

# The Rangitoto Observer

Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 14 – September 13, 2019 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE



Most popular baby names in Takapuna/Milford area... p2

Apartment developments face head winds... p5

Westlake dean world speed-golf champ... p23

## Takapuna Library part of buildings review

Takapuna Library and other nearby council buildings are the subject of a major review.

Auckland Council is conducting the review to work in with the Unlock Takapuna project which aims to upgrade the town centre and could bring improvements to

services and buildings.

How services are supplied from the Takapuna Library, Takapuna Services Building, Mary Thomas Centre and Takapuna War Memorial Hall are all part of the review.

Some of the terminology in the report

put to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop is sure to raise eyebrows, talking of “potential opportunities provided through the Unlock Takapuna project and service property optimisation policy”.

To page 2

## ‘We’re going up’: promotion for Forrest Hill Milford



Champions... Bubbles and song as Forrest Hill Milford win the Northern Regional Football League first-division shield, held aloft by captain Jack Caunter, and promotion. (Phototek.NZ) More P3

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From page 1

# Library caught up in Unlock Takapuna project

Translated, this means property sales, says board member Jan O'Connor. "People are already feeling really uncomfortable with this – they love the Takapuna Library," she said.

However, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has broadly supported the review, while being careful to retain the right to make decisions and give direction once findings are available.

Council officers assured the board a full assessment of community needs for the buildings would be conducted before the council and board met to discuss future steps.

Research and engagement will take place now through to mid-November.

Key findings will be revealed and a "re-visit" of key principles undertaken at the December local board workshop.

Strengths and weaknesses of any proposals will be nussed out at a board workshop in February.

Board member Grant Gillon said he was uncomfortable with the suggestion of "revisiting" guiding principles.

"If the principles had not been set in stone we would not have gone down this track."

Before any decisions are made, a full community consultation should be conducted, in a professional manner unlike the Takapuna car park consultation, was a "disaster",

Gillon said.

Council needed to have an open mind to feedback; people might want a larger library for example, he said.

Likewise, the board reserved the right to go against council team recommendations, he said.

O'Connor said the library should be expanded as part of the process.

Board member Mike Cohen was positive about the project, saying if done properly it was a bit like a jam session where musicians put forward all sorts of ideas to come up with a better outcome.

Board member Jenn McKenzie said the review was important as Takapuna looked ahead to its future as a metropolitan centre. It was about future-proofing private and public areas.

## Baby royalty overruled

You may feel like your baby rules your life, but naming him or her King, Queen or Baron is not allowed.

Each of these names was refused on the grounds they are titles, and the parents, all living in Takapuna, Milford or Forrest Hill, could not justify their use, the Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua has revealed in a response to a Flagstaff inquiry under the Official Information Act.

The number of babies born in the three suburbs has remained roughly stable in the

past decade, with 3754 born in 2008 and 3681 in 2018.

In 2008, the most popular name given to a newborn in Takapuna, Milford and Forrest Hill was Riley, followed, in order, by Daniel, Jack, Benjamin, Joshua and William.

Last year, a decade later, the most popular name in the same suburbs was Ava, followed by Ethan, Lucas, Harper, Isla and Noah.

There were no births to parents living in Castor Bay recorded in either 2008 or 2018.

Meanwhile, marriage appears to have fallen out of favour in the area, with 109 recorded in 2008, plus one civil union, compared with 44 in 2018 and no civil unions.

## Takapuna Active Aging Expo returns

A large Active Aging Expo will be held at Takapuna on November 8.

Age Concern is running the expo in conjunction with the Takapuna community co-ordinator at the Strand across several buildings including the Senior Citizens building and War Memorial Hall.

The first Takapuna Active Aging Expo was held last year.

### Letters to the Editor

Topics should be local.

Noms-de-plume or submissions without a name will not be printed. Email to [news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz](mailto:news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz) or post to Rangitoto Observer, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.

## Help for elderly to get out of house

Senior citizens in the Devonport-Takapuna area wanting a list of things to do every week should contact community co-ordinators.

Age Concern has formulated a calendar of events which has more than 320 happenings each week across the North Shore suitable for older people.

The calendar is being distributed by Takapuna and Devonport community co-ordinators, Age Concern representatives

told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last week.

One of the difficulties for Age Concern was "reaching the unreachable" – older people who did not go out much and were often isolated at home, without a computer or cellphone, Katie Rom, manager of Ageing Well Services, told the board.

Age Concern was tapping into medical practices to get information to these people, she said.

The Rangitoto  
**Observer**

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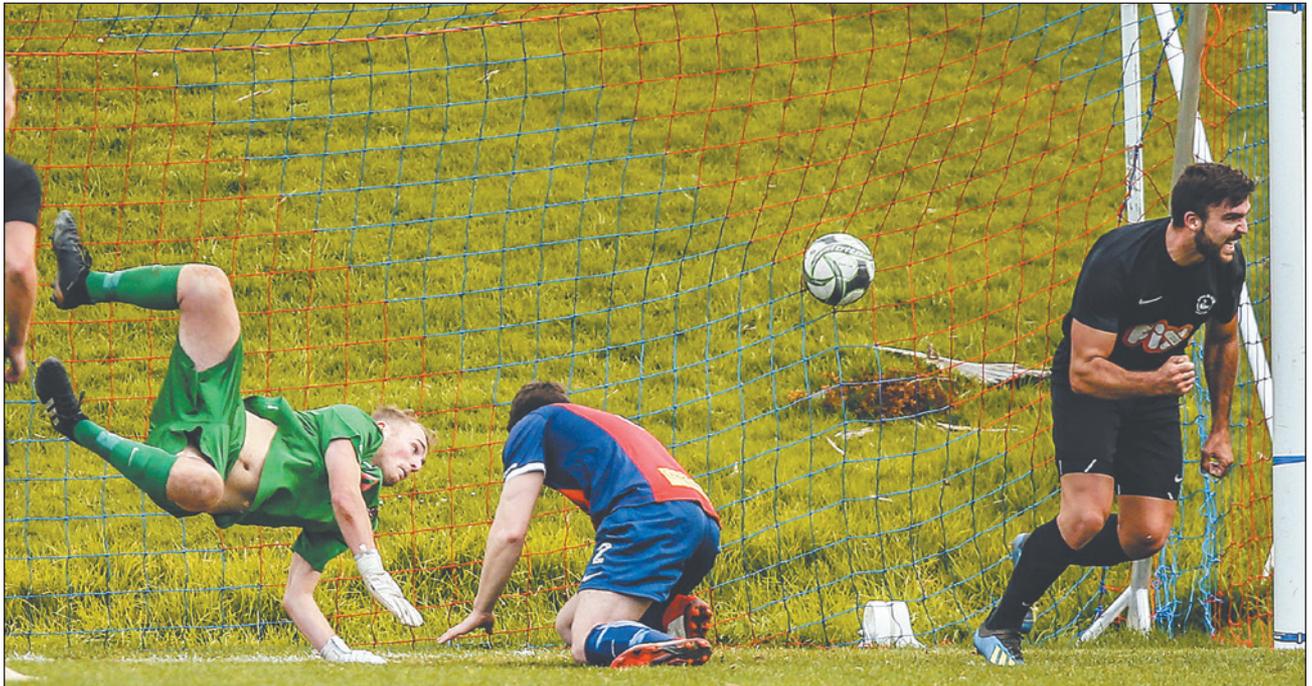



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# Forrest Hill Milford win promotion – and the league



**Victory... A final goal by Jack Caunter (right) takes the pressure off an intense second half (Phototek.NZ)**

“We’re going up,” roared an ecstatic Forrest Hill Milford United football team as they were sprayed with Champagne and captain Jack Caunter held aloft the Northern Regional Football League first-division shield.

The team was celebrating its victory in the league after beating Fencibles United 3-0, in Pakuranga on 31 August.

They had already won promotion to the premier division but needed to beat Fencibles to secure the league-promotion double.

“The boys were under a lot of pressure – we had to win – so to be under that much pressure and play as well as they did, it’s a great compliment,” says coach and player Adam Dickinson.

The team finished the first division one point ahead of rival Bay Olympic, which also won its game against Tauranga City 1-0.

Adam Dickinson scored after 19 minutes

and followed up with a second goal at the 26th minute.

“The score was 2-0 at half time, with Forrest Hill very much on top,” commercial manager Andrew Diver says.

“Fencibles came out fired up in the second half and really took the game to Forrest Hill.

“Forrest Hill had to defend against wave after wave of Fencible attacks, with Fencibles having a strong wind at their backs.

“A goal for Forrest Hill in the 69th minute by defender Caunter eased the pressure somewhat and Forrest Hill were able to see off the rest of the game without conceding,” Diver says.

Over the season, Forrest Hill Milford played 22 games, won 17, drew two and lost three.

The new coaching team this season of Dickinson and Nathan Cranney as assistant

was very successful, Diver says.

As testament to the club’s junior development programmes, 11 junior/youth players were introduced to first-team football during the season.

Top goal scorers were Jayden Englefield, who finished the season with 13 goals, and Dickinson with 12.

The team will play in the Northern Premier League next year, which it last did in 2017.

Meanwhile, in the same weekend, Forrest Hill women’s premier player Kelli Brown scored 11 goals as the New Zealand women’s U19 team beat Samoa 30-0.

Fellow Forrest Hill players Arabella Maynard and Rene Wasi were also in the goals, scoring 5 and 3 respectively. Forrest Hill has five of its premier women’s team in the NZ U19 squad.



**Feeling the heat... Forrest Hills’ Trent Mayes takes the ball (left); top goal scorer Adam Dickinson heads a goal (right) in the title-deciding game against Fencibles United (Phototek.NZ)**



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Local Body Elections voting is open now for six seats on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.  
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Three of our members currently sit on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and are keen to continue the strong work they have started, however, there's more work to be done!

A vote for all five **TEAM GEORGE WOOD** Members is a vote for a bright, positive and progressive future!

Want to get in touch? Want to add to our list of projects or simply learn more about our team, our issues and vision? Simply check out [WWW.TEAMGEORGEWOOD.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.TEAMGEORGEWOOD.ORG.NZ)

**MOVING FORWARD POSITIVELY**

Authorised by G. Wood, 54 Grenada Street, Forrest Hill. 021 0822 0925

# Apartment projects slowing down but still in the works

The former Takapuna Fire Station was purchased in 2015 for developer McConnell Clearmont's first retirement village, which it says will still go ahead in 2020.

Marketing has just started on the Katrine (55-59 Anzac St), over the road from the Sargeson development, after the earlier Modulus apartments were pulled from the market around a year ago and the land sold.

Plans for luxury apartments above Milford Mall fell over in 2017, and a smaller, less expensive apartment block, Omana North, is now being marketed.

In May 2017, Summer Gardens at 3 Campbell Rd, Takapuna, was advertised as due to be completed in late 2018. Apartments there are still being sold off the plans.

Auckland Council says the current wait time for an inspection is one to two days for residential properties and two to three for commercial. Codes of Compliance, issued once all the work has been completed, are currently being turned around within an average of 10 to 14 days.



**Seeing the sites... (clockwise from top left) the former Takapuna Fire Station, where a retirement village is due to go ahead next year; advertising for Omana North, above Milford Mall; the Summer Gardens site in Campbell Rd, Takapuna; and 55-59 Anzac St, where the Modulus project has been replaced by the Katrine**

## Changing finance market and costs of building create tricky conditions

While some apartment blocks around Takapuna and Milford have gone ahead, many are taking a long time to get off the ground, despite the area being zoned for intensive development in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Loan Market mortgage adviser Bruce Patten says where banks used to compete with each other to finance apartment developments, in the past couple of years, they have been toughening up.

"Now banks want 100 per cent of apartments pre-sold before the developer can draw a dollar to start building," Patten says.

Banks have less money to lend and want to see a developer's track record.

Established developers, particularly those with enough funds to guarantee loans will be repaid, are the ones likely to get finance, he says.

But then it can be difficult to sell off the plans, as people are increasingly wary of the process, where they could find themselves back at square one three years later, if the building doesn't go ahead.

Patten advises clients to research the background of development companies and their directors before buying off plans.

Another problem is the high cost of construction. Patten says builders are often poor at calculating costs before building starts, then

pass on overruns to developers.

The Sargeson Apartments' developer is in voluntary administration, reportedly after a series of delays and difficulties getting finance.

As happened with the Sargeson block, Patten says it is now common for developers to ask apartment buyers to pay more for their properties than they originally agreed to.

Harcourts Cooper & Co managing director Martin Cooper says the Resource Management Act adds delays and hold-ups through costly inspections and code of compliance requirements, with delays ramping up the cost of interest on loans.

## Fun Palace

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# Library hosts dementia group

A dementia chat group has been set up at Takapuna Library – in what is believed to be a New Zealand first.

The idea emerged from an article in *The Oldie* magazine, which highlighted innovative programmes in the Netherlands such as memory cafes in libraries and supermarkets.

The establishment of the chat group was a joint effort with Age Concern helping the library contact Dementia Auckland to establish the group, Takapuna senior librarian community engagement Anne Betts said.

Three meetings of the group have now been held, attended by three couples, each with one partner having dementia.

Members are free to talk about books and commonly review a favourite book

from their past.

“We have a cup of tea, a few biscuits and a lot of laughs,” Betts said.

The library “is quite proud to have set this up – as far as we know it’s the first of its type in New Zealand”.

It was important older people – particularly those with dementia – retained links with community facilities such as the library, Betts said.

Sometimes residents do not realise that libraries have many other resources apart from printed books, such as DVDs and audio books, she added.

• The dementia chat group meets at the Takapuna Library from 10.30am-11.30am on the last Friday of the month. Contact Anne Betts, ph 890 4902.

## Elderly man dies in Castor Bay house

An elderly man who died in a house fire in Castor Bay has been identified as Frank Jones, 97.

Police say cause of the 30 August blaze is under investigation, but there is nothing to suggest it was suspicious.

There was only one person in the house at the time of the fire, acting detective senior sergeant Tim Williams says.

## Quiz mayoral and local board candidates

Residents will get a chance to grill both mayoral and local board candidates on local issues in upcoming meetings.

Candidates for both Devonport-Takapuna and Kaipatiki Local Boards will attend a meeting from noon to 2pm on 18 September at the Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Rd, Takapuna.

Mayoral candidates Phil Goff, John Tamihere and Craig Lord will speak and answer questions from 7.30pm in the Milford Baptist Church at 3 Dodson Avenue on 23 September.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board candidates will also answer questions on community issues at a meeting in the Milford Bowling Club on 30 September at 6.30pm.

# Puriri trees favoured in Hurstmere upgrade

Pohutukawa planned for a \$12 million Hurstmere Rd upgrade are being replaced by puriri street trees to avoid potential myrtle rust contamination.

Currently, 82 trees line the Hurstmere Rd section which is earmarked for upgrade. After the project, it will have 104 trees (75

per cent native and 25 per cent exotic).

Cabbage trees will also be planted within rain gardens along the roadside, according to the resource consent for the project obtained by the Rangitoto Observer under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

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Authorised by Trish Deans, 50 Mozeley Ave, Devonport 0624

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2019:  
DANIELLE GRANT AND GRANT GILLON

# More For The Shore – It’s time for change

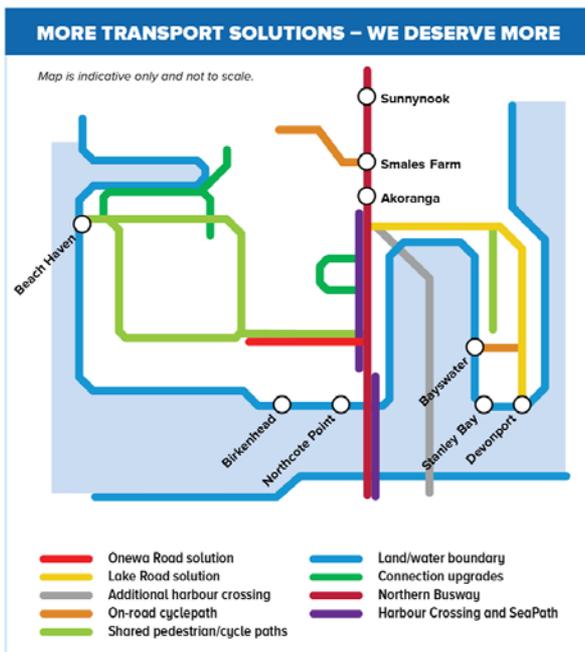
Danielle Grant and Grant Gillon want More For The Shore. We are both experienced local body representatives, having been Chairs and now Deputy Chairs of our respective local boards. We understand that being a councillor is much more than just putting on a brave face, crossing your fingers and hoping for the best. It is about providing real leadership, asking the tough questions and making decisions that improve the lives of the people and businesses in our community - getting More For The Shore.

**Danielle Grant:** “I am an experienced local government representative with a proven track record of results in our community. As the only woman standing for Council and a successful business owner, I bring a unique and qualified perspective, ensuring that our community has genuine consultation and balanced decision making.”

**Grant Gillon:** “I am a successful business owner, and lifelong resident of the North Shore. I have a reputation for bringing people together to achieve results for our community. We need a return to accountability, transparency and genuine community consultation.”



Grant Gillon and Danielle Grant.



*“We are both experienced local body representatives, having been Chairs and now Deputy Chairs of our respective local boards.”*

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- **Rein in Auckland Transport**
- **Fully integrate public transport** routes, fares and timetables
- **Fund Takapuna Bus Station** improvements (currently 10 year delay)
- **Improve shared pedestrian/cycle paths**, including Wairau Road
- **Walking and cycling** across the **Harbour Bridge** connected to Seapath
- **Safe cycle loop** and shared paths
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## Danielle GRANT GRANT Gillon

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Authorised by Dr Grant Gillon, 15 Buchanan Street, Devonport. Ph 0274 801 835.



## It's time for a change

# Dancers have a blast at Wizard of



**Wicked dancing... Move Dance school owners Hannah Honey (left) and Colin Flood kick up their heels at an Oz-themed jive night for students. Photos: Keeley Watson**

## Protect loved ones and support Hospice with a FREE Will

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# Oz-themed jive dance night



**Wizard night... Kansas came to Takapuna on 31 August, with an Emerald City dance enjoyed by more than 70 jive dancers, many of whom are students at Move Dance: (left to right), Doug Loader, Glenda Choy, Alison Johnston, Karen Taylor, Lillian Simnor, Bruce Williams, Corinne Loxon and Steven Dromgool**



**Best dressed... Corinne Loxton and Steven Dromgool were recognised for their costumes**



**On the yellow brick road... Alison Johnston and Doug Loader**

# Railroaded into an absurdity

There has been much written about Unlocking Takapuna.

Interestingly, almost all of it extols the benefits of Auckland Council's plan, whilst the other side (and there is another side) is seldom seen or heard.

Everywhere we see posters and read articles about the wonder of Takapuna being reborn, but nothing of the end of one of our most precious spaces. Councils and their instrumentalities, like Panuku, have experienced, well-financed staff who are charged with the responsibility to nullify objections to their schemes using (and misusing) both legislation and smoothly crafted propaganda.

To validate their strategies, they also pull levers to gain public support from local individuals who claim to act in the public interest. Councils do this routinely, and are therefore extremely good at recruiting insiders and spreading only the narrative that supports their case. On the other hand, the public mostly comprises individuals who lack the tools to confront this sort of well-oiled machine.

Occasionally, a rich or influential individual will be able to stand in the path of these bureaucrats, but more often than not councils just steamroll over objectors, all the time producing colourful and biased documents purporting to give the community a choice in the proceedings, but constructed to do quite the opposite.

So goes Takapuna.

We have a rare gift right in the centre of our town. It is centralised open space, a car park at the moment, with the potential to be a useful and beautiful park for the use of our ever-expanding local population.

With excavation, car spaces could be placed underground and the area on top preserved for recreation. If this sounds simple, it is. Examples of this exact execution elsewhere abound.

Instead, it is to be sold for the development of apartments and the area left for public use is to be reduced by 70 per cent of what it currently is.

There is also much talk of the connection to the beach, upgrade of nearby streets, building of a carpark (far away from where it could be best located), bus interchange and the idea of "unlocking" something never quite defined. Some of this is excellent – but check it against the cost of our loss of space to see the illusion.

Where is the balanced view that we are selling something valuable that, once gone, is gone forever?

It challenges common sense that while resident polls for years have shown the vast majority of locals are against this development, two months later 69 per cent are said to be in favour. Really?

How can a council which we finance say that if Takapuna refuses their plan we'll be denied any development funds for the next 20 years?

I'm not part of any movement to stop this waste of our resource, although I wish them well. I am just amazed that council workers in distant offices actually think that they are doing Takapuna a favour by railroading us into this absurd situation.

The really sad part is that it could have ended so differently if only self-interest had been replaced by clear thinking.

**Ed Ackman**

# Walkway cost exorbitant

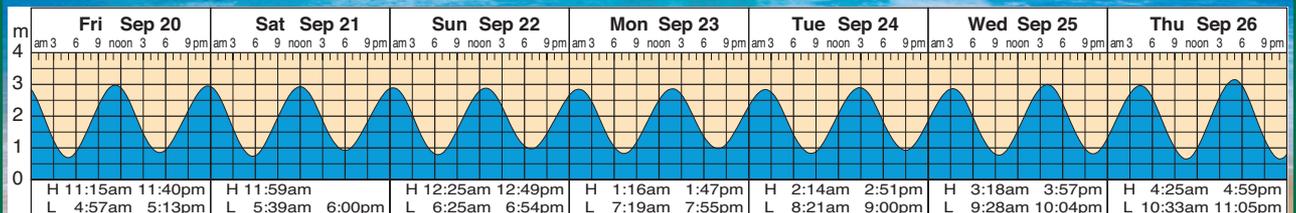
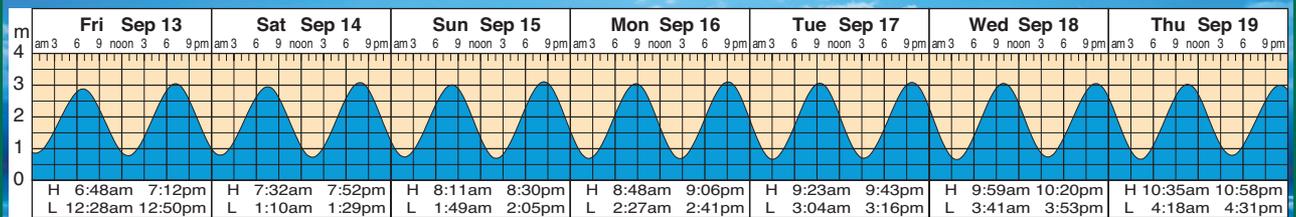
I nearly fell off my chair reading council proposes spending an exorbitant \$2.6 million building a gold-plated, coastal, wooden walkway/cycleway from Esmonde Rd to Francis St, a distance of a few hundred metres. It is so patently absurd, it is ridiculous. Will there be a speed limit for cyclists and scooters? Surely, a more modest walkway/cycleway could be built for considerably less and the balance spent on expanding the existing, 20m-wide marginal strip/esplanade reserve to about 400 metres wide, to form the Belmont Regional Park on the properties owned by Ngati Whatua o Orakei adjacent to Hillary Crescent and environs. I now know who not to vote for at the forthcoming election. It might be time for Team George Wood and his cronies to be put out to pasture?

**Bruce Tubb Belmont**

# 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](mailto:news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz) or post to Rangitoto Observer, PO Box, 32 275, Devonport.

# Milford / Takapuna Tides



# Local board chair George Wood defends his management of meeting

I am writing in response to the claims of your correspondent E. Anne Stack (30 August) concerning the way that I, as chairman of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, handled this meeting, on 13 August.

The way that I saw this meeting is contrary to what is alleged by Ms Stack.

At the commencement of the workshop meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 13 August, the local board secretary advised that the staff of Panuku Development Auckland were in attendance and would commence their presentation.

Local board member Jan O'Connor then advised this was a change to what was initially advised for the timetable and that Panuku Development Auckland had been set down originally for 3pm.

Ms O'Connor further advised that she had a group of people coming in at 3pm for the presentation.

In order to be fair to those people who may be coming in, I put the item off until 3pm.

When the item commenced, about 20 people were sitting in the gallery to hear

the presentation.

The item commenced and it was apparent that the people in the public area wished to make their presence felt with loud clapping and interjections. I responded by advising that it was not appropriate for the public to behave or interfere in this manner.

As the chairman of the meeting, through my position of local board chair, it is my role to ensure that the board members ask questions of the presenters in a proper manner.

It was the people from Panuku Development Auckland whom all the board members wished to hear.

I certainly require members to ask the presenters questions in a proper manner and asked that questions be framed and worded properly.

I do have considerable experience in chairing meetings. It is my view that the role of the chair is to conduct the meeting in a fair and proper manner.

I believe that I did just that on this particular afternoon.

**George Wood**  
**Chairman: Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**

## Reid's revelations appal reader

I am appalled at the revelation exposed in the letter you printed in the 30 August issue from Richard Reid.

I was at the meeting where Mr Reid presented his proposal for the Takapuna town square with drawings and a clear and logical sequence explaining how he had arrived at his conclusions regarding the suitability of his plan for the proposed town square.

To read that Panuku has asked for and accepted their designer's variations of the Reid drawings is bad enough copyright protocols may have been breached, but to read that their

designer's report then negatively commented on the redrawn design purporting it to be by Richard Reid and thus ensure that Cr Darby would choose the Isthmus (Panuku's designer) plan begs the question, 'What other skulduggery is going on that we are not aware of?'

I also find it interesting that Panuku gets its name from a Maori proverb:

Eke Panuku, Eke Tangaroa, to inspire Success, Excellence, and Progress.

I wonder how Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua feel about these revelations?

**John Shears**

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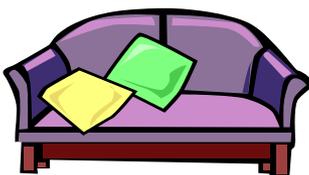
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## Hospital hot on hand hygiene

Staff at North Shore Hospital are leading the country for hand hygiene, a crucial battle in the war against super bugs.

Waitemata District Health Boards has a 90 per cent compliance rate based on 14,000 'hand-hygiene moments' audited between April and June this year.

National compliance across all 20 DHBs was 85.1 per cent, a new report from the government's Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC) shows.

A recent report shows 66 North Shore Hospital patients picked up super bug "extended spectrum Beta lactase-producing bacteria" in the first half of the year, compared with 12 at Waitakere Hospital.

However, the overall number has dropped since last year, with the report saying hand-hygiene measures have been key to this improvement.

"We have a team of over 180 auditors, including doctors, who monitor compliance across all divisions and help to keep hand hygiene front-of-mind at a department level," chief executive Dale Bramley says.

"We also have hand-sanitising dispensers throughout our hospitals and posters that serve as an additional reminder to everyone about the importance of hand hygiene."

The HQSC defines 'hand-hygiene moments' as: before touching a patient, before a procedure, after a procedure or body fluid exposure, after touching a patient, and after touching a patient's surroundings.

## Asian health service celebrates 20 years



**Cin cin... The country's first Asian health service – still the largest – at Waitemata DHB has just celebrated 20 years, with celebrations including tea ceremonies, such as this one, hosted by Korean Group Yemyung-Won Institution's (left to right) Sami Lee, Mila Kim Oh, Soon Young and Hyun Ju Kim**

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## Sewage overflows near Milford 'normal': Watercare

Watercare is playing down 10 sewage overflows at Black Rock pump station in the past two years, all during heavy downpours, saying it's no more or less than other Auckland pump stations.

"Our wastewater network operates effectively but, during heavy rain, the system can be inundated and overwhelmed by stormwater, which floods the system, resulting in overflows," Watercare head of service delivery Simon Porter says.

"In these circumstances, wastewater pump stations release a combination of stormwater and wastewater into a receiving environment (such as the sea) in order to prevent overflows occurring in streets and/or into neighbouring properties."

Watercare has inspected wastewater pipes in Takapuna over the last summer in a bid to reduce sewage overflows to Takapuna Beach, but has no plans to target Milford in the same way, at this stage, Porter says.

The council's Safeswim manager, Nick Vigar, says Takapuna Beach was prioritised due to its popularity. There has been some testing of stormwater outlets at Milford, with faecal contamination found at outlets near the marina, which will be investigated.

Watercare says there have been at least a further 10 incidents where blocked drains are believed to have sent sewage into Milford Beach in the past two years. Watercare blames residents or businesses blocking wastewater (sewage) pipes with household rags and various forms of grease and fat that consolidate into 'fatbergs', as well as tree roots in one case.



**Dumping ground... 10 sewage discharges off Thorne Bay coast in two years**

Only one incident definitely sent sewage onto the beach, at Anniversary Weekend this year, but in all the other cases, the blocked drains were flooded to clear them and it is 'likely' diluted sewage reached the beach.

However, a lifelong Thorne Bay resident is outraged about the state of Takapuna and Milford beaches and says the council needs to urgently address water pollution.

Paul Munnerley, 62, has lived at Thorne Bay all his life and seen significant decline in water quality.

"It appears to be a problem that's of

greater concern than it was 40 years ago," Munnerley says.

"To go through a whole summer with water problems at Takapuna and Milford – it's outrageous. I know there are a lot of concerned citizens."

He says there are far too many sewage overflows at nearby Black Rock and would like to see council-controlled organisation Watercare upgrade the ageing pipes.

Residents like himself pay high rates and deserve better-quality infrastructure, he says.

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## Popular beaches among city's filthiest

The filthy state of Wairau Creek and outlet is highlighted in a new report on faecal contamination across Auckland beaches last summer.

The Wairau outlet north of Milford Beach has a permanent 'no-swimming' warning on the council's Safeswim website.

The next worst place to swim in the area is Milford South, which was too polluted to swim in 14.6 per cent of the last summer (1 November 2018 to 30 April 2019).

The north end of Takapuna Beach was contaminated 14.5 per cent of the summer, finalised data released by Safeswim manager Nick Vigar shows.

Milford South is placed at number 70 and Takapuna North at 69 out of 92 beaches across the city, displayed in a table.

Thorne Bay was contaminated 7.2 per cent of the time, Milford Beach 7.7 per cent and south Takapuna Beach 5.6 per cent.

Castor Bay was the cleanest with contamination only 5 per cent of the time.

The report notes water quality was better across all of Auckland last summer – because of low rainfall – with an average of 83.4 per cent for all city beaches, compared with 77.1 per cent the previous summer.

Downpours put pressure on stormwater pipes which can flood into wastewater pipes or sewers, causing faecal contamination at city beaches.

Predictions on the council's Safeswim website are derived from sampling over at least five years.

## Minor lake contamination likely due to birds

Birds are the most likely source of trace amounts of faecal contamination in the otherwise clean Lake Pupuke.

The lake is the cleanest of all the freshwater sites the council's Safeswim programme monitors, and experiences faecal contamination only in extremely heavy downpours, programme manager Nick Vigar says.

"In water-quality testing this year we have never recorded an *E. coli* value above 38 cfu/100ml (the threshold for high risk is 280 'colony-forming units')."

"Any *E. coli* that is there is most likely coming from birds on the lake, since very little catchment drains into it."

Auckland Council's Safeswim programme displays predictions for the safety of 99 beaches and nine freshwater sites on its Safeswim website, including Lake Pupuke.

Safeswim predictions for the last swimming season, from 1 November to 30 April, have been released in a report; however, freshwater results are not included.

Safeswim has been testing the lake for heavy metals since June 2018. It has found no evidence of copper and zinc and a small amount of lead.

Dissolved lead was above the detection limit of 0.0001 g/m<sup>3</sup> for a single sampling event where a value of 0.00011 g/m<sup>3</sup> was

recorded.

"This initial screening shows that the bioavailable copper, zinc and lead concentrations in the lake water are not a problem," Vigar says.

Safeswim has recently tested the lake sediment for a suite of heavy metals but is still waiting for the lab results.

### Scouts den could still be put to good use

An old Scouts den at Becroft Park should be demolished, says Auckland Council but next door Forrest Hill/Milford football club have expressed interest in taking it over.

The football club could use it for administration staff, meetings and storage, it told a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop.

Whether taking over the building was viable for the soccer club would depend on the cost of repairs, the board was told.

Board members were keen for officers to help facilitate continued use of the building.

A formal expressions of interest process for the building was likely.

## Repairs in sight for Castor Bay toilets

The woes of Castor Bay residents unhappy at a lengthy wait for public-toilet repairs at the beach will soon be relieved.

Auckland Council has sent a letter to residents saying works were getting under way on 3 September and due to be completed by the end of October.

Furthermore, the notoriously filthy portable toilets would be checked daily, and cleaned at least weekly, and more often, if required. The overflowing rubbish bins would also be cleared at least weekly.

Initially, the roof didn't fit the frame and the council was not allowed to replace the frame. However, the revised approved project sees the frame replaced with a replica, which has the correct fittings for new marine-grade stainless-steel roof supports. A new aluminium roof will be put on. Brickwork columns will be repaired and internal fixtures replaced. The work finishes with painting.

Costs have not been finalised but are likely to be around \$300,000.

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## Broken bones par for the course

BMX rider Rico Bearman reels off the list of bones broken on the track that led to his recent world championship title.

Both wrists, both collarbones, two elbows, one ankle and a scaphoid – Rico, 16, had both arms in full casts earlier this year and managed only one race in the lead-up to the worlds.

“At the start [after an injury] you feel a little cautious, but you have to forget it and carry on.”

The Westlake student recently won the world title for his age group (15–16 cruisers class) in Belgium, making a comeback to the worlds, after a five-year absence.

Rico started BMX racing at 4 and won every race up to winning his category in the worlds in 2014 in Rotterdam. He then hit a metaphorical wall and faced a significant personal challenge.

“Everyone started growing up and going through puberty before me. I was much smaller than everyone else and struggled to make the nationals for four years, and it’s only just come back now.”

In the interim, Rico played football with Forrest Hill Milford in the top team for his age group, travelling to Dallas for

a tournament in 2016, but he had to quit, as his coach was pushing him to choose between football and BMX.

“I chose BMX, which was the best decision.”

The adrenaline and the pleasure of winning keeps him engaged, he says.

Rico, who lives with his family in Campbells Bay, is on the track three times a week, including twice a week in the Waikato where he’s in the youth development programme, working with a coach.

Rico is also the only New Zealand BMX rider to be sponsored by a United States BMX team and is travelling to the States for nationals later this year.

His plans for the future involve moving to the US or Europe and continuing to ride professionally.

**On a high... The adrenaline of BMX racing has kept Westlake’s Rico Bearman engaged through a difficult period where his competitors were growing up faster than him**

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## Tina Cross takes music (and a ukulele) to her latest challenge



**The shows go on... At 60, Tina Cross is still performing and writing songs as well as learning te reo**

Pop legend Tina Cross uses her hands to speak – perhaps it’s a trace of her Croatian heritage. But, at this point in her life, with performance work easing up, it’s her Maori ancestry that’s to the fore.

Cross is learning te reo at AUT, where her teacher has seconded her to teach her class a song at the start of every lesson.

“I take my ukulele along. I have got a guitar, but I love the ukulele because it’s easy to carry. Why would you be carrying around a heavy instrument?”

Cross has a down-to-earth humour and warmth that makes her easy to relate to.

“I’m just at that time of life when there are things that I just haven’t had time to do and now I do,” she says.

Then she thinks about that, and corrects herself to say that at least there are now pockets of time and, as a perfectionist, when she has free time, she studies hard and is determined to master the language.

“It’s important to me because I am Maori [Te Aupouri and Ngati Porou]. I have done several interviews with Maori Television over the years and I have never been able to speak fluently.”

As an adult, Cross has been a firm North Shore resident, living with her husband, Wayne Sullivan, in Milford for 24 years, where they raised their two children, and now living in Castor Bay, while they make plans to build in Bayswater.

Recently, she has been practising for a concert in Invercargill with the Lady Killers, a harmony group set up in 2005 with fellow vocalists Jackie Clarke and Suzanne Lynch.

Another project that is taking up a lot of time right now is preparation for a concert at the PumpHouse with Carl Doy, marking 40 years since they won the Pacific Song Contest with their hit *Nothing But Dreams*.

The idea for the show came out of Cross’s turning 60 earlier this year, something she says amplified her desire to celebrate another, earlier, defining moment with a concert.

When Cross and Doy won the national song contest in 1979, the whole country was watching on television, she says. “It was a big deal back then. We didn’t have all the TV stations we have now. We didn’t have cellphones. We didn’t have the internet. Practically everyone in New Zealand was watching it. There was only TV One and TV Two.”

The show will feature special guest singers Jane Horder and Russell Harrison, plus a band including members of the band Cross performed with at the Ace of Clubs above Cook Street Market back in the 80s.

*Nothing But Dreams* was one of four hit singles for Cross that year – 1979 – when she also released her debut studio album.

Through her career, Cross has not only sung, but danced, notably in 1977 show *Top of the World*. In the 1980s, Cross joined Australian band Koo de Tah. She went on to play Beth

Heke in the musical version of *Once Were Warriors*, as well as performing in *Cats* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. A claim to fame was singing the original theme song for television soap opera *Shortland Street*.

It is hard to believe Cross is now 60 – she looks chic and young, sporting fashion-forward clothes and impeccable grooming.

“I have never been someone to go out without make-up. I wear it to the supermarket.”

Cross also has a daily exercise routine, and swears by natural-hormone replacements.

She did notice invitations to sing at Christmas in the Park stopped the moment she turned 50, and there’s less musical theatre now too.

But Cross is philosophical about ageing, which she puts down to having good values. “You have to make way for younger artists.”

Happily though, turning 50 also ushered in a new phase of song-writing, as well as allowing time for charity work. The two dovetailed when Cross gifted her own songs to charities Women’s Refuge and Shine.

Cross also teaches songs in prisons, and has brought the Manukau Police Choir together with inmates in a performance, something she believes could well be a New Zealand first.

If 60 is a defining moment, it appears to be one which brings together all the strands of Cross’s life. It’s a full kete, which she is absolutely rocking.

• *Tina Cross and Carl Doy: A Salute to Nothing But Dreams*, The Pumhouse, 25 October.

# Westlake high schools hit high notes at Big Sing



**Solid gold... Enjoying the combined Westlake success: (from left) Voicemale director David Squire, students Daniel Rouse, Jonny Clark, Jono Cahill and Isabella Brown, Cantare director Fiona Wilson, students Paris Jagger and Katherine Chong. Below: Cantare during a recital.**

Choirs from Westlake Girls and Boys high schools sang their way to national success at the Big Sing Finale in Dunedin at the end of August.

Together, the schools won three of five gold medals awarded during the festival of performances by 24 top school choirs from around New Zealand.

The medal-winning choirs were Westlake Girls' Cantare (all girls), Westlake Boys' Voicemale (all boys) and the Choralation mixed choir with students from both schools.

In addition, Westlake Girls student Wei Qi Lim won the Souz composition award for her piece *The Vast Hour*, which was performed by Choralation during the Big Sing Gala Performance.



**The write stuff... Wei Qi Lim with her composition award**

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# Junior basketballers run hoops around competitors



**In the net... The Westlake Junior Basketball team had an 88–41 win over Mt Albert Grammar School in the final and took out the title at the Basketball New Zealand Zone I Premier Girls Tournament in early September. During the tournament, the team scored 420 points and only had 146 points scored against them.**

## Westlake’s winning run continues



**Westlake runners reign... Westlake Boys’ cross-country team runners took out seven of nine titles at the Auckland Road Race Champs. Student Toby Saxby went on to compete in the Australian Cross Country Champs where he finished 12th. Saxby was competing against older boys from years 12 and 13.**

## Student writer’s wins continue

Accomplished Westlake writer Xiaole Zhan has won first place in the 2019 International Institute of Modern Letters’ (IIML) National Schools Poetry Award, with a poem titled *Mammalian*.

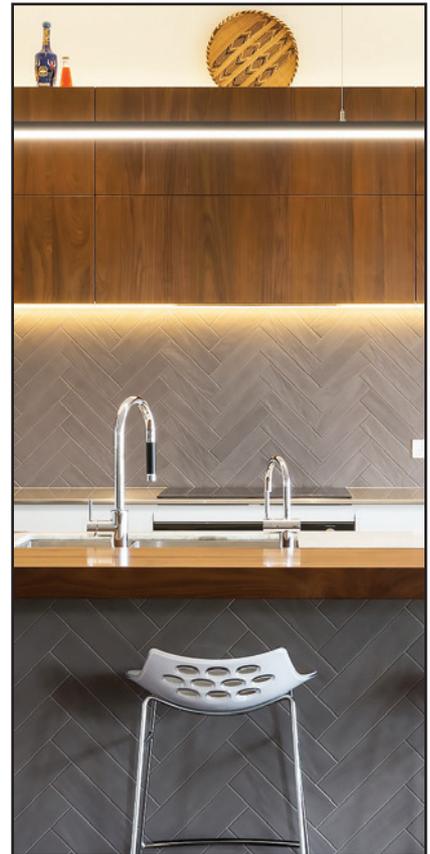
Xiaole, a year 13 student, receives a prize of \$500 and the opportunity to attend a poetry masterclass with poet Chris Tse and Starling editor Francis Cooke at the IIML, Victoria University of Wellington’s creative writing programme.



**Xiaole Zhan**

This year, multi-talented Xiaole has already won a Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand first prize for an essay, a publishing deal with Phantom Feather Press for winning the editor’s choice prize in the Young New Zealand Writers Youth Laureate Competition, and an international choral composition competition, held by the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

She plans to study neuroscience, creative writing and composition at university.



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# Westlake dean is world speed-golf champion

World number one speed golfer Jamie Reid sometimes runs a half-marathon over three rounds and 54 holes in a training session.

His best time for a three-round session at his home club course at Waitemata was two hours 10 minutes, carrying two clubs.

“Doing one of those, your body knows all about it,” says Reid, 28, who recently won the British Speed Golf Champs.

Speed golf – as the name suggests – is golf but running between shots and holes. A competitor’s score is made up of the time taken plus the number of golf shots played. For example, Reid’s best score, training at Waitemata, over one round was 107: an even par 71 in 36 minutes over the 18 holes.

Reid played junior and senior rep golf for Taranaki before moving to Auckland to take up a PE teacher position at Westlake Boys, where he is also dean of Uruoto House. He currently plays off a zero handicap.

His first round of speed golf was at the New Zealand Champs in 2017, where he was third.

Reid decided to “put in some hours” and won the New Zealand champs in 2018 along with a string of other top results – the Australian champs (3rd); World Champs (2nd); United States Champs (2nd); World Teams Champs (2nd) and New South Wales Champs (1st).

He skyrocketed to number one in the world – a ranking he continues to hold with wins this year in the Finnish and British Champs. He had to miss the New Zealand Champs, due to attending a wedding, but will compete at the New South Wales champs on 3 November.

The speed-golfing discipline attracts both golfers who run and runners who are golfers, says Reid.

Coming from a golfing background, Reid only really took up running a year ago.



**Teaching opponents a lesson... Jamie Reid in action at the Finnish Speed Golf Open this year.**

Leading up to events, he will now run five times a week; a mixture of long distance and sprint work.

He’s also in the gym five times per week, mostly at 5.30am before school, concentrating on strength, flexibility and mobility. Throw in a few speed-golf training rounds and Reid is logging 12 training sessions a week.

One of the key technical aspects of the sport is club carrying, selection and quantity. Golfers will often carry more clubs with the aim of keeping their score down, while runners carry less with the goal of a quicker time.

Reid will typically carry three to five clubs, depending on the course.

He carried only three clubs at the British Open’s fast Long Cross Course at Foxhills.

Reid clearly loves the challenge speed golf

brings but struggles to convert golfing mates or juniors.

The perception amongst up-and-coming players is speed golf will badly affect a developing swing.

But Reid says the opposite can be true with the muscle memory and instinct used to play speed golf offering many benefits, including executing shots under pressure.

“In normal golf, you have got heaps of time to play a putt, but in speed golf you’ve got to do it as quick as you can, with your heart racing at 180 beats per minute.”



**Jamie Reid**



## Art Show at Takapuna Library

Come and see the exhibition of the Auckland Watercolour Society’s annual merit competition. Held at the Takapuna Library starting 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The art exhibition is in support of Child Poverty Action Group.

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# PREMIUM®

## TAKAPUNA | 2901/3 NORTHCROFT STREET | **Prized Trophy Penthouse**



Undoubtedly the finest and most spectacular penthouse apartment in Auckland, if not New Zealand, Apartment 2901 at The Sentinel, Takapuna Beach demands your attention! 668sqm of divine living including huge decks with a heated lap pool and spa. Spread over two luxurious levels with three living rooms, a soaring atrium and 360 degree views.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9844](https://premium.co.nz/9844)

ALISON PARKER 021 983 533 | 916 6000

COREY KNAPP 021 2410 081 | 916 6000

## TAKAPUNA | 802/10 AUBURN STREET | **Boutique Penthouse | Alba**



Stunning penthouse with wide views, Lake Pupuke, Rangitoto, city and harbour. 103sqm custom designed apartment with 2 large entertaining decks. 2 bedrooms, master with walk in wardrobe, kitchen with butlers pantry/storage.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

PRICE | \$1.749M

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9772](https://premium.co.nz/9772)

ALISON PARKER 021 983 533 | 916 6000

CAROLE THOMAS 021 539 553 | 916 6000

## MILFORD | 9 FRIESTON ROAD | **Fabulous Designer Residence | Double Westlake Zone**



Enjoying a sunny north facing position, located just a short stroll from Milford Village and beach this fabulous architecturally designed residence offers a sensational lock up and leave lifestyle. Stunning gourmet kitchen, scullery and island. 3 bedrooms, a media room/study, 2 bathrooms (inc ensuite), guest wc. Double garage.

VIEW | SUN 11 - 11.30 AM

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST | 3 OCTOBER 2019 AT 4PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR**

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9854](https://premium.co.nz/9854)

RICHARD MILNE 021 770 611 | 916 6000

ROBERT MILNE 022 011 2494 | 916 6000

## STANLEY POINT | 12 FIRST AVENUE | **Do Up or Demolish | Prime Waterfront**



The choice is yours, so call it where you see it. Take this truly fab 1966 'Wall and Craig' architectural original 4 bedroom, one level home, tailor it and make it your perfect home or demolish it and truly capitalise on the waterfront location and build the home of your dreams on this 916sqm site.

VIEW | SUN 11.30 - 12.30 PM

**TENDER CLOSING | THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019 AT 4 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR**

[PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9834](https://premium.co.nz/9834)

LEWIS GUY 021 867 355 | 916 6000

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