

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 43- November 13, 2020

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Fish dumped
in stream... p2

Milford Christmas event
gets extra backing... p4

High euthanasia support
on Shore... p9

Rail on track to Takapuna in new plan

Takapuna looks set to get a shot in the arm from a train stop – a spin-off from the favoured plan for a second harbour crossing to be a rail-only tunnel.

The tunnel would cross from the city under the Waitemata Harbour, most likely from Wynyard Quarter, with a stop at Takapuna

and another stop at Smales Farm.

Although building the \$5 billion tunnel is likely 10-20 years away, signalling intent on whether a second crossing is to be rail, road, or a mix of both is a significant step from transport planners.

The recommended plan to deal with growth

and congestion on the North Shore and take pressure off the country's most travelled daily route, across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, emerged from a briefing to Auckland Council's Planning Committee by Waka Kotahi–New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

To page 2

Sand and surf – the Beach Series returns



Summer's here...Takapuna Beach Series lifeguards (from left) Cenedra Waddel, Paige Waddel, Lauren Davey and Ella Parr-Gommans head for the water. Story, more pictures, pages 6 and 7.

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Fish dumping mystery causes a stink

Repeated illegal dumpings of fish into the Wairau Stream are upsetting Milford residents.

“The smell was so terrible,” said Maxine Jordan, who lives over the road from where the fish have been discarded near the Alma Rd bridge.

She first caught a whiff late last month, while pegging out her washing. She was relieved to see council cleaning up on Friday, 29 October, after someone else had called in to complain.

Two days later, however, more fish frames were spotted in the shallow stream.

Cam Mitchell, whose rental property borders the stream, said visiting friends had told him they saw a man lowering a basket into the water over the weekend. Due to the sloping banks he could not see the fish from the deck of his home, but had noticed “a murkiness in the water”.

From the bottom of his section, the fish frames are visible. Mitchell has in the past noticed other items dumped into the stream, which runs to the estuary and Milford Beach. This included a car door.

Jordan told the Observer “some people just don’t care”. As well as fish dumping on other occasions in the past, she had spotted people pull up at the bridge and toss rubbish over the side.

The Observer saw seven snapper frames still in the stream early last week. Jordan said more fish had been dumped a few days earlier before it was cleaned up.



Making a stink... Gutted snapper in the Wairau Stream last week

A student walking past on the way home from Westlake Girls High School said she had also seen fish left dumped in the stream several months ago.

When initially contacted by the Observer, Auckland Council said it had no record of complaints and that the fish dumping was a matter for the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

MPI later told us dumping of waste was a matter for the council. MPI national manager of fisheries compliance Steve Ham said the

filleted snapper in the images we forwarded to the ministry appeared to be of legal size.

“We encourage people to dispose of fish waste sensibly, and it is disappointing to see fish waste being dumped in this manner,” he added.

A council spokesperson said people could report such incidents to its compliance/pollution team. “I’d definitely encourage people to call council and report the incident with as much detail as possible so we can look into this.”

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Observer

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 news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
Website: www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz

MANAGING EDITOR: Rob Drent
PUBLISHER: Peter Wilson
ADVERTISING: Liz Cannon
CHIEF REPORTER: Janetta Mackay
REPORTER: Anneka Brown

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: November 20

From page 1

Rail to the North Shore could it become a reality?

NZTA then released a business case late last week to back a three-step choice. Stage one, already underway, is improvements by Auckland Transport(AT) to the Northern Busway, with stage two a rail tunnel, primarily funded by the government, and stage three a study of what extra roading network needs across the harbour should look like and how they should connect up.

North Shore’s new National Party MP, Simon Watts, says: “If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing in one go.” His party’s policy favoured a dual road and rail tunnel, catering for both public and private transport. The country’s transport and economic resilience required it and “sooner rather than later”, he said.

North Shore councillor Chris Darby, who chairs the Planning Committee, has advocated for rail to Takapuna and the wider North Shore for decades and pushed successfully for the business study to proceed two years ago. The city could not fit more and more buses and cars, he said.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board mem-

ber Jan O’Connor said the sell-off of part of Takapuna’s central car park space by council development arm Panuku should be halted, so including a train stop within the town centre area and near connections to buses could be better allowed for.

Board chairman Aidan Bennett said rail would be “fantastic” for the metropolitan centre of the future. “How good will it be to catch efficient rail transport to the city and beyond?”

Darby said Takapuna would be a big beneficiary of extending rail to the North Shore. In time it was envisaged the rail spur through Takapuna and Smales Farm could extend to Albany. The busway through Akoranga was a success, but needed supplementing.

“Keeping in mind the additional harbour crossing is likely to be Auckland’s mostly costly infrastructure project, the planning required is extensive.”

Watts wants early decisions made, saying: “We want infrastructure in place before we need to use it.”

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff said last week that NZTA was clearly leaning towards a public transport tunnel for a time when Auckland would have more than two million people. In a choice between light and heavy rail, he expected light rail to be chosen.

The Planning Committee has noted the findings of the business case and called for agreement between NZTA, the council and AT before any further work is done.

2 The Strand: empty for 918 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 918 days. At some point, its future will be determined by Auckland Council.

Purple passion sets reserve alight

Nine months after the last-minute-before-lockdown installation of the Beacon sculpture, its artist and the community finally got together to celebrate this popular addition to the Milford Reserve.

Artist Lang Ea said: "It's been amazing to see how it has resonated with the public – as an artist you can't ask for a better response." She was speaking at an event organised last Sunday by the Milford Residents Association and attended by around 70 people at the Milford Cruising Club, including local board members, North Shore councillor Chris Darby, council officials and engineers and lighting experts involved in the creation of the purple-lit highly polished elliptical stainless-steel sculpture.

Ea, who lives in Birkenhead and studied design at Victoria University in Wellington, came to New Zealand as a refugee from Cambodia with her family when she was aged eight. Her talent is being recognised internationally: paintings by the multi-disciplinary artist are soon to be shown in a leading New York gallery.

Beacon was originally commissioned by Auckland Council to commemorate women's suffrage in 1893 in New Zealand – the first nation to allow women to vote. The sculpture's inner circle references the shape of a camellia, the flower worn by suffragettes, and the colour purple adopted as a sign of loyalty to the cause of winning the vote. The spheres are seamlessly joined and were chosen to represent historic references to domestic duties – women's 'traditional' sphere of influence.

Residents' association co-chair and historian Deborah Dunsford told the audience that a small number of Milford women (all of whom listed their occupation as domestic duties) had been among the 32,000 New Zealand women (a quarter of the then female population) who petitioned for suffrage. Among them were names that lived on in the area. Committee member Helen Pilkington said Beacon had been an "instant and extraordinary success" and the group had wanted to celebrate having it in the reserve.

It was installed just three days before the first Covid-19 lockdown and many people discovered it on daily walks. Board chairman Aidan Bennett was one, saying he posted pictures and still saw people stopping to take selfies.

Ea said the 250kg sculpture had been built knowing young people might climb onto the piece. Making it withstand wind had been a bigger issue.

Mirror image... Artist Lang Ea in front of her Beacon sculpture at Milford Reserve



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Authorised by Simon Watts, 15 Anzac Street, Takapuna.



Local board coughs up another \$7k for Christmas event

Milford's popular Christmas by the Lake event has won \$7000 in extra funding from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, ensuring it can continue.

The community concert – involving a 200-strong choir drawn from local schools and the Auckland Symphony Orchestra – is staged in front of an audience of picnickers under fireworks at Sylvan Reserve on the shores of Lake Pupuke.

The board had already pledged \$10,000 to help Seven Events Ltd stage the evening on Saturday, 28 November, but at its meeting last week was asked for more to help it avoid running at a loss.

"It's a bright spot in a tough year," said member Ruth Jackson. Toni van Tonder added, "We do need some Christmas cheer", while Jan O'Connor described it as a "marvellous" show.

Board members urged a previous backer, the Milford Business Association, to look at contributing a few thousand dollars to an event that draws 25,000 people to the area.

Association manager Murray Hill said he would speak with his members. He attended the meeting to talk about the unique value of the event to the community, suggesting a \$9000 contribution would ensure its success this year.

A funding shortfall saw the annual event cancelled in 2019.

This year, despite early commitments by sponsors, the challenges of Covid-19 had led to some withdrawing later.

Organiser Peter Allen wrote to the board saying a change in approach from being a free ticketed event had been considered, but even with moderately priced tickets more sponsors had indicated they would pull out, meaning the free status quo was a better option.

But this meant his company faced a shortfall that he was still working to bridge, hence the request for extra help of \$5000 to \$10,000.

During debate on lifting this year's amount from the already committed \$10,000, board chair Aidan Bennett noted that in previous years the board had donated \$15,000.

He noted, however, that the board and Auckland Council faced their own financial pressures.

Deputy chair George Wood suggested an extra \$2500 would be appropriate assistance, and O'Connor chimed in with "\$3000".

"It's like a fish market," Bennett joked.

Trish Deans took a middle path, suggesting \$2500, ideally with the business association matching the amount.

In the end, the spirit of Christmas goodwill prevailed, with the board chipping in an extra \$7000, for a total of \$17,000.

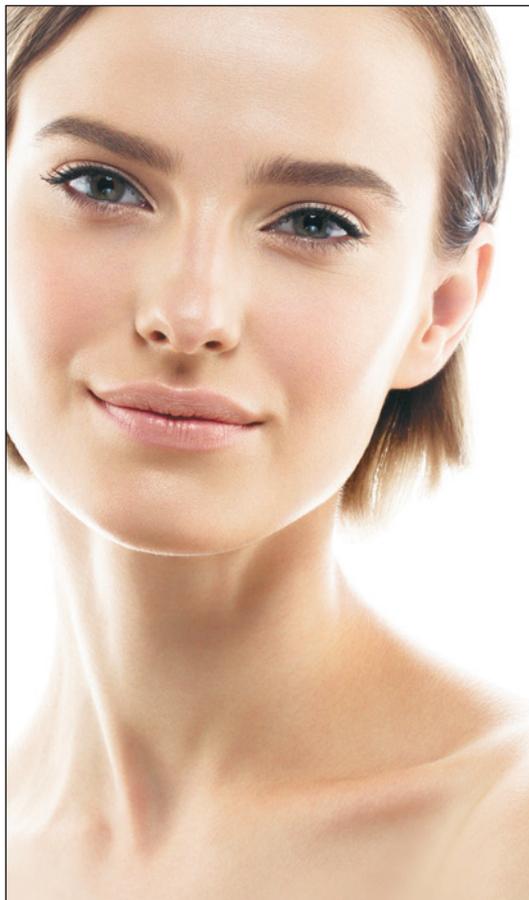


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Kids help kids in intermediate-school 'passion project'

A school project aimed at engaging students in big global issues is having a positive community spin-off.

Four Year 8 students at Takapuna Normal Intermediate School (TNIS) who were exploring poverty and inequity in education chose to do something about it by arranging a collection of reading and text books, games and backpacks to be delivered from their decile-nine school to a decile-one school in South Auckland.

The girls, who worked on the project during their school holidays, say the thinking and planning took more time than the collection of donated items which was done over a week.

"Coming up with ideas was the hardest bit," said Alanah Barwick.

Once the topic of study and action was decided, Anika Sison said the group prepared flyers and took to social media seeking donations.

They got in touch with the Blue Light charity organisation which works with police to deliver youth programmes. Blue Light arranged for their collection to go to Leabank School in Manurewa, and shared photographs from the delighted students.

"We felt really good about it," said Damindi Weerapana Hewage.

Teacher James Wheaton said the project was part of the school's International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, which all students undertook. The inquiry-led programme has been used at the school for more than a decade. It encourages learners to choose a passion project to study and action in depth.

This year, the starting point was United Nations sustainability goals, with groups of students looking at varying topics including climate change and global warming.

Year 8s worked towards what was called



Caring quartet... TNIS Year 8 students (from left) Damindi Weerapana Hewage, Jamie Choi, Anika Sison and Alanah Barwick

an exhibition, presenting a summing-up of their inquiry. "We try to encourage kids to understand concepts behind the big ideas, but to have some local impact."

Wheaton said he was proud of the results, which this year also took in topics ranging from Covid-19, to plastic and pollution and homelessness. The quartet studying poverty and inequity had brought this into focus

by considering other children with fewer opportunities than they had.

Although Anika says they would love to repeat the exercise, the students are now looking ahead to the challenges of attending Westlake Girls High School next year.

Says Jamie Choi: "I learned that small things we do can impact on other children a lot."



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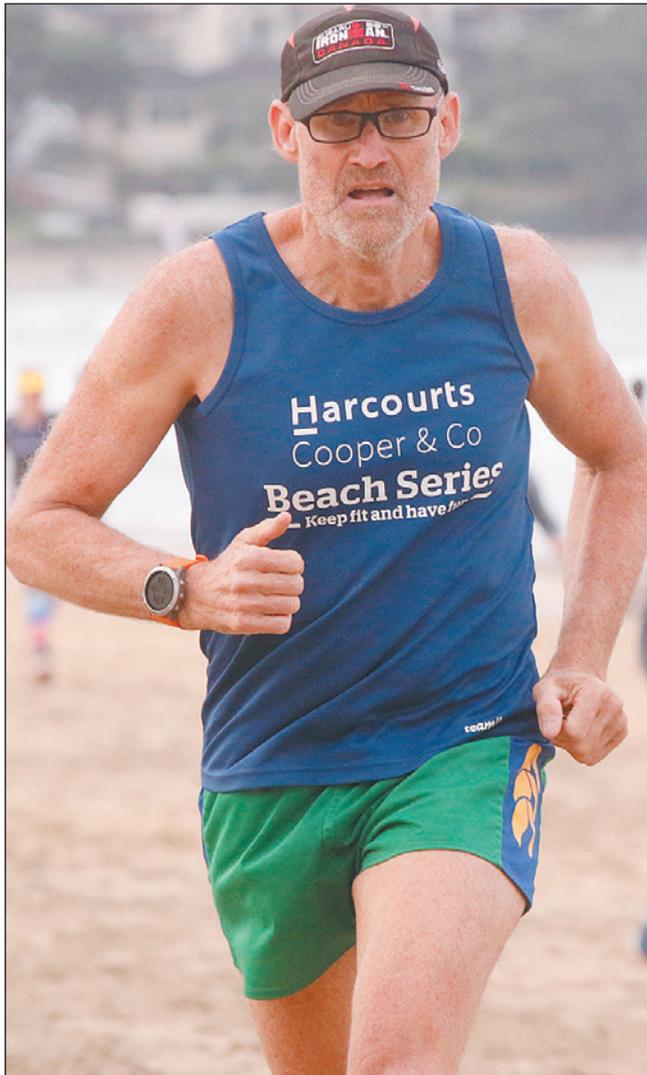
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Beach series gets summer started



Pounding the sand... Jonathan Simpson competing in the 5km beach run



Maternal support... Kaia Bates (left, with her mum Jenny Bates) and Sophia Railton (and her mother Beth Railton), who competed in the 2.5km kids run

The Harcourts Cooper & Co Beach Series season kicked off with 450 participants last week.

Now in its 16th year, the series at Takapuna Beach is Auckland's largest weekly fitness event.

It is an all-ages beach run and walk, 10km road run, stand-up paddle and ocean swim series held at the beach on Tuesday evenings.

Dan Feisst and Jason Herriman have taken over from Nick Carol as organisers of the event.

Dan Feisst owner of swimwear store Bluseventy, has been a long-time sponsor. "It's been a whirlwind organising the event," he said. "Jason has really been the backbone getting this event going."

The 10km run is new this year, and some new signage has been introduced. New sponsors are on board and Harcourts Cooper & Co has signed as the lead backer for another three years.

"I think this year has been really hard with so many events being cancelled because of Covid-19, so a lot of people will be coming out for the beach series," said Feisst. The series runs over 18 Tuesday evenings.

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Suited up... Marieke Van Zon (top left) and Meegan Brewer after a warm up swim. Left: Amber Fawkner sprints out of the water after the 25m kids' swim.

Above: Patrick Ellis won the 2.5km kids' run along Takapuna Beach.

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Water quality a priority for Castor Bay group

Beach water quality will remain a top focus for the Castor Bay Residents Association, says its incoming president Hamish Anderson.

The group's advocacy for its bay would continue, he said. "It's important that community groups like us work closely with others."

This was being effectively done with the Milford Residents Association and water quality advocates Milford WEEPS, he said, with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board and Auckland Council now focussing more on Wairau Estuary upgrades and other contributing factors.

Other priorities were around encouraging a pest-free environment and ensuring Kennedy Park remained a well-maintained "jewel in the crown" for the area.

The need for safety, access and mobility was also important, with footpath maintenance and traffic speed areas of concern that the group would maintain pressure over.

Anderson, who took over as president of the association from David Green at its annual meeting last week, said around 35 people had attended.

Local Board chair Aidan Bennett attended as guest speaker, outlining how the board and council staff functioned and some of the board's special projects.

During his campaign for local body election, Bennett had suggested the board might need renaming to make it more inclusive of its whole catchment.

"We haven't seen any progress on that, but we did remind him," Anderson said. But the association did not have an alternative name at the ready.

Anderson said the association was one of the oldest residents groups in Auckland, having been formed in 1938. It had around 90 households as members and was eager to add more. A 19-year-old had recently signed up.

Membership of such groups tended to fluctuate, depending on hot button local issues, but there was a wider role to play in encouraging a sense of community through things like neighbourhood events.

"We feel quite a responsibility to keep it going."

Shore voters keen on euthanasia

North Shore residents voted for euthanasia in greater numbers than other New Zealanders, but were less keen on cannabis reform.

In the North Shore electorate, 69.3 per cent of voters supported the End of Life Bill, with only 29.8 against. Nationally the figures were 65.1 for and 33.7 against, according to official referendum figures released last Friday.

Forty-four per cent of North Shore voters supported cannabis reform, with 54.4 against. Nationally the figures were 48.4 for and 50.7 against.

Interestingly, 4087 special votes supported cannabis reform, with 2934 against, possibly reflecting the number of North Shore students living away from home.

Sea-slug warning

Dog owners have been urged to avoid the beach after a year-old husky pup was left on life support last month following a visit to Orewa Beach.

The husky had a seizure which was suspected to have been caused by contact with a toxic sea slug. It has since recovered.

"It's that time of the year again when toxic sea slugs wash up onto the beaches," said Auckland dog breeder Olivia Potter. "They can be in seaweed, so your dog can eat them quicker than you can do anything." She said one lady recently spotted a slug at Castor Bay.

Grey side-gilled sea slugs produce the same poison – tetrodotoxin – as a puffer fish. "If you have a young dog, a dog that will eat anything, avoid the beaches for now," said Potter.

Department of Conservation science advisor Katie Clemens-Seely said the slugs are a native species and common around the coast.

"These slugs are highly poisonous and have shown up in the news at least once a year due to dogs in and around Auckland eating them and getting sick," said Clemens-Seely. The slugs can grow up to 100mm in length.

SPCA communications and marketing manager Kim Taylor, said pet owners should always be vigilant about what their pet chooses to eat, especially on beaches or near water.

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Square delay extends window for market

Work on the new Takapuna Town Square will not start until at least mid-2021, says Auckland Council development arm Panuku.

This means the popular market on the site of the current central car-park can trade on unchanged for longer than expected, before facing a downsize to fit into the public space that will be left after development.

Market co-owner Trish Keith told the Observer that the last she had heard from Panuku was that a start date of April-May was be access issues deterred stallholders, such as during the recent Auckland Marathon. Coming into summer and Christmas

around 250 stalls were to be expected.

Once she gets a clearer idea of what is going on, she wants to work through issues with Panuku, including the rent paid to use the site. Her intention is to continue the market if she can.

Cumberpatch said among the Takapuna projects Panuku would focus on next year was to conclude a development agreement for land use adjacent to the town-square public spaces. It hopes to sell part of the existing car park for multi-storey-mixed-use buildings, including retail at ground level.

Panuku is also looking to sell other sites

in the town-centre area, having recently instructed Bayleys Commercial Real Estate to market two sites adjacent to its replacement carpark building between Huron St and Northcroft St. The sites for sale were on the corner of Auburn, Northcroft and Huron streets and at 14 Huron St, Cumberpatch said.

The parking building will have 420 spaces and is due to open to the public this month. Panuku's work plan for next year is to design, trial and improve the "pedestrian journey" from the park along Huron and Northcroft streets to the central shopping area.

Town centre a sticking point

A bid to exclude references to the "Unlock Takapuna" project from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan has failed.

Board member Ruth Jackson had sought support for a "compromise" idea, saying she wanted a plan all six board members could unreservedly champion.

Along with members Trish Deans and Jan O'Connor, she is not satisfied with Panuku's plans to sell public land or its designs for the planned new town square on the old car-park site. While happy to endorse the rest of the plan, she said it would be hypocritical for the trio to sign up to Panuku's Unlock Takapuna

vision given they had campaigned against it.

Board deputy chair George Wood said it would be hypocritical of him to agree to a last-minute change because he had supported the project, along with chairman Aidan Bennett and member Toni van Tonder. "It's been a long rocky road to get to where we are now," he said referring to the board's recent passing of the latest designs for the square after it split 3-3, requiring the chairman's casting vote to seal the deal. Van Tonder said the board couldn't not mention the biggest project in the area in its plan.

Bennett said it was sad that there was one

sticking point in the plan. "I challenge the Heart of the Shore people to stop being activists and start working for the community," she said.

He accused them of maligning Panuku and hindering development.

Jackson said Bennett was politicking inappropriately. The group rejected calls their position was pre-determined and anti-progress. Instead, they wanted to keep more car-park land for future public-transport needs and see a better civic space.

After the amendment was voted down, the plan was passed 3-0, with Jackson, O'Connor and Deans abstaining.

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Feedback adds to area's guiding plan

Environment and heritage and transport and access were the areas of focus chosen by community members asked which outcomes they ranked as most important in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan.

Both received 28 per cent backing in public submissions.

Water quality was accepted by the board as being very important to the public, with preserving heritage and cultural features also rated highly, along with improving roading congestion.

Linking to the Northern Pathway, improving feeder bus services and Sunnynook bus station, and seeing a Bayswater ferry terminal built were among stated aims of the plan.

Advocacy for a second harbour crossing was emphasised.

As a direct result of feedback taken over a month in July and August, the protection of the lava flow and fossil forest along the Takapuna-Milford coastline was added to the plan.

The need for heritage features, including cemeteries, to be cared for with expert oversight, such as from Heritage New Zealand and Auckland Council's heritage unit, was another addition. So too, community concerns that tackling Lake Rd congestion be done as quickly as possible and for footpaths to be maintained in a good state, both requiring working with Auckland Transport.

The plan noted that Covid-19 had hit council budgets, meaning some projects would be done over longer time-frames than the community was asking for. Working with community groups and volunteers

was one way some aims could be met and changes encouraged.

The plan noted in its section on parks, facilities and open spaces that some community assets were ageing. Reviews of the use of those in Takapuna would continue. An upgrade or extension to Sunnynook Community Centre, which was operating at capacity, would be advocated as a priority. Barrys Point Reserve could be better used, so options for further facilities would be investigated.

To enhance community participation and wellbeing, working with groups was considered vital, with a challenge to include mana whenua, the young, families and ethnic communities. To assist embedding Maori values, shared environmental goals with the Maunga Authority were recognised and use of te reo Maori could be encouraged in signage and council programmes and services.

Supporting the three main town centres of Takapuna, Milford and Devonport would continue, working with business groups and encouraging regional tourism, but smaller centres needed support as well, such as Sunnynook, Smales Farm, Barrys Point Rd and the Belmont and Hauraki areas.

Boards are required to complete a local board plan every three years. This guides board activity, funding and investment and feeds into the council's 10-year budget plans.

More than half the 297 individuals and groups who made submissions mostly agreed the plan reflected their needs and wants, and a quarter strongly agreed it did so.

Youth have plenty to say

Submissions by young people made up more than two-thirds of feedback on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board plan. Key areas of interest were safe places to gather, transport and the environment.

Younite, a group set up to give young people a voice in local democracy, rounded up 192 submissions – four times the number of youth submissions received previously.

The young people did this partly by approaching local high schools and setting up lunchtime sessions to brief interested students and urge them to share their views in written submissions.

Three members of Younite spoke to the board's most recent meeting to outline their work, which has been supported by Auckland Council staff. They said they wanted to demonstrate their value to the board as a

connection with young people in its area.

Michael de Boyett said: "After this, a lot more students will now know what the board does and may come to it."

Younite gave its achievements its doubling membership, encouraging of youth awareness of the board plan through a social media campaign, including video, and spreading the word about new youth facility Shore Junction.

Younite is now represented on the Shore Junction advisory group. It wants to encourage more youth to use the creative space on Northcote Rd.

Aims for the future included getting schools beyond Westlake Girls High School and Takapuna Grammar on board.

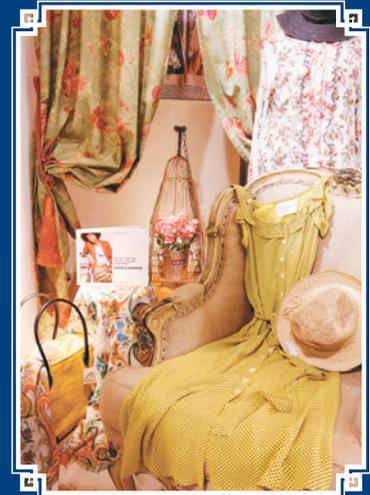
The board thanked Younite for its work helping with community consultation and received its presentation to the meeting.



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Ooky-spooky fun at Lake House Arts Centre

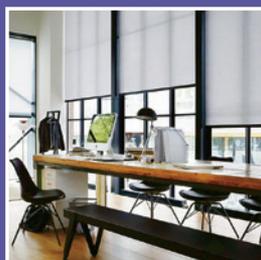


Fright night... Scary figures (above) at the Lake House for Halloween, with sweets on the menu (top right), some handed out by arts centre staff member Alana Hawkes (right)

Around 300 people visited the Lake House Arts Centre for a free family Halloween event last month. The event was held in collaboration with Haunted Auckland, a group of paranormal enthusiasts documenting New Zealand's historical buildings and landmarks. It featured a strobe-light disco, sweets and treats and creepy characters around the house. A replica of the car from *Knight Rider* was on site for photo opportunities.

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Ahoy, me hearties

Milford is hosting its 10th Pirate Market Day on Saturday, 21 November.

The annual street event, at which children are urged to dress in costume to be in to win prizes, nods to the area's heritage.

A mock pirate ship was sited on Milford Reserve from 1928 until it was demolished in 1959. It was a popular attraction, housing a tearooms, ice-cream parlour and arcade by day, and evening dances. (See it in the historic photographic display now in the Milford Centre.)

A Little Pirate Treasure Hunt will be part of the modern-day fun, along with two bouncy castles and stalls in the town centre from 9am to 5pm.

Big bark out

Dog celebration Woofstock is returning next weekend. Highlighting the work of dog-rescue groups and the cause of animal adoption, the fun family day begins at 9am on Milford Reserve, Sunday, 22 November. It includes food and music and the chance to take a beach walk with man's best friends – on-lead, of course.

Meet and eat

Food trucks will be back at the Milford Reserve on Thursday, 26 November. At least half a dozen will be parked up on Craig Rd from 5pm to 9pm for a relaxed end to the day with street eats and beats.

Smales Farm housing a long-term development

Smales Farm land next to the Northern Motorway is open for high-rise residential development now it has been re-zoned, but plans aren't being rushed to accelerate its transition from a business park to mixed use.

"The development is on a 40-year timeframe, although there would be a lot of demand for it (residential housing) now, Greg Smale, director of Northcote 1, the main Smales Farm landholding company told the Rangitoto Observer.

Planning work would begin over the next 18 months, with final options likely in four to five years.

"We are looking at a very long timeframe – the buildings are quite large."

The buildings could be almost as tall as the Sentinel in Takapuna "although we may not build them that high", Smale said.

"At the moment we are doing a lot of work on the commercial side (of the property)," said Smale, who has been working on development of the land for 25 years. Included in this was the Beehive development for small businesses.

With its prominent site, the development would be one of the most important for New Zealand, not only the North Shore, Smale said.

It would have a heavy emphasis on sustainability and new technology.

The new zoning allows 1380 residential apartments.

From OE to NZ

Russell Dixon, formerly of North Shore Musical Theatre, returns to the Pumphouse next week with his personal story of growing up with a dream.

Westie to Westend is a cabaret production that chronicles Dixon's journey from a childhood in Oratia to the bright lights of London's theatre district. Along the way he developed his craft on the stage locally and on television, before heading to the UK and then home again. It's

a pacy production of life's highs and hilarity.

Accompanied by pianist Ben Kubiak, the storyline is punctuated with songs from musicals, including *Miss Saigon*, *Me and my Girl*, *Aspects of Love*, *My Fair Lady*, *Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Top Hat* and many more

• *Westie to Westend* is on for two nights, 27-28 November, from 7.30pm. Tickets, \$39.90 online from The PumpHouse Theatre box office.

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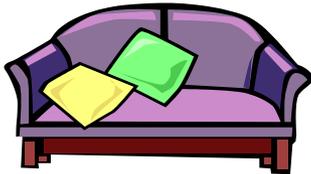
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Letter

Takapuna treated as Cinderella, not a jewel

Rubbish has been in place for two weeks in the Strand. In the same part of the Strand, the median strip is extremely unkempt.

I called at the Auckland Council desk on Monday, 2 November and complained. I was told a pick-up would be arranged. This has not happened. Takapuna Beach is frequently

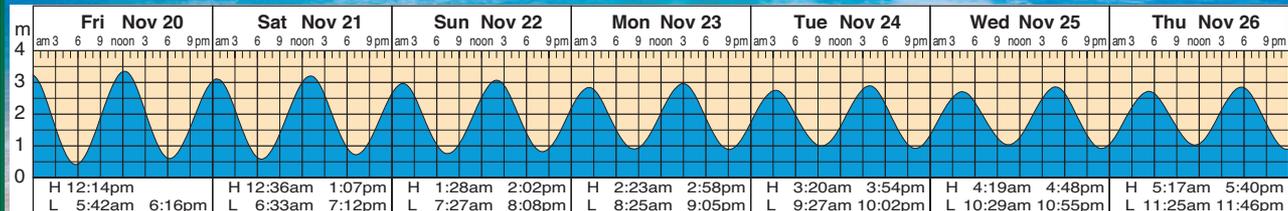
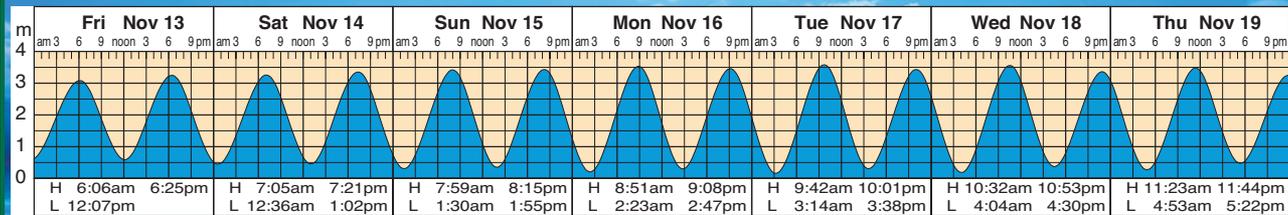
promoted by our council as the jewel in the crown of our lovely North Shore beaches.

This photo (right), together with fact that our beach is very rarely cleaned, show in reality what little regard our super city council has for Takapuna.

Nuala Grove



Milford / Takapuna Tides



More work needed to identify rubbish sources – local board

A clearer idea of what is being dumped will help with waste-management decision-making, say Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members.

Building materials are a big part of what is going to landfill in Auckland, and levies for dumping these should be higher, they maintain.

More rigorous recycling efforts, including separation for cardboard, and a deposit return scheme for glass bottles, could also be usefully explored.

“There’s a lot of things we could do here,” said deputy chair George Wood.

The comments came in discussion of Auckland Council’s Resource Recovery Strategy, which the board was asked to provide feedback on. The board backed the strategy, but noted higher tip fees would discourage the use of landfill.

These are set to rise from \$10 a tonne to \$60 by 2025, but the board says this is too low and slow. Wood noted that tip fees in New South Wales were \$143 a tonne.

The council strategy – with long-term targets of zero waste and net-zero emissions – includes an increase in the city’s community recycling centres from the current nine, including Devonport, to 21 centres and two commercially focussed resource-recovery parks by 2031.

The board was told last month that the Devonport centre would be a beneficiary of

some of the \$10.6 million in “shovel ready” government funding for infrastructure development at the nine existing recycling centres.

Its feedback welcomed this, but said the centres should be encouraged to maximise their potential to be effective, self-sustaining social enterprises, noting that this initial goal from the 2014 strategy had not been met.

City-wide focus on recycling needed to be broadened in favour of resource recovery and waste diversion, given that recycling alone had been shown to be subject to supply-chain issues overseas, the board also submitted.

Community-garden plan still being pondered

The slow germination of a community garden for Forrest Hill continues, with its driving force, Phoebe Atkinson, saying: “It’s a long-term project and we are in it for the long haul.”

Asked for an update on the idea to cultivate fruit trees, vegetables seedlings and flowers on a portion of Seine Reserve, Atkinson said a couple of objections had been received after Auckland Council approval to use the land was recently advertised for public input. This meant

the matter would go to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for further consideration. A date had not yet been set.

While this was a hold-up to the plans of the Forrest Hill Community Garden Trust to get the garden under way this year, Atkinson said it was all part of the democratic process. She hoped consensus could be built on what was a three-year ambition, with one of objectors now more on board with the project.

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Big throws propel Kaia to sports award – and US

Qualifying for the World Under-20 Championships in both shot-put and discus earlier this year earned Westlake Girls High School head girl Kaia Tupu-South the school's sportswoman of the year award.

Kaia has accepted an Athletic Scholarship to the University of Washington in Seattle next year.

"I feel happy," she said. "I didn't want to go to America. I just never thought about studying so far away from home. But my parents have encouraged me to pursue my dreams."

Kaia has a full scholarship to study engineering while training and competing in discus and shotput.

Kaia's mother, Julie Tupu-South, says "She has worked very hard to get to where she is now."

The 18-year-old is a member of the High Performance Sport New Zealand Athletics Development Squad and is currently ranked number one in the women's Under-20 discus and shot put in New Zealand. She is also the New Zealand Secondary Schools Discus Champion and national Under-20 champion.

From the age of five, Kaia began training in various athletics disciplines, including long jump. It wasn't until she turned 15 that she focused on discus and shotput at the Takapuna Athletic Club.

"One of my dreams is to compete in the Olympics," says Kaia.

When she was 10, she watched Great Britain's 2012 London Olympic heptathlon gold medallist Jessica Ennis and became a huge fan. "I really enjoy the sport and I love the routine of training," she says.

She recalls a junior competition where she was supposed to throw a 4kg shot but instead threw a 3kg. "Everyone thought I had broken my personal best, but then we found out later it was only 3kg and that was really embarrassing," she says with a laugh.

The World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya, was meant to be held



America-bound... Athlete Kaia Tupu-South has won a scholarship to the University of Washington

in July this year but has been postponed until August 2021.

Westlake's Junior Sportsperson of the Year was Zoe Crawford, who last month competed in the national secondary-school swimming championships, where she won two silver medals for the 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke as well as a bronze medal in the 50m backstroke.

Zoe also competed in the National Surf Lifesaving Pool Championships, placing first in five events.

Another Westlake student, Greta Pilkington, was awarded International Performance of the Year. The sailor last month took out the 2020 Youth Girl's Laser Radial event at the NZL

Sailing Foundation youth championships.

Sporting All Rounder of the Year was Holly Williams and Team of the Year was the school's Under-18 Coxed Quadruple Sculls.

Other schools' sports achievers...

- Carmel College's Senior Sportswoman of the Year is Robyn Spark, who was named in the national senior women's water-polo squad.

The college's Junior Sportswoman of the Year is Simonne Lawson, who competed across a variety of sports, including volleyball and running.

Carmel's team of the year was the Under-17 beach-volleyball team. Grace Bauxton and Maria Hanabadi were both named in the national junior women's side.

- The sports award winners from Rosmini College were to be announced on Wednesday 11 November.

- Takapuna Grammar School's National rowing champion and top rugby player Evan Williams was announced as this year's senior sportsman of the year. Evan won the Under-18 single-sculls races at the College

Sport Head of Harbour and the North Island Secondary Schools Championships earlier this year.

Natalie Sayes was awarded Senior Sports-women of the Year. The squash champion won the NZ National junior squash Under-19 title played in Christchurch last month, despite playing above her Under-17 age group.

TGS track-cycling star Jodie Blackwood was named Junior Sportswoman of the Year.

Snowboarder Zephyr Lovelock, who competes internationally for New Zealand in halfpipe and slopestyle, was the Junior Sportsman of the Year.

The TGS girls 1st XI cricket team received the school trophy for team of the year.

- Westlake Boys High School decided not to present sports awards this year because of interruptions and cancellations due to Covid-19.

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Family fun on the Shore to Shore



Dressed to impress... Zander du Tait won best-dressed dad and celebrated the Harcourts Cooper & Co 36th annual Shore to Shore fun run/walk with his family (left) Estie du Tait, Zayden du Tait and baby Petrus du Tait. The 5km event from Belmont Intermediate, along Takapuna Beach to Milford attracted 1500 participants last Sunday. It had been originally planned for April, pre-Covid.



Street fun... mother and daughter, Gaynor Topham and Rosalie Neale (10) left, run down to Takapuna Beach, while Mariah Gabriel and Tom Henderson competed in the run representing Willow Park Primary School in Hillcrest. Proceeds from the race go to school sport programmes.

Forrest Hill merges with Glenfield Rovers

Football clubs Forrest Hill Milford United and Glenfield Rovers have merged to form Northern Rovers FC – with a combined membership of 2500.

The new club will retain two clubrooms, with its senior teams (under-17 and above) based at McFetridge Park and its juniors at Becroft Park.

Forrest Hill had been looking at possible club mergers over the the last two to three years. An earlier proposal to merge with North Shore United was rejected by North Shore members.

Northern Rovers co-chair Adrian Pickstock – who was club chair at Forrest Hill – said merger talks began with Glenfield around 12 months ago. Proposals were put to club members in August and agreement was reached on September 28.

Prior to Covid, most amateur sports clubs were struggling to survive, with many looking to “change the model”, Pickstock said.

“Covid held the issues in focus,” he said.

A bigger club allowed for greater economies of scale, the ability to attract better coaches to offer better programmes and enhanced oppor-

tunities for players to move through the grades to elite level.

Having a bigger club also offered more leverage with Auckland Council over use of fields.

Currently, officials were working through the formalities of establishing the new club: registration as an incorporated society and ratification from football authorities.

Pickstock is co-chair of the new club alongside Cole Hinton, the former club chair of Glenfield Rovers.

An independent chair would soon be appointed to head its new board.



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Takapuna missing big scorers ahead of title defence



Victorious... The Takapuna T20 side which clinched the title in 2020

Takapuna District Cricket Club begins its defence of the Auckland T20 title at home on 9 December without three key players.

From last year's team, Max O'Dowd has headed to Otago, Mike Sclanders went home to South Africa and is now "trapped there" and Ben Becroft has suffered a cut finger and is out until the New Year.

"That's 3000 runs (a season) right there," said Takapuna co-coach Ryan Scivier.

"We've got a deep squad, though, and there's a great opportunity for these guys now." Dan James and Jordan Sussex were set to take up the mantle and add a few runs.

The T20 competition runs over summer, in two pools, with semi-finals and finals next year.

"Everyone wants to beat us because we've won 17 out of 18 of our T20 matches over the last two seasons," said Scivier, who is co-coach with Craig Cachopa this season.

The team will need to tap its depth in the one-day and two-day competitions as well, with its four Auckland Aces reps – Robbie O'Donnell, William O'Donnell, Ross ter Braak and Danru Ferns – only available occasionally during the season due to provincial commitments.

Overall, "the guys are buzzing and just want to play – we are so lucky we can play living in this country...the team is making the most of each day," Scivier said.

• Takapuna vs Hibiscus Coast, 9 December, Onewa Domain 5.30 pm.

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A book in a brick or a butter box may make for tricky reading, but it undoubtedly offers a visual storyline, which is just the way book artists like to craft their creations.

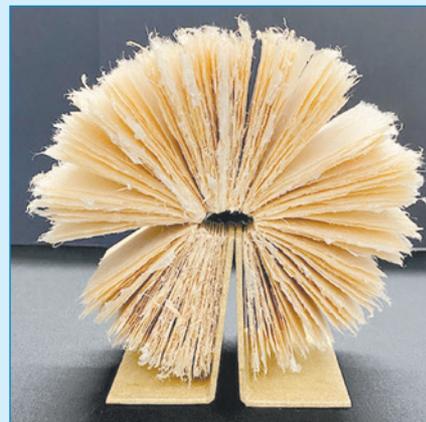
Some even produce books without words, to tease those engaging with this niche genre.

An exhibition by a selection of leading New Zealand book artists is now on display at the Takapuna Library, giving members of the public a rare chance to experience their work. "It's all about introducing the books to a new audience and challenging what people think a book can be," says co-curator Toni Hartill.

She points to several examples, including a kinetic roll-a-deck arrangement of beautifully feathery blank pages by Elizabeth Steiner and a prized Colin McCahon edition that mixes the artist's ink drawings and poems in zine-like style. The McCahon work is one of six facsimiles published by the Hocken Library in 1976 of an original hand-bound book McCahon made for art patron Charles Brasch in 1951.

Book art is recognised in the United States, but here it is seldom showcased. The library's own hidden gem, the Angela Morton Room, is the ideal intimate space for its display. "It's an amazing resource," says Hartill.

This first-floor room, opened in 1985 as a family memorial to an art-loving North Shore resident who died young, is home to one of the country's largest publicly accessible art library collections. It contains thousands of volumes,



Feathery leaves... Elizabeth Steiner's work "Flax Mill Wheel"

ranging from art journals and artist files to biographies, illustrated books and personal memorabilia.

Leanne Radojkovich, research librarian in charge of the room, is on a mission to make more people aware of what it offers to students of art, art lovers and others curious to connect with Aotearoa's visual identity.

She hopes the exhibition, entitled *Out of the Cupboard*, will prove an enticing stepping stone. "A book can be a real object of sculptural beauty," she observes. "They come alive when you handle them."



PENINSULA

14-28 NOVEMBER 2020

WRITTEN BY GARY HENDERSON
DIRECTED BY KRISTOF HAINES

8PM WED - SAT SUNDAYS AT 2PM

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light reading

Hartill explains that the term book art is not a substitute for illustrated books, or beautifully bound books. Although it may well encompass one or both of these things, it adds other dimensions. These may be tactile elements, but at its heart is a visual vocabulary. Words optional, but most often incorporated. “An art book is an art form itself.”

Among those whose work is on display is Devonport printmaker Celia Walker (who is also exhibiting at the Devonport Depot Artspace currently) and Bronwyn Lloyd from Mairangi Bay, who has her own imprint, Pania Press. Her book, called *First Fall*, references children who had to be given up for adoption in earlier eras. It features a cover made from darned pieces of woollen blanket, with an embroidered keepsake tucked inside that might be pinned to the “unwanted” baby’s swaddling cloth, as the only memory of its biological mother.

Claire Von Vliet chose to illustrate Keri Hulme’s poetry with evocative seascapes: “It brings the writing to life and engages your senses,” says Radojkovich.

Two other names represented in the exhibition – world-renowned but under-recognised here, says Hartill – are Aucklanders Steiner and Beth Sergeant. “We really wanted to include them,” says Hartill, a member of the Print Council, who worked with Toni Mosley, of the Hand Press Association, on assembling the exhibition.

Sergeant’s work “Foundation” is served up in a brick. Hartill has tamed a “meander book” in a box. This unfolding series of water colour vignettes is made from a single A4 sheet. Her second work tells the story of the felling of kahikatea from the Hauraki Plains, all in a tiny illustrated volume in a butter box.

The white pine was cleared early last century in favour of dairy farming. The raw timber was exported for processing into butter boxes, which were then sent back from Australia.

• This Friday, 13 November, 10am to 2pm, in the Angela Morton Room, Level 1, Takapuna Library, a special event will be held where some of the artists will talk about their works and show them outside of their exhibition cases. Bookings are not necessary. The free exhibition continues daily until Christmas Eve.



Page turners... Research librarian Leanne Radojkovich and exhibition co-curator Toni Hartill with some of the exhibits

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The Secrets We Keep (R16) 98min	ADVANCE SCREENING 18 NOV

COMING SOON

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