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Winner 2018

[devonportflagstaff.co.nz](http://devonportflagstaff.co.nz)

**Biosecurity alert: Fruit fly found in Devonport... p5, 6, 7**

**Folk in the Park – music in the sun... p8**

**Interview: APO violinist Rae Crossley-Croft... p24**

## End of council services in Devonport after 130 years

After 133 years, Devonport is losing a council presence locally with the closure of the service desk at Devonport Library.

A review took place last year and a recommendation to remove the desk was made

after noting a steady decline in patronage over the past two years, Auckland Council general manager customer services Nigel King said.

From 1 March, the council's customer

service desk in the library will cease to operate and the full-time staff member will be relocated to the council's Takapuna office.

Anecdotally, few people were aware of the

**To page 2**

### More than OK, on top of the world



**World OK dinghy champ... Dan Slater of Wakatere Boating Club lifted the trophy last Friday. Full story page 3.**



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- Best Community Involvement:** 2016, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2005
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- Most Improved Newspaper:** 2011, 2010
- Best Young Journalist:** 2014, 2012, 2013
- Best Sports Journalist:** 2018, 2017, 2016
- Best Senior Feature/Lifestyle Writer:** 2014, 2017
- Best Junior Feature/Lifestyle Writer:** 2014
- Best Headline:** 2017, 2018

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- Community Reporter of the Year:** Winner 2018
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**NEXT ISSUE:** March 8  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:** March 1

# Ngataringa mangrove removal continues unchecked

A resident who has fought to protect Ngataringa Bay is dismayed council compliance officers failed to reinforce an earlier warning to a man who has been removing mangroves from the foreshore.

Retiree Dave Coker has taken it upon himself to build a “low-tide walkway” linking Ngataringa Park and Polly’s Park, and has been removing mangroves, and building volcanic rock walls and pathways.

Ngataringa Bay guardian Lyndsay Brock met with two Auckland Council compliance officers at the site on 5 February to assist them with a council investigation of Coker’s unauthorised work.

Coker was working there, but the officers failed to confront him, she says.

Kerri Fergusson, Auckland Council team manager compliance investigations, confirmed officers received a complaint in November, gave Coker a verbal warning late last year, then closed the case.

However, on 8 February, the council received a second complaint, which it was investigating.

“The council takes a graduated approach to enforcement in the first instance.

“We will help people to comply with the rules where we can, either by giving advice or warnings initially where appropriate,” Fergusson said in a statement.

Brock is frustrated at an apparent lack of action and points out mangroves have root systems that mitigate pollutants and act as important “carbon sinks”, taking carbon out of the atmosphere.

She claims Coker is taking rocks out of a bund wall that retains leachate from the former landfill. A group that got Ryman’s plans for its retirement village modified through the Environment Court is unimpressed Coker is conducting unconsented work in the marginal strip.

“Although any attempt by an individual who is intending to protect and safeguard the marginal strip is well intentioned, it is not the answer,” Devonport Precincts Society deputy chair Trish Deans says.

The Conservation Act establishes a marginal strip of crown land next to any foreshore (usually 20m) to safeguard public access and protect waterways. Any work on the strip must be consented.

The Ryman hearings commissioners determined public access through the marginal strip should not be impacted by the development.

The marginal strip is recorded as an interest on Ryman’s certificate of title and protected by the Crown, Deans says.

The society is calling for a meeting with the Department of Conservation, Ngati Whatua and Ryman to urgently develop a conservation plan for the marginal strip.

It wants to see landslides below the Ryman development repaired quickly, as the cliff edge is becoming unsafe.

The plan could take into account the importance of the special ecological area for the protection of endangered birds and aquatic life, along with water quality.

**From page 1**

## Council desk set to go

service, which answered questions, provided information and took council payments, such as rates and dog-registration fees.

“This decision will not leave the community without council support altogether, as all council libraries provide a base level of customer service; including general council information, providing forms and offering assistance in completing them, authorising rates rebates and logging complaints.

“Customers wishing to pay their rates or any council invoice can visit the local Post-Shop, which is only a four-minute walk from Devonport Library (opposite the New World supermarket),” King said.

Devonport Borough Council was gazetted in 1886 and held its first meeting on 14 June.

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**Dennis Hale & Nathan Hale**

# Wakatere sailor wins world title – at home



**Class act... world champ Dan Slater enjoyed racing against his peers and will continue competing in the OK Dinghy**

*Photos: Robert Deaves*

Wakatere Boating Club yachtie Dan Slater won the 2019 Symonite OK Dinghy World Championships held off Narrow Neck last week after dominating the regatta.

Twelve days earlier, German Jan Kurfeld won the New Zealand champs pre-regatta, with Luke O'Connell taking out the Kiwi title.

But it was a different story in the world champs. Slater dominated from the outset with a series of second places, giving him a stranglehold on the regatta.

Kurfeld's chances of glory were destroyed

by a couple of disqualifications from over-eager starts.

On taking out the title, Slater said: "It's really nice, just really nice. It's not about the winning. I chased those dreams years ago. But it's really neat to be able to sail against the guys who I've sailed my whole sailing career against.

He was unsure whether he could defend his title next year in Marstrand, Sweden, but said: "I will definitely be back. That's not it for me in the OK for sure. I built the boat so I could come down here on a Sunday and we could race with

18-20 boats.

"The neat thing about the worlds being here in New Zealand is that we used to get between 25-35 at an event, but by having the worlds here we now have nearly 60 boats that are competitive, so at our travellers series we have 30-40 boats at any regatta. So the class is strong now, really strong."

Around 120 entrants competed in the world champs with other Wakatere sailors posting top results including Andrew Phillips (fifth) and Rod Davis (ninth).

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# DevonportProperty.nz Report — January 2019

## Some brighter property news to start the year

The new year has kicked off with a significant rise in house prices. For the latest three months to January, the median sale price of houses sold across Devonport rose to \$1.82m from \$1.6m last month. This rise heralds some degree of a recovery in house prices, which had been weak though the greater part of 2018.

As a typical quirk of statistics though, this month-on-month rise actually represents a 14% fall when compared to the same time last year. This is due to a significant spike in prices at this time last year. Next month's report will be key to see if this January result is also a one-off spike or represents a strengthening of prices.

The general state of the market remains well balanced, with strong levels of new listings providing good choice for eager buyers, of which there are plenty in the market as seen from strong open-home



numbers. A total of 62 new properties were listed in the past three months; that compares with 57 at the same time last year. However, at this time last year, the available stock of properties for sale was just 38, whereas at the end of January this year it was considerably higher, at 57.

A further bright spot on the property market is the resurgence of the market for units. Whilst a small segment of the market,

this segment has languished for over a year with declining sales and prices. However, the latest three months show early signs of a resurgence.

Whilst the months of January and February tend to herald a quiet start to the property year, the next three months of March, April and May are the most active of the year, representing close on a third of all activity.

The key this year, as a seller, will be setting a realistic price expectation, matched with a comprehensive marketing campaign as there's likely to be keen competition in the market.

As a buyer, my advice is to take your time, study and research the market – pound the streets viewing open homes to get a broad perspective.

**For a more detailed analysis and commentary of the local property market, visit [www.devonportproperty.nz](http://www.devonportproperty.nz)**

January 2019	PROPERTIES				PRICES	
	Properties on the market (as at 31 Jan)	Properties Listed (Nov/Dec/Jan)	Properties Sold (Nov/Dec/Jan)	Variance in moving annual total sales	Median Sale Price (\$M) 3 months to Jan	Variance compared to last year
All Properties	57	62	48	▼ -8%	\$1.550M	▼ -13%
Houses	48	49	35	▼ -11%	\$1.820M	▼ -14%
Units	2	4	9	▲ +7%	\$772,500	▲ +2%
T/houses Apartments	7	9	4	▼ -10%		



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## Lovelorn pest reveals identity on Valentine's Day

Devonport residents and businesses are unhappy with communication about the Queensland fruit-fly response, saying they are getting mixed messages.

The pest was found in a surveillance trap in a Rattray St garden and triggered a response aimed at establishing whether it was an isolated case, or if other fruit flies were in the vicinity. The pest could threaten New Zealand's horticulture industry.

Rattray St resident Mark Pulsford thinks the response took far too long – between finding the fly on 12 February and Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) staff acting on it on 15 February – and that there hasn't been enough communication.

MPI staff had visited three times over the weekend and put a trap in his garden, but he was still confused.

Pulsford said he had cut some flax, but didn't know whether it needed to go in the bin provided by MPI or in regular garden waste.

"The thing is it is not clear whether all garden waste is included or is it just particular fruit and vegetables? I am acutely aware, if we get it wrong, we could threaten the whole country. They need to be clearer."

Pulsford was also worried about whether a heritage grapefruit tree in his garden, which produced delicious fruit, could be destroyed.

Nearby in Rattray St, Gerald and Anita Miller were impressed with the response, but worried about how long it would go on for.

Staff had visited the street's residents over the weekend, mapping and tagging fruit trees, compost heaps, worm bins and vegetable patches.

Biosecurity New Zealand's Catherine Duthie said staff were checking fruit for signs of female breeding flies, such as eggs and larva.

If nothing is found, the alert will end on 1 March. However, if they detected more flies, it could go on for several months. If more flies are found, aerial spraying could be carried out. At the time of going to press, only one fly had been trapped.

Duthie said the Zone A boundary, 200 metres



**High-level response... Auckland Mayor Phil Goff (centre) and North Shore Councillor Chris Darby (left) were on hand to support biosecurity chief Catherine Duthie**



**Fruit in the park... biosecurity officers were at the Folk in the Park event at Windsor Reserve on Sunday to talk to people about the implications of the fruit fly find**

from where the fruit fly was found, went right through the middle of the Clarence St fruit and vegetable shop. Flies do have a range of flight, she said, plus there needed to be a boundary somewhere.

In considering whether to class the shop as being in zone A or B, the fact that it was "risky" was taken into account.

Affected businesses can apply for compensation, she added.

## Timeline of the fruit-fly response

### Wednesday 13 February:

- Single Queensland fruit fly found in surveillance trap in a Rattray St garden. (A number of traps are located around Devonport as part of ongoing biosecurity measures.)

### Thursday 14 February:

- Confirmation insect is a Queensland fruit fly

### Friday 15 February:

- Public announcement
- Controlled areas created: Zone A, 200 metres from the find and Zone B, 1.5km out
- To find out if you are in the zone, you can type your address into a search field on [www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)

### 16 and 17 February (last weekend):

- 200 pamphlets dropped in Zone A advising not to take fruit or vegetables out of zone. Other pamphlets on fruit flies distributed around wider Devonport.
- Sixty biosecurity staff out and about in Devonport, checking traps and handing out information to the public
- Staff check all properties in Zone A, taking samples from fruit trees, vegetable gardens and compost
- Bins appear at sites such as the ferry terminal and Folk in the Park for people to dispose of fruit and vegetables before leaving the area
- Billboards go up advising visitors they are entering/leaving a biosecurity-controlled area

- Mobile field laboratory set up at the Devonport naval base for inspection of produce collected in the area
- Twelve council staff join the biosecurity team. A press conference is held outside Devonport ferry terminal.
- By Sunday, 60 surveillance traps have been checked and no further fruit flies found.
- Around 160 traps installed in Zones A and B, with a goal of 200 traps for full coverage.

### Monday 18 February:

- If fruit is to be put in school lunch boxes it should be store bought, not home-grown.
- Businesses in Zone A cannot sell fresh produce and need to dispose of organic waste on-site.

# Evergreen trapped in fruit-fly crossfire

The fruit-fly find is threatening the economic survival of Clarence St's Evergreen Fruit and Vege.

Store owner Kirandeep Kaur was visited by biosecurity staff on Sunday 17 February and told she was not allowed to purchase any fruit and vegetables, other than leafy greens, potatoes and onions.

Furthermore, Kaur is not allowed to sell fruit and vegetables to people outside Zone A, 200 metres from the fruit-fly find near the top of the village.

This was confusing, as typing her business address into the Biosecurity New Zealand website, showed her business is in Zone B.

Nearby, the New World supermarket, also in Zone B, is allowed to purchase and sell fruit and vegetables, without any restriction.

Kaur said the impact is immense as she could not sell fruit and vegetables to most customers. And the number of punters through the door had dropped from an average of 200 to 50 on the Sunday following the fruit-fly discovery. On Monday, virtually no one was visiting the store.

"Devonport people are so kind and lovely. They come in and want to buy fruit, but I have to say they cannot."

She had taken over the store only months before and, with the busy task of looking after three children at home, had not had a chance to purchase insurance.

Given the devastating impact on her business, she would have liked more communication and support.



**Hot spot... Evergreen Fruit and Vege has been a focus of attention following the fruit-fly find. TV cameras were filming outside the store on Saturday.**

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# Fruit-fly survival guide



**Welcome to Devonport... the controlled-area sign went up on Memorial Drive on Saturday**

If you live in Zone A, you can't take any fruit out of the zone.

If you live in Zone B, you cannot take home-grown food out of the zone, but you can take processed fruit and vegetables out of the area.

If no further evidence of Queensland fruit flies is found, the biosecurity response ends on 1 March. Otherwise, it could go on for months. Fruit trees in gardens will not be destroyed. A comprehensive list of what garden waste can and cannot be taken out of Zone A is available online, but as a rule compostable

waste is the concern.

If children take fruit to Devonport Primary, which is in Zone A, they should eat it there or dispose of it. Otherwise, families can put store-bought fruit in school lunch boxes. Checks should be made when cutting up fruit that no larvae or eggs are present.

Buying takeaway food in Devonport is permitted, as business owners have been fully informed about what they can and cannot sell.

Fruit and vegetables bought at supermarkets such as New World can be taken anywhere.



**Zone A is 200 metres around Rattray St, while Zone B is the entire Devonport area south of the golf course**

## Why blame the mortgage brokers?

The Australian Banking Royal Commission report made the following recommendations regarding mortgage brokers in its rather damning report on the Australian banking industry:

1. Require brokers to act in the best interests of borrower (not banks).
2. Borrowers rather than lenders should pay the brokers.
3. Lenders should not pay trail commission to brokers.

In our experience with mortgage advisers in New Zealand, we have only ever seen them put the best interests of customers first (as is required by the FMA Code of Conduct) and they provide helpful advice in arranging and negotiating competitive housing loans.

If the recommendations are implemented, it would have a major impact on an industry that originates 55% of mortgages in Australia and 35% of mortgages in New Zealand. It would also play into the hands of the banking sector, as it will diminish competitive tension and pricing as clients will become more captive to their own bank. All the banks in NZ pay a similar commission rate, and market-share analysis suggest that no particular bank is getting a disproportionate share of business through their commission structure. We will watch with interest and continue providing free and helpful advice.

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## Local folk enjoy international music on a summer's day



Folk tunes... Devonport's Alice McLeod and Annie Mason (above) of duo Rustic Velvet entertain the crowd (below) which includes Anne Salmon (left) and Folk in the Park organiser Hilary Condon





**The show must go on... (clockwise from top left) Jess Baillie performs a solo set; Devonport's Gretchen Scott shares a Kiwi summer concert with her Chilean guest Ana Padilla; Shore Collectives' Raul Castaneda Galimidi (left) and Hamish McGhie; locals Dawne Pearce and John Whyte; and Pete Grassby, who kept things rolling along as MC, standing in for Roger Giles.**

Around 500 people turned out to the 12th annual Folk in the Park free concert at Windsor Reserve last Sunday.

The crowd enjoyed picnics and wine and the golden summer weather.

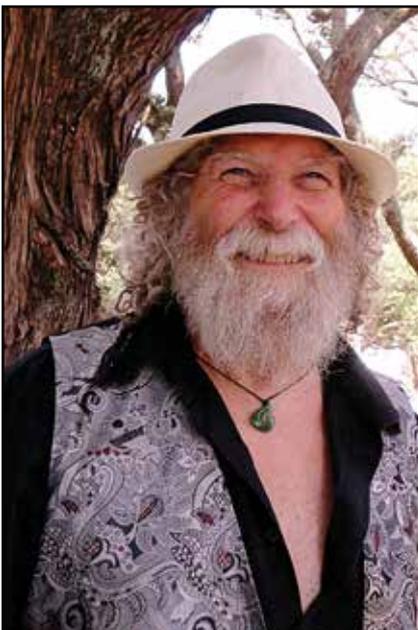
MC Pete Grassby kept things lively with banter and occasional updates on the response to the Queensland Fruit Fly, which had been found in Devonport four days before.

Grassby was visiting from Coventry, UK, and able to step in for Devonport Folk Club stalwart Roger Giles, who is unwell.

MPI staff were on-site advising people to dump any fruit in bins provided before leaving.

That didn't dull an upbeat atmosphere that culminated with dancing to Grassby's set.

After Auckland Council was unable to connect power to the library, Devonport Folk Club's Paul Jonson stepped in with a generator and curated the sound.



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**Lynda Betts** 021 278 3024

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# Benjamin the cat sculpture takes shape

Two years after Devonport Library cat Benjamin died, a sculpture paying homage to the feline celebrity is nearing completion.

Benjamin lived at the library for almost a decade, and could often be seen assisting patrons.

Former librarian Fiona Startup has been creating the sculpture as a labour of love, and has now sent a clay cast to Richard Wells of Artworks foundry.

Wells, the project's major sponsor, is giving his time and doing the work for a fraction of the true cost.

He will make a silicone mould, which is then used to make a wax of the original sculpture. It is the first step in the process of casting a

bronze from a clay sculpture.

Startup will get a separate mould made of the pile of books he will be sitting on, then combine the two for the final casting in bronze.

She has applied to Auckland Council's land-use advisory panel for permission to put the sculpture in Windsor Reserve. The panel will make a recommendation to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board about approval.

Fundraising of \$4500 was done through a Givealittle page, a Vic Theatre screening of *A Street Cat Named Bob* and a donation from the North Shore Library Foundation. Startup is talking to a potential sponsor for the stone plinth on which the sculpture will sit.

She is keen to use a child's sketch from a memories book, (in the library after Benjamin died in January 2017), as part of the sculpture, and wants to find the artist to seek permission.

**On his way... A clay cast ready for the foundry (right), with a steel support at the neck, which will not be part of the final sculpture. Anyone who knows the creator of Adorable Benjamin (left), please contact the Flagstaff. Phone 09 445 0060.**



## THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### From the Shore to Wellington

Ceremonial duties in Waitangi were the first official assignment for the new Commanding Officer of HMNZS Wellington.

Lieutenant Commander Tim Hall, from the North Shore, was pleased to get to sea again and take part in Waitangi Day celebrations.

"While it's been a long time since I went to sea, I'm keen to get stuck in," he says. "We have a busy first half of this year starting with Waitangi and I'm looking forward to it all."

"Command of a ship is unlike anything else and brings together so many different aspects of team leadership," he says. "I'm looking forward to that multi-disciplinary function, bringing it all together. And I'm also keen to see what has changed since I was last at sea."

LTCDR Hall (37) began his Navy career 14 years ago as a hydrographer - quite by chance.

After graduating from Rangitoto College, he did a four-year conjoint Arts and Science degree at the University of Auckland, followed by working at the



university as a customer Services adviser while he decided on his future path.

"I was working at a Careers Expo Day on campus as an usher and on a break I wandered around the expo and saw the Navy careers stand," he says. "I asked what I could do in the Navy with my degree, which included a major in marine science, and they recommended hydrography."

"They are kind of related, although marine science is the interdisciplinary study of the sea and hydrography is about the physical aspects - the seabed

and water column especially as it affects ship navigation."

"Global sea-level changes affect depths around the world and cause tidal changes... so hydrography in the Navy has become even more important."

LTCDR Hall started in the maritime survey team and spent 18 months as the last Commanding Officer for the Hydrographic Unit before it was merged into HMNZS Matataua in the new Littoral Warfare Capability merger.

He then spent two-and-a-half years working as Littoral Warfare Capability Manager in Wellington and completing the Lead Capability and Major Fleet Unit Command Courses, after getting news of his appointment as Commanding Officer for HMNZS Wellington.

"Command of a ship is significant for anyone and is pretty special," he says. "When you're in this environment you see Captains coming and going and it seems like every couple of months there's a change of command. But worldwide, it's not really that many people; it's a pretty unique opportunity."

**Congratulations? Thanks?  
Problems? Complaints?**

DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE TEL 445 5002



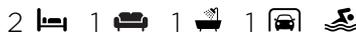
**NAVY**  
TE TAUA MOANA O AOTEAROA



**Devonport** Apt 103 Devon Park/45 Stanley Point Road

**Waterfront apartment – beautiful!**

You will love the close, ever-changing views from this spacious apartment in the west wing of fabulous Devon Park. Constantly changing activity on the harbour, magical city lights at night – be entranced; all from your own sheltered conservatory. A brilliant grandstand view for the future America’s Cup activities and ten minutes by ferry to the CBD. Our vendors are reluctantly relocating back overseas; this apartment is definitely for sale!



**Price by Negotiation**  
**Phone for viewing times**

**Prue de Bie** 021 521 242  
prue.debie@bayleys.co.nz

BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, DEVONPORT, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



**By Rob Drent**

I literally stumbled onto the Tupuna Maunga Authority hui at Maungauika/North Head last week. Walking along Victoria Rd, I learned online that the authority’s first meeting of the year – and the first since it took over the management of the mountain – was to be held at the summit barracks in 20 minutes.

It was a golden opportunity missed by the authority for a bit of easy PR with Devonport locals. Although a photo was taken, it was a shame the occasion wasn’t marked in a more significant way.

It was my first authority hui, and I would encourage others to attend if they have the chance. Perhaps some of the fear that a marauding invader has entered our midst would disappear.

After years of proven neglect under the Department of Conservation – the \$409,000 bill for deferred maintenance and 3000 hours of labour it must still put in under the management transfer deal, are testament to that – Maungauika is in more caring hands. Our mountains will be better protected and maintained by an authority charged solely with that purpose.

Some remain concerned that there could be more commercialisation of the mountains. On the surface, in the initial changeover at Maungauika there was no push in that direction. But close attention needs to be paid when the

pressures of the America’s Cup and other events come to bear.

I had hoped the authority would take a more proactive approach in involving the wider community, and it has done so already: meetings have been held with weed-control and rat-trapping groups, and a family fun day is planned for March.

The change of status and correct naming of Devonport mountains seems to have slipped past map designers at Auckland Transport.

On a new Devonport map outside the ferry building, Takarunga/Mt Victoria is labelled Mount Victoria Reserve and Maungauika/North Head as North Heads (sic) Historic Reserve.

As a small band venue, the Vic Theatre stage is difficult to beat. And so it was when bluegrass quintet The Lonely Heartstring Band played to a capacity crowd earlier this month. Swelled by folkies from the Kiwigrass Festival in Hamilton the weekend before, there was a good smattering of locals as well, including Victoria Theatre Trust co-chair Margot McRae.

It must be heartwarming for her to see the venue doing what the trust visualised: entertain a crowd.

Still no publicly announced progress from the police on finding the shooters who injured a woman with a slug pellet in the New World car park.

Surely it can’t be that hard to track down a couple of kids with a slug gun.



Boundary lines are indicative only

**Devonport 34A Oxford Terrace**

**Distinctive design - premium location**

Tucked privately away this unique home is located two houses back from Cheltenham Beach. Perfectly positioned and sheltered from the hustle and bustle but within walking distance of everything Cheltenham offers. An abundance of glass bathes the home in natural light, while the crisp, neutral décor enhances the sense of space. The sun-soaked outdoor living area is the perfect spot to unwind. There’s an enviable lifestyle on offer here and plenty of versatility too, with the property perfect as a permanent residence, a holiday retreat or an idyllic place to work from home. Homes of this calibre, in this most sought-after of spots, are seldom available. Contact me today for more information.

bayleys.co.nz/1470231



**Tender (unless sold prior)**  
Closing 4pm, Wed 13 Mar 2019  
83 Victoria Road, Devonport  
**View** Sat/Sun 12-12.45pm  
or by appointment

**Lynda Betts** 021 278 3024  
lynda.betts@bayleys.co.nz

BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, DEVONPORT, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



# Harcourts

**NEW LISTING**



**Devonport 2/175 Victoria Road**

2 1 1 1

**Entry Level-Fantastic Devonport**  
A golden opportunity to own a great 2 bedroom home very close to the Devonport Village. Drenched in sun, north facing deck for entertaining, views of city skyline and Mt Victoria. This is a perfect home for young professionals or perhaps those looking for a lock and leave. There is potential to add value if you like.

**For Sale \$859,000**  
**View Sun 1.00 - 1.45 pm**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22283](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22283)

**Phil Clark**  
M 021 940041 P 09 446 2125  
phil.clark@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**FINAL WEEK**



**Devonport 2/17 Albert Road**

3 2 2 1 3

**Seriously For Sale**  
• Our vendor knows the market has changed  
• Her future plans rely on this sale  
• Such a pretty home with so much to offer  
• Enjoy an income and easy walk to the Village.  
• Renovated and ready, serious buyers wanted!

**Tender**  
Closes Tuesday 26th February 2019, 4pm.  
Devonport office (unless sold prior)  
**View As Advertised**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22269](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22269)  
**Jackie Mark & Jane Hastings**  
M 021 458 797 & 021 735 263  
jackie.mark@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**OPEN HOME**



**Devonport 13 Aramoana Ave**

3 1 1 1 1

**Charming From The Kerb**  
Picture perfect from the front and packed with future potential inside! This spacious and sunny bungalow has good sized bedrooms, under house storage/workshop plus a separate sleepout. Perfect to live in now with an eye to putting your own stamp on it in the future.

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
**View Sunday 1-1.30pm**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22286](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22286)  
**Matt Hunt & Maria Stevens**  
M 0274 902 555 & 021 979 084  
matt.hunt@harcourts.co.nz  
M 021 979 084  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Belmont 2/191 Lake Road**

2 1 1 1

**Affordable Little Gem**  
Calling all first time buyers, retirees, investors and bargain hunters. This large unit separated by garages, recently repainted and new carpet installed. Reap the benefits by landscaping the exclusive use section which is ideal for kids and pets. Realistic Trustees say SELL!

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
**View As Advertised**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22259](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22259)  
**Jackie Mark & Jane Hastings**  
M 021 458 797 & 021 735 263  
jackie.mark@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**NEW LISTING**



**Torbay 50 Cliff Road**

5 3 2 1 2

**Cliff Top Oasis, Flexible Living**  
Perched atop the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf, surrounded by birdlife and mature native trees, this grandstand position in arguably the best street in Old Torbay not only offers peaceful seaside living with stunning views but also captures the added bonus of multiple living options. Call now to view.

**For Sale** Set Date Of Sale Closes at 4pm  
Wednesday 13 March 2019  
**View** As advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22276](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22276)  
**Victoria Mules & Jemma Glancy**  
M 021 679 349 & 021 246 5300  
victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Belmont 36 Alamein Ave**

3 1 1 1 2

**1303sqm Of Land...Plus A House!!!**  
A beautiful piece of prime land with plenty of potential here for developers looking for location and opportunity. On the other hand if you are looking for a home/project there is a sizable house which was built in the 60's and been left in a time warp! Small peeps of the city and Waitakeres can be had from the lounge. There will not be any open homes, so call Maria.

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
**View** By appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22256](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22256)  
**Maria Stevens**  
M 021 979 084 P 09 446 2111  
maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



# Harcourts

**NEW LISTING**



**Devonport 9 Ewen Alison Avenue**

5 2 2 1 2

## The Romance Of A Classic 1882 Victorian Villa

A classic Victorian villa originally built in 1882 by a ship’s carpenter which has been extended and loved over the past century. A family home full of happy memories with the current owners having lived here for over thirty-four years. They say they love the feel of the home. It’s sunny, light and airy, it’s so central to the village and ferry to the CBD, a must when they bought the home - it just works! The main home consists of four bedrooms, two wonderful living areas, bathroom, and second w/c in the separate laundry. Set among charming gardens at the front and the rear, all positioned in a quiet street which is what many family buyers are looking for. Off-street parking and a single garage plus another driveway to park the boat or trailer are very rare in central Devonport.

## Tender

Closes Tuesday 5th March at 4:00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** Sat/Sun 3-3.30pm, Twilight 28th Feb 6-7pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22282](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22282)

### Gary Potter

M **021 953 021** P **09 446 2106**  
 gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz



### Glenice Taylor

M **021 943 021** P **09 446 2112**  
 glenice.taylor@harcourts.co.nz  
 Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**NEW LISTING**



**Devonport 32 Abbotsford Terrace**

4 2 1 1

## Immaculate Village Bungalow

Abbotsford Terrace is a quiet street that only the locals know, tucked away close to the village with a safe, family friendly vibe. No 32 sits on a corner site with a pretty cottage garden at the front entrance welcoming you to the beautifully renovated bungalow. Many original features still remain with the gorgeous bay window, wooden floors and original ceilings. Our owners have further enhanced this lovely home with a brand new roof, new family bathroom, Rinnai gas hot water and gas central heating. The sunny back deck is perfect for entertaining and leads down to the raised vegie gardens and shed with room for the trampoline. Pack your bags and get ready for the move.

## Auction

On site Sunday 10th March at 2.00pm (USP)  
**View** Sat/Sun 2-2.30pm, Twilight 27 Feb 5.30-6pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22246](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22246)

### Gary Potter

M **021 953 021** P **09 446 2106**  
 gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz



### Glenice Taylor

M **021 943 021** P **09 446 2112**  
 glenice.taylor@harcourts.co.nz  
 Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008





# Harcourts



**Belmont 38 Seacliffe Ave**

4 3 2 2 1

## Big Family Home In Grandstand Location

What better way to start 2019 than with this wonderful family home? Relax on the upstairs deck admiring the outstanding view of the Hauraki Gulf while the kids frolic in the pool. Large families, blended families, young and old can all be accommodated in this wonderfully big home. Built over two levels there are bedrooms, bathrooms and living areas on both floors and it even has a lift if members of the family struggle with the stairs. The accommodation is flexible so put the house to the test and see how you fit. Originally a brick and tile home this house has been extended over the years with solid masonry giving you the confidence that it has been built to last. This is a home for entertaining so be the envy of your friends and secure this incredible location with front row seats.

## Auction

On site, Sunday 17 March at 11am (unless sold prior)  
**View** Saturday & Sunday 12 - 12.30pm  
 Twilight viewing Wednesday 6 March 6.30 - 7pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22254](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22254)

### Gary Potter

M **021 953 021** P **09 446 2106**  
[gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz)



### Glenice Taylor

M **021 943 021** P **09 446 2112**



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96 Hillside Rd, Glenfield, Auckland  
Hours: 8 - 5 weekdays

## Money available to deal to 'weediest volcanic cone' reputation

Maungauika/North Head may soon shake off its reputation as Auckland's weediest cone. "Good operational dollars," to fund weed control, track maintenance and some tunnel improvements is available, Tupuna Maunga Authority operations manager, Nick Turoa, told an authority hui last week.

Turoa, who used to work on the mountain for the Department of Conservation (DoC), was asked by authority member Malcolm Paterson if there was sufficient budget to make inroads into the weeds.

A one-off transfer of \$409,500 to Auckland Council had been made by the Crown in recognition of deferred asset-maintenance costs on the mountain. DoC will also continue to cover maintenance costs on Maungauika for two years from 1 July 2019, at a value of \$120,000 per year and 1500 staff hours per year.

Turoa said a volunteer weeding group was also operating. While the DoC money was for a set term, Auckland Council had recognised the need for extra funding in its long-term plan, Turoa said.

## America's Cup implications for North Head

The safety and logistics concerns posed by the thousands of visitors expected to flock to Maungauika/North Head to watch the next America's Cup will be high on the agenda of the Tupuna Maunga Authority.

Authority chair Paul Majurey told its hui last week that he understood the America's Cup course would form a triangle between Rangitoto, Maungauika and Orakei.

Authority operations manager Nick Turoa said the racing in 2020 would have major implications for the mountain, already one of the most visited reserves in New Zealand.

Auckland Council governance director Phil Wilson said the response to an event the size of the America's Cup would be coordinated across a number of council departments.

Key aspects the Maunga Authority will consider include the access of emergency services to the mountain, protection of the mountain from damage and the frequency or appropriateness of any events suggested for the mountain.

## Fire precautions to fore on mountains

With fires raging in the Nelson area, the Tupuna Maunga Authority has been working to ensure safety on its volcanic cones and for neighbours of Auckland maunga.

Recent measures have included:

- A review by police and fire services of safety procedures on mountains.
- Notifications to neighbours of a fire ban on maunga boundaries.
- Creating firebreaks.
- Trimming back foliage and grass in dry areas.

## Historic protection continues on Maungauika

The best uses for the historic Stone Kitchen and Summit Barracks on the top of Maungauika/North Head will be investigated by the Tupuna Maunga Authority.

The authority, which took over the running of the mountain from DoC on 18 January, has asked its managers to draft a proposal for the use of both the listed historic buildings.

The Stone Kitchen has been used as a cultural interpretation centre, and this is DUE to continue. However, the barracks have no set use at the moment, except for the occasional meeting.

## North Head community day planned

A Maungauika / North Head community day is planned for 30 March.

It will include a treasure hunt for kids, weed clearing, a pest-trapping demo and a sausage sizzle.

**BAYSWATER SENIORNET**

**COMPUTERS FOR ADULTS**  
135 Bayswater Avenue

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**WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY**  
10.00 am or 1.00 pm

**SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY**  
10.00 am or 1.00 pm

**You are invited to attend any one of these four sessions**

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- 4 A friendly, welcoming atmosphere

**And for further information try our website**  
[seniornetbayswater.nz](http://seniornetbayswater.nz)

# Local mystery... Maunga meeting makes history



**Historic occasion... Tupuna Maunga Authority members and staff on Maungauika/North Head last week for their first hui since the authority took over management of the mountain in January**

A historic first meeting of the Tupuna Maunga Authority on Maungauika/North Head was held last week with little fanfare.

It was the authority's 43rd hui, and its first of 2019, but also the first since it took over management of the mountain on 18 January.

But publicity surrounding the meeting was

poor, with no notification locally. It appears that while the hui time and date were published, the venue was changed late in the day.

The Flagstaff only found out about it 20 minutes prior, after Auckland Council member Cathy Casey, who sits on the authority, put the agenda up on Facebook.

A couple of members of the public turned up,

but no one from Devonport.

Although authority chair Paul Majuery and other members noted the occasion formally at the hui, member Karen Wilson wondered if there was sufficient understanding about the "positive" changeover, a "celebratory occasion". "We should be celebrating this moment of what we are doing here," Wilson said.



**TORPEDO BAY  
NAVY MUSEUM**

# Craft + Day

## at the Navy Museum



Saturday  
23 February  
10am - 2pm  
*free admission*





Join  
us and share  
your latest craft  
project  
**14+**



# Harcourts



**Devonport 5 Aramoana Avenue**

2 2 1 2

**A Home With A Difference!**

- Two minor dwellings linked with a laundry
- Almost 60 years of ownership coming to an end
- 531m<sup>2</sup> freehold section
- Original cottage in the front
- 1970s Lockwood extension at the rear
- Intrigued? Call us to view today!

**Tender**  
Closes Tuesday 12th March 2019, 4pm.  
18 Clarence St, Devonport. (USP)  
**View As Advertised**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22244](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22244)  
**Jane Hastings & Jackie Mark**  
M 021 735 263 & 021 458 797  
jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**NEW LISTING**

**Devonport 33 Summer Street**

3 2 2 1

**Unexpected And Exciting Opportunity!**  
A beautifully renovated transitional bungalow in a premium location has unexpectedly become available for sale. The owners have seen another home that will better suit their needs and therefore require some action!

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
**View As Advertised or by Appointment**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22288](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22288)

**Diana Murray**  
M 021 911522 P 09 446 2115  
diana.murray@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**AUCTION TUESDAY**

**Bayswater 61 Bayswater Ave**

3 2 1 2

**The Good Life In Bayswater**  
This lovely home offers 3 bedrooms, including master with ensuite, a family bathroom, formal lounge with a beautiful ornate lead-light bay window plus perfect flow from the open plan kitchen/dining to an entertainers deck and established back garden. With the bonus of a sleepout/home office separate to the main house, there is so much on offer in this charming home.

**Auction**  
On site, Tuesday 26th February at 6.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View As Advertised**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22274](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22274)  
**Vic Mules & Jemma Glancy**  
M 021 679 349 & 021 246 5300  
victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 1 Achilles Cres**

4 2 1 1 2

**First Move In 24 Years!**

- Priced to sell - true value for money here
- Large family home, perfect for entertainers
- Love the pool, the spa and the short walk to NN Beach
- Perfect for kids, they can walk to school
- Compliant, solid, reliable, well maintained
- What more could you ask for?

**For Sale**  
\$1,499,000  
**View As Advertised**  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP9924](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP9924)

**Jane Hastings & Jackie Mark**  
M 021 735 263 & 021 458 797  
jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**OPEN HOME**

**Devonport 1/47a Vauxhall Road**

2 1 1 1 2

**Cute As A Button & Must Be Sold!**  
Move straight in - This renovated 2-bedroom free standing brick & tile house with views of Mt Victoria is the perfect package for buyers looking to downsize, families looking for a first home or an investor looking for a low maintenance ready to rent property in a fantastic position.

**For Sale** \$995,000  
**View** Sunday 11.00 - 11.30am  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22222](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22222)  
**Matt Hunt**  
M 0274902555 P 09 446 2130  
matt.hunt@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 40a Aramoana Ave**

**Section Alert!!**

- Bare land rarely available in Devonport
- Design & build your new dream home
- Alternatively plans already prepared by Landmark Homes
- Resource consent granted & services in place

**For Sale** \$775,000  
**View** By Appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22229](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22229)

**Peter Restall**  
M 021 808 808 P 09 446 2114  
peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



# Harcourts



**Devonport 3 Derby Street**

3 1 1 2

**Race Off To Derby!!**

Take a tip from me.....a solid brick home in a premium location, on a large piece of land with the opportunity to add value is an absolute winner! Be the first one over the finish line and secure your future here.

**For Sale**

By Negotiation  
View As Advertised or by Appointment  
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22263

**Diana Murray**  
M 021 911522 P 09 446 2115  
diana.murray@harcourts.co.nz  
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 7 Merwood Lane**

4 2 2 1 4

**Large Home, What A Location!**

This is very special to the market, a large home on a 751m2 section set amongst an enclave of four other homes surrounded by native bush which is home to Pukeko's, Tui's and lots of other native wildlife. Amazing views to the inner harbour and Auckland Harbour Bridge providing a day and night vista rarely available. Start your family memories now.

**For Sale \$1,355,000**

View By Appointment or As Advertised  
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22265

**Gary Potter**  
M 021 953 021 P 09 446 2106  
gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz  
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 21 Lake Road**

4 3 2 2 2

**Vendor Instructions To Sell**

A clear mandate has been issued by the Vendor to present all offers for this exceptional, immaculately presented modern spacious home. Genuine expectations to meet the market.

**For Sale**

By Negotiation  
View By Appointment  
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP9774

**Peter Restall**  
M 021 808 808 P 09 446 2114  
peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz  
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 2/18 Mays Street**

2 1 1 1 1

**Waterfront At The End Of The Road!**

A very rare find! A lovely unit in a fabulous exclusive quiet street. Sitting on a right of way site with lawns back and front this home is private and peaceful. A view of the lawn and garden can be had from the lounge. The separate kitchen that overlooks the garden on the opposite side has plenty of room and cupboards. Great location, super entry level opportunity to Devonport, view now!

**For Sale \$785,000**

View By appointment  
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP9973

**Maria Stevens**  
M 021 979 084 P 09 446 2111  
maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz  
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd  
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**Devonport 4 Ngataranga Road**

5 4 3 2

**Spacious Contemporary Living**

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peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz  
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**Devonport 29b Hemi Street**

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Are you after a well-constructed large family home with double garage & separate granny flat? Then here we go, this free hold semi-detached property has so much on offer with its flexible floor plan & amazing location at the cul de sac end of this blue-ribbon street & only minutes from Narrow Neck beach, fantastic schools, cafe's & so much more.

**For Sale**

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View Sunday 12-12.30 or by appointment  
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# Go Gull! Devonport too often clogged up with objections

When I first heard that Gull was considering a service station in Vauxhall Road, my elation at a sense of modernity and progress in Devonport was quickly trounced by the inevitable vision of shroud-wavers, frothing at the mouth that 'their' Devonport should actually get a (drum roll) 'service station.'

Sure enough Matt Meikle and Trish Deans (Flagstaff, 8 February) were fast off the mark with everything from queues, safety, congestion, required planting, choke points, stranded emergency services, children and dogs under threat, and the icing on the cake... brand versus streetscape. Really? I am surprised that the intrepid duo didn't pitch in plagues of locusts and the sea turning red to bolster their flimsy arguments.

It seems every time there is a telltale hint of much-needed modernity in the hallowed

precincts of Devonport, the shroud-waving begins, when God knows the area desperately needs competition and efficiency to add to its halcyon lifestyle.

The proposed Gull Service station is a much-needed addition to the only petrol station on offer to local residents (BP in Lake Road), whose charges and service are less than competitive.

I am familiar with, and regularly use Gull Service stations in Birkenhead and Glen Eden (when visiting my granddaughter), the latter in a horrendously busy (and narrow-road) shopping centre, and in each case have failed to notice the supposed choking and congestion as detailed by Meikle.

In fact, the technology Gull uses is superb in terms of getting in, filling up, and leaving without all the accompanying claptrap used

in rival services (Coffee? Pie? Sandwiches?). Not to mention waiting to be served.

The speed of use with Gull technology actually precludes the supposed traffic build-up that is being claimed. And as for Deans painting a "vast open space", well words fail me.

For too long, Devonport has been subjected to pettifogging objections that waste time and energy. To provide examples: The Masonic Tavern, Devonport Wharf, Ryman Healthcare village. In fact, it seems anything that does not draw its roots or timbers from the 19th century; even the name William Sanders was objected to for heaven's sake!

I for one warmly applaud Gull for seeking to open a service station in Devonport, and can promise the company I will be their first and always customer. **Barry O'Connor**

## Light-rail frustration

Do a search on Google Images for "Light Rail Auckland" and all these very visually pleasing images appear. Can someone please explain what light rail will do, that buses do not already fulfil.

So they want to dig up roads and lay rail. What happens to a bicycle or motorcycle or motor scooter when they go over these rails and they have their front wheel 'tracked' in a direction they don't really want to go. ACC will be haemorrhaging money.

I am not a Rob Drent fan, so when he wants to rip up Lake Rd and promotes trams/light rail (Flagstaff, 8 February), I scream in absolute frustration. However, in his favour, in the very

next sentence he promotes electric scooters. Now he is getting closer to an Auckland Transport solution.

Why don't we make motorcycle and motor scooter annual licensing a quarter of what it currently is, and encourage Aucklanders out of their cars and onto motorcycles. Congestion gone. We don't want to be an India or a China or a Thailand, but they have perfected motorcycle transport in high-population areas. Remember, cycles and motorcycles don't normally collide with each other, they collide with cars. The current cost of motorcycle annual licensing is prohibitive and needs an urgent review.

**Ian Cunningham**

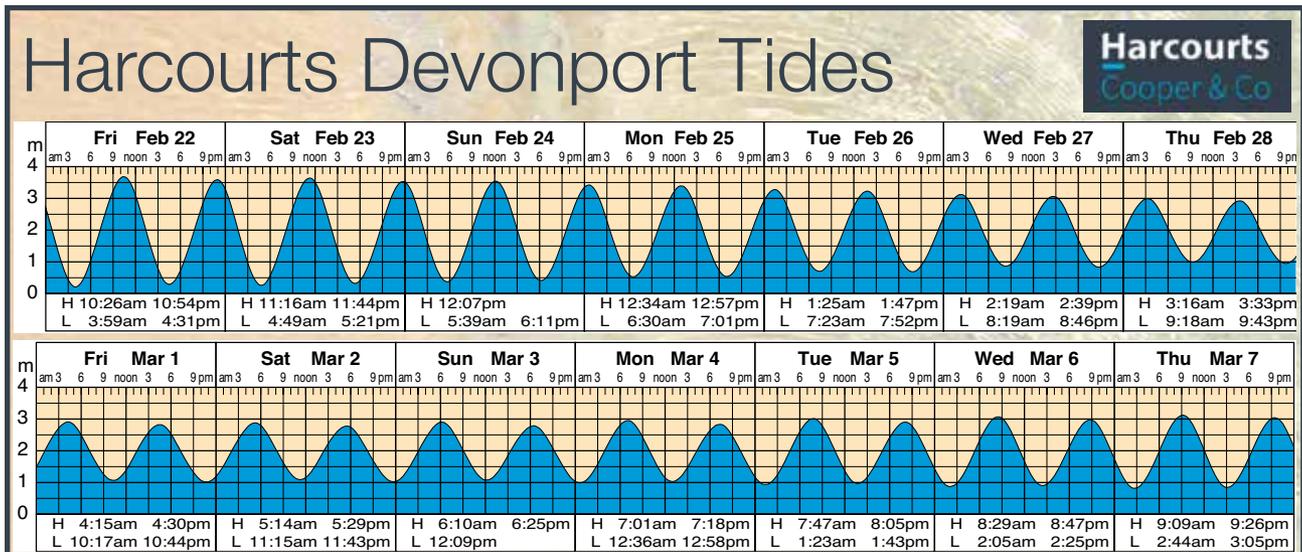
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# Real way to kill a great bus service

1. Think up a brilliant new half-hourly all-day seven-day service on an established but sparsely-serviced route.
2. Do very little pre-publicity.
3. Set up the local e-shuttle service to start on the same day in the same area.
4. Change the timetable almost immediately, so that all information at the bus stops is useless.
5. Have a "Real Time Board" so unreal that its destinations do not match the buses, its route numbers do not match the routes, and its times do not match the timetable.
6. Have bus stops that are unmarked or incorrectly marked and/or full of parked cars.
7. Find that as a result of all this, no one is using the buses, and the drivers are so bored that they zone out and start to drive straight

past the bus stops.

8. Cancel the service because it is uneconomical.

The 806 service from Devonport Wharf to Stanley Point started at the end of September last year. This is a short, simple bus route – from the wharf, up the main road, turn left at Calliope and go straight to the end of the line. Turn, and come back. So simple, yet so bungled.

Auckland Transport could remedy this situation easily, if it really does want people to use public transport. But they have known about the unreal real-time board since early November and they still haven't fixed that. So I'm not holding my breath for anything else – except to wait for point 8 to come true. It won't be long, I fear.

**Miriam Beatson**

## Devonport: the winners and the losers

Living in Devonport during a balmy summer, with all our lovely beaches, the volcanic cones, the parks, the golf course, the cafes and bars, makes us all winners.

This summer reminds me of our childhood summers decades ago: long and hot. At Stanley Bay wharf, the local young people are bombs away, and local kids are socialising under the watchful eye of eight spy cameras. At least that activity remains there for our youth, without all the health-and-safety clowns involved.

Getting on the road in or out of Devonport is for the unfortunate, and that makes us losers in Devonport. I battled through the other day, and got up to Whangaparaoa to find the three-lane flash median system finally in use, allowing free flow of traffic in the busiest direction.

We can have such a system here, too. It's a no-brainer. It can be on the same road we have now. I dread to think what shambles Auckland Transport has got in mind for us instead.

As for the road users: sadly, half of you are half asleep on the roads, often not keeping left and leaving six car lengths between cars in traffic jams. Some of you have not calculated the size of the traffic jam that 100 cars can create with six free car lengths ahead because you're daydreaming. Worse still, you're often limp when the lights go green, and only three cars get through one cycle. These people also think they are courteous and they habitually slam on the anchors in the middle of nowhere to let others in. These people are redefining the road rules as they please in the cause of being polite, while not seeing that they are causing massive jams on Lake Rd.

Wait your turn, go fast when it comes, that is the only way out in this city, unless you fancy spending half your life on Lake Rd. Anyhow, enough of that lost cause.

The biggest losers of the year in Devonport have to be those who value the environment and heritage values imposed by council to ensure our special place on this earth is not trashed

by greed and oversized, out-of-character development.

The decades it took to set in place rules that avoided these outrageous developments occurring have been wasted by our council leaders and our MP who promoted or appeared to agree with such antics, by allowing giveaway land deals.

Devonport was historically a place where people acted to protect the things we value. Our paper always fought the issues. Perhaps there is a new generation that doesn't mind environmental vandalism, or is just too lazy to speak out.

It's like the age of robots. None of us really want service stations without human service, as we will get in Vauxhall Rd, totally out of character in our community. We won't be getting cheaper gas either.

Devonport is as special a place as anywhere on this earth. It's worth preserving what we value and upholding the rules. Our politicians need to be held to account for flouting the rules as do our council people, now almost invisible, dead silent and useless.

**Ron Dykman**

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OUT & ABOUT

**Maria Teape** Community Coordinator  
445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatr.nz

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KIDS ATHLETICS SERIES

**Tuesdays, 19 Feb – 26 Mar, 4pm-6pm**  
**Vauxhall Sports Reserve (rugby club grounds)**  
Kids aged 5ish to 11ish can have a go at a variety of athletic activities for free in a non-competitive environment including high jump, long jump, running races, agility games and more.  
**For more info contact Maria or Carolyn ph: 445 9533 or maria@devonportpeninsulatr.nz**

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE & KIDS MARKET

**Friday 8 March 7:00pm-9:00pm**  
**and Saturday 9 March 12:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Takarunga Playcentre, 1/26 Kerr St, Devonport**  
Takarunga Playcentre's annual pre-loved clothing sale fundraiser with good quality babies, children and adult clothes and a kids market: a market for kids, run by kids! Clothes donations are welcome.  
**All enquiries please contact Hadassah on 020 4138 5573. To RSVP and follow the event, visit their Facebook page. Cost: Friday Preview Sale \$10 (includes refreshment), Saturday Free**

BAYSWATER SENIORMEN OPEN DAYS

**Wednesday 20 February and Saturday 23 February, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
**135 Bayswater Avenue, Bayswater**  
SeniorNetBayswater Inc. brings people over 50 together in a friendly, stress-free way to learn about computers (PC and Mac). Visit one of their open days to find out more about their services.  
**For more info visit their website or contact Neville on 027 414 5208 or by email webmaster@seniornetbayswater.nz. Cost: Free**

SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY MORNINGS

**Tuesdays (@ Windsor Reserve) & Thursdays (@ Bayswater Park) 9:30am – 11:00am**  
A FREE fun time for preschoolers to play with big toys, be active and to make new friends. Bring your toddler and a coffee and enjoy our beautiful parks! Caregiver supervision is required and sessions are weather dependent. **For more info, contact Carolyn or Maria on ph: 445 9533 or email: maria@devonportpeninsulatr.nz**

**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@devonportpeninsulatr.nz](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatr.nz)

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

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## Honour timely after a lifetime in music

Rae Crossley-Croft, a founding member of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, was recognised in the New Year Honours List for her services as a violinist. She tells Helen Vause about her 50-plus years as a professional musician.



**Take a bow... Rae Crossley-Croft combined her career as a violinist with raising a family, teaching and helping found an orchestra**

Back in September last year, Rae Crossley-Croft was at home in Devonport with a painful broken wrist and in recovery from concussion. Was her career over, she wondered? Would she still play her violin? Now well into her 70s, she had gloomy thoughts of retirement after suffering a bad fall.

But a walk to her letterbox one morning brought news that would put a smile on her face for months to come.

Her nomination for the New Year Honours List lay waiting in her mail. She had to keep her news confidential, but it was a “brilliant surprise” that came at just the right time in a musical career of more than half a century.

Her joy at the impending honour and becoming a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZN) lifted her spirits overnight. Recovery continued over summer and recently she’s been able to return to her place with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO) as Principal Emeritus second violin.

“It was wonderful news and it gave me a terrific boost. Of course I couldn’t have just given in and retired then. It would have been so wimpy to go out like that,” she says.

British-born Crossley-Croft has been playing the violin for nearly 70 years. Her love affair with music and her instrument began

when she was very young, in the UK. She was a sickly child with such bad asthma she was often stuck at home. She spent many a morning lying in bed looking out of her window at the bus that was carrying the other kids in her village off to all sorts of fun in their early days in primary school.

“It was awful, and of course my mother was really wondering what to do with me.”

Inspiration came from the family cleaner, who had a violin and was pressed into playing it for the housebound little girl. Crossley-Croft was enchanted and immediately wanted a violin of her own.

Back at school, while the other kids played outdoors, she practised inside, and her talent soon became apparent.

Her primary school years were full of summer music schools and weekend camps, when the young musicians would bunk down in sleeping bags at schools around the UK.

“I played and played. I just loved it and I knew I’d found my passion, even then. I just couldn’t get enough of it.”

She was making her mark early in the music world, regularly winning festival competitions. And although she was flying solo at primary school, at secondary school she had a lot more encouragement and structure as she followed

a path into professional performance and top British youth orchestras.

On weekends, at just 15 years old, she’d be off on a long train ride to London with her violin, high heels and make-up stashed in her bag. She already had the wider world of top-class professional performance in her sights.

She trained to teach in schools, but was barely a couple of years older than her teenage pupils and recalls lacking the skills or the will to manage them.

In her late teens, Crossley-Croft was considering her options when her grandmother fortuitously spotted an advertisement for a new BBC orchestra starting up in Bristol and looking for musicians. Before she knew it, she was accepted into the ranks of its violinists.

Soon after joining the orchestra she met her husband to be, Brecon Carter. He too had started playing violin at six and the pair were destined for eventful and highly successful careers, and later, for many good years, raising their kids in faraway Devonport.

“We were young and we wanted an adventure. We had thought of coming to New Zealand but we found we could get to Australia for ten pounds, so that’s what we did and we were off.

“We arrived in Australia with a hundred

pounds and one suitcase full of all the black stuff we wear when we are playing. That's all we had, but we were young and it was an exciting time."

They both got jobs in the early 70s with the

*"It was hard going in those early days of chasing funding and gaining recognition... But we had a lot of fun too, and lots of parties to cheer ourselves up."*

Sydney Symphony Orchestra. They performed on the opening night of the Sydney Opera House: a marvellous occasion, with an amusing interlude when a possum ran out along the rail behind the conductor, stopping midway, entranced by the music or caught in the glare of the stage lights. It made a great story for many a tour guide and Crossley-Croft likes to say, "I was there that night".

The Sydney years weren't all high notes for Crossley-Croft though. The couple had four children fairly close together, leaving her little time for her beloved violin amidst a

hectic family life.

New Zealand beckoned and Carter took a job with the then Symphonia of Auckland. The family arrived here 40 years ago on Anniversary Day, with their children aged from three to eight years – Zoe, Rowan, Sean and Mia. Devonport looked like their sort of place, and they eventually made their family home in First Avenue, Stanley Point.

Crossley-Croft auditioned successfully too. But the new jobs were very short-lived. The orchestra went abruptly into liquidation and the musicians had to fall back on their own ingenuity.

They had plenty of that, says Crossley-Croft, and propped up by dole money, some of the former orchestra banded together to perform wherever they could. She remembers concerts in rest homes, prisons, hospitals and a popular series of cushion concerts in Devonport.

They'd been the only musicians with children in the orchestra and childminding always cut through a chunk of their budget.

"We'd been very lucky to settle in First Avenue. It was a great neighbourhood and everyone supported each other's families. I got lots of help and that means a lot.

"The kids came with us to the local cushion concerts. They'd be playing snap. No one minded. It was all very laid-back. It was a struggle back then, but we all mucked in and there were lots of good times too."

"But we wanted to start another orchestra. And we wanted it to be a cooperative because we didn't want anyone else putting us into liquidation again. It was going to be a lot of

work, because we'd have to do everything ourselves.

And she was right in the thick of it. From the first days of the APO, she had a hand in shaping what the orchestra has become.

As well as playing her violin, she was on the artistic and auditions committees.

"It was hard going in those early days of chasing funding and gaining recognition. Everyone had part-time jobs and I was somehow fitting in teaching as well as raising kids. But we had a lot of fun too, and lots of parties to cheer ourselves up."

Crossley-Croft has long been a mentor to her many juniors in the APO, and cheerfully accepts her 'mother duck' status, earned through her efforts to keep the troops happy through busy times.

On concert days, and whenever she thinks of it, she'll put chocolates on the chairs of all the musicians to cheer everyone up before the APO launches into another demanding performance. "They put smiles on all the faces in the orchestra."

"I've been front person and I've been bringing up the rear, and I've loved all of it. A musician's life is tough, but it is wonderful too. I have put my whole self into the orchestra."

Crossley-Croft and Brecon Carter are separated, but both still live locally. She says retirement is looming, but she'll be hoping to keep a connection with the orchestra and performance and probably will continue to teach. "I've been very lucky to have had a career doing the thing I love the most."

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2B WATERVIEW ROAD



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#### AUCTION

10:00am 14 Mar 2019 at QBE  
Stadium, Albany (unless sold prior)

#### VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm  
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# DEVONPORT

15A JUBILEE AVENUE

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- 

**TENDER**

Closes on 27th Mar 2019 at 4:00pm  
(unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**

Sat/Sun 11:00-11:45am  
Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/770506](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/770506)



**Ian Cunliffe**  
027 227 9322  
i.cunliffe@barfoot.co.nz  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**Tracey Lawrence**  
021 1720 681  
t.lawrence@barfoot.co.nz  
Devonport 09 445 2010

**MAGNIFICENT IN EVERY WAY**

15A Jubilee Avenue rests on the sunny Western slope of North Head and is set on a full 1,401m<sup>2</sup> freehold site. Accessed via a private driveway, this magnificent double storey character residence has expansive gardens and direct access on to North Head. The views over the inner Waitemata Harbour are absolutely stunning and this iconic Devonport home spans two levels. At ground floor level, there is a studio with second lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The building floor area is approximately 220m<sup>2</sup> and the property displays many traditional and authentic style features together with an opportunity to refurbish and add value. Close to local beaches, parks, boutique cafes, and the CBD ferry service, this is your once in a lifetime chance to secure one of Devonport's premier homes.

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**DEVONPORT 63A ARAMOANA AVENUE**



**FOR SALE**  
 By Negotiation  
**VIEWING**  
 Saturday 2:00-2:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/770225](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/770225)

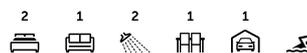
**FAMILY RETREAT OR ENTERTAINERS DELIGHT**

This magnificent contemporary residence, with a nod to traditional, is set towards the end of a cul-de-sac and encapsulates all that is good about modern living. The home has been designed with meticulous attention to detail and is in a league of its own.

  
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 027 227 9322  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

  
**Carol Wetzell**  
 027 245 3392  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

**DEVONPORT 109/45 STANLEY POINT ROAD**



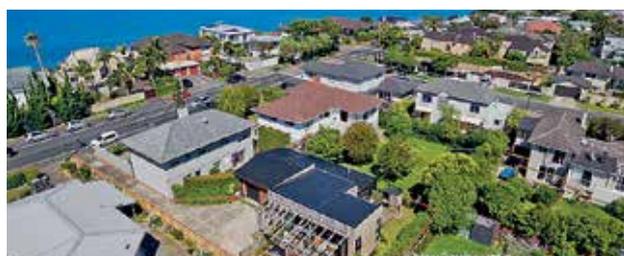
**FOR SALE**  
 By Negotiation  
**VIEWING**  
 Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/769364](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/769364)

**THE GOOD LIFE**

This executive apartment in the highly sought after Devon Park complex is beautifully presented. It has a large open plan lounge, dining area and stunning designer kitchen. Two good size bedrooms both with built in wardrobes plus two top quality new bathrooms. There's solar hot water, a communal swimming pool and good transport links.

  
**Ian Cunliffe**  
 027 227 9322  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

  
**Tracey Lawrence**  
 021 1720 681  
 Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 23 SHOAL BAY ROAD**



**FOR SALE**  
 By Negotiation  
**VIEWING**  
 Sunday 3:00-3:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/769971](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/769971)

**IDYLIC, SUNNY AND SUBSTANTIAL!**

Number 23 has a sunny North Westerly aspect with effortless indoor/outdoor flow to expansive decks and beautifully landscaped private gardens. A real bonus is an expansive second living area at ground floor level which is perfect for family movie nights. Don't miss this one!

  
**Ian Cunliffe**  
 027 227 9322  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

  
**Tracey Lawrence**  
 021 1720 681  
 A/H 09 445 6002  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

**BELMONT 61A SEACLIFFE AVENUE**



**FOR SALE**  
 By Negotiation  
**VIEWING**  
 Sunday 2:00-2:45pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/768904](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/768904)

**SERENITY ON SEACLIFFE**

Eminently suitable to numerous buying tastes, this idyllic architect designed home is in immaculate condition and in a superb location with beaches, boating club, golf course and great local schools close by. Good CBD ferry and road transport links. This home is an entertainers dream and makes wonderful use of living space.

  
**Ian Cunliffe**  
 027 227 9322  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

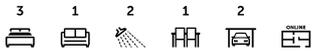
  
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**DEVONPORT 1/24 HEMI STREET**



**TENDER**  
Closes on 27 Feb 2019 at 4:00pm  
(unless sold prior)

**LOCATION IS EVERYTHING!**

Last chance to view this property before the Tender closes.

1/24 Hemi Street is going to be an enticing opportunity to secure a foothold in one of our most sought-after streets, a quiet family friendly cul-de-sac. Just up from Narrow Neck beach, zoned for Belmont Primary, Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar.

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/769766](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/769766)



**Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**Tina Rackley**  
0275 135 870  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 21 HEMI STREET**



**TENDER**  
Closes on 27 Feb 2019 at 4:00pm  
(unless sold prior)

**A RARE FIND IN PREMIUM LOCATION**

Last chance to view before Tender closes!

With great street presence this Bungalow has travelled through time gracefully and has all the ingredients for fabulous family living.

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm  
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**Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**Tina Rackley**  
0275 135 870  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 89 STANLEY POINT ROAD**



**FOR SALE**  
\$3,150,000  
**VIEWING**  
Phone For Viewing Times  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/769805](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/769805)

**STUNNING CITY VIEWS**

Set on approx 1000m<sup>2</sup> with quite possibly the best views of Auckland City and spectacular sunsets!!

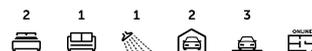
This is a MUST for those looking for a stunning site with magical views to build their dream home!



**Aaron Reid**  
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# Toxins threaten rare seabirds and marine life in bay

A Defence Force report showing toxins from firefighting foams are in the food chain of rare wading birds in Ngataranga Bay has alarmed an environmentalist who studies the birds.

The report investigated earlier evidence that toxins from the historically used firefighting foam were present in groundwater at the navy's training fields at levels averaging 80 times higher than applicable health guidelines.

When that report was released a year ago, under the Official Information Act, the toxins were believed likely to have leaked into nearby Ngataranga Bay, which is used for swimming and boating, as well as being home to the endangered birds.

Consultants took test samples from the bay and found the toxic polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) in all of the samples.

Five of the 11 shellfish and crab samples contained PFAs at levels that could accumulate in the food chain and become poisonous for

birds. "Invertebrates inhabiting the mudflats adjacent to the Sea Safety Training Squadron pose a potential risk to birds that consume them," the report states.

Three mollusc samples had PFAs at levels that should trigger further investigation.

Environmentalist and photographer Philip Moll who monitors birds in the bay, is worried that PFAs will be in the food that shorebirds are eating. "We know we have important local birds, from South Island pied oystercatchers to dotterels and wrybills, to international visitors, such as the godwits, which leave in March for China then Alaska," says the Bayswater Environment Action Committee member.

Ngataranga Bay is identified as a sensitive ecological area in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

The bay's chenier shell middens are important as safe resting places for wading birds and are significant on a world scale.

The endemic Miranda wrybill is only found

in New Zealand. "If toxins get into the food chain of those birds, it is too risky and that was our concern," Moll said.

It appears the navy had produced the report and washed its hands of it, Moll said. "The Navy seems to be saying that's the end, but is that good enough?"

The Defence Force says the results give it a good overall picture and it doesn't consider there is any need for further testing.

A spokesperson said it had asked its consultants to produce a report combining all the results from the testing carried out around Whenuapai and Devonport, and at control sites.

An analysis of its findings set against other international studies into environments where marine biota has been affected by PFAs would "give some context around contaminants in the harbour", the spokesperson said.

The report is expected shortly.

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## Ring-fencing of residential rental losses

On 5 December 2018, draft legislation was introduced by the government to ring-fence tax losses for residential rental properties.

The finer details of this new law are still being thrashed out, but broadly speaking, if you own residential rental property that makes tax losses, then from 1 April 2019 you will no longer be able to offset these against other income sources. Instead, the losses will carry forward and accumulate to be offset against future taxable profits earned from the property.

The impact of this change is mainly a timing difference and investors that are heavily negatively geared will be hit the hardest. Tax losses from residential rental properties can still be used; they are just deferred until a profit is made. Also, the law will work on a portfolio basis, meaning that profits from one property can be offset against losses from another, provided they are owned by the same individual(s) or a common structure.

If you own residential rental property and would like to discuss your options around this new law, get in touch.

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# Pohutukawa go unprotected



**Saw point... An arborist in a tree at the Marine Tce clifftop property where mature pohutukawa were felled**

Concerned neighbours confronted arborists who were cutting down three mature pohutukawa trees on a Bayswater clifftop property, but inquiries showed the trees could be felled without a resource consent.

Architect Tim Merkens contacted the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board on 11 February, asking board members to get the work stopped.

“The trees are beautiful, large, established pohutukawa,” Merkens said by email.

He said his sister had confronted the contractors that day and been told the trees were rotten and had to come down.

The Devonport Flagstaff visited the property and an arborist demonstrated a mite infestation in the trunk of a tree they were felling, and signs of rot in the trunk of another tree that had already been chopped down.

He said pohutukawa trees rot at the roots and boughs, with the trunks last to show signs of decay.

The arborist from Jim’s Tree and Stump Removal said the owner of the Marine Tce property, Kenji Niwa, was worried about safety. Boughs could fall off, or a diseased tree fall over, in high winds.

The arborist had submitted a report and applied for a consent, but correspondence from Auckland Council showed a consent was not needed, as the trees were not protected under the Unitary Plan rules.

An Auckland Council compliance officer told the Flagstaff that council staff had visited the property on 12 February.

They confirmed three pohutukawa were being felled and consents were not needed, as they were outside the special ecological area, and more than 20 metres from the mean high-tide mark, team manager of compliance investigations Kerri Fergusson said in a statement.

Nor were the trees scheduled, so they had no specific protection.

While a notable oak tree that was being pruned was listed, the removal of small shoots of growth was consistent with the Auckland Unitary Plan, Fergusson said.

Merkens was disappointed the trees, which

can grow for hundreds of years, were not covered by a resource consent.

Bayswater environmentalist Philip Moll agreed that while there were sometimes valid reasons to fell trees, a 2012 change to the Resource Management Act, and the provisions of the Auckland Unitary Plan, meant trees had no protection.

Moll has seen many mature trees felled around Bayswater recently, and said there were consequences for rare native birds.

There were morepork in the area, with residents saying they lived in mature oak and macrocarpa trees.

Grey heron living in Shoal Bay relied on tall pine trees for rest and safety when the tide was in. It is not safe for them to be on the bay because of dogs, Moll said.

Compared with other cities, such as Brisbane and Vancouver, where trees are being planted, Auckland now has a low level of tree coverage.

“It doesn’t make sense with all the scientific knowledge. We need trees to hold our cliffs. We need them for shade. We need them for wildlife,” Moll said.

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Devonport  
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Club

*Now welcoming new members!*

**Hi, my name is Gavin Busch and I am the current president of the Rotary Club of Devonport.**

This is the first of what will be a regular column, helping to inform you about what the club is up to, what it has been doing and what projects you may wish to help get involved in.

Devonport Rotary was formed in 1977 and consists of 34 members. We all live locally and come together because we want to be involved in a positive social way in our local community. With a mixture of women and men, we are noted for our friendliness and involvement in both local and international activities and projects. Indeed, many of you probably know one of us.

In past years, club members established and ran the Devonport Food & Wine Festival, which raised almost two million dollars during its 24-year tenure. The majority of this money went back to local groups and facilities.

Members have also been involved in: establishing the Devonport heritage brochures; the restoration of The Vic theatre; and the establishment of the Michael King Writers’ Centre.

We also are active supporting Women’s Refuge with Sculpture OnShore and the establishment of a pump park at Woodall Park.

A lot of people ask me why I joined the club. Not only was it to meet new people and establish friendships, it was to also be involved in and positively contribute to the area. Work-life balance is always a challenge and I encourage everyone to think about how they are involved in the community. If you have time on a Monday evening, drop by and visit us – you never know, you may find it enjoyable and interesting.

**Our next meeting is :**

**25th February at 6.15pm**

Waitemata Golf Club talk from local Terry Baucher on Capital Gains Tax

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# Mighty crash, then power pole down

A loud bang alerted a Kawerau Ave resident to the downing of a power pole on Lake Rd.

A truck hit the pole near the Kings Store shops at 4.20pm on 13 February.

It drove into the pole with a "mighty impact", splitting it, said Terehia Walker, who was getting out of her car at the time.

Walker's first concern was for the driver, who she saw jump out of the cab. She went over to reassure him, and he said he was okay, although he was visibly shaken.

Walker called 111 and a Devonport station fire truck soon turned up to block the road, which was unusually quiet.

The crash took place on the brow of the hill, which Walker said was a hotspot for crashes, including a car that went through her fence, as well as cars rear-ended while parked in the bike lane.

In this case, the truck had a crane hoist that appeared to have brought the power pole down.

Vector confirmed the crash cut power to six houses. Chorus had repaired the pole and reconnected power by 3am the following day.



**Disconnected... Power was cut to six houses when a truck hit a Lake Rd pole**



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### THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION – IMPORTANT MEETING FOR DEVONPORT COMMUNITY

Are you interested in the future of education? I am hosting a public meeting on Friday 8 March, along with National's spokesperson for Education Hon Nikki Kaye, to discuss some of the issues and recommendations of the Government's 'Tomorrow's Schools' Taskforce.

It is one of around 40 being held by National to gauge the concerns of parents and teachers, and listen to their views on education issues. The outcomes will be summarised and included in a submission to the Taskforce, which is why your input into the discussion is so important.

The review has been described as a once-in-a-generation chance to ensure that any changes are the right ones. Issues such as governance, choice, teaching, leadership, resourcing, and disability and learning support are part of the recommendations. The Government will consider whether to close intermediate schools and remove some responsibilities from school boards.

National is particularly concerned about 20 new Crown entities called Education Hubs, which could transfer more

responsibilities from parents to bureaucrats, and we are worried that parents are likely to be disempowered as a result.

With the board of trustees elections coming up in June and July, we believe our public meetings are important to give students, teachers, principals and around 19,000 trustees who sit on school boards – and those who are thinking of standing – an opportunity to be better informed about what's being proposed and to have their voices heard.

The Taskforce has undertaken significant consultation and from feedback we've received, some educators, parents and administrators are not aware of the far-reaching recommendations or their implications, so we hope you will join us for this important conversation about the future of education.

We are interested to listen to your views. Children are very welcome.

Contact 486 0005 for more information.

## Future of Education Public Meeting

**Friday 8 March, 4:00pm–5:30pm**  
Takapuna Grammar School  
210 Lake Road

Please join us for an important conversation about the future of education. The 'Tomorrow's Schools' proposals represent the largest educational changes in more than 30 years and we are interested to hear what you think. This is your opportunity to have your say to the Taskforce so we hope you will join us.



**Hon Nikki Kaye**  
MP for Auckland Central and National's Spokesperson for Education and Sport and Recreation



**Hon Maggie Barry ONZM**  
MP for North Shore and National's Spokesperson for Seniors, Veterans and Associate Health



**ENROLMENTS TERM 2 2019**

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

Applications for 15 out-of-zone places in year 1, 0 in year 2, 2 in year 3, 2 in year 4, 2 in year 5 and 2 in year 6 are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the period 29 April to 2 July 2019.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is 29 April 2019.

If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on 29 April 2019. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

**If you live in the home zone and have not yet signalled your intention to enrol your child later this year, please contact the school immediately to assist us to plan appropriately.**

## Foyer upgrade planned for Victoria Theatre

A major refurbishment of The Vic’s foyer will begin this year.

The Victoria Theatre Trust aims to enlarge and update the foyer to remove congestion points and improve the customer experience.

It decided to focus on foyer improvements after conducting a community assessment survey last year. The survey found there was little support for the nearly \$3 million that will be needed to earthquake-strengthen the building.

The trust will delay seismic-strengthening planning until 2023, when Auckland Council will have funds available from its heritage unit.

“We’re switching our focus to the foyer because, with our audience numbers growing, especially for live and special events, we urgently need to make the foyer work better,”

said trust co-chair Margot McRae.

The work will be done in stages and includes moving the ticket counter and the disabled toilet, and recarpeting the foyer and stairs. The much-valued heritage features will be highlighted in the makeover.

Fellow co-chair Mark Siggelkow said the refurbishment plans are almost finished and he is optimistic work will be started this year.

“We will first install additional acoustic doors to the downstairs theatre, and then use the inner foyer to take the overflow and make more space for people,” he said.

The trust will launch a major fundraising campaign to pay for the works and is hopeful the community will get behind the project.

“We will also apply to large funders like Lotteries and Foundation North, which have given us great support over the years,” he said.

## Friends of the Vic to relaunch

The Friends of the Vic will be re-launched this year.

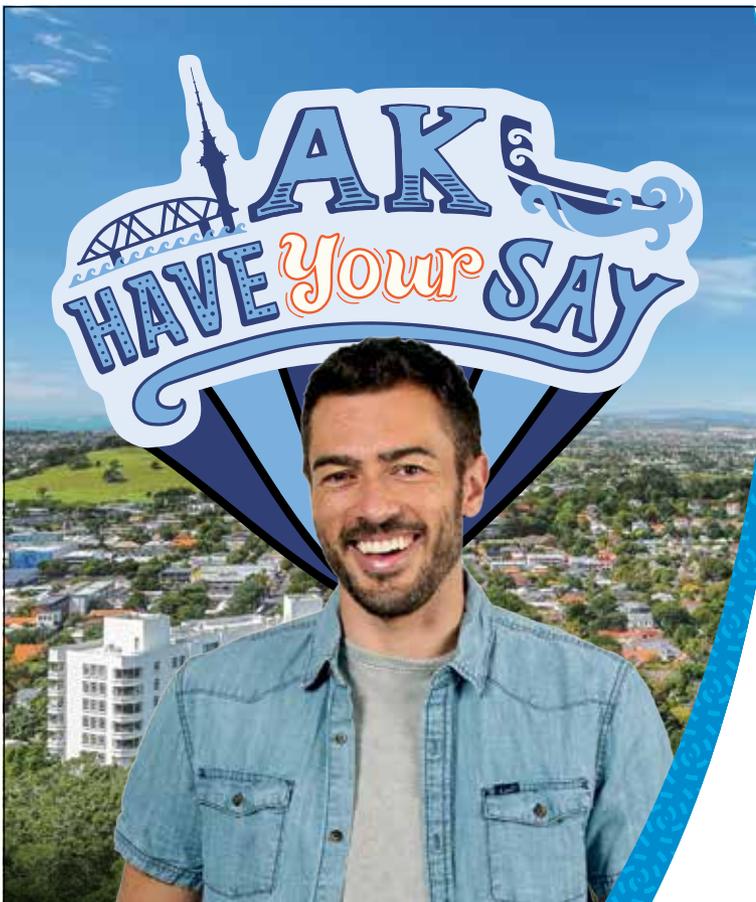
The supporter group for the Victoria Theatre was instrumental in helping the trust raise funds to reopen the venue in 2010.

“The Friends were wonderful back then, not just by giving money but actually clearing out years of rubbish and cleaning the place,” said

Victoria Theatre Trust co-chair Margot McRae.

“We could never have saved and opened the Vic without their support and I’m sure they will still be there for the Vic.”

If you want to become a Friend of The Vic, you can contact the Victoria Theatre Trust at [www.thevic.org.nz](http://www.thevic.org.nz) or by emailing [friends@thevic.org.nz](mailto:friends@thevic.org.nz)



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As Auckland continues to grow and change, we need to look after the waters that sustain us. Help us shape the issues we need to focus on.

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## Back row at the Vic just got cosier



**Cuddle class... Victoria Theatre trustees Libby Boyd (left) and Margot McRae try out one of the new couches to be installed soon**

Saturday night cuddling at the movies could make a comeback from next month, when The Vic installs two-seater couches in the back row of its downstairs cinema.

Twenty-six high-quality, second-hand seats were bought from a Wellington cinema and will complete the seat refurbishment in the cinema's central block. They include eight two-seater couches, which are sure to be in high demand with romantic couples and the young at heart who remember the Drifters' 1962 song, *Saturday Night at the Movies*.

The seats were bought with grants from Pub Charities and the New Zealand Community Trust, as well as donations from locals.

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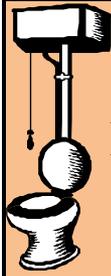
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# THIS MONTH @ the vic



### NEW MOVIES

	RELEASE
STAN & OLLIE (PG) 98 min	21 FEB
VOX LUX (R13) 115 min	21 FEB
CELIA (E) 100 min	28 FEB
SWIMMING WITH MEN (M) 97 min	28 FEB
GRETA (tba) 98 min	28 FEB
EVERYBODY KNOWS (tba) 132 min	28 FEB
ADVANCE SCREENING: CAPTAIN MARVEL	6 MAR
CAPTAIN MARVEL (tba) 128 min	7 MAR
THE PRICE OF EVERYTHING (E) 99 min	7 MAR

### LIVE SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

**SAT 23 FEB**

#### TITLE OF SHOW – 8.00PM

[TITLE OF SHOW]- the musical, performed live at The Vic by local emerging musical talent; Patrick Cunneen, Joshua Downs, Tausala Faulalo, and India Worsnop. Get your tickets now at thevic.co.nz!  
Tickets \$20

**26 FEB -2 MAR**

#### THE UNFOLDING OF BENJAMIN'S MISERY –8.00PM

By Hideto Akasu. An Auckland Fringe Festival Show which carefully interweaves techniques of Clown/Dark Clown, spoken word poetry and physical theatre.  
Reservations: \$5 - additional donations accepted

**SAT 9 MAR**

#### THE NUKES – 12.30PM

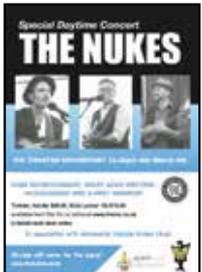
The Nukes are far more than a ukulele band. Part vaudeville, part rat-pack, part musical car crash, this talented trio deliver an engaging mix of humour and originality that audiences of all ages will love.  
Tickets \$20 Adults, \$10 Kids (Under 13)

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**Set Date of Sale**

4:00pm, Thursday 28 February  
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**View**

Sat & Sun 1:00pm - 1:30pm

[rwdevonport.co.nz/DVP20062](http://rwdevonport.co.nz/DVP20062)

Matthew Smith Real Estate Limited Licensed (REAA 2008)



**Petko Petkov**

027 302 0686

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After all, Ray White takes real pride in being the largest SuperGold property partner in New Zealand and we make a point of acknowledging the contributions made by all seniors and veterans to New Zealand society. We are therefore proud to offer a significant discount on our commission, and fully complimentary high-end marketing to all SuperGold card holders who list, and sell, their property through us here in Devonport.

That means we won't charge you a cent for the advertising, photography or the signage we use to get you the best possible price for your house. We will simply provide you with effective and complimentary marketing that you will never have to pay back.

You deserve a great retirement, wherever you decide that's going to be. We'd like to help you achieve that as soon as you're ready. Just pop in to the office for chat. You'll find us in Devonport at 43 Victoria Street, just opposite the Library. Or better still, give one of us a call and we'll be delighted to come out see you.



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Just a few minutes from Devonport village and the city ferry, and close to Cheltenham beach, this home is well located for both city and beach living. It has heaps of space for any family to enjoy - four bedrooms and two modernised bathrooms including the superb master ensuite, and a magnificent lounge to relax in.

Then there's the large modern kitchen/second living overlooking the flat north-facing rear garden with a large lawn. Big windows and bi-fold doors open out across the back of the house for easy indoor/outdoor flow to the deep, perfect-for-entertaining deck.

Underneath the house is a large area where value could be added or use as it is, a workshop and storage for kayaks, bikes and lots more.

It's all set on an easy-care, landscaped section of 580m<sup>2</sup> that takes full advantage of the all-day sun, so you can enjoy all year round outdoor living.

**Auction**

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**View**

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# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

FEB 22, 2019

## Painting drains



The school year started swimmingly for six second-year International Baccalaureate (IB) students. Nadia Veljanovska, Hannah Bewg, Gracie McLeod, Niamh Chalmers, Niko Birchfield and Amelia Price are the artists behind Takapuna Grammar School's latest fishy friend: a jellyfish that is teaching students about an important environmental issue.

All the girls have a passion for art, so they decided

to put their creative abilities to work over the summer holidays for their Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) project. As a part of the IB Diploma Programme, students must complete a CAS project. This is a collaborative, thoughtful series of CAS experiences, engaging students in one or more of the CAS strands of creativity, activity and service.

Nadia states that "painting drains is a great initiative

to help prevent the pollution seen at many local primary schools, and we thought we should carry the idea forward to an older generation."

Hannah explains that the girls are hoping to paint more drains around the school to encourage their peers to litter less and remind them of an important lesson: "only rain down the drain!"

BY AMELIA PRICE

## Title of Show yes, that's the name

The Vic in Devonport is hosting a one-night charity performance on February 23rd of the musical *Title of Show* (yes, that's what it's actually called). *Title of Show* is a musical that tells the story of its own creation. It follows two struggling writers, Jeff and Hunter, and their friends Susan, Heidi and Larry, through the creative process.

The cast is mostly made up of Takapuna Grammar students, including Joshua Downs as Jeff, Patrick Cunneen as Hunter, India Worsnop as Susan and Tausala Faulalo as Heidi. Our students' talent is also shown through director Giorgia Doughty, as well as ex-pupil Gabe Jones, who is assistant director and production assistant. Music director Robert Dil, a teacher at Takapuna Grammar School, also takes on the role of Larry.

The students involved are extremely passionate about both performing and creating a show of their own. Actress India Worsnop says: "It's a really really great opportunity for me. We don't get much of a chance to put on our own production at school, so it's really nice to branch out and do something on our own."

*Title of Show* features some of Takapuna Grammar School's best performers, and all ticket sales will be donated to Music Therapy Centre. This centre helps people with developmental, emotional and physical disabilities to grow and develop through music therapy. Tickets are only \$20, but make sure to get in quick as the show is expected to sell out. You can get your tickets at The Vic or online at The Vic's website.

BY ANYA FRY

the cult hit Broadway musical  
[title of show]  
Music by Stephen Sondheim (yes, that's the name) Lyrics by Michael Mayer  
the vic devonport  
8pm sat  
23 feb  
2019  
tickets on sale now, at  
www.thevic.co.nz

# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

FEB 22, 2019

## TGS Art Department excels



The Art Department at Takapuna Grammar School showed off their talent in 2018 – and have the marks to prove it! Already high expectations were exceeded by scholarship art students, with the department receiving 16 scholarship awards out of the 48 that were awarded to the school across 18 subjects. Four Outstanding Scholar Awards were awarded to students Antonia Kayrouz and Amadeo Barrionuevocy Grosman for Photography, August Ward-Macfehin for Paint and to Tessa Wishart for Art History.

An Outstanding Scholar Award is one of the most prestigious awards a secondary school student can receive. To put this into perspective, across the

entirety of New Zealand only three students were awarded an Outstanding Scholar Award for Art History. Nine students in the country received this award for Painting and nine for Photography. Award winners are given \$2,000 every year for three years, which can be used towards their tertiary studies.

Mr Potter, the teacher involved in Takapuna Grammar's scholarship programme for the Art Department, said that 2018 "shined as one of their best years" and could not have happened without "an amazing cohort of students who were engaged and had excellent relationships with their teachers."

By Serina Mansell

### LITTLE MERMAID SHOW INFORMATION

Sunday 7th April	7:30pm
Monday 8th April	11am (schools matinee)
Monday 8th April	7:30pm
Tuesday 9th April	7:30pm

**TICKET PURCHASING  
DETAILS WILL BE  
RELEASED VERY SOON.  
DON'T MISS OUT!**

## from the Lion's Den

### THE LATEST IN SPORT

**CONNOR GILBERT** won first place in a major USA Snowboarding and Freeski Association (USASA) competition at Copper Mountain, Colorado. He placed first in the 16 and 17-year age group, which is great as he's only 16!

**CALLUM RICHARDS** and **CONRAD BUTLER** recently competed at the world WASZP sailing champs. It was a hugely valuable experience for the boys. There were only seven youth sailors amongst a fleet of 70, most with huge amounts of experience (Volvo Ocean sailors, America's Cup, world and national champs in other classes of boats).

Takapuna Grammar Rowing has had an amazing last few weeks at Lake Karapiro, achieving in the 8 A Finals, 3 B Finals and 3 C Finals. A huge congrats to **EVAN WILLIAMS** who won the Under 17A boys final.

Our 10 beach volleyball pairs did well at the National Secondary School champs this month. Notably, **WILSON LI** and **WILL TWISS** finished ninth in the country for Senior Boys A division, and **ANNA BROWNING** and **JASMINE BRIDGE** won the Junior Girls B division.

Well done to **RILEY MUDFORD** for scoring 156 off 97 balls for the 1st XI. His blockbuster innings included 19 fours and seven sixes. **ZAK BEAUMONT** also took five for twelve off six overs.

**JOE** and **CHARLIE MILLINGTON** competed at the North Island Elite MTB Champs held at Arapuke Park in Palmerston North. In very tough weather conditions, Joe finished sixth in the under-15s (he is 12), and Charlie finished 10th in the under-17s. Well done these two, who continue to push themselves and each other for higher honours every year.

**LOGAN BELLINGHAM** has achieved a blue belt in martial arts.

#### COMING UP...

For the first time in years we are entering **SENIOR GIRLS AND BOYS TENNIS TEAMS** into the Term 1 North Harbour A competition to gain more experience and depth in our squads for end-of-year grades.

Check out more and some great photos on our TGS Sports Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/TGSSports/>

# Mums' TGIF football aims to inspire daughters

Mothers are being invited to play social soccer at Allen Hill Stadium on Friday nights, with the bar open, so daughters can watch them enjoying the game.

North Shore United's newly appointed football development manager, Ryan Ward, 28, is spearheading initiatives aimed at getting more females playing with the Devonport-based club.

"There are few girls playing football in the local area and it's an area of growth. It's massively important.

"We are looking to offer more professional coaching and a greater pathway for girls at North Shore United."

Ward has set up a girls' committee, chaired by Allister Irving, to be the driving force locally.

North Shore United held its first-ever Girls' Football Fun Day last Sunday, which was hosted by older girls and included games and competitions.

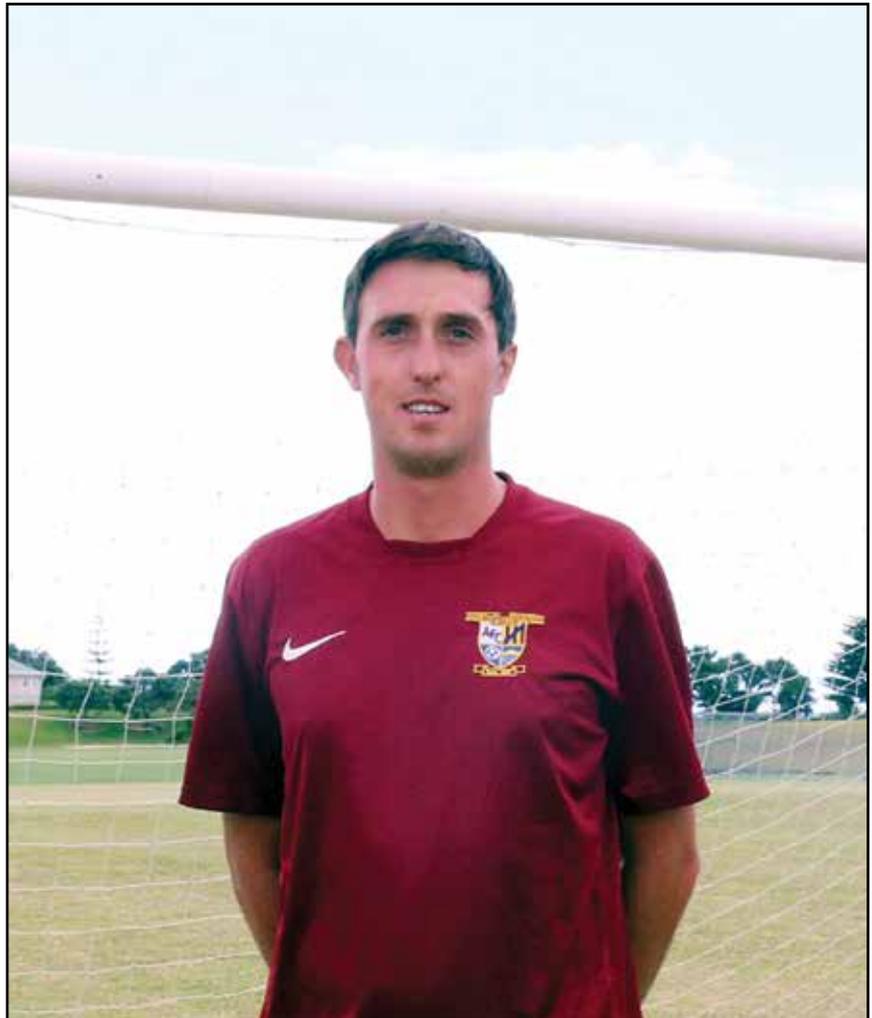
As well as calling for mums to play socially, Ward is also looking for players to form a women's first team, which will offer progression to talented players under the age of 17.

A recent success story is Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) and North Shore United's Arabella Maynard, who was in the team that won bronze at last year's FIFA U17 Women's World Cup.

Ward is director of football at TGS and Belmont Intermediate School, and his aim is to develop a coordinated training programme across the three sites.

"The long-term vision is to create a sustainable model that maximises development of local players through the ages," he says.

A parent relieved Ward's approach will solve the problem of young people being overtrained is Lesley Springall, her son is a talented player but between training at Belmont Intermediate and North Shore United, his schedule became "ridiculous".



**More girls the goal... New North Shore United football development manager Ryan Ward wants to get more females into football. Action from the open day last Sunday (below)**

"Now, with some coordination training, we [parents] are hoping the school kids won't be burnt out by sport," Springall says.

More coaches will be available, with quality coaching provided for girls and boys, in part through training up senior students from TGS, Ward says.

Another plan is for North Shore United to open the club on Friday and Saturday evenings as a youth centre for 14 to 17-year-olds, where they could hang out, play football, and watch movies in a safe environment.

Ward has been in New Zealand for six years and has, in the past three years, overseen the boys football programme at TGS, as well as being director of football at Greenhithe Football Club.

Previously, he coached professionally in England at the Birmingham City Football Club.

Ward is a qualified physical education teacher, with a bachelor of science in sports studies and a postgraduate certificate in physical education.



## Harmonious changes made at Depot Sound



**Engineering a smooth transition... Morgan Allen, left, as he steps into the role of studio manager being vacated by Dave Rhodes**

The leadership is changing at Devonport's community recording studio, but the departing and incoming managers both sing from the same song sheet.

Depot Sound studio manager Dave Rhodes is leaving after six years in the role, and current audio engineer Morgan Allen is stepping into his boots.

"It isn't going to change that much. It will still be a brilliant studio I will be comfortable to come back and work in," Rhodes says.

He says the pair worked well together and had similar work flows.

Rhodes is moving to Whitianga, where he grew up and still has family. He will work as a freelance studio engineer, which will include travelling back to Auckland for recording sessions at Depot Sound.

The many highlights in Rhodes' time at the Depot, include recording a Warratahs album, which won best country-music album in the New Zealand Music Awards.

Other memorable experiences include recording a single for a band he liked as a child, Push Push, and another for renowned metal band Head Like a Hole.

Running community workshops on recording and writing for youth has been rewarding and something new for Rhodes. He came from Stebbing Recording Centre and, prior to that, radio production.

He leaves pleased with current renovations at the Depot. The secondary, smaller studio – a "bit of a cave" – is being expanded, with

an upgraded mixing desk.

Most importantly, the soundproofing between the two studios is being upgraded, which will allow for a more professional standard of recording.

Allen's association with Depot Sound stretches back to when he first recorded there after winning the intermediate-school level of Battle of the Bands, aged 12 and at Belmont Intermediate School. The prize was recording time at Depot Sound.

He returned a few years later as a volunteer and then worked part-time while studying for a bachelor of recording arts from SAE Institute, a private training school in Parnell,

later working full-time.

"It was a really natural progression to take over as manager. It made sense," Allen says.

He is looking forward to producing an album by original rockabilly band, Boom! Boom! Deluxe, in March.

The studio will be bringing in an intern through the New Zealand Music Commission, Allen says.

He expects to continue a recent studio trend of doing more film post-production sound work.

Depot Sound creative director Linda Blincko is pleased there will be continuity in the recording studio.

### MOVING MADE EASY



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## Sun, sand and sounds fuel teenage volleyballer



**Stretching toward her dreams... Devonport's Holly Isherwood (left) with teammate Kayla Allison-Carnie, 15, placed second in the U17 girls division of the provincial beach volleyball championships in January, representing Harbour Volleyball**

Holly Isherwood is still dressed in shorts and a sports singlet after training with Harbour Volleyball at Mairangi Bay. The sand on her face she puts down to a combination of sweat and diving for the ball.

Holly is glowing; she says she loves beach volleyball because it is different to other sports.

"In other sports, you catch and pass, whereas in volleyball you have to use different parts of your body that haven't been used to getting contacted. It's a fast contact of your hands and, for passing, you use your forearms."

The multitalented Devonport 13-year-old competes in beach volleyball tournaments, around New Zealand and overseas, and supports her travel by busking.

She has already travelled to the US and Australia to play beach volleyball, as well as attending many domestic tournaments.

Holly is also a high-achieving student at Westlake Girls, where she is enrolled in a STEM programme plus arts.

Holly spends equal time on volleyball training and music practice, as well as fitting in a large amount of homework, much hammered out in the school library during breaks.

She has gone through all the grades on the

drums, playing both acoustic and electric, as well as teaching herself guitar and keyboards.

At Westlake, Holly is in an orchestra and forming a rock band with other students. She has previously been in two different bands.

She plans to continue with both pursuits, with the music supporting her sport.

Holly busks at the Takapuna Sunday market and in the city. Her family also helps fund her travel.

"It's a minority sport, so it's all self-funded. We don't get any sponsorship," Holly says.

Her father jokes he would rather she played rugby, but beach volleyball is her calling, she says.

Holly likes that her sport is social and she has made friends, especially in the past few years through the Harbour beach volleyball development programme.

In primary and intermediate school, Holly played netball and touch rugby.

She started beach volleyball at the age of 9. Now she trains at Westlake Girls, along with Harbour Volleyball.

However, her mother, Karen Isherwood, doesn't think she's at risk of burnout, saying that it has been very helpful living in Devonport.

Holly has a personal trainer, Ken Hopper,

at Just Workout Devonport who helps her stay fit, healthy and injury-free.

And she can train near home on the beach volleyball courts at Narrow Neck and Takapuna Grammar.

Harbour volleyball coach Luis Paulo, originally from Brazil, has worked with Holly for the past year and a half.

Paulo encourages her to listen to her body and manage herself to avoid overtraining. He works with Holly to develop the mental toughness needed to compete at a high level.

Karen is proud of how well that is going, pointing out Holly did incredibly well to place second in the under-17 girls division of the Volleyball New Zealand provincial beach volleyball championships in January, given she is only 13 and there were 19 teams.

Now Holly is training in the hope of being picked to represent New Zealand in the under-17 beach volleyball team that will head to the US to compete in April and July.

For the future, her aspirations include competing in the US and Asia and ultimately at the Olympics.

Meanwhile, Holly is busking to raise funds to support her travel and continuing to form her dual career. One thing's for sure, she's having a ball.

# Rangitoto Observer – new sister publication for the Devonport Flagstaff



**Good to grow... Flagstaff editor Rob Drent (left) and business partner Peter Wilson celebrating Drent's naming as Community Journalist of the Year at the 2018 Voyager Media Awards**

The Rangitoto Observer – a sister publication to the Devonport Flagstaff – will launch on 15 March.

It will circulate to Milford and Takapuna, through to Castor Bay and Sunnynook.

The Flagstaff delivers to 9500 homes from Devonport to Takapuna. An extra 1500 copies are distributed to businesses and on stands. It serves the southern end of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area.

The Rangitoto Observer will have circulation of 10,000, and will serve the northern part of the local board catchment.

The combined circulation of both papers will be close to around 22,000 – with an estimated 70,000 readers.

Long-time Flagstaff editor Rob Drent said he had first considered a second paper in Milford/Takapuna 20 years ago, but the time wasn't quite right.

"The Flagstaff was just starting then – 25 years on, the paper is well established and financially healthy."

Drent said he and business partner Peter Wilson were looking at how to grow the business, and after some informal surveying of clients, the new paper emerged strongly as the best option.

"There's clear desire for a local paper to serve local communities newswise. And from the advertisers' perspective, the increased reach of both papers offers some of the highest

demographics in New Zealand."

The other key factor in the decision was the decline of the Fairfax group and specifically the once-strong *North Shore Times Advertiser*.

"What is now Stuff has become obsessed with digital platforms, whereas our research shows there is still a healthy uptake for print."

Research is emerging that says people are annoyed by advertising online and in social media, which is often ignored, whereas newspaper and magazine advertising actually sparks purchasing decisions, said Drent.

The *North Shore Times* sacked most of its journalists prior to Christmas, and the former

Fairfax New Zealand papers are being offered up for fire sale by Australian owners Nine.

The Rangitoto Observer will be the same size and paper stock as the Flagstaff, but with different stories for a different readership.

"The Milford/Takapuna area is changing markedly, and essentially a new community is emerging with the number of apartments being built – so it is an exciting time newswise," said Drent.

"We've also been been lucky enough to recruit experienced journalist Jodi Yeats – a former *North Shore Times* editor – as part of the expansion."

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# Devonport photographer nominated for international award

Devonport photographer Véronique Cornille has made it to the shortlist for Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

Her photo of a whale stranding at Farewell Spit is a finalist, selected from 48,130 images submitted from 100 countries.

The whale stranding involved 99 long-finned pilot whales. In this case, only 17 whales survived.

“I photographed the scene over many hours. I did not see another whale lift its fluke like this. This movement is usually the way the whales propel themselves through the water. This young girl was out on a limb away from the various groupings. I watched her for a long time and this rare sight felt like a great high five for her, in gratitude. Their bond was something special.

“She felt no fear for the force of this movement, the trough beneath the tail, testament to its power,” said Cornille.

Cornille lived for many years in the Nelson region and during that time published two photography books *Nelson Alive* and *The Outside Table* in conjunction with the Suter Art Gallery.



**The picture (right) nominated for a prestigious award taken by photographer Véronique Cornille (left)**



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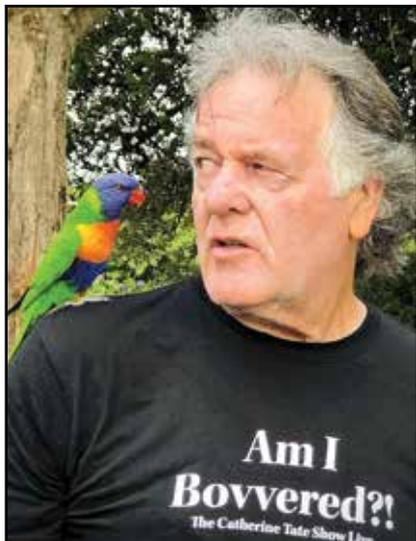
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### Feathered friend shares the love



Stanley Bay resident John Robertson was “not bovered” when a friendly rainbow lorikeet landed on his shoulder and tried give him a peck on the lips. The bird is one of a pair that can be seen around Mozeley Ave. They are ‘free range’ but return home to their cage at night. Their owner declined to talk to the Flagstaff about his pets.



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# Maungauika murals celebrate sunsets



**Colour me bright... Jesse Jensen (below right) has been painting the North Head toilet building over the past year, with help from five other artists and permission from DoC**

The toilets on Maungauika/North Head have had a makeover thanks to artist Jesse Jensen.

Jensen's mural work includes birds, local scenes and the "amazing colours" of the sunsets people enjoy from North Head.

The mural had been a labour of love over the past year, painted with help from five fellow artists, and DoC covering the paint costs.

Jensen, also known as Ares Artifex, had been

keen to paint the tunnels. That wasn't possible, as they are Category 1 protected heritage sites, senior ranger Stephan Sebrechts said.

However, the toilet block was badly in need of a spruce-up and the mural has reduced graffiti significantly, Sebrechts said.

Jensen was also painting a mural on a private fence near the entrance to North Head, a task that took two attempts before the owner was satisfied.



# Stop Queensland Fruit Fly

## Restricted movement of fruit and vegetables



The Queensland fruit fly has been found in Devonport. A Controlled Area has been placed around the location of the find, covering parts of Devonport.

It is important that any whole fresh fruit and vegetables (except for leafy vegetables and root vegetables) are not moved out of Zone A and that no home-grown fruit and vegetables are moved out of Zone B. If in doubt, don't take it out.



**Visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly) for more information. If you have any questions, phone 0800 80 99 66.**



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## 20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

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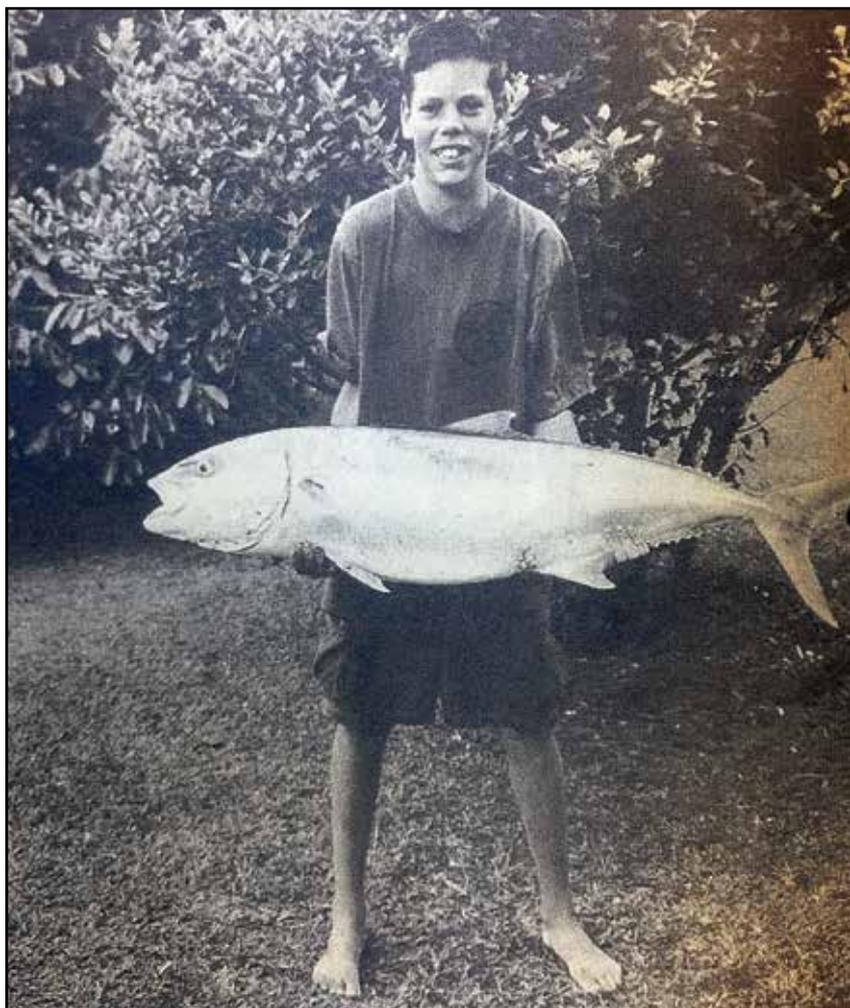


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**The one that didn't get away... Bobby Stafford-Bush snared this 18kg kingfish near Bayswater wharf in early 1999**

- Devonport Food and Wine Festival draws a bumper crowd of 35,000 to 40,000 in the summer of 1999. Devonport Rotary expects to donate in excess of \$100,000 to community groups and charities. On the downside, one Victoria Rd resident had his fence knocked over by revellers, not for the first time. Things got even grimmer when a mother jumped into the sea with her baby after an argument with her partner, and had to be rescued.

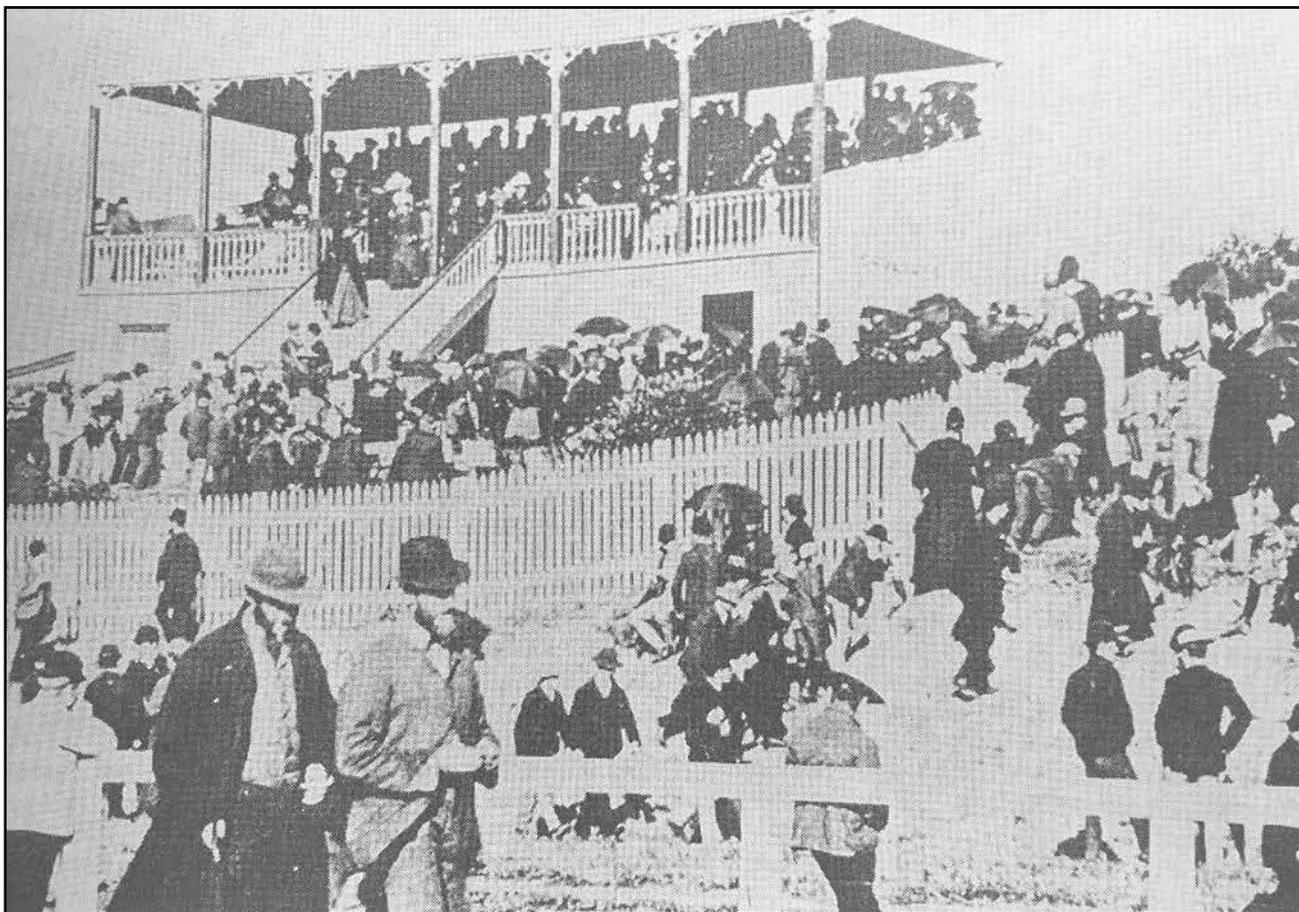
- A cell-phone site in a home opposite Devonport Primary is back before the North Shore City Council, after a landmark Environment Court decision. Earlier, the council had rejected the application by Bell South (now Vodafone). However, the decision in favour of a cell-tower application, despite a Christchurch school's objection, throws doubt on the wisdom of fighting an appeal.

- A Devonport sales representative decided to change careers to writing bestsellers. Stu Blunsom sold the family home on Victoria Rd to fund his dream. He wrote three thrillers that weren't accepted for publication. Despite the responsibilities of a wife and toddler, he had one last attempt, writing from his own childhood memories of raising rescued kestrels. *The Snow Falcon* was an international top-seller and he returns to Devonport with a million-dollar advance and a new name his publishers thought would attract more readers – Stu Harrison.

- Youngster Bobby Stafford-Bush was fishing with his father near Bayswater Marina when he snagged a huge fish. The 18-kilogram kingfish towed their dinghy around the harbour for 20 minutes before it could be hauled on board.

- Canadian Tom Stone, 45, walked 32,000 kilometres to get to Devonport, starting his around-the-world marathon challenge from Vermont seven years earlier.

## A day at the races 1908, on the site of the present-day golf course



## TGS students bring Broadway to the Victoria Theatre

A one-act Broadway musical acted and produced by five Takapuna Grammar students hits the stage this week.

*Title of Show* will be performed at The Vic by students Joshua Downs, Georgia Doughty, Tausala Faulalo, Patrick Cunneen and India Worsnop. Late last year, the group of friends decided they wanted to self-produce the show, and have learnt the many challenges involved in putting on a show.

“Our hurdles were the production side of things,” says Downs. “We had to buy the rights to the show, find the venue and sort out lighting. But the number-one hurdle was believing we could actually do it.”

The group initially prepared to pay for everything themselves, but managed to get sponsorship from Devonport Electrical. They collectively decided that they would then like to give the proceeds to a charity.

“What we got out of this is experience, we’re not doing this to make money,” says Georgia, who is directing the show. “We are giving 100 per cent of the profit to Raukatauri music school, which provides



**Self belief vital...*Title of Show* actors (from left to right) Joshua Downs, Patrick Cunneen, India Worsnop, and Tausala Faulalo**

music lessons for people with special needs.” The students are at the end of three months of rehearsal, and in the final stages of preparing for their performance this week. “We really hope it’s gonna be inspiring for

other young people who want to do this,” says Georgia.

*Title of Show* is at The Vic on 23 February at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be bought online at [www.thevic.co.nz](http://www.thevic.co.nz)



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# Sidewalk slick set to be sorted

Three years after Auckland Transport said it would sort out a treacherous slick of mossy and muddy slime, leaking across the footpath leading into Devonport, the problem is finally getting fixed.

In June 2015, the *Devonport Flagstaff* reported on the slippery eyesore, which was especially dangerous for older people and children.

In mid-January this year, North Shore councillor Richard Hills was alerted to the problem by someone emailing him about it.

“It’s an accident waiting to happen,” said Hills, who contacted Auckland Transport.

AT sent someone to water-blast it that day, which removed the most dangerous layer of mossy slime, he said.

In 2015, AT’s Mark Hannan told the *Flagstaff* the slime was caused by the make-up of the clay behind the retaining wall. It was a

type of soil common on the North Shore and non-toxic, Hannan said at the time.

The residue exuded from 14 drains at the bottom of the wall, which was reconstructed in 2014. They were intended to ensure the integrity of the wall.

Contractors were to install a covered channel along the wall that would divert the water to the gutter and into the storm-water system.

They needed to involve an engineer in the design of the channel to ensure it didn’t undermine the structure of the wall, Hills said.

Asked why it has taken three years, Hills said AT originally thought water-blasting would fix the problem and that it relied on the public to alert it to issues.

Hannan said: “The water became an issue again last month and was raised by councillor Hills and the local board.”



**An accident waiting to happen... a mossy and muddy slick issuing from a retaining wall on Victoria Rd**

# Asbestos-warning prank shuts out kids’ event

A Devonport preschool play session was forced to move, when organisers found asbestos-warning tape cordoning off parts of Windsor Reserve and Devonport Beach.

Devonport Peninsula Trust summer events coordinators Carolyn Pomeroy and Ines Gereda arrived to set up at 8.30am on 8 February and found the tape around part of the playground.

Although it seemed strange only part of the reserve was taped, they decided to play it safe and move across the road.

A council officer arrived to check the site and his suspicion that it was a prank was soon confirmed by the arrival of a pair of council asbestos inspectors.

“There’s no risk. We can’t find any

evidence around here [of concern],” said senior maintenance delivery coordinator Jaco Marais. “Sometimes people do dump asbestos.”

The tape appeared to have been installed overnight, but unfortunately, too far from the library to have been caught on CCTV, he said.

Auckland Council would like to hear from anyone who saw anything unusual.

Phone 09-301 0101.



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