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**Strong buyer interest in pensioner-flat site... p2**

**Knife wielded in skatepark robbery... p3**

**Interview: Brazilian jiu-jitsu expert Kauan Gracie... p16**

## Auckland-wide Maori-naming plans in disarray

A plan to roll out Maori names for Auckland's parks and public places has stalled, with pre-eminent iwi Ngati Whatua Orakei wanting final say over the choices.

The Flagstaff has learned through an Official Information Act (OIA) request that Auckland Council's Te Kete Rukuruku

programme, launched in 2017 to recognise Tamaki Makarau's Maori history and culture, became bogged down last year.

Yet 15 of the city's 21 Local Boards, including Devonport-Takapuna, are already going through the motions of identifying parks for dual naming.

A letter from Ngati Whatua's deputy chair Ngarimu Blair, written in June 2020, asserted Ngati Whatua's authority over a collective of iwi drawn together by the council to offer and decide upon appropriate names.

**To page 2**

## And action! The Vic ramps up live shows



**Ready to rock... Acts including a Led Zeppelin tribute band have been lined up by The Vic cinema's Philipp Jaser (above) to help fill empty seats and offset the financial impact of Covid. Story, page 10.**

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## Shore in the hunt for trophy

The North Shore premier cricket side has rocketed to second in the Hedley Howarth two-day competition and has a good chance of taking Auckland's top club-cricket trophy.

Former Black Caps T20 player Ronnie Hira's 14 wickets and 73 second-innings runs against Takapuna could prove a season-altering performance.

An outright win against Takapuna saw Shore go from fourth to second on the points table, closing in on leaders Suburbs New Lynn, who had a surprise loss to Parnell.

Playing at home, Shore scored 207 in the first innings and declared at 152 for four in the second, dismissing the visitors for 136 and 129.

Shore has two matches to play, against Auckland University and bottom-placed Grafton.

To be in contention for the title is a remarkable achievement for the club, which spent seven years out of the top division, only returning in 2019-2020.

Shore coach Chris Reid said: "I hope people appreciate how far we have come."

While Hira's contribution to the win was massive, others had excelled as well. The Shore top order had fallen away in the first innings, and without a 94 from Riley Mudford, Shore could have been on the ropes.

Hira played for the Auckland Aces as recently as last season. At age 34, he was enjoying grass-roots cricket, Reid said.

"He's the first guy to arrive to help put out chairs and tables, or give the other players extra catching practice."

• **Ronnie the record-breaker, pages 8-9.**

From page 1

## Ngati Whatua asserts naming rights

"Despite the best intentions, the hui and hard work by many; an 'Un-Maori Outcome' has resulted", the letter said. "That iwi whose fires went out long ago or were never lit in an area can potentially place names on the whenua of someone else is a gross breach of tikanga and offends all sensibilities."

The stance mirrors Ngati Whatua's recent High Court objection to other iwi staking a claim on land matters in Tamaki Makaurau, especially those from other areas, such as Thames/Hauraki, vying for northern assets.

Blair said in his letter to other mana whenua representatives and copied to council officials that Ngati Whatua was willing to work with iwi neighbours, namely Te Waiohua, Ngati Paoa and Te Kawerau a Maki, but should still have final naming approval. Other iwi involved in the programme were not named as its partners for the process.

The letter concluded: "Finally, we must note, that should our proposed solution above not be approved, Ngati Whatua Orakei will formally withdraw from the project and instead focus our energy on vigorously objecting to the project with the Local Boards and whoever

else necessary."

Since the letter was written, a Mana Whenua Working Group has been trying to negotiate an outcome that allows Te Kete Rukuru to progress. It has come up with new draft guidelines on naming that a council document says "include some of the recent direction from Ngati Whatua Orakei agreed by some mana whenua, but only where it is understood the principles are more universally supported." The next step would be for Nga Matarae, the council's Maori Outcomes group, to "in due course" finalise official guidelines.

With money already set aside in local-board budgets, there had been an expectation that new signage might be seen this year. Devonport-Takapuna has allocated \$20,000 to Te Kete Rukuru in its 2020-21 works programme.

Board deputy chair George Wood said he was concerned that the council seemed to be pushing forward with the process without properly developed guidelines in place.

It is understood that neighbouring Kaipatiki Local Board is looking at reallocating \$16,000 it had set aside.

## Buyers line up for pensioner-flat site

Strong buyer interest has been expressed in the Handley Court retirement-unit site in Narrow Neck, currently for sale by Haumaru Housing.

The tender for 16-18 Handley Ave closed on 10 March, with final decisions on the property likely by the end of March, an Auckland Council spokesperson said.

Haumaru had no plans to sell other units on the Devonport peninsula – at Vauxhall Rd (Cambria Court), Fraser Rd (Fraser Court) and Lake Rd (Kings Court), and two blocks in Belmont at Preston Ave, and Roberts Ave, she said.

These properties would continue to be refurb

ished when they become vacant.

Council had decided to sell Handley Court because it was not well located for housing for older people, and "has poor access to public transport, support services and amenities," the spokesperson said.

"The buildings are not fit for purpose and are generally in poor condition, with poor accessibility and functionality.

"The zoning (suburban residential) also does not allow for large-scale intensification that would be needed to make a redevelopment project for affordable or social housing viable," the spokesperson said.

## Ships kept at sea

HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Manawanui were both kept at sea as a precaution during the tsunami warnings last Friday.

Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Mat Williams, said that in a tsunami, "the best place for a ship to be was at sea". Both ships later berthed at Devonport Naval Base.

Around Devonport, some people ignored the warnings, walking near the coast, with a few swimming at local beaches. A crowd gathered on Maungauika to watch developments up high.

### 3 Victoria Rd: empty for 1019 days

The old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018. It has now been unoccupied for 1019 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is deciding the building's fate.

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# Relationship hero: Tessa's creche work honoured

Devonport creche manager Tessa Dunleavy has won a national early childhood education (ECE) award for her work over the last year.

She is one of 11 ECE Hero Award winners recognised for innovation during the Covid-19 lockdowns, and "support that went above and beyond" for children and families.

The award judges said she was a "Relationship Hero", which was backed up by local citations.

One nominee said Dunleavy, during lockdown, "rang our house to spend time with our daughter to continue their connection. Tessa had her guitar ready to play their favourite songs, books to read and games to play. All my child wanted to do was 'read' to Tessa, so she was so patient and listened and chatted for nearly an hour. Seemingly captivated by a three-year-old."

Dunleavy had led the not-for-profit creche for "a whopping 25 years."

"Over lockdown, Tessa knew intrinsically what the potential impacts could be for our children and she worked tirelessly to mitigate any negative consequences."

She carried out weekly session with each child via video-chat, did contactless drop-offs of resources so "when the children went back



**Fun and creative...Tessa Dunleavy (centre) surrounded by members of her creche 'family'**

to the creche in level 2, it was virtually seamless for the kids," the nomination said.

Dunleavy, who was described as creative, fun and nurturing, said she was delighted to win the award and that it was a recognition of the wider team of seven teachers at the Devonport

Community Creche, which was attended by 75 children.

The creche had an excellent governance board and "it was really great to live in a fantastic supportive community that believes in early childhood education," said Dunleavy.

# Knife brandished in robbery just days after serious assault

Police were called out to a serious assault and a robbery, both involving a knife, within five days on the Devonport peninsula last week.

An arrest has been made after a daylight assault on a man near the Belmont shops on Thursday 4 March, but offenders are still sought following a night-time robbery of three youths near Ngataringa Park skatepark in the early hours of 28 February.

Police Area Commander for Waitemata East Inspector Simon Walker said at this stage there was no indication of a connection between the crimes. "Police acknowledge these sorts of incidents may be unsettling for residents and we treat these cases seriously," he said.

The Police Eagle helicopter was called out after the Lake Rd, Belmont attack, when the offender fled on foot just after 4pm. A person was located on Narrow Neck Beach, where police staff took him into custody.

Inspector Walker said a 16-year-old boy has been referred to Youth Aid over the incident.

The injured man did not require admission to hospital and was taken home by police, he said. "We will be speaking further with the victim as part of our enquiries."

The weekend incident near the skatepark was reported to police at 1.10am, around 20 minutes after it occurred. Waitemata East Area Investigations Manager Detective Senior-Sergeant

Callum McNeill said the three young victims were confronted by a male on a bicycle, who had a knife. "An iPhone and other personal items were taken as a result, but thankfully none of the victims sustained any physical injuries."

McNeill said police were unable to find the man, but investigations were continuing – including canvassing CCTV footage.

The mother of one of the youths posted online that her 17-year-old son and friends were fine. The attacker, aged around 18 to 20, was said to be riding a bike that looked too small for him. Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 105, quoting the file number 210301/3652.

## RACE DAYS BY THE SEA

### DEVONPORT

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## Ferry bike-jams prompt brainstorm

The frustration of commuters struggling to get a spot for their bikes and scooters on ferries has prompted action to see what can be done.

“The ferries aren’t big enough to deal with the demand for bikes,” said Bike Auckland chair Barb Cuthbert, who recently met with ferry operator Fullers and Auckland Transport (AT) over the issue on some Devonport-to-city sailings.

Passengers have missed connections because there is only room for 10 bikes on the outside deck on some of the ferries.

“We’re going to be working closely on solutions in the next few weeks,” said Cuthbert. “There’s real goodwill to do the best we can until we get more new ferries.”

Fullers 360 chief executive Mike Horne said he understood the frustrations of customers unable to board with their bikes on their preferred sailings.. “This had occurred a handful of times,” he said. With some older ferries the peak capacity for safe storage of bikes exceeded modern-day demand.

The company would try to schedule its newer vessels, Ika Kakahi and Kekenoo which could take between 20 to 25 bikes, or other larger vessels on the Devonport route during peak commute times, he said. Arriving 15 minutes ahead of departure to secure a spot was advised, he said.

Cuthbert said the retirement of the spacious



**Contested space... passengers and bikes on a Devonport ferry**

old Kea ferry from the route at the end of 2019 had been a big loss. It could fit up to 30 bikes and load from front or back, she said.

Ferries in use now have a single, narrower entry point and are slower to load. “Devonportians would have gone mad if they’d known this,” said Cuthbert.

Horne said that over the last year there had been a notable increase in people bringing bikes

and scooters onboard. It supported this trend and would factor it into future ferry purchases, along with more green technology.

Fullers was also starting to capture data about bikes and scooters brought on board.

Cuthbert said Waka Kotahi/New Zealand Transport Agency which had chosen not to attend the meeting, needed to track this too, to see how many people cycled how far to ferries.

### Bus passengers left stranded

Cases of ferry passengers missing bus connections continue to plague peninsula public transport. Recent examples include a child left at the Bayswater terminal and a woman left at Devonport at 9pm by departing buses.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans has been pushing for more timetable accountability from Auckland Transport which brought in new services in March.

“Unfortunately AT staff seem unable to address the issue,” said Deans.

### Goff given Stanley Bay ferry petition

A petition signed by more than 1000 people protesting the loss of the Stanley Bay ferry was presented to Auckland Mayor Phil Goff last month by North Shore MP Simon Watts.

The National Party MP said the service (a loss-maker) had suffered significant cancellations, so it was no surprise its patronage had been dropping. “Anyone who uses public transport knows it needs to be timely and reliable.”

Watts said he discussed Auckland Council’s 10-year plan and the need for it to

include meaningful wastewater and storm-water infrastructure investment. Local-body debt funding and cost management were also on his radar, along with concerns that any rate rises should deliver more services rather than be a default coping position.

The Stanley Bay ferry petition remains open. Since it was presented to Goff, the number of signatories has risen, standing last week at 1167. The petition will go to Auckland Transport and Fullers, with Watts meeting Fullers soon to discuss ferry issues generally, including timetabling.

## Slow me down

We are seeing and hearing of some tentative signs that this rampant property market may begin to slow its dramatic recent price growth.

This is due to new RBNZ investor deposit rules (now 40%), as well as rising long-term interest rates signalling an improvement in growth and inflation as vaccines take hold, and a general disillusionment from many buyers towards the prices being paid.

We also note that two of the majors banks are now lending against their internal estimated values plus a small [10%] rather than the sale-and-purchase agreement price. This can really hurt some buyers, who have an approval for a certain level of debt but find the bank won’t lend that much if they feel the buyer has paid too much for the property. Hence our message to check with us first!

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# Exhibition puts Defence Force life in the frame

Asked to pick his most memorable assignment during his New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) career, photographer and Navy Petty Officer Chris Weissenborn doesn't hesitate.

It was being chosen to go to Gallipoli to mark the Anzac 100-year anniversary six years ago. He admits as an Englishman to not fully understanding the defining resonance of "the whole Anzac thing" but being in Turkey this soon sheeted home.

"With my feet in the water, you knew exactly 100 years ago there would have been blood in that water."

The Hauraki resident, who works out of the Devonport Naval Base, is among eight NZDF staff whose images have been chosen for the *Standing Alone – Together as One* exhibition at the Navy Museum in Devonport.

"It's great to see your work showcased on the wall," says Weissenborn.

He hopes the exhibition will show service personnel to the public in a new light. "They will see a side of the military they don't usually see," he says.

The varied photographs, ranging from portraits to action shots, were all taken in 2020. Even allowing for Covid-19 interruptions to key ceremonial events such as Anzac Day, each photographer still had thousands of frames to select from for the exhibition. The result is around 30 mounted photographs, with extra images scrolling on a big screen.

For Weissenborn it was tough whittling his individual choice back to a handful of pictures. His day job ranges from covering parades to public-relations imagery and reportage, including on deployments overseas on a ship or with the army or air force. "I tend to like the action-sport kind of thing," he says.

Weissenborn joined the NZDF in 2006, having served since 1988 in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

He was trained in photography in the RAF but says his love of the craft dates back to childhood days. "When I was about 12 or 13 years old, I built my own darkroom."

He misses something of the earlier days of photography, saying digital is not as scientific and precise, but a bonus is its instant



**Top shots... Chris Weissenborn is one of eight Defence Force staff with photos in the *Standing Alone – Together as One* exhibition at the Navy Museum**

visibility. "You know when you've got the right shot."

Seeing his photographs enlarged made a nice chance from the usual task of looking at them on a computer screen. His shots chosen for the exhibition includes an expressive photograph of a tug-of-war contest at the annual Seaport festival, and another of a rigid-inflatable boat (RIB) crew in action in moody light.

"I was really pushing the camera to its limits," he explains.

Weissenborn, aged 50, says: "I've got a hell of a passion for photography, and to make a career out of it has been amazing."

He also relishes winning the trust of the sailors he works with, getting a kick out of

them using his work on social media – such as choosing a photograph he has taken for their Facebook profile picture.

Weissenborn is proud that the exhibition's name was inspired by another photograph he has on show. Called *Stand at Dawn*, it was taken last Anzac Day and shows a solitary Lieutenant Samuel Fox in a dawn observance at the top of his driveway in Hauraki.

With Covid-19 having caused the cancellation of public Anzac parades, Weissenborn had to get creative. His near neighbour Fox proved "a willing model" for the special shot.

• The *Standing Alone – Together as One* exhibition will be on daily for several months at the Navy Museum, Torpedo Bay.

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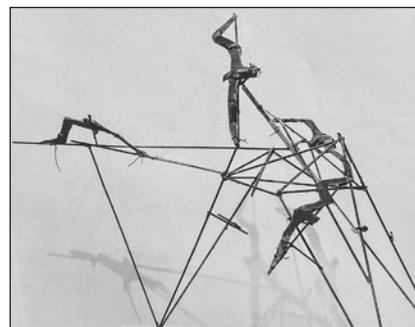
## Victoria Wharf albatross sculpture preview

Models of the new Victoria wharf sculpture, Flight Support for Albatross, will be on show at the Depot Artspace this month.

Artist Greer Twiss will also be exhibiting a series early works, and in a talk will explain his creative process for reconfiguring the sculpture for its new location.

First installed on Quay Street, the sculpture has undergone a series of structural and artistic changes. It will welcomed to the wharf on 20 March at 10 am.

• Exhibition: 9 March–23 March. Artist Talk: Saturday 13 March from 1 to 2pm at The Depot Artspace.



**Now showing...Flight Support for Albatross**

## Tipoki joins Botica to steer North Shore premiers

Former Auckland Blues and North Harbour player Rua Tipoki will help coach the North Shore premier rugby side this season, assisting head coach Frano Botica.

Tipoki, who also played for the New Zealand sevens side and the New Zealand Maori team that beat the Lions in 2005, would focus on the Shore backline, Botica said.

Shore had its first practice game, played in five 20-minute spells, against Pakuranga on 27 February, with 30 players “putting their hands up” for final spots in the premiers squad.

A second pre-season match – Shore’s traditional clash with Ponsonby, planned for Takapuna Grammar School last Saturday – was cancelled due to level-3 Covid restrictions.

The match has been tentatively rescheduled for 20 March, ahead of Shore’s first North Harbour competition match over Easter.

Last season, Shore suffered from a lack of depth in the front row but had recruited



**Playing days... Rua Tipoki in action for North Harbour**

well in the off season, Botica said.

New players included prop Finbar Kerr-Newell from Wellington, and hooker Damarus Hokianga from Hawke’s Bay.

The pair would complement the experienced, established prop Alex Wooton, who will be premier captain.

In the backs, Mitch Drew, a wing/fullback from Hawke’s Bay, midfielder Tyler Berry and first-five/fullback Liam Fitzsimmons had joined the club, along with Tipoki’s son Manahi, a halfback.

Donald Coleman is back at number seven and loose forward Edgar Tuinukuafe has been recruited from Europe, where he played professionally.

Shore has suffered some departures as well, including fullback Dan Lee, who is doing part of a degree course on practice nights, and first-five Jordan McGregor, who returned to Australia. The 2020 halfbacks are out too: Brad McNaughton is injured and Sam Baab has moved to Australia.

Perhaps the biggest loss is talented midfielder Daniel Hilton-Jones.

Botica is predicting a close North Harbour competition between the top sides: Shore, Takapuna, Massey, Silverdale and Kumeu.

“We’ve also heard that Marist has recruited well... we are confident we can do well, but you never know till the season starts.”

## Concussion forces Hilton-Jones into retirement

Repeated concussions have forced the early retirement of Daniel Hilton-Jones, one of North Shore Rugby Club’s best players in recent seasons.

At 26, Hilton-Jones, has played more than 70 games for Shore since his debut in 2014.

The second-five/centre also played 24 games for North Harbour in 2016, 2017 and 2018. He was a member of Harbour’s 2016 ITM Cup Championship-winning side.

Hilton-Jones said he had had “six to seven concussions over the last three to four years”.

But he was “knocked out cold” against Takapuna in July last year. He came back against Silverdale a few weeks later and received another knock, which seemed one too many.

“I started to have a few issues – I was a bit hazy and not totally present.”

Doctors told Hilton-Jones to take a year off playing, which he says is likely to be permanent retirement.

“Rugby is definitely a no-go at this stage... it’s a shame, but it is what it is,” he says.

“I was a bit a late bloomer and potentially had a bit left in me. But it’s important to have my brain working properly.”

During his playing years, Hilton-Jones studied towards a law degree, fitting it in around his North Harbour commitments. He was admitted to the bar last June, and is working for McVeagh Fleming, in the property and commercial team.

Hilton-Jones said his career highlights were winning the North Harbour Premier championship in 2014 in his first season of senior rugby, and getting a professional



**On the burst... Daniel Hilton-Jones on attack for North Shore against East Coast Bays in 2016**

contract with North Harbour in 2016 and being in the side that won the ITM Championship and gained promotion to the premier division.

He was North Shore premiers captain in 2016.

Hilton-Jones had been considering playing professionally overseas in Japan or France, but Covid last year put paid to that.

He hopes to retain an association with the North Shore premier side, possibly helping out with coaching or mentoring.



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## One-man cricket wrecking ball demolishes derby rivals



### Wicket-hunting... Ronnie Hira took 14 wickets in North Shore's triumph over Takapuna

The stats tell the story; 14 wickets for 78 runs, and 73 runs not out – including a 50 off 12 balls in just 12 minutes.

North Shore all-rounder Ronnie Hira demolished Takapuna almost single-handedly in a masterclass of cricket in the Hedley Howarth two-day championship match at Devonport Domain on February 20 and 27.

It is being hailed as one of the best club cricket performances, not only in New Zealand but around the world.

Ironically, the match started somewhat lamely for Hira. Opening for Shore in the first innings, he scored a paltry four.

But then the juggernaut started to roll: Hira took six for 27 as Takapuna limped to 136 in its first innings against Shore's 207.

In the second innings, Hira let fly, attacking Takapuna's bowlers in a punishing 73 not out.

His 50 in 12 minutes off 22 balls included seven sixes and three fours.

Having helped set Takapuna a target of 224 off 52 overs, Hira led the way again in collecting 8 wickets for 51 runs. His bowling match figures were 43.3 overs, 13 maidens and 14 wickets for 78 runs

Hira's first wicket of the second day was his 100th wicket for North Shore.

Hira quickly became an international news item, with stories in the *New Zealand Herald* and on Fox News and Australian websites.

"It seemed to be travelling around the world pretty fast," he agrees when interviewed by the Flagstaff.

Hira was quick to point out: "I've had my fair share of failures as well."

The previous weekend, he scored five runs: four in the first innings against Takapuna and one in the loss to Howick Pakuranga in the semi-final of the Jeff Crowe Cup.

The weekend before, he scored just a century. Such it seems are the vagaries of cricket.

The foundation for Hira's match-winning effort against Takapuna was well planned.

In its second innings, Shore was 40 for four after three overs.

"We had chat and decided we wanted to try to set Takapuna a bit of total to get in the last session."

'Get runs quickly' was the message. "I was lucky enough to be hitting well in the

middle," he says.

That's an understatement.

Such was the speed of Hira's run accumulation, he didn't know the pace he was batting at until after Shore's innings finished.

That didn't distract him from his bowling responsibilities.

"All the cards fell our way," says Hira, who has experienced both highs and lows



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Just a ferry trip to the first classical concert on a Sunday afternoon in the Centre of Auckland post-lockdown

**ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY**  
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in the sport.

He's played around 70 games over six seasons with Shore, but was in the side that was relegated to Auckland Cricket's second division nine years ago.

He shifted to Christchurch and Canterbury, but then came back to play for the Auckland Aces and North Shore, including the team that was promoted back to the top division at the end of the 2018-2019 season.

"I was pleased to be part of the team that was promoted. We came fourth last season when some people saying we were likely to be in the relegation zone again. Now we are really showing what we can do."

Some are saying Hira's form is a reaction to the blow last winter when his Auckland Aces contract wasn't renewed.

"I felt I was still playing good cricket, but the selection policy seemed to move to encouraging younger cricketers," said the 34-year-old Hira.

Other aspects of his life are moving on too. He has a four-year-old son, Zavian, "who has no interest in cricket... although he did like the bouncy castle when I was playing with Auckland."

Another child, a girl, is due in a couple of months.

"I don't have time to train enough any more," says Hira.

Although every week he gets up early and heads to the nets at Eden Park with Shore captain Mike Olsen to practise.

"It's been pretty difficult during lockdown. Going to the nets isn't allowed and the gyms have been closed as well."

Hira doesn't answer directly when asked how many years he has left playing premier cricket, but says: "I'm committed to North Shore... I really enjoy playing with the lads on a Saturday and giving it a go."

The Shore faithful will hope Hira's class and match-winning potential will shine again before the season ends.



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**ENROLMENTS TERM 2 2021**

**Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.**

Applications for 10 out of zone places in year 1, 7 in year 2, 13 in year 3, 0 in year 4, 0 in year 5 and 0 in year 6 are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the period 3 May to 9 July 2021.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out of zone places is 3 May 2021.

If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on 3 May 2021. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

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

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

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**By Rob Drent**

Work on the new BMX pump track at Woodall Park at Narrow Neck has started, with not a lot of warning or fanfare from Auckland Council.

It is likely to be a well-used and popular facility. Added to the adjacent basketball and tennis courts, it is bound to become an even more popular meeting place for young people.

It's great to see all the kids outside, away from their screens and using the recreation spaces of Woodall Park. The new BMX track has all the hallmarks of "build it and they will come".

Trouble is, Auckland Council has shown a typical lack of foresight. No water fountains are located nearby and the closest toilets are at Narrow Neck Beach – several hundred metres away.

Another example of council failing to put in infrastructure prior to development?

A couple of decades ago, Rod Enoka,

then operator of the Devonport Gym, came up with a scheme for a community facility at Woodall Park.

It would have included the Devonport Squash Club, gym, tennis and basketball courts, and a swimming pool, all with a central administration. He put the plan to the Devonport Community Board. It was an idea ahead of its time, but one with no legs now given Auckland Council's ever-shrinking budget.

Former North Shore City Councillor and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Grant Gillon's idea to increase GST by 1 per cent to help fund Auckland Council's budget shortfall (*NZ Herald* opinion, 1 March) is worth considering further. I put forward a similar idea several years ago: a 1 per cent tax increase to fund non-roading transport infrastructure, with half spent in Auckland and the rest around the country.

A couple of days prior to Gillon's column, it was revealed the Auckland Harbour Bridge has reached the limits of its capacity. The transport infrastructure needs of Auckland have become a national problem – these can't be funded regionally. Projects have to be accelerated. A vision of the city in 100 years needs to be enacted now with transport options that are not dependent on vehicles.

Otherwise population and building growth will continue to outstrip transport options, as has been the case over the past 50 years.

For a journalist, the call to "stop the presses" for a story you're working on doesn't occur often. It happened to me once on the *Auckland Sun*, which published for a year in 1987 and 1988.

I was on the late-night reporting shift when the police radio went berserk at 1am. MP Ross Meurant's Northcote property had been firebombed. Tony Barrass, a larger-than-life Australian, was the "stone sub" putting the paper to bed. Production was stopped as I headed out to the scene, meeting a photographer there. I filed my copy to Barrass, who put a new front page together. We didn't know it then, but those were golden days for newspapers: banging out stories on typewriters with three highly competitive dailies operating in the city.

Barrass returned to Australia, becoming internationally famous when he was jailed for seven days for refusing to reveal a tax-department source when questioned in court.

I was saddened to hear of his death last week in Perth, of cancer, aged 58. I also couldn't help feeling nostalgic for a once-great industry filled with unforgettable characters.

## Covid impact: cinema operator feels the pinch

An expanded programme of live events at the Victoria Theatre over the next few months has been developed to offset the financial ravages of Covid-19.

The Vic operator Philipp Jaser said the lockdowns had given him time to work up a schedule of live bookings.

Acts confirmed over the next few months include:

- The Wonderfish Collective
- The Julie Lamb Orchestra
- David Paterson and friends
- A Led Zeppelin tribute band
- Toby and the Rest
- Debbie Harwood and Bonnie Hurunui
- A Depot Artspace and The Vic combined talent quest
- Regular open-mic nights

"We are aiming to develop both our film offerings and the live shows so they cross-pollinate each other. People who come for the shows can see what we have in the cinemas and vice versa."

The Vic has also improved its lighting rig, so users no longer have to pay the \$700 needed to hire their own gear, making the theatre more attractive to performers.

In other new developments, a Dutch film festival will be held from 29 April to 2 May, and the possibility of a heritage film festival was being developing for later this year.

The Devonport community had been supportive of The Vic, "but we don't want people to get complacent. What we really need is for them to come out and see the movies and the shows."

Covid-19 had been a financial disaster for cinemas and live venues, and The Vic was no different.

Jaser, who took over running the theatre in 2012, said after an initial upsurge from a low base, patronage had grown steadily and then consolidated.

At the start of 2020, The Vic was looking to move into its next phase. Jaser had appointed an experienced programme manager, Dorothee Basel. He had regularly been working 12-hour days, and was hoping to be able to get a bit of time off.

But in February 2020, attendance dropped by 10 per cent from 2019. "The alarm bells were ringing – it was the start of the fear of Covid. People began to get cautious about going out."

Then came the lockdowns. The Vic was closed for around eight weeks.

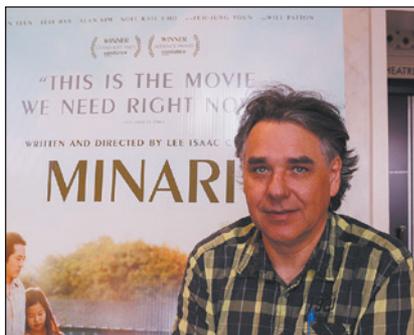
Reserves set aside to carry the theatre over winter were quickly used up. New-release movies were put back. The wage subsidy kept the staff going, but bills continued to mount: insurance, maintenance and the like.

With the latest lockdowns and uncertainty, The Vic is barely breaking even.

But Jaser is determined to keep his staff of three full-time equivalents intact, and has even contemplated taking some "work on the side" to help support the business.

Closing wasn't an option. "I'm a sucker for a challenge – that's why I came to The Vic in the first place, for the challenge."

Jaser concedes he is lucky he doesn't have to pay rent like other cinemas around



**Tough times... but Philipp Jaser and The Vic are up for the challenge**

Auckland. The building is owned by Auckland Council and administered by the Victoria Theatre Trust. Jaser has a management contract whereby a percentage of each ticket sold goes to the trust.

When the Flagstaff called in to the Vic last Friday, the only thing for sale was the Devonport Gelato that is made on-site. Jaser introduced in-house production six years ago, after national supplier Tip Top ran out of product, threatening a major income earner for the Vic.

"We are the only cinema in Auckland to make our own ice cream," Jaser says.

He hopes it is this type of innovation that will see the theatre through. "Covid has been a massive challenge for us, but the Vic is a community gem – together we can get through this."

# Navy Museum expands into new public spaces

New galleries at the Navy Museum celebrate both the service's present-day activities and give a glimpse into its earliest years at Torpedo Bay.

By reclaiming dank old storage spaces, the museum has expanded its public space and reach, with a designated room to be used for educational activities as well.

Opened quietly around lockdowns, the new galleries show a side of the Navy away from the museum's primary focus on its role in 20th century conflicts.

Museum staff are keen for the public to engage with today's Navy, while also appreciating how it became established at the site in the Victorian era and what was there before colonisation.

The centrepiece of the new galleries, which link from the museum's main entrance, is Te Taua Moana gallery. This sizable room, to the shore side of the building, has rail tracks on its floor, dating from its use as a mine store. It includes models and interactive displays about the modern Royal New Zealand Navy fleet.

Over the years, the gallery has been used by the Navy band and sailing club.

To get there, visitors pass through the yet-to-be-finished Te Hapua gallery, named for the Maori name for Torpedo Bay. In partnership with Auckland iwi, this passageway will tell the story of early Maori occupation of the area, along with insights into historical European life.

In the atrium between galleries, a glassed end wall sheds light on uncovered remains of early military equipment. A partially restored turntable can be seen through a glass display circle in the floor. In a small rear external courtyard, other memorabilia is on display, including a propeller from HMNZS Canterbury, which will soon be joined by a gun from HMNZS Kanieri.

Part of a wrought-iron gate, painted red, has been salvaged for display from the land base, HMNZS Philomel.

Leading off the atrium is Tuhara, a classroom space to host everything from school and visitor groups to training in Naval history for service personnel.



**Before and after... the Navy Museum has a new gallery space (top), created in what was once a dank storage area (above)**

# Simon Watts

## MP for North Shore

09 486 0005 • northshore@parliament.govt.nz  
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**Diana Murray**  
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**Harcourts**

**Browns Bay** 2/75 Langana Avenue

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First time buyers or investors must inspect! Situated at the end of a long wide driveway, this elevated 1990s cedar home is ripe for the picking.



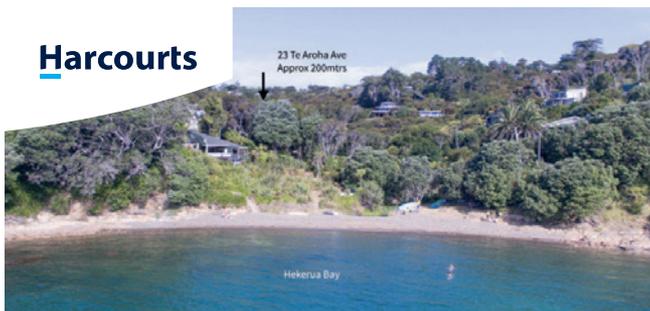
**Jane Hastings**  
M 021 735 263



**Jackie Mark**  
M 021 458 797

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**Waiheke Island** 23 Te Aroha Avenue

984m<sup>2</sup> more or less

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**Devonport** 4/40 Lake Road

2 1 1

Tucked away quietly on Hanlon Crescent away from Lake Road this smart unit represents a great opportunity.



**Maria Stevens**  
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**Harcourts**

**Waiheke Island** 17 & 19 Ostend Road

1 1 1 1

A prime development opportunity. Made up of two lots, this north facing, large corner section is easily accessible from both wide street frontages.



**Karen McMahon**  
M 027 572 9659

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**Harcourts**

**Devonport** 39a Regent Street

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- 26 bids
- Sold \$250,000 above pre-auction offer



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**Jane Hastings**  
M 021 735 263

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**Devonport** 37 Kawerau Avenue

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- Sunny North Facing
- Harbour Views
- Potential Potential Potential



**Gary Potter**  
M 021 953 021



**Ben Potter**  
M 027 953 0210

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## Covid brings famed jiu-jitsu name to Devonport

With her New Zealand visit extended by the global pandemic, a member of a famous Brazilian jiu-jitsu dynasty is offering Kiwis the benefits of her expertise. Kauan Gracie tells Helen Vause about growing up 'on the mat' and bringing a taste of South American self-defence – and dance – to Auckland.

Her family is a household name in Brazil and a legend all over the martial arts world. And though Kauan Gracie has been pretty much flying under the radar, living quietly with her partner in central Devonport, she's hoping she'll be a big hit with our kids very soon.

Far from her South American home, she's bringing the famed Brazilian Gracie Jiu Jitsu brand to town, starting with local lessons for children, following a year of meeting with jiu-jitsu practitioners around the country and teaching wherever she has been invited.

"I was surprised to find how many people are already doing jiu-jitsu all over New Zealand," says Kauan, a third-generation member of the Gracie family who introduced jiu-jitsu to Brazil nearly a century ago.

She hadn't been thinking of starting another branch of the family business in this corner of the world, but Covid changed all that when she was just weeks into exploring New Zealand.

"When I arrived here on New Year's Day 2020, I knew I had come to experience the beauty and the nature of the country. But I couldn't have known that I would fall in love with this place or that I'd be staying for a lot longer than I planned."

When The Flagstaff caught up with her on the veranda of the Devonport cottage she now calls home, the striking 30-something talks about "growing up a Gracie" and making a life, Kiwi-style.

She is the daughter of Rickson Gracie, the widely acknowledged greatest jiu-jitsu fighter of his time, who is now retired, in his 60s and living in the US. It was Rickson's father and uncles who started the sport in Brazil with their own adaptations and later launched the Gracie brand in the USA.

The brothers perfected a Brazilian style of jiu-jitsu that could teach the little guys on the streets in Rio de Janeiro – or wherever the threat of attack loomed large – how to defend themselves.

The family story in martial arts began after grandfather Helio and his brothers met up with



**In her blood... Kauan Gracie learned jiu-jitsu as part of a Brazilian clan prominent in the history of the martial art**

a Japanese martial-arts star who had come to their country and was keen to teach others his skills. The Gracie brothers loved it and ran with it, opening the first of many schools in Rio in 1925, setting generations to come on the path to fame and fortune.

If you were born into it, it definitely shaped your world in many ways, says the first member of the family to put down roots in New Zealand.

She recounts the beginnings: "My grand-

father Helio watched his brothers but he was also interested in the self-defence potential of this martial art. He wanted to make it about leverage, so that smaller, weaker people could defend themselves from a stronger attacker."

In creating the Gracie Jiu Jitsu style, he developed what is known as the 'guard position' where a person who finds themselves underneath an attacker can still make an offensive attack.

"It takes it away from being super strong and makes it ideal for weaker people or smaller people like kids and young women," his granddaughter explains.

A couple of generations on, there is a very large dynasty of Gracies. Some mystique, success and many stories have surrounded them in sports media and, more recently, social media.

Big families were the norm in their culture, and as fathers and then their sons, had so many kids, there are more Gracies in the family tree than can easily be counted.

Many of the family have built businesses on Gracie Jiu Jitsu, starting studios of their own as their fathers have retired. Lists of jiu-jitsu competitions everywhere often show a Gracie family involved at the top level.

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The third son of Helio, Rickson Gracie was the one picked to have the greatest promise, and his kids grew up to tales of win after win in matches at home and abroad. But his daughter wanted to deviate from the family path before coming back to jiu-jitsu.

Growing up a Gracie with her father a famous fighter didn't seem to be anything different or special to her as a kid, she recalls.

"Sure we'd come home and Dad would have us rolling round on the mat all the time. We were always playing jiu-jitsu. And our parents had very strong views on how we ate and how we lived. But that's just what we knew as kids. You didn't think too much about it."

The family left Brazil to set up their business in the US, where Kauan grew up.

"They never pressured me and they knew early on that my heart lay with dance. That's still true today, but I have now come back to teaching jiu-jitsu."

Following her dream in the US, she gained a fine-arts degree majoring in dance, aiming to dance, teach and maybe to travel doing both.

She went to work in Italy, and later back home again, for seven years in Brazil. In Rio, the famous annual carnival beckoned this talented and athletic young dancer more than once, and a highlight for her was choreographing a huge group of 600 for a mass samba in the spectacle.

But jiu-jitsu drew her back into the family fold and to the US again, with a sister in Yakima, Washington keen to start up an academy under the Gracie brand.

"I resisted at first, but then I said yes and I was

back in a family academy," she recalls

"We started with nothing and I wound up working with 120 kids. We started right down with preschoolers and went to teens. I'm very proud of the impact that we had on that community."

Covid has shut gyms and academies everywhere, and the giant festival in Rio was largely online this year. Although the streets

*"I couldn't have known that I would fall in love with this place or that I'd be staying for a lot longer than I planned."*

of Devonport are by far quieter, Gracie says she is very happy to be here and she's taking the opportunity to build her own jiu-jitsu and exercise following.

Last year, she was invited to work with groups in Rotorua and New Plymouth and she led self-defence classes at Rutherford College in Te Atatu.

"I love travelling around this beautiful country," says Gracie, who hopes to offer her self-defence classes to more teenage girls at Auckland secondary schools.

She already has a following at her intense

'hot' pilates classes at Britomart and her 'Hot Latino' dance class in the city is an option for a whole other set of fast moves.

Locally, she has her eye on starting classes for kids, from tots to teenagers.

"I can plant a seed to start a community here too," she says.

"Kids today are just stupefied by technology and it's just such an unhealthy way for them to be living. There's no shortcut to wellness – it's about what you put in your mouth and what you do with your body. And that's the same through your life from early childhood."

"Jiu-jitsu for kids is much more about movement and playfulness than it is about strict rules and moves. They love it, and in my experience it can give them so much.

"It's character building and it develops co-ordination, respect, teamwork and discipline. The younger they start, the better," says Gracie.

"I love working with kids and with young women. They are the ones who can get so much out of this and benefit the most."

She knows she's living in a pretty safe place in this town, but says an ever-present frisson of fear is part of growing up a Brazilian woman.

She recounts an early story of her first days in New Zealand and how she realised she'd washed up in another world.

"I'd asked a woman for directions to the nearest gas station. She suggested I follow her car. We seemed to be driving on and on and I was starting to worry about where she might be leading me. Next minute she stops, rolls down her window and points to the gas station.

"I love that about New Zealanders."



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**News Briefs**

**Business changes**

Echo Design has closed its store at 67 Victoria Rd, consolidating its business into its fashion outlet on the other side of the street at 30 Victoria Rd. Lack of tourists and costs in the face of Covid-19 were the reasons for the retrenchment.

A new cafe, 11/11 Make a Wish, has opened in the premises previously occupied by Twisted Tomato, and Vapeys vape store opened in Clarence St last month. The start-ups follow a run of closures in the village.

On Lake Rd, Belmont, coffee store and pizzeria Toni's has taken the space vacated by Hell pizza which moved to Byron Ave in Takapuna. New operators are also set to take over Bella Monte on Williamson Ave.

**Openings rescheduled**

Shore Junction's delayed official opening is now scheduled for 19 March, lockdown alert levels permitting. The youth hub, in the old RSA building on Northcote Rd, Takapuna, will be home to a variety of community groups.

North Shore MP Simon Watts is shifting electorate office from Anzac St to 38 Earnoch Ave, Takapuna. His opening last week had to be postponed to 15 March.

**Repaired posts the goal at Fort Takapuna**



**Last post... one set of the distinctive combined football and rugby goalposts at Fort Takapuna has been left in pieces**

Downed goalposts on the Fort Takapuna playing field will be put back up, says Auckland Council. The posts were damaged during attempted renovations and, prior to the latest lockdown, were to have been

reinstated last month.

Old timber bench seating at the opposite, northern, end of the field is also unusable, with planking removed because it was considered unsafe.

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Our A+grade kitchen and in-house chef offer a large variety of healthy balanced foods as well as daily home baked goodies.

Due to our comfortable size, our residents can enjoy one-on-one time



as well as group activities to suit individual likes and pastimes, from cooking and art classes to guest entertainers and outings. We also enjoy a good party, including multi-cultural days and Karaoke!

Please feel free to make an appointment with our manager Sharon Hansen to visit and view the facility [eversleigh.hospital@gmail.com](mailto:eversleigh.hospital@gmail.com)

June, our oldest resident, says she loves her privacy and her personalised room that overlooks the lovely garden and trees.

**"I feel at home here, I love to participate in all the activities and outdoor fun."**

Johnnie, who is a regular visitor to June, also likes to take part in the many activities too and is always made to feel welcome.

# Bridge issues raise doubts over SkyPath progress

Fears are mounting that cycleways and walkways planned for the North Shore may be held up by a design review of the SkyPath over the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair George Wood has called for an update on the project from Waka Kotahi / New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

The Flagstaff understands other interested parties also want to know what is happening with the much-vaunted cross-harbour link to the Northern Pathway, which will parallel the motorway from Akoranga Bus Station.

Ultimately, a network of neighbourhood cycleways has been envisaged, from the Esmonde Rd area to Devonport and Albany.

“SkyPath seems nowhere near proceeding, especially in the wake of the Harbour Bridge damage,” Wood told the last local board meeting. Since then, NZTA has acknowledged that the bridge will not be able to be strengthened more in the future due to the weight of installing extra steel and that, in time, its traffic volumes may need active management.

This information, gleaned under questioning at a Parliamentary select committee, has raised more questions over SkyPath, which former Transport Minister Phil Twyford said in 2018 would be underway this year.

North Shore MP Simon Watts told the Flagstaff he supported the idea of a cycle link from the city to the North Shore, but was concerned costs had mounted from \$67 million in 2018.

Bike Auckland chair Barbara Cuthbert said

the lobby group was seeking more clarity. “We understand and share the concerns of local board members and the large number of Aucklanders who have been keenly anticipating delivery of this highly useful and strategic cycling project.”

Both NZTA and the current Minister of Transport, Michael Woods, say they are committed to the now \$360 million Westhaven-to-Akoranga project. But acquisition of properties at its North Shore end remains unfinished.

A design review was commissioned after a truck hit the bridge last September, shutting lanes on the State Highway 1 route. Overseas experts were asked to sign off the bridge repairs and advise on its structural integrity.

But last week, NZTA would not give the Flagstaff any idea of how long the review would take or say if the timeline had been extended. “It takes as long as it takes,” said a spokesman, Darryl Walker.

NZTA national manager of infrastructure delivery Andrew Thackwray said earlier that the Northern Pathway’s funding was committed under the New Zealand Upgrade Programme and a walking and cycling connection over the Waitemata Harbour was a priority for the Government and NZTA.

“In September, Waka Kotahi appointed an alliance to deliver the project and that alliance is working on examining and optimising the design to ensure that the connection is fit for purpose and will meet the needs of current and

future users. Waka Kotahi will provide more information on our revised programme when this work is complete,” he said.

Walker rejected suggestions that the strengthening issues with the bridge revealed at the select committee hearing might be causing hold-ups, but did say “this review is taking longer than expected”.

What Walker described as an alliance of construction companies is still assessing the suitability of the Skypath bridge design. This process had to be got right, he said, so was “open-ended”. Asked about the cost implications of any time lags on the project, he said “that’s all part of the review”.

A second harbour crossing to cope with Auckland’s growth and supplement the bridge, which is used by more than 170,000 vehicles on weekdays, is still in the planning stages. The National Party, Automobile Association and Auckland business leaders have all appealed for more infrastructure urgency.

Thackwray said NZTA, Auckland Transport (AT) and Auckland Council had partnered to investigate a longer-term plan to strengthen transport links to the North Shore. “As part of that work, AT is urgently working on a business case to optimise the Northern Busway as the public transport connection between the city and the North Shore. The larger piece of work, referred to as the Additional Waitematā Harbour Connections project, is still at least 15 years away from construction and involves planning work for rapid transit and road connections.”

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## RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES

**8 Bellcroft Place, Belmont**  
Multi offer with 5 offers

**5 Coronation Street, Belmont**  
Auction brought forward

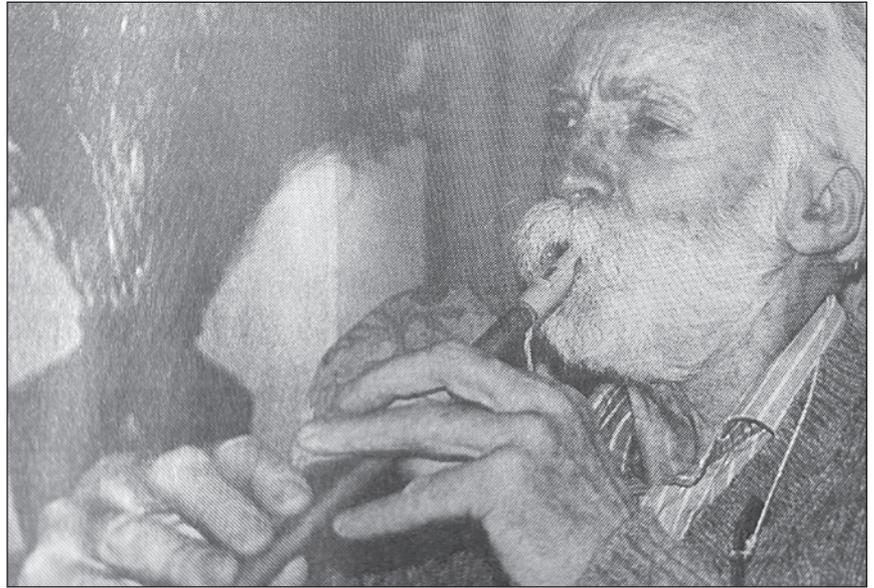
**1 Cambridge Terrace, Devonport**  
Record sale

Victoria 021 679 349 | Gemma 021 246 5300 | [www.vicandjemma.co.nz](http://www.vicandjemma.co.nz)

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# 20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- The Devonport Arts Festival is cancelled due to a lack of funds. Only \$14,000 of around \$40,000 needed for the event has been raised.
- Devonport peninsula athletes Candice Cull, Tom Elton and James Doyle win 13 medals between them at the Auckland junior swimming champs.
- The Navy launches free base tours to mark its 60th anniversary.
- Bed and Breakfast Villa Cambria is voted the best in New Zealand. It is selected above 161 other B & Bs throughout New Zealand, winning the premium-accommodation section.
- Devonport Primary's school fees skyrocket to \$260 per year – up \$100 on the previous year. Parents will pay \$60 more per child than any other school on the peninsula. Belmont Intermediate and St Leo's are second-highest. Other school's fees are: Stanley Bay \$190, Takapuna Grammar \$180, Vauxhall School \$170, Hauraki School \$150, Belmont Primary \$140 and Bayswater School \$100.
- A Department of Conservation report recommends North Shore City Council takes over the restoration and occupancy of buildings on North Head.
- A new Devonport community constable is set to start in March.
- Bayswater Primary has received \$250,000 for a school hall.
- Belmont Primary is leasing its school out to the Korean community on Saturday mornings. It will raise between \$10,000 and \$20,000.
- A three-bedroom villa in Cheltenham is on the market for \$545,000.
- The Education Review Office praises Vauxhall School for its innovative relationship with the Navy. Principal Maggie Twaddle had asked Navy personnel to take sports days because she was concerned at a lack of male role models for the children at Vauxhall.
- Prolific letter writer Christopher Dunne is the Flagstaff interview subject.



Interview subject... Christopher Dunne

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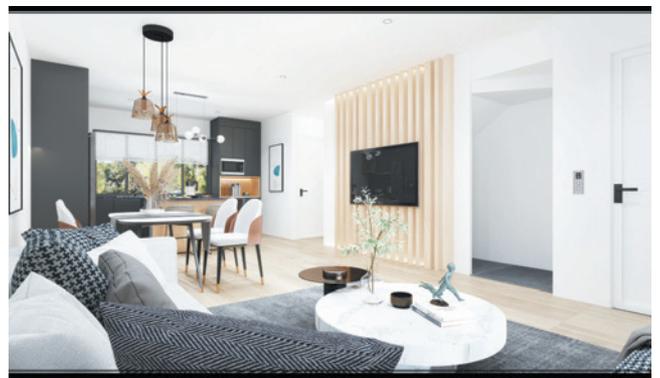
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NEW LISTING



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 Totally freehold, most with a lift, views and internal garage, no worry about stairs here!  
 And here is the best part, these brand new 10 year Master Build guaranteed homes have a totally Freehold Title! This means no Body Corp Fees, total peace of mind and full capital gain in your pocket!  
 Plenty of room for the grandkids absolutely safe and secure, low maintenance and so stylish. Call Lance or Suzy right now for details!

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[Lrichardson@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:Lrichardson@barfoot.co.nz)  
 Devonport 09 445 2010



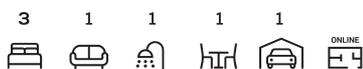
**Suzy Wang**  
 022 199 7808  
[s.wang2@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:s.wang2@barfoot.co.nz)  
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**BELMONT**  
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**HOME SWEET HOME!**

Highly sought after in this lovely private mews setting is this attractive, character, two level home offering an inviting and comfortable lifestyle. The home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, great open plan living with lovely flow to the sunny fully fenced North facing garden. Built of low-maintenance materials and nestled on a level sunny section, this home will appeal to those who are looking for an easy and relaxed lifestyle, in a top location. This is one fabulous chance to live the life you've always wanted in this superb location, make this property your priority to view as soon as possible.

**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 24 Mar 2021 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-1:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/808296](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/808296)

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

 **Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
t.fitzgerald@barfoot.co.nz  
Devonport 09 445 2010

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**BARFOOT & THOMPSON**  
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OPEN HOME



**DEVONPORT**  
 40 NGATARINGA ROAD

- 4
- 1
- 2
- 1
- 

**SWOOP IN AND SCOOP ME UP!**

While retaining those 1920's character bungalow features that are so loved, this four bedroom home, (two dble, two singles), pushes traditional boundaries to offer the ease and flow so sought-after in family living. While this home will be of obvious appeal to families, it is equally suited to downsizers and couples. Two living areas ensure good separation of space - formal living complemented with a wood burner but as with the rest of the house it also offers zoned central heating. The north facing rear garden (approx. 455m<sup>2</sup>) is safe for children and pets while still providing ample opportunity for the keen gardener.

**AUCTION**

12:00pm 24 Mar 2021 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**

Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807824](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807824)



**Sue Harrison**  
 021 909 549  
 s.harrison@barfoot.co.nz  
 Devonport 09 445 2010



**Toni Gregory**  
 021 044 3663  
 t.gregory@barfoot.co.nz  
 Devonport 09 445 2010

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



**DEVONPORT 6 BUCHANAN STREET**



This much cherished family Villa has been owned by the same family since 1953 and is now being offered for sale to perhaps another family to create lifelong memories, or opportunities to further develop this scarce 1323m<sup>2</sup> flat section. Truly a magical blue chip location which can only have one new owner on the title.

**TENDER**  
Closes on 16 Mar 2021 at 4:00pm (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Saturday 1:00-2:00pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807307](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807307)



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



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



**BELMONT 4A PRESTON AVENUE**



Brand new and beautifully built by award winning Sentinel Homes, this top quality luxury home is finished with equally top quality appliances and carries a "Peace of Mind" 10 year Master Build Guarantee! This super stylish home is double glazed and completely air conditioned. A quick walk to Takapuna Grammar. This spacious home will sell quickly, our vendors are motivated so call us now!

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

**VIEWING**  
Phone Agents to View  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/808384](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/808384)



**Lance Richardson**  
021 796 660  
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**Suzy Wang**  
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**AUCTION**  
2:00pm 27 Mar 2021 on site (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 11:00-11:45am  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807691](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807691)



**Ron Sadler BCom**  
021 613 546  
A/H 09 486 0142  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**TAKAPUNA 5/15 DOMINION STREET**



**END UNIT WITH EXCLUSIVE USE**

Spacious 1960s brick and tile end unit tucked away privately at the rear in a block of five with its own large level 'exclusive use' garden and lawn area. Fully fenced. A northerly aspect enjoying all day sun. Native timber flooring throughout and HRV system. Lock-up garage and an off-street carpark. Still plenty of scope to add the 'wow' factor.

**AUCTION**  
1:00pm 27 Mar 2021 On Site (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 12:30-1:00pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807915](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807915)



**Sue Evans**  
021 448 977  
A/H 0800 783 38267  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 106 VICTORIA ROAD**



**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 13 Mar 2021 on site (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Saturday 11:15am-12:00pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807011](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807011)

**VILLA CHARM GOES 'ONE STEP FURTHER'!**

With elements designed to satisfy every one of its occupants, this 1910 character villa has literally been transformed to accommodate all ages and stages of modern family life.

Join us at our open home Saturday 13th from 11:15am to be followed by our Auction on site at 12:00pm

 **Toni Gregory**  
021 044 3663  
Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Sue Harrison**  
021 909 549  
Devonport 09 445 2010

**DEVONPORT 53 TAINUI ROAD**



**TENDER**  
Closes on 15 Mar 2021 at 4:00pm (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
phone for viewing times  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807103](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807103)

**EXQUISITE HOME IN AN EXQUISITE LOCATION!**

Literally a stone's throw from Cheltenham Beach stands this beautiful and much admired character filled bungalow. This elegant home and garden offers a wonderful lifestyle both inside and out. The house has been tastefully extended and updated with no expense spared to create a one-off masterpiece!

 **Tracey Lawrence**  
021 1720 681  
Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 2/7 FRASER ROAD**



**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 24 Mar 2021 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 2:00-2:30pm  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/808151](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/808151)

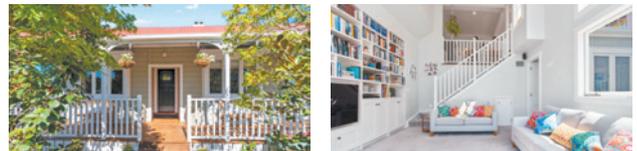
**A LITTLE PIECE OF BYRON BAY!**

Locking in an absolutely enviable lifestyle, this single level 1980's three bedroom home will have you feeling that holiday vibe 24/7.

- Lovely renovation, newly painted exterior, landscaped grounds
- Walk to beach, Waitemta Golf Course, Wakatere Boating Club and schools

 **Sue Harrison**  
021 909 549  
Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Toni Gregory**  
021 044 3663  
Devonport 09 445 2010



**DEVONPORT 42 WILLIAM BOND STREET**



**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 10 Mar 2021 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
By Appointment  
[www.barfoot.co.nz/807356](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/807356)

**UNIQUE AND SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME**

This home has recently been transformed into a fabulously unique and spacious family home. The current owners have utilised their design talents and knowledge of what a modern family needs and, along with their craftsmen builders, have created a four bedroom home you will cherish for years to come.

 **Tracey Lawrence**  
021 1720 681  
Devonport 09 445 2010

 **Trish Fitzgerald**  
021 952 452  
Devonport 09 445 2010



## Time to put your views on old council office sell-off plan

Auckland Council is currently consulting the communities across the Auckland region on the merits or otherwise of the council's 10-year budget, or long-term plan for the years 2021 to 2031. This is an arduous planning process that is undertaken every three years.

As part of this planning there is a specific consultation on two Auckland Council properties in Takapuna and Devonport: one is the former Devonport Borough Council office at 3 Victoria Rd, Devonport, and the other the former Takapuna Borough Council library at 2 The Strand, Takapuna. In the case of the 3 Victoria Rd building, it slowly became less and less required after the Devonport Borough was amalgamated into the North Shore City in 1989. This building nowadays has seismic risk factors and, as the Flagstaff recently reported, it has been vacant for 1005 days since 9 July 2018.

The former Takapuna Library has been vacant, according to the Rangitoto Observer, since March 2018 for 946 days. It also has seismic issues and is nowadays not required by Auckland Council.

As both these properties are heritage-schedule buildings and may be viewed as strategic assets under the council's Significance and Engagement Policy, there must be a consultation process.

Auckland Council's governing body has a preferred option for disposal of the properties. This would mean placing the properties on the open market. In each case, any seismic upgrade would be the responsibility of the purchaser not the council.

In the case of 2 The Strand, as it is a building funded by an endowment, there is a likelihood that the proceeds of the sale could be used within the boundaries of the former Takapuna Borough Council. In the case of the Devonport property, the proceeds would go into the general council funding pool.

More details can be found in the 10-year budget (2021-2031) supporting information at section 7.18 (proposals related to strategic assets). It can be found on the web pages at <https://rb.gy/iudaam>.

Please do advise Auckland Council of your views.

**George Wood, CNZM**  
Deputy chair, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

## Body line with Guy Body



## Dogged by canines and their selfish owners

Can we humans and the endangered shore plovers please have a dog-free-at-all-times beach? How nice it would be to be able to confidently sit on the grass and sand knowing we are not sitting on the traces of dog droppings or pee and to watch birds that haven't been scared away by dogs either on or off-leash.

On that note, 'No Dogs' (at all) on sports fields does not actually mean 'dog-exercise

park when games are not being played.' There is a reason that dogs are not permitted on sports fields, please respect it.

And to the utterly selfish dog owner/s who persistently use people's newly emptied rubbish bins to conveniently drop your dog faeces – I suppose you deliberately choose the bins that belong to back properties or are in front of high fences to avoid being caught out?

**J Leighton**

## Losing time and sense on Darby's watch

Auckland Councillor Chris Darby says it's hard to back losers. On the ferry at Stanley Bay, I'd have to agree with him. But here's the reality check: this mob built a floating wharf not that long ago for this service – mindlessly designed, with no feasibility study to back the investment. Even five minutes on a calculator would have done the trick to avoid backing the losers. That's Auckland Transport staff for you.

Darby's mob continues to choke up the peninsula, planning nothing except massive infill housing and building mindless roads like

the four-lane Tamaki Drive with huge pedestrian and cycleways but not enough room to swing a cat, let alone four car lanes that are so narrow – with no safety barrier.

Meanwhile, Polly's Park has been vandalised and closed for no real reason. Madness abounds in this city and safety is always the crutch used by the PC brigade. Some people want to slow down traffic, such as on Vauxhall Rd. Ye gods, we are nearly at a standstill already; it can take an hour some days to get to Takapuna.

**Ron Dykman**

## Affronted by vape-shop opening

I am really upset – taking it as a personal affront actually – to discover there's a vaping shop opening in Clarence St. I have always thought of Devonport as being the final bastion of common sense and decency in a crazy world, but now this, in our family

community!

Were we given a chance to submit against its appearance – as we have been able to do in the past for proposed shops selling alcohol? Did I miss the notification?

**M Cathie**

## Letters to the Editor

### Letters are welcome.

Please limit to 300 words on Devonport peninsula topics. send to [news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz)

# Retrofit double glazing into your Devonport beauty!

Sean Collins, Managing Director of The Double Glazing Company North Shore, doesn't need to shout out from his retrofit windows - his quiet confidence in his own expertise and the proof of his work speaks volumes for itself. That said, it's his clients who do the shout outs for him - word of mouth recommendations go a long way in our community, and he's got advocacy in abundance!

Sean has been in the industry for 10 years working for a company that has designed and developed its own system over 15 years to maximise the performance of both glass and joinery. He specialises in full replacement and retrofit double glazing for all windows - both aluminum and timber. Following his success in The Double Glazing Company Waikato, Sean has recently moved to the North Shore as owner and operator of The Double Glazing Company North Shore. His clients can't speak highly enough of his calm approach, his extensive knowledge and his specialization in full replacement timber joinery and retrofit double glazing. His passion for retaining the character and individuality of Devonport villas and bungalows shows in his attention to detail and the quality and longevity of his work is clear through his and his team's superior workmanship. Sean, Keeghan and Leko approach each client's project with respect, clear communication and diligence - a combination that really sets them apart from the get-go. As project manager, Sean involves himself in the entire process from initial consultation to final polish of the new windows. He prides himself on being hands-on with tools in hand, always accessible, responsible and respectful throughout. His clients trust him and his team - and the testimonials prove it!

**Call Sean now to get booked in before the winter rush and experience the difference that The Double Glazing Company can bring to your home.**

## Key Aspects of The Double Glazing Company Service

- Superior timber retrofit system
- Maintain the unique character of your home
- Exemplary workmanship and attention to detail
- High performance supertherm double glazing for excellent noise reduction and heat retention
- Long lasting draught-proofing solutions
- BOOKING NOW for pre-winter installations
- FREE argon gas for added heat retention for all pre-winter bookings



Sean and Keeghan

"When Sean first visited our home he was courteous and extremely professional. He took time to explain how retrofit double glazing works, showed us what it would look like and sent a video link so we could see how it was manufactured. He inspected our timber window joinery thoroughly to ensure it was of good enough quality to go through the process before giving us a quote. I felt very reassured by his meticulous approach. Before we accepted the quote, Sean arranged for us to visit a local house so we could see his work in situ and chat with the owners. They were extremely complimentary about the process and results. Their windows were double glazed and refitted to an excellent standard. We were completely confident we were making the right choice.

Sean and his colleague Keeghan treated our home like they were caring for their own. They worked carefully and quickly and kept any disruption to a minimum - I enjoyed having them here and the boys were happy for me to watch their progress. Our windows and doors look amazing - we're actually looking forward to winter, not dreading it.

If you want the very best in double glazing that keeps heat in or out, provides effective draught-proofing, reduces noise and works in



Duncan and Ellie

perfect harmony with the character of your villa or home, don't hesitate to contact Sean and his team."

Ellie Gray and Duncan Ecob,  
Devonport, March 2021



Retrofit your Character Villa

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Email [sean.collins@doubleglaze.co.nz](mailto:sean.collins@doubleglaze.co.nz)

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The Double Glazing Company North Shore  

## Rip out Lake Rd cycle lanes – their introduction was based on lies

If you listen to most people in Devonport, Lake Rd congestion has reached crisis point. If it hasn't, it very soon will.

And a crisis demands an emergency solution.

I was on the Devonport Community Board when the cycleway was first proposed. The question I asked was: "Would there be any detrimental effect on the current road users?" "Definitely not," was the reply.

Well, that was either a lie or incompetence. In those days, 39,000 vehicles went up and down Lake Rd each day. I shudder to think what the number must be today.

And yet, has the number of cyclists increased exponentially or even incrementally?

The other thing that sticks out from those early meetings was the cycleway was sold to Devonport as a "lane from Devonport to Takapuna". To many, that sounded enticing, progressive.

Unfortunately, it was nothing but a blatant lie. The cycle lane doesn't go through to Takapuna, and there was never a plan to take it through.

Instead, it goes off to nowhere down Esmonde Road.

The other contentious point was where the

cycle lane went through Belmont shops, it stopped. So in the most dangerous area of all for cyclists, the council was saying, "You're on your own now, see you on the other side." If you ever made it.

When this danger was raised with the council engineer, we were told that the cycle lane would be advertised as unsafe for children. Did that ever happen?

What is not known is that the Community Board members would never admit the cycle lanes were a mistake, because to take them out would mean the Board would have to repay New Zealand Transport Agency the half-million dollars loaned to put them in.

So, what I am suggesting, is to rip the cycle lanes out and reinstate the roadway as it was, with double lanes where it is most congested.

It won't solve the problem completely, but until the council dig deep enough into their pockets to solve the problem completely, it is a good start.

And before anyone starts jumping up and down and accuses me of being anti-cycling, I will remind them that I grew up in Christchurch and rode a bike every day, including to work, until I left, aged 22.

**Roger Brittenden**

## Diary of a dog walker: picking up the poo

Monday 15 February. Alert Level 3, Day 1 (7am. P\*\*\*ing down with rain).

Set off along Victoria Rd towards Ngataranga Park. Picked up three random dogs' poods between Victoria Superette and Moseley Avenue, (one right in the middle of the footpath).

Picked up four more in Ngataranga Park. Yay! None spotted on the golf course, but another two at Fort Takapuna, which I had to leave as I had exhausted my supply of poo bags. Arrived home 8.15am soaked and grumpy.

Tuesday 16 February. Alert Level 3, Day 2 (7am. Drizzling).

Different route today to keep pooch and self from getting too bored. Victoria Rd to waterfront, to Naval Base entrance, up steps to Calliope Rd, across Stanley Bay Park and around the road bordering Ngataranga Navy Sports Field, through Melrose Reserve and home. Seemingly a more responsible class of dog ownership in these environs as only one abandoned poo found. Arrived home 7.50am, mildly damp and cheerful.

Wednesday 17 February. Alert Level 3 Day 3 (7am. Sunny).

Mt Victoria. In the first 50 metres I encountered four poods, all very close together. At this stage, I decided to photo and catalogue (and pick up) all the doggy detritus found along the way. By the time I got to eight, I retraced my footsteps (much to my canine's dismay – thinking she was being short-changed in the morning-walk stakes) to collect from home more poo bags. I then restarted the walk with my now confused four-legged companion.

The catalogue of shame: Mt. Victoria, 9 (in-

cluding one bagful chucked into the long grass); Flagstaff Lane, 4; Cnr Church St/Vauxhall Rd, 1; Takarunga Rd (left going up), 1; North Head, 8; Takarunga Rd, (right coming down) 13; waterfront, 2.

A staggering 38 examples of grossly negligent (and inconsiderate) dog ownership – all of which I picked up and disposed of appropriately.

The 14 found in the very short length of Takarunga Road is particularly shameful.

Come on Devonport dog owners. We enjoy a great deal of freedom with our dogs in our lovely suburb of Devonport, especially when compared with other communities, many of which have far fewer parks, green spaces or any access to beaches. I am quite sure that the negligent owners, when it comes to picking up after their dogs, are in the minority. The minority however place in great jeopardy this freedom for the majority.

Keep a watchful eye on your pet. Do not stride ahead and ignore what's going on behind you. If walking at night, carry a torch and keep your dog on a leash. Fence your sections adequately to contain your pets. It is frightening how frequently posts appear online regarding lost-and-found dogs and how many are about repeat escapees.

It would be simply awful if we lose the right to walk our dogs off leash or, even worse, to walk dogs on the maunga or the beaches.

(Btw, arrived home 8.30am, hot, tired and p\*\*\*ed off.)

Any sceptics who wish to view the photographic evidence are welcome to contact me.

**Caroline Poulter**

## THE VIC VICTORIA THEATRE TRUST

### GOLDEN GLOBE WINNING MOVIE

**The Vic has reopened after lockdown with some great new movie offerings this month.**

Top amongst them is *Nomadland*, which has just won two Golden Globe awards for best picture and best director.

The critics are raving about this movie describing it as a masterpiece and a beautiful humanistic film. Actress Frances McDormand in the lead character delivers a film that is said to be a transportive experience.

"It's an achingly lovely hymn to reinvention, escape, community and learning to live in a different way" said one critic. It's on at the Vic now and not to be missed!

The other well-received new movie is *Cousins*, the story of the diverging lives of three Maori women who spend a lifetime in search of each other. Based on the novel by Patricia Grace, this compelling, compassionate and powerful movie has also earned great reviews.

### FREE OPEN MIC NIGHT

For aspiring performers who want to try out in a friendly, intimate setting, our monthly Open Mic Nights are underway. They are held the last Thursday in the month in the Lounge Cinema, and the next one is Thursday 25 March from 8pm.

We invite anyone wanting to perform their music, poetry or comedy to contact our coordinator Else at [openmike@thevic.co.nz](mailto:openmike@thevic.co.nz) Come along and have a go!



We're pleased that work is due to start this month on improving the access to the Vic for people in wheelchairs. This will include realignment of the footpath outside the main entrance.

The work will be carried by Auckland Transport and the trust wants to acknowledge the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for its support to get this project underway.

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Join us for a presentation to find out more about our brand new retirement village in Devonport, and to meet some of our residents who can tell you about village life from their experience.

---

**Call Mark or Janet for more details or to RSVP.**

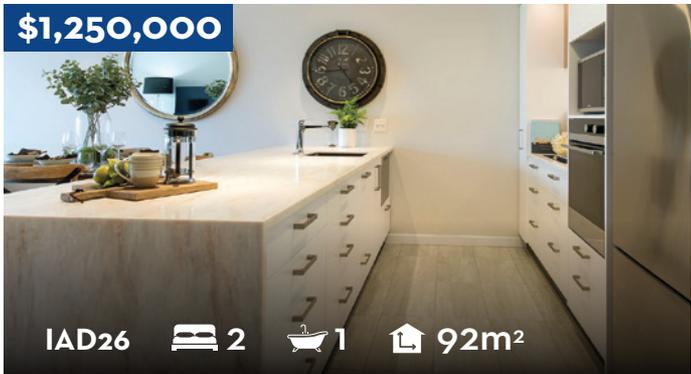
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Apply now via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Casual Relief Teachers

New Shoots Children's Centre in Sunnynook is looking for casual relief teachers to join our team, inside and outside of our amazing centre.

New Shoots is a place where children's imagination is fostered, uninterrupted play is encouraged, and a lifelong love of learning begins.

Casual work offered throughout the week, 4-8 hour shifts between 8am-5pm.

Apply now via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Retail / Sales assistant

Paramount Pools in Takapuna, one of the largest retailers in the New Zealand pool and spa industry, is looking for a part-time/full-time retail/sales assistant to join the team at their newly opened store.

If you have the following attributes, we would be keen to hear from you. Positive 'can do' attitude, customer-service-focused, enjoy working as part of a team, ability to work flexible hours including some weekend work. Full training will be provided.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)  
Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit.



### Retrofit Specialist

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You would need to be a team player with a passion for professional and superior customer service delivery.

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### Technology Sales Representative Abode Booking – Remote

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### Bartender / Barista - Devonport

Signal Hill, a NEW restaurant in Devonport opening early March 2021, is looking for talented Bartenders/Baristas. You will need to be able to create both classic and innovative drinks exceeding customer needs and expectations. Must have 2 years exp, able to work as a team member with the ability to multitask. MUST have valid working VISA or permanent residency.

If you have a "can-do" attitude and a genuine passion for food and people, then this fantastic opportunity is for you.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Cheltenham Milk Bar is looking for a Cafe Assistant

Our small, family-owned cafe in Devonport is looking for a cafe worker part-time/casual ideally with cafe/barista experience. The job also entails baking and sandwich-making. This position requires you to be available weekdays & weekends 7:30am – 3pm with several roles/shifts available.

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### Grounds Assistant

The Wilson Home Trust Takapuna site is seeking a Grounds Assistant to support the Site Manager with a wide range of general grounds-maintenance duties. The role will require a good level of fitness and the ability to work unsupervised at times.

This is a casual role and there will be a requirement for flexibility of hours. Generally it will require 4 to 8 hours a week, but possibly more during busy periods.

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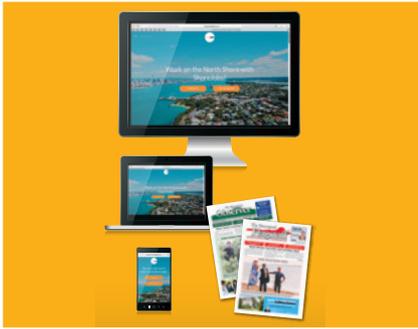


### Waiter/Waitress - Devonport

Signal Hill is on the hunt for waitstaff to join our NEW restaurant in Devonport opening early March 2021. You will be working in a fun, fast-paced dynamic team, providing excellent customer service and food delivery as well as being part of an upbeat restaurant. Available to work nights and weekends, be cool under pressure with the ability to multitask and use your initiative, willingness to work as part of a team.

Must have immigration rights to work in NZ. If you have a genuine passion for food and people, then this fantastic opportunity is for you.

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**Duty Manager**

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- Duty Manager's Certificate/Licence
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- Able to work alone and/or manage a team
- Previous Bar/Restaurant Experience

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**Promotions Coordinator (part time)**

An opportunity has arisen for a skilled and creative communicator to join the team at the Devonport Peninsula Trust in a part-time (10 hours per week) capacity. Key responsibility is to promote the trust's events, projects and programmes, via various digital and printed marketing channels working closely with the Devonport Community Coordinator. The ideal candidate:

- has an outgoing personality
- is a skilled communicator (both written and verbal)
- is organised and a self-starter
- has an understanding of the Devonport peninsula community
- has experience in marketing/promotions, ideally with community/not-for-profit organisations, and uses initiative to give expert advice and improve the trust's promotional output and reach
- is tech-savvy and can demonstrate experience in use of social media, email marketing and website maintenance.
- Adobe Design Suite proficiency is a plus.

For more info, and to apply (with a CV and cover letter) please contact Maria Teape at [maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](mailto:maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz) before 26 March.

Our new **Head Chef** to run our refurbished kitchen and F&B menu at Waitemata Golf Club found out about us via the ShoreJobs partner network. The ShoreJobs service was efficient and excellent value for the service provided.

**Hayden McCallum** General Manager **Waitemata Golf Club**

We were able to hire an experienced **Medical Receptionist** within weeks of listing with ShoreJobs. She saw the job in the Rangitoto Observer and applied directly to us via ShoreJobs.

**Monique Nyemecz** Practice Manager **Devonport Family Medicine**

Thanks to the ShoreJobs team for helping us hire our most recent staff member. Soon after listing our job with ShoreJobs we received a shortlist of great candidates. One person in particular was a standout. We interviewed him immediately and he joined our retail sales team the following week. Thanks ShoreJobs!

**Hayden Collier** Manager **iStore Takapuna**

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# Heritage status bid for Hauraki home

Top-level heritage protection is being sought for a recognised Arts and Crafts-style home near Takapuna Beach.

The house at 14 Rewiti Ave was built for jeweller Reuben Watts in 1923, to a design by noted architect James Chapman-Taylor.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has submitted in favour of its owners seeking Category A listing to Heritage New Zealand. Board member Trish Deans noted current and former owners had sought to respect the significance of the home's architecture and social history.

Known as the Reuben Watts house, the property was for many decades in the hands of the Golder family.

It was in near original condition when sold in 2016 to a couple who lovingly restored it in keeping with its original style.

Michael Booth and Sue Fleischl bought the home for \$1.7 million and their sympathetic restoration work won them a North Shore Heritage Award in 2018.

The story of the house – including a visit by Peter Golder, who grew up there and returned to see it revitalised – was told in a film shown at a Devonport Heritage event in 2018.

Among its notable features are copper-hooded fireplaces, a detailed staircase, hand-adzed timber work and built-in furniture and murals on the ceiling.

The 860sq metre property now has a coun-



**Greater Heritage protection wanted... the house at 14 Rewiti Ave**

cil valuation of \$3.1 million.

The house is already listed on Auckland Council's heritage schedule, with the latest application seeking national recognition.

Three Devonport properties: Considine House (Albert Rd), Lochiel House (Torpedo Bay) and Mofflin House (Buchanan St) were added NZ Heritage Register last year.

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## Last shots coming up in season's athletic duel

Devonport's Jacko Gill gets a final chance this season to get back on top against shotput rival and reigning national champion Tom Walsh.

The in-form athletes will meet at the rescheduled New Zealand Track and Field Championship in Hastings on 26-27 March.

Walsh bested Gill two weekends ago, but the Takapuna Athletics Club representative had previously out-thrown the South Islander at four meetings in a row.

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## Library services in demand

Grab and go, or sit and chill – these are two contrasting ways in which people are increasingly using Devonport Library.

Post earlier Covid-19 lockdowns, the two trends had become more pronounced, said long-time librarian Jeanne Clifton.

For some people, the desire was to quickly pick up some books and head home rather than browse; whereas others enjoyed being able to enjoy extended time in a pleasant community space, either to work or to simply relax.

“It’s one of the last spaces where people don’t have to pay anything,” she told a meeting of the Devonport Peninsula Trust. “But there’s still a lot of people who don’t know it’s there.”

The library acted as a community hub that offered more than books, which not everyone realised.

Seniors could tap into staff expertise about using technology, although booking a time was advised. Assistance with research and creating CVs was also offered, along with

photocopying and print services. A Justice of the Peace was available on Monday, from noon to 2pm.

“There’s a community feel to it,” Clifton said. Examples were book clubs and drawing clubs, which attracted around 18 people a week, who often went on to have coffee afterwards.

Maori language courses organised by the library were proving very popular, with the one this year already fully booked.

“I wouldn’t have stayed at the library so long if it was just books, not people, said the 10-year Devonport Library veteran.

That said, she reported that crime was Devonport’s fiction genre of choice.

Asked about how council cost cuts had impacted the library, she said the staffing freeze had hit, but opening hours had been maintained.

Lynn Dawson of the Seniors Forum said the library provided access to internet services, such as email, that people living in council flats did not always have.

## Vision for a creative community

An enterprising Devonport resident wants to establish a community hub for ‘makers’.

Belinda Madden Al Fahl says she would like to help bring people together in a space where young and old could share skills.

Speaking to the Devonport Community Trust’s quarterly networking meeting, she gave recycled-paper-making as an example of an initial activity that would be easy to set up.

Madden Al Fahl moved here two years ago from Australia and has a background in the arts and running a children’s art-education business. She described herself as full of energy and eager to work with others in the community to see more happening in vacant spaces in Devonport.

The former council chambers at 3 Victoria Rd would be an ideal spot, she said. Those at the meeting explained their own years of efforts to save the building from sale by Auckland Council, which has declared it surplus to requirements and in need of earthquake-strengthening.

“With the downturn and lack of visitors it would be good for the council to invest in,” she said.

“It’s a great project, but may need a different space,” said Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson.

Working with the Devonport Community Centre was suggested by another board member, Trish Deans.

## Letters to the Editor

### Letters are welcome.

Please limit to 300 words on Devonport peninsula topics.

Send to [news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz)



4/14 Ewen Alison Avenue, Devonport

2 🚗 1 🏠 1 🍷 1 📄

The kitchen and bathroom have already been modernised in this private, second-level unit property. As well as the two bedrooms, bathroom and the bright corner kitchen, there’s spacious living which opens on to a strong deck where there’s room for seating and a barbecue, and views as far as the Sky Tower.

This easy-care, brick-and-tile unit also has steps down to the shared, gated garden, its own shed for easy, safe bike storage and an off-street parking.

#### Auction

31st Mar 2021, 2:30 pm  
The Sapphire room, Ponsonby Central

#### View

13 Mar - 12:45 - 1:15pm  
14 Mar - 1:30 - 2:00pm



**Petko Petkov**  
027 302 0686

# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

MAR 12, 2021

## Head of Harbour at Lake Pupuke



Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) Rowing Club hosted the 85th annual Auckland Head of the Harbour championships on 13 February at Lake Pupuke.

The full squad of competition crew members (56 students) competed in the

fifth-biggest regatta of the season against 26 schools and 876 competitors.

The regatta was a fantastic day for all, with TGS Rowing winning 13 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 5 bronze medals and retaining their title as the top co-ed rowing

school in Auckland. A big thanks to all our parents and volunteers who help out at these regattas too. There are a lot of hours of prep and effort to pull off this wonderful event.

Awesome work Rowing Squad, what great results. Keep it up!

## Records Broken at Recent Swimming Sports

TGS Student Liam Vogel achieved some outstanding results at our school swimming-sports day.

At year 9 and swimming as a junior, Liam broke four out of the six junior boys swimming records. The other two records are still held by Stephen Ferguson, who is a current grinder on the Team New Zealand boat (and son of Ian Ferguson, Olympic Gold medalist).

Liam broke the following records: Junior Boys 2 lengths freestyle with a time of 39.69s; Junior Boys 2 lengths backstroke with a time of 44.95s; Junior Boys 3 lengths freestyle with a time of 64.95s; and Junior Boys 3 lengths backstroke with a time of 71.43s.

## Two Lockdown Poems by Members of the TGS Poetry Club

Leering silence at the water's edge  
 Openly watching,  
 night begins to stretch  
 Castaway insects lose their flight  
 Killed birds lay down  
 – they are lost in spite  
 Drowned ones, a voiceless beg  
 Old windows,  
 only open into older times  
 Weave into prehistoric plight  
 No escaping – not from this crime

*By Sofia Drew*

Loosened grit from fingernails  
 or dappled backs are the  
 currency of a hard day's work.  
 King's men, indentured in the  
 darkening field bursting with grain  
 offer gold for gold  
 wine for winter  
 nothing for nothing.

*By Emi Lipoth*



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**DEVONPORT PENINSULA TRUST**  
Making Community Happen

## OUT & ABOUT

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

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**BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL KIDS FUNFAIR**  
Saturday 27 March, 1pm-4pm  
Belmont Primary School

Take the family along and enjoy an awesome day out with loads of games and prizes for kids, delicious food (think plant-based foods, sushi, dumplings, waffles, BBQ food and treats galore), as well as interactive kids' experiences, the annual Battle of the Schools event, face-painting and more!

**RACE DAYS BY THE SEA**  
NEW DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Windsor Reserve, Devonport

Activities and entertainment for all ages, food, plus watch the America's Cup racing on the big screen. Activities include: feature films on the big screen, Devonport Peninsula Trust will host a kids day with bouncy castles, face-painting, preschool playzone and live music, Saturday market day with some of the best local vendors, Waterwise fun day, dance, drumming and circus workshops and performances.

**KIDS ATHLETICS SERIES**  
ONLY AT ALERT LEVEL 1  
Tuesdays, until 23 March, 4pm-6pm  
Vauxhall Sports Reserve (rugby club grounds)

We hope to resume our Kids Athletics Series as soon as possible. In the meantime, keep an eye on our Facebook page for some fun Kids Athletics exercises you can do at home: [www.facebook.com/DevonportPeninsulaTrust](http://www.facebook.com/DevonportPeninsulaTrust) 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.

**RAUMATI/SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY MORNINGS**  
ONLY AT ALERT LEVEL 2 or 1  
Tuesdays (@ Windsor Reserve) & Thursdays (@ Bayswater Park) 9:30am-11:00am

As with our Kids Athletics programme, we hope to be able to resume Raumatī/Summer Fun Preschool Play mornings soon. Summer Fun Preschool Play mornings are a fun time for preschoolers to play with big toys, be active and make new friends. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with any changes.

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)

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

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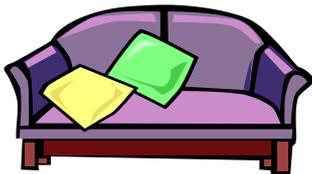
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# NOTIFICATION OF BUILDING AND LAND LEASE CONCESSION APPLICATION



The Minister of Conservation gives notice under section 17SC of the Conservation Act 1987 of an application from The Officers Mess Limited for the lease of a building and land at Takapuna Heads, for the purpose of operating a wedding and functions venue, for a period of 10 years.

**Further details of the proposed concession are available at [www.doc.govt.nz/consultations](http://www.doc.govt.nz/consultations)**

Any person or organisation may make comment in writing to the Director-General for or against the proposal. The submissions must be made on a submission form downloaded from the specific application webpage found at [www.doc.govt.nz/consultations](http://www.doc.govt.nz/consultations) (or available from your local DOC office).

You may make a submission by sending a written or electronic submission to:

**permissionshokitika@doc.govt.nz**  
**Director-General**  
**Private Bag 701**  
**Hokitika 7842**  
**Attn: Lucy Croft (Permissions Advisor)**

**Submissions CLOSE at 5pm, Thursday 1 April 2021.**

Once submitted, submitters' information is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released under that Act. If you wish to keep any part of your submission confidential, you need to state this in writing when making your submission.

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of his/her submission, must request (within that submission) an opportunity to appear before the Director-General.

**If a hearing is required, it is likely to occur on the week starting 12 April 2021.**



## Local director takes on tale of grief

When Harriett Maire was asked to direct an intensely personal play about grief, she was out of her comfort zone.

But the Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) old girl worked closely with the play's writer and actor Clare Marcie to turn the story of Marcie's loss of her twin sister at the age of four months into what she describes as a gentle, thoughtful story that she hopes will resonate widely.

*Twinless* explores "unfamiliar grief", encompassing Marcie's story of finding her way through the fog of loss.

For 25-year-old Maire, who did not have a close bereavement experience to draw upon, it was a challenge to be asked to direct the play.

She called on theatre and production skills first developed at school, honed by then directing two plays and holding a day job making television commercials.

Being a type-one diabetic also gave Maire an inkling of the awkwardness with which people who revealed something personal could be regarded.

Strangers told about a loss could react uncomfortably and she too had experienced "pitied glances" over her condition.

"When Clare described the uncomfortable reactions she gets from people when



**Harriett Maire**

they find out her twin sister died, I felt that in my bones."

Maire and Marcie dealt with the play's

sensitive topic by checking in with each other regularly.

Its debut at the Basement Theatre – a five-night run is scheduled for 23-27 March – will be the first public sharing of the *Twinless* story. Maire, Marcie and co-producer Claire Turner hope to tour it to Wellington and Whangarei.

The women got to know each other through Auckland creative circles.

Maire recalls that before being asked to direct the play, Marcie told her: "I just feel like the right person will turn up in my life". So she was especially flattered to go on to be the one asked to do the job.

For now, Maire is happy juggling theatre and film work. "I like to do personal projects to stretch my creative brain. At this stage of my life, it's lovely to wear lots of hats."

She credits her TGS performing-arts and media-studies teachers with being early influences, before she studied television and screen production at AUT. "I loved TGS – they were such formative years."

After the last three years flatting in Takapuna, Maire is this year enjoying being back in her childhood home in Bayswater. Her parents have moved out and she shares the house with flatmates, and says with a laugh: "I'm not sleeping in my old bedroom."

### Kia Ora Devonport

From the beginning of April this year, Art by the Sea gallery will be moving to new premises in Takapuna. We are excited about this new chapter even as we are saddened to move away from the Devonport community. Art by the Sea has been a part of the fabric of Devonport for 29 years; this space and these art-We are deeply humbled received from the Devon-Your attendance at our events, the personal stories the words of encouragement each time you've stopped latest work by an artist that and appreciate them all.



we have been kaitiaki of works for 19 of those years. by the support that we have port community over that time. art exhibitions and charity you have shared with us, ment during difficult times, in for a chat or to see the you love – we remember

We very much hope to see you in our new location, **162 Hurstmere Road, Takapuna.** And we look forward to passing you in Devonport – we won't be strangers!

Ngā mihi maioha, with gratitude Mike, Linda and April-Rose Geers

[www.artbythesea.co.nz](http://www.artbythesea.co.nz)



# Artist inspired by birds and those who work to save them

Local artist Wendy Pettersen has put environmental concerns at the heart of her latest work.

Pettersen will soon exhibit a series of paintings at the Depot Artspace as a tribute to the vision of environmental group Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, which works to preserve the land and shorebirds.

Pettersen was also inspired by Andrew Crowe's book *Pathway of the Birds*, which explains how Pacific navigators would orientate themselves by observing whale pods and flocks of seabirds.

Her exhibition *What if?* will feature landscapes of the sea and mountains, and birds including godwits, spoonbills and oystercatchers.

"When we first went into lockdown, people noticed the birdsong, and crowds would come to watch dolphins and whales swimming in the bays," she said.

Pettersen was an art teacher at Epsom Girls Grammar and later worked at Westlake Girls High School for 17 years, where she first attended an Auckland Council workshop on sustainability for schools and subsequently co-ran Westlake's Enviro group.

She has previously exhibited at Depot Artspace, where her solo photography exhibition *Going Home* explored the phenomenon of birds using human landmarks to navigate.

The opening of the exhibition will be held on Saturday 20 March from 4pm to 6pm. Pettersen's paintings will be on sale at the gallery until 7 April.



**Feathered friends...** Wendy Pettersen with one of the paintings she is exhibiting at the Depot Artspace

## What's On

### The RVMES

19 March  
The RVMES Album Release Show with support from Big Tasty.

### Lead Zipline

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### A Lion in the Meadow and Other Stories

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|--|-----|
| Blackbird (M) 97min  | NEW |
| The Dissident (M) 117min                                       | NEW |
| Judas and The Black Messiah (R13) 125min                       | NEW |
| Chaos Walking (M) 109min                                       | NEW |
| Cousins (PG) 98min   | NEW |
| Nomadland (M) 108min   | NEW |
| Raya and The Last Dragon (PG) 107min + short Us Again (G) 7min | NEW |

### COMING SOON

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Crisis (R16) 119min              | 18 MAR |
| Fanny Lye Deliver'd (R16) 110min | 18 MAR |
| French Exit (M) 113min           | 18 MAR |
| The Little Things (M) 128min     | 18 MAR |
| Zappa (E) 128min                 | 18 MAR |

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