

The Devonport

Flagstaff

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

December 18, 2020
devonportflagstaff.co.nz

America's Cup events begin with World Series... p2

Residents fume at loss of parking... p5

All the fun of the Christmas parade... p6-7

Chorus of complaint as shops hit by phone switch

Devonport main street shops have been grappling with loss of phone lines and Eftpos during critical pre-Christmas trading. At least half a dozen were hit last week in the lead-up to a phasing-out of old copper connections.

In trying to make the change, some businesses were left without land lines and unable to process electronic sales transactions, prompting fears that the situation could become dire this week if difficulties getting new installations up

and running were not overcome.

"It's a terrible time of year for this to be happening," said Paradox book store owner Terrie Gray. "If it's not fixed we may have to close our doors," she told the **To page 4**

Doggone! That pooch looks familiar...



Shaggy-dog story... Visiting UK vet Craig Lewis (left) got a big surprise when his first New Zealand patient, Bertie, turned up at Devonport's Shore Vets with owner Wendy Dyer. Story, page 4.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Catharina Andersson

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Cup runneth over onto village streets and maunga

Devonport gets its first taste of America's Cup excitement this weekend, as the World Series warm-up event tests both yachties on the water and local hosting arrangements.

To cope with visitors expected over the four race days from 17-20 December, especially this weekend, parking restrictions have been imposed on some streets and ferry and bus timetables adjusted. Maungauika will come alive with food stalls and cultural demonstrations, with a shuttle carrying visitors from the ferry terminal if they choose not to walk along the waterfront to what promises to be the premium vantage point.

Depending what course the yachts race on – to be decided on race days – Maungauika, Narrow Neck, Takapuna and Milford may be where crowds congregate.

The racing pits Emirates Team New Zealand against the three challengers. On land it will show how successfully commuters and visitors co-exist and if the hoped-for boon for business on the North Shore is forthcoming. Businesses along King Edward Pde will be most hit by road closures, stopping traffic reaching them, but the hope is there may be a windfall from pedestrians. Residents on that road and several others have had to apply for parking coupons to reach their homes.

The same issues will arise, when the Prada Cup staged for the challengers (running between 15 January and 22 February) will decide who meets Team NZ in March.

The performance of Lake Rd under extra traffic volume will also be closely watched.



Home advantage... the World Series pits Emirates Team New Zealand against three challengers

Viewing spots

Three of the five Cup racing courses are best viewed (by land) from the North Shore. Devonport offers the best views of both Course B and C.

Course C between Maungauika and Bastion Point is the preferred course to take advantage of the predominant south-west wind. Maungauika offers multiple vantage points.

Course B is positioned in the Rangitoto Channel, with views from Narrow Neck Beach and other spots along the east of the Devonport peninsula. It will be sailed with winds either from the north-east or south-west.

Course A, with views from Takapuna and Milford, can be sailed in nearly all wind directions, but is very exposed to the north-east wind, causing high seas unsuitable for high-performance foiling boats.

FERRY FREQUENCY: Devonport to Auckland ferries will run every 20 minutes from noon to 8pm on race days. Journeys may take a little longer than the normal 15 minutes, due to heavy water traffic. The Stanley Bay ferry will not run during these times. • See page 38 for ferry timetables

APPROACHING THE SUMMIT: A free shuttle will run at 10-minute intervals from the ferry terminal to Maungauika between 1pm and 7pm. Kai stalls will operate on the maunga this Thursday and Friday, with more activities hosted by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority over the weekend. The Love Your Maunga Festival of art and storytelling will feature temporary sound and light installations in the historic defence tunnels, and guided walks. • See page 8

BUS BYPASS: A free race day Akoranga to Devonport shuttle will run about every 10 minutes between 1pm and 7pm. AT hopes this special service will encourage people to travel to the station by the Northern Busway, then hop onto a shuttle.

PARKING PLACES: Free valet bike and e-scooter parking will be available on Maungauika along with limited accessible car-parking spaces. In Takapuna, the new Toka Puia car-parking building off Huron or Northcroft St offers an additional 420 spaces.

BUS BYPASS: A free race day Akoranga to Devonport shuttle will run approximately every 10 minutes between 1pm and 7pm. AT hopes this special service will encourage people to travel to the station from north or south by the Northern Busway, then hop onto a shuttle, rather than clog up local roads with cars. Use of cycles and walking is also encouraged.



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3 Victoria Rd:
empty for 893 days

The old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018. It has now been unoccupied for 893 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the options for the building.

Now *that's* a big birthday: Kath hits 100 not out

"I live a day at a time," says Hauraki 100-year-old Kath Filleul. While she reckons she'd like to be younger – especially to tend her garden – she was in fine fettle celebrating her landmark birthday at a Devonport restaurant last Sunday.

The occasion was marked with a card from the Queen, a cake, and the gathering of family and friends.

Asked if there was any secret to her longevity, Filleul, with a sparkle in her eyes, maintained: "I've been very good."

Born in Cambridge, she grew up on a farm in a family of eight. After schooling, she biked every day in all weathers to work at the town's draper's shop, before in 1942 being conscripted to help the war effort by making ammunition in Auckland.

When a Hamilton factory also began making bullets, she moved home and caught the bus to that job before returning to the drapery. "One in the war years didn't come back," she says of staying single. Although she did date again, hers was to be an independent life.

The big city appealed and she moved up to Auckland to take up a post on the lingerie counter at Strevens department store in Queen St, where she worked for 40 years, finally retiring just before turning 72. Still petite and neat, her fashion sense was honed through her retail experience, including time spent as a buyer. "I like to look tidy," she says.

In 1965, when the store closed for renovations for three months, she embarked on a world trip, part paid for by the company. She travelled returned home through Asia, after visiting stores in England and Europe with a group of other retailers to check out trends. "I wouldn't want to be there now," she says, referring to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Trips to Surfers Paradise in Queensland, where her brother had an apartment, broke up winters over the years.

Living in Hauraki, where she has spent half her life, has suited her well. "I'm not driving anymore, but it was very good for the bus," she says. Buying her unit as a new-build, decorating it, gardening and "keeping it nice" have kept her busy, along with time spent with friends. She misses a niece, who died in her 80s, but enjoys seeing her four nephews, three of whom were at her birthday party at Hemingways restaurant. One of them, Myles Prestidge, and his partner Gillian McKenzie pulled the occasion together. It made for a memorable day for a much-loved aunt, capping off many, many others.



Then and now... Hauraki 100-year-old Kath Filleul with a photo of herself as a young woman

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From page 1

Litter-mates end up on different sides of the world

When visiting UK veterinarian Craig Lewis turned up to his first day back at Devonport's Shore vets after two weeks in managed isolation, his first local patient had a familiar look.

Wendy Dyer's border terrier Bertie, brought in with a mild skin allergy, turned out to be the brother of Lewis' s own dog Beryl, who is back in the UK.

"It was such a coincidence. Straightaway I could tell they were related by the face and the temperament, because Bertie is very friendly, just like Beryl," Lewis says. "They are both very engaging dogs."

He asked Dyer for Bertie's age, then his birth-date and where she got him from. "And then 'bam!' We knew."

Lewis and Dyer bought their border terriers from the same breeder in Whangarei. Beryl and Bertie were two of a litter of five born six years ago on 28 December. The last time the dogs were together, they were only eight weeks old.

Lewis, who has been a vet since 1994, has made annual visits to New Zealand for work.

He took Beryl back to Nottingham with him in 2016, and she is these days living with his parents in Wales. Lewis and Beryl have done many walks around Britain together, covering nearly 3000km over three years.

Bertie, meanwhile, has been living in Bayswater with Dyer, who recalls picking him from photographs of the litter online. "I saw Bertie and I thought I quite liked the look of that one," she says.

The last border terrier she owned lived for 15½ years. "There is so much to love about border terriers," she says.

Lewis says most vets recommend the breed, which is the fifth most popular in the UK. He has had them for the last 25 years and used to breed them.

"These border terriers may be small but they are very tough dogs. Veterinary wise, they don't tend to have many issues and when they are raised correctly they are very sociable and loyal dogs," Dyer clearly agrees. "Bertie never leaves my side," she says.



Big walkies... Beryl and Craig Lewis have covered nearly 3000km in the British countryside over just three years

From page 1

Phone confusion leaves shops in pre-Christmas lurch

Flagstaff ahead of the copper cut-off deadline which fell after this issue went to print. Much of her business was done in 'the Cloud' and connections for everything from sales to stock-ordering were vital, she said.

In all, hundreds of Devonport residents and businesses have had until this week to deal with the move by telecommunications provider Spark to phase out its copper phone lines by 18 December.

Some have struggled to get network operator Chorus or their individual phone providers to make necessary changes in time. Others appear to have been caught entirely unawares.

The phase-out was signalled in July, with Spark sending letters to households in September, but some business tenants did not initially hear that they would need to upgrade to phones that connect to the network wirelessly or by fibre. Spark said the switch-off date would be 18 December, although a Vodafone customer says she was told 15 December.

A number of businesses along the east side of Victoria Rd experienced communications problems last week, particularly with phone calls.

Echo Boutique said, "We've done everything they've asked." Now the store was being charged for three services: the outdated modem,

wireless and a landline, with only one working. Calls were being diverted to the owner's personal cellphone number.

The Hospice Shop, which had opted to have fibre installed, lost Eftpos one afternoon last week. It had also experienced problems making outgoing calls, with Flagstaff Gallery and Devonport Deli reporting phone troubles also.

Flagstaff Gallery owner Cary Cochrane said she even had to prove to Chorus that her premises existed within the wider building. Then she had to convince Vodafone that fibre already ran into the building, but she was still waiting to get hooked up herself. "That's really scary for me because everything in my business is online."

Cochrane said since she learned about the change-over around five weeks ago she had "been hot on it" but it was into December before she could get Chorus to put her on the list for the fibre extension.

Gray said her landlord had struggled for months to get fibre installed by Chorus. Paradox then learned from phone provider Vodafone that the new box Chorus put in was not the one it should link with and that another was needed.

Vodafone told her there was "no way" it would be installed in time. A wireless modem was the suggested work-around.

Communication and co-ordination had been poor, she said. "It's hard to get any sense out of anyone by telephone." She has two modems for now: one for the internet and one for the phone.

Spark claimed its changeovers were going well, with most of its customers having already made the shift or in the process of doing so. It would not cut off people with work already scheduled, meaning there was some elasticity with the 18 December deadline for those awaiting a modem or fibre to be installed.

Last-minute customers who had arranged a changeover plan by 23 December would have it enacted in the New Year.

Chorus says it has 12 fibre orders "in flight" on Victoria Rd. Nine were placed recently.

There had been a modest spike of orders across Devonport, said a spokesperson, but this was manageable. Crews typically could do an installation within four days of a request.

Fibre connections can be more complex for businesses than homes, due to the likes of landlord consents being required as was the case in two pending cases on Victoria Rd.

More than 80 per cent of residents in Devonport streets where fibre was installed were already on it, before the connection changeover was announced, the spokesperson said.

Residents riled at overnight loss of parking

Joe and Yvonne Bregmen enjoy seeing visitors, but say they're not likely to be getting any now that yellow lines have made the section of Ngataringa Rd outside their property a no-go zone.

Over the road, Tarn and Euan Cameron are in a similar predicament, with nowhere for friends, family or tradespeople to pull up, after a pre-dawn yellow paint job early this month.

Both couples have since been warned by roading contractors that their cars could be towed away if they continue to be left out on the street.

Tarn Cameron says: "That won't happen. It's not a Rolls-Royce, but it will have an emblem on the bonnet and it will be me."

Bregmen, a feisty former Navy man aged well into his 80s, is equalled unimpressed.

Like Cameron, he woke early one morning to find the lines were being painted.

The yellow-line restrictions affect around 10 properties at the Lake Rd end of what was a quiet suburban street until construction of Ryman Healthcare's William Sanders retirement village began several years ago.

With orange cones along the front of the village, reduced parking options are also an issue for other residents further down Ngataringa Rd. Neighbouring streets, where village workers park and big trucks travel, are also affected.

"What gives Ryman the right to do this?" asks Bregmen.

Cameron says she understands the safety argument of putting yellow lines right by the Lake Rd corner, but she is unimpressed at extra public spaces being taken away. She is also angered at what she says has been appalling communication over the whole matter.

The first the Camerons heard of any plan for yellow lines was by letter in January, but Cameron says not everyone affected received it. The letter came from consultants engaged by Ryman to "facilitate the consultation aspects". The letter was dated 14 January, with residents given 10 days from 15 January to give feedback. The Camerons filed an objection. In May, a question to Auckland Transport (AT) about when the orange cones would be moved went unanswered.



Seeing yellow... Aggrieved Ngataringa Rd residents (from left) Yvonne and Joe Bregmen and Tarn Cameron

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans asked AT to explain exactly where and why yellow lines were to be installed after they were mentioned in a monthly AT report to the board in September. An AT official said at a subsequent board meeting that she could not say as the matter was one between a private consultant and a developer.

The original letter to residents cited difficul-

ties for motorists getting out of the village's two-way entrance, saying cars parked on the street reduced visibility.

The Bregmens have their own exit issues since the road got busier, especially with construction-related heavy vehicles. Mrs Bergman has to walk up their steep drive and out onto the road to see what traffic is coming to guide her husband's driving. "It's stressful," she says.

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Christmas

A large crowd flocked to the 14th annual Devonport Lions Santa Parade and Christmas Festival in sunny summer weather last weekend. Participants and spectators alike enjoyed the fun and festivities at the end of a challenging year.

The parade was followed by entertainment in Windsor Reserve, including music and dance performances, along with a craft and food market and sausage sizzle – and a chance to meet Santa himself.



Crowd pleaser... The guy in the red suit got the largest cheer as he rode a classic fire engine



Sitting pretty... Devonport School of Dance senior pupils on a float heading down Victoria Rd

cheer comes early at parade



Christmas colours... Stanley Bay School representatives joined the parade in festive red and white

'Be Prepared' (for Christmas)... George Read (12) carried the flag for 1st Devonport Scouts



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House damage blamed on Gull construction

A Cheltenham resident whose family home is next door to the Gull petrol station being built on the corner of Tainui and Vauxhall Rds says site preparation work has caused hairline cracks to appear on her villa's internal walls. Alison Thomas is also distressed at the chain of events since Gull gained Auckland Council approval to build the self-service station.

But Gull says it has followed all approved consent and mediation procedures.

Thomas filed a submission in November opposing the construction and claiming drilling vibration would cause window and door-frame damage. She says she has had to wait for a structural report from Gull on the cracks to her home and also for a 3-metre fence to be built between her house and the Gull site.

"The cracks in our walls are in the plaster lining; they are indicative of significant timber frame movement during earth vibrations," she said. "This whole house shakes from the diggers."

Thomas considers the station, which replaces Tainui Motors, is wholly unsuitable in a residential zone. The busy junction is already unsafe for pedestrians, she says.

"Most residents during mediation have only tried to reduce Gull's operating hours, but I fear for the safety of my children," she said.



Unhappy neighbour... Alison Thomas and her children Orlando Thomas-Cheng (10) and Lucetta Thomas-Cheng (8)

Gull has installed double-glazing in two windows of the villa and conducted a pre-construction survey on the house as part of a mediation agreement.

"This report clearly identified a significant number of pre-existing hairline cracks in the drywall prior to any site works commencing," said Gull's property and capital manager, Karl Mischewski. "Since demolition occurred, allegations have been made that these pre-existing cracks have increased."

After Thomas raised her concerns with the company, a structural engineer had been commissioned to further review the house, he said. Gull, like Thomas, was waiting for this report.

The villa would be inspected again after the work was all done. Damage found to be caused by the construction would be fixed once the station was finished.

Mischewski said the 3m-fence was included in Gull's consent as an acoustic measure to be erected before the fuel facility opened, not prior to construction. Gull would look, however, to build the fence as soon as practically possible.

After demolition and site work, actual construction began on Monday, with sheet piling for tanks and installation of a retaining wall. The work would take around three months, said Mischewski. "Other than concrete and ground works there will not be much to see until approximately two weeks prior to opening."

Work was consented to occur between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Saturday. Traffic management plans were at the ready.

"Gull understands that it is never ideal to be living next to a commercial site under redevelopment... We apologise for any inconvenience caused to local residents over this relatively short period of time."

Fate of public assets still uncertain

Court action to halt Auckland Council selling local assets, including the old borough council building on Devonport's main street, has been withdrawn, but the properties' fate is still very much in the balance.

As well as the empty heritage chambers at 3 Victoria Rd, Auckland Council's Finance Committee listed the old Takapuna library at No. 2 The Strand as being looked at for sale mid-year. This, along with several council reserves listed as disposable, prompted a group of concerned citizens acting under the name of Save Our Shore Public Spaces to file for a High Court injunction.

Group member Grant Gillon, a former Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member and councillor for the former North Shore Council, said the action was withdrawn earlier this month after the council responded that it would consult over the sales, which was what the group wanted. "It took away our case." Now, it hoped there would indeed be meaningful community consultation.

"But we're disappointed they've started already with the sale of No. 2 The Strand and 3 Victoria Rd, Devonport," he said.

The local board has told the council's development arm, Panuku, that if the Strand property is sold it wants the money spent on buying a coastal residential property to safeguard public access along the Takapuna-Milford walkway.

The Strand property has endowment status, meaning if it is later sold the money should come back into the local area.

Walkers currently cross the coastal land at the bottom of 9 Kitchener Rd after a walkway was washed out. Its elderly occupant has indicated he is willing to sell the land for public use.

Gillon said the old Devonport Borough Council chambers were in a precarious position. The building was part of a heritage precinct and it had heritage status, both externally and in its staircase and meeting room.

Devonport adopted its nuclear-free status in the meeting room. "If they sell it, I would be very concerned about the heritage aspects."

The council was selling assets to pay debt, while wholly blaming Covid-19 budget impacts, he said.

Community facilities such as playgrounds, parks and toilets were most at risk of being lost or neglected, not major projects, he claimed.

The rationale needed more scrutiny. "They've pushed the decision back to the boards, even though they have cut the board budgets."

Reserves at Hauraki Corner, on Blomfield Spa, Takapuna, and pockets of land at 24 Linwood Rd, Forrest Hill, and 2 Forrest Hill Rd were also originally considered for sale. The Hauraki land has been removed from the list, with consultation coming on the other sections.

Larger asset sales, decided above board level but with members input on preferences, seem inevitable in the new year as the council looks to balance its budget.

Separate to the budget-related sales proposals, the local board will likely further discuss

at its February meeting a community facilities "optimisation" report.

The report covers the precinct containing the Takapuna Library, the adjoining Takapuna War Memorial Hall and the separate Mary Thomas Centre around the corner on Gibbons Rd. The latter building, particularly, is in need of work, leading to suggestions the money could be reinvested for better use. The buildings are home, however, to a range of community organisations and used for meetings and events.

Board deputy chairman George Wood told the Flagstaff that compared with the likes of the busy Sunnynook Community Centre, a number of the more numerous facilities in both Devonport and Takapuna, which had different demographics, were not as well used or showed the same cashflow. Tough decisions were ahead, but it was important the board fought for good facilities and had reinvestment made in its own area, he said.

The future of a strategic facility such as North Harbour Stadium and also that of the Bruce Mason Centre were of potential concern given the current climate, said Wood.

Auckland Council seemed to have the intention of keeping asset sales on the table for some years ahead. "I would just hate to see us have a fire sale at this stage." Selling surplus land was one thing, moving onto big ticket items another.

Communities should look to speak out when submissions were called for on the mayor's 10-Year Plan when this came up for public input in January or early February, Wood advised.

Past pupils return for school's 150th

Devonport Primary School celebrated its 150th anniversary last week, when former pupils and parents returned to reminisce.

Almost 100 former pupils were welcomed to the school with a kapa haka performance by pupils.

Principal Beverly Booth extended a warm welcome: "I am privileged and happy to be the 25th principal of Devonport Primary School. Our school has called this place home for 150 years. In those 150 years, thousands of children have come here to learn and play," she said.

Booth noted that the school sits on a very unusual location on the hill, nestled against Takarunga, which the school helps look after, and looks out over the Waitematā Harbour.

"The children of our school are not the first children to play and learn here. Today it is important to us to help our children to understand the whakapapa of the maunga and to work with the Tūpuna Maunga and Restoring Takarunga Hauraki to help care for this place as kaitiaki," she said.

Booth recited a short poem that Devonport poet Kevin Ireland helped write: "We live in the sun. Close to the sea. Devonport means so much to me. You're it. Pass it on."

Devonport resident and former pupil Murray Scott was among those proud to have attended Devonport Primary. He attended the school from 1965 to 1970. "I remember the school before the new block was built in my last year. It was a lovely school then and still is," he said. He went on to Belmont Intermediate School and Takapuna Grammar School; later, his two boys Kennedy and Christian went through the same schools.

Former pupils and good friends Glenys Phillips and Valerie Field found the school's old records and newspaper clippings to be a blast from the past. Field brought in some of her old class photos to share.

Phillips went to the school in 1949 and Field from 1953 to 1957. Both live in Whangaparaoa, and being in Devonport again brought back



Today's crop looks on... Year 3 pupils (from left) Cristiana Lenihan, Olive Judson and Isla Cameron

many joyful memories for them. "I remember we had school cooking classes and all the boys used to wait after school for some scones," laughed Phillips.

A member of the school's board of trustees, Michael Fielding, said it was amazing to learn some of the school's history and to see how many people had attended over 150 years. Fielding has two children, Alex (Year 5) and Sophia (Year 3), currently attending the school.

Devonport artist Jessica Pearless, a pupil from 1985 to 1991, works with the school to develop children's creativity. She usually runs after-school art classes, but next year she and the students will be painting a school mural on the front of the old library at the front entrance of the school. The mural will depict Takarunga, its history and the environment. The 150th celebration was followed by tours of the school and a tree-planting ceremony at the front of the school with Restoring Takarunga Hauraki environmental coordinator Lance Cablk.

In addition to the sesquicentenary celebrations, a new book about the school's history was on display. Katherine Mason, who helped

to produce the book *The School on the Hill*, is the great-grand niece of Oliver Mays, who founded the school 150 years ago. Her grandmother and father are past pupils of the school and her daughter Florence Beauchamp is a current pupil.

Another parent who helped with the book, Emma Sturgess, was also motivated to share some of her family history in its pages, having had various family members attend the school since 1927, when her grandmother enrolled after moving to Devonport from Waipu. Sturgess's dad and uncle attended in the 1950s and 60s. Now, her daughter Catherine Sturgess-Taylor is a Year 2 student – the fourth consecutive generation of her family to go to Devonport Primary.

School pupils and staff drew self-portraits on bunting that will be used at future school events as a reminder of the 150th.

As many alumni could not attend the event this year, the school will be holding an evening event next year and will again open up its museum and display photos at the school fair on 10 April 2021.

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By the book... Anna Baird, Katherine Mason, Murray Scott, Emma Sturges, Devonport Primary principal Beverly Booth and Jessica Pearless with a copy of *The School on the Hill*



Memory lane... Former pupils Glenys Phillips and Valerie Field



Tahi, rua... Whaea Ally Gamby, who teaches te reo Maori and kapa haka, led the singing

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Cone chaos contained as public housing progresses

Site work is progressing on a big Kainga Ora property in Belmont, in readiness for the building of 48 new homes.

A plethora of traffic cones slowing traffic outside the public-housing development on the corner of Lake Rd and Bardia St has now been contained, reducing congestion.

The 5450sqm site running back to Tui St previously had 12 older-style state homes. The re-development will include one-to-four-bedroom homes, with 12 of them wheelchair accessible.

Two three-level, walk-up apartment blocks will contain 44 homes, with the other four in two two-storey duplex buildings.

A community room is also planned for the development, a Kainga Ora spokesperson said. The site will have 36 car parks.

After preparation work is completed, the building would begin in the new year, the spokesperson said. The homes were expected to be completed and tenants moved in by early 2022.

Traffic management will continue in the lead-up to Christmas, including the use of cones, during construction.

Several days of severe traffic congestion in late November and early December resulted from work at the site frontage. This required council intervention to remedy.

A better traffic management plan was insisted upon after vehicles were backlogged along Lake Rd.



When 48 homes replace 12... Images showing how the public housing on the corner of Lake Rd and Bardia St will look when completed in early 2022

Initially, traffic was “horrendous”, said North Shore councillor Richard Hills. He said Auckland Transport’s traffic management team did an urgent audit and got the contractor to scale back lane closures.

Meanwhile, progress on a second development, at 100-102 Lake Rd, is much further advanced.

The three-level apartment block contains 12 two-bedroom homes, with 12 off-street car parks. The homes are replacing two older homes on a site of about 1400sqm.

The roof has recently been completed and work is under way on the internal fitout and external brickwork, with landscaping to follow. It should be finished by mid-2021.

Most AA members reject targeted rate for Lake Rd

More than half the Automobile Association (AA) members living on the Devonport peninsula oppose Auckland Transport’s plans for Lake Rd, but just a quarter want to pay a targeted rate for a costlier scheme to target congestion, a survey shows.

The AA surveyed 6000 people last month, and the results out this week confirmed its view that AT’s \$47 million plan fell well short of what was needed, said its principal adviser for infrastructure and motoring, Barney Irvine.

“Put simply, people don’t think it’s going to come anywhere near solving Lake Rd’s traffic problems.”

The survey found 55 per cent of people either opposed or strongly opposed the plan, with 20 per cent supporting or strongly supporting it.

A more ambitious plan at just over \$100 million was wanted by members rather than a “second-rate option”, Irvine said.

AT has already ruled out spending more money on Lake Rd, saying the case did not stack up.

When AA members were asked if they would be willing to pay a targeted rate towards an expanded scheme, 45 per cent said no, with 24 per cent in support. Reasons given for not paying included fairness, because locals were not the only road users; affordability, in the face of residential rates already increasing;

and lack of confidence in the council putting the targeted rate to its intended use.

Irvine said this indicated that while extra rates were not popular some people would “stomach it” to get something done. AA would like the council and local board to further consult the community on the matter, he said.

North Shore councillor Chris Darby sees Lake Rd’s retention in the 10-year Regional Land Transport Plan as a win.

Irvine’s view differs: “AT’s recent announcement that the \$47 million plan is ‘a step closer to potentially gaining funding’ gives Devonport locals very little to feel optimistic about.” Timing uncertainties and funding constraints meant there was no guarantee that it would be delivered at all, he claimed.

Darby, who attended AT’s December board meeting to advocate for Lake Rd being in the 2021-2031 plan, told the Flagstaff that in the current Covid-19-induced spending cull, keeping it in the plan put the much-debated project “back on track”.

Lake Rd was a vital transport link for the community, said Darby who chairs Auckland Council’s Planning Committee.

“Safety and network productivity on Lake Rd need to be dealt with. Our proposal also includes safer pedestrian crossings and intersections and targeted transit lanes, physically protected cycle lanes. We will back that up

with better travel information, greater bus and ferry integration and support for school cycle improvements.”

Due to Auckland Council funding constraints a “staged but certain implementation” was the aim, said Darby.

The plan would be finalised in the first half of next year, he said.

Irvine said the AA wanted a scaled-up solution with long stretches of four-laning on Lake Rd (possibly with bus or T2/T3 lanes), as well as separated cycle ways. The survey found that 61 per cent of respondents rated this approach to be better or significantly better than AT’s latest design. Just 13 per cent said it would be worse or significantly worse.

“Given the funding situation – where even the lower-cost option is not guaranteed – there’s no chance of the expanded option getting funding. It’s frustrating and disappointing, but it is what it is,” he said.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has been divided in discussions about Lake Rd designs, differing on how much work could be realistically done.

Although some members feared it would not deliver on community expectations to ease congestion, the risk of losing allocated money and seeing no work done to improve safety and flow in areas including the Belmont centre held sway.

Local tales collected for duo's book project

Local identities have been highlighted in a new book which celebrates stories of life in Devonport.

Our Place, Stories of Local Life was written by Devonport residents Kate Dobbin and Lauren Lulu Taylor.

The book evolved from a social-media project during the first Covid-19 lockdown in April this year which documented local experiences, with a focus on essential workers and businesses most affected by Covid restrictions.

It later became a celebration of community and boosting people's wellbeing.

"It was about fostering connections in the community, and everyone we spoke to told us how important the community is to them," said Dobbin.

A highlight for Dobbin and Taylor was visiting the Claystore and meeting 99-year-old Tom Stead and the many other claystore regulars whose jokes they enjoyed. "One story led to another, we followed them like a trail of breadcrumbs," said Taylor. "This tiny village has a welcoming community."

Taylor also particularly enjoyed profiling Sam Welsh, who has worked at the New World supermarket for the last six years.

"I was surprised that we see people in our community every day but don't know their names and so we wanted to put names to faces to deepen the connections in the community," said Taylor.

She said the book tells unique stories of Devonport and has been published for the community but would appeal to visitors too.

Mother-of-three Dobbin has been living in Devonport for five years. She works in PR.

Taylor, who has lived in Devonport for six years, has previously worked as a photographer and digital marketer. She recently started local business Secret Kiwi Kitchen, making baking mixes with local mum Clare Gallagher.

The book features the likes of Devonport poet Ian Rockel, Devonport Chocolates owner Caroline Everitt, Corelli's owner Anthony Sanderson, Paradox Books owner Terrie Gray, Depot Artspace's Lynn Lawton, and Pat McKay, who runs the Devonport walking group. The book also features businesses like Narrow Neck Cafe and White's Dairy.

All the proceeds from the books will go towards the Well Foundation, the official



Local tales... Kate Dobbin (left) and Lauren Lulu Taylor at their book launch at the RSA earlier this month.

charity of the Waitemata DHB.

The book is available at Paradox Books and Echo Designer Living for \$30 a copy. Two hundred have been printed.

**Happy Holidays
Devonport and
my clients past
and present.
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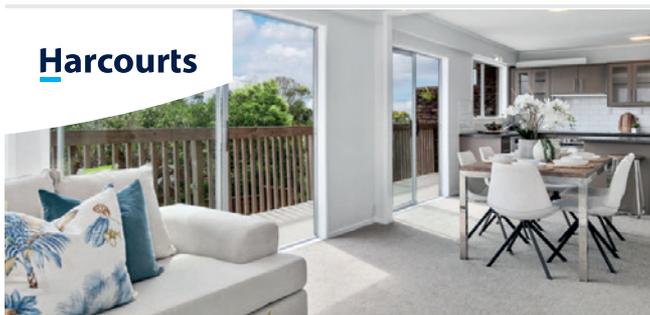


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Street party delivers afternoon delight

The fifth annual Friday After Five street party in Clarence St started with family fun and games and eats, with entertainment rollicking into the evening. In a Covid-19 disrupted year, the delayed event was a well-attended welcome start to the holiday season.



Good vibes... (clockwise from above) members of Freight on the temporary stage in Clarence St, Judith Pearce (left) and Colleen Cleary soak up the sun while listening to the band, and juggling plaid fans James (left) and Thomas Gillie with their grandmother Ruth Beaglehole.



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Bubble fun... Tom Chamberlaine (below right) wowed the crowd with his giant bubbles. Below: Henrick and son Noah Hank, 7, enjoyed food from Rickshaw's stall.



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Old-boy opener does the honours

Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) opened its new Bert Sutcliffe Sports Pavilion early this month, calling on former New Zealand test opener and TGS 1st XI captain Richard Jones (right) to cut the ribbon.

Members of the wider local community attended the opening of the state-of-the-art indoor cricket training facility beside the school's Winscombe Rd driveway.

Fully funded by the school, the pavilion can be adapted to be used for day-to-day sports and physical education training and teaching.

It is named for one of New Zealand's finest-ever cricketers, who attended TGS.

The day began with a game between the Auckland Under 19 men's team and a New Zealand Croatian side.

The school plans to share the new facility with the wider sporting community, including Belmont Intermediate School, North Shore Cricket Club and other sports organisations interested in hiring it.



• TGS girls at nationals, p28

Howzat! Junior World Series returns

The North Shore Cricket Club again hosts its annual colourful carnival of junior cricket in late January, with young players competing under the flags of national teams.

The Junior World Series of Cricket allots country names and matching t-shirts to sides competing in different age groups over three days at Devonport peninsula fields.

Registrations can be made by individuals, who will be put into a team, or by groups or teams from other clubs. Up to 200 children can be accommodated in age groups of Years 3-4, Years 5-6 and Years 7-8.

The event, back for a 28th time, was the main fundraiser for the club's junior section, said junior chairperson Anthony Wesney.

All abilities were welcome, he said, with the only selection criteria being "first in, best dressed".

Registrations are open now, with plenty of space for those in the Year 3-4 school age bracket, who will play at Devonport Domain and be coached by local secondary school pupils.

The senior age group gets to play on grass pitches, unlike in club play which is on concrete.

Girls aged under 11 can opt to play in an introductory girls-only plastic-ball grade or in mixed teams.

*For details of the series running from 25-17 January see the club's website. The registration fee of \$150 includes the player's team t-shirt.



OUT & ABOUT

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

BELMONT/BAYSWATER COMMUNITY END OF YEAR PARTY

Sunday December 20, 10:00am-2:00pm
The Rose Centre and Rose Gardens,
152 Lake Road, Belmont **COST: FREE**

All invited to the Belmont & Bayswater Community's end of year celebration; a great opportunity to come together to celebrate and enjoy a free event on your door step.

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Friday 25 December 11:00 am
Holy Trinity Church Lawn, 20 Church St,
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Everyone is welcome; families, individuals, those on their own and those without a home. Bookings are essential. **Please call or email Andie: 445 0328 or admin@holymtrinity.gen.nz.** Donations towards the lunch are also gratefully accepted.

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STREET GET-TOGETHERS

Devonport Peninsula Trust has some funding available to encourage people living in the Devonport peninsula area (Devonport to Hauraki Corner) to get together with their neighbours to develop neighbourhood connections. **For further info please contact Maria on ph: 445 9533 or email maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz**

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

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

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Planning failure behind parking issue

Auckland Transport's illustrated parking flyer would suggest Devonport simply has a local issue. I couldn't detect any honest acknowledgement that parking is in 'high demand' in Devonport because transport in Auckland is broken.

Because of planning failure, people choose to commute past failed transport options to suffer their way in and out of Devonport each day. I feel for these people. If there was a better way, they'd have found it during their long commutes.

Meantime, Devonport won't get the paid-

parking genie back in the bottle once that cash starts flowing to AT. If Lake Rd wasn't disincentive enough, then paying for parking in 'one location' is whistling in the wind. AT will then increase 'parking price signals', and cars will overflow to residential streets as people rationally avoid paid parking or fines for time-limited parking.

I've yet to hear of any place where paid parking didn't spread out and increase in price, once the thin end of that wedge was inserted.

It is perverse that AT is able to reward itself with a revenue monopoly for not addressing

the hard issues, many of which are its own making. They are clearly incentivised to run something akin to a racket.

Is there any evidence that paid parking has improved anything to date?

I'd like them to focus on better transport choices to get people off Lake Rd, which in turn liberates Devonport and may even save it from becoming a commuter car-park. It'd be great to avoid thousands of vehicles unnecessarily driving through the suburb each day. Please do your job AT.

Matt Yallop

Writers' Centre reaches milestone

This week I attended the end-of-year function of the Michael King Writers' Centre (MKWC) at the Signalman's House on Takarunga/Mt Victoria. The centre is currently celebrating the attendance of the 100th writer in residence since it started way back in 2005.

I was mayor of the former North Shore City when Michael King and his wife, Maria Jungowska, meet their untimely deaths in a car crash. Immediately, a local resident, the late Dame Christine Cole-Catley, proposed that we establish a memorial to Michael on the North Shore.

Dame Christine was one of those people who just wouldn't take 'no' for an answer.

I recall the trials and tribulations of establishing the centre but the people that Dame Christine called upon to establish an inaugural committee were wonderful.

There can be a great deal of pride and satisfaction in what has been achieved. The current board members have worked hard to get the centre through 2020.

Knowing what Dame Christine wanted when she put forward the idea in 2004, I am certain that she would be extremely proud of where things are at today.

Check out the Michael King Writers' Centre website.

**George Wood, deputy chair,
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome.

Please limit to 300 words on Devonport peninsula 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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Congestion charge an option

Rather than endlessly expanding Lake Rd for more and more vehicles, a different option could be a congestion charge.

It might even encourage use of a more sustainable method of transport.

Michael Bowman

How about a Shoal Bay pontoon bridge?

The Flagstaff (4 December) has much discussion about Devonport road access.

To float a new idea, what about a pontoon road bridge across Shoal Bay? pontoons could carry a four-lane highway across the mudflat part of Shoal Bay, with a bridge across the main channel.

This was done in Hobart, with a pontoon bridge plus a normal bridge over the main

channel, across the Derwent at Bellerive. Unfortunately, that area was rather exposed and nothing like the sheltered Shoal Bay. A severe storm shortened its life, and a normal bridge had to eventually be built.

I believe the pontoon bridge idea could be used across Shoal Bay, at considerably less cost than the alternatives being considered.

Derek Hall



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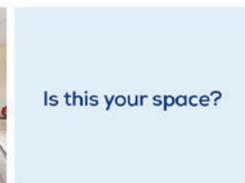


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 199 Victoria Road Devonport	 2/8a Ascot Avenue Devonport	 2/25a Lake Road Devonport	 22 Cromwell Street Mt Eden	 25 Anne Street Devonport
 2a Preston Avenue Bayswater	 40 Albert Road Devonport	 47 Albert Road Devonport	 49a Albert Road Devonport	 7/38 Kitchener Road Milford
 1/25 Onepoto Road Takapuna	 1/30 Wairoa Road Devonport	 12 Cheltenham Road Devonport	 13 Roslyn Terrace Devonport	 1B/105 Victoria Road Devonport
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TOP TEAM
TRISH & TRACEY

Trish Fitzgerald

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W barfoot.co.nz/t.fitzgerald

Tracey Lawrence

M 021 172 0681
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W barfoot.co.nz/t.lawrence

Thank you to all our past and present vendors and purchasers. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.



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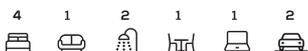
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Locals bring new life to landmark Devonport home

Curious locals may have been wondering what's taking place behind the hoardings at 24 Victoria Rd. This iconic heritage site, regarded as the oldest existing house in Devonport, is being carefully returned to glory and is set to open as a new bar and restaurant for its next chapter in local history.

Signal Hill is the vision of Jyoti and Alistair Davidson. The couple live in Devonport with their two children, and while they are no strangers to the hospitality industry, they have long wanted to open a local establishment that would add something different to our community's entertainment scene.

"It's been a pipeline dream for around two years. We walked past that grand old building, and imagined turning it into something the whole community could use – a relaxed place where you could take the family, watch the world go by in a relaxed atmosphere in the sun," Jyoti explains.

The result is a family-friendly bar and restaurant that will suit the laid-back, outdoor-loving lifestyle of the Devonport community, while also serving as a drawcard for city dwellers across the harbour alike. You can sit down for a meal inside the formal dining room or on the deck in the sunshine, or choose from something lighter off the snack menu to quell the appetite.

Al, a life-long Devonport resident, says that even before Covid changed the way many people are working, he also envisaged a space where local professionals and community groups could connect and work remotely. The 'Cigar Room', a convenient, private meeting room, can be used free-of-charge for local boards, businesses and community groups.

Signal Hill's name is a nod to the building's historic roots. The home was originally built around 1846 by William Oliver, one of the earliest settlers on the North Shore and the first person laid to rest at Signal Hill – the landmark we know now as Mt Victoria.



The couple are aware of the significance of being stewards of such a prominent building, and preserving and refining the character features of the home in order to maintain this slice of history for the community was top priority.

Original features – such as the bow window crafted by Oliver – remain, while additions – including a fire place mantle recovered from their own heritage home restoration – have been made with careful consideration.

"We've lovingly renovated our own heritage home here in Devonport, so we knew to some degree what this would involve. We love this town's old buildings and the character they bring and really wanted to play on that. We've taken the beautiful kauri wood floors and the high ceilings back – painstakingly – to how they used to be as much as we can," Jyoti says.

As proud locals, Jyoti and Al have already thrown their support behind school and club sports teams, and it's this community feel that is what they love most about living and raising their family in Devonport.

The support they've received in return from the community has already been huge, and after a long journey bringing Signal Hill to life the couple are looking forward to tearing down the hoardings and inviting the community in to enjoy the reinvigorated space.

Al says – "Our friends, our family, our neighbours, our sports clubs – we've created this as a place for people just like them. We've done this work with pride and our standards are really high. We want people to be as proud of what we've created as we are."

An all-new familiar local

Lovingly brought back to life to serve as a welcoming bar and restaurant where locals and visitors can enjoy great food, and share their own tales over a glass with family and friends.

24 VICTORIA ROAD, DEVONPORT | SIGNALHILL.CO.NZ

**SIGNAL
HILL**

TGS girls finish fifth in national cricket finals

Takapuna Grammar's 1st XI girls last week became the school's first cricket team to play a national secondary finals, finishing with a creditable 5th place.

The team qualified to join five other regional winners at the finals tournament in Palmerston North by taking out the Auckland-wide competition this year, beating last year's national champion Epsom Girls Grammar School.

The nationals began with a round-play T20 win against Hutt Valley High School. A loss to well-regarded Tauranga Girls High School followed. Two further tight losses came against teams which made the 2019 national top six, St Matthew's Collegiate from Masterton and St Hilda's Collegiate, Dunedin.

A further loss to eventual winner Christchurch Girls' High School put the team out of contention for the top four, but in its final game on Sunday, TGS turned the tables in a rematch against St Hilda's, holding the southerners to 82/10 in their 20 overs, before eclipsing them with 85/3 in 13.4 overs.

High fives... the TGS 1st XI girls celebrate their performance on the national stage



Young local yachties win national titles on home waters

Local sailors won two titles at RS Feva national championships held at Wakatere Boating Club, Narrow Neck, last weekend.

Devonport local Ashton Williamson from Wakatere and crew, Jack Parr from the New Plymouth Yacht Club, took out the Youth Championship division and national title with an impressive display of their sailing skills.

Another Wakatere member, skipper Dan-

niella Wooldridge and crew, Katie Mulcahy from Murrays Bay Sailing Club, won the Women's championship.

Seventy-four sailors competed in the championships, which were held in four divisions.

The RS Feva is a relatively new two-person class of dinghy, designed primarily for younger people.

Current NZ Olympic 470 representative

and local Paul Snow Hansen shared his knowledge by teaming up with local junior sailor Tessa Clinton.

The pair took third place in the open division, finishing just behind current RS Feva Open World Champion Simon Cooke and son Ashton Cooke, who is another junior Wakatere member.

The open division was won by Sean and Imogen Herbert from Manly.



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Veteran wins Shore to Shore

Commonwealth Games veteran Brent Foster won the Shore to Shore swim last weekend.

The 53-year-old, who competed at the 1986 and 1990 Commonwealth Games, swam the 3.8km from Narrow Neck Beach to Takapuna Beach in 47m 43s.

Oxford Bayley and Alex Dunkley were second and third.

The first woman home was Abbey Smale in 49m 28s.

The eldest swimmers included Pat Owens, who was the only woman in the 80-84-year-old group, and John Marshall who was the only man in the 85-and-over group.

Rosmini golf raises \$50K

The Rosmini College Golf Tournament held last month at Waitemata Golf Club in Devonport raised \$50,000.

Backed by over 140 businesses and individuals, the annual event attracted 34 teams.

The winning team, dubbing itself 2008's Finest, included old boys Josh Muir, Chad Konik and Campbell Johnstone, joined by Muir's uncle, Brendon Muir. As well as winning the Rosmini College Cup, the men collected prizes valued at more than \$2000.

Reserves get boost from volunteers and donors

Devonport's Anne McMillan has spearheaded a collaboration with the Million Metres Stream Project to help efforts to restore the Ngātaringa Eco-corridor and stream from Achilles Reserve to Ngātaringa Bay.

The Ngātaringa Eco-Corridor volunteers are part of Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, which in the past couple of years have been removing weeds and pests and planting native trees. The Million Metres Stream Project is an online platform on which the public can donate towards different environmental projects.

McMillan said the Ngātaringa volunteers have 1233 metres of waterway to plant so need \$75,213 to buy plants and nurture them.

They aim to restore an area that runs beside Seabreeze Rd from Narrow Neck Beach across the peninsula and into the inner harbour into a green corridor for fish and birds. With half of all freshwater species requiring a habitat that transitions from saltwater to freshwater, creating such a habitat in an urban area is one of their goals.

"The new planting will also become a resource for local birds and birds visiting from offshore islands, particularly Rangitoto, 3km away," said Restoring Takarunga Hauraki coordinator Lance Cabl.



Caption...

Gardens boosted by donated water tank



Gordon Brodie and Peter Metcalf installing the new water tank at Mt Cambria Community Gardens

Heavy rain late last month filled the new water tank at Mt Cambria Community Gardens just in time for summer.

The tank, donated by a local Devonport couple, will be a huge support for the garden, says Restoring Takarunga Hauraki Chair Gordon Brodie. "It's a great resource for the gardens. It's natural water with no chemicals and there are no costs to the community," he said.

Having the water tank meant being able to water plants throughout summer without having to rely heavily on expensive council water.

"We want to encourage the community to look into rain water tanks too because it is really good for the environment," he said.

Project links arts and ecology

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki has received a grant from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to launch an arts and ecology project.

Inspired by a Māori arts movement led by Ralph Hotere and others in the 1960s, they will be supporting local Māori artists in particular to work alongside schools who are adopting local reserves.

Natanahira te Pona, a sculptor and carver at the Lake House Arts Centre in Takapuna, is working alongside Bayswater School students to design plaques to identify native tree species they have planted.

Takutai Moana Watts, a master Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei harakeke weaver, is leading the Takarunga Weavers group in monthly raranga classes.

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki has also been awarded funds from Auckland Transport (AT) to create an ecology bike trail across the Devonport peninsula.

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Takapuna Grammar

SCHOOL NEWS



DEC 18, 2020

Takapuna Grammar School Junior Prizegiving

The final week of Term Four saw separate prizegivings for Year 9 and Year 10 students. Parents were invited to attend, and awards were presented for a range of achievements, both in academic and extra-curricular areas of school life.

At the Year 9 level, the June Spooner Award for overall academic excellence was shared by Natia Tsulaia and Maia Madsen-Brough, and the Aaron Hill Cup, for academic diligence, was shared by Isla Sweetman and Mila White.

At Year 10, the June Spooner Award for overall academic excellence was awarded to Joe McKibbin, and the Patsy Zohs Cup for academic diligence was awarded to Sofia Drew.

We would like to congratulate all prize winners and wish them a well-deserved summer holiday.



Top TGS rower aims for the pro ranks

Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) leaver Evan Williams (right) aims to make the New Zealand Under 21 rowing squad, set to compete locally and in Australia next year.

Going into his sixth season of rowing, the TGS Senior Sportsman of the Year hopes to become a professional rower.

"I think it would be a great opportunity to fully dedicate myself to my sport and be able to pursue it professionally. Being able to travel overseas and compete against other nations is one of my goals for rowing," he says.

Evan also hopes to represent New Zealand in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

This season he won two national rowing titles, was selected to trial for the New Zealand Elite junior team, competed internationally for New Zealand as a member of the light blues squad and won Junior Rower of the year at the Auckland Rowing Association Awards.

Evan was the rower to beat in the Under 18 single sculls, never losing a race, and winning the final comfortably at the North Islands Secondary School Championships.

At the New Zealand Club National Championships Evan won the Under 19 double sculls with partner Jacob Davey and placed third in the Under 20 single sculls.

In the New Zealand indoor championships, he won the men's Under 19 2km test.



The 18-year-old was awarded a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship to attend Waikato University next year, where he will study health, sport and human performance.

Evan will receive \$10,000 a year under the scholarship.

"The competition that comes with racing at regattas and the constant thought of trying to outwork my opponents, this motivates me to do more than what is asked and put in the extra work during the year," he says.

His family's support is a big motivator.

"My family knows how much work I have put into my sport and what I sacrifice so for them to be supportive and glad I'm doing well makes me want to work harder and achieve more. They may sometimes think some of my training and even frequency of training is pretty crazy but they know what I am doing it for and working towards my goals," he said.

Being coached by Olympic medallist Eric Verdonk, who died earlier this year, has also been a major influence.

Verdonk helped him to win his first national championship in his Under 16 season. "He helped me prepare, execute and win the race and gave me a platform to work off ever since," says Evan.

"He taught me the ability to set my mind towards what I want and showed me that it is possible to achieve my goals with discipline and hard work."

Evan says a few athletes he admires for similar reasons are Hamish Bond, Mike Tyson and Matt Fraser because they are all known for their relentless work ethic and rigid mindset towards their sporting endeavours.

"This mental strength is what I admire and value immensely since in my opinion it's what makes an athlete a true champion."



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Waitemata Golf Club

We want to engage an experienced chef to lead the catering operations within a thriving golf club. Waitemata won New Zealand Club of the Year in 2019 and is looking forward to adding a new Bar and Eatery to the facility.

The suitable applicant will have experience managing busy, high output kitchens including functions, large bookings, set menu, banquet and canapes, as well as day to day menu preparation.

If you have a passion about delivering good, well presented and tasty food there is an avenue to create a unique bar and eatery experience.

Experience is required as there are areas of responsibility that include general upkeep of kitchen and equipment, rosters, food costs, menu preparation, and systems implementation.

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Reporting to the Club President, you will be responsible for the smooth running of the club's administration, financial management and general operations and have a high level of computer literacy, a working knowledge of Microsoft Office and Xero and good technical book-keeping skills

We expect that you will have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently, be self-motivating and exhibit good written and verbal English language skills. Some knowledge and / or interest in football would be an advantage but is not mandatory.

Are you the right one to join the NSU team? If you think you are, please email president@nsu.org.nz for a full job description.

Course gives seniors inspiration in the kitchen

A programme helping older people gain confidence to cook well is looking for new recruits in the New Year.

Endorsed by its first local graduates – who dined on salmon in their final session several weeks ago – the Nutrition Foundation’s Just Cook healthy-ageing programme will be back in February.

“Shopping, cooking, if you’re doing those things it’s good for the brain,” said foundation nutritionist Anna Mrkusic.

Elderly people, particularly those living alone, might lack motivation or inspiration to make proper meals, but it was important they had enough protein and nutrition in their diets, she said.

Learning new skills, or being reminded to draw on existing ones, was beneficial to health and welfare, with the course also offering the chance to meet others in the community in a similar situation.

The programme had been “absolutely incredible”, said Devonport resident Dawne Pearce, speaking at the end of the course, where most participants were aged in their 80s and 90s. Four morning sessions of three hours were held, combining discussion, cooking and a shared meal at the end.

David Westwood, aged 90, said he attended because he wanted to help his wife more with the cooking. “I’ve never really got stuck in and I need to.” Westwood, a former dentist, said he had picked up doing the shopping, but now wanted to raise his skill level in the kitchen.

Already a dab hand at making porridge or muesli for breakfast, he was enjoying adding to his repertoire. “It’s a matter of getting more confidence.” He thought the course was doing a good job and he enjoyed the social aspect.

Course facilitator Kathy Lambert said a good way for men to ease into doing more of the cooking at home would be to offer to do one meal a week. Westwood said he made a salad lunch for guests recently, although his dressing was a tad tart so he would be following his course recipe book next time.

A vegetarian for 50 years, John Hall, 87, from Hauraki, said he had been a little bit concerned about whether there would be enough vegetarian options, “but there were”.

He strongly recommended the course and said it had helped him develop a better range of options, which he needed after the death of his wife, a good cook, four years ago. “She tried to encourage me, but I was lazy. But intuitively I picked up a few things.”

Pearce said she liked to embrace any opportunity to learn new tips and tricks. Her cutting techniques had improved thanks to the course. She found it motivating and had been using the recipes at home.

Others agreed, as they tossed salads while lunch cooked.

The final celebratory meal of the year was



Prep pals... Kit Brown grates carrots while Alec Hill dices salmon

salmon chunks in a roux sauce, wrapped in filo pastry. “It’s quite good to try something luxurious occasionally,” said Joy Lowery, 88.

The meal included ‘hidden’ vegetables of grated carrot and zucchini combined in the pastry parcel. “I’ve put my hands on a filo pastry for the first time,” said Lloyd Thomas, 86.

A tossed salad was served with the main, followed by fruit crumble and custard.

Mrkusic said the nutrition programme was developed in 2017 for use across the country, but this year was the first time it had been delivered in Devonport.

It offered ideas for eating both healthily and economically, but one of its main aims was encouragement and helping people feel less isolated.

The foundation has its national office at Fort Takapuna in Narrow Neck and “be-

cause we had a room at the barracks we wanted to give back to this community”.

The foundation is a registered charity and relies on grants to deliver its free programmes, although it asks for donations from those who can afford to give. It recruited recent participants through church and community groups, Y3A and medical centres. For its Devonport programme next year, it is also inviting interested older people to get in touch direct.

“Our biggest challenge is reaching the people that might benefit from it,” said Mrkusic.

• Just Cook will run on Mondays, 15 and 22 February and 1 and 8 March, 2021, from 10.30am to 1.30pm at Holy Trinity Church. Those interested in attending can contact anna@nutritionfoundation.org.nz or Ph (09) 489 3417. Or Andie Levell at admin@holytrinity.gen.nz or Ph (09) 445 0378.

Smart start for young cricketers

Smart new kit may have helped inspire North Shore Cricket Club's under-13 girls team in its good start to the first half of the season. After wins in three grading games the girls made the top pool of their Auckland age-group competition.

The team is a mix of old hands and newcomers, who manager Nelson Watson said had relished being out on the field.

From their first grading game beating East Coast Bays Dynamites at the end of October, the girls had made steady progress, he said. Most were Year 7s, but in their pool they were now facing a lot of Year 8 players.

"It will be a bit of a development year for the girls."

A game played at Victoria Park in the city against Grafton had pitted them against faster bowlers. While they had lost, it had shown them fielding standards to aspire to, he said. Batting was coming along well.

Along with other teams at the club, the under 13s were the beneficiary of a \$1 million grant from ANZ shared among cricket and netball clubs throughout the country to aid post Covid-19 recovery.



Looking sharp... Members of the North Shore Cricket Club Triple One Consulting under-13 girls team gearing up for a game at Bayswater School. From left: Jessica Toft, Holly Shipkov, Isabella Watson, Eva Steckler and Isla McLean

The bank said it had wanted to assist with its largest community sports grant to date in what was a "make or break" year for many sports organisations. Club fundraising opportunities and sponsorships had been impacted and some families struggled to pay sports fees.

The North Shore club received two bags of gear. "It means a lot for girls' cricket because not a lot of the players invest in buying their own gear," Watson said.

DEVONPORT RSA

SERVING OUR MEMBERS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Devonport RSA is proud to serve our community and each year the Devonport RSA Memorial Trust makes charitable donations to local schools, youth groups and community organisations.

These donations come from the RSA's funds, and are in no way connected with the money raised on Poppy Day, which is administered in a separate Trust exclusively for the welfare of returned and service people and their dependants. In 2017, Devonport RSA donated to the following:

Leander Sea Cadets * Calliope Sea Scouts Association * 1st Devonport Scout Group * Girl Guiding New Zealand * Girls Brigade * Awataha Young Mariners * Youth Division of St John * Auckland District RSA Youth Council * Takapuna Grammar School * Belmont Intermediate School * Belmont Primary School * Bayswater Primary School * Vauxhall Primary School * St Leo's Primary School * Devonport Primary School * Stanley Bay Primary School * Wilson School * St John Ambulance * Starship Foundation * Salvation Army * Ranfurly Village Hospital Ltd * The Wilson Home Trust * North Shore Hospice * Devonport Community House.

**Devonport RSA, Devonia Building,
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Devonport Rotary Club

Now welcoming new members!

Last month you may have visited our very first Christmas POP up shop. Organised and staffed by a number of Rotarians and local volunteers this was hugely successful and raised over \$8,000. Your support with this is very much appreciated and we look forward to repeating this again in the future.



Sadly we were unable to hold our annual Community Xmas Dinner so we organised a visit to all our usual guests dropping them off a special gift and catching up for a chat and a cup of tea. Christmas can be a lonely time for many of our older members in the community and it was important to make sure Covid didn't stop our annual interactions.

December being the final month in the calendar year is also the time we acknowledge those within the club who epitomise the Rotary Motto 'Service Above Self' and last week at our AGM we awarded three members Bill Macky, Alastair Clayton-Greene and Ian Cunliffe, Paul Harris Fellowships. Congratulations to them all.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who has been involved and helped out over the past 12 months. Devonport Rotary has managed to achieve a number of positive goals including the information caravan and assembling the playground in Vanuatu. 2021 we will be as active as ever and invite you to join us in making a difference. Meanwhile have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**If you'd like to support us, then please contact Devonport Rotary at
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This month's column was sponsored by **Rowan Renouf**

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Kindergarten clocks up 75 years

Devonport Kindergarten celebrated its 75th anniversary last week with a gathering to remember its history.

Head teacher Carolyn Rendle said, “Together we treasure Devonport Kindergarten as a community taonga. This is an inclusive, playful place, full of imagination, passion, fun, joy, expectations and history.”

She said her own 25 years as head teacher had “gone by in a heartbeat”.

The kindergarten originally opened in 1945 as the Wakatere Kindergarten.

In 1954, the Devonport Borough Council offered the Auckland Kindergarten Association a part of the quarry reserve on Vauxhall Rd, where it has remained since.

Devonport Takapuna Local Board member Toni van Tonder, who has had two of her own children attend the kindergarten, said a few opening words at the event.

“Devonport Kindergarten is a special place where a love of life-long learning begins,” she said.

“Devonport Kindergarten has exceptional teachers that have made children confident and independent learners.”

Guest of honour Nick Hawke of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei spoke about the history of the land and the importance of learning. The kindergarten currently has a roll of 60, with 40 students attending each day.



Kindy time... Parent Pip Best helps Charlie Everest (2) get in the swing of things at Devonport Kindergarten.



Right: Nick Hawke of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei spoke at an event to mark the kindergarten’s 75th anniversary.



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NORTH SHORE CRICKET CLUB

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Cafe serves up Christmas goodwill

Community-minded Narrow Neck Cafe owner Josie Xu is serving up an extra helping of Christmas cheer this year. She has set up a trading post where customers can leave gifts for those in need, or pick up a small present themselves.

Since the initiative began in early December, a steady stream of small donations of new and unwrapped items have been put on the stand next to a Christmas tree by the cafe's front door.

The tree was delivered by the 1st Devonport Scouts group.

Camera-shy Xu, who was active locally with assistance during Covid-19 lockdown, said, "Despite what Devonport may think, there is a need. Some people are working hard to make ends meet."

Outright poverty may not be as apparent as in some other areas, but there were families struggling, with their children having less than classmates.

Xu said she first had had the idea for the Christmas Trading Post a couple of years ago, but after the events of 2020 she was prompted into action. She started the stand with wrapping paper and a few items, then others began contributing.

Items given so far include toys and games for younger children. Gifts for teens and adults, especially males, were harder to come by, said Xu.

She hopes more people will consider contributing, especially if they have suitable unwanted items they might be able to pass on.

If suitable gifts still remain at the cafe a few days before Christmas, Xu will deliver them to Starship Hospital.



Santa's helpers... Narrow Neck Cafe workers Rosie McGregor (left), aged 19, from Vauxhall, and Chloe Hobbs, 17, from Belmont, with the Christmas gift stand

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Recommencing end of January. Join the Devonport Squash Club's social squash night every Thursday from 7-9pm at our Narrowneck club. Beginners are welcome. We have racquets you can borrow at no charge and there is no obligation to join the club. 69 Wairoa Road, Narrow Neck.

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TUITION

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TUITION

Maths Coaching Offered. Year 7 to year 13 welcomed. 100% student pass rate in 2019 ph Peter BE, Dip Tchg on 094451899 or 021 0817 5037.

Wanted - Physics and Chemistry Tuition for year 10 boy, Hauraki corner, mid Jan and upcoming year. Text Lee 021 132 1878.

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ENROLMENTS TERM 1 2021
Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

Applications for 10 out-of-zone places in year 1, 7 in year 2, 13 in year 3, 0 in year 4, 0 in year 5 and 0 in year 6 are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the period 2 February to 16 April 2021.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is 2 February 2021.

If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on 2 February 2021. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

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

The board of Trustees will also hold multiple ballots throughout 2021 to enable out-of-zone children to continue to enrol in 2021.

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- 4 Spending locally creates more jobs for you and your neighbours
- 5 You support our local entrepreneurial spirit
- 6 You embrace what makes Takapuna unique and special
- 7 You create more choice of shops and services
- 8 You keep Takapuna a beloved destination for locals and visitors
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WEEKDAYS				SATURDAY				SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS		
5:45am	11:00am	3:20pm	7:20pm	-	11:00am	3:20pm	7:20pm	-	12:20pm	5:20pm
6:15am	11:30am	3:40pm	7:40pm	6:15am	11:30am	3:40pm	7:40pm	-	12:40pm	5:40pm
6:45am	12:00pm	4:00pm	8:00pm	6:45am	12:00pm	4:00pm	8:00pm	-	1:00pm	6:00pm
7:15am	12:20pm	4:20pm	8:30pm	7:15am	12:20pm	4:20pm	8:30pm	7:15am	1:20pm	6:20pm
-	12:40pm	4:40pm	9:00pm	-	12:40pm	4:40pm	9:00pm	-	1:40pm	6:40pm
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								12:00pm	5:00pm	

DEPART DEVONPORT: Devonport Wharf

WEEKDAYS				SATURDAY				SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS		
6:00am	11:15am	3:40pm	7:40pm	-	11:15am	3:40pm	7:40pm	-	12:40pm	5:40pm
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								11:45am	5:00pm	
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The start of the 36th America's Cup presented by PRADA racing commences this week. Without a doubt, on and off the water this event will draw in big crowds and be an exciting spectacle to watch!

As with all large events there has been logistical challenges to work through so we can ensure as best possible it's 'smooth sailing' for our customers while the racing takes place.

With a busier water space on race days, speed restrictions have been implemented and will apply to all ferry services from midday to 7pm on race days to ensure safety of all vessels and individuals on the Hauraki Gulf.

We anticipate Devonport will be the place to be for watching the racing! Our customised Devonport 'race day' ferry timetable has been designed to accommodate mandatory speed restrictions as well as provide extra services where possible. We are really pleased to deliver 20 minute frequency for the Devonport service over this time.

With over 200,000 visitors expected in the Auckland CBD over the racing period, Auckland Transport and Fullers360 are advising all Aucklanders and visitors to plan their journeys in advance, expect longer travel times and allow extra time for navigating foot traffic in downtown.

Tips for travel on race days:

- Check timetables before travelling with us at www.fullers.co.nz
- Download MyFerry app and opt in to Travel Alerts for your destination
- Keep an eye on the Fullers360 and AT website for updated travel information
- Arrive at least 30 minutes early for your service
- Journey times will be longer – allow plenty of time and plan your travel

With increased passenger numbers, and congestion both on and off the water during race days, we ask for patience from our customers as we navigate our ferry services through a dynamic and changeable environment.

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Mike Horne
Fullers360 CEO

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***During race time speed restrictions are in place across Auckland Harbour and parts of the Hauraki Gulf which impacts travel time. Trip times during race day timetables indicated may be impacted by on water congestion during America's Cup Event racing and course selection. Timetables subject to change.**



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Kaumātua helped guide Navy's cultural journey

Prominent North Shore community figure and Royal New Zealand Navy kaumātua Bertram Kairo McLean died last month, aged 78.

McLean, known in the community as Bert, passed away on 22 November at his home in Beach Haven.

McLean was deeply involved in the creation and opening of Te Taua Moana Marae at the Devonport Naval Base in 2000.

His youngest daughter, Te Awhina McLean, said her father was a very humble man.

"No matter what he put his mind to, he was a dedicated worker. He always told us if you are going to do a job, do it properly and give it 100 per cent," she said.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board acknowledged McLean's passing in its last meeting of the year.

Board member Trish Deans said McLean was a respected member of the North Shore community.

He and wife Valmaie were respected kaumatua and kuia, and also involved in the Awataha marae now located in Albany after being moved from Northcote.

It was at this marae he set up te reo Maori lessons for children and later a kura kaupapa



Navy man... Bert McLean was awarded an MBE in 1979. Picture: RNZN Museum

school.

Board deputy chair George Wood had a lot to do with McLean over the years, when Wood was in the police and later when he

was North Shore Mayor. "Bert was a colourful character, who had been in the Navy."

Wood said McLean did "a huge amount" for Maoridom and that the community was indebted to him.

Of Ngai Tūhoe and Te Arawa descent, McLean served in the Navy from January 1959 until December 1980, during which time he served at sea and ashore on a number of HMNZ ships, including HMNZS Royalist, Otago, Waikato and on the HMS Sea Eagle.

Navy spokesperson Greer Berry said McLean had been one of the Navy kaumātua who had guided the organisation on its "cultural journey" through the last 20 years, as it developed its kaupapa.

For his service and dedication, Warrant Officer Seaman Bert McLean was awarded the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) (Military Division) in the 1979 Queen's New Year Honours List.

"We extend our condolences to his whānau," said Berry.

McLean is survived by his wife Valmaie, and his six children, Pomare, Mita, Pania, Patu, Hine and Te Awhina.

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New ethos at new medical centre

A dawn blessing signalled the official opening of Medplus Devonport, which plans to roll out a new Maori-inspired approach to health outcomes.

Focusing on adopting and nurturing, the Whangai programme is being developed for the primary-health organisation Comprehensive Care by its kaumatua, John Retimana, who performed the opening of the Anne St premises in Devonport last week.

The transformed medical centre, now in the hands of its GP owners, Drs Michele Hollis, Heidi MacRae, Annie Si and Fiona Brow, has been given a fresh new look, in a renovation project managed by Dr Hollis.

The centre is a branch of Medplus Lake Rd, with both centres sharing computer records and the same phone number.

Dr MacRae said Retimana had blessed the renovated building in a moving dawn service attended by staff, family and friends.

Teenager Skye MacRae was the "puhi" who led the way through the building touching all the surfaces as they were blessed.

Hospice visionary leaves a Christmas legacy

One of Hospice New Zealand's best-known regular fundraising initiatives, Trees of Remembrance in shopping centres, has special significance this year as its originator, North Shore identity Carolyn McCondach, is among those remembered.

The gifted artist died at Harbour Hospice in October, after a difficult illness. She leaves a legacy that permeates the local hospice service, including the idea of inviting shoppers to donate for a cardboard bauble to write on and hang in honour of a loved one.

The Light Up a Life Christmas Tree Appeal was just one of many campaigns she established to drum up support for Harbour Hospice.

The appeal has been running for more than 30 years, along with the hospice shops, partnerships with community groups and the patient and family services that she helped set up as a trustee, fundraiser and visionary.

Along with her husband, Stuart, Carolyn had hoped to establish a children's hospice after their daughter Louise died of leukaemia in 1981, at the age of 14. Carolyn was "extremely disappointed" by the manner of Louise's dying, he says, and began investigating specialist palliative care for young patients. When she came across a fledgling group in Takapuna then called the North Shore Hospice Society, "she quickly pounced, moved in and, in true Carolyn fashion, took the show over and became chairperson."

In 1988, the local branch of the Hospice Foundation of Auckland became the North Shore Hospice Trust with former Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon as chair.

McCondach, a founding trustee, overcame her nerves to speak to service organisations about the work of hospices and build lasting rela-



Carolyn McCondach

tionships. It was with a contact made with the Devonport Lioness Club that she launched the Light Up a Life Christmas Tree Appeal. Daughter Fiona was called on to design the cards – a candle and a remembrance wreath – that donors decorated trees with for the next two decades.

McCondach's brother, noted fashion designer Colin Cole, was called on for a fashion parade that raised enough money to pay a hospice coordinator's salary for a year.

In a partnership with founding committee member Elsie Tillet, the hospice shops were started. Wilf Marley, who is still on the Harbour Hospice Trust, supported the move. He visited McCondach in hospital a few months ago and reminded her of their excitement when they raised their first \$100,000.

Today, Harbour Hospice fundraises over \$4 million a year.

By July 1987 the hospice had 90 active home-care volunteers from Devonport to Whangaparaoa, Orewa, Warkworth and Wellsford. That year a survey by GPs found that 24 per cent of requests for terminally ill patients to be admitted to hospital were unsuccessful, and 19 per cent were turned down more than once.

The hospice branch made a commitment to providing inpatient facilities and began inspecting private hospitals and rest homes to find its first four hospice beds.

In 1989, McCondach met a group of women belonging to a share club, whose portfolio had been devastated by the recent financial crash, persuading them to divert to fundraising for the inpatient unit. For seven years she chaired the fundraisers and organised a Christmas fair, the Right Royal Ball and Starganza.

She also established an annual tennis tournament which raised more than \$90,000 in its best year. She remarked: "It makes me smile to remember these men, all managing directors of their own businesses, on their knees, stuffing envelopes and licking stamps."

In 1991 McCondach was awarded an MBE for services to the community. She served on the hospice trust for 25 years. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Stuart, now in Orewa, and three children: Fiona, James and Esther.

• Find Trees of Remembrance until 24 December in Farmers stores on the North Shore, including at Takapuna, and also within the wider Shore City Shopping Centre and at the Milford Shopping Centre and outside the Arcade at 5-15 Victoria Rd, Devonport (thanks to Vista Linda). Farmers is selling a limited edition Hospice bauble for \$10, with all funds donated to local services.

Late start no barrier for Xpressos cycling devotee

Devonport woman Dianna Kay Sutherland who died this month, aged 64, was a keen cyclist and notable example of a person in mid-life taking on new physical and intellectual challenges.

She became an Ironman competitor a decade ago and also returned to university in recent years, where she topped her class last year in a Masters degree in public policy.

She was keen to continue studying towards a PhD, but illness intervened.

The Huia St resident died on 2 December after a battle with cancer. Her husband, Dudley, predeceased her by several years after his own illness.

Auckland-raised, Sutherland worked as a business consultant and analyst, specialising in policy and process development, before her return to university.

Friend Lesley Clarke from Mt Eden intro-



Dianna Sutherland

duced her to cycling 17 years ago. Clarke's husband was a cyclist and she mused over lunch one day that she would like to join in. Before she knew it, Sutherland was organising exercise spreadsheets for the pair.

"At the time Diana was quite a large lady who as far as I was aware didn't do any exercise, so I thought 'oh yeah'," remembers Clarke. But Sutherland

stuck to the challenge, got fit and eventually outpaced her.

She rode with the Devonport Xpressos cycling group, which she joined in 2006, up to five times a week.

Group member Andrea Gilkison said Sutherland turned up with an old bike and although she initially lagged, was soon regularly riding up Lake Rd and around Lake Pupuke. She bought a road bike and went on to conquer the 160km

event around Lake Taupo and the 180km K2 around Coromandel

Through Clarke, Sutherland also began swimming for the first time in her life, which led to triathlons. She also ran a New York Marathon.

Her first Ironman was in 2010, with another four years later after her breast cancer diagnosis. She celebrated its completion with an Ironman tattoo.

Sutherland became a keen supporter of other women embarking on exercise.

Dr Timothy Fadgen, a lecturer in politics and international relations, said he and a colleague had visited her at home in late October and despite her illness, found her to be her usual, engaged, probing and curious self.

"I have already missed her presence in the classroom and now, not being able to give her her diploma in person, even more."

Sutherland is survived by her two sisters, Gail and Julie, and a brother, Peter.

At her funeral she had left instructions for friends to dress colourfully, with women to wear a hat because it was a formal occasion, before going out with a blast from Wham's 'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go'.



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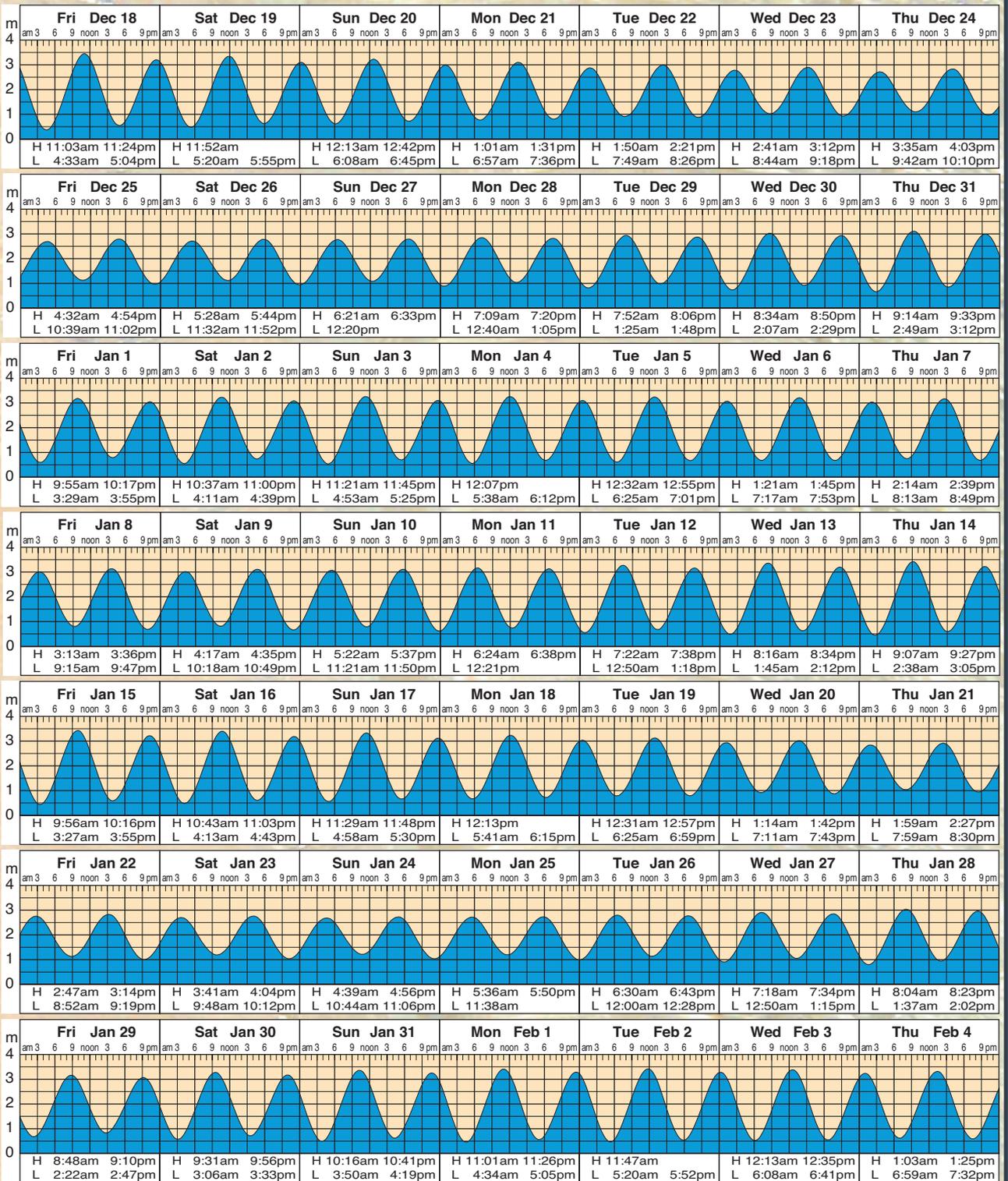
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WHAT'S ON @ Devonport Library

Tēnā Koutou Tatou,

The staff from Devonport Library would, firstly, like to thank everyone for their support of our events and programmes this year. We always enjoy the company of our community.

And what a great day at the Devonport Christmas Parade! Though we were few this year, it was still fantastic fun to be a part of the parade and see all your smiling faces.



By time of printing, some of our Christmas events and programmes will have finished but we will still have our pop-up Christmas storytime on Christmas Eve, 11am and our Christmas Lego Scavenger Hunt will be in action from Tuesday 15th December.

Our Auckland Libraries summer reading programme is a little different this year.

We've called it **Summer reading, sorted** and it runs from 5 January - 5 February 2021

Read and relax this summer with fun and flexible reading challenges for the whole whānau or just for you!

Register from 14 December, with great prizes to be won from Specsavers, passes for Auckland's top attractions and more! Do check out our Auckland Libraries website for more information.

So, finally, thank you again for supporting Devonport Library through the year and for making our job a real pleasure. Do have a safe, precious Christmas break with your families and friends, and we are always happy to help you with your Summer selections over the holiday break.

Meri Kirihimete!

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Company Theatre celebrates:



Real troupers... Foundation Company Theatre members (from left) Kay Boyes, Ruth Chapman, Peter Segrove, Paddy Stafford-Bush and Sharon Segrove. Left: Another foundation member, Geoff Clews, cuts the cake.



Company Theatre celebrated its 40th anniversary last week with a ruby-themed gathering at the Rose Centre. Former and current members got together to celebrate and watch the latest show, *Lockdown in Little Grimley*. Since its founding, the company has staged nearly 150 productions.

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What's On

Runaway Reindeer
11-23 December
Riley the Reindeer goes on a adventure in New Zealand.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
18-20 December
A staged read of the classic tale.

India & Patrick Learn to Host a Show
8-10 January
Two comedians learn the craft of being a good host.

Auckland Shakespeare in the Park
23 January-20 February
Hamlet and Much Ado About Nothing performed on alternate nights.

The PumpHouse Theatre
PH: 489 8360
PUMPHOUSE.CO.NZ



Four decades in the limelight



Red-letter evening... (from left) set builder Tony Sandy and costume manager Cathie Sandy (who have both been with the company from the beginning), past president Sherry Ede and current president Stephen Hood.

Left: Sofie Gabriel (left) and Rebekah Talsma were among the newer members at the event.



VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT

NOW SHOWING

Dreamland (M) 101min	NEW
Superintelligence (PG) 106min	NEW
The Witches (M) 105min	NEW
Words On Bathroom Walls (M) 110min	NEW
Home Alone: 30th Anniversary (1990) (PG) 103min	RE-RELEASE
The Dry (M) 117min	ADVANCE SCREENING WITH Q&A 17 DEC
Blithe Spirit (PG) 99min	ADVANCE SCREENINGS 18-20 DEC
The Croods: A New Age (PG) 95min	ADVANCE SCREENINGS 18-20 DEC

COMING SOON

Blithe Spirit (PG) 99min	26 DEC
The Croods: A New Age (PG) 95min	26 DEC
Wonder Woman 1984 (M) 151min	26 DEC
Nomadland (M) 108min	ADVANCE SCREENINGS FROM 26 DEC

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