

# MIT PASIFIKA COMMUNITY CENTRE INFORMATION BOOKLET



**MANUKAU  
INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**  
Te Whare Takiura o Manukau



Kia ora, Bula vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana,  
Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Taloha ni, Warm Pasifika Greetings

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# WELCOME TO THE MANUKAU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PASIFIKA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Manukau Institute of Technology is delighted to offer to the wider communities of Auckland, a magnificent facility that offers spaces of different sizes to meet your needs. It is the MIT Pasifika Community Centre, developed at the request of and with support from the Pasifika Communities of Auckland.

Our goal is to help you to meet the needs of your families, organisations, Churches and ethnic groups in settings that reflect the vibrant Pasifika communities of Auckland which contribute so much colour and joy to all our lives. Our Pasifika Community Centre staff will take pleasure in understanding how we can help you have a successful gathering, meeting, celebration or for whatever purpose you come to the Centre and that you leave having had your needs met and your goals achieved.

There is a variety of spaces of different sizes, each equipped with state-of-the-art IT and presentation equipment and three are able to provide video-conferencing capability. A special feature of the MIT Pasifika Community Centre is the provision of a "Faith Space" which provides a room that can be used for religious observance, reflection, meditation or simply a quiet space in a busy world. Associated with this is a fully equipped office for the use of our Faith Leaders. There is also a purpose built "Parents' Room" where the needs of the little ones can be met in privacy.

The MIT Pasifika Community Centre would be an ideal venue for conferences and meetings for any number of people up to 100 people with all the facilities you need – a large gathering room, break out rooms, all equipment and on-site catering. Groups undertaking professional development, strategic planning, team building or simply getting together would be most welcome to use this facility, with its wonderful themed atmosphere, a special place for your important day.

We look forward to welcoming you to the MIT Pasifika Community Centre – discuss your needs with the Centre staff. They will take care of you – room set-up, technical support, security, and in-house catering – all as required.

MIT is home to nearly 6,000 Pasifika students and has had thousands of Pasifika Graduates over the years. It is active through the Pacific and especially with programmes in the Kingdom of Tonga and in Samoa. We take pride in supporting the development of strong and thriving communities.

Faafetai tele lava

Fakaaue lahi

Fakafetai lahi lele

Malo 'aupito

Meitaki maata

Vinaka vaka levu



## Background

Born out of engagement with Pasifika communities of the Auckland Southern Region, the community envisioned and have strongly advocated for a Pasifika Centre to be established at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) located in Otara, Auckland.

The MIT Pasifika Community Centre is designed to be a significant gathering place for all Pasifika communities in Auckland and a prominent community facility located in the Auckland southern region. A fast growing multicultural city with over 150 diverse cultures, the Centre will provide a functional place for the diverse communities of Auckland to utilise to support the enhancement of the communities educational, social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

This facility was opened by the Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, and the Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Minister for Pacific Peoples on 3 June 2016.

## Pasifika Community Advisory Board

The board are made up of significant influential members from the South Auckland Pasifika Community and were prominent in the establishment of the MIT Pasifika Community Centre.

The Pasifika Community Advisory Board (PCAB) support the work of the Pasifika Development Office with a primary focus to establish effective engagement structures and mechanisms to enable MIT to engage at strategic leadership levels with Pasifika community leaders across the Pacific populations in the Auckland region.

The contribution of the PCAB has positively impacted on MIT's responsiveness and high success in engaging Pasifika students and their communities with the institute, Pasifika student retention and success. PCAB continues to operate effectively providing high quality advice to MIT, meeting on a quarterly basis.



## Explanation of motifs and artwork

The motifs make reference to the four elements: Water, Fire, Earth and Air. The overall design depicts the human relationship with the elements in the context of Pasifika cultures and legends.

The motifs draw upon the Lapita people, thought to be common ancestor of Pasifika peoples. A key feature of their art and craft was pottery that can be identified by its intricate surface decoration. We make reference to this 'Lapita method' in the design application and motifs.

Manukau means 'many birds' derived from the Māori language and is depicted in the strip of red above the main doors (plywood panels) and the design across all of the frosted glass areas. Bird footprints are represented when observed horizontally and a weaving pattern when observed vertically.

The motifs and designs align and connect closely with the Manukau Institute of Technology logo, acknowledging and connecting the centre as an MIT facility.

The designs also acknowledge the Pasifika and Tangata Whenua relationship conveyed in the significance behind the Manukau Institute of Technology logo. To continue with the sea and land currents, birds theme, all of the gathering rooms, meeting rooms and open spaces have names to depict the significant birds across the Pacific. The room names were made in consultation with Pacific community leaders to ensure representation of the main Pacific nations reflected in the local region.





## Pasifika Development Office information

Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) serves its Pasifika communities in a variety of ways. In 2009 the **Pasifika Development Office** was established and it set in place the MIT Pasifika Community Advisory Board which reflects and represents the communities and provides advice to MIT.

Associated with this Board are three **MIT Pasifika Community Forums** which cluster around the following interests and activities:

1. Churches
2. Business/Organisations and Agencies
3. Teachers

MIT has planned to accompany the opening of the MIT Pasifika Community Centre and the Gathering Hall with the development of an MIT National Centre of Excellence for Pasifika Languages and Culture and has therefore developed a set of frameworks that will provide for a coherent set of programmes both informal and, over time, formal which will offer qualifications at all levels related to Pasifika languages, cultures and customs, crafts and the performing arts.

Recognising that 35% of the MIT student population come from Pasifika communities (and a further 18% from Māori communities), MIT has developed a set of policies that focus on Māori, Pasifika and students under 25, the priority learner groups. A focus for this development is on faculties recognising the educational aspirations of Pasifika students, understanding their needs as learners and working in collaboration with the MIT Support Services to provide the skills, knowledge and work practices that ensure

success. The goal is to see that no single Pasifika student fails to meet their goals due to lack of support.

The growth of the Pasifika presence at MIT has not happened by accident. The plans developed in 2008 have led the Institute to the point where it seeks now to take the policies developed and forge new developments and achievements to add to the next chapter of the story of Pasifika at MIT.

The MIT Pasifika Education Strategy has as its central organising principle the view that at MIT Pasifika must succeed at MIT as Pasifika. This is an adaptation of the concept developed by Mason Durie that "Māori must succeed as Māori". Adapted to become a call for a similar approach to Pasifika students, this approach would require that MIT must pay attention to ensuring that Pasifika students:

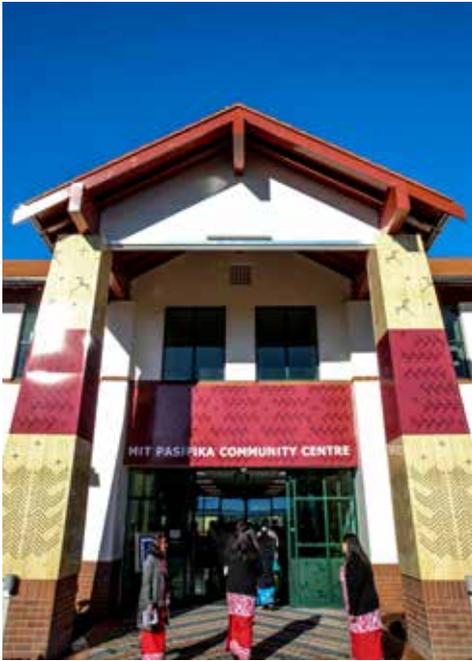
- Have their identities, languages and cultures valued and included in teaching and learning in ways that support them to engage and achieve success;
- Know their potential and feel supported to set goals and take action to achieve success;
- Experience teaching and learning that is relevant, engaging, rewarding and positive;
- Have gained the skills, knowledge and qualifications they need to achieve success in the Pasifika worlds of the Pacific and New Zealand, and in the wider world;
- Have a place that reflects the culture, values, and languages within MIT.





## Directions to the MIT Pasifika Community Centre

Please see map below for guidance.



### FROM AUCKLAND CBD

1. Take Southern Motorway
2. Take offramp exit toward East Tamaki Road
3. Turn left at East Tamaki Road (traffic lights)
4. Take the 1st left onto Otaru Road (traffic lights)
5. **For Gate 12:** Continue through next intersection (traffic lights)
6. Turn right into MIT Gate 12.
7. **For Gate 13:** turn right at the next intersection into Bairds Road
8. Take the first left into Alexander Crescent
9. Turn left into Gate 13.

### FROM MANUKAU CBD

1. Take Southern Motorway offramp exit at Te Irirangi Dr
2. Take offramp exit toward East Tamaki Road
3. Turn left at East Tamaki Road (traffic lights)
4. Take 1st left onto Otaru Road (traffic lights)
5. **For Gate 12:** Continue through next intersection (traffic lights)
6. Turn right into MIT Gate 12.
7. **For Gate 13:** turn right at the next intersection into Bairds Road
8. Take the first left into Alexander Crescent
9. Turn left into Gate 13.

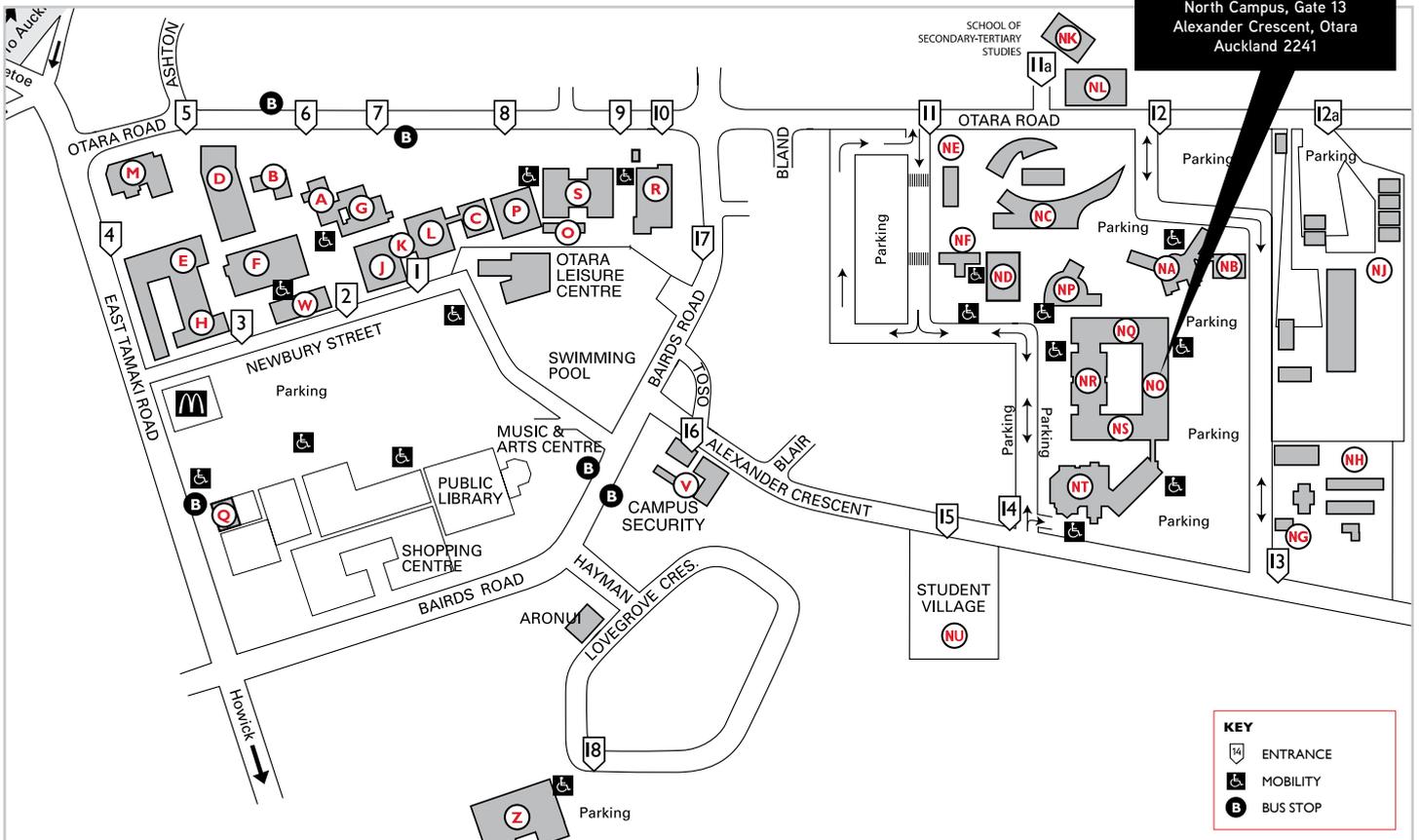
### FROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. Take Tom Pearce Drive (Highway 20B), go through 1 roundabout
2. At next roundabout take 1st left onto Puhinui Road
3. Turn left at Wyllie Road
4. Turn right at Station Road
5. Turn left at Shirley Road, go through 1 roundabout.
6. Turn right at Great South Road (traffic lights)
7. Turn left at East Tamaki Road (traffic lights)
8. Continue until you reach Otaru Road, turn left (MIT signage on corner at major intersection)
9. **For Gate 12:** Continue through next intersection (traffic lights)
10. Turn right into MIT Gate 12.
11. **For Gate 13:** turn right at the next intersection into Bairds Road
12. Take the first left into Alexander Crescent
13. Turn left into Gate 13.



Parking is available in the Guest Parking area outside the MIT Pasifika Community Centre.

## MIT Otaru campus map





## Rooms and meeting spaces

The MIT Pasifika Community Centre provides facilities:

- Large Gathering Room (100 people)
- Meeting Rooms (10 – 30 People)
- Art and Craft Rooms
- Prayer Room – Faith Space
- Faith Leaders Office
- Catering/Kitchen/Dine-Prep Room
- Reception
- Pasifika Development Office
- Pasifika Students Lounge and Space
- Space for Parents and their young children

Manukau Institute of Technology plans to build stage two of the MIT Pasifika Centre, a gathering hall that will accommodate around five hundred people and plans for this are on display in the MIT Pasifika Community Centre.



**Faith Leaders Office 2–5 people**  
(NO106)

- computer (2)
- meeting table
- chairs
- storage cupboards
- power outputs
- ethernet ports and wi-fi
- adjoining door to the Faith Space
- carpeted
- Open to all Pacific Church Leaders



**Faith Space – Prayer Room 20-24 people**  
(NO105)

- quiet space with controlled lighting
- open to all students, staff and community members



**Matu'u 20 people**

(Meeting room – NO109/01)

- teleconferencing capability, built in microphone and camera
- computer (1)
- laptop connection
- screen
- interactive and standard whiteboard
- power outputs
- ethernet ports and wi-fi
- carpeted



**Tanoa 100 people**  
(Gathering room – NO101)

- stage
- lighting
- microphone
- sound
- big screen (5)
- computer (1)
- laptop connection
- power outputs
- ethernet ports and wi-fi
- carpeted



**Tavake 10 people**

(Meeting room – NO108)

- teleconferencing capability, built in microphone and camera
- computer (1)
- laptop connection
- power outputs
- ethernet ports and wi-fi
- carpeted



**Kikau 20 people**  
(Meeting room – NQ115)

- computer (1)
- laptop connection
- power outputs
- ethernet ports and wi-fi
- carpeted



**Akiaki 10 people**  
(Craft room – N0107)

- power outputs
- ethernet ports



**Arekai 30–40 people**  
(Dining room – N0103/N0112)

- fridge
- tables
- microwave (2)
- bench tops
- water sink and zip
- storage cupboards
- power outputs
- ethernet ports



**Tauira 30 people**  
(Pasifika Students space – NS109)

- tables
- chairs
- couches
- microwave (2)
- power outputs
- ethernet ports
- available Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm



**Parent Room**  
(NS108)

- armchairs
- couch
- coffee table
- change table
- sanitary nappy bin
- air conditioner
- available Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

**For room charges and forms, please contact [mitpcc@manukau.ac.nz](mailto:mitpcc@manukau.ac.nz)**



For bookings and enquiries  
call 09 968 7281 or  
email [mitpcc@manukau.ac.nz](mailto:mitpcc@manukau.ac.nz)  
or visit  
[www.manukau.ac.nz/  
about-us/pasifika-development-office](http://www.manukau.ac.nz/about-us/pasifika-development-office)



**MANUKAU  
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Te Whare Takiri o Manukau

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