

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 23 - February 7, 2020

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Local board chair's
potential conflict... p2

Takapuna Cricket
triumphs in T20 comp... p3

Fears as Takapuna Library's
future reviewed... p4-9

Coronavirus scare fazes home-stay families

Fears about coronavirus are spooking international students' homestay families in Takapuna and Milford, with some unwilling to host students during their two-week quarantine period.

Local high schools had a busy time last week as students arrived back from

summer holidays, many having visited China in the break.

At Westlake Girls, temporary accommodation had to be found for four international students for the two-week quarantine period before their homestay families were happy to host them.

Another family pulled out of the programme altogether.

"It's been all hands to the pump" for the international students' team, media spokesperson Christina Pollock says.

To page 2

Tots get taste of high-flying lifestyle



The living is breezy... A council kite-flying day at Kennedy Park drew a young crowd, including Aoife Main (14 months). Photo: Keeley Watson. More photos, pages 10 and 11



Summer time is hammer time!

Don't pay for an Auctioneer, we don't charge you for our Auctioneers, and for a limited time we've waived any documentation fees. And speak to us about exclusive offers for readers of the Rangitoto Observer.

Milford

09 489 5049 • milford@barfoot.co.nz
barfoot.co.nz/hammertime

**BARFOOT
THOMPSON &**
LICENSED REAA 2008

Board members claim chair faces conflict of interest

The chair of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, which is considering developing several council buildings in Takapuna, lives next door to one them. Some of Aidan Bennett's fellow board members claim he faces a conflict of interest as a result.

One of the first initiatives since a new board, including Bennett, was elected late last year is an 'optimisation' project, looking at a group of council properties, including the Mary Thomas Centre, the Takapuna Library, the Takapuna Community Services Building and the Takapuna Memorial Hall.

Board member Trish Deans planned to raise the issue at the board's first workshop earlier this week. Deans says two members of the public have raised concerns with her about whether any development could affect Bennett's property value.

"If it were me, I would seek advice and act on it, and address the board on that conflict and be ready to step down in the role of chairperson, at that point," Deans said.

Another member, Jan O'Connor, was adamant Bennett should not be involved in any discussions about the Mary Thomas Centre or library.

However, Bennett was surprised by the Observer's questions on the matter.

He asked whether it was thought board actions would affect his property's value positively or negatively.

"The main thing is to achieve good outcomes for the community," Bennett says.

With the board likely to be split on questions of development, the chair's casting vote will be a powerful one.

North Shore ward councillor Chris Darby says local board members are obliged to manage conflicts, whether real or perceived, themselves.

The local board has so far only requested information ahead of the optimisation review, so it is unlikely a conflict has yet arisen.

"If the product of that [review] presented an option that related to the land next to the

chair's property, at that stage he might look at whether that's a perceived or actual conflict," Darby says.

Darby believes Bennett would in that case need to seek advice from council officers.

Previous board member and chair Grant Gillon chose not to participate in a briefing on a neighbouring business when he owned Devonport's Esplanade Hotel.

Auditor-General decisions have set the bar very high for finding a conflict of interest, Gillon says.

However, the debate regarding Bennett's property will become politicised, with the current board evenly split, he says, adding Bennett's political opponents are likely to say he has a conflict.

The Office of the Auditor-General says it does not have enough information to determine whether Bennett might have to declare a conflict of interest. Bennett has sought advice and this is being provided, local board staff say.

From page 1

2 The Strand: empty for 696 days

The former Takapuna Library building at 2 The Strand has been vacant since an earthquake notice was issued in March 2018. The 1956 heritage-listed public building has now been unoccupied for 696 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.

Coronavirus scare fazes home-stays

The team has been dealing with families case by case, but most understand the quarantine is precautionary and the Ministry of Health deems the risk low, Pollock says.

The school is supporting the families with health advice and schoolwork so the students do not fall behind.

Where families haven't wanted to host students for the 14-day quarantine, other

host families have been found.

Rosmini College had six students who visited China or were in quarantine with their homestay families.

Carmel College had two students staying home last week.

Westlake Boys did not respond to questions by deadline.

Intermediate and primary schools were returning as the Observer went to press.

Campground plans on the drawing board

The new Takapuna campground operators are working through detailed designs for an upgrade of the holiday park.

Steve and Jeanette Edwards took over the campground lease in October.

Called by the Observer for an update, Edwards could not say exactly when plans would be finished.

"We're making sure the design is right for the community and reflects what is needed for such a landmark site."

Under the lease agreement with Auckland Council, the new design will include holiday apartments and a new central communal area with a kitchen, as well as three satellite bathrooms.

The Rangitoto Observer

Delivered to 10,000 homes



from the Award-winning Team at the Devonport Flagstaff

Devonport Publishing Ltd Level 1, 6-8 Milford Road
 Telephone: 09 445 0060
 Email: sales@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
 news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
 Website: www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz

MANAGING EDITOR: Rob Drent
 PUBLISHER: Peter Wilson
 EDITOR: Jodi Yeats
 ADVERTISING: Liz Cannon

Information in the Rangitoto Observer is copyright and cannot be published or broadcast without the permission of Devonport Publishing Ltd.

NEXT ISSUE: Feb 21
 ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Feb 14

YOUR LOCAL

North Shore
FUNERALS

NELSON & SUSAN
ELLIOTT



Husband and Wife team caring for families for over 40 years
 Church & Chapel Funerals, Direct Cremations from \$2950.00

157 Shakespeare Rd Milford 09 486 2631 . 027 486 2050
 www.northshorefunerals.co.nz

Howzat? Takapuna wins Auckland cricket title



Champagne result... Takapuna Cricket premiers celebrate winning the Auckland T20 title

Takapuna District Cricket Club's premier side beat Parnell on Anniversary Day to take the Auckland T20 trophy, a title two years in the making.

"We won 17 out of 18 T20 matches over the past two years so deserved to win this one," coach Ryan Scivier said.

Takapuna lost to Howick Pakuranga in the 2019 final.

With the T20 cup in the trophy cabinet, Takapuna still has a chance to also win both the Auckland one-day and two-day competitions.

It is leading the two-day championship and goes through to the elimination semi-finals of the one-day competition.

"There's still a lot of water to go under the bridge... where we are placed has given us an opportunity," Scivier says.

It was the first time Takapuna has won the T20 Championship.

Parnell won the toss and decided to bat first at Onewa Domain, being bowled out for 98, with Takapuna's bowlers proving economical: Will O'Donnell (2-21) and Jones (3-15) put the squeeze on the Parnell batsmen before Ryan Quinn (2-21) ensured Parnell was bowled out with a crucial 16 balls left in the innings.

At the break, few would have predicted the match would go into the final over.

But just as the game appeared to be drifting away from the visitors, Takapuna's 30/1

became 65/6.

At 70/6 after 16 overs, Takapuna still required 29 from the final four overs. By then, Hendrik Van Vuuren was the established batsman, but it was Daniel James who took to the slog-sweep, clearing the square-leg boundary. Though his six swung the game in Takapuna's favour, the tension remained.

Parnell took the game into the final over, but in the end, Van Vuuren (28) and James (16) were there to see Takapuna lift the T20 Championship.

• The full Takapuna team: William O'Donnell (c), Hendrik Van Vuuren, Matt Jones, Max O'Dowd, Ben Becroft, Michael Sclanders, Robbie O'Donnell, Simon Mathewson, Craig Cachopa, Guy Harley, Daniel James, Ross ter Braak, Ryan Quinn, Jordan Sussex, Andrew Simpson, Sam Collinson, Ryan Scivier (coach).

Work starts on mall apartments

Work has started on construction of apartments above Milford Mall, with hoardings going up on the outside car park.

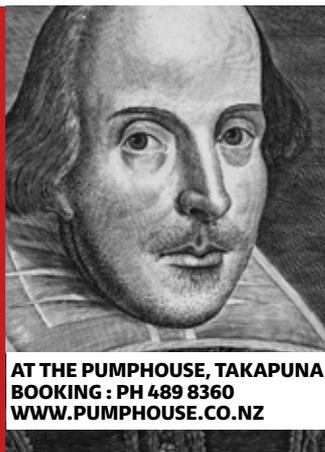
Milford Residents Association said it had received complaints from people upset at the loss of parking.

Earlier, the association opposed a larger development proposal in the Environment Court, gaining some concessions.

The plans had to be revisited, anyway, for various reasons, including a shortfall of sales.

The New Zealand Retail Property Group development now under way is a smaller, development with lower-priced apartments than were originally proposed.

MACBETH & AS YOU LIKE IT



AUCKLAND SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK 2020

18 JAN - 15 FEB 2020

PRESENTED BY SHORESIDE THEATRE

AT THE PUMPHOUSE, TAKAPUNA
BOOKING : PH 489 8360
WWW.PUMPHOUSE.CO.NZ

The PumpHouse Theatre

Fears held for future of Takapuna library:

A review of Takapuna council buildings – including the central library – will be a key issue for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board this year. Jodi Yeats backgrounds the debate and the history of the much-loved library.



Repent at leisure... A survey on the Takapuna Library and other services seems hasty, ex-library manager Helen Woodhouse warns

Entering Takapuna Library, the first sight is the gleaming white of the newly installed council service desks, seen by some as taking up valuable space.

To your left are newspapers of the day, with puzzles copied for patrons' enjoyment. Rows of CDs and DVDs are available to rent for a few bucks, and, in the rest of the room, row after row of books, which some adore and others, including the local board chair (see page 7), have relegated to the past, as declining patronage appears to confirm.

You go upstairs, possibly accompanied by dulcet guitar strums from Wriggle and Rhyme, to be greeted by an expansive view of the sea.

Here Takapuna Library offers desks and computers, where anyone can work, study or otherwise pass the time for free, with a view over Takapuna Beach.

While some people are going to the library only for the free wifi, statistics show these visits are falling, too, probably thanks to cheaper home-data plans.

On this floor, one of two totalling 2000sqm, there's currently an exhibition of New Zealand artists' books, from the library's extensive Angela Morton collection of Kiwi art books.

You can browse the classics and older books in the open stack, where the most popular books include one on millinery and another on trapping and skinning.

Beyond is that treasure trove for researchers – the Auckland North Research Centre, which houses local-history archives, including news-

papers, photograph collections and important historic papers.

"Miss Pat Alexander, who was the Takapuna City Librarian [1957-1984], used to call the library 'the lounge of the city'," says former library manager Helen Woodhouse (1989-2019).

"So we want a good lounge for Takapuna in honour of those people who supported community things."

From the first mention that council organisation Panuku might develop Takapuna's Anzac St car park, people associated with the Takapuna Library feared it could be moved there, and likely downsized.

Developed largely through the generosity of local donors, the library is now under review by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

A survey was launched over the Christmas period, which Woodhouse and Friends of the Takapuna Library, believes was an unsuitably busy time.

Woodhouse herself didn't fill it out, because she didn't hear of it until a time when family commitments took priority.

"I'm more invested in the future of the library than most, so think of the other people who didn't even know about it," she says.

The survey sought views on the library, but also other council buildings managed by the local board, including the Mary Thomas Centre, which houses community coordinators, and the Takapuna Memorial Hall, plus a few other small centres.

A report on the survey, completed by 560 people, is likely to go to a local board workshop, held behind closed doors.

Auckland Council says the survey is intended to see whether the requirements of the community have changed in relation to the service buildings in Takapuna.

"With the community engagement phase complete, which included the survey, we are now undertaking analysis," head of service and asset planning Justine Haves says.

"Our findings from this work will be set out in an assessment report. The report will be presented to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and inform options and recommendations for the facilities."

The report is expected to be ready by May. Woodhouse fears the public is being shut out of an important decision about the library's future.

"If it's for the greater good, and something really well designed is built, then I'm not against that, but it's hasty," she says.

Woodhouse is concerned the community has not been given a decent chance to have informed input into the future of the library to help ensure it is a good fit for community needs.

"When a new library was proposed for Devonport, there were concerns, and it has turned out beautifully.

"But there was consultation after consultation and the whole community was asked what they would like to have. Why is Takapuna not

Service and building ‘allowed to run down’

getting as good a consultation?”

She believes Takapuna Library has been allowed to get run down, with the idea it will be replaced. When it was refurbished in 2014, it was a “bare bones” job, she says. When the Auckland libraries were restructured, Takapuna’s staff dropped by around 25 – more than other libraries.

More recently, the method of counting patrons coming through the door was changed, so they have to actually enter the library, rather than return books or look at noticeboards in the foyer, whereas other libraries count every person who enters. This reduced the figures by 4000 a month, Woodhouse says.

The new door-count method supports a narrative the library is less used than it used to be or than others are, she says.

Woodhouse also points to an unattractive cream paint job, a new roof put over the old leaky roof, delays before air-conditioning was repaired and a lack of adequate street signage.

Despite a move towards online services, Woodhouse says the library should, if anything, be larger, with more rooms that can be booked for events and others shut off.

“It needs a proper quiet space, where people can study or take time out. In some ways, libraries can replace churches.”

With more noisy activities in the library, this was the most common request, Woodhouse says.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member George Wood sees the Anzac St car park development as an opportunity to relocate the library and build something that could be a better fit for the future.

It was something he and other board members were keen to investigate in the last board term, Wood says.

The survey is the first step towards understanding whether that would be a good option.

“There would be a considerable amount of public consultation. It would go back to



Authentic news... Libraries house reliable information that’s needed more than ever, says Friends of Takapuna Library chair Jenny Cole

the community for feedback on options for the future.”

The other aspect will be looking into the financial details, as “optimisation” projects, run by local boards, have to be cost neutral.

Woodhouse believes some of the council buildings may not well enough used, including the halls in the building next to the library and the Mary Thomas Centre.

Friends of Takapuna Library chair Jenny Cole believes libraries are needed more than ever as places for education, information and entertainment.

In particular, as the news media goes through major changes, libraries offer a place for reliable information.

They are also community hubs, used by people of all ages, including those hard-to-reach teenagers, who come in after school

to study and participate in activities, such as poetry slams.

Cole is concerned by a trend towards council selling assets to pay down debt and fears for the Takapuna Library, with the poor timing of the survey, and the prospect of it being discussed in secret workshops and having a budget set by a newly elected local board.

Mirla Edmundson, head of Auckland Libraries, says the Takapuna Library is a busy, well-supported, highly valued part of the community that receives ongoing positive feedback. “All decisions on the Takapuna Library, whether it be to keep the status quo or look at new locations, will be made by the local board after consideration of options at the end of the community assessment process.”

To page 7



Devonport Folk Music Club Presents:

Folk In The Park
Sunday 16 Feb 1-4pm

Windsor Reserve, Band Rotunda,
 Flagstaff Tce, Devonport

www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz





A dedicated
Middle School
for Year 7-10.
It's learning
evolved.

**Do you have children going into Year 7
or Year 9 in 2021?**

Don't miss our upcoming information evenings! Come and hear about our unique Middle School environment that sets us apart and keeps them together.

Year 7 Information Evening Thursday 5 March 7-8pm
Year 9 Information Evening Monday 16 March 7-8pm

Register to attend at kristin.school.nz or call our Admissions Manager on 09 415 9566 ext 2324.

**Progress with vision,
integrity and love.**



From page 5

Online reader heads library review

The man who might cast a deciding vote on the future of Takapuna Library doesn't withdraw books from the library and last visited it six months ago for a book launch.

Takapuna Library's future is set to be reviewed by the local board, along with that of several nearby buildings, the Mary Thomas Centre, Takapuna Community Services Building and Memorial Hall.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett says he likes the library and sees it as an "essential ingredient" in Takapuna.

"My own preference would be to leave the library where it is, but clearly it is an essential community amenity that needs to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose in its current form or for what is needed in the next 10, 20 or 30 years," Bennett says.

"People are changing and habits are changing, which may result in change."

Bennett himself reads electronic books or buys books and receives them as gifts, but primarily he reads online.

His wife, 86-year-old mother and Airbnb guests all use Takapuna Library, he says.

Bennett is adamant nothing has been decided, but he does want the board to lead local development with the buildings it manages.

"The local board owns a whole lot of assets and not all of them are performing."

"What I'm advocating is we get into a position where we are constantly evaluating those assets."

The idea with an 'optimisation' project, such as this, is any funds realised from selling assets are reinvested locally.

This could include improving the build-



Man with a plan... New local board leader Aidan Bennett is keen for the local board to lead development, including reviewing the library

ings through options such as selling the air space above them, for example for apartments, to fund an improved library.

If the library is found to be fine as it is, it will stay, but the board is looking at whether it can be made better.

"Wouldn't you want another Devonport Library?" he asks.

He acknowledges the council invested in that rebuild and doesn't have funds now to invest in local development.

Bennett says he stood for the board to try to build consensus in the community and work with Auckland Council to develop

"our slice of paradise" so it is fit for the future and a growing city.

The Mary Thomas Centre on Gibbons Rd, on the face of it, could potentially be better used.

The council's survey on the library and other buildings will provide feedback for the board to consider.

Bennett wouldn't be drawn on a timeline for decisions, saying the board has four new members and is still establishing how it will work together.

More on pages 8 and 9

Falling patronage arrested by e-books

- There were 400,000 books issued last year, down from 430,000 in 2018.*
- Last year, 332,000 people walked into Takapuna Library, down from 347,000 the year before (although the method of counting may have changed. See pages 4 and 5).*
- The biggest group of users was aged between 45 and 64 (26%); followed by 35 to 44 (20%); over 65 (19%); 25 to 34 (13%); 5 to 13 (11%); 18 to 24 (6%); 14 to 17 (4%); 0 to 4 (1%).*
- Across Auckland libraries last year, 15.2 million books were issued, compared with 15.3m in 2018 and 15.3m in 2017. In its annual report, the council says checking out of physical items, such as books, continued to decline, but not as badly as predicted, mainly thanks to digital holdings, with 16% of issues coming from e-collections.**
- Wifi usage declined in Auckland libraries last year, with a new measure counting 7.09m internet sessions against a target of 7.9m. The council believes this reflects availability of better and more affordable data plans for home use. For many Aucklanders, free library wifi remains an important means of access to information and participation.**
- At Takapuna and Devonport libraries, wifi sessions exceeded the target (347,000 vs 330,000), with use rising at the end of the year, when students were studying for exams. The local board provides discretionary funding to keep the library open later.**
- Visitors to Takapuna and Devonport Libraries who reported being satisfied with the quality of service delivery was 97% against a target of 85%, with praise for events, the environment and service.**

Source: * Data supplied by Auckland Council; ** Auckland Council Annual Report 2018/2019.

Takapuna Library Top five books issued in 2019

- 1 The Rooster Bar**
John Grisham
- 2 Still Me**
Jojo Moyes
- 3 The Whistler**
John Grisham
- 4 Night School**
Lee Child
- 5 The Treasure of Easter Island**
Geronimo Stilton

Library part of Takapuna community

The people of Takapuna and surrounding areas have been keen supporters of their library for almost 150 years and remain so today. Here's a potted history:

- 1874: The earliest record of Takapuna Library, with the Auckland Provincial Council giving it a grant, along with other district libraries. It is housed in a public school on the southwestern corner of Taharoto and Northcote Rds.
- 1877-1878: Takapuna Library receives a grant from the Education Department.
- 1879: Lake Takapuna Public Library is incorporated and a public subscription system established, with 12 foundation members and the stated aim: "To supply useful literature" to residents living in the neighbourhood of Takapuna.
- 1897: Takapuna (Lake District) School, on the corner of Taharoto and Northcote Rds, moves to Katrine St, now Anzac St, and, with it, the library.
- 1913: The Takapuna Borough Council is formed but plans to buy a site for a library are subsequently scotched, probably due to WWI. The library is administered by



Still here today... Two Takapuna women and the Hellaby family gave funds and land to the community for the library built in 1956

three council members and three members of the Library Corporation, still housed in the school.

- 1916: The council opens new chambers, including a room for the library.

- 1923: The population of Takapuna is 4500, of which 200 subscribe to the library at 5/- a year.
- 1923: Library moves to Strand Chambers, 11 The Strand, with £50 rent per year paid for by council. The librarian is Miss Ruth Seaman (annual salary, £34).
- 1925: Library moves into council buildings at 7 and 8 The Strand, as the council expands; it later also takes over 6 The Strand.
- 1936: Likely following the enthusiasm in the community for the establishment of the National Library of New Zealand, a series of local newspaper letters express "disgust" at what is described as a "stale" and "poorly maintained book stock" at the Takapuna Library. With library subs falling and the premises deemed unsuitable, a special general meeting is held.
- 1937-1939: Amid financial difficulties, librarians offer to take a reduction in wages.
- 1939-1956: Takapuna Library becomes entirely volunteer-managed.
- 1953: Council approves a new library building at Hall's Corner, thanks to £4700 from Catherine Trimble's bequest. The Trimble Family arrived in Katikati in September 1875 from what is now Northern Ireland. One of two unmarried sisters, Fannie died in 1945, aged 83, and her estate was left to sister Catherine who died in 1950, aged 88. The residue of Catherine's estate, more than £4600, was given to the "Mayor, councillors and burgesses of the Borough of Takapuna to establish and equip a free reading room to be used in conjunction with the Municipal Library of the council." Butchers R & W Hellaby had already offered, in 1939, to donate land at the back of their Hurstmere Rd butcher's shop.
- 1956: The new library opens in March 1956 at 2 The Strand. Services include: free membership to ratepayers, special concession on rental fiction for pensioners, a request service and a children's collection.



School house... Takapuna (Lake District) Primary School master's house, corner of Northcote and Taharoto Rds, built in 1880 when the school housed the library (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections)



Exclusive tour in France, for 8 persons.

E.bike through villages, taste refined wines & French cuisine, immerse in the art of perfumery, stay the night in a family chateau, follow your local French guides!

BOOK NOW for September 2020.

www.heartlandfrance.com

Treat yourself in comfort and style.

Meet your guide at the Devonport Library 6-6.30PM every Tues & Wed or
Contact: sabine@heartlandfrance.com

for 146 years – in various locations

- 1959: Further funds become available from a third donor, Grace Abbott, who died in 1949, bequeathing the residue of her estate to the Takapuna Borough for a public reading room. After the 1959 death of her relative Eustace Fletcher, funds from the sale of a house and other investments approach £20,000.
- 1963: Abbott's bequest, and a further £10,000 from the council, enable a significant extension to the pink-stone library building.
- 1983: A computer system is installed.
- 1984-1989: Circulation and indexing is digitised in all North Shore libraries.
- 1985: A notable collection of New Zealand art publications is donated to the library as a bequest by the family of the late Angela Morton.
- 1989: Having outgrown its premises, Takapuna Library moves across the road to the current building. Friends of Takapuna Library is formed.
- 1990: North Shore Historical Society and Takapuna Library establish an oral history programme.
- 1993-2002: Takapuna Library manager Helen Woodhouse, along with Friends of Takapuna Library, launches author talks and celebrity debates. The debates become so popular they have to move to the Bruce Mason Centre. The library supports community action to save the Lake House Arts Centre.
- 1993: The internet ushers in major changes at Takapuna Library.
- 1999: New open access terminals provide internet access for the public.
- 2003: Awataha Marae's reference library is included in catalogue.
- 2005: A shared system for requesting and returning books is introduced across five Auckland regional libraries.
- 2010: Auckland Council is formed and establishes the North Auckland Research Centre.

* Sources: A talk by historian David Verran, and a North Auckland Research Centre timeline – both prepared for 145-year celebrations last year.



Going up... Construction of the current library in 1988, with the former community facilities building to the right (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections)

Angels
children's centre
love and learning

"Carefully loving your little angel as they learn and grow"

0-6 years open: 7am close: 6.00pm Takapuna

THIS MONTH @ the vic



NEW MOVIES

	RELEASE
Birds of Prey (TBC)	6 FEB
Beats (R16) 102 min	6 FEB
For Sama (RP16) 99 min	6 FEB
A Guide to Second Date Sex (R16) 82 min	13 FEB
Emma (PG) 124 min	13 FEB
The Gay Divorcee (PG) 107 min	13 FEB
Richard Jewell (M) 131 min	13 FEB
The Call of the Wild (TBA)	20 FEB
The Professor and the Madman (M) 125 min	20 FEB
Dark Waters (M) 127 min	20 FEB
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (M)	21 FEB

SPECIALS

CHEAP TUESDAY
\$10 Adult / \$8 Child
*EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

VENUE HIRE

FREE VENUE HIRE*
Birthday parties, Private functions, Catering optional
*minimum spend applies

LIVE SHOWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- 6 – 12 FEB** OSCAR WEEK AT THE VIC – 6-12 FEBRUARY
For the Academy Awards Season 2020 The Vic will be hosting special screenings of Oscar nominated films.
- THU 13 FEB** GEORDIE TENTREES – 8PM
Canadian folk artist Gordie Tentrees performs live at The Vic as part of his first NZ Tour. Tickets from www.thevic.co.nz
- THU 13 FEB** EMMA OPENING NIGHT EVENT – 8PM
The Vic hosts a special opening night event. Come dressed as your favourite Jane Austen character to win spot prizes!
- 20 & 21 FEB** THE UNFOLDING OF BENJAMIN'S MISERY – 7.30PM
Japanese artist Hideto Ambiguous returns to The Vic to perform his one-man tragicomedy. (Winner of Best Words and Ideas Award at the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2019). Tickets \$15 from www.thevic.co.nz



48 Victoria Road | (09) 446 0100 | info@thevic.co.nz



Airborne... Kids built kitset kites that took to the air to their great delight. Among them were Josiah Latimer (20 months) [above] and Zoe Bickerdike (6) [below]



Kennedy Park hosts kids with kites



Out and about... Enjoying a council 'out and about' kite flying day at Kennedy Park in Castor Bay on February 1 were local children and their families, including Joaquin Bechayda (4) [above] and Christopher Lee (3) and Mato Runcie-Ventura (2) [below]. Photos: Keeley Watson



Watercare should take back care of stormwater

Your article titled "Eco-Drain spill pollutes Takapuna Beach" (Observer, 24 January) mentions that George Wood, local board member and former Mayor of North Shore City, has made some revealing comments about how the spill occurred.

Prior to the formation of the current Auckland Council in 2010, the North Shore City Council under Mr Wood as mayor for three terms from 1998 to 2007 carried out an internationally recognised revision and upgrade of the complete sewage and stormwater systems across the city.

A dedicated team of engineers employed by the council, together with contracted specialists and two citizen committees, Project Rosedale and Project CARE, completely overhauled and modified the treatment plant and the associated sewage and stormwater infrastructure.

Residents who were living anywhere near the Rosedale plant at the time will recall the constant disgusting odours, particularly at this time of the year, together with swarms of midges. Thankfully, all now matters of history, and the capacity of the plant is such that a considerable quantity of wastewater from the northern area of West Auckland will be handled by the plant once Watercare gets the time and the energy to install the essential pipe to get the material to Rosedale. The capacity was there at the time of amalgamation 10

years ago.

At the time of the creation of the Auckland Council, Watercare refused to take responsibility for stormwater, and so a new council department had to be created called Healthy Waters to handle stormwater management and development for the new city.

Now we find that there is a third party involved as far as stormwater is involved according to your article: Auckland Transport, which apparently is also a multi-disciplinary organisation with expertise in stormwater and the infrastructure designed to handle excess quantities during heavy rainfall episodes.

However, the only vehicles they have access to here are trains and buses, so they need to hire private contractors to service the catch-pits and the installed filters, and only on an annual basis rather than the more frequent times that used to be the norm before amalgamation, according to Mr Wood.

Watercare, a council-controlled organisation, has recently negotiated a contract to manage the Three Waters concept for the Northern Waikato region, so one has to wonder if it has actually become skilled in stormwater engineering, or is it hiring outside contractors, as is clearly the case detailed in your article. Could it even now reconsider its refusal to handle stormwater at the time of amalgamation?

John Shears

Hands off our excellent library

Thank you Terry Dunleavy for drawing our attention to the possible fate of the Takapuna Library.

This busy library is used by all age groups and ethnicities.

It now sits on a prime piece of real estate, as do many other Auckland libraries.

A council enquiry centre has recently been moved into part of the downstairs area of the library, and a mysterious questionnaire (outsourced), which obviously relates to the future of the library, has appeared.

We have a council and local board which, with a few exceptions, appear to be more interested in outsourcing their functions to Panuku and others.

Sale and redevelopment rather than maintenance has become a priority.

The council and local board should be carrying out their primary functions, buying more books, cleaning out drains and gutters and tidying up the Takapuna bathing sheds, which are heavily used by locals and overseas visitors and have been neglected and allowed to run down for years.

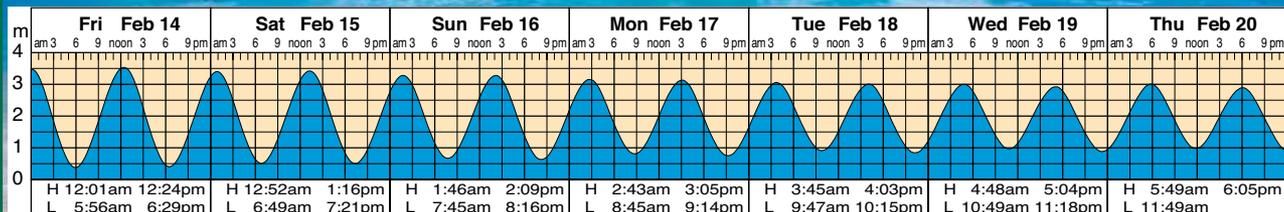
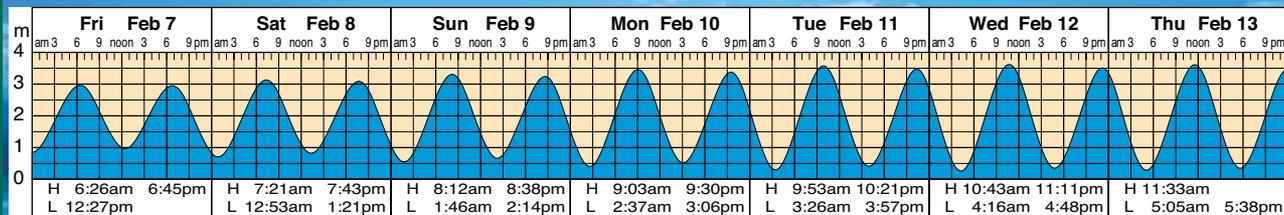
Just leave this excellent library alone.

Jan Phillips

Letters to the Editor

Letters should relate to Milford, Takapuna and surrounds. Submissions without a name will not be printed. Letters may be edited or abridged. Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz.

Milford / Takapuna Tides



Old Takapuna fire station has become the 'elephant on Killarney Street'

The 'old fire station', in Killarney St, Takapuna awaits demolition and redevelopment. You can't fail to notice it, in its state of woeful disrepair. The close residents, over many years, have endured all sorts of nefarious activity taking place in the vandalised building. Recently, it was boarded up and parameter fencing has been adorned with a black shroud, ideal for graffiti.

How can the council let the developers leave the building in that condition? That it has been left shows a blatant disregard for the surrounding residents and wider Takapuna community. My question is: has it being left like this as a point of leverage to get what the developers want with regards to planning permission?

The issue of the redevelopment of this property been a contentious one due to the property's proximity to Killarney Park, designated an area of 'outstanding natural

Add former fire-station land to Killarney Park

There is a new application for a resource consent to extend the scope of the development for an aged care facility on the site of the ex-Takapuna Fire Station, and at the moment it is on hold awaiting a decision whether to notify it or not.

The applicant indicates that there are additional infringements but they are "minor" if referred to the already approved application, and therefore notification should not be necessary.

Even the existing resource consent should have been notified, because of several infringements to the THAB (Terrace House and Apartment Buildings) zoning rules.

I believe the issue of the use of that land should go back to the recommendation by the Independent Hearings Panel at the end of the Unitary Plan process made without the reasons expressly required by the law.

I believe the government should now buy back the land and require the council to start a fresh process about the appropriate use of the land, allowing the democratic participation of the local residents, certainly not the previous farce of the hearing.

But maybe this additional process won't be necessary. With the thousands of future apartments to be built around this area it is a no-brainer that the best use of this land is to extend Killarney Park. The council should just buy the land from the government and turn it into a reserve.

Franco Belgiorino-Nettis
(Abridged)

beauty'. When the property was sold in 2015 it had a 'Legacy 2B' zoning with a height allowance of 8m. The zoning was significantly altered to 'Terrace House and Apartment Buildings' (THAB) with a height allowance of 16.5m in the new Unitary Plan – changed seemingly for the benefit of the development. Did the developers have pre-emptive knowledge of a zoning change under the new Unitary Plan?

Many people still cannot fathom how this sensitive site went from 'Legacy 2B' to 'THAB'. Be that as it may, the developers applied for their resource consent, which the council allowed to be 'non publicly notified', in spite of the high level of public interest.

The consent granted achieved considerable concessions with not insignificant infringements to the new Unitary Plan in regard to the scale and scope of the project.

Concerned parties recently informed me that a further modified resource consent had been applied for (albeit currently on hold).

Even though I registered my interest in any further developments for this site, the council neglected to notify me of this.

The application seeks in essence an increased number of units (from 96 to 106),

that the upper level set-backs of the building are taken off to be in line with the lower levels and a height increase.

In my opinion, the developers had a huge windfall, firstly with the modified zoning, then gaining considerable concessions and infringements on the new Unitary Plan.

This apparently is not enough and they want yet more!

My concern is for the welfare and protection of Killarney Park. I think the proposed development will be extremely dominant and have the effect of privatising the areas of the park the development abuts.

There is a Facebook page open for comment: "Protect Killarney Park".

The bottom line is, I think, any modifications to the existing resource consent should obviously be declined or at the very least be publicly notified.

Such a pity that the council/government doesn't see the value in adding more green space to our rapidly intensifying community by purchasing this site to increase Killarney Park's amenity for the benefit of this and future generations... That of course is another matter.

Darryl Felton
(Abridged)

DEVONPORT Summer Fun 2019/20 BAYSWATER

Preschool Play

Toddler time to play with big toys be active and make new friends

free entry

9:30AM - 11AM

TUESDAYS @ DEVONPORT
Nov 5 - Dec 10 (Band Rotunda)
Jan 14 - Mar 31 (Windsor Reserve)

THURSDAYS @ BAYSWATER PARK
Nov 7 - Dec 12 & Jan 16 - Mar 26
(no session on Waitangi Day, 6th Feb.)

WEATHER PERMITTING • PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED

DEVONPORT PENINSULA TRUST
Making Communities Happier

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board
Auckland Council

WWW.DEVONPORTPENINSULATRUST.NZ



KINGDOM
DECORATORS

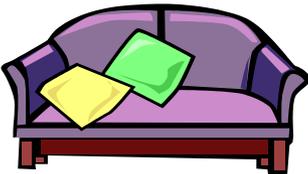
**WE GUARANTEE
OUR WORKMANSHIP**

Backed by over 35 years' experience of quality preparation and painting

Ph Ross Kingdom
021 723 413

**REGISTERED
PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS**

**RECOVER YOUR
LOUNGE SUITE**



Call us for a free quotation and put the life back into that favourite chair or lounge suite

AWARD FURNITURE

Phone COLIN on 480 5864



**OBORN
PLUMBING
AND DRAINAGE LTD**

Professional Quality Service

- Gasfitting • Certifying/Licensed
- Digger Hire • Plumber/Drainlayer
- All Aspects of Plumbing & Drainage

Contact Dan
info@obornplumbing.co.nz
www.obornplumbing.co.nz
0800-143-051 or mob 021 119 3227

We offer fixed monthly fees with no hidden costs

Do more of what you love, leave the accounting to the experts

- Monthly and Annual Accounting
- GST, PAYE, and Rental Properties
- Company Formations

Get in touch with SBA Milford
09 489 4801 | milford@sba.co.nz




Professional Quality Service
Craftsman Plumber and Gasfitter

Ph 021 841 745
David Mortimore

New installations
Repairs and Maintenance
Precision Plumbing 2010 Ltd

david@precisionplumbing.co.nz
www.precisionplumbing.co.nz

RENE GARDENING

*Too tired to tidy up your garden?
Call today and get your tidy garden back!*

**SMALL & MEDIUM TREES
HEDGES
& SHRUBS**

**GARDEN TIDY UPS
PRUNING - TRIMMING
WEEDING - MUCH MORE**

FREE QUOTES

Kei: **021 134 5604**
rene.keishi@gmail.com

facebook.com/ReneGardening

kitchens

DESIGN | MANUFACTURE | INSTALL

Call our designers to bring your ideas to life. Free consultation.
10 year workmanship guarantee.

Phone 09 443 4461

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM:
96 Hillside Rd, Glenfield, Auckland
Hours: 8 - 5 weekdays

www.neodesign.co.nz



Royal Design & Drapes
MADE TO MEASURE

Curtains, Roman Blinds,
Roller Blinds, Venetian Blinds,
Shutters and Tracks

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

royaldesign.gk@gmail.com
www.royaldesign.nz
Gabrielle 021 050 4961



Architectural Design

- Extensions/Renovations
- New Builds/Re-clads
- All Consent work

www.dsol.nz
Matt Bates 0276862025



EYE FOR DETAIL

**North Shore based renovations,
new builds, design & project
management since 1985.**

Trustworthy licensed builders specialising in residential alterations/extensions, kitchens, bathrooms, tiling, re-cladding.

**Contact Alex Carey on
0274 660 666, or visit our website
www.efd.kiwi**

Reach your Milford & Takapuna customers cost-effectively

Contact the Rangitoto Observer for our rates and dates.

EMAIL:
sales@rangitoto-observer.co.nz

WEBSITE:
www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION.

Devonport Tudor Villa loft, all-round sea views. Furnished, serviced, sunny garden and verandah. Suits overseas visitors or longer term negotiable. Available now through mid-Dec 027 5345 3060.

TUITION.

Piano Tuition - Children from 5, adults of all ages and ability. Experienced teacher of 30 years. Preparation for exams and competitions. Call Kay Troup - 021 299 8968.

North Harbour softballers make U15 Black Sox squad



Four under-15 North Harbour softballers – Tyler Amrein, Harry Common, JP Gerbes, and Jack Baker – have made the New Zealand U15 Boys Developing Sox Squad. The players were in the North Harbour team which came second to Counties Manukau in the national under-15 final, losing in a nail-biter 6-3.

Successful softballers... the North Harbour under-15 boys team – back row (left to right): Laurie Brown (manager), Darren Bound (assistant coach), Des Warman (head coach), Manaaki Parangi-Pratt, Jack Baker, Tyler Amrein, Tai Rhodes, David Muna, Jesse Harris, Blake Rawlings, Chris Rawlings (assistant coach), Graham Blue (scorer). Front row: Flynn Ridley, Rorke Crewe, Toby Watson, Harry Common, JP Gerbes (captain), Jesse Fuller, Jayden Tapsell.

shorejobs

The sure choice for all Shore jobs!

Shore Jobs is the new site for all your job needs on the North Shore.

We might be new, but all the jobs that are currently available are here. We have employers from North Head to North Albany and everywhere in between. Looking for a new opportunity?

Need to advertise a position?

Look no further – ShoreJobs for all your job needs.

**Find us at
shorejobs.co.nz**



Golden age of Hollywood



He's not one to gossip but....

No one is recognised as knowing more about Hollywood than celebrity journalist *David Hartnell MNZM.*

He's spent a lifetime reporting on Hollywood's scandals of the rich and famous and counts a handful of celebrities as lifelong friends.

Thursday 13 February, 2pm, is your chance to meet David and get the inside scoop on some of the outrageous gossip he can't print in his columns.

This time his lips will not be sealed!

Tickets \$5 per person.
Contact Janet or Mark on 445 0909 to purchase.

William Sanders Retirement Village
Hosted at The Rose Centre, 4 School Road, Belmont



Live, Love Shop Local

Support Takapuna and Milford businesses to keep our community alive

Casual Vacancy for an Elected Trustee Westlake Girls High School Board of Trustees



A casual vacancy has occurred on the Board of Trustees for an elected parent representative. The Board has resolved under section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by selection.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the Board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held. Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to:

Joy Bradfield
 Chairperson, Board of Trustees
 Westlake Girls High School
 2 Wairau Road, Takapuna
 Or email office@westlakegirls.school.nz
 by: Tuesday 6 March 2020

YOU ARE INVITED

Show your support for fixing Milford beach and Wairau Estuary!

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 11th, February, 6.30pm
 Milford Cruising Club
 24 Craig Rd

MC: Ian Jones

Keynote Speaker: Prof Jacqueline Beggs
 Ecological issues facing New Zealand

Q&A on pollution of Milford Beach and Wairau Estuary



MILFORD WEEPS

Coffee & conversation with local councillors

For more information: change@milfordweeps.nz | [f](#) Milford WEEPS

MADHU BHANA FAKIR
 B.A., N.D., D.O., BHSC

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH &
 NATUROPATH
 ACC REGISTERED



CRANIAL / VISCERAL OSTEOPATH & NATUROPATH

22 ONEPOTO ROAD,
 HAURAKI, AUCKLAND

Safe, gentle & effective therapy; a gentle alignment of body, mind, and spirit. Effective for back and neck strains, injuries, trauma, stuck patterns of pain, stress and stress-induced illnesses, allergies and food intolerance.

PHONE: 09 558 3085
 OR TXT 021 027 97878
 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Living Bathroom
 75 Barrys Point Road, Takapuna
 Quality bathrooms that fit your life
 e: paula@livingbathroom.co.nz

[f](#) [i](#) [p](#)

Time ripe to get rid of smothering vine



Time to act... Moth plants are invasive vines that strangle native trees and shrubs and now, when they are flowering, is the best time to pull them out, volunteer Hilary Miller told a Milford workshop

Now is the perfect time to get on top of a common invasive weed, which means a group of Milford residents given training on its eradication can get stuck in immediately.

Moth plant, a vine that smothers native trees and bushes, is flowering, which makes it easy to see, biosecurity volunteer Hilary Miller told a workshop organised by the Milford Residents Association last week.

At this time of year, the plant can be pulled up by its shallow roots, or cut, and the stump tips painted with bamboo-killing

poison. There's no need to haul the vine out of its host plants, if the roots are dug or pulled out or cut and poisoned. When it is covered in pods, those need to be removed – a tougher job.

The pods, which look like chokos, contain hundreds of seeds, which are poisonous and can spread up to 20 kilometres by wind when they open, Miller said.

Those attacking the plant need to wear gloves and old clothes with long sleeves, as the sap is sticky and the pods contain a

“horrible white sap”, which can irritate skin, especially children's, she said.

The pods should be placed in general rubbish, as they will sprout again in home compost systems.

Similarly, if the vine is hauled out without uplifting the root system or poisoning the stumps, it will sprout back quickly.

It is important the poison is strong enough to kill the plant. It should contain picloram gel, glyphosate gel or glyphosate mix of 140ml per litre of water, or triclopyr at 60ml per litre of water.

For larger infestations (usually on bare soil), spray seedlings with triclopyr (60ml per 10 litres of water) or glyphosate (140ml per 10 litres of water).

An Auckland Council pamphlet handed out at the workshop, says: “Revisit the site to deal with any regrowth, and aim to revegetate the area with grass or plants to prevent further seedling germination. Read the label thoroughly on pesticides and follow all safety instructions.”

Poison or tools can be borrowed by contacting Takapuna North environmental coordinator Fiona Martin via email at: enviro@takapunatrue.org.nz

To find out about upcoming events in the local area and learn about environmental efforts and issues around the country, see the North Shore Birdsong Project Facebook page.



Pretty peril... The moth plant has large oval pods that look like chokos, and white and pink flowers from December to May

Wolfgang takes on pesky possums

A Milford man has trapped 15 possums in about seven weeks in an effort to take care of the bush reserve adjoining his own property and the Wairau Creek, an area earmarked for a public path.

Wolfgang Scholz says he is not a dedicated environmentalist, but he likes to do his bit, picking up rubbish near the creek and now trapping.

The strip of bush from his house to the stream, full of native trees, is the city's "green lung", Scholz says.

"It's also full of possums and you can see the outcome," he says, pointing out a native plant whose leaves have been stripped by the marsupials.

"We can see them at night, and they fight with each other."

Scholz got a humane possum trap and learnt how to use it at a December workshop, run by the Milford Residents Association.

He had some earlier experience with trapping after converting 27 hectares in Northland from pine to bush.

At the Milford property, he recently wanted to establish a garden, but found the possums ate the broccoli and beans – just as they were getting ready to pick.

"I am not doing it because of this," the retired mechanical engineer says. "They are an officially declared pest."

Scholz did not want to use poison, because it is "brutal", using a blood thinner and leading to a slow death.

He was also ready to use a trap once he found out it could not catch the family cat.

The trap kills the possum quickly, then Scholz usually digs a grave for the body, or sometimes puts it out in the general rubbish.

A cinnamon-scented lure paste, applied to a nearby tree, the base of the snare and the bait inside it, draws the possum into the trap.

Trapping possums will enhance the bush for those using the planned walkway along the creek's edge below his and wife Rosie's property.

"I believe it's worthwhile to develop the path to get people aware of the rubbish and to win support for the clean-up of our stream, because it also affects the swimming," he says.

If you would like a trap, contact Milford Residents Association chairs Norma Bott and Debbie Dunsford by emailing chairs@milford.org.nz

They are keen to extend the possum-trapping programme and would be keen to hear from anyone wanting to get involved or coordinate the programme.

Alternatively, you can contact Takapuna North environmental coordinator Fiona Martin via email at: enviro@takapunatrust.org.nz

Martin can help with traps and training, but asks volunteers to log kills on Ecotrack (see story at right).



Prolific trapper... Milford's Wolfgang Scholz has killed 15 possums in seven weeks in an effort to save bush next to Wairau Creek

Tapping tech to help battle pests

A free app means you can use GPS technology to log and share both sightings of pest plants and your progress on trapping pests.

Download the "Ecotrack" app, or log into ecotrack.nz online, to report sightings and eradication successes.

The use of GPS means the exact location of the plant or trap can be recorded.

Enthusiasts, such as Takapuna's Hilary and Boyd Miller, use the app to track down pest plants and get rid of them.

Similarly, locals who trap rats and other pests log their kills, allowing environmental coordinators to track progress and inform planning.

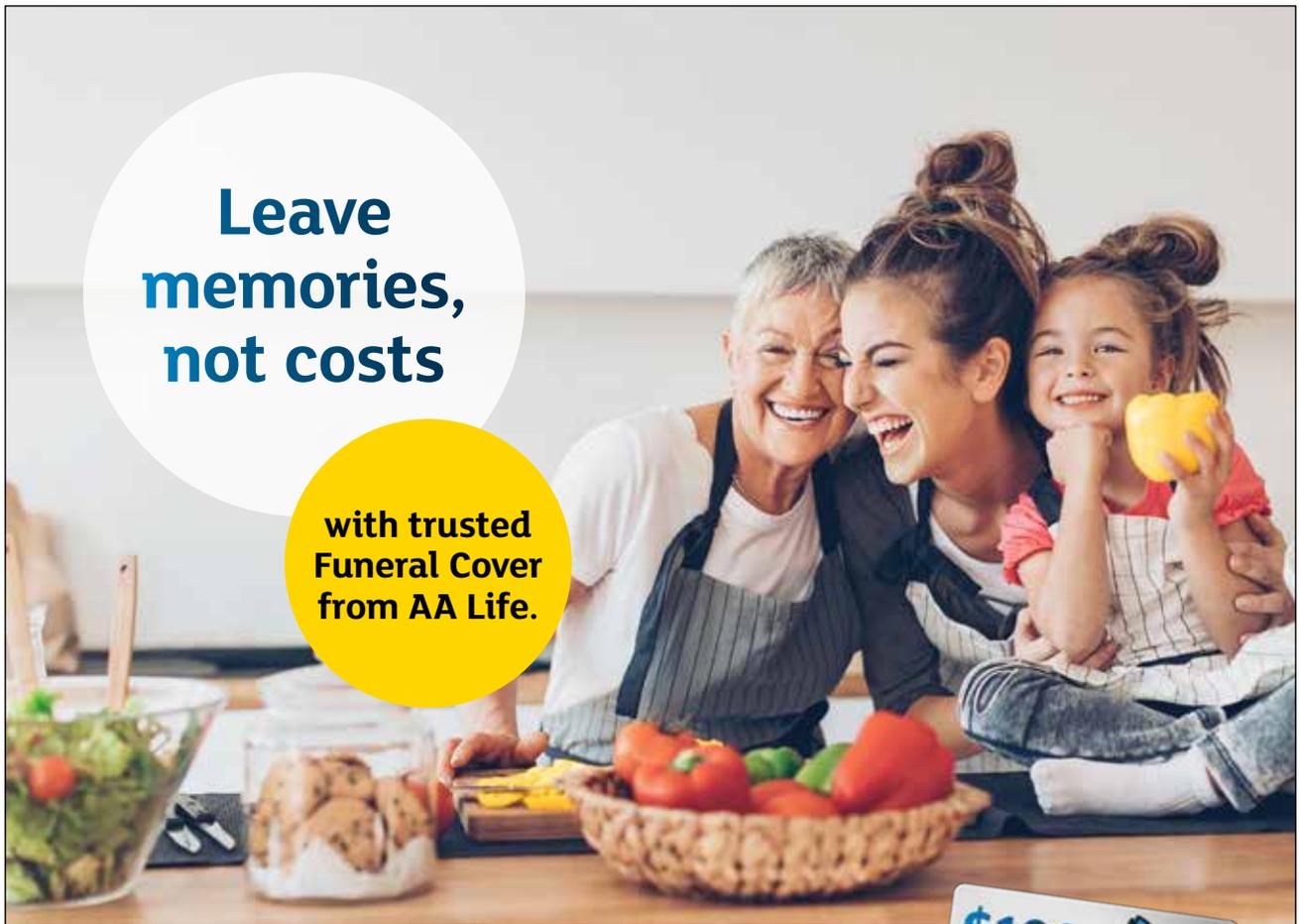
You need to answer a few questions and create a login and password to register and get started.



Ecotrack... Sharing pest finds and extermination is caring

Leave memories, not costs

with trusted Funeral Cover from AA Life.



Get a \$100 Grocery Gift Card* when you take out Funeral Cover today.



Funeral Cover from AA Life can give you peace of mind knowing funeral costs will be taken care of when the time comes.

Reasons to choose us:

- ✓ One of NZ's trusted life insurance brands**
- ✓ 5% discount for AA Members*
- ✓ A further 20% discount if you join with a friend or family member**
- ✓ Cover up to \$30,000
- ✓ Guaranteed underwriting for those aged 50-79 years
- ✓ Quick and easy to apply, no medical checks on application.

Plus, get a \$100 Grocery Gift Card* when you apply before Sunday 15 March 2020. T&Cs Apply. Use Promo Code: MEMS2020



aa.co.nz/memories | 0800 801 830 | Visit an AA Centre

AA Life policies are underwritten by Asteron Life Limited and are subject to standard underwriting criteria. *For full promotional terms and conditions please see www.aa.co.nz/memories. **AA Life has been voted as Most Trusted in the Life Insurance category in Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand survey from 2013-2018 and Highly Commended in 2019. *AA Members receive a 5% premium discount on new policies when you provide your AA Membership details. **20% joint application discount applies if you take out Funeral Cover within 48 hours of a friend or family member joining and provide their policy details.



Takapuna Boating Club celebrates 100 years



Million-dollar view... Ralph Roberts on the Takapuna Boating Club deck, with Rangitoto in the background

The Takapuna Boating Club, a North Shore icon, marks 100 years with a series of events this week. Life member Ralph Roberts takes a walk down memory lane with Rob Drent.

It's not often a boating club plays a central part in the social history of an area for 100 years.

The Takapuna Boating Club has done just that, from two different locations – in Bayswater and on the beachfront at Takapuna.

Formed in 1920, it was based for more than

50 years in the magnificent three storey building that still stands on the Shoal Bay waterfront.

The story behind the building is an epic of volunteer commitment. It was originally a disused tannery at Panmure. Club members bought it for £310 in 1922, dismantled it and more than 40,000 feet of timber was barged to Bayswater. All the nails were removed and construction of a new building started. Around 25 volunteers turned up every weekend for work and the building opened for the start of the 1923 season.

Use of the land it sits on was enshrined in an act of Parliament. A seawater-filled swimming pool was also built in front of the building.

It became one of the foremost sailing clubs in Auckland, specialising in the Z class, mullet boat racing and later the Olympic Finn Class.

Life member Ralph Roberts recalls sailing off Takapuna Beach when growing up in Hurstmere Rd. Mates told him if he was going to make anything of himself he needed to get amongst the real yachtsmen at the Takapuna Boating Club. "So in the early days I used to cycle down to Bayswater with a big bag of sails on the handlebars."

Roberts went on to represent New Zealand at the 1960 Rome Olympics, where he came sixth in the Finn class, as a reserve in the Flying Dutchman class at Tokyo in 1964, and back in the Finns at Mexico in 1968, when he came eighth.



New clubrooms ahoy, in 2002... International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge (centre), was there to unveil the foundation plaque. Ralph Roberts is at left, and North Shore Mayor George Wood second from right.

From page 21

Club clocks up a century with the wind in its sails



The first clubhouse... The Takapuna Boating Club in its heyday at Bayswater

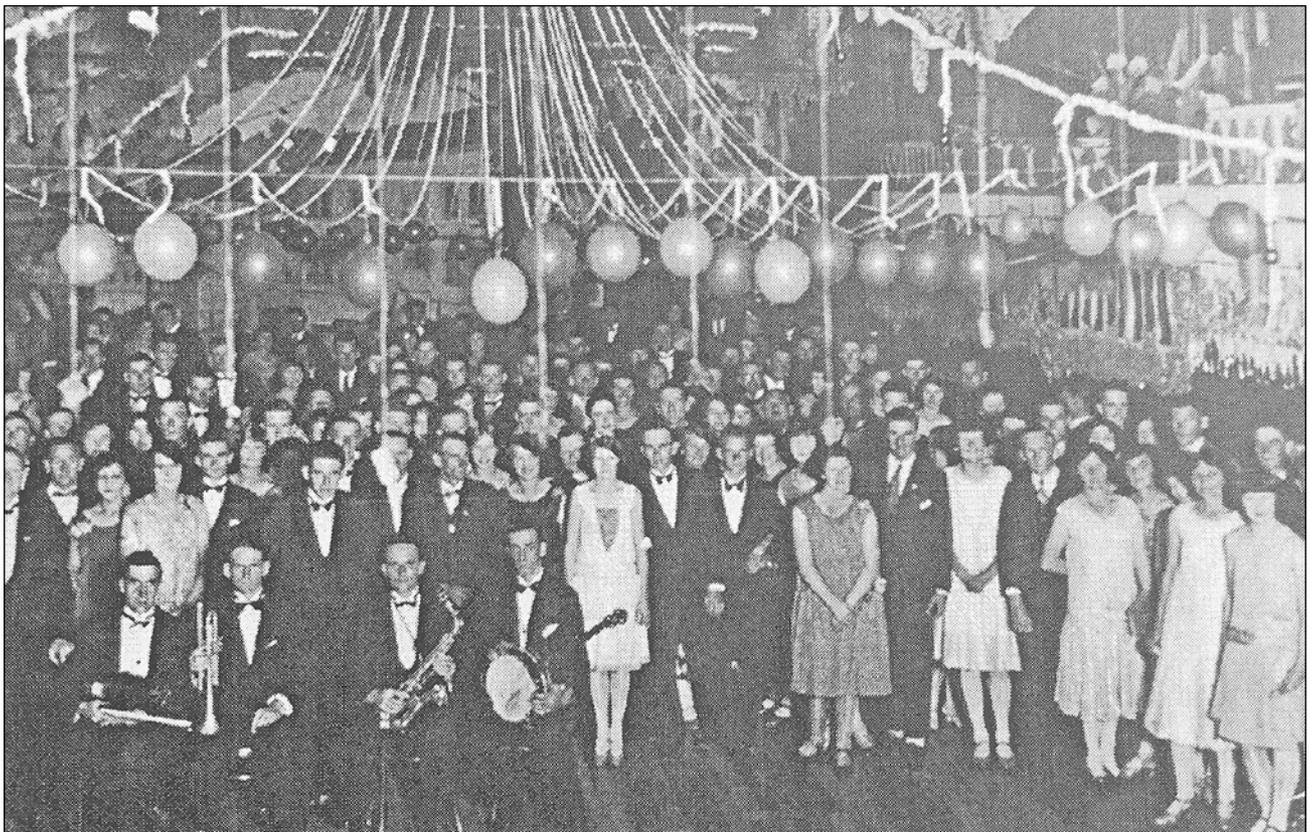
While the club was a yachting mecca, it also became well known for its dances. With trams running at the time from Milford, through Takapuna to the Bayswater ferry, thousands of young people from around the Shore and Auckland city would descend on the Takapuna Boating Club for its “dos”.

“A significant part of a generation on the North Shore would have met their partners at one of those dances,” says Roberts. The building was also used for boxing, as a library, for school events and roller skating. Prior to World War II, movies were screened there.

However, times moved on: the trams were taken out, the dances became less frequent and the establishment of a marina at Bayswater in 1969 took away “a lot of our sailing water”, Roberts says. Sailing was moved to Takapuna Beach, more suited to Finn and Flying Dutchman classes, which needed greater sailing area unrestricted by tides. In 1990, clubrooms were set up at Takapuna, with the current beachside clubhouse opened in 2002. It replaced an old house on council land, with a key design requirement that it could not exceed the footprint of the house.

In the 21st century, Takapuna Boating Club has become a home for boardsailing, standup paddleboarding, waka, kite sailing and now foil racing.

According to Roberts, a problem with con-



Hub of the Shore... Takapuna Boating Club was famous for its social events. This picture was taken in 1927.

tinuing the traditional class-based sailing links was the lack of boat storage at the beachfront site, and a lack of parking for unloading boats.

The club's link with the mainstream sailing scene has continued, though, as a world-class regatta venue for New Zealand and World Championship events, including the International 14 Class (in 2005), Laser Radial and RS:X (2008), Splash (2010), Junior 470 (2012), A-Class Catamaran (2014), Finn (2015) and Tornado (2008, 2019).

The club has produced world and Olympic champions, including board sailors Bruce and Barbara Kendall, Tom Ashley and Aaron McIntosh, and sailors Leslie Egnot and Jan Shearer.

With a series of events planned this week to mark the club's first 100 years, including a dinner for more than 120 on Waitangi Day, and an anniversary regatta, Roberts, who has been a member since 1951, says its volunteer backbone and "great people" are what has enabled it to keep going so long.

The club has faced its share of adversity. In 1975, Roberts' brother Clive, club commodore and an OK dinghy world champion in 1973, died in a car crash at Ngatea. Just four years later, John Welson was club commodore when he died in a skiing accident. "These guys were not only larger-than-life characters, they were young guys taking the club forward rather than it being just a collection old-timers and sailing dads," says Roberts.

"A lot of clubs wouldn't have recovered from those setbacks."

While the club has an unbeatable view of the Hauraki Gulf, it has always been more than that, says Roberts, who remembers what Paul Elvstrom (a four-time Olympic champion and old Danish sailing mate of Roberts) once said when he entered the clubhouse: "I heard the laughter and peace came upon me. I've always liked that quote," says Roberts as he moves off to meet a locksmith who has arrived at the boating club to advise on new locks. Yet another volunteer task needed to keep clubs like this going.



On the water... at Bayswater (above) and off Takapuna (below)



*The care you deserve,
at a price you can afford*

We offer:

- A New Zealand-owned company focused on caring for our community
- Cremations from \$2,100 and very competitively priced funerals
- Eco-friendly options
- Discounted funeral costs when you meet with us in advance to record your wishes
- Zero-fees pre-payment plan for added peace of mind

**We're available any time of the day or night,
so simply call us on (09) 477-2433.**

We'll be there when you need us.



Hazel James | Ryan Berry
Manager/Funeral Director | Funeral Director

✉ office@windsorfunerals.co.nz 🌐 windsorfunerals.co.nz

PREMIUM®



CAMPBELLS BAY | 25 HUNTLY ROAD | Your World Class Beach Front Retreat

Fabulously located on coveted Campbells Bay beach this spectacular home of 360sqm set on 1,012sqm is artfully designed for effortless living and luxurious entertaining. Enjoy vast vistas of the sparkling Hauraki Gulf throughout this magnificent property. Encompassing five bedrooms, three large living rooms, home office and garaging for up to four cars. Zoned for a vast selection of fine schooling. This incredible family home truly represents an extremely rare opportunity to enjoy what certainly is the very finest home, location and lifestyle imaginable.

LEWIS GUY 021 867 355
 LewisGuy@premium.co.nz
 TAKAPUNA: 916 6000

PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9915 | VIEW | PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
SET DATE SALE | THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 AT 4 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

TAKAPUNA | LAKE PUPUKE | Under the Tuscan Sun



The North facing 1,303sqm landscaped grounds terrace beautifully down to the lake with volcanic stone paths, custom walls and beautiful gardens. One of the most usable lake frontages in the area. Relax by the swimming pool, perfectly sheltered in this exceptional property.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION
PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9914
JELENA FREEMAN 021 65 65 63 | 916 6000
JIM MAYS 021 937 766 | 916 6000

TAKAPUNA | 24 TIRI ROAD | Your Tranquil Beach Side Oasis



Exquisitely crafted home set just one back from the beach features breathtaking sea views offering you state of the art design throughout resulting in a stunning home that truly captures the joy of living. Stylish and contemporary, 327sqm, four bedrooms, two very separate living areas, sauna, swimming pool. Escape to your tranquil beach side oasis.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION
PREMIUM.CO.NZ/9833
LEWIS GUY 021 867 355 | 916 6000