

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 86 – July 22, 2022

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

HARBOUR RUGBY CHAMPIONS

LIFTOUT — SEE CENTRE PAGES

Takapuna fans cheer home Blue and Golds



Flying the flag... (from left) Mino Toia, Moli Inisi and Meleane Hafoka cheered Takapuna on to a 29-19 win over North Shore in the North Harbour rugby championship final. More coverage, pages 11-15

Covid cloud hangs over hospital and schools

North Shore remains on high alert, with its hospital dealing with the most Covid cases in the country, and schools and their stretched staff bracing for Term 3's start next week.

As of early this week 103 Covid-19 patients were in North Shore Hospital. This is down just five cases on the previous week,

when the hospital acknowledged its patient load was the highest nationally.

The Observer has learned through an Official Information Act request about measures being taken to cope with pressure on its services that North Shore Hospital has set up weekday meetings on bed availability to get

through the winter season. It has also stepped up staffing and implemented a programme offering hospital care at home.

Since then Covid cases in the community have steadily risen, as have flu bugs. At the end of Term 2, Carmel College and Westlake

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Covid impact tests staffing and prompts call to wear masks

From page 1

Boys High School had more than 25 per cent of staff on sick leave. They are hoping the holidays will have proved a circuit-breaker.

Takapuna Normal Intermediate School says: "We encourage all our learners to wear face masks in the classroom." To provide support for this, the Ministry of Education has made more masks available for Term 3.

Meanwhile, the recent revelation that an elderly woman seeking hospital care at North Shore was waiting for hours in a leaking tent came as another grim reminder of the pressure at the health coalface. The hospital had introduced more pre-screening of patients and closed some wards to visitors after the virus passed from them to patients in the last month.

Asked about North Shore's high incidence of Covid cases, administrators say this is no surprise, given the former DHB area

is the largest by population, with 630,000 residents across north and west Auckland.

Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) Waitemata, which has replaced the district health board, noted Waitematā had the second-most new community cases nationally, impacting hospital care. Many are among the elderly.

For schools, a pressing issue is finding enough relief teachers. Westlake Boys' headmaster, David Ferguson, told parents classes had been grouped together to cover absences and stay open. "If this [last] term was a running race, we've limped to the finish line." Carmel College went online in the last week of term. Rosmini College rostered some classes home on an earlier week.

"It's been a revolving door with students away with Covid or isolating," said Westlake Girls' High. Systems were in place to keep student work up to date, but staff absences were hard to manage.

Businesses are also juggling services.

Major Milford tunnelling project set to start

An underground tunnel machine will be used for the third stage of an \$8 million stormwater improvement project in Milford.

It starts in late July and will take until May next year. Work includes tunnelling from Fenwick Ave into Wairau Estuary Reserve and installing a 1200mm-diameter pipe.

Roadworks will be in place at the intersections of Fenwick Ave and Omana Rd with Kitchener Rd, and traffic will be down to one lane in off-peak hours. But Healthy Waters general manager Craig McIlroy said using the tunnel machine would cause less disruption to the community and traffic, improve safety and reduce carbon emissions.

"This method has previously been used in other piping projects across Aotearoa, and is currently being used in the City Rail Link works."

The new pipe will empty into an outfall in Wairau Creek. A stormwater treatment device will be put in at the intersection, to improve water quality.

Bright young sparks to light up Takapuna winter nights

Takapuna Primary School students will have even more reason than most to be bright-eyed at the Winter Lights Festival next week.

Their art work will become an animated projection that will cast Hurstmere Rd in a different light.

Installations and performances are also part of the sensory festival, running over four evenings from 28-31 July, from 5pm to 10pm.

It is expected to draw up to 30,000 people, says Takapuna Beach Business Association chief executive Terence Harpur who is hoping for a big boost to hospitality venues.

The event has been developed by an artistic team with international experience and is part of the city-wide Elemental Festival. It is also an expansion of the inaugural two-day light festival held on Hurstmere Green last year, which impressed the crowds that came.

Associate principal Sarah Ochtman-Corfe said the school children were eager to see drawings they had done last term adapted for an oceanic display, Te Moana Nui.

Learning took in sea life and te reo, bringing together studies in



Underwater whirl... Kid's art will become a moving visual image at Winter Lights

art, science and language. Work from Campbells Bay Early Learning Centre will also feature.

The children's work has been animated by Professor Daniel Brown from the Design Studio at the Victoria University of Wellington, into a moving underwater realm of colourful whirlpools and sea life.

Composer Mark Johnson has come up with a soundtrack for the display.

Ochtman-Corfe said the festival was a fantastic opportunity to bring the community together and to high-

light the beautiful seaside suburb. "The school would love to be part of future projects," she added.

Harpur is keen to make Winter Lights an annual drawcard that in a post-Covid era can become even bigger and better.

The festival's Takapuna-based event manager, Dan Move – who was interviewed by the Observer in its last issue – is a co-founder of the Luma Lights Festival in Queenstown which this year drew 60,000 people. Move is keen to see his hometown shine just as brightly.

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Sister paper recognised in awards

The Rangitoto Observer's sister publication, the Devonport Flagstaff, was runner-up best community paper in New Zealand for 2021.

And a 'Jabbed' campaign it ran as businesses emerged from Covid lockdown won Best Idea/Innovation in the Community Newspapers Association Awards announced last week.

The Flagstaff was also runner-up in the best community involvement section, for its coverage of the threat to heritage buildings, and Flagstaff editor Rob Drent was runner-up in the best senior journalist section.

The same team works on the Observer.

Judges said the Jabbed campaign "cut across the various and often vocal proponents/opponents of vaccinations to provide a practical tool for shoppers to know that staff in shops with the signage displaying the Devonport Flagstaff initiated signage were all 100 per cent vaccinated".

The Waiheke Island Gulf News was judged the country's best community paper, with judges saying both it and the Flagstaff covered their communities in depth.

"Almost anything that moves – or doesn't move – in Devonport and Waiheke will end up in the local paper."



Champion pair... Liam Wright (left) on cornet and Murray Borthwick on tenor horn blew their way to overall junior and senior individual titles at the New Zealand Brass Band Championships. They play for North Shore Brass, which brought home some other impressive titles in one of its best years competing.

Brass whizz sounds three-peat as band shines

Liam Wright is not one to blow his own trumpet but the Forrest Hill teenager admits to being “very happy” at being named junior champion of champions – for a third time in a row – at the New Zealand Brass Band Championships.

The 18-year-old former Westlake Boys High School student has been a member of North Shore Brass since he was just 13. He is studying at the University of Auckland for a performance degree on trumpet, with the aim of making music his career.

“The goal is definitely to become a soloist, or a principal player in an orchestra or brass band,” he says.

But it was on cornet that he scored his individual three-peat at the championships held in Wellington last weekend. First he won the section title for that instrument, then he competed against other brass and percussion section winners for the overall junior title. An individual choice piece he played was also named best overall.

The next day Wright lined up with the

A-grade band – which includes his mother on flugelhorn and his father as principal trombone player – and it came second.

It was a similar scenario for tenor horn player Murray Borthwick who first won the masters section, for players 55 and over, and then took out the senior champion of champions title. He too played in the A-grade band final, which was won by Wellington Brass.

North Shore Brass president Owen Melhuish said Borthwick – who spent many years living in the UK and playing with top bands there – had brought his skills back home. His supreme individual title was reward for consistency, after having been runner-up or third several times over the last five years.

The championships delivered the organisation’s best results in more than 10 years, he said. For the first time the A-grade band had won the own choice award. It would keep building for the elusive overall title.

Melhuish said it was especially pleasing

that the D-grade Academy band, comprising mostly students, had won its division. “That’s our breeding ground for people coming through,” he said.

They include Wright, who was just an eight-year-old when he first went to the band’s Takapuna clubrooms. At high school he played in Westlake’s concert and jazz bands and its orchestra. Although brass bands have been his primary focus, next semester he has been selected as principal trumpet player in the university orchestra.

Wright explains that the cornet and the slightly longer trumpet are similar instruments, but he loves the vibrato tones of the cornet. It is a brass-band staple, with the louder trumpet also used in orchestras and jazz ensembles. “The difference is its lovely mellow sound,” he says.

When he graduates, Europe beckons for top-level experience. He has been encouraged by the band’s Belgian-born conductor of North Shore Brass, Harmen Vanhorne, himself a top cornet player internationally.

Shore yachties medal twice in Europe as run of form continues

North Shore yachties George Lee Rush and Seb Menzies’ golden European summer continued with a medal at the Youth Sailing World Championships in Holland last week.

The duo, both aged 17, came third in the 29er category at the youth worlds after winning two earlier 29er regattas, at Kiel Week in Germany last month, and then the European championships in Copenhagen.

The pair went into the final youth world’s race with a chance of winning gold but got caught up in a pile-up on the start line, with

their main rivals sailing away. They finished the race in 20th in the 24-boat fleet and looked out of the medals. But they ended up taking bronze on a count back after coming third equal.

Menzies and Lee Rush were looking at the European Championships as a training regatta ahead of the youth worlds in The Hague, but ended up winning by some margin.

The pair are now planning a switch to the 49er class where weights are generally around 155-160kg per pair. “We’re still growing so we should move into that range,” Lee Rush said.

Briefs

Cemetery heritage nod

O'Neills Point Cemetery in Bayswater has been recognised as a Category 1 Historic Place. The cemetery contains the graves of many early settlers from the wider Milford, Takapuna and Devonport peninsula area, including the O'Neills, who gifted the land, and an early missionary family, the Poyntons. It is also an important military cemetery, including graves of Pacific Island soldiers who were encamped at Narrow Neck. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga advised Auckland Council that the designation would take effect from this week.

Sunnynook slow-down

The Sunnynook School area 30km/h speed zone will take effect from 28 July. Signs are already up, but will remain covered until the new limit is applied. Some in the community had wanted Auckland Transport to include more streets in the reduction, including through the main shopping centre. Roads covered are: Juniper Rd, Tonkin Dr, Trinidad Rd, Lyford Cres, Wylie Ave, Heather Pl, Jonathan Pl, Sequoia Pl, Datura Pl, Kerria Pl, Erica Rd and Cassia Pl.

Cafes open and shut

A cafe training young people with intellectual or learning disabilities for the workforce is set to open in Takapuna next week. Flourish Cafe, in the former Como St Cafe premises, is an initiative of the Project Employ charity. Trainees, who may have conditions such as dyslexia, autism or high anxiety, have six-month training blocks. Meanwhile, popular Milford eatery Stanley's cafe, temporarily closed from Monday, to combat Covid and keep staff and customers safe. It also shut for a time in March.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained



Hanging about... Patrick Marriott dangles from a tree after a rope-tying and swing-building exercise for Milford Sea Scouts, with fellow 17-year-old Venturer Henry Croft (left) and Rangitoto Zone leader Alfred Reynolds. The display at Milford Reserve was a recruitment drive with Croft, aged 17, saying scouts offered many things to try.



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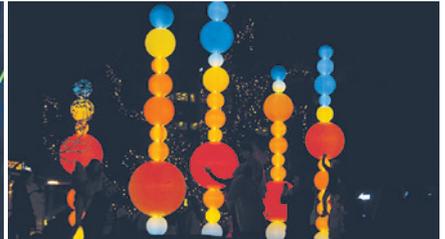
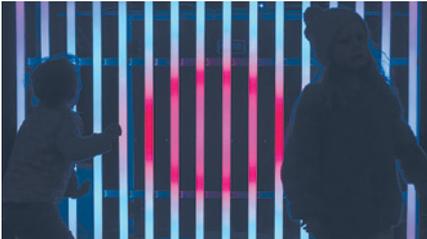
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WINTRY SPELL HIGHLIGHTS SERVICED APARTMENT COMFORTS AT WILLIAM SANDERS VILLAGE

As the temperatures drop to chilly winter levels, William Sanders Sales Advisors Scott Bremner and Dell Smythe have noticed a corresponding trend in the opposite direction.

“We have noticed a really big upturn in serviced apartment inquiry this winter,” says Scott.

“People are looking at their cold, old homes and comparing them to here where you’ve got double glazing, heating, it’s all brand new and there’s a lovely atmosphere – for many it means enjoying the perks of companionship with new friends to dine with instead of eating alone!

“And not forgetting that with our serviced apartments the power is included in the fixed base weekly fee, it’s not an additional cost. You’ve also got underfloor heating in the bathrooms so they’re really warm and toasty and dry.”

Adds Dell: “And we take care of the maintenance, so you don’t have to worry about window cleaning and gutters and all that sort of stuff!”



Winter has brought great interest in serviced apartments, say Dell and Scott

The earlier you get in the more choices you have, says Dell.

“Making a decision now ensures you get the best choice of aspect and price. We still have a range of serviced apartments available from \$480,000.”

It’s a similar story for independent apartments, with 80 percent of them already sold. There is only one three-bedroom apartment left in the village, so now is not the time to hesitate, they say.

“We’re urging people if they’re thinking about it to inquire now. There are only 39 independent apartments left, including the final stage on Lake Road, so do it now,”

says Scott, who adds that with prices from \$890,000, the cost is competitive.

To help with the decision-making process and to give potential residents a sneak peek into village life, the pair has started an exclusive new initiative called Lunch with Dell and Scott, with the first menu boasting a delicious roast lamb with basil and mint pesto or vegetarian moussaka rounded off with a tasty lemon cheesecake.

“We’re sending the invitations to the people on the database,” says Dell. “People can come in and dine with us then have a tour of the village to see what it’s like and get a feel of things.”

“We’re really excited about it, it’s going to be great!” adds Scott.

With village activities kicking back into gear again, both say they have noticed a new buzz around the place which has been delightful to see.

Says Scott: “We’ve had some really good events, such as the Royal Artillery Band, and then Jim Joll at Happy Hour the other night. Everyone was dancing and I even got to see Dell boogieing away!

“There’s a different energy here, it’s really positive and great, it’s been quite freeing,” admits Dell.

“Since Covid the village is coming back to life and feeling much more active, and just being able to dance and sing has been lovely.

Another success story was the recent village craft market with all manner of goodies on sale, ranging from knitting, plants, upcycled jeans, repurposed linen and even a handmade rug made by resident Vic which he donated for the raffle.

“They made \$4,000 which is going to this year’s Ryman charity, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand,” says Dell.

There is plenty coming up on the calendar too.

New residents are treated to a welcome afternoon tea to help forge some new friendships, and the village team makes a big fuss of residents’ birthdays each month.

There will be open days in August, followed by an information presentation in September, and later in the year, the village will once again be taking part in the much-anticipated Homes of Devonport Tour.

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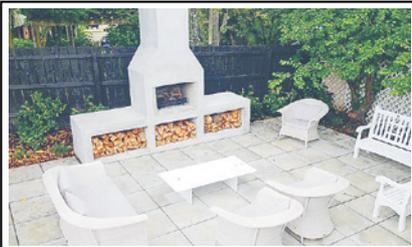
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Ramraiders target more stores

The overnight ramraid of a Lake Rd liquor store in Takapuna on Friday 8 July was followed three days later by a similar attack on a Belmont dairy. Both incidents involved young people using a vehicle to break into the premises before fleeing in two stolen vehicles.

The Elizabeth Dairy raid occurred several kilometres of Takapuna south on the same road just after midnight on Monday 11 July. Its shocked owners who were upstairs at the time, raised the alarm. Police tracked the vehicles by Eagle helicopter across the Harbour Bridge. They were stopped separately in St Johns and Manukau, leading to the arrests of 10 people in total, aged 12 to 17.

A duty manager at Thirsty Liquor, Amiteshwar Singh, said it was a good thing the liquor store was hit just after 2am, after staff had locked up and left for the night. "From what I know it was more than 10 people, girls and guys included."

Only a small amount of liquor was taken.



But Singh said the smashed front window and broken bottles had left a mess, which all added costs to the business.

"It's happening everywhere at the moment," he said. The store had not experienced such a crime before, but these raids were now coming to the North Shore, he said.

Police say they are still investigating the Thirsty Liquor burglary. They recovered one stolen vehicle.

The recent raids follow a brazen daylight robbery at Michael Hill Jeweller on Hurstmere Rd in mid-June. This has resulted in an arrest for receiving, with the case still open.

Traffic management costs bite buzzing centre's event plans

The cost of closing roads has led to the end of traditional street festivals in Milford.

The manager of the Milford Business Association, Murray Hill, told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board the next 12 months would see changes in its community events. Viva La France and Pirate Market Day would return in a different form. A wine and food festival would replace pirate day, although the pirate theme would be kept for children's activities and the French day would be scaled back off Kitchener Rd, with stalls kept to footpaths.

"Closing the roads is just a no-no now,

but we'll still keep the French flavour," Hill said. After the meeting, he said the \$15,000 cost of traffic plans to close roads was prohibitive. "The cost is just phenomenal."

Dates and details are still to be finalised, but he promised they would still be fun days.

Meanwhile, Milford led Auckland's town centres in the amount of retail spending for the month of May, Hill said.

Hill said it continued to weather the storm of Covid-19 storm well.

The board area's combined centres were fourth for spend overall in the year to May, behind the CBD, Albany, and Manukau.

Working from home hits shops

The working-from-home trend is affecting the Takapuna economy, its business association chief executive says.

Terence Harpur told a Local Board workshop that Takapuna was weathering the change – and other Covid impacts – harder than other centres. "We don't have big supermarkets to hold up our consumer spending," he said.

Foot traffic was down. Takapuna was set up to have thousands of workers coming in every day, "and we're just not seeing that".

He urged the board to keep pushing Auckland Transport not to make mooted changes that would see more car parks lost, saying this would further hurt businesses.

"You'll notice on a Monday, on Friday, there is more space available. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, there's much less space available, but as this recovery rolls through we'll need that," Harpur said.

More than 85 per cent of people into the area were doing so by private vehicles,

underlining the need for parking.

Harpur listed a busy programme of events planned for the next 12 months, including Christmas Carnival on 3 December, then next year Summer Days Festival, Latin Fiesta, Easter Carnival and another edition of Takapuna Winter Lights Festival.

In a statement put out several days after he spoke to the board, Harpur said that in spite of a recent high-profile robbery at Michael Hill jewellery store last month, the retail mood in Takapuna was becoming more positive. Comparing March and May sales data showed a 12.7 per cent overall improvement, double the increase across the rest of the Auckland region. Hospitality spend was up nearly 23 per cent.

"We are on a long road to recovery with things generally getting better." More people were about and the area was developing, although business remained challenging.

Real estate firms reported interest in new commercial and retail leases, he said.



Helping hands... Rodrigo Vidal (above left) and Samuel Ong, both from Takapuna, with Rob High (rear) from Devonport take a break at the community garden site next to Toka Puia car park. Andrew Mackenzie (at right) weeds a raised bed

Takapuna community garden finds a temporary home

A vacant plot of land sandwiched between the Toka Puia car park and another large building in Huron St, Takapuna, is being transformed into a community garden.

Raised beds are on site and a first working bee has been held, but the dream of creating a green oasis is some way away. Garden champion and local resident Andrew Mackenzie says the site is a temporary answer to his quest for a permanent home for a garden which he believes the intensifying area will come to appreciate.

Council property arm Panuku has made the site available and provided the planter boxes from other projects. “We hope to build it up. It’s been in the works for three or four months,” said Mackenzie.

He and his helpers hope residents of nearby apartments will join them in transforming what for now is a barren and bumpy piece of land into an inviting spot to stop for a chat.

Lockdown gave early indication the demand is there, with an unofficial garden springing up on council land by an apartment building on the corner of Anzac St. At its height up to 30 people were involved in the garden plots, tending plants and

vegetables. But gaining official permission to continue to use the site was a daunting process.

Because he knew some of the people involved and had experience in setting up community gardens elsewhere in the city, Mackenzie, a structural engineer, became involved to see if he could help. He spoke with the people behind the Forrest Hill Community Garden who spent several years setting up a trust and making a case to obtain Local Board permission to occupy a section of Seine Reserve for their now fruitful project.

In time, Mackenzie wants to follow their example to gain a long-term lease, but for now he says Panuku’s offer will do nicely in testing the waters to prove interest. With more people, like himself, living in apartments and townhouses, he says the demand for shared spaces will only increase.

The social aspect is also important, he says, pointing to the Anzac St guerrilla garden as a place where friendships were made, including a group of six women who formed a walking group that has continued.

During the first working bee this month with a small group of helpers, Mackenzie

said passersby showed plenty of interest in what they were doing. He hopes to harness this and would love to see residents of high-rises such as the Sentinel take up the chance to get their fingers in the soil.

The intention is to move the larger planters to the rear of the site. The smaller ones will form a decorative frontage and their are two containers on site for storage. The plan is for produce to be shared rather than the site housing individual allotment beds.

Panuku is also considering using the space – surplus to the car-park construction – for other activities, such as art displays or passive recreation. It is looking at hosting a workshop with community groups to discuss ideas at a date yet to be set.

“The aim is for this to be not just a garden, but a community pop-up activation space,” said Mackenzie. He would like to see murals on the surrounding walls.

In time Panuku may sell the land, but for now Mackenzie says it is great that instead of it being left unused something good can flourish on it.

•To find out about the garden and other site plans email 14hurontakapuna@gmail.com

Adoption saga full of uncanny twists that lead back to Shore

A 20-year journey of tracing her birth family to the North Shore – where she lived for many years – has seen a former Milford resident return to the suburb to launch her memoir.

“It’s been a very convoluted process,” Liz Holsted says. “You see these programmes on television – it’s not like that at all if you’re doing it by yourself.”

“I decided as part of what I was doing to write it all down.”

This eventually led to her writing *The Stringing of Pearls*.

“While it started as a family thing, it has finished as an expose really on adoption, and it was very cathartic for me to write it because it helped me put it all into sequence.”

It was difficult to get access to the paperwork about her past, she says. It was as if she was asking for something that wasn’t hers.

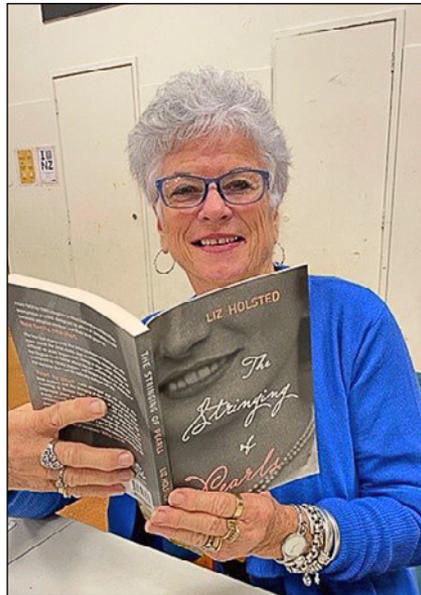
And finally seeing those papers – signed by her birth parents to allow for her adoption – was quite emotional.

The narrative is not as complete as she would like, but apart from speaking to a newfound cousin, it’s as complete as it can be.

“My daughter rang me after she’d read it and said, ‘Mum, that was pretty cool but there’s still gaps.’ And I went, yes, there is, and there’s nothing I can do about that because the people have passed away; the record had been burnt in one instance.”

Adopted as a newborn, Holsted, now 70, says she had a lovely upbringing in Three Kings. Her parents had always been upfront with her about her adoption, but her research caused her to suddenly make connections.

“I understood where this man came from



Life’s journey... Liz Holsted has found memoir writing cathartic

that used to visit – he was the conduit,” she says.

She also had spiritual experiences. “You know how kids have imaginary friends that they play with? My imaginary friend was Pamela; I remember playing with Pamela, and it must have freaked Mum out, because my birth name that was given to me in the maternity hospital was Pamela.”

“How did I connect that? That’s in my brain somewhere.”

While she has lived in Mangawhai for some time, Holsted says she’s a “Shore girl” and her son and daughter are “Shore kids”.

The family lived in Milford for many years, and it transpired that her birth parents also lived on the Shore – they possibly unknowingly passed each other in the dairy.

“When I met my husband, we were living in Devonport. We were literally around the corner from my birth family.”

Over the years, Holsted has worked as a nurse, in sales management and owned her own events management company, which she sold when she and husband Les moved north.

Now retired, she’s a gardener, a traveller, and a doting grandmother of four.

She’s also writing another memoir, this one focused on her travel experiences.

After her research she was able to build a relationship with her birth brother on the Sunshine Coast.

He’s getting married in October and “he’s asked me to be his best man”.

Another birth brother has died, but she remains close to her sister, her adoptive parents’ only biological child.

“I’ve always been a writer so it was really funny to find my birth family is full of writers and journalists.”

She has also inherited her birth family’s love of music.

Because of her Milford connections and sense of belonging she held the launch of her memoir among friends in the suburb.

The Stringing of Pearls is available through Chooice, a Kiwi creators’ platform, through her publisher at lifestories.co.nz, or through contacting Holsted at info@taralodge.co.nz.

“I’m just really grateful for getting the chance to put it out there,” she says.

Write to the Observer

We welcome letters. Please limit to 300 words on local topics. Noms de plume or unnamed letters will not be printed. Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz or write to Letters, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.



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NORTH HARBOUR CHAMPIONS



Top performance... Bryn Gatland bloodied and bruised clutches his winner's medal after scoring the match winning try and all bar five of his team's 29 points



Gatland stars as Takapuna take title

Star Takapuna first-five Bryn Gatland had a sense of relief after his side's 29-19 win over North Shore at North Harbour stadium.

"Its my fourth final – I've been on the losing team in three – so it was great to get this one across the line."

Gatland, a North Harbour representative and professional player with the Chiefs super rugby franchise, missed most of the

club season. But he returned for the North Harbour championship semi-final and the final, in which he scored a try, two conversions and five penalties for a personal tally of 24 points.

The 2022 final, played on Saturday 16 July, was a torrid match and Gatland had the battle scars on his face to prove it.

It was Takapuna's first Premier 1 champi-

onship win since 2009 and the 13th overall.

"The match was played with a lot of passion – from both sides," said Gatland. "These are the guys who work during the day, and turn out every Tuesday and Thursday night for training... they're committed," he said.

"The club has been very good to me and I was stoked to be able to play the last two matches."



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PREMIER ONE 2022 CHAMPIONS

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Toasting success... The championship-winning Takapuna team and whanau celebrate, with the premier one cup held aloft by injured player and assistant coach Shane Neville

Winning warriors

Team:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Teancum Kahaki | 6. Martin Brink | 11. Tika Lelega | 16. David Hafoka | 21. Jack Heighton |
| 2. David Meki | 7. Tamarau McGahan | 12. Jordan Hyland | 17. Siosuia Tonga | 22. Taufui Lolohea |
| 3. Brad Leuila | 8. Hauwai McGahan | 13. Fine Inisi | 18. Brandon Payne | |
| 4. Jamie Winks | 9. Willy Unga | 14. Tseard van Der Mei | 19. Scotty Houston | |
| 5. Harison Mataeae | 10. Bryn Gatland | 15. Danyon Morgan-Puterangi | 20. Talimoni Finau | |

Coch: Aaron Katipa. **Assistant coaches:** Paul Feeney, Corey Aporo, Shane Neville. **Manager:** Aaron Ewing.
Assistant manager: Fraser Brown. **Ball kids:** Jake Ewing, Rico Mataia and Jacob Waters.

NORTH HARBOUR CHAMPIONS



12 from 12 in run-up to finals glory

Takapuna was undefeated in 2022, winning all 12 matches in pool play. It then beat Northcote 55-5 in the semi-final and North Shore 29-19 in the final.

It is Takapuna's 13th North Harbour championship, although its first since 2009. The premiers were runners-up in 2016, 2017 and 2021.

	Barfoot & Thompson Takapuna	29
	Harcourts Cooper & Co North Shore	19
	0:00	

NORTH HARBOUR CHAMPIONS

Takapuna steel holds firm in furious final



Crunch time... hard-hitting Takapuna centre Fine Inisi lines up North Shore winger Reid Cooke at Albany, while (below) fullback Danyon Morgan-Puterangi attempts to crash through a tackle



Top matches... Jack Heighton (above); and (below) Jordan Hyland wrong footing the defence

Takapuna's 2002 North Harbour premiership win was more than a decade in the making.

Coach Aaron Katipa said his relationship with "many of the boys" dated back to junior club days, then fostering them through the Westlake Boys 1st XV when he was coached at the school and then into Takapuna Premiers.

Some of the players had been in the losing Takapuna finals sides in 2016 and 2017 and many had suffered defeat again last season in a nail-biting 12-11 loss to North Shore.

But after an unbeaten 2022 season and a 55-5 win over Northcote in the semifinals, Takapuna came into the final as hot favourites.

But the match – played in front of more than 3000 fans at North Harbour stadium – proved a true final. For much of the time it was anyone's game, with momentum swinging to and fro.

Takapuna started strongly. With a try by Jordan Hyland and goals by Bryn Gatland it led 13-3 after 25 minutes and looked on the verge of running away with the game.

North Shore's forwards came back strongly and dominated territory, allowing Oscar Koller to knock over a couple of penalties to close the gap to 13-9 at halftime. Gatland kicked another penalty after the break, but the sinbining of Takapuna hooker David Meki for a no-arms tackle four minutes in threatened to blow the game apart. After a series of strong drives, Shore winger Reid Cooke scored under the posts and the match was locked at 16-16. Koller kicked another penalty and 10 minutes into the second half Shore was ahead 19-16.

Takapuna wasn't prepared to let its season slip. Emptying its subs-bench, it cut down its errors and hardened up on defence.

In something of a surprise move, Jack



Heighton, usually a five-eighth, replaced Willy Unga at halfback. He combined brilliantly with Gatland, choosing options well and tackling ferociously around the fringes. It was a Heighton blindside break which set up Gatland's try, which with the conversion gave the Blue and Golds a 23-19 lead.

Shore wasn't finished though and with 15 minutes to play it was held up over the line. But a number of the Shore attacks ended in dropped passes. Gatland kicked two close-range penalties in quick succession to close out the match 29-19.

In the end Takapuna probably showed the most composure in the key moments of the second half.

After the match Katipa was delighted with his team's effort, praising the whole squad who



had played over the season, some of whom – such as first-five Jackson Rainsford – had stepped down to make way for returning Super Rugby players including Gatland and centre Fine Inisi, in the finals' matches.

"We always expected a tough match from Shore and that is what we got," Katipa said. "It was a great spectacle for the crowd."

The bench made the difference, he said. "All of our bench could have started – the fresh legs meant we finished strongly."

The team had played for each other, with many having been team-mates for years. For example, Katipa had selected Heighton as a halfback while he was still at school.

Katipa's player of the match was second-five Jordan Hyland. "He does so much for us both on and off the ball."



Fanfare... With the North Harbour 2022 rugby championship secured it's time for hugs between (clockwise from top left), Meleane Hafoka congratulating Tika Lelenga; Talimoni Finau, with partner Grace, six-month-old son Kingston and the championship cup; and Takapuna coach Aaron Katipa (far left) showing relief and delight with Baylee Katipa

Boys in blue and gold enjoy fans' acclaim



All smiles... the Takapuna team after the final



Busy bees... Year 11 Westlake Boys students (from left) Gurjat Singh, Genzui Kudo, Daniel Barnett and Sam Anayin infused honey with lemon for a tasty spread. A cut of sales was donated to Starship.

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Enterprising students set up stalls at school

A market day at Westlake Boys High School gave its Year 11 business students a real-world experience of selling products they developed as part of course work.

With stalls set up on a Saturday morning leading into the end of term, the students gained extra customers from a big crowd attending a 1st XV game at midday.

Food proved a popular buy. Other items included school-branded soaps, novelty candles, kombucha and iced-coffee drinks, along with goods suitable for gift-giving that were able to be sold at premium prices.

“We wanted to do something unique,” said Jian Mar, who tapped into his mother’s knowledge of aromatherapy for a botanical range. A vanilla body scrub was a top-seller.

Teams from three classes had to develop business plans to make and market products. Their work will be assessed as part of their Level 1 performance. Teacher Christel Labuschagne said it was the second time an on-site market had been held. The learning experience would help the students for next year, when some would go on to sell their products at external markets.

“The quality of products brought to the market showed some that would do very well,” she said.

Student William Peppers said the fun day gave a good insight into selling skills.



Gift givers... Jayden Kim and Jian Mar displayed their Nourish body oils, scrubs and aromatherapy rollers to reflect botanical influences. Others also picked up on market trends for natural, organic goods.



It’s a cinch... Liam Murdoch and William Peppers sold out of bead surf bracelets, but also had string ones



Sweet treats... Porter Eddy offered cupcakes and gluten-free items at his cake stall, while (below, from left) Jonathan Teng, Oscar Bentley and Shashen Wijesena tempt with their last doughnut





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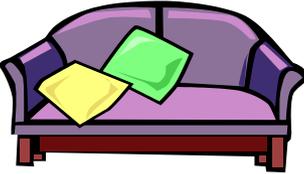
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Rosmini 1st XI raring to carry on from perfect run



Members of Rosmini College’s 1st XI cannot wait for Term 3 to start so they can resume what has been a blistering run so far this football season. After winning 12 from 12 games in the AI Auckland league – scoring 45 goals and conceding seven – the team has reached the semi-finals of the Auckland region knockout cup. It will play Macleans College next Wednesday, 27 July. For the first time in 36 years the team has also

qualified to play later in the national tournament. It is coached by Callum Simmonds, a Rosmini old boy, and it is managed by Bojan Stanojevic. Players are (top row, from left): Josh Wadsworth, Everton O’Leary, Jack Gillum, Brendan Afield, Jack McEwan, Josh Letting, Liam Playfair, Niko Elie and Dylan Sakinkaya with (sitting in bottom row) Zac Gabriel, Oliver Gabriel, Curtis Hughes, Will Lundy, James Marshall and Yilin Lin.



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Playing for laughs bewitches actor in classic comedy

Making kids laugh with the “mayhem” of *Badjelly the Witch* is a favourite part of the production for Devonport actor Kat Glass.

It’s her fifth time performing with the Tim Bray Theatre Company and she says she loves it.

Many Kiwi children grew up with the story of Tim and Rose’s madcap adventure through the great black forest, and into *Badjelly’s* castle. They get involved in the show, Glass says, yelling out to characters that “Badjelly is behind you.”

Being part of a cast of 10 playing 40 characters, it is chaos backstage, she says. But the sound of laughter filters through.

“Kids are the most honest audience that you’ll ever have as a performer. You’ll know if they’re bored; you’ll know if they’re having a great time.”

Glass has three roles in the play: Daddy, Binklebonk and Dinglemouse, with the last her favourite. He used to be a banana before Badjelly turned him into a mouse.

“Dinglemouse is a puppet and he’s very naughty. He’s just a funny little guy and I love having fun with him.”

Everyone, not just kids, should see *Badjelly*, she reckons. “I think as a community we’re due for a laugh.”

Glass, from Glenfield, loves working with Tim Bray, with the company including children from low socio-economic backgrounds and with disabilities. “It’s a lot of kids’ introductions to theatre and storytelling.”

Her theatre experience is much wider than Spike Milligan’s bewitching tale. Her independent te reo short film – part of a sustainability series called “*Someday Stories*” from emerging filmmakers – is soon to be released. She also stars in her own sci-fi thriller *ALONE*, which won Best Theatre and a Tour Ready Award at the Auckland Fringe Festival, and is set for the Sydney Fringe Festival later this year. She says it’s a



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROWLAND/ONE-IMAGE.COM

Fishing for compliments... Kat Glass as ‘Daddy’ in *Badjelly the Witch* with Lucas Haugh as Tim at the PumpHouse Theatre.

drama about feminism, climate change and David Bowie, and she plays an astronaut.

“Acting is one of those things that you can only do, and should only do, if you can’t imagine doing anything else,” says

the 32-year-old, whose husband also acts and directs. “It should be joyful.”

Badjelly plays at the PumpHouse, Takapuna, until 23 July, and then heads to the Mangere Arts Centre from 26-30 July.

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

A mid-winter mystery thriller

27 JULY -
7 AUGUST
2022

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Chill in the air and thrill at the theatre

The tradition of a midwinter murder mystery continues at Takapuna’s PumpHouse Theatre this month.

Shoreside Theatre company will stage Agatha Christie’s *An Unexpected Guest*, from 27 July until 7 August.

“It’s a really intriguing story,” says director James Bell. “Usually with Agatha Christie you either have to work out who’s going to die or who the killer is, but in the first half a page of this story you know who’s dead and who’s killed them.”

The cast comes from all over Auckland, with Bell, who is moving to Milford, and costume designer Ara Harrison-Sparke, from Forrester Hill, flying the local flag.

Bell says it hasn’t been plain sailing staging the show, with about half the cast having already had Covid-19 during rehearsals.

“We were incredibly lucky last year that we got through a full season of *The Mousetrap* before the big lockdown,” he said.

“My advice to my cast is to try and be a bit boring for the next few weeks. Maybe stay at home and try not to do too much.”

He’s also cautioning them to cut back on the post-show hugs. Shoreside’s season of Shakespeare in the Park earlier this year just broke even financially after a suspected Covid outbreak in the final week led to some shows being cancelled.

A midwinter murder mystery is becoming a tradition for Shoreside, Bell says. “For a long time now, it seems, we’ve just found that people are really keen to come out and see a good old-fashioned murder mystery.”

First night is sold out, but other tickets are available online from the PumpHouse.



Youth board cashed-up and keen to help creatives

Art is a key focus for youth leaders of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area this year.

Younite, the youth board for the area, is a group of 15 young people, most still at school, who organise events, approve grants and advocate for the youth voice on topics from climate change to public transport.

They plan an exhibition and concert aimed at young creatives at Lake House Arts Centre, after its manager, Grae Burton, offered the use of the venue. A date is yet to be confirmed, but it may take place in the October school holidays.

“We’ve focused quite a lot of things around art this year,” said Younite co-chair Henry Pilder, 17. “We have quite a few artists who are members of Younite. We just feel like there’s not enough resources in our community.”

The creatives in the group find it difficult to find opportunities, which perhaps exist but are not well-known, Pinder says. “We wanted to have opportunities for funding for that as well, so that young creatives weren’t limited by cost or financial barriers.”

Younite, which gets Local Board backing, also has funds it can allocate direct to youth as well as for events. It has two individual grants of \$700 available and a group grant of \$1400, for young artists or entrepreneurs.

The board this month agreed to support Younite activities with \$10,000 next year.

Group member Mea Van Rooyen, 17, said the grants were an amazing opportunity. “It’s quite a lot of money that we are giving out to people.” To be in the running, applicants had to be aged 14-24 and propose a project, connected to the Devonport-Takapuna community, to run for three months.

Anyone interested can contact Younite: younitechair@gmail.com.

Other upcoming activities include a high tea for queer youth at the Milford Cruising Club this week, with Northcote MP Shanan Halbert as guest speaker, with a \$3 entry fee going to the OUTline support line; and a campaign to educate young people about local body elections.



Diverse outlook... Mea Van Rooyen and Henry Pilder, both aged 17, are part of Younite which offers fresh views on local issues

Summer fun activities in parks planned

Mud pies, gymnastics and kite-flying are on the summer agenda for local families.

Auckland Council is planning a range of free activity days from December to April in the Devonport-Takapuna area, with the Local Board chipping in \$20,000.

Parks to host events include Sylvan Park, Greville Reserve, Kennedy Park, Milford Beach, and Sunnynook reserves.

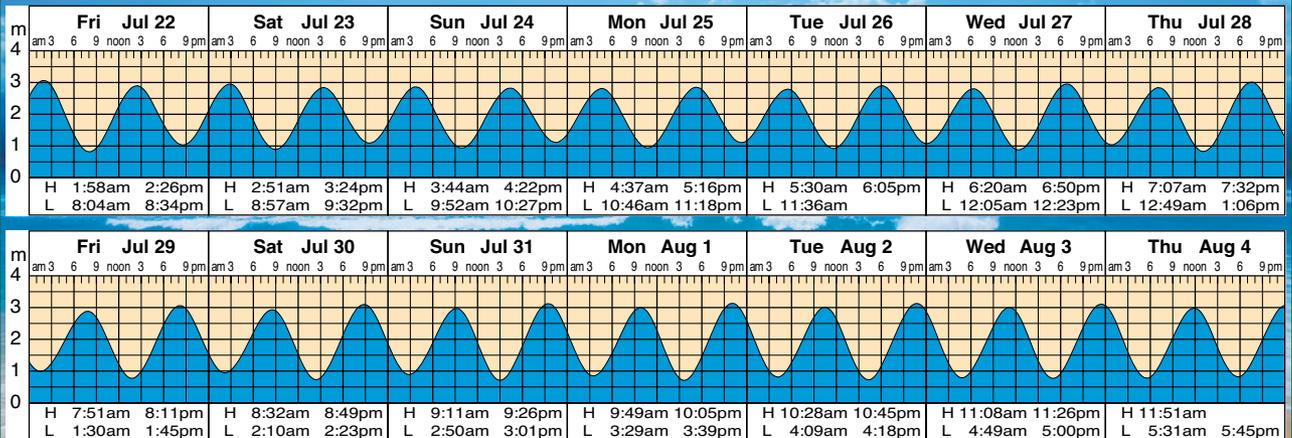
On the draft list are creating with clay

and playdough, building a cardboard playground, outdoor games and puzzles, an obstacle course, gymnastics, kite-making, a girls-only skate clinic, and hungerball, played on an inflatable court.

Learning about waka and trying kayaking are also on the agenda for Takapuna Beach.

The board will approve the final programme and locations later in the year.

Milford / Takapuna Tides





Print pals... Landon Pye, 8, shows the poster he made at Takapuna Library on a press dating to 1833, owned by printer Graham Judd (rear), who, with children’s librarian Sinead McAteer, set it rolling



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Tricks of an old trade passed onto a new generation

A printing press almost 200 years old was a hit with children who put their names on Matariki posters they helped make at Takapuna Library.

The 1833 Albion press, owned by former printer Graham Judd, is usually at Birkenhead Library but he took it on the road for the school holidays. Judd created the layout of a Matariki poster using metal type of the sort once used for books and newspapers.

The poster included the names of the nine stars in the cluster, with each child able to add their own name to the display.

"I'm a printer by trade and I love doing this for educational things," Judd said.

Children's librarian Sinead McAteer said the posters proved popular, with more than 30 children stopping by at each session held.

They enjoyed helping to work the press. "Everyone's had such a nice two days."

Judd said the press had required a few modifications to get it working. It weighs half a tonne and has its own specially-built trailer for him to take it on "adventures".

The Albion press was invented by Richard Whittaker Cope of London. The date of the invention is not known, but the first record of the press dates from 1822, when some of the machines were exported to France.

Judd did his printing apprenticeship in the 1960s, then moved away from the trade. But he now runs classes through his business, Inkiana Press.



Type cast... Emma Zhao, 8, helps set up metal type to be placed in forms ready for hand-cranked printing

Hotel hosts exhibition

Paintings in the Spencer on Byron Hotel foyer in Takapuna are part of the Lake House Arts Centre's satellite exhibitions to get more art into the community.

The collection includes nature pieces by Karen Cullen, such as birds and plants, and fluid abstract acrylics by Rose-Mary Read, inspired by the water. The exhibition runs until 17 August.



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