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Voyager Media Awards: Community Journalist of the Year Winner 2018

June 29, 2018

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maintenance bill... p2**

**Stewart achieves a rare
double century... p3**

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scientist Thor Besier... p16**

Greening Devonport – plastic-bag usage slumps

The number of single-use plastic bags handed out at Devonport New World supermarket has dropped by 35 per cent in the past year.

Although exact figures are not available, the

store “used to go through approximately 10,000 bags per week. Now we hardly use 6000-6500,” says Madhur Chemburkar, Devonport New World’s Online Shopping

Champion.

New World Devonport is one of five stores in New Zealand experiencing a huge reduction

To page 2

Green and white with a dash of pink



Earning their stripes... North Shore captain Ben Stewart leads his side’s pink capped ballgirls out before the game against Northcote last Saturday. More pictures and stories, pages 3 and 39.



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NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION AWARDS

- Best Community Involvement:** 2016, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2005
- Best Special Project:** 2016
- Best Headline:** 2017, 2014, 2013
- Best Young Journalist:** 2014, 2013, 2012
- Best Sports Journalist:** 2017, 2016
- Best Senior Feature/Lifestyle Writer:** 2014
- Best Junior Feature/Lifestyle Writer:** 2014

VOYAGER/CANON MEDIA AWARDS

- Community Reporter of the Year:** Winner 2018, Highly Commended 2016
- Community Newspaper of the Year:** Finalist 2017
- Community Reporter of the Year:**

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: July 6

Lake Rd traffic last measured in 2015

Lake Rd may be one of the most congested in Auckland, but its most recent traffic counts date back to 2015.

With a business case for Lake Rd in full swing, the Flagstaff asked Auckland Transport (AT) for the latest traffic counts. AT spokesman Mark Hannan said the last ONES were done in July and November 2015.

The Flagstaff said this seemed strange — AT is working on a business case for Lake Rd and we would have thought up-to-date traffic counts would have been key.

“Don’t worry we will be doing new counts in the next few months as part of the business case,” Hannan said.

For the record, in 2015, 29,416 vehicles went through the busiest part of Lake Rd (Onepoto Rd/Bayview Rd) on average each weekday. Saturdays and Sundays were a bit quieter, bringing the seven-day average down to 28,727.

• In the Auckland Transport 10-year plan, which was approved last week, \$47 million was committed to Lake Rd improvements.

Councillor Chris Darby said the bulk of the spend (\$33.5m) is now in 2020/21, with lead-in works commencing 2018–2020, for which \$5.3m is set aside. Final construction works totalling \$7.7m would be done in 2021/22.

\$800,000 DoC bill for North Head

The Department of Conservation (DoC) has agreed to pay around \$800,000 in deferred asset-maintenance costs as part of the transfer of Maungauika/North Head to the Tupuna Maunga Authority, council officers told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week.

DoC has also agreed to a further two years of management as part of the deal.

The local board passed a motion asking to be kept informed by council on any changes that affect Maungauika/North Head.

Some board members felt the way the consultation had been handled after the earlier transfer of Takarunga/Mt Victoria was poor.

Member Mike Sheehy said there appeared to be a “hierarchy of views”, where the “Maori view seems to be valued ahead of others.”

Chair George Wood disagreed, saying the Maunga Authority was half iwi, half council, with councillors representing local views.

Council officers said the North Head reserve management plan would remain in place until a comprehensive management plan for Maungauika/North Head was developed over the next couple of years.

This would involve “full public consultation,” officers said.

Board member members Mike Cohen and Grant Gillon said the consultation needed to be more open and transparent than the initial management plan that affected Takarunga/Mt Victoria.

• At its last meeting, the Maunga Authority board acknowledged that an agreement in principle with DoC had been signed by Auckland Council.

Its recommendation was to go to council’s governing body on 27 June for consideration.

If approved, the transfer would then go to the government for ratification. If it all goes through smoothly, the transfer could happen as early as 1 July.

From page 1 Devonport cuts back on plastic bags

in single-use plastic bags in the last year.

“Our Devonport community seems to be quite engaged with green trends,” says Chemburkar.

So much so that Devonport is the only New World store in a Foodstuffs’ pilot to eradicate single-use plastic bags.

The other Foodstuffs stores in the trial, which started on 7 May, are Pak’nSave Silverdale and Four Square Matakana.

Devonport New World has seen an “incredibly positive response to the two-million bag nationwide giveaway, our continued support for a reusable bag rebate and the Bags Not campaign, which is helping Kiwis to adjust to change,” says Chemburkar.

“But not everyone is ready, and some customers, despite their best efforts will forget their reusable bags, or be caught short,” he says.

In the trial, Foodstuffs started testing alternatives in selected stores for people who have forgotten their reusable bags and who need something at the checkout.

“When the trial began on the morning of

7 May, out of the first 20 customers, 19 had their own reusable bags,” says Chemburkar.

Foodstuffs has committed to getting rid of single-use plastic bags at checkouts in all New World, Pak’nSave and Four Square stores by the end of 2018.

“We’re testing a paper grocery sack for 20 cents and a heavy duty reusable plastic bag, for 30 cents. Both types of bag are commonly used overseas, in countries where single-use plastic bags have been removed from the checkout,” says Chemburkar.

The “continuous-improvement” project is driven by customer feedback.

- Further initiatives include:
- Promoting reusable bags extensively to customers in upcoming campaigns.
 - Continuing the 5 cents rebate for each reusable bag until the end of 2018.
 - Continuing support of the Bags Not campaign.
 - Investigating alternatives for plastic produce bags.
 - Continuing to expand and promote the soft-plastics recycling programme.

Stalwart Stewart pushes the boundaries for rare milestone



Hit and run... Ben Stewart batting for North Shore cricket premiers and in action for North Shore rugby premiers against Northcote last Saturday

Ben Stewart has achieved a Devonport first – playing 100 premier games in both rugby and cricket.

A self-described “Bayswater boy”, Stewart concentrated primarily on cricket after he left Westlake Boys – notching 100 games for North Shore from 2004/2005 until the summer of 2012/13. An all-rounder, he opened the bowling for Shore and batted generally around number seven.

In 113 matches, Stewart took 164 wickets at a 24.57 average, with best bowling figures of 5 for 18. He scored 2392 runs for the premiers, averaging 22.35 with a high score of 80 not out.

He played under-19 cricket for Auckland in 2006/7 and for Auckland B in the same season. Stewart made the New Zealand under-19 team, but a broken hand hampered his career and “cost me a place in the Auckland team,” he

said. He also lost the chance to tour with the New Zealand under-19 team. In 2004/05, he was named Auckland Club Player of the Year.

Stewart had played under-19 and under-21 rugby in the winters for North Shore, alongside the cricketing summers, and gradually the oval ball replaced the round one.

He made the North Shore rugby premier side in 2011, and played in its 2011 and 2014 championship-winning teams. Stewart, generally a second-five or centre (with an occasional appearance on the wing) also played for the North Harbour B team in both the 2012 and 2013 seasons. He was a member of Harbour’s provincial squad in those years, but he never made it onto the field for the union due to injury.

He has scored 45 tries for Shore and also played in its sevens side, which won the 2014 North Harbour title.

He played his 100th game for North Shore against Glenfield on June 16, scoring a try. In honour of his 100th, game he was given the chance to kick a conversion from in front of the posts. It went over, but onlookers described the kick as “wobbly.”

At 31, Stewart says he has at least a couple of playing years left.

“I’ll see how I go. We’ve got a young squad, and if I can be there to give them a hand that’s great.

“There is no fear that I will reach the lofty heights of James Hinchco though.” Hinchco (38), a club legend who has retired and come back numerous times, is closing in on 200 games.

Stewart, a litigation underwriter for an insurance company, never imagined he would play 100 games for either code.

“At North Shore cricket I was keen to get just one match for the premiers. And at North Shore rugby it was the same – I remember getting my blazer (25 games) and that was a real honour.”

With a 22-21 loss against Northcote last Saturday (in which Stewart scored a try), North Shore is still looking like securing a home quarter-final and could be a team to watch in the play-offs, says Stewart.

Playwrights at the Vic

Three Devonport playwrights will hold readings at the Victoria Theatre as part of poetry month in September.

Geoff Chapple, Margot McRae and Geoff Allen will read from plays over three consecutive Sundays at the Vic.

The plays are new works that have not yet been staged.

The Victoria Theatre Trust and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is sponsoring the event, which is part of New Zealand Theatre Month launched by leading playwright Roger Hall.

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Freedom camping heavily restricted in Devonport

Freedom camping is set to be banned at the Woodhall Park car park at Narrow Neck.

Camper vans are commonplace at this location, especially over summer.

A review of appropriate areas for freedom camping is being conducted by Auckland Council.

Council staff had initially recommended restricted freedom-camping at the 4,000 sqm car park.

However, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board provided evidence the park was highly used, with buses coming for large family group events.

Member Mike Cohen said he had gone past the car park recently at around 10pm, and there were 10 freedom-camping vehicles parked up.

Moreover, there isn't much point in having bans if council officers are not available to enforce them, Cohen said.

The board recommended the council ban freedom camping at: Achilles Crescent Reserve, Dacre Park, Devonport Domain, Fort Takapuna Reserve, George Gair Lookout, Lansdowne Reserve, Marine Parade Reserve Bayswater, Narrow Neck beach, Queens Parade Reserve, Vauxhall sports fields and Mt Cambria Reserve.

Central Landscapes to make way for recycling-centre expansion

The Devonport branch of Central Landscapes will move out of its Lake Rd site by 1 September.

The Devonport Recycling Centre will take over the space to expand its operations due to increased demand.

Recycling centre director Andrew Walters said when the centre took over the lease of the site two-and-a-half years ago, residents had wanted landscaping products retained and Central was given a three-month rolling lease.

Auckland Council was moving to redevelop the site and an enlarged recycling centre is part of the plan, Walters said.

"We see trucks taking bins of building waste up Lake Rd, adding to the congestion."

The extra space at the recycling centre would mean a lot of this waste could be reduced and recycled without having to go to landfill.

Walters was talking to the managers of Central Landscapes about offering its two Devonport workers jobs at the recycling centre.

Some Devonport residents will be disappointed at the loss of landscaping supplies locally. But Walters said he was open to talking to people about the provision of a limited number of landscaping products, such as compost. The green-waste drop-off would continue and in the future there was a possibility it could be composted on-site.

With increased space there are opportunities "for Devonport to lead the way in becoming a zero-waste community." More space was needed to deal with the rise in e-waste, Walters said. With a more broad-based recycling centre, community engagement and educational opportunities can be enhanced. Recently Belmont and Bayswater primary schools and Narrow Neck Play Centre have had tours of the recycling centre.

"We are the only waste facility in Auckland that allows schools to visit because we can handle the health-and-safety aspects," said Walters.

TGS top of the table in North Harbour rugby comp

Takapuna Grammar (TGS) 1st XV beat Orewa College 48-12 last weekend to remain undefeated this season.

The side is currently top of the North Harbour 1st XV table, with the win putting

them ahead of Westlake Boys, who TGS drew with earlier in the season.

TGS has five games left in pool play, and are looking sure to make at least the semi-finals this year.

Keeping it local at Devonport Hammer Hardware

Devonport Hammer Hardware has changed hands – it's been sold to locals Matt and Carly Senior of Narrow Neck.

Andrew Graham and Don Kranenburg have owned the popular Devonport store for almost 10 years, and have decided it was time to sell to fresh hands.

Matt is well known to many as the former owner of Devonport Joinery in Wynyard St. In recent years, he has managed a large joinery business in Albany.

"When the opportunity came up to buy a great local store, we jumped at it," Matt says.

While it is the second-largest Hammer Hardware in New Zealand, "It's got great support and is a great community-based store," he says.

It was an ideal time to take on Devonport Hammer Hardware now their children, Ruby (17), Joey (10) and Lola (8) were more self-reliant, adds Carly.

"The aim is to have a real family business, and no doubt the kids will all be working in the business at some stage."

Matt brings extensive building knowledge to the business. "I've been in trades all my life – I'm a bit of a Mr Fixit. I've built everything from



houses to boats." Carly has complementary skills in administration and accounts.

The ever-helpful Hammer Hardware staff will remain unchanged.

The Seniors take over on July 3. Both Don and Andrew will have some time off and travel before looking for other work.

They would like to thank their staff, customers and the local community for a great 10 years.

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Winning team flies the Devonport flag nationally

The Devonport Flagstaff took out two top places and was runner-up in four other categories at the New Zealand Community Newspaper Association (NZCNA) Awards held in Rotorua this month.

Flagstaff reporter Maire Vieth was named best senior sports journalist for the third year in a row.

The Flagstaff team also won the best-headline writing award.

The paper was runner-up for best front page and most improved newspaper. Summer publication *Destination Devonport* was second in best advertising feature. Flagstaff editor Rob Drent was runner up in the best senior journalist category, following on from his recent win as best community reporter in the national Voyager Media Awards.

Of Vieth's entry, Judge Armin Lindenberg said: "Maire has been part of the Flagstaff team for several years, and she has a wonderful creative writing style all of her own."

"I'm not sure if live sport or blow-by-blow accounts are her bag. But if you are looking for a good read, with real human interest and an ability to engage the reader from start to finish, Maire delivers on every count."

Best-headline judge Virginia Larsen said the Devonport Flagstaff "gets the winner's flag for six crisp headlines. Wit and clever wordplay abound, but never at the expense of clarity for readers."

Her favourite was: *Never mind the garage bands, here's Shed* (Flagstaff, 16 June 2017),



Awards winners... the Flagstaff team in celebratory mode at the NZCNA dinner: (from left to right) Rob Drent (editor), Peter Wilson (publisher), Emelia Lake (advertising sales) and Jo Hammer (subeditor).

which topped a story about a rising Devonport band. *Janayah sings like an angel of the Lorde* (Flagstaff, 1 December 2017 — a headline on a story about Belmont Intermediate singer Janayah Wadsworth winning the school's singing contest for the second time) also grabbed Larsen's attention.

In the best front-page category, judge Stuart Howie said of the Flagstaff entry: "Sometimes the best things come in small packages."

Drent said he was particularly pleased

for Vieth, who had been at the paper for six years, but had taken a break from journalism due to ill health.

"Maire has been getting great stories right from the start and has a real empathy for her subjects — something that can't be taught."

The NZCNA Awards are open to more than 80 member newspapers around the country — all of which are independently owned.

The Star, Christchurch, won best newspaper for the second year in a row.

Mortgage Market Comment

Competition for mortgages is still rife amongst the banks despite the tighter servicing requirements. Income [affordability] is often the main constraint for first-home buyers in particular — as a rough guide, you can borrow around five or six times your gross income, which makes things more challenging in Auckland.

We have dealt with several fixed-rate 'refixes' saving people up to 0.30% (that's \$1,500pa on a \$500k mortgage). Some are saving up to 1.50% (that's \$7,500pa on a \$500k mortgage) by switching from floating to fixed rates. Check with us — no cost, and no application or financials required.

We have also dealt with more debt consolidations, usually associated with credit cards and IRD debt. Remember, a credit card is best used for convenience and Airpoints and paid off each month. Otherwise it is a very expensive form of debt!

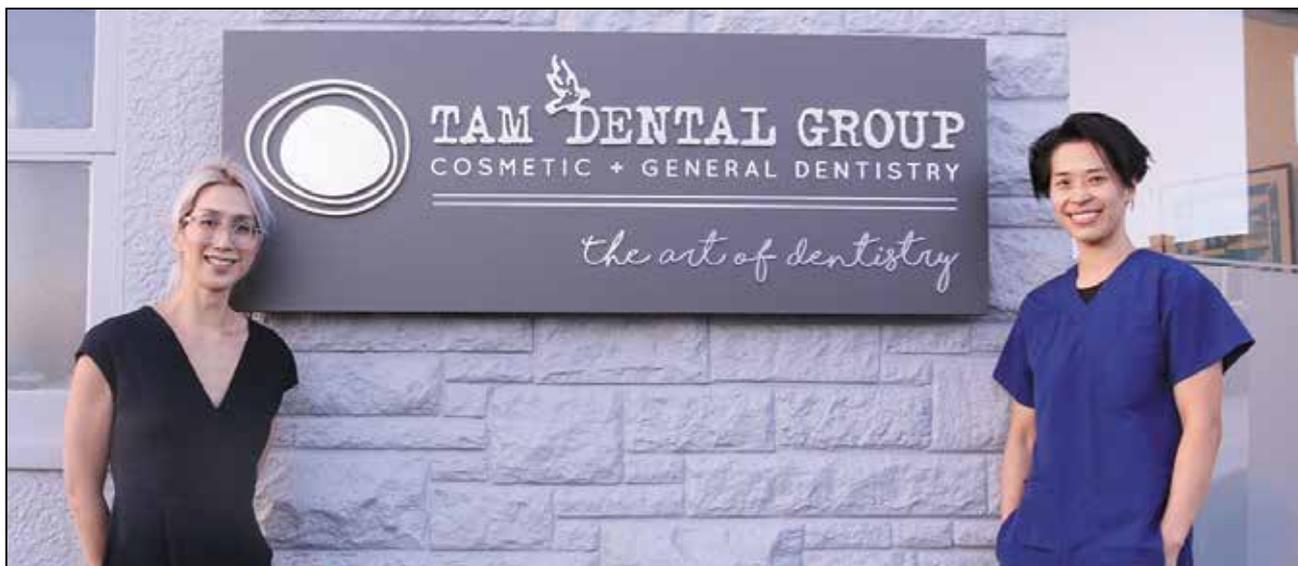
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Putting the artistry in dentistry



Putting the artistry in dentistry, Dr. Clarence Tam and her team at Tam Dental Group are excited to bring a positive change to Devonport.

Dr. Tam took over John Kelly's dental practice at the beginning of the month, after waiting to work in Devonport a long time.

"I really love the vibe. Eventually I would like to buy a villa here. I really do love Devonport," she says. "I contacted John proactively to see if I could work with him as an associate, just because I really wanted to work in Devonport. Then he mentioned he was selling."

Originally from Toronto, Dr. Tam specialises in cosmetic and restorative dentistry and describes her work as a form of art.

"We want to make teeth look like teeth" she says. "When you lose tooth structure, we want to replicate what nature intended, instead of something that looks like it's been pushed in with someone's thumb. We are creating dentistry that lasts, dentistry for life."

Dr Tam is the Chairperson and a director of the New Zealand Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. She is the first and only person in Australasia to hold Board-Certified Accredited



Member status with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Passionate about education, she is frequently lecturing across Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Madison Chang is the primary dentist at the Devonport practice, and is already enjoying working with locals.

"The people are so nice, I feel like I'm in a different country when I come to Devonport" she says.

Dr Chang graduated from Otago University and originally worked in Christchurch. "I have a passion for dentistry. I will listen while putting your needs and my values together. I always conserve as much tooth structure as possible. Nothing beats having your own teeth!"

While Dr Tam and her team are making many positive changes to the practice, some things will remain the same. "I want to bring the same stability that John brought to all of his patients.

Every single member of my team is neurotically passionate about attention to detail. We're here to deliver" she says.

Dr Tam would like the community to know that she has an open-door policy.

"I want to extend an open invitation to the community to come through and just have a look at our practice."

Tam Dental Group is located at 2 Fleet Street, formerly John Kelly Dental Surgery. Phone 445 4574.



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Gabe posts top result leading into world squash juniors

Belmont Park squash player Gabe Yam posted the best result of his career this month making the semi-finals of the New Zealand nationals.

Gabe (17) lost to eventual winner, and world number 10, Paul Coll in the semi-final, but knocked out fourth seed Luke Jones to get through to the top four.

"It was a great result for me as I was 12th seed," said Gabe, a Year 13 student at Westlake Boys High School.

He is the one of the youngest players, if not the youngest, to have reached the semi-finals of the senior national squash champs.

Ironically, Gabe lost to Coll in the 2017 nationals, but in the second round. "So it's a big improvement," Gabe said.

"It was a really great experience playing him...he was definitely more patient, with better shot selection and he gets onto the ball a lot earlier."

While he lost the match 3-0, in one game Gabe came within a couple of points of winning it.

Coll's advice to Gabe was to "be more dominant on the court and make my presence felt on the T" [the centre of the court]. Although Gabe concedes this is easier said than done when you are scampering around after the shots of the Commonwealth Games silver medallist.

In the third-fourth place play-off, Gabe lost to seasoned professional Lance Beddoes.

Gabe made it through one more round than clubmate, friend and rival Matthew Lucente who is higher ranked. However, Matthew had a harder draw, coming up against second-seeded Evan Williams in the quarter-finals. Williams, a Commonwealth Games representative this year, lost to Coll in the final.

Gabe and Matthew leave on 13 July for the world junior champs in India. But there isn't much of a let-up before then.

Gabe is training 12 to 14 hours per week and will play in a PSA professional tournament this



Taking it to senior players... Gabe Yam (left), a surprise semi-finalist at the New Zealand squash champs, steps out on court with eventual winner Paul Coll. Gabe in action (at right)

weekend at the Squash XL courts in West Auckland. Then it is on to the North Island Junior Age Group Championships in Wellington from 7-9 July, "which will be a tune-up," for the world champs, said Gabe.

Coll, who returned to New Zealand primarily for the national champs, had recently also "had a hit" with the top juniors during his stay, Gabe said.



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Public-private commercial option for old council chambers

A joint council-commercial redevelopment of the old Devonport Borough Council buildings is an option to pay for earthquake-strengthening and ongoing rent, a new report says.

Council should retain ownership of the building, with commercial space leased out upstairs and a section behind the building sold off to help fund the redevelopment. This is according to a Tattico consultants report commissioned by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to evaluate if the building had a future for community services.

The current CV of 3 Victoria Rd is \$3.5 million. The seismic upgrade is estimated at \$500,000 to \$600,000. The cost of a full heritage restoration would be around \$2.4 million, the report said.

While the building should be retained in public ownership, the inclusion of Harmony Hall (the home of Devonport senior citizens, which backs onto the site), into the redevelopment mix could also be considered, Grey Power President Bill Rayner told the board last week.

Report author John Duthie said meetings had been held with senior managers at Panuku (Auckland Council's property arm).

"The impression I have got is they would have a serious look at the proposals and work with the board," said Duthie

Ian Wheeler from Panuku said it would work

through the options in the report "to find a viable way forward."

Board member Grant Gillon said he was disappointed with the report as Tattico had only spoken to three community groups as part of its evaluation. He had "no confidence in Ian Wheeler's words", given the way Panuku had managed the process so far. It had moved the building from social use to a commercial listing in its portfolio, which took decision-making out of the local board's hands.

Gillon said he would not go as far as saying it was "dishonest", but it was "slight of hand" and not open or done in partnership with the local board.

Panuku had also said it would do nothing at the building prior to the Tattico report. But it had given all the tenants at the building a 31 May eviction deadline.

Gillon was unconvinced the building was not "going to be put on the block and sold off."

Wheeler disagreed with Gillon on the eviction allegations. "Evicting them was not the process (followed)...we have been quite flexible with the timing."

Board member Mike Cohen said that in reality, giving the community groups that occupied 3 Victoria Rd the chance to stay, but only at commercial rents, meant moving out was the only option.

Board member Mike Sheehy questioned some of the costs in the report. "\$2.4 million (for a heritage restoration) sounds pretty hefty."

Gillon said the seismic-repair costs had become "a huge distraction." They did not have to be completed for another 30 years.

Cohen added that 3 Victoria Rd was to be included in a three-building council pilot for earthquake-strengthening but the budget had disappeared.

Rayner and Trish Deans of Devonport Heritage 2017 both spoke in support of retaining the building in community use.

Rayner supported the option of a community trust as a partner in the building's future and the possibility of using money from the council's built heritage fund to restore it.

The local board passed a motion asking council to retain the building for community use, with council as the owner. The board wants Panuku to work with it over any changes and asked council officers to report on what had happened to the earthquake budget and the lack of ongoing maintenance on the building.

Community coordinator moves to Fort Takapuna

The emptying out of the old Devonport Borough Council Buildings is continuing with the Devonport Community Coordinator relocated to barracks at Fort Takapuna.

A lease for two rooms was granted by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week.

The Devonport visitor information centre – run by the Devonport Business Association – has already moved from the historic building at 3 Victoria Rd, around the corner to the Arcade.

Board members reluctantly approved the lease – as the Community Coordinator's preference had been to continue to be centrally located at 3 Victoria Rd.

Visitor centre numbers plummet after move off mainstreet

The number of visitors to the Devonport information centre have more than halved since it moved from its 3 Victoria Rd location.

In the 19 days since the centre was "evicted" from the old Devonport Borough Council buildings, 198 walk-ins had been logged, compared to the same period in 2017, which had 502 walk-ins, volunteer Lynn Dawson told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week.

Around 21,000 people had visited the centre over the course of a year. But clearly this level

of visits would be impacted by its relocation to The Arcade, she said.

The information centre had used only around 45sqm of the 200sqm ground floor at 3 Victoria Rd, so there was plenty of room for other tenants, Dawson said.

The removal of occupants from 3 Victoria Rd has also affected the Devonport Museum. Its exhibition of World War 1 photography had drawn visitors from all round the North Island. The museum was difficult to find without a central presence giving directions, she said.

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By Rob Drent

I was taken aback when Auckland Transport (AT) told us its latest road count figures for Lake Rd were collected in 2015. I find this hard to believe, and astounding if it is true.

The AT spokesman told us: “Don’t worry we will be doing new counts in the next few months as part of the business case”. The spend of \$47 million on Lake Rd improvements has just been confirmed.

Is this really good enough?

Lake Rd has been a problem for years, development is moving ahead at pace on the peninsula and it seems AT has no knowledge of current traffic movements.

Significantly, council decisions on housing intensification are being made, it seems, with recourse to outdated traffic data.

Monitoring technology has transformed statistical analysis in recent years, and could easily be applied to Lake Rd.

Ironically, AT is immersed in a ‘Smart City’ technology trial at the car park outside the ferry building, with state-of-the-art sensors to monitor everything from air quality to pedestrian and cycle movements and car

parking and electric-vehicle trends.

Up-to-date traffic counts on Lake Rd are also important for event management, car pooling and basic time management for locals.

On the wider issue of car use and education of the public, AT has been poor. Its chairman Lester Levy said last week there was no immediate solution to congestion with the amount of cars clogging Auckland roads.

But when was the last time you saw an AT advert in the Flagstaff asking you to leave your car at home? Or catch public transport?

I’m not in favour of the *Flight of the Albatross* Sculpture being placed on Victoria Wharf. It’s just been approved by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. But I felt it was out of place as an albatross had nothing to do with Devonport. We are in effect getting a hand-me-down work, unwanted on the other side of the harbour.

I also have reservations about the consultation process conducted by council officers. Stakeholders consulted were various art groups and the Devonport Business Association. Locals in general, or fishermen who actually use the wharf, were not surveyed.

Perhaps here is an example of canvassing the groups who would give council the answer it wanted?

And don’t forget a sculpture mooted for near the library to commemorate Devonport as the first place where women voted in an election, was knocked back by council.

I know exactly what the late Polly Pollock’s reaction would have been to the slips that have closed the walkway she spent years building alongside Ngataranga Bay. Despite the gates banning the public from entering the slip area, Polly would no doubt have headed out, rain or shine, as she always did, with little more than a shovel and a wheelbarrow and her sausage-like gardener’s fingers to remake the path.

After decades of covering local body meetings, I’ve seen some fairly humorous statistical comparisons. One arose last week from local board member Grant Gillon, in a discussion over the long-term future of 3 Victoria Rd. Alluding to any possibility of a cafe being located there, Gillon said Devonport already had 49 cafes – according to him, more cafes per head of population than the ratio of churches to people in Wellsford.

We are kicking off the Flagstaff Green Pages in our next issue. If you have any ideas or suggestions or stories of green innovations or initiatives, or tales of what people are doing to better the environment, email us at news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz

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HOUSE OF TRAVEL

Big Sing a big win for Takapuna Grammar vocalists



Takapuna Grammar School has picked up five awards at the 2018 Big Sing Auckland regional choral competition at Auckland Town Hall.

Leonessa, Takapuna Grammar's (TGS) premier girls choir, won four awards: best performance (Choral Art composition), best performance (New Zealand or Pasifika), runner-up (Other Styles) and runner-up in the A capella Award. It will now compete at the Big Sing National Final in Wellington in late August.

The Performance Prize was presented to the TGS Sultans of Sing choir.

The adjudicator noted the TGS performances included "spine-tingling moments," "lovely blend and balance" and "very impressive intonation and presentation." Ninety-four TGS students took part in the 12 June competition.

TGS conductor Jacob Moore said: "The hard work that the staff and students put in is being reflected in the positive reception from the community and recognition at the Big Sing."

Hard work ends on a high note... Leonessa on stage at Auckland Town Hall

Disappearing gun hit by taggers

One of New Zealand's most significant war monuments has been targeted by taggers. The disappearing gun at Maungauika/North Head was defaced by tags just over a week ago.

The artillery was installed in 1897 and is called a disappearing gun because it vanished underground after each shot.

Numerous other tags around monuments and buildings on North Head appeared to be from the same graffiti spree.

While tagging comes and goes in Devonport, it is rare for the disappearing gun to be targeted, although not the first time. A Department of Conservation spokesperson said a contractor will be removing the graffiti.

Blot on the landscape... tags marr the visitor experience at the disappearing gun



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Just metres from the sands of Cheltenham Beach, this cute one-bedroom apartment is the perfect pad for a single person. With a warm north-facing lounge and bedroom in a peaceful garden setting, it offers easy single-occupancy living - with bus, shops and cafes on the doorstep. Cheltenham living doesn't get more affordable than this, be quick to snap up this piece of paradise. View now!

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Bayswater 53c Beresford Street 6 3 2 3 2

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Devonport 30a Fraser Road 4 2 1 1 2

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Devonport community one of the most intolerant

Trish Jenner's letter in the Flagstaff (June 15) claims Devonport is not a "roll over and accept it" sort of place. I agree. The original residents of the Devonport peninsula – Maori – are certainly not rolling over and accepting the desecration of their Tūpuna Maunga (ancestral mountains) any longer.

It is typical of the intolerant attitude of Devonport residents that they fail to grasp the larger historical picture of the Takarunga issue. Of the three maunga in Devonport that hold sacred importance to Maori, one has been quarried away and the other two heavily

modified. Protection is long overdue.

The pedestrianisation of Maungawhau (Mt. Eden) has been successful. People feel safer on top without carloads of teenagers drinking and smoking, and people are forced to get active. Those with mobility issues or a need to be on the mountain are easily provided access by a council code on the barrier arm.

However, none of these things matter to the Devonport community, one of the most intolerant in this country, who would ratherspout racism again and again. Shame.

Jack Buckley

Security and CCTV cameras failing

My bike (a blue Raceline Comp), was stolen from the covered bike stand on Devonport Wharf on May 29. The theft took place in broad daylight, within six feet of a CCTV camera, and the thief would have had to use a bulky bolt-cutter to break the bike lock.

The police did look into it, but informed me that no CCTV footage was available from Auckland Transport Operations Centre. This begs the question: what do the security people on the wharf actually do? And secondly, what are these CCTV cameras actually for? It seems that these so-called security measures do nothing but lull people into a false sense of security.

To avoid the same fate, I suggest that cyclists avoid the shelter altogether and park their bikes in full public view, either by the bus stop or adjacent to the scooter park. And use a D lock and not a cable lock – the latter offering little or no protection from a determined crim with a decent-sized bolt-cutter.

Jamie Gray

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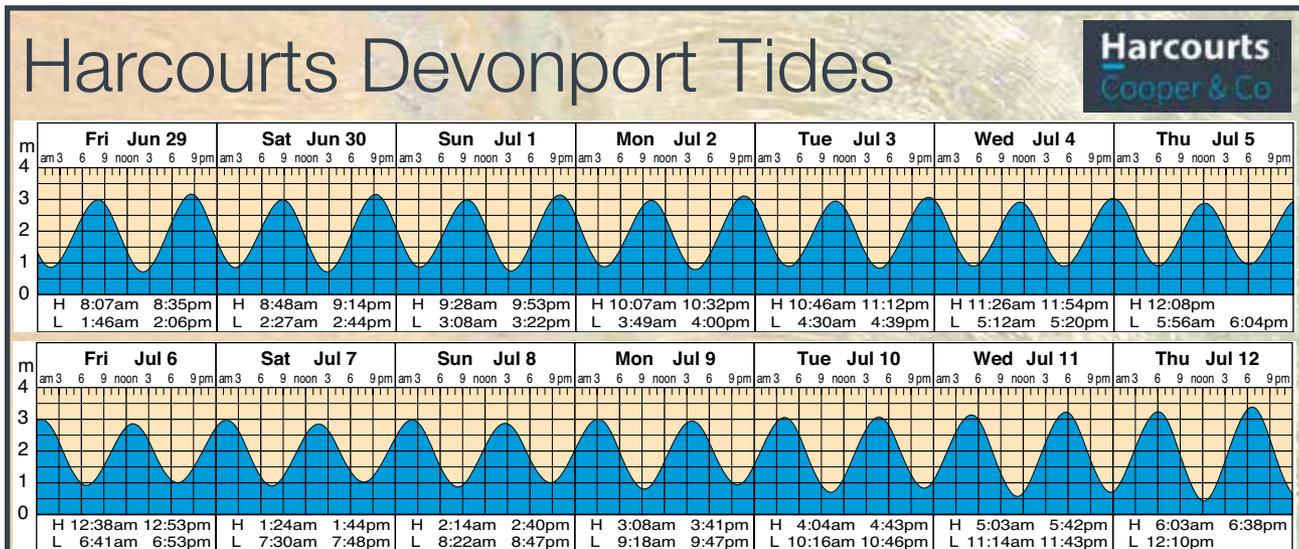
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Maunga Authority needs locals' consent not their anger

So the Tupuna Maunga Authority (TMA) wants cars off the mountain. Why? What's the benefit? Is it for an ancient Maori feeling? Or is it a strategy to make money?

So what do we lose? We know it's the best place to go when it's wet and stormy to view the world from the safe comfort of your car and calm your nerves. It's also the best place to take your partner and talk over life's troubles. Mental health is way more important than a Maori feeling or the urge of the TMA to take

power over others.

It is worth remembering too that it is not the government that paid Maori their compensation, but the taxpayer. The very community living at the bottom of the hill. We own the mountain as much as anyone else. If the TMA really wants to ride roughshod over us, it is worth remembering that though they might control the mountain it is the community that controls the perimeter. They need our consent not our anger. **Dave Best**

Electric chargers a better option than petrol pumps

Regarding the (proposed) new petrol pumps at Tainui Rd, the thought also crossed my mind that actually electric-vehicle (EV) charging would be more useful than petrol pumps.

We need to phase out petrol cars very quickly. Climate change impacts are hitting all of us; for example: rain destroying food crops around the country, and more high tides flowing across the road by the golf course. We're all in this together and we need to

be joining the dots about how our own decisions, such as car use, lead to greenhouse-gas emissions.

I bought an electric car for just this reason. But I also realised that EVs do nothing to reduce congestion, and their availability encourages us to continue the habit of private car ownership. I still take the bus to work and look forward to being able to hire an EV for an hour or so when I need it, rather than owning one.

Jean Wignell

Fountain stripped down and now operational

The South African war memorial fountain on the corner of Victoria Road and Flagstaff Terrace was stripped down for repair last Friday (June 15). Due to the age of the fountain (it was unveiled in 1903), the central piping had corroded and broken off.

The pipework has been replaced with a

reinforced hose through the feature centre and an extra valve fitted in order for the feature to operate correctly.

It is now functioning as it should for the enjoyment of Devonport residents and visitors alike. **Agnes McCormack, Auckland Council Head of Operational Management and Maintenance**

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OUT & ABOUT

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ROSETALKS: DAVE VEART

Archaeology of Maori Settlement of Devonport Peninsula – Tuesday 3 July, 7:30pm
 The Rose Centre, 4 School Road, Belmont
 Local historian and all-round personality, Dave Veart, will present a historical and archaeological review of Ma'ori settlement of the Devonport Peninsula. The area was one of the first places to be settled by the East Polynesian colonists, evidenced by stone tools found in the area. The moa ovens found at Torpedo Bay also indicate early settlement. Dave will look at why it was such an early settlement and touch on the later history. Cost: Free entry or by gold-coin koha.

CHILDMINDER'S CERTIFICATE WORKSHOP

Wednesday 11 July, 10:30am-2:30pm
 Devonport Community House
 The Child Minder's Certificate workshop for teens, run by the Parenting Place, will cover practical advice on how to establish your business, information on developmental needs for children, ideas for play and first aid. Cost is \$50 per person and places are limited. Book at www.parentingplace.nz

DEVONPORT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Sunday 15th July, 2pm,
 Holy Trinity Church, 20 Church St, Devonport
 Presenting cellist Catherine Kwak and conductor Canwei Li, this concert features Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture and Elgar: Cello Concerto in E minor. Tickets \$15, children under 12 free.

Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS
 To receive the Devonport Peninsula eNEWS, a monthly email listing of community events, and other community notices, please email us at maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

With special thanks to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for funding the Devonport Peninsula Trust.

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At the cutting edge of biomechanics

Sensors are quietly revolutionising our lives: monitoring movements from trains, cars, rubbish trucks and, increasingly, human bodies. Thor Besier has been at the forefront of biomechanics research, launching groundbreaking data-capture company IMeasureU and now involved in a second start-up. The Nelson/Tasman raised academic and entrepreneur spoke to Rob Drent.

Devonport has proved the ideal home base for Thor Besier's parallel academic and business lives.

After a stellar academic career that saw postings to the University of Western Australia and Stanford, Besier returned to New Zealand in 2011 and took up work at the University of Auckland.

Besier was happy at Stanford, and wife Sonia was an electrical engineer specialising in radio frequency in Silicon Valley's semi-conductor industry.

However, they decided to come to Auckland for family reasons. "We made the decision to bring up the kids in New Zealand."

Children Frida (10) and Teo (8) were born in California; youngest Mika (3) was born in New Zealand.

"When we came back I'd only ever visited the North Island once before – I went from Otago to Western Australia – so knew nothing about Devonport."

"My sister said we should check out Devonport; it was an easy commute by ferry and it's had everything we could want for our family and raising kids."

To some, Auckland may seem a long way from the power bases of American academia and research. For Besier it has been the opposite, with the opportunity to combine his academic knowledge with an entrepreneurial spirit.

In 2013, he won a Marsden Fund award along with the Spark \$100k Challenge and the University of Auckland Entrepreneurs Challenge. And the IMeasureU sensor he and a team developed won a New Zealand Innovation Award in 2014 and a Samsung



Pioneering and commercialising biomechanics... Thor Besier

Springboard award in 2015.

The start-up Besier launched to develop IMeasureU was sold last year to Vicon.

Born in Australia and brought up in the Nelson/Tasman area, he completed an honours degree in physical education at Otago University. A soccer player and keen windsurfer, Besier decided to study for his PhD in Perth as it was a mecca for windsurfing.

He specialised in biomechanics.

His work began to move from academia to the mainstream through the study of Australian Football League (AFL) players, many of whom were suffering knee injuries.

In 1996, limited scientific studies were available to show how the knee joint performed with the sidestepping and running needed in the AFL arena. Besier worked on



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Catherine Kwak
Cello

Canwei Li
Conductor



Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture
Elgar: Cello Concerto in E minor

Sunday 15th July, 2pm
Holy Trinity, 20 Church St, Devonport
Admission \$10, Children under 12 free

an intervention plan used by players at the time. And it's still being used today by the international soccer federation FIFA in its 11+ warm-up programme.

"Its quite cool that FIFA picked it up and are using some of the fundamental research," says Besier.

Besier has always been an academic but he has a strong entrepreneurial side as well. The first start-up he was involved in was "out of Dunedin in 1995" – a video-analysis company, which is still operating. It has worked with the British Lawn Tennis Association and Australian Cricket. When he was in Western Australia, he was involved in a consultancy business on the biomechanics of athletes: injury prevention and improving performance.

Besier won a postdoctoral scholarship to Stanford University, where he began specialising in orthopaedic research. He established the university's performance lab, and worked with 900 athletes. He was there for eight years.

These days, he works four days a week as an associate professor at the Auckland Bio-engineering Institute (ABI). The institute has 250 staff, with members from all disciplines, many experts in their fields. Ironically, ABI is better known internationally than it is in New Zealand, Besier says.

For the remainder of his university time, Besier is attached to the Department of Engineering Science in the Faculty of Engineering.

The mixture of research grants, business grants and postgraduate funding that funnels its way into bodies like ABI seems to fit ideally with Besier's experience, international connections and mentoring abilities.

It was ABI student Mark Finch who developed a small sensor in 2011 that had obvious commercial possibilities.

"It was inductably charged – it was waterproof and bulletproof.

"I said to Mark, 'we have got to commercialise this.'" IMeasureU was born.

Besier knew the swimming director at the Australian Institute of Sport from his Otago University days and quickly the sensor was deployed for research. Its potential was clear, Finch became CEO of the business, research contracts were signed and the company was awarded a residency at The Icehouse.

The sensor measures loads on the skeleton and lower limbs and has proved particularly applicable to basketball. GPS systems can

"To some, Auckland may seem a long way from the power bases of American academia and research.

For Besier it has been the opposite."

track players' movements — but what happens if they are standing still and jumping?

IMeasureU can calculate loads on knees: information that is vital for coaches and players in match conditions and training. Questions such as what kind of training session is best after a hard match, which has been tough on the joints, are much more easily answered.

IMeasureU worked with the New Zealand Breakers for a couple of years. It has just won grant, funded by General Electric and the NBA to work with Harvard University, to monitor teams in the NBA, specifically to measure how bone density is affected by load.

The sale last year to Vicon was "perfect

timing" for the company.

"Vicon wanted us for our business" what had been achieved and the quality of the IMeasureU product," Besier says. Staff were retained to continue product development.

Earlier this year, Besier became a director of Formus Labs, a company formed in 2016 by another Kiwi engineering student Ju Zhang as its chief executive. It has a staff of four.

Formus Labs is developing customised orthotics, with the help of 3D-printing technology. The potential to save time is massive. For example, a hip that can take 40 hours for an engineer to design can be produced in just four hours.

Besier is comfortable having a foot in both the academic and commercial worlds.

Conflicts of interest can be declared, and students have the opportunity to put into commercial application what they learn at university.

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Co-working and Collaboration

Polly's Park slips not caused by Ryman works: report

A preliminary investigation into the two slips at Polly's Park has found they were the result of heavy rain run-off, and not caused by the Ryman retirement home construction works alongside.

The area of land close to the estuary has been previously assessed "as having signs of instability that were not recent", a Tonkin & Taylor report has found.

The waterside land shows numerous slips that have occurred in the past, said the report, after an inspection requested by Ryman. Three landslips have occurred in the last year along the water's edge.

"The western slip occurred before any construction started at the site, while the central and eastern slips took place during heavy rainfall (on June 2 and 4.)

"All three slips appear to have a similar mechanism of failure, with heavy rainfall causing instability. All three of the recent slips are assessed as being a natural regression of the weathered material along the coastline.

"We do not believe they have occurred as a direct result of any construction at the (Ryman) site above," the report said.

Tonkin & Taylor said the coastal walkway went through the slips and there was a risk of further erosion. The walkway should be closed as it poses an "unacceptable level of hazard", and remain shut until the "safety risks are better understood."

Councillor Chris Darby has been monitoring the situation. "I have asked a couple of follow-up questions of the earthworks officer to give me more comfort: Did run-off from the site contribute in any way to the slips? And is run-off adequately controlled and associated works compliant?"

Architect and local resident Graham Pitts said he is concerned about the damage the "significant deposits of silt" discharged during the rain have caused to Ngataranga Bay, a Marine 1 Significant Ecological Area.

"This contamination may have some very serious adverse effects on the Ngataranga Bay



Major earthworks...the Ryman site (top), silting in Ngataranga Bay (above) and one of the landslips (right)

shell banks and tidal areas, which are resting places and feeding grounds for a significant number of endangered and vulnerable shorebirds," Pitts said.

He wants "more consideration given to management of the site works and stormwater collection and disposal by the design team and Auckland Council." Department of Conservation (DoC) is charged with administering the marginal strip. But as part of Ryman Healthcare's resource consent, Ryman is responsible for restoring the walking track affected by the



slip, a DoC spokesman said.

Ryman Healthcare, DoC and Auckland Council are assessing the slip damage to see how the marginal strip can be made safe and the walking track restored.

"The ground is too wet to do the restoration work and is likely to remain too wet for the rest of the winter," the DoC spokesman said.

Bottle shop ok despite local objections: inspector

Approval for an application to set up a controversial new bottle shop in Clarence St should be granted, according to documents to be presented to a district licensing committee hearing this week.

The hearing into the BP Trading Company's application to set up a Liquorland Boutique store at what was a long-standing video shop, was to be due to start this Thursday in Takapuna, after the Flagstaff went to press.

Neither police, the Medical Officer of Health nor licensing authorities oppose the application, alcohol licensing inspector Clare Sturzaker said in a report.

No concerns over the applicant's suitability were found, she said.

"There is no reason to believe the amenity and good order of the locality would likely be reduced, to more than a

minor extent, by the effects of the issue of the licence."

"At this stage I am unable to say that there will be an increase in preloading or drinking in cars within the nearby car parks or at the reserve around the corner," said Sturzaker.

The bottle shop wants a 9am to 10am licence, for seven days a week.

"This seems appropriate given the nature of the locality," which also has liquor outlets New World and Glengarry wines nearby, Sturzaker said.

Around 50 submitters have objected to the proposal.

Their key concerns included:

- Proximity to Devonport Creche and Devonport Community House and the risk of drunkenness and bad behaviour in its car park.

- The sale of low-cost RTDs from the proposed shop.
- The density of retail bottle shops in close proximity and the density of on-licences on Victoria Rd.
- The ongoing problems of drunkenness amongst youth in Devonport.

Glengarry Wines also opposed the application saying it had operated in Devonport since 1994, and had worked with the community to ensure responsible alcohol consumption.

In 2012, an application was made by Nikhil Hamalaa Liquor Merchants Ltd for a new off-licence nearby in 18 Clarence St. Due to the number of public objectors, the application was withdrawn, Sturzaker noted in her report.

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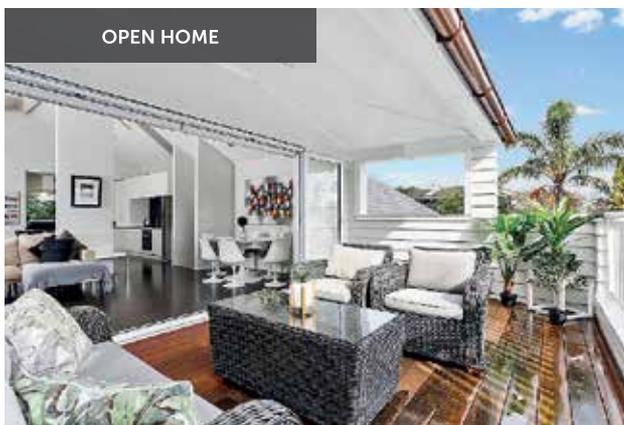
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Albatross sculpture winging its way to Devonport

The relocation to Victoria Wharf of the artwork *Flight Trainer for Albatross* has been approved by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Despite some previous reservations about the appropriateness of the sculpture for Devonport, the board last week approved siting it on the wharf, after support was received from “stakeholders” including the Auckland City Sculpture Trust, Depot Artspace, the Devonport Business Association, the Devonport Peninsula Trust and Whitespace.

While the sculpture would not take up a large portion of the wharf – which is used by recreational fisherman – it could be seen as encroaching on an open space. The fishermen were not consulted.

“While some users of the wharf may be dissatisfied with the decision to site the artwork here, the placement of the artwork may also draw people onto the wharf that may not have gone there otherwise... it may ultimately increase the number of people who use and discover the Victoria Wharf as a useable open space,” a report to the board said.

In support of the sculpture, Lynn Lawton, Depot Artspace manager, said the sculpture was “an outstanding contemporary artwork by an iconic Auckland sculptor” Greer Twiss.

“The Devonport waterfront is sadly bereft of sculptures and this work would add to its aesthetic as well as to its identity,” he said.

“In many ways this is an ideal sculpture for it represents Devonport’s reputation as an arts-centred community and its history of activism relating to significant social issues.”

Devonport Business Association chairperson Dianne Hale said its members were surveyed and all but one were supportive. One art gallery owner felt the sculpture should be located further south as the albatross was not “common to our shores.”

The sculpture was originally located on the other side of the harbour.

Member Jan O’Connor voted against it. She was “uneasy” about its location. “It’s a wonderful sculpture but I’m not sure how it sits in a heritage area... it may be more appropriate at the Naval museum. It’s not comfortable at the Victoria Wharf.

“I do not think Greer Twiss is a heritage sculptor.”

Board member Mike Sheehy disagreed. “I think it would be a drawcard to the wharf and a lot of people would go there to see it.”

Member Mike Cohen said the sculpture had been remodelled but there was no up-to-date picture of it before the board to help with the voting process.

Electric ride-share scheme to start soon

The Devonport electric-car ride-share service is expected to start in September or October for a 12-month trial.

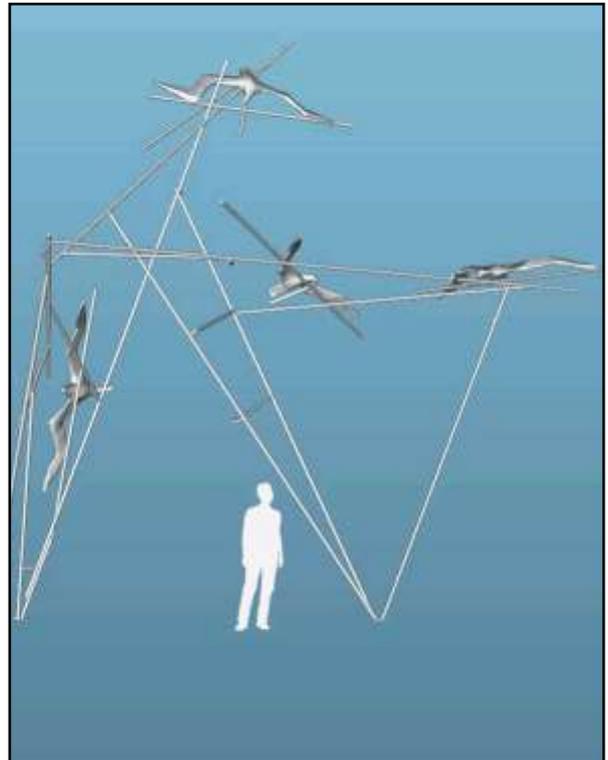
Auckland Transport (AT) is “currently finalising contract negotiations for operators” and completing the web application required for customers to be able to book their journey, a report to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board said.

A request for quotes for the vehicles to be used has been issued.

AT raised the possibility last year of a trial of the ride-sharing service, which is called AT Metro.

It would allow customers to use a smart-phone app to schedule or call an on-demand electric vehicle to take them to and from the Devonport ferry terminal and their destination.

Last year, AT carried out a secret two-week trial of the service, which it says showed ferry passengers were enthusiastic about it.



Albatross sculpture earmarked for Victoria Wharf... an artist’s impression of what it may look like

Devonport peninsula cross-country



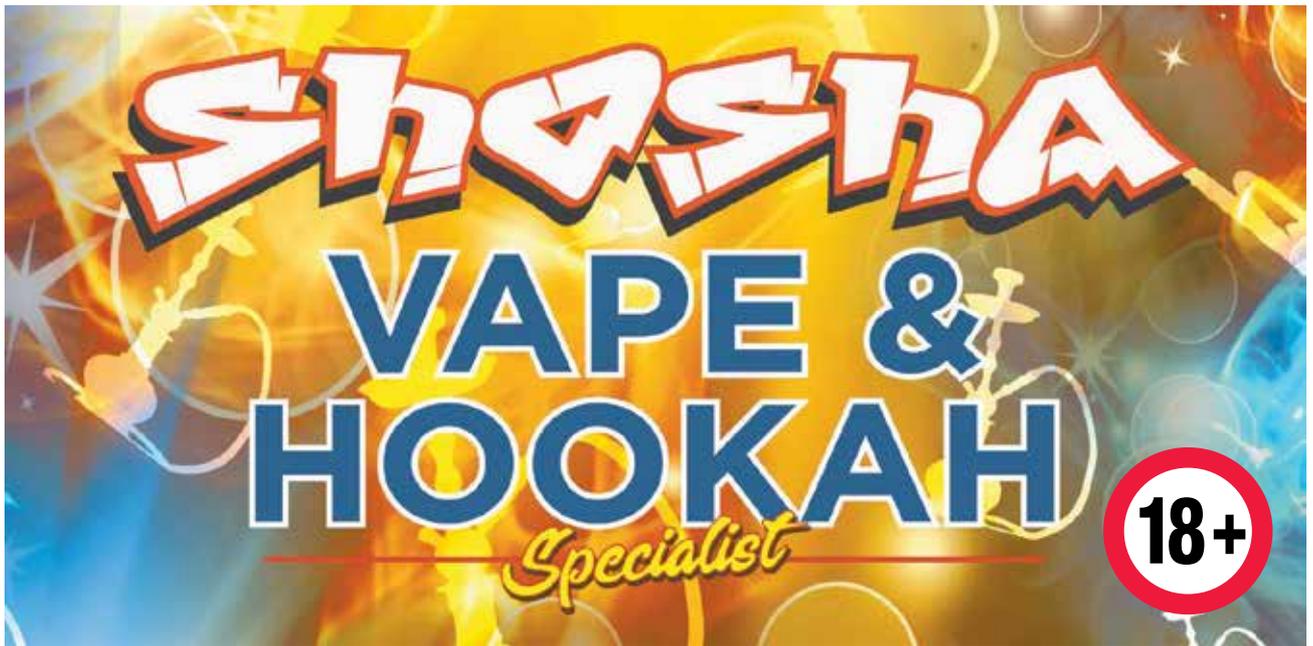
Team effort... the Vauxhall School team at Fort Takapuna for the Peninsula Cross-Country races

Dozens of the best cross-country runners from Devonport peninsula schools battled it out around a course at Fort Takapuna.

Results: **8-year-old girls:** 1. Isobel Tuttle (BPS); 2. Izzy Lomax (BPS); 3. Nadia Letica (BPS). **8-year-old boys:** 1. Luka Hart (VS); 2. Jesse Frazerhurst (VS); 3. Connor Brady (BPS). **9-year-old girls:** 1. Asha Edwards (VS); 2. Elizabeth Ellis (HS); 3. Jessica Donnelly (BPS). **9-year-old boys:** 1. Harry Shannon (SBS); 2. Nathan Davies

(BPS); 3. Alex Clayton (BPS). **10-year-old girls:** 1. Imogen O’Rourke (HS); 2. Bianca Mawson (BPS); 3. Isla Cutts (DPS). **10-year-old boys:** Dominick Cook (VS); Luka den Breems (VS); 3. Luca James (HS). **11-year-old girls:** 1. Charlyze Glanville (SLS); 2. Teagan Lang (DPS); 3. Angelique Zoio (HS). **11-year-old boys:** 1. Leo Wilson (SBS); 2. Sam Bradley (BS); 3. Oliver Yeung (DPS).

KEY: (BPS) Belmont Primary, (VS) Vauxhall School, (HS) Hauraki School, (SBS) Stanley Bay School, (DPS) Devonport Primary School, (SLS) St Leo’s School



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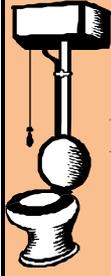
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Devonport Squash club moving ahead

It's been a year of transformation at the Devonport Squash Club.

One year ago, the community gym attached to the club was faced with closure, after council ruled it was in fact a business running within a building on a council reserve.

As a solution to keep the vibrant gym going, the squash club brought it under its umbrella and it has continued to flourish.

The gym was reconfigured, with a new pilates, yoga and dance class area created, and new carpet and heat pumps installed.

Dozens of classes are now held at the Devonport Squash Club gym every week.

Membership numbers continue to grow, but the community-gym feel has been retained.

Personal trainers are available at the gym, as is multisport physiotherapy.

The club is about to start the next phase of improvements, which will see gym equipment updated and replaced over the next year.

On the squash side, the three-court club continues to thrive with its core group of keen players, bolstered by a crop of new recruits this season.

The junior ranks are growing thanks to a free after-school



programme on Tuesdays and a Saturday afternoon kids social. Regular social nights for members have also been introduced.

The courts are in the process of being replastered and LED lights have recently been installed. The bathrooms and changing rooms were rebuilt a few years ago and the fire escape stairs have just been replaced. The next big building project is the replacement of the back deck.

Come along for a free squash night on Thursdays – it's a popular way to meet new and more experienced players for a hit.

The club, which formed in 1975, also offers coaching for beginners, intermediate and senior players.

A ladies group-coaching programme continues on Tuesdays at 6-7pm, with the next session starting on July 1.

Club President Laurie French said: "It has been an amazing journey working with the community and council to ensure we have continued to provide a welcoming community facility. I would like to thank gym members and the squash club committee, who have put in hundreds of voluntary hours to get us across the line."

**FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP AND JOINING DETAILS GO TO OUR WEBSITE:
www.devonportsquash.org.nz | 69 Wairoa Rd, Narrow Neck | 09 445 1040**

Twenty years ago: a selection from the Flagstaff files

- Maori activist Titewhai Harawira vows to do everything she can to stop a huge New Zealand flag being flown from the top of Mt Victoria. Harawira said Maori regarded the mountain as sacred and the flag would desecrate it. She is a direct descendant of Ngapuhi chief Patuone, who is buried on the lower reaches of Mt Victoria. Takapuna Rotary had applied to erect a 25.4 metre flagpole, with a New Zealand ensign of 11 by 5.5 metres, to fly continuously and be floodlit by night. The issue splits the Devonport Community Board, with Margot McRae and Paddy Stafford-Bush voting against the application, and Mick Gannaway, Dianne Hale and Andrew Chalton supporting it. The flag, in the end, fails to proceed.
- Devonport Lions Club is struggling and on the lookout for new members
- More than 30,000 collectors items from Bryan Jackson's Muzeum are to be auctioned in 4000 lots. The collection includes a large number of Victorian floral toilets (including examples from Thomas Crapper, the 19th century perfecter of the water closet), a 1922 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, an Egyptian nobleman's seal from 1000 BC, the entire interior of a 19th century English pub and a 45-million-year-old dinosaur's egg.
- The fight to prevent a BellSouth cell tower

- being located on a site opposite Devonport Primary has cost the school \$25,000 so far.
- Campaigners hoping to save 'Old Joe's house' in Church St, are planning to lodge papers seeking to have the building listed as an historic place. Developer Xeno Captain, who bought the house, leaves its roof open and says he is happy it can rot away. North Shore City Council says it has no power to force Captain to enclose the building.
- Popular Devonport lawyer Martin Moorhouse is farewelled by 500 people at a service held in Takapuna Methodist Church. He opted out of "Queen St law firms" and set up practice in Devonport in 1975. He died of a heart attack, aged 50.
- A three-bedroom home in central Devonport is selling for \$369,000, as is a former church at 13 Williamson Ave.
- The Moreton Bay fig tree outside Devonport Library will be checked for rot after a woman was hit by a falling branch.
- Vauxhall School's Totora classroom block is opened, with New Zealand cricketer Danny Morrison cutting the ribbon, together with the school's youngest pupil Isla Maples.
- The Flagstaff interview subject is Colin McRae, who talks about making the New Zealand Wars documentary, a top-rating television programme.



Documentary producer Colin McRae, the Flagstaff interview subject

NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI

Kāinga Pāho

Tēnā koutou katoa

A lot is going on in the Belmont and Bayswater area; some of it to do with our developments and some of it to do with other infrastructure work.

Let's start with us first. The site clean-up in Roberts Avenue is almost complete, in readiness for the earthworks that will see services upgraded and foundations laid for the new housing. At Rutherford Street and Lowe Street, more houses will be removed soon and, as previously, neighbours will be advised in advance of house moves.

Other work currently going on around Eversleigh Road and Hillary Crescent is being undertaken by Watercare, which is upgrading leaking pipes and renewing water mains in the area. This has been scheduled for a long time and it's great to see Council undertaking repairs.

We are pleased to see the latest Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan 2018-2028

includes improvements to Lake Road and Esmonde Road. Auckland Transport has allocated budget for improvements to Lake Road during 2018-2022 to the value of \$46.5m. We would like to thank the local school community and other residents in the area for making submissions to the Transport Plan - as you can see it shows it really is worthwhile to make a submission as it can make a significant difference. Now the task is to make sure the improvements actually happen.

Finally, we'd like to encourage families on the peninsula to talk to their local board members and councillors about spending development contributions from local developments, like ours (which will be about \$30 million), on improving local amenities and infrastructure.

Auckland Council asked for submissions on this subject recently and are due to release their final policy shortly. We will be reviewing it closely as we firmly believe the development contributions we are making



St Leonard's Beach, which could be improved by keeping development contributions in the local area.

for our new housing on the Peninsula should be spent locally improving roading, parks, beach reserves, libraries and infrastructure.

As always, if you have any general queries about the work we're doing in your suburb, please email wrl@ngatiwhataorakei.com

King-sized rat caught on Cambria

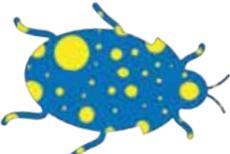
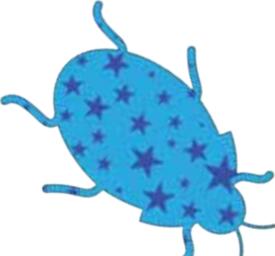
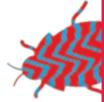


Send us your rat pics!

Kids, parents, householders! Send us your monster-rat pictures from around the Devonport peninsula. Email them to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz and go into a draw to win a packet of birdseed. Happy trapping!

Following our picture last issue of the large rat trapped on Maungauika / North Head, Sandy Russell caught this monster under his Cambria Rd house, using a babaco-baited council trap.




July School Holiday Activity

Dazzle Bugs

When: 9-13 & 16-20 July except Wed 18 July
10.30am, 11.30am & 1.30pm

Where: Torpedo Bay Navy Museum

Age: 3+ \$3 per child

For full details and to book:
navymuseum.co.nz or phone: 09 445 5186



Colourful characters at Devonport Midwinter Swim



Several dozen hardy souls braved the chilly seas off Windsor Reserve on 17 June, for the Devonport Midwinter Swim. Batgirl and her friends (above) enjoyed the annual traditional dip, which was followed by hot soup and prizes.

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Kahurangi Smith: MāoriGrl

Closing Wednesday 11 July, 3pm

These events are part of Matariki Festival, 30 June- 22 July, proudly hosted by Auckland Council in partnership with Te Kawerau a Maki.

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Dennis Hale & Nathan Hale



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THE ROSE CENTRE

So much happened at The Rose Centre in June, it was quite a blur. From July to December, we're almost sold out for space. New sewing classes and Chinese culture programmes are in place and we now have an art class starting after school run by Creative Matters. It's really active at your Belmont community centre and theatre!

Rose Talks

In the first week of July, we're celebrating Matariki in style. We kick off *Rose Talks* with a one-hour koha gold-coin entry event entitled *Archaeology of Māori Settlement of Devonport Peninsula*. Come and join local historian and all-round good fella Dave Veart on an exploration of our local Māori history. **7.30pm July 3**. No bookings needed, just show up! More info at facebook.com/rosecentre in 'Events'.

Then we welcome *Heaven and Earth: Rangī & Papa*, the glow-in-the-dark puppetry show that has been delighting audiences all over the North Island. Here for shows at 11am and 1pm July 2, 12.45 and 1.45pm July 3, and 11am only July 4, 5 & 6. This will be a stunning show and you'll be absolutely delighted you came.



Tickets at eventfinda.co.nz.



In the school holidays, we welcome Kozo Kaos. For the first time in Auckland, New Zealand's very own circus rock star will have you in fits of laughter in this highly interactive show as he performs various stunts such as the world's most dangerous trick with a marshmallow, the teaspoon challenge, razor-sharp machete juggling on top of a freestanding ladder and even a friendly game of Russian roulette with a packet of Oreo cookies...**Friday July 13, 7.30pm**. Tickets at eventfinda.co.nz.

Our regular school-holiday programme, National Youth Theatre Company, is back in July. Check their awesome web page at allstars.co.nz for all the details.

July is the rock-star month that gets you ready for the wonderful and genteel August amusement of Company Theatre's rendition of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, for which you can already buy tickets at ticket.co.nz.

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Tree-removal case costs \$20,000 – then council clear one anyway



One down, one to go... the remaining eucalyptus tree

A resident spent more than \$20,000 fighting council to have two eucalyptus trees removed from a roadside berm — only for one to be taken down by authorities because it was in danger of falling.

In recent storms the tree was so unstable the footpath was moving.

Last year, John Gibb applied to remove the 18.5-metre and 20-metre trees from outside his home at 2 Oxford Terrace, Cheltenham.

The trees were causing root damage to kerbs and footpaths, and limbs were falling off onto power lines and cars and needed to go.

Auckland Council officers disagreed, saying the trees were healthy, could be trimmed and the damage had been low level.

Gibb took his case to a notified hearing with supporting evidence from planners, arborists and current and previous neighbours.

He was happy to pay for removal of the trees and their replacement with more appropriate natives.

A hearing was held last December, and subsequently council commissioners Alan Watson and Gavin Lister gave consent to the removal, in the face of council-officer opposition.

In a decision released publicly this month,

the commissioners said there was a likelihood “of recurring damage to property from falling deadwood branches and potential injury to passers-by.

“The two trees have effectively outgrown their local environment,” the commissioners said.

“The trees are creating recurring damage to property. Removal will not result in any significant loss of amenity or environmental values in the locality” as they would be replaced,” the commissioners said.

Speaking to the Flagstaff last week, Gibb said the notified-hearing decision was a victory for common sense. But bringing the case had cost “in excess of \$20,000, which was hard on a old retired couple.”

Ironically, council paid to remove one of the trees after it had showed dramatic instability in a north-westerly storm, four to six weeks ago, Gibb said.

“I was standing next to it and the footpath was moving.”

He said the whole case was “unnecessary” as the trees had clearly outgrown their position and council “is very happy to take out trees in a similar situation if it suits them.” Gibb said the second eucalyptus would be removed in due course.



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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUNE 29, 2018

Whakamana wāhine at AUT

Six of our students were invited to the 2018 Wāhine Kākano Young Women's Festival in May. This brand-new event was curated by political commentator Lizzie Marvely, and included three panels, each featuring an outstanding variety of speakers who presented on authenticity, identity, stereotypes, and becoming an adult. It included Q&A opportunities, aiming to empower the large audience.

"The line-up of ethnically and occupationally diverse women we heard from throughout the day created an extremely welcoming and relatable environment for everyone in the room," says one student. "It was a very insightful experience hearing from all these successful women about their journeys growing up and developing their careers as a woman in today's society, and it was incredibly reassuring to hear when these powerful women had experiences similar to our own."

After listening to the panel speakers, student Ella Vukovich also felt inspired by the day's panels, saying: "I felt assured about going out into the world to pursue my dreams and passions with confidence, and without the fear of discrimination because of my gender."

Each guest was also invited to attend two workshops, which informed them about sexism online, volunteering overseas, and starting up a high-school feminist club.

The keynote address was from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, who gave an empowering speech to her admiring audience of over 400 young women, and provided a window into her life in politics, and her journey to becoming Prime Minister. She also shared some of her personal life with the event-goers; many were surprised to learn that she began her working career with a job at Countdown, and were amused to hear about her pregnancy side-effects and cravings.

Many of the students agreed with Ella, when she said, "Jacinda Ardern's speech was the highlight of the day," and felt that seeing a young woman in such a powerful position was refreshing and empowering to all females in New Zealand.

"Wāhine Kākano was a fabulous experience for young New Zealand women," she says. "I'm intrigued and excited for what the next Young Women's Festival will bring".

BY NELLY FARMIOLOE



Attending a literary showcase

Energetic students of the Years 9, 10 and 13 English Extension classes ferried across Auckland Harbour recently to attend the country's largest literary showcase, the Auckland Writers Festival.

For more than 18 years, the festival has provided a high calibre of guest authors to bring a world of stories and ideas to its audience. It allows festival goers to embark on an intellectual adventure, explore new ideas and celebrate the culture of literature.

"The festival always brings fun and laughter. It's my third time attending the event, and I can say that it never fails to provide us with an enriching experience," shared Chloe Kim.

One particularly enticing guest speaker was New Zealand's first Pasifika Poet Laureate, Selina Tusitala Marsh. Her journey as a female and Pasifika writer was described as rigorous



but deeply honouring. She underlined the importance of each individual's unique voice as it differentiates "me from you" in poetry.

When the festival drew to an end, students left the Aotea Centre with a new, refreshed outlook on the world of reading and writing.

BY KATE LEE

Arguing the case

Debater Libby Lord was awarded best speaker for Team 1's debate against Orewa College. "The debate was a really interesting experience. It was great to hear all the different perspectives regarding the challenging moot. I had a great time discussing such a relevant topic," she said.

For Takapuna 2, Phoebe Peng was awarded best speaker for their debate. She said: "The moot wasn't quite as expected, but the team pulled through. It was a thrilling experience having to think on the spot and debate impromptu, as I was the third speaker."

With this continued success it will be interesting to see what the future holds, as their skills progress develop for future debates.

BY WILL DALZELL

Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUNE 29, 2018



Defining success

Through the Careers and Transition Department (CATS) an invitation was made to Alysha Bentley, a former University of Auckland liaison officer, to address a Year 13 assembly. Bentley is now a Mindset coach and mentor, and she delivered an incredibly important message to our senior students, beginning with the question: What does success mean to you?

A question which, to a group of people who are

trying to figure out what they want from life, was near impossible to answer. She provided an essential examination of what success really means and how to change your mindset from one of constantly falling short, to one of constant growth. The ideas presented to us would most certainly help us in our transition from school into the real world, which now seems a little less daunting.

BY AMANDA GROENEWALD

Investigating the landscape

Geography, volcanoes and Rotorua. That's right – 87 Level 1 Geography students went on their annual Rotorua trip in late May.

In three groups, they climbed up to the Ruawahia summit of Mt Tarawera, 1111m above sea level. This was most definitely the highlight of the trip. They walked along the crater, which is about 5 km long, finishing off by sliding down the mountain crater, which made the strenuous climb all worth it!

They also visited the Wai-o-Tapu geothermal pools.

The exciting colours of the geothermally heated pools were a sight to remember. Devil's Bath (bright lemony) and Champagne Pool (green water with bright orange outskirts) are just two of note.

On the first day, after dinner, all students went for a swim at the aquatic centre. The warm pools were relaxing after the day's trip. Lastly, we all went to the Buried Village of Te Wairoa, to see first-hand the destruction Mt Tarawera's eruption caused. The artefacts that had been dug up from excavation are



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THE LATEST IN SPORT



ON THE COURT: Massive congratulations to Senior Girls Squash team winning the Auckland Secondary Schools Squash Champs, a TGS first. The team included Nelly Farmiloe, Natalie Sayes, Diya Joukani, Georgina Winnie, Jessica Pausch and Nicole Svendsen.

ON THE PITCH: Football. Boys 1st XI had a momentous win early last week against Kelston Boys' High School 5-0, and a cup-tie win against Papatoetoe High School 3-1. Girls: 1st XI drew 1-1 with Diocesan School for Girls; 2nd XI won 2-0 against Kingsway 1st XI.

ON THE FIELD: Rugby. 1st XV beat Rosmini 34-19; 5th Grade beat Massey 22-5; 6th Grade beat Kaipara 39-19.

kept at the museum, which is also on-site. Students got to see the houses that survived. They were an extraordinary sight; tiny single-roomed, with a cooking corner and a rusted pot.

Many thanks to the teachers and parent helpers who came along. After the trip, student Olivia Miles, said: "It was such a fun experience. My favourite part was sliding down the crater at Mt Tarawera and watching everyone fall over in front of us."

BY LAIBA BATOOL

North Shore United out of Chatham Cup after 1-0 loss



So near but so far... this shot by North Shore's Sean McManamon was only just wide of the goal, while (at right) Conor Felstead, in the Shore maroon strip, battles for possession

North Shore United lost its third round Chatham Cup match against Mt Albert Ponsonby 1-0 at home last Saturday. And it now has to front up against the same team in a league match this weekend.

Shore had a few scoring chances, but looked a little flat, after two hard matches against Waiheke and top-of-the-table Melville, which Shore lost 2-0.

Melville are clear leaders. But Shore, in fifth place with nine games to play, is handily placed for a run at the second promotion spot.



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Northcote nailbiter – Shore comes back to lose by one point

The North Shore premier rugby side had only itself to blame for a 22-21 loss to Northcote at home last Saturday.

Jordon McGregor missed a couple of penalties early on, and sloppy handling and ball retention saw Shore gift Northcote three soft tries in the first half to go down 19-0 with eight minutes of the first spell to play.

Northcote was showing better speed around the field, playing with more desire and counter-attacking well.

But a sin-binning for a high tackle gave a late first-half opening and veteran hooker James Hinchco scored with a typical burrowing drive close to the line. It was Hinchco's 53rd try, to mark his 198th game for North Shore.

Down 19-7, Shore began the second spell with renewed vigour, Ben Stewart scoring immediately in a half it was to dominate territorially and on the scoreboard (14-3).

As the minutes ticked on, Shore launched wave after wave of attack, with replacements Donald Coleman and Maui Hausia giving it everything they had.

Whereas in the first half turnovers cost tries, in the second half a series of penalties, dropped passes and lost balls denied Shore a great comeback. On the day, Shore's skill level was not quite up to the standard needed.

North Shore plays Massey away next week in the final round of pool play. With Shore now sitting in fourth place it is a must-win match if Shore wants to secure a home quarter-final on July 5.

Beauties and the Beast... ballgirls (from left to right) Ruby Alpers, Emily Clayton, Cara Te Whui, Maggie Johnson and Rye Brady were part of the North Shore's Pink Day in support of breast cancer awareness. James Hinchco (at right) goes on another barnstorming run.



Inspiring Creative Art Workshops for Children, Teens and Adults

Stanley Bay School on Mondays
 Devonport School on Thursdays
 Belmont Intermediate School on Tuesdays
 The Rose Centre on Tuesdays

All the info about us and the after-school workshops is on our website.



3pm-5pm
 including
 an afternoon
 tea break

Mandy Jakich
 021 808 126

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