

The Devonport

Flagstaff

July 3, 2020

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devonportflagstaff.co.nz

Lake Rd congestion
app being developed... p2

Boy mugged on way home
from school... p2

Interview:
Rex Crowther ONZM... p16

Parking Police at New World

Shoppers using the New World Devonport car park face fines for overstaying their welcome.

The supermarket is cracking down on pe-

ople who abuse the 90-minute limit, saying some park for hours or even the whole day.

Genuine shoppers were finding it hard to get a spot, said owner-operator John Ashton.

Parking Enforcement Services had begun issuing warning notices, and from this week parking tickets would follow for those who continued to break the rules.

Belmont takes the honours over Takapuna Normal



Tenacious... Adam Nicholls from Belmont Intermediate takes on the Takapuna Normal basketball defence. Belmont won the multi-sports contest held between the intermediate schools last week, 12-10. More pictures online at www.devonportflagstaff.co.nz



SOLD in the last week:

29 Cassino St: 73 groups through, 1 pre-auction offer, 3 bidders.

17 St Aubyn St: 22 groups through, two weeks on the market, sold pre-tender.

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- Best Headline:** 2017, 2018

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: July 10

App to give Lake Rd updates

A new traffic-congestion app for the Devonport peninsula is being developed by Auckland Transport (AT).

Alongside the deferred \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade to improve car, bus and cycle movements along the carriageway, AT was considering other innovations, its Lake Rd Rd project coordinator Daniel Newcombe told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week.

App users would receive notifications alerting them of traffic volumes and public-transport options, Newcombe said.

Messages would be along the lines of “traffic is terrible – delay your trip,” he said.

The aim was to get traffic off the roads at peak times. Better road signage was also being developed, he said.

The time frame for the launch of the new app has yet to be confirmed.

Boy mugged on way home from school

Tomas Gustafson (11), a Belmont Intermediate student, had just got off the school bus in Albert Rd and was walking the 200 metres to his home “spinning my wallet on my finger.”

Suddenly, a man approached from behind and grabbed the wallet “and ran off really fast.”

The wallet was empty and was later recovered up the road.

Tomas said the man was in his late 20s or early 30s and wearing a hoodie. He wasn’t

aggressive, and he did not “talk to me.”

Police were investigating as the Flagstaff went to press, after talking to the Gustafson family and others who had seen the man in the street earlier.

Tomas said: “I feel fine, I’m not traumatised. I was a little scared at first, but I got over it.”

Tomas’s father Mark said: “I tend to agree with what my boss said – ‘it was a good life lesson without a bad consequence.’”

Safety concerns in new playground



Kids play in the pools last Saturday, water was deeper the next day

Heavy rain has exposed a safety risk in the popular new Windsor Reserve playground.

Water was pooling to around 20cm deep in a hollowed-out play feature in front of the centrepiece Bean Rock lighthouse slide on Sunday afternoon.

Blocked drainage through the porous rubberised base material appeared to be causing the pooling, with another hollow nearby almost clear of water.

Parents were ushering curious toddlers away from the sloping edge of the water-filled hollow. Others, seemingly unaware of the risk, stood and chatted or relaxed on seating a short distance away as their children ran about the play area.

The Devonport Flagstaff asked Auckland Council if it was aware of the issue and if it was taking any action. It further asked if there might be a design flaw that needed to be fixed.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans had also been contacted about the pooling water, and was following up with Auckland Council.

Auckland Council said it was monitoring the issue and had sent its contractors to in-

vestigate. “All of the play rock pools drain into stormwater lines, which exit at the beach. One of these is at a lower level than the rest and a combination of very heavy rain and high tide levels can lead to a slower drainage rate, which is what happened last week,” said council’s head of area operations – community facilities, Paul Amaral. If this continued to be a problem, options would be looked at to ensure safety standards were met, he said.

Amaral also said children’s play should be supervised, especially with the beach nearby.

3 Victoria Rd: empty for 725 days

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

It has now been unoccupied for 725 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the future options for the building.

Navy welcomes plus-sized new arrival



HMNZS Aotearoa, the Royal New Zealand Navy's new and largest ship, docked for the first time at the Devonport Naval Base last Friday.

The fleet tanker was welcomed into the Waitemata Harbour by the navy vessel Manawanui, along with a flotilla of sailing boats and powerboats that flanked Aotearoa as she arrived.

Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft flew over the 173m Aotearoa and navy personnel performed a welcoming haka.

The Commanding Officer of the Aotearoa, Captain Simon Rooke, said, "It's a massive day for us. We've got 65 crew members who are stoked and can't wait to get to sea and start operating our newest ship."

Minister of Defence Ron Mark, who attended the welcome, said Aotearoa would extend the fleet's range and endurance during operations "from Antarctica to the Equator and beyond".

The ship took just under three years to build, in South Korea. The project, including an upgrade extension to the Calliope South Wharf at the Devonport Naval base, and cost \$493 million.

Rooke said the ship has been built as a polar-class to supply fuel to Antarctic missions. It is designed to supply other navy ships at sea for a sustained period of time. Aotearoa carries fuel and food as well as a Seasprite helicopter. She has 100 bunks for 65 crew plus additional personnel for search and rescue and humanitarian relief and support.

"Her primary job is to keep our military ships and allies' ships at sea, with fuel and food supplies, and make sure that the navy has reach in the Pacific region," said Rooke.

The Aotearoa will replace the 138m fleet tanker, Endeavour, which was decommissioned in December 2017 after more than 30 years of service. The new ship will be commissioned next month in Devonport and be fully operational later this year. New Plymouth will be its home port.



Making a splash... HMNZS Aotearoa makes her first entry to the Waitemata (top), greeted by a welcoming flotilla and dockside navy haka

We are here to help

We are a bit brief with this week's commentary, other than to say we are here to help with advice on mortgage finance, which is getting harder and harder to get as banks tighten their credit criteria as they prepare for a softer property market.

We are seeing a lot of enquiry as low interest rates bring prospective buyers to the market, but the finance is the issue. We don't see this getting any easier as many believe the property market is in for a tough time in the next year or so. This is because the banks and various lenders all have different criteria, so some may fit where others don't.

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Board holds back on Lake Rd improvements sign-off

A move to rubber-stamp designs for the \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade has been knocked back to give time for closer consideration of public feedback and ways to prioritise the spend.

Auckland Transport (AT) wanted the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to approve the plan at the board meeting last week, so it could finalise designs and the business case for the project and then “park it” – immediate work on Lake Rd has been shelved as part of Auckland Council’s Covid-19 Emergency Budget.

The board only had access to the findings of a public consultation a few days prior to the meeting and decided it wanted more time to consider responses before giving feedback to AT.

The board was split, however, with the motion put by member Ruth Jackson for more feedback time supported by members Trish Deans, Jan O’Connor and George Wood.

Jackson said it was important for the board to digest the submissions made by the public and to offer AT final guidelines.

Board chair Aidan Bennett’s motion to approve the plans, supported by Toni van Tonder, was lost.

Bennett and van Tonder were frustrated by the delay. Bennett said there was never going to be

consensus over priorities for Lake Rd options. If the board went “back to square one” to reconsider it again, it was in danger of losing the \$47 million or the project being put back a decade.

Van Tonder said given the physical constraints of Lake Rd, it was impossible to please everyone. She would have liked a dedicated bus lane between Devonport and Takapuna for example. But what AT had come up with was excellent future planning and cutting-edge design, she said, and it was time to move ahead on a project that would benefit the public.

Jackson wanted the project to go ahead, but to be given closer consideration, especially on improvements to intersections and traffic flows. The inclusion of cycle lanes on Bayswater Ave and work on Esmonde Rd as part of the project had maybe stretched money too far, she said.

She was worried that the project had moved significantly away from the public expectation that traffic congestion would lessen as a result.

Deans said the board did not want the \$47 million “to disappear”, but many areas, such as the problematic Belmont intersection, needed more work.

George Wood said the Lake Rd upgrade set to be signed off last week was quite different to

what was envisaged several years ago, with four lanes between Belmont and Hauraki – one each way for cars and one lane for high-use vehicles and buses.

“I’m concerned we’ve ended up with a middle-range upgrade that no one is going to be happy with, but we’ll have to put up with for the next 50 years,” he said.

AT’s head of the Lake Rd project, Daniel Newcombe, said since 2017 there had been no “objective to fix the traffic” on Lake Rd. The aim of the project was to improve traffic flows, give people more transport options other than cars, and make the road and intersections safer.

However, around 8 to 12 minutes could be shaved off a trip from Devonport to Takapuna following the upgrade and introduction of some T2 lanes, AT projections show.

To fit everything the public wanted on Lake Rd – cycle lanes, bus lanes, transit lanes, etc – would require much more space than was available, unless there was a massive purchase of private land alongside the road.

Even if that happened, there was a danger Lake Rd would end up like multi-laned Lincoln Rd [Henderson], which was a negative outcome as well, Newcombe said.

Power-line undergrounding among Lake Rd options to be considered

Undergrounding of power lines along Lake Rd will be investigated by Auckland Transport (AT) after public consultation over the planned \$47 million upgrade of the corridor.

Other measures to be implemented by AT include:

- Considering new options for intersections at the Old Lake Rd shops (Kings Store) and Albert Rd roundabout.
- Continuing work with Auckland Council on the next version of the Belmont centre upgrade, including more trees and safer cycling.
- Extending safer cycling options closer to Takapuna.

- Developing another option for a transit lane to Esmonde Rd.

AT received a total of 563 submissions on the Lake Rd upgrade, and considered it a good response, especially during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

“Broadly, the feedback raises known issues and supports AT’s strategic direction,” with “some criticism that it won’t fix traffic congestion, but the project’s main objective is to improve sustainable travel choices,” a report to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week stated.

Concerns were raised that transit lanes will badly affect traffic. “Experience from elsewhere is that initially traffic is disrupted, but settled patterns emerge after two to three months,” the report said.

Submissions were primarily from people who live or work near Lake Rd or who use it regularly. Strong support was received for safer cycling, including physically separated lanes. Many people were concerned the Lake Rd upgrade would actually make traffic congestion worse, the report said.

The overall aim of the project is to “improve

sustainable travel choices”.

Around half all Lake Rd journeys are short trips. Alternatives to driving are at the forefront, to help free up people who need to drive.

Safety is a major focus. Higher traffic volumes mean more protection for cyclists is needed, as well as safer crossings and intersections.

Key changes in the Lake Rd upgrade include:

- New transit lanes targeting the most congested parts of Esmonde and Lake Rd.
- Upgrading existing Lake Rd cycle lanes to be safer.
- New cycle lanes on Bayswater Ave.
- Upgrading the area around Belmont shops.
- Safer and more efficient intersections.
- New technology such as electronic road signs and apps.

AT’s head of the Lake Rd project, Daniel Newcombe, said some submissions raised possibilities already ruled out by AT as too difficult or expensive, like light rail, and alternative routes to Lake Rd, such as a coastal route to Takapuna.

Illegal paint job?



Compliance officers are investigating the paint job on the newly opened JUK eatery building on Victoria Rd after it appears to have been done without Auckland Council approval.

The building has a B-listed heritage status, which needs a resource consent for exterior works.

What happens next

- Designs will be updated and the business case finalised.
- Final design concepts will come back to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.
- A design peer-review and safety audit will be undertaken.
- Approvals will be required from Auckland Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency.
- Funding availability – post the Auckland Council Emergency Budget – will be worked through.

Life on Lake Rd: Woken by a smash – again

When a careering car crashed through the frontage of a Hauraki property in the middle of the night, its retired residents thought a bomb had gone off. Now Peter and Barbara Burridge would like Auckland Transport (AT) to wake up to their plight, living on a curved section of Lake Rd.

The crash was at 3am on 6 May, during level-3 lockdown. Five young people were lucky to escape with their lives when the car they were in, heading north, crossed the centre line near a pedestrian island shortly past the Clifton Rd junction. It smashed into the Burridges' reinforced concrete fence, wiped out their metal gates, ploughed through their off-street parking area and bounced off a retaining wall before demolishing a sturdy stone fence and falling back to rest against a large tree.

Remarkably, its occupants were not badly hurt. Police arrived quickly and one person was charged with a driving offence.

"It's unbelievable, the damage," Burridge says.

But it's not surprising, given there have been half a dozen crashes at the property over the last 20 years.

In a particularly bad one, six years ago, a vehicle hit a power pole at the front of his property, causing an outage to around 600 homes. More recently, another gate was damaged.

Neighbour Bede Robinson has also had his electric gate and fence hit in several incidents. The latest one next door awoke him with a start.

"It was certainly the most impressive to date, put it that way," he observes.



Crash corner... Lake Rd resident Peter Burridge with the wreckage of a gate and rock wall damaged in the latest car accident at his property

"The engine was still revving."

The shared rock wall, which had replaced a flimsier fence, probably prevented the car sailing through into Robinson's house.

With Lake Rd improvements deferred, the neighbours wonder if this might be an opportunity for AT to look again at this section of road.

Burridge wrote to AT about the latest crash two days after it occurred, asking for a meeting to see what might be done to help avoid more accidents. Despite following up, he says there has been no response to this suggestion.

Bollards might be an option to prevent more damage, he suggests.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member George Wood has also contacted AT on his behalf.

Burridge knows there is no easy fix, but says: "We'd like to be able to discuss it with AT."

Underlining of powerlines would remove one crash risk.

He knows speed limits are unlikely to deter speedsters, especially at night-time, but he says the road surface could be an issue, particularly when wet. During the day, sunstrike coming round the curve can be a problem, he says.

The Burridges face a bill they estimate may surpass \$50,000 to replace their gates and damaged sections of fence, plus rebuild the shared rock wall. They have insurance, but worry any more crashes will make their frontage uninsurable or their policy subject to a big excess "The end result is we are out of pocket."

Family of squash players hit their top 10s

The Griffiths family has achieved a sporting rarity – four members are ranked in the Auckland squash top 10 for their age groups.

Dad Nick (55) is ranked fourth in the over-55 male division; daughter Aggie (10) is number one in Auckland for under-11 females (and fourth in New Zealand); and sons Marcus (15) and Henry (13) are seventh and eighth respectively in the under-15 male division.

Nick has played squash for more than 20 years at Devonport Squash Club, and has won its club champs three times.

Gradually, his kids started picking up racquets too. Marcus hopes to go deep into C-grade this year, and Henry hopes to make the same grade, while Aggie is aiming for Auckland and national under-13 titles.

The junior trio are training for North Island and Auckland age-group champs.

Nick's aims are more modest. He hopes "to keep playing as long as I can," and he is leading a Devonport team to the national masters club champs in Dunedin in August.

Missing from the line-up is mum Lesley, who is not a squash player, but a keen supporter from the gallery.

"I'm proud of them all – especially my old hubby," she says.



Awash with squash... (from left) Nick, Marcus, Aggie and Henry Griffiths



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Auction (unless sold prior)
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Cheltenham 13 Oxford Terrace, Devonport

Fearon Hay architectural excellence

The extent of the extension of this remarkable home is not evident from the street. The renovated beach cottage stands out from the crowd but it is only on entering that you grasp the extent of this Fearon Hay masterpiece. Anchored by an amazing pavilion kitchen with floor to ceiling, steel stacking doors which seamlessly unfold to the European style, north facing courtyard sanctuary. The new home blends effortlessly with the fully rebuilt and opened up original cottage. Exceptional quality with wonderful detailing. All four bedrooms open to the outdoors and the gorgeous master suite with ensuite bathroom also opens to the garden and outdoor shower. Enjoy indoor and outdoor fires for warmth and ambiance year-round. Positioned across the park from the beach.

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Rugby club ‘with no beer’ restocks for local derby

North Shore Rugby Club ran out of beer following its first premiers match after lockdown – a sign of pent-up supporter desire for live footy.

The club was expecting a modest crowd for the game against Marist, a lowly ranked premier team, with the B side and under-21 teams also playing. But several hundred people converged on the Vauxhall Rd fields.

“The club was just chocka full – whole families turned up. It was great,” club captain Chris Tankard said.

“We ran out of beer – we didn’t have any

draught beer. We usually have three or four kegs on standby... the numbers were just unbelievable.”

The club will be back to full stocks for its match this Saturday against arch-rivals Takapuna, a match that sometimes attracts more than 500 spectators.

A close game is expected, but Shore might have a slight edge after a convincing win against Marist, and then victory away to Kumeu last weekend.

Ironically, the club has benefited from Covid-19: top players Adam Batt (lock

and Sione Teu (flanker) have returned from overseas, while hooker Tom Hardy has come home from Otago University.

The competition is truncated due to Covid-19, but pool matches will still be followed by semi-finals and a final on 5 September.

The championship race is likely to be between Shore, Takapuna, Northcote, East Coast Bays and Massey.

• A Shore Big Lunch before Saturday’s match is \$25, which includes a meal and a beer.

Devonport launch kicks off Matariki programme

The Devonport foreshore was the official launch site of Matariki Festival activities in the Auckland region, and the peninsula is also hosting its own special events to commemorate the Maori New Year.

Exhibitions at the Depot Artspace in Clarence St and at Lake House Arts Centre in Takapuna are among events running this month. They follow Bayswater School’s Matariki Lights Trail held last Saturday.

The Devonport peninsula is also a good spot to see Auckland Harbour Bridge specially lit up on the weekends of 4-5 July and 10-12 July. From 6pm, and every half hour until midnight, a light show will illuminate the span. City landmarks, including the SkyTower and the Auckland War Memorial

Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, will be spot-lit orange to signify sunrise, as part of the festival.

The bridge display was created by a Maori star-lore expert and University of Waikato professor, Rangi Matamua (Tuhoe), who has written a book about the star cluster (also known as Pleiades or the Seven Sisters), *Matariki The Star of the Year*. The book explores how Maori read the stars and used them to predict the productivity of the year ahead.

Festival activities, hosted by Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland Council) in tandem with Waikato-Tainui, began with a live-streamed dawn karakia on 20 June at the Korotangi Monument on King Edward Parade. The location marks the arrival point

in New Zealand of the Tainui waka.

From Saturday, Depot Artspace is holding an exhibition called *Rangona: Sentience*. It will show the contemporary work of five Maori artists: Heidi Brickell, Natanahira Pona, Ruth Woodbury, Joanne Barrett and Jermaine Reihana. The exhibition will also feature work from the late Ralph Hotere and a lighting installation by David Trubridge. It runs until 22 July.

The Lake House Arts Centre is hosting a Matariki market, selling pieces created by Maori artists and craftspeople. Paintings and carved, woven and textile works are among a selection gathered by resident artist Spencer Ballas for sale in the gallery store, during usual hours until 15 July.



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Devonport 6/66 Victoria Road

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Village Life With A View To Easy Living!

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Devonport 4/118 Vauxhall Road

2 1 1 1

Dream Clifftop Apartment

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3 2 1 1 2

Pretty Townhouse On Aramoana

Sitting in popular Aramoana Avenue and tucked away in a peaceful and private setting is this delightful well maintained home. It offers three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a spacious open plan kitchen, dining and living area opening up to a sunny north facing verandah. On a freehold 457sqm site it is perfect as it is, or offers you the potential to add your own style.

Auction

In rooms, 25th June at 6.30pm (USP)
View www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22955

Glenice Taylor
M 021 943 021
Gary Potter
M 021 953 021
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
Licensed Agent REAA 2008





Harcourts

NEW LISTING



Devonport 21 Church St

4 2 2 1 3

Distinctive Landmark Home

- Fantastic central location
- Large family home
- Sunny elevated aspect
- Separate office area
- Great entertainers home

Tender

Closes July 22nd at 4pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22983

Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322
Diana Murray
M 021 911522

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
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NEW LISTING



Devonport 37 Mozeley Avenue

4 2 2 1 1

Big On Style Even Bigger On Space!

- Generous family home
- Fantastic downstairs area
- Sunny corner site
- Stunning modern kitchen
- Private outdoor living

Tender

Closes 21st July at 4pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22985

Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322
Diana Murray
M 021 911522

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
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Belmont 4a Bardia St

4 3 1 1 2

Modern Family Home

Take note of this wonderful offering situated in top school zones where children can walk to many schools from here, in minutes! The home is free standing on a freehold section, so if you have a growing family, this property is right for you! Built by GJ Gardner in brick and timber and sitting on a rear section of 366m2 of land, the property faces north for plenty of sunshine.

Auction

On site, 19th July at 12.00pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22976

Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797
Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



Devonport 3 Garden Terrace

3 2 1 3 1

Central Villa Garden Paradise

This 1920's Villa is set one back from Queens Parade waterfront, in a quiet no exit street, with a beautiful North West facing private sunny garden, home to abundant fruit trees and bonus workshop / garden shed. With heritage character features, including stained glass windows, and polished floors. Fantastic location with a level stroll to the Village and Ferry.

Auction

On site, 19th July at 1.00pm (unless sold prior)
View Sat/Sun 12 - 1pm
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22974

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



Belmont 2/22 Northumberland Avenue

3 2 1 2 1

Relaxed Living, Contemporary Style
Make life a little easier with this modern low maintenance home, offering a fantastic lifestyle for busy families or a quiet retreat for those looking for a change of pace. Built of classic materials and superbly designed you will feel completely at home here. With views of the trees and garden from most rooms you will love the seamless flow from indoors to outdoors.

Auction

In rooms, 16th July at 6.30pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22972

Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322
Diana Murray
M 021 911522

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
Licensed Agent REAA 2008



Devonport 14/93 Vauxhall Road

1 1 1 1

Cheltenham Beach Paradise

Charming and comfortable, this one-bedroom apartment is filled with light, warmth and all-day sun. Wake up to the sound of birds, enjoy the upstairs top floor views and sunsets. Located beside the Vauxhall Shops and just across the road from the beautiful Cheltenham Beach to stroll, relax and enjoy.

For Sale \$595,000

View as advertised by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22947

Peter Restall
M 021 808 808
peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz
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Unfair to call Locals Facebook Group 'septic'

In a Flagstaff editorial (19 June), the editor refers to the "often septic" Devonport Locals Facebook page while discussing the 'Black Lives Matter' mural, a subject strongly debated in that Facebook forum.

This unfair remark is inaccurate. The Devonport Local Facebook Group is a thriving community forum and strongly moderated for poor behaviour by experienced moderators of journalistic and community standing. Its membership of over 11,000, and nearly eight years of operation, speaks for itself.

Dilan Jorgia's outstanding 'Black Lives

Matter' mural post on the forum (8 June) received vigorous debate. Many of the comments were challenging, and some were reported and removed, but posters thanked the moderators for keeping the discussion going. The Devonport community chose to confront and debate those 'wrongs' over 618 comments, and that is to be applauded.

It is this variety of honest scrutiny and debate, from all manner of ages, genders and ethnicities, that helps expose "septic" attitudes and educates us all.

As far as the editor's generalisation is concerned, it too does not stand up to honest scrutiny, and we choose to confront it.

Andrew Bonallack
Moderator, Devonport Locals Facebook Group

• **Rob Drent, Editor** replies: I stand by my description of the Devonport Locals Facebook site. I know of numerous people who no longer engage with it due to personal attacks by others or its general tone. The Flagstaff has also been defamed in posts on the site over the years. Several of these were removed, at my instigation.

As Andrew would well know, removing a post after it has been posted does not necessarily absolve the site from legal responsibility as it would have been seen by others.

We're all in the wrong job

I see the new Bean Rock-themed Windsor Reserve playground cost over \$1 million. The materials probably cost about \$5000. Along with a number of other residents, we obviously spent 45 years in the wrong job.

At least \$990,000 (plus GST) would have been better spent buying coastal land from Ngati Whatua o Orakei at Belmont to establish the Oneoneroa Regional Park.

Bruce Tubb

Buses a lifeline for many

Thanks to Miriam Beatson (Flagstaff 19 June) for her plea to Auckland Transport (AT) on behalf of the two local Devonport buses – the 806 and 807, serving Stanley Point and Cheltenham.

These services are a lifeline for many living in these areas – those without cars and the elderly – for whom the bus is a way of maintaining their independence.

Please, AT, continue these services, which are so important for our community.

Pat Habgood

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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.

Harcourts Devonport Tides

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Date	High Tide (H)	Low Tide (L)
Fri Jul 3	5:11am, 5:54pm	11:22am, 11:50pm
Sat Jul 4	6:08am, 6:48pm	12:17pm
Sun Jul 5	7:04am, 7:39pm	12:43am, 1:10pm
Mon Jul 6	7:57am, 8:28pm	1:35am, 1:59pm
Tue Jul 7	8:47am, 9:15pm	2:25am, 2:45pm
Wed Jul 8	9:35am, 10:01pm	3:13am, 3:30pm
Thu Jul 9	10:20am, 10:46pm	4:01am, 4:13pm
Fri Jul 10	11:04am, 11:30pm	4:46am, 4:57pm
Sat Jul 11	11:47am	5:32am, 5:41pm
Sun Jul 12	12:15am, 12:30pm	6:17am, 6:28pm
Mon Jul 13	1:00am, 1:17pm	7:03am, 7:19pm
Tue Jul 14	1:46am, 2:07pm	7:50am, 8:13pm
Wed Jul 15	2:34am, 3:01pm	8:40am, 9:08pm
Thu Jul 16	3:23am, 3:58pm	9:32am, 10:02pm

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Remarks match Gull's whole approach

Gull's comments to the Flagstaff (5 June) are a reflection of the inconsiderate attitude its representatives have taken throughout their 66 Vauxhall Rd consent process.

- Gull chose not to consult with the community prior to making their application; therefore they should not be surprised that the community sought to actively participate in the consent process.
- Gull's insistence on comparison to the previous station has always been a misconception, given that the adverse effects from a large, unmanned 24/7 operation differ significantly from the original small, two-pump, family-run business, operating 8am-5pm.
- Gull itself forced the matter into the Environment Court process, as they appealed the independent commissioners' decision (which had in fact granted consent with reasonable conditions).

Vauxhall Neighbourhood Society (VNS) and other neighbours participated in confidential mediation in good faith, and engaged technical experts, including noise, traffic, design and legal, to highlight the community's concerns. Council, VNS and Gull together

agreed design changes, and verifiable traffic and noise-monitoring conditions, based on the advice of all experts in the mediation. This, together with restrictions on operating hours, will result in a much better outcome for the area.

Double-glazing the windows of a neighbouring residence, so that Gull can operate after usual business hours, was a condition endorsed by experts. For a large corporate to now bemoan a perfectly reasonable requirement, by publicly airing a private individual's household situation, speaks to how disconnected Gull are from the communities they operate within.

It is significant that Mr Mischewski and his board are having second thoughts about the validity of Gull's business plan for Vauxhall Rd. In the view of VNS, his suggestion that this relates to the cost of the consent process is questionable, but instead relates to a poor decision to force what works for Gull on a busy arterial road into a quiet residential area with a very different environment.

Keith Robinson for Vauxhall Neighbourhood Society

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OUT & ABOUT

Maria Teape Community Coordinator

445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

MASSIVE BOOK FAIR

Saturday 4th July, 9am-5pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, 20 Church St Devonport

You are invited to Devonport's annual recycling event – thousands for books for sale of all genres – free entry. For book donations, contact Andie: 445 0328

MC SWEENEY BROS & MARIAN BURNS CONCERT

Monday 6th July, 8pm

The Bunker, Takarunga, Devonport

New Zealand's top award-winning country fiddler, Marian Burns and the inimitable McSweeney Brothers Band appearing at The Bunker to liven things up after being locked away for so long. Tickets \$20. Bookings essential: 09-445-2227.

RESTORING TAKARUNGA HAURAKI EVENTS

Ecology Bike Along the Bays on Saturday 4th July, 3pm-4:30pm

This is a family-friendly sunset bike tour along our precious estuaries at Ngataranga and Shoal Bays to learn about the coastal fringe. Meet at Oliver Reserve, Kawerau Ave.

Matariki Celebration & Ecology Restoration Sunday 5 July, 12pm-3:30pm

Celebrate the beginning of Matariki with a shared 'potluck' lunch, followed by ecological restoration work at Achilles Reserve, 9a Achilles Crescent. Contact Lance for more info: pestfreedevonport@gmail.com

WINTER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY

Fridays, 24 July – 30 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**

Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

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

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

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Crash-course pioneer still beats industry drum

Along with running his own car-repair businesses, Rex Crowther led an industry overhaul. Recently honoured for his contribution, he tells Helen Vause about his passion for turning panel beaters into business owners.

“Every industry has a bloke who stands out in front and does all the talking. And that bloke has been me,” says Rex Crowther, still feeling more than a little humble about his recent Queen’s Birthday honour for services to the motor-vehicle industry.

“But it doesn’t mean I did all the work all by myself,” says Crowther, deflecting some of the glare of his shiny new medal for his tireless efforts leading the trade association of collision repairers, and his work in education, processes and national representation of the industry.

Crowther was made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

“When I first heard about this award I almost felt I shouldn’t be accepting it. But then I thought it would be good for the industry,” he says.

It has been quite a journey – with plenty of road trips – from the panel-beating apprenticeship he began in 1967 to the success and recent accolade the 70-something Crowther finds himself reflecting on with the Flagstaff.

“Who would have known where it would all lead,” says Crowther, from his little office ‘bolthole’ above Victoria Rd, Devonport.

“I think I was a bit of a pain in the neck to everyone as a kid. And school and I just didn’t gel at all.”

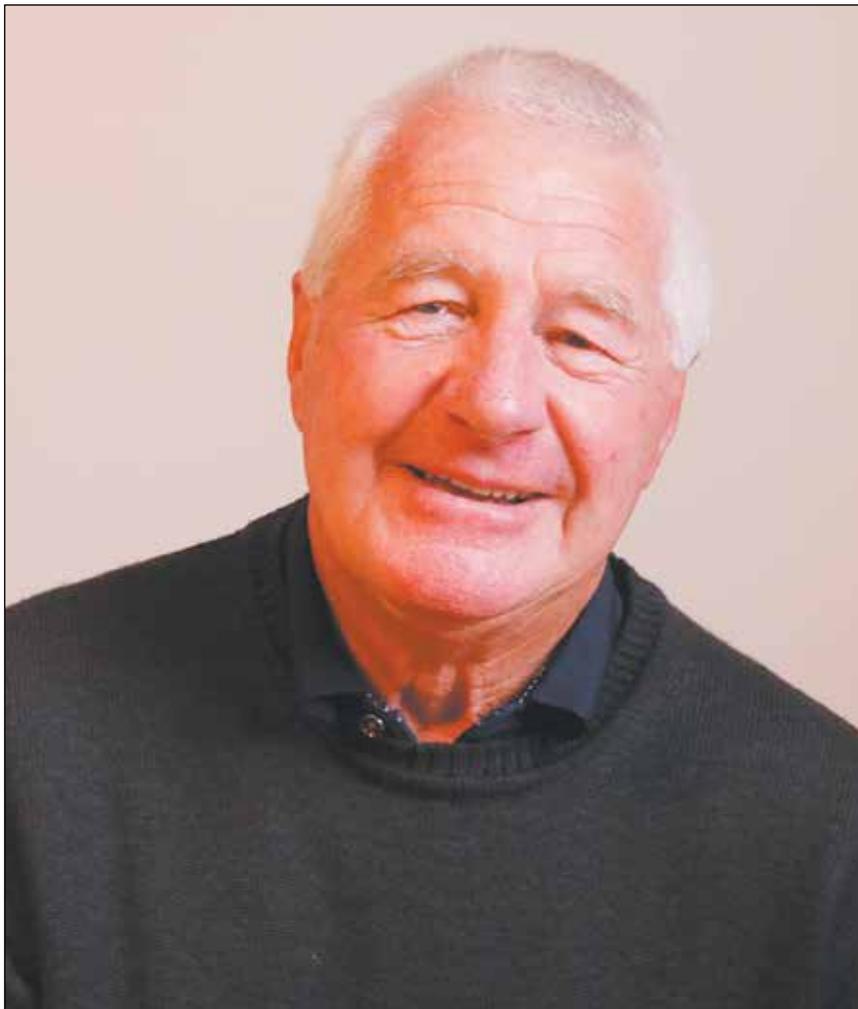
Growing up in Mt Roskill without much of a plan for his future, a panel-beating apprenticeship looked like an okay sort of place to start a life outside school.

“I was mad about cars, but I really wasn’t much good at panel beating.”

But what did fire him up was the business end of the panel-beating shop he was working in. Or rather, how that business might run and the potential for driving it better.

“I’d figured out I wasn’t much good at the hands-on side of panel beating, and that it wasn’t really what I wanted to do. By the time I was 21, I was running the business and really enjoying improving the process. That was where I could see my future.”

One of the better things about school-



days in his part of Auckland was meeting his future wife Lynn, who took a punt on the reluctant Crowther by inviting him to her school ball, and later by backing his business dream.

They married in the 70s, and a house and family soon followed. Then they made the first big move that would later lead to Crowther becoming the owner of one of the country’s largest collision-repair operations.

“We sold our house, our cars, and we bought a panel-beating business in Onehunga. We had two little kids and a whole lot of risk. I look back now and I laugh at what we took on.”

But it all worked out so well they bought a second business in Grey Lynn in 1984.

“I guess that was pretty much unheard of at the time, but I was right into processes and making those businesses work.”

It was a new approach in the panel-beating sector, and a few years later Crowther found himself sharing what he was fast figuring out with the Collision Repair Association and its members.

Panel beating was a dusty, dirty line of

work, with noise and nasty spray-paint chemicals. They were the days of practical men physically repairing cars. They could bash out the dings, shine up the chrome and beat vehicles back into shape again with sheer hard work and some skill.

But they were also the days when vehicles, and the way they were put together, were changing fast.

Along with computerised systems, cars were being made of many different materials, and were lighter, stronger and faster. Getting all the bits to join together after accidents became more of a challenge, presenting problems that could be beyond the capacity of old-school workshops.

“It was getting harder and harder to fix cars, and safety was at stake. People’s lives could have been at stake without big changes,” Crowther recalls.

“All round the world, there were horror stories of vehicles that hadn’t been fixed properly.”

He cites numerous examples of repair bumbles that could have led to loss of life, such as faulty indicators or airbags failing

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to inflate at the right moment.

The sector was in obvious need of an overhaul, including in the education sphere. And Crowther couldn't resist getting amongst it, even with two thriving businesses to run.

He started with local committees and progressed fast to national representation and becoming president of the New Zealand Collision Repair Association (NZCRA) from 1999 to 2004. For a further 10 years, he was on the board of the Motor Industry Training Organisation.

Crowther is proud of the sector's five-year restructure he's credited with leading, aiming to meet modern consumer expectations for a safe vehicle repair after a collision.

Much of that work was without remuneration and with the support of volunteers.

Crowther also developed better relationships with other stakeholders, like insurers.

The workforce needed upskilling fast, and the business owners needed to boost their business skills. All of this would need solid, recognised training courses.

Crowther researched what the rest of the world was doing, and regularly travelled on roadshows around the country, making presentations to the nation's car repairers and their staff, persuading them of the need to get on board with changing times.

In 2017, the NZCRA made him a life member.

"I was lucky to find the right fit for me. I saw the need in the industry and I've loved being part of bringing us up to world

standards. We now have highly skilled technicians we can be very proud of."

If you have a serious prang in this country, he says, you can be confident your car will be in the best hands with Kiwi technicians.

Crowther grew up with a generation of car-crazy boys and says he's owned more than his share of great cars. "My passion," he says "I've spent a lot of money on cars."

Boys today, he says, have long lost interest in tinkering with old cars.

"I saw the need in the industry and I've loved being part of bringing us up to world standards."

"It's not a bad thing. Who would want them driving around in the old cars we all had at their age?"

It's now much tougher to attract apprentices, in the North Island at least. Southland, he notes, is more fertile ground for apprenticeships because there's still a thriving car culture there.

Crowther sold his Auckland Panel and Paint Group in 2008, and plunged into the dream retirement of travelling, golf, fishing

and leisure.

Within two years, he tired of that life and set about revamping the industry magazine, *Panel Talk*. These days, he's often found in his local office, coaxing out the latest issue and writing editorials. But lately, he's had cause for another of those national road trips.

Post-lockdown, Crowther is well out of retirement and driving around the country doing what he loves best with his 'Covid Roadshows'.

With few cars on the road for many weeks, accident rates came to a near standstill. The collision-repair business went very quiet, with the months ahead looking very slow.

Crowther says his roadshow gatherings in the regions have had big turnouts as businesses try to figure out what to do.

"The business owners everywhere want to get together and talk so they're coming out to meet us in big numbers. No one knows where it's all going, but most are much more worried about their staff than themselves. Our message to these businesses is about being transparent. I tell them they need to get talking to staff right now, and keep talking to them about the situation."

"My challenge and passion is about turning people who fix cars into business owners. And it's been about safety and saving lives too."

Concern about safety prompts a warning about the vehicles young people drive: "We have to get our kids out of old cars. Don't let them drive the sort of cars we drove"

DEVONPORT  RSA
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Part-time Work Opportunities – Devonport RSA Manager and Local Support Advisor

The Devonport Returned and Services Association, located right in the heart of Devonport, has created two new part-time paid roles:

- **RSA Manager**
- **Local Support Advisor**

The roles are designed to suit self-employed people who want to either work part-time only or to supplement existing other work. Both roles require self-directed individuals, with excellent administrative, organisational and communication skills and capable of determining how, when and where the work is best performed. The two roles could be combined and performed by one person, if suitable.

RSA Manager

The RSA Manager will work with the Executive Committee, the Memorial Trust and the Poppy Day Trust providing administrative and secretarial support.

Other responsibilities include:

- Day-to-day administration of the Devonport RSA facilities
- Assisting with commemorations planning
- Managing RSA events
- Membership administration and database management
- Initial point of contact for enquiries about membership, hall hire and media liaison

Remuneration

- RSA Manager – \$20,000pa (12–15 hours per week average)

Local Support Advisor

The Local Support Advisor will play a key role in providing pastoral care to veterans and ex-service members.

Responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining awareness of the current support needs of eligible RSA members and veterans
- Liaison with Veterans Affairs and other government, community and NGO support agencies to assist eligible members in obtaining necessary support services
- Home and hospital visits as reasonably required
- Liaison with families, undertakers and the RSA on the death of a member

Remuneration

- Local Support Advisor – \$10,000pa (6–8 hours per week average)

If you are looking for a unique opportunity where you can contribute to a caring and inclusive organisation, please send your letter of application and CV to devonportrsa@xtra.co.nz



By Rob Drent

After months of delays and cost increases, the \$1million-plus Bean Rock lighthouse playground opened last week on Windsor Reserve.

In the midst of post-Covid lockdown austerity, there was no grand opening. Construction fences came down and Devonport kids didn't need a formal invitation: they were ready to go.

Readers probably think I've been a bit of a Scrooge over the project. I was never opposed to the project per se, but raised questions about the cost (is it four times what it should have been?) and the appropriateness of the Bean Rock theme – as the lighthouse has only a cursory link to Devonport. But the final product is colourful – and who wants bland public structures? It's an interesting debate.

Consumers, though, have voted with their feet. Hundreds of kids were teeming over the structures last week. They loved it.

Last Friday, I went for a walk from Narrow Neck along the cliffs to Cheltenham. It must be one of the best urban strolls in Auckland.

A couple of dog walkers were out, and Rangitoto glistened in the morning sun. It was peaceful.

Twenty years ago this week, the land was officially opened by the government as a reserve – preserved forever for future generations.

The National-led government of the day had wanted to sell off the headland for housing.

A determined effort by the Tamaki Reserve Protection Trust (led by Mike Reynolds, Simon Williamson and Rowan Renouf), backed by the Devonport Community Board and North Shore City Council, took the case to judicial review in the High Court. The court ruled it was in fact a reserve and could not be sold. The 11ha headland was saved.

The Flagstaff supported the cause and reported the battle. As a Devonport resident and a newspaper journalist, it was one of the best community actions I have been involved in.

You know things are getting a bit desperate at city hall when an obvious idea gets implemented quickly to great fanfare.

Last week, Auckland Council removed consents from the installation of water tanks at homes, cutting the real cost of installation. It's a bit of a no brainer really – water falls free from the sky, people collect it at their properties, ratepayers save on expensive water bills and council on long-term infrastructure upgrades.

It was the sort of thing the former Waitakere City Council had on its books, but the type of common sense that was lost in amalgamation.

Ironically, the day Auckland Council announced the change, the heavens opened, drenching suburbs largely unequipped with tanks to capture the deluge.

With many of council's bigger projects on

hold with the Covid-19 Emergency Budget, a detailed city water strategy could be a vital and inexpensive thing (a plan could easily be cagded from local authorities in Australia) to work on.

I always say to my family and mates (anyone who will listen really), that if I ever attempt to stand for local-body politics, shoot me first. These thoughts recurred when attending the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting last week. It was the first held in public since lockdown, and all the politeness and cordiality of Zoom meetings had gone.

However chair Aidan Bennett tries to dress it up, it is a divided board. A significant number of votes come down to Ruth Jackson, Jan O'Connor and Trish Deans on one side, and George Wood, Toni van Tonder and Bennett on the other. Bennett often has to use his casting vote to get things through.

The board was only elected last October, but already frustration is growing and tempers bubbling over the monotony of split decision-making. In a rare case, Wood voted alongside Jackson and co last week for more time to consider Lake Rd design options. I wondered how much backroom lobbying Bennett had done to keep Wood in his camp on the issue.

In one of the world's most enduring sporting contests, Belmont beat Devonport 27-17 in the latest B and D squash challenge. The series is tied 5-5.

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Dear Devonport Community,

We would like to inform you that in light of recent events, New World Devonport have partnered with the Parking Infringement Services starting 23rd March, 2020. Unfortunately, some of the public have been taking advantage and parking their cars in our car park for hours or even the whole day – resulting in customers being unable to find a park to do their shopping.



Those overstaying the time limit have now put such a strain on the car park it is negatively impacting our customers and business. There is too much unauthorised parking and if we don't take action now the situation will continue to worsen. So we have chosen to listen to our customers and have started enforcing parking restrictions, which are clearly signposted around the car park.

We currently have a 90-minute parking allowance for customers visiting the store. However, this has traditionally not been enforced and some people have been regularly flouting the allocated time allowed.

From the week commencing 23rd June 2020, Parking Infringement Services had been issuing warnings to anyone parking over the allocated time period. From the week starting 29th June 2020, parking infringement notices have been issued to anyone breaching the conditions of our car park – if people continue to breach the rules, then the parking services will have no option but to issue a parking ticket.

I want to thank all our customers for bearing with us to date. I understand that having easily accessible parking makes for a more enjoyable shopping experience, and this way forward is the only way that we can ensure this.

Kind Regards
 John Ashton
 Owner-Operator New World Devonport

Devonport 09 445 2010
 Major sponsor for the North Shore Cricket Club

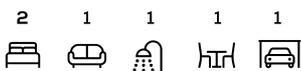


NEW LISTING



DEVONPORT

2/18A ASCOT AVENUE



ASCOT AVENUE - A WINNING ADDRESS!

Where style, clever design and convenience blend, our vendors have spared no expense in bringing you the ultimate 'Pied-A-Terre'! This is a truly stylish home in the highly desirable beach side suburb of Devonport and Ascot Avenue is one winning address! Here is a perfectly formed classic 1950's single level terrace home, being one of three fully renovated homes that are all owner occupied. Living here is easy, it is a perfect 'lock up and leave' home but you may never want to leave. Walk to your choice of Cheltenham or Narrow Neck beach, Vauxhall shops, Waitemata golf course and excellent transport links.

TENDER

Closes on 16th Jul 2020 at 4:00pm
 (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/793082



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



Trish Fitzgerald
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FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING By Appointment www.barfoot.co.nz/791387



BELMONT 17 WESTWELL ROAD

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Tracey Lawrence
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Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/791006



DEVONPORT 49A ALBERT ROAD

CONTEMPORARY LIVING - DESIRABLE LOCATION

Sunny, 4 bedroom, 1½ bathrooms, 2 living contemporary home. Location is everything and this property is just a short walk to Cheltenham beach and the village. All first time buyers to this location should view this property.

Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
Devonport 09 445 2010

Tracey Lawrence
021 1720 681
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This gorgeous 1950s four bedroom home is so close to Cheltenham beach! Master bedroom with ensuite plus a large separate sleepout with its own ensuite makes five bedrooms and would be perfect for mum and dad or the teenagers! Motivated vendor looking for action, call me now!

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DEVONPORT 3B 18 KING EDWARD PARADE

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DEVONPORT 98 VICTORIA ROAD

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FOR SALE \$2,095,000

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The North Shore Patient: one man's experience

Three weeks after lockdown was lifted and life at our hospitals returned to normal, Flagstaff editor Rob Drent unexpectedly found himself putting the health service through a check-up.

My nurse Sue was using a nifty system of short, sheer plastic tubes to help slip on compression socks. I couldn't put the socks on myself as my pain was so intense. It was five o'clock on a Sunday afternoon and I was being prepared for emergency surgery on an abscess – cause unknown – but common in New Zealand at the moment apparently.

My weekend was meant to have taken a different course. I should have been in the stand at Eden Park cheering the Blues.

But my unreliable body had different ideas. I was in the Short Stay Ward at North Shore Hospital, along with many others who would also rather have been somewhere else.

The road to surgery began the previous Thursday. I'd played squash the night before (losing in the regular Devonport-Belmont club challenge), had nothing to drink, but woke with what felt like a crashing hangover. Over the next couple of days, I felt cold and listless and started going to bed early. By Saturday, the tiredness had become chronic and I'd developed pain in the upper groin.

After my first inter-club tennis match of the winter season that day, movement was becoming difficult, exhaustion gathering pace. From the neighbouring court, former New Zealand number one Mark Nielsen paused in his coaching to observe: "You're not doing much work to help your partner, Rob."

Yep, the unreliable body wasn't playing ball. Next day, it was worse. Trying to get up the motivation to head into work for a couple of hours, I was instead glued to the couch.

With a trip to Eden Park looking unlikely, my partner Jo decided a trip to Shorecare

was needed.

By the time I got there, I was seriously crook. My temperature was closing in on 39, signing the admission forms was a major effort and I was getting muddled: I gave my two previous trips to hospital as happening in 1918 and 1919 instead of 2018 and 2019.

I'd already google-diagnosed my condition as haemorrhoids, which I'd had once before. Wrong. Doctor Andy instantly suspected an abscess: treatment was needed immediately.

After a couple of calls, he got through to the North Shore Hospital general-surgery doctor on duty. Forms were sent over and I was booked in without having to sit for hours in the Emergency Department. I only had to collect my Robert Michael Drent wristband at the desk. I was amazed at the efficiency.

It was the first of many ticks I would give New Zealand's health service over the next few days.

Hiccups did occur. Jo ran into a nurse friend on the ferry to the Blues match, who said: "He's most likely got a blocked duct – they'll fit him at the end of the day after all the more important operations."

In fact, my operation was bumped. Two emergency cases came in. I left nurse Sue's socks on hoping to get a lucky break first thing the next day.

I seem to have a personality that can endure airline terminals, long flights and hospital wards. The feeling of entrapment and interminable waiting that drives many people nuts has never bothered me too much. In fact, I find the opposite: there's always heaps going on. Humans in transit – at airports to foreign countries, in hospitals to destinations unknown – creates a tension. No one can really predict what their outcome will be.

My ward-mate that Sunday was a woman in her 70s who had been transported by wheelchair from a nearby rest home. She had had bowel problems for days, but they had worsened.

Medical institutions and ethics committees stress and fuss over the intricacies of patient privacy and confidentiality, but the irony is that once you reach a medical ward there is no privacy at all. After a couple of hours lying less than a metre away from your neighbour, you often know almost everything about them, including lengthy medical histories and their drug-taking regimen, all broadcast through a curtain of supposed separation.

My ward-mate was plagued with numerous conditions and tired of a body more unreliable than mine. But she had a sense of humour: "I tell you what," she said to a friend on the phone, "if I knew it was going to be like this in my 70s, I'd have had more fun in my 50s."

She had a full life too. A list of dinners, lunches, appointments and catch-ups with mates needed to be cancelled. She called next-door neighbours and asked them to water her new plants: "Just a little drink – I know you can be a little heavy-handed."

Doctors were working on a plan for her, but



Laid up... A Rob Drent selfie after surgery at North Shore Hospital

her pain got worse as the evening wore on. Before midnight, a throng of medical staff were next door pushing and prodding, asking more questions. Had a scan revealed new information? "Don't worry my darling we're taking care of you," a nurse with a northern-English accent said. As she was moved to another ward for more critical care, I silently wished her well.

Day Two: Mornings can start early in hospital. Just after midnight, it was announced I would be moved to Cullen – an elective-surgery ward – at 2 am, in the hope I would be prepped and ready to be first up the next day.

Since my arrival, I'd been gingerly asking hospital staff what their feelings were about Covid-19. From the main entry, through the emergency department, to the corridors and wards, there was a 'we've-dodged-a-bullet' kind of euphoria. If Covid had taken hold, "We wouldn't have coped," said one nurse. New Zealand simply didn't have enough beds or ventilators.

Hospital staff were also relieved PPE didn't have to be put to the test. "There is no way it can protect you completely," she said.

Another staffer: "We're really happy to see the patients back." A hospital devoid of most of its patients must have been a strange place indeed.

The Cullen Ward was set up as a Covid-19 receptacle ready to take the expected influx of cases. It didn't host any. The only case at North Shore Hospital was treated in the infectious-diseases ward.

Cullen is eight years old, I'm told, which surprises me: it appears brand-new. Perhaps it is the pre-Covid cleaning.

But then the whole hospital is spick and span. I've been a patient half a dozen times over the last couple of years (heart issues), and while the hospital was never dirty, the level of cleanliness last week was next-level. Wards and rooms were regularly cleaned when I was there, and it wasn't a quick sweep or dust either.

I watched one cleaner meticulously wipe down doors, door knobs, a wall clock, along tops of picture frames and window sills. It appeared to be systematic. "Cleanliness and hygiene are

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top priorities,” a new graduate nurse told me, almost mantra-like.

It was reassuring as I moved towards the uncertainty of the surgical ward. Suddenly, just after 7.30am, nurse Kara arrived: “We’ve got to get you ready.”

More blood tests, temperature checks, blood pressure and then we’re off. No orderly comes quickly, so Kara decides she can drive the bed. She’s joined by a charge nurse, and as we spin towards the pre-op room a hospital support worker mocks her cornering technique.

It struck me as a happy workplace. Jokes and banter are missing on miserable job sites.

In pre-op, the unreliable status of my body was confirmed by the anaesthetist and surgeon, with my heart history (underlying heart condition, plus stent and atrial fibrillation operations) described as “complicated” and “difficult”.

The anaesthetist asked me about exercise. I was back tramping, playing tennis and squash, I replied. He was also a squash player – who seemed to have B-grade aspirations. I found this strangely comforting as we filled in the usual consent forms informing of the risk of death on the operating table.

“Genetic predisposition” was the likely cause of my abscess, the surgeon said. Unreliable body conspiring against me again, I thought.

The operation went smoothly, and an hour later I was back in Cullen sleeping off the anaesthetic alongside a dose of daytime TV. I never knew Suzanne Paul was back on screen (Thin Lizzy Puffy Eye Remover – seven minutes a day removes 15 years), and I must watch

more of Al Jazeera’s news coverage. I was kept in overnight to have doses of antibiotics intravenously.

I was ready to head home first thing next day, but there was a complication: swollen testicles. My doctor says this needs a scan. North Shore Hospital gets another tick for thoroughness.

On the way to the radiology room, the orderly says he’s only been in the job eight weeks. Between jobs when lockdown hit, he took the role as a safe employment option with uncertain months ahead. “It’s been a great job, though, with great people and I like meeting the patients.” He was also happy his belt had crept in a couple of notches from the 10,000 plus steps he was doing on the wards every day.

In radiology, a well-dressed woman is in for deep-vein thrombosis testing. Her phone goes off and its her son wanting money transferred over for some takeaways. “Kids sucking us dry even when we’re in hospital,” she says. “Cell phones are the problem,” I say.

I’m tested by an experienced operator and a trainee, who are using a new machine. Numerous times during my visit, an experienced health professional showed a more recent graduate correct techniques during my treatment. Student nurses were common: expertise was being passed on, institutional knowledge was being built. The system was working.

The scan revealed nothing exceptional and almost on cue, my mate Dr Doom (a friend known for his fatalistic view on life) arrived to offer a lift home. My brief test of the health system was concluded.

Except it wasn’t. Once home the abscess

plug fell out and I was back at the emergency department just a few hours later, being readmitted.

There, I turned to find a policeman at my shoulder, in charge of a man slumped in a chair. It was “Bob”, sometimes known as “walkie-talkie man”, who has spent the last couple of decades walking up and down Lake Rd, often sleeping rough on Maungauika.

The abrasions to his face and hands were suffered in a fall on Lake Rd, the policeman said. Form-filling was difficult, as Bob was “homeless”. Later, I thought I should have said Devonport was his home. I know locals have helped him out of a few scrapes over the years, and here was an obvious extension: wider community care for the most vulnerable.

A massive review of District Health Boards was announced during my second stay. But from my patient-centric view, many things at North Shore Hospital are working just fine.

On the way home, my taxi driver, originally from Pakistan, has lived in New Zealand since 1993. Without tourists, drivers are doing it hard, but he’s with Co-op and is fortunate the company has contracts with the three district health boards to take people for dialysis, ACC appointments and the like.

“We are so lucky to live here – in Pakistan people are dying everywhere (from Covid-19),” he said.

After a difficult few months running a newspaper business through Covid-19 – only made survivable by the government wage subsidy – and my brief trip through the health system, I agreed. “Yes we are very lucky,” I said.



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Environment to the fore in Mana Wahine celebration

A group of women and supporters took part last week in a 'Mana Wahine' celebration at He Manu Hopukia, the marae on the site of the old St Michael and All Angels church in Bayswater.

Danny Watson, who has led the development of the marae, welcomed locals inside. The gathering drew around 30 people.

The aim of the event was to celebrate women's leadership in caring for the environment through Maori traditions. It also gave residents an opportunity to socialise, share their experiences through the Covid-19 lockdown and practise te reo Maori.

Students from Bayswater School's kapa haka group were part of the welcome, performing

School principal Lindsay Child said: "It was wonderful to see our rōpu performing three waiata and the school haka so confidently."

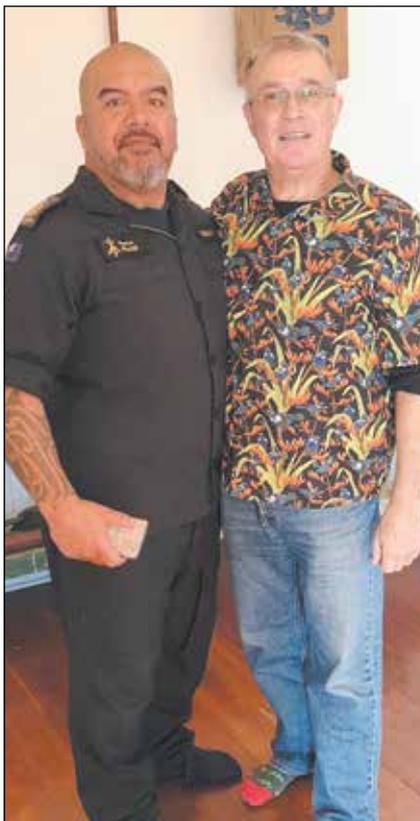
Long-time chair of the Kaipatiki Project board Charmaine Bailie was the guest speaker. Bailie is an ecologist and director of natural-heritage management company Uru Whakaaro.

She talked about the influence that indigenous perspectives and knowledge has had on her work, and also about the impact of Covid-19.

"Covid-19 has taught us to do things differently," she said. "During lockdown we could hear the birds more than ever."



Guest speaker... Charmaine Bailie (left) from the Kaipatiki Project with Bayswater School principal Lindsay Child



Navy marae manager Ngahiwi Walker (left) and Danny Watson



Rousing welcome... Bayswater School pupils performed three waiata and a spirited rendition of their school haka

Ken Davis design ranked highly



In the running... Ken Davis's plan is to make Clarence St safer and more people-friendly

Two Devonport projects are in the mix for money from the government's Innovating Streets for People fund.

Projects are being evaluated by Auckland Council and Auckland Transport, before the best are sent to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for consideration early this month.

Architect Ken Davis's 'Devonport Safer Streets Initiative' plan for Clarence St was put forward by North Shore Councillor Chris Darby and has been given a "high" ranking among the 47 projects under consideration by Auckland Council.

And last week, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board agreed to put \$30,000 behind a bid to secure \$300,000 from the Innovating Streets fund for Al Fresco Fridays in Devonport, Takapuna and Milford.

Pop-up outdoor dining and entertainment would be part of the Al Fresco Fridays.

However, the Al Fresco idea was given only a "medium" ranking by council town planners.

The local board has agreed to member Toni van Tonder's suggestion that if the Al Fresco idea fails to make the cut but Ken Davis's is approved, the \$30,000 board seed funding will go towards his project.

Final funding decisions by NZTA are likely by the end of this month.

Al Fresco Fridays had backing from the Devonport, Milford and Takapuna Business Improvement Districts, but half the local board was less than enthusiastic. Members Ruth Jackson, Trish Deans and Jan O'Connor voted against the board seed money going to the project.

O'Connor said it was inappropriate to be advocating Al Fresco Fridays "eating and drinking" on the streets, when residents of South Auckland hard hit by Covid-19 job losses were lining up for food parcels.



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Would you like to be involved in your local community?

Devonport Community House is seeking new members to join their Committee:

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The Treasurer maintains an overview of the House financial affairs. It is anticipated this role will require a commitment of only 5-7 hours per month. Tasks include ensuring that proper financial records and procedures are maintained, and carrying out a few banking activities in an authorising role.

You will also need to present and interpret financial reports (prepared by the House Manager) to the Committee meetings, where as a team member you will be helping with governance and other decision making. Meetings are held at 7 pm on the third or fourth Monday of every month.

You must have current financial qualifications and/or prior experience with accounts and book keeping. Familiarity with Xero would be a bonus, but not essential.

General Committee Members

Devonport Community House is also looking for new volunteers to join their friendly Committee. If you think your skills and experience would help us with the many varied aspects of running the House, please get in touch.

Please contact Emma (Chairperson) at dchcommittee@gmail.com if you would like to apply for these roles, or for more information.

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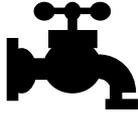
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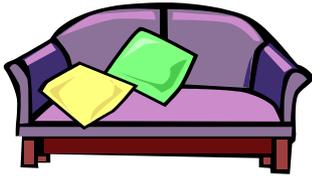
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RSA video-speech contest offers \$2000 in prizes

A new 'virtual' speech competition for high-school students, with a prize pool of \$2000, has been launched by Devonport RSA.

The competition is open to all year 9-13 students living in the Devonport-Takapuna area. Entrants need to submit a video clip of a three-to-four-minute speech on the subject, "How best can we honour their sacrifice even today?"

The winning entry will be delivered in Devonport's Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8 November.

Three prizes are up for grabs: \$1200 for the winner, \$500 for second place, and \$300 for third. Entries close at 5pm, 10 October.

Judging criteria include: a clear focus on the topic; evidence of preparation and research; audience engagement; delivery; and impact.

Devonport RSA spokesman Red Beatson said the speech contest competition emerged post Covid-19 lockdown as an alternative

way of remembering servicemen and women, and engaging with the community, especially younger people.

The RSA's annual Poppy Day appeal was cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

The organisation hopes to be able to sell poppies around the Remembrance Day service.

Beatson is keen for students to "get stuck in" to working on the speeches in the next school holidays.

"The aim of the competition is to raise awareness of the impact on the Devonport community of the casualties of war."

Casualties of war include not only the dead, but also those wounded, both physically and psychologically, whether sailors, soldiers, airforce personnel, nurses, or those in the merchant navy. Families suffered, and civilians and conscientious objectors also became casualties, Beatson said.

The Devonport war memorial lists 92 names

from World War I and 59 from World War II. Plaques also recognise the sacrifices of those who served in South Africa, Korea, Malaya, Borneo and South Vietnam.

At the entrance to Devonport, Memorial Drive is lined with individual plaques commemorating local service people who died during World War II.

O'Neill's Point Cemetery in Bayswater has around 200 military headstones, and many more family burial plots with memorials that include the names of loved ones who died during war service and are buried in foreign lands.

Graves of Pacific Islanders who died while training at Narrow Neck are also at the cemetery.

Every year, the Devonport RSA installs the Devonport Field of Remembrance on Windsor Reserve, with simple white crosses bearing the names of lives sacrificed and details of the homes and grieving families left behind.

Age no barrier for teen RSA member

The youngest member of the Devonport RSA, Ella Cronshaw, is this year's youth ambassador for the organisation.

In her role on its executive committee, the 18-year-old Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) student came up with the idea of asking that the RSA's speech-competition entries be digitally filmed for judging, rather than just having written copies submitted.

"I was quite nervous going to my first RSA meeting, but the people were all so lovely and welcoming," Ella said.

Ella, who has lived in Devonport for most of her life, joined the RSA to get involved in the community and learn more about her ancestors who fought in World War I and World War II.

She is also a prefect and head of the alumni committee at TGS.

"Every year for Anzac Day, my family and I would always go down to the parade, and I would wear my great-grandpa's dog tags.

"I found it really interesting to learn about what the medals mean, what my family had done in the war and where they had travelled and fought," she said.

Many of Ella's family members served in in the New Zealand military. A medic was in the Pacific, and a doctor served with the Maori Battalion in the Middle East. Another relative fought in Malaysia.

Ella's great-great-grandfather, Lieutenant Edward James O'Conidi Cordner, was mentioned in dispatches for heroism and awarded the OBE in 1919, after World War I.

Her great-grandfather on the other side of her family also served in World War I, while her great-great-aunt was a nurse in World War II.

On Anzac Day during lockdown this year, Ella and her family had a ceremony at home, and displayed the family badges.



Family ties... Ella Cronshaw joined the RSA to be involved in the community and learn about forebears who served in the military

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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- The fallout of the collapse of Boats @ Bayswater continues, with police now investigating. Some boats are alleged to have been on sold by the company, with owners receiving no money.
- A service by the great stallion Christian Cullen sells for \$5000 at Stanley Bay Primary's auction, to a local who is a member of a racing syndicate.
- The cash-strapped Toroa Preservation Society receives a major funding boost – a \$50,000 grant towards the boat's restoration.
- A crowd of 54 takes part in the 2000 Devonport midwinter swim. Fisher Jervis (3) is the youngest participant, while Desiree Somerville and Hugh Parrish (both over 75) are the oldest.
- After 15 years working at the Devonport Community House, Linda Blincko moves on. Not far though – she joins the Depot Artspace next door.
- The Devonport Community Board gives the go-ahead for the 2001 Devonport Food and Wine Festival on Windsor Reserve. A record crowd of around 50,000 attended in 2000, with numbers boosted by the America's Cup and hosting the Endeavour sailing ship in Devonport.
- The Fort Tamaki Historic Reserve is opened – after a seven-year battle to retain it in public ownership. The National government wanted to sell the land, but the Tamaki Reserve Protection Trust and North Shore City Council took the matter to the High Court, which ruled the 11ha headland was a reserve. A workshop with around 100 members meets to discuss the future of the reserve.
- Around 30 Devonport residents are evacuated from their homes after fire takes hold in a villa on Queens Pde. No-one is hurt in the fire, caused by a welder cutting underground power lines. Power remains out at



Flagstaff interview subject... Danny Watson

- Devonport Wharf for a couple of days.
- Jeff Thomas exhibits carvings at the Depot Artspace.
- Broadcaster Danny Watson is the Flagstaff interview subject.

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Good to grow: TGS students plant natives in reserve

A mix of Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) students from years 9 to 13 spent an afternoon at Oliver Reserve in Kawerau Ave, planting native trees and shrubs.

It was the first activity the school's Enviro Group has been able to do this year.

Teacher Hollie Sweetman said the group is working with Restoring Takarunga Hauraki programme coordinator Lance Cablk to be the kaitiaki or guardians of the reserve.

"Today we are planting trees, but we will come back to weed and learn more about the native species around here," she said.

Year 9 student Nikki Lee said the afternoon was "an awesome opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn how to plant trees the right way, and add to the foliage around the reserve".

The students were joined by Auckland Council's North Shore community park ranger, Dan Marrow, who told them about his conservation work.

In his role as a community park ranger, he trains and coordinates volunteer groups who plant trees, eliminate weeds, and trap pests in parks across the North Shore.

"It's great to be able to teach these kids more about tree-planting, restoration and doing their part to help with climate change," Marrow said.

Plant-based... Year 9 TGS student Nikki Lee was among the volunteers adding to the greenery at Oliver Reserve



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WHAT'S ON @ Devonport Library

Tena koutou and hello Devonport!

We are excited about this opportunity to regularly share with you the latest and greatest news at Devonport Library.

We will be offering activities in the school holidays that reflect Auckland Libraries' theme of Shining Bright and support Auckland's Matariki celebrations.

Our All Holiday QR code trail shines the light on children who have made a difference or are world-wide inspirations. We hope this will also inspire the children who participate, and it is a competition, should they so wish to enter.

Our holiday events are: Shine Bright Science, At-home Virtual Lego, Matariki Rhymetime and Craft, and Path of the Jedi Quest.

We have coordinated with Takapuna Library to provide a full offering of events and activities. You can check out our shared flyer for more details.



When Term 3 starts, our preschool programme also resumes in the first week. All three programmes start at 10am on their usual days.

And, last but not least, for adults, starting 15th July, 10-11am, and every Wednesday until 5th August, we would love you to come and colour, sketch, contemplate a crossword, or just sit and relax with a cup of coffee at our Create Colour Contemplate.

For more details on any of our programmes, go to Auckland Libraries website or Devonport Libraries Facebook page.

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Mt Cambria to get new standing

Mt Cambria – the often forgotten third maunga of Devonport – is to receive new special status in Auckland Council's Unitary Plan.

Takarunga and Maungauika, along with other Auckland mountains, are now administered by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

But Mt Cambria/Takararo, which was quarried away in the early days of European settlement for roads around Devonport, remained a reserve under the auspices of Auckland Council.

However, it has now been earmarked as one of 33 sites across Auckland to be included in a schedule of sites and places of significance to mana whenua.

The scheduling will give Takararo an

additional level of protection to what it already has, and will include restrictions on what can be built, planted or removed from the reserve, Auckland Council staff told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week.

Hearings into the scheduling will take place in August. The board decided to ask if late submissions could be made by users of the reserve: the Devonport Community Garden and the Devonport Museum and Historical Society.

Member Trish Deans said for some reason the museum had not received notification of the hearing. It was always "better to include people at the start of the process" than later on, she said.

Board kicks in \$500 for defibrillator

A \$500 boost towards a new defibrillator at Stanley Bay Park has been provided by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The board heard last week that Ngataringa Tennis Club wanted to replace a faulty borrowed defibrillator sited outside the club.

Two defibrillators have previously been

stolen from the same location.

The board has also put money towards a security lighting system to safeguard the life-saving equipment.

Board member Trish Deans said it was important the defibrillator was available to all park users.

Auckland Transport projects on hold

Most work scheduled by Auckland Transport (AT) in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area isn't likely to happen soon.

While the \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade (put on hold for at least a year) is the largest casualty of Auckland Council's Covid-19 funding crisis, smaller works like pedestrian

crossings, road resealings and footpaths are going on the back-burner as well.

While council's Emergency Budget has yet to be finalised, all AT non-contracted work was currently on hold, AT relationship manager Marilyn Nicholls told the local board last week.

Council 'optimisation' option included

A controversial provision giving council development arm Panuku the power to identify park and public land in Devonport and Takapuna for 'optimisation' has been left in the area's open-space network plan – but not without a fight.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members Jan O'Connor, Trish Deans and Ruth Jackson voted against accepting the network plan, primarily due to the inclusion of a "Service Property Optimisation" section, which allowed for the "redevelopment of underperforming council property assets".

Panuku "is tasked with identifying opportunities for optimisation in collaboration with the council and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board".

Auckland Council staff told the board this was a standard provision in all network plans across the city.

However, this failed to placate board member O'Connor, who did not want the word 'optimisation' or terms like "releasing the underlying value from land to ensure optimal use", associated with parks.

Sales might not be planned now, but the future was unknown and she wanted the 'optimisation' section removed.

Toni van Tonder praised the network plan as a "high-level document" providing an excellent strategic framework.

Jackson felt the plan was not "aspirational enough".

Even though Auckland Council did not have money at the moment to buy extra park and reserve space in the city, "it should aspire to," Jackson said.

Board members George Wood, Aidan Bennett and Toni van Tonder voted for the plan be adopted, with Bennett also using his casting vote in favour.



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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUL 3, 2020

40 Hour Famine at TGS

Over the weekend of June 5-7, thousands of young Kiwis around New Zealand took part in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine, raising life-changing money for the families and children of Malawi affected by climate change.

The 40 Hour Famine is New Zealand's largest youth fundraising event, where Kiwis take a stand through a 40-hour challenge to raise money and bring hope to thousands of children living in poverty around the world. Traditionally, one is not supposed to eat for 40 hours, but now the options are endless.

Laiba Batool, one of this year's participants said: "It was incredible to witness the amount

of support people gave to each other. I'm thankful to my family and friends for upholding such generosity."

This year, TGS raised over \$7,200, with a special mention to Mr Nyhoff, one of our science teachers, and his daughter, Saskia, who raised a combined total of over \$1,700. As our top student and teacher fundraisers, their efforts are commendable.

We'd like to thank everyone for their support and generosity, and congratulate everyone who participated for this amazing cause.

BY LEO LIN

Debating during lockdown

While lockdown was quiet down time for many of us, some TGS students had the exciting opportunity to participate in a New Zealand-wide online debating competition. Participants managed to keep their debating spirit alive and competed against schools, ranging from Christ's College in the South Island, all the way back up to Westlake Boys High School, just around the corner.

Takapuna Grammar was represented by a number of teams, ranging from Years 11 to 13, all composed of keen and talented debaters

proud to represent their school.

Year 11 participant Angel Jacobson commented: "It was a really supportive environment where everyone felt really comfortable. The competition encouraged my team and I to step out of our comfort zones, and it definitely increased our passion for debating."

With so much enthusiasm growing at Takapuna Grammar, it will be exciting to see what the future holds.

BY WILL DALZELL AND LAIBA BATOOL

TGS UPDATES

Since the cancellation of our school production *Les Mis*, many of us have been racking our brains for ideas, so that the hard work our performers put into rehearsing won't be wasted.

During the lockdown, Finn McGregor decided to edit an online version of *Les Mis*, having the actors and actresses sing *One Day More*. This was a major hit, and it even ended up on One News.

During lockdown, another bright idea sparked from our students was Lockdown's Got Talent. Participants were to video themselves doing any kind of performance: singing, dancing, acting, trick shots, or any other talent! The winners were Maui Hitchens in first place and Mariah Parker in second place.

NCEA endorsements have changed, with the number of credits needed for endorsement lower, in recognition of the classes missed during lockdown. Visit the TGS website for more information.

BY MOLLY ZHANG

Orange Week at Takapuna Grammar School



Takapuna Grammar School staff dressed up for Orange Week, Auckland City Mission's annual fundraiser for those in need.



New book bears witness to lockdown emotions

Devonport business owner and fashion designer Janet Bingham has put a positive spin on the Covid-19 lockdown in the pages of her first book, which she also illustrated.

Two Bears in a Bubble follows the story of two bears on their journey through the level-4 lockdown in New Zealand.

Bingham's denim-clothes shop, Bear Brothers, on Victoria Rd, which opened last September, was one of many shops closed during lockdown.

However, she began to see the lockdown as a positive time to try new things.

She turned to social media to help keep her business alive, and instead of using Instagram posts to promote sales, Bingham shared her sketches of two bears chatting about the lockdown. This received a great reaction from her followers.

"I began to see lockdown as a gift of time," she says. "By posting on Instagram, I was able to find my voice during lockdown and share some of the emotions I was feeling."

Like many other Devonport residents, Bingham found the lockdown gave her time to focus on her hobbies and love of art.

It was her first time drawing in 40 years. "I had one pencil in the house," she laughs.

The book examines social patterns and her own experiences day by day during lockdown, including queuing up to buy toilet paper and missing coffee from her local coffee shop and a chat with the barista.

Bingham's son Fraser, who is based in London, works as a graphic designer and helped her lay out the book.

A passage from the book – 'What do you do when you're far away from people you love? I look up at the stars' – was written on Day 8 of lockdown, which was her son's 30th birthday.

Bingham used her illustrations of the bears to express her story because they remind her of her family, as well as being her shop's branding.

She has sold around 150 copies through her shop in the book's first week on sale.

The success of the project has given Bingham more confidence – she hopes she can produce more work in the future.

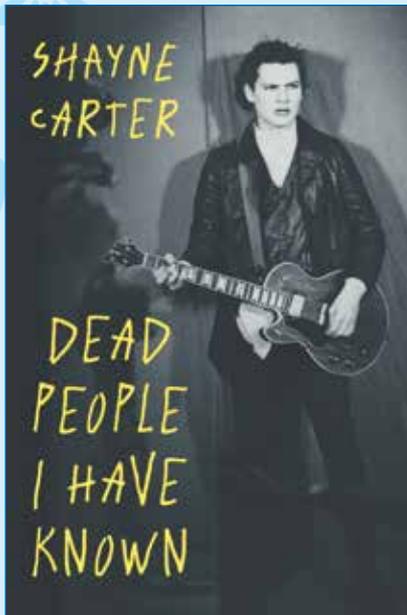
Five dollars from the sale of each book is being donated to the Devonport RSA Poppy Day Trust.



Finding her voice... Janet Bingham's *Two Bears in a Bubble* depicts a journey through lockdown

Book Review

Musician's memoir fits the bill



up in a typically dysfunctional working-class family in a bleak Dunedin suburb: a mixture of violence and cheap alcohol, along with whatever love and support his emotionally stunted parents could provide. He's particularly good on the lack of choices those growing up in a feckless environment actually have.

Disaffected, rebellious, Carter was drawn to punk music and got together with a few mates to form bands Bored Games and the Double Happys.

You need an ego to be a rock star and Carter doesn't shy away from that either, detailing some of his less magnanimous moments slagging off fellow musicians.

The memoir has tragedy – the deaths, of bandmate and friend Wayne Elsey on a train, and many others in his circle, are carefully and poignantly recounted; humour (one of the unusual things about being famous, according to Carter, is people stand and watch you buy toilet rolls in the supermarket); and a brutally honest self-analysis of life as a musician in the industry.

The freedom of expression and originality offered by music sits alongside his recollection of being 30, wondering what would happen next, with his looks no longer youthful, no new songs in the pipeline and the record label losing interest.

Disclosure: I am a Straitjacket Fits fan. I bought their first EP as a cassette and fell in love with *Dialling a Prayer*. I can remember playing it again and again while driving from Auckland to Wellington for my first 'big job' on *The Dominion*. I was at some of their most

memorable concerts, including opening for The Pogues at The Powerstation.

Carter captures the excitement of this musical connection; how a band on form can "blow away" an audience, and all the other bands on the bill, with sheer rock power.

How will Carter follow this work up? Like his solo musical career, which has had many twists and turns, it's likely to be something completely different, original and, without a doubt, interesting.
– **Rob Drent**

What's On

Hit the Stage!
6-10 July from 9am-3pm
A 5-day school holiday programme with Tim Bray Youth Theatre.

Creative Talks: Daniel Habedank
13 July at 7pm
Listen to Daniel talk about his incredible creative life as a singer/songwriter. Free entry.

The Swashbucklin' Shenanigans Show
3-18 July
Pirate fun for the whole family with Act One Productions.



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Shayne Carter's memoir *Dead People I Have Known* has a bite and edge that mirror his best music in 1980s-90s band Straitjacket Fits.

The memoir, by one of New Zealand's leading musicians, won the general non-fiction section at the recent New Zealand Book Awards, surprising some – until you read the contents.

It's so much more than a diary of concert tours, band arguments and minor in-house tiffs with record companies. Indeed, Carter writes simply and elegantly on what it's like to grow



Coffee-and-arts tale reprised for fundraisers

An appetising slice of New Zealand's cultural history will be celebrated in a live show to be staged this month to help raise funds for the Rose Centre in Belmont and Lake House Arts Centre in Takapuna.

Both community facilities have been hard hit by Covid-19, which robbed them of the chance to attract audiences and earn revenue.

Local creative Grae Burton aims to do both when he stages *Coffee with Eelco* on four successive Sundays.

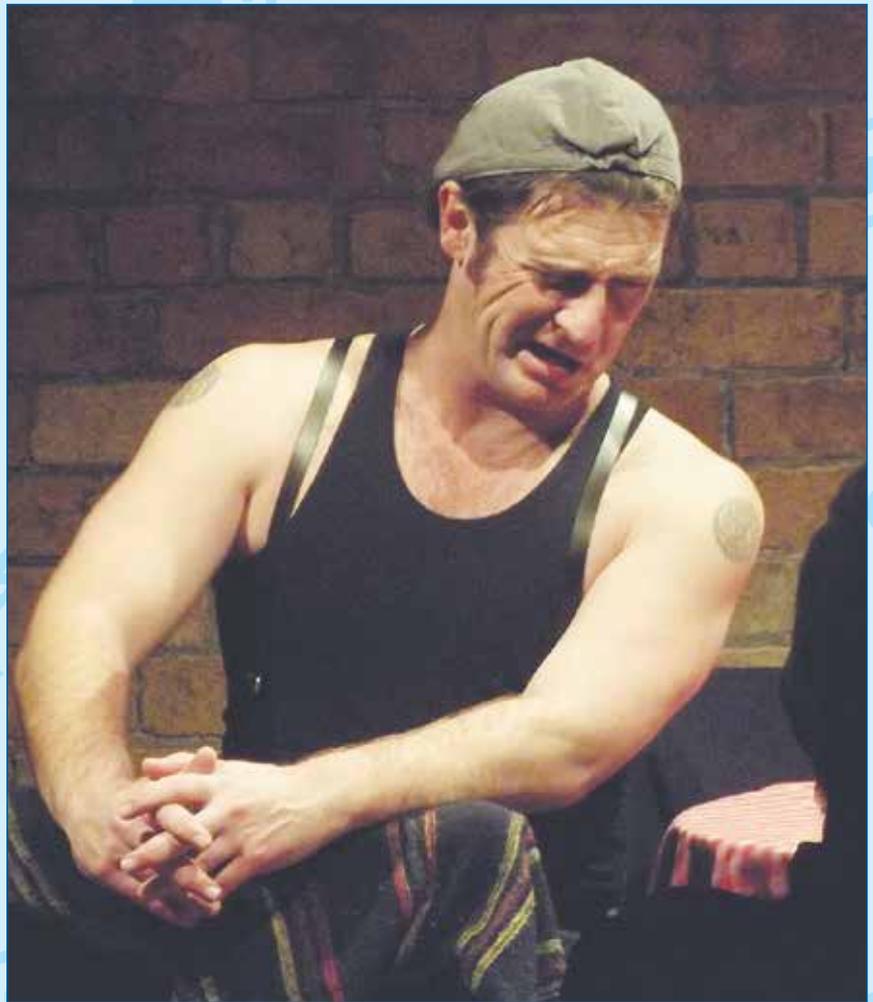
His work tells the story of Dutch immigrant Eelco Boswijk, a hospitality pioneer and arts patron credited with helping transform socialising in New Zealand.

Burton grew up in Nelson, where Boswijk's Chez Eelco cafe was a drawcard for decades. It provided an evening option for entertainment, where people could gather for a coffee or a bite and stay on for theatre shows. The cafe also ushered in an era where al fresco dining became accepted.

Burton used to hang out at the café. Boswijk was a patron of Burton's early arts endeavours, backing him to put on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1995. "We did the deal over a coffee. [The coffee] was awful, bloody awful but he was writing a cheque out at the time, so I couldn't say anything."

Over the years, Boswijk shared his colourful life story, which included settling first in Auckland, where he worked for another Dutch hospitality trailblazer, Otto Groen, at the Hi Diddle Griddle on Karangahape Rd. Groen also had The Gourmet restaurant in Shortland St, which in 1961 gained the first liquor licence allowing wine to be legally sold with lunch or dinner.

That same year, Boswijk opened his own place in Nelson, Chez Eelco, at the top of Trafalgar St. The cafe closed in the early



Cafe culture... Grae Burton performing *Coffee with Eelco*, the story of hospitality pioneer and arts patron Eelco Boswijk

2000s, after Boswijk's retirement. He died, a much-loved citizen of the city, in 2013.

When Burton's Independent Theatre and Arts Centre originally staged *Coffee with Eelco* in 2008, Boswijk came to the show every night. It was on the programme of the Auckland Fringe Festival in 2012. Boswijk last saw it at his retirement centre, a month before he died.

It is five years since Burton has performed at all, having been busy juggling fatherhood and his role as operations manager at the Lake House Arts Centre. But he was keen to get back on the boards to tell this particular story, saying it resonates with the times, when the arts need help.

Burton says he was influenced by Boswijk's welcoming ideas of hospitality – manaakitanga – and art being at the centre of people's perspectives on the world.

"It's all about what he was about, making sure there was enough access to the arts."

Boswijk once said: "I'm not an artist, but I appreciate it. I enjoyed artistic people – they got an idea and had the energy. I was happy if I could help by listening and putting a

bit of energy into it. Yes, there were lots of dreamers but I listened to them. I take people as they present themselves."

Burton says the first step in helping the arts recover is for audiences to return to support performances.

One of the enticements of the coming performances is that a cup of coffee and a chocolate éclair – both synonymous with shows at Chez Eelco – are part of the ticket price.

Among the early takers for tickets is Burton's old headmaster at Nelson Boys High School, who was also mentored by Boswijk. He has booked six seats and plans to travel up for the show.

After costs, all money raised goes to the hosting venue.

At the Lake House, performances will take place in the café on 12 and 19 July, with bookings via the centre.

The bigger shows, at the Rose Centre, will be held on July 5 and 26 at 3pm, with a choice of seats at tables on the stage or in standard seating.

Bookings can be made at Eventfinda.

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Street artist makes waves

The street artist who goes by the name Component is making waves with a new work at the southern end of Cheltenham Beach (pictured above).

Like mysterious British artist Banksy, the Aucklanders' statement work often pops up unexpectedly on city walls. But this time his setting is seaside, with a backdrop of the Hauraki Gulf.

The plywood cut-out painting of a young girl has appeared on rocks at the Maungauika end of the beach.

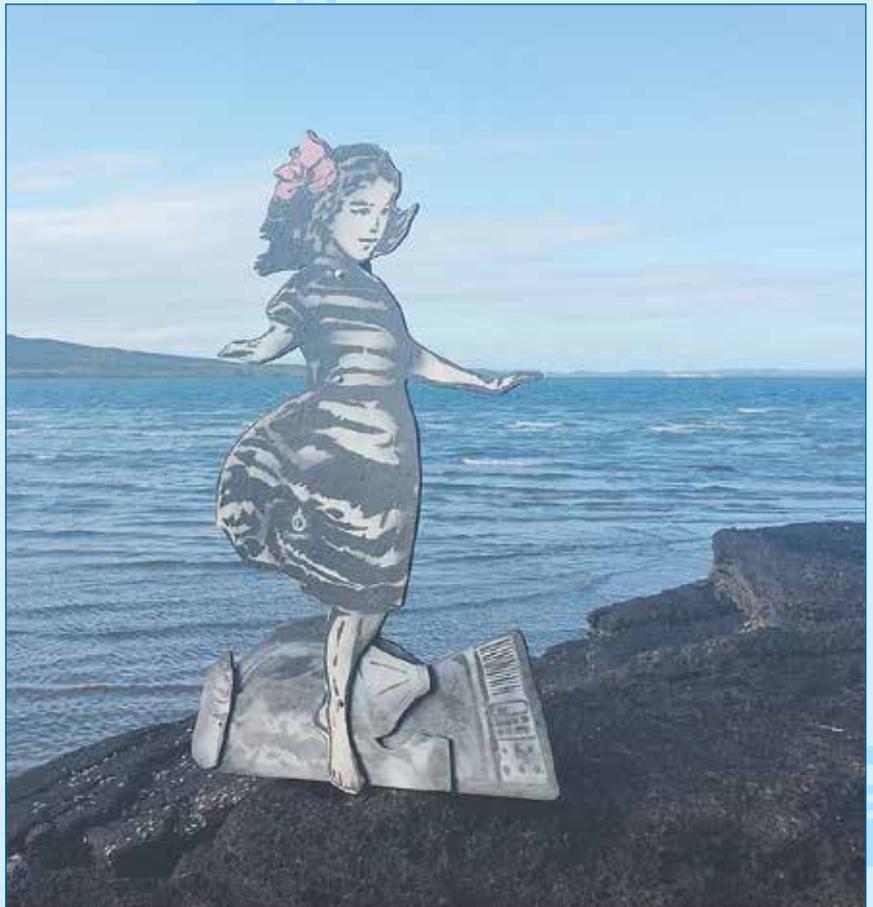
It is accessible only at low tide. A close viewing shows the subject is painted as if wading through plastic bottles.

A local told the Devonport Flagstaff she liked the work, which appeared just over a week ago, saying: "It's like a Banksy thing, it's just happy."

Component incorporates social critique into his work and has been active as a street artist for around 10 years. He taught himself stencilling. As well as his guerilla work, his pieces have been exhibited in galleries throughout New Zealand, and he has won commissions. Several of his art works are on Devonport walls.

Component has a Devonport family connection, although he was brought up in Grey Lynn. His works have appeared in the Devonport Art Trail in recent years.

Who knows where he will pop up next?



RANGONA

OPENING SAT 4TH July | 1AM - 3PM

MATARIKI

Rangona: Sentience 4th - 22nd July

Joanne Barrett Heidi Brickell Ruth Woodbury
Natsunahira Te Pona Jermaine Reihana

Featured work: Ralph Hatene & David Trubridge

DepotArtspace Devonport Flagstaff

THIS MONTH @ the vic

NEW THIS WEEK	RELEASE
Samsam (G) 80 min	2 JUL
The High Note (M) 114 min	2 JUL
Trolls World Tour (G) 94 min	2 JUL
White Riot (E) 80min	2 JUL

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	
An Affair To Remember (G) 115min	2 JUL
Inside Out (G) 95min	2 JUL
Mary Poppins (G) 134min	2 JUL
The Mirror Crack'd (PG) 105min	2 JUL
The Incredibles (PG) 111min	2 JUL
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (M)	24 JUL

CONTINUING	
The Booksellers (E) 99 min	

COMING SOON	RELEASE
A Bump Along the Way (M) 95 min	9 JUL
Klimt & Schiele: Eros and Psyche (E) 90 min	9 JUL
The Personal History of David Copperfield (PG) 120 min	16 JUL

SPECIALS
CHEAP TUESDAY
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Birthday Parties
*ticketing charges or min. spend applies

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DEVONPORT | 15A ASCOT AVENUE | A Contemporary Sanctuary



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TAKAPUNA | PD/7 THE PROMENADE | Intimate Beach Penthouse | The Rocks



This divine, elegant two bedroom plus study, 116sqm penthouse at the Rocks will capture your senses. So close to the water's edge, you can hear the waves and hear the native birds in this picturesque setting. A superb lock up and leave, flowing to a large deck to soak in the beach atmosphere. So private, capturing the morning sun with super high stud and immaculately presented.

VIEW | PLEASE CONTACT ALISON
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST | WED 22 JULY 2020 AT 4 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR
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Two bedrooms plus study apartment, high end luxury in the prestigious Lakeview development. Now completed occupy immediately. Gaggenau fitted kitchen, oak flooring, heat pump, bath, 96sqm two carparks. URGENT SALE!

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