

# The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 53 - March 19, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Maori names plan for parks  
at an iwi impasse... p2

Takapuna watches Cup  
but misses musos... p3

Is SkyPath becoming a  
bridge to nowhere?... pg 7

## Shore puts acid on council over water quality

North Shore residents are demanding Auckland Council spends more on improving water quality at local beaches.

At the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board's public 'Have Your Say' session last week, four of the eight groups making submissions had water quality high on their 'to do' list for

Auckland Council – in particular calling for more action on the polluted Wairau Estuary.

Most urged board members to continue to push the council hard to ensure spending from its targeted water rate benefited the North Shore.

'Sort out the sewage' was the simple mes-

sage from Weeps (Wairau Estuary and Environmental Protection Society). And marina managers Milford Mariners pleaded for help in dealing with sediment which is contaminated with heavy metals and hydrocarbons.

The Milford Residents Association and the Castor Bay Ratepayers and **To page 2**

## Olympian sails away in new sport on home waters



PHOTO: PAUL CAMPION

**What'SUP... Sailing Olympic gold medallist Jo Aleh turns her athletic skill to Stand Up Paddleboarding at the sport's national championships, held last weekend off Takapuna Beach as part of a pared-back Waterbourne events programme. Story, page 3.**



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TERMS AND  
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# Auckland-wide Maori-naming plans in disarray

A plan to roll out Maori names for Auckland's parks and public places has stalled, with pre-eminent iwi Ngati Whatua Orakei wanting final say over the choices.

The Flagstaff has learned through an Official Information Act (OIA) request that Auckland Council's Te Kete Rukuruku programme, launched in 2017 to recognise Tamaki Makaurau's Maori history and culture, became bogged down last year.

Yet 15 of the city's 21 Local Boards, including Devonport-Takapuna, are already going through the motions of identifying parks for dual naming.

A letter from Ngati Whatua's deputy chair, Ngarimu Blair, written in June 2020, asserted Ngati Whatua's authority over a collective of iwi drawn together by the council to offer and decide upon appropriate names. "Despite the best intentions, the hui and hard work by many; an 'un-maori outcome' has resulted", the letter said. "That iwi whose fires went out long ago or were never lit in an area can potentially

place names on the whenua of someone else is a gross breach of tikanga and offends all sensibilities."

The stance mirrors Ngati Whatua's recent High Court objection to other iwi staking a claim on land matters in Tamaki Makaurau, especially those from other areas, such as Thames/Hauraki, vying for northern assets.

Blair said in his letter to other mana whenua representatives and copied to council officials that Ngati Whatua was willing to work with iwi neighbours, namely Te Waiohau, Ngati Paoa and Te Kawerau a Maki, but should still have final naming approval. Other iwi involved in the programme were not named as its partners.

The letter concluded: "Finally, we must note, that should our proposed solution above not be approved, Ngati Whatua Orakei will formally withdraw from the project and instead focus our energy on vigorously objecting to the project with the Local Boards and whoever else necessary."

Since the letter was written, a Mana Whenua

Working Group has been trying to negotiate an outcome that allows Te Kete Rukuruku to progress. It has come up with new draft guidelines on naming that a council document says "include some of the recent direction from Ngati Whatua Orakei agreed by some mana whenua, but only where it is understood the principles are more universally supported". The next step would be for Nga Mataarae, the council's Maori Outcomes group, to "in due course" finalise official guidelines.

With money set aside in local-board budgets, there had been an expectation that new signage might be seen this year. Devonport-Takapuna has allocated \$20,000 to Te Kete Rukuruku in its 2020-21 works programme.

Board deputy chair George Wood said he was concerned that the council seemed to be pushing forward with the process without properly developed guidelines in place.

It is understood that neighbouring Kaipatiki Local Board is looking at reallocating \$16,000 it had set aside.

## No flat sales planned

Haumaru Housing has no plans to sell any of its units in Takapuna, Milford or Sunnynook.

The Observer enquired about the status of 172 retirement units at Pupuke Court, Peggy Phillips Village, Alma Court, Darlington Court, Gordon Court, Stratford Court and Cockayne Court after Haumaru decided to sell Handley Court at Narrow Neck in Devonport.

A council spokesperson said the Takapuna, Milford and Sunnynook sites "are a key part of the Haumaru Housing portfolio and there are no plans to sell these properties".

From page 1

## Locals hammer water worries

Residents Association also weighed in, with calls for the council's Healthy Waters group to push on with its work and for targeted rate money to be spent on the North Shore.

The chair of the Castor Bay group, Hamish Anderson, told the Observer later that it wanted the council to identify northern issues in its Long Term Plan. "Unless you get commitments in writing in these plans, you don't get it." This had been done in the board's three-year plan, but needed a council commitment as well.

Weeps spokesman Guy Armstrong submitted that "being told our beaches are not as contaminated with sewage as some beaches elsewhere in Auckland feels as if we are being told that we should be happy and accept the

amount of sewage in our swimming water."

Mariners chair Rik Roper told the Observer: "We expect as beachgoers to have sand at our beaches, not muddy silt."

His society faced a doubling in council dumping fees for silt dredged from the marina. Costs around \$900,000 could mean less dredging or maintenance. "We can't afford it and if we dredge less often it will go onto beaches."

The complex problems of the Wairau waterway needed a wider and ongoing focus, he said.

Among other issues raised, the Milford Business Association advocated for the proposed boardwalk by the estuary as an enhancement for the area, and Grey Power said money made from selling local assets should be spent locally.



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NEXT ISSUE: April 2  
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: March 26

### 2 The Strand: empty for 1023 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 1023 days.

### Letters to the Editor

Topics should be local and not overly long.

Noms-de-plume or submissions without a name will not be printed.

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## Showpiece event short of big stage

Uncertainty around Covid-19 alert levels put paid to big ticket concerts organised for the Waterbourne event at Takapuna Beach. Organiser Laurence Carey had to abandon plans to erect a giant grandstand and call off or delay some activities. America's Cup race viewing proved popular.

"We look forward to a week of movies on the beach and live music," he said after the return to Alert Level 1 for last weekend. The Takapuna Beach Business Association said the latest lockdowns had hit retailers hard, this on top of the cup attracting fewer visitors than hoped for.

## Paddleboarders stand up in light winds



**Sister act... Rosara Davis, aged 12, and Iris Davis, 9, competed in the Stand-Up Paddleboard Nationals, both winning their age groups**

Around 80 of the nation's best paddleboarders competed off Takapuna Beach for national titles last weekend, with local competitors standing out.

Jo Aleh, Olympic 470 class sailing gold medallist from 2012, won the women's title, from Brianna Orams. The overall men's winner Ollie Houghton was pushed hard by Ollie Puddick.

For Aleh, the switch from boats to boards was a welcome challenge in familiar waters. "It was tough out there, really hard work.

I've never won a paddleboarding event before though so this cool."

Sprint, long distance and technical events were held over three days in light winds.

Other overall women's winners were: under 12 Iris Davis, U14 Rosara Davis, U16 Tamsin McAsey, U19 19 Maddie McAsey, over 40 Helen Blair and over 50 Marlene Jackson.

Men: U12 Max Dunlop, U14 Quinn Pirrit, U16 William Dunlop, U19 Fergus Dunlop, over 40 Mike Pirrit and over 50 Jan Dunlop.

## Dead cyclist a family man and Shore nightlife pioneer

A cyclist killed in a collision with a truck on Lake Rd, Belmont, last week has been remembered as a multi-faceted family man.

Warrick Jones, aged 50, a married father of three, was a keen cyclist and triathlete who worked as a flight attendant for Air New Zealand. He was involved in hospitality in the 1990s, including Fever bar in Takapuna where he gave many DJs a venue.

Jones was killed on Tuesday 9 March just after 1pm on a downhill stretch of Lake Rd at its corner with Montgomery Ave. Dozens of bunches of flowers were left at the roadside.

Members of the North Harbour Triathlon Club to which he had belonged for several years visited the site last Saturday to pay their respects. Bike Auckland held a memorial ride for a "needless death" on Sunday, attended by more than 50 cyclists.

Triathlon Club president Alex Waite posted that Jones was a "great friend and fierce competitor." The Torbay resident had competed in various competitions, including last year's Ironman New Zealand event.

Others to remember Jones included leading DJ Greg Churchill, who described him as a "wonderful guy". Members of the Lost Nightlife of Inner City Auckland facebook group recalled Jones' days as a bartender, including at Prego and Dreschlers, before he helped create a nightlife scene in Takapuna.

Police investigations into the collision continue.

A spokesman said Jones had died at the scene. An ambulance and a number of police vehicles, including the Serious Crash Unit, attended.

A section of Lake Rd was blocked to traffic for several hours, with traffic diverted along side streets.

Jones is survived by his wife, Sara, two sons, aged 21 and 16, and a daughter, 11.

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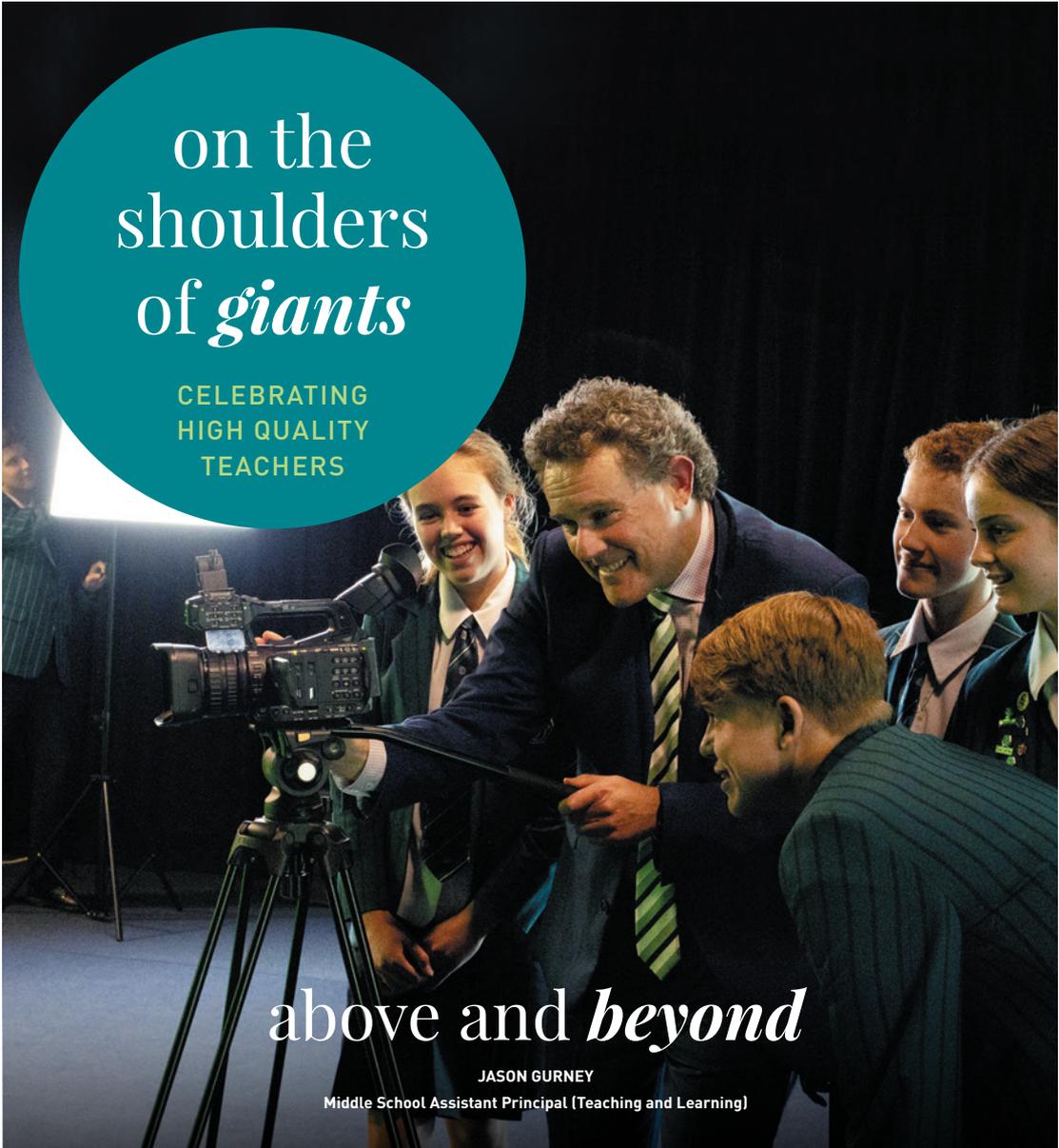
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# People power saves primary's pohutukawa

After a community outcry late last year, the pohutukawa at Campbells Bay School have been saved.

Plans to fell a stand of large old trees along the school's frontage on Aberdeen Rd to accommodate a new block of 14 classrooms have been redrawn.

The Ministry of Education's head of Education Infrastructure Service, Kim Shannon, said: "We have worked with the school's Board of Trustees, project architects and an arborist, to develop a revised option that will allow the trees to remain while providing the school with a suitable classroom block."

The new building, needed to cope with a growing roll, had been repositioned further back on the site. "This will slightly reduce the amount of outdoor space available for student use but allows the community to keep the trees," Shannon said.

Opposition to the initial plans to chop down five pohutukawa and one Norfolk pine prompted more than 1000 people to sign a petition.



**Room to move... Campbell's Bay School will get a new classroom block (design impression above), but not at the cost of its old trees**

The native tree is the emblem on the school's uniform

When the furore about the felling blew up in November, the school's board of trustees referred comment to the ministry in Wellington.

After the Observer's latest inquiries this month, the ministry said the cost implications of repositioning the block were still being worked through. Foundation work near

the tree roots would be done with manual tools rather than machinery to reduce the risk of damage.

Construction is expected to start several months behind initial schedule in April or May this year, with an estimated completion date of mid-to-late 2022.

Tree health measures would be taken and an arborist would monitor progress, said Shannon.

## Long-serving teacher remembered

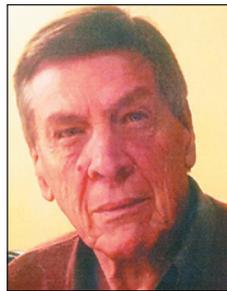
Victor Charles (Vic) Barrington (right), who taught at Rosmini College for 29 years has died, aged 82.

The dedicated physics teacher was also Rosmini's Head of Science.

Although Barrington retired from full-time teaching in 2011, he continued relieving at the school until last year.

A large congregation, including staff, parents and students, both past and present, gathered when he was farewelled at St John's Church, Orewa, late last month.

Barrington's contribution and impact



extended beyond the classroom. He edited the school magazine for 25 years and coached a range of sports, including rugby, football and cricket.

Born in Hyderabad, India, in 1938, he began teaching at Rosmini in 1982.

He was nicknamed Mr Spock by his pupils due to his resemblance to the *Star*

*Trek* character.

Barrington, who died on 16 February, is survived by his wife, Eileen, four children and three grandchildren.

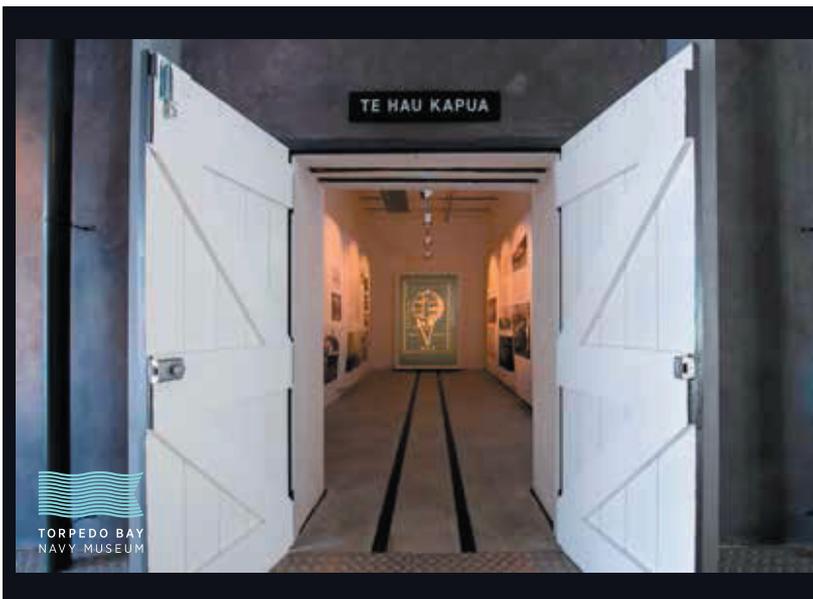
## Garden gathering

A house-plant swap at Seine Reserve in Forrest Hill will be a pre-launch event for a planned community garden there, organiser Phoebe Atkinson hopes.

Locals are invited to bring their plants to the reserve on Saturday 20 March at 10am for a free exchange and get-together.

Atkinson, who has spent the last several years rallying support for a community garden with neighbours and the council, says the matter is going to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board this week, for what she hopes may be final sign-off.

Plans to plant the garden at the rear of the reserve have already gone through a public-notification process.



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# Bridge issues raise doubts over SkyPath progress

Fears are mounting that cycleways and walkways planned for the North Shore may be held up by a design review of the SkyPath over the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair George Wood has called for an update on the project from Waka Kotahi / New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

The Flagstaff understands other interested parties also want to know what is happening with the much-vaunted cross-harbour link to the Northern Pathway, which will parallel the motorway from Akoranga Bus Station.

Ultimately, a network of neighbourhood cycleways has been envisaged, from the Esmonde Rd area to Devonport and Albany.

“SkyPath seems nowhere near proceeding, especially in the wake of the Harbour Bridge damage,” Wood told the last local board meeting. Since then, NZTA has acknowledged that the bridge will not be able to be strengthened more in the future due to the weight of installing extra steel and that, in time, its traffic volumes may need active management.

This information, gleaned under questioning at a parliamentary select committee, has raised more questions over SkyPath, which former Transport Minister Phil Twyford said in 2018 would be under way this year.

North Shore MP Simon Watts told the Flagstaff he supported the idea of a cycle link from the city to the North Shore, but was concerned costs had mounted from \$67 million in 2018.

Bike Auckland chair Barbara Cuthbert said

the lobby group was seeking more clarity. “We understand and share the concerns of local board members and the large number of Aucklanders who have been keenly anticipating delivery of this highly useful and strategic cycling project.”

Both NZTA and the current Minister of Transport, Michael Woods, say they are committed to the now \$360 million Westhaven-to-Akoranga project. But acquisition of properties at its North Shore end remains unfinished.

A design review was commissioned after a truck hit the bridge last September, shutting lanes on the State Highway 1 route. Overseas experts were asked to sign off the bridge repairs and advise on its structural integrity.

But last week, NZTA would not give the Flagstaff any idea of how long the review would take or say if the timeline had been extended. “It takes as long as it takes,” said a spokesman, Darryl Walker.

NZTA national manager of infrastructure delivery Andrew Thackwray said earlier that the Northern Pathway’s funding was committed under the New Zealand Upgrade Programme and a walking and cycling connection over the Waitemata Harbour was a priority for the government and NZTA.

“In September, Waka Kotahi appointed an alliance to deliver the project and that alliance is working on examining and optimising the design to ensure that the connection is fit for purpose and will meet the needs of current and future users. Waka Kotahi will provide more

information on our revised programme when this work is complete,” he said.

Walker rejected suggestions that the strengthening issues with the bridge revealed at the select committee hearing might be causing hold-ups, but did say “this review is taking longer than expected”.

What Walker described as an alliance of construction companies is still assessing the suitability of the SkyPath bridge design. This process had to be got right, he said, so was “open-ended”. Asked about the cost implications of any time lags on the project, he said “that’s all part of the review”.

A second harbour crossing to cope with Auckland’s growth and supplement the bridge, which is used by more than 170,000 vehicles on weekdays, is still in the planning stages. The National Party, Automobile Association and Auckland business leaders have all appealed for more infrastructure urgency.

Thackwray said NZTA, Auckland Transport (AT) and Auckland Council had partnered to investigate a longer-term plan to strengthen transport links to the North Shore. “As part of that work, AT is urgently working on a business case to optimise the Northern Busway as the public transport connection between the city and the North Shore.

“The larger piece of work, referred to as the Additional Waitematā Harbour Connections project, is still at least 15 years away from construction and involves planning work for rapid transit and road connections.”

## Milford bus jams not on AT radar

Milford residents wanting something done about congested side streets near Carmel College have been told to raise their concerns with Auckland Transport (AT).

After a series of online posts about problems with buses and parked cars clogging up roads at peak times, the Observer asked AT if it was looking into the issues. “Our traffic ops team aren’t looking into it at the moment and haven’t

looked at it previously,” a spokesperson said. “We haven’t had any official complaints or concerns sent our way yet, but we would look into it if we were to hear from concerned residents.”

Belmont Tce is a key area of local concern, with little room to manoeuvre when buses are on it. During weekdays it is one of a number of streets, including Alma Rd, where students or workers at the school or hospital park, narrowing the roads for vehicles.

In February, an incident was photographed of a bus reversing to try to let two others pass. A resident suggested making Belmont Tce one-way heading south with the parallel Quebec Rd one-way north.

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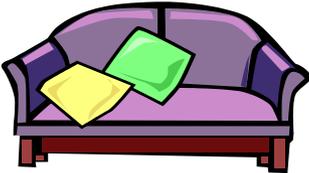
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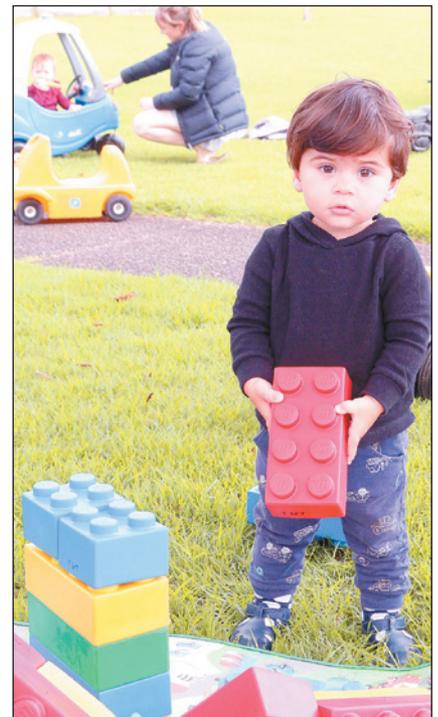
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**Serious sorting... Darcy Poole (above), who is nearly two years old, and LJ Kazemi (above right), aged 16 months, are intent upon sizing up the toy selection at Seine Reserve**



**Toddlers relish**

Toddlers eagerly took to the toys when community play groups resumed after lockdown.

The popular morning get-togethers in local parks are organised by the Takapuna North Community Trust and provide caregivers and children a welcome outdoor break and company. Due to Covid-19 alert levels, two weeks of fun were missed.

At the first Summer Fun Pre-School Play session back at Seine Reserve in Forrest Hill numbers attending were lower than normal, partly due to a grey day. Around a dozen enjoyed up to two hours of free play on supplied equipment which is sterilised after each session.

"I love the fact that they can come and

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Ride on... Rylee McKimmie, 18 months (above left) and Isaac Heinz-Poole, two-and-a-half, give it a spin

## timeout at park

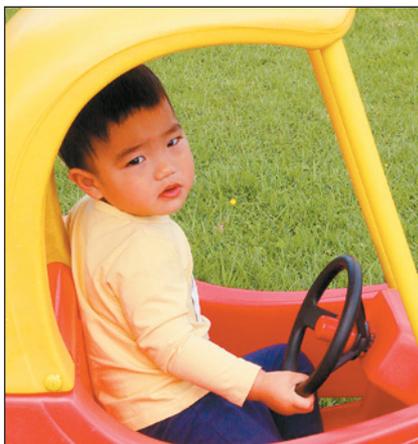
interact with others and it's a safe environment." said one grandmother.

Supervisors say up to 50 children attend some sessions which are also held at a rotating list of reserves on Mondays and Wednesdays. These include Milford Reserve in Craig Rd and Sylvan Park in Milford; Sunnynook Reserve in Tonkin Ave; Kennedy Park, Castor Bay; and Jutland Reserve, Hauraki,

An art session is also held at the Lake House Arts Centre monthly.

The summer play programme will wind up at the end of the month, with a range of indoor activities to be offered at venues over the cooler months.

For details see [www.takapunatrust.org.nz](http://www.takapunatrust.org.nz).



Drive and dunk... James Wang (above left), 18 months, and Morris Gale, 16 months, at the steering wheel and basketball hoop.

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This job requires a friendly manner, a warm smile and a few hours a week. Must have a valid driver's licence.

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### Casual Relief Teachers

New Shoots Children's Centre in Sunnynook is looking for casual relief teachers to join our team, inside and the outside of our amazing centre.

New Shoots is a place where children's imagination is fostered, uninterrupted play is encouraged, and a lifelong love of learning begins.

Casual work offered throughout the week, 4-8 hour shifts between 8am-5pm.

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### Retail / Sales assistant

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.

If you have the following attributes, we would be keen to hear from you. Positive 'can do' attitude, customer-service-focused, enjoy working as part of a team, ability to work flexible hours including some weekend work. Full training will be provided.

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Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit.



### Retrofit Specialist

#### The Double Glazing Company (North Shore)

The Double Glazing Company, is looking for a Retrofit Specialist to join our team.

You would need to be a team player with a passion for professional and superior customer service delivery.

Experience in retrofitting double glazing into existing windows and doors would be an added advantage.

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### Technology Sales Representative Abode Booking – Remote

We're looking for a results-driven Sales Representative to actively seek out and engage customer prospects.

Basic + Commission-based salary structure, able to work remotely. Our support office is based in Devonport.

If this sounds like an interesting opportunity, then apply now via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Bartender / Barista - Devonport

Signal Hill, a NEW restaurant in Devonport which has just opened, 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 multitask.

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.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Cheltenham Milk Bar is looking for a Cafe Assistant

Our small, family-owned cafe in Devonport is looking for a cafe worker part-time/casual ideally with cafe/barista experience. The job also entails baking and sandwich-making. This position requires you to be available weekdays & weekends 7:30am – 3pm with several roles/shifts available.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



### Grounds Assistant

The Wilson Home Trust Takapuna site is seeking a Grounds Assistant to support the Site Manager with a wide range of general grounds-maintenance duties. The role will require a good level of fitness and the ability to work unsupervised at times.

This is a casual role and there will be a requirement for flexibility of hours. Generally it will require 4 to 8 hours a week, but possibly more during busy periods.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)

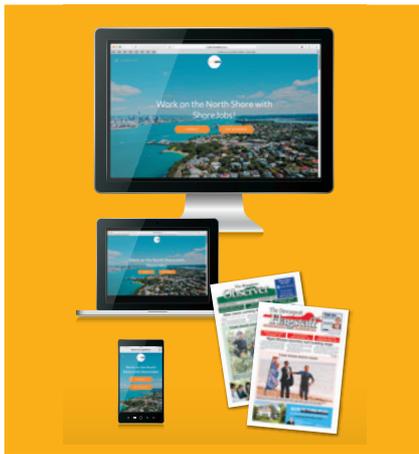


### Waiter/Waitress - Devonport

Signal Hill is on the hunt for waitstaff to join our NEW restaurant in Devonport which has just opened. 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 and weekends, be cool under pressure with the ability to multitask and use your initiative, willingness to work as part of a team. Must have immigration rights to work in NZ.

If you have a genuine passion for food and people, then this fantastic opportunity is for you.

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



Clean for Good is a growing company, seeking experienced cleaning professionals to join a team of house cleaners.

Must have experience as a cleaner or housekeeper.

Valid drivers licence and vehicle would be an advantage, least 18 years old, legally authorised to work in NZ, reliable and able to work min 30 hours a week.

Apply now with [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



**Barista - Takapuna**

Leaf and Loaf in Takapuna is looking for a local barista for their busy cafe and salad bar. Must be able to speak fluent English and be available for weekend shifts.

The ideal person would need to be a people person, enjoy healthy food, have a passion for customer service and serving coffee.

Bring your enthusiasm, sense of humour and skill and be part of our team.

Apply with [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)



**Part-time Shop Assistant**

Paper Plus Takapuna is looking for a part-time shop assistant to join our team.

The successful applicant must possess a strong customer focus and strive to exceed our customers' expectations. The role requires self-motivation and initiative along with the ability to work in a team environment.

The applicant must have a working permit and good command of English.

If you love retail and sales and would like to gain great experience, please send your application to us. (Training will be provided.)

Apply via [www.shorejobs.co.nz](http://www.shorejobs.co.nz)

Our new **Head Chef** to run our refurbished kitchen and F&B menu at Waitemata Golf Club found out about us via the ShoreJobs partner network. The ShoreJobs service was efficient and excellent value for the service provided.

**Hayden McCallum** General Manager **Waitemata Golf Club**

We were able to hire an experienced **Medical Receptionist** within weeks of listing with ShoreJobs. She saw the job in the Rangitoto Observer and applied directly to us via ShoreJobs.

**Monique Nyemecz** Practice Manager **Devonport Family Medicine**

Thanks to the ShoreJobs team for helping us hire our most recent staff member. Soon after listing our job with ShoreJobs we received a shortlist of great candidates. One person in particular was a standout. We interviewed him immediately and he joined our retail sales team the following week. Thanks ShoreJobs!

**Hayden Collier** Manager **iStore Takapuna**

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# Shore-boy conductor lays on musical treats

Auckland Symphony Orchestra conductor Peter Thomas has lined up a series of musical evenings in his own North Shore backyard.

“The idea was to have a series at the PumpHouse where people can enjoy something a little different,” he says.

He originally envisaged soloists accompanied by a string quartet, but the brief has since widened. Following an opening performance by jazz singer Jenny B in February, the

next show, on 3 April, features Italian-born, Auckland-resident international pianist Flavio Villani, who will play works by Chopin, but also entertain with improvisations.

“It’s what Chopin would have done himself,” says Thomas. The scene for the performance will be set with candles and refreshments.

Thomas, a Milford resident, is involved in a number of musical organisations beyond his main job, bringing musicians more opportuni-

ties to play and audiences added chances to enjoy their talents.

Later in the year, he has scheduled local favourite Suzanne Lynch to perform and has several other shows in the pipeline beforehand.

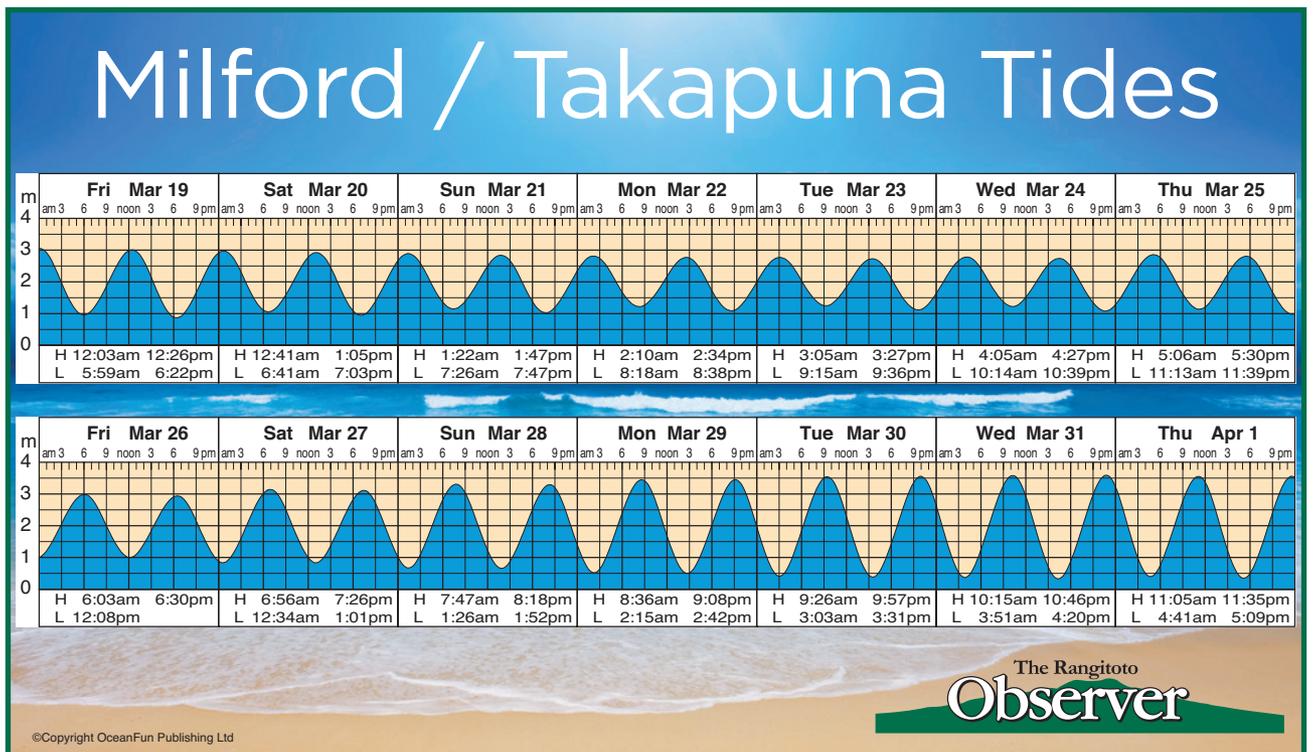
Thomas’s North Shore roots run deep. He is the son of Fred Thomas, who served as Mayor of Takapuna from 1965 to 1986 and whose contribution is recognised in names for a local street and a park.

A NIGHT OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC with **FLAVIO VILLANI**

Saturday 3 April | 6pm & 8pm  
The Pumphouse Theatre, Takapuna

An intimate evening featuring international pianist Flavio Villani performing Chopin Ballades, Nocturnes and Preludes.

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## Dancers take pole position for showcase

Pole dancers are intent on shaking off any remaining stigma to celebrate their artistry.

Students of a North Shore school of the increasingly popular exercise activity and creative outlet – once widely associated with striptease clubs – are showcasing the new side of pole dancing at the PumpHouse Theatre this month.

Students of Altitude Pole and Fitness, ranging in age from 18 to 60, will take turns showing their skills while suspended above the stage. The show called *The Classics* is mostly expected to attract friends and family, but co-owner and studio manager Rhiannon Taylor said it was possible some in the audience might come along out of curiosity. The performances, from both relative beginners and experienced pole dancers, will be three to four minutes long.

Routines would range from sensual to athletic to comic, Taylor said.

The studio on Barrys Pt Rd has around 200 students and has been running for seven or eight years. Taylor said it attracted people for a range of reasons, from those wanting a new and fun way to keep fit, to women looking to gain self-confidence in their bodies.

“Some people say gym feels a chore,” said Taylor, whereas pole dancing was an enjoyable challenge.

• **Altitude Pole’s show is on Sunday 28 March, at 7pm. Tickets are \$25.**



**No hands... Rhiannon Taylor in a routine called ‘The Eve of War’**

PICTURE: SCOTT MARKS

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## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

### VISUAL POETRY EVENING

Angela Morton Room  
Level 1, Te Pātaka Toi Art Library  
Wednesday 31st March, 6.00-7.30pm

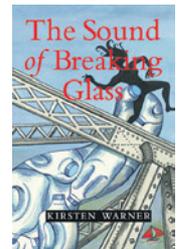
All welcome to our celebration of Rachael Naomi's visual poetry exhibition *UNITY* – hear Rachael, and guest poets Elizabeth Morton, Michael Stevens and Makyla Curtis.



### AUTHOR TALK: KIRSTEN WARNER

Takapuna Library,  
Thursday 25 March, 6pm to 7.30pm

Enjoy an author talk with MitoQ Best First Book Award winner Kirsten Warner at Takapuna Library. In conversation with Diana Wichtel, Kirsten will be talking about her book, *The Sound of Breaking Glass*, a surreal, satirical and deeply moving story of multi-generational trauma.



Please RSVP via our website, email [takapunaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:takapunaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or ring us at 890 4900.

### HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

Auckland Libraries is offering a special home delivery service for people who are homebound because they are at a higher risk of contracting Covid-19.

This can be due to medical conditions, compromised immunity, age, residing in an aged care facility or pregnancy.

If you, or someone you know is a higher risk person, please contact Barbara Bell on 890 4900 for more information.

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