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**Paid car-parking  
a meter closer... p2**

**Animal shelter planned for  
Ngataranga Rd... p6**

**Interview: Breakers star  
Tom Abercrombie... p20**

## AA wades into Lake Rd upgrade row

The Automobile Association is surveying its members on the state of Lake Rd and says Auckland Transport's proposed upgrade plans are "never going to cut the mustard".

The AA's principal adviser for infrastructure and motoring affairs, Barney Irvine, told the

Flagstaff the survey was being done because the lobby group had been following the vexed issue for several years and, like many people, was concerned where matters had ended up.

It wants to know if members would be willing to pay a targeted rate to contribute

to more extensive road works than planned.

"Locals are being forced to choose between a second-rate option (which still won't be delivered for a few years) and nothing at all, and that's a hopeless situation," Irvine said.

**To page 7**

## Zeroing in on the fun at St Leo's



**Treat or retreat... Juniper Valentine (2) at the St Leo's School School Fair. More pictures, pages 4 and 5.**

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# Paid car-parking proposed near ferry terminal

Paid parking at 50 cents per hour around Devonport ferry terminal on part of Queens Pde and the Queens Pde car park has been proposed by Auckland Transport (AT).

Three new five-minute (P5) loading zones around Devonport to improve parking availability for those visiting or delivering goods to local businesses have also been proposed.

Residents have until 13 December 2020 to make submissions on the proposals.

“On-street parking around Devonport village and Ferry Terminal is in high demand, which means that people are often unable to find a park and become frustrated,” says AT.

“We are proposing changes to improve parking availability through Devonport village and around the Devonport Ferry Terminal.”

In the village, AT proposes replacing all the existing parking restrictions with two-hour (P120) time restrictions.

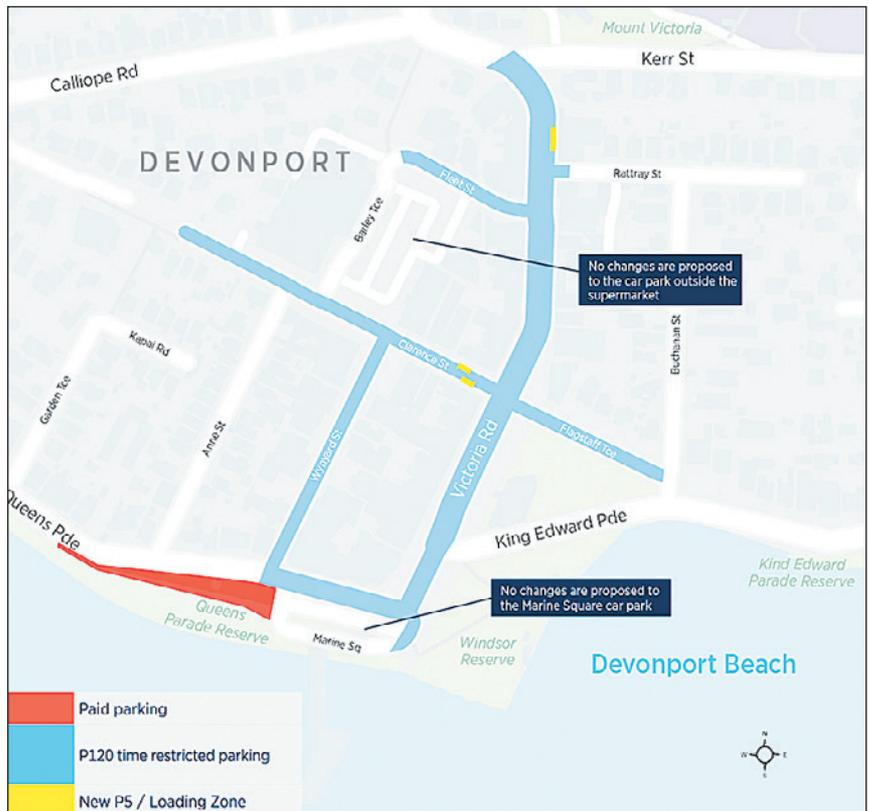
“This will keep parking restrictions more consistent through the village and be better suited to visitors.”

Under the changes, the seven-day, 8am to 6pm two-hour limit would apply to Victoria Rd, Fleet St, Clarence St, Wynyard St, Flagstaff Tce and part of the eastern end of Queens Pde.

The new five-minute loading zones would be on Clarence St (two) and Victoria Rd.

Mobility spaces, loading zones, taxi stands and motorcycle parking will be exempt from the two-hour restrictions. The supermarket carpark will retain a 90-minute limit.

The paid parking proposed near the ferry terminal would run seven days, 8am to 6pm, and apply to part of Queens Pde and the Queens Pde car park. Motorists would have no time limit



## Proposed changes... Auckland Transport has called for submissions

and a 10-minute grace period would allow for pick-ups and drop-offs without needing to pay.

Mobility spaces and the Marine Square car park – which will remain P180 – will be exempt from the 50c-per-hour charges. Outside the proposed paid hours, parking will be “free and unrestricted,” AT says.

According to AT, the changes would:

- Manage parking demand and increase parking availability.
- Enable parking to be shared between residents, visitors and commuters.

- Improve parking behaviour.
- Encourage motorists to consider other transport options such as public transport, carpooling, cycling or walking.
- Reduce congestion.

AT is advocating two-hour parking throughout the village as it is better suited to visitors.

“Surveys have shown 80 per cent of people parking in the village are staying less than two hours.

“The change would also mean parking restrictions are more consistent across the area and will reduce signage clutter,” AT says.

AT surveys show that parking in the Queens Pde car park and the surrounding area on Queens Pde is close to 100 per cent full during peak times.

After the consultation period, AT will consider the submissions and compile a report and final recommendations by March 2021.

- Go to the Auckland Transport website to make a submission or complete the tear-out survey in the information leaflet mailed to households.

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**3 Victoria Rd:  
empty for 879 days**

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

It has now been unoccupied for 879 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the future options for the building.

## Local talents chosen to dance with Royal NZ Ballet



**Called to the barre... Devonport's (from left) Edie Warman-Clough, Isobel Mahoney, Seb Lewis and Jai Elphick-Moon have been chosen to dance with the Royal New Zealand Ballet.**

Four students from the Devonport School of Dance will feature in the Royal New Zealand Ballet's Auckland season of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

The two girls and two boys were picked from among 188 who auditioned from across the city for the annual Christmas performances.

Dance school principal Emily Summerville put up 13 young dancers for the coveted roles. "Even to audition is a great opportunity for them," she says. "Getting to dance with the main dancers is all very exciting and an achievement after a difficult time this year; it's so nice for them to have the opportunity to perform."

The chosen dancers are: Edie Warman-Clough, aged 11, from Narrow Neck; Isabelle Mahoney, 10, and Seb Lewis, 11, both from Stanley Point; and Jai Elphick-Moon, 8, from Bayswater.

The ballet's Christmas shows traditionally include roles for young talent drawn from the cities the company tours to.

In Auckland, two different casts – 22 children – will alternate in performances at the Aotea Centre this week and the Bruce Mason Centre next week.

Since auditioning in October, the students have been travelling across town for weekly rehearsals, on top of the two lessons they take in Devonport and extra practice they all put in.

Edie, Seb and Isabelle are all working towards their Grade 5 Royal Academy of Dance examinations and Jai is on the Grade 3 syllabus.

For *Sleeping Beauty*, Seb and Jai are page boys, with Seb and Isabelle also in a flower garland dance, and Edie having a key part among the young dancers who, while they spent a relatively short time on stage, are always well received by audiences.

Summerville said: "It's fabulous to have the boys be able to do it. There's not too many boys who do ballet, but those who stick at it can do really well."

Seb is an example of that, having been selected for extra training at the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington, where he travels quarterly.

Seb told the Flagstaff he loved dancing. "It just makes me feel free."

For Jai, it was the "elegancy and smoothness" of the movements that appealed.

Isabelle says she feels excited about the chance to dance with the professional company. "I feel more confident doing what I love."

Edie said she felt "good" looking towards her debut in the classic fairytale, thanks to the round of rehearsals. "I love performing in front of an audience, I'm nervous when I speak in front of people, but dancing is different."

• *The Sleeping Beauty* is on at Aotea Centre until Sunday 6 December and then at the Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, on Friday 11 December at 7.30pm, and on Saturday 12 December at 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Bookings are via Ticketmaster.

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# All the Fun of the St Leo's Fair



**Making a splash... the spongebob stand was as popular as ever (above)**

Several hundred people braved the rain to attend the annual St Leo's School Fair last Sunday. The school raised \$15,000.



**Art in the making... (from left) Juju Goosen, Kate McGruer and Lily Claxton (all age 10) making Christmas tree decorations**

## The Next Black Swan

What will be the next big unexpected [Black Swan] surprise event? No one picked the Covid event and even less picked the subsequent spending-spree reaction, which has been quite extraordinary due to the liquidity made available via low interest rates, RBNZ printing money and lack of overseas travel – and now with people pouring money into hard assets (property and equities) the wealth effect of higher asset prices has encouraged people to spend up even more.

As a consequence, and with supply-chain issues, we are seeing increasing examples of shortages of labour, imported materials and consumer goods. This must surely lead to inflationary pressures, and the question is whether the RBNZ look through this as a Covid issue or will it have to start raising interest rates to quell demand. The trouble is, we can not be the only country doing this as it will send the currency through the roof and then the exporters will be crying poor – hence the RBNZ is putting the onus back on government policy to quell house-price inflation.

Given recent house-price rhetoric, lower interest rates are being priced out of the market and the risk is to the upside at some stage, especially if vaccines diminish the Covid risk. We are already seeing long-term bond rates drifting up and that will eventually come to mortgage rates, which should help slow down the asset-price appreciation.

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## Animal lover plans rescue shelter in Ngataringa Rd

A love for animals has inspired a Devonport resident to make plans to convert part of his home into a pet-rescue shelter.

Early last year, Brynmore Atkins had a motorcycle accident, and for a time he couldn't walk. He began to work with Pixie's Animal Rescue, at Dairy Flat, a sanctuary for abandoned, abused and neglected animals, and saw the good he could do.

"After finishing up at Pixie's Animal Rescue, I couldn't help but sink every moment of effort into continuing the cause," he says.

Now he is planning to transform his rental property on Ngataringa Rd into a safe haven for dogs that have been abused or abandoned and need rehoming.

In the last three months, he has rescued 12 dogs, some of which have been found homes with Devonport families.

Rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming dogs and cats from around Auckland, with Pixie's and independently, has cost Atkins plenty in vet bills and pet food, eating into his savings. But he wants to keep doing what he can.

"I have come so far from where I began. I have found a perfect property to build a facility to increase how effectively we can house and rehabilitate our rescues," he said.

He has started a doggy-daycare service to help cover costs for rescues. He has also received donations through his Givealittle page 'Bryn's Rescue', and other donations of toys and food.

Atkins' partner Abi Smith helped rescue



**Providing sanctuary... Bryn Atkins and Abi Smith with rescued puppy Emi**

an emaciated litter of puppies from Rotorua. Most of them have been rehomed, but they are still caring for the last pup, Emi, who has a hernia.

Atkins says people sometimes breed dogs to make money without knowing how to care for the puppies or place them in good homes. "It's so important to get your dog desexed. There are a lot litters of dogs that end up in bins. It happens more often than people think."

A neighbour in Ngataringa Rd, Rick Jacobson, said he liked the idea of a pet shelter. "If they are rescuing and rehoming animals, that is really good especially with so many animals

struggling through Covid-19. It shows they have good hearts and I think as long as they don't get overcrowded and there isn't howling at night, I don't mind." Another neighbour said that as long as the dogs were monitored, it shouldn't be a problem for the neighbourhood.

Atkins said his landlord has given him permission to go ahead with his plans, but he will have to apply for a resource consent from the council. In the meantime, and while work is done on landscaping and soundproofing, the number of dogs he is looking after will be kept to a minimum to keep the neighbourhood happy.



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From page 1

## AA: Lake Rd plans fall short

What Auckland Transport (AT) had proposed for \$47 million earlier this year fell well short of what AA members had wanted and expected to see on Lake Rd, said Irvine. Four-laning as much as possible was preferred, he said.

The survey comes as AT's board has Lake Rd back on its agenda, with any decisions coming too late for the Flagstaff deadline.

An AT spokesperson said the project was on hold at the moment due to lack of funding. "There is no work underway currently for the AA's survey to input into." Once restarted any new information would be considered, but it was "not possible to determine its relevance at this time."

In its survey, the AA is canvassing public opinion on paying extra to get what Irvine described as "a better outcome".

The survey's results would be collated, shared with Auckland Transport (AT) and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and made public. "We will also look to provide some direct feedback to local AA Members."

The around 6000 members living on the Devonport peninsula had been emailed for their feedback, Irvine said. "We'd anticipate around 700 complete responses at the end of it."

The AA also surveyed its members in 2016 and 2017. It did not make a submission on the latest proposal, however, as AT's consultation fell during the early stages of lockdown.

"Before anyone had a chance to challenge it, Covid-19 squashed Auckland Transport's

budget – the funds aren't there to look at better options," Irvine said.

For this reason, a primary focus of the survey was the targeted rate, an approach that did not appear to have been considered, he said. "It's not an appealing prospect, but it could prove to be the only way forward."

While it was not common for the AA to survey its members on specific local roads, Lake Rd was a special case. "It's well known to so many Aucklanders (not just locals), and the issues it faces reflect the challenges we're grappling with across the whole city – how do we fit ever-increasing numbers of people and vehicles into limited road space?"

The AA's preferred configuration for Lake Rd was to widen as much as possible to allow four lanes of traffic, plus separated cycle lanes. "We'd be open to the extra lanes being T2/T3, assuming the number of buses justifies it – the idea is to move as many people as possible down the road at busy times."

Irvine said AT had indicated something along these lines could be delivered for around \$100 million. "It would be a case of shifting kerbs rather than widening the whole road corridor (and extending it into people's properties) – so not as costly or disruptive as larger-scale options," he maintained.

AT's spokesperson said the \$100 million option was unlikely to meet strategic objectives, including value for money. AT was not able to set targeted rates, although council could.

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## Pat walked the talk in Devonport for 33 years



**Pat on the back... Pat Bestic (left) thanks Pat McKay for running the Devonport Walking Group for more than three decades**

Pat McKay, the organiser of the Devonport Walkers group, is retiring from the role after 33 years, but is happy she's helped create a healthier community.

McKay (88) started the group with her late husband Jim. "We wanted to start walking and thought it a bit boring by ourselves so invited others to join us." Notices were placed at Devonport New World and at doctors surgeries, and the Devonport Walkers group was formed.

It meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9am outside Clarry's in the New World square. Walks take an hour before the group circles back for a coffee and a chat at the cafe.

It currently has 97 members, with 30 to 45 turning up for each walk. The oldest current member is Chris Robertson, aged 94.

McKay would keep track of members, get one to select the walk, and collected a \$10 yearly subscription. Six dollars from each member went to charity – hospice and the Devonport Community House – with the remaining \$4 put towards "big birthday" occasions to celebrate 60th, 70th and 80th milestones. The group also meets for picnics and has a winter and summer lunch at McHugh's of Cheltenham.

"There's been a few romances started from

the group," McKay told the Flagstaff at a special lunch last month at McHugh's, held to mark her retirement.

And over the years the walkers has also become a "caring group". Friendships developed on the walks led to support during illnesses or the loss of partners. When McKay's husband died five years ago, she found the walking group a great comfort.

The group has survived the Covid outbreak, although temporarily has lost some of its "swallows" – members from overseas who regularly arrive in Devonport for the

summer months.

Long-time group members Pat Bestic, and Kate and Clive Sinclair (the couple who have taken over running the group) thanked McKay for her efforts.

"It's been a pleasure... we've kept people healthy because they are out walking," said McKay.

Although she's had a few heart problems in recent years and "struggles a bit with the hills these days" McKay, who now lives at the William Sanders Village, intends to keep walking with the group.



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# Kapa haka skills and sausages on the menu at Hauraki



**In harmony... Devonport Primary's Emilia Pearce (left) and Keira Byers**

Hundreds of primary-school students turned out in good voice to perform at a peninsula kapa haka event hosted at Hauraki School last month.

Six local schools and two from further north attended the morning of Maori song and dance, after the annual larger cultural festival held at Onepoto School in Northcote was put on hold this year due to major reconstruction work.

After a powhiri, students were ushered into the hall, where Hauraki principal Clarinda Franklin said she had been happy to step in with a venue. Senior Hauraki student Maddisyn Sara handled the task of MC with aplomb, wel-

coming first her school, then Vauxhaull, Upper Harbour, and St Leo's to the stage,

A morning-tea break was especially popular, with 500-plus free sausages put on courtesy of North Shore construction company Naylor Love, which is seeking to raise its profile in the community and attract more young people into the industry.

After the break, Bayswater School performed with the biggest group of the day, with around 60 students singing in impressive harmonies. They were followed by groups from Stanley Bay, Greenhithe and Devonport Primary.

Matua Gary Parata, who teaches kapa haka at a number of schools, spoke and sang to end the event, telling the students that kapa haka provided a grounding and skills for life.

Parata has been teaching kapa haka at Hauraki for around 10 years, after taking over the role from a relative. At the time he lived in the area, but for the last five years he has been based in Taranaki, travelling up weekly to continue his work.

He acknowledged the skills of kapa haka teacher and musician Whaea Vikki Demante, who judges at the national Te Matatini competitions and tutored the northern schools that attended.

Demante said that while primary-school events were about students having fun and doing their best, ahead of competition, it was important to strive for understanding and high standards.

"My main purpose in these schools is giving pupils and their parents memories," she said.

If they could look back with pride and understanding on their performances, it would help build a better future.

In praising the boutique-sized peninsula event, she said it had a great atmosphere, where schools did not feel like "just a number."

Judging by the enjoyment on the faces of the performers showing their skills, they all felt special.



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**Peninsula schools perform... Top: St Leo's (from left) Laura Welson, Jessie Wescott and Alice Gillies. Middle: Stanley Bay boys mid-haka, with Brody Baker standing, and in front (from left) Stryder Sommerville, Angus McCrory and Otto Abraham. Above left: Hauraki's Ellie Job (front) and Lucie Knight (right). Above right: Bayswater School boys (from left) Quinn Latu, Lhukyah Takapu and Connor Davies.**

## St Leo's old boy shares kapa haka knowledge with the next generation



**Proud leader... Rosmini student Anthony Pita with the St Leo's kapa haka group he's taught this year**

Rosmini College prefect Anthony Pita spent this year 'paying it back' to his old Devonport school, taking kapa haka classes at St Leo's Catholic Primary School.

Last week, this culminated in Anthony's young charges making him "proud" performing with other local schools at a kapa haka festival hosted by Hauraki School.

Seventeen-year-old Anthony, who was named Rosmini's Dux for 2020, was not just the top scholar, but also a Maori leader at the school and a keen football player-captain.

Taking kapa haka was a first for him: "It was a new learning experience, especially in terms of teaching the girls, what with going to an all-boys school and also having to learn what they could do in cultural terms

of kapa haka."

He ran weekly Wednesday morning sessions before going to his own classes.

After leading the St Leo's group of around 30 students at last week's performance of two waiata and a haka at the festival, Anthony headed off to an afternoon statistics scholarship examination.

He would like to continue with kapa haka next year, if he can manage it with university studies.

Anthony won an academic scholarship to the University of Auckland, where he plans to study English, Law and Psychology.

Writing is another interest. He used lockdown as a chance to finish and publish his first novel, *The Harder They Try*, which

he said was "about a kid who had cancer and was chasing a dream about playing pro rugby".

"It's really important to do something creative as an outlet," he says.

Anthony's own kapa haka journey began at St Leo's when he was in Year 6. The Stanley Point resident performed throughout his high-school years, with the exception of this Covid-disrupted 2020.

"It's something I really enjoy connecting with my culture with," says Anthony, who identifies with Ngati Wai and Ngati Ranginui.

Another former St Leo's student, Veronique Simmonds, was this year's co-head girl at Carmel College.

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[bayleys.co.nz/1451275](http://bayleys.co.nz/1451275)

3 1 1 1

**Auction (unless sold prior)**  
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**Victoria Bidwell** 021 947 080  
[victoria.bidwell@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:victoria.bidwell@bayleys.co.nz)

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## By Rob Drent

The economic impact of Covid is slowly but surely clawing its way around the Devonport business district. While the number of shop closures hasn't been an avalanche, the pressure is building.

Some of the for-lease signs – such as at the closed former ANZ bank – have been up so long they are beginning to fade in the sun. The former Westpac bank building has been vacant for some time, as has the large retail shop on Victoria Rd next to The Arcade. The shop on the corner of Fleet St has remained untenanted after former occupant Green Planet moved down the road earlier in the year. Devonport Shoes has closed down. Now Scoops, an ice-cream shop offshoot of the ever-popular White's Dairy, is closing down in Victoria Rd after a couple of years. It simply couldn't hold on until summer, and the uncertain number of tourists that will bring.

The ASB bank will close in March, leaving

another empty building in the shopping centre.

I'm uncertain how many other businesses are just holding on, but times are tough for everyone. A visit to Helensville last weekend revealed only one out of the town's four cafes reopened after the first Covid lockdown.

Foot traffic in Devonport seems down – are people in the habit of buying more online, staying home more and going out less? The lack of foreign tourists will bite further into the local economy in the first few months of 2021.

Some café closures seem inevitable, but more established businesses should survive – just. Now, more than ever, people need to continue to buy local.

Hats off then to Jess' Underground Kitchen (JUK) – which opened this year in the old AMC butchers building on Victoria Rd – and Signal Hill (a restaurant and bar) which is opening soon at 24 Victoria Rd. It takes a lot of guts to launch a business in the current economic climate. Get out and support them.

Speaking of support, sports clubs have been doing it hard too – with games and social functions badly affected by the 2020 lockdowns. So it was heartening to see almost 300 people turn

out for the North Shore Rugby club's Seagull's function last week. The club has also attracted good numbers to recent All Blacks matches.

Decisions will be made soon on whether to continue with the AT Local ride-share service in Devonport. There's a lot to like about the service: convenience, friendly drivers, non-polluting electric vehicles and cost (it's heavily subsidised). The downsides have been widely canvassed: lack of accessibility to some (a smartphone is needed, and an app, which is hard for some older residents), kids under 16 aren't eligible, it competes with buses and it can be oversubscribed at peak times.

I would go further and say the parameters of the trial were too narrow and should have been extended months ago. The AT Local vehicles are often seen parked up for hours during the days, with no fares, like taxis. The drivers would be on a set rate and as the cars are electric, the running costs are cheap. Why not have them constantly driving a route round Devonport in off-peak times, offering an accessible minibus-style service to the ferry terminal area and New World? It would remove some of the criticism that AT Local is a rich suburb's taxi service.

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**Devonport 2/3 Arihi Terrace** 4 2 1 1 2

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- Stunning views over the golf course.
- Spacious open plan living saturated in all day sun.
- Four bedrooms, two bathrooms plus rumpus.
- Double garage with room for a work bench plus off street parking.
- In need of a lot of work and a full upgrade.
- All inspections welcome. Phone to view today.

**Auction**  
13th Dec at 12.00pm on site. (unless sold prior)  
**View** Sat & Sun 11.30-12PM or by appointment.  
www.harcourts.co.nz/TK36835

**Grant Speedy**  
M 027 4511 800 P 09 486 9217  
grant.speedy@harcourts.co.nz

**Faith Li Goodwin**  
M 022 522 8868 P 09 486 9224  
faith.goodwin@harcourts.co.nz  
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# Harcourts



## Devonport 8/66 Victoria Road

2 2 1 1

### Captain's Watch - Harbour Views

A truly rare and exciting opportunity, first time on the market for 31 years, indeed testament to the panoramic harbour and city views, yet literally just a couple of minutes walk to the picturesque Devonport Village. Featuring double deck options from full North facing sun on one side to uninterrupted inner harbour and City views from the other side.

### Auction

On site, Sunday 13th December at 4.00pm  
(unless sold prior)

**View** Saturday & Sunday 3.15-4.00pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23372](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23372)

### Peter Restall

M 021 808 808

[peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz)

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008



# Harcourts



**Devonport 3/64 Victoria Road** 2 1 1 1

**Devonport 2/175 Victoria Road** 2 1 1 1 1

**Live Local, Love Local**  
 What could be more desirable than a superb Art Deco Apartment in the glorious seaside suburb of Devonport? This beautifully presented two double bedroom home has been renovated with meticulous attention to detail and high-quality fittings throughout. It also has the additional bonus of a single garage for off street parking.

**Auction**  
 In rooms, 16th Dec at 6.30pm (USP)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23382](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23382)

**Ian Cunliffe**  
 M 027 227 9322  
**Diana Murray**  
 M 021 911522  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
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Quiet, Elevated Sunny & Central Unit Investors, first home buyers or lock up and leave, this is a rare opportunity not to be missed for entry level Devonport, offering an outstanding location matched with tranquility and birdsong. Recent renovations include new carpet, upgraded insulation in the roof, mains pressure hot water cylinder, optical fibre broadband plus safety glass in the ranchslider.

**View** [www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23374](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23374)

**Peter Restall**  
 M 021 808 808 P 09 446 2114  
[peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz)  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
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**Devonport 4 William Bond Street** 4 2 1 1 1

**Bayswater 16 David Street** 3 1 1 1 1

**Fantastic Family Sized Villa**  
 Opening the front door of this gorgeous single bay villa you have an immediate feeling of space and light. The new white washed oak flooring, big wide hallway and fresh white walls combining to create a calming environment and a lovely open feel to this family home.

**Auction**  
 On site, 13th December at 5.00pm (USP)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23368](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23368)

**Diana Murray**  
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**Auction**  
 On site, 6th December at 6.00pm (USP)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23364](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23364)

**Jane Hastings**  
 M 021 735 263  
**Jackie Mark**  
 M 021 458 797  
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**Hauraki 15a Hororata Road** 3 2 2 2 1

**Devonport 62 Lake Road** 3 2 2 1 2

**Hauraki Character Charmer With Pool**  
 23 years of ownership coming to an end. This beautiful character bungalow is situated over two levels. Downstairs could be used as a granny flat! Surrounded by tropical plantings on 527m2 of land, and perfectly private behind a high brick wall, the home is bathed in sunshine and has a wonderful heated saltwater pool at the rear ready for summer!

**Auction**  
 On site, 8th December at 6.00pm (USP)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23284](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23284)

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**Jackie Mark**  
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**Auction**  
 On site, 6th December at 2.00pm (USP)  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23354](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23354)

**Jackie Mark**  
 M 021 458 797  
**Jane Hastings**  
 M 021 735 263  
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# Harcourts



**Hillcrest 4/87 Ocean View Road**

4 2 1 1 2

**Price-Space-Location**

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**For Sale** \$1,095,000  
**View** Sat & Sun 2.00-2.30pm  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23357](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23357)

**Jenny Hinton**  
 M 027 773 1841  
[jenny.hinton@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:jenny.hinton@harcourts.co.nz)  
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**Waiheke Island 44/4 Bay Road**

1 1 1 1

**Must Sell!**

Own it before Christmas!

Tucked into a secluded spot of the Waiheke Island Resort this well-presented, north aspect apartment has views to the Hauraki Gulf. Walk to Cafes, Palm Beach, Ostend Village and the Open Markets. Maintain current management or keep for your exclusive use. The perfect getaway.

**For Sale** \$365,000  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23352](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23352)

**Karen McMahon**  
 M 027 572 9659  
**Greg de Marigny**  
 M 021 266 1671  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
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**Devonport 10b Victoria Road**

2 2 1 1

**Spectacular Penthouse Apartment**

Seldom does an opportunity come along to purchase a stunning new penthouse apartment in the heart of the historic Devonport Village. Featuring bespoke fixtures and fittings throughout and attention to detail in every aspect of the design and quality of the chattels, this an extremely desirable and very rare offering.

**For Sale**  
 By Negotiation  
**View** by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23339](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23339)

**Diana Murray**  
 M 021 911522  
**Ian Cunliffe**  
 M 027 227 9322  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
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**Devonport 79a Stanley Point Road**

4 2 2 1 2

**Sensational City, Sail & Sunset Views**

Experience the epitome of executive Stanley Point living, showcasing the most outstanding intimate 180-degree inner harbour & CBD views, rivalled only by the cliff-top masterpiece home itself, which has recently enjoyed an extensive "no expense spared" renovation, that has yet to be lived in! The question to ask yourself is when can I move in?

**For Sale**  
 By Negotiation  
**View** as advertised or by appointment  
[www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23243](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23243)

**Peter Restall**  
 M 021 808 808  
[peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz)  
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**Devonport 39 Ewen Alison Avenue**

3 1 1 1 1

**Pretty As A Picture**

A delightful single bay villa located on a leafy central Devonport Avenue. Beautiful kauri floorboards a pretty bay window and original tiled fireplaces all adding to the ambience. The main lounge room has floor to ceiling large bifold doors that open to an elevated deck, set amongst a backdrop of large trees giving you a very private space and outlook that will be the envy of many.

**Auction**  
 In rooms, 26th Nov at 6.30pm (USP)  
**View** [www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23366](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23366)

**Diana Murray**  
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**Devonport 3/40 Lake Road**

2 1 1 1

**Opportunity To Live In Devonport**

- Stylish two bedroom home
- Own courtyard garden
- Walk to the beach
- Call to view

**View** [www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23325](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/DP23325)

**Maria Stevens**  
 M 021 979 084  
[maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz)  
**Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd**  
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## Long break a bonus for Tall Black family man

Basketball star Tom Abercrombie is looking forward to another Breakers season after enjoying an unexpected spell of family-and-friends time around Devonport. He tells Helen Vause about the life-changing power of parenthood and making plans for an off-court career.



**Shore boy... Basketball star Tom Abercrombie at Cheltenham Beach, prior to his return to Australia for the upcoming Breakers season in the NBL**

Tom Abercrombie has just about as many balls in the air as he can handle right now.

And that's saying something for this New Zealand Breakers star and premier player in the Australian National Basketball League.

The Abercrombies – Tom, wife Monique and their three young children – are another family grappling with the spin of the Covid curve ball.

Although the basketball season in Australia should be well underway by now,

with Abercrombie jetting weekly across the Tasman to play, this year the teams are still on the ground. And although he hopes the season start is getting closer, with Christmas coming up fast, Abercrombie still doesn't know when he'll be taking off or where he will be going in Australia with the Breakers.

And just as importantly, he doesn't know how that's going to work out with keeping his family close by.

When the Flagstaff caught up with him,

Abercrombie was racing off to another practice, with a busy training schedule ahead of leading his team onto the court at the Spark Arena for a celebrity game.

"It'll be our first game since February. It will be a shock to the system for us all to actually get out there and play," he says with a grin.

In a year that's been far from business as usual for professional sportspeople, 33-year-old Abercrombie says there has been a silver lining, in him having so much more time for himself and his family.

This year, Abercrombie also started his MBA through AUT University and he's relishing the challenge

"In basketball, you know you are going to be pretty much done after your mid-30s. I'm feeling really good right now and no doubt I've got a couple of years left in me, but I am at the stage where I need to be working towards transition into my life after playing basketball."

He's thinking his future could lie in sports management, and meanwhile he's confident he has the motivation and organisational skills to juggle the three years of part-time study he's signed up for, alongside basketball and the demands of family life.

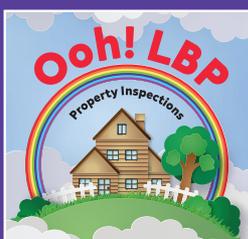
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## Rail tunnel should lead to peninsula

Great news is coming from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to rate a rail-only tunnel as the preferred option for a second harbour crossing.

It makes complete sense under ecological and economic aspects: We certainly don't need even more roads and cars causing congestion, whether they are electric or not.

Light rail can be built at a fraction of the cost of a road tunnel, because it can be of much smaller diameter and requires far less ventilation, traffic management and evacuation installations.

There remains one big question about the routing: Why on earth should the proposed

line bypass the Devonport peninsula? Are we not despairing for relief of Lake Rd traffic? The logical solution would be a tunnel from the Britomart hub to stops in Devonport village, Belmont and Hauraki Corner before linking up with other public transport modes at Akoranga station.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board should get on board this train pronto and lobby Auckland Council, NZTA and central government as the likely funders, to make sure we are not being left behind when the North Shore finally gets an efficient public transport link to the rest of the city.

**Robert Weber**

## Come on, ASB: put service before profit

It is very disappointing and a major breach of faith to its many long-term, loyal customers for ASB to close its Devonport Branch in March.

Our freshly minted new MP Simon Watt should use his reported extensive banking experience to lobby for this not to occur. Parking in Takapuna is a nightmare for the elderly and disabled. The ASB should use its advertising jingle to be a 'good sort' and on this occasion put service before profit.

Come on, ASB. Being an ASB customer myself for 71 years, why not allocate about 0.000001% of your billion-dollar profits to keep this branch open? As they say, "Cometh the hour cometh the man/woman".

**Bruce Tubb**

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# Harcourts Devonport Tides

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	Fri Dec 4	Sat Dec 5	Sun Dec 6	Mon Dec 7	Tue Dec 8	Wed Dec 9	Thu Dec 10
m	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm
H	10:57am 11:19pm	11:39am	12:03am 12:24pm	12:49am 1:13pm	1:39am 2:06pm	2:34am 3:02pm	3:35am 4:01pm
L	4:32am 4:57pm	5:13am 5:42pm	5:56am 6:30pm	6:43am 7:21pm	7:35am 8:15pm	8:34am 9:13pm	9:38am 10:13pm

	Fri Dec 11	Sat Dec 12	Sun Dec 13	Mon Dec 14	Tue Dec 15	Wed Dec 16	Thu Dec 17
m	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm	am 3 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm
H	4:39am 5:00pm	5:43am 5:59pm	6:43am 6:58pm	7:40am 7:55pm	8:33am 8:50pm	9:24am 9:43pm	10:14am 10:35pm
L	10:42am 11:13pm	11:43am	12:12am 12:40pm	1:08am 1:35pm	2:03am 2:29pm	2:55am 3:21pm	3:44am 4:13pm

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# Lake Rd scheme was a waste of money

Ruth Jackson, Jan O'Connor, Trish Deans and George Wood are to be congratulated for trying to make Auckland Transport (AT) see some sense.

The scheme AT put up for comment in March this year was a ridiculous waste of our money, since it was going to do little or nothing to help the car-traffic problems on Lake Rd.

It was in fact going to make car traffic worse on Lake Rd, because the proposed redesign of the Belmont intersection abolished the three free-left turns.

It would be quite simple to improve traffic flow on Lake Rd now, if it was clearly marked out for two unimpeded traffic lanes both ways, and there was no parking.

This would only entail changing the

present road markings and getting rid of the little-used cycle lanes.

In the long term, the only way traffic is going to be significantly improved to Devonport is to build new roads.

One, based on Francis Street, could run right through from the motorway. The other could be a causeway linking the Toll Plaza with Bayswater point. With the amount of tunnelling going on in Auckland, there should be a good supply of suitable fill material readily available

Incidental to improving traffic access to Devonport, there is at present the ludicrous and potentially dangerous situation where the only naval base in New Zealand has only one road access.

**Denys Oldham**



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## 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](mailto:news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz) or post to Devonport Flagstaff, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.



## Christmas Workshops

December 16 and 17  
Belmont Intermediate School

**LittleCooks 10am-12pm**

**The Stitchery 12.30-2.30pm over 2 days**



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## Make a Mini Gingerbread House!

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email [team@littlecooks.co.nz](mailto:team@littlecooks.co.nz) to register



## Make your own Christmas stocking with your name embroidered on and a tree decoration

12.30-2.30pm  
Cost \$85 for 2 afternoons  
email [dfeenstr8@gmail.com](mailto:dfeenstr8@gmail.com)




## DEVONPORT PENINSULA TRUST

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# OUT&ABOUT

**Maria Teape** Community Coordinator  
445 9533 | [maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz)

---

### FRIDAY AFTER 5 CLARENCE STREET PARTY

**Friday 4 December, 5pm-10pm**  
Come along to Clarence St for Devonport's favourite street party, with live music, food vendors, family fun and entertainment for all ages.

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### DEVONPORT LIONS SANTA PARADE & DEVONPORT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

**Sunday 6 December, 11am-3pm**  
**Windsor Reserve, Devonport Waterfront**  
Commencing with Devonport Lions Santa Parade, at 11am, followed by Devonport Christmas Festival in Windsor Reserve until 3pm. Including Dance in the Park, the Devonport Craft & Fine Food Market, food and info stalls, preschool play zone and more.

---

### RAUMATI/SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY

**Tuesdays, Windsor Reserve Devonport & Thursdays, Bayswater Park, Bayswater**  
**Until 10 December, resuming again 12 January, 9:30am-11.00am Cost: Free**  
Fun times for preschoolers to play with big toys, be active and to make new friends. Come and enjoy our beautiful parks! Caregiver supervision is required. **For further info visit:** [www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](http://www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz).

---

### 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](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz)**

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### Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

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

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

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# Ocean swimming just what the doctor ordered for Joe



At nearly 86 years old, Joe McCallum (left) is eyeing a gold medal in the 3.8 km Swim the Shore race from Narrow Neck to Takapuna beach on 12 December.

He's won bronze and silver in his age group in past events. "It would be great to win gold to complete the set," he says.

McCallum first started swimming as a 10-year-old, "when my dad threw me into a pool in Glasgow during the war years".

Immigrating to New Zealand in 1956 and settling in Bayswater, he's always loved the proximity to the sea, although he didn't take up competitive swimming until joining the North Harbour Triathlon Club, at the age of 65. A keen runner as well, he can claim to be the first to have run a set-course marathon on Great Barrier Island.

McCallum has been training alone for the last couple of years: his long-time triathlon buddy Alec Hill, now 87, was forced into retirement due to "lack of breath".

Training events for the Swim the Shore have been taxing. In the Round North Head Classic, he failed to "keep an eye on the buoys", got swept off course and ended up swimming a few

hundred metres more than he needed to.

McCallum has also signed up for the weekly 1km swim at the Takapuna Beach Series, but the weather in his last race generated a challenging headwind.

"That was tough, with a strong northerly coming in on the nose."

The water can be cold too, but McCallum is aided by microclimatic conditions near his home.

"The sun comes over the mudflats, and when the tide comes in the water is a couple of degrees warmer than Takapuna – it's great for training at this time of year."

McCallum puts his longevity down to swimming and a relatively healthy lifestyle.

"Swimming is the best exercise there is – it doesn't hammer the joints... all the books I've read on Alzheimer's and other old-age diseases emphasise the need for exercise – you've got to have oxygen running through the body."

He only drinks alcohol once a week.

"I catch up with my brother in Australia once a week on Facetime and we have a black (a pint of Guinness) and a dram of whisky together for old times' sake."

## Covid-team staff put up in Narrow Neck

Defence Force personnel working at Covid-19 isolation facilities in Auckland who last month were moved into accommodation at Fort Cautley, Narrow Neck, have now left.

Royal New Zealand Navy Commander Fiona Jameson said the contingency force began duties on 9 November. All Devonport Naval Base staff were told they had moved in.

They were accommodated for two weeks in empty buildings and under Level 3 lockdown precautions.

This occurred after a Defence Force member who caught Covid at the Jet Park quarantine facility infected a Defence civilian staff member at a workshop held at a city apartment complex being used by Defence personnel working on the Covid-19 response. 'Case B' then went

onto to infect a third Defence Force staff member in Wellington several days later. A fourth person, a shop assistant in central Auckland, has been linked to the same outbreak but how the connection came about is a mystery.

Commander Jameson said those shifted to Fort Cautley were not working at the Auckland quarantine facility but members of a wider contingency force later used to support security services there. "They do not stop or interact with the public when moving between their accommodation and their place of duty," she said.

It is understood the contingency team swelled after the mainly Army staff at the Jet Park were forced into isolation and were awaiting results of Covid tests. No cases of Covid had been reported or were suspected

at Devonport Naval Base, the Navy told its staff at the time.

The housing of the contingency force is unrelated to the pre-fabricated housing units being installed overlooking the back field of Fort Takapuna reserve. These are for temporary accommodation for up to five years while existing buildings are upgraded and from which some personnel have been shifted to the main base in Devonport.

In all, 436 personnel are accommodated across the entire Navy base, with 64 remaining at Narrow Neck. Numbers at Fort Cautley have been reduced in recent months to allow for the upgrade to the site, which includes the Officer Training School. The work is budgeted at \$7 million.





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**AUCTION**

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**VIEWING**

Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm  
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**Sue Harrison**  
 021 909 549  
 s.harrison@barfoot.co.nz  
 Devonport 09 445 2010



**Toni Gregory**  
 021 044 3663  
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Sat/Sun 11:00-11:30am  
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**Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
t.fitzgerald@barfoot.co.nz  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**Tracey Lawrence**  
021 1720 681  
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 at Barfoot & Thompson Devonport  
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**VIEWING**  
 Sat/Sun 12:00-12:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/803090](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/803090)

 **Tracey Lawrence**  
 021 1720 681  
[t.lawrence@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:t.lawrence@barfoot.co.nz)  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Trish Fitzgerald**  
 021 952 452  
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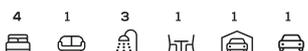
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# MP and councillor respond to Stanley Bay ferry axing

North Shore MP Simon Watts says a petition he launched calling for the retention of the Stanley Bay ferry service – due to end on Christmas Eve – is closing in on 1000 signatures.

Watts plans to present the petition to Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT) early next year.

Meanwhile, North Shore councillor Chris Darby wants commuters to have an early indication of the outcome of AT’s review of public transport options connecting to the Devonport ferry service.

A decision is expected to be made public in the New Year and take effect from late January, but will be decided by AT before Christmas.

“I know that students and people returning from summer holidays make ticket purchases and buy monthly passes and want certainty,” Darby told the Flagstaff. He wants AT to make its intentions clear as soon as possible after deciding on its preferred feeder services.

Darby has accepted that the Stanley Bay ferry service he has championed is “frozen” for now, given a need for AT to save \$10 million post-Covid and because of low patronage.

A Stanley Bay resident, Darby has been doing his own passenger counts. At peak morning times he said he had counted at most 39 people

on board, with just 13 passengers returning from the city one recent evening at 6.05pm. “Going back [to the city] there is often no one.”

Darby said he had quizzed transport advisers on whether either the Devonport or the Bayswater ferry could go via Stanley Bay. “AT has modelled this and it just does not stack up.”

Watts met AT last month, saying he wanted an open dialogue and full briefing on the reasons behind the decision to halt the service.

“It’s become clear from my meeting that this is a funding issue, so I’ll be looking at how I can lobby to get the funding back on the books, hopefully in the next budget. The petition will be a great help in making it clear to those making those decisions that the community needs these services.” He said AT told him that the Stanley Bay ferry “could be reinstated if and when additional budget becomes available”.

Watts thought there was a lot of room to improve public transport generally to reduce congestion and improve connections. The vulnerability with the Harbour Bridge closing in September highlighted this. Improving local bus services would also help minimise people switching to their cars, he said.

AT says the 806 bus route from Stanley Bay to Devonport provides commuters with

a viable alternative to get a ferry to town. It is weighing upgrading the 806 bus frequency (alongside that of the 807 from Cheltenham) or supplementing them in off-peak times with its AT Local ride-share vehicle service.

The AT Local trial will either be made a permanent part of the transport mix – with AT Hop cards able to be used for payments, rather than the AT Local app – or it will cease altogether.

Local opinion is split between those who favour the buses and those who want to retain AT Local, which if it survives will no longer extend as far north as Belmont shopping centre, though a summary of public submissions has not yet been revealed. That information will soon be presented to AT’s board, but the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and the public will not be brought into the loop until next year.

Darby believes that AT Local has been successful and has pointed out to AT that cutting it comes with some “reputational risk”, indicating that the service had failed, when it had not, but rather may have been a victim of tough circumstances. Travel patterns were changing, Darby said, with innovative public transport sought after.

“If you take away AT Local entirely, you have nothing to build off for the future.”

## THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### NEW COMMANDER AT DEVONPORT

Devonport Naval Base has welcomed Commander Phil Wheadon as he takes over as Commanding Officer of Devonport Naval Base – HMNZS Philomel – from Commander Ange Holland.

Commander Wheadon, a Marine Engineer Officer, is from the United Kingdom and came to New Zealand in 2004 with his family, settling in Browns Bay and taking up engineering roles within the Royal New Zealand Navy.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1983 as a sailor, later attending university and rejoining as an officer.

His children are grown up and his son, Sub Lieutenant Sam Wheadon, is an assistant Marine Engineer Officer in Offshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS Otago. His wife works for the Defence Force as a civilian.

He moves into the Base Commander role from Fleet Engineer Current Operations, having been promoted to Commander in 2018. “It was a bit of a surprise, becoming Commanding Officer

Philomel. You aspire to command roles, but engineers tend not to get them. I was ready to get out of engineering for a bit, and I’m very proud to be selected for this role. It’s an incredible opportunity.”

The job of Commanding Officer HMNZS Philomel is very diverse, he says, and he looks forward to continuing the good relationships between the base and the North Shore community.

“There’s a huge range of areas you are responsible for and involved in. It could quite easily be overwhelming if you didn’t have a great team with you – and I do have a great team, who have been really helpful in managing this



**Commander Phil Wheadon reports for duty to Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Navy, as the new Commanding Officer of Devonport Naval Base.**

transition. I know my predecessor ran a really tight ship, and I hope I can live up to what she’s produced.”

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

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

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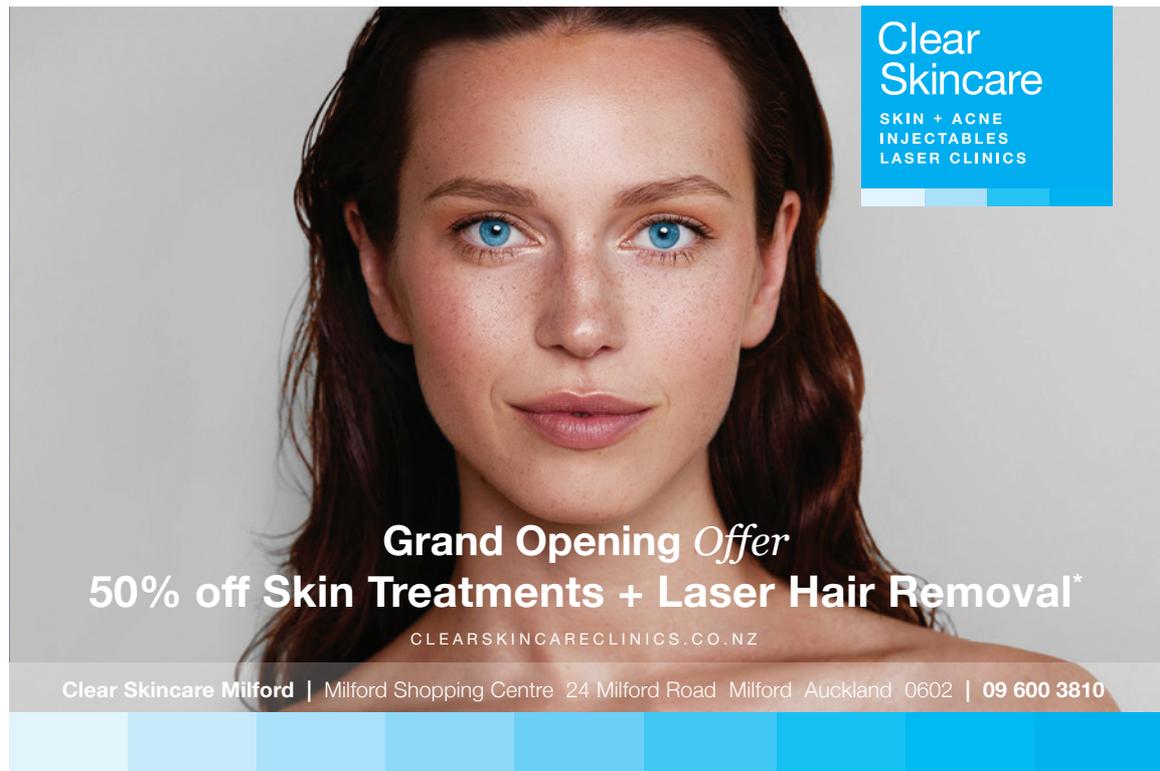
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Here are 10 things that happen to TAKAPUNA  
when YOU shop local this Christmas

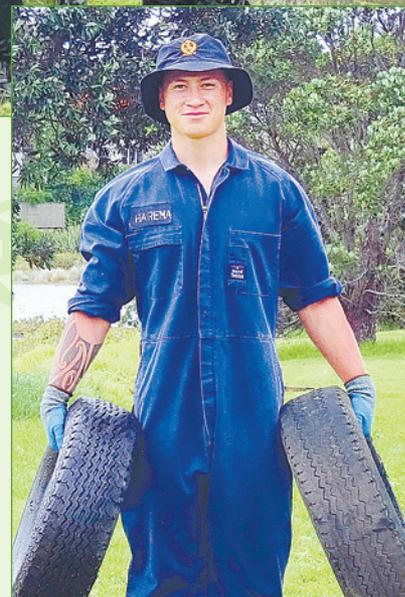
- 1 You take advantage of great customer service and expertise
- 2 You create and stimulate "Community"
- 3 More of the money you spend stays in our community
- 4 Spending locally creates more jobs for you and your neighbours
- 5 You support our local entrepreneurial spirit
- 6 You embrace what makes Takapuna unique and special
- 7 You create more choice of shops and services
- 8 You keep Takapuna a beloved destination for locals and visitors
- 9 You reduce your environmental impact
- 10 You reduce traffic and congestion by staying local

So come on, support local this Christmas!

i♥TAKAPUNA



# Navy recruits help clean up peninsula coastline



**All hands on deck... Navy recruits with some of the rubbish collected from the peninsula shoreline. Right: Ordinary Logistics Supply Specialist Kaleb Harema, with two tyres found in the clean-up.**

Navy recruits new to Devonport have made an early impact in their time in service with a big clean-up along the coastline from Hauraki to Ngataranga Bay. In all, 13,000 litres of marine litter was removed.

Twice a year, up to 100 recruits, working with the Sea Cleaners Trust, spend a day combing shores and waters around Auckland for discarded rubbish as an exercise in teamwork and community service.

The focus this time was on the Devonport peninsula, said Sea Cleaners founding trustee Hayden Smith. The Navy's second intake of the year was last month split into groups of

around 20 to work on areas around Harley Close, Northboro Reserve, Plymouth Cres and Ngataranga Rd.

"The efforts are a part of our combined effort to provide a community-based learning exercise for all the new recruits," said Smith. "As part of their humanitarian-aid training, we work together year on year to focus on regular clean-up activities."

For the past four years, regular work has been done up the Tamaki River, or on the Manukau Harbour, said Smith.

"This time it was important to focus on local waterways in the Navy's own community."



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# Restoring Takarunga makes finals of mayoral awards

Local community organisation Restoring Takarunga Hauraki has been nominated as a finalist in this year's Auckland Mayoral Conservation Awards.

"It is amazing to be nominated," said Restoring Takarunga Hauraki Environmental Coordinator Lance Cablk. "It feels like the programme has really developed in its collaborations with the Tupuna Maunga Authority, schools and other organisations."

The awards celebrate the work of conservationists dedicated to protecting the region's natural environment, and it's the second time Restoring Takarunga Hauraki has been nominated.

"Restoring Takarunga Hauraki represents the community, and being nominated really shows what we are doing here on the peninsula," Cablk said.

Along with the organisation's many planting and weeding projects around local reserves, it has been working towards various pest-free initiatives, including setting up traps around Maungauika.

"We knock on doors to get to know people and work with them to get every last rat, so we can declare Maungauika pest-free and ready for birds that fly in from the islands," Cablk said.

Last month, the group collaborated for the third time with a Defence Force youth group, who bussed in 72 young people to do weeding, mulching and planting at Jutland Reserve in Hauraki. "They were strong and enthusiastic,"



**Helping hands... (from left) Fritzi Udanga, Romy Udanga, Maloi Cee and Edna de Guzman help clean up Jutland Reserve**

Cablk said.

He has plans to expand areas of the reserve – which he says highlights the coastal fringe ecosystem – and improve that habitat for wildlife.

The Devonport Community Garden, where a nursery of native plants is grown, is a big contributor to Restoring Takarunga Hauraki's programme.

"We work with lots of iwi," Cablk said. "Fostering those connections is at the front and centre with the work we do. It is an honour and

responsibility to learn indigenous ways to care for the environment."

The award winners were announced last Saturday. A group of teens called Para Patrol, who have been restoring cultural land and waterways in Mangere and Otahuhu, took the top conservation award.

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki will host a volunteer-appreciation event at the Devonport Yacht Club this Sunday 6 December, 3pm to 5pm.



## Devonport Community Recycling Centre operators seeking a new trustee board

This story starts back in 1977 when a group of locals successfully lobbied Devonport Borough Council to begin New Zealand's first municipal recycling scheme, it was exemplar operation which went on to see waste management change for the better across the rest of the country.

Fast forward to 2020 and the Devonport recycling centre has been a part of the community for well over 40 years diverting waste from landfill and providing bargains for those with a keen eye in its reuse store.

The site has been managed by various groups over the years and

is run currently, by the Global Action Plan Oceania and in their four years of operations have

- Diverted an average of 80% of waste from landfill
- Created multiple job opportunities through their Reuse Shop and recycling activities
- Provided affordable, recovered second hand goods to the community
- Delivered waste education to hundreds of kids across Auckland

But now the social enterprise wants to reconnect the site back to its roots. The current board believe that the charity

belongs to the local community and needs to become focused on providing local solutions to local environmental issues. More collaboration, More local partnerships, More local impact.

They are seeking new passionate trustees to join their Board that are more representative of the Devonport peninsular community that they serve.

The residents here have a history of being leaders and innovators in recycling and have the opportunity to lead the region again as champions of zero waste thinking - a philosophy to reduce waste and use it as a resource.

**If you would like to know more or are interested in playing a part in the next chapter of this unique and historical site, drop into the recycling centre at 27 Lake Road for a trustee information sheet or email [info@globalactionplanoceania.com](mailto:info@globalactionplanoceania.com)**

# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

DEC 4, 2020

## Takapuna Grammar Special Awards 2020

### GOLD MERIT

Debating, Hockey, Peer Team, Environmental Group  
**Arabella Chapman**

### GOLD MERIT

Cricket, Football, Water Polo, Peer Team  
**Ella Cronshaw**

### GOLD MERIT

Arts Council, Leonessa and TGS Chorale, Hockey, Peer Team  
**Colette Morrison**

### GOLD MERIT

Journalism Club, Amnesty International Leader, Peer Team, Premier Advanced Debating  
**Laiba Batool**

### GOLD MERIT

Amnesty International, Peer Team, Leonessa, Student Librarian  
**Madoka Yamaguchi**

### CITATION

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD**

**Daniel Tan**  
**Jayden Choi**  
**Elizabeth (Libby) Easterbrook**  
**John Cheney**

### CITATION

**ARGYLE AWARD FOR SERVICE**

**Anya Christiansen**  
**Mac Dalzell**  
**Kennedy Scott**  
**Leo Lin**  
**Ella Morrison**

### THE HOUSE TROPHY

Winning House for 2020  
**KAHA**

### PENINSULAR CUP

Excellence in Performing Arts  
**Tausala Faulalo**

### FARQUARSON SHIELD

Winner Senior Speech Contest 2020  
**Not Given 2020**

### TGS YEAR 11 SPEECH CUP

Winner Year 11 Speech Contest for 2020  
**Not Given 2020**

### MARGARET CAMPBELL SHIELD

Overall Excellence in Languages  
**Henry Simpson**

### MIKE DONALD MEMORIAL AWARD

Most Committed Senior Art Student  
**Leah Kampkes**

### TONY STEELE AWARD

Service to Kapa Haka  
**Lomano Crichton**

### POST AWARD

Service to Kaupapa Maori  
**Reina Stilwell**

### AFS AWARD

Promotion of International Understanding  
**Laiba Batool**

### ZONTA INTERNATIONAL YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is intended to be given to a quiet leader: a down-to-earth young woman in Year 12 who doesn't seek recognition for herself but always looks out for others.  
**Angelina Lovison**

### LIBRARY SERVICE AWARD

Service to the Library  
**Molly Ryan**

### AROHA CUP

Awarded to a student from Special Education who has demonstrated strong achievement throughout the year.  
**Hamza Khan**

### DANIEL JAMES SHIELD

An award presented by ex-pupil Daniel James, recognises individual excellence by a Special Education Student.  
**Molly Ryan**

### SUCCESS CUP

Special Education – This cup was donated by Everard Allison and Elizabeth Fairgray. It acknowledges a student who has demonstrated the true meaning of success, a personal standard, reaching for the highest that is in us, becoming all that we can.  
**Ricky Buxton**

### MALCOLM FAIRGRAY CUP FOR HORTICULTURE

Special Education  
**Joshua Thomas**

### PRENTICE AWARD

This award is for a student who has shown significant growth and perseverance throughout the year. The recipient has continually sought their personal excellence often under testing circumstances.  
**Daisy Eaglesome**

### BENEFITZ GRAPHIC DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded by Benefitz printers to the top student in the design area. This is a \$1,000 scholarship.  
**Not Given 2020**

### EX-PUPILS' SCHOLARSHIP

Recognises a student in the senior school to support him or her to return to school the following year. It acknowledges unstinting diligence, participation and co-operation.  
**Ivan Tomanan**

### THE TAKAPUNA GRAMMAR SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

1 year further study awarded to a student who has used the opportunities Takapuna Grammar School affords for personal growth and international experience.  
**Hongtian (Charles) Wang**

### ROWAN NICKS SCHOLARSHIP

Further academic study at tertiary level to a student who has achieved in top 10% for two sciences and who is also studying an arts subject.  
**Evelyn Campbell**

### WARREN MASON SCHOLARSHIP

Further academic study at tertiary level for a student achieving at the highest level in Mathematics and Science.  
**Zak Beaumont**

### THE DORACE MASON SCHOLARSHIP

To recognise a student who is achieving at the highest level in Science.  
**Alana Rodrigues-Birch**

### THE PTA ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Recognition of a student who has persevered and shown resilience to achieve personal excellence.  
**Robert Wilson**

### THE PTA ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Recognition of a student who has persevered and shown resilience to achieve personal excellence.  
**Sarah McClune**

### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award  
**Oscar Garcia**

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

Top Achievers Scholarship (\$20,000)  
**Evelyn Campbell**

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship (\$20,000)  
**Tausala Faulalo**

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

**Ella Gladwell**

### AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

Year 12 Arts Award  
**Lucy Perry**

### WAIKATO UNIVERSITY

Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship (\$10,000)  
**Evan Williams**

### VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL-LEAVER EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Tangiwai Scholarship  
**Arabella Chapman**  
**Pippi Duncan**  
**Thomas Lee**  
**Leah Pank**  
**Imogen Pearce**  
**Felix Shaw-Bell**

### CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

**Matthew Du Faur**

### CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY

Hiranga Scholarship for Academic Excellence  
**Zoe Raines**

### CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

**Julian Lampen**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY NEW FRONTIERS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (\$2,500)

**Caitlin Walker**  
**Bethan Parker**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY DONNA-ROSE MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP (\$6,000)

**Daisy Eaglesome**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY LEADERS OF TOMORROW (\$6,000)

**Daniel Tan**  
**Jade Nguyen**  
**Ella Schenkel**  
**Esther Allis**  
**Felix Shaw-Bell**  
**Emma Tolcher**  
**Catherine Fairbairn**  
**Tom Christie**  
**Molly Tucker**  
**Zak Beaumont**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP (\$16,000)

**Nicola Korck**  
**Ruby Worrall**  
**Lucy Buckeridge**  
**Jacob Davey**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY NEW FRONTIERS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (\$20,000)

**Molly Sherlock**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY LEADERS OF TOMORROW (\$20,000)

**Connor Cowie**

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (\$35,000)

**Leah Pank**

Combined Churches of Devonport & Belmont  
present

# COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

**Thursday 17th December**  
**at Holy Trinity Church**

**Carols Start at  
7.00pm**

**Fun starts at  
6.00pm**

*Bring a picnic*

*There will be a sausage  
sizzle and ice-creams*



## LOCAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
20 Church St Ph: 445-0328

***A Service of Christmas Reflections***

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jolliest of times for you)  
22nd December 6.00pm

***Christmas Eve***

5.00pm 1st Christingle Service  
7.00pm 2nd Christingle Service  
10.30pm Community Carols  
11.00pm Midnight Eucharist

***Christmas Day***

8.00am Traditional Eucharist  
9.30am All Age Communion  
11.30am Christmas Lunch  
Free event but bookings essential

**THE LIGHT DEVONPORT CHURCH**  
90a Victoria Road Ph 445-1580

***Christmas Celebration Service***

Sunday 20th December  
10.00am Everyone welcome

**DEVONPORT METHODIST CHURCH**  
Cnr Lake and Owens Roads Ph 445-6801

***Christmas Eve***

7.30pm Celebrating Christmas

***Christmas Day***

9.30am All-age celebration service



**ST MARGARET'S BELMONT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
151 Lake Road Ph 445-0018

***Christmas Eve—24th December***

9.00pm Christmas Eve Service

***Christmas Day***

9.00am Christmas Service



**St FRANCIS de SALES & ALL SOULS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
2a Albert Road Ph 445-0078

***Christmas Eve***

5.30 Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Carols service and  
Midnight Mass

***Christmas Day***

9.00am Mass

**BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH**

168 Lake Road, Belmont Ph 445-6268

***Sunday 20th December***

4.30pm Carol Service  
& Community BBQ

***Christmas Day***

10.00am Christmas Service

The Church Leaders from the  
Devonport / Belmont Ministers'  
Association would like to wish  
you all a safe and  
happy holiday.



## Students help community house

Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) students have begun a series of projects aimed at promoting activities at the Devonport Community House.

The students involved are part of the school's International Baccalaureate programme, which requires them to complete 150 hours of community service.

"I am thrilled that we have gotten the opportunity to help the Devonport Community House as it has so much to offer," said student Jade Butler. "The other students and I hope to show this by helping the house increase their social-media presence to reach more people, and particularly youth."

The students are coming up with ideas for fun and exciting different graphic designs to use in promoting the house.

They have organised different activities, including Saturday afternoon table-tennis

sessions, and will be involved in decorating the community house's stall for Devonport's Santa Parade on Sunday 6 December.

"This is a student-led and collaborative initiative, where students show their planning, leadership, problem-solving and reflective skills," said TGS International Baccalaureate teacher Maria Blanco. "We are very excited to be working with the Devonport Community House to help them promote and share what they can offer the community."

Devonport Community House committee member Jenny Hamlin said: "We really wanted to get more young people involved in the House. We reached out to Takapuna Grammar School with an idea and they have been super receptive."

## Sculpture show back next year

The postponed 2020 Sculpture on Shore exhibition at Fort Takapuna has been re-scheduled for 30 October to 14 November 2021. The gala opening will be held on 29 October.

This will be Sculpture on Shore's 13th biennial event. Contributing artists are to be announced in the new year. Organisers are working on greater provision of an education programme for school tours.

## Christmas Briefs

**Santa's mail** Children wishing to send their Christmas wish list can do so via a Santa Mailbox at the main entrance to the Devonport RSA at 61 Victoria Rd. The post box will be in place from 8.30am to 5pm daily, until 14 December. Letters will be forwarded to Santa's helpers. For an acknowledgement, remember to include the name and address of the sender.

**Kai time** The final Kaitahi community dinner for 2020 will be held on Wednesday 16 December, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Bayswater School. It will be a Christmas barbecue of rescued food. All welcome, bring your own plate and picnic blanket. Volunteers to help prepare the kai in advance are welcome.

For details, please contact [leah@morganfamily.co.nz](mailto:leah@morganfamily.co.nz) or [brianna@briannaparkinson.co.nz](mailto:brianna@briannaparkinson.co.nz)

**Lunch date** Christmas Day lunch will again be hosted by Holy Trinity Church in its hall. The free community event, for which pre-booking is required, typically attracts more than 80 people – young and old – who do not have family and friends nearby to share the day with.

**Pop-up art shop** The Depot Artspace in Clarence St is hosting a Christmas pop-up shop daily until Wednesday 16 December. Find local art, craft and design. Hours: Monday noon to 3.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 10am to 3.30pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

## No confirmed date for Gull petrol station in Cheltenham

Tainui Motors has been demolished in Cheltenham but no date for the construction of the Gull petrol outlet has been set.

The Flagstaff understands Gull is still working through a number of resource-consent and mediation issues with neighbours and affected parties.

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# Sculpture set to fly in 2021

The Greer Twiss albatross sculpture *Flight Trainer* is likely to finally be installed on Devonport's Victoria Wharf in March next year.

Questions had been raised about what was happening with plans to bring it to Victoria Wharf during discussions about the historic tug boat Willam C Daldy being docked there.

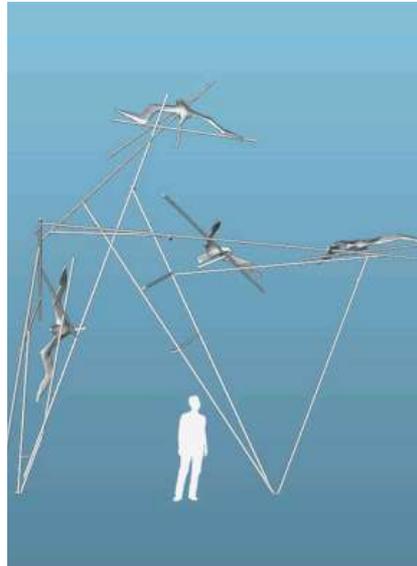
Council staff told the Flagstaff they had no updates when asked last month.

But the sculpture's future arose at a recent Parks, Arts, Community and Events Committee meeting. It had been confirmed as part of the council's Public Art 2020/21 programme, North Shore councillor Chris Darby told the Flagstaff.

Original plans were for the project to be completed earlier this year, but it was delayed due to Covid-19 lockdowns and delayed works programmes resulting from the council's Emergency Budget.

The sculpture portrays albatrosses in flight.

Darby said welding tests were being done on the piece by Otahuhu Engineering, with factory-based fabrication expected to be completed pre-Christmas. "We are looking at a proposed on-wharf installation time frame of March."



**Birds on a wire... An artist's impression of what the *Flight Trainer* sculpture will look like**

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# America's Cup on show in Devonport



**Silver service... Former All Blacks captain Buck Shelford holds forth alongside the America's Cup**  
**Below: lunchgoers enjoying the event**

'Seagulls' flocked back in their hundreds to the North Shore Rugby Club on 20 November for the first traditional fundraising luncheon since Covid lockdowns.

But the 280 lunchgoers were overshadowed by the most important guest – the America's Cup – making a rare trip from its base at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and shining alongside the guest speaker, yachting great Brad Butterworth.

Renowned yachting commentator Peter Montgomery said it was rare to have the America's Cup at any event, so the Seagulls division of the North Shore Rugby Club must be "well connected".

Martin Cooper, managing director of Harcourts Cooper and Co, the club's main sponsor, conducted an auction, and former All Black captain Buck Shelford also entertained the audience from the podium.



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# New belle of the wharf given a fitting name



**Welcome to Devonport... Fiona Startup, who coordinated work on the new visitor-information caravan, at the recent official opening**

The new Devonport visitor-information caravan has been named – ‘Moana Belle’ – from a selection of more than 60 different name suggestions.

Devonport local Kerry Stroobant and Instagram handle @phillipa6a both submitted the name Moana, while Dawne Pearce and Frank Galvin suggested Belle. The naming committee created the identity Moana Belle.

Last month, locals gathered in the Devonport

ferry building to mark the opening of the caravan with cake and a few words from sponsors.

Devonport Business Association (DBA) Manager Shauly van Baaren said: “The caravan, its history, its custom design and cool paint job are certainly a conversation piece and a great photo opportunity for visitors to Devonport. As people start snapping pictures and posting online, the caravan will become a Devonport icon and must-visit for locals and

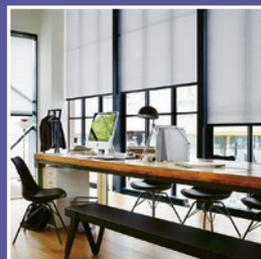
tourists alike.”

The information caravan will be managed by 28 volunteers, who will be coordinated by fellow volunteer Judy Birkett.

The naming committee comprised Devonport Rotary president Ian Cunliffe and Rotarian Sid Cuthbertson, volunteer coordinator Judy Birkett, volunteer Collin Cannon and DBA board member Fiona Startup, who originally proposed the caravan idea.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**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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**WANTED**

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**Family home sought.** We are a kiwi family recently returned from a period in London. We are looking to buy a 4-5 bedroom villa with a c.700sqm+ plot to give our young family a backyard to play in. Our search area is Cheltenham up to Narrow Neck and across to Glen Road in Stanley Bay. We have finance in place and are currently renting so can be flexible in timing. Very happy to speak directly or via your agent of choice. Please phone or text 0204 208 208. Kind regards, Kate & Kris

**Rental wanted** - older former Devonport lady and perfect 10 year old Springer Spaniel. Single story 1-2 bedrooms on flat section please. Local references. Call Jackie Cozby 021-029-71173.

**Wanted to buy** - One or two bedroom apartment in Devonport private cash buyer email [johnc6824@gmail.com](mailto:johnc6824@gmail.com)

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**Wanted: Long-term rental** Devonport/Bayswater/Belmont. Executive rental up to \$1700pw. Minimum 4 bedrooms for family of four. Start date early February 2021 (flexible) for minimum 12-month tenancy, possibly longer. References available. Please phone: David 021 277 4060

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**Pip McNair's Memorial Celebration**

To our friends.

Pip's memorial celebration will be held on Sunday 13 December (2pm) at the North Shore Rugby Club, Tui St, Devonport.

Pip passed away peacefully during the first Covid lockdown in April. Given our alert status since that time we have been unable to hold this until now. We look forward to welcoming as many friends as would like to come. If you have a story to tell, please let us know.

**For queries please contact Callum at [callum@cliponchallenge.co.nz](mailto:callum@cliponchallenge.co.nz)**

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# Getting some air at Scotty Brewer Skate Day

Around 200 competitors and supporters attended the Scotty Brewer Skate Day at Ngataranga Skate Park last month.

Prize winners were: U10 – Jesse Frazerhurst, 1st; Lenny Torrens, 2nd; Ari Saffer, 3rd. U13 – Dusty Schmidalter, 1st; Cobe Cook, 2nd; Sam Frazerhurst, 3rd. U16 – Lusiano Urale, 1st; Adelar Scherb, 2nd; Charlie Aubrey, 3rd. Girls: Jessica Ready, 1st; Yeva Savytska, 2nd; Tanja Swanepoel, 3rd. Open: Dushko Mamic, 1st; Lochlan McKay, 2nd; Corbyn Williams, 3rd.



Flying high... prizewinners (above) and airborne at left

## Smooth sailing to the Cup

**The 36th America's Cup, presented by Prada, is coming to Auckland.**

From 17th - 20th December, the America's Cup World Series and Christmas Race events will be held on the Waitemata Harbour.

There are 5 possible courses, with the final course selection announced on the morning of each race day, according to the weather. The races will then take place between 3 - 6pm.

### What does this mean for Devonport?

Devonport will be a popular destination for the event, so residents might want to plan ahead and be prepared for possible delays and congestion.

**Possible delays** AT and Fullers staff will do everything they can to run to normal ferry timetables, but speed restrictions on the harbour and plenty of spectators will impact journey times.

**Timetable changes** From about midday on race days there may be timetable changes. We'll publish all changes to sailings in advance. Use the AT Journey Planner or AT Mobile app to help you make your travel plans and stay ahead of any changes.

**For more information, visit [at.govt.nz/americascup](http://at.govt.nz/americascup)**



36<sup>TH</sup> AMERICA'S CUP  
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AUCKLAND 2021



# Multiple fire crews team up for training exercise



**Tunnel action...Dan Brady (left), and Warren Tucker at Fort Takapuna**

A fire in the tunnels at Fort Takapuna, with teenagers caught up in the smoke and darkness and an urgent need to get them out, was the scenario firefighters faced last weekend. Crews from five stations from across the Shore and further north attended the training session at the Narrow Neck Department of Conservation reserve on Sunday evening.

They entered the sunken barracks in teams, wearing breathing apparatus and carrying oxygen tanks, to bring forth life-sized dummies and test Fire and Emergency search-and-rescue procedures.

Warren Tucker, Devonport station's brigade principal officer in charge said its firefighters together with crews from Takapuna, Birkenhead, East Coast Bays and Wellsford all participated. Between 45 and 50 people were involved.

Six fire appliances and support vehicles – including a breathing-apparatus unit from Avondale, an operational unit allowing for canteen facilities for the five-hour exercise, and a lighting truck – were all in attendance to mimic a big and complicated call-out.

Exercise organiser and Devonport station officer and volunteer firefighter Dan Brady said as well as practising skills, building relationships was a key driver for the exercise. "It's so much easier on the ground if you know people." A recent example of a multi-crew response occurred when Devonport personnel attended a large fire in an industrial building in Triton Drive, Rosedale.

At the Fort Takapuna exercise, the '812 volunteer' Devonport crew led by John Ellington



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**Recovering the victims... emergency training working on a dummy “rescued” from the tunnels**

were first in the tunnels. The ‘811 career’ crew followed joined by other brigades.

A four-man Takapuna career team, led by senior station officer Quin Webster, was in a second-round replay of the scenario, which was staged twice to allow everyone to run through the required routines and pick up the pace.

“There’s a couple of things we’re trying to achieve here, to mentor the volunteers,” said Webster.

Focus areas were command-and-control procedures, entry protocols, and search and rescue. The location was great, he said. “It’s ideal for breathing apparatus in particular.”

Paul Garnham, a firefighting volunteer for 25 years and at Devonport station since 2002, was one of those in action. He emerged from the tunnels with heavy oxygen apparatus on his back, checking in with incident control before drawing breath with colleagues.

Volunteers at Devonport muster weekly and are on call after-hours and at weekends, sometimes attending no call-outs and on other occasions three to four a week. They undergo extensive training.

Devonport station had 16 firefighters in attendance, four manning the career appliance and six the volunteer one, with the extras rotated in.

The Fort Takapuna exercise had been planned for nine months, although without Covid-19 lockdown interruptions it would have been staged in September, rather than late November. Brady said he was keen to see similar large-scale exercises staged annually.



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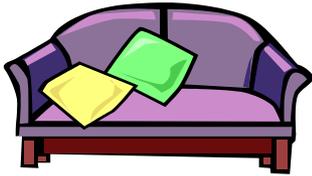
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Dennis Hale & Nathan Hale

# 20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Yachting supremo Sir Peter Blake's house in Bayswater sells for \$1.5 million. The 45 Norwood Rd home was used by Blake as a base to prepare Team New Zealand's successful defence of the America's Cup in February 2000.
- Retiring Belmont Intermediate School teacher Cheril Clarke-Jowsey is sent off in style, on the back of a Harley Davidson. Her long-held ambition was to ride on one.
- Dreams of a marina village at Bayswater remain alive with news that the executors of the estate of developer Martin Jones plan to pursue his vision. Jones died in October.
- Several hundred skateboarders, bike and scooter riders, parents and friends attend a Ngataranga Skate Park fundraiser.
- Life-saving medical equipment is stolen from an ambulance in Devonport, preventing call-outs for 90 minutes. Crew left the ambulance unattended on Vauxhall Rd for 15 minutes, while on a job, and returned to find a \$800 suction unit and several neck



Flagstaff interview subject...  
Roger Brittenden

collars stolen.

- A Devonport couple is hit with a \$35,000 bill from North Shore City Council for land they had already purchased. After Gerhard Zieroth and wife Mikki Kronen bought their property for \$700,000, a survey revealed 58sqm of their land was on a council road reserve. Council order them to pay \$35,000 for the land, or remove their garage and boundary fence.
- Unsung heroes Brian Kennedy and Pat Pearson receive North Shore Civic Awards. Pearson served on the Holy Trinity Church committee for 30 years, while Kennedy drove elderly residents to Devonport New World in a community van, over an 11-year period.
- Hazel Brown, who lived 90 years without the internet, joins up to the new SeniorNet club to learn the online basics and send emails.
- Cricket fan and administrator Roger Brittenden is the Flagstaff interview subject.



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# Audience numbers plummet at The Vic but upturn expected

Audiences at the Victoria Theatre have dropped by around 30 per cent on last year due to the two Covid lockdowns.

Over the previous four years, The Vic has had 60,000-plus patrons each year.

“This last calendar year has dropped overall by a third and currently attendance is running at 40 per cent down on last year.”

Victoria Theatre Trust co-chair Margot McRae said in her report to the trust’s annual meeting last week.

“The Trust is giving financial relief to our

operator The Vic Ltd, by effectively granting rental rebates on customer numbers, and we have supported manager Philipp Jaser in every way we can through this year.”

Audience numbers have been increasing in the last two months, but one problem has been that while the cinemas are open the movie offering has been much reduced. This is because the studios do not want to release films here until they can be released in the Northern Hemisphere, where many cinemas are closed, McRae said.

“Philipp Jaser has been doing a great job accessing a range of art-house, classic and children’s movies, and tickets sales are getting back to near normal levels.

“The situation is improving and as more movies are released we are confident that The Vic will soon be thriving once again,” McRae told the meeting.

Around 12 per cent of patrons attend live shows and private hires, she said. And The Vic is still popular as a venue for local fundraising events.

The Vic held its third play-reading series with a range of new and classic plays, with 130 people attending.

In 2020, the trust set up a Givetail page for The Vic’s \$830,000 foyer restoration. Before Covid hit, it had raised nearly \$70,000,

including one \$50,000 donation from a private heritage trust.

However, with the lockdown hitting the country, it was decided to put a hold on the fundraising programme. The restoration project will be restarted in 2021.

Community support of The Vic was celebrated with a free screening of *The Great Gatsby* to mark the theatre’s 108th birthday and 10 years since it reopened.

Other enhancements have included completion of the multi-use lounge bar/Cinema Four space, plus improved safety to the upstairs Albert Cinema, with more handrails and floor lighting. Planning for changes to the footpath levels at the entry to accommodate wheelchair access are also nearing fruition.

The discovery of six original plan drawings for The Vic, held in the University of Auckland archives, was a major coup for the theatre.

All current trust members are continuing into the next year. Libby Boyd and Hamish Grotian remain as trustees. David Harrop continues as treasurer, Mark Pearce as secretary and Mark Sigglekow and Margot McRae as co-chairs. Graham Chapman, a civil engineer and a new resident in Devonport, has recently joined the trust. Chapman has an interest in heritage buildings and brings experience on trust boards.



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# New sculpture honours leading arts patron

The Lake House Arts Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary last week with an unveiling of a new permanent sculpture.

The work, *Her Hands Around Our Community* by New Zealand artist Bill Hayes, celebrates Genevieve Becroft, who led the rescue and restoration of the Lake House 20 years ago.

"I thought the sculpture was quite fitting as it reflects how Genevieve has been helping to shape and form a close community over the years," said Hayes.

Hayes has been running ceramics workshop at the centre for more than a decade, exhibiting some of his work at the Art by the Sea gallery in Devonport.

The new bronze sculpture has Becroft's hands wrapped around a ceramic bowl.

The sculpture was commissioned six months ago by the Lake House Trust, with contributions made by Lake House Arts life members. It will be displayed at the centre's front entrance.

Around 50 people attended the event to honour past managers and supporters of the arts centre.

On display in the Becroft Gallery was a series of interviews with founding members.

A long-time resident of Takapuna, Becroft has been a patron of the arts, and helped save some of the North Shore's heritage buildings.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans said: "It is amazing that 20 years ago people had the foresight to keep this building for the arts and the community."

Members shared fond memories of the restoration of the Lake House

Becroft recalled having to sand down the doors.

In 1996, the Lake House was moved to Barrys Point Reserve, which was operated as a landfill by Takapuna City Council from 1940 to 1970. The house was cut into seven pieces and stood on pallets for a year while a



Ongoing legacy... Genevieve Becroft flanked by her daughters Tabitha (left) and Gabrielle

special platform and the base were built to meet landfill gas-mitigation requirements.

It was reassembled on its new site in 1997 and restoration began. It was opened to the public by then-North Shore City councillor Becroft in 2000.

Becroft was also one of the key people involved in the rescue, renovation and restoration of the PumpHouse.

She continues to support many local charities with her time and through the Becroft Foundation.

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