

The Rangitoto Observer

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

Issue 126 - April 12, 2024

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Safe-streets project quietly abandoned... p3

Gnome a no-show after costume stolen... p5

Young actors star in offbeat comedy... p22-23

Winter festival in doubt after council backing lost

Takapuna's Winter Lights festival has lost its Auckland Council support, leaving its future looking dim.

A decision will be made next month on whether the event can proceed, likely on a smaller scale, for a fifth year in July.

"We were very disappointed," said Takapu-

na Beach Business Association (TBBA) chief executive Terence Harpur, after council's promotional arm Tataka Auckland Unlimited (TAU) suddenly pulled the plug.

"They don't support any other event in the northern area," he said.

TAU provided \$40,000 for last year's

festival. Harpur hopes enough alternative sponsorship will be secured to carry on with an event that had grown from drawing 12,000 people in 2021 to 45,000 last year – generating an estimated \$1 million of spending in the town centre.

To page 2

Picnic powers pool project



On the bounce... Takapuna residents Owen Tan and daughter Bella on an inflatable attraction at Hauraki School's Electric Picnic fundraiser for a new pool last Saturday. The five-year-old is a pupil at the school, which is closing in on the \$500,000 it needs for the project. Demolition of the existing pool starts next week.



Available at our clinics in:

- Devonport
- Birkenhead
- Grey Lynn



\$65 Earwax Removal

The best value ear cleaning by microsuction in Auckland. Online bookings only.

Visit www.earhealth.co.nz or search Ear Health Auckland. T&Cs apply.



The Rangitoto
Observer

Telephone: 09 445 0060
Email: news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
sales@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
Website: www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz
[Sign up online to receive our fortnightly issue by email](#)

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

MANAGING EDITOR: Rob Drent
EDITOR: Janetta Mackay
REPORTER: Lochlan Lineham
ADVERTISING: Candice Izzard
PRODUCTION: Brendon De Suza

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

Information in the Rangitoto Observer is copyright and cannot be published or broadcast without the permission of Devonport Publishing Ltd.

NEXT ISSUE: April 26
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: April 19

WRITE TO US: We welcome letters. Please limit to 300 words on local topics. Noms-de-plume or unnamed submissions will not be printed.
Email news@rangitoto-observer.co.nz

Council focus is on city-side events

From page 1

The TBBA was in discussions with TAU late last year about securing a three-year support package, but things went quiet, he said. Last month, “they turned around and said no funding”.

TAU is now focusing its promotional efforts and reduced budget on staging only the bigger Lantern, Diwali and Pasifika festivals, as well as the new Moana festival it set up this year. All are isthmus- or South Auckland-based.

Harpur, who is also Devonport-Takapuna Local Board deputy chair, said the North Shore was missing out. “We’d like to see events activating and funding for North Shore, not just Auckland.”

Winter Lights was an example of how a good free event brought joy to the community. Schools were involved as well as professional light artists, and it had potential to grow further, with a target of 50,000 to 55,000 visitors this year.

The TBBA event, organised in conjunction with light-show promoter and Takapuna resident Dan Move, started small and was then taken under the umbrella of the city’s Elemental festival.

Harpur said it cost a six-figure sum to put on, much of it contributed by the TBBA. Foundation North and Pub Charity had also been supporters, along with other sponsors.

Fixed costs for the likes of traffic management, security and fencing meant any shortfalls that could be locked in through other sponsorship would impact on the extent of lighting displays and entertainment that could be staged.

“After those are assessed we’ll have a better idea if we can go ahead,” he said. “We really want to put the event on. I’m confident it will, it’s just the scale of it at stake.”

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder raised the issue of funding at a board discussion on budgets last week, sounding out members on their interest in supporting the event. “It activates the town centre in the cold winter days,” she said.

Board member Gavin Busch said it was up



Warm glow... Winter Lights drew 45,000 people in 2023

to the TBBA. That said, he was disappointed that there was such a city focus in Auckland. The Vivid light festival in Sydney showed how good events could grow.

Member Mel Powell said other events such as Sculpture OnShore also draw crowds of 20,000 or so people. “Why would we choose one over the other?”

Van Tonder said Winter Lights had clear economic benefits, whereas with Sculpture OnShore at Fort Takapuna in Narrow Neck more people drove in and out, without necessarily bringing dollars into town centres.

She was not wanting the board to underwrite Winter Lights, but said alongside North Shore ward councillor Richard Hills she was advocating to TAU to back destinations such as Takapuna. “I just worry we could lose it. It’s a signature event for the North Shore area.”

AU head of major events Chris Simpson said the organisation had decided to ‘push pause’ on Elemental after a review of the festival’s impact over the past five years.

HON SIMON WATTS

MP for North Shore
northshore@parliament.govt.nz
f @simonwattsm



National  **NZ**

Authorised by Hon Simon Watts, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

ONE TICKET \$10 | THREE TICKETS \$20

ENTER OUR RAFFLE

WELL FOUND ATION.

Win an **UBCO Bike** worth \$7,599!



SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS



You’ll love the comfort of ducted central heating this winter



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

ALBANY HEAT PUMPS

Contact us for a **FREE** quote!
0800 927 628 | albanyheatpumps.co.nz

Hosed-off: Theft victim must clean more cars

A Takapuna 12-year-old who saved up to buy a mountain bike had it stolen just three days after buying it.

Carson Rawls paid \$1000 for the bike, which was taken from the Shoalhaven apartments building in Anzac St, where he lives with his family.

Having recently got into mountain biking with friends, the Takapuna Normal Intermediate student had spent his spare time detailing cars for “a few months” to save up for the bike, which he bought second-hand.

The thief struck sometime between 8pm on Sunday 31 March and 9am on Monday 1 April, taking Carson’s locked bike and at least one other.

The bike had been locked inside a cage in the complex’s parking garage.

Carson informed police of the theft but is realistic about the chances of getting it back.

“I don’t know how they’ll be able to find it,” he said. “It could be anywhere.”

He plans to wash more cars to save up for another bike.

Police would be making inquiries into the theft, a spokesperson said.



Back to square one... Takapuna 12-year-old Carson Rawls saved money from car washing to buy his own mountain bike – only to have it stolen after just three days

Unfinished safe-streets project quietly abandoned

Auckland Transport (AT) has put the final stage of Takapuna Safe Streets on hold, leaving pedestrian crossings near Takapuna Primary School and the \$2.8 million Patuone walkway unbuilt.

The project began with much fanfare from AT three years ago as a new collaborative model of working with key “stakeholders”.

Representatives from the school, residents and business associations and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board gave input before and after the project went out for public consultation.

Completed work includes implementation of a 30km/h speed limit in the town centre in March last year, among other safety measures.

A series of crossings, some raised, were planned for Anzac St to make it easier for pedestrians, including young school children, to cross the busy road. The tricky intersection of Killarney St with Hurstmere

Rd was also in for an upgrade.

Designs were also done last year for pedestrian crossings on Auburn St just south of Como St to allow safer access to and from Auburn Reserve and adjacent parking. The reserve is home to community groups including a playcentre, croquet club, and Guides hall.

It is also the starting point for the walkway and cycling boardwalk across to Barrys Pt and Esmonde roads.

But progressing all this work was quietly put on ice by AT in mid-2023.

Some stakeholders say they developed an inkling something was up as the year progressed.

The local board called for an official update last week.

When the Observer asked AT what the status of the project was, a spokesperson said: “There’s not too much that the team can say at this stage, as they work through

the change in government policy statement and reprioritisation of budgets.”

In fact, government draft transport directives and comments from Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown to pull back on raised crossings came after the work was frozen.

The spokesperson said the project was effectively “on hold from July 2023, when budget cuts left it unfunded”.

Consultation to date had cost around \$28,000, which included letter-box communication, consultation-website creation, video shoots, advertising and work by internal staff.

Takapuna Beach Business Association chair Terence Harpur said he was keen to see some of the pedestrian safety elements of the project completed.

Reviewing measures such as the need for A-plus, gold-standard raised crossings made sense, if the BB-plus standard would do as well and cost much less.

Under-powered square connection short-circuits ice-rink return

The return of an ice-rink to Takapuna for the school holidays has been canned due to the lack of a suitable power source in the town centre’s new Waiwharariki Anzac Square.

The Takapuna Beach Business Association (TBBA) had intended to repeat the installation of a temporary rink, which proved popular two years ago.

But the connection boxes installed during development of the square by Auckland Council property arm Eke Panuku do not supply the amperage required.

The connection box used last time, on

what has become part of the square near Hurstmere Rd, was removed when the area was paved over.

TBBA chief executive Terence Harpur said the square’s new connection boxes where the rink was to be installed, at the southern end of the old public car park near the Lake Rd bus station, couldn’t provide the power necessary.

A quoted \$35,000 cost to upgrade the power connection led to the idea being shelved.

“The ice-rink draws a particularly large

amount of power,” Harpur said.

The square’s new connection provided 32 amps, when the rink needed 100 amps.

After lobbying by the TBBA, three connection boxes were installed in the square, when only one was originally planned. The supply is ample for most events.

The next big public event in the square will be in early May when a Filipino festival will be held.

The TBBA’s Easter Activity Trail continues for children through the holidays until 28 April.

Residents exasperated at ongoing Sacred Grove saga

Takapuna apartment dwellers living above Te Uru Tapu / Sacred Grove are despairing at ongoing delays in council decision-making about its future.

“We’ve got members of the community who are incensed by the lack of action,” said spokesman Allan Morris.

Weeds have overtaken the closed-off pōhutukawa grove and a large tree that fell onto the front lawn of the Sands apartment complex remains there 20 months later.

“It [Auckland Council] doesn’t seem to have any urgency with the management of the trees,” he said. “The place is a pigsty.”

The site overlooking the northern end of Takapuna Beach is culturally significant to mana whenua. Council, which closed it five years ago, citing health and safety concerns related to its large trees, wants to keep it blocked off and not reinstate a boardwalk initially built to protect tree roots. Most of the stone lookout accessed off The Promenade will be kept open.

Morris was among a group of a dozen residents of the Sands, Mon Desir and the Rocks apartments who attended a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop update in late February, pending an expected vote by board members in April on staff recommendations.

The residents had wanted to express their opinions before the vote, but it has now been pushed out to May. Morris said staff told him they were awaiting another report and that residents’ input could come through council’s Have Your Say consultation process.

“I went back to the board and said it was objectionable and culturally biased.” He has also complained to North Shore ward councillors Chris Darby and Richard Hills and North Shore MP Simon Watts.

Morris told the Observer he had no issue with mana whenua being consulted as they were in 2022, but all parties needed to agree on a sustainable course of action.

“It’s divide and conquer, with conversa-



Unimpressed... Allan Morris by the fenced off Te Uru Tapu / Sacred Grove above Takapuna Beach, where weeds have overtaken reserve land

tions we can’t be part of,” he said. Residents wanted to have face-to-face input, including consultation processes.

“The old view that rich pricks want to improve their views is so far from the truth,” said Morris. “I’ve spent 10 years trying to get action on the trees. No one wants to remove the trees. We want a plan where the trees are regularly maintained and we see some vibrance come into the growth.”

Residents were concerned that overgrowth and litter was building up in the grove, he said. “I had community volunteers wanting to go in there and weed.”

But in the absence of any decisions, birdlife had declined, with vermin an issue.

Morris said one tree in poor health that arborists believed had been poisoned had clear signs of myrtle rust disease.

Six trees had fallen over since 2015, he-

said, with arborist reports overestimating how many remained. “They say there’s 21, but there’s not.”

Morris said the community had indicated it wanted the boardwalk reinstated in a petition signed by more than 2000 people three years ago. While apartment residents wanted this too, the immediate need was for an agreed way forward.

He hoped that stones from the “stairs to nowhere” at the lookout might be used to extend the seawall under several trees to the northern end of the beach. Soil around their roots was being steadily eroded, he said.

Council’s near \$1 million budget for works did not provide for the seawall extension.

Morris predicted money would be the next sticking point in the ongoing saga. “If you want respect for the environment, create the right environment people will respect.”



Experience and Success Count

30 PLUS YEARS
Countless happy clients

GERRY PETRIE 021 923 352
GerryPetrie@premium.co.nz

PREMIUM®

PREMIUM REAL ESTATE LICENSED REAA 2008 | 916 6000

Briefs

AT has no Lake Rd plan

Auckland Transport (AT) says it has no fixes in store for Lake Rd. "The relevant road network teams have nothing planned or in the works at this stage," an AT spokesman said in response to Observer inquiries. The response appears to dash hopes that, after the withdrawal last year of Waka Kotahi's support for a \$48 million upgrade of the congested Takapuna to Devonport route, AT might instead make provision for less costly intersection improvements.

Shore apprentice wins

A North Shore building apprentice has won the North Auckland regional heat of the New Zealand Certified Builders Apprentice Challenge. Courtney Willan, a third year apprentice for Wairau Valley-based Edgcity Builders, will compete against 19 other regional winners in a national final in Wellington in June. Willian, aged 28, was among competitors at the regional event last Saturday who were given eight hours to build a picnic table and were judged on the standard of their workmanship. The tables will be sold to support a trust that provides scholarships for building apprentices.

Church seeks enabler

The Takapuna Methodist Church is looking to hire a community 'enabler'. The role involves working with community leaders, assessing needs and building relationships with diverse groups. The role will also have an influence on a planned refurbishment of church buildings, said minister Rev Peter Norman. "We want to be a multifaceted community hub, that's the goal."

Army garb wins Shore to Shore prize



Armed and dangerous... The Elliott Collins family, whose military costume won the best fancy dress prize at last Sunday's Shore to Shore event: Nick Collins, Penny Elliott, Wilder Collins (7) and Joshua Elliott (5)

Penny Elliott wanted to dress up in a fluoro theme for the Shore to Shore fun run but was outnumbered by the three males in her family, who voted for army gear.

The resulting costumes – and accompanying 'tank' pushchair – won them the event's best fancy-dress prize of a car for a weekend and a holiday-park voucher.

Around 4000 people took part in this year's event, from Takapuna Grammar School to Milford Beach, well up on last

year's 2700, when it made its post-Covid return.

Attendance was boosted by event organisers Harbour Sport running a programme with North Shore schools, returning a portion of registration fees in the form of vouchers to be spent on sports equipment.

Campbells Bay School had 681 participants, with good turnouts also from Forrest Hill (125) and Takapuna (66) primary schools.

Gnomelessness surges after costume stolen in van theft

Multiple North Shore events were left gnomeless last weekend after a sponsor's van was stolen from central Milford.

A costume for the Harcourts Cooper and Co mascot, 'Homie the Gnomie', was taken from the vehicle, which was later found in Forrest Hill.

That meant the gnome had to be a no-show at Saturday's Shore to Shore fun run, where he has been a familiar face at the finish line and prizegiving, and other weekend events.

The company's community van, which is used to transport gear such as gazebos, furniture and flags to events across the North Shore, was stolen from behind Anokla Restaurant on Dodson Ave around 5am on Tuesday 2 April.

CCTV footage showed a person with a slight build, dressed in black, taking the vehicle.

When it was found on Keldale Pl the

following day, the gnome costume and a fuel card were gone.

Harcourts community relationship manager Nikki Revell said the theft was especially disappointing ahead of a weekend of events, including the fun run – the "last big one of the summer" – which attracted around 4000 competitors.

Revell said she and other staff were "shocked and disappointed" at the theft. "Especially given it's a community service vehicle."

With the community van having been damaged in the theft, Tristram European lent another vehicle for use during the weekend.

Revell said it was hard to understand what the culprit's motivation was for taking the costume. She was hopeful it would be returned to the agency so Homie could resume his usual activities.

Police said they were investigating the van theft.



Theft victim... Homie in happier times

Milford retail enjoys strong start to 2024

Milford retail outperformed every other commercial suburban centre in the Auckland region during January except Mahurangi, a holiday destination.

Milford's 10 per cent growth in spending for the month was partly due to a 50 per cent increase in the Department Store and Leisure sector.

Mahurangi recorded 26.7 per cent growth on the previous year, while some other centres were down – Newmarket by 11.9 per cent and Parnell by 8.9 per cent. Takapuna recorded a 1.8 per cent drop in January and Devonport was down 2.7 per cent, according to Marketview data

Milford had a \$13.7-million spend in January and overall has recorded a 5 per cent increase in January over the past four years.

The solid start to the year carried on in February with Milford posting 7.8 per cent growth on a \$13.6 million spend – the fourth-highest growth posted by a suburb for the month. Takapuna was down 1.1 per cent and Devonport 0.5 per cent.

Milford BID manager Murray Hill said the area's positive start to the year had continued with excellent numbers attending its



Moving out... The departure of The Warehouse from the Milford mall has prompted plans for a gym and 16 retail shops in the space it occupied

Viva La France day on 9 March and fashion shows at the Milford Mall.

Vacant commercial spaces in Milford were almost all filled, with only the former

Westpac branch site on Kitchener Rd still to be tenanted.

Ray White has recently moved into a high-visibility site at the Kitchener Rd entrance to the shopping centre, which was vacated by a wholefoods store some months ago.

Meanwhile, a new gym and 16 retail shops are planned for the Milford Shopping Centre.

The 'Red Shed' outlet, which has been selling off remaining stock over recent weeks, closes on 12 April, vacating 2500sqm of commercial space.

"The expansion signifies an exciting phase in our centre's growth as we connect the North and East wings, providing an opportunity to enhance the overall flow of the Centre," Milford Centre management said.

The addition of the new retail spaces will be complemented by a new customer toilet facility and is set to open in the first quarter of 2025.

"Additionally, we are excited about the upcoming opening of CityFitness near the Milford Rd entrance of the shopping centre later this year."



Digger achieves lift-off



Up and over... A digger being lifted into position at Milford School (left) and ready to tackle the job (above)

Milford School was the scene of one of the North Shore's more unusual retaining-wall projects last weekend, when a 100-tonne crane was needed to lift a digger over classrooms to access slip damage from the January 2023 floods.

"Once complete we will finally have our music and STEM rooms back in action," Principal Lucy Naylor said.

The work will take around two months.



RYMAN
HEALTHCARE



FIND A HOME YOU'LL LOVE

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

William Sanders Village is nestled amongst peaceful surroundings in Devonport. Apartments feature modern interiors, open plan living and seamless indoor-outdoor flow. Enjoy independence without the home maintenance stress and security worries.

Call Scott or Dell on 445 0909 for more details or visit rymanhealthcare.co.nz

YOUR PRIVATE OASIS



IA A41 🛏️ 1 🚿 1 65m²

\$890,000

Enjoy comfort and convenience in this ground floor apartment. Your living area and bedroom seamlessly open onto the patio and a manicured lawn. Sunny and private, don't miss out on this brand-new apartment.

YOUR CORNER WITH VIEWS



IA B48 🛏️ 2 🚿 1.5 89m²

\$1,650,000

Soak in the sunshine of this corner apartment and admire gorgeous village gardens and views stretching to Ngataranga Bay and the city. Entertain guests on your balcony, accessible from your living area.

WILLIAM SANDERS VILLAGE

7 Ngataranga Road, Devonport

Spotlight on Pupuke as environmental event returns

An environmental-awareness event is returning to Lake Pupuke this weekend, with a new cause to campaign about.

The first Discover Pupukemoana was hosted by environmental group Pupuke Birdsong Project (PBP) at Killarney Park last year to raise awareness of the lake's history and importance to the local ecosystem.

This year's event is at the same location, but with the extra motive of raising awareness about the biohazard of golden clams.

The invasive shellfish, which have been found in the Waikato River, pose a serious risk to ecosystems as they can outcompete native species.

"It pretty much decimates areas where it is found, so [authorities] are really worried about it coming into the Auckland region," said PBP environmental coordinator Tabatha Becroft.

Attendees at the event who learn about the clams and answer questions about how to prevent their spread will go into a draw for a new kayak.

Becroft said if more introduced species such as golden clams found their way to the lake, the impacts would be devastating.

"If we got that golden clam or any other pest animal or plant it could tip the balance and make the water quality worse."

All of last year's favourite activities, including snorkel and kayak tours of the lake, and raranga (weaving) workshops led by local experts, are on offer.

Tours of Killarney Park and the PumpHouse Theatre, where attendees can learn about the park's natural features and the building's history as a functional pump house and a theatre, will also be available.

PBP will run educational stalls and activ-

ities, including a 'grow your own backyard' workshop, taught in Mandarin.

General information stalls on pest control and other environmental topics, food trucks and games will also be part of the event, which is free to attend.

Pupuke is the oldest volcano in Auckland's volcanic belt, erupting around 140,000 years ago.

The 57m deep lake was once pristine, with clear waters and expansive freshwater mussel beds.

But introduced animal and plant species have thrown the natural balance, causing water quality to degrade.

Becroft said the event is a great opportunity for people to learn about a significant natural resource and how to look after it.

• Discover Pupukemoana, 14 April at Killarney Park, from 9.30am to 3pm.

Scavenger bike hunt attracts 50 to Sunnynook Park

Bike Sunnynook's latest event attracted 50 participants, many in family groups. They enjoyed an Easter scavenger hunt on the paved paths of Sunnynook Park.

Clues were designed by Wairau Intermediate School Year 8 students Narin Em Ream (who wore an Easter Bunny costume) and Lachie Pou.

Participants followed the clues on their bicycles and claimed prizes by spotting birds near the playground and counting squares on drain covers.

The event was organised by local mums and Bike Sunnynook founders Soriya Em, Rebecca Sinclair and Serenade Pugh.

The group was set up last year to encourage cycling.

Those attending the Easter hunt ranged from mini trike riders to older cyclists and others on scooters and on foot.

Prizes were awarded, including for the best-decorated bikes, and plenty of Easter eggs were on offer.

Support for the event came from Bike Auckland, the Sunnynook Community Centre and council activator Ruth Moloney.

• Picture, page 11



Biking advocates... Sunnynook Bike champions Soriya Em, Serenade Pugh and Rebecca Sinclair.

FREE

I LOVE TAKAPUNA

EASTER

Activity Trail

Sunday 24th March - Sunday 28th April
Between 10am - 3pm

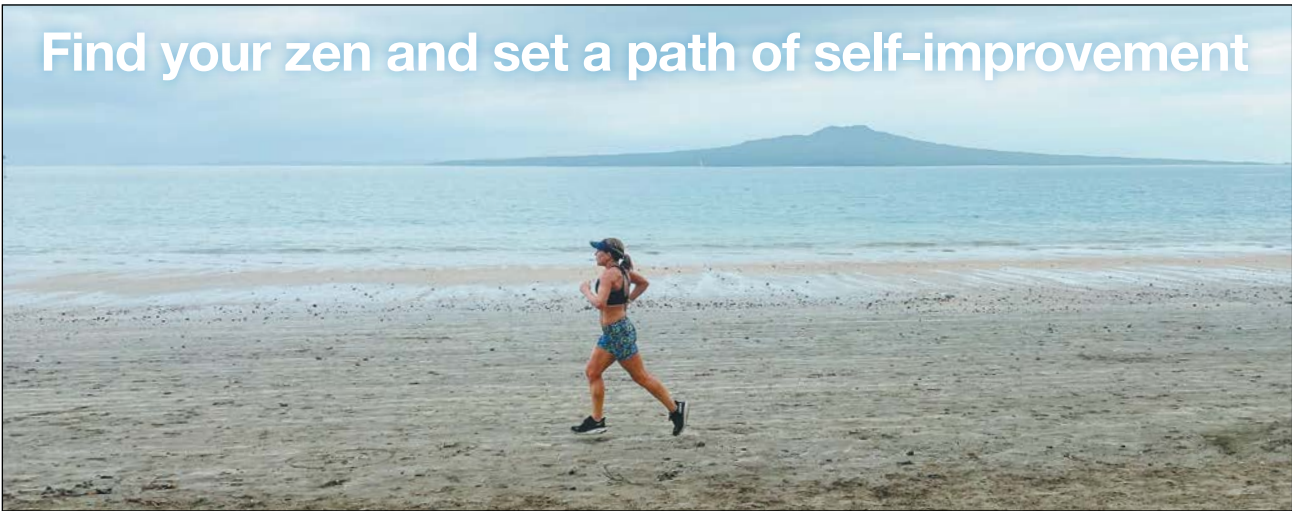


Head to Shore City to get your map to all the exciting and fun challenges for kids, all over town, and get your Easter treat!

I ♥ TAKAPUNA

Designed with support from the team at **BENEFITZ**

Health and Wellness
— Shore style —



Find your zen and set a path of self-improvement

As the seasons change, it's only natural to start making lifestyle adjustments

A check list is a great place to start for setting goals on what more you want out of a life lived to your best potential.

From exercise regimens to health improvements and beauty enhancement programmes, the North Shore has you covered.

The beachy culture of the area – centred on Takapuna with its developing reputation as a hub of wellness offerings – provides the ideal backdrop for everything from walks to fitness boot camps.

Gyms, pilates, high-intensity workouts and boxing classes are just the start of the ways you can work out. For better peace of mind some may wish to consider holistic therapies or counselling services, or just succumb to a soothing massage or chai latte.

Then there's retail therapy to consider, so you're kitted out appropriately for your chosen activity. Look at a little indulgence – and ideas on pages that follow – as just another way to support local.

Now is the time to book your annual flu vaccine

The flu season for 2024 began on 2 April 2024.

The flu vaccine is free for those who are most vulnerable to becoming very sick if they get the flu.

It is funded for everyone 65 years old and over. It is also funded for people under 65 who are most at risk of becoming very sick from flu, such as those:

- with long-term conditions (like asthma,

diabetes or cardiovascular disease)

- with reduced immune function
- who are pregnant
- who have specific mental health conditions or addiction issues
- are 4 years old and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

Pharmac has confirmed around one million people are eligible to get the vaccination for free.

It is possible to come into contact with flu viruses year round, but these circulate in the community more during winter.

For most people, the best time to be vaccinated against influenza is just before the start of the winter season, between April and June.

To book your flu vaccine visit BookMyVaccine.nz, call the Vaccination Healthline on 0800 282926 or contact your doctor, pharmacy or healthcare provider.

See the Expert, Hear the Difference

Hearing aids are only as good as the professional that programs them, so it's important to find an Audiologist you trust.

At Teresa Burns Hearing, you'll have peace of mind knowing you'll see the same Audiologist every time.

Doctor Teresa Burns has over 25 years experience and is a local North Shore resident. She's active in the local community and is the proud owner of Teresa Burns Hearing.



Contact us today to discuss your hearing health.

Call 09 475 9849

teresa@teresaburnshearing.co.nz
25 Apollo Drive, Rosedale
teresaburnshearing.co.nz



Get the best protection you can before winter

The flu vaccine is free if you're over 65

It's also free for children and adults with certain underlying health conditions, including diabetes, heart and lung diseases, and mental health conditions.

To book your flu vaccine:

- visit [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://www.bookmyvaccine.nz)
- call the Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26
- contact your doctor, pharmacy or healthcare provider.

info.health.nz/flu

Health and Wellness — Shore style

Fabulous Teeth

@ Seaside Dental Laboratory & Clinic

We can take care of all your denture requirements

09 489 6663

Underground Parking
Wheel Chair Access

www.seasidelab.com

studio pilates
international

**GET STARTED WITH
6 CLASSES FOR \$60***

STUDIO PILATES TAKAPUNA | 092174341

*T&Cs Apply. New clients only.

Bikers and a bunny drawn to an Easter outing



Community events such as this Bike Sunnynook outing over Easter weekend make for a great way for the whole family to have fun and stay fit and motivated. Whether you set your own health, wellness and fitness goals, sign up for professional programmes or join in with others in your area – like these folk at Sunnynook Park did – being active in a way you enjoy is always time well spent.

Environment affecting your overall wellness?"

CELL WELLBEING HAIR TEST

Its time to unlock your "epigenetic potential" for optimum wellness!

Quick, convenient and affordable process. Cutting edge technology to help you with your wellbeing.

NOW OFFERING
\$95 Plus complimentary 30 minute consultation

"Are you nutritionally balanced for life?"

We assess your epigenetics:

- FOR VITAMINS
- PARASITES AND VIRUSES,
- NUTRITION AND TOXINS,
- ANTIOXIDANTS AND MICROBIOLOGY,
- MINERALS AND FATTY ACIDS,
- EFA & EMF (radiation)

As well as system supports:

- ADRENALS, DIGESTION,
- BRAIN HEALTH, CIRCULATION
- EMOTIONS

SCAN OUR QR CODE

Hardy's Health Hub
Natural Health Consultant available

Sleep Clinic
Only Pharmacy in Auckland offering full Sleep Apnea Clinic services

Nurse Services
Qualified Nurse services available during opening hours

Vaccination Center
We offer a wide range of Vaccines done daily in Pharmacy. Enquire today about funding eligibility.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Mon-Fri: 8:00AM - 20:00PM
Sat / Sun: 9:00AM - 18:00PM
Public Holidays: 10:00 - 16:00PM

SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE

Phone: 09 445 4000

31A Bartley Terrace
Devonport, next to New World
Website: 247pharmacy.co.nz



**DEVONPORT
7 DAY PHARMACY**
We are your Local pharmacy

Health and Wellness — Shore style



Not all skin cancers are moles. We'll find the ones you can't see.

Skintel

Dermatologist, Dr David Lim
www.skintel.co.nz 0800 SKINTEL

TARGET CUSTOMERS

in our special advertising pages

Contact The Observer for our features calendar and cost-effective rates

sales@rangitoto-observer.co.nz
www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz



Whether you're feeling WICKED, DREAMY, ELECTRIC, or FIERCE, our medically-backed treatments are tailored to make you feel good inside and out. Hurry, it's your time to shine with these limited-time offers.

laserclinics
NEW ZEALAND

Book online or call 09 887 6994, takapuna@laserclinicsnewzealand.co.nz and 09 887 6963 queenst@laserclinicsnewzealand.co.nz

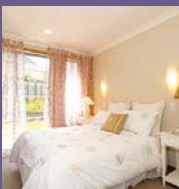


Belmont Retirement Village

Come for the lifestyle, Stay for the care.

Belmont Lifestyle Village consists of just 28 apartments located over two levels, serviced by a lift and stairs. Common areas include a multi activity room used for exercise with movie theatre, lounges, restaurant and beauty salon. Our spacious outdoor areas include a large patio, water features with garden seating and walking paths through trees and attractively planted landscaped gardens.

Level 1 to 5 nursing care available, and priority to our Continuity Care Facility.



Belmont Retirement Village Care Suite

Moving to Belmont Lifestyle Village will enhance your lifestyle. Enjoy social activities and making new friends while feeling secure and safe.

Are you disabled or have limited mobility then we have the perfect solution for you at our friendly boutique village where you can remain independent but receive extra care if and when required.

We can offer a spacious, sunny wheelchair accessible apartment with lounge, bedroom, bathroom and limited kitchen facilities from where you can enjoy all the amenities that this caring and supportive village offers.



BELMONT
Lifestyle Village

ARRANGE A VIEWING
12 Coronation St, Belmont
Phone 09 486 8042
Mobile 021 664 172
belmontlifestylevillage@xtra.co.nz



EAR HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL EAR CARE

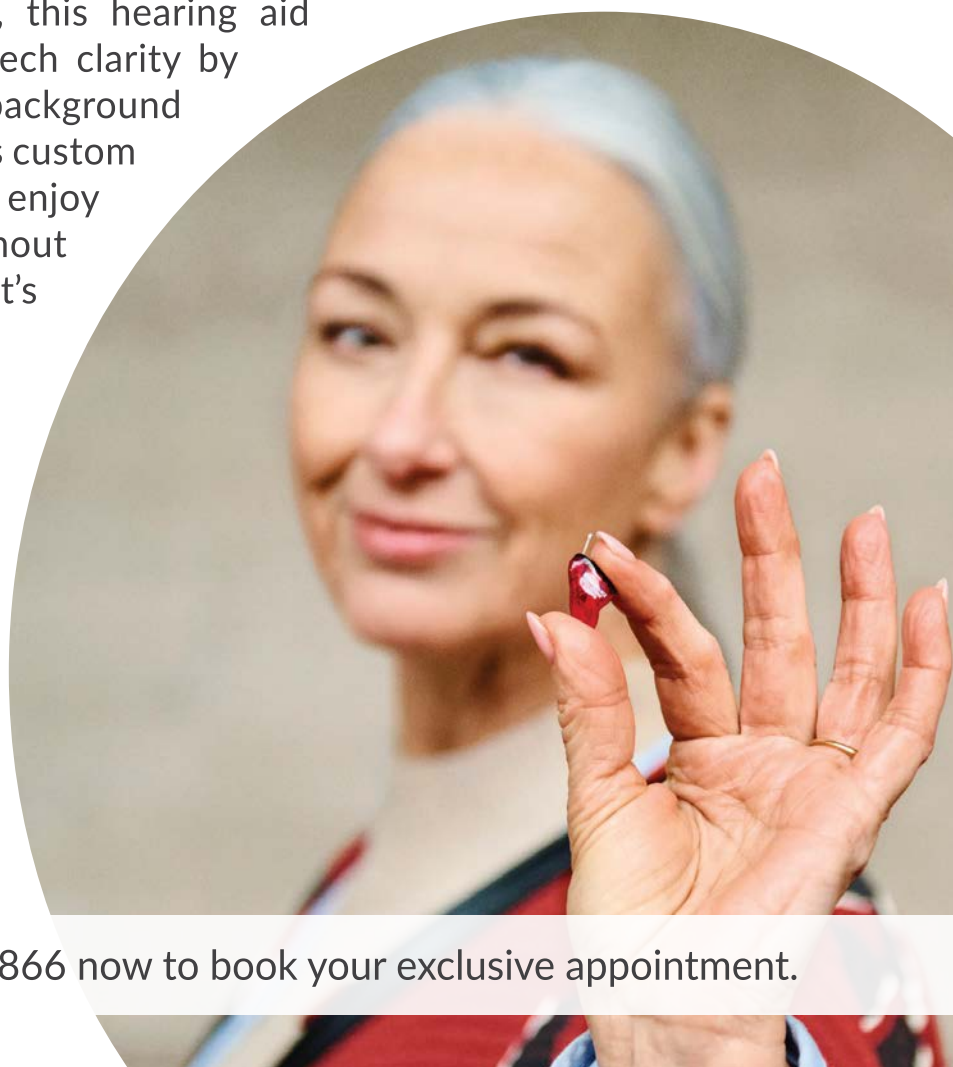


Devonport | Birkenhead | Grey Lynn

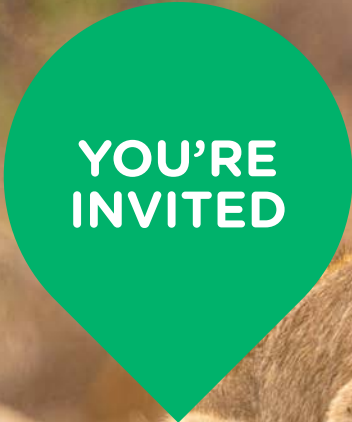
Ultra-Discreet. Superior Sound.

Experience a new level of hearing aid discretion and comfort designed exclusively for your ears. Our cutting-edge solution merges miniature design with exceptional performance, ensuring a seamless integration into your lifestyle.

Engineered to excel in noisy environments, this hearing aid enhances speech clarity by filtering out background noise. With its custom fit, you can enjoy your day without even noticing it's there.



Call 09 242 0866 now to book your exclusive appointment.



DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF AFRICA!

Embark on a journey of discovery at our spectacular Africa event! Whether you're an Africa enthusiast or simply curious about this rich and diverse continent, this event promises an unforgettable evening.

Date: Wednesday 22nd May 2024 from 6.00pm for a 6.15pm start.

Venue: Huapai Golf Club, Coatesville Riverhead Highway.

RSVP today at sandy.theron@travel.helloworld.co.nz or call 09 257 0883.



Adventure World
Travel with Purpose

AUTHENTIC SOUTHERN AFRICA

12 DAYS

from **\$9,129*** pp

TWIN SHARE
JOHANNESBURG RETURN

INCLUDES:

- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- 11 nights' accommodation
- Private transfers
- Seat in-vehicle activities with English-speaking guides
- Boma Dinner
- Victoria Falls Tour
- Zambezi Sunset Cruise
- Chobe National Park day tour
- Table Mountain and Cape Town City Tour
- Cape Peninsula Tour
- Winelands Tour
- Safari - activities such as game drives and game walks.

THE LOCAL TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST - CONTACT US TODAY!



09 257 0883 488 Lake Road, Takapuna

takapuna@travel.helloworld.co.nz

*T&Cs apply. For full terms and conditions please contact your helloworld Travel Professional.





Picking his spot... Takapuna's Daniel Gleissner-Broom about to hit the winner against Metro FC at Taharoto Park

Takapuna FC hopes rise again over Easter

Takapuna Football Club's first team celebrated Easter Monday with their first win of the season, a 2-1 defeat of Metro FC.

With a draw over Hibiscus Coast at Stanmore Bay on Easter Friday, Takapuna banked a solid four points from the holiday weekend.

They backed that up with a 2-0 win away against Ellerslie last Saturday.

Against Metro at Taharoto Park, Takapuna made a strong start, with forward Joao Moreira and midfielder Antonio Bonkovich linking well to create attacking positions.

The positive play paid off when a long ball from Aaron Bayliss was headed in by Moreira to put Takapuna up 1-0 in the 20th minute.

After halftime, Metro attacked more but Takapuna responded when a corner from Bayliss was clinically finished by Daniel Gleissner-Broom. Metro eventually struck back with a penalty in the 84th minute.

Takapuna's Good Friday game was a cagey and competitive contest ending 0-0, after both sides had chances to win it.

Both Easter performances and last Saturday's were a welcome improvement after an opening day 3-1 home loss to Onehunga Mangere Utd.



Get in... Takapuna players surround Gleissner-Broom after his goal. Below: Centre-forward Sean Willcox creates another attacking opportunity.



Local schools collect titles at regional athletics champs

Athletes from local secondary schools were triumphant at the recent College Sport Auckland Athletics championships, picking up 20 wins at the event.

Westlake Boys High School was the most successful local school, racking up eight wins and 12 medals at the tournament on 26 March at Mt Smart Stadium.

Jean-Louis Potgieter won the senior hammer throw by over 10 metres while Oliver Chung won the intermediate boys hammer throw.

Matthew Fleming won the intermediate long jump and came second in the intermediate discus and 400m events while Cooper Baker won the junior long jump.

On the track, Harry Witheridge won the intermediate 1500m and 3000m events, Stanley Bateman won the intermediate steeplechase and Karabo Mosiane took out the senior boys steeplechase, with Quincy Cutts coming third in the same event.

Westlake Girls impressed with seven medals and five wins at the tournament including a hat-trick from Karmen Maritz who won the intermediate shot put, discus and javelin events.

Miya Riseborough won the junior triple jump and Dominique Maltby took out the junior 300m hurdles.

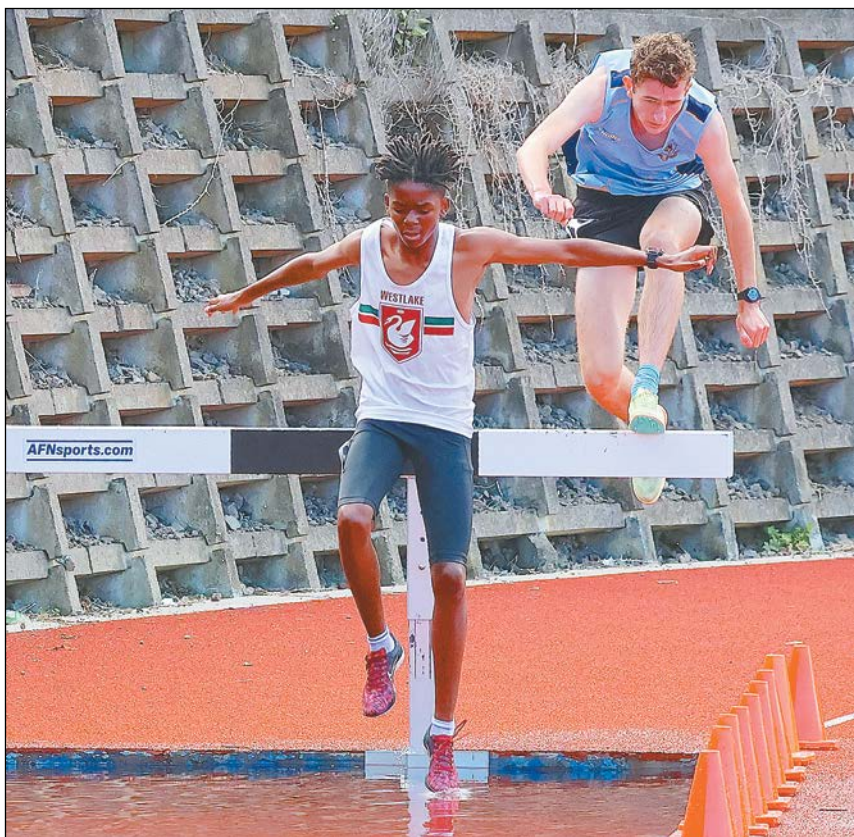
Takapuna Grammar School athletes won six events at the championships, with runner Sasha Letica and thrower Kate Hallie both taking double golds in senior girls categories.

Hallie won both the shotput and discus while Letica took out the 1500m and 3000m events.

Asha Edwards just missed out on a double, winning the intermediate girls 3000m race and coming second in the 1500m.

Takapuna's other gold medallist was Jess Lathwood who won the intermediate 300m hurdles.

She also came second in the intermediate



Top performer... Westlake Boys High School's Karabo Mosiane won the senior boys steeplechase at the College Sport Auckland Athletics Championships, one of eight victories for the school

triple jump and third in the 80m hurdles and long jump.

Rosmini College's only event win came from Luke Te Tana, who won the junior boys discus and came third in the junior boys shot put.

Westlake Boys athletes Adam Leece, Werner Van Staden, Jaidon Brunton, Max Hall, Charlie Page, Lorenzo Ferguson and Toby

Caro won the rest of Westlake Boys medals.

April Peita, Miya Risebrough, Lula Free, Harmony Naeata and Emma-Kaye Schroeder won medals for Westlake Girls.

Takapuna Grammar athletes Connor Brady, Samantha Lathwood and Romey Jewell won medals in multiple events.

Rosmini's Ryder Heath placed third in the senior boys 400m.



RESOURCE RECOVERY
DEVONPORT



We hand sort every skip... To recycle more!

RRD
Skip Bins

BINS IN A HURRY
QUICK TURN OVER

Available Sizes
3 m³ 4.5 m³ 6 m³ 9 m³

	Green Waste
	General Waste
	Clean/Hard fill

OPEN 7 DAYS

27 Lake Road | 09 445 3830
www.devonportrecycle.co.nz



Good timing... Marty Brink had plenty to celebrate on Saturday, after crashing over against Kumeu

Takapuna loosie pushes through the 100 club

Takapuna Rugby Club premiers loose forward Marty Brink celebrated his 101th match for the side with a try in its 57-7 win over Kumeu at Onewa Domain last Saturday.

Brink (27) said the try was fairly routine, a short ball near the line for him to crash over.

Longevity does come at a price. "My knees are feeling it today," Brink told the Rangitoto Observer on Monday.

A promising young footballer who played

for Auckland Blues under-18s, Brink went straight into the top Takapuna side from school in 2014.

Since then he has played in four North Harbour championship finals, winning the title in 2022.

Along with his stalwart service for Takapuna, Brink has played in England and the United States, where rugby fitted in around travel.

"For me rugby has been a bit of a passion

rather than a job."

The Kumeu match was Takapuna's first in what looks likely to be a tough competition between the top sides.

"We're going to win," Brink said.

"It's going to be a tight comp, but we've got a good group of boys coming back from last year."

Takapuna's next game is against Mahurangi at Warkworth at 2.45pm on Saturday.



RESOURCE RECOVERY
DEVONPORT

NORTHSHORE
LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

★★★

RECYCLING, GARDEN & GENERAL WASTE

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES & TRAILER HIRE

RE-USE STORE
SHOP EXTENSION NOW OPEN!

OPEN 7 DAYS

27 Lake Road | 09 445 3830
www.devonportrecycle.co.nz

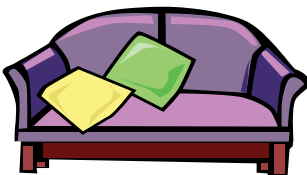


North Shore based renovations, new builds, design & project management since 1985.

Trustworthy licensed builders specialising in residential alterations/extensions, kitchens, bathrooms, tiling, re-cladding.

Contact Alex Carey on 0274 660 666, or visit our website www.efd.kiwi

RECOVER YOUR LOUNGE SUITE



Call us for a free quotation and put the life back into that favourite chair or lounge suite

AWARD FURNITURE

Phone COLIN on 480 5864



FENCE BROTHERS

- FENCES
- PERGOLAS
- DECKS
- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
- RETAINING WALLS

www.fencebros.co.nz

CONTACT GREG FOR A FREE QUOTE

0800 336 232

RENE GARDENING

a garden specialist

- Tree Pruning
- Hedge trimming
- Garden maintenance
- Landscaping

Contact Rene on 021 134 5604 info@renegardening.co.nz



BALLARD SERVICES LIMITED

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- Electrical inspections
- Switchboard reports and upgrades
- RCD and general faults
- Maintenance and renovations
- Exterior and garden lighting



Toby Ballard
p. 021 244 5950
w. ballardservices.nz

Your Private Ranger for property enhancement.



- Weed and Pest Control
- Tree felling and removal
- Hedge trimming
- Path construction
- Lawn mowing
- Landscape maintenance
- Mini Digger and ride on mower



Call me on 022 326 4554 or email thelonerangerltd@gmail.com

www.theloneranger.nz

Caledonian Premier Tiling Ltd.



Specialising in all aspects of Wall and Floor Tiling and Under-tile Waterproofing
Carried out and certified by local tradesman of 24 years' experience

FREE QUOTES

Contact Doug 021 187 7852 or 09 446 0687 or email calpremtiling@gmail.com

Painters

Midas Touch Painting Contractors



Specialists in commercial and residential painting

Paul Charleton
021 143 9138

For all your decorating needs call the wizards

Reach your Customers in Milford /Takapuna

Contact the Observer for our cost-effective rates and dates.

E sales@rangitoto-observer.co.nz

W www.rangitoto-observer.co.nz

Support your paper for the price of a cup of coffee.

Go to rangitoto-observer.co.nz and click on 'Become a supporter' at the top of the page.



Expanded recycling facility ‘already paying off’

More people are checking out second-hand goods at the expanded Resource Recovery Devonport facility, allowing the trust that runs it to return more funds to the community.

Richard Linthwaite, chair of operator Global Trust, which leases the 27 Lake Rd site from the council, says the upgrade was already paying dividends to business and the environment.

“It enabled the shop to grow significantly – before we didn’t have room. We have seen a marked increase from the shop and that means more goods are being recycled.”

He now hopes more people beyond the Devonport peninsula will check out what is on offer, which as well as dumping and recycling drop-offs includes a developing programme of workshops on reusing waste materials.

The facility is one of 13 community recycling centres (CRCs) across the city, with Auckland Council aiming to have one in each of its 21 local-board areas.

The Devonport-Takapuna facility’s \$2.18 million upgrade was made possible by a mix of funding, including a cut of \$10.67m council received from the last government’s Covid-19 ‘shovel-ready’ funding.

The centre upgrade by council was allocated \$883,000 of fund money, supplemented by \$709,500 from council and a further \$590,500 from its waste levy, a council spokesperson told the Observer.

It was officially opened last month, although most of the work was finished before Christmas.

The existing building’s expansion allowed for the bigger shop and a new educational space that is already in use by local school-children. Paths, stormwater management and office space have been improved and a new weighbridge installed.

At the opening last month, North Shore ward councillor Chris Darby praised the



Bin there... Auckland councillor Chris Darby (left) and Resource Recovery Devonport trust chair Richard Linthwaite beside one of the facility’s new skips.

facility’s social-enterprise model, saying it was a great example for other CRCs.

“The facility has strong support from the community and, in turn, supports its community,” he said.

The aim is to add more CRCs and two large resource-recovery parks by 2030, so most urban Aucklanders are within a 20-minute drive of a facility.

Linthwaite said the trust had allocated around \$50,000 to \$60,000 in grants last year to environmental and sports groups.

“We’re gearing up to do more of that,” he said. Two further grants rounds are planned for the next financial year.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder noted Devonport’s facility

was, in 1977, the first municipal recycling centre set up in New Zealand, thanks to successful lobbying by local residents.

The centre has recently started a skip-bin service, allow it to collect more unwanted items, including construction and demolition materials, for reuse. It also runs a landscaping-supplies business.

Linthwaite told the Observer the upgrade should set up the centre for another 20 to 30 years.

It did not include hoped-for roofing over the outdoor areas where the public dropped off waste to be sorted by staff. Council had dropped this from original plans, but the roofing was something the trust might look to do itself.

NPS

TOTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SERVICES NATIONAL PROPERTY SERVICES

- **PAINTING**
- INTERIOR
- EXTERIOR
- PLASTER
- REPAINTS
- REPAIRS
- **SPECIALIST COATINGS**
- FLOORS
- EPOXY COATINGS
- **TILING SERVICES**
- BATHROOMS
- KITCHENS
- EXTERIOR
- **SITE CLEAN-UPS**
- RUBBISH REMOVAL
- JUNK DISPOSAL
- **PLASTERING**
- GIB STOPPING
- **NON-SKID SURFACES**
- PATHS
- CAR PARKS
- STEPS
- **DECKS CONSTRUCTION**
- TIMBER
- TILED
- COMPOSITE
- **WATER BLASTING**
- MOSS TREATMENTS
- **SWIMMING POOLS**
- REPAIR
- REPAINT

**ONE PHONE CALL
DOES IT ALL**

PH SIMON
M 020 476 2107
T 09 476 2107



WHAT'S ON @ Takapuna Library



School holidays are nearly here!

Join us to explore Secrets under the Sea with activities including underwater art, Lego under the sea and marine movies. Learn about the fascinating life of penguins and make penguin bookmarks! Our chess club starts on Sunday, 21st April at 2.00pm and will be held every fortnight.

Our Children's writer's festival will be held on Sunday, 28th April at 2.00pm. Come along and meet children's authors Megan Holden and Ashley Lindsay.

Plus take part in the Takapuna Easter Egg trail and make fish for our art display, all holiday long.

FREE bilingual English / Mandarin workshops
中英双语工作坊

Grow your backyard
四月*家庭种植讲座

Drop-in session 10th April, 2 - 4pm
现场咨询会 4月10日, 下午 14:00-16:00

Pest Animals / Predators & May Gardening Guide workshop
虫害知识讲座 & 五月园艺指南研讨会
11th April, 4 - 5pm
4月11日, 下午 16:00-17:00

Free seeds.
免费种子 交换/赠送

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Chris Batchelor
Residential Sales
021 217 7026



BAYLEYS

E: chris.batchelor@bayleys.co.nz
W: www.bayleys.co.nz

LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Wet feet... Barbecue and picnic table users at the Takapuna Beach reserve have to contend with run-off from a shower

Water runs downhill... who knew?

Heaven help us all if this is an example of Auckland Council's ability to plan.

Run-off from the shower at the Takapuna Beach reserve goes straight down the path to one of the new picnic tables and BBQs.

The area is sodden already. The reduction of rubbish bins has removed the (usually overflowing) bin in the centre of the grass beachside reserve, so that no visible bin is near the beach from The Strand to The Promenade.

The beach dressing sheds are so minute it is hard not to touch another body when changing.

They are therefore not fit for the numbers expected to use them.

I suppose without regular residential rubbish collections the council will use those funds for vermin control instead.

Instead of fuel tax for all, the lucky few with jobs will have to cover that revenue with congestion tax.

Crazy times.
Marion O'Kane



Trickle down... The double-sided shower has a drain on one side, but not the other

Restore boardwalk, manage the risk

All those who use Takapuna Beach appreciate the pōhutukawa trees at the north end.

It should not be beyond the wit of Auckland Council engineers to restore the boardwalk in an environmentally appropriate manner.

The risk of tree fall is manageable.

The [now closed] boardwalk and stairs to the lookout under the trees should be maintained and preserved for future generations.

Two and a half thousand people have

signed a petition to this effect.

Removing the high tide route along Takapuna Beach would dramatically reduce the beach's amenity value and hugely impair the public's enjoyment of a community and Auckland treasure.

It behoves the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to recognise its duty to the wider community and to maintain this treasure for all.

Cam Calder

Evocative tunes revived for Anzac show in Takapuna

Wartime tunes will be played by the North Shore Brass Academy at a community concert to help commemorate Anzac Day in Takapuna.

Solos, marches and light items will feature, as well as reflective and motivating music to remember the Anzacs and other service personnel from conflicts and peace-keeping missions.

The All for Peace concert is at 4pm on 25 April at St Peters Anglican Church, 11 Killarney St.

Three bands under the academy wing of North Shore Brass will play, one featuring the youngest member of the organisation, primary pupil Celine Wu from Sunnynook, who performed the Last Post at the Devonport Anzac service last year, when just eight years old.

Members drawn from across the North Shore comprise the players of the North Shore Youth Brass, the North Shore Community Band for all comers, and the newly promoted North Shore Brass Academy Band.

Named New Zealand's champion D grade band at nationals in 2022, the Academy Band now competes in the C grade.

All three bands act as feeders to the top North Shore Brass band, which features award-winning A-grade musicians.

North Shore Brass president Owen Melhuish says the audience can be assured of entertainment as well as remembrance.

This is the second year more than 70 musicians have come together for the All for Peace concert, which provides performance opportunities and fundraising for the academy.

Entry is by donation at the door, with eftpos facilities available.

North Shore Brass, which last year celebrated its 100th anniversary, last month took receipt of eight photographic light boxes showcasing images of its bands through the years.

The special centennial project, with funding from the Four Winds Foundation, is designed to be a lasting feature at the Taharoto Rd clubrooms.



Young performer... Celine Wu last Anzac Day. Below: A moment of remembrance at the Takapuna war memorial

Commemoration service details

Takapuna will host its usual Anzac Day service next Thursday, 25 April, starting at 9am.

Before then veterans and military personnel will march several blocks along Lake Rd from an assembly point at Sanders Ave. They will turn into The Strand where dignitaries will be waiting by the war memorial.

The public is welcome to line the route and then join the commemorations, which will include addresses from military and veterans representatives and wreath-laying by politicians and school students.

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board chair Toni van Tonder will be master of ceremonies.

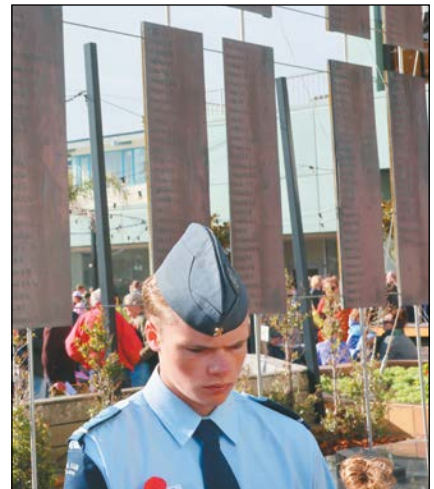
North Shore Brass and the Harbour Voices choir will perform.

The choir will lead the singing of the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand. Bugler for the Rouse will be award-winning local musician Liam Wright.

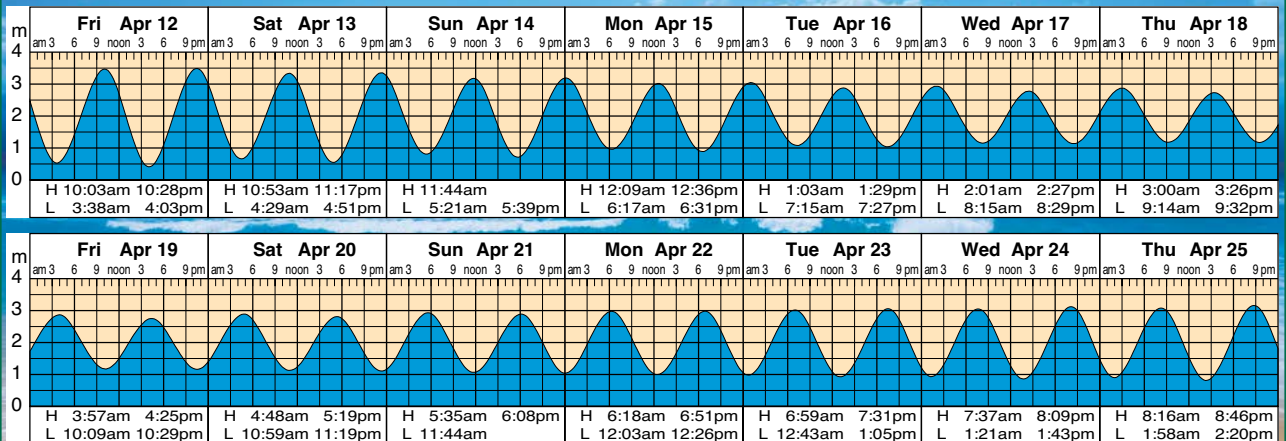
A number of personnel and guests attending will travel to Devonport later in the morning for a service which begins at 11am after a street march.

Among them will be Devonport RSA president, Commander Muzz Kennett, and North Shore MP Simon Watts.

The Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay in Devonport is also holding several free activities to commemorate the day. Poppy-making for children and adults will be held all day and the Royal New Zealand Navy Pipes and Drums will perform outside at 12.30pm.



Milford / Takapuna Next Fortnight's Tides





Three go mad on Benedict in comedy at PumpHouse

An intriguing comedy playing on the impacts of celebrity obsession among a trio of young women is providing a welcome opportunity for new North Shore talent to shine.

Three actors and first-time director Christine Ball are relishing the opportunities presented by Shoreside Theatre's *Benedict Cumberbatch Must Die* at the PumpHouse this month.

They are looking forward to bringing to audiences a fun production which includes improvisation.

"I've enjoyed seeing it all come to life," says Ball of wrangling rehearsals and gaining confidence as she goes.

Cast members Kasia Jarecki, aged 25, Mackenzie Carkeek, 19, and Alice Dibble, 17, "bring so much energy" to their performances, she says.

Written by New Zealand writer and comedian Abby Howells, the play tells the story of three fangirls who follow and comment online about British actor Benedict Cumberbatch. When they hear Cumberbatch is coming to New Zealand, they decide to get together IRL (in real life) to concoct a plan to try to meet him.

The scheme is to write a play called *Benedict Cumberbatch Must Die* in the hope of luring him along to see it.

As they devise the show, they begin to clash, though Ball gives little away about the outcome. "The ending is up to everyone's



Director's chair... Christine Ball in the hot seat at rehearsal for Shoreside Theatre

individual interpretation," she says.

The 25-year-old promises there will be plenty to intrigue fans of Cumberbatch and *Sherlock*, in which he starred, but also to fans of other stars. "It will appeal to a younger audience... people who are part of that fandom of their own celebrities in that group setting of their own on social media."

IRL, Cumberbatch has quite the following of obsessed fans, with those in the UK known

as Cumberbitches.

Ball says she was intrigued by the script, which helped convince her to get outside her comfort zone and try directing. "It's very exciting and scary," she says.

She has been acting since she was nine years old, including in Shoreside's Shakespeare and Agatha Christie seasons last year.

When she saw the company's latest one-act play programme – designed to encourage talent development and experimental works – she thought she would give directing a go.

Drawing on her acting experience, she had an idea of what was needed, but visualising a whole show proved a challenge. "When you're the director everyone is looking at you and asking you things."

With the help of the play's production manager and a collaborative cast she has developed her own voice. "At first I was like, 'Okay guys, we're just going to try this', but now I'm much more confident at saying what I want."

Like the show's cast she still remains keen on building her acting CV.

Celebrity on a Cumberbatch scale may come to only a few, but Ball is enjoying the ride of exploring on stage how chasing it can change lives.

"It's comedic, a bit bonkers," she says.

• *Benedict Cumberbatch Must Die*, at the PumpHouse Coal Bunker until 21 April. Tickets at Pumphouse.co.nz

Choir expands for

Harbour Voices' 50 auditioned regulars will be joined by 30 more local singers for a special performance next week.

The Takapuna-based choir will perform Gabriel Faure's Requiem and "other songs for the soul" at St George's Presbyterian Church, in a programme also featuring soloists Antonia Brightwell, a soprano (pictured opposite), and bass Blake Scanlen, accompanied by organist Michael Bell.

Musical director Nicholas Forbes leads the expanded choir.

"Harbour Voices is a gathering of committed and talented singers raising our voices together for the sheer joy of it," he says.

The idea for inviting extras along is to tap into accomplished community members who might think their days in choirs are behind them and to allow singers to explore the experience.

The choir was founded in 1986 by influential local musician and teacher Margot Lloyd. It practises weekly at St George's on Wednesday evenings.

As well as performing three concerts a year there, ranging in repertoire from classical to modern, it also supports Auckland Symphony Orchestra's mid-year outing to the Bruce Mason Centre for Last Night of the Proms.

The choir also performs carols for Christ-

VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



NOW SHOWING

Civil War (R16) 109min	NEW
Late Night with the Devil (R13) 92min	NEW
The Tiger's Apprentice (PG) 81min	NEW
Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) 94min	NEW
Love Lies Bleeding (R16) 104min	NEW
Monkey Man (R16) 122min	NEW
Mad About the Boy: The Noël Coward Story (E) 91min	PREVIEWS 12 APR

COMING SOON

Challengers (M) 131min	18 APR
The Immortals: The Wonders of the Museo Egizio (E) 86min	18 APR
Spy x Family Code: White (PG) 110min	18 APR
The Fall Guy (TBA) 125min	24 APR
Back to Black (TBA) 122min	
ANZAC DAY PREVIEWS	
Robot Dreams (G) 103min	25 APR

events@thevic.co.nz



Thanks
to our partners
and supporters

www.thevic.co.nz | (09) 446 0100 | 48 Victoria Road



Smitten trio... Actors (from left) Kasia Jarecki, Mackenzie Carkeek and Alice Dibble play fans who concoct a plan to meet British actor Benedict Cumberbatch

'songs for the soul'



mas shoppers and sings at the Takapuna Anzac Day service.

• Harbour Voices performs at 5.30pm on Sunday 21 April at St George's, 2 The Terrace, Takapuna. Tickets \$30. Book online at Humanitix or buy at the door. Member inquiries welcome via harbourvoices.org.nz



Takapuna Beachside CINEMAS

09 666 0714

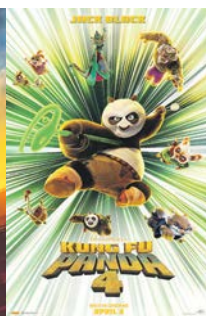
Facebook and Instagram @takapunabeachsidecinema

All kids movie tickets are \$10 for the school holidays 12th till 28th April

Check Times and book on our website www.takapunamovies.co.nz



IN CINEMAS APRIL 18



PREMIUM[®] Est. 1984



TAKAPUNA | 23 EWEN STREET
Superb Position with Development Opportunity



Located walking distance to Takapuna beach, this 548sqm (approx) freehold property features a 6 bedroom, 3 bathroom home, elevated with potential for sea views. It includes its own vehicle access and sits on a corner lot, offering a unique redevelopment chance. Owners have resource consent for two homes. An excellent opportunity for families or developers. Contact for viewings.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

premium.co.nz/80485

PRICE | BY NEGOTIATION

ROBERT MILNE 022 011 2494

RICHARD MILNE 021 770 611 OFFICE 916 6000



TAKAPUNA | G02/8B LAKE PUPUKE DRIVE
You Are My Sunshine | Garden Haven



Sunny garden apartment at Lake Pupuke Drive. Private, with one bedroom, modern kitchen, appliances, underfloor heating. Lounge opens to terrace, garden. Includes study nook, Astro turf, laundry, near amenities, beach, motorway access. Pet-friendly, with parking, storage. In Willis Bond development, ideal for pet owners. Blends convenience, style for discerning buyers. Unmissable opportunity, priced to sell.

VIEW | BY APPOINTMENT

premium.co.nz/80540

PRICE | \$895,000

ALISON PARKER 021 983 533 OFFICE 916 6000



MILFORD | 5E PIERCE ROAD
Simply Stunning!



A secure, high quality, sophisticated, lock-up and leave lifestyle, minutes to the beach, lake, shops, restaurants, cafes and village. The most desired "end" townhouse, with freehold title. The amazing kitchen, lounge and dining area overlook a sunny north facing balcony plus there is a rear courtyard with spa and garden. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, mid level living with powder room, on 3 levels with lift access. Double garage, extra parking, pet friendly!

VIEW | SAT/SUN 2 - 2.45PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

premium.co.nz/80538

AUCTION | SUN 21 APR 2024 AT 2.30 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

CAROLE THOMAS 021 539 553 OFFICE 916 6000



MATAKANA | 12 TIAKI LANE
An Innovative & Distinctive Masterpiece



Welcome to your Matakana oasis, where luxury and modern living intertwine seamlessly. Indulge in the enchanting vistas of Matakana as you reside in this stunning brand-new home, positioned to offer majestic views that elevate your living experience. With a layout crafted to perfection, including four spacious bedrooms, two inviting living areas, three bathrooms, and a convenient powder room, this home offers both luxury and functionality at every turn. Be the first owner of this exquisite home in the heart of Matakana Village.

VIEW | SAT/SUN 11 - 11.30 AM OR BY APPOINTMENT

premium.co.nz/90144

AUCTION | THU 18 APR 2024 AT 4 PM UNLESS SOLD PRIOR

JULIA LEWIS 027 374 4249

LINDA SMITH 021 470 175 OFFICE 422 9280