

# The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 51 - February 19, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

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## Fears emergency motel use shuts out visitors

Concern about the extent motels in Takapuna are being used for emergency accommodation was to be raised at the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting this week.

It is understood half a dozen motels in the area host clients placed there by the Ministry of Social Development.

Board deputy chair George Wood and member Jan O'Connor lodged a notice of motion for the matter to be placed on the agenda. They want a firmer fix on numbers involved, the length of time people are spending in the temporary accommodation and what is being done to find them longer-term options.

The Takapuna Beach Business Association has also taken an interest. Chief executive Terence Harpur said: "We love hosting tourists in the area who support local businesses, and so need accommodation to be available for them to stay in."

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Colourful celebration... Tracy Tam and the Epacs team performed in Takapuna last weekend as Chinese cultural performances heralded the start of the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Ox



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TERMS AND  
CONDITIONS APPLY

# Licensing fiasco ahead of Waterbourne festival

With ticket marketing for star-studded events in full swing, behind the scenes organisers were involved last week in a brawl with authorities over a last-minute liquor-licensing bid. Rob Drent reports.

It must have looked like a no-brainer. A beach-front festival on Takapuna Beach Reserve over three weeks to coincide with the America's Cup. Events and concerts with food and drink – there was even the weekly Harcourts Beach series to add a family feel to the mix. Rock icon Dave Dobbyn was confirmed, along with Tami Nelson, Goodshirt, Anna Coddington and Hollie Smith. Life after Covid – summer by the beach.

Sign-off from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for use of the reserve was given months ago; resource consent was granted to construct a stage and a roof-top bar. Joylab Group, owner of reputable Takapuna waterfront bars Francs and Regatta, was engaged to provide the alcohol. So far so good.

But everything was far from calm at a last-minute liquor-licensing hearing on 8 February, when a shambolic application process was revealed.

Brookfields Lawyers partner John Young, a liquor licensing expert, was called in late in the day by the applicants. He operated as a kind of intermediary and the hearing almost turned into a farce – a type of mediation rather than a formal hearing of an application. If a licence wasn't granted last week, there was no time to get another one. Alcohol sales were at risk and a large chunk of any profits from the event would likely evaporate.

Auckland District Licensing Committee chairperson Katia Fraser said it was one of the worst applications she had seen in her seven



years on the committee.

The way the organisers had approached the application “couldn't happen again”. If the application had been heard in November, in good time, it would have been thrown out, she said.

Licensing inspector Clare Sturzaker told of multiple applications, meetings and ever-changing run sheets of events. Even on the day of the hearing, changes and amendments were being made, making it impossible for her to file a meaningful report.

At one time last year she had been told “if the liquor licence had been turned down the event would not go ahead”.

Towards the end of the hearing, lawyer John Young conceded the applicants had to take the criticisms “on the chin”. But he made sure he left with a list of to-dos, to get as much of the application through before a decision was released last Friday.

On the day of the hearing, numerous amendments and additions were made to the application to smooth its passage. Opposition from the Police and the Ministry of Health was eroded as Young deftly negotiated roadblocks.

No members of the public objected to liquor being sold at the event, when it was advertised

on 29 November. But Sturzaker opposed it from the start. She maintained that the sale of liquor was the primary purpose of the licence – secondary to the event.

Auckland Unlimited, council's tourism arm, became involved which seemed to further muddy the waters further.

“The sale and consumption of alcohol is not an event, except perhaps as part of a food or wine festival... Auckland Unlimited believed the bar should be able to operate over the full 23 days proposed, even when there were no activities taking place,” Sturzaker said.

Organisers had attempted to “fill in the gaps” to allow what was essentially a pop-up bar to keep operating, she said.

Waterbourne had first began discussions with Sturzaker in November 2018, with the idea of an event on Takapuna Beach early in 2019. The event was put on hold until 2020, then it was decided to hold it to coincide with the America's Cup this year.

Promotor Laurence Carey of Waterbourne said he had been caught between a rock and a hard place: attempting to fulfil liquor licensing requirements but at the same time being encouraged by Auckland Unlimited to include as many events as possible to add to the festival atmosphere. It was inevitable with events that line-ups and run-sheets would change for all manner of reasons in the weeks leading up to the start date, he said.

- Joylab applied for five special licences over the course of Waterbourne.

Two were approved last Friday: a ticketed music event on 27 February, from 1pm to 9.45pm; and a licence for 19 movie nights, comedy acts and music from 28 February to March 21. Alcohol can only be supplied or consumed under strict conditions and during specific hours when the events are taking place. The sale of alcohol is to cease at 8.30pm and alcohol consumption is banned after 9pm. Detailed alcohol management and security operation plans need to be adhered to.

Decisions on the remaining three licences were due this week.

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**NEXT ISSUE:** March 5  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:** February 26



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# New school brings different thinking to Takapuna

A new private school in Takapuna last week opened its \$10 million facility featuring a tube slide down from the first floor, soundproof music studio and a sky lounge for relaxation.

Age School is the brainchild of a Takapuna couple, Evan Christian and Katherine Allsopp-Smith, who two years ago decided to develop the Academy for Gifted Education as a school for their son Branson and others.

The school is designed for children from year 1 to 12 who thrive in smaller classes. They offer a focus on personalised learning, real world projects, and development of emotional intelligence.

“Research shows that this type of learning works well for gifted kids,” says Principal Steven Mouldey. “But it also works well for all kids.”

However, it doesn’t come cheap. Parents can expect to spend \$18,000 to \$22,000 per year. The school at the corner of Sanders Ave and Lake Rd currently has 58 students.

Age School does not have a uniform and offers a different learning environment compared to a typical school.

It has large open-plan classrooms, a green-screen room for film projects and a soundproof music studio. The ‘sky lounge’ is an elevated platform in the centre of the school, with hammock-like squares of netting where students can lie down and relax or read a book.

With no space for a sports field, some of the second-storey deck space is covered with artificial turf and has a small basketball court below. A tube slide can take students from the first floor to the ground floor.

Solar panels are located on the roof, and the interior is decked out with colourful bookshelves, with cubby holes for reading. Every student has access to a laptop or tablet.



**Catching the tube... Principal Steven Mouldey at Takapuna’s new Age School, which offers a different way of descending from the first floor.**

The school currently has 10 teachers, some part-time. It uses the standard New Zealand curriculum but incorporates extracurricular activities, including outdoor activities at Takapuna Beach.

The students have recently been involved with the Takapuna Boating Club for waka ama lessons and learning surf-lifesaving skills.

With a focus on green initiatives and sustainability, the school has also adopted Auburn Reserve, in an ongoing project with the Pupuke Birdsong Project.

The school expects to have 100 students by the middle of the year.

“A lot of schools have that really strong academic focus, but to thrive, we think students need to be both happy and learning,” say Mouldey.

He was previously part of the team that launched state school Hobsonville Point Secondary School. “I was always one of those teachers who did things a bit differently and encouraged more curiosity and creativity,” he says. His last job was as deputy principal at Lynfield College.

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From page 1

## Social-clients influx on board agenda

Harpur said Auckland had a housing crisis and the association recognised the need for temporary emergency housing to put a roof over people's heads. "We also see issues however with the standard of living they have living there for extended periods and the impacts it has with a reduced amount of available tourist accommodation."

Wood said he was motivated to raise the issue because it was having a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of the community. "It's pretty grim when young families have to use motels to live in."

Residents have also been raising concerns on social media, about the tenants of some properties, suggesting that some are linked to crime, such as car and house break-ins and the theft of mail and courier items.

Wood said he had feedback that visitors and business people on transfer had booked into motels "to find that they are in a place with a different profile of people than would normally be in motels".

Motels were not suitable for use as long-term accommodation, he said. They often lacked proper cooking facilities. People forced into them needed certainty, not a "grim future" of applying for repeat emergency accommodation vouchers to renew an unsatisfactory short-term arrangement.

Because Takapuna had a concentration of motels and was expensive to live in, this issue was more marked locally than in other parts of the North Shore, Wood said. While the housing squeeze was a national issue, his view was that the board could take a role advocating that

the government do more for those who had nowhere to live. Changing the mix of some of its developments, such as the large Kainga Ora project in Northcote which combined affordable housing with capped prices, might help provide more homes for those in need.

Harpur would also like the bigger picture looked at. "This is an Auckland-wide problem and not an easy or quick fix," he said. "We would love to see more long-term housing become available and so have less need for the emergency use of tourist accommodation to house people."

The Observer understands the business association has already had discussions about the issues with various agencies dating back to last year. In our next issue, we will report on the board's discussions.

## Zoning case over fire station land goes to Ombudsman

Residents' concerns that the sale of the old Takapuna Fire Station took place after a proposed new council zoning for the land was leaked to developers, have led to an investigation by the Ombudsman.

Franco Belgiorno-Nettis has been battling for several years to get information from Auckland Council regarding the rezoning of 41-45 Killarney St, Takapuna, for terraced houses and apartment buildings.

Belgiorno-Nettis alleges council predetermined the zoning and this became known by

the subsequent buyer, McConnell Clearmont Ltd, who paid six times the valuation of the property in 2015, a year before the zoning change was decided.

Local residents submitting on the Auckland Unitary Plan, including Belgiorno-Nettis, wanted the land to be added to Killarney Park Reserve. The only submitters who supported the zoning change for the land were the New Zealand Fire Service and McConnell Clearmont.

The Ombudsman's office noted Belgiorno-

Nettis' concern that "individuals within council" predetermined the zoning in favour of the proposed development, its senior investigator, Victor Lee, said.

The Ombudsman would be "investigating whether the council's decision not to investigate your concerns about predetermined zoning for 41-45 Killarney St is unreasonable in the circumstances," Lee said.

"I have sought information and comment from the council, including all the relevant papers," Lee said.

## ENROL NOW FOR 2021

# 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. Angels Childcare Centre captures the true essence of love by offering honest, reliable care, and creates a safe and secure environment that families can trust. The children are nurtured and loved as well as being provided with every opportunity to explore their capabilities and extend their self-confidence, knowledge and learning. 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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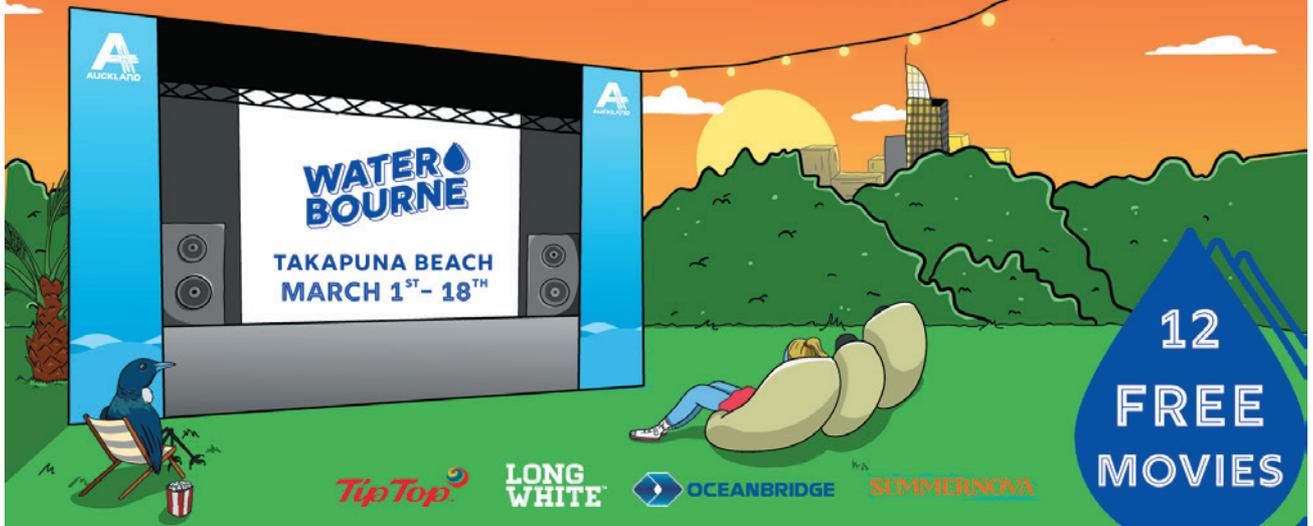
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# Housing squeeze shocks residents

The intensification of housing in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board continues apace, with proposals for one of the more extreme examples leaving neighbours reeling.

"It's heartbreaking," says one resident, shocked at the plan to build 48 units on two back sections of Lake Rd, Belmont, in the block opposite Takapuna Grammar.

The case magnifies many of the frustrations residents feel about how developers can change the character of established residential neighbourhoods under Auckland Council's Unitary Plan. The impact is being felt across the board area, with single homes often replaced by multiple units, some three storeys high.

Sunnynook, Forrest Hill, Milford, Takapuna and Hauraki are among areas where larger sections are being snapped up for new builds that in many cases do not require notification to neighbours.

Dozens more multi-home resource consents were lodged with Auckland Council for the local board area from October to January. Examples for the last two months include – Takapuna: 11 dwellings at 3 Campbell Rd, seven dwellings at 5 Burns Ave, and five at 16 Killarney Ave; Milford: four at 26 Wolsey St; Forrest Hill: three each at 12 Tiber Rd and at 31 Linwood Ave; Sunnynook: four at 11 Regency Pl, and five at 12 Sequoia Pl. October and November were even busier.

Demand for housing is driving the new builds, and controlled intensification to cater

for population growth was always the aim of the Unitary Plan, but residents are increasingly expressing concerns that what is being built by some developers goes beyond what was envisaged.

The Unitary Plan allows two dwellings to be built as of right on sections in the mixed housing suburban and mixed housing urban zones, with a resource consent application needed to bump up this number. The suburban zone is capped at two-storey builds with the urban zone allowing for three-storey townhouses.

But developers citing "less than minor" impacts for variations on the plan can push the rules around matters such as distance from boundaries, site coverage and parking.

The large-scale Belmont development is a resubmission of an application that was withdrawn last year after planners indicated changes were needed. It retains the same 48 dwellings, to be built in five, three-storey blocks, with one-bedroom units starting at 43sq m. Traffic from the 4903sq m block of land at 209 and 211 Lake Rd will share a driveway with neighbours concerned about safety and congestion. The council's senior planner for resource consents found "nothing exceptional or unusual" about the proposal to warrant public notification.

A limited notification was recommended so 20 neighbours could make submissions. An independent hearing panel will make a decision in due course.



## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

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**Author talk with Vivienne Lingard.**

Vivienne will be talking about her book, *The (almost) true story of a man called Jack*, a fictionalised memoir about her father, John Frederick Lingard Fowlds.

Don't miss the chance to hear about the life of an extraordinary character!



### LEARN OR TEACH A HOBBY

Have you always wanted to learn or teach a hobby? To share your life experiences over a cup of tea or learn from a professional in the community? Takapuna Library is putting together a program of community events for 2021 and would love to hear from you. Tell us what you would like to see in your library space and we'll do our best to make it happen.

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# Lake Road Electrical – Word of Mouth Sparks Success

Lewis and Nada Rudall, owners of Lake Road Electrical Ltd, are the new kids on the sparky block for all North Shore’s residential and small business electrical requirements – and word of mouth has already brought them success in their venture.

Family-owned, locally operated and servicing a growing base of happy clients, their secret has been bringing their strong family values to underpin their business ethos.

Lewis’s journey began in Wales, where he qualified as an electrician, graduating with distinction. His travels took him to Australia, where fate intervened: while attending a boot-camp workout class he met his wife-to-be Nada. After travelling around Australia together, they moved to New Zealand in 2015 and now proudly call the North Shore their home. Having lived in Devonport for two years and newly relocated to Sunnynook, their family has expanded to include two beautiful children – son Thane (22 months) and daughter Athena (just 4 weeks old).

A fully qualified electrician in both the UK and New Zealand and with more than 15 years experience in the industry, Lewis, with Nada, started Lake Road Electrical with the intention of working locally and keeping a focus on the highest standards of electrical service and maintenance. Lewis offers extensive knowledge and experience in residential, commercial and the industrial electrical sectors, but he says, “I always knew our passion was serving our residential and small business customers... the right electricals make a big aesthetic difference in someone’s home or work space – and to their lifestyle”.

Of utmost importance to the couple is educating homeowners of the importance of safety, and in Lewis’s experience this is often overlooked. This is why he will always offer a home safety inspection before any work is undertaken. (This is currently a free-of-charge service to all new customers.)

They also subscribe to practising sustainability, firmly believing that it is their responsibility to introduce customers to electrical solutions that are energy-efficient and so save on power bills. Lewis prides himself on being an expert in what he does, striving to provide a high-quality, professional service at all times, while



making the entire process enjoyable. Nada, running the back office as his right-hand-lady, brings her own spark and personality to the team, along with very effective communication skills and business management experience. Extremely personable and easy to talk to, the couple pledges to work with their clients to find the best solutions for all electrical needs, whether planned or urgently required. They promise to approach projects by listening to ideas, formulating a plan and executing

it above expectation, with full and open communication throughout. Financials are always discussed upfront, with no hidden costs, and any extras in terms of time and materials being discussed and agreed as the job progresses. As Lewis explains, “Word of mouth is the most valuable form of recommendation. We are confident that customers will find every reason to pass our name on and we guarantee the best possible results – on time and on budget.”

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# Crown Hill water reservoir review prompts questions

The Crown Hill water storage reservoir is under review, raising questions of what will become of the old tank and the prime site it stands on.

Sitting high opposite the junction of Castor Bay Rd with East Coast Rd, the reservoir still contains water but has been out of service for about 20 years. The block of land it stands on has views to the city and west.

Watercare initially told the Observer it was being maintained as a decommissioned asset. "We have no firm plans for the reservoir at this stage, however, our intention is to retain it in case it is needed in the future," a spokesperson said.

The newspaper has learned, however, that its longer-term future is being reviewed and that in time this might mean the reservoir is removed.

It is understood that there is interest from within Auckland Council in seeing the land it sits upon become a public park. But with asset disposal all the rage to bridge budget deficits, there is concern at local-board level that the site may be considered for sale at some stage. The property the reservoir stands on was bought by the Takapuna Borough Council in 1924. Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chairperson George Wood said: "This Crown Hill reservoir may be old [built 1942] but it has given a reliable water

supply to the Milford, Takapuna, and surrounding areas over the years. It seems to be in good condition, from the outside, and does hold 750,000 gallons of fresh water, which is a good amount to have on standby in case of emergencies. Watercare needs to advise us of their reasons for decommissioning if that is their current intention."

When Watercare was asked to further clarify the reservoir's future, given the newspaper's understanding that the matter was likely to go before the council's Planning Committee, the spokesperson replied: "The reservoir will stay where it is."

North Shore councillor and Planning Committee chair Chris Darby said the reservoir was one of the sites that Watercare and the council itself were reviewing "with a view to exchange within the council family to reflect the most sensible management for the community going forward".

The intent was to transfer the area around the reservoir to the council as an open area that was already enjoyed by the public. "If Watercare did not require the reservoir, it could be removed and the whole area could be transferred to council as a park," Darby said.

No transfer had been made to date, he said, with both bodies investigating the details before decisions were made.

## Parking clampdown checks Milford Reserve excesses

Beachgoers and picnickers who have been driving their cars onto Milford Reserve this summer got the message over the Waitangi Day long weekend.

The car-park was congested, but the flagrant disregard for the rules shown on Auckland Anniversary Day – when 67 cars were counted parking illegally on the grass – was avoided.

Signage erected between the long weekends at the behest of Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members and the Milford Residents Association helped. Auckland

Transport (AT) had a patrol car out on the Monday.

But a group of overnight campers and a ute seen being driven on the beach show regulations only go so far with some people.

Board member Ruth Jackson said enforcement, as with dog control, could only do so much.

She hoped AT would keep an eye on the area and that common sense about public safety would see people park and walk until bollards were erected, rather than sneak into the reserve.

### News Briefs

#### High pass marks

Westlake Boys High School recorded its best results to date in NCEA last year, with pass rates of 96 per cent in both Levels 1 and 2 and 98 per cent in Level 3. The results were not supplied in time for our last issue's story on local schools. Students achieved 200 Scholarship examination passes, a record number in New Zealand. Four of the top 12 students came from Westlake. The 2020 Premier Scholars were George Yang, Brian Kim, Yuxin Li and Raymond Luo.

#### Youth venue on way

Shore Junction has its grand opening this Friday. The new youth facility has a dance studio, music studio, band room, art space and is well equipped with technology. It is in the building that was formerly the Takapuna RSA. To acknowledge that connection, Shore Junction had a Remembrance Day event and have an RSA remembrance wall. The new facility is seeking donations of books for young readers. After its 19 February opening, Shore Junction will be open from next Tuesday, from 10am until 6pm.

#### Hooley ahoy

A large St Patricks Day hooley is again planned on Hurstmere Rd at adjacent bars Florrie McGreals, Catnapper Arms and the Elephant Wrestler. Special liquor licences have been sought by the three bars to operate from midday to 1.30am inside and on the footpath, where musicians will perform on a small stage until about 10.15pm. Entertainment will continue indoors until 12.30.

## Pre-Enrolment Evening – Years 7 to 9, 2022



Families of prospective students for Years 7 to 9, in 2022, are invited to attend the evening, to look around the school and receive information on the enrolment process.

The evening will be held on Thursday 25th February, in the College Hall, starting at 4:30 pm, (please see our website [www.carmel.school.nz](http://www.carmel.school.nz) for more detail).

**Enrolments should be received by Monday 15th March**

If you are unable to attend or would like further information, please read the enrolment information posted on the website, call 486 1132 ext 704 or email [admin@carmel.school.nz](mailto:admin@carmel.school.nz)



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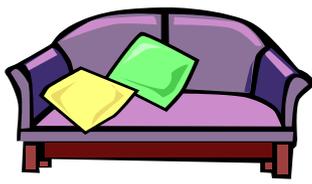
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Paramount Pools in Takapuna, one of the largest retailers in the New Zealand pool and spa industry, is looking for a part-time/full-time retail/sales assistant to join the team at their newly opened store.

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### Bartender / Barista - Devonport

Signal Hill a NEW Restaurant in Devonport opening early March 2021, is looking for talented Bartenders/Baristas. You will need to be able to create both classic and innovative drinks exceeding customer needs and expectations. Must have 2 years exp, able to work as a team member with the ability to multi task. MUST have valid working VISA or permanent residency.

If you have a "can-do" attitude and a genuine passion for food and people, then this fantastic opportunity is for you.

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### Waiter/Waitress - Devonport

Signal Hill is on the hunt for waitstaff to join our NEW restaurant in Devonport opening early March 2021. You will be working in a fun, fast-paced dynamic team, providing excellent customer service and food delivery as well as being part of an upbeat restaurant. Available to work nights & weekends, be cool under pressure with the ability to multi task and use your initiative, willingness to work as part of a team. Must have Immigration rights to work in NZ.

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## Bowling ‘youngsters’ show old order how it is done

After just six years in the game, Jerry Belcher has become the Takapuna Bowling Club’s singles champion. To do so he beat Takapuna Grammar School old boy Clayton Hockley, who despite being much younger has been playing bowls longer, having taken it up in his early teens.

In their path to their hotly contested final, both men beat more experienced bowlers, including former national title winners.

Belcher’s win confirms him as a rising star in the game he took up in mid-life. He held off fast-finishing 25-year-old Hockley, 21-17, in the competition held in January.

The Birkenhead resident signalled his form when he teamed up with John Janssen before Christmas to collect the club pairs championship. He followed that by making the last eight in the national championship pairs held in Auckland over New Year.

Belcher beat Graham Skellern, the club champion of the last two years, in his singles semi-final, while Hockley, who lives in Stanley Bay, defeated club legend Trevor Forward. At 53 years Belcher’s senior, Forward has amassed six club singles titles over the years.

Hockley showed his promise at bowls early. After joining the Takapuna club while still at high school he won back-to-back North Harbour secondary school titles.



**Game on... New club champion Jerry Belcher with his younger rival Clayton Hockley**

## Shore shot-putters shine as Gill makes it four in a row over rival

Devonport shot-putter Jacko Gill threw then equalled his personal best this month, also beating New Zealand champion Tom Walsh for the fourth time in as many meetings.

Gill, a former youth world champion, recorded a best throw of 21.52m during a blustery evening International Track Meet in Christchurch on 6 February. He then matched this last weekend at the Porrit Classic in Hamilton. The new benchmark added 5cm to his previous life-time best set in 2019. Walsh’s best throw in Hamilton was 21.45. The two will meet again early next month at the national track and field championships in Hastings.

Gill said he was elated to beat New Zealand’s best. He put his recent run down to Walsh being in a heavier phase of training. “Having said that, I think there is more to come from both of us.”

Two-time Olympian Dame Valerie Adams also competed in Hamilton, winning her event with a throw of 18.68m. Kaia Tupu-South, like Gill, a product of the Takapuna Athletics Club where she is coached by his father, Walter Gil was third. In Christchurch, the Westlake Girls High School head girl and Sportswoman of the Year in 2020 was second behind Adams, adding 12cm to her personal best to reach 15.56m.



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### Sports Briefs

#### Rowing double

Westlake Boys High School placed first equal with Auckland Grammar School at the Head of Harbour rowing championship held at Lake Pupuke last weekend. Westlake rower Greg Severin collected the trophy for top boys school alongside Auckland Grammar rower Ben Shortt and they also received the overall points shield at the annual regatta.

#### Sailing success

Brayden Hamilton and Lucas Day of Westlake Boys High School were sailing winners in Auckland class championships held over Anniversary Weekend. Brayden (with sailing partner Seb Menzies) won the 29er class and Lucas Day (with Sam Scott) finished first in the 420 class ahead of fellow students Mason Mulcahy and Cam McGlashan. Year 10 student Max Henshaw finished second in the youth category of the RS Feva Nationals pre-Christmas and came 23rd in the Starling event at the Auckland Anniversary Day regatta.



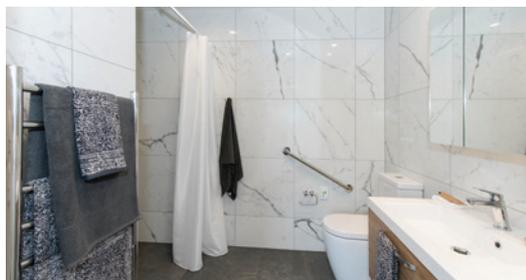
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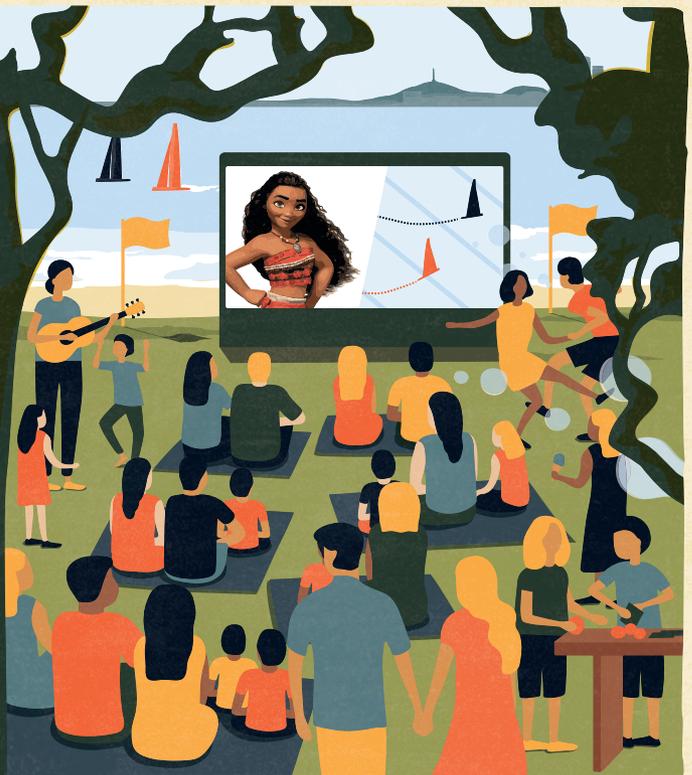
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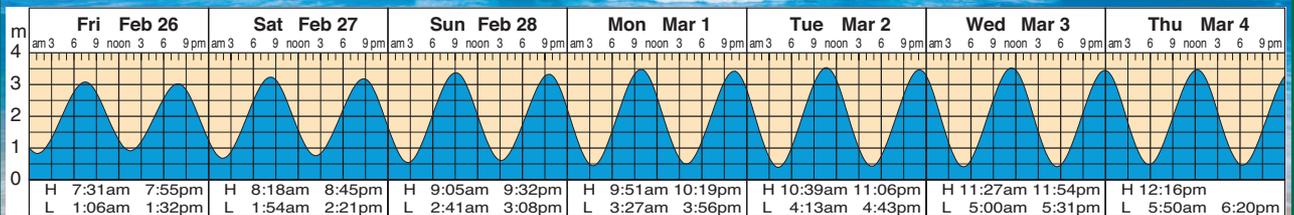
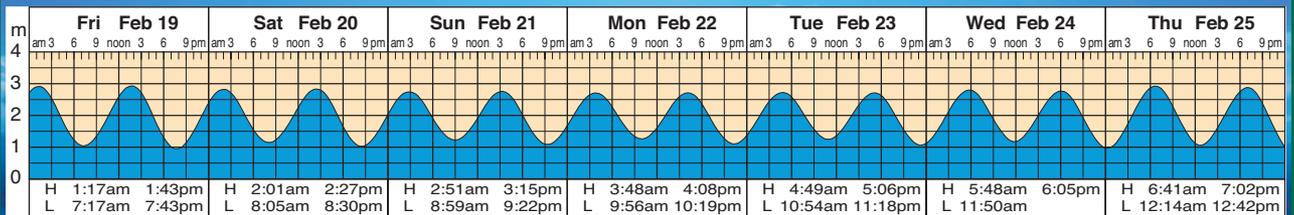


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# Milford / Takapuna Tides



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# Much appreciated: Bard in the Park hits the spot



**Dramatic effect... Members of the *Much Ado About Nothing* cast (from left) Georgina Townley (playing Margaret), Sophia Malecaut-Watts (Hero), Erin Meek (Beatrice) and Jennifer Whisken (Ursula)**

Shoreside Theatre's 25th anniversary season of Shakespeare in the Park has had the PumpHouse Theatre pumping with people, with a sell-out show last week.

This Saturday 20 February will be the theatre's last show, finishing the season with Shakespeare's romantic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*, which it has alternated with *Hamlet*. Director Jason Moffatt said the *Ado* season has been very successful in terms of audience numbers attending, with last week's performance a sell-out. "It's been a great experience. Hard work during four months of

rehearsals, but the end result has been well worth it."

*Hamlet* director and PumpHouse manager James Bell said the outdoor atmosphere of Shakespeare in the Park by Lake Pupuke was a highlight.

This year, free tickets were offered to children to celebrate 25 years of Shakespeare in the Park.

"It's been really rewarding to see so many young people come along to *Hamlet* and be fully engaged in the story right the way through," Bell said.

## Awards offer \$3k in prizes

The Lake House Arts Centre has opened submissions for its emerging artists awards, with a prize pool of \$3000.

The awards are open to all forms of art, including painting, print, fashion, sculpture, photography and film.

Last week, the gallery shared a special presentation of works from last year's award winners to promote the initiative.

Artwork needs to be submitted to the centre by Friday 19 March.

Meanwhile, the centre's popular summer wood-sculpture symposium is set to close at the end of next month.



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