

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 17 - October 25 2019

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Growth rate slower than
Auckland's... p2

Milford man recalls recording
Blue Smoke.. p3

Voters ring the changes
on local board... p9

Pupuke pathway costs \$4600 per metre

A 180-metre stretch of controversial footpath along the edge of Lake Pupuke has cost ratepayers more than \$800,000, leaving one local board member flabbergasted at the cost.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Jan O'Connor questions whether

the concrete path, running along a narrow causeway between North Shore Hospital and the North Shore Rowing Club, was even needed.

"I look at that pathway and I think, 'Why have they done it?'" she says.

O'Connor would prefer to have seen the

council spend money securing the popular coastal walkway between Takapuna and Milford.

The path cost \$831,000, including technical reports, consents, construction, 'functional artworks' (concrete cubes), furniture

To page 2

Native eels on slippery slope, children learn



Fenny business... Preparing to perform in eco-musical *Mama Longfin*, Raquel Hunt (10) and other Takapuna Primary pupils make puppets and learn songs about the endangered native eel and other marine species with duo Toro Pikopiko Puppets. More on page 20.



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Devonport-Takapuna's growth slower than Auckland's

The population of Devonport-Takapuna has increased by more than 2505 people since 2013, but the area is growing more slowly than Auckland as a whole.

According to just released figures from the 2018 census, 57,975 people live in Devonport-Takapuna – a 4.5 per cent increase between 2013 and 2018.

Overall Auckland's population has increased by 11 per cent.

Devonport-Takapuna now has 3.7 per cent of the Auckland population, down slightly from 3.9 per cent at the 2013 census.

The population statistics are important as they are a key decider of where Auckland Council spends money on projects.

Devonport-Takapuna has had a massive growth in its Asian population, which stands at 15,249, which is 26 per cent of the total population and up 4674 – a 44 per cent jump – since the 2013 census. Across Auckland, 28.2 per cent of the population is Asian.

Residents in the Devonport-Takapuna area are mainly of European descent – 69.3 per cent, compared to 53.5 per cent across Auckland. Only 5.5 per cent are Maori compared

to 11.5 per cent across Auckland.

The Devonport-Takapuna area has fewer young people and more older people than the rest of Auckland, with 17.9 per cent of residents under 15 (compared with 20 per cent for wider Auckland), and 16.3 per cent 65 or older (12 per cent across Auckland).

The median age in Devonport-Takapuna

is 39.4 years compared to 34.7 years in Auckland.

The census found Devonport-Takapuna had 20,901 occupied dwellings, an increase of 402 (or 2 per cent) since 2013. Overall, Auckland posted an increase of 5.7 per cent.

Devonport-Takapuna had 1587 unoccupied private dwellings.

from page 1

\$800K footpath 'waste of money'

and landscaping, according to documents released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

Milford Residents Association's Norma Bott says a walkway was probably needed, but the final cost is a "total waste of money".

"That's what the council does, using consultants rather than its own staff and talking to the community," Bott says.

Local board member George Wood says the project would have required expensive engineering, as it is a difficult site.

Construction included a culvert, so the quarry lake could drain into Lake Pupuke, as well as shoring up the lake wall.

Lake Pupuke, a crater lake, is an "outstanding natural feature" in the Auckland Unitary Plan, and the walkway follows the crater's edge.

A council planner decided the consent for the path did not need to be notified, as the works maintained the natural basalt rock base, while the causeway itself had been previously altered to form a type of dam for the quarry lake.

Over the past three years, Auckland Council has also been developing plans for walkways and boardwalks at the northern edge of the lake, near Milford.

So far, the council has spent more than \$56,000 in consultancy fees to develop concept plans for the walkways, including consultation with iwi and the public.

No consent has been applied for yet, with plans on hold pending future discussions with the incoming local board.



Walk this way... an aerial view of the causeway where a concrete path has been laid

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**2 The Strand:
 empty for 591 days**

The former Takapuna Library building at 2 The Strand became vacant since an earthquake notice on March 2018. The 1955 heritage listed public building has now been unoccupied for 591 days. Its future is being considered under a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board 'optimisation' project.

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Blue Smoke keeps rising for recording pioneer

Seventy years after playing a significant role in the recording of *Blue Smoke*, New Zealand's first pop hit, John Shears has received national recognition.

Milford resident Shears, 91, was earlier this month invited onto the Spark Arena stage to accept an APRA Silver Scroll Hall of Fame award for his work on the landmark 1949 single.

He collected the award alongside Ruma Karaitiana (son of the composer, Ruru Karaitiana) and Amelia Costello (daughter of singer Pixie Williams).

Blue Smoke was the first record produced and pressed by a New Zealand company from a local composition, and featuring Kiwi musicians.

"We did not realise it was anything special (at the time) – it was just a job and we were doing it the best we could," says the self-effacing Shears.

But the record did prove to be something special – selling a massive 50,000 copies.

In the 1940s, British-owned HMV dominated the record industry, ignoring local artists. Shears worked in sales at Radio Corp. In addition to recording, largely for the advertising industry, Radio Corp supplied HMV records to shops.

During a 1948 visit to HMV, Shears was told it would stop supplying records to Radio Corp.

Taking the news back to his bosses, "the gauntlet was being thrown down", Shears says. The decision was made to press records, not just be a recording studio.

Shears was in the studio when engineer Stan Dallas painstakingly recorded *Blue Smoke* in what seemed like "ten thousand takes". It was done by ear, with Shears and Dallas conferring and deciding that takes should be redone after they heard a bum note.

Shears was also involved in the arduous pressing process. An acetate master needed be converted into a stamper, which went into a press to manufacture the actual disc from heated shellac.

"A number of us worked on the project, which ended in failure day after day," he recalls.

They knew the theory behind the technique but not how to put it into practice. It involved a combination of chemistry, electroplating and toolmaking. Shears operated the cutting lathe "and other bits and pieces" in the studio and by day went back to his sales work.

For several months, they worked after hours four nights a week until the problems were solved.

The difficulties in production were the main reason why *Blue Smoke*, while recorded in 1948, was not released till 1949.

Shears stayed with Radio Corp until the mid-1950s, before going into the baking industry and later moving to the North Shore, working in sales and marketing roles, and finishing his working life owning his own woodworking business.

The memories of his role in *Blue Smoke*



**Hands on...
A youthful John Shears,
a jack of all trades in
New Zealand's fledgling
recording industry, watches
over the cutting of a record
in June, 1949**

**Music man... John Shears today,
with the marching horn on which
he plays a few bars of *Blue Smoke*
in an upcoming documentary**

continued to resonate over the years. After hearing music historian Chris Bourke was departing from producing Kim Hill's Saturday show on Radio New Zealand to write a history of early New Zealand music and was seeking material, Shears got in contact, saying "I'm your man."

Photos of Shears and many of his memories appear in Bourke's 2010 book: *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music*.

Shears will also soon appear in a television documentary on *Blue Smoke* screening on Maori television.

As a keen amateur musician who still plays with the North Shore concert band, he was asked to blow some of *Blue Smoke* on his marching horn.

"I tried to play it but had something wrong with my lip and could not get to the top G." The sound engineers on the project said no problem, another note could be looped into to cover it.

It was all a long way technologically from the recording of the song seven decades ago, when nervous Radio Corp employees had to wait until after the pressing to hear the finished product.



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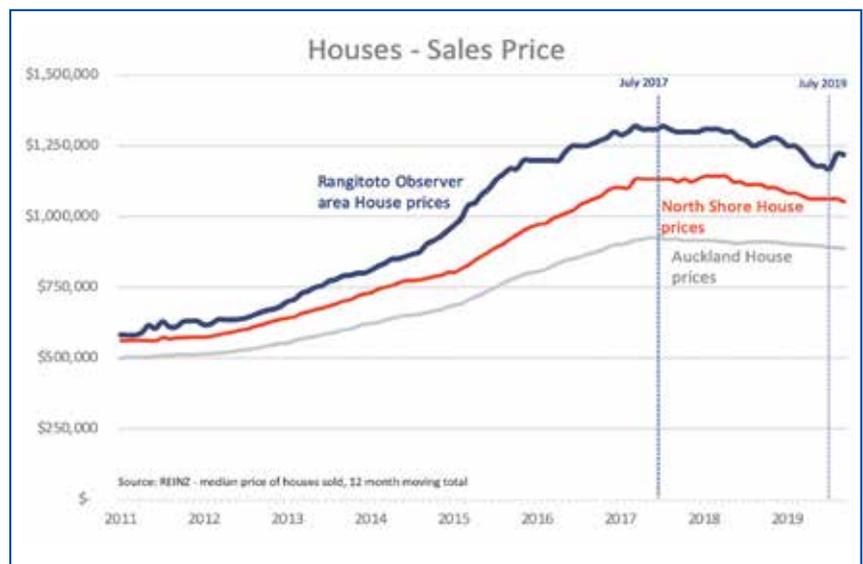


A brighter outlook for property sellers

With the longer days and prospect of summer approaching fast, the property market across the area has firmly kicked into the traditional busy Spring period. This time of year tends to see a rise in the number of properties for sale and this year the outlook for sellers is somewhat brighter than a year ago.

Across the local area the sale price of houses is showing signs of rising again after what has been a quiet and somewhat subdued past 18 months. When judging the Rangitoto Observer area against the wider North Shore and the whole of Auckland, the adjacent chart shows that whereas Auckland sale price of houses has been flat for more than 2 years, this local area saw a clear correction in prices from what had been a steep rise in sales prices through the period 2015 to 2017.

Certainly, the wider North Shore City saw house sale prices fall, and still remains weak, however the Rangitoto Observer area is now showing some strong signs of bouncing back. There is strong support for this recovery, albeit at an early stage. Interest rates and



thereby mortgage rates continue to drop, even if banks have become ever more cautious of lending. Recent economic reports have spoken to the strength of the NZ economy, even though uncertainty pervades the world economic outlook.

Looking across the segments of this

local market, median sale prices for small and larger properties are rising year-on-year. Another key indicator of the future trend in the market is house sales volume. The most recent report for September from the Real Estate Institute showed Auckland sales volumes up 6%. The wider North Shore actually saw sales volumes down 20% but the Rangitoto Observer area saw volumes sales up 14% year-on-year.

All these statistics may come across as somewhat confusing, however what they speak to is the principle that there is no single property market for Auckland or the North Shore; there are local markets and small hyper-local markets and understanding what is going on in local suburbs is key to being well informed about the market you may be interested in. I hope these monthly reports provide some useful insight.



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Fight against high-rises knocked back by highest court

A resident who took his fight against Unitary Plan decisions in Takapuna to the country's highest court has been knocked back, paving the way for high-rise developments.

The Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal by Franco Belgiorno-Nettis against Unitary Plan decisions on two Takapuna blocks.

"It's disappointing that the Supreme Court didn't want to consider important issues," Belgiorno-Nettis says. "There's a disregard of the people of Takapuna, and maybe the same would apply to other people in Auckland."

In May, the Appeal Court agreed the Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) should have provided specific reasons for its zoning decisions on two Takapuna sites which were disputed by Belgiorno-Nettis.

They are the 'Promenade Block', between Earnoch Ave, Alison Ave and the Promenade, where three-level terrace housing at the edge could rise to seven storeys in the centre; and a block alongside Lake Rd to the south of the shopping centre, which can go up to six storeys, plus several blocks between Lake Rd and the beach, which can go to three storeys.

While the Appeal Court ordered the IHP reconvene to provide reasons for its decisions on those blocks, Belgiorno-Nettis went to the Supreme Court to try to get the planning decisions overturned and considered anew.

That could have provided impetus for calls for further review of the Unitary Plan, which Belgiorno-Nettis says resident groups, such as one in Kohimarama, are also calling for.

However, the Supreme Court said hearing the case was unlikely to achieve Belgiorno-Nettis' goal of getting Auckland Council to overturn the zoning decisions at the Takapuna sites.

Neither did the judges agree a major miscarriage of justice had occurred.

North Shore councillor Chris Darby says the Appeal Court decision did not throw doubt on all Unitary Plan recommendations.

"The IHP has been ordered to give reasons for its recommendations, but the Court of Appeal emphasised that this conclusion applies only to the submission of Mr Bel-



Disappointed... Franco Belgiorno-Nettis points to the Promenade Block where developers can now build up to seven storeys

giorno-Nettis on these blocks."

Further, Darby says, the decision did not mean public submissions were not adequately addressed by the IHP.

"The [IHP's] overview report states, 'While

individual submissions and points may not be expressly referred to in the reports and recommendations, all points have nevertheless been taken into account by the panel when making its recommendations.'"

Resident's battle could continue

Franco Belgiorno-Nettis has received the reasons from the Independent Hearings Panel, which only add to his concerns.

"They reported the general reasons, not the specific reasons," he says.

The Appeal Court judges said the Independent Hearings Panel needed to give specific reasons, even if they were to groups of submitters.

The new set of reasons say the panel's job was to make strategic zoning decisions to pave the way for intensification.

The reasons are given in general terms with respect to the proximity to major transport options and the need to encourage intensification of the metropolitan centre.

Under "local reasons", the panel says

it considered submissions from residents opposing a high-rise development on the Promenade block, as well as the Emerald Group seeking to develop there.

It outlined the compromise reached of a mix of zoning categories, which it said paved the way for development that reflected existing development, while protecting the amenity of existing residential areas.

Confusingly, for the Lake Rd block south of the shopping centre and down to the beach, the reasons given by the Independent Hearings Panel discuss a different area, to the west of Lake Rd, away from the beach.

Belgiorno-Nettis says he will talk to his lawyer about whether to legally contest the reasons provided.

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Takapuna

Masses of masses: St Joseph's celebrates 100 years

Takapuna's St Joseph's Church, on land in Catholic church hands since the earliest colonial settlement of Auckland, is celebrating 100 years since it was formally founded.

The church stands on land originally purchased by Bishop Pompellier in 1846, not long after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Since then, the site has housed a Catholic school, an orphanage, the country's first seminary, and a church since at least 1919.

The current church was built in 1966, replacing the original wooden church building, which was used as a hall until it was demolished in the mid 1980s.

A year of centenary celebrations was launched with a dinner for older parishioners and a special mass on St Joseph's Day, in March.

Several parishioners organising centenary activities, Patricia Murfitt, Laurie Davis and Gabrielle Rothwell, say a key event was a week-long retreat in July, which involved five days of talks, shared meals and times of reflection.

Other activities are organising church archives and producing a centenary magazine.

The centenary will finish with a picnic near the church in February, which is intended to be an inclusive event, given the many cultures represented at St Joseph's Church today.

These days masses are full, the trio say, with cultures represented including Filipino, South Asian, Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian.

Among the many memories that have emerged recently about the church's past was one from the World War II era, when petrol rationing meant many people would catch the bus to mass.

This led to a quaint ritual, where, if the homily was overly long and the Bayswater bus arrived, a bell rang signalling to parishioners to file quietly out in order to catch the bus.



Church parade...

(clockwise from above) Father J J Kelly during construction of the new St Joseph's church in 1965; Sister Angela showing the St Joseph's rugby boys how it's done, in the 60s or 70s; the original church and an early-1900s shot of the orphanage building that today stands in St Joseph's School.



Timeline: St Joseph's and its site

- 1846** Bishop Pompellier buys a tract of 23 acres of land between what is now Barrys Pt Rd and the estuary where the motorway now runs.
- 1849** St Mary's Industrial School is opened on what is now the site of St Joseph's School. It is said to be the first two-storey stone building on the North Shore.
- 1854** School closes and students move to a Catholic school in Freemans Bay.
- 1869** Pompellier turns the former St Mary's School building into the country's first seminary.
- 1893** The Sisters of Mercy establish an orphanage, St Joseph's School for Boys, in the building, rowing six boys over the Waitemata Harbour.
- 1894** School associated with orphanage established.
- 1919** St Joseph's Church officially opened. Functions as a church/school.
- 1923** Fire partially destroys orphanage, with one child dying. Due to its thick stone walls, it is rebuilt.
- 1930** Day pupils, including girls, start at school.
- 1957** Carmel College established on land donated by the Poynton family.
- 1962** Rosmini College opened.
- 1963** Old church moved back on the site, so the new church can be built. The old church is used as a hall until it is later demolished.
- 1966** Present day St Joseph's Church built.
- 1980s** Old wooden church demolished.
- 1985** Orphanage closes.
- 1988** Building used for retreats, seminars and meetings.
- 1989** End of association with Sisters of Mercy.



Swapsies: Darby and Hills return but positions change

CHRIS DARBY

TAKING THE SHORE
FORWARD



RICHARD HILLS

A POSITIVE
VOICE FOR THE
SHORE



Sitting North Shore ward Auckland councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills were re-elected to Auckland Council.

But support for Darby, the head of council's planning committee, was slashed by around 2000 votes. He received 17,249 votes, compared to 19,396 in 2016.

He was overtaken as top-polling candidate by Richard Hills, who posted 18,400, up a massive 5749 votes on his 12,651 total in 2016.

Danielle Grant was next with 14,812, up

8397 on 2016, followed by running mate Grant Gillon with 14,055, up on his 2016 total of 12,523.

Independent Anthony Bunting, who was largely anonymous on the campaign trail, rounded out the votes with 3924.

Grant was voted back onto the Kaipataki Local Board. But Gillon decided against standing in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board race, and is now effectively out in the political wilderness.

Local board vote: the numbers

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members 2019: **Aidan Bennett**, A Fresh Approach 7152; **Jan O'Connor**, Heart of the Shore, 6724; **George Wood**, Team George Wood, 6057; **Toni Van Tonder**, A Fresh Approach, 5971; **Ruth Jackson**, Heart of the Shore, 5795; **Trish Deans**, Heart of the Shore, 5577.

Other candidates: Michael Sheehy, Team George Wood, 5154; Danny Watson, A Fresh Approach, 4981; Paul Cornish, Keep Our Open Spaces, 4807; Jenn McKenzie, Team George Wood, 4486; Iain Rea, Heart of the Shore, 4282; Ian Revell, Team George Wood, 4221; Gavin Busch, Team George Wood, 4217; Donald Horsburgh, Independent, 2756; Mary-Anne Benson-Cooper, Independent, 2621; John Wood, Future Focus 2240; Kevin Brett, The Trump New Zealand Party, 888; Dorothea Akenese Scanlan, The Trump New Zealand Party, 633.

See Editorial, page 10

Voter turnout drops

Voters returned 40.4 per cent of forms in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, which was significantly higher than the 34.8 per cent return across the whole of Auckland.

However, the Devonport-Takapuna return is a marked drop from 2016, when 45.1 per cent of voting forms were returned.



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Electorate votes for change on local board

Four new faces have been voted onto the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, but it could be déjà vu – with a split board again likely.

Team George Wood was the big loser in 2019, with only Wood himself elected to the board from its five-strong ticket. Incumbent Team George Wood members Jenn McKenzie and Mike Sheehy were voted out.

However, pro-business Aidan Bennett, and Devonport BID manager Toni Van Tonder, of the A Fresh Approach ticket, were voted in.

On the left, Heart of the Shore incumbent Jan O'Connor is back, and joined by newbies Ruth Jackson and Trish Deans. Iain Rea was the only candidate from the Heart of the Shore ticket who didn't make the cut.

Bennett's top polling possibly indicated a vote for change.

In previous elections, left-leaning Mike Cohen was a consistently top poller (8687 votes in 2016). Grant Gillon, another from the left, was always close behind.

George Wood's vote dropped by 24 per cent and Mike Sheehy, Jenn McKenzie and Gavin Busch all polled lower than they did in 2016.



Happy campers... Heart of the Shore candidates (from left) Trish Deans, Jan O'Connor and Ruth Jackson, who were elected to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, were at Takapuna Market the day after the election

Bullet points with Bennett

The Flagstaff put three quick questions to top-polling local board candidate Aidan Bennett.

Why do you think you polled highest? Fairly unusual for a first-time candidate.

AB: As you are aware, I am not a politician. So probably not qualified to answer that question. My focus is going to be on doing what is best for the community. Good governance. That is what we conveyed during the election process, and clearly that resonated. The community is looking for a fresh approach.

Often candidates who top poll seek the chair role as they have been given a clear mandate of preference from the community. Will you be seeking the

chairmanship of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board?

AB: I am obviously thrilled with the support. At this very early stage, we haven't discussed chair. Priority for us will be in developing a quality relationship with other board members so we can execute good governance and show best practice in our decision-making. I am clearly keen to lead though and believe I can offer a fresh approach.

But most importantly I am excited about supporting good outcomes for all our town centres, and am also passionate about resolving water-quality issues and ensuring our beaches are looked after. I believe we live in the best place in the world; my focus is going to be on working hard for the community to enhance what we have.

Are there projects you want to give immediate priority to, say by Christmas?

AB: I do have some things I am keen to get cracking on, but first we need to get settled as a new board. I was only elected three days ago!

What happens next?

A meet-and-greet session for all elected Auckland politicians was planned last week.

At a local-board level, the first meeting will be held later in October, when board members will be inducted.

The first full business meeting of the board will be held in November.

Changing of the guard on local board – four new faces



AIDAN BENNETT



TRISH DEANS



RUTH JACKSON



JAN O'CONNOR



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By Rob Drent

Democracy and transparency at local-board level is likely to be the big winner in the 2019 elections. The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is one of only two boards in Auckland (Kaipatiki is the other) to hold open workshops, where the early plans of council and its officers can be scrutinised.

Whatever you think of its wider policies, the Heart of the Shore ticket made 'keep the workshops open' one of its campaign platforms. In contrast, at public meetings, Team George Wood seemed to indicate it would review the open workshops.

Whether it became an election issue in voters' minds, I don't know. But with three Heart of the Shore members on the board, it is unlikely the workshops will go back behind closed doors.

Who will chair the local board is a key question, with a split board of three Heart of the Shore members (Trish Deans, Jan O'Connor and Ruth Jackson) on one side, and Aidan Bennett and Toni Van Tonder (A Fresh Approach) together with current chair George Wood on the other.

I can't see Heart of the Shore being happy with Wood or Bennett, although as top-polling candidate Bennett could possibly say he has a mandate. And from the other side, O'Connor and Jackson probably aren't flavour of the month. Bennett and Jackson were poles apart on the Takapuna Square issue, for example.

The position of chair has a vital role in a split board – the casting vote often gets decisions

across the line. It could come down to a battle between Van Tonder and Deans.

One issue that looms unresolved for the new board is the disconnect – and, at times, open warfare – between the board and the two North Shore ward councillors, Chris Darby and Richard Hills.

Heart of the Shore members clashed with Darby and Hills over their stance on Takapuna Square, and openly supported rival council candidates Grant Gillon and Danielle Grant.

Hills and Darby went to the police over death-threat postings on social-media sites associated with some of the Heart of the Shore members.

A more conciliatory tone will be brought by Van Tonder, who is close to Hills through her work as Devonport BID manager.

A few eyebrows were raised at Aidan Bennett topping the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board poll, especially as he was in Japan for a lot of the campaign.

He does have high name recognition through 10 years publishing the relentlessly gushy and pro-business *Channel* magazine. A consummate networker at events and functions, he's met thousands of people over the years.

A percentage of voters would have been turned off by the arguing over the Takapuna Square. Bennett's simple 'let's get on with it and make Takapuna a vibrant functioning place' would have appealed to many.

Some will ask if Bennett needs to step back from his role in the media, due to a conflict of interest. Likewise, should Van Tonder carry on her role with the Devonport BID?

The lack of traction from the third Fresh Approach candidate, Danny Watson, was another surprise. The former TV host and broadcaster

also performed forcefully at public meetings. Usually, candidates with broadcasting or high-profile sporting backgrounds poll well in local-body elections.

Is it the end of the independents on the local board? The successful candidates on the new Devonport-Takapuna Board came from three tickets: Team George Wood, Heart of the Shore and A Fresh Approach.

On previous boards, Mike Cohen was always an independent and polled top or near to it. Paul Cornish was the top-polling independent at this election, finishing ninth.

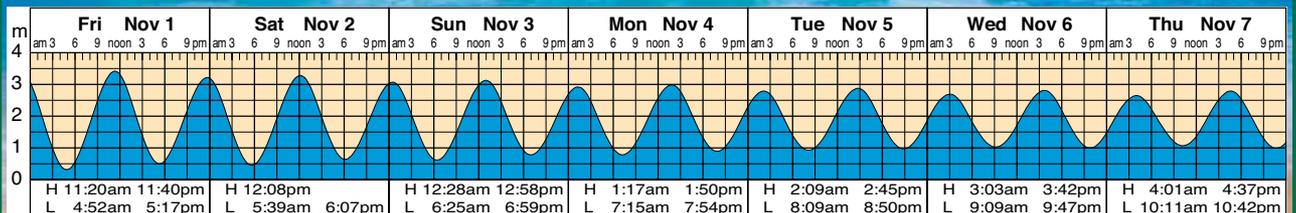
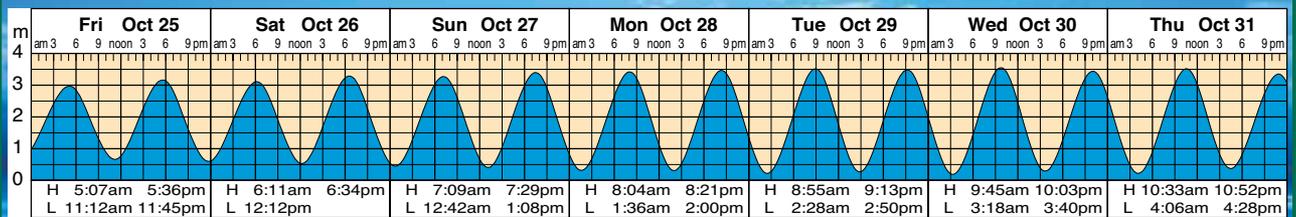
How much can be read into Chris Darby's drop in voting numbers in the election? He probably bore the brunt of anti-council sentiment over battles to save Takapuna Campground and, more recently, the debate over Takapuna Square. Top poller Richard Hills was perhaps more adept at Facebook communication, with Darby coming across as more all-knowing and, at times, abrasive.

The fact councillors are voted in by the community, but are often locked away in City Hall grappling with massive financial decisions that affect Auckland as a whole, makes some sort of disconnect inevitable.

Letters to the Editor

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Milford / Takapuna Tides



Shortsighted planning

What an incredibly short-sighted decision by our elected representatives to proceed with a Korean Garden alongside the Akoranga bus station. With Auckland grinding to a halt, here is a missed opportunity to build car parking adjacent to the busway desperately needed for the many commuters wishing to avail themselves of public transport but denied suitable park-and-ride facilities. Yes, a Korean garden would be a 'nice to have' but surely another site could have been found?

Gerald Petrie

Hands tied: TRA

The *Rangitoto Observer* editorial (11 October) noted the Takapuna Residents Association (TRA) refused to provide the documents of our appeal to the High Court regarding an Auckland Council decision concerning a proposed Takapuna town square. We did respectfully decline to provide full access to those documents. However, we are anxious your readers not infer we believed the filed documents might not pass scrutiny. TRA is advised that the correct procedure for media wishing to access documents before the court is to make a request to the court which may, then seek agreement from the parties to that appeal. We acknowledge these procedures may sometimes be circumvented. However, we are comfortable we have shown respect for the Court, and protected the integrity of our appeal.

Iain Rea (TRA)

Rob Drent, managing editor,

replies: We stand by the editorial. I have been involved in numerous stories where court documents in civil cases have been provided to journalists once they have been filed in court. As stated, we were not interested in running a story from a press release without seeing what was actually filed, so we could frame our news reporting on the facts not the Association's interpretation of them.

Bodyline – Guy Body's view



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Buses knock out seven car parks

Shoppers will find it harder to find a car park in Milford, with Auckland Transport (AT) confirming bus stop changes that will result in the loss of seven P30 car parks.

Under the changes, a temporary bus stop for the library bus will be made permanent, a layover stop added and another stop, on the opposite side of Milford Rd, extended.

Milford Business Association manager Murray Hill labelled the changes “over the top” and “unnecessary” and said they would have a serious impact on retailers.

Hill’s request to AT to delay the changes has been knocked back, with AT telling Hill by email it will press on. “The temporary arrangement is not working for anyone.”

AT consulted with neighbours, businesses, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and the council’s library-bus office over a four-week period. Of just six submissions, two

supported the project, one was neutral and three objected.

AT says it considered 25 options before deciding on the proposed changes.

Hill is dismayed an alternative bus stop he negotiated in Milford Mall’s underground car park for library and rest-home buses was rebuffed.

AT says the mall option was unsuitable because the buses were too high and their wheelchair ramps require kerbs of a certain height.

It argues the loss of car parks has to be considered against the number of people who could arrive by bus. Already, bus patronage at the stops concerned has gone from 350 per month in June 2018 to 4000 in June 2019.

AT says it intends to help the nearby P120 car parks function better by increasing parking compliance and enforcement.

Waterworld returns to Lake Pupuke

A popular floating waterpark will operate on Lake Pupuke for six days over summer, most likely from 20 to 26 January.

Waterworld’s inflatable obstacle course proved popular last Easter, attracting more than 2000 children.

It applied to set up on the lake off Sylvan Park for the whole of January, but was knocked back to six days by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, after submissions from residents concerned about the disruption to the tranquillity of the lake and a precedent of “commercial creep”.

Waterworld co-owner Kel Travers said the Easter event had been a great success with “50 per cent capacity achieved, when we were only expecting 15 to 20 per cent”.

While disappointed with the reduced time in January, Travers said Waterworld had decided to go ahead anyway.

As part of the consent, Waterworld has to consult lake users, including Madloop Windsurfing and the Pupuke Boating Club. Travers said the 20 to 26 January slot was pencilled as it fell outside the Pupuke Boating Club regattas.

No issues or complaints were lodged about the Easter event.

Old-school fête

A vintage-themed carnival at Takapuna Primary School on 2 November promises plenty of old-fashioned fun. The carnival, from 1 to 7pm, will include games, rides, entertainment and live music from 4pm. There will be international food stalls, food trucks, vintage tea rooms, sweets and baking, plus a pre-loved shop and silent auction. All proceeds will go towards the school’s indoor and outdoor learning spaces.



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Administration Officer**

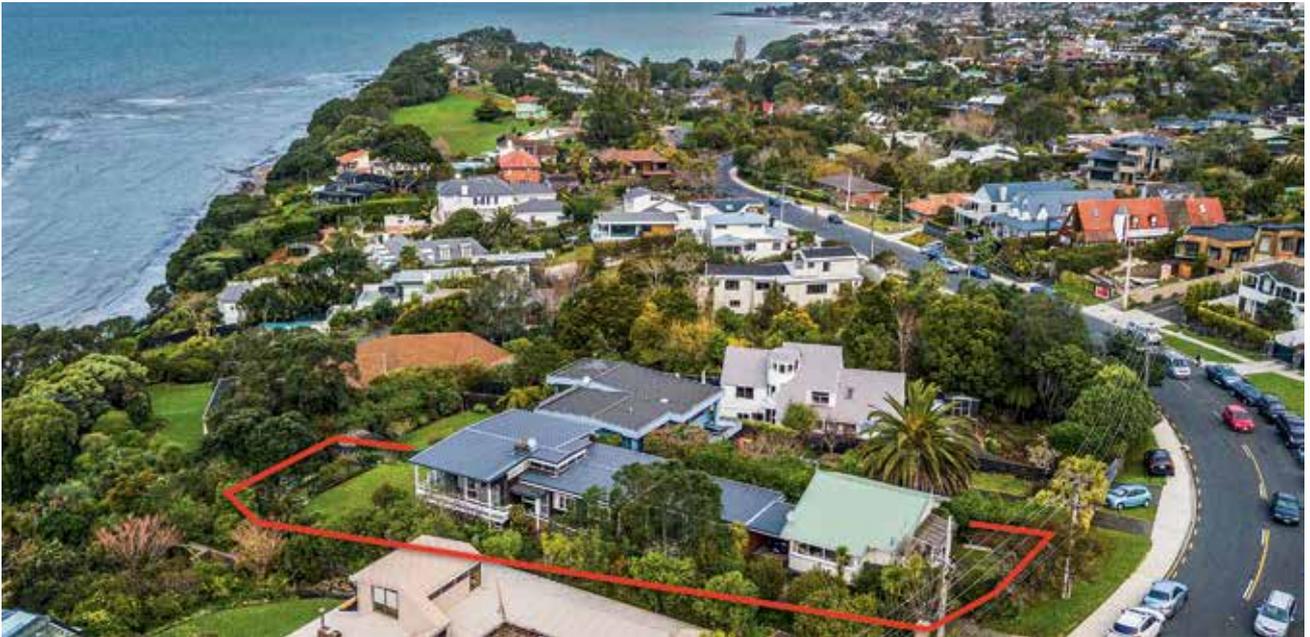
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This is a part-time position; four days per week (Monday to Thursday) 8.30 am to 2.15 pm with a half-hour unpaid lunch break. This is a term time only position.

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Xiaole wins another award

Westlake Girls High student Xiaole Zhan has won another literary prize, with judges describing her as 'one to watch'.

Xiaole came first-equal in the secondary schools category of a new short story competition, the Sargeson Prize, with a story called *Woman, Sitting in a Garden*.

The prize includes half of the \$500 cash for first place and a week's residency at Waikato University for both secondary school winners.

Experienced reporter wanted

Reporter required for the Devonport Flagstaff and the recently launched Rangitoto Observer.

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Morning Tea with Maggie

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With Hon Maggie Barry ONZM, MP for North Shore and National's Spokesperson for Veterans, Seniors, Disabilities & Assoc Health.

Please join me for a lively discussion over a cuppa and complimentary morning tea. We'll also hear from experts how to recognise scams and keep yourself safe from financial abuse.

RSVP to northshore@parliament.govt.nz or **09 486 0005**



Save the Date: On Tues 26 Nov, I'm hosting a light breakfast with Hon Paul Goldsmith, List MP and National's Spokesperson for Finance & Infrastructure, to discuss National's Economic policy. For more info contact my Electorate Office.



Authorised by M Barry MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library



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From "The Visionary" Elizabeth Serjeant and Joan Taylor. From "The Visionary" Elizabeth Serjeant and Joan Taylor.

Stunning artists' books by Aotearoa NZ artists, writers, printers and makers are on display in the Angela Morton Room. They explore different materials, bindings and forms – from the traditional Codex to fold-outs, to items in a box. These factors generate fresh ways to make books, and to experience reading them.

Rohan Wealleans, Colin McCahon, Keri Hulme, Max Gimblett, Ralph Hotere, and Michele Leggott are some of those whose work features in this selection from the Angela Morton Collection's rare books normally only seen by request.

2 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020, in the Angela Morton Room art library, Level 1, Takapuna Library. Open daily.
See Instagram @angelamorton.room



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Toddlers' play at no cost



Tasty... Charlotte Ramsay enjoys the flavour of the Get Messy event



Branching out... Dylan Barry makes a splash

REMEMBRANCE DAY



11 NOVEMBER 2019



A short service of remembrance will be conducted at the Devonport War Memorial on Monday 11 November, beginning at 10:45 am.

The service is arranged by the Devonport RSA but the public are encouraged to participate and honour all those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Refreshments at the Devonport RSA on completion – all welcome

to planet

Get Messy's creators Lisa Smith and Kathryn Troughton hold weekly sessions where pre-schoolers can go crazy with all sorts of gloopy and gooey ingredients. Best of all is there's zero harm to the environment.

Twenty-six toddlers got into the sensory experience at Takapuna Cricket Club last week. The best part is parents go home leaving the crew to clean up the mess. Food-based products provide a safe environment free from toxic products or chemicals. All the leftovers from the play session are either recycled, composted or fed to the birds.

Getting messy to their hearts' content... (clockwise from right) Kipp Eli; three blissed out toddlers; Mo Re



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Westlake student wins global award



Glowing success... Westlake's Cruz Erdman, 14, receives Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year at London's Natural History Museum in London from presenters Liz Bonnin and Chris Packham

An underwater photograph of a glowing squid has scooped a 14-year-old Westlake Boys student, Cruz Erdmann, global success, winning Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year (11 to 14 years). Cruz, 14, received the award at the Natural History Museum in London last week. After the prizegiving on 15 October, Cruz was invited to visit Downing Street.

Cruz started experimenting with his father, a marine biologist's, underwater camera only a year ago. He took the winning image of an iridescent bigfin reef squid on an organised night dive in Indonesia.

Cinema tradition set to continue in Takapuna

A century of movies in Takapuna is set to continue with new owners taking over when the Berkeley closes in November.

Hoyts, owner of the Berkeley, decided not to renew its lease from 20 November.

Movies have shown on the site since silent movies at the Forrester's Hall from 1916. That became the Gaiety Theatre in 1931, which was replaced by the Tudor Theatre in 1968. In 1999, the Berkeley, which had demolished the old theatre, opened a multiplex.

Now cinema veterans Kelly Rogers and David Ross will open 'Monterey Cinemas Takapuna' on the site. They plan to upgrade the complex in 2020.

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Puppet-making pupils learn about native eels

Children from Takapuna Primary prepare to perform in Mama Longfin, a puppet musical at the PumpHouse this week. Created by Toro Pikopiko, the musical focuses on the longfin eel, which are struggling to survive, in part because of pesticides affecting water quality. An important value in the show is 'kaitiakitanga', referring to the need to restore the natural environment.

Song and dance about environment... (Clockwise from left) Room 11 pupils learn songs for Mama Long Fin for scenes about the native fish and weather; Karscha Wichman-Wallace (11), Tiana Clarke (11) and Molly Taurere (10) with their handiwork; Toro Pikopiko's Jeffrey Addison says everyone has been on a rewarding learning curve



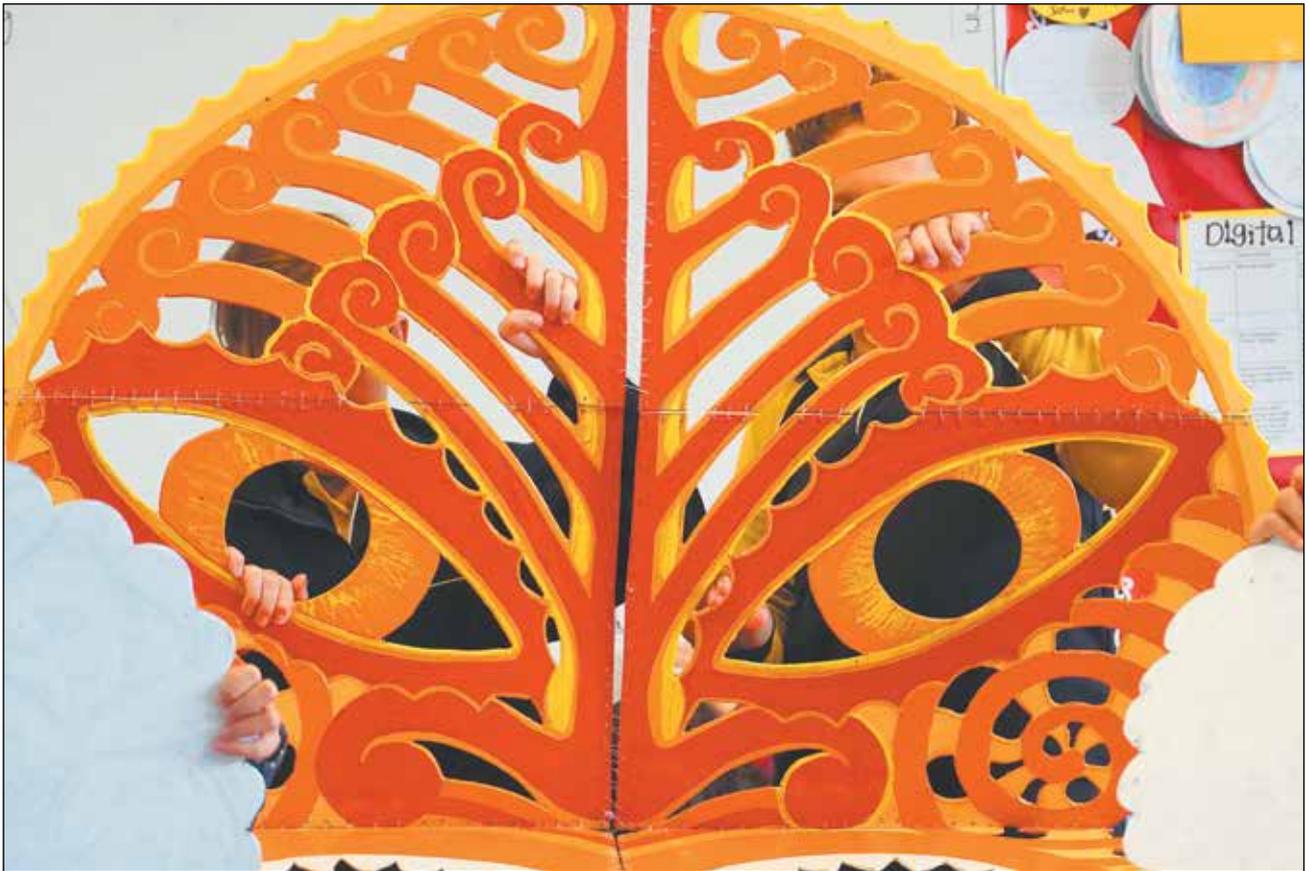
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Pulling the strings... Puppet duo Toro Pikopiko have been leading puppet-making and puppet performances for 25 years, opening audiences and performers up to te ao Maori, the Maori world

Interest rates move

Warren Suttie
Barry Perrow



The Reserve Bank of New Zealand cut the Official Cash Rate (OCR) on 7th August from 1.50% to 1.00%, an historical low.

Many of us recall the OCR sitting at 8.25% just before the onset of the Global Financial Crisis. At the same time, we are reading more about the negative interest rates in other parts of the world.

While the current interest rate trajectory in New Zealand is good news for borrowers, those living off their savings are likely to be very concerned and are probably thinking it is

time to consider other options - especially those that offer more attractive yields than bank deposits.

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This column is general in nature and should not be regarded as personalised investment advice. Disclosure Statements for Forsyth Barr Authorised Financial Advisers are available on request and free of charge.

Paranormal passages knotted together through time

Well known locally as a music and painting teacher, Hauraki resident Susannah MacDonald has put out her first book, bringing together various interests and obsessions. Jodi Yeats reports.

Susannah MacDonald's Hauraki living room is decorated with her own large painting of a petrel, as well as objects expressing her eclectic interests, including a ceramic panther, large shells and vintage lamps.

Its been a busy year creatively for MacDonald (67) with a solo exhibition at the Lake House Arts Centre, a joint exhibition with husband Alan, and publication of her first book.

UK publisher Austin Macauley describes *Echoes From a Time Passage* as a "paranormal urban fantasy". It combines many of MacDonald's long-time fixations, especially the nature of time.

"It's about the idea there's no such thing as time as we know it, that there are other planes of existence, and about the arts as a conduit for higher consciousness."

MacDonald wears a large seabird necklace and a silver bracelet in the shape of an endless knot, illustrating the concept of time as a loop.

Tides, tectonic plates and other natural occurrences, and how they are reflected in ancient mythologies, underpinned MacDonald's fine-arts degree at Unitec, which she undertook with her husband, graduating in 2011.



Multi-talented... artist, writer, musician and teacher Susannah MacDonald

The pair had been working as note-takers for students with disabilities for almost a decade, giving them the opportunity to attend inspiring lectures, on subjects including creative writing.

Alan now works as a graphic artist, artist and musician, playing with the band Vox Nova. The couple also like taking "big days out", leaving the city to be in nature and take photographs.

Mostly though, it's a busy life for MacDonald: managing a career of teaching flute at Belmont Intermediate School, painting and drawing, writing, and occasional spiritual counselling.

Austin Macauley has accepted a sequel, leaving MacDonald plenty of scope to make her mark as an author, in addition to her local accomplishments as a teacher, musical performer and artist.



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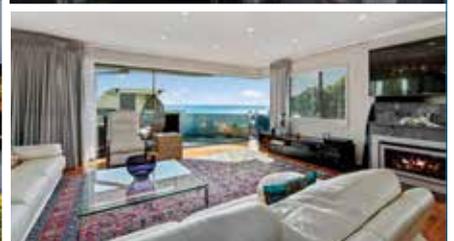
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