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**North Shore Champs
Lift-Out inside**

**Snow-Hansen's Olympic
dream takes shape... p5**

**Interview: Environmentalist
Lance Cablk... p20**

Heritage and iwi concern helps derail church plan – developer

The sale of one of Devonport's landmark buildings has fallen over apparently due to development concerns raised by council heritage officers and iwi.

The former St Paul's church on Victoria Rd has been listed for sale since April 2021.

Developer Adrian Rowan confirmed he had had a contract to buy the church, hall and grounds, subject to "due diligence".

Rowan told the Flagstaff he planned to build a daycare centre on the site, which would enable him to spend the \$500,000 to \$800,000 needed to earthquake-strengthen the heritage-listed church, which dates back to 1919.

He said he had aimed to replace the church hall with an architecturally designed building, which would "complement and sit

between the two churches" (St Paul's and the neighbouring St Francis and All Souls). Parking would be underground.

However, at a pre-application meeting with Auckland Council and its heritage managers, it was clear gaining approval was not going to be straightforward and was likely to run into many potential hurdles, Rowan said.

To page 2

North Shore triumphs in premiers rugby final



Pride on parade... North Shore Rugby Club fans erupt in celebration as their premiers side claims a close victory over old rivals Takapuna in the championship final at North Harbour Stadium. For stories and photographs of all the action, see our special championship lift-out.



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Likely opposition leads to church-offer withdrawal

From page 1

His planner also sent the proposal to iwi planners, who made it clear it would be opposed by iwi groups and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA), Rowan said.

With iwi opposition likely, it did not make commercial sense to carry on and the offer to buy the site was withdrawn, he said.

Rowan was disappointed he had to abandon the St Paul's plans.

He and his company, 505 Construction, previously converted historic All Hallows Methodist Church at Campbells Bay into an early-learning centre. That project won best heritage building in the 2019 Property Industry Awards.

He thought his plan was a good option for St Paul's, which without a commercial use for the site was likely to be still an unimproved earthquake risk "in five years' time".

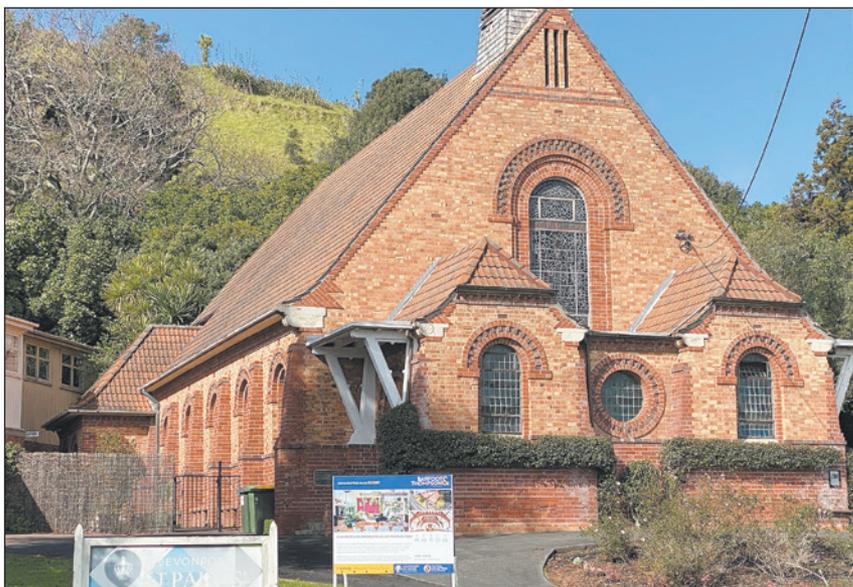
Rowan conceded some of the lower reaches of Takarunga would be dug into under his plan, but that meant the car parks would not be visible above ground.

Auckland Council general manager of resource consents Ian Smallburn confirmed that if the plan had gone further the TMA would have been involved.

"The TMA receives a regular list of consent applications that sit within a certain mapped area surrounding the base of each maunga.

"The TMA then has the opportunity to contact council regarding applications to further understand the proposal or request further detail."

Additionally, under notification rules in the Auckland Unitary Plan, the council will specifically consider whether the TMA "is an affected person for activities requiring resource consent in relation to the maunga," Smallburn said.



Still on the market... St Paul's Church remains for sale after developer Adrian Rowan withdrew his offer. Below: a Unitary Plan map showing the areas (in pink) for which consent applications trigger the involvement of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA).



North Shore United rebuilds for Chatham Cup after huge loss

North Shore United faces Otago University at home tomorrow, in the Chatham Cup quarter-finals, but its lead-up could not have been more testing.

After a good season so far in the Northern Premier League and the Chatham Cup, Shore was thrashed 7-1 by Birkenhead last Saturday.

Coach Malcolm McPherson said three of his starting defenders were out with injury – "against a side with two of the best strikers in the league."

He hopes some will return from injury against Otago, a side that is an unknown quantity.

McPherson is aiming to get a video of his opponents this week to gauge Otago's strengths and weaknesses.

• Kick-off at Allen Hill Stadium is 2 pm, Saturday 31 July.



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Basketballer rebounds into firefighting job

Tall Fern Ella Fotu has netted a new career, working as a professional firefighter at the Devonport Fire Station.

The 25-year-old North Shore-raised basketballer had to abandon playing in Australia last year. "Covid came and I came back," she says.

Fotu hasn't given up on the sport, but after several people recommended firefighting, she looked into doing the three-month training course.

"I've had a blessed life and wanted a job that gave back," she says. The teamwork aspect and being active was also part of the appeal.

After her first week on the job, Fotu told the Flagstaff it was living up to expectations. "I performed my first CPR and it was successful – which was quite exhilarating." She admitted to being a bit nervous about firefighters sometimes acting as first responders on medical calls. This made her determined to keep up with the skills she had been trained in.

"On my first week, there was a callout every day," she says. These included a chemical spill, but not a fire.

"My crew was a bit worried I was bringing all the calls."

Although Devonport station is usually relatively quiet, Fotu is happy with her posting. She lives in Torbay and had requested to work somewhere in the Waitemata district, which covers north and west Auckland.

With several other top sportspeople successfully combining working for Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Fotu aims to do the same.

As part of the Tall Ferns squad, she is hoping to play the FIBA Asia Cup in September. She also turns out for Harbour Breeze. Fotu made her debut for the Breeze in 2013 as a 16-year-old, and was in the 2019 side that finished runner-up in the national women's competition.

Sport was always a big family focus for her growing up. Her father played rugby for New Zealand Universities and her mother was a netballer. Fotu also played netball while at Rangitoto College, before fully focusing on basketball, going through the North Harbour representative and national age-group grades.

Fotu's older brother, Issac, set the pace. He is a Tall Black and has just finished a season in Italy. Her two younger brothers have also excelled at the sport: Daniel, at college in California, has also played for his country, while Jacob is in the Harbour under-17 team.

Fotu, a guard, first made the Ferns in 2019, and made several international trips. This followed her return in 2018 from three years in the United States, the first in Idaho and two in Hawaii. It was "intense", she says.

Given that women athletes typically make less money than men, Fotu said she always knew the importance of education and a good job. She is well into an environmental-science degree. A final semester in 2022, studying by distance learning at Massey University, will finish that off – if she can juggle playing and her firefighting shifts.



Machine learning... After three months of training, Tall Fern Ella Fotu is plying her new trade as a firefighter at Devonport Fire Station

Vic Rd Kitchen robbed on Sunday morning

Around \$900 was stolen from Vic Rd Kitchen last Sunday morning by a brazen thief who slipped into the premises at 11.45am.

Owner Ian Shields said the theft of Friday and Saturday night takings, and the float, occurred after a staff member had opened up and then went downstairs.

"Luckily, not much was taken as not many people pay in cash these days."

The theft was the first in three-and-half years of trading.

Vic Rd Kitchen may have to look at upping security, Shields said. A thief had also targeted nearby businesses Tiny Triumphs and Skin Sense recently, he said.

His female staff member had no knowledge of the theft until it was seen on the security camera.



Caught in the act... the Vic Rd thief on Sunday morning

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C.W. July 2021



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Snow-Hansen primed for top Olympics result

Three-time Olympian Paul Snow-Hansen was feeling confident he and 470-class yachting partner Dan Willcox would be “on the radar” for a medal as racing started this week.

The pair had been training and practicing well since arriving in Tokyo on 15 July, he told the Flagstaff from Japan on Monday night.

The sailors had taken part in a coaching regatta and were bedding in a new boat “which had gone well.”

Leading up to the Olympics, cancellation due to Covid-19, seemed a real possibility.

“It was only a week before we left that we finally thought “we’re going.”

Snow-Hansen felt safe in Japan. The sailors were based at Enoshima Yacht Harbour in Fujisawa City. “We have been vaccinated and the team is being sensible about masks and there’s lots of testing.”

The 470 is a competitive class with perhaps ten teams able to get on the podium.

“There’s a lot of experience, a really high-quality field... five or six teams have had

better results than us consistently, but we won the European champs (the most recent pre-Olympic event), so that puts us on the radar.”

Snow-Hansen was disappointed his partner Sofie (who lives in Bayswater) and brother Mike (who lives in France) could not travel to Japan to watch.

“But I was quite lucky to have gone to two previous Olympics in normal times”, which meant his parents had attended.

At 30, Snow-Hansen, who grew up in Devonport and sailed out of Wakatere Boating Club, said he is unsure if it will be his last Olympics. But for the moment, was revelling in the chance to sail another regatta with Willcox.

“I’ve been sailing with Dan since 2013 and



Experienced...Paul Snow-Hansen (left) and Dan Willcox are hoping to medal in Japan

we started competing against each other when we were 12 – it’s been a long partnership and a special friendship.”

• The 470-class competition started on Wednesday this week and lasts for several days over 11 races, and includes a number of days off.

Council plan sparks fears Shore will lose out

A ‘Robin Hood’ reallocation of council funding across Auckland has the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board worried that its share of the cake will be cut – or crumble over time.

Auckland Council has long flagged plans for a more equitable split of funding for local community services across the city, and the city’s 21 local boards – some richer in assets than others – are now being asked for feedback on a draft ‘Equity of Service Level and Funding Proposals’ report.

Once implemented, the redistribution is designed to improve over time the service levels in board areas currently lacking the likes of swimming pools and arts centres.

The fear in historically better-provided-for areas – such as the North Shore – is that so-called legacy assets may count against them.

If these deteriorate or need replacing, new council funding would likely prove hard to come by, due to greater demand elsewhere.

While Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members support the goal of more equity, the board is questioning the council’s latest equation on how to achieve this.

In 2016, boards and the council thrashed out a formula for locally driven initiatives that gave deprivation a weighting of 5 per cent, population 90 per cent and land area 5 per cent. But in the draft proposals, the deprivation component has been lifted to 15 per cent for asset-based services.

“The process is the Robin Hood principle,” cautioned former Local Board chair Aidan Bennett, who spent time looking at the issue as part of a working group with other board chairs.

His replacement as chair, Ruth Jackson, told the board’s monthly meeting: “We need a concept of equity without our area and our neighbours not being enormously disadvantaged.”

The council is also proposing to place more decision-making power in the hands of local boards as to how they spend the money they end up being allocated.

But this could come at a cost of having to justify some tough decisions to local ratepayers. Instead of the council making the call on service levels, that decision-making may fall more directly on a cash-strapped local board looking to maintain long-established standards.

When the feedback from across the city is collated, it will be discussed by councillors, with spirited debate expected.

Race to Refix

We have seen a lot of interest from borrowers to refix their interest rates in the wake of recent rate rises (averaging about 0.40%) over the last week or so. Unfortunately, the banks won’t allow the previous lower rates once they announce the changes, so many have missed out. It seems the market has been spooked by the inflation numbers here and overseas, along with less dovish RBNZ rhetoric.

We are also seeing bank approval and refix turnaround times back up to 10 days or more, as they, like many other sectors, are finding it difficult to find and train staff quickly enough – there has been an exodus of some staff to other (higher paying) financial organisations, including family office property investors/developers.

It seems demand is still there in the housing market, with rates still very low relative to previous years and lots of first-home buyers and some investors poking their heads up again.

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By Rob Drent

Shock waves are still reverberating around Devonport following the news that houses in Special Character areas, which are protected under the Auckland Unitary Plan, are being reassessed as part of the government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development, which mandates more high-rise around Auckland.

Auckland Council has decided to evaluate each property with a score from one to six, based on relationship to the street, period of development, typology, architectural style and the level of physical integrity.

In the last Flagstaff, I suggested this was a "once-over-lightly" approach for Devonport, a view backed by feedback from readers.

Why not actually talk to homeowners as part of the process? Council officers may be surprised by the history that is revealed and can be tapped into to provide a more complete picture.

For example, the first houses in particular streets and well-known inhabitants over the years could be learned, both of which add to the historical tapestry. Some houses – such as the cottages transported to Coromandel for the gold rush and then shipped back and reconstructed – have interesting pasts, not shown by a street view.

I live in an old cottage, one of three in a row on the Lake Rd end of Abbotsford Tce. All the other houses at our end of Abbotsford are modern, and with Allen Hill

soccer ground over the road, we have no neighbours there.

On the face of it, our part of the street won't make the cut for heritage-status protection. So would six storeys or more be a possibility? Or three or four storeys, as some sort of compromise? Then there could be shadowing issues over our backyard neighbours in Mozeley Ave. A myriad of complications arise from what many see as unnecessary and wrong-headed changes.

One area where Auckland Council may be able to bat back the government is on the affordable housing angle. Given the price of land in Devonport, only expensive, luxury apartments would likely be built in any development under the proposed changes.

The wealth of property owners south of the golf course is also something the legal-risk-averse Auckland Council needs to consider. How many Environment Court actions would be lodged by individuals or groups to challenge high-rise zonings next door?

Decades of work has gone into refining the heritage protections we have in the Special Character area that overlays Devonport. Why tamper with something which fundamentally ain't broke?

Congratulations to North Shore for its narrow win over Takapuna in the North Harbour premiers championship final earlier this month.

I've covered the club's last four title wins at North Harbour Stadium (2001, 2011, 2014 and 2021) and would have to say the conditions this year were by far the worst. So bad, in fact, the relatively sparse number of spectators who did make it to the ground were largely huddled under the stand overhang quite a way from the field.

As the game progressed though, and a Shore win was a possibility, the Pride faithful began to creep down the seats until at the end they were in full voice, just behind the

Takapuna management and reserves bench.

It seems bizarre to me that security prevents fans coming onto the field after the final whistle. It's a club-final win, and as such a joyous moment for players, their families and supporters.

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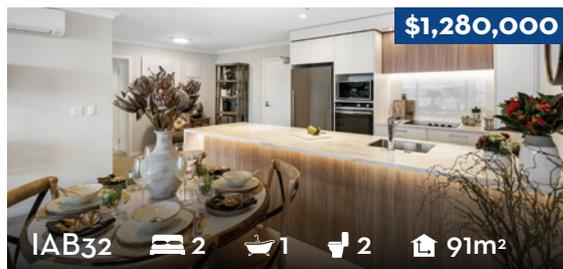


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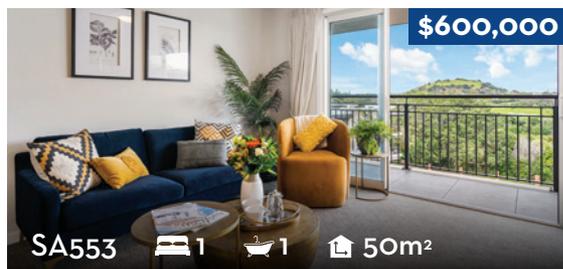


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Work to slow down Devonport traffic speeds up

Work on proposed traffic-slowing measures for central Devonport is progressing, with a planned 30km/h village speed-limit zone looking likely to include congested Kerr St.

Decisions are still to be made on whether the reduced-speed zone is centralised or extends east to Church St and west along Queens Pde to the Navy Base entrance.

Auckland Transport (AT) hosted a working-group meeting this month, attended by business and biking representatives, along with Trish Deans on behalf of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. Deans reported back to the board's monthly meeting that a commitment had been made to look at the Kerr St crossing and to consider traffic issues around the Vauxhall Rd shops.

Residents recently expressed safety fears about Kerr St, given its narrowness and poor visibility with parked cars and Devonport Primary School traffic, and its

tricky entrance onto Victoria Rd.

Speeds along Vauxhall Rd – especially at the Tainui Rd junction where people congregate and cross – have long been a bugbear of residents, who went so far last year as to come up with their own traffic-slowing plans, which gained little traction with AT.

Deans said further workshops were planned. The next would firm up the area to be covered by the reduced speed limit, after a report is provided on the options.

An AT official told the first meeting that as part of the organisation's Vision Zero programme adopted to reduce road trauma, it had successfully taken a two-step approach in other town centres. This was to first agree the speed-limit extent and the types of speed-calming measures required. Project cost and timings would then follow, including consultation. Costs to the local-board budget would be limited given

the project was part of a wider programme.

Devonport had been chosen as an area of focus due to its high number of pedestrians, cyclists and other non-car road users, said another AT official. Speeds on Victoria Rd averaged 38km/h.

The junction of Calliope Rd with Victoria Rd was identified as a hotspot for drivers and cyclists, needing safety improvements. Suggestions were made that the intersection of Church Rd and King Edward Pde also be looked at.

The group noted crashes at existing crossings and pedestrian demand to cross at places without them, along with issues around sun-strike. More raised crossings are a possibility.

High-risk locations will be discussed further as will the concept of separated cycling lanes from Victoria Rd to the ferry terminal. A primary-school representative will also be invited to join discussions.

Bennett-brokered Bayswater meeting knocked back

A presentation on the new Bayswater Marina development to local body politicians was knocked back by council staff because a resource consent had been lodged.

Emails obtained by the Flagstaff show that former Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett had been brokering a presentation, at the behest of businessman Dave Donaldson, who has long-standing links to the project.

"As discussed at the meeting yesterday, Dave Donaldson wishes to organise a presentation to the local board of the Bayswater Marina Development that I understand has

been lodged for consent," Bennett said in an email to council staff on 5 March.

"Dave will have the key people from Bayswater Marina Project – lead, planner etc – who will present and then take questions."

After initially setting 23 March for the meeting, council staff had a change of heart.

"We understand the consent has been lodged and the planner is working with the applicant to address some issues and concerns," the board's democracy advisor Rhiannon Guinness said in an email to Donaldson on 12 March.

"It is our preference to wait until these

issues have been addressed before we have everyone around the table discussing the development," she said.

"Apologies as I know this is a bit off tack from what has been discussed below, but it is important to have this discussion once things are clearer," she said.

In an 18 March email to Donaldson, Guinness further clarified: "A meeting will not be scheduled until these issue have been addressed. The regulatory process is completely separate from me and the local board and unfortunately I have no control over this."

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Diploma Programme

Family construction firm builds on local links



Band of brothers... (from left) Tom, Matt and Jeff Vivian, of Vivian Construction

Three Devonport brothers have won the contract to build the next stage of the Oneoneroa housing development in Belmont. The work, awarded by property owner Ngati Whatua to Vivian Construction, is to build 29 new homes on former Navy land off Eversleigh St.

Jeff Vivian, who is managing director of the family-owned company he runs with brothers Tom and Matt, said they were proud to be delivering local houses near where they grew up.

“It’s cool. It’s a really lovely progression for our company,” Vivian told the Flagstaff.

Other locals would benefit from the work, he said, with Vivian Construction employing around half a dozen builders from Devonport among its staff and sub-contractors. It would also use long-established firm Gill & Gundry for concrete services on the project.

The Vivian boys grew up in Devonport, going through Vauxhall, Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar Schools. They played rugby for North Shore – and now their young families are running about at Vauxhall Rd as well.

Jeff and Tom, who play golf at Waitemata, still live here, as do their parents. Matt is based in Grey Lynn. Although their company has its office in the CBD, projects are widespread.

Vivian says around 10 years ago the company began building for the Tūhoe iwi in the central North Island and liked the partnership approach. They had no particular iwi affiliations, but liked delivering warm dry homes in an area where this made a real difference. “We just enjoyed working for those community builds. It’s a bit more satisfying.”

Although the Oneoneroa development was

a commercial undertaking, it was designed to fund iwi initiatives and had a sustainability aspect, Vivian says. “What excites us about Ngati Whatua is they build to sell, but the profits go back into the community.”

The general manager of property development for Ngati Whatua Orakei says in selecting Vivian Construction, the aim was to find a builder who understood the significance of the development. “Our ethos as a developer is to build sustainable communities and the appointment of our build partner needed to reflect this.”

Another high-profile local project that Vivian Construction worked on was the transformation of a former home on Victoria Rd into the Signal Hill restaurant and bar.

The company also built the America’s Cup team base for American Magic in the Wynyard Quarter.

Work is already underway at Oneoneroa and will keep the company busy for a year or more, Vivian says. At its peak, there will be around 30 builders on-site.

Vivian Construction will work with Ngati Whatua to include people and companies with iwi connections.

Including the Oneoneroa project, Vivian Construction has nearly 100 houses on the go, including 20 more for Tūhoe and some for private developers.

It works to scale, rather than undertaking one-off residential builds.

Vivian is aware that building locally will bring a level of scrutiny. “If it goes on too long, we’ll hear about it down at the pub.”

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HERITAGE NEEDS YOU!

Devonport, along with all of Auckland's old kauri housing areas, is facing the biggest-ever threat to its heritage from the Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS).

The Government is forcing Auckland Council to find new areas for intensive housing and this threatens Devonport, along with the likes of Ponsonby, Grey Lynn, and Parnell.

These suburbs have protections in place called Special Character Area overlays (SCAs).

The Council is being directed to find areas where six-storey housing can be built as of right, and this includes in Devonport.

The SCAs at present protect pre-1940 houses from demolition, unsympathetic changes and height restrictions and make any major work on old villas, cottages and bungalows subject to resource consent.

These overlays are a continuation of heritage-protection rules that have been in place in Devonport for 26 years and are one of the main reasons that Devonport still retains its unique heritage quality.

But now the council is reconsidering the heritage status of every house and street in Devonport, and all other overlay areas, to see where new six-storey housing can be built.

We argue the council should stand by the Special Character Areas, which went through a thorough and robust research process for inclusion in the Unitary Plan only five years ago.

We believe the NPS threatens the value of every old kauri house in Auckland.

The streets of character houses in places like Herne Bay, Grey Lynn and Devonport are an integral part of Auckland's identity as a city.

Along with the volcanic cones and the Waitemata Harbour, they help form Auckland's personality and unique character.

There is enough capacity for development already built into the Auckland Unitary Plan and the government is using a blunt instrument to force intensification that could have disastrous effects on Auckland and not create any more affordable housing.

It will leave the future look of the city up to property developers and ignores good urban design and Auckland's character.

How You Can Help:

- Tell Auckland councillors and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members your views on the need to resist high-density developments in character areas. They are the people who will vote on whether to continue heritage protection. There is a local-body election next year so the community needs to find out their views and make them answerable to their decisions on the future of Auckland.
- Donate to Devonport Heritage Inc. We need to raise money to pay for expert planning and legal advice. You can do this on the website <http://www.devonportheritage.net/>

Devonport Heritage chair, Margot McRae

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members, and Auckland councillors' (North Shore) emails:

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Official's pro-heritage stance still resonates two decades on

Twenty years ago this month, the Flagstaff interviewed North Shore City Council's heritage advisor Greg Bowron. With Devonport's heritage under threat yet again, many of the themes remain just as relevant today, so we've reprinted some of his comments below.

Devonport's heritage made it different from anywhere in New Zealand, said Bowron.

He pinpointed three unique features: the suburb's many defence structures; the plethora of writers who have lived here over the years; and its old houses, which ensured the suburb's historical features largely remained.

"The idea is to keep the character of the neighbourhood intact – it's what makes Devonport unique and must be retained," he said.

"You look around and say, where else

is there a suburb as intact as this in New Zealand?"

"It hasn't been commercialised the way Parnell or Thorndon (in Wellington) have been. There's nothing that has the same degree of character in places like Christchurch. And there's nothing that is as identifiable as a separate suburb in places like Dunedin," Bowron said.

"The fantastic things about Devonport are its location, geographical features, the water besides it, and this wonderful stock of housing, which just hasn't changed. It really is something that is important to retain."

Bowron helped draft the terms of a \$50,000 per year fund, which offered property owners the chance to apply for grants of \$5000 to go

towards enhancing heritage aspects of their homes.

Buildings and archaeological sites, such as the 'Bear Garden Wall' on the corner of Garden Tce and Queens Pde, Maungauika and Takarunga – and the latter's disappearing gun – all give us a sense of identity, said Bowron.

"They tell us what is unique about Devonport and what makes us feel more secure about where we are by having that history behind us."

If the history disappeared? "You would lose the richness in the environment and you would get a blandness. That's the special thing about having these old places and objects around. They give a depth to the place."

(Bowron died in 2007.)

Public meeting on heritage likely

Devonport Heritage says it is likely to arrange a public meeting to inform people about the implications of housing-construction changes under discussion by Auckland Council.

A date and location has yet to be set.

What are your views on this potentially major change to our community?

Email your letters to news@devonport-flagstaff.co.nz

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Brianna Kerridge

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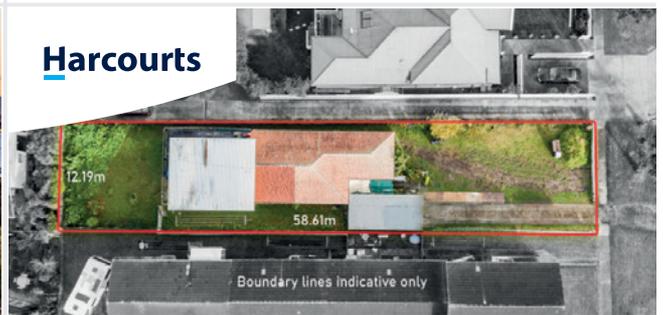


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Marina owner responds to concerns over development

I am assisting Bayswater Marina Holdings Limited (BWMHL) to develop Bayswater Marina. We have recently noted comments within the Flagstaff that do not fairly represent the proposal.

We welcome the opportunity to answer some of the concerns that members of the public and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board have regarding the proposal, and begin by providing responses to the issues raised and reported upon:

1. We note the comment of George Wood (Flagstaff, 2 July) that it was “a bit galling” that the board had not seen the plans.

Response: In March and April 2021, Bayswater Marina sought an audience with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to run through the proposal. The local board declined an opportunity to meet and discuss the development.

2. Regarding ferry access, Auckland Transport (AT) does not have a lease at Bayswater for any facility or access. Rather, AT owns a berth (licence) that expires in 2031. Access to the ferry berth (which occurs over private land) has never been formalised and remains a long-standing goodwill gesture by BWMHL at no cost to ratepayers or ferry users.

We note that in 2018, AT was presented with a lease containing reciprocal benefits that would have formalised arrangements.

The facilities that users of the ferry enjoy are owned and currently provided by BWMHL at no cost to the public. The proposed development includes an esplanade strip and water-edge boardwalk that will provide and formalise legal public access around the perimeter. This will resolve issues of access to the ferry in its current berth location.

3. The narrow strip of land that separates the AT land from the future ferry wharf is a legacy strip that has existed from the creation of the marina and reclamation. We are not aware of the background to the formalisation of the strip or its original intended purpose and it remains on the existing marina title simply because we have not received any proposals from AT or Auckland Council in this regard.

4. The Auckland Unitary Plan divides the peninsula into precincts with specific activities purposed for each precinct (residential, transport, etc). Certain activities are required to be provided for in the marina development, but not all.

The marina development is not required to provide for public transport – such as bus stops, access and facilities – and it would be improper for the consenting authority to consider those ulterior concerns that the community has when they are not a requirement that falls upon the marina development to procure.

5. Those matters relating to bus and ferry public transport are better addressed by petitioning Auckland Council for funding approval so that AT can develop its site into the ferry and bus terminus with a new wharf access. We understand that AT is very keen to deliver its project once the funding issue has been resolved.

6. Regarding the boat ramp; the ramp is already located on an internal route corner and interacts with vehicle traffic in a similar way to the proposed new development.

7. Parking for vehicles with trailers is provided in a manner consistent with the Unitary Plan provisions and has been carefully designed by traffic engineers.

8. In regard to the BWMHL purchase of

the site, we understand and are aware of the ongoing nature of the issue relating to the purchase of the land from the Crown in 2014, and in relation to the price, we provide the following answer: The purchase was set out and controlled by provisions of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. This law sets out who can acquire reclaimed land and the process that the government must undergo to determine any value paid (as seabed).

The proposed development of Bayswater Marina is focused on providing a high-quality architectural development and will result in individual designs for every single dwelling (93 terrace lots). The project takes its cues from the award-winning Vinegar Lane (Ponsonby) and Borneo Sporenburg (Amsterdam) developments that have proven the concept works extremely well to deliver high-quality results.

Additionally, BWMHL has brought on board the specialist resources to develop this type of project. Our team is made up of the very best practitioners. Thus, we are very confident the project outcomes will be surprisingly good.

Despite some local concerns, we are experiencing unprecedented enquiry to purchase lots. We haven’t even tried to advertise the project and it is forcing us to think carefully about how we will handle the sales process.

A lot of people are going to miss out. We could effectively build the project three times as big and still not meet demand. That is understandable, because this is the last truly waterfront land available in the Auckland harbour isthmus where development can occur.

Brady Nixon
On behalf of Bayswater Marina Holdings Limited

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'Special Character' changes risk heritage in unique areas

I'm writing to express my concern and opposition to the upcoming council review of areas marked 'Special Character' under the current Unitary Plan.

Although I understand the need for additional housing, I do not believe the 'pepper-potting' is the way forward. Not only does it risk the heritage and historic make-up of several unique areas, it also challenges how livable 'the world's most livable city' will be with intensification plugging every piece of land/house that doesn't score 10/10 on a heritage scale.

Another huge concern for me as a

Bayswater resident and ferry user is the proposed development in the Bayswater Marina. Not only is this reclaimed land, and will as such no doubt – according to the science available – be subject to rising sea levels, a development of this scale threatens Bayswater's marine character, reduces the recreational space available, restricts parking for boaties and commuters and challenges the future of the ferry service.

As a family with two adults working in the city, I can not see us living here if that ferry didn't exist.

Susanne Bradley

Infrastructure and heritage both important

Firstly, this government should look at infrastructure, which in our area is in dire straits. Some time ago, Aucklanders were made to pay more for petrol to address this. Devonport missed out.

We have lost a ferry crossing from the peninsula (the Stanley Bay service), which affects dozens, if not hundreds, of commuters.

Seriously, one person, one car coming and going on Lake Rd? Navy, for a start, sort out a parking area, use a bus.

We can't get back heritage. It's vital for us all, young and old. A jumbled-up mess of buildings with no character comes to mind. They did this in the UK, creating ghettos.

I'm a concerned resident of 75 years. The world is changing, I admit, but with wrong decisions being made now, it's not a legacy I want to leave to my 10 grandchildren.

Please, if you are able to start fighting this issue, I'm right behind you.

Sheila Rosemarie Smith

Bike lanes provide route forward

Despite Roger Brittenden's assertions (Flagstaff, 16 July), removal of Lake Rd cycleways would not "free up" the trip to Takapuna – only a reduction of the number of cars will do that. To encourage use of a different method of transport is the way forward, and electric bikes are the easiest way.

I use mine every day and have probably passed Roger stuck in traffic.

Michael Bowman

Don't underestimate the value of architectural integrity

I am very concerned at the potential loss of heritage protections in Devonport. The charm and value of the area lies in the sheer amount and integrity of its beautiful buildings.

It seems that our amazing country has many stunning geographical attractions but has very few towns of special architectural merit, because most of them have a serious mix-up of individual styles, which creates a sameness throughout the nation's landscape. Everything different, therefore, overall, everything looks a similar hotchpotch of nothing special.

Devonport defies this trend and is remarkable in its sense of identity and style, and the pride the community feels for it.

All towns and villages throughout the

world that have a lot of visitors and great tourist value generally possess a pleasing sameness of architectural identity. Mixing things up confuses the style of an area and dilutes its character, which may then reflect on its commerce and high-street businesses.

Devonport people are very aware they live in one of the most attractive suburbs in Auckland. Despite the closeness of the neighbours, and plenty of chilly one-bathroom homes, most people understand that living here is a privilege and one we should protect. The value of heritage design (at least from the road fronts) and a beautiful cohesive unity should never be underestimated for the mental well-being of Auckland communities.

Wendy Whitfield

Gimme shelter, when waiting for the 807

While I recently waited for a bus to arrive on Cheltenham Rd, freezing my butt off in a wicked wind, I looked with longing at the empty bus shelter across the road and thought, whose crazy idea was it to change the 807 Cheltenham route so that the existing shelters are now on the opposite side of the road, leaving commuters unprotected from the winter cold and cooking in the hot summer sun?

I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't the same team at Auckland Transport (AT) who decided

that buses shouldn't meet the ferries arriving at the wharf. Well, that's now been sorted, after a campaign by commuters. Why can't common sense prevail and AT return the 807 bus to its former route and bring the shelters back into use?

It's not rocket science and might even encourage others to make more use of public transport in this area. Isn't that what this council is promoting?

Chris Eagles

Time to take on the nimbys and heritage hustlers

Devonport residents need to take up the fight against homelessness, the housing crisis, heritage advocates, and privileged nimby-ism.

Heritage-housing hustlers have ordered heritage advocates to stop homes being built for Kiwis.

Heritage advocates are calling local politicians with their views. This may not go well for our struggling and homeless fellow Kiwis, who are multiplying as population growth and the housing crisis pushes more into emergency housing and onto the streets. It's time to remove

any doubt in our community that an assault on Kiwis (homeless, or otherwise) will not be tolerated.

Privileged Devonport residents have the ability to fight the heritage-preservation edict and front up for our homeless (who aren't as privileged).

People do have the power to make change. Call and email the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and North Shore Councillors Richard Hills and Chris Darby with your views, and send your letters to the Flagstaff.

Bevan Rudge

Simon Watts
MP for North Shore

**Your local MP,
supporting you and
our local community**

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Authorised by Simon
Watts MP, Parliament
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Babysitting session part of new Community House push

Local teenagers hoping to pick up babysitting work are being offered the chance to upskill and meet potential clients through events at Devonport Community House.

The initiative is part of push to attract more locals to use the Community House facilities.

A babysitting workshop, suited to teenagers, will be held on 21 August, with a networking event the following day, when at-home childcare providers and babysitters will be invited for potential clients to meet.

Other new programmes and a return of markets are in the offing for the council-owned space, which has a new management team, along with an interior spruce-up.

“We’re aiming to increase our visibility in the community,” says events and marketing leader Justine Kinsella.

She joined the facility’s staff part-time, along with house manager Justin Mitchell, in June. Both are locals and are enjoying settling in and getting to know the many groups who already book into the two-storey building.

Kinsella, a mother of two preschoolers, grew up in Hauraki and spent time working in the UK before returning to New Zealand. Mitchell comes to the job after a stint as a stay-at-home dad to his three children, who attend Vauxhall School.

“We want people to feel welcome to come in and have a chat and a cup of tea,” says Kinsella.

The pair have taken up the day-to-day running of the Community House, splitting the job of manager Bernie Ranford, who has retired.

They will focus on identifying any gaps in what is offered in the centre, which already plays home to a creche, art, craft and exercise groups, and a weekend toy library. Rooms can also be hired for everything from children’s birthday parties to one-on-one counselling sessions.

“We’ve got quite a lot for young ones and the older community, but maybe not enough for the middle-age group,” says Kinsella. She’s wanting to hear from locals about what they would like to see.

Programmes on offer to the public will be reviewed and space-hire options promoted. A drawcard is affordable rates, says Kinsella.

In September, a Little Stuff Market will be held, where new and used gear for children and babies will be on offer.



New brooms... Justine Kinsella and Justin Mitchell have taken over the day-to-day running of the Devonport Community House, hoping to attract more locals through its doors



Sadly, Bistro la Poste is gone for now... But So French Cafe is busier than ever and offering a brand new breakfast menu, including succulent French Toast, Creamy Mushrooms and beautiful Smoked Salmon Omelette.

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Dramatic win in wet: No raining on

North Shore overcame old foe Takapuna in the 2021 North Harbour Rugby championship final at North Harbour Stadium, fighting back from first-half deficit to take control

Shore was the most consistent team of the competition, losing just one match. The semi-final, when it almost let Marist back into the game in the second half, seemed like a wobble. But the composure the side showed in the final put paid to that.

Down 11-0 at half-time, Shore's refusal to panic and the strength of character shown in scoring two smart tries in appalling conditions was a statement of worthy champions.

Like Shore's last championship-winning side in 2014, the 2021 vintage was a team of very good players, not stars. They played for each other, often with four or five instantly on hand at any breakdown.

Although conceding the odd penalty, handling errors and other mistakes had



Ultra competitive... Luke Hamilton (above), Shore's substitute halfback, contests he ball with Takapuna's Scotty Houston. A second-half surge was cemented by a try by another replacement player, Reid Cooke (right), shown being congratulated by fellow bench player James Fiebig (No. 19).



Tyler Beary's try midway in the second half launches a comeback



Super subs a Shore thing

North Shore's subs sealed it the match. After veteran Luke Hamilton replaced Jarrod Baker, six minutes into the second half, the match began to turn Shore's way.

The starting players had not gone poorly – far from it – but the impact of the subs was marked, with Takapuna tiring and the weather conditions worsening, they gave Shore's well-drilled pack the upper hand.

Hamilton was outstanding – driving his forwards on with verbal volleys and kicking intelligently. One pressure-reliever, from inside his 22, went into touch in Takapuna's half. He also tackled well and was a danger

round the rucks, with some sniping runs.

Other subs making an impact off the bench were flanker James Fiebig, who added a competitive edge, winger Reid Cooke, who scored a try, and prop Trent Luka, who on several occasions flattened Takapuna attacks with some bone-crunching tackles.

Hamilton had an easier run at halfback as Shore began to dominate and Connor Hill at first-five dictated play, keeping Takapuna pinned largely in its half.

Captain Alex Woonton said Shore's bench was so strong that any of the players could have made the starting 15.

this parade

virtually been eliminated in the final. They were fit and well drilled and they peaked at the right time of the year, adopting an uncompromising style, not unlike the Super Rugby-dominating Crusaders.

It was Shore's seventh championship. It has also been runner-up 10 times.

Shore has a knack winning the championship a decade apart. It won in 2001, 2011 and now 2021.

With the absence of All Blacks and Super Rugby players from club contests, the local competitions have become closer over the years – and 2021 was no exception.

For a club side, Shore by the end of the year had no obvious weaknesses and plenty of strengths – excellent players in all the key positions: Jarrod Baker/Luke Hamilton at halfback and Connor Hill at first-five; a loose-forward trio (Donald Coleman, Edgar Tu'inukuafe and Sione Teu) who developed into the best in the competition; a rock-solid front row of Alex Woonton, Tom Hardy and Finbarr Kerr-Newell; top-class locks in Jacob Pierce and Adam Batt; and an excellent subs bench.

They were complemented by a large and vocal group of supporters: playing and watching with pride – what club rugby is all about.



Magic moment... The whistle blows and the celebrations begin

SEASON STATS

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 15 | 14 | 1 |
| PLAYED | WON | LOST |

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| 434 | 152 |
| POINTS FOR | POINTS AGAINST |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 61 | 39 | 17 |
| TRIES | CONV. | PEN. |

TOP POINTS SCORER:

Bryce Shearer (76)

TOP TRY SCORER:

Jarrod Baker (9)

GAMES BREAKDOWN

Pool play:

- vs Glenfield, won 44-12
- vs Marist won 17-11
- vs Massey won 21-5
- vs East Coast Bays won 20-15
- vs Kumeu won 19-11
- vs Silverdale won 22-3
- vs Takapuna won 39-10
- vs Northcote lost 20-19
- vs Mahurangi won 57-11
- vs Glenfield won 83-0
- vs Marist won 17-6;
- vs Massey won 20-19
- vs East Coast Bays won 19-3

North Shore finished top of pool play and had a bye into the semi-final.

Semi-final: vs Marist, won 25-15

Final: vs Takapuna, won 12-11



On the charge... Donald Coleman (left) was powerful on attack and defence and this run by Maui Hausia (right) nearly yielded a try



Free ice creams for the kids go down a treat

A celebratory free ice cream to mark North Shore's victory attracted dozens of kids.

Shore sponsors Gill and Gundry put on the shout on Sunday, at White's Dairy, close to the club grounds on Vauxhall Rd.

Despite many kids being away for the school holidays, more than 200 ice creams were served in an hour on the Sunday afternoon after the match, said White's Dairy proprietor Nilesch Jogia.

Congratulations to the team!
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Dads' army too explosive for Takapuna young guns

Luke Hamilton hadn't played a premier match for North Shore since its championship semi-final loss in 2016.

"I got a call from Bots (coach Frano Botica) a couple of weeks back saying that the reserve halfback had gone down and could I help out."

Thirty-eight-year-old Hamilton – a 128-game Shore veteran who won North Harbour championships with the club in 2011 and again in 2014 – was back on the team sheet for this season's semi-final against Marist.

He came on at the end for five minutes: "I said to Bots, you can put me on for longer if you like... I keep fit and have had the odd game for the Bs over the years when they were short."

The former North Harbour and Northland representative player had lost none of the excitement for the big occasion when the final against Takapuna loomed at North Harbour Stadium.

"I was pumped – was there anyone as excited as me to be running out the tunnel?"

Hamilton retired from rugby to raise a young family – who were at the ground watching him: daughters Kaeleigh (8) and Piper (4), and son Lachie (6), along with wife Krystal.

"I still love playing rugby and it was great to have my family there with me to share the moment," Hamilton says.

He came on just after half-time and played a pivotal role, along with Shore's other subs, in turning the game around.

"We were 11-0 down at half-time, but I wasn't worried: the forwards were going well, we were getting a lot of ball and spent most of the half in Takapuna's 22.

"I'm actually playing better than when I was young... less of the firecracker and more just passing the ball," he says.

"It was great to help Shore out and really cool to catch up with Alex and Batts [the two remaining players from the 2014 championship-winning team]."



Marking history with their kids... North Shore captain Alex Woonton holds son Archer after the match (left), while Shore halfback Luke Hamilton piggybacks daughter Kaeleigh

Alex Woonton celebrated two rugby milestones in 2021 – 100 games for North Shore and his third North Harbour championship.

"It's been pretty crazy. I've played seven seasons for North Shore, been in five finals, and now won three championships."

Few matches would have equalled the intensity of the 2021 final, especially for Woonton, Shore's captain and a prop at the heart of the tight five.

"It was different. In my first championship in 2011, I was the young guy. Now I'm one of the most experienced."

Even when down 11-0 at half-time, North Shore were calm, Woonton said,

"I saw it in the boys' eyes – there was no

doubt we could win the match."

Throughout the season, Shore had stuck to its game plan "whether we were down 20 points or up 20 points".

During the final, "at every huddle we would take a breath, make sure we were in the moment, blocking out the noise and talk about sticking to the process and the next play".

He was delighted his son Archer (3) was at the final. "The Shore supporters are a pretty boisterous bunch and he was a little blown away. But he's a cool dude and was excited for me as well."

At 33, Woonton is undecided if he will play in 2022. "I still have a bit of fire burning – I'll see how I feel after the off-season."

Simon Watts
MP for North Shore

**Congratulations to
North Shore Rugby on
your well-deserved win**

1 Earnoch Avenue, Takapuna
northshore@parliament.govt.nz
09 486 0005

f @simonwattsmpp



Authorised by Simon
Watts MP, Parliament
Buildings, Wgtn.



Take that Takapuna



Blast from the past... One of a series of four cartoons that graced the walls of North Shore's clubrooms in the 1970s. The cartoons were lost during renovations, but club stalwart Simon Gundry commissioned a new set.

The final: how the match unfolded



The scoreboard doesn't lie

FIRST HALF

Five minutes: Takapuna second-five Bryn Gatland lands a penalty from 42 metres after Shore is caught offside. 3-0 Takapuna.

25 minutes: Gatland slots another penalty, from 45 metres, after Shore ruled offside again. 6-0 Takapuna.

39 minutes: Against the run of play, Takapuna centre Moses Leo cuts through the Shore defence inside his 22 and runs 60 metres before offloading to Jordan Hyland, who passes to Kade Banks to score in the corner. 11-0 Takapuna.

Half-time: Takapuna 11-0.

SECOND HALF

51 minutes: After sustained pressure by Shore and a powerful line-out drive, quick passing out wide sees Tyler Berry score in the corner. Takapuna 11-5

65 minutes: Shore scores again after a line-out drive, with Luke Hamilton swinging the ball on the blindside to Reid Cooke, who scores in the opposite corner. Bryce Shearer converts from out wide. Shore 12-11.

Full-time: Shore wins 12-11.



Winners are grinners...
First-five Connor Hill, who helped steer Shore around the park, celebrates after the final whistle



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Sweet victory...The North Shore premiers squad and supporters enjoy the moments after last Saturday's final. The squad includes: Edgar Tu'inukuafe, Donald Coleman, Sione Teu, Jarrod Baker, Connor Hill, Maui Hausia, James Little, Fraser Convoy, Stephen Dempsey, James Fiebig, Luke Hamilton, Reid Cooke and Levi McBirney.

Coaches and support staff:

Head Coach, Frano Botica; **Assistant Coaches**, Shaun Morrissey and Rua Tipoki; **Managers**, Murray Brewer and Mike Simpson; **Trainer**,

UGBY PREMIERS CHAMPIONS 2021



PHOTOGRAPH: ROB DRENT

The starting XV was Finbarr Kerr-Newell, Tom Hardy, Alex Woonton (captain), Jacob Pierce, Adam Batt, Tyler Beary and Bryce Shearer. On the substitutes bench were Damarus Hokianga, Trent Luka,

Dean Rice; Gear, Clive Kelly and Ray Yeong; Ball Kids, Blake Tripodi, Olly Sara and Oli Taylor; Physios, Natalie Parlane and Sophie Rhodes.

Newly knighted legend dubs Shore worthy winners

North Shore and All Black great Sir Wayne 'Buck' Shelford described the championship final as "a hell of a match".

Shore showed "great courage" to come back from a first-half deficit and win, he said, especially as the wind direction changed during the match so the green-and-whites were playing into it for most of the game.

Shore had made a lot of play in the first half for no points and were playing too much up the middle of the field, and not stretching the defence wide enough, he said.

This changed in the second half with the addition of substitute halfback Luke Hamilton. "You could really see what a difference an experienced player like Luke made to the side," said Shelford, who was knighted in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

Shelford won championships with the club as a player in the 1980s, and as a coach in 2011.

He said the consistency showed by the 2021 team in the second half of the final – when it cut down its errors – augured well for the future.

"It's a young team – they won a lot of games, but many of them were close and they were very inconsistent for most of the season," he noted. "They won the final in a very intense match in which they played very well in the second half – and they've won a championship now and will have learned from the experience."

Shore coach Frano Botica said the final was always going to be a close match, but "with the weather it was made even tighter".

He and Takapuna coach Aaron Katipa are great mates: "We always have a beer after training on Thursday nights, and two years ago (pre-Covid), the plan was for us to meet in the final."

Shore had the dominant pack in the competition and that showed as the final



All smiles... (above, from left) assistant coach Rua Tipoki, club chairman Max Webb and club president Wayne Shelford after the match. Coach Frano Botica (right) was slightly more on edge at half-time.

progressed. But it was the depth of the club that was just as important.

Botica highlighted the work assistant coach Rua Tipoki did on defensive patterns and manager Shaun Morrissey's development of the forward pack.

Botica has been North Shore premiers coach since 2011 (as an assistant to Shelford), with two years out when Grant Simpkins and Robert Todd had stints. He said he was "pretty flexible" about carrying on in 2022, or offering support to "anyone else who puts their hand up".



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VERY PROUD!

Club captain says kai time fed team unity

The North Shore Rugby Football Club are pretty happy with themselves after our Prem side took out the North Harbour Championship 12-11 against Takapuna at North Harbour Stadium on Saturday 17 July.

This was a hard-fought game, with Shore down 11-0 at half time. Two second-half tries, one to Tyler Berry in the 57th minute then one to Reid Cooke, who had come off the bench, in the 76th minute – the second converted from the sideline by Bryce Shearer – sealed the fate of Takapuna.

The celebrations then started, first up at the stadium, then down at the club in Devonport.

The team were led into the clubrooms by captain Alex Woonton, and greeted with a wonderful haka performed by club members.

The team celebrated well into the night – and we thank club manager Paul Cornish for

keeping an eye on proceedings.

On Sunday, they paraded with the trophy and flags down the main street of Devonport to the clock tower outside the Esplanade, where they sang the club song: *Pride of the Union*.

They ended up in the Signal Hill bar. All were well behaved (we hope).

The last time the club won the Prem championship was back in 2014, coached by Frano Botica who also coached this year's team, ably assisted by Shaun Morrissey and Rua Tipoki.

The club has four senior teams this year. The Prem 2 side made the semi-finals, but lost to Takapuna. The Under-21s lost their semi-final against East Coast Bays last weekend, and the under 85kg side were knocked out of the play-offs earlier. This is the first time we have had a U85 team for a couple of years, and they have a squad of around 35 players.

One great success of the season is that the

club has been feeding all four teams every second Thursday night from our kitchen, run by Heath Wildy, which has gone down a real treat for the players. We have four close-knit teams who all get on together.

Club chairman Max Webb has led an active committee and, with our recent Legends Seagull Luncheon, the club is in good shape.

We have a new knight in Wayne Shelford (Tai Buck) and thank our main sponsors: Harcourts Cooper & Co – Martin Cooper, (Matt Hunt, Devonport Office), Firth Concrete, and our main Juniors sponsor, Gill & Gundry.

Simon Gundry paid for 207 ice-creams, keeping a pledge he had made that if we won the Pregs there would be free ice-creams from White's Dairy.

**Chris Tankard
Club Captain
North Shore Rugby Football Club**



Cornered... Maui Hausia is taken out by Bryn Gatland's dive inches from the line after a first-half run

Well done Team!

from all of us at Signal Hill

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Well-earned higher honours

Five North Shore premier players have been selected for the North Harbour team in 2021.

They are: Sione Mafileo (prop); Donald Coleman (hooker); Jacob Pierce (lock); Sione Teu (loose forward) and James Little (midfield).

• Former North Shore junior Kate Williams is the 2021 North Harbour women's captain.

Rampant forward power key



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to success

Up the middle... Loosie Sione Teu (left) was a force in the final

Dominant form... Lock Jacob Pierce (right) was a towering presence in the line-outs, until he was forced from the field with a head knock



Congratulations to the NSRFC Premiers and all the teams that played their hearts out this season!



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“Well done North Shore Rugby!”

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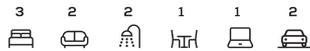
Looking ahead to 2022: Join up and support your club. See www.northshorerugby.co.nz

EDITOR AND PHOTOGRAPHS: ROB DRENT

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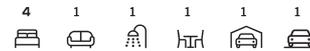
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Bear-country native goes bush on peninsula

Raised in a forest in the US, Lance Cablk was drawn to study nature, and now works amid New Zealand flora and fauna. He tells Helen Vause about his ecological path, career detours, and the projects keeping him busy today.

For Lance Cablk, there could never be enough hours in the day or hands on deck.

As coordinator of the Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH) programme, it's his job to support and develop a network of community-led restoration and conservation initiatives.

Since he took up the challenge, growing numbers of volunteers have joined him to trap rats, remove weeds, plant trees and more, in local reserves and on shorelines from Hauraki to the southern end of the Devonport peninsula.

He has a huge job. The Flagstaff caught him on the run, dashing in from muddy work at Philomel Reserve to his home office, to talk about his passion for the environment and the projects he's leading locally.

It's a far cry from the environment Cablk grew up in. When the affable American first arrived in New Zealand with his Kiwi partner 16 years ago, he probably couldn't have named one of this country's native plant or bird species.

"When I first got here, I couldn't leave home without a guidebook of New Zealand's plants and birds. It was all new and exciting," he recalls.

He never imagined then he might one day know so much more about them. But it's not surprising the draw of the natural world here was strong, even if Cablk never expected it to later become the focus of his career.

Cablk was raised in the large Hiawatha National Forest on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which has Lake Superior to the north and Lakes Michigan and Huron to the south. Nature was his backyard, powerful and fascinating to a boy growing up in a family avidly interested in their environment and the rhythm and life of the forest. Black bears, bald eagles, coyotes and wolves were among the creatures to be found around them, and more than 250 bird species shared the Cablks' home patch.

Alongside a strong interest in the natural world, young Cablk also had music on his mind, and spent some of his school years at a boarding school specialising in arts education. He learned violin, later playing in orchestras and quartets, and sometimes teaching.

When it came to making a career, however, the pull of nature held sway. He signed up to study ecology at the University of Michigan.

During a summer placement as a student, he had the good fortune to join a University of California research station in the Sierra Nevada mountains where he observed ground squirrels, while living in another beautiful forest environment.

"I bought my first mountain bike when I was out there. And I thought, this is the life for me, being out here in nature. It was an amazing experience in an amazing place. Right there, before I was in my 20s, I realised I'd be making my career in environmental work."



Growing a following... ecologist Lance Cablk is inspiring locals to get involved and learn more about conservation

Back home in Michigan for postgraduate work on field stations there, he further developed his knowledge of forest ecology, botany, ecosystems, wetlands and more.

Next, he took the chance to spend six months in Costa Rica, where the lush rainforests and the stunning sights tempt both research scientists and the wider travelling public into extended explorations. The forests wowed the fledgling eco-scientist, almost capturing his heart, but his home environment still beckoned.

"I figured I couldn't be all over the place with my work and realised I should go back and carry on with what I was already working on and knew a bit about."

In Michigan, Cablk worked for the large non-profit Nature Conservancy, a private global organisation working with evidence-based science on the dual threats of biodiversity loss and climate-change challenges.

Through his years working with the organisation in a job he loved, Cablk gained broad

expertise and built a career as a consultant ecologist.

But there was a significant change of direction coming in his personal world.

Cablk took time out to attend a course out of town, where he met his Kiwi future partner. Some time later, he found himself headed for another life in Auckland, New Zealand, a place where they called the forest 'bush' and the plants and birds were all unknown to him.

"At that time I couldn't see how I could be working here as an ecologist. I'd come from a place of deciduous forests, edible berries, and mammals, so what could I offer here, I thought. And I had to think about other opportunities for making a living in Auckland."

Cablk reverted to music, and began teaching violin. He also went back to studying, enrolling in a degree in early-childhood education.

Until four years ago, his day job had him working with Devonport preschoolers.

"I loved it," says Cablk, "and today some of

those kids are starting to show up as volunteers on our projects around the peninsula. That's great to see."

Once an ecologist, always an ecologist and it didn't take Cablk too long to fall in love with the local environment and to want to start putting his skills back to work in it.

"We are pretty lucky in this setting and we have pretty fortunate geography. But the threats to our environment are very real."

These days, he's right where he wants to be, which for most of the time is outdoors working with like-minded people in all sorts of weather, rounding off the days with a well-earned cup of tea under a makeshift shelter.

On top of that, are the meetings, as well as education, where Cablk is out talking to many groups to increase eco-literacy – and hopefully to inspire more people to get out and get hands-on with community-led volunteer work in their own environment.

Back in the home office, he is kept busy with administrative work, keeping the news and information current on social media and

creating helpful resources.

An online video shows Cablk in action in a local wetland giving detailed instructions on pulling weeds – carefully by their roots – and disposing of them correctly.

A busy Facebook page has regular reports from many sites on the peninsula, showing the 'community-led and volunteer-powered' RTH in action.

Photos from recent weeks show people at work on restoration at Jutland Reserve on the edge of Shoal Bay, a big group of all ages planting over a couple of days in Philomel Reserve, a fit-looking bunch from the Defence Force getting stuck into weeding in heavy rain, and a group working hard with shovels in Hanlon Reserve. Photos from earlier in the month show the entire Bayswater School out planting.

Reports cover the activities of the graphically named Zero Stoat Team, the Possum Defence Team and the Worst Weed Squad.

All of these projects have come to life under the guidance of RTH, and Cablk and his crew.

Cablk says the ideal is to see more and more people taking responsibility for their own environment and getting involved with trapping and weeding close to home.

He has never managed to add any hours to the day, but his organisation has grown like topsy in both volunteer numbers and networks – and so has the list of future work.

He has more part-time workers helping him, but he acknowledges it is getting harder to keep up with the goals that Restoring Takarun-

ga Hauraki has set for this patch of the city.

The dreams are big but the resources are still rather slender for the restoration and protection work envisaged.

"We are pretty lucky in this setting and we have pretty fortunate geography. But the threats to our environment are very real. There's no point in getting panicky about it, but we do need to figure out how we are going to work together on it. I could talk about it all day," he says with a grin.



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To our valued patients,

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Adeel Punjwani** has joined as a new dental associate at Devonport Dental.

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We are glad to say that **Dr. Andrew Steele** and **Dr. Adeel Punjwani** will both be practising at the surgery.



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OUT & ABOUT

Maria Teape Community Coordinator
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DEVONPORT REPAIR CAFÉ

Saturday 7 August, 12pm-4pm

Devonport Community House,

32 Clarence St, Devonport – Cost: Free

You are invited to bring along toys, furniture items, clothing or small appliances in need of repair.

Devonport Repair Café is about repairing broken items together, getting professional advice, spending time with and helping your community.

Contact Chris for more info – 021 380 845 or devonportrc@bravegen.com

NEWCOMERS BOOKCLUB FOR MIGRANTS

Saturdays, 7 August-25 September, 2pm-4pm

Devonport Library, 2 Victoria Rd – Cost: Free

The newcomers book club is for all migrants and an opportunity to study great New Zealand writers as a window to New Zealand culture. A qualified English teacher from English Language Partners New Zealand takes the group. **There is no cost to join – register by email: aucklandnorth@newcomers.co.nz**

DEVONPORT COMMUNITY NETWORK

Thursday 12 August, 10am-12pm

Devonport Yacht Club, 25 King Edward Parade

This month, members of The Rose Centre's board will talk to us about The Rose Centre's new direction. **Meetings commence at 10am with morning tea and informal networking then guest speakers start from approximately 10:20am.**

HŌTOKE/WINTER FUN TAMARIKI PLAY

Tuesdays, 9:30am-11:00am

The Rose Centre, School Rd, Belmont

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Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

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

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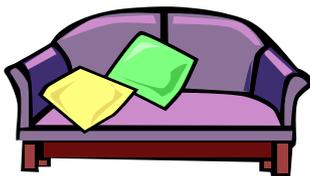
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Bus use picks up after Covid downturn

Bus use in Devonport and Bayswater is picking up, well ahead of the slow citywide recovery from the slump caused by Covid-19 last year. Auckland Transport (AT) figures show that while monthly bus patronage in June-July has not yet returned to 2019 levels, after the 2020 downturn, locally it is getting close.

“Devonport and Bayswater residents are obviously getting full benefits from the new integrated ticketing,” said Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member George Wood. This allows for free use of feeder buses if passengers are connecting to ferry services and using AT Hop cards to pay.

“AT just needs to sort out getting the ferry-bus connections right,” Wood added.

He sought the figures from AT and presented them at the most recent local-board meeting.

Data showed that the 814 route from Devonport wharf to Akoranga carried 19,460 passengers in June, up from 14,892 in June 2020, but still under the 21,307 trips recorded in June 2019. From Bayswater to Akoranga on the 801 route, 5043 trips were made this year, compared with 2552 last year and 6626 in June 2019. The reverse journeys on both routes showed similar trends, with slightly more people travelling to the peninsula than from it.

Extra services on the 806 Stanley Point and the 807 Cheltenham loop routes to the Devonport ferry terminal are now attracting almost twice as many passengers as two years ago, although since then the Stanley Pt ferry and AT Local ride-share services have been axed. The 806 had 3605 passengers in June, compared with just 460 last June and 1240 the year before.

The Cheltenham bus recorded 3518 trips, up from 642 and 1803 in the preceding Junes.

Wood has asked AT to continue to provide the board with monthly figures to help track the ferry feeder services. In some parts of Auckland, he said, bus use was down 30 per cent, but the lower drop-off locally showed that people would use buses if services were improved.

There was a benefit to vehicle users too, in helping reduce car numbers on Lake Rd. This underlined the value of getting bus lanes on Lake Rd, Wood said.

Promoting the use of the Bayswater ferry was also important, he said. Board members were left disappointed last month that a proper ferry terminal for Bayswater failed to make the cut in the Regional Land Transport Plan.

Passengers told to report strandings

People are being asked to officially report cases of buses leaving Devonport and Bayswater before disembarking ferry passengers have a chance to get onboard.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Ruth Jackson is following up on cases, and wants those affected to contact Auckland Transport (AT). Strandings have continued despite an undertaking by AT that drivers would be told to wait for passengers.

People complain online about the issue, but Jackson wants them to also tell AT directly.

“AT is onto it – it’s not fixed yet,” she said at a recent local-board meeting.

Since the meeting, a would-be passenger on the 807 service posted online that after lodging a complaint with AT about a bus pulling out from Devonport last week, they received a reply that stated the report had been reviewed and the case closed. It included the comment: “Although the service departs from the ferry terminal, it is not required to wait for ferry passengers.”

An AT spokesperson said the response given was incorrect. “We’ll get the customer team updated on this,” she said.

The commitment that connecting buses wait for passengers to disembark docked ferries and board applied from 4pm onwards.

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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUL 30, 2021

TGS Students donate 3000+ cans to Auckland City Mission!



On the last day of Term 2, the Auckland City Mission truck came to collect more than 3000 cans that were donated by our students and staff over the past two weeks as part of our annual House

Points competition. This is an outstanding effort from everyone and is on top of the \$113,40 raised on Orange Mufti Day held on Wednesday 30 June.

International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge presentations

Our students completed their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) presentation at the end of Term 2. As part of this International Baccalaureate (IB) component, each student chooses a knowledge question and delivers a presentation where they explore relevant aspects of theories and philosophies they have learnt and apply them to a real-life situation.



In the TOK course, our students are able to showcase their critical-thinking skills and familiarise themselves with philosophy and metacognitive concepts that they can then apply to all areas of learning. The topics for their presentations included ethical and religious considerations around the Covid-19 vaccine, the role of artificial intelligence, or the genetic engineering of human embryos.

The TOK presentation is a challenging task and requires students to apply their critical-thinking skills in a way that will benefit them greatly across the curriculum and in their further education.

You are warmly invited to attend the
TAKAPUNA GRAMMAR SCHOOL OPEN DAY
 Thursday 29 July 2021
 in the school hall, Te Poho

Sessions will be held at 4.00pm and 5.30pm with a presentation from our Principal followed by a school tour

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Annual General Meeting of Devonport Senior Citizens Association Incorporated will be held at Harmony Hall, 4 Wynyard Street, Devonport at 10am on Monday the 23rd of August. All current financial members are invited to attend. Correspondence to the Association's Secretary at the above address.

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Letters to the Editor

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Email your submissions to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz or post to Devonport Flagstaff, PO Box 32 275, Devonport

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- A female teacher at Stanley Bay School is hit in the face by a pupil's mother.
- North Shore beats Takapuna 23-12 to take the North Harbour rugby championship. Newborn Mason Vujcich is pictured on the Flagstaff front page clad in a North Shore jersey, having been born 50 minutes before his father Paul played in the match.
- The Flagstaff features an eight-page spread on North Shore's win in the North Harbour championship.
- Devonport actor James Robertson lands a leading role in *The Tribe* television series.
- Babcock New Zealand sacks architects who miscalculated the height of a floating dry dock the company wants to install at Calliope basin.
- A new cafe is planned for Cheltenham Beach as part of a refurbishment of McHugh's restaurant.
- A pod of 20 dolphins swim to within metres of Windsor Reserve while crowds look on.
- Arts minister Judith Tizard visits the Depot Artspace.
- North Shore City Council introduces a \$5000 incentive payment for people to renovate heritage homes.
- At least 15 metres public access to the water's edge should be mandatory at Bayswater Point, the Devonport Community Board decides.
- A three-bedroom bungalow on the edge of Cheltenham is on the market for \$325,000.
- Porterhouse Blue restaurant, a Devonport institution on Calliope Rd, celebrates a decade in business.
- Greg Bowron, North Shore City Council's heritage expert, is the Flagstaff interview subject.

Tips from Trent for Ryman ‘Olympians’

Kiwi swimmer Trent Bray shared some of his expertise with William Sanders Retirement Village residents competing in their own ‘Olympics@Ryman’ swimming trials in Devonport this month.

The former freestyle swimmer and surf lifesaver, who competed in two Olympics (Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996) and two Commonwealth Games (Victoria 1994 and Kuala Lumpur 1998), was delighted to see the enthusiasm of the residents who have signed up for Ryman’s inter-village event being run simultaneously across both New Zealand and Australia.

“I think it’s a brilliant idea and it gives the residents something to work towards,” he said. “It’s easier to train when you have a goal.”

Bray – who won three Commonwealth Games silver medals in the 200m freestyle, 4x200m freestyle relay and 4x100m freestyle relay in 1994, plus a bronze in the 4x200m freestyle relay in 1998 – gave coaching tips to local village resident Suellen Wilkins, together with three residents who travelled from the Jane Mander Retirement Village in Whangarei: Colin Mackey, Denise Barden and Lynn Fraser.

“I don’t think anyone is training to break any records, but just do the best you can,” he said. “Swimming in the pool two to three times a week is a great activity. It’s a non-jarring sport and you’re less likely to get injured than land sports.”

Bray also shared some interesting statistics on the benefits of swimming, and of living in a retirement village. “Swimmers live two per cent longer than those who don’t swim, and I also heard on the radio recently that people who live in retirement villages live five years longer. I really hope I’m still swimming like that when I’m that age.”

Swimming is one of five disciplines in the Olympics@Ryman, which also includes lawn bowls, cycling, relay walking and ‘Quiznastics’.

The event brings together a potential following of 12,500 Ryman residents across 42 villages in New Zealand and Australia, with 700 signed up to compete. It is thought to be the world’s first international retirement-village games.

Mary-Anne Stone, Ryman Healthcare’s acting chief sales and marketing officer, said the lawn bowls teams would play virtual-reality opponents. The cyclists and walkers would follow ‘routes’ that could track them against fellow residents competing at other sites.

“We’re using pioneering technology to bring people together across time and distance to encourage positive ageing, healthy living and have a whole lot of fun at the same time,” she said.

Swimmer Wilkins, who was watched by husband Phil, son Matthew and grandson Jesse while she completed her trial, said the sport had played a huge part in her life.

“Phil and I were both competitive swim-



mers representing our countries – New Guinea for me and Fiji for Phil – and we met at the South Pacific Games in 1963.”

She was excited to take part and chat to Bray and said she had been doing “lots of training” in the hope of beating the other competitors to the finals. These will comprise the six men and six women with the fastest times out of 89 swimming competitors.

Jane Mander resident Lynn Fraser did the first swimming trial of the day, cheered on by three generations of her family.

“I always wanted to do a triathlon so I entered the swimming, the cycling and the walking,” said Fraser. “I go swimming quite regularly in the pool at the village, but before this I didn’t really swim up and down like this.”

“Now I do 50 lengths and it’s good exercise.”

In the swim... Ryman resident Suellen Wilkins in the pool and with supporters (from left) grandson Jesse, son Matthew and husband Phil



Olympian Trent Bray



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Ugly Ngataringa Rd barrier a waste of money



This barrier (pictured, right) is ugly, useless, unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money.

We have lived in Ngataringa Road for 30 years, and to our knowledge there has never been an issue with the safety of the road splitting and a single lane dropping down to access houses at the lower level.

This looks like a typical Auckland Transport application, where certain guidelines are applied regardless of common sense.

Consultation with locals? Who needs it? Now the mowing team have an extra complication in this area.

Keith Humphreys

Burn-up good for the heart, intensification will choke us

The Flagstaff's last issue (16 July) was heart-warming. Seeing a large bonfire mid-winter in the heart of our city, was an event from a bygone time – clearly taboo, but enjoyed by all the same. I hope the fire is a sign of a return to normality, with simple primal pleasures being allowed to be enjoyed in the face of so many rules and scientific theories. Perhaps Matariki, the new New Year, and Guy Fawkes could be earmarked for big bonfire burn-ups allowed without dramas.

On matters of public interest... it is clear that housing intensification is here big time in the Devonport area and it is set to quickly kill the heritage character and choke the roads even more. The e-bikers will be laughing, seeing we have built three storeys high both sides of Lake Rd, so there will be no room for the cursed cars to drive three abreast like the cyclists do.

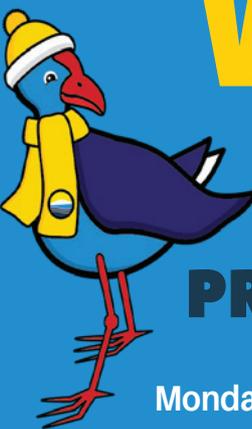
The good news here is they say the road (upgrade) is five years away. Judging by history, I doubt that – I hope 10 years.

So here's hoping some inspired transport and traffic designers will materialise before the project creates total chaos for years with no improvement except for those who will be on their e-bikes, scooters and Covid-ridden buses. That's the future some say, where we will have e-bikeless days and e-carless days. Toni and Simon will need to run or pedal on these days, because the science is clear – we have insufficient clean electricity to recharge the batteries. Power cuts and shortages will quadruple the price.

At least the massive intensification we've already seen does not seem to be causing any congestion around Ngataringa Rd area: it seems that hardly anyone drives to that destination.

Ron Dykman

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Cyclists commend board backing for bridge-use trial

A former Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) head girl has urged the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to continue its commitment to improving bike links, especially over the Harbour Bridge.

Speaking on behalf of Bike Auckland, Mary-Margaret Slack said: "Right now, your constituents are the people who are missing out most of all because of a crucial missing link in a cycle network of Auckland."

From her time at TGS, which she left in 2016, Slack said she knew climate change was the issue worrying young people the most. "Reallocation of road space is one of our most crucial tasks during a climate emergency."

She spoke at the board's July meeting in support of a notice of motion, put up by member Toni van Tonder, backing in principle one or more events to open up the Auckland Harbour Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists as a trial or demonstration.

Slack told the board that although the Government had announced a second bridge across the harbour would be built for bikes and pedestrians, the project had no practical timeline.

Bike Auckland had campaigned for a trial in summer of devoting one lane of the

bridge to cyclists, due to booming demand, said Slack.

Auckland stood out as a city built around the water, but where citizens could not walk or bike across that water. "The existing bridge is a joy to ride, as thousands of people discovered back in 2009, and rediscovered on May 30 of this year."

By being open to trial use of the Harbour Bridge in summer, the board was taking a "step in the right direction," Slack said.

Van Tonder said a trial was a way to prepare for a shared path, and could help in its design. Chair Ruth Jackson said the board would continue to plug its own idea of clearing space on buses or designating some to carry bikes across the bridge. A recent adopter of e-biking, Jackson said: "I'd do more of it if the road felt safer."

Van Tonder pointed out that even Waka Kotahi staff were advocating for a trial of allowing cyclists on a bridge lane. "So much can be gained by giving it a try."

Board member Trish Deans asked if traffic would back up and if the impact of vehicle emissions from this had been considered.

Fellow member George Wood said he had real concerns about a trial, given the bridge was an economic lifeline for the

North Shore. Indicative costs to close the bridge were \$40,000 and two lanes might be lost. "The primary reason of the bridge is to get traffic across the harbour – it's State Highway 1."

Member Aidan Bennett said the lane closure would be on a Sunday when there was less business traffic. "We've got to give this a trial." While the cost of building a separate cycling bridge could be questioned, the link would be good for the North Shore, opening up opportunities for recreation and business, he said.

Deans said she was not sneering at it, but the cost and need to canvass public opinion meant she was "on the fence at the moment".

Jackson proposed an amendment, still backing a trial in principle but calling on Waka Kotahi to provide more information to the board and giving it options for feedback.

Bennett dubbed this the "fluffy politician's amendment". Wood said it seemed to want "a bob each way". They and van Tonder opposed the amendment, but Jackson used her chair's casting vote to carry it with backing from Deans and member Jan O'Connor. The eventual motion passed 5-1, with only Wood opposed.

Local policing wanted

The need for a stronger police presence in Devonport-Takapuna was highlighted at a recent public meeting on crime.

The meeting was called by North Shore MP Simon Watts and co-hosted by Simeon Brown, National's spokesperson on Police and Corrections. They presented to an open forum of around 30 people at the Rose Centre in Belmont.

"We need a police presence in Takapuna," said one Neighbourhood Watch co-ordina-

tor. "Why is the Takapuna police station not open – it closes at 4pm," she said. Concerns about problems arising from emergency housing were also raised, along with worries about the general rise in both gang and drug presence.

The meeting was also attended by four of the six members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board: chair Ruth Jackson, deputy Jan O'Connor and members George Wood and Trish Deans. Police were invited, but

declined due to operational reasons, said Watts.

Watts had met the community policing team three or four times since being elected last year. "I want to bang the drum – where are our police?"

Some were being diverted to the Covid response, with not all their roles backfilled, Watts said. Community constable Jasmine Bundle had been promoted and the post now had a temporary officer in charge.

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Time capsule... *Horizon*, a work by Gretchen Albrecht from 1978, will feature in the Depot Artspace show, revisiting artists and their views

Video reunites artists after four decades

A university assignment brought them together – and now a group of former art students have reunited for an exhibition 43 years later.

The Depot Artspace is showing *The Painter and the Emperor Revisited* until 11 August – an exhibition sparked by a 25-minute videotape created in 1978 at the Elam School of Fine Arts.

Well-known artists Gretchen Albrecht and Philippa Blair are among the exhibitors.

The video was made by Ngaire Mules, Kate Hill and Janelle Aston, during a course run by Philip Dadson. It was shot using a Sony portapack with a hand-held camera. It examined women’s attitudes on combining motherhood with art.

“At the time, it would’ve been at the forefront of their minds for sure – whether they felt they could have an artist’s practice and still fulfill domestic duties or obligations,” Depot exhibition manager Nina Dyer said.

Eighteen female students were interviewed for their thoughts back in 1978, and 13 of those have been contacted to rewatch the tape through a 2021 lens.

But not all of the artists went on to be

mothers. “It’s just that was the subject of the video that brought them together,” said Dyer. “It’s almost like a reunion.”

Artist Lesley Kaiser, who for a long-time lived in Devonport, said it was fascinating to see some of the newer works of fellow artists she hadn’t kept in touch with. It was interesting to see that “43 years later, practically all of them are practising artists still”.

The world of art had changed and become more inclusive, she said. “In the 60s and 70s, it was very much a man’s world, and now it’s much more diverse in all sorts of ways.

“Most of all, the biggest change for me is the digital world has really changed the nature of art.” But at the same time, “I don’t think it changes that much because human nature doesn’t change that much”.

“Everything has its time and place.”

Colourfield paintings will form the basis of the exhibition, together with some jewellery and ceramic work.

Also on display will be items such as Hill’s original notes from the video project. The video itself will screen with an artist’s talk at 1 pm on 1 August. Entry is free.

Bright idea to illuminate winter evenings

Rug up and head out this weekend to the Takapuna Winter Lights, for entertainment for all ages. See installations such as this one (right) by light artist Angus Muir. Vostpertron, a recent semi-finalist in *Australia’s Got Talent*, will also feature.

The free event runs on Friday and Saturday, 30-31 July, at Hurstmere Green, Takapuna, with lights on from 5pm to 10pm.



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Comedy sniffs out Mason's legacy on home turf



Through tinted glasses... *Te Po* writer Carl Bland (left) in an earlier cast featuring Andrew Grainger (centre) and Rawiri Paratene. Bland and Grainger are both back in the latest production.

Characters inspired by the work of renowned New Zealand playwright Bruce Mason will be brought to life in a show at the local theatre named after the one-time Takapuna resident.

To mark the centenary of Mason's birth, *Te Po* is being staged at the Bruce Mason Theatre this month. Described as a surprising comedy, the play had its premiere at the 2016 Auckland Arts Festival, and won an Auckland Theatre excellence award the same year.

Though it is set in Takapuna, where Mason grew up, this is the first time it has been performed in the suburb. Its characters – a policeman, a priest and a blind man – grapple with clues to lead them to a missing Mason, drawing on his legacy of plays, reimagined in a contemporary work.

Director Ben Crowder says: "There's something very special about paying tribute to Bruce Mason at the Bruce Mason Centre."

Mason, who died in 1982, used Takapuna as a setting for some of his groundbreaking works, including *The End of the Golden Weather*, part of which is performed on the

beachside reserve each Christmas Day. The theatre named for him opened in 1996.

The *Te Po* ensemble includes noted actor and broadcaster Waihoru Shortland, taking a role previously played by George Henare, and Rawiri Paratene. Shortland's film career includes a role in Taika Waititi's *Boy* and serving as cultural consultant for *The Piano*.

In 2002, he played Shylock/Hairoka in *The Māori Merchant of Venice* – the first film made in te reo Māori – which saw him named Best Actor at the NZ Film Awards.

When he was approached to play the role of Werihe in *Te Po*, the writing appealed,

but the clincher was the opportunity to sing love songs in a Māori showband style, live on stage. The songs punctuate the play, giving resonance to the story of searching for someone you have loved and lost and finding them anew.

Joining Shortland in the Nightsong theatre-group production are Andrew Grainger and newcomer Anton Falstie-Jensen. The play's writer Carl Bland also appears.

• *Te Po* runs today, Friday 30 July at 10.30am and 8pm, and on Saturday 31 July at 6.30pm. For tickets book at the theatre or see ticketmaster.co.nz.

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| Gunpowder Milkshake (R16) 114min | NEW |
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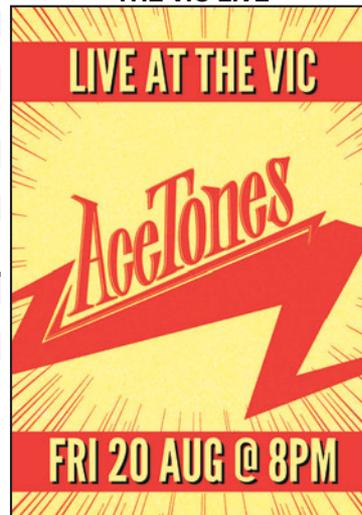
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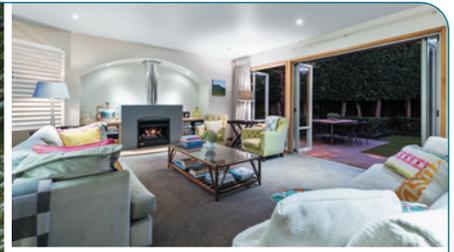
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