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May 6, 2022

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

New owners at Devonport
Chocolates... p2

Swimmers strip off in
record numbers... p5

Interview: Water-polo star
Katie McKenty... p16-17

Heritage area suggested for town centre

The creation of a historic heritage area to protect the Devonport business centre is being proposed to Auckland Council.

Consultation is under way on massive changes to housing zoning across Auckland due to government law changes.

Devonport Heritage wants council to make

Devonport's historic centre – from Windsor Reserve and Marine Square up both sides of Victoria Rd to Takarunga – into a historic heritage area.

“Windsor Reserve is an already protected archaeological site and Victoria Rd is one of the most intact early commercial streets in

Auckland,” Devonport Heritage chair Margot McRae said. The street was built on the toe of the volcanic cone of Takarunga that dominates the town. “Declaring it a historic heritage area will further ensure it is protected and managed well into the future,” she said.

Heritage meeting, page 12-13

Out of my way! Lock on the rampage



Battering ram... North Shore lock Stephen Dempsey starts his run for a sensational try in North Shore's 29-11 win over Silverdale at home last Saturday. Match report, page 18.



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Chocolate business changes hands after 23 years

Devonport Chocolates has been sold after 23 years under the ownership of Terry and Stephanie Everitt.

Terry (68) and Stephanie (71) said they will miss the business, but the time was right to retire.

Sales had returned to pre-Covid levels, and a further boost was on the horizon with the pending return of international tourists, and hotel customers returning to providing rooms after being used as MIQ facilities during the pandemic.

“It feels like a lot of buds are about to open,” Stephanie said.

“Online is going well, as is the Wynyard St shop... we’ve had great local support.”

New owners Kevin England and Sarah Gardner took over last week, but the Everitts will stay on for a six-week handover.

All 20 full- and part-time staff, including Stephanie and Terry’s daughter Caroline, have been retained.

Kevin has worked on technology in the financial services and energy utilities sectors, while Sarah has been a management consultant.

Both wanted a change and looked to buy a business.

Devonport Chocolates “ticked all the boxes” with an established brand, excellent products and processes and experienced staff, Kevin said. Sarah was also interested in the food sector.

The couple, from Ponsonby, were also Devonport Chocolates customers when it had a retail shop in that suburb, seven or eight years ago. The company still has a store in Queens Arcade in the Auckland CBD.

“We’re just going to settle in and keep doing what’s working well and then listen to our customers,” Kevin said.

The Everitts will continue living in Devonport. Stephanie is looking forward to “getting stuck into the garden without the



Handing over... New Devonport Chocolates owners Kevin England and Sarah Gardner, with their daughter Sophia, and former owners Stephanie and Terry Everitt

time pressure (of a business)”.

Travel is also planned, including a trip to Milford Sound and then overseas,

probably in 2023.

“I’ve never been to Cape Reinga so that is first on the list.”

Community coordinator calls it quits

Devonport Community Coordinator Maria Teape is leaving after 10 years in the job.

Her final day is in late May. “It just felt like time for a change,” she told the Flagstaff.

Teape’s first plan is to take a sabbatical.

“My sister is coming out from Denmark in June for five weeks, so I’m going to spend time with her.”

Local man arrested

A 61-year-old Devonport man will face charges of threatening to kill and impeding breathing following an incident on King Edward Pde last Saturday night.

It is understood two cars were keyed around 9pm and threats made to the owners.

Police confirmed they responded and said a man would appear in the North Shore District Court this month.

The Devonport Flagstaff
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Local cricket ace makes a pitch for pro career

Auckland Young Cricketer of the Year Simon Keene has already clocked up years of play for North Shore Cricket Club.

From the age of four, the sporty kid tagged along from home in Hauraki with father Warren and older brother Jack for matches at Devonport Domain.

All the subsequent hours and years spent honing his bowling and batting skills paid off this year for the 21-year-old, who had a dream first-class debut for the Auckland Aces.

As a mid-season injury call-up, Keene showed his class as a medium-fast bowler by taking a five-wicket bag against Otago in Dunedin in February.

It was the four-day side's first away win since 2017. He backed that up with two six-wicket bags against Canterbury and Wellington and a knock of 65 against Central Districts.

"I had a terrible season with the bat this year at club, so it was nice to show what I can do," he says.

His contribution to the Aces' season was recognised at the team's recent prizegiving. Awards weren't what you played for, he said, although it was "so nice" to win.

But it's what comes next that Keene is most focused on. "The aim is to get a contract next year with Auckland and go from there.

"It's just amazing to have done so well so quickly," he tells the Flagstaff. "It would be cool to have that opportunity to back it up."

Keene will spend the next few months working and hitting the gym, ready to get back into the nets at Eden Park when winter squad training begins.

Next season's contracts are announced in September.



Bags man... Simon Keene made a major impact in his first games for Auckland

After he finished school in 2018 – the same year he first made Shore's premier team – Keene tried tertiary study, but the lure of becoming a professional sportsman has more appeal.

"I'm focusing on cricket for a bit, while I'm young, to see if I can make it. And I work for my old man, he's got a landscaping business, Devonport Tree Services."

Next winter, Keene may venture overseas to see if he can pick up a club contract in England for extra experience.

"A lot of the guys in the Aces do it."

He is relishing his taste of the first-class environment.

"It's cool to be able to play with those guys – Kyle Jamieson, Martin Guptill – who I've watched on television. Talking to guys like Lockie [Ferguson] on how they bowl their slower balls and when they bowl them."

A challenge for seamers is to stay injury-free – so far, so good for Keene.

As a youngster at Hauraki Primary School and Belmont Intermediate he threw himself into all sports, but honed in on cricket early, winning a sports scholarship as a weekday boarder at St Kentigern College.

"I broke my collarbone playing rugby when I was quite young, about 11-12. It put me off," he recalls.

At St Kents, he was in the 1st XI for three years and made Auckland age-group sides. He was also in the football 2nd XI.

He still likes to kick a ball about socially with his old primary-school mates.

Keene says he enjoys the relaxed local lifestyle. He flats a few streets away from the Keene family home, looking across his old primary playing fields.

Following Graeme Beghin's switch to play for Auckland University, he is the only North Shore player currently in the Aces.

Keene had a taste of playing for his country in the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa in January 2020, which proved educational.

"I didn't go so well, having not experienced that sort of level, but it did fast-track me a little bit to what professional cricket is like."

The aim for now is to take things one step at a time: "To be the best cricketer I can, in all aspects."

Tougher Times Ahead

Things have moved rapidly over the last few weeks with inflation at near record levels and banks raising their mortgage rates much faster than the Reserve Bank is lifting the Official Cash Rate (OCR).

Remember, banks don't fund themselves at the OCR rate of 1.50% – around 75% of their funding is from term deposits with the six-month benchmark rate currently at 2%. The remaining 25% is from longer-term, largely offshore, wholesale funding, which will be more expensive. With floating mortgage rates at 5.50% and the benchmark two-year fixed rate at 5.25%, that's a healthy margin for the banks. No wonder there are record profits!

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Record nude entries as Round North Head title changes hands



A record 39 nude competitors finished the Round North Head Classic 2.5 km ocean swim last Saturday.

Jono Ridler, the first “freedom swimmer” home, streaked off before getting his prize – he had his own wedding to get to. Female nude swimmers (22 finishers) outnumbered men (17 finishers).

The overall race, from Windsor Reserve to Balmain Reserve in Cheltenham, was won by Alex Dunkley in 24 minutes and 16 seconds.

Multiple past winner Brent Foster was second, just 11 seconds behind. One factor in the result may have been the positioning of the final buoy, which was much closer to shore than competitors had been told to expect.

Foster took a wide line after rounding the head, allowing Dunkley to slip into the lead by taking a course closer to the shoreline.

Ella Crowe was the first female finisher in 26:53, with Nicola Clement second in 27:53. Ridler’s time was 28:04, with Natasha Bowyer, the first female freedom swimmer home, in 29:11. Nearly 200 swimmers completed the event.

Classic tales... Brent Foster (left) and winner Alex Dunkley; first woman home Ella Crowe (below left); and swimmers emerging at the finish (below right)



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NEW LISTING



Devonport 26 Jubilee Avenue

Beautiful bungalow on Jubilee Ave

Sitting at the base of majestic North Head, Jubilee Avenue is recognised as one of Devonport's best addresses, just footsteps from Torpedo Bay and a short stroll from Cheltenham beach. Number 26 has a captivating, picture-perfect street presence and timelessly elegant interiors which will enchant all who enter this beautiful bungalow. Renowned local architect Geoff Richards, worked his magic to redesign the flow of this home, creating expansive, family-friendly spaces including two living areas that open out to the west facing landscaped garden beyond. It also offers options galore with four generous bedrooms, two of which can equally be used as more additional living, or a great space to work from home, and the upstairs master suite has its own balcony. A true family haven.

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4 2 2 1

Auction 1.30pm, Thu 2 Jun 2022

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View Sun 1-1.45pm

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Bid to upgrade listing of more heritage buildings

Six buildings on Devonport's main street should be given upgraded heritage status, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has told Auckland Council.

The board wants the Victoria Rd buildings given Category A status on Auckland Council's update of its Heritage Schedule, in line with landmark buildings such as the Victoria Theatre. The commercial or former civic buildings the board wants upgraded from the current Category B listing council officers recommended are:

- 3 Victoria Rd, the former Devonport Borough Council building and one-time post office, which the council intends to sell as an unwanted asset. It has been empty for several years and requires earthquake-strengthening.
- Mays Building, 5-15 and 19 Victoria Rd.
- Former post office at 10 Victoria Rd.
- Former Bank of New Zealand at 14 Victoria Rd (now The Patriot pub).
- Devonia Building, at 61-67 Victoria Rd, a block that includes the RSA clubrooms.
- Alison's Building at 73-79 Victoria Rd.

The six buildings were part of the town centre's significant Edwardian and Victorian character, which carried national significance, said a submission prepared on the board's behalf by member Trish Deans.

A further four sites in the board area also warranted upgraded status on the schedule, according to the board's feedback, signed off at its April meeting. These were: Memorial Drive on the Lake Rd approach to Devonport, built to remember World War II; the memorial gates and coronation oak trees at Takapuna Primary School on Anzac St, built to remember World War I; the Pumphouse and green shed at Kilarney Park, Takapuna; and a private home, Earnsccliffe, at 44 Williamson, Ave, Belmont.

The local board also wants protection for the shell path along Devonport's waterfront, running along Queens Pde Reserve, Queens Pde, and King Edward Pde. Council officers had recommended the path, built to commemorate the end of the Boer War, be omitted from the heritage schedule.

Board members otherwise backed the officers' recommendations made earlier this year.

These cover 56 properties in the board area, of which it was recommended 13 be classified as Category A, 33 move down to Category B, several be merged to form a collection and seven listings (including a number of plaques) be removed as not qualifying for recognition.

The process was required because the heritage schedule, carried over from previous local bodies when Auckland Council was formed, needed reassessment to meet current criteria.

Some of the listings dated back to 1980 classifications made by the Devonport Borough Council, which in themselves were taken up by the North Shore City Council.

A plan-change hearings panel will determine what is finally incorporated into the Auckland Unitary Plan. Deans and Ruth Jackson (chair) will be the board's representatives for this.



The Devonia building (top) and former post office (above) are among six Victoria Rd buildings for which the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is seeking Category A heritage status

Heritage sites, other than those mentioned above, still on the heritage list in the Flagstaff circulation area include:

CATEGORY A

Devonport: The Victoria Theatre, 48-56 Victoria Rd; Mt Victoria Anglican cemetery, Takarunga/Mt Victoria, Albert Rd; Takapuna spring site, 62 King Edward Pde; Elizabeth House, 5 King Edward Pde; Devonport World War I memorial, Windsor Reserve, corner of Victoria Rd and King Edward Pde; the Esplanade Hotel, 1 Victoria Rd; and Rotherham house, 27a Rutland St, Stanley Pt.

Bayswater: O'Neill's Point cemetery, 122 Bayswater Ave.

CATEGORY B

Devonport: Tainui landing monument, Torpedo Bay reserve; Watson Memorial clock, Duders Beach, King Edward Pde; Rockcliff, 6a King Edward Pde; Alison clock, Marine Square, Queens Pde; Windsor Reserve commemorative landscape (including hydrograph survey station, mast, and J.P Mays and H Frankham South African War memorial fountains and stone); Victoria

Hall/Bufalo Hall, 2 Lake Rd/21 Albert Rd; Former grocer shops and residence, 58 Calliope Rd; Former Devonport Power Station, 47-49 Church St; Robert Duder homestead, 11 Church St; Mays' residence, 9 Mays St; Former St Paul's Presbyterian Church and Mt Victoria Presbyterian and general cemetery, 100a and 100b Victoria Rd; St Frances de Sales and All Souls Catholic Church and cemetery, 2a and 2b Albert Rd; Holy Trinity Church and Hall, 20 Church St and 2-4 Vauxhall Rd and St Augustine's Memorial Church (and former Mission hall), 95a Calliope Rd.

Narrow Neck: First state house on the North Shore, 27 Niccol Ave.

Bayswater: Former St Michael and All Angels Church, 159 Bayswater Ave; and Takapuna Boating Club and saltwater swimming pool, 17 Sir Peter Blake Pde.

Belmont: Takapuna Grammar School, 210 Lake Rd.

Hauraki: Former Dudding's Store; Second House, 18 Northboro Rd and First House, 20 Northboro Rd.

• **Local board urges awareness of military sites.** Story page 25.

New heritage benchmark retains

Fears that Devonport's heritage character would suffer under a government push for intensification have been eased by an Auckland Council decision. But major changes still lie ahead for much of the peninsula. The Flagstaff details the issues.



On the map... Auckland Councillor Chris Darby holds the floor during a Devonport public meeting on Special Character Areas

Darby behind motion that protected Devonport

North Shore Councillor Chris Darby was behind the push to safeguard protection of Devonport's residential heritage status, minutes of a confidential Auckland Council planning committee meeting show.

Raw data from council surveys of properties in the Special Character Area south of the golf course showed Devonport central, Cheltenham, Stanley Point and Narrow Neck failed to reach a threshold of 75 per cent of properties of high heritage value.

The data was considered behind closed

doors by Auckland councillors. But leaked maps published by the Flagstaff sent shockwaves through the community.

The council response was considered in a closed meeting of the planning committee on 31 March. Confidential minutes show Darby proposed a motion (seconded by Mayor Phil Goff) that effectively protected the majority of Devonport properties.

The motion meant that Special Character overlays within walkable distances of rapid-transit zones or metropolitan centres

would require 75 per cent of properties to have a score of 5 or 6. But outside the walkable catchments – an area such as Devonport south of the golf course – the criterion was 66 per cent. North Shore Councillor Richard Hills also voted for the 66 per cent qualification.

However, Darby and Hills, and 12 other councillors voted against a proposal, put forward by councillor Wayne Walker, that the threshold for protection be set at 50 per cent of properties gaining scores of 4,5 or 6.

Stanley Bay found to be the heritage hero

Stanley Bay has a higher proportion of heritage homes than Devonport and Cheltenham, Auckland Council surveys have revealed.

Field surveys conducted by council found 339 Stanley Bay houses – 86 per cent – attained one of the top two property-rating scores based on heritage criteria.

In the Devonport/Cheltenham area south of the golf course, 1020 homes, or 69 per cent made it into the top two scores.

The raw findings were contained in council reports compiled in January.

“The Devonport Special Character Area – Residential is not of high-quality, special-char-

acter value,” the report said.

“An area of high quality is determined to be one that has 75 per cent or more individual properties scoring with 5 or 6 (on a value scale). This area has 69 per cent of individual properties scoring either 5 or 6.”

In the Narrow Neck Special Character Area – from Grove Rd to Narrow Neck Beach – 94 properties (54 per cent of homes) were given scores of five or six, with the overall area rated as “not of high-quality special-character value.”

Stanley Point had 58 homes scoring 5 or 6 on the rating scale (58 per cent), again putting

it outside qualification as an area of special character.

The surveys were done from the streetscapes and supplemented by Google mapping information.

The maps reveal Cheltenham beachfront and adjoining streets, Ariho Terrace, parts of Queens and King Edward Pdes, and Vauxhall Rd as areas having large numbers of homes with a heritage rating of only 1 on the scale.

Properties were rated on scale, relationship to the street, period of development, typology, architectural style and “level of physical integrity”.

protections for Devonport housing

Caveats suggested as do-it-yourself safeguard

Homeowners in Devonport streets could club together to impose limitations on building heights and density, senior Auckland Council planner John Duguid told a public meeting in Devonport on Special Character Areas.

The option was suggested by a resident as a control mechanism – of a kind that already happens in developments where restrictions on heights and density are set for new-build sites. In Devonport, the approach could apply to existing homes.

Duguid responded that if a group of homeowners got together and placed caveats on their titles, the restrictions would be binding on owners and future buyers.

More than 100 people attended the meeting at the Devonport Community House last week, with hosts scurrying for more chairs and stools to meet seating demands.

While tension was lessened by the news that most Devonport homes south of the golf course would be protected under Special Character provisions, concerns remained over the Terrace Housing and Apartment Buildings Zone allowing up to six storeys applied to homes within 200 metres of Devonport town centre, and the future of central-village properties in Anne and Wynyard Sts.

The meeting was chaired by North Shore Councillor and Auckland Council planning committee chair Chris Darby and attended by Duguid, Auckland's plans and places manager, and senior planners Emma Rush and Megan Patrick. Key revelations and

confirmations included:

- Devonport ferry terminal is not considered a rapid-transit zone (where greater intensification is allowed).
- While the Single House zone has gone across Auckland, houses that are in a Special Character Area are now proposed to be in a two-storey single-dwelling residential area.
- Special Character Area status has been removed from Wynyard St and Clarence St part of the town centre but development height restrictions would retain the status quo.
- While the new Terrace Housing and Apartment Buildings zone had been applied to Devonport town centre, residential sites were protected by the Special Character provisions, which included limiting high-rise developments or massive intensification
- The Anne St and Garden Tce area is protected by a coastal inundation overlay, which restricts development.

Patrick said the Special Character Area was designed to avoid pepperpotting – high density alongside low-rise homes.

Darby said council was aware of residents' concerns about the impact of intensification on infrastructure like sewerage and roading. Council had proposed a lack of infrastructure as one of the limiting factors for development.

Duguid told the meeting that informa-

tion on the likely impacts on infrastructure and population from the changed zonings across the city was being collated. It should be available prior to formal submissions being called for in August on changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Darby encouraged Devonport residents to give feedback now on what they wanted for their suburb. If the community supported council proposals on heritage protection, for example, it was vital it said so for the information to be fed into the decision-making process.

Devonport resident Ian Cunliffe said the overall outstanding quality of Devonport homes warranted World Heritage protection status.

"South of the golf course is an area we can showcase to the rest of the world," he said.

Long-time North Shore community advocate, Bill Rayner, said the Special Character Areas should be more than just about houses, but also the ambience of various suburbs.

The changes forced by a housing-enabling law, rushed through parliament last December and supported by both National and Labour, impacted both the Devonport peninsula and wider North Shore, Rayner said.

"In Takapuna, buildings of up to 10 storeys will be allowed and it will affect how people will enjoy the beaches... the changes are likely to destroy the ambience of the whole North Shore."

Big changes coming for peninsula neighbourhoods

Residents of Bayswater, Belmont and Hauraki will face marked changes to their neighbourhood when new housing zones come into effect.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans said while discussion had focused on Devonport's Special Character Area, residents elsewhere on the peninsula should review Auckland Council's proposed Unitary Plan changes and make submissions.

A significant swathe of Hauraki, back from Esmonde Rd, is now zoned for terrace housing and apartment blocks up to six storeys high. It forms part of the walkable catchment from Takapuna, which is classified as a metropolitan centre, allowing greater intensification.

More built-up housing is also allowed around Belmont town centre and at Bayswater marina, with sections across most of the rest of the peninsula north of the Devonport golf course zoned for three-storey, three-dwelling development as of right. On some sections, more dwellings can be built, without public notification, if council planners consider the applications will have less than minor impact.



A Belmont brick home is dwarfed by fast-rising neighbours

This is already being seen in these suburbs, with multi-unit terrace housing currently under construction in Bayswater Ave and Northboro Rd, among other examples.

With more relaxed rules to apply under Government housing directives, backed by the National Party, which the council is having to write into the Unitary Plan, development close to the boundaries is likely to increase.

A resident whose property is being dwarfed

by three-storey dwellings being built on either side of his single-storey home, told local-board members at a community forum held in Takapuna on Tuesday last week that this would become more widespread.

Max Whitehead, who lives in Forrest Hill, said his home would lose morning sun. "The parking in the street is already impossible."

Quiet suburbs would be changed dramatically, he said. "When we're going to see six-storey buildings going up it's going to get worse. "This could happen to you folks as well."

Board member George Wood said his home in Forrest Hill could face being dwarfed by new homes: it was now zoned for terrace housing and apartment buildings. He pointed to high prices being paid for land in Sunnynook by developers, with sections going for \$2 million plus.

Member Jan O'Connor said the new legislation would exacerbate this.

Board chair Ruth Jackson said intensification was already obvious in Auckland, but the looming changes were "pushing it over the top".

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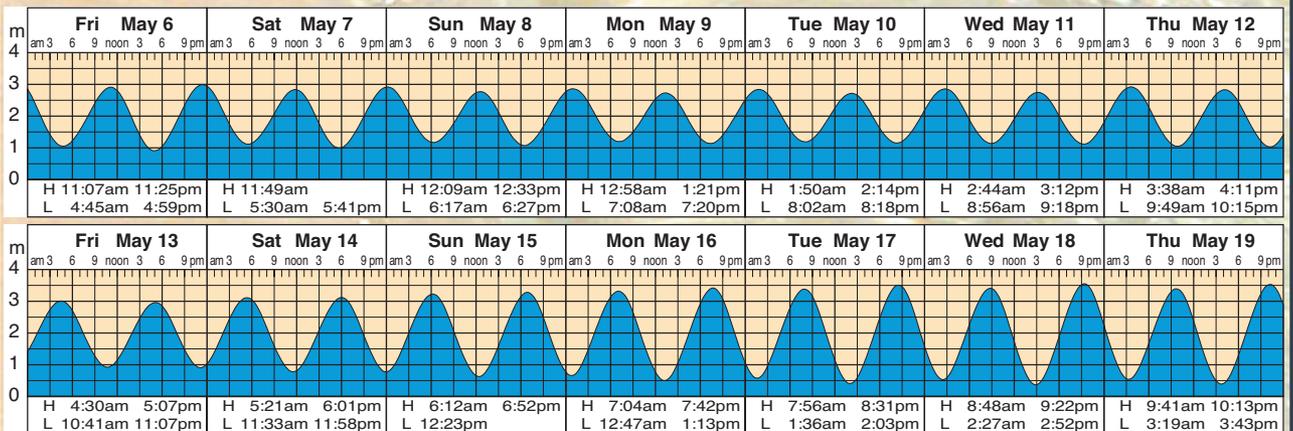
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Busy schedule helps water-polo star make a splash

A US college scholarship set Devonport's Katie McKenty on a path to sporting and academic success. She tells Helen Vause about juggling work commitments and Olympic dreams.



Twin peaks... Katie McKenty holds down a challenging day job as a geotechnical engineer while working towards her sporting goals at demanding early-morning and evening training sessions

New Zealand Water Polo Player of the Year Katie McKenty is an elite athlete in a high-performance job, living life at a fast pace.

On the day the 26-year-old Devonport-raised Takapuna Grammar (TGS) alumna snatched time to talk to the Flagstaff in a local cafe, her work as a geotechnical engineer had already involved donning her hard hat for a visit to a building site in pouring rain.

It's a regular requirement of her chosen profession, dealing with the geotechnical issues encountered by building projects of all sizes.

Her full work days are bookended by training sessions, with early starts in the pool before the city has stirred, and evening workouts, meaning she doesn't get home until between 8.30pm and 10pm.

It's demanding, but it's the life she's become used to while pursuing her sporting goals along with her academic, and now professional, ambitions.

As a member of the national women's water-polo squad, she has hopes of competing at the 2024 Olympics in a sport she first got a taste for in the junior form of 'flippa ball' at Vauxhall School.

McKenty started playing water polo proper at Belmont Intermediate. An athletic youngster, she tried most sports, including tennis, soccer,

volleyball and netball. Her mother, Toni, played badminton for New Zealand at three Commonwealth Games during the 1980s, and supported her daughter's devotion to sport.

"I was into everything sporting as a kid," McKenty recalls. "I guess I loved being fit and the excitement of the games."

She had a 'throw yourself right into it' attitude to life, and laughs about the many mishaps of her childhood, pointing out a few scars that serve to remind her of them.

"I was a bold sort of kid and just full of beans. I climbed things and fell off things. In all, I think I've had five broken bones."

The first bad childhood spill came in a game of tag when she broke her wrist. The next was much nastier: She'd climbed a tree at her family's Tainui Rd home, fallen and skewered her leg in the picket fence below.

As a 10-year-old Tinkerbell in a local drama production, she fell out of a cargo net. And a year later, she was injured falling off the roof of the North Shore Rugby Club after she noticed a ladder leaning against the building and couldn't resist climbing it.

In her teens at TGS, McKenty still played other sports but water polo began to take priority.

The speed and aggression it required, along

with the need to outsmart the opposition, had her hooked.

So began the 5.30am starts – initially a couple of days a week – that would come to be a permanent fixture in her life.

"Mum and Dad ran me around a lot. They were very supportive, but they wanted me to get my driver's licence as soon as I could and to start taking myself to training."

In 2010, she made the national under-15 team and four years later went on to captain the New Zealand side at the Youth World Championships in Madrid.

In 2015, McKenty won a scholarship to play water polo in the United States and further her education. She set off to Hartwick College, a 225-year-old private university in New York State, where she lived for the next four years.

Hartwick is in Oneonta, a small town in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, where winter temperatures fall to minus six.

Students at Hartwick mostly live in dormitories on campus, totally immersed in their college world of sport, study and social life.

It was a far cry from home in Tainui Road and schooldays at TGS but McKenty was up for the challenges involved.

"I was so excited and couldn't wait to get into it all. I was ready for it," she says.

She has great memories of travelling around the US and to Greece with the college team, but also recalls a tough coach and the rigours of training. It was a step up from what she had experienced in Auckland.

McKenty came home in the term breaks and for Christmas in the New Zealand summer.

“When it came time to go back in January, it was tough to leave the beach and the sunshine and my family and friends to fly back to college and to the freezing cold. It was a wonderful experience, but at the end of it I was ready to come home.”

“So much of it is about tactics. You’ve got to be ahead of the opposition to outsmart them?”

As a student at Hartwick, McKenty majored in geology. Back in New Zealand, she did her masters and qualified in geotechnical engineering at the University of Auckland.

She says she’s lucky her first boss, at GWE Consulting Engineers in Takapuna, is Devonport local Gareth Williams, who has been “hugely supportive” of her water-polo commitments.

McKenty made her senior international debut in 2018, and represented New Zealand at the world championships in South Korea in 2019. She was named national woman Water Polo Player of the Year for 2021.

Pursuing her sporting ambitions alongside a professional career may be demanding, but it’s the life she is used to.

“It’s my world, and after all these years it’s where my friends are too. It’s not great for your social life, but that doesn’t matter when you are already spending your time with people you



Pool power... McKenty trains hard to maintain the fitness top-level water polo demands

want to be with.

“It’s given me the opportunity to travel and play high-level sport while I’m able to build a great career.”

Covid brought its own challenges for a sportswoman needing to maintain her fitness and optimism.

“I swam up and down Cheltenham Beach. Mum would often come down and watch me.

“And I ran too. I’d run out from home as far as I could and then I’d have to make it back home. Every day was focused on figuring out how to keep up my fitness.”

Water polo demands particularly high levels of conditioning.

It’s all that frantic egg beating in the water

just to stay afloat, says McKenty, laughing.

She’s a utility player, which means she can switch positions, making fast tactical adjustments.

That’s part of the challenge she loves.

“So much of it is about tactics. You’ve got to be ahead of the opposition to outsmart them.

“I’ve learned so much about ways to play the game from international play.”

The New Zealand women’s water-polo team has never qualified for the Olympics before.

But they have played against other Olympic teams in overseas competitions and have performed well says McKenty.

She is confident they will qualify to compete at the Olympics in France in 2024.

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Shore looks the goods in Silverdale demolition

The North Shore premiers rugby side gave notice that it should be a title contender this season, with a 29-11 win against Silverdale at home last Saturday.

The emphatic style of the win, which came on the back of an 13-7 loss to Massey, was more important than the score. Based on a solid performance by Shore's pack and strong all-round defence, they knocked Silverdale off the top of the table.

Lock Stephen Dempsey, in his 20th game for Shore, put in a supercharged performance, strong in the line-out and in the tight. He scored a belter of a try, charging 22 metres, beating numerous defenders to dot down. Donald Coleman, who had three quarters of a game at flanker and the rest at hooker, made some scintillating breaks, while fellow forwards James Fiebig and Adam Batt were also firing. Samuel Toa, Fiebig and Batt were also tryscorers for Shore.

Oscar Koller, a top player with Takapuna Grammar School a couple of seasons ago, ran powerfully and distributed well in his third game for the premiers. He kicked three conversions and a penalty.

The game started poorly for Shore, who gave away an intercept try. But although Silverdale defended mightily and mounted several promising attacks, Shore's pack was too big and strong and increasingly dominated as the game wore on.

The green-and-whites scored two tries in the first half and went into the break up 12-8.

Rather than letting their opponents rally, as they have done on occasion in recent years, Shore kept the pressure on, mounting numerous structured movements, keeping the ball in hand and only kicking sparingly. Silverdale was forced to counter-attack using sparse possession, while Shore's defence remained firm.

The score should have been higher, with Shore scoring what appeared to be an excellent try on full time, with great passing between forwards and backs, only to be called back for a penalty.



Powerhouse... Multiple tacklers were often needed to stop North Shore's Donald Coleman last Saturday

The season is looking tighter than ever with the top teams – Shore, Takapuna, Massey, Northcote and Silverdale – all capable of winning the championship.

It will come down to passion, determination and resilience – all of which Shore showed plenty of last weekend.

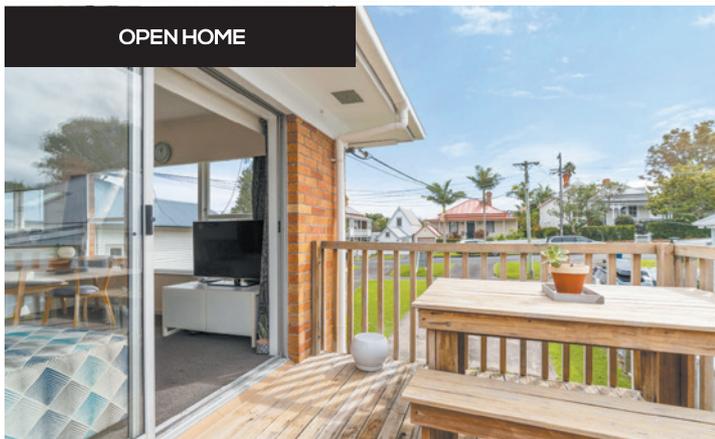
- North Shore plays East Coast Bays away on 7 May.

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3/31 EWEN ALISON AVENUE

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AUCTION

12:00pm 11 May 2022 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

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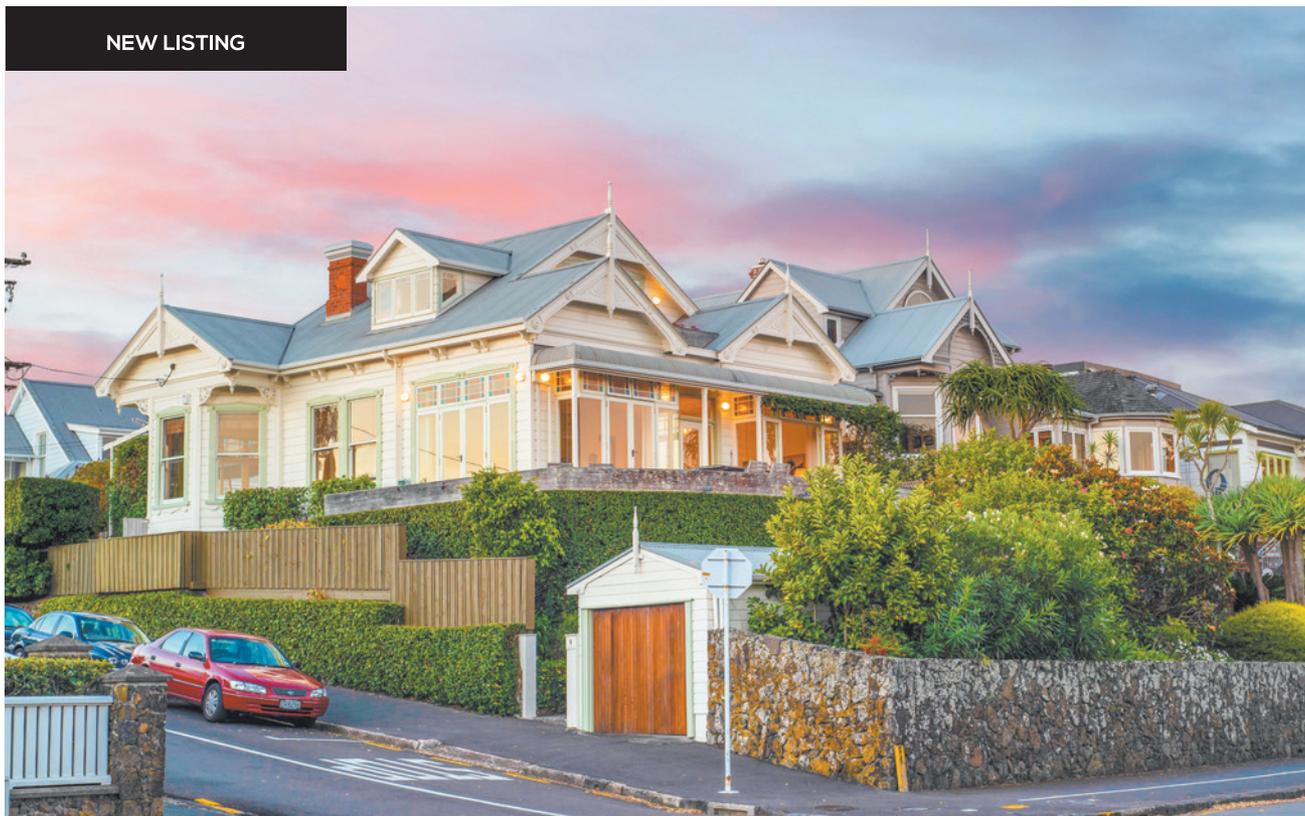


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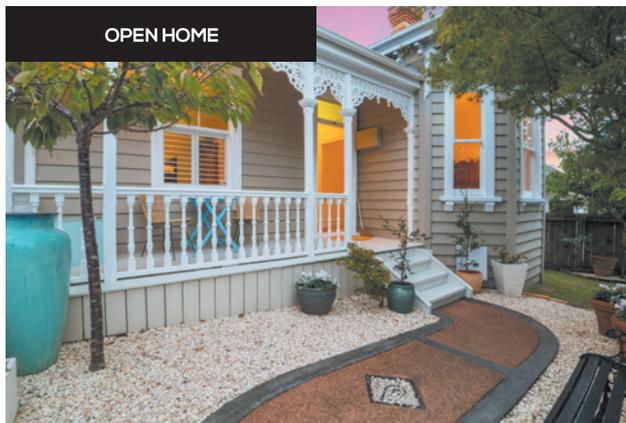


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OPEN HOME



DEVONPORT 39 EWEN ALISON AVENUE



AUCTION
12:00pm 18 May 2022 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Sat/Sun 12:00 -12:45pm
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AUCTION THIS WEEK



DEVONPORT 76B CALLIOPE ROAD



AUCTION
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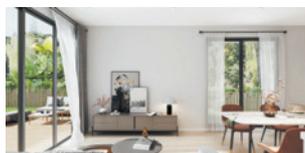
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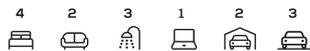


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VIEWING
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Cathy Fiebig
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Anzac Day in Devonport: low key but full of meaning



Traditional words... Devonport RSA president Muzz Kennett (second from left) recited the Ode of Remembrance at a pared-back non-public service

Veterans, serving Defence officers and invited guests gathered at the Devonport World War I memorial on the morning of Anzac Day, in a service scaled back and closed to the public due to Covid concerns.

Takapuna Grammar School youth am-

bassador Anna Stuart, 17, who is also on the Devonport RSA executive committee, read the Anzac dedication.

Members of the public visited the war memorial to pay their respects throughout the morning.



North Shore MP Simon Watts lays a wreath



Captain Richard Walker, DSD, Navy, gave the address at the service. Chris Mullane (at rear) was Master of Ceremonies.

George Cross recipient welcomed by Devonport RSA

A George Cross recipient who has lived in Bayswater for 50 years is one of the newest members of the Devonport RSA.

At the Anzac Day service this year, Devonport RSA president Muzz Kennett welcomed Alfred Lowe, a retired petty officer of the Royal Navy.

Kennett shared the story of how Lowe, now nearly 92, was awarded the George Cross – an equivalent of the Victoria Cross but for those whose gallantry was not in the presence of the enemy.

As a 17-year-old, Lowe was on board a liberty boat returning to the HMS Illustrious in Portland Harbour, in rough sea, when the vessel capsized. Trapped underneath the canopy as the boat sank, Lowe believed he was facing his death, yet the canopy started to float, allowing him to swim towards the Illustrious around 80 metres away. As he reached the stern, a line was thrown to him, but he heard a cry for help from a young midshipman around 10 metres away. Lowe grabbed the line and turned back to save the now-unconscious sailor. The midshipman subsequently died, one of 29 lives lost in the tragedy, but Lowe received the Albert Medal for his bravery.

In 1971, it was announced that recipients of the Albert Medal could exchange their medals for the George Cross. Lowe received the George Cross in 1973.

His wife, Philippa, says the pair lead a simple life these days. “We came over from England in the 1960s,” she said. “We’re more New Zealanders now than English.”

Before Covid, they returned to Britain every



Never too late to sign up... Alfred Lowe, 91, recently joined the Devonport RSA after living in Bayswater for 50 years

two years for the Victoria Cross and the George Cross Association reunion.

The medals are the two highest awards in the British honours system. Queen Elizabeth II is patron of the association. The Lowes have

attended a number of royal receptions and met members of the royal family.

“Alf now feels he can’t go because of Covid. The last time we went was in 2018,” Philippa said.

Ukraine invasion lifts understanding of war’s awful toll

The war in Ukraine has opened the eyes of young New Zealanders to the reality of war, youth leaders at the Devonport RSA Anzac service said.

A wreath-laying Anzac Day ceremony held at 7.30am at the Devonport War Memorial was not a public event due to Covid regulations, but around 120 members of the community came and stood at the edge of proceedings. This was followed by an invitation-only event at the Devonport RSA at 10am.

Among the participants was 17-year-old Youth MP Ivy Mitchell, who laid a wreath alongside North Shore MP Simon Watts.

Ivy said it was important for teenagers to know what actually happened at Gallipoli. The war in Ukraine would have opened eyes, she said. “[The war] does make them realise this has happened before to New Zealanders.”

Takapuna Grammar School youth ambassador Anna Stuart, 17, who is also on the Devonport RSA executive committee, read the Anzac dedication during the service. She, too, says the Ukraine war has raised awareness.

The war was also noted in the address given by Royal New Zealand Navy Captain Richard Walker. He spoke of the need to defend the international system put in place after World War II.

Events in Ukraine were a reminder of what happens when the system breaks down, he said. “Peace is not a given. It is to be worked for, guarded and cherished.”



Takapuna Grammar School student Milla Rodrigues-Birch, 13, sang *Amazing Grace* and the New Zealand and Australia national anthems



By Rob Drent

Nothing quite like a heritage threat to drag Devonport residents out to a public meeting. More than 100 fronted to an Auckland Council session on Special Character zones at the Devonport Community House last week.

The tone was surprisingly calm for a public meeting in a local-body election year. A few in the audience tried to dominate question time, but there was no heckling of local councillor Chris Darby or council staff. Perhaps this was because the threat to Devonport's heritage status had largely dissipated, with most of the homes south of the golf course retaining Special Character protections.

Under questioning, Darby said early council maps printed in the Flagstaff and the *New Zealand Herald* were taken out of context and "wrong".

Actually, no Chris, the maps were correct. They were produced by council planning staff and it was clearly stated they were being considered by council prior to decisions being made.

If council committees were not held behind closed doors the maps could have been put into better context. If they had not been printed, Devonport people would not have had early notice of the possible outcome of a council review of Special Character suburbs. A huge reaction ensued, which gave council planners and elected officials a very clear steer on public sentiments. The earlier maps were revised, and the originals sent to the

dustbin of history.

To his credit, Darby ran a good meeting, taking questions covering a variety of views and pointing council officers in the right direction to address concerns. His grasp of the issues is comprehensive, sometimes trumping the expertise of senior council planner John Duguid.

Darby hammered home the need for Devonport locals to make submissions on the proposed housing changes. Not everyone around the council table supported plans to keep Devonport largely exempt from development, and a clear statement was still needed from locals over the need to protect heritage, Darby said.

In general discussion, Duguid twice mentioned that minor dwellings can be built in Devonport on the rear of sites with the main dwelling at the front.

Regular readers of the Flagstaff know how this interpretation has been contradicted recently by the building of a major dwelling at the rear of 110 Victoria Rd, with the minor dwelling at the front. I still can't fathom how that was allowed to slip through the council approvals process.

Many of the locals at the meeting would have left lacking total clarity about the state of play: the council planning maps for Devonport – with multiple overlays – have become confusing.

I guess this is the nub of the problem. Planning rules that need lawyers and planning experts to interpret them are by their very nature difficult for the general public to grasp with any sort of certainty.

A heritage zone for Devonport – with subsections for residential and business areas – without a complex array of overlays would be a simpler option.

The purchase of electric ferries by the government and Auckland Transport (AT) is a step in the right direction to greener and,

hopefully, more reliable public transport on our waterways.

Auckland Transport (AT) will own the ferries – set to ply the harbour from 2024 – but is looking for an operator to run them. Is this good enough, or a typical all-care-and-no-responsibility AT cop-out?

If AT owned and operated the ferries, fares could be held at cost, changes could be made to genuinely help public access to transport and the authority could be held accountable for any botch-ups rather than passing the buck down the line to a service provider that needs to make a profit.

In the 12 years since the formation of AT, I don't think I've ever written an uncritical paragraph about the organisation.

Here's a good-news story.

Anyone who knows me can testify that one of my many foibles is the accumulation of parking tickets. In one era of obvious over-policing by AT, my record for a week was 10.

The last couple of Covid years has brought a reprieve: possibly a result of fewer officers on the beat and less difficulty finding a park.

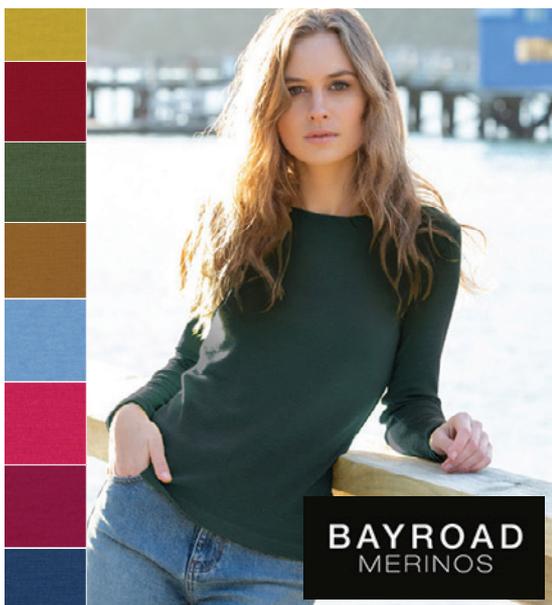
But things are returning to 'normal' on the downtown Devonport parking front. So, I was unsurprised when last week I found a parking ticket on my windshield outside the ferry terminal.

Ripping it off the windscreen wipers to see how much the damage was, I couldn't find an amount.

Instead, there was a handwritten message: "Just a friendly note to let you know that your left back tyre looks a bit flat."

I checked it out at Devonport Tyres around the corner, and they found a bolt had lodged in the rubber. The car was pretty much undriveable.

Thanks a lot, AT parking officer – I won't curse you and your colleagues ever again. Or at least not until the next ticket arrives.



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Shore's military sites deserve higher profile – local board

Greater awareness of the collective value of the North Shore's military sites is needed, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has told Auckland Council.

Promoting the sites to visitors and improving signage for them was also seen as an opportunity.

The string of coastal fortifications from Maungauika through to Narrow Neck and north to Kennedy Park in Castor Bay – along with memorials in Devonport and Takapuna and O'Neill's Point Cemetery in Bayswater – made up a historical landscape of national significance, the local board said in feedback to Auckland Council.

The board endorsed recommendations by council officers at its April meeting that Kennedy Park be given an A heritage listing, along with Devonport's World War I Memorial (the Untidy Soldier) and O'Neill's Pt cemetery in Bayswater, which houses war graves.

Two further sites related to the military cluster – Memorial Drive in Devonport and the memorial gates at Takapuna Primary – should be lifted from B listing to A in the council's update of its Historic Heritage Schedule, the board said.

The cemetery has recently been separately proposed as a Category 1 Historic Place by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

"It's really fantastic that this has occurred," said board member George Wood.

It opened up new funding channels from Heritage New Zealand and Internal Affairs for

maintenance and further improvements, he said.

In the board's public-forum section of the meeting, RSA representative and Bayswater Ave neighbour, Chris Mullane, underlined the cemetery's importance.

"It tells the story of the local area and the history of this place," he said. Mullane hoped one day a memorial would be installed for a centralised listing of all the military personnel buried there.

The cemetery includes military graves and those of early settlers of the lower North Shore. Among them are the O'Neills, who lent their name to the land, and Thomas and Mary Poynton, Catholic missionaries whose graves were visited last year by the Irish Ambassador to New Zealand.

The board thanked Heritage New Zealand and asked that it seek to have the cemetery added to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's list of significant sites. It also called for signage and online resources to help visitors better locate graves.

Fifty-four New Zealand servicemen are buried there, along with a similar number of Pacific Islanders. Most of the latter died of influenza while in camp at Narrow Neck before embarking overseas during World War I. The civilian toll can also be seen, says Mullane. "A number of headstones show the impact of Spanish flu over 100 years ago – it was the Covid of its day."

To this day, Pacific Island families visited the cemetery to acknowledge their ancestral

connections with the area, Mullane said.

The tireless campaigner for cemetery maintenance – along with Wood, who said it took years to get the front fence fixed – acknowledged its upkeep by Auckland Council was now much improved. Navy singer Rebecca Nelson and the Remembrance Army had spearheaded restoring military graves in the past few years. Mullane said this had led to other families maintaining their plots better as well.

Board chair Ruth Jackson said the cemetery had been "pretty rumpy. Now it's a lovely place to be".

The cemetery is largely closed. Only families with existing plots with room in them can still use these for burials or the placing of ashes.

The board endorsed the cemetery's added protection and recognition. Member Trish Deans hoped the interest in it would flow over to the historic cemeteries on Takarunga.

Pump track parade

The new pump track at Narrow Neck's Woodall Park will be celebrated with a pedalling parade later this month.

On 22 May, an open day will be held from 11am to 1pm, with groups cycling from Lake Town Green in Hauraki and Windsor Reserve in Devonport.

Cyclists are encouraged to dress themselves and their bikes in an autumn theme.

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Set Date of Sale
Closes 4:00pm Tuesday 17 May

View See website for viewing times or view by appointment

Kim Pausina
021 201 7488

Eden Thomson
021 790 552

rwdevonport.co.nz/DVP30010
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29 Aramoana Avenue **Devonport**

3 2 2 2 521m²

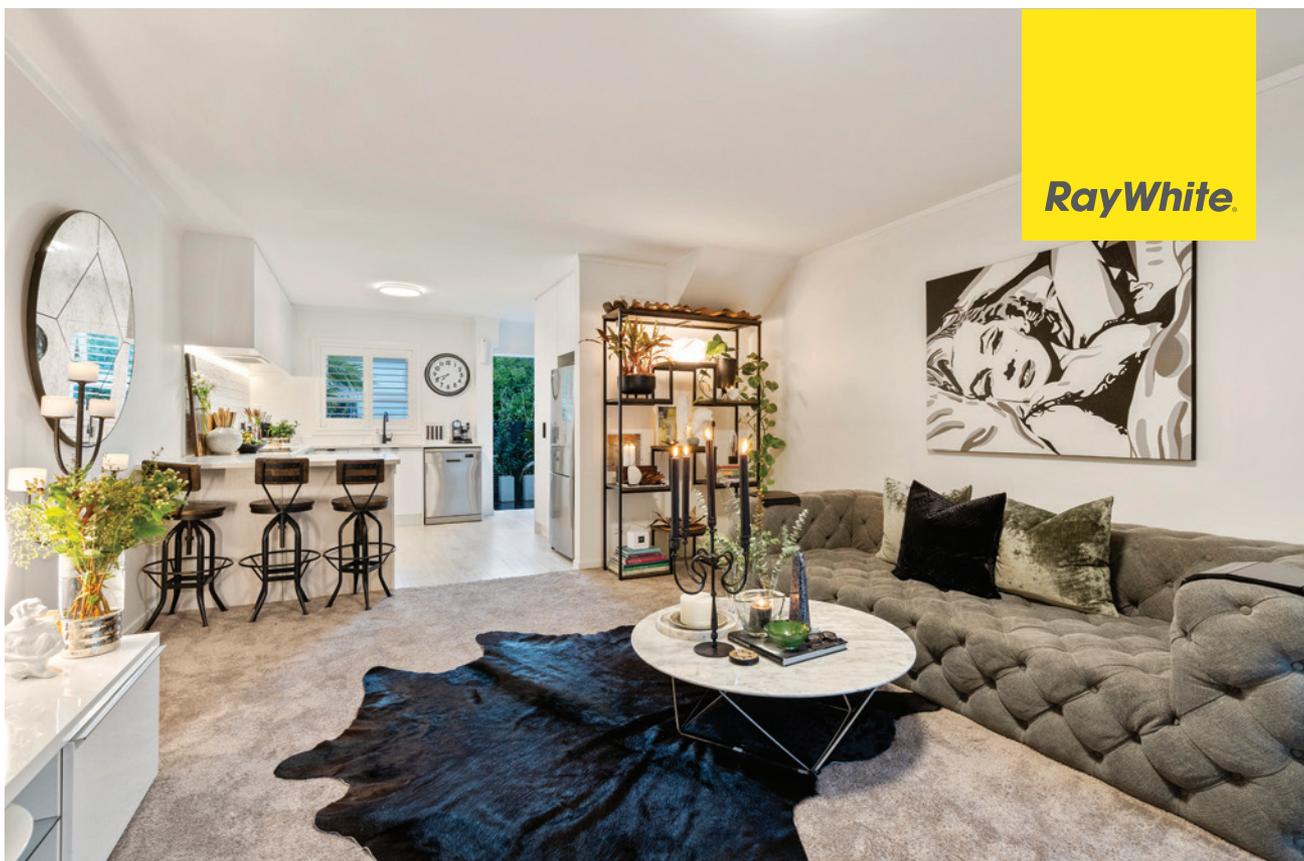
This beautifully elevated Devonport villa majestically sits awaiting its new owner. The sun shines on the fully fenced site just a few minutes walk from Aramoana Reserve located at the end of the street, where kids play on the swings and swim. There is even storage for small boats and paddleboards. This 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. The current owners leaving is their loss and your gain. So come to one of the open homes and see if this property is right for you.

Auction
10:45am, Sunday 15 May
On site (unless sold prior)

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The Muse - 6/29A Birdwood Crescent Parnell

2 1 1

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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- More than 200 ferry commuters are forced to negotiate gaping holes in the outside walkway of Devonport Wharf, after it is opened prematurely. Nearly 50 loose and broken planks were not secured due to a “stuff up”, wharf managers said.
- Wash from speeding power boats on Waitemata Harbour is forcing Devonport yacht owners to relocate their vessels to safer waters. Around 10 Devonport foreshore berth owners have moved to Bayswater marina as a result.
- The Department of Conservation moves to reduce the marginal strip at Bayswater Point from 20 metres to nine metres. More than 1600 people had signed a petition to retain the 20m strip, with 1000-plus post-cards sent to Conservation Minister Sandra Lee asking her to oppose the decision. Ngataranga Bay Society chair Chris Darby said the decision “was clearly a loss for the public”.
- Drunken youths throw bottles at police who are attempting to break up a party in Cheltenham. Three males are charged with disorderly behaviour.
- A Travelwise to School partnership between local schools and North Shore City Council is investigating how to reduce the numbers of cars at school gates. It aims to make it safer for students to walk, cycle or bus to school.
- A two-bedroom house on a 492 sqm site in Philomel Cres Bayswater is on the market for \$235,000.
- Geoff Chapple completes his 1300km walk of the South Island, tramping for 77 days. The pioneer of the Te Araroa trail earlier walked the North Island and is set to publish a book on his adventures.
- Kevin Ireland and Graeme Lay chat about their 20-year literary friendship.
- A pamphlet is published highlighting North Shore literary walks – including a section on Devonport.
- The Navy is considering moving its museum to Torpedo Bay.
- Torpedo Bay residents continue to be concerned that the bay’s newly renovated wharf will be used for commercial ventures.
- Devonport RSA raises a record \$10,000 from its poppy donations.
- Wreaths and flowers placed around the Devonport War memorial were controversially removed by North Shore City Council after just four days. Complaints erupted and council staff reinstated fresh flowers hours after they removed them.
- The Flagstaff interview subject is Devonport swimming world-record holder Dix Ozier.

TGS rowers surge ahead

Two current and one former Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) student have made top rowing squads.

Annabelle Knowles was named in the New Zealand squad to travel to Italy in late July to compete at the World Rowing U19 Championships. Skye Lang was selected in the North Island under-18 girls team to race

against the South Island.

And former TGS rowing standout Evan Williams was last month named in the under-21 New Zealand squad.

The U21 quad will travel to Australia in mid-June for a trans-Tasman regatta. Williams is now part of the Waikato Rowing Club, after moving south for university.

Knowles and Lang teamed up for TGS in March to win gold in the under-18 double sculls at the Maadi Cup national secondary rowing championships. They were also in the second-placed coxed quad sculls crew at the championships. Knowles also made the final of the U18 coxless pair oar. Lang was third in the U17 single sculls.



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SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

MAY 6, 2022

TGS Performing Arts presents... Mamma Mia!

You guessed it, *Mamma Mia!* the musical is on the way!

Donna and the Dynamos and our Performing Arts department present *Mamma Mia!* at the Bruce Mason Centre on 17 & 18 May at 4.00pm & 7.30pm.

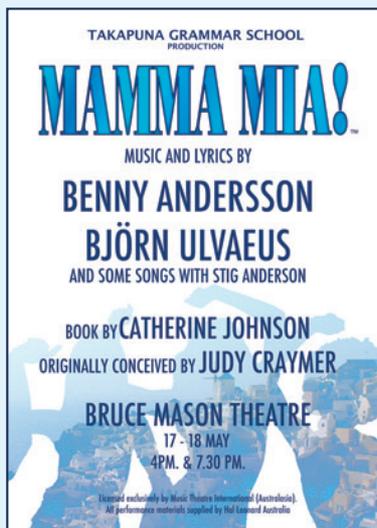
Our student singers, band and dancers will get hearts racing with the best ABBA tunes woven into a story of love, lost and found. We are practising like mad in between isolations and Omicron – this will be the best recuperation you could have.

Come along and be a Super Trouper!

Tickets available online now through Ticketmaster & Auckland Live at

<https://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/mamma-mia-tickets/artist/804014>

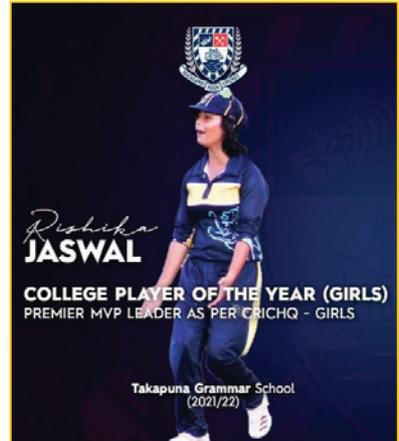
<https://www.aucklandlive.co.nz/show/mamma-mia-2022>



TGS Cricket Academy produces more winners

Congratulations to Year 11 student, Rishika Jaswal, for being named Female College Player of the Year by the Auckland Cricket Association. This is fantastic achievement considering her age and we look forward to watching Rishika take more wickets and score more runs while plying her trade out on the TGS pitches later this year! Another offshoot from the recently completed Burt Sutcliffe Pavilion and TGS Cricket Academy.

Also congratulations to our Director of Cricket Michael Tillett, who has been selected for the 2022 intake of the New Zealand Cricket Performance Coaching Course.



TGS Rowers continue to impress on the water



On the back of her recent three medal haul at the national Maadi Cup Regatta, Skye Lang (above, right) has been selected as part of Rowing NZ's North vs South U18 Squad. And her double sculls partner Annabelle Knowles (above, left) has been selected to represent NZ in the U19 Women's Squad, heading to the junior world champs in Italy in July. This is a magnificent achievement for both these young ladies after nine long months of training and competing.

Congratulations also to our Head Coach Ian Bright, who has been named as the 2022 Rowing New Zealand U21 Women's Sculling Coach and the U21 Lead Coach. Great to also hear that former student Evan Williams has been selected in the NZ U21 Squad too. Watch this space for these names to hopefully be representing at the highest level in years to come!



Katie Halliday, Skye Lang & Jessica Hamlin

We wish them all good luck as they continue to chase their dreams and travel to Australia and compete in the Trans-Tasman Regatta between 16–18 June 2022.

Major upgrades at local reserves



Work is underway to repair and rebuild the seawall along Devonport's Aramoana Reserve.

The seawall has been eroded over the years and sits below the high-tide level in places.

The works, agreed to by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, will remedy these defects, repair the rip-rap or loose stone wall on its eastern side, and rebuild the concrete boat ramp in part.

Along with some reconstruction,

the height of the wall will also be lifted in some areas

The work is scheduled to take three to four weeks and access to the reserve is limited over this period.

Meanwhile, the major upgrade to the playground at Oliver/Kawerau Reserve was completed before Easter, offering a wider range of activities for children and families to enjoy.

The playspace includes Mara

Hūpara - Māori traditional play elements, Torere - Māori traditional log games, a climbing module with two slides, a swing set and waka seesaw.

It also features a new large shade tree over a seating area, a picnic table and native plants that blend with existing coastal restoration planting.

The project was undertaken as part of the local board's renewals programme.

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New St Leo's principal aims to tackle roll drop

The new principal of St Leo's Catholic School regards the rebuilding of the school roll, which has fallen to fewer than 60 pupils, as a priority.

"I've always loved challenges," said Vimi Chandra, who was welcomed with a powhiri in the school hall on Monday.

Her first job though, will be to get to know the school and local community. "There's a lot to learn in the role, but I'm up for it," she said.

Over the holidays, she had already popped in and met some of the teachers and familiarised herself with the school. "They have been so kind and welcoming."

Fijian-born Chandra moved to New Zealand in 1992 for a high-school scholarship, boarding in Whangarei.

She studied at the University of Auckland, then taught for a year in a state primary school before a decade-long stint at Holy Cross School in Henderson.

It was there that the Methodist-raised teacher joined the parish and where she says her faith journey began. She and her now adult daughter "felt the love offered to us," she says.

By the time Chandra left Holy Cross in 2020, she had taught all age groups, from new entrants to Year 8 students. Among various roles held over the years, she was a team and mathematics leader and ran the school's digital technology programme.

She then worked at Massey University in a maths mentoring role with schools and teachers, encouraging teaching styles that focus on 21st-century skills, empowering "independent thinkers" and recognising diverse learners.

Chandra said she will consider moving from West Auckland to be closer to St Leo's.

St Leo's board chair Gavin Busch told the Flagstaff Chandra's maths curriculum expertise would support the recent introduction of



Up for it... New St Leo's principal Vimi Chandra says she has always loved challenges

STEM classes at St Leo's.

He said the school's falling roll reflected the changing demographics of Devonport over the last decade, partly driven by property prices and more Navy personnel living out of the area. Other schools were affected as well, but being small to start with, the fall in numbers at St Leo's of around 25 per cent from a high of around 80 pupils seemed more marked.

Covid had also had an impact, with the

loss of short-term foreign students who added vibrancy to the school.

But the school was in good heart and very well supported by the Catholic Schools Office, Busch said. It could offer a quality education with small class sizes and opportunities for all to participate in sport and cultural activities.

The board wanted to drive roll growth and let the community know sponsored non-Catholics could enrol at the school.

RESTORING TAKARUNGA HAURAKI

Takutai Moana Watts brought her deep knowledge of harakeke to Maungauika, across from Ōrākei and her Ngāti Whatua iwi and whanau. She led our hiko and shared her korero and enthusiasm about abundant varieties of harakeke, wharariki, and other plants used traditional for rāranga (weaving).

We are very fortunate to have Takutai supporting our learning. The Takarunga rāranga group will again gather with Takutai on Saturday, 28 May, 1000-1400 in Bayswater.

Contact lance@rth.org.nz to register.

We are able to have space in the Flagstaff due to generous financial support from Ryman Healthcare. Several people from William Sanders Village help remove weeds from Wakakura reserve. Thanks a lot Kathy Farquhar, Wendy Bailey, Colin Griffiths, Bill Le Couteur and Chris Lokes (from Hanlon Crescent).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rongoā Healing Medicines,
Sundays May 15, 22, 29,
10am - 1pm

**Ecological Plan Launch
and Hiko, Jutland Reserve**
Saturday 21 May,
1-2:30pm

**Tree Planting, Jutland
Reserve,** Saturday 21 May,
3 - 4:30pm

**Rāranga Harakeke
Weaving, Bayswater,**
Saturday 28 May,
10am - 3pm

**Tree Planting
Seabreeze Road channel**
Sunday 29 May,
10 am - 12 pm

Also regular volunteer weeding and planting
events Mondays 4pm and Fridays 9am

To register or for more details: lance@rth.org.nz
or visit us on Facebook or www.rth.org.nz

Look for more details of this
and other events soon.



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OUT & ABOUT

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

COMMUNITY NETWORK MEETING

Thursday 12 May, 10:00am to 12:00pm
Devonport Yacht Club, 25 King Edward Pde, Devonport
(wheelchair accessible)

An opportunity for community organisations and residents alike to promote their activities, hear about what others are doing and find out about possibilities for collaboration. The session commences with complimentary morning tea and a chance to network informally, followed by guest speakers on local topical matters.

DENVER AND BEYOND: THE SONGS AND LIFE OF JOHN DENVER

Sunday 15th May, 7:30pm
Harmony Hall, Wynyard St, Devonport. Featuring Bevan Gardiner and James Davy, lovers of country music will not want to miss this special event. Bookings: johndavynz@gmail.com

PEDAL TO THE PUMP TRACK

Sunday 22 May, 10:15am-1:00pm
Cycle convoys departing Windsor Reserve & Lake Town Green at 10:30, event at the Pump Track, Woodall Park, Narrow Neck, 11am-1pm

Dress-up your bike and yourself (autumn theme), bring a picnic and join one of two bike convoys for a relaxed whānau bike ride to Woodall Park for an introduction to the new pump track and some whānau fun! Including spot prizes, 'have a go' on the pump track, preschool play zone, whānau games, sausage sizzle, bike info and service stalls. For more information, find us on Facebook or Instagram: @devonportpeninsulatrust or visit our website: www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

DEVONPORT SENIOR FORUM

Last Friday of the month, 3pm
A12 The Barracks, Fort Takapuna Reserve, 170 Vauxhall Rd, Narrow Neck
Devonport Senior Forum is for people interested in identifying local senior issues, working towards solutions and assisting the older community where appropriate. Meetings are held monthly, starting with afternoon tea. For more information, contact Maria: 09 445 9533 or devonportcommunity@gmail.com

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

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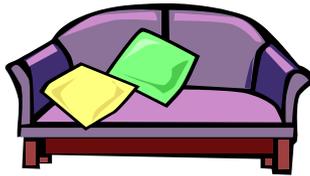
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Belmont Music Centre Notice of Annual General Meeting Saturday May 14, 2:pm via Zoom RSVP to receive a Zoom link: Mark.Rebecca.NZ@gmail.com

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HRSTICH, Heather Alison
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Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and a lavender sunset, on Easter Monday, 18th April 2022.

Loved wife of Tonchie. Adored Mum of Leon Williamson and Sonia Riki. Mother-in-law to Michelle and Bryan. Especially loved Nana of Renee, Jake, Holly, Eva, Grace and Johnny.

A private service for family and friends of Heather was held at 2pm, Friday 22nd April at 9 Hillside Road, Blenheim. Special thanks to Sonia for her wonderful care over the last weeks. All messages may be sent to the above address or c/- Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, PO Box 9, Blenheim 7240 or www.cloudybayfunerals.co.nz

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Teen cyclist chases his pro-rider dreams

Seventeen-year-old Devonport cyclist Lewis Bower has headed to Europe to chase his dream of riding professionally.

Lewis left for Belgium late last month for three months of racing for the Lead Out Cycling Academy team.

Already training 15 hours a week, he is aiming for some road-racing results to catch the eye of the professional racing teams.

Even a place in the lower ranks of professional cycling would provide him with a bike and accommodation, and the frequent racing unavailable at home.

“In New Zealand, you can play rugby every weekend, but with cycling there’s maybe one race on every month.”

Lewis, who is in his final year at Westlake Boys High School, will continue his studies while in Europe.

He plans to race at the Junior World Road Racing Championships in Australia in September.

He has been race riding since Year 7 at school. He also played football, but has focused on cycling since the start of last year.

In November 2021, Lewis was named male Young Sportsman of the Year by College Sport Auckland.

His first national title was in the U19 Criterium at the New Zealand National Championships in November 2020.

Before he left for Europe, Lewis raced once again in the national championships, winning the U19 time trial and coming fifth in the road race.

Lewis enjoys the travel involved in his chosen sport.

“With cycling you’re always finding new roads and exploring new parts of New Zealand. It’s also another way to travel the world,” he says.

He’s also got a taste for the speed of competitive racing.

“I just love the thrill of going fast.”



Going for it... Lewis Bower hopes to catch the eye of professional cycling teams in Europe

Lewis received a \$3000 grant as part of the North Harbour Club and Charitable Trust AIMEs awards for young achievers, which has funded his flights.

He is being billeted with a host family, but still needs to pay insurance as well as costs like food and race entries. He is hopeful a local business will offer sponsorship.



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Making homes healthier and happier – Clean for Good

Two years ago, Devonport local Stephanie Ray was tossing up between starting a PhD in maths or creating her own business.

The idea of making an impact in her community won out, and so she launched Clean For Good – a cleaning company with a difference.

Clean for Good isn't just about mopping floors and cleaning windows. Stephanie wanted an eco-friendly, affordable cleaning service – a green alternative to chemical cleaning.

As a mum of three, she felt she had a duty to protect the environment.

"It is my legacy. I need to take care of the planet where my kids are going to live. I want them to be able to swim at a clean beach, to eat food that doesn't make them get sick."

Launching a business in mid-2020 was not without its challenges. But while others struggled to survive Auckland's recurring lockdowns, Clean For Good has gone from strength to strength. Now with a staff of eight and a client base of over 90, the company is about to expand its services from Devonport to Takapuna.

A self-professed mathematician, Stephanie says her keen business sense helped them weather the Covid storm.

"My business is successful because it works on super-high standards," she says. "I believe in providing an A+ service. We invest a lot of money in training our staff and in researching the products we use. We may look like a big company now, but we are still locals!"

Making homes healthier and safer is a big part of the Clean For Good ethos. The company focuses on using "green" cleaning products while minimising the use of chemicals and plastics. By buying in bulk from trusted eco companies and formulating some of their own products, Clean For Good is able to stay competitive.

"Clients want to receive great cleaning for the best possible rate. And we are known for exceptional customer experiences!" Stephanie says.

Social consciousness is also important, and Stephanie is committed to looking after her staff as much as her clients. She ensures that her team enjoys fair pay and supportive work-



ing conditions.

Clean For Good gives back to the community by sponsoring local initiatives, such as free language classes at the Devonport Library, and kids' football teams. Last year, during Auckland's four-month lockdown, Stephanie decided the town needed a little fun. So she came up with an idea for a Halloween House Decoration Contest. She reached out to locals via Facebook, offering prizes for the three "scariest" houses. The contest was so successful she plans to run it again this year, but "bigger and cooler". Her plan is to have families choosing a team or a project that Clean For Good can sponsor, rather than competing for a grand prize.

With Mother's Day on the horizon, Clean For Good is currently offering a special Mother's Day laundry service: clean and ironed shirts hung in your closet for *\$4 per item.

"Ironing for some people is one of those tedious tasks that they never have time for," Stephanie says. "But perfectly ironed clothes make all the difference in how you look and feel, so calling in the professionals can really make all the difference to you and your family. Let us help you to claim your weekend for fun instead of chores!"

A new ironing service and a dry-cleaning pick-up/drop-off service is also available for regular clients. More information is available on the website, cleanforgood.co.nz.



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Thank goodness for Clean for Good. They are the best in the business and without hesitation the best local Devonport cleaners. We are a busy household with three little people aged five and under. It is impossible to keep on top of the housework. Cue Clean for Good. They are detail-oriented, perfectionists. Always doing an exceptional job. Led by Stephanie, who has excellent communication and organisational skills. Expectations are exceeded with Clean for Good and their loyal consistent cleaning team. Highly recommended. **Alice Rabe**



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Singers hit the right note after Covid hiatus



The Rose Singers are delighted to be back performing, delivering a set of wartime songs at Devonport Library (above) on the eve of Anzac Day.

The group, organised by Ruth Chapman, performed songs including *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, *White Cliffs of Dover* and *Now*

is the Hour.

It was their first performance in around six months, with concerts cancelled due to Covid. "We really missed it – we all love to sing and we love to entertain," Chapman said. "We had some lovely comments."

The group, which has been performing

as the Rose Singers for around 11 years, is back in rehearsals for its show at the Rose Centre, *Stars in Their Eyes*, which was cancelled last year.

Rest homes have also asked them to come and sing. "We're all so excited about being back," Chapman said

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Volunteer sought to convene orchestra trips

For nearly two decades, a labour of love by Anne Norris has enabled hundreds of fellow North Shore music fans to enjoy trips to the orchestra.

Now the Narrow Neck woman is hoping someone else might pick up the baton so she can retire as convenor of transport for the outings.

The volunteer role, which comes with the perk of a ticket to see performances of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, helps provide locals with a convenient way to get to evening concerts.

"It is a necessary service for people who are all dedicated music lovers (often with a background of teaching or playing an instrument), but who are older and can no longer drive at night, or do not like driving into the city, finding parking, and then the long drag back out of a city car park," says Norris.

Devonport Tours buses are used to collect concertgoers from across the peninsula.

Norris is eager to help a replacement settle into the role, which she took up 17 years ago.

The transport convenor takes bookings for the trips (by email or post) for pick-ups from central spots in Devonport and Hauraki, as well as Takapuna and Milford, including from retirement villages. She then goes along for the ride, checking everyone is aboard.

Trips generally leave to get people to town in time for pre-concert talks. After performances at the Town Hall, concertgoers are collected for the return journey.

The \$10-a-trip return service currently has a membership list of more than 70 people.

"While I want to retire," says Norris, "I will be on all the buses travelling to concerts, and would certainly be on hand to help out until the new convenor 'finds their feet'."

Anyone interested in the role is asked to contact her on anne.norris@xtra.co.nz.



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Venues crank back into business

Singer Greg Johnson will be back in Devonport at The Vic along with the venue's *Rocky Horror Picture Show* nights as its events schedule is revived following the lifting of Covid restrictions. *Rocky Horror* is back on 20 May while Greg Johnson is scheduled to play on 1 July.

Both The Vic and Belmont's Rose Centre are looking forward to audiences returning as Omicron wanes, and following the mid-April shift to orange under the Covid traffic-light system.

The Vic operating manager Philipp Jaser said he hoped people would start to get out and about more. The Vic's 110th birthday celebrations are being organised for later in the year.

"We're planning cautiously, because we've

seen what can happen in the past [with changing restrictions]," he said.

"The confidence is coming back slowly—not as fast as we'd like, because some people are still very careful about where they go, what they do and what they're exposed to."

Rose Centre manager Geoff Allen said the venue was "totally, absolutely" happy to be moving towards something resembling normal.

"We're just back into it and it's getting really busy. 2022 is going to be a nightmare because everything's a backlog." Upcoming shows include the Company Theatre's *God of Carnage*, which last year "got stuck" after three shows, StageAntics' *Godspell* and the Glow Show's Matariki tour.

Tunesmiths get chance to win studio time

Aspiring young songwriters are in with the chance to record their work in a professional studio. The Depot Artspace and Sound Studio in Devonport is running a competition during Music Month this May that is open to all North Shore intermediate and secondary students.

Studio manager Noah Page hopes entries will exceed the 60 received last year, the first time the competition was held. Page will join a panel of industry experts and last year's senior winner, Freya, to pick the top two in each age group. Winners get a day in the Depot studio and second-place getters a half day.

Sound engineer Neil Baldock, who con-

ceived the competition last year, will also lend his ear to the judging. Baldock, who ran the studio for a time, is now a freelancer.

Page says the studio has bounced back to being busy again, post-lockdowns.

Page got his own start in the industry through a Music Commission internship, fresh out of high school in Hamilton. He says this helps him understand others starting out and looking to record for the first time. "We put this together [the competition] so they don't have to worry so much about how much it's costing."

Results will be announced in June. Entry details are on the Depot's website.

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Downton Abbey 2: A New Era (PG) 125min	NEW
Escape from Mogadishu (R13) 121min	NEW
Husband Material - Live Show	6 MAY
Operation Mincemeat (M) 128min	Previews 7-9 MAY
Nobody has to Know (M) 99min	Mother's Day Previews 8 MAY

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Operation Mincemeat (M) 128min	12 MAY
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