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**Heritage group worried
about Esplanade... p7**

**Council admits beach
pontoon botch-up... p9**

**Santa Parade
pictures... p30-33**

Iwi tight-lipped on talk of another retirement village

Speculation is mounting that Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei is investigating the possibility of another retirement-village project on the Devonport peninsula.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei owns 28.7ha on the peninsula, including the 4.25ha which was leased to Ryman Healthcare for its William

Sanders retirement village in Ngataranga Rd.

A treaty settlement included the transfer of swathes of Navy land – much of it previously used for Navy housing – valued at \$96 million.

The five-storey Ryman village on the Wakakura block is close to fully occupied,

with a final release of apartments on the market. The land lease is for 150 years.

The Flagstaff has been told Ngāti Whātua is in the early stages of investigating another similar project on the peninsula.

Its holdings include sites in Bayswater,

To page 2

Pop stars revel in bubble bonanza



Soap opera... Giant bubbles proved a huge source of excitement at Friday After 5 in Clarence St, which welcomed summer with an evening of music, food and fun. Pictures, pages 10-13.

*Happy
holidays!*

FROM THE TEAM AT

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Peninsula land owners 'exploring a range of options'

From page 1

and land currently leased to the Navy in Vauxhall Rd, next to Fort Takapuna. The Vauxhall Rd site has the potential for spectacular views.

When asked directly if another retirement home lease was under consideration, the chief executive of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

investment arm Whai Rawa, Grant Kemble, said: "Looking ahead, we are exploring a range of options for our North Shore land holdings, including both developments for sale and those designed for rental purposes.

"We will keep the community informed as our plans take shape. Our commitment to quality remains unchanged and our focus will continue to be creating spaces that

enhance and complement the existing area."

The Flagstaff sought greater detail from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, but a spokesperson would add only that: "We will share more when we have confirmed plans."

Over the past 18 months, Whai Rawa has completed and sold 29 homes in Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei's Belmont development, Oneoneroa.

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To all our readers and advertisers, warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the staff and publishers of the Devonport Flagstaff.

As we all look forward to a relaxing summer after another challenging year for Auckland, the country and the world, we hope you are able to take time out to enjoy the special things about living here on the Devonport peninsula.

To those who are working through, thank you; to those 'staycationing', what better place to do it? To anyone

heading away, safe travels.

We are proud to be your independent voice for local news and appreciate your interest and support. We look forward to continuing to report on local issues and achievements in 2024.

Look out for the year's first Flagstaff on 26 January. Our office reopens with limited hours from 15 January.

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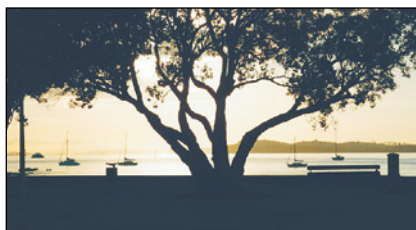
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Helen's happy hundreth blows up with the kids

On her 100th birthday last Thursday, Helen Hulbert's iPhone ran hot.

A swarm of texts and calls arrived from friends and family, including some from her great-grandchildren, with whom she keeps in regular phone contact.

The former teacher, who says she wasn't interested when the first computers appeared, has since then adapted well to a modern world in which her young descendants are only a few keystrokes away.

When the Flagstaff called in to her self-contained flat in Ascot Ave, a card of congratulations from King Charles (with a portrait of him and Queen Camilla on the front) sat on her lounge table.

She had also received a message from the Governor-General and was tickled to get a hand-written note from North Shore MP Simon Watts. However, she was quick to add: "In my day we were taught to never talk about religion or politics or money at social gatherings or outings."

Helen was born in Scotland, immigrating aged one, with parents Jack (an accountant) and Isobella Horne. The family eventually settled on the North Shore, first in Milford in a number of rented houses before buying a house in Byron Ave, Takapuna.

Helen recalls a rural community, with nearby Bracken Ave largely paddocks. She had a pony, which sparked a lifelong love of horse riding. She was a founding member of the North Shore Riding Club and travelled to hunts at Pakuranga.

She was homeschooled until starting at Milford School at age seven. On her first day, she and her sister Margaret were dressed in "tartan and green sweaters" and had their parents' Scottish accents. "All the children gathered around to listen to us talk."

When she went to Takapuna Grammar School in 1937, girls wore gloves and stockings and were taught in separate classes from the boys. "We didn't want to talk to the boys



Ton up... Helen Hulbert's 100th brought a card from King Charles

anyway," she said.

Subjects were assigned rather than chosen: Helen studied Latin, French, maths, science and botany. She played tennis and golf. "I really wanted to play hockey, but my father thought it was too rough."

She left school to go to Auckland Teachers' Training College, aged 17. She was a first-year teacher at Takapuna Primary, then did country service at Wainui, before returning to the North Shore where she had a stint at Devonport Primary – with a class of 59 students.

Promotion to secondary school was not yet automatic – Helen recalls one pupil was 14.

It was the start of a lifetime of teaching and relieving at local schools: Devonport (where she had at least four stints), Belmont

and Takapuna primary schools.

On holiday in Rotorua after World War II, she met husband Jack, who had just returned from military service and a stint in Singapore's infamous Changi prison camp. "I wasn't particularly interested initially," she said. But Jack pursued her. "People did not sleep around then like these days. Men were keen to get married."

Married in Remuera, the couple settled on the Shore, eventually buying a house on Lake Rd opposite Takapuna Grammar. They had five children: John, Virginia, Janet, Trish and Richard. "In those days the house backed onto strawberry gardens and paddocks – it was farms back then."

A keen gardener and member of St George's Presbyterian Church in Takapuna, Helen also played bridge and golf, but after breaking a leg aged 76 took up croquet at the Devonport club in Wairoa Rd.

For 28 years she has lived in her flat behind Trish's and son-in-law Maurice's house. She is resistant to moving to a rest home.

She has no secret for longevity. "I kept eating butter when it was out of fashion, I've always eaten eggs – but I haven't overdone it. Not because of moderation but because I did not want any more."

She has had to be a resilient person. Her husband Jack died aged 70 in 1992 and most of her friends are gone. Along with the joys of parenthood, she experienced personal tragedy when daughter Janet was killed by a drunk driver at 13. Another daughter, Virginia, has also died.

She has eight grandchildren and 10 "almost 11" great-grandchildren, with a new arrival imminent. "I'm very lucky to have a lovely family."

Apart from poor eyesight, she's in excellent health. "And I haven't had Covid yet, touch wood."

For her birthday celebration last Saturday around 40 family members called by.

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Well done, gents! Pavement pounders clock up 50 years



Celebrating 50 years... Murray Henshall (front left) and Dean Wotherspoon (front right) with fellow club members

The Devonport East Gentleman's Athletic Club celebrated 50 years this month with breakfast and drinks at co-founder Murray Henshall's Cheltenham home.

The group was formed in 1973 by Henshall (79) and Dean Wotherspoon (80).

The pair had become friends when they realised they had both played for the Chicago Lions rugby team at different times.

They began running every Saturday morning with another local, Rob Fisher, but the group soon grew as friends were added.

The group would always leave Henshall's home at 7am on Saturdays, rain or shine, and return for a cup of tea and a chat.

Initially, he was living in Ascot Ave, but for the past 42 years the group has gathered at his home in Cheltenham Rd.

The group has taken part in hundreds of marathons, half-marathons, 10km runs and triathlons.

The years of pounding the pavement will clearly have had health benefits, but might also have played a part in the need for numerous hip and knee replacements among the participants. Wotherspoon has had a hip replaced and Henshall a knee.

The running was abandoned in favour of walking just over 10 years ago.

But the time-honoured route remains the same: Down Cheltenham Rd to Torpedo Bay, along the waterfront to the Navy Base, via Calliope Rd to Stanley Bay, then through the Navy sports grounds and golf course to the north end of Cheltenham Beach, and back to Henshall's.

All the members of the group are friends living in Devonport. Henshall says the regular meet-up has been great for keeping in touch with mates.

More than 50 members have been part of the club over the years.

One of the group, graphic designer Fraser Gardyne, produced t-shirts for the 50th anniversary celebration which asked "Murray are you awake?"

It harks back to members arriving at his house uncertain if he was up and about ready to go.

Making a presentation to Wotherspoon and Henshall, another group member, Rob Towner, said he wanted to honour Murray and Dean on their "50-year civil union".

Henshall responded they were "just kissing cousins".

He was delighted to have the 50th celebration attended by 22 members at his Cheltenham home, as he and wife Vicki are in the process of selling the property.

The club will continue, however. The meeting place is likely to shift around the corner to Dean Wotherspoon's house in Jubilee Ave.

A photograph of three women and a dog walking on a sandy beach. The woman on the left is wearing a bright blue blazer over a black top and skirt. The woman in the middle is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and skirt. The woman on the right is wearing a colorful patterned sweater and skirt. A small dog is running in the foreground. In the background, there is a body of water and a small boat.

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Esplanade Hotel's state worries heritage group



Hoping for better things at the Esplanade... Margot McRae (left) and Trish Deans of Devonport Heritage

The Esplanade Hotel's "sad and dangerous state of disrepair" has prompted a Devonport Heritage campaign to encourage the owner to better maintain the 120-year-old building.

"We are extremely concerned about the condition of the Esplanade," Devonport Heritage chair Margot McRae said in a letter to owners Sun Aohua Ltd.

The 1903 hotel has the highest level of protection given to historic buildings in New Zealand, with a category A heritage listing and a category 1 heritage classification under the Auckland Unitary Plan.

"However, it is in a sad and dangerous state of disrepair," McRae said.

Devonport Heritage wants the owner to provide a maintenance programme as evidence of ongoing upkeep.

"Its exterior is unkempt and worn and is in desperate need of repainting," McRae said.

The interior was showing severe signs of dampness and some furniture was worn out. Earthquake strengthening also needed to be addressed soon.

Devonport people had repeatedly told the heritage group that they were sad and angry at the neglected state of the building, McRae said.



Tatty... Worn furniture and an exterior plant pot in need of a repaint indicate the poor state of the historic hotel



It was hugely valued by locals for its beauty and history

And until recently it was a thriving venue, she added. "It's the last waterfront hotel in Devonport, and we know what happened to the Masonic (turned into apartments without a hospitality function after it was poorly maintained for years)," McRae said.

The Esplanade sold to Sun Aohua NZ Ltd

for \$6.2 million in 2015.

The Flagstaff reported at the time that the buyers were a family from Guangzhou, in southern China.

The building had previously sold in 2004, for \$3.91 million.

The Flagstaff approached the owner for comment but had not received a response by deadline.

Opportunity knocks: Fourth thrift shop arrives

Devonport is becoming even more of a bargain hunters' mecca, with the opening of a fourth charity shop in the village centre.

The SPCA is opening a new opportunity shop in the former Westpac bank premises on the corner of Victoria Rd and Clarence St on 20 December.

Harbour Hospice, the Salvation Army and the Anglican Church already have op shops in Devonport. A retro retail store on the main street adds to the offering for treasure and bargain hunters.

SPCA head of retail Cathy Crichton said: "We are so glad to be able to have a presence in a community that we know is filled with passionate animal lovers."

All the profits from the new store would help support animals in need, "a cause we know many in this community support".

Donations can be dropped off at the store from 18 December, or can be collected by truck for free.



Prime location...The SPCA is moving into premises which has been mostly vacant since the Westpac bank branch closed in 2019

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Moved Cheltenham Beach pontoon 'still too far out'

The Cheltenham Beach pontoon was initially moored in the wrong place, Auckland Council has admitted, but a local resident believes its new location still poses a drowning risk for children.

Council contractors mistakenly placed the pontoon around 20 metres further from shore than specified by its resource consent.

They moved it to the correct position at the beginning of December, said council operations manager for Devonport Sarah Jones.

But long-time Cheltenham resident Claes Gibel believes it still too far out, and much more difficult to reach than it used to be.

He said that teenagers can easily swim to the platform but that younger children still might struggle.

"This platform should bring safe enjoyment to all kids, not just teenagers and older."

Gibel first notified the council about the pontoon placement late last month.

Jones said council "must place the pontoon in the area outlined in the resource consent and moving it closer to shore would reduce the amount of water under the pontoon at low tide".

She said the pontoon was now in a "safe and accessible location" but that the exact position may be different from where it



Still out there... the Cheltenham Beach platform in the new position deemed safe by council, though resident Claes Gibel disagrees

was last year.

Gibel said the water level under the pontoon at low tide didn't matter, as the bay was almost completely level all the way out.

The council reasoning showed those responsible hadn't visited Cheltenham or

even seen pictures of it at low tide.

"In this particular bay regardless of where you put the platform it will sit on the bottom at low tide."

He said the platform could be half as far from the beach without any adverse effects.

TGS athlete wins national shot-put title

Takapuna Grammar School student Kate Hallie has won shot-put gold at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics nationals.

The Year 12 student won the senior competition with a throw of 14.19m at the three-day 50th anniversary event held last weekend in Christchurch. She placed fourth in discus and also made the New Zealand secondary schools team selected after the event.

Another local to make the team was Devonport resident James Ford, who was named best senior boys' athlete at the nationals. He runs for King's College and won the senior 400m and 800m races in times of 47.99 and 2:02.04 respectively and was in Kings 4 x 400m winning relay team.

TGS's Sascha Letica, who is in the NZ secondary schools cross country team going to Kenya in April, got a bronze in the senior

1500m final.

And Asha Edwards, also from TGS got bronze in the junior 3000m.

It has been a strong year for Hallie, who was named girls' sporting all-rounder at the recent TGS awards ceremony. She competes in athletics, and also plays in its top netball side. In April she represented New Zealand's secondary schools athletics team at the Australian secondary nationals.

Merry Christmas

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Let summer begin! Families flock for Friday fun

Young and old turned up to enjoy Friday after Five on 1 December, when Clarence St turned into a pedestrian-friendly precinct with plenty to entertain the crowd.



Ready to rock... Harper Crause (7) playing a balloon guitar on stage with singer Mema Wilda

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Arms full... Dad Mark Banbrook with Albie and Tully joined the crowd in Clarence St



Easy rider... Eighteen-month-old Penny Vivian with mum Holly Vivian



Sweet as... Fleur Branham (2) enjoys an ice cream with dad Jack Branham



Flower power... Hattie Nikkel with a balloon bloom

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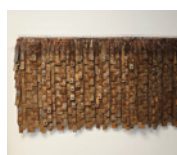
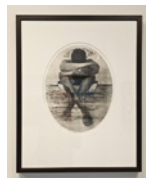


Reach for it... Giant bubbles kept the kids entertained. Below: Friends Niamh Harrington, Leila Ison and Millie Ison, all of Belmont Intermediate School; and Jess Walmsley with daughter Sophia Walmsley (6)



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In a spin... Devonport Primary School pupil Millie McCarthy learns how to keep a plate aloft.

Left, from top: Blair Leighton with daughter Luna (3); Friends Elise Barker (left) and Nicole Rossi; Elise (left) and Ashley Geddis.

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Ian Cunliffe
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Diana Murray

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Rachael Bridger

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Transport project obstinacy provokes politicians' ire

A double-width raised crossing costing up to \$400,000 will be built by Auckland Transport (AT) at Narrow Neck.

The project was one of two chosen by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board after a protracted wrangle over allocations of its discretionary spend at several workshops.

At a recent follow-up meeting, the board unanimously put on record its frustration with AT over both the "extreme costs" of roading works proposed and AT pushing its choice of projects ahead of exploring the board's preferences.

A wide platform crossing will replace the existing crossing between the beach reserve cafe and Woodall Reserve car park at Narrow Neck, though a date for construction hasn't been set.

Local-board chair Toni van Tonder liked the idea of a wider crossing, but wanted to know if the upgrade would cope with flooding. AT staff said the crossing would include provision to deal with stormwater.

The board rejected an AT proposal that board-controlled funds be used for a crossing at Campbells Bay Primary School on Aberdeen Rd, reiterating the view it took in September that AT should fund the estimated \$375,000 project cost from its Safe Speeds programme, as has been done with other upgrades near schools, rather than through the Local Board Transport Capital Fund.

Instead, the board voted to prioritise an-

other signalised crossing on Forrest Hill Rd near Blakeborough Dr, where a pedestrian was killed in 2018.

In discussing around half a dozen short-listed projects, deputy chair Terence Harpur and members Gavin Busch and George Wood challenged AT officials on costs, with the estimated cost of the Forrest Hill crossing prompting Busch to say "\$600,000 for a raised crossing sticks in my craw".

Three crossings recently put close together on East Coast Rd, opposite the Pupuke Golf Course, also raised members' hackles at the meeting. Wood asked exactly how much these cost, but an AT staff member said he did not know and would have to report back.

Earlier advice had been that raised-crossing costs varied, with some dearer due to stormwater work or signalling, meaning there was "no one size fits all" price.

Van Tonder said the board had already lost out over previous years on what it could do with its annual discretionary fund, due to "poor advice" from AT. Now, views expressed at workshops on preferences had "not at all been followed", she said.

AT was foisting on boards the cost of safety and maintenance work that had previously come from AT coffers.

In backing the Narrow Neck and Forrest Hill Rd crossings as its projects, the board said it wanted to do more for less.

"We are allocating those projects," said Harpur. "We are not saying go ahead with a

\$400,000 crossing and a \$600,000 crossing, but [asking for] lower-cost options."

The board hoped extra smaller projects could be costed and delivered.

But AT has said it cannot fully cost all projects the board wants to look at, due to budget constraints. It would only report back on the shortlist.

AT also said if the Campbells Bay school crossing had been chosen as well as Narrow Neck, it would leave room for several smaller projects, among them speed-calming measures on Hamana Ave in Belmont and pavers in Devonport.

"We still very strongly think that AT should be doing a lot of these projects themselves," van Tonder said.

The board asked for AT to come back with a range of cost options for its approval on final designs. It wanted any left-over money spent on speed signs at agreed locations.

The Local Board Transport Fund was set up to allow the city's boards to make choices for their communities, but it has been steadily whittled away by AT due to a Covid spending freeze and subsequent budget pressures.

The fund for the current financial year is \$991,805, down from \$1.2 million last year.

Top of the board's list for its spend over two board terms was accruing towards the cost of a Francis St-Esmonde Rd pathway, but AT said last year it did not have the money to build this and board funds were not being rolled over.

Christmas lunch

A free Christmas Day lunch will be held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Church St.

The lunch is at 11.30am, following the 9:30am Christmas Day service.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the church office so numbers can be catered for: Admin@holyltrinity.gen.nz.



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North Shore Rugby Club honours well-known figures

Gordon Stuart and Laurie Margrain were awarded life memberships of the North Shore Rugby Club at the club's annual meeting earlier this month.

Margrain played for the club in the 1970s, was involved with the juniors in the early 90s then served on the committee. He was club chair for most of the 1990s, guiding the club through the decade's severe financial storms.

He oversaw a \$100,000 club refurbishment and introduced the 100 Club, which has been a major fundraiser. Its jackpot draw is always an after-match highlight.

Margrain, who has had a long business career, was the chairman of North Harbour Rugby during the early 2000s and has had two spells as a member of the Auckland Blues board.

Stuart's father, Jim, was a legendary administrator for North Shore and North Harbour for more than 40 years. Gordon played during the 1980s and then had a short stint as club treasurer before heading overseas.

He later became involved with the juniors and chaired the juniors subcommittee during the early 2000s.

He has been a member of the club committee ever since, looking after club functions including the well-known Seagulls Lunch with another life member in Simon Gundry.

Derek Armstrong and Vesna Burgess received Gold Service Awards.

Burgess, who is married to club chair Peter Burgess, is a part of the Botica whanau and is a lifelong member. She was recognised for her contribution to the club's Sesquicentennial celebrations.

Armstrong, a well known local builder, is another with a long family association to the club.

He played junior and senior rugby, and both coached and managed teams. He was a long-serving committee member and has overseen the maintenance of the club rooms.

The late Jim Eagles, a highly regarded journalist, was posthumously honoured with a Gold Service award in recognition of his contributions to *C'mon Shore!*, the book released to commemorate the club's 150-year history.

Gundry was appointed club co-patron, alongside Dianne Hale.



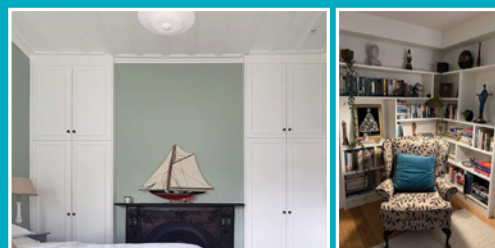
New life members... Laurie Margrain (top) and Gordon Stuart (above). Left: club co-patrons Dianne Hale and Simon Gundry



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DEVONPORT
COMMUNITY
HOUSE

HOUSE NEWS

Kia ora Whānau,

The christmas tree is up in the Mezzanine Lounge and we are ready for sunny days at the beach and spending time with family and friends!

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the House in 2023. We appreciate each and every one of you. It has been a very busy and exciting year, with so many amazing events, classes and workshops. If you have any ideas around starting a class, workshop or using one of our spaces then please get in touch by emailing events@devonportcomhouse.co.nz

Sundays will now be available for hire from end of January 2024, opening up for a new group to book, activities to take place and birthdays to be celebrated!

Mihi mahana ki a koutou,
Devonport Community House Team

IMPORTANT DATES

Term Four 2023 will end on **Friday 15th December**. Term One 2024 will start on **Thursday 1st February**.

Pre-Christmas holiday programme will run from 18th-22nd of December

January Summer holiday programme runs from Monday 8th January till Wednesday 31st January

For more bookings & info go to www.devonportcomhouse.com



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Japanese have right idea on road works

Having just visited Japan, I was struck by the differences between road management there and here.

Especially here on the Devonport peninsula, where the intrusive road works seem never-ending.

Common sense prevailed in Japan, however. In 17 days, in cities and the countryside, I didn't see a single raised pedestrian crossing.

I saw hardly any road cones. When there was a road problem, like a slip for example, the only people on-site were those working on the problem. No stop-go sign-holders, just simple lights if needed. No people

sitting around on cell phones, or road-cone carrier trucks.

So, the question is, what has gone so very wrong in New Zealand?

In the past few years of idealistic concepts, such as the Road to Zero policy, which is patently not working, we have lost our direction.

We need to get back to our normal Kiwi common sense and practicality and to stop wasting massive amounts of money.

Wayne Brown and the government – for goodness' sake, fix this.

Trish Jenner

Badly pruned trees are an eyesore

Thanks for reminding us all on your editorial page (Flagstaff, 3 November) of the desecration of street trees engineered by the council while keeping power lines clear. We end up with badly shaped trees, which are an eyesore. The result can't be good for the health of the trees, as the distorted limbs continue to grow with successive prunings.

This happens all over Auckland, with many examples in Devonport spoiling streetscapes, along with inappropriate tree choices for the street environment.

Better shaping of the trees would model a natural growth pattern and have aesthetic appeal, albeit at marginally higher initial cost.

How about conducting a street poll or inviting readers to write in if they support a change of policy?

By offering to weigh such support on this and other issues, you could inspire reader involvement and provide community feedback to the council and other service providers like Fullers.

Marshall Piercy

Cheltenham raft not in its usual spot

I support Claes Gibel wholeheartedly when he says the raft at Cheltenham Beach is too far out (Flagstaff, 1 December).

By my estimate it is about 20-30 metres from what was its usual spot for years.

I have more than 20 years of experience swimming from Balmain Reserve and Cheltenham Beach to the pontoon, the latter being where I've lived for more than 10 years, with a bird's eye view of the raft.

Its current site is now only suitable at high tide for the strongest of swimmers and a danger to anyone who is not.

I watched the raft being towed in recently and thought it was being placed at the wrong spot.

Google Maps, and councillor Chris Darby, from his bike on top of Maungauika, appear to agree that the siting of the pontoon is off.

But I don't suppose anyone from Auckland Council works department is going to put their hand up and admit the error.

Chris Eagles

Editor's note: See our latest story on page 9.

Skateboarding craze seems over

I worked for the main manufacturer in New Zealand of skateboards many years ago.

Sales dropped overnight so the company moved to making snowboards.

The recent skateboarding craze appears to have ended. I wonder if the council have noticed.

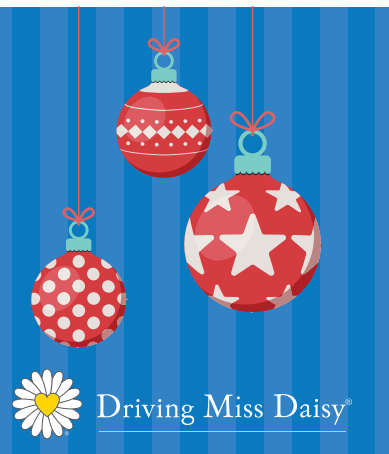
Sue McClelland

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Trish and Tracey

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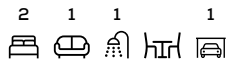
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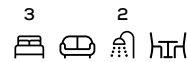
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Major traffic delays

A ruptured gas main caused the closure of a section of Esmonde Rd, Takapuna, for around two hours on Monday morning, resulting in hour-long traffic delays along Lake Rd.



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Need for raised crossing queried

The pedestrian crossing on Albert Rd beside St Leo's Catholic Primary School will be upgraded into a raised crossing during January.

Auckland Transport (AT) mentioned the work in a workshop update to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week, prompting board member Gavin Busch to question whether it was worthwhile.

"It's a very small school – 46 students," said Busch, a former chair of the school's board of trustees, whose own children were pupils there.

The crossing was little used for much of the week, other than at the beginning and end of school days, he said.

It was busiest on Sundays when it is used by people attending St Francis and All Souls Catholic Church.

Busch has been on the warpath with AT over the cost of raised crossings, questioning if other safety measures, such as warning lights, might be better options.

He accepted it was too late to halt the upgrade, but said the proliferation of raised crossings around Devonport was slowing everything down, sometimes in ways that had not been thought through.

"There are four raised crossings to get to the Navy base from the fire station," said Busch, who is a volunteer firefighter.

He also raised the negative public feedback he had received around the concrete cycle-lane separators installed recently on Victoria Rd between Kerr St and Calliope Rd.

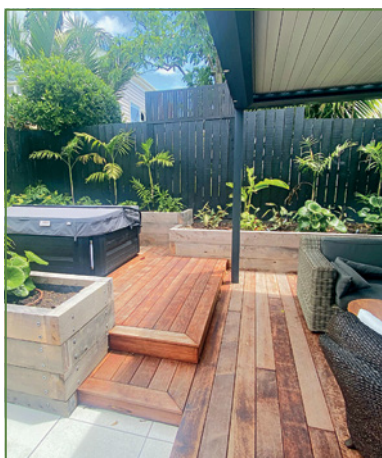
Motorists were colliding with them, Busch said. He asked whether a better, less ugly version could have been installed.

A new concrete bus-stop platform on Victoria Rd near Fleet St also came in for criticism, with Busch saying it looked like something out of communist Eastern Europe.

Chair Toni van Tonder agreed about the bus stop, saying it was a trip hazard as well. "If we had known, we would have said it's not going to tie in with a heritage village."

She told AT staff that the documents shown to board members often didn't properly depict what a final outcome would look like.

The status of Devonport as a town centre, and one with heritage appeal, meant the bus stop "just did not read right".



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Lunch 11.30am – 2.30pm

Dinner 5pm – late

Nibbles

Daily breads oat sourdough 9
Sweet brown butter, sea salt

Fresh oysters **DF**
Shallot mignonette, lemon 5.5
Single oyster 33
Half dozen 66
Dozen 66

Roasted olives **DF | VE** 10
Shallots, fennel seeds, chili, herbs

Shoestring fries **V** 15
Truffle oil, parmesan, chives

Popcorn cauliflower **DF | VE** 18
Curry leaves, almonds, chili flakes, sesame seeds, yuzu mayo

Small Plates

Housemade chicken liver parfait 20
Sour cherry compote, cornichons, baguette

Buttermilk fried chicken 23
Boneless chicken thighs, maple soy glaze, sesame

Tomato burrata salad 22
Heirloom tomatoes, cassava flour, black vinegar

Roasted cauliflower **VE** 21
Smokey hummus, candied onions, savory nuts, and cashew butter

Fresh line caught sashimi **DF** 26
Line caught fish, namjim, avocado, rice fragment, chives

Confit pork belly **DF** 24
Kimchi, mung bean, crackling, crisp garlic

Beef brisket croquette 22
Manchego, caramelized onion, chili mayo

Half kilo mussels **DF** 22
Chili jam, garlic, celery, charred sourdough

Lamb ribs **DF** 26
Nuoc cham, mint mayo, crushed peas, salsa verde

Seared tuna tataki **DF** 28
crouton, namjim, teriyaki glaze, cucumber, Nori cracker

DF - DAIRY FREE**V - VEGETARIAN****VE - VEGAN**

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Large Plates

Cos lettuce & garlic prawn salad 32
Anchoiade, parmesan, pangrattato, cured yolk

Wagyu beef burger 31
Jalapeno & cheese topper, lettuce, tomato, Liam's burger sauce, onion rings, fries

Hawke's Bay lamb rump **DF** 38
Roasted aubergine, beetroot puree, bell pepper salsa, jus, dukka

Fish of the day 38
Asparagus, fennel salad, fish velouté, charred onion dust

Marinated half chicken **DF** 36
Aji verde, nouc cham, crispy shallots, herbs

Aged scotch fillet - 300g 49
Candied shallots, red wine jus, Argentinian chimichurri

Charcuterie platter 51
Selection of Kapiti and Whitestone cheese, cured meats, housemade parfait, roasted olives, seasonal fruits, charred sourdough, crackers

Seafood tasting plate 58
Miso and orange glazed salmon on soba noodles, Signal Hill bouillabaisse with scallops and mussels with daily bread oat sourdough

Sides

Charred broccoli **DF | VE** 16
Black bean vinaigrette, pickled red onion, macadcadamia

Triple cooked agria potatoes **V** 16
Truffle crème fraîche, rosemary

Macaroni and smoked cheese 16
Parmesan, chives

Sweet Treats

White chocolate panna cotta 16
Strawberry consommé, vanilla tuile, caramelised strawberry, mango sorbet

Lavender infused cheesecake 18
Blackberry compote, tossed coconut, brandy snap, vanilla

Affogato 12
Chiasso Dolce espresso, vanilla ice cream
Add liqueur 22

Ice cream 15
Trio of Chefs selected flavours sourced locally from The Vic

Brother and sister progress through karate ranks

Devonport Karate Club has had two teenage siblings rise through the ranks, with one gaining his black belt and the other well on her way.

Alfonso and Eunice Banta have been training twice a week at the club, based in the Devonport Community House, since 2018.

Alfonso (14) has become the youngest of seven black belts at the club.

Sensei David Eaton said he has shown discipline and determination to achieve his 'Shodan' – the first black-belt rank.

Eunice (19), who has been training for a year less than her brother, has a brown belt and on track to get her Shodan in the next 12 months.

"These young guys are the future of karate. They'll keep it going, keep the flame alive," Eaton said.

To progress to a Shodan, students have to show proficiency in kihon (technique), kata (movements) and kumite (fighting).

Senior instructor Bret Sawyer said Alfonso and Eunice had shown great perseverance to earn their respective belts.

"Not one time in the years these guys have been training have they ever complained once, even at the most challenging times."

The Bantas moved with their family from Manila to Hauraki in 2017.

Alfonso, who is in year 9 at Takapuna Grammar School, said that some of his karate skills have helped him with his other



In the family... Alfonso (left) and Eunice Banta with senior instructor Bret Sawyer (left) and sensei David Eaton

pastime, drumming. "My arms have been getting way faster with karate."

He told the Flagstaff he would like to continue with karate to a high level, possibly starting a dojo of his own one day.

Sawyer said the skills learned in the dojo can be translated across other parts of a practitioner's life.

"Alfonso is a high achiever across various

things because of the character that's come from here.

"He's good creatively and academically. It's just discipline, really, and resilience that young people get from this stuff."

Eunice, who is a student at the University of Auckland, said she looks forward to karate each week as it helps release the tension and stress of study and work.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

An alternative path to owning real estate

New Zealanders have long favoured property ownership as a key part of their investment strategy, but with hefty down payments, many find themselves locked out of the market or unable to invest on their own.

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Industrial

The current scarcity of industrial land, rising building costs, a skills shortage in construction

and supply chain constraints are among the factors creating heightened demand for this asset class.

"The benefits of unlisted commercial property funds can be numerous for those looking for a long-term investment and stable returns over time."

Its investment appeal is characterised by low vacancy rates, solid occupier demand and the prospect of sustained rent increases with room for further growth.

In the industrial sector, Oyster's portfolio includes logistics, manufacturing and warehouse facilities.

Office

Despite discussions of the 'death of the office' following the pandemic, New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific region continue to see demand for high quality, sustainable office spaces.

Oyster's office portfolio is focused on well-located offices with quality on-site amenities and good transport links that meet the redefined needs of modern workspaces.

Housing a diverse range of tenants from SME's through to large multinationals, Oyster's

strategy is to ensure its assets continue to cater for evolving work practices while contributing to a more sustainable New Zealand, unlocking further value for tenants and investors.

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Let festivity commence! Devonport Santa



Well-prepared... A quartet of flag bearers headed a scouts group in the Devonport Santa Parade.
Below: Local 'Tagbuster Willie' Trevor Williams embraced the Christmas theme.



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Parade kicks off Christmas countdown



Make some noise... A Vauxhall School group helped raise everyone's spirits despite damp conditions. Below: Decorated old-school tractors towed some of the colourful parade participants.





Present and correct... Ezra Pretorius (6) with mum Natasha.



Top right: Dad Phil Newman with partner Emma and daughter Flo and son Oscar.

Right: (from left) Jane Loveday-Rhodes with son Zachary Loveday-Rhodes, Caroline Laband, Ruby Little-Codling, and Becky Little-Codling.



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The man himself... Santa came equipped for the glare, not the drizzle.

Above right: The excitement was all too much for shy Ella Ashford, with parents Paul and Kelly.

Right: (from left) Kate, Hanalei and Stewart Maiava put the finishing touches to the Stanley Bay School float.



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Feedback invited on planned parking constraints

Auckland Transport will soon seek public feedback on its plans to extend parking restrictions on residential streets in central Devonport.

Consultation will open this month, with results reported back to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board next year.

When AT briefed the board on its plans in July, members said they remained to be convinced of the need for the proposed residential parking zone and hoped residents would have their say.

Another plan is to impose metered parking of \$1 an hour on weekdays from 8am to 6pm on Queens Pde and the section of King Edward Pde between Buchanan and Church Sts.

Both measures are aimed at increasing parking turnover, partly to prompt people to consider how they travel, AT says.

The proposals follow a study which showed residential streets close to the town centre were often filled by all-day parkers.

AT wants to set 120-minute limits for free

parking in designated streets, although residents who opt to buy a \$70 annual parking permit per vehicle can park for longer.

Residents will also be able to apply for booklets containing 50 free coupons for their own use, or to pay \$5 for coupons that can be used for visitors and tradespeople.

Since these ideas were revealed, AT has followed up on a request from the local board to consult with the Devonport Business Association (DBA) and the Navy and to further investigate where those parked in Devonport are travelling from.

AT said trip-origin data showed 32 per cent of vehicles in the surveyed area came from within 5km, 9 per cent from 5-10km away, and 58 per cent from further than 10km.

Of the 22 businesses that responded to an online survey shared through the DBA, representing 148 people, driving alone was said to be the main mode of getting to work for 63 per cent, while 20 per cent drove with others.

A question on distance and time travelling

drew 108 responses, showing 51 per cent came from less than 5km away, and 36 per cent had a travel time of less than 10 minutes.

Forty-one per cent of the 87 who responded to a question on parking location used free on-street parking, with no time limits; 29 per cent had an onsite staff car park and 26 per cent used free but time-limited street parking.

Thirteen businesses said parking should be prioritised for customers/clients, six businesses did not answer on this aspect, and three felt staff should have priority.

AT says since 2018 it has had 13 requests for a permit-controlled residential zone. On top of this, submissions made during Devonport town-centre review consultation in 2020-21 included 30 saying residents should be exempt from zonal parking restrictions and 51 that side streets would become more clogged by its imposition. Illegal parking, which AT said might be worsening due to a lack of available parking, also prompted complaints.

Bollards or boulders planned to keep vehicles off reserve

Timber bollards or large boulders will be placed along the driveway at Fort Takapuna to deter people from driving vehicles onto the grass reserve above Narrow Neck Beach.

The fix was advanced by Auckland Council staff after public concern about cars on the reserve over the last few summers, but will not be in place this holiday season.

The cost is estimated at \$26,000 for boulders and \$42,000 for bollards, including a wire-mesh gate to allow access for mowing.

Council staff have also come up with options to deter motorists from doing wheelies on the loose gravel of the Fort Takapuna car park. They involve installing speed humps or concrete wheel stops or sealing the car

park with asphalt or concrete – at a cost of nearly \$400,000.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members told of the proposal at a workshop this month were unconvinced the as-yet unbudgeted expense was justified, telling staff to look further into the extent of the supposed problem.



4.9



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Wait goes on for decision on viability of Westwell stairs

Decisions on reinstating the public stairs near Westwell Rd washed out in last summer's storms are still several months away.

Damage was worse at the Belmont coastal site than first thought, Auckland Council's northern area operations manager, Sarah Jones, told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at a workshop last week.

"A whole section appears to be washed out at the bottom," she said. "So it may be we can't put back the stairs at that place."

February would be the earliest a report would be available due to resourcing and the wait for expert advice, she said in an overview of the coastal-consents work programme.

Options to be worked through would include what the community might expect or tolerate and where funds for a rebuild might come from. Questions to be asked included: "Is it a sensible place to put back a very expensive set of stairs; can the community cope without, and are there better options?"

A similar process was under way regarding washed-out stairs at Kennedy Park in Castor Bay.

Jones said gaining consents in coastal areas of known risk was a factor to be considered, as was the cost of the consents process itself, which could be up to \$100,000.

The first report to board members next year would include "high-level" estimates of costs, she said.

Detailed design and consents implications would then be considered before a safe indication of costs could be made.

Quizzed on the time being taken to assess fixes from events of 10 months ago, she outlined the extent of work across the city, saying priority had been given to the likes of cliff collapses with health and safety implications.

Deputy board chair Terence Harpur said the community was pushing the board for answers on assets they enjoyed using.

Jones said that while the stairs were popular, "It's just a set of stairs, and there are other ways down to the coast."

Board members were worried the area might miss out on being able to tap into a city-wide \$13-million storm-recovery budget for work in the community in the 2023-24 year.

Chair Toni van Tonder also wondered if simple projects were likely to get prioritised ahead of the complexities of the two sets of coastal stairs.

Jones said staff hoped some of the special budget money, if unspent, could be rolled over to next financial year. A coastal team manager, Natasha Carpenter, said staff wanted to get as many projects committed by June as possible.

She said six project managers were currently engaged in storm-recovery work for Devonport-Takapuna and the neighbouring Kaipatiki board. She was also looking to assign a project co-ordinator to make their jobs easier. "A lot of work is happening," she said.

This included work under way now on retaining walls at Milford Marina and the completion of four sets of concrete steps down to Milford Beach.

In Devonport, beams and bolts were to be replaced on the wharf at Torpedo Bay. Board member George Wood asked about the condition of Victoria Wharf, where the William C Daldy had been berthed, and was told a project was in the pipeline to assess this.

Drawn-out council timetables prompt calls for urgency

Eighteen months is the usual time for getting a complex project up and running, says Auckland Council's northern area operations manager, Sarah Jones.

This allowed for options to be drawn up, decisions made and consenting undertaken, she said.

Jones was responding to questions from Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members about flood-response rebuilds, including stairs to the coast washed out last summer opposite Westwell Rd in Belmont and at Kennedy Park.

"There's no way we would have been ready to do it within a year," said Jones. "We

put aside 18 months for complex decisions."

Board member Gavin Busch said in business he would not accept that.

He doubted private projects took as long to work through as those at council. "Let's get on with it."

Other board members also urged more urgency.

Mel Powell asked if the council was open to public-private partnerships to get things going, and suggested the stairs could be a candidate for this.

Partnerships were an option, said Jones, pointing to the private funders of Takapuna playground upgrades, but she said the stairs

involved other issues, including assessing the stability of the area.

"If the community decided they wanted to help fund the stairs that would be great, but we would still need to go through a rigorous process," she said.

The general manager of the council's resilient land and coasts section, Paul Klinac, said if more severe weather events were to be expected the first conversation had to be about whether assets should be replaced or needed extra engineering.

In some coastal areas, discussions were being had about removing structures no longer seen as viable, he said.



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Defence experts help inspire 'science thinking'

Turning children and the community onto the creativity of science is one of the aims of a new exhibition at the Navy Museum in Devonport. It features the work of Belmont Intermediate School (BIS) Year 7 students developed in collaboration with museum educators and scientists from the Defence Force science and technology agency housed at the Navy Base.

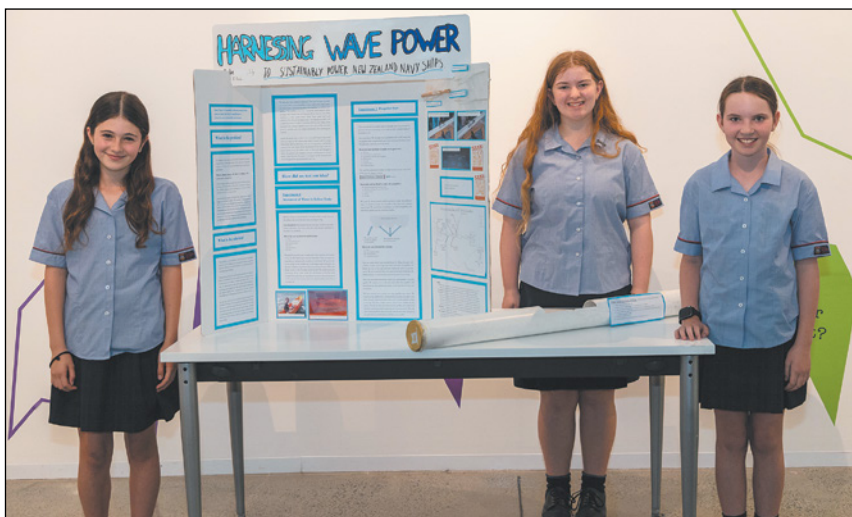
Three girls whose joint project features in Operation Science said the work they did had really engaged them.

"I had kind of just thought it [science] was about chemicals – not about creating things," Leah Thumath told the Flagstaff.

With Lily Hall and Emilie Grainger, she enjoyed the challenge of coming up with ideas, then testing them, in their project about using wave energy to more sustainably power some ship functions.

The 11-year-old girls were "very proud" their display board was chosen to go on show in the museum's atrium.

Two Defence Science and Technology (DST) scientists involved in adding "science thinking" to the work done by more than 100 students over Term 3 said the girls' project was particularly clever and used



Smart science... BIS students (from left) Leah Thumath, Lily Hall and Emilie Grainger with their Operation Science project about using wave power on naval ships

basic physics.

Fifty-six projects in total explore the use of technology to enhance human performance, with all case studies relating to

the Navy's role in Antarctica. The projects are on display until April in the museum's rear classroom space, with a painted trail showing visitors the way.

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SEAMLESS DESIGN

One of the key measures of success for any new kitchen is how well it fits in with the home and the family it has been designed for.

This kitchen, in a period Auckland house overlooking a leafy reserve, is a perfect example of how good design can introduce modern functionality and technology and at the same time blend in with – and even enhance – the original features of the home.

The home, for a busy family of four, has board-and-batten features throughout, which inspired the use of timber as a decorative detail in the new kitchen, says designer Marianne Gailer from Kitchens By Design. “There was also a long list of practical requests from my clients, not least improving the workflow of the original cramped space by introducing defined zones so both parents could cook and prep together.

“They also wanted a display area for family heirlooms, seating for their two teenage boys and improved seating in the dining area, additional bench space in the cooking area and last, but not least, a wine fridge.”

By repositioning the existing oven tower, more bench space was created along the kitchen’s back wall, and a pull-out pantry and pull-out oil-and-spice rack are now practically located in its place. The kitchen ‘peninsula’ was moved closer to the dining, creating clear cooking and cleaning zones. “The

boys now have their seats for homework at the peninsula, and I also suggested built-in window seats to improve their dining seating and to give them more storage options.

“An existing feature that couldn’t be moved was the structural post, so we incorporated it into the peninsula and clad it in an antique-bronze mirror to help blend it in,” says Marianne. The same style mirror defines the bar area with the requested wine fridge below and a glass cabinet above to show off the beautiful collection of classic soda makers and glassware. A second pantry, with pocket doors and bench space for small appliances, clears the walk-through between the kitchen and the rest of the home.

The colour scheme and LED lighting create the desired atmosphere, especially in the evening. Marianne says the whole family is amazed at the result and calls it their new favourite room in the house.

Marianne Gailer is an Elite Designer of the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association and part of the experienced team at Kitchens By Design offering an integrated design-to-completion service.

If you’re looking for a new kitchen, please call T: 09 379 3084 to make an appointment with one of their designers. Kitchens By Design’s showroom is located at 9 Melrose Street, Newmarket. For inspiration, take a look at some fabulous projects at www.kitchensbydesign.co.nz



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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

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2023 Senior Prizegiving

Our annual Senior Prizegiving was another successful event held in the heart of the school. With students, staff and parents in attendance, the weather behaved, and allowing for a wonderful celebration of achievement. A spine-tingling powhiri opened the ceremony, which was also accompanied by musical performances and our school haka. Principal, Mary Nixon, Presiding BOT Member Andrew Baker and Head Prefects Liam Arthur-Hunt and Lily Murphy delivered speeches summarising what a fantastic year it has been.

A special congratulations goes to Sofia Drew, our Dux for 2023.

Our major award winners were:

Cleverdon Cup	All Round Effort & School Spirit in Year 11	Rhian Gates
White Cup	All Round Effort & School Spirit in Year 12	Natia Tsulaia
Spooner Cup	Best School Spirit Overall in Year 13	Anishka Sherlock
June Spooner Award	Academic Excellence Level 1	Amy McKenzie
June Spooner Award	1st in Year 11 - Multi Level	Dagyeong (Sophia) Yang
June Spooner Award	2nd in Year 11 - Multi Level	Gavin Wu
June Spooner Award	Academic Excellence Level 2	Junsung (Robert) Park
June Spooner Award	1st in Year 12 - Multi Level	Bill An
June Spooner Award	2nd in Year 12 - Multi Level	Maia Madsen Brough
Top Scholar Award	Top Scholar Award	Pearl Nicholson
Summa Cum Laude	Academic Excellence Year 13	Alisa Howden
	Academic Excellence Year 13	Margot Pettitt
	Academic Excellence Year 13	Liberty Beck
	Academic Excellence Year 13	Qitong (Amy) Xiang
June Spooner Award	Proxime Accessit	Joseph McKibbin
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The Dux Cup	Dux of the School	Sofia Drew



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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Screwdriver-wielding youths commit two aggravated robberies in Devonport along with a violent assault, though police say they are too busy to attend and tell victims they should report the crimes to the Takapuna station
- A group of young boys – Harry Kieman, Jack Larsen, Ben Newton, Jonathan Ranford, Tom Newton, Andrew Ranford and Michael Ellis – vow to fight a council ruling to take down a tree hut they built on a local reserve.
- Vicki Gibson receives a North Shore City Council civic award after teaching at Vauxhall School for two decades then working for the community.
- An \$830,000 budget to rebuild Devonport

Library raises eyebrows when the figure is reported to the Devonport Community Board.

- Devonport boardsailor Tom Ashley wins the Mistral youth and junior world championships in Mexico.

• Jacko Gill of Devonport Primary wins the eight-year-old boys 70-metre sprint at the Peninsula Primary Schools athletic champs. He also wins the eight-year-old boys shot-put.

• Three terraced apartments are planned for Clarence St, raising concerns for Devonport Heritage.

• North Shore Cricket Club lose the Auckland one-day final to Grafton in the last over of the match.

Classifieds

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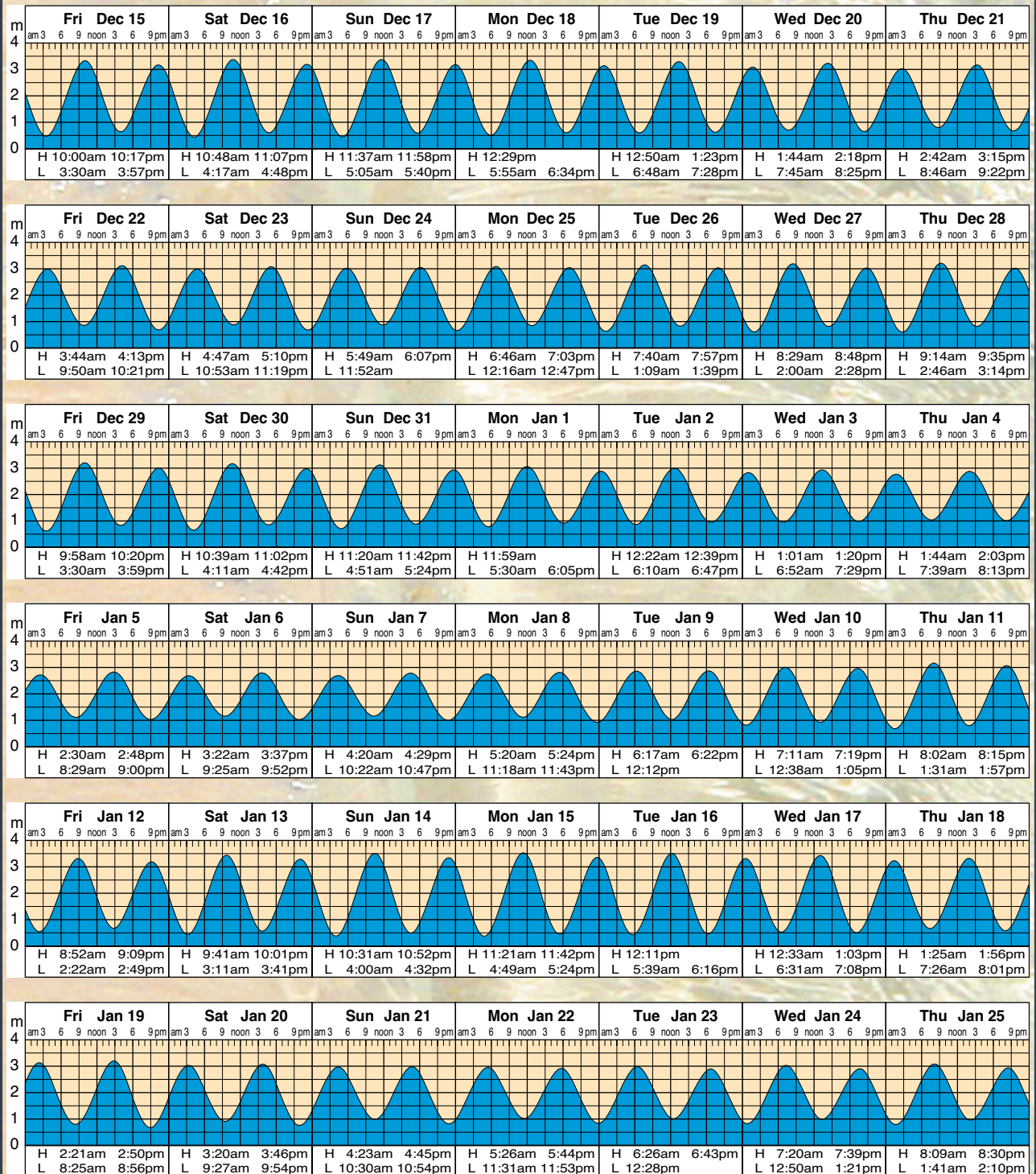


SECURE HOMES

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Doctor channels hospice stories in fictional debut

Devonport doctor Eugenia Romboli enjoys writing as a creative outlet from her demanding job in palliative care – although for her first published book she has drawn heavily on her work experience.

“I’m inspired by what I do and things I’ve seen,” she says of work at Harbour Hospice in Takapuna that at times can be gruelling.

“In my job I get to know a lot of stories,” she says. While not sharing what actual patients in end-of-life care and their families have said, she has drawn inspiration from those she has met and the conversations that ensue.

“You get to know people who have done amazing things in their lives.”

Her book, written in her first language, Spanish, is not a memoir but a short novel that focuses on those in situations not dissimilar to her own.

The Argentina-born doctor has specialised in palliative care for 15 years, first in Spain and since 2016 in New Zealand. She moved here from Barcelona with her English partner specifically for the hospice job.

He had visited the country four years earlier, and particularly liked the look of Devonport, so they settled happily here with their two boys.

One son, aged 10, is at Devonport Primary School, and the other, aged 19, is a student at the University of Auckland.

“We have no thoughts of going anywhere

– it’s quite a special spot,” Romboli says.

Hailing originally from Mendoza, she began her medical career in general practice, but finds her current role as Hospice’s North Shore medical team leader more rewarding.

“It’s the human connection that drew me to the work,” she says. “It’s quite emotive. There’s moments that are very hopeful.”

She also wants to get across that doctors and nurses carry a burden of responsibility, but find satisfaction in helping people have their wishes recognised.

“The feedback we get from families is it’s more than just physical care – and that’s what we try to do.” Colleagues and patients are curious about her recently published book, she says.

“They all want to read it and are asking, when you are going to translate it?”

Published in Spain, it is available on Amazon. She and her partner plan to have it translated, hoping to gain a wider audience.

Romboli says she writes in Spanish because she finds it easier to convey emotional nuance. She has dabbled in short stories on and off for around 10 years, but began the novel last year. “I get a lot of joy out of it – I wish I had more time.”

The self-described obsessive reader is already working on her next novel, which also draws on her experiences in helping people.

Set in Argentina, it examines the lives of vulnerable young people living on the street.



Published in Spain... Eugenia Romboli plans to have her novel translated into English

RESPECT

THE ARETHA FRANKLIN STORY

“WE LEFT ON SUCH A HIGH!”

The electrifying show **RESPECT** journeys through Aretha Franklin’s courageous life of love, tragedy and triumph, while showcasing her greatest hits over the last 50 years!

Starring Australia’s ‘Soul Mama’, Angie Narayan, **RESPECT** is a masterful piece of storytelling about family, loyalty and victory, layered with glorious harmonies and sassy repartee. Joining Angie on stage are performers, Ezekiel Narayan, Shelley Davies and the incredible Faith Sosene, The Voice Season 11 runner up, together with an electric band!

Taking you back to the 1960s, you’ll explore her childhood, the church, meeting her Husband, the Civil Rights Movement and the profound impact the song **RESPECT** had on the world! ‘Natural Woman’, ‘Say A Little Prayer’ and ‘Son of a Preacher Man’ are just a taste of Aretha’s classics you can expect! Moving into the 70s and 80s, ‘Sisters are Doin it for Themselves’ and ‘Freeway of Love’ are just some of the hits guaranteed to have you up dancing out of your seat! There is one big surprise near the end of the show that no one expects but has people literally in tears!

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WHAT'S ON @ Devonport Library

Merry Christmas Meri Kirihimete

Wishing you and your families all the joy of this season and very happy holidays to all.

Auckland libraries will remain open throughout December and January (only closing on the public holidays) so you won't miss out on any chance to stock up on those holiday books and beach reads.

The only days we will be closed:

- **Christmas Day** (25 Dec): All libraries, research & community centres are closed
- **Boxing Day** (26 Dec): All closed except Botany Library
- **New Year's Day** (1 Jan): All closed except Botany Library
- **Day after New Year's Day** (2 Jan): All closed except Botany Library.

Something to note for the New Year: We are making some small changes to our hours from February 3rd 2024. On Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday we will close half an hour earlier.

NEW OPENING HOURS WILL BE:

- Monday: 9am-5.30pm
- Tuesday: 9am-5.30pm
- Wednesday: 9am-5pm
- Thursday: 9am-5pm
- Friday: 9am-5pm
- Saturday: 9.30am-5pm
- Sunday: 9.30am-5pm

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER -2PM

Come and enjoy some festive music with a performance from Beautiful Noise, a local community choir who will get us singing along to some old favourites.

Happy Holidays to all
Kia Pai Ngā Hararei ki a Koutou
and Happy New Year ...
Ngā Mihi o te Tau Hou

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LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Depot Artspace stalwarts launch new



Local flavour... An artwork at the new gallery – a depiction of the Esplanade Hotel by Martin Law. Opposite: Linda Blincko and Lynn Lawton (and Griffon Mia) at the gallery beneath the RSA in Victoria Rd

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Victoria Rd gallery

Devonport has a new art gallery, Satellite 2, run by familiar local faces Linda Blincko and Lynn Lawton.

The couple – who both spent decades running the Depot Artspace before dividing their time for the last few years between Devonport and Rawene, in the Hokianga – say reaction since their low-key opening last week has been heartening. “It’s a great thing being part of the community again,” says Blincko.

Old friends and curious visitors have popped by and some sales made.

The gallery is in a space under the RSA in Victoria Rd which was previously a clothes shop. Walls have been relined, creating an impressive 18 metres of white display space.

Eleven artists are featured currently, including some from the Far North, where the couple own a restored church and are selling a gallery cafe they have had for 10 years.

The four-hour trip for one or both of them to check in regularly on the Hokianga business has made them decide to focus primarily on Devonport, which Blincko has called home for 40 years and Lawton for 30. “We wanted to be able to do something together again,” says Lawton. Their 15-year-old griffon, Mia, acts as a welcoming committee at the door. “She’s very happy to be back in a gallery,” says Blincko.

Blincko is relishing working with artists she has long known and introducing new names to local audiences. From established figures such as Frank Womble and Geoff Thomson to emerging artists such as Carolyn Lye, who works with found materials, and Michelle Morunga, who daintily transforms pohutukawa leaves with embroidery, the range of styles and concepts is wide.

Locals might be particularly interested in the work of Martin Law, who has had several shows featuring heritage buildings and vistas in Devonport.



VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE VIC TEAM!

NOW SHOWING

Wonka (PG) 116min	NEW
The Boy and the Heron (PG) 124min	NEW
Next Goal Wins (PG) 104min	NEW
Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (M) 169min	NEW
Trolls Band Together (G) 91min	NEW

COMING SOON

Dunki (TBA) 160min	21 DEC
All of Us Strangers (TBA) 105 min	Previews 23 DEC
Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (M) 123min	26 DEC
Migration (PG) 91min	26 DEC
One Life (PG) 110min	26 DEC
Wish (PG) 95min	26 DEC
Dream Scenario (R13) 102min	1 JAN
Poor Things (R18) 142min	1 JAN
The Boys in the Boat (M) 124min	4 JAN
Ferrari (TBA) 130min	4 JAN
The Holdovers (TBA) 133min	11 JAN

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Set on a 845sqm (approx) beach front position sits this striking north facing residence designed by Sumich Architects which boasts a substantial floor area. The atrium-style entrance flows to the kitchen, living, and dining areas, with easy access to the beach. Four bedrooms on the upper level include a master suite with stunning views. The property offers a substantial basement garage, recent renovations, and is a rare find in a prime location.

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VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

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RICHARD MILNE 021 770 611 OFFICE 916 6000



TAKAPUNA | 1904/3 NORTHCROFT STREET
Up Where You Belong | The Sentinel



Perched high on the 19th floor, this northwest corner apartment exudes elegance with breathtaking views. Featuring 2 ensuited bedrooms, a spacious layout, and a deck overlooking Lake Pupuke and the Hauraki Gulf, every moment here is a picturesque escape. Impeccably maintained, it offers world-class amenities like a 25m pool, landscaped areas, BBQ stations, and more. Experience the ease of central Takapuna living with nearby conveniences, including 2 carparks and ample storage.

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WARKWORTH | 73 VALERIE CLOSE
Luxury Lifestyle | Zoned Future Urban



Explore Borgo di Chianti: a luxurious Tuscan retreat by Matakana Wine Trail. Set against the Mahurangi River's picturesque backdrop, this sustainable farmlet blends tranquility, luxury, and natural allure. The main house offers 4 bedrooms, a wine cellar, and more. A spacious barn, pétanque court, and lush orchard complement the property. With an equestrian arena and paddocks, it's a haven for both nature lovers and equine enthusiasts. Future urban zoning enhances its investment allure amidst serene surroundings.

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Waiheke Island Winery for Sale



Poderi Crisci is a beautiful 7.7ha (almost 20 acres) property in two Titles with around 2.5ha planted in vines, a 4 bedroom farmhouse with attached winery, and the acclaimed Poderi Crisci Italian restaurant and La Locanda deli/wine bar at its romantic heart. Poderi Crisci will transport you to idyllic Tuscany with its parterre and potager gardens, elegant pencil conifers, olive trees and rows of grape vines radiating away.

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