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February 12, 2021
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**AT Local – why it
was axed... p2**

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win T20 comp... p5**

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Dame Anne Salmond... p16**

Rapid housing development takes a human toll

The intensification of Devonport peninsula housing continues apace, with proposals for one of the more extreme examples in Belmont leaving neighbours reeling.

“It’s heartbreaking,” they say, shocked at the plan to build 48 units on two back sections of Lake Rd, nearly opposite Takapuna Grammar.

The case encapsulates many of the frustrations residents feel about how developers can change the character of residential neighbourhoods under Auckland Council’s Unitary Plan.

The impact is being felt across the peninsula’s suburbs with single homes often replaced by multiple units, some three-storeys high.

Even central Devonport, covered by a heritage zoning overlay, is soon likely to be less immune to intensification.

In the wider Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, dozens of multi-home resource consents were lodged from October to January.

Coming to a street near you, pages 8-10.

Local band puts spotlight on Cheltenham Beach



Summer... band Corella enjoy fish and chips at Bath St Reserve, the scene of their new video. Story, page 3.



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Cost key reason for AT Local axing

Public support for keeping the AT Local rideshare service was stronger than for the bus-only option adopted by Auckland Transport, but it would have cost an extra \$200,000 a year of public money.

Although 52 per cent of respondents to the Auckland Transport (AT) consultation process favoured a mix of buses and AT Local as their preferred public transport around the lower Devonport peninsula, other factors influenced AT's decision-making. Cost was one, but so too was increasing the frequency and availability of public transport from more neighbourhoods. Buses alone were determined by AT to be the best way to do this and better allowed for public-transport growth.

The newly issued consultation report debunks some locals' impressions that there was very little difference in cost between buses and AT Local. While the per-passenger subsidy of \$9.28 and \$9.75 respectively may seem close, the ongoing operating costs worked out at \$650,000 per year for AT's chosen Option A of buses only, compared with \$850,000 to have both buses and AT Local under Option B.

AT acknowledged that its two-year trial of AT Local was very popular with users. But with the service's existing operating area to have been scaled down under Option B – in favour of more bus runs from Cheltenham and from Stanley Point to make up for the Stanley Bay ferry's axing – it pointed out this AT Local would no longer have serviced Narrow Neck, Belmont and Bayswater, where other buses run. Option A was thus the best choice at a time when public-transport budgets were being cut, AT said. It required fewer vehicles as well.

Pay and pray

Auckland Transport says if its proposals for parking changes in Devonport are adopted, it would likely be mid-year when a 50c an hour charge would apply at the ferry terminal. The idea was raised in an AT report last year, along with standardising free parking times at P120 around the shopping streets. Feedback is being analysed. AT says the rules may encourage public transport use. This fell with Covid-19 and is yet to fully recover.

Slow speed-up

AT's long-term plan for the main Lake Rd 814 bus service from Devonport to Takapuna and on to join the Northern Busway at Akoranga Station, is for 15-minute services 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. If funding is available, it hopes to do this in 2023.

The consultation drew responses from 704 people, along with a letter signed by 35 residents of the Ryman William Sanders Retirement Village. Submitters were 55 per cent female. A quarter fell into the 45-54 age group (24 per cent), followed by those aged 65 and over (23 per cent).

The Ryman contingent asked for a bus service. "The majority of residents are/will be unable to manage the app," they said. Other respondents aged over 65 also opted for the familiarity of buses, with AT noting that older people were heavily reliant on public transport.

Awareness and use of AT Local was said to be "positively correlated with income". Awareness sat at 96 per cent in Devonport and 86 per cent across the wider peninsula. Of those who knew about it, 37 per cent had used it at least once, but only 8 per cent had used it to get to the ferry on the day they answered the survey.

Some people, perceived the on-demand service as "extravagant" when there were buses. Others wanted barriers to using it (such as the

app, limited vehicle space, credit/debit payment only) removed to make it available to all.

The most submissions came from the areas most affected by changes (Cheltenham and Stanley Point, followed by the Ngataringa Rd area and Narrow Neck). Overall, ferry was the mode of public transport respondents used most often. More than 70 per cent of people had ready access to a car. Some said losing AT Local would increase their likelihood of driving, but others thought the improved bus timetables would attract them if connecting with ferries.

Feedback from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board included pushing for better connections and considering the needs of the Ryman village's growing population. Elected members' views on AT Local were mixed.

The main themes of the public feedback were: concerns about gaps in area coverage and poor connections; loss of the Stanley Bay ferry service; the need for easier-to-understand services that ran regularly and seven days a week; and calls for wise use of taxpayer money. Keeping AT Local going beyond its proposed Option B parameters and in peak times was another main request.

Instead, AT Local is now to be trialled in South Auckland, where AT sees a greater need to bridge city fringe transport gaps. Its last day in Devonport is 26 February.

New 20-minute peak-hour weekday bus timetables take effect from 1 March for the Stanley Bay 806 and Cheltenham 807 routes, with their weekend services starting from 25 April. The hope is the timetable extensions will gradually boost daily passenger averages, up from the 75 people recorded for the 806 and the 86 people on the 807 recorded last February. A new 805 route is also starting on 1 March. This will run past the Ryman village and up side streets east of Lake Rd to Belmont.

AT plans to hold public-information sessions at Devonport Library this month about the changes.

The three drop-in events it held in October over AT Local attracted 30 people.

• **New 805 bus details, see page 25**

Shutting shop

Two more Devonport stores, So French Home and Mixt, are closing. This comes in the fortnight since our last Flagstaff issue reported that long-time store Cushla's was departing. Mixt blamed the Covid-19 visitor downturn and a So French staff member said stock import delays were a factor.

3 Victoria Rd: empty for 991 days

The old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018. It has now been unoccupied for 991 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the options for the building.



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Beach helps band capture that Kiwi summer vibe

Reggae-fusion band Corrella's new video for their song *Summertime in Aotearoa* features Devonport's Cheltenham Beach, a place close to band members' hearts.

With a name inspired by Corrella Rd in Belmont, the group was founded in 2017 by lead vocalist Pipiwharauroa Campbell, lead guitarist Moresby Kainuku and rhythm guitarist Te Naawe Tupe, who are all involved with the Navy.

With the additions of drummer Tom Scrase and bassist Codi Wehi – also in the Navy – along with keyboard player Taulu Schuster and female vocalist 8Rebekah Brady, they last year recorded an EP.

Summertime in Aotearoa is the first single from the EP, with its lyrics about “sunshine kissing the water and pohutukawa blooming” capturing the longing for the New Zealand summer as experienced by band's Navy crew when serving at sea for six to nine months at a time.

“There's nothing better than a New Zealand summer,” says Tupe. “It was very sentimental to be able to film the music video on Cheltenham Beach. It was emotional to watch afterwards.”

Vocalist Rebekah Brady says, “I feel like we really captured the essence of New Zealand summer in the music video. People who have watched it have told me it makes them miss home.”

The video also commemorates Corrella Rd, where the band first started making music, and features Bayswater School pupils.

All seven band members work together to produce music and write lyrics.

One of Corrella's favourite performances so far was at the Navy's end-of-year function for 2020, playing after special guests, Six60.

Another was at the Navy's Te Taua Moana Marae earlier in the year.

“Being able to go on stage after Six60 was a highlight and an honour,” says Tupe.



Happy place... five of Corrella's seven members at Cheltenham Beach. From left, Taulu Schuster, Moresby Kainuku, Te Naawe Tupe, Codi Wehi and Rebekah Brady.

Corrella takes inspiration from both Six60 and Kiwi reggae band L.A.B.

Corrella are a mixed bunch but formed through a shared love of music.

Brady is a drama and dance teacher at ACG Strathallan in Karaka. “I've loved singing and feel good when I'm doing it, but Monday to Friday I'm wrangling teenagers,” she says.

Taulu Schuster is a church minister in South Auckland. “I grew up playing piano and keyboard. I came to do a gig with the band and haven't left,” he says.

Kainuku, known as ‘the astronaut’, was in the Navy but now works in the Defence Force's ‘rocket lab’. He's played music since he was very young and has had the same

guitar for 18 years. “I started playing for fun with my uncles and aunties,” he says.

Tupe, who grew up in Whakatane, says he first went on stage for a laugh, but has always enjoyed singing. He has served in the Navy for seven years and is a radar operator.

Posted to the same ship as Tupe, Codi Wehi works as an electronic technician. He used to sing punk rock songs and play guitar in high school, and only started learning to play bass when he joined Corrella.

The band's second single is set to be released in the next few weeks and it hopes to release the EP in April. It is seeking opportunities to perform. “I feel like we are unique in the sense that we are the underdogs and we are very whanau-oriented,” says Tupe.

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Shore reserves win back-to-back T20 comps



Jubilant... the North Shore Cricket Club's Premier Reserves celebrate after their victory over Eden Roskill

North Shore Cricket Club's Premier Reserves won their division's Twenty20 competition for the second year in a row – thrashing Eden Roskill in the final.

Shore batted first, amassing 128/7 in their 20 overs. Sasindu Nanayakkara top scored with 56.

Eden Roskill managed just 91 runs all

out in 17.4 overs. North Shore's Matt Strain opened the bowling with spin and took three wickets for 17 runs in his four overs. Captain Josh Syme got two for 22 in his four overs.

The winning North Shore team was: Mitchell Bremner, Nanayakkara, Jock McKenzie, Sam Hinds, Jordan Gately, Malav Brahmabhatt, Will Clarke, Strain,

Syme, Zac Watson and Angus Nicoll.

Meanwhile, the club's top team will meet local rival Takapuna in the Tom Hellaby Cup two-day premier competition starting Saturday, 20 February at Devonport Domain. It sits fourth and Takapuna second, with two further games to play.

Premier player helps out, page 19



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Large Lake Rd development back on the table:

Residents are feeling the squeeze from intensification. The Flagstaff spotlights the impact.

A proposal to build 48 new homes on a Lake Rd site has been resubmitted for Auckland Council approval.

The application is slightly scaled back from the plan to build 48 dwellings on 4903 sqm of land at 209 and 211 Lake Rd that was put to council last year but later withdrawn.

The applicant, Michael Su, wants to construct the dwellings in five, three-storey blocks. Each home will have one or two bedrooms and a floor area ranging from 43sqm for a one-bedroom unit to 108sqm for the two-bedroom units.

The proposed development is strongly opposed by neighbours citing both the large volume of increased traffic from the site, and the safety of the driveway access impacting on the already congested Lake Rd.

Other key concerns included infringements of privacy, light and visual amenity and the undermining of the suburban character of the area.

In their submission to council, Felicity and Dafydd Richards said: "The volume of vehicles, combined with non-compliances for access and vehicle crossings, will have adverse effects on the transport network."

Richard and Charlotte Morrison said: "The overall impression is one of overbearing and dominant structures... more attuned to that of a row of multi-tenanted industrial units typically found in the Wairau Valley."

Erica Su, Auckland Council's Senior Planner Resource Consents, found nothing "exceptional or unusual" about the proposal warranted public notification. However, she has recommended limited notification, so 20 neighbours of the property can make submissions.

Contrary to neighbours' concerns that the development would destroy the character of the area, Erica Su said: "The development is considered to provide a more urban built



Intense development... the proposed site for 48 new homes, on Lake Rd, opposite Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar

character that is more in line with those anticipated in the Mixed House Urban Zone. [Areas in the Auckland Unitary Plan around arterial roads and urban centres]."

She considered the proposed development's effects on the surrounding houses "as minor in scale to the persons at adjacent sites."

The vehicle crossing onto Lake Rd was "sufficient and will provide for safe egress and ingress for vehicles," she said.

However, some of the turning areas for vehicles on the plot are inadequate and may be an "indicator of the overdevelopment of the sites".

Traffic-modelling data submitted by Michael Su said that 27 extra vehicle trips would be generated in the morning peak hours, which would result in a four-second delay for Lake Rd traffic.

This was rejected by council planners, who said "these results have not been based on actual on-site observations or data collection".

"From the interested-party correspondence and my experience with working with consents around Lake Rd, I do not accept the modelling results to be reflective of either the existing circumstances or the likely future trip generations following the development," planner Su said. The right of way would be

shared by 53 dwellings.

Construction traffic is also an issue. Around 580 return truck trips would be needed to remove soil.

When the initial proposal was sent to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board in January 2020, board members raised concerns about overdevelopment, the lack of outdoor living space, parking areas and reduced amenity, and the impacts on Lake Rd traffic.

The number of dwellings remains the same as the first application, and changes to the proposal – including a small increase in landscaped area, a slight reduction in building heights, and changes to turning areas – have been relatively minor.

Devonport Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans said: "It's a good step for the council planners to recommend a limited notification and allow the 20 affected neighbours to present their concerns to a hearings panel.

"This development seeks to challenge the two-storey zoning height and introduce three storeys as a predominate height in an area that should retain a residential character."

Planners have listed the many infringements and the adverse effects where this development will not comply with the council's own standards and will affect the neighbours, she said.

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Neighbours reel at plan's scale



Feeling the squeeze... Dafydd Richards is among residents dismayed at the Lake Rd development

When developers come to town

"Heartbreaking" is how neighbours describe a proposed 48-home development down a shared driveway on Lake Rd.

Richard and Charlotte Morrison and their children, aged nine and six, moved to their home at 2/203 Lake Rd on Halloween 2019. Little did they know the potential horror in store just a few dozen metres away down the drive.

"We knew it was a big section... but we just assumed – stupidly as it turns out – that whatever went in there would work in with the Unitary Plan rules," says Charlotte Morrison.

The crammed-in units in the up-to-three-storey development is so out of character with the surrounding neighbourhood it should never have got off the drawing board, she says.

Growing up in Stanley Bay and going to Takapuna Grammar, Morrison and her family were living in Beach Haven, but moved to Belmont hoping her kids could experience the peninsula lifestyle she enjoyed. She fears this dream may now be shattered, with the driveway turned into a virtual highway, with the choke-point access onto Lake Rd right outside her house.

Added to the safety concerns around the access to Lake Rd, the new development would have virtually no outside space for kids. "They're going to end up playing on the driveway," she says.

Dafydd Richards and wife Felicity bought 4/203 Lake Rd in 2005, and lived there briefly before a decade or so in London. They moved back three years ago, renovated, and had a daughter 13 months ago.

Richards describes the development as feeling like "the sanctity of our home has

been invaded."

Residents along the driveway are part of the community, Richards says. It grates that a developer could come in, destroy their lifestyle and "make \$20 million from the development, at a very conservative estimate".

"It's totally out of character with the zoning... so many of the Unitary Plan, rules are being broken." Residents have already written to Auckland Council extensively, pointing out all the breaches.

"If they (the council and developers) don't follow the Unitary Plan, then what is the point of having it?" Some streets have less than 48 houses on them, he says.

The neighbours, who intend to submit to a limited-notification hearing of the plan, hope council throws it out. They haven't got the money for a protracted legal action, and are sleeping less easy after another large site nearby went on the market in the last few weeks. The Mixed Housing Suburban zoning will turn the heads of those looking at future potential according to real-estate agents marketing the property.

Changes allow larger built area on Devonport sites

More intensive development south of the Waitemata golf course has been given the green light, with changes to the space required between houses and their back boundary.

Council was forced to amend the Auckland Unitary Plan as some aspects of the Special Character Areas Overlay conflicted with the underlying residential zone.

As part of the changes (plan change 26) the 3-metre rear-yard requirement is deleted. Now the underlying rear-yard zone standard is set at 1 metre. This means houses can be extended to within 1 metre of the boundary – a massive potential reduction in space between homes.

Other "development standards" include:

- A building-height maximum of 8 metres has been set in in the Special Character Areas Overlay.
- The height and relation to boundary setting of 3 metres and a 45 per cent recession plane will apply to sites with a road-fronted boundary less than 15 metres wide. For wider sites, the underlying residential zone height in relation to boundary standard applies.
- A 1.2 metre side-yard standard applies.
- Maximum impervious area: the rule in the Special Character Areas Overlay has been modified by substituting "impervious" for "paved". The percentage maximum coverage now includes the building coverage and other impervious areas, such as driveways.
- Fences and walls: new fences to a maximum of 1.2 metres can be constructed forward of the front of the building. Fences behind the front of the building can be 2 metres high.

Devonport Heritage had opposed the changes.

More houses on the way

Resource consent applications across the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area show the extent of intensification, with a week typically bringing as many as half a dozen applications to build three-plus homes on residential sections, adding up to thousands of new homes annually.

The most recent consent applications lodged with Auckland Council covered three weeks in January and two in December and included two bigger applications for Bel-

mont, with six dwellings proposed at 8 Coronation St and five at 21 Montgomery Ave.

In Devonport, an application was lodged for six dwellings at 67 Aramoana Ave.

Elsewhere – Takapuna: 11 dwellings at 3 Campbell Rd, 7 dwellings at 5 Burns Ave, and 5 at 16 Killarney Ave; Milford: 4 at 26 Wolsey St; Forrest Hill: 3 each at 12 Tiber Rd and at 31 Linwood Ave; Sunnynook: 4 at 11 Regency Pl, and 5 at 12 Sequoia Pl.

November was even busier.

Ngataringa Rd demolition a tear-jerker



Gone but not forgotten... Actor Robyn Malcolm (above left) was upset to learn of the loss of her old Devonport home at 32 Ngataringa Rd. Four units are to be built on the site, pictured during the home's recent demolition.

Leading actor Robyn Malcolm has been saddened by the demolition of a 1920s home on Ngataringa Rd she once owned.

Nearby residents are also unhappy at the loss of the home.

Malcolm shared on social media that seeing the demolished house had her in tears.

"Wow... I didn't realise I was still attached to this place, the image made me cry,"

Malcolm told the Flagstaff: "I was quite shocked, I went to see the house when it was demolished, sat by the digger outside and had a glass of wine to toast the house,"

Malcolm brought the house in 1995 and owned it for 15 years. "There were two offers when I brought the house, one was from a developer and one was mine. The house was sold to me for less because I wasn't going to develop the property."

"I still can't believe the house is gone. The light fixtures I had put in were demolished with the house, nothing inside was saved or made use of," she said.

"If the developers were Housing NZ providing affordable homes, I would support that but they are not. That whole street is changing because it isn't protected."

Malcolm's children spent most of their childhood at the house. Malcolm's father built

the tree house that sits in one of the puriri trees on the property.

She said the cherry tree and many of the fruit trees on the property, including a young kauri, tree had been chopped.

Malcolm now lives in Kingsland.

The brick house at 32 Ngataringa Rd was demolished last week to make way for the construction of four units. The rubble from what's left sits opposite the Ryman retirement village construction site.

The 984 sqm property sold in October last year for more than \$2m, well above its registered valuation.

Malcolm had renovated the house 10 years ago. She said buried in the garden is a placenta, two miscarriages and two family pets from the time she lived there.

"I hope this development respects the lovely land it's on. A place of family for decades," she said.

Nearby neighbour Jan Peacock said she felt "traumatised" to see the house demolished. "It was a lovely family home," she said.

Peacock called the Flagstaff worried the developers might cut down the puriri trees on the back edge of the property, which are some of the tallest trees on the street. To her relief, the trees were only trimmed.

What can be built

Replacing single dwellings with multiple homes is par for the course across Auckland.

The council's Unitary Plan allows two dwellings to be built as of right on sections in the mixed housing suburban and mixed housing urban zones, with a resource consent application needed to bump up this number.

The suburban zone is capped at two-storey builds with the urban zone allowing for three-storey townhouses.

Developers successfully citing "less than minor" impacts from variations on the plan can push the rules around matters such as distance from boundaries and site coverage, using the provisions of the Resource Management Act.

Road needs repair

A damaged section of road in front of a building development at the cul-de-sac end of Kawerau Ave has been inspected and will be repaired after complaints about its condition.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson said Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT) visited the site, which had been excavated. Three homes were being replaced by apartments. AT had decided it would fix the surface and pay for the repairs, given the pre-existing road condition was not deemed good, she said.

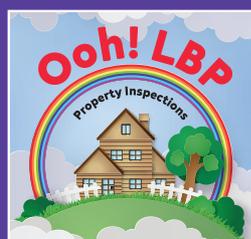
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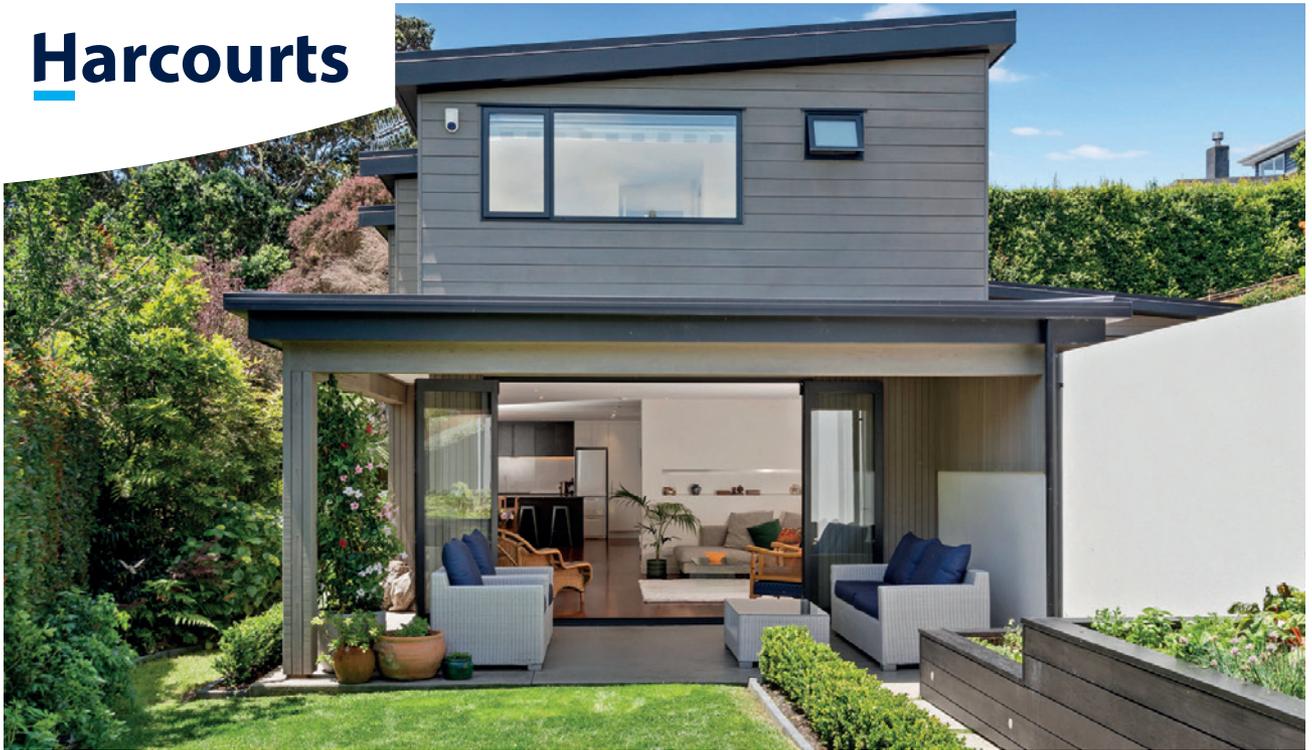
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By Rob Drent

Two cases of racial abuse in Devonport have hit the national headlines in the past week. The first centred on racial slurs slung at couple Kobe Shaw and Wiki Hiku (former Devonport residents now living in Glenfield). It occurred on a recent Saturday evening when they were at the small beach across the road from Church St, next to Devonport Sea Scout Hall, with their sons Parker and Iverson, aged 3 and 4, and other adults. They were also told to “get out of our neighbourhood”.

In an earlier incident on a Devonport street, a witness reported a man shouting racial abuse at road workers, he thought were of Pacific Island extraction.

How brave of Shaw and Hiku to speak out to the *Herald*. It would have been easy for them to go home and turn the other cheek, doing best to put the incident aside and get on with their lives.

But these incidents need to be called out to stop any acceptance of racism in its tracks. The ‘get out of neighbourhood’ comment suggests the abusers live on the Devonport peninsula. Who are these people? If you know who they are, call the police, who I hope will investigate fully. The bitter irony for Shaw and Hiku is they were both raised in Devonport.

Is Devonport any worse than other Auckland suburbs? No, I would wager. Racial and other abuse, such as homophobia and bullying, seems to be on the rise across the city. It appears to coincide with the increasing prevalence of social media in our lives – which gives often unfettered licence

to the boorish, ignorant, uninformed and abusive to spout forth on various platforms. It’s inevitable some of this bile will spill out on to the streets.

North Shore Councillor Richard Hills, himself a victim of homophobic slurs online in the lead-up to last year’s local-body elections, was on the mark last week when he said, “Aucklanders need to cut this crap out.”

The decision to can the AT Local ride-share service after its extended trial is no great surprise.

While well used by some, it never came close to making enough money to be anything other than a heavily subsidised, uneconomic service. Even if it was widely successful, it would have faltered due to high demand at commuter times. The fact its cars and vans sat idle for many hours a day waiting for customers outside peak times, and the exclusion of people without smartphones (many elderly) and unaccompanied children from its services, were other major flaws it could not overcome.

However, the use of smaller electric feeder vehicles to shopping centres and major transport nodes, such as the Devonport ferry terminal and Akoranga bus station has a future. The AT Local model just wasn’t quite the right fit.

Auckland’s mega-growth fallout continues: now spilling from congested roads on weekdays to beach reserves, nearby car parks and rubbish bins on the weekends.

Devonport and the North Shore have not been spared, with hordes converging on the coast on the recent holiday weekends. Narrow Neck and Milford have been particular hotspots – beaches with car parks nearby. If the car parks are full, the trend this summer is to simply park on the reserve. At Narrow Neck, this has seen cars on the reserve north of Fort Takapuna – which has rightly enraged locals.

Auckland Council, as usual, has been slow to react. What can be done, city hall may say? Improving public transport links and frequency to the beaches on the weekends might help. A park and ride at Akoranga bus station with minibuses (repurposed AT Local vehicles?) taking people to the beaches, for example.

Enforcement-wise, Auckland Transport could redeploy some of its wardens, who give out tickets to drivers parked in often empty streets in Devonport in the week, to better manage the crowded streets near beaches on the weekends.

Rubbish bins are also under council control. They are often overflowing and should be emptied more often – not just daily – during holiday weekends. Smart technology should be able to relay details of near-full bins back to head office.

A radical option would be to remove them altogether. Popular West Coast beaches, Piha and Karekare, have no bins at all. Beachgoers are expected to take their rubbish with them. Although some littering occurs, it is generally accidental drops, not the mass dumping beside bins.

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Honoured academic enjoys branching out

Freshly appointed to the Order of New Zealand, Dame Anne Salmond tells Helen Vause about a life that's taken her from her upbringing in Gisborne, through an acclaimed career and raising a family in Devonport, and more lately into a determination to speak out about the things that concern her.

The day the country heard she'd landed New Zealand's highest honour, Anne Salmond was out in a Gisborne valley with her husband, her sleeves rolled up cutting up a big fallen branch.

She had no phone reception out there, battling the unruly tree limb that had dealt quite blow to the grandchildren's playhouse, but later in the day she'd found "the email had gone mad".

Already a Dame for many years, Salmond's appointment as a Member of the Order of New Zealand, for services to New Zealand, was announced in the New Year Honours.

"Yes, it was pretty special," she says with a grin. "It was a pretty good thing to come out of my life."

At the age of 75, Salmond's honour comes as the latest in a very long list for the eminent social scientist, environmentalist, author and commentator.

The Flagstaff caught up with her at the big old Stanley Bay villa that's been home to her and her husband Jeremy and their family for decades.

This year brings a few changes as Salmond, Distinguished Professor of Maori Studies and Anthropology at the University of Auckland, retires after 45 years in academia, although she remains connected with ongoing projects.

Her years of work in Pacific history and anthropology, and particularly her long engagement with Maori, have produced a string of acclaimed books, some taking national awards and others shortlisted for prizes.

At the same time, she has become an internationally respected figure in environmental thinking, writing about climate change and the restoration of rivers, forests and the ocean.

Alongside her academic life, there have been management and governance roles within the university and in the wider world. Salmond was a member of the founding board of Te Papa, was on the panel that reviewed the Auckland Regional Council, has chaired the Historic Places Trust, and served on a parks and wilderness trust. In 2013, she was New Zealander of the Year.

Her work is far from done, but now there is a shift of emphasis and focus.

All the work and what has come with it has been great fun, says Salmond. And although she's been driven by passions, there have been other significant forces such as influential mentors, important relationships and timing.

Not forgetting family. One of eight kids, Salmond is very proud of her big, high-achieving clan.



One of few... Dame Anne Salmond was recently appointed to the Order of New Zealand, which is limited to 20 members

"At gatherings we could easily be about 80 strong," she says with her ready laugh.

Salmond grew up in Gisborne, the daughter of Jack and Joyce Thorpe and the eldest of the girls in the family. In the 1950s, Jack started Columbine, one of the country's biggest producers of stockings and socks. The factory is still operating today, with family at the helm.

A middle-class Pakeha kid, she went from Gisborne to boarding school in the Wairarapa. No one would have picked the teenager as likely to pursue Maori studies, but she had already had a brief, unlikely foray into Maori stories and history.

"Whenever my mother had another baby I'd be sent off to Nana's place in Wellington. It was freezing and I was very bored until I discovered what she had in the boxes in the garage that had belonged to my great-grandfather."

He was James McDonald, an artist and storyteller who had gone photographing and filming in Maori communities in the

early 1900s. Salmond was captivated by the prints and notebooks she found. The curious girl would close the boxes and go home to Gisborne, but much later she would inherit the contents. Around half a century later, the contents of those boxes would wind up in her documentary about her ancestor.

"So maybe finding those boxes was the start of it all," she says.

Other influences that would contribute to Salmond becoming a high-profile cultural go-between, would soon arise.

At 17, she swapped life in the girls dorm in Masterton for learning fast in the corridors of a large co-ed high school in Cleveland, Ohio, where she spent a year as an American Field Scholar. She was immersed in the excitement and passion of students and issues of the day. Most significantly, she went on a bus trip to hear John F Kennedy speak.

"He spoke about peace and about mutual understanding. What an impact it had. I'll never forget that day."

When she came back home to Gisborne, and before taking off in pursuit of a tertiary education and the fun of student life in the big city, Salmond got a job in the Gisborne Museum. Her work there was to help with the organisation of the Maori collection.

She enrolled in Maori Studies at university in Auckland and dived into student party life. She was social secretary in her hall of residence. She joined the Maori Club and laughs at the memories of singing and dancing and going to watch rugby. In the midst of it all, she committed to doing a shorthand-and-typing course just in case she might need to get a 'proper job'.

By the time she was 20, however, she was not headed for the typing pool but for the Solomon Islands, where her brief was to work on the grammar of the language.

"I can still remember Dad at the airport glaring daggers at those who were sending his girl to the dangers of life in Honiara. Looking back, I was young, but I was off, and I loved it all," she laughs.

Already she was meeting people who would move her along into another world, heading for an academic career.

Although dad Jack couldn't see for the life of him how Maori studies might lead to a job, Anne had encouraging mentors, and Maori welcomed her interest. They opened doors for her.

"And Dad came around, once he got the chance to meet and talk to some of the people I was mixing and working with. He was always willing to listen to what people had to say."

Two of those new Maori friends and mentors were prominent elders Eruera and Amiria Stirling. She met the couple at a party in her first year at university and formed a close friendship with them. With them she travelled from marae to marae making connections and soaking up valuable knowledge.

Later in their lives, the Stirlings each shared their wisdom and life stories through Salmond and the award-winning books *Eruera: The Teachings of a Maori Elder* and *Amiria: The Life Story of a Maori Woman*.

"They were a huge influence on me and my work, but also they became like grandparents in my life."

The budding young anthropologist met her future husband, Jeremy, at university. The couple raised their three children – Steve, Tim and daughter Amiria, in the Stanley Bay house fringed with big pohutukawas.

With three children under five, Salmond somehow juggled it all with a part-time job at the university. "The kids were lovely and somehow pretty easy. Coming from a family of eight we seemed like a little group."

As they grew, the children could slip across the boundary to school and their friends next door.

Salmond's academic career went from strength to strength.

"I was lucky and I had fantastic mentors, but I was also working in a field that was



Home ground... Dame Anne at work in the ecosanctuary she and her husband have established beside the Waimata River near Gisborne

open to me and I was finding so much support within the Maori world."

Accolades came fast. She received a CBE and in her 40s was made a Dame. "I hesitated at first to accept it because it sounded so pompous. But then I thought how Mum would love it."

The pull home to Gisborne was always strong. The Salmonds travelled back often to see Anne's elderly mother, who lived to 96, and to see her own generation, who had spread beyond the hosiery business into wine, kiwifruit, cheesemaking and more.

"I was lucky and I had fantastic mentors... and I was finding so much support within the Maori world."

In their courting days back in the 70s, she and Jeremy had often picnicked and walked at Longbush Reserve alongside a river in a valley not far outside Gisborne. It had been a favourite spot in her childhood too.

Thirty years later, and with a much more educated passion for the environment and the potential for the restoration of it, the Salmonds saw a 'For Sale' sign when they were visiting once again and out walking.

Almost immediately, they saw this as a project with their name on it.

In 2020, they bought Longbush, a strip of lowland bush beside the Waimata River. Well into their 50s, and with very full day jobs, they launched themselves into their new

project and subsequently the establishment of the Waikeru Ecosanctuary.

"It's been such a wonderful thing to be part of," Salmond says.

"How could I not do what I love the most – be part of pulling together great people to do great things?"

Two decades on and after countless road trips to Gisborne and their Longbush house, spending about a week there each month, the dream is to spend more time in their sanctuary.

The team there is established, the bush is well restored and now there are wildlife corridors and the return of abundant birdsong. Streams run clear and are teeming with life.

And for Salmond this all runs alongside her involvement in the Te Awaroa Voice of the River project, to restore rivers across New Zealand

These days, she frequently adds her voice to national and international conversations through mainstream media in a plain-speaking no-nonsense way.

She believes she has an obligation to weigh in.

"I write about three things: science, and the very real concerns about our environment; democracy and ways of living together rather than tearing each others' throats out; and I write about culture and how we handle diversity."

In some of her colourful online columns she has exhorted the populace not to leave all the heavy lifting to the politicians and world leaders: "It's time to get off our backsides and play our part."

Salmond reflects: "I learned many years ago that not all the smart people are to be found in universities."

But to her fellow scholars she says this: "We have an obligation to take a lead and to skew the community with integrity.

"We owe that. It's what we are paid for."

We're watching you, watching the Cup racing

Security cameras on Maungauika could be used to look into local properties, says a concerned Devonport peninsula man.

He told Flagstaff that the two cameras, installed this year, might potentially be used for "spying on residents". The man, who preferred to remain anonymous, spotted the cameras on the top barracks and in a lower car park during regular walks at North Head.

Auckland Unlimited, the council organisation managing the city's America's Cup spectator activities, confirmed it had had the cameras installed. Its general manager, destination, Steve Armitage, said they were temporary towers put in for crowd monitoring when yacht racing was taking place. This was to ensure the health and safety of visitors to the maunga, he said.

"They are only being used to observe the public spaces around the maunga, and only on race days," he added. Signage had been put up to let people know.

However, the complainant who contacted the Flagstaff said the cameras could easily be tilted to look into backyards and to track movements on the streets. He also suggested their installation did not meet privacy

Flying the flag

Devonport shops are getting into the America's Cup spirit, with a number stringing up bunting given out by the business association. Council promotional arm Auckland Unlimited provided 100m for distribution.

Then racing-removed Onehunga and Newmarket offered Devonport their supplies, leaving business manager Shauly van Baaren more to give out.

An incentive to string it up is a city-wide "best dressed" business competition. Watch out next month for more Cup fanfare locally, says van Baaren, with Windsor Reserve to be the focus for community minded race-day activities.

provisions. Residents had not been notified.

Armitage said the process followed included gaining approvals from the Tupuna Maunga Authority to install the cameras

on Maungauika and also consulting Safer Cities, which oversaw the city's CCTV network. Safer Cities had advised that Auckland Unlimited had "met the relevant obligations consistent with the Police Privacy Policy."

"During an America's Cup race day, a Major Events Operation Centre is stood up with representatives from Auckland Council, including Auckland Transport, Auckland Unlimited, Panuku, along with New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, St John and other relevant agencies to manage the on-land aspects of the event," Armitage said.

The temporary cameras would play an important role for the agencies to be able to monitor crowd numbers on what was one of the prime on-land viewing spots.

Racing in the Prada Cup final to determine which syndicate will face Emirates Team New Zealand in March begins tomorrow, 13 February, and continues in a first-to-win seven rounds format. Ferry timetables are again subject to change. Traffic restrictions in Devonport were lifted last month due to lower than expected spectator numbers. This may be reviewed if crowds swell.

Hunter sparks big callout in Narrow Neck

A returning hunter sparked a callout on the Devonport peninsula on Monday, 8 February. Multiple police vehicles headed down Lake Rd shortly after 8pm. The Eagle helicopter was deployed and circled overhead for some time.

This followed a report of a man carrying a firearm on a street in Narrow Neck.

Police said a man was spoken to at a property on Niccol Avenue. Two air rifles were located. It was established that he had been hunting on a rural property and was removing an air rifle from his vehicle.

No further action was required, the police spokemand said.

Illegal parking concerns simmer

Beachgoers at Narrow Neck driving their cars across the front field at Fort Takapuna for a prime picnic spot and a group camping illegally at Ngataranga Bay raised community concerns during the first of two long weekends in a row.

But the Waitangi Day long weekend that followed Auckland Anniversary Day break passed without problems. On Anniversary Day around a dozen cars drove on to the Department of Conservation Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve overlooking Narrow Neck beach. The Flagstaff witnessed one driver head up the hill over the grass to exit at the driveway onto Vauxhall Rd around 8pm.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson said parking on

reserves was prohibited for safety reasons. After she counted 67 cars on the grass at Milford Reserve, Auckland Council put up signs to deter drivers, with bollards to follow.

Fort Takapuna was trickier, she said, with a more open approach that would cost a lot to fence off. Education was needed because enforcement could only do so much, as with dog control on beaches. "There's extremely few staff between Devonport and Rodney."

Pre-Enrolment Evening – Years 7 to 9, 2022



Families of prospective students for Years 7 to 9, in 2022, are invited to attend the evening, to look around the school and receive information on the enrolment process.

The evening will be held on Thursday 25th February, in the College Hall, starting at 4:30 pm, (please see our website www.carmel.school.nz for more detail).

Enrolments should be received by Monday 15th March

If you are unable to attend or would like further information, please read the enrolment information posted on the website, call 486 1132 ext 704 or email admin@carmel.school.nz

Michael Herbert Pritchard

Memorial Celebration

Sadly, Michael passed away during the second Covid lockdown in August 2020. As funeral numbers were restricted at the time, we are planning a celebration of Michael's life at 10am on Saturday 20th February at a venue in Devonport.

If you would like to attend, please email the family at mhp180820@gmail.com for details.

Up-and-coming sportsman adapts from big stage to backstage



Pitching in... multiskilled Jock McKenzie (left), cricketer, rugby player and kitchen hand, at the North Shore Cricket Club with Sebastian Hope-Simcock and McKenzie's mum Karen

On a hot January night in Christchurch, Jock McKenzie's cricketing heroics were broadcast to the nation during the T20 Black Clash between rugby and former cricket greats. He was even interviewed live on Hagley Oval after scoring a solid 16 in the rugby side's losing run chase.

Just a few days later, the television camera was replaced by a Flagstaff lens as we caught McKenzie equally under pressure – helping out mum Karen behind the counter at the frantic North Shore Cricket Club kitchen during the popular Junior World Series of Cricket.

Such is the life for a top young sportsman in New Zealand.

McKenzie is typically laid back about the run of events. "I don't mind... I'm more than happy to do both."

He got the call up to the rugby Black Clash team from World Cup winning All Blacks coach

Graham Henry. "It was a bit of a surprise – Graham Henry is a bit of a legend."

Henry found out McKenzie was talented in both cricket and rugby, through Jock's father, Grant, who works in marketing for the Blues.

A former star first-five eighth at Westlake Boys, McKenzie is in the Auckland Blues under-20 development squad, and made the New Zealand under-19 cricket side last year.

The Black Clash rugby side assembled the day before the match, so McKenzie had two days with the squad. He said it was "pretty surreal" rubbing shoulders with other team members, who included All Black great Richie McCaw and current star Jordie Barrett.

"But they were really good to me."

McKenzie is currently playing for North Shore Cricket's Premier side, batting at number three in the two-day competition and five or six

in the one-dayers. The all-rounder is not bowling currently, due to a back injury.

While it has been a disappointment not being able to bowl, McKenzie is loving playing top-division cricket. "It's my first year in the prem's and it's a lot of fun."

How many runs has he scored so far?

"I wouldn't know... not as many as I want to," he said.

As a Blues-contracted rugby player, he has to play for a city club and has chosen Grammar-TEC, playing for the under-20 side this year, but hopes to move up to the senior side in later seasons.

Many promising athletes have to eventually choose their number one sport, so how long can McKenzie keep playing both cricket and rugby? "Hopefully a few years – I want to carry on with both as long as I can."

Three in a row for resurgent Gill

Devonport shot putter Jacko Gill threw a personal best last weekend, beating New Zealand champion Tom Walsh for the third time in as many meetings. The achievement is a return to form for Gill, a former youth world champion.

Gill's best throw of 21.52m was recorded during a blustery International Track Meet in Christchurch on 6 February. He made the distance with his first throw, adding 5cm to his previous life-time best. Walsh's best was 21.44, a mark Gill also met with his second-best throw, thrown with a 7.26kg orb.

Remarkably it was Gill's second compe-

dition of the day. He had flown in from Wellington after throwing 21.9m at a meet there.

Gill said he was elated to beat New Zealand's best. He put his recent good run down to Walsh being in a heavy phase of training while he was in a lighter one. "Having said that, I think there is more to come from both of us."

Olympian Dame Valerie Adams also competed in Christchurch, easily winning her event with a throw of 18.41m. Kaia Tupu-South, a rising talent and, like Gill, a product of the Takapuna Athletics Club where she is coached by Jacko's father Walter Gill, threw 15.56m for second and her personal best distance to date.

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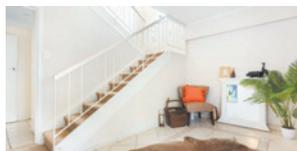
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DEVONPORT 1/1 ARIHO TERRACE



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Sat/Sun 1:00-1:30pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/804998

Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
Devonport 09 445 2010

Tracey Lawrence
021 1720 681
Devonport 09 445 2010



OPEN HOME

DEVONPORT 2/27 VAUXHALL ROAD



Finally, after many years as a happy home this much admired low maintenance home, is available. Brick and tile, aluminum joinery and a large sunny garden for the grandkids and pets. This is a gardeners delight! Three good bedrooms, 2 x wc's and an internal access garage. These homes are almost impossible to find in this location. Now is your opportunity, call us now!

AUCTION
10:00am 25 Feb 2021 at Bruce Mason Centre (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/805632

Lance Richardson
021 796 660
Devonport 09 445 2010

Suzy Wang
022 199 7808
Devonport 09 445 2010



NEW LISTING

HAURAKI 1/6 NORTHBORO ROAD



'EXCLUSIVE USE' GROUNDS!
This solid brick two bedroom front unit with 'exclusive use' title, offers an abundance of privacy with its delightful enclosed courtyard and garden. The modern kitchen includes the bonus of 'Blum' engineering with soft-touch draws plus the brilliance of European appliances. Walk to Hauraki shops, primary school and beach.

AUCTION
10:00am 4 Mar 2021 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Sat/Sun 12:00-12:30pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/806096

Sue Harrison
021 909 549
Devonport 09 445 2010

Toni Gregory
021 044 3663
Devonport 09 445 2010

Devonport's heritage values unprotected

Old trees along the foreshore of Ngataranga Bay that mitigate some of the adverse effects of the rezoning that allowed the Eastern European-Bloc-style development are mysteriously dying. At the so-called Polly's Park, about seven of the big tree species have been killed. It's not kauri dieback or coincidence. Let's say nothing about it.

Auckland Transport (AT) are looking down the barrel of wasting millions, with years of total chaos on Lake Rd. Traffic-management plans for your safety are a certainty. Your patience is and will be appreciated.

The fast, newly appearing three-storey

block housing is now looming over Lake Rd. Aesthetically offensive, a future slum housing area so choked up and close to Lake Rd it's a sick joke – so unintelligent. Oh well, that's progress.

Now Ms Collins is calling for more housing, telling council to sell off land.

The current and newer generation has arrived here to occupy the paradise we have and you are all too polite and accepting of what's being delivered to us. "Progress" is effectively destroying Devonport areas. We need real action groups to step up – not like the last polite group that in most respects just allowed the mass destruction of Ngataranga

Rd. Soon Vauxhall Rd will be the same.

We expect our leaders and politicians to protect our town, but the truth is they do little. All the talk about Devonport's heritage values and the consenting process is a joke. Independent commissioners are paid huge money to bullshit us when they should ensure proper assessment and protocols are observed.

A good example of the city malfunctioning is the canning of the Stanley Bay ferry. Former users can now swim across to the city, while the hideous floating wharf sits vacant – a lemon.

Ron Dykman

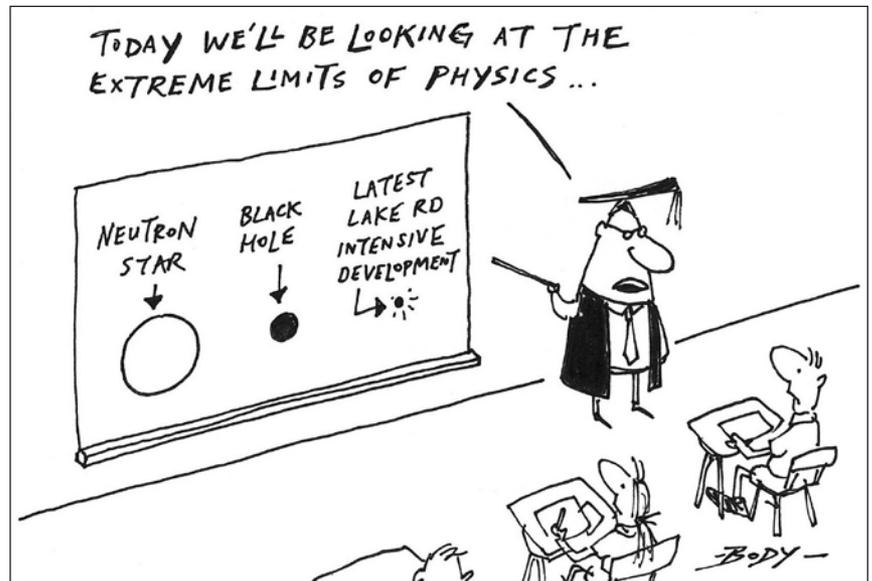
Thanks Navy staff

My husband would like to say 'thank you' to the naval staff who helped him on Thursday 28 January.

He was lost in the Bayswater area, and two people who work for the Navy picked him up and brought him home.

Sharon and Mike Byron-McKay

Bodyline with Guy Body



Letters to the Editor

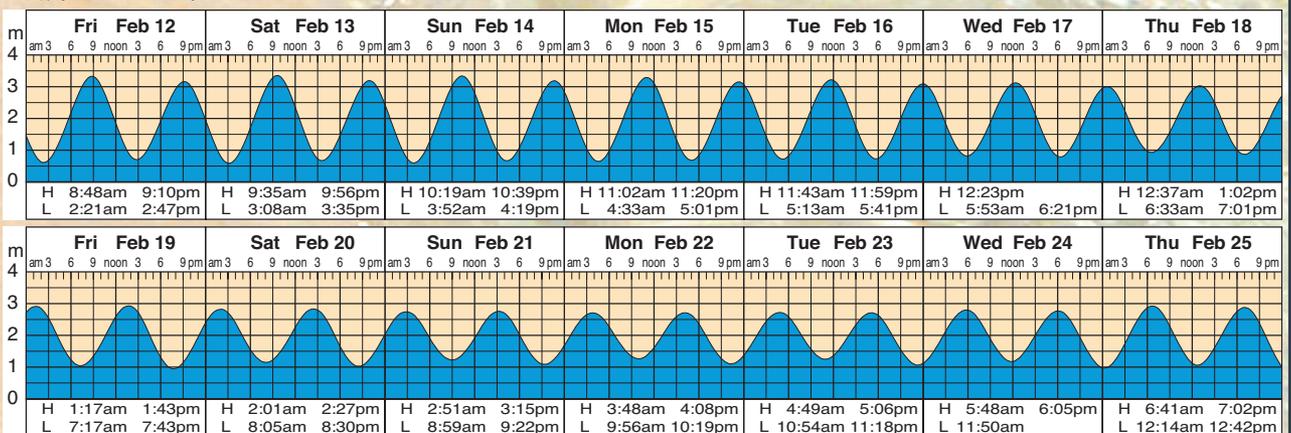
Letters are welcome. Please limit to 300 words on Devonport peninsula topics.

Nom-de-plumes or submissions without a name will not be printed. Email to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz or post to Devonport Flagstaff, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.

Harcourts Devonport Tides

Harcourts
Cooper & Co

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Son pays tribute to Polly as queries raised on park's fate

A carved bench seat made from a totara tree his mother planted is Brian Pollock's personal memorial to the indomitable woman behind 'Polly's Park'. He would dearly love to see the walkway to the glade it sits in open to the public again so others can rest awhile and appreciate her (and his) labour of love.

Mabel 'Polly' Pollock, who died in 2010 aged 83, spent years clearing weeds, planting native trees and forming the track from Lake Rd, skirting along the mangrove edge below Ngataranga Rd.

Brian's carving tells a little of her story, which included being Auckland's first female taxi driver. Pollock, who lives in Nelson these days, quietly went about his commemorative work on a visit north before Christmas, sharing his story with the Flagstaff just before he headed home. He half expected the bench – placed without the rigmarole of seeking official permission – to have been removed, so was relieved to hear last month that it was still in place.

The entrance to the informally named Polly's Park, besides the Ryman show unit on Lake Rd, has been fenced off for several years while construction of the William Sanders Retirement Village proceeds above the walkway. Locals have missed having easy access to the peaceful walk and fear it will fall into neglect, being out of sight and out of mind.

Ngataranga Rd homeowner Tarn Cameron recalls Polly as a force of nature, who she helped out with seedlings, and is saddened that her efforts are at risk of being subsumed by time. "It needs to be reopened after all the years Polly put into it."

One man has taken the matter into his



Polly's seat... The bench made from totara by Mabel 'Polly' Pollock's son Brian

own hands, creating a rough path from the Memorial Drive section of Lake Rd to join the more fully formed walkway to the north.

Another resident, Jacqui Goldingham, said the felling of a large pohutukawa by the park's closed entrance sometime over the summer holidays raised questions she and other locals had about advocacy for the area. The tree featured carvings, she said, and she wanted to know if these had been saved. Goldingham also asked who had made the decision to cut the tree down and if the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board had been involved.

The tree was on the Wakakura marginal strip, managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC), and its felling by contractors was arranged by DOC.

After assessment by an arborist, the pohutukawa was deemed dangerous and in need of removal.

A DOC spokesman said the tree had been rapidly degrading, with a large limb drooping

heavily onto a fence. It also overhung Lake Rd.

DOC was unaware of any carvings on the tree. The wood had been offered to a woodturners guild, however, an unknown person had retrieved the wood before it could be passed on, the spokesman said.

Pollock said that he did not know about the carvings on the pohutukawa tree, but he recalled that his mother had stated many times that the tree had a long branch that was growing dangerously across the road. He said she would not have been upset by its removal. "The crimson red fraternity holds much sway to disallow sensible maintenance of pohutukawa to take place.

She would likely be pleased to know it's been cut," he said.

He had looked to make the bench he named 'Polly's Perch' from pohutukawa, but at the time of his visit could not find any suitable wood to work with. "The totara was closer and a better size," he said. Plus it was one his mother had planted around 20 years ago. This underlined the point that planting natives rather than pine could produce a useful timber in a similar time scale, he said. They were also "much nicer to walk in, much better to nurture our native birds."

Pollock said he found the totara near the site of Polly's Perch. It appeared to have come down in a slip. "It had been cut/cleared by someone, probably DOC," he figured.

"I wish I'd sliced a bit off the back of the backrest to write this fact on, that it was made from a tree Polly planted." He hopes to do this on his next visit to Auckland, and that more people will someday get the chance to once again enjoy his mother's legacy.

Philomel Reserve restoration efforts boosted

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki's Ngataranga eco-corridor project has received more than \$7000 of donations as part of a campaign with the Million Metres Streams Project.

The group has used the money to buy 250 makaka (salt marsh ribbonwood) shrubs from the Pourewa Ngati Whatua Orakei Nursery.

They will be planted along the edges

of Philomel Reserve in Bayswater to help regenerate the coastal fringe and create a habitat for fish and birds.

Environment coordinator Lance Cablk is leading the Philomel Reserve Rescue project. "Philomel Reserve has been a particularly bad spot for weeds like moth plants and blue morning glory, and many of them have already killed native trees," said Cablk.

Philomel Reserve also has a stream running through it in need of riparian planting.

By restoring the reserve, volunteers hope to help bring back birds such as the banded rail and fernbird. "This will be a primary conservation area this year as we would like to see more birds making it their home," said Cablk.

Volunteers meet every second Monday at 9am at Philomel Reserve, using the east Egremont St entrance. On alternate Mondays, they meet at Paddy's Bush for regular weeding and plant maintenance.

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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

FEB 12, 2021



Last Wednesday, Takapuna Grammar School welcomed new Year 9 students with a powhiri outside the school's iconic main building.

PHOTO CREDIT: AARON HEWITT

Getting to know 2021's head prefects

The Takapuna Grammar School Journalism Club recently sat down with 2021's fresh head prefects to discuss their school-wide and personal goals for the year, as well as getting a little glimpse into how they spend their free time.

When discussing their team goals for the school, Head Boy Jack Clough noted a desire to come back strongly after a pandemic-disrupted 2020. "We really want to bring back all the events we missed out on last year," says Jack, adding that they particularly want to do them all "with a bang" in 2021.

While Jack clearly has ambition for the year ahead, his free time can be a little more low-key, spending most mornings walking two old dogs around the local area.

Head Girl Emma Mason states that she would love to leave a "positive legacy within the school" and has lofty academic goals for the year. Additionally, she is passionate about ensuring that every student at Takapuna Grammar School is encouraged and supported to pursue extracurricular opportunities in 2021 and beyond. "I've adapted to a lot in my life," she states, and is clearly looking forward to this new challenge.

James Fairbairn, Deputy Head Boy, wants to focus on providing students with information about pathways for post-secondary work and education. He also has his own academic goals for 2021, aiming to achieve Level Three NCEA



From left: Jack Clough, Head Boy; Emma Mason, Head Girl; Lizzie Chapman, Deputy Head Girl; James Fairbairn, Deputy Head Boy

with an Excellence endorsement.

Lizzie Chapman, Deputy Head Girl, says that she is excited to get to work with this group of head prefects. "The group has bonded really well and has a great vibe," she notes. "We can't wait to work alongside the school's senior leadership staff to make it a great year at Takapuna Grammar." In her free time, Lizzie enjoys "chill-night swims" at Cheltenham Beach.

The 2021 head prefects are a sporting bunch,

with James and Jack gunning for success and promotion for their respective school teams: the First XV Boys Rugby Team and the First XI Boys Cricket Team. Likewise, Lizzie aims to succeed at this year's national championships in road cycling, while Emma includes a half-marathon among her 2021 aspirations.

As a team, however, they all agree on their collective goal; they want to work for all students of Takapuna Grammar School and have great ambition for the 2021 school year.

Ngataringa lines controversy continues

Poor communication about the yellow lines prohibiting parking in front of their homes is continuing to cause angst for Ngataringa Rd residents.

The matter is likely to be brought up again at the next Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting, with member Trish Deans wanting to know why Auckland Transport (AT) has not dealt directly with the residents. Instead, since word of traffic restrictions first came up a year ago, the residents have received only patchy notifications from a private traffic consultant engaged by Ryman, which runs the nearby William Sanders Retirement Village, and from Ryman Construction.

“Nobody will take responsibility for any actions, says resident Tarn Cameron. She is unhappy at “the process and the lack of regard for anyone who isn’t a private big-business neighbour”.

Cameron is resigned to accepting that the yellow lines, painted without notice in December, are now there to stay. But over the New Year period, someone else covered them up with black paint. In late January, a contractor for AT repainted them. A day later, a vehicle from another council-controlled organisation, Watercare, parked on them.

Deans believes if the whole matter had

been handled better from the start, the residents would not be so frustrated. “The residents do not believe they should be following Ryman’s instructions and would hope to have had dialogue with AT,” she told its group manager for parking services and compliance, John Strawbridge. Her own efforts to get answers about the process stretch back over months and drew an acknowledgment from Strawbridge that consultants had failed to update residents last year that AT’s Traffic Control Committee had approved the lines.

Cameron says that as a ratepayer she is aghast that AT leaves it to a private company to inform residents about plans for a public street. In the first instance, not all residents were told of the proposals. Of the eight who made submissions, six were opposed. Months later, when the lines were approved, residents heard nothing. (Cameron eventually received an apology from the consultant, but not from AT)

When line-painting began in December, Cameron said the first she and neighbours knew was when a Fulton Hogan worker setting up traffic cones asked residents to move their cars. Calls to AT for clarification did not help, and an emailed response incorrectly said letters about the painting had been sent.

New off-peak service to use old bus stops

The new 805 bus service – that some dub the ride to Ryman – will use stops that have been out of action since a similar service was put on hold in the early days of the retirement village’s construction.

The exceptions are the old 815 route stops either side of Ngataringa Rd, nearest to its corner with Lake Rd. These have been decommissioned by Auckland Transport (AT) and are on a stretch where AT has now prohibited parking.

This means that when the off-peak-only 805 service begins in March, it will travel from the Devonport ferry terminal up Lake Rd and left into Ngataringa Rd, with its first Ngataringa Rd stop midway along the William Sanders Retirement Village frontage, between the property’s two main gates. The bus will then follow part of the route

of the former 815 service, turning right into Wesley St to Aramoana Ave and Regent St, then up Kawerau Ave and left into Lake Rd towards Belmont. At the Belmont shops, it will turn into the parking layby near the Rose Centre, before returning down Lake Rd to Devonport.

An AT spokesperson said: “If people suggest locations for new bus stops, we would consider them. However, the introduction of new stops would be subject to public consultation.”

Suggestions have been made that the Ryman stop should be closer to its village gates to make it easier for residents to walk to, and that the decommissioned stop closer to Lake Rd should be maintained so that those living on the east side of Lake Rd can more easily catch a bus to Belmont.



OUT & ABOUT

Maria Teape Community Coordinator

445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

FOLK IN THE PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday 14 February, 1:00pm-4:00pm
Band Rotunda, Windsor Rsv, Devonport Waterfront
 Sit back and relax while listening to free live music on Devonport’s stunning waterfront, presented by the Devonport Folk Music Club. Food and soft drinks will be for sale or bring a picnic to enjoy. There will also be a preschool play zone to keep the little ones entertained (caregiver supervision is required).
For more info call Hilary ph: 445 2227
or email: realmusic@xtra.co.nz

KIDS ATHLETICS SERIES

Tuesdays, 16 Feb-23 March, 4pm-6pm
Vauxhall Sports Reserve (rugby club grounds)
 Primary school-aged kids can have a go at a variety of athletic activities for free in a non-competitive environment, including high jump, long jump, running races, agility games and more.
For more info contact Maria or Carolyn ph: 445 9533
or email: maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

RAUMATI/SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY MORNINGS

Tuesdays (@ Windsor Reserve) & Thursdays (@ Bayswater Park) 9:30am-11:00am
 Summer Fun Preschool Play mornings are a fun time for preschoolers to play with big toys, be active and make new friends.
 Caregiver supervision is required, and sessions are weather dependent. **For more info, visit www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with any changes.**

STREET GET-TOGETHERS

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

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

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



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NEW LISTING



Devonport 10 High Street

Surprisingly large cottage villa

This charming and deceptively large cottage villa set on a generous 607sqm site is perfectly positioned super close to Devonport village and offers far more space than you might imagine both inside and outside. Once a four-bedroom home, the current owners opted instead to create three large bedrooms and an absolutely enormous living room in addition to the classic open plan kitchen dining and family living area at the back of the home, all flowing seamlessly onto the sprawling decks and gardens beyond. Add to this the oversized double garage with internal access plus space for a workshop and gym, and you will quickly see that this is not your average three-bedroom home.

bayleys.co.nz/1470424

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Auction (unless sold prior)
1.30pm, Thu 4 Mar 2021
28 Northcroft Street, Takapuna

View Sat/Sun 1-1.45pm
or by appointment

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linda.simmons@bayleys.co.nz

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Junior World Series clocks up 28 years

The North Shore Cricket Club hosted 170 kids at its annual three-day Junior World Series tournament before school resumed.



Above: Melting pot... the colours of world cricket gather in sweltering heat outside North Shore Cricket Club for prize-giving

Right: All concentration... George Edgar, playing for team Australia, focuses on an incoming delivery



Bowling action... Audrey Melhish winds up to deliver the ball

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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

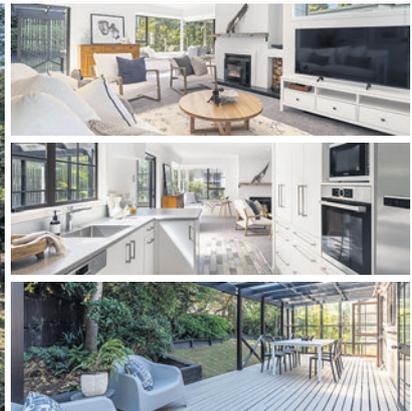
- Two Fullers captains are censured following a crash between two ferries at Devonport Wharf in 2000. The Fullers passenger ferries, Kea and Kestrel, collided in heavy fog at 7.24am on 30 June, about 200m south-west of the wharf.
- A light plane crashes in Ngataranga Bay mud. The pilots were unhurt and around 100 locals pulled the plane to safety before it was submerged in an incoming tide.
- Decathlete Simon Poelman is released from prison early and spends the remainder of his sentence at his mother's Devonport home. Poelman was sentenced to five-and-a-half years in jail in October 1998 for importing nearly 2000 Ecstasy tablets, worth \$200,000, in a toy rabbit.
- Plans are afoot to move the Devonport Visitor Information Centre into the Devonport Council office.
- Murals by St Leo's pupils recall the history of nuns at the school.
- Wakatere Boating Club's historic yacht tower, built in 1928, is set to be repaired. at a cost of \$10,000.
- Twenty-one trees – some 30 years old – will be removed from Lake Rd for remedial works on a dangerous bank beside the Devonport Methodist Church.
- Mick Gannaway, a long-serving Devonport Community Board deputy, retires as chair of the works committee. He was



Nose down... a light plane that crashed in Ngataranga Bay

- given a key to Devonport's sewer in recognition of his work to improve the local drainage system.
- The greens and the clubrooms of the former North Devonport Bowling Club have been taken over by the North Shore Cadet Force.
- Nearly \$4 million has been put aside in North Shore City Council's annual plan to widen Lake Rd, between Esmonde Rd and Jutland Rd.
- Telecom has rebuffed the Devonport Community Board's request to remove power poles on Queens Pde.

BAYLEYS



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bayleys.co.nz/1470422

3 1 2 2

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)

1pm, Wed 24 Feb 2021

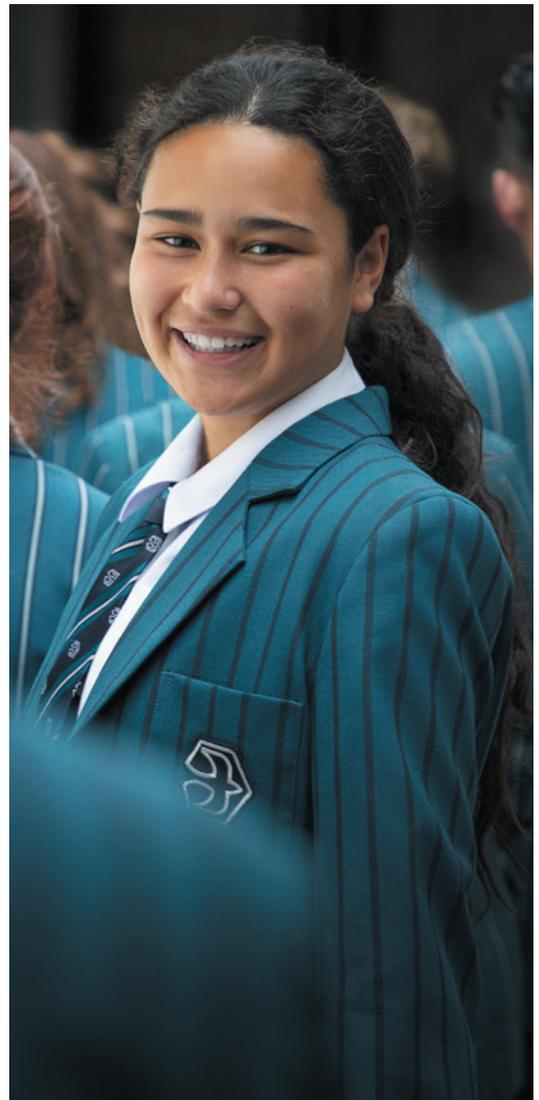
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Application form can be downloaded from: <http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/about-us/career-opportunities>. APPLY now, applications close 12th February 2021.

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The Patriot is seeking a part-time Sous Chef for a late Feb start. A min of 2 days work per week. Pay rate is negotiable on experience.

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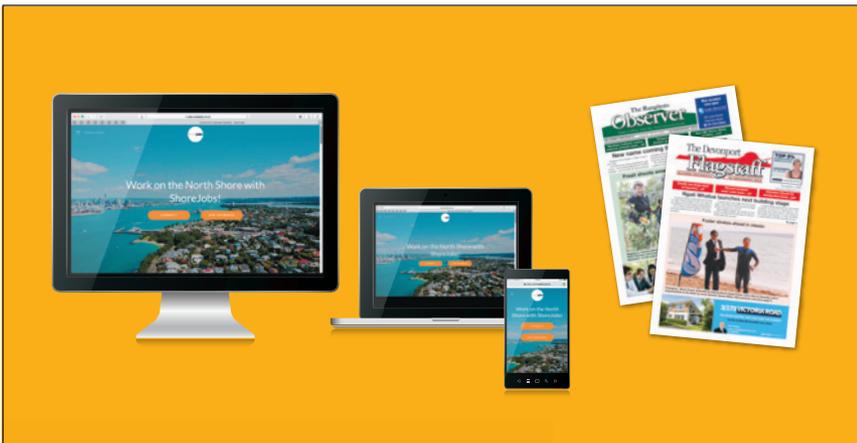
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SAFE AND SECURE AND A LITTLE BIT SPOILED AT WILLIAM SANDERS

Staying together is the most important thing for Fleur and her husband Pete.

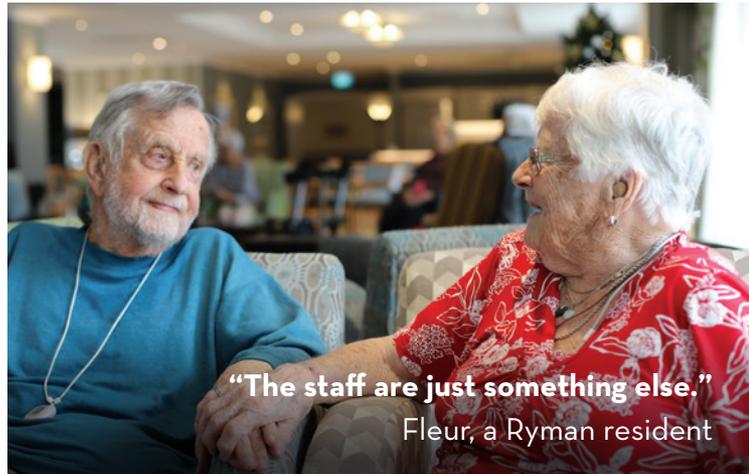
Since moving into Ryman Healthcare's William Sanders Retirement Village in May 2019, the pair, now in their 90s, have been able to do just that, despite having different health needs.

When the village care centre opened up in November last year, health needs meant Pete moved into the resthome and Fleur transferred to a serviced apartment.

While it meant giving up their independent apartment they initially moved into at the village, the couple, who have been married for over 60 years, could still enjoy all their waking hours together in the same place.

"I come down and we have our meals together and we sit in the lounge, and watch a bit of TV in Pete's room," says Fleur.

"Abby the Activities Coordinator will run outings or activities for us to keep us moving. I've got



"The staff are just something else."

Fleur, a Ryman resident

a Boney M cd for her to put on next time!

"I like reading or sometimes we just look out the window. The views from the lounge are wonderful!"

It was the couple's daughter Joy who first planted the seed of living in a retirement village several years ago.

"She said we should try and find somewhere like this but at the time there was nothing like this in Devonport, so we left it.

"Then one day we were with my son and I said we should pop into the sales office and find out what this business with William

Sanders was all about. We came in and saw the sales advisors, Janet and Mark, and made enquiries and it really just evolved from there.

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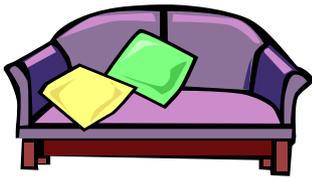
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Devonport RSA 2020/2021 AGM is taking place on Sunday March 21st at 2pm. Location - 61 Victoria Road Devonport. Nominations are now open for executive committee members, these close on February 15th at 5pm

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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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The 36th America's Cup, presented by PRADA, is in full swing.

From 13th - 24th February, the PRADA Cup Final Series 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 traffic congestion.

Ferry services 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 and there may be delays.

Timetable Services will be running as normal, with some additional ferries added on race days. 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



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We are working with The Depot Sound Studio to hold a series of young talent shows mid-year that will come with prizes, including recording-studio time. Devonport is renowned for producing musical stars, including Gin Wigmore and Lorde, and we hope there may be other great talent out there just waiting to be discovered!

For performers of any age, we are also continuing our monthly Open Mic Night in the Lounge Cinema on the last Thursday of the month, starting from 25 February. These have been very popular in the past and give aspiring comedians, singers and musicians a chance to show their stuff in a small intimate setting. This low-key performance space with seating for 25 is the perfect place for those who've always wanted "to have a go".

Contact events@thevic.co.nz if you want to take part.



We are starting a new initiative for our older audience this month with a special weekly session that includes a free morning tea. The first movie is *Never Too Late*. It's about four old boys planning to break out of their rest home.

With a stellar cast including Dennis Waterman and Jack Thompson, this comedy will be a hit with our mature audiences. 18 February 10am.



We have an Auckland Sea Week film screening in March featuring a series of short films celebrating the underwater life of our oceans.

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Arts stalwart's 'retirement'

After 17 years running the Depot Artspace, Lynn Lawton says it's high time he passed on the baton. But rather than going into full-time retirement, he is focusing on nurturing creative talent, both locally and in his bolthole up north.

At Rawene in the Hokianga, he runs a gallery out of a heritage building.

"But I'm not fully leaving Devonport," says Lawton, explaining that while a new general manager arrives at the Depot arts hub this month, he will retain a part-time role, introducing a government-supported programme. This will dovetail with Arts Lab, an existing development scheme for unemployed creatives that Lawton will also run.

Mentoring rather than managing takes him back to his early days at the Depot, which his wife, Linda Blincko, founded in 1994 after lobbying to repurpose an old council works building. She remains as the Depot's creative director but, like Lawton, is looking forward to more free time.

They have plans to further develop artist exchanges between their Rawene passion project and Devonport.

They will keep a home in Devonport, and the Depot will always be special to them because it is where they met at an event, going on to marry in 2002.

Lawton says he now no longer wants the top job's responsibilities of finance, staff and management. Simply enjoying life is next on the agenda, including heading to the movies

when he feels like it. He already fits in 4-5 visits to the gym a week, staying sprightly and looking much younger than a man in his early seventies.

The Canadian-born, Westlake Boys High School-educated former airline technician, Navy chaplain and psychology graduate came to the arts in a roundabout way, but he has never looked back.

"It's the very best job I've had in my whole life," he says. "Every day I come to work and I never think of it as work, it's been my life."

After steering the Depot's growth for so long, he feels it is time for new leadership. He is excited that internationally experienced Amy Saunders will inject fresh energy into an already nimble organisation. Lawton will help her settle in, plus remain a trustee on the board, but his working hours will drop to 15-20 hours a week.

For a man first employed at the Depot as a career-development specialist, it is a case of returning to his roots, running programmes designed to foster artistic talent. The new one, Career Support for Creatives, supported by the Ministries of Social Development and of Culture and Heritage, is being set up in three centres in Auckland, with the Depot chosen because of its track record. The aim is to help Covid-hit creatives become more sustainable in their work.

Working in community arts management has been good preparation for this. The role has

Folkies return to Windsor Reserve

Folk in the Park returns to Devonport this month for its 14th year.

The free family show will showcase local and out-of-town folk performers from the Devonport Folk Music Club.

Performing this year is local duo Tamlin (Greg and Linda Whitcombe), four-person band Bluegrass and Beyond, female trio All Good Time, duo Liddiard & Louise (Brenda Liddiard and Martha Louise), blues and jazz musicians Neil Sinlay and Nigel Gaven, and Irish musician Sean Spinnott. Lew Black will be the compere.

Club secretary Hilary Condon said the show attracts the folk community around Auckland as well as locals. "It is a very pleasant afternoon in the park under the trees with a play area for little kids, the Girls Brigade provides a cake stall and sausage sizzle, and the Vic Theatre brings their ice cream van."

The show received a grant of \$2000 from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Folk in the Park will be held at Windsor Reserve from 1pm to 4pm this Sunday 14 February.



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been all about building relationships, tapping into financial sources and generally staying afloat while allowing the creative juices of others to flourish.

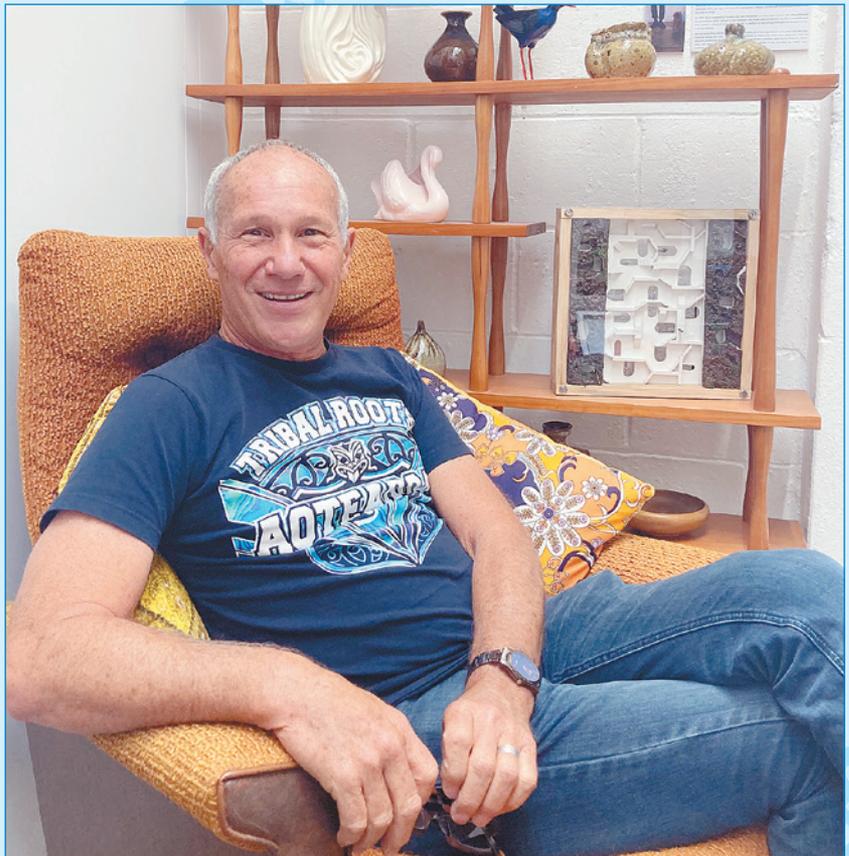
On Lawton's watch, the Depot has widened its brief, adding a music studio to the premises. The galleries will soon be reconfigured.

Personal highlights have included an exhibition commemorating the Pacific Islanders who did military training for World War II at Narrow Neck. "Two hundred Cook Islanders turned up who did dance and powhiri and took over lower Clarence St. Devonport reverberated with the sound of their music and chanting and dancing."

Another standout moment was when New Zealand was considering a new flag and the Depot invited some artists down from the Hokianga. "A fuss erupted when some old Maori ones were put up." This worked out well attracting interest and debate about the exhibition. The link to the region came earlier: he and Blincko explored the area after getting to know an artist there.

"We would often stop in Rawene and see this building that had been left vacant and was becoming increasingly derelict." In 2013, they bought the late-1800s general store, turning it into a retail art space and exhibition venue, with a second-hand book shop and a sublet cafe.

"I want to spend more time there to grow it more," Lawton says.



Moving on... Lynn Lawton says running the Depot Artspace has been the best job of his life

New beginnings

Lunar New Year will be celebrated in Takapuna on Saturday 13 February, with Chinese cultural performances, food and activities. The Year of the Ox event centres around the public space at 38 Hurstmere Rd and runs from 3pm to 6pm.

Meanwhile, the Auckland Lantern Festival will take place later in the month on the Captain Cook and Marsden Wharves. The free event runs 25-28 February.

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Supernova (M) 94min	25 FEB
Open Mic Night at The Vic (Live Show)	25 FEB
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