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Deltaport – life imitates art... p4

Interview: Eliza McCartney's unfinished business... p14

Tom turns 100 and still volunteering... p18

Mass Covid-testing in Devonport

Approaching 2000 people were tested for Covid-19 on the Devonport peninsula in the first days of lockdown.

Testing numbers across Auckland City had reached more than 108,000 early this week. At the Narrow Neck pop-up centre set up at

Woodall Park and open for the first three days of lockdown, 1721 people were swabbed. Residents also flocked to medical centres and their GPs for testing.

The first reported case in the latest Covid-19 outbreak was a 58-year-old man from

Devonport. On the first two days of lockdown, lines of cars stretched along Seabreeze Rd with people waiting hours to be tested at the pop-up.

Since 18 August, the Northcote Community

To page 3

Charity begins at home – grocery packages available from Holy Trinity



Donations arrive... Holy Trinity Vicar Charmaine Braatvedt with supplies that arrived spontaneously at the church on Sunday. They will be put into food parcels. Story page 3.



“Live life, Laugh often, Lockdown won’t last!”

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PM praises Devonport man's quick action



Breaking news... a frame from TV3's Tuesday night bulletin, when the Devonport case was revealed

Devonport was thrust into the national spotlight on Tuesday last week after a 58-year-old man from the area returned a positive Covid test.

At first it seemed Devonport might be the focus of the outbreak, but it quickly became clear the man caught the virus elsewhere, most likely from a work colleague.

The centre of the outbreak moved to a flat of young people in Northcote and the numerous locations they had visited around the city.

The Devonport man had been to only one local public location while infectious – Devonport Pharmacy – although authorities

investigated a series of private homes he had visited as a tradesman.

He went on a trip to the Coromandel when likely to have been in the early stages of infection, but used the contact-tracing app on his travels. The fact the Devonport man came forward to be tested and had followed excellent contact-tracing discipline meant authorities could work quickly on containment.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern publicly thanked him at her daily press conference last Thursday and on Monday added he was not the linked to the border source of the outbreak.

“If it wasn't for you getting tested when you did, it could be a much much worse situation.”

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, at last Thursday's press conference

The Devonport Flagstaff
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 Best Special Project/Supplement: 2016, 2020
VOYAGER/CANON MEDIA AWARDS
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 Community Newspaper of the Year: Finalist 2017

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: September 3

ROWLEY FUNERALS

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Simon Watts
 MP for North Shore

Stay safe, North Shore

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

Authorised by Simon Watts MP, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

From page 1

Testing Centre had completed 2482 swabs, a Northern Region Health Coordination Centre spokesperson said on Monday.

Early this week, demand for testing was still heavy at peninsula medical centres and general practices.

Heidi McRae, GP and director at Devonport Medplus, said the first couple of days of lockdown had been "obscene". The practice had done about 170 tests on Wednesday and "200, possibly more" on Thursday.

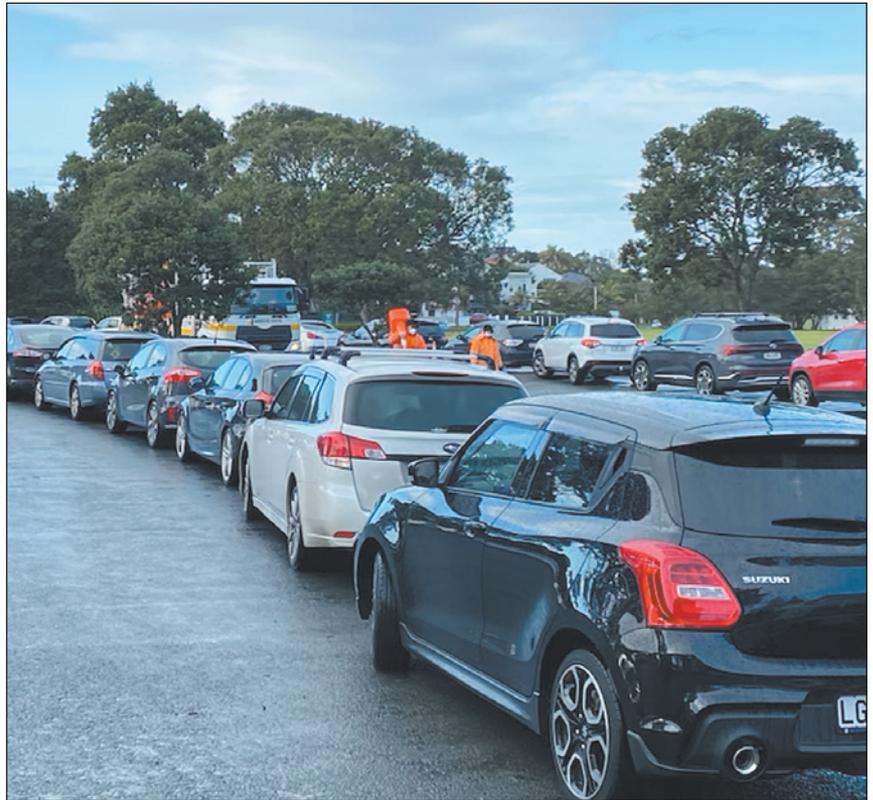
The community had "really responded" to the call to get tested, she said. "They have been absolutely remarkable."

Medplus in Hauraki had closed their reception and waiting room, but their website said they were still taking appointments from registered patients for Covid swabs.

North Shore MP Simon Watts had raised concerns about the long wait times in testing queues. His office was getting a large number of enquiries from symptomatic people who were unable to get tested, and he was concerned the delays would put people off. "We're seeking clarification from the Government on what the plan is here."

But the community had reacted well, he said. "I think the local community here in Devonport has been very patient and have responded very well in terms of doing the right thing and getting tested. The challenge for them is that the system is letting them down a little bit."

Pop-up testing centre swamped



Gridlock... cars backed up at the pop-up testing station at Woodall Park, Narrow Neck, last week

Briefs

Police shut butcher

Police shut down the Village Butcher at Hauraki corner late Tuesday morning. The store had been open for several days in breach of Level 4 regulations. With the Hauraki Countdown closed until September 2 it was providing a popular alternative to travelling to shop, with some locals quick to voice support and wonder who had laid a complaint.

Countdown closes

The Hauraki Countdown supermarket closed last Sunday, until 2 September. Other Countdown stores on the North Shore were locations of interest, with some staff needing to isolate. Hauraki staff would be deployed to other stores to make up the numbers. Countdown at Barrys Pt Rd has reduced its hours to 8am to 6pm.

New World cuts hours

Devonport New World has reduced its opening hours to 8am to 9pm from 22 August, until further notice, to allow staff time to restock shelves. New World Metro Takapuna has cut its hours to 7am to 8pm and is seeking extra staff to cope.

Health service turmoil

Health services on the North Shore were pushed to the brink by the outbreak of the Covid-19 Delta variant.

After a patient with Covid-19 was treated at North Shore Hospital last week:

- Its accident-and-emergency department was forced to close down for two days and was deep cleaned
- Ambulances were redirected to other hospitals around the Auckland region
- 30 staff had direct contact with the affected patient.
- More than 100 other staff were close contacts and stood down until they were tested
- Around 80 patients were discharged

GPs and medical centres were pushed to capacity as patients flooded in for Covid tests.

Patients who had private surgery or procedures booked in the private system were told that bookings had been cancelled.

Hundreds of residents who had vaccinations booked last Thursday lost their slot after the government announced a temporary hold on the roll-out while Covid-19 Level 4 protocols could be put in place. Some were told the next available appointment was more than a month away.

However, the government later opened an additional centre where those who lost their booking could go.

Food bank set up in Devonport

Holy Trinity Vicar Charmaine Braatvedt was conducting a live-stream service last Sunday when she heard the church door rattle.

A Good Samaritan had dropped off bags of food and household supplies for the church food bank.

"It was really kind. As we noticed last (lockdown) time, we live in a kind and generous community."

Nearby Five Loaves cafe also dropped around pre-packed quiches, stews and soups

it had made up with perishable ingredients it could not use during lockdown.

Braatvedt is already making up food parcels, which can be collected contactless from Holy Trinity or she can drop around on her way home from the church.

"We operate on a no-questions policy...if people need to ask that is often hard enough for them." To donate or obtain a food pack contact Braatvedt on 021 857 997.

• **For details of Holy Trinity's services, go to www.holytrinity.co.nz**

Life imitates art



Sign of the times... Guy Body's cartoon (above) and the 'Welcome to Devonport' (below)

Devonport cartoonist Guy Body saw the funny side when three days after he came up with the idea for his Covid-19 cartoon (above) for the Flagstaff, the same wordplay appeared overnight on the 'Welcome to Devonport' sign on Lake Rd.

"I'm relieved to see that it isn't just great minds who think alike," joked Body when he caught up on the news that he had been beaten to print by street graffiti.

The sign's makeover was applied by way of a sheet that had been painted on. This was draped across the 'Devo' of Devonport, replacing it with Delta in a nod to the variant that caused the current lockdown. It appeared at the start of last weekend, but by later Saturday afternoon it was gone.

Body first thought of the idea last Wednesday, the day after lockdown was imposed. We can assure readers the skilled cartoonist, who also supplies work to the *New Zealand Herald*, submitted his finished artwork to the Flagstaff's later that same day.



Devonport Covid timeline: the first days

News of Devonport's community Covid case spread quickly.

What appeared to be a medical-centre form, acknowledging the case, was circulating on social media by mid-afternoon on Tuesday 17 August.

By 5.50 pm, TV3 reporter Michael Morrah, who lives on the peninsula, was broadcasting live from Victoria Rd, reporting that a Devonport community case had been identified. This was confirmed by health authorities on the 6pm news.

Almost immediately, New World

supermarket was full of panic buyers, although this dropped on the following days.

With the focus on Devonport initially, a new pop-up testing station was established at Woodall Park car park, opposite Narrow Neck Beach, the following day.

Cars started arriving hours before the station opened. Just after 9am, more than 140 cars were backed up 600m down Seabreeze Rd. By noon, testing staff were handing out cookies and water to those waiting.

Waiting times of two to four hours for

testing was common during the first week at the station.

However, after the government press conference at 3pm last Friday, the queues went down to virtually nothing by 6pm.

The prime minister and health chief Ashley Bloomfield had reminded the nation that the 'worried well' were clogging up some testing stations and that only those who were close contacts or people with flu-like symptoms should get tested.

Many other Devonport residents went to medical centres and their GPs for testing, which was commonly done in car parks.

Free blooms brighten village gloom



PHOTO BRETT PHIBBS

Good cheer... Devonport Flowers couldn't trade under Level-4 lockdown so gave away their stock of fresh blooms. Shop owner Morag Burden said customers would come back under a loosening to Covid Level-3 rules.

Some Devonport businesses forced to close by the Level-4 lockdown gave away goods and produce that would have gone to waste.

Narrow Neck Beach Cafe left food out for people to take away.

Devonport Flowers put around \$2000 worth of perishable blooms out on the footpath. Owner Morag Burden said she got a lot of smiles, waves and thumbs-up from people who collected the bouquets.

RBNZ make it clear

The Reserve Bank (RBNZ) made it clear this week that had it not been for the lockdown they would have begun raising the Official Cash Rate (OCR) from its current 0.25% steadily towards 2% over the next 12 months. That seemed quite sensible, with all the data suggesting such accommodative monetary policy is no longer necessary. Well what a difference a day can make – it's all on hold now and will be until after the lockdown, which could be a bit longer than expected.

We agree with RBNZ comments that people may be a bit more circumspect with their spending this time around, and we expect that to include property, which will likely slow a bit with any rate rises as well as increased supply and tighter lending conditions – let's hope so!

We are still operating through lockdown via phone. So call any time for any mortgage or other financing required.

Mortgage advice.
Check with
us first.

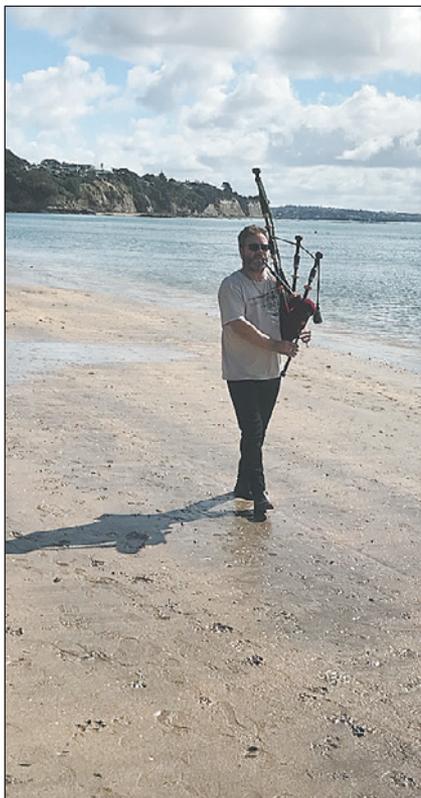
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Lockdown scenes



A bagpiper on Narrow Neck beach was a regular sight during the first days of lockdown (left) while Hauraki Med Plus staff wait for booked drive through (right).

To our valued patients,

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

He is from the North Island, with over 15 years of experience in providing personalised dental care to families in NZ and Australia. We are thrilled that he is now part of our clinical team.

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



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and we hope to make you smile!

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BDS Otago
Dr. Adeel Punjwani
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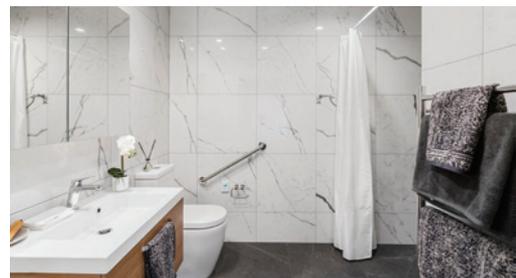
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Resident sees red over orange scooters

A Devonport identity has been active during lockdown mounting a protest against orange scooters parked at Devonport's war memorial on Victoria Rd.

Concrete contractor, rugby club stalwart and former round-the-world yachting, Simon Gundry, has been getting up early and moving the scooters on.

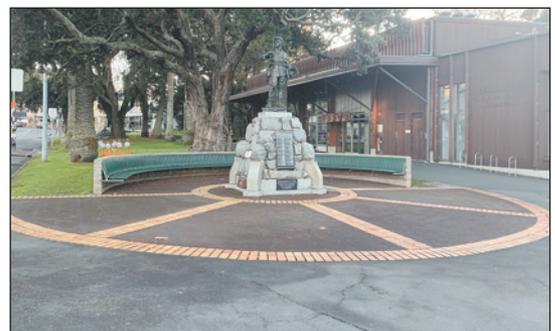
"They are sitting on our sacred ground – it's Devonport's special place."

Gundry had nothing in particular against the scooters but said the business had no connection to Devonport. "They shouldn't be there, it's sacrilege."

"Imagine if a coffee cart was set up there, people would be outraged," he said.



Now you see them ...



Now you don't ...

Code Orange... scooters moved from 'sacred' place...

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peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz



Tim Young
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Devonport 50 Ngataranga Rd

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NEW LISTING

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Bayswater 18 Cassino St

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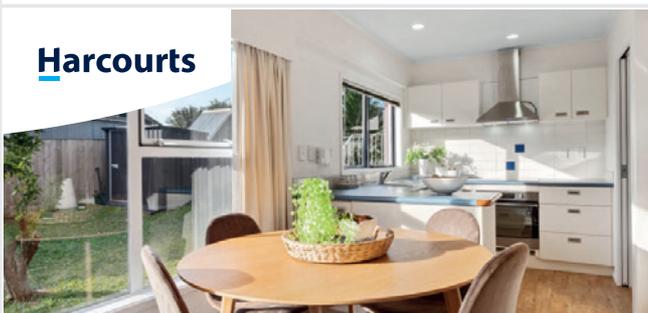


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Our councillors could have saved marina strategy

How long until the local-body elections?
 There is pressure from developers to cover marina reclamations with houses, without consideration for future open-space needs.
 An Auckland Council decision in 2019 to develop an overall marina strategy has now been overturned by a vote to rescind that decision. Voting was 12-9.

Our own two councillors, Messrs Darby and Hills, are not listed amongst those still in favour of developing the marina strategy. If they had voted for retaining the marina strategy the rescinding motion would have failed.
 HmMMM!
Graham Pettersen

Maunga work a fiasco



So here's the update on work to be "completed by July" at the North Head end of Cheltenham Beach (pictured above and below). Obviously it's turning into both a fiasco and an eyesore.
 Public domain? Pffft.
Barry Watkin



Wide open spaces

So it is possible to reduce the cars on Lake Rd, though they were all at Narrow Neck beach having their Covid tests.
Michael Bowman

Clocks on a go-slow

Time stands still...
 At least it does for our heritage clocks on the corner of Victoria and Albert Rds, and at the ferry terminus. Is this an example of another council cutback?
P Raibe
 Editor's Note: Auckland Transport is in charge of town clocks and regularly maintains and repairs them. Although the clocks do seem to be running behind time lately.

Letters to the Editor

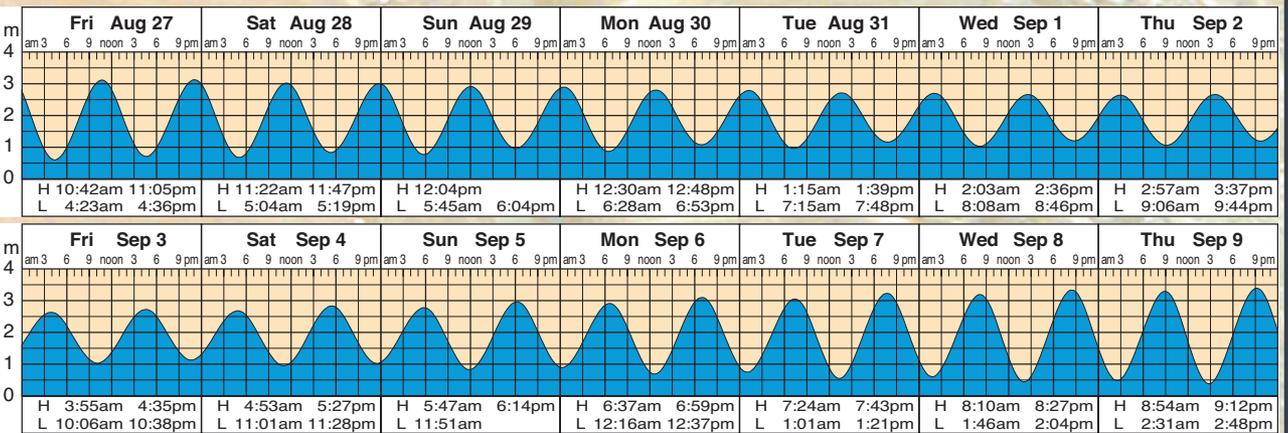
We welcome letters on local issues that are not overly long. Nomes-de-plume or unnamed submissions will not be printed.

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

Harcourts Devonport Tides

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'Fun police' look to ban waterfront freedom camping

A proposed ban on freedom camping along Devonport waterfront has left a local politician worried about being labelled "fun police".

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week supported proposed restrictions on Queens Pde. These would see freedom camping banned in Marine Square, the adjacent car park and in the seaside car parks up to Garden Terrace. It is one of 44 bans and another 19 restricted areas across Auckland under a proposed new by-law.

"I feel like we're being a little bit of a fun police on this," member Toni van Tonder told the board meeting. "And I don't like being the fun police.

"I'm not sure why we've gone hard and fast here. I don't think that's recognising the right of people to travel the country as a freedom camper and enjoy the experience."

However, board member Jan O'Connor said there also had to be consideration for local camping grounds.

"I think that we've got to face up. There's no such thing as a free lunch. I don't believe there should be freedom camping when people are trying to run a business."

Auckland Council principal policy analyst Rebekah Forman told members that the council could only act on freedom camping if problems arose. The default position of the Freedom Camping Act, introduced for the Rugby World Cup in 2011, was to allow the



No camping... the waterfront area affected by the proposed ban

practice, "unless we can provide evidence that we shouldn't be".

Research showed that most freedom campers visiting Auckland behave responsibly, the council report said. "However, the presence of large numbers of campers – even responsible campers – is more likely to cause community concern in Auckland due to pressure on limited public space." Freedom camping spots were also in short supply.

Under the proposal, in unregulated areas vehicles must be certified self-contained; they would be allowed a maximum stay of

two nights on the same road or car park; they must leave by 9am on the day of departure; and campers could not return to the same spot within two weeks.

The board requested several changes, including no camping within 3km of a campground, and opposed the default position of camping being allowed on unregulated roads.

They also suggested a maximum stay of one night, a departure time of 8am and no return to the same place within four weeks, though this was opposed by van Tonder.

If the proposed by-law is approved following public consultation, it is likely to be introduced late next year.



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Matt Senior, Sue Beatson & Trevor Dean

‘Unfinished business’ lures Eliza back to training

Rio pole-vault medallist Eliza McCartney had to watch the Tokyo Olympics on TV, but her sporting ambition still burns brightly. She spoke to Helen Vause.



Time out... A family holiday helped Eliza McCartney recover from the disappointment of not qualifying for the Tokyo Olympic Games

Eliza McCartney sat on the sofa glued to the Olympic Games, along with the rest of the world. And to her surprise, she loved it all, including the pole-vaulting.

“I didn’t think I’d want to watch it. But then I really got into it and I couldn’t stop,” says McCartney, who won bronze in the pole vault at the Rio Olympics in 2016, but missed selection for Tokyo after a long-running battle with a tendon injury.

She fell short in a last-ditch attempt in June to achieve the qualifying mark.

Not making it to Tokyo despite her best efforts was a heavy blow. Two months on, McCartney spoke to the Flagstaff about returning to training and competition after a physical and mental break that’s seen her quietly putting herself back together and hanging out with those she’s closest to.

Facing up to the Olympics on screen, far away from the action, was a good indication that she was recovering from her own personal setback, notwithstanding some wobbly times.

“I loved watching the athletes. I felt like a kid, watching it all, flicking through the

channels, and I felt the pole-vaulters were just fantastic. Weeks earlier, I might have thought it would be too painful to watch, but I’m so glad I could.”

Little more than a month had gone by since she’d had to step away from it all, but McCartney watched with a strong resolve for her own future and the comeback she’ll soon be working towards.

Looking back on the months of battling the odds to get into form and recent experiences of pain as she struggled down the runway, McCartney recognises the value of having taken a break.

“Of course, I knew trying to make it to Tokyo this year was against the odds and I thought I was prepared for whichever way it went. But it turned out I wasn’t really prepared for not being able to do it and I wasn’t going to give up. I was going to go at it, until it was over.

“At some level, I still had a belief at that point that there was a good chance I could make it and qualify to get to Tokyo.

“What happened then hit me harder than I expected. I felt pretty devastated at the time

and for a while there my whole world felt like it had crashed down. Sport has been my whole life and my livelihood. It hit me harder than I had been prepared for.”

But team McCartney swung into action and the family bundled their temporarily flattened member off on a tight-family holiday. She headed south with her father, William, on a road trip and met up with her mother, Donna, and brothers, Hamish and Finn, for an outdoors break in Wanaka.

The very active McCartneys didn’t hunker down. They went hiking, biking and skiing.

“It was just fantastic and I know I’m lucky we were able to do that together,” says McCartney, acknowledging her family as “the best”.

“It was a very long time since we’d all been on holiday together like that. I don’t normally go on holiday because of my schedule. You have to give up a lot to be a serious athlete and my family did too, to fit things around my life. But we are very close and we siblings are very close in age. My brothers are a lot taller than me – they look like the high jumpers in the family,” she laughs.

When she returned from the family trip, McCartney went to Gisborne to spend time with an aunt.

"I have a wrap-around family and a great partner and all round I know I have a pretty privileged life. But I have been working on myself a lot to move on from this and I have been able to listen carefully to the experiences of others who, like me, have missed out on selection at some point in their sporting careers."

Although McCartney is only 24, she's had more than a decade in high-level athletics, and was passionate about sport well before that.

Pretty much as soon as she could walk the very physical youngster showed ability.

"As a toddler, I'm told, I was never still. I must have been a handful, climbing up trees, running and jumping," says McCartney.

At school she had a go at most things – swimming, cross-country running, squash, tennis, water polo, basketball, netball and high jumping. And in some of those sports, notably high jumping and netball, she excelled. As the slender, 1.79 metre athlete puts it, she's "tall, springy and fast".

Things started to literally take off for McCartney in 2011, when she was 14 years old.

She was a high jumper until she discovered the thrill of pole-vaulting. And within six months of taking up the new discipline, she was in Australia winning a national junior title.

"Not long after that trip my coach sat Mum and me down. He said he thought I could be heading for the world championships in 2013. Suddenly being a pole-vaulter had turned into

a pretty massive thing for me."

Everything shifted up a few gears for McCartney and her family. Her training regime took her to the Millennium facility every day after class at Takapuna Grammar School.

"I felt pretty devastated at the time and for a while there my whole world felt like it had crashed down."

"Mum had to take me until the minute I could get my licence and drive myself," McCartney recalls.

And the young athlete, who'd once described herself as a "gangly, uncoordinated kid" kept raising the bar, setting new international records, and flying into the top of her field.

It quickly became apparent that she could make it into the team for the 2016 Olympics coming up in Brazil.

After winning bronze there, with a vault of 4.80 metres, McCartney continued to improve, until she cleared 4.94m in Germany in 2018. What could possibly go wrong for this young star with so much potential?

Looking back on two years of battling injury and uncertainty since she was last on top of

her game, McCartney knows she's learned a lot – and seriously challenged "my poor medical team".

After one of the longest breaks from sport that she's known, she plans to be back into training very soon, with a big year ahead in 2022. She's aiming for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the athletics world championships in the USA. After that, she hopes to be at the Paris Olympics in 2024.

For now, sport is her top priority, with a career coming in after that. But McCartney says she's fully aware there's life and work after sports. She is studying environmental science part-time through Massey University. "I know sport is a transient career and I'm lucky to have found another passion that will become my future," she says.

"I'm totally committed to that, although I have to work slowly at it. In my future I see myself being able to make a difference in the environmental space. That will be my work."

Meanwhile, she considers herself lucky to be surrounded by the conservation and restoration teams working all around the Devonport peninsula on a daily basis, and to be able to join them when she can.

But after a period of gardening, studying, hanging out in her close circle and sharing the cooking with her partner, kite-foiling champion Lukas Walton-Keim, McCartney will soon be getting back to what she's best known for.

"I couldn't leave it like this. I have unfinished business," she grins. "I'm a very optimistic person."

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By Rob Drent

In 2008, then filmmaker Julian McCarthy produced a documentary called *Guitars From The Leafy Suburbs*, which captured the music and characters emerging in Devonport's lively band scene of the time.

Looking back, it was a golden era – you could see the likes of the Checks and the Electronic Confectionaires at the Masonic; other bands like the Coshercot Honeys, and White Birds and Lemons, were playing around the city. Bands played at the Masonic for decades – a heritage building with an active life, now consigned to history with the development of apartments on the site.

With the moves to further intensify Auckland, some are wondering if the leafy suburbs of Devonport are under threat as well.

Speaking of leafy suburbs, the government directive to further intensify Auckland is at odds with a few high-profile council initiatives, such as healthy waters and the creation of a green corridor for birds, running from Rangitoto to the Waitakere Ranges.

Trees are disappearing to create clear-felled sites just as quickly as conservation groups like Restoring Takarunga Hauraki are planting seedlings in reserves and parks. Likewise healthy waters. Auckland's water quality will no doubt regress further with development due to silt from run-off and sewage overflows from already stressed pipes. Council has emission-reduction targets, but the slow local and national response to Auckland's public-transport needs has meant residents are still heavily reliant on cars for getting around the city.

If I was of a mind to set up a political party, the name Infrastructure First has a nice ring to it.

The opening of the unmanned Gull petrol station in Cheltenham must have been one of the most low-key in history. No fanfare, media announcement or launch to the wider community. While some felt its construction in a residential area would bring extra traffic, others battling up Lake Rd to the BP station on an 'orange light', because they were running out of gas, will be relieved to finally have gas south of the golf course.

I would say our relationship with the Devonport Business Association, of which we are a member, has been patchy in recent years. Its increasing move towards social media, ignores the fact we reach 9500 letterboxes every fortnight. I'm hoping for better collaboration in the future. Chance encounters with nature in the city spark an outpouring of comment, joy and photos. Such was the case of the seal that visited Devonport this month, sunning itself near Devonport Yacht Club and elsewhere. At the Flagstaff, we were sent numerous photographs and fielded quite a few phone calls alerting us to the visitor. A similar response is elicited when dolphins or orca are spotted.

It is a good reminder that we are lucky to live surrounded by the sea – and that work to protect and enhance the Hauraki Gulf for both sea life and human use should be supported and recognised by us all.

Devonport's civic gardens are in full bud and about to bloom for spring; summer is on the way, and let's hope Fullers eventually has a review of its late sailings to Devonport. Due to Covid, the 1am weekend departures from the city had been previously dropped and not reinstated. The service appeared relatively well patronised and gave younger people going to nightclubs or bars in the city a public-transport option.

The Devonport BID manager surely has one of the more taxing jobs. The Business Improvement District was established in 2014 to help create an "environment where



Sunlover... a seal relaxing in Devonport recently
Photo: Barbara Christmas

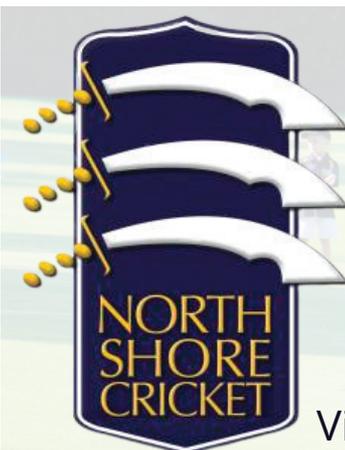
local businesses can flourish at what they do best". It is funded by Auckland Council through rates collected from Devonport's commercial landlords.

Since inception, it has had three managers: Judy Grieve, Toni van Tonder and Shauly van Baaren, who has recently announced her resignation, effective from September.

While not exactly a revolving door, the job hasn't attracted long stayers either. From the outside it appears a stressful role, with businesses pushing and pulling in various directions (some want more events in Devonport, while many just want more customers), the need for the voluminous reporting to council and the fact it is only a part-time role.

The declining number of retail stores in the village in the face of online pressure and a hit to visitor numbers due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions has brought more challenges.

Some strange decisions have been made. Grieve supported our annual *Destination Devonport* publication, while van Tonder and van Baaren and their boards didn't. *Destination Devonport* has won several national awards for its content, layout and design. More than 10 such publications are published by community newspapers around New Zealand. All had local business association support, apart from us.



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Easy-going Tom still volunteering at 100



On the tools... Tom Stead still helps out regularly at the Claystore community workshop in Devonport

“We won’t be having any party on the 28th,” says Tom Stead, in the lead-up to his 100th birthday this month.

But the genial Hauraki resident isn’t letting the Covid-19 lockdown rain on his parade. “We will do something in the future, no doubt,” he says.

For now, he is staying put in the home he shares with his son and will see how pandemic events unfold, looking forward to when his Wellington-based daughter can reactivate plans for a big gathering of family and friends.

Stead had been counting on renewing his driver’s licence just after his birthday, so he could continue his regular trips to the Claystore community workshop in Devonport. The popular long-time volunteer is a regular on Thursdays, and does other days as required.

“I do anything to help, with the woodworking and the welding, and making them a cup of tea if needed,” he says.

Previous jobs included making 40,000 white crosses that are erected each Remembrance Day. For that effort, Stead and fellow volunteer, Tom Murray (who has since died), were recognised with medallions presented by the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, several years ago.

Stead told the Flagstaff that an attitude of not taking offence at things was one way to enjoy life. “I carried problems very easily – was easy going. I loved to laugh and I loved to sing.”

His has been a varied and busy 100 years:

growing up in straightened circumstances in County Antrim in Northern Ireland and leaving school at age 13, he went on to find good but hard work at giant Belfast shipyard Harland & Wolff. Skills gained there qualified him for an advertised Navy job in New Zealand. He and his wife Eileen and their two children immigrated in 1962.

After a six-week voyage via the Panama Canal and Tahiti, the family was put up at the old Mon Desir Hotel in Takapuna for a week. Work conditions in New Zealand were a step up and so was the lifestyle of swimming at Takapuna Beach. Football was another favourite activity.

“The Navy were very good to me because I had a lot of experience,” he recalls. This included working in Belfast on converting fishing trawlers into military vessels and on mine sweepers.

In Devonport, Stead, a civilian employee, worked on HMNZS Otago and Canterbury. He held foreman roles and then spent around 10 years as a planning officer when old motor launches were replaced with patrol craft in the 1980s. He retired around 30 years ago.

The couple shared a love of singing and joined choral groups and the Belmont Baptist Church, through which they developed a long association with visiting Keswick Christian Camp on the shores of Lake Rotorua, where Stead did a lot of volunteer maintenance work.

The church connection also led to him help-

ing out with conversational English classes for Chinese immigrants.

Until around a year ago, the trained tenor was also involved with a choir he helped set up at Holy Trinity Church in Devonport, but he says: “I got too busy.” He was also a member of the 100 Voice Chorale in Takapuna. He has performed Handel’s *Messiah* as a soloist and loves hymns, opera and oratory.

Eileen, to whom he was married for 50 years until she died 13 years ago, introduced him to singing. “We sang duets together.”

After her death, following a long period of ill health, Stead stayed on in the home they had built in the mid-1970s, tending his beloved garden’s roses and dahlias.

“I’d been doing the cooking and cleaning under direction – so it was nothing new to me.”

His son moved in around 18 months ago. Both the Stead children went through Takapuna Primary and Takapuna Grammar School and he proudly recounts their jobs. Son Tom, now retired, was an accountant and Adrienne, a solicitor, works for the Reserve Bank. He has five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Stead is still in good health and says that aside from getting a new knee nearly two decades ago, “the rest is original”.

As to that looming special birthday, he says with a merry twinkle: “I don’t know how everyone is so excited, I just get up in the morning.”

Hospital volunteer keeps community connections alive

Annie Gandar retired a year ago from her university job and reckons she could become “a serial volunteer”.

The Devonport local gives her time to health boards, interviewing patients about the service they experience. It’s a way of keeping social connections and giving something back after working life receded into the rear-view mirror. Her other interest is volunteering for conservation work, and she also spent around 10 years with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which helps dying children’s dreams come true.

“It’s about finding something that you actually enjoy as well as giving back,” she said.

She liked being around people. “Everybody would have their different reason for doing it.

“The thing about volunteering at a hospital is you are seeing people at their worst, and it’s not for everyone.

“Some of the disability is quite extreme so you have to be able to deal with it.”

Gandar’s role includes being a companion volunteer, largely for the stroke ward. She also asks patients questions such as whether sheets were being changed on time, the nurses answered their call button, and if the facilities were clean.

She gets a spectrum of patient perspectives, she said.

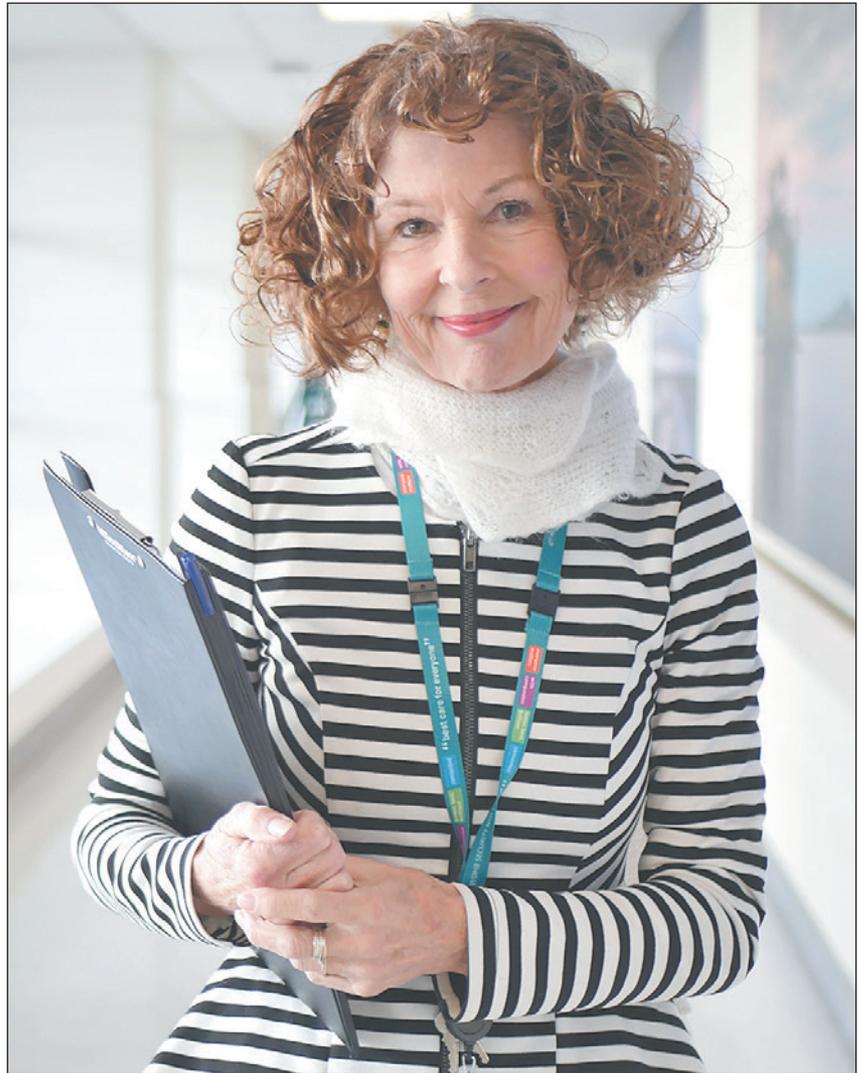
“You might get some people that are going to complain about absolutely everything because they’re not staying in a five-star hotel. Then you get on to the next bed and someone who thinks the sun shines out of everything to do with the hospital.

“Hospitals for some reason have always interested me. Maybe I should’ve been a doctor in another life.”

The mother of four – her children are in Munich, Brisbane, Melbourne and Auckland – has lived in Devonport for more than 30 years. She’s been involved in several business roles and also taught in Europe in the past.

“I’m very close to my children. I’m a bit of a recluse but most people wouldn’t think I was.”

Gandar points out volunteering is done



Helping out... Volunteer Annie Gandar says hospitals have always interested her

in one’s own time and “life’s too short” if you don’t enjoy it. “It’s a really good way of staying connected to people, meeting new people, and just being connected to the community you live in.”

Waitemata DHB director of patient experience David Price said the organisation

had 199 volunteers, on top of the more than 8000 staff.

“Volunteering can range from as-needed or as-available, to a weekly ongoing commitment; it’s entirely up to the individual.

“They have a significant positive and lasting impact.”

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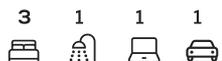
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Briefs

Bus-stop indecency

Members of the public intervened when a 16-year-old Hauraki student, waiting for a bus, was subjected to an ordeal. Police say a 51-year-old man was to appear the North Shore District Court on charges relating to common assault, performing an indecent act and resisting police. The girl's father posted online, thanking those who intervened, saying the man had exposed himself and urinated in front of his daughter.

Squash duo make national schools side

Two Belmont Park Racquets Club squash players have made the New Zealand secondary schools team, announced after a recent national tournament in Tauranga. Justine Pausch and Aishah Lofty were selected in the junior-girls division.

Board approves \$1.3m to connect cycleways

The long-discussed Francis St to Esmonde Rd walkway and cycle link has been thrown a funding kickstart by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The board's allocation of just over \$1.3 million will allow work to begin in earnest on providing the final missing link in the existing 'Greenway' route up the peninsula through Bayswater. This will provide cyclists with an alternative path, away from busy Lake Rd, to travel to Takapuna and beyond.

Ultimately, the peninsula route will connect to the Northern Pathway at Akoranga, running parallel to the motorway both south towards the Harbour Bridge, and north, with branches to other North Shore suburban cycleways. It will also link to the Patuone Reserve walkway, which is in the mangrove area on the northern side of Esmonde Rd. Work on upgrading the reserve's pathway from Auburn Reserve in Takapuna, across to Barry's Pt Rd, is now underway.

A final concept design for the connection from Francis St to Esmonde Rd, including proposed timelines and costs, will be presented at a future board meeting. The cost was estimated at \$5.1 million in 2020.

The decision by the board to commit all bar \$30,000 of its Local Board Transport Capital Fund to the Francis St project – ahead of other contenders, including a Bayswater ferry terminal and Vauxhall Rd safety measures – came after council officials also identified it as a priority. The measure was passed without debate, at a meeting still in session last Tuesday evening, shortly after the government announced the imposition of the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown.

Earlier in the meeting, however, more time was taken in consideration of whether

the cycleway or other projects should benefit from proceeds of the sale of the former Takapuna Library building at 2 The Strand. This is being disposed of by Auckland Council's property arm, Panuku, as an unwanted asset. The money from the sale is required to be spent in the area, with the local board asked to nominate where it should go.

Takapuna Library and the purchase of the Firth property (which the Takapuna to Milford coastal walkway passes through) were ranked ahead of Francis St. But officials advised these projects may not qualify to get the money as plans are not as well advanced; meaning the walking and cycling link, which the board universally agreed was its local transport-funding priority, may end up as the beneficiary.

If there is a shortfall in funding – especially if the old-library proceeds are not available – the project would likely be completed in stages, with more money allocated in future years.

The cycleway will pass through the new Amaia apartment development on the site of the former Harbourside Church on Esmonde Rd. Developer Kingstone Group has indicated a willingness to partner with the council on delivering the section passing through its land. (A selling point of its marketing has been the site's connectivity with passive recreation routes and to public transport.)

Bike Auckland representatives spoke during the meeting's public forum to urge the board to back the project. "We want to close all the missing links," said spokesperson Mary Margaret Slack.

Sixty per cent of Aucklanders surveyed said they would ride a bike if they felt safer, she said. Encouraging transport-mode shift was also vital to help combat climate change.



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A convenience truth: gaps to plug in toilet network

Public-toilet provision is being studied to see if any local areas are leaving people caught short.

“We’re not looking at the quality yet, but if the facilities are there,” Auckland Council parks and places specialist John McKellar told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop.

His early assessment was that the board area was generally well-served with toilets for its population, but gaps existed in several suburbs. Some existing toilets were also ageing and may not provide good mobility access, he reported.

Signage was also an issue, board members said, with some toilets hard to find. This included those at the Devonport Community House. Listings on Google Maps were also suggested.

Dividing the local-board area into northern and southern zones at Esmonde Rd, McKellar found roughly similar numbers of toilets in each. For the southern zone (which mirrors the Devonport Flagstaff circulation area), he identified 14 council-operated toilet facilities, either stand-alone or in council buildings. Those at Maungauika (under the administration of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority) and Devonport Wharf (administered by Auckland Transport) were added to the list.

Three other facilities (at the Devonport Squash Club on Woodall Park, at the Plunket rooms at Wairoa Reserve and the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay) were also available to some users, he said.

Additionally, six beach changing rooms with toilets were located on the peninsula.

The most obvious gap was at Northboro Reserve, for the developing Eversleigh Rd area and those on the ‘Greenway’ route. Another was between central Devonport and Stanley Bay, with Melrose Reserve a candidate for toilets. Like Northboro, it had a playground.

A third area lacking facilities was between Belmont and Mt Victoria, with nothing at



Relief map... Red circles identify gaps in public-toilet provision

Ngataringa Park. Other areas that might be looked at included the stretch between Narrow Neck and Belmont, where there were several sites without toilets, including the Achilles and Montgomery reserves and also along the Greenway at Kawerau or Plymouth reserves. Woodall Park, with its planned pump track, was a further area to consider. Places without toilets did not necessarily need them, said McKellar, but an overview was important to make the best decisions.

Board members asked about joint facilities

with sports clubs, but were told there was little appetite for this from some clubs.

Jan O’Connor said the members needed to know the condition of the facilities. For example, she would “never go in” toilets at Hauraki beach. Member George Wood pointed out that the Belmont shops toilets had been upgraded, but he wondered if people knew.

McKellar expects to provide a comprehensive report by April next year. Costs for upgrades or new facilities could then be established and prioritised.

New valuations coming

Auckland Council property valuations, which will impact rates paid from 1 July next year, will be notified to householders in October. The three-yearly revaluations, delayed by a year due to Covid-19, will reflect the surge in house prices across the city.

Valuations, broken down into capital value, land value and improvement value, are based on the likely selling price if the property had sold on 1 June 2021, taking into account the land size and zoning, property type, consented renovations and recent sales in the area. From this, rates are calculated.

The council has already decided on a total 3.5 per cent rise to fund its operations and services, but each property’s rates change will vary. Those recorded as having a higher than average increase across the region will pay more, but a lower than average rise may mean a reduced rate.

Safe-speeds project won’t be dotty

Devonport will be spared Takapuna’s ‘dotty streets’ project, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans.

“We won’t get the blue paint, the giant dots, down in Devonport,” she said at a board workshop, adding that the controversial painted traffic-calming measures were part of a different road programme than that being appraised to slow speeds in Devonport.

Deans is on a working group to develop an Auckland Transport (AT) Safe Speeds initiative for Devonport town centre. Takapuna is looking at Safe Speeds measures too, but is also part of a Waka Kotahi/New Zealand Transport Agency-driven trial of the Integrated Streets programme, implemented by Auckland Council-controlled organisations Panuku and AT.

This largely government-funded programme has removed car parks on Huron St and Northcroft St, to the dismay of local businesses. Based on a similar scheme introduced in Victoria, Australia, it has already run into problems

in other suburbs in Auckland.

Board member Aidan Bennett was another to distance the local board from the Integrated Streets programme, over which AT is seeking public feedback. So far it has received 300 responses to an online survey. Aspects of the ongoing trial are now being adapted, including plans to remove more car parks.

Bennett said the measures on the two roads were “fairly unpopular”. “I think what we’ve ended up with there is something that won’t necessarily proceed.” He said a peer review using local knowledge was needed.

Deans told a meeting of the Devonport Peninsula Community Trust last week that the Devonport trial was “not about blue spots and painted flowerpots” but focused on signs and speed bumps to slow vehicles and make roads safer. She said the local working group was trying to get speed calming included outside St Leo’s School and on Vauxhall Rd, although AT has already ruled out the latter for now.

New Māori coordinator returns to his Bayswater roots



Grasping the opportunity... Zane Catterall's new role as tikanga and kaupapa Māori coordinator for Restoring Takarunga Hauraki will mean building relationships and sharing values

Zane Catterall has always cared about the whenua – now he gets to do so as a job.

Catterall, of Ngāti Kinohaku and Ngāti-Maniapoto, has accepted the role of tikanga and kaupapa Māori coordinator at Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, having worked originally as a volunteer.

The new post means building relationships with tangata whenua and sharing values.

In the Māori world, nature was not seen as an 'other', separate from people, he said.

"We're all really seen as being a part of the same world, so there's a lot of care and thought and aroha put into the earth.

"Mana whenua and tangata whenua are interested in what we do, but not a lot of people know. If I'm able to make it more accessible to people that otherwise don't know a huge amount about it, then that's what I'm here to do."

Catterall said he was also sharing tikanga Māori practices and informing schools and volunteer groups. "There's a lot of shared knowledge and a lot of quality in that knowledge. If it's not really being shared around, that knowledge is lost."

Catterall grew up in Bayswater and went to the local kōhanga reo. He then attended Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Raki Paewhenua, a Māori immersion school near Windsor Park, and later Takapuna Grammar School.

He said he grew up close to the environment

– bush walking, hiking, swimming – but went on to work in the corporate world for close to a decade. He worked for Vodafone in several roles before he "took a big risk" and became an arborist.

In that job he realised he had a passion for native species.

"It was getting me down a bit. I don't want to be replacing trees with car parks or things like that. I really want to look after the environment that helped to raise me."

Catterall is married with two children – Olive, 6, and Nikau, 4 – and is on the board at Bayswater School.

"Having children really put the world into perspective for me. I really want to be a part of the change, how we move about the world, and how we interact with it."

Catterall said he hoped that other people who found themselves unsatisfied in a job would consider the "multiple opportunities for people to get outdoors, and use your body and use your brain, and feed your soul on the sun and rain and the weather".

"It's just so accessible. It's so worth it and it's such a rewarding thing to be able to give life to something that's going to live, hopefully, a lot longer than I am."



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School kids go green at adopted reserve



Mulch to be grateful for... Bayswater School students (from left) Evie Marks, Petra Wehrle and Ricki Ruan, all 10, got their green thumbs out at Philomel Reserve

Bayswater School pupils went mulching at their 'adopted' Philomel Reserve last week. The school has undertaken to care for the nearby reserve as part of Auckland Council's Adopt a Park programme.

Its acting deputy principal, Diane Cluett, said it was great for the students to help create a better environment "learning through play, through hands-on experiences".

Ricki Ruan (10) enjoyed discovering more about native trees "and what they do", as the students moved a pile of mulch and spread it around the young plants.

Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH) coordinator Lance Cablk said he was fortunate to see the involvement of kids over the years, with their growing interest and enthusiasm – and increasing competence.

"They have real ownership in being here."

RTH tikanga and kaupapa Māori coordinator Zane Catterall said it meant a lot to see the next generation caring for the environment. "It's actually really awesome to see the kids take charge," he said.

"This is the kind of stuff that hopefully will really shape our future."

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SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

AUG 27, 2021

Year 10s Explore Rangitoto Island's Lava Caves and Summit

On Wednesday 11 August, three of the year 10 classes went to Rangitoto Island for a multi-department school trip involving Health, Science and English learning objectives.

We met at the ferry terminal at 8:50am, before departing on a chartered ferry to Rangitoto Island. Once we arrived at the island we split up into our class groups and headed up the volcano. Half of the groups went to the lava caves first, the others to the summit.

We went to the summit first and had lunch at the top. We had a look at the massive crater and looked out towards Devonport peninsula, the city, and the outer islands that are usually hidden behind Rangitoto. At the top, there was a small quail running around that looked just as happy to be at the summit as we were.

Once we had finished the crater walk, we went down towards the lava caves. We all met up by the buried shed. Once we got to the caves, there were three that you could go all the way through and one blocked cave that you could only slightly go through. One of the caves was really long and tall, which took a bit longer to get through.

After we had gone through all the caves, we



headed back down to the wharf for a group photo. We then got on the ferry and went home.

We all had a great experience out amongst nature exploring Auckland's iconic landscape feature and just taking in what a beautiful city it is we live in. We wish the the other

six classes going all the best on their field-trip days too.....take notes and photos for your follow-up classwork and leave only foot-prints!

**REPORT BY ANNA STEVENSON AND
PHOTO BY TAMIR SAEED MOHAMED
(YEAR 10 STUDENTS)**

Hailey Chen

International Baccalaureate student Hailey Chen was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Global Essay Competition run by the John Locke Institute at Oxford. The competition "invites students to explore a wide range of challenging and interesting questions beyond the confines of the school curriculum".



The institute encourages young people to "cultivate the characteristics that turn good students into great writers: independent thought, depth of knowledge, clear reasoning, critical analysis and persuasive style."

Hailey chose the question "Should 'innocent until proven guilty' apply not only to courts of law, but also to public censure?". Hailey says that in the essay, shortlisted in the 'Law

category, she "discussed the definition and limitations of the term "public" and argued that law and morality are the same in the sense that they are both a tool to limit people's actions.

"It is crucial to treat 'innocent until proven guilty' as the same standard in both courts of law and public

censure, as the presumption of innocence has a dual implication on both the legal system and protection of human rights. In order for it to be a regulating tool, public censure itself needs to be regulated first in the light of the potential harm it may cause."

We congratulate Hailey on her efforts and achievements and are excited to support and watch her succeed on her academic journey.

Advanced Open Debating Success!

Congratulations to Phoebe Rennie, Angel Jacobson, Karin Kozuka and Anika Van Zyl for their success in the Auckland Schools Advanced Open Debating Competition.

The girls earned their place in the Octofinal by winning three very tough and close debates against teams from Rosmini, St Mary's and Carmel Colleges.

Up against Mt Roskill Grammar School – who were at the top in the competition – TGS1 demonstrated their impressive skills and teamwork by making it very difficult for the adjudicator to determine the winning team. It went Mt Roskill Grammar's way, but the girls thoroughly took them to task and deserve to be congratulated for their part in a great debate.



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Changes coming for Devonport, but not six-storey buildings – Darby

Devonport Heritage is wrong in suggesting Devonport is at risk of buildings six storeys and higher, says Auckland Council Planning Committee chair Chris Darby.

“This is just a total fallacy... Definitely not Devonport,” he said last week.

Darby, one of two North Shore councillors, was briefing the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board on council’s progress on the government’s directive to implement its pro-intensification National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS UD).

After outlining the timelines around a raft of “non-optional” planning changes that must be in place by mid-2022, he took a swipe at speculation about the local impacts of this.

A recent advertisement by Devonport Heritage in the Flagstaff, which stated that “the council is being directed to find areas where six-storey housing can be built as of right, and this includes Devonport,” was incorrect, he said. Devonport Heritage had not contacted him about the matter, he added.

Darby said only those areas within an 800-metre walkable catchment of bus and train stops on the Rapid Transit Network (which includes the Northern Busway stations) and 1000-metre zones from the edges of the city’s 10 designated metropolitan centres (which includes Takapuna) would be impacted by this part of the directive.

But he acknowledged some changes were

in store for every area. “It does affect all parts of the community you represent, all, bar none.”

Devonport was subject to review as were other parts of the city covered by special-character overlay provisions in the current Auckland Unitary Plan, he said.

Kingsland, with its rapid transport stop, was the only special-character overlay suburb where six-storey buildings might result.

The council was reviewing the overlays because it needed up-to-date information rather than relying on often decades-old assessments. It is expected the reviews, covering around 20,000 houses across Auckland, will be done by the end of the year and may see some areas removed from overlay coverage.

This would mean some planning restrictions may be removed from parts of Devonport, which is covered by an extensive overlay.

Board member Trish Deans, a former Devonport Heritage chair (who said she had stepped back from the group due to her role as an elected representative), challenged Darby on what this review might mean for Fleet St, which lacks the strong heritage aspects of some other streets.

Darby said a number of aspects were at play



**Councillor
Chris Darby**

in determining the overlay status that applied in Devonport, including volcanic view shafts and its status as a height-sensitive area.

Member Jan O’Connor tackled Darby about the extent of intensification already consented under the Unitary Plan. She pointed to parts of Hauraki where multi-unit dwellings were sprouting up on sections in the mixed-suburban zone. These left children in a 16-unit development with only a shared driveway to play on.

Darby said in tandem with the council being forced to implement the government’s intensification directions, he was looking at the design outcomes of greater density. However, he admitted these had been eroded under the current Unitary Plan.

Aucklanders expected “greater height and density with quality building and quality realm around it”, he said.

Darby said it was an enormous task to deliver the government’s directive. Board chairs had been invited to initial meetings, with workshops to follow from October to February, he said. The process would get into the “nitty gritty” next year, with public engagement in the mix as well.

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Devonport rallies around to support the family of murder victim Michael Coffin.
- Seminars for aspiring musicians are being held at the Depot by Rikki Morris and James Davy.
- Devonport Wharf tenants are called low-class, by property managers who say they want high-quality lessees in the building.
- John Duder, Mike Cohen, Roger Brittenden and John McHugh are elected unopposed to the Devonport Community Board.
- Bobbie Wallace exhibits at the Depot Artspace.
- The Devonport Business Association plans

to turn off lights under verandahs to save money on power.

- Dozens of Devonport children will appear in Stephen Fell’s new Christian television series in 2002.
- ‘Fashion in the field’ is the theme for a Stanley Bay School fundraiser to be held at the Devonport Primary School hall.
- A unit in Wicklow Rd is on the market for \$195,000, while a two-storey house in Stanley Bay is priced at \$595,000.
- The Devonport Senior Citizens Association in Wynyard St is under threat of closure, due to pokie machines luring members

away and other old-age organisations gaining in popularity.

- An application will be made to Auckland Regional Council to rebuild Torpedo Bay Wharf.
- Screws are being tightened on noisy film crews.
- North Shore United Football Club earns a place in the national league after winning the Northern Premier League ahead of Takapuna and Melville.
- Dean and Henry Betts, a father and son team who produced a seafood cookbook, are the Flagstaff interview subjects.



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Hauraki Primary among first schools given go-slow zone

A go-slow zone will be introduced in streets surrounding Hauraki School in Jutland Rd.

Auckland Transport (AT) has identified the school as one that would benefit from the swift implementation of a drop to 30km/h speed limits in its feeder streets, as a step in its 10-year programme to roll out more such safety measures to schools across the city.

AT officials told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week that Hauraki and Sunnynook Primary School had been chosen for the measure in the local-board area.

This was because the speed travelled by drivers in the immediate vicinity of these schools was already generally lower than the 50km/h standard urban limit.

The schools were being informed and public consultation would follow next month, with AT's intention to frame a by-law to include the lower limit among a number of likely speed-limit reductions by mid-2022.

AT officials said other schools would later be identified for go-slow zones in its Safe Speeds programme, but in many cases these would require more work on traffic-calming measures.

Hauraki qualified early because further speed calming was not anticipated.

Board members were happy with the nominated schools being included, but mentioned other areas they would like to be looked at.



Safe speeds...protection for children near Hauraki Primary

Member Toni van Tonder said she had recently been approached by the principal of Belmont Primary about safety around its vicinity. Westwell Rd, used by the school community – and by others drivers to avoid

Lake Rd – was a particular concern, she said.

Devonport Primary is another school with safety concerns, along congested Kerr Rd, but AT is considering that area as part of its ongoing town-centre safety consultation.

Safe-speeds group rules out Victoria Rd cycle path

A shared pathway for cyclists between the Victoria Theatre and Devonport Wharf has been ruled out by a working group looking at lowering speeds in the village.

The costly idea was dropped because it was considered cutting speed limits from 50km/h to 30km/h would anyway improve safety, Auckland Transport (AT) officials told Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members.

The working group, which includes biking, community and local-government representatives, is looking at the area covered by AT's planned slow-speed zone and the type of traffic-calming measures used in it.

In an update to a board workshop on the Safe Speeds initiative, members were also told that Vauxhall Rd was outside its town-centre scope. However, in response to continued community calls for speed-calming measures, AT has now agreed to look at Vauxhall as a "separate project" – without giving any detail on its likely time frame.

AT did not list the specific streets the Devonport go-slow zone would cover, saying

this was out of respect to the working group and because it was still a work in progress. But Kerr St, where Devonport Primary School is located, is in the frame for inclusion, as is the junction of Calliope Rd with Victoria Rd.

Board members welcomed AT's approach of forming working groups to brainstorm ideas, rather than drawing up detailed recommendations, which could prove hard to change before stakeholders were consulted. But board chair Ruth Jackson wanted to know why the whole board had not been invited to participate in working groups, which so far involve member Trish Deans in Devonport and members Aidan Bennett and George Wood in a parallel project in Takapuna.

She urged AT to provide further information on the streets included, so all members had the chance to offer timely feedback to AT.

AT Safe Speeds programme manager Nathan Cammock said the detail would be reported back soon. Once refined, the plans would then be put out for community consultation early next year, with any speed-limit

changes likely in mid-2022.

Member Toni van Tonder said the Bay-swagger-Belmont area was another built-up location needing attention.

Wood said busy streets in the north of the local board's area, especially East Coast Rd and Forrest Hill Rd, were being short-changed, having suffered more fatalities than Devonport.

AT says in the last five years, the proportion of crash deaths and serious injuries among people not in vehicles – including pedestrians, cyclists and motor-cyclists – was higher for the board area than the average across greater Auckland. The local figure was 70 per cent, compared with 60 per cent citywide.

"It's a trend as cities intensify," said Cammock. He noted that Devonport and Takapuna both had high levels of pedestrian activity.

AT traffic engineer Betty Diao said a 20 per cent drop in speed made for much lower pedestrian risks. The workshop also heard that speed was a factor in just over half of fatalities.

Crackdown takes aim at Calliope corner rule-breakers

Motorist and cyclists breaking the road rules where Calliope Rd joins Victoria Rd are being targeted in a crackdown.

Community constable Glenda Peri said stop signs were being ignored and there was a flow-on effect of dangerous driving at the nearby St Leo's School pedestrian crossing.

"They don't stop properly, they just roll on through."

Peri revealed the step-up in enforcement at a meeting of the Devonport Peninsula Trust.

Dates for the crackdown were not given. Peri said this was because people communi-

cated about patrols online, leading to avoidance measures. Side roads such as High St and Hastings Pde were used as back routes.

Written warnings had been given out recently, she said, but this would be stepped up to issuing tickets. Fines of \$150 could result for those not obeying a stop sign.



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- Jacki Fortune, Devonport Self-isolation Support Group: 021 515 532 or jackifortune@yahoo.com
- William Neale, Connect Church Devonport: 021 105 3842
- Nicola Teague Grundy, Devonport Methodist Church: 021 274 1957 or minister@devonport-methodist.org.nz

KAI 4 COMMUNITIES & KAITAHI BAYSWATER

A message from the Kai 4 Communities team: The Kaitahi Dinner at Bayswater School has had to be cancelled for August. But Kai 4 Communities is still looking at how we can serve our community safely. Please reach out at hello@kai4communities.org if you know of groups that we can support in the Auckland region. Kia kaha whānau.

TE TĀRUKE-Ā-TĀWHIRI: AUCKLAND'S CLIMATE PLAN

Emission reductions and preparing for change
Wednesday 8 September, 7pm
Waitemata Golf Club

Join North Shore Councillor and Chair of the Environment & Climate Committee Richard Hills to learn about Auckland Council's plan for reducing emissions and preparing our communities for change.

Follow the event on Facebook for updates on event venue or email Lance Cablk: lance@rth.org.nz or https://www.facebook.com/events/6266019873438715

Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

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

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

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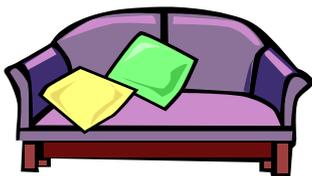
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<p>Accommodation. Self contained, private apartment, fully furnished and equipped in shared family home. Suit a single person or a couple. Handy to Devonport amenities/buses/ferry services etc. Contact Colin at balgray@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>Join the Devonport 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.</p>	<p>Need someone to feed your cat and other pets at your home while you're away? I love animals and would love to help you! I am 10 years old and live in Devonport. I charge \$5 per visit. Each visit I feed your pet and can play with them for about 10-15 minutes each visit if they are comfortable with me. I also send you pics of them so you don't miss them too much! I always visit with one of my parents. Devonport only please! Text/call: 021-270-7677.</p>	<p>Cars Wanted. Cars Vans 4x4s Utes Trucks 24/7 Cash paid 0800203060</p> <p>Devonport commercial property wanted to buy. Owner occupier seeks premises. No agents, strictest confidence. 021433535.</p>
<p>Devonport Village. Anne St. Short stay accommodation - 1 to 3 months. available from September 10th 2-bedroom, fully-furnished including linen Quiet and private two-storey apartment with own entrance. Suit business couple or small family. \$650 per week includes water & internet. Contact Craig: 027 299 2172.</p>	<p>SERVICES OFFERED</p> <p>Complete home maintenance by perfectionist boat builder/builders. Including rotten windows, doors, weather boards. Exterior/interior. Call Duane 027 488 5478.</p>	 <p>Support your paper for the price of a cup of coffee.</p> <p>Go to devonportflagstaff.co.nz and click on 'Become a supporter' at the top of the page.</p>	

Letter

Additional council signage a pollutant

I'm curious. Why are council contractors travelling around the community, during a Level-4 lockdown, adding to the plethora of existing signage with a pollutant of temporary, plastic, bright-pink signage.

I am referring specifically to Narrow Neck Beach, where I saw a minimum of six signs erected within around 100 metres at the most. Four of those signs were on the frontage of the changing sheds. Two were attached to existing council signage on the beach. Since I am not travelling widely in Level 4, I don't know if this additional signage is pervasive in other parts of the peninsula.

As I understood it, most activities cease at Level 4. So, what don't we know about already that requires these workers to be polluting our environment further, and risking their own health?

And what exactly is the point of the beach signage? To tell us we can't use the beach? Well, that's not a decision for Auckland Council to make. I don't think it's going to deter the walkers abiding by the rules and trying to get their requisite (and permitted) short burst of fresh air.

I also find the position of one of the signs sadly ironic. The council's 'Stay safe' monicker is tucked underneath its 'Check before you swim' notice. The reason we have to 'check' before swimming is because of the council's decades of underinvestment in water, and its continued failure to invest in infrastructure upgrades. So, it's a bit rich for them to tell us to 'Stay safe'.

I'd like to know from council how and when these signs are dismantled, and how the signage and the fittings (screws, tape etc.) are disposed of.

Mary Taylor



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School students' art show offers first step into gallery



A box of birds... Libby Ramsay and Edward Zhang, both 13, are nervous but happy about the students' exhibition

School students from across the Devonport peninsula have their art on display in a public exhibition, *From the Peninsula 2021*, at the Lake House Arts Centre in Takapuna, until 11 September.

The show includes work from students ranging from years one to 13, from nine different schools.

This is the third edition of the event, which runs every two years, and includes a range of art mediums.

Organiser Linda Sew-Hoy oversees art for the Devonport-Takapuna kahui ako (community of learning), first ran the event six years ago.

It gave students their first taste of displaying their work, she said.

"I just think it's really really important that art goes beyond the classroom."

It could speak to a wide variety of people, she said. "Because that's what art is meant to do."

And it was not all about judging the artworks. "It's actually about these kids having the chance to have their work in an art gallery."

This time around, there are 400 artworks being shown in the venue cafe, the main

gallery and all the corridors, she said, grouped in themes.

"The work represents the children in the community; it represents the diversity of the school.

"Everyone will find something really cool."

It was not a competition, she said, rather a celebration of art.

In past exhibitions, even primary-school work was sold. "A piece has spoken to them

so strongly that they bought it."

Students Libby Ramsay and Edward Zhang, both 13, were nervous to discover their work would be going on display, but happy about it at the same time.

"I have no idea why this got [in]," Edward said of his bird painting.

Libby, who had painted an owl – realising only afterwards it is her dad's favourite animal – added she liked all the aspects of art.



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Portrait unveiled of VC recipient Sanders



Portrait of a hero... Artist Craig Primrose and William Sanders' great-niece Glennys Adams at the unveiling of Primrose's painting of Sanders

A portrait of William Sanders now takes pride of place at the Ryman retirement village named in honour of the local First World War hero.

Village residents, including Glennys Adams, a great-niece of Victoria Cross recipient Sanders, gathered to see the striking work, which shows him in naval uniform. Its painter, artist Craig Primrose, unveiled the work. "My grandmother's sister would have been so proud," said Adams.

Ryman Healthcare's chief operating officer Cheyne Chalmers said the idea of naming Ryman villages for people rather than after their geographic locations came from company co-founder Kevin Hickman, who also suggested commissioning Primrose to paint portraits for each of the Ryman villages.

Village residents at the unveiling heard more of Sanders' story from Royal New Zealand Navy historian and World War I specialist Michael Wynd, including how he grew up in Takapuna, went to sea as a cabin boy, aged 16, and rose through the ranks to become the nation's most highly decorated naval hero. Described as a man of iron nerves, Sanders received the honour for his "conspicuous gallantry, consummate coolness and skill in command" while in action in 1917. He was killed, aged 34, just four months later, when his ship was attacked by a German submarine. Sanders was also awarded a posthumous Distinguished Service Order for his bravery in another attack that had taken place in June 1917.

"William Sanders remains the most highly decorated naval officer in our history," Wynd said.

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WHAT'S ON @ Devonport Library

Tēnā Koutou katoa

At the time of writing, we are in the early part of our Covid-19 lockdown and we are looking down the empty calendar as our events and activities are cancelled.

Rest assured, as soon as we can return to the library, we will endeavour to get our usual weekly programmes back up and running. Our Facebook page is the place to look for all our up-to-date information, as well as the odd photo or two to enjoy. We do love to read your positive comments.

There are a couple of events happening further down the track that can be put in the diary, nevertheless. At the end of this month, on Sunday 29 August at 10.30am, the NZ Tai Chi and Martial Arts Society are giving a talk and an interactive demonstration on the benefits of Tai Chi. This will be a positive and calming outlet following the events of the last few days. Come and give it a try.

The Fun Palace is returning on Saturday 2 October. This is a collaboration between the Navy Museum and Devonport Library and features many local artisans and craftspeople sharing their skills and knowledge, with hands-on demonstrations for the whole family to enjoy. And, if you have an interest, skill or craft you would like to share then there is still a chance for you to participate. Pop in to talk with Jeanne or email her at Jeanne.clifton@aucklandlibraries.govt.nz and she can give you more details.

In remembering Eric Carle, after his passing recently, we have displayed in the children's area, a selection of his classics are available for you to check out, and also some lesser-known ones for you to discover. Have you got a favourite?

In the meantime, check out our Auckland Libraries website for the e-resources you can tap into with your library card, all for free. There are podcasts and free movies to stream as well as our suite of e-resources including magazines and newspapers. Hopefully these can fill the 'library hole' until we can see each other again.

Nga mihi,
Ka kite from the Devonport Library Team

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THE VIC VICTORIA THEATRE TRUST

VIC LIVE EVENTS BOOMING

Live performances at the Vic have increased this year bringing in new and bigger audiences to the theatre.

Last month's performances by the Auckland Jazz Orchestra and the Rocky Horror Picture Show were sold out and, along with other private hires, meant that almost a quarter of tickets sold for the month were for live or community events.

While cinema is the theatre's core activity, live performance and community use ensures the Vic is a diverse, multi-use venue that provides a wide range of events for its audience.



Other Vic live shows coming up when lockdown is over are:

The **Roarin' 20s Art Deco Gala Concert** - a glittering tribute to the classic music of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Andrew Lloyd Webber, with international artists and locals coming together for a great night of sizzling dance and show tunes.

And **Laugh Club Comedy Show** featuring Auckland comedian Paul Ego and others, that promises to be a great night of top-quality comedy.



Our conversion of the downstairs bar to an extra multi-use space has been a great success. The Cinema Lounge can switch easily between film screenings, a party space and intimate live events and is proving a hit with audiences.

Philipp's made on-site gelato is now so popular it outsells alcohol.

So as soon as lockdown is over, make it down to the Vic where there is entertainment for everyone!

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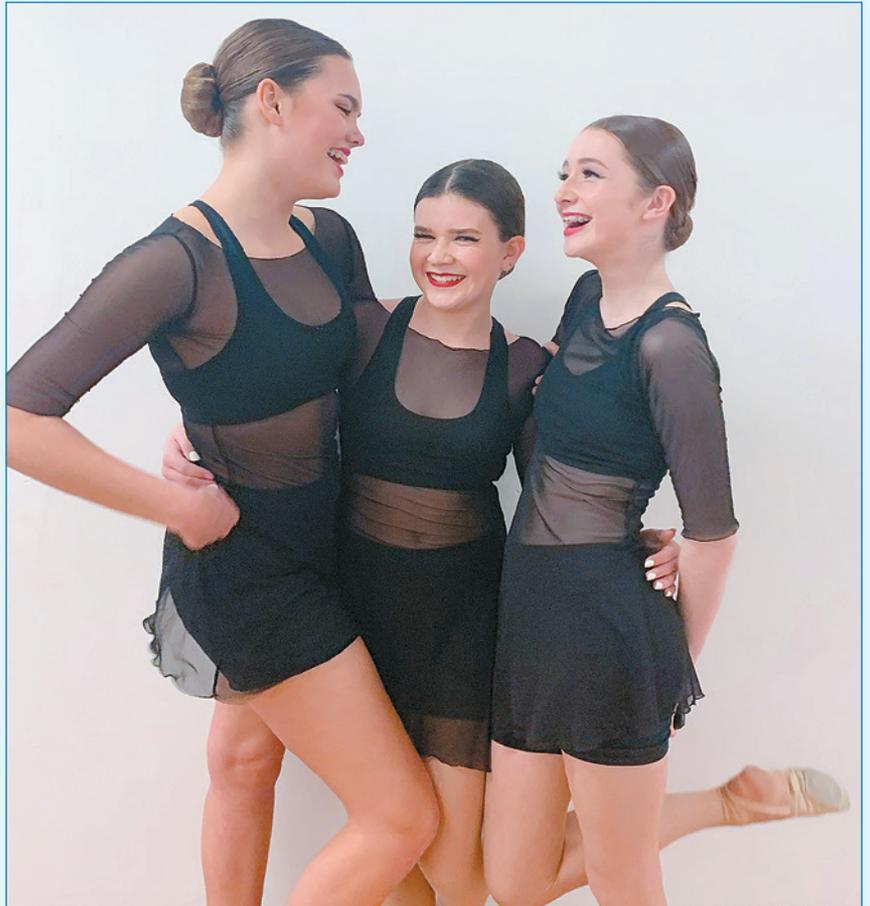
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DIANA MURRAY 021 911 522

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Birthday belles... Poised backstage (from left) are Maya Willis, Mollie Granger and Holly Bellett from the Devonport School of Dance, who were among students who participated in celebrations of the Bruce Mason Centre's 25th anniversary this month



DEVONPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES VACANCY FOR A PARENT TRUSTEE

The Devonport Primary School Board of Trustees has a position on the board for a parent trustee.

The board has resolved to fill the vacancy by selection, taking into account the skills and composition of the current board. If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to: **Board of Trustees Devonport Primary School. office@devonport.school.nz**



ST MATTHEW'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday 12 Sep at 2.30pm

PROGRAMME

Debussy Prélude à "l'après-midi d'un faune"

Saint-Saëns Navanaise Opus83

Wieniawski Violin Concerto No 2 Op 22 in D minor

Debussy Nocturnes (revised version)



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Bruce Mason's day of dance and celebration



White on...
L'Ecole de Danse senior students from Devonport pause for a picture at the recent dance showcase at the Bruce Mason Centre.

From left are: Jasmine Pausch, Sophie Bridge, Jaimee Nimmo, Phoebe Rennie, Kate Kawahara and Sofie McGibbon

Devonport dancers enjoyed performing on the big stage at the Bruce Mason Centre to celebrate the 25th birthday of the North Shore's leading arts venue.

Senior students from L'Ecole de Danse and the Devonport School of Dance were included in a show held as part of the celebrations this month.

A circus and other free public events also helped mark the community-driven founding of the centre, which is now managed by council body Auckland Live.

The arts centre is named after Takapuna-born playwright Bruce Mason, who would have been 100 this year. Several of Mason's plays are being staged this year, in his honour.

VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



NOW SHOWING

Annette (M) 141min	NEW
Hitler versus Picasso and the Others (E) 93min	NEW
Juniper (M) 95min	NEW
The Man in the Hat (PG) 96min	NEW
The Night House (M) 107min	NEW
Pig (M) 91min	NEW
Respect (M) 150min	NEW
Free Guy (M) 115min	NEW
Stillwater (M) 139min	NEW
Paw Patrol: The Movie (G) 86min	Previews 28-29 AUG
Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (TBC) 140min	Previews 1 SEP

COMING SOON

Paw Patrol: The Movie (G) 86min	2 SEP
Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (TBC) 140min	2 SEP
Summer of Soul (PG) 118min	2 SEP
Roarin' 20's Art Deco Gala Concert (Live Show)	25 SEP

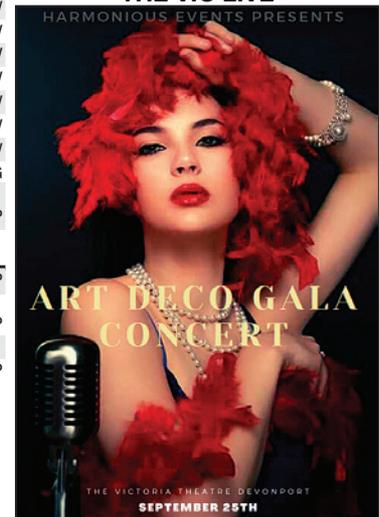
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