

# The Rangitoto Observer

Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 83 - June 10, 2022 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE



**Project will track local sea-rise impacts... p2**

**Hospo veteran opens another Takapuna bar... p3**

**Theatre star Michael Hurst back at PumpHouse... p14**

## Dead wood cut but grove deadlock remains

Arborists will perform work for safety purposes on one of the large pohutukawa in Takapuna's Sacred Grove / Te Uru Tapu this week, although plans for the reserve's long-term future remain unclear.

Four years on from the reserve being closed to the public and nearly seven months

since the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last called for access to the boardwalk through the grove to be restored, little seems to have been done scope out a reopening.

Auckland Council's chief arborist, mana whenua and environmentalists favour keeping the fragile area closed permanently.

But the board – mindful of calls from residents for restored access – had hoped for negotiations towards a compromise.

This would have seen ground-level access remain closed, but a boardwalk restored, and signage installed to explain the area's cultural significance. **To page 6**

## Volunteers strike the right note



**Blue-ribbon good sorts... Eighty-somethings Ann and Floyd Hulena still help others get to a monthly music show celebrating its 21st year at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna. Story, page 2.**



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**Briefs**

**Top op shop**

Takapuna's Hospice Shop has been named one of the top five op shops to visit in Auckland. Its friendly volunteer staff, manager Emily Dearsly and displays were all praised in an accolade from the opshops.co website which was set up to give charity shops a boost in awareness after Covid-19 reduced their revenue.

**Bracing start**

The annual Castor Bay winter-solstice swim is on Tuesday 21 June at 7am.

**Neighbourhood gap**

North Shore Neighbourhood Support is having its administration handed by the organisation's Waitakere branch until new arrangements are made, the departing manager said last week. The group works with police to build safer communities.

**Pipe progressing**

Watercare's \$5.4 million repair of the main wastewater pipe along Takapuna Beach is two-thirds done. PVC lining has been added to prolong its life, with work on access holes to finish in August.

**Couple shares the love of a musical treat**

**From page 1**

Volunteers extraordinaire Floyd and Ann Hulena are in their 80s, but still helping others get to the monthly 'Morning Melodies' at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna.

The pair, who have been into music and dancing all their lives, are super-fans of the feel-good music show they've been attending for two decades.

These days, 84-year-old Floyd ferries two vanloads of rest-home residents to the performances.

The couple lived in Milford for 55 years and have just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have had a lifetime of volunteering across multiple organisations and committees.

They met through square dancing, which they did for 31 years, travelling all over the world to dancing conventions.

Other life highlights include Floyd working as an official at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games, and a convention trip to Disneyland which opened for attendees from midnight to 5am. "So we've had some fun," Ann says.

Their volunteering included involvement in

their two children's sports teams, and continues at the Railway Enthusiasts' Society in Onehunga every Thursday.

Volunteers are always needed, Ann says. "They say this country, what would it do without volunteers? It can be a very rewarding time I think."

The pair now have six grandchildren and have hardly slowed down. "It's been a great life," Floyd says. "I don't think it's finished yet though."

Asked for a Morning Melodies highlight, the couple say it's difficult to pick one. "That's a hard one to answer because we've enjoyed them all," Floyd says.

The feel-good music show has been entertaining Takapuna for 21 years.

It started with performances of the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and has expanded to include a variety of artists including brass bands, school bands and popular entertainers. The next performance, on 13 June, features Robin Kelly, a pianist, singer-songwriter, musical director, composer, and a massive Beatles and Elvis fan. Singer Jackie Clarke is on 18 July.

Tickets, including refreshments, are \$7.

**Project to track local impact of rising seas**

Takapuna Beach is being considered for inclusion in a global project aimed at highlighting the risks of rising sea levels caused by climate change.

A phone cradle is to be set up at either Takapuna or Cheltenham Beach, providing members of the public a set location to use their phone camera help record how the coastline changes over time.

Their photos will contribute to a database providing insights on how the beach is affected by changing weather and wave conditions. Over time, erosion and other long-term effects will be tracked.

The information gathered will help Auckland Council validate radar-collected data used to assess inundation risk from rising seas.

The monitoring programme is being established by King Tides Auckland – which already encourages Aucklanders to photograph king-tide events – in a collaboration

with CoastSnap, a global citizen-science project. Its first Auckland cradle was installed at Muriwai in 2020.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is contributing \$5000 towards the \$31,960 cost of the North Shore beach installation, including signage.

Use of the phone cradle will control the position and angle of photographs, meaning uploaded images can be used to measure changes to the beach and shoreline movement. Though its site hasn't yet been decided and landowner permission will have to be negotiated, it is due to be in operation by July next year.

King Tide Auckland founder Ben Sheeran said the Muriwai project had proven popular with the public.

"It's one part coastal science and one part public engagement around awareness-raising and highlighting the issue around sea level rising and climate change," he said.

**Simon Watts**

MP for North Shore

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# Just one more: hospo veteran opens 'last' bar

Launching a new bar in your 70s in the midst of a pandemic would seem insane to some.

"Perhaps I am mad," laughs Kevin Schwass sitting in his newly opened the Hops & Claret bar on Hurstmere Rd. "My wife certainly thinks so at times."

A low-key launch was planned for last Thursday – "just a few beers with old mates," including former political chums George Wood, Mike Sheehy and Ian Revell.

It seems Schwass, who served nine years as a local body politician until 2013, has been around Takapuna forever.

"I think I'm the second-longest-serving business owner in Takapuna now," he says.

A policeman between 1971 and 1980, working in the CIB in Wellington and Taupo, Schwass joined Lion Breweries as a trainee manager in 1980.

He managed the Jolly Farmer in Drury, then the Tamatea Tavern in Napier before taking over the Poenamo in Takapuna in 1985, where he made his name in hospitality.

"We had all the Takapuna rugby boys and the All Blacks would base themselves at the Po'."

With Onewa Domain across the road for training, the All Blacks would fill the hotel's 24 rooms in the week of a test match at Eden Park.

The Poenamo also hosted visiting league players and Lions and French rugby teams. Schwass ran the hotel for 10 years, then leased it from Lion for two, which gave him the funds to set up his own bar in Takapuna.

The R'toto Pub & Cafe was launched in 1996 with its own brewery – when craft-beer pubs were hard to find.

"In retrospect, we were 20 years ahead of our time, given what the craft-beer industry is today."

Schwass's Belgian Beer Cafe opened next door in 2002, and Florrie McGreal's Irish Pub in 2009. The Sin Bin catered for sports punters.

Schwass even tried his hand at setting up a nightclub: Bin Bin Deluxe. "A bit of a disaster really," he says looking back.



**Long-serving... After 37 years as a North Shore publican, Kevin Schwass has opened yet another bar**

Part of the problem was the lack of a licence for later than 1am.

In the hospitality industry, change is to be expected. "Bars only tend to last three, four or five years before something else new comes along," Schwass says. "You need to constantly refresh things."

R'totos morphed into a Mac Brew Bar, which Schwass later sold.

Covid hit hard. The Belgian Beer cafe became the Master and Apprentice, then the Catnappers Arms – "reaching out to Takapuna's corporate worker market, but they never came back".

Florrie McGreal's was expanded, and now Hops & Claret has opened, as a 'drinkery' loosely modelled on 1920s speakeasys.

Opening the new bar seems to have given Schwass a new lease of life.

He tried retiring to the Sunshine Coast at 65, to run the business remotely, but it didn't

suit his hands-on style. He missed the Shore and Takapuna.

"There's so many people I know around here who drop in for a beer – good mates," says Schwass, who now lives in Forrest Hill.

He's positive about the future of Takapuna. "It's a metropolitan centre and there's lots of apartments going up... but it has got to retain its integrity as a seaside centre."

He also happy with his spot at the northern end of Hurstmere Rd, home to his hospitality businesses for 30 years.

"It was a wasteland when I arrived. The Mon Desir was closing and there was nothing here really.

"Then there was a lot happening at the other end of town, with the likes of the Commons, but now there's a lot of positive things happening at the Bruce Mason Centre."

As far as next steps go: "I do think this is definitely the last bar I will open."



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# Try-scorer the toast of Takapuna and Pasifika rugby

Takapuna's Lotu Inisi scored the match-winning try in Moana Pasifika's shock 32-22 defeat of the high-flying Brumbies at Mt Smart Stadium late last month.

But after celebrating the team's second victory in its first season of Super Rugby, Inisi's next thoughts were turning out for Takapuna against Helensville last weekend.

Coming back from injury, Inisi came on as a late second-half replacement when the game was still in the balance.

Takapuna coach Aaron Katipa said Inisi (22) was a "quietly spoken lad" who had worked hard for his success. He first coached Inisi as an eight-year-old at East Coast Bays, then at Westlake Boys and now in the Takapuna Premiers.

Katipa was delighted Lotu and his brother and fellow Moana Pasifika player Fini (23) were back in the Takapuna side, although they will only be available for a few matches.

Both are set to be away during the North

Harbour competition play-offs, touring with Tonga in Fiji, Samoa and Australia.

The brothers' game time for Takapuna before then is also likely to be limited, as the forwards who would be in the play-offs had to be playing in the run-up, Katipa said.

• Takapuna is unbeaten this season. It won the first-round competition, showing its dominance in thrashing second-placed North Shore 31-17 two weekends ago. It led 26-3 deep into the second half, and only two late converted tries saved some face for Shore.

Takapuna's pack didn't give an inch – from veteran lock Shane Neville, who played a full 80 minutes, to tearaway flanker Talimoni Finau – with the blue and golds out-muscling Shore across the park. Halves Aisea Halo and Jackson Rainsford outplayed their more experienced opposites Brad McNaughten and Connor Hill.

On the evidence of that top-of-the-table clash, Takapuna is the team to beat this season.



**Back in blue and gold last weekend... Lotu Inisi**

## Big residential development planned for Sunnynook cul-de-sac

Cypress Place will provide the site of one of Sunnynook's largest residential developments, if a plan to build 33 dwellings wins Auckland Council approval.

The quiet, sloping, forked dead-end street is off the top end of Sycamore Dr, which runs down to the shopping centre.

A resource consent has been lodged to develop rear sections at 14, 14a and 16 in the mixed-housing urban zone and an additional two sections at 1/8 and 2/18 which fall into the mixed-housing suburban zone. These are all at the northern end of the top fork of Cypress Pl, beneath Sunset Rd.

Developer Jerry's Home (2013) Ltd made an application for a non-notified consent to develop the land, which totals 4683sqm. It pointed to several nearby infill developments in Kerria Pl and Sequoia Pl.

Proximity to bus routes on Sunset Rd and

to the Sunnynook centre and its park were noted as pluses for the site.

Sunnynook and neighbouring Forrest Hill have seen a steady stream of applications for intensified housing, but not usually to this scale. Nine duplex units (18 units), one triplex unit and three four-dwelling terraces are proposed.

Since March subdivision applications in the area included 10 lots at 22 Madison Pl, seven lots at 55 Richards Ave, six at each of 19 Cockayne Cres and 34 Knightsbridge Dr and five at 81 Sycamore Dr.

Land-use applications (four or more dwellings per site) were made for seven homes at 20 William Souter Pl; six at each of 9 Aralia Rd, 98 Forrest Hill Rd, 50 Lyttelton Ave and 4 Meadowvale Ave, and four at 34 Regency Pl, 2 Tonkin Dr, 24 Sequoia Pl, 25 Lavery Pl and 85 Salamanca Rd.

## Staff lucky to miss cascade of glass

Restaurant staff have told of lucky escapes from breaking glass after high winds sent scaffolding flying in central Takapuna last month.

Several glass awnings on the public courtyard below the Sentinel Tower, between Northcroft and Huron Sts, shattered after scaffolding set up for work on the pool deck above landed on them last month.

A staff member at Mamak restaurant, who did not want to be named, said staff had left the eatery at the end of the evening just minutes before the scaffolding fell on Friday 21 May. He had to use a rear exit to get out safely. A hospitality worker from another business said its last customer had also left shortly before the incident.

With the courtyard carpeted in broken glass, restaurants had to stay closed for the weekend.

A WorkSafe spokesperson said inquiries were ongoing.



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**Briefs**

**Auction for Ukraine**

A delayed live auction to raise funds for Ukraine is back on at the Lake House Arts Centre this Saturday. Sales of donated art will raise funds for the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis appeal. Pre-sales have already raised more than \$1500. The auction – twice delayed due to Covid disruption – is now locked in for Saturday 25 June at 6pm. To confirm attendance email [manager@lakehousearts.org.nz](mailto:manager@lakehousearts.org.nz). The catalogue is available through the centre’s website.

**Skatepark design underway**

Construction of the Sunnynook Skatepark will not start until late 2023 at the earliest, says Auckland Council. Auckland Council manager of area operation Sarah Jones said detailed design was in its early stages. “This work is likely to take up to a year to complete,” she said. Decisions on the positioning and operating hours of lights budgeted for in the project were yet to be made.

**Mummy’s market**

More than 20 stalls are expected at the Mid-Year Mummy’s Market to be held at the Methodist Church in Takapuna (427 Lake Rd) on Saturday 11 June, from 9am to 2pm.

**Tree trimmed, but no moves on access**

**From page 1**

A restored boardwalk would provide passage when high tides block the northern section of the beach.

But it is understood council staff have not progressed the board’s wish for talks since the resolution was passed last November.

The Observer asked the council for an update, but was told the project officer was on annual leave and further information would not be available before publication.

A council spokesperson said the need for safety work on the grove’s southernmost tree was identified during a recent inspection of the reserve by the council’s urban-forest team. Several large sections of dead wood would have to be removed.

“Two of the tree’s limbs are in slow decline and at the point where removal is necessary for public safety, as the limbs are overhanging

the beach,” the spokesperson said.

A contractor was scheduled to complete the work on a low tide.

Other trees in the grove are stropped and propped, with some considered a safety risk.

In 2021, a number were vandalised. Those responsible for poisoning and chopping them were not identified.

Public access to the grove has been restricted since 2018, initially for maintenance on the boardwalk, which was built around 20 years ago.

Reports and recommendations followed on the state of the trees, including advice that resource consents were unlikely to be granted to repair the boardwalk if moves were made to reopen the grove.

Consent is not needed for the tree trimming, which is a permitted activity under the Auckland Unitary Plan when done by a qualified arborist.

**Local board wants residents heard on land sale**

Residents’ views on the proposed sale of a pathway into Linwood Reserve may go unheard due to confusion over the submissions process.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board has opposed the sale, saying the cost of selling the 130sqm sliver is likely to exceed any proceeds.

And it wants the views of 13 Forrest Hill and Sunnynook residents also considered by a panel of independent commissioners, despite their submissions having been lodged into the

wrong council process.

Board chair Ruth Jackson and member Trish Deans last month addressed a hearing on ‘Plan Change 60’, which would enable the sale of the Linwood Reserve pathway, along with other reserve plots across the city.

The board asked the panel to consider the residents’ views, saying the council had caused confusion by running two feedback processes concurrently rather than consecutively.

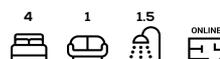
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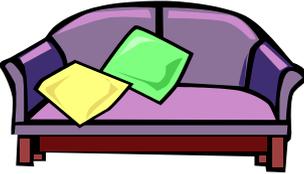
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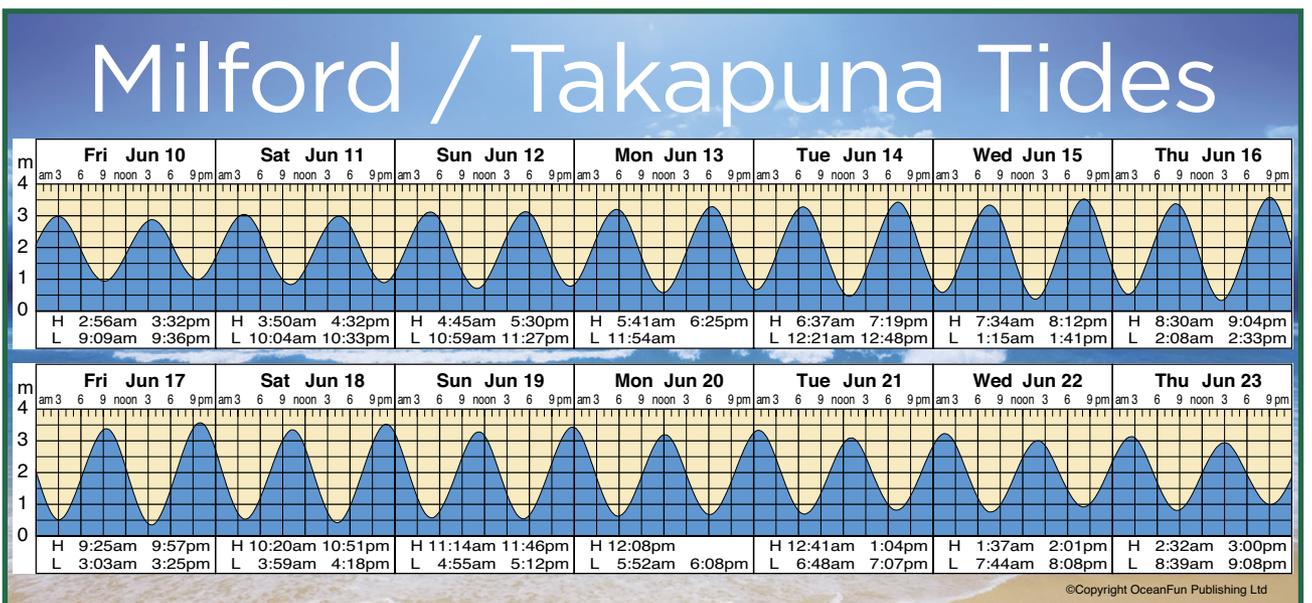
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# Sixty possums trapped in precious park in three months

Three months of trapping rid two hectares of rare forest in Milford of about 60 possums, a community environmental group reports.

Environmental champions Pupuke Birdsong held a hui last week to encourage community interest in protecting the puriri forest in Sylvan Park Reserve on the edge of Lake Pupuke.

It is a rare broadleaf forest, with puriri trees dominating the canopy and other native species including karaka (New Zealand laurel), kohekohe (New Zealand mahogany) and kahikatea, the tallest native.

Milford resident and trapper Warrick Smith told the meeting of catching 45 possums across three months. Another trapper's tally took the total to around 60.

"It was pretty obvious that possums were annihilating the trees here," Smith said.

But with so many of the pests gone, the trees were growing back.

"We're starting to see life come back into the forest."



**Possum patrol... Volunteer Warrick Smith trapped 45 of the marsupials in three months**

Pupuke Birdsong gave a trapping demonstration at the meeting, hosted by the Milford Kindergarten, which is part of the Enviroschools programme, and supported by the Milford Residents Association.

After the meeting, Birdsong coordinator

Tabitha Becroft said four regular volunteers trap and bait in the puriri forest.

"We need more volunteers who would be interested in weeding, especially close to the lake margin. We also need volunteers to trap or bait rats and possums in their own backyards. We supply free traps and bait stations."

While individual puriri trees are not uncommon, puriri forest is classed as critically endangered – only 29 hectares exist in scattered fragments across the country, mostly in the north, including the two-hectare patch in Milford.

Becroft said the goals for the area are to reduce pest numbers, remove weeds, and replant the forest areas.

"The next weed we are targeting is the windmill palms, which are commonly found in gardens throughout the North Shore but are a weed that spreads very easily.

"Auckland Council is supporting this by removing the large palms."

## Whitebait species found in Sunnynook stream

Several banded kōkopu, a whitebait species, have been found in Lyford Reserve, Sunnynook, after a literal uphill battle to get there.

During a recent tour of the reserve, environmental group Pupuke Birdsong (PB) discovered several good-sized adults in the stream.

Few places in the Devonport-Takapuna board area have the species, says PB manager Tabitha Becroft.

The adults live in fresh water and lay their eggs on stream banks. The larvae migrate out to sea, feed and grow into juveniles which then make their way back into fresh water to complete the cycle to adulthood.

The Lyford Reserve specimens would have come through the marina at Milford, up the concrete channel to Link Dr and then underground through pipes all the way to the reserve. "It's the first time we've seen



**Uphill battle... Kokopu have made the journey to Lyford Reserve**  
Picture: NIWA/Richard Allibone

them that size," Becroft said. "They've probably always been there but we've never seen them."

While it would be great for more species to be in the stream, the group has no influence over the upstream or downstream flows. "All we can do is provide the habitat there."

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# New play staged as part of first Matariki holiday

The author of a new Matariki play to be staged at the PumpHouse in Takapuna says the story is part of his own reconnection to his Maori heritage.

Mark Wilson, who also stars in the production, wrote *.co.nz* specifically for the first Matariki public holiday on 24 June.

Families are invited to celebrate the Maori New Year by attending the thought-provoking free play to be held under the Matariki stars in the outdoor amphitheatre from 29 June to 2 July.

Starring two Forrest Hill locals – Jordan Henare and Āria Harrison-Sparke – it is billed as an “absurdist exploration of Māori culture and spirituality” that aims to teach about Matariki and explore the Maori world view, with themes of reflection, meditation, mourning, acceptance and celebration.

Wilson, the PumpHouse’s venue coordinator, said he wanted to tell a story meaningful to him and his own life experience of feeling torn between his Maori and his pakeha heritage.

“I have always struggled with feeling disconnected from my Māori heritage. As a kid, I was punished for using Māori language, and that really shaped my connection with Māori culture,” he says.

Racism is still alive and well, as was illustrated in the response to Matariki becoming a public holiday, he says. “There was a lot of backlash. It was clear to me that people don’t understand the significance of Matariki and could learn more about why Matariki is so significant for Māori.

“Our aim with *.co.nz* is to highlight some of



**Under the stars... actors (from left) Jordan Henare, Mark Wilson and Āria Harrison-Sparke**

key issues, but also to educate about Matariki.”

Directed by Meg Andrews, the PumpHouse’s box office coordinator, the play is paid for by Auckland Unlimited funding to support events as part of the Government’s Covid-19 response. PumpHouse business manager

## Plenty on offer locally to mark New Year

From schools teaching about Matariki to community groups marking the occasion, there are plenty of opportunities to join in for Maori New Year. A few highlights include:

- Younite hosting Maori story telling, arts and crafts, face painting and more at Shore Junction, 19 Northcote Rd, Takapuna, Drop in between 5-8pm on Thursday 23 June.
- Takapuna Library activities, including themed story times, a scavenger hunt, crafts and displays and a printing workshop from 20 June to 22 July
- Matariki market at Hurstmere Green, Takapuna on Saturday 25 June, including free workshops, live music and performance from 9am-2pm.
- Bayswater School Matariki Festival, including food trucks, kapa haka and games on Saturday 18 June from 3-7pm.

James Bell said this meant no charge was needed for tickets but the cast and crew still received a fair wage.

Entry is free but attendees need to book. BYO blankets and pillows are recommended for an outdoor showing on a winter night.

FAMILY FUN • ACTIVITIES • STORYTELLING • LANTERNS • KAPA HAKA • ART • MOVIES

FREE EVENT!

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SATURDAY 25 JUNE  
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LANTERN HĪKOI 5:30PM

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**Auckland Council  
Libraries**  
Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tamaki Makaurau

## WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

### PLATINUM JUBILEE

Takapuna library celebrates the historic 70 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II through photographs, books and memorabilia. Pick up a recipe for the famous Coronation Chicken while you're here!



### MATARIKI

We'll start celebrating ngā Tamariki ā Matariki from the 20th June with our ongoing Star Hunt giving you the chance to win a truly special prize. Keep tuned to our Facebook page for registration details for Matariki themed rhyme times and story times. Get ready to make wonderful crafts with our librarians and learn the importance of each special star. Graham Judd and his amazing printing press will make a much-anticipated guest appearance! Celebrations come to a close on Friday 22nd July.

### EXHIBITION

Open Daily - Angela Morton Room  
Te Pātaka Toi Art Library  
Level 1, Takapuna Library

Sonja Drake's Ecotones exhibition shares exquisite watercolours of Wairau Creek - a complex ecosystem where urban and natural worlds meet; and where eels, small fish, and plant life are still present despite ongoing impacts of environmental contamination.

Please join us on Saturday, 11 June, between 2.00-4.00 pm, when Sonja will be on-site to discuss the work in this exhibition.

**Open 11 June - 10 August**

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# Hurst returns to PumpHouse as

Leading New Zealand actor Michael Hurst is looking forward to a season at the PumpHouse in Takapuna, saying the heritage theatre has the right eerie atmosphere for his role in *The Woman in Black*.

In the modern classic gothic horror play, staged by Masked Productions, his character is stricken with past memories in a theatre rumoured to have its own ghost.

Hurst, who has taken leading stage and screen roles for decades, has appeared at the PumpHouse once before, back in the 1980s, when he was in Shakespeare's Richard III.

He remembers it as a lovely venue, full of character, making it well suited to *The Woman in Black*.

"The play is basically set in a theatre, so the PumpHouse is perfect, and it will readily lend a spooky atmosphere to the production."

Despite the theatre world being full of superstitions, Hurst told the Observer that he was not one to believe in ghosts or be superstitious. "But that's not to say that I don't enjoy stories about the supernatural, or that I haven't felt the frisson that comes with the crawling fear associated with the 'strange and unexplained'. I just know that there's an explanation."

Small venues such as the PumpHouse had an intimate appeal, he said.

Having started his career at the Court Theatre in Christchurch and then spent around six years at Theatre Corporate in Auckland he looks back fondly. "We did the biggest plays in those tiny venues - high-octane acting at close quarters.

Hurst promised *The Woman in Black* would be "an absorbing and unnerving theatre experience". It is also the first by Masked Productions since Covid struck.

The theatre collective, which stages plays at various venues, was last at the PumpHouse in 2017 with *Reasons to bBe Pretty* and, before that, *Closer*, in 2015.

Hurst said the company was eager to get back on the boards after the Covid hiatus with a tightly written, clever and scary production that would have audiences sitting on the edge of their seats. "It's been almost a year since any of us have been able to go to the theatre. We

are at our most human when we are sharing experiences with others, and it is a deep and often under-appreciated loss when we are prevented from doing so. There is nothing like a play or a concert to bring people together on a human level. The unique and risky nature of live performance in a room full of people can't be replaced with streaming services."

The much-adapted play by Stephen Malla-tratt, based on a novel written by Dame Susan Hill in 1983, is directed by Matthew Hall.

Hurst plays Arthur Kipps, a retired lawyer beset by the past. After failing to shake off his dark memories, he hires a run-down theatre space and engages a young actor (co-star Zane Fleming) to tell his story in a bid to banish the ghostly 'Woman in Black'.

The play opened on London's West End in 1989 and has been terrifying audiences since, making it the second-longest-running play there, after Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*.

Hurst - who in 2005 was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to film and the theatre - describes his character as burdened, haunted and strangely theatrical. "It's fun to dig into the darker side of human psychology. Actors are often asked to do this and I think it's safe to say we love those kinds of roles. You just need to keep a balance."

Although this is only Hurst's second appearance on stage locally, he remembers another significant Takapuna connection from his early years acting in Auckland. "I played the role of The Boy in Bruce Mason's *The End of the Golden Weather* in 1981 at Theatre Corporate." The dramatisation of the Takapuna-based playwright's solo show came a year before the death of the man who gave his name to performing arts venue The Bruce Mason Centre.

"I met him," said Hurst. "He came to rehearsals. He was dying, I believe. He watched us perform and cried. It was a very moving moment."

• *The Woman in Black* by Masked Productions is on at the PumpHouse Theatre, Takapuna, from 11-25 June, with tickets priced from \$35-\$40. Book online through the PumpHouse website.

**SM Co** ST MATTHEW'S  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**Sunday 19 June**  
at 2.30pm



### PROGRAMME

**Ritchie, A** Underwater Music  
**Mozart** Flute Concerto No 1 K313 in G  
**Footo** A Night Piece  
**Haydn** Symphony No 103 in E flat, "Drum Roll"

**SOLOIST** Melanie Lançon  
**CONDUCTOR** Josh Kirk

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# haunted lead in gothic horror



Spooky setting... In *The Woman in Black*, actor Michael Hurst plays a retired lawyer, beset by the past, who attempts to banish the ghostly figure of the title



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The Bob's Burgers Movie (PG) 102min	NEW
How to Please a Woman (M) 107min	NEW
Top Gun: Maverick (M) 130min	NEW
<b>The Ukrainian Film Festival NZ:</b>	
The Inglorious Serfs	12 JUN
Lightyear (TBA) 100min	Night Before Screening 15 JUN

### COMING SOON

Lightyear (TBA) 100min	16 JUN
Nude Tuesday (R16) 100min	16 JUN
Whina (PG) 96min	Previews 17-19 JUN

### SPECIALS

**CHEAP TUESDAY**  
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For more information please visit our website.

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