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Massive Lake Rd development adds to traffic tsunami

A huge development of 48 new state houses on Lake Rd, including 36 car parks, is set to add a new wave of vehicles to the traffic already flooding the congested carriageway.

Housing New Zealand (HNZ) has applied for a resource consent for the development, which includes two three-storey apartment blocks at the corner of Lake Rd and Bardia St, and an additional two duplexes on Tui St.

“The 48 new one- to four-bedroom homes will make better use of land and reflect the needs of our tenants and their families,” HNZ programme director Nick

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Aja celebrates 20 years of Devonport Midwinter Swims



Gearing up for a chilly dip... Aja Lethaby and son Leo at Windsor Reserve Beach, ahead of this year's midwinter swim. Full story page 3.

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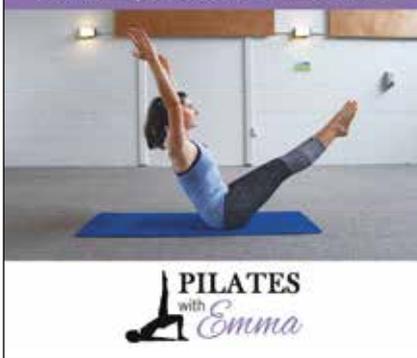


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Gull station rejected by planners

Motorists' hopes for a new petrol station on the Devonport peninsula may be scuppered, with council planners opposing Gull's application to set up in Cheltenham.

Gull New Zealand lodged a resource consent in May 2018 to demolish Tainui Motors structures at 66 Vauxhall Rd and set up a 24-hour, self-service petrol station.

Auckland Council planners are now recommending independent commissioners turn down the application at an upcoming hearing.

The high-tech fully automated service station, with six dispensers, would be out of character with the historic suburb, the planners said in a report.

Cheltenham has a 'special character overlay' in the Unitary Plan, meaning the service station's impact on the visual appeal and atmosphere of the area has to be considered.

The planners felt the station's location, large pylon sign and expansive concrete surface

would have a negative impact on the street's amenity.

The likelihood the Gull station would create occasional noise at night in the quiet residential street, and have "more than minor adverse effects" on neighbours, was another reason to knock back the proposal.

On the other hand, the planners said there would be little environmental impact from the earthworks, storage of 100,000 tonnes of petrol and diesel in two tanks, lighting, trade activity and air quality.

If the consent were to be granted, the planners suggested conditions included closing at 10pm and changing the design of the tall pylon sign.

Auckland Council notified the consent with 90 submissions received: 62 against the Gull station and 28 in favour.

The hearing is set down for 17, 19 and 20 June at the council chambers in Takapuna (level 3, 1 The Strand).

Council finally fesses up over seat-disappearance mystery

The mystery of the bench that vanished last month has been solved – and a replacement promised.

Auckland Council, which initially said it had no record of the bench on its "geospatial information system" – and sent out a team who could find no trace of it – has revealed three weeks later that the seat was removed in May, as it had deteriorated and was no longer safe.

The bench sat on a small park at the corner of Kerr St and Victoria Rd and offered a view down Devonport's main road and a shady spot for a break or meeting at the top end of town.

The council said it was not replaced due to the proximity of another seat in the vicinity.

"Regrettably, the original seat within the pocket park was not listed as an asset in the council's geospatial information system due to it not being transferred when the streetscape garden was passed from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council," council head of operational management and maintenance Agnes McCormack says.

"We can also confirm that the original



Hot seat... A popular and scenic bench, pictured in 2015, was removed by council as it was deemed a safety hazard

seat did not have a memorial plaque on it."

She said the bench, which was removed without the knowledge of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, would be replaced. "Due to the obvious appreciation of the original seat within the pocket park by the community, this will be replaced with a historical-style bench, in keeping with the original, in the new financial year."

3 Victoria Rd: empty for 340 days

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

It has now been unoccupied for 340 days.

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

Gone to the dogs

The Devonport peninsula is home to more than 800 dogs.

Central Devonport, with 378, has the most of any neighbourhood in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area.

Forrest Hill is next with 335, followed by Milford (278), Takapuna (277), Hauraki (239), Castor Bay (212), Belmont (181), Bayswater (150), Narrow Neck (148), and Stanley Point (111). A total of 2309 dogs were registered in the local-board area in 2017/2018. Source: Auckland Council.

Mass TGS hair shave raises \$15,000 for blood cancer



Take that sis... Phoebe Morrison (13) cuts off a clump of her sister Ella's (16) hair as 19 Takapuna Grammar students got a severe trimming at the school hall. The students raised more than \$15,000 for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand's Shave for a Cure 2019. Ella and Phoebe's grandfather has Leukaemia.

From page 1

Devonport Mid-Winter Swim marks 20 years

Twenty years after a young Aja Lethaby helped establish the Devonport Midwinter Swim, she is again preparing to take part with her three-year-old son, Leo.

Lethaby, now 31, took part in her first midwinter swim in 1998, when she was 11 years old.

"It was a big storm and I thought it was the most fun I had ever had," she says.

"It left such an impression on me and I thought I'd really like to do that again."

With the help of her parents, Lethaby began organising the Devonport Midwinter Swim, which has become an annual ritual at Windsor Reserve.

She planned and ran the event for around eight years before handing it on. Organisation has since been passed on from family to family.

"It was a really good experience and it almost paved the way for what I'm doing now – marketing and events," says Lethaby.

She works from her Devonport home as the marketing executive for Chamber Music New Zealand.

Since leaving university, Lethaby has travelled overseas and lived in Wellington for work, but has always taken part in the swim when in Devonport.

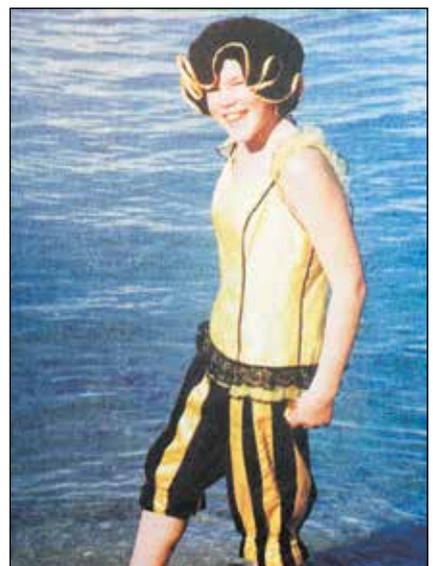
"I just love that it's nothing but an event that brings the community together. The feeling you get afterwards is amazing, you feel ecstatic," she says.

Her son Leo took part for the first time in 2018, and will be jumping back in this year.

"Last year, he was the youngest swimmer. He got a massive shock when he ran into the water, but we have been swimming this year right up until last month so I think he'll be more prepared this time."

With a laugh she wonders if she might dress Leo in a similar costume to the period outfit she wore in 1999.

• This year's Devonport Midwinter Swim, run by Amanda French, is at 11.30am on 23 June, at Windsor Reserve Beach.



Toe in the water... The then 12-year-old Aja wore a period costume when she first organised the Devonport Midwinter Swim in 1999



DevonportProperty.nz Report — May 2019

A change in the market

The expression ‘a week is a long time in politics’ would seem to have a corollary within the real-estate market: Three months can change a market. Not quite as much of a call to action, however such has been the change in the local property market since the summer, I feel drawn to make such a statement.

I’m referring to the availability of properties for sale. Back in late February, there was, as I described at the time an abundance of options for buyers.

I used the word “The market is awash with properties for sale”. At that time, there were 79 properties for sale; a month later this had risen to peak at 83. Since then, the market has been devoid of new listings – just 31 new properties in 10 weeks.

The same 10-week period last year



Sales of 48 properties in the past three months represents a decline compared to last year, however the first indication of price pressure can be seen. The median sales price of houses rose by 1% to \$1.9m in the three months to May, recovering some of the loses of the past nine months.

The message from the market is that continued sales activity, which is likely through the coming winter, will further deplete the somewhat limited offering of property of interest to buyers.

saw 56 properties listed. The lack of new listings has led to a significant decline in inventory, such that there are now just 56 properties on the market for sale, not far off the level at this time last year.

This swing in market sentiment is yet to flow through to sales volumes.

There is a misnomer that it’s better to wait to sell in the spring. That can be refuted by statistics that show that winter is a great time to sell, and this year it will certainly be true. Give me a call and I’ll be only too happy to share my analysis and perspective.

As at May 2019	PROPERTIES				PRICES	
	Properties on the market 31 May	Properties Listed (Mar/Apr/May)	Properties Sold (Mar/Apr/May)	Variance in moving annual total sales	Median Sale Price (\$M) 3 months to May	Variance compared to last year
All Properties	58	50	48	▼ -14%	\$1.688M	▼ -1%
Houses	41	37	39	▼ -15%	\$1.900M	▲ +1%
Units	2	4	4	▲ +53%	\$766,000	▼ -6%
T/houses Apartments	15	9	5	▼ -32%		



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Recycling centre raises prices to avoid closure

The Devonport Community Recycling Centre is raising commercial green-waste prices in a bid to avoid closure at the end of June.

The centre is experiencing heavy losses and we are “looking at closing our doors on June 30 unless we can find a financially sustainable solution,” centre Director Andrew Walters said in a message to trade customers last weekend.

The centre is in its fourth year of a five-year lease with Auckland Council. It was based on a reduced funding each year from Auckland Council, but in return the local authority had agreed to redevelop the site, including a new shop and a dry area to sort and store waste.

Walters said while the funding had reduced, the site redevelopment had not materialised.

The current 40 per cent discount offered to commercial operators ended on Tuesday. More than half the waste that “came over the weighbridge” was green refuse, Walters said. He hoped the change in pricing would stabilise the financial situation.

The differential pricing created an anomaly anyway. If people are wealthy enough to be able to afford a landscaper, they effectively got a discount on green-waste recycling. Now it is a level playing field, Walters said.

From the outset council had said the centre would run as if it “was a partnership”, Walters said. He is still hopeful of working out a solution



Hoping to keep the recycling centre open... Andrew Walters

with council officers and councillors “who I believe think [the centre] is an important part of the zero-waste strategy.”

The amount of council funding was not large: “less than two staff per month,” he said.

Staff have been retained and redundancies would be “a last resort,” Walters said.

“All will be good if people support us.”

North Shore United flying high at top of table

North Shore United’s premier soccer team is top of the Northern League table, with half the season’s matches completed.

The side won 2-1 last Saturday away to Hamilton Wanderers and now is equal-first with Western Springs, but ahead on goal difference.

It’s been a sensational season so far for newly promoted Shore, winning seven matches, drawing two and losing two. They play Glenfield away this weekend, but home are to Manukau United on 22 June.

Shore premiers beat Bays

North Shore rugby premiers edged previously unbeaten East Coast Bays 31-22 last weekend at Vauxhall Rd.

It has a bye this weekend as Glenfield has pulled out for the season and plays Marist and Silverdale in the following weeks prior to the play offs.

Mountain monument plan active but inactive

A pou monument planned for the top of Takarunga/Mt Victoria is still on local authority documents – but the Tūpuna Maunga Authority knows nothing about it.

A key initiative in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Agreement 2018/2019 is to: “Work with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority and local community groups to install a pou on Takarunga - Mt Victoria.”

A Pouwhenua or pou whenua (land post),

is a carved wooden post used by Māori, to mark territorial boundaries or places of significance.

The Flagstaff asked the Tūpuna Maunga Authority about the status of the proposed pou, Authority chair Paul Majurey said: “There is no proposal for a pou at the tihi of Takarunga / Mt Victoria, and there have been no discussions about a pou between the Tūpuna Maunga Authority and the Devon-

port-Takapuna Local Board.”

A spokesperson for the authority asked: “Have you come across misinformation about a pou on social media?”

Board chair George Wood said officers had told him a decision was made to not proceed with the proposal for a monument on top of the mountain.

He would be investigating further how it was still in the board agreement,

Cash-flow shortages

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In the financial markets, the winter winds are blowing as weaker global growth and trade wars are resulting in lower (and even negative) interest rates in some countries. Mortgage rates here are at historic lows – under 4% out to 3 years fixed at the main banks – so take advantage of these where possible.

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Feels like coming home

Buying a business in Devonport feels like coming home, say Mylam and Liz Sloan, who have taken over The Patriot.

Born and raised locally, Mylam is excited to be home and Liz says she has always wanted to live in Devonport.

“I was born in the hospital in Buchanan Street and my family has been here since the 1940s. We’re excited to be moving back to my old stomping ground,” Mylam says. He previously worked as a pilot for Air New Zealand, and Liz was a commercial retail manager at Auckland Airport.

They both decided on a career change and took over Takeoff Espresso cafe at Auckland Airport in 2015 and never looked back.

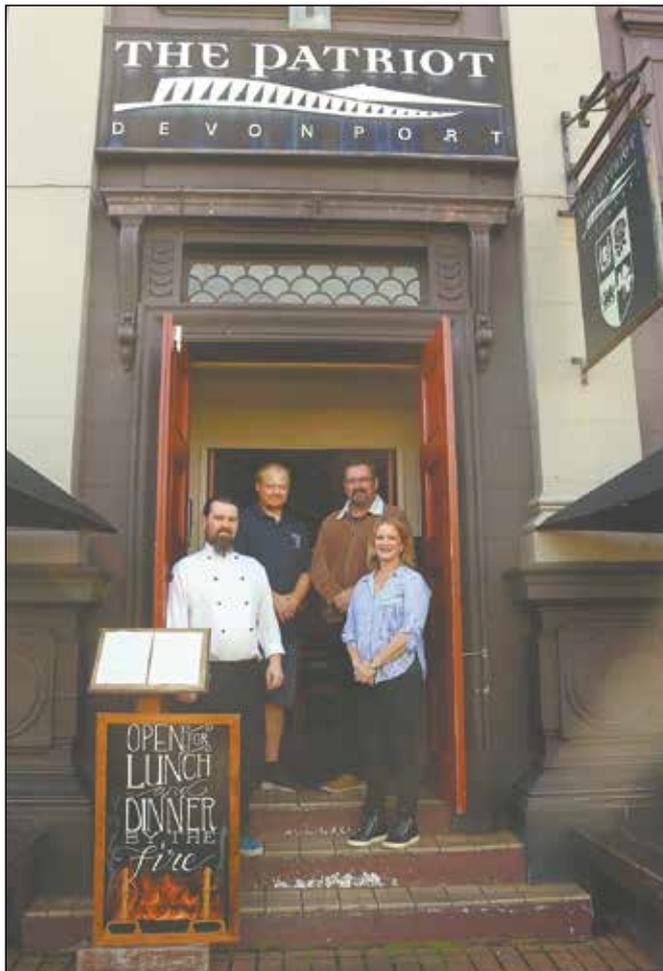
Mylam and Liz bought Devonport’s trusty local in January this year and have since been focusing on renovations and improving the food quality, while keeping the authentic pub ambience.

“It was a bit run-down,” says Mylam. “The reason we bought it was because it was iconic, well known and in my home town, which was important to me. It needs a smarten-up, but that’s half the fun.

Many of the wait and bar staff have stayed on and Mylam describes his team as a family.

“It’s really intoxicating, excuse the pun. We’ve got great staff, amazing patrons who are loyal, and it’s a real community feeling,” he says.

The couple’s first significant project was to improve the function room, including restoring the kauri floors, and repainting as well as working on a catering menu.



is operations manager Joe Saynor, who has worked at The Patriot for four years.

“He’s diligent, dedicated and he treats the business like it’s his own,” says Mylam.

Another priority for Mylam and Liz is making the business more community-focused, including a face-painter on Saturdays and kids-eat-free weekends.

Mylam is a classic-car enthusiast and owns a fire engine, which he hopes to bring down on the weekends for entertainment. You might have seen Myrtle, their classic Mini with the Patriot logo and Union Jack, motoring around the area.

“We’ve noticed that it’s not really family-friendly. We want parents to be able to come down on the weekends and know that the kids will be entertained too,” says Liz. “It’s also about being more social.”

It’s not purely about alcohol any more. Consumption has been declining in New Zealand year on year, and beer tastes are changing. It’s now about an experience. Hence high on the list is brewing their own craft beer in a microbrewery out the

back. Watch this space! A new kitchen team is led by talented head chef Stef Everson, who has worked in various iconic and highly acclaimed pubs throughout the peninsula.

Everson has been a finalist in a number of the Monteith’s Wild Food Challenges, and says “there’s a lot of things that Mylam and Liz have brought to this place that will make it better.”

Another recognisable face at The Patriot

back. Watch this space!

Other improvements include a stage and, later on, a full canopy in the garden bar, better quality live music, and clear roll-downs on the upstairs veranda to make it more cozy and dry on those bad-weather days.

“We still want to keep The Patriot as The Patriot,” says Mylam. “It’s going to remain as the local, just better.”

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From page 1

More intensification in the pipeline

Seymour says.

Currently, there are 12 houses on the site, comprising of three weatherboard houses dating back to the 1940s, a 1950s weatherboard duplex and home, a 1950s brick-and-tile house and other 'infill housing' from the 1980s.

The properties' capital values range from \$640,000 (1/181 Lake Rd) to \$1.025 million (10 Tui Street) and total \$9.5 million.

The apartments and duplexes will be built to meet modern standards, including full insulation and double glazing.

"The site fronting Lake Road presents an opportunity to create higher density in the heart of an existing community, close to Belmont Primary School and Belmont Intermediate and near main transport routes," HNZ says.

HNZ plans to build more new homes on the Devonport peninsula over the next few years, as it modernises its stock to meet demand.

In addition to the Belmont site, HNZ currently has a two-building development nearing completion at 391 Lake Rd in Hauraki, and is finalising plans to build on a vacant site at 100-102 Lake Rd in Narrow Neck.

HNZ has 263 state houses in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area.

Of the 12 properties in the current resource consent, 11 are occupied. HNZ says, whenever it needs to rehouse tenants



On the way out... new state houses are to set replace these Lake Rd homes

it will talk to them about their preferred areas to live, their family and community connections, schools and medical centres they access, and other ties to specific areas.

Tenants are then matched to a suitable

home, and given the chance to visit and accept the new house. HNZ supports tenants through the relocation process, paying to move their belongings and dispose of any unneeded items.

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Photographs aim to ‘bring the outside in’

In what she says is her most personal exhibition yet, local photographer Linda Jarrett reveals her struggle with agoraphobia.

But *the Blackness Still Absolute* is being exhibited at The Depot Artspace, where Jarrett used to work as a volunteer.

“We felt it would engage people in an understanding of this largely invisible but significant anxiety disorder, which affects around three per cent of New Zealanders.”

The idea for the exhibition was formed in 2018 as part of Jarrett’s photography studies.

“I was given the assignment to photograph something unseen,” she says. “I chose agoraphobia because it is unseen. People aren’t aware of it.”

Jarrett describes her experience with agoraphobia as a sense of being caged in, struggling to leave the house and feeling trapped in social situations.

“I couldn’t work for a while. I had children – it was really hard. I had good days and bad days, but for someone in that situation the difference between good and bad days is a big deal. For me, it’s always there in the back of my mind,” she says.

Going public with the exhibition wasn’t easy for Jarrett, but she feels as though it’s time for agoraphobia, and mental illness in general, to be spoken about within the community.

“There is a big focus on suicide but not enough focus on how people actually get to that point.”

But *the Blackness Still Absolute* is made up of nine photographs, all taken inside two houses that Jarrett has lived in. This is in sharp contrast to her previous exhibition at The Depot, *Walk: An Antithesis to the Decisive Moment*, for which all the photographs were taken outside.

“For this exhibition I created it from the perspective of the person who was stuck at home. I captured the reflections on the wooden floors, I tried to bring the outside in,” Jarrett says.



Shining light on darkness... Linda Jarrett

She hopes that the collection will be well received by the community and spark some awareness and conversation around mental illness.

“If it attracts the attention of one person, I’ve made a difference,” she says. “Mental illness has always been stigmatised. If you break your leg, people are always very quick to be empathetic; but if you have depression, people don’t want to know.”

To anyone else going through the same thing, Jarrett says: “Try and talk to someone,

don’t hide it. You think you’ll never get out of it, but it will get better. You don’t have to be alone.”

The Depot’s creative director Linda Blincko says the exhibition was scheduled at short notice.

“Although we hadn’t planned for this exhibition, once we saw some of the beautiful images and heard Linda’s story, we decided immediately we’d love to show this body of work.”

But *the Blackness Still Absolute* is on show at The Depot Artspace until 18 June.

Police investigate dangerous-driving video

A video of dangerous driving on a Belmont footpath is being investigated by police, who intend to interview the owner of the four-wheel-drive involved.

The clip shows the vehicle mounting the

footpath at the Bardia Rd intersection with Lake Rd and travelling at speed along the pavement close to people.

A police spokesman told the Flagstaff inquiries into the incident were continuing.

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Devonport 7 Day Pharmacy licence renewed

Devonport 7 Day Pharmacy has a new licence and is able to dispense prescriptions again.

A licence was granted to Nancy Nasef on 16 May and the pharmacy began dispensing again on 27 May.

Devonport once more has two dispensing pharmacies in the village.

Nasef said: “We feel amazing, incredible. We were so grateful for all the support from the community. It’s really a matter of keeping going now. Our staff have been supportive.”

The pharmacy was formerly operated under a licence held by Nasef’s mother Asma Shousha. The pharmaceutical side of the business closed 10 months ago after a Medsafe inspection found it failed to properly store products needing refrigeration. Its licence was suspended, then cancelled.

Nasef has now taken over the business and will work only part-time as a pharmacist, with help from a full-time pharmacist and two part-time pharmacists.



By Rob Drent

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority says there were no minutes of a recent ‘catch-up’ meeting between it and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. With no minutes being taken, are the briefings little more than a social gathering at ratepayers’ expense? At the very least, what is discussed would become hazy over time and open to misinterpretation.

I’m uneasy about these behind-closed-doors meetings, which seem to have gained credence in the past year of the board’s term. Board briefings with the Maunga Authority and Auckland Transport (AT) are being held out of sight of the public and the media.

The local board, battered down by its lack of influence over key decisions in its patch, seems to be taking the line that it needs to cosy up to the powermongers to be kept in

the loop. ‘Trust us, we will do right by the community,’ seems to be the mantra.

That’s all very well, but in a working democracy the performance of both the elected board members and ratepayer-funded council departments should be open to evaluation and scrutiny.

And given the mishandling of the pedestrianisation of Takarunga/Mt Victoria by the authority, and the glacial pace of any work by AT to improve Lake Rd, scrutiny and early knowledge of what is intended is surely needed.

In the pro-development era of the Auckland Unitary Plan, council planners rejecting the proposed Gull petrol station at the Tainui Motors site in Cheltenham comes as a surprise. In the current environment, I would have predicted a petrol outlet on the site of an old service station as a shoe-in. The reasons for turning down Gull’s application are largely due to developments in Cheltenham coming under a character overlay in the plan. In short, the petrol station is not in keeping with the local area.

The decision seems out of step with pro-development decisions made by council officers on a number of heritage properties in Devonport. Take the permission to allow demolition of the house at 19 Mozeley Ave, where a key submission of the applicant was that it was too expensive to renovate the run-down property.

“Effects less than minor” has been a planning catch-all to describe sometimes major projects that have a detrimental effect on neighbours. Not so in Gull’s case. Is it because it is a commercial site in a heritage zone? Or a signal by council planners that more cognisance is being taken of the special-character overlay?

It will be interesting to see what the legal eagles at Gull make of it all when the planners’ view goes before hearing commissioners this month. Only 28 submitters supported the proposal – but I suspect there were many more who, sick of driving up Lake Rd simply to get gas, wanted a local petrol outlet.

The issues are complicated by changes to heritage rules in Devonport – modifications to clarify how the special-character overlay works with underlying zones in some areas have been notified – after council admitting it bungled interpreting its own rules. Lots more is yet to come in the heritage-of-Devonport story.

It won’t be recorded in the minutes as such, but a key moment, in what is likely to become one of New Zealand’s most popular attractions, was marked at a nondescript Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting last week.

AT was given the nod to pursue a bridge/boardwalk for a cycleway across Shoal Bay, to link the cycleway at Francis St to Esmonde Rd (and Takapuna) and with Akoranga bus station and the planned shared walking and cycling path over the Harbour Bridge. The next step is more detailed designs of the \$1million project, which is seen as a priority for the board.

An off-Lake Rd cycle route from Devonport north, linking to Takapuna and across bridge is sure to become a must-do for tourists from New Zealand and around the world. If only the cycleway was accompanied by trams from Akoranga-Takapuna to Devonport. Too much to expect from the Lake Rd ‘improvements’, but let’s hope they future-proofed the plans.

Speaking of tourism, I was talking to an official from the Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development agency (ATEED) last week. He remarked on a recent visit to Takapuna: “Quite a lot going on there,” he said, in an almost surprised tone.

Why then do Takapuna and Devonport – two underappreciated gems in Auckland’s tourism crown – have such trouble getting any funding or direct promotion from ATEED?

A 22-15 win to Belmont last week in the latest instalment of one of the world’s enduring sporting rivalries – the B and D Challenge between masters players from the Belmont and Devonport squash clubs. Belmont now leads the series 4-3.

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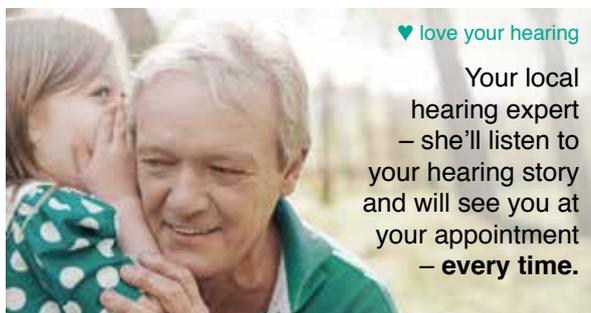
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Bayswater 2/96 Norwood Road

3 car 2 car 2 car 1 car 2 car

Auction This Sunday
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Baize-brigade veteran still knows the angles

At 70, Grant Hayward relies on instinct as much as his eyesight when he approaches the cue ball.

And his instinct serves him well – Hayward won the Auckland billiards title in April, was runner-up in the North Island championships early this month and is off to the national champs in Christchurch in July.

“When I line up and I don’t have a clear view on the ball, I know all the angles and I’m confident with the angles,” he says.

“I’m okay close up, but [attempting long-range pots] a 12-foot table it is a bit awkward.”

“A lot of it’s instinct.”

Hayward hasn’t played in many competitions in the last few years, but he’s still ranked in the top 10 in New Zealand and will be seeded at the national champs.

He’s hoping for a top-five finish, which will guarantee him entry into the world championships to be held in Melbourne in October – the first time in 30 years they have been held in Australasia.

A key rival at the nationals will be multiple New Zealand championship winner Gary Oliver. Hayward has beaten Oliver once, at one of two New Zealand Opens he has won.

Twice winning the open, which attracted a field of 30 top players from around the world, was Hayward’s “claim to fame.”

He first began playing billiards, snooker and pool, in the Takapuna Billiards Saloon when he was 15.

By the time of his OE in the early 1970s, he was good enough to support his travels by playing. He went Australia in 1971–72 and South Africa in 1972–73, touring around and “playing for money on the tables”.



Cue another tournament... Grant Hayward is off to the national billiards championships

He took up competitive snooker in the 1970s, winning around five Auckland titles in the 1980s. He went on to represent New Zealand in all forms of cue sport – snooker, billiards, and eight-ball and nine-ball pool.

In the late 1980s, Hayward represented New Zealand in snooker at the world champs in Singapore and the Asian champs in New

Delhi and Beijing.

He has been practising “a bit” for the upcoming New Zealand champs. But he still manages “a wander around the golf course on a Wednesday afternoon”.

Most other times he’s behind the counter at Hayward’s Paper Power, which he has owned and operated for 30 years.

Harcourts Devonport Tides

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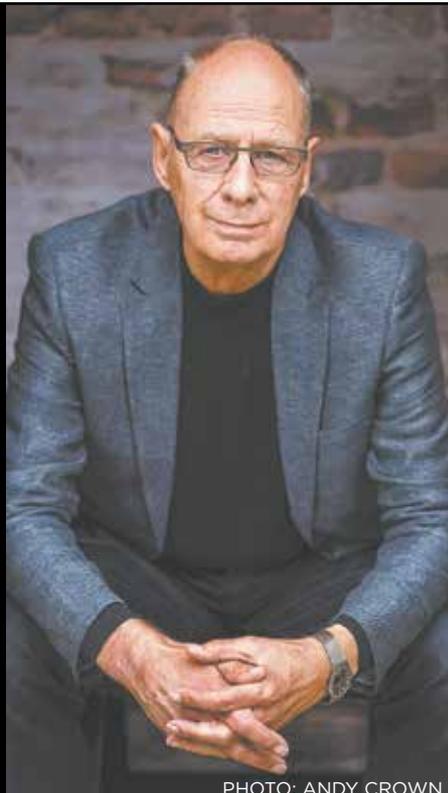


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OUT & ABOUT

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Navy Museum, Torpedo Bay, 64 King Edward Pde
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Limited to 12 people – bookings are essential.
Cost \$20. To book email: jane.cotty@nzdf.mil.nz or T: 09 446 1824

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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.

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Matinees Saturday June 29, 11:00am & 4:00pm
The Rose Centre, 4 School Road, Belmont

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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.

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Passionate teacher's heart still in art

Dugald Page knew from a young age that art was his calling. Having taught and practised a wide range of artistic disciplines since then, the octogenarian tells Helen Vause how all subjects meet in the art room.

Dugald Page is contemplating his work from the relative comfort and safety of his armchair at home in Cheltenham, talking art and his life as artist and educator. We're looking back over nearly 65 years.

Right now, the 82-year-old is impatiently recovering from a fall just before Christmas that left him with a broken neck.

Well cared for by his partner Cara Perry, he is willing his way back to better health through physiotherapy and dogged stints on the treadmill in his living room.

The treadmill is the ugly duckling in a charming space full of works by Page, Perry (who is a professional weaver) and others. It's the home of two very creative people.

This winter, Page has a beard, not because he wanted to sport a new look but because his rigid neck brace made shaving too hard.

Still, recovery seems in sight and he's in good spirits, and modelling a pair of very bright, cheerful socks he found in the online store of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

It's been a very painful and frustrating time for Page. He has projects well underway in the workshop that adjoins the house, and he's itching to get back to his art.

Across the years, Page has worked in many forms of art, unwilling to confine himself to any one discipline.

That wide-ranging practice was reflected when he looked back on his long career with an exhibition of his work at the Depot in 2014 – *A Retrospective of an Arts Educator* – that included painting, sculpture, kinetic work, ceramics, glass and print-making.

Many other exhibitions of his work have been held around the country over the decades.

Page's art story began in his teens as a schoolboy in Palmerston North. In the 1950s, Palmerston North Boys High School had no art department, but young Page had started to realise art was going to be his thing, maybe even his career, and that hopefully he would be headed to art school.

He grew up in a creative household. His father drew well and had a real flair with gar-



Stacks of talent... After being laid up with injury, Dugald Page is itching to get back to his art

dening. Under his influence, Page explored gardening as well as art, and had a school-holiday job working in the city's public gardens.

Three years at art school in Christchurch was an exciting prospect for young Page, but before he could embark on student life, he knew he would need to work and save a bit.

He left school at the end of sixth form, ready to get started on the next stages of life. But his job in a factory sawing Pinex board ended after just one week of dusty toil, when his lung collapsed.

He was very happy to finally make it into art school alongside kids who'd had the benefit of real art departments and knew all the 'talk': "I

didn't really know the right language around the subject, but of course I was terrifically enthusiastic and figured I could pretty quickly pick it all up."

Page recalls traditional classes in life drawing and painting. Nevertheless, they were exciting years for learning, exploring and the beginning of making lifelong connections in New Zealand's relatively small art community.

Page had no aspirations of a lonely creative life starving in an attic. Like many of his art-student peers, he did a year of postgraduate study to equip himself to earn a living as a secondary school and tertiary-level art teacher.

He says he happily accepted that, "I would have to supplement my passion".

At teachers training college, he was delighted to find renowned potter (the late) Barry Brickell was already there before him, running a pottery kiln.

Page began to learn about working with clay – one of his best big bowls is still on the sideboard at home.

In 1961, in his early 20s, he landed his first teaching job at Westlake, then a co-educational high school. He's well remembered from his Westlake years in the 1960s as a passionate teacher who guided quite a list of young talent onto worthwhile creative journeys.

From Westlake, he moved on to tertiary teaching, joining the staff at teachers colleges on the North Shore and subsequently across the

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harbour at the Auckland College of Education. He also taught at Whitecliffe School of Art.

For a time, he was a critic of craft for the *New Zealand Herald*, his reviews becoming keenly anticipated in those circles.

In the 90s, under a very full teaching workload, Page had a brush with heart troubles. It was enough to make him quit the job and take time out for recovery. That era included a foray into local real estate – and a chance meeting with Perry, who remembered him as a boy at her intermediate school in Palmerston North.

“I tried to give my students the whole range of experiences with different activities and media. Sometimes that could be based on exploring in blind faith and arriving at an exciting outcome.”

Westlake Boys beckoned again, and 30 years after he’d first started there, Page happily took up teaching secondary-school art again.

It was the enthusiastic boys who often led Page to extend himself and learn new things.

“Thanks to all the students who asked ‘how, why and can we do that?’ And I’d say, ‘Okay kids, lets have a go’. Besides, I’d always think I could do it if someone else had done it before me. I tried to give my students the whole range of experiences with different activities and media. Sometimes that could be based on exploring in blind faith and arriving at an exciting outcome.”

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Westlake Boys turned to Page in 2005 to design the eight large stained-glass windows in the school auditorium, which was then under construction. His

beautiful, detailed windows have been widely admired ever since, as has his considerable legacy to the school.

While he’s temporarily out of action, Page is still very much engaged in conversations around art education. He remains appalled at the axing of the night classes that flourished across the country until a few years back. And he’s ever vigilant for signs of tinkering with or pruning of the art departments in schools today.

Last year he fired off an email to Minister of Education Chris Hipkins, urging him to consider the merits of making art history a compulsory subject in secondary schools, at least for a period of time. The subject, argues Page, would give the students a real taste of the world and all its wonders.

“I’d see it as drawing from all our cultures here. Through art history you can explore what was going on at the time in science, literature and life, and how it all fitted together. From a Bruegel painting, for example, you can see what games the children were playing at that time.”

All subjects meet in the art room, Page says.

“Art is a visual language and a different way of thinking and looking at the world,” he wrote at the time of his last exhibition.

“Art history is an international language like music, dance and theatre.”

**Legacy in class and glass...
One of the eight stained-glass windows Dugald Page designed for the Westlake Boys High School auditorium**



Detail of 1870 watercolour of Devonport from North Head. Artist unknown.

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Vauxhall School is celebrating its centenary on November 6th and 7th 2020. We are looking for keen former pupils, families and staff to be involved in the event.

Please join us on Saturday, June 22nd at 1:30pm in the school hall for an initial meeting.

Stay updated by joining Vauxhall School Reunion 2020 Facebook group or email centenary@vauxhall.school.nz

Shoal Bay cycle route: a bridge the ‘best option’

A cycling bridge across Shoal Bay is being pursued as the best option to complete an off-Lake Rd route between Devonport, Takapuna, Akoranga bus station and the Harbour Bridge.

Currently, the western cycle route ends at Francis St, Hauraki. The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has allocated \$1million for a priority project to link that route to Esmonde Rd.

Five options were considered by Auckland Transport: three land-based or coastal links, and two variations of a bridge across Shoal Bay, connected to Esmonde Rd near the Harbourside church.

An option to the west of the church came out on top, based on criteria including environmental impacts, safety, directness and cost.

By comparison, a route around the coast had greater ecological impact, council officers told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

Initial work suggested a boardwalk-style bridge option may be suitable for the preferred option, a council consultant, Joao Machado of AR & Associates, told the workshop.

Board member Grant Gillon said other projects affecting transport in the area – including the proposed SeaPath walking and cycling route between Northcote Point and Esmonde Rd, and a third harbour crossing – needed to be lined up with regard to the underpasses needed for connections.

The Shoal Bay bridge project appears to have got a boost from other transport initiatives being approved, including the SeaPath and the Patuone Reserve Walkway from



Bike the bay... The preferred Auckland Transport bridge route in blue from Francis Street to west of the Harbourside church

Esmonde Rd to Auburn St, and movements on the Lake Rd improvements.

Board chair George Wood said if the western side of the church was the best option, it was important to future-proof it.

Board member Mike Sheehy questioned the boardwalk construction, “which could become slippery”, over a full bridge.

A final report on the project will go to the board in July or August. Iwi and the public will also be consulted.

Lake Rd traffic – the reality

It takes more than 30 minutes to drive 6km on Lake Rd during the 8am morning peak, according to latest Auckland Transport figures put to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week. In the afternoon peak at 4pm, it takes 25 minutes to drive 6km.

The figures were supplied to show the need to increase cycling routes on the Devonport peninsula.

Fitness gear suggested for underused peninsula parks

Three Devonport parks have been identified as underutilised and could have fitness apparatus or pop-up activities like yoga added to them to increase patronage.

Balmain Reserve at Cheltenham, Quinton Park in Bayswater, and Allenby Reserve at Narrow Neck have all been identified as parks that could have higher usage, according to a survey by Auckland Council consultants Boffa Miskell.

The results received a mixed response when presented to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

While board member Mike Sheehy agreed Quinton Park was not used enough, members Grant Gillon and Mike Cohen both felt one of the aims of Balmain Reserve was to be a quieter park, especially compared to others with playgrounds.

“Parks like Balmain Reserve are deliber-

ately understated,” he said.

“From the outside they may seem underutilised,” Gillon said

Board member Jen McKenzie said if fitness apparatus was installed in parks it was important it was “a natural simple style”: wood and metal bars.

As part of the project, council is also looking at more community gardens.

Cohen said this is important, as people are moving increasingly to rest homes, apartments or smaller sites, which might not have gardens at the property.

More activities at Woodall Park may also be considered to ease the pressure on Narrow Neck Beach foreshore reserve, particularly at weekends.

A further report will come back to the local board, and no changes made to parks without local consultation.



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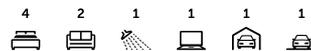
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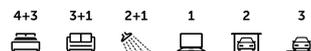
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Fire crew rescue bird from tree

A bird stuck in a tree was one of the more surprising call-outs for Devonport's professional firefighters recently.

Whangaparaoa resident Charlotte Lane was visiting the Wilson Centre in St Leonards Rd, with Winter the cockatiel and other therapy pets, when Winter flew up into a large pohutukawa and refused to come down.

"I called the fire service and said the kids were upset. They said they were doing some drills and training and could come down. They were really kind," Lane says.

The firefighters threw a weighted line over the branch and swung on it to shake the bird out.

This made Winter fly into a higher branch, so they repeated the exercise.

This time, the grey-and-white cockatiel flew over a building and landed on grass near the fire truck on St Leonards Rd, where Lane was able to scoop the bird up, to the Wilson Centre children's relief.

The firefighters like to help people where they can, says senior station officer Greg Booker.

Booker believed Lane kept her birds' wings trimmed, but Winter's had got a little long.

Rescuing a bird from a tree was pretty unusual, Booker says, but the team often rescues cats.

He had once helped rescue a seagull that had got tangled in fishing line and was stuck to a street light in St Heliers.

Kauri complicate Polly's Park reopening

The discovery of kauri in Mary Barrett Glade is making the task of clearing away slips and reopening the coastal track at Ngataringa Bay more complicated.

The glade, known as 'Polly's Park' walkway, which runs along the coast below the Ryman retirement village development, and was closed following slips in June 2018.

According to Ryman's consent, it doesn't need to reopen the path until construction ends, but the Department of Conservation (DoC) is pushing to get it opened sooner in response to community demand.

"Discussions with Ryman have been ongoing and productive and, along with council and Ngati Whatua, all have agreed a process to meet the needs of all four parties," DoC's works officer Peter Smith says.

Initial design work has been completed and contractors have visited the site.

They raised some challenging technical issues, with respect to the steep gradient, and several modifications have been made to the scope of the work, Smith says.

The contractors also noticed there were kauri on the path, which appear to have been planted

in the past 10 years, although two are considerably larger, he says.

This adds a new level of complexity, because there are protocols for work around kauri, in order to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.

Effectively, the area around the trees becomes a quarantine zone and workers need to use different tools, materials and boots in the zone. "We are working through these issues and hope to be in a position to enter into a construction contract within six to eight weeks," Smith says, adding the project cost is commercially sensitive until the contract is signed.

Work will probably not commence until the site dries out in spring.

The opening of the track will still be dependent on the safety-management risks associated with Ryman's construction site above the marginal strip, in particular whether a crane is still operating on the site.

DoC administers the 20-metre 'marginal strip' along the coast, which was created when Crown land was transferred to Ngati Whatua as part of a Treaty settlement. Any work on the strip needs DoC's authorisation.

Planning starts for Belmont improvements

A Belmont centre plan is being developed alongside the \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board will initially spend more than \$40,000 on Belmont – cash left over from a Sunnynook plan.

Planning for a better Belmont was seen as a no-brainer by board members at a workshop last week.

In addition to the Lake Rd improvements, Belmont would be impacted by the allowance of high rise around the town centre under the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Board member Mike Sheehy said the Belmont plan seemed "fairly essential" alongside what Auckland Transport (AT) was doing with Lake Rd.

Member Grant Gillon said there was a danger that AT's plans for Lake Rd would not quite fit with a town centre plan developed later, so it was vital they were done at the same time.

"Roading engineers focus on roads, and they make really good roads, but they do not take into account businesses and the needs of residents," Gillon said.

The board did not want an outcome like Hauraki Corner, a strip where no one can stop, Gillon said.

Board member Mike Cohen recalled that planning restrictions in Devonport in the 1990s meant many fast-food outlets located at Belmont. Takeaways need parking right outside their premises, he said.

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Library room charges dropped

The controversial charge for using the Devonport Library community room has been scrapped.

Use of library rooms was free to community groups in the old library. But when the new library was constructed, Auckland Council began charging to offset costs.

Since then, community groups have drifted away from using the rooms, to other cheaper locations such as the Devonport Yacht Club or Devonport RSA.

Last week, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board voted to pay the \$1000 council was getting from charging out the room.

At a prior workshop, board deputy chair Grant Gillon wanted the council-imposed-charges revisited.

"The costs imposed on our community groups rile them and there is not a lot we can do about it," Gillon said. Local-board mem-

bers "get it in the neck", when North Shore councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills should be the ones fronting the community on the issue, Gillon said.

The board provided grants to community groups for projects and the possibility of the board paying to allow access to the library's community room should be investigated.

Board member Mike Cohen said when the library was being designed, one of its platforms was its importance to community groups.

But now "most community groups don't use it because the costs are too high – and other places – like the Devonport Yacht Club – are much more community-oriented than our council".

Board members noted that council was more than happy to take local-board budget to subsidise extra opening hours at Devonport Library, for example.

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files



Concertmaster... Brecon Carter was the Flagstaff interview subject

- The Devonport Midwinter Swim is revived after schoolgirl Aja Lethaby wrote to the Devonport Business Association for support and sponsorship to make the event happen.
- Navy chaplain Pauline Law is made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Commander Scott Rennie and Lieutenant Commander Anthony Millar are made Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit, as is Devonport concertmaster Brecon Carter, for ongoing services to music.
- Devonport rower Ian Sawyer makes the New Zealand junior rowing team for the world champs in Bulgaria.
- New netball courts at Ngataringa Bay are due to be open in a month.
- The site in Church St where Old Joe's house once stood is now earmarked for two re-sited homes. North Shore City Council had approved owner Xeno Captain's application.
- A public meeting on the future of the Tamaki land at Narrow Neck is planned for July. It has been moved from June to be closer to the General Election.
- North Shore Rugby Club stalwart Frano Botica will captain the North Harbour rugby team. Botica tells the Flagstaff it will be his last year of rugby.
- The Devonport Villa Inn B & B is a finalist in the New Zealand Tourism Awards.
- Navy artefacts – a quick-firing Mark 5 gun and a British Mark 14 seawater mine – are to be erected outside the naval base at Queens Pde.
- A five-bedroom home in Grove Rd is on the market for \$680,000 and a two-bedroom unit in North Ave for sale at \$249,000.
- Around 200 people attend the Devonport Community House Creche Black & White Ball, which raises \$5000.
- Concertmaster Brecon Carter is the Flagstaff interview subject.

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So, when you're weighing up the wants and needs for your new kitchen, it shouldn't just be the latest appliances or benchtop materials you are thinking about, you should also consider future-proofing it for what life will look like at the end of the next decade. After all, a well-designed, quality-built kitchen will last at least 15 years, probably longer. This is something Lucy and Richard Chalmers* certainly factored into the design of their new kitchen when it came time for a new one.

"We are 'empty nesters', who enjoy cooking for family and friends," says Lucy. "Our house was extensively renovated 14 years ago, but at the time the kitchen budget was a little light, consequently the cabinetry and benchtops had all worn out. We had no problems with the original design, but definitely made a mistake with the size of the fridge," she adds.

The Chalmers live in a lovely period home in Remuera. Their kitchen, living and dining area is at the centre of the house, and enjoys a sunny, north-facing aspect that flows out on to the private back garden.

When it came to designing and installing their new kitchen, a friend recommended they call the team at Kitchens By Design.

"Initially, we asked for the same design, but with a bigger fridge," says Lucy. "We were also keen to maximise working bench space and have an appliance centre. We felt future-proofing [the kitchen] would avoid having to lift heavy appliances onto bench tops."

Sean Monk was the lead designer on the Chalmers' new kitchen and he developed designs and produced 3D drawings to help them work through any issues that arose during the design process.

"He listened to our concerns and translated them into design adjustments that better suited our taste and lifestyle, while maintaining the elegant simplicity of the original design," says Lucy.

As their kitchen progressed into the manufacturing stage, the Chalmers were



Omaha Rd Kitchen by Sean Monk from Kitchens By Design

invited to pay a visit to the factory to view some of the finer details cabinetry. Lucy says that this was really special part of the process for them. It's something Kitchens By Design encourages all their clients to do, because, for the first time, it gives a sense of scale and proportion to the finished kitchen.

Now it has been fully installed into their home, Lucy says that her new kitchen, with its new suite of appliances is a treat, and there are many new aspects they are enjoying, such as the well-organised recycling/rubbish/compost drawer.

"I also love the Corian bench-tops and locally made, hand-blown pendant lights that I chose... and Richard loves his big fridge!"

"We really enjoyed the whole process and found Kitchens By Design to be very hands-on, accessible when decisions needed to be made, and quick to respond to concerns," says Lucy. Her final piece of advice to anyone putting in a new kitchen: take your time and work closely with your designer. And ask lots of questions.

**clients' names changed for privacy.*

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Victoria always offered a caring and helping hand

Victoria Brown, who ran a dementia care unit in Devonport for more than 30 years, and took carloads of food to the city once a week for the homeless, has died.

She bought a run-down villa in Calliope Rd in 1984 and turned it into the Komatua Care Centre. Brown and the centre became much loved by the residents and their family members, who entrusted often elderly and vulnerable relatives into their care.

Brown ran the centre much like a family home. She thought of herself as the mother at Komatua Care, she told the Flagstaff in a 2013 interview.

"I am the mum and the clients know it too, even within their illness." Brown employed two of her nieces, Barbara and Nina, at the centre, adding to the family feeling.

The centre also had a cat, a dog and a chicken in the backyard, when the Flagstaff visited.

Born in Whangarei, Brown was teaching geography at Selwyn College when she sold her house in Herne Bay to enter the care industry.

Some of her friends questioned the career change. But Brown's response summed up her attitude to dementia: "You are nurturing and helping another human being in the most intimate way."

The Komatua name came about after Brown misspelt Kaumatua.

"As it turns out the spelling means 'For God' and I guess part of my life's focus is trying to be a better person, and my spiritual beliefs are central to my life," she said.

Brown's caring nature extended to the wider community. She launched Helping Hands Devonport, using the Komatua Care kitchen to prepare meals that she and other locals took over the bridge every week to hand out to homeless people.

"They do come to get a nice meal, but we also give them a bit of family time, have a chat, ask how their week was," Brown told the Flagstaff when the paper joined her.

See you next week," said Brown through the car window, honking as she takes off. "I love those people," she added. "Looking after them makes my life worthwhile."



Caring by nature... Victoria Brown with one of the recipients of the many meals that she and other volunteers offered to homeless people in the city

Helping Hands Devonport still going strong

The Helping Hands Devonport food provision for the homeless of Auckland will continue.

"It's still going," Victoria Brown's niece Nina, told the Flagstaff on Monday.

"The rest of the team are carrying on and making sandwiches," and distributing food, she said.

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Oven-baked play on menu for knightly salute

A local group meeting for coffee at Devonport's Stone Oven cafe was the inspiration for a Roger Hall play that is being showcased at The Vic in July.

It is one of three Hall works that are being celebrated in play readings at the Victoria Theatre in June and July.

Hall turned 80 earlier this year and was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Victoria Theatre Trust (VTT) says it is proud to be hosting a celebration of his career and the new knighthood.

Hall is himself directing the play *Book Ends*, with a cast of seven Company Theatre actors.

"I've loved directing and really enjoyed working with the Company Theatre actors," he said.

The play is loosely based on Hall's coffee group, which meets every Tuesday at the Stone Oven.

The characters are cantankerous, opinionated and amusing, but anxious about the effects of technology on their future livelihoods.

The other two plays feature female characters and are humorous studies of human nature.

Taking Off follows four Kiwi women who are given a new lease on life as they head off overseas.

By Degrees looks at the experiences of four very different women who go to university as mature students.

Roger said he had more feedback about these two plays than any others he wrote, because they struck such a chord with women.

Both are directed by Janice Finn of Tad-



Art imitates life... A regular meeting at the Stone Oven inspired a Roger Hall play, which will be read at The Vic by the cast pictured above

pole Productions and feature well-known actors Louise Wallace, Catherine Wilkin, Darien Takle and Anna Baird.

VTT co-chair Margot McRae says play readings are perfect for the Vic as they have a short rehearsal period and the actors read from their scripts.

"It is a more direct and simple way to bring live theatre to audiences at a really affordable ticket price."

She hopes Hall will be available for discussion after the readings.

"He has done so much for playwriting

in this country, not only through his plays but also through his strong advocacy for theatre."

The series has been made possible by a grant from Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Any profits will go to the VTT restoration fund.

• Play-reading details:

Taking Off, 4pm Sunday 23 June, directed by Janice Finn; *By Degrees*, 4pm Sunday 30 June, directed by Janice Finn; *Book Ends*, 4pm Sunday 7 July, directed by Roger Hall.

Tickets \$12.50. Bookings essential, at thevic.co.nz or ph 446 0100.

First Ryman residents move in

A community event to meet the neighbours at Ryman Healthcare's new William Sanders Retirement Village is still some way off, a spokesperson says.

After a two-week delay, while driveways and landscaping were completed, the initial cohort of 41 residents has moved into the first completed wing of the village.

"We were really disappointed to have to delay them, and we offered compensation," Ryman spokesperson David King says. "Moving is always stressful, and we hate letting anyone down."

He says the residents were "incredibly gracious" about the delay.

In mid-April, King said 60 people were due to move into the wing – set to be named after Devonport's Duder family – over the following three months to mid-July.

A large event, which could include the community, would be timed with the opening of the main building, King says.



Early arrivals... Devonport's Judy McGrath and Takapuna's Eileen Pearce say they appreciate the views at their new Ryman village digs

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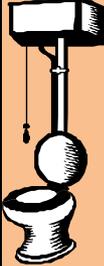
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Ram raid has downstream impact

A ram raid at Medplus medical clinic in Hauraki Corner has disrupted two local businesses.

On the evening of Sunday 2 June, a ute ram-raided the Jutland Road clinic, smashing a glass door.

Nothing was stolen as no cash or drugs are kept on the premises.

The ute was identified through the clinic's CCTV camera as belonging to The Digger Collective, a Takapuna-based excavation company.

Owner Keegan Webster suspected one of the men in the vehicle was a former employee of his company who had removed the GPS tracker.

Webster managed to get the suspect into the company office for questioning by police.

The company's vehicle was impounded. Police searched Beachlands and Te Atatu

addresses and two men were charged with burglary-related offences. They appeared in North Shore District Court on 6 June.

Medplus director Dr Michelle Hollis said the break-in was discovered the morning after it happened.

"It was a huge inconvenience. We were all called in on a public holiday to help clean up," she said.

Webster says that the incident has also impacted The Digger Collective.

"The ute being impounded means we are short on company vehicles, which always puts a strain on resource management," he said.

"As someone who was born and raised in Devonport, it is always sad to hear about crime going on in our local area. I was especially shocked to learn that one of our company vehicles had been involved."

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LITTLE WOODS (M) 103 min	20 JUN
TOY STORY 4 (G) 100 min	27 JUN
YESTERDAY 116 min	27 JUN

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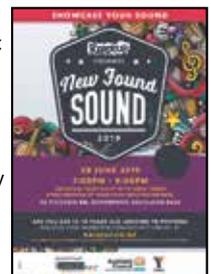
HOOP - 8.30PM

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

FRI 28 JUN

NEW FOUND SOUND - 7.00PM

A live music event giving young musicians an opportunity to showcase their talent in their local area, organised by YMCA's Youth Development Programme 'Raise Up'. Register to perform on www.raiseup.co.nz
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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUN 14, 2019



MUNA

You wouldn't think that politics or multilateral trade agreements would interest high-school students, but for eight Takapuna Grammar students, and over 300 more from around Auckland, it is fair to say these stereotypes just don't fit.

On Friday the 17th of May and Saturday the 18th, students from around the Auckland region gathered to participate in the annual Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). The two-day event was held at Auckland Girls Grammar School. Planned

were discussions and debates surrounding climate change, censorship, disarmament and more. Guests also had the opportunity to listen to Dr Damien Rogers, who holds a PhD in Political Science and International Relations, and a PhD in Law, and is a senior lecturer at Massey University.

Representing Takapuna Grammar at the event were teams making up the delegates for Guatemala, Côte d'Ivoire and Slovakia. Tyler Buysers, Ryan Er and Ariel Asraf made up the delegates for Guatemala, Libby Lord and Zoe Martin the delegates for Côte d'Ivoire, and Ailish Dodd, Laiba Batool and Will Dalzell the delegates for Slovakia.

"I really enjoyed myself and felt globally engaged through the experience," Ailish Dodd recalls. "I had a lot to learn from the experience and made many friends and memories."

Overall, students who attended MUNA had something to take away, whether it was that the USA believes climate change is a hoax, or that Egypt thinks we should all just grow up and trade. A massive thank you is due to Devonport Rotary for sponsoring Takapuna Grammar to attend the amazing event. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity.

BY WILL DALZELL AND LAIBA BATOOL

Choir Camp

From the 17th to 19th of May, four choirs worth of Takapuna Grammar students attended the school's annual Choir Camp: an intensive but fun-filled weekend looked forward to by choir members and contributors alike.

Instrumental in polishing the repertoire of choirs Chorale, Leonessa, Sultans of Sing and Taka Crooners, the camp is also a great opportunity for choristers to get to know each other and form lasting friendships. This year saw an explosion of new members to the TGS choir family, with the total population of students attending Choir Camp numbering well over a hundred.

Mr Moore, Mr Murphy and Ms Taruia-Pora, managers of rehearsals at Choir Camp, prepped all choirs very well for the Big Sing regionals this June.

"We were able to focus on singing for three days, so our sound as a group improved so much," said Maddie Yamaguchi, a valued member of two senior choirs.



"It was so fulfilling, even though our voices were strained and tired by the end of the camp!"

TGS choirs have had a very successful past few years: in 2017, Chorale took their amazing sound to a renowned international competition in Sydney, and just last year, Leonessa won a Silver and Youth Ambassadors Award at the national Big

Sing finale in Wellington.

This trend doesn't seem to be ending any time soon. At the end of 2019 Choir Camp, many choir members commented they felt even more confident, prepared and excited to sing than ever before.

BY PIPPI DUNCAN

Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUN 14, 2019



Senior speech finals

'Mindsets', 'Spite as a Motivator' and 'Love is a Choice' were a few of the topics that took the stage for the senior speech finals. On 24 May, six students scored a spot in the finals: Maddie Yamaguchi, Will Dalzell, Jake Avram, Kazim Khan, India Worsnop and Esther Howie. All of the finalists kept the audience – their fellow peers – engaged and on their toes through marvellous articulation.

In the end, judges Mrs Bashford and Mr Viles gave the title to Jake, who spoke inspirationally to awaken his peers to recognise the potential this generation has to combat climate change. Coming second was India, whose speech

hilariously contradicted itself, speaking as an anti-vaxxer; her engaging techniques were commendable and very creative. Placing third was Will, who took a new turn on body positivity and spoke mainly on male-focused body positivity, which was refreshing.

Maddie says: "I am proud and happy to have made it this far and congratulate my fellow peers who placed in the top three."

We congratulate all six finalists and we are equal parts surprised and proud by the depth of content and variety of topics our students spoke on.

BY LAIBA BATOOL

Stephen Tindall assembly



Year 12 and 13 students were incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to have ex-pupil Sir Stephen Tindall come to talk in a special assembly. He was interviewed by Year 13 students Felicity Lewis and Ben Grobler, with engaging questions ranging from how he dealt with setbacks in his life to environmentalism. It was amazing to hear his insight on such a diverse range of topics for those aspiring to become entrepreneurs themselves.

His visit was organised by the Alumni and Ex-Pupils Prefect Committee, led by Madeleine Malone, who said, "it was wonderful to have an ex-pupil who is well known and looked up to come back to visit our school. He offered great advice to our students."

Following the assembly, prefects and members of senior management had the opportunity to chat to Sir Stephen over afternoon tea.

BY LIBBY LORD



THE LATEST IN SPORT

DIVING TGS student Maggie Squire recently competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools Diving Championships. In the junior girls category, Maggie finished in first place with a score of 220 points from five dives. Well done Maggie!

GOLF Ross Allot competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools Golf Stroke Play Championships at Howick Golf Club on 27 May. He went round on par at 72 and came seventh overall, which is a great achievement.

MOUNTAIN BIKING The second Auckland Mountain Biking race saw Joe Millington finish first in the U15 boys. Charlie Millington finished first, Alex Skilton finished 11th and Jackson Harvey finish 14th in the U17 boys category. The race was tough with many riders withdrawing or being lapped out. All our boys finished near the top of their age groups with over 50 riders in each age group.

FOOTBALL Our girls 1st XI beat MAGS in their first victory over the opposition in five years! Emily Handyside scored a fantastic halfway shot that hit top crossbar and skidded in (in the 10th minute of the game).

Our football boys 1st XI narrowly lost 5-3 to Northcote last week.

BASKETBALL Our Junior A Boys Team won 59-54 on Wednesday.

HOCKEY It was wins all round for our boys 1st, 2nd and 3rd hockey teams, which is great to see. All three teams dominated play and have shown some great improvement from the start of the season.

NETBALL Senior team 1 are currently top of the table in Premier grade after a tight game against Carmel last Saturday. The team was down by 8 at half-time and pulled back an outstanding defensive effort to win by three goals!

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Rare watercolour of early Devonport brought out of storage for Depot show

A watercolour of Devonport in 1870, which has been stored for 40 years, is up for sale at The Depot Artspace's *Pre-Loved Re-Loved* exhibition later this month.

The painting, which accurately depicts the Devonport of the time, was brought in for the show by local Julie Minns, who inherited it from her grandmother Edith Leach, who lived on Ewen Alison Ave.

Painted by an unknown artist, it has been wrapped and stored for the past 40 years.

"It's been preserved really well, so it's in amazing condition" says Depot Artspace creative director Linda Blincko.

The work shows a view of Devonport looking down from North Head.

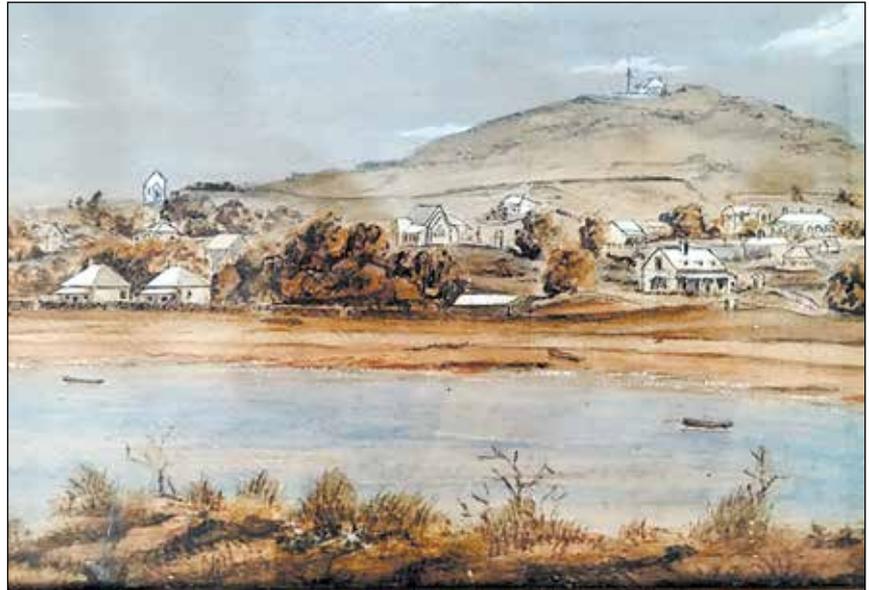
"There aren't many works at all that represent all the maunga in Devonport," says Blincko.

Pre-Loved Re-Loved was first held in 2014, to help owners find new homes for their art.

Five per cent of any sale over \$1000 will go back to the original artist or their estate.

Pre-Loved Re-Loved is on show at The Depot Artspace from 22 June to 3 July.

People have until 17 June to bring in



pre-loved paintings, prints and objects they wish to sell.

Instead of paying a seller's fee, contributors are welcome to volunteer their time on Sundays.

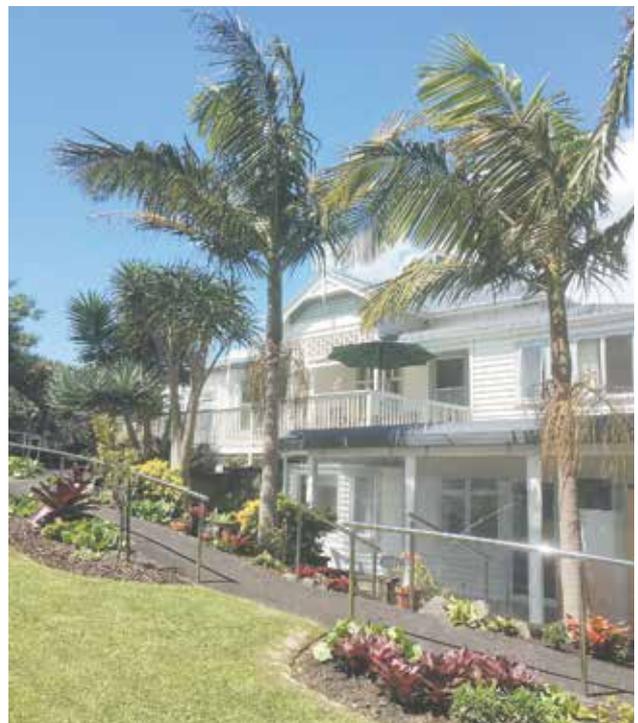
Unveiled... This watercolour showing Devonport in 1870 is up for sale at the Depot's *Pre-Loved Re-Loved* exhibition

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