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March 25, 2022

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

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Storm brewing over heritage threat

A "Hands off Devonport Heritage" campaign has been launched in response to Auckland Council proposals to open up Cheltenham Beach and other areas south of the golf course for high-density intensification.

Devonport Heritage chair Margot McRae

said the organisation had been flooded with comments and questions after the story broke in the Devonport Flagstaff (11 March).

"People are shocked and appalled that Cheltenham is included in this."

The concern has spread much wider than

Devonport residents: to Takapuna and the wider North Shore, among people who visited Cheltenham and wanted its low-rise ambience retained, McRae said.

Devonport Heritage has established an **To page 5**

Waka day full of fun for the whanau



Paddle power... The Posimani family were among locals trying out waka on a course run at Narrow Neck Beach: (from left) Lyricakai-Layke, aged 16, Kova-Koast, 6, Huni-Laquez, 11, J'ziah-Rivah, 14, Avia-Keyz, 4 and Nikora-Kruze, 13. Story, page 4.



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Double Dutch cricketing dates knocked for six by Covid

Covid put paid to a historic day for the local McKenzie family, after brothers Jock and Angus were selected to play for the New Zealand cricket XI against the Netherlands.

Twenty-year-old Jock tested positive for the virus on the Sunday before three warm-up games against the visitors in Napier, and had to withdraw.

Otago rep Angus (23) was in the starting line-up for the first game last Thursday.

"It's pretty annoying timing," Jock said.

The pair might have been at the crease batting together. "It would have been good fun," Jock added.

In theory, Jock could have been available for the final match on Monday, but didn't play, partly due to rugby commitments.

He joined the Blues squad this week as cover following an injury to five-eighth Harry Plummer.

With the likes of Beauden Barrett and Stephen Perofeta in the mix, Jock says it's unlikely he will get on the field in 2022.

But training and mixing with the Super Rugby elite is a great experience for the former Westlake Boys High School first-five, who now plays for Grammar-TEC Rugby Club.

Bayswater death

Police say they will not name the man who died at Bayswater Marina on March 4 out of respect to his family.

A daytime incident in which a boat was being damaged prompted an armed offender's callout to the scene.

Low-key Anzac Day for Devonport

Public commemorations of Anzac Day have been scaled back due to concerns about crowds while Covid rates remain high.

Invitation-only official gatherings of 20 people will be held at the war memorials in Devonport and Takapuna on the morning of 25 April. Brief wreath-laying services will be followed by another larger, invitation-only service, with speeches inside the Devonport Returned Services Association (RSA) building.

The wider public will be able to participate in the commemorations through a live stream from the RSA.

Individuals and representatives of schools and community groups can visit the war memorials to lay their own flowers and place poppies as they choose during the day.

At a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting last week, chair Ruth Jackson said it was unfortunate that the services, which typically draw large crowds, could not proceed as usual. The best options under the circumstances had been worked out in agreement with the RSA.

In Devonport, a piper and a bugler would play and a prayer would be read at the war memorial. In Takapuna, the flag would be

raised and the Ode read.

Invited guests would include North Shore MP Simon Watts, local-board members and RSA and military representatives.

Board member Jan O'Connor said she did not like the idea of a separated ceremony, adding, "People will just turn up at the usual time."

Jackson advised board members that times would not be advertised, nor necessarily follow the same patterns as in past years.

"This is better than not doing anything at all," she said.

The scaled-back Anzac Day meant the \$40,000 budget set aside would not be fully spent with traffic management and other support no longer needed. It was estimated the cost for the 2022 services would be less than \$14,000.

The board backed a recommendation from Jackson that \$10,000 of the unspent money goes to the RSA for its welfare effort, as the organisation has not been able to run its Poppy Day fundraising appeal.

• The timing and how to access live-streaming from the Devonport RSA will be advised closer to Anzac Day.

Covid at William Sanders Retirement Village

Two residents of the special-care unit at Ryman's William Sanders Retirement Village in Devonport have tested positive for Covid-19.

Both had mild symptoms and were recovering in isolation, a Ryman spokesperson said.

"Our team is keeping all other residents in the special care unit comfortable and entertained in the same way they have throughout other Covid-19 lockdowns over the past two years."

All staff in the special-care unit were fully vaccinated and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). The vaccination level

among village residents was extremely high.

"While this is news no one wants to hear, we have been preparing for this situation for many months and have put full infection-control plans in place," the spokesperson said. Staff were working closely with public-health officers.

Two residents in the village's independent-living units had tested positive previously. They finished isolation on Tuesday last week.

The village centre, which includes lounges, a pool and gym, remains open for the use of independent and serviced-apartment residents.

**The Devonport
Flagstaff**
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Devonport Publishing Ltd First Floor, 9 Wynyard St
Telephone: 09 445 0060
Email: sales@devonportflagstaff.co.nz
news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz
Website: www.devonportflagstaff.co.nz

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Service held in support of war-torn Ukraine



Thoughts and prayers... From left: Brian Hodgson, Laia Aldridge, vicar Charmaine Braatvedt and Andie Levell light candles for Ukraine at a service at Holy Trinity Church

Around 70 people attended a candlelit service at Holy Trinity Church last week to express their compassion and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Two residents approached vicar Charmaine Braatvedt with the idea of the service, which included music from composers with Ukrainian connections, and prayers for Ukraine and the Russian people.

The words of Psalm 137 – popularised in the Boney M hit *Rivers of Babylon* – were

adapted to refer to the war in Ukraine.

After attendees came forward to light a candle at the front of the church, they could collect a card that listed charities to donate to and a sunflower seed – representing the national flower of Ukraine. “If in six months’ time Devonport could be filled with sunflowers, wouldn’t that be amazing?” Braatvedt said.

She also fielded an offer from a local to live on their boat for two years so a Ukrain-

ian refugee family could instead live in their Devonport house.

After the service, Braatvedt said people tended to gravitate to the church in a crisis – vigils were also held after the Pike River mine disaster and Christchurch mosque shootings.

“And often the initiative comes from the wider community,” she said.

“I just hope that we’re able to bring refugees out. I know that this community would open its hearts and its homes to people.”

Uncertainty Driving Sentiment

A big driver of the property market is sentiment and that has been gradually changing from positive to not so positive over the last few months and weeks (in particular). The main factors here are the uncertainty created by the Ukraine invasion and the impact it will have on global growth and prices, along with the impact of higher inflation and interest rates on the cost of living.

When there is so much economic uncertainty, people tend to defer investment and spending decisions just in case things turn sour and they get caught out paying too much for something. We have seen this in the property and mortgage markets where sellers’ expectations are not being met, so properties are often being passed in or taken off the market. It takes a bit of time to get that equilibrium back.

Interest rates are still edging up with most banks raising one-year fixed to 3.99% and two years to 4.55%. We expect further rate hikes in NZ but probably not as dramatic as pre-war predictions. The US Fed and the Bank of England have both [at last] started their rate-hikes cycles, which will likely flow onto here as well.

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Waka lot of fun for the whole family

When their koro told them about a waka course, a Narrow Neck family eagerly headed down the road to the beach to try it out.

Beaudienne Posimani watched from the rock wall as his six children jumped aboard to try out paddling.

“I get boat sick,” he admitted. His father-in-law, Ngahiwi Walker, who manages the Navy Marae, had alerted the family to the event this month, run as part of Auckland Council’s Out and About programme.

“We’ve never ever done anything like this,” said Posimani.

“It touches home, especially with koro, he loves all this sort of stuff.”

Fitness trainer Posimani said it was good that Walker’s grandchildren could get a taste of activities he had grown up with.

The day also supported the learning of his two older boys, who are in the whanau class at Takapuna Grammar School. “It’s good for the community.”

Another local family, the McClintocks, thought their active girls would enjoy the day when they learned of it on the council’s website.

Connagh, aged 11, who attends Belmont Intermediate School, declared: “It was really fun”.

Participants warmed up with some Māori games on the beach, before being taught basic paddling movements and then heading out on the water in two small waka.

The day was run by South Auckland-based group Mātātoa. One of its founders, Frank Haimona, said it was the first time the group had run activities on the North Shore, and he hoped there would be more to come.



Sister act... Connagh McClintock (left), aged 11, and sister Micah, 10, with the sticks used for games as part of a waka course for the community held at Narrow Neck Beach

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Devonport's special character 'should be left alone'

A Cheltenham homeowner of 38 years is worried beachfront rezoning under consideration by Auckland Council could create a "Surfers Paradise" feel along the foreshore with bulky three-storey town houses.

John O'Toole, a semi-retired lawyer, who lives in a 1906 villa on Cheltenham Rd scheduled as a historic place, said he couldn't understand Auckland Council's logic of singling out a slab of Cheltenham properties that did not make the grade for heritage protection.

Council has said it did not want pepperpotting where one house was protected, when the neighbouring one wasn't.

But this was what would effectively happen, as "one house after the other is picked off on Cheltenham Beach," O'Toole said.

Homes on the beachfront were worth "\$10 million plus...serious money", some of which O'Toole predicted would be spent on court action if council decided in early April to go ahead with taking the Special Character Area protections off the Cheltenham properties.

"People who owned properties on Cheltenham Beach won't want town houses built to within one metre of their boundary."

Council's seeming reliance on documents and Google Street View searches rather than individual property inspections to attain a home's heritage status, was not thorough enough, said O'Toole.

"People move here for the ambience and a single house per site that we have predominantly in Devonport...tourists and visitors come because of the beauty of Cheltenham. It's a straight section of beach with no road running alongside it, like Mission Bay."

With less than 3000 homes located south of Waitemata Golf Course, O'Toole sees no reason why Devonport's Special Character status can't be retained by Auckland Council.

"In reality, it's a very small percentage of



Retain the status quo... says long-time Cheltenham resident John O'Toole

Auckland housing stock."

O'Toole submitted on the government's housing-enabling bill and wrote a letter to local MP Simon Watts questioning National's support of it, but only received an automatically generated acknowledgment.

Auckland Council's Unitary Plan allowed

for 900,000 extra houses and the government's rushed legislation would create no affordable houses in Devonport for first-home buyers, O'Toole said.

Little consideration had been given to the impact on roading, sewerage and other infrastructure in the new law, he said.

Opposition to heritage changes mounts as petition swells

From page 1

online petition, carried out letter drops and is hoping to hold an outdoor public meeting in April, possibly in Windsor Reserve.

The petition had reached more than 1000 signatures in the first week.

Confidential plans emerged from an Auckland Council workshop following a survey of Special Character Areas citywide.

Council is also being forced to look at how Auckland fits into the government's housing-supply enabling act passed in December 2021. This allows for three, three-storey town houses per site unless it is subject to mitigating factors such as volcanic view shafts and special character zonings.

The Devonport areas considered for intensification include Cheltenham beachfront,

parts of Stanley Point, some waterfront areas near the ferry terminal, part of Wairoa Rd and the area around Ariho Tce.

McRae said new members had been enrolling with Devonport Heritage and people had started making donations.

She was "extremely surprised" at the areas under council consideration for intensification.

"I was expecting Ariho Tce and parts of Wairoa Rd (newer Devonport housing) but I never imagined Cheltenham would be included."

The council surveys had been conducted by using documents and Street Views on Google Maps.

"Did they drive around and take a look?" McRae asked.

"It is appalling... just madness."

Councillor and planning committee head Chris Darby had said pepperpotting – isolating individual houses for intensification – would not be considered.

But McRae said what was put before the workshop amounted to pepperpotting on a larger scale: "parts of streets" being reclassified alongside streets and sites that had protection.

The difficulty with the three, three-storey town house zoning was it had no design guidelines or restrictions, she said.

"A steel and glass structure could be built alongside a character home."

Devonport Heritage hoped council would see sense and listen to the community.

Any rezoning or dropping of protections "is still at the council's discretion."

"They can choose not to do it," McRae said.

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PROTECTING THE WILLIAM SANDERS COMMUNITY

They may be staying apart in separate offices while Omicron cases continue to be reported in the community, but William Sanders Sales Advisors Dell Smythe and Scott Bremner are united in their efforts to welcome people in - while keeping COVID-19 out of the Ngataranga Road village!

“We just want to do our bit to keep our team, our residents and our visitors safe during this time,” says Scott.

Along with the whole village team, Scott and Dell both complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) before work to make sure they are COVID-free and wear a face mask and face shield when moving around the village.

“It’s made us even more aware of the benefits of being in a serviced apartment here in the village,” says Dell.

“The residents don’t have to worry about doing the grocery shopping because all their meals are provided.”

Adds Scott: “It’s definitely a place where our residents can feel they’re being kept safe.



Online apartment tours prove a hit, say Dell and Scott

“The recent vaccination booster clinic we held in the village certainly added to that feeling.”

Residents can still enjoy various activities being held in the village centre, such as the in-house Triple A exercise, movie sessions, card games, meeting in the café or booking a hair or beauty treatment.

There are plenty of online alternatives too.

“A recent online presentation was by Dr Tom Mulholland, called ‘Building a Healthier Mind’ which prompted a lot of positive feedback,” says Scott

Due to COVID, there are now more online alternatives for a wide range of things, not just entertainment for residents.

Prospective residents who want to get a sense of life in the village or an idea of what the various apartments look like can now enjoy virtual walkthroughs and online information presentations.

For Scott and Dell, this exercise has prompted a quick but necessary lesson in presenting to camera!

Says Scott: “Dell is a natural and I’m like a wooden horse! But we have been sending the

links to all those that have enquired and I really think that's helped answer people's questions.

"It's amazing how many people in the community aren't aware of what we have got here.

"The perception of the 1970s resthome couldn't be further from the reality - this is a fabulous village, especially for our serviced apartment residents, it's like living in a hotel where you get your towels every day, your bed made, and your meals prepared like in a resort!"

Independent residents, some who moved into the village before the serviced apartments were completed, have also enjoyed a personalised tour to satisfy their curiosity of how they are laid out.

Says Dell: "Some of our residents might be thinking of their needs a few years down the track, and what life might look like if you're living in a serviced apartment, and the idea of no more cooking or vacuuming is very appealing!"

Meanwhile, the pair are taking plenty of enquiries for the new Stage 4 Patuone apartment block which is currently selling off the plans and is due for completion by the end of the year.

Says Scott: "It has fabulous views across the city so that's going really well. It's a great opportunity for people to secure an apartment while they still have a choice of aspect and a range of pricing."



OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

If you would like more information contact Scott and Dell who are available for appointments in the village or alternatively they can send information via email or discuss via a Zoom call.

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By Rob Drent

For more than 100 years, day trippers have been coming from all corners of Auckland to enjoy the delights of Cheltenham Beach.

Early photographs of Devonport feature hundreds of people on the beach, spending a day out after a ferry trip over from Auckland city centre. Early last century, a tramline ran from the ferry wharf along the waterfront to Cheltenham.

Today, it is arguably one of the most picturesque city beaches in the world. Golden sands, pohutukawa, and a backdrop of leafy streets and many heritage houses. The low-key ambience of the place is a major drawcard.

It's not surprising then that council documents highlighting Cheltenham as an area that could be opened up to developments of three three-storey town houses per site has created a furore in Devonport and across the city.

Many have visited to enjoy the suburb's laid-back charms. Pre-Covid, a busload of overseas tourists would arrive every day for lunch at McHugh's and a stroll along the beach.

Some label opposition to this intensification as 'nimbyism', but does this really apply considering Cheltenham's overall recreational appeal?

Imagine the delightful Balmain Reserve – a popular picnic spot – surrounded by townhouse blocks. Three-storey town houses on the beachfront would shade much of the beach from the afternoon sun.

Council would also be prudent to look

at the unintended consequences of the re-zoning. Houses in Cheltenham streets have been selling for more than \$4 million – on the beachfront the sky is the limit. If the zoning is changed and town house resource consent applications begin to be lodged, I'd imagine neighbours with highly valuable properties would be prepared to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to review and fight applications through the courts. What a huge waste of council time and resources when the status quo is just fine.

Moreover, shouldn't residents – many who have lived in their homes for decades – be able to do so without the threat of a major development next door?

I have no qualms about publishing "confidential" maps that were tabled at a council workshop. My view is that once information is put out in a forum attended by elected representatives, it should be made public. Council ideas or proposals should be available to be scrutinised at the earliest possible time so good initiatives can be progressed and poor ideas quickly quashed before they are given any air in the corridors of city hall. Proposals for intensification in and around Cheltenham should be killed off now.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshops are public. Auckland Council's should be as well.

Heritage advocates often use the term 'death by a thousand cuts' as the greatest threat to a neighbourhood's character. A building removal here, a stretching of planning rules there, a 'demolition by renovation' or new infill can, sometimes over decades, degrade the heritage stock of an area.

To a degree, this has happened at Cheltenham. A number of renovations have occurred where all that was left of the original building was the floorboards. Some large sites

have had new builds and, of course, other houses were removed in the 1970s to be replaced by multi-unit dwellings. But many heritage homes remain, and most of the later additions, set amid well-established trees and gardens, are in keeping with the area's character. If Auckland Council's proposed changes go through, the overall fabric of Devonport is weakened again – which is why Devonport Heritage has for a decade been calling for everywhere south of the golf course to be rezoned as a historic area.

This latest attack on Devonport's heritage won't be the last. The most concerning aspect this time is that it was instigated as the result of legislation supported by an unholy alliance of Labour and National.

Developers must be rubbing their hands together. Auckland Council – its planners and councillors – needs to be more resolute in protecting our heritage.

But locals might also have some hard questions for North Shore MP Simon Watts about why his party backed the law change that has left them so vulnerable to an ill-considered swipe of a planner's mouse.

The laws of unintended consequences and the natural human desire for a bargain are sure to play out in the government decision to temporarily cut public transport fares by half.

Due to the vagaries of Auckland's transport system, the Devonport to Auckland run (and ferries to Waiheke) won't get the discount, but Bayswater ferries will (as they are partially subsidised by Auckland Transport).

I can't see Bayswater Ave turning into Lake Rd, with thousands of cars flocking to the Bayswater Marina car park, but I'd expect more than a trickle of traffic from around the Shore as commuters try to cash in on the windfall.

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Hospo hangs tough after testing times



At your service... Robbie Walmsley (left) has returned to work with boss Ian Shields at Vic Road Kitchen, after the frustrations of isolation. Below: Signal Hill's Daiana Mose says its large deck has been a blessing.



After a stint at home isolating as a Covid close contact, Vic Road Kitchen manager Robbie Walmsley told his boss Ian Shields he was in the clear and would be back to his job the next evening.

Relieved co-owner and chef Shields made meat, fresh-produce and alcohol orders to reopen a business shut since late February due to the number of staff unable to work.

"To open and close this restaurant costs about \$5000," Shields explains.

And just when he was ready to go, he heard again from Walmsley: despite feeling fine throughout his isolation, an extra, precautionary Covid test ahead of coming back to work had returned a positive result.

This extended the restaurant's shutdown to three weeks.

"I was disappointed – everyone was ready," says Walmsley.

Vic Road finally reopened on Tuesday last week, and though it was a quiet start, the two men were just happy to be back serving customers.

Shields also runs Fish restaurant at the ferry wharf and a Victoria Rd wine bar, which opened late last year. Across the three businesses he had six staff isolating at the end of last week, four of them confirmed to have Covid. He estimates he has lost around \$60,000.

Although he has been able to keep Fish and the wine bar open, this was for a reduced

number of days.

Juggling rosters and curtailing hours just to stay open during the Omicron outbreak has become commonplace in the hospitality business. Vic Road Kitchen has been particularly badly impacted, but other local operators the Flagstaff spoke to are also having issues. All report takings are well down and the looming winter months are a worry. But they are hanging in there, thankful for locals who may not be eating out as often as they once did, but who are still ordering in.

At Signal Hill, duty manager Daiana Mose said the venue's large outdoor deck had been a blessing. Customers were keen to sit in the fresh air.

The year-old venue had not been as hard hit with staffing stand-downs as some places, she said. But it was not uncommon to have a couple of people out at any one time. "We're all doing double shifts covering."

Bookings were unpredictable, with some days starting off slow, but ending up quite busy. "You can't call it."

In September last year, during the long lockdown, Signal Hill started offering multi-course dinners to take away. These had proved popular again with the Omicron outbreak. "People ring in and cancel a booking because someone is sick and they order a takeaway at the same time," Mose said. Families overseas were also ordering for parents in Devonport and paying online.

Vondel owner Sam Bratton said staff absences had been a stretch and finding replacements difficult, but so far there had only been one night early in the week – after a stressful under-staffed weekend – that the bar and eatery did not open. “Mentally I was just exhausted.”

The uncertainty of outlook, long and short term, was an ongoing worry. “Any day now the chef or I could test positive, which would result in having to close for a week.”

He was glad to see initiatives such as the Devonport Business Association having musicians play in the village to attract people back to the main street.

“When you see people all sitting out on the grass, and Manuka is open and Vic Rd is back – they’ve had a tough time – it definitely lifts spirits.”

This Saturday, from 10am to 2pm, Bratton is doing his own bit for village life, staging a makers’ market. The idea came from his partner, a baker, and will feature sweet and savoury food treats for sale along with creative goods such as ceramics, art and vintage clothing.

Portofino, in its first-floor premises above Victoria Rd, is missing the steady footfall of visitors on its stairs. Co-owner Toni Percakovski says now is the toughest time of his six years in the business. “It’s not easy, there’s bad days,” he says. “People are scared and they stay home.”

The restaurant has been forced to drop some weekend lunches due to staff isolating. Profits were down 30 to 40 per cent, even after some rent relief. With wary regulars and no tourists, it would be a long winter for Devonport, he said.

Shields hopes customer confidence in eating out will grow and traffic-light regulations and mask requirements ease, and that, in time, visitors will return. Fortunately, around 80 per cent of his Vic Road trade is locals. “We’re very lucky with that.”

Although winter will be tough, he is trying to stay positive. That’s helped by pregnant wife Harriet, who used to work front of house, being due to give birth any day.



Doing his bit... Vondel owner Sam Bratton has welcomed initiatives to attract people back to the main street of Devonport and is himself staging a makers’ market

Devonport

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harcourts.co.nz/DP23883



Diana Murray
M 021 911 522



Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322

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Harcourts



Kids pumped up by new bike track

Devonport children have laid claim to the new Woodall Park pump track – even while work to complete it continues.

After a community working bee earlier this month, the bike track is really taking shape. Humps have been formed along its winding circuit and a wooden ramp and platform erected.

One of the volunteers at the morning working-bee session, Darcy Utting, was back in the afternoon to show off the progress to his family.

“Once they got the big diggers in, it made a real difference,” he told the Flagstaff. Sons Flynn, 9, and Oscar, 5, who both attend Vauxhall School, were impressed by the progress as well.

Gill and Gundry, who supplied the diggers, was among the businesses and volunteers to get behind the Devonport Rotary project.

Rotary spokesman Bob McGuigan said Simon Gundry had brought in five bobcats, loaned by his firm and BGE landscapers, for the 12 March working bee.

The machines shaped the tracks, with help from local BMX enthusiast Warren Gill.

Around 20 local helpers helped tidy the site and Rotary put on a sausage sizzle.

During the week, Rotary volunteers worked with retired Devonport builder Peter Clayton to finish the timber jump start. All timber and steel hardware for the raised platform was donated by Devonport Timber.

When security fencing provided by Haydn & Rollett construction was taken down, young riders were free to try out the new facility.

“The local bikers seem to be enjoying the track,” McGuigan said.

It was hoped extra work, including more topsoiling and planting around the area, would be finished by the end of April.

Community efforts to date drew unanimous praise at the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board’s March meeting. Toni van Tonder, who regularly passes the track, said: “The kids are using it every day. It’s such a joy.”



Thumbs up for the new track... Oscar Utting (5), right, and Flynn Utting (9) were among young riders trying out the newly formed Woodall Park pump track

Devonport

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3 2 2 1 2 2 2

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Bayswater 3 Rosyth Avenue

4 🚗 2 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗

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Auction Thursday 14th April from 1.00pm Online (unless sold prior)
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Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263



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Auction Thursday 7th April from 1.00pm Online (unless sold prior)
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Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263



Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797



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Devonport 47A Regent Street

3 🚗 3 🚗 1 🚗 4 🚗

Stunning and unique home designed and built to Feng Shui principals. Glass galore, the green of the private garden viewed through them at every turn.

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Price By Negotiation
Enquiries Over \$1,995,000
View As advertised or by appointment harcourts.co.nz/DP23869



Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797



Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263



Harcourts

Devonport 16 Albert Road

5 🚗 4 🚗 3 🚗 2 🚗

A home full of surprises and perfectly positioned for beaches and the village! There is a separate legal annex that has open plan living and a cottage.

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Tender Thursday 24th March at 4.00pm (unless sold prior)
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Maria Stevens
M 021 979 084



Marissa Muirhead
M 021 337 222



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Auction Thursday 24th March from 1.00pm Online (unless sold prior)
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Ben Potter
M 027 953 0210



Gary Potter
M 021 953 021



Harcourts

Bayswater 116A Bayswater Avenue

3 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗 2 🚗

Step inside this idyllic 're-sited' 1920's style weatherboard bungalow. It has been meticulously maintained with authentic and traditional features.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation
View As advertised or by appointment harcourts.co.nz/DP23865



Olivia de Tracy-Gould
M 021 917 038



Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322



Harcourts

Devonport 19 Roslyn Terrace

3 1 2 1

This classical Edwardian Villa has been fully restored, with meticulous attention to detail and high-quality fittings throughout.



Diana Murray
M 021 911 522



Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322

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Price By Negotiation
View As advertised or by appointment
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Harcourts

Belmont 1/4 Moana Avenue

2 1 1 1

This beautifully presented single level townhouse is the perfect home for downsizers and young families alike. Set in a peaceful location.



Maria Stevens
M 021 979 084



Marissa Muirhead
M 021 337 222

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

For Sale \$1,225,000
View As advertised or by appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23827



Harcourts

Devonport 9/66 Victoria Road

2 2 1 1

35 years ownership by same family, harbour views. Cathedral ceiling open plan living, 3 year old kitchen, private entry, magical central location.



Peter Restall
M 021 808 808

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

For Sale \$1,395,000
View As advertised or by appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23833



Harcourts

Bayswater 3/95 Bayswater Avenue

2 1 1 1

Upstairs unit with views all around, super sunny, single garage and your OWN exclusive use large garden. An XL size unit in Bayswater seriously for sale!



Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263



Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation
Enquiries Over \$850,000
View As advertised or by appointment
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Harcourts

Devonport 6/40 Lake Road

2 1 1 2

This two bed home has a separate studio room ideally suited to a 'work from home' office. The elevated lounge has a wonderful view of the Sky Tower.



Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation
View Sat/Sun 2.00 - 2.30pm
harcourts.co.nz/DP23849



Harcourts

Albany 28 Bass Road

4 3 2 2

Families searching for a sophisticated lifestyle in a modern home of style and function will adore the expansive, lifestyle-led layout.



Matthew Swan
M 021 129 3315

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation
Enquiries Over \$1,490,000
View As advertised or by appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23825

Harcourts



Belmont 59A Northboro Road

4 2 2 3

This special property is a perfect escape from busy lives and all the pressures of the outside world, making you feel calm and very happy to be home!

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Price By Negotiation

Enquiries Over \$2,050,000

View As advertised or by appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23788



Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797



Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263

Harcourts



Bayswater 154 Bayswater Avenue

4 2 2 2

Plenty of room for the whole family with a great floor plan and large 650m2 garden. Excellent indoor outdoor flow and so close to everything!

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Price By Negotiation

Enquiries Over \$1,995,000

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Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263



Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797

Harcourts



Belmont 4/203 Lake Road

2 1 1 1

An open plan lounge, dining and kitchen area has large bi-fold doors that leads straight out to the deck and garden, facing north ensures sun.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation

View As advertised or by appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23739



Marissa Muirhead
M 021 337 222



Maria Stevens
M 021 979 084

Harcourts



Belmont 27A Alamein Avenue

4 2 2 2

An attractive contemporary style freehold home with a private outlook, easy care gardens and great outdoor entertaining areas. Great location.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation

View Saturday 1.00 - 1.30pm
harcourts.co.nz/DP23885



Ian Cunliffe
M 027 227 9322

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1 1 1

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Price By Negotiation

View By appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23859



Karen McMahon
M 027 572 9659

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Waiheke Island 44/4 Bay Road

1 1 1 1

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Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Price By Negotiation

View By appointment
harcourts.co.nz/DP23725



Karen McMahon
M 027 572 9659

Thank you, Linda and Lynn

As one of the many groups which serve and enhance this wonderful community of ours, on behalf of the Devonport Library Associates, we would like to warmly welcome Amy Saunders to her new role as general manager at the Depot.

Community is something which is built over many years of working cooperatively. The Library Associates will always hold a warm place in our hearts for the generous and selfless contribution of Lynn Lawton and

Linda Blincko.

For a year, while our new library was being built, Lynn and Linda sheltered us, allowing us to hold our monthly events at the Depot. It was an association which strengthened the already cordial links between the two groups.

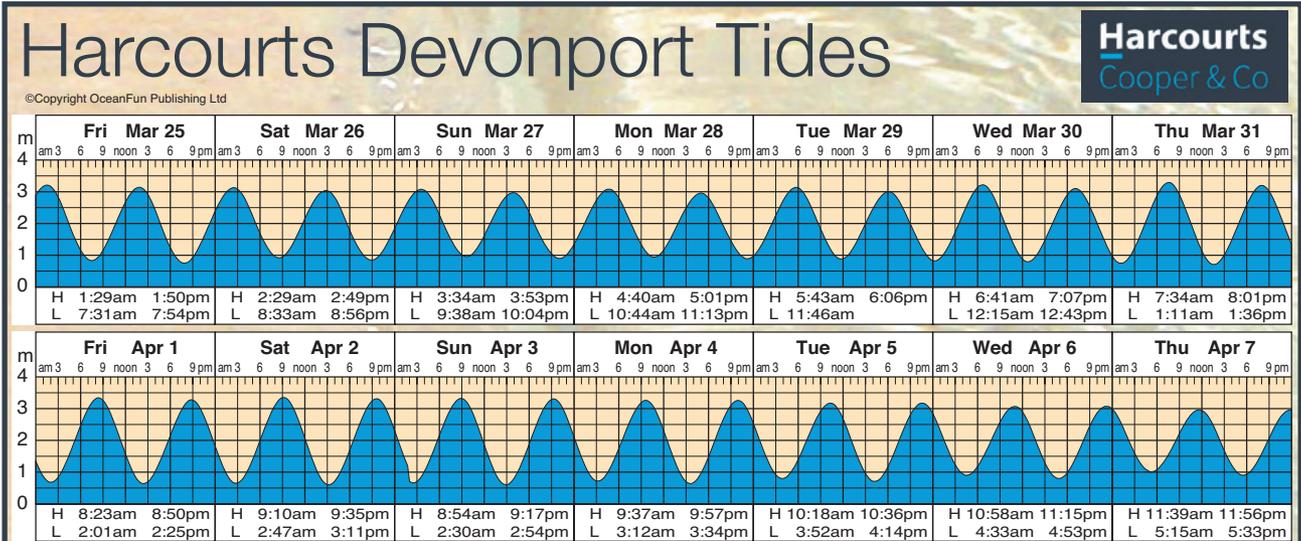
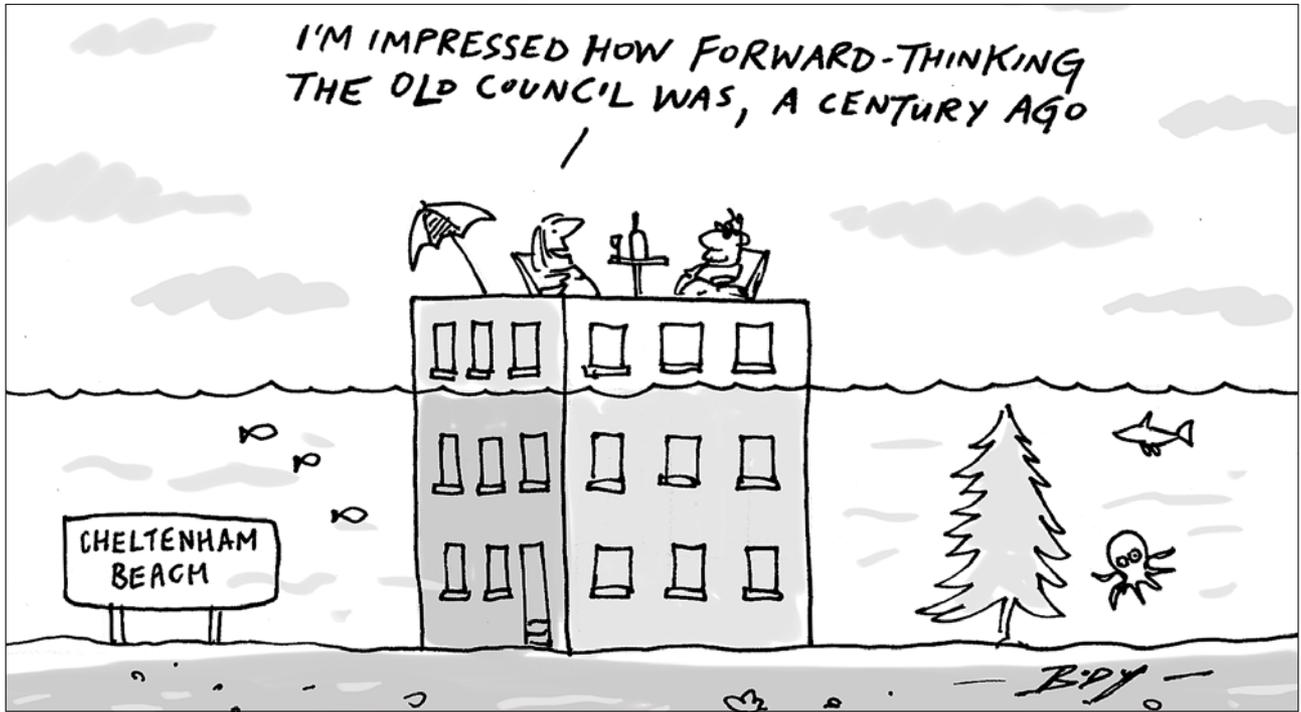
From time to time, the Depot has filmed events at the library, which are archived for posterity on the Depot's Cultural Icons website, which is frequently accessed by research

students. Linda began this, convinced that the creative contribution of a lifetime ought not to be forgotten. Especially in tough times we need a warm and vibrant community.

Thank you, Linda and Lynn for your wonderful legacy, and good on you, Amy, for continuing that proud and valued local tradition.

Jan Mason and Paul Beachman, co-chairs, Devonport Library Associates

Bodyline by Guy Body





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Leader of Covid-coverage pack gets back on the trail

Belmont resident Michael Morrah has won plaudits for his reporting during the pandemic.

He tells Helen Vause about holding authority to account – and going through Covid himself.

Michael Morrah won Reporter of the Year at the New Zealand Television (NZTV) Awards in both 2020 and 2021, but the acclaimed investigative journalist has lately been lying low at home in Belmont.

Early this month, he abruptly dropped out of the bright lights for a stretch at home, fighting the virus that’s been capturing his professional attention for two long years.

Morrah is now recovered from Covid and heading back to his desk in the Newshub office, when he has coffee with the Flagstaff.

Morrah also won an NZTV award for best news coverage, with a series of critical stories relating to the management of the Covid pandemic as it was unfolding in New Zealand.

In them, he asked important questions about the use and availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) gear, a lack of swabs for frontline workers, and the testing of border workers. He uncovered holes in the government’s management of the spread of Covid and MIQ, holding those in charge to account.

Just doing his job, Morrah says. And now he’s back on deck, expect those Covid stories to keep coming.

As the investigative reporter for TV3, he takes seriously his duty as a watchdog, demanding answers to keep the public fully informed.

Not everyone liked him for it. He faced a social-media backlash from those who perceived his questioning to be off the national script that urged Kiwis to pull together as a tight team of five million. It’s a criticism he’s well used to battling off.

“Journalists are not on the job to be making friends. There were plenty of big questions to be asked during management of the pandemic and it’s absolutely my job to be asking those questions,” says Morrah.



Back on deck... Michael Morrah says the hardest thing about Covid was having to isolate his children

He adds: “I think the country got into a self-congratulatory place about how well we were doing with Covid. And of course, that thinking can be problematic, certainly

if it spreads to media too and they become less vigilant.

“It’s not for me to say we’re doing okay with this Covid thing and then just sit back

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and do nothing, to stop asking questions day by day. If you are not keeping on the case, you are not doing your job.”

He cites the simple example of a call he took one day from an anxious bus driver. In the thick of the pandemic, the driver was worried no one had offered him testing. His call prompted Morrah to ask unpopular questions in high places about testing our frontline workforce.

Morrah laughs at the suggestion a committed sleuth would do it tough to be home sick with the pandemic still raging and the stories of war all-consuming.

For him the work to be done that week was recovering and maintaining the vigilant isolation regime that kept the virus from reaching his daughters Lucia (5) and Bella (7) or his wife Sarah, who is a local GP.

“The hardest thing about it was the isolation, keeping the kids home and away from their lives,” he says.

Morrah has made a career of bringing stories of those having tougher times in far worse places into the living rooms and consciousness of the nation.

“These are stories New Zealanders need to know about. We are so very fortunate here,” he says.

Morrah’s own story began growing up in Whangarei, where his father was a surgeon and his mother a physiotherapist. He has many memories of happy times spent at beautiful Northland beaches, swimming, fishing and gathering shellfish with his family.

He completed a BA at Canterbury University and followed up with a postgraduate degree in journalism. From there, he found jobs back in Northland working in regional radio, chasing stories on his own across the region.

He got his start covering a wide range of provincial news, and he loved it.

But, as is sometimes the way in a tight industry in a small country, he got a break into television through an aunt with connections.

She knew someone in the business well enough to speak up for her young newshound nephew and a door was opened. A lucky break,

laughs Morrah, who has been in television now for 16 years and recently celebrated his 40th birthday.

Morrah has increasingly made a name for himself with his investigative work, uncovering uncomfortable truths at home and putting together longer, in-depth stories in countries where human suffering is unrelenting.

As Newshub’s man on Pacific issues, he’s been on the ground where nature has wreaked havoc, turning lives upside down for small island nations.

“Journalists are not on the job to be making friends. There were plenty of big questions to be asked during management of the pandemic and it’s absolutely my job to be asking those questions.”

And his work on the measles crisis in Samoa earned him an earlier news-coverage award.

Telling New Zealanders about these events is very important to him. “I feel a real duty to find and to tell these stories. It’s part of my job to be able to educate people here and highlight the plight of others who may not otherwise have their stories told.

“I see it as part of my job and duty to give a voice to those who are voiceless or vulnerable.”

This work has led him to some of the world’s least fortunate people and among lives of unimaginable suffering in places like South

Sudan, a country ravaged by war, famine and disease. A hell on earth, Morrah says.

Another series he made took him inside the world’s largest refugee camp in Bangladesh to hear the stories of the Rohingya refugees who’d begun fleeing from their homes in Myanmar in 2017.

“These are the stories that I feel don’t get enough coverage. And if my work can in any way, however small, improve the plight of someone less fortunate, influence laws or make others think differently about their own circumstances, then I’ve achieved what I set out to do.”

He’s working in an era when media and journalists are facing many challenges about the very nature of how they operate, the stories they tell and the complications of being alongside expanding social-media platforms where content is not produced by professionals bound by reporting ethics.

Sometimes the validity of news itself is being challenged.

“The need for quality journalism is always great and it’s always going to be critical in a functioning democracy. In my view, we need brave, strong journalists today more than ever.”

Morrah says he’s optimistic about the future of the old-school journalist who does the job ‘without fear or favour’ and he takes his role of mentoring those coming up behind him very seriously. He’s not in it for the awards, but says he finds the affirmation reassuring.

“You get so close to stories and afterwards it’s easy to think you could have done better or done something differently. It’s nice to have someone else say you are doing okay.”

He’s aware the job of a travelling television journalist like himself can be tough on families.

But with his youngest having just started school, Morrah says he’s loving the chance to lighten up away from work and mix with the other families in the Belmont Primary School community.

“I tell the girls some children don’t have what they have. But honestly, we’re loving living around here.”

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Takapuna Grammar

SCHOOL NEWS  MAR 25, 2022

Qaizden Stephano Joins Tania Dalton Foundation Scholarship Programme

The Tania Dalton Foundation welcomed the arrival of 12 new deserving recipients for its scholarship programme. The 2022 recipients join 49 young talented sportswomen across New Zealand. This year's intake includes our very own Year 13 Qaizden Stephano who has been accepted as a Basketball inductee.



International Students Awarded Auckland University Scholarships

International student Scholarships at Auckland University (AU) were offered to only 10 school-leavers nationwide in 2022.

This year, two students from our International Faculty received this scholarship from AU for the first time.

Year 13 leaver Dara Dou was awarded the AU International School Leaver Scholarship for 2022, worth \$10,000, which she is putting



Dara Dou



Anna Tajima

towards her Data Science studies. Dara came from China and joined TGS in year 9. She was one of our international student leaders and had a wonderful five years here at TGS.

Year 13 leaver Anna Tajima was also awarded the AU International School Leaver Scholarship for 2022, which she is putting towards her Global Studies degree. Anna was from Japan and joined TGS in January 2020.



1st XI Boys Cricket Pushing for Higher Honours

Only a few weeks into the year it has already been a blockbuster for the TGS Boys 1st XI. Having played ten fixtures, they have shown why they are a team on the rise in both forms. The boys have performed well as a team, winning all but one of their fixtures and have placed themselves in the Premier T20 semi-final. Along the way to the semi-final they have enjoyed wins against opposition much favoured in the past, such as King's College and St. Kentigern College. At the time of print they were due to face Sacred Heart College in the semi-final, and look to go one better than they managed last year.

On an individual note, Christian Scott (pictured right) has recorded two centuries this year. Daniel Middleton has also had a stellar start to the season, averaging 62 across all formats. On the bowling front, year 13 Freddy Birch has stepped up, demonstrating his skill with the ball, supported well by Hamish Jardine.

The team aspires to push for promotion this year to the premier one-day competition and continue their run of good results in the premier Twenty20 competition. With the majority of the team returning next year and some talented juniors coming through from NSCC, TGS Cricket is in very good form.



Police unforthcoming on assault-inquiry progress

Police investigating a serious assault on a woman in Stanley Bay in early February sought further CCTV footage from Ngataringa Tennis Club this month.

Having earlier viewed footage of the area where the attack took place – behind the tennis courts towards the Navy playing fields – officers obtained recordings from a camera pointed in the opposite direction, towards Stanley Bay.

The Flagstaff learned of the CCTV request from the tennis club

But more than six weeks on from the assault, police have provided no further in-

formation about the investigation.

The incident occurred around 8.30pm on Tuesday, 8 February. Police appealed several times initially for public assistance – including a request for a male cyclist seen in the area to come forward.

Police urged anyone exercising alone to be alert and aware of their surroundings.

Having repeatedly asked for updates on the case, the Flagstaff was told late last week: “Police continue to make enquiries into the matter and we don’t have an update at this point of the investigation. No arrests have been made at this stage.

“As the investigation remains ongoing, Police have no further comment.”

Questions about whether resources devoted to the assault had been downgraded went unanswered.

After the attack, the tennis club advised members playing in the evenings to exit the park in company rather than alone.

Committee member Janine Jones said a recent club newsletter had repeated calls for members “to remain vigilant”. People remained a bit wary of lone men in the park.

“I haven’t really slept very well in the time since it happened.”

Fatality could influence Lake Rd plan

Auckland Transport (AT) may change a planned Lake Rd upgrade in response to the fatal crash that killed a North Shore cyclist on the road more than a year ago.

On 9 March 2021, Warrick Jones was killed in a collision with a vehicle at the corner of Montgomery Ave, south of the Belmont shops. Simei Mose, who has been charged with dangerous driving causing death in relation to the crash, will reappear in the North Shore District Court on 4 April.

The police Serious Crash Unit investigates all fatal crashes, but a spokesperson for AT said it is also reviewing the crash to see

if AT needs to update the planned changes to Lake Rd.

“These investigations are reaching a conclusion, but it is not possible to release the findings at this stage.”

AT staff have visited the site with police.

The planned Lake Rd improvements will include a physically protected cycle route, probably with concrete separators, along existing cycle lanes.

A timeframe will be announced once Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) approves funding, probably in the coming months.



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AUCTION

10:00am 7 Apr 2022 at Cnr Lake Road and Blomfield Spa, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 11-11.30 Wed 5-5.30pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/829569



Carol Wetzell
027 245 3392
Devonport 09 445 2010



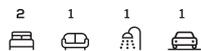
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AUCTION
12:00pm 6 Apr 2022 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
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Ron Sadler
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A/H 09 486 0142
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Trish Fitzgerald
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DEVONPORT 8/14A ALBERT ROAD



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Non CVC Viewing With elevated views over a sparkling Waitemata Harbour, this sought-after one-bedroom apartment will be popular with first-home buyers and investors alike. A classic lock up and leave, enjoys its own carport with storage locker and a path up the mountain for even more spectacular views.

FOR SALE
By Negotiation
VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
www.barfoot.co.nz/822766



Kurt Piper
021 137 6450
Devonport 09 445 2010



TAKAPUNA 2/14 TAHAROTO ROAD



SERIOUSLY FOR SALE!
Tucked away on a quiet back section and yet so incredibly central to everything Takapuna has to offer. Spoilt for choice being surrounded by high decile schools. Transport on your doorstep or just a short stroll to the bus station. Motorway arterials only a moment's drive. Conveniently close to the CBD. Local shops and supermarket seconds away.

AUCTION
10:00am 24 Mar 2022 at 8-12 The Promenade, Takapuna (unless sold prior)
VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
www.barfoot.co.nz/828375



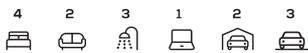
Sue Evans
021 448 977
Devonport 09 445 2010



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



DEVONPORT 42 CHELTENHAM ROAD



FOR SALE
By Negotiation

VIEWING
Viewing By Appointment
www.barfoot.co.nz/825746

WHAKARUA ICONIC CHELTENHAM HOMESTEAD

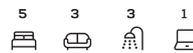
Embraced and cherished by our vendors of 40 years, this much loved family home is now released to the market presenting an exceptional opportunity for a new family.

Seldom do homes of this stature come to the market – call for a private viewing.

Sue Harrison
021 909 549
Devonport 09 445 2010

Toni Gregory
021 044 3663
Devonport 09 445 2010

DEVONPORT 4-6 ST AUBYN STREET



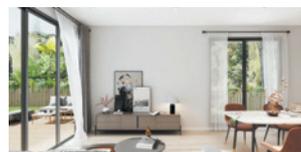
AUCTION
12:00pm 30 Mar 2022 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Sat / Sun 12.00 - 12.45pm
www.barfoot.co.nz/828858

Right in Devonport's coveted "golden triangle" this lovely home sits right in one of the village's most desired locations, just minutes walk to the shops and cafes, the ferry a few minutes more, everything is so convenient. Currently configured as a home and income there are plenty of opportunities, to convert to one luxury home or to a bed and breakfast. Motivated vendor wants sold, Call today!

Lance Richardson
021 796 660
Devonport 09 445 2010

Suzy Wang
022 199 7808
Devonport 09 445 2010



DEVONPORT 15 HAMANA STREET



FOR SALE
By Negotiation

VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
www.barfoot.co.nz/827122

A HOME OF MAGNIFICENCE AND GRANDEUR

From the moment you step through the towering front door there is a feeling of warmth and seclusion making one feel completely at home. The swimming pool complex gives a feeling of being on holiday all year round. Enjoy amazing views of Rangitoto and the Gulf.

Carol Wetzell
027 245 3392
Devonport 09 445 2010

Wendy Sadd
021 607 366
09 215 3178
Greenlane 09 523 1189

BAYSWATER 1-8/54 BAYSWATER AVENUE



FOR SALE
By Negotiation

VIEWING
Phone For Viewing Times
www.barfoot.co.nz/824923

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Hurry, Lot 3 and Lot 4 and 8 now SOLD! Call us before your first choice is gone! Absolutely entry level so don't delay, these fabulous, freehold, and spacious townhouses are starting to sell extremely quickly! Featuring three bedrooms, two + bathrooms, and a sunny west facing indoor/outdoor area, you better call us today! (Images indicative only)

Suzy Wang
022 199 7808
Devonport 09 445 2010

Lance Richardson
021 796 660
Devonport 09 445 2010

Briefs

Housing clarity called for

Local representatives deserve a better overview of the flow-on impacts to their communities of Auckland Council implementing Government housing policy changes, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member George Wood. The confidentiality surrounding the topic at recent local-board workshops “astounded” him, he said. Important matters were being discussed, yet board members were just being given a “quick and dirty” overview, he said at the board’s monthly meeting. Board area manager Eric Pery said members had been given reasons in writing for why the information disseminated was restricted.

Brass band back

North Shore Brass is looking forward to sounding off again. Champion members of the band will perform brass favourites in its annual Stars of Brass concert to be held at St Peter’s Anglican Church in Takapuna this Sunday, 27 March at 2pm, with limited ticket sales at the venue.

Beach gripes expose complaint backlog

Council inaction over illegal camping at North Shore beaches has been revealed to be part of a region-wide backlog of complaints to Auckland Council.

More than 1500 complaints about by-law breaches are awaiting a response from the council as it struggles to cope with high staff turnover, floods and protests.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Ruth Jackson detailed the backlog in making a presentation to the council’s regulatory committee.

Along with the Kaipātiki, and Hibiscus and Bays boards, Devonport-Takapuna wants better enforcement of council by-laws covering matters such as illegal camping, noise and dog control, pollution run-off and rubbish dumping. Illegal camping was an issue in the board area over summer, most noticeably at Narrow Neck.

“A senior staff member told me there are 1600-1700 outstanding compliance issues,” Jackson told councillors. “And the reality is that most of those will never be attended to.”

Council regulatory director Craig Hobbs told the meeting “significant turnover” of staff had had an impact.

He said complaints classed as ‘low harm’ to people or the environment were given a lesser priority. This year’s numbers had been a surprise, he admitted. Police had also been swamped due to more Aucklanders staying in the city than usual.

James Hassall, general manager of licensing and regulatory compliance, said council took note of complaints even if there was not a quick response. Staff had been busy with floods and protests at Auckland Domain. A “huge increase in aggression” meant animal-control staff were being sent out in pairs for safety. Another issue was the enforcement regime itself, Hassall said. “Under the LGA (Local Government Act), with many of the by-laws we have, it’s either educate or prosecute with nothing in between.”

Alexis Poppenbaum from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board said there was a feeling of dejection and frustration among residents.

With regards to illegal parking on beaches, a battle was at play between Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT) as to who was responsible, she said. “As elected members and residents are saying – we don’t care, somebody just enforce it.”

Downpour causes flash flooding around Devonport

A heavy downpour on Monday morning caused flash flooding at the Vauxhall Rd sports grounds, New World car park, Clarence St, Patuone Place, Stanley Bay Park, the Achilles Cres area and other parts of Devonport.

By late morning, much of the water had cleared.



Deluged... the North Shore Rugby Club Fields

BAYLEYS

NEW LISTING



Devonport 1 Hanlon Crescent

4 2 3 1

Auction 1.30pm, Thu 7 Apr 2022

28 Northcroft Street, Takapuna

View Sat/Sun 11-11.45am

Natasha Pretorius 021 204 8384

Lynda Betts 021 278 3024

BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, DEVONPORT, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Move in and relax

This spacious, fully renovated home is presented after more than 30 years by the same family. Inside, versatile living spaces and a highly functional designer kitchen complement an abundance of accommodation, including a master complete with ensuite and walk-in-robe. The large family room adds versatility, while seamless indoor/outdoor flow promotes easy access to the outdoors. There’s so much more than meets the eye, you must see inside.

bayleys.co.nz/1470516



Bayswater cycle lanes picked for funding

A planned two-way cycle lane along Bayswater Ave has been selected by Auckland Council to benefit from its new \$3 million Vibrant Streets programme.

Parking will be lost along the southern length of the road to accommodate the lane, which is intended to provide safer passage for cyclists, including school 'riding trains'.

Start dates and costs are not yet locked in for the project, which was one of seven across the city approved by the council's Environment and Community Committee this month. It will be delivered by Auckland Transport (AT) as part of a programme to meet the council's Climate Action Plan.

An AT spokesperson said it would take the plans to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board when a meeting could be arranged. Late last year, AT provided the board with an overview of the cycleway concept, indicating it wanted to bring it forward from being part of the wider \$48 million upgrade of Lake Rd, which is still several years away.

The Vibrant Streets funding allows for

this, with the plan being to deliver a cycleway using "trial and semi-permanent infrastructure".

Responding to Flagstaff questions, AT said last week that were still several steps before the project's scope and cost was finalised "including getting the local board to accept the project".

Board members are keen to see cycle lane connectivity on the peninsula, but some have flagged concerns about parking loss and how the Bayswater lane will connect to the Bayswater ferry terminal.

Exactly how the \$3 million Vibrant Streets kitty will be divvied up is yet to be worked out, says AT.

After the meeting, Jackson said it was important "to bring people along on the ride."

Those living along the street needed to be consulted early by AT, so they had a meaningful chance to have their say.

Sometimes community members felt like changes were foisted upon them, said Jackson.

Briefs

Street-party push

A scheme whereby quiet streets can more easily be temporarily closed for community activities should be looked at locally, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Toni van Tonder. "It's a wonderful opportunity for our two community trusts to get kids and families out," she says. The Community Play Streets pilot would allow a neighbourhood to team up with the likes of the Devonport Peninsula Trust. Van Tonder wants the board to have a workshop on the concept, which has been promoted by government transport agency Waka Kotahi as part of its Innovating Streets for People programme.

Better bike signs wanted

Better directional signage for cyclists is needed and a meeting to that end is being held with Auckland Transport (AT). Lobby group Bike Auckland is behind the push and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member George Wood has helped set up the session with AT.

THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A PASSION TO SUCCEED

The Royal New Zealand Navy's newest Commanding Officer is a former Royal Navy submariner from Northern Ireland who took a leap of faith in choosing New Zealand as his adopted country.

On 16 March, Commander Dave Barr took command of the Navy's newest and largest ship, HMNZS Aotearoa, in a ceremony hosted at the Navy Museum. He received the symbol of command, a carved Kauri staff named Tai-Panuku (Smooth flowing tide), which was created on behalf of Ngāti Te Whiti, the iwi in Aotearoa's ceremonial home port, New Plymouth.

"I got on a plane in 2007 with no clue what to expect," he says. His first posting was Aotearoa's predecessor, HMNZS Endeavour, and while he has served on most ships in the fleet in 15 years, tankers are special. "There's something about tanker operations I love. And Aotearoa is so much more than just a tanker."

That's certainly been evident in the five months CDR Barr has already served in Aotearoa, as the ship's executive officer (second in command). This ship has, virtually back-to-back, delivered



humanitarian aid to Tonga following the volcanic eruption and then, almost without pause, supplied Scott and McMurdo bases during her maiden voyage to Antarctica earlier this month.

"It's the crew's unbridled passion to succeed, to be the best they can be - it's evident every day, but no more so when we told them we would sail to Tonga in 24

hours, and they would be unlikely to see their loved ones before sailing to Antarctica. It didn't seem to faze anyone. They just wanted to get out there."

This year, Aotearoa will undertake exercises in Hawaii as part of Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2022, the world's largest maritime exercise, and will continue with exercises in South East Asia.

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

Congratulations? Thanks?
Problems? Complaints?

DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE TEL 445 5002



NAVY
TE TAUA MOANA O AOTEAROA

North Shore Premiers play off for third place

North Shore Cricket Club premiers play off for third and fourth place in the Jeff Crowe Cup Auckland on-day competition against Parnell at Shore Rd on Saturday.

The match follows an excellent away win against Cornwall last week, which coach Chris Reid described as the best all-round performance the side had put together in his four years at the helm.

Chasing a solid 268 in 40 overs, North Shore clinched the match in the 39th over, with Riley Mudford scoring 86 off 62 balls, Micheal Olsen 52 off 46 and excellent knocks at the death by Matt Strain, 25 not out, and Manaia Harris, 15 not out.

If Shore had lost the match against Cornwall – which finished the year second on the table behind Takapuna – it would

have been in the play-offs for fifth and sixth.

Reid said it was pleasing to end the season positively. However, the side still had a way to go to beat Takapuna, the dominant side in Auckland club cricket for the past decade.

“We lost to them comprehensively twice but beat them in T20.”

Covid disrupted the 2021-22 season with the competition truncated to one-day and T20 matches.

“We are looking forward to a more settled season next year hopefully, which will include two-day matches,” Reid said.

One of the club highlights for the season was the selection of bowler Simon Keene for the Auckland Aces, where he had been in top form.

“He’s done exceptionally well for himself

and it’s a reflection of the environment at North Shore that Simon can step up and be a dominant player in provincial cricket from the get-go.” Reid said.

Although Shore had cemented its place in the premier division, next season could be a rebuilding phase as players were moving around the country and overseas, as well as promising youngsters coming through from Takapuna Grammar.

Max Clarke was heading to Canterbury for a scholarship with Lincoln University, Jack Cross was going to Otago and Hayden McKay was off to the United States on a rugby scholarship.

The future of Jock McKenzie was also up in the air, now he was playing rugby professionally for the Auckland Blues, Reid said.

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- The High Court rules that Department of Conservation staff can remain in a building at North Head, but the Devonport Community Board wants other buildings removed from the mountain.
- Wakatere Boating Club is to host the 2002 Optimist national champs at Narrow Neck.
- Rikki Morris and Debbie Harwood receive platinum-album awards for *When the Cat's Away and Sharon O'Neil – Live in Paradise*. Harwood sang on the album while Morris recorded it.
- Kiwibank opens an outlet in Devonport at New Zealand Post opposite New World.
- The Devonport Classic run/walk race over 5km and 10km will include a section through the 400m Navy tunnel under Caliope Rd.
- Narrow Neck filmmaker James Crow's skateboarding video *A mode of stealth* sells out its first run of 150 copies distributed through skate shops. It features five skateboarders, including Devonport's Thomas Evan.
- The Depot launches an Arts Incubator Mentoring Scheme (AIMS) to give a kick-start to Devonport's unemployed youth.
- James Doyle of St Leo's and Hauraki School's Catherine Hooker win the champion of champions cups at the North Shore Primary Schools swimming champs.
- A street parade at the Devonport Arts festival attracts around 1000 people.
- A Devonport librarian's car is stolen in broad daylight and later used to transport stolen property.
- North Head, Mt Victoria and the Tamaki Land at Narrow Neck will be included in coastal defence walks on the North Shore.
- Fullers decides to sell the Kestrel, a 98-year-old ferry long used on the Devonport to Auckland run and well known for its Friday night jazz sessions.
- Christine Snowball – “The doyenne of Devonport dance” – is profiled.
- A Belmont bungalow is on the market for \$289,000.
- A \$25,000 ring is found in a car stopped in Devonport. It had been stolen from a vehicle parked outside the Kelly Tarlton's aquarium.
- Devonport residents Jason and Tim Hayde take over McDonald's in Belmont.
- Devonport New World butchery and grocery department is judged best in the country among Foodstuff's supermarkets.
- North Shore Cricket Club renames its pavilion after C.C. 'Ces' Dacre, in a ceremony with North Shore Mayor George Wood, club patron Paul Titchener and various descendants of Dacre in attendance.
- The Flagstaff interview subject is pharmacist Peter Wigmore, who has been diagnosed with inoperative cancer. He tells of his life in Devonport and the support he has received.



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Go to devonportflagstaff.co.nz and click on 'Become a supporter' at the top of the page.



Character Waterfront Home

This character home originates from the late 1800s era and masquerades in an Art Deco facade added in the 1930s. Today, it presents to market for the first time in 40 years in a configuration of three separate flats. 14 King Edward, also christened 'Sans Souci' (meaning 'carefree'), is an iconic home proudly located on Devonport's eminent waterfront parade.

Presiding over the crescent-shaped harbour, views take flight over the waters toward Auckland's inner-city and coastal suburbs; by day and by night, the position creates spectacular viewing to be enjoyed from the rooftop terrace and street-front gardens or inside any of the flats.

Light-filled with a collage of old and new, the three accommodations are complete with two bedrooms,

one bathroom and enjoy significant views of the sea and city. Formal gardens sculpt the terraced frontage with a path up past the double garage and a turfed rooftop courtyard.

Located at the rear of the property is a powered out-building sectioned into five rooms.

A short morning beachside stroll leads you into charming Devonport Village, with a selection of coffee shops, cuisines, boutique stores and the busy pier ferrying city-workers to Auckland's CBD.

Now genuinely for sale, Sans Souci house presents a unique opportunity for discerning buyers to purchase in the heart of this historic beachside neighbourhood.

New Zealand

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

AARON REID — +64 21 119 1926

Viewing by Appointment

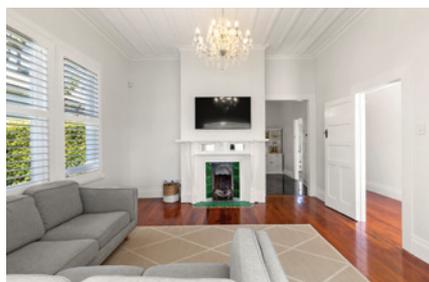
nzsothebysrealty.com/NSH11489

Deadline Sale: Closes 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 30th March 2022 (unless sold prior)

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New Listing



Affordable Devonport Villa - 29 Aramoana Avenue Devonport

3 1 2

This beautifully elevated Devonport villa majestically sits awaiting its new owner. The sun shines on the fully fenced site just a few minutes walk from Aramoana Reserve located at the end of the street, where kids play on the swings and swim. There is even storage for small boats and paddleboards. This highly sought-after property uniquely ticks more boxes for buyers. Not only is it geographically well located, it also contains a driveway to a large double garage at the rear. With plenty of off street parking available, you can enter the gated property through an attractive pergola. Then, standing on the large covered front entrance veranda you open the front door into a charming hallway with living to your left and bedrooms to your right.

Additional unique features: Large lounge with gas fireplace, Modern kitchen opening out to the dining room, Basement workshop and storage under the house, Sunroom/Office with daybed, Bathroom with bath and shower, 3 double bedrooms, Ensuite and walk-in wardrobe off main bedroom, Private fenced sunny front and rear yard, Insulated underfloor and in ceiling

This property will really appeal to families as well as those wishing to get their foot in the door of a Devonport villa and all that this wonderful area has to offer.

Auction

1:30pm, Saturday 23 April
On Site (unless sold prior)

View

Saturday & Sunday
12:00pm - 1:00pm

rwdevonport.co.nz/DVP30016

Devonport Real Estate Limited Licensed (REAA 2008)



Nigel Caigou

022 069 6320

nigel.caigou@raywhite.com



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Scan the QR code to download our app or sign up to our newsletter at the footer of our website, so you never miss out on all things happening/business in Milford!

- 1. Tank Milford - Tank C
- 2. Art+Soul - Art Gallery
- 3. Treney - Check Ponte Double Breasted Blazer
- 4. Moochi - Master Boot Black
- 5. Barilla Dumpling - Dumpling Dishes



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Open Home



The Yacht Master - 2 Marine Terrace Bayswater

3 2 1 2 P 3

Unabashedly authentic, desperately romantic, this is one of Bayswater's most admirable homes. The ultimate blend of bungalow architecture with a touch of luxury, this irresistible residence exudes charm and quiet confidence befitting this era. Enviably situated in a prime panoramic water view position, this family sized home, though not at all too generous in scale for a couple, is a property that defines 'lifestyle'. Ample glazing in the main living spaces and kitchen frame individual showcase water views, and the central open plan living brings together well-designed lounge and dining spaces stepping straight out onto an expansive deck where entertainment and relaxation spaces overflow to jaw dropping views towards the Bayswater marina, across the water, to front row seats of the Auckland harbour bridge. Be prepared to be mesmerised by the ever-changing vista during the day, and the twinkling lights and sunsets at dusk. Comprising three generous bedrooms and two well appointed bathrooms, the layout offers easy one level living with the opportunity to further expand upstairs to create a separate master wing with exceptional views, subject to consents. A large double garage partners with ample off-street parking making it ideal for trailer boats and other oversized toys. Marketed by The EK Group.

Auction

11:00am, Sunday 10 April
On Site (unless sold prior)

View

Saturday & Sunday
3:00pm - 4:00pm



Kim Pausina
021 201 7488



Eden Thomson
021 790 552



theekgroup.co.nz

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Number
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Kim Pausina 021 201 7488 | Eden Thomson 021 790 552

Devonport ferry passengers miss out on price cut

Catching the bus and the Bayswater ferry will be cheaper for three months from 1 April, but Devonport ferry patrons are probably out of luck.

Last week, the government announced it would halve public transport fares

This means a bus trip from Devonport to Takapuna, which is within one fare zone, will cost \$1.10 on a Hop card. A trip from Devonport to Albany, passing through two zones, will cost \$1.95.

The Devonport ferry service operated by Fullers is, like the company's Waiheke Island service, exempt from the government's Public Transport Operating Model and isn't subsidised. An Auckland Transport (AT) spokesperson said this meant those

routes are unlikely to be included in the price reduction.

The Bayswater ferry service is in the scheme.

"We're currently working with Waka Kotahi to understand whether there will be any subsidy for commercial services which offer passengers the option of using their AT HOP card for fares – as is currently the case for ferry services to Waiheke and Devonport," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Devonport and Bayswater ferries have reduced timetables as a result of Covid impacts and staff shortages. Devonport has moved to a 30-minute timetable and Bayswater an hourly timetable, until further notice.

Sea Scouts seek donations

If everyone in Devonport gave up just one coffee, and instead gave the money to the Calliope Sea Scouts, the group could probably get the roof of its meeting hall repaired and its dilapidated boat ramp replaced.

Sea Scouts leader Marguerite Spencer hopes those kinds of small acts of generosity will help the group raise the estimated \$100,000 needed to complete both projects.

The Sea Scouts have a vital role to play in the community, especially in a place like Auckland, which is surrounded by water, Spencer said. The club's activities also teach team work, provide social interaction and keep kids active, as well as teaching useful skills.

Donations can be made at the club's Givealittle page, titled SOS – Save Our Ship.

BAYLEYS



Belmont 14 Montgomery Avenue

3 1 1 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 1.30pm, Thu 14 Apr 2022

28 Northcroft Street, Takapuna

Phone for viewing times

Victoria Mules 021 679 349

Jemma Glancy 021 246 5300

BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, DEVONPORT, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Beachside of Belmont

This gorgeous home offers everything on the wishlist for a first home buyer or downsizer. Stylishly renovated and modernised whilst retaining the original charm, the interior is tasteful and recently renovated meaning you can move in and enjoy it while you make plans to add value over the years. The home sits nicely in the middle of the site meaning you have a fully fenced garden and level lawn at the front and fruit trees and a tidy vegetable and herb garden to the rear.

bayleys.co.nz/1470524

MIKKO SHOES

NEW SEASON ARRIVALS



GABOR JESSORIA \$279



ARA AMHERST \$339



ARCHE CAMBRIA \$579

Is this what you want next to you?



Help Save Devonport's Unique Heritage

Auckland Council is proposing to remove parts of Devonport from the Special Character Area (SCA) protections to allow housing intensification.

This will result in the demolition of heritage homes, loss of sunlight and privacy for neighbours and reduction in Devonport's heritage aesthetics.

The Government's push for intensification means:

- **3 storey, 3 house developments**
- **Up to 12 metres high**
- **One metre from residential boundaries**
- **No resource consent needed**
- **Site coverage of 50%**
- **No say for neighbours**
- **Few design requirements**
- **Loss of sunlight & privacy for neighbours**

Support Devonport Heritage as we fight to save Devonport's heritage protections.

Ways you can help:

- **Sign our online petition:** <https://www.change.org/protect-devonport>
- **Donate:** so that we can continue to fight and help preserve Devonport's heritage
- **Help volunteer** your unique skills
- **Go to our website** for more information and the latest updates on developments www.devonportheritage.net

Make your views heard:

- Email the people below with your concerns:

Contact a local board member



Chairperson
Ruth Jackson
ruth.jackson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

North Shore Ward



Councillor
Chris Darby
chris.darby@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Devonport Heritage Chairperson
Margot McRae
devonport.heritage@gmail.com



Councillor
Richard Hills
richard.hills@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Fourteen peninsula roads on slow-zone wish list

A list of 14 Devonport peninsula roads where the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board wants a 40 km/h speed limit will be submitted to Auckland Transport (AT).

Limits could be lowered under AT's interim Auckland Speed Management Plan, due to be implemented between 2023 and 2026.

The following peninsula roads are involved: Hauraki: Hart Rd, Purchas Rd, Stone St, Jutland Rd and Northboro Rd. Belmont: Eversleigh Rd, Coronation St, Creamer Ave and Bardia St. Narrow Neck: Seabreeze Rd, Hamana St and Old Lake Rd (between Lake Rd and Wairoa Rd). Devonport: Vauxhall Rd (from Wairoa Rd to Albert Rd) and Albert Rd.

These roads (and others across Sunnynook,

Forrest Hill and Castor Bay) are in addition to those covered in AT's plans to cut speeds to 30km/h in Devonport and Takapuna town-centre streets and in zones around Belmont, Hauraki and Sunnynook primary schools.

School-related zones for Hauraki and Sunnynook have already been decided, though in both suburbs some residents and board members wanted larger zones.

The inclusion of the extra Hauraki streets on the board's wishlist reflects this, as does its call for Vauxhall Rd safety to be looked at again after AT decided it did not fit with the Devonport town centre plans.

While the first school zones will be implemented mid-year, and the town-centre and

Belmont zone by early 2023, lowering speeds on the extra roads nominated is not guaranteed.

The Devonport Takapuna Local Board heard that AT was seeking feedback from boards across Auckland and would then work through the suggestions to come up with a 10-year plan that would be put out for public consultation later this year.

More roads with lower speeds are certain, however, to fit with the government's Vision Zero road-safety policy and to meet AT's own goal to reduce road deaths and serious injuries.

AT has already made speed-limit changes on 11 per cent of its road network, with changes to a further 27 per cent of the network proposed.

Call for more police

A greater police presence to reassure Devonport and Takapuna residents is wanted by the local board chair. Ruth Jackson said she intended asking for the return of a Takapuna police station. This would better serve the area than having frontline officers stationed up at Constellation Dr. It would be easier for people on the Devonport peninsula to get too.

The old Takapuna station on Anzac St is used primarily for liquor licensing matters. Not even the community constable is regularly there. Volunteers who staffed the desk had also stopped doing so in Covid times, JaJackson understood.



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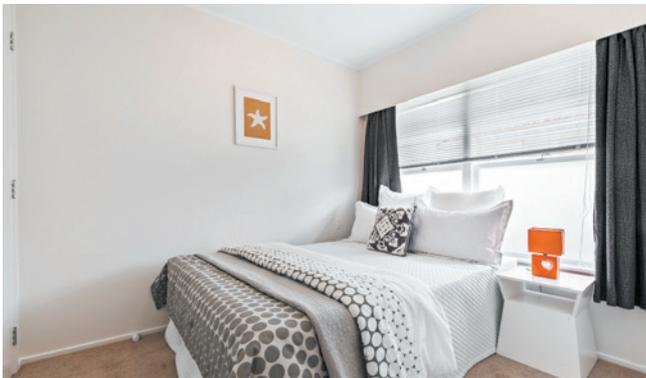
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Skatepark users fear drains will lead to more hazards

New drains cut into the floor of the Ngataringa skatepark have dismayed skaters, who fear they will create new hazards for users of the facility.

Contractors plan to renew the surface over the drains, but former skate-shop owner Guy Bellerby believes the patching will soon deteriorate.

“When they leave they probably will be smoothed over, but within six months it will be atrocious,” he said. “Even the smallest crack will stop a wheel.”

Bellerby has been involved in trying to get the skatepark repaired, with particular focus on the ‘lips’ of joins in the concrete.

“When you roll across that, the board stops dead but the body keeps moving,” he said. “During the consultation, the experts said ‘whatever you do, do not put any more joins in’. And then somewhere in the process of approving plans, someone’s just said ‘go ahead and cut some trenches in there’.”

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Toni van Tonder said she understood the concern over repairs but had faith that the contractors would do their job.

Closed Landfills, which is still involved in the management of Ngataringa as a former dump site, said the only way to do the work was to cut the trenches, she said. “We’ve been given an undertaking that the slab will be put right and we won’t even be able to notice the cracks by the end of it.”



Drain pain... Skaters are unhappy contractors have cut trenches in the surface of the Ngataringa skatepark

Van Tonder said it was “absolutely” time to have a conversation about a new skatepark versus further repairs to the existing facility. “It’s incredibly unsafe, but while it’s there

it will be used.”

Using the skatepark was “kind of a rite of passage” for young people in the area, she said.

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Minute man calls time

In 15 years of taking minutes at community meetings, Devonport's Chris Morrison didn't see much change – although recent video meetings proved a challenge.

Morrison, 77, has stepped down after taking the the Devonport Peninsula Trust's monthly meeting minutes for as long as the organisation has existed.

At the start, he was the Lions Club representative on the management committee for the Devonport Community Coordinator. When the decision was made to form a trust, he volunteered as meeting minute-taker, to allow trustees to focus on the meeting and to keep the Lions in the loop.

"There haven't been very many changes as far as the monthly meetings go. Various chairpersons have come and gone. It's been an interesting role."

The shift to a trust made it more formal, with rules and plans and discussions on what would get included in that year's budget, he said.

The trust has an essential role to play in village life – for everyone from preschoolers to pensioners. "It's a very positive sort of thing," he says. "It's got a very wide role. Most parts of the community are involved."

His age and Covid have led to Morrison stepping away, and he admits he's not great with computers. "At one stage they were running meetings on Zoom and my old computer here wasn't happy for me to try and sit in on that one."

In his working life, he was involved in the shipping and cruising sector. These days, he and his partner Steph Bristol spend a lot of time with their four-legged friends – 10 Angora goats who live on 3.5 ha in Paparoa, Northland. They are bred for their mohair. "They get shorn every six months," he said. "They've all got their separate personalities."

Morrison says he has enjoyed his years with the minute books – but they were going in the recycling bin after he posed for the Flagstaff photo.



For the record... Chris Morrison with his Peninsula Trust paperwork

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OUT & ABOUT

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STREET GET-TOGETHERS

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

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DEVONPORT PENINSULA TRUST NEWS

The Trust's new General and Fundraising Manager, Nigel Bioletti, is enjoying working with the Trust Board and its staff. He has co-ordinated a refresh of the Trust's Strategic Plan, and from that plan, is very keen to explore ways in which the Trust can build and strengthen the connections within the Hauraki through to Maungauika community. He would be very happy to meet with you to discuss possibilities, and any suggestions. You can email him at nigelbioletti@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

DEVONPORT TOY LIBRARY

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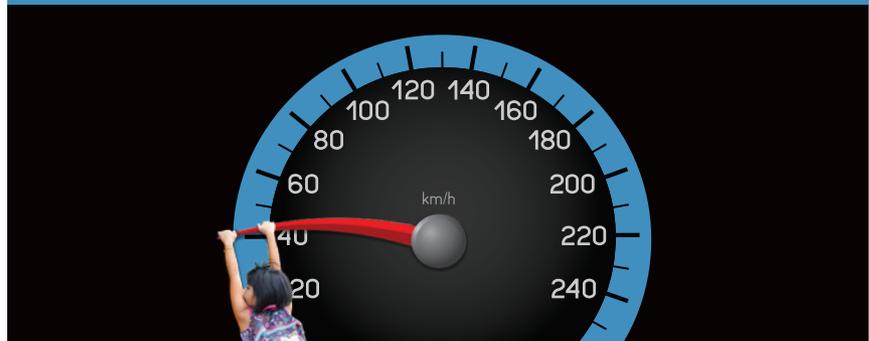
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Applications for out-of-zone places, across all ages, are invited for admission from 2nd May to 8th July 2022, with a deadline of 1st May. If required, a ballot will be held and parents notified on 1st May. Multiple out-of-zone enrolment ballots may be held throughout 2022.

If planning to enrol later in 2022, please contact the school as soon as possible to assist our planning.

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Riding for Disabled has local resident at the reins



Saddled up...Tim Lofts (third from left) and North Shore MP Simon Watts (far right) open the new trail at North Shore Riding for the Disabled

Wilson School students are among those benefitting from a new sensory trail set up by North Shore Riding for the Disabled.

The organisation – whose president is Baywater resident Tim Lofts – serves the North Shore from its base in Stillwater.

Among 80-plus regular attendees are half a dozen who travel for weekly classes from the school in Lake Rd, along with other individuals from the Devonport peninsula.

Lofts says the benefits they get from riding horses range from increased confidence to improved fine motor skills.

The new trail extends the type of experiences offered, from classes in a sanded arena to a shaded pathway for riders to explore, enjoying its sights and sounds.

It was officially opened by North Shore MP Simon Watts this month, on land owned by the charitable trust.

The trail’s construction from an area of

overgrown bush took a number of years to bring to fruition, said Lofts. Volunteers and donated materials had helped create a facility that could be enjoyed for years to come, he said.

A challenge for Riding for the Disabled is raising \$120,000 a year to meet its costs. It has three part-time staff and nine horses and looks to grants and bequests to help support its activities.

Lofts, a retired advertising and communications executive, said he became involved seven years ago when he heard the organisation needed a treasurer. Before that he had been treasurer at the Belmont Park Racquets Club, but gave up the role when “the knees gave out” and he stopped playing squash. “I was just looking for something else to do to give back,” he says.

Joining Lofts on the organisation’s committee is Steve Sims from Devonport, who has been involved for a year.

Lofts – who first moved to Devonport in the early 2000s – said he had ridden in the UK many years ago. But it was through his “inspiring moments” with Riding for the Disabled that he had really seen the benefits interaction with the animals could bring.

A recent example was an autistic boy from the Wairau Special School whom it took five or six weeks to get in the saddle.

“You see the rider become far more able,” he says. Their core strength could improve and goals were set and measured to track their progress. “We’re looking to affect their daily life.”

Most students spend 12 months attending classes which cost \$15 a time, running four days a week. There is a waiting list to attend.

Lofts wants to build the organisation’s capacity so more young people can benefit. His next goal is to deliver classes five days a week.

Find out more at www.northshorerda.org.

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Tail continues the tale of school's maunga connection



A whale of a tail... Back row – Ben (far left) and Gary Potter from Harcourts, and (from left) Evie Oxley, Gus Myhre, Annika Borter, Osian Thomas, Felix Sinclair, all 10, and principal Beverley Booth. Front row: Danielle Moloney, 10, Mila Henderson, 11, Silvi Coxhead, 10, and Ruby Little-Codling, 10.

The story of Devonport Primary School is being carried to Takapuna on a pepi (mini) whale tail.

Eighty large tails, decorated by Auckland artists, have been on display around the city since late January, raising awareness of the health of the Hauraki Gulf.

Smaller tails have been decorated by schools, including Devonport Primary, thanks to the donation of a tail by father-and-son Harcourts real estate team Gary and Ben Potter. Ben attended

the school as a child.

The tail continues the theme of the school's new mural, which shows Devonport Primary's connection to Takarunga maunga and the land.

It includes native flora and fauna and a group of children joining hands around the tail.

Year-six students did most of the work, and decided to model it on the mural. "It reflects lots of things about our school," Principal Beverley Booth said. "That whole idea that in school one of our values is respect, and then as part of that,

we see ourselves as kaitiaki (guardians) of the environment."

The kids said painting the pohutukawa on the rear side of the tail was the trickiest part. "I never realised how hard it was to paint 3D," 10-year-old Silvi Coxhead said.

The tail will be on display outside Harcourts Takapuna until 18 April, when the tails are returned to the schools that decorated them.

The large tails will be auctioned to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund.

Art imitates life in new church mural

The life of a church is being represented graphically outside Holy Trinity in Devonport during renovations over the next eight months.

The church wanted a mural on white boards outside the construction site, so local artist Nicky Heenan got out her brush.

"It's really just looking at the idea of the interactions that occur between people within these spaces," she said.

"They're very inclusive spaces, so we're really trying to represent, in a general way, the kind of people that do cross paths here."

Her outlines paint a bride and groom, a church choir, people coming and going, the vicar and the band. The illustrations of the musicians reveal a poignant detail – the absence of a drummer. Holy Trinity lost its drummer last year, says Heenan, who plays keyboard and organ in the church music group.

"All the characters are moving – they're in the process of doing something" she says. "They're not really static. As you walk along the mural, you're a participant in each part of the church. It's a way to put you in the

scene as well."

Heenan recently opened an art studio on King Edward Pde, after years of painting and offering workshops in Europe.

Music is the other big part of her life. In the UK, she played the piano for garden parties at Highgrove, the private residence of Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall.

"Music paid the bills to be an artist really."

The piece is a work in progress, with the church community filling in the colours after services on Sundays.



Lockdown shortages help shape artist's Depot show

Artist Linda Va'aelua has taken half a lifetime to finally devote herself to painting, but she is now finding satisfaction in exploring her cultural identity on canvas – and more unusual surfaces.

Of Samoan and Scottish heritage, and with strong family connections on the Devonport peninsula, Va'aelua says lockdown last year helped shape her solo show now on at the Depot Artspace.

"I was caught without any canvases and limited paints and it was hard to order things," she recalls.

Instead she improvised, using hessian, and opening up polypropylene bags that once contained firewood and which she stretched on plyboard.

The former graphic designer for magazines, and mother of four children, aged 7 to 16, decided to pursue her passion for painting just over a year ago.

"I found the time and creativity to get back into artwork," she says. The subject matter she was drawn to in the Depot show *Between the Betweenness* owes much to her own evolving experience. Also to the Samoan concept of va'a which the exhibition name nods to.

"I was thinking of the spaces between me and my relatives and my culture and being Pasifika in New Zealand."

Growing up, she spent a lot of time at her grandmother's in Belmont. She still has relatives on the peninsula and is proud a great uncle is remembered on Devonport's war memorial. "It's an important place to me."

Va'aelua, now 44, said she grappled with her identity when younger. "When you grow up as a mixed-culture person, you get labelled a lot. You're not enough to be Samoan and you're not white."

Rather than struggling with ideas of being half full or half empty, in adulthood she had come to appreciate: "I am enough. I am a complete person."

Her children, she jokes, are a bit of a fruit salad. The family spent nine years living in the Philippines, where her Samoan-born husband worked in IT.

After being back in Auckland for three years, she appreciates now being in a position where she can work on her art.

The Depot show features abstracted triangle forms on hessian, which Va'aelua said some people saw as mountains. "I was seeing opposites." Other framed works are colourful contrasting pieces.

For her next show, the intention is to push further into combining her identity in imagery.

Va'aelua, who has traditional female Samoan upper leg tattoos, is looking to explore the patterns of tartan and tatau on canvas.

• *Between the Betweenness*, at Depot Artspace, 28 Clarence St, until 29 March.



Resourceful... Caught without canvases, artist Linda Va'aelua used other materials. The work below, included in her Depot show *Between the Betweenness*, is on hessian.





Janayah off to England to follow her singing dreams



An up-and-coming Devonport singer is off to the other side of the world in search of a recording contract.

Janayah Wadsworth (17) has been accepted into the BRIT performing-arts school in Croydon in the UK. Its alumni include singers Adele, Amy Winehouse, Jessie J and *Spider-Man* actor Tom Holland.

She wants to learn all she can about the industry during the two-year course, and ultimately secure a recording contract.

Janayah also hopes to “explore different genres, and find what I like.” She’s expecting a massive culture shock, but she’s already somewhat in the loop. She was meant to go to the UK last year, and has been part of an online BRIT School chat group. “They’re having so much fun,” the Takapuna Grammar School student said, shortly before performing in Devonport village last Saturday.

Janayah, who is part Cook Islands Maori, is preparing demo recordings of five original songs to give out once she arrives. She will leave in June, before the end of Year 13 at school, but she already has some level 3 NCEA credits from last year. And she’ll be in the school’s production of *Mamma Mia* before she goes.

She says she is inspired by powerful female vocalists, including Adele, Christina Aguilera, Rihanna and Pink.

“I think it takes more than the talent... It’s the drive that counts.”

The artistic process has also helped develop her character.

“I find it hard to express how I feel.... I find it really easy to write songs about it. I think that’s made me fall in love with music,” Janayah said.

Street treat... Janayah Wadsworth performed live in the village last weekend

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Morbius (M) 104min	Preview Screening 30 MAR

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