

# The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 57 - May 14, 2021

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

'Plastic' Milford playground under scrutiny... p2

Hello possums! Tackling the pest invasion... p5

Women in charge at local board... p7

## Postponed Takapuna concerts may go cityside

Marquee concerts planned for Takapuna Beach during the America's Cup campaign and postponed due to Covid-19 have been rescheduled for next March – but it is not guaranteed they will be held in Takapuna.

Mission Bay is also being considered as a venue for the events on 5 and 6 March,

2022, with a final decision expected within two weeks.

The four concerts – featuring stars including Dave Dobbyn, Tami Neilson and Hollie Smith – were mired in controversy from the start, with organiser Laurence Carey put through a gruelling Liquor Licensing Authority hearing

to get permission to supply alcohol at the events.

The use of Takapuna Beach Reserve for the Waterbourne Festival had earlier been opposed by some Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members including Ruth Jackson, said Carey, and it was only due to **To page 2**

## Residents sort the weeds from the trees



**Weed-eaters... Michelle and David Morrison (centre) and fellow Takapuna resident Ted Berry stand by a nikau palm they are freeing from the clutches of seeding palm grass. Their working bees at Henderson Park and on the walkway to Sylvan Park, Milford, are an example of the many volunteers making a difference to the state of reserves across the North Shore. Find out more on pages 4-5**

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# 'Orange plastic' playground design under fire

The proposed design of the new playground to be installed at Nile Reserve, Milford, has been questioned.

"It's functional, but it feels like a bit of missed opportunity to make it greater," Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Toni van Tonder told fellow board members on seeing the plans.

"It's a big orange plastic thing," she said. While a playground upgrade would be appreciated in the area, for a similar budget the Kawerau Reserve in Devonport was getting a more natural-looking design. The Nile Reserve equipment was more cookie-cutter,



similar to that at the Rose Centre, Belmont.

Member Trish Deans said she thought the new design would turn the reserve into a "very cute little spot". It was a traditional approach, but it would fit in and be fenced.

Van Tonder suggested guidelines might usefully be drawn up for playgrounds, with board members to get more input with Auckland Council staff on the style they considered would suit individual sites. This could include items such as shade, Maori design elements and extra planting.

A council official said one avenue board members could express their views was through play-space audits, with input to the council's Community Facilities team. The board voted in support of more detailed preparatory work proceeding on the proposed design.

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## Takapuna shows may be lost to Mission Bay

the support of then board chair Aidan Bennett and member Toni van Tonder that the event proceeded, he said.

Waterbourne had cost \$1 million to put on and it had run at a considerable loss, with legal bills, resource consents and stage building running into "hundreds of thousands of dollars", Carey said.

He had wanted to hold a Waterbourne event at Takapuna on a yearly basis, but this was now unlikely to be pursued.

"The new board chair is Ruth Jackson, who has made it pretty clear she does not want Waterbourne."

Jackson told the Observer she had had initial concerns about the ticketing aspects of the Waterbourne events on Takapuna Beach Reserve. But after discussion the board had unanimously given the event landowner consent.

"I think everyone was looking forward

to Waterbourne – a colourful event after the year we had.. but it was very badly affected by the Covid lockdown. It was terrible for him (Carey), I really felt for him...he poured two years of his life into organising the series of events."

Carey said he was disappointed with the way his large Takapuna event was handled by the authorities. It had originally been planned for Mission Bay, but it was transferred to Takapuna after talks with local business association head Terence Harpur, but then ran into road blocks.

Takapuna was getting a reputation as a place to be avoided by major event companies, which was "a tragedy for Terence and Takapuna businesses and the community who want vibrant events happening", Carey said.

It was easier to hold events without liquor, but to make them commercially viable "you have to sell something".

In the Covid-affected programme, Waterborne was essentially a free event, but there were only "so many ice creams and fish and chips" you can sell to make money, Carey said.

While bruised by this year's Waterbourne, Carey maintained he had "not checked out on Takapuna". He was working on a smaller event in the town centre, and beach activities such as the paddle board nationals and World Paddle Boarding champs were still possible at Takapuna Beach, he said.

Jackson said Waterbourne would be welcome to apply to host another event. "I

don't understand his concerns about events in Takapuna... every application is judged on its merits."

Takapuna and the wider board area would continue to host events "as it always had", Jackson said.

Carey's pre-event difficulties had centred on liquor licensing aspects of his application ahead of any perceived conflict with her or the local board, Jackson said.

Takapuna Beach Business Association chief executive Terence Harpur said over the last few years event organisers had "expressed immense frustration" trying to hold events in Takapuna due to the Local Board needing to give landowner consent to use the beach reserve. (This is standard city wide).

"The Local Board and Auckland Council places huge restrictions on events that are often very prohibitive and make it not financially or operationally possible to stage it effectively," Harpur said. "Many event organisers have said they won't bother coming back to Takapuna as it's a huge risk not to be given consent or have massive restrictions placed on the event, while other Local Boards around Auckland are very supportive of doing events and welcome them such as in Mission Bay, Orewa and Central Auckland."

In the future, Harpur hoped the Local Board would be able to see the massive benefits events brought Takapuna, both to the community who enjoyed them and to businesses who benefited from people visiting and spending.

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# Lucky break brings diagnosis and treatment

When Castor Bay resident Peter Cosseboom broke his wrist last year it led to the unwelcome news that the active 56-year-old had osteoporosis.

But thanks to North Shore Hospital having a world-recognised fracture screening programme, his condition was identified for preventive treatment.

The keen ocean swimmer is now back competing and thankful the signs were picked up early.

"In some ways it's a bit comforting," he says. "You know you've something that's not ideal, but it's better to find out in your mid-50s and you can do something about it, rather than breaking your hip at 80."

The actuary had no reason to suspect he was at risk. Both his elderly grandmother and his mother in Hamilton had had falls with no breakages. His own break, which followed a minor ankle fracture 20 years earlier in a twist to avoid a car, came about on a visit to a friend when Auckland's long Covid-19 lockdown lifted. He remembers the time well because he was looking forward to getting back in the ocean, resuming regular 4km swims from Castor Bay along Milford Beach to the Thorne Bay reef marker and sometimes to the south end of Takapuna Beach.

Cosseboom slipped on some grass. "I put my hand down, as you do, and thought, 'that hurts'."

From there it was off to hospital, an X-ray, and then a referral for a scan. He was told it was not uncommon for signs of the degenerative bone disease to show up in people his age.

An infusion to help strengthen his bones followed, and his status will be monitored with appointments every few years. "I'd rather find out now than later" is how he looks at it.

His case is an example of why screening fractures from people aged 50-plus is worth-



**Back in the water... Keen swimmer Peter Cosseboom is back competing after being treated for osteoporosis**

while. While this is now common across the country's district health boards, the Waitemata DHB was the first to set up a dedicated fracture liaison service at North Shore Hospital in 2012.

It has since advanced its treatment, with the level of care recently winning a Gold Standard citation from the International Osteoporosis Foundation.

"Waitemata is a beacon of best-practice across the country," says Associate Professor Paul Mitchell, a steering group member of the foundation's Capture the Fracture initiative.

"On a global level, they've been an innovator that's ahead of the curve."

The fracture liaison service is led by endocrinologist Dr David Kim, with specialist nurses Julia Spinley and Michelle Cowley. They identify and intervene in around 1500 cases per year of people who report to emergency services.

Falls are the most common cause of injury for people aged over 65. The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) says up to 60 per cent of older people suffer falls each year, with 10 to 20 per cent of them injured, hospitalised or even dying as a result.

ACC spends nearly \$200 million a year helping that age group recover. Treatment costs are expected to balloon as the population ages.

ACC's manager of targeted investment, Paul Kennedy, says: "Fracture liaison services play a critical role in identifying the underlying issues that could lead to a fracture and putting individualised plans in place to reduce the risk."

Cosseboom has advised to add weight-bearing exercise to his fitness routine as an osteoporosis preventative measure. He now tries to fit in gym visits on top of swimming, which included all 18 weeks of the Takapuna Beach Series.

His most recent organised swim was this month's Devonport Masters event from Cheltenham to Narrow Neck. In 2018-19, he won Global Swim Series Champion recognition, in the male non-wet suit category for amassing points over 11 races.

Dietary advice is another part of the programme. Cosseboom was told to increase his calcium levels by consuming more milk and cheese.

"I'm having enough trouble with keeping weight off," jokes the trim swimmer.

## New ward opens at Southern Cross

Southern Cross North Harbour Hospital has opened a new ward, adding to surgical capacity on the North Shore.

Designed to provide enhanced infection protection, the new ward at the hospital in Wairau Rd supplies 10 additional rooms with accompanying ensuites, and includes a quieter nurse-call system. It also uses smart-building technology to maintain room temperature and monitor energy consumption.

The development at the only private surgical in-patient hospital on the Shore helps meet demand for orthopaedic and general surgeries.

The expansion follows Waitemata District Health Board announcing a new block at North Shore Hospital, to add 150 more beds and eight endoscopy suites to the facility by 2023. It will connect to the main hospital building via a sky bridge.

## Takapuna ice-skating rink proves a drawcard

Up to 10,000 people visited the temporary ice skating rink in central Takapuna over its two-and-half weeks stay which finished at the end of the last school holidays.

A debrief had yet to be held with rink-provider Paradise, but Takapuna Beach Business Association chief executive, Terence Harpur, said around 6000 skaters had been on the ice, with numbers swelled to between 8000 and 10,000 people when

parents and caregivers were included.

The flow-on to Takapuna businesses was immense, Harpur said. "Parents were taking their kids out for lunch after a skating session or meeting up for dinner prior to the night skating."

It was a great shot in the arm for Takapuna business, Harpur said.

"I was really happy to see people with a smile on their faces after the year we've had."

## Parking issues fester

Takapuna workers are still nabbing parks off Auburn St intended for dropping off disabled people and young children, says Devonport-Takapuna Local Board member Jan O'Connor.

Around 50 to 60 cars took spaces early each day, making parking tricky for those visiting the PHAB organisation, Takapuna playcentre and the other groups based in the reserve area that also borders the Takapuna Croquet Club and leads to Patuone Reserve walkway.

"People are getting fed up," O'Connor said.

She had raised the matter in 2019 and since, asking for Auckland Transport to better police the situation.

Parking permits should be provided to the clubs and organisations, she suggested.

# Pest patrol: Residents making a difference

"I had no idea of the extent of the problem in our parks," says volunteer weeder Michelle Morrison.

As a member of the Friends of Henderson Park group, the Takapuna ratepayer has been helping to tame pest-plant growth along the north-eastern edge of Lake Pupuke. She decided to dig in after gaining an insight into the problems through her involvement with the Pupuke Birdsong Project and its predator-control efforts.

"It's obvious the council is not effectively maintaining our public green spaces," Morrison told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at its latest community forum.

She came to the monthly session with a message that more resources were needed for the project's environmental co-ordinator and for the wider battle to keep both plant and animal pests in check.

Morrison is one of hundreds of environmentally aware residents who are quietly championing reserves across the local board area. The number of volunteer groups in reserves in the north of the board area (from Takapuna to Sunnynook) has grown from nine to 25 in just over a year.

School and work groups are among those helping by adopting a reserve. Some garden, others set traps for rats and a few have possums in their sights (see opposite page).

From pocket parks to larger reserves, community-minded people are pitching in to make these more appealing places for native birds and for people to enjoy. Gaps in the network of reserves that are cared for by volunteers mean more helpers are always wanted.

"There is just too much to do," Morrison told board members. She is one of a four-member group, including husband David, tending to Henderson Park.

The quartet put in 30 to 40 voluntary hours a month. They tear up ivy, trim back bamboo and root out pesky Chinese windmill palms in the hope of getting these invasive species under more control so council contractors can better maintain the public spaces.

"Pest plants should not have been allowed to get this bad," Morrison told board members. Just



**Lady of the lake... Michelle Morrison is watching the weeds along the north-east walkway of Lake Pupuke**

that morning, the group had removed 10 smaller palms. There were hundreds more to deal with around the lakeside reserves, including lots at the bottom of Pierce Rd in Milford.

It did not make sense, said Morrison, that the council could spend on additional planting, yet was not properly controlling the spread of what was already there.

Along the lake, at the larger Sylvan Park, more volunteers regularly toil away. A new area of focus is the adjoining and lesser-known

Kitchener Park reserve, home to the Milford Tennis Club. It can be accessed from a path that runs between Pierce Rd and Dodson Ave.

The Milford Residents Association arranged for surplus nikau palms to be transferred to a glade there, and now Rotary members are mulching and helping with a tidy-up.

Milford Residents' Association co-chair Norma Bott, who also attended the community forum, called on the board to push for the council to improve the Kitchener Park path and to cut back growth on fences along it.

Improved park entrances and signage acknowledging that the land with established native trees had been gifted by early resident William Rushbrook would emphasize its history and separate identity from Sylvan Park, she said.

Residents wishing to donate a park bench in memory of a loved one might consider the park, she said, given that Milford Reserve had been over-subscribed with such requests.

Both women's reports were received, with board thanks for their efforts. "We have heard you," said member Trish Deans.

Morrison was told provision for more funding for the work of Takapuna North's environmental co-ordinator, Fiona Martin, was included in the board's yet-to-be-signed-off work plan. Kitchener Park was "on the list for maintenance", an official reported, but meeting chair Aidan Bennett cautioned Bott it would remain a challenge for the board to get extra funding from the cash-strapped council for any new projects.

"The more we get people on board [to help] the more we exercise our own responsibility in our area or backyard," said member Toni van Tonder.

For voluntary helpers such as the Morrisons, this is what they do already, but Michelle told the board: "While it is satisfying to see what we have achieved, there is a fine line between the goodwill of volunteering and the expectation that volunteers will carry out tasks for which the council is actually responsible."

Anyone wishing to find out more can learn about the Pupuke Birdsong Project at [www.takapunatrust.org.nz](http://www.takapunatrust.org.nz) or email about volunteering to [enviro@takapunatrust.org.nz](mailto:enviro@takapunatrust.org.nz)

## Tree massacre along the golden mile

The loss of more big trees on the North Shore has prompted a plea to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for better protection of important individual trees.

Along 750m of Takapuna's golden mile – the blue-chip residential stretch of Hurstmere Rd leading into Kitchener Rd – nine large trees had been felled on six properties, said concerned local Michelle Morrison.

These included an oak, a large karaka, a totara and a number of older pohutukawa trees.

One pohutukawa was chopped from a roadside verge, breaching a development resource consent, she said.

"Most of these properties had recently changed ownership and the trees were de-

stroyed soon after purchase. And this is just a small selection of what is happening on a larger scale across our community."

Morrison said specimen trees of such size and age were irreplaceable. "We also need this 'corridor' of established trees for the birdlife."

Their loss was changing the environment that made the North Shore what it was, she said.

Members were sympathetic to Morrison's call for specific trees to be more easily protected.

She said "appropriate meaningful consequences" where needed for those who felled trees in breach of rules.

Incoming board chair Ruth Jackson said councils were no longer able to impose general

protection for trees over a certain size and it could cost thousands per tree to get them back on a schedule.

She understood that widespread national concern about the loss of trees had led to a remit to be put up at the upcoming Local Government Association conference of council representatives which she was attending. This would call on the government to enable councils to reinstate greater tree protections.

The protections were overridden under Resource Management Act changes instituted by the last National-led Government.

Planning provisions that allow building within 1m of a property boundary are also having an impact.

# in reserves



**Trap chap... Warrick Smith (right) at Kitchener Park finds peanut butter is a lure**



## Targeting possums to bring back the birds

Milford resident Warrick Smith caught a dozen possums in two-and-a-half weeks using just one trap.

It underlines how many of the furry pests are out there, he says.

Living close to Sylvan and Kitchener Parks over the last few years, he has heard possums grunting in the evenings. He has also noticed relatively little birdsong. With fruiting natives trees, including puriri in the parks, he says: "There should be lots of wood pigeons and native bird life – but it's pretty quiet."

Put that limited bird-song partly down to possums, explaining why Smith agreed to volunteer his time to try to keep the population in check. "I'd trapped possums as a kid, so I was used to setting the traps and checking them," he explains. But he admits the aftermath "can be confronting".

This is a reason why urban environmental groups can struggle to find people willing to deal with the larger pests.

Pupuke Birdsong Project co-ordinator

Fiona Martin, says rat-trapping volunteers are easier to come by, with few people feeling squeamish about getting rid of them, whereas some see possums as nice furry animals.

"They eat baby birds alive out of their nests," she points out. Possums can also attack pet cats and they eat new shoots of trees, making them an all-round pest.

While it is hard to get a firm fix on total numbers, there are plenty out there. Seven were caught late last month over a week in Patuone Reserve, Takapuna, by another volunteer, said Martin. At least one had been snared in Henderson Park recently. Over six weeks in summer, several dozen possums were caught at Wairau Creek.

Another worrisome predator, a stoat, had been spotted on the western edges of Lake Pupuke, where wild rabbits would have been a drawcard, said Martin.

Her counterpart for the Devonport peninsula, Lance Cablk, co-ordinator of the Restoring Takarunga Hauraki environmental group, spoke out recently after six possums

were caught in five days in Jutland Reserve, Hauraki. A volunteer there agreed to set two traps after tree damage indicated their presence. Cablk is concerned the catch at Hauraki indicates possums are reinvading the peninsula from the more forested areas of the North Shore.

Historic efforts had helped keep them at bay, but he is now working on creating a "line of defence" to keep them from coming south in numbers towards Devonport. Rat trapping was still the peninsula pest priority, said Cablk, but awareness was growing of the possum threat.

Martin says possums are also present in Lyford Reserve, Sunnynook. Water sources were a drawcard, which explained the clusters around Lake Pupuke.

Meanwhile, for trapper Smith, a welcome sound in Kitchener Park last week was the call of a morepork. He hopes his dealing to the possums might ensure it and other species have a better chance of finding a mate and raising chicks.



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# Powerless board still split over asset sales

To sell or not to sell? That is the question that continues to divide the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board when it comes to community assets. A 3-3 split in the views of board members, led the new chair, Ruth Jackson, to exercise her first casting vote last week, coming down against sales planned by Auckland Council, in a reversal of the position taken when Aidan Bennett was in the top seat.

Jackson and her Heart of the Shore ticket, comprising new deputy chair Jan O'Connor and member Trish Deans, now have the balance of power to sway board votes, after the prearranged mid-term switch of chairs.

But it's academic, because the council has the final say and its property division Panuku has already listed the old library at No 2 The Strand and Devonport's former council chambers as unwanted assets.

Along with various council reserves, including on Blomfeld Spa, Takapuna, and in Forrest Hill, a decision on their sale will be made by mid-year.

Jackson told the Observer she considered it important to ensure opposition to the move to sell No. 2 The Strand and 3 Victoria Rd, Devonport was recorded.

"We need to let them know where we stand." But the reality, she accepted, was that it would be "a Panuku and governing body decision down the line".

The other reality is division and lengthy debate on a handful of issues continue to dominate board meetings.

This obscures the areas where the board does

find common cause. In terms of its feedback to the council's 10-year Budget plans – which sparked the asset sales vote – most clauses of a lengthy recommendation by Jackson were in the end supported by Bennett, former deputy chair George Wood and by member Toni van Tonder.

Van Tonder proposed several uncarried amendments and, like Bennett, asked for her dissenting vote to be recorded on the clause of Jackson's substantive motion that opposed selling the two heritage-listed buildings.

All board members agreed on asking for Wairau estuary work to be specifically named by the council as a beneficiary of spending from its Water Quality Targeted Rate. They further noted that the board's own efforts to improve water quality were difficult to progress within existing local board budgets.

Greater tree protection moves were unanimously urged, asking the council to fund a plan change and to clear a backlog of notable-tree applications.

The reinstatement of a city-wide \$20 million transport fund dropped under last year's emergency budget was also sought, so that, locally, a shared walking and cycling connection between Esmonde Rd and Francis St could be progressed. Concern that the renewal of Bayswater Ferry Terminal was not included in the council's main long-term plans was also expressed.

The board generally accepted the council's need to impose a one-off 5 per cent rate rise, accompanied by increased borrowing and

ongoing operational savings, so as to maintain council service levels and not jeopardise major projects, including the Lake Rd upgrade. But it was back to division over whether airport and port company shares should be sold to offset council revenue shortfalls behind the finance crunch.

Jackson denied hers was a blanket opposition to asset sales. She wanted the alternative of airport and port share sales to be explored, because even if the council had done so already, this had not been publicly detailed.

"If the chair is suggesting we sell shares and keep assets that are a noose around our necks I'm not sure it's a good idea," said Bennett.

Van Tonder said the shares had in pre-Covid times returned regular dividends to the council, helping keep rates rises in check. Selling them would be short-sighted. Keeping deteriorating assets made no sense. "Get rid of them, release the funds and do something meaningful for our community."

Outside the meeting, Jackson reiterated her view to the Observer that No. 2 The Strand and the Devonport chambers should be saved for community use or leased to commercial interests willing to do them up.

Talk of them being an earthquake risk was largely a red herring, she claimed, given they had not been red- or yellow-carded, just left empty to deteriorate with 35-year notices of the need to upgrade them.

In the case of No. 2 The Strand, the council could use it, rather than lease office space over the road, she said.

## Changing of the guard a local first as female duo take top board jobs

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board's first woman chair, Ruth Jackson, will run her first regular monthly council meeting next week. Long-serving board member Jan O'Connor is her deputy.

The pre-agreed mid-term swap of duties with Aidan Bennett officially began in late April, with little fanfare.

Takapuna Beach Business Association chief executive Terence Har-

pur and North Shore councillor Richard Hills attended Bennett's final monthly meeting as chair, with Harpur saying he wanted to acknowledge Bennett and his deputy chair, George Wood. "Thank you for all the work you have put in," he said.

Harpur acknowledged Jackson and O'Connor's new roles. He was looking forward to working with them to help business in tough times.

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**Friday night footy shaping as a classic local derby**

The North Shore versus Takapuna premier rugby local derby this Friday is expected to attract a crowd of more than 1000 to Onewa Domain.

Playing under lights, the match between the top two teams in the North Harbour competition couldn't be more evenly balanced.

Shore has won six out of six matches, while Takapuna has lost one. But they are on the same competition points, with Takapuna having more bonus points from a superior for and against ratio.

Takapuna coach Aaron Katipa revealed there is more on the line than just points.

"Frano (Botica, the Shore coach) and I get on really well and catch up most days.

"We always have a bet on the match – whoever loses pays for the night – it's looking like it could be a long one on Friday," Katipa said.

Currently the ledger between the two coaches stands at 1-0 to Katipa, with Takapuna having beaten Shore in 2020.

"This year both the sides are so even I reckon it could be the flip of a coin," he says,

Last weekend Shore beat Silverdale 26-3, while Takapuna squeaked in against an improving Marist side, 22-18.

Both sides were relatively young and much would depend on "who hit their

straps on the night", said Katipa. Many of the Takapuna players were only 21 or 22.

"We've still got a long way to go in our development but our forwards (led by captain and veteran lock Shane Neville) are going really well." Takapuna also had skilled backs in Jackson Ransfield and Northland import Jordan Hyland, who has played Super Rugby for the Blues and Highlanders.

On the Observer's deadline of Monday this week a decision had yet to be made on whether to pick Jon Elrick, a 15-year veteran for Takapuna premiers and a top goalkicker.

Playing the match on a Friday was an experiment to give players more time off, said Katipa. "It's a big commitment to play rugby over a whole season. A Friday night match gives the players the chance to have the weekend to do other things."

One of the disappointments for club matches was the absence of Takapuna's Super Rugby players Bryn Gatland (Chiefs) and Karl Tu'inukuafe (Blues). The club was also missing centre Mose Leo, who was with the New Zealand Sevens squad.

"Karl loves to play and you never know he may turn up at some stage – it's a bit more difficult for Bryn as he's further away."

• Takapuna v North Shore, Onewa Domain, 14 May, 7.30pm kick off.

**Top netballers ready for tough tussle**

Netball North Harbour (NNH) is two rounds into its club competition, with a gap already emerging at the top of the eight-team Premier 1 competition.

School grading is also well underway. NNH president, Lynette Brady, said numbers playing, around 800 teams, were very slightly down on 2019, after the abandonment of the 2020 season due to Covid-19.

Premier 1 features two teams each from the well-established North Shore clubs, Shore Rovers and Westlake. These include

a mix of old hands and former top school players, including from Westlake Girls. City-based champion club, Collegiate, also fields two teams, with the grade rounded out by AUT and Harbour Force, an experienced team established by former Silver Ferns coach and player Yvonne Willering.

The Tuesday evening indoors competition is bolstered late in the season, when the top few sides get back players now involved in the National Netball League, the feeder competition to the ANZ premiership.

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# Collins gives party office opening the blue light



**True colours... The Leader of the Opposition, Judith Collins, opens the restored heritage office of North Shore MP Simon Watts in Takapuna last week**

National Party leader Judith Collins opened North Shore MP Simon Watts' new electorate office late last month, describing it as the "most tastefully appointed" in the country.

It is certainly one of the best located – off Hurtsmere Rd on Earnoch Ave and several hundred metres up from Takapuna Beach, in a former postmaster's quarters, redesigned by architect Lloyd Sinton.

Collins, unsurprisingly, was impressed by the blue entrance door, although quite pleased the "whole building was not blue".

She predicted a bright future for the new MP, elected last year, and assigned shadow ACC and finance portfolios.

At the office entrance, she said she hoped to soon see Watts accorded an 'Hon' before his name, which marks appointment as a minister.

"But that involves the small matter of getting into office," she quipped.

Watts said the new office was in a beautiful location that reflected the electorate.

"The door is always open here and people

should not hesitate to pop in to say hi."

A disability ramp gives better access for the disabled, whereas the electorate office of former North Shore MP Maggie Barry was upstairs on Anzac St, without a lift.

The opening was attended by members of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board: Ruth Jackson, Jan O'Connor, and George Wood; North Shore Business Improvement District managers: Terence Harpur (Takapuna), Murray Hill (Milford) and Shaulyn van Baaren (Devonport); and various well-wishers.

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Applicants for this position must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work permit as well as a clean NZ Drivers licence.

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**Service Administrator  
Auckland CBD**

Ovlov Marine is looking for a Marine Diesel Service Administrator to join their team in Auckland. They are a marine service & sales company specialising in Volvo Penta, Yamaha and other great marine brands based at the exciting marine hub of Orams Marine Mega Park, Westhaven, Auckland. This role will see you provide a complete solution for the delivery of repairs and maintenance of their diesel workshop, working alongside our Workshop Manager.

Responsibilities will include: Managing service booking, preparing estimates, scheduling work, workshop marketing, communicating with customers, managing jobs in the system & preparing job cards for invoicing, warranty registration and processing, updating of service records as jobs progress.

You will need: Minimum 2 years exp, high-level computer literacy MS Office, Magix system would be a bonus. Systematic, organised, excellent attention. Effective communication both verbal and written, Ability to multi-task, flexible & adaptable, customer focused, Knowledge of automotive or marine servicing.

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**Senior Stylist  
Sugar Suite, Devonport**

Sugar Suite in Devonport is looking for a Senior Stylist to join their salon.

This could be your perfect opportunity, to join our team as a Senior Stylist.

We are looking for a Senior Stylist with at least 5 years experience to join our team.

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**Sales & Marketing Administrator**

Bayleys Devonport is looking for a Sales and Marketing Administrator to join their thriving team in Devonport. This role will include sole charge looking after a great sales team and ever evolving and fast paced Real Estate industry Devonport. This experienced administrator to join the office to look after a team of experienced sales consultants, that will cover everything to do with the sales process relating to real estate.

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This office works closely with the other Bayleys offices on the North Shore. The ability to build relationships and provide a 'can do' service to the agents is vital to the success of the agents being able to deliver exceptional service to their clients. If you are an experienced administrator, then this role is made for you.

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- Evidence of the right to live and work in NZ

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**Office Manager /  
Personal Assistant**

Bradburn Project Management in Takapuna is looking for an Office Manager/Personal Assistant to work closely with the management team. You would need the ability to proactively manage your workload & provide administrative support across multiple projects, assist with project documentation, tendering, administering sub-contractor agreements, processing monthly claims, managing project databases & general office administration.

Must be adaptable & resilient, extremely organised, have an understanding of commercial construction processes, proficiency in Microsoft Office as well as Microsoft Project/P6 is ideally required. A high level of accuracy & standard of work, proven organisational skills along with the ability to establish priorities & meet deadlines, highest level of accuracy and confidentiality, excellent communication & interpersonal skills. Sound judgement & proven ability to work under pressure, commitment to providing a high-level support to all personnel.

You would also need to hold a Valid NZ Working VISA or the rights to work in New Zealand.

**Apply via ShoreJobs.co.nz**



### Digital Printer Operator and Designer

Repro Graphics in Takapuna is looking for a Digital Printer Operator and Designer to join their team. The purpose is reporting to the Director your primary responsibility is to sell, manage and carry out the day to day operations of the design, printing, and finishing services.

You would also need to hold a Valid NZ Working VISA or the rights to work in New Zealand.

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### Registered Plumber

Affordable Plumbing Solutions in Torbay, is looking for a Registered Plumber.. For this role, you would need to have the following:

- NZ Registered Plumbers Licence
- At least 1-2 years' experience as a plumber
- Excellent customer service skills
- Good understanding of the English
- Good work ethic and attention to detail
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Spencer on Byron Hotel is a 4.5 star property in the heart of Takapuna. They are looking for a Full-Time Night Manager. To be able to succeed in the role of Night Manager, you must will need to have the following:

- Minimum 6 months experience as a Night Manager or Night Relief Manager (Auditing experience)
- Minimum 1 year reception experience
- Knowledge of Room Master will be an advantage
- Own transport due late shift finish times
- Bubbly personality
- Liquor License and first aid course will be an advantage
- Communication skills - Intermediate level of English

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### Service Desk Analyst

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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- Outstanding communication skills, self-motivation and a customer centric approach
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Must have, PACU experience as well as current APC and New Zealand Nursing Council registration. Need to hold a Valid NZ Working VISA or the rights to work in New Zealand.

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Devonport 7 Day Pharmacy is looking for a bubbly and enthusiastic Pharmacist. Options, 3 days per work week or full time. Management options available, flexible work hours and no weekend work. An experienced Pharmacist would be ideal, however newly registered Pharmacists are also welcome to apply. Must have all the main accreditations and a Vaccinator would be a plus. Great remuneration package also available for those applying from out of town.

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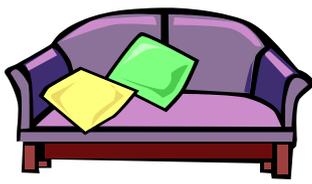
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# A trip down beachside memory lane



**Then and now... Rose Cottage as it stood in the Mon Desir grounds before World War II, and Lesley Petford (right) on the steps of the building, now slated for demolition**

Lesley Petford has hazy childhood memories of ‘Rose Cottage’ from visits to the Takapuna beachfront Mon Desir hotel.

She recently reacquainted herself with the old cottage on a walk around the Takapuna Beach Holiday Park, to which it was shifted decades ago.

The cottage is to be demolished, going the way of the Mon Desir itself.

Petford was curious to see how it compared with old photographs she has, showing dapper gents playing bowls in front of it.

That was when her great-uncle, Frank Hawes, owned the hotel prior to World War II. He and his wife brought up her mother there, before building themselves a new home in Killarney St after the hotel was sold to a brewery company.

Petford, who grew up in Takapuna but now lives in Castor Bay, remembers revisiting the Mon Desir for swims with her own children

around 40 years ago. It was a landmark until 1996, after which it was replaced by apartments that took the name.

A recent story in the Rangitoto Observer about camp-ground improvements alerted Petford to the fate of Rose Cottage and piqued her interest to find out more.

It has no heritage status and has been much altered over the years, so Auckland Council has determined it can be demolished.

The camp leaseholder, Steve Edwards, was happy to show Petford and the Observer around, pointing out the building on the property’s northern border to the waterfront.

On taking on the lease of the camping ground in 2019, he said he too had been unsure which of several older buildings on the site was actually Rose Cottage.

It had been moved within the property at least once and been altered structurally inside and out. In recent times the cottage had been

used as staff accommodation. But its condition, including leaks, made it beyond keeping, he said.

Edwards outlined work ahead on the site which is going through resource consent procedures to allow for earth and drainage works along with the building of new cabins and camp sites.

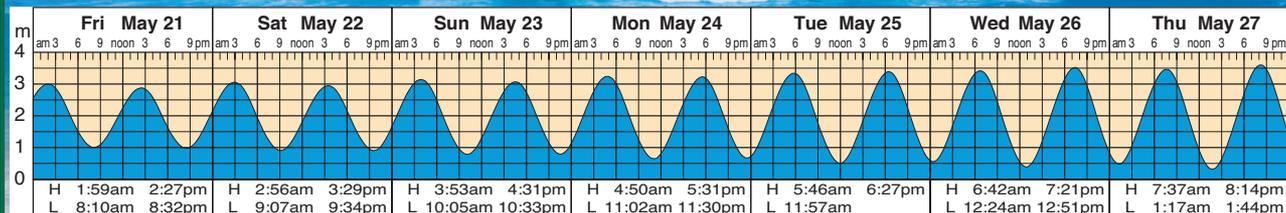
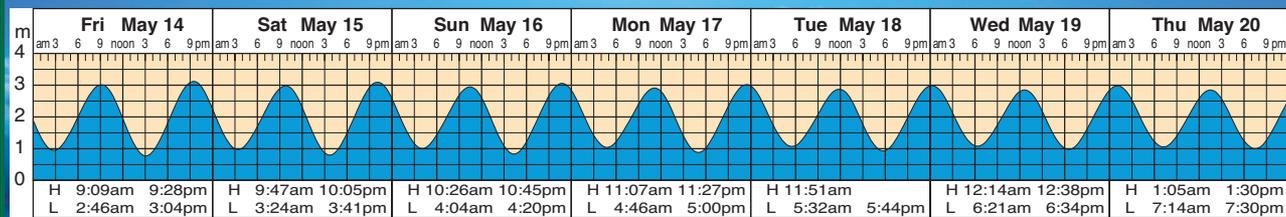
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members have indicated they like the look of the plans. Edwards said it would take time for work to begin and it would be done in stages, with landscaping and planting included.

Prefabrication of buildings would reduce noise on site.

The intention was to keep the campground’s open aspect to the sea and to the Milford-Takapuna walking track, although a low retaining wall would help with sand shift.

Petford, who likes to walk in the area, now has added insight into the lay of the land.

## Milford / Takapuna Tides





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## Lake House sculptures hitting the road



### Story to tell... 'Rāhui', by Leroy Claydon, is at the beginning of a new sculpture trail at the Lake House Arts Centre

Plans are afoot to take Takapuna's Wood Sculpture Symposium on the road.

Large carved pieces are shown each year at the Lake House Arts Centre, but now the centre hopes to share the artistry with other venues.

Centre operations manager and curator Grae Burton outlined his ambitions to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, which is one of the centre's backers.

Early interest had been shown by Estuary Arts in Orewa, he said, but other venues were being sought to show a selection of the works. One suggested is the public space at 38 Hurstmere Rd.

Burton said the 2020 show attracted thousands of visitors to the centre, with works left in place for several months. Some had been uplifted by the artist and others had been shifted to the site's perimeters to form a new sculpture trail for the public to enjoy.

That is still being completed, but the work pictured above, "Rāhui", by Leroy Claydon, is already in place at the beginning of the trail

at the centre, off Fred Thomas Dr.

Claydon explains the concept of the piece as being about the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I wanted to represent how we had and have restrictions placed upon us due to Covid-19, not only as an individual, but as a whanau."

The work showed a koro kneeling down with his mokopuna on his back, wondering what the future holds for upcoming generations bound by restrictions and facing change.

"The stingray on his face is the representation of the mask we have to wear in public, said Claydon. "The kneeling/standing on a kauri slab represents our home/house where we are forced to isolate ourselves. Also being chained by the hands of the surrounding whenua, as we still have to venture out into public to get the essentials to survive under Covid-19 restrictions."

The centre is embarking on more efforts to add a Maori perspective to some of its programmes and is also introducing te reo courses.



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### PumpHouse Theatre Open Day

Sun 23rd May 2021, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Featuring:**

- Free Secrets of The PumpHouse tours
- Food trucks · Costumes · Performances
- Market stalls · Join Friends of The PumpHouse





## Access all areas at the PumpHouse

The PumpHouse Theatre is drawing back the curtains for the public, holding an open day next Sunday.

“There’s a lot of areas at the PumpHouse that people don’t get to see,” says manager James Bell. But on 23 May from 10am to 4pm, they will get the chance to go backstage, try on some costumes and learn about the theatre’s “ghost”.

The free event is a chance to explore the heritage building which became a community arts venue when a group of determined North Shore residents 50 years ago formed a trust for that purpose.

Appropriately there will be some performers popping up on the day.

The open day was originally planned for last year, but delayed due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Bell’s hope is the event becomes an annual one. Anyone interested can turn up for a tour.

Shoreside Theatre, known for its Shakespearean productions, will bring along costumes, providing dress-up fun. Stalls set up by the Lake House Arts Centre and Takapuna Primary School’s PTA also feature.

The next day, an invitation-only event will be held to mark the trust’s formation in 1971. This saved the old brick building and transformed it into a theatre opened a few years later.

Bell says a strength of the PumpHouse is its flexibility in being able to accommodate a range of shows in its main theatre and studio space.

“Anyone who wants to perform here can come and do it.”



### Roll up... PumpHouse Theatre hosts an open day on 23 May

This guaranteed it was able to look ahead with confidence.

For those who like a spot of history, a special early model of the PumpHouse, discovered in a cupboard during a clean-out, has now been restored by volunteers at the Men’s Shed in Glenfield. It is hoped it will be put in a special display case in time to go on show at the open day and anniversary celebrations.

Regular users and fans of the facility who wish to join The Friends of the PumpHouse group can do so at the open day. The \$35 annual fee helps support the venue and also means no booking fees apply to show tickets.

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The United Way (E) 94min	NEW
Those Who Wish Me Dead (R16) 99min	NEW
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Locked Down (M) 118min	NEW
Moon Rock For Monday (M) 100min	NEW
First Cow (PG) 122min	NEW
Land (M) 89min	NEW
Pompeii: Sin City (E) 82min	NEW
The Turn Of The Screw with Director Q&A	16 MAY

### COMING SOON

Julie Lamb Outfit Barmy James Tour	21 MAY
June Again (M) 99min with Seniors Morning Tea	27 MAY
Open Mic Night at The Vic	27 MAY
Cruella (PG) 134min	27 MAY
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## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

### AUTHOR TALK: BLOOD BY THE BEACH

Wednesday 26th May 2021, 6:00pm to 7:30PM at Takapuna Library level 1

Join five local authors for an evening of criminally good conversation. Edgar Award nominee Stephen Ross chairs three-time Ngaio Marsh Awards finalist Ben Sanders, 2021 Ngaio entrants SL Beaumont and Patricia Snelling, and bestselling debut crime writer Madeleine Eskedahl.



Light refreshments served from 6pm, talk starts at 6.30pm,  
\*Gold coin koha is appreciated  
Please RSVP to: takapunaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

### EXHIBITION

OPEN DAILY

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