

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 32 - June 12, 2020

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Lake Rd work
on hold... p2

Queen's Birthday
honours... p4, 5

Takapuna Market up
and running... p6, 7

Parks included in sell-off options

North Shore 'pocket parks' are among Auckland Council land and buildings being considered for sale as it attempts to meet emergency Covid-19 budgets.

In the Takapuna-Milford area properties at 2 Forrest Hill Rd, 24R Linwood Ave, 4 Bloomfield Spa and 1/328 Lake Rd are back on the

list of assets which could be sold off.

In recent years, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board worked hard to retain the properties at 2 Forrest Hill Rd and 1/328 Lake Rd, Hauraki, in particular.

At the Hauraki site, a corner commercial property occupied by restaurants, was con-

verted into a park with sculptures, planting and seating.

The emergency budget will be decided in July, with public feedback open until 19 June.

The potential sale of council buildings in Devonport and Takapuna also seems to be back on the table.

To page 2

Raring to go! School team's ready to rumble



Bring it on... Members of the Rosmini College 1st XV squad during preparations for the delayed start of their season. More sports updates and photos, page 12.

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From page 1

Building sales could be accelerated

Properties at 3 Victoria Rd in Devonport (the old Devonport Borough Council buildings), and 2 The Strand, Takapuna, are not currently on Panuku's disposal list, but in an analysis of "asset recycling" opportunities both have been included on a list identifying a "proposed pipeline of non-mandated

properties 2020/2021".

"We are now doing a more detailed assessment of how Panuku could help the council achieve its increased asset sales target," a Panuku spokesperson told the Observer.

The Auckland Council Emergency Budget document says the budget "provides an opportunity to increase budget targets and accelerate asset recycling to reduce debt".

A key consideration in any sale would

be "the opportunity cost of holding an asset which is not providing a service or generating an appropriate financial return against the opportunity of investing in new assets which deliver council services," the document says.

It notes sales of properties may return less now than they would have done a year ago.

• The Panuku spokesperson said a tenancy flagged for 3 Victoria Rd was "still going through the paperwork stage".

Walkway closed for two years

The Sacred Grove pohutukawa walkway on Takapuna beachfront has now been closed for two years, with no opening time in sight.

Progress on council management plans for the area are now up in the air with a re-evaluation of many of Auckland's civic projects in the wake of Covid-19.

2 The Strand: empty for 822 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 822 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.

The \$47 million Lake Rd improvement project will effectively grind to a halt under proposed emergency council cutbacks due to the financial fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Auckland Council is forecasting a \$550 million drop in income due to Covid-19, according to the Emergency Budget made public on 28 May.

"Progress made on multi-modal projects such as... Lake Rd/Esmonde will have to be deferred," the budget document says.

The proposed Lake Rd spend of \$5,337,609 over the next year (for design and consultation) "will need to be put on hold".

Around \$10 million will be stripped from Panuku's town-centre development budget. It is unclear how this will affect the just-approved designs for the Takapuna town square, for which construction was set to

begin in 2021.

Also unclear is how a 28 per cent reduction in library budgets will affect Takapuna and Devonport libraries.

A proposed \$39 million cut in the Healthy Waters budget has meant upgrades and renewals in the Milford area along with some other North Shore work will be deferred.

A Panuku spokesperson said the precise impact of the cutbacks for the Takapuna town-centre project would not be known until the budget was finalised in July.

"In general, while our programme in some areas will need to slow down or change, we don't envisage a change to the overall outcomes we are seeking in our neighbourhood," the spokesperson said.

• Public feedback on the Emergency Budget is being sought. Go to the Auckland Council website for details.

Lake Rd work a casualty of cutbacks

Local-body politicians disappointed

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair George Wood said: "It's very sad for Lake Rd, but we'll just have to continually keep up the pressure."

He expected the project to be stalled for two to three years.

Wood hoped the Francis St cycleway, designed to divert cyclists from Lake Rd, would survive, given that the board had allocated funding to it.

"I'm just hoping that project may have a glimmer of hope," he said.

Stalled Milford stormwater improvements and Wairau Estuary work were also important to keep to the fore, said Wood.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett said: "It will be very easy to play the blame game with this problem, but I don't believe that is fair. Covid-19 is a once-in-a-100-years problem that slammed

into us all without warning. It is going to affect us all enormously, and Auckland Council is no different.

"As a board we are focused on continuing to support entities in the community that will play important roles in the recovery process. This will include working closely with community groups and business organisations. But there is no doubt that the net result of this Covid-19 problem is there will be less money in the pot. That fact is unavoidable."

North Shore ward councillor Chris Darby said council revenues have been "savaged like never before". It was important to remember that the Lake Rd project hadn't been cut but deferred, he said. He and fellow councillor Richard Hill would be "scrapping hard" to retain money and projects.

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From lockdown blues to Milford minstrel



Guitar man... Connor Brown is honing his musical skills performing on Milford Beach

Connor Brown's job went "under the bus" due to Covid-19, but a love of music is helping the 24-year-old stay positive.

Playing his guitar and sometimes breaking into song on Milford Beach fills the time around what casual IT work he can pick up.

The former Westlake Boys High School student and University of Otago commerce graduate is becoming a familiar sight to passersby at the marina end of the beach, often playing in the

evenings. He has taken his talents to other East Coast Bays beaches, one time pulling a crowd of around 40 to 50 people with an impromptu show near the Browns Bay skatepark.

Connor doesn't play for money – it's all about polishing his skills with the hope of one day turning a hobby into something more.

Having played piano for nearly 20 years, he took up guitar around six months ago and sings along with tunes that suit his higher-pitched

voice. Covers of Ed Sheeran and James Blunt are part of his repertoire, but he has also adapted a rap song to a softer style. He is also working on a few originals.

Connor says the sound of the waves and the view are his drawcard to the beach.

Like many in his age group hit by job losses he has moved home, living with his father for now. "It's tough times, but I'm optimistic," he says.



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Lauded writer with plenty left to say

The power of a good story and the stamina built up writing many of them keeps Tessa Duder energised. At age 79, the favourite children's author still works full-time from her home in Castor Bay.

"I always have about four books queued," she says. "Age is no bar – if you've still got your marbles."

There's long-standing volunteer work to fit in as well, encouraging children to read through the Storylines organisation, and youth to reach their full potential with the Spirit of Adventure Trust.

Her passion for persuading children and their parents of the value of reading is part of the reason this prolific wordsmith was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature.

The author, who also writes for adults, says her next book will be set in early Auckland – after she polishes off a commissioned family history.

The Queen's Birthday Honour, following an OBE 26 years ago, came "totally out of the blue", she says. "The pleasing thing about it is the paperwork from Government House emphasised what I've done since 1994."

Duder says her *Alex* novels about a champion young swimmer (the last published in 1993) were often considered her career heyday. The time since had been a "patchy ride", both personally and as a writer, so the validation and recognition of her wider work was pleasing.

She took up writing when her youngest child went to school, having been a journalist before motherhood. Duder says she was lucky to have three daughters all living in Auckland. "They're all readers," she notes.

A fourth daughter died suddenly, aged 24, due to a heart condition. Within the same fortnight, Duder also lost her mother. The losses, particularly that of an adult child, were challenging. She says she hates the expression "you'll get over it", but she did get on with it. In all, she has written more than 40 books.

Recent works have included *In search*



Sailing on... Tessa Duder, with the Spirit of Adventure Trust's Spirit of New Zealand behind her, still writes full-time

of *Elisa Marchetti* – a writer's search for Italian roots. It was written partly so Duder's daughters would have some idea of their heritage. Her great-grandparents arrived in New Zealand from Italy around 1875. "They didn't have an easy life by any means."

Their daughters married Englishmen and "fitted in". Duder wishes she had asked her grandmother more about the family history.

"Pakeha are rather bad at this; Maori are much better."

Duder says she became aware when her father died that she had become the repository of her family story. She urges children to talk to their grandparents about the past and adults to consider recording their elders' stories on a cellphone. "Get them talking with a few glasses of wine."

Duder still enjoys a friendly relationship with former husband John, who lives in Devonport. They brought up their young children in Hauraki and also lived in Milford. It was through John that she learned to sail,

inspiring her first children's book, *Night Race to Kawau*.

He helped set up the Spirit of Adventure and she became involved, figuring: "If you can't beat 'em, join them". She has recently retired from the trust after 27 years of service, but is still active in Storylines and continues to make classroom visits.

She urges parents to encourage recreational reading.

"I think adults can get hung up over the idea that the child should be reading 'good books' and novels, but I think if they want to read comic books or graphic novels – anything but actual porn or, I would say, Enid Blyton – as long as kids are exposed to reading something, it encourages them."

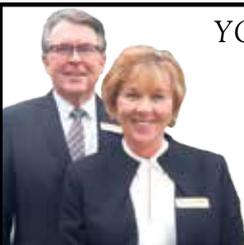
Reading fiction offered something beyond fact. "The virtue of novels is it takes them into another world that you would otherwise never experience."

Duder says some in the literary world still did not accord children's books the status of adult ones. Writers such as Margaret Mahy and Joy Cowley who emerged before her had, however, helped lead the way in changing attitudes.

She has also encountered sniffy attitudes about writing historical fiction, but this too was changing with the times and their popularity. "A historical novel will tell you more about say, the Tudor court, than you'll ever get from non-fiction."

Duder's own *Alex* series will soon be replicated in one volume to be known as the *Alex Quartet*.

The stories she began writing in the early 1980s to provide a strong heroine echo her own experience winning a silver medal in breast-stroke at the then Empire (now Commonwealth) Games in 1958.



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Honour recipient encourages diversity

"You can be, and do, anything if you really want to," is the message business high-flyer Justine Smyth wants to impress on young women.

The Milford resident of 16 years backs this up by being a strong voice telling companies they should tap into more diverse talent to help them thrive.

Smyth – chair of the board of Spark and of the Breast Cancer Foundation – rose through the corporate ranks herself, and has become a leading advocate and mentor for other women to gain leadership roles.

That work saw her made a Companion of the Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Her citation "for services to governance and women" is one she wishes she could have shared with her parents who both passed away during the last few years. "I thought of how proud they would have been."

Smyth grew up in South Auckland as one of six children.

"My parents spent their lives committing to the community as volunteers," she recalls. Her mother helped at Plunket for 30 years and treasured a Queen's Service Medal she was awarded. "She was incredibly proud of that. She was a royalist." Smyth's father was involved in Jaycees and the church.

Smyth's own work with the Breast Cancer Foundation is another link to her mother, who was a breast cancer survivor. First invited to join the volunteer board 24 years ago because of her financial ability, 54-year-old Smyth has been its chair for 10 years. She is passionate about the organisation and how its work can and does save lives.

Covid-19 has been challenging with cancellation of the foundation's annual Pink Ribbon fundraising breakfasts, normally held in May. It hopes to reschedule the nationwide events to help bankroll its work in education, welfare, research and lobbying for the likes of new cancer drugs.

Another pandemic effect that Smyth doesn't want to see is corporate business reverting to status-quo thinking. "We have come a long way," she says of the rise of women into board positions, compared with 15 years ago when she took up her first directorship at NZ Post. "The story isn't so good for CEOs and board chairs. That's the next focus."

Smyth herself went from Papatotē High School to the University of Auckland for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. She then joined Deloitte, where she rose to tax partner. A stint as group finance director at Lion Nathan followed, along with a few years in Australia.

Moving onto being a professional director, including for Auckland Airport, allowed more family-friendly flexibility. Smyth has launched two businesses of her own on the North Shore: CSL Traffic and Lingerie Brands. She is also an investor in tech-payments company Ivenco.

Prompting change in listed companies wasn't just about getting competent women around the board table, she said, but also encouraged more diverse thinking.



Change advocate... Justine Smyth doesn't want to see business reverting to status-quo thinking following Covid-19

A favourite quote is: "Diversity is the antidote to group think"

At Spark (which has that rare thing, a female CEO), Smyth says encouraging more diverse and customer-focused thinking has helped transform the business and its culture.

Lockdown and working from home proved the value of digital technology. But it also confirmed the personal appeal of living on the North Shore, where her supportive husband Paul Lockey grew up. Having the beach on one side and the Milford shops a walk away meant "I didn't hop in my car for seven weeks," said Smyth. "If you're going to live anywhere in Auckland, I just don't see why you'd live

anywhere else."

Lockey, now retired, was a professional director like his wife. He now serves on the board of Kristin School which the couple's 15-year-old daughter Mikayla attends. The family has a holiday home in Queenstown and Mikayla took to skiing from a young age. Her mother puts her own abilities in the "try hard" category.

Mikayla, who is already a New Zealand age-group champion in ski-racing and has won races internationally, last year received an AIMEs scholarship from the North Harbour Club. She hopes to one day compete at the Winter Olympics.

National

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Takapuna market back after lockdown



Welcome return... Vicki Clark and Judith Vickers of Tamerlane

The return of Takapuna's long-running Sunday Market is proving a welcome bright spot, drawing people back to the town centre.

One customer told the Rangitoto Observer she had not realised the market had reopened. When by chance she spotted it open, she stopped off. "We always come here for veges and fruit."

For stallholders, turnover was down, due to there being fewer shoppers than usual, but most said they were happy to be back after the long Covid-19 lay-off. Some wished there had been more promotion of the reopening.

Last Sunday, more stallholders set up stands than on the quiet first day's trading over Queen's Birthday Weekend. "Everyone is anxious to get back to normal," said long-time market co-organiser Trish Keith. She and business partner Ess Jenner were pleased with support so far.

After having around 50 stalls on the first day back, 80 were in operation for week two. The site can take up to 250 stalls, but typically only has that number in the lead-in to Christmas.

"It's been good. We didn't know how it would go," said Keith. Opening initially on a long weekend, when many people were away, had meant stalls could be spaced out across the site, allowing easier trading with social distancing.

Sanitiser was prominent at a number of stalls and a few stallholders were wearing masks. Cash was being widely accepted.

Food vendors seemed the busiest. Mike O'Donoghue, who took over the popular bacon stand pre-pandemic, had queues for bacon sandwiches, but said turnover was only a third of when the market was packed. It wasn't about the money, he said, but being back so numbers could rebuild.

Vicki Clark of Tamerlane Handicrafts, a trader at the market for 25 years, said: "I came to support it, to let people know we're open."

Surplus-goods stall holder Geoff Groom has spent 30 years at the market, on and off. "It's an institution that brings people to the town." But he reckons, for tough times, Auckland has too much retail being built. Groom hopes that Buy NZ campaigns will help smaller traders.

Another veteran stallholder, who preferred not to be named, said the lockdown had prompted him to email regular customers of his specialist vegetable business and begin deliveries. "One outcome of the whole Covid thing is direct-to-customers is going to be more long-term. My business plan long-term might be deliveries."

Flower seller Jan Ward of Janmaree Flowers reckons it will take time to get really busy again, and job losses may bite further when wage subsidies end. With long-standing market identity Carl Singh back dispensing blooms, she cautions that prices are another casualty of Covid. "Flowers are expensive at the moment. There's no imports." Supply was limited and demand had been high, especially for online sales over Mother's Day. "I won't buy roses because they're too expensive."

The Takapuna market has use of the current site until March 2021, after which Takapuna Square developments mean a new site will have to be found.



Keeping warm... Julie Chantrasee with her chillies



Back into it... Trish Keith (left) and Ess Jenner who organise the markets



Packing a bunch... Carl Singh was back selling flowers



Buon appetito... Luigi Vitrone came from Whangarei with his pasta



Market regulars... John Fidow and Mitzi Schewenke-Fidow with their Pasifika and Aotearoa crafts

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Outstanding issues cast shadow over town-centre plans

Razzamatazz can't hide the glaring issues surrounding the construction of the Takapuna Town Centre.

At the May local board meeting, I asked Panuku if their drawings correctly represented the heights and scale of the actual plans. The

Isthmus architect agreed they weren't to scale.

Isthmus has agreed to redraw the illustrations that will go out with the public submission forms. Currently, the drawings being circulated do not give the impression of the actual heights of two buildings which are 8 storeys (24.5m) and one 11-storey building (36.5m).

It is incumbent upon the local board to ensure that residents will be given accurate information. The effect of the heights of these buildings is that they will dominate the square, and yet the drawings give a different impression. I am concerned that the promised civic centre and a public open space will simply become a forecourt to the corporate buildings.

Panuku has stressed that the condition of a reduced height of 24m would be set, but as no development agreements with potential developers have been signed this could change. In this economy a developer will need every advantage to ensure a profit.

In reviewing the scale of the buildings it is important a 'sun studies' drawing is considered

alongside the illustrations. These studies have not been widely circulated and Panuku did not present them at the local board meeting. The winter solstice studies indicate that the square will primarily be in shade during winter.

These are the primary reasons that led to my vote against accepting the Panuku plans.

Yet there are other issues. Panuku is forging ahead with the construction of the layout of the square without having secured development contracts for any potential buildings. I am questioning this unusual arrangement and whether this is prudent spending.

The question of the viability of the Sunday Market, as we know it, needs discussion. A loved market attended by so many is now reduced to 85 stalls on site.

For me it is a simple message: I care that this development delivers a quality outcome that keeps the spirit of Takapuna alive.

Trish Deans
Devonport Takapuna Local Board Member

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Takapuna

Former Takapuna library story could run and run

Further to your brief where you note how long the former Takapuna Library building has been unoccupied, I had occasion to park outside and noticed that there were lights on so stopped and had a look.

A notice issued in March 2018 is still there: curiously, the owner has until 6 March 2053 to comply with required upgrades, so you

may be able to keep your news page going with notes about this for the next 33 years.

On a more serious note: the notice is from a division of Auckland Council concerned with building safety. The owners of the building are Auckland Council.

Another communication breakdown.
John Shears

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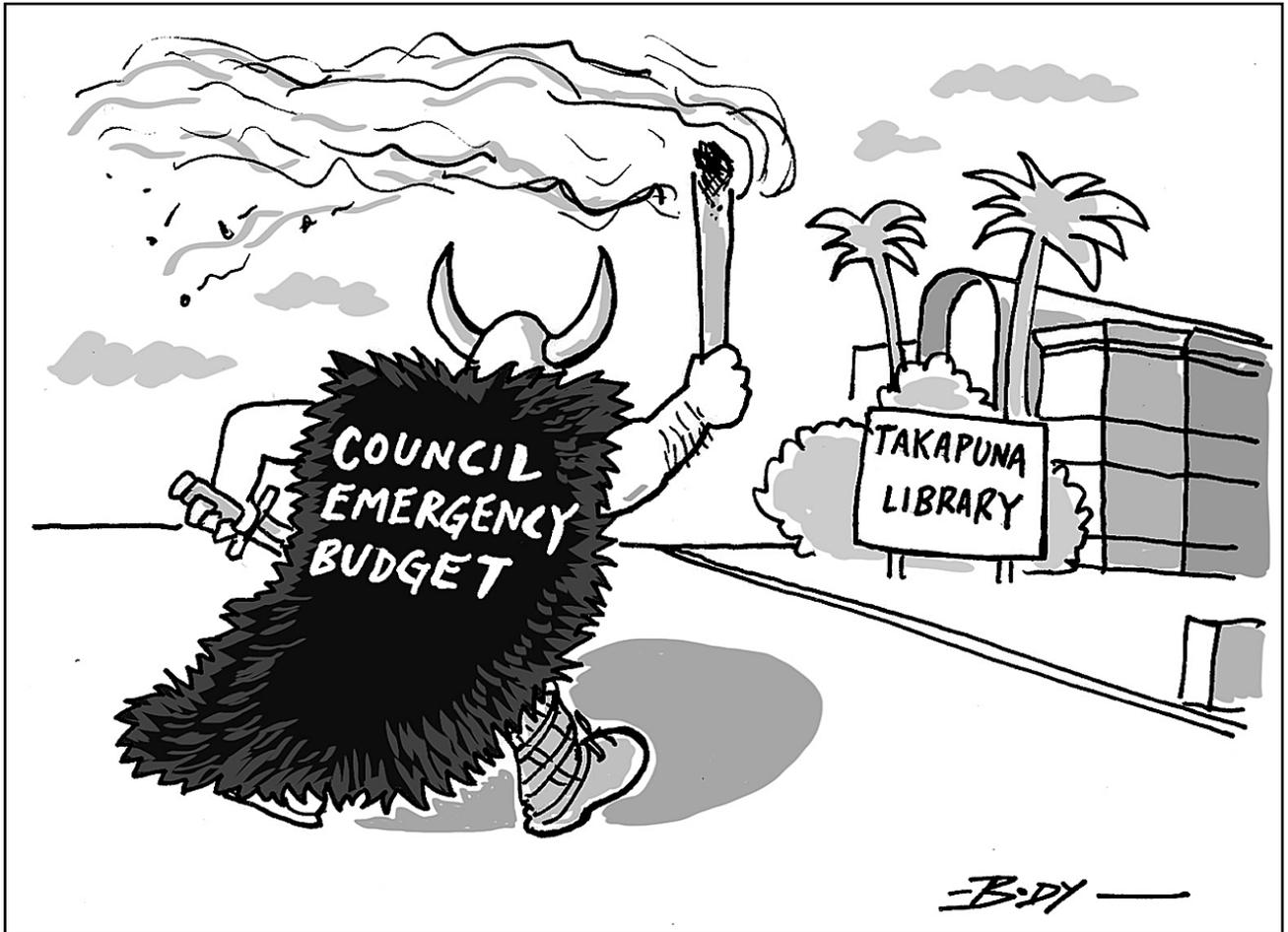
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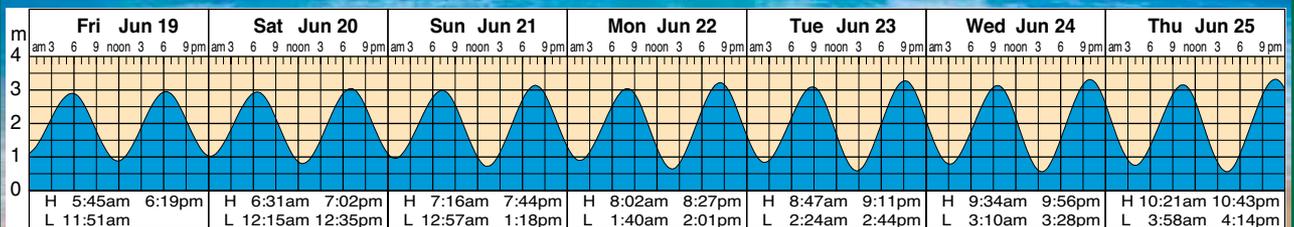
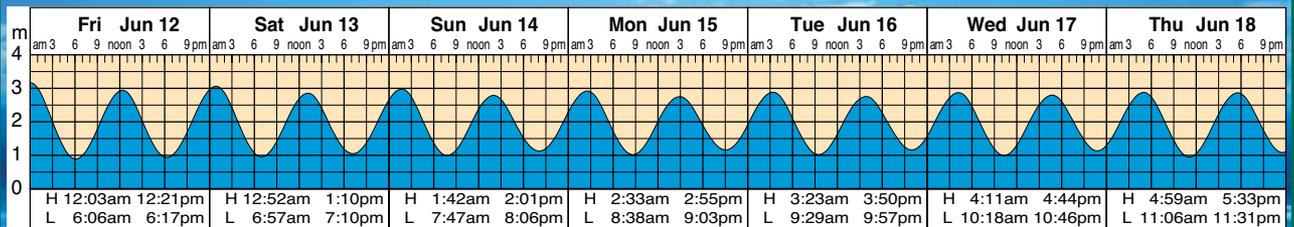
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Bodyline

by Guy Body



Milford / Takapuna Tides



School sports champing at the bit

Training began in earnest for school sports last week, with students looking forward to the Covid-delayed start of winter competitions across all codes.

A spokeswoman for Westlake Boys High School said teachers and students were stoked to be back in action with their teams, doing what they loved. "They have all had too much bottled-up energy, I believe," she added.

At Carmel College, students sharpened up post-lockdown by holding small group competitions while they awaited the resumption of inter-school sport. "We had sport running from day one within the school bubble, with the intention of getting our students re-engaged," said director of sport Annie Sadlier.

Play was adapted to meet Covid requirements, with hand sanitiser, ball wiping and washing of equipment. Up to 100 girls participated each day, trying Fast-5 netball, 6-a-side hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, badminton and yoga. "It was a fantastic opportunity to provide our students some sport at school and prepare them for the return of organised sport outside the school environment."

Rosmini headmaster Nixon Cooper said: "The boys are champing at the bit," across the school's four winter codes of rugby, basketball, football and hockey.

The 1st XV was in rebuilding mode, he said, under coaches Ryan Thompson and Jacob Corbett, who were recent old boys.

North Harbour schools rugby starts on Saturday, 27 June; Netball North Harbour's competition for secondary premier teams through to Open B grade gets under way the same day, with grading games starting before the term break. Lower secondary grades and Year 9 competition, plus primary and intermediate teams, play from late July. There will be one rather than the usual two rounds, to fit in ahead of summer sports; college football begins on 24 June and basketball tips off from 10 June; boys' hockey starts on 17 June, and girls' hockey a day later.



Pick up sticks... Members of the Year 8 Carmel College hockey team warmed up with some six-a-side competition: Maisy Lendrum (kneeling) and, from left, Alessia Martin, Ciara Morley, Tara Hodson, Isabelle Esnouf, Nadja McGoon, Mia Scott



Pass marks... Carmel College students on the netball court



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On the ball... Westlake Boys 1st XI hockey players back in action after lockdown



Raising a racquet... Badminton players at Westlake Girls

New mums still waiting for Plunket

New mothers on the peninsula looking for the reassurance of a Plunket nurse visit are still waiting for the service to reopen its Takapuna clinic.

It is expected this should be within the next few weeks, but community midwives, who traditionally hand over care to Plunket after a baby is born, have wondered why Plunket has been one of the slower social services to get back into gear post-lockdown.

In response to a Flagstaff query, a spokeswoman from Plunket's national office said: "I can confirm all clinics are in the process of being reopened over the next two to three weeks. As it's being done nationwide and they are reopening as they become ready, I don't have a schedule of exactly when specific clinics will be open, but we will be updating our website regularly with a list as they are reopened."

In-person visits are also in the process of cranking up. These typically occur at home when a baby is around a month old, with subsequent other Well Child appointments in the clinics.

Plunket has nearly 600 locations nationwide being readied for appropriate Covid-19 safety procedures. It caters for nearly 24,000

clients a year.

Plunketline (0800 933 922) remains available for advice by telephone. Online parenting education programmes and virtual community groups have continued for clients.

During lockdown, a prioritised virtual service was set up to ensure those with the highest needs continued to receive Well Child care by Zoom video conferences and phone calls.

This was considered an essential service by the Ministry of Health.

Observer a prizewinner

The Rangitoto Observer placed third in the new idea/innovation section of the New Zealand Community Newspaper Awards announced last Friday.

It was launched in March 2019.

Rob Drent, Editor of the Devonport Flagstaff and Rangitoto Observer, placed third in the best journalist category.

Hospital appointments picking up

Planned local hospital operations under Covid-19 alert level 2 went back to 75 per cent of the usual pre-pandemic number.

The Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) plans further increases in operations at its North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals in coming weeks.

Patients are being booked based on clinical priority, it says.

More face-to-face outpatient appointments at hospital clinics are now being held, although appointments are also still being held by telephone and video.

A DHB spokeswoman said only a small number of medical and surgical appointments had been cancelled or deferred due to patient choice.

These were being rebooked based on priority. Where appropriate, during alert levels 3 and 4, outpatients cases had been rescheduled as phone or video appointments.

Patients requiring ongoing monitoring had also been dealt with remotely.



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For the kids, join us during the July school holidays for fun activities like online Lego challenges, take-home activity packs, Matariki craft, and a feel-good scavenger hunt to help you "shine bright". Keep an eye on our website for more details or pick up a school holiday flyer from the Devonport and Takapuna libraries.

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Legal action response cost \$65,000

More than \$65,000 of ratepayers' money was spent by Auckland Council on legal expenses fighting an action brought by a residents association on the new Takapuna square, according to documents released under the Official Information Act.

The legal action by the Takapuna Residents Association, which challenged the validity of council processes in approving a Panuku design for the square, failed to go to a full hearing after it was withdrawn at

the last moment.

The \$65,277 spent by the council in costs included summary documents from solicitors Meredith Connell, and affidavits from Kate Cumberpatch, of Panuku, and Duncan Ecob, formerly of Isthmus group, who now works for Panuku.

Council disagreed with the association's claim that a review of Richard Reid's alternative proposal for the town square had misled a council hearing, the documents said.

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Riparian planting aims to lift water quality

The Takapuna North Community Trust has received \$2627.50 from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to kick off a riparian planting project at Brian Byrnes Reserve.

The project aims to improve the habitat and water quality of the stream. This stream is a tributary to the Wairau Creek, known for its degraded water quality.

Takapuna North Community Trust Environmental Coordinator Fiona Martin said more volunteers were needed for regular weeding days to 'release' plants choked by pest species, and to help prepare new planting areas.

The council has also approved the planting site this week, and although the area is not huge, it's a very exciting step in the right direction for improving water quality in the area, said Martin.

The regular weeding event will be led by local volunteer Keith Moratti, a member of the Milford Residents Association.

Another volunteer, Bruce Ward, has been reducing predators in the Brian Byrnes reserve for a few years. He noticed a significant decline in stream water quality over that time, Martin said.

"Planting a riparian strip along the stream is one of the many ways we can help to protect and enhance the stream habitat. By shading the water with native plants, we can reduce the water temperature to levels that are required

for native fish."

Native fish in the stream have been displaced by the invasive species Gambusia, which are much more tolerant of warm water, said Martin.

- The Smiths Bush East group is also starting a bush planting programme at the end of June. They will be looking to extend their

trapping programme into the residential area in the next few months as well.

If anyone in the community is keen to get involved in either of these restoration efforts, or would like to access free predator traps, contact enviro@takapunatrust.org.nz and follow the 'North Shore Birdsong Project' on Facebook.

Parks to be covered by generic plan

Controversial moves to develop a generic management plan for Devonport-Takapuna parks are going ahead, but with a level of unease from some local-board members.

Many parks have their own management plans and some board members felt much of the historical decision-making and site specific measures for a number of recreation areas would be lost or diluted with an overriding plan.

The board approved public notification of a local parks management plan and for public comment at its last meeting, but members Ruth Jackson and Jan O'Connor abstained from voting.

O'Connor said: "Reserves in Devonport are very different to those in Takapuna and

Milford."

Rather than an overriding plan, she wanted current reserve plans updated and made more easily accessible to the general public.

Jackson said more than 20 reserves in the board area were covered by management plans and she was concerned these plans were not "superseded". She was also worried the board would lose the ability to create standalone plans for reserves in the future.

Board member Trish Deans said documents such as the Narrow Neck plan had cost a lot of money that she didn't want "lost".

A council officer told the board part of the reason for the overriding plan was because around 50 reserves in the local board area were not covered by a management plan.



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Dress for success donations sought at Milford shopping centre

Shoppers at Milford Centre can drop off quality pre-loved clothes for charity to go into a draw to win a \$3000 wardrobe.

Milford Shopping Centre is aiming to support local charities who weren't able to fundraise during Covid-19. One is Dress for Success, which provides job-interview clothing for women in

need, as well as providing support for interview preparation.

Donated evening wear is sold in fundraising auctions, to cover Dress for Success' Auckland's operating costs.

"We feel that this cause is especially poignant in the current climate and hope shoppers help

us support Dress for Success Auckland," said Milford Centre manager Kate Carey.

Donations will be accepted at the Milford Centre kiosk until 5 July.

• Milford Centre is also providing meals to Bellyfull, with one meal put up for every \$50 spent at the shopping centre.

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Schools reorganise ball dates

North Shore schools are trying to arrange alternative social events for senior students after having to postpone or cancel planned school balls.

Westlake Girls High School told students in late May that its usual mid-year function with Westlake Boys had been put on hold. Principal Jane Stanley said: "After much consideration, it was with disappointment we needed to cancel our 27 June date for the Year 13 combined Westlake Ball. It's been a difficult time with many school events affected, however we are currently exploring the logistics of other options for a formal gathering later in the year should the rules around group gatherings allow this."

When Covid-19 hit, Rosmini College moved its ball date from April to 17 September, said principal Nixon Cooper.

Carmel College has rescheduled from April to August, dependent on any alert levels applying then. "We hope to be able to have our usual format for the ball, albeit later in the year," said principal Christine Allen.

Takapuna Grammar has also decided to delay its event for Year 12 and 13 students from next month, probably until the end of Term 3. It will decide later on what form it will take.

Book Review

Ripper's victims get overdue attention

What makes a good book for me? I've got some simple criteria: it's a work I recommend, at times force on others. Mostly it's a book that demands my attention until it's finished. I can also find myself reading footnotes, addendums, indexes and directions to the author's other works. I want more.

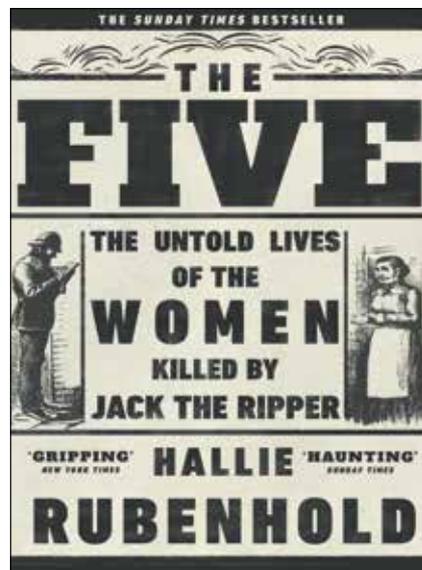
The Five, by Hallie Rubenhold is such a book. It's the untold story of the female victims of Jack the Ripper – Mary Ann "Polly" Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes and Mary Jane Kelly.

It's a grim subject. But in the deft hands of Rubenhold, the book offers a fascinating, meticulously researched insight into the mores and double standards of Victorian London, the plight of the working poor and the often desperate straits of women of the time.

The Ripper murders were a sensational story of the day – and Jack the Ripper has been the focus of numerous works since. As Rubenhold points out, the women have been largely ignored – in a sense objectified as supporting characters to the leading man.

Press reports at the time were unreliable and often contradictory, so Rubenhold wears out a considerable amount of shoe leather trudging through libraries and archives piecing together the lives of the forgotten victims. The women were commonly labelled prostitutes, but Rubenhold reveals that only Mary Jane Kelly and Elizabeth Stride had been in the trade.

Moreover, she shows how quickly in Victorian society a woman could be labelled "a lady of



the night" if she became divorced or widowed, and forced to live in temporary accommodation, the workhouse or on the street.

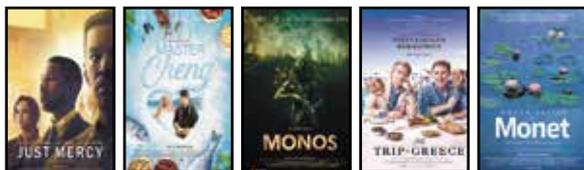
What elevates *The Five* to a must-read is its secondary plot, which tells the social history of working-class London with great attention to detail, from the complexity of family relationships (the number of rooms per household, sanitation and clothing), and the impact of death and childbirth on finances, accommodation and survival.

It's incredible that just 150 years ago, children were dying in London from malnutrition, public hangings were social events accompanied by food and commercial stalls for the watching crowds, and women were second-class citizens, with little influence over their income, employment or the number of children they had, or sometimes whether they lived or died – domestic violence was common and often unreported.

I'll certainly be searching out Hallie Rubenhold's other works.

– Rob Drent

THIS MONTH @ the vic



NEW THIS WEEK	RELEASE
The Trip to Greece (M) 110 min	11 JUNE

CONTINUING	
Master Cheng (PG) 113 min	Sonic the Hedgehog (PG) 99 min
Monos (R13) 103 min	Jojo Rabbit (M) 108 min

COMING SOON		RELEASE
Water Lilies of Monet – The Magic of Water and Light (E) 90 min		18 JUNE
Rosie (PG) 86 min		18 JUNE
Machine (E) 86 min		18 JUNE
The Booksellers (E) 99min		25 JUNE

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Cachopa signs up to coach Takapuna



Player to coach... Craig Cachopa will coach Takapuna, having just ended his playing career

Former Auckland Aces white-ball skipper and Takapuna District Cricket Club player Craig Cachopa has been contracted as the head coach for the Takapuna Premier Men's and Premier Reserves teams for the next two seasons.

In his new role, he will be supported by incumbent coach Ryan Scivier in a new Assistant Coach role.

Scivier has been the Premier coach for the last two seasons and has produced two very productive seasons for the club.

Cachopa said: "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to become coach of such a fantastic club and I'm very excited to get started working with an already established squad of great men."

Takapuna District Cricket Club chair Susie Martin said Cachopa's vast first-class playing and captaincy success, both in New Zealand and overseas, offers Takapuna a prime opportunity to have a local player

progress to the next stage in their career with the club.

"His experience and the strategic and technical skills he can share will be so beneficial for our players," said Martin.

Takapuna District Cricket Club Director of Cricket Amita Weerakoon said the club was excited to have Cachopa as their premier coach and plans to use his expertise to upskill parent coaches and student coaches through their coaching pathway programme.

"We are happy that we are creating the pathway and the opportunities for Cachopa to enhance his coaching skills to achieve his personal goal of coaching at first-class level in the future."

Cachopa announced his retirement from Auckland and provincial cricket at the end of the 2019/20 season, leaving the game on a high after leading the Aces to two finals and a memorable Ford Trophy one-day triumph.

This summer Cachopa also brought up 50

Aces appearances in both the Ford Trophy and Super Smash Twenty20 competitions.

Cachopa started as a wicketkeeper-batsman at Westlake Boys High School. He started his domestic career with the Wellington Firebirds, and also had a stint with Sussex in English County cricket.

He finished with 47 First-Class, 88 List-A and 102 T20 matches to his name since his domestic debut in 2011.

\$5000 granted for Christmas by the Lake

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has granted Seven Events \$5000 towards its Christmas by the Lake Event this year, not \$15,000 (the amount applied for) as stated in the 29 May Rangitoto Observer.

Backlog of Buyers

It seems there is a large backlog of property buyers in the market (after six weeks of relative inaction) and a shortage of supply, as property market and mortgage activity is very high. Banks have been busy helping to restructure loans and now they are flat out with mortgage applications, especially from first-home buyers looking to take advantage of the new low rates at 2.69%.

While it may be short-lived, it has certainly seen prices hold up in most places and it does show the huge pent-up demand from so many first-home buyers, people returning from overseas and some investors.

Our worry is that as unemployment numbers grow and wage subsidies are removed, the supply of property from forced sellers may increase and demand may tail off with concerns about job certainty. Hence the likelihood of a delayed property-market impact that we have talked about in the past, as seen post the 1987 and 2008 recessions.

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