churches of Christ Associated, Mairangi Bay

[Methodist Church, Campbells Bay](#)

Assembly of God, Castor Bay

Baptist Church, Rothesay Bay

Some questions:

Does the church have a hall?

Is it used for community purposes?

What other halls can be used to host community functions?

Are church members separately or together involved with community work, eg:

Young mums and their kids

Helping teenagers stay out of trouble

Helping young families budget

Looking after solo mums

Visiting the elderly

Visiting the sick

Mission is far more than just preaching Christ

Do any of these issues ring a bell with your congregation?

- Lonely isolated people
- Youth drugs/alcohol
- Increasing number of people who cannot drive
- Grandparents bringing up their grandchildren

What are the main industries in the area? Are there workplace chaplains? Are there opportunities for the church to be involved in any way? *For example, there is a major light industry/commercial area immediately to the west and north of East Coast Road [the major arterial route that runs the full length of the East Coast Bays region]*

How many Old People's homes, [retirement villages](#) and private Hospitals are in the area?

What leisure activities are available in the area?

How many schools? Do children come into the area from outside, or are they all residents?

Question starter: *If these are the people making up our community is our church reflective of this make-up?*

Facts about North Shore City – these come from the [North Shore City Council](#) and show a number of ways in which the overall stats for the area can be quite different to the more localised ones given above.

Ethnicity

- There are a mix of ethnicities, cultures and languages in North Shore City
- The population is mostly European (67.5 per cent as at June 30, 2006)
- Increasing number of other ethnicities including **Korean, South African** and Chinese live in the city.
- A further six per cent of people identified as being Maori (Maori is their sole ethnic group or Maori is one of several ethnic groups)
- Our Maori population ranks 15th in size out of the 73 districts in New Zealand

Age

- Median age is 35.9 years
- North Shore has an aging population, 11 per cent of people are aged 65 years or older

Household

- **The median household income for families is \$76,100**
- North Shore City has around 72,000 households
- 52,000 households have internet access (**72 per cent** as at June 30, 2006)
- Most households are made up of families (80 per cent as at June 30, 2006)
- Over 58 per cent of households have access to 2 or more vehicles

Employment

- 66 per cent of residents are employed
- North Shore City has 22,900 business locations, employing 82400 employees (as at June 30, 2006)
- The average hourly earnings for North Shore city residents is \$23.18 (as at September 30, 2006)

Crime and safety

- 93 per cent of residents felt safe in their homes after dark
- 82 per cent felt safe in their neighbourhood after dark

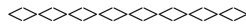
Education

- 75 per cent of North Shore schools have a high decile rating (8, 9 or 10)
- 80 per cent of residents have completed some form of education

Housing

- 67% of usual resident population on the North Shore City own their own home.

- Average dwelling sale price for North Shore City is \$592,464 (as at December 31, 2007)
- 947 new residential building consents were granted in North Shore City (for year end September 30, 2006). This equates to 225,240 m² of additional residential floor area.
- The value of non-residential consents for year end September 30, 2007 was \$284.m



Some historic background



In North Shore City the ancient volcano, Mt Victoria was the site of a Maori pa or fortified village of the local Kawerau tribe before the European era. Today, you can still see traces of the terraces once protected by palisades of sharpened stakes.

By the turn of the 19th Century small settlements could be found in Devonport, Takapuna and Northcote. Devonport was the first settlement on the North Shore and was originally known as Flagstaff, after the signal station on the summit of Mount Victoria.

In North Shore City, the official handing over of lands took place in 1841, between the British Crown and the local hapu of Ngati Paoa. By 1843, all the main arterial routes in North Shore had been laid out, as had the basic outline for early development.

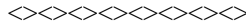
From the 1850s the areas of Takapuna and Devonport slowly began to develop. There was a steady increase of settlers and investors in various land enterprises. The first harbour ferry service began with whaleboats in 1854. Later in the century the Devonport Steam Ferry began operations and ferries scuttled back and forward across the harbour.

Through the course of the 19th Century the North Shore continued to develop with the help of the brickwork, timber and ship building industries. The Shore also came to be viewed as a playground for Aucklanders, and by the late 1870s several new hotels had sprung up. Development on the Shore continued, with the help of Auckland's inner city building boom in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

North Shore grew steadily until Auckland's Harbour Bridge opened in 1959. The direct road link with Auckland City made North Shore more accessible and spawned massive growth in both industry and housing. Today, North Shore City is New Zealand's fourth largest city and continues to grow.

Source: [New Zealand Tourism Board](#), Ralph Johnson - Research Topic: The Conception and Birth of North Shore Suburbs from Mother Auckland in the Nineteenth Century. [Abridged from the [North Shore City Council site](#).]

Photo of Rangitoto from North Shore courtesy of [Flickr.com](#)



Some information on various ethnic groups in the North Shore area

(from Explore Te Ara: the Encyclopedia of New Zealand)

Note that some of the figures are taken from the 2001 Census.

Chinese

The total number of ethnic Chinese in New Zealand was about 147,570 according to the census of 2006, with 16,590 in the North Shore area. The Chinese are the largest non-European, non-Polynesian minority group in the country. Within this group, some 14,000 were born overseas.



The Chinese in New Zealand today are generally high achievers, with significant skills and substantial savings. Yet while both locally born and immigrant Chinese are very well educated, their income level and participation in the labour force are below the national average.

A large number of new arrivals remain unemployed, partly because their qualifications are not recognised, and partly because of residual prejudice. The Chinese community has been amongst the most sinned against of any longstanding group in the country. Furthermore, many of these are from countries other than China: British Hong Kong, Taiwan, or Singapore and Malaysia.

Traditional Chinese is on the increase in New Zealand, and young Chinese are no longer necessarily training for professional occupations: there are now artists, musicians, poets and writers amongst the latest generation.

Filipinos:

Most Filipinos in New Zealand are Roman Catholic. Initially many migrant Filipinos found Kiwi accent difficult to comprehend. Today almost all Filipinos speak English and the majority are bilingual. In New Zealand's Filipino homes it is common to hear 'Tag-lish', a



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mixture of Tagalog (the main Filipino language) and English. Auckland's *Diario Filipino*, first printed in 1999 with a circulation of 200 copies, [went online in 2000](#). The online site has a colourful and cluttered front page full of information, and is worth a look to further understand this ethnic group. By the early 2000s, Auckland Filipino radio show Tinig Pinoy announced community events, played Original Pilipino (Filipino) Music (known as OPM), and featured presenters with colourful names such as Ela 'the Flame' and Niño 'Woofman' Deomano.

Indians

While the majority of Indians in New Zealand are Hindu, there are also Sikhs, Muslims, Jains, Parsis and Christians, to name the main religious groups. Most Indians of Gujarati origin are Hindu, although some are Muslim. Those from Punjab are mainly Sikh. Indians who have recently come to New Zealand from Fiji are both Hindu and Muslim.



Some Indians not born in New Zealand still regard India or other places of origin as home. New Zealand-born generations, however, often think of themselves as 'Indian New Zealanders'. A recent study suggests that many of these people maintain separate Indian and New Zealand identities. Within the home and with other

Indians they follow traditional customs, such as observing religious and cultural rituals, speaking their language, wearing Indian clothes and eating Indian food. In public, they adopt the practices of the majority culture.

Koreans:

In the decade from 1991 New Zealand's Korean population increased 20-fold, from 930 to 19,026. This rapid growth reflected not only the immigration policy changes, but also a booming Korean economy, which allowed many to accumulate the capital required to emigrate.

The New Zealand government's long-term business immigration scheme stimulated a second wave of Korean immigrants in the early 2000s. Still were dubbed 'astronaut families', where the husband returned to work in Korea, remitting money and occasionally visiting his wife and family in New Zealand.

Most migrant families had sufficient funds to buy houses in relatively affluent suburbs such as Auckland's North Shore which, with its Korean churches, soon held an active community. By 2001, in North Shore City, Korean was the second most common language after English.



Wherever they have settled, Koreans have helped boost Catholic and Presbyterian congregations. In 2001 over half of New Zealand Koreans were Christians, with

Buddhists a small minority. Particularly on Auckland's North Shore, Korean churches were established in existing church buildings.

Korean newspapers and magazines such as the [New Korea Herald](#), the *New Zealand Times* and [Korea Town](#) have been circulating in Auckland since the 1990s.

South Africans

In 2000 nearly two-thirds of New Zealand's South Africans were living in Auckland. In 2003 there were an estimated 20,000 on the North Shore, with another concentration in the eastern suburbs.

Some antipathy was expressed toward Auckland's South Africans as the demand for



housing, fuelled in part by immigration, put prices beyond the reach of many people. Of all immigrant groups, South African males had the highest median incomes, and females the second highest. Many were doctors and nurses, or worked in insurance, information technology and publishing.

The [South Africa New Zealand Charitable Trust](#), already had some 6,000 mainly English-speaking members in 2001. Some South African immigrants speak Afrikaans, a language that developed among the mainly Dutch settlers who moved to South Africa in the 17th century. The [Afrikaans Club of New Zealand](#) grew from 30 members in 1998 to 800 in 2003 and had followers in Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty. From 1996 to 2001 New Zealand's Afrikaans-speaking community surged by 150% to 12,783.

One of the most recent associations, the South African Supporters Club, is made up of mainly coloured immigrants. Based in Auckland, it had a membership of around 300 in 2001.

In 2001 South Africans had diverse religious affiliations. In Auckland there were three Afrikaans churches offering regular services in Howick and on the North Shore. A North Shore library established an Afrikaans bookshelf and featured Afrikaans story-telling sessions. South African Jews made a significant contribution to Auckland's Jewish community.

Photo credits from Te Ara website

The following are typical of articles that have appeared in the NZ Herald over the last year. Note the emphasis on ethnic issues (Lincoln Tan is, of course, well known as a commentator on the Asian scene in NZ). Does the church have a mission opportunity here?

Kiwi 'buddies' for Asian migrants

Friday May 22, 2009

By [Lincoln Tan](#)

Auckland City Council will be getting into social networking when it launches a pilot project tomorrow to "buddy up" Chinese-speaking immigrants with Kiwis living in the central city area.

The project, Come Over to Our Place, aims to overcome shyness and the fear of the unknown - identified as barriers that are preventing people from meeting those from different cultural backgrounds in a study by the Office of Ethnic Affairs.

"New migrants often have good connections with their own ethnic or cultural communities, but it can be challenging to create these within the broader community," said Nandita Mathur, the city council's community services manager.

"There are often cultural and linguistic barriers for many New Zealanders both from migrant communities and more established groups who want to mix socially with people from different cultural backgrounds.

"Successful settlement into New Zealand society is a two-way process with benefits for both migrant communities and for those who already live here," Mrs Mathur said.

According to the 2006 Census, 24.4 per cent of people living in Auckland City are Asian and 9.8 per cent speak Chinese.

Chinese are the largest Asian ethnic group with 98,390 people identifying themselves as belonging, and the combined total of speakers of Chinese languages makes it the most common language spoken after English.

The project will pair people up for a range of social activities, such as Chinese cooking classes and creative sessions at Artstation.

Participants will spend about three hours every week with their buddy learning about each other's culture for a seven-week period.

"Many people living in large cities experience a sense of isolation and marginalisation," Mrs Mathur said. "This experience can be acute for migrants. This project aims to provide an accessible way for the everyday person to extend the hand of friendship and enjoy the many gifts that come with cross-cultural sharing."

Participants will share their experiences through photographs, pictures and, possibly, each other's languages at the end of the project.

An Asia New Zealand Foundation study last year found that the number of New Zealanders who had personal involvement with people from Asia was increasing, but those who had "hardly any" contact with Asians felt significantly cooler towards them.

The study, New Zealanders' Perceptions of Asia, found almost six in 10 (58 per cent) said they had "a lot" or "a fair amount" of personal involvement with Asians, up from the 2007 result of 48 per cent.

Primary points of contact include shopping, business, friends, the neighbourhood or community and schools and education.

"Generally, results over time indicate that personal involvement with Asian people has been steadily increasing since 1998."

Ethnic minorities left out - expert

Wednesday Apr 22, 2009

By [Lincoln Tan](#)

Auckland Super City should give ethnic communities and immigrants a voice to aid their input into the city, a Massey University academic has said.

"The royal commission has a lot to say about many aspects of Auckland's future, but there is one omission that is puzzling," said Professor Paul Spoonley, Massey's Auckland regional director and head of a major research project on the integration of immigrants.

"The commission recognised the Maori presence ... but not the economic significance or impact of the immigrant and ethnic communities, businesses or workers."

The commission did recommend the appointment of Pacific and ethnic advisory panels, and said the local councils should better engage with ethnic and other groups in their communities.

It also said a new council structure should work closely with community leaders and foster their development.

But Professor Spoonley said the recommendations do not go far enough.

"Given how similar cities address diversity, especially in terms of an economic dividend, are these adequate?"

He said projections showed that by 2016, about a quarter of Auckland would be Asian, another quarter Maori and Pasifika. The rest would be a mix of local Pakeha and various European communities.

"Ultimately, there are major gains to be made by strengthening city governance processes to ... make Auckland a more welcoming destination for immigrants," he said.

Meanwhile, a statement by Maori Party co-leader Tariana Turia that Maori "should not be lumped in with those who came after us" has sparked a debate on the online forum, Aotearoa Ethnic Network.

One contributor, Uzra Balouch, said: "I found them [the comments] very hurtful ... as if we don't matter, as if it does not matter whether we have a right to speak up about what happens to our city, Auckland, and our home, New Zealand."

Ms Turia has apologised, but said she found it "offensive to call mana whenua an ethnic minority".

Maori leaders are planning to hold a hikoi against the Government's shelving of recommendations for separate Maori seats in Auckland.

Crime forums give ethnic groups a say

Friday Sep 12, 2008

By [Lincoln Tan](#)

Auckland's ethnic groups are invited to have their say on crime and listen to a police "action plan" for keeping them safe at meetings on the North Shore and at Greenlane tomorrow.

Ethnic Council national president Pancha Narayanan says these forums, which will also be held in Wellington, Rotorua and Invercargill, aim to draw up "six key action points" on crime and safety for communities to work with the police.

"The forum is to give people in the immigrant communities a chance to say what they like. We are not interested in their personal circumstances, but issues facing the wider community, and to work jointly with the police towards a plan for better law and order in our communities."

The law and order forums have been organised by the Ethnic Council after several high-profile murders and a kidnapping in Auckland in which all the victims were Asian.

In July, more than 10,000 people, mainly Asians, protested against what they perceived to be New Zealand's soft approach to law and order, and Asians being the target for crime and violence.

North Shore Multi Ethnic Council president Ray Annamalai said Asians sometimes "made themselves easy targets for criminals" by continuing to "carry loads of cash".

"Instead of pointing the fingers and blaming each other, we want to see how we can work together with the police. The forum aims to also be a starting point to build this relationship," said Mr Annamalai, who says crime will be one of the main concerns affecting ethnic voters this election.

Tomorrow's meetings will be at the Bayview Community Centre in Glenfield at 9.30am and the Jack Dickey Community Hall at Greenlane at 2.30pm.

Police ethnic liaison officer Min Lee says Superintendent Wallace Haumaha, the national manager for Maori, Pacific and ethnic services, will deliver the police intent and action plan.

"Ethnic minorities sometimes feel vulnerable because of a language barrier, but I think blaming the police for not doing enough is unfair. We are doing all we can. The only way to fight crime is for us to work together," he said.

Police ethnic perceptions research earlier this year found issues ethnic communities were most concerned about were burglary, racial harassment, juvenile issues such as street violence, drinking, drugs, vandalism and car theft, business-related crime such as shoplifting, and gambling.

The Ministry of Social Development and Office of Ethnic Affairs are also organising a series of crime prevention expos throughout Auckland targeting ethnic communities.



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