

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 55 – April 16, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Community hui tackles
emergency planning... p2

Takapuna residential
parking zone on way... p7

Kiwi music inspires
pop-art painter... p14-15

Environmental work in line for funding injection

Efforts to eradicate pests, plant natives and bring back birdlife are set for a big boost across the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Area.

Board members have discussed more than doubling the amount allocated to the Restoring Takarunga Hauraki and Pupuke

Birdsong projects for the 2021-22 financial year, up from \$50,000 to \$110,000.

Currently, each programme has a part-time environmental co-ordinator to spearhead community volunteers in trapping and weeding reserves. They also advocate and educate around environmental issues, run

workshops, distribute plants and encourage bird counts and healthy home gardens.

“They’re both incredible workers and work well above the hours they are paid to do, and they make a measurable difference,” says board member Toni van Tonder.

Council staff recommended **To page 3**

Milford locals create palm grove at Kitchener Park



Helping hands... Quick action by the Milford Residents Association and community volunteers has seen six established nikau palms shifted from the site of a new toilet block at Milford Beach Reserve

to Kitchener Park, where the old Milford Tennis clubrooms once stood. Among those on digging duty were (from left) Billy Bott, John Rowlands, Weston Kerr, Rob Fullerton and Bruce Ward.

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Community input wanted for emergency plans

A public hui to discuss emergency planning for local communities will be held in Takapuna next week.

“It’s a flagship project for Auckland and good on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for investing in it,” said organiser Yvonne Powley.

She hopes a cross-section of people from across the board area will come along to share their views on how best communities can prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Residents groups and representatives from key organisations have been invited, and interested individuals are also welcome.

“This is a project that is dear to my heart,” said Powley, the recently retired head of Auckland North Community and Development Inc (Ancad), a social-service umbrella group.

Powley was asked by the board to oversee a project into how the area could become more resilient with emergency planning.

Several local board members said last year that Auckland Council leadership was lacking and that for its area’s sake the board should step in with its own plan.

While the first Covid-19 lockdown in March last year had prompted some excellent community action – including impromptu and existing residents’ groups helping isolated people with shopping – some of those involved later suggested better organised structures would make it easier to rally help again if more sudden disasters, such as storms or tsunamis, were to strike.

Powley said emergency management

approaches had changed over time and a community-led response was needed.

“Of course Civil Defence and emergency management will be there, with Navy, Police and St John, but a connected resilience community will handle any disaster better.”

Different areas faced their own challenges and would need their own responses. This could start at street and neighbourhood level and spread to board-wide approaches.

Devonport, for example, faced the possibility of being cut off by inundation. Other coastal areas were also exposed, whereas inland communities would likely focus on different concerns. “We want to get as many people along from different communities to brainstorm what people want to do.”

Getting a better understanding of the needs and resources in the board area, which ranged from the Devonport peninsula, north through Takapuna, Milford and Castor Bay and across Forrest Hill to Sunnynook, would help. Some communities might naturally group together, while others might be more self-contained. “We’re not dictating what those borders would be.” Instead, local people and experts could offer insights. “We want the community themselves to say, ‘this would be good’.”

Things had changed since an emergency plan was looked at over 10 years ago, said Powley. Issues such as climate change were better understood.

She is inviting a representative of the council’s Auckland Emergency Management team to the meeting to give a scientific overview. Local approaches will then be canvassed and discussion groups formed.

After the initial meeting next Wednesday, it is likely area meetings will be held. The aim: a better understood and more futureproof plan for when people really need it.

• The resilience planning meeting will be held on 21 April at the Mary Thomas Centre, Takapuna. Register by emailing info@ancad.org.nz. Pizza will be served from 6pm as people gather for a 6.30pm start. For any questions email ypowley@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 482 9094.

Briefs

Diggers back in action

Work is set to resume on Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna, from early May. There will be no shopper parking but pedestrian access will remain, with restricted goods loading for three months. Final stages of the project, including planting, will follow. All work is due to be done before the end of the year. The major underground-services and one-laning project with streetscape revamp was put on hold pre-Christmas due to Auckland Council budget woes and to avoid holiday season and the expected America’s Cup racing crowds.

Piping project

Laying of new stormwater pipes at the corner of Kitchener and Shakespeare Rds is scheduled to start next month. Auckland Council’s Healthy Waters arm will also install a stormwater treatment device upstream of Wairau Creek’s discharge into the channel to collect debris and fine-particle pollutants. Covid-19 froze the project last year.

Pedestrian death

Police inquiries continue into the death of an 82-year-old pedestrian struck by a car on Thursday 1 April at the corner of Tristram Ave and Forrest Hill Rd. Pei Zhu Wu was injured around 8.20am, taken to hospital in a serious condition and died later the same day.

Get your skates on

A temporary ice rink is being set up in the public space at 38 Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna. The 10m by 25m rink will be open from 17 April to 2 May from 10am to 10pm, with skates for hire.

2 The Strand: empty for 1051 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 1051 days.

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From page 1

Green initiatives set for boost across local board area

more support for the co-ordinators' work due to the heavy demands on their time.

This would allow them to be paid for more hours and to build on what they are doing already.

Board members were well disposed to this at their April workshop to discuss the next budget, which will be finalised and approved in June. Spending is tight, due to Auckland Council financial constraints caused by Covid-19 revenue losses. The renewals budget is restricted, but the board has retained its local discretionary fund and is keen to support initiatives that have proven successful or where there is clear community need.

Van Tonder told the Observer tough calls had to be made on "nice to haves" such as an idea for bike hubs that she had been keen on.

"It's not the time to try new things, but to get behind the things that are working."

"Those people will burn out if we don't support them," she said of the co-ordinators.

The community had also signalled it wanted environmental action and cleaner beaches. To that end, the board is also backing more work on Wairau Estuary industrial pollution tracking, done in conjunction with the adjoining Kaipatiki Local Board and looking to continue its funding for planting.

In workshop discussions on its draft programme, the board signalled that a dog park at Barrys Point Reserve was not a priority and it would be better to drop spending on Movies in Parks in favour of using the funds in other areas.

Planning looks likely to continue for a wheel sport area at Sunnynook Park, with a toilet for Tonkin Park, to be considered as part of this project.



Kidding around... Steve the goat nuzzles up to Christina Patching at Smales Farm market, with Elijah, 7, Serayah, 4, and Luca, 10, in tow

From AmCup fan to local crowd pleaser

Steve the friendly goat hit the big-time during the America's Cup, making global television broadcasts during a walk round the Viaduct, but last weekend he was back on more regular territory with owner Grant Solley.

The 120kg goat was a drawcard at Smales Farm market on a sunny Sunday. Solley, who keeps several goats on his Whenuapai property, is known for walking them in public. He is also a regular at Coatesville market. Steve has featured in the Observer before, on a visit to Takapuna Beach.

Solley reckons the Saarinen-Nubian-cross delights and calms those who pat him, making him the GOAT [Greatest Of All Time]. His twist on the sports terminology is that it means Steve is the Greatest Of All Therapy.



Gale Wieland first met Steve at Takapuna Beach and was keen to say hi again

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Wood calls for more bobbies on the North Shore beat

A greater police presence on the streets would help deter a recent rise in crime, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair George Wood.

He urged board members at last month's meeting to make a submission to the Commissioner of Police on youth policing.

"We very rarely see police in this area," said Wood, a former police area commander.

"They disbanded the sergeant and constables in Anzac St [Takapuna police station] and replaced them with the Liquor Licensing Authority – that was an unusual decision," he said. It was made at a time when people were concerned about offenders "going up their driveways and taking things with gay abandon".

Member Ruth Jackson mentioned recent thefts of brass numbers from letterboxes in Milford and Devonport. "Maybe if you had more visible police, it might put off some people from that lower-level stuff," she said.

Trish Deans said she knew of locals wishing to report "kids on the street drinking" who had been unable to get in touch with a community

constable for several days.

Jackson said the two community constables for the board area – one covering Devonport and Takapuna and the other based at Sunny-nook – had a large amount of ground to cover.

Wood said he understood a number of police had been diverted to Covid-19 duties or assigned to other areas, but that was "no solace to victims of crime in our area". The Takapuna station presence had over time been reduced, with most North Shore staff centralised up the motorway at Constellation Drive.

Toni van Tonder queried if Wood was wanting the board to back the police in photographing young people on the streets, for which they were recently criticised.

Wood said the Commissioner had called for public feedback on policing and this provided an opportunity to advocate for more police presence in a board area of 63,000 people.

The board received his report rather than actioning a submission, but not before chair Aidan Bennett asked: "Are we able to change the national political climate?"

Bennett then went on to invite Jackson (who

will take over the chair soon) and Wood (due to his special interest in policing) to attend a scheduled meeting with Waitemata district police leaders with him.

After that meeting, Wood said it had confirmed that the Takapuna metropolitan area was "a hot area" for crime, as was Hauraki in recent times. "We deserve more police resources out on the streets than what we've got at present," he told the Observer.

Traffic enforcement was another area he would like to see boosted for safety's sake, including around school arrival and departure times.

Road deaths had risen for the first months of the year across the Waitemata police district, said Wood. "One of my beefs relates to the fact police last year reaped 45.8 per cent of the \$23,274,440 they take nationally from mobile speed cameras and 59.2 per cent of the \$46,568,970 they take nationally from fixed speed cameras from the Auckland region. Taking speed camera photos of vehicles isn't anywhere as effective as uniformed officers out patrolling our areas."

Conservation stalwart Gordon Ell dies

Gordon Ell, a prominent conservationist and author, has died aged 81.

Ell moved from Christchurch to Takapuna in 1967 and joined the Forest and Bird Society shortly after. He became North Shore branch chair in 1978, in an era when the branch was prominent in the establishment of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park and the replanting and administration of Tiritiri Matangi Island sanctuary.

He served six years as vice-president of Forest and Bird New Zealand and was president for four years in the 1990s. He represented the society on the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary Committee and the Conservation Authority and was on the Northland National Parks Board.

Ell ran his own publishing company, Bush Press, for many years. He was editor of F&B's magazine from 1998-2005. Ell authored dozens of books, many themed around nature and conservation, including: *Kauri Past and Present*; *King Kauri*; *Heritage Aotearoa*; *The Kauri Museum*; *Rotorua Past and Present*; and *Enjoying Nature in the New Zealand Garden*.

In 2000 he was awarded a Queens Service medal for services to journalism and conservation. He is survived by wife Ruth, a community activist and environmentalist, daughters Fiona and Sarah and five grandchildren.



Dynamic duo... Gordon and Ruth Ell at the opening of an exhibition at Takapuna Library in 2019

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Kiwi owned and operated Ear Health has since 1995 been at the forefront of ear care throughout New Zealand, guaranteeing the provision of efficient and professional audiology services delivered to an exceptional standard.

Here on the North Shore, Ear Health's new Narrow Neck clinic opened in September 2020, and its clinic of 10 years in Birkenhead are both owned and operated by the delightful Soren Thompson, who moved to New Zealand from Romania 20 years ago. With his wife and two children, Soren has been a Hauraki resident for five years, having relocated from Christchurch.

Soren and his team take great pride in their long-standing commitment to the aural health and well-being of the North Shore communities in which they work and live, offering state-of-the-art, complete ear-health services.

Soren sets his audiology practices apart through the individual and fully-integrated care he provides.

"Interacting with people, bringing a difference to their quality of life, finding the right solution to individual and particular cases – this is what makes me passionate about the service I offer to each and every person I help," he says. Soren and his team of professionals specialise in total ear health, with ongoing audiology care and an overall health-focused, holistic approach.

Soren goes on to explain that hearing loss and access to hearing-care services is a concern for many communities. According to a recent report commissioned by the National Foundation for the Deaf, an estimated 880,350 Kiwis suffer hearing impairment – almost 20 per cent of the population may be struggling to participate fully in life. Good hearing keeps life fulfilling, and our hearing is undoubtedly worth preserving. Sound brings us joy and connection to our world; a soothing familiar voice, listening to the rush of water, or reacting to a warning signal are all sounds we can perhaps



Belinda Furmenger, Customer Services Manager, and Soren Thompson, Audiology Specialist

take for granted.

We thrive on listening and communicating with others. Sounds and conversation fire our brains and engage us in thinking, reacting and responding. Imagine losing part of your ability to hear, with those sounds becoming muffled or even disappearing altogether. As the sound stimulus to your brain changes, so too does your brain itself. Recent research has shown the brain can "forget" how to hear, so it's vitally important to keep it stimulated with sound. People often respond to hearing loss by reducing social contact, because engaging in conversations becomes more complicated, particularly when battling background noise. Isolation from friends and family is a risk factor leading to many mental and physical illnesses. Soren passionately believes that preserving your hearing health is a lifelong commitment which will protect your quality of life as a whole. His advice is that being proactive is simple and easy – just have your hearing tested once a year.

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New Takapuna residential zone parking restrictions

A two-hour parking restriction will soon apply in central Takapuna's residential streets. Residents will be able to purchase a parking permit to allow them to park in their street at any time, while visitors will face tickets if they overstay.

The new regime, to apply from mid-year, was announced by Auckland Transport (AT) this week. It is meant to make it easier for people living near the town centre to park in their streets, rather than see spots being taken for extended periods by workers and shoppers looking to avoid parking meters.

A proposal to introduce the parking zone was put out for community feedback in October last year. AT received 525 responses and decided to reduce the zone it had originally suggested be covered by restrictions. The new zone will cover Bracken Ave, Tennyson Ave, Sanders Ave and Park Ave and parts of Burns Ave, Huron St, Northcroft St and Byron Ave.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett said he thought the new zone struck a good balance for business customers and residents around the busy Takapuna centre.

"Community feedback clearly highlighted the impact a residential parking zone could have, and resulted in AT considering a reduced zone to make sure just the hardest hit streets were targeted, making it easier for residents to find a park."

AT will write to residents and businesses



in the zone at least one month before the measures take effect, to explain how to apply for a permit.

An AT spokesperson was unable to tell the Observer by our publication deadline what the cost of a permit would be.

Residential parking zones had worked well in other areas of the city, said AT's group manager of parking services, John Strawbridge.

"As Auckland grows, there are new demands on parking around busy town centres," he said. Establishing residential zones freed up more spaces for people who lived in an area or visited.

Bennett said council had also worked to provide wider parking options.

For example the Toka Puia parking building in Huron St was a good alternative to street parking for workers and visitors, he said.

The car park which has 420 vehicle spaces has been running well below capacity since opening last year. It was built with future growth in mind and to replace the central car park off Anzac St. The central car-park would be closed when parts of the land is sold off to developers and the rest becomes a town square.

Grand opening

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In defence of Castor Bay battery

The Castor Bay Battery and Camp is listed by Heritage NZ as a Category 1 Historic Place, identifying it as a place of outstanding historical and cultural significance.

The demolition of a Category A building is a prohibited activity under the Resource Management Act and is incompatible with Auckland Council's own heritage policies.

The historical barracks at Castor Bay represents the WWII plan by the New Zealand military for the buildings to resemble a small housing estate. The observation post was designed to resemble a seaside ice-cream shop, the parade ground was disguised as tennis courts, and the gun emplacements were disguised with false roofs and canvas sides, with painted doors and windows to complete the deception.

Castor Bay's two remaining buildings are unique and are of considerable significance to New Zealand's coastal defence history.

The Castor Bay Battery, which along with Motutapu Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula was tasked with defending the northern approach, is of undoubted historic value.

The Devonport Takapuna Local Board (DTLB), as did other previous administrations, faces a challenge, and must reach out to Auckland Council to remind it of its duty and obligation to assist with the restoration of the sole remaining barrack building. This is about having a vision and foresight.

From Maungauika (North Head), numerous Gulf islands and Castor Bay we can tell the story of the Anzac tradition and we have the building remnants of the Anzac era. Preserving these sites, inclusive of the Castor Bay Battery, is fundamental to maintaining and protecting the history of the Anzac story in Auckland.

Trish Deans, DTLB member

Barracks repair money could be better spent

I applaud the work done previously at Kennedy Park and I am a frequent visitor to the reserve. But to spend this amount (a probable cost of more than \$1.5 million) to refurbish the so-called 'barracks' is both wasteful and foolish. The building is in such bad repair, with dangerous asbestos problems. Fixing it will add little to the great job done with the park's 'state house lookout'.

We have a number of other public projects on the Shore which could more widely benefit the public. The upgrade of the Milford/Takapuna walkway would be a case in point.

If there was a desire to give greater prominence to the history of this site, the historic public hoardings in the reserve at Kumara

in the South Island would be a wonderful example. This small town has used the enthusiasm of a local amateur historian to create about 20, large double-sided information boards with photographs.

Kennedy Park could easily commission such work for a fraction of the proposed repair cost and ensure that the war-time theme was well presented. It could also examine other related historic aspects such as the Maori occupation on the headland.

With a wider scope it could present wider North Shore history: for example the Pirate Ship in Milford and horse-drawn trams from Devonport.

Martin and Adrienne Gillion

Plastic barrier an eyesore at Sacred Grove



Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters on local issues and that are not overly long. Noms-de-plume or unnamed submissions will not be printed.

Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
or post to Rangitoto Observer,
PO Box 32 275, Devonport.

The council spent thousands restoring the stone wall (pictured above) so it looks really good, yet put up a truly awful red plastic barrier.

It's been there for months together with a notice about Sacred Grove with insincere "apologies for inconvenience".

It's a done deal that the boardwalk will never reopen... so get on with it.

Roger Hall, Takapuna



Bow man... Matt Bear shows his prowess on the violin



Sibling act... Ella Crooks sang solo before brother Jamie's slot

Youth Arts incubator enlivens Takapuna

Young creatives are taking their talents to the streets, in an Auckland Council community project spearheaded by the Takapuna-based Youth Arts organisation.

In the first of a series of Young at Art sessions across the city, the 38 Hurstmere Rd public space in Takapuna came alive earlier this month. Musicians, dancers and artists were among those whose skills were on show, with personalised poetry improvisations and portraiture part of the programme.

The aim is to provide entertainment to the public and opportunities for the performers to develop their skills, potentially building careers.

Youth Arts New Zealand has its office in the new Shore Junction youth facility.

Warning over stormwater risks

A recent case of paint turning a stream in Lyford Reserve blue should serve as a reminder for residents to take care when doing DIY, says Sunnynook's environment co-ordinator Tabitha Becroft.

"We need to raise the awareness that stormwater goes into our streams and onto the beaches."

An accident with spilled paint was partly responsible for the recent incident, with a resident having been rinsing brushes on the lawn, before a tin was knocked over and then the paint hosed off.

Becroft said using drop sheets while painting was a good idea.

The volunteer environment monitor keeps a

close eye on Lyford Reserve, helped by several other local families.

The reserve is a treasure, she says, being one of the few substantial areas of native bush in the area. As such both its bush and its stream deserved to be safeguarded.

The stream ultimately flows out through Wairau Estuary to Milford Beach. It is part of the large Wairau catchment.

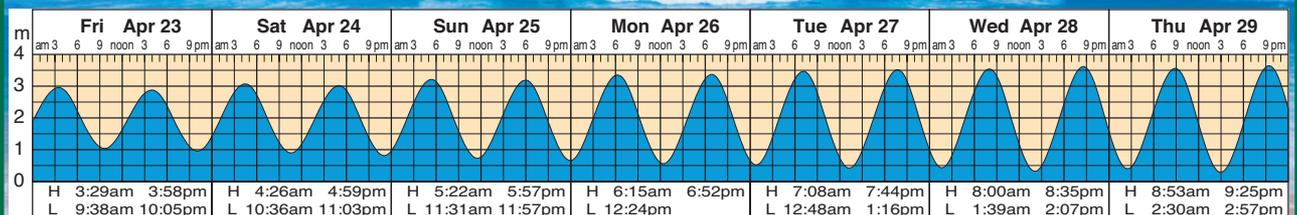
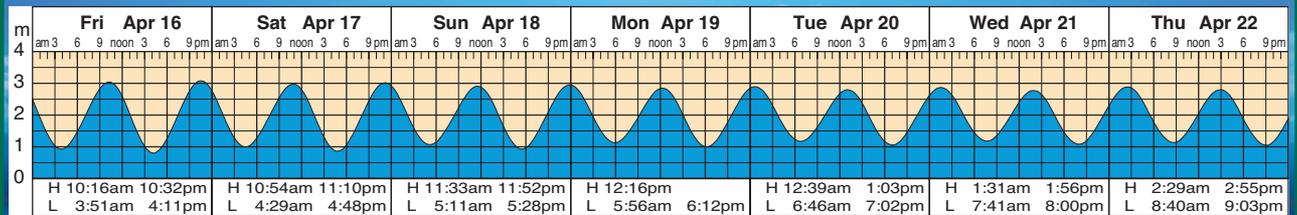
Testings four times a year in the reserve keeps tabs on its water condition, which Becroft says "isn't high quality", although encouraging signs of small aquatic life have been found.

With care from the community, she hopes water quality will improve.



Blue water... The Lyford Reserve stream turned a new hue

Milford / Takapuna Tides



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Kitchen Hand

Our busy restaurant is looking for a Kitchen Hand to join our team. You will have a positive can-do attitude and enjoy working as part of a team. You would be responsible for cleaning, dishwashing and food prep in our kitchens. This may include vacuuming, mopping and dusting as well as removing of kitchen waste. Must have, eligibility to work in NZ. Reliable transport, honesty and integrity – police vetting is required, friendly, helpful and courteous manner and ability to work rostered shifts.

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Front of House Staff

Signal Hill is looking for Front of House staff to join their new restaurant in Devonport.

Come and join our team, we have two vacancies for Front of House Staff.

You would need to come with excellent customer service, friendly mannerism and energy to join our team. Your restaurant experience will be assisting in all areas including, front of house, food and beverage service; food preparation and kitchen duties.

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Restaurant Manager

The restaurant is typically open 11am–10pm, Monday to Sunday. Ideally able to work rostered hours, a 40 hour shift between 9am and midnight Monday to Sunday. This is a full time permanent role where you will be in charge of day to day running of the business and working closely with the Fatima team. We are looking for someone with experience in managing a restaurant as either in an assistant role or main role, experience in smart to dining is necessary.

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Lexel Systems is looking for two Service Desk Analyst in Albany Auckland. A multiple award-winning business, in 2020 alone Lexel won Customer Value Award at the Reseller News Innovation Awards and was highly commended as Microsoft's Modern Workplace & Security Partner of the Year.

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To be considered, you will have commercial experience in a service desk or user support role within an enterprise environment, skilled in supporting users across a range of technologies. Any previous experience

within an IT service provider would be advantageous.

Technical Skills

- Outstanding communication skills, self-motivation and a customer centric approach
- ITIL understanding / Foundation certification
- Sound analytical and problem solving abilities and good attention to detail
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- Flexibility and a willingness to work on shifts

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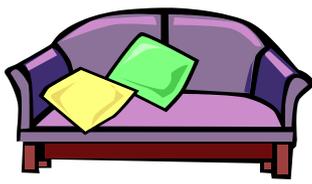
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Navy singer performs at museum



Soloist Rebecca Nelson will perform a range of songs of remembrance at two special concerts at the Navy Museum in the lead-up to Anzac Day.

The local singer, who is a reservist with the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), holding the rank of able musician, is the official singer of the RNZN Band.

Her classical-crossover style is well suited to what will be an intimate evening of performance. Among songs she will sing are *Ave Maria*, *Bring Him Home*, *Hallelujah* and the anthem from the musical *Chess*.

Nelson has performed widely, including at military commemorative events, notably the Anzac centenary at Gallipoli, and at the Somme and Passchendaele.

She sang the national anthem at Twickenham in 2018 when the All Blacks played England in the lead-up to the Armistice centenary.

A \$5 donation per ticket will be made to the Devonport RSA Poppy Trust.

- A night of remembrance: Monday 19 April sold out; Wednesday 21 April, 7pm, tickets \$20. Book at the museum at Torpedo Bay, or ph 4455186 or email info@navymuseum.co.nz.

In the Navy... Able Musician Rebecca Nelson (left) sings for the RNZN Band

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Devonport



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CONTACT OWNER: Mike Gannaway on 021 926 946 or michael@gannaway.co.nz

Briefs

Band to lead the way

The North Shore Brass Band will lead the way in the Takapuna Anzac Day parade on 25 April. Marchers will gather at Sanders Ave at 9.25am before parading to the war memorial on The Strand for readings and wreath laying. Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett will MC the event.

Peninsula gatherings

Devonport's Anzac Day parade starts from Fleet St, at 9.30am. It will then head down Victoria Rd to the cenotaph, for a service at 10am. Takapuna Grammar will host a dusk service at 5.30pm in the ex-pupils library.

Poppy field

A remembrance field will be set up at the Navy Museum, where people can make and "plant" paper poppies. The museum will be open from 10am to 5pm.

Wartime tunes

The Rose Singers will perform World War I and II songs on 22, 23, 24 (evenings) and 25 April at 2pm at the Rose Centre, Belmont. Proceeds from the \$10 tickets go to charity. For bookings, phone Ruth on 021 436010.

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World class... Split Enz took Kiwi creativity to London. Now Tim Finn (third from left in this cropped image) calls Devonport home.

Pop-art painter inspired by lively

The New Zealand-music heyday of last century has inspired North Shore painter Christian Nicolson's latest exhibition. Among leading New Zealand bands referenced in his works are Blam Blam Blam and the Screaming Meemees, which respectively featured foundation members who jammed together while at Westlake Boys High School and Rosmini College.

The exhibition, called *Ready to Roll*, owes its name to the influential television music show which ran from 1975 to 2001. While Nicolson was too young to truly tune in during early days, he says many of its featured artists made the “Kiwi music I grew up with”.

Names such as Split Enz, Hello Sailor, Shona Laing, Dave Dobbyn – and those from the Flying Nun label seen mostly on *Radio with Pictures* – all resonate in his pop-art influenced portraits and screen-printed imagery. Works include mashed-up collages of characters. One entitled “Sweetwaters”, with Chris Knox in the festival foreground and the Meemees in the middle. “They’re pretty stylish I must say, pretty much the coolest band we produced in that era,” Nicolson reckons.

He says he is a nostalgic person, with a lot of his work based on childhood. “Be-

ing in love with music and being a muso myself I thought it was good to bring out our music heroes.”

As well as the 20 paintings he has on show at Art by the Sea gallery in Takapuna are sculptures of Tim Finn, Che Fu, Bic Runga, Dobbyn and Knox. He even invited some of his musical heroes along to a busy opening of the exhibition last weekend. Former Mockers frontman Andrew Fagan had a very rock’n’roll excuse: he was on tour. The still resident North Shore brigade of Blams in Mark Bell and Tim Mahon have been asked to drop by when they are free, and so too Jordan Luck.

Nicolson fondly remembers playing at the Masonic in Devonport with his band, Goon. They still occasionally gets together, but the hotel’s shell now houses apartments. It sits just across the road from the original Art by the Sea building, with the gallery business having recently relocated to Takapuna. Nicolson is chuffed to have been asked by owner Mike Geers to be the artist for its opening exhibition in the new premises. He hopes his music tribute show will remind people that New Zealand music, as seen on *Ready to Roll*, was as good as that from anywhere.

• *Ready to Roll* by Christian Nicolson is on until 27 April at Art by the Sea gallery, 162 Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna.

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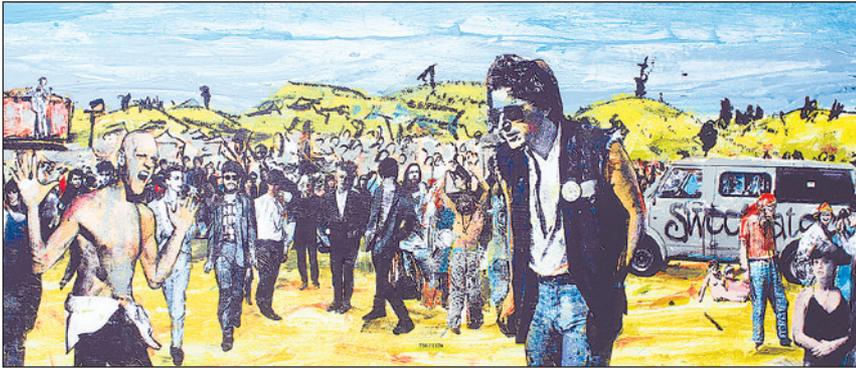


INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE 2021

13 May, 10am-2.30pm, Takapuna Library

Local high school students and older adults will come together at this event to discuss and try to find solutions for local issues.

SUGGEST A TOPIC TO DISCUSS, OR IF YOU ARE AN OLDER ADULT, REGISTER TO TAKE PART, BY CONTACTING ELLE HANDISIDES ON 09 4862098 OR EVENTS@TAKAPUNATRUST.ORG.NZ



NZ music scene

**Come together...
A cross-section
of entertainers at
Sweetwaters from
Chris Knox (front)
to the Screaming
Meemees (centre)
and visiting
Australian singer
Peter Garrett (left)**



**Shore sighted...
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breakthrough
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The Vic Open Mic Night	29 APR
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WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library



ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS

Join us for ANZAC commemorations at the library. Write the name of a loved one on one of our special Easter poppies for us to display, view our collection of ANZAC photographs or borrow one of the many ANZAC books from our collection.



VEGAN EVENT

Saturday 1 May, 11.00am

Come enjoy a talk on veganism on Saturday, May 1st 2021, 11:00 am. Find out how a plant based diet can hugely reduce climate change, deforestation and animal cruelty. The talk will be presented by Amanda Sorrenson from the Vegan Society, ultra-athlete Josh Howell and nutritionist Shamiz Kachwalla.

School holidays are fast approaching!

Our holiday theme is Grossology - check out all the exciting events on Facebook and Eventfinda.

Help us to thank frontline staff for all their wonderful lockdown work over the past year. Draw a picture, write a message or a poem and we will pass it on to the police, hospital staff, supermarket workers or bus drivers.

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