

# The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 40 – September 4, 2020

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Local author strikes success with debut... p2

Takapuna Library hours saved... p6

Obituary: Rosmini's Tom Gerrard remembered... p14

## Hospice expands to meet growing demand

Harbour Hospice is planning a \$20 million rebuild of its in-patient facility near Lake Pupuke.

Work on its Shea Tce site in Takapuna is due to begin late this year, after a planning consent application was recently lodged.

Around half of the project's \$20 million budget is still to be raised.

The new building will be built on the existing

footprint and see the hospice expanded from nine to 15 beds. There will be more room for families as well, to better enable hospice to provide for the growing need for quality in-patient end-of-life care as the population grows and ages.

"This project will allow us to meet future demand for palliative care – and enable us to continue to provide this vital community

service free of charge, said Harbour Hospice chief executive Jan Nichols.

Demand was expected to grow 50 per cent over the next 14 years, and 90 per cent in the next 40 years, she said.

"This means that, by as early as 2034, we will need to support at least another 300 patients and their families each year," Nichols said.

**To page 8**

## Dog day afternoon: masked duo hit the beach



**Paddle pals... Yoshiki Fujimoto and his rescue dog Tangi-wheto (Crybaby) both donned masks for a stroll on Takapuna Beach in the final weekend of the recent level-3 lockdown**

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# Seizing the moment pays off for first-time author:

**By Anneka Brown**

When Rose Carlyle began writing her debut novel, *The Girl in the Mirror*, it wasn't easy – but it taught her how strong she could be.

The Takapuna resident began writing it two years ago. As a newly-separated single mother, it was a very busy time juggling the parenting of three teenagers.

Her late brother's son had also come to live with her. The only way she could spend time on her book was to get up early in the morning and write before work and having to get the kids to school. She would also write on the weekends when the kids would sleep in.

"I was doing a lot," says Carlyle. "But it was fun to have something to do each day that was just for me."

Now, Carlyle's psychological thriller about twins is set to be published by New Zealand publishers Allen & Unwin, and North American publishers HarperCollins, and has even attracted interest from Hollywood.

*The Girl in the Mirror* follows twin sisters Iris and Summer, who are startlingly alike. Beyond what the eye can see lies a darkness that sets them apart. She has another novel on the verge of completion which she hopes to have published next year.

Carlyle, a lawyer by trade, practised law in her 20s, then took time off to raise her children. One in particular had health issues and needed a parent home full-time.

She and her husband took the family on sailing trips, living aboard their yacht in the Indian Ocean for a year, sailing it from Thailand to South Africa via the Seychelles and multiple other stops.



**Author Rose Carlyle**

This was a trip Carlyle drew on when writing *The Girl in the Mirror*.

When she and her husband separated, Carlyle settled in Takapuna to start writing.

The novel was mostly written in Takapuna, quite a lot of it at the Takapuna Library. It was edited at the Michael King Writers Centre in Devonport, a suburb Carlyle visited for its "wonderful" bookshops.

She worked 12-hour days to complete her novel at the writers centre.

"I actually came up with the novel all in one day," she says.

She recalls having lunch with her older sis-

ter Maddie, and talking about writing a novel about twins. "We both thought about writing a novel about twins which seemed like a strange coincidence."

However, the ideas they had meshed together beautifully. "I was very fortunate that my sister said I should write it and that she would help me. She's been my reader, my editor and my fellow brainstormer."

Two years ago, when Carlyle began writing, she would write a chapter and send it to her sister who would give her honest feedback.

"She would come back and tell me this is boring and this part doesn't work. And I really loved that, we would often end up on the phone talking about it, and we also had a lot of laughs," she says.

"Sometimes you feel like you're not getting enough exercise as a writer because you're sitting at a computer screen, but our belly muscles certainly got a workout," laughs Carlyle.

Writing was so much harder than she thought it was going to be, but she was in love with *The Girl in the Mirror* and couldn't stop writing.

"It's a funny thing, you sort of flip-flop in your mind between thinking this is a great story or I'm just deluded. Every writer thinks they are writing a great story," she says.

Early in the writing process, Carlyle met editor and publisher Charlotte Gibbs, who is a member of the Michael King Writers Centre Trust Board. Gibbs read Carlyle's novel and encouraged her to try to have it published.

Carlyle has always been a reader, with a hankering to write her own novel. She remembers having that wish even as a six-year-old, and begging for a typewriter. To her surprise, she was given one.

"It must have sounded like a crazy request coming from a six-year-old," she laughs.

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**2 The Strand:  
empty for  
904 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 904 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.

# Debut novel set to be published in US and UK

Her godfather had come by an incredibly ancient typewriter he could pass on.

Later, during her teens, she tried to write fan fiction, but life as an adult became busy, with study, practising law, raising a family and sailing.

Carlyle's biggest challenge was finding the time to write as a single mother.

"It sounds like a bit of a crazy dream, so I felt a bit on my own, too, for a long time."

Getting a publisher to read her novel was another big challenge. She didn't know much about how the publishing industry worked, but after several months of her novel apparently going unread, in March last year she finally received exciting and life-changing news – a publishing offer.

It was Carlyle's "movie-star moment" to be offered a publishing deal. "It was so amazing to get an offer because I had only sent it to one publisher and I didn't know if it was really ready or not."

Carlyle couldn't have hoped for a better outcome, despite the challenges Covid-19 has posed for authors and publishers.

The novel has sold strongly, and she has had plenty of positive feedback from readers.

"I think what I really learned is to have courage, and back yourself. For a long time, I felt I had to keep my day job because I wasn't really sure how this was going to go. I think partly because of Covid-19 it has made me realise you have got to seize your moment," Carlyle says.

"For me, it's not about the number of readers, it's about hearing from readers who really loved it and really felt that connection with my main character that I always hoped they would feel," she says.

"It's been wonderful hearing from different readers," Carlyle says. "I had one reader get in contact saying it was the best book she had read in her entire life. I never expected anyone to say that."

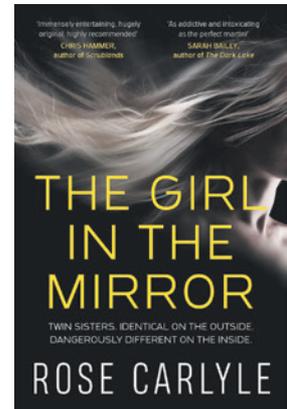


The write stuff... Carlyle at a book signing at Whitcoulls in Milford

International rights to the book have been bought by HarperCollins in the US, where it will be published in October, and Atlantic Books in the UK, where it will be out in early 2021.

With her family growing up, Carlyle can look forward to having more time for writing. Her eldest son, Ben, is now 20, Moses is 18, and Florence, 16, attends Takapuna Grammar School.

"There will definitely be more novels in the future. Even if I couldn't possibly make a career out of it, I would purely write for pleasure. So to me, it's a bonus for it to be my career too."



# National

## Simon Watts

### North Shore

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Authorised Simon Watts, 107 Gt South Road, Greenlane, Auckland

# Local gem – Mikko Shoes

Mikko Shoes new seasonal collection has just arrived and with an enchanting offering of energising colourways and sophisticated shapes, it is all the inspiration we need for the warmer months ahead.

In celebration of their latest launch, we spoke with the founder and buyer, Michaela, on the top trends of the season and the Mikko difference.

**Before we dive into the SS20 trends, tell us a little bit about Mikko and how it all began.**

I launched Mikko in 2013 with the dream to offer an extensive range of European hand selected and handcrafted quality shoes for women who wanted stylish footwear, without having to compromise on comfort. I felt there was an opportunity to provide a truly personalised instore experience – our team are professionally trained in fitting shoes and styling.

**Why do you focus on European brands specifically?**

Europe is the origin of shoemaking with its rich history of quality and excellent craftsmanship. The brands we choose are family-owned businesses, just like us. While each brand has its own story, every pair of shoes that we sell has four things in common: comfort, quality, style and value.

**And onto the new season, what are the must-have colours in footwear this season?**

There are two ends of the colour spectrum to enjoy this season. The cornerstone trend is 'Poolside Daydream' – punchy, playful, 60s inspired tones of fuchsia, coral and teal. Highly saturated yet still feminine and classic. Those who love a neutral will enjoy the 'Design Emotion' trend – a Nordic-inspired, earthy palette. Think jute, woodgrain and cork; a textural blend of sophistication and warmth.



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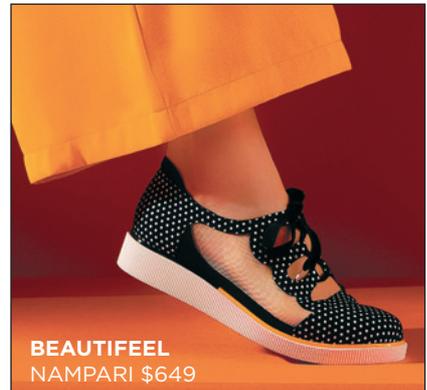
**How about casual footwear options – are sneakers still a must-have?**

To us, sneakers are seasonless! But we love fresh interpretations and for SS20 this includes platform soles, touches of metallic, animal prints and retro influences. We're also excited to launch DL Sport – a luxury casual sneaker range from Italy that we know our customers will adore!

**And finally, if you had to sum up this season's trends in a sentence, what would you say?**

The SS20 vibe is joyful, inspiring and optimistic – and who isn't feeling in the mood for that!

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# Westlake hockey girls top sticks on the Shore

The Westlake Girls 1st XI Hockey team has taken out the Harbour Secondary School Championship title for a third consecutive year.

The team won 2-1 in a tightly contested final against Rangitoto College.

Westlake scored 54 goals and conceded only two over six matches in the Harbour competition on the way to the final.

Hockey manager Linda Clouston said the team this year has been notable for its strength and depth across all positions.

“The evenness and skill levels of this year’s team was seen in our goal scorers,” she says. Thirteen players scored at least one goal during the season.

The top scorers were Paige Blake, Rachel Bottcher, Georgina Shotter and Mackenzie Harvey.

The team retains many of its players for next year, which bodes well for whatever the rest of the season holds this year and into 2021, Clouston said.

The team now moves on as the top North Harbour team to compete in the College Sport Auckland Super City Premier Competition.



**Racking up the goals... Westlake Girls 1st XI hockey team, back row (from left): Will Lacey (coach), Danielle Stewart, Leilani Douglas, Rachel Bottcher, Imogen Burge, Caitlin Wilson, Brianna Speck, Brooke James, Paige Roderick, Emily Renon, Kate Segetin (assistant manager) and Linda Clouston (manager). Front row: Imogen Stanton, Tamika Haeufler, Holly Chivers, Georgina Shotter (co-captain), Paige Blake (co-captain), Mackenzie Harvey and Katie Booth**

# Dedication to training key to WBHS success

The Westlake Boys High School 1st XI hockey team have become the North Harbour Secondary School Champions for the third year in row.

Westlake squeaked home 2-1 in the final against Rosmini College.

“We have a long hard season with a tournament to finish which was six full games in four days,” said Westlake Boys High School Head of Hockey, Charlie Meredith. “We have to make sure our young men can withstand the physical requirements of this.”

Dedication to training was a key component in the team’s success, he said.

The boys train three times a week, with two of the sessions in the school fitness centre to focus on strength and conditioning

The boys only train on the hockey turf once a week for 90 minutes.

The team has won all of its games so far in “an incredible year”, Meredith said.

In addition to the North Harbour three-peat, Westlake Boys also won the Worner Shield, a competition between top hockey schools, three from the North Island and three from the South Island.



**Training pays off... Westlake Boy’s Champion Hockey Team, back row (from left): Max Nicholson, Rocco Ludolph, Peter Ruffell, Scott Cosslett, Steven Lydiard, Ben Sherwood, Marcel Wiig, Archie Postles, Ryan Parr, Lucas Louw. Front row: Olly Chambers, Eddy Chambers, James Hickson, Nick White, Ben Ryan, Reagan Yurjevic and Livio Schorn**

The team is now into an Auckland secondary schools competition, tailored according to Covid-19 restrictions.

- Westlake’s results in their unbeaten run

in the Worner shield competition: Whangarei Boys 1-0, St Paul’s College 9-0, Christ’s College 2-0, Christchurch Boys 3-0, St. Andrew’s College 2-0.

## Takapuna Library evening hours saved

Takapuna library hours will not be cut after four local politicians overrode advice from officials and defeated a budget moved by the board chairman.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members Ruth Jackson, Jan O'Connor, Trish Deans and George Wood supported the retention of 56-hours-a-week library opening times.

The quartet also combined to divert money to Civil Defence emergency preparedness, rather than see it spent on scoping out and trialling new environmental projects.

The moves overturn budgets for the Community Services Works Programme and the Environmental Works Programme put to the board's August meeting, after workshops between the board and Auckland Council officials.

Board chair Aidan Bennett and member Toni van Tonder were frustrated at the shuffled priorities. They abstained from voting for the new spending schedule put forward by Jackson, with van Tonder saying she did not want to vote against it, lest she come across as anti-library.

But she said the board had pledged more effort on environment initiatives at the start of its term, so "should put its money where its mouth is".

The upshot is that the board will still spend the same amount of ratepayer money as originally proposed, but with priorities reallocated across the two works programmes. Total council spending in the board's area had earlier been shaved to meet Auckland Council's cuts, forced by the Covid-19 revenue squeeze. This has

seen planned work deferred, including at the Kitchener Rd intersection and on some parks, with assets also put up for sale.

Now, local plans to spend \$10,000 to study setting up a Bike Hub, and \$30,000 for an Eco Neighbourhoods trial, plus the staging of movies in the parks, set to cost \$15,000, have all been ditched.

That money is being used instead to maintain the status quo at Takapuna and Devonport libraries and to boost Civil Defence funding from a token \$4000 to \$30,000.

"It's an issue of affordability rather than a reflection of merits," said Jackson. The Bike Hub was still at a feasibility stage and with Eco Neighbourhoods there was no certainty it could be funded again the year after, she said.

Since the meeting, a number of the often-divided board have been posting their personal takes on what took place on social media.

At the tele-conferenced board meeting held during lockdown, van Tonder said the community had made clear its wish for more environmental work. But Jackson said the library had been identified as a top public priority.

Bennett decried members not heeding officials' advice, saying: "My understanding with the libraries is it's not cuts, it's efficiencies." Some members were delving from a governance role into operational matters by "pushing aside very good advice", he said.

Wood said Civil Defence (CD) work locally had been left in abeyance since 2015 and action was needed to get the board up to scratch in

its obligations to public safety, readiness and resilience for disasters.

Deans agreed, saying the library and Civil Defence were priorities for the community. This meant delaying, as with many other projects, the environmental ones – "until we can afford them and they can be sustainable".

O'Connor said the board would look like it was betraying the public if it cut local library hours, because Auckland Council had already announced that hours across the city would not be cut. The public did not necessarily realise that the board had long topped up local library spending, allowing longer hours than is standard across the city, including at weekends and a late night on Thursday.

Officials had reported that evening hours attracted far fewer visitors than daytime ones, leading to the recommendation to cut these at Takapuna, except for eight weeks leading into school examination time.

O'Connor said the council's PR machine had told the public library hours were safe. "Right now isn't a time to be saying we're cutting so many hours."

The libraries top-up of \$71,500 was retained, rather than accepting the lower figure of \$44,500 that emerged from workshops.

Environmental projects that survived the budget revision include keeping pest-free co-ordinators in Takapuna and Devonport (funded at \$50,000), Wairau Estuary enhancement planting (\$20,000), and shorebirds workshops (\$5000).

• **Estuary advances, page 13**



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# Residents warned to shop local or see businesses fail

The best thing Takapuna locals wanting to save their shops can do is return to working, eating and buying in the town centre, says the local business association.

With retail spending figures revealing the extent of the retail plunge – down 84.9 per cent in the first complete week of level-3 lockdown – opening up again in level 2 couldn't have been more vital. But with major road works continuing on Hurstmere Rd and social distancing requirements restricting numbers in stores, testing times remain.

“Without increased community support over the next few months, we are likely to lose many more businesses in Takapuna,” the chief executive of the Takapuna Beach Business Association, Terence Harpur cautioned.

A bright spot is good progress being made in enhanced pedestrian and seating areas at the Lake Rd and Anzac Ave ends of the shopping strip, which is now a one-way traffic route. Harpur said it was fantastic that crews had worked seven days a week over level-3 lockdown. Intersections were being finished, with the area outside Hurstmere Green the next focus.

“We would always want the works to be completed as fast as possible, but there is also a balance of shutting down the whole street to complete works faster (which would kill businesses) and doing the works more slowly but keeping it open and businesses trading.”

The end result would be a first-class centre. “Takapuna is receiving a lot of council and



private development at the moment. You are going to see a significantly upgraded centre as the years progress, cementing Takapuna as a high-quality centre and ‘the place to be’ in Auckland.”

Harpur is under no illusions how tough things are now for his members, but noted that the spending results during lockdown were not that much different from those in other parts of Auckland with a similar mix of offices and shops. Spending in the CBD and some

inner-city suburbs was even gloomier, he said.

Hospitality and apparel businesses were particularly hard hit, with the likes of liquor stores, dairies and supermarkets more buoyant. Paymark transactional data for Takapuna to the week ending 23 August, showed that clothing, footwear and department-store trading was down 95.1 per cent, home and recreational retailing down 88.9 per cent, hospitality and accommodation down 86 per cent, and food, liquor and pharmacies down 43.7 per cent.

The challenge for Takapuna, with orange cones everywhere and for-lease signs proliferating, is to attract people back now more stores can reopen.

“Businesses really need customers to come back to the centre. Come back for lunch, dinner, new clothes, nails, hair, etc... your local businesses really need your support at this time.” Harpur said.

A hospitality promotion was planned soon, following on from other campaigns, including “Love Taka Shop Taka” signage. Business advice was also being offered to members as the association worked to support retailers in their need for more customers.

Harpur said cashflow was really important at this time, as was businesses continuing to market to their customer databases. “Looking after their mental health is, of course, also very important – as you can imagine, it’s an extremely stressful time when your business is losing thousands of dollars every day.”

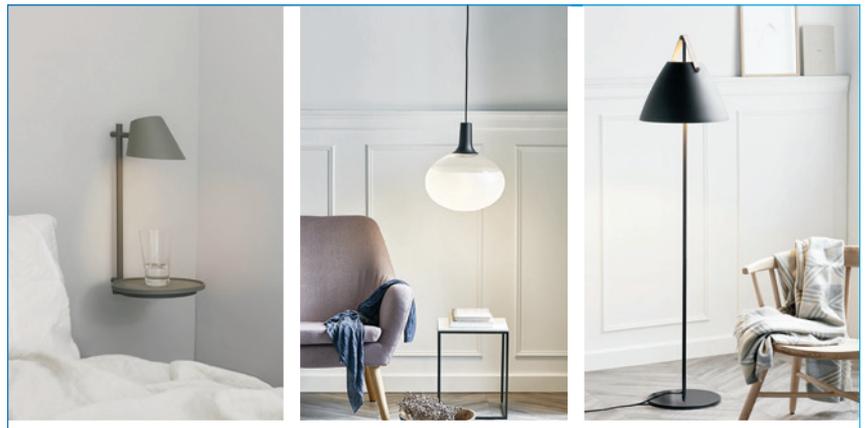
## Play delay

The Hauraki 10-year-old set to play the same Shakespearean role his grandfather played 55 years ago has a few more weeks to wait.

Hauraki School was forced to delay its production of *Kidsummer Night's Dream* due to lockdown last month, but has set new dates of 22-25 September.

Liam Greenway will play the comic role Bottom, as his grandfather Gary Monk did as a 12-year-old.

News of the family's double act featured in the last issue of the Observer.



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From page 1

## Hospice seeking funds for \$20-million project



### Makeover... An artist's impression of the expanded Shea Tce facility

“People are living longer and with more complex symptoms and we’re already feeling the impact of this growth in our community. Without this project, we simply wouldn’t be able to continue providing specialist care to patients and families who need it.”

Hospice, like other charities, is facing tough times. Covid-19 lockdowns have hit the revenue it raises from its second-hand stores.

Day-to-day operations under raised alert levels are tricky, with visitor numbers limited and safety measures in place. Home-visit services, which it also provides, have been disrupted.

Harbour Hospice – which covers North Shore, Hibiscus Coast and up to Warkworth and Wellsford – runs a six-bed facility at Red Beach, Whangaparaoa, and respite day care at

Wellsford, as well as the hospice in Takapuna.

The organisation will soon be going to the community seeking funds to help with its future-proofing. Hospice does not receive direct government funding, although DHBs contribute to running costs. It relies heavily on public donations, shop sales and support from volunteers, sponsors, grant-making trusts and bequests.

Nichols said she was looking forward to sharing the hospice design plans soon. The inpatient unit would be reconfigured and reclad, with two family/whānau overnight rooms, and upgraded family and carer facilities. Facilities for community nurses would also be improved.

Work is expected to take around two years, with the hope that staging it will allow some patients to remain on site throughout.

## Barracks work funded

The old barracks at Kennedy Park is a step closer to being turned into a community space.

Asbestos-removal and other work on the heritage building on Beach Rd, Castor Bay, has been funded to the tune of nearly \$50,000.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board allocated the money in its community facilities works programme for the 2020-21 year, although it may take several years to complete.

Auckland Council’s heritage team will help with the restoration of an old engine room at the park. This is expected to be done this year for \$25,000. A search-light emplacement by the Rahapora Pa site will also be preserved, at a cost of just over \$15,000. Stairs in poor repair nearby, will be fixed for \$80,000.

Other work at Kennedy Park is in the pipeline, including fixing leakage into its war-time tunnels over the next three years. Paths will be improved. Renewing the carpark and drainage issues could take until 2025, with spending to be split over future budgets.

## Big Day delayed

The Wairau Estuary Big Day Out planned for last Sunday has been delayed until 27 September, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The fun day to raise environmental awareness will run from 10am until 3pm at Milford Reserve.

As well as stalls spreading the message of caring for our waterways and communities, there will be food trucks and family activities.

It has been organised by the Wairau Estuary Environmental Protection Society (WEEPS).

Bring a picnic, a mug and gumboots!

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# Beach rocks continue to annoy residents

After 77 days, the rocks illegally dumped on Milford Beach largely remain there. They make the beach more impassable than before.

Now you can't walk that section of the beach two hours either side of high tide.

As there are two high tides each day, this means the beach is unwalkable for eight

hours – a third of each day.

Milford Beach is a recreational asset highly valued by a large number of residents of Milford, Forrest Hill, Hillcrest, Glenfield and Wairau Valley.

I know residents of Northcote, Birkenhead and Sunnynook who are regulars on the beach.

It is a place to enjoy nature, take healthy exercise and to socialise.

I look forward to the obstructing rocks being removed or moved as far out of the way as possible.

This will restore a key contributor to the health of our suburban communities.

**Guy Armstrong**

## Member urges 'new culture'

A Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member has urged her colleagues to look at how they all work together.

Trish Deans said she had heard the board – which is often divided in its voting on issues – described as dysfunctional. This was not the case, she said. Its role was to tease out answers.

Her comments came as the board discussed a report on Auckland's council-controlled organisations (CCOs).

Deans said the report had found that some CCO interactions with local boards did not result in board voices being heard. It was more a case of CCOs telling boards what was happening, rather than consulting them.

Recognising the democratic role of boards extended to how they themselves functioned, Deans maintained. She urged the Devonport-Takapuna board to begin with a "new culture among ourselves".

Rather than undercut each other, there should be more recognition that board members had different views to bring to the table, she said.

Her remarks did not prompt further comment at the meeting

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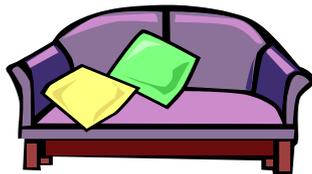
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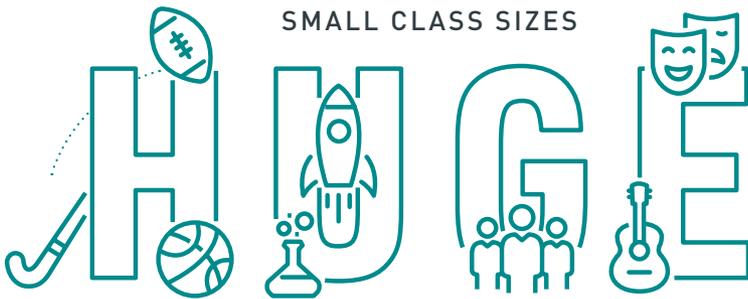


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# Kristin

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## Funds lined up for lakeside reserves



**Will they bite?... Anton Jayakody and Sherina Amarasinghe and their children Navi, aged 4, and Hailey, 2, enjoy the swans at Lake Pupuke**

Lake Pupuke's public reserves are in for some more care in the year ahead.

Foreshore structures at Henderson Park, Takapuna, and at Kitchener and Sylvan parks, Milford, are set to be improved. Including design work, this is budgeted to cost \$199,231.

The lake's southern surrounds received attention last year, to both paths and foreshore structures.

A path and safety barrier at Killarney Park is also down for renewal in the local board's 2020-21 programme. The cost is \$154,700.

On the same schedule are improvements

to the park's upper car park and retaining wall, for \$35,000.

Within Killarney Park sits the historic PumpHouse theatre building, which is in for significant spending from the works programme, mostly to maintain the asset. This includes reroofing the café, replacing the floor of the theatre's toilet floor and renewing air conditioning. In total, this will cost just under \$400,000 in the year ahead.

Up the hill at the Takapuna Pool and Leisure Centre, ongoing work is needed on exposed structural fittings and filters. A sum of \$142,976 has been set aside this year.

### Sunnynook spending

A space for "wheeled sport" at Sunnynook Park will be built for \$20,275. Plans for what this will look like are yet to be finalised, but the local board hopes the work will be finished by the end of 2021.

A play area outside the community centre

will take a year longer. Although a small amount of money has been set aside for the project this year, the bulk of the total budget of \$340,000 is for work in 2021-22.

At Belle Verde reserve, replacing timber in the play area is also a year away.

## Korean Garden a step closer at Barrys Point

A Korean Garden in the Barrys Point Reserve is a step closer, with just under \$150,000 set aside for infrastructure design.

The project, to include a memorial to war veterans, was first proposed a decade ago.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board approved initial funding last month. The first stage of design work is due to be finished mid-2021. The garden will be a collaboration with the Korean Garden Trust which is raising further funds towards it.

• Another development on the books for Barrys Point Reserve will not get under way so soon. The proposed dog park was not funded in this budget year, but \$11,150 has been pencilled in for work in 2022.

## Reserve improvements coming in Forrest Hill

The skate park and learn-to-ride track at Greville Reserve in Forrest Hill are both in for a spruce-up.

Funding for the improvements was signed off in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board's works programme for 2020-21.

The track will be repainted at a cost of \$113,000. Design for the skate park will begin, but the physical works will take place the following year, at a total spend of \$100,000.

Selwyn Reserve's play area improvements are also on the waitlist, with \$200,000 pencilled in to be spread over three years from 2021-22.

• In Milford, a similar approach is being taken for Nile Reserve, with design work budgeted at \$20,000 in the year ahead, and the main play area renewal set for 2022, at a total cost of \$170,225.

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## Rubbish device next step for estuary

A floating bin that collects rubbish may soon hit the water as part of efforts to clean up Wairau Estuary.

The Seabin can skim oil and collect floating debris, with cigarette butts a common catch, along with micro-plastics and food wrappers. It is hoped one will be docked in the marina by the end of the year or early 2021.

In a project spearheaded by Next Rotary Generation (NRG) – a satellite arm of Milford Rotary, aimed at involving younger people in its community work – the Seabin project has won \$5000 in backing from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. NRG is now fundraising, with each device costing around \$13,000.

“We saw Seabins and what they could do, and we thought, there it is – there’s the start of this clean-up effort,” said NRG’s immediate past president and project leader Hannah Stoddart.

The group was keen to attract volunteers to help take turns emptying and maintaining the device, she said. Schools had shown initial interest in being involved in the project as well.

The idea had come about because members knew of the struggle with the water quality at Milford Beach, and the push by environmental groups like Milford WEEPS to clean up the estuary which feeds to it.

Stoddart said a Seabin unit was essentially a “floating rubbish bin”.

“It’s obviously not going to fix the whole problem,” but it was a starting point.

More than 800 Seabins were in use worldwide, with five in New Zealand currently. Three were

at Auckland Viaduct’s marina near the Maritime Museum and another was at Half Moon Bay. A fifth was at the Tutukaka marina in Northland.

Seabins are attached to part of a jetty and float just under the surface of water. Water is pumped through the device from the top to bottom, passing through a catchment bag, which collects anything from 2mm small micro-plastics, to 2-litre plastic containers. The unit is fitted with an absorbent pad that soaks up any oils or other toxic substances. Organic material is captured also. This can be just as congesting and polluting to waterways as rubbish.

A full bin can contain up to 20kg of rubbish and costs around \$1 a day to run.

Stoddart has been liaising with WEEPS and the Milford Residents’ Association. Through working with Milford Mariners on logistics, a potential site on Pier A had been found for the Milford Seabin, she said.

A spokesman for WEEPS, Dr Guy Armstrong, commended Stoddart and NRG for coming up with the idea and for their commitment to see it through to successful installation. He said he was grateful to the local board for its support as well.

Efforts to improve the estuary environment have gained momentum since the formation of WEEPS last year. A sum of \$20,000 has been set aside in the local board’s environmental works programme for native planting and weed management. This is part of a multi-year estuary enhancement plan.

Stoddart, aged 29, works in Takapuna for the local business association. She said council staff



**Rubbish idea... The kind of floating bin proposed for Milford marina**

had been supportive of what NRG was wanting to do. The next steps were raising more money, both through seeking grants and a Give A Little page set up at <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-bring-seabins-to-milford-marina>. Volunteer helpers would be welcomed.

Individuals or groups interested in helping can get in touch by emailing [nrgnorthshore@gmail.com](mailto:nrgnorthshore@gmail.com)

## Estuary getting improvements

Shoreline planting and seawall repairs are set to better future-proof Wairau Estuary.

The waterway carries pollutants to Milford Beach and has been recognised as needing a clean-up by Auckland Council. Now it is getting it, as part of a staged plan.

The local board has made the estuary one of its main environmental projects for the year ahead, agreeing to spend \$20,000 on planting.

This follows on from the council’s Wairau Estuary Enhancement Plan which suggested a number of steps to improve water quality and the lake environment. Planting is stage one, but the board envisages supporting more work in the years ahead.

It will also fix a damaged timber seawall at Wairau Estuary Reserve (Milford Marina) for \$275,000. This will address subsidence issues, maintain the wall and prevent seepage of material into the estuary.

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Takapuna

# Tom Gerrard: long-serving Rosmini principal

## Remembered by current Rosmini principal Nixon Cooper.

Tom Gerrard sadly passed away on Thursday 13 August. He was born in Ireland in 1941 and came to New Zealand as a small boy.

Tom's first connection with Rosmini College was as a teacher from 1966 to 1970. He taught a range of subjects and coached the 1st XV. Tom returned to Rosmini College in 1975 as principal after the college had had four principals in three years. He would hold the role for 39 years, until 2014.

An outstanding educator, Tom was a giant in Catholic boys' education for four decades. A great thinker and philosopher, Tom had a clear sense of his mission in Catholic boys' education. In essence, it was to produce a well-rounded young man whose morals were rooted in a strong spiritual foundation in the Catholic faith. This combined with academic rigour and co-curricular interests. He also never wavered from a belief in the need for firm discipline, to which many an old boy could attest.

Tom Gerrard was a larger-than-life character



## Service recognised... Tom Gerrard with his NZ Order of Merit in 2012.

with a ready wit. He was exceptionally good company and could keep a packed room entertained for hours. Many of his former fellow principals readily attest to him being arguably the most colourful principal they knew during his long tenure in charge at Rosmini.

It was when others suffered misfortune that Tom especially showed his genuine human kindness, affection, warmth and care for those in the wider Rosmini community.

Tom was always quick to recognise the support and help of others. He was deeply indebted to many long-serving members of the Board of Trustees. Tom would also have been keen to acknowledge the 25 years of loyal service Jim Flanagan and Owen Doody gave him as part of their close-knit senior leadership team.

Tom leaves behind an extraordinary legacy at Rosmini College. Just one aspect that can be seen by us all illustrates that legacy. When Tom arrived, the college had a roll of 572. It had 1020 by the time he left. Tom oversaw the fundraising and construction of buildings including Foster Cooke, Catcheside, Tindall Auditorium, Sormany Science and Peter Maire Technology teaching blocks. Not to mention the eponymous Tom Gerrard Gymnasium, John Copson Sports Pavilion and seven extra classrooms.

He loved sports, especially rugby, horse-racing and W.B. Yeats.

Due to Covid restrictions, Tom was farewelled at a small gathering at the college chapel on 27 August. Family plan a memorial service on the anniversary of his death next year.

## Covid 'highlights need for connected communities'

Connecting communities quickly is vital in times of crisis and more centralised co-ordination is needed, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has been told.

Resilience had been shown locally during the alert-level 4 lockdown, but improvements could be made for future readiness, members of the Devonport Community Trust told the board.

They were speaking at a community forum just a week after the board voted to spend more money on Civil Defence (CD) across its area.

The trust and others were commended for the work they did helping the vulnerable and reporting on what they had found.

Jacki Fortune, Brent Talbot and Maria Teape outlined that volunteer helpers had been plentiful, but finding those needing support was harder, especially among the elderly who were

not connected to online forums.

In the area from Devonport to Hauraki, leaflets were dropped in letterboxes offering support with the likes of shopping or phone trees for the lonely. Lists of available tradespeople for emergency work and other advice were posted.

The experience had identified that many did not know who to ask for help. "There wasn't an obvious communication point at the start, which got us thinking about if this could be the role of Civil Defence," said Fortune.

Although Auckland Council's plan laid out a role for CD in local communities, Talbot said Covid-19 had exposed a gap. An emergency affecting roading or electricity, such as major storm, might have exposed this even more.

Board members expressed a range of views on improvements. Toni van Tonder

said Devonport's response showed it to be a connected community and "other areas may not be so much".

Deputy board chair George Wood said: "We were put in an invidious situation by our officials in the city who told us we had no role to play." Putting money back into the local budget would let the board and residents groups work together again.

Talbot was heartened to learn that the Auckland North Community and Development organisation (Ancad) had been asked to co-ordinate CD efforts.

Board chairman Aidan Bennett said it was not fair to say the council had not been involved. Library staff had been deployed to ring and check in on older subscribers for instance. But there were things that could be learned.

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## Westlake muso pens national winner

Westlake Girls Year 12 music student Hannah Jones (above) was recently announced as the junior winner of the New Zealand Chamber Music composition competition.

Her piece, "Extranjero Tango", was scored for violin, viola and piano.

"I enjoyed working with chromatic scales in this tango, however, it was a challenge to ensure the violin and viola melodies worked well together, especially as I am not a string player, but a saxophonist and singer," she said. Hannah receives weekly tuition from

Westlake's Composer-in-Residence, David Hamilton, who is himself a well-known New Zealand composer.

The Residence Programme was first initiated to encourage and inspire Westlake composition students, and there have been numerous winners of both national and international competitions over the years.

This year's entries were judged by Clare Cowan, composer of the Royal New Zealand Ballet's recent production of *Hansel and Gretel*.



## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

### WELCOME!

Takapuna Library has a new Community Library Manager - Lucia Mataia has been with Auckland Libraries and its predecessors for 20 years and will be based at Takapuna until February next year. Kia ora and welcome to the Takapuna community Lucia!

### LIBRARIAN'S LOCKDOWN READING

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A light, short read about second chances and the power of human connection.

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#### Wonder: the Art and Practice of Beatrice Blue - Beatrice Blue

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#### A handful of hard men: The SAS and the battle for Rhodesia - Hannes Wessels

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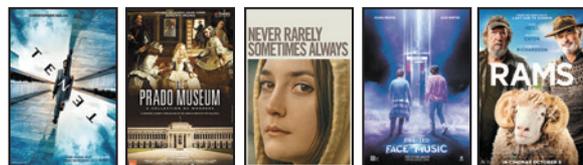
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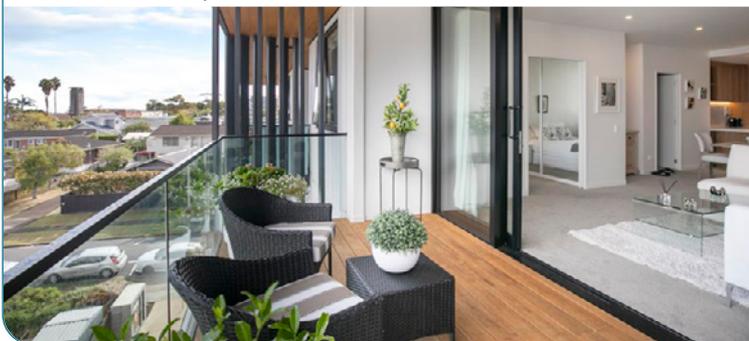
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