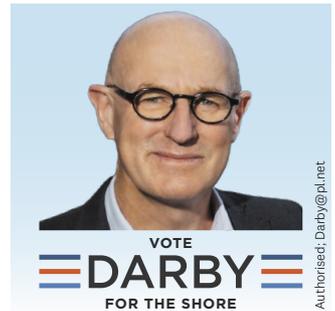


The Rangitoto Observer

Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 91 - Sept 30, 2022 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE



Local election candidates have their say, p5-9

All Blacks, Silver Fern give bowls a go... p16-17

Whale Rider show aided by local's insight... p23

Flawed street-trial ideas live on in new plan

Eke Panuku plans to spend up to \$3 million to make permanent some of the features of a much-derided trial aimed at slowing traffic and encouraging pedestrians along two Takapuna streets.

Initially, work will focus on Northcroft St, with Huron St to follow. Gone from the final design will be the giant blue-and-white

striped planter pots and dead palms that have drawn criticism, along with the blue road and footpath paint.

Nine of 20 Northcroft St car parks will be removed under the plan, including from outside the Automobile Association (AA) office.

The Northcroft St changes to the \$400,000 Innovating Streets trial will adopt the more

-muted colour palette used on Huron St, Eke Panuku told the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board at a workshop this month.

Board chair Ruth Jackson described the exercise to date as "an absolute devastating waste of public money".

"I could count on the fingers of one hand the people who had something **To page 2**

Community cop speed cams young runners



Caught on camera... Community constable Glenda Peri uses a police speed camera for sprint tests at the Takapuna Athletics Club's open day, with Halem Cressler one of the faster of many children to give it a go. The appearance of two Games medallists was another drawcard, see pages 11-13.

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From page 1

good to say. The rest were overwhelmingly negative about the waste of ratepayer and taxpayer money.”

Eke Panuku’s northern priority location director, Kate Cumberpatch, acknowledged “learnings” from the trial. “A lot of the trees in those planters were damaged by the wind – especially on Northcroft St,” she said. Hardier varieties would be chosen.

The nationwide Innovating Streets trial was paid for by Waka Kotahi, drawing on central-government funds. But Auckland Council’s Eke Panuku will shell out for the permanent work. This will include wider pavements, narrower roads rather than chicanes tested on Huron St, and raised pedestrian crossings. New street furniture similar to that installed on Hurstmere Rd would be added.

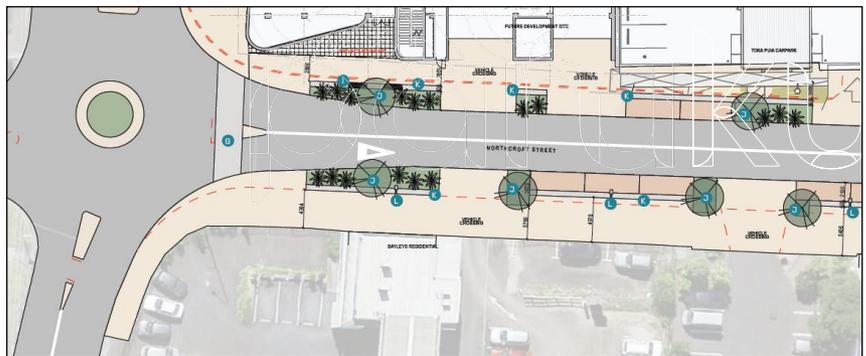
The work on Northcroft St is expected to be done by mid-2023.

Huron St would not get its permanent makeover until stormwater issues were addressed, Cumberpatch said. Doing one street at a time would also minimise disruption.

More consultation with local businesses and the public would be undertaken and feedback from the board sought on the best permanent options, she said.

Board members were quick to point out that the public had been left largely unimpressed by the trial measures despite a co-design approach started in late 2020.

New street plan will cost up to \$3m



Design changes... Plans for Northcroft St, seen from the Auburn St roundabout end, show a narrowed entry with rumble strip, and wider pavements

Outcry at the results forced Eke Panuku a year later to restore some of the parks it initially removed from outside businesses on Huron St.

Plants that succumbed last summer for lack of water were another complaint, as was slippery blue paint.

A pergola with seating on Huron St, offering little shelter and high concrete benches, was little used.

Board member Trish Deans asked if the palm stalks could be removed. “They’re an embarrassment.”

Jan O’Connor said discussions should have been held with the AA about new plans to remove parks outside its premises.

Cumberpatch said this would be done.

Parking and loading zones would be kept opposite, she said. This had come out of useful discussions with Sentinel apartment residents.

Toni van Tonder said loss of parking was a big concern to businesses. While nearby Hurstmere Rd was an excellent example of urban planning and design, the challenge for Panuku was to sell the long-term outcomes of what it was trying to do on Northcroft St.

Cumberpatch said the trial had delivered road speed reduction, but not quite met the 30km/h target of Auckland Transport’s separate Safe Speeds project, being rolled out for the town centre.

Demand for construction inspections still running high

Construction work on the North Shore remains steady, with building inspectors doing more than 100 site visits a day in the Devonport-Takapuna area.

During the building boom of a couple of years ago, wait times were four days.

This was now two days, with next-day visits possible for urgent or necessary work, said Boris Veza, Auckland Council inspections

manager North West, covering Takapuna-Devonport, Orewa and Henderson.

Construction work had slowed with the Covid flow-on effect causing material shortages, but building inspections were steady with no sign of a downturn, Veza said.

While inspectors were moved around the city to meet demand, Takapuna-Devonport generally had 15 to 16 inspectors in the area

each day, Veza said. Each inspector usually did between seven and nine inspections per day.

With infilling, new materials and more stringent building regulations, jobs were a lot more complex, he added.

“Standards are much higher.”

Auckland Council was holding a number of education seminars for North Shore builders.

Westlake makes global rugby top 20

Westlake Boys first XV’s successful 2022 rolls on with its naming as the 20th best college rugby team in the world on international ranking site NextgenXV.

“It was an epic season for the perennial North Harbour champs. A clean sweep with a 12-0 record in their division, the team then followed that up with a fantastic final win over Manurewa 36-24 to book their place in the Blues final,” the website said.

“In what was arguably the shock of the school rugby season in New Zealand, the team went on to defeat Kelston – last year’s global number 1 – in a tightly contested final and qualified for the Top 4 for the first time in their history.”

Westlake recently had five players chosen for the Blues under-18s.

The Rangitoto Observer

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Simon Watts
 MP for North Shore

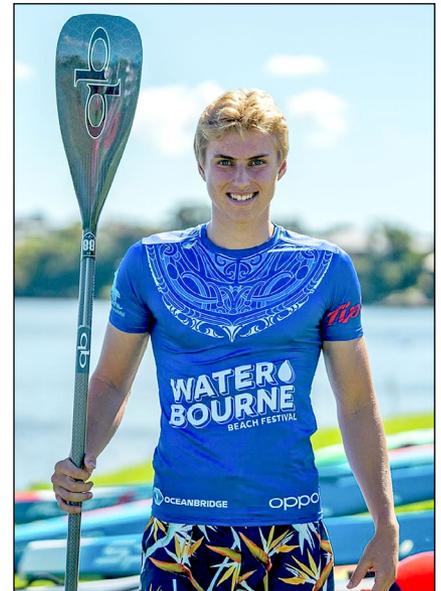
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Takapuna paddle boarders make national side



Takapuna talent... Fergus Dunlop (left) and Joshua Bilyard (above) have been picked in an all-North Shore national paddleboarding team

Two former Westlake Boys High School students have been selected in the New Zealand Stand Up Paddling (SUP) team.

Joshua Bilyard, aged 19, from Milford and Fergus Dunlop, 18, from Takapuna are part of a five-person national team fundraising to head to the International Surfing Association and SUP board World Championships in Puerto Rico late next month.

All of the team members, aged from just 14 to 22, are from the North Shore.

Dunlop and Bilyard, who both left Westlake in 2021, are proud to be representing their country.

Bilyard says he looks forward to having “a crack on the world stage”.

They both started their paddle board racing at 10 years of age, in the Takapuna Beach series.

This led to competing in nationals at U14 and U16 levels, among other events.

The boys credit their fathers for supporting and encouraging them in the sport.

Bilyard and his father used to build boards to catch waves at Orewa Beach, which then progressed into building boards suitable for racing at the Takapuna series.

Dunlop’s dad, Steve, is the president of New Zealand Stand Up Paddling. He puts the North Shore dominance down to the paddleboard-friendly local conditions.

“We are very lucky to have the Hauraki Gulf at our doorstep. Conditions are varied and ideal for paddle racing.”

He also notes that “the group of athletes have benefited from growing up in a strong community of paddlers, with one of the most competitive racing scenes for SUP in the country”.

Both Bilyard and Dunlop make the most of their accessibility to spots such as Takapuna and Mairangi Bay beaches, along with Lake Pupuke, to diversify their training.

Both credit their fitness to other sporting interests, Bilyard’s in surf lifesaving while Dunlop has a background in water polo.

The other team members are Takapuna Grammar School pupil Rosara Davis, aged 14, who lives in Hauraki; former Northcote College student, Maddie McCCasey, 19, and Brianna Orams, 22, from Torbay, who is a former world junior champion.

“This team represents the next generation of athletes and we have high hopes for them,” Steve Dunlop says.

The members are getting their chance to step up, with current national women’s SUP champion Jo Aleh diverted with sailing overseas, and men’s distance champion and Takapuna local Ollie Houghton unavailable to travel.

The young paddlers train mornings and afternoons six days a week, racking up 15-19 hours in total.

To help offset travel costs, a Givealittle page has been set up, raffles run and goods donated by the business community for auction. Information can be found on the team’s Facebook page.

AT urged to look at northern locations for bike hub

Sunnynook, Forrest Hill and Takapuna should be considered for a bike hub, say Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members, in response to proposals from Auckland Transport (AT) to site one in Devonport.

Members want AT to look again at options and to consult the board more closely, after being briefed about a plan to set up in Dacre Park, Lake Rd, as part of an early roll-out of a planned network of community hubs to encourage cycling.

Board member Toni van Tonder said the northern area of the board would have more “bike poverty”.

“To locate it in Devonport is remote from the majority of our population,” said member George Wood.

Devonport, south of Belmont, had around 20 per cent of the board’s population, around 11,500 people, compared with 57,000 elsewhere. Takapuna was also more central. “Please cast the net wider, to cover a wider area.”

Board members were generally supportive of the concept of cycling hubs – housed in containers on public sites to provide repairs and lessons – but they considered Dacre Park was too tucked away.

Van Tonder said she understood Devonport

was being looked at as an easy win, with supportive cycle groups, but it would be good for wider community needs to be weighed.

Wood said areas close to the southern end of Barrys Pt Rd, connecting to cycleways might be good, or Auburn Reserve in Takapuna.

Jan O’Connor insisted Panuku-owned land on Northcroft St, next to the Toka Puia car-park, should be the only option. “It’s not going on a reserve, not on my watch,” she said.

Board manager Eric Perry cautioned members about being so prescriptive about sites.

AT is expected to report back to the new board once it does more scoping of options.



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Collins skips Milford meeting as candidate parade rolls on

The audience of a near-full venue for a mayoral candidates debate in Milford was disappointed by the no-show of one of the leading contenders, Efeso Collins.

Collins' main rival, Wayne Brown, and four other candidates attended the meeting co-organised by the Milford Residents Association (MRA) and the Castor Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association.

MRA co-chair Norma Bott said many people had turned up wanting to hear from all the contenders in person.

She was "very disappointed" they did not hear from Collins, who accepted an invitation in May but pulled out several days before the event due to being double-booked.

Topics of particular interest at the meeting were Auckland Transport, Ports of Auckland and the role of local boards.

Candidates Brown, Craig Lord, Gary Brown, Michael Morris and Alezix Heneti focused on their often similar wishlists for change, but with different interpretations for the audience to measure.

"I think a few people changed their tick last night," Bott said.

The meeting drew many more people than the 50-odd who attended a meeting for local board candidates the previous week, at the same Milford Baptist Church venue.

Interest was also higher than for the final election meeting in the area for local council candidates.

Collins told the Observer later in the week that he had made numerous visits to the North Shore on the campaign trail, including visits to Northcote and Birkenhead on Wednesday last week.

"In this final part of the campaign difficult calls have to be made when we receive multiple invitations, and I hope I'll meet North Shore voters in the remaining weeks."

Collins' team pointed out that Brown had also backed out of pre-arranged mayoral-candidate meetings in other parts of the city and questioned whether the Observer was being fair.

Local-board and council candidate meetings have also featured some no-shows.

Best recent reasons for absences have been from board contenders Terence Harpur (awaiting a baby), and sitting member Jan O'Connor (awaiting hip surgery), who both sent their apologies.

Board and council candidate George Wood and current board chair Ruth Jackson also apologised when they were unable to attend recent meeting, due to being unwell.

Generally, attendance by members of the main tickets has been good, while many independents have not turned up to meetings at all.

The majority of the five-candidate tickets for Heart of the Shore and A Fresh Approach have attended most meetings, and for Community and Residents, George Wood (barring his night off sick) has been everywhere, with running mate Mike Single also a regular, although Gavin Busch has been seen less often. The groups have also been busy at markets, walkabouts and online.

For SOS Save our Shore, leader Kevin Brett has been a regular at most meetings, but his running mates have taken turns in joining him on stage.

Councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills faced C&R challenger Danielle Grant and Wood this week, and all four were also at the special environmentally focused meeting held earlier in Devonport, where contrasting green and blue-green approaches were on show (see page 8).

• What the local board candidates said, page 6-7

Slow start to voting as countdown begins

In a bid to help nudge voters to action, Auckland Council is tracking how many people have cast their ballots in the lead-up to the close of votes next Saturday.

Voting began from 16 September, and by Friday 23 September just 4.2 per cent of voting papers had been returned. In the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area the figure was 4.6 per cent.

In Auckland, the final turnout in 2019 was just 35.3 per cent, with the Devonport-Takapuna area reaching 40.9 per cent of its pool of 42,426 registered voters.

Anyone posting votes needs to do so by Tuesday, 4 October. Drop-off options are open until midday, 8 October, and include Takapuna or Devonport libraries and Countdown supermarkets in Sunnynook, Milford, Takapuna and Hauraki.

Indicative results will be available by mid-afternoon after polls close, with preliminary results issued on 10 October.

AT reporting to board 'inadequate'

Reporting by council-controlled organisations, especially Auckland Transport (AT), isn't satisfying the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

Board members said compared with the monthly reports from AT they used to get, the current quarterly reports were inadequate and often supplied without an official made available to answer questions.

As well as regular project updates and consultation, members wanted more information on topics such as local school walking buses and the future of funding put aside for the Esmonde Rd to Francis St walkway and cycle path.

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Fronting up... Meeting chair Mike Cohen leaves the lectern as board candidates (from left) Melissa Powell, Toni van Tonder, Zane Catterall, Peter Allen, Kevin Brett and Kurt Keiller watch on

Candidates on parade as races enter final straight

By Janetta Mackay

Think local, act local was the message to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board candidates at a meet-the-candidates evening in Milford, jointly organised by the Milford Residents Association and the Castor Bay Ratepayers and Residents Association. They were also asked to say what they loved about living locally and how they would enhance the area. It made for a warm and fuzzy start, although normal politicking later resumed.

Meeting chair Mike Cohen, a former local-board member, highlighted one of the main challenges of the role – operating with little real power. He said some might say Auckland Council’s structure had been a bit of a power grab by the governing body. “But local boards still have potential and opportunity to provide local leadership.”

On taking office, local board members

made a declaration to act in the best interests of the local board. “That is the sole obligation,” said Cohen. The declaration made no mention of serving the council, council-controlled organisations (CCOs) or the government. This needed to be better understood, he said.

Eleven of 21 candidates were in attendance, variously urging better collaboration with council and its CCOs, or calling for more accountability from the top down to its grass-roots representatives.

Vigorous tub-thumping from Save Our Shore’s candidate Kevin Brett, who promised to “keep the bastards honest” drew lively applause from the 50-strong audience.

Candidates from the other main tickets focussed more on their core policies.

A love for the North Shore’s environment and lifestyle was near unanimous.

What they said

John Maidment (Heart of the Shore): Pledged to engage with the community, after emphasising his environmental credentials and role in the campaign to save the Takapuna holiday camp.

Bridget Thrussell (Heart of the Shore): Pledged to listen to the community and fight for the environment.

Zane Catterall (A Fresh Approach): Wants better education and support for community-led environmental protection. Asked later about Sacred Grove, the former arborist said the area should remain closed and tree health needed safeguarding.

Peter Allen (A Fresh Approach): Wants the Wairau Estuary boardwalk built, and the board to be open to selling assets that are gathering dust if it enables new projects.



Board candidates (from left) Mike Single, Trish Deans, Bridget Thrussell, Ruth Jackson and John Maidment

Kevin Brett (Save our Shore): Sold himself as a fighter, up for tackling crime, rates, and not selling the public out. “I’ll fight to spend money the way you want it to be spent”.

Trish Deans (Heart of the Shore): A sitting board member who showed her experience in talking up policy planks such as opposing intensification, clean waterways and enhanced reserves, and to retain community assets in Takapuna. Milford and Castor Bay needed a community centre, she said, but promises could not be made to deliver this in current constrained times.

Melissa Powell (A Fresh Approach): Took a different tack in what she loved and would enhance in the community, using as inspiration the story of how the community rallied behind a boy with disabilities to provide what came to be a public event in Takapuna known as Charlie’s playdate. Her team, she said, had the will and skill to fight to deliver playgrounds and other facilities.

Kurt Keiller (Save our Shore): Pledged like SOS teammate Brett to fight creatively for people and services.

Ruth Jackson (Heart of the Shore): A remark about her height being similar to the late Queen fell flat but, back on track, she emphasised the need for healthy waters, tree protection and keeping board workshops public.

Mike Single (Community and Residents): Keen to protect character, preserve parks and push back on intensification. Spoke out for more facilities for women’s sport, which was echoed by others.

Toni van Tonder (A Fresh Approach): Talked of the need to encourage people to live, work and play in the area. Used the Forrest Hill Community Garden as a great example of initiatives the board could support. On intensification, she said the board’s hands were largely tied, with the process already underway.

Question time

- Asked whether they could collaborate with other board members, most said yes, but Brett responded: “We’ve seen nothing but fighting between A Fresh Approach and Heart of the Shore for the last three years.” Jackson pointed out most board decisions were unanimous.
- Asked how the chair was decided, Toni van Tonder said last term agreement was made to split the role. “This time I would like my team to get on and I would take the chair.”
- On sales of open-space and reserve land, most members were opposed, though van Tonder said pragmatism was needed in cases such as the disposal of the Blomfield Spa pocket of land in Takapuna.
- Questioned about the dilapidated military house at Kennedy Park, Deans said a heritage report was being done and that it was worthy of preservation. The council’s stalling of work was a travesty, said van Tonder, but that without money to fix it, it might end up having to be replaced by a replica or monument.

Toni van Tonder **Terence Harpur** **Zane Catterall** **Peter Allen** **Melissa Powell**

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Wait for the book – departing one-term board member

Signing off at the end of his one-term stint on the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, Aidan Bennett joked that it would form a chapter in a future book about his life.

The businessman (pictured, right), who is the only current member not seeking re-election next month, was thanked for his service at the last meeting of the term.

“I’ve enjoyed it,” he said, adding: “It’s been testy at times.”

Bennett said he had learned how democracy worked in action and “how slow it is”.

The top-polling candidate last election, he chaired the board for the first 18 months of its three-year term, with Ruth Jackson taking over the hot seat mid-term in a pre-arranged deal.

The deal reflected both his strong support and Jackson’s membership of a three-strong team, Heart of the Shore.

Bennett and Toni van Tonder were elected, on the A Fresh Approach tag. Van Tonder is seeking re-election under the same banner, this time along with four other candidates.

Jackson and fellow members Trish Deans and Jan O’Connor are again standing for Heart of the Shore, alongside two new candidates.

George Wood, who was elected to the board as an independent last time, is this time standing as a Community and Residents candidate, with two teammates

Jackson proposed the acknowledgment for



Bennett, which was unanimously supported, in a contrast to its previous tendency to split down party lines.

Later in the meeting, during members’ report time, Jackson talked about her own time on the board, as did deputy Jan O’Connor, who emphasised her 30 years in local government.

Wood, also a long-server, touched on frustrations he hoped would be addressed by the new board.

Jackson said both O’Connor and Wood, as the only sitting members elected last time, had supported her and the other three new members with the benefit of their experience.

The term, with its Covid impacts and many meetings managed remotely had been “weird”, she said. Jackson said she

was proud the board had worked together to secure more action and funding for Wairau catchment anti-pollution work. Her own highlight was opening board workshops to the public, ensuring democracy could be seen in action, not just rubber-stamped at monthly meetings.

O’Connor’s report recapped why she got into local politics with the former North Shore Council and Takapuna Community Board. She noted that no one she spoke to liked the replacement Auckland Council structure. Local boards mattered, she said. “Our historic identities must remain.”

Wood differentiated himself from the Heart of the Shore team by speaking in favour of replacing ageing community assets in Takapuna with new facilities. “If we just stay where we are we are going to end up with a noose around our necks.”

He also raised questions about the direction of the Lake Rd upgrade and said council delays in doing anything to save the historic military building at Kennedy Park were a disappointment, as was the slow roll-out of dual parks naming, exposing what he said was a not very viable relationship with iwi. That compared badly with the old North Shore City, due to what he described as Auckland Council corporatising the relationship.

Deans and van Tonder did not use the meeting as an opportunity to reflect.

George
✓ WOOD

Mike
✓ SINGLE

Gavin
✓ BUSCH

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- ✓** Support our local sports and community clubs
- ✓** Advocate for better roading solutions
- ✓** Protect our unique area and environment

For **Devonport-Takapuna** Local Board **C&R North Shore**

Contenders show their green streaks

From across the political spectrum, local-body candidates were keen to emphasise their green credentials at a meeting that seemed to confirm the mainstreaming of climate-change fears.

Supporting public transport, tree planting and protection and backing for community environmental groups were common themes, although views varied on transport policies and targeted rates, planting on the maunga and how to encourage and deliver wider change.

Around 35 people gathered at the Wakatere Boating Club at Narrow Neck on Saturday afternoon to hear from sitting councillors and Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members, and those vying to unseat them. Others – including the Flagstaff – tuned in online.

The environmental meeting was organised by Restoring Takarunga Hauraki (RTH).

North Shore ward councillors Richard Hills and Chris Darby outlined Auckland Council's Climate Change Action Plan and said councillors were also pushing the government on tree protection. While the council was planting more trees on public land, their loss continued unabated on private developments.

Council candidate Adrian Tyler pointed out that council contractors needed to be instructed not to mow down the efforts of planting groups.

Local-board member Toni van Tonder, who leads A Fresh Approach, said actions spoke louder than words and her team were "all grass-rooters". She had been voted down in board meetings

on her support to close off Sacred Grove in Takapuna and back the Parking Strategy to ease traffic flow on main roads.

Her Fresh Approach teammate Zane Catterall said tree protections should be improved. "Te Ao Maori doesn't separate humans and nature," said Catterall. "That's something we can all learn from."

Community and Residents council candidate Danielle Grant championed local zero-waste initiatives, and her C&R running mate George Wood spoke of his record in backing buses and cleaning up waterways.

Heart of the Shore's Trish Deans, a sitting board member, spoke against the council spraying glyphosate on reserves and said efforts to encourage people out of cars needed to be realistic. "We are meeting a push back because people say, 'I can't get from there to here'."

Hills noted that 43 per cent of Auckland's emissions were from transport, and pointed out that C&R's Grant wanted to review the targeted transport rate. Of the Lake Rd project, which Wood has questioned the effectiveness of, he said: "We can't keep consulting on that."

Heart of the Shore's John Maidment said the council should look to use less concrete, cut back unnecessary mowing and implement a four-day week and a shuttle fleet.

Leading by personal example was emphasised by C&R's Mike Single, who spoke convincingly of the need for more EV infrastructure and harnessing wind and solar power.

Council v board divide an issue

The relationship between locals boards and Auckland Council's governing body was a touchy topic when council candidates were quizzed at a meeting in Milford. They said they wanted more community buy-in on the city's future, but this ranged from calls for boards to get more decision-making power to implications some sitting board members were not representative of their communities.

Adrian Tyler said he wanted board members to be called local councillors to fit in with how the public sees them.

Governing body councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills emphasised their experience and ability to deliver upgraded infrastructure, although Darby said he would like to see a review of the super city structure and more participatory democracy.

Challengers said close monitoring of council spending and culture was needed. Danielle Grant, George Wood and Raymond Tan spoke of value and a voice for ratepayers, with Grant saying information flow needed improving. Wood made several plugs for Wayne Brown as Mayor.

Concerns about rate rises, loss of town centre parking and public land came from an audience of just under 50 people. They may not have left with swayed minds, but the candidates argued their policy positions ably. (The seventh candidate, Tony Bunting did not attend).

RUTH JACKSON **TRISH DEANS** **JOHN MAIDMENT** **BRIDGET THRUSSELL** **JAN O'CONNOR**

Heart of the Shore

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Authorised by Trish Deans, deans.trish@gmail.com, M 021 0862 6675

Lake and estuary 'should be freshwater priorities'

Lake Pupuke and Wairau Estuary need to be included among Auckland Council's freshwater priorities, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members say.

Giving feedback on the council's response to a national freshwater policy, they asked for both waterways to be classified specifically when the council acts on government directives under the Resource Management Act.

Council officials told board members that initial public engagement showed some people wanted Lake Pupuke and to a lesser extent the estuary considered.

Of 626 submissions received, 25 were from

the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area. Lake Pupuke was the region's most named individual freshwater body, with 22 mentions.

Work to date identifies impacts on the region's three big harbours, including the Hauraki Gulf, but over time wetlands, streams, aquifers and urban lakes will be detailed.

Member Trish Deans wanted to know if the response would get to the level of protection for saline areas. Sensitive coastal areas and mangrove management were not included, the officer said, just where freshwater flowed into the harbours. They would be covered anyway under the Unitary Plan

Both Deans and van Tonder asked if areas would be protected from sediment run-off and were told: "We're still looking at what we need to look after."

Lake Pupuke already had a set-back around its shore, but action plans would be drawn up in time, covering the likes of pest species and plants.

The board was told it would be likely be late 2026 before all the work implementing the policy was done, consulted on and adopted. It supported the council's response, while adding in Lake Pupuke, neighbouring Quarry Lake and Wairau Estuary.

Resident wants Pupuke cycleway idea erased

A Milford man wants mention of a potential cycleway around a section of Lake Pupuke removed from official council documents.

The land in question is part of a popular walkway on the lakeside wetland reserve between Henderson and Sylvan Parks.

David Schnauer says the cycleway reference was introduced in 2015, without local residents being aware of it. Residents were unhappy it was still on the books, he said.

In the early 1990s, some had sold the last of the private lakeside frontages in the area to the former North Shore District Council.

Their sales contracts were for a walkway on wetland reserve area which opened in 1998.

Residents first became aware the Devon-

port-Takapuna Local Board had approved a Greenways Plan in which mention was made "of determining the feasibility of cycle access" when council officials began investigating the possibility in 2019.

An Official Information Act request found around \$80,000 was spent on outside contractors looking at the proposal, before it went into limbo.

Schnauer asked the current board to amend the original resolution, in case council officers revisited the idea.

He wants mention of cycle access removed, contending it cuts across the residents' original sales contracts and is contrary to the Lake Pupuke Management Plan.

If the plan was amended, it would mean any new proposal for a cycleway would have to come before the board for proper consideration, he told board members at a public forum session last month.

His own view was the wetland reserve, which was a bird breeding area, was not compatible with cycling. Boat launching could also become an issue.

The board received his presentation, but decided the best way forward – seven years down the track – was to consider the issue when proposals to refresh the Greenways Plan or the Local Parks Management Plan next came before it. This was likely in the next six months, said chair Ruth Jackson.

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- **We've got a rat plague** and the board can't even organise to get rid of a bunch of rats. The rats are more organised than the board.
- **The government wants to put 501 criminals from Australia into a 40 unit block in Belmont.** This must be stopped.
- **Stop three waters** and no congestion charges (tax).
- **People who commit crime and violence** in our area should not be allowed in our area.

AUTHORISED CANDIDATE FOR SOS SAVE OUR SHORE



**Kevin
BRETT**



**Cherie
KEILLER**



**Kurt
KEILLER**



**Sam
WELSH**

SOS SAVE OUR SHORE SOS Save our Shore is standing for the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board.

The team is led by Kevin Brett a former researcher for the late Sir Peter Williams QC

Authorised by Founder of SOS Save Our Shore. Kevin Brett, kevinwb300@gmail.com. Tel: 021-168-5165.

Open day and Games stars attract next generation



Commonwealth Games medallists Jacko Gill and Imogen Ayris (above) chatted to visitors at an open day at Takapuna Athletics Club last Saturday that drew hundreds of people to give it a go, including (far right) local Evie Atchison.

Gill, who won a shotput silver medal in Birmingham in August, was thrilled to see the interest in throwing. Ayris, who collected bronze in pole vaulting, enjoyed the chance to revisit her younger days at Onewa Domain with the reward of a sausage sizzle.

“It tastes like summer,” she laughed.

The two, who both started their athletics careers at the club and attended Takapuna Grammar School, aim to be back at world events next year.

Club president Dan Brady was “over the moon” at the open-day turnout. While the club had weathered Covid well, with around 230 members, he said the goal was to build up to the roughly 500 it had in the early 2000s.

Club nights begin on Wednesday, 19 October, from 5.15pm Details on the website.



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Para athlete demonstrates that sport is for everyone



New Zealand under-18 para athlete Sionann Murphy (above in her black T-shirt) was an eager coach for youngsters at the Takapuna Athletics Club open day.

The 17-year-old, who attends Northcote College, joined the club at age 12 and has gone on to set F37 para records at national age-group events in shotput and discus. She also sprints and swims competitively and hopes to represent New Zealand at senior level.

Sionann, who has cerebral palsy, is coached by shotputter Jacko Gill’s father, Walter Gill – “an amazing guy” – and she trains with able-bodied athletes. She says the club is supportive, but she would love more para athletes to join to realise their potential.

“I love it so much,” she says.

With her mother, Sionann has successfully advocated to include junior para events at Auckland Athletics championships.



Meredith Scanlon-Paterson (above) shows good elevation launching into her long jump, while Oscar Weaver (at left) from Milford enjoys traversing an obstacle course set up for junior athletes



Here's how... Rising shotput talent Kate Hallie, 15, (above), shows Amelia Power from Forrest Hill how it is done, while (at left) Games medallist Jacko Gill encourages another youngster to throw



Up, up and away... Eddie Su from Hillcrest lets fly in the shotputting circle, while others await their turn

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Plan for bigger development prompts environmental fears

A private plan to rezone the former Harbourside Church site next to Shoal Bay would allow buildings of up to 16 storeys to be built near the coastline, elevating environmental concerns. Rob Drent backgrounds the issue.

Local conservationist Phillip Moll has spent much of the last decade attempting to get the public to appreciate the Ngataranga and Shoal Bay wetlands, home to many endangered birds. He sees the expansion of the Amaia development as putting more pressure on nature.

“The main issue for the local environment is the cumulative effect of all these developments on our remaining natural areas is not being assessed at all, considering that the Shoal estuary environment has a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI) designation by DOC.

“What will be the impact on this quiet wetland habitat?”

The flow-ons from development or new structures needed to be carefully considered.

For example, controversy recently erupted over the removal of mangroves in the construction of the nearby Patuone boardwalk.

The proposed private plan change – creating a ‘Takapuna 2’ precinct – would allow 553 homes in a series of buildings. The plan would allow up to 16 storeys, though only one 16-storey tower is envisaged for now.

A Conservation Zone of 20 metres is proposed around the site with a boardwalk around the edge.

Moll is worried the boardwalk appears to intrude into the marine space, a designated Special Ecological Area.

“These boardwalks have the effect of ‘coastal squeeze’, as with sea-level rise wildlife has no habitat to retreat to. It’s better to plant this edge with wetland plant species,” he adds.

“Banded rail move through mangrove using the cover to protect them from predation by rats, cats and hawks during foraging but tend to nest along suitable coastal edge.”

A report on the private plan change by ecological consultants Wildland highlights



A site map of the proposed ‘Takapuna 2’ precinct on the former Harbourside Church site, with an arrow at No 5 showing a proposed pedestrian and cycle connection conservationists fear will intrude into marine space

bird strike onto high buildings and artificial light pollution as key concerns, in addition to sediment and stormwater discharge over a long construction period.

However, bird strike can be mitigated by reducing the areas of glass by installing awnings, screens, grilles, shutters and sunshades, the Wildland report said.

Construction may disturb birds, but they are likely to return quickly after works are completed.

A walking and cycling bridge to Francis St has often been mooted as part of the redevelopment, also raising concerns for sensitive mangrove environments, Moll said.

South of the Amaia development near Esmonde Rd is a feeding area for many shorebirds “including hundreds of red-billed gulls, another declining species. “The effects of increased contaminated stormwater from the site are unknown,” Moll says.

The Wildland report mentions the nearby shell-bank roosting site for migratory birds including godwit, banded dotterel, pied stilt and New Zealand dotterel, but does not include the wrybill (ngutu pare) – an endemic New Zealand shorebird species that is on the International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN) red list as vulnerable, says Moll.

“This I believe is a serious omission for an ecology report for the area.”

Wrybill regularly migrate from the South Island to spend the winter in Shoal and Ngataranga bays and other northern estuaries to feed during winter.

A Forest and Bird Resource management lawyer is reviewing the private plan, Moll said.

• The private plan change for the site, which comprises 2.15 hectares, was notified on 9 September and is open for submissions until 7 October.

Signage about sensitive site to come after council’s mangrove manoeuvres

Signage to let the public know more about the ecological status of the Patuone walkway area is being developed as the project progresses.

Part of the area is currently closed to allow for the endangered banded rail bird to breed, underlining the coastal marine area’s sensitivity.

Care for the area was, however, ques-

tioned recently when Forest & Bird criticised Auckland Council for seeking retrospective consents when it pulled out more mangroves than it had permission to remove, to allow for boardwalk building.

“The application for mangrove removal is being worked on collectively across council,” Devonport-Takapuna Local Board members have now been told. Concrete

pathways are being built down to the \$1.9 million boardwalk – which runs from Auburn Reserve to Esmonde Rd – and will carry informational signage.

Work in the coastal marine area was hurried through by the end of August, ahead of banded rail breeding season. The Greydene Pl to Esmonde Rd section is not expected to open until summer.



Try it on... Double bronze Games bowls medallist Selina Goddard with fellow Takapuna Bowling Club members Martin Martinengo (left) and John Whiteford and (below) Fletcher Fernandes trying his luck



Roll up, roll up

Star power in the form of its very own Commonwealth Games medallist, Selina Goddard, and some other big name local guests from the sports world (see page at right) helped underline the all-ages-appeal of bowls at an open day at the Takapuna Bowling Club.

Around 50 people, aided by club members, gave it a go last Sunday. Simon Poppleton said the club was keen to add to its 200 members. Bowls was a good social option for people in their 30s to 50s whose bodies may no longer be up to contact sports.

Goddard, 27, who won bronze in women's pairs and fours teams, is readjusting technique for the nationals in January. After bowling on slower greens in Birmingham her first bowls back home went into the ditch.

Threads Through Time

Stories of Naval service through textile art



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Competitive, who me? says give-it-a-go Goldie



It seems you can't keep a good sportsman down, with former Silver Fern captain Adine Wilson laughingly pointing to husband and All Black Jeff Wilson (both pictured above) when asked who was the most competitive one in their Milford household.

"It's very easy to confirm you are," said Adine, when Jeff suggested one of their sporty sons, aged 12 and 14, might best fit the bill.

The couple, both commentators for Sky Sports, joined All Black mate Ian Jones and broadcaster and keen bowler Grant Nesbitt for

some tips on the Takapuna Bowling Club's greens.

"It's like golf putting really, a weighted line," observed Wilson a few ends in. Jones (pictured below), who also lives in Milford, was soon suggesting his old team-mate should bowl long as they joked away, while Adine quietly got on with showing a smooth action.

Meanwhile, Jones says the community dinners he hosts through his Eddie's Meals organisation are building back after Covid. They are held at Rosmini College on the first Friday of every month.



Line it up... Amy Conje (above) gets some tips on bowls after being brought along to the open day with boyfriend Trent Brooks by her curious mother, Cassandra (at rear), from Bayswater.





Milford volunteer chosen as ‘local hero’

Harbour Hospice volunteer Pennie Kennings has been named a local hero for the North Shore.

Kennings (pictured) won a \$20,000 grant for Hospice through the Local Heroes campaign sponsored by Westfield.

Notified in a recent phone call, she was “thrilled for Hospice” and humbled, “as other finalists and causes were just as significant”.

The Milford local, who featured in the Rangitoto Observer after her local-hero entry submission, says “It is great that Westfield honours volunteers and their causes, as they are a really important part of how society works well.”

The grant will be used to help Hospice at a

time of their Shore building development. This will allow extra services to be provided by volunteers, such as the life-story programme that Kennings, a former counsellor, coordinates.

Having volunteered for Hospice for nearly two decades, Kennings says it is very “satisfying to give back to the community if you have had a good life within the community”.

“Volunteer work enriches the lives of the people you’re helping, making everyone a winner.”

Kennings wanted to thank all the people who voted for her and Hospice.

She says she plans to continue her volunteering for many years to come.

North Shore stories showcased in heritage celebration

Takapuna and the Devonport peninsula are hosting events during the 2022 Auckland Heritage Festival, running from 1-16 October.

Some 160 festival events are being held across the city, with local highlights below.

Auckland Heritage Festival booklets and further activity information can be found at Auckland libraries. The Auckland Heritage Festival website is at heritagefestival.co.nz

TAKAPUNA:

- A guided exploration of Takapuna’s fossil forest will be held on Tuesday 11 October from 2-4pm. Meet at the Takapuna Reef carpark at the end of the Promenade.

- A Takapuna heritage walk will take place on Thursday 13 October, from 10am-12pm, starting at Takapuna Library.

DEVONPORT:

- Historic steam-tug tour on the William C Daldy. Tours will run at various times on the weekends of 1-2 and 15-16 October. Bookings and more information online.
- A guided tour of North Head’s historical defences will run on Saturdays and Sundays. Bookings through the Navy Museum.
- A self-guided, hour-long audio tour will offer a wealth of information based around seven stops up Victoria Rd between the Ferry

Terminal and the Victoria Theatre. The audio guide can be downloaded from the Devonport village website.

- Traditional and contemporary storyteller Michael Greig will tell of Bayswater’s history and its people, at St Margarets Church (151 Lake Rd), on Sunday 9 October, 1-2pm.
- A heritage film festival is being held at The Vic on successive Sundays, with screening times on the theatre website.
- A Mt Cambria research ‘walk and talk’ will be hosted by local archaeologist Dave Veart, on Sundays 9 and 16 October, from 2-3.30pm and Wednesday 12 October from 10-11.30am.

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Now and then... A Takapuna Beach backdrop (above) and a less sandy view showing now covered-up steps in a 1959 family photo of Marion O’Kane (as a girl, front left). The long-time resident says there was no sand on the landing to the steps, while the wall, which is near Park Ave, had much less banked-up sand.

Mud on beach arrived with high-tide sandbank

I would like to express my concern at the opinion of Auckland Council operations manager Sarah Jones (Observer, 2 September). Takapuna Beach cannot repair itself. Takapuna Beach has been the recipient of tons more stormwater due to infill

housing and a population explosion in the area. This has changed the beach contours. The changes seen on Takapuna Beach are unprecedented. The build-up of a sand bank prevents the natural ebb and flow of sand. The pet-

rified trees and papa rock previously only appeared briefly every five or so years. The mud exposed has only appeared since the sand bank has formed at high-tide level in the last couple of years.
Marion O’Kane

Misinformation not wanted here

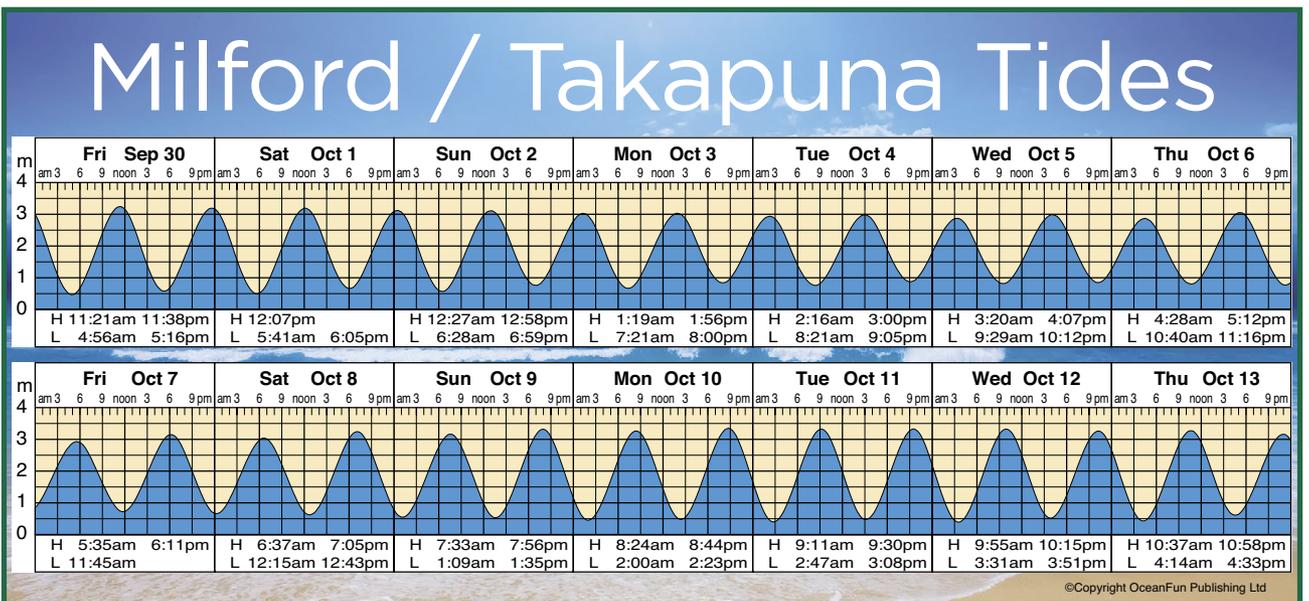
I was interested that Grant Gillon (Letters, 16 September) mentioned the existence, in Auckland, of a Trump Party. I do remember it during the last national elections, but had thought it had died a natural death as they did not poll well. Recently I saw a poster in Parnell advertising candidates for the present council elections under the banner of the MAGA Party – in this

case Make Auckland Great Again. Maybe they are the remains of the Trump group? I do have to wonder, however well intentioned these people are, that they do not seem to realise we are not in, or a state of the USA. I agree with Gillon that misinformation has no place in Devonport-Takapuna, or the whole country.
John Webster

Please, shops, make it easy to find you

For years I have been frustrated, why commercial premises do not display their street number. I do believe it has got worse in recent years, as people rely more on their phone for finding a location. There must be so many delivery businesses (post, parcel, food deliveries, Uber), besides the likes of myself, who are affected, having to waste so much time trying to find the correct street number. It’s such a minimal cost to any commercial premises, but it would save a lot of frustration to those looking for a specific address.
Kathy Dennett

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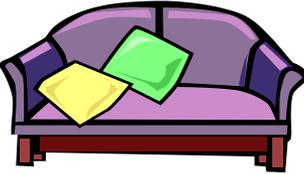
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Uniform approach... Chief Petty Officer Fiona Carter and former servicewoman Gail Burgess are among women who have worked on a quilt sewn from old Navy uniforms on display at the Navy Museum

Threads of history offer naval narratives

Old Navy uniforms have been lovingly repurposed by a group of 12 current and former Navy servicewomen into a keepsake quilt.

Their labours over many months will be recognised when the quilt is displayed from 1 October as a wall-hanging in the foyer gallery of the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay, Devonport.

The centrepiece of a *Threads through Time* exhibition opens at the start of Auckland Heritage Festival, and it will remain in place until the end of March next year, when it will go into the museum's permanent collection.

Retired Bayswater woman Gail Burgess, who spent three years in service as a young woman, is one of those who crafted the piece.

"It was really fun," says the keen sewer. Her work creating six of the quilt's 49 squares took place on and off after the project was conceived 21 months ago.

The quilt uses fabric from the museum's overflowing uniform collection. Six decades of uniforms are represented and are incorporated in a variety of styles by quilters who range in experience from experts to newbies.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Fiona Carter puts herself in the latter category. "My mum dubbed me in" is how she puts it.

Carter says she can sew a basic straight line, but not much else, but with her skilled mother Margaret – an ex-Wren who now lives in Tauranga – working on the project, she was encouraged to join in, and relished the challenge.

Her two squares draw on uniforms she has worn. One square references a Covid-19 symbol in recognition of the heavy impact the pandemic had on the deployment of service personnel

and their training. Burgess used her time in the Signals Corps as a starting point for her designs, which includes a square with a photograph of her younger self printed on fabric and images of frigates Rotoiti and Pukaki.

Navy Museum communications manager Jane Cotty, who helped bring the project together, involving women across the North Island, said the idea sprang from workshops in which service personnel then the public had the opportunity to fashion tote bags from old uniforms.

Quilts were suggested as another way of reusing old shirts, trousers and dresses and permission was granted to do this by the Deputy Chief of Navy.

"The squares tell the story of each woman's experience serving in the New Zealand Navy since the 1960s," says Cotty. "Sewn together, they symbolise the sustainability of military service and they create a greater understanding of a shared culture and heritage."

Burgess and Carter agree that the 21-month-long project emphasised the camaraderie of service, despite their different experiences of it.

"The jobs we do have changed, but the comradeship hasn't," says Carter.

When the women, who worked on the quilt through lockdowns, were able to get together, there were plenty of laughs and shared stories, some of which they say should stay between service people.

Cotty says the 2.5m-square quilt ended up being larger than envisaged, partly due to the enthusiasm of the women involved, with Burgess an example. "Gail would email and say I think I need a bit more fabric, I've had another idea."



WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library

UNBELIEVABLE, UNIMAGINABLE, UNRELENTING FUN AND SPECIAL GUESTS IN TAKAPUNA LIBRARY!

You better believe it, the library's theme for the upcoming school holidays is 'UNBELIEVABLE!' We're celebrating the holidays with some really special guests. Circability group will be coming to dazzle and amaze us on Wednesday, October 12th, from 2-4pm. Don't miss their spectacular circus arts show!

Our friends from the Tim Bray theatre group will have the library floor on Saturday, October 8th at 11am – their performance of 'The Whale Rider' by Witi Ihimaera will be truly magic and we are so excited.

We'll be hosting two special crafting workshops – making unbelievable dragon's eggs on Tuesday 4th October and using unbelievable science to spherify some tasty liquids on Thursday 6th October. We'll also be enjoying movies and snacks on 'Movie Monday' (October 3rd and 10th), don't miss this!

Join us on Sunday, 2nd October, to kick off our special holidays programme with a Reading Hour. We'll be reading through some 'Choose Your Own Adventure' books and chatting about our favourites! Kick-off at 1pm.

Our friends at Watercare Services have some unbelievable information for you and your family, and we'll be joined by Sharnae on Wednesday the 5th at 10.30 for an awesome library hunt!

Big news – we'll close our holiday programme on the 16th of October with the very first LEGO CHALLENGE of 2022! We've missed this, we know you all have too! Bring your creativity, we'll supply the rest!

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Children's version of Witi Ihimaera classic



Pippiajna Jane and Adam Burrell in a 2014 production of *The Whale Rider*

PHOTO: DAVID ROWLAND/ONE-IMAGE.COM

Puppetry is part of a production that brings *The Whale Rider* to life for a younger audience

Children's theatre champion Tim Bray can't wait for the latest generation of North Shore youngsters to get caught up in a classic story of Aotearoa.

He promises his adaptation of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, now on at the PumpHouse – a production that includes puppetry – is a visually exciting show.

"The whales are beautiful things," he says. They range from a small pod to a climactic scene of a giant whale which requires three people to manoeuvre it on stage.

Puppets are cleverly crafted to allow per-

formers to be seen at the same time.

Bray first staged *The Whale Rider* in 2014, having collaborated with Ihimaera to do so. "He graciously allowed me, as a Pa-keha, to write a script based on his children's picture book that he created from his novel."

The play, aimed at children aged five to 10, tells the myth of a young girl and her relationship with whales.

It explores ideas of whanau and tikanga. A movie version, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes, ensured a wider audience for Ihimaera's original novel.

Bray says having not just Ihimaera's approval for his stage work, but the bonus of his feeding in ideas, was an honour. This included the use of traditional Maori instruments.

Ihimaera was a special guest at the gala opening night in Takapuna last week.

• *The Whale Rider* runs at the PumpHouse until 15 October, before other Auckland dates. The season includes shows for those with special needs. Productions are 50 minutes long. For show details and tickets see timbray.org.nz.



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promises a whale of a time

Stage manager brings unique view

Staging a beloved story in a beloved venue – just up the road from home – is the dream job in Takapuna for *The Whale Rider* stage manager Katie Querin.

In time for the school holidays, the Tim Bray Theatre Company's children's version of Witi Ihimaera's tale is on at the PumpHouse, with added performances for those with special audio, sight or sensory needs.

For Querin, the accessibility focus of the company is something she proudly relates to. "I'm a visually impaired person myself, and autistic," says the 30-year-old.

"I didn't have access to programming like this growing up."

Now she gets to work with groups to open up the theatre experience to young people with diverse needs.

Querin's interest in the theatre dates back to when she was growing up in America and tagged along with her big sister who did drama.

She started helping backstage, and says this is the area she most enjoys, enabling creative people deliver to audiences.

"My job is to run the rehearsals and performances. Tim has the creative direction and the actors do their thing. I just make sure it all comes together smoothly."

This includes ensuring costumes and props are in their right places and the backstage atmosphere is harmonious.

Bray says Querin is a vital part of the company she joined five years ago. "She brings a really unique viewpoint to our performances," he says. "As a director I really appreciate her thoroughness, attention to detail and beautiful way of working with performers."

It was through seeing an earlier performance of *The Whale Rider* in Wellington during a festival in 2017 that the connection was first made.

Having worked in Australia on a temporary visa, Querin visited New Zealand on what she thought would be her way home, but fell in love with the place and decided to stay.

When Bray advertised for a stage manager for *Puff the Magic Dragon* at the PumpHouse, Querin applied and won the role, leading her

to shift to Takapuna, which she loves living in.

It was at the PumpHouse that Bray first pioneered sensory shows. Like the other performances, these are toured regionally.

The company also works with groups for those with sight and hearing issues, who make block bookings for shows that include visual and audio aids. Audience members might be given a "touch tour" of the theatre to start their trip and an audio description to enhance the experience.

The sensory shows have been developed to create a suitably relaxed atmosphere for neuro-divergent or autistic children who might find a standard theatre show too intense.

Lighting and sound is turned down a notch or two and some seats replaced with beanbags, with audience members also easily able to exit the theatre if they need a breather.

Querin brought the experience of previously working on a sailing ship similar to the Spirit of New Zealand that also catered to special-needs groups. But she says the development of the special programmes has been based a lot on feedback. "We keep the story and the plot and the characters all the same. We just make it more relaxed."

She says the PumpHouse, located by Lake Pupuke is ideal for the purpose. "The lake, the grass outside, it's a lovely space for families."



Key figure... Tim Bray says Katie Querin has a "beautiful" way of working with performers

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DC League of Super-Pets (PG) 106min	NEW
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The Territory (E) 85min	Special Screenings NEW
Don't Worry Darling (R13) 123min	
	Previews 30 SEP-2 OCT
Heritage Film Festival Screening	2 OCT

COMING SOON

Amsterdam (TBA) 127min	6 OCT
Don't Worry Darling (R13) 123min	6 OCT
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