COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARDS 2022: BEST NEWSPAPER RUNNER-UP

The Rangitoto SCIVE Takapuna, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook

Richard & Robert Milne 022 011 24 94 #1 SALES TEAM



DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY Issue 117 - October 27, 2023 AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Walker injured on coastal path... p2

Watts rides blue wave to huge majority... p4-5

Milford Cruising Club marks 100 years... p12-13

Specialist staffing reduced at Takapuna Library

Specialist staffing at Takapuna Library has been cut, meaning people making inquiries about research and heritage matters must now use online services or book a time to talk to a librarian.

Several staff are being transferred to Auckland City Library or are working between the two facilities, after changes that include ending in-person assistance at the research desk upstairs.

The changes were quietly introduced at the beginning of October at the library, which houses the Research North collection and at nationally significant collection of art books and items in the Angela Morton Room.

The Friends of Takapuna Library group says it is keeping a close eye on how the new system beds in.

"We are watching how it settles down and acknowledge that not everybody will find

To page 2

Forrest Hill weeds fill tall order



Shore to please... Three giraffes at Auckland Zoo enjoy munching on acacia foliage harvested from reserves in Forrest Hill. Story, page 9

Thank you for your support North Shore

Simon Watts MP for North Shore

Authorised by Simon Watts MP, 1 Earnoch Ave, Takapuna



Takapuna loses out in regional library staff rejig

From page 1

online their way of working," said chair Jenny Cole.

The library received "many thousands" of inquiries about the treasures it held.

She believed the changes could have been better communicated to the public.

The Angela Morton Room is retaining a curatorial specialist, but for people looking to research North Shore or other history, help will not be so readily at hand.

Auckland Council Libraries said in outlining the shake-up of the city's overall research and heritage-collection service that only the Research Central department at the main city library and Research South at the Manukau Library would remain open to walk-in weekday visitors.

Research North at Takapuna and Research West, at Waitakere Central Library, would become appointment-only services, a post on council's Our Auckland website noted in the detail earlier this month. Services at the central city's special-collections reading room were also reduced to 'by appointment', for just four days a week, it said.

The post spoke of "continually improving to better meet the needs and changing preferences of our communities".

Declining numbers using in-person facilities across the city for several years (including pre-Covid) were given as the reason for the changes, along with dealing with council's need to reduce budgets.

Council's general manager of connected communities, Mirla Edmundson, said resources, including specialist expertise, could be accessed online and more effort would be made to promote this.

At Takapuna, public access has been retained for microfiche, CD-ROM records and electoral rolls, without appointments being needed.

An Auckland Council spokesperson said a reduction in the in-person research desk service was proposed and passed in the 2023/24 annual budget.

There were "no current plans" to relocate the research collections based at Takapuna Library, she said.

Walker injured in coastal-path tumble

A woman who fell on rocks on the Takapuna-to-Milford coastal track is understood to have suffered a nasty concussion.

St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fenz) attended the incident, which is thought to have happened south of where the track was a month ago blocked by a fence at the Firth property near Black Rock.

A call to St John about the incident was made at 10.51am on 11 October, with Fenz then asked to assist the ambulance and St John rapid-response unit already attending.

Fenz, which gained access through a property above Thorne Bay, said a crew from Takapuna attended, helping to get the injured woman to an ambulance.

St John was unable to give an exact location of where the fall occurred, but confirmed they had treated a patient whom they described as being in a moderate condition.

North Shore ward councillor Richard Hills said he was contacted by a woman who had been jogging on the coastal track at the time. She raised concerns with him about the difficulty emergency services had in accessing the site, given that coming along the track from the northern end was no longer possible due to the fence.

"Surely council can open this up, so there's access all round," she wrote to him.

Hills said the track which crosses 72 private properties along its length, posed a number of health and safety challenges.

'You can't stop people taking their own risk, the only thing that staff can do is warn.'

Extra signage was erected last Friday advising people to take care, said regular track walker Sandra Allen. This is in addition to signage that tells people to detour around the Firth property by road, via Audrey Lane, Kitchener and Hurstmere Rds, and Minnehaha Ave.

Allen said the numbers of walkers on the track had dropped noticeably since the fence was built y on 29 September.

The complex matters of access and a heritage listing will go to the Planning Committee Hills chairs in late November. The Local Board called last week for council to step-up efforts to seek solutions.



Mayor's plan to combine local boards

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board would be rolled into a larger board under Mayor Wayne Brown's proposals to shakeup the original super-city structure.

It would most likely be combined with Kaipatiki Local Board, at least. Any changes would be introduced at the same time as a move towards 'equity funding', which the mayor wants in place for the next local body term, starting in late 2025.

His ideas for amalgamation of boards have taken a step forward recently through work by a joint-governance working group. But they would require the support of councillors and be subject to consultation.

Brown wants the city's 21 local boards reduced to 11, a tally including separate bodies for Waiheke and Aotea. Larger boards on the mainland would gain more direct control of their spending and more devolved decision-making, but have to serve bigger populations. The number of board members, 170 across the city, would be cut.

Staffing needs and office locations for boards would require working out.

Devonport-Takapuna board chair Toni van Tonder said board members were yet to meet to discuss the new options.

"Everyone is open to the conversation, but no one's expressed their views," she said.

This would happen soon, given the degree of urgency from the Mayor in wanting feedback. Reshaping the council's structure and rebranding the boards was no small thing, she said. "There's going to be a lot of money spent on this, so it's got to add up."

Coupling amalgamation with equity funding, which stands to cut existing board funding by around 19 per cent, was another factor to weigh.

One of the options proposes a new board, to be called North Harbour, with a population of 150,000, for much of the North Shore.



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N7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARDS Newspaper of the Year: Runner-up 2022

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Our team also works on the long-standing and award-winning Devonport Flagstaff newspaper.

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Radio presenter Lorna Riley (left), who has spent a lot of time at North Shore Hospital, is supporting fundraising for a big indoor garden at the hospital, as shown in the design image above

Radio's Lorna lends voice to hospital-garden fundraiser

Australasia's first big indoor healing garden is planned for North Shore Hospital, in an initiative for which promoters are seeking public support.

One local already supporting the fundraising drive of hospital charity the Well Foundation is radio personality Lorna Riley, whose own health battles have convinced her of the merits.

"The garden is such a wonderful idea, "she says. "I could have done with it last year when I spent a lot of time in North Shore Hospital."

Riley, previously known as Lorna Subritzky, announced on her Coast daytime radio show this year that after a marital separation she was reverting to her maiden name. The Breast Cancer Foundation ambassador is on long-term drugs to keep breast cancer at bay, following treatment and surgeries.

An unexplained pain led to Riley being rushed to the hospital emergency department in March last year. A large but benign ovarian abscess was discovered, which required a week in hospital and six weeks of daily outpatient treatment with IV antibiotics.

Two months later she was back for happier reasons – the arrival of her first grandchild. Two of her three children were also born there.

Riley, a North Shore resident of more than 30 years, says the garden – to be located in the new hospital atrium now under construction – will provide a welcome respite, not just for patients, but also for visitors and the hospital's hard-working staff.

"It's a space that everyone can enjoy."

But it needs the support of locals, she says, encouraging people to "give a bit of green". "We're so lucky to have such a great hospital in our backyard."

Through her own health travails, Riley appreciates how the right environment can help.

She says the hospital project is backed by studies that have found green spaces are linked with healing.

"None of us wants to be in hospital, but

it's amazing how often we end up there."

Her experience of having had two cancer diagnoses, then testing in January that showed she carried the Brca2 gene – leading to an ovary removal and a plan for a double mastectomy – has made her determined to live more in the moment, while also making more of an effort with exercise, diet, wellbeing and family connection.

She loves the local green spaces and beaches and plans next year to tackle one of the Great Walks with girlfriends.

The Well Foundation will launch its garden fundraising campaign on Monday, 30 October. It aims to have seating and 500 lush plants in giant planters in the 400sq m central atrium of the new four-storey hospital building. This is due to open in April next year, adding eight operating theatres, four endoscopy suites and 150 beds across five wards. It will be known as Totara Haumaru (under the shade of the totara).

Details of the campaign can be found at giveabitofgreen.co.nz.



True-blue once more: incumbent Watts wins big

Voting in the North Shore largely mirrored national trends in favour of the centre-right, delivering sitting National Party electorate MP Simon Watts a resounding victory on his return for a second term in Parliament.

Watts received 20,059 (61.9 per cent) of the total of 32,363 votes counted on election night, giving him a majority of 13,100 over his Labour rival, George Hampton.

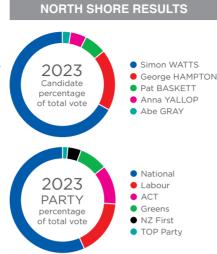
This was massively up on his 2020 election-night margin of just 3982 and much more in line with his predecessor Maggie Barry's 2017 majority of 12,716.

Watts told the Flagstaff he was humbled by the result and eager to keep advocating for the North Shore in a transformative governnment led by incoming Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

He headed to Wellington on the Monday after the election, after spending part of the morning standing at Hauraki Corner with supporters holding 'Thank You' signs for the benefit of passing voters.

National won 51.2 per cent of the party vote in the seat, and Labour just 18.2 per cent. On election night in 2020, Labour pipped National 40.4 per cent to 35.2 per cent.

The results return North Shore to its traditional status as a true-blue National Party seat.



First-time Labour candidate and former diplomat Hampton did slightly better than his party in securing 21.5 per cent of the candidate votes.

Among the three minor parties that put up electorate candidates on the Shore, Pat Baskett for the Greens did best, gaining 2475 votes, despite her not attending local meetings or seeming to otherwise promote herself.

Anna Yallop from Act ranked fourth, with

1575 votes, followed by Abe Gray of TOP with 889 votes.

Act were third-ranked among the parties in North Shore on election night, securing 3643 party votes, or 11.25 per cent, compared with national support of 9 per cent.

The Greens were close with 3444 party votes (10.6 per cent), followed by New Zealand First, which did not field an electorate candidate, with 1317 votes (4 per cent) and TOP on 739 (2.2 per cent).

Of the other 11 parties on the ballot, New Zealand Loyal polled highest at 141 votes and the Leighton Baker Party lowest with just four votes.

The table below breaks down election night voting by booths in the Observer circulation area.

Special votes, expected to comprise up to 20 per cent of total votes cast, including those from overseas, are yet to be tallied by the Electoral Commission, but will not make enough difference to change the North Shore result.

Official results, including specials, are due to be announced on Friday 3 November.

The allocation of list seats is expected to be firmed up by Monday 27 November, after a by-election in Port Waikato.

• The Observer will report the final results in a future issue.

Westlakers 'vote' blue... and lift cannabis party over threshold

Westlake Boys High School hosted a mock election among its Year 10 students before the general election, delivering the same party in top spot as the real poll.

National received 38 per cent of the party vote, followed by Act (13 per cent), Labour (12 per cent), Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party (11 per cent), Green (9 per cent), Top (4 per cent) and Te Pati Maori (2.5 per cent).

Students also chose electorate MPs, with Simon Watts polling top for North Shore with 259 votes, and Labour's George Hampton second on 66 votes.

The Year 10 Rumaki class 'voted' for candidates standing in the Te Tai Tokerau Maori electorate.

Kelvin Davis (Labour) and Mariameno Kapa-Kingi (Te Pati Maori) tied on five votes each.

BY THE BOOTHS: Voting figures from North Shore's northern polling places

воотн	NAT Simon WATTS	NAT Party Vote	LAB George HAMPTON	LAB Party Vote	GREEN Pat BASKETT	Green Party Vote	ACT Anna YALLOP	ACT Party Vote	TOP Abe GRAY	TOP Party Vote	NZF Party Vote
Campbells Bay, Campbells Bay Primary	410	348	96	97	51	57	31	66	14	12	25
Castor Bay, Milford Bowling Club	254	198	75	69	34	38	21	48	12	14	24
Forrest Hill, Presbyterian Church	397	353	147	135	42	50	29	40	27	20	34
Forrest Hill, Westlake Boys School	220	183	65	66	23	27	10	30	13	9	13
Milford, Milford School	268	210	74	70	24	34	19	51	9	10	11
Milford, Milford Shopping Centre	5,444	4,561	1,318	1,255	461	536	369	953	164	31	294
Milford, North Shore Hospital	226	195	103	92	33	42	19	37	10	5	3
Sunnynook, Baptist Church	1,228	1,062	396	357	141	173	106	178	59	39	92
Sunnynook, Sunnynook School	198	174	89	79	29	30	28	37	15	9	19
Takapuna, Shore City Shopping Mall	3,208	2,595	946	761	368	512	231	626	122	118	204
LOCAL TOTAL	11,853	9,879	3,309	2,981	1,206	1,499	863	2,066	445	267	719
2023 Vote (local voting places)	67.1%	56.7%	18.7%	17.1%	6.8%	8.6%	4.9%	11.9%	2.5%	1.5%	4.1%
2020 Vote (local voting places)	50.7%	38.4%	34.2%#	38.8%	4.9%#	6.3%	4.2%#	10.5%	3.0%#	1.6%	1.9%

Luxon's former office-mate leaves Opposition days behind

North Shore MP Simon Watts chose to celebrate his re-election with family at a Devonport cafe on Sunday morning.

The National Party MP broke out the bubbles at Dulcie on the waterfront for a quiet toast with wife Shannon, their two sons, aged 11 and 13, his proud parents who were up from Cambridge for the weekend and his brothers.

Watts told the Flagstaff "family comes first" and while he was mindful that being in government would place extra demands on his time in Wellington, representing North Shore people was his driving force.

"I've tried to be a good local and visible MP," the Belmont resident said, adding his electorate office had helped around 1000 constituents in his first term. "I'm not going anywhere, it's my home."

Being in government provided the bonus of being able to do more for the Shore, he said. As well as key policies on the economy and crime, this included investment in infrastructure.

The Watts family's post-rugby watching brunch followed an election evening spent with around 250 supporters at The Grange at Smales Farm, Takapuna, and a later trip over the Harbour Bridge to National's Auckland party headquarters at Shed 10 on the waterfront, joining leader Christopher Luxon, other MPs and party faithful.

Parliament will sit again from 12 November, after special votes are counted.

Watts holds roles as party spokesperson for local govenrment, regional development, climate change and associate finance. Coalition arrangements will see responsibilities shared around, but he is keen to step up.

"The climate-change portfolio is one that the leadership has entrusted to me to take a lead on," he noted.

Asked if sharing an office with Luxon, when both were part of the intake of new National MPs in 2020, might have been a



Celebrating... Shannon and Simon Watts enjoy a post-election brunch at Dulcie on the Devonport waterfront

lucky break, he said the newbies had struck a bond due to shared corporate backgrounds and values

"I consider him a friend, and our families talk," he added.

The former banker and hospital finance manager isn't getting ahead of himself, however, despite having been tipped in some media circles as a future Cabinet minister.

He says it has been a steep learning curve and a lot of hard work since he and Luxon entered Parliament in Opposition "It's been a wild ride."

Watts said the new Prime Minister had "an internal cadence of energy and drive". This was focused on delivery to make New Zealand better and bring people together.

Shannon Watts, a senior marketing manager, said her husband fully deserved his own increased majority due to "the amount of work he's done".

The MP's mother, Margaret, who with her husband, Campbell, raised their sons on a Waikato orchard, said Simon had surprised her when he first said he wanted to become a politician. "Oh my goodness, why do you want to do this?" she recalls asking initially. Later, she decided: "It must be in the DNA."

Her own father, who died when Simon was young, had once been National Party chairman for Waipa, in the days when Marilyn Waring was its trailblazing MP. Campbell said he was "very proud" of what his son had achieved to date.





Westlake Girls see off Aussies at sailing Interdoms



Harbour heroes... Westlake Girls High School sailors celebrate in Sydney after the top team secured the Interdominion title for secondary school girls

Westlake Girls High School's sailing team are Australasian champs, after winning the Interdominion girls' division in Sydney on their first time at the competition recently.

The annual regatta has the top six secondary schools from either side of the Tasman compete against each other in open and girls' competitions

The Westlake Girls team had a slow start, consecutively losing to Collegiate College from Tasmania in the early rounds.

But they bounced back to win five from five races in the last two rounds to finish with 23 wins from 30 races to claim the title. The team comprised: Daniella Wooldridge (captain), Emma Reid, Impressively, their victory in Sydney was despite having to race in Pacer-class boats which aren't sailed in New Zealand.

Danielle Robertson and Zara Latimer.

team-racing championships in April.

Westlake Boys High School's team of Ethan Fong, Robbie Wooldridge, Sam Clarke, Flinn Olson, Isaac Gaites, Jago Cleghorn, and Leo Jeffery came third in the boys category, defeating both other New Zealand schools and one of the Australian teams.

Jess Handley, Gretel Satterthwaite, Bella Jenkins, Emily Turner,

Westlake Girls won the New Zealand Secondary Schools

Despite both Westlakes' efforts, Australia won the overall event.

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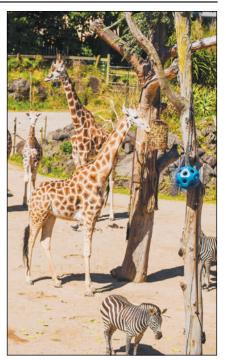








Cutting edge... Auckland Zoo staff (from left) Yannick Yau, Ruth Nielsen and Zephyr Melchior prepare to harvest acacia at Bond St Reserve. Right: A zoo giraffe browsing on acacia foliage.



Shore reserves provide fodder for high-level dining

Auckland Zoo staff have collected large amounts of a pest plant from local reserves to feed their giraffes, benefiting both the animals and the native fauna in local green spaces.

They visited Bond Reserve and William Souter Reserve in Forrest Hill a fortnight ago to harvest Australian-native *Acacia longifolia* trees, which are commonly known as long-leaved or golden wattles.

The species is a favourite source of nutrition for the zoo's five giraffes, due to its similarities with the acacia found in the animals' native habitat of Africa, said Auckland Zoo browse coordinator, Ruth Nielsen.

She and other zoo staff cut down several at the Forrest Hill reserves, which will help meet each giraffe's daily consumption of up to 29 kilograms of acacia.

Nielsen said finding sufficient acacia has become more difficult due to the good work of conservation groups in removing large amounts across the city.

After running short, the zoo asked Auckland Council to advise of any supplies of acacia that could be collected.

Council passed that call onto Pupuke Birdsong environmental coordinator Tabitha Becroft, who let Nielsen know about the abundance of it in the reserves and parks in Sunnynook and Forrest Hill.

Nielsen and her team have previously taken acacia from Lyford Reserve in Sunnynook and Sherwood Reserve in Browns Bay.

Becroft said it's a win-win for both parties, as the zoo staff can clear trees vol-

unteers can't. For health and safety reasons volunteer groups can't cut down trees taller than four metres or use machinery such as chainsaws.

"To me any form of partnership makes everything better," Becroft said.

She said the acacia trees grow tall very quickly, creating a shade canopy that stops the growth of native bush.

Nielsen said the specialised equipment she and her team uses means they can "pretty much take away a whole tree".

After the giraffes eat the foliage the wood gets chipped and used as mulch, she said.

The zoo was looking to partner with more local conservation groups, hoping to coordinate activities to allow the zoo to collect acacia



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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST | 23 NOVEMBER AT 4 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

Boats and memories on parade as Milford Cruising



Commodores ahoy... (below) a line-up of the current and former club leaders: standing (from left) – Andrew Robertson, John Innes, Daryl Voss, Les Wistrand, Jill Roberts, Fergie Small, Tony Sparks, Tim Turner, John Cadness; sitting – Steve Horn, Gary Krinkel, Alan Maddren and Mike Davies.

Milford Cruising Club marked its centenary with a weekend of activities earlier this month, and is looking forward to a bright future despite having had to repair major damage to the club building caused by floods early in the year.

The club was formed at a local tearooms on 11 December 1923, but its 100-year anniversary was commemorated over 6-8 October as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival, with 12 of its commodores from over the decades present for a Friday-night cake-cutting and the opening of a photographic exhibition.

Open days were held on the Saturday and Sunday, with hundreds of visitors enjoying the exhibition and displays of memorabilia. Participants in a 'have-a-go' sailing event experienced the visit of a couple of orca, before a line-up of club vessels headed out for a boat parade, resplendent with festive bunting.

A 1920s-themed party and buffet were held on the Saturday night.

Club commodore Andrew Robertson said

Century of sailing... (top left)
Milford Cruising Club yachts
during a parade to mark the
club's centenary; and a view
(left) of the club's home at the
Wairau mouth as it once was,
with landmark Milford venue the
'Pirate Ship' at left.
Below: Club members in front of
an early clubhouse





Club celebrates 100 years - and looks to the future

membership had grown over Covid and continued to climb.

It had expanded its learn-to-sail programme and is hosting a new secondary-school sailing competition, in which schools will sail against each other in a weekly series.

The club supported the Westlake Boys and Girls High School teams that competed in the Interdominion competition in Sydney recently (see story, page 6).

Amid these developments, the club is still rebuilding from the floods which swept through the ground floor of the clubhouse, but Robertson said it was "on course" for another 100 years of community involvement.

Present and former club members in their 80s who hadn't seen each other since their school days were among those who shared memories over the anniversary weekend, he said

Also in attendance was his 92-year-old father Dave "Robbie" Robertson, a former club captain who is also the longest-standing member, having joined in 1944.

Dave and his late wife, Ann, used to run the club slipway, and he remembers such changes as the decision to install a telephone in the bar. Andrew, who has been a member for 49 years, recalls sleeping on his mum's purse in the bar on a Friday night.

The club's first clubhouse was an old house bought for 50 pounds and moved to the Wairau Estuary in 1924.



Family affair... Milford Cruising Club commodore Andrew Robertson with his 92-year-old father, Dave, who is the club's member of longest standing, having joined in 1944

The present building was built in 1970 and since then has had three additions, the most recent in 1994.

With the club's 100th falling officially

in December, Robertson says another open day may be held, offering another opportunity for visitors to soak up a slice of local Milford history.

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K-style... Mother and daughter Hien Le and daughter Mary Phung dressed in Korean hanbok for Forrest Hill School's culture festival

Crowds flock to school's DIY culture festival

Forrest Hill School celebrated the diversity among its 500 pupils recently, with a well supported Friday-night cultural festival.

Appetising aromas of dishes from Brazil, Scotland, the Philippines, Korea and more floated around the school grounds as performances from each of the junior classes played out.

Individual students and bagpipers also entertained the crowd.

Deputy principal and event organiser Angela White estimated some 2000 people attended the festival a fortnight ago.

Holding the event after school hours "brings the community together", she said, with children bringing along their family and friends.

"It reflects the diverse community at Forrest Hill School and gives an opportunity for different ethnic groups to showcase their cultural practices and traditions."

Parents of children from across the school offered to host stalls representing their homelands or otherwise help in any way they could, White said.

The festival acted as a great finale to studies during the previous term about cultural responsibilities and how people "are different but the same", she said.



All dressed up... (from left) Sevin Jung (7), Ireh Yu (8), Joey Yu (6), Aria Yu (3), Ain Kim (4) and Ara Kim (3) in traditional Korean dress supplied by Sharon Ma (at rear)



Och aye... Beau Bolton (10), Erin O'Malley (9) and Isla Coulter-Mellor (9) donned tartan and served a taste of haggis to festival attendees





Doing the business... Finn Lesley (left) and Ryan Burke, both 9, ran a market stall as part of a financial literacy programme; Leon Wang (7), wearing traditional Chinese garb, brought along dad Lei Wang



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SOOF NOW

Westlake basketballers win national title despite setback



Team effort... Westlake's (from left) Kodee Sefo-Williams, Rebecca Moors and Lily Fotu after victory in the national tournament final

The Westlake Girls High School premier basketball team are looking forward to international competition after securing their second national title in as many years.

The side cruised through the preliminary rounds at the national secondary schools tournament in Palmerston North during the recent school holidays, but suffered a major loss when point guard Amy Pateman suffered a knee injury that put her out of the remaining games.

Her teammates still triumphed, however, narrowly defeating Hamilton Girls High School in the semi-final, 69-66, having been at one stage down by 19 points, then easing past St Andrews College, 67-53, in the final.

Captain Rebecca Moors led the team with 19 points and 18 rebounds in the final, with support from Zenthia Stowers (19 points, 6 rebounds) and Emma-Kaye Schroeder (14 points, 10 rebounds).

Rebecca, who won the tournament MVP award and was named in the team of the tournament alongside teammates Kodee Sefo-Williams and Zenthia, said being the underdog pushed the squad to win again.

Losing eight players from last year and losing Amy meant many teams underestimated them, she said.

Coach Bronwen Davisson said the team had to "really dig deep" to come out on top.

The team is now looking ahead to the World Schools Basketball Championships in Macau. China, in June next year.

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Email completed entries to: sponsorship@barfoot.co.nz **or send to:** Barfoot & Thompson Colouring Competition, PO Box 4078, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140 or hand them into your local Barfoot & Thompson branch. **Entries close Sunday 5 November 2023** and the top four entries will be posted on Barfoot & Thompson Social Media channels. The girl and boy with the most votes will win. **Winners will be notified by Friday 10 November.**

Winner and winner's selected friend must be between 7 and 11 years old. One entry per person. Immediate family members of Barfoot & Thompson employees are not eligible. Judges' decision is final. Rain date is Sunday 3 December. Parents or guardians of the winner and winner's friend accept full responsibility for the safety, care and transport of the children pre and post parade. Family members invited into the VIP area are limited to two adults and two children. Entries and photographs of the winner and winner's friends may be used for promotional purposes. The winner and winner's selected friend must be available for a costume fitting in Auckland on Wednesday 15 November.





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Spring Festival showcases community-garden vibe

Heritage tomato seedlings and strawberry plants were the hot tickets at Grow Forrest Hill's Spring Festival this month.

The Sunday afternoon event drew eager gardeners to Seine Reserve to support the community garden's annual fundraiser, which raised \$2300.

This will go to the garden's further development, said Phoebe Atkinson, who founded the trust that runs it.

Neighbourhood volunteers have worked for two years to build up the garden.

The community vibe was evident on the day, with activities appealing to children, such as sack races, bubble blowing, and flower pressings, staged alongside the seedling stalls and sausage sizzle.

Justin Smith from Forrest Hill, who had his children with him, has been to other activities at the garden. "It's an awesome space," he said.

Atkinson puts the appeal down to people wanting to learn to connect with nature, gardening and their community. Support from the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board helped secure the lease and, having shown the garden's viabillity, the trust is now looking to work with the board to encourage other similar neighbourhood projects.

At Grow Forrest Hill, education courses are planned and a composting bin has been set up at the edge of the reserve where people can bring their scraps.

The final stage of development will be setting up a pizza oven and extending the glasshouse to create an area for eating, which will be available to hire to help provide the trust an income stream..

Atkinson hopes this will be ready by the end of the year, with builder Dave Patience having volunteered to do the construction.



Old-fashioned tun...
Lio Morfin (8) from Castor Bay and
Sylvie Patience (7) enjoyed a sack
race. Right: Tui Smith (1) enjoys
an ice block with brother Jai (13).







Green thumbs... Strawberry plants caught the eye of Natasha Surm from Castor Bay, while Takapuna's Jahneen Atkinson (centre) was looking for tomato seedlings. Wendy Chen from Milford and Anne Kim (far right) were on sales duty.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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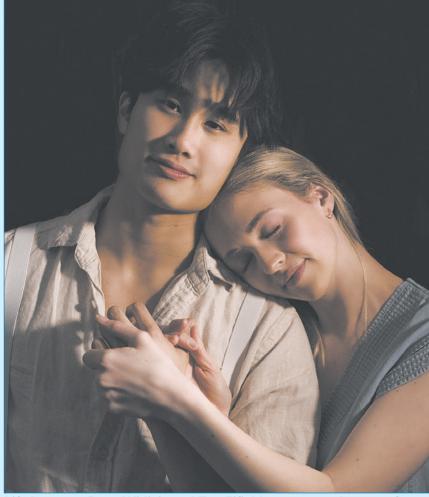
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Life lessons... Ryan Widjaja and Zoe Fifield are among the cast of Spring Awakening at the PumpHouse

Rock musical tackles tricky topics

A boundary-pushing rock musical that explores young people exploring taboo topics in an oppressive society comes to the PumpHouse this week.

Spring Awakening – based on the play by Frank Wedekind - follows a group of teenagers navigating difficult life experiences in Germany in 1890. They investigate topics such as sexual repression, identity, suicide and parental control.

When one of the group discovers a book with information about the realities of sex that explains the feelings many of the adolescents have been having but not understanding, he decides to educate the rest of the group, with the drama unfolding from there.

Director Jarrod Brown, who is staging the musical for Bravi Theatre Company, says it will be a faithful adaptation of the Tonyaward-winning musical, which combines modern alt-rock, folk and musical theatre songs in an historic setting.

A seven-piece band will accompany the performers on stage, which adds ambience to the production," said Brown.

"You can't compare a backing track to a live band," said Brown.

The costumes offer a nod to the period. with adult characters in bustles, bonnets and waistcoats. Younger characters are dressed in more modern garb, however.

Brown said he and the team chose the PumpHouse as its venue for its historical look and feel, which made it "the perfect venue for the show".

Intimacy coordinator Margaret Sydenham was hired to manage consent and boundaries during rehearsals.

Brown promises a show that handles sex scenes in a tasteful and mature way, employing clever lighting and acting skills.

The action brings out many "emotions that are quite real" among cast members, he said.

But while the show is confronting, it's not all serious, featuring many moments of comedic relief.

Members of the audience, young or old, might see themselves in one of the characters, Brown said, as the show deals with issues that most people have come across during their lives.

• Spring Awakening, 26-29 October at the PumpHouse Theatre, tickets from \$6. For more information, see pumphouse.co.nz



WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library



Community Talk

Tuesday 14 November, 6:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

Dr Ashwinee Pendharkar took up a new curator's role on the staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library several years ago to help the library 'collect for the future". Her job is to identify communities that are not represented in archives and then help these contemporary voices to tell their own stories in ways that will ensure that they become part of our social history. Her talk, "Contemporary Collecting: towards a documentary heritage for tomorrow", will present some of these amazing stories. Don't miss this absorbing presentation that challenges preconceived ideas about conventional history and what we may have dismissed as dusty old archives.

Art Exhibition

Students of AGE School will be hosting an art exhibition in Takapuna Library to celebrate World Children's Day. This day, created by UNICEF, is to raise awareness of issues facing children around the world to create a better future. The exhibition will run from November 20th to November 24th.

Book Chat

Second Wednesday of the month, 10.00am-11.00am

Do you love talking about the books you've read? Would you like to hear about books others have enjoyed? Come along to our monthly book chat to meet interesting people and discover the best new reads







Collared for charity... Merle Bishop's sculpture of dog Spot will be among works shown at NZ Sculpture onShore next month

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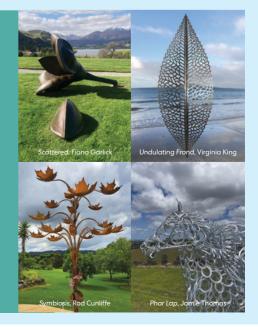
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Personable pooch offers chance to paws and relax

Takapuna artist Merle Bishop has given a familiar canine subject a more human twist with her latest sculpture.

The keen animal lover has used a dog called Spot as a recurring theme in her art for years, but this time he appears in more anthropomorphised form.

Sit With Me is a bronze sculpture of Spot sitting on a wooden bench with a cup of coffee, reaching his arm out as if to invite passersby to take a seat.

The work will be exhibited next month at Sculpture OnShore, a fundraising event for Women's Refuge for which Bishop considered a friendly approach was particularly appropriate.

The Takapuna resident of 40 years said she wanted to sculpt something that would "enhance the quality of someone's day", leading to the idea that sitting with Spot would achieve that.

Spot has appeared in Bishop's paintings, etchings and sculptures since 1990.

Her work has been shown at galleries around New Zealand.

The artist, who has a background in graphic design, said Spot is whatever she wants him to be, taking many different shapes

"I guess I just realised dogs are funny, you know. People love them. They have human traits, they're cunning [and], manipulative. they love having a good time, they know



how to have fun."

She usually depicts dogs with energy and movement to show their exuberant and energetic nature.

But for this piece she gave Spot a more human-like figure, with longer arms and a human-like torso to make him more inviting to the children at the exhibition.

"He's patting the bench and saving sit here. "You see his silly little legs dangling and the hands they're all extended and pulled out. but to make a gesture of welcoming you have to exaggerate."

Sculpture OnShore is returning to Fort Takapuna, Narrow Neck, for the first time

Bishop, who has participated previously, said the cause motivated her to make a more calming piece.

She said in turbulent family situations children suffer as well as women, so she wanted children to find a place welcoming their company, to "find time to rest, think and feel comforted"

Bishop has crafted seven smaller sterling silver maquettes of the statue for anyone who likes the piece, but can't afford the full-size version

The wooden bench will be engraved with positive messages that Bishop hoped would be a "bit of laugh" for the children at the exhibition.

Bishop said she originally planned to make the bench smaller, but made it wider after her husband pointed out only one child could fit on it. "You want their parents to sit there, don't you? Or a friend."

The public outdoor exhibition, which features hundreds of works from top artists and local schoolchildren, is on from 4-19 November, after a gala opening evening on on 3 November.

• Tickets at nzsculptureonshore.co.nz

Military precision

Band fans are in for more well-drilled performances at the Bruce Mason Centre in Takapuna, following the big centenary show of North Shore Brass last weekend. The Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery is booked for 13 November, followed by the Royal New Zealand Navy Band on 4 December.



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