

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 74 - April 15, 2022

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Rugby ref whistled up to international stage... p3

Community garden flowers in Forrest Hill... p11

Streetside parking under threat in AT plan... p13

Uncertainty remains over new site for memorial

Delicate talks loom about finding a new home for Takapuna's war memorial in the centre's town-square development.

Views vary widely on the best site for the memorial – currently on The Strand, outside the former North Shore City Council headquarters – and on whether the sizeable 21-year-old metal

structure might itself need reconfiguring to fit.

Council property arm Panuku, which is steering the creation of Waiwharariki Anzac Square on the old central car-park site, was tasked last year with progressing the matter, but it has yet to meet the RSA.

RSA representatives and the Devon-

port-Takapuna Local Board chair, Ruth Jackson, met informally on site last week.

Devonport RSA president Muzz Kennett said having the memorial tucked in the shadow of high-rise buildings planned around the square did not appeal. A position near the Hurstmere

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Backyard to the world: teen follows her hoop dreams



Shooting for the big time... Basketballer Amy-Lee Pateman is heading overseas in New Zealand colours this year, and hopes one day to win a college scholarship in the US. Story, page 9.



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Briefs

Shoppers shocked by bird deaths in Milford

Shoppers found several pigeons in distress and four dead birds in the front car-park of the Milford Shopping Centre. Children were among those who gathered around the obviously unwell birds last Sunday 10 April. Tracy Peers from Castor Bay came across the distressing sight when she went to the mall around 1pm. First she saw a bird that had been run over, then she noticed people on the footpath trying to help two other pigeons. "They were obviously suffering. Someone had got water and a man said they had been poisoned," she told the Observer. Peers rang the SPCA and Auckland Council. The SPCA sent out a field officer who saw the dead birds and found a surviving pigeon which appeared to be suffering from an injury or an illness. The bird was taken to Bird Care Aotearoa. "At this stage, it's still too early to determine whether foul play was involved, but we will be conducting further enquiries," an SPCA spokeswoman said.

Viva la fiesta

A Latin Fiesta is being staged in Takapuna next Saturday, 23 April. The free family-friendly event with music and dancing will run on the beach reserve from 10am to 6pm. Stalls will sell traditional foods or attendees can bring their own picnic. Expert instructors will teach salsa and samba, with on-stage demonstrations. Meanwhile, a school holiday Easter egg hunt, starting at Shore City, continues around the shopping area.

Watts kicks Covid

North Shore MP Simon Watts returned to duty in Wellington last week, after isolating with Covid-19 at his Belmont home with wife Shannon and their two school-aged sons. The younger of his boys was first to succumb on Sunday 27 March. "It took a few days, but we all got it," Watts said. He said his symptoms had been mild.

Takapuna bears the brunt of Covid retail crunch

Takapuna shop rents set at three to four times Milford prices are hurting the area, says business association boss Terence Harpur (pictured).



"The rental cost does make a big difference, in terms of what people are prepared to pay for retail space," he told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Takapuna prices were more akin to those in Newmarket and Ponsonby than other parts of the North Shore.

Harpur, along with managers for the Milford and Devonport business improvement districts (BIDS), presented annual updates to board members, including explanations of how council money had been spent on events and promotions.

All aimed to be upbeat, but acknowledged tough times, especially for retail and hospitality businesses.

Retail-spend data tracked by the BIDS showed all areas had slight increases for overall spending in 2020-21, but Harpur said the pandemic impact in Takapuna was particularly skewed by it having only a small supermarket, where Milford had two, including a large Countdown, and Devonport had a large New World.

Devonport BID manager Katherine Downs said empty shops in the village showed the impact of the loss of visitors, yet overall retail figures for 2020-21 were up on the previous year by 4 per cent, due to a surge in the grocery/liquor category.

Milford manager Murray Hill said the town was up five per cent overall. It compared well with other North Shore centres, including Albany, Browns Bay and Glenfield. Local support was critical for Milford.

The mall was vibrant and street-front stores had few vacancies, he said.

Harpur said the scale of trading through the Milford and Devonport supermarkets, particularly during lockdowns when other businesses were quiet or shut, distorted trading figures, being responsible for about 65 per cent of overall business.

In Takapuna, the supermarket accounted for just five per cent of total activity, with the hard-hit hospitality sector usually accounting for 40 per cent of trade.

The wider mix of business services in Takapuna, being a metropolitan centre, also made it different from the other more retail-focused shopping centres.

With thousands of office staff still working from home, their absence was being felt in foot traffic and spend.

But the area's "dynamic and evolving" outlook was an asset.

"I'd love to have big supermarkets in our area to support it," he added.

In answer to a question from board member Aidan Bennett, Harpur said Takapuna rents were typically in the range of \$1000 to \$1200 per square metre, compared with \$300 to \$400 in Milford.

Bennett said: "It would be nice if landlords came to the party on prices," suggesting they should be more realistic in current circumstances.

Harpur said the association worked with both landlords and real estate agents to try to attract more people to the area.

Asked by member Trish Deans if intensification helped, Harpur said it definitely did, as would the return of income-generating large events, following the disappointment of cancellations and an America's Cup competition while borders were closed.

Hill said Milford would gain from the number of new apartments being built both in its own area and in Takapuna.

"Once Takapuna lifts, the whole area will."

Overall, trading across the total board area was down 8.5 per cent for February, he said, with Takapuna again hardest hit as the Omicron outbreak took its toll on business.

Hill said a lesson from what had happened in Takapuna – which had Hurstmere Rd closed for an upgrade during the 2020-21 reporting period – was that: "It's important to get major works done without destroying sales."

The Rangitoto
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Local women’s rugby ref to take Six Nations stage

A soon-to-be Six Nations rugby referee, who first picked up an oval ball in high school in Canada, believes the sport has something for every woman.

Maggie Cogger-Orr, an accounting and economics teacher and dean, who is in charge of rugby at Westlake Girls’ High School, played the sport for about 12 years and has refereed at club, Farah Palmer Cup and Super Rugby Aupiki level.

At the end of the month, she is off to Europe to officiate in rounds four and five of the Women’s Six Nations – Wales against France at Cardiff on 23 April and the last match of the tournament, Ireland versus Scotland, in Belfast on 1 May.

Although Cogger-Orr also played her native country’s national sport – ice hockey – rugby was her preference. One of her high school coaches in Ottawa was also a coach for the national women’s team.

“Women’s rugby is quite well-established [in Canada],” she said. “I think what I really like about rugby, and what rugby can offer young women in particular, it really is a game that has a role for everyone. It really is a sport where you see all shapes and sizes – every type of body, every type of person.

“I think it gives a lot of women a possibility to pursue a sport they never considered before, and discover strength and tenacity.”

Cogger-Orr, 30, says the sport has increased in popularity at Westlake in the last few years.

“Sevens becoming an Olympic sport and the Black Ferns Sevens team having so much success has certainly increased the profile of the sport,” she said.

Sevens also opened an opportunity for those who didn’t fit the big, strong body type of 15-a-side.

“Increasingly it is a popular sport amongst our intermediate feeder schools, so a lot of girls coming in now have played sevens at intermediate.



On the rise... Maggie Cogger-Orr says more girls arriving at Westlake these days have already played rugby at intermediate

Cogger-Orr moved to New Zealand for teachers’ college in 2014 and played premier grade for University of Canterbury and then College Rifles in Auckland before picking up her referee’s whistle in 2017.

She refereed the first game of Super Rugby Aupiki this year, when the Waitomo Chiefs Manawa and South Island side Matatū played in Hamilton in March. “[The students] do love getting a kick out of seeing you on TV.”

She says she likes the challenge of refereeing. A big part of it is managing people’s emo-

tions and energy levels – on and off the field. “We’ve got lots of very passionate people in New Zealand who have a lot of opinions.

“There wouldn’t be too many games where I haven’t been shouted at.”

Cogger-Orr is more excited than nervous about refereeing her first international game. Her parents, who she hasn’t seen since the start of the pandemic, are flying from Canada to be there. Her next big goal will be to officiate at the World Cup in New Zealand in October and November.

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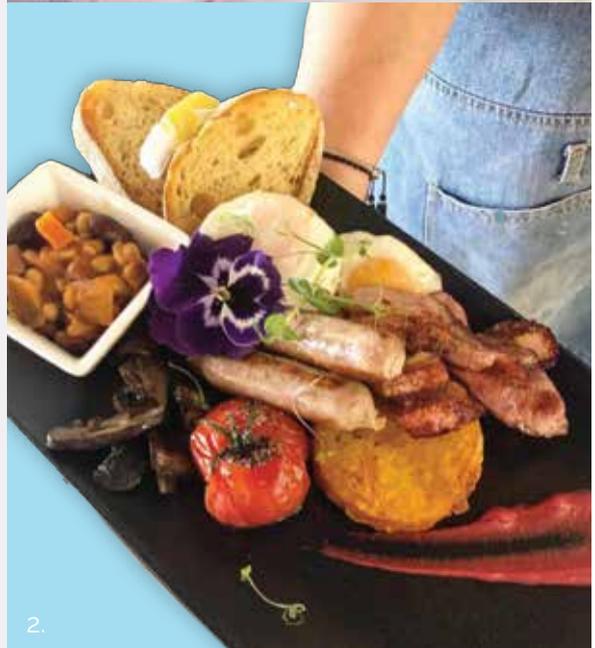
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Anzac ceremonies stay low-key despite rules easing

The RSA accepts Auckland Council had too little time to plan bigger Anzac Day commemorations in Takapuna and Devonport than will be held next Monday, 25 April.

Although disappointed, the organisation said time was against any moves to stage bigger gatherings and parades once Covid regulations were eased by the government this month.

“If it had been three weeks earlier...” said Devonport RSA president Muzz Kennett.

“It was all around the permits for traffic management and the medical staff on stand-by. It was just too late,” he said.

Crowd control and minimising risk of Omicron transmission were other issues.

Each town centre will carry on with arrangements the RSA and local board members agreed with council staff last month, holding small invite-only wreath-laying ceremonies. The public is welcome to visit war memorials on Anzac Day to lay other wreaths.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Ruth Jackson said she had hoped the scaled-back arrangements might be revisited, but these stood across the city. A livestream has been arranged by board staff, which would allow residents to join in virtually with a gathering for invited guests and members to be held at the Devonport RSA.

Kennett said the gathering, capped at 75 people, was nearing capacity acceptance already, so a ballot might be held for final places if more members wanted to attend.

Some would likely travel from central Takapuna. When the Takapuna RSA closed around a decade ago, a number of members joined the Devonport branch, with others joining East Coast Bays or Birkenhead.

Kennett, a serving Navy officer, said Defence had been stretched by the Covid MIQ response and he was trying to get staff to take leave, but he was working on getting some personnel and a padre involved with the RSA event on Anzac Day. Navy singer Rebecca Nelson will perform by video for the function at the RSA.

• **To view events go to the council's website www.ourauckland.nz/anzacday for north, with streaming from 9.30am.**

Hopes held for good Poppy Day collection

The Poppy Day street appeal will be held on Friday, 22 April, with further collections over the weekend leading into Anzac Day, including at some local supermarkets.

Poppy collection boxes have also been distributed to some local shops and digital donations are being taken.

The RSA hopes for a revived level of donations, after its annual appeals returns suffered in the last two Covid-interrupted years. Its focus this year is on drawing attention to those who have served in more recent conflicts than World Wars I and II.



Lest we forget... The Takapuna war memorial features bronze panels and is bookended with mast-like flagpoles. It was erected in front of the civic building at 1 The Strand in 2002, but is to be moved.

Views differ over war-memorial site

From page 1

Rd entrance to the square might be better.

Kennett said he wanted Panuku to do a study to identify the best site for future Anzac Days.

Board member Jan O'Connor has said she wants the memorial to be the centrepiece of the square. The square's name underlined this.

But Panuku officials – who had previously floated the possibility of locating the memorial outside the square – most recently suggested in a layout brief that a good spot might be within

the square, but more towards Potters Park.

The board resolved in December that a timeline for the shifting the memorial from private land at Panuku's cost be provided. Jackson wanted the RSA, rather than officials, to lead debate on the site on behalf of the community.

A Panuku spokesman told the Observer it was still to arrange discussions with the RSA. It had not been aware of the meeting last week.

Agreeing a site, should allow for the traditional street parade to end at the relocated memorial for Anzac Day 2024.

When 'permanent' replaced plywood

The Takapuna war memorial replaced a portable plywood memorial that had been wheeled out for commemorations since the late 1980s.

It was dedicated on Armistice Day, 11 November 2002, by Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright. Commissioned by the then North Shore Council, it cost \$75,000.

The non-traditional design by architect Brendan Rawson combines suspended bronze plaques and an inscribed stone base.

Derek Whalley, a research librarian for Auckland Libraries, dug into local newspaper archives of the time to track the story of the memorial. We summarise those below.

In 1999, the *North Shore Times Advertiser* asked: “What are our fallen soliders worth?” It concluded, not a lot in North Shore City, based on Takapuna still having its temporary roll-out memorial. Shortly afterwards, the newspaper reported that the council had met with members of the now disbanded Takapuna RSA to make a commitment to provide a permanent memorial. But agreeing on its site was an issue, with the RSA suggesting Hurstmere Green and Takapuna 60s Up suggesting the World War I memorial gates by Takapuna Primary on Anzac St could be cleaned and utilised.

The plywood memorial was used for the last time on Anzac Day, 2001, with The Strand

courtyard then agreed as the best site for its replacement. A rock memorial, paid for by the RSA, had once been on the wider site, but this was demolished when the RSA moved from its rooms there and building started on the council's new headquarters.

In early 2002, relatives of Takapuna residents killed in wartime were urged to check names proposed for the new memorial. This followed a researcher's concern that a quarter of names on a plaque by the library were spelled incorrectly.

The council initially approved \$50,000 for the memorial. Design plans for the six-metre-high and eight-metre-wide memorial showed a series of bronze panels on stainless-steel rigging between two aluminium masts. The panels were grouped to form sails, with a cross formed in the space between.

The new memorial was dedicated in November 2002 and became the base of Anzac Day commemorations in 2003.

Five years later, the owners of The Strand Plaza land withdrew a proposal to build additional office space near the war memorial, which was opposed by the RSA and others.

But that application showed the memorial might one day need a new home. With the use of civic buildings in the vicinity up for debate and the town square being built, that time has come.

Cafe to provide work for disabled

A new cafe training people with learning disabilities for the workforce is set to open in June in central Takapuna.

Project Employ helps bridge the gap between leaving school and getting into work for young people with conditions such as dyslexia, autism and high anxiety.

Co-director Diane Eaglesome said the company is taking over and rebranding an existing food business in the Takapuna CBD as Flourish Cafe. But she would not be drawn on which one until arrangements were officially signed off.

Eaglesome has a family member with a physical disability, and had met other families with children at school with learning disabilities.

A "black cloud" of what would happen to a child when the school years end hangs over them, she said.

"It's about society being more accepting of people who are different," she said.

People needed to realise that young people with learning challenges are capable and "just need a bit of support to get them there".

The cafe will have approximately six-monthly intakes of about eight trainees, who will then move on to supported employment providers, such as Workbridge, with skills to get them into the permanent workforce.

"While we would love to do the whole journey, there's just no way that we can."

Project Employ is a registered charity and relies on grant funding and donations.

A Givealittle page has so far raised about \$7000. Donations of \$100 pay for a career guidance workshop for trainees while \$20 will pay for personal protective equipment (PPE).

The community had been very supportive of the concept, Eaglesome said. "We're really grateful for people being so positive about the concept and seeing there is a need for it. When we speak to the families, they are just 'hallelujah - finally there is a hope here'."



Go figure... pavement markings

Painted hieroglyphics pop up on pavements

Painted markings on footpaths in Takapuna and Devonport (pictured, left) are part of Auckland Transport's Safe Speeds programme.

They identify underground services, including gas and water pipes, to allow designers of road traffic-slowing measures to factor them into their plans. AT says: "We won't be digging there, it's to mark services etc."

In Takapuna the multi-coloured markings using special chalk-based paint can be seen beside Shore City on Anzac St and around the corner on Auburn St, plus on both sides of Lake Rd near Blomfield Spa. The paint fades away naturally in two to four weeks or can be waterblasted away.

The town-centre speed zones are likely to come into effect late this year or early 2023, after consultation is completed.

Briefs

School Covid cases drop

Local high schools report attendance rates back up over 80 per cent, as the impact of Covid on classrooms wanes. Westlake Boys High School said cases were declining each week, a trend it hoped would continue. Westlake Girls said there had been a significant drop in absence numbers over the last fortnight. Auckland's Omicron outbreak peaked a month ago. Carmel College says the peak for students away with Covid or isolating was 20 per cent in early March, but numbers were now well down. Rosmini College said case numbers were declining, though the outbreak's tail was long and stubborn.

All welcome at library

Auckland Council has lifted the need for vaccine passes for entry to its facilities, including at Takapuna Library. Mask wearing is still required indoors. The change, from 5 April, follows the government relaxing the Covid-19 protection framework. The council thanked its staff for keeping services going through the pandemic and Aucklanders who supported its safety-first approach. Due to the Omicron outbreak, some services are reduced, including hours at Takapuna pool. Checks for current updates are recommended. See aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/covidnotices

Protesting continues

Around a dozen anti-mandate protesters carrying placards from the Voices for Freedom group set up on the footpath by Hurstmere Green in Takapuna on Wednesday last week. Some carried signs questioning booster vaccinations.

Centre office shuts

Sunnynook Community Centre has shut its office to the public to allow for staff leave. The venue remains open for booked classes. The office closing is temporary during April. The centre's school holiday programme is fully booked, with a wait list for programmes from May onward.

Hurstmere hurrah

Long-life road-marking on Hurstmere Rd finally completes the major upgrade which was largely wrapped up late last year. The overnight line-marking began on 4 April, with two weeks set aside for the task, allowing for the weather. To minimise disruption, remaining shrub planting and other minor works are being done at the same time, while the section of road between Lake Rd and Anzac St is closed from 7pm to 6am, excluding Friday and Saturday nights.




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Keen teen basketballer hits the international stage



On the go... Amy-Lee Pateman will play for New Zealand at an under-16 Asia Cup tournament in June

The possibility of a college scholarship in the United States is a driving factor for rising young basketballer Amy-Lee Pateman, who soon heads overseas to play for her country.

The 15-year-old Westlake Girls' High School student has been selected for the New Zealand team to play the Under-16 Asia Cup in Jordan in June. If the Kiwis finish in the top four, they qualify for the under-17 FIBA World Cup in Hungary the next month.

Amy-Lee has played basketball for seven years. "I play netball (too). It wasn't a lot of contact and I'm really rough," she said with a laugh.

She relishes the thrill and excitement of basketball. "I love the support and the cheering and the energy around it, and the competitiveness."

Amy-Lee mainly plays point guard and sometimes shooting guard. Guards need a good understanding of the game and of interacting with other players, she said.

"I think [basketball] could be a career path for me. My main goal is to get a scholarship to the United States." The Tall Ferns would be an ultimate achievement.

Amy-Lee, who lives in Belmont, is a North Harbour age-group representative and has been in the New Zealand under-16 development squad.

As a 13-year-old, Amy-Lee played in an age-grade tournament in Melbourne, but the trip to Jordan is a big step up.

She has to raise \$6000 and would need the same again if the team qualifies for the World Cup. While Basketball New Zealand offers some support, she feels cost is a barrier to more young people playing basketball.

To help her fundraising, she is offering basketball and netball coaching sessions for primary-age kids.

Amy-Lee says basketball is on the rise as a girls' sport.

Basketball New Zealand's Tauhi Basketball Aotearoa will start at the end of June with six regional women's teams.

Amy-Lee, who has also played touch, tag and volleyball, won a junior excellence award in the 2019 Aimes awards, which acknowledges achievement in arts, innovation, music, education, sport and community service for young people aged 13-25.

Westlake Girls rowers overcome pandemic's challenges



Silver service... Westlake Girls rowers Sofia Greenhalgh (left) and Scarlett Kerse came second in the under-18 coxless pairs at the Maadi Cup on Lake Ruataniwha

Making six A-grade finals at the Maadi Cup – and winning a silver medal – is being celebrated by the rowers of Westlake Girls High School after a horribly disrupted lead-in to the secondary schools national event.

"It was a hugely cool week," said the school's head of rowing, Kim Dowden. It was also one of the most successful for the school.

Westlake made the prestigious trio of U18 sweeping finals (pairs, fours and eights) for the first time in 20 years.

Its under-18 coxless pair of Sofia Greenhalgh and Scarlett Kerse came second.

Westlake Boys also did well at Maadi, featuring in six A finals, but out of the medals. In the B finals, wins came in the U17 and U18 coxed fours.

Dowden said just getting teams to Twizel this month had been an achievement. There had been Covid cases among the rowers and only one regatta in Auckland before the Maadi Cup.

South Island teams, led by overall champion Rangi Ruru Girls School from Christchurch, dominated this year's competition.

Having Westlake girls close behind showed how well they had stuck with their training in challenging times, including lockdown last year, said Dowden. Training began in September, but it was not until the week before Maadi, with the Head of the Harbour regatta on Lake Pupuke, that competition racing began.

Under-15 events were not held at nationals this year as a precautionary measure around numbers and gathering size. In the end, spectators were able to attend the finals held on Lake Ruataniwha, near Twizel.

After the Maadi Cup, trialists for New Zealand and North Island teams were announced.

Greenhalgh made the U19 New Zealand trial to be held at the end of the month. Selection would mean a trip to the junior world event in Italy.

Sophie Dykgraaf and Phoebe Dixon were picked for the North Island U18 team.

From Westlake Boys, Alex Logan and Nikos Matioatos also made the North Island trials. If selected for the team they will go forward to race South at the end of the month.

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Letters

Auckland Council can't blame Covid for cancellation of Anzac Day events

I am mortified to hear this week that our completely apathetic Auckland Council have decided not to organise any Anzac Parades this year.

They can absolutely not use Covid as an excuse anymore, as outdoor event numbers are limitless.

This total disregard for the history and memories of our family members, friends and fellow service personnel who gave their lives for us all to live peacefully in our beautiful part of the world is nothing short of disgusting.

This is just another ridiculous example of

the bureaucratic bungling that this council and its wretched CCOs are continuously in the limelight over.

Due to what is sadly happening in the world at the moment, we as a nation really want to not just show our respect to the fallen but also solidarity to our family and friends in the war-torn parts overseas.

Again, the buffoons running this place have misread, misjudged and completely let down every single constituent in Auckland.

Unfortunately, they appear to have reached an all-time low.

Gavin Sheehan

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Helping hands... Making light work of filling garden beds in Seine Reserve are (from left) Mary Anne Burton; Ethan Browne, aged 3; and Matt Close with daughter Hazel, 2

Volunteers sow seeds to reach Forrest Hill garden goal

In less than two months, energetic community volunteers have realised a two-year plan to create the Forrest Hill community garden.

Vegetable seedlings and flowers are now planted in specially built wooden beds, after site work began at Seine Reserve in February.

Since then a series of Sunday afternoon working bees have covered the cleared ground in bark mulch, filled the raised beds with straw and compost and installed a 4000-litre water tank. There's still a shed to finish and landscaping planned along part of the boundary with Forrest Hill kindergarten.

But Sunday 3 April marked a milestone for the garden, with around 20 volunteers helping with the first planting.

"It feels like there's life here," said Phoebe Atkinson, who began the process of seeking

council approval and convincing the community to back the idea in 2019.

"Up until this point it's just been vision casting, but to see something tangible it's just fantastic," she said.

Many hands made light work of planting a brassica bed and another with salad greens which when they grow will be shared around. More beds will be built and filled.

Some of the volunteers have been regulars, others are new, but most are locals who said they had been following the garden's progress for a while and liked the idea of the community connecting.

"It's the perfect spot for it," said Mary Anne Burton. "I've been waiting for the garden for a couple of years."

Ryan Tan said he got into a spot of planting

at home during lockdown and wanted to come along and learn more.

"We were just doing an afternoon walk," said Matt Browne, who popped in with his three-year-old son Ethan. "It's a fantastic initiative and a good learning opportunity for the kindy kids too."

In time, Atkinson hopes to set up a community composting hub and run classes.

Last Sunday the volunteers took time out to acknowledge the 80th birthday of Sandy Alexander, who helps regularly with wife Akiko.

As well as volunteer labour, donations have helped the garden. Seedlings came from Commonsense organics, soil from Kings Plant Barn, and compost from Central Landscaping. Help from a nursery with landscaping plants is next on the wishlist.



Dig this... A community effort has transformed council land in front of the Forrest Hill Kindergarten into a gathering place where neighbours are getting to know each other better



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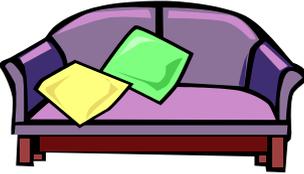
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Streetside parking could go under latest AT plans

Shopping zones in Takapuna, Milford and Sunnynook could lose streetside parking in the latest Auckland Transport (AT) plans to streamline the city's roads.

As well as designated town centres, zones around the Northern Busway stations are also lined up for "proactive parking management" under AT's far-reaching Draft Auckland Parking Strategy.

The 10-year plan also flags charging for parking, initially \$2 to \$4, at park-and-ride stations, including Akoranga, Smales Farm and Sunnynook.

The park-and-ride move is likely to add further pressure to nearby streets, at the same time as housing intensification is adding to the demand for kerbside spots.

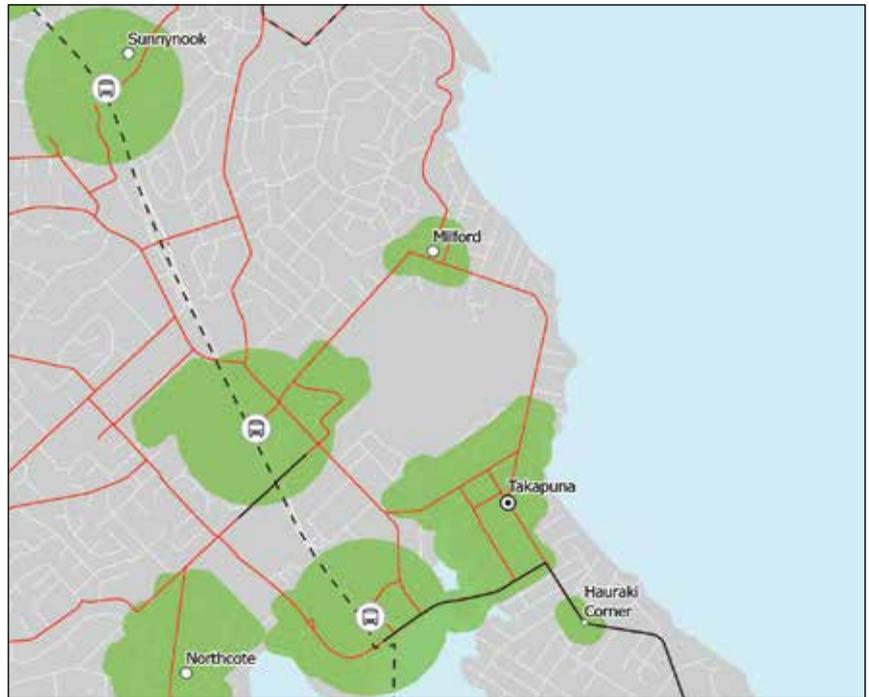
AT says its thinking behind charging is that people who drive to park and rides to use public transport are being subsidised by ratepayers and other bus users.

The strategy was signed off for public consultation by Auckland councillors in a 13-10 vote this month. North Shore representatives Chris Darby and Richard Hills both supported it.

Public feedback on the initiatives – which range from the removal of parking spaces to help encourage people out of cars onto public transport, bikes or the footpath, to charging more for parking or time-limits to encourage vehicle turnover – can be submitted until the end of the month.

Some local-board members have questioned how meaningful consultation will be, given a lack of specific detail for each area. AT says the detail will come later, when localised comprehensive traffic management plans are drawn up and consulted on.

Targets of the 10-year plan reach beyond identified local zones, with key roads listed as part of the city's Strategic Traffic Network in for priority attention. In the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area, these include Esmonde Rd, Lake Rd (south from



Going green... Highlighted areas for proactive parking management.

Esmonde Rd down to Albert Rd), Bayswater Ave, and a small section of Northcote Rd across the motorway to Taharoto Rd.

The stated aim of AT's strategic network is to prioritise efficient transport ahead of parking, which may be replaced by bus, transit (T2/T3) and cycle lanes.

"These changes to how we manage parking across our city are desperately needed," said councillor Darby, who chairs the Planning Committee and is a council representative on AT's board. "Some of our busiest streets have become full-time carparks, storing cars and holding up our communities instead of enabling travel."

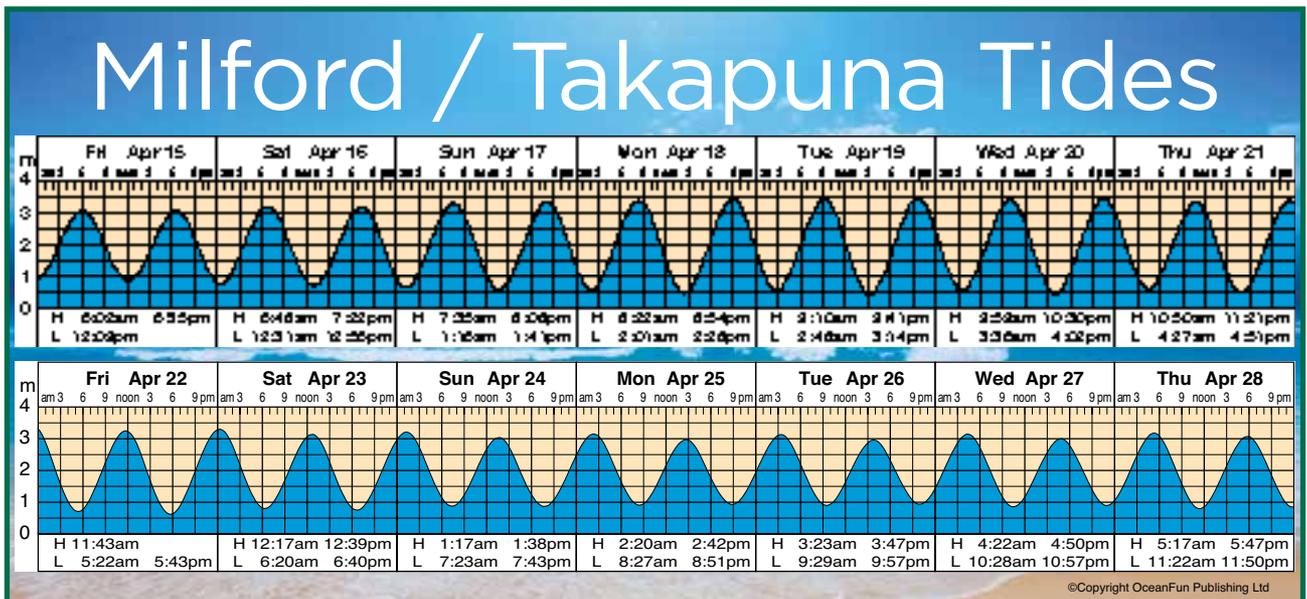
Although the draft will become a staged plan to cope with growth, climate targets,

and housing policy changes, Darby wants it rolled out with urgency.

Mayor Phil Goff backed the strategy consultation proceeding, though he last year slammed AT's initial plans to remove network parking without consulting residents or boards as "arrogant".

At a time when the council is grappling with government directives, backed by the National Party, to remove the need to provide off-street parking for new housing that must flow through to its Unitary Plan, more change to streets is a tricky public sell.

After the feedback is collated, AT will share it with boards, which will give their own feedback. The strategy will then be finalised for action from later this year.





WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

Join us for some holiday fun!



"Who's been painting my roses red?"
Join us in the library as we celebrate all things Alice in Wonderland. Each library is hosting a day of collaborative art, dress-up and fun – see how many you can visit!

- Birkenhead Library: Thu 21 April 10-4pm
- Northcote Library: Sun 24 April 10-4pm
- Glenfield Library: Tue 26 April 10-4pm
- Takapuna Library: Thu 28 April 10-4pm
- Devonport Library: Fri 29 April 10-4pm

"Would you tell me please, which way I out to go from here?"

It's time for the Takapuna Beach Business Association Easter Scavenger Hunt! As part of this exciting event, make sure to stop at our library, which will look a little different! Bring your biggest Cheshire Cat grin, collect your sticker and best of luck!

From Sat 9 April - Sun 1 May

Artful Narratives

Te Pātaka Toi Art Library
Level 1, Takapuna Library
Friday, 22 April, 11:00 am

Toni Hartill will discuss the beautiful sculptural artists' books in her Artful Narratives exhibition. View the artworks being handled and manipulated, and see how they reveal their secrets. Meet Toni and hear the local history stories and inspirations behind them. Toni's printmaking and artists' books have been exhibited throughout Aotearoa and abroad, and we are thrilled to showcase her works in the Angela Morton Room Te Pātaka Toi Art Library.



Mixing it up... Gallery owner Mike Geers says today's art buyers are more diverse, and more willing to experiment

Gallery has the art of longevity

A North Shore gallery owner celebrating 30 years in business says people are more likely to experiment with art these days, and buy a piece that "doesn't match the curtains".

Variety was showcased in an anniversary exhibition this month at Art by the Sea, which Mike Geers moved from Devonport to Takapuna a year ago. "It's a lot busier, a really good experience, a lovely neighbourhood," he said of the location across the road from the Bruce Mason Centre. "And we can still call ourselves Art by the Sea."

A change he has noticed over the decades is diversity in both taste and influences.

"If anything, there has been more art pro-

duced, and more exciting and different art. That can be attributed to an influx of people from other countries who see our country through different eyes."

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on creative business, particularly with gallery openings being off the table.

"This place is a gathering of stories, so when those stories can't be told in person that makes it difficult. But hopefully it's just a blip."

More people were looking up artwork online, however, but those who lived close by still liked to come and see the pieces in the gallery, he said.

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The PumpHouse Theatre



Chekhov's leading lady draws director's interest



Bearing up... Cast members during rehearsal for a production of Chekhov's *The Bear* at the PumpHouse Theatre (from left) Finlay Wilson, Danielle Nicholson and Max Easey

Seeing herself in the rebellious female character in Anton Chekhov's *The Bear* led North Shore director Monique Rabie to mount a production of the play.

The Bear is set to open at the PumpHouse Theatre in Takapuna on 20 April, after Covid-19 rules forced the cancellation of a run planned last year.

Rabie said the comic story focuses on the emancipation of women. "The main character, the main lady, she kind of acts as a rebellious symbol for all women during that time," she said. "She goes against all social norms that everyone was used to.

"I really love the main character... I could see that in myself."

Rabie, who lives in Torbay, but works at the PumpHouse, says she is a Chekhov fan. "I think his language use is very rich and

interesting. You don't have to have a lot on the stage to make it interesting. The language itself speaks for itself."

Rabie started out as an actor but moved into directing because she likes managing all the parts – including cast, sound and lighting – to make a whole performance.

"I get to be involved in the whole thing."

The other actors in the play also have links to the PumpHouse through working there or from previous performances, Rabie said.

The show runs for five nights from 20 April, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available at the door or from the PumpHouse website.

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The Secrets of Dumbledore (M) 142min	NEW
The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent (R13) 107min	Preview Screenings 16 APR

COMING SOON

Elizabeth: A Portrait in Parts (E) 89min	21 APR
The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent (R13) 107min	21 APR
Operation Mincemeat (TBA)	Preview Screenings 22-25 APR
The Dutch Film Festival:	
My Father is an Airplane (PG) 91min	23 APR
EuroTeens Short Film Night (R13) 65min	1 MAY
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