

# Flagstaff

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Voyager Media Awards:  
Community  
Journalist of the Year  
Winner 2018

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**Mystery of musical seats  
around Devonport... p2**

**Firefighter Dan smokes  
opposition... p3**

**Interview: childcare veteran  
Val Morrison... p20**

## Parking meters under consideration for Devonport

Parking meters outside the Devonport ferry terminal and in the town centre will be considered as part of an Auckland Transport (AT) investigation.

AT says its parking-design team is undertaking a study in Devonport to ensure parking restrictions are working properly for residents, visitors, workers, shoppers and

deliveries to the village centre.

This will include:

- An audit of all parking restrictions and for spaces

**To page 7**

## Going with the flow – bottled milk makes a comeback



**Glass half full... bottled milk has returned to Devonport at the Cheltenham Milk bar with the help of Sue Story (above). Full story p5.**

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**NEXT ISSUE:** June 14  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:** June 7

# Flagstaff editor recognised in awards



**Voyager Awards night... Members of the Devonport Flagstaff team and partners (from left): Jo Hammer, Rob Drent, Peter Wilson, Mika Wilson, Liz Brown and Jimmy Carrick**

Devonport Flagstaff managing editor Rob Drent was runner-up in the Community Journalist of the Year category at the Voyager Media Awards held on 17 May.

Judges said it was a close-run contest between Drent and winner Torika Tokalau, of the Western Leader.

Drent's entry included stories on a major Treaty settlement affecting land in Devonport, a resident who ran down a burglar, the \$21-a-ride cost of an AT Local trial and a feature on squash juniors Matthew Lucente

and Gabe Yam.

Drent won the award in 2018 for work published in 2017 and has been a finalist in four of the last five years.

Devonport photographer Brett Phibbs was nominated in four categories for work published in the New Zealand Herald and was runner-up in the Best feature/photographic essay section.

The Whakatane Beacon, which is celebrating its 80th year of publication, was judged best community newspaper.

# Musical-seats mystery

The mystery of Devonport's disappearing Victoria Rd seat has deepened, with the appearance of a bright-blue seat on historic Kerr Street, to the consternation of heritage advocates.

Devonport Heritage's Margot McRae noticed the seat a couple of months ago and contacted the local board, Auckland Transport and Devonport Primary School, but no one claimed responsibility for the stray seat.

"There it sits, a refugee from somewhere else and no one knows how it got there. It is bolted to the pavement," McRae says.

"Devonport Heritage likes to see public seats fitting in with the heritage streetscape, and this one doesn't. It looks like a leftover from a Takapuna bus shelter," she says.

McRae says she is bemused more than anything. "I think it's quite funny that seats seem to be disappearing and appearing in such a random way in Devonport.

"Is there a secret seat-stealer out there?" Auckland Council is not aware of a seat at this location. Neither has it found the



**"Refugee" in historic street... the seat that's appeared not far from where another mysteriously vanished**

seat that was cut from its bolts and removed from a small park at the corner of Kerr St and Victoria Rd.

# Firefighter Dan blasts away the records



**Hosing down the competition... Devonport's Dan Brady outshone firefighting rivals from around the country, winning the North Island Firefighter Combat men's title and breaking records in the national champs**

A Devonport volunteer firefighter has proven himself one of the country's strongest, setting national records and taking out the title in a gruelling fitness challenge.

Dan Brady won the men's open division at this year's North Island Firefighter Combat Challenge, then went on to break records at the nationals.

"Dan's a bit of a machine," says station officer Warren Tucker. "He has basically got the brigade into it and led all the training and held us together as a team."

The competition involves climbing a three-storey tower, hitting an 82kg beam 1.5m with a sledgehammer, running a slalom course hauling a hose, and dragging a rescue dummy to the finish line, all while wearing full firefighting gear and using breathing apparatus.

Brady trains for up to two hours a day, usually six days a week, sometimes training twice

daily as a competition approaches.

This year, he was nursing a lower-back stress fracture and slipped disc, which restricted training. It flared up after the regional competition, impairing him at the nationals, where he placed fifth overall, having finished third in the last two years. However, with teammates, he retained the national title and record for the men's tandem, won the 'co-ed' tandem and broke the national record for the men's relay.

Nine Devonport firefighters competed and all were placed in the top 50 in the North Island competition in April, with Devonport-registered teams also going on to win the plate relay and championship relay titles at the nationals in May.

"Devonport's presence in the competition

has skyrocketed and drastically increased the brigade's fitness and strength as a unit, Brady says.

In 2018, Brady and another Devonport firefighter, Scylla Magalhaes, competed in the world championships in the US, placing in the top 40 out of 800 competitors.

In 2017, Brady made the 'Lion's Den' at the world champs, joining an elite group who completed the 30m dummy rescue run in under 100 seconds.

## 3 Victoria Rd: empty for more than 300 days

The old Devonport Borough Council Building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018.

It has now been unoccupied for 326 days.

Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the future options for the building.



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## Glass action: Locals lap up bottled milk

Milk in glass bottles has returned to Devonport after a push from local 'greenie' Sue Story.

Northland-based Bella Vacca bottles its milk in glass and encourages customers to return the empty bottle and receive a full one for \$4.50 – half the usual price.

Story first learnt about the system from a grocer in Northcote who stocks the milk.

"My brother bought me a bottle and I thought it was great," she says.

"I've gone up once since to get some but it's too out of the way. I thought it would be great if we could get it in Devonport."

Story avoids plastic in her house wherever she can: composting, using bees-wax wrap instead of plastic wrap, and making her own mouthwash.

"Plastic is drowning the world and it's like what can one person do?" she says.

"Well, I've discovered that you can do something – getting rid of all those plastic milk bottles."

Story took to Facebook to gauge interest from the community and was quickly overwhelmed with interest.

She got in contact with a representative from Bella Vacca, who decided it was a good idea to come and talk to Devonport businesses.

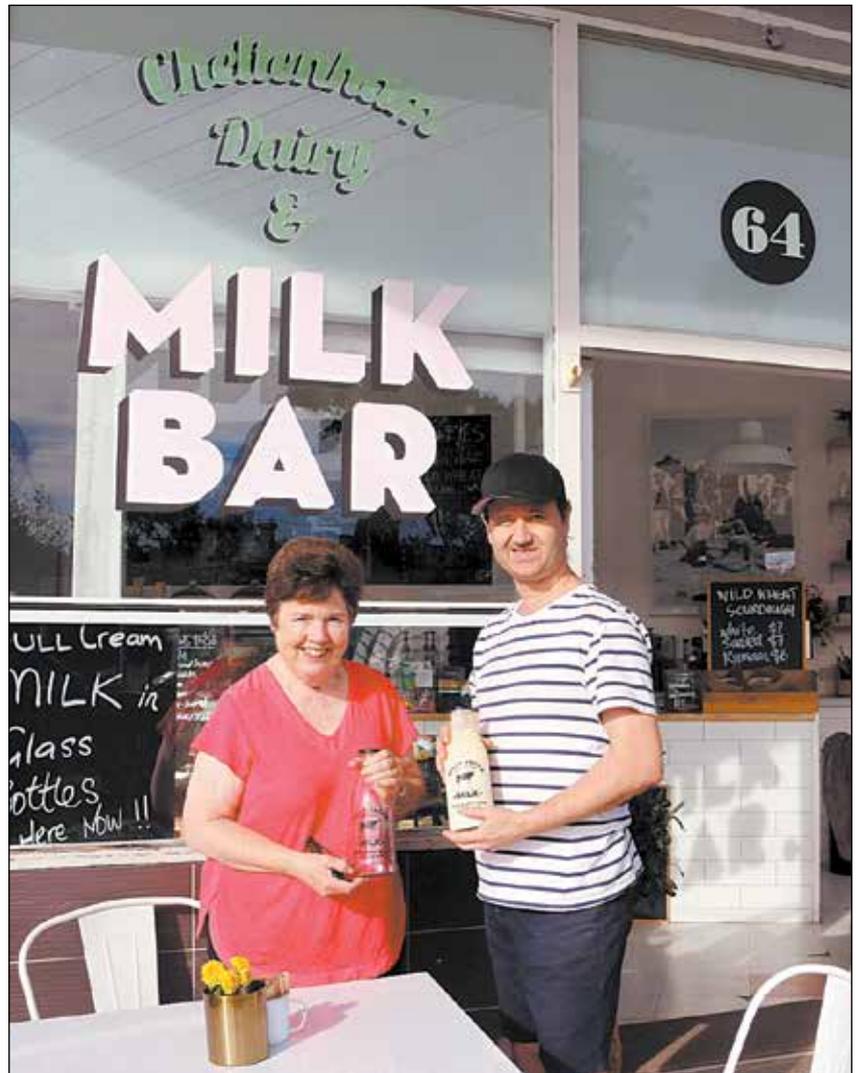
Arron Barnett from Cheltenham Milk Bar had been looking into selling bottled milk for a while, and decided that this was the perfect opportunity.

He started stocking the bottled milk immediately and sold out of his first and second shipments within the same day.

Barnett has had to order double the original amount of milk to keep up with demand, and is now selling out of around 56 bottles every two days.

"Locals are really excited about it. When it's not here they say, 'bring it in, bring it in,'" says Barnett.

"I'm quite chuffed about it," says Story. "I just hope it doesn't get so popular that I can't get any."



**Green message in a bottle... Sue Story and Arron Barnett at Cheltenham Milk Bar**

## Helping the kids out

With property prices at these high levels, and incomes relatively low, it is difficult for many first-home buyers to save the 10% to 20% deposit required to purchase their first home. Parents with sufficient equity can help out, either by gifting any spare cash sitting at just 2% in the bank, or by using the equity they may have in their own property.

This is, in effect, bringing forward any future inheritance the kids may be getting in any event at a future date. But it is more useful for the kids now if it means substituting dead rent payments for more effective savings by paying off a mortgage – so long as the mortgage payments are not materially greater than rental payments.

The parents can even purchase a property in their own name without putting in any cash, using their existing house as additional security. The kids can then rent the property (maybe with friends) to service the mortgage and, over time, buy into it or the parents gift it to them – it's just a way of getting into the property market sooner than later.

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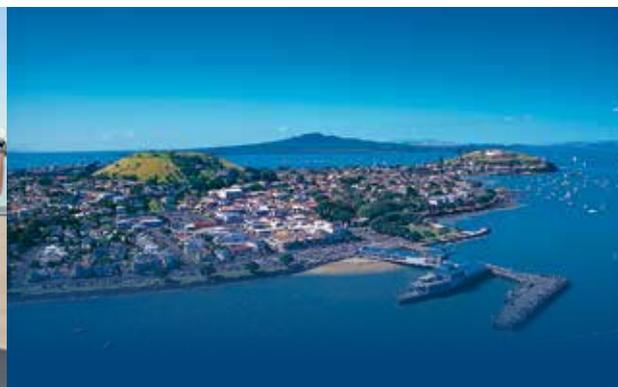


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# Local-board 'openness' ditched for secret meeting

A secret meeting over Lake Rd was held last week, with Auckland Transport (AT) officials once again avoiding public scrutiny.

The meeting – on the subject of “Lake Rd Corridor Improvements: Detailed Business Case, May 2019” – was held with AT officers, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board (DTLB) and some council planners and staff.

Auckland Council confirmed: “There was a closed-door briefing between AT, DTLB and planning staff in relation to Lake Rd that was kept out of public at the request of staff. This was agreed by the DTLB chair and deputy chair.”

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is the only board in Auckland that holds public workshops. However, AT has never been happy with this arrangement and though AT Local presented to the local board in a workshop this year, AT workshop presentations are rare.

AT's recent non-appearance at a public meeting in St Heliers over contentious roading changes was widely criticised by locals and public officials, including Mayor Phil Goff.

Last Tuesday's meeting seems to have divided the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. We asked board members for their views on the closed meeting:

**Board chair George Wood** said: “I don't agree that the media should be able to attend all and every meeting of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

“People with whom we talk want to say things in the knowledge that what is said will remain in-house if they want that to occur.”

“The discussions with Auckland Transport on Lake Rd are at a critical stage – we need their

support, they are the holders of the funds. I am happy with the way the meeting went last Tuesday. I've got a good working relationship with Auckland Transport. I am certainly not going to compromise how we are now getting along.”

**Board member Jan O'Connor** said: “Although I was unable to attend, I would only have agreed to confidentiality if the purchase of private property was being discussed.

“Otherwise the Lake Rd project should have been held in a public forum.”

**Board member Grant Gillon** said the meeting provided a lot of information and was also an opportunity to meet new people handling the Lake Rd project.

“I prefer the briefings to be in public as per the workshops. “But I am also not willing to boycott the briefings as I need to report back to the public.

“I will raise the issue again with the Chair to determine the boundaries between workshops and meet-and-greet. But there are also many meetings hosted by departments and CCOs [Council-controlled organisations] in their own offices.”

**Board member Mike Sheehy** said: “I understand what you are saying. “But we have been pushing Auckland Transport for action on Lake Rd and want to get the best out of them. And I mean pushing them. The problem is that when there are the public or media present, some members grandstand and badger the council officers, leading to a very poor outcome. If you want the best, you need the officers on

your side.”

**Board member Jennifer McKenzie** said: “As I understood this meeting was requested by AT as they wanted to get feedback and brainstorm ideas without the public present. The presentation was then made available to us and was not confidential.”

**Board member Mike Cohen** was not at the meeting, but said it should have been open to the public unless it involved personal issues or contractual agreements



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## Board of Trustees' Election Declaration of Parent and Staff Election Results

At the close of nominations, as the number of valid nominations was fewer than the number of vacancies required to be filled, I hereby declare the following duly elected:

### Parent representatives:

Catherine McNellan  
Matthew Crawford  
Josh Wilson  
Tracey Ryan

### Staff representative:

John Waller

Signed Nichola Flaherty, Returning Officer

From page 1

## Parking meters part of review

- Occupancy analysis to understand utilisation across different days of the week and times of the day
- A survey to understand the key parking and loading issues faced by businesses
- A review of any other transport projects that may have an impact on parking

The study will provide a series of recommendations to improve parking management in Devonport. This will be reported to the business association and local board.

Anne Street has for many years had residential permitted parking. “There are currently no plans for changes to Anne St, but the survey will look at parking in that area,” an AT spokesperson said.

The Flagstaff asked AT: “Will part of the review include consideration of parking meters outside the ferry terminals? And paid parking in the rest of the Devonport CBD?”

AT didn't rule out the consideration of parking meters.

“The review will look at all options to improve the parking operation and customer access in Devonport. There are no decisions made yet as the review hasn't started,” the spokesman said.

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## Claystore deemed earthquake-prone

One of Devonport's oldest public buildings has failed earthquake testing and is a long way below current building standards.

The Claystore – next to Allen Hill Stadium on Lake Rd – underwent an initial seismic assessment in late 2018.

The survey indicated the building conformed to only 25 per cent of Auckland Council's new building standard.

Any building under 34 per cent is considered earthquake-prone. However, this does not necessarily mean the building is dangerous under normal circumstances.

The consultant's initial report recommended that a detailed assessment be carried out to confirm:

- Whether the building is indeed earthquake-prone. If so, what the critical elements – the parts of the building – are that would need to be upgraded.
- Indicative designs for the strengthening of the building.

The full report is expected within the next three months.

Auckland Council Manager Strategic Projects John Dragicevich said once council received the consultant's full report, it will be peer-reviewed by technical specialists and, if necessary, the council's Building Consents team.

# NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI



## Kāinga Pāho

### Tēnā koutou katoa

We're delighted to have started construction on the first of our new houses in the Hillary development.

Capri Construction are building 13 houses in Rutherford Street, Belmont, and their team, which includes a number of local contractors, are now busy on-site.

This is an important milestone for us, as we have spent the past few years planning the development, gaining the necessary council approvals and preparing the land. So we're very pleased to have reached the point where above-ground work is underway to help accommodate Auckland's growing population.

The first 13 houses include terraces, duplexes and one stand-alone dwelling, with a mix of two-, three-, and four-bedroom houses. Three of them should be finished before Christmas, and the other 10 completed in February 2020.

In due course, they will be joined by another 25 houses in the Rutherford Street area, which will make up the first complete stage of the Hillary development.

Pricing has yet to be finalised, but we will be kicking off a marketing campaign in about two months' time. We expect interest in the houses to be strong, as they will suit a wide range of buyers, from families to first-home buyers to empty nesters.



Each house will have a Homestar 6 rating, featuring quality fittings and sustainable materials. Early expressions of interest can also be made by emailing [whairawa@ngatiwhatuorakei.com](mailto:whairawa@ngatiwhatuorakei.com).

It's an exciting time for us and we look forward to sharing further updates with you. If you would like to receive this information by email, please register your details: [wrl@ngatiwhatuorakei.com](mailto:wrl@ngatiwhatuorakei.com)

## TGS students hope to educate as well as provide

The link between poverty and women's health worldwide is an under-reported problem because it's a female issue, says 16-year-old local Kate McNish.

Kate and her Takapuna Grammar School friends Olivia Miles and Jasmine Urquhart (both 16) have set up a sanitary-product donation box at Devonport New World.

The girls are encouraging the community to add tampons or sanitary pads to their shopping lists and then drop the products in the box located near the supermarket exit.

"In Devonport most people have the luxury of affording these items, but other people don't," says Kate.

"The cheapest packet of tampons in the supermarket is around six or seven dollars."

The items donated will be passed on to The Aunties, an Auckland-based charity helping women affected by domestic violence.

The idea emerged when the girls were tasked with a health class project that would make an impact on the community.

"We want to make everyone aware that it's an issue. They shouldn't be taxed at all and they should be cheaper," says Olivia.

Kate says: Period poverty "is not an issue that's spoken about because only women suffer."

The girls are also doing a school-wide drive, asking students to bring in sanitary products



**Raising awareness of women's health issues...  
Kate McNish, Olivia Miles and Jasmine Urquhart**

to donate and will be asking Devonport businesses to also CONTRIBUTE to the cause.

The collection box will be at New World until June 10, but the girls hope it will become

a permanent fixture.

"No one really educates us on period poverty and we believe that sanitary products should be available for everyone," Kate says.

## Belmont Park squash players win NZ selection

Belmont Park squash players Gabe Yam and Natalie Sayes have been selected for the New Zealand team to compete in the 2019 WSF World Junior Squash Championships at Kuala Lumpur, from 30 July to 9 August.

Gabe has been in top form, winning the U19 Oceania, Australian U19, and New Zealand U19 championships in successive weeks. He has also made finals of PSA satellite tournaments and now has a senior ranking of 236 in the world. His U19 world ranking is 7.

Natalie, a Takapuna Grammar student, has consistently played up an age group in competition this year, winning at U17 level despite being only 14 years old.

Belmont Park Racquets Club squash coach Manu Yam (Gabe's uncle) will manage the New Zealand team.

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**Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**



**By Rob Drent**

The police and council canning of multiple Anzac Day services around Auckland – including Devonport’s long-standing ceremony – was no better illustrated as overkill than by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s appearance at the Auckland Writers Festival this month. A little over nine weeks after the Christchurch massacre, Ardern featured in an early-morning session on a book about the 2017 election. My partner asked where the bag-checking and security was for those entering the Aotea Centre? It was a good question. Even Ardern’s diplomatic protection squad was invisible. It was an indication that life had returned to a kind of normal.

I ran into Devonport-based columnist David Slack at the festival. He fessed up that he had returned to Facebook and Twitter, but only to promote his columns, he said.

Ardern said much the same in her speech, fresh from her Paris summit on social media. After a few weeks off Facebook in disgust that it had hosted a live screening of the massacre, Ardern too was back, even though she was leading a global charge for Facebook to introduce more moderation and controls.

Getting home late after the festival one night, it was raining when alighting the Devonport ferry, so we decided to catch the bus up the hill part of the way home. The cost – without an AT Hop card – was \$3.50 for a ride from the ferry terminal to Victoria Superette, a distance of barely a kilometre. Even the bus driver seemed embarrassed by the price. “It should probably only cost a buck,” he said.

No wonder the buses are practically empty, I thought. AT Local prices are pitched just lower so they are in effect competing with the casual bus user for transport to and from the ferry.

A review by the government of the Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM) probably won’t see readers drop their flat whites in the mad rush to search out details. But it probably should.

Devonport residents and ferry users are often berating Fullers for poor service and its late and cancelled ferries. Part of Fullers 360’s hallowed status is that the company’s Devonport and Waiheke routes enjoy special rights due to parliamentary legislation. The ferries are “exempt” from integration into a regional fare structure

and from performance-monitoring by Auckland Transport. Auckland councillor Chris Darby has advocated for a PTOM review, and transport minister Phil Twyford’s announcement last week will be welcome election-campaign fodder.

I’ve long suggested Auckland Transport and Auckland Council take their responsibility a step further: rather than just supervise transport from on high, they should get their hands dirty and take back public ownership of the transport system, running the operations at cost as a true service to ratepayers. My \$3.50 fare from the ferry terminal to Victoria Superette may become a distant memory. But no doubt these public-transport fantasies are just dream clouds in my own flat white.

A lot is said about the progressive nature of today’s society righting the wrongs done to Maori, including the naming of places and pronunciation. But spare a thought for earlier generations.

Researching a story for this issue, on the misnaming for years of Oliver Reserve on Kawerau Ave, I found that the street’s name was changed to Kawerau (from Princes) in 1976, after a Maori tribe with links to the area. The consensus of a meeting of residents was that a Maori name would be “more appropriate” for the locality.

It was in the era of Devonport becoming the first borough in the country to introduce recycling and also proclaim itself nuclear-free. Patuone Ave, previously known as Cameron St, was also renamed around this time. Maybe in future, Devonport’s progressive stance on Maori street names will be noted as well.

The increased use of Facebook by local body politicians continues. Last week, a secret briefing on Lake Rd progress was held between Auckland Transport and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. A couple of days later, board member Mike Sheehy was busily posting his take on progress. Not to be outdone, board chair George Wood was putting his spin on things a few hours later.

The media and the public were not allowed to attend the meeting. But board members are happy to go public on what they thought had occurred. Democracy?

The 2019 local body election is truly upon us, with mayoral candidate John Tamihere hitting the local streets over the last week: in Devonport last weekend, at the Takapuna market on Sunday and speaking with running mate Christine Fletcher at a packed meeting of Devonport Rotary at the Waitemata Golf Club on Monday night.

Expect to see more of Tamihere as well. He told Rotary members that he will do well in the west and south, but Devonport-Takapuna was a key area where he aims to pick up votes.



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## More new playgrounds planned

More new playgrounds are planned for Devonport – but on a less grandiose scale, it seems, than the \$1million Bean Rock structure about to be built at Windsor Reserve.

Auckland Council has confirmed it has \$385,000 to spend on renewing playspaces at Devonport Domain and Melrose Reserve.

A survey was sent out to residents in both neighbourhoods early last week, asking for their feedback and design ideas.

The existing playground at Devonport Domain was built and installed in about 1997.

Public feedback will be passed on to council designers and a

draft concept then developed, said Auckland Council Head of Investigation and Design Rob Cairns.

This concept will also take into account the play elements and activities created with the renewal of the playground at Windsor Reserve, and will be presented to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for consideration.

“As this is in the early stages, we do not have an estimated time frame yet,” Cairns said.

David Westwood, who lives near Devonport Domain, said the playground renewal was a waste of money, as it functioned well as it was.

## Cycle bridge over Shoal Bay proposed

Cyclists will be able to ride an off-road trail from Devonport all the way to the newly confirmed SkyPath if a proposal for a cycle bridge goes ahead.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has invested \$1 million in developing an initial design for the bridge, which would run from the end of Francis St, across the Shoal Bay estuary to the Esmonde Rd site of Harbourside Church.

The project would see the existing off-road cycleway between Devonport and Takapuna improved, especially through Northboro Reserve, the board says.

Auckland Transport (AT) last week briefed the board on plans for improving Lake Rd. The New Zealand Transport Agency will pay half of the project's \$47 million cost.

Following a staff resignation, AT has appointed a project manager, Rob Davies from Jacobs Engineering, and engaged Beca to develop a detailed business case.

Following two public consultations, work is expected to start mid- to late 2020 and take five to 10 years. This year, the community will have a say on potential early improvements, such as a cycle lane on Bayswater Ave and intersection upgrades.

The board wants Takapuna Grammar School to move its main entrance away from Lake Rd – vital to the development of the intersection between Eversleigh, St Leonards and Lake Rds.

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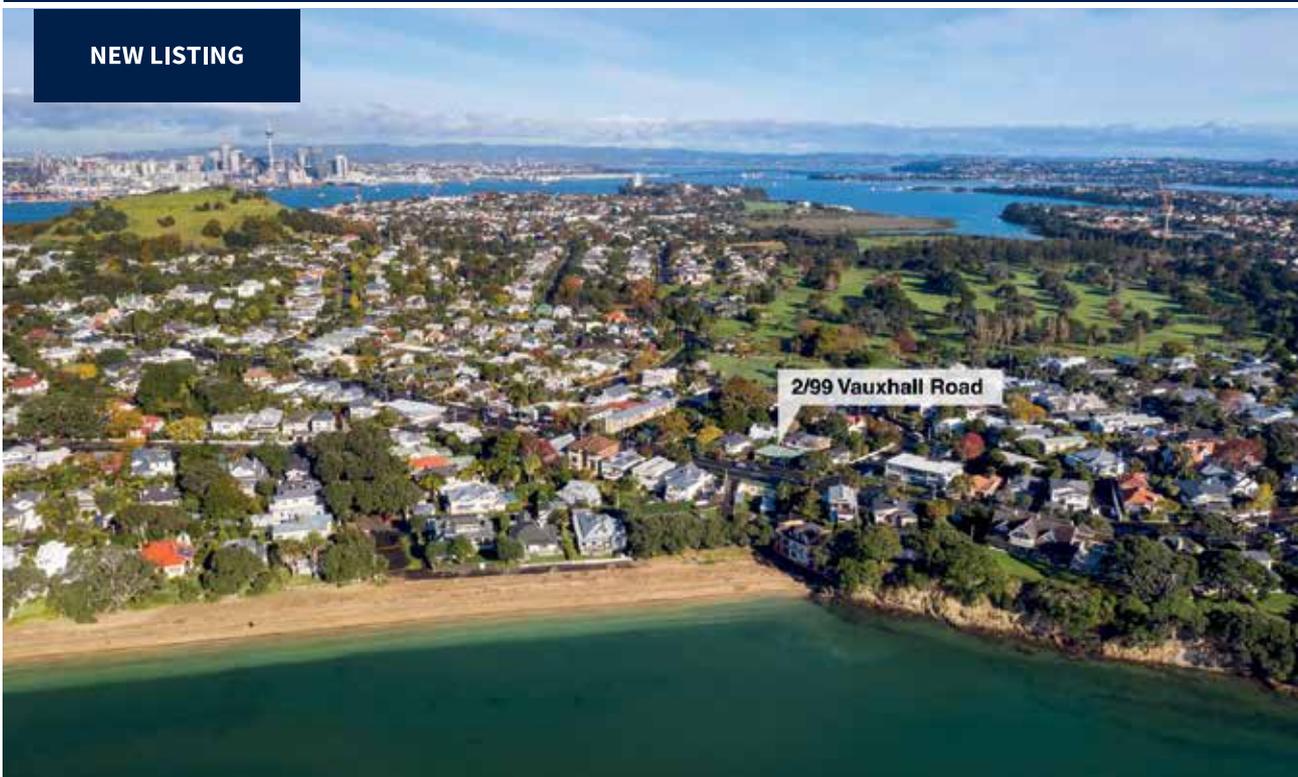
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# Harcourts

NEW LISTING



Devonport 2/99 Vauxhall Rd

2 1 1 1

### Chic Cheltenham Beach Pad

With a location like this you won't need the beach house! Living across the road from the golden sands of Cheltenham beach you get to enjoy the lifestyle and energy of this beachside location, without ever leaving home.

This single level, low maintenance brick apartment has a relaxed and inviting feel. There are large windows allowing plenty of light and sunshine and full height glass doors off the dining area that open out to the front deck. A pretty garden and lawn area are the ideal size for those that enjoy pottering in the garden.

What are you waiting for!! This is the perfect downsize, future investment or Air B & B option.

### Auction

23rd June at 12.00pm (unless sold prior)

**View** as advertised or by appointment

[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22474](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22474)

**Diana Murray**

M 021 911522 P 09 446 2115

[diana.murray@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:diana.murray@harcourts.co.nz)

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# Harcourts

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**Bayswater 2/37 Cassino Street**

2 1 1 2

**Sharp House - Sharp Price!**  
An amazing opportunity to buy a renovated home at an incredible price. The modern décor creates light and style - currently 2 spacious bedrooms, but may have potential for a third, open plan living, fabulous kitchen with a great flow to covered entertaining area and a good size garden. Do not delay, the owners have priced their home to sell!

**For Sale** \$899,000  
**View** Sunday 12:30 - 1:00pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22487](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22487)

**Phil Clark**  
M 021 940041 P 09 446 2125  
[phil.clark@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:phil.clark@harcourts.co.nz)  
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NEW LISTING



**Bayswater 2/96 Norwood Road**

3 2 2 2

**Light, Bright & Brand New**  
With winter approaching, thoughts move to warmth and comfort for an easy family lifestyle. This desirable Bayswater address provides easy low maintenance living, a brand-new home and a 10 year master build guarantee. Make sure you come and visit this 3 bedroom weatherboard home that is perfectly appointed and waiting for an astute buyer to move in and enjoy all it has to offer.

**Auction**  
On Site, Sunday 16th June 2019 at 2.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
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**Jemma Glancy**  
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[jemma.glancy@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:jemma.glancy@harcourts.co.nz)  
**Victoria Mules**  
M 021 679 349  
[victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz)  
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**Devonport 5/1 Rata Road**

3 2 1 1

**Smell The Sea From Your Front Door**  
One street back from beautiful Cheltenham beach. Built over two levels this brick and block low maintenance home, not only enjoys a prized position it also has secure internal access garaging and three generous double bedrooms. Don't delay viewing, it may be another 50 years until the opportunity presents itself again.

**For Sale**  
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**View** as advertised or by appointment  
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**Devonport 2/7 Eton Avenue**

2 1 1 1

**Opportunity In Cheltenham**  
If you are worried about apartment living and access to the upper level this apartment is future proofed with a lift! Spacious open plan living, generous double bedrooms, beautiful bathroom with bath and separate shower, separate laundry room, storage in the attic, the entire apartment has been renovated to a high standard. Vendors are definitely on the move!

**For Sale** \$1,150,000  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
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**Maria Stevens**  
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# Harcourts



**NEW LISTING**

**Milford 2/8 Tobruk Crescent**

3 1 1 1

**Wow, Take A Look At Me Now!**  
Modern and practical, this single level brick and tile home has been fully renovated to a very high standard. Sure to appeal with its modern décor, brand new kitchen and a fabulous bathroom with separate toilet. The home also features spacious living, good sized bedrooms and the bonus of a single garage with extra storage.

**For Sale**  
Deadline Sale Thursday 13th June at 4pm  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22478](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22478)

**Jane Hastings**  
M 021 735 263 P 09 446 2116  
[jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz)  
**Helen Shaw**  
M 021 743 536 P 09 486 8244  
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**OPEN HOME**

**Devonport 13 Grahame Street**

4 3 3 1 2

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- Separate accommodation on lower level for teenagers or guests
- Four bedrooms, three bathrooms
- Three living rooms
- Central heating
- Great location close to Cheltenham Beach

**For Sale** \$2,090,000  
**View** Saturday & Sunday 12:00 - 12:30pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22252](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22252)

**Gary Potter & Glenice Taylor**  
M 021 953 021 & 021 943 021  
[gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:gary.potter@harcourts.co.nz)  
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**Devonport 4 Ngataringa Rd**

5 4 1 2 2

**Plush, Luxurious And 3.5 Years Young**  
WOW is how we would describe this substantial family home of almost 290m2, with a long list of high quality chattels. Sunny, low maintenance and a well thought out floorplan. Possibility of separate quarters on the ground floor for parents, or utilise it for the family, or a possible income! Priced to sell, you will be hard pushed to find all this value for money elsewhere!

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22445](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22445)

**Jane Hastings & Jackie Mark**  
M 021 735 263 & 021 458 797  
[jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz)  
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**NEW LISTING**

**Devonport 2/99 Vauxhall Rd**

2 1 1 1

**Chic Cheltenham Beach Pad**

With a location like this you won't need the beach house! Living across the road from the golden sands of Cheltenham beach you get to enjoy the lifestyle and energy of this beachside location, without ever leaving home. What are you waiting for!! This is the perfect downsize, future investment or Air B & B option. Call me today to arrange your private viewing.

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23rd June at 12.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
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**Devonport 53 Aramoana Avenue**

4 3 2 1 1

**Wow! Potential To Subdivide**  
• Originally built in the 1950s this timber home is substantial at around 210m2 on almost a ¼ acre site, so rare in this part of town, potential to sub divide;  
• Spacious rooms, separation of living, a parents retreat upstairs, an office beside in-ground swimming pool, outside entertaining area, plenty of grass to run around, car parking and garaging.

**For Sale**  
By Negotiation  
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**Jackie Mark & Jane Hastings**  
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**Devonport 6a Handley Avenue**

4 2 1 1 2

**The Perfect Package In Narrow Neck**  
Start your day with a walk close by on one of Auckland's best beaches, let the kids roam free in the quiet leafy street and nearby parks. Commute to the city via ferry, this is a simple and easy lifestyle choice for families of all ages and stages in a supreme location. The owners have said - present all offers. Make every weekend feel like a holiday in this seaside suburb.

**For Sale** By Negotiation  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
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**Victoria Mules & Jemma Glancy**  
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[victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:victoria.mules@harcourts.co.nz)  
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# A toilet the cost of a new house: someone's making a huge profit

I read that installing a toilet in the 'pocket park' Lake Town Green (Flagstaff, 17 May), is estimated to cost between \$235,000 and \$250,000. Really? This, even when a sewerage connection already exists on the site. What a staggering amount! I'm sure it's still possible to build an entire house for that.

Yes there may be consent costs, but design costs? Toilets exist in parks the world over – including ones designed for toddlers and their caregivers. Perhaps savings can be made by utilising an existing design?

And even with the best of materials,

I can't see how a structure of just a few square meters could cost so much to build.

Someone, somewhere, is making a huge profit at the expense of ratepayers.

I have been lobbying Auckland Council for action to address drainage and tree maintenance at Stanley Bay Park (with limited success.)

Stanley Bay Park was formed on reclaimed land in the 1920s, with funds from a targeted rate on locals and additional local fundraising. Almost 100 years later, it is still without a public toilet. Requests to council

for one, over many years, have been met with the reply that a toilet exists across the road at Stanley Bay Beach.

So, generations of children and caregivers visiting Stanley Bay playground or fields for cricket or soccer have either had to trek across the road or "go in the bushes".

I thank the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for coming to the party for Lake Town Green users, but I think it's time local government looked more closely at the costs of basic facilities like toilets in parks and asked if there is a way to provide them more economically. Then perhaps the peninsula could get two park toilets for \$250,000.

**Janine Jones**

## Locals could fundraise to repair Bear Garden Wall

In the UK there are thousands of ruins, which people flock to.

The [Bear Garden] wall belongs to the adjoining owners and they own liability for it.

About five years ago, some money was granted [for improvements to the wall], about \$40,000 from memory, and they have an ongoing consent to repair, so they have got help.

I have a heritage home, but I don't have the ability to ask council to help

You would think with several million dollar homes owning/sharing the fence, they could put together \$10,000 between them quite easily.

We could have a Givealittle in the village... maybe a show by Paul Ego, Tim Finn or Lorde to help raise the money. Just one joke from Paul Ego is worth \$10,000.

Some people spent a lot of money trying to stop the Masonic Tavern being sold. But it was not a well-frequented place, hence the reason it was sold... some campaigners ironically did not even go to the tavern.

We cannot expect council to be our banker all the time. I will start with \$50!

**Graham Edwards**

### Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome. They should be on Devonport-related topics. Nom-de-plumes or submissions without a name will not be printed.

Email to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz or post to Devonport Flagstaff, PO Box, 32 275, Devonport.



**The Lion In Winter**  
by James Goldman

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# Harcourts Devonport Tides

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m		Fri May 31		Sat Jun 1		Sun Jun 2		Mon Jun 3		Tue Jun 4		Wed Jun 5		Thu Jun 6	
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
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0		H 4:44am 5:14pm		H 5:31am 6:03pm		H 6:17am 6:49pm		H 7:04am 7:34pm		H 7:51am 8:19pm		H 8:40am 9:06pm		H 9:29am 9:54pm	
0		L 10:50am 11:15pm		L 11:37am		L 12:00am 12:22pm		L 12:45am 1:08pm		L 1:30am 1:53pm		L 2:16am 2:39pm		L 3:05am 3:26pm	

m		Fri Jun 7		Sat Jun 8		Sun Jun 9		Mon Jun 10		Tue Jun 11		Wed Jun 12		Thu Jun 13	
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0		H 10:20am 10:44pm		H 11:11am 11:37pm		H 12:05pm		H 12:32am 1:01pm		H 1:29am 2:00pm		H 2:28am 3:02pm		H 3:26am 4:04pm	
0		L 3:55am 4:15pm		L 4:48am 5:06pm		L 5:43am 6:00pm		L 6:40am 6:58pm		L 7:39am 8:00pm		L 8:38am 9:03pm		L 9:37am 10:04pm	



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## Bouquets and gold stars

A big bouquet to the Flagstaff – the little paper that can! Nothing happened when I first emailed Auckland Transport (AT) about the nonsensical Devonport Real Time Board (RTB).

Soon after I wrote to the Flagstaff about it 22 (February), the times and route numbers were corrected, but sadly the destinations were made even more inane. I wrote again to The Flagstaff (19 April) and almost immediately the two Devonport “destinations” were removed, and Stanley Point was listed for the first time.

Even more amazing, the Flagstaff of 17 May had a letter from an actual person at AT! So thank you Dave Hilson, AT Senior Service Network Planner – a gold star award to you for having Stanley Point listed on the RTB.

And a second gold star award for the decision not to move the Cheltenham Road bus stop. Things are happening, people are listening.

So now Mr Hilson, could you take your twink to the village bus stop? It has been moved to the only section of footpath in the whole village that is dangerously unsuitable for a bus stop – extremely narrow, permanently blocked at one end, often blocked at the other end, and edged with giant rocks and spiky plants. It is difficult to manoeuvre a pushchair here, let alone a wheelchair. Please can we have it moved back to where it was safe to get off the bus?

But hey – it’s wonderful to see more and more passengers on those buses!

**Miriam Beatson**



## OUT & ABOUT

**Maria Teape** Community Coordinator

445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

### WINTER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY

Tuesdays, starting 4 June until 29 October (including school holidays), 9:30am–11:00am  
The Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont

Toddler time to play with big toys, be active and make new friends. Sessions are casual/free entry, caregiver supervision required.

For more info, visit [www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](http://www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz)

### BAYSWATER SCHOOL MATARIKI FESTIVAL

Saturday 15 June, 3:00pm–7:00pm  
Bayswater Primary School

Festival under the stars, celebrating the Māori New Year and our community’s diversity. There will be a mini Kapa Haka festival with several local schools, international cuisine, bar, games, live raffles, silent auction, crafts, lights and a bonfire! Nau Mai, Haere Mai! Contact **Norah Wilson** at [Norah@bayswaterschool.nz](mailto:Norah@bayswaterschool.nz) for more info.

### KIDS & TEENS MARKET

Sunday 16 June, 1pm–3pm  
Devonport Community House, Clarence St, Devonport

Kids aged up to 15 years can book a stall and become entrepreneurs for the day selling something they have made or second-hand items.

Stalls cost \$5 to book and need to be booked by 9 June – stall numbers are limited so get in quick!

To book visit the Devonport Community House website: [www.devonportcomhouse.com/events](http://www.devonportcomhouse.com/events)

### DEVONPORT MIDWINTER SWIM

Sunday 23 June, 11:30am registration, 12pm swim  
Windsor Reserve, Devonport

Calling all midwinter swimmers! Come along in your best swimming costume and join us in celebrating midwinter at this iconic Devonport event! The dip in the sea will be followed by a free cup of soup for all swimmers and prize giving, plus sausage sizzle for sale.

For more info contact **Amanda 021 184 7271**.

### Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

To receive the Devonport Peninsula eNEWS, a monthly email listing of community events, and other community notices, please email us at [maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz)

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

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If this sounds like you, or you would like to know more, forward your CV or enquiries to [jennifer@gannaway.co.nz](mailto:jennifer@gannaway.co.nz)

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# Learning and play are big at Val's

Since Val Morrison founded her award-winning early-childhood centre in the 1980s, large-scale pre-school operations have become the industry norm. She tells Helen Vause why small is still beautiful.



## Voice of experience... Val Morrison's thinking is backed by research that points to small centres having better outcomes for children

It's nearly 40 years ago that Val Morrison established early-childhood education centre Small is Beautiful, with just a handful of foundation pupils at her home in Stanley Point.

This year, Devonport's longest-standing early-childhood operation has picked up a Centre of Excellence award for the third year in a row from the sector's national professional body, Child Forum.

And owner-operator Morrison is proud to take her place this month amongst presenters at the forum's annual summit, to tell others about the tricks and trials of 'Operating on a Small and Personal Scale' at a centre that's so highly rated by local parents and professionals in the sector.

Now in her early 70s, Morrison runs one of the very few small operations still in business.

When she started in the 1980s, there were seven small centres run by owner-operators in private homes in Devonport. All but two have closed and the early-childhood education/day-care picture is very different. The last decade has seen big-brand companies opening centres licensed for well over 100 children, who are then organised into smaller groupings to cater for different needs and ages.

It's a trend Morrison laments and one she says runs counter to the research that shows that small is indeed beautiful, or at least preferable—even if the economics make the viability of little centres no longer attractive to owners.

"Research points to small centres having better outcomes for children," says Morrison, who is very aware she's one of a dying breed, even though her thinking is supported by many peers and parents.

Her presentation to the summit was based on a familiar theme: "We need government to regulate for much, much smaller centres, to fund in a way that recognises that 0-5 years is the most important phase in brain development and to accept only the most suitable trainees to teach them.

"We need these graduates to be so well prepared to teach that the powers that be actually leave them alone to focus on teaching, rather than having to produce a blizzard of paper for inspection."

Job satisfaction at the quality of what they're providing for young children has to offer some comfort in the face of the low wages that small operations offer teachers, she says.

In a small centre like Morrison's, teachers can work exclusively with small groups or engage one-on-one with children as needed in a quiet, unhurried environment.

"Staff are relaxed, engaged and observant. There is the sound of happy conversation, and unhappy children can be given the support they need.

"Teachers tell me that they know every child at a deep level and that this extends to family

circumstances too. They really get to know their families."

Small is Beautiful is licensed for a maximum of 20 children aged from two to five years. Sessions run every morning until after lunch. A maximum of six in the group stay through until three in the afternoon.

Three teachers are employed at the centre, with daily input from Morrison. And although she's not as hands-on these days, she says the passion for the job hasn't dulled.

"It's my dream to see small centres like this dotted around our communities in New Zealand."

Children from at least 250 local families have started their preschool days at Small is Beautiful. And among the parents walking up the path in the morning, there are some who have memories of being there as small children themselves. They've climbed the frames under the same big tree, played in the sandpit and probably listened to some of the same stories too. They remember 'Val's school' as a happy little place.

"It's just so affirming of course to have my alumni now bringing their own children here. It's lovely to see them and to know they have such good memories and faith in us. Of course I remember them all.

"It's being part of a circle of life and part of the heart of this community. Some of those parents of course made their first childhood

friends here, and now, as part of our widespread alumni and family network, they're making new family friends as well, through their children. My families have a very supportive community, and of course we are proud to be part of that."

Morrison is the trusted keeper of a few family secrets, but says the decades have been remarkably mishap- and drama-free.

On a typical day it's a happy scene, where life just hums along. The worst that seems to have happened is the accidental escape of a bunch of bees in the music room.

Or, on another occasion, a potential drama unfolded when three small boys, who tended to lurk outdoors to avoid tidy-up time, hatched a plan. When the tidy-up call came, they obediently raced indoors, seemingly to help, but after a headcount revealed their absence, were encountered halfway to freedom through a low back window. There's always a first time, says Morrison, but that window is now more tightly secured to prevent any further attempts.

Whilst she's earned the gravitas that comes with decades in the business, Morrison says kids haven't changed at all.

Their lunchboxes are different though. She is now seeing some very healthy lunchboxes, which reflects growing awareness among parents about making careful food choices for children.

She notes that mothers today are a different breed today than those in her early cohorts.

"Women everywhere are under much more pressure at this time of their lives to work when their children are little. And there is also an expectation that they will be taking children to

many more structured activities. It adds up to much more stress.

"In times when families had one car, you'd see mothers out strolling locally with pushchairs and young children. Now the children are much more often buckled into car seats, being taken somewhere to some activity."

Morrison wonders how much this shift matters and whether or not kids today are less fit and agile because they're spending more time in cars.

*"The childhood I value is unhurried and very simple, with the opportunity to play with others. It should be a childhood where there is the time for children to learn how to relate to others at their own pace and to learn resilience and problem-solving."*

She says she's very pleased to see current research making parents aware of the importance of unstructured free time for young children and the value of imaginative play.

"The childhood I value is unhurried and very simple, with the opportunity to play with others. It should be a childhood where there is the time for children to learn how to relate to

others at their own pace and to learn resilience and problem-solving."

Morrison is pleased to point out that there are no screens among the equipment and resources at the centre – despite some pressure to incorporate technology for the kids.

"I am confident I did the right thing in not introducing screens here. There is already more than enough of value for a child to be doing here. Why would you put them in front of a screen when they are deeply involved in imaginative play, or in a group game where they are learning to take turns or when they are climbing a tree and learning from all the skill that calls for?"

She is full of encouragement for young colleagues and those considering a career in early-childhood education, citing the job satisfaction – plus a willingness to put up with low wages.

For Morrison, it's been a dream career spanning half a century since she started teaching in South Africa, and continuing when she emigrated with her husband to Sydney.

From her teen years, she'd often imagined that once she had her own children she would set up her own preschool, thereby combining her love for parenting and teaching under one roof.

The family moved to Devonport where a great-uncle had once been a butcher's boy, and Morrison saw the chance to realise her dream, opening her doors to local under-fives in 1981.

She says she has loved every full-on day of it. At this stage she says she has no plans to retire – maybe she'll think about just pulling back a little, leaving space for others to step up.

"My frame will probably give up before my spirit does," she laughs.

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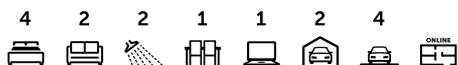
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- 1 
- 1 
- 1 
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### AUCTION

2:00pm 22 June 2019 on site (unless sold prior)

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## DEVONPORT

43 CLARENCE STREET



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#### VIEWING

Sat/Sun 2:00-2:45pm  
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**Carol Wetzell**  
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Devonport 09 445 2010



**Ian Cunliffe**  
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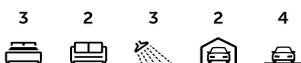


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**Ian Cunliffe**  
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[www.barfoot.co.nz/772100](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/772100)

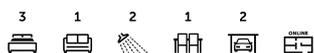
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**AUCTION**  
10:00am 23 May 2019 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)  
**VIEWING**  
By Appointment  
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# An Eagle eye on Oliver memory

A move to have one of Devonport's earliest settlers recognised has gone to the upper echelons of Auckland Council.

The council's legal department, its parks department, and now the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, have all been involved in resident Jim Eagles' request to have his great-great-grandfather William Oliver remembered as originally intended by Devonport Borough Council.

In 1976, the council resolved that the reserve at the end of what is today known as Kawerau Ave be named Oliver Reserve.

Since then, however, it appears Kawerau Reserve has been the name used on maps.

Also in 1976, the council agreed to change Princes St to Kawerau Ave, in recognition of a Maori tribe.

Jim Eagles' parents, Molly and Ralph, lived in Kawerau Ave for many years.

"Dad succeeded in getting the park named after Oliver, only for us to discover a few years ago that the name had been changed by some council officer acting without any sort of official approval," said Eagles.

"I've pursued this for my dad Ralph, a notable Devonport resident who was deputy-mayor and a life member of five or six Devonport clubs, who spent quite a lot of his retirement seeking to have his great-grandad commemorated."

A Devonport Borough Council document from 1976 shows a recommendation: "That Mrs Eagles be advised that the Council is prepared to name the small informal reserve at the end of Princes Street 'William Oliver Reserve'."

A plaque at the reserve also marks Oliver's connection to Devonport: "Oliver Reserve. This reserve has been named in memory of William Oliver who died in 1856. William Oliver was an early settler and the Warden



**The Eagles have landed... Jim Eagles (right) with brother Phil and nephew Simon, and Simon's children Ollie and Maddie, at the William Oliver plaque. Ollie is named for William Oliver.**

of the 'Hundred' of Devonport."

The Hundred was an early version of local government in the area.

Jim Eagles' request has swirled around Auckland Council due to sensitivity around Maori place-naming conventions.

"Auckland Council's legal department has been engaged to ensure due process is followed, as concerns have been raised as to the robustness of existing information, and if mana whenua were engaged with as

a requirement of the Conservation/Reserves Act," a report to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop this month said.

Council officers have recommended the board proceed with a dual name for Oliver Reserve, and consult with Maori to see if Kawerau is the most appropriate name for the reserve.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Mike Cohen said it was important the renaming was done correctly.

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## Who Was William Oliver?

Born in Hampshire, UK, in 1815, William Oliver arrived in New Zealand in 1840 on the Buffalo, which was wrecked at what became known as Buffalo Beach, Mercury Bay. The crew was taken to the Bay of Islands, en route to returning home, when Governor William Hobson came on board and asked for volunteers to help found the new capital in Auckland.

By 1846, Oliver was running a dairy farm in Devonport, and built what is thought to be the first settler's house in the suburb. In 1849, when the first steps were taken towards local government on the North Shore, a meeting to elect wardens was held in his house.

In 1851, Oliver was the first person to buy land in Devonport, when he acquired the section where his house stood (the block where the Victoria Cinema now stands). He bought another block in 1853.

In 1847, he and his brother-in-law, Tom Duder, were initially accused of the gruesome murders of Lieutenant Robert Snow, his wife and six-year-old daughter, but were later exonerated. A former shipmate of Duder's, Joseph Burns, was convicted of the crime and hanged on what is now Windsor Reserve.

Oliver died of TB in 1858 and was the first person to be buried in Mt Victoria cemetery.

This information was supplied to the council by Jim Eagles, who said: "The family has lived continuously in Devonport ever since, though I am the last one (but my nephew has made it to Hauraki).

"Oliver is the only one of the early settlers who has not been honoured in a street name, though he does feature in the exhibition of 10 pioneer families now on display at the Devonport Museum.

# Afflicted pohutukawa not out of woods yet

Samples from a dead pohutukawa on Memorial Drive are being analysed by government scientists to find out the cause of death.

The tree died recently, and other significant pohutukawa along the King Edward Pde waterfront have dead branches, prompting inspection by council arborists.

“An Auckland Council arborist has inspected the pohutukawa tree on King Edward Pde and advised that there were no evident signs of poisoning or Myrtle rust,” council head of operational management and maintenance Agnes McCormack says.

“The tree has some canopy decline and there is evidence there is some insect damage that is affecting some of the small branchlets.”

Should any branches become dangerous, they will be removed. But otherwise the trees will be inspected at the end of winter, when any insects would be emerging, to enable accurate identification, McCormack says.

As the council is uncertain about the cause of the tree’s death, arborists won’t carry out any unnecessary work for fear of spreading a pathogen.

Council arborists met with Ministry of Primary Industry scientists to take samples from the dead tree. No results were available by press time.

Pest-free coordinator Lance Cablk says his own checks confirm it is unlikely to be a fungal disease, such as Myrtle rust, as it doesn’t appear to be systemic. However, he is keen to get results confirmed, because of any risk of the killer disease arriving in Devonport.



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Winter is bringing some cold evenings and of course the twilight commutes home. But think about it, on 1 June it is only 120 days until daylight saving is back. Meanwhile, why not take in *The Lion in Winter*.



It's Christmas 1183, and King Henry II is planning to announce his successor to the throne. The jockeying for the crown, though, is complex. Henry has three sons and wants his boy Prince John to take over. Henry's wife, Queen Eleanor, has other ideas. She believes their son Prince Richard should be king. As the family and various schemers gather for the holiday, each tries to make the indecisive king choose their option.

Playing at 7.30pm June 5 to 8 and 4pm June 9. Tickets available only at eventfinda.co.nz, search "The Lion in Winter"

**Winter Play**

The Rose Centre is delighted to host the Devonport Peninsula Trust's Winter Play sessions every Tuesday June 4 to October 29, 9.30am to 11am, or until you need to take your tired toddler home.



**And come the end of the month, Devonport Drama's Fairytale the Musical**

Angry at being locked out of *Fairytale Idol*, the villains kidnap the Fairy Godmother to create their own dark tale. Can four princesses, Prince Charming and a small wooden puppet rescue her before fairy tales disappear forever?

A fun tale for all the family. Words: Geoff Allen/ Music: Robyn Allen-Gouldge

June 25th - 28th at 7pm, matinees Saturday June 29th 11am & 4pm. Two hours with interval.

Tickets: \$10 if pre-booked, \$15 at door subject to availability. Book at The Rose Centre phone 4459900 or email info@rosecentre.co.nz.

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**20 years ago from the Flagstaff files**



**Sound engineer... Clive Franks was the Flagstaff interview subject**

- One of the last remaining villas in Devonport's main street is earmarked for demolition. A three-storey building with six apartments and ground-floor retail frontage at 36 Victoria Rd is planned to replace a villa and shop. The house is one of a number built on Victoria Rd in the 1870s and 1880s and used by professionals and doctors.
- Former All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick is pictured on the front page meeting Alex MacDuff and Sam Wharehoka.
- Devonport hairdresser Alice Townsend wins the Auckland heats of a prestigious national competition.
- Belmont Handcraft and Drapery owner Maureen Berry retires after 23 years in Belmont.
- A free bus-ferry day is to be held in Devonport in an attempt to encourage people to catch buses to the ferry terminal rather than drive and park their cars there.
- Up to \$35,000 will be spent on an upgrade to the Devonport Information Centre for the America's Cup and millennium celebrations.
- Cosmetic surgery worth around \$2700 is one of the prizes to be auctioned at a Devonport Primary School PTA fundraiser. Ear-nose-and-throat surgeon Nick McIvor has donated the prize.
- North Shore Rugby Club premiers captain Paul Vegar became the third person to play 200 games for the senior side.
- Scott Brewer, who died of an enlarged heart, will be remembered with a new skateboard park at Ngataringa named after him. Devonport Rotary has contributed \$30,000 towards the new skatepark.
- Sound engineer to the stars, Clive Franks, is the Flagstaff interview subject.

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# Victorian buildings face heritage downgrade



A proposed heritage downgrade of an 1880s commercial building has campaigners worried it opens Victoria Rd up to out-of-character development.

Devonport Heritage has told the council it is strongly opposed to the buildings at 33 and 37–39 Victoria Rd changing from category A to category B in the Auckland Unitary Plan's schedule of historic places.

"There is already increased pressure from some local architects in particular to build above or behind the historic main-street buildings, and anything that lessens their protection is dangerous," the heritage group's deputy chair Margot McRae says.

The commercial buildings have been category A buildings since the 1980s, first under Devonport Borough Council and then North Shore City Council.

"It's ironic that decades ago all these buildings were protected as category A heritage items in the local district plan and now, years later, when so many buildings have been lost all around Auckland, they are not considered by Auckland Council to be worthy of the highest protection.

"Local politicians and planners from the 1970s recognised the significance of these buildings, but today's ones cannot," McRae says.

Auckland Council's heritage manager Noel Reardon says the buildings are part of an ongoing review, needed because the eight councils that formed the Super City had different heritage criteria.

Auckland City Council said that category A buildings could not be demolished, while other councils allowed that. So the amalgamated council decided to keep the higher standard for category A buildings and review former category A buildings, such as those on Victoria Rd, to see whether they warranted the higher level. These were classified as A\* pending review.

To be category A, buildings need to be significant outside their immediate area.

## Going from A to B easier under Auckland Council... The Victorian streetscape in line for a heritage-classification change

"If the council changed the Victoria Rd building to category A, it would have a higher level of protection than it had ever had and that could open it up to challenge by the landowner," Reardon says.

In reality, demolition of a category B building, which requires a resource consent, would be very unlikely to be approved, he says.

"Under this council, we have lost only three category B buildings, two to fire and one as a result of an Environment Court decision, and that was based on safety."

Reardon says the greater risk is modification and that is a resource consent process, where it makes little difference to the decision whether a building is category A or B.

The main thing the panel of commissioners would consider is whether a building was scheduled.

The Victoria Rd buildings have additional protection under the Unitary Plan's 'special character overlay', Reardon adds.

Devonport Heritage doesn't buy that argument and maintains buildings lose protection when they are changed from category A to B.

It opposes the A\* category, fearing the buildings will be downgraded, which appears to be likely.

Devonport Heritage would like even stronger protection to Victoria Rd buildings and those in surrounding streets, through Devonport being recognised as a 'Historic Heritage' area in the Unitary Plan, along with older parts of the central city.

When the Super City was formed, Devonport had 26 buildings removed from the register, including 14 in Victoria Rd. Several Victoria Rd buildings changed from category A to B.

Reardon says the assessments had been carried out under the North Shore City Council and the newly formed Auckland Council acted on them, as they were thorough assessments that added buildings to the schedule as well as subtracting them.

Another building destined for changes under the Unitary Plan is Skelton House at 13 Bardia St, which was designed by leading modernist firm Group Architects. Information on it will be updated.

The plan change was to be publicly notified on 30 May.

The schedule currently includes about 2250 historic heritage places. Around 180 of these are category A, 200 are category A\* and the rest are category B.

## The 1888 building

Known as the '1888 building' for the prominent date rendered in plaster on the Victoria Rd frontage, the buildings at 33 and 37–39 Victoria Rd were built after a large fire razed the former wooden buildings on the western side of the road.

The block was originally owned by Mr J. Jervis and known as the 'Jervis Block'.

A report on the fire at the time said the Jervis Block contained 17 rooms. The

shopkeepers who suffered the loss of premises and stock included Robinson, bootmaker, and John Jervis, grocer.

From 1901, there were two long-standing occupiers of the building: the Ambury and English Dairy Company and Howard's Fishmongery.

Circa 1911, the Red Cross Pharmacy was established in the block, and in 1912 this was taken over by Eccles Chemists. Devonport Pharmacy stands there today.

# Clarification sought over Anne St parking permits

Inconsistencies in how residential car-parking permits are administered in a Devonport street are under investigation.

The apparent phasing out of the permits in Anne St is also seen by some as a threat to heritage.

Parking permits for residents in Anne St were issued for about 20 years, after the Devonport Community Board and North Shore City Council recognised the street's special status.

Most of the Anne St houses were built before the advent of the car. The permits allowed residents preferential street parking, due to spaces outside their houses increasingly being used by ferry passengers making day trips to the city or Waiheke Island, or leaving their cars for longer while on trips to Great Barrier or even overseas.

Since the formation of Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT), it appears the permit system has become inconsistent, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Mike Cohen told a board meeting last week.

AT has a policy of no residential car parking permits across Auckland.

But in Anne St, it appeared existing residents with permits could renew them, while new residents were not allowed them, Cohen said.

Long-standing residents, who had no permit but wanted to apply for one due to changing circumstances, apparently couldn't get one either, he said.

The permits were designed to encourage the heritage protection of the single-storey houses in Anne St, without the addition of potentially damaging carports and garages. In Auckland City, there were "appalling examples" of old homes lifted to put a garage underneath, Cohen said.

"It seems AT, to ensure consistency through-

out Auckland, is endeavouring to phase out the programme, thereby completely ignoring the heritage implications on one hand and creating an unfair outcome for local residents on the other," Cohen said.

Board member Grant Gillon said the issue rubbed up against council's "nutty policy at the moment of allowing people to build houses without car parks and thereby creating congestion on the streets".

At the same time, council was not giving residents (such as those at Anne St) any relief from the pressure of ferry commuters.

The board sought clarification on the issue from Auckland Transport.

## Peninsula Walking School Buses on the wane

A fall in the number of Devonport Walking School Buses has alarmed a local board member, who suspects more parents are driving kids to school and clogging roads.

Devonport Primary, Stanley Bay School and Vauxhall School all had one Walking School Bus route operating as part of the Travelwise programme, an Auckland Transport report to the the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week said. St Leo's School had no Walking School Buses.

Board member Mike Cohen said Walking School Buses had been a priority under North Shore City Council and the Devonport

Community Board and numbers were much higher 10 years ago. They are even more vital now, with congestion increasing, he said.

By comparison, Belmont Primary School had two walking school buses and Hauraki School four.

Board chair George Wood said one possible reason for the slippage was that Auckland Council had introduced the Walking School Bus programme across the city and resources to support it had perhaps become too thin.

Auckland Transport will report back to the board on its concerns.



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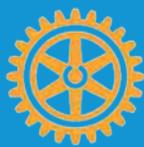
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## Devonport Rotary Club



*Now welcoming new members!*

### Woodall Park Pump Track Update!

Devonport Rotary has been working for the past nine months with Auckland Council planners and local residents to develop the existing Pump Track at Narrow Neck.

The concept of developing this informal track into something more formal has been discussed for many years. But it was only last year when Tim White and Haimona Ngata (both well-known bike enthusiasts) brought their passion, ideas and enthusiasm to the club, which led to Rotary getting behind them.



### A similar pump track in Napier

We are now pleased to announce that the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council officers have approved this location and the project is now signed off into the parks and recreation programme.

Through Rotary, Hampson Associates have now completed a land survey of the site and this has been passed to the design team associated with the council. Once the concept plan has been completed, an open day in Woodall Park will be organised for young and old alike to come down and see what is proposed and provide any feedback. This may be timed for July/August. It is important to all of us involved that we get input from the youth who will be using it. So watch this space, the Pump Track is coming!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**June 10th**

The Bangers to Bluff car run

**June 17th**

Music Wall competition for Devo Playcentre

**June 24th**

Drinks at Devon on the Wharf

### THANKS TO

Club member Bob McGuigan and engineer extraordinaire for leading the charge on the Pump Park Project!



Contact us at [info@devonportrotary.co.nz](mailto:info@devonportrotary.co.nz) or visit [www.devonportrotary.co.nz](http://www.devonportrotary.co.nz) if you would like more info.

# Free fares will highlight unreliable feeder buses to and from ferries

Pressure is coming on local government to sort out Devonport's notoriously unreliable bus services to and from the local ferries, as a council decision is to make the buses effectively free.

From February 2020, passengers using AT Hop cards will pay only the ferry fare when using buses to and from ferries at Devonport, Stanley Pt and Bayswater, after Auckland Council confirmed its budget for the upcoming financial year.

A Bayswater passenger says he has lodged 14 complaints so far this year about buses on the 801 feeder service leaving as passengers are approaching.

"The delays I'm talking about are like 30 seconds to one or two minutes, as we are walking up the path to the bus," Mike Dinwiddie says.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is calling for Auckland Transport (AT) to review the feeder-bus services, as patronage is likely to increase with the new integrated fares.

The Stanley Pt (806) and Cheltenham (807) buses aren't scheduled to meet the De-

vonport ferries, as they have low patronage and only one bus serving both routes, an AT staff member told local-board chair George Wood in an email.

At peak times, ferries arrive at Devonport at 10, 25 and 40 minutes past the hour, while the 806/807 buses between Stanley Pt/Cheltenham and Devonport leave the ferry terminal at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour, often empty.

Drivers can wait for five minutes if the ferry is visible. If the bus driver were to wait too long, on the return journey, they may not be in time to collect passengers needing to catch a ferry, the AT staff member said.

Only the 814 service to Takapuna is scheduled to meet the Devonport ferry.

AT will probably need to put bigger buses on the 814 route next year, Wood says.

The local board is bringing forward the review of the feeder buses as a priority under the Lake Rd improvements project.

"The AT Local ride-share service is muddying the waters," Wood says.

The ride-share service sees AT competing with its own buses and may not continue beyond September when the trial ends.

AT is in talks with operators of the feeder buses, but work is only just starting on the lead-up to integrated fares, AT media manager Mark Hannan says. The free-fares proposal still needs to be confirmed by the council's governing body.



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## Allen Hill Stadium resource-consent hold-up

The resource-consent process for the Allen Hill soccer stadium upgrade appears to have had run into delays.

Submissions on the project have been received but no date for a hearing has been set.

Auckland Council officers told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week that the the hold-up may have been due to a review of transport reports on the project.

Concerns were also raised about the security of the budgeted money allocated for the project. It may have been pushed out to later years in council plans.

Board chair George Wood said the council had taken over the sports field and it was a priority it delivered on improvements.

The board has sought clarification on the situation from council staff.

The Flagstaff also sent questions to Auckland Council, but had received no reply by press time.



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## Devonport firefighters show power in the tower



A team of five of Devonport Volunteer Fire Brigade firefighters came sixth out of 91 teams in the Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge on 18 May. Competitors climbed more than 1000 stairs up the tower, carrying 25kg of gear and raising \$1.3 million for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. The Devonport team was (from left) Dan Brady, Warren Tucker, Sam Hinchliffe, Jason Guey and Scott Price.

## Handy Randy the mannequin for the job

A rescue mannequin named Randy is the latest member of the Devonport Volunteer Fire Brigade team.

Randy will provide volunteer firefighters with valuable practice carrying people out of dangerous situations, enabling them to perfect techniques that reduce back injuries.

Devonport Rotary raised the \$2850 to purchase Randy.

He was put through his paces on the evening of 13 May, when firefighters practised searching the North Head tunnels wearing breathing apparatus, and simulated a rescue of 80kg Randy.

**Welcome aboard... Mannequin Randy (centre) with (from left) Devonport Rotary's Gavin Busch, and Devonport Volunteer Fire Brigade members Phil Claxton, Warren Tucker and Dan Brady**





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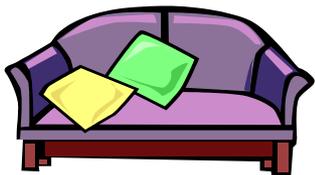
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# THIS MONTH @ the vic



### NEW MOVIES

RELEASE

ROCKETMAN (tba) 121 min	30 MAY
ASTERIX: THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION (PG) 105 min	30 MAY
<b>QUEENS BIRTHDAY - ADVANCE SCREENINGS</b>	
TOLKIEN (M) 112 min	ADVANCE SCREENING
SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER (PG) 88 min	ADVANCE SCREENING
TOLKIEN (M) 112 min	6 JUN
NEVER LOOK AWAY (M) 186 min	6 JUN
MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL (tba) 119 min	13 JUN
SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER (PG) 88 min	13 JUN
PAVAROTTI (tba) 112 min	13 JUN

### LIVE SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

**FRI 14 JUN**

#### THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW - 8.30PM

The 1975 Classic Movie, with performance by the Hot & Flustered Shadowcast. Get dressed up and enjoy this immersive theatrical experience.  
Tickets \$18.50 Adult, \$15 Student.

**FRI 21 JUN**

#### HOOP - 8.30PM

The Wonderfish Collective presents HOOP, the small but perfectly formed subset of the Wonderfish Collective, an intimate little show at the little Music Lounge at The Vic, Devonport. Tickets \$22.50 from www.thevic.co.nz

### SPECIALS

**CHEAP TUESDAY**  
\$10 Adult / \$8 Child  
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\*minimum spend applies



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# Jutland Road Reserve clean up



**Many young volunteers, including local girl guides and scouts with their adult supporters, recently came along to the monthly restoration efforts at Jutland Road Reserve.**



## Use it or lose it



**ZERO  
WASTE  
DEVONPORT**

Andrew Walters, Director  
Devonport Community  
Recycling Centre

The disappointing government response to waste from Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage has left councils, ratepayers and community groups picking up the tab for a broken waste and recycling system in New Zealand.

It's evident across New Zealand, and closer to home in Devonport. A failure to address recycling issues, the falling commodities market for recycling and turning their back on product stewardship for packaging materials means the sector continues to struggle.

At the Devonport Community Recycling Centre, paper is now worth zero, cardboard is worth zero. Mixed recycling comes at a cost of \$150 per tonne gate fee and \$150 a load to get it to Visy in Onehunga. This is after the centre pays staff to sort out the rubbish and wrong items people put in the recycling bins. So less than zero!

The centre attracts a tiny service fee from Auckland Council that barely covers a single job

yet it employs nine full-time equivalent jobs at a living wage and stays open seven days a week, providing a service to Devonport offering the chance to recycle and reduce waste.

To simply stay in business is a challenge. As traffic reduces heading into winter it gets harder and harder to make ends meet. To stay afloat it relies on residents and businesses to recycle right, use the right bins, and bring in green waste and general waste to the site where they will try their best to divert it from landfill.

Community recyclers and community waste-minimisers are struggling to get by across New Zealand. It's a harsh market and government has done nothing to help, passing up on opportunities to effect change. Don't take committed staff and community enterprises like your local recycling centre for granted - they may not be here in the future. Your local community recycling centre needs your support.

## BIS Eco Warriors top of tree in reserve planting



A group of Belmont Intermediate School (BIS) 'Eco Warriors' took just 70 minutes to plant 130 trees at Achilles Reserve earlier this month.

The 22 Year 7 and 8 students were joined by Auckland Council staff and Devonport Pestfree Coordinator, Lance Cablk.

They provided gloves and shovels for the kids, explained the importance of regeneration in the reserve and showed them good planting techniques.

"This is proof that many hands make a lighter load," says Shae Friedrichs, the teacher in charge of the group.

"This is just one way in which these warriors have fought for our precious planet."

The Eco Warriors plan to complete another round of planting, but in the meantime Friedrichs says they will be spending time learning more about environmental issues and coming up with plans to make BIS more eco-friendly.

# RESTORING TAKARUNGA HAURAKI

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki is a network of people who love our peninsula with its precious shorelines, maunga, various local reserves, school grounds, backyard gardens, and nearby islands. With diverse interests and projects related to ecological restoration and conservation of native biodiversity, we express care through thoughtful actions; especially removing pest plants and animals and generally encouraging and planting native species. Transformative progress and momentum is generated with coordinated efforts such as ours. Simply enjoying working together in nature is powerful!

### Young People

Jane Goodall has been in New Zealand talking about reasons for hope: young people top her list.

Many energetic young people showed up for the recent gathering of the Jutland Road Restoration Project. Enthusiastic groups of students at our local schools are leading and acting with care for our local and global environment. The "Ecowarriors" with their teach Shaeleigh Friedrichs of Belmont Intermediate have been busy planting trees planting at the Achilles Reserve recently, contributing to our "Trees that Count" initiative, making eco-bricks, and developing a proposal to develop an amazing outdoor classroom space. Jenny Laws and Edward White from Takapuna Grammar School continue organising students across the region to spur bold action to stop climate change. Hundreds of student climate strikers with adult supporter recently lied down on Queen Street to protest "business as usual."

Amazing primary school students and staff are

planning and acting to protect and restore our natural environment as well! More soon.

### Citizen Science

Big thank you to everyone who took part in our May 5 Minute Bird Count! We more than doubled our people involved and many folks said how much they enjoyed learning new birds and simply taking time to appreciate being quiet outside. Many parents and school-aged children helped out. Our next 5MBC will be in October. You can sign up and learn about the results of the count and other news on our Facebook Group pages - Restoring Takarunga Hauraki. You can also sign up for our newsletter.

There are opportunities plans emerging for groups and individuals to do more and different types of monitoring our diverse ecology.

### Curious to know more?



Bayswater student leaders planning for their bush restoration site along Roberts Avenue, part of their Matariki celebrations in June

### Community-led rate eradication

We have many ongoing efforts to reduce and perhaps one day eliminate rats as a threat to our native wildlife. Our next pulse is in August - please by in touch if you want to be involved.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUTLAND ROAD ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT

Monthly weekend gathering  
Saturday June 15th, 3pm-4:30

Followed by optional further exploration of coastal fringe ecosystem

### FRIENDS OF ACHILLES RESERVE (near Seabreeze entrance)

Stream bank restoration planting and weeding  
Sunday June 16th, 1-2:30pm

Followed by an optional stream excursion/investigation

### BAYSWATER SCHOOL'S NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION PROJECT

(several thousand plants)  
School celebration and planting day  
Friday June 21st

### COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

Saturday June 22nd, 9-11am

Please bring a spade and work gloves!

# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

MAY 31, 2019



## Haka challenge

Brightly sporting house colours and high spirits, the whole school gathered for the annual House Haka Challenge – Te Karanga Pakanga – which took place on Wednesday 15th May. All six houses had spent the last two months preparing for this.

It was great to see all the students and staff gathered in one place. We had guest judges in the form of Mr Denham, principal of Massey High School, and Mr Catterall along with our respected principal Mrs Nixon.

The event was a success as all houses showed equally high enthusiasm. The expression ranged from colour-appropriate hand bands/ribbons or house t-shirts to leading the haka. The event concluded with students doing a whole-school haka before teachers and senior management. Kaha, Wehi and Mana came first, second and third respectively.

After congratulating ourselves on this successful contest, we now look forward to our final house event: the House Chant.

BY LAIBA BATOOL



## IB Students volunteer at Battle of The Schools

The Battle of the Schools is an annual event hosted by Belmont Primary School. It involves each of the primary schools on the Devonport peninsula putting together teams of Year 6 students to compete in a series of physical challenges. It is a great opportunity for staff and students alike to let loose and have some fun, while bringing together the wider community.

This year, several International Baccalaureate (IB) students from Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) volunteered to help with running the event, including setting up stalls, seating areas, and events, and helping to make sure that things ran smoothly. This activity contributed to the students' IB diplomas – they need to gain 150+ hours of Creativity, Service and Activity (CAS) by the end of their two years studying the course. The students' work counted as 'service': an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The CAS element of IB ensures students come out of the programme well rounded and having gained skills in fields outside the typical academic areas.

The volunteering was incredibly beneficial for the students – they developed both leadership and teamwork skills through working with those around them and the events managers. Their help was also very valuable for the community, as the competition is extremely popular with the kids who participate, the families who watch and the local businesses that have stalls. Battle of the Schools also raises a lot of money for Belmont Primary School.



This annual event is very much anticipated by adults and children alike and succeeds in uniting the seven peninsula primary schools. TGS IB students volunteering proved to be a positive and successful action contributing to the surrounding community and was valued by many. A huge thanks goes out to all who helped make Battle of the Schools such a success.

# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

MAY 31, 2019



## Enviro Group raises awareness of ocean plastic

The TGS Enviro Group, led by Serina Mansell, Hannah Kim and Libby Lord, have been working to raise awareness about the issue of ocean plastic.

Over the past term, our focus has been on making an installation for the school library. We constructed a turtle out of recyclable materials that would've likely gone to landfills, such as plastic bottles and newspaper, to make students think about how the rubbish we create affects our marine ecosystems. To further educate students about the issue of plastic pollution, we

surrounded the turtle sculpture with books and posters about ocean plastic and sustainability.

The inspiration behind the turtle project was seeing a lot of rubbish around our school and on our beaches; a lot of people are unaware of the effect their waste has on our environment, or don't seem to care. Having a physical reminder of where most of our plastic ends up is great for raising awareness of this serious issue and will hopefully have an impact within school.

BY LIBBY LORD

## A green future for TGS

Takapuna Grammar School is proud to say we are working extremely hard to combat issues surrounding waste in our school grounds. With many new initiatives – including a planned weekly school-wide House clean-up – and improved waste bins around the school, we are looking forward to a green and clean future. These initiatives are strongly backed by the student body, who believe that it is our job to maintain a healthy local ecosystem.

Alongside these student and staff-run initiatives, our grounds staff are working hard to maintain the cleanliness and safety of the many drains around our school. With the whole school working hard to keep our campus clean and safe, we encourage the local community to do the same.

We are proud to say that Takapuna Grammar School is a strong community hub for the surrounding area, and we have happily held open arms to all locals wishing to utilise the grounds we are lucky to call ours. With this openness to the community, it is not only the staff's and students' job to keep our campus tidy, but the job of the local community to do so as well. All of these efforts are greatly appreciated.

At Takapuna Grammar School, we pride ourselves on our strong school spirit, love for the school and respect for the local environment. It is these values that have sparked both staff and students to introduce changes that will continue to benefit the whole community.

BY WILL DALZELL

from  
the  
*Lion's Den*

### THE LATEST IN SPORT

**VOLLEYBALL** We are currently running a Friday after-school volleyball league for BIS students in our sports hall (run by our senior coach and senior players). This kicked off last week and is proving to be very popular, with over 40 BIS students signed up.

**KARATE** Nina Edgar competed at the New Zealand Open in April. Nina placed third in the Female Premier Kata and second in the Senior Premier Female Kata Open. Well done Nina. TGS student Chiemu Iioka received four Gold medals at the NZ Karate Open Championships in Christchurch in April. Amazing work Chiemu!

**BADMINTON** A good start to the TGS senior badminton season with all three teams having comprehensive wins: Senior Boys won 6-3, Senior Girls won 8-0 and Senior Boys won 8-0. With over 60 students signed up, badminton is an increasingly popular sport at our school.

**CROSS-COUNTRY** Emma Mason finished 13/53 and Joe Millington finished 18/120 runners at the North Western Zone Cross Country Championships on 14 May.

**HOCKEY** The Girls 1st XI gained their first win for the season against a strong Carmel side, winning convincingly 2-0. Goal scorers were Lucy Buckeridge and Sidney Glennie-Cosby. An outstanding effort as traditionally we have never beaten Carmel. The Boys 1st XI played out a tough-fought 3-2 win against Northcote to steer the team towards Super City qualification. The game was played at a high speed and was awesome to watch.

**GOLF** Ross Allot, Ruby Chi and Georgia Glory represented TGS at a golf tournament last week in Warkworth. Despite very windy conditions, Ruby went round in 79 and Ross 82 (course par 75).

**RUGBY** Our 1st XV narrowly lost against Rangitoto last Saturday 17-14. Our 5th and 7th grade teams both had big wins last week. Well done!

**TABLE TENNIS** Our TGS Boys team 1 won 6-5 last Friday.

**FOOTBALL** Our Girls 1st XI won 2-0 against Marist on Wednesday. We've also increased our number of Girls teams to five this year, which is great to see.

**NETBALL** Senior team 1 are currently sitting second on the table in Premier grade after a six-goal win against Mahurangi last Saturday.

# Booklet traces early history of Devonport

**Moa bones excavated at Torpedo Bay suggest Devonport was one of the first parts of Aotearoa to be settled by Maori, according to a new booklet by archaeologist David Veart, published by Auckland North Community and Development. The booklet was inspired by a talk Veart gave in Takapuna last July about settlement in the area. This is an abridged excerpt.**

For tens of thousands of years, humanity spread out across the globe. Originating in Africa, modern humans walked, floated and sailed their way to every corner of the planet.

The final land mass to be discovered was Aotearoa/New Zealand in about 1250 AD.

So, what did these first people find when they arrived in their large, double-hulled waka?

Aotearoa/New Zealand had evolved in isolation for millions of years and contained a unique ecosystem almost devoid of mammals. Instead, it was a land of birds.

On the North Shore there were stands of northern broadleaf podocarp forest, tōtara, mātai, miro, conifer forests of kauri, kahikatea on the swampy parts and pōhutukawa on the coasts.

The fish we catch today would have been present but much bigger and in much larger numbers, with birds everywhere. And there

would have been moa – more about them later.

There was something else on Auckland's North Shore the new Polynesian colonists especially wanted – the warm volcanic soils.

These soils were very free draining, which meant they were warm, because unlike the clay soils the cooling water did not remain.

The crops [brought from tropical Hawaiki] needed to be planted and work would have started clearing the bush from the garden sites.

As the gardeners worked, they turned up large amounts of volcanic rock, which they used to build things; low boundary walls, and stone and earth mounds, which helped warm the soil as the stone stored the sun's heat.

We can see remains of these stone garden structures in early photographs of Devonport and North Head.

The only sign of these big gardens now surviving are the kūmara storage pits, rua kūmara which can still be seen near the top

of Takarunga/Mount Victoria.

As well as plants, the East Polynesian colonists brought animals.

In most of the Pacific, people brought dogs, pigs and chickens, as well as the kiore, the Polynesian rat, which may have just hitched a ride.

In Aotearoa, only the dog and the rat survived.

The chickens did not make it [the journey] either, but then there were much bigger birds to eat in New Zealand.

Before retirement, I worked for the Department of Conservation at the area office at Maungauika/North Head in Devonport.

One of the adjacent military sites was Torpedo Bay, an old defence establishment, which had been converted into New Zealand's naval museum.

Prior to the museum development, archaeologists were called in to determine what

## THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Launch of Navy's largest ship

Nautical tradition says that a ship is not a ship until it touches the sea for the first time.

The Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) first purpose-built ship in 10 years, "Aotearoa", finally found herself in her natural environment last month, only eight months after her keel was laid in a South Korean shipyard.

It wasn't the dramatic launch of times past, where a ship rolled down the slipway and into a harbour stern first.

Aotearoa was constructed in the massive Hyundai Heavy Industries dry dock, which was filled with water, and the ship floated off the blocks.

This didn't lessen the enormity of the occasion, according to the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor, who was in attendance.

"Seeing a ship of this size and capability on the water nearing full completion is a really exciting time for our Navy," said Rear Admiral Proctor.

"Aotearoa will provide us with a world-class maritime sustainment capability. She is a ship that will carry our nation's name with pride to all corners of the world as we advance New Zealand's interests from the sea."



**Aotearoa on the water for the first time following her launch at the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard in Ulsan, South Korea. (NZDF)**

At 173m long, Aotearoa is the largest ship the RNZN has ever had in the fleet. It boasts state-of-the-art design and capability features, including ice-strengthening and 'winterisation' for operations in Antarctica. The ship cost \$493 million to build.

She will operate as a fleet tanker, a supply ship, and has the ability to produce 100 tonnes of fresh water each day – critical when

providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

Aotearoa now begins six months of fit-out before her formal naming ceremony in Ulsan, South Korea, which will be attended by the Governor-General of New Zealand and Aotearoa's ship sponsor, Dame Patsy Reddy.

The Commissioning of the ship will take place at the Devonport Naval Base in early 2020.

**Devonport Naval Base security reminder – for the safety of the community please take care and remain outside the 60-metre perimeter of the Naval Base at all times. This includes when swimming, diving, kayaking, fishing and sailing.**

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

**DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE TEL 445 5002**





Photo courtesy Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections

**Once were gardens... An 1879 photograph showing Maungauika/North Head and part of Devonport. David Veart says the line in the middle foreground is Vauxhall Road and past this we can see a rocky area where Māori garden structures remain. These are the irregular pale lines and rectangular enclosures marked on the landscape. Burgess Road and Domain Street would be built here in the future.**

remained of the old mine base that was not visible on the surface.

One day I received a phone call from a colleague, who said: 'You might like to wander down to the excavation at Torpedo Bay. Some amazing things are turning up.'

When I got there, I saw a group of archaeologists working in one small corner of the site; it was part of the mine base but what they were finding was older than that... much

much older.

I met Mica Plowman, the archaeologist in charge, who showed me what they had been finding. It consisted of a series of hāngī pits, one on top of another, a place where people had been cooking and eating for centuries.

The oven on the top had broken clay tobacco pipe stems associated with it, probably dating from the nearby village visited by [German-Austrian geologist Ferdinand] von Hochstetter [who visited the North Shore in the 1850s]. There were other, older ovens below that and then a layer of red volcanic soil, possibly washed down from the gardens above the site on Maungauika.

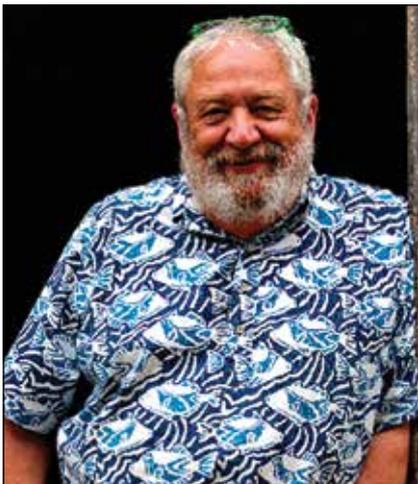
Below this layer was a very unexpected find – a hāngī where people had been cooking moa, the now extinct giant bird. At least five moa had been cooked here from three separate coastal species of moa, all of which were probably caught along the coast of what is now the North Shore. This was a completely unexpected find; the hunting of moa was not part of the known economic activity of early Māori in the Tāmaki area.

Also unexpected was how early the dates for this early settlement were. While this excavation research has yet to be published, Mica kindly shared the radiocarbon dates with me. Radiocarbon dates can be taken from organic materials and measure amounts of a radioactive isotope, carbon 14, which decays at a known rate. The dates for the earliest part of this site concentrate at about 1350 AD,

the very earliest period of human settlement in Aotearoa.

I find this very exciting. Those of us on the North Shore live in a part of the country where people first landed, the first people in the last part of the earth to be discovered and settled.

If you are interested in getting a copy of the booklet, *The Maori Archaeology of Te Raki Paewhenua/North Shore*, email [info@ancad.org.nz](mailto:info@ancad.org.nz).



**Looking back...**

**David Veart is the author of *The Maori Archeology of Te Raki Paewhenua/North Shore***

**What's On**

**Snr Vocal Competitions**

June 1-3

Competition for young singers over Queen's Birthday weekend.

**Much Ado about Nothing**

June 6-8

Albany Senior High School takes on a Shakespearean classic.

**Much Ado about Shakespeare**

June 13-15

Pinehurst School's romp through Shakespeare's plays.

**Behind Closed Doors**

June 18-21

A show about a trip to a haunted theme park, by Rosmini College.



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# Waterwise regatta hotly contested



**Strong finish... Stanley Bay School students (left to right) Isla McLean, Axel Healy (obscured), Calliope Bower and Harry Brown win the first race**



**Team effort... (left to right) Cruz Tugaga, Edie Warman-Clough, Maliah Merkens and Mack Elphick-Moon of Bayswater School carry their boat across the finish line**

## Belmont Primary sailors take the honours in peninsula regatta

A low tide and fickle winds on the water made for an exciting Waterwise Regatta for peninsula schools on 20 May.

Seven schools competed at Narrow Neck Beach, with Belmont Primary School taking first place. Vauxhall School was second, and third place was shared by St Leo's and Hauraki Schools.

Three races were completed, and the teams were judged on their combined score.

"The first few races were a bit of a lottery, with various disasters for different schools, and the leads were shared quite a few times," says event organiser Alison Hansen.

"There were a few very close finishes, which were very exciting for participants and spectators alike."

Results: 1. Belmont Primary School. 2. Vauxhall School. 3. St Leo's and Hauraki Schools. 5. Devonport Primary School. 6. Stanley Bay School. 7. Bayswater School.

**Winning grins...Team Belmont Primary coming in first overall: (Left to right) Mackenzie Campbell-Cree, Marine Carle, regatta organiser Alison Hansen, Ethan Belch and Mirim Dallimore**

**Photos: Guy Robinson**



**Smooth sailing... Anna Dyachenko from Devonport Primary School**

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