

# The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 49 – January 22, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Lake Pupuke in  
a bad way... p5

Prada Cup buzz  
hits Takapuna... p8

Fate of public assets  
remains murky... p11

## Mystery fish dumper caught in act

The Milford fish dumper has been at it again, discarding filleted frames into the Wairau Creek from a suburban street, but this time he has been caught in the act.

The illegal dumping on Sunday 10 January was spotted by a resident, who photographed the man, including his putting a

plastic bin back into a company vehicle.

The incident was reported to Auckland Council, which said it was following up on the evidence provided. Until mid-week the fish frames were still in the creek below the Alma Rd bridge and starting to smell. “It’s disgusting that someone thinks it’s okay

to dump them there. It’s not on, especially in suburbia,” said the man who saw the dumping.

This is at least the third occasion over some months that the dumping has occurred. The Rangitoto Observer was contacted by another resident in

To page 2

## Much ado about something – Shakespeare series notches 25 years



Face off... (from left) Jordan Henare as Laertes, Steph Curtis as Gertrude and Jono Gabriel as Claudius in *Hamlet*, one of Shoreside Theatre’s summer Shakespeare season. More photos and story, pages 14-15.



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From page 1

## Milford fish dumper caught on film

early November and saw around a dozen dumped fish frames in the creek. A neighbour and a local schoolgirl told the paper then that it was not the first time they had seen and smelled fish in the same spot.

Online chatter pointed the finger at an elderly man who has been seen on a number of occasions lowering a bucket into the creek – possibly for gardening water – but he is not the person responsible for the January dumping.

“It was a middle-aged Caucasian male,” said the witness to the latest drop. He was alerted to the dumping just after 6pm by a loud splash. “They were in a big plastic tub and he put that in the back of his ute.”

The dumping took about 30 seconds. The man then drove off in the direction of Nile Rd.

The witness took photographs of his vehicle, showing the branding for a large infrastructure company and its company identification number.

“I was a bit enraged – my heart rate went up through the roof when I saw it,” said the witness, who preferred not to be named.

Within around 10 minutes, he reported the offence to the council. The photographs were provided to the council and to the Observer.

The witness reckons the offender was most likely a recreational fisherman who had been out fishing in the good weather. “He was in sunnies, with a t-shirt and shorts on and sneakers.”

The fish should have been dumped at sea, or disposed of properly on land, not left to rot in the sun near people’s homes, the man said. Of around 10 fish, he thought several looked to be of marginal size.



**Fishy business... Snapper carcasses dumped in Wairau Creek**

When the Observer checked the creek the next day, there were eight fish frames visible from the bridge.

Another resident said it was weird and wasteful the way the fish had been gutted and winged. Some seemed to be cut in two and only partially filleted, she said.

Council senior waste advisor Jan Eckersley said enforcement staff were following up the

complaint with the company whose vehicle they believed was involved.

Once the illegal dumper was identified, a litter noticed could be served, with a fine of up to \$400.

“Illegal dumping is never acceptable, and if we find people repeating the same offence they will face further fines,” she said.

The fish had been removed, she said.

## Editorial

### Seaside purchase would add to city assets

The bid to buy a coastal property between Takapuna and Milford to secure the wateredge walkway and also possibly provide a writers’ or artists’ retreat by the sea needs to be fully investigated.

Auckland Council has been in negotiations for some time with Paul Firth, who owns the property. He allows people to cross its frontage to walk around the coast and wants to sell it to the local authority to safeguard the path for future generations.

However, the interest from both parties never extended to more than that, primarily due to a lack of council cash, exacerbated by Covid-related financial pressures.

This changed last December, with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aiden Bennett and deputy chair George Wood proposing money from the sale of the former Takapuna library at 2 The Strand be put towards the purchase.

Bennett told the board the window of opportunity to buy the land needed to be actioned to create a public reserve and potentially a writers’ or artists’ retreat. “It’s a little gem and would make a fantastic park for this community.”

He has a point. Waterfront land is almost impossible to acquire for the public and a “swap” for the proceeds from the sale of 2 The Strand has a lot of merit.

It would be a perfect spot to foster artistic or literary creativity. Look at the success of the Michael King Writers Centre on Takarunga in Devonport – which is nationally and internationally acclaimed. It seems like a win-win. The building at 2 The Strand has been empty for more than three years and needs substantial money spent on it for earthquake strengthening. A community trust attempted (but ultimately failed) to raise funds to turn it into an art gallery. The establishment of a seaside cultural hub would fulfil many of the same aims.

It is unfortunate that the board – divided on so many issues – could not be united on this one.

At times I’ve been critical of Bennett and his chairmanship of the local board, particularly his stance on banning the public and media from board workshops. But on the purchase of 9 Kitchener Rd with the proceeds from 2 The Strand he is on the money.

**Rob Drent, Managing Editor**

### 2 The Strand: empty for 988 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 988 days.

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**NEXT ISSUE:** February 5  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:** January 29

# Play is the thing for fledgling thespians



**Playing dead... Mackenzie Wills (front) and workshop classmates (from left) Ponui Belizario, Rajat Iyer, Xavier Anthony, Anna Sweetman, Erin Dean, Olivia Brendel, Harriet Barker, Sam Mandow-Godden, Jodie Williams, Finn Lavery and Vedant Sheth**

Drama students at the PumpHouse Theatre are sharing their love of Shakespeare these summer holidays.

Twelve students have taken part in the PumpHouse's annual summer drama workshop, learning *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Drama tutor Mags Delaney said, "The students have learnt all their lines for the play in just one week."

They had even made their own costumes.

First-time workshop participant and Westlake Girls High School student Olivia Brendel said she had met many new friends and really enjoyed being taught by Delaney.

"We have learnt so much about acting and improv and even more about Shakespeare himself," said 15-year-old Olivia.

She had been excited about creating costumes and hoped to volunteer on some of the PumpHouse's regular productions. "I

love Shakespeare because there are so many themes in his plays. There is romance, comedy and tragedy. So you know when you go to a Shakespeare play, you are going to get a full range of emotions," she said.

Olivia is particularly looking forward to seeing comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* being performed at the PumpHouse Outdoor Amphitheatre as part of the Shakespeare in the Park series.

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# Children at the Centre of Angels Childcare

Angels Childcare Centre is a family-run Christian preschool with over 20 years' experience. It has operated in the heart of Takapuna since 2010, firmly establishing it at the centre of the local community. The centre prides itself on providing an intimate, homely haven with beautiful natural outdoor playscapes and imaginative, age-appropriate indoor environments for your preschool littlies to explore and enjoy.

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With Takapuna Primary School right next door, Angels is perfectly located. The experienced preschool teachers engage with the school on an ongoing basis, and prepare older children for school readiness through a semi-structured Early Literacy & Numeracy programme that optimises the children's foundational skills ready for a smooth transition into primary school. Angels Childcare Takapuna provides a respectful, loving and nurturing home away from home for the children and families of Takapuna and the wider North Shore community. It takes great pride in its holistic approach and warm hospitality and looks forward to welcoming you to the Angels Childcare family.



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# Junior campaigner wants drinking water at beach playground

Hauraki 10-year-old Lilah McDonald is on a mission to raise money for a water fountain at Takapuna Beach Reserve Playground.

“Water is good for people’s health but water is often more expensive than sugary drinks,” she says.

Two years ago she travelled to Poland with her family where she was impressed by a large public water station. People were able to fill up their water bottles and dogs could also get a drink from the bowls below.

When Lilah returned to Auckland she started researching and believes there is a lack of public water fountains in Auckland.

Statistics from Auckland Council show that only 183 or 5 per cent of Auckland’s 3695 parks have drinking fountains. Of the 817 parks with playgrounds, only 16 per cent have drinking fountains in the vicinity.

Lilah spent some time at the busy Takapuna Beach Reserve Playground, where there is a small water-park area to play in but no water



**Lilah McDonald at Takapuna Beach Reserve Playground**

fountain, bubbler or tap for filling bottles.

Takapuna Beach Reserve Playground was built in 2016 and is one of several playgrounds in Auckland with no drinking-water supply.

At the end of 2019, Lilah and her mother Kate O’Leary began the Public Water Project

to raise awareness about the issue and seek sponsorship from different companies to build more water fountains. “Having water fountains also means that people could refill plastic bottles instead of them going to landfill or the ocean,” says Lilah.

Auckland has only 370 public water fountains. Lilah’s goal is to double that number by the end of this year. And she hopes to increase the total number of water stations in Auckland to more than 1000 by the end of 2024.

She is aiming to get a specific water fountain manufactured in Australia for the Takapuna playground, featuring a wheelchair accessible bubbler and a foot-activated dog bowl.

New Zealand facemask company Meo has partnered with the Public Water Project and will be contributing the profits of its first 2000 children’s face masks sold, with a goal to raise \$10,000. The masks will be available online from February 9.

# Lake Pupuke rates poorly in health stakes

Lake Pupuke is in a poor state, a report by the Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) agency says.

Both the water quality and ecological state of the 1000ha North Shore lake is rated poor, the latest report issued late last year reveals.

But Pupuke is not alone in that, with 65 lakes (more than half of those monitored across the country) put in the poor, or very poor, category.

Just 24 lakes of the 124 monitored are considered to be in good or very good condition.

Pupuke has been on a downward spiral for many years, worrying lake guardians who fear efforts to improve things will prove uphill work.

LAWA is a collaboration between New Zealand’s 16 regional and unitary councils, the Cawthron Institute, and the Ministry for the Environment, supported by the Department of Conservation and Statistics New Zealand. It uses council data to monitor

lakes. Its latest collated data, from 2019, is the first time a national picture has been presented.

Mountain lakes are generally in better condition than lowland ones, which tend to be in more populated or heavily farmed areas. Lake Pupuke is unusual for its urban surrounds. It has a catchment area of similar size to the lake itself.

A Cawthron Institute freshwater ecologist, Dr Roger Young, who is part of the LAWA lakes-science team said the study analysed how nutrient-rich lakes were. Nutrient overload from land-based activities leads to phytoplankton growth, reduced clarity, and toxic algae blooms.

A Trophic Level Index (TLI) was used to measure this. In Lake Pupuke, the TLI was 4.2 on a scale of 1-7, with higher numbers indicating more of the damaging nutrients.

In 2018, the measurement was a better 3.6, but a few years previously had also been over 4.

For another important reading, that of a lake’s Submerged Plant Index (SPI), Pupuke again rated “poor”. The SPI describes the ecological condition of a lake based on the plants present in it, with natives considered healthy and invasive growth not. Lake Pupuke, with just 11.3 per cent native plants has a worryingly low 18 per cent overall rating for its condition. Measurements in earlier years put it in the moderate condition category, when it showed an SPI rating well over 20 per cent.

Another LAWA contributing scientist, Dr Deniz Ozkundakci, from Waikato Regional Council, cautions that it is important lakes are supported if people are to be able to enjoy them into the future.

LAWA records, which the public can see on the agency’s website, helped contribute to this. Improving lake water quality needed a combination of community-based actions, effective policies and restoration work, he said.

# Lake banks to be planted

Land bordering Lake Pupuke is set to get 1000 new plants this year.

The Pupuke Birdsong Project, previously known as the North Shore Birdsong Project, will be weeding and planting around the lake, said the group’s environmental coordinator, Fiona Martin.

She said the lake is inundated with weeds, and surrounded by pest trees such as the Chinese windmill palm and willow. Weeds include palm grass, woolly nightshade and ivy. “There have been long-term efforts to stay on top of predators around the lake but we are now mobilising teams to tackle the weed problems.”

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## Cricket close call

Defending Auckland T20 cricket champions Takapuna lost on the last ball in its 2021 semi-final clash with Howick Pakuranga away last Sunday.

In a rain-affected match, Howick Pakuranga was set a target of 64 runs off nine overs.

“They got it on the last ball. . . . it happens,” said Takapuna Coach Craig Cachopa. “The rain did not help.”

Despite the loss, Takapuna still has a lot to play for this season. It is leading the two-day competition and beat Parnell on Saturday in the Jeff Crowe Cup to move to mid-table in the one-day section. Each competition has three more games to play.

## Tree update soon

The fate of large pohutukawa trees at Campbells Bay School may become clearer this month once the Ministry of Education receives further advice from an arborist.

After anger from locals about the news that the mature trees along the school’s Aberdeen Rd frontage were in for the chop, a meeting was held before Christmas to listen to residents’ views. The Ministry’s acting head of education infrastructure service, Rob Campbell, said that building 14 new classrooms meant the trees would still be affected.

“However, we agreed to consider if there were any other options available that could mitigate the impact on the trees.”

“We will update the community once we know more,” he said.

## Disability mat to remain after injury

The disability access mat on Takapuna Beach should remain in place, says North Shore councillor Richard Hills and the chairman of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, Aidan Bennett.

“It’s giving members of our community access to the beach which they’ve been unable to have before,” Hills told the Observer.

His comments follow a call to remove the mat by an able-bodied woman who tripped and broke her ankle on it. The Yes Disability Resource Centre says it was coned off at the time.

Hills and Bennett said separately that while their thoughts were with the woman and her recovery the mat was a wonderful initiative. “Council staff have given me no indication that it will be removed, said Hills. “We will continue to monitor its use.” Bennett expected the mat

would be raised at the next board meeting. It was installed in December, on trial until Easter.

Yes Disability’s chief executive, Sonia Thursby, said the incident and vitriolic social media response had revealed some unfortunate attitudes. The injured Sunnynook resident, Emma Tolmie, aged 50, was quoted in other media saying the mat had “made her disabled”. She was hospitalised for surgery and is on crutches.

Thursby said the accident was unfortunate, but an injury did not compare with being disabled. The mat, a first in Auckland, let disabled people enjoy the beach, some for the first time. It was checked daily and had been moved 1m across after a king tide eroded sand beneath it.

“We had to battle to get it and now I’m having to battle to keep it.”



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# Ahoy there!

## Takapuna in prime position for Cup party

Summer party vibes are taking hold shore-side as the warm weather, public entertainment and heightened yachting competition coincide.

Takapuna is at the centre of much of the action, providing grandstand viewing of Prada Cup racing.

This Saturday (23 January) the Takapuna Beach Summer Days Festival amps up the action, with family fun, food trucks by day, and music on the green of Gould Reserve as the sun lowers in the sky.

From 10am, little ones can enjoy clowns and magicians, bouncy castles and beach games. From 3pm to 7pm, the free entertainment takes a musical turn, with Kiwi performers, including Tobias, formerly of Katchafire and lead singer/guitarist for Sons of Zion, doing a solo spot. He is followed by Daily J, an indie-psych band, then pop singer Geoff Ong.

Milford, Castor Bay and Devonport are also prime spots for Cup watchers, depending on which courses are being sailed on, but as the round robin series winds up ahead of semi-finals racing next long weekend (Jan 29-Feb 2), the presence of a big screen at Takapuna makes it an inviting place to congregate for guaranteed viewing over the Auckland Anniversary holiday.

Come February, after the Prada Cup final is held (between 13-22 February) to determine who races Team New Zealand in the America's Cup in March, the Waterbourne Festival will kick off. This is also centred at Takapuna Beach (from 27 February



**Just over there... Will Laurie (20) from Mairangi Bay indicates how handy the Cup racing is to Takapuna Beach**

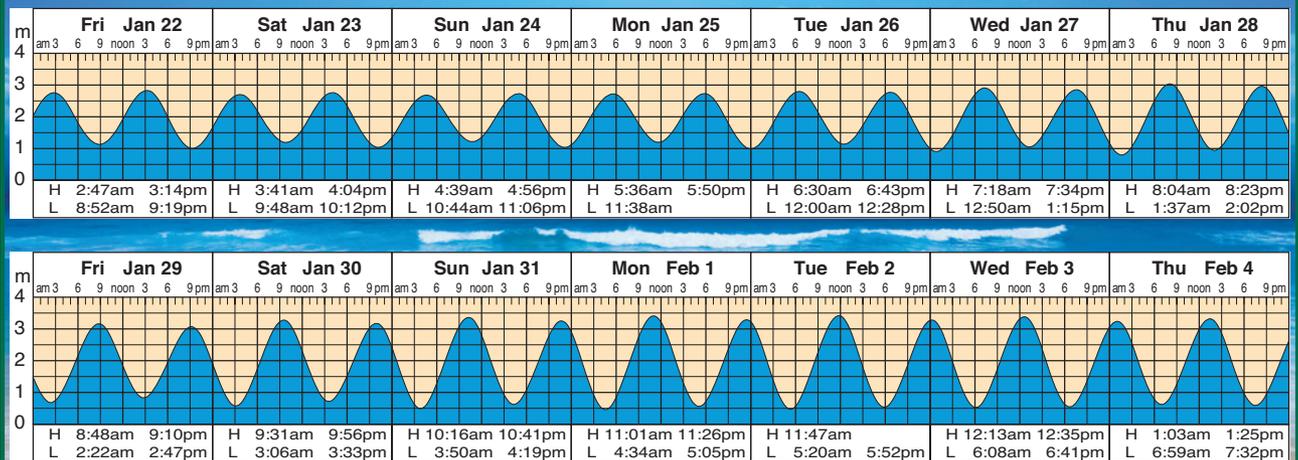
to 21 March) and has an environmental component, including beach clean-ups and the opportunity to try various water sports, along with a strong selection of ticketed entertainment from top performers including Sir Dave Dobbyn and Tami Neilson.

Takapuna businesses are looking forward to the trading lift from more visitors to the area continuing through summer after a

tough year caused by massive roadworks and landscaping on Hurstmere Rd and Covid-19 disruptions. The works will resume mid-year and should be completed by next summer.

The business association is behind this Saturday's festival and is hoping both locals and visitors support the shopping and hospitality area.

# Milford / Takapuna Tides





**Picture this... Yachting fans are guaranteed close-up views of the action via a big screen on the Takapuna beachfront**

## More Cup fun

### Get sailing savvy

Brush up on your knowledge of New Zealand's proud yachting history at the New Zealand Maritime Museum. Special exhibitions and a guided tour give an insight into the nation's sailing prowess, its boatbuilding history and modern-day technology and teamwork. A replica America's Cup is also on display. Tours run each Friday and Saturday from 12.15pm to 1pm until the end of March. Bookings necessary, at a cost of \$10 for Aucklanders and \$35 for visitors (including museum entrance), Ph (09) 373 0800 or via the website [www.maritimemuseum.co.nz](http://www.maritimemuseum.co.nz)

### Iwi activation

Craft of a traditional kind will ply the waters of the Waitemata this weekend for the Tamaki Herenga Waka Festival. The fifth annual free festival will be held on Saturday 23 January over 12 hours, starting at 10am at Captain Cook Wharf. Sailings on the harbour will be supplemented with land-based entertainment, including from Trinity Roots and Maisey Rika, kapa haka performances, a Maori marketplace and a laser and fireworks display to windup the event, which is being staged with the the region's 19 iwi.

### Art outreach

An international exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery has been timed to coincide with the America's Cup. Like the yachting it benefits from backing from international luxury goods conglomerate Prada. In collaboration with the Prada foundation, the gallery is presenting *Goshka Macuga and the Fondazione Prada Collection* until April. The exhibition is a showcase of contemporary works drawn from the Milan-based foundation's world-renowned contemporary collection of 20th and 21st century art.

## Roads unaffected for now

No road closures are in place on the North Shore for Prada Cup yacht racing – at this stage.

Racing in the challenger series began on 15 January, with round robins finishing on Sunday, 24 January.

Semi-finals and a finals series (to determine who will face Emirates Team New Zealand in the America's Cup in March) are scheduled to run from 29 January until 2 February.

Auckland Transport (AT) said that after the crowd levels seen during the warm-up World Series races in December, there were currently no planned road closures. "This will be

constantly monitored as the races progress and will also be re-evaluated for the America's Cup finals in March," a spokesman said.

In Devonport in particular, earlier restrictions had angered some people, with King Edward Pde businesses blocked off and residents of several streets requiring permits to access their homes.

Local-board members intervened to advise AT that the restrictions seemed unnecessary.

Information about transport matters related to the yachting, including ferry and bus schedules, is available on AT's website.

## Letters

### Unsympathetic addition

The uglification of a once-beautiful little church in Milford: such a shame to spoil the looks of a lovely historic church, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on the corner of Shakespeare Rd and Fenwick Ave.

Surely if needed for a wheelchair an alternative could be found to surmount three steps.

**Vince West, Milford**





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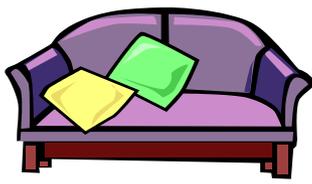
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## Fate of public assets still uncertain

The fate of some key public assets in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area may become clearer next month. Court action to halt Auckland Council selling local assets, including the old Takapuna library at No 2 The Strand, was withdrawn late last year, but the future of the properties remains in the balance.

The board was briefed in a workshop session in December on conditions relevant to sales and the topic is likely to be revisited at its first meeting of 2021 in mid-February. This follows Auckland Council's Finance Committee listing assets as being looked at for sale mid-year. These include the heritage former Devonport Borough Council building, a reserve on Blomfield Spa, Takapuna, and pockets of land at 24 Linwood Rd, Forrest Hill, and 2 Forrest Hill Rd.

The plan prompted a group of concerned citizens acting under the name of Save Our Shore Public Spaces to file for a High Court injunction. Group member and former local body politician Grant Gillon said the action was withdrawn after the council responded that it would consult over the sales, which was what the group wanted.

"It took away our case." Now, it hoped there would indeed be meaningful community consultation. "But we're disappointed they've started already with the sale of No 2 The Strand and 3 Victoria Rd, Devonport," he said.

The local board has told the council's development arm, Panuku, that if the Strand property is sold it wants the money spent on buying a coastal residential property at 9 Kitchener Rd to safeguard public access along the Takapuna-

Milford walkway. The Strand property has endowment status, meaning if it is sold the money should come back into the local area.

Gillon said the council was selling assets to pay debt, while wholly blaming Covid-19 budget impacts. Community facilities such as playgrounds, parks and toilets were also at risk of being lost or neglected, he claimed. The rationale needed more scrutiny. "They've pushed the decision back to the boards, even though they have cut the board budgets."

Separate to the budget-related sales proposals, the local board will also soon have a community facilities "optimisation" report on its agenda. This covers the precinct containing the Takapuna Library, the adjoining Takapuna War Memorial Hall and the separate Mary Thomas Centre around the corner on Gibbons Rd. The latter building, particularly, is in need of work, leading to suggestions the money could be re-invested for better use. The buildings are home, however, to a range of community organisations and used for meetings and events.

Board deputy chairman George Wood told the Flagstaff that compared with the likes of the busy Sunnynook Community Centre, some Takapuna facilities were not as well used. Tough decisions were ahead, but it was important the board fought for good facilities and had reinvestment made in its own area, he said. Communities should look to speak out when submissions were called for on the mayor's 10-Year Plan when this came up for public input in January or early February, Wood advised.

## Briefs

### Park and ride

Cyclists looking to connect with public transport now have extra under-cover shelters for their bikes at Akoranga, Smales Farm and Constellation bus stations. As well as dozens more bike shelters catering for increasing public demand, Auckland Transport has added extra motorcycle parking at the sites. Bike Auckland chair, Barb Cuthbert, welcomed the move, saying more people were using e-bikes to commute and wanted weather-proof storage for them.

### Sunnynook shelter

A long-lobbied-for bus shelter on Sunnynook Rd has been delivered. This provides an extended area of under-cover seating for passengers waiting for the 907 bus to Campbells Bay.

### Ways with worms

A free talk for families interested in how worms work with a view to using them for home composting is on in Takapuna this week. Hosted by the Compost Collective with support from Auckland Council, the hour-long session on Tuesday 26 January runs from 10.30am at the library. Participants get a \$40 discount towards purchase of a home-composting system.

# DAMP LEAKY BASEMENT?

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# Sunnynook celebrates a wheely good day



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**Fun for five-year-olds...  
Scarlett Pierce and Mina  
Ashcroft (above) and six-  
year-old Oren Williams at  
right**

Family fun was again a feature at Sunnynook Park's annual Wheels event. Held before Christmas to encourage active transport, the community came together on bikes and scooters to enjoy games and a sausage sizzle.

**Photos: Keeley Watson**



## 2021 Travel Sketching classes for beginners



Travel sketching is that sketched impression where we teach you how to 'see' your subject. Tony McNeight tutors you through an eight week programme of foundation skills to take you from first steps to being a confident and passionate sketcher. Our weekly classes will guide you in a relaxed and fun way to find your creative side.

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## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

### POETRY READING

Wednesday,  
17 February,  
6.00-7.30 pm



Visual poet Rachael Naomi's exhibition Unity has opened in the Angela Morton Room. Rachael creates mesmerising combinations of poetry and images in works that need to be both seen and read.

Please RSVP: [angelamorton.room@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:angelamorton.room@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### AUTHOR TALK

Thursday, 18th February, 6.00-7.30pm

Nick Bollinger, presenter and producer of The Sampler for RNZ and the author of How To Listen to Pop Music, will be giving a talk on a new book chronicling the development of the counterculture in New Zealand from the 1960s.

Don't miss the opportunity to be entertained by this piece of our musical history!

Please RSVP: [takapunaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:takapunaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROGRAMMES

We're happy to announce the relaunch of our popular pre-school programme, 4-Up Alphabet Storytime. 4-Up combines stories and learning activities for ages 3½ and up - with parents joining in with the learning! Check out our Facebook page for all our programme start dates.

[www.facebook.com/TakapunaLibrary/events/](https://www.facebook.com/TakapunaLibrary/events/)

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LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

## Wherefore art thou, youngsters?



### Taking aim... Erin Meek as Beatrice in comedy play *Much Ado About Nothing*

Shoreside Theatre is set to celebrate its 25th season of Shakespeare in the Park and is offering free tickets to children under 15.

This year's programme, performed as the sun goes down over Lake Pupuke, features tragedy *Hamlet* and comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Shoreside Theatre is now presenting the only outdoor Shakespeare productions in Auckland city.

"It was the most challenging year in the organisation's 45-year history, but Shoreside Theatre is delighted to welcome in 2021 with a significant milestone," said Shoreside president Catherine Boniface.

Shows will be running from this Saturday night until 20 February.

The two Shakespearean favourites will

play on alternating nights at the PumpHouse Outdoor Amphitheatre beside Lake Pupuke.

PumpHouse theatre manager James Bell is directing *Hamlet*. His cast has been rehearsing since mid October. "Hamlet is one of Shakespeare's longest and best known plays. We are aiming to make it entertaining and more suitable for a modern audience," said Bell.

The story follows Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, and his conflicts when Fortinbras of Norway threatens Denmark with an invading army.

Bell said he is glad to be a part of this year's Shakespeare series and has been focusing on the portrayal of the characters and telling a good story.

Boniface said the plays are true to the

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Applications close 5<sup>th</sup> February



# Free summer Shakespeare on Shore for under 15s



**Much Ado... ( from left) William Clark as Claudio, Trevor Sharp as Leonato, Ryan Douglas as Don Pedro and Jono Capel-Baker as Benedick rehearsing. Photo: Anton Reinauer.**

original text and period, and the performances will be complete with lavish custom Elizabethan costumes.

*Much Ado About Nothing* is a comedy about love, verbal-sparring, villainous schemes and mistaken identity. It is being directed by Jason Moffatt.

Earlier this year, Shoreside theatre had \$60,000 go missing from its bank account and was forced to cancel its usually profitable Agatha Christie season because of Covid-19 restrictions.

It was saved by community donations, allowing it to prepare for its annual summer Shakespeare in the Park, which will be presented by a company of almost 100 people.

Notable past actors in the series have included Benjamin Mitchell (*Shortland Street*'s TK Samuels), James Napier Robertson (*The Dark Horse*), and Chye-Ling Huang (*Shortland Street*, Proudly Asian Theatre).

- All shows start from 7.30 pm. Tickets are available on the PumpHouse website. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult, with a maximum of 3 free tickets per booking. Adult tickets cost \$25; children Under 15 are eligible for free tickets.

## VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



### NOW SHOWING

Dawn Raid (M) 99min	NEW
Penguin Bloom (PG) 95min	NEW
Promising Young Woman (R18) 113min	NEW
Wild Mountain Thyme (PG) 102min	NEW
Maya the Bee: The Golden Orb (G) 88min	NEW
The People Upstairs (R16) 81min	NEW
Buddy Games (R16) 96min	NEW
Ottolenghi and the Cakes of Versailles (E) 75min	NEW
Spread Your Wings (PG) 113min	NEW
Summerland (PG) 100min	PREVIEW SCREENINGS 22-24 JAN

### COMING SOON

Another Round (M) 116min	28 JAN
Maverick Modigliani (E) 98min	28 JAN
Music (M) 107min	28 JAN
Pixie (R16) 93min	28 JAN
Summerland (PG) 100min	28 JAN

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