

Community Voices

The official magazine of Auckland North Community and Development

The
spring
issue

Growing
Community
Accounting

Bringing
culture to the
North Shore

Auckland Council
elections 2025

Sharing community
stories through film

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Opinions expressed by Community Voices contributors are their own.

Kia ora Hello Nǐ hǎo Bula Namaste Talofa Mālō e lelei Kamusta

Haere mai



FIONA BRENNAN

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HOLDING THE THREADS OF COMMUNITY TOGETHER

This issue of Community Voices is woven with stories that speak to the heart of our communities — stories of innovation courage, creativity, and collective care.

From, cultural events to community accounting, this issue showcases some of ways people of all ages are stepping up — often quietly, often without fanfare — to make a difference. Whether it's a group creating films to preserve identity and share experiences, or international students finding belonging through accounting mentorship, these are the threads that strengthen our collective tapestry.

We also reflect on the importance of governance, leadership, and strategic resilience in the face of funding cuts and policy shifts. Our LiiFT Aotearoa programme continues to support those navigating change, and we remain committed to offering tools, training, and trusted advice to those doing the mahi on the ground. This includes the introduction of Xero accounting training which has been well received. In the next issue we will also report on the outcomes from our Pasifika Incubator Programme and the success of the first cohort.

We've recently held Meet The Candidates Meetings on the North Shore to pro-

vide local people and candidates an opportunity to interact and make informed voting decisions. These were well attended to capacity with around 100 people in the room. We encourage all to participate in local body elections and voting opportunities.

Over Springtime we will be hosting our annual community accounting ceremony to celebrate the achievements of students, chartered accountant mentors and community organisations. The strength of this programme is in the partnerships that underpin the work with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and Massey University, the support of our principal funders Foundation North and Lottery Grants Board and the generosity of volunteer students and mentors who donate their time and considerable experience to support the charitable sector.

Thank you to our members and community friends who attended our AGM in August. If you missed it, please check out our latest annual report ([insert link](#))

As we look ahead, we invite you to stay connected, share your stories, and continue building safe, resilient communities with us. ●

Nga mihi

**Fiona Brennan, Chief Executive Officer,
ANCAD**

Bringing Chinese culture to the North Shore: A community-led initiative

By Ben Yu



The Auckland Chinese Families Network Incorporated (ACFN) is a community organisation dedicated to celebrating and sharing Chinese culture – especially with children and families – through inclusive events. Based on the North Shore, we've noticed a significant gap in open-park Chinese cultural events that reflect the diversity of our community. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience and participate in Chinese cultural celebrations in welcoming, accessible spaces.

To help fill this gap, we launched the New Zealand Chinese Children Festival at Browns Bay Beach earlier this year. This event was designed to bring families together to enjoy Chinese traditions, performances, and activities in a vibrant outdoor setting. It was our first time hosting such a large-scale cultural event, and we are proud to say it was a success – thanks in no small part to the incredible support we received from ANCAD.

ANCAD's guidance and resources were instrumental in helping us bring our vision to life. From providing a support letter for funding applications to

helping us align the event with our organisational mission, ANCAD played a key role in our planning process. They connected us with a strategic advisor who helped us identify potential funding sources and introduced us to other organisations with experience in hosting similar events.

ANCAD also supported us through the practical aspects of event planning – such as navigating council permits and assigning a dedicated advisor who had previously organized community events. This expert helped us identify blind spots and guided our team through each step of the process.

We truly believe that without ANCAD's support, the New Zealand Chinese Children Festival would not have been possible. Their commitment to empowering grassroots initiatives like ours has made a lasting impact on our community, and we are deeply grateful.

We look forward to continuing our work to bring more Chinese cultural events to the North Shore and to building a stronger, more connected community for all families. ●



Auckland Council Elections 2025

The Auckland Council Elections 2025 are upon us. It is your opportunity to vote.

"We hope Aucklanders take up this one-in-three-year opportunity to have their say in Auckland's leadership. It's a pivotal choice that isn't available to citizens in every country and here, where we have a choice, it impacts our daily lives – so why wouldn't you?" says Ms Ballantyne, Auckland Council's General Manager of Governance and Engagement.

ANCAD said yes to helping to organise and host two public meetings for the purposes of meeting the candidates. We worked closely with the Council Partnership Team and organised one meeting for candidates standing for the Kaipatiki and Devonport-Takapuna local boards and North Shore Ward. Plus, a second meeting for candidates standing for the Hibiscus & Bays local board areas and Albany Ward.

We had over 100 attendees at each public meeting with more than 20 candidates represented at each event. We see this as a great sign for local engagement in democracy and an important time for public to see and hear from candidates sharing their values and vision for the future of the city and the many communities within it. ●



Meet the Candidates Public Meeting: Glenfield Community Centre



Meet the Candidates Public Meeting: Marist Rugby Club, Albany



Sharing community stories through film

By Ruth Greenaway

To celebrate ANCAD's 50th anniversary in 2024, we decided to document the occasion on film. Since then, we have been collaborating with Nathan Thomas from Thomas Video to capture various community stories and showcase ANCAD's programmes, including LiiFt, the Pacific Capability Lead programme, Community Accounting, and Storm Recovery.

Nathan has been a videographer

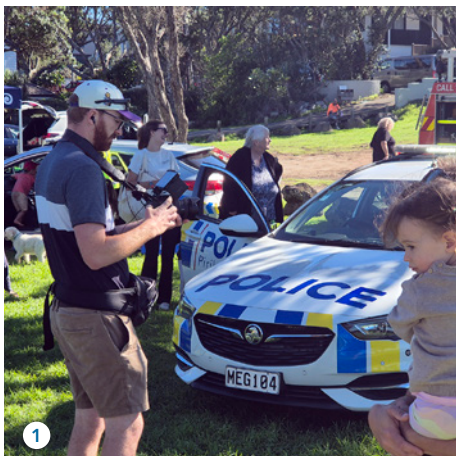
since 2013, while his wife, Candy, manages all the accounting and administrative tasks for their business. Nathan specialises in creating custom digital video content, which has proven to be a great fit for ANCAD. Additionally, Ruth Greenaway has worked with Nathan on several occasions to interview individuals for the films we've produced.

Our most recent filming project focused on the storm recovery efforts led

by Kristi Shaw and others in the East Coast Bays communities. Nathan expressed his enjoyment of being involved in such a meaningful project, stating, "It's been a pleasure to see the enduring and resilient ways in which flood victims have rebuilt their lives and come together to support one another."

You can view ANCAD's videos via our YouTube channel:

<http://youtube.com/@ancad42081> ●



Photos:

- 1 Nathan Thomas filming at the "Meet the Heroes" day, Mairangi Bay, May 2025
- 2 Ruth Greenaway with Clark Tuagalu Pacific Community Engagement Lead and Nathan, Takapuna Beach, March 2025
- 3 Nathan Thomas filming at the "Making Visible", Storm Recovery exhibition, June 2025
- 4 Kim Wyatt was one of the people interviewed by Ruth Greenaway as part of the "Making visible stories of storm recovery" video.

Remembering Nagasaki and Hiroshima



Photo by Hanshu Liu on Unsplash

You may have come across several stories in Community Voices written by Ruth Greenaway. Ruth was a staff member of NSCSS/ANCAD from 2013 to 2020 and now contracts her services as a writer, interviewer, and storyteller for ANCAD. In August, Ruth travelled to Japan to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Ruth is also an oral historian and, in 2003, she interviewed Rev. Ian Dixon, a Presbyterian minister and chaplain to the New Zealand Army, who served in Japan as part of the J-Force.

The J-Force consisted of New Zealand forces that were part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force

(BCOF) in Japan following World War II. Between 1946 and 1948, approximately 12,000 New Zealanders served in J-Force, primarily in the Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Eta Jima Island, and in Hiroshima just six months after it had been bombed.

Ian Dixon, who was in his 90s at the time of the interview, had never shared his story in full prior to speaking with Ruth for a larger peace oral history project. Ruth hopes to honour his story during her visit to Japan, reflecting on the horror he conveyed in his interview as well as her own impressions of the experience. Upon her return, she will create a podcast in collaboration with Planet FM.

'I really hope to do justice to the legacy stories of those who witnessed the devastation as well as the Japanese who survived, and the generations who have lived with this trauma ever since.' Says Ruth.

This trip has been funded by the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust. ●



PHOTOS:

Left: Ian Dixon, supplied by Ruth Greenaway.

Above: The Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, and now commonly called the Genbaku Dome, Atomic Bomb Dome or A-Bomb Dome. Today the dome is part of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan, and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

Ref: Military Service, World War II; Japan; Hiroshima., Upper Hutt City Library, Heritage Collection. Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial 3.0 New Zealand License.

Remembering Marilyn Glover OSM

By Ruth Greenaway

*"I've learned that some people
you walk behind, some you
walk beside, and some
you walk in front of."*

Marilyn Glover had a long-standing involvement in the community sector, beginning when her sons were in kindergarten. She became a member of the kindergarten committee, the primary school PTA, and the school committee at Belmont Intermediate School, volunteering as the secretary for each.

In addition to her volunteer work, Marilyn worked part-time as a teacher aide at Belmont Intermediate School and dedicated time to the IHC and the Red Cross. Later on, she joined the Board of Governors at Takapuna Grammar School and served as the secretary of the Auckland School Committees Association.

In 1989, Marilyn was invited to apply for the position of secretary (and later the co-ordinator) of the Auckland School Trustees Association. This role quickly became a full-time position, which she held from 1989 to 2004. She loved her job and relished the opportunity to offer advice, guidance, support, and training to the Boards of Trustees of around 530 state schools in Auckland.

In 1993, the Principal of Wilson School—a school for physically disabled students located on Lake Road between Takapuna and Devonport—contacted Marilyn for advice on filling a vacancy on the school's Board of Trustees. Marilyn expressed her interest in the position. After her fourth meeting as a trustee, she was asked to take on the role of chairperson, which she accepted and was re-elected to each year for the next 17 years.

Marilyn also ventured into local



Marilyn (right) receiving her OSM in 2019 for services to the community and education, with then Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy.

body politics. After the creation of the North Shore City Council in 1989, she was nominated for the Takapuna Local Community Board as part of mayoral candidate Ann Hartley's team. To her surprise, she was successful.

"I learned a huge amount about how the system worked," Marilyn remarked. "I learned how to identify specific issues that needed addressing within the community. I also realised that community groups need to tell their story. In the not-for-profit sector, many groups compete for the same funding, so it's essential to communicate what you're trying to achieve and how well you do it."

Marilyn was actively involved with Age Concern for many years and assisted her daughter-in-law in establishing Adults in Motion (AIM) in Warkworth, a group that works with young adults with physical disabilities. She served as the secretary of AIM until 2006 and was

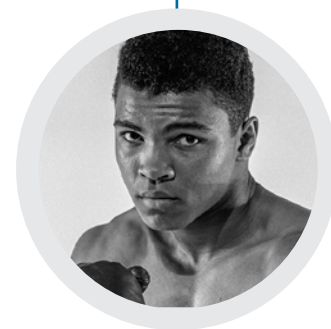
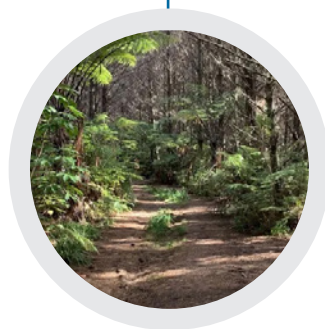
also a representative on the Disabled Persons Assembly for many years. Additionally, she held various roles—president, secretary, and treasurer—at different times for the Rotary Club of Takapuna, the oldest Rotary Club on the North Shore, founded in 1953. She has served as treasurer for the Friends of the Takapuna Library since 1997. Marilyn volunteered with NSCSS (now ANCAD) and was on its Board of Trustees until 2010. In 2014, at the 40th anniversary Annual General Meeting of ANCAD, she was awarded honorary life membership. Marilyn passed away on June 5, at the age of 80.

Ruth Greenaway interviewed Marilyn Glover for the book – **My Story Your Story Together Builds Communities; Ko aku korero ko au koero Ka whakamana te kotahitanga o te Hapori**. Published by Auckland North Community and Development Inc. 2016. ●



with...John Henderson

Board member, ANCAD



Can you share a little about your background and what drew you to join the ANCAD Board?

NZ has been home for 39 years. I came here for work in hotel management. Within the first week I knew I wanted to base in NZ. This was after living/working in many countries. It's our people and our values.

I have run a Business Consulting firm and joining the ANCAD Board should enable me to give something back to our North Shore communities.

What excites you most about the work ANCAD does in the community?

Seems to me that ANCAD is the preferred enabler for our diverse North Shore community organisations. We want to create a better environment for them to thrive in. We keep our hands off their good work.

In your view, what is the biggest challenge facing non-profits right now?

I suppose it is funding cuts especially during recession. However, if what ANCAD does has real value (and I believe it does) then funders will continue to see our cost/benefit. In this sense ANCAD is not a charity....it's an enabler.

What strengths or experiences do you feel you bring to your role on the Board?

I have sat on Boards for many years. I like empowering Management by creating an environment for their success. I reckon the best way to do this is to actively listen to all stakeholders. To ask the questions that really matter. To be respectful while not shying away from the truth.

Who has been an inspiring influence in your life or career?

I was very fortunate to meet Muhammad Ali when he was in his prime as World Champion of Boxing. Such charisma! A physically powerful person who radiated a very gentle spirit. WOW!

If you had an extra hour in the day, how would you spend it?

Probably thinking about what makes me happy and how I might focus on this tomorrow.

What's a favourite book, podcast, or film that's made you think differently?

It's not one of these. It's a hi tech version of meditation to relieve pain. It's called neuroplasticity. You can train your brain

to ignore pain signals. It really works for me. Initially I was very skeptical. There is a NZ start up worth looking at called EXSURGO.

Where is your favourite place in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) to relax or recharge?

Riverhead Forest.

If you could host a dinner with three people (past or present), who would they be?

Muhammad Ali, Peter Ustinov, Peter Sellers.

And finally, what's your go-to comfort food after a long week?

Love Asian & Indian. Also Italian. ●





AI: The double-edged sword

By Steven Moe (Partner) and Annemarie Mora (Solicitor)
Parry Field Lawyers, www.parryfield.com
Summarised for *Community Voices*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already reshaping the way lawyers work, often behind the scenes. Tools that review documents, draft submissions, and even flag weaknesses in arguments are becoming standard. The question is no longer if we use AI, but how we manage it.

OPPORTUNITIES

AI offers efficiency gains that can't be ignored. Research shows professionals using AI complete 12% more tasks in 25% less time with a 40% quality boost. This could change the way legal services are priced, with fixed-fee models replacing billable hours. Of course, adoption comes with costs - software, training, and ongoing upkeep.

RISKS

But AI is not foolproof. Its reliance on massive datasets means bias can creep in, and worse, AI can "hallucinate," confidently making things up. Client confidentiality is another major concern: uploading sensitive material into public AI systems risks exposure, as Samsung famously discovered when engineers

uploaded chip designs into GPT.

On the darker side, AI also makes cyber threats more convincing. From deepfake videos to cloned voices, scams are harder to spot, leaving organisations vulnerable.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Deepfakes are becoming nearly indistinguishable from reality, yet people consistently overestimate their ability to detect them. Research shows we tend to trust video content too easily, relying on intuition rather than critical thinking. In this landscape, human cognitive skills - the ability to question, test, and verify - are as important as any tech safeguard.

THE BOTTOM LINE

AI is here to stay. It crosses legal, professional, and geographic boundaries faster than regulation can keep up.

To thrive, organisations need robust systems, strong policies, and a commitment to ongoing learning. The challenge is clear: leverage the benefits, manage the risks, and stay one step ahead. ●

Patrons and charities:

Balancing profile with protection



By Not for Profit Editor (www.not-for-profit.org.nz), summarised for *Community Voices*

In today's charity sector, the role of a patron is both powerful and precarious. A well-chosen patron can amplify a charity's message, attract donors, and inspire public trust. But as recent scandals remind us, the wrong association can quickly tarnish reputations.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PATRON?

A patron is not a trustee or manager – their value lies in being a flag-bearer. The best patrons act as:

- Ambassadors: Lending their name, credibility, and profile.
- Connectors: Opening doors to networks and supporters.
- Champions: Appearing at key events, offering endorsements, or fronting campaigns.

Crucially, a strong patron's values must align with the charity's mission and purpose.

WHAT CHARITIES SHOULD EXPECT

Charities typically look for patrons to:

- Allow their name and image to be

used publicly.

- Attend selected events and fund-raisers.
- Offer endorsements or introductions when appropriate.

But these expectations should be realistic, respectful of time, and clearly documented.

WHAT PATRONS SHOULD EXPECT

Patrons deserve clarity too:

- No governance or fiduciary responsibilities (unless they also sit on the board).
- Respectful, limited requests for support.
- Transparency about how their name is used.
- Public acknowledgement and appreciation for their role.

MANAGING THE RISKS

The Sarah Ferguson controversy underlines the risks of patronage. Scandals can spill over onto charities, eroding trust and credibility. Best practice includes:

- Due diligence before appointments.

- Written agreements with exit clauses.
- Annual reviews to ensure alignment.
- Mission first — protecting beneficiaries and reputation above all else.

THE PATRON LIFECYCLE

A professional approach to patronage looks like this:

- Selection: Board discussion, research, and personal approach.
- Agreement: Documented expectations and exit options.
- Engagement: Onboarding, invitations, and regular updates.
- Review: Annual check-ins to ensure mutual value.
- Exit: Planned, dignified, or swift if scandal strikes.

BOTTOM LINE

Patrons still matter – perhaps more than ever – but they must be chosen and managed wisely. With clear expectations, ongoing review, and robust risk management, charities can harness the profile and influence patrons bring while safeguarding their mission and reputation. ●



with...Helen Kerslake-Forbes

Administration Assistant, ANCAD



What drew you to join ANCAD, and what excites you most about your new role?

As a proud long-time resident of the North Shore, ANCAD's vision of building Resilient, Safe, and Connected communities really spoke to me. I've been especially inspired by their hands-on work, like the Community Accounting Programme and the Flood Recovery support for the Bays. I'm really excited to be stepping into a role that's so varied and meaningful. I'm also looking forward to bringing in fresh ideas and experiences from other industries and sectors and using them in ways that support the amazing mahi ANCAD is already doing across our communities.

Can you tell us a little about your background and the journey that brought you here?

I grew up in New Zealand and, after high school, trained and qualified as a professional chef. I absolutely loved creating delicious dishes and bringing people together through food. But after a while, the long, unsocial hours of hospitality led me to make a change, and I moved into office-based work as a PA. Most recently, I spent 12 and a half years in the marketing team of a medium-sized corporate, where I picked up

a wide range of skills — from intranet design and Research & Development to managing training programmes and events. After such a long stretch in the same company, I felt it was time for a new chapter. I started focusing my job search on small, values-driven businesses and community organisations here on the Shore — and that's when I spotted the role at ANCAD. It felt like the perfect fit at just the right time.

What's one value or principle that guides the way you work or lead?

I believe in continuous learning — no matter who you are, how old you are, what background you have come from, and what experiences you have had. I love seeking out opportunities to learn new skills, push myself out of my comfort zone, and continually grow as a person.

If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Loyal, supportive and super-organised.

What's a book, podcast, or movie that's inspired you recently and why?

I recently watched the movie *Thirteen Lives*, which tells the incredible true story of the 2018 Thai cave rescue — when twelve young boys and their soccer coach were trapped underground. Like many people, I remember following the story closely in the news at the time, but seeing it brought to life on screen really gave me a new level of appreciation for just how complex and emotional the whole operation was. It was a powerful reminder of what's possible when people from all walks of life come together with a shared purpose. The courage, coordination, and care

shown by everyone involved — from local volunteers to international divers — was truly inspiring. It really highlighted how much strength there is in community and collaboration, especially in the face of impossible odds.

When you're not working, where are we most likely to find you?

Whenever I get the chance outside of work and family life, you'll most likely find me out on a trail somewhere, soaking up the beauty of the great Kiwi outdoors. My love for exploring really took off while I was living in the UK for 10 years and had the opportunity to travel to all sorts of amazing places. But it wasn't until I returned to Aotearoa that I realised how little of my own backyard I'd seen! To change that, I joined a couple of social hiking groups — and that soon sparked the idea to start my own. That's how Auckland Outdoors was born. These days, my husband and I (and sometimes our young daughter too!) love taking groups out into the bush to explore new tracks, learn a few outdoor skills, and connect with others. It's been such a fun and rewarding way to bring people together and celebrate the incredible natural beauty we're lucky to have right here at home.

If you could instantly master a new skill, what would it be?

I would love to be fluent in at least one other language, preferably more, and be able to communicate with people in their native tongue both while travelling and in my day-to-day world. I have great respect for people who are bi or multi-lingual. ●



I N F O R M A O T E A R O A I N S P I R E

ANCAD's training programmes for community groups and the not-for-profit sector



SIMON RITCHIE

Training and Capability Lead

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(0800 4ANCAD)

The Auckland North Community and Development (ANCAD) Professional Development Programme is known as **LiiFT AOTEAROA**.

LiiFT AOTEAROA seeks to both inform and inspire – that's why there are two 'i's in LiiFT.

ANCAD's vision is to see community and For Purpose/NFP groups LiiFTED and strengthened through offering relevant and affordable capability-building courses, presented by top, professional consultants and facilitators, just as we have been doing for many years now, with the fantastic support of The Tindall Foundation.

The two 'i's in LiiFT also represent, in imagery, two stick figures and stand for people partnership and collaboration as key ways of fostering growth, harmony and resilience.

The remaining letters 'LFT' stand for 'Learning for Today' as we seek to respond to community need with relevant and timely courses as well as looking to the future in supplying the latest, helpful resource and training.

Our hope is that many will benefit and build on the good works they are already doing for the sake of community in Aotearoa.

For detailed information about course content go to the ANCAD Training website found here:

www.liift.nz ●



GOVERNANCE MATTERS 2025



Short sessions on specific topics. A series of Zoom sessions focused on governance principles for Boards or committees of NFP organisations in New Zealand.

Presenter: Carol Scholes, Overview Effect

Location: Zoom

Time: Tuesdays, 6:30pm to 7:45pm | **Cost:** Free

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
AND TO
REGISTER VISIT:
liift.nz**

Recent LiiFT session highlights

STRATEGIC GRANT SEEKING AND WRITING WORKSHOP

with Therese Lanigan Behrent, Independent NFP Funding Consultant and Capacity Builder



RESOURCING LEADERS IN TIMES OF CHANGE: LEADING THROUGH CHANGE WORKSHOP

with Aly McNicoll (NZ Coaching & Mentoring Centre)



ANCAD'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2025

DATE	TOPIC	TIME	PRESENTER	LOCATION
3 Sep	Volunteering Best Practice Guidelines: Train and Grow/Feedback and recognition	10am to 11:30am	Heidi Quinn	Zoom
10 Sep	Social Media Essentials 3: How to use LinkedIn effectively for a NFP organisation	12pm to 1pm	Alecia Hancock	Zoom
9 Sep	XERO Day to Day	12pm to 1:30pm	Anna Murgatroyd	Zoom
12 Sep	XERO Day to Day	12pm to 12:30pm	Anna Murgatroyd	Zoom
16 Sep	Governance Matters Session 8: How to have an effective Board/committee meeting	6:30pm to 7:45pm	Carol Scholes	Zoom
16 Sep	XERO Day to Day	12pm to 1:30pm	Anna Murgatroyd	Zoom
19 Sep	XERO Day to Day	12pm to 12:30pm	Anna Murgatroyd	Zoom
8 Oct	Resourcing Leaders in Times of Change; Module 5: Reflective practice for NFP leaders	10am to 11:30am	Sandy Thompson	Zoom
10 Oct	Essential First Aid	9:30am to 2pm	Sarah Thompson	Glenfield
14 Oct	Governance Matters Session 9: Strategic leadership role of the Board and the importance of a strategic plan	6:30pm to 7:45pm	Carol Scholes	Zoom
16 Oct	Become funder-ready	10am to 11:30am	Therese Lanigan Behrent	Zoom
4 Nov	Governance Matters Session 10: AI, cybersecurity and digital leadership from a governance perspective	6:30pm to 7:45pm	Carol Scholes	Zoom

ANCAD'S 2025 FUNDING GUIDE



Featuring funders of:
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education | social services | culture |
sport | health | arts



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orders of hard copies (more than two) contact
Simon directly at simon@ancad.org.nz



Community Accounting

Community Accounting is a free and confidential service which offers support and assistance on accounting matters to small and medium community organisations within Aotearoa.

WHO IS THIS SERVICE FOR?

Community groups, including sporting, cultural and social service agencies, are able to access this service free of charge.

- Struggling with your charities finances?
- Need help understanding the treasurer's role?
- Having difficulty completing your annual return and performance report?
- Need help understanding the financial responsibilities of a Governance Board or Committee?
- Unsure what financial and non-financial resources are available to assist your charity?
- Experiencing difficulty working with your accounting software or looking to purchase?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Community Accounting provides community groups in Aotearoa with free and confidential assistance on accounting matters.
- Teams made up of senior accounting students from Massey University provide assistance under the supervision of a Chartered Accountant.
- This provides accounting students with practical experience and encourages increased involvement in the local community sector.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

Step 1: Register your organisation's interest in receiving assistance from Community Accounting.

Email eva@ancad.org.nz or phone 027 260 2291.

Step 2: Give some indication of the type of assistance your organisation is looking for.

Please note: The matters on which students can advise will be limited to:

- Good practice and general accounting principles relevant to the not-for-profit sector.
- Assisting with document completion/form filling where appropriate.
- More detailed or complex queries will be referred to local Chartered Accountants.

Community Accounting is supported by the following organisations:

Auckland North Community and Development (ANCAD) | Department of Internal Affairs | Massey University | Foundation North | Auckland Council | Charities Services | Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand | RSM



COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING

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Programme Lead

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COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING



AUCKLAND NORTH
COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Te Runanga Ratonga Hapori o Te Raki-Pae-Whenua



Growing Community Accounting

By Eva Chen

OPENING DOORS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At Massey Campus, community accounting is gaining momentum. Students who had previously joined the programme are now stepping forward as peer connectors, recommending meeting spots, introducing friends, and sharing their experiences. One student reflected: *"I finally feel I have something meaningful to put on my CV – this gives me confidence for job hunting."*

The challenge many international students face is a lack of local networks. The success here is not only about learning to apply accounting skills in the real world, but also about building connections and mutual support.

WHAT I'M SEEING AND HEARING

Across the campus and community, I see a growing hunger for practical, real-world experience. Students want more than technical training – they're asking for:

- Opportunities to communicate with non-accounting backgrounds.
- Guidance on job-hunting strategies in New Zealand.
- Ways to form peer networks that reduce the loneliness of being an international student.
- Emerging leaders are the students themselves, stepping into roles as mentors for the next cohort.

CULTURAL CONNECTOR TIPS: WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITIES

- Respect the courage it takes to step out – many are shy at first but thrive with encouragement.
- Emphasise soft skills – communication, teamwork, and cultural awareness matter as much as technical ability.
- Support peer-led leadership – students trust other students who've "been there before."
- Acknowledge job-hunting stress

– create safe spaces to talk about careers.

- Be mindful of networks—international students often lack family connections here; programmes become their surrogate network.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

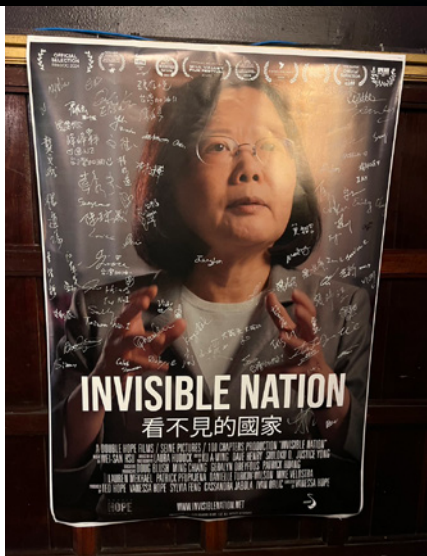
Meeting students on campus reminds me why community accounting matters. For me, it's not just about financial literacy; it's about giving international students a place to belong. Many told me they felt invisible in New Zealand until this programme gave them a way to contribute and connect. As someone who also knows what it's like to build networks from scratch, I see myself in their journey. Watching them grow into leaders, and seeing them support one another, is one of the most rewarding parts of my work.

This story shows that community accounting is more than numbers – it's people, networks, and confidence building. ●

Voices from the community

MOVERS AND SHAKERS AT THE GRASSROOTS

By Eva Chen



A group of Taiwanese migrants in Auckland, aged 30–60, came together – without commercial advertising and entirely volunteer-driven – to produce a documentary series for their children (*Invisible Nation*). Their goal was to tell stories about identity, heritage, and belonging in a politically neutral, authentic way. What began with 9 families soon grew into 5 screenings attended by around 500 people, each buying tickets to support the project. One participant said: “We wanted our children to see who we are, where we come from, and

why our stories matter – without politics, just truth.”

ON THE GROUND: “WHAT I’M SEEING AND HEARING”

This initiative reflects a wider theme I’ve observed across Auckland’s migrant communities: parents seeking creative, authentic ways to connect younger generations to their roots. Communities are asking for spaces to share their own stories – whether through film, art, or oral histories – and are showing that informal networks of friends and families can mobilise hundreds of people without external marketing or big budgets.

CULTURAL CONNECTOR TIPS: WORKING WITH TAIWANESE MIGRANT COMMUNITIES

If you’re an NFP or local group looking to engage:

- Emphasise authenticity – avoid framing projects through political lenses.
- Lean on family networks – word-of-mouth is the strongest connector.
- Value intergenerational impact

– most projects aim to connect parents and children.

- Respect volunteer energy – initiatives are often run by unpaid organisers.
- Support with platforms, not control – they prefer to shape their own narratives.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

As an engagement lead, I find projects like this deeply inspiring. It shows how much strength lies in grassroots leadership – ordinary families stepping up to create extraordinary outcomes. Cross-cultural work isn’t just about translation or representation; it’s about enabling communities to tell their own stories in their own way. My Taiwanese heritage makes this especially meaningful for me – I see not only my community’s past but also its future, reflected in the eyes of the children watching these films.

This story is a reminder that community-led programmes don’t need big budgets to create big impact – they need trust, authenticity, and connection. ●



Mary Thomas Community Services Building under construction, formerly a tennis court for St Anne's School and car park for Takapuna Council. The St Annes building was demolished. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections T1161

FROM ANCAD'S ARCHIVES...BY RUTH GREENAWAY

THE MARY THOMAS COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

The Mary Thomas Community Services Centre was established in 1986 as a purpose-built facility featuring clubrooms, community spaces, and areas available for hire, as well as offices for various community-focused organisations. The centre was named in honour of Mary Thomas, Mayoress to Fred Thomas, who served as the Mayor of the Takapuna City Council from 1965 to 1986. Both Mary Thomas and Mayor Fred Thomas were advocates for community activity, empowerment, and development.

The establishment of the centre followed several years of community-based efforts and collaboration between the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind (RNZFB) and the Takapuna City Council, which operated from 1961 to 1989. The centre was created in response to clearly identified needs, particularly to secure the operational futures of numerous community organisations in the local area. In 1986, this development represented a significant advancement in the provision of facilities for community services. It also replaced and expanded upon an earlier community facility built in 1970, located at No. 2 The Strand. This earlier building housed the first public library, also established in 1970, and incorporated the War Memorial Hall on the ground floor along with various meeting rooms and offices. It served community needs for 18 years before being demolished in 1988.



Among the first tenants of the new centre were the North Shore Council of Social Services (NSCSS), St. Anne's Club, the North Shore branch of the Arthritis Foundation, North Shore CAB, Age Concern - North Shore, CMA, North Shore Housing Trust, and the Takapuna North Community Facilities Trust.

"Behind the bricks and mortar and facilities of the new Mary Thomas Centre and behind the organisations that inhabit it, there is a story of precedence, community presence and social context. There was vision, and connections and collaborations. There was a whole community development movement initiated by motivated and dedicated individuals, champions who stood up for the improvement and wellbeing of their community, and for unleashing the potential of its residents as well as the area's natural assets." (Paddocks to Place, 2016)

"Paddocks to Place" was commissioned by ANCAD and authored by Richard Howard, it tells the history of Gibbons Rd in Takapuna, including the creation of the Mary Thomas Centre. ●



Takapuna Mayor Fred Thomas at a naval function, circa mid-1960s.
Mary Thomas is sitting front right.



CONSULTANCY SUPPORT

ANCAD offers consultancy support services. We can provide the necessary person or persons skilled at taking you and your group to where you need to go. Together, we find out what your organisation's needs and priorities are and then select the right match of consultant, from those we have connections with, to provide the best strategic advice for your organisation.

This can include advice on a range of topics relevant to the NGO and community sector in such areas as governance and management, strategic planning, financial management, or with the setting up of policy, processes and procedures.

We offer a range of free or subsidised services. Talk with us about your own requirements and let's see how we can help. Contact fiona@ancad.org.nz or call 0800 426 223



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