

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 56 - April 30, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Community steps up over
disaster planning... p7

Brouhaha over bowls
club's future... p10

Trailblazing Shore lawyer
remembered... p13

Milford rocks dumping set for sign-off

Rocks dumped illegally on Milford Beach prompting community anger last year may remain there for good.

One of four Holiday Rd homeowners issued an abatement notice over the dumping has applied for a retrospective resource consent for the property's existing seawall.

The application to Auckland Council also seeks permission to fence off a section of the beach containing loose rocks to be dug up and moved back to allow for the seawall to be built up over several days to make it less steep. But, due to the vagaries of weather and tides, consent is sought

to have an orange mesh fence in place to allow work on up to five designated days.

"The [initial] work was motivated by the applicant commencing some repair work to the wall without resource consent," the application stated.

What resulted was an outcry **To page 2**

Young and old salute Anzac service



Leading the parade... Drum major Craig Rhodes from North Shore Brass and trombonist Esther Simpson lead the way for service personnel and their families and schools marching to the Takapuna war memorial last Sunday for a well-attended Anzac Day service. More photographs, pages 4-5.

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Briefs

Garden go ahead

Forrest Hill will get its community garden on Seine Reserve, after a two-year lease at a peppercorn rent was approved by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board. The idea to set up on council land has taken four years to become reality. It has been driven by local couple Phoebe and Dave Atkinson who have formed a trust and rallied volunteer support, including a Chinese liaison helper. Plans for a composting toilet on site were dropped and compost bins will be kept away from fences to satisfy neighbours.

Korean corner

The long-discussed Korean garden at Barrys Pt Reserve is a step closer, with funds transferring soon to the trust behind the project. Updated design details have yet to be made public.

Boat speed views

Twelve knots should be the maximum recreational boat speed within the Waitemata Harbour Zone, not the 18 knots envisaged in a new Auckland Council Navigation Bylaw, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has recommended. This reflects the majority feedback from 28 public submissions made locally and the advice of sailors concerned about safety and wake wash along the inner-harbour foreshore. Some called for the speed limit to drop to 5 knots. Emergency craft and ferries would be exempt. Another draft safety rule is likely to be further considered by council is whether paddleboarders, kayakers and jet skiers should be included in the requirement for craft to carry two means of communication for emergencies.

All welcome to come out to play

The drawcard status of the playground at Takapuna Beach is set to grow with news that work on an area equipped for all abilities use will be included.

A range of play gear will be sited by the existing popular playground on Gould Reserve. This will be near the new toilet block, which is to be built further up the grass slope towards the road than the current one. The block will include special Changing Places facilities to cater for the needs of people with serious disabilities and their families. A water fountain will be sited nearby.

The work follows a flurry of activity signalled before the end of the financial year. This includes a playground renewal at Nile Reserve in Forrest Hill and a new play area near the Sunnynook Community Centre.

The greenlighting of these and other parks projects was outlined at the April Devonport-Takapuna Local Board meeting.

Board chair Aidan Bennett acknowledged the philanthropy of Takapuna couple Chris and Jackie Reeve towards the new Takapuna Beach play facilities. They are fully funding this, to the tune of around \$500,000, and the Changing Places addition to the new toilet block, after earlier support for the main playground opened several years ago. The couple also funded a roll-out beach accessibility mat over summer.

Bennett said although it was unlikely any totally new projects would be funded in the next two to three years due to the council's financial squeeze, it was good to see some already planned local work beginning.

from page 1

Rocks saga grinds on

in early June 2020, after a contractor drove a truck onto the beach and upended the rocks, leaving them scattered down the sand in a way that impeded walkers getting down the beach at high tide.

Politicians immediately talked tough and the council issued abatement notices on the four adjoining properties which had intended to use the rocks to bolster their beachfront defences against erosion and tidal surges. Instead, the rocks remained in place, with the council several times over several months telling the Observer it had extended deadlines for removal.

The official stance appeared to shift from one of taking action to seeking a negotiated outcome after legal letters were exchanged.

By October, the council's manager of regulatory compliance, Steve Pearce, responded to another Observer inquiry ahead

of the busy summer beach season, by saying rocks from all but one of the properties had been moved. That property, at 7a Holiday Rd, had lodged a consent application for placement of the rocks, he said.

The latest consent documents for that address, in the name of J and B Wallace, were lodged in March, and detail that an earlier similar consent application had been queried by the council as to whether the design originally submitted minimised the wall footprint as much as possible.

A meeting with the council's coastal specialist staff was held on site and an "updated and agreed design" was submitted. This details how further construction is to be done and its boundaries. Surplus rocks would be removed.

The original wall dates to the 1960s. Land title extends beyond it.



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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.

**2 The Strand:
empty for 1065 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 1065 days.



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Steady she goes... Annahi Ramaldo, aged 7, of Takapuna shows her style at a temporary rink in the public space at 38 Hurstmere Rd. Set up in conjunction with the Takapuna Beach Business Association, the rink is open daily until 2 May, 10am-10pm. It is proving a crowd pleaser with children by day and adults at night, with skates for hire from operator Paradise Ice Skating. This is the company's first pop-up rink on the Shore.

North Shore MP and ex DHB manager slates health reforms

Innovative trials using technology to help deliver better health care could be derailed at North Shore Hospital by sweeping changes to the health sector, says the National Party member of Parliament for North Shore, Simon Watts.

Watts, a former deputy chief financial officer at the Waitemata DHB, said it was delivering some of the best health outcomes in the country. With health, including the Shore, suffering a workforce

crisis, he said it was vital to keep thinking smart as was being done locally by using new diagnostic tools to relieve pressure on staff.

Watts feared the surprise moves by the Government announced this month to replace all DHBs with a national health agency from mid next year might instead result in a centralised bureaucracy.

National's short-term health priority and "total focus" was seeing vaccinations for Covid-19 and influenza rolled out faster, he said.

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Anzac Day crowd urged to keep memory of service alive



Forward march... Veterans follow the day's parade master, Flight Lieutenant Alex Koppenaal, on Lake Rd

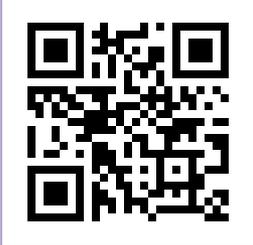


Standing watch... On flag duty and surveying wreaths at the war memorial



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in local hearts

Takapuna residents of all ages stood side-by-side to welcome their Anzac Day commemorations back to the war memorial in The Strand last Sunday, after a two-year absence. A good crowd spread out along the street as the forecourt in front of the council buildings soon filled for 25 April morning remembrances and wreath laying.

North Shore Brass Band heralded the traditional parade up Lake Rd from Sanders Ave, wheeling around the corner to where North Shore Chorale members were waiting to lead the singing of hymns. Representatives of the military and local officials all had their part to play, with members of the public then moving forward to leave poppies and reflect.

Local primary and secondary schools turned out in number, with senior students from Rosmini College and Carmel College to the fore in giving readings from scripture and offering prayers and poems. Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Aidan Bennett officiated, acknowledging the efforts of guest speaker Gavin Sheehan in ensuring bronze plaques recognising former service personnel from the area stayed on streets named after them.

Sheehan urged the crowd to keep the Anzac Day story alive in their communities by passing on family stories to the next generation and to libraries and history groups.

The next day, he led an Urban Festival Walking Tour to explain the stories of sacrifice behind eight plaques in Hauraki, Takapuna, Milford and Forrest Hill.



Poppy pride... Symbols of sacrifice were proudly worn and left by many



School assembly... Secondary and primary pupils turned out in force

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Local Board briefs

Park naming

A sum of \$4000 is being set aside by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for hui with iwi to get the dual naming of parks back on track. Auckland Council's Te Kete Rukuruku policy of adding Maori names to its reserves to recognise mana whenua and history became bogged down last year, after Ngati Whatua said it deserved more weight than a number of other iwi. A hui is to be held this financial year with iwi with an interest in the area, in hopes of getting the work on track locally. The board has carried over \$20,000 of already allocated project funding to the 2021-2022 year for work, including new signage.

Congestion charges

Congestion charges for motorists should be supported in principle, but only if public transport was up to scratch to provide commuters good options besides driving private vehicles, board members decided. Their feedback will go to Auckland Council, which is responding to a parliamentary select committee looking at possibilities.

Reserve reaction

Plans to dispose of a small strip of land from the Linwood Ave reserve in Forrest Hill have drawn 12 submissions, including from environmental groups objecting to its loss. A further 53 blanket submissions were made about Auckland Council's proposed revocation of reserve status on 20 "not required" properties, including this one, in a city-wide process that will clear the way for their sale. The Linwood reserve land is a pathway from Woodstock Rd that leads between houses into the reserve which has other entrances. Local speculation is the land will be sold to a neighbour. Submissions will be collated and considered for a final decision.

Resilience planning rolls out

Around 80 residents from suburbs stretching from Devonport to Sunnynook turned out to a public meeting in Takapuna last week to discuss emergency planning.

The aim is to develop community-led disaster response strategies for residents and have them in place by mid-2021.

Auckland Emergency Management (AEM), an arm of Auckland Council, which takes a city-wide role, in what was once called Civil Defence co-ordination, summarised the risks to stimulate audience discussion. Groups from Milford, Takapuna, Forrest Hill and Crown Hill and Sunnynook, plus the Devonport peninsula, jotted down ideas.

AEM's principal science adviser, Angela Doherty, outlined risks locally and the need for preparedness. High-priority hazards in the board area included coastal inundation and extreme weather events such as tornadoes, storms, floods and high winds plus pandemics, she said. Loss of utilities and infrastructure needed to be considered.

Disasters would impact different groups differently, from the need for apartment building dwellers to work out how to access their homes if key cards did not work to how those who did not speak English would be brought into the loop. (The meeting was told this was 6.5 per cent of the population of the board's area, with 4 per cent of people living with activities limited and half working full-time away from home, meaning reconnecting could be an issue. Other key Census statistics were that more than 10 per cent of local people were aged over 70, with 5 per cent aged under five. More than a third of people did not own their own home.)

Doherty touched on tsunamis and volcanic dangers. Tsunami sirens (not installed locally) were just a back-up option, she said. Text alerts, media broadcasts and social media posts were considered more effective ways to warn more people.

Resilience checklist

- Have a home and work plan
- Make an emergency stocktake
- Inform yourself on local risks
- Know your neighbours
- Work with your community
- Sign up for AEM Alerts
- Download Red Cross Hazard App

The meeting was initiated by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board which concluded – partly from community feedback in the wake of the first Covid-19 lockdown – that updated plans were needed. It engaged Auckland North Community and Development Inc (ANCAD) to collate and facilitate updating existing plans. ANCAD's recently retired head, Yvonne Powley, who set up the project, said it was "a bit of a flagship project" for the city.

Board deputy chair George Wood said the Christchurch earthquakes had shown that suburbs could suddenly be left without services. The public needed to know where to go and what to do, especially with there being no CD headquarters in the board area. "It's a pleasure to see so many people here for the shakedown of this plan," he said.

A facilitator guided groups to come up with initial area-specific suggestions. Some attendees worried about reinventing the wheel, but were assured templates would help guide the process as it continued. Workshops will be held on preparedness (May 20) and scenario exercises (June 3).

It is expected that people at the meetings, who will network with other community groups, will spread the word on local plans.

AEM staff will provide some assistance in writing them up.



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Westlake students win NZ rowing trials

Westlake Girls and Boys High Schools have each had students given New Zealand under-19 trials in the wake of the Maadi Cup secondary school rowing regatta.

Olivia Anderson, Greg Severin and Finn Hoban were chosen, as was Atlanta Ieremia-Bruce, who started high school at Westlake before shifting to St Peter's School, Cambridge, on a sports scholarship, but is now back with the North Shore Rowing Club.

Anderson, Severin and Hoban rowed in their schools U18 coxed fours which finished 4th and 5th in their respective national finals last month. The coxed eights, featuring Anderson and Severin, both won B (or repechage) finals at Maadi last month.

Two recent former Westlake Boys students, Sam Shoterand and Bowen de Gouw, were this month selected in the national U21s. The school's director of rowing, Jo Shoter, has also been named national U19 women's coach for the off-season.

Year 12 Sofia Greenhalgh has been called up for the U18 North v South trial, as has James Jury, along with coxswain Nikolaos Matiatos. The two boys were part of the same U18 crews as Severin.

Greenhalgh's U17 coxed four crew was Westlake Girls' most successful at Maadi, claiming a silver medal. Greenhalgh rowed with Scarlett Kerse, Sophie Dykgraaf and Eva Dykgraaf and coxswain Charlotte Ram. The crew finished behind Rangi Ruru Girls School from Christchurch, which was the single most successful school at the regatta, claiming eight gold medals. In all, Westlake



Olivia Anderson

Girls made five A finals and eight B finals. The school sent a squad of 47 rowers to the event, held at Lake Karapiro near Cambridge in late March. It attracted 2432 competitors.

Westlake Boys finished ninth nationally, winning gold with the U16 coxed four of Cruz Erdmann, Leo Ranson, Jett Williams, Alex Logan and coxswain Joaquin Umali. The school won two silvers in the U15 coxed eight and the U15 coxed four. In all, it sent 60 students and made 10 A finals, 5 B finals and 1 C final.

Takapuna Grammar had an outstanding year at Maadi, winning gold medals in the girls U16 doubles and coxed sculls four, and silvers for its U15 Octuplet girls and the boys U15 double. Takapuna finished sixth overall, in a competition traditionally dominated by the single-sex schools.

Runners on track for nationals

Westlake Boys athletes rounded out a strong season of regional performances by taking two top spots at the North Island Track championships this month.

Alfie Steedman won gold in his junior boys 800m in 2:07.86 and silver in the 1500m in 4:24.07. Nick Davies won the intermediate boys steeple in 6:18.86, with Cameron Maunder coming second in the intermediate boys 3000m.

In field competition, Tai Rhodes won the U16 pole vault.

The school drew from a talent pool of 40 students who competed at Auckland Secondary Schools Athletics Championships last month.

At that event it won 16 medals, including golds for Rhodes (Open pole vault), Gabriel Sloane-Rodrigues (Junior 300m), Harrison Loretz (Intermediate Steeplechase) and Conall Mclean (Junior Steeplechase).

At the Triathlon championships, Maunder won the intermediate boys event, and Larn Hamblyn-Ough, Jack Lloyd and Jett Curteis were best intermediate team.

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Life saver thrown a lifeline

Sixteen-year-old Westlake Girls High School student Zoe Crawford has received a 2021 Scholarship from the Tania Dalton Foundation, along with 12 other talented young New Zealand sportswomen.

A member of the Mairangi Bay Surf Life Saving Club, Zoe's scholarship was awarded to foster her potential, following recent achievements including winning five gold medals and one bronze at the 2020 National Surf Life Saving Pool Championships. She was also named her school's 2020 Junior Sportswoman of the Year.

Zoe is competing at the New Zealand Age Group Swimming Championships for North Shore Swimming Club in Wellington during the school holidays.

Of winning the scholarship, she told the Observer: "I was very surprised to be selected, but I'm excited to learn a lot from my mentors, and grateful that my mum will get some financial relief having supported my sport for so long."

Inspiring athletes to be the best they can be through sport, the Tania Dalton Foundation provides rising sportswomen with opportunities to connect with like-minded athletes and experienced mentors. Zoe will be part of the fourth annual intake since the programme was founded in 2018 by Tania's husband Duane in honour of the former Silver Fern, who died suddenly while playing touch in 2017.

Allocated another former Silver Fern netballer now television commentator, Adine Wilson, as a mentor, Zoe is elated to have such an affable and understanding role-model as her scholarship guide, and is eagerly anticipating their next session together.



Zoe Crawford

"I feel very privileged to have been given this opportunity" says Zoe. "I'm really happy to be part of a sisterhood of like-minded female athletes, and having personally known Tania makes it all the more special."

Zoe is looking forward to growing as an athlete during the three years of the scholarship. Her next goal is to make the Junior NZ Life Saving team – the Junior Black Fins – and to represent New Zealand at the World Championships next year, both in the ocean and in the pool.

Duane Dalton says: "We're looking forward to helping our 2021 recipients just as we have in previous year."

"Following Tania's footsteps, we're encouraging these girls to see themselves as future role models and leaders in their communities, finding ways to work alongside and inspire them to realise their ultimate dreams."

Briefs

Back in the swim

Talented ocean swimmer Caitlin O'Reilly, 17, was the first woman to shore in the 4.6km Rangitoto to St Heliers swim on April 18 – completing the course in togs without a wetsuit. The Carmel College student finished in the top 10 overall, in a time of 1 hour and 10 minutes. Swimmers faced difficult conditions with "a strong current pushing us out to Browns Island and I had to make sure I swam an even line to angle in on the buoys," she said. In February, Caitlin crossed Foveaux Strait, making her the youngest person to conquer the big three New Zealand water swims.

Boys' own

The Westlake Boys' team of Christian Martin, Daniel Ottenhof, Rocco Chang, Boston Caldwell and Liam Spencer won a bronze medal at the basketball 3x3 national schools championship. At the water polo nationals, both Westlake's A1 and A2 teams placed third in their sections after penalty shootouts.

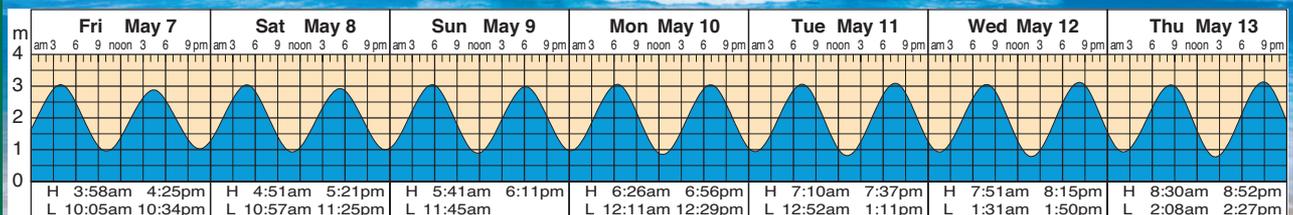
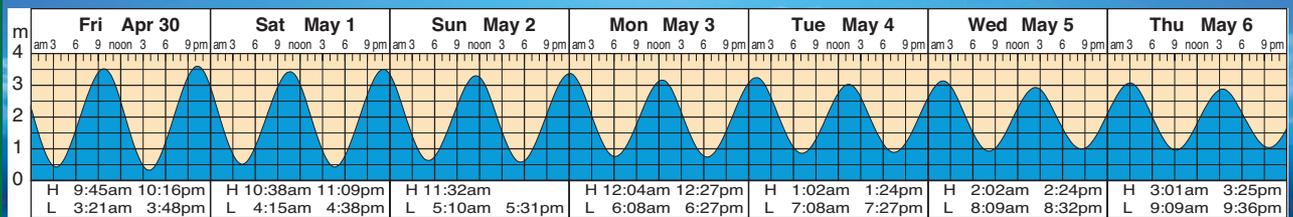
On the mat

Westlake Boys' Year 10 student Josh Marshall has won the under 85kg national secondary schools wrestling title, after earlier taking out the division at the Auckland secondary school champs.

Sailing away

The 29er North Island Sailing Championships proved profitable for crews featuring Westlake sailors, with the winners, Brayden Hamilton and Seb Menzies, coming in two spots ahead of George Lee-Rush and Josh Schon.

Milford / Takapuna Tides



'Courtesy call' on bowlers likely too little too late

Bowlers hoping to save their club played host to three members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board the day after the board made a decision not to renew their lease.

Members Trish Deans, Ruth Jackson and Jan O'Connor went to the club out of "courtesy" after they unsuccessfully tried to give the bowlers a lifeline at the board's April meeting.

The Takapuna Services and Social Bowling Club, at 2 Mary Poynton Cres, has just 12 members, down from 20 in 2017 when a council officials review was begun into its continued occupancy of council land at a peppercorn rent. The club was no longer viable, the review found.

"Turning up on white horses is not fixing anything, it is just delaying," member Toni van Tonder cautioned the Heart of the Shore trio at the board's meeting last week. They wanted the decision over the lease deferred to allow for more consultation, but other members voted against their amendment.

Chairman Aidan Bennett used his casting vote to break a resulting 3-3 deadlock. This allowed for the passing of a motion based on the recommendation of officials to end the lease, with six months' notice, and to call for expressions of interest in future community use of the site.

Club secretary Bruce Woodley later told the Observer the club was solvent and wanted to stay on. "We pay our way." Members had spent an enormous amount on an artificial green and floodlights, did all maintenance and continued to seek new members. "Until I see someone show an interest [in the site] the council should bugger off," he said.

Jackson told the Observer her trio had not given the club false hope on their visit, but wanted to pay the bowlers the courtesy of a face-to-face meeting. "They really do want to hang onto the club, but if that is feasible I don't know." She was not sure what might be done next, but as incoming chair, taking over from Bennett, would consider options.

"It's been a poor way to treat a community group, but the end result [after more time] might be the same."

The neighbouring RSA closed in 2016, which added pace to the fall in the club's fan-numbers. Council officials say it does not have proper clubroom facilities or enough members to be sustainable. Woodley says members play two to three times a week. The council has spent far too much time putting its "sticky



Frustrated five... Bruce Woodley, Alan Wright, Graham Ward, Graham Searmark and Ken Harper hope their club can survive

nose" in, he maintains.

With the Glenfield club recently closing and Devonport having done so a couple of years ago, options for bowlers were dwindling. Woodley said his club was open to a shared-use arrangement.

Bennett told the board, it had a duty to ensure community assets were well used. Deputy chairperson George Wood said it was a "sad saga" but the bowlers could not say they had not been consulted. "If we put it off for another month we will be in the same situation."

Council officials reported that they had held five or six meetings with the group over the last few years, plus further informal and email communication. Before the vote, Jackson urged all board members to take up the bowlers' invitation to visit. She said she was not criticising officials, but wanted to do the decent thing of having the board itself meet the bowlers. Van Tonder wanted to know how the invitation had come about. O'Connor said she had alerted the bowlers that their lease was on the agenda and suggested they go to the board meeting to put their case.

Officials said they too had advised the club

of the meeting. It was also told in late 2021 that their recommendation would be to end the lease. Jackson said the bowlers later told her they had not attended the board meeting because they thought it would be futile. Instead they emailed O'Connor to suggest the board meet them at the club.

O'Connor asked why Bennett had visited the club in January, without the rest of the board knowing or being invited to go too. Bennett said as chair he undertook a number of duties. Overall, it was governance, said Bennett, that was the role of the board, rather than members, himself included, getting into the nitty gritty to sort things out ourselves.

It was a theme he returned to in his final chair's monthly report, saying he feared division in approach and a reluctance to accept change would blight the board's ability to make the best decisions around tough issues including looking at asset sales.

"While our heritage, history and sentiment must play a part, it must not dominate our thinking as we make decisions for our community. I question whether we have this balance right."

Shore seniors need more attention, says Grey Power

More community and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board support is needed for seniors, says Grey Power chairman Bill Rayner. "Why don't we have a Shore Junction for seniors?", he asked referring to the new youth facility in the old Takapuna RSA, which adjoins the Takapuna Services Social Bowling Club facing closure.

Rayner urged the board to recognise that seniors had helped pay for many community

facilities. Among them was the War Memorial Hall complex on the Strand for which £70,000 had been raised. The social and equity stake needed protecting, when the future of the building was being assessed, he said.

A decision on the bowling club's future should be deferred, Rayner urged, until a survey was done into the overall state of senior services, which Grey Power had previously requested. Its loss would continue

the decline of services since local body amalgamation, he said. "On the North Shore we should be able to do a bit better than that."

Many seniors groups were struggling, he said. Some had ageing assets and others faced increasing costs to use council facilities. Shared and renewed facilities were needed along with more understanding of what was at stake for the quality of life for seniors. Rayner's report was received.



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They will also be an enthusiastic self-starter with professional personal presentation. There may also be a requirement for up to 8 hours mid week but this is negotiable.

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Front of House Staff

Ideal candidates need to have previous experience and a passion for service delivery. Able to work nights and weekends, eligible to work in New Zealand. Must have, good communication, self motivated, able to work under pressure, organised & understand food hygiene, health & safety. Benefits include, free staff meal & drink, development and training, discounts across both restaurants Fish Kitchen & The Vic Road Kitchen Devonport. Come and be part of our amazing team.

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Some experience in POS systems preferred, however training can be provided.

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Qualified ECE Teacher

New Shoots Centre in Sunnynook is looking for a Qualified Teacher to join our team.

You would need to be either a Qualified ECE or Primary teacher.

- Excellent ratios in a well-resourced, purpose-built, stunning environment.
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- Experienced team
- Natural RIE/Pikler environment
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- Leadership opportunities

Our beautiful centre in Sunnynook is on the lookout for a passionate infant teacher who will empower our tamariki to be the best that they can be. We are calling all confident, energetic and deeply loving teachers to come and join our RIE, Pikler-inspired centre. We are a passionate team of educators who strive on empowerment, a culture of respect and providing quality care for our tamariki.

Our centre is looking for a dynamic and experienced teacher who has a love and understanding of what our youngest children need. We would love you to be a self-motivated, team player who has a passion for providing meaningful learning opportunities and loves to have fun. We work in an environment with a beautiful park like outdoor space with a philosophy that we play and explore no matter the weather.

If you believe you have the skill set listed above and would love to embark on an amazing opportunity with incredible children, teachers and management then we would love to hear from you!

Bring your own passions, creativity and fun into your work and join the best team on the Shore!

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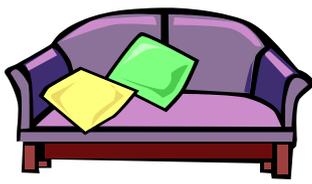
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Lawyer Bryan Mahon: a Takapuna trailblazer

Robert Bryan Gladstone Mahon, a well-known lawyer who founded the North Shore's first legal practice and went on to pioneer cross-lease sections in New Zealand, died this month. He was 97.

Mahon's career and lifetime of civic service was commended by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at its monthly meeting. One of his former staff members and a current board member, Jan O'Connor, described Mahon as a "truly respected gentleman" and outlined his contributions. Board deputy chairperson George Wood acknowledged his service in Italy during World War II.

Mahon was a born-and-bred North Shore boy, moving from Saltburn Rd, Milford, to Black Rock, now the Stables, where Kitchener and Hurstmere Rds meet, with his mother and two younger siblings after his father was killed in a car accident. The house still stands. He attended Belmont Primary School and Takapuna Grammar, where he was in the First XI, at a time when fellow pupils included cricketering great Bert Sutcliffe. Later, as a lawyer, Mahon had author Frank Sargeson as a client for many years.

After serving for two years in Italy with the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion he graduated as a lawyer. Mahon set up practice in partnership with Paul von Sturmer in 1948. Their offices were upstairs in the building on the corner of Lake Rd and The Strand.



Bryan Mahon

Later he moved to Anzac St in partnership with Michael Sumpter, who died in 2018. Their business name lived on until 2017, when Sumpter retired and the firm merged with Davenports Law.

Mahon was elected to the Takapuna Borough Council, aged 27. Six years later he was elected Mayor, but the vote was overturned on a recount three weeks later. He served as Deputy Mayor from 1950 to 1956.

He had terms as president of the Auckland RSA and the Auckland District Law Society and was later vice-president of the New Zealand Law Society. Mahon was also a member of the North Shore Drainage Board,

North Shore Fire Board and Takapuna Grammar School's board of governors.

With his good friend, David Beattie, he founded North Shore Squash Club. He was also president of the Takapuna Tennis Club.

After the Harbour Bridge opened in 1959, there was immense pressure for development on the North Shore, not only for houses but also for flats. Mahon, using his experience both as a councillor and a conveyancing lawyer, thought of a way which would enable more than one dwelling to be built on a single parcel of land but without need for a subdivision or reserve contributions – 999-year cross leases. With the assistance of then North Shore MP George Gair, legislation was passed enabling this form of ownership to be recognised in a separate freehold title now known as a "cross-lease title". There are now around 216,000 cross-lease titles in New Zealand.

Mahon was a regular at the Takapuna Sunday market and had helped with its formation. He was honorary solicitor of the Takapuna Business Association when it advocated for a targeted rate for the purchase of the carpark, where the market is held.

His funeral followed his peaceful death in North Shore Hospital on 2 April. Mahon is survived by wife Jennifer and his children Justine, Anthony, David and Tim. He was also step-father to three and had 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

ALERT: TAKAPUNA RESIDENTS!

The Annual General Meeting of the Takapuna Residents Association Inc will be held on

**Wednesday
12 May 2021
7:30 – 9:30pm
in the Takapuna Senior
Citizens Hall in The Strand
(next to the library)**

Residents concerned to save the peace of our pleasant seaside suburb, are urged to attend.
Katherine Boys, Hon Secretary

FACEBOOK:
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Band plans rousing reception for Shore mothers



In the footsteps of local literary giants

A Takapuna poetry walk is included in the Urban Walking Festival programme, recognising the area's rich literary history. The walk on Saturday, 8 May, is part of a day of activities, along with film screenings and more at the public space at 38 Hurstmere Rd.

In the mid-20th century, Takapuna was home to a cluster of New Zealand's significant writers, poets, and playwrights including Frank Sargeson, Bruce Mason and Janet Frame, who influenced our literature for generations to come. In response to their legacy and the area's urban future, the Takapuna Poetry Tour will feature writers performing poems. Participants include Renee Liang, Jack Ross, Ruby Porter, Elizabeth Morten and Kiri Piahana-Wong.

The 90-minute walk is free and begins at 2pm at the beach end of Ewen St. It is wheel-chair accessible.

Bookings are necessary to join the walk, at www.eventbrite.co.nz

ST MATTHEW'S
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sat 16 May at 2.30pm
PROGRAMME

Fauré Pelléas et Mélisande Op 80
Copland Appalachian Spring
Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No 2 C minor



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Just a ferry trip from Devonport to a classical concert in the Centre of Auckland

ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY

Cnr of Wellesley & Hobson Street, Auckland City

Huff and puff... Members of North Shore Brass are readying for their annual event leading into Mother's Day

Get dressed up and come over all brassy, for an eclectic evening of entertainment this Saturday 8 May.

Music For Our Mothers is an annual concert hosted by North Shore Brass to celebrate North Shore mothers.

The evening affair at the Spencer on Byron Hotel in Takapuna will include cabaret-style seating in the ballroom, snacks, drinks, and live performances from their A-grade award-winning band, conducted by Harmen Vanhoorne, with featured soloists, and from the North Shore Brass Academy Band, led by Andrew Leech.

"Our audiences adore the cabaret style," says North Shore Brass president Owen Melhuish. "They love listening to great

music in the relaxed atmosphere of the ballroom."

The band dates back to 1921. The academy began in 2013 with a handful of members, and has since expanded to over 40 musicians who regularly play in community concerts and competitions including this annual tribute. Brass and percussion players practise in a bandroom on Taharoto Rd.

On Sunday 25 April the band also led the Anzac Day parade up Lake Rd to the Strand war memorial in Takapuna. They delighted at Castor Bay's annual picnic last month.

• Music for Our Mothers runs from 7pm to 9pm, with tickets, including for tables, available on Eventfinda.



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Play time... Twins Lucy and Emma Fox, aged 6 (centre front from left) with sister Ellie, 8, surrounded by the cast of *The Lion in the Meadow* at the PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna. The girls enjoyed the show with their grandmother on an outing from Devonport. The season ends on Saturday 1 May.

Creatively speaking

The PumpHouse Theatre is looking to amp up the conversation in its speaker series, Creative Talks. The Takapuna arts venue has been staging the series for several years and, after the disruptions of 2020, it is back with added impetus to engage with audiences.

The free talks offer a range of speakers with the linking theme being discovery of the people behind the arts. Attendees can ask questions over a cuppa in the relaxed intimacy of the smaller Coal Bunker studio venue for which early bookings are advised.

First up on 8 June is Jodie Dorday whose theatrical career grew out of years of dance training and then performing at her mother Debbie's Auckland venue Burgundy's. With key professional theatre roles to her name, Dorday is also a producer and was last at the PumpHouse in Roger Hall's one-woman play *The Bookclub* in 2018. She will be back on its stage in July, but not before sharing some backstage secrets in her talk.

Long-time Devonport resident and heritage champion Dave Veart will focus the cultural conversation on the local area, including the PumpHouse. Later speakers include two producer directors in Alexandra McKellar, who will take North Shore Music Theatre's version of *Wicked* to SkyCity Theatre later in the year, and Catherine Boniface, president of Shoreside Theatre Inc.

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Gunda (G) 93min	NEW
Tom & Jerry (G) 101min	NEW
Girls Can't Surf (M) 108min	NEW
Voyagers (R13) 108min	NEW
Single Street (M) 90min	SPECIAL SCREENING 2 MAY

COMING SOON

James & Isey (M) 92min	6 MAY
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Locked Down (M) 118min	6 MAY
The United Way (TBA)	13 MAY
Those Who Wish Me Dead (TBA)	13 MAY

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Shirley Valentine
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The Word is Love
23 May

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