

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 34 – July 10, 2020

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Winter warmer: children give to needy... p3

Dumped rocks still at beach... p5

School holiday fun: Curling and lolly hunt... p8

Theatre calls in police over missing 50k

The Shoreside Theatre company has cancelled its annual Agatha Christie show and its landmark Shakespeare in the Park production is also under threat after its bank accounts were "cleaned out".

Shoreside President Catherine Boniface has sought urgent financial support from the

community to remain afloat.

Police are investigating after \$50,000 of company funds, which included a combination of government grants, sponsorships and community support, went missing from its bank accounts.

"It has been really unfortunate to discover

missing funds during lockdown," Boniface said.

Boniface, who laid a complaint with police over the money's disappearance, fears for future theatre productions.

To page 2

Happiness is... a Takapuna try against Shore



Celebrations... as Moses Leo scores for Takapuna in its 24-11 away win over arch-rivals North Shore last Saturday. Full story page 18. Photo Keeley Watson.

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I Love Takapuna

From page 1

Theatre seeks help after funds go missing

She said the funds went missing over a period of time.

The company recently cancelled its Agatha Christie show, which was to run through July and August.

However, an initial appeal for public help has been well supported, with a target of \$5000 to pay operating costs for the next few weeks already met through donations.

As one of the North Shore's largest theatre companies, Shoreside Theatre's shows have drawn crowds for decades.

Shoreside has its annual meeting next week, when it will elect a new eight-member committee.

As its accounts remain in disarray, it will rely on more community donations, Boniface said.

One of the theatre's biggest working expenses is the rental of two storage units used to store sets, props and costumes. Other costs include marketing and lighting for performances.

Boniface is worried that the theatre might not be able to recover, and Shoreside members are upset about the loss of funds.

But Boniface hopes the initial surge of community financial support will continue so the Shakespeare show can take place early next year.

Shoreside will also apply for additional government funding.

"I hope this won't be the end of Shoreside. This is an opportunity to press the reset button, rebuild and improve our financial processes," she said.

The committee is putting together a financial statement to file to the New Zealand Charities Commission.

Shoreside Theatre has been operating for 40 years, originally as the Milford House Little Theatre.

It is the resident company at the PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna, though the two organisations are run separately.

2 The Strand: empty for 850 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 850 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.



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Hauraki kids help needy rug up for winter



Winter warmers... Hauraki Primary pupils (from left) Mila Barber (9), Eva Barber (6) and Maddy McLiver (9) with donations for Give a Kid a Blanket

Hauraki Primary School has donated a bundle of blankets to the Give a Kid a Blanket charity to help keep families warm this winter.

Hauraki resident Colleen Simpson has worked as a volunteer with the Give a Kid a Blanket charity since 2015, collecting and encouraging the donation of blankets, beanies and jackets for families struggling in winter.

"It's a fantastic charity because the need is so great," said Simpson. "Every night I go to

sleep in my nice warm bed but there are kids out there who sleep in the cold and don't get a good night's rest," she said.

Simpson said she is applying for funding grants to increase the charity's output.

Give a Kid a Blanket was founded in 2015 by artists Bernie Harfleet and Donna Sarten who read of a coroner's report about a little girl who passed away from cold and damp housing conditions. They felt they needed to find a way

to immediately improve the conditions for families during winter.

They have since collected growing donations of blankets and duvets, which they have delivered to public health nurses and other social services.

"Covid-19 has shown that anyone's quality of life could change at any moment and so it's important to give support, and accept it as well," said Harfleet.

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Shining a light on Milford

A shot of a new beach-side sculpture has won a Best of Milford photography competition.

Taken by Dave Clough, it shows the 2.5m tall sculpture *Beacon*, which was installed by Auckland Council in Milford Reserve just before Covid-19 lockdown, and has recently been illuminated in the evenings.

The Milford Residents Association, which ran the competition, wants to invite the artist, Lang Ea, to an informal opening and social event in spring, given an official opening could not be held earlier. This would give the public an opportunity to celebrate what it said was a welcome addition to the waterfront.

Beacon – inspired by New Zealand’s suffrage movement – is lit from dusk until 10pm, lending a violet glow to its stainless-steel curves.

The cost is met from the council’s existing park lighting budget. “At a time when all of our budgets are being reviewed, it’s awesome to see our public art being given extended viewing hours without incurring incremental cost,” said councillor Alf Filipaina, who chairs the parks, arts, community and events committee.

Clough won two tickets to the upcoming PumpHouse Variety Show.

All lit up... Dave Clough's winning photograph of the sculpture Beacon, installed at Milford Reserve just before the Covid-19 lockdown

Milford residents' group keeps focus on local issues

Emergency Auckland Council cutbacks have seen many projects deferred, but Milford locals are continuing to keep the pressure on over issues affecting the area, especially water quality on beaches and the Wairau Estuary.

At the Milford Residents Association annual meeting last week, re-elected co-chairs Norma Bott and Debbie Dunsford said a positive spin-off of lockdown had been public appreciation of the area’s appeal.

“We’re sure most residents appreciated Milford’s inherent advantages – the Hauraki Gulf on our doorstep, the beach, lake and reserves, our gardens no matter how tiny, two supermarkets to lessen the queues,” they said.

Lockdown also brought increased engagement with the group online, with a Milford Locals page set up last year picking up more members.

The Rangitoto Observer also received a shoutout for bringing local issues into focus.

Dunsford said: “We’ve got a lot of things happening around the area.”

She pointed to the North Shore Birdsong Project as an example of a community-driven collaborative effort to control predators and weeds from Hauraki to Sunnynook.

The work on water quality of the Milford WEEPS group formed last year was also hailed.

Progress on gaining funds for the Milford Wairau Estuary boardwalk project was likely to be more of a medium-term project, given the current economic situation, the meeting of around 20 people was told. A trust might need to be formed to help realise the design work that had already been done.

Among those attending the annual meeting was Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson, who came in for a quizzing over the last-minute halt to stormwater upgrades at Kitchener and Milford Rds. Jackson explained that the work had not come from a targeted water rate, as some thought, so was subject to the council’s budget freeze. Despite the project appearing shovel-ready, the final contract had not been signed, so it could not proceed.

Money for the project was from the Healthy Waters general fund, rather than targeted towards water-quality issues. If it were classified otherwise, the priority might be seen in a different light. “When it floods it is also a pollution hazard,” Jackson noted.

The works are being pushed for early reactivation by local politicians, budgets permitting.

Other concerns raised were about the narrowing of Omana Rd road lanes by the Milford shopping centre during apartment development on site. Jackson said she was “gobsmacked” and

Bott said: “It’s an accident waiting to happen.” The narrowing was a response to an earlier council plan to close the road to south-west flowing traffic for two years. The association pointed out this overlooked the passage of the Auckland Transport’s 82 route bus, forcing a rethink, but one that makes for a tight fit for traffic.

Toilet-block refurb suggested

Deferred plans for a ‘Rolls-Royce’ restroom at the Milford Reserve should be abandoned altogether in favour of improving the old toilet block, a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member told a public meeting.

“Do we really need to spend \$1.2 million to knock down what we’ve got? Why don’t we go back to the idea of a refurb?” Ruth Jackson asked the Milford Residents’ Association annual meeting.

Auckland Council presented a sizeable “beach-themed” design with a series of peaked roofs recalling old-style bathing sheds to the local board last year. It included separate male and female toilets and showers. Jackson told the meeting Covid-19 budget cuts meant the demolition and rebuild had now been deferred.

A local woman at the meeting said what was really needed was simply somewhere to wash your feet and have a shower.

Jackson suggested that scrapping the fancy new design in favour of improving the old block might have the spin-off of leaving enough money to do a two-for-one upgrade at Gould Reserve, on Takapuna Beach. The Takapuna toilet block was also being eyed for an extensive makeover.

Pollution skimmer sought

A pollution-skimming device is on a wish-list for Wairau Estuary.

Environmental lobby group Milford WEEPS hopes to secure funding for a machine that would suck water in and retain plastic and other debris to prevent run-off to the beach.

Speaking for WEEPS at the Milford Residents’ Association annual meeting, Guy Armstrong said discussions with Rotary about assisting were under way. A quiz night

to raise funds might be held at the Cruising Club as well.

Raising further community awareness of the group’s work to improve water quality flowing to the beach might be done with a pre-election event beside the estuary, he said.

The idea was to invite candidates running to be the North Shore member of Parliament. “You can tell the politicians how important water quality is to you.”

Dumped rocks still on Milford Beach

Auckland Council has extended the deadline for the removal of rocks dumped illegally on Milford Beach by two weeks.

The original order was for the sizeable boulders to be shifted by today (10 July). The new deadline is 24 July.

The council's manager regulatory compliance, Steve Pearce, said this week that the revision of the abatement notices issued last month came after the council received legal correspondence. After taking advice from its own legal team it had decided to make minor changes to the notices.

"These reissued notices require submission of a methodology by 10 July and removal of the material by 24 July," he said.

Since the rocks were dumped early last month, the Rangitoto Observer has noticed that they have become deeply embedded in the sand, due to tidal shifts. This will likely make their removal trickier and costlier than if they had been uplifted earlier.

The Observer has spoken to the contractor who transported the excavated rocks down Milford Rd to the beach from the development site at Milford Centre on the weekend of 6-7 June. He blamed local "sticky beaks" for stopping residents using the rocks to reinforce their sea walls.

The dumping prompted a community outcry and still impedes beach walking at high tide. On 17 June, the council issued a total of 22 abatement notices to the contractor and the four property owners concerned whose beachfront homes are accessed from Holiday Rd.

The property owners have declined to speak to the news media, but Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Ruth Jackson says one told her they did not realise a council consent was needed to fix their walls.

They also indicated that the intention was to move the rocks back from where they were left, she said. Jackson was told they hoped to do this by last week.

The contractor, Kevin Brashier, of KBL Earth Movers, said: "They would have been moved the next day if the nosy parkers



Overstayers... rocks on the beach for a little while longer

hadn't put their beaks in." Asked how he came to be transporting the rocks, Brashier said they were "donated by Omana building site to the people, free of charge, for erosion control".

When Brashier was asked if he or someone else had been engaged to move the rocks that next day, he said he hadn't got to that discussion with the property owners.

Campbell Barbour, general manager of New Zealand Retail Property Group (NZRPG), which is developing the Omana North apartments on its mall site, confirmed the rocks were from there, but said that the company was not involved in the matter in any other way. "There was no donation of the rocks."

Moving material off-site was a matter for contractors, he said. Excavations on the site were now finished, so "there are no more rocks".

While NZRPG had on a previous occasion provided rocks to the council which were taken to Barrys Pt Rd, it had nothing to do with the beach case, he said. "We are as in-

vested in Milford as anybody – we are part of the new Milford community."

Locals want the rocks moved, either off the beach altogether or at least back into the existing rock walls. Some fear as the matter drags on the council may end up footing the bill.

Those served notices were told to stop bringing rocks to the site and to remove rocks already there in a way approved by council staff.

One member of the public said the property owners had acted in an "entitled" manner; another suggested they had proceeded independently because dealing with the council was trying.

Milford Residents Association co-chair Norma Bott had some sympathy with owners wanting walls to protect their lawns from tumbling down onto the beach, but said: "We were just concerned that the rocks were dropped on the beach without any concerns for public safety."

Beach users needed a clear path.

The head of the Milford Business Association, Murray Hill, who has previously advocated the use of rocks from the mall site on other local projects, including along the Wairau Estuary's mud banks, reckons common sense should have prevailed.

"The people on the beachfront are handicapped by council and here's the solution, using rocks from the area to prop the banks up. The old Kiwi spirit of fixing it yourself has to still be allowed to live."

The rocks should have been moved back into the walls, but, he said: "It won't happen now because everyone is making such a song and dance about something that should have been fixed anyway."

"I suppose there's wrong on both sides, but it just gets dramatised," he said.



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Harvesting your own water made easy in Auckland's 50-year drought

Auckland's once-in-50-years drought has inspired builder James Rimmer, who grew up on the Devonport peninsula and attended Rosmini College, to start a rainwater capture business for Auckland homes.

The idea to create a rainwater harvesting system which is simply called what it does – "Catch Your Water" – came about when Rimmer, whose father Bill ran the local fruit shop in Belmont for 25 years, was desperately trying to figure out an alternative to using council water to top up his pool and water his garden.

After completing the renovation of his own home late last year, which included a heated in-ground pool, immaculately landscaped garden, and the extensive laying of around 100m² of new turf, Rimmer was suddenly faced with water restrictions imposed by Auckland Council due to dam levels falling to 50-year lows.

"The hotter and dryer-than-usual weather this year meant that the pool was evaporating fast and the garden needed extensive watering," said Rimmer, who through his construction business has over 20 years' experience in roofing and drainage.

"We also had road works outside our house, so our footpath was in need of a good water blast as well," he said.

"No one wants to be that neighbour who is selfishly irrigating his garden, water blasting his driveway or washing his car while everyone else is being mindful of their water usage, so I came up with the tank idea – initially only for our house," Rimmer said.

"Whereas a four-hour downpour of rain won't even fill Auckland's dams by one percentage point, the runoff water from a roof with the same downpour can fill a 1000-litre tank, which was more than enough to do the job I needed doing," Rimmer said.

After showing neighbours and friends the success of the tank's ability to easily catch and store water and produce good water pressure, Rimmer was asked to duplicate the rainwater harvesting system at other homes. He realised there was good demand for an effective system that overcomes



water restrictions and reduces water bills.

The most popular system installed by Rimmer has a 1000-litre storage capacity.

"Customers like the appearance of our tall, slim tanks. The tanks have a minimal footprint and the taller the tank the better the pressure is, but because I have a skilled team working for my building company, I can also custom build anything," Rimmer said.

"Most of the work is done off-site so installation time on site is minimal – approximately two hours to complete," Rimmer said.

The tank catches water from the roof, sends it down a standard drainpipe that has a filter to remove leaves and other unwanted material, and also an overflow system that

directs water back into the stormwater pipes when the tank is full.

The tank is securely fixed to a plinth, built from a wooden frame and concrete. The garden hose or irrigation pipes then attach to a tap at the bottom of the tank.

With the council relaxing consent requirements for water tanks last month, Auckland's 50-year-drought, rates going up, and wastewater comprising 78.5 per cent of our water bills, catching the water from your roof makes good economic as well as environmental sense.

"You should never pay to water your own garden – especially since that water never finds its way into the wastewater system, which is why you pay a premium to the council for wastewater," Rimmer said.



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Birdsong project seeks volunteers

The North Shore Birdsong Project aims to spread its reach with the help of more volunteers to trap pests.

Reserves around Forrest Hill and Sunnynook need volunteers to set up and monitor trap lines for pests.

Takapuna North Community Trust environmental coordinator Fiona Martin said, "We are looking for predator-free street champions to reach more neighbourhoods and suburbs on the North Shore."

Stoats and possums are still active around household and reserve areas and are a threat to birds, lizards and insects.

After the Covid-19 lockdown there was also a lot of weeding work needing to be done around Killarney Reserve, Martin said.

Bryan Byrnes Reserve in Milford has been the centre of activity for the Birdsong Project after they identified restoration opportunities for the stream in the reserve, by extending the riparian strip, native habitat, and fruiting native trees for the birds.

"Not many people seem to be aware of this reserve," said Martin. However, one of their volunteers, Bruce Ward, has been operating a bait line there for several years now and he often tests the water quality in the stream.

The project relies on volunteers for its many restoration projects, and recently Countdown in Milford has tentatively offered eight staff members once a month to assist with weeding around last year's plantings.

Westlake Girls High School students have

Hunt has sweet reward

An Easter Egg hunt for younger children has pivoted into a school-holiday activity, but still with a sweet incentive.

The Holiday Hunt is on now, after Covid-19 forced the Takapuna Business Association to delay its planned event scheduled for April. The hunt is suitable for toddlers or primary-school children who must be registered by an adult at the library.

They are given a map to follow to five business locations where they complete an activity and receive a stamp before returning to the library for a reward.

This comes in the form of donated sweet treats from local businesses The House of Chocolate and The Old Lolly Shop. Library staff are helping with the promotion to draw more people to the facility.

The association has several other promotions running to encourage shoppers, requiring purchases to participate.

The most novel is a chance to try the traditional Scottish sport of curling. A rink, set up without ice but with a slippery surface, is being installed at 10 Northercroft St, in what was the Department Store, for curling from Friday, 10 July to Sunday, 12 July. To give it a go you must show a receipt for \$20 or more spent within the previous 48 hours at a local shop or eatery.

also expressed interest in helping out after school, said Martin.

The long-term project will need more volunteers over time.

Auckland Council Park Ranger Dan Marrow is happy to assist volunteers with planting when a site is ready.

Illegal mangrove cutting and dumping of green waste have been problems at Byrnes Reserve.

Composting piles of green waste leaches into the stream and provides shelter for pests, especially rats, said Martin.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board recently granted the Bryan Byrnes Reserve riparian planting project \$2627.50. Another \$380 was gifted by Bunnings in Wairau for tools and plants.

Pest traps for use around homes can be booked on the Takapuna North Community Trust website. The North Shore Birdsong Project can be contacted on its Facebook page.

Local ASB hours retained

The Milford and Devonport branches of the ASB – both slow to reopen after Covid-19 lockdowns – will not be changing their hours, the bank says.

ASB announced last week that it was closing nine branches – two in Auckland – and reducing hours at 25 other branches around the country.

In response to Rangitoto Observer questions, a bank spokesperson said hours at Milford would remain Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4.30pm and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. The Devonport branch is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4.30pm.

The bank attributed staggered reopening across its branches to the pressures of dealing with Covid-19-related business matters.



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Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Milford town centre parking examined

Parking at Milford Town Centre will be surveyed by Auckland Transport (AT) to better manage spaces and restrictions.

AT will collect data on current parking usage and the number of parks available.

Businesses, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Milford Business Association will be asked for feedback on any problems, pinch-points and improvements which can be made.

Any other proposed transport improvements to the centre, such as bus lanes, park-and-rides and cycle lanes will also be fed into the survey, as will demographics and residents' travel choices.

Changes to existing parking restrictions, paid parking, improved signage, or more cycle parking are all possibilities, depending on the survey's outcome.

The findings will be put to the business association and local board later this year.

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Money sought for Friday events

Al Fresco Fridays in Takapuna, Milford and Devonport have been supported by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for submission to the government's Innovating Streets for People fund.

Projects are being evaluated by Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT), before the best are sent to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for consideration early this month.

Architect Ken Davis's 'Devonport Safer Streets Initiative' plan for Clarence St was put forward by North Shore councillor Chris Darby and has been given a "high" ranking among the 47 projects under consideration by the council.

And last week, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board agreed to put \$30,000 behind a bid to secure \$300,000 from the Innovating Streets fund for Al Fresco Fridays in Devonport, Takapuna and Milford.

Pop-up outdoor dining and entertainment would be part of the Al Fresco Fridays.

However, the Al Fresco idea was given only a "medium" ranking by council town planners.

The local board has agreed to member Toni van Tonder's suggestion that if the Al Fresco idea fails to make the cut but Davis's is approved, the \$30,000 board seed funding will go towards his project.

Final funding decisions by NZTA are likely by the end of this month.

Al Fresco Fridays had backing from the Devonport, Milford and Takapuna

Making the most of the weather



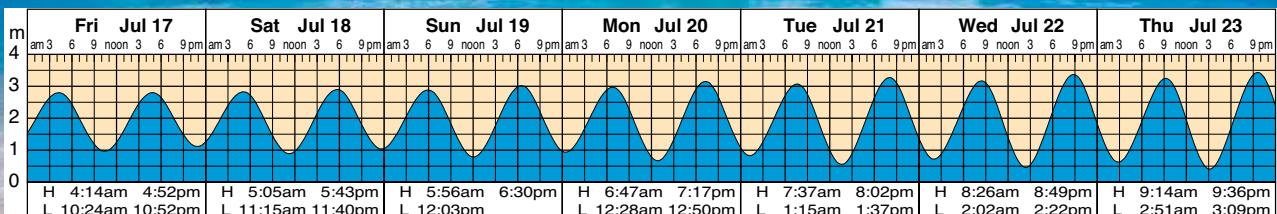
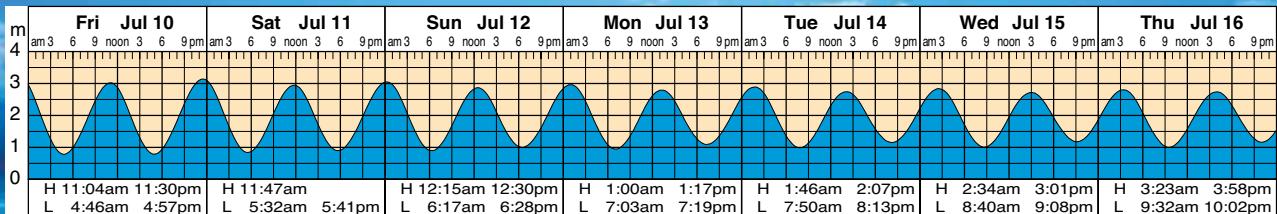
Flying high... windsurfers and kitesurfers were out in force at Takapuna Beach last Sunday as a north-easterly swept through.

Picture: Richard Goodenough

Business Improvement Districts, but half the local board was less than enthusiastic. Members Ruth Jackson, Trish Deans and Jan O'Connor voted against the board seed money going to the project.

O'Connor said it was inappropriate to be advocating Al Fresco Fridays "eating and drinking" on the streets, when residents of South Auckland hit by Covid-19 job losses were lining up for food parcels.

Milford / Takapuna Tides



Local intermediate schools go head to head



Takapuna Normal and Belmont intermediate schools have battled it out for sports supremacy, in the first of what they hope will become an annual event.

Competition was keen and close, said Belmont Intermediate School (BIS) sports manager Alice Browning. "The schools are of a similar size, it was a fun and friendly competition, and it was great to see that neither school dominated overall," she said. Each school shone in different sports.

In the end, Belmont, which hosted the inaugural event at the end of June, pipped Takapuna Normal (TNIS) 12-10.

Eight sports were played, some in single-sex teams and others mixed. Takapuna was strong in netball, tag and sevens rugby. Belmont dominated in girls' football and mixed volleyball. Many results were close, with boys' basketball and football both drawn.

Browning said the aim of the day was to let students play a variety of sports. It helped fill a competitive gap left by the cancellation, due to Covid-19, of North Harbour intermediate school sports zone days in Term 2.

Results: Hockey (mixed) BIS, 3-1. Football (boys) 1-1 draw. Football (girls) BIS, 10-0. Basketball (boys) 27-27 draw. Basketball (girls) TNIS, 42-10. Rugby 7s, TNIS, 7-5. Netball TNIS, 28-7. Tag rugby (mixed) TNIS, 10-4. Volleyball (mixed) BIS, 111-62. Table tennis (boys) BIS, 3-0. Table tennis (girls), BIS, 2-1.





Hard-fought... scenes from the match-ups between Takapuna Normal and Belmont Intermediate schools last week. The TNIS students on this page are (clockwise from top left) Ava Lyness, Ella Tangitau, Jayani Nayyar and Georgia Lightfoot. Opposite: Table-tennis players Yuwa Kondo (left) and Conrad Hidayat-Packer and volleyballer Matthew Moors.

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Auckland Transport projects on hold

Most work scheduled by Auckland Transport (AT) in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area is unlikely to happen soon.

While the \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade (put on hold for at least a year) is the largest casualty of Auckland Council's Covid-19 funding crisis, smaller works like pedestrian

crossings, road resealings and footpaths are going on the back-burner as well.

While council's Emergency Budget has yet to be finalised, all AT non-contracted work was currently on hold, AT relationship manager Marilyn Nicholls told the local board last week.

Council 'optimisation' option included

A controversial provision giving council development arm Panuku the power to identify park and public land in Devonport and Takapuna for "optimisation" has been left in the area's open-space network plan – but not without a fight.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members Jan O'Connor, Trish Deans and Ruth Jackson voted against accepting the network plan, primarily due to the inclusion of a "Service Property Optimisation" section, which allowed for the "redevelopment of underperforming council property assets".

Panuku "is tasked with identifying opportunities for optimisation in collaboration with the council and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board".

Auckland Council staff told the board this was a standard provision in all network plans across the city.

However, this failed to placate board member O'Connor, who did not want the word "optimisation" or terms like "releasing the underlying value from land to ensure optimal use" associated with parks.

Sales might not be planned now, but the future was unknown and she wanted the "optimisation" section removed.

Toni van Tonder praised the network plan as a "high-level document" providing an excellent strategic framework.

Jackson felt the plan was not "aspirational enough".

Even though Auckland Council did not have money at the moment to buy extra park and reserve space in the city, "it should aspire to," Jackson said.

Board members George Wood, Aidan Bennett and Toni van Tonder voted for the plan to be adopted, with Bennett also using his casting vote in favour.

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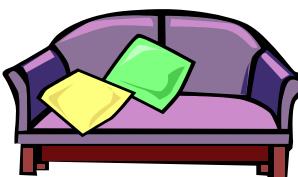
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The Rangitoto
Observer

Takapuna signals it's a championship contender

Centre Moses Leo scored two tries in Takapuna's 24-11 win over North Shore at Vauxhall Rd last Saturday.

The win illustrated the closeness of the competition once again, with any of the top five sides in the running to take out the truncated championship.

Takapuna coach Aaron Katipa said with the condensed season the side was still trialling four or five players in a young side which had an average age of 21.

But it still has a bit of experience on hand – with veteran 1st-five Jon Elrick coming off the bench with 15 minutes to go and kicking a sideline conversion.

"Jon will be coming off the bench late in the game for us this year... who else would you want to come in late in the game when things get tight?" Katipa said.

Takapuna has a bye again this weekend and then plays Marist.



Standing room only at last Saturday's match



Match-winner... Moses Leo is congratulated by his teammates



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For more information, a copy of the draft Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan 2020 and to provide your feedback go to akhaveyoursay.co.nz/lovelocal

Together we can love local.

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Local Board**
Auckland Council

Westlake flying high – but close call with Rosmini

Westlake Boys' High School First XV clinched a hard fought 24-19 win against traditional rivals Rosmini last weekend.

WBHS First XV captain Brook Robson, said "It one of our hardest games we have played for a really long time. It was tough.

"We didn't execute our plays as well as we could have but I was really confident in my team and always believed we had a good chance of winning."

"Our goal is to win every game possible so we can make it to the Harbour finals and go as far as we can," said Robson.

Westlake went into the game on a high after winning its previous game against Whangarei Boys' First XV team 38-8.

Tensions were high as the teams replayed last year's final.

Caleb Tangitau, in his third season in 1st XV, but who spent most of last season

injured, scored the first try for Westlake during the Whangarei match.

Vice-captain Chace Keremeti-Harris, Westlake's most experienced player with 35 games, also scored.

One Westlake touchdown was judged try of the week by the All Blacks website.

Westlake is now the leading team in the Fuji Xerox 1st XV competition followed by Massey High School.



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Board members at odds over wording

Old wounds were reopened from last year's local body election campaign as Heart of the Shore team members attempted to stall the ratification of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board 2020-21 plan over several words in the document.

Heart of the Shore members Ruth Jackson, Trish Deans and Jan O'Connor were passionate opponents of Panuku's Takapuna square proposals, and its wider Unlock Takapuna programme which saw the decision to develop the 40 Anzac St car park site and a number of other nearby properties.

Last week they said they could not vote on the adoption of the board plan to go out to public consultation due to its wording, specifically as related to Unlock Takapuna.

Deans said the Unlock Takapuna umbrella

was too vague: all that had been agreed was Panuku would provide a "concrete pad" for the town square. The heights of surrounding buildings and nearby designs were a long way from being finalised. "I cannot support Unlock Takapuna in this very important document."

Jackson questioned if Unlock Takapuna was the best for "the community now and in the future".

She did not want to be part of "cheerleading" for it.

Member George Wood said the Anzac St car park and Unlock Takapuna were contentious issues, but the wording "was part of the DNA of this board".

He said it was vital the board supported Panuku's work in Takapuna, otherwise "we will see the demise" of its shops and businesses, which were struggling with road works and a Covid-19 slowdown.

Member Toni van Tonder was "disappointed again" that some members of the board could not move forward and endorse "a great plan" which encompassed all the board goals such as improving public transport and invigorating town centres.

Takapuna square was "phenomenal" urban design, she said.

The Rangitoto
Observer

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Moana (PG) (2016)	113min	9 JUL
Star Wars: The Force Awakens (M) (2015)	136min	9 JUL
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (M)		24 JUL

CONTINUING

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The High Note (M)	114 min
Trolls World Tour (G)	94 min
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The King of Staten Island (R16) 137 min

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Pump it up:

A fun night is coming up at the PumpHouse Theatre, showcasing local talent and fundraising to help keep the Takapuna arts venue afloat.

One Night at the PumpHouse is a variety show being staged on Sunday 19 July by the community trust that runs the historic theatre, providing a home to a host of local arts groups and a characterful venue for touring shows.

It is a mix of entertainment audiences could have seen before Covid-19 disrupted bookings, and also a taste of shows to come. "Things are starting to pick up for later in the year," said theatre manager James Bell.

The venue last year drew more than 30,000 people to its shows but was hit by Covid-19 cancellations. Some of its client companies, including Tim Bray Productions, which is back running children's school holiday shows, are also appealing for support in difficult times.

The PumpHouse team says it is hoping for a good turnout for the variety night, to help bridge the budget deficit of recent months.

**Translatable humour...
Comedian Bohua Cui will
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Sun 26 July at 2.30pm

PROGRAMME

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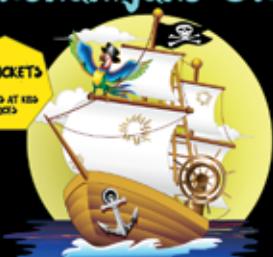
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Venue stages fundraiser

Bell said the PumpHouse had used wage subsidies to keep going, "but that doesn't pay the power bill, the cleaning, the maintenance".

Acts performing in the variety show range from musical theatre to belly dancers, improv comedians to actors and musicians. Actor Blair Strang will be the MC. "It's all people supporting the PumpHouse because we support them," said Bell.

Among the acts are a young Chinese comedian, Bohua Cui, who will perform her first set in English. The Takapuna resident has a drama background through i-Start Chinese Theatre Club, but recently branched into observational comedy, based on her "dull job" working in a restaurant.

Another talent is Janayah Wadsworth, a Year 11 student at Takapuna Grammar School with a powerful singing voice that landed her the role of Eponine in the school production of *Les Misérables* coming up next month. Tagged as "one to watch", she aims for a career as a recording artist. She has already been a solo vocalist at Christmas in the Park and was a finalist in the 2019 Stand Up Stand Out Secondary School competition. In 2018, she won the North Harbour Club's AIMES Junior Excellence Award for the Arts.

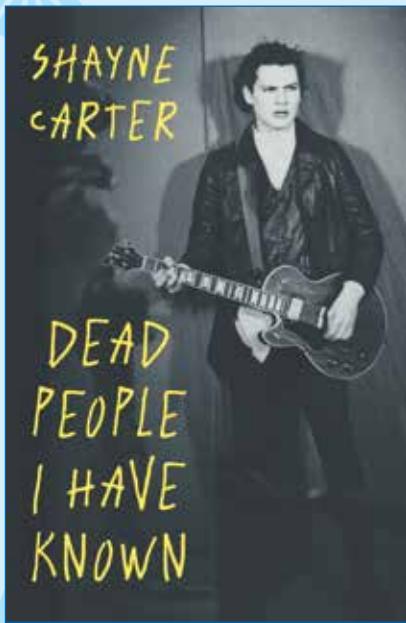
For those who can't make it along to the variety show, the PumpHouse is hoping supporters might consider a donation to its Boosted page. Giving even the cost of a flat white would all help, with the Arts Foundation matching donations up to \$1000. The show starts at 7pm. All proceeds go to the theatre. Tickets are \$25 and available at Pumphouse.co.nz

Vocal power... Takapuna Grammar student Janayah Wadsworth is also on the bill



Book Review

Musician's memoir fits the bill



Shayne Carter's memoir *Dead People I Have Known* has a bite and edge that mirror his best music in 1980s-90s band Straitjacket Fits.

The memoir, by one of New Zealand's leading musicians, won the general non-fiction section at the recent New Zealand Book Awards, surprising some – until you read the contents.

It's so much more than a diary of concert tours, band arguments and minor in-house tiffs with record companies. Indeed, Carter writes simply and elegantly on what it's like to grow

up in a typically dysfunctional working-class family in a bleak Dunedin suburb: a mixture of violence and cheap alcohol, along with whatever love and support his emotionally stunted parents could provide. He's particularly good on the lack of choices those growing up in a feckless environment actually have.

Disaffected, rebellious, Carter was drawn to punk music and got together with a few mates to form bands Bored Games and the Double Happys.

You need an ego to be a rock star and Carter doesn't shy away from that either, detailing some of his less magnanimous moments slagging off fellow musicians.

The memoir has tragedy – the deaths, of bandmate and friend Wayne Elsey on a train, and many others in his circle, are carefully and poignantly recounted; humour (one of the unusual things about being famous, according to Carter, is people stand and watch you buy toilet rolls in the supermarket); and a brutally honest self-analysis of life as a musician in the industry.

The freedom of expression and originality offered by music sits alongside his recollection of being 30, wondering what would happen next, with his looks no longer youthful, no new songs in the pipeline and the record label losing interest.

Disclosure: I am a Straitjacket Fits fan. I bought their first EP as a cassette and fell in love with *Dialling a Prayer*. I can remember playing it again and again while driving from Auckland to Wellington for my first 'big job' on *The Dominion*. I was at some of their most

memorable concerts, including opening for The Pogues at The Powerstation.

Carter captures the excitement of this musical connection; how a band on form can "blow away" an audience, and all the other bands on the bill, with sheer rock power.

How will Carter follow this work up? Like his solo musical career, which has had many twists and turns, it's likely to be something completely different, original and, without a doubt, interesting.
– Rob Drent

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