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AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Memorial plaques may go from maunga... p8

Ferry frequency lifting from mid-year... p10

Interview: Chathams fan Jocelyn Powell... p26-27

Peninsula rubbish-bin cull raises litter worries

More than a quarter of public rubbish bins on the Devonport peninsula will be gone in a week or two.

A region-wide cull – adopted by Auckland Council as a cost-saving measure – stepped up locally in the last few weeks.

Residents have questioned the wisdom of removing bins from the waterfront and other popular areas for walking, where litter might easily reach the sea.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area is losing more than 28 per cent of its bins, with the scale of the removals only being revealed in response to questions from the Flagstaff.

Council area operations manager Sarah Jones said 148 bins would be removed, leaving 373.

Councillors voted for the service reduction

as part of the council's annual budget savings target.

The staged 30 per cent reduction across the city, which began in November last year, will finish by mid-April, but all the removals in Devonport-Takapuna are expected to be completed by 11 March.

Jones said the "bin optimisation" project was

To page 2

Lily's just chillin' at the club



Wake me up when it's over... Three-month-old Lily McMillan, with parents Zoe and Cory, took a relaxed approach at the opening of North Shore United's refurbished clubrooms and outdoor area. Story and more photos, page 22.



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Bin reductions 'could save \$9.5 million in eight years'

From page 1

to save ratepayers' money. It had the potential to save \$9.5 million over the next eight financial years.

"We won't be providing savings figures for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area as they are commercially sensitive," she said.

The criteria guiding sites chosen for bin removal were:

- Where bins were historically under-utilised, meaning they were often empty when contractors went to empty them.
- Sites in low-use neighbourhood parks or low-use sections of parks.
- Sites with a natural setting such as bush and wetland parks, where users were more likely to 'pack in, pack out' their rubbish.
- Sites where bins were not near other infrastructure.

Council would work with the local board to review any areas where issues might arise, Jones said.

Bins that were removed but still in good condition would be recycled.

Four of the city's 21 local boards had opted to top up funding from their budgets to retain bins, she said. Devonport-Takapuna was not among them.

At a workshop last week on services provided to council by contractor Ventia, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members asked about how bin removals were being managed.

Acting board chair Terence Harpur asked Jones what happened "if we are finding there



is an issue and we need to put one back".

Jones said it would take the community time to adjust.

If a bin had been removed from the wrong location, the council would have to see if it could move one back in from elsewhere.

In some cases larger bins might be needed, she said

Board member Gavin Busch said more signs should be put up to tell people to take their rubbish away if council was not going to do this.

"Cost is always the problem," replied Jones. Another issue was that people did not always read signs.

• Tell us if you see overflowing bins

The Flagstaff is keen to hear about the impact of the bin reduction policy. If areas have obvious ongoing litter issues, let us know and we will follow up with council.

Email news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz

Playing politics around Lake Rd funding

North Shore's two Auckland councillors have cast doubt on a remark in Parliament last week by the Minister of Transport Simeon Brown that Lake Rd might be a beneficiary of remaining Regional Fuel Text (RFT) money.

Cr Chris Darby said the Minister was playing politics in holding up hope of the

\$47m upgrade proceeding. In reality it was "dead in the water".

Cr Richard Hills said by the time remaining RFT funds were allocated to priorities, nothing would be left for road corridor improvements.

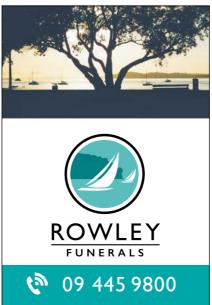
The RFT tax – axed by the Government as part of its post-election 100-day action

plan – was used for Auckland Transport (AT) projects and its removal leaves a large whole in city transport funding. Lake Rd was all but dead anyway, except as a long-term line budget item the councillors hoped to revive, with Government transport agency and cofunder Waka Kotahi having last year questioned its business case. See column p 14



NEXT ISSUE: March 22

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: March 15





Return after nasty injury unlocks title ambitions

North Shore Rugby Club hooker Lockie McNair hopes the premiers can go back-to-back this season with a repeat their 2023 championship triumph as he makes his return from a badly broken ankle.

McNair suffered a compound fracture during Shore's eighth game last year, when he was caught at the bottom of a maul.

The ankle bone pierced the skin, meaning McNair had to be operated on that night due to the high risk of infection. Screws and a plate were inserted into his ankle.

The injury took him out of the rest of Shore's march to the North Harbour title but, after eight weeks in a cast and six months of rehabilitation, he is back at full fitness, training with the team and primed for the season ahead. "It's been nice to be back part of it and get stuck in."

McNair said the team looks different this year, with some young local talent, including former Takapuna Grammar School players, coming through Shore's age-group sides.

But he's confident the club can repeat last year's success. "The young guys have slotted in really nicely. I think we'll hopefully be a little more mobile and agile," he said. "We're going to be a little bit different, but I think that's exciting."

McNair captained Takapuna Grammar's First XV to a shared North Harbour title in 2018, after a draw with Westlake Boys High School in the final.

He attended Lincoln University on a rugby scholarship and played for Canterbury's development side before returning to play for North Shore.

Watching the club win the title last year gave him "itchy feet" to be out on the pitch and do the same this season, he said.

"It was obviously pretty cool to still be a part of it but definitely the hardest bit was the boys going so well and just having to watch."



Bouncing back... Lockie McNair is back from serious injury to help North Shore defend its North Harbour title

The ankle break was his first major injury, and being physically inactive was a challenge. "I really like the competitive side of the training so being stuck at home watching telly was pretty tricky."

Support from family, teammates, coaches and his partner had been vital in his rehabilitation, said McNair.

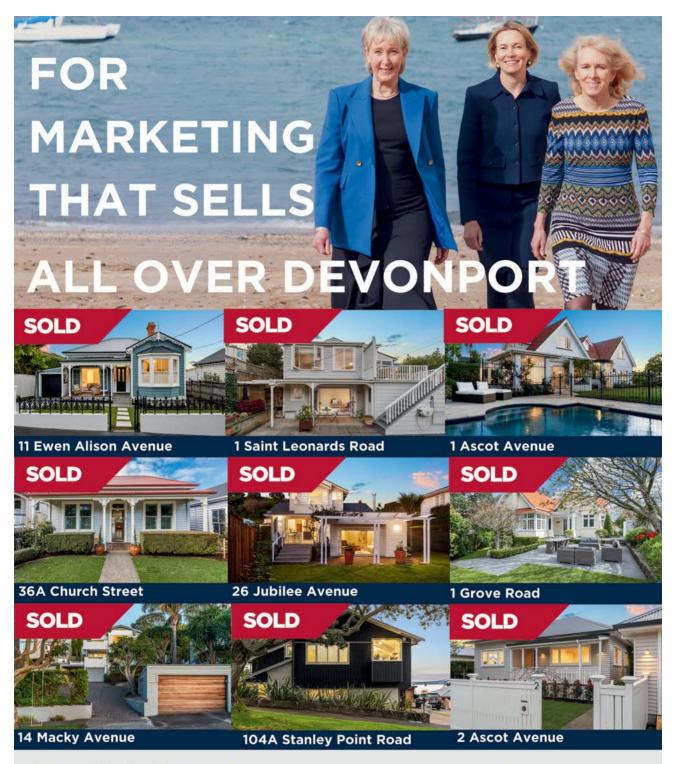
"It's been pretty cool to overcome and I think it made me appreciate being out there and being fit."

Along with retaining the premiership title, McNair hopes to make Harbour's National Provincial Championship side. "I would really love to make that Harbour setup this year and push on like some of the guys did last year. That would be the big goal."

His first step though is playing good rugby for Shore.

Playing for the premiers is a huge honour, he says, having played for the club since he was "a little kid".





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Listings reprieve granted for five heritage buildings

Five prominent Devonport buildings have had their A-listings as Historic Heritage Places listings retained after previous threats of a downgrade.

They are:

- The Mays Building at 15 Victoria Rd built for Oliver Mays in 1882, designed by Edward Bartley and considered the iconic architectural centrepiece of Devonport's main St
- The Devonia Building at 61 Victoria Rd, built in 1926 and designed in an Art Deco style by Sholto Smith now home to the RSA and with its shop fronts still largely intact.
- 9 Mays St, the magnificent home built in 1907 for Oliver Mays, considered the 'founding father' of Devonport. The design of the double-height verandahs, the scale and proportions of the house and the intricate cast-iron filigree elements demonstrate very high aesthetic values.
- Duder House, 11 Church St, built in the 1860s for Thomas Duder, an early Devonport settler and signalman. With its high gables and steeply pitched roofs, it displays a relatively rare use of the Victorian Gothic style in New Zealand domestic architecture.
- St Paul's Church, 100 Victoria Rd, is an exceptional example of the arts & crafts style, built in 1916.

Under a review of historic places by Auckland Council, the buildings had been on a list to be downgraded to a B listing.

Devonport Heritage co-chair Margot McRae said she was delighted with the decision by an independent hearings panel on the plan change which sought to make amendments to the Auckland-wide schedule of Historic Heritage places.

Only 198 of the 2273 places on the schedule are to remain as A Historic Heritage places. The rest are on the B schedule.

"We are thrilled that through the great work of our heritage architect, Jackie Gillies, we were able to convince the panel to reject



Relisted... The Mays Building (above) remains an A-category heritage building, while the former Post Office and BNZ buildings (at right) are now B-rated

Auckland's Council's downgrading of these places and keep them on the A list," said McRae.

"To do that we had to argue that they were of "outstanding significance well beyond their immediate environs", which is the criteria for being on the A schedule."

Several other Devonport buildings were already on the A schedule, including the Esplanade Hotel, the Victoria Theatre, Elizabeth House and Rockcliffe on King Edward Pde, and Rotherham House in Rutland Rd.

The significant Devonport buildings which were previously A listed but were downgraded on the final list are:

- Alison's Buildings at 73-79 Victoria Rd.
- The former Bank of New Zealand at 14 Victoria Rd (now occupied by The Patriot pub).
 - The former Post Office at 10 Victoria Rd.
- The former Devonport Post Office and former Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd.
- The former shop and Porterhouse Blue Restaurant at 58 Calliope Rd.
- The former Dudding's Store at 335 Lake Rd, Hauraki Corner.





RBNZ on hold but for how long...

RBNZ held the OCR at 5.50% last week and unless something unusual happens it looks like this rate hike cycle is over. Every bit of anecdotal and economic data is pointing towards a downturn in economic activity and a rise in unemployment over the next 6 to 12mths. If this plays out as many expect then we may see OCR rate cuts later this year.

Some banks have already cut short-term fixed rates prior to this announcement because demand has slowed quite considerably for all forms of borrowing - ANZs bizarre call for rate hikes was hard to understand and at odds with most of the market. The property market is still slowish with variable prices, some selling above July 2021 CV and others below.

We are seeing 7.05% in the favoured 6mth term, 6.89% for 12mths and 6.89% for 18mths. Most are keeping their rollover shorter in term with expectations of inevitable cuts. Speak to us for any rollovers though as these rates are well below the rack rates.

Mortgage advice. Check with us first.





Contact Mike Simpson on 021 283 8040 or mike.simpson@mortgagesupply.co.nz or contact Richard Trounson on 027 580 1004 or richard.trounson@mortgagesupply.co.nz

We give mortgage advice through our company Trounson Financial Services Ltd Disclosure Statements are on our website: simpsontrounson.co.nz

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Memorial plaques may go from maunga

Memorial plaques on Takarunga may be removed during upgrades on the summit.

Among the plaques is one laid by the Devonport RSA in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

Several others are on park benches that the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA) intends to replace with new seating.

The TMA has a policy to phase out personal memorial plaques across the maunga it manages across Auckland, although those of wider significance are considered separately.

A spokesperson said it would be guided by the policy, but would contact relevant parties in advance of works commencing.

The RSA told the Flagstaff it had heard nothing to date. "I'm waiting for them to contact me," said president Muzz Kennett. "I'd hope it would remain."

The TMA is still awaiting planning consent for removal of the main car park on the summit and other changes, including clearing a thicket of trees by the nearby smaller car park, which will remain for service and emergency vehicles. Auckland Council supports the work, which is expected to proceed.

In the meantime, Kennett said he intends researching a little more of the history of the VE Day plaque, including whether a pōhutukawa tree in front of it was also planted by the RSA.

"If they said [in RSA minutes], 'We'll plant a tree and put a plaque in front of it,'



For the chop...Trees on Takarunga summit slated for removal to improve views

then I'd like to think [the TMA] would talk to us about it."

The TMA spokesperson told the Flagstaff that the trees it had identified in its planning application to be removed or transplanted were tī kouka, pōhutukawa, and karo.

The application said they were planted about 30 years ago and would be removed to create better views to Rangitoto. They would be replaced by new planting and landscaping.

"Tree and vegetation removal in this area facilitates a minor extension of the existing [small] car park and ensures that [Fire and Emergency New Zealand] vehicles have adequate access to the tihi in the event of an emergency," the spokesperson said. "If our project arborist confirms it possible and a suitable area is found, we will look to transplanting some of the native species including the pohutukawa."

An area of 143sqm of low-level planting was proposed in this area, with a further 173sqm of low-level planting proposed across the tihi. This includes species such as rengarenga, mania, pukio, haumata, turutu and petipeti. The eight specimen trees also to be planted on the maunga would be taraire, karaka, pōhutukawa and puriri.





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Within just 13 days of being listed, this charming 1950s duplex home in a tranquil cul-de-sac garnered significant attention, attracting a total of 42 interested buyers. The property has now been successfully sold!

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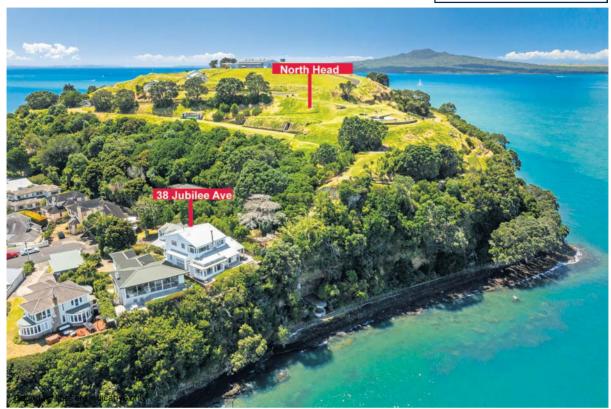
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Ferry timetable to return to pre-Covid level

Peak-time ferry sailings between Devonport and the city will increase from half-hourly to every 20 minutes from mid-year.

Auckland Transport (AT) says it is also working on better connections between buses and ferries to coincide with the increased ferry frequency.

The changes will be introduced in June-July, with a target date of 24 June, said AT director of public transport Stacey van der Putten.

News of the improved frequency emerged at a ferry-terminal meeting called last week by North Shore MP Simon Watts, who sought responses to complaints he has been fielding about the ferry service from local residents.

Senior representatives from AT and ferry operator Fullers turned up, along with North Shore ward councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder.

Watts said many of the complaints he was hearing were about cruise-ship disruptions to

the ferry. "The feedback I am getting is the really big frustration that every time a cruise ship comes in we cancel ferries."

He wanted assurances this was being tackled. (See story, opposite page)

Van Tonder called for better communications about cancellations

Van der Putten acknowledged ferry disruptions had been "diabolical for some people". While there had been some issues with cruise ships pre-Covid, these had been compounded since by ferry staffing and reliability issues, both of which were being addressed, she said.

In January, service reliability was at 92 per cent, with trip cancellations down to 40 from a higher level in December, she said. Ferry use was also up.

Van der Putten said the return to 20-minute ferry trips – using two ferries on the Devonport-to-city run, rather than relying on one vessel sailing every 30 minutes – would also ease congestion and flow through to better

bus connections.

Watts said using the "beautiful blue highway" across the harbour had to be made easier, because public-transport use could ease traffic congestion on Lake Rd.

He wanted to know why ferries could not navigate around cruise ships, but was told by Fullers the current caused by ship thrusters meant safety restrictions were required.

Watts was also told new ferries ordered by AT, with wider doors in the middle of the vessels, would provide easier access than those Fullers operates.

He echoed a local-board request for a fare-free day to deliver more cruise-ship benefits to Devonport shops, but AT gave no commitment to offer this.

Hills asked Watts to advocate to government for children to continue travelling free with adult family members on public transport. When this ended in April he expected public transport usage to drop.

Plans for new Bayswater terminal still mired in uncertainty

Auckland Transport says it remains committed to building a new ferry terminal at Bayswater – but it will be a long-term project.

Improvements have been promised at the existing berth on marina land, however, with pontoon upgrades planned in 12 to 24 months to accommodate new ferries.

The possibility of the long-mothballed terminal being back on the infrastructure agenda emerged in the briefing on ferry services by AT to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members last week.

Members wanted more detail and certainty, especially with construction work for apartments looming on the marina land.

They sought clarity on future bus access to ferries through the development site.

Member Gavin Busch asked if the ferries would continue to run during construction.

AT's programme director for the low-emission ferries programme, Nathan Cammock, said they would, as set down under the development's resource-consent conditions.

"We're really keen to retain the service at Bayswater," he said. As was the marina operator, he added. AT and the marina company were working together on upgrades. "The intention is to proceed with the new terminal."

Funding had been sought under council's Long Term Plan, he said. AT wanted a central government contribution as well.

AT's lease on the marina berth expires in 2031. Cammock said it would formally assess the need for a terminal and engage with the marina owner on future plans.

A dredging consent AT had obtained for work at Bayswater expired at the end of last

year, Cammock said. The dredging was not funded so work did not proceed.

Member George Wood said the expiry was disappointing. "Bayswater is going to be a big terminal for public transport in the future, with all the development there and in Belmont."

AT needed to "put a stake in the ground and give us a layout down there", Wood said. Bus access and the future of underground fuel tanks on council land needed to be clarified.

"The community wants to know what's going to happen there, not just the next three years, but the next 10."

Frequency of ferry services in peak hour was also raised.

"From seven services in peak to three now, it's a bit of a con job there," Wood said.



Electric ferry coming but AT grilled on reliability

Plans are on track for Devonport to be served by a purpose-built, hybrid-electric ferry by the middle of next year.

But frustrations remain about the reliability, frequency and capacity of the downtown-Devonport service.

One of four ferries (two hybrid and two fully electric) that Auckland Transport (AT) has under construction would be put on the downtown-Devonport route in mid-2025, AT told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

A second hybrid-electric vessel should be on the Devonport run in 2026.

Both are being built in Whanganui by Q-West. They will run as fully electric services, with charging at Pier 2 of the downtown terminal.

The new ferries will have space for 300 passengers and around 28 bikes, with bikes stored in the cabin. Doorways will be wider than on existing ferries, and without raised door sills.

Local-board members were quick to make more-pressing queries about ferry reliability, frequency and capacity, however.

They also sought assurances on the future of the Bayswater run.

"Ferries are incredibly important to our community – when they stop, all hell breaks loose in Devonport," acting board chair Ter-

ence Harpur told AT officials.

Cruise ships causing delays to commuter services and other timetable disruptions were raised.

Member Gavin Busch said he knew "a number of people who have stopped using them [the ferries] over summer" due to cruise ship disruption.

AT said it was looking to raise with the Ports of Auckland the need for cruise ships to be tied up before 6.30am.

Its programme director for the low-emissions ferries programme, Nathan Cammock, acknowledged current reliability issues, including contracted services not having returned to pre-Covid levels, but said progress was being made at Fullers, with more crew being hired and trained.

AT was taking on more direct running of its services and looking to standardise its fleet, rather than having so many vessels with differing configurations, said Cammock. It currently had 27 vessels run by four operators.

Of four diesel vessels AT bought from Fullers and refitted with modern diesel engines, two (Wanderer and Starflyte) were back in service, he said. The others (Tirikat and D5) were due for sea trials soon. All four vessels were leased back to Fullers until 2028

Some Auckland ferries were nearing the

end of their lives, which was about 25 years, Cammock said, although new carbon-fibre vessels might last longer.

Introducing the new hybrid and electric vessels would help lower carbon emissions, he said. Although ferries carried just six per cent of Auckland's public transport passengers, they contributed 20 per cent of its public-transport greenhouse-gas emissions.

Busch noted the new ferries would be 300-seaters whereas the Kea formerly on the service could take 400-plus passengers. Electric buses also had smaller capacities, he said.

Cammock, said expected increases to the frequency of runs would help with capacity over time.

The first of the new ferries to launch will be on the Half Moon Bay service, with Devonport second in line.

Member Mel Powell said AT should consider issuing cruise-ship passengers a temporary Hop card – or at least better promote trips to Devonport – so the local economy could benefit more from the passenger influx to Auckland.

Harpur asked AT to consider repeating an initiative of two years ago, when it offered free ferry rides to Devonport for a day as a way of encouraging people to make the trip. "It was a huge boost to the local economy," he said.

Cruise-ship turmoil reducing... next summer

Some progress has been made towards narrowing the morning and evening windows during which arriving and departing cruise ships can disrupt ferry services on the Waitematā Harbour.

From next summer, cruise ships will have to wait until 7.05pm to depart instead of 6.05pm.

A morning arrangement is yet to be struck, but it is hoped that the right-of-way ships enjoy until 6.35am will be brought forward to 5.51am.

North Shore ward councillor Richard Hills said this would mean the 6am and 6.30am ferry sailings from Devonport to Auckland would no longer be disrupted.

Fellow ward councillor Chris Darby said talks on the issue, involving Auckland Transport (AT), Ports of Auckland and the Harbourmaster, had been ongoing since November.

Securing agreements with the cruise industry was complicated and required a long lead-time.

Cruise ship sailings were scheduled well in advance and had flow-ons for passengers connecting with flights, said AT director of public transport Stacey van der Putten.



New Narrow Neck site suggested for skatepark

A new skatepark site on Woodall Park on the beach side of the pump track is being eyed up by skating enthusiasts.

A previous option suggested by council officials was to put the facility closer to the park's public tennis and basketball courts, and possibly between them and Wairoa Rd.

But Devonport Skate Park Advisory group member Dave Casey says skating facilities would be well placed close to the popular pump track, on a site which had the benefit of being further from homes while still being visible.

Boggy ground at the courts is also a concern.

A meeting of community members and council representatives was held on-site last month, with all keen to finalise what in time will replace the Ngataringa skatepark, built around 30 years ago on a former tip site that has proved unstable. Council has indicated consents for further repairs there will not be granted.

It will be at least three years before Auckland Council has money available for building new facilities at Woodall Park, but Casey told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last week that unwanted temporary equipment from elsewhere could be installed earlier.

A mini ramp from Riverhead, along with skate ledges and obstacles, looked like becoming available.

Skaters already use small jumps set up on one of the basketball courts.

Casey told the board the existing jumps were used mostly by younger skaters. He said the court needed grinding, to smooth the surface to make it safer for skaters, so they slid rather than were grazed on it.

Clear demand existed for a better long-term facility, he said. A survey the advisory group did showed many skaters were travelling to other areas to pursue their passion. Ngataringa, which remains in use, had declining numbers skating there, and is unsuitable for beginners.

Casey said Rotary, which built the pump track and funded the original Ngataringa Park skatepark, was interested in supporting work on the new one. But it was envisaged the bulk of construction would come from council renewals budgets.



Suggested site... Skating fans have identified land near the Woodall Park pump track as suitable for a new skatepark

He said settling on a new site was being delayed by the need for a council geotech report on its suitability. "Every flat space in Devonport seems to be an ex-tip or reclaimed," he noted.

Casey said all parties agreed a new park needed to be easily accessible, so locals could walk or bike to it. It needed good drainage and would benefit from toilets and a drinking fountain nearby, along with seating.

Such public facilities are already being discussed by council and the nearby Devonport Squash Club. The local board is pushing for the whole area to be a multi-use sports hub, with pickle-ball markings added to upgraded outdoor courts.

Detailed design work has to be completed, followed by public consultation, before any skatepark proposals proceed.





O-Studio Takapuna

Take one step closer to your best self

At O-Studio, our mission is clear: we strive to make holistic wellness as accepted, understood, and practised as physical fitness. Nestled in the heart of Auckland's North Shore at 111 Hurstmere Rd, O-Studio Takapuna stands as a sanctuary - a place you go to nourish your body and mind amidst the pressures of life.

Founded by ex-professional rugby player Tim Bateman, O-Studio is the culmination of a personal journey fuelled by passion and a commitment to feeling better. Influenced by his wife's battle with multiple sclerosis, they embarked on a mission to find solace amidst the challenges of professional sports and family life.

Experiencing firsthand the remarkable benefits of wellness practices such as flotation therapy, Tim and his family felt compelled to share their discoveries with others. Thus, O-Studio was born - a modern wellness hub dedicated to enhancing mental and physical wellbeing.

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'Local' might soon be a stretch as a description for our local board, with a suggestion the Devonport-Takapuna board will be merged with Kaipatiki under an Auckland Council rejig.

For new residents and those who, like me, need constant memory refreshment, a bit of history:

Devonport (roughly from the ferry terminal to Takapuna Grammar School) was self-governing from 1876 to 1989. The Devonport Borough Council had its own mayor and works teams for civic gardens, footpaths, road and sewer maintenance and the like.

In 1989, the borough was merged into North Shore City, with a Devonport Community Board given wide powers of local control, such as jurisdiction over planning applications.

In 2010, North Shore was incorporated into Auckland Council, with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board created to give a local voice. Powers were reduced and it is now largely an advocate for local concerns.

I didn't live here during the Devonport Borough Council days. But when I arrived in 1993, many homes still had Independent Devonport signs in their windows – a throwback to the staunch fight waged by locals to keep the borough a separate entity.

The Devonport Community Board which replaced it retained a strong engagement with locals. Fifty or so residents descending on the council chambers to take part in debates was not uncommon.

That's been far less often the case with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. Former member Mike Cohen failed in an early attempt to have half the board's meetings held in Devonport, rather than all in Takapuna.

The proposed merger means even further dilution. The new board would cover an area more akin to a medium-sized provincial

council. How would members have the time to address the very real local issues brought to them by residents?

I agree with current Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder's view on the issue. Localism was at stake, she said. "You won't have a connection with your elected member."

Locals, already feeling a long way from decision-making that affects them, will be further distanced. The feeling grows that we are subject to a city machine with no recourse over Auckland Council decisions.

The dismal downgrading of our local influence since 1989, and especially since 2010, means locals probably won't be motivated to put much fight into trying to retain the Devonport-Takapuna board.

The flurry of news stories in the last couple of weeks over the Lake Rd upgrade project being finally canned were all a bit late to the party. They seemed to stem from Mayor Wayne Brown saying that Lake Rd and a number of other projects were casualties of the Auckland fuel tax being removed.

In fact, Lake Rd was dead in the water from July last year, when Auckland Transport (AT) removed it from its works programme. Of note for residents is what will happen around the edges. Will cycleways on Bayswater Ave (part of a widened scope of the Lake Rd project and relatively inexpensive side work) go ahead in any form? And what will happen to redeveloping the Belmont town centre – including the intersection, a well-known bottleneck? What was a worthwhile study on the intersection is set to be mothballed along with numerous other council works around the city.

The Bayswater ferry terminal seems to have come up on someone's radar at AT as a project for the future. It was fully consulted and designed 20 years ago, but never funded, and gradually slipped off Auckland Council's long-term plans. By raising it now, is AT wanting to look like it's doing something rather than actually doing anything?

AT far from covered itself in glory by being less than prominent at the hearings on the Bayswater Marina housing development. Wasn't that a chance to get public transport to cater for future generations integrated into a master plan for the area?

While we are speaking about long term ideas, here's another to chuck in the mix: a green cycleway down Hamana St and Seacliffe Ave, through Takapuna Grammar and the Wilson Centre, down Clifton Rd and along Takapuna Beach to the shopping centre. It would link the centre of Takapuna with Devonport, provide a safe route for school cyclists and be a fantastic tourist option. Supported by the Green Party a decade ago, it didn't seem to gain any traction.

How long does it take to sort out a lease? The Devonport Bowling Club has been closed for six years now, and still no lease has been settled for the North Shore cricket and rugby clubs, whose plans to develop the site include women's changing facilities.

Initially, a kerfuffle arose over Devonport Museum using part of the site for storage, but this was resolved by the incoming Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. Women's cricket and rugby are both on the rise, but the lack of dedicated changing sheds is a constraint on this. Let's hope the council lease is quickly confirmed so work can begin to have them operating by next summer.

An update on the rat plague at our place: kills have fallen away to nothing for the past week. But such is the paranoia of a rat trapper, I wonder if the more clever rodents (the breeders?) remain alive in the outer reaches of the garden. Tempting peanut-butter scrapes leading towards the jaws of the trap are disappearing nightly. The battle continues...

The passing of Garry Tee, a retired mathematics professor from Auckland University, who had lived in Devonport since 1968, got me wondering about the changing demographics in the area.

Over many decades, Devonport was an attractive option for academics, partly due to the easy trip to the city and University of Auckland on the ferry. Given the huge rise in property prices in recent years, how many young university staff can afford to buy here now? (Garry Tee obituary, page 30.)

Council wants to make messages 'more helpful'

Auckland Council is looking at its online complaints procedures, so jobs aren't said to be 'closed' when issues remain.

"We want to make [response] messages more helpful," said local parks and community facilities operations manager Sarah Jones.

Jones was responding to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members at a workshop last week where they told of public frustration over the logging of jobs for council attention, with the recently leaking beach shower at Narrow Neck being cited as a prime example.



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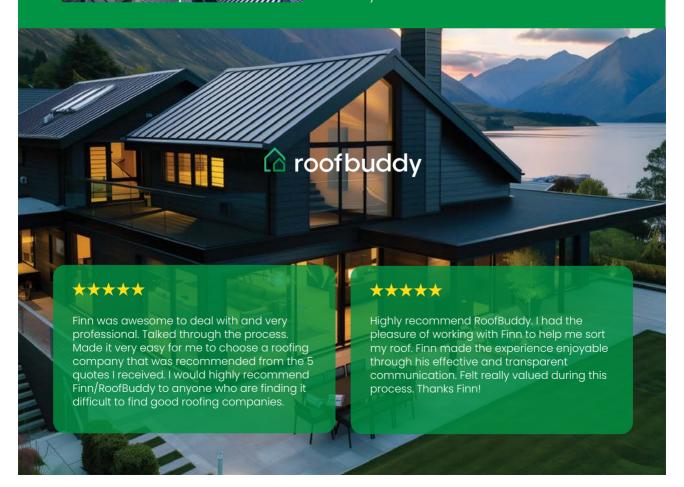
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View

As advertised or by appointment harcourts.net/L26087019



Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd. Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Dream Devonport Family Home

On the market for the first time in 44 years, this grand estate celebrates the very best in family living and all the gracious elegance of yesteryear. It's a true hidden oasis, with the 784sqm property tucked well away from the street. The two-level residence was originally crafted around 1910. It is beautifully proportioned and filled with exquisite classic detailing, which has been thoughtfully preserved over the decades. Soaring pressed steel ceilings, stained glass and polished timber floors feature in the incredibly spacious rooms, which can be opened up to the outdoor living and lush gardens in summer. Three living areas all open out to private outdoor living and stunning gardens. There are three bedrooms downstairs, with the master retreat located privately upstairs. This sought-after neighbourhood is walking distance from Waitemata Golf Club, Devonport village and ferry and local beaches.

Maria Stevens 021 979 084 maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz Marissa Muirhead 021 337 222 marissa.muirhead@harcourts.co.nz

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Devonport 32 Summer Street

=4 **=**2 **=**1 **a**1

For Sale \$2,875,000

View

As advertised or by appointment harcourts.net/L25835858



Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd. Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Charm and Character on Summer

Set in the heart of the highly sought-after Summer Street, this beautiful villa offers a blend of timeless elegance and modern convenience. This elevated four-bedroom, 622sqm freehold property offers two bathrooms, large living spaces, high ceilings and timber floors. Many original features with classic appeal have been complemented and enhanced. Bi-fold windows and French doors connect the lounge to the deck which is perfect for dining and entertaining along with a spacious, flat landscaped garden. Quiet and peaceful, private and safe, with a well-renowed family-friendly vibe, Summer Street residents enjoy a real sense of community. The location is close to Stanley Bay school and Devonport village is within walking distance, including beaches, cafes and ferry. This is an outstanding opportunity to make the most of this much-loved home.

Maria Stevens 021 979 084 maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz Marissa Muirhead

marissa.muirhead@harcourts.co.nz





Devonport 5/40 Roslyn Terrace



\$1,225,000

View

As advertised or by appointment harcourts.net/L24196738



Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd. Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Home Plus Orchard in Devonport!

If you are after a cosy home and plenty of land with an orchard that bears an abundance of fruit close to Devonport village then this is a must visit. Very rarely do we see on the market a very tidy end unit/townhouse that has three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one an en-suite), open plan living/dining/kitchen leading to a sizeable deck with steps to an exclusive use garden. A carport plus plenty of off street parking is ideal for a boat/caravan or motorhome all parked securely behind gates. The owners have loved bringing their family up here with the wonderful outdoors area, it has been the perfect home, now is the right time for them to move onto a new home taking with them many happy memories. Families, first home buyers or downsizers will relish this superb location which also has Melrose Reserve just outside the gates.

Maria Stevens 021 979 084 maria.stevens@harcourts.co.nz Marissa Muirhead

021 337 222

marissa.muirhead@harcourts.co.nz

Purple reigns as dogs of war, other military animals



Official recognition... (from left) Lieutenant Commander Ray McLaughlin of the Royal New Zealand Navy, MC Chris Mullane of the Devonport RSA and Colin ing and acknowledged the stories of animals Waite, New Zealand representative of the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation, during last month's Purple Poppy commemorations.

Below: Navy chaplain Jacqui Fuller blessing Devonport dog Flossie and (right) well as the more commonly known cavalry Christine Kirkland with Alberta.

Devonport dogs and their owners turned out at a Purple Poppy Day service last month to remember animals lost during war time.

A statue of Navy cat Minnie - who served on HMNZS Leander in World War II - and a plague dedicated to all the service animals at sea and on shore was unveiled in the grounds of the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay.

The morning remembrance in brilliant sunshine was attended by about 80 people, many locals, who sat with their pets.

Some dogs had purple ribbons tied to their collars, one wore a purple bandana and Devonport RSA representative Chris Mullane, who was MC for the occasion, broke out a purple tie.

Colin Waite, the New Zealand representative of the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation, which gifted the life-sized cat statue and plaque to the museum, was a guest of honour.

The organisation has led the way in promoting the remembrance of service animals, having also provided a military working dog memorial at Whenuapai and a war-horse memorial at the National Army Museum in Waiouru.

Navy chaplain Jacqui Fuller gave a readwhich survive conflicts abroad.

These ranged from pigeons to camels, as





commemorated

horses, bomb-detection dogs and ship's cats. She spoke of the comfort a visiting Burmese cat had provided during her own training at Narrow Neck.

Retired military working dog Cooper, brought along by owner Air Force Sergeant Gazz Havill, was introduced to local children after the formalities. Havill said Cooper's role these days was to provide home security and patrol the backyard, with off-site deployments to the beach.

The Royal New Zealand Navy Pipes and Drums played the lament and wreaths were laid, followed by an upbeat ending with the Village Ukulele Group.

Furry friends ... (clockwise from right) Peter, Harvey (2) and Lynda Betts with dog Charlie; Derek Snowball with Chester; the cat statue and plaque gifted by the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation; and Royal New Zealand Airforce Sergeant Gazz Havill with retired military working dog Cooper and Xavier O'Toole (7 years) and Alex Johnson-Learmonth (aged 7) from Stanley Bay and Devonport.









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

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BELMONT

4B MOANA AVENUE

The UPsides to this downsize are many... Exclusive use title, quiet, internal access garaging, PLUS, get a head start on that morning traffic!

barfoot.co.nz/861067

TENDED

2:00pm 21 Mar 2024 at 39 Victoria Rd, Devonport (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm

Sue Harrison 021 909 549 Toni Gregory 021 044 3663

DEVONPORT

17C FRASER ROAD

- Spacious 3-bedroom family home plus self-contained sleepout.
- The owners need to sell fast thus creating this amazing opportunity.

barfoot.co.nz/862721

AUCTION

10:00am 21 Mar 2024, 8-12 The Promenade Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun: 11:00-11:45am

Ron Sadler BCom 021 613 546

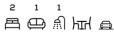




3/5 PULLUM STREET

Desirable Birkenhead Point is sought after by many. This little flood damaged gem requires remediation! Opportunity knocks, call for details!

barfoot.co.nz/861601



AUCTION

10:00am 14 Mar 2024, 8-12 The Promenade, Takapuna (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm

Lance Richardson 021 796 660



DEVONPORT

78 NGATARINGA ROAD

This charming 1920s bungalow boasts a brand new roof and modern amenities – and is now seeking a loving new family to call it home.

barfoot.co.nz/862947

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AUCTION

12:00pm 27 Mar 2024 at 39 Victoria Road, Devonport (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 11:00-11:30am

Cathy Fiebig 021 383 149 **Barfoot & Thompson Limited** Licensed REAA 2008

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





DEVONPORT

3/44 STANLEY POINT ROAD

WOW!

What amazing value this lovely townhouse offers. Our vendor is heading overseas so wants action now

barfoot.co.nz/856124

1 1.5 1

FOR SALE \$1,100,000

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 12:00-12.30pm

Trish Fitzgerald 021 952 452 Tracey Lawrence 021 1720 681

DEVONPORT

16 HASTINGS PARADE

Nestled at 16 Hastings Parade, this sunny 1910 brick villa exudes timeless charm across it's two levels.

barfoot.co.nz/859498

2 1 2

FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING Sat/Sun 1:00-1:30pm

Trish Fitzgerald 021 952 452 Tracey Lawrence 021 1720 681





DEVONPORT

- Classic brick and tile
- Fabulous views to the reserve & bridge
- Rare free standing cedar double garage with loft space/study

barfoot.co.nz/860233

1 1 2/42 KAWERAU AVENUE A A A A A

FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING Saturday 1:00-1:30pm

Tracey Lawrence 021 1720 681 Trish Fitzgerald 021 952 452

BAYSWATER

2 DAVID STREET

Spacious sound weatherboard family home and income (fully self contained) sitting on a freehold quiet corner site of approx. 575m².

barfoot.co.nz/860131

2 3.5 1

FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING

Sat/Sun 2:00 to 2:30pm or By Appointment

Sue Evans 021 448 977

United we sit: Football club improvements opened ahead of new season



Facilities upgrade... Members enjoy the new seating at North Shore United. Right: Local MP Simon Watts fulfils the official duties at the club open day.

North Shore United football club marked the completion of a revamped clubhouse and new outdoor viewing area with an open day last Saturday and an official ribbon-cutting by North Shore MP Simon Watts.

Watts said the improvements were a tribute to the "sterling club" and its committee.

North Shore, the oldest football club in New Zealand, was one of the hubs of the community, he said.

Both his sons – Callum and Jack – played at the club.

Watts said further fundraising to improve fencing and upgrade the old grandstand was planned.

North Shore's top men's team played as part of the festivities, losing 3-2 to Birkenhead United.

Council lease process for former bowls site proceeds at snail pace

Devonport's cricket and rugby clubs are still slowly grinding their way towards a joint lease of the council-owned former Devonport Bowling Club.

North Shore Cricket Club chair Hayden Smith said plans to transform the building into women's changing facilities for this winter had become unrealistic.

"Hard to say for next summer, but we are of course hopeful."

The joint lease for the cricket club and

North Shore Rugby Club was approved by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board shortly after its election in 2022.

After Flagstaff inquiries and questions from board members last month, it was revealed that Auckland Council's lease team was still finalising terms and conditions with the clubs.

Smith said there were some complexities to work through, but "regrettably it has been a very slow and bureaucratic process".

This was delaying construction plans,

because the club could not spend money to develop the site until the long-term lease was in place.

When the Flagstaff asked the council for its update on timelines, the paper was told by parks and community facilities manager for leasing Yusuf Khan that: "All parties have been working together to finalise the agreements. Once the conditions around the agreement to lease are satisfied the community lease will commence."





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Carolyn Hedley

Carolyn Hedley has owned her Westgate store (was Hobsonville pre-covid) for 8 years and when helloworld NZ offered her the opportunity to open in Takapuna she



jumped at it. Prior to that she owned the Luxury Holiday Company and it is still ticking away in the background, creating the type of holidays that the luxury traveller desires and outside the realm of your average traveller. She has been in travel over 30 years, too many to count really and says it is the type of job that gets under your skin and there really isn't any other job that compares. "I love working with my clients to create the holiday they are after". Carolyn has specialized in cruise for a long time and is one of the few "Cruise Masters" in NZ. That means she has undertaken specialty training and has been on lots of different cruise lines which enables her to point her clients in the right direction for the cruise-line for them. She has cruised to the Arctic and Antarctic is high on her list and was invited to cruise on Scenic Eclipse which is the 6-star luxury cruise line especially built for polar regions boasting 2 helicopters and a submarine. She says it is an incredible experience to cruise on her.

Sandy Theron

Sandy is from South Africa and is very knowledgeable about that area. She has been in the travel industry many years having travelled extensively through Europe and Maldives,

Seychelles, Madagascar and Reunion Islands, and parts of the middle east.

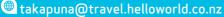


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Back on the bay, as rich life of inquiry rolls on

Jocelyn Powell grew up on Ngataringa Bay and has returned in her 80s, still following scholarly interests as she did as a child. She tells Helen Vause about the projects still keeping her busy.

Jocelyn Powell grew up in Norwood Rd in the 1940s, running free around the Bayswater peninsula.

Her father, Joseph Wheeler, ran a team of boatbuilders in busy sheds on the shore of Ngataringa Bay.

She remembers five apprentices working for her father at one time, flat out building small boats for the United States Navy.

In those days, men went hunting for pheasants and rabbits at the head of the bay. Kids would run across the muddy sands when the tide was out and the life of a small girl was happy and full.

At Belmont Primary School, then Takapuna Grammar School, Jocelyn was a studious child who excelled, notably in the sciences.

Seventy years on, her enquiring mind and scholarly aptitude have taken her far and wide, and to involvement in many fascinating projects. But home, once again, is by Ngataringa Bay, these days in a three-bedroom apartment in Ryman's William Sanders village.

Like so many others of her generation who swore they'd never end up in a retirement village, Powell loves the apartment she's called home in recent years. Free to continue the work she loves without property responsibilities, she can be found in a home office packed full of books, photos, files and her own published works – with a couple more books in the pipeline.

Eighty-four-year-old Powell took time out from her full workload to reflect on how it was that someone who started as a young botanist ended up as a trustee of the near-new Chatham Islands Museum, before going on to write books about the remote islands and, these days, spending about half her life there deeply involved in the community.

Armed with a Master's degree from the University of Auckland, Powell's working life began at the government crop and research centre in Otara (formerly known as the DSIR) before a scholarship took her to university in Canberra.

In the late 60s, the then 25-year-old headed off to the wilds of the Western Highlands in Papua New Guinea, where exciting and significant research prospects beckoned.

The young researcher had a specialisation in pollen analysis. She had funding, she had a Land Rover to take her over the tough terrain and a team of four local men to help her. Together they camped out on the job, sometimes at 10,000 feet on a mountain ledge. In a region where swamps had been dried out for tea planting, centuries-old drains had been discovered, indicative of a different era. Pollen samples that could be taken would give her data on the changes in vegetation

"I'm really enjoying meeting new people every day. There is such an amazing mix of people here who have done all sorts of things."

there over time. While she worked, Powell was also soaking up an understanding of the country. "Looking back, it was a wonderfully interesting time for me at that stage in my career," she says.

When a devastating drought followed by frost caused severe famine, she was recognised as having both knowledge of the place and the people to lead the assessment of the next best steps to be taken toward recovery.

Powell returned to Papua New Guinea many times, sometimes with her late husband and fellow academic John Powell. She spent five years based at the University of Papua New Guinea.

In the later stages of her career, Powell was for 20 years a botanist at the Sydney

Botanical Gardens. "It was a wonderful spot, and as a bonus I looked straight at the Sydney Opera House."

A new prospect came knocking with her artist sister, Cherry Lawrie, who had been in the Chatham Islands and had been captivated by the unique and rugged beauty of what she discovered.

She wanted to take her sister there, anticipating she too would fall in love with the place and her hunch proved right.

She was also formulating an idea about how the sisters could have a deeper association with the Chathams.

Not much was known by the outside world about the islands and there were not many visitors. Lawrie proposed that she, the artist, and her sister, the researcher, writer, photographer and publisher, could write a detailed, well-researched guide book for the Chathams.

"So that's what we did. Like Cherry, I just loved the place and the chance to explore like that with a purpose was just too exciting not to take up," recalls Powell.

The comprehensive, pictorial book, put together in close consultation with local people, was first published in 2006, with proceeds going to the development of the local museum. Powell followed with a second book, *Life and Times of Pioneering Women of the Chatham Islands* (2019).

It was inevitable that Powell would find herself at the centre of the push to establish a new community museum, wearing many hats as the idea came to fruition between 2012 and the opening by Jacinda Ardern in December 2022.

A museum trustee, Powell has also been curator, researcher, fundraiser, consultant and co-chair, working in consultation with the local community of around 600 people, nearly half of them children.

As part of her commitment to the Chatham Islanders and their place, Powell has funded the purchase of a cottage with another academic associate which is used by visiting



Landscape Design

in Devonport

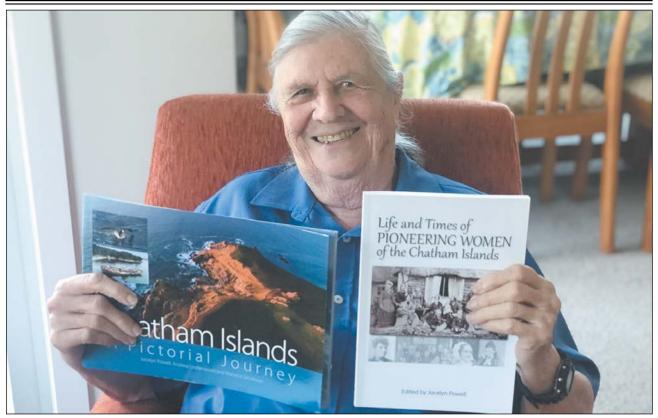
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Lure of the islands... Jocelyn Powell has become immersed in the Chatham Islands community since her sister urged her to visit

researchers. As can happen in small communities, the money paid for the dwelling was passed on to the museum coffers.

The museum is attracting a steady number of visitors and Powell's endeavours there continue, whether from her desk at home in Devonport or from her little home on the island. Along with her museum work, she is capturing oral histories from the islanders.

Powell who says her association with the islands still has a long way to run. "But it's time it had a local person really running the place. I've loved every day of it, but even after 20 years I'm still an outsider," she

chuckles.

Life in Devonport has unexpectedly opened up a new world of diverse and interesting people. "I'm really enjoying meeting new people every day. There is such an amazing mix of people here who have done all sorts of things."

But work is still her favourite hobby. Two books are in progress. One marking the 150th year of the Chatham Islands Jockey Club will be published in time for the celebrations in December this year.

Powell has a deadline to meet with her second book project. She is contributing to a

publication about the astronomical phenomenon of Venus crossing the sun.

As the time approached for this to happen in the 1870s, photographers visited the Chatham Islands – one of the first places in the world to see the sun each day. Powell is working from the diary of one of them "It's absolutely fascinating stuff to be working from," she says.

Other books are in mind, with subjects to be researched and stories to be discovered and told

"I do wish I was 30 years younger. I've still got a lot to do," she grins.



Volunteers wanted

Seasons for Growth is a grief and loss programme that strengthens the wellbeing of children and young people who are dealing with significant life changes, such as family separation, divorce, death of a parent or sibling, illness in the family, change of school/geographic area/country, deployment of a family member, and any other major changes.

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If you would like to join us as a volunteer Companion or for more information please contact Gemma Claire, Coordinator, seasonsnorthshore@gmail.com, 021 083 94540

Briefs

Easter threepeat

Daily Bread's hot-cross buns have been named the nation's best for an unprecedented third year in a row in Baking New Zealand's annual contest. The bakery sells its prize-winning buns through its own cafes, including the one neighbouring its Eversleigh St, Belmont kitchen and other outlets. They are made from a sourdough ferment, a spice mix, candied orange peel and rum-soaked fruit.

Shanks for the memory

Devonport restaurant Manuka's lamb shanks have made a list of '100 Iconic Auckland Eats'. Three Takapuna restaurants were also on the annual list put together by Auckland Council. They were Fantail & Turtle in Smales Farm for its jalepeno wontons, Ajisen Ramen in Northcroft St for its kaiju ramen dish and (next door, also in the Sentinel building) Zong Kitchen's Zong's braised chicken. Two moderators pick the 100 finalists from nominations submitted by the public. Nine northern Auckland outlets were named this year, including four in Birkenhead.

Garden fund grows

Fundraising for the big indoor garden planned at North Shore Hospital is progressing well, with around three-quarters of the \$2 million target collected. The Well Foundation, which is behind the initiative, plans further fundraising drives in the next few months, with the new hospital building expected to be open mid-year. Its wards are built around the healing garden, which will be a place where patients, visitors and staff can take time out, or just enjoy the outlook.

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Six-year-old Alex de Wit saves his mother Liz Galligan's life when he calls 111, following the instructions of a 'Keep Ourselves Safe' programme held at Devonport Primary School. Galligan is diagnosed with meningitis and a brain inflammation.
- Norah Whitley turns 100 and remembers the day she hit a hole in one at Takapuna Golf Course.
- An application to install a 15m cellphone tower behind Belmont shops concerns residents.
- A one-way street system in central Devonport is included in several entries to a North Shore City Council urban design competition.
- A \$20 entry fee for the Devonport Food

Devonport Rotary, but some stallholders fail to break even at the event. • Artist Jane Evans reveals in a profile that she often repaints works 10 times over before

she often repaints works 10 times over before being happy with them.

and Wine Festival is a boon for organisers

- The Devonport Arts Festival kicks off with a schools street parade.
- Flagstaff reporter Eveline Jenkin takes her girl-racer skills to the water with a drive in a new Aquada car off Bayswater.
- Whirling Bros circus is granted permission to perform at Woodall Park, Narrow Neck, despite concerns from residents about noise.
- Devonport local and founder of Snowplanet in Silverdale, Eduard Ebbinge, is the Flagstaff interview subject.

Site compliant

Council inspectors who visited a construction site at 16-18 Handley Cres found the contractor to be complying with resource-consent conditions regarding lead in the soil. "We didn't find evidence of dust beyond the property boundary at this time, but we will continue to monitor the site," an Auckland Council spokesman said.

Cricketers are reigning champions

Our story on the North Shore Cricket Club premier team emerging out of the relegation zone this season (Flagstaff, 23 February) neglected to mention the side winning the Auckland Premiership in 2022-23. The omission is regretted.



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Computer pioneer was familar figure on the ferry

Obituary

Retired mathematics professor Garry Tee, a pioneer in computer science in New Zealand and a noted science historian, has died, aged 91.

For more than 50 years Tee was a regular on the Devonport ferry on the way to Auckland University – known for his distinctive plaid cap and in later years gait, aided by a walking stick and then a walking frame

He worked out exactly how long it took him to walk to the ferry from his Domain St home – 11 minutes, extended to 13, due to feline interruptions on route.

"Any one of those cats was likely to come out and order me to stroke it before proceeding further," he told the Flagstaff in a 2018 interview.

Tee grew up during the 1930s Great Depression and in the South Island railway camps of that era. His father was an engineer, and Garry showed a precocious mathematical talent, even as an eight-year-old. He leapfrogged primary classes two years at a time. Then, aged 11, and with the elite Auckland schools open to him, chose Seddon Memorial Technical College. He skipped School Certificate and University Entrance, and went straight to the New Zealand University Junior Scholarship exams.

The results came out in 1948 when the Tee family was holidaying near Russell. Tee picked up a *New Zealand Herald* at the local shop. A front-page story quoted an ecstatic Seddon Tech headmaster whose pupil was best in the Junior Scholarship results.

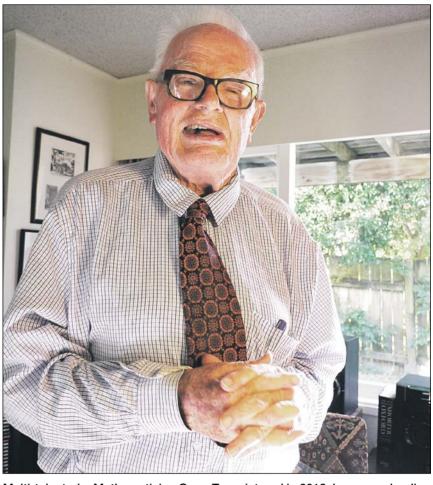
In 1954 he completed a first-class honours MSc degree in mathematics at Auckland University, then left for north-west Australia. There he crouched in a Quonset hut using mechanical calculators and slide rules as practical aids to turn raw oil exploration data into useable summaries and graphs.

Tee worked as a mathematician at the English Electric Company in 1958, developing the DEUCE computer based on Alan Turing's design for the ACE computer initially formulated at Bletchley Park in the UK. He became a foundation member of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Lancaster in 1964 and a visitor at the Computer Science department of Stanford University in 1965.

He returned to New Zealand as a senior lecturer in mathematics at the University of Auckland in 1968, where he remained until his retirement. He was a founding member of the university's Computer Science department. He was considered to be one of the pioneers of computer science in New Zealand, and a leading historian of maths, science and computers.

He produced carefully researched papers that delved into this country's links to 19th century and 20th century science.

He'd noted that rich tradition even as early as 1971, when the Museum of New Zealand's



Multi-talented... Mathematician Garry Tee, pictured in 2018, became a leading historian of maths, science and computing

geology exhibition displayed a historic iguanodon tooth. The tooth was the world's first proof of an ancient land-based reptile – a dinosaur. The tooth had been brought to New Zealand by collector Walter Mantell's son, who'd gifted it to the museum.

Seven years later, Tee checked the museum again, and the tooth had disappeared, into the dim, overstuffed museum basement, where objects are forgotten due to staff changes, and later go out with the rubbish. Tee stayed on the case, insisting "this highly significant fossil" be found. Weeks later, as a result of his agitation, it was located. These days it's one of Te Papa Tongarewa's most treasured items.

Another astonishing relic came to public notice when Tee identified a rusty piece of machinery that had gathered dust for a century on a farm near Whanganui. It was part of a large 'difference engine' that was being built in the 1820s by the engineering genius Charles Babbage. It was another significant piece of science history, for Babbage is acknowledged as the father of modern computing. Despite Tee's attempts to preserve it within New Zealand, the relic was later sold for \$1million.

In 1981, Tee faced his greatest crisis, a

brain tumour. He had little option but surgery, and the outcome was uncertain.

"The operation took 12 hours. I awoke as the nexus of a maze of wires and tubes. After three days, I felt strong enough to look at a book. A cousin visited me, and I invited him to take out the largest of the three volumes I'd brought to the hospital – a large treatise on advanced mathematics, in Russian. He later told me he'd never seen such a look of relief as flooded over my face, when I found I could read the Russian text, and understand the mathematics, without effort," Tee told the Flagstaff.

The monographs kept coming – on the electromagnetics of Michael Faraday, and the extensive correspondence between the botanist and biologist Charles Darwin and New Zealand scientists. He also encouraged others – most prominently Catherine Caughey – sworn to secrecy for her work with the Colossus computer at Bletchley Park during World War II – who published her story in 1996.

In his spare time Tee was a keen diver and underwater photographer.

Tee died at a Herne Bay care home on 18 February.

Shore talent goes Dutch for cricket and fun

Top young North Shore Cricket Club player Riley Mudford heads to Europe later this year to experience life and cricket in another country – but not in the nation he thought he would end up in.

The wicketkeeper and batsman will play for Rotterdam side 1888 Sparta in the upcoming season of the top domestic division in the Netherlands.

Mudford originally tried to find an Irish club but was contacted by an agency about Sparta's need for a batsman and wicket-keeper.

The 22-year-old Auckland A player jumped at the chance. He says the opportunity to get paid to play cricket in Holland was too good to turn down.

"It just fell on my doorstep and I thought I'll definitely take that, sounds like good fun."

Good friend and fellow cricketer Jock McKenzie will be playing for Sparta's crosstown rivals V.O.C., which was another "tick in the box" in Mudford's decision to take up the contract.

The two plan to see a lot of each other and travel together, but things might not be as friendly on game day.

"When I chatted to the club they were like, 'Oh, your mate is playing for our rival club. You've got to make sure to get into his head."

Mudford is one of Sparta's two allowed 'overseas pro' players, but isn't fazed about the expectation to perform.

"I'll probably be expected to go over there and dominate, but that is my job as an overseas pro."

He'll receive a 150-euro weekly salary while living rent-free in an apartment right next to Sparta's cricket ground.

It won't be the Bayswater resident's first taste of overseas cricket. He played for





On the move... North Shore Cricket Club's Riley Mudford is taking his wicketkeeping and batting skills to the Netherlands for the Northern Hemisphere summer

Dublin club Railway Union in the Leinster Senior League last year.

His 572 runs at an average of 44 at the club earned him a place in the provincial side, Leinster Lightning, who he played two T20 matches for.

Mudford is anticipating the quality of Dutch cricket to be "just below" the Irish standard, but still at a good level for his career. "It's not a super-high level, but it's not going to make me worse at cricket and I will enjoy it.

"I'm going there to experience the Netherlands while playing the sport I love."

Mudford is currently trying to learn as much as he can about the Netherlands before he arrives in Europe.

"I don't know much. I've heard about Amsterdam and Max Verstappen and the FI track they have there."

He leaves in April for the season that continues until August.

When Mudford returns to New Zealand he hopes to progress his T20 career, play for Auckland and hopefully achieving higher honours with the Black Caps and in franchise cricket in the big professional leagues across the globe.





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NZQA Scholarship Results

2023 was another successful academic year for Takapuna Grammar School students, highlighted by our wonderful Scholarship results. 41 students were awarded 58 Scholarships (including 5 *Outstanding*) across 20 subjects.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Sofia Drew (4) – English (*Outstanding*), Art History, Media Studies, Classical Studies

Margot Pettitt (4) – English (Outstanding), Art History, Media Studies, Photography

Hugo Dixon-Hall (3) – Art History, Media Studies, Painting

Olivia Priddy (3) – English, History, Media Studies

Alisa Howden - Classical Studies, English

Maria Sagripanti - Spanish

Pearl Nicholson - Accounting, Statistics

Marcus Snashall - Technology

Dylan Shearer - Calculus, Economics

Sophie Spooner - English

Geri Sherlock - Design, Photography

Hugo Sweetman - Health & PE

Connor Walter - English, Media Studies

Rose Thatcher - Design

Tom Talbot - English, Music

Bill An - English

Francheska Cruz – English, Media Studies



Ben Bowen - English

Lily Jones - Design (Outstanding)

Mio Iwai Wong - Japanese

Maia Madsen Brough - Design (Outstanding)

Audrey Melhuish - English

Natia Tsulaia – English (Outstanding)

Zara Nelson – English

Laura Bolton - Design

Aimee Rumball – English

Eleanor Brown - English

Scarlett Somerville-Ryan – English

Jiwon Choi - Painting



Dingding Wang - Chinese

Ai Innes-Mills - Painting

Mila White – English

Isabel Jervis - Design

Gavin Wu - English

Grayson Luce - Painting

Ayaka Yamaguchi – Japanese

Samuel McKibbin - DVC

Nuan Yang - Chemistry

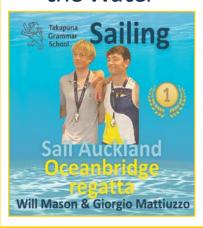
Jaimiee Nimmo - Media Studies

Madeleine Turner - English

Cecilia Pessina – DVC

The school would like to congratulate our scholarship winners on their outstanding results.

Sailing Duo win Gold on the Water



TGS sailors have been in the medals at recent events. Will Mason placed third at the Starling Nationals held in Lyttelton. It was a close battle, with Will going into the last race with a one-point lead. It came down to the final race where four boats had the opportunity to win the title.

In the Sail Auckland Oceanbridge Regatta, Will and fellow TGS student Giorgio Mattiuzzo won the regatta in the 29er class. Giorgio is an Italian sailor who is an international student at TGS this year. Well done to both these sailors.



Triathlon Team Medal at Auckland Champs

TGS had six athletes compete at the recent Auckland School's Triathlon Championships held at Maraetai Beach. Charlee Somerville competed in the individual junior girls, Zara Hayward and Rosara Davis in the intermediate girls while Erik Brownlow, Hugo Chapman and Dan McClune competed in the U19 teams event. Rosara Davis claimed 5th place with Zara Hayward one spot back in 6th. The U19 boys team made the podium claiming the bronze medal.



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Approach to tree felling contradicts court decision

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA) have challenges getting their native-tree 'reforestation' (the removal of all exotic trees) programme adopted on all Auckland maunga.

Thank goodness the concerned citizens of Ōwairaka (Mt Albert) stood up against the removal of 345 mature exotic trees on their maunga, which has put a halt to the felling, for now. Likewise, an Ōtāhuhu woman has taken the authority to court in relation to tree-felling plans for Ōtāhuhu (Mt Richmond), and a judicial decision is pending.

The same can happen here in Devonport. The recent article on the front page of the Flagstaff (23 February) brings attention to TMA wanting the removal of four 'mature' trees from the summit of Takarunga which they claim are impeding the views.

I should note that the article does not specify whether they are exotic or otherwise. What does concern me is that the TMA's application may be granted consent on a non-notified process.

This flies in the face of the Ōwairaka judicial decision, which found both the authority and Auckland Council acted unlawfully in relation to a non-notified resource consent for felling that maunga's trees.

Likewise, the current Mt Richmond court case centres on the legality of a non-notified resource consent having been issued for felling trees at that maunga.

The past few years' events have shown most people don't want exotics being felled on Auckland's maunga, so the TMA is acting in poor faith by trying to hide their intentions through a non-notified resource consent here. It may "only" be four trees at Takarunga, but I am concerned that exotics will continue to be removed – a bit here, a bit there, until they are all gone.

Tony McNeight

Editor's note: Since our 23 February story, the Tūpuna Maunga Authority has informed the Flagstaff that the trees slated for removal are natives.

Observing Road Code might lessen hold-ups at crossings

A couple of things about our many pedestrian crossings, from New Zealand Road Code:

(Drivers) when coming to a crossing slow down and be ready to stop for any pedestrian on or stepping onto the crossing – this includes people obviously waiting to use the crossing.

(a) If there is no raised island in the middle of the crossing, stop and give way to pedestrians on any part of the crossing. Wait until the pedestrian has crossed in front of you and is clear of your vehicle before you proceed.

(b) If there is a raised traffic island in the middle of the crossing, stop and give way to pedestrians on your half of the road.

We now have a total of four crossings with a raised traffic island in the middle where a pedestrian can stop. I would hope if (b) above was observed by at least local pedestrians and drivers it might help the flow of traffic – a little.

Peter Norwood

Trees and car park should remain

The resource consent lodged by Auckland Council on behalf of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA) must be notified.

The views to Rangitoto from the summit are already superb. No trees need to be removed. The current parking area is a community resource that should not be destroyed.

The unilaterally imposed restriction on vehicular access to Mt Victoria has meant enjoyment of an iconic vantage point of the Auckland isthmus is denied to many.

The TMA has similarly unilaterally enforced changes to other volcanic cones across

Auckland. The plinth on Mt Roskill allowing the erection by the local community of a cross at Easter and a star at Christmas has been removed.

A judicial review, paid for at huge expense by concerned locals, has been required to halt for a time the wholesale destruction of hundreds of mature trees on Mt Albert!

There is no 'co' in the current TMA's concept of co-governance.

Our community deserves better. Let us have our say.

Cam Calder

Maunga Authority's Takarunga plan sounds similar to Mt Albert case

The current proposal by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to remove four mature trees from the summit of Takarunga sounds very similar to a recent proposal to remove exotic trees from Ōwairaka/Te Ahi-kā-a-Rakataura – Mt Albert Domain. In this instance, a group of concerned residents challenged the proposal in the High Court, winning greater consul-

tation. The group's legal fees were paid for by a philanthropic Auckland couple. These legal fees would have been better spent on maintaining this and other local reserves.

Sadly, it seems yet again that "You can lead a camel to water but you can't make it drink."

Bruce Tubb

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Youth production sets Shakespeare in a resort

A youth-led production of a Shakespeare comedy has taken it out of the Elizabethan era in which it was written and into a modern setting.

The Rose Centre's Twelfth Night is being set at an island resort to make it more accessible for modern audiences, director Geoff Allen said.

Servants in the original become waiters and hotel staff.

Shakespeare's dialogue remains, however, to preserve the beauty of his language.

Before rehearsals began, the cast gathered for a workshop with Allen to discuss what they wanted to change in the play.

The staging was also chosen by the cast.

"The invite was to bring in what you want. If you've got a nice lamp at home we'll find a place to put it," Allen said.

"Bijoux (Nortje), who's playing Malvolio, said, 'Ah look there's this swan... can we buy it?', and we did."

Other suggestions, such as ending the play with a jig, giving certain characters different storylines and swapping characters' dialogue lines were also adopted.

Fletcher Norgrove, who plays Fabian, had an enjoyable time playing three different characters in a Takapuna Grammar School Shakespeare production last year, leading him to audition for Twelfth Night.

Harvey Trembath, who plays the Ship Captain, said he did the production because he liked studying Shakespeare in English class and thought doing a play with friend Fletcher would be a fun way to take theory into practice.

"I roped him into it," Fletcher said.



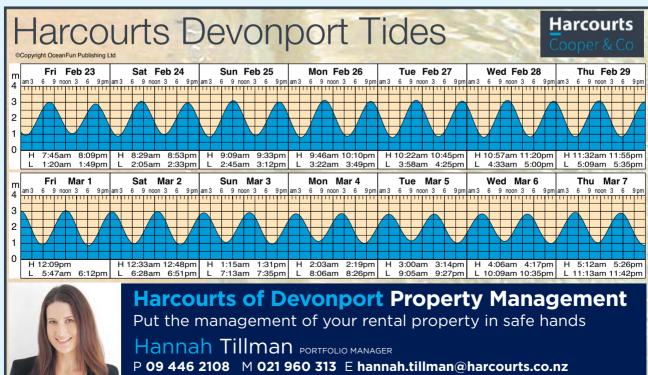
Youth-led... Cast members (from left) Fletcher Norgrove (15), Oscar Roonev (17) and Harvey Trembath (15) all had an influence over the costumes, script and staging of the upcoming production of Twelfth Night at the Rose Centre.

The production is of a shortened 90-minute version of the original.

Allen said the run-time was more acceptable to modern audiences. In Shakespeare's time, theatre was one of the only forms of entertainment but now people "are a bit pressed for time so they want to come to see the show but get home in time for Coronation Street".

Allen told the Flagstaff he hoped the play could kickstart an annual event of Shakespeare productions and musicals at the Rose Centre, potentially directed by actors who have been in previous shows.

• Twelfth Night, at the Rose Centre from 15-23 March, tickets \$15-\$20 through iTicket.









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Rua works from 80s resurface in pop-up gallery

A series of large panels from a noted mural not seen in public for 15 years is going on display in a pop-up gallery on the main street of Devonport next week.

Artist Tony Johnston's striking naive-style paintings of Tuhoe prophet and land-rights activist Rua Kenana and images associated with his life will fill the space at 30 Victoria Rd formerly occupied by Flagstaff Gallery (now at 6 Victoria Rd).

Another dealer gallery, Satellite2, which opened last year, is behind the installation.

The themes of the paintings tie in with other exhibitions Satellite2 is currently curating.

But gallery co-founder Linda Blincko said the mural could not fit in its permanent space at 61 Victoria Rd.

"At 20 metres long, it is too big for Satellite2."

Johnston was commissioned to produce the Rua mural in 1980, under a PEP (project employment programme) scheme of the time.

He worked on the paintings for a year, in a rural studio space near Papakura which was big enough to hold the 6ft x 4ft panels.

The work was hung in the Manukau City Council office from 1981.

First installed on a six-month trial, it remained in place until the council became



Public works... Tony Johnston's mural depicting prophet Rua Kenana was painted in 1980, under a PEP scheme

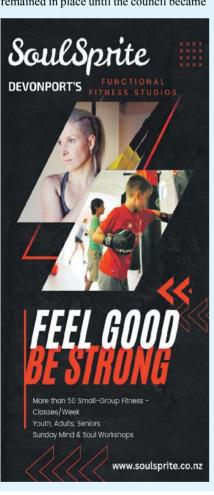
part of Auckland Council in 2010.

Visiting Devonport last month, Johnston said he was pleased the work would be seen again.

He is also known for his oyster-catcher

sculpture on the Seabird Coast at Kaiaua, near his studio.

• The pop-up Rua Kenana show runs from March 17 to April 14 at 30 Victoria Rd, Devonport.





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