



The inaugural Hunters Corner Food Festival was hugely successful, celebrated diversity and “put the ‘unity’ back in community!” town centre manager Donna Lee said.

“As this was a first-time event for Hunters Corner, we were nervous about how many people would turn up. Turns out we need not have worried as we estimated around 10,000 came and went throughout the day,” she said.

The retiring Otago-Papatoetoe Local Board Member was joined by fellow elected members plus council officials, all keen to contribute to the event’s success.

“There was a great sense of unity on the day,” Donna said.

“The organising committee was made up of 25 business people from in and outside the BID area. Those who came from outside the BID volunteered so they could feel part of the ‘special thing’ we have going on in Hunters Corner.

“Since the event, those who are not currently in the BID are now looking for premises inside the BID, so they can be part of us. Amazing eh?”

“The only downside was that many of the food stalls ran out of food by 3pm, something we will have to address next time.”



Otahuhu Food Festival, now in its fifth year, was created to not only put Otahuhu on the map as a mecca for authentic ethnic food and a shopping destination, but to showcase Auckland’s ethnic diversity through food.



Town centre manager, Richette Rodger, said the event is a street festival where Great South Road is closed and lined with food stalls, trucks and caravans with food from around the world.

“In 2018, we had just over twelve thousand people through the event.

“Each year we have the goal **bigger, better, longer.**

“We try to fit something new into one of those categories,” she said.





"This year, our **bigger** is a goal of 130 to 150 food stalls.

"Our **better** is we have secured Sammy J to perform on our main stage and we have also introduced a cultural stage to the event with 10 performances throughout the day representing cultures from around the world.

"And our **longer** is we have included all the side streets in the Otahuhu Town Centre into the event," Richette said.

"We have a kids' zone with lots of cool activities for children, including face painting, balloon artistry, bouncy castles and more.

"Our *Urban Sales Street* are our ethnic non-food stalls like Henna art, cook island crafts and handmade Kiwiana jewellery.

"We have over 30 different ethnicities represented at the festival as well as vegan and even keto options."

The event runs from 10am to 4 pm on Saturday 28th September.

"So, we're looking forward to the event – and hope we will see you all there."

