

The Rangitoto Observer

Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

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Issue 12 - Aug 16, 2019

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Forrest Hill and North Shore
football merger fails... p3

Tales told of Takapuna's
Frank Sargeson... p4

Westlake orchestra wins
Australasian contest... p21

Takapuna Beach 'one of city's worst'

Takapuna Beach is one of the worst beaches in Auckland for faecal pollution, according to the council.

Estimates for the most recent summer show the beach was safe for swimming

more often than the summer before, but only because there was low rainfall, Safeswim manager Nick Vigar told a community workshop. The beach behaves differently at the north and south ends, Vigar said. The

north end was swimmable for about 83 per cent of last summer, while the south end was safe for 90 to 95 per cent of the time.

In the 2017/18 summer, the beach was

To page 2

Westlakes wig out in *Les Miserables*



Best seat in the house... Mini Clements-Levi (Madame Thenardier) sits on Colby Wilson (Monsieur Thenardier) in Westlake schools' *Les Miserables*. Story and more pictures, page 22.

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From page 1

Takapuna Beach ‘often unsafe’ due to contamination

unsafe for swimming, due to faecal contamination, for 30 per cent of the time.

“It is well down the bottom of the [league] table. It’s one of the worst in Auckland, which is why we have poured investment into it,” Vigar told the community workshop on water quality on 10 August.

Vigar shared the soon-to-be-released figures in response to a question from the floor.

Afterwards, he told the Observer, in an email, the data for all beaches across Auckland was being finalised before being shared via a media release.

The most contaminated part of the beach is below the Strand, near the children’s playground, Vigar told the meeting.

Takapuna Beach has been a top priority for

the SafeSwim programme, because it is one of the city’s most popular beaches.

Over the past 18 months, money has been poured into sampling to identify problematic stormwater outlets, followed by dye and smoke testing and the use of cameras to find out where sewage is leaking into the stormwater system, Vigar said.

Of around 40 issues identified, 30 were on private properties and three-quarters were now resolved, Vigar said.

These were mainly cases of stormwater flooding wastewater pipes, but two were when wastewater was plumbed into the stormwater system, in one case a toilet. One of the biggest issues has been ageing sewers along Hurstmere Rd, which are

being relined.

Any improvements to water quality will be picked up by regular testing by drone and fed into the modelling, based on five years of data, that produces SafeSwim’s online warnings.

SafeSwim is largely funded through the targeted water rate. The team is prioritising North Shore beaches, because they are used by thousands of people over summer.

Investigations have started on Milford Beach and Castor Bay, and identified faecal contamination near the Milford marina, and issues with contamination at times on both beaches. The programme has begun looking at the stormwater network of pipes to find the causes.

Hurstmere Rd \$12 million upgrade gains consent

The long-awaited \$12 million upgrade of Takapuna’s shopping strip, Hurstmere Rd, has passed a major milestone with the granting of resource consent.

The consent means the project can move ahead to the tender stage, then construction, North Shore councillor Richard Hills says.

“It’s going to make Hurstmere Rd much more people-friendly and replace the road,

which is falling apart, and completely divert the stormwater and road run-off into rain gardens instead of to Takapuna Beach,” Hills says.

The council’s project team is updating tender documents to incorporate “small changes” resulting from the resource consent decision. The team will continue to work with the Takapuna Beach Business

Association, the local board and Auckland Transport to decide on the best time to begin construction, possibly avoiding the busy Christmas trading period, a council memo says. Construction management principles, drafted with input from the business association, will be incorporated into the tender to ensure disruption is well managed and kept to a minimum.

Letters to the Editor

Topics should be local.

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NEXT ISSUE: Aug 30
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WWII barracks to be restored

Restoration of World War II barracks disguised as a state house at Castor Bay’s Kennedy Park has been confirmed.

Earlier this year, a report on the state of the historic building found it was earthquake-prone, borer-ridden and contained asbestos, raising doubts about its future.

Now the council has confirmed it will spend \$1.1 million restoring the building, starting with concept plans, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair George Wood says.

Korean Gardens get green light

A plan for Korean Gardens in Barrys Point Reserve has taken a big step forward, with the council granting a resource consent.

The plan was originally approved by the North Shore City Council a decade ago, after a Korean trust had spent 12 years finding the right location.

The garden will have a memorial for Korean and New Zealand war veterans, as well as traditional gardens, offering space for cultural activities.

The consent regarded low the risk of earthworks disturbing a capped landfill to be low.

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Clubs' marriage abandoned at altar



Bereft... While members of Forrest Hill Milford United football club, led by commercial manager Andrew Diver (left) and chairman David Crombie, voted to merge with North Shore United, the Devonport club's members shot down their hopes

The proposed amalgamation of Forrest Hill Milford United and North Shore United football clubs has been rejected by North Shore members.

When votes on the proposal were held at meetings at the respective clubrooms on 6 August, Forrest Hill Milford members voted 110-16 in favour, while North Shore members were 106-30 against.

"It's disappointing, but in a democratic process that's how it has turned out," Forrest Hill Milford commercial manager Andrew Diver says.

"Both boards believed strongly this was the best option to secure the future and improve what we offer to our members."

Forrest Hill members have given the board a mandate to amalgamate with another club, so the board will now consider that, Diver says, adding there's no particular club in mind at this point.

Forrest Hill Milford United was formed in 1975, while North Shore dates back to 1887.

Diver believes the newer club has generally younger members who are open to change, while the Devonport club may have older members with more entrenched views and a desire to protect the club's historic legacy.

While Forrest Hill Milford is younger, a lot has changed since 1975 and members

now are less able to help as volunteers and more willing to pay for professional management, Diver says.

The club sees potentially doubling in size as a way of providing a pathway for juniors to progress to the national league, as well as having more influence with funders.

Meanwhile, North Shore United's chairman, Steve Browning, is disappointed by the result.

"I didn't ever underestimate the history

of North Shore United or the value senior members place on it. I am not surprised, just disappointed."

The club is struggling financially and operationally, he says. "People say they will volunteer but the reality is different."

Under the merger, managers' roles could have combined, with four coaches across the clubs, a high-performance area for children and a more robust girls' section among other aspirations.

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Bustin' out all over: Three faces of Frank Sargeson



Celebrating Frank... Kevin Ireland (above) with a collection of Sargeson's short stories. Ruth and Gordon Ell (below) were among those who took in the exhibition on opening night.



Prominent literary figure Frank Sargeson has been dead for 37 years, but he can still draw a crowd of close to 100.

Old friends, writers who became known as the “sons of Sargeson”, Sargeson Trust members and the general public all descended on Takapuna Library for the opening of the *Three Faces of Frank* exhibition.

From 1 August to 31 October, three busts of Sargeson – by Anthony Stones, Alison Duff and Terry Stringer (who attended the opening) – will be on display in the Angela Morton Room at the library. It is the first time all the busts have been exhibited together.

The size of the crowd exemplified the fondness with which Sargeson, who lived at 14 Esmonde Rd, 10 minutes from the library, is still regarded in Takapuna and the North Shore.

Writer Graeme Lay recalled as a young man sending a rejected manuscript to Sargeson for advice, and was surprised to get a letter back full of helpful comments and encouraging criticism. The two men became friends and Lay was a regular visitor at Sargeson’s house for Friday night discussions.

Sargeson never drove a car and “Takapuna was his world”, with its Post Office (essential for receiving and sending letters, acceptance slips and rejected works), shops and Chinese restaurant of the day, said Lay, who later became a member of the Sargeson Trust, which continues to look after the Esmonde Rd house.

Author Kevin Ireland said Sargeson’s house became something of a haven for writers. “In Takapuna, Frank created an oasis in a literary desert.”

Wine often flowed, the “teapot was always on” and there was thinking and intellectual debate, Ireland said.

Sargeson’s garden also had to be seen to be believed. “On the quarter acre Frank ran a subsistence farm... feeding everyone with vegetables.”

Sargeson Trust chair Elizabeth Aitken Rose thought Sargeson would have been proud that his legacy lived on. Grimshaw Sargeson fellow Chloe Honum read from her own poetry, and also a short story by Janet Frame, perhaps Sargeson’s most famous protégée.

Sculptor Terry Stringer told the Observer that although Sargeson was initially reluctant “a mutual friend took me across (the harbour) to do the portrait”.

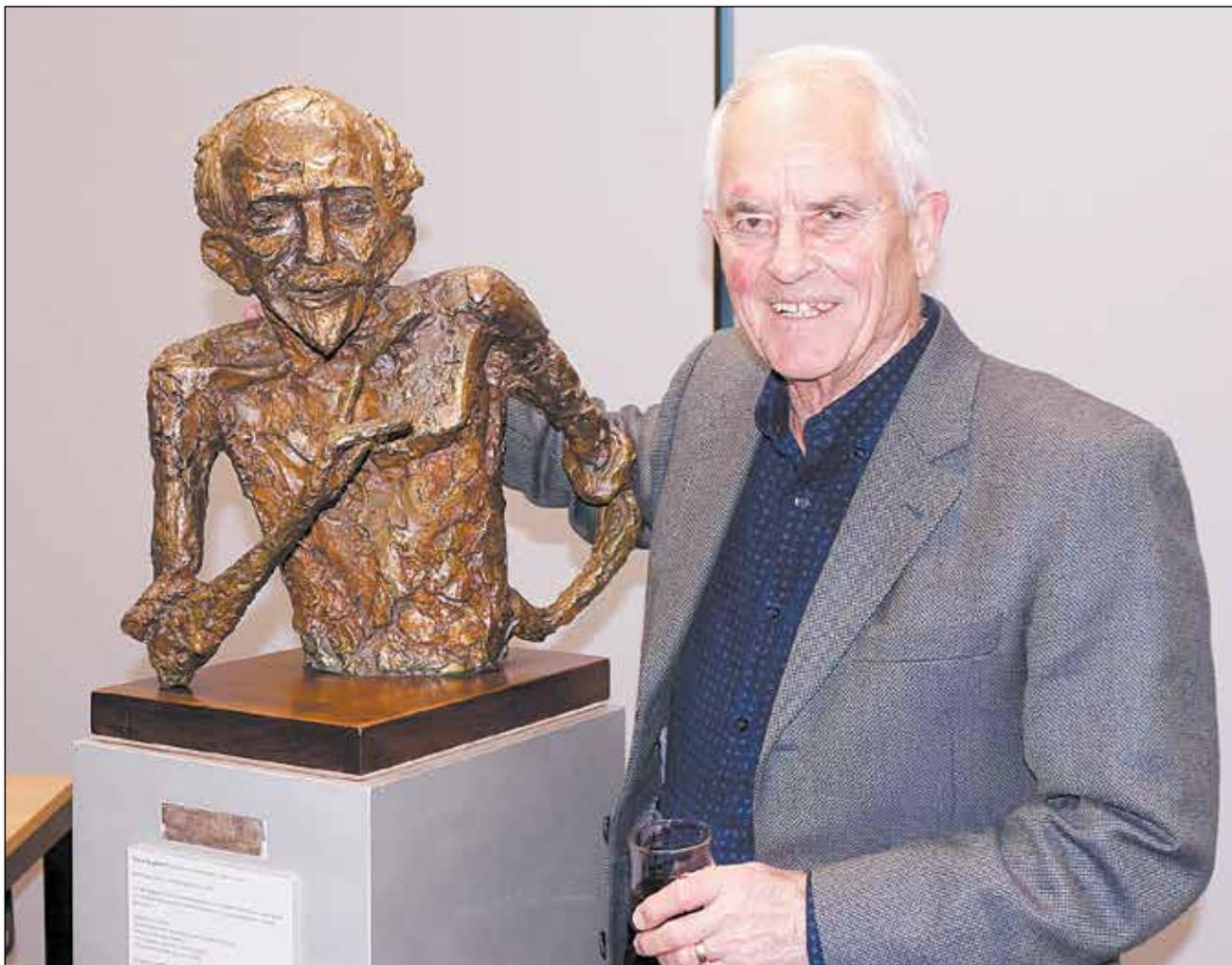
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Esmonde Rd revisited... Writer Graeme Lay (above) with the Alison Duff bust of his friend and mentor, Frank Sargeson



Sharing memories... Sargeson Trust chair Elizabeth Aitken Rose (left), and (above right) Terry Stringer, Kevin Ireland and Janet Wilson with Stringer's bust of Sargeson

Weather better for fish than anglers at Pupuke fishing contest



To scale... Lucas (9) and Coby (6) Bathurst were among entrants in the Lake Pupuke Fishing Competition held on 4 August. Photos: Keeley Watson

Poor weather, including winds up to about 35km/hr, took a toll on the turnout at the annual Lake Pupuke Fishing Competition on Sunday 4 August.

Eleven fish were weighed in by six anglers, with the longest trout caught measuring 39cm. The winning angler was Joonwon Hwang.

Prizes included a trout rod and reel, two spinning reels, a fishing vest, and gift vouchers

from fishing stores.

The North Shore Flyfishers club has run the contest since 2007. Club secretary Dennis Smith says only one family braved the conditions to troll from a boat this year, with all other contestants fishing from the shore.

Sylvan Ave, the Pumphouse and the rowing club are favoured spots. Apart from trout, there are perch, tench, rudd, eels, goldfish and catfish

in the lake. Fly, spin and bait fishing are all permitted in the lake.

The Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council, part of Fish & Game New Zealand, stocks Lake Pupuke with trout every year so city dwellers can go fishing handy to where they live. The trout are raised at a hatchery in Rotorua and released into the lake at two years old and about 30cm long.



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Top of the lake... Contestants and prizewinners Kenny Liao, Ruiliang Nie, Lewis Carrigan, Joonwon (Peter) Hwang, Leon Bathurst (back row), and Lucas Bathurst and Coby Bathurst (front row)

School experiences foster environmental career

Sea Cleaners youth ambassador John Commissaris says his time as a student at King's College inspired him to pursue a career in the environmental sciences.

Commissaris began volunteering for Sea Cleaners, a not-for-profit organisation that removes rubbish from the sea, while attending King's on a sports scholarship.

He recalls filling 20 bags with litter, collected from among mangroves, the first time he went out with Sea Cleaners.

"The rubbish is in all these places you never see. No one can see it, but there's a ridiculous amount of rubbish there," he says.

Sea Cleaners has removed over seven million litres of rubbish from the ocean since it formed in 2002.

Commissaris recruited around 200 other Kings College students to volunteer for a day and they collected more than 300 bags of rubbish from a local estuary.

"At school we had a house system," he says. "It was an actual physical house where every student in that house came together each morning.

"Everyone was from different age groups and we ran lots of different competitions. That year I was really keen to win the community service cup."

And so he did. After high school, it was an easy choice for Commissaris to study environmental sciences and law at Otago University.



On a path.... John Commissaris says working with Sea Cleaners in clean-ups while at King's College set him up for studying law and the environment

"I'm absolutely thriving now," he says.

Commissaris grew up in Titirangi where he lived and breathed the outdoors, spending much of his life on the beach. He has surfed since a young age, and been a surf life-saver.

"I grew up around the ocean and beaches. I was always outside – we were never allowed to watch TV."

Rugby, another passion for Commissaris, won him his scholarship to King's College.

"It's a damn good school," he says. "Aside from the sports, the academic side was brilliant. It really set me up well for university."

He continues to work with Sea Cleaners as a youth ambassador.

"It's something I want to continue being involved with. In terms of a career, I know that I am going to do something with the environment as it's what I'm passionate about."



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Takapuna kids make a splash in mud run

The Stanley Bay Stampede mud run on 4 August raised around \$19,500 for Stanley Bay School, attracting entrants from around the North Shore.

Good dirty fun... (clockwise from top left) **Kyler Turner of Hauraki Primary takes a dive; a younger contestant gets a helping hand; one unidentifiable entrant goes head-first; **Holly Hatcher of Takapuna Primary School keeps her shirt surprisingly clean;** **Oscar Lewis of Rosmini College doesn't;** and **Hudson England-Hall of Kristin School generates some pace.****



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Why we lost trust in Panuku over the town square

I wish to clarify a couple of points made in your 2 August edition.

Firstly, I don't recall ever being a Facebook friend of Richard Hills, and deny being abusive. I don't condone abuse, but will always correct misinformation on my pages, which are very successful.

Secondly, despite the comment made by Mr Darby that board members have not contacted him on the [40 Anzac St public space] subject for years, the chair and I met regularly with the two councillors and Panuku over 40 Anzac St. The Working Group met every month, and it became apparent the Working Group had been established with the aim of keeping the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board 'tidy' while Panuku made irreversible decisions.

We were promised public consultation after the design had gone to the board in July and we asked for a month's grace for this to happen. The delay was denied.

We were also promised that Panuku would work closely with the board "on the outcomes and objectives" of the brief, prior to any development material being produced. Again, this never happened. We were given the brief on the Friday night before it appeared in Saturday's paper. So, unfortunately, we lost trust in Panuku and the planning committee's processes.

Grant Gillon
Devonport-Takapuna
Local Board deputy chair
- writing on his own behalf

Councillors have holistic understanding

As a resident of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area I completely disagree with the motion of no confidence supported by board members Jan O'Connor, Mike Cohen and Grant Gillon at the board's July meeting (Rangitoto Observer, 2 August).

Putting aside the intent of motion, which I believe to be entirely motivated by the type of political game-playing that has been evident with the board to the detriment of progress in the area, my real disappointment is that the movers chose to suggest that the community as a whole supports their parochial views. I strongly object to this and believe they have no or little basis to do so.

The two councillors in whom they have no confidence have in my experience been exemplary in their approach to local and regional issues in the governing body and various council committees and have a far more holistic understanding of the community as a whole than I have witnessed from some on the local board.

From my perspective they are committing

an error in thinking that the community is entirely motivated by negativism and preserving the status quo rather than grasping the opportunity for quality transformation that will benefit residents, future residents and the region as a whole.

It is unfortunate that the views which they are endlessly promoting have the impact of discouraging rather than encouraging residents to participate in the election process.

Suffice to say that I will be seeking to vote for candidates who have a positive vision for the area and are willing to work constructively to achieve this. Candidates who have similar values to those in whom they have no confidence.

John Smith
Castor Bay

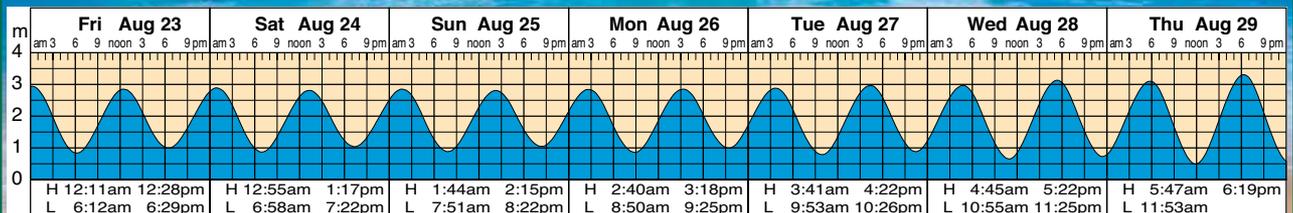
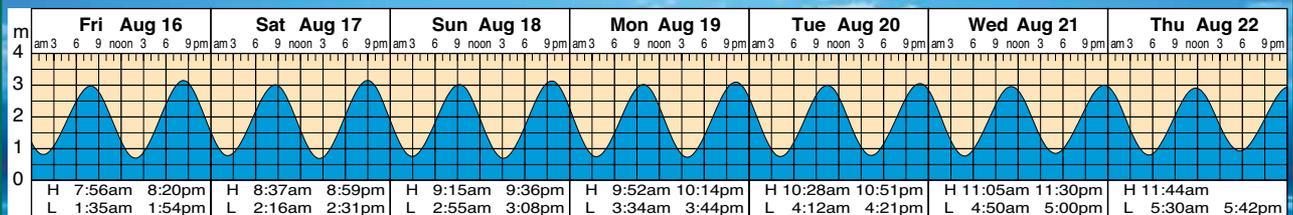
Consternation over lakeside path

A concrete path being installed on a causeway at the edge of Lake Pupuke is raising concerns. The path runs from the North Shore Hospital lake-edge park to the North Shore Rowing Club, along a thin stretch of land. Feedback from residents is they are worried about the possibility of more concrete paths around the lake, in terms of the environment and care for the volcanic cone, wild fowl and their privacy, Devonport-Takapuna local Board's Jan O'Connor says.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome. They should be on topics relating to Milford, Takapuna and nearby suburbs. Noms-de-plume or submissions without a name will not be printed. Length should be under 500 words. Letters may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz or post to Rangitoto Observer, PO Box, 32 275, Devonport.

Milford / Takapuna Tides



Safety lobbying prompts new Sunnynook crossings

Four new pedestrian crossings are planned in Sunnynook to improve child safety, in response to community lobbying.

Auckland Transport (AT) plans to install new crossings near Wairau Intermediate, Sunnynook Primary and Sunnynook Kindergarten, and a signalised crossing near Sunnynook Bus Station.

The proposal will soon be put out to the community for consultation.

Between 700 and 1000 vehicles travel along Sunnynook Rd every day, of which 15 per cent are driving over 50 km/h, AT told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at a 6 August workshop.

The proposal includes a raised zebra crossing near Sunnynook Primary School's rear gate on Tobago Place.

An existing crossing would be moved a short distance to outside the kindergarten and raised, with the aim of improving drivers' sight lines to the crossing, moving it away from a driveway and slowing vehicles down.

A refuge near Wairau Intermediate would be upgraded to a raised zebra crossing, in light of a plan to install a school rear gate. It would also provide a safe crossing to Sunnynook Park.

Local board members were keen to also see a signalised crossing near Sunnynook community centre and shopping centre, an idea currently under investigation.

Jan O'Connor was adamant it was a problem area needing a signalised intersection.

"Does someone have to be killed to get lights?" O'Connor asked.

AT's representatives, led by relationship manager Marilyn Nicholls, said certain criteria had to be met before lights could be installed, including traffic volume.

A signalised crossing is planned on Sunnynook Rd, near the bus station and two bus stops, as well as businesses on Link Rd.

Originally, the crossing involved the removal of three 'kiss-and-ride' car parks, where people can be dropped off near the station. However, AT staff now believe these can be retained.

The consultation on the four crossings is expected to take place from September, and work is expected to start this financial year, which runs to 1 July 2020.

Safer Sunnynook Rd proposed...

1. Raised zebra crossing.
2. Relocated and raised crossing.
3. Refuge replaced with raised zebra crossing.
4. Sycamore Dr/ Sunnynook Rd intersection improvement being investigated.
5. Signalised crossing near bus station.



Waterbourne confirmed as provider for Takapuna Beach festival

A beach festival set to attract 1000 competitors and 10,000 spectators over three days at Takapuna Beach has been confirmed for November.

Already popular in Wellington, Waterbourne focuses on wind-surfing, stand-up paddleboarding and kite surfing, with entertainment from local and international bands.

The three-day event will take place from Friday, 8 November to Sunday, 10 November on Gould Reserve, and will include a fundraising fun run for November and men's health, as well as a beach clean-up.

Measures will be in place to control noise, including a barrier behind the stage. In addition, the predominant wind

in November is a westerly, which will help direct noise away from the centre, council event facilitator Saskia Coley told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

The council has been working with Waterbourne to develop its liquor licence application, which was about to be lodged. Rules around the alcohol licence will include no glass on the beach and a half-hour 'drink-up period' from 9.30pm, where no more alcohol is served before the bar area is cleared at 10pm, Coley said.

The festival's described on Waterbourne's website as "family-friendly" and will include free paddle-boarding lessons and a Ninja paddle-boarding competition, involving an inflatable obstacle course.

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Even after a few years hearing aids can easily be re-programmed if they are too loud or if hearing levels have changed. Most hearing aids carry previous hearing test information in their settings so all it takes is a booking to upload this info and adjust as needed. A hearing check and a quick clean and adjustment can make a huge difference. There is no problem transferring ACC, Veterans or other funding to a new provider – previous records and funding info are available if needed.

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Businesses help give Milford a spruce-up



All hands on deck... Milford Rotary members get their hands dirty, painting benches around Milford shopping centre as part of a \$6600 spruce-up funded by the Milford Business Association. Above left, Rotary's Bruce Rasmussen (back) and Chris Gregory (front); above right, Caroline Imrie from World Travellers waters one of the 26 new planters



Painting the town red... Rotary's Weston Kerr (left), Alison Waugh, Clive Menkin and Raewyn Jesson; above right, Alison Waugh and business association chairman Tony Sands

Hospital patients at risk of infection with super bugs

So far this year, 66 patients have picked up a super bug associated with urinary tract infections after admission to North Shore Hospital, which staff admit leaves room for improvement.

That compares with 16 Waitakere Hospital patients who have been infected with the antibiotic-resistant bacteria, called extended-spectrum Beta lactamase-producing bacteria (ESBL).

The number has dropped in the light of a DHB-wide prevention strategy, a monitoring report says.

The total of 82 infections in the two hospitals, compares with 157 for the same period last year.

“While some aspects of the ‘Take charge ESBL bundle’, like hand hygiene (monthly

and contact precautions (periodically) are audited and successful, consistent and sustained implementation of a DHB-wide prevention strategy can be further improved,” the report authors say.

These relatively common super bugs can be treated with a class of antibiotic called carbapenems.

However, bacteria resistant to carbapenems are on the rise nationally.

These new super bugs, carbapenem-resistant ‘Enterobacterales’ and Pseudomonas, are resistant to virtually all antibiotics.

The bacteria have been identified in seven patients in the Waitemata DHB area, of whom five were deemed high risk. They were either hospitalised or left the country.

Since an outbreak of vancomycin-resistant Enterococci in North Shore Hospital, in 2014, there has been a reduction in cases of the super bug, with two hospital-acquired infections so far this year and another acquired in the community.

Lab data show relatively low levels of a common super bug, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), in the DHB area.

Of 192 patients positively tested for MRSA in North Shore Hospital this year, 99 per cent were infected before entering the hospital, while still in the community.

Only three patients picked up the MRSA bacteria after admission to North Shore Hospital, compared with 24 for the whole of 2018.

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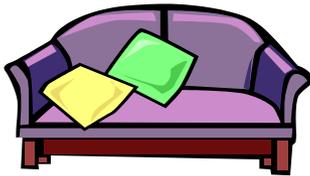
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New local board candidate

Devonport resident Paul Cornish has announced his candidacy for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, saying community life has been the cornerstone of his 25 years on the Shore. His tilt at local politics follows a career in finance management and involvement in community groups including The Victoria Theatre Trust, and serving as president and manager of the Shepherds Park Squash Club.

Nominations for the local body elections close today.

Voting runs from 20 September until midday on 12 October.

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Five patients die of flu caught in a Waitemata DHB hospital

Five patients have died of hospital-acquired influenza in Waitemata DHB so far this year, in what staff describe as a bad flu season.

Hospital-acquired influenza is diagnosed where the patient shows symptoms more than three days after admission. A moni-

toring report says the five deaths – two of them at North Shore Hospital – illustrate the impact of the disease on the elderly.

“While influenza may not be the only contributor to their demise, it likely contributed in a significant manner towards the deterioration of their health,” the report says.

Of 959 patients who have been diagnosed with the flu while in Waitakere and North Shore hospitals this year, 80 caught the virus while in hospital, including 46 North Shore Hospital patients.

Last month, there were outbreaks in elder care wards in both hospitals.

The most common strains diagnosed in the two hospitals were H3N2 followed by influenza B, both of which are contained in this year’s flu vaccine.

Flu vaccine uptake by hospital staff has climbed from 59 per cent in 2018 to 65.5 per cent so far this year, with staff still getting vaccinated.

The report was presented to the hospital advisory committee, where members commented on the success of the DHB’s hand-washing programme, aimed at reducing spread of communicable infections.

Waitemata DHB conducts the most hand-washing audits of any DHB in the country and consistently has a compliance rate of 87 per cent or higher.

Students treat high-risk foot wounds to avert amputations

Podiatry students are getting involved in treating people with foot-related complications from diabetes in order to prevent the devastating consequences of complications, including amputations.

Waitemata DHB podiatry staff are providing clinical oversight of around 500 patients with high-risk foot wounds and infections who are being cared for by AUT students at an integrated health centre on the AUT Northcote campus.

“Our podiatrists [students] aggressively treat active foot wounds or infections and work closely with patients and whānau to educate them about early warning signs and how to protect their feet from deterioration,” director of allied health, scientific and technical professions Tamzin Brott says.

The trainee podiatrists will reduce the risk of worsening wounds and damage to patients, by identifying nerve damage and structural changes to a patient’s feet.

Diabetes affects six per cent of the population and is the leading cause of lower limb amputation due to complications from nerve and blood vessel damage.

What's On

Creative Talk: Gary Henderson
23 August

Renowned Playwright Gary Henderson talks about his writing process. Free Entry.

Movie Night: Ophelia
25 August

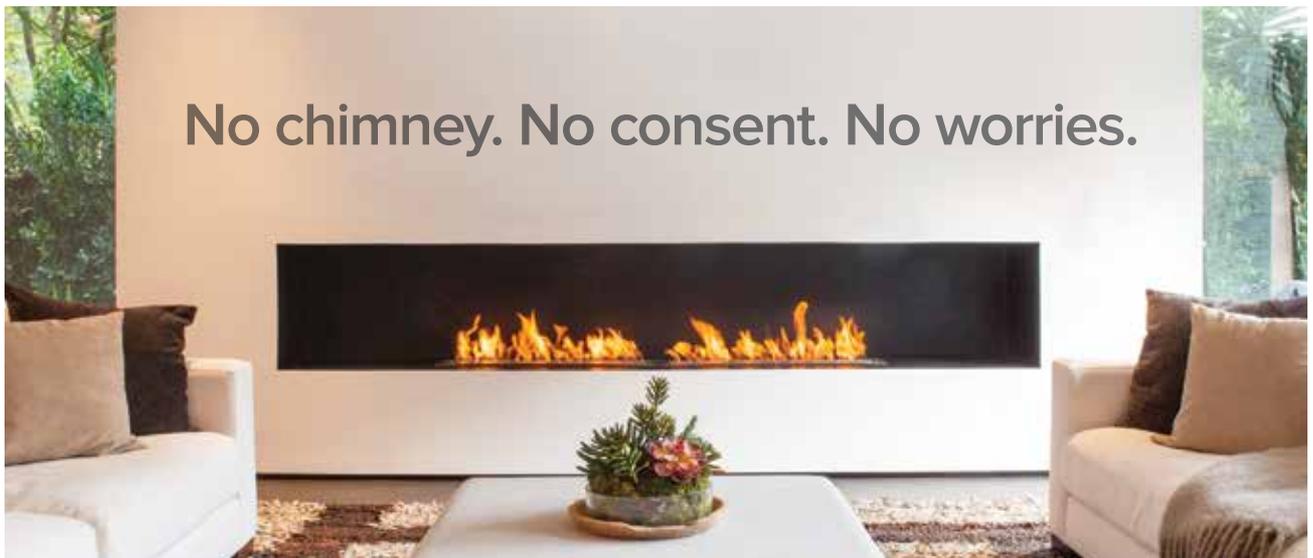
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Getting the perfect end result

Craig and Paula Satterthwaite say that since owning Kitchen Link they have loved working closely with their customers to ensure the perfect end result.

They purchased Kitchen Link in 2015 and immediately knew it was the perfect fit.

Craig had been running his own building business on and off for a number of years while competing in several international regattas as a professional sailor. Paula worked as a general manager in the marine industry prior to taking time out to have children and support Craig's sailing career.

"Kitchen Link was the right fit for my background as a builder. Top quality brands, no cheap and nasty products and a huge bonus that it was North Shore based," says Craig.

"We only stock quality products," says Craig. "We're not a big firm, so our customers aren't just a number to us. We

give a personal service." Paula says "It's so nice to have customers come back with smiles on their faces and wanting to write references for us. They love their kitchen and they love the process." The vast majority of Kitchen Link's customers come to them via referrals – a testament to their great service.

"We are there with the customer throughout the whole project from start to finish. It allows us to have quality control and makes the process quick and efficient. We work hard to ensure that the disruption to people's lives is kept to a minimum," says Craig.

Kitchen Link are known for manufacturing award winning designs, using top quality products and in-house installation. They will design, build and install in any room of the home including bathrooms, laundries and wardrobes.

You will find their kitchens in several homes throughout the Devonport, Takapuna and Milford and East Coast Bays area ranging in style from contemporary to period. Although North Shore based, Kitchen Link can also work outside of Auckland having installed kitchens as far afield as Whangarei and Coromandel.

Most of their small team of 'amazing' employees have been with Craig and Paula since day one and are all passionate about taking ownership of their work. "They are responsible for their own quality control" says Craig.

Craig and Paula live in Castor Bay with their two daughters and enjoy being part of a tight knit community.

Pop in and see Craig and Paula at the Kitchen Link showroom, they'd love to see you! Located at 11 Volkner Place, Rosedale, Albany.

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Pain and sweat pay off for Rosmini karate ace

National karate champion Connor Ashdown (17) says that he was once overweight, uncoordinated and the worst student his sensei had.

The Year 12 Rosmini student is now preparing for the World Karate Federation Junior World Karate Championships which will be held in Santiago, Chile, in October.

"I started karate when I was five years old. I had been diagnosed with developmental dyspraxia, and mum told me it would be beneficial for me because of how my motor skills would be affected," he says.

"I thought karate was going to be so awesome and that I would be a ninja within three lessons. After about two weeks I started hating it because it was so difficult."

Connor says that his sensei put a lot of work into him, through a lot of crying, pain and sweat.

He describes himself as "a bit fat and unfit", weighing 120kg at 11 years old.

"Around 10 or 11 I really started to pick up on training, but I was a complete gummy because of my dyspraxia," says Connor.

"I was the worst student my sensei had."

By 14 Connor says that his training had really picked up and he was really starting to get in shape.

He was training over 20 hours a week.

"It transformed me and made me much happier. In that year (2016) I finally took out the New Zealand open [championship] and that was what really put me on the map," says Connor.

"I remember how surprised I was when I could even see my abs. I had a figure I could be proud of instead of being embarrassed when people looked at me."

However, the vigorous training began to take a toll on Connor's body. He suffered three stress fractures in his back after he did a 12-hour training session.



Comeback kid... Connor Ashdown fought back from stress fractures to win national and Australasian karate titles, along with selection to the world championships in October

The doctor advised that he stop all physical exercise for a year and a half.

"That was the darkest period of my life. I had built myself up from nothing and now I was back to nothing," says Connor.

"I weighed 112kg and I would look in the mirror and be disgusted by what I saw."

In 2018 he was able to get back to training and competed in the Oceania Championships, but was out by the first round.

"This year I really turned myself around," he says.

"I lost over 30kgs, and now weigh 80kgs. I got third in the Australian Open and won the Australasian Schools, making me the current junior heavyweight champion."

In July, Connor won the New Zealand title and found he had made the team for the world championships.

"When I heard the bloody announcement I nearly fell over," he says.

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Residents want Wairau cleaned up



Down by the sea... An artist's impression of the boardwalk planned for the Wairau estuary

Milford and Castor Bay residents have called for Auckland Council to give a Wairau Creek clean-up priority over projects such as a boardwalk in the Wairau estuary.

About 60 residents attended a workshop run by the council's healthy waters team on 10 August to get feedback on its plans for restoring the estuary, in tandem with a community-driven project to build a walkway through the area.

Some residents questioned spending on the boardwalk when the Wairau Creek needed cleaning up.

Milford Business Association manager Murray Hill said the boardwalk project was attracting council investment into cleaning up the Wairau outlet. For example, there were six stormwater outlets on Shakespeare and Kitchener roads being fitted with pollution filters.

The boardwalk project is being funded by community businesses, donations and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Despite all the pollutants, the Wairau estuary is a habitat for hundreds of native fish, including bullies and inanga, 900 shortfin eels, longfin eels, and freshwater crayfish. and eels, as well as some relatively rare native plants, Anna Wilmore of consultancy Pattle Delamore Partners told the meeting.

Feedback from small-group discussions at the workshop was that the community supported planting natives in the estuary, weeding and pest control. There was mixed support for shoring up the banks, with some regarding it as a technical question, while one resident reported seeing the banks collapse into the estuary at an alarming rate.

The healthy waters team says it will develop several options for further community feedback.

Safeswim's Nick Vigar updated the meeting on initiatives to clean up the creek, a concreted channel with the largest urban catchment in the city, including many residential properties with ageing pipe networks.

Pollutants include sediment, much of which comes from gardens, heavy metals, such as zinc and copper from the industrial area, litter, plus oil, grease and tyre particles from the motorway.

In response to questions about using the targeted water rate to clean up the creek, Vigar admitted 80 per cent of the \$45 million per annum raised by the rate was going to separating stormwater and wastewater in legacy pipes on the city side of the harbour bridge. But he said the North Shore was a top priority for the remainder of the funding, because the beaches are so popular.

Stephanie Robinson of the healthy waters team told the meeting the team has sufficient budget for a programme of work aiming to clean up the catchment.

Funding comes not only from the targeted rate, but also healthy waters' own budget and local board funding.

The council is currently upgrading a stormwater wetland area at Croftfield Lane and it has installed six large pollution traps in the area, new technology that collects litter from large objects to fine plastics.

Kaipatiki Local Board deputy chair Danielle Grant said the board had organised visits to 140 businesses in the Wairau Valley to educate them on non-polluting practices.



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Apples idea at the core of Savannah's success

An innovative business idea to make use of wasted apples has helped win 16-year-old Savannah Bakker a trip to Chile and a \$6000 scholarship to Massey University.

Savannah, a Westlake Girls High School student, was among 80 students selected to attend the Entrepreneurs in Action business competition held over two days held at Massey University's Wellington campus.

She was put into a team with nine other students from across the country, and assigned Auckland business Uprise Digital as a business mentor.

"The first challenge was to come up with a product or service to help New Zealanders with farming crops," says Savannah.

"We decided we would juice wasted apples and make ethanol for biofuel. The leftover pulp we would give back to the farmers for compost."

Team Uprise Digital presented their idea and business plan to the judges, winning the challenge and each taking away a \$3000 scholarship to Massey University.

"The second challenge was to introduce a wireless computer-based system into the Latin American market," says Savannah.

"We had to choose the country that we thought was the best to launch the system in. We chose Mexico because it is close to the USA and there are a lot of bilingual people there."

The teams were told that the computer



Chile bound... Westlake student Savannah Bakker won big in the Entrepreneurs in Action contest

system would be for cases of emergency in natural disaster, to communicate with one another.

"Mexico is in the ring of fire. It's vulnerable

to natural disasters like earthquakes."

Savannah and her team created a three-phase implementation plan and once again presented their ideas to the judges.

Their idea was picked as the best and another \$3000 scholarship awarded to each member, as well as a trip to Chile in October to compete in a worldwide entrepreneur challenge.

Meanwhile, Savannah is going to concentrate on her very own business, a therapeutic product to help fatigued muscles.

"I'm in the process of trying to find the best combination of ingredients but I hope to introduce the product into the market next year."



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Top gongs for Westlake at schools' music festival



String theory... The Westlake Chamber Orchestra, directed by Mark Bennett, is comprised of students from Westlake Girls and Boys high schools

The Westlake Chamber Orchestra has picked up two Australasian awards for their first overseas performance.

The orchestra, made up of the leading string players from Westlake Girls and Westlake Boys high schools, won best string orchestra and best overall performance at the Aspire International Youth Music Festival in Queensland in July.

The students, along with group director Mark Bennett, spent three days rehearsing and sightseeing in Brisbane, then travelled to the Gold Coast where the three-day festival is held biannually.

The festival was attended by over 600 students from across Australia and

New Zealand.

"This is the first overseas tour we have undertaken on our own," says Bennett.

"Groups were competing from all around Australasia: concert bands, symphony orchestras, jazz bands, string orchestras and choirs."

Winning first place in its category meant the orchestra was invited to play at the gala concert on the final day of the festival.

Only bands that won each of their categories were invited to perform, and from those contenders the judges, who included New Zealand conductor Marc Taddei, gave Westlake the overall performance award, praising the group on the amount of work

they had put in.

"The students were obviously quite thrilled," says Bennett.

"They all worked really hard and focused beautifully. It made for fantastic team building."

Bennett, who has been directing the Westlake Chamber Orchestra for 12 years, has played violin for the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra for the past 22.

The orchestra has more recently been competing in the KBB schools music festival in Auckland.

"This trip was very stimulating in terms of developing the students' passion, which is very valuable," Bennett says.



Westlake schools take to the barricade for *Les Mis*



Showstoppers... Top: Rebellion at the barricade. Above left: Daniel Rouse (as Marius) and Sarah Ruiz (as Cosette). Above right: Alanah Jones (Fantine) singing *I Dreamed a Dream*. Photos by Tracey Mackay.

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The efforts of over 100 students came together to wow audiences in the combined Westlake high schools' production of *Les Misérables*.

Following a very busy technical week during the school holidays, the cast of more than 80 students delivered a series of moving and polished performances at the Westlake Boys High School Auditorium, from 23 to 27 July.

Students participated in all aspects of the process – as part of the orchestra, in the make-up team and in the technical crew.

Performed with the audience seated on two sides of the performance space, the production aimed to do something a bit “different” with one of the world’s most famous musicals.

Students worked on acrobatic skills for some scenes, and multimedia – in the form of footage filmed at Howick Historical Village – was incorporated into the show.

Audiences gave every performance a

standing ovation.

The ensemble transformed seamlessly between the big and brash characterisations needed for songs such as *Master of the House* into the affecting misery of *The Beggars*.

As Fantine, Year 11 student Alanah Jones moved audiences with her rendition of *I Dreamed a Dream*, while Sarah Ruiz (also Year 11) brought a compelling liveness to her role as Cosette.

Year 13 students Paris Jagger and Mini Clements-Levi delivered vibrant performances as Eponine and Madame Thenardier.

Two of the youngest cast members – Ivy Mitchell (Year 10) and Gabrielle Galao (Year 9) more than proved themselves as talented performers in their roles as the vulnerable young Cosette and cheeky Gavroche.

The show was directed by Nick Brown from Westlake Boys High School, and MJ Milburn from Westlake Girls High School.

Westlake Boys student takes double karate gold

Fifteen-year-old Westlake Boys High School student Lachie McPheat has been crowned a double world champ at the Go-Kan-Ryu (GKR) Karate World Cup held in the United Kingdom.

The year 11 student travelled to Buckinghamshire, England, in June with his sister Caitlin, from Westlake Girls, who was also competing.

Lachie competed in Under 16 3rd Kyu (brown belt) competition in both Kata and Kumite categories, winning two gold medals.

"The semifinals was when the struggle set in – my competitor was UK's hope," says Lachie.

"You have to get the punches perfect and there was a big height difference between us, so that was really hard."

His sister Caitlin won a silver medal in her division.

Lachie has been practising karate for nine years and is currently one assessment off a black belt.

He also teaches karate for his dojo, and trains around eight hours a week.

"What I love about karate is the self-defence, the learning, the teaching and the values you learn in karate, like respect and to be humble," he says.

Lachie is focusing on gaining his black



Karate kids... Lachie and Caitlin McPheat both had success at the GKR World Cup

belt which will involve two assessments, one of which will run for eight hours.

"It will focus on the stances, technique of the punch and each of the eight katas," he says. "Only about one in 1000 people will get their black belts because it's so hard."

Lachie plays rugby at school and takes adult acting classes.

He plans to pursue a career in acting after high school.

Community stalwart was daily swimmer

Fay Hobday passed away on 2 July in her home in Milford, aged 86.

Fay was an amazing woman who delighted in sharing wonderful stories of her life and she will be missed by those who knew her.

Fay swam daily in the sea, summer and winter. She was very supportive of her community and was a volunteer with CAB for many years and a valued board member with Takapuna North Community Trust Board between June 2016 and February 2018.

She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Farmer, and granddaughters Haley and Georgia.

A memorial service will be held at 3pm on Monday 16 December, at her home, The Glasshouse, 22 O'Neills Ave, Takapuna.

Please email celebrationforfay@gmail.com to RSVP.

Sarah Thorne, Takapuna North community coordinator

Ambitious former councillor remembered

Former Takapuna city councillor Ivy Mossop has died at the age of 98. Mossop was born in Whanganui on 13 March 1922 and died on 4 July at North Shore Hospital. She was a civil servant, YHA officer, member of Glenfield Country Town and councillor, who is remembered for her tilt at the mayoralty.

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