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DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY September 23, 2022 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Fines issued in New World car park... p2

AT's 'bike-hub' plans queried by local board... p20

Interview: Ace lensman Brett Phibbs... p32-33

Compliance action taken against Bayswater Marina

Hundreds of boats at Bayswater Marina are at risk of major storm damage due to a deteriorating breakwater in such poor condition that council has taken legal action ordering the owners to fix it.

Massive damage to the environment could also occur if the breakwater fails and boats are damaged.

Despite numerous visits to the site by Auckland Council compliance officers, council says insufficient work has been done to bring the breakwater up to standard.

Council last month issued an abatement notice to Bayswater Marina Holdings Limited, requiring a number of steps to comply with the company's coastal permits, including

having to:

- By 17 September provide to council an engineering report outlining a list of necessary repair works.
- Complete the repair works by 17 November.
- Follow an ongoing maintenance programme.

To page 8

Happy as a pair of mudlarks



Messy business... Students Connor Hawken and Cooper Ede were among entrants in the Stanley Bay School Mud Run last Sunday. More pictures, page 14.

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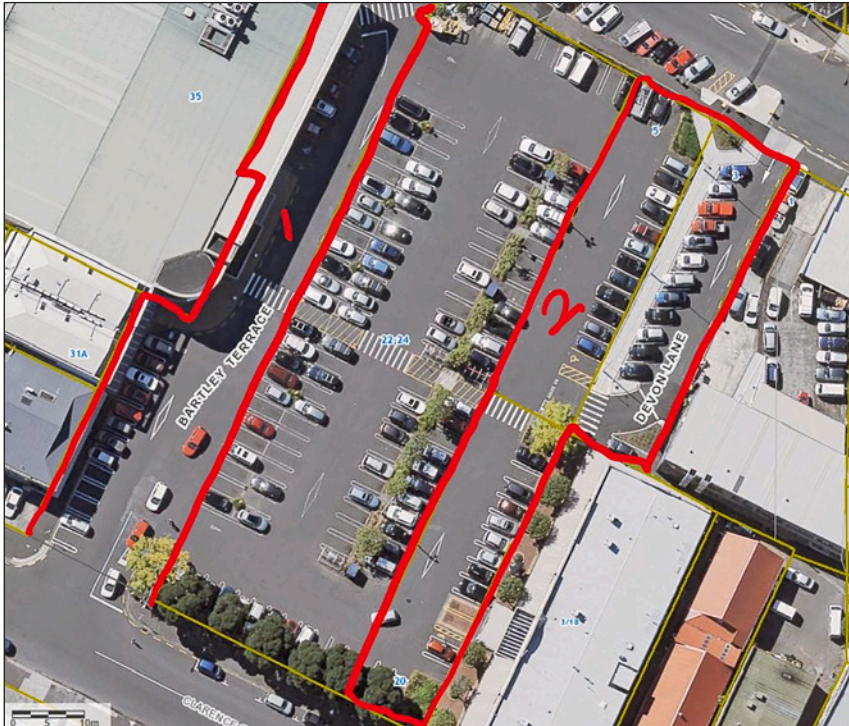


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Supermarket car-park fines sting overstayers



Fines of \$65 are being issued daily to overstayers at Devonport's New World car park.

After years of warning motorists who parked for more than 90 minutes, New World has contracted Parking Enforcement Services, a subsidiary of Wilson Parking, to police the area for the past 12 months.

The fine is more than three times the maximum fine Auckland Transport (AT) typically levies in public car parks with time limits.

Different parts of the New World car park are managed by the supermarket and AT respectively.

Bartley Tce (alongside Caroline Sills and other retailers) is administered by AT, as are the parks along near the Post Shop and Clarence House.

The middle section is owned and controlled by New World.

The arrangements date back several decades to when the supermarket was first established on the site.

Devonport New World owner John Ashton said the car park was patrolled by the enforcement company seven days a week.

Parking overstayers had been an ongoing problem for the supermarket since it was established in 1988, and "since I arrived in 2000", Ashton said.

"You wouldn't believe the abuse our staff got (when pointing out cars had overstayed the limit) so we contracted it out."

Other Foodstuffs stores around Auckland also had independent parking enforcement services, he said.

Parking all day while going to work on the ferry or to Waiheke were some of the worst abuses, Ashton said.

Patrolling of the car park was little different to other spaces around Devonport, including the areas under AT control in the New World car park, he said.

Ashton said he had no idea of how many fines had been levied in the New World section of the car park over the past year.

New World car park... areas 1 and 2 are policed by Auckland Transport and the middle section by a contractor to New World

Squash club wall eyed for latest mural

One of the largest walls in Devonport is about to become part of the town's arts trail. The Devonport Squash Club wall at Woodall Park will be added to the expanding trail when money is available for the design and painting work. The trail aims to links murals around the peninsula. To contribute, go to the arts-trail Givealittle page by October 6.

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Threads of history offer naval narratives



Uniform approach... Chief Petty Officer Fiona Carter and former servicewoman Gail Burgess are among women who have worked on a quilt sewn from old Navy uniforms soon to go on display at the Navy Museum. Story, page 54.

Clock ticking on chance to submit on intensification

Residents have until 29 September to put in a submission on Auckland Council’s ‘Plan Change 78’ ushering in greater intensification.

The plan change effects special character areas across the city – with pockets of Devonport losing protection and being

opened up to having three, three-storey houses per site.

“If people don’t submit by then their chance to have any input is gone,” Devonport Heritage chair Margot McRae said

“It’s so important to have a large number of submissions from Devonport if we are to

fully protect the area.”

Devonport Heritage has a guide to making a submission on its website.

“But it’s also very easy to just Google Auckland Council plan changes and then select plan change 78 and make an easy online submission,” McRae said.



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Bayswater bus access up for discussion

Auckland Transport (AT) will hold talks with the Bayswater Marina owner to try to safeguard future passage of buses to the ferry terminal.

In a briefing to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members at a workshop held last week, AT officials said temporary access arrangements would be needed if Bayswater Marina Ltd (BML) won consents to build apartments on its car-park area.

Existing access to the ferry terminal would be cut if construction advances. The planning matters are before independent commissioners from this week.

The status of Sir Peter Blake Parade as a privately owned section of road is a complicating factor for AT. Talks will cover the possibility of an easement to allow use of it.

“We need to do work with the developer,” said AT’s delivery manager for public transport facilities and transport, Joshua Hyland.

AT was confident it could use neighbouring public land for bus turning, if necessary.

AT was not making submissions to the hearing, the board was told, but its staff were working closely with council teams on issues around public transport.

Hyland said that parking and bus leases would roll over for the BML site during phase one and two of any development. “Bus access will be maintained as is.” Thereafter, it was working on options as the development proceeded.

The council owns land east of Sir Peter Blake Pde, near which Takapuna Grammar’s rowing club has a storage shed. Further along, council land is used as a car park, leading to the old wharf which is under study as a replacement for the current pontoon-style ferry docking at the marina. The current terminal is not considered large enough long-term for the new electric ferries planned for the route. But restoring the old wharf would require strengthening and dredging and raises environmental and consent issues.

“We want to do what work we can under existing consents while seeking funding for the broader upgrade,” Hyland said.

AT has previously indicated the total cost of upgraded public transport infrastructure at Bayswater could be \$20-\$30 million.

Board members have been seeking clarity on what is planned for the area.

AT said its options to gain funding to



Getting to the ferry... a graphic of the proposed marina-land development, showing Sir Peter Blake Parade. AT says an easement could allow buses to use a privately owned stretch of the road.

investigate this had been constrained because Bayswater ferry patronage had not been sufficient to make it a priority project under the Regional Land Transport Plan. But it told the board with consents to do work on the wharf and dredge in the area expiring at the end of 2023 and the lease on the current ferry berth expiring in 2031, it was focused on analysing both short and long-term options.

“We need to look at getting rid of the rowing club,” said board member Jan O’Connor, who maintained storage was not correct use of reserve land.

Hyland said building relocation might not be needed in the short-term, with measures such as tree trimming a short-term way of creating more bus space in the vicinity.

Board chair Ruth Jackson asked if a new ferry terminal was at risk if ferry patronage, now being reviewed, was not considered high enough.

“Unlikely,” said AT’s group manager for property and planning, Jane Small, who noted the council-controlled organisation’s chief executive, Mark Lambert, had pledged Bayswater would be tackled.

“We will look to have something in place by 2031.” Patronage figures were being looked at again, based on pre-Covid highs and future projections.

Board members urged AT to ensure any new ferries deployed on the Bayswater route provided sufficient space for increasing use of bicycles by commuters. Timing buses to meet ferries was another perennial request.

Toni van Tonder asked about the future of fuel tanks at the marina and was told they were privately owned but on land leased from the council. Hyland said these would form part of AT’s discussions with BML. Wood also raised the tanks issue, saying: “You will have giant tankers going in there to refuel those while trying to run a passenger terminal.”

Van Tonder also wanted to know about provisions for park-and-ride commuters and boat-trailer parking.

Hyland said spaces would be lost from the private development, but AT considered roadways in the area could be better utilised to provide more park-and-ride spaces. Small noted that to reduce carbon emissions, council was encouraging alternative modes other than vehicles.

If AT did not provide more boat-trailer spaces there would be only around 20. “It’s a hot one in the community,” she acknowledged.

Member George Wood urged AT to bargain hard for public transport. “Give the developers an inch and they seem to maximise the advantage they have.”

Council considers other sites for skatepark

An investigation into rebuilding the Ngataranga skatepark will include looking at other sites, Auckland Council has confirmed.

The Devonport Flagstaff understands one of the alternative sites likely to be investigated is at Woodall Park in the vicinity of the tennis courts next to the Waitemata Golf Course on Wairoa Rd.

Auckland Council Area Operations Manager Sarah Jones said the initial stages of the

project “will involve exploring whether it can be rebuilt on its current site and if there are any other locations that may be more suitable.

“We will then liaise with the community regarding the preferred location, before working with our local skateboarding community on the detailed design.”

The investigation and design work are likely to take two years, with construction to follow, Jones said.

The Ngataranga skatepark has had drainage and water ponding issues over the years, and some residents have felt uneasy about its comparatively isolated location.

At a recent board workshop Jones said: “We are still looking at renewing at Ngataranga Park, but also looking at Woodall.”

Later she confirmed that the council budget included \$10,000 for scoping work of a range of uses at Woodall Park.

BIS Idol puts the spotlight on musical talent



Tuneful trio... Belmont Intermediate School Idol winner Lizzy Turner flanked by second-placed Ruby Jacobs (left) and third-placed Jessie Marshall

The Belmont Intermediate School Idol singing contest has returned after a two-year hiatus, showcasing a new generation keen to follow in the footsteps of some of the school's illustrious alumni.

Previous winners have included global star Ella Yelich-O'Connor (Lorde), up-and-coming soprano Lauren Towns and Janayah Wadsworth, who was accepted into the BRIT School of Performing and Creative

Arts in London.

The return of Idol gave a platform for some of the "amazing talent in the school", said Robyn Norwell, the school's head of performing arts.

Fourteen entrants sang in lunchtime auditions, with seven finalists chosen to battle it out in front of the judges, Takapuna Grammar head of music Lauren Raby and choirs director Jacob Moore.

Winner Lizzy Turner, sang 'Love in the Dark' by Adele, while second-placed Ruby Jacobs sang 'Lovely' by Billie Eilish and Jessie Marshall was third, performing 'Super Trouper' by Abba.

Lizzy, who has always liked to sing, began singing lessons two years ago.

She hopes to continue singing as a soloist and in choirs throughout high school and beyond.

Affordable housing the real issue

We hear a lot about the housing shortage in NZ but it's the lack of "affordable housing" which is the real issue. We understand there is a large volume of new [terrace/high density] housing coming on stream in Auckland over the next few months/year but who can afford to buy them at \$1,000,000 plus. Now with higher interest rates many "off the plan" sales may fail to settle.

So now we see a developer in Christchurch offering to fund the first year's mortgage to buyers of their [\$650,000+] developments at a cost of @\$25,000 (which is less than discounting it by say 10% costing them \$65,000). And of course it's worse in Auckland where the average house price is @\$1m. To fund 80% of that at say 5.50% is going to have annual repayments of \$54,500 (or \$1,050 per week) - that's not very affordable for many.

Speaking of affordable housing and the dire shortage in Rotorua we see on Trademe there are currently 90 houses [3 bedroom] for sale under \$600,000 so why doesn't Kainga Ora buy these at an average say, of \$500,000 (costing \$45m) rather than flapping around with emergency motels and trying to build a whole lot of new ones?

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By Rob Drent

A combined set of circumstances led to me helping judge the peninsula primary-schools speech contest finals, along with Takapuna Grammar School principal Mary Nixon and veteran local teacher and reliever Ian Norwell, at Stanley Bay School recently. Fourteen orators – two selected from each peninsula school – gave it everything at the school hall. While I wasn't exactly dreading it, the experience was much more enjoyable, and taxing than I expected. The standard was very high. Arlo Brodie was a clear winner with his well-paced, humorous and clearly spoken examination of mullets. But ranking the others was a bit like an episode of *Masterchef*. Many competitors could only be excluded from the second or third spots on the basis of minor missteps. A great effort by all.

Spring has arrived in Devonport – the public flower beds are about to bloom – and after two years of Covid restrictions, life shows signs of returning to normal. This is no better illustrated than by public events drawing capacity crowds. The Stanley Bay Mud Run, for example, sold out a week ahead. Tickets to Fashion on the Wharf are selling fast and seem sure to sell out as well. The return of tourists, helped along by the removal of mask restrictions, will be a welcome return to the streets of Devonport. I hope some of the initiatives used to bring life to the village during Covid times – such as music on the

green outside Vondel restaurant on Saturday afternoons – are carried on into summer.

Locals will be following with interest developments in Christchurch, where the city council has voted against changing planning rules to comply with government directions to enable more housing and development in the city.

In a move aimed at showing the government that Christchurch does not want intensification forced upon it, the council has decided not to formally notify and invite submissions on a proposed Housing and Business Choice Plan Change that would bring the District Plan in line with recently passed legislation.

It's a fundamentally opposite approach to that taken by Auckland Council, which has effectively acquiesced to the government. It says it is bound by the laws – backed by both Labour and National parties – that were passed last December.

Christchurch City Council staff had recommended the council notify the Housing and Business Choice Plan Change for public consultation on 23 September, but the councillors knocked it back.

Christchurch mayor Lianne Dalziel says in deciding not to notify the change, the council was responding to residents' concerns.

However, the government is now likely to step in and appoint someone to notify plan changes that comply with the intensification requirements, with or without 'qualifying matters'.

All power to Christchurch for kicking back against the government, which has effectively stamped on the democratic rights of local people who developed planning schemes for their cities over many years of consultation and submissions.

Some would have liked to see our North Shore councillors, Chris Darby and Richard Hills, take a line similar to the Christchurch councillors.

Surely councils and councillors have a dual role: to plan ahead for growth as best they can, with an emphasis on usable transport options and environmental protection, but at the same time safeguard residents from poor developments next to their homes.

The government's dictatorial approach to intensification is poor lawmaking and its legislation should be repealed by Parliament at the first opportunity.

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Mullet school speech a cut above the rest



Belmont Primary’s Arlo Brodie reckons his mullet is here to stay for decades – especially after the hairstyle provided the subject which won him the Peninsula primary-school speech contest.

With the Belmont School speech contest fast approaching, Arlo (10) had been stuck for a topic. “My whole family was thinking about what I could do.

“Then, a couple of days after I got my first mullet, my dad Adam said, ‘You are so passionate about mullets, why don’t you do your speech on them?’”

Arlo did not look back, preparing a speech on mullets for the Belmont contest.

A couple of weeks later, he came a clear first in the peninsula-schools competition, with much the same mullet-related material.

Judges Rob Drent, Mary Nixon and Ian Norwell were impressed with his delivery, pace, grasp of his subject and use of humour.

He used examples of prominent mullet wearers such as All Blacks Damian McKenzie and Jack Goodhue. But although he said he

knew a number of singers have prominent mullets, including 80s band Europe, his speech wasn’t big on research.

His humorous touches – about mullets being good for aerodynamics, sun protection in summer and warmth in winter – were all made up.

Devonport doesn’t have too many “rocking” mullets, Arlo said.

But Arlo was impressed the brother of a girl at Belmont Primary got a mullet after his first speech. “I can see myself having a mullet for the rest of my life – at least until I’m 40 and I’m a grown man like my dad.

“For quite a while I think the mullet will stick.”

• Charlotte Robertson of Bayswater School was second in the peninsula contest, with a speech on why legends and stories are important.

Vauxhall School’s Indi Holland was third, with an explanation of why you wouldn’t want to be in the royal family.

The successful trio took home Whitcoulls book vouchers.

Peninsula-schools speech contest winners... (from left) winner Arlo Brodie (mullet obscured), third-placegetter Indi Holland and Charlotte Robertson, who came second

Q&A session on new public housing

A public drop-in session was quietly scheduled this week ahead of the opening of the big new Kainga Ora development on the corner of Lake Rd and Bardia St.

Now in its final stages, the development will provide public housing in 48 dwellings.

Several family homes to the rear of the site are occupied already, with the street-

front apartment-style buildings yet to be tenanted.

To find out more from Kainga Ora staff, local residents were invited on Wednesday 21 September to call into to the Belmont Baptist Church hall at 168 Lake Rd, between 4pm and 7pm where information was to be shared and questions answered.

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Boaties fear damage if breakwater fails

From page 1

Boaties moored at the marina have been worried about its deteriorating condition for years. Bayswater Marina Berth Holders Association committee member Paul Glass said a big storm hit the marina in 2016, causing more than a million dollars' worth of damage.

"But the breakwater just held on, so the damage to boats was fortunately minor.

"Since then the condition of the breakwater has deteriorated significantly and we worry that it is unlikely to survive another moderate to large storm from the west or south-west," Glass said.

Damage to vessels and the marina could be in the tens of millions if this happens, he said.

"It could also be an environmental disaster."

The breakwater is "not fit for purpose or safe", Glass said.

Bayswater Marina, owned by Empire Capital, and has more than 400 berths. The breakwater protects the marina and all the boats moored there. Consultants' reports in 2013 and 2016 confirmed the poor condition of the breakwater.

The council abatement notice outlines several occasions when maintenance records were not received by council to prove the work had been done.

"Failure to maintain breakwater structures on an ongoing basis may lead to damage of berth holders' assets and marina structures; and has the potential for environmental harm from sediment deposition leading to further erosion and discharges of debris and contaminants into the Coastal Marine Area should the berth holders assets be damaged."

If Bayswater Marina Ltd does not comply with the abatement notice, council can issue infringement notices or instigate a prosecution.

David Hollingsworth, CEO of Empire Capital, said a condition-survey report on the



Under scrutiny... an aerial photograph showing the marina breakwater and the plan of a proposed development on adjacent land

breakwater was done by an independent engineer two weeks ago and would be supplied to council when completed.

The condition of Bayswater Marina had been the subject of much talk between berth holders, but Empire believed it was safe, he said.

The report was part of a long-term maintenance plan, which was being conducted "as normal – we do not see any concern".

Maintenance was expected following the report, but Hollingsworth was unsure when the work would be done as building materials were in short supply.

Asked why Auckland Council had taken

the step to issue an abatement notice Hollingsworth said: "you would have to ask them that."

An Auckland Council spokesperson said it was liaising with the recipient of the notice and was "comfortable that satisfactory progress has been made towards reaching a suitable solution.

"Although the due date [for an engineering report to be lodged] has passed, the council reserves the right to not take escalated enforcement action, when we believe the recipient is taking all necessary measures to comply with the overall request, which is the case here," the council spokesperson said.



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'Take on AT' – motorist advises after ticket win

Retiree Ian McInnes reckons Auckland Transport (AT) might have dropped a parking-ticket case against him for fear of setting a precedent for others nabbed near the Devonport ferry terminal.

The Takapuna man says he contested the \$40 ticket because he considered AT's signage in the area was confusing and inadequate.

Armed with photographs, he headed to the North Shore District Court last month to contest the fine, incurred in March. The judge told him AT had withdrawn the matter.

"It wasted my time, theirs and the courts," McInnes told the Flagstaff. "I'm assuming they dropped the charges because they thought it would be precedent-setting."

But he is left wondering how a double-sided sign that indicated to him that parking was free came to be turned around to indicate the opposite.

McInnes hopes by talking about his experience other people who may have been fined in similar circumstances will take on AT, like he did.

"I'm hoping people will get in touch and say, AT you owe me 40 bucks."

He says he parked in good faith on Queens Pde. Not being a regular user of the ferry or its parks he was unaware the stretch he had parked on was metered

"It's only 50c an hour to pay down there,

so why would you risk getting a ticket if you knew you had to?" he says. Most of the ferry parking area is peppered with large signs, he says, just not in the spot he chose to drive into.

He saw a large "\$ Parking Ends" sign and not a much smaller sign indicating spaces were charged.

McInnes says larger signs are needed at either end of that parking strip and another sign should be erected in the middle, where he parked, given that the parking area is about 80 metres long. AT told him the signage was adequate and complied with legal requirements.

He also wants to know how the double-sided "\$ Parking Ends" sign, which lulled him into a false sense of security in March and which he then photographed in late May to show AT, came to be turned in the opposite direction saying "\$ Paid Parking Starts" less than a month later.

McInnes says he was partially motivated to fight AT when one of its phone operators told him he was far from alone in contesting fines near the ferry terminal, but that no one had taken the matter to court. "I said, I would."

He's riled at not getting his day in court, and that AT did not let him know the case was being dropped.

AT said it had withdrawn the charge as the parking warden who issued the ticket had forgotten what the sign said that day, due to the time that had since passed.



Riled... Ian McInnes was ready to fight his parking-ticket case in court

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Wash cycle... Mia Vermuelen (left) strides through the foam, while Ellie Rose Arnold and Nina Craighead take the dirty route.

Hundreds take the plunge at Mud Run

Around 800 entrants – a mixture of children, teachers and parents from all over the North Shore – braved the Stanley Bay

School Mud Run at Stanley Bay School last Sunday.

“We were truly blessed with the weath-

er,” reported school principal Lucy Naylor.

“It was such a wonderful community, fun day.”

Advertisement for Calimero pizza. The top part features the Calimero logo in a red speech bubble on a white background. Below the logo, it says '*CONDITIONS APPLY'. The middle part shows two large gourmet pizzas with various toppings. Overlaid on the pizzas is a large '2 FOR 1' offer in red and white text, with 'LARGE GOURMET PIZZA' written below it. At the bottom, the address '163 VICTORIA ROAD' is listed. The entire advertisement is framed with a red border.



All downhill... An adult entrant tightly closes mouth and eyes prior to splashdown in the murky depths

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Big finish... Organisers (from left) including Sarah Ostergaard, Sam Wallace, Kate Sumner Brown, Kirsty Gardyne, Anthony James, school principal Lucy Naylor and deputy principal Scott Boniface and Rebecca Newman Below: Parents and kids in action – and in costume.



Community links to the fore at Waitemata Golf Club

Partnerships, planting and a friendly approach all help make Waitemata an integral part of its community.

Better accessibility for members and others is a major driver at the Waitemata Golf Club, says club manager David Herbert.

“This is the overall culture we’re building at the club – accessibility not only for members but also the wider community,” he says.

When Herbert joined as manager in March 2021, taking over from Hayden McCallum, the club had just won Golf New Zealand’s Club of the Year award, on the back of its success in building memberships, developing the junior and women’s golf programmes, and launching important environmental initiatives.

“I have been lucky to have had a very strong base to move the club forward on,” Herbert says.

In general, he found members to be very positive about the club when he arrived.

Covid was a difficult time for sporting clubs that faced operating restrictions resulting in loss of hospitality income creating a challenging operating environment.

But there was a silver lining for golf clubs. Memberships and participation increased dramatically, to the point where Waitemata now has a waiting list for some membership categories.

Herbert says the increase in membership income has allowed the club to try new things and create new relationships and partnerships with local community groups and businesses.

“The club is lucky to have so many local businesses that want to support the club and engage with the membership,” Herbert says.

Partnerships have been implemented across the whole club, from the kitchen to the pro shop and to the club’s environmental and community-engagement initiatives.

The kitchen operation is in the hands of caterer Petr Houkal, but Herbert says the relationship is more of an evolving partnership than an outsourced vendor.



“Petr makes all food on site for the kitchen and cafe with new menus being developed for the summer ahead. We now also have a barbecue and pizza oven on the verandah to make food and catering even more accessible to members and visitors to the club,” he says.

Herbert says that this casual catering format is sometimes preferred over formal dining when the club is hired as a venue for birthday parties and other events.

The other significant partnership the Club has entered into is with its golf professional Brad Shilton.

As the club’s head coach, Shilton, who had a successful 13-year career as a PGA Tour Professional, has been instrumental in developing the two important growth areas for the club: Juniors

and Ladies golf.

“Brad has really become the face of the club, providing expert tuition and integrating members into golfing life,” says Herbert.

One of the club’s other important and strategic partnerships is with Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH) and its coordinator, Lance Cablk.

Last year, the club invested significantly in tree work, replacing some of the exotic trees which were coming to the end of their life with native trees.

“What we’re doing goes beyond golf only for golfers,” says Herbert.

The community has been heavily involved with the environmental projects, with notable contributions from Vauxhall School, volunteers from the local community and RTH, working together to replant native plants which will become a habitat for birds and insects.

“It’s a good legacy to leave,” says Herbert.

The club has also recently signed over some underutilised land to help Rotary build the Pump Track near the Devonport Squash Club, close to the golf course boundary, and are involved in planning for a mixed sports hub in the same area.

Herbert moved to New Zealand from the United Kingdom in 2011 to manage facilities and programs at Tennis Northern. He was enticed into the golf world after doing a leadership and career-development course run by Golf New Zealand.

“I was very fortunate that this role came up and that I was accepted for it,” says Herbert who lives in Schnapper Rock with his wife Helen and their two primary-school-aged daughters.

Herbert appreciates the long history of the Waitemata Golf Club, which was established in 1905. He’s keen to make it an even more integral part of the wider community in the years ahead.

Golf Membership & Visitors
Pro's Shop & Coaching
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Moove it! More fun at the Mud Run



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Mike
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Gavin
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Choice*



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- Support our local sports and community clubs
- Maintain & upgrade community facilities
- Advocate for better roading solutions
- Protect our unique area and environment

For **Devonport-Takapuna** Local Board **C&R North Shore**

Greenkeepers: Vauxhall School pupils



Action stations... Vauxhall School pupils from years 4 and 5 let off steam then and sang a song in te reo after their planting session during Conservation Week at the Waitemata Golf Club course



Dig it... George McDonald, aged 8, was among those doing the spade work in the environmental initiative

Vauxhall School pupils have been lending a hand with native-tree planting at the Waitemata Golf Club course.

The golf club has partnered with Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH) to increase planting, with a focus on areas around the waterways on the edge of the course, and spaces that are not generally in play from a golfing perspective.

Course general manager David Herbert said these key areas have been identified within an ecological management plan developed by the club.

In July, the club received \$7500 in planting funding from Auckland Golf, which is working with the Department of Conservation towards making the city's courses lush places that support biodiversity. The club teamed up with RTH to use its expertise to help source plants. A mix of RTH and golf club members have volunteered for two planting days so far, putting in around 500 plants on the 13th and 15th holes, and around edges of the course in the wider Allison Park. Vauxhall School pupils have also had two morning sessions at the course, doing water quality testing and helping planting a dozen different species.

A six-man "Dads Army", led in recent months by Mark Rodway has taken on the role of caretakers for the natives planted. Coffee sacks and mulch are used to stop the smothering of the newly planted seeds.

RTH organiser Lance Cablk said that the focus on the golf course is a key part of a wider Ngataranga eco-corridor project, to encourage birdlife to flourish across the peninsula. Native trees have already been planted along the channel on Seabreeze Rd, with the hope of creating a shaded waterway, resembling a natural stream, as a habitat for birds.

The golf club hopes to secure funding for future years, in order to plant in all areas in its plans.

Future planting days are to be confirmed. Information can be found on the RTH website and Facebook page. Morning tea is provided for volunteers at the club cafe.

swing into golf-course planting project



Thumbs up... (from left) Ruby Stewart, 10, Clementine Powles and Milla Holland, both 9, got their hands dirty together



Plant-based... AdaBelle Rowe, 10, drops a karaka into its new location, while Wolf Schroeder, 8, puts the finishing touches to the planting of a flax

Board members put sticks in spokes of bike hub

Plans for an Auckland Transport (AT) 'bike hub' at Devonport's Dacre Park have been questioned by members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The location, near the Clay Store and North Shore Football Club fields off Lake Rd, was queried, as were spending priorities, when AT officials briefed board members at a workshop last week.

AT wants to set up the hub in April next year, drawing on funds from Auckland Council's \$3 million Climate Change Transport Fund to encourage cycling with free advice, basic repairs, events and activities. A container would be used to house equipment on the council-owned site.

Member George Wood suggested AT should focus on core business, such as getting buses running on time.

"I'm surprised that AT, at a time when they're so short of money, are coming up with these plans."

Allowing an operator to set up in a rent-free

pop-up container on site would undercut local businesses, he said.

When local residents were complaining about cost-saving chip-seal being used on their roads, AT was branching out with "a plan that came out of the Green Party play book".

Member Toni van Tonder supported the hub concept but joined other members in doubting if out-of-sight Dacre Park was the best location. "I want it to be successful but I feel like Dacre Park will be a barrier," she said. "Nothing's happening there outside of football."

She asked if more central Devonport locations with passers-by had been considered, including perhaps looking at something in tandem with the existing bike shop in Wynyard St.

Van Tonder also suggested a suburb such as Sunnynook or Forrest Hill might be suffering from more bike poverty than Devonport and asked if other locations had been considered.

AT's senior cycling engagement specialist, Remco de Blaaij, said 10 sites had been chosen

across Auckland to get the Community Bike Hubs Project up and running.

Operators would be engaged this year, with the first hubs to be rolled out from November. The plan was to add more locations and build a city-wide network. AT had chosen Dacre Park because of its community connections, he said.

Deputy chair Jan O'Connor and Wood unsuccessfully tried to pin AT down to the exact location of the container it wanted to put on the mixed-use site next to the Devonport Recycling Centre. This is covered by a series of leases and tenancies (see story below).

"Dacre Park is definitely a reserve and we need to know it's not just going have a store shed on it," said O'Connor.

Board chair Ruth Jackson summed up the feedback in wanting to "draw a line" under the project until AT could provide more answers. She said she was concerned the location appeared well advanced before AT involved the board.

Panuku looks at potential for making money from Lake Rd land

Council property on Lake Rd leading into Dacre Park and Ngataranga Park is being scoped out for its money-making potential.

Commercial leases apply in the area, near the former Lake Rd service-station site owned by Countdown.

To Flagstaff queries, Eke Panuku, which manages the leases for Auckland Council, says it is not aware of any discussions between the council and Countdown regarding the super-

market operator's land.

But it confirmed that time was up on two of the leases on old buildings near the historic Claystore, with demolition an option.

"An investigation is now under way for the best use of the property in terms of revenue generation, given that the two buildings on site are vacant and uneconomical to repair, an Eke Panuku spokesperson said.

The main tenant on the site is the Devon-

port Recycling Centre, which recently had its operating contract renewed. The historic Clay Store is occupied by a community DIY group and managed by the council's Community Facilities team.

Of two other council-owned buildings beside the Claystore, one is vacant and the other one had its lease terminated recently, due to maintenance and safety concerns about the building. It will also be empty by the end of September.

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Devonport 12/2 Queens Parade

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Groups must understand that reserves are for all

Auckland Council's advertisement in the *North Shore Times*, on 17 March 2020, invited applications from community groups for the Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Community Lease at the Devonport Domain, 28 Vauxhall Rd, Devonport.

Council stated its intention that "any group or organisation applying must demonstrate a willingness to share the facility with others and illustrate in its application other groups or organisations it feels it could partner with or share the use of the facility. This should describe how this will occur for both land and built assets."

There were no restrictions or limitations on the types of use.

The local board must always have regard to the views of all its communities and in this case also take into account the direction outlined in the council's EOI statement.

Its decision provided the cricket and rugby clubs the lease for the occupation of the main former bowling-club clubrooms and 4000 sqm of land, being the majority area of the site.

Devonport Museum's use of a 72 sqm shed, and the carry-over of its existing month-by-month lease, was continued. The clubs' lease was extended from 20 to 30 years as recognition of the investment they would make on the site. The 40m of road frontage on Cambridge Terrace offered access for the

development to proceed.

This community has always been able to find ways to cooperate and value the needs of others. The Domain Management Plan supports that "the general and informal use of the reserve be encouraged to also allow for a comprehensive and wide-ranging community use of the reserve". This is an opportunity for collaboration and building strong community relationships. It is possible and necessary for community groups to support each other and understand that reserves are for everyone.

Trish Deans
Devonport-Takapuna
Local Board member

Sports clubs' complaint part of an anti-Deans campaign

Giving the cricket and rugby clubs front page coverage (Flagstaff, 26 August) for their complaint against Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans was troubling to say the least.

The filing of a code-of-conduct complaint with Auckland Council by these well-entrenched sports clubs should be seen

for what it is.

It's part of a campaign against Ms Deans, intended to damage her chances of being re-elected.

It's intended to boost those of current local board member, Toni Van Tonder, and her team of so-called leaders. The clubs are actively campaigning on their behalf.

We need local board members who really care about Devonport.

This means members with a proven track record of community engagement. Some candidates have it. Others don't. Their loyalties are with Takapuna and beyond.

Vote wisely.
Rodger Steele

Thanks to those who fought for and kept heritage Torpedo Bay buildings

I read in the 9 September Flagstaff that 20 years ago the Navy backed down on demolishing the heritage Torpedo Bay buildings to build the Navy Museum.

I just wanted to say thanks for that decision and those who fought for it.

What we have now integrates old and new wonderfully.

I hope that today we can again find ways of integrating the old with the new, where required, as we intensify.

I don't want to be a Nimby, but I haven't seen much attempt in any of the three-storey new builds to integrate with the style and tone of this wonderful place.

Simon Forrest

Museum seeks volunteers

Thank you for your editorial in support of Devonport Museum as a tourist attraction (Flagstaff, 9 September). The museum is mainly run by volunteers. We are always looking for more, so we can extend our opening hours. Anyone who is interested can get in touch at info@devonportmuseum.org.nz.

Robin Dowie, Secretary,
Devonport Museum

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Shed decision put female-friendly plan at risk

The Scott family have a long association with Devonport, arriving in the area in the middle of the 1800s. As the amateur genealogist in the family, I value the local museum, which keeps the heritage of this area alive.

Generations of the Scott family have also played for the North Shore Cricket Club (NSCC) and, until recently, it's where I was employed.

During my time at NSCC I worked hard to ensure our female population was considered in every aspect of the club. I'm really proud of the engagement women in our community now have with the cricket club – across all aspects of the game. For a club over 150 years old, I think it is very

progressive.

This is why it pains me so much that Heart of the Shore members voted (and used a casting vote) to allow a block shed on land designated for recreation on the Devonport Domain to be used as a free, long-term storage facility for the Devonport Museum.

This decision has at best delayed, and at worst put at risk, the cricket and rugby clubs' joint proposal to develop the site for the benefit of the local community, in particular aspiring female cricket and rugby players. The first part of the clubs' plan is to open up the green space for the public, which involves demolishing the block shed and developing the existing bowling club

building into desperately needed female change rooms for both clubs.

In its 26 August edition, the Flagstaff reported that Trish Deans had defended their voting by saying "a compromise was reached". This is misleading. A compromise implies that there had been discussions and agreement between all relevant parties, which simply did not occur. The clubs only learned of the Heart of the Shore "compromise" the evening before the local-board meeting.

In summary, all I can say is that if you value facilities for our female sportspeople, and want a fresh approach – vote!

Gillian Scott

Staggering to maintain Deans not conflicted on museum

I read with interest your 26 August edition regarding the formal Code of Conduct complaint lodged against Local Board Member Trish Deans by the North Shore Cricket and Rugby Clubs.

It seems that this is an issue that simply won't go away, perhaps because the old bowling-club site continues to lie derelict and in desperate need of development.

I am staggered that member Deans considered, and still maintains, that she was not conflicted when she voted on the relevant

issue on 22 September 2021.

It is a matter of public record that she regularly attended the Devonport Museum's committee meetings prior to that vote, including during the period from when the museum first applied to use the shed for storage purposes.

At a local-board meeting on 15 June 2021, it is minuted that member Deans declared herself conflicted on a funding decision for the Devonport Museum – a less-contentious matter where her vote

wasn't important.

However, when considering the bowling club site three months later, it seems she had miraculously cured her conflict and her vote was critical in the ultimate decision!

As a local ratepayer, this doesn't pass the 'sniff test'. As a businessperson and company director, this would never stand.

I am unsure how it can therefore be acceptable from our elected officials – we deserve better.

Blake Noble

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Disastrous density law is unnecessary and unjust

In response to Chris Werry (Flagstaff, 9 September) the Unitary Plan, which I support, intensifies approximately 20 per cent of the urban area of the city, catering for 900,000 dwellings plus a further 100,000 in the city centre. That is enough to provide housing for 2.5 million people. That is 30 years of build capacity. Auckland has about 560,000 dwellings now. If you can explain how this translates into me being staunchly against intensification, please bring it on.

What I oppose is the latest intensification legislation, which effectively zones every suburb, in every big city, medium density or greater. That is, a minimum of three-storey buildings (three dwellings), 12 metres high, to be built just one metre off boundaries, anywhere, and you have lost your right to object via the Resource Management Act.

This law is disastrous on many levels, not the least being it counters the very idea of intensification which was reasonably well thought through when the Unitary Plan was wrestled into being back in 2017. The fruits of this plan are plain to see. Intensification in and around urban hubs and arterial routes is in full swing and it is this plan that is expected to see us with a surplus of houses within 12 months.

The environment is worse off with this new law. With more people further away from hubs and arterial routes, they will be more car-dependent. There will be issues such as reactive infrastructure costs – unplanned pressure on roads, sewerage, water, and electrical systems.

The new law assumes massive growth in the population of the city. Where is the mandate from the people of Auckland for that? How is that sustainable? It is nonsensical. And while I support the Unitary Plan I am yet to understand how even it is sustainable, and how we might achieve our CO2-reduction ambitions in the light of such population growth.

Random placement of these buildings will impact neighbours severely in terms of loss of sunshine, privacy, peace and quiet. This translates into a loss of amenity consequently impacting on the value of all adjacent properties. The mere possibility of these negative impacts will create anxiety, particularly among the most vulnerable. Interestingly, it will impact the real-estate market, as buyers now have to contend with the uncertainty of what the neighbours might do. Uncertainty puts off buying decisions, so bad news for real estate.

With respect to the lolly scramble called ‘qualifying matters’, it is unfair and consequently unjust. Parts of the community that are able to advocate for themselves, as they have the skill and financial resources to do so, will get their protections and remain mixed-suburban or better. Character and coastal protections are examples of this – i.e., the wealthiest in our community will largely be spared. Indeed the value of their properties are set to skyrocket. Not that I don’t want these protections (they are in the Unitary Plan). I simply want the law repealed, as it is needless, pernicious and unjust.

Why this law is so appalling should surprise

no one. If you short-circuit the legislative process, bad law is an almost certain result. It was unacceptable that councils were blindsided by central government.

The cynical processing of this legislation with reckless haste, just prior to Christmas under the cover of the near-perfect Covid-19 media blitz, amounted to the denial of citizens’ right to due process. For instance, the select committee hearing process was slashed to just 12 per cent of the normal expected time. The bill was processed from start to finish in two months, a third of what would be considered normal. This was an appalling abuse of process, especially for a piece of legislation with such wide-ranging impacts that will have effect for the duration that the houses built will stand – potentially 100 years. I say no to that.

Michael Kampkes
Candidate for Auckland Mayor

Letters to the Editor

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

Email to
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Authorised by Trish Deans, deans.trish@gmail.com, M 021 0862 6675

Sports Briefs

Season to remember

Devonport's Jacko Gill solidified his top-tier shot-put status at the final Diamond League event of the season. After staying on to compete in Europe after his bronze-medal performance at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Gill came fourth at his last big competition in Zurich this month. Gill threw 21.51 metres, finishing behind Kiwi rival Tom Walsh on 21.9m and Americans Ryan Crouser and Joe Kovacs.

Open-day appearance

Gill returns to where his shot-putting career began this weekend, with an appearance at the Takapuna Athletics Club open day. Fellow Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, former Takapuna Grammar student and clubmate Imogen Ayris will also be there, along with several other national representatives. The open day on Saturday, 24 September runs from 11am to 2pm at the club on Onewa Domain.

Blues U18 selection

North Shore Rugby Club player Gene Garea has been selected for the Blues U18 camp. The former Takapuna Grammar First XV player, who left school in 2021, is among a squad of 54 players who will go into a four-day camp in early October. Westlake Boys' High School had five students chosen, after it went through the North Harbour secondary schools competition unbeaten, beat Kelston Boys to claim the Blues area title and finished third in the Top Four competition.

Swimming prospect

Year 10 Takapuna Grammar student Liam Vogel added to his growing list of titles at the recent New Zealand Short Course Swimming Championships. The national development squad member won two age-group gold medals (in the 100m backstroke and 100m fly) and three bronze medals after making eight finals.

New local board will face tight funding constraints

The incoming Devonport-Takapuna Local Board will face tight Auckland Council budgets, limiting its ability to advance new projects. Local works in the pipeline may be pushed back, but maintenance spending for 2022-23 is locked in.

After that, the new council will have to make city-wide decisions around levels of service, including in reserves, and whether to increase rates. City-wide capital expenditure deferrals of \$230 million over three years have been agreed, with boards being advised that their expectations and small amount of discretionary spending will need careful managing.

Area operations manager Sarah Jones updated members on the local flow-on from Covid and inflation-impacted budgets at a workshop this month, saying that renewals budgets were not being cut this year, but \$14.5 million of community facilities work

had been deferred.

"What we've tried to do is keep going with everything, just juggle over the three years of the programme," Jones said.

For Devonport-Takapuna, "tweaks" had left its local discretionary initiatives (LDI) funding and renewals budgets in a good position. The board had slightly overspent last year, compared with some other underspent boards which were being told they could no longer carry over unspent money.

Jones ran through a list of projects in play, saying some, such as maintenance at the Takapuna pool and Mary Thomas Centre, had been brought forward because repairs were needed, while others might have to wait a little longer.

Among newer commitments was \$10,000 to scope multiple-purpose use of Woodall Park.

More on elections, pages 42-49

Stanley Bay stormwater project delayed due to council budget woes

A long-awaited \$900,000 Stanley Bay stormwater project due to start in 2022 has been deferred as Auckland Council doesn't have enough money to pay for it.

"Auckland Council is facing a budget shortfall for the current financial year which will affect this project, meaning works have been postponed until the next financial year starting in July," a letter to residents said.

"This is due to raw material price increases and construction delays on other projects being impacted," it said.

Stanley Bay Reserve and the drains around it have long been prone to flooding and ponding stagnant water.

Residents have for years agitated for the work, which was to include upgrading a culvert pipe at the north-western edge of the reserve, reshaping and planting the watercourse along the northern and eastern edges of the reserve and on the boundary by

Ngataranga Tennis Club, and 'naturalising' a culvert and constructing a footbridge at the south-eastern edge of the reserve.

Auckland Council has offered no guarantee of when the project will proceed, and admits the cost will have risen by the time it goes ahead.

"We will review all affected projects and reprioritise them for the following financial year and will be in contact with you again closer to the time to outline a new construction date," said Chris Stumbles, council's Healthy Waters head of design and delivery.

"We understand this may be disappointing and apologise for any inconvenience caused."

A council spokesperson said the \$900,000 cost was estimated in September 2021. "However, we expect this cost to have risen by the time the project is delivered in late 2023."



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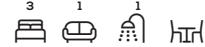
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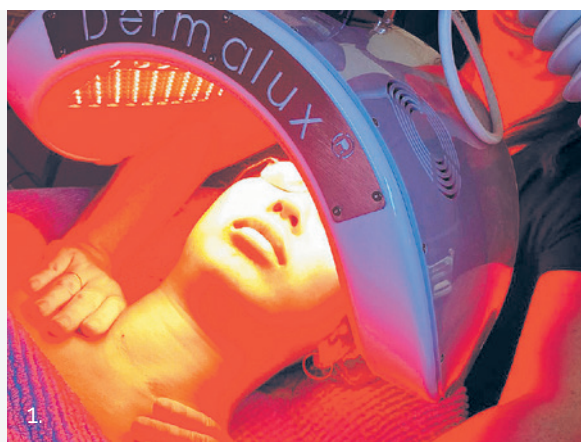


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Lake Rd design delay, but Bayswater cycleway locked in

Detailed design work on the Lake Rd upgrade is scheduled to start in December after being delayed by several months.

Auckland Transport (AT) acknowledged last week that Lake Rd funding decisions had taken longer than expected, but said the associated Bayswater Ave cycleway project would proceed next year as scheduled, having secured locked-in Vibrant Streets funding.

Residents should expect a letter drop about steps for community engagement on this in the next month or so. Stakeholders, such as schools, would also be contacted from late

October, with a community event planned.

It was hoped the building of a bi-directional lane on the south side of the road would be under way in March or April next year and take six months, AT said. Other work on Bayswater Ave, including the connection of the cycle lanes to the Belmont town centre, would come later, with the broader Lake Rd project.

“We are still working out the finer funding details for Lake Rd,” an AT spokesman said. “We will have a better idea once these details have been worked through.”

The last cost estimate for the project was \$52 million. Since then costs had escalated, so the detailed design work in December would help update this.

Staged work on Lake Rd between Hauraki and Albert Rd would follow by 2023-24.

AT said the construction duration was approximately 24 months. Amounts currently allocated for the project are \$800,000 for design work in 2022-23 and \$4.2 million in 2023-24, with an indicative amount of \$50 million for construction, with an approximate timeline running from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Big items of plastic junk accepted for recycling

People wishing to dump large plastic items for recycling have the opportunity to do so until the end of October.

In an Auckland Council trial to divert them from landfill, items not able to be included in inorganic collections are being accepted at three community recycling centres, including Devonport’s facility on Lake Rd.

These include plastic furniture, buckets, laundry baskets, dishwashing racks, rubbish bins, storage boxes and clamshell sandpits.

“We’re trialling recycling the large ‘number 5’ plastic items back into usable products,” said the council’s general manager of waste solutions, Parul Sood.

Unwanted items could end up having a second life after being reconstituted by Papakura-based business IP Plastics. Or, if they are in good enough condition, they could be onsold through centre reuse shops.

The aim is to extend the trial being held at Devonport, Waiuku and Helensville to in

time accept a wider range of plastics, including polypropylene.

Sood said if successful the initiative would help meet the council’s target of achieving zero waste by 2040.

Smaller number 5 plastic items such as ice-cream containers, yoghurt pots and honey jars should continue to be put into kerbside recycling bins. Plant pots are not able to be accepted in either roadside collections or the trial because they are contaminated with soil.

THE NAVY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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A 21-gun salute was fired at the Devonport Naval Base recently to acknowledge the Proclamation of Accession of His Majesty King Charles III

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**TE TAUA MOANA
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Acclaimed local lensman still at the top of his game

Award-winning photographer Brett Phibbs climbed to the pinnacle of his profession working for newspapers, and continues to set industry benchmarks as a freelancer. The Devonport resident tells Helen Vause about a life in pursuit of the kinds of images we all remember.

Photographers are not much given to talking about themselves, much less having their photos taken. And Brett Phibbs is no exception, but photos he has taken, and the stories his pictures have told, have reeled in many top media awards and recently led to him being named ‘Photographer of the Year’ at the national media awards, for the second year running.

He has twice previously won the top honour, in 2008 and 2015.

When Phibbs took the top award at the 2021 awards he also took the top prizes for the year for news and sport photography. Judges called him a master of his craft. This year, the judges commended his dynamic action pictures in a “well-rounded and powerful entry”.

In a career of more than 30 years, he’s been behind his camera covering news, sport, natural disasters and human tragedy, nationally and internationally.

Year after year, at so many major events, Phibbs has taken the photos that made a memorable impact in our daily diet of news. Quite often, they were the photos selected to go onto the front pages of media all over the world.

After a working life running to the fast pace of daily newspapers, the Devonport-based photographer is these days operating as a freelancer for the biggest names in the business.

He’s still flat out taking photos, for a long list of clients on a daily basis, but he’s his own boss, which is a sort of freedom he notes, with a dry grin.

When he sat down with the Flagstaff to share a bit of his story, he’d had a busy night shooting pictures at the Ports of Auckland operation.

And before that he’d been flying and



Sharpshooter... Brett Phibbs has travelled widely, covering major news and sporting events around the world

driving all over the South Island getting pictures of people, for a client.

And before that he’d been away for a while in the still and quiet of the Whanganui River on an assignment he’s particularly pleased with.

When Associated Press set out to do a series on ‘Sacred Rivers’ that could feature around the world, Phibbs was hired to take photos and shoot video on the New Zealand river that was granted personhood, by law,

in 2017.

In the series, people of the river telling stories about its place in their lives were captured in still images and video footage for a stunning and evocative, deeply Kiwi story that has gone out to a global audience.

Every day is different for Phibbs, sometimes with plenty of the unexpected, but the passion for taking pictures stays with him. He just loves what he does.

His journey in photography started in

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Right place, right time... Phibbs says being in the right location to photograph sporting action takes experience and planning

Westport, apparently without much promise, when the 15-year-old dropped out of school.

With plans to save up and head across the Tasman to check out the surfing life, young Phibbs got a job in a local camera shop. He found himself with steady work developing film.

And once he'd got the hang of the job, he set up a darkroom at home and generally got more interested in photography.

Instead of going away to chase waves, he set his sights on getting a job, and found one on the *Ashburton Guardian*, and his new career was under way. It was the perfect fit.

Today, well into the digital age; he looks back and shakes his head at the memory of all those happy hours in the darkroom and the anticipation of what would emerge from the smelly processing fluids.

"It's what we did and it was all part of getting those photos into the paper, but it's so unhealthy. It's a wonder any of us made old bones."

But he thrived in newspapers, despite the pressure and occupational toxins.

From Ashburton he moved progressively north, first to Christchurch then to the *Waikato Times* in Hamilton, then ultimately to Auckland and the *New Zealand Herald*, where he stayed for 26 years and became the paper's chief photographer.

Phibbs was usually sent, or went, wherever the big news was happening, in many different settings, and he finds it hard to single out the career highlights.

Years of top sporting events at home and around the world roll off his tongue,

along with wars and natural disasters. He's covered Olympic Games, refugee crises, tsunamis, Rugby World Cups and more.

His sports photography benefits from his knowledge of where to be at the right time. That takes a mix of experience, homework and having a game plan of his own.

"It's 90 per cent management and only 10 per cent luck," he says.

Knowing about athletes and how they are likely to react in victory or defeat can put him in the right spot, to catch the moment.

"It can be mentally pretty tiring, because you are also there to cover the game and bring back the photos that do that."

And then there are the days when the news world has gone quiet, and he takes the initiative himself to find great photos.

He did that in the first Covid lockdowns. Out of the nationwide shutdown he created a series of pictures that said it all when our daily bustle came to an overnight halt.

Alongside the empty roads and spaces of lockdown days, the big rows of campervans parked up and waiting, Phibbs captured the reality of a number of our top athletes around the country as they set up makeshift training in their living rooms and garages.

"It was quite an intimate experience to see them at home in such different circumstances. With that series I really felt I was recording moments in our history."

There have been times when people haven't been at all pleased to see Phibbs and his camera, such as when the French rugby team were licking their wounds the day after they lost the 2011 World Cup final to the All Blacks at Eden Park.

Phibbs had a hunch about where he could find them and thought it might make a poignant picture. It did, and he was spat at by French team members for his trouble.

A photographer in action can be vulnerable, walking backwards with a camera to the eye.

Once, waiting outside the airport with a clutch of cameramen, Phibbs caught a direct whack from the handcuffed fists of an angry international criminal, as police hustled him past to a waiting car.

Then there was the court case where the accused had been arriving in sunglasses and balaclava and tightly flanked by police every morning. At the end of the day Phibbs ran around to the back door or the courthouse, thinking he might get his subject at a good angle from there.

But the guy saw Phibbs, eye to his lens, first and head-butted the photographer hard. Another one of those days on the job this photographer wouldn't forget.

Phibbs loves people and says he's been privileged to get a glimpse into the lives of so many.

But there's one very special place Phibbs doesn't view the world through the lens, even though the scenery is amazing – on the deck outside the container he's made into a simple bach on land he owns near Punakaiki on the West Coast.

You can't take the West Coast out of the boy, he chuckles.

He has family living in the area and plans for his property, and dreams of spending much more of his time there.

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OUT & ABOUT



Nigel Bioletti
General & Fundraising Manager
Phone 027 445 6211
nigelbioletti@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

GIVE-A-LITTLE

For the first time, the Trust has launched a Give-a-Little campaign – we are hoping to raise \$8000, to continue our street art project. If you are able, or someone you know is able to help us in any way to achieve our goal, here is the link:
www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/street-art-on-the-peninsula


Note the fact that we want to see more murals across the Peninsula, not just in Devonport.. We would also like to hear from anyone who is willing to "Match" fund – to contribute dollar for dollar (to a set amount). Please email me if you are able to help. Help us strengthen a vibrant community and environment.

BLESSINGS

We are blessing our two new murals September 22nd at 9:30 at Harmony Hall. Please feel very welcome to attend.

HALLOWEEN

Pop this date in the family calendar.
Fri, 28 October 5.00-7.00pm
Bayswater Park



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OUT AND ABOUT

I enjoyed Friday Live at Harmony Hall, recently – starts at 7pm, gold coin entry – a good fun evening, and there is some amazing talent in Devonport.

MEET THE CANDIDATE EVENING

It was a pleasure to manage this meeting on the 8th September. All candidates had opportunities to present their case for attendee votes. Many thanks to Ngahiwi Walker for opening the evening, and setting the scene for candidates and attendees.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE TRUST

If you are able to offer support to enable the Trust to extend its work with this community, please email me –
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With special thanks to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for funding the Devonport Peninsula Trust.



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Looking back: The Queen in Devonport 1963



Royal visit... Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip walk down Victoria Rd with Devonport Mayor Fred Stevens during their New Zealand tour in February 1963.

Were you in the crowd that day? Did you meet the Queen? Contact the Flagstaff with your memories: news@devonportflagstgaff.co.nz



The Patriot pub in Victoria Rd flew a Union Jack at half-mast as a mark of respect after Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September.

Bidding farewell... The Queen and Prince Philip descend the steps on Devonport Wharf as they depart after the North Shore leg of their tour

Holy Trinity to host a service of thanks

Holy Trinity Church will host a thanksgiving service on the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Day on Monday 26 September.

Everyone is welcome to attend the 9am service, says Vicar Charmaine Braatvedt.

Books of condolence for those wishing to acknowledge the death of the Queen will remain at Devonport and Takapuna Libraries over the weekend.

Libraries are closed on the memorial day and rubbish collections delayed, but some council leisure facilities, are open, with

advice to check the Auckland Council's website.

The state service at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul at 2pm on Monday will be to be televised.

In Auckland, lighting in royal purple will illuminate landmarks, including the Auckland War Memorial Museum, the Vector display on the Harbour Bridge and the Sky Tower

The Memorial Day is a one-off public holiday to commemorate the Queen's life

and 70-year reign.

• *Elizabeth A Portrait in Parts* will screen at the Vic Theatre on the commemorative public holiday on 26 September at 11.35am and 3.50pm.

• Memorial books for those wishing to acknowledge the death of the Queen will remain at Devonport and Takapuna library until the day of her memorial service in New Zealand, on Monday, September 26.

Auckland Council has made books of condolence available at all of its 56 libraries.



Sound of succession... a 21-gun salute at the Devonport Naval Base marked the proclamation of Charles III as King on 11 September

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- The new Navy Museum is to be housed in historic buildings at Torpedo Bay. The Navy previously backed down on demolishing the buildings.
- Bruno, Devonport's walkabout dog, is profiled. Over the years he has been rescued from the Navy boiler room, caught buses and ferries to the city and hitched lifts to Albany and Birkdale.
- Gun-toting teenagers wearing iron masks and goggles for protection shoot out 17 windows at Devonport Primary School, causing more than \$3000 in damage. Witnesses saw about 15 youths armed with air guns shooting at each other in the school grounds.
- Belmont Intermediate students bring BB guns and pellets to school.
- Plans to sell off Navy housing are to be discussed at a public meeting
- Cheap air tickets to the Hunter Valley are up for sale in a Devonport barbershop window after the purchaser admitted he bought them in an inebriated state.
- Operators of the Devonport Wharf are told it needs to be renovated or North Shore City Council will refuse to transfer its lease.
- Two men appear in court after allegations of spiking drinks at a Devonport bar.
- Chris Heney is the new Bayswater School principal.
- Police relaunch investigations into nearly \$7000 missing from Devonport Art Festival funds.
- The Mobil petrol station on Lake Rd closes its pumps at night.
- North Shore City takes over from the Department of Conservation the management of the grassed areas of the Tamaki Reserve land at Narrow Neck.
- The Belmont Intermediate chess team finishes first equal in the Auckland Championships. The team was: James Danaher, Sam Stokes, Frances Clark and Richard Dare.
- Lois Elliot, a former teacher, returned to Belmont Intermediate to open the school's new \$330,000 technology suite.
- Marathon walker Tony Sargisson is the Flagstaff interview subject.

Candidates on parade ahead of local-body poll

Experienced campaigners and new recruits to politics rubbed shoulders at a series of public events this month, before voting began in the local-body elections. Rob Drent went to the Devonport meeting, where candidates for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council lined up to give it their best shot.

They had their backs against the cold wall of the Devonport Community House, in a scene reminiscent of a firing-squad line-up.

But things quickly heated up at the local-body election candidates meeting earlier this month, most bursting forth with all guns blazing – although, inevitably, some were firing blanks.

More than 100 people turned out to hear what Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council North Shore ward hopefuls had to offer in the two-and-a-half minutes, speaking time each was allocated.

Local-board candidates

Sitting board member **Toni van Tonder** was drawn first and, shunning the microphone, opened with both barrels. She was “very proud” of her three years on the board, which included confirmation of the Takapuna town-square project and working hard with North Shore councillors to bring the Lake Rd project to fruition. Her A Fresh Approach team emphasised positive collaboration, creative thinking and open-mindedness. The ticket’s candidates were selected across the whole board area: Devonport, Belmont, Takapuna, Sunnynook and Milford. A polished performance.



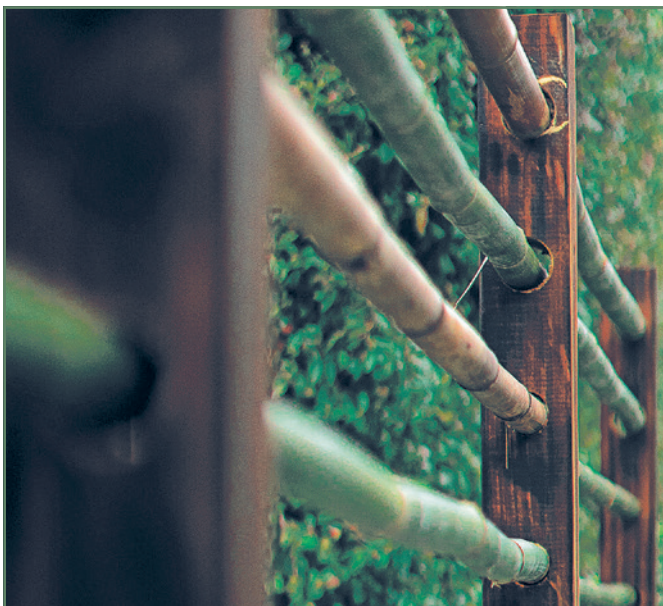
Trish Deans (Heart of the Shore) was next up. She focused on her in-depth knowledge and long track record as a former chair of Devonport Heritage, battling to retain the special character areas of Devonport. Kept to her strengths – concerns about intensification and the government’s trampling of the Auckland Unitary Plan, which already allowed more growth. Slightly less amped than at an earlier candidates meeting. A few stumbles at the end, but confident overall.

Melissa Powell (A Fresh Approach), a first-time candidate from Sunnynook, worked her local connection in recalling pulling pints at the Devonport Bar and Brasserie in 1995. With experience in programme evaluation, she says she would

pursue the best outcomes for the community.

Ruth Jackson, current board chair and leader of the Heart of the Shore ticket, noted her history as a fourth generation local (although currently living outside the the board area) and a key board achievement in setting up a working group into the Wairau catchment. Key HOS values included transparency, retaining open entry to the public board workshops (where the meat and potatoes of decisions are made), protection of public spaces and better, more affordable public transport.

Save Our Shore’s **Sam Walsh** was much improved from his previous outing. He agreed with Deans on the need to preserve



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Any final wishes?... candidates were lined up against the wall at the Devonport Community House, as if they were facing a firing squad

heritage, emphasised the need to support groups and valued a safe community.

Zane Catterall (A Fresh Approach) grew up in the Bayswater, Belmont area and worked for Restoring Takarunga Hauraki – “a very special group”. He was inspired by the youth in the community and highlighted the strength of the Fresh Approach team.

Bridget Thrusell (Heart of the Shore), a Hauraki resident and first-time candidate, confessed she had never used a microphone before. She wanted to prioritise the environment, for a “stronger, better community”, specifically through the protection of trees and retention of public spaces. She was a strong advocate for affordable public transport.

Peter Allen (A Fresh Approach) pushed his more youthful credentials. He had kids at Carmel and Westlake, was a runner and mountain biker who headed an events and production

company. He wanted to continue the vibrancy he had seen through helping organise the Matariki celebration in Devonport.

George Wood (C&R North Shore) was something of a lone gunslinger on the night, with the other candidates on his local board ticket, Mike Single and Gavin Busch, both missing. A former mayor of North Shore City, Wood wisely outlined his experience in local -body politics, which includes two terms on council’s governing body and two on the local board. He said a second Waitemata Harbour crossing was vital for the area and that the Lake Rd upgrade programme still needed fine tuning.

Terence Harpur (A Fresh Approach) was another to emphasise youthful exuberance. The Takapuna Beach CEO had a young family and he wanted to make the Shore a great place for them through a clean environment, supporting business and youth, and evidence-based

decision making. He wanted youth reps to attend board meetings more often.

John Maidment (Heart of the Shore) said in a punchy speech he valued social justice and the community. He was a sailor and an environmentalist who didn’t want to rubber-stamp council-officer reports. It was important to retain the lifestyle the Shore offered and which many took for granted. Maidment won the prize for most interesting aside of the night: He once paddled a canoe off North Head to protest against nuclear warships coming into the Waitemata Harbour.

Local board candidates Michele McGregor, Gavin Busch, Cherie Keiller, Tony Bunting, Kurt Keiller, Mike Single Jan O’Connor and Kent Tregonning did not attend the meeting. Kevin Brett arrived late and did not get a speaking turn at the start.

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From page 43

Council candidates

Raymond Tan, an independent who he had lived at Totara Vale for 25 years, and worked for Auckland Council in assets management for a decade. He wanted greater transparency, better decision-making based on facts and an emphasis on social cohesion.

Adrian Tyler of Beachhaven is a second-term Kaipatiki Local Board member where he said he had worked developing partnerships with the community. A pontoon needed replacing at Island Bay and when council came up with a \$1 million figure, the community price was \$100,000.

George Wood (C & R North Shore) said the current local board did not have “a wonderful relationship” with the current ward councillors, a situation he would remedy if elected. He also wanted better relationships with councillors in Rodney and Albany. As a previous mayor, Wood felt he would be able to assist the new Auckland mayor to settle in.

Chris Darby, sitting councillor and chair of Auckland’s planning committee, said he had three adult daughters and was “grateful for the path they are on”. In Auckland much work had been done but still needed to be done. Being able to move around the city for jobs and recreation was vitally important, hence the need to improve public transport. Darby said “time was short” as we were not only living in a world of Covid but also “a climate change world” where decisions needed to be made to benefit our children.

Richard Hills, sitting councillor and chair of council’s environment committee, said it had been a difficult time for council with the need to implement a reduced Covid-affected budget. But major achievements locally



Front and centre... Candidates at the Takapuna public meeting hosted by ANCAD earlier this month. Front row (from left): Ruth Jackson, Trish Deans, Bridget Thrussell and John Maidment. Behind: Toni van Tonder, Peter Allen, Melissa Powell, Mike Single and Zane Catterall.

included the revitalisation of Takapuna centre and Hurstmere Rd, and securing the \$50 million upgrade of Lake Rd.

Danielle Grant (C & R North Shore), deputy chair of the Kaipatiki Local Board, took aim at the arrogance of Auckland Council and Auckland Transport, and budget overruns such as that for the Central Rail Link. City governance needed to be done “hand in hand” with the community.

Question time

During question time some candidates said they wanted to work within the system, while others sought reform.

Terence Harpur urged collaboration with organisations the board was working with: “If we are fighting with them nothing gets done.” He wanted to have a constructive relationship with council-controlled organisations.

George Wood said some areas, such as Castor Bay, Sunnynook and Bayswater had

effective residents and ratepayers groups, but other suburbs would benefit from similar representation.

Ruth Jackson said the local board was supposed to operate under a co-governance model, whereas the opposite seemed to be happening with council taking away powers.

Kevin Brett (Save the Shore) wanted greater transparency and to keep the officials honest.

Chris Darby was keen to have a review of the council structure, to see if it was working optimally, as it was now 12 years old.

For a pre-election meeting, tempers were rarely raised, although Darby and Deans clashed over what the allowable building heights in the Devonport Town Centre would be under zoning changes.

Zane Catterall said he wanted to repair the relationship between iwi and council. Many pa sites had been desecrated across the North Shore, he said, raising an issue not commonly discussed in North Shore politics.

Candidates of many stripes show their green streaks

From across the political spectrum, local-body candidates were keen to emphasise their green credentials at a meeting that seemed to confirm the mainstreaming of climate-change fears.

Supporting public transport, tree planting and protection and backing for community environmental groups were common themes, although views varied on transport policies and targeted rates, planting on the maunga and how to encourage and deliver wider change.

Around 35 people gathered at the Wakatere Boating Club at Narrow Neck on Saturday afternoon to hear from sitting councillors and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members, and those vying to unseat them. Others – including the Flagstaff – tuned in online.

The environmental meeting was organised by Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH).

North Shore ward councillors Richard Hills and Chris Darby outlined Auckland Council’s Climate Change Action Plan and said coun-

cillors were also pushing the government on tree protection. While the council was planting more trees on public land, their loss continued unabated on private developments.

Council candidate Adrian Tyler pointed out that council contractors needed to be instructed not to mow down the efforts of planting groups.

Local-board member Toni van Tonder, who leads A Fresh Approach, said actions spoke louder than words and her team were “all grass-rooters”. She had been voted down in board meetings on her support to close off Sacred Grove in Takapuna and back the Parking Strategy to ease traffic flow on main roads.

Her Fresh Approach teammate Zane Catterall said tree protections should be improved. “Te Ao Maori doesn’t separate humans and nature,” said Catterall. “That’s something we can all learn from.”

Community and Residents council candidate Danielle Grant championed local zero-waste initiatives, and her C&R running mate George

Wood spoke of his record in backing buses and cleaning up waterways.

Heart of the Shore’s Trish Deans, a sitting board member, spoke against the council spraying glyphosate on reserves and said efforts to encourage people out of cars needed to be realistic. “We are meeting a push back because people say ‘I can’t get from there to here’.”

Hills noted that 43 per cent of Auckland’s emissions were from transport, and pointed out that C&R’s Grant wanted to review the targeted transport rate. Of the Lake Rd project, which Wood has questioned the effectiveness of, he said: “We can’t keep consulting on that.”

Heart of the Shore’s John Maidment said as an environmentalist and a sailor he wanted the council and community to work together to protect the area.

Leading by personal example was emphasised by C&R’s Mike Single, who spoke convincingly of the need for more EV infrastructure and harnessing wind and solar power.

Candidates for Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

In their own words on the next three pages, the 20 contenders stake their claim for your vote

PETER ALLEN



A FRESH APPROACH

A Milford resident of 11 years and business owner with 20 years' experience in event management and communications.

I have delivered an array of local events including the Puanga Matariki Celebrations and the iconic Christmas by the Lake. These events activate our community and green spaces. I will apply these skills and experience to bring back the vibrancy, community connection and economic opportunity in our area.

Vote A Fresh Approach.

KEVIN BRETT



SOS SAVE OUR SHORE

A former researcher for the late Sir Peter Williams QC.

SOS SAVE OUR SHORE. With sewage, polluted beaches, traffic mayhem, a destructive unitary plan, threatened heritage houses, open spaces sellouts, Takapuna car park, Bayswater Marina, 501s in our area, possible Takapuna library sellout, record crime, the rates ripoff, rape, home invasion, bashings, intimidation, ram raids, molestation of women joggers, car thefts, burglary – this is an SOS. SAVE OUR SHORE.

TONY BUNTING



INDEPENDENT

Do you get sick of this council wasting ratepayers' money? We owe \$10 billion through voting in incompetent lifetime politicians. I don't believe in rate rises above the CPI or any targeted rates increase that will force ratepayers to pay more.

Three Waters is a theft of ratepayers' assets and should be rejected. Panuku is set up purely to strip assets from ratepayers and needs to go. Vote Tony Bunting.

GAVIN BUSCH



C & R NORTH SHORE

A long-time member of our local sports and Rotary Club, as well as a board member of the TBBA and local Volunteer Firefighter, I am passionate about our area. We need a board that will work for our community, make better decisions around our roads, facilities and environment and provide competent governance. My background in business and involvement on company, charitable trust and school boards can support our board to work better for the community it serves.

ZANE CATTERALL



A FRESH APPROACH

Kia ora, I'm Zane, born and bred in Bayswater and currently living in Belmont with my partner and two school-aged children. Bilingual, speaking both te reo Māori and English, I aim to improve the cultural competency of our local board. I have a background in community activation, relationship management, ecological restoration and tikanga and kaupapa Māori. I know our local board area is ready for A Fresh Approach!

TRISH DEANS



HEART OF THE SHORE

I'm an experienced community advocate and a current member of the Local Board. I'm proud of the many things we've achieved. However, it's the new housing intensification plans that will affect our area, and there are problems. These rules are not widely understood, and the problems will only be realised afterwards. Local flood areas are zoned allowing six-storey buildings, and Devonport's character area devalued. I'll advocate for better solutions.

TERENCE HARPUR



A FRESH APPROACH

We need competent, positive leadership and governance on our local board, with clear actions and less bickering. I am a local with years of business and governance experience and a 'get it done' attitude. My priorities include cleaning up waterways and the environment, supporting local businesses and town centres, upgrading facilities, creating fun local events and activities, protecting our heritage, enhancing community wellbeing and sensible financial management. Vote for 'A Fresh Approach'.

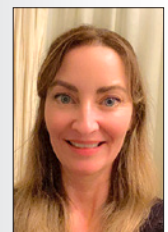
RUTH JACKSON



HEART OF THE SHORE

I'm a fourth-generation local, committed to: Board workshops staying open to the public (we won't lock you out); continuing the working group I instigated on Wairau Catchment and beach water quality (which helped secure additional funding) and supporting other environmental initiatives; more for our 15 to 25-year-olds; retaining and enhancing parks and public places for our growing population; and ensuring the Takapuna Library and community hub are upgraded not downsized.

CHERIE KEILLER



SOS - SAVE OUR SHORE

I grew up in Devonport. I have forged a successful career in finance, liaison between business and unions and have a responsible position in the energy sector. The destruction wrought on the Shore makes me sick. The unitary plan and threat to the heritage houses, rape and molestation of women, bashings and intimidation, horrific. 501s must be kept out and rates down.

Vote SOS SAVE OUR SHORE.

Candidates for Local Board

ELECTION FACTS

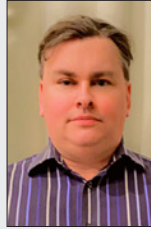
In the last local government elections, in 2019, council figures for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area show there were:

- 42,426 potential electors
- Of those, 17,335 (40.9 per cent) voted, compared with a voter turnout of 35.3 per cent across Auckland.
- 1885 returned a vote on the last day.
- 269 special votes were cast.

KURT KEILLER

SOS
SAVE OUR SHORE

I am deeply concerned about rising crime, woeful development, excessive spending and the bad decisions of the present local board (e.g. carparking, leases) in the Devonport-Takapuna electorate. I have excelled in corporate strategy and economics and will bring my talents to address these problems and work towards a safe, clean, beautiful and prosperous North Shore. Plus ensure that we deliver vibrant and flourishing open spaces that we all love so much!"



JOHN MAIDMENT

HEART OF THE SHORE

Communities and the council currently face many challenges, including climate change, housing, intensification, failing infrastructure, congestion, and economic pressures, to name a few. More than ever, we need strong, capable, and dedicated representation on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

My extensive experience in business and social programmes ensures I will make an effective and positive contribution on the local board and the decisions it makes on behalf of the wider community.



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SOS Save Our Shore

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Bayswater Marina for example - The unitary plan is destroying and defacing your area. Heritage houses are under threat. Traffic problems are only getting worse. Sewage is spewing onto your beaches. Crime is out of control. Rape, home invasion, bashings, intimidation, car theft, defacing of public property are all on the list.

- **Takapuna car park sold out** with the board's approval. It's time for the present board to be sent into retirement.
- **We've got a rat plague** and the board can't even organise to get rid of a bunch of rats. The rats are more organised than the board.
- **The government wants to put 501 criminals from Australia into a 40 unit block in Belmont.** This must be stopped.
- **Stop three waters** and no congestion charges (tax).
- **People who commit crime and violence** in our area should not be allowed in our area.

AUTHORISED CANDIDATE FOR SOS SAVE OUR SHORE



Kevin BRETT



Cherie KEILLER



Kurt KEILLER



Sam WELSH

SOS SAVE OUR SHORE SOS Save our Shore is standing for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The team is led by Kevin Brett a former researcher for the late Sir Peter Williams QC

Authorised by Founder of SOS Save Our Shore. Kevin Brett, kevinwb300@gmail.com. Tel: 021-168-5165.

Candidates for Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

MICHELE MCGREGOR



INDEPENDENT

I am standing in frustration at central government interference in our beloved communities. Prioritise spending on our core local concerns. Focus on our roads, intensification/planning and our water. Reduce bureaucracy and remove power from unelected officials. No to Three Waters. I am efficient, organised, practical and not afraid to ask questions. If you are interested in an alternative to the status quo, vote Michele McGregor.

Engage on facebook or email votemichelemcgregor@gmail.com.

JAN O'CONNOR



HEART OF THE SHORE

Achievements: New toilets at Laketown Green, Milford and Takapuna Beaches, and many up-graded playgrounds. Support: Business areas, events, sports clubs, heritage areas, parks, clean beaches, public transport, safe cycleways. Modernise not sell Takapuna's community buildings and library overlooking our beach. Oppose: Sale of parks, government allowing three-storey houses with no carparking be built within all two-storey-zoned areas.

MELLISSA POWELL



A FRESH APPROACH

I've lived in Sunnynook for 18 years and I have had a 25-year career in health, youth and community development. I have many years' experience in positive and effective community governance, research, evaluation and financial management of charities for children. Our team – A Fresh Approach – all bring current and relevant industry experience in business, charities, community development and environmentalism and we have valuable experience in the Covid recovery to offer.

MIKE SINGLE



C & R NORTH SHORE

I am a self-employed company director with 40 years' experience running business in the aged-care, mental health and tourism sectors, employing until sale more than 210 staff. I was a coach at the North Shore Rugby Club for 25 years and on the Board of Takapuna Grammar School for 12 years, supporting significant redevelopment. We need more common sense, pragmatism and business experience on the local board and an ability to work to achieve meaningful results, supporting a firm belief in protecting heritage and character.

BRIDGET THRUSSELL



HEART OF THE SHORE

I am standing because I want to make a positive difference. I support tree protection, quality open spaces, clean swimmable beaches and better public transport. I want to increase support for environmental volunteer groups. I oppose selling parks, public spaces and the Takapuna Library and associated community hub. I believe in open democracy and integrity. I will listen and do my best to advocate on your behalf.

KENT TREGONNING

INDEPENDENT

Focusing on localisation not globalisation. I believe in building an environment where local businesses and the community can thrive. I bring new ideas and a new approach coupled with a traditional New Zealand heritage for outcomes that benefit the local community.

(Note: Information not supplied by candidate. Taken from council election website.)

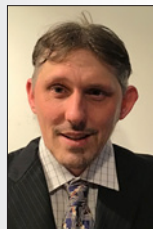
TONI VAN TONDER



A FRESH APPROACH

Current local board member: I'm excited to bring a team of collaborative, future-focused leaders to the local board. We will make decisions to improve community facilities, making spaces accessible and safe. We will vote for the environment, activate and support our town centres, celebrate our heritage, respond to youth concerns, and advocate for safe and efficient travel choices. A mother of three, passionate about sports, highly respected and ready to deliver good governance.

SAM WELSH



SOS SAVE OUR SHORE

I'm Sam Welsh, a Devonport local.

We must protect our heritage, combat record crime and the unitary plan, fight the open spaces sellout and the threat to our heritage houses, not allow 501 criminals in our area, protect Takapuna Library and keep our rates down. Our way of life is under threat.

Vote SOS – SAVE OUR SHORE.

GEORGE WOOD



C & R NORTH SHORE

There are some important projects like upgrading the Wairau catchment and Milford Marina along with the revised plan to upgrade Lake Rd. Lake Rd needs a greater emphasis on moving more vehicles along the corridor from Hauraki to Belmont than what is planned for at present. It is important that our community facilities and shopping centres are continually maintained and upgraded. Arts and culture centres must continue to thrive.

North Shore ward council candidates

The seven candidates seeking two places on Auckland Council give their reasons why

TONY BUNTING



INDEPENDENT

Do you get sick of this council wasting rate-payers' money? We owe \$10 billion through voting in incompetent lifetime politicians. I don't believe in rate rises above the CPI or any targeted rates increase that will force ratepayers to pay more.

Three Waters is a theft of ratepayers' assets and should be rejected. Panuku is set up purely to strip assets from ratepayers and needs to go. Vote Tony Bunting.

CHRIS DARBY

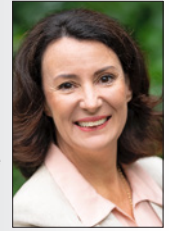


FOR THE SHORE

Having led the Takapuna town square project, secured \$50m for the Lake Rd upgrade, brought Fullers under regulatory control and delivered the Hurstmere Rd revitalisation, my goals now are to confirm rail to the Shore, transform public transport, review the Supercity, challenge spending, provide safe cycling and tackle climate action for our children.

With your vote, I will stand up for your issues to shape the best future for our place.

DANIELLE GRANT



C & R NORTH SHORE

You deserve better, vote change: Stop wasteful spending, get Auckland moving, ensure safer communities and better management of housing growth and infrastructure. Listening to you and speaking up on your behalf is how I've served our North Shore Kaipatiki Local Board for the last nine years. I bring business and governance experience to decision-making. I'll focus on issues that matter.

Make the Right choice – vote Danielle Grant for Council.

RICHARD HILLS



A POSITIVE VOICE FOR THE SHORE

I work with others to deliver positive outcomes and address your concerns. I've delivered: water quality improvements for Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, upgrades to our parks and record investment into our environment. Secured the Lake Rd upgrade, electric bus and ferry funding and pushed government to prioritise a new harbour crossing. I will continue to focus on community safety, protecting our environment, investment in infrastructure and planning for future generations.

RAYMOND TAN



I have lived on the Shore for 25 years and do not support future rates increases without added benefits to residents.

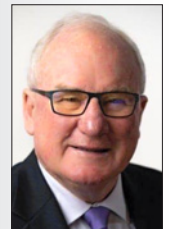
Through my current PhD research on optimising the value of public assets, I believe there is still untapped potential for economic growth and enhanced community well-being on the North Shore. If elected as Councillor, I will work to ensure that new policies are evidence-based and transparent to the public.

ADRIAN TYLER



Kia ora! After two terms on the Kaipatiki Local Board, I know that Auckland Council could be far more cost-effective and responsive to community aspirations by working with community and local businesses. So I'm standing for council to build a community partnership approach that will reduce costs and empower local boards and their communities. Help me make this happen by voting Adrian Tyler for Council. See my policies at www.AdrianTyler.co.nz

GEORGE WOOD



C & R NORTH SHORE

Addressing law and order resourcing must get the full attention of the new Council. Reducing police staff levels out on our streets and closing police stations must stop. Getting Council spending under control and keeping rate increases in line with the consumer price index is a priority. I'm determined to ensure our new harbour crossing will be multi-modal for cars and trucks, with provision to also bring rail to the North Harbour.

North Shore Philatelic Society is holding its annual

Stamp Exhibition

10am to 4pm, Saturday 1st October 2022

In the St. Joseph's Church Hall, Taharoto Road, Takapuna.
(Entrance to parking from 10 Dominion Street.)

Entry is FREE! Stamp Displays - Treasure Hunt - Raffles
Loads to see and do! Stamp Dealers - Free Information
Children's Area (Fun With Stamps).

Refreshments available throughout the day
Contact: nsps@xtra.co.nz | www.northshoreps.com

Write to the Observer

We welcome letters. Please limit to 300 words on local topics. Noms de plume or unnamed letters will not be printed.

Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz or write to Letters, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.

Looming issues and role constraints will test collaborative skills of next local board

by Janetta Mackay

Calls for clean beaches, well-maintained parks and roads, and support for community groups – it’s the stuff of local government. Candidates promise assistance and voters expect delivery.

But with less money in Auckland Council coffers and growing demand for big-ticket spending to upgrade ageing infrastructure and cope with housing intensification, the ability to deliver even on the basics will test the six members who are elected to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board next month.

Another test will be how well members can work together to make the big decisions looming about how best to future-proof Takapuna community services, including its library.

Four options will be on the table, ranging from retaining the library on its current site to moving it and other services into a community hub in a new building in the Takapuna town square, with ageing existing facilities on The Strand to be sold.

A new site for the war memorial will also need to be signed off.

Other contentious projects such as the \$52 million Lake Rd upgrade, the sale of old council chambers at 3 Victoria Rd and the Waiwharariki Anzac Square development under way on the old central Takapuna car park are now largely in the hands of council-controlled organisations (CCOs) Auckland Transport and Panuku to progress – however much some in the community and on the board might wish otherwise.

Board feedback on these projects can continue to influence the CCOs, but it won’t get far if it seems more intent on relitigating earlier decisions rather than refining pending moves, or on stepping from a governance role into operational matters.

Creating a climate for collaboration is a two-way street which in the last few years has felt more like a pile-up in a cul de sac.

It’s easy to blame at times high-handed CCOs for decisions on the likes of street “enhancements”, parking provision and cycle-lane positioning, but these city-wide policy initiatives were never open for the board to determine. Better its members spend their time and influence to ensure adoption goes as smoothly as possible, while working more closely with North Shore’s elected councillors to bring the local voice to city hall.

It’s a worry when six community-minded and well-intentioned people in a room can’t more often thrash out an agreed position in the best interests of those they serve.

Lobbying for enhanced bus and ferry services to help encourage a return to pre-Covid usage levels is another area that would be best done in tandem. Bayswater is crying out for certainty around the future of its ferry facilities and the old boating club there could be transformed to a community asset.

The joint approach worked well in prioritising water-quality improvement work in the Wairau Estuary this term, leading to the lifting

of a permanent no-swim ban at its mouth to Milford Beach.

Faulty connections were also traced and fixed in Hauraki, Takapuna and Milford, curbing illegal discharges. Work upstream in the Wairau Creek catchment continues involving the board’s counterpart in Kaipatiki to reduce industrial contaminants that flow to the sea.

The board as a whole successfully supported a series of attractive playground and toilet renewals across its area, with more in the pipeline. It also dispensed grants to sport, environmental and community groups with broad agreement.

Submissions on Auckland Unitary Plan draft changes helped reflect community concerns, and will need to be followed up as the process continues.

But the board’s drawn-out meetings too often descended into noisy farce, points of order, late notices of motion, extended amendments and decision-making by bloc-voting and the chair’s casting vote. While a contest of ideas is a sign of a healthy democracy, not so the sort of behaviour from some members that would see most workers hauled to human resources to explain their raised voices, lengthy diatribes and sniping.

It’s a worry when six community-minded and well-intentioned people in a room can’t more often thrash out an agreed position in the best interests of those they serve.

While national politics divides on party lines, there’s more expectation that at the very local level, consensus might be found.

Campaigning to date suggests passions are running strong, and any new board members may soon share the frustrations of what is a constrained role.

But those who sign up for an often-thankless task will still have much they can contribute — if they work collaboratively.

Vote

Richard HILLS

Your Shore Councillor.

Authorised: Richard Hills, contact info@richardhills.co.nz, 021 025 11393

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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022



Prefects for 2023 Announced

The following students have been selected as TGS prefects for 2023. Please join us in congratulating them on this wonderful achievement.



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tate Agnew | Scott Beaumont | Giselle den Breems |
| Will Hopkins | Maurice Malloch | Nikaiah Noble |
| Pania Rowe-Karanui | Anishka Sherlock | Lucy Travers |
| Liam Arthur-Hunt | Henry Blanchard | Charlie Figgins |
| Rea Kearns | Lucy Mason | Natasha Nowaczek |
| Vicky Sagripanti | Georgia Smith | Harry Tu'isila |
| Tataiarangi Baker | Shaina Campbell-Howard | Francesca Fong |
| Nabeel Khan | Joe McKibbin | Nicholas Petherick |
| Maia Scott | Sophie Spooner | Finlay Weaver |
| Heath Barrett | Rocco Conaghan | Olivia Free |
| Skye Lang | Lily Murphy | Olivia Priddy |
| Christian Scott | Hugo Sweetman | Ruby Wilson |
| Alice Beale | Liam Corrigan-McKay | Rocco Gillies |
| Hayley Macduff | Caleb Newton | Luke Robertson |
| Hannah Selby | Jeremiah Thomas-Smith | Vincent Yee Werry |

Merit Badge Awards Assembly

On the Wednesday 7 September the school held its annual Merit Badge Awards Assembly for our Year 12 & 13 students. A Merit Award recognises the substantial contribution a student has made to their activity or sport. Students have performed with distinction, exhibiting excellent leadership and strong commitment.



This year we congratulated 128 students who achieved a Merit award. This included 5 Gold Merit Award winners. To obtain a Gold Merit Award you must receive a merit award in four or more individual activities/sports.

Students go under the clippers for cancer



At Takapuna Grammar we decided to participate in this amazing cause. We acknowledge that many kiwis in our communities and across NZ, are impacted by Cancer. In response to this, we set up a team of students to be involved in Shave for Cure.

We shaved our hair off to acknowledge and support blood cancer patients through their hardships. We managed to raise \$5799.40 at time of print with Xander Elphick-Moon topping the individual fundraising efforts with a whopping \$1840!

Thank you to everyone in the community who sponsored us for this great cause. From the TGS Whanau, we really appreciated your support and look forward to contributing to this remarkable fundraiser again next year!

OUR TEAM CAPTAIN	
	\$1,025
OUR TEAM	
	\$1,840
	\$1,025
	\$781
	\$758
	\$490
	\$267
	\$260
	\$230
	\$0

Homestay Families wanted for 2023



For more information please contact Carla Hemopo in the International Department at homestay.coordinator@tgs.school.nz or by phone on 09 489 4167 ext 9226



Historic guardhouse rots awaiting Treaty deal

The sorry state of the Fort Takapuna guardhouse has again been raised with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, in the hope it will lobby for the dilapidated wooden building's restoration.

Grey Power's North Shore president, Bill Rayner, has urged the board to seek action in what is a complicated case.

The Crown-owned building, on the south side of the driveway to the historic military reserve at Narrow Neck, stands on Department of Conservation (DoC) land. It is part of an unfinalised Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Marutūāhu Collective.

In 2005, an agreement was struck between DoC and North Shore City Council for council to manage the reserve. This responsibility passed to Auckland Council with local-body amalgamation into the 'Supercity' in 2010.

The council restored two nearby barracks, which it leases for community purposes. With the Treaty settlement then thought to be imminent, the guardhouse was left unmaintained. In the years since, it has deteriorated, to now be in what board member George Wood describes as a "shocking condition".

Weatherboards at its rear are rotting and timber supports at the front are falling away.

Rayner, who has unsuccessfully sought council action previously, wrote late last year to the Minister of Treaty Settlements, Andrew Little, asking for him to clarify the legal status and cut through the bureaucratic Gordian Knot. He pointed out that the guardhouse had been identified as one of three to be restored as representative of the former military camp.

The minister said day-to-day care was up to the council, although the building belonged to the Crown until the deed of Treaty settlement was signed and legislation to enact this was passed. This could be several years away.

Little said he would look into what could



Dilapidated heritage... the former guardhouse at Fort Takapuna

be done, but nothing has happened.

Rayner told the board that out of respect for the servicemen who passed through the camp – particularly those who are buried at O'Neill's Point Cemetery, which recently won Category 1 Historic Place recognition – the arrangement to restore the guardhouse should be honoured.

He wants the board to take up the matter with the minister, the council and the chair of the Marutūāhu Collective, Paul Majurey. He has copied in North Shore MP Simon Watts and North Shore Councillor Chris Darby, in his efforts for action.

Board member Trish Deans said she knew Rotary had expressed interest in helping with the work, which DoC had been keen on, but the settlement process was holding things up.

A local-board adviser told members the building was not "ours" and that the matter

fell between DoC and settlement resolution. "It's out of our space," she said.

Deans said the former military site had meaning to the many Pacific Islanders who were in camp there for World War I.

For Māori, there was also a history beyond those with service connections. It was where Princess Te Puea, granddaughter of the second Māori King, mounted a protest against conscription, throwing food over a fence for detained men.

"There's a wonderful piece of history there," said Deans.

Wood, who was dismayed when he inspected the Fort Takapuna site recently, told board members it was not the only one locally caught in settlement limbo land. The former Takapuna police station on the corner of Anzac St and The Terrace had stood largely vacant for 14 years, he said.



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Fast tracks to nowhere: Devonport's unfulfilled

A visionary transport scheme became a lost opportunity for the peninsula more than a century ago, says librarian Derek R Whaley, who will talk about his research as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival.

Devonport once had a grand vision for an electric tramway that would run from Stanley Bay to Cheltenham Beach and Lake Pupuke.

Unfortunately, 20 years of false starts and empty promises had led to exactly one failed horse tramway in 1886 and an electric tramway system in the central city in 1902. Devonport got nothing.

Letters to the editor strongly suggested that Devonport residents wanted their own tramway.

The Devonport Borough Council had learned from previous failures, though. It placed a £500 (\$82,000) deposit requirement on proposals and insisted that any private scheme revert to council control within a short period of time.

For five years, William J. Napier, who had co-founded the Auckland Electric Tramways Company with Paul Hansen, lobbied for the tramway concession in Devonport.

Yet it was Edward Robert Nolan Russell, a solicitor of Russell & Campbell, who ultimately gave a deposit for the option. In 1906, he submitted his plan.

The final route, agreed in 1908, would span about 4.5 miles (7.25km) and include two sections of double-track in high-traffic areas.

The route would run east along Calliope Rd from the wharf at Stanley Bay to Victoria Road. There, it would split into two directions: The northern section would turn up Victoria Rd and continue along Lake Rd until reaching the borough's boundary at Narrow Neck (Old Lake) Rd.

This route would cater to R & R Duder's brickworks on Ngataranga Bay and potentially link with the Takapuna Tramways & Ferry Company's tramway, the prospectus for which was published on 16 September 1907.

The eastern section would head to Victoria Wharf and continue along the waterfront to Cheltenham Rd. It would then continue up Cheltenham and then up Tainui Rd before turning south down Vauxhall and Albert roads, where it would meet the other section, looping Mt Victoria. The eastern section would be for both commuters to the city and tourists visiting the beach and the Takapuna Racetrack, where the golf course is now.

In addition, Russell pledged to install electrical lighting throughout Devonport, including six free electrical lamps along Victoria Road and the waterfront.

He was required to begin construction within 12 months and complete the network within three years.

He would pay all costs including for levelling roads, inspections, and the Order-in-Council from the government. Meanwhile, the borough reserved the right



Horse power... Calliope Rd, Devonport, July 1903. From the *New Zealand Graphic*. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections.

to purchase the system in 21 years and mandated a 25 per cent share of all profits.

The councillors were intrigued by Russell's offer. They agreed to cut the deposit in half, but another £150 deposit was required every six months after the first year to retain the option. Satisfied, Russell lodged his deposit in January 1907.

For the next 18 months, Russell travelled around Auckland persuading people to invest.

After securing half the funds, he incorporated the Devonport Transport Company on 28 July 1908. Russell hoped to gather the remaining amount by selling shares to residents.

In early December, he finally received his long-delayed Order-in-Council, allowing him to begin construction.

Unfortunately for Russell, the government had promulgated a new Tramways Act in mid-1908. It included a clause allowing five per cent of local ratepayers to force a tramway project to go to a vote.

Locals quickly began circulating a petition and submitted it to the borough council on 29 December.

On 1 January 1909, an extraordinary vote was announced in the borough. All ratepayers would be able to express their support for an electric tramway and whether the Devonport Transport Company was the best option for building such a line.

Letters to the editor were all against the scheme, with most contributors arguing that a commuter tramway should be publicly owned.

Such sentiment killed any hope for the

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Dennis Hale & Nathan Hale

dream of an electric tramway to Takapuna

scheme. When the polls closed on Monday, 18 January, the tramway scheme was defeated 1049 to 131.

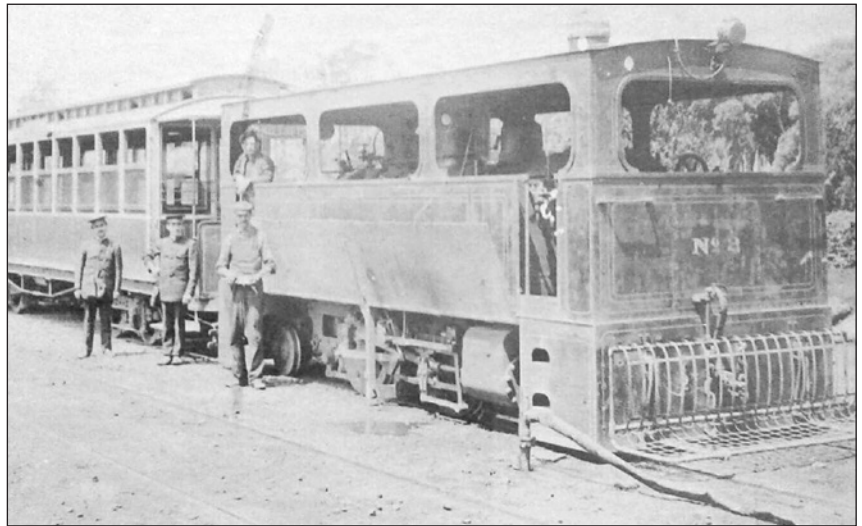
Votes against the company were even higher, 1097 to 79. Russell promptly requested his deposits back.

Three weeks later, on 9 February, the first sod was turned at Halls Corner in the construction of the Takapuna steam tramway.

As real-estate developers had long argued, the tramway changed the course of the North Shore forever.

Takapuna and Milford boomed, and Devonport was left out of the equation.

• Derek Whaley of Auckland Libraries will give a talk on Devonport's lost horse tramway at the Devonport Library on 1 October from 2-3pm, as part of Auckland Heritage Festival. Entry is free, but space is limited. The festival runs from 1-16 October, with events across the city. Visit heritagefestival.co.nz for details or collect a booklet from your local library or selected cafes.



All aboard... Bayswater engine No. 2, owned by the Takapuna Tramways and Ferry Co Ltd, awaits passengers at the Bayswater Wharf in 1911. The crew, the driver, conductor and two firemen pose proudly alongside the engine, which operated until April 1927.

New film on Vic Theatre opens heritage film festival

A new film on the Victoria Theatre by local film maker Irene Chapple (picture on site) will launch a heritage film festival at the theatre on Sunday 2 October.

The film, *The Victoria Theatre – Cinema Survivor*, is one of seven films that celebrate building restorations and survival stories as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival.

Chapple directed the TV3 documentary *The Eruption: Stories of Survival* about the White Island eruption in 2019 and co-produced a film *A Mild Touch of Cancer* about David Downs' fight against the disease.

The film on the Vic was a labour of love.

"The Vic Theatre is such a stunning building with an extraordinary history. I remember campaigning to save it back when I was a teenager at Takapuna Grammar. I'm so grateful it's still here today.

"The sheer determination and hard work of Sarah Burren, Margot McRae, Mark Sig-



glekow and so many others is why this iconic building still stands. Making this film was an opportunity to celebrate them, and the art deco treasure that is The Vic.

"I hope this film also reminds people how close we were to losing this building, and how important a role it plays in our community – and why we should still support it, and the unique

experience of cinema."

The other films have screened in previous heritage nights organised by Devonport Heritage since 2013 and feature compelling stories and restorations of local houses.

They include films on the planned conversion of St Augustine's Church into two homes, the award-winning restoration of a James Chapman-Taylor Rewiti Ave house, a Jubilee Ave house owned by a local family for four generations, a Church St cottage that dates back to 1870 and a Mays St mansion.

The final film on 16 October is on the St James Theatre. Made by McRae in 2015, it chronicles the start of the restoration project, when it was hoped the classic theatre was on its way to a bright new future. Since then, the project has ground to a halt.

The St James has been plagued by burglaries and is now a leaking hulk in danger of permanent closure.

Local stories showcased as part of celebrating past

The Devonport peninsula and Takapuna are both hosting events during the 2022 Auckland Heritage Festival, running from 1-16 October. Some 160 festival events are being held across the city.

DEVONPORT:

- A self-guided hour-long audio tour will offer a wealth of information based around seven stops up Victoria Rd between the Ferry Terminal and the Victoria Theatre. The audio guide can be downloaded from the Devonport village website.
- Traditional and contemporary storyteller Michael Greig will tell of Bayswater's history and its people, at St Margarets Church (151

Lake Rd), on Sunday 9 October, 1-2pm.

- A heritage film festival (see story above) is being held at The Vic on successive Sundays, with screening times on the theatre website.
- A Mt Cambria research 'walk and talk' will be hosted by local archaeologist Dave Veart, on Sunday 6 and Sunday 16 October, from 2-3.30pm and Wednesday 12 October from 10-11.30am.
- Historic steam-tug tour on the William C Daldy. Tours will run at various times on the weekends of 1-2 and 15-16 October. Bookings and more information online.
- A guided tour of North Head's historical coastal defences will run on Saturdays

and Sundays during the festival. Bookings through the Navy Museum.

TAKAPUNA:

- A guided exploration of Takapuna's fossil forest will be held on Tuesday 11 October from 2-4pm. The meeting point is at the Takapuna Reef carpark at the end of the Promenade.
- A Takapuna heritage walk will take place on Thursday 13 October, from 10am-12pm, starting at Takapuna Library. Auckland Heritage Festival booklets and further activity information can be found at Auckland libraries. The Auckland Heritage Festival website is at heritagefestival.co.nz



Navy women stitch together unique record of service



Threads of history... Former servicewoman Gail Burgess (left) and Chief Petty Officer Fiona Carter are among the women who collaborated on a quilt sewn from old Navy uniforms

Old Navy uniforms have been lovingly repurposed by a group of 12 current and former Navy servicewomen into a keepsake quilt.

Their labours over many months will be recognised when the quilt is displayed as a wall-hanging in the foyer gallery of the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay, Devonport.

The centrepiece of a *Threads through Time* exhibition, it will go on public display from 1 October, the starting date of Auckland Heritage Festival, and remain in place until the end of March next year, when it will become part of the museum's permanent collection.

Retired Bayswater woman Gail Burgess, who spent three years in service as a young woman, is one of those who crafted the piece.

"It was really fun," says the keen sewer. Her work creating six of the quilt's 49 squares took place on and off after the project was conceived 21 months ago.

The quilt uses fabric from the museum's overflowing uniform collection. Six decades of uniforms are represented and are incorporated in a variety of styles by quilters who range in experience from experts to newbies.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Fiona Carter puts herself in the latter category. "My mum dubbed me in" is how she puts it.

Carter says she can sew a basic straight line, but not much else, but with her skilled mother Margaret – an ex-Wren who now lives in Tauranga – working on the project, she was encouraged to join in, and relished the challenge.

Her two squares draw on uniforms she has worn. One square references a Covid-19

symbol in recognition of the heavy impact the pandemic had on the deployment of service personnel and their training

Burgess used her time in the Signals Corps as a starting point for her designs, which includes a square with a photograph of her younger self printed on fabric. Another square shows former Navy frigates Rotoiti and Pukaki.

Navy Museum communications manager Jane Cotty, who helped bring the project together, involving women across the North Island, said the idea sprang from workshops in which service personnel then the public had the opportunity to fashion tote bags from old uniforms.

Quilts were suggested as another way of reusing old shirts, trousers and dresses and permission was granted to do this by the Deputy Chief of Navy.

"The squares tell the story of each woman's experience serving in the New Zealand Navy since the 1960s," says Cotty. "Sewn together, they symbolise the sustainability of military service and they create a greater understanding of a shared culture and heritage."

Burgess and Carter agree that the 21-month-long project emphasised the camaraderie of service, despite their different experiences of it.

"The jobs we do have changed, but the comradeship hasn't," says Carter.

When Burgess, a former Takapuna Grammar School pupil then working in the city, signed up for training at North Head she was put into signals – a role Carter says would now be called a communications warfare specialist.

Burgess remembers her early months being

stuck up a signal tower – "talking to the seagulls, literally", before working in the commodore's office. This saw a change in uniform from a denim skirt and shirt to wearing No. 1 whites.

"All the marching I didn't enjoy that," she says. But she enjoyed playing hockey for the Navy, made lifelong friends and met her husband.

When the women, who worked on the quilt through lockdowns, were able to get together, there were plenty of laughs and shared stories, some of which they say should stay between service people.

"You join the Navy with one family, but leave with two," is how Carter puts it. The women will enjoy another catch-up at a launch event at the end of the month, before the quilt's public unveiling.

Cotty says the 2.5m-square quilt ended up being larger than initially envisaged, partly due to the enthusiasm of the women involved, with Burgess an example. "Gail would email and say I think I need a bit more fabric, I've had another idea."

One of Carter's ideas resonates for them all. The Torbay woman's second square, which shows cresting waves and uses buttons to denote the Southern Cross, carries the words: "Building on the Past, Moving to the Future."

'Stitch with a Sailor' sessions are being held as part of the *Threads through Time* exhibition, on Saturdays, 1, 8 and 15 October, from 11am to 1pm. A school-holidays workshop tailored to children aged 8 and over will be held on Wednesday 12 October.



Local musician promises that Friday night vibe

Live entertainment continues to surge back in the wake of Covid, and Devonport isn't missing out, with Shane Gault giving fellow locals the chance to enjoy some Friday night tunes at Tiny Triumphs on 23 September.

Gault, who declares US rockers Tool to be his all-time favourite band, plans a set mostly comprised of 90s rock covers and other singalong numbers.

Gault (44) started playing guitar when he was 15 years old and has been in bands on and off ever since.

Although he hasn't recorded his solo work, when based in Wellington his then band, Newtown Street Justice, released music through Spotify and other streaming platforms.

Gault is looking forward to returning to play at Tiny's, where he has performed before and appreciates the "awesome atmosphere".

He says his local mates and friends from elsewhere all turn out to create a "great Friday evening vibe".

This is one a series of Flagstaff stories on local musicians returning to live performance following the lifting of Covid restrictions. If you know of any we should profile contact us at news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz

Tool time?... Shane Gault promises plenty of 90s covers in his set at Tiny Triumphs



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Official Competition (M) 114min	NEW
Ticket to Paradise (M) 103min	NEW
The Territory (M) 86min	Special Screenings 22 SEP
Esoligh (Live Show)	23 SEP
Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank (PG) 102min	Previews 24-26 SEP
Un-bloody Believable by Joseph Musaphia (Play Reading)	25 SEP

COMING SOON

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Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank (PG) 102min	29 SEP
The Villa (M) 97min	29 SEP
The Vic Open Mic Night	29 SEP

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