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March 26, 2021

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Chow brothers buy
Belmont sites... p2

Lake Rd project lives on
in council budget... p4

Interview: Shore advocate
Yvonne Powley... p20

Huge development planned for Bayswater

More than 110 dwellings are proposed in a new Bayswater Maritime Precinct.

The development would include 94 terraced houses and 27 apartments in three buildings across 33,415 sqm of land next to Bayswater Marina.

It will also include one or two cafes and a restaurant, says Bayswater Marina Holdings, in an application just lodged with Auckland Council.

No decisions had been made and the applicant had asked for it to be publicly

notified, an Auckland Council spokesperson said.

“A feature of the proposal is to first develop all physical and public infrastructure on the site, and then provide for the 94 terraced

To page 6

Peninsula kids clean up the shoreline



Hats and bags... Sera Wong (left, 9) and Stephanie Pickering (8) were among Hauraki School pupils who took part in a peninsula-schools coastal clean-up. More photos, pages 38-39.

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Chow brothers snare Belmont building site

Another substantial development on Lake Rd is in the offing, with two large sites recently sold to Stonewood Group – owned by the Chow brothers.

The sale of 153 and 155 Lake Rd went unconditional last week.

The combined site was owned by Roly Russell of North Shore Dental Repairs, and valuer Christine Keeling. One half of the land is home to Keeling and Russell's businesses and Takapuna Hand Therapy.

On 155 Lake Rd, the current tenants are a liquor shop and a Thai restaurant.



Set for development... the Belmont shops site

It is unknown when the site will be developed, but it will likely be three to

four storeys of apartments, possibly with commercial activity on the ground floor.

The Flagstaff understands Stonewood Group also wanted to buy the St Margaret's Church site next door, but was turned down.

John and Michael Chow rose to prominence during 20 years in the adult-entertainment industry, before selling out of the sector in 2016 and moving into property development.

Stonewood Group did not return calls and emails from the Flagstaff last week.

Parking fees and P120min in June

Parking charges near the ferry terminal and a uniform 120-minute time limit for parking in Devonport village will be introduced in June.

The parking fee will be set at 50c an hour.

An exact date is yet to be announced, but Auckland Transport (AT) said several weeks notice would be given to the local community.

AT has already advised people who made submissions about the changes. In all, 461 responses were received after submissions were sought in December.

Ten per cent of submitters mentioned concerns that the parking changes might push more vehicles onto residential streets.

AT said it would keep an eye on the impact of all the measures. "We will also be reviewing Rattray St and the residential section of Clarence St to determine what improvements we can make to deter all-day parking as requested by local residents."

Nearly a quarter of respondents said they

were concerned charging for parking near the ferry terminal would mean less incentive to use public transport. But 8 per cent thought the price should be higher and 7 per cent said the charges would help deter all-day parkers, thereby increasing parking availability. Six per cent said the move was revenue-gathering.

AT's communication to submitters prompted one to contact the Flagstaff, questioning the topline analysis of feedback presented, saying it appeared to be framed to validate pre-determined decisions.

Summarising and abbreviating what AT found: "Sixty per cent of people were happy or neutral with the P120 time restrictions; 44 per cent of people were happy or neutral with 50c paid parking near the ferry terminal; and 86 per cent were happy or neutral about the three new P5/loading zones."

The woman said an alternative way to express this might be that "58 per cent of people were either unhappy or neutral with the P120 time restrictions; 67 per cent were unhappy or neutral with 50c paid parking near the ferry terminal; and 54 per cent were unhappy or neutral about the three new P5 loading zones."

The conflation of 'neutral' with 'happy' was disingenuous, she said.

Devonport village traffic speeds next in line for a rejig

Traffic speeds in Devonport village centre are set to be reduced, with the inclusion of the area in Auckland Transport's Safer Speeds programme.

In mid-2020, the first phase of the programme brought speed reductions to 600 roads across the region that had been deemed to be of high-risk.

Devonport missed the cut then, but is in the second phase of the programme.

Along with lowered speed limits, actions might include additional raised pedestrian crossings and other pedestrian-friendly measures.

Auckland Transport (AT) engineers will investigate and make recommendations before a consultation process.

AT said Safe Speeds was part of its Vision Zero strategy, aiming for no deaths or serious injuries on the transport system by 2050.

Phase one had drawn AT's most successful consultation, with 11,719 submissions.

It covered rural and urban roads, town centres, areas around schools and marae, and residential areas.

Lake Rd Cycle squeeze

Traffic cone placement outside a Kainga Ora development on Lake Rd is raising safety fears for cyclists and slowing traffic. The cycle lane has been coned off at the site in the block south of the Montgomery Ave corner where a cyclist died after a collision on 9 March.

After local complaints, Auckland Councillor Chris Darby said he would "escalate" the matter to Auckland Transport (AT). AT told the Flagstaff it would look at the site last week.

"The road network is 7500km approx. and a team of five on the road undertake a mix of random inspections; along with responding to complaints as they come in," said a spokesman.

3 Victoria Rd: empty for 1033 days

The old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018. It has now been unoccupied for 1033 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is deciding the building's fate.

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Best Senior Feature/Lifestyle Writer: 2014, 2017
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Devonport Publishing Ltd First Floor, 9 Wynyard St
Telephone: 09 445 0060
Email: sales@devonportflagstaff.co.nz
news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz
Website: www.devonportflagstaff.co.nz

MANAGING EDITOR: Rob Drent
PUBLISHER: Peter Wilson
CHIEF REPORTER: Janetta Mackay
DESIGN: Brendon De Suza
SALES: Liz Cannon
COPY EDITOR: Jo Hammer

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'Fossil' finally departs from trade of yesteryear



Open wide... Roly Russell is retiring after more than half a century in the dental-repair business

Belmont denture maker Roly Russell retires this month after 55 years in a trade overtaken by innovations in dentistry.

"It's a dying trade now," he concedes. "In the old days dentists ripped your teeth out."

Russell began his prosthetics apprenticeship aged 15, and apart from a stint overseas, has made dentures on the North Shore ever since.

He was in partnership with Terry Hope, on Hurtsmere Rd, for around two decades: "We were the biggest denture practice on the North Shore." He then moved to Hauraki Corner before buying a building on Lake Rd at the Belmont shops, where he has been based for more than 20 years.

Now the building, owned in partnership with Christine Keeling, has been sold.

At 71, it's time for Russell, fondly known as Fossil, to retire. "I'll miss my clients, who have been fantastic," he says.

When the Flagstaff arrived for this interview last week, Russell was doing what he's done for more than five decades: sculpting a set of dentures – removing the rough edges by hand.

It's a more complicated process than many think, often involving five or six client visits and fittings.

For some clients, he's made two to three sets of dentures, but these days every effort is made to keep people's natural teeth using crowns, bridges, implants and the like.

Born and bred in Bayswater, and an old boy of Bayswater School, Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar Schools, Russell is well known in his life "outside work" as a prominent tennis player.

He's a life member at Belmont Park Racquets Club, where he has won numerous singles, doubles and mixed-doubles titles.

He played in the top echelon: Chelsea Cup on the North Shore for 19 years – singles, and doubles with regular partner Owen Parker – and also in Auckland's Caro Bowl competition for three seasons.

He won North Shore singles and doubles titles and also paired with another North Shore player, Don Good, to win national masters doubles titles. He played overseas as well, winning a New South Wales over-50s singles title.

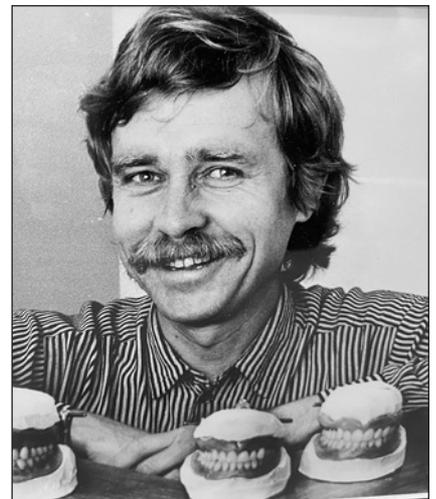
"I also played squash for 20 years, which almost killed me."

It was through tennis in the 1970s that he got the Fossil nickname. "Owen Parker's brother Christopher said I'd been around for so long I was 'like an artefact or a fossil – actually fossil sounds good', and it stuck.

"Even my grandkids call me Foss."

Russell had his prostate removed five years ago, but is in good health, although a shoulder injury is restricting his tennis.

"I had my time – I played interclub for 50 years. Now, I'm going to the gym and playing golf."



Smile for the camera... Russell – and dentures – as pictured in an Auckland Star profile in the 1980s

His best round is 87, and he's hit 89 at the local Waitemata course.

"It's great travelling around to play, and fantastic to be outside away from all the cars and traffic."

While North Shore Dental Repairs will be no more, the Russell name will continue in North Shore business circles. Roly's son Logan operates Logan's Plumbing.

Contentious Lake Rd project remains in transport plan

Lake Rd remains on the to-do list for Auckland Transport (AT), although little else seems clear about the vexed traffic plan for the congested route.

Neither a start date nor Devonport-Takapuna Local Board agreement on AT's design are locked in. But the inclusion of \$52 million in funding for Lake Rd and Esmonde Rd improvements confirmed in the Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP) for 2021-2031 means Lake Rd is still on the map of the city's future works.

The amount is \$5 million more than the \$47 million figure discussed last year. Asked about the difference, AT told the Flagstaff the figure was based on inflation and a new cost estimate. The project had not changed in scope, the spokesperson said.

Local-board chair Aidan Bennett told board members at a meeting last week that "due to Covid issues, it was not 100 per cent when that [money] would be available, but it's in the

budget." Last year, the board voted 4-2 against AT's design, with only Bennett and Toni van Tonder in favour.

The ATAP announcement, made jointly on 12 March by Auckland Mayor Phil Goff and Transport Minister Michael Wood, sets out a \$31 billion package of works to be rolled out over 10 years. On the lower eastern North Shore, it includes Lake Rd, the Northern Pathway and urban cycleways linking to either side of Smales Farm bus station, along with safety measures in central Devonport.

In all, 75 projects are included as agreed priorities between the government and the region for Auckland's integrated transport system.

The inclusion of Lake Rd in the plan follows warnings from Bennett and the North Shore's councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills, that the board's stance could see the project dropped in favour of others that enjoyed greater local support.

George Wood, Ruth Jackson, Jan O'Connor and Trish Deans say their opposition arose from a wish to see more work done on the design, rather than to ditch the project and lose the money altogether.

Bennett said the many opinions on the future of Lake Rd meant a consensus was unlikely to

ever be achieved. His "pragmatic" view was that "we should take the money and just get it done".

Board deputy chair George Wood took Bennett to task for keeping the board out of the loop. Bennett said Wood had "his head in the sand" over funding criteria for Lake Rd.

AT's plan includes T2 and bus lanes along sections of Lake Rd, some improvements at major intersections and a cycleway on Bay-swater Rd.

Public opinion ranges from doubts it will fix vehicle congestion to concerns it isn't cycle- and public-transport-friendly enough.

AT has said a business case would not be met for a scaled-up project, such as that the Automobile Association (AA) has called for. Public consultation had not supported turning Lake Rd into a four-lane highway or the land acquisition that would be needed to do this.

Wood said he had been surprised at the board's recent 'Have Your Say' public session when Darby appeared and said he, along with Hills and Bennett, would push through Lake Rd. Then Bennett had posted about the ATAP decision before the board knew of it.

Board members had been eliminated from discussion and there had been no dialogue with AT about issues they raised last year, said Wood. "I would hope as a board that independent of Cr Darby we can discuss this issue," he said.

"AT have introduced the council culture as far as this board is concerned," Wood claimed. "It just seems we are being cancelled out."

Member Jan O'Connor said she believed AT was "whistling in the wind" if it thought it could add extra lanes to Esmonde Rd within the ATAP budget. "There's no room," she said, of talk of adding a cycle path and a high-occupancy vehicle lane. Cars could not double up in the bus lane, she noted.

Bennett said: "At the end of the day, are you going to design it or are the people with the expertise going to design it?"



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Council apologises to Twiss over sculpture



Animated... Greer Twiss at the welcome ceremony for *Flight Trainer for Albatross* last Saturday

Sculptor Greer Twiss has received a public apology from Auckland Council for the poor treatment of his work *Flight Trainer for Albatross*, by its predecessor Auckland City Council.

Originally sited on Quay St, it sustained damage, neglect and then dismantlement and storage for five years.

The work has been rethought, remodelled and relocated to Victoria Wharf – with a crowd of around 100 gathering to welcome it to Devonport last Saturday (20 March).

Auckland Councillor Chris Darby said *Flight Trainer for Albatross* had had a “troubled history, which we should not hide from.”

The former city council had co-commissioned the work, but had not cared for it, Darby said. He apologised to Twiss on behalf of Auckland Council, its merged super-city successor, “for the mistreatment of your work.”

He hoped the siting of *Flight Trainer* “at its final home” in Devonport demonstrated the current council’s commitment to Twiss. “It is a magnificent work by a landmark artist.” Darby also acknowledged all the “Devonportians who come here today to welcome a very special work.”

Twiss thanked a great team of people who helped recreate and remodel the work, but that had not been without its artistic struggles: designers and engineers had wanted to remove all the rough edges of the sculpture, which Twiss was keen to retain. After suggested modifications from a digital designer

“I said ‘For God’s sake, you’ve destroyed it’.” He seemed to have some success in converting the designer, however, when he overheard him telling the engineer about Twiss’s “ad-hocism.”

“I’m so pleased this work has found its home,” Twiss said.

The sculpture had been in the public eye earlier in the week as a backdrop to the crowds welcoming Team New Zealand’s America’s Cup winning boat back into the harbour

• **Twiss explains his work, Arts, page 53**

Investors Dominating

We see that property investors are now accounting for over 40% of property sales as they rushed to get in before the new 60% maximum loan-to-value ratio (LVR) came in to effect. This is certainly making life difficult for first-home buyers, who are struggling to find anything within their price range.

We could well see new restrictions on investors, such as limiting access to interest-only loans (offered by main banks to investors), which reduces the servicing required and hence can make investments cash-flow positive. Banks generally require owner-operator/first-home buyers to make principal and interest repayments.

We are still seeing hot demand for property, despite caution from many sources regarding bubbles and higher interest rates etc. But the crazy thing is even if there was a 20% correction in prices, it would only bring things back to where they were this time last year!

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From page 1

Precinct would house 120 homes next to marina

dwelling sites to be individually purchased,” the application said.

Owners would then be able to design and develop their own dwellings, in accordance with the rules of a manual specially created for the project.

The new precinct is the latest plan for the site – and much smaller than previous proposals for up to 250 units.

While providing for the intensification sought across Auckland, those proposals “did not find favour with some parties in terms of bulk, mass, landscape, and amenity at the site,” the application said.

Around 350 people would live in the new precinct, which will be built in two stages. Public open space of 7750 sqm has been set aside in the development. A minimum esplanade strip of 15 metres is proposed, with a pedestrian path and boardwalk up to 3.5 metres wide constructed around the edge.

A total of 342 car parks will be included in the development. The apartments will each be allocated one car park and the terraced houses will have two basement parks.

Maximum building heights within the development have been capped at 11 metres.

The existing boat public boat ramp will be retained. But the 20 boat-and-trailer parking spaces required under the Bayswater Marina provisions will be moved to a different location.

The ferry terminal will be maintained on pontoons until at least 2031, when the berth licence expires. Auckland Transport has long-term plans to build a ferry terminal, but it has no budget for this. Bus access to the



Handy for boaties... The proposed development includes townhouses and apartments overlooking Bayswater Marina

terminal will also be retained.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair, Aidan Bennett, welcomed the development as a “great asset to the community”, in his chair’s report to the board’s monthly meeting.

He urged locals and the board to get behind it.

“The potential of getting that marina down there to be real lifestyle destination is huge,” he told members. “It would be a wonderful addition to the Shore.”

Board member Trish Deans cautioned Bennett not to get ahead of himself or to

seen to be speaking for the board in support of an, as yet, unconsented development, saying the application still required planning and environmental assessments.

“It’s my opinion,” replied Bennett.

In his written report he had noted approvals were needed, before adding: “I believe this is something we should embrace to see another great asset created for our community.”

Rich-lister Simon Herbert, the man behind Bayswater Marina Holdings, controversially bought the marina land site from the government for \$3.7 million in 2014.



Maritime setting... An impression of the proposed apartment block and a perimeter boardwalk planned for Bayswater marina

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Bank's last days cut short: customers unimpressed

ASB Bank's Devonport branch closed for good last week, but not before irking some of its customers by remaining shut through the previous week's Covid alert-level 2 restrictions, when other branches were open.

The bank announced last year that it was shutting the Victoria Rd branch due to falling patronage. It closed on Friday 19 March.

But customers were frustrated the previous week when the branch remained closed after Auckland moved to level-2 restrictions.

In just a few minutes on Wednesday 10 March, the Flagstaff saw four people try to enter the branch.

On Monday and Tuesday, the premises were in darkness. On Wednesday, the lights were on, but the door was still locked. The ATM was not working.

No signage was in place to let customers know what was happening. When the Flagstaff banged on the door, a staff member said through the glass that repairs on the ATM were pending and that the bank was closed because of Covid-19 alert levels.

One brassed-off customer assumed the bank had simply decided to close early, without notification. Another woman said the closure would be difficult for her mother, who was aged in her 90s and liked to bank in person. "She can't just get on a bus and go to Takapuna."

The Flagstaff asked ASB why Devonport was closed when the Takapuna branch was kept open through the level-2 period.

With its final closure looming, customers might have wanted to organise their affairs in person while they could.

ASB's executive general manager of retail banking, Craig Sims, replied: "In general, most branches in alert-level 2 are open as normal where we have the appropriate measures in place, such as Perspex screens, to protect our customers and staff. Branches without these protective measures, or with other staffing considerations, are closed in alert-level 2 as a precaution."

Sims confirmed ASB would retain an ATM in Devonport.

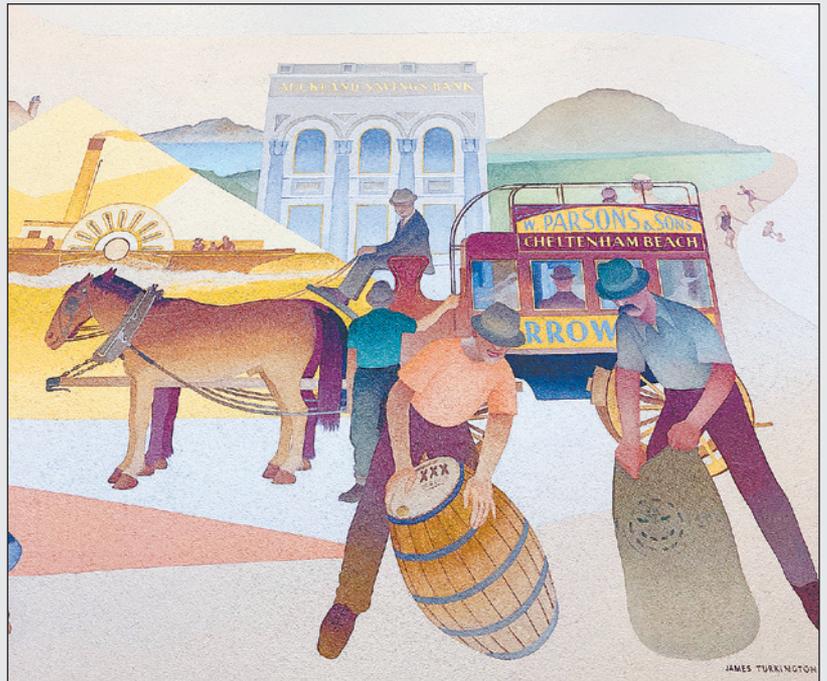
"We have added a deposit unit and change machine to support local businesses."

One ASB customer has another idea for how banks might operate in changing times. Chris Jones, who works in Devonport, told the Flagstaff she would like to see the different banks get together to provide a joint service centre to cater for those who struggled with technology or had access issues travelling to distant branches – a system being trialled in some remote South Island centres.

Devonport had particular needs that might make a banking centre helpful, she said.

In the pre-Covid era, it had hosted a high number of overseas visitors, who presumably would one day return and might welcome easy access to banking and foreign exchange services.

Future of ASB mural up in the air



Design and social-history experts hope a noteworthy mural (pictured in part above) that has been on the wall of the Devonport ASB bank for more than 50 years won't disappear like the branch itself.

The mural, on an interior masonry wall, depicts a street scene of early Devonport, complete with an Auckland Savings Bank building. It was painted by James Turkington, a leading exponent of large-scale works, around 1968.

On the branch's last day, Greg Smith, a researcher and curator with an interest in Turkington visited. Smith said he wanted to photograph the work in the bank while he could. He hoped the building's landlord would keep it. "It speaks to the history of the area."

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member and heritage advocate Trish Deans is tracking the work's fate.

The Devonport Museum also has an interest in Turkington, having acquired a much earlier work of his that depicts a North Shore rugby player and is painted with Art Deco influences. This is being restored.

Many Turkington works – painted from the 1920s through until the late 1960s – have been lost over the years. A few have survived in their original locations or in museums.

Smith, who mounted an exhibition about Turkington at the Depot Artspace in 2010, said the artist and university lecturer had been commissioned when aged in his early 70s to paint murals for several ASB banks. One at the Birkenhead branch has been boarded over.

• The quest to recognise Turkington, Arts, page 54

Sims said Covid-19 had accelerated the trend to customers using digital and self-service banking channels. Visits to the Devonport ASB had declined by almost 40 per cent over the past three years.

Regular customers of the Devonport branch were being contacted and there was a dedicated team to help any who needed assistance with their banking routines, he said.

Branch manager Andrew McIntyre said that over the last six months, staff had been helping customers become more comfortable with digital-banking options.

Lockdowns had disrupted this, but in the last week around 10 to 15 customers had come in for one-on-one morning sessions

to upskill themselves.

McIntyre said leaving was "difficult in a community we've been in for a long time", but with large premises and declining visitor numbers the decision was a business one. "I've tried to make it as amicable as possible."

During the transition he had worked with Age Concern and the Devonport Business Association to try to address concerns. The manager of three years is moving to the Wairau Park branch, with other staff going to Shore branches elsewhere.

Customers had been farewelled with cupcakes and the staff had a dinner after the last day – in Takapuna.

Stationer sails away with Auckland's best window

Devonport business owner Kim Snowball showed the precise attention to detail worthy of an America's Cup winner in claiming the honours in a competition for the best race-inspired store window in Auckland.

Her nautical-themed display at her waterfront store Fitzgerald Taylor caught the eye of the judge, Auckland Mayor Phil Goff.

Symmetrically arranged to be viewed through two painted porthole-style circles on the shop window, were two replica boats Snowball bought from a Milford business.

On their sails she neatly handwrote the lyrics to the Rod Stewart hit song *Sailing*.

She re-rigged the sails in red, blue and white string in sync with the Cup's colour themes. A Devonport Yacht Club pennant is also incorporated.

To appreciate the intricate assembly, the display deserves to be seen up close. "We always do mirror images in our windows," said Snowball.

Items such as pens and ink that are sold in-store were artfully arranged, recalling an old-style cabin desk, complete with a compass. "I'm very passionate about the art of ink on paper," Snowball said.

Goff offered his congratulations on the display. "It's good to see Auckland businesses getting involved in the best-dressed competition and helping to promote the America's Cup," he added.

Snowball, who has owned the store for nearly 20 years, running it from various locations around the village before moving to Queen's Pde, has won a previous shop-window contest. She said she enjoyed pulling together the Cup display and came up with the idea for it well in advance.

A number of other Devonport businesses entered into the spirit of supporting the Cup, though sadly the event has not proved a business bonanza.



Cup success... Kim Snowball with her winning window display

Like Snowball, they incorporated America's Cup bunting into their windows, but experienced limited visitor numbers drawn into village stores, due to the international border closure and domestic hesitancy at visiting Auckland in the face of lockdown uncertainty.

Fitzgerald Taylor has a strong following of loyal customers and online shoppers, so Snowball said she was less troubled than some businesses by how things had un-

folded, but wished the city had been busier.

The original first prize of tickets and hospitality at a concert night at Waterbourne in Takapuna could not be claimed, when the show was cancelled.

Competition organiser Auckland Unlimited instead arranged for Snowball to be hosted at a picnic at Windsor Reserve. She planned to take along her biggest supporters and store helpers – her mother, father, sister and husband.

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Next generation of yachties already lining up



Bayswater boys Elias Dunne (left) and George Renall are wasting no time in getting their sailing careers underway. Elias, aged 9, is having lessons at the Wakatere Club at Narrow Neck each Saturday, and George, who turns 9 next month, has a family yacht to sail on.

Well after the racing was finished on the

day Team New Zealand secured the America's Cup, the friends were still excitedly running round with their flags at Takapuna Beach Reserve.

Their families relaxed nearby, enjoying the sunny afterglow of victory after hundreds of other delighted spectators had dispersed.

"I want to be a sailor," said George, who

rattled off a few types of races he would like to compete in, before adding "and be in the America's Cup for New Zealand".

Coming from the suburb that produced sailing great Sir Peter Blake, he is off to an auspicious start.

George summed up the Cup experience of 2021: "I think it was really cool, I loved it."

Refunds in pipeline for 'postponed' festival shows

Dave Dobbyn belting out his hits by the seaside promised to be a highlight of the Waterbourne Beach Festival in Takapuna, along with shows by other top performers such as Tami Neilson and Hollie Smith, but it was not to be. Now ticket holders are wondering if the performances will ever happen.

The festival, part of a programme of America's Cup events, was unable to deliver its main shows. Organiser Laurence Carey said he had no choice but to "postpone" his big four ticketed concerts, after raised Covid-19 alert levels threw preparations and performance dates up in the air.

A two-level grandstand and stage for the heavily promoted, near month-long event were never fully erected on Takapuna Beach Reserve.

More than 5000 of up to 8000 tickets for the shows had been sold, Carey told the Flagstaff.

"Considering it's been two years work and having a large part of the event unable to run, it's pretty disappointing."

Carey said he was looking at running the ticketed events on another date. Asked if they would be staged in Takapuna, he said they could

be, but might be held elsewhere in the city and next summer. "I'm looking at options," he said last week.

Asked what was happening with refunds, Carey said one round had been offered to ticket holders, of whom 75 per cent had said they would wait to see what was happening. His focus had been on delivering what he still could for the last weeks of the festival, which ends with a fun run on 27 March. Post-event, in one or two months, he said he would do a second round of refunds.

A music fan who bought a ticket for the Dobbyn concert said Waterbourne needed to do a better job at communicating with its ticket holders. He hoped for a new concert date.

Carey has staged previous Waterbourne events, running them as a charitable trust with a focus on environmental awareness.

He said he had delivered on many of the free activities that made up the bulk of the Takapuna festival programme. Beach activities went ahead, including the paddleboard nationals on 13-15 March. A big screen proved popular with America's Cup spectators, attracting up to 1000 people at times, with more milling

about outside race times. Ocean-themed family movie evenings were held in the festival's last week. More than 500 people had registered for different water sports, said Carey, and various classes were delivered.

He acknowledged support from the Takapuna Beach Business Association, which helped advertise the festival, seeing it as a drawcard to attract visitors. Council promotional arm Auckland Unlimited promoted Waterbourne, as a key event on its Summernova programme built around the America's Cup.

Auckland Unlimited last year urged the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to grant Waterbourne consent to occupy the reserve, and said that the festival's application for a liquor licence was necessary to guarantee its success. But without the big-name concerts, the crowds never really turned out in force to spend up large.

"Obviously, financially, Covid has very seriously impacted me and my business," said Carey. "I've got very supportive sponsors. Given the circumstances, the majority of my sponsors see the value of my charity and we should be able to bounce back."

Devonport turns out for America's Cup triumph:



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final days of Cup racing**



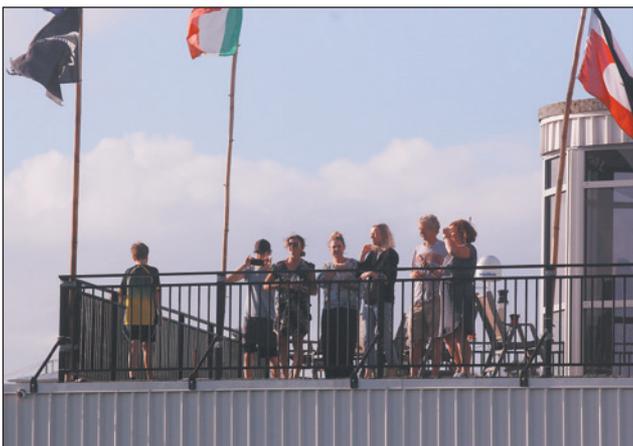
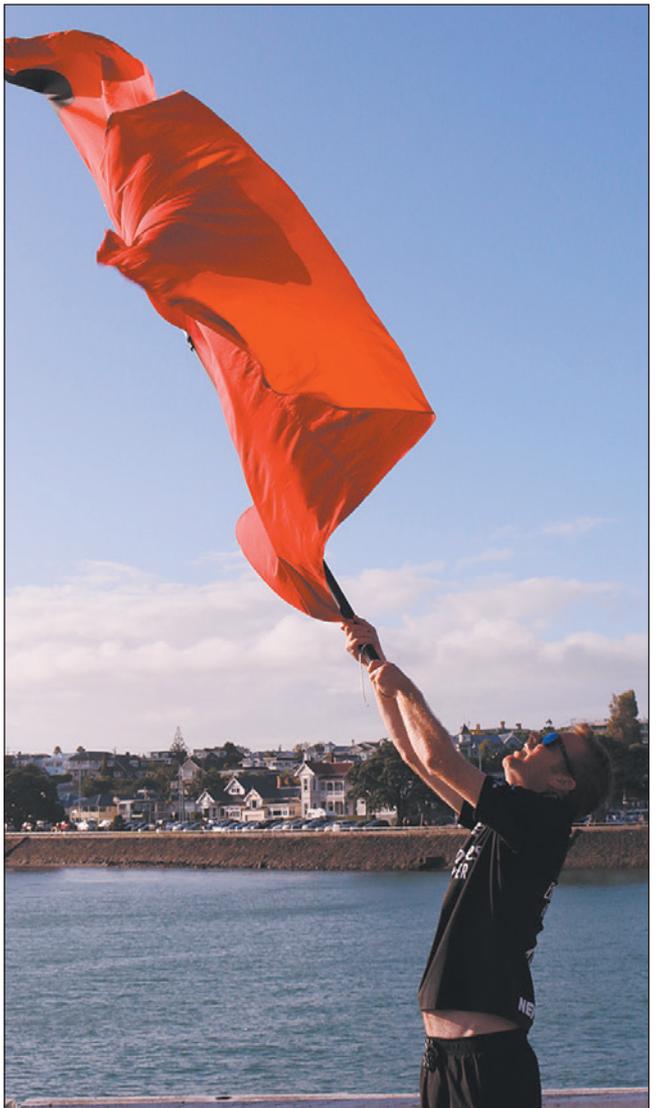
Luck of the Irish... St Patrick's Day provided another cause for celebration among Cup followers, including (from left) Lara Pearce, Mike Pearce, Dave Martin, Denise Martin, Maree Gleeson and Raelene Boucher; and (above, right) Richard Turrall

Crowds hit the beach, wharf and Maungauika



Victory parade... Spectators flocked to Victoria Wharf to salute Team New Zealand as the triumphant Te Rehutai was towed back to base

Flag bearer... Oliver Buckingham (right) waved a banner, and a variety of other flags flew from the ferry building as a flotilla of spectator craft accompanied the teams to the Viaduct



Devonport makes the most of Race Days by the Sea



Screen on the green... hundreds gathered at Windsor Reserve to watch the racing, while fun activities for children also proved popular over two weekends

Even after the excitement of racing was over, with the America's Cup safely stowed in the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron trophy cabinet across the Waitemata Harbour, related events Shoreside kept the waterfront party atmosphere going for an extended run of fun.

Race Days by the Sea in Devonport had a final post-Cup outing last weekend. And in Takapuna, Waterbourne Beach Festival boxed on with paddleboard games on Saturday, and dawn yoga and a silent disco on Sunday 21 March, with a fun run to come.

Both public entertainment programmes were scaled back versions of those originally planned – after Covid-19 lockdown levels early in the month saw events rescheduled or cancelled – but the spin-off was an extension of activities for an extra week.

Although low key and less crowded than originally envisaged, the vibe was family-friendly.

At Windsor Reserve, a Friday evening movie screening was followed by two weekend afternoons of feel-good music and dance,

together with food stands.

The Devonport Market successfully transferred outdoors for a second week in a row, from its usual home in the Community House. Catering came from local suppliers Vondel, Hang Viet, Akdeniz and Dev Gelato, with the Devonport Peninsula Trust setting up a tots' play area.

This Saturday, the Fort Takapuna market returns to the reserve above Narrow Neck Beach and Takapuna hosts its Easter Carnival at 38 Hurstmere Rd.

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Sneak peek... Cooper Hunt (2) from Devonport eyes a challenge



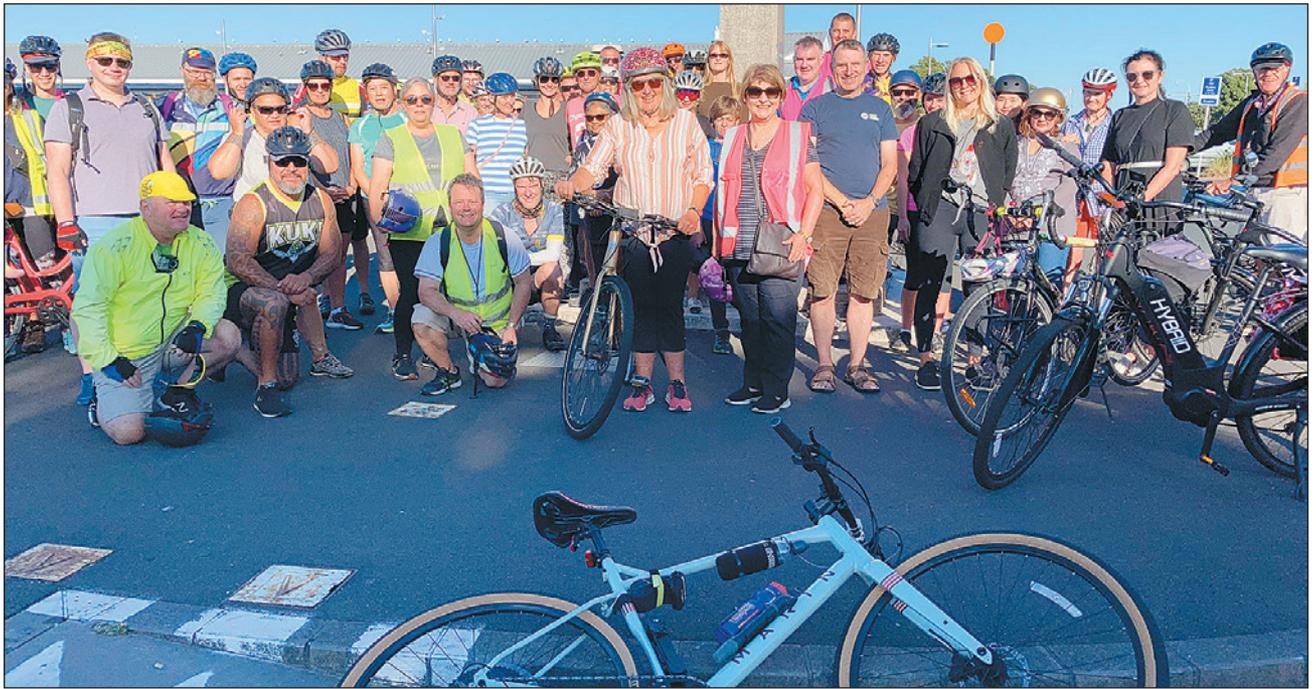
Sailor made... Indigo (left, 8) and Xavier Burrow (4) of Vauxhall had shirts and gelato ice creams just right for the occasion



Making it stick... Ariana Poltavchenko (6) from Beach Haven was visiting grandma in Devonport



Print ready... Louis Johnston (5) from Devonport making a print tote bag with Smitten Textiles Workshop



Paying respects... Bike Auckland supporters gathered at the Devonport ferry terminal to ride to the crash scene on 14 March, a day after a tribute by North Harbour triathletes, each attracting 50-plus riders.

Multi-talented cyclist farewelled on memorial rides

The cyclist killed in a collision with a truck on Lake Rd, Belmont, was farewelled at North Harbour Stadium last week, following two big memorial rides on the peninsula.

Warrick Jones, a married father of three, was a keen cyclist and triathlete. His communities were determined to publicly mark a death that shook many. Bike Auckland described it as “needless” and further proof roads needed to be made safer for cyclists.

Friends remembered Jones as a multi-talented man. Rubin Levin of Devonport, who knew him for decades, said Jones had jammed a huge amount into his 50 years. “He was a remarkable athlete, but more than that he was a great father and a wonderful man.”

Multi-faceted Jones lived in Torbay and worked as a flight attendant for Air New Zealand. He was involved in hospitality in the 1990s, including Fever bar in Takapuna where he gave many DJs a venue.

He died on Tuesday 9 March, just after 1pm, on a downhill stretch of Lake Rd at its corner with Montgomery Ave. Police investigations into the collision continue.

Bunches of flowers were left at the scene, with their numbers steadily growing to many dozens over the days immediately after the incident.

Many members of the North Harbour Triathlon Club, to which he belonged, visited the site early the following Saturday morning to pay their respects. Club president Alex Waite described Jones as a “great friend and fierce competitor”.

He took part in various competitions, including last year’s Ironman New Zealand event, recording a sub-11 hour time. A sign bearing his race number, #420, was tacked onto a fence



Tributes... A sign bearing Warrick Jones’s Ironman NZ number and flowers left at Montgomery Ave



behind a post covered in flowers and messages.

The next morning, Bike Auckland, with Jones’s family’s blessing, rallied more than 50 cyclists at Devonport Wharf to follow a backroute to the scene of the accident. Among them was Devonport-Takapuna Local Board mem-

ber, Toni Van Tonder, and the bike lobby group and charity’s chair Barb Cuthbert.

After a karakia by Ngahiwi Walker, the manager of the Navy Marae Te Taua Moana and himself a cyclist, Levin spoke of his Air New Zealand colleague and family friend.

“He was good on a bike, but when it came to swimming he was crap,” Levin recalled. Running was Jones’s strongest suit. He was using downtime from work to train towards a goal of qualifying for the Kona Ironman in Hawaii.

Levin said that once Jones moved on from music he took to the air, first with Air Nelson then Air New Zealand, flying internationally. “He quickly rose to a leadership position because he was special.” Crew were always pleased to see his name on the roster and to work with him.

Cuthbert introduced the reading of two poems, with a waiata finishing the remembrance as cars whizzed past on Lake Rd and cyclists lingered.

Others to remember Jones included leading DJ Greg Churchill, who described him as a “wonderful guy.” Jones was credited with giving many in the business a start. Members of the ‘Lost Nightlife of Inner City Auckland’ online group recalled Jones’s days as a bartender in Ponsonby and the city, including at Prego and Dreschlers, before he helped create a night scene in Takapuna in the late 1990s.

A police spokesman said Jones had died at the scene. An ambulance and a number of police vehicles, including the Serious Crash Unit, attended. A section of Lake Rd was blocked to traffic for several hours, with traffic diverted along side streets.

Jones is survived by his wife, Sara, two sons aged 21 and 16, and a daughter, 11.

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Community advocate puts the focus on resilience

Yvonne Powley's career has taken her from aid missions in the Pacific to tackling hyper-local concerns on the North Shore. She tells Helen Vause about a career that began after young motherhood – and the fresh challenge of helping local neighbourhoods prepare for emergencies.



Networker... For the past 12 years, Yvonne Powley has helped lead the way in building community partnerships on the North Shore

Yvonne Powley grew up on a farm just over the Bombay Hills, but the country life wasn't the future she dreamed of for herself.

An avid reader as a child, she lived in her books and read widely as she moved through her teens at Pukekohe High School.

"I just couldn't wait to get away from the farm to the city and to explore much further-away places with different cultures. I had big dreams," says Powley, looking back now from the brink of retirement and a life that has taken her to plenty of places and through many challenges.

But the dreams and adventures went on ice

for the impatient teen. Powley married young and at 18 had set up home in Pukekohe with her husband and baby son. She had another child, and for the next few years had her hands full raising children in a small town.

She'd hung onto those dreams though, and once the children were old enough, she began her professional journey.

She studied at Waikato University, by now a bit older than her student peers, where she attained a degree, majoring in community psychology and sociology.

"I was very very idealistic with big ideas and a passion to know how structures worked

and to be part of making changes happen," she says.

As a sure-fire way to put herself in the thick of the action, Powley joined RedR, an organisation that provides teams who are deployed to disaster zones to support and rebuild lives.

Before she could be deemed ready for action, she attended humanitarian-aid courses at Burnham Military camp, for some preparation and understanding of what she'd be likely to encounter on the ground, the stresses of disaster scenes and the issues of working with multiple agencies.

Powley's first trip was to a remote corner of Papua New Guinea, working with teams from a local office under the broad banner of justice and peace. Her focus was working with women in an environment where corruption and violence loomed large.

"It was very very tough for women there and very few of them ever voted. Part of my brief was targeting women to vote and travelling around reaching women in remote places. Violence against women was very common and we were working for funding to help support violence prevention.

"Of course it was a tremendous eye-opener. And you learn so much from an experience like that. But I loved it."

She learned about self-protection first-hand too. After being accosted on her daily walk, she

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found it would be wise to start driving to work.

It was her first taste of the work she'd longed to be part of, and an auspicious beginning.

Later, Powley was deployed on the first of two trips to the northern coastline of the Solomon Islands as part of a UN effort after earthquakes and tsunamis.

"There was big devastation and there were plenty of aftershocks and a lot to be done. It was so hands-on every day that I had to sleep with my clothing and gear ready at the bottom of my bed in case we had to race out in the night."

The next trip was to Samoa, working with a team charged with assessing what the impact of avian flu could be at a time when the spread was considered a real threat.

"These trips were all very different but they were all amazing experiences. They were exciting and very rewarding times for me. People are so very grateful for assistance. But really, people the world over are the same."

For the last 12 years, her working life has been much closer to home and within her own community as the chief executive of the agency Auckland North Community and Development (ANCAD). It's an incorporated society, governed by a board.

When Powley took up the lead role in 2009, the organisation had been through such wobbly times that its very existence was in question.

Funding was in the balance and her appointment at first was only for three months. Powley was unfazed by this uncertain beginning.

"I believed I could build it up again. The first task was to put a strong board together – people who would be taken notice of. We have many skilled articulate people on the Shore. And building relationships was a big part of it. And of course chasing funding."

Over the last decade, Powley and her small team have built ANCAD into a well-respected, dynamic and highly connected organisation, pulling together community partnerships and funding, connecting providers with businesses and government agencies, holding funding, overseeing projects and providing a broad

range of education for people working for community interests.

In one of their focus areas of capability building, they've grown into a large provider of governance and financial education.

The success of ANCAD's community accounting project, where they partnered with Massey University to provide education in the not-for profit sector, landed the university's award for its business partnership of the year.

Today, the ANCAD networks are extensive, connecting all corners of community interest and services. During Covid lockdowns, ANCAD coordinated a lot of service delivery.

"It's not a top-down approach any more. Every community and town across the North Shore is very different in terms of risks and hazards."

"My job has been about advocacy for the North Shore and about attracting funding and resources.

"People think we're wealthy in this area and we don't get the same services that go west and south in Auckland. But there is a lot of need here. The North Shore has high rates of family violence. There are plenty of people out there who can hardly make ends meet. There is a lot of anxiety in our communities and we have high rates of mental issues here. Currently, the biggest issue is probably housing."

People are in community work for the love of it, says Powley.

She felt so strongly about our unsung heroes

and their role in the history of the North Shore, that with ANCAD she published a book featuring the stories of more than 50 community workers and leaders.

"Unless a conscientious effort is made to record examples of people's achievements and interests, the past can be quickly forgotten. Celebrities are often documented and celebrated but those who do community work just quietly get on with it and are not often recognised," Powley wrote, when the book was published in 2016.

Although she's now stepped down as ANCAD chief executive, Powley sees plenty of work still ahead for her in the North Shore community in a mentoring and advisory capacity.

First up, following Covid lockdowns, earthquakes and tsunami threats, she is part of a push for very localised community-resilience plans.

The initiative has arisen out of community conversations, including one with a local-board member.

"There's a realisation that people would be asking exactly what they should do in the face of emergencies. Exactly where should they go to get to higher ground, for example. What should they have ready to take with them?"

"It's not a top-down approach any more. Every community and town across the North Shore is very different in terms of risks and hazards, regarding things like low-lying areas and a lot of other features.

"This resilience plan would be a real community development that we hope would result in people in every neighbourhood knowing exactly what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency. It would give us safer communities.

"I say good on the [Devonport-Takapuna] Local Board for being prepared to invest money in a resilience response at a very local level. It's very forward thinking."

From her home office, high up on Takarunga, Powley is working behind the scenes on the first moves to get the community talking about resilience plans at a public meeting in Takapuna in late April.

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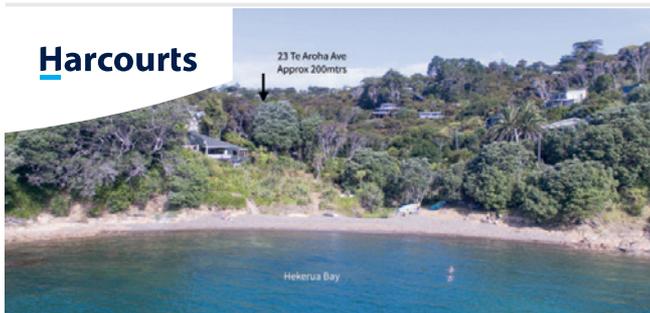


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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Overseas buyers – especially American and United Kingdom residents and Kiwi expats – are snapping up Devonport real estate, due to a cheap exchange rate. Barfoot & Thompson have sold foreigners one house in Stanley Bay for \$1 million; two between \$700,000 and \$900,000 and several in the \$350,000-400,000 range.
- Local band Cradle scores a gig at the Devonport Food & Wine Festival. The price of a glass at the festival rises from \$10 to \$15. North Shore Hospice is the charity of choice for most of the festival proceeds.
- Roaming dogs kill pet rabbits in Belmont, ripping hutches apart to get to the bunnies.
- Celebrities Rachel Hunter and Joan Collins are in Devonport filming *Ozzie*, a children's film about a koala bear kidnapped in Australia and taken to America.
- The Depot holds an Anzac Day exhibition.
- Suggestions on uses for Devonport Wharf, gathered in a public survey, include: moving Devonport Library and the Navy Museum to the wharf complex; constructing the wharf to resemble Devonport before fire ravaged Victoria Rd buildings in 1888; and having an art gallery in the building.
- Devonport businesses are warned about dumping rubbish after hours for garbage pick-ups the next day.
- A one-bedroom duplex in Opuia St, Bayswater, is on the market for \$163,000. A brick-and-tile home near Narrow Neck Beach has a \$330,000 price tag.
- A plan to have the Fijian national cricket side play a match on Devonport Domain is scuppered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It said Fiji could only play in the Pacific Cricket Championship, not additional recreational games.
- Community Board members want unused mailboxes left by defunct company National Mail removed from the streets.
- The Esplanade Hotel is getting a makeover by new owners Colin and Ann Withington, 100 years after it was built.



Esplanade renovators... Colin and Ann Withington



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Skypath woes prompt calls to refocus

With Skypath looking “dead in the water” the focus should shift to getting on with preparatory work for building a second Waitemata harbour crossing, says North Shore MP Simon Watts.

He was speaking this week after the firming up of indications that the planned \$240 million cyclepath and walkway across the Harbour Bridge is in trouble.

A report in the *New Zealand Herald* speculated that the bridge piers might not be able to carry the weight of the Skypath. This follows the 12 March Devonport Flagstaff raising doubts about the showpiece project to connect city cycleways to those on the Shore. Despite both Waka Kotahi / New Zealand Transport Agency and the Minister of Transport, Michael Woods, saying then that they were committed to SkyPath, the Flagstaff flushed out that its design review

was “open-ended”. The *Herald* has since reported Wood saying the project, expected to be underway by now, had struck “significant and complex engineering issues.”

The calls of local politicians and Bike Auckland for clarity are now growing louder. Watts told the Flagstaff some of the money set aside for SkyPath in the Auckland Transport Alignment Project (ATAP) – a plan recently jointly announced by the Government and Auckland Council – should now be ploughed into advancing preparations for a much-needed extra crossing. The funding would enable detailed design and planning to be done, he said.

Bike Auckland chair Barb Cuthbert says the Government and council must deliver on a cycleway. “They will build a bridge, there’s now doubt about it. That’s what the Minister is saying,” Cuthbert maintained.

In the meantime a lane of the Harbour Bridge should be devoted to cyclists, she said. Traffic volumes had dropped since Covid and the switch to e-bikes was accelerating.

Cuthbert said Waka Kotahi had found 78 per cent public support for SkyPath in its own consultation. Two years had been wasted by the transport agency and now the

lobby group which had been working with it had lost confidence. But she expected the vision for cycleways to prevail, given it was embedded in the ATAP 10-year plan.

The current official preference for a second harbour crossing is for a rail-only tunnel connecting to an upgraded northern public transport network. A vehicle tunnel would come later. Watts and the National Party want the next crossing to include vehicles and for it to be built more quickly than by the 2030s.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair, Aidan Bennett, told the board’s March meeting that while he was a fan of rail coming to the Shore, he wanted freight vehicles factored in as well. This would lessen the load of trucks on the harbour bridge and reduce its vulnerability. The truck crash that closed the bridge last year highlighted why another vehicle option was needed.

“Auckland can’t afford to come to a standstill again and waiting to build a further crossing for motor vehicles beyond 2040 is just too far away,” said Bennett.

Watts hopes a cycleway can go ahead, but says vehicle infrastructure needs more urgency.

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The foibles of cricket

The North Shore cricket premiers’ chances of winning the Hedley Howarth Auckland two-day championship slumped on Saturday with a disappointing first day against bottom-placed Grafton.

Shore started the game in second place on the points table, rapidly closing in on Suburbs New Lynn after winning a shortened match against Auckland University on 6 March.

However, last Saturday, Grafton came out firing, hitting a whopping 314/9 before declaring. Shore was immediately in trouble at 15/3 in their first innings, losing the top batsman and Auckland rep Graeme Beghin for 5.

By comparison, Suburbs was evenly placed in their match against Auckland University, who scored 165 in the first innings. Suburbs finished the day at 54/3.

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TERESA BURNS
hearing

By Rob Drent



The death of cyclist Warrick Jones on the Lake Rd cycle lane, at the intersection with Montgomery Ave, is a tragedy on many levels. He is believed to be the first cyclist killed on the road since the lanes were installed more than 10 years ago.

Since then, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians have reported hundreds of near misses, bumps and less serious collisions.

Many cyclists of all ages ignore the lanes completely. Indeed, a letter from former Devonport Community Board member Roger Brittenden in our last issue (Flagstaff, 12 March) received prior to the accident, highlighted the fact that the lanes were put in despite the safety concerns of the board. Since then, traffic volumes have increased and are set to get worse with increased housing intensity and building work.

Just days after the death of Jones, much of the cycle lane near the location of the accident was closed by contractors at a building site, forcing any bicycles into Lake Rd traffic.

The scene of the accident and its circumstances will be investigated by the police's Serious Crash Unit. A report will be written, recommendations made and a Coroner's inquest will follow. But is this soon enough for those cycling daily or even occasionally on Lake Rd? Should Auckland Transport conduct an immediate safety audit?

Our thoughts are with Jones's family, friends and all those who placed flowers near the site of the accident as a mark of respect.

It is hoped his death will not be in vain: safer cycling routes are needed for all.

Haumarū Housing's reasons for selling the Handley Court retirement village don't ring true to me. The official response was it had "poor access to public transport, support services and amenities".

I paced out the distance to the bus route the other day – it's only around 300 metres flat walk to the Narrow Neck Beach bus stop. The 814 will take you to Takapuna or Devonport village, or anywhere in between. The trip to the bus stop would be perfectly possible for any older person, either on foot or with the aid of a walker or in a wheelchair. The fact the village is close to a beach is a major plus, and an added incentive to say active. In fact, the late emeritus history professor Nicholas Tarling, well known as a daily swimmer at Narrow Neck in his speedos well into his 80s, lived a couple of doors down from Handley Court. The Waitemata golf course, a haven for birds, is at the end of the road – as is Woodall Park. Narrow Neck Playcentre is next door – teeming with young life, a tonic for the elderly.

In short, if you were retired it would be a lovely place to live.

Haumarū has to put the money from the sale back into retirement housing. But when asked directly if the proceeds would go back into the Devonport peninsula, Haumarū was evasive. It could possibly be heading to areas with perceived greater need – such as South Auckland.

Local people who may have been able to be housed at Handley Court will now need to look elsewhere.

The *Flight Support for Albatross* sculpture has finally arrived in Devonport, remodelled at a reported cost of \$265,000. I love a bit of public art as much as anyone, but don't feel overly enamoured about this piece, which is effectively a reworked hand-me-down, unwanted on the city side of the waterfront. It blocks a perfectly good view of the sea and, again, what have albatrosses got to do with Devonport?

I bumped into former Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Mike Cohen at the gas station the other day and share his view: albatrosses are associated with open water and cliffs, and the sculpture would have been better located at Fort Takapuna overlooking the sea towards Rangitoto.

Race Days in Devonport continued after the America's Cup finished and I wandered down on Saturday afternoon to check it out. Obviously, with racing on the water over and no overseas tourists in the country, numbers were down. But the event was not diminished. Quite a number of locals were listening to the music at Windsor Reserve, with children at the playground. It had something of the vibe of the early Devonport Food & Wine Festivals, largely attended by Devonport residents – a real village feel – before the hordes started coming from all over Auckland.

Businesses in Devonport were somewhat unlucky with the racing schedule. Only a few races were held on the course off Maungauika, lessening the numbers in Devonport and the flow-on for retailers, cafes, bars and restaurants.

In the latest instalment of one of the world's most enthralling sports challenges, the B & D Challenge, Belmont Squash Club beat Devonport 23-19.

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Narrow Neck retirement units site sold

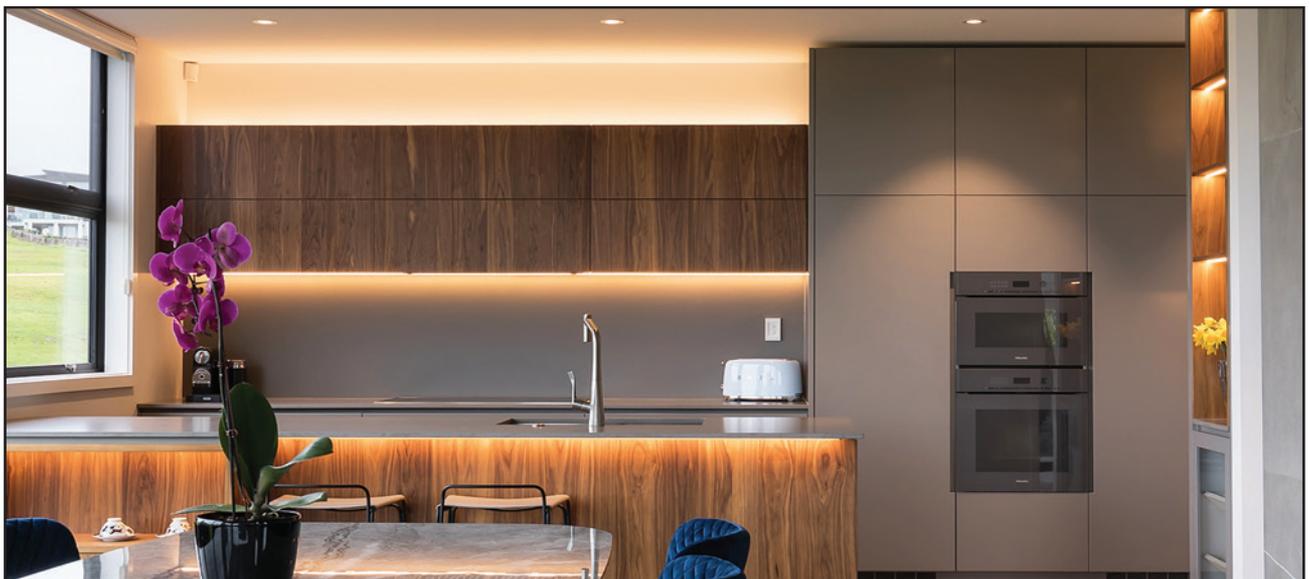
The Handley Court retirement village site at Narrow Neck has sold for an undisclosed price.

Tenders for the 2259sqm block closed on March 10, with Panuku saying it would make a decision on the sale by the end of March. A sold sign went up last week, but Panuku was unable to provide a sale price before deadline.



Quick sale...Handley Court retirement village sold just weeks after it went on the market

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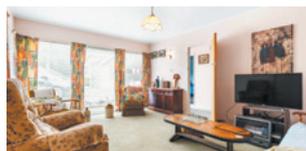
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TENDER
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VIEWING
Sat/Sun 12:00pm-12:45pm
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AUCTION
12:00pm 24 Mar 2021 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
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Toni Gregory
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1:00pm 27 Mar 2021 On Site (unless sold prior)

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

VIEWING
Sat/Sun 2:00-2:30pm
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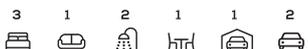
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Taking out cycle lanes 'insanity'

Roger Brittenden's letter (Flagstaff March 12) calling for the removal of the Lake Rd cycle lanes encapsulates what's gone wrong with our transport planning. For decades now our policies have prioritised private vehicles and road building, but congestion grows ever worse.

Roger's proposal is the epitome of the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results. Bike shops are struggling to meet demand for e-bikes, with 67,000 imported into New Zealand in 2019. By comparison just under 81,000 new cars were sold in New Zealand in 2020. It is a matter of when, not if, e-bike sales overtake those of new cars. This is happening all around the world where cities are changing traffic patterns by prioritising alternative modes of transport and putting people first. Every commuter or student on a bike means one less car.

Roger's letter was published just days after Warrick Jones was killed on Lake Rd while riding his bike. If Roger and the Local Board are serious about improving Lake Rd, then they should honour his tragic death by prioritising safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Just as more roads induces demand leading to congestion, evidence points to a basic truth: if you build proper cycling infrastructure it will be used.

It's time for Roger and the Local Board to shift their focus and think beyond a four-wheeled metal box. The next time Auckland Council offers \$47 million towards fixing Lake Rd, they grab it with both hands.

Terry Baucher

Editor's note: Brittenden was a member of the Devonport Community Board when cycle lanes were installed, not the current Local Board making recommendations on Lake Rd plans.

Digby Tuck: a local character for more than 30 years

Digby Tuck, known to probably hundreds of Devonport people, sadly and unexpectedly died recently aged 78, having resided in the Chatham Islands for a while near his family. Digby's roots were in the Chatham Islands but he belonged everywhere he went.



Digby Tuck

He was still making cray pots to the end, and only recently was in Devonport buying steel or whatever he needed.

Digby was always industrious and active. We remember Digby's big boat the Chatham Clipper, and his hospitality decades ago.

Digby spoke the Queen's English and was a gentleman – and a bit of a lad as well.

He was a wealth of general knowledge, had

more than most, and often showed it off at the golf club and other quiz nights.

Digby was pivotal in putting scampi on the menu of seafood lovers.

He had a lot of go in him for an old bugger, and he was good with young and old. He had built big steel boats and escaped great whites.

He was a cook, and a master of wines and beers, always hospitable and a survivor of every situation.

He was happy with simple things. There are lots of you that know a lot more than I did about Diggers. I'd only known him about 30 years. A Good Keen Man.

Ron Dykman

Downed posts 'hit by mower'

I have read your article about the lack of goalposts at Fort Takapuna (Flagstaff, 12 March). I would like to make a comment:

I believe that you are being deliberately misled by the council. The full story is that these goalposts were hit by the council mower. That is why they needed the "renovation".

Also, I am wondering if many people felt the same as I did about watching the America's Cup from North Head. The powers that be decided to put signs on all the gently sloping grassy banks

advising people not to sit on them.

The best viewing spots and the most comfortable places to watch from were on these grassy slopes. The people patrolling there advised that this was due to health-and-safety reasons. Sure, lower down there are some dangerous slopes, but 90 per cent of the grassy slopes are not dangerous.

To be squashed into the few remaining bits of flat land was not pleasant or, in these times, prudent.

Ron Maxwell

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome. Please limit to 300 words on Devonport peninsula topics. send to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz

Hop on a bus

Bigger, better bus services – Yay. We now have more routes, more buses, more runs and longer hours. So to AT, a big Thank You.

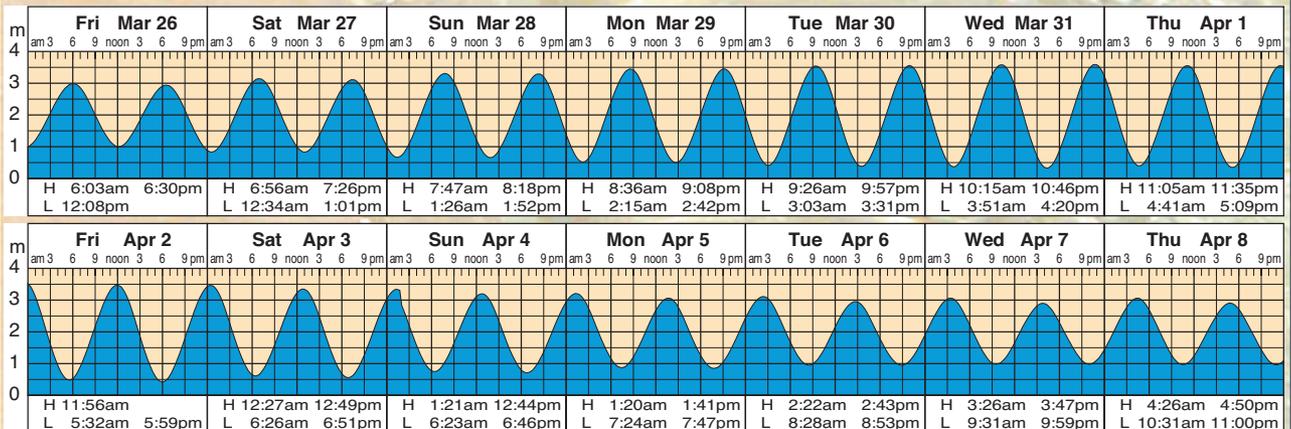
To everyone else - hop on board!

Miriam Beatson

Harcourts Devonport Tides



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Plea to focus on fate of dilapidated boating club

The slowly crumbling Takapuna Boating Club premises at Bayswater would cost more than \$3million to renovate, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett told members last week.

“That building just sits and rots,” he noted at their monthly meeting.

With no board or Auckland Council funds available for purchase or restoration, the best hope for the building was its sale or long-term lease.

“Apparently, there has been some community resistance to this in the past,” Bennett told the board at its March meeting.

The community needed to accept that the building was a freehold property. Seeing it sold or leased for restoration would be a “win-win for everyone”, he said.

A complicating factor was that to enable a sale of the land – owned by the boating club since 1926 – a change to an old Act of Parliament would be needed, said Bennett.

North Shore MP Simon Watts is also advocating for this.

Time was ticking on the lovely old landmark, warned Bennett.

Renovations of the building would cost upwards of \$3 million, he had been told. It



Bayswater do-up... Renovating the Takapuna Boating Club building is expected to cost \$3 million or more

needed painting, and timbers and windows repaired, plus upgrading to modern building and seismic codes.

This was beyond the means of the boating club, which has decided the building is surplus to its needs. “They’re keen to sell.”

The club had done its best as steward of the building, he said, but it would “clearly appreciate community cooperation to ensure this wonderful piece of our local history is restored”.

Bennett said a lease could be conditional on restoration and parts of the building being allocated for public use.

An old saltwater pool directly in front of the clubhouse was apparently owned by the council, he said, but it had not been used for decades. Access to that pool was always over the land owned by the club, which also housed public toilets and changing rooms.

In recent months, older community members have commented on the sorry state of the clubrooms, recalling the building’s social heyday when it was also used for dances.

After the club acquired its land in Bayswater, it bought the building, originally a tannery, and had it transported by barge from its site on the edge of the Tamaki River. Club members then transformed it into three-storey clubrooms. By the 1960s, with the shallow, tidal waters around Bayswater increasingly silting up, the bulk of club operations shifted to Takapuna Beach, although the clubrooms remained in limited use until several years ago.

Bennett said that if the building was safeguarded, it would, in tandem with the proposed marina-land development, add to Bayswater’s appeal as a “wonderful part of the North Shore”.

THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NEWEST FLEET ENTRANT WOWS AUSSIES

HMNZS Aotearoa, the Royal New Zealand Navy’s (RNZN’s) latest vessel, has impressed across the Tasman as she refuelled thirsty Australian destroyers and frigates in a series of replenishment exercises this month near Sydney.

The 173-metre replenishment ship, the largest ship in the RNZN’s history, has conducted her first-ever Replenishment at Sea (RAS) manoeuvres, a tricky navigation procedure involving two ships running parallel at constant separation and speed while a fuel hose is passed from Aotearoa to the customer.

Lining up over the two-week exercise were Australian air warfare destroyer HMAS Hobart, as well as Anzac-class frigates HMAS Stuart and HMAS Paramatta. The Aotearoa team progressed from RAS approaches, testing two ships’ ability to hold position, then conducting ‘dry’ hook-ups, and finally the first-ever transfer of fuel, to HMAS Stuart.

While a number of Aotearoa’s crew came with the skills from working on Aotearoa’s predecessor, HMNZS Endeavour, it was a new experience for the majority.

Commanding Officer, Captain Simon



Rooke, says it is always great to work “with our mates from across the Tasman. For some of us, it’s back to familiar activity and for others of the Ship’s Company it is a first, but regardless of who’s been to the East Australian Exercise Areas before, to take our first RAS steps has been excellent and shown how well our navies operate with common procedures and the same

exacting standards”.

During HMAS Hobart’s refuelling, a parcel was carried across the gap containing gifts to Aotearoa, including a packet of Tim Tam biscuits.

Commanding Officer Andrew Pepper, Commanding Officer HMAS Hobart, said Aotearoa was “a great-looking ship” and her crew were very professional.

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

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

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Holy Week & Easter Services

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8.00am Traditional Eucharist
9.30am Contemporary Communion

Maundy Thursday—1st April

7.00pm Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service



Good Friday—2nd April

2.00pm Devotions on the Cross
led by the Holy Trinity Choir

Easter Sunday—4th April

6.30am Sunrise Service
at Balmain Reserve, Cheltenham
8.00am Traditional Eucharist
9.30am All Age Communion
with Easter Egg hunt

The Light Devonport Church

90A Victoria Rd, Devonport 445-1580

Easter Sunday

10.00am Easter Celebration

Devonport Methodist Church

Cnr Lake Rd & Owens Rd 445-6801

Palm Sunday - 28th March

10.00am Worship Service
4.00pm Messy Church—All Ages,
All Welcome

Maundy Thursday—1st April

7.30pm Tenebrae Communion Service

Good Friday—2nd April

9.00am Short Devotional Service

Easter Sunday—4th April

10.00am Easter Celebration

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church

151 Lake Rd, Belmont 445-0018

Good Friday—2nd April

9.00am Devotional Service

Easter Sunday

10.00am Easter Service

St Francis de Sales & All Souls Catholic Church

2A Albert Rd, Devonport 445-0078

Holy Thursday—1st April

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday—2nd April

3.00pm Passion & Veneration
of the Cross

Holy Saturday—3rd April

7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Mass



Belmont Baptist Church

168 Lake Rd, Belmont 445 6268

Easter Sunday

10.00am Easter Celebration

<http://www.belmontbaptistnz.org/>



Long-serving teacher remembered

Victor Charles (Vic) Barrington (right), who taught at Rosmini College for 29 years, has died, aged 82.

The dedicated physics teacher was also Rosmini's Head of Science.

Although Barrington retired from full-time teaching in 2011, he continued relieving at the school until last year.

A large congregation, including staff, parents and students, both past and present, gathered when he was farewelled at St John's Church, Orewa, late last month.

Barrington's contribution and impact



extended beyond the classroom. He edited the school magazine for 25 years and coached a range of sports, including rugby, football and cricket.

Born in Hyderabad, India, in 1938, he began teaching at Rosmini in 1982.

He was nicknamed Mr Spock by his pupils due to his resemblance to the *Star Trek* character.

Barrington, who died on 16 February, is survived by his wife, Eileen, four children and three grandchildren.

Esmonde Rd project to start by year's end

Work on the Amaia development on the church site on Esmonde Rd will begin by the end of the year, after the first two stages gained Auckland Council planning consent this month.

To date, 54 of 86 apartments in the seven-storey block at the front of the site have been pre-sold.

This building will contain retail, health and childcare facilities on its lower level, with accommodation above.

The second consented block is to the east and will be mostly managed visitor accommodation. Stage three, closer to the shoreline, is yet to be submitted for approval.

Part of the consent for the so-called "urban village" is for communal space and landscaping, including pedestrian and cyclist-friendly entrances and pathways.

Hopes these might connect on to Francis St, Hauraki and beyond eventually, would depend on council funding.

Devonport
Rotary
Club



*Now welcoming
new members!*

What an interesting start of the year. Between lockdowns and level changes, it has been disruptive for everyone.

However, the club has enjoyed a few great evenings. Earlier this month, we attended the broadcast of the TV3 show *The Project* as well as heard from one of the crane operators involved in the construction of the Auckland Sky Tower.

Looking ahead, we have Geoff Worger deconstructing the construction of Model Sailing Ships, as well as, a joint evening with other local clubs, where we will hear an update about the Puhoi to Warkworth Highway development.

While Covid has certainly been the centre of attention, Rotary is continuing with its polio campaign and Polio Week runs from April 20-25. As at March 3, there have only been two cases of Polio and we are accepting donations to help ensure children's lives in the most remote places are not impacted by this disease.

**If you would like to contribute
contact us at**

**info@devonportrotary.co.nz
or visit www.devonportrotary.co.nz**

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**CONTACT OWNER: Mike Gannaway on
021 926 946 or michael@gannaway.co.nz**

Echo design's last days

The Echo Designer Living store on Victoria Rd is trading until 31 March.

The Flagstaff reported in its last issue that the closing took effect earlier. A sale continues in-store.

Echo's fashion-outlet store on the opposite side of the road near The Vic Theatre will remain open.



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Ngataringa mixes it with the best in Chelsea Cup



Net result... Ngataringa Tennis Club's Chelsea Cup team members (from left): Tama Willis, Lucien Lemay, Dan Gunn, Gilles de Gouy (captain), Max Dickey and James McPherson

Ngataringa has narrowly missed out on making the finals of the Chelsea Cup, Tennis Northern's premier inter-club competition.

The Stanley Bay-based club lost to Campbells Bay, 5-3, in a semi-final at home on 19 March, before a keen crowd of supporters. Campbells Bay fielded two professional players – Ajeet Rai (ranked No. 3 in New Zealand) and Aex Klintcharov (ranked No. 7).

Ngataringa's previous opponent, Whangaparaoa, had included another ATP player, Finn Tearney. Speculation world top-20-ranked international

doubles whizz Michael Venus might also be called in did not eventuate.

Although Ngataringa narrowly lost to Whangaparaoa, they secured enough points to make the semis. Campbells Bay will now meet Whangaparaoa for the Cup after the latter beat Milford in their semi.

Ngataringa lost the doubles making the tie a bridge too far against the pros and rising talent of Campbells Bay. The local team prides itself on fielding club players and plays with consistent grit. Its former coach de Gouy and current coach Lemay led the way.



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District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

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We are looking for a skilled communications professional to create and oversee the distribution of high-quality information to more than 8,000 staff at New Zealand's largest district health board.

Responsible for delivering customised information to keep colleagues informed about key developments and events affecting them and the care they provide.

The role is primarily responsible for crafting and publishing regular updates via our various digital communication channels, taking particular care to ensure consistency of messaging when engaging with different audiences.

It requires exceptional attention-to-detail and time-management to stay on top of daily competing demands and ensure that internal stakeholders receive communications support that is appropriate to their needs. Highly polished writing and presentation skills are a given, as is a strong commitment to meeting internal deadlines.

The role also includes opportunities to provide critical support to our Incident Management Team during major events.

The Internal Communications Advisor is required to identify risks and develop mitigation strategies in support of agreed goals, often working alongside senior leaders. The ability to influence and provide communications leadership is essential, particularly when working with staff whose specialties lie in other areas.

From time-to-time, there may be a need to work with the news media in support of team goals, including proactively pitching story ideas, generating media releases and chaperoning news crews on our sites to protect the privacy of our patients.

The identification of regular content for official social media channels is also expected as part of the role, including the creation of short videos demonstrating the DHB's values in action and showcasing the amazing work our teams do every day for the people of Waitematā.

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PSO Analyst - Fixed Term Fixed Term – 12 Month Project

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Supporting the organisation with the implementation and enhancement of our Project & Portfolio Management (PPM) Tool, this fixed term role will focus on assisting in the analysis of project data, development of reports and dashboards along with supporting users of the PPM tool across Waitemata DHB.

Fast paced, with a problem solving focus, the successful candidate will find themselves working in a supportive, team based environment.

In this role of you will be required to:

- Demonstrate strong analytical and problem solving ability
- Demonstrate strong Microsoft office suite and IT capability
 - Intermediate to advanced Excel
 - Knowledge in Qlik; Power BI or IBM Cognos is an advantage
- Display excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, and the ability to interact professionally with a diverse user group
- Prepare regular project reporting for key stakeholders and management
- Organise and positively contribute to project meetings and work-shops
- Manage project and change management documentation accurately

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Part-time Shop Assistant

Paper Plus Takapuna is looking for a part-time shop assistant to join our team. The successful applicant must possess a strong customer focus and strive to exceed our customers' expectations. The role requires self-motivation and initiative along with the ability to work in a team environment. The applicant must have a working permit and good command of English. If you love retail and sales and would like to gain great experience, please send your application to us. (Training will be provided.)

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House Attendants & Houseman

The Spencer on Byron is a four and a half star Hotel in the Heart of Takapuna. We are looking for a Housekeeping Attendants and a Houseman. Experience required but not essential. Basic duties include cleaning check out and stay over rooms. Houseman role involves some heavy lifting. Some weekend work is required.

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Cheltenham Milk Bar is looking for a Cafe Assistant

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Zund and Esko Operator Cube - Wairau Park

We are looking for a Zund and Esko Operator to join our established team in Wairau Park North Shore. You will need to have experience and skills around service, production and operations in project management and digital equipment manufacturing. Mathematical and computer skills, with an eye for production and preventative maintenance and systems.

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Casual Relief Teachers

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Shore thing! Hauraki School and St Leo's



Plastic patrol... Luke George (9, above), Luke Haggitt (10, below) and Isabella Brodie (10, below right) were among St Leo's pupils who collected rubbish from Torpedo Bay beach

Hey-ho, hey-ho... Off to clean up the Shoal Bay shoreline go pupils from Hauraki School



kick off peninsula's annual beach clean-up

Pupils from Hauraki and St Leo's schools hit the beaches on 9 March as part of a peninsula-wide clean-up effort with other schools.

They had delayed their action days until last week due to Covid alert-level uncertainty.

The Hauraki party collected around five rubbish bags of litter from the Shoal Bay shoreline at the bottom of Charles St, while St Leo's kids tackled the beach at Torpedo Bay.



Rocking the clean-up... St Leo's pupils (from left) Honor Hanson, Felicity Kavanagh and Kate McGruer (all 10) at Torpedo Bay



Team effort... (from left) Maya Davis, Lauren Raymond, Samantha Simpson and Cynthia Li (all 8) from Hauraki School on a shell bank at Shoal Bay



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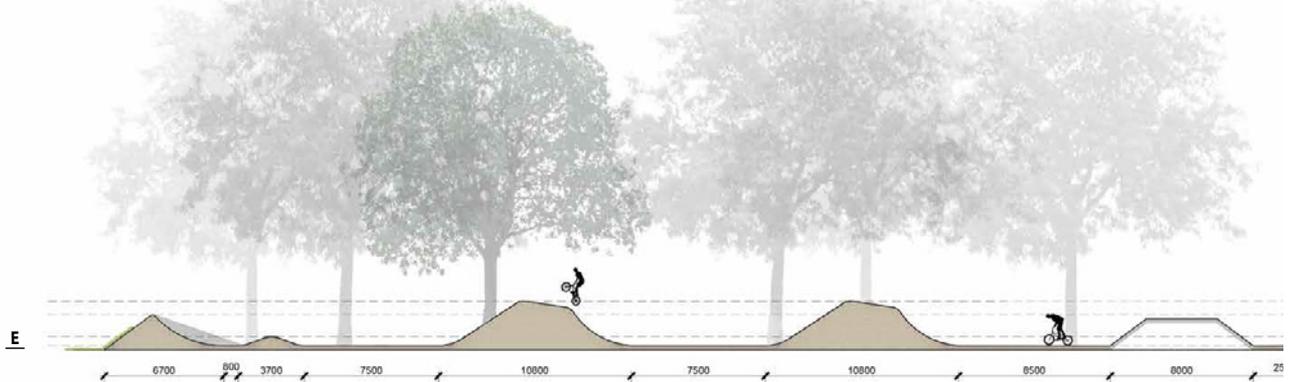
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Pump track work to start soon

SECTION ELEVATION E-E

TYPICAL ARRANGEMENT

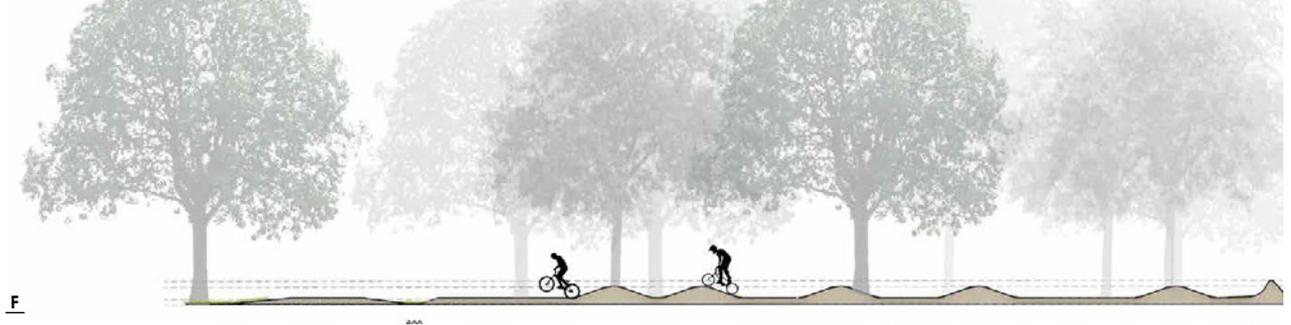
1:200



SECTION ELEVATION F-F

TYPICAL ARRANGEMENT

1:150



On a roll... Images of the pump track soon to be built at Woodall Park

Woodall Park set to be scene of rollicking good rides on shaped terrain

Resource consent for the Woodall Park ‘pump’ track is pending, with construction over winter for a planned November/December opening.

An information day will be held on the site, on 16 May.

The track is a joint Auckland Council/Devonport Rotary project, with input from BMX riders.

The land, on the edge of Waitemata golf course, has previously been used as an informal track.

However, several years ago Tim White and other riders approached Rotary to help them develop the track further.

“We wanted to do something that was meaningful for the community and also helping the kids doing their own thing,” said Rotary Club member Bob McGuigan.

Council designed the new track and a Rotary team is coordinating building works.

The new dirt track would cost around \$100,000 if “done commercially”, due to the drainage and earthmoving involved, said McGuigan.

But Rotary hopes building materials and construction and plumbing work will be

donated by members of the community.

The club has been in talks with Gill and Gundry to undertake the initial earthworks, for example, he said.

Rotary is also likely to set up an online donations page, so the wider community can contribute.

The track will be built in two phases, and will include a section suitable for beginners and as well as track for more advanced riders.

Some scrub trees will be removed from the area, but new trees will also be planted.

Rotary Club members are under not-so-subtle personal pressure to get the job finished.

Member Colin Cannon said his grandson Harry Brown was a keen BMXer and always asking “when is it going to be done?”

Recently, council contractors had cleared the site, removing unwanted vegetation and rubbish and renewing bollards.

McGuigan said Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members Toni van Tonder, Aidan Bennett and Trish Deans had been particularly supportive in easing the project’s passage through council.



Stanley Bay School

15 Russell Street, Stanley Point 0624

Enrolment at our school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on the school website www.stanleybay.school.nz.

Applications for 5 out-of-zone places in Year 3,4,5 and 6 are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the period of Monday 3 May 2021 to Friday 9 July 2021.

Currently there are no available out-of-zone places for Years 0-2.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is 19 April 2021

If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on 20 April 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 additional ballots in Term 3 and term 4 to enable out-of-zone children to continue to enrol in 2021 and 2022.

Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

MAR 26, 2021

Romeo and Juliet Mean Girls

Romeo and Juliet is a play about a pair of star-crossed lovers. Both come from rival kingdoms and love each other dearly but aren't allowed to get married because their families forbid it. So in the end they die because they love each other too much.

At Takapuna Grammar School, we interviewed Romeo, who is played by Harmony Wilson-Nagta, and Juliet, who is played by Ruby Jacobs. This production of *Romeo and Juliet* is part of a larger Shakespeare experience planned for late March, themed around various Shakespearean 'Mean Girls'. The performances will cover a range of extracts from Shakespeare's plays, including *As You Like It*, *Macbeth* and *Titus Andronicus*.

Harmony and Ruby are both excellent actors. They have both had previous experience in plays, commercials and other productions. When asked what scene they were looking forward to, Harmony said it was being able to act out the sword fight; Ruby said she enjoyed being loud and bossy, and the death scene, because it is very dramatic. When asked who their favourite character was, they each said it was the one that they were playing, because the characters are bold, loving and speak their minds.

They both said that the environment at the practices is chill and everybody gets along well, and there is only a little bit of competition between actors. The lines are also written in old English so they are more complicated to learn and remember.

The play on the 28–31 March, as well as 1 April.

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Tournament Week

In mid-March, Summer Sports Tournament Week 2021 began. One of the biggest sporting weeks of the school year took place with more than 10,000 people including roughly forty-five per cent of all students from schools in Auckland's North Shore, their sports coordinators, coaches, and teachers from across New Zealand congregating in various locations to play off for Secondary School national titles.

At Takapuna, our biggest sports are football, netball and then rugby – these sports are included in the September (Winter Sports) Tournament Week. However, volleyball and basketball are two of the fastest growing sports and were representing us throughout the week.

More than 100 Takapuna Grammar Students are participating in various sports throughout the weekend: twelve in 3x3 basketball champs, both the boys and girls 1st XI Cricket Teams playing in annual summer tournaments; 45 in the Maadi Cup (rowing,) 20 indoor Volleyball players and 20 for Ultimate NZSS nationals.

A massive shout-out to and good luck message for all our Takapuna Grammar students participating in the Summer Sports Week. Congratulations on any/all future successes over the next week and a huge thank you to the sports coordinators, teachers and coaches here at Takapuna Grammar who helped send our representatives away.



North Harbour Athletics Zone Day

Takapuna Grammar School had 20 athletes competing in the annual North Harbour Athletics Zone Day.

Though all our athletes competed well, the following students managed to place top 3:

Kate Hallie – 1st Jnr Shot Put, 2nd Jnr Discus.
Sascha Leticia – 2nd Int 800m and 2nd Int 1500m.

Jodie Nash – 1st Int 1500m.

Ava Shaw – 3rd Int Long Jump and 3rd 400m.

We also had two senior students, Samantha Korck and Mikaila Dednam, compete at the Central/West Zone Athletics Day, with Samantha coming 2nd in senior girls 400m, 2nd in 100m and 3rd in 200m.

Well done to you all!



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OUT & ABOUT

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445 9533 | maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

RAUMATI/SUMMER FUN PRESCHOOL PLAY MORNINGS

LAST FEW DAYS! Tuesdays @ Windsor Reserve) & Thursdays @ Bayswater Park) 9:30am-11:00am UNTIL 30 MARCH

Raumati/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.

STREET GET-TOGETHERS

Devonport Peninsula Trust has some funding available to encourage people living in the Devonport peninsula area (Devonport to Hauraki Corner) to get together with their neighbours to develop neighbourhood connections. For further info please contact

Maria on ph: 445 9533 or email maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

DEVONPORT EASTER MARKET

Saturday 3rd April, 9am-2pm, Windsor Reserve

Make it a day out in Devonport and visit Devonport Market at Windsor Reserve. A great day out for all the family with arts and crafts, family fun, shopping, food and music. Take home something special and unique and explore the historic town centre of Devonport.

GOOD HABITS IN CONCERT

Easter Monday, 5 April, 8pm

The Bunker on Takarunga/Mt Victoria

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Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

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

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

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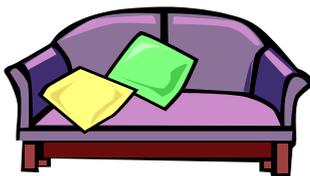
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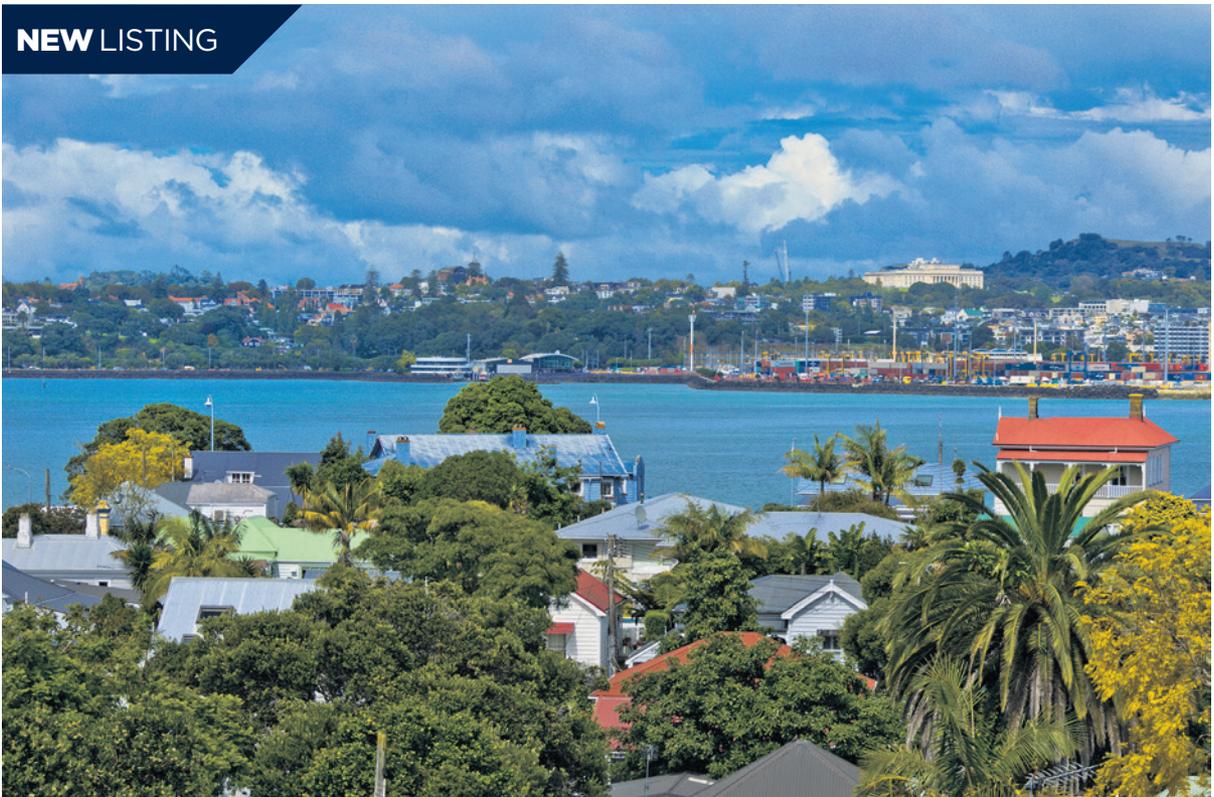
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Cellist brings Dvorak to Holy Trinity with orchestra

Cellist Catherine Kwak will be hoping it is fourth time lucky as she prepares to perform a Dvorak cello concerto at Holy Trinity Church this Sunday 28 March.

The soloist was due to play with the Devonport Chamber Orchestra (DCO) in late February, but heightened Covid-19 alert levels delayed the performance, which she had also been twice-scheduled to do with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra (ASO) last year.

The ASO's loss was Devonport's gain, with the orchestra's conductor, Milford resident Peter Thomas, also leading the local performance. Holy Trinity – “such an excellent Gothic church” – provided an ideal intimate venue, he said.

South Korean-born and New Zealand-raised Kwak is a significant drawcard for an afternoon performance in which she also plays Verdi's *Force of Destiny* overture.

DCO's Roger Booth was relieved to be able to reschedule the event, its first of the year.

Kwak has been steadily establishing herself as a performer. Early success came at the National Young Performer Competition in 2013. She then completed her Bachelor of Music at the age of 18, at Waikato University. She has since made numerous appearances here and overseas as a soloist and chamber musician, as well as in competitions.

In 2017, Kwak became a casual member of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and has played as a soloist for it several times. She will compete in this year's National Concerto Competition.

She is now in her final year of studying at the University of Auckland for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, fitting music around her academic workload.

* The Devonport Chamber Orchestra, featuring Catherine Kwak, performs at 2pm on Sunday 28 March at Holy Trinity, 20 Church St. Tickets (sold at the door, cash only) are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12.



Highly strung... After three concert postponements, music fans will be on tenterhooks to hear cellist Catherine Kwak perform

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The tortuous journey of the albatross

Sculptor Greer Twiss is fatalistic about his public artworks, but that doesn't mean he isn't intensely interested in how and where they end up.

The siting of his *Flight Trainer for Albatross* on Victoria Wharf, is a case in point. "It's a lovely site down there, and so much air," Twiss said at a recent public talk at the Depot Artspace, part of a welcome for the work to Devonport.

After sustaining damage, neglect and then dismantlement and storage for five years, the work has been rehabilitated. It has also been rethought, sitting on higher tripod-type legs after taking a battering at its original site in Quay St.

"It didn't survive particularly well," Twiss told his audience, before detailing the perils and lack of ego needed to take art from cosetting galleries to the mean streets. "Most of the works I've done in public places have since vanished."

A fountain where Karangahape Rd meets Symonds St remains, but a piece down the hill at the University of Auckland's Engineering School, near where he lectured for years at Elam, survived just eight months, until a student party. Bronze pieces were also targets.

The veteran artist – honoured in 2002 with the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to sculpture, and in 2011 with an Icon Award from the Arts Foundation, which is limited to just 20 living art-makers – says nowadays the added demands of health and safety, and other bureaucracy, add layers of complications to commissions.

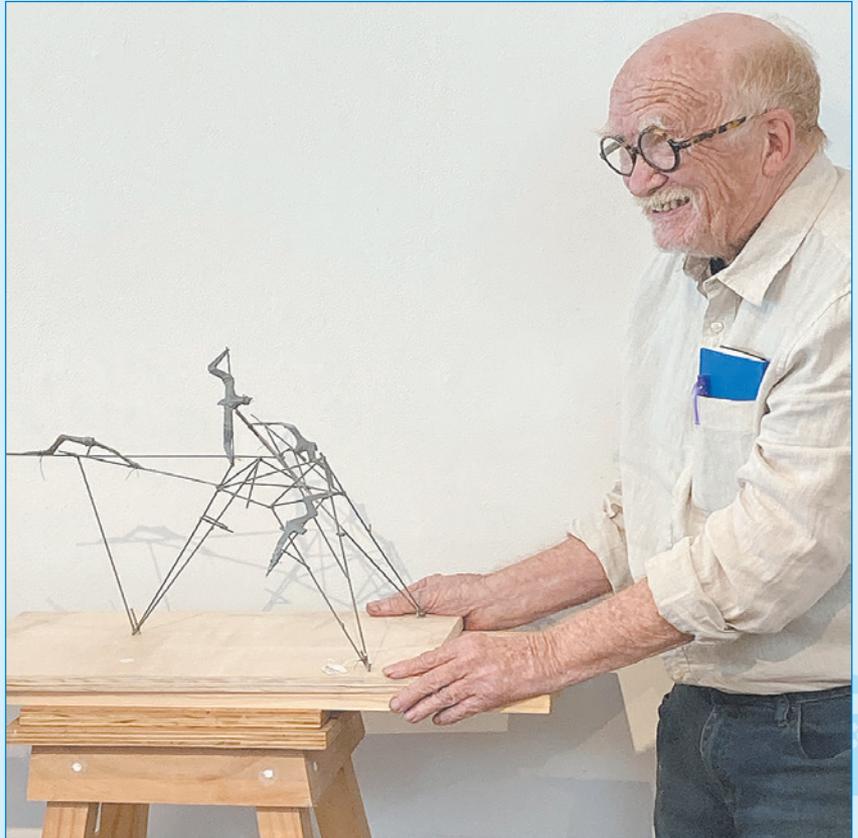
His small bronze and lead sculptures are less problematic than his fewer and larger outdoor pieces. He appreciates the "joy of making things, seeing how it turns out."

But councils want precise artist impressions for sign-off by committees. Twiss chuckles about how well-meaning "experts" sometimes suggest he add a support strut here or there, or smooth out the knobbles on welded works.

"I'm a maker, I work with my hands."

When a well-meaning digital designer was creating a 3D model of his rehabilitated *Albatross* work to show councillors, he had to discourage its being visually "cleaned up."

Twiss explained his was an "ad hoc" approach.



Hand-made... Greer Twiss with a model of the sculpture relocated to Devonport's Victoria Wharf

He greatly enjoyed later hearing the same designer instruct an older engineer who also spoke of streamlining the work that this could not be done, for the artistic oeuvre Twiss practised was "ad hoc-ism".

Lumps and bumps helped build up tension in a work, said Twiss. So too with *Albatross*, where the birds are strapped and bound in place.

"The albatross when it flies back to New Zealand, they grab it, weigh it, etc. It just seems ironic that so much about conservation seems about altering what is the natural state of the bird."

Twiss has referenced albatrosses in his work for some years, along with often interplaying human and mechanical relationships. He is looking forward to seeing how the slightly larger-than-life birds sit above the wharf.

"I think sculpture plays a nice role in the landscape."

Held well aloft, his sculpture will be seen through the "complexities of the linear structures" the tripods create.

"Vehicles can run under it, people can walk round it."

He just hopes his birds can be appreciated from below, as much as from the water.

"Few monumental works really work," he says. "You don't have the chance to read them because of the intrusions."

Smaller pieces are often easier for the viewer to take in, without the interference of their surrounds.

"A lot of public works, they sort of get lost," says Twiss, who hopes this won't be the fate of his *Albatross*.

"Cross our fingers for this thing down there."

Conductor orchestrates series of musical treats

Auckland Symphony Orchestra conductor Peter Thomas has lined up a series of musical evenings in his own North Shore backyard.

"The idea was to have a series at the PumpHouse where people can enjoy something a little different," he says.

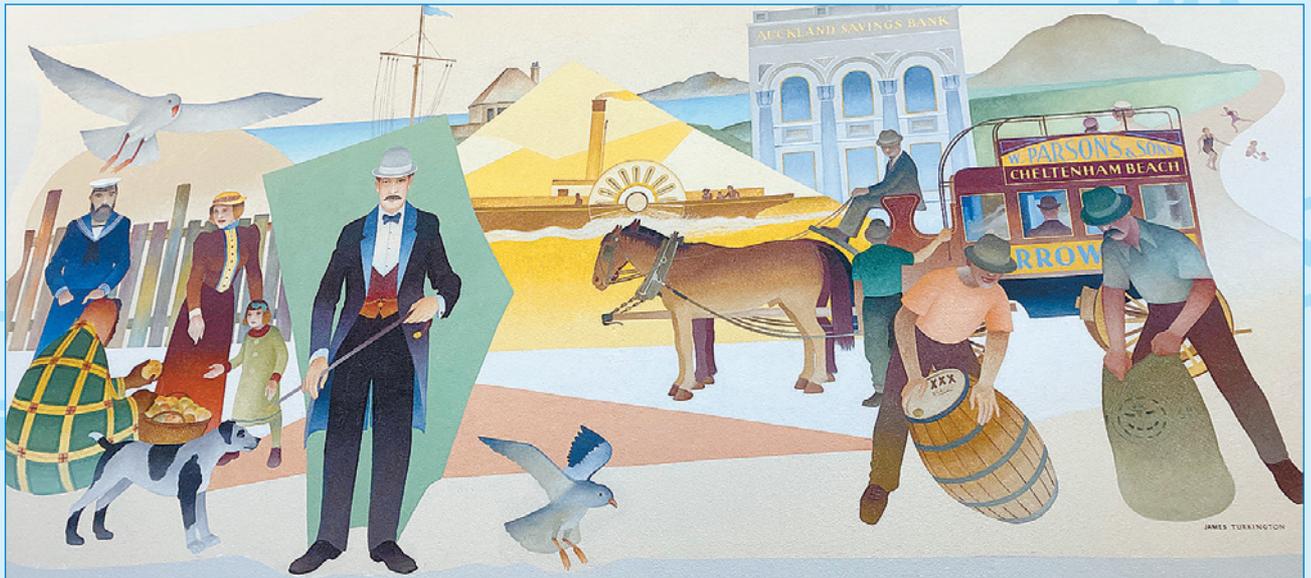
He originally envisaged soloists accompanied by a string quartet, but the brief has since widened. Following

an opening performance by jazz singer Jenny B in February, the next show, on 3 April, features Italian-born, Auckland-resident and international pianist Flavio Villani, who will play works by Chopin, but also entertain with improvisations.

"It's what Chopin would have done himself," says Thomas. The scene for the performance will be set with candles and refreshments.

Thomas, a Milford resident, is involved in a number of musical organisations beyond his main job, bringing musicians more opportunities to play and audiences added chances to enjoy their talents.

Later in the year, he has scheduled local favourite Suzanne Lynch to perform and has several other shows in the pipeline beforehand.



On a mission to remember mural man

James Turkington was a prolific artist who, over four decades, painted murals across New Zealand and Australia. Devonport has at least two of the dwindling number that remain as well as an example of his mosaic work.

“He was the mural man of his time,” says Greg Smith, an Auckland curator and researcher who wants to ensure a once well-known name in the Auckland art and architecture scene does not fade from history. Ultimately, Smith would like to write a book about Turkington, who died in 1979.

Key to that ambition is cataloguing what he can about the whereabouts of his works. This task brought Smith – whose ‘Lost Property’ website collates information about the city’s modernist history – to Devonport to have Turkington’s mural inside the ASB bank photographed professionally before the branch closed. It was one of a number he was commissioned to do, alongside murals for department stores in the city and Government buildings across the country.

“He was a central figure from soon after he came back from World War I,” says Smith. From humble beginnings, Irish-born Turkington grew up in the South Island, then served in the army, from which he returned with firm socialist views.

He studied art, but diverted into signwriting and quickly made a name for himself. By 1925, he was teaching lettering and design to students at the University of Auckland’s Elam art school, all the while continuing to work commercially. He later taught drawing to architecture students.

An association with leading modernist Vernon Brown, and other architects, saw Turkington work on interior features such as sand-blasted glass. The Parnell Baths has an example of his glass-chip mosaic work, completed in 1957. A year later, he turned his hand to decorating the memorial wall inside the main gate of the Devonport Naval Base.

Turkington’s early style nodded to Art Deco



On watch... Greg Smith (above) is eager to keep the memory of muralist James Turkington alive, including works at the ASB Bank (top), and under restoration by Devonport Museum (right)

and suited large display in what was the heyday of the monumental mural. A restored example from the 1930s sits inside the old Mt Albert building of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). The Maori Land Court in Rotorua has another large-scale work.

Dominion Breweries commissioned Turkington to perk up its pubs and he painted walls for the main Farmers department store in Hobson St and for Clarks shoe stores.

In all, Smith has a record of around 600 Turkingtons having existed, but he estimates there were thousands and says that most have been painted over, knocked down or sold off. “There’s very few around, that’s why I’m interested,” he says.

Some are in museum care, including the early example of a North Shore rugby player that the Devonport Museum is restoring in the hope that one day it can be enjoyed on the walls of the rugby club across the road.

Te Papa has a couple of works, one from

the Government Print Office. The Auckland Art Gallery has just one small painting in its collection. What became of 10 murals painted for Avondale College in 1945 is not known.

Smith says Turkington continued to paint into his seventies, which was when he worked on the then new ASB bank building in Devonport, built in 1968. Around this time he also painted murals for the Birkenhead branch and, he believes, St Heliers.

Smith learned that the Birkenhead mural had not been lost as thought, rather it was boarded over.

“Covering it up doesn’t work, people just forget about it,” he says.

He hopes this won’t be the fate of the Devonport mural, although this will rest with the building’s owner once ASB vacates the lease on its now closed branch. “I believe the murals should be regarded the same way a carving on a meeting house is. They’re part of the community as well as part of the building,” says Smith.



Writers' centre faces rates hike

The Michael King Writers' Centre on Takarunga is going to be hit with rates bills it should not have to pay, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Jan O'Connor.

She tackled an Auckland Council official over a report to the board detailing changes to rates remissions granted to community and sports groups.

The upshot of a council assessment of Transitional Rates Grants was that the centre would be required to pay 50 per cent of a full rate, around \$1800, because its building was deemed not available for public use.

"This is not correct," said O'Connor, who spent three years on the centre's trust board. While its accommodation for writers in residence was private space, visitors were welcome at the centre's house in Devonport.

The case was no different than other community arts buildings such as the Pump-House or the Lake House in Takapuna, which had office space that members of the public could not just wander into, she said, yet the writers' centre was being treated differently.

"If they can prove it is accessible to the public, they can get a rebate," said council lead financial adviser Jistine Joseph.

Board member Trish Deans said she wanted the centre approached, to help sort out the matter. She urged its trust to chal-

lenge the interpretation with the council's rates-resolution team.

Board deputy chair George Wood also said the matter should be looked at further. He asked if the assessment was done in person or not.

"This was a desktop exercise," Joseph acknowledged. He pointed out that the existing arrangement could be continued for another year, which would give time for a reassessment.

The board accepted the report into Transitional Rates Grants, including carrying these over for the 2021-22 year.

Historic arrangements see a number of such community and sports rates rebated by between 85 to 100 per cent.

Local board relationship manager Eric Perry said the carry-over arrangement meant that the writer's centre, although having now been assessed to pay \$1834 (that is 50 per cent of a full rate) would for the 2021-22 year be eligible for a 87 per cent remission on that amount.

This point was added for clarification into the motion that the board passed. O'Connor and Deans had it noted that they disagreed with the clause because it wrote the 50 per cent rate they believed should not apply in future into the motion.

The new framework for the grants will now apply for 2022-23.



WHAT'S ON @ Devonport Library

Tēnā Koutou katoa

It's been another interesting month! Once the library doors opened after our week-long lockdown, hundreds of books came in and just as quickly went out again.

If you love reading our ebooks on Libby or Overdrive, you may have noticed that magazines have now been added. Previously, we had a separate app, but now they are all together, which is wonderful. You can search for a particular magazine or topic (such as health) and a list will come up for you. Feel free to ask the staff at the library if you would like us to show you.



Showing the barque 'Gladys' - Calliope Dock (Courtesy Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection)

Back at Level 1, all our programmes have started again. The book-discussion group meets on a Wednesday at 10am and all our children's programmes (Mon, Tue and Friday at 10am) are back in action.

We have a great addition for our school-age children - a Lego Club, which is being held on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30pm. The library has an excellent supply of donated Lego and we would love to see interesting creations being built and made by our local school-age children. So come and join in! We'd love to see you there. 😊

Ngā mihi Devonport Library

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Zappa (E) 129min	NEW
The Father (M) 97min	Preview Screenings 26-28 MAR

COMING SOON

The Courier (M) 111min	1 APR
The Father (M) 97min	1 APR
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