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October 23, 2020

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Depot Artspace faces cuts
after \$60k loss... p2

Pipe failure
wrecks basement... p3

Interview: North & South's
new owners... p22

Labour takes party vote on the North Shore

Labour has dented North Shore's reputation as a true-blue seat in the 2020 election, exceeding National's party vote, and slashing its candidate vote.

The 2020 party vote was a surprise, with Labour coming out top on the Shore with

14,292 votes against National's 12,442 (40.4 per cent to 35.2 percent). Act polled 3625 and the Greens 2,717.

National has won the North Shore party vote at every election since 1996, with the exception of Labour narrowly topping the table in 2002.

In 2017 the party vote for National was 57.7 per cent, with Labour a distant second on 26 per cent.

National's North Shore candidate majority dropped by more than 8700 votes to 3982 for new MP Simon

To page 5

Mr Watts goes to Wellington



Across the line... New North Shore MP Simon Watts with wife Shannon and camera-shy sons Callum (8) and Jack (10), the day after winning the seat by a much reduced margin. Profile, page 14.

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Major review at Depot Artspace after \$60,000 loss

A confidential review of operations at the Depot Artspace has been put to staff for feedback, with final decisions on the future of the community art hub expected in the next month.

It's understood some staff and gallery cut-backs have been recommended as the Depot struggles to make ends meet due to falling revenues, rising costs and the changing ways customers are buying art.

One large pastels exhibition planned for 2021 has already been cancelled because the Depot, which opened in 1996, can't guarantee the main gallery will be operating in its current form.

Depot manager Lynn Lawton said he could not comment on the exact contents of the review

until staff had returned feedback – possibly as early as the end of October.

The Depot had been under pressure for some time. Its council grant had remained the same for the last 15 years, while its wages and costs had gone up, Lawton said. It cost thousands for its charitable trust to be audited and it was now paying the Tūpuna Maunga Authority rent for its Kerr St building.

At the same time, demand for its main gallery had fallen as artists sold more online or through alternative venues like school auctions. Many artists weren't able to put up the money to exhibit in the main gallery.

"We are also at the end of Lake Rd [reducing potential gallery visitors]," Lawton said.

"Covid put acid on it." The Depot was closed for a month due to Covid-19 restrictions, and planned exhibitions were put on hold or put off.

The Depot lost \$60,000 through its gallery operations in the last 12 months, Lawton said.

"We have had help from the government through the wage subsidy and Harcourts have given us part of their space for a pop-up gallery, which has been a great partnership."

However, changes needed to be made and "we are very positive the options will fit in with



Depot manager Lynn Lawton

the Depot's philosophy".

The Depot wanted to remain a community gallery where artists could exhibit, but it needed to be economically sustainable in the long-term and meet its "council KPIs", Lawton said.

It appears a scaled-back offering is likely, with fewer large gallery exhibitions.

"Enquiries tend to be (exhibitions) more aligned with social issues or for smaller exhibitions," Lawton said.



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NEXT ISSUE: November 6
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: October 30

No say for locals on harbour crossing

North Shore residents are at risk of not having a voice in decision-making on a second harbour crossing.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson is speaking out on the issue, saying it's "not okay to present us with a fait accompli".

She is far from alone in her frustrations. All members of the Devonport-Takapuna and Kaipatiki Local Boards last month signed an open letter to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), Auckland Transport (AT) and Auckland Council calling to be part of the discussions and decision-making.

A perfunctory response talking about setting up a meeting was received by Kaipatiki's chair Paula Gillon.

Jackson said it was now clear that the agencies were at the final stage of deciding next steps, but the boards would have to wait until December before being briefed.

"We should, at a bare minimum, have been kept informed the whole way along."

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board first asked in December 2019 to meet NZTA to make sure its voice was heard on behalf of the community, said Jackson. There had been no response. With decisions drawing nearer, "it just isn't good enough."

The way the council-controlled organisations (CCOs), including AT, worked with the council and boards was faulted in a recent CCO review.

Jackson acknowledged that the bridge crossing was a major national project, but it also had a direct impact on local lives.

In their letter, the two boards called for a clear time frame to be set around an extra crossing. Building a "multi-modal solution (including road and rail)" should be prioritised given the vulnerability of State Highway 1. "As local board members, we must be able to share the views of the communities that we represent, and be involved in the decision-making process of major infrastructure in our area."

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3 Victoria Rd: empty for 837 days

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

It has now been unoccupied for 837 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the future options for the building.

Massive flood damage caused by pipe failure



Flood damage... Anna Thomas in her basement after the clean-up

When Anna Thomas woke at 3am on 2 October, she thought she could hear Niagara Falls thundering outside. She wasn't dreaming – thousands of litres of water from a burst pipe were flooding into her downstairs basement.

"I heard a noise – it was like the jolly Niagara Falls; a really large gushing noise like a waterfall."

She rushed downstairs and stepped into around a foot of water. Her 16-year-old son, Rupert, was asleep in his room. "I yelled to Rupert to get up, about five times."

When he didn't respond she feared the worst – that he had drowned or been electrocuted. Finally, Rupert roused and was confronted by a rapidly rising pool. School books were floating, his laptop and cricket gear ruined.

The back door at the Patuone Ave property was flung open to allow the water to escape.

The fire service responded immediately to the emergency, and Watercare staff arrived around 45 minutes later. They used protective gear when replacing a section of cracked asbestos concrete pipe.

However, as the family was clearing up and tearing down walls four days later, water again started leaking from the mains. Watercare came back and replaced a bigger section of pipe. Another fracture had occurred further up the line, leaving Thomas uneasy about the state of the 50-plus-year-old pipes.

She has been told the street is now on an emergency maintenance list, though no date for the work has been set.

"I'm a little nervous it may blow again."

When the Flagstaff visited the home last Wednesday, 12 days after the initial burst pipe, the last of 15 dehumidifiers used to dry

out the area had just been removed. Builders were surveying the damage. The repair bill is likely to be in excess of \$100,000 for work including the installation of new wallboard and insulation throughout the bedroom, bathroom and laundry.

The whole basement, which had been converted 15 years ago, was sodden. The timber framing was 78 per cent damp immediately after the flood. Insulation had sucked up water and was ruined.

Straight after the flood, Rupert was off on the Spirit of Adventure sailing ship, which reduced the immediate impact for him. But NCEA level-one exams were around the corner. His father, Chris Powell, managed to dry Rupert's waterlogged maths book and notes in the oven.

Other possessions, including valuables from Powell's late parents, historic prints and family photos were damaged beyond repair. Three skips of rubbish were taken away in the clean-up.

While the family was shaken by the incident – "it feels like PTSD", says Thomas – the flood costs will be covered by insurance, with Watercare agreeing to pay any excess.

"No one died, and the next day all those poor people lost their houses at Ohau – we feel almost lucky."

However, Thomas, a newsreader for Radio New Zealand, and probably best known for her time on *Fair Go*, is left wondering about the wider safety of Devonport's ageing water-supply infrastructure.

Watercare: new pipes coming soon

Watercare plans to replace 100 metre of water pipe in Patuone Ave – possibly as soon as next month.

"The pipe was installed in the 1950s, like much of Auckland's water supply network," a Watercare spokesperson said.

"Two recent pipe breaks – and their proximity to low-lying properties (below road level) mean the pipe needs to be replaced now."

Watercare engineers plan renewals based on failure rates and the type of material the original pipe is made of. Older pipes can be made of asbestos cement or cast iron. Modern pipes tend to be polyethylene or PVC.

"In the last year, we spent over \$15 million replacing smaller network pipes,

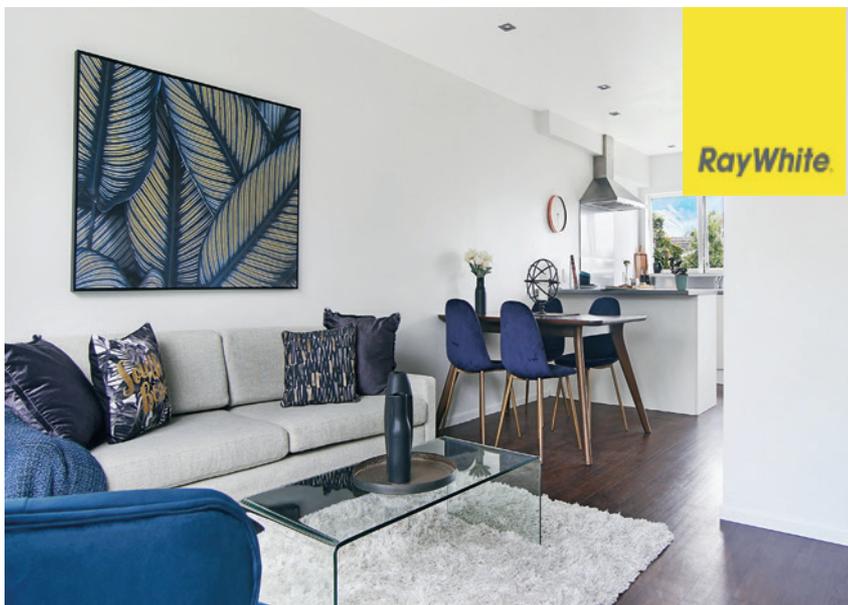
and this programme is ongoing and increasing," the spokesperson said.

Watercare records show some pipe renewal near Patuone Ave in 2003 to 2005. However, the pipes in Patuone Ave weren't upgraded as there were no issues at the time.

"Water pipes are under pressure and are sensitive to disruption, which can lead to weaknesses in adjacent pipes, creating additional breaks – as was the case in this instance."

The broken pipe in Patuone Ave is made from asbestos cement material.

"This is one of the more commonly used water pipes used across the Watercare network, and the world – and considered safe for conveyance of drinking water," the spokesperson said.



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From page 1

National's decline down to a red-faced Act

Watts in the General Election held last Saturday – a 69 per cent free fall.

The huge swing to Labour across the country swept through one of National's safest seats and was a rude introduction to politics for first-time candidate Simon Watts, who had seemed to easily outpoint Labour rival Romy Udanga in pre-election candidates meetings.

In the 2017 election, incumbent National MP Maggie Barry secured a majority of 12,716, posting 23,564 votes against Udanga's 10,848.

Voting overall was down in the North Shore electorate (against a higher national turnout), with 35,365 votes cast in 2020, against 39,871 three years earlier.

Of the minor party candidates, Liz Rawlings (Greens) recorded 1851 votes, Nick Kearney (Act) 1339 and Shai Navot (TOP) 1191.

In a major shift in party-voting, Act came third with 3625, having only won 372 votes in North Shore in 2017.

The Greens nudged up slightly from 2638 to 2717, while NZ First crashed from 2097 in 2017 to 673.

Two ticks red, the peninsula said

Labour was triumphant on the Devonport peninsula, winning more party votes than National in every polling place. And its candidate Romy Udanga must also be feeling a warm glow from his efforts in what seemed an unassailable task, notching up more votes than rival Simon Watts.

The advance voters at North Shore Rugby Club were clearly feeling rosy, and not in a blue mood, with nearly one in two party-voting Labour, compared to one in four ticking the National Party box.

In total, Labour added just under 1800 party votes to its 2017 total, growing its share of the party vote on the peninsula to 46.6 per cent, 6 per cent higher than for the North Shore electorate as a whole. National's party vote plunged 38 per cent since 2017, giving it a 26.8 per cent share locally. Again, this varied noticeably from the electorate picture, where National's slice of the pie was 8.5 per cent larger.

Those swinging Nat voters not fancying

Labour chose to look elsewhere, and Green and ACT were no party-poopers. The peninsula's Green share of the vote grew to 10.8 per cent, a 3 per cent uplift on 2017, although the number of Green votes cast remained constant.

Meanwhile Nick Kearney may feel a ride across the harbour in the fizz boat with ACT leader David Seymour would have been a good start to election night, his reward for growing the North Shore party vote to above 10 per cent, a mighty increase on 2017, magnified in the peninsula booths, where ACT's party vote was up more than tenfold.

Peninsula voters were no slouches when it came to getting out and doing the right thing. The number of votes cast locally was up by around 12 per cent on 2017, bucking the trend for the North Shore as a whole (down 11 per cent). Maybe advance voting contributed to this, with 62 per cent on the peninsula sealing their votes before election day.

BOOTH	LAB Romy UDUNGA	LAB Party Vote	NAT Simon WATTS	NAT Party Vote	GREEN Liz RAWLINGS	Green Party Vote	ACT Nick KEARNEY	ACT Party Vote	TOP Shai NAVOT	TOP Party Vote	NZF Party Vote
BAYSWATER, Bayswater School	553	617	559	368	84	131	39	139	64	29	31
BELMONT, Belmont Intermediate	261	304	323	229	40	68	24	60	37	15	16
DEVONPORT, Community House	307	305	290	192	41	89	18	74	23	15	14
DEVONPORT, North Shore Rugby Club	2,018	2,044	1,476	991	275	505	95	366	160	78	77
DEVONPORT, Devonport Yacht Club	197	204	224	134	25	56	19	72	22	9	12
HAURAKI, Chapel Hall	175	222	294	213	37	40	21	63	25	9	12
HAURAKI, Hauraki School	342	404	432	273	34	59	17	99	37	17	15
NARROW NECK, Vauxhall School	381	398	339	212	49	100	26	89	50	25	18
STANLEY BAY, Stanley Bay School	188	225	172	106	30	52	8	32	27	8	8
TOTAL	4,422	4,723	4,109	2,718	615	1,100	267	994	445	205	203
2020 Vote (Peninsula voting places)	43.9%	46.9%	40.8%	27.0%	6.1%	10.9%	2.7%	9.9%	4.4%	2.0%	2.0%
2017 Vote (Peninsula voting places)	36.4% ^f	32.4%	N/A	48.6%	N/A	8.8%	1.6% [#]	0.9%	N/A	2.6%	5.9%

The above is a summary of preliminary results. For minor parties' and other candidates' results, visit www.electionresults.govt.nz. # Electorate seats were contested with different candidates in 2017.

Interesting times...

We are seeing the following:

1. Record volumes of house sales and a buoyant property market are being driven by low interest rates, a shortage of supply and rampant demand, which have seen banks struggle to cope with the huge enquiry (taking up to 10 business days to process a loan) as house lending soars.
2. But business lending is falling and banks are also very stringent about current and future income scrutiny for businesses, self-employed and bonus/commission income, often making their borrowing more difficult.
3. Investors are paying up (well above CV) for residential development sites, particularly in Auckland, with a view to building multiple units.
4. Heartland Bank has come out with a 1.99% one-year fixed-rate mortgage. Wee assume this is to test its new online application process, as it's hard to see them funding substantial volume.
5. Lower rates are possible particularly if the official cash rate (OCR) goes negative next March/April (as markets are pricing in), which will no doubt add fuel to the property market. It's hard to understand the necessity to encourage so much more household debt at the detriment of longer-term savings and investment.

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Devonport businesses rode out first Covid onslaught

Devonport businesses have held up well under the first Covid-19 lockdown.

Consumer spending in the year to 30 June (which included a month-long closure) was \$92 million – down 1.9 per cent, compared to \$93.8 million the year before – according to a Verisk financial market-view report for the Devonport Business Association.

For the same period, the Auckland CBD was down by 19.7 per cent. Birkenhead and Parnell town centres – areas of similar size to Devonport – were down 4.5 and 11.3 per cent respectively. The Auckland region as a whole was down by 5 per cent for the year.

Both the Devonport Flagstaff and the Devonport Business Improvement District were strong advocates of buy-local spending to

combat the economic effects of Covid.

Locals' spending within the Devonport village centre was up 2.5 per cent to \$64.9 million – easily the largest source of money coming into businesses.

Domestic-visitor spending was down by 13.6 per cent at \$21.3 million, while international spending was up 0.3 per cent to \$5.9m. Most of the usual summer visitors had been and gone by the time Covid hit.

Cafes, restaurants and takeaways were the hardest hit by Covid, with spending down for the year from \$18.2 million to \$15.6 million – a 14.3 per cent decrease.

The groceries and liquor sector – which includes Devonport New World – was up 8.5 per cent, from \$51.9 million to \$56.3 million.

But a \$6m hole to fill

Devonport business income is likely to be \$6 million short this summer due to the absence of international visitors.

Overseas tourists spent \$5.9 million in Devonport during the year ended 30 June, says a Verisk financial report to the Devonport Business Association (DBA).

Most of this spend was during the summer of 2019-20 – before the Covid-19 lockdowns. The foreign-tourist spend made up 6.4 per cent of the \$92 million total spent in Devonport over the year.

United States tourists contributed the most, by country, putting \$1.3 million through Devonport tills.

While New Zealand is back to full movement under Covid level-1 restrictions, borders remain closed to tourists – a multimillion-dollar loss for Devonport.

DBA members at its AGM last week hoped a boost in domestic tourism numbers to watch America's Cup racing, and to visit Devonport over summer, would recoup some of the international-visitor shortfall.

Increase in funding sought by DBA

The Devonport Business Association (DBA) has voted to increase its funds by 7.5 per cent next year, from \$120,000 to \$129,000.

The Devonport Business Improvement District (BID), run by the DBA board, is funded through a targeted rate levied on landlords, which passes on to tenants, who are local businesses. BID members voted unanimously to support the increase at the DBA annual general meeting (AGM) last week.

The DBA has "somewhat naively" held

back from increasing the rate over the years, when nearby Takapuna and Milford BIDs had increased their rates, DBA chair Dianne Hale told the AGM last week.

The extra \$9000 wasn't likely to go very far and would largely offset increased costs, Hale said. Some concerns were raised that landlords and tenants could ill afford cost increases in the Covid-19 environment.

The DBA vote now goes to the Devonport -Takapuna Local Board for ratification.

Devonport DBA board elected

The new Devonport Business Association (DBA) Board is: Dianne Hale (chair), Sue Johnson (treasurer), Harriet Byrnes (secretary), Laura Foote, Ian Cunliffe, Doug Cochrane, Peter Reeves, Ben Walden, Lance Nixon and Aadil Basha. Aidan Bennett is the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board representative on the DBA board.

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Sinking America's Cup funding

America's Cup events in Devonport are likely to be cut back due to funding constraints brought on by Covid-19 impacts.

The Devonport Business Association (DBA) was developing a full programme, including dinghies along the foreshore, a viewing screen at Windsor Reserve, a 'glow your boat' event on the harbour and school kapa haka performances on Maungauika.

Sponsorships were being negotiated and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) was working with the DBA on a funding agreement.

However, when Covid hit, council budgets were put on hold, and as the year has gone on sponsors have had less money to spend. ATEED has been forced to rework its contribution.

"A scaled-back programme (in Devonport) is now likely," DBA chair Dianne Hale told

the association's annual meeting last week.

Meetings were planned with ATEED officials this week "where we hope to get some clarity", Hale said.

The dinghies (now reduced from 15 to 12) are currently under construction by Kevin Johnson, but the status of other events is uncertain.

The screen at Windsor Reserve has run into logistical problems. If it was based on the city side, it could remain in place for the two-and-half weeks of the America's Cup events. But in Devonport, it would need a resource consent, or have to be taken down after each screening.

It was hoped 'glow your boat' would still take place as ATEED was keen for it to become an annual event.

Any sponsors who wanted to come forward to support the events were welcome, said Hale.

Parking fears raised

Concerns over Auckland Transport (AT) "taking our free parking" were raised by glass artist and retailer Peter Raos at the Devonport Business Association AGM.

AT has proposed paid parking outside the ferry terminal, with decisions likely to be made in the next couple of months.

Councillor Chris Darby said businesses needed to consider what a successful parking strategy entailed.

For example, was it better for businesses to have free parking outside their stores occupied by long-term users, or to have paid parking, which ensured turnover and potentially more customers?

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett said the AT parking proposals were "data-driven, with science behind it", and parking changes were also being considered in Takapuna and Milford.



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TGS building opens in style

It was five years in the making, with two false starts due to Covid restrictions, but Takapuna Grammar School's renovated main building finally had its official opening last Friday.

Guests were welcomed at the main entrance with a powhiri, with ex-pupil and benefactor Sir Stephen Tindall accepting the challenge.

The TGS chorale performed, conducted by Jacob Moore, and Tindall and principal Mary Nixon cut the ribbon.

Many current and former staff were in attendance, including three former principals: John Morris (1990-93), Paul Daley (1993-2003) and Simon Lamb (2003-2016).

Long-time teachers Robin and Terry Holding, Carol Craymer and Ian Lissette, were among the guests along with well-known old boys Ralph Roberts, Simon Gundry and Richard Jones.

Kaumatuia Otene Reweti said those who were gathered "stood before the building in all its beauty and glory".

Head boy Jake Avram said the Main Block had become cold and wet in winter, and hot and stuffy in summer. Students enjoyed attending Takapuna Grammar (TGS) during the restoration of one of New Zealand's most historic school buildings.

Pupils loved the "flash interior" and having windows that opened and blinds that closed.

Head girl Catherine Fairbairn said the upgraded Main Block was a perfect metaphor for TGS, "keeping up with the times but reuniting with its history".

Tindall said his time at the school had taught him self-motivation and respect for others, which he carried with him for the rest of his life.

The main building was built 93 years ago. Principal Mary Nixon said when the white plastic shroud was lifted and the building "finally re-emerged, locals cheered and tourist buses stopped to let people take photos".

Covid-19 caused problems but "did not stall the commitment of Woodview [Construction]'s senior site manager and former Takapuna Grammar pupil, Grant Wills, or the tenacity of Deputy Principal Brian Wynn from ensuring the completion of this project," Nixon said.

The building had been "reinvented", with innovative learning spaces, she said. "The effect on how students learn is noticeable and prompted a refresh of our educational philosophy at TGS to make use of this more agile learning environment."

More pictures, pages 42-43



Walk down memory lane... current principal Mary Nixon, with (from left) predecessors Simon Lamb, Paul Daley and John Morris



Old boys... Simon Gundry (left) and Richard Jones



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5 2 3 2

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MP wants to be North Shore's ambo at top of the cliff

Simon Watts is a rarity post-election – a new National Party MP sitting pretty. He tells Janetta Mackay how he wants to make his comfortable majority count for his electorate and what led him to politics.

THIS WEEK, Simon Watts headed to Parliament as the new North Shore MP. Next week, he moves into the family home he and wife Shannon have bought in Belmont.

With a view to Rangitoto, beaches nearby and walking distance to local schools for their two sons, the home's location comes at a cost. Not because it's a flash, shiny new pad – more a doer-upper in prime position – but because access to it is via the commuter's curse of Lake Rd.

"I know this will sound a bit funny, but I wanted to understand and feel some of that pain the locals feel," he says.

Watts hopes his own "real-world experiences" can help deliver locally, and ultimately, nationally. "I'm hugely humbled to be able to represent the North Shore on the issues that I've campaigned about," he says.

He is eager not to fester over National's election-night thumping and instead focus on what needs to be done to rebuild the party. "I'm going to be one of the voices around the table, with having a smaller caucus. It's a time when we will be looking at what the public have said and what we need to do."

The banker turned health manager, with a sideline as an ambulance volunteer, says: "You've got to put yourself in other people's shoes sometimes."

He knows the Lake Rd stretch – like the Covid-19-hit economy and built-up demand for housing and infrastructure – will be no easy fix. Politicians and officials, locally, regionally and nationally, need to get better at long-term planning in ways that make sense to the people they serve, he says. This is in contrast to the recent



Man with a plan... Watts says he's not just another accounting guy joining the list of lawyers in Parliament, but will bring his own unique mix of skills

decision to chop the Stanley Bay ferry service, which Watts has started a petition against.

On tackling congestion, Watts is clear encouraging public transport is up there with pushing on with projects where "something must be done". A second harbour crossing needs to include room for rail, he says.

When the Flagstaff first spoke to Watts before the election, he talked about the need for a small country to operate differently. "We've got to think about how we get sustainable

change in place that's not necessarily going to get knocked over every time we change political cycle, whether it's schools or health or wastewater or stormwater.

"We haven't kept up with the explosion of growth that we've experienced," he says, likening the state of the country to a poorly maintained house.

Constituents wanted certainty for their businesses, but issues around the environment and climate were also frequent concerns. Infra-

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structure had to be addressed. “There is a need for us to improve things,” he says. “I think it’s going to have to be cross-party.”

THE DAY AFTER he was elected with a 3982 majority – well down on the 12,716 buffer enjoyed by his predecessor Maggie Barry – Watts wasn’t nursing a hangover at home. He stepped out in his electorate as a “sign that I’m straight into it”. From Smales Farm market he headed onto Takapuna beach for some Sunday sun with Shannon, son Jack, aged 10, and Callum, 8, and their aunt and grandmother.

Election evening had been spent at a party gathering of around 200 supporters at The Grange restaurant at Smales Farm. He popped across the Harbour Bridge to a subdued function at party HQ, from which a number of National MPs were conspicuously absent. Then it was back to Takapuna and a long night.

Faced with starting his new career “learning and working” in Opposition, Watts is determined to be positive. He points out that former Prime Minister John Key did the same. “I’ve always been the sort of person to deal with what is in front of me.”

Long term, he hopes to ascend to Cabinet. On paper, he knows he may look like “another finance/accounting guy joining a list of lawyers in Parliament”, but he insists he brings some unique value.

The health system is underfunded nationally by 4 to 5 per cent a year, Watts believes, a shortfall compounded by end-of-life or ageing infrastructure. Sound economic management is vital, but so too is learning from sector experts and utilising technology to help stretched workforces.

Both he and Key entered politics as not overtly-political finance men who returning from successful careers overseas, convinced they had something to offer. Pictured as he was in regulation blue suit on his billboards, clean-cut Watts does have something of the look of Key, albeit, a trimmer, younger version. He chats affably in similar flat vowels.

Asked if he is ‘John Key Lite’, he says: “But John Key wasn’t a paramedic was he?” He laughs. Watts is definitely his own man. Turns out he can run a marathon, having completed the Queenstown event last year. He also enjoys trail running and sea fishing.

While Watts says he admired Key’s leadership during the earthquakes and other difficult times from afar – while in the UK – he sees himself as part of the next generation of politics.

AT 41, he is a year older than self-described “youth-adjacent” Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, a fellow Waikato University graduate and rural-heartland product. She was politically active as a young person; he was not.

It was while at Waikato just over 20 years ago that Simon met Shannon. He studied accountancy and she marketing. Watts, who was raised on a Cambridge orchard with two younger brothers, had turned down a pre-med spot at Otago. As a young man he thought finance would be a quicker, easier way to a

well-paid career.

The couple graduated, worked for a year, married then embarked on their OE.

A working trip to Dublin, via a fun year in Vancouver, turned into 10 years away. Shannon, now a food-industry marketing director, was offered a promotion in her beauty-industry job and Simon transferred to the Bank of Scotland. “I had to take him kicking and screaming to London, and then he loved it,” she recalls.

It was there that Watts’ latent interest in health was rekindled. The capital had been rocked by bombings and he wanted to know

“It’s a time when we will be looking at what the public have said and what we need to do.”

what to do in case of an emergency, so he volunteered to train as a community-first responder with the London Ambulance Service.

“I was going into apartment blocks by myself and dealing with things I’ve never dealt with before in terms of life and death and all the other stuff that goes around that.”

Watts still does ambulance shifts every six weeks back in New Zealand, although during the alert-level-4 lockdown it was weekly. While he would like to keep his hand in, the job as North Shore MP is unlikely to leave much free time.

Putting himself on the frontline in London armed Watts with extra confidence and the realisation he wanted to do more with his financial skills than shuffle money. “I wanted to do a job that did good for people.”

A management job at Counties-Manukau District Health Board (DHB) drew him home in 2013. He then squeezed in study for a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in paramedicine, at AUT. Moving on to the Waitemata DHB, Watts was deputy chief financial officer for three years.

At the DHBs, Watts came to realise politics might be a more effective way to influence change. Sitting down with doctors and nurses

at North Shore Hospital was satisfying in that he could draw on their expertise to mount a robust financial case for resources, but Wellington set the budgets.

THE FAMILY had settled on the North Shore, drawn by having friends nearby and because it offered their UK-born babies an outdoorsy Kiwi upbringing. Watts loves to run from Milford along the rocks – “touch Takapuna beach and back” – and is looking forward to having the beach closer in their imminent move from Northcote Point to Belmont. He plans to monitor Takapuna’s town-centre renewal, beach-water quality and, of course, Lake Rd; all are issues he says people raise with him.

Watts joined the National Party soon after returning to New Zealand. The party’s principles were a natural fit for him, he says, having grown up in a National household.

In 2018, he took an “opportunistic” tilt at winning selection to contest the Northcote seat when MP Jonathan Coleman resigned. Four days out from nominations closing, he entered the race. Despite not being active in the party locally, he made the shortlist, but lost to Dan Bidois, who won the subsequent by-election. (Bidois was one of the National MPs who lost his seat on election night last week.)

For Watts, trying for Northcote proved useful experience when he put up his hand to replace retiring three-term MP Barry in her blue-ribbon seat. He says he wasn’t tapped for selection and won it in a hard-fought process.

As a self-described man with a plan, Watts resigned from the Waitemata DHB in January so he could focus on gaining selection and winning over the community. During the campaign, he was happy to listen to the insights of a 20-year-old student volunteer. “I’ve seen the benefit, in private, corporate and public life that the strength of the team will deliver much more than the individual,” he says.

Up to election day he waved his own placards at Hauraki Corner. A few days earlier he visited the AUT Akoranga campus marae, campaigning hard. He was asked ‘why are you bothering?’ “I said ‘this is about long-term relationships, this is about our community and I’m part of the future’.”

Watts says he intends to keep campaigning for the Shore. “I’ll be measured on what I deliver,” he says.



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By Rob Drent

The loquat tree in our back garden is in full bloom, with tui gorging themselves. A team of blackbirds is having a go as well.

Our property appears rat-free. I've no scientific evidence, but the surge in birdlife that seemed to have occurred on the Devonport peninsula during the level-four lockdown looks to have taken hold.

Helping things along is the Restoring Takarunga initiative coordinated by Lance Cablk, which is enhancing reserves from Devonport to Takapuna with a profusion of weeding, planting and vermin-eradication projects.

A shining example is the Achilles Reserve. Just a couple of years ago, its regenerating bush and the stream running through it were being strangled by weeds – particularly wandering jew. Volunteers have now removed thousands of kilos of weeds and recently started planting.

The stream is now clean and running freely and birds have returned. A couple of decades ago, the then North Shore City Council worked with Bayswater School pupils cleaning up the reserve. But once North Shore was merged into the Supercity this initiative faded out.

So all power to Restoring Takarunga: local volunteers on the ground are the key to these projects. If they are well established, they should be long-lived, whatever the level of council support.

News of a review of operations at the Depot Artspace will be concerning to some. Over the last 25-odd years, the former council works depot has been a local institution, very much like The Bunker on Takarunga.

Countless artistic careers have been launched and fostered at the Depot. Its recording studio has offered local kids the opportunity to experiment and create. Some became nationally and internationally known acts.

The trouble with local institutions though, is that people can take them for granted and then they can disappear. Take the Masonic Tavern, for example. Neglected for years, locals gradually drifted away. It's now apartments, with the promised café downstairs, offices instead.

Depot general manager Lynn Lawton was nervous about talking to me about the changes, as he was concerned about how its staff (who are providing feedback on a new operation) would be feeling. I take the opposite view: the wider public needs to know what is going on so they can support the Depot and its team and what it provides.

Times do change, as has the art market, and possibly tweaks are needed at the Depot. But I'm confident that Linda Blinkco and Lawton, who have been the backbone of the Depot for decades and also run a successful commercial gallery in Rawene, are well up to the task of working out a path to secure its future.

The Depot, like most other venues, and businesses during Covid-19, has been hit by drops in patronage and revenue. Planning has been difficult, with uncertainty a constant.

Going into level one, its like a fog being lifted for us at the Flagstaff. Rather than the seemingly endless stories of cutbacks and events being cancelled, we are now back covering sports, events, culture, schools and the like.

I'm incredibly proud of our small team: we didn't miss an issue all year, although due to printing restrictions under level four, one Flagstaff and two issues of our sister publication, *The Rangitoto Observer*, were only published online. I can't thank the adver-

tisers enough. They continued to support us, especially when we were forced online. The same goes for the readers who sent emails encouraging us to keep going. Special thanks to a woman who left a message on our office answerphone when we started printing again and she received the paper in her letterbox. "The Flagstaff's arrived so things must be getting back to normal," she said. It gave me a huge lift on a trying day.

Rising phoenix-like out of the post-Covid turmoil is *North & South* magazine, purchased by Devonport couple Konstantin Richter and Verena Friederike Hasel.

I interviewed them last week and was impressed by their passion and good sense. Like the Flagstaff, it's a lean operation, and I wish them well. The first copy is out next month. Get off Facebook and Google and buy one. Support quality New Zealand journalism and local jobs.

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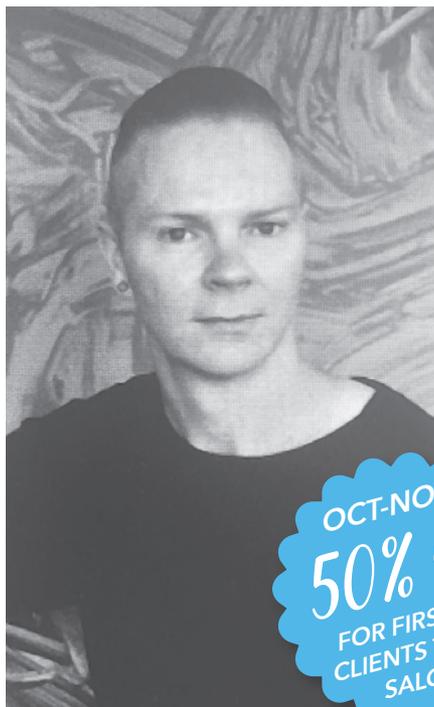
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Glenn would like to offer a 50%-off special to all first-time clients to the salon who book in with him for the remainder of October and the whole of November.

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NEW LISTING



Devonport 59 Lake Road

4 2 2 1

Character Charmer In Narrow Neck

Once in a while a very special property hits the market, one that has been a fun-filled family home for more than 26 years, one that has been lovingly renovated, maintaining all the wonderful original features throughout, one that has been modernised and extended at the rear to provide for the best family floorplan, with that all important outdoor/indoor flow to a sizeable garden at the rear! This home has storage galore, the convenience of the single garage and a large shed, outdoor entertaining areas and all the mod cons a modern family could possibly want! Come and take a look at this marvellous offering, pre-auction offers are welcome!

Auction

On site, 15th November at 11.00am (unless sold prior)
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Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263
jane.hastings@harcourts.co.nz

Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797
jackie.mark@harcourts.co.nz

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NEW LISTING

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2 1 1 1

Opportunity To Live In Devonport

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- Call to view

Auction
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Maria Stevens
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maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz
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Devonport 47 Lake Road

3 1 1 1 2

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Tender
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Devonport 50 Vauxhall Road

5 3 2 1 2

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Tender
 Closes 3rd November at 4.00pm (USP)
View Sat/Sun 12.-12.pm : Wed 5-6
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Hauraki 3/17 Walter Street

4 2 1 1 2

Hello Hauraki! Hello Home!
An exceptional renovation has transformed this two storied solid brick unit, the end one of three, into a super stylish contemporary home. Extremely well orientated for the sun and with views of the water from the upstairs rooms, you will never regret your move to Hauraki. A very desirable location within easy reach of schools, shops a local café and playground. This home will not disappoint.

Auction
In Rooms, 29th October at 6.00pm (USP)
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Devonport 3 Turnbull Road

4 2 2 1 1

Narrow Neck Beach Villa
Located on the last street off Vauxhall Road before the beach, you will find this grand single bay villa. On a full site with flat access to the back garden from the living area you will love the opportunity that this home presents. The wide entrance hall way with original kauri floor boards and wonderful high stud height leads you into the home and offers you a taste of what is to follow.

For Sale
By Negotiation
View Sat/Sun 1.00pm-1.30pm
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Devonport 160 Calliope Road

5 3 3 2 2

Relaxed Family Beach House
If you have dreamed of living in the city, but enjoying the feeling of being on holiday, this could be the home you have been waiting for. This charming, elevated villa looks out across the green landscape of Ngataranga Park to the waters of the Bay beyond. Maximising its great bones, it has been recently renovated by the current owners who brought up their three children in this family friendly area.

For Sale
By Negotiation
View Sat & Sun 1-1.30pm
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George Wood: councillors 'disingenuous' on Lake Rd

It is about time that I put my side of the argument on the impasse that has developed with the upgrade of Lake Rd from Hauraki Corner to the Belmont shopping centre.

In the last edition of the Flagstaff (9 October), you mentioned in your editorial column an article I posted on the Devonport Locals Facebook page.

Many people from the Devonport and Bayswater peninsulas have contacted me and commented favourably on the stand that my three colleagues and I have taken. We resolved that the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board request more work from Auckland Transport (AT). This isn't an unreasonable request.

I feel strongly that the position taken by Councillors [Chris] Darby and [Richard] Hills to now only work with the other two

board members is disingenuous. Months have gone by without the two councillors even taking the time to attend one of our meetings to discuss the Lake Rd issue. Going on Facebook and denigrating local board members is not helpful.

Messrs Darby and Hills seem to want the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to accept a "half-baked" proposal from AT. This is interesting, when in 2017 our two councillors were promoting an upgrade of Lake Rd with two lanes in each direction. This upgrade could be achieved within the current boundaries of Lake Rd. I have copied out a plan of the Hills- Darby proposal, which was submitted to the local board in May 2017.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, by resolution, put forward to AT a similar

general outline to that advanced by the two North Shore councillors.

AT is claiming that the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board previously supported the design concept that has substantial domination by cycle lanes. The board from last term wished to see a balance in the use of an upgraded Lake Rd between public transport (with transit lanes for buses and high-occupancy cars both north and south), and general traffic lanes for cars and trucks both ways, and walking and cycling provisions.

I certainly wish to see Lake Rd upgraded, but not achieving any appreciable improvements for the ease of movement of cars and buses along this corridor will not see us making progress.

George Wood, Deputy chair, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

'They' have a lot to answer for

This last month in Devonport has been an eye-opener. There are spent blue masks blowing around the streets. At least no one's dying, and "they" are not going to consider the real science or the real statistics or actual causes of death. They say we are a team of five million, all the while trashing Devonport's businesses. I am not on the team, in case you're wondering.

There is traffic chaos trying to get into town via a neglected and insufficient harbour bridge, a structure that needs shoring up to avoid catastrophic failure in time that can't be mitigated by a new billion-dollar four-lane tunnel.

To add to it, "they" are closing Stanley Bay ferry, after building a million-dollar floating wharf and installing eight surveillance

cameras.

"They" have been busy fixing the Queens Pde seaside footpath while the shopping and commerce area remains stuffed.

Over the other side, "they" are reducing Tamaki Dr to three car lanes – madness – and it is likely we will get one Lake Rd lane with stop-go people at each end to replace the two lanes we have.

You people can forget about your fancy SUVs up and down our roads.

And now "they" are sure to run us out of water this summer and call it supply and demand. "They" will make your eyes water when you get the water bills when the global-warming heatwave hits Devonport.

"They" are all as mad as meat axes as far as I'm concerned, and they wanted us to vote for them.

"They" started on about lead dust off the bridge the other day. Toxic, they say, when the really toxic waste from fire-fighting foam is left to slowly kill the pied stilts and dotterels from cancer due to dining in the sediments of Ngataranga Bay.

"They" that are accountable for this are silent, as is our council who vowed to look into it.

Who the hell are "they" who set us up like this? Devonport residents need to take a lead in these matters and speak up.

Ron Dykman

Harcourts Devonport Tides

Harcourts
Cooper & Co

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Fri Oct 23			Sat Oct 24			Sun Oct 25			Mon Oct 26			Tue Oct 27			Wed Oct 28			Thu Oct 29					
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Bodyline by Guy Body



News: \$6 million shortfall in Devonport business income likely, due to the absence of international visitors.

Unacceptable behaviour in Devonport New World

I have been shopping in Devonport New World for nearly 20 years. Shopping there has been most of the time a pleasurable experience. This year though, because of Covid and having to line up, some people show their worst bits.

Yesterday, for instance, while I was lining up in front of the chocolate section and another lady was lining up in front of the shaving creams, a third woman pushed in and parked her trolley right behind me. As one of the paying stations became free, I looked at the other woman on the other side and asked her if she wanted to go ahead. She kindly let me go first. As the next paying station became

free, she went as it was her turn. The third woman, who was behind me, yelled at her and told her to back off as it was her turn.

The second woman and I looked at ourselves wondering what was wrong with her. I told the third woman: "Don't worry... it's bad for your health."

The third woman, who was older than me, and probably did not want to receive advice from me, yelled: "Why don't you two go back to where you come from?"

Uhh, that kind of hurt. I responded then: "We like it here." And she said, "But we don't like you." Gee, that was when I decided, I'd better keep my mouth shut and go away from that angry woman as soon as I can. I don't know what the reasons for her anger are, but I think she needs help.

Maria Sardi

Thanks for the consultation

Community consultation exists! For so long promised, for so long invisible, our chance to be heard about Devonport public transport seemed to be just a myth.

But lo! Special signs appeared at bus stops! Reply-paid brochures dropped into our letterboxes! And, as promised, once we were back down to Covid alert-level 1, a whole team from Auckland Transport (AT) was there at the library waiting for us. Actual people, lovely people who listened, who explained.

So I hope everyone who cares about public transport has used this opportunity to give AT their feedback. Thank you, AT.

Miriam Beatson

David Smart Co. Financial Advice



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DEVONPORT PENINSULA TRUST
Making Community Happen

OUT & ABOUT

Maria Teape Community Coordinator
445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

WINTER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY

LAST 2 WEEKS!
Friday mornings until 30 October, 9:30am-11am
The Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont

The free, casual-attendance sessions are the perfect way to keep little ones active and socialised during the colder, wetter months.
Summer Fun Preschool Play commences on Tuesday 3 November at Windsor Reserve, Devonport.
Caregiver supervision is required.

WELCOME TO THE GODWITS
- HAERE MAI NGĀ KUAKA

Saturday October 24, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Sandy Bay Reserve, Sandy Bay Rd, Bayswater

A community celebration of the return of our threatened, globetrotting local shorebird the bar-tail godwit to Shoal and Ngataringa Bays. Sausage sizzle follows a circle of information-sharing and celebrating together. Activities for children are planned.

THE 2020 ROUND NORTH HEAD CLASSIC

Saturday 31 October, 8:30am start
Balmain Reserve & Windsor Reserve, Devonport
Cost: \$40 Seniors, \$30 Juniors. A 2.5km open-water swim race from Windsor Reserve Beach around North Head to Cheltenham Beach with cash and spot prizes, hot food & refreshments.

Wear a Halloween swim costume or go along in an outfit before you change - the most "spooktacular" wins a prize. Hot pastries and refreshments available to finishers at Balmain Reserve. **To register and for more info, visit www.devowim.org.nz**

VISITOR DAY AT STANLEY BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

Saturday 7 November at 1.30pm
20 Stanley Point Road, Stanley Bay
Arrive approx. 1.15pm wearing flat shoes.
Try out a game of bowls and/or petanque.
Bowls/boules & tuition provided. No charge. **If raining, this will take place on 14 November instead.**
stanleybowlingclub@gmail.com

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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Berlin natives set new direction with North & South

Konstantin Richter and Verena Friederike Hasel arrived in New Zealand early in 2020. Six months later, they had bought landmark national magazine *North & South*. In a year of change and the unexpected, they spoke to Rob Drent about their journey.

It was the New Zealand trees and their variable shades of green that Verena Friederike Hasel couldn't get out of her mind.

Aged 24, she first came to New Zealand in 2004 with two mates. They had won a 10-country, round-the-world trip in a contest and squeezed in three weeks in Godzone between Hong Kong and Mexico.

"The colours were so incredible – the blues and the forest. There are so many shades of green in the trees... I could not forget the light and the forests and the birds."

Australia, she says like a born-and-bred Kiwi, did not compare to New Zealand's natural beauty.

Those were arguably the most important three weeks of her life. Soon after meeting Konstantin Richter – now her husband – back in Berlin in 2007, she talked to him about New Zealand and the impression it left on her.

By 2015, she was back in the country, this time with Richter and daughters Salome, Penelope and Juno, touring New Zealand on a five-month campervan trip. They stayed with friends in Devonport for five days. "I didn't particularly want to get back in the van after that," says Richter.

In 2017, they returned to Devonport for six months, settling in Narrow Neck, with their girls enrolled at the local school and kindergarten.

Friederike Hasel was so impressed by the Kiwi schools that she wrote a book – *The Dancing Principal* (now in its third edition and translated into Turkish and Korean) – on what other countries can learn from the New Zealand education system.

"Its got a systematic science-based approach, but focused on 21st-century skills, and encourages empathy and creativity," she says.

New Zealanders are often critical of our schools, but Friederike Hasel embraces the



Aotearoa adventurers... Konstantin Richter and Verena Friederike Hasel at home with daughters Salome (11), Penelope (8) and Juno (5)

curriculum, designed with the combined knowledge of students, teachers, Maori, politicians and scientists. "The book was saying what schools could be like."

After returning again to Germany, the family found they were missing New Zealand. The pull was felt strongly by eldest daughter Salome, who would set her alarm clock so she could do Vauxhall School's kapa haka at same time as her classmates back at Narrow Neck.

"Berlin is an interesting, exciting city," says Friederike Hasel, but the girls missed running around without shoes, and the forests and the beaches.

The decision to return here was made when Covid-19 was almost unheard of. When Friederike Hasel left Germany in February, brief news reports of a virus were coming out of China. By the time Richter boarded a plane to follow, the first wave was sweeping Germany.

New Zealand was, by comparison, untouched, until lockdown was ordered in March. Having looked forward to the wide open spaces and integrating again into the Devonport community, the family found they were trapped at home.

But in a year of change, the couple – both career-long journalists and authors – were soon contemplating another monumental step.

Four days after lockdown began, German company Bauer announced it was leaving New Zealand, closing its local publications. More than 250 staff – including many of the country's top journalists – lost their jobs and landmark magazines like *North & South*, the *New Zealand Listener*, *Metro* and the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* were gone in what seemed like the stroke of an accountant's pen.

Both Friederike Hasel and Richter had become *North & South* readers and loved its



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national scope, the breadth of its coverage and longer, crafted feature writing. They wondered, could they buy it?

It seemed unlikely – Bauer wanted to sell the whole stable to one buyer. But Richter and Friederike Hasel went through *North & South*'s books and made an offer.

“We didn’t think we had a chance – we thought someone with a lot of money would buy it just to keep it going,” says Friederike Hasel. But a faltering media landscape became even more uncertain after Covid, and meetings to discuss their offer continued. They became owners on 17 July.

Coincidentally, *North & South* was launched in the 1980s by another Devonport couple, the late Warwick Roger and Robyn Langwell, who edited the magazine for many years.

Speaking to Richter and Friederike Hasel at their rented Devonport villa, there is no sense of new brooms shaking up the magazine. They see themselves more as journalistic guardians keeping the torch alight.

Both were born in Berlin. Friederike Hasel graduated with a degree in forensic psychology from Berlin Free University. She also obtained a degree in screenwriting from Berlin film school DFFB. She worked for many years at the Berlin-based daily *Der Tagesspiegel*, then for weekly *Die Ziet*. She mainly wrote features – in one long-form piece she followed a politician for 100 days. She has written four books – and just finished her fifth. One is a novel, two are non-fiction and two are children’s books.

Richter studied English Literature and Philosophy at Edinburgh University, before completing a Masters in Journalism at Columbia University, in New York. He was an assistant editor for the *Columbia Journalism Review* and 20 years ago was a staff reporter on the *Wall Street Journal*. He’s worked as an editor and publisher for two German publishers and published three novels. More recently, he’s written for *Die Ziet*, the daily *Die Welt* and for *Politico*.

The last few months have been a whirl of meetings with former *North & South* staff, freelancers, printers and designers. A small office was secured in downtown Auckland.

The couple were acutely aware of their obligations to paid-up subscribers: the magazine needed to get back on the shelves as soon as possible.

Meetings were held with former editor Virginia Larson and deputy Joanna Wane, who were supportive but have moved on to other publications. (Larson has since been appointed editor of *KiaOra* magazine and Wane is now senior writer on the *New Zealand Herald*'s *Canvas* magazine.)

North & South's new editor, Hastings-raised Rachel Morris, was lured from the *Huffington Post*, in the US.

*“It has been
a crazy few months,
but crazy in
a good way.”*

Interviews and planning for the upcoming issue were done on Zoom. Richter and Friederike Hasel only met Morris in person last week after she left managed isolation, where she had been working on commissioning articles and planning.

“We were relieved we got on as well with her in person as we did on Zoom,” Richter said.

“We were incredibly excited when [the purchase] first happened, then a bit overwhelmed.

“It has been a crazy few months, but crazy in a good way.”

Most of *North & South*'s freelancing network has been retained, and award-winning reporter Donna Chisholm, one of the country’s top journalists, is on board as a

contributor.

The couple were keen to have New Zealand journalists at the helm to make the editorial decisions. But it’s a small team of five at the office at the moment and “we’ll all be mucking in and doing a bit of everything,” says Friederike Hasel.

The couple are heading into town to work at the office in the daytime, returning in the afternoons to look after their kids, then working on *North & South* again at night.

They will be publishers, “but we have a lot of ideas and will provide a sounding board for the editor,” says Richter, who has spent the last few weeks reading through the magazine’s back issues, deep-diving into a crash course of New Zealand’s recent history.

“It really is a magazine that connects with people right across the country,” he says.

“We hope people do not see us as Germans taking over, but as people who feel strongly about journalism.”

The relaunch was set for October, but due to the second lockdown in Auckland, was put back to mid-November. Advertising response has been good, and the couple hope the re-emergence of other iconic titles, like the *Listener* and *Metro*, and the launch of other new magazines to replace those axed by Bauer are a good sign.

“There’s been a rejuvenation of the magazine category... it’s exciting to be part of that,” Richter says.

Outside work, Friederike Hasel is finding time to learn to play the piano, and the couple enjoy time with their daughters in the outdoors, particularly Auckland’s west coast beaches.

As we chat on their back deck, the girls are running around barefoot, and exploring underneath the house.

“It’s not something they have in Germany,” says Richter, observing his children embarking on an adventure in their own backyard – as he and Friederike Hasel embark on their own venture embracing the whole country.



Write your family stories

with Lynn Dawson

Navy Museum - Torpedo Bay, Devonport
Wednesday 11 November, 10am - 4pm

Limited to 12 people - bookings are essential

Cost: \$30 per person includes morning and afternoon tea - BYO lunch

For more information and to book: info@navymuseum.co.nz or T: 09 445 5186

Grand Devonport villas added to historic-places list

Two of Devonport's grand old villas have been added to Heritage New Zealand's list as Category 2 historic places. This identifies the homes as places of heritage significance.

"Lochiel and Considine House (former) are two visually prominent Devonport landmarks built at a time when Devonport was emerging as one of Auckland's growing desirable suburbs," says Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga heritage assessment advisor, Alexandra Foster.

"Both are fine examples of the villa style of architecture and contribute to the special heritage character of Devonport – though the houses are very different from each other."

Lochiel House, built overlooking Torpedo Bay in 1891, was described as a good example of a well-preserved two-storey villa in the Gothic Revival style, richly ornamental, with bay windows, gables and verandah incorporating highly decorative timberwork.

Josephine Grierson, trustee of the Lochiel Trust, said she was pleased with the listing. "Lochiel has stood proudly against the elements for 130 years and is part of the fabric of Devonport's architectural heritage. It's wonderful that its listing will help protect it for the future," she said.

Considine House, on Albert Rd near Church St, was built 14 years after Lochiel, and is a single-storeyed double-bay villa described as having 'noble proportions' and a classic Marseilles tile roof. Other features include its ornate fretwork, leaded stained glass and decorative pressed-metal panels inside. One of its early owners was the first person to win the Melbourne Cup with a New Zealand-owned horse.

"Both houses reflect a certain amount of ornamentation and public display common for the period," says Foster. "They convey status and material achievement of a rising middle class in colonial Auckland society. Both houses have stories to tell."

Lochiel reflected the financial success of Malcom Murchie, a tailor operating in central Auckland, she said. Murchie bought one of the Torpedo Bay lots in 1874, 11 years after immigrating to New Zealand from Scotland, and went on to build his first house there. He then bought additional neighbouring lots in the 1880s, and in 1891 replaced his original house with the impressive Lochiel – a clear trophy of prosperity that remained within the Murchie family until 1959.

"By 1883, Murchie was the largest importer of tweeds in New Zealand and had even taken a trip with his family to London in 1885, where he personally selected tweeds to import for his Auckland business,"

The stories of the people associated with Considine House were quite different, Foster said. Thomas Considine, born in County Limerick in Ireland, had moved to New Zealand in 1885, marrying Jessie Boyd in 1902. Their Devonport house was built as a family home.



Listed for protection... Lochiel House in King Edward Pde (above) and Considine House in Albert Rd (below) have been added to the New Zealand Heritage List



"Thomas Considine worked as chief storeman and grocer in Auckland's CBD and was active in local politics, serving as vice president of the Waitemata Liberal Labour Federation, a member of the Devonport Borough Council and, on at least one occasion, as Acting Mayor," says Foster. "He was also one of four council members to represent the borough at the funeral of the 'Father of Auckland', John Logan Campbell."

After the Considines sold up in 1913, Robert Cleland, the next owner, lived there with his wife Annie and their children. "Robert Cleland was just as enterprising as Thomas Considine and Malcolm Murchie," Foster says. "Cleland distinguished himself

in racing circles."

This included winning the Melbourne Cup in 1907 with Apologue. He worked also as a tobacconist, a bookmaker and was the proprietor of the King George Picture Theatre – one of the earliest cinemas in Auckland – during the time he was living at the house.

Devonport had retained a large number of its well-preserved 19th and early 20th century residences, Foster noted.

"Both Lochiel and Considine House are wonderful examples of villa architecture that contribute to the special heritage character of this suburb, along with many other heritage treasures in Devonport," she said.

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TENDER

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VIEWING

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Kurt Piper

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DEADLINE SALE

By 4pm on 19th November 2020
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VIEWING

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14 NGATARINGA ROAD



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Standing out above the rest is this stunning Californian bungalow, sitting on a freehold north facing 506m² section. Splendid street presence, ideal living to garden flow, fully fenced with safe off street parking and a garage, this is a dream find here in Devonport. Within walking distance to Narrow Neck Beach, Devonport village, excellent schools, parks, reserves, the golf course and transport links this area really is a slice of true family paradise. This home has a beautiful authentic bungalow facade and character features throughout.

AUCTION

10:00am 5 Nov 2020 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm
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Tracey Lawrence
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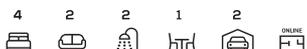


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OPEN HOME



DEVONPORT 73A STANLEY POINT ROAD



TENDER
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VIEWING
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Toni Gregory
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DEVONPORT 199 VICTORIA ROAD



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By Negotiation

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Tracey Lawrence
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BAYSWATER 2A PRESTON AVENUE



AUCTION
10:00am 22 Oct 2020 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
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www.barfoot.co.nz/797980

Wow, what a find we have here for you, situated in the ever popular child friendly suburb of Bayswater. This substantial 208m² solidly constructed contemporary residence is an easy to live in and so easy to love family home. Set over two levels with views to the inner bay and the harbour bridge from the upper floor where the sun streams into the home from all angles.



Tracey Lawrence
021 1720 681
Devonport 09 445 2010



Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
Devonport 09 445 2010



DEVONPORT 40 ALBERT ROAD



FOR SALE
By Negotiation

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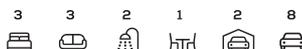


OPEN HOME



DEVONPORT 37 HANLON CRESCENT

DEVONPORT 39 HANLON CRESCENT



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BILL'S BACKYARD (APPROX. 1239M²)

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 **Sue Harrison**
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Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Sue Harrison**
021 909 549
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021 044 3663
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AUCTION
10:00am 22 Oct 2020 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Sunday 12:00-12:45pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/798564

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

 **Cathy Fiebig**
021 383 149
Devonport 09 445 2010

Prickly issue prompts protest at domain



Out with toxic chemicals... Robyn Langwell (left) and Sharon Byron-McKay raise a protest banner on Devonport Domain last week. Their protest interrupted a notified spraying of herbicide to control weeds.

The desire to rid Devonport Domain of nasty prickles has led to a face-off between anti-spray protesters, and the North Shore Cricket Club and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The type of weed control used on the domain is at the centre of a debate the local board had hoped it had settled late last year.

Auckland Council contractors were set to spray early last week, but a two-woman protest interrupted the notified work and ignited an online flurry of words.

Some people had jumped to the conclusion that the chemical glyphosate was to be used, but the plan was always to spray the domain and Vauxhall Reserve with the herbicide Bow & Arrow, already used in the other parks and sports fields across the board area.

Devonport Cricket Club chair Hayden Smith is frustrated that, for a second year in a row, spraying may not take place at the optimum time for a season of prickle-free play.

"Kids should be able to run around on the ground too," he told the Flagstaff.

The club had hoped Onehunga weed would be sprayed in spring 2019, after years of watching it grow out of control. Board approval for spraying was given last December, and was too late to allow this. Smith feared the most recent stand-off could result in another season without action.

"They're all scrambling with what to do."

Smith says opposition, which has been led by Devonport Toxin Action Group spokesperson Sharon Byron-McKay, was misdirected.

"They should go to the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] rather than lobbying the local board."

The EPA, a government agency approves Bow & Arrow in New Zealand, 'with controls'.

Byron-McKay, however, maintains it is not safe for human health and that there is also a drift risk. Decision-making last December had been hurried, she claimed, with some newer board members not fully aware of the community's opposition to sprays.

The local area had a history of using hot-water spray, reinforced by a petition in 2015, she said.

The board was advised by council parks staff this was not effective on stubborn weeds.

Board chairman Aidan Bennett said the board stood by its decision of December 2019, reached after a "robust process" of looking at the weed problem and options available. "We all look forward to a time when completely chemical-free solutions can be used, but that doesn't exist at the moment," he said.

"The intention is to proceed as planned with using Bow & Arrow, so the fields can be restored, be well maintained and in good order for use by the sports groups and community."

Long-standing cricket club member Roger Brittenden said residents had been scared into signing a new petition against sprays this year.

The spray to be used on the domain did not contain glyphosate, he pointed out, adding that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (part of the World Health Organisation), Safe Work Australia and the National Toxicology Program (USA), had all found that Bow & Arrow contained no significant ingredient classified as carcinogenic.

"It is totally unfair that they should hold our park to ransom when this product is used in parks and reserves Auckland-wide."

Board deputy George Wood said he hoped the council would get a court order to constrain the protesters if need be. "These fields were not sprayed for Onehunga weed last year and if Auckland Council drags its heels we will be plagued for another year."

The Flagstaff asked the council what its parks department intended to do now, but had not heard back by deadline.

Toy weapon prompts call-out

Police are encouraging people to make good judgements when out in public, after a teenager brandishing a toy pistol sparked a call-out in Devonport this month. Everyone should consider their actions and how they impact on others, a spokesman said.

The comments came after police units responded to emergency calls on Saturday 10 October, about a young man seen waving and pointing what appeared to be a pistol at a bus

stop on Lake Rd around 4pm.

A youth located on a bus heading to Belmont shortly afterwards admitted to having bought a toy pistol at a local store earlier in the day.

Police thanked the public for calling 111 to help keep communities safe.

The police spokesman said inquiries were continuing and the teenager had been referred to Youth Aid.

Weeding out boards' views on chemical spraying

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is far from alone in questioning Auckland Council's plans for standardised weed-control methods, including use of glyphosate spray.

The council's Environment Committee is set to consider feedback from boards next month, after officials recommended imposing a citywide policy of using a mix of chemical and plant-based sprays.

Devonport-Takapuna voted last month in favour of retaining local choice, which includes a long-standing practice of primarily using hot-water spray to remove weeds from the road edges and berms. Other boards that were once part of the North Shore City Council area also want to remain funded to continue to use existing methods.

In checking how other boards responded to the council proposals, the Flagstaff noted some geographic splits based on existing methods. Among those who supported the council's standardised policy – mostly in the west, south-east and south of the city – a number still called on the council to look at lowering its use of glyphosate over time. Several stated that for equity reasons, boards [such as Devonport-Takapuna] that wished to retain more expensive existing methods, such as steam, should have to fund these themselves locally.

But Devonport-Takapuna, Kaipatiki, Upper Harbour, Hibiscus Coast and Bays, and the Waitemata local boards do not

agree, saying local preferences should be respected and provided for. Upper Harbour said historical inequities should be dealt with through a long-term plan. Waitemata wants a regional budget established to minimise agrichemical use.

The Albert-Eden board expressed a strong preference for the use of plant-based herbicides in combination with thermal sprays.

Council officials have sold the combination of plant-based sprays and chemical ones, including glyphosate, as lowering the overall use citywide of this contentious chemical. (It sometimes goes by the trade name Roundup and is banned in some countries). Abandoning hot-water spray would help lower costs and environmental effects from heat-and-water use, the officials had reported to boards.

Upper Harbour wanted more information provided from officials on the cost implications of retaining the status quo. The council should consult the public on a long-term plan and also deal with the historical inequities in service-level funding from area to area by way of the long-term plan process, it said.

Several other local boards joined Devonport-Takapuna members in querying why the council's decision could not be delayed to allow consideration of the results of a trial of foam spray.

The Puketapapa board in receiving, rather than supporting the report, noted that public feedback showed a strong preference against

synthetic herbicides. It noted council commitments and expectations in the recently signed off Auckland's Climate Plan document, including a focus on avoiding these.

The Puketapapa board said it supported a locally tailored focus over regional consistency. Kaipatiki also pointed to council documentation, in this case a 2013 weed-management plan, as recognising agrichemicals can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Many of the boards, whether they supported or opposed a standardised approach to spraying, relayed to the Environment Committee that they wanted the council to make more efforts to inform the public of its no-spray register, whereby residents can opt not to have spraying around their properties. Rodney said this should be done, but residents should maintain control of weeds on their verges. Hibiscus Coast said the council should require contractors to better adhere to the register's guidelines.

Papakura said it reluctantly agreed to a standardised method, because the board was unable to pay for "an advanced level of service," but it encouraged a reduction in glyphosate use.

Whau considered the complexities of thermal technology negated its environmental benefits. It too added residents should be reminded they could go on the no-spray register.

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New Conservative campaign takes a hit in Devonport

Democracy in Devonport came at a high price for the New Conservative Party candidate for the North Shore electorate. Mike Brewer said his signs suffered more vandalism in the suburb than in any other part of the electorate.

While some damage was to be expected, and was seen on the hoardings of all parties, he thought things had got out of hand for the New Conservatives, who were “directly targeted”.

This included his being labelled a racist and having homophobic and other offensive slurs painted across his posters. Signs had also been smashed and knocked over.

Although on one occasion the signs of all parties had been hit on Lake Rd, by the golf course, with what looked like a sledgehammer, the New Conservatives were damaged more routinely and offensively.

To combat this, Brewer came up with a new sign design that he dubbed the “Devonport Fortress of Freedom”. It was taller than his usual signs, setting it out of easy reach of taggers. Anchored with three posts, instead of the usual one, to make it harder to dislodge.

This did not prove to be failsafe, with the sign felled and Brewer taking it away a week before the election.

He would like to see people who vandalised signs made liable for the damage. Candidates were required by the Electoral Commission to take them down on election eve (16 October), or face stiff penalties, yet little was done to combat vandalism. He plans to write to the commission calling for this. Parties should be afforded some protection. “Would this still happen if there was a \$5000 fine for people caught doing this?”

Replacing signs was a big part of his self-funded campaign budget, said Brewer, former chief executive of Radio Rhema. He raised \$2000 locally and ordered 30 signs, then another 12. Of this 14 were destroyed.

He was able to clean-up tags on some of the other signs.



Smash alley... Election-sign wreckage near the golf course

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Info on wheels parks up at the wharf



Show and tell... Devonport's new information centre in a retro caravan, sponsored by Rotary, was installed at the ferry building last week. (From left) Rotarian Colin Cannon and Devonport Rotary President Ian Cunliffe, with the Devonport Business Association's Fiona Startup and Shaulyn Van Baaren.

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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Vandals attack a cricket pitch on Devonport Domain last week, upset at the decision to chemically spray the grass. A sign lying beside the destruction says: "Save The Kids Toxins ain't cricket rip up the wicket D.A.G.A.S."
- Two spooked Clydesdales excite tourists when the normally docile horses take their cart on an unexpected jaunt.
- Stanley Bay School pupils Aaron Gibb-Pearson and Plummy Woods win the top prizes in an Auckland-wide primary-school art competition.
- The cost of the Ngataranga Skatepark is put at \$250,000, but council has no money set aside to address safety issues.
- Devonport writer Helen Vause publishes a book on Auckland walks.
- Thieves who stole more than \$45,000 worth of goods from a Mays St house are caught red-handed.
- A drug-education programme is set up for Takapuna Grammar students.
- The Department of Conservation holds a public meeting on the future of the Bayswater reclamation.
- A four-bedroom home in Glen Rd, Stanley Bay, is on the market for \$399,000.



Flagstaff interview subjects... architects Aaron Sills (left) and Wayne Lees

- The rebuilding of Torpedo Bay wharf will be the official millennium project for the Devonport Community Board.
- Architects Wayne Lees and Aaron Sills are the Flagstaff interview subjects.

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Devonport Rotary Club



Now welcoming new members!

Each year within Rotary we change our presidents and club officers. Our 2020 president is no stranger to many of you. Local real estate guru and community stalwart Ian Cunliffe took over the reins in July for his third time.



Having already led the club back in 2008 and 2015, he sees this year as particularly important, as he hears first-hand from many locals doing it tough, as well as through the Harcourts network of the wider impacts around NZ.

An Ex-Brit, (but keen All Blacks and Warriors supporter) Ian immigrated to NZ back in 2004 with his young family. Looking for a change from practising law, Ian settled into a new career in real estate. Keen to join a local group to make new friends and get involved in the community, Ian found Rotary was the perfect fit for him. He has been involved in a number of projects in his 17 years in Rotary, with a personal highlight seeing the refurbishment of the old Officers Mess at Fort Takapuna come to completion in his year as president in 2008.

Apart from Rotary, Ian is a Board member with the Devonport Business Association and the Devonport Peninsula Trust. While his Dad played professional football for Bolton Wanderers in the late 50s, Ian's passion is more around cycling, enjoying a coffee or helping out with the Devonport community athletics events. Always a friendly face, feel free to ask him to tell you more about Rotary and what it can do for you.

This year, with the affects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Rotary has been impacted as much as any charity or business, and has seen a dramatic drop in fundraising. Unfortunately this is right at the time our community needs help the most.

If you'd like to support us, then please contact Devonport Rotary at ian@devonportrotary.co.nz or visit www.devonportrotary.co.nz

This month's column was sponsored by

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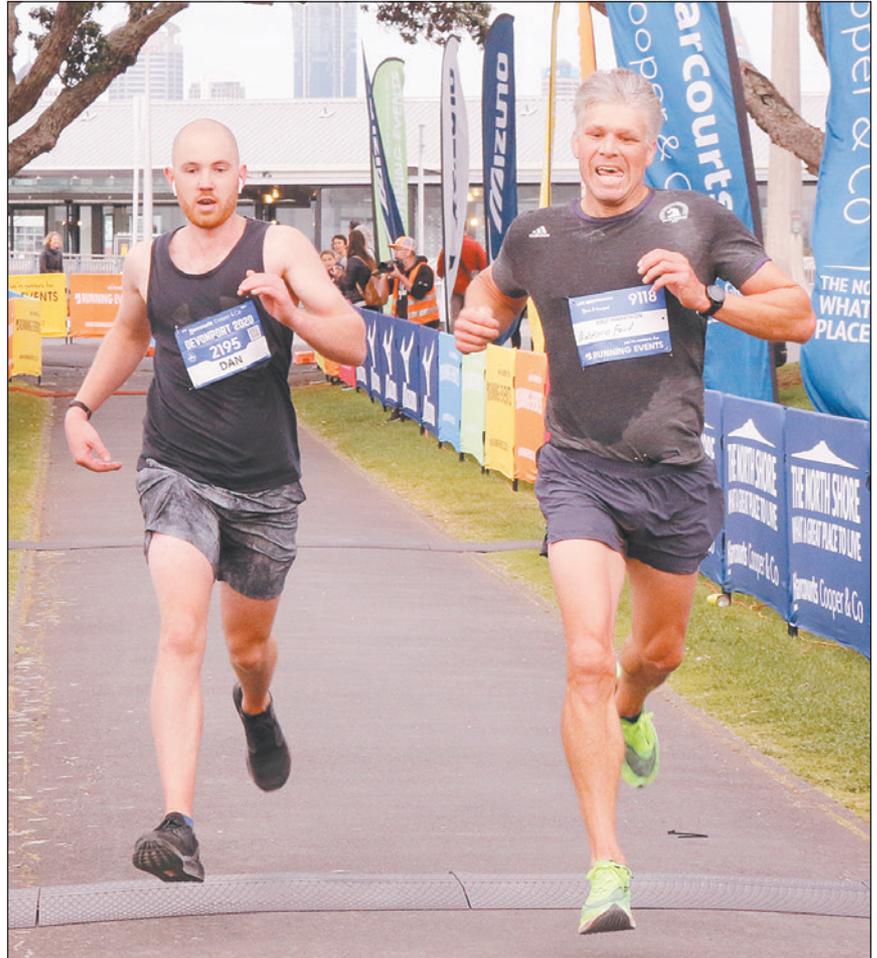
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Devonport Half Marathon draws the crowds



Smashed it... Fabe Downs (above) wins the 21 km half-marathon in a race record time of 1:10.59



Fast and Furious... Dan McKay (above, left) and Robbie Ford battle to the finish, crossing the line together in 1:31.41



Dad did it... Karl Davies, wife Tara Davies and their kids, Archie (4) and Emily (2)

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for post-lockdown racing



On the pace...Vauxhall School students (from left) Max Willis (8) Clementine Powles (7) and Hamish Hunt (8) competed in the 5km fun run and walk

Takapuna resident Fabe Downs set a new record for the Devonport Half Marathon, winning the 21km race in 1 hour 10 minutes and 59 seconds.

“It was a tough course,” said Downs who raced the half-marathon in preparation for the upcoming Auckland Marathon.

Downs said he regularly runs down to Devonport for training.

The Harcourts Cooper and Co Devonport Half Marathon event attracted nearly 800 entrants across a range of races this year.

Postposed from October 4 due to the Auckland Covid-level-2 restrictions it ran a week later, one of the first running events

to go ahead in the region since the arrival of Covid-19.

The course gave runners views of Devonport’s heritage streets and Narrow Neck and Cheltenham Beaches. The half-marathon started from Windsor Reserve, as did the 15km, 10km, 5km and 2km events.

The main race is one of the Mizuno Auckland Half Marathon Series, a season-long challenge featuring events at five different locations.

For those looking to compete in the Auckland Marathon, the Devonport Half Marathon held four weeks prior was the perfect preparation.



They’re off... George Mawson leads at the start of the 10km race. He finished second, with a time of 37 minutes, 34 seconds.

Andrius Ramonas placed second in the half-marathon in a time of one hour 16 minutes and 45 seconds.

In third, with 1:19.01, was Matt Kerr who came from Coromandel. “A lot of these kinds of events have been cancelled because of Covid-19, so I came up to make the most of the opportunity. There were some good climbs on the track, and it was quite testing on the hills.”

The first woman home was Jess Gerry in 1.36.52. Pip Tuckey was second in 1:37.45 and Marie McNaughton third in 1:37.45.

One of the oldest people running was 89-year-old Devonport resident Jim Douglas, who competed in the 10km race.

Other results: 15km: Amelia Green 1, 1:05.00; Jenna Smith 2, 1:06.09; Diego Restrepo 3, 1:07.1. **10km Classic:** James Marsh 1, 35.52; George Mawson 2, 37.34; Michael Seow 3, 38.08. **5km Fun Run & Walk:** Sophie Robb 1, 19.05; Mark Carryer 2, 19.20; Troy Hundley 3, 20.00. **2km Kids Dash:** Caleb Mackenzie 1, 8.33; Esmee Pekel 2, 8.42; Kayleigh Limu 3, 8.45.



The real deal... Harcourts Cooper and Co owner Martin Cooper (right) warms up with Devonport branch manager Matt Hunt (and son Cooper) and Megan Powell, Harcourts Devonport office administrator

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TGS wins six at mentor's memorial regatta

Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) Rowing Club delivered an impressive performance at the Eric Verdonk Memorial Regatta at Lake Pupuke last weekend, racking up six victories.

The club's success at an event to remember the late Olympian – head rowing coach from 2017 – built on a strong 2019/20 season, when it was named the best-performing club in Auckland.

TGS recorded wins in the U15 boys, U15 girls and U16 girls coxed-octuple sculls; the U17 girls coxed-quad sculls; the mixed open coxed-eight; and the women's intermediate coxed-quad sculls.

The club co-hosted the one-day regatta of more than 70 events, which attracted 17 other schools and clubs and more than 400 competitors. Hundreds of spectators also turned up to watch.

Verdonk, died of cancer in April, at the age of 60. Under him, the TGS club enjoyed great success, winning 11 gold medals, 23 silver and 22 bronze, including gold medals at both the North Island Secondary School Championships and the National Championships – the Maadi Cup – in 2018.



Novice rowers... William Knowles, Toby Foster, Danny Glass and Leonardo Bacchus after competing in their first octuple race

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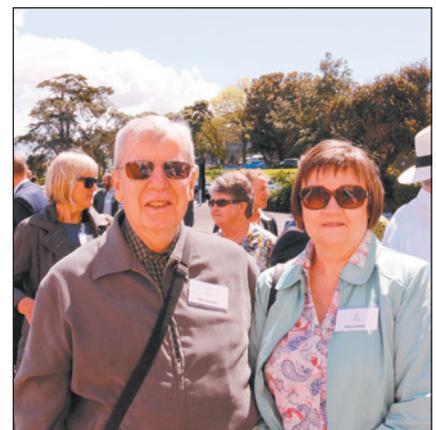
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On a high note... The TGS Chorale, conducted by Jacob Moore (above) and guests Ian and Pat Lissette (below)



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Former staff were among the guests at the official opening of the renovated Takapuna Grammar School Main Block

Above: current principal Mary Nixon with members of the school's kapa haka group.

Right: Robin and Terry Holding, flank fellow former teacher Carol Craymer

Below: Taking up the challenge... Former pupil and benefactor Sir Stephen Tindall leads guests on the Takapuna Grammar School grounds ahead of the official opening ceremony





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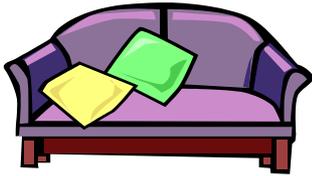
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How trustworthy are environmental agencies?

Rex Browne (Flagstaff, 9 October) says we don't need to be concerned about glyphosate because, "Both European and US environmental protection agencies [EPAs] have now removed the need for cancer cautions from glyphosate labelling."

How trustworthy are such organisations? Look at the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] and the disaster in their approval of the Boeing 737 Max plane.

What pressures and limitations were put onto the US EPA to declare glyphosate 'non-cancerous'? My understanding is that those committees were limited to look at glyphosate on its own and used with strict handling recommendations. But many said this was not enough. Scientists called for a risk assessment to be included, particularly

in relation to repeated exposures. Something can be non-hazardous if used once, with good protection, but what about if you are repeatedly exposed to spray on our streets and you don't have a mask?

What about the data of residue levels of glyphosate in our land, i.e. stuff that builds up over time, particularly in our surface water and eventually out to our seas as well?

But even more disturbing is that glyphosate is not used on its own. Round Up (or similar) are formulated herbicide sprays – mixed with other chemicals.

The formulated glyphosate-based sprays have been shown "to cause stronger cytotoxic or endocrine-disrupting effects than the active ingredient glyphosate" alone (*Frontiers* publication 2018).

Amazingly, the chemical composition of these products is classified as confidential commercial information, despite calls for disclosure.

There is scepticism of the US EPA from *The British Medical Journal*, which reported in April 2020 that it had become "difficult to separate scientific research on glyphosate from politics and economic interests".

The head of the US EPA was changed to a Trump appointee in 2016 – Andrew J. Wheeler – who recently laid out a plan for a second Trump term of deregulation and support for economic development. *The British Medical Journal* declared in response that the US EPA is more like an industry protection agency – not an environmental or health agency.

Sherry Eade

Council not monitoring agrichemical use

Auckland Council has not tracked its use of agrichemicals and cannot provide evidence that it is reducing the use of chemical sprays across the Auckland region.

The council's policy for weed management (2013) has been undermined, as the much-needed baseline that would measure and account for its usage of agrichemicals does not exist. The policy also commits to "effective notification" when agrichemicals are being applied in residential areas; often,

minimal notification is given, and this lack of open communication leads to further undermine the trust that residents might have had with the council.

Given that neither the council nor the local board can confirm whether the use of agrichemicals is being reduced, neither public body can offer sound advice.

**Trish Deans,
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**

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.

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Traditional New Zealand (NZ) solutions for leaking basement areas involved either excavation and re-waterproofing (very costly, often impossible and just replacing what has already failed) or internal coatings that can't be guaranteed and can't be penetrated, severely limiting options to fit-out and decorate the areas.

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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

OCT 23, 2020

Takapuna Grammar School's Main Block Opening



Friday 16 October saw Takapuna Grammar School host a range of VIP guests at its official Main Block opening ceremony.

Initially delayed due to Auckland's shifting alert levels last term, the event

invited distinguished guests to observe the newly refurbished building in use. After an opening ceremony, tours took place within the Main Block – all while students worked away and enjoyed the facilities.

A highlight of the day was the involvement of Takapuna Grammar School's Tu Tangata programme, who played a key role in the welcoming of guests onto the school grounds.

International Baccalaureate Prize-Giving Evening

On the evening of Tuesday 13 October, Takapuna Grammar School celebrated outstanding student achievement in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme.

Prizes were awarded for Excellence in the number of individual subjects offered under the programme, and the evening concluded with the announcement of the two top prizes. Will Dalzell was acknowledged for Distinction in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, while Aislin Wells received the Jackie Rogers Cup for Excellence in the two-year programme.

As of this week, IB students in their final year enter exam leave in order to prepare for their final examinations. We wish them the best of luck.

To Clarify

By Giselle den Breems



There is a nail in the wall
perhaps a photo used to hang there, or a painting

Frame red in sunset —
that cycle of gloom and clarity

Dark and light, to clarify
a time to sanctify

miscellaneous household items
placed on window sills to catch the light

A violin plays
a cello

Goading me to hide or go outside
or dance

The curtain by the open window ripples like a flag
as if there was a chance.

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Harbourside site plans change

The high-rise “urban village” development planned to replace the Harbourside church on Esmonde Rd is switching focus, with its apartments to be built first.

Original intentions were to build a six-storey hotel as stage one of the \$350 million Amaia project, then move onto three adjoining towers of apartments at the centre of the site.

Covid-19 has prompted the switch in focus on the 2.1ha site, bought for \$40 million from the church last year. Removal of the church and earthworks are expected to begin by the middle of next year. A 400sqm display suite aimed at apartment pre-sales opens this Friday (23 October) in the former Department Store building on Northcroft St, Takapuna.

Dean Kimpton, a consultant for the Takapuna-based developers, KBS Capital, said the apartments would appeal to a mix of buyers. They ranged from studios with “the really popular price point” around \$600,000, up to \$2.6 million plus for three-bedroom penthouses.

Aiming first at owner-occupiers instead of starting the project with short-term managed accommodation, recognised the current market conditions, he said. The hotel block on the east of the site was still very much part of future plans. “They’re just going to slow down and think about that, because the environment has changed [with Covid]”.

The development, which the Flagstaff first broke news of three months ago, is one of two



Harbourside shift... apartments first then hotel

large-scale, high-rise accommodation projects likely to change the skyline in the Takapuna area. Amaia would be unique, said Kimpton, given its set-apart location surrounded by a green reserve, proximity to beaches and the city, and a site-sympathetic design approach by Jasmx architects. With ready access to transport links and plans to incorporate cycleways and walkways into the property, plus cafes and other facilities open to the public, the aim was to add to the area.

Progress at Amaia would depend, however, as with any development, on market conditions and pre-sales, but Amaia was projected as a five-year project.

Stage two was expected to be finished in the second half of 2023. It would comprise 81 apartments with balconies or winter gardens built around a plaza with a varied-height building

ranging from four up to seven storeys.

Stage three, with more apartments to the rear of the site, has been signalled as part of a resource-consent application before Auckland Council. This design is expected to be completed early next year.

Kimpton, formerly Auckland Council chief operating officer and past president of Engineering New Zealand, said the development was modelled on international examples of urban villages. The community-focused style of living was coming of age, he said, and likely buyers would range from young couples to downsizers and early retirees.

The application is for a non-notified consent under the council’s Unitary Plan. While the height exceeds that allowed under planning rules for the zone, they were less-than minor variations, the developers submitted.

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Volunteers show the way to greener future



Volunteers co-ordinated by the Restoring Takarunga Hauraki Trust are transforming the peninsula one reserve at a time. In a few months they have removed 500kg of noxious weeds from Shoal Bay's coastal fringe in Bayswater. Anneka Brown looks at their work.

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki has been busy over the last couple of years, helping improve the likes of Achilles Reserve, Paddy's Bush (by O'Neill's Pt Cemetery in Bayswater), Shoal Bay, Maungauika, Takarunga, Sandy Bay Reserve and Jutland Reserve in Hauraki, encouraging and enhancing native-bird populations by eradicating pests, weeding and planting.

Now, the trust is set to add Philomel Reserve in Bayswater to its roster.

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki environmental coordinator Lance Cablk says: "The establishment of new plants is a success in itself. Some of our work is measured with surveys on bird numbers and water quality, but especially on the engagement of a thriving community."

Cablk says work has gained momentum, and in the last year, volunteers have removed a substantial amount of blue morning-glory weed from Paddy's Bush, planted more trees at Achilles Reserve and have recently been tackling moth plants at Jutland Reserve.

Work is still ongoing and the trust is seeking more volunteers.

Cablk says more korimako (bellbirds) have been noticed at the base of Maungauika, something he believes is due to the continuous setting of rat traps as part of the trust's Pest-free Halo project around the maunga.

Tui are now nesting, and tomorrow (24 October) the community will be welcoming back the godwits, which have travelled 11,000 km on a trip of around eight days from Alaska to Shoal Bay. Some 200 pairs are expected to

Look and learn... Participants in an ecological hikoï visiting a coastal-fringe planting area on Shoal Bay. Charmaine Bailie, who hosted the event, is in the brown coat



Volunteers Martha Penn (left) and Salley Bussey

have arrived.

Philomel Reserve, tucked away behind Philomel Crescent, suffers from morning-glory weeds and Japanese honeysuckle smothering native trees. Compared to Achilles Reserve, which is now almost completely weed-free thanks to community efforts, Philomel needs a lot of restoration work.

Each week on Mondays and Fridays, a small group of five to 10 volunteers works at Achilles Reserve, Paddy's Bush and now Philomel.

Bayswater Primary's eco-warrior group will also be adopting Philomel Reserve to carry out maintenance weeding and planting activities.

Earlier this month, Charmaine Bailie, who is the director of environmental consultancy organisation, Uru Whakaaro, hosted an eco-

logical hikoï at the He Manu Hopukia marae in Bayswater. Almost 40 keen local residents attended to learn more about native plants and restoration work.

The event began with marae founder and kaumatua Danny Watson speaking about the importance of protecting the land. Later, Bailie led residents on a tour through Philomel Reserve and Shoal Bay. For some, it was their first time stepping foot on Philomel Reserve and seeing just how much restoration work would need to be done.

"It is widely thought that there is a disconnect between the community and nature, which is not only bad for our well-being but for our environment," says Bailie. "I look at it this way. People living locally have an incredible opportunity to

go down and reconnect with plants; they can contribute to some of the work that needs to be done and that's the best way to learn.

"It's very addictive, it's so much fun, you meet incredible people, there are birds around you, the air is fresh. It doesn't feel like there's a lot of work to do."

Volunteer John Mercer, who lives near Hanlon Cres, has been working with a group of volunteers every Friday for almost a year to clean up Achilles Reserve. "I just found a note on the street one day saying there was an Achilles eco-restoration programme happening and so I turned up. I thought it would be good fun," says Mercer, whose efforts have gone beyond Achilles Reserve to help in other areas along Shoal Bay.

Another volunteer based at Achilles Reserve, Anne McMillan, found the ecological hikoi with Bailie informative on ways to keep trees alive once they are planted.

"I think what's important to us is improving the habitat for birds," says McMillan.

Restoring Achilles Reserve is a part of the Ngataranga Watershed project, a peninsula-wide programme that supports local-community and school-volunteer efforts to maintain wetlands and waterways leading to the estuary in Ngataranga Bay.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans also joined the hikoi. One of her takes from the event was to utilise board funding for regular maintenance at all of the reserves on the peninsula, which would also support the heritage of specific sites.

Long-time volunteer Georgina Greville has been working at Paddy's Bush on and off for several years. Greville works as a nurse at Middlemore Hospital, but she has always had an interest in plants, having grown up on a farm. In 2011, when she first moved to Bayswater, she remembers going to a community clean-up day at Paddy's Bush when volunteers dragged out discarded mattresses, an old hut and other rubbish.

Now, Paddy's Bush has had an extension of its forest area, and bait lines laid for pest control, as well as the weed removal.

This winter, a lot of planting has been done at Paddy's Bush, establishing a range of plants from coastal grass to totara, rimu and puriri trees. "I love volunteering because it's a way to get the community together and get that experience of working with native trees and plants," says Greville.

Over the next four months, Paddy's Bush will need more volunteers to maintain it all. The newly planted trees will need to be watered over summer. Last summer, some were lost over the dry months. Greville says invasive weeds, like morning glory, will regrow.

The trust is preparing to launch a Million Metres streams project campaign across the peninsula, in cooperation with the Sustainable Business Network, to raise funds for restoration projects. One of its promotional initiatives will allow people to buy a native tree to give to someone as a Christmas gift, for planting next year.



Holly Houston and her two daughters, Willow and Ira Smart



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Tena Koutou Tatou,

Welcome to Level 1 @ Devonport Library!

We are thrilled to announce our pre-school programmes are up and running again. For those new to Devonport, we have Storytime on Mondays, 10-10:30 am; Rhyme-time (stories from 10:30am) on Tuesdays, 10-11am and Wriggle & Rhyme on Fridays, 10-10:30am (for babies under 15 months).

We are offering a Games Group for the remainder of the year, formerly known as our Minecraft Club, to give it a broader appeal, with a selection of board and digital games. Of course, Minecraft is still on offer. And still at the time of 3:30-4:30pm Thursdays in the Teen area.

The Book Discussion Group has also resumed. On Wednesdays at 10am, be ready to talk about books, and films and to drink coffee.

On Wednesday 28 October, guest speaker Vivienne Lingard will talk about her latest book, *The (almost) True Story of a Man Called Jack*, which is a fictionalised memoir about her father. All are welcome.

Next month, we host a Worm Farm Talk for Families, presented by Pip from the Compost Collective on Sunday 8 November at 11am. Check out their website, register on the link and you will also receive a discount towards your composting system. An absolute win-win!

Now we are at Level 1, come in and see us. We look forward to it!

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Van musings plant seed for play

A 'what if' moment was the inspiration for a new play by Kathryn Burnett, which has its first outing at The Victoria Theatre next month.

The Campervan is the first in the Play Reading at The Vic series that launches at the theatre on 8 November after twice being delayed because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Burnett is a TV, film and theatre writer. Her latest play is a light-hearted satire about a philanthropist who wants to give away his wealth and live in a campervan – to the dismay of his family.

"This idea came about because I was musing what my life would be like if I sold everything and lived a pared-back life in a caravan. And it was also inspired by my fascination with materialism and greed, and in particular, excessively

wealthy people who keep accumulating even more wealth when there's actually nothing left for them to buy. It's like a bizarre compulsion to have more than everybody else on the planet – but why?" she said.

Even though the play was written before the coronavirus pandemic, Burnett believes reassessing one's life and how we should live in the Western world makes it very timely. "An essential crisis indeed," she said.

The cast includes well-known actors Stephen Papps and Anna Jullienne, and is directed by Sherry Ede of Company Theatre.

Burnett has strong connections to the area, growing up in Bayswater and attending Takapuna Grammar School.

The other two readings in the series are Geoff Allen's *Broken String* and Ken Duncum's award-winning play *Cherish*, taking place on the 15 and 22 November respectively.

***The Campervan*, Sunday 8 November, 4pm at The Vic. Tickets \$15. Book at www.thevic.co.nz**

Library events resume

The Devonport Library Associates programme restarts next week, with launches of new books by Kevin Ireland and Peter Bland.

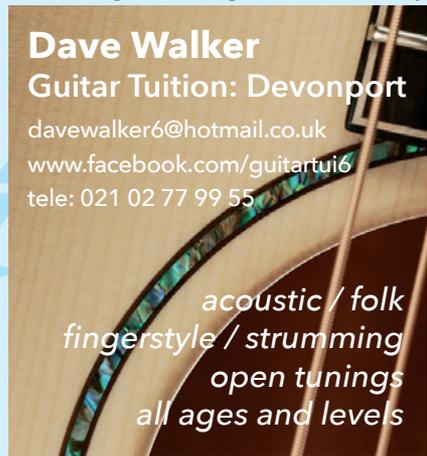
The authors will talk on Tuesday 27 October, from 7pm. The programme, interrupted by Covid-19, continues with a suffrage-themed evening on 24 November.

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Heritage plans on view at The Vic's birthday screening

The recent discovery of plans drawn in 1929 for the Victoria Theatre expansion will be hugely helpful in future restoration planning, according to theatre trust members.

The hand-painted colour plans have been stored in the Auckland University library special-collections unit for years, and show in great detail features that have been lost over time.

"The plans are a great find because they show us features that we've never seen before", said Victoria Theatre Trust (VTT) co-chair Margot McRae.

They show the wooden panelling that lined the staircase, the balustrade detail and the grand front entrance doors as well as the details of the stage proscenium arch. "We've never known exactly how these features were originally designed, so its really exciting to see them," she said.

"For example, we now realise that the lovely wood panelling was removed in 1989 and replaced with mirrors, which is such an eighties thing to do".

The plans also show the engineering detail.

"It's amazing how much can be shown on six drawings," said VTT co-chair Mark Sigglekow. "These were all the builder needed in 1929 to construct the building. A far cry from today. They are really helpful for understanding how everything fits together."

The plans were signed by the then owner of the theatre, Phil Hayward, and the VTT trustees have since shown the plans to his grandson Grant Hayward, who owns Paper Power in Devonport. It was the first time he had seen his grandfather's signature.

The Hayward family believe that the Fuller Hayward company spent more than one million pounds introducing talkie sound technology into their cinemas around the country. But the Depression soon struck and they went out of business only a year later.

The trust will have copies of the plans on display at the Vic's 108th birthday celebration on



Revealing history... Vic Theatre manager Philipp Jaser (left), and Vic Trust co-chairs Margot McRae and Mark Sigglekow

26 October, when Baz Luhrmann's spectacular take on the Jazz Age, *The Great Gatsby*, will screen for a koha entry.

This is in keeping with the first talkie shown at the Vic in 1929: D.W Griffith's *Three Passions* – "a pulsating drama about the wild fierce

abandon of jazz-mad moderns running riot".

Get into the Jazz-Age mood and enjoy the celebrations at *The Great Gatsby* screening, Monday 26 October, 8pm koha entry. Bookings essential at www.thevic.co.nz.

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Baby Done (M) 91min	NEW
Cunningham (E) 93min	NEW
I am Greta (E) 98min	NEW
Tintoretto: A Rebel in Venice (E) 90min	NEW
Rams (PG) 119min Live Via Satellite (Screening + Q&A)	24 OCT
The Vic's 108th Birthday Screening: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (2013)	26 OCT

COMING SOON

Babyteeth (M) 118min	29 OCT
The Empty Man (tba)	29 OCT
I am Woman (M) 116min	ADVANCE SCREENINGS 30 OCT - 1 NOV
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (M)	30 OCT
Top Dog Film Festival	6 NOV
Rams (PG) 119min	ADVANCE SCREENINGS 6-8 NOV
Play Readings at The Vic: <i>The Campervan</i> by Kathryn Burnett	8 NOV

SPECIALS

CHEAP TUESDAY
\$10 Adult / \$8 Child
*EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

VENUE HIRE

Gelato

THE VIC'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

GATSBY

MON 26 OCTOBER, 8.00PM
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - KOHA ENTRY

48 Victoria Road | (09) 446 0100 | www.thevic.co.nz

PREMIUM[®]

BIRKENHEAD POINT | Grand Villa | The Point's Finest



This impressive 1880's estate features 4 bedrooms, plus a 3rd living area or 5th bedroom off the gorgeous master suite with stunning views. The kitchen and bathrooms were recently renovated for easy modern living, yet the home remains full of superb original character features. Embrace Auckland's finest lifestyle.

VIEW | PLEASE CONTACT AGENT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/10091](https://premium.co.nz/10091)

TRISH LOVE 021 226 6099 | 480 0209

PETER FITZGIBBON 027 2789 336 | 558 4517

TAKAPUNA | The Pursuit for Perfection Now Realised!



Beautifully positioned on the lake front on the 'Golden Mile' this 228sqm masterpiece set on a 300sqm freehold site is designed to provide the very finest lock up and leave home boasting spacious living, a huge entertaining balcony looking out to the dramatic views of the lake and large living dining spaces. The home enjoys a further 2 bedrooms, full bathroom, a lift, a 2nd living room and a double internal access garage.

VIEW | SUN 12.30 - 1.30 PM OR BY APPT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/80005](https://premium.co.nz/80005)

LEWIS GUY 021 867 355 | 916 6000

AUCKLAND CENTRAL | Glamorous Waterfront Condo | Lighter Quay



Get yourselves ready for the America's Cup action here in this bespoke designer's own apartment in Stratis on Lighter Quay. Fabulous views with Sky Tower the focal point. 127sqm on the water's edge of Wynyard Harbour, right in the heart of our beautiful CBD waterfront. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, the latest in innovation and technology including a Fibaro home automation system.

VIEW | PLEASE CONTACT AGENT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9975](https://premium.co.nz/9975)

ALISON PARKER 021 983 533 | 916 6000

BAYSWATER | 75 BERESFORD STREET | Family Treasure



Created in 1926 and lovingly cared for and improved, this classic character home proudly sits elevated, capturing the most brilliant water views. This fantastic family paradise of a home offers you 607sqm of land. Enjoy four spacious bedrooms, three bathrooms, two living rooms, fabulous modern kitchen and dining, office, and study.

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9986](https://premium.co.nz/9986)

LEWIS GUY 021 867 355 | 916 6000

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