



Projects to take toll on traffic, parking... p2

More nude swimmers take the plunge... p22-23

Interview: Footballer Maia Scott... p26-27

Arborists put \$400k price on replacing two trees

Removing and replacing two problematic trees in Anne St in Devonport could cost up to \$409,000, council arborists have claimed.

Residents fighting to be rid of the trees that produce slippery leaf litter and block drains on their flood-prone street were aghast at the estimate, which was presented to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last month

before it narrowly decided the trees should be retained.

The decision – on the casting vote of chair Toni van Tonder – reversed a board request made in August that the trees be removed.

Stressed residents, who live in dread of heavy rain causing more flooding, were angered by the arborists' estimates of \$209,500

to \$409,500 for a removal option which included replacement of the introduced mallet-flower trees with eight natives in specially built tree pits.

The estimate was a “straw man” option with a huge and unsubstantiated cost, one of the residents, Dame Judy McGregor, told

To page 8

Oh brother! Sibling rivalry on show at fair



Brothers at war... twins Rei (at left) and Tate Bentley (7) go head to head at the jousting station at the Belmont Primary School Fair. More pictures, story, pages 10-11.



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More traffic woes expected due to power project

Major traffic disruption on congested Lake Rd and elsewhere is looming due to a Vector electricity-network upgrade starting on the Devonport peninsula this month.

Work in Belmont and Devonport will be done in three stages (see map, page 35) running through until October.

Contractors will be strengthening high-voltage lines connecting a substation at Belmont to Ngataranga Bay.

Traffic safety measures, including some one-way detours and “stop-go” lane diversions, will be required. Footpaths may need to be closed temporarily. Work will be done

between 7am and 7pm.

“While we acknowledge the project’s timeline may seem lengthy, this is essential to ensure our network’s reliability and resilience,” Vector told residents in affected areas this month.

Power outages are also needed. Residents have been promised more specific information closer to the dates of work commencing.

Power cuts would be advised at least 10 days in advance, Vector said.

The civil work is expected to begin from 15 April, pending weather and Auckland Transport sign-off. The schedule for this is:

Stage 1 from April to May: Lake Rd at the corners of Alamein Ave and Old Lake Rd and between Allenby Ave and Albert Rd.

Stage 2 from May to June: Lake Rd between Westwell Rd and Egremont St and around the corners of each. Lake Rd from Seabreeze Rd to Allenby Ave and the length of Patuone Ave.

Stage 3 from June to October: Lake Rd from Kawerau Ave to Seabreeze Rd. Roberts Ave near the corner and along the western portion of Plymouth Cres. Owens Rd.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members were briefed on the work last week.

Ferry-terminal parking lost during stormwater-pipe fix

Free car-parking in front of the Devonport ferry terminal has been lost from this week until early May while a collapsed stormwater pipeline is replaced.

The bus stop outside the terminal has been temporarily moved to Queens Pde.

Auckland Council’s Healthy Waters has warned of “significant impacts in the area” as the work, expected to cost around \$1.2 million, continues in stages until the end of June.

The pipeline crosses Queens Pde and Victoria Rd, where street parking will also be lost later in the project.

Healthy Waters said a section of old pipe in very poor condition was discovered during a

scheduled inspection last September.

The road was being dug up to install a new, bigger pipe – replacing the existing 300mm drain with a 525mm version.

Vehicle access at the ferry building has been restricted while the work is being done, but pedestrians are not expected to be impeded.

Private-car drop-offs to the terminal front entrance would be possible but “may be delayed”, Healthy Waters said.

Companies making deliveries to the wharf with smaller vehicles have been asked to consider walking goods in.

As a consequence of the work, three native trees directly above the pipeline in Marine

Square, opposite the Esplanade, will be removed. They will be replaced later with natives of a similar size.

The work outline is:

Stage 1 (2 April to 6 May): Car parks in the P180 area in front of the terminal removed. Bus stop 3462 moved to Queens Pde.

Stage 2 (6-20 May): Queens Pde closed from Wynyard St to Victoria Rd. Parking not available here, but reinstated in front of the ferry terminal. Bus stop returns to original location, west of the ferry entrance.

Stage 3: (20 May to end June): Car parks removed on the west side of Victoria Rd by the Esplanade Hotel.

TGS frisbee team claims third at national champs

Takapuna Grammar School’s premier girls ultimate frisbee team came third at nationals after winning the Auckland schools championship.

In the two-day national tournament in Taupo on 19 and 20 March, TGS eased through the first day with wins over Whakatane High School, Pakuranga College and

Epsom Girls Grammar School.

On the second day, with a cold wind making for challenging playing conditions, they were beaten by Whakatane in a closely fought semi-final, then went on to defeat Epsom Girls 6-4 in the third-place play-off.

On 17 March, the side claimed the Auckland outdoor title.

Despite falling short of the national title, Takapuna received the ‘spirit award’ at the national championships, given for fair play and understanding of the game.

It is a highly regarded category in a sport that has no umpire or referee, relying on players to make calls and resolve on-field issues themselves.

**The Devonport
Flagstaff**
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Fresh faces help snare repeat cricket success



Heading to nationals... Takapuna Grammar School girls first XI. Back row (from left): Johanna Melhuish (manager) Dorothea Waldron, Ava Clentworth, Eva Murray, Annabel Priddy, Lucia Sweetman, Keely Shaw, Johan Kirstein (coach) Front row: Isabella Watson, Raiha Jeory Reynolds, Audrey Melhuish, Rishika Jaswal, Orla Langdon, Pippa Priddy, Eva Steckler.

Takapuna Grammar School's first XI girls cricket team have won their regional tournament for the second year in a row, despite a major turnover of players since last year.

The side won the Auckland tournament in an eight-run victory over Mt Albert Grammar in Te Atatu on 21 March, earning qualification for the national Gillette Venus Cup secondary schools girls tournament in December.

Coach Johan Kirstein said the victory was particularly satisfying as Takapuna had lost six senior players from last year's team.

Two of the new players, Lucia Sweetman and Keely Shaw, had never played cricket before but performed well alongside the rest of the team.

Kirstein said the side's leaders did a great job of bringing the new players into the squad.

A "caring and friendly" team environment also helped incorporate the newcomers.

The regional tournament involved a series of T20 matches over four days.

Takapuna dominated throughout, with comfortable victories over King's College, St Cuthbert's College, Epsom Girls Grammar, Westlake Girls High School and Macleans College, and a 106-run win against Baradene in the semi-final.

Audrey Melhuish was the tournament's top wicket taker with 13, while Rishika Jaswal top scored for the side, clocking up 163 runs over the course of the competition.

Kirstein said the team had been hopeful rather than expecting victory heading into the tournament.

"We only lose one player next year, so I think the girls were thinking if we don't do it this year there's always next year."

Kirstein said the key to the side's success was discipline.

They fielded well throughout the tournament and gave away very few extras.

"For me cricket is all about discipline. If you're the best fielding team you can go a long way."

The girls will switch to their winter codes until term three, when they will regroup to prepare for the national tournament in Lincoln in December.



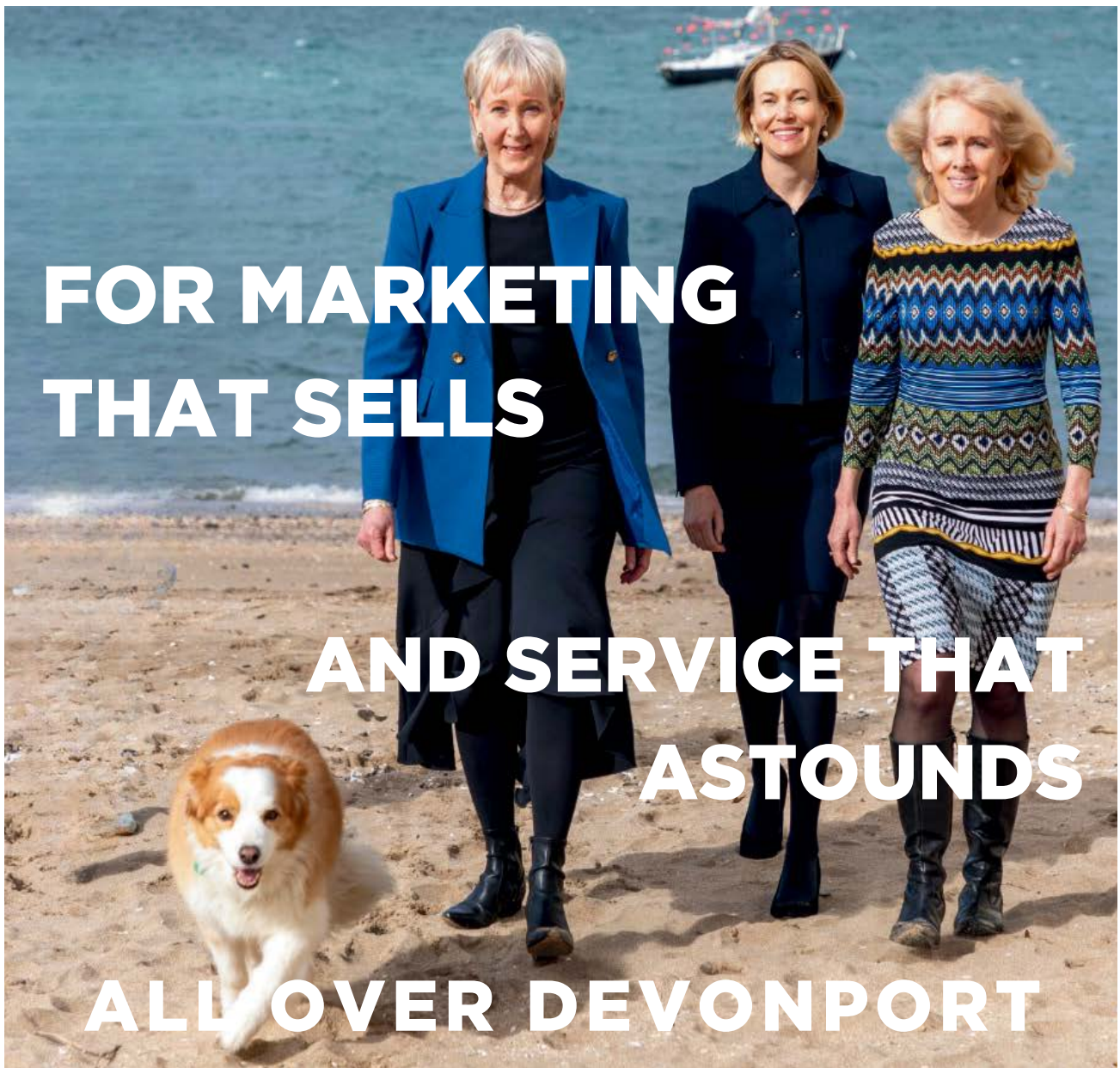
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Mobacrombie! Retired basketballer still a hit with young fans



Hands up... Tom Abercrombie ran a quiz (above) and signed autographs (below) during a return to Hauraki Primary to donate new basketball gear. Right: Year 6 pupil Shay Legarth takes a shot at the school's new hoop.

Long-serving Tall Blacks and Breakers basketball star Tom Abercrombie has recently retired, but has lost little of his crowd-pulling power, judging by a recent return to the place where he first learned to play.

Hauraki Primary students mobbed him on his visit to the school he attended from 1992-97.

Abercrombie and a long-time sponsor, Under Armour, donated a new hoop and a year's supply of balls to the school.

"I thought it would be a really good idea to sort of come full-circle, back where it all began, to the court that I learned to play on," he said. "My grandpa helped make the old backboards that they had here so it just seemed

right to give it a little bit of a revamp.

The school's basketballers tested the new hoop, with Abercrombie overseeing games and competitions with prizes.

Abercrombie remains unsure what will follow his retirement but said peninsula locals can expect to see him around more.

"I'm enjoying some time with the family at the moment and just hanging out doing normal dad stuff."

Hauraki deputy principal Chris Pipes told the Flagstaff basketball's popularity at the school had grown greatly since he started teaching there 27 years ago. It now had 63 active players.

Pipes remembered Abercrombie playing on the courts when he was a pupil. To see him return and donate an otherwise unaffordable hoop was "amazing".

Abercrombie, who made over 400 appearances for the Breakers, winning four NBL titles, said he hoped the equipment would lead to the school producing more Breakers.

He drops his daughter, Porter, off at the school every day. "There are kids on the hoop every single morning," he said. "I've got no doubt there's going to be some future stars coming out of Hauraki Primary."





NEW LISTING



Devonport 8 Rutland Road

Light-filled, elevation and sunshine

This classic Stanley Bay villa is on an elevated, north-facing corner site. It is filled with natural light and beautiful sun all day. The home has been cleverly renovated and stylishly refreshed to create a restful, private master suite upstairs with private balcony overlooking the neighbourhood treetops and a handy home office space. The current owners have loved the family-friendly flow, heritage character and wonderful neighbourhood for raising their two young children. It has been the home of firsts.....first baby, first steps, first school and first renovation. This has paid homage to the home's original features and balanced them with elegant contemporary updates for modern life.

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Caravan and boat parked on prime waterfront site

In the holiday season, Joy Mace is accustomed to seeing freedom campers parked up for a night along the Queens Pde waterfront.

But she was flabbergasted when a recent arrival turned up with a caravan and a yacht on a trailer. The male occupant apparently took up residence for around 10 days.

He was not in the caravan when the Flagstaff visited.

Mace, who lives across the road in Anne St and runs the Admiral's Landing bed and breakfast, contacted Auckland Council, who told her that if a person was homeless they wouldn't be moved on. She has sought further clarification from the council.

Meanwhile, the yacht has accumulated parking fines. Mace was told by a parking officer that the caravan had been parked around the Takapuna area recently.

Auckland Council said it was correct that if a person was homeless then the Freedom Camping in Vehicles 2022 bylaw would not apply. "In these situations, we will generally try to work with the person and our outreach partners to place them in suitable accommodation before considering enforcement options," said Karen Smith, Auckland Council Regional Compliance Manager.



Sea views... Joy Mace is seeking answers from council about a caravan and boat parked on the Devonport waterfront



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Banks are still busy

Despite the slowdown in mortgage lending as the property market softens and the high interest rates impact affordability (bank test rates are up near 9% currently) the banks are still busy and can take up to 10 days to process a loan application. This is partly due to a lack of staffing and also a lot of time is being spent on restructures and helping people through the hardship of rolling over fixed rates at much higher rates. There is still stress to come in this space!

On a positive note it is pretty clear that interest rates have topped out and banks have started to take a few points off their fixed rates in anticipation of the RBNZ perhaps cutting the OCR later in the year - markets are pricing in a first cut in August 2024, that's if weaker GDP, lower inflation and higher unemployment data continues to prevail.

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Arborists' estimate a nonsense 'frightener' – resident

From page 1

board members before their vote.

Another option put up by arborists was tree removal alone, estimated to cost \$3500, with kerb realignment if needed, adding a further \$3000. The third option was to do nothing.

McGregor said the much more costly option preferred by the arborists should the trees be removed had been put up "in the full knowledge of its prohibitive unaffordability for the local board in an age of local body austerity and ratepayer discontent".

Another of the 15 residents at the meeting, Peter McNab, said the option was a nonsense and a "frightener". Problems had begun with council negligence in planting the wrong trees years ago, he said.

The report took arborists 12 weeks to prepare, leaving residents angry they were not consulted on it and had only three days' notice of it before the meeting.

Health and safety issues on the street were being ignored, said McGregor, pointing to a High Court ruling in 2018 that local authorities had a duty of care to mitigate known risks and adverse effects on neighbours. She urged board members to back residents, saying: "This is a political decision, not a bureaucratic one."

For years residents have been picking up foliage and tree fruit from their street, which runs from Queens Pde to Clarence St. They say it is well used by pedestrians, who often slip on leaves and trip on tree roots and broken footpaths.

Residents have offered to pay for two more-suitable native specimens for their street to replace what arborists have variously described as Queensland umbrella and now mallet-flower trees.

Auckland Council last year placed Anne St on a "hot spot" register, paying to have its drains cleared monthly. Council staff have also said the street is in a flood plain, so flooding cannot necessarily be attributed to the trees.

In the board vote, board member Peter Allen switched positions from last year, voting with chair Toni van Tonder and Mel Powell



Unhappy residents... (from left) Peter McNab, Joy Mace, Jeremy Schmid, Kauan Gracie and Heather Dixon are among those who fear further flooding due to tree litter blocking drains. Behind them, a contractor cleans up the mess beneath the trees.

to keep the trees. Deputy chair Terence Harpur, George Wood and Gavin Busch all still wanted the trees replaced sooner rather than later.

Allen said he was swayed by the fact a Healthy Waters report due in July that would report on a planned infrastructure upgrade in the street might have implications for the trees. If the report said the trees should be removed in stormwater improvements, this should be done as soon as possible.

The board's resolution said it would review the decision to keep the trees once Healthy Waters reported back on the extent of the stormwater project and the impact the trees were having on flooding.

Powell noted an offer made by Restoring Takarunga Hauraki representatives to have its volunteers help with street maintenance.

"Will you come in the middle of the night?" a resident asked.

Harpur said he did not think removing the trees would create a precedent. "Those are the wrong trees in the wrong place," he said.

Busch said the arborists' figures were "cuckoo land". "The arrogance of council staff is terrifying."

Van Tonder said the board had climate-change obligations and goals to improve canopy coverage. "If they don't need to go we would be losing two beautiful trees on Anne St."



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Tree roots create Anne St obstacle course for scooter user

Devonport resident and disability-scooter user Willy de Wit (above) says he avoids the footpath around the tree on the east side of Anne St, as the roots sticking out of the asphalt and the footpath gradient pose a risk of a tumble. He has to be “very careful” when going past the tree on the west side of the street too as some of the footpath has been lifted by tree roots, and fruit and other debris poses a slip risk when wet. De Wit uses Anne St on his regular route from his Queens Pde home into the village.



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Belmont pips Vauxhall in peninsula schools tussle



All the magic of the fair... (from left to right) Seb Tyler, Honor Cloke, Lexi Edmonds and Quinny Yeoman of Belmont Primary School in action during a 'magic carpet' event



Dunked... Vauxhall's Pippa Lan (left) and Belmont's Cassandra Thorne gave it their all in the firefighter's challenge

Belmont Primary School won the annual Battle of the Schools competition last month, edging out Vauxhall School, champions for the previous three years.

The contest between Devonport peninsula primary schools, held annually as part of the Belmont School Fair, includes a variety of team events, including a firefighter's challenge.

Belmont principal Bruce Cunningham estimated more than 1000 people attended the fair. Between \$27,000 and \$30,000 was raised, with final totals to be confirmed, he said.

Belmont's Battle of the Schools victory was the first in five years. Competition was very close, Cunningham said.

Behind the mic... broadcaster Toni Street (below) was the MC for the fair. Right: A Stanley Bay School team competes in the magic carpet event during Battle of the Schools.



Lucky dip... Alice Pipa (6) having her hair coloured at the fair

Bucket list... Augustine Scovell from Vauxhall School concentrates in the leaky bucket event

AXIOME INVESTOR SERIES

You can't eat an investment property

As Kiwis, we love property. In fact, homes and real estate make up approximately 43% of total household assets in New Zealand. However, this love affair has started to sour for many indebted investors. The Official Cash Rate was at a low of 0.25% in September 2021 before rising sharply to 5.50% as of May 2023. Many investors have seen the rent they receive fail to keep up with their interest payments. The unshakeable faith in the rising New Zealand property market has also been tested with the average house price having fallen 13.2% from its March 2022 peak. While prices remain 24.3% higher than pre-Covid levels, there is a concern that if interest rates remain higher for longer, capital gains, the main driver of property investor returns, will be slow to return.

The tax landscape is improving for property investors, but is it enough?

There was hope that the current tax year would allow for a retrospective 60% interest deductibility rate to be applied this year. However, this failed to make it through the recent coalition negotiations and interest deductibility will remain at 50% for the 2023/24 tax year, before increasing to 80% in 2024/25 and moving to 100% in 2025/26. While this is good news for indebted property investors it will most likely reduce their tax burden rather than move their books back into the black.

So where does this leave the average Mum and Dad investor who just wanted to fund their golden years with the money earned from their investment property? In short, it depends on how much debt they were carrying on their investment property and what it is yielding. Property investors with debt have seen the free cash flow generated by their investment property portfolio dwindle or in many cases require them to make contributions to top up their mortgage. Even investors who own their investment properties debt free are in many cases earning a cash yield in the low single digits as rates and insurance costs rise.

With the incoming reduction of the Brightline test to two years many Kiwis are reassessing the use of rental property to fund their retirement. As well as the volatility in the investment property market, the burden of having to spend time dealing with tenant issues (every landlord will tell you, passive income from investment property is never truly passive),



and the lack of liquidity in their investment is prompting many property investors to look for investment alternatives. Drawing money above the cash yield from your rental property is very difficult: you can't just sell one of the bedrooms and property transaction costs can be exorbitant.

Most of the returns from investment property do not come from the cashflow but from capital gains. But just like you can't eat a spare bedroom, you also can't eat unrealised capital gains. Your retirement lifestyle need not be held hostage to how much cash flow your rental property throws off. Cashflows can be incredibly variable, and it doesn't make sense to have to adjust your retirement plans in the event that your investment property has a burst pipe or needs its roof replaced.

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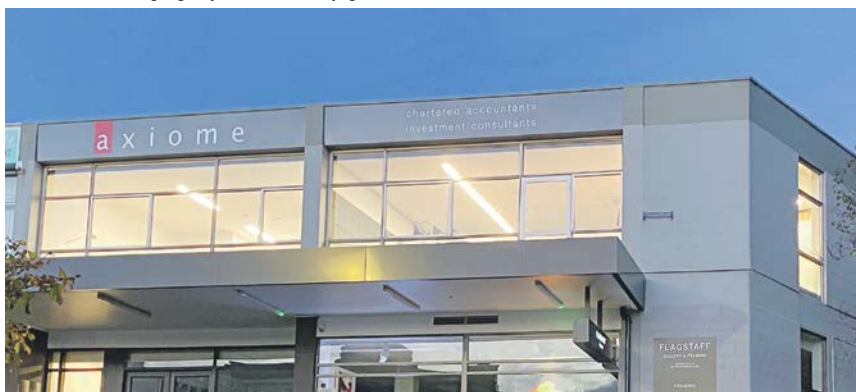
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Diana Murray
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Family Living by the Beach

Families looking for a classic character home just a four-minute walk from Narrow Neck beach will love this architecturally renovated residence in Devonport. It unfolds to offer an unexpectedly generous layout that is perfectly suited to family life and entertaining. The well-equipped kitchen overlooks the voluminous and open-plan living and dining space, while the separate lounge has a gas fireplace and can be closed off when separation is required. Walls of glass doors up to create a seamless connection with the sunny decks and potager garden. Three large double bedrooms on the ground floor are serviced by the family bathroom, while the upstairs master retreat has a separate office, bathroom and bedroom with city views. As well as the separate garage with workshop, there is a dedicated off-street boat park out front. Local beaches, Waitemata Golf Club, Wakatere Boating Club, Vauxhall School and the Vauxhall Shops are within walking distance. Belmont Intermediate and Takapuna Grammar, as well as the Devonport village and CBD ferry, are just a short drive or bus ride away

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By Rob Drent

Most communities have a residents and ratepayers association to go into bat for locals in various battles with the ruling powers at council. Some are more active than others. On the North Shore, the Milford and Takapuna residents associations, Sunnynook Community Association and Castor Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association are

all working away actively for their communities.

Devonport used to have an active ratepayers association. But after the Devonport Borough Council was merged into North Shore City, the Devonport Community Board did such a good job advocating for locals (along with the Devonport Flagstaff) that the ratepayers group was eventually wound up.

In recent years, Auckland Council seems increasingly to be distancing local boards from any real influence over key decisions. It's about to get even worse, if the plan to combine the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board with the Kaipatiki board goes ahead. Is it time to relaunch a Devonport residents and ratepayers association as a vehicle to get the peninsula's views before the powers that be?

editor advised me to write all my questions down to avoid doing it on the fly. I didn't, of course. Two minutes in, Muldoon asked: "Anything else?". I stuttered something but by the time I'd strung a couple of words together, he'd hung up.

Council dysfunction comes in many forms. A small but not insignificant example came when pianist Seumoni Matafai performed at Windsor Reserve as a promotion for the 2024 Auckland Arts Festival. It was a stunning recital, but only witnessed by a few commuters, dog walkers and runners. It was very poorly promoted by council. To make matters worse, the lower half of Victoria Rd had been cordoned off, restricting access and reducing the numbers of passers-by.

David Smart Co. Financial Advice



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Copies of Disclosure Statements on website.

Talk of residents associations takes me back 40 years, when as a young reporter at the *Rodney Times*, living on the Hibiscus Coast, one of my jobs was to cover the Orewa Residents and Ratepayers Association. The group took in Hatfields Beach, where then-prime minister Rob Muldoon had a bach. He played an active role in the association, even chairing some of its often-raucous public meetings. If the rates were going up, I'd have to ring Muldoon at Parliament for a few quotes and hopefully a front-page lead – a pretty formidable task for a 20-year-old. On the first occasion, my

Musician Paul Kelly (69) is old enough to remember when Devonport venues were part of the Auckland live-music scene. The Australian has toured New Zealand numerous times and has a strong following here. On his latest visit, performing his song "Leaps and Bounds" during a show at the Hollywood in Avondale, Kelly recalled Auckland venues he had played – the Gluepot in Ponsonby and "somewhere in Devonport". A member of the crowd yelled out, "The Esplanade". Kelly was in New Zealand to record at Neil Finn's Roundhead studio. Finn joined Kelly on stage during his sell-out Avondale show.

TGS athletes claim six victories at Auckland championships

Takapuna Grammar School athletes won six events at the College Sport Auckland Athletics Championships last week, with runner Sascha Letica and thrower Kate Hallie both taking double golds in senior competition.

Letica won the 1500m and 3000m girls titles and Hallie both the shot put and discus – the latter by nearly five metres over her nearest competitor.

Asha Edwards just missed a double, winning the 3000m intermediate race and coming second in the 1500m. Asha holds the Auckland 3000m intermediate record, which she set at the North Harbour zone qualifiers on 6 March.

The other gold medallist at Mt Smart on 26 March was Jess Lathwood, who won the intermediate 300m hurdles. She also placed second in the intermediate triple jump and third in the 80m hurdles and long jump.

Other TGS athletes to medal in multiple events were Lathwood's younger sister, Samantha, Connor Brady, and Romey Jewell.

A number of those athletes also did well at the New Zealand Track and Field championships held in Wellington from 14-17 March. Connor Brady, a Year 10, stood out, with two individual golds in under-16 shotput and javelin, and silvers in the 100m and 300m hurdles, along with two more running medals in relays.

As previously reported, former TGS students Jacko Gill and Eliza McCartney led the way at nationals, with shotput and pole vault titles, but current students and fellow Takapuna Athletics Club members also shone in age-group competition.

The club now holds three national shotput titles, with Kate Hallie winning the U20 event and Brady the U16. Like, Jacko, they are coached by his parents, Walter and Nerida Gill. Hallie was also third in the U18 discus.



Top performers... Jacko Gill (front row centre) with Takapuna Athletics Club and TGS athletes (clockwise from top left) Sam Lathwood, Sionann Murphy, Jess Lathwood, Kate Hallie, Alex Hallie and Connor Brady

Arpeggios al fresco in harbourside piano recital



Piano man... Seumoni Matafai performing in Windsor Reserve

Devonport commuters and dog walkers were treated to a surprise performance by pianist Seumoni Matafai on a baby grand at Windsor Reserve as a promotion for the

2024 Auckland Arts Festival.

Matafai dedicated one of the songs played, 'How Great Thou Art', to his friend, MP and former Auckland councillor Efeso

Collins, who died last month. Matafai was the choirmaster at Collins' funeral.

A small audience gathered to listen to the performance on 22 March.

Visitors from Auckland suggested as marketing target

City-side promotion as a key source of potential visitors to the village is under investigation by the Devonport Business Association.

Lake Rd traffic isolates the village from the rest of the North Shore area, new association chair Michael Moughan told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop on 26 March.

With the ferry connection to the city, "there's an argument to start seeing ourselves as more connected with the central city," he said.

The association wants board help marketing Devonport to people in the city as a day-trip destination, and funding for "place-making signage" around the village.

It has suggested some form of "three-dimensional signage", potentially by the waterfront near the ferry terminal.

"Essentially something that visitors will want to come and be photographed in front of so you know where you are," Moughan said.

Association members had also discussed having a promotional video to play on ferries.

The business association is stepping back from organising and managing events directly and instead focusing on assisting other local groups and organisations, taking a "support and promotional role", said Moughan.

"We no longer see our role as being directly responsible for management of events. We think there are other parties better placed to do that, but we want to wrap around that and

get our businesses involved."

The association was invited to the workshop due to the recent changes to its board, with former chair Rob Vickery stepping down after only six months in the role.

Moughan, new deputy chair Bruce Grant and association manager Richard Thorne presented plans to the local board.

Local board chair Toni van Tonder said it was a "smart move" for the business association to stop managing events, as last year's Friday after Five only brought in \$17,000 for its members and cost \$20,000 to host.

Member Gavin Busch said he was "a lot more comfortable" with the business association moving away from events, which were not part of its role and often didn't directly benefit businesses.



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Starkers raving mad? Nude entrants and others



Mission accomplished... Men's and women's Round North Head winners Matt Standford (left) and Julia Borlase



Happy finishers... (from left) Jim West, Helen Adams and Cynthia Borne hit the beach at Cheltenham

brave jellyfish threat in round-the-maunga swim

A record 29 nude swimmers took part in a field of 167 contesting this year's 2.5km Round North Head swim from Windsor Reserve to Cheltenham Beach last month.

Matt Stanford was first overall in a time of 30.58 minutes with Nick Carter (34.02) second man home and John Hall third (34.05). First woman was Julia Borlase in a time of 35.30, with Meagan Barfoot second (35.54) and Charlotte Carter third (35.56). The top male junior was Michael Brady and first female junior Sabine Harris.

The first nude male swimmer home was Nick Edwards, in 37.21, with Simon Millar second. Natasha Bowyer was first female naked swimmer in a time of 36.05, with Bethany Broomfield second. The winning nude swimmers were presented with towelling robes.

The race is one of the oldest community-run events on the Auckland swim calendar.

Lion's-mane jellyfish had been prevalent off the North Shore coastline prior to the race but only a few minor stings were reported to organisers.

The finish line was moved from Balmain Reserve to the northern end of Cheltenham Beach the night before the event, as organisers were unable to access a key to the reserve gate to let in vehicles, emergency responders and a car with the swimmers' gear trailer.



Across the line...Mark Harvey (above) celebrates finishing. Below: Laetitia Berten and Simon Millar (bottom). Left: First nude swimmer Nick Edwards in the robe he received as a prize.



Save plinths, but give self-seeded exotics the chop

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority is trying to erase Devonport's recent history with its plan to remove one of the topographical plinths on the Takarunga tihī.

The two bronze relief maps were made to go together by local artist and activist Richard Tong nearly 40 years ago and are a much-loved and valued feature of the maunga.

The plan is highly disrespectful of Richard's work and to the thousands of people who have enjoyed the plinths over the years.

However, there are many exotic trees on Takarunga that are not worth preserving. I have lived on the maunga's lower slopes for

nearly 40 years, and in that time I have seen the southeastern flanks slowly disappear behind self-seeded trees that are no more than large weeds. They are mainly young oaks that are less than 30 years old, and others like Phoenix palms, umbrella trees and climbing jasmine that are totally unsuitable for this grand archaeological site. They need to be removed so the contours of this magnificent volcanic cone can be clearly seen.

The only trees on the maunga worth protecting are mature puriri, pōhutukawa and totara, mainly on the northern and western sides and on the south-eastern slope behind

Devonport Primary School. These are fighting to grow through the wilding oaks.

If these exotics trees were removed it would allow more room for the natives to flourish.

The trees on the tihī that are due to be cut down are all natives and do indeed obstruct the views of the gulf.

However, trees and plaques that memorialise past events and people must be allowed to remain. Together with the Maori archaeological features, the gun emplacements and the topographical maps, they tell the story of Devonport.

Margot McRae

Consultation needed on car-park removal

In a privately funded court challenge to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority, the judge concluded that they had the power to cull trees and other actions. The judge also recommended that the public should be

informed and consulted. One hopes this will be the case before the top car park is removed from Takarunga. This has been well used for a long time especially for less agile people.

Alec Hill

Ryman village moves Anzac commemoration

At William Sanders Village in Devonport commemorations and public holidays are at risk.

For example Anzac Day, 25 April, which marks the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand forces during World War I, at Gallipoli. Anzac Day is not to be commemorated in William Sanders Village on Anzac Day because

management say a "change of date is to allow residents, families and staff to take the opportunity to join a local event (or dawn service) on 25 April".

The same fatuous argument could be used to have Christmas celebrated before or after Christmas Day and Easter Weekend celebrated in November.

Ron Turner

A Ryman spokesperson responds: It is standard in our villages around New Zealand and Australia to hold Anzac commemorations in the days before or after Anzac Day. Not only does it enable our residents and team members to attend services in the local community, it also means there is a wider choice of musicians or speakers to book for village events as many of them are unavailable on the day. Village Easter and Christmas celebrations also occur in the days leading up to the actual day to allow most of our team members the chance to spend time with their own families.

Letters to the Editor

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

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Devonport Flagstaff Tides

The Devonport Flagstaff

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Day	High (H)	Low (L)
Fri Apr 5	4:46am, 5:06pm	10:50am, 11:19pm
Sat Apr 6	5:47am, 6:12pm	11:51am
Sun Apr 7	5:44am, 6:13pm	12:20am, 11:48am
Mon Apr 8	6:39am, 7:08pm	12:15am, 12:43pm
Tue Apr 9	7:31am, 8:00pm	1:08am, 1:35pm
Wed Apr 10	8:22am, 8:50pm	1:58am, 2:25pm
Thu Apr 11	9:13am, 9:39pm	2:48am, 3:15pm
Fri Apr 12	10:03am, 10:28pm	3:38am, 4:03pm
Sat Apr 13	10:53am, 11:17pm	4:29am, 4:51pm
Sun Apr 14	11:44am	5:21am, 5:39pm
Mon Apr 15	12:09am, 12:36pm	6:17am, 6:31pm
Tue Apr 16	1:03am, 1:29pm	7:15am, 7:27pm
Wed Apr 17	2:01am, 2:27pm	8:15am, 8:29pm
Thu Apr 18	3:00am, 3:26pm	9:14am, 9:32pm

A sponsor is wanted for our well read tides column.

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Expanded recycling facility already paying off

More people are checking out second-hand goods at the expanded Resource Recovery Devonport facility, allowing the trust that runs it to return more funds to the community.

Richard Linthwaite, chair of operator Global Trust, which leases the 27 Lake Rd site from the council, told the Flagstaff the upgrade was already paying dividends to business and the environment.

“It enabled the shop to grow significantly – before we didn’t have room. We have seen a marked increase from the shop and that means more goods are being recycled.”

He said the trust was able to make a grant to keep the Devonport’s Kids Athletics programme going this summer.

It already sponsored nearby organisations Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, the Ngataranga organic garden, and North Shore Football Club.

Around \$50,000 to \$60,000 in grants had been made in the last year. “We’re gearing up to do more of that,” Linthwaite said. Two further grants rounds are planned for the next financial year.

The facility’s upgrade, funded by Auckland Council, was officially opened last month, although most of the work was finished before Christmas.

It included a building expansion to allow a bigger shop and a new educational space that is already in use by local schoolchildren. Paths, stormwater management and office space have been improved and a new weighbridge installed.

At the opening on 21 March, North Shore ward councillor Chris Darby praised the facility’s social-enterprise model, saying it was a great example for other community recycling centres (CRCs) in Auckland Council’s expanding network. “The facility has strong support from the community and, in turn, supports its community,” he said.

One of 13 CRCs operating across the



Bin there... Auckland councillor Chris Darby (left) and Resource Recovery Devonport trust chair Richard Linthwaite beside one of the facility’s new skips

region, it would help support Auckland’s strategy for reaching zero waste by 2040.

The aim is to add more CRCs and two large resource-recovery parks by 2030, so most urban Aucklanders are within a 20-minute drive of a facility.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder noted Devonport’s facility was, in 1977, the first municipal recycling centre set up in New Zealand, thanks to successful lobbying by local residents.

The centre has recently started a skip-bin service, allow it to collect more unwanted items, including construction and demolition materials, for reuse. It also runs a landscaping-supplies business.

Linthwaite told the Flagstaff the upgrade should set up the centre for another 20 to 30

years. It did not include hoped-for roofing over the outdoor areas where the public dropped off waste to be sorted by staff. Council had dropped this from original plans, but was something the trust might look to do itself.

Asked if there were plans to allow customers to drop goods for recycling straight to the shop, he said this was difficult at busy times.

The standard method was for staff to sort goods for recycling from what was left outdoors in the dumping bays, which was one reason roofing over these areas would be handy.

Linthwaite said staff needed to assess goods for suitability for resale. Sometimes they were in worse condition than people might think.

Early-morning drone visit concerns Hauraki resident before holiday

A Hauraki resident was left worrying over Easter after a drone hovered around her house at four in the morning before she went away for the weekend.

Carmel Maria Barnao believes the drone was being used by thieves to scout houses to burgle over the long weekend. “Who’s out with a drone at 4am?” she asked.

Barnao said a friend who was staying at her Hauraki Rd home was woken by the drone, which hovered near a deck accessed by large ranch-slider doors.

Barnao reported the incident to police and the Civil Aviation Authority.

She took extra security precautions before

leaving her home during Easter.

A resident in nearby Clifton Rd said her property had also had “a drone come awfully close” to her property a few times in the last few months.

Social-media postings on the issue prompted a man in Belmont to say he too had experienced problems with a drone visiting last week.

Police were not aware of any rise or trend in drones being reported near properties, a spokesperson said.

Police encouraged anyone who saw anything of concern to contact them immediately on 111, or on 105 if after the fact.



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US-bound footie whiz helps inspire next generation

Before taking up a soccer scholarship in Tennessee, Maia Scott is nurturing young female talent at North Shore United. She tells Helen Vause about wanting to take football as far as she can.

There's no place Maia Scott would rather be than on a football field, whether it's with a bunch of excited five-year-old girls or leading the North Shore United women's first team into big games. But lately the horizons have grown much wider for the former Takapuna Grammar School soccer star.

At the end of this season, Scott is off on a scholarship to Tusculum University in Tennessee. It's a move the 18-year-old would never have dreamed of – until she made the girls' first XI in her senior school years. She started hearing about other young Kiwi athletes gaining college scholarships in the US, including some from her own school. And learned she might stand a chance of going a lot further with football.

Before she leaves for the United States in spring, Scott has a formidable workload and schedule ahead. She's playing, coaching and working hard to earn money to help meet the expenses ahead. She has recently been appointed the first-ever female football development manager for North Shore United, where more girls from five-years-old up are taking up the sport.

Her appointment reflects an explosion of interest fuelled by the huge success of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand last year.

Even before that, nationally and locally, girls were getting into the game in unprecedented numbers. A 25 per cent growth in females players was reported between 2022 and 2023 seasons.

It's a boom that is widely expected to continue.

Scott was one of the little trailblazers for girls taking up soccer. She started playing at North Shore United when she was eight years old.

At 13, she began coaching at the club.

"My first team is now starting high school," she says.

This season the numbers of girls registered at Shore has swelled to about 250.

Along with her new job as development manager, she's also the co-ordinator of coaching for the First Kicks introductory programme and for two seasons has captained the club's top women's team. She's proud of now having 36 girls in her coaching crew at the club.

"For many of them it's their first ever proper job, and it gives them the chance to qualify as coaches."

She says there are plans at seventh- and eighth-grade level to start a girls' league with all-female coaches and referees.

"It's great to be part of building up the girls in the game – letting them feel they are an

"It's great to be part of building up the girls in the game – letting them feel they are an entity in it, and showing them that they are welcome here."

entity in it, and showing them that they are welcome here. Already there are plenty of role models for them."

Being part of a team has many benefits, she says.

"They are growing and developing in a safe environment where they don't feel

self-conscious and can have a lot of fun with their friends and make new friends. Football teaches them discipline, teamwork, resilience and the benefits of hard work.

"This new wave of girls and women in the sport is changing perspectives."

She says the support from parents at Shore for the girls game has been "absolutely huge".

For as long as she can remember, Scott has been sports mad, encouraged by her parents Mel and Dan as she grew up in Belmont.

At Takapuna Grammar, she was in the girls' first XI for three seasons and was captain for two.

When asked about her strengths in the game, the slender six-footer unfolds from the bench grinning: "I've got a bit of speed on the wing. And I'm a risk-taker. I love shooting for goals, and getting goals."

When she was noticed at national tournaments by recruiters for the US universities she recognised an opportunity.

"When I was told 'you've got a shot' based on my performance, I started thinking about it. I guess that bit of assurance really turned my head."

She says she made it through an 18-month process to acceptance at Tusculum with support and guidance from a senior sports staffer at TGS, American Josh Choice.

First she had to research her options across the US universities that might accept a female footballer like herself. "There were hundreds of emails back and forth. We compiled performance videos and there were countless Zoom calls until I was accepted at a university that seemed like a good fit for me. I just don't think I could have got through the process without the help of Josh."

Scott is one of four athletes from TGS in her year that are heading to the US on

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Goal hungry... Maia Scott's ability to grab shooting opportunities won the attention of recruiters for US colleges. After a long process of emails and Zoom a, she won acceptance to Tusculum University in Tennessee.

scholarships.

Finding the money she'll need is an ongoing challenge that has led to her working as a daycare assistant and at the YMCA when she's not employed at the club or coaching around the peninsula.

Tusculum was the first college established in Tennessee and is one of the oldest in the US. It's in Greeneville, a small centre set in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. For four years from August, Scott will live on the campus there, returning home for annual visits. While she earns her degree in sports science, part of the scholarship deal is that she will be coaching football as well as playing for the university.

Football has clearly become Scott's first love but there could have been other directions. Sports mad in her senior school years, she made the top teams for cricket and volleyball. She was an under-16 North Shore cricketer and for the last three seasons she's been selected for the Auckland Cricket Academy. Volleyball has taken her to national-level competition.

"I've really chosen to focus on my footy so other sports will take a backseat for the next few years at least. I was very busy last year between all my sports, study, work, coaching and being a prefect in my final year at school. So something had to give in order for me to chase this opportunity."

Home and the growing female footballers she's leaving behind will never be far from her mind she says.

But the opportunities that might emerge in the Northern Hemisphere are potentially huge. "I want to take football as far as I can," Scott says.

Before she goes away there's a full season ahead, and plenty to be done on and off the field in her role for the club.

Last week she delivered an inspirational talk to girls and their parents at the clubrooms about her own journey in the sport.

Who knows how many young footballers might be inspired to try to follow in her footsteps.

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Young athletes enjoy latest season of local events



Clean pair of heels... Jazel Hewitt (3) drags off Harry Matheson (4) in a game of tag

Several hundred children took part in Devonport Kids Athletics afternoons over five weeks in late summer.

Activities at the Vauxhall Rd sports grounds included jumps, running races, agility courses and games such as tiggy and a tug of war.

The event has been going more than 20 years.

Organiser Ian Cunliffe (pictured below) said this year's had been a joint effort by Harcourts, Devonport Rotary and the Devonport recycling centre.

Children from all the Devonport peninsula schools had attended, he said. In addition to the fun activities, it gave parents the chance to meet up. TGS students ran the events and Scouts had a sausage sizzle, adding to the community feel. "I hope it carries on next year," he said.



Hop to it... Felix Hielkema (3) is given some tips on the agility course by dad Arien. Left: Organiser Ian Cunliffe.





Airborne... Jasmine Wells (9) clears the high-jump bar

Good Friday procession carries cross to maunga summit



Around 100 people took part in Devonport's annual 'Procession of Witness' on Good Friday, when a wooden cross was carried from the band rotunda on Windsor Reserve to the summit of Takarunga, with Bible readings along the way.

Annual tradition... Above: The cross being carried up Victoria Rd. Right: Benjamin Holt and his mother, Robyn Holt, leading proceedings at the top of Takarunga.

PHOTOS BY KATHRYN NOBBS





DEVONPORT COMMUNITY HOUSE

Kia ora DCH Whānau!

Term one comes to an end on the 12th of April. We hope you have all enjoyed what we have had on offer this term. The term two timetable starts back on the 29th of April. Make sure you head to our website for all up to date term timetable, events and workshops. Check out the information below on a wonderful initiative we are running in House over April and all our school holiday details. Ngā mihi nui, Devonport Community House Team

WHAT'S NEW?

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20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- The historic Esplanade Hotel sells to the Mecca Cafe group.
- Devonport Library has been earmarked for development in the North Shore City 2004-2014 City plan.
- Snowboarder Phil Dominick (16) has bounced back from a shoulder injury to win a European title.
- Devonport author Graham Lay finishes his island trilogy of novels.
- George Coughlan, who spent close to four years in a prisoner of war camp during the Second World War, is made a life member of the Devonport RSA.
- Mountain bikers should be made to pay for damage to Mt Victoria, say nearby residents.
- Residents want more rubbish collections over the Christmas break.
- Coin-operated binoculars are proposed for Mt Victoria by a private company, but the Devonport Community Board says commercial revenue-gathering is not generally permitted on parks and reserves.
- A dozen members of the Williamson family contribute to a Depot exhibition.
- Depot staff plan an exhibition of their own works.
- More than 60 people attend a Devonport creche golf day, which raises \$4000.
- North Shore and East Coast Bays battle it out for the Auckland two-day cricket title with one weekend to go.
- Devonport clairvoyant Lily Watson is the Flagstaff interview subject.

Tennis club finally gets lease

Ngataringa Tennis Club has been granted a new council ground lease at Stanley Bay Park, but club officers were left frustrated about how long it took to finalise.

“We maintain the courts and building. It doesn’t cost council anything,” club representative John O’Toole told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last month.

It had taken two-and-a-half years to renegotiate the 10-year lease (with right of renewal for another 10 years), when the matter should have been sorted in six months, he said. In that time, the club had dealt with multiple council staff.

“It must be costing council a fortune with

all these community leases and the backlog.”

The club had also hoped a review of its peppercorn rental fee of \$1 would be in five years, rather than two, he said.

Board chair Toni van Tonder said she understood the frustration with the delays, which were caused by a lack of staff in the lease team.

Deputy chair Terence Harpur said the review period was to line up with others being done as the council moved to charging sports clubs fees that cover its administration costs. “It’s not about changing a lease in two years’ time.” Subsequent reviews would be five yearly.

Shore cricketers improve at season’s end

North Shore Cricket Club’s premier side finished fifth in Auckland’s Hedley Howarth two-day competition.

It was a solid result in the eight-team competition after Shore lost its first three matches of the season.

The club won the competition last year, in its first year back in the top grade after being relegated.

Shore won its last match against Cornwall despite a rain-affected final day on Devonport Domain on 24 March.



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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

MARCH 22, 2024

Sports Tournament Week Round Up

Congratulations to our sporting teams had some amazing results over the annual Summer Tournament. The Girls Cricket 1st XI went through the tournament undefeated. They will be Auckland's representative at the National Tournament in December. Our Premier Girls Ultimate Frisbee team finished 3rd at the National Tournament and also claimed the coveted 'Spirit Cup'.

On the water Rosara Davis picked up a NZSS title in the Canoe Racing, winning the U16 Long Distance. Some other highlights included our Girls Premier 3x3 Basketball team finishing 5th. Our Premier Boys Volleyball team making the top eight school teams in the country and our Boys Surfing Tag team finished 4th in competition held at Muriwai. Well done athletes!



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Kia ora Devonport, Bayswater, Belmont, Hauraki & the North Shore



Vector owns and operates networks, including power lines, that distribute electricity across the greater Auckland region including the North Shore. We need to carry out important work to strengthen and help future-proof the electricity network in your area and we want to give North Shore residents details about how this could affect you over the coming months. We know that this is an extremely busy area, especially Lake Road, and that this work will affect many people.

What's happening, and when?

We'll be undertaking a significant project to strengthen the high voltage power lines connecting Belmont Zone substation to Ngataranga Bay. Works will take place from approximately 15 April 2024 to October 2024. The exact dates of the works will depend on when we receive access approvals from Auckland Transport, as well as on the weather conditions.

We've divided the work into three proposed stages:

- Stage One: April – May 2024
- Stage Two: May – June 2024
- Stage Three: June – October 2024.

See the map (right) showing where the work will occur at each stage.

Why are we doing this?

This project is essential to help future-proof the power supply for everyone who lives and works in the area. It will also ensure the electricity network can charge electric ferries when they start running to and from Devonport.

We have considered multiple options to undertake this critical work in the most efficient way. Throughout the planning process, we've made every effort to minimise disruption that the works may cause to your homes and businesses.

This is critical work for the longer-term power supply in your community because there will be more and more demand on the electricity network.

How might this affect you?

Roads & traffic

To ensure public and crew safety, we'll need traffic management measures, including some one-way detours, 'stop go' lane diversions and island closures.



These measures are essential to enable the work to progress safely. Residents will receive more specific information about traffic management plans that may affect them closer to the time of each stage of the works. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work hard to complete the project efficiently and safely.

During the work period, please expect the following:

- Most of the work will happen between 7am-7pm.
- There will be low to minimum noise, on an intermittent basis during work times. To limit noise, noise mats will be used when required.
- Traffic controllers will be on site to assist with traffic flows as needed. Residents will receive more detailed information about traffic management plans closer to the time.
- Parts of the footpath may need to be closed temporarily for pedestrian safety.

Power

Some planned power outages will be needed to complete this work. We will communicate the dates and times of any outages to impacted customers at least 10 days before the outage, so that those who are affected will know what to expect and have time to prepare.

Who is doing the work?

The project will be completed on our behalf by Stockman General Contractors Limited. Northpower Limited will also be working with Stockman General Contractors Limited to complete specialist cabling work. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Jenkins of Stockman General Contractors Limited on mobile 021 329 982 or email lisa@sgc.co.nz

You can also find more information about the project on our website at vector.co.nz/ngataringabay-faqs

We want to say a big thank you to the community for your support and understanding over the coming months.

Firm eyes park for courts

A private company's pitch to build padel courts on public land and charge for their use has raised questions for Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members.

Board member Gavin Busch is wary of the public-private partnership (PPP) Pacific Padel is advocating for courts in Woodall Park, but fellow member Peter Allen said such arrangements could be needed due to tight council budgets limiting the board's ability to upgrade facilities. Board chair Toni van Tonder agreed with Allen, but said there was a need to "drill into" such PPPs.

"If it means we can do better for the community as a whole, while some of it [court time] is carved out for your organisation, then we need to look at it," she said.

Busch said he was concerned the business outline put to the board by Pacific Padel's Julian Brown last month could see locals unable to play on council reserve land.

"If I'm a resident who lives across the road, I'd have to download your app to use the courts?" he asked.

Yes, Brown said, but time slots would be set aside for the public.

Brown said members would likely be charged \$50 an hour to use a court, with non-members charged \$80.

The company's interest in Woodall Park developed after talks with the Devonport Squash Club, Brown said.

He said Tennis Auckland planned to launch padel at the New Zealand Open next year.

Padel, thought to have been invented in Mexico in 1969, has elements of tennis, squash and badminton, and is played in pairs, on walled courts with an artificial surface.

Advocates for pickleball, another growing racquet sport, have already asked if the Woodall Park public courts might be marked to allow it to be played there.

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For the 2024 flu season, the vaccine is funded for everyone:

- 65 years old and over

It is also funded for people under 65 who are most at risk of becoming very sick from flu, such as people:

- with long-term conditions (like asthma, diabetes or cardiovascular disease)
- with reduced immune function
- who are pregnant
- who have specific mental health conditions or addiction issues
- are 4 years old and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

Pharmac has confirmed around one million people are eligible to get the vaccination for free.

It is possible to come into contact with flu viruses all year round, but the chance of the flu virus circulating in the community is highest during winter.

For most people, the best time to be vaccinated against influenza is just before the start of the winter season, between April and June.

To book your flu vaccine visit BookMyVaccine.nz, call the Vaccination Healthline on 0800 282926 or contact your doctor, pharmacy or healthcare provider.



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Raising the roof: Leaky hall alive with the sound of music

Harmony Hall is having a boom in usage but badly needs a new roof, prompting a fundraising campaign for a replacement.

The hall in Wynyard St is owned by the Devonport Senior Citizens Association but used by a variety of groups, including U3A (the 'University of the Third Age').

In recent years it has been increasingly used for musical get-togethers including a Friday-night open-mic night, Sunday singing and a ukulele session every Monday evening.

The venue is also often booked for musical events such as blues nights.

An estimated \$60,000 is needed to replace the hall's roof, gutters and downpipes.

Devonport Senior Citizens Association (DSCA) member and unofficial hall custodian John Davy, who has been involved with the DSCA and U3A for about seven years, said leaks are common in heavy rain.

While substantial repairs had been done on the roof, it had an internal guttering system which leaked on one side of the building, putting newly donated sound and musical equipment at risk.

Davy said while the roof could have 10 years' life left, the association was looking at replacing it at the same time as the guttering, as much of the cost was in the provision of scaffolding.

Davy wanted more people to join the DSCA, which has 400 members.

He believed the hall was so busy because it was the right size for many different uses.

"It has grown as a venue because it's the right size to congregate," he said. "We have a maximum of 100 people, but it feels



Striking a chord... Harmony Hall has grown organically into a community hub for music with the help of John Davy, pictured under a wall affected by leaks

comfortable with 35 to 40 people."

Other venues needed greater numbers. The Devonport RSA, for example, needed 60 to 65 people to feel full, and the Devonport Yacht Club up to 100.

"Overall it's a very well designed building," Davy said. "Like an old country hall – it has got that feeling."

It had good natural acoustics and had been built with acoustic sound tiles in the

roof.

The hall also had a sprung wood floor, which was great for dancing. It had been hired out for ballet tuition.

A recently donated sound and lighting system and grand piano had allowed members and guests to make the most of the hall musically.

"At the open-mic night we'd love to see more people come along to play or listen."

U3A at the Hall

U3A has guest speakers on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am.

The organisation is open to anyone who wants to learn or take part in social gatherings.

Activities and subjects covered include film discussion groups, historical studies, mah jong, classical-music studies, play-reading, poetry, psychology, singing groups, a dining-out group, current affairs, book group, a women's group, Rummikub and board games and art and heritage. Join for \$30 a year. Contact: Sam Luxemburg 027 802 3766.

How you can help

Join the Devonport Senior Citizens Association for \$30 or donate to the Raise The Roof campaign. To join and/or donate to the Devonport Senior Citizens account: 12-3015-0574457-01

What's on at Harmony Hall

- Friday Night Live open-mic evening, 7 pm. Hear and play music and singing. Bring a plate and BYO.
- Ukulele Monday Nights at 7pm. Chord charts and lyrics provided.
- Sunday singing from 4 pm. Lyrics on the large screen. Email dellgraham@gmail.com for song lists each week. Wine and

cheese at 5 pm.

• St George's Day – the best of English music on 20 April at 7 pm. City of Auckland Morris Dancers, The Shambles Band, Greg and Linda Whitcombe. Barn Dances. Tickets \$20. Book at undertheradar.co.nz.

• Unsung Heroes, with Chris Priestly and friends, 14 April. Doors open at 6.30pm.



Beautiful on the inside... Harmony Hall's low-key exterior hides the charms of an old-style country hall



Depot Artspace opens shop



Creative cluster... (from left) Stacey Edgar, Fiona Mackay, Karen Rubado, Depot director Amy Saunders and Terehia Walker in the new Depot Artspace shop

Devonport peninsula creatives are excited about the opening of a shop at the Depot Artspace this week.

"It's really nice to have a shop where people can see my things," says ceramicist Fiona Mackay.

From 5 April, local people will be able to shop there for cards, ceramics, photographs, jewellery, cushions, carvings and other art works.

Depot director Amy Saunders said converting the small front room off the main gallery into a shop was decided last year. Around a third of those whose works were on offer were locals. "This is a way we can support more artists," Saunders said.

The move was also in line with Depot training programmes which help upskill artists and musicians to help turn their endeavours into viable careers.

Terehia Walker, who lives at Narrow Neck, and Stacey Edgar, from Hauraki, both showed work at Depot offshoot Whare Toi on Kerr St last year.

Walker, who makes carved wooden boards and is a volunteer for Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, said she was motivated by the environment and to tell the stories of Te Hau Kapua / Devonport

Edgar is doing that too, using her photographic skills to make cards depicting images specific to this area, ranging from the ventilation 'mushrooms' on Takarunga to details of buildings.

Fabric artist Karen Rubado, who has lived in Devonport for three years, is looking forward to further building community connections.

Mackay says the shop has prompted her to adapt her ceramics. "They were more art based, but they are now more functional," she says of the pieces created for sale.

Saunders says returns from a 30 per cent commission the Depot will take on sales will be put to good use in the general running of the gallery.



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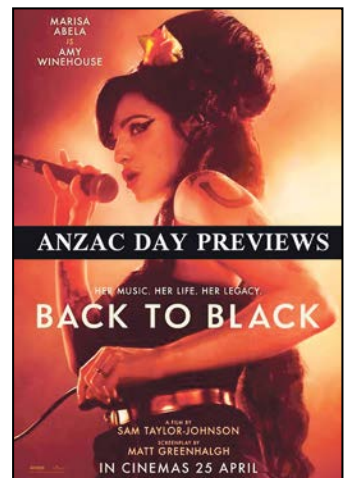
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The Tiger's Apprentice (PG) 81min	11 APR
Mad About the Boy: The Noël Coward Story (E) 91min	PREVIEWS 12 APR
Challengers (TBA) 130min	18 APR
The Immortals: The Wonders of the Museo Egizio (E) 86min	18 APR
Spy x Family Code: White (PG) 110min	18 APR
The Fall Guy (TBA) 125min	24 APR
Back to Black (TBA) 121min	ANZAC DAY PREVIEWS

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PREMIUM[®] Est. 1984



TAKAPUNA | 23 EWEN STREET
Superb Position with Development Opportunity



Located walking distance to Takapuna beach, this 548sqm (approx) freehold property features a 6 bedroom, 3 bathroom home, elevated with potential for sea views. It includes its own vehicle access and sits on a corner lot, offering a unique redevelopment chance. Owners have resource consent for two homes. An excellent opportunity for families or developers. Contact for viewings.

premium.co.nz/80485

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

ROBERT MILNE 022 011 2494

RICHARD MILNE 021 770 611 OFFICE 916 6000



TAKAPUNA | G02/8B LAKE PUPUKE DRIVE
You Are My Sunshine | Garden Haven



Sunny garden apartment at Lake Pupuke Drive. Private, with one bedroom, modern kitchen, appliances, underfloor heating. Lounge opens to terrace, garden. Includes study nook, Astro turf, laundry, near amenities, beach, motorway access. Pet-friendly, with parking, storage. In Willis Bond development, ideal for pet owners. Blends convenience, style for discerning buyers. Unmissable opportunity, priced to sell.

premium.co.nz/80540

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

PRICE | \$895,000

ALISON PARKER 021 983 533 OFFICE 916 6000



MILFORD | 5E PIERCE ROAD
Simply Stunning!



A secure, quality, sophisticated, lock-up and leave lifestyle, minutes to the beach, lake, shops, restaurants, cafes and village. The premium "end" townhouse, with freehold title. Amazing kitchen, lounge, dining area overlook a sunny north facing balcony plus a rear courtyard with spa and garden. Three levels, with lift access. 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, mid-level living and powder room, double garage and extra parking.

premium.co.nz/80538

VIEW | SAT/SUN 2 - 2.45 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

AUCTION | SUN 21 APR 2024 AT 2.30 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

CAROLE THOMAS 021 539 553 OFFICE 916 6000



POINT WELLS | 331 POINT WELLS ROAD
Willowvale | A Secluded Garden Sanctuary



Welcome to Willowvale: A tranquil 1-hectare (approx) haven adorned with lush gardens, mature trees, and vibrant birdlife. This residence offers seamless indoor/outdoor living, a garden room, and flexible spaces. Located near Point Wells, Omaha Beach, and Matakana, it presents a unique retreat. Embrace this peaceful lifestyle at 331 Point Wells Road. A rare opportunity to own a slice of paradise. Schedule your visit and discover tranquility.

premium.co.nz/90146

VIEW | SAT/SUN 12 - 12.30 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

AUCTION | THU 18 APR 2024 AT 5 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

LINDA SMITH 021 470 175

ROBERT MATULICH 021 634 059 OFFICE 422 9280