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**'Razor' Robertson to speak  
at rugby club... p2**

**All the fun of the Belmont  
Primary School fair... p5**

**Interview: Antiques expert  
Hamish Walsh... p22-23**

## Devonport athletes star at national champs

Devonport track-and-field stars Eliza McCartney and Jacko Gill beat the odds to claim titles at the national athletics championships last weekend, while young Belmont product Alfie Steedman also aced both his middle-distance races.

McCartney's pole-vault win in Welling-

ton was a thrilling comeback, six years after she last won a national title.

An Olympic bronze-medallist in 2016, McCartney has since endured a long battle with injuries. She pipped last year's champion, Olivia McTaggart, on a countback after both cleared 4.61m, 33cm short of

McCartney's best, set in 2018. Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Imogen Ayris, was third.

To claim shot-put gold, Gill threw 21.08m to defeat long-time rival Commonwealth champion and Olympic medallist Tom

**To page 2**

## C'est bon! Matisse and the art of posing



**All smiles... Tameara Hill, Jonathan Brooke and French bulldog Matisse were among the owners and pets who marked 'Purple Poppy Day' at Windsor Reserve on 26 February. Photos, pages 6-9.**



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**Briefs**

**Rollins in Devonport**

Multi-talented writer, radio host and alternative-music pioneer Henry Rollins, who rose to prominence as front man of influential punk band Black Flag, will have a show at the Vic Theatre on 5 July.

**Seymour on toast**

ACT leader David Seymour is a guest speaker in Devonport today (10 March) at Business on Toast, held at Correlli's Cafe between 7am and 8am. The event is hosted by the Devonport Rotary Club.

**Book launch echoes**

Hauraki author Susannah MacDonald launches her third book, *Echoes from a Time Passage*, at the Becroft Gallery, Lake House Arts Centre, Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna on 11 March at 3pm.

**Council building for sale**

The former Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd is to go up for sale on the open market this week.

**Local athletes win big at nationals**



**Back on top... Eliza McCartney at the national athletic champs**

PHOTO: ALYSHA LOVRICH

**From page 1**

Walsh, who has won the national title 13 times and holds the national record of 22.90m.

Westlake Boys High School student Steedman, who is only just 16, won the Under-18 men's 1500m and 3000m in times of 3.57 and 8.39 respectively. His performances put him within 13.1 seconds of the national U18 record for 1500m and 29 seconds of the 3000m U18 record.

McCartney, Gill and Ayris are all products of Takapuna Grammar School (TGS). Another former student, Ruben Vogel, won the U20 men's pole vault with a personal best of 4.68m.

The school could also celebrate the success at the championships of several current students, including Connor Brady, who won gold in the U16 javelin, silver in the U16 shot put and bronze in the U16 300m hurdles.

Two other students won silver: Sascha Letica, in the U18 women's 3000m, running a personal best of 10.12 – a massive 34-second improvement; and Kate Hallie in both the U18 shot put and U20 discus. Kate also came third in the U18 discus.

Jodie Nash won bronze as a member of the Auckland U18 4x400m relay team.

Hallie and Steedman were both recently named in the New Zealand Secondary Schools team to compete in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in April.

**A few quick cuts from Razor**

Popular Crusaders rugby coach Scott 'Razor' Robertson will be in Devonport this month as guest speaker at the launch of a book to mark North Shore Rugby Club's 150-year anniversary celebrations.

While steering the Crusaders to six successive Super Rugby titles since 2017, Robertson has been at the centre of widespread speculation over whether the New Zealand Rugby Union will appoint him as All Black coach.

Robertson's appearance as guest speaker at a launch dinner, alongside sports broadcaster Jim Kayes at North Shore's clubrooms on 17 March, is something of a coup for the club, whose anniversary celebrations take place over Easter Weekend.

*C'mon Shore: 150 Years of the North Shore Rugby Club* was written by Jim Eagles, who died midway through the project, and Max Webb. Members of the Eagles family will attend the dinner.

**Devonport well down the burglaries list**

The six areas making up the Devonport peninsula are outside the 200 most burglary-hit neighbourhoods in Auckland.

Security company Auckland CCTV pulled Auckland police data from 2022 and

analysed the more than 23,000 burglaries that year.

Auckland Central, Takanini South, and Mount Wellington South were the three suburbs that topped the list.

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**NEXT ISSUE:** March 24  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:** March 17



# Peninsula-raised rowers earn further national honours

Former Takapuna Grammar School sportsman of the year, Evan Williams, has been selected for the New Zealand Under-23 Rowing team to compete in Eastern Europe later this year.

The world U23 championships in Bulgaria in July will be Williams' second outing in New Zealand colours, after competing in an U21 trans-Tasman competition in 2021.

His latest selection for the U23 quadruple sculls crew followed a gruelling two-week period of competition and trials.

After a week-long national trial, he then competed at the National Rowing Championships the following week, taking home one gold in the coxless quadruple sculls and three silvers from the U22 single sculls, the men's single sculls and the U22 double sculls events.

Williams said the two weeks were a slog, but all the hard work was worth it when he heard the selection news.

"It was a special feeling, maybe a bit of relief as well because it took so many years to get here."

Annabelle Knowles, another TGS graduate, and under-19 national squad member, also had a successful nationals, rowing in two gold medal winning crews.

Competing for the North Shore Club, she made four finals, winning in senior doubles

sculls and the senior coxless quad sculls.

Knowles who was the Auckland 2022 Female School Rower of the Year is aiming for the junior world championships this year.

Williams said his national team will get together next month to begin intense training for the competition in hopes of making the podium in Bulgaria.

Since leaving school in 2020, Williams has attended Waikato University on a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship, studying for a degree in health, sport and human performance. He rows for Waikato Rowing Club.

The 20-year-old is dropping a paper next semester in order to manage the longer and more intense training sessions.

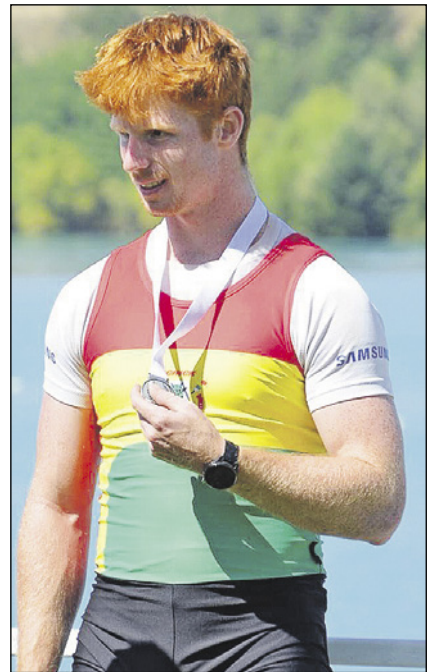
"It's a pretty cutthroat sport," he said. "If you don't outwork your opponent you're not going to get anywhere."

Williams said his Waikato teammates are quick to remind him of his Auckland origins.

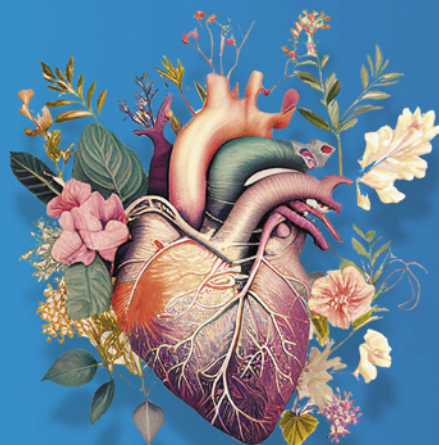
"I get bullied for it every day. My teammates definitely don't let me forget it."

Williams, who has started a Go Fund Me page to help cover the \$8000 cost of his upcoming trip, plans to visit his rugby-playing sister Kate in the UK after the championships in Bulgaria.

She is a Harbour rugby representative who is in Wales trying to break into the national women's side.



**Hard yards... Evan Williams on the podium with one of the four medals he won at the National Rowing Championships in Twizel in February and (below) in action**



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# Sun shines on bumper Belmont Primary School fair

Crowds flocked to the Belmont Primary School fair last Saturday, enjoying a wide range of attractions in perfect early autumn weather.

Activities included a farm experience, jousting with inflatables and reaching into a green ogre's nose to find a trick or treat.

Food stalls offered plenty of sweet and savoury edibles.

The fair's traditional 'Battle of the Schools' attracted plenty of interest, with teams of Year 6 pupils from schools across the peninsula competing in a series of fun events. Vauxhall School team Raptors emerged victorious.

Belmont Primary principal Bruce Cunningham said the fair takes "around a year of hard work" to organise. He was pleased to see such a good turnout.

Money raised from the fair will help fund more teacher-aided help and a new stone wall at the entrance to the school.



**Fun of the fair... (clockwise from top) Rafferty Harrow (left) and Otis Christiansen go fishing for a lucky duck; Lachlan (left) and Theo Morgan in the midst of an inflatable jousting match; Hattie Nikkel takes her turn at probing the ogre's nose**



## Secret deals

We have seen a bit of publicity around some banks offering discounted interest rates to some mortgage brokers. This is true with BNZ offering 4.99% for 1 yr fixed for new to bank customers with no cash back (now finished). And ANZ and ASB have hit back with 5.99% for 2 yr fixed via brokers.

It just shows how the slow down in mortgage lending has hit banks and they are scrambling for market share. But to ignore their existing client base is hard to understand!

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**Purple patch... Sara-Jane Andrews with Jack Russell Ruben Jack (aged 9). Below: Michael O'Brien with labradoodle Ragna (2)**



**Eyes left... Juliet Dewes with partner Lieutenant Colonel Syd Dewes and Narrow Neck residents (kneeling) Belinda Carpenter, Jessica Rice and labrador Indie (nearly 2)**



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# Woof! Animals honoured for service

Pets and their owners and supporters – some in uniform – turned out for Purple Poppy Day at Windsor Reserve on 26 February, commemorating animals who served in wartime and conflict zones. Purple ribbons were worn by pets for the occasion, which was organised by the Devonport RSA. More pictures, pages 8-9.



**Shared love... Paul Johnston with his neighbour's dog Farley, the golden retriever (12). Below: Annemarie Schaal with Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Onda (1)**



**Garland and ribbons... Tony McNeight 'decorates' Devonport RSA president Muzz Kennett**

PHOTOGRAPHS: KATHRYN NOBBS



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Authorised by Simon Watts, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.





**Proud pup... Lieutenant Commander Raymond McLaughlin of the Royal New Zealand Navy placing a ribbon on cavadoodle Henry VII (2), with owner Claudette Barlis**



**Our hairy hound... Inge Wisselink and Paul Anderson with bearded collie-huntaway cross Ruby**



**Musical accompaniment... The Navy Pipes and Drums band performed at the event**





**Little and large... Elissa Downey with Gizmo (10), a papillon-Maltese terrier cross, and labrador Toru (2)**



**Cuddles club... (from top) Yigang Kang with papillon-cross friend Chino (8 months), RSA manager Stephen Millham with border terrier Rufus (6) and Sharon Bonfield with border terrier Dennis (9)**



**Lap dog... James Hilditch (5), Jacque Hooper and labradoodle Luna (10 months)**



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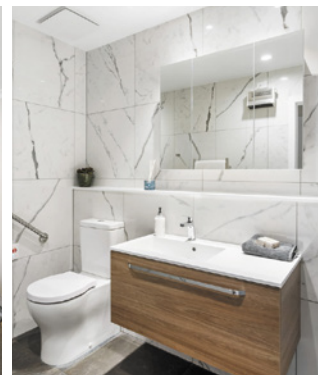
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## WILLIAM SANDERS RETIREMENT VILLAGE

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**By Rob Drent**

Tourists are coming off the cruise ships into Devonport again. On this summer's many days of rubbish weather, they have seemed to carry a bit of a what-do-we-do-now look about them.

Years ago, we used to have signature events to put in the calendar, such as the yearly Devonport Food & Wine Festival in February, and the Devonport Arts Festival, which attracted attendees from all over the city.

The food-and-wine festival, run by Devonport Rotary, came to an end after more than 20 years, due to council bylaws (increased requirements for security, fencing, traffic plans and the like), with the death knell being the withdrawal of council funding as it was deemed not to be a citywide event. The risk of putting on an event that could be financially crippled by one day of bad weather was too much for organisers.

Likewise, the Devonport Arts Festival was a yearly event for decades, but became too much work for a dwindling group of

volunteers, without much council support.

This year, the luckless Folk in the Park came a cropper again after a couple of cancellations due to Covid. Cyclone Gabrielle was the villain this time around.

Auckland Council isn't helping Devonport's situation. While a characterless yellow artwork has arrived on the waterfront from the city's collection, we don't seem to have a lot else.

Auckland's Music in Parks programme has passed Devonport by, so no fun afternoons featuring the likes of Don McGlashan and Midge Marsden for our seaside suburb. We used to have Movies in Parks at Narrow Neck, but have been off the council radar in recent years.

Council functionaries made a lot of noise about allowing food trucks at Woodall Park for a fun family night out. The most recent event was apparently almost plunged into crisis as council hadn't been able to mow the grass at the site due to flooding. The Flagstaff understands contractors had to hurriedly come out to do the mowing so the evening could go ahead.

It wasn't such a fun night, however, for Devonport restaurant and bar owners whose regular customers were missing in action at the food trucks.

As I've said before, council does its business-owning ratepayers no favours in allowing food trucks on its reserves. How are businesses expected to pay their bills if council is encouraging their customers

to go elsewhere?

On the positive side of a summer that appears to have gone missing in action, the Devonport Business Association is attempting to stimulate some life in the village with a regular music slot at Devonport Green on Saturday afternoons from 5pm till 7pm.

Come down and enjoy the entertainment and belated summer vibe if you can.

Police are being far from open about an alleged attack on a woman at Stanley Bay Park in February last year. The attack was said to have occurred on a park pathway around 100 metres away from Ngataringa Tennis Club.

The woman, in her 30s, was out exercising at around 8.30 pm when the "serious assault" occurred, police said at the time.

Attacks of this nature are practically unheard of in Devonport and the news understandably shocked locals used to the feeling of living in a safe neighbourhood.

Police spent many hours investigating, including scene examinations and door-to-door enquiries.

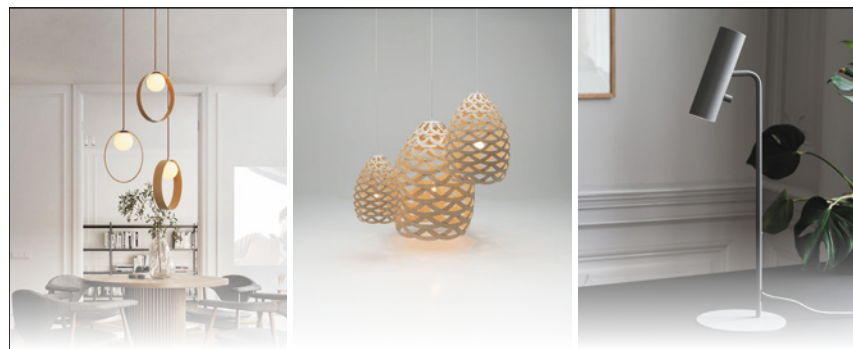
Then – nothing. In public at least. The trail, such as it was, appeared to go cold. And police weren't talking about it. Repeated attempts by the Flagstaff to talk to the officer in charge of the inquiry were denied.

This year, I filed an Official Information Act request to view the police file on the case. This was denied as well, as the case was still "active."

In view of it being considered active, I asked if we could speak to the officer in charge for an update on the latest developments.

Police responded: "Many officers would appear to have been part of this investigation. I have today sought guidance as to who I can redirect your enquiry to." We will wait and see.

Meanwhile were the fears of the community in 2022 justified? On the basis of information provided publicly by the police so far, it is impossible to know.



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The large lounge at the front opens out to the north-facing patio, as does the kitchen and dining space, which has been elegantly updated in a timeless style. Bathrooms have been finished to the same standard.

The formal lounge (or fourth bedroom) and master bedroom both enjoy views of the city and Sky Tower. Local landmarks in easy walking distance include Narrow Neck and Cheltenham beaches, Waitemata Golf Club, Woodall Park, Wakatere Boating Club and Devonport Squash Club.

### Auction

Thursday 23rd March at 1:00 pm  
In Rooms (Unless Sold Prior)

### View

As advertised or by appointment  
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**Devonport** 34D Seabreeze Road

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4 2 1 2

This property has been beautifully restored with meticulous attention to detail throughout. Flexible living options abound here.

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**Devonport** 19 Roslyn Terrace

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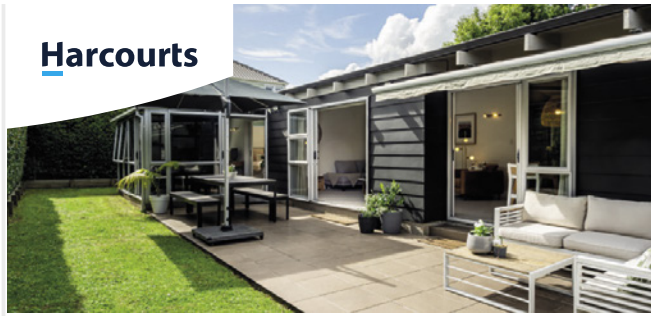


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**Bayswater** 52A Norwood Road

2 1 1 1

Tastefully refurbished house on rear section. Open plan living flows to north facing private outdoor area. Bonus internal access garaging.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**Auction** In Rooms 23rd March at 1.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** As advertised or by appointment  
 harcourts.co.nz/DP24469



**Jane Hastings**  
 M 021 735 263



**Jackie Mark**  
 M 021 458 797

**Harcourts**



**Devonport** 11 Rutland Road

3 1 1 2

Striking from the first impression, this home invites you to experience the perfect blend of classic charm and character in this beautiful updated Villa.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**Auction** In Rooms 30th March at 1.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** Sat/Sunday 12.00pm-12.30pm  
 harcourts.co.nz/DP24459



**Gary Potter**  
 M 021 953 021



**Ben Potter**  
 M 027 953 0210

**Harcourts**



**Devonport** 2/43A Stanley Point Road

3 1 1 1

Tucked away down a driveway in Stanley Point is this recently renovated family home offering modern living combined with peace and quiet.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**Auction** In Rooms 30th March at 1.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** Sat/Sun 11.00am-11.30am  
 harcourts.co.nz/DP24388



**Ben Potter**  
 M 027 953 0210



**Gary Potter**  
 M 021 953 021

**Harcourts**



**Devonport** 27 Summer Street

2 1 1 3

This immaculately presented home is surrounded by attractive easy-care gardens and has great potential for three beds plus separate office.

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**Price By Negotiation**  
**View** By appointment only  
 harcourts.co.nz/DP24465



**Howard Walsh**  
 M 027 373 4700



**Ian Cunliffe**  
 M 027 227 9322

**Harcourts**



**Bayswater** 1/11 Roberts Avenue

2 1 1 1

Tucked away, this private north facing unit offers more than the norm! Enjoy park-like views, an office, attic storage, garage plus workshop and more!

Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008

**Auction** In Rooms 23rd March at 1.00pm (unless sold prior)  
**View** As advertised or by appointment  
 harcourts.co.nz/DP24467



**Olivia de Tracy-Gould**  
 M 021 917 038



## Devonport beats Takapuna in local croquet derby

Bragging rights in an annual 'Neighbours Cup' between Devonport and Takapuna players have swung south this year.

Members of the North Shore Croquet Club on Wairoa Rd have won back the trophy which, for several years, has been in the Takapuna Croquet Club's cabinet. A team of six won eight out of nine games played at home last week.

The club has seen a surge of interest in recent months, both in membership applications and in event bookings of its heritage clubrooms. The building, constructed in the early 1900s, was originally the jockeys changing room when Waitemata Golf Course was a racecourse.

Floods and high winds had caused damage to the lawns and fencing, but thanks to community help and member volunteers, it remained operational.

Club president Michelle Templeman said: "The recent tournament win was a great result for this dynamic club. It was a demonstration of a friendly, competitive tournament played in an atmosphere of inclusivity – just as sport should be."

**Cup holders... Team members (from left) Wendy Strain, Linda McKay, Michelle Wintle, president Michelle Templeman, Jenny Sonntag and Di Hale**



## Arborist blocks axing of trees blamed for drain issues

Large leaves from two trees are being blamed for causing regular flooding on a central Devonport street.

But an Auckland Council arborist has opposed removal of the Queensland umbrella trees from Anne St, saying the flooding instead relates to stormwater management.

Street residents say the trees' leaves block drains.

One, Peter McNab, told the Flagstaff that the ground under his house has been flooded multiple times since the trees were planted and that he has to clear the gutters of leaves "every day".

"There's been at least a dozen times where I've been out in my pyjamas in the middle of the night clearing the gutters to stop the water coming in."

Council arm Healthy Waters, council arborist Steve Kerbs and Auckland Transport evaluated the trees in May last year, reaching differing conclusions.

Healthy Waters concluded the trees were having a direct impact on flooding and said removing them and kerbing the planted area would "reduce the flooding frequency significantly".



**Focus on foliage... One of the Anne St trees some residents want replaced. They believe the trees' leaves block drains, causing flooding.**

However, Kerbs recommended the trees remain, arguing the stormwater layout on the street was responsible for the flooding.

In an email to former Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Trish Deans, Kerbs said: "It would appear that stormwater management needs some attention here and that the current set-up is not fit for purpose. This is regardless of the trees".

Auckland Transport said its responsibility was road maintenance not "designing

new roads and rain gardens".

Healthy Waters canned plans to modify two catchpits on the street, due to concerns increased inletting would allow the leaves to fall through and clog the main pipes.

After meetings, it was agreed Auckland Council would clear the drains regularly and before any major weather event.

Deans told the Flagstaff the issue led to a stalemate when the arborist refused to cut the trees down. The best solution everyone could agree on was the clearing of gutters.

McNab says the separate arms of the council working to their own processes and guidelines prevented a decision for the wider good.

He believed the approach adopted to be ineffective as a long-term solution, as council had been "inconsistent" with cleaning drains.

McNab still thinks the trees should be replaced with a specimen that has smaller leaves.

"We're not anti-tree. We just want something like a kowhai, with small leaves that won't block the drains."



# Devonport Health Centre — local care backed by global expertise

When three Devonport General Practices amalgamated and moved to new premises back in August of 2020, the changes were much more than cosmetic.

The premises for the new Devonport Health Centre were larger and upgraded, enabling more doctors to provide a broader range of services and patient care, with a dedicated patient parking area. This provides a better environment for patients, along with the centre’s administrative and medical staff.

But the change of premises was also part of a major move to become part of the OmniHealth group which has clinics all over New Zealand, partnering with owner GPs. This gives the Devonport clinic a stronger foundation of support for clinical and administrative staff, with the goal always to provide the best possible care for its patients. They continue to provide personalised, local care, but have a greater depth of clinical and administrative resources to draw upon.

Another critical development behind the scenes is OmniHealth’s fostering of an important partnership with American-based Sanford World Clinic, a not-for-profit organisation aiming to “improve the human condition”

Sanford partners with local health providers worldwide, including Ghana, Costa Rica and New Zealand, aiming to learn and constantly improve healthcare services for both their US operations and overseas partners. Contrary to the usual approach to investment, Sanford’s philanthropic structure ensures that any proceeds from that investment are feed back into the New Zealand practices.

“The mission for Sanford is to learn how healthcare is delivered in different regions around the world and to share those learnings with all of our partner medical practices, a process of constant improvement and support for all,” says Sanford World Clinic executive director Karoliina Slack, who has become part of the OmniHealth leadership team.

Karoliina says the approach is far from ‘one



size fits all’. While best practices and useful standardisations of care can be implemented across countries, healthcare is still a very local affair, reflecting each country’s laws, culture and customs.

Jackie Copp, OmniHealth’s Manager of Implementation and Operational Support, will be familiar to many in Devonport as the former practice manager at Anne Street Medical clinic for several years.

“Running a small medical clinic can be a lonely and unforgiving enterprise,” she says. “Sanford has provided our team with much welcomed and ongoing leadership training and support, something that small clinics typically can’t provide. You’re a little bit on your own in smaller clinics, whereas we try to maintain our friendly local approach but with a strong sustainable depth of professional support, largely thanks to Sanford.”

Karoliina and Jackie agree that the secret to improved healthcare in New Zealand lies in investment in nurses.

Sanford’s most recent visit to New Zealand has been focused on enhancing leadership skills and capability of the nursing workforce. Nurse leads for the network gathered in Auckland where Karoliina provided leadership training and the nurses attending

worked collaboratively to discuss building nursing capability. Helen Schreuder (pictured with Karoliina Slack), the lead nurse at Devonport Health, is one of the most senior nurses in the Omni network and was a key contributor at the retreat.

“The role of nursing is rapidly changing in New Zealand General Practices” says Jackie. “In the past, nurses supported doctors to deliver primary care. Now with additional training and new nursing roles such as nurse prescribers, much of the care traditionally provided by doctors can be delivered by nurses. Nurses have a different skillset and a holistic approach that complements our GPs and offers enhanced services to patients.”

Karoliina says this approach can take the pressure off doctors, who are in very short supply in New Zealand, and improve care provided to patients.

Jackie, a 30-year veteran of the medical scene, says targeted government funding will be a key to encouraging a greater role for nurses in frontline primary healthcare.

But being able to tap into Sanford’s knowledge of the trend is just one of the many ways that the international partnership is bearing fruit for practices such as Devonport Health – and their patients.

## Welcoming new patients

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**AUCTION**

**DEVONPORT**  
116 VICTORIA ROAD

4 2 2

**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 8 Mar 2023 at 39  
Victoria Road (Branch Office)  
(unless sold prior)

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Phone For Viewing Times

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Toni Gregory  
021 044 3663

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at 4pm (unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Thurs 5-6pm/Sun 1-1:30pm

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Trish Fitzgerald  
021 952 452

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**FOR SALE**

**DEVONPORT**  
27 SHOAL BAY ROAD

3 2 2 1

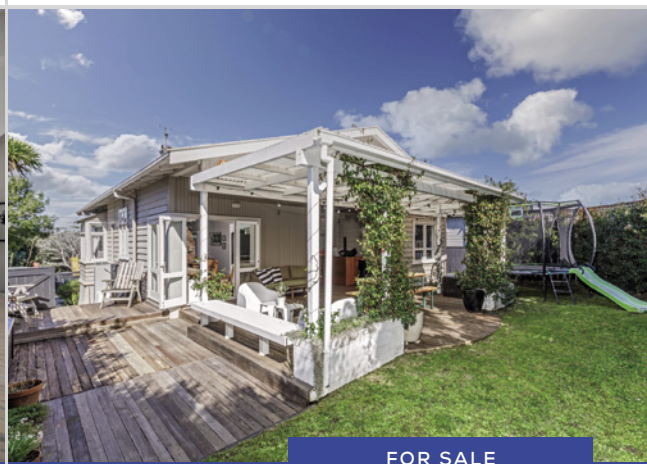
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**VIEWING**  
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**FOR SALE**

**DEVONPORT**  
1/24 NGATARINGA ROAD

3 1 2

Character, space, views, private gardens and a short walk to Narrow Neck beach and Devonport village - this is the perfect family home.

**FOR SALE**  
By Negotiation

**VIEWING**  
Sunday 12:00-12:30pm

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021 1720 681  
Trish Fitzgerald  
021 952 452

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FINAL VIEWING

**DEVONPORT**  
25 QUEENS PARADE



**TENDER**  
4:00pm 15 Mar 2023 at 39  
Victoria Road, Devonport  
(unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-2:00pm

An expansive family home with dazzling views, beautiful sunny garden and superb entertainers deck. A rare home minutes from the shops and ferry.

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AUCTION

**BAYSWATER**  
50A PHILOMEL  
CRESCENT



**AUCTION**  
12:00pm 8 Mar 2023 at 39  
Victoria Road, Devonport  
(unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
By Appointment

Stunning practically new four bedroom home, and what a location! Prepare to fall in love with the incredible outlook from this lovely home. Call now!

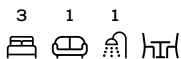
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NEW LISTING

**DEVONPORT**  
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**FOR SALE**  
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**VIEWING**  
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TENDER

**BELMONT**  
3/2 BELLCROFT PLACE



**TENDER**  
4:00pm 9 Mar 2023 at 39  
Victoria Rd (Branch Office)  
(unless sold prior)

**VIEWING**  
Phone For Viewing Times

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# Treasures of yesteryear keep antiques man

Hamish Walsh has honed his knowledge of collectibles over decades of dealing. He tells Helen Vause about the thrill of the chase – and having to prick a seller's unrealistic dreams.

A couple of years ago, friends of Hamish Walsh decked out his beloved Ducati with flashing lights and rode it up the Devonport Yacht Club steps, right into his 60th birthday celebrations.

They figured the flamboyant antiques dealer and biker would love a bit of sparkle and drama on his big party night.

Today, he chuckles at the memories of that night, and others from his colourful life of treasure hunting, motorcycle riding and much more.

When the Flagstaff visits him at home in Calliope Rd, where he lives with extended family, Walsh is looking forward to blatting off to the South Island on the red 1973 Ducati and maybe checking out a few collectibles on the way.

Times have changed in the world of antique dealing since the days of large, fusty old shops, and dealers, ever hungry for stock, being the first to turn up at the weekend garage sales.

With decades in the business behind him, Walsh has amassed as much knowledge of this country's precious bits and pieces as anyone.

From sideboards and chairs, to glass, brass, jewellery and oddities, such as operating-theatre lights, he's learned a lot making a living from the extraordinary range of stuff out there in people's homes and lock-ups.

These days, he taps into that extensive body of knowledge to write the catalogue notes for major high-end auctions.

Walsh became best known through television shows *Auction House* and *Going, Going Gone*. Today, he makes house calls all over the country and still loves the thrill of the chase.

"My life is about jumping on planes, grabbing a car and driving anywhere there could be something fascinating to be found when someone opens the door to me.

"I suppose I deal with lots of widows. And older people. Inevitably I know I must disappoint some," he says, noting that many people



**Still on the lookout... Hamish Walsh is looking forward to checking out a few collectibles on an upcoming motorcycle trip to the South Island**

harbour false hopes for the value of things they've treasured.

Of course, sometimes both Walsh and the collector are delighted with his valuations. And when he knocks on someone's door, he never quite knows who he will meet – will it be another person as interesting as the 78-year-old artist

who went off to become a croupier in Macau?

After so long on the road, Walsh reputedly says he knows every place to eat and stay between Kaitiāia and Bluff.

Walsh was born in Queenstown. His mother was a music teacher and his father a policeman, the latter meaning the family



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# on the hunt

had to move around during Walsh's younger years.

His life in antiques and collectibles started in Christchurch, after he'd spent quite a few unsettled years finding his niche.

He recalls being the only senior boy at Christchurch Boys High School studying art before he signed up to fine arts at the University of Canterbury. There was plenty to learn and explore, but it wasn't the right fit for Walsh.

"The intense focus was not for me. I was a real wriggler and was too impatient and restless. And I discovered girls and motorbikes."

Much later, he realised he did want a more formal education, and completed a double degree in art history and political science at Canterbury.

"As a young guy I really didn't know what I wanted, but I was creative and always drawn to a bit of excitement. I figured I'd see the world and I took off and worked on oil rigs until I'd saved a bit of money."

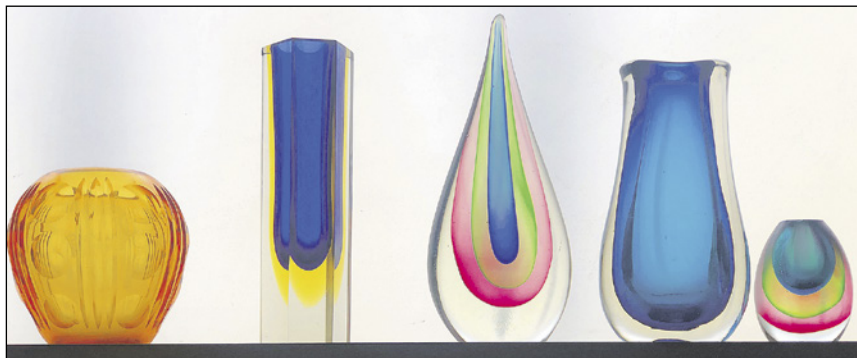
In Australia, he remembers a flash car dealership coming onto his horizon. "So I just went in and said I've got an appointment about a job. They'd never heard of me, and of course I didn't have an appointment, but I talked my way in. You could do that sort of thing back then if you had a bit of front."

He'd figured out he was good with people and ready enough with the chat to open doors. Next stop for him was London, and the fashion and colour of the Kings Road, before a return to Christchurch and university study.

His serious foray into the world of collectibles began with a big old Christchurch shop, which became 'The Den of Antiquity' and where, over around a decade, he established a name for himself in the city and beyond.

"You'd go around the garage sales early like everyone else in the business. When I found something promising I'd chuck it into the back of the old Wolseley. Of course I had my lucky days when I would stumble onto stuff. Really good opportunities only strike a few times in a lifetime and you have to grab them when you can."

Back in the 90s, with no internet, marketing meant advertising in the newspaper – and having a great front window. "Your front window



**Fragile treasures...The glass collection at Walsh's home is from Murano, Italy and made using the 'sommerso' technique**

is your silent salesman and mates always knew they'd find me on Friday nights in town shifting stuff around in that window."

When the colourful dealer wanted to make a noise and draw punters to the shop, he'd drive around Christchurch in a vintage car, with a banner shouting 'Mega Sale'. "In those days, mega was a new word," he laughs.

*"This business is a bit like fishing. If everyone knew where to go, there would soon be nothing left to find in those places."*

Although Walsh dryly describes himself as being "one up from a second-hand dealer", his skills and his knowledge of antiques and artefacts attracted a job offer in Auckland from one of the biggest players in the country, Dunbar Sloane.

The Walsh family moved north and to Devonport in 2000.

It's no surprise his house here is full of special things from across the eras, some of course more rare and special than others. Like the pre-European paddle high on a wall that came from the Ruapekapeka Pa in Northland.

Some days are still real first-time surprises for this seasoned dealer – like the day in Waihi

in 2018 when he was setting up for a roadshow with a steady stream of locals bringing things along to have valued.

Two masked men – one of them armed with a pistol – burst in wanting money and valuables. Happily, Walsh was unscathed and that day a one-off.

Walsh says he's often asked how he knows where the good places to go hunting are.

"I tell them that this business is a bit like fishing. If everyone knew where to go, there would soon be nothing left to find in those places. Then, I'd have to find somewhere else to look."

Sometimes, when he's had to disappoint a potential seller with his own estimate of what something is worth, it's been about confusion over the meaning of a valuation they may already have had.

"People get so hung up on their valuations. A valuation means the replacement value. But that figure usually doesn't compare with the market value of what someone would be prepared to pay for that item today. It can get a bit testy.

"You have to be good at working with people," he says "Really, it's all about fashions in this business. What was oh-so-collectable years ago has probably gone right out today.

"No one wants big brown furniture. And if they do want your sideboard or grandma's old dresser, young people will probably want to paint it white as soon as they get it. The heavy dark wood just isn't the look any more."

And absolutely forget about that set of balloon back chairs you've treasured for years. "The young ones won't thank you for those at all."



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**Devonport 10 Queens Parade**

**Magazine perfect in the village**

Chic and exceptionally stylish inside and out, this delightfully renovated home is packed full of surprises. Three connected living rooms include a pretty sitting room, dining and a charming light and airy conservatory which is open to the kitchen. Excellent flow to a sheltered and private outdoor entertaining area with a separate studio and European-inspired garden. Three generously proportioned bedrooms include a wonderful master suite with dressing room, and a study (or smaller fourth bedroom). Immaculate and incredibly charming, this home is superbly positioned in the heart of the village opposite the ferry and beach with everything at your fingertips.

[bayleys.co.nz/1451490](http://bayleys.co.nz/1451490)

4 3 3 1

**Auction (unless sold prior)**  
 1.30pm, Thu 30 Mar 2023  
 28 Northcroft Street, Takapuna, Auckland  
**View** Sat/Sun 1-1.30pm  
**Victoria Bidwell** 021 947 080  
**Helen Michell** 021 210 3228  
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# Council officers given ‘please explain’ on drain issue

Workshops to explain what Auckland Council will do to deal with issues identified in recent floods should occur urgently, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board says.

The scheduling of cleaning and maintenance of stormwater catchpits is a key issue the board wants council staff to address.

The catchpits are tended to by both Auckland Transport and council’s Healthy Waters, but less frequently than in the days of the former North Shore City Council.

Board member Gavin Busch, who is a Devonport volunteer firefighter, said a number of households – including some who had “spent their money to do the right things” by installing basement pumps – had

been flooded due to blocked drains. This raised questions about maintenance and the adequacy of the stormwater system.

The local board also wants Healthy Waters to outline plans for managing the flood-prone Wairau Creek catchment in badly flooded Sunnynook and Milford. Council’s building consents team has been asked to address the downstream impacts to properties from housing intensification.

Board member George Wood, who put up a unanimously supported notice of motion calling for the briefings, said the Building Act stated planning consents should be refused if they resulted in a natural hazard. “I don’t see how Auckland Council is con-

tinuing to give [some] building consents,” he said. Although some developments were required to put in extra piping, in some cases there was too little capacity downstream, he said. “A number of people have been impacted badly.”

Wood said flooding in some areas was not new.

Member Mel Powell said conversations were needed about where responsibility lay if homes were deemed uninsurable.

Board chair Toni van Tonder said council had allocated an extra \$20 million in its annual budget since the flooding, for extra drain cleaning, but other issues needed following up.

## Two weeks of Lake Rd resealing to go

Road resealing work on Lake Rd’s Devonport end is due to finish in a fortnight.

Signs advising of road closures and diversions between 7pm and 7am have been in place since last month, but some residents were irked to receive notices in their letter-boxes of what the work entailed only several days after it began.

Auckland Transport (AT) says the resealing is part of its maintenance programme and it is being done at night in sections to limit disruption to commuters, including Navy personnel.

Contractor Fulton Hogan is replacing the road’s asphalt surface between Albert Rd and

Achilles Cres. “This maintenance is important to ensure Auckland roads remain safe to use for the drivers, cyclists and pedestrians who use them.” AT said.

Work is expected to finish by 23 March, weather permitting. It has caused some traffic backlogs.

Staged detours will change throughout, but are signposted.

“For the safety of road users and our team, we ask people to plan for some delays and follow the signage and any instructions from the on-site traffic control team,” an AT spokesperson said.

## North Shore surf lifesavers’ bravery recognised

The efforts of North Shore surf lifesavers in ferrying 69 people from floodwaters in inflatable boats has been acknowledged with the naming of Mairangi Bay Surf Life Saving Club for national Rescue of the Month for January.

The club’s 10-strong search and rescue team was sent to Wairau Valley and Nile Rd, Milford on 27 January.

Sponsor BP will provide \$500 of vouchers to the club.



**Bayswater** 2/110 Bayswater Avenue

### Stylish design and views!

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[bayleys.co.nz/1470604](http://bayleys.co.nz/1470604)

3 2 2 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)**  
 1.30pm, Thu 16 Mar 2023  
 28 Northcroft Street, Takapuna, Auckland  
**View** Sat/Sun 10-10.45am  
**Lynda Betts** 021 278 3024  
[lynda.betts@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:lynda.betts@bayleys.co.nz)  
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# Massive flood damage disrupts Shore sports

Thousands of sports participants face months of playing at alternative venues across the North Shore in the wake of serious flood damage to major facilities.

School, club and social competitions and training sessions will all be disrupted.

Harbour Basketball, Tennis Northern and Badminton North Harbour are among organisations juggling limited indoor playing space while contemplating expensive repairs or rebuilds. Come summer sports season, volleyball and futsal will also be disrupted, when Netball North Harbour re-lays arena flooring.

Three groups' facilities in Forrest Hill, situated east of the Northern Motorway, below Tristram Ave, were particularly badly hit. Badminton North Harbour fears its centre – the country's leading badminton venue – will be out of action for nine to 12 months.

It was meant to have hosted the Oceania Championships in mid-February, but was left a smelly shell by the floods of 27 January. Water up to two metres-high flowed into the badminton hall, leaving sodden walls and warping beyond repair to the sprung flooring of its 11 courts.

"It's total destruction of the lower ground floor," chief executive Glenn Cox said. "It seems to have separated from boards and joinery underneath."

Efforts were being made to dry out the stripped-down frame of the building which caters for 150,000 players a year.

Neighbouring Forrest Hill Tennis Centre has managed to get most of its courts back in play, but has lost its clubrooms, where water reached shoulder height. Chipboard floors were ruined, doors won't close and a water main burst. The

building would need replacing at a cost of \$1.2 million, said Tennis Northern chief executive Chris Casey.

"It fried all our lights," he said. These would cost \$100,000-plus to replace. Without floodlights, senior inter-club matches have had to be moved elsewhere and casual evening play halted.

The small Becroft Tennis Club in Becroft Reserve, which like the other two Forrest Hill groups is accessed via Bond Cres, also had its clubrooms badly damaged. Water rose to 1.7 metres up interior walls, and the surface lifted badly from one of its four courts.

On the other side of the motorway, Eventfinda stadium – the home of Harbour Basketball and Harbour Gymnastics – also requires major work, including the "hugely expensive" replacement of sprung flooring.

## Howzat? Cricketer's car left stranded for weeks

For nearly six weeks, rising cricket talent Christian Scott has been unable to use the family car the Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) student drives to practice.

The vehicle was stranded in Bayswater's Marine Parade Reserve by slips brought down by extreme rainfall on 27 January.

And Auckland Council failed to respond to repeated requests for information about when the slips might be cleared, before advising on Monday this week that the work would begin on Tuesday.

"We understand there are things way more important than this, but it's frustrating," says Christian's mother Gillian Scott.

The family three times logged the issue and each time received notification the job was "closed".

The Scotts just wanted to know if the road down to the reserve would be restored. They were open to looking at other options for salvage, such as barging the vehicle out.

The car, a Mazda Axela, was vandalised while stranded, its door being dented.



**In isolation... The Scott family's Mazda was stuck after floods**

The image of the vehicle – left high and possibly not dry – was used widely in media after the floods. It and a second vehicle were marooned in the reserve, near the old boating club building on Sir Peter Blake Pde, when the slip made the area a virtual island.

Christian was parked there after 7.30pm on 'Flood Friday', eating McDonald's with a mate. They had no idea how serious the evening's wet weather was becoming.

"It came down in a massive slide; it was fine

one minute and then the next minute all this mud came down," Gillian explained.

Realising they could not drive out, the teens clambered out on foot, heading to Christian's friend's home in Bayswater to "hunker down".

The next morning, the family surveyed the damage, then logged its first online notice for assistance with the council.

On 31 January, it was advised work was on hold, but planned, but the same day, the online notice was changed to say the case was closed.

Gillian resubmitted the job and on 14 February was told it was closed again, because the car was not on council land. A further logging on 17 February, first said the case was in progress, then that it was closed.

The second stranded vehicle was driven across the slip, but the Scotts were reluctant to try this due to safety concerns and in case it damaged the car or invalidated their insurance.

She said her son – who this year broke a long-standing record held by cricketering great Bert Sutcliffe for most runs scored in a season at TGS – shared use of the car with his sister.

## Progress on preparedness up for review after floods

Emergency-management facilitators have been called on to give the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board a rundown on preparedness in local suburbs.

In 2020, the previous board voted \$30,000 towards the cost of helping locals come up with tailored plans. So far, none have been presented to the board, although two of up to six initially envisaged for the board area have been completed. These cover Devonport and Sunnybrook.

Board senior adviser Maureen Buchanan said in the wake of recent floods, it was timely to look at progress and review what community sessions to develop the plans had achieved. "Was it effective, did it help last month?"

Auckland North Community and Development (ANCAD), the capacity-building umbrella group tasked with helping communities develop plans, was due to give a progress report to a board workshop this week.

ANCAD, whose emergency management coordinator works just eight hours a week, convened a meeting last week to endeavour to kick along the Takapuna-Hauraki Response Group.

Attendance was limited, with the wider community only advised of the evening meeting on social media the day it was held.

A bigger public session, including a geotech briefing is to be held on 15 March at 10.30am in the Mary Thomas Centre in Takapuna.

Among those who attended last week's meeting were current and former board members, and representatives from the Takapuna Residents' Association (TRA) and several churches. TRA chair Stephen Salt said he, like many others, was unclear how emergency-management structures worked. He was concerned that residents were being asked to do too much of the planning.

Under changed civil-defence delivery

structures, council group Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) devolves a lot of planning to communities. It has said people should be prepared to cope alone for several days.

AEM's response and communications to recent extreme weather events is now under council review.

Local board member Mel Powell said AEM had been "nowhere to be seen" when Sunnybrook was flooded.

Former board member and Devonport resident Trish Deans, who worked on the 24-page area 24-page, acknowledged it took a lot of time. She suggested it could become the peninsula plan, taking in Bayswater and Belmont.

Deans told the Flagstaff, the Devonport group was working on a flyer to let residents know about the plan. More briefing should occur in the next few weeks.

The detailed plan is on the ANCAD website.



## Council crest returns to its maker... for now

Another link to Devonport's past independent status has gone, with the removal of a bronze Devonport Borough Council crest from the council's former building at 3 Victoria Rd.

A former deputy manager of the council, Richard Tong, made the crest after leaving the job in 1984. It was based on a copy made of architect Edward Bartley's original drawing of the crest, designed a century earlier in 1886.

The bronze crest depicts Takarunga and Maungauika with a sailing ship in the foreground and Rangitoto in the background.

Devonport Borough Council celebrated 100 years in 1986.

The borough council agreed in writing that the plaque would be returned to Tong, or his successors, if the organisation was subsumed in a local-body amalgamation, as occurred in 1989.

Tong left the crest on the building, but has now recovered it, due to the building going up for sale this month.

Two versions of the crest exist. Tong's original work had a casting fault. He plans to give this to Devonport Museum.

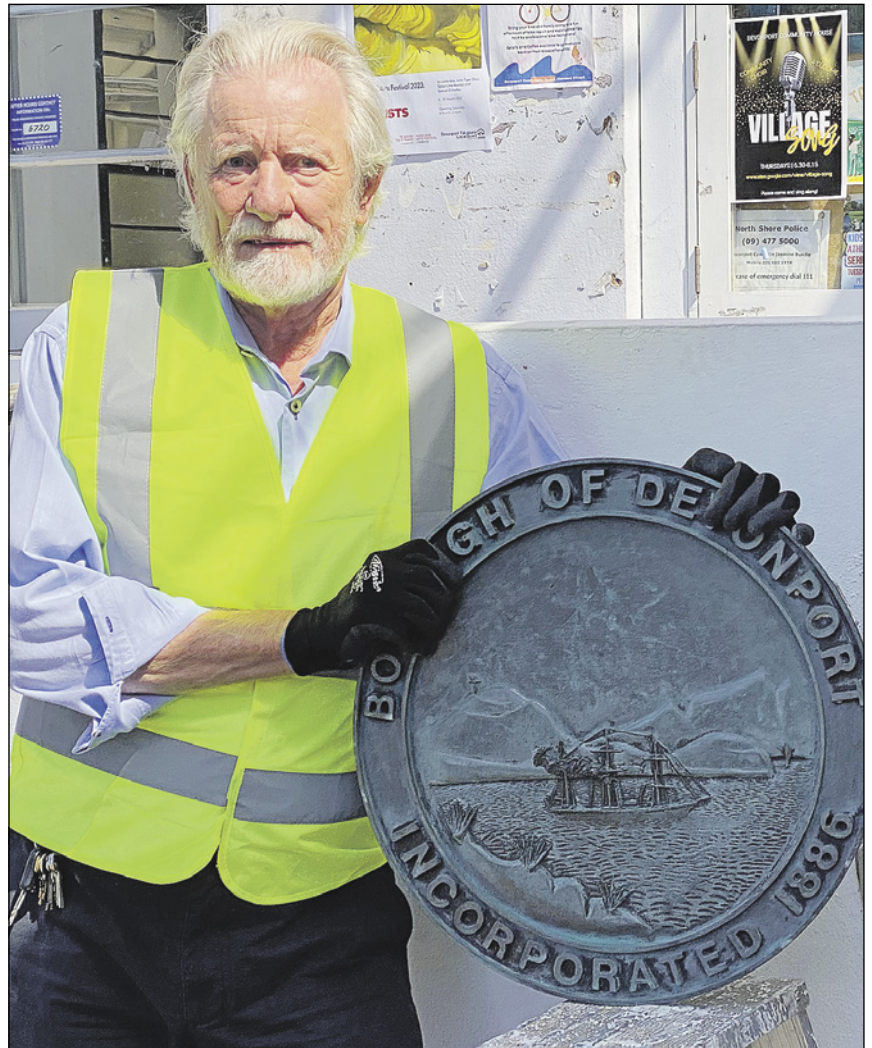
He will retain the 25kg work from the council building.

"It's in safekeeping. I'll pass it on to my son until Devonport is reconstituted and then he can pass it back," Tong quipped.

Local government was on a "centralisation buzz" at the moment, Tong said, but he was optimistic community administrations such as the old borough council would one day return.

A breakdown of staff ratios in 1985 illustrated how much individual attention was available for residents of the borough (which reached from Devonport north to near Takapuna Grammar School).

Its 76 staff incorporated administration and clerical duties (14), engineering (3), inspectors (2); works (43); library (5), town planning (2) and government work schemes (7).



**In safekeeping... Richard Tong has reclaimed the 25kg bronze crest he made for the borough council building in 1984**

"The phone lines were manned from 8am till 4pm," recalled Tong. "It was pretty easy to get through."

As for the former council building, he

can't see it being an easy sell, considering the amount of retail space currently unoccupied in central Devonport and its need for earthquake-strengthening work.

## MPs told of need for heritage safeguards

More protection is needed for heritage and Special Character areas such as Devonport, local resident and former board member Trish Deans has told a Parliamentary select committee.

Speaking on behalf of Devonport Heritage at a special sitting in Auckland of the committee considering the Natural and Built Environment Bill, Deans said the bill needed more teeth to protect heritage buildings, beyond designated places covered by the New Zealand Heritage list.

She asked that stronger built-heritage directives be added to the bill, which is one of the legislative planks taking the place of the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Although Auckland Council had Historic Heritage and Special Character Areas in place across the region, including in Devonport, to recognise cultural and historically significant places for its residents, these were not recognised by national legislation, Deans pointed out in her submission.

"It is the duty of the RMA to include built-heritage areas in the legislation to ensure there is national consistency and constancy in our regulations for heritage areas across New Zealand," she said.

Legislation merely protected individual properties in the Pouhere Taonga Act, where as places such as Queensland had legislation to protect areas of historic significance.

New Zealand offered national protection for conservation areas of natural significance, but not for heritage areas.

Deans said the select committee, chaired by Green MP Eugenie Sage, appeared to be receptive to the concept of heritage areas.

Members acknowledged that the council's policies and objectives for heritage provided good guidance.

Auckland Council had 15 historic heritage areas in its Unitary Plan. Work was being completed to add more areas, including those of significance to mana whenua.

Across the country, Deans said there was a lack of cohesion on such protections, which varied from council to council.



## Kindness over the sandbags

After the recent alarming flood warnings, my wife and I drove up to the emergency sandbagging station in Mairangi Bay.

Once there, we saw a large melee of people around the diminishing pile of sand. Access was going to be difficult.

Two very pleasant women offered to help two complete strangers, not only filling our plastic bags, but also carrying them to our car parked some distance away.

We came home on a high with our faith in human nature fully restored by the kindness of these two lovely ladies.

**Anelia and George Crook**

## More info coming on disaster plan

The Devonport Emergency Support group would like to thank Belmont, Bayswater and Devonport residents for their offers of help during the recent severe weather events.

Our community group formed after the previous Devonport-Takapuna Local Board appointed Auckland Community North Development (Ancad) to assist local groups to produce local support plans.

The Devonport Emergency Support group worked with the Ancad coordinator and Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) and had a 'Disaster Ready' guide booklet ready to go to print just when the recent catastrophic event happened.

The guide is available: see the Resilient

Communities Auckland North website.

Local emergency support hubs (of which we have five) are not formal Civil Defence Centres – they are places where local residents can offer support, provide information, connect with agencies and collect and distribute donated resources.

Within the next few weeks, with the help of the Air Cadets, based in Achilles Ave, and Devonport Scouts, we will deliver a flyer to households outlining key information, ask for volunteers and publicise how to access the guide.

**Trish Deans  
Devonport Emergency  
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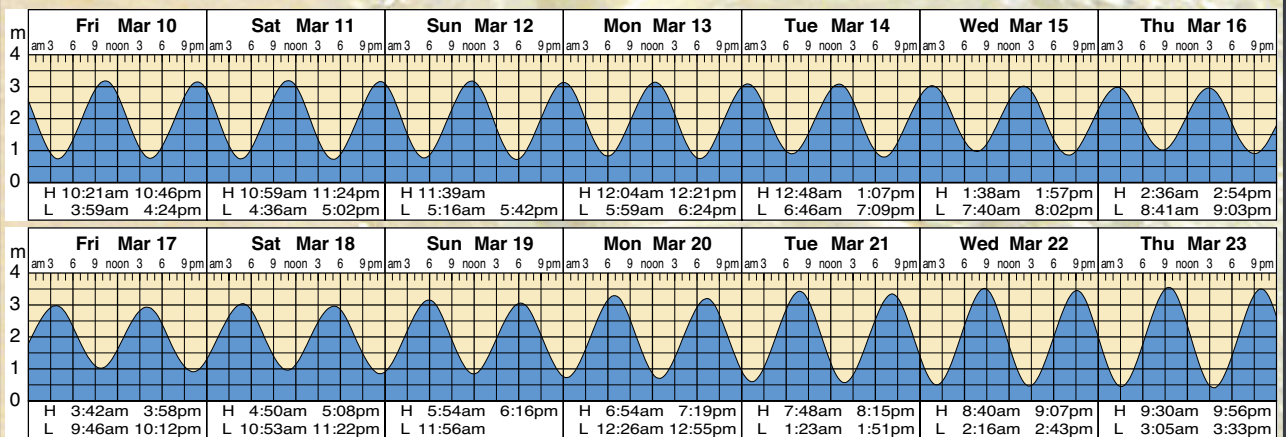


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# Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



# Grammar

MARCH 10, 2023

## **ib** Celebrating Success in International Baccalaureate

What a fantastic year for the International Baccalaureate (IB) at TGS. Despite all the disruption and uncertainty, our 2022 cohort achieved incredible results. Twenty-nine per cent of our students achieved 40+ points out of a total of 45, which is a feat normally accomplished by around 10 per cent of IB students worldwide. These students were invited to the Top Scholar Awards ceremony, held in Christchurch, to celebrate the success of New Zealand IB students who have excelled.

Tori Johnson, who achieved a perfect score of 45 points, was one of the attendees. She shared with us what she had learnt from completing the IB Programme: "I would say that the biggest thing I learned from doing IB is the value of having a bit of grit and being resilient when it comes to pursuing what you want – whether



**Head of IB 2022 Jack Chapman, Tori Johnson, Lucy Smith and Principal Mary Nixon.**

or not that is academic results. That, and how important it is to have people that you can rely on to support you when things aren't going your way, as will inevitably happen." Tori has received an Undergraduate Excellence Scholarship to study Cellular and Molecular Biology with Plant Science, at the University of Glasgow. She hopes to become a research scientist and work

on improving agricultural practices to cope with climate change and food insecurity.

Lucy Smith, who achieved a score of 41, is particularly pleased with how studying IB set her up for her chosen University studies: "One of my favourite parts of the programme was creating and conducting various scientific investigations into topics of my choice."

The other TGS recipients of the national IB Top Scholar Awards are Neve Mann Benn, Phyllis Lan, Michaella Kim, Anais Kuoch, Angel Jacobson and Hailey Chen.

As well as congratulating the TGS IB class of 2022 for their hard work and great results, we acknowledge the dedication of the IB faculty to support our students. We are looking forward to continuing with the successes of the IB Programme as we celebrate 10 years of IB at TGS.

## Maggie Yang attends Rotary National Science & Technology Forum

Over the summer break, one of our top science students, Maggie Yang, was selected from students around the country, and supported by our local Rotary club, to take part in the Rotary National Science & Technology Forum. Run by Auckland University, with support from Massey University, and Auckland University of Technology as well as a



number of science and technology industry groups and companies. Maggie had hands-on experience with cutting-edge science and exposure to future pathways available. Highlights from the event included a visit to the Auckland University Medical School to look at current research projects, a workshop on the science of video-making and a visit to HERA, a heavy metal engineering start-up.



## TGS Cricket impresses early in top Premier grades



The cricket 1st XIs, both competing in Premier Auckland grades (top 8 schools), are off to a positive start. The Girls 1st XI comprehensively beat Westlake Girls in round one, before narrowly losing to EGGS in round two. Bouncing back they beat both St Kents and Baradene comprehensively. The Boys lost a high-scoring encounter with MAGS in round one of the one-day competition before beating them in their first T20 round. Rounds two and three have seen them victorious against Sacred Heart and St Peter's, a fantastic start after gaining promotion at the end of last year. They have now qualified for the quarter finals in the T20 competition. Two players have claimed Premier 5-wicket bags so far: Issy Smith against Westlake Girls and Hamish Jardine against St Peter's.



**Hamish Jardine is mobbed as he claims the last wicket against St Peter's.**



## Homestay families wanted for 2023

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





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**DPT BOARD MEETING**

The Board held its February meeting at He Manu Hopukia Marae. Kaumatua Danny Watson made us feel very welcome and explained the name and history of the marae - He Manu Hopukia - 'the harvesting and trapping of birds' along the Bayswater Peninsula.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR COUNCIL?**

**What is important to you?** Just a reminder that consultation on Auckland Council's next Budget will open February 28th. Given the probable and significant cuts to council spending, and the effect that will have on funds allocated to local board initiatives, it is important that our peninsula community makes clear its wishes for the future. You can go to 'Have your say' at <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT**

Also, a reminder that the Devonport Emergency Resilience Guidelines can be found at [www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz](http://www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz) - scroll down the home page. Work continues on local emergency support. More news soon.

**WASTE MINIMISATION OR 'REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE'**

**Is this an area that interests you? Please email me if you are interested in any aspect.**

Do you know about Uglys Community Pantry (you may know this as Uglys Fruit) - opposite the Devonport Community House? If you have produce or unwanted pantry goods, please contact Justin at 021 482491, or deliver the produce to 25 Clarence St, where you can see what Justin is doing. He makes these items available to our community at minimal cost.

**TRUST AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Devonport Youth Forum** - are you interested? Email abby@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

**Rotary Kids Athletics** - Tuesdays 4pm to 6pm at Vauxhall Sports Reserve. No cost.

**Tamariki Play** - Tuesdays at Windsor Reserve; Thursdays at The Rose Gardens, Belmont. Starts 9:30 am, finishes 11:30 am. Free.

**'Sandy Sundays'** - 12 March at the Hauraki end of Takapuna Beach; 26 March at Narrow Neck Beach. Both starting 2:30 pm.

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

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**Pre-Enrolment Evening Year 7 to 9, 2024**

Families of prospective students for Year 7 to 9 in 2024 are invited to attend the pre-enrolment evening. We highly encourage any prospective families to attend this evening as it is an excellent opportunity to learn about our school, look around the campus and receive information on the enrolment process.

**Date:** Tuesday 14th March  
**Venue:** College Hall

**Time:** 4pm Presentation  
4:30 - 5:30 pm Tours of the school

**Enrolments close on Friday 26th May**

*\*Please note there are limited places available in Year 8 and 9 for 2024*



If you are unable to attend or would like further information please read the enrolment information posted on the website.

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# Youngsters fly high at kids athletics event



Around 100 budding sports stars turned out in the sun for the first day of the Kids Athletics Series at Vauxhall Reserve.

It's the 20th year the Devonport Peninsula Trust has put on the event, with the help of Devonport Rotary.

The free social sports day takes place every Tuesday at 4-6 pm until 21 March, with a range of sporting activities for the kids to enjoy.

Adult and student coaches encourage youngsters to give activities a go, from fun obstacle courses to more traditional athletics events, such as high jump, long jump and running races.

A fundraising sausage sizzle, put on by the Calliope Sea Scouts after the event, reinforces the community benefits of the evening.

Trust community events manager Abby Jones said the athletic series offers a chance for primary- and intermediate-aged kids to enjoy sport in a non-competitive way.

With confidence gained, children can more readily progress to competitive events at school or clubs.

**Jumping to it... Olive Borter (7), of Devonport Primary School, takes flight in the long jump**



**Time out... (from left) Tamsyn Holter, Olive Borter, Olivia Launter and Nina Hjelm wait to compete**



**Ready to have a go... (from left) Leon Hsu, Alex Stietz and Daniël De Jager**



**Keeping an eye on the opposition... Races are fun, but still competitive**





**Backflip boys...** (from left) Gabe Dellabarca, Max Willis and Finn Lazzari added their own event to the weekly programme at Vauxhall Reserve



**Camera ready...** (Front, from left) August Elmore, James Barr, Rodrigo Hasks, Skylar Leyden; (back) Xanthe Koit, Rosemary and Caecelia Sheehan



**Way to go...** Field warden Alfie Murray gives high-five support



**Up and over...** Max Willis (10) of Vauxhall School clears the high jump



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### Heritage Home and Income

This landmark Cheltenham property presents an extraordinary opportunity for living and working at the heart of Devonport. The building is divided into two spacious apartments – a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home on the ground floor, as well as a four-bedroom, one-bathroom home upstairs.

Either one can be rented out while the other is lived in, or the separate dwellings provide the ideal opportunity for extended families. Alternatively, the home can be utilised as a six-bedroom family haven. Business - Neighbourhood Centre zoning also means that options can be explored for running a business downstairs, while you live upstairs.

Crafted in the late 1800s, the much-admired building was one of the earliest corner shops in Devonport and remained so until the 1980s, when it became a private residence. Known locally as Domain Dairy, it takes pride of place as a feature on the Heritage Walks of Devonport. Cheltenham beach, Devonport Domain and North Head are just footsteps away, with the village and CBD a pleasant stroll along the waterfront.

### Auction

Thursday 30th March at 1:00 pm  
In Rooms (Unless Sold Prior)

### View

Saturday/Sunday 2.00pm to 2.30pm  
or by appointment  
[harcourts.co.nz/TK39757](http://harcourts.co.nz/TK39757)



**Michael Swarbrick**  
M 021 888 133  
[michael.swarbrick@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:michael.swarbrick@harcourts.co.nz)





# Evening social spin brings taste of festival to Depot

Devonport-based DJ Sezzo will be bringing the festival vibe home at a special Auckland Arts Festival event at the Depot Artspace.

*Light Night 2023* is being staged at multiple city venues on Saturday 18 March, with the Clarence St gallery running the only North Shore satellite event between 5.30pm and 9pm.

Depot curator Nina Dyer says *Light Night* and an exhibition running throughout the month will provide locals with an easy opportunity to sample the festival.

“Locals won’t need to travel into town to experience a bit of Saturday night arts and culture,” she says.

*Light Night* is based on an international concept, the globally popular *Nuit Blanche* model, under which arts organisations stay open to the public in the evening.

The Depot aims to do this monthly in a bid to attract new audiences.

Securing DJ Sezzo, who is a star on the Australasian underground DJing scene, is a booty-shaking coup.

Sezzo, who is of Ngāpuhi descent, is a medical student who has returned to New Zealand after around 10 years in Australia, where she created experimental-art club night *Precog*, founded Maori-Australian art collective *Ngati Kangaru* and worked as a radio host.

Her live set will run from 6.20pm to 7pm.

The relaxed free evening, with refreshments on offer, will give people the chance to mix and mingle both inside the venue and in the smartened-up area outside it.

Local art historian Claire Chamberlain will talk at the event.

Attendees can also take in *Sentinels*,



**On the decks... Devonport-based DJ Sezzo will perform at the Depot’s *Light Night* event**

an exhibition of drawings by Robyn Penn and *The Realists*, an exhibition in the main gallery that explores how the historical

themes of realism might be represented in today’s culture.

Dyer says one of the questions *The Realists* poses is: “If Gustave Courbet and Edward Hopper were born in the millennium, what kind of daily realities might they have chosen to represent?”

Four emerging artists have been chosen to exhibit, with the underlying theme of countering the hyper-performative times we’re living in with honest and reflective perspectives.

The artists are John Tiger Shen, who works in photographic portraiture; Téhlór-Lina Mareko, whose medium is digital photography; and painters Brunelle Dias and Samuel O’Malley.

Dyer says since the turn of this century, people’s ability to create and share content has accelerated. This online imagery has changed the perception of everyday reality.

“The role of art in this context has subsequently been altered by our changing attitudes towards media, particularly photography, video and text, as we all have the power to narrate and filter our various realities through such platforms.”

This poses questions for what truths and feelings artists can touch on that are otherwise not captured.

An artist’s talk in conjunction with *The Realists* exhibition (which runs until 29 March) will be held at the Depot this Saturday, 11 March at 2pm.

In other festival satellite activity nearby, the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna is hosting several performances, including the Rodger Fox Big Band’s 50th Anniversary *Big Drum Off* (11 March) and New Zealand Opera’s *The Unruly Tourists* (23-26 March).

**SATURDAY  
18 MARCH  
12-6PM**

**18 KERR ST, DEVONPORT**

THANKS ALSO TO THE KESTREL





# Local artist takes late friend's advice to heart

## Katie Robinson tells Rob Drent about her first exhibition

Emerging Devonport artist Katie Robinson is holding her first exhibition and, if she has any misgivings, she can recall some words of inspiration from her late friend Heidi MacRae.

MacRae, lived at Stanley Point, five doors down from Robinson, who describes the long-time Devonport and Hauraki GP, as a “very giving person, completely unselfish”.

MacRae died from cancer in 2022. She told Robinson she was “so glad you are taking yourself seriously as an artist,” and encouraged her friend to share her work with others, ride out any knockbacks, “shine bright and live your best life”.

Robinson rereads MacRae's encouragement during her interview with the Flagstaff and is still deeply touched.

“It's very easy to say you are not good enough, and when I have those thoughts I think of Heidi's words of encouragement.”

Robinson studied geology at university and completed a PhD in chemistry from the University of London, worked as a patent attorney, in marketing and banking and, more recently, as the general manager in the family intellectual-property software company.

Around six years ago, she took some art classes and initially became fascinated with ballpoint pen drawings. She would use dots, strokes, curls and scribbles to create portraits and landscapes, taking 30 hours to complete large works.

“I was like a kid in a lolly shop,” Robinson says of her immersion in the art world “I would look at a technique and think I could do that.”

In 2019, she added painting to her repertoire, using a pointillist-like style “in a eureka



**Familiar sight... Artist Katie Robinson has featured Narrow Neck and other local scenes in her paintings**

moment in a painting class”.

Painting in a studio at home, her works often have local subjects. She also paints scenes from Central Otago, where she appreciates the purity of colour and light.

Originally from Dunedin, Robinson and husband Al have a crib in Alexandra where she also has a studio.

Her exhibition *First Brush with the Elements*, at the Beautiful Things gallery in East St, off Karangahape Rd, comprises 40 artworks.

Many will be recognisable to locals including: *Watch this Space* (clouds over Rangitoto); *Seat with a View* (the observation tower at Narrow Neck); *Rangitoto Blues* and *Bayswater Pohutukawa*.

“I feel quite fortunate and honoured to get

an exhibition,” says Robinson.

She still works in the family company but devotes 15 to 20 hours a week to her art.

“I just really enjoy doing it,” Robinson says. She also still goes to art classes.

“People who paint continue to learn... everything changes when you get a new influence.”

Robinson also enjoys doing commissions, some of which are memorable with lasting impact.

One client commissioned a work of her partner's childhood home. When he saw it, “he burst into tears – he hadn't seen [the house] in 50 years”.

• *First Brush with the Elements*, an exhibition of paintings and ballpoint drawings, is at Beautiful Things until next month.



## RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Introductory workshop with family histories expert Seonaid (Shona) Harvey.

Navy Museum  
64 King Edward Parade, Devonport  
Thursday 16 March, 10am - 1pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Limited numbers - bookings are essential  
To book: [info@navymuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@navymuseum.co.nz) or T: 09 446 1824





**Inspired... Katie Robinson, pictured in her Stanley Point studio, first took art classes around six years ago**

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# VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



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65 (M) 93min	NEW
Broker (M) 129min	NEW
Champions (M) 124min	NEW
Triangle of Sadness (M) 147min	NEW
Creed III (M) 116min	NEW
Empire of Light (M) 115min	NEW
Living (PG) 102min	Previews 10-12 MAR
Hunt for the Wilderpeople (PG) 93min	Benefit Screening 12 MAR

**COMING SOON**

Corsage (M) 114min	16 MAR
Living (PG) 102min	16 MAR
Shazam! Fury of the Gods (TBA) 130min	16 MAR
Redemption of a Rogue (R16) 95min	Previews 17-19 MAR
Dungeons & Dragons (M) 134min	Members Only Preview 19 MAR
John Wick: Chapter 4 (TBA) 169min	Night Before Preview 22 MAR

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This modern immaculately presented weatherboard home with double glazing offers an abundance of space, sun and is set on a freehold 371sqm (approx.) section, fully fenced with a security gate and just a short stroll from Ngataranga Bay. Cosy second living room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (incl ensuites), garage with internal access, separate laundry. In close proximity to all that Devonport and Takapuna has to offer.

VIEW | PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES  
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VIEW | PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES  
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VIEW | SAT/SUN 1 - 1.45 PM OR BY APPT  
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