

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 36 – August 7, 2020 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE



✓ **Romy Udanga**
for North Shore



labour.org.nz/romyudanga
Authorised by Dianna Lacy,
160 Willis Street, Wellington.

Wairau Intermediate principal signing off... p3

Senior citizens say 'hands off our hall'... p5

Market wins reprieve in square build... p7

Beach reserve opened to bars for America's Cup

Bars will be set up on Takapuna Beach Reserve for a month next year as part of an America's Cup event promoted as family-friendly.

The "Waterbourne" event won approval from Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to

set up on public land, but not without extended debate on whether a liquor licence should apply throughout or just on four event days.

Waterbourne will run from 24 February to 24 March, with a portion of the reserve at the north end near the Takapuna Boating

Club fenced off to allow for liquor sales.

Activities, including paddle-boarding and jet-skiing, will be held on the water, and entertainment staged on a platform built on the reserve slope, where a big screen will

To page 2

Grand welcome for grandparents



Embracing family... Westlake Boys High School student Ryan Morell hosted his grandparents Annette and John Curtis at the school's Grandparents Day last week. More photos, page 4.

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From page 1

Bars hit the beach for America's Cup

also be set up for race viewing.

During event days on 5, 10, 13 and 19 March, a larger area of the reserve next to The Strand will be fenced off for hospitality and ticketed areas.

Representatives from Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (Ateed) told the board at its July meeting that the council-controlled organisation would foot around 25 per cent of the bill for the privately operated Waterbourne event, run by Squid Group Ltd.

"We have an intent to contract with them," relationship manager Michael Goudie said.

Ateed has a budget of \$795,000 to spend on "summer community activations" as part of the city's contribution to staging the Cup. Of this, \$620,000 is for four events in Takapuna and Devonport, with \$160,000 of that going towards Waterbourne.

Contracts for the other three events are in

negotiation, with details yet to be revealed.

Board members were presented a report about the Squid proposal for Waterbourne, then quizzed Ateed representatives on details.

"The site is a very significant site and comes with a lot of sensitivity," Goudie acknowledged. Board approval as landowner was needed before the operator could seek a resource consent to erect temporary structures and to apply for a liquor licence.

Ateed's contribution to Waterbourne would be mainly towards health and safety measures, fencing and entertainment, he said. A small number of car parks would be required by the operator, above its food and drink area, a two-storey structure, with serving areas downstairs and stairs to a viewing platform. Bar concessions would go to two bars across the road.

Concerns were voiced by board members about the hours proposed for selling drinks and the impact on other Takapuna hospitality businesses. Ruth Jackson, Trish Deans and Jan O'Connor wanted alcohol sales on the reserve restricted to just the four event days.

Ateed's event-activations lead, Brad Pivac, said this would render the event uneconomic for the operator. It still had to raise a lot of money to make the month profitable.

"This is the America's Cup, let's not forget," said board member Toni van Tonder,

in support of allowing drink sales on the reserve for the entire month.

"It's a once-in-a-generation event," said deputy chair George Wood.

An amendment to restrict sales to the four event days was lost, but all members wanted some adjustment to proposed daily hours running from noon until 9.45pm.

Reasons for this ranged from giving nearby residents a rest day or an early night, to encouraging those at the reserve to move on to Takapuna's established venues as their evenings progressed. A suggestion was made by van Tonder of a finish at 8pm earlier in the week, with later hours on Friday and Saturday.

The final motion to grant landowner approval for Squid to apply for a liquor licence was passed on the chairman's casting vote, with a request that the alcohol inspectorate set the hours at noon until 9pm each day, extending to 9.45pm on the four event days.

Members Jackson, Deans and O'Connor voted against.

A public alcohol ban currently applies in the area from 9pm to 7am. The board heard an additional temporary public ban may be requested from licensing authorities for 7am to 9pm to help manage the reserve area outside Waterbourne's designated drinking zone. This was a usual request for events, Ateed said.

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First impressions 'need to be better'

The entrance points for visitors attending America's Cup activities on the North Shore should be spruced up, reckon Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members.

Esmonde Rd was overdue for attention in any case, board deputy chair George Wood told the Rangitoto Observer.

Wood has been chasing up promised council improvements, including planting, to the main route from the motorway to the two suburbs.

Board member Toni van Tonder wanted to know what improvements were in the pipeline to make the Devonport ferry terminal a more inviting gateway for Cup visitors.

She raised the issue at the board's monthly meeting, where Auckland Transport (AT) elected-member relationship manager Marilyn Nicholls said she wasn't sure what was planned.

Nicholls said she would get an update for the next board meeting, adding: "Any updates have to be contractually committed."

Member Trish Deans wondered what impact a decision by AT to stop funding

for special transport up and down Lake Rd would have on easing congestion and encouraging visitors to use buses. Officials will report back on this as well.

Wood said outside the meeting that he had been approached by the Takapuna Beach Business Association about the state of Esmonde Rd, which he had already been chasing up with Auckland Council's community facilities team.

The board had earlier set the road as a priority for a spruce-up. "It looked in a poor state when I was down there recently," he said. "With America's Cup coming up in early 2021, it would be great to get some progress with upgrading the appearance of this entrance to Takapuna."

Wood was told some weeding and spraying had been done, but gardening had not.

Council's head of operations for community facilities, Julie Pickering, told the Observer, "We are currently exploring sustainable planting options for the Esmonde Road entranceway and will continue updating the local board on our progress."

2 The Strand: empty for 878 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 878 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.

Departing principal proud of help given to ‘difficult’ few

After 38 years at Wairau Intermediate, Grant Murray is stepping down as principal, but he’s not ready to embrace the word retirement. “I’d like to finish my time in teaching back in the classroom,” he says, adding that his plans to do part-time relief work next year would be at another school.

“I wouldn’t come back here, I don’t think that would be very fair.” But he will be on hand to help a new principal settle in, with his tenure officially ending in late January.

Murray’s time at Wairau goes back to the intermediate’s opening in 1980. He rose through the teaching ranks, becoming principal 20 years ago. He first arrived to a non-permanent post in his second year of teaching. After a few years elsewhere, he jumped at the chance to return.

The place is special, he says, being what the board of trustees refers to as a “boutique intermediate”. With 300 students from 26 nationalities, the school aims for a family atmosphere where everyone knows each other and is encouraged to do their individual best.

Murray is proud Wairau has a reputation for dealing with difficult children, even if it means having them take time out to settle in his office. “If you bite back at them, you’re not getting at the reasons they’re like that.”

Under Murray’s leadership, the school has drawn out-of-area pupils, including foreign students who help with revenue, allowing the employment of extra teacher-aide support and a counsellor. Class sizes are kept smaller than standard, and the lower roll makes it easier to join sports teams and cultural groups. “If you want to get in the choir and you can hold a tune in a bucket you don’t get told there were 200 applicants and you missed out.”

Murray has mixed feelings about national achievement standards, saying they are useful for benchmarking performance, but do not fairly reflect individual effort or factor in where students are when they arrive. Seeing how students progressed, often over years, confirmed this, he says. An example was a boy who had suffered a childhood brain injury in a crash and been told he would not be able to gain a licence or manage detailed work with his compromised motor skills. Years later he drove up and talked proudly about his cabinetmaking apprenticeship.



Moving on... Grant Murray has been Wairau Intermediate principal for 20 years and a teacher there for almost as long again.

Murray reckons 99 per cent of kids are wonderful. He doesn’t like to give up on the others, and says in all his years teaching there was only one child he pegged as heading to jail. Sure enough, he wound up there.

Over the decades societal pressures and issues at home for children have definitely stepped up, Murray says. Social media is a minefield. He says parents should monitor its use, having passwords for their children’s accounts, keeping devices in the lounge and turning off the internet at night. “For all the fact that the kids are 12 and think they’re going on 21, they’re still kids.”

Murray is a huge advocate of “middle schooling”. Intermediates are no longer being built, but schools catering for Year 7 to 10 students are. He says these are best when organised as student-orientated rather than subject-orientated, as at a secondary school.

Over the years he has noted a national decline in mathematics performance, due, he says, to both weaker teacher skills in the subject and what he believed was a flawed primary curriculum approach from the 2000s.

Murray’s own early specialities were in maths and physical education.

At 66, he is Takapuna Rugby Club captain and still coaches. He lives in Milford with long-time partner Pam Penberthy, a former school dental nurse he met when she was on the board of trustees. Between them they have six children and 13 grandchildren. So, when he does retire, caring for kids will still be part of his days.

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Takapuna

Grandparents enjoy a Westlake Boys welcome



Proud as punch... Kianni Hooker with his grandparents Dave and Anne Hooker (left) and Luke Wereta and grandmother Caryll Wereta (above) during the Westlake Boys Grandparents Day last week



Dante Ellis with grandparents Beth and Brian Ellis (left) and Eugene Paul with grandparents Mason and June Paul (above)



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Caleb and Ashton Falloon (with cast) and their grandparents Sandra and Allen Lawrence (above).

Rocky road to boulder removal

Relocation of rocks impeding walkers on Milford Beach at high tide finally began last week, six weeks after they were dropped there without permits.

The rocks had not been removed from the beach as Auckland Council initially ordered, but some were being shifted back to reinforce the existing rock seawalls of four Holiday Rd homes that front the beach.

This was in line with a revised plan agreed between the residents and the council. It came after the expiry of a previous deadline for removal by 10 July and an exchange of lawyers' letters. The revised plan's deadline of 24 July was not met, but rock relocation began last Thursday, 30 July.

The council's manager of regulatory compliance, Steve Pearce, told the Observer last Friday: "There has been some progress with moving the rocks. We are still working with the owners and contractors, to ensure the rest of the work is carried out, and suitable ways to do this. While there have been delays, we are optimistic that the rocks will be moved in the

near future."

If the matter drags on, enforcement action is on the cards.

The issue is complicated because the legal boundaries of the erosion-prone properties stretch beyond their existing sea walls. What is not in dispute is that the rocks were dumped onto the beach over a weekend in early June, without permission for trucks that transported them to be on the beach.

The residents' original contractor left them scattered across the sand, prompting outrage from locals. The council stepped in, issuing abatement notices citing the lack of permits, but since then matters – like the rocks – have become bogged down.

Pearce said the council preferred to work constructively with parties over permit issues. "Enforcement action is not something we take lightly, or resort to without working constructively with the parties involved. However, given this has dragged on, we are considering what enforcement action might be appropriate, especially if there are further delays."



Dig this... A contractor moving rocks at Milford Beach last week

Seniors say council must honour 'social contract' over property

Senior citizens say fundraising their predecessors did for a hall in Takapuna means any decisions on its future need to consider their financial interest in the building.

The point was made to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at the same meeting the board received a report prepared for Auckland Council about "optimising" its neighbourhood community facilities.

Among these assets is the Senior Citizens Hall inside the Community Services Building next to Takapuna Library on The Strand.

The services building (which also takes in the Takapuna War Memorial Hall) and the Mary Thomas Centre around the corner on Gibbons Rd, are home to a plethora of community groups.

Along with the library, the use of the build-

ings and their suitability for the services they house are the subject of report that will form a framework for future decision-making. Public workshops on it were held this week.

Options range from the status quo to consolidation or upgrades of facilities through to the possible sale of some of them.

Takapuna Senior Citizens Association president Bill Rayner told the board any redevelopments needed to ensure the contributions made 60 years ago by past members of the association did not disappear into a black hole. "We want this recognised in the discussions. It's not just a council lease to be put aside."

There was a social contract involved.

He feared the association's stake in the hall might get subsumed, as he said had happened with other community-supported, but coun-

cil-operated buildings. Rayner, who is also president of Grey Power North Shore, pointed to the old RSA in Shea Tce as an example. This is being redeveloped into the Shore Junction youth facility. "They [the RSA] must have had equity in the building, hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it didn't come back," he said.

Three other senior citizens halls on the Shore were in a similar position of being under-utilised or outdated, but his past calls for the council to look into this had "got lost", he said.

Rayner suggested a drop-in type centre might be a good future option for seniors in Takapuna, with a cafe and toilets, instead of the existing hall. "We want to make the very clear point we are not opposed to change, but that senior citizens need a facility."

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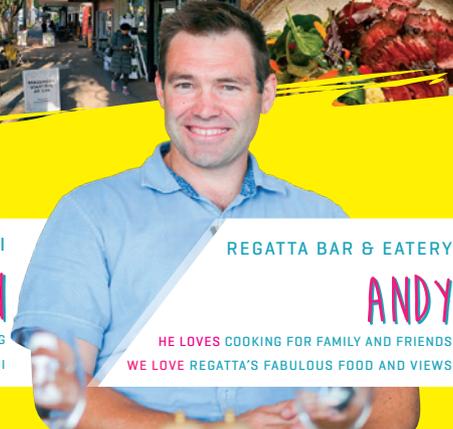
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Market could trade through square construction

Takapuna's Sunday Market should be able to trade continuously at its Anzac St car-park site during the construction of the new Takapuna Square.

Construction of the square is expected to start in April or May 2021 and it was previously thought the market would have to find another site to operate at before returning to its central Takapuna location.

However, Auckland Council development agency Panuku's project head, Kate Cumberpatch, told the Observer last week it now seemed likely that the market could be moved to the northern end of the Anzac St car park site while construction of the square was in progress.

Cumberpatch said last week Panuku was still "in negotiations" with developers over the wider site.

Submissions were flowing in for the public consultation.

Key recent modifications of the design included positioning a water feature in one of the sunniest spots on the square and including more trees.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible from all perspectives," Cumberpatch



Sun spot... an image showing the latest placement of the water feature in Takapuna Square

said.

Feedback closes on 14 August. Refined designs will go back to the Devonport-

Takapuna Local Board for final sign-off.

To view the latest designs and make a submission, go to akhaveyoursay.co.nz.

Getting to the root of a footpath safety problem



Root cause... Posts marking a trip hazard on the Lake Rd footpath

Patience with orange marker posts blocking off uneven sections of pavement on Lake Rd is wearing thin.

The unsightly posts have been in place along the Takapuna shopping centre footpath since early this year.

Installed to block off trip hazards caused by tree roots disturbing tiles, they create pedestrian congestion around bus stops at busy times.

The Takapuna Beach Business Association has raised the area's unsightly appearance repeatedly, and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair George Wood has also been seeking action.

Auckland Transport told Wood the flexi poles are there for safety reasons, but fixing the underlying problems is complex.

It is understood tree removal or replacement may need to be discussed with Auckland Council. Temporary repairs may be made to paving.

The Rangitoto Observer is seeking answers on when this will be done and what is planned as a permanent fix.

Meanwhile, board member Ruth Jackson says the paths around Tonkin Dr, Heather Pl and Jonathan Pl in Sunnynook are "badly broken". She asked when safety measures would be taken.

An official reported back that an investigation for trip hazards had been lodged mid-month. If an inspection found that work was needed it would be scheduled.



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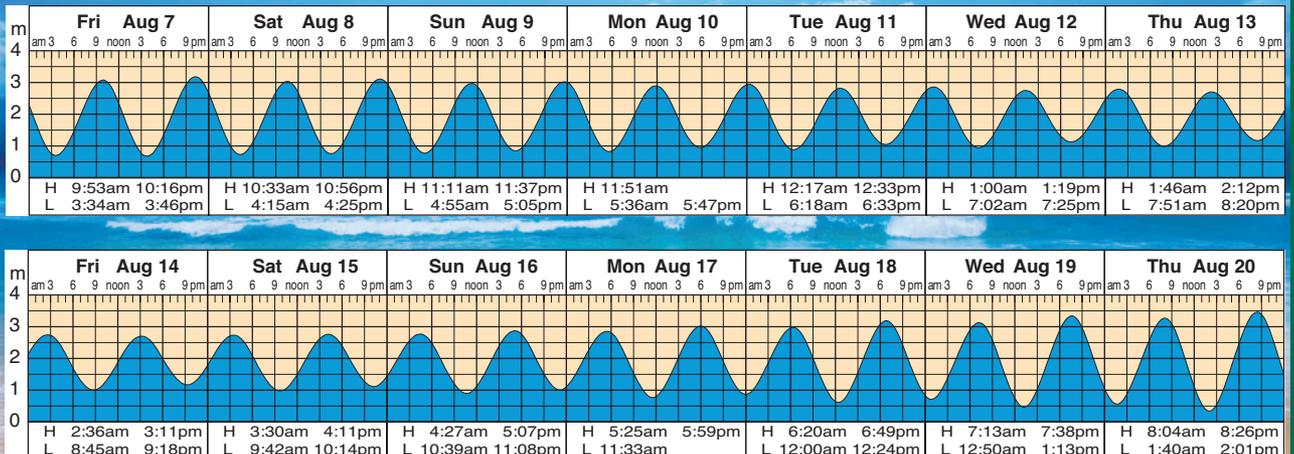


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Property sell-off decisions coming in September

Decisions on the sale of council properties in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Area will be made in September.

The properties identified as surplus to requirements and potentially part of an "asset-recycling programme" are 2 Forrest Hill Rd, a 650sqm section of vacant land; 130 sqm of a recreation reserve at 24R Linwood Ave, Forrest Hill; 4 Bloomfield Spa, Takapuna (496sqm of vacant land, which was a former service lane but is now open space); 2 The Strand Takapuna (a category B heritage building on 486sqm); and the former Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd – a category-A heritage

building on 468sqm of land, described as an earthquake-prone building, which has been vacant for two years

The properties "will not be sold for less than 90 per cent of the valuation, without approval of the Finance and Performance Committee," Auckland Council's Chief Financial Officer, Kevin Ramsey, told the Observer.

"Most of the sites surplus to council requirements are sold contestably through an open-market process, where the property is advertised, usually through an appointed agent, so anyone with an interest in that property is aware it is for sale and has the opportunity to make a bid.

"Interested parties like neighbours or community groups can ask to be considered if they wish," he said.

"We're not only looking at selling properties which are not being used well, but at new ways to use what we have."

This includes potentially restructuring existing lease arrangements, getting lease payments in advance or granting a concession to use a council asset, he said.

The sale of car park concessions is the largest opportunity. Auckland Transport will develop a business case to be considered later in the year by the Finance and Performance Committee, Ramsey said.

Donation no protection from sale

In the proposed sale of 2 The Strand in Takapuna, Auckland Council believes it can override the wishes of the family who donated the property for use as a public library.

The property was donated to the Takapuna Borough by the Burgess family in 1940.

It was Takapuna's library for many years, then used as council offices. It is currently empty. Panuku has managed the property since 2018 and looked at ways of utilising it.

An investigation into selling the building was well under way prior to the council disposal of assets in Covid-19 emergency budgets.

Because "the transfer instrument did not contain any prohibition of sale and exchange, advice received is that the property is able to

be sold", a Panuku report to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop last month said.

However, the proceeds of the sale "must be used for a purpose consistent with the endowment". This could include a project in council's 10-year budget.

The property has a land area of 486sqm, and a capital value of \$2.85 million.

After Panuku took over the property, a number of uses were investigated including an arts exhibition space, local board offices, or an art and historic library collection storage facility.

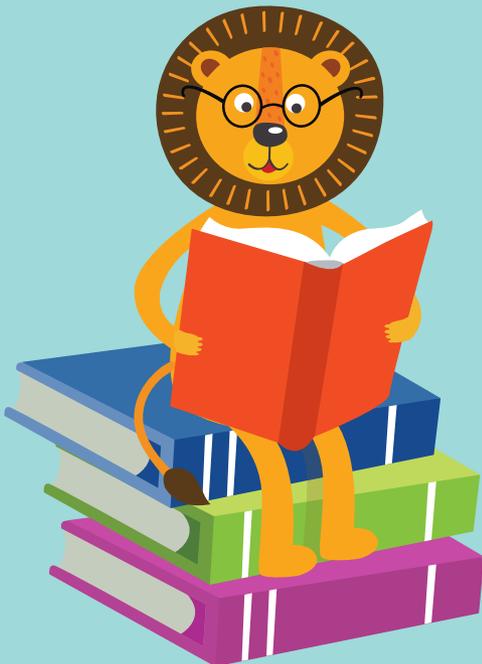
A North Shore Exhibition Trust proposal for an art exhibition centre was put forward in 2017, but discounted as it needed council funding.

New hub looks for trial users

Shore Junction, the new youth innovation hub in what was formerly the Takapuna RSA premises in Mary Poynton Cres, is looking for 100 young people to test its new facilities.

Shore Junction aims to get a mixture of young people between the ages of 13 to 24, with different interests, backgrounds and from different areas, to make sure the hub can cater to all, and get an insight into co-designing the spaces.

The facility is expected to open by late this year.



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It has been an honour to serve the people of the North Shore as their MP and I thank them for giving me the opportunity and for having enough confidence & trust in me to elect me three times to represent the community my family & I have been proud to call home since 2011.

I grew up within sight of Parliament buildings & having now spent the best part of my 50's here as an MP, you could say I haven't come very far and it feels as if I've come full circle, as this chapter in my life is now coming to an end.

My 30 years in the media made me well aware of how rare it is for MPs to be able to choose their own time of leaving, as I am doing. After 6 years in government - 3 as a backbencher & 3 as a Minister inside Cabinet - & now a final term in opposition, I've been in Parliament through good times & tragedies. At its best, I think this Parliament delivered in a way that our team of 5 million NZers can be proud of.

But at its worst, being in Parliament can be frustrating, dehumanising & brutal. As we've all been reminded recently, the pressures that come with the privileges of being in the service of the public can take a heavy toll on MPs and their families. Don't be too quick to judge - it's a tough life. Tougher than you might think from the outside, and the long hours, unrelenting 24/7 scrutiny, adds up to a life that doesn't suit everyone.

I'm not what you'd call a "career politician", signing on for a 30 year lag with a gold watch at the end. I was raised to be a participant and not to be an observer or a bystander, expected to contribute to my community and to try and help those less fortunate. I didn't join the Armed Forces as my grandfather & father had done in the two World Wars. Instead, my contribution to serving my country was to stand for public office. I set out to be a voice for the vulnerable & strongly advocate for the survival of the critically endangered plants & birds that define who we are as New Zealanders.

I acknowledge Sir John Key and thank him for believing in me and backing me from the start & for the trifecta of portfolios he gave me on my birthday in 2014. It was the best present ever... so far anyway.

The commemorations of WorldWar100 coincided with my time as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and I was privileged to represent my country on many formal occasions. It was a moving experience, reading the Ode of Remembrance at the Menin Gate in Belgium honouring the sacrifices of the fallen, including some 12,500 NZ soldiers.

I'll never forget the sense of sadness, standing in the windswept, empty carpark of a Belgian cheese factory with no marker or memorial at the battle site of NZs worst ever day of military loss. I returned to Passchendaele in 2016 and unveiled the first of many Nga Tapuwāe plinths, as part of our footsteps of the Anzacs Trails. ngatapuwa.govt.nz

It was a proud moment for me as the MP for North Shore to plant a bronze flax in New Zealand's Memorial Garden in Passchendaele - part of a project that had been driven by a determined group of my fellow Devonport RSA members including Chris Mullane & Mike Pritchard.

With my lifelong interest in plants and nature, a highlight of my political life was as the Minister of Conservation responsible for PF2050. We launched it 4 years ago this month and National gave the dream - born of so many conversations around countless bush campfires - a name and a date and a plan. PredatorFree2050, with the vision of saving our endangered species by eradicating rats, stoats & possums that are eating them to extinction, has won the hearts and minds of NZers. 4 years on, they want to be part of the solution and feel confident, as we used to say on the garden show, saving the world really does begin in our backyards. We are only the custodians of this land. And as guardians of our grandchildren's natural heritage, we owe it to them to try harder to save our Kiwis and our endangered native species.

It's important that policies are based on evidence and science and it's time people accepted that accurately & safely applied 1080 is vital if we want to save species in our rugged landscapes. There's also strong science around the usefulness of gene mapping & editing that would effectively for example control the wilding pines, which if left unchecked will engulf a quarter of our landscapes in the next 10 years. There is no time to waste. I hope that in my time here, I have made a worthwhile contribution to preserving our natural heritage.

One of the most sobering realisations as Minister for Seniors for three years was knowing the extent of the abuse and neglect of our elderly. We would not be the country we are today without the wisdom and hard work of the people who have come before us. And yet 70,000 people over the age of 65 say they have been victims of physical, psychological or financial abuse - I don't believe we value our seniors enough as a society and we need to do more to keep them safe, sadly often from their own families.

In politics, as in life, no one gets everything right every time and you can't always get everything you hope and dream and strive for. But I know, I have worked & fought hard, I've tried my best. Whether I've succeeded or not, will be up to others to decide. I have no regrets, I've done my dash and I'm leaving Parliament with my integrity intact, in the certain knowledge that being the National Party's MP for North Shore has been a rare privilege & a lifetime's highlight.

You can watch my valedictory: maggiebarry.national.org.nz/valedictory



2011



2020



The Naval Base in Devonport is the pride of the North Shore and I've had the pleasure of attending many graduation ceremonies and other events there. Recently, I was at the arrival of our newest and largest ship, the HMNZS Aotearoa. Costing \$500 million, and captained by Commanding Officer, Simon Rooke, it will be the biggest, heaviest and longest ship in the fleet. Commissioned in 2016 by the then Minister of Defence, Hon Gerry Brownlee, and having been at the poignant decommissioning of her predecessor, the Resolution, it was a momentous occasion to see her come into Devonport for the first time after her long journey from the Korea shipyards. www.navy.mil.nz

As a proud member of our local Devonport RSA chapter and as the Minister responsible for Arts, Culture & Heritage, it's been an honour to have taken part in Anzac Day and other important times of remembrance. Even at times of great uncertainty such as our Covid Lockdown,



New Zealanders still remember all those who paid the ultimate price and those who served and returned home. I think of my Grandfather who fought at Gallipoli and Egypt in the Great War and my father who served with the RAF and Uncle in the Navy in World War 2. It's never been easier to research

your family's military history and to get replica medals to wear on your right side on Anzac Day as a sign of respect.

www.medals.nzdf.mil.nz/ The local RSA tradition of laying flower arrangements at each of the 62 white Anzac crosses representing lives lost in WW2 along Memorial Drive had lapsed. As the North Shore MP I've now provided permanent & everlasting bouquets of poppies and pohutukawa inspired by a poem from local Vietnam Veteran Chris Mullane. www.devonportrsa.co.nz



15 March 2019 was one of our darkest days. I witnessed the Kiwi spirit at its finest at the spontaneous candle heart gathering at Takapuna Beach commemorating the loss of the 51 New Zealanders at the Al Noor Mosque & Linwood Islamic Centre. Alongside Inspector

Sunny Patel, Area Commander for Waitemata East and MP Melissa Lee at the North Shore Islamic Centre, coming together to reject racism and islamophobia and standing by the victims and their families.

I'm proud to be an active member of the North Harbour Club which has raised and distributed grants worth nearly \$2.5 million to talented North Shore youth over the past 20 years. The annual AIMEs awards are a highlight of the social calendar and it was a privilege to be the guest speaker for the ANZAC themed dinner in 2016, when I was the Minister responsible for our WW100 commemorations. www.northharbourclub.co.nz





One of my finest moments as the Minister for Conservation was launching Predator Free 2050 with PM John Key and Steven Joyce, with the ambitious goal of saving our vulnerable native species by eradicating all the stoats, rats & possums that are eating our endangered birds & plants to the brink of extinction.



I was honoured & humbled to receive the inaugural Takahe Award from National's policy advisory group the Bluegreens in recognition of "her outstanding contribution and tireless work encouraging New Zealanders to appreciate our unique environment; as someone who rarely took no for an answer, initiating a legacy that includes Predator Free 2050, War on Weeds, Battle for our Birds and DOC's Threatened Species strategy."



The highlight of my Parliamentary career and best birthday present ever was when John Key told me on my 54th birthday, he was appointing me as a Minister inside his Cabinet, with responsibilities for Conservation, Arts, Culture & Heritage and Seniors. I've also served on 4 Select Committees: Deputy Chair of Finance and Justice, Chair of Environment and in Health. Weekly Select Committees thrash out the details of all our laws and invite the public to contribute written or oral submissions on bills. I encourage you to participate in the democratic process. www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/



I've hosted dozens of school visits at Parliament with students from the five outstanding secondary schools in my North Shore electorate, Rosmini (pictured) Carmel, Westlake Girls & Boys and Takapuna Grammar. Learning more about how the House of Representatives works need not involve a trip to the capital, with online education programmes available, you can even take a virtual tour.

www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/

My priority in my first term was to advocate for a fairer share of resources to upgrade the woeful North Shore Hospital. As one of the worst performing hospitals in NZ, it needed wholesale change and investment which was achieved under the leadership of Waitemata DHB Chair, Dr Lester Levy and Health Minister, Dr Jonathan Coleman.

In particular, the mental health facility was unfit for modern purpose and I lobbied strongly for the \$24.9 million Crown contribution, and we opened an excellent inpatients unit in 2014.



As the local MP, I've done my fair share of ribbon cutting and I've been invited to open everything from supermarkets, classrooms, rest homes & hospital wards to dialysis clinics.





HON Maggie Barry ONZM

North Shore MP Retiring

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National

Authorised by M Barry, 15 Anzac St, Takapuna

A Justice of the Peace plays an important role in the administration of justice. As your local MP, my role is to interview and recommend any applicants, making 21 successful nominations in my nine years. I commend our local JP's for the enthusiastic dedication they bring to their voluntary role. If you have some spare time and want to use your skills to serve our vibrant North Shore community, consider becoming a JP.
www.justiceofthepeace.org.nz



Having had a 20 year involvement with palliative care as the Patron of Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington where my father died and subsequently as Patron of Hospice New Zealand, I have been closely involved with end-of-life care issues, including chairing a working party on the care of people who are dying in 1998, New Zealand has simply not done well enough to provide fair geographical access to end of life pain relief and we must do better, which is why I've worked with expert clinicians to draft a Member's Bill to guarantee all New Zealanders access to world-class palliative care where ever and whenever they need it. The 'Access to End of Life Palliative Care', is now in the Ballot in the name of my friend and colleague Tamaki MP, Simon O'Connor.



I've held more than 50 public meetings on a range of contentious local topics including potential developments in Narrow Neck & Bayswater, morning tea events for Seniors, Heritage issues and Euthanasia. Since 2011, many MPs have joined us for business breakfasts, lunches and dinners to discuss the issues that matter to those of us fortunate enough to live on the North Shore.





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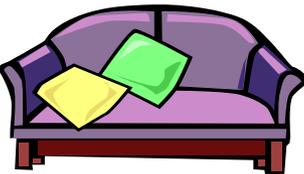
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Parking permits likely for Takapuna streets

Parking permits are likely to be introduced in the streets around the Takapuna town centre, as residents are being swamped by vehicles from outside the area.

Eighty-seven per cent of parked vehicles in 11 streets surveyed by Auckland Transport (AT) between 8am and 6pm on 27 and 30 June and 1 July (a Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday) were from outside the area.

Car-park occupancy ran at 85 per cent or more, AT said, in a report to a Devonport-Takapuna Local

Board workshop.

The average length of stay in the car parks was around three hours and 12 minutes.

AT is proposing a 120-minute parking zone for the area, operational from 8am Monday to Friday.

Residents and businesses within the zone could apply for a parking permit to exempt them from the restrictions.

The new parking zone would start at the same time as the opening of the Gasometer car park.

Bus drivers warned off breaks in Lake Rd

Bus drivers taking breaks on the side of busy Lake Rd, Takapuna, should be discouraged, says board member Jan O'Connor.

"They shouldn't be stopping outside the WINZ building, they should go down to Akoranga if they want to have a cigarette," she told the monthly board meeting during discussions about transport matters.

With buses already picking up passengers on the stops opposite the informal layover area, the road and corners nearby became congested, she said. There was also layover space opposite the Rose Gardens, she said. Although breaks were needed, sitting around or getting out of buses in the wrong places should be discouraged.

An Auckland Transport official said the bus companies concerned could be talked to about their drivers' habits.

Sunnynook still waiting for extra bus shelter

The busy bus station on Sunnynook Rd is overdue for extra cover, promised by the end of last year.

Local board deputy chairman George Wood asked an Auckland Transport (AT) official at the board's July meeting what was delaying provision of an extra bus shelter. Those waiting to catch the 907 bus to Campbells Bay and Mairangi on the road across the motorway were left standing out in the cold, he said.

An official said the work had likely been delayed due to Auckland budget restraints. Wood replied that the funds had already been committed, so the Covid cuts should not be an issue.

The Observer followed up the matter with AT which apologised for the delay. "The work is programmed and we are aiming to have upgraded shelter facilities installed by the end of September," a spokesperson said.

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Have your say on the Takapuna town square design

Takapuna's new town square will be a vibrant place where the community can come together to meet and relax.

We're seeking your views to confirm that the design of the town square includes the things that matter most to you.

Submissions must be received by 11.55pm, Friday 14 August.

For more information, a copy of the supporting materials and to give your feedback, go to akhaveyoursay.co.nz



adviceHQ helps borrowers bridge the finance gap

The growing divide between the Reserve Bank's relaxation of monetary policy and the big banks' tightening of lending criteria is making it more difficult for borrowers to get traditional financing, however this opens up other opportunities for non-bank lenders to fill the gap in the market, according to David Green, Director of adviceHQ, a Takapuna-based mortgage advisory firm.

"When advising on lending, adviceHQ considers the big banks, but with the current market conditions a lot of people seeking financing are ineligible," says Green, who has a business degree in accounting and finance from Massey University and became a Chartered Accountant while working at Deloitte.

Recently, the Reserve Bank removed loan-to-value criteria to stimulate the economy, but the big banks are becoming increasingly cautious with their stringent application processes and credit policies.

This has resulted in some borrowers who six months ago would have had loans approved now struggling to obtain adequate financing, Green says.

"One of our clients could only get finance for \$1 million from a main bank which was just short of the amount required.

"We ended up obtaining \$1.1 million dollars from a non-bank lender at a rate only 0.5 per cent above the main bank's already low rate," Green says.

According to Green, non-bank lenders have resilient business models which have survived recent financial crises and include highly reputable publicly traded entities, private equity firms and "rich-lister backed" lending facilities.

adviceHQ's client base ranges from first-home buyers, purchasing property, to high-net-worth individuals who require help



structuring their finance due to the unique complexities of their situations.

"We are also finding returning Kiwis and new residents needing help when they arrive, because overseas income is sometimes difficult to prove mortgage serviceability and due to other complexities related to individual financial circumstances.

"Complex financial circumstances are more of the norm these days," says Green.

Green started adviceHQ two years ago as Mortgage Pro, but soon realised the value of his service was providing advice, a mortgage was just part of the process and most clients needed help planning their financial future and connecting with industry professionals. He quickly pivoted his business model and renamed it to

adviceHQ.

"Whether you are a first-home buyer or an experienced professional in your chosen field, the current market conditions in New Zealand are tricky to work through and really require independent financial advice," says Green, who is a long time North Shore resident and president of the Castor Bay Ratepayers & Residents Association.

"I come from the finance side of banking, not the sales side, so I am in a unique position to give my clients the right kind of advice for their circumstances, getting them the financing they require and also connecting them with accountants, lawyers, insurance and wealth advisers and other professionals as required."

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Signs of life in troubled Wairau waterway

Despite Wairau Estuary's degraded water quality failing Safeswim status, fish are living in it.

Nine species of native fish and crustacean were observed in the estuary, a report for Auckland Council's Healthy Waters arm has found.

The Wairau Estuary Enhancement Plan was put together to guide future restoration of the ecology of the estuary.

It noted the built-up nature of the Wairau Valley catchment and that the Wairau Creek itself was the most heavily modified stream on the North Shore. The estuary is fed three-quarters from stream channels that are concrete lined (47 per cent) or piped (29 per cent).

These factors and pollutant run-off all contributed to water-quality issues, along with drainage and piping problems.

The report, compiled after community consultation last year, said the problems were

complex and not just from one area, but a catchment-wide issue, crossing two local board territories. Key themes from consultation were the need to support native planting and weed control and to keep investigating cross-connections leaking sewage into the estuary. The hope was one day it could be more swimmable.

Field assessments identified areas where estuary bank stabilisation and erosion control measures could be taken. These two measures were among five options identified in the report to improve the estuary. The others were water-quality monitoring, increased community engagement and considering the impact of a planned boardwalk.

Healthy Waters has now proposed a \$20,000 enhancement project to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to fund a first year of planting.



Sign of pollution... No-swim advice at Castor Bay relates to degraded water flowing into the sea.

'Big Day Out' will spread waterways message

A family-friendly day out with an environmental mission is being held at the Milford Beach Reserve at the end of the month.

The Wairau Estuary Environmental Protection Society (Weeps) wants to reinforce its message about cleaning up waterways discharging into the sea.

It is staging a "Big Day Out" on Sunday, 30 August, between 11am and 3pm, with information and activities for anyone interested

in learning more about how communities can take action.

Food trucks, games for children and music are also part of the day.

Weeps have invited other organisations along to help share their messages. Watercare staff will be on hand to advise on steps property owners can take, including installing water tanks and checking on stormwater discharges.

The aim of Weeps is to make the estuary and

local beaches free from any sewage discharges and safe for swimming at all times. The Milford Residents Association is supporting the day and the Takapuna North Community Trust's environmental co-ordinator said it would provide information about planting and predator trapping. Local-body politicians and general-election candidates have also been invited along.

If the weather is bad, the event will shift inside at the Milford Cruising Club.



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Milford volunteers join anti-pest network

Milford is proving the biggest area of growth currently in residents looking to join in pest-trapping efforts, says the Takapuna North Community Trust's environmental coordinator, Fiona Martin.

This is helping fill in gaps between established community trapping networks in an area stretching from Takapuna to Sunnynook and Castor Bay, she told an annual meeting summing up the trust's sustainability work.

Looking ahead, "street champions" were sought to encourage neighbours to join in trapping efforts. Martin said another aim was to recruit volunteers to weed at Killarney Reserve on the shores of Lake Pupuke and to set traps around Lake Pupuke quarry.

Bryan Byrnes Reserve in north Milford also needed more help with tree planting and ongoing weeding. Kennedy Park was being tended, but there were pocket reserves south of the park and in Forrest Hill that could do

with attention. Sunnynook reserves could also do with more helpers. To this end, Martin said she had been talking with Rotary and volunteers to "adopt a space".

Seven schools had participated in programmes over the last year, she reported. Key among them were Takapuna Normal Intermediate and Westlake Girls High, involved respectively in tree planting efforts in Smiths Bush off Onewa Domain across the motorway and in weeding at Bryan Byrnes Reserve. Taharoto Scouts were also active in trapping in Smiths Bush.

Talks at the library planned for the September school holidays would feature taxidermy mounts of predators to illustrate risks to birds in urban areas. It was hoped biodiversity dogs might be brought along, she said.

Martin said her winter project focus was Bryan Byrnes Reserve, especially planting to shore up its stream. Work days on 12, 16 and 18 August were likely. The project was being supported by a grant of \$2627 from

the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, 500 trees donated by Auckland Council ranger Dan Marrow and vouchers from Bunnings.

Awareness of trust activities was growing, she said, with numbers signed up to the Birdsong Project website now at 165 people. Regular coverage in the Rangitoto Observer was also driving interest, said Martin. More requests were being made for traps for backyard use and an online register called Ecotrack helped people record their catches.

Around a dozen people attended the meeting, including representatives from neighbouring community trusts who work together. Martin was thanked for her co-ordinating work, achieved in a part-time role, by the Wairau Estuary Environmental Preservation Society (Weeps), which said its goals of clean water were aided by land-based environmental measures, such as riparian planting.

New volunteers should contact Fiona over dates on enviro@takapunatrust.org.nz

Community Conversations at Mairangi Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

Preparing for the Election

• 7.30pm on Friday 21 August

What is in the **End of Life Choice Act**?

This is not a discussion to persuade you how to vote but simply what the Act contains and what happens after the vote

• 7.30pm on Monday 24 August

The Mairangi Castor Bays Presbyterian Church holds its traditional **Candidates Evening**. The North Shore candidates have been invited to introduce themselves and answer written questions (collected at the meeting). Spokespeople for parties represented in parliament have also been invited.

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Local trees prove attractive to kereru

Enough food resources are available on the North Shore to have kereru "sitting around", says an ecology expert.

The area is attractive to the birds, thanks to established suburbs with larger tree cover and stands of indigenous forest, Dr Jacqueline Beggs from the University of Auckland said during a talk on biodiversity.

"What you folks are doing is important in the urban context," she told the audience at an environmental meeting of the Takapuna North Community Trust, referring to predator trapping and planting programmes that are helping native bird species survive.

Tracking of kereru by one of her PhD students had shown that most ranged only a few kilometres from where they were tagged. This suggested they had enough to eat. One bird, however, flew from Auckland to Helensville and Pakiri and back, showing the sort of distances they could fly.

Dr Beggs, who has a special interest in

kakapo conservation, spoke about national efforts to save the critically endangered bird before turning to the more common kereru. Its presence locally was a reminder that environments mattered to birds, she said. South Auckland, with fewer trees, saw fewer kereru, whereas central and northern areas attracted more, showing the importance of vegetation on a large scale.

The birds were usually seen solo, whereas in pre-European days large flocks were spoken of.

Dr Beggs said kereru now fed from a broad range of native and exotic trees. An especially good one to plant was puriri, which fruited all year round. Others included kowhai, nikau, cabbage trees and some exotic fruit trees.

Native bird fans wanting to attract backyard visitors such as tui should remember not to put out bird seed as this drew exotic birds, she said. Sugar syrup was a better option.



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North Shore wins masters national champs

North Shore Squash Club won the New Zealand masters teams championships held last weekend at the Pirates Club in Dunedin.

Paul Tuffin, Gary Duberly, Mark Waldin and Lisa Cowlard won the AD Long cup in a tight match with Tawa.

The match was drawn 6-6 but North Shore won on points count back. Duberly and Waldin won their matches, but it was the points won by Cowlard and Tuffin in their ties that kept North Shore in the hunt.



National champions... North Shore's Gary Duberly, Paul Tuffin, Lisa Cowlard and Mark Waldin with the AD Long cup for master's teams

- North Shore Squash Club's D-Grade superchamps team has won the Auckland competition and is off to the national champs in Blenheim on the 23-26 September. The team was Mubashar Sheikh, Gabriel Freitas de Almeida, Rayne Paul, Nelson Longstaff (captain), Jimmy Henare, Byungha Kim and Marcus J. Baker.

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SHORE WORDS

Thursday 20th August 6pm

A night of poetry marking Phantom Billstickers national poetry day with MC Stu Bagby, plus well-known poets Fardowsa Mohamed, an Auckland doctor widely published in literary magazines, physician Art Nahill whose work has appeared on both sides of the Pacific and Bryan Walpert, poet, fiction writer, essayist and literary scholar.

NEW ZEALAND'S CHINA CHALLENGE

Thursday 27th August 6pm

Leading China commentator, Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley looks at the challenges facing New Zealand's relations with China. What do the recent changes, emerging opportunities and current friction mean for our country? Should the Government, post election, encourage or discourage links with China?

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Movies return to Takapuna

Takapuna has got its movie theatre back. The refurbished premises, now trading as Monterey Lounge Cinema, have reopened with a plush new look. Operators, who also run Northcote Pt's Bridgeway Cinema, promise a mix of mainstream, independent, family-friendly and classic films, plus a calendar of special events.

The four cinema rooms now feature

lounge-like seating with tables allowing for food and drinks service. A cocktail menu and freshly made pizza or sharing platters can be ordered. The bar and foyer area has also been upgraded and is open to the public. Individual cinemas can be booked for private screenings.

Greedy Cat comes back

A \$5000 grant supporting a children's theatre show has been transferred, enabling *The Greedy Cat* to be performed in the next school holidays.

The show was originally to have been staged by the Tim Bray Theatre Company at the PumpHouse Theatre during the Easter school holidays, but the Covid-19 lockdown intervened. The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board agreed to transfer an unspent grant towards venue costs for the delayed production, so the company could make use of marketing and staging material it had prepared but not been able to use.

Bray told the board Covid-19 had made the company extremely vulnerable. It was just 10 days away from opening its 100th production of the show (since 1991). This was shelved, after \$100,000 had been spent in developing, creating and marketing to put it on in five venues over two months. Most of about \$100,000 in ticket sales and funding had to be returned.

An emergency appeal to supporters and emergency subsidies meant so far it had got through the crisis.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

of the North Shore
Theatre & Arts Trust
(The PumpHouse Theatre) Inc.
**The AGM will be held at 6.30pm,
Wednesday 19 August 2020**

At The PumpHouse Theatre, Killarney Park, off Manurewa Ave, Takapuna.

In addition to the Normal Business of the AGM, nominations are invited for Board Members.

Nominations for Board Members close with the PumpHouse Manager on Wednesday 12 August at 5.00 pm.

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Authors read at Milford Mall

Children's story-time sessions by leading authors reading their own works are being hosted on the second Sunday of each month at the Milford Centre.

The next event is on 9 August, featuring Maria Gill, who has written more than 60 books, and was awarded the Margaret Mahy Medal Award for outstanding services to children's literature this year. She will dress up as Kate Sheppard to read from her book about the women's suffrage champion and also dip into her latest book, *Ice Breaker*, and others.

The sessions will be held at 11am, 11.30am, noon and 12.30pm in a new children's space at the mall. September's guest author will be Peter Gilderdale, who is keeping alive the work of his parents, Betty and Alan Gilderdale, author and illustrator of the *Little Yellow Digger* series.

Flexible approach wows talent-show crowd



Bent offering...

Year 8 student Fay Ajjam performs at the TNIS talent show

A junior contortionist unravelling herself was one of the highlights of a talent show at Takapuna Normal Intermediate School (TNIS).

Fay Ajjam, a Year 8 student, began her act folded into a suitcase, before kicking it open and emerging to untwist herself and show her artistry on stage.

The show, held before all students and some parents, included singers, musicians and dancers. It was held in tandem with a textile fashion show featuring garments made and modelled by students.

The two annual events were combined

at the end of last term due to the disrupted school year.

The TNIS performing arts specialist, Laura Gardiner, said show participants auditioned for a place. Some did this via videos made over lockdown.

"It's a really great opportunity for students to show they express themselves through different mediums." Prizes weren't awarded. The aim was to build confidence in performing in public and show the range of talents among students, she said. Students often surprised their peers by revealing hidden talents.



ST MATTHEW'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sun 16 Aug at 2.30pm
PROGRAMME

Borodin In the Steppes of Central Asia
Brahms Double Concerto Op 102 A minor
Borodin Symphony No 2 B minor



SOLOISTS
Amalia Hall
& Ashley Brown
CONDUCTOR
David Kay

Just a ferry trip to the first classical concert on a Sunday afternoon in the Centre of Auckland post lockdown

ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY

Cnr of Wellesley & Hobson Street, Auckland City

What's On

Skylight by David Hare

31 July - 8 Aug
Olivier and Tony Award winning play about two people bound together by a shared memory of passion but divided by income and attitude.

Roger Hall's Spreading Out (Play Read)

Sunday 9 August at 3pm
Tadpole Productions return with a play-reading of Spreading Out, directed by Janice Finn. Stay afterwards for a Q&A with Roger, Janice, and the cast.

Creative Talks: Mark Wallbank

Sunday 9 August at 7pm
Join Paranormal Investigator Mark Wallbank as he shares his passion for all things mysterious. Free entry.



PH: 489 8360

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NOW SHOWING

- Military Wives (M) 112min NEW
- This Town (M) 91min NEW
- House of Cardin (E) 95min
- The Secret: Dare to Dream (PG) 107min
- Where'd You Go, Bernadette (M) 109min
- Billy Liar (1963) (PG) 94min SPECIAL SCREENINGS

COMING SOON

- Irresistible (M) 102min 13 AUG
- Romantic Road (PG) 81min 13 AUG
- Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (1977) (PG) 125min
- The Third Man (1949) (G) 104min
- Top Dog Film Festival 2020 (2020) (E) 135min 14 AUG
- Inception - 10th Year Anniversary (M) 148min 20 AUG
- Two of Us (M) 95min 20 AUG

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VIEW | PLEASE CONTACT AGENT

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TAKAPUNA | A Panoramic Position | Mon Desir Penthouse



VIEW FROM BALCONY

Sea and Rangitoto vista from this penthouse will keep you entertained. 124sqm floor area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with a great balcony running the full length of this one level apartment. With direct beach access, Takapuna's version of the Gold Coast, with an envious beach and cafe lifestyle. Your Takapuna beach lifestyle awaits with vibrant Takapuna eateries on your doorstep.

VIEW | PLEASE CONTACT AGENT

AUCTION | 111 HURSTMERE RD. 23 AUGUST

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