

The Devonport Flagstaff

DELIVERED FORTNIGHTLY

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE



July 17, 2020
devonportflagstaff.co.nz

All set: AED and cameras
for tennis club... p3

AT Local trial extended
until August... p4

Interview: Masood Atrafi
at home in Bayswater... p20

AT proposes charging for ferry car parks

Parking meters should be introduced at the two Devonport ferry terminal car parks, an Auckland Transport (AT) report says.

Car-parking has traditionally been free at these parks, although various time restricti-

ons are enforced.

Establishing "paid parking in the totality of the two ferry terminal carparks" would improve availability and turnover, cut down "car shuffle" and would encourage alterna-

tive modes of getting to the ferry such as public transport and cycling, the report says.

In the "medium term", AT also wants to increase paid-parking (P90 or P120) supply in the town centre by ad-

To page 2

Free ice creams a delight set in concrete



Full scoops... (from left to right) Harry Cushman (4), Milly (5), Sylvie (2), and Archie White (7), and Sammy Cushman (6) were amongst several dozen children who enjoyed free ice creams at White's Dairy last Saturday. Gill & Gundry Concrete laid on the treats as part of the firm's 50-year celebrations.

Resplendent & Luxurious Hi-Tech 1908 Villa

REFER PAGE 13

Peter Restall

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NEXT ISSUE: July 31
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: July 24

from page 1

'Paid parking' proposed in AT report

ding 27 angled on-street car parks on Queens Pde. These are currently 24-hour parks.

The 259 car parks in the ferry terminal area have high occupancy (up to 95 per cent), especially during weekdays.

"The long length of stay suggests mainly commuters are using the parking.

"Currently (there is) unrestricted free parking

at a premium location," the report says.

The Devonport town centre has 352 parking spaces under 11 different types of restrictions. Peak occupancy is around 80 per cent, and the average length of stay one hour 45 minutes, with about 80 per cent of vehicles staying less than two hours.

The report recommends having only P90 or P120 restrictions in the town centre, to simplify restrictions, reducing signage clutter and allowing for improved enforcement.

More limited-zone parking is planned for Victoria Rd and Clarence St, along with a redesign of some of the angled parking on Victoria Rd that is too narrow, said the report put to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop.

AT officials also observed some Devonport workers and commuters were parking in nearby residential streets, which "suggests there is a need of long-term parking in the Devonport area."

3 Victoria Rd: empty for 739 days

The old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd became vacant on 9 July 2018.

It has now been unoccupied for 739 days. Auckland Council development arm Panuku is working through the future options for the building.

Tuesday
21 July 2020
4pm and 6pm

2 Wairau Road, Takapuna
Gym 3

For more information visit
westlakegirls.school.nz/open-night

Open Night

If your daughter is interested in attending Westlake Girls High School in 2021, come along to our Open Night and experience WGHS first-hand.

Meet the principal, teachers and sports staff, tour the school, take home a goodie bag and see how Westlake Girls can help your daughter become a confident, optimistic, robust young woman equipped for global success.

Third time lucky? Another AED installed at tennis club



Back in business... Ngataranga Tennis Club committee member Janine Jones with the new defibrillator

Ngataranga Tennis Club last week installed new security cameras, just in time for the arrival of a new defibrillator.

It is the third automated external defibrillator (AED) to be sited in a box outside the club.

One was stolen in 2018, and another \$2000 unit taken and vandalised last year. The club

has since then had the use of a refurbished loan AED.

The original AED was used to save a man's life on the nearby Navy sports grounds, just days after it was first installed.

The Devonport-Takapuna Local Board recently gave the club \$1000 towards the

new AED. That covered half the cost, with donations from club members and the community helping to make up the balance.

Having quick access to a defibrillator can make a life-saving difference for someone who has stopped breathing or has had a heart attack.

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DEVONPORT

THE VIC VICTORIA THEATRE TRUST

OLD MEETS NEW AT THE VIC

A new digital projector has been installed in the ground floor Movie Lounge. This means that major films can now be shown in all Vic cinemas and manager Philipp Jaser (pictured) says this exciting improvement will enhance programming opportunities.



The kids movies showing at The Vic have been a lifesaver for parents in the rainy weather and a welcome boost for the cinema.

Locals appreciate The Vic was one of the earliest cinemas to open after lockdown and audience numbers have been steadily increasing since then.

New Release movies coming up are:
A Personal History of David Copperfield, House of Cardin and Military Wives.



There's a local focus for a live event coming up with Gary Harvey and his *Last Man Standing* show. Gary has been playing in bands in Devonport for many years and his show in the Vic Lounge is a celebration of the music that influenced him and the release of his new album. **Sunday 26 July 2pm**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

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AT Local trial extended while bus-service future considered

The AT Local ride-share trial in Devonport has been extended until August, as Auckland Transport (AT) seeks feedback on whether the 806 and 807 bus services should continue.

AT says it cannot afford both AT Local and the two bus services, especially after Auckland Council issued an edict to cut costs.

While public consultation will be undertaken "this will not be a referendum", AT states in a report to a Devonport-Takapuna Local Board workshop. If AT Local was discontinued:

- AT would seek to make improvements to local bus services, based on feedback.
 - Ferry-fare integration would allow connected trips to be made with reduced fares.
 - Passengers with reduced mobility would lose a "corner to corner" service.
- If the two bus services were discontinued:
- AT Local costs would increase, in order to add a weekend service.
 - Ferry-fare integration would not initially apply to AT Local.
 - AT Local would be amended over time to meet passenger needs.

A hybrid option, with some AT Local and some local buses, is not favoured. It

would mean some areas would only have one or the other service, and both would be compromised.

The 806 and 807 buses do not fully meet community needs, such as aligning with ferries, operating after 7pm or serving areas such as Ngataranga Bay, the report says.

If AT Local were to be removed, an enhanced bus service would be provided.

If buses were removed, it would save costs and remove duplication, the report says.

Only the 806/807 buses would be affected. But currently AT Local does not replicate "bus functionality".

AT Local has no weekend service, and no Hop card readers in vehicles; it is only accessible via its app – a smartphone is needed, plus a data plan and the ability to use the app – so tourists and those without a smartphone are unable to just turn up and use the service.

In addition, unaccompanied children under 14 can't use AT Local, and the service could be swamped if a full ferry of passengers disembarks with many 806/807 bus passengers, the AT report says.

Consultation is underway, and a decision by AT is expected in August.

✓ Romy Udanga

for North Shore

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I'll work to make a
better future for all.**



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- Opportunities for business and entrepreneurship
- Restoring our environment and Hauraki Gulf

labour.org.nz/romyudanga

Party  vote

 Labour

Authorised by Dianna Lacy, 160 Willis Street, Wellington.

Fullers restores 7.45am sailings

Fullers 360 is reverting to 15-minute sailing frequencies for its peak-hour weekday ferries to the city.

From Monday 20 July, it is restoring the 7.45am sailing, meaning four departures between 7.30am and 8.30am.

Fullers has faced community criticism for being slow to get back normal timetables, post-Covid-19 disruptions. During the day, sailings are mostly hourly, rather than half-hourly as they were before lockdown.

The move to 15-minute sailings during the peak morning period is an interim measure, says Fullers, while it works with Auckland Transport and the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to establish a longer-term schedule.

It has signalled moving to a 20-minute ferry frequency for Devonport from January 2021, but connectivity with buses needs to be arranged.

Fullers chief executive Mike Horne said he the 20-minute cycle was optimal. "The proposal for a 20-minute cycle for peak commuter time plans to provide a more effective and resilient service, giving a higher level of certainty for our customers," said Horne.

It also factored in changes, congestion and ongoing construction in the downtown ferry basin, he said.

Moving to 20-minute sailings would give more turnaround time, allowing for the increase in customer use of bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters. "It has become increasingly difficult for any vessel to load, unload and transit between the city and Devonport on a 15-minute cycle."

The move could allow a seamless transition to a 10-minute frequency if future urban development demanded it, he said.

Fullers wanted to be in a position to adapt as circumstances required, as it had when passenger use began to increase during alert-level 1, he said. It had recently reintroduced the 8.15am and 2.30pm service, as well as put on extra services for major events.

North Island squash champions



Trio of title holders... from left: Ella Lash, Zoe Pepper and Aggie Griffiths

Four local junior squash players have claimed North Island age group titles this month.

Devonport's Aggie Griffiths took out the under-11 girls championship, while Belmont Park players Natalie Sayes, Ella Lash, and Zoe Lepper won the girls under-19, under-15 and under-13 titles

respectively.

Zoe beat another Belmont Park player – Grace Spencer – to take the title.

Aggie featured in the Flagstaff (3 July) alongside her dad Nick and brothers Marcus and Henry, who are all ranked in the top ten in Auckland in their age groups

What's Happening?

Low interest rates (now 2.55% fixed for one year), no loan-to-value (LVR) ratio restrictions from the Reserve Bank (but banks are still applying them) and a buoyant property market (in some places).....But the banks have the microscope out for borrowers' income/servicing, consistent employment, industry sector, account conduct and credit history – lending policies are generally tightening their criteria.

Banks have limited appetite for over 80% LVR lending in this market, and generally not at all for new customers; most bank economists are forecasting a reduction in property values, and yet they are required to be "responsible lenders"!

Turnaround times for loan applications are generally three to five days, but can be up to 10 days.

The property market continues to hold up with limited stock and strong interest from first-time buyers, investors and Kiwis coming back to NZ. But it is very difficult to generalise as it is so variable depending on the location, the price range, the type of property etc – we see tougher times ahead!

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“Nature in a Vase”

An impact art fundraising auction

**You are invited for bubbles & nibbles on Friday 31st July 2020
Bayleys Devonport, 83 Victoria Road from 5pm – 7pm**

Please pop in to the office to view the art 9-5pm Monday to Friday.

Recognised local artist Andi Merkens and her "off the wall" collaborator Paddy Stafford-Bush have made affordable impact art. Together they have created a series of bold and different bespoke artworks.

This will be a fun evening including auctions of originals and a limited selection of prints for sale.

**Proceeds from this event will go to Bayleys charity
“Make A Wish Foundation”**



Make-A-Wish
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NEW LISTING



Devonport 4 Cautley Street

Baby grand in Devonport

Sitting high and proud on an elevated site is this wonderful three double bedroom villa home full of character and many original features. The large and spacious living room, open plan with the modern kitchen and dining has high ceilings, is light and bright and opens out through French doors onto the large, private covered deck where entertaining is always enjoyable. The sunny garden is fully fenced, safe and secure. The bedrooms are light, airy and beautifully proportioned and of the size one has come to expect in a Devonport villa. This lovely home is in easy walking distance to Devonport village, parks, schools and the ferry to the city. A villa home to move in to and enjoy as it is or add your own style and flair with the opportunity to improve. A perfect combination.

bayleys.co.nz/1470318

3 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior)

1.30pm, Thu 6 Aug 2020

28 Northcroft St, Takapuna

View Sun 12:15-1pm

Patricia Hinchey 027 222 3367

Michael Su 021 431 988

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BELMONT, 16 Seacliffe Avenue

5 4 5

Exclusive Waterfront Estate

This impressive architectural home with its own private access to a secluded, white sand beach offers an opportunity often sought but genuinely seldom found. From the solidly-anchored, fully-engineered concrete underground structure, to the high quality copper roofing - the attention to detail throughout this immaculate home is as good as you will find in the area. With breath-taking views out over the Hauraki Gulf and beyond; whether you are watching the Americas Cup, the local fisherman, or the ever-changing azure sea vista; these are some of the most spectacular views that Auckland has to offer.

PRICE: \$5,900,000

VIEW: nzsothebysrealty.com/NSH11240

AARON REID: M +64 21 119 1926
aaron.reid@nzsir.com



DEVONPORT, 122 Vauxhall Road

4 4 7

Extraordinary Coastal Opportunity

A chance to secure something special for your family to grow into and enjoy, this traditional home commands a spectacular coastal position. Invite your guests to share a front row seat enjoying the America's Cup action from this vast, ultra-private coastal setting with the best views over Cheltenham beach and the Gulf. Over 2,000 sq m of absolute waterfront level manicured gardens and steps to a private swimming beach - can be yours. Such a spectacular property is extremely rare.

PRICE: \$5,900,000

VIEW: nzsothebysrealty.com/NSH11168

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY



DEVONPORT, 36 Cheltenham Road

5 3 6

Magnificent Family Homestead

Situated one back from Cheltenham Beach with direct beach access via a garden path, you can see why the current owners have loved living here and bringing up their family. Renovated and refurbished, private and peaceful; this beautifully crafted homestead combines the original character of the home with all of the modern features you would look for in a home of today. Featuring five bedrooms, three bathrooms and a separate artist studio with en-suite (perfect for guests, relatives or an au pair) the possibilities are many.

PRICE: \$4,995,000

VIEW: nzsothebysrealty.com/NSH11216

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aaron.reid@nzsir.com



DEVONPORT, 79A Stanley Point Road

4 2 6

Auckland's Best Views

Built to showcase expansive 180 degree views up and down the Waitemata Harbour and across to the Auckland CBD the outlook is as spectacular by day as it is at night. Imagine enjoying a leisurely breakfast on the privacy of your terrace watching the world go by or taking in the twinkling city lights at night. From the kitchen island to the moment you walk through the front door at the end of the day, you are guaranteed to never tire of the view. This smart brick and cedar residence recently renovated from top to toe, gives you that new unlined in feeling we all desire.

PRICE: \$4,500,000

VIEW: nzsothebysrealty.com/NSH11206

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Devonport ASB opening hours remain the same

The Devonport branch of the ASB – slow to reopen after Covid-19 lockdowns – will not be changing its hours, the bank says.

ASB announced this month that it was closing nine branches – two in Auckland – and reducing opening hours at 25 other branches around the country.

In response to Devonport Flagstaff questions, a bank spokesperson said the Devonport branch is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4.30pm. The ASB is now the only bank to have a branch in Devonport.

The bank attributed staggered reopening across its branches to the pressures of dealing with Covid-19-related business matters.



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and click on 'Become a supporter'
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OPEN HOME



Bayswater 10a Cassino Street

4 2 2 3

Auction (unless sold prior) 1.30pm, Thu 23 Jul 2020

28 Northcroft St, Takapuna

View Sat/Sun 11-11.30am

Victoria Mules 021 679 349 victoria.mules@bayleys.co.nz

Jemma Glancy 021 246 5300 jemma.glancy@bayleys.co.nz

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Bayswater family oasis

Come home to your very own peaceful and relaxing oasis. Full of birdlife and surrounded by trees, this family friendly home has been well looked after. A freehold section provides even more value for the lucky new owner. The home offers fantastic flexibility of spaces as is, but could easily be transformed to your own personal taste. The vendor has made plans to move on to the next exciting stage so don't miss viewing this property - it really is the perfect package.

BAYLEYS

bayleys.co.nz/1470316

A BEACH KINDA LIFE

Looking for a solid family character home where you can really enjoy living that dream beach life - but be close to schools, parks and golf course along with the option of an easy commute to Auckland CBD or Takapuna - then look no further. You need to get along to 8 Merani Street Narrow Neck Devonport.

This 1920's solid double brick and plaster bungalow is exactly what you are looking for from the second you walk through the front door, rich native timber floors greet you leading you to the heart of this Bungalow.

The kitchen and dining lead onto a private covered recycled brick patio with even a peak of Rangitoto - perfect for those BB'S with friends and family. Timber boxed beams and ornate plaster ceilings really add warmth and charm along with the formal lounge with its open fireplace, perfect to snuggle up on those cooler nights with the romantic crackles and flames setting the scene for you.

3 bedrooms - master with en suite as well as the main tiled bathroom with its deep cast iron bath to soothe out those muscles and bones after a big workday are all here also.

The outdoor gardens are easy care and fully fenced perfect to cater for the cat or dog or both and do not forget the kids also. Take an easy stroll just some 401 metres to the iconic Narrow Neck Beach for those beach walks and swims or a latte and brekkie at the Narrow Neck Beach Café. Run out of milk - no worries the Devon Superette is just 87 metres away.

Looking to head to town on the ferry or Takapuna but do not want to take the car - no worries the bus stops are just 130 and 150 metres away. So, what are you waiting for - Narrow Neck beach, Takapuna Grammar, Belmont Intermediate, Vauxhall Primary and The Golf Course are all here.

See you at the open home or call Danny (the vendors only exclusive agent) to arrange a viewing.

For Sale by Tender - Tender closes 4 pm Thursday 30th July 2020 (unless SOLD prior).

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NEW LISTING



3

2

2

**1/8 Merani Street,
Narrow Neck**

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Cheltenham Beach 3 minutes walk

Cheltenham 9 Tainui Road, Devonport

Large, easy-care villa near the beach

Close to everything you love about Cheltenham, this family villa certainly has lovely street appeal. You are welcomed by polished Kauri boards leading to the large open plan living/kitchen and dining. The sparkling kitchen has a big central island, quality appliances and scullery. This opens to the private sunny courtyard which is perfect for easy-care outdoor living. Four generous bedrooms include a semi separate bedroom and bathroom with external access (previously used as Airbnb) and the master retreat on its own level with lounge for that quiet moment. This large villa has exceptional character features on a compact site, perfect for those who like plenty of indoor space but don't want to be tied to a garden. Positioned minutes to beach, park and a stroll to the village.

bayleys.co.nz/1451166

4 2 3 2

Auction (unless sold prior)

1.30pm, Thu 6 Aug 2020

28 Northcroft St, Takapuna

View Sun 12-12.45pm or by appointment

Victoria Bidwell 021 947 080

victoria.bidwell@bayleys.co.nz

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Contractor to foot bill for damaged cemetery gate

A contractor will be charged for repairs after damaging the heritage lychgate at O'Neill's Point Cemetery on Bayswater Ave.

The distinctive gate, now fenced off and propped up with timber supports, has a noticeable inward bow on the east side of its gabled roof.

Seeing the structure left in such a sorry state prompted former Devonport RSA president Chris Mullane to contact the Devonport Flagstaff to find out what was going on. He saw work being done on the gate one day late last month, before it was left shored up.

Auckland Council said the gate was repaired earlier in the year, but after it was damaged by a contractor last month, more work was needed, so it was fenced off.

"It has been assessed to identify the required repairs and these will start as soon as possible," said council's head of area operations – community facilities, Paul Amaral. "The repairs will replicate the original design and the contractor will pay for it."

Amaral said tighter health-and-safety regulations would be imposed on contractors when visiting the cemetery and other council property.

Mullane said the cemetery gate was regularly used by families visiting or tidying graves. It was a valued resting point, with built-in seats.

Mullane is among local volunteers who have been involved in maintaining the cemetery over the years. Military graves are among those cared for by a 'Remembrance Army'.

"The lychgate is a lovely old-fashioned piece



Repairs required... O'Neill's Point cemetery lychgate was damaged by a contractor

of work," Mullane said. It incorporated timbers from a chapel on-site that had been demolished in the 1960s.

He feared that if the gate was left in a bowed

state, irreparable damage might result.

The cemetery's picket fence, which had been poorly repaired in the past, could also do with a spruce-up, Mullane said.



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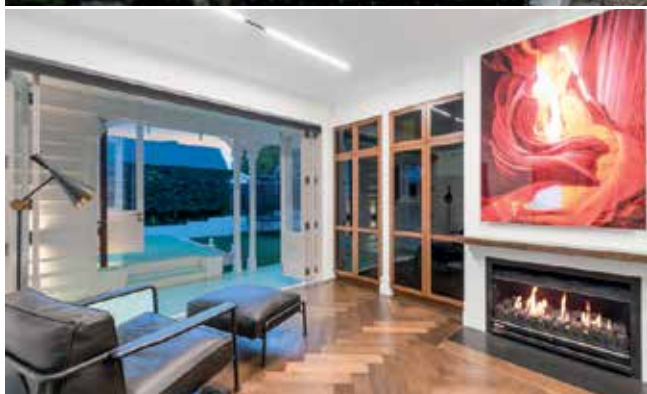
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NZRP MADE FOR NZ



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Devonport 6 Russell St

1,012m² 6 5 3 3 1

Resplendent & Luxurious Hi-Tech 1908 Villa

A stately grand master of voluminous proportions, deceptively understated and exquisite in every respect, from the Double Bay window street frontage, belying the impressive scale and magnificence of the painstaking workmanship that unfolds inside. Totally transformed with major renovations (upstairs in 2016 and downstairs in 2019) only a discerning purchaser privy to the background of what has been undertaken will be able to fully appreciate. The 1,012m² freehold Stanley Point site lays beautifully to all day sun captured by the 550m² floor area (plus 3 car garaging) matched with contemporary architecture, meticulously planned and inspired by Paul Izzard Design.

For Sale

Deadline Sale Closes 4th August at 4.00pm

View by appointment

www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22987

Peter Restall

M 021 808 808 P 09 446 2114

peter.restall@harcourts.co.nz

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Harcourts



Waiheke 84 Vintage Lane

3.2ha 1 1 1 1

Island Lifestyle & Coastal Opportunity
Located on Te Whau peninsula, 84 Vintage Lane is a unique value proposition in that it's possible to walk every inch of the 3.2 hectares of gentle, grassed contours. Here is an almost blank canvas to be enjoyed as it is or personalised by your own creativity. Discreetly positioned, a one bedroom home of generous proportions has intimate water views and direct access to Wharetana Bay.

For Sale
By Negotiation
View by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22993

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M 027 572 9659
karen.mcmahon@harcourts.co.nz
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Licensed Agent REAA 2008



Belmont 1/15 Alamein Ave

3 1 1 1 1 1

First Time Buyer Home

The home offers much, wonderful timber floors, a wood burning fireplace, a heat pump, water filter system, and it is insulated in the ceiling and under the floor. The kitchen is new, the bathroom almost new, the bedrooms are all a good size, and the living/dining is open plan. There is excellent indoor/outdoor flow to wide decks for entertaining.

Auction

On site, 26th July at 11.00am (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22978

Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797
Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
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Devonport 37 Mozeley Avenue

4 2 2 1 1

Big On Style Even Bigger On Space!

- Generous family home
- Fantastic downstairs area
- Sunny corner site
- Stunning modern kitchen
- Private outdoor living

Tender
Closes 13th July at 4pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22985

Ian Cunliffe
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Diana Murray
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Devonport 21 Church St

4 2 2 1 1 3

Outstanding Original Devonport Villa

- Fantastic central location
- Large family home
- Sunny elevated aspect
- Separate office area
- Great entertainers home

Tender
Closes July 31st at 4pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22983

Ian Cunliffe
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Diana Murray
M 021 911522
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
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Belmont 4a Bardia St

4 3 1 1 2

Modern Family Home

Take note of this wonderful offering situated in top school zones where children can walk to many schools from here, in minutes! The home is free standing on a freehold section, so if you have a growing family, this property is right for you! Built by GJ Gardner in brick and timber and sitting on a rear section of 366m² of land, the property faces north for plenty of sunshine.

Auction
On site, 19th July at 12.00pm (USP)
View as advertised or by appointment
www.harcourts.co.nz/DP22976

Jackie Mark
M 021 458 797
Jane Hastings
M 021 735 263
Cooper & Co Real Estate Ltd
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Devonport 3 Garden Terrace

3 2 1 3 1

Central Villa Garden Paradise

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Auction
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rowan.renouf@harcourts.co.nz
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For Sale \$595,000

View as advertised by appointment
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Visiting bellbirds gone again after lockdown

On 2 April, a week after the start of Covid-19 level-four lockdown, bellbirds started to visit the sugar-water feeders in our backyard in Narrow Neck.

We were privileged to have these little visitors, as the Department of Conservation website informs us that bellbirds disappeared north of the Waikato in the 1860s. There is speculation that they suffered from some form of avian disease.

A quick look at a map reveals that the closest location of bellbirds is Rangitoto Island, which is the likely source of the overflow birds seen at our place in Narrow Neck.

After about a week, the bellbirds disappeared for a fortnight, reappearing on 23 April. The bellbirds were regular visitors for another couple of weeks, but as the Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the bellbirds moved away and have not returned. Perhaps all the increased activity and traffic were not to their liking.

TVNZ ran an item on One News, for World Earth Day, talking about how wildlife seemed to appreciate the quieter environment under lockdown. I provided a short video clip and some still images, which were used to illustrate the unusual sightings of wildlife occurring around New Zealand.

Is it a vain hope that we can learn from the lockdown, and commute less and telecommute more? The environment improved in so many ways during April-May. Air quality improved, seawater became clear again, and we hosted rare visitors from Rangitoto.

David Willetts



A bellbird pictured at Narrow Neck during lockdown

Opposition to Gull – Nimbyism

Keith Robinson's stance on behalf of Vauxhall Neighbourhood Society (Flagstaff, 3 July) is a classic example of Nimbyism.

Personal observation of the Birkenhead Gull station is that on a much busier road and likely heavier patronage than that at Vauxhall Rd, there are minimal traffic and noise issues during 24 hours of operation.

People on the whole Devonport peninsula will welcome an alternative fuelling option to the busy and expensive peninsula monopoly position occupied

by BP Clifton.

Gull is to be congratulated for persisting to date in pursuing establishing what is likely to be a competitively priced option that will, because of its out-of-the-way location, not be expected to generate a high patronage volume.

They have done this despite the niggling objections and consequent delays, while others in the community have to tolerate the continued gap in peninsula services since the previous station closed.

Marshall Piercy

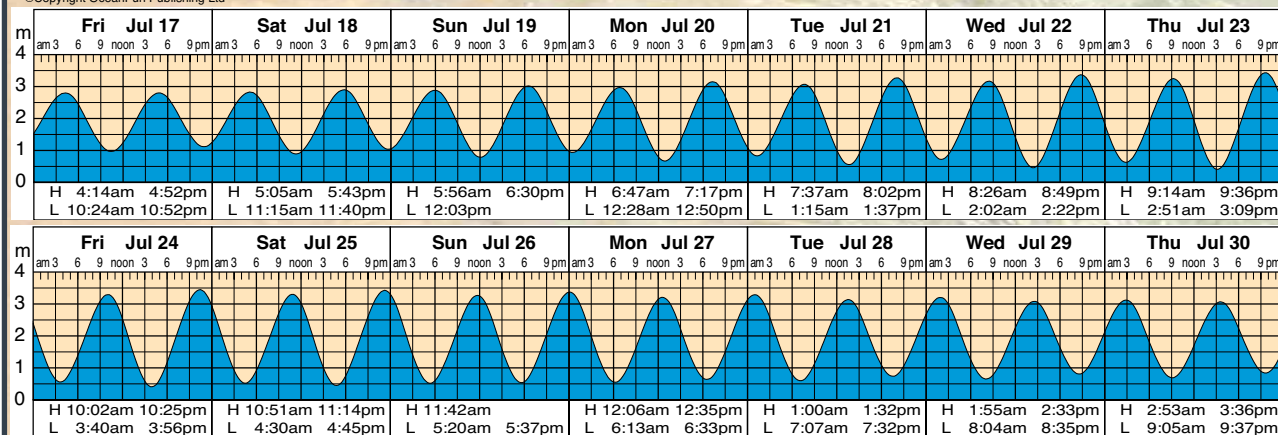
Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome. They should be on Devonport-related topics. Nom-de-plumes or submissions without a name will not be printed. Email to news@devonportflagstaff.co.nz or post to Devonport Flagstaff, PO Box 32 275, Devonport.

Harcourts Devonport Tides

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Safety concerns over new playground

I am very concerned about the safety aspects of the new Devonport playground at Windsor Reserve.

On the 'Bean Rock' structure, there is a ladder at one side with large gaps between the rungs. A child can easily fall through and there is nothing on the other side of the ladder to catch them. At the top is a large opening in the perimeter balustrade, with no useful handholds, so that a child struggles to climb onto the platform. I have observed this several times. The rungs on the ladder are shiny metal and will have no grip when wet.

At the other side of the structure is a good rope-climbing net, which is used by small children to get to the platform. When they reach the top, their supervising adult is at the bottom of the net and the child is free to run across the platform in the direction of the gap in the balustrade. The gap is about one metre square and would not get a building permit if it was on my deck at home.

There is a slide coming down from the 'Bean Rock' platform that ends on an abrasive surface. I observed a child making a hard landing on that. The surface is high grip so that children don't slip, but that is a bad idea when they arrive at speed at the bottom of the slide. Inside the slide are protruding fittings, which could scrape or bruise a child on the way down.

There is a sandpit area which has square-edged features, which could seriously injure a child falling against them.

I was also concerned that rocks have been placed at the bottom of a slope; a child falling or rolling down the slope will land on a hard rock.



There are nice seating areas, which I feel could have had the corners rounded off to minimise injury for anyone falling against them.

I hope these comments will be taken in the spirit in which they are intended. I would love my grandchild to play there, but only if I feel she will be safe.

David Thornber

Great park, but...

I am a 70-year-old grandad. I look after a three-year-old every Monday.

Like a lot of grandparents, we end up at

parks around the area. They all vary, but the less stressful are the ones that are well fenced. Anyone who has had the pleasure of looking after children knows that the speed a small one can get up to is scary to say the least. They are easily distracted and impossible to catch.

The new park at Windsor Reserve is fabulous for kids of all ages, but I'm afraid it will not be my go-to park. This park cost ratepayers a lot of money and to think they even considered it without adding simple pool fencing is unbelievable.

Furthermore, I believe the saucer-shaped equipment (the kids play on) drains to the sea. That's fine, except when there is a king tide the unit will flood. This is a drowning hazard. We have to fence our pools, so come on council.

In summing up, I plead with the council to fence this facility before a child is killed darting across the busy road or drowned in the concrete bowls.

Brian Gallocher

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Whare Toi-Kerr St Creative hub
(Takarunga, Mt Victoria)

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Devonport Peninsula Community eNEWS

To receive the Devonport Peninsula eNEWS, a monthly email listing of community events, and other community notices, please email us at maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz

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**By Rob
Drent**

Time might soon be called on the free car park near Devonport Wharf. The free part, anyway.

An Auckland Transport (AT) report has recommended paid parking be introduced around the wharf. No decisions have been made, but as the city grows over time, virtually everything becomes user-pays.

While park-and-ride facilities for buses have become de rigueur around the city, visitors to Devonport have often found it strange that prime waterfront land at a tourist destination is a car park.

Various alternatives have been suggested over the years, including a park-and-ride from council land alongside North Shore United football ground. However, this was never seriously considered, as surveys have found that most ferry traffic comes from south of Belmont.

This is one of the main reasons AT Local

is still being trialled – as a way to get ferry-bound traffic off the roads. Now, it seems it's a choice between AT Local or the 806 and 807 local bus services.

Paid parking at the ferry terminal is also seen as another step towards reducing car pressure on the waterfront.

It all seems very piecemeal to me. Transport in and out of Devonport is a key issue for everyone: workers, students, families. The fragility of our current options is no better illustrated by the cuts to Fullers services post-Covid-19 lockdown (they are now gradually being reintroduced).

Is it time for a Devonport transport strategy: integrating buses, cycling, walking, ferry and car travel for the unique challenges of a peninsula?

This could include links to Ryman's retirement village on Ngataranga Rd (which inexplicably had a bus service outside its door removed prior to opening) and the various Ngati Whatua developments – either built or planned – and allow for the multi-storey buildings coming in Hauraki and Belmont.

By the time council projects come to fruition, population growth and technology can make them instantly out of date. For example, is the \$47-million Lake Rd upgrade

without a dedicated bus lane a huge missed opportunity?

A prediction: the old Devonport Borough Council building at 3 Victoria Rd will be up for sale or in the process of being considered for sale by the end of this year. Cynics have claimed all along that the way Auckland Council cleaned out tenants from the building and changed its status to commercial rather than social services was preparation for disposal.

Surplus assets are on the block as council battles a \$500-million to \$750-million post-Covid budget deficit. As Churchill once said: never let a good crisis go to waste.

A wake is being held on 15 August for Roger Giles, the unofficial guardian of Takarunga and founding father of The Bunker. Giles died during the Covid lockdown, aged 78. It's being held at the Devonport Yacht Club, not his beloved Bunker, I suspect due to the large numbers who will attend.

I'm anticipating some music and a glass or two of red and whisky will be raised in his honour. He was a true character, who loved Devonport and its people.

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Letters

New wall on the block lurid

Who gave permission for the lurid wall on the corner of Rattray St and Victoria Rd? I'm sure it's very trendy but it is also a garish eyesore.

Isaac Donaldson

Rob Drent, Editor replies: This wall appears to have been created without consent. Auckland Council is investigating.

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Bodyline by Guy Body



Letters

In your editorial (The Flagstaff Notes, 3 July), you state: "I always say to my family and mates (anyone who will listen really) that if I ever attempt to stand for local-body politics, shoot me first." Then you ask the question as to how much lobbying Devonport-Takapuna Local Board (DTLB) chair Aidan Bennett would have done to try and win my vote on the Lake Rd project.

Firstly, I feel it is a unhelpful for a community newspaper, like the Devonport Flagstaff, to make such a harsh comment about not standing for a local board. It is hard enough, as things stand, to get members of the community to stand for local-government positions. This is particularly so for the suburbs that I represent north of Takapuna.

George Wood no yes-man

The Westlake, Milford, Castor Bay, Forrest Hill and Sunnynook suburbs represent 48% per cent of the total DTLB population, but alas only three residents from this area stood for election in 2019, out of a total of 18. I was the only person elected.

Interestingly, I tried, without success, to encourage other people from the northern area to stand. Maybe it is time to divide the DTLB area into two wards for election-voting purposes, similar to what happens in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area.

Being an elected representative involves far more than just attending meetings. There is also a lot of work in the community dealing with issues and problems that come along on a daily basis.

I always say that helping the community should be a big part of a board member's work. It is amazing how one is able to help individuals and community groups resolve issues by knowing which part of council to approach to get a resolution. It isn't onerous, when you know who to talk with, but one does derive a lot of satisfaction from this work.

Secondly, I am no yes-man for Aidan Bennett, or anyone else on the local board, as you seem to infer. I will make my mind up on an issue-by-issue basis, and will talk with other elected members, on any issue, as the need arises.

George Wood
Member, Devonport-Takapuna
Local Board

Board representation vital – if done properly

Re Rob Drent's editorial (3 July 2020): I do encourage you to stand for local body politics. In fact, I encourage anyone with interest to have a try. However, I am not supporting you to be shot (as you mentioned in your editorial).

It is important for democracy for differing views to be strongly debated. Otherwise, alternative facts and approaches will not be explored. The worst outcome for democracy is if everyone just agreed with proposals, without teasing out the ramifications both positive and negative.

I shudder when I hear of politicians just accepting officers' reports. One of the chair's roles is to ensure there is adequate information upon which the board can make a comfortable and sensible decision.

There does seem to be a lack of understanding that an expert's advice is just that – advice on the subject of their expertise, whether roading, park design, water delivery or so on. It is the board's job to view the community aspect in a holistic sense. How does the proposal impact on residents, businesses, families, sporting groups, community groups, youth, Maori, older people, new settlers and so on? Much of this is outside the expertise of the water engineer, designer, or roading engineer etc, who mainly focus on the project, usually in a technical sense.

In addition, consultation should be valued and not portrayed negatively. Groups' and individuals' input should be welcomed and encouraged, not dismissed with disdain if their views are at

odds with the report (as I have often witnessed). It is not good enough for the reports to just say they have spoken with stakeholders so the board (often treated as another stakeholder, not as community-elected representatives) doesn't need to do anything more.

Consultation material should be meaningful with options and opportunity costs clearly identified and not just welcoming a superficial tweet, Facebook like, Tick or smiley-face. Board reports, just rubber-stamped upon acceptance, do the community a gross disservice.

So, long may there be disagreement, debate, teasing out of material, and exploration of alternatives. But of course, it's all in how it is conducted by the members. **Grant Gillon**

Dark days lead to Kiwi life of peace – and plums

Afghan Masood Atrafi and his family escaped their strife-torn homeland before coming to New Zealand as refugees. He tells Helen Vause that despite further misfortune, they came to the right place.

One came from London and the other flew in from California to see their old friend Masood Atrafi.

The three Afghan men hadn't seen each other for more than 37 years, not since they were locked up together in Kabul's infamous Pul-e-Charkhi Prison – and what a reunion it was.

The visitors spent most of February with Atrafi in Bayswater, talking every day and usually late into the night, fuelled by Atrafi's delicious Afghan cooking.

"We cried when we met and we cried plenty more when we parted," Atrafi says.

"But it was wonderful to go through our memories, and our lives and the future. There was so much to talk about."

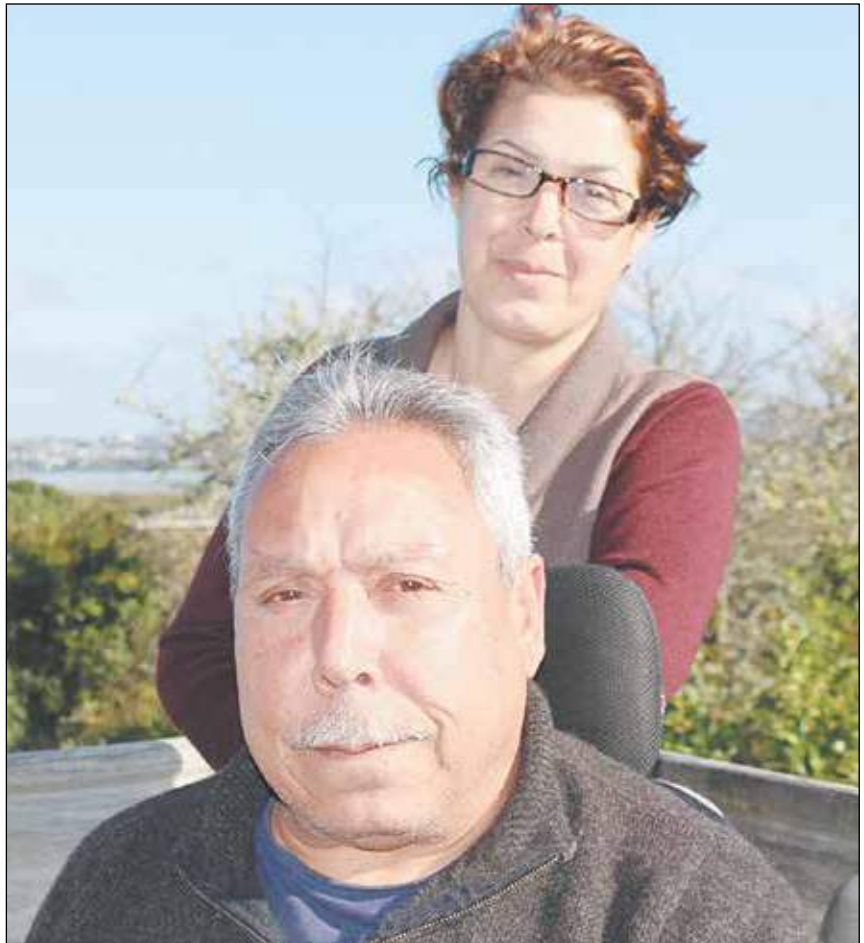
Atrafi had found his two prison mates from the early 80s on Facebook, and he's in touch with many more who are now scattered around the world.

Back then, none of the men could have imagined the incredible speed of online communication, or that Atrafi would be in New Zealand, just as feisty and passionate, but now confined to an electric wheelchair.

Looking out from his quiet corner over Philomel Reserve, Atrafi is pleased to have the chance to reminisce once again and tell something of his 59 years and what happened on the journey that brought him to New Zealand 12 years ago, with his wife Kamila and their four children.

Despite increasingly troubled times, the young Atrafi and his brothers and sisters lived a very comfortable middle-class life in Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul, surrounded by family and friends. The Atrafi family was widely known through the fame of their father Hakim, who was a popular comedian on the country's one national television channel. Their mother was a teacher, and the young Masood was drawn to a career in media.

But Atrafi, like many of his friends, was a young man of strong convictions, and alongside his first-year studies and against



Well settled... Masood Atrafi and his wife Kamila, at their home in Bayswater. They and their four children arrived in New Zealand 12 years ago.

a backdrop of many fighting factions, he delivered political leaflets.

He was barely 21 years old when he was apprehended on the street and tossed into Pul-e-Charkhi Prison, also known as the Afghan National Detention Centre.

It was a tough, filthy, terrifying place, where life was tenuously negotiated, crammed in with 10,000 others.

"It was a dark, dark time", recalls Atrafi. "But you have to remember it was also where they were putting all the educated people and the famous writers. In so many ways it was terrible, but I was in very good company and of course that helped us to get through. Being all in there together was a time in my life I will never forget."

After four-and-a-half years in prison, he successfully completed his degree in journalism, and by the late 80s had his dream job working on the relatively genteel arts pages of the national daily *Hewad* newspaper.

His passion was (and still is) writing about Persian literature. But outside the cerebral environment of the office, fighting

and violence raged and Atrafi's family was not immune.

By the time the Taliban took power in the mid-90s, Atrafi had married Kamila and the couple had two children.

"All our lives became very dangerous, and because I had already been imprisoned I was well known. Suddenly families and friends were all disconnected from each other.

"Landlines were cut off, everything closed down. It was very hard to communicate with each other. But of course everyone wanted to get out as soon as they could find a way."

Realising poking fun at the regime would be suicidal, Atrafi's comedian dad quit the laughs and fled with his wife to neighbouring Pakistan. "He would have been killed for sure," says Atrafi.

"Six months later, we had a plan and we were ready to go too."

Although Pakistan had officially closed its border, there were still holes through which many families passed.

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From Kabul, the Atrafis travelled to a spot where they could begin the trek over the mountains to a remote, relaxed section of the border.

First, they hired the transport to carry them safely through the mountain passes: "A horse for me and donkey for the girls. And they cost far more than an airline ticket," Atrafi chuckles.

They had blue skies all the way up and over the freezing snowline, step by tedious wobbly step to freedom. The couple and their two small children rode along narrow paths, with dramatic drops on either side of them. From time to time, they'd see piles of donkey bones and the human remains below of those who'd toppled over on their way. They were beyond scared, says Atrafi, but excited to be getting away to a new life.

They made it to Pakistan, where they lived for more than a decade. Atrafi found a good job editing, and two more children were born.

But Atrafi's parents and a sibling had already headed for New Zealand. He and his family decided to follow, so that they could be reunited, and his children could have a better life.

But the challenges ahead turned out to be right up there with fleeing over snowy mountains.

The family transited through the refugee settlement facility in Mangere and arrived in Christchurch to join Atrafi's parents in 2009. Tragically, just a year after their arrival, Atrafi was involved in a car accident

that left him with severe spinal injuries, and confined to a wheelchair.

With his wife and children still making their way in their new city, he spent a year in a spinal unit.

Just as he'd settled back home with his family, the 2011 Christchurch earthquake took its toll on their new home city.

They were not as badly affected as some: "But the roof and the walls were falling in. What a day," he says. "But we'd already been through big earthquakes back in Pakistan."

"Local people know me as the plum man. Or the bike man. That's okay."

The family moved to Auckland, where Masood and Kamila are well and truly settled into their Bayswater neighbourhood.

The kids they are so proud of have grown up and left home.

Most nights, Atrafi is either writing or online, in touch with his internationally scattered community and hoping to travel for more reunions.

When the Flagstaff visits, the couple are

chuckling at the 360 'likes' his love poem to Kamila has scored overnight since he published it on Facebook.

The poem is dedicated to the wife and friend who stuck by his side through good days and bad.

Even their early romance had tough beginnings in a strict culture of arranged marriages.

"I was peeping through my kitchen curtains with my mother when I first saw Kamila. And I knew I was in love with her from that moment and that I must marry her, even though she barely noticed me. I courted her by telephone for one year before we could meet. I was persistent."

While Kamila, a law graduate in her home country, works as a home-support worker, Masood writes and prepares their dinner.

Atrafi rarely misses his daily 10km round trip down to Devonport village. He's also often found repairing bikes, helping to supplement the couple's income.

And sometimes he has earned a little extra by setting up a stall in summer on Memorial Drive, selling fruit.

At first he wonders how it will sound to people back home if they hear about the learned Atrafi selling plums. But then he says, "No, it's okay. You can write that. It is the truth. Local people know me as the plum man. Or the bike man. That's okay."

"It is good to have the chance to talk about our life story, but there is no point in looking back. We came to the right place. It is peaceful here and the people are lovely."

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Tracey Lawrence
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FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING Sunday 11:00-11:45am www.barfoot.co.nz/791387



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Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
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FOR SALE By Negotiation

VIEWING Phone For Viewing Times www.barfoot.co.nz/793082



BELMONT 1/20 WESTWELL ROAD

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Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
Devonport 09 445 2010

Tracey Lawrence
021 1720 681
Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE \$1,325,000

VIEWING Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/793729



BELMONT 17 WESTWELL ROAD

BRICK BABY IN BELMONT!!

This solid split level family home was built in the 1980's with a mix of block and brick, built to last and low maintenance. This home offers all the necessary ingredients for fabulous family living, 3/4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garaging for 4 cars, walking distance to all local schools.

Trish Fitzgerald
021 952 452
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Tracey Lawrence
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Devonport 09 445 2010

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VIEWING Sat/Sun 1:00-1:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/791006



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VIEWING Phone For Viewing Times www.barfoot.co.nz/789812



DEVONPORT 25 RUTLAND ROAD

Can't afford Devonport? - Yes you can! There has never been a better time to buy your own home than right now! Here is a gorgeous 2 bed 1920's bungalow cute as a button. Money has been spent with a very stylish open plan kitchen and there's room inside to potentially create a third with a bit of a reshuffle! Call me!

Lance Richardson
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Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE \$1,250,000

VIEWING Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/791465

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DEVONPORT 10 SPRING STREET**VENDOR VACATED - WILL BE SOLD!**

This charming early 1900's weatherboard home is positioned at the end of a cul de sac just off Devonport's prime waterfront. On a freehold site of 304m² this is a unique property prized for both its location and views. Bring your vision, this is affordable Devonport and it will be sold!

Sue Harrison
021 909 549
Devonport 09 445 2010

Toni Gregory
021 044 3663
Devonport 09 445 2010

AUCTION 10:00am 23 Jul 2020 at Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna (unless sold prior)
VIEWING Sat/Sun 12:00-12:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/793037



OPEN HOME

DEVONPORT 50 WATERVIEW ROAD**A PLACE TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS**

Filled with options to carry it into an exciting future this 1920's bungalow sits on a substantial 1037m² site with panoramic views across Ngataranga Bay on the north and then west to the harbour's opening. A potter's studio and boatshed are surprise additions. Walk to Ferry.

Sue Harrison
021 909 549
Devonport 09 445 2010

Toni Gregory
021 044 3663
Devonport 09 445 2010

TENDER Closes on 23 Jul 2020 at 4:00pm (unless sold prior)
VIEWING Sat/Sun 2:00-2:45pm www.barfoot.co.nz/792469

**BELMONT 6/13 CREAMER AVENUE****EVERYBODY LOVES THESE SOLID UNITS**

This is an absolute gem, being the end unit and having a lockup garage. Zoned for high decile primary, intermediate and secondary schools and tucked quietly in between the historic Devonport village and the vibrancy of Takapuna this is the perfect location as a home or rental property.

Cathy Fiebig
021 383 149
Devonport 09 445 2010

Carol Wetzell
027 245 3392
Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE \$729,500
VIEWING Saturday 1:00-1:30pm www.barfoot.co.nz/787383



OPEN HOME

DEVONPORT 1/45 VAUXHALL ROAD**BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!**

Overlooking the green belt (cricket/rugby fields) of Devonport Domain, this elevated two bedroom front unit is superbly presented and comes with its own lock-up garage. Uniquely placed for couples, singles or those looking for location and a 'lockup and leave'.

Sue Harrison
021 909 549
Devonport 09 445 2010

Toni Gregory
021 044 3663
Devonport 09 445 2010

TENDER Closes on 22 Jul 2020 at 4:00pm (unless sold prior)
VIEWING Sat/Sun 1:00-1:30pm www.barfoot.co.nz/793055

**BELMONT 2/205 LAKE ROAD****QUIET - LOW MAINTENANCE - ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS**

Beautifully presented with great indoor/outdoor flow, this funky 3 bedroom home, well removed from Lake Road, is a fantastic option for first home buyers, families, investors or downsizers.

Kurt Piper
021 137 6450
Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE By Negotiation
VIEWING Phone For Viewing Times www.barfoot.co.nz/791988

**DEVONPORT 3/24 HASTINGS PARADE****SPACIOUS - SUNNY - PRIVATE**

Featuring high ceilings and great indoor outdoor flow, to private, sunny covered deck and garden. With the quality modern kitchen, boasting Miele and Bosch appliances, and a single garage, this property really ticks all the boxes and is one of the cutest units we have seen for a while.

Kurt Piper
021 137 6450
Devonport 09 445 2010

FOR SALE
VIEWING By Appointment www.barfoot.co.nz/792853

Takapuna takes the honours in local derby



Missed it... The ball evades a North Shore receiver.

Below: Some of the large crowd of Takapuna and North Shore supporters.



North Shore Rugby Club premiers were convincingly defeated by Takapuna in one of the season's most eagerly awaited games.

Despite having home advantage, North Shore succumbed 24-11 in the game in front of a big crowd at its Vauxhall Rd grounds on 4 July.

Last weekend, Shore drew 10-10 with Northcote.

On the sidelines...Mirim Dallimore (left, 12) and Maia Congdon (11) from Belmont Intermediate staff a cake stall.

Below: Angus Waddams (left, 11) and Ollie Taylor (10) from Hauraki School were among the ballboys for the big game.

Photos: Keeley Watson



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Board split over budget cut – but agrees on rates hike

A 10 per cent cut to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board budget due to Covid-19 cost savings will bring a reduction in the local works it funds.

In response to Auckland Council's Emergency Budget, the board voted last week to accept the 10 per cent cut and work with the council on how to achieve savings.

The board was split on the decision, with members Toni van Tonder, George Wood and Aidan Bennett voting to accept the need for the reduction. Trish Deans, Jan O'Connor and Ruth Jackson voted against. Chair Bennett used his casting vote in favour.

The board unanimously supported the need for a 3.5 per cent rates increase across the city. Around 45 per cent of respondents to an Emergency Budget consultation in the board area supported the need for the rise. The board also voted to support:

- The concept of asset recycling and the sale of council assets/holdings to increase revenue "but only if those assets proposed for recycling divestment have been identified as not serving any current or future service requirement".
- Consideration of the reduction in hours of some facilities in the board area to save money.
- The bulk of savings being found from the deferral of capital projects for one to two years.

The board voted to reject any moves to sell parks or reserve land, or other open space that "currently fulfils a service requirement, or any other land that has been identified as needed to respond to future/growth demand".

A motion put by Jackson to remove the qualifying clause was voted down by Wood, van Tonder, and Bennett, with Bennett using his casting vote.

The board also voted to reject:

- Any proposal to cut public transport services

or delay planned new services.

- Cuts to pest eradication and safety improvements to footpaths and roads.
- Any move to reduce the budget for local boards from \$20 million to \$5 million.

The board wants council to retain the full \$47 million budget for Lake Rd improvements, and the budgets for stormwater upgrades in Kitchener, Shakespeare and Omana Rds in

Milford, and reiterate the commitment to finish the Hurtsmere Rd upgrade in Takapuna.

Jackson said she was worried that any parks and reserves not totally tied down could be sought out for sale by a council desperate for cash.

Van Tonder said the board's submission to council clearly said it wanted savings to come from deferrals of works.

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Devonport Car Co. celebrates 25 years in business and is still proudly locally owned and operated.

It's rare that a car dealership becomes a local landmark. But after 25 years that's what's happened to Devonport Cars — which continues to stand proudly at its Lake Road site in Belmont.

Lewis Rowe has owned the business since 2017, and still retains his zestful enthusiasm for the industry, which has undergone multiple twists and turns in recent years.

Lewis has been involved in the car industry since he was 15.

His family, having just moved here from the UK in 2006 purchased a car from Derek Rountree, the well-known owner of Devonport Cars at the time. Hiring their son Lewis was part of the negotiation. It was then that Lewis got his foot in the door: grooming cars part time whilst studying at TGS, and relished the opportunity to learn from Derek. Lewis says that he was “over the moon” to get his first job in NZ and “to work with cars was a dream come true.

As Lewis grew older, he ventured off into sales roles, working at other dealerships across Auckland evolving and learning along the way.

It was a few years later the Devonport community learnt of the sad and unexpected passing of Derek. Respectfully and with the blessing of Derek's family, Lewis took over Devonport Car Company when the time was right, on 1 January 2017. Who better to take over the local firm than the man who had learnt so much from Derek at such a young age.

Lewis grabbed the opportunity to re-instate Devonport Car Co. as the trusted brand people have come to know and love, and has



spent the past four years re-establishing the loyalty and support from the local community.

Lewis says: “I am very fortunate that with the help of the locals, and a few ‘out-of-townners’, we are now able to celebrate 25 years on the peninsula.”

Devonport Cars has sold almost 2800 cars, and counting. If you drive past the dealership on Lake Road, you will notice the sign board with a sale counter of how many vehicles have been purchased locally. “It still amazes me how many people mention it to me when they come in, or I am out and about” says Lewis.

“I am forever grateful for the kind-hearted and continued support from our local com-

munity - especially after Covid-19, and the curve balls constantly thrown at our industry! No doubt I will wave out to you in your car, or see you in the supermarket picking up dinner sometime soon.”

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Former council chief helped shape Shore's housing future

Rob Hutchison, a former Stanley Bay resident and chief executive of North Shore City, who later helped shape the housing future of Devonport as a director of Ngati Whatua's property arm Whai Rawa, has died.

Born in Scotland, Hutchison spent his early years in the Waikato before moving to Mairangi Bay and attending Rangitoto College.

After gaining a Diploma in Valuation at the University of Auckland, he worked for Jones Lang Wootton and Colliers Jardine. He was the chief executive of Landcorp Property before becoming chief executive and valuer-general of Valuation New Zealand.

From 1999 to 2004 he was the chief executive (CEO) of North Shore City Council.

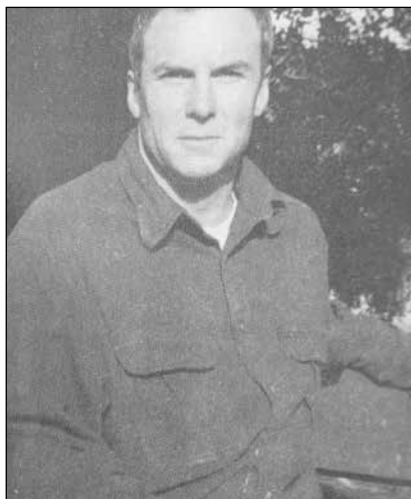
In a 1998 Flagstaff feature, he said the big challenge for the North Shore was managing growth.

"A key issue stemming from the growth is the need to put in infrastructural assets like roading, sewage and stormwater before growth actually happens – this requires careful planning.

"Pressure on the quality of water and the beaches; on the quality of services, vehicle congestion, parking – all these things stem from growth," he told the Flagstaff.

After a stint as CEO at Tramco, he joined Ngati Whatua Whai Rawa Limited. He was CEO from 2012 through to 2017, and then a director of the company.

During Hutchinson's time at Whai Rawa, iwi



Rob Hutchison, 1956-2020

assets grew from \$356 million in 2012 to almost \$1 billion in 2017.

As part of a Treaty settlement, Ngati Whatua purchased almost 30 ha of Crown land on the Devonport peninsula, previously occupied by the Navy. Hutchison was involved in key decisions of how the land would be managed and developed, including the lease of the old Wakakura site to Ryman Healthcare for the creation of the William Sanders Retirement Village.

Oneoneroa in Belmont – the first Ngati Whatua development on the Devonport peninsula – currently has 13 homes in its first stage on the market. Other pockets of Ngati Whatua land are at various stages of planning and consenting.

Hutchison died on 29 June, after a short illness.

Roger Giles service

Hilary, Sam and Emily are pleased to let our friends know about the celebration we plan for Roger. We have booked the Devonport Yacht Club for Saturday August 15th, with finger-food catering and a bar.

The evening will start around 7pm-ish with the New Orleans Joymakers Jazz Band as people arrive, then invited people will share an anecdote/song. If anyone would like to take part in this, please let us know.

Mainly though, we are hoping to keep things pretty informal and have a bit of a shindig and a whisky or two to remember Roger.

The evening will be videoed for the family overseas.

We would love to see you there. Indications of attendance would be useful to give us an idea of numbers.

If it will be difficult to attend this event, there are plans to hold a memorial concert at the Auckland Folk Festival in 2021.



Have your say on the future of Devonport-Takapuna

Our local board has come up with a three-year plan outlining the key initiatives we want to focus on to help our communities thrive and support the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

Now we need your help to check if we've got it right.

So love local and get vocal about your community by having your say. Submissions must be received by **4pm, Thursday 13 August.**

For more information, a copy of the draft Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan 2020 and to provide your feedback go to akhaveyoursay.co.nz/lovelocal

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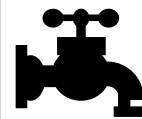


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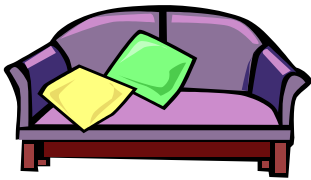
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Takapuna

SCHOOL NEWS



Grammar

JUL 17, 2020

Matariki

Matariki, the Maori New Year, is the name for the group of seven stars known as the Pleiades star cluster. Matariki begins to rise sometime during May to June, and symbolises the Maori New Year.

The rising of Matariki coincides with the end of the harvesting season, which Maori would celebrate with offerings made to the Gods who helped them provide crops. Together with their whanau, they took it as an opportunity to remember their whakapapa and ancestors who have passed away. To further celebrate the Matariki New Year, new trees were planted to signal new beginnings.

On 24 June, Takapuna Grammar School students and staff gathered early in the morning in Te Poho (school hall) to celebrate Matariki. The Prefects and Tu Tangata class of 2020 performed beautiful renditions of He Honore, Matariki, and Rerenga Wairua.

Moreover, words were exchanged to signify the importance of Matariki and food was shared to appreciate how the Maori people connected. As a community, we gathered to celebrate Matariki both traditionally and through modern methods, focusing on music, song, dance and food.

BY JEONGMIN PARK



Coats for Kids collection

Based in Northland, charitable organisation Bald Angels runs a 'Keep Our Kids Warm' campaign every year that aims to provide Northland children in need with warm winter clothes as the cold weather approaches.

A donation box is set up annually by the Peer Service Team in the Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) library towards the end of Term 2, where students and teachers can bring coats, pyjamas, blankets and warm articles of clothing alike to donate to the children in need. This year, over 100 donations were made by the TGS community, which will definitely be utilised over the particularly harsh winter season.

On the donations collected this year, Peer Service Team member Beth Thomson states: "It was great to see so many donations again this year and that Bald Angels seemed very grateful! These donations are going to help people out a lot, even more so in comparison with previous years, with the current circumstances."

BY WENNA SOON

Orange Week

During 15–26 June, Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) supported the annual Orange Week appeal held by Auckland City Mission.

This wonderful event supports the mission by collecting funds and non-perishable food items to assist thousands of Auckland families in need this winter. TGS donations consisted of cans and gold-coin donations, which have all been collected and sent to Auckland City Mission. The success of this event was shown by our school collecting 2529 cans and \$1761.50 in donations. The house that collected the largest number of cans was Kaha, with 652 cans.

These cans are an invaluable donation that can help many families. New Zealand's recent outbreak of Covid-19 left a huge impact on communities and families struggling. The donations that have been collected by TGS will help the mission offer direct assistance to struggling Auckland families in desperate need of food and health services.

This support is important for the Auckland community during these times of crisis, and TGS has been compassionate enough to offer a helping hand to those in need. Auckland City Mission has informed us that this year, over 120 other organisations participated and, as a community, Auckland has collected around 22,000 cans for the mission.

BY HYERIM PARK

OPEN DAY

THURSDAY 23 JULY 2020

Presentations in Te Poho (school hall) at 4.00pm & 5.30pm, followed by tours of the school.

All students and families are warmly welcomed.

20 years ago from the Flagstaff files

- Devonport Wharf continues to implode with managers refusing to show tenants an engineer's report, which details repairs that need to be done. Devonport Wharf Trust spokesman Stuart Robertson refuses to give the Flagstaff a copy of the report, saying: "You know my attitude to your scurrilous type of journalism." North Shore City Council confirms "there was a fair amount of work to be done" on the wharf to meet building and safety standards.
- Devonport Dannys – Watson and Morrison team up as double act to be auctioned off at a Takapuna Grammar fundraiser.
- Extensive damage is caused to house in Alamein Ave after a fire started by a child playing with a cigarette lighter.
- The North Shore B side makes the final of the North Harbour rugby championship, carrying the club's hopes after its premier side was knocked out. Shore B beat Takapuna to make the final, with James Hinchco one of the outstanding players.
- A fire chief labels Devonport's appliances substandard after water pumps on both its fire engines failed at a callout to a gas mains fire. A Ponsonby fire truck had to be called as backup.
- A group of North Shore United soccer legends hold a 20-year reunion. The over-35 team had been together for two decades and in the 2000 season was unbeaten in the North Harbour second division, even though the side's average age was 47. Around 70 past and present players attend the reunion, with team founder Graham Reid travelling from America for the occasion.
- Repairs to Devonport's sewer lines drag on after North Shore City Council finds them in a worse state than expected.
- The Flea, a Devonport community radio station, is launched by Mike



Flagstaff interview subject... Christine Cole Cately

- and Stuart Baker.
- St Michael's Church sets up a drop-in centre for the Bayswater community.
- Freddy Andrewes is selected to represent Auckland in the New Zealand Hairdresser of the Year competition.
- Independent publisher Christine Cole Cately is the Flagstaff interview subject.

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- A sports enthusiast who relates well to a wide age group
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- Has good written and oral communication skills
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While the role is primarily administrative, you will be expected to cover for and assist our volunteers throughout the club. A current bar manager's licence and familiarity with MYOB would be an advantage.

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Harvesting your own water made easy in Auckland's 50-year drought

Auckland's once-in-50-years drought has inspired builder James Rimmer, who grew up on the Devonport peninsula and attended Rosmini College, to start a rainwater-capture business for Auckland homes.

The idea to create a rainwater-harvesting system, which is simply called what it does – Catch Your Water – came about when Rimmer, whose father Bill ran the local fruit shop in Belmont for 25 years, was desperately trying to figure out an alternative to using council water to top up his pool and water his garden.

After completing the renovation of his own home late last year, which included a heated in-ground pool, immaculately landscaped garden, and the extensive laying of around 100m² of new turf, Rimmer was suddenly faced with water restrictions imposed by Auckland Council due to dam levels falling to 50-year lows.

"The hotter and dryer-than-usual weather this year meant that the pool was evaporating fast and the garden needed extensive watering," said Rimmer, who through his construction business has over 20 years' experience in roofing and drainage.

"We also had roadworks outside our house, so our footpath was in need of a good water blast as well," he said.

"No one wants to be that neighbour who is selfishly irrigating his garden, water-blasting his driveway or washing his car while everyone else is being mindful of their water usage. So I came up with the tank idea – initially only for our house," Rimmer said.

"Whereas a four-hour downpour of rain won't even fill Auckland's dams by one percentage point, the run-off water from a roof with the same downpour can fill a 1000-litre tank, which was more than enough to do the job I needed doing," Rimmer said.

After showing neighbours and friends the success of the tank's ability to easily catch and store water and produce good water pressure, Rimmer was asked to duplicate the rainwater-harvesting system at other homes. He realised there was good demand for an effective system that overcomes



water restrictions and reduces water bills.

The most popular system installed by Rimmer has a 1000-litre storage capacity.

"Customers like the appearance of our tall, slim tanks. The tanks have a minimal footprint and the taller the tank the better the pressure is, but because I have a skilled team working for my building company, I can also custom-build anything," Rimmer said.

"Most of the work is done off-site so installation time on-site is minimal – approximately two hours to complete," Rimmer said.

The tank catches water from the roof, sends it down a standard drainpipe that has a filter to remove leaves and other unwanted material, and also an overflow system that

directs water back into the stormwater pipes when the tank is full.

The tank is securely fixed to a plinth, built from a wooden frame and concrete. The garden hose or irrigation pipes then attach to a tap at the bottom of the tank.

With the council relaxing consent requirements for water tanks last month, Auckland's drought, rates going up, and wastewater comprising 78.5 per cent of our water bills, catching the water from your roof makes good economic as well as environmental sense.

"You should never pay to water your own garden – especially since that water never finds its way into the wastewater system, which is why you pay a premium to the council for wastewater," Rimmer said.



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Halo effect the plan to deal with foraging maunga rodents

The Urban Rat Project is working on a new rat-trap barrier around Maungauika, with an increase in the pests expected during winter.

A new system of traps will be set up to create a pest-free 'halo'. Volunteers will begin to approach households next month to encourage more residents to set up traps around their homes.

Volunteer rat trapper Rex Paddy said in summer, when the trees were fruiting and dropping seeds, there was plenty of food for rats and mice. But heading into winter, there is little food available. More rodents are being caught as they forage closer to ready traps and households.

Paddy hopes more households on the slopes of Maungauika will set traps to achieve the project's goal of the maunga being pest-free by 2024.

"We will see results when we are no longer catching mice and rats," said Paddy.

Project coordinator Lance Cablk said the initiative is ongoing, with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority now managing the maintenance of Maungauika.

Significant community and volunteer work has been seen for other restoration projects along Ngātaringa and Shoal Bays, said Cablk.

Going on a rat hunt...

Top: long-time volunteers Garth Cumberland (left) and Jim Eagles (centre) with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Jordan Winiata, having a cuppa after maintaining the Maungauika rat-trapping line

Right: Pest-free Maungauika volunteers (from left) James Amour, Liz Philipp and Victoria Johnstone, out on the maunga



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Black Magic found in time capsule

A time capsule dug up at Vauxhall School has unearthed an unexpected treasure for Bayswater School.

A *New Zealand Herald* front page dated 22 April 1995, featuring (world-renown) yachtsman Sir Peter Blake was included in the 25-year-old capsule.

Blake attended Bayswater School from 1953.

Vauxhall principal Gary Lawrence has gifted the paper to Bayswater School. It included extensive coverage of Blake leading the Black Magic crew to victory in the Louis Vuitton challenger elimination regatta. The team went on to win the America's Cup, bringing it home for New Zealand.

Bayswater School Principal Lindsay Child said: "The newspaper is in great condition and is a lovely treasure for our school. Many thanks to Vauxhall School for letting us have it."

The school will find a creative way to display its new piece of history, she said.

"His example of leadership and passion for the environment are things that continue to inspire us, staff and children alike, to this day," said Child.

Blake won many yachting titles before being knighted in 1995.



Shared history... Bayswater School Principal Lindsay Child and Vauxhall School Principal Gary Lawrence, with the historic front page

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Hororata development gets council tick

Correct processes were followed in the application for a Hauraki property development that has upset neighbours, the Auckland Council consenting team maintains.

Anger over the residential development at 30 Hororata Rd proceeding without public notification was highlighted in the Devonport Flagstaff (19 June).

Building was temporarily halted last month when Worksafe found safety requirements were not being met on the site.

The council signed off on the development application in June last year, after a site inspection was made by the processing planner on 25 March.

Three units were approved to be built on the site which already has three units on it. A number of variations to the Unitary Plan were allowed because they were ruled to have a "less than minor" impact. Neighbours dispute this.

The first they knew of what was being built was when work began after Covid-19 lockdown.

The Flagstaff asked the council last month if it intended to review the development in light of the residents' many concerns. In response, it detailed the steps taken in determining that the application did not need to be notified.

"I am satisfied that this application was determined correctly," Ian Dobson, manager of north-west resource consents, reported back.

In response to a further query if any checks had been made on-site since building began, the Flagstaff was told that a council resource-consent compliance-monitoring specialist visited the site in April. Another inspection was scheduled.

The council planning team noted that neighbours had contacted the planning department with concerns and stated that it was in contact with a representative of the residents to provide further explanation of the process council officers followed initially.

A neighbour has since told the Flagstaff she felt like those concerned about the project were going in circles over the matter.

They also had underlying concerns that planning processes favoured developers at the expense of residents and neighbourhood character.

The council told the Flagstaff that after its planner visited the site last year, further information had been requested of the developer under section 92 of the Resource Management Act. This was to clarify matters including the design of buildings, access, parking and manoeuvring, and the risk of flooding. Several responses followed.

A senior development engineer, as well as the processing planner, determined that vehicle access as submitted was acceptable. This allows for eight households to use one driveway entrance. This was determined to be wide enough for a single vehicle and

pedestrians to "co-exist safely" and to function adequately due to "relatively low traffic movements".

The applicant provided vehicle tracking curves for on-site manoeuvring into car-park spaces. "While some manoeuvres cannot quite be achieved with a three-point turn and are likely to require one more small set of movement, given the low traffic numbers, it was considered acceptable," the planners found.

Flood risks, on a site in close proximity to a flood plain, were considered to have been adequately addressed by the applicant, as assessed by the senior development engineer. The site was not in a control area where on-site detention of stormwater run-off was required by the Unitary Plan.

The development did not infringe what were considered to be the core standards of the zone, being building height, and height in relation to boundary and yards, planners reported.

A landscape plan would have to be implemented as part of the monitoring process to ensure that once the site was fully developed, it would provide the suburban built character anticipated by the Unitary Plan.

"For the above reasons, the adverse effects on the owners and occupants of the adjacent sites were considered less than minor, and therefore it was determined that the application did not need to be notified," planners said.

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First-time author pens career guide for young adults

When Caroline Sandford was dutifully studying science and maths at university, she made a decision to switch subject focus, leading to a fulfilling career helping others better align their own interests and working lives.

Now, the Devonport resident has put her more than 20 years' experience as a careers coach to further good use, writing her first book.

Love your Career: From the Start is a guide for young adults entering study and the workforce.

"I often say to young people I deal with, 'Don't panic that this is the last decision you will ever make'," says Sandford.

Instead, she recommends people think of the future as an evolving journey. This is a healthier and more realistic approach than having a fixed goal, which a person may fall short of or, even if they achieve it, find they are unhappy.

Having dealt with older people stuck in careers they hated, saying to her "my soul is dying," Sandford knows the value of a good match between interests and application.

Young people need to be guided to make their own decisions, she said. "Some are encouraged to go a certain route, but didn't see there were other options."

Confusion and dissatisfaction could lead to feelings of failure and have mental-health implications, whereas working through the options was empowering. "I just continually get surprised how little exposure some people have had to thinking about what they can do."

Knowing there was a gap in the professional advice available to young people was what prompted the book. "I want this information to be available to everyone," said Sandford.

People of all ages could usefully dip into the pages, but for those starting out its exercises on defining the way you best worked and the type of personality you had, would be particularly useful. Young people, even those without any part-time work experience, could determine some of these things based on their experiences at school or in their chosen activities. Knowing if you worked well in a team or preferred solo tasks could help determine the sort of job that might most appeal.

Sandford, who has children in their 20s working in marketing and for the government, said her own career took shape at university

when side papers in sociology and psychology grabbed her interest away from a science degree.

After graduation she worked in human resources, later completing an MA in industrial psychology. A stint at Unitec as a careers consultant is part of her CV, and she is a member of the Careers Development Association, involved in framing professional standards for practitioners.

For 12 years, she has been in private practice, with her Love Your Career business helping self-referred clients, and on contract to business and government agencies, dealing with everything from mentoring, to conflict resolution and redundancies.

Providing people with the knowledge of their options, and structures to make choices, is a big part of the work. So too is guiding them to understand their own values framework, influences and strengths.

With the drop-out rate from first-year tertiary studies as high as 40 per cent, Sandford says taking time to make good decisions makes good sense. "Going down the wrong pathway has ramifications on their self-worth."

But realising that careers were like a rock wall, with different upward routes to climb, was worth remembering. Her ideal would be to see a national career strategy developed.

In the Covid-19-affected work environment, Sandford says it is important for young people not to feel too disillusioned. "People have to reframe what is out there. I find the creative industries is a really good model for how to do it, with income from several sources."

Researching, networking and picking up experiences were all valuable – and subjects she writes about.



On the job... Caroline Sandford has more than 20 years' experience as a careers coach

Sandford says tough times can provide "exciting" options for change. "It's going to be really hard for a lot of people," she acknowledged, but some would flourish and the country was moving, unlike many.

The new book, published by Calico, has been selected as a finalist for the Australian Career Book Award.

Publisher seeks cleaner-lit

Cleaners wanting to dust off their pens are sought to contribute to a unique anthology of poems. Landing Press wants to publish work about cleaning. "If you are working as a cleaner, or have ever worked as a cleaner, write a poem which captures that experience in some way and send it to us," says publisher Adrienne Jansen. Covid-19 had made the voice of cleaners even more relevant, she said.

The anthology is the latest in a series, with the most recent being about migrant experiences. "Poetry is a great way of giving insights – a fresh look into worlds many of us don't normally see."

A winner will be announced in Auckland on 14 August.

Local author up for award

A Devonport astrologer's book has been shortlisted for a \$10,000 prize.

The Sacred Dance of the Soul by Madeleine Adams is a contender for an Ashton Wylie Mind Body Spirit Literary Award.

Subtitled *Your Inner Journey to Empowerment*, it is one of five books in contention for the annual award.

The awards, set up in 1999, recognise writing in the mind, body and spirit genre.

A spokesperson for the judges, Linda Cassells, said the finalists all told compelling stories from genres of wide appeal.

"We enjoyed the intellectual rigour of this year's finalists' books, particularly where spirituality overlaps with mysticism,

psychology and religion. They address challenging topics, including death and depression, with great wisdom and insight."

A winner will be announced in Auckland on 14 August.

Bubble bears are a hit

The lockdown book written by Devonport store owner Janet Bingham has proved a sellout success. With all 300 copies of *Two Bears in a Bubble* sold, a second run is being printed.

The book, featured in the 3 July Flagstaff, is due in-store again around the end of the month.



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Shows go on for Janayah, despite *Les Mis* cancellation

When Janayah Wadsworth performs the emotive solo song *On My Own* this Sunday, it will have special poignancy for the 15-year-old Takapuna Grammar School (TGS) student.

Janayah was to have played the part of Epoumène in the cancelled school production of *Les Misérables*, so singing the musical-theatre character's most memorable number to a different audience goes some way to making up for it.

A volunteer performer at the PumpHouse Theatre's upcoming fundraising variety show, she says: "I just wanted to help." The theatre has special significance for Janayah, being where she performed her first musical with North Shore Music Theatre several years ago.

The TGS production of *Les Misérables* was cancelled due to Covid-19. Although plans to stage the show later in the year were considered, difficulties with locking in a full cast were among reasons this was abandoned. During lockdown, online highlights were posted, so the early rehearsals weren't entirely wasted.

For Janayah, who is in Year 11, there will be other school shows to look forward to, including its Broadway Squad performing *High School Musical* in September.

Sadly, planned Pasifika festival appearances

were also cancelled due to lockdown.

But Janayah was one of six students who auditioned successfully to sing jazz numbers in an upcoming performance with the Queen City Big Band.

A return to Auckland's Christmas in the Park concert is off the agenda, with the event Janayah performed a solo at two years ago having been cancelled for 2020. But she will likely keep up the Christmas spirit by singing for retirement village residents again.

Janayah hopes one day to study in the UK. She loves a broad range of music and would ultimately like to become a recording artist, singing original songs.

Her mother Laura says: "When she was about six I heard her singing [Katy Perry's] *Firework* in her room and I thought she's hitting all the big notes."

Janayah, who is part Cook Islands Maori, agrees she's always loved to sing. From strumming a ukulele she graduated to guitar and also plays a little bit of piano. Her brother, Cyrus, aged 16, who attends Westlake Boys High School, is also into musical drama.

Kiwi singing star Suzanne Lynch has been a key person in Janayah's development. Her



Vocal power... Janayah Wadsworth

vocal coaching and mentoring encouraged Janayah to realise the opportunities music could offer. For now, she is happy to turn her hand to busking at the Takapuna markets on occasion to earn money for microphones and speakers.

"What I really love is showing people what I can do."

PumpHouse stages variety-show fundraiser

A fun night is coming up at the PumpHouse Theatre, showcasing local talent and fundraising to help keep the Takapuna arts venue afloat.

One Night at the PumpHouse is a variety show being staged on Sunday 19 July by the community trust that runs the historic theatre.

It is a mix of entertainment audiences could have seen before Covid-19 disrupted bookings, and also a taste of shows to come. "Things are starting to pick up for later in the year," said theatre manager James Bell.

The venue last year drew more than 30,000 people to its shows, but has been hit by Covid-19 cancellations. Some of its client companies, including Tim Bray Productions, which is

back running children's school-holiday shows, are also appealing for support in difficult times.

The PumpHouse team hopes for a good turnout for the variety night, to help bridge the budget deficit of recent months. Bell said the PumpHouse had used wage subsidies to keep going, "but that doesn't pay the power bill, the cleaning, and the maintenance".

Performances in the variety show range from musical theatre to belly dancers, improv comedians to actors and musicians. Actor Blair Strang will be the MC. "It's all people supporting the PumpHouse because we support them," said Bell.

Among the acts is a young Chinese comedi-

an, Bohua Cui, who will perform her first set in English. Her observational comedy is based on her "dull job" working in a restaurant.

Another talent is singer Janayah Wadsworth, a Year-11 student at Takapuna Grammar School (see story above).

For those who can't make it along to the variety show, the PumpHouse is hoping supporters might consider a donation to its Boosted crowdfunding page. Every little bit helps, with the Arts Foundation matching donations up to a total of \$1000.

The show starts at 7pm. All proceeds go to the theatre. Tickets are \$25 and are available at pumphouse.co.nz



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Focusing

Devonport-based photographer Robert Peper has focused his lens at home and abroad for his latest show, depicting the spirit of Indians – in India and New Zealand – going about their daily lives.

Among the subjects locally are familiar faces from a café off Clarence St and a pizza parlour in Belmont. The photographs, shot over a year, extend to striking images taken in the Indian state of Rajasthan. They are on show at the Depot Artspace.

Dutch-born Peper, who has lived in Devonport for 21 years, says that as an immigrant he sees parallels with how he has fitted in and how Indians have approached living here. “They’re integrated in respect of being part of New Zealand, but still strong in their culture.”

The Manukau Indian Association invited Peper to talk about his work and offered colourful saris to hang at the show. “They see it as celebrating their culture here.”

Photo subjects and Clarry’s Café owners Jose and Dorina Fernandes made chai for the opening night on Wednesday.

Along with Gurmandeep Kaur, owner of Hell Pizza in Belmont, the couple were happy to be involved.

They have owned Clarry’s since the beginning of the year and offer catering services and home-made food from around the world, including savouries from their home state, Goa. The couple came to New Zealand 15 years ago.

With a liking for street photography and a style that can be impressionistic, Peper says: “I like to aim for getting the spirit out of people – what they look like and what they are like on the inside too.”

Before shooting for his exhibition, he had previously travelled to India with *National*



a lens on Indian life and culture

Geographic magazine, helping on community projects. He was impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the people, some living in very tough circumstances.

Cultural and religious ceremonies interest Peper and he zoomed in on them during his subsequent photographic trip. This then prompted him to document Indian life here. His aim is to present a greater understanding and respect for the Indian population and their heritage and cultural diversity as part of the New Zealand population.

While the wealth and caste divide was pervasive in India, with great contrasts between city and village living, Peper said that "Indian people in New Zealand are living much more harmoniously together, even if they all follow their own beliefs."

Colourful religious festivities were celebrated in both countries, but in Auckland they were participated in by people of all ethnic backgrounds, "embracing a positive togetherness within the melting pot called Aotearoa".

In India, Peper noted that most people enjoyed being photographed; in New Zealand this was not always the case. "I also noticed poverty here, and people working extremely hard to make a living, but at the same time I did see a proud people, who were very happy making a living here in New Zealand and feeling appreciated and accepted in this new society they joined."

Kaur, who took over Hell Pizza in Belmont four years ago, echoed this. "It goes without saying that we are so thankful of this community.

"With your help we keep growing and training multicultural staff for their better future in whichever field they go."

Peper has led tours to places including Tiritiri Matangi to photograph birds. His work has featured in a number of exhibitions and published in *The Observer* in the UK, and the *NZ Herald*.

His show, *A Celebration of Indian Life: Surfacing the Unseen*, runs at the Depot Artspace until 3 August.

Peper says the project may well be just the beginning of a bigger journey. "I feel I have only opened up a small lid of a view of the Indian society."

Local identities...

Clarry's Café owners Jose and Dorina Fernandes (above) and Gurmandeep Kaur of Hell Pizza in Belmont (opposite, top) are among the New Zealand subjects photographed by Robert Peper for his exhibition *A Celebration of Indian Life*.

Opposite, below:

Examples of the photographs Peper has taken in India.



VICTORIA THEATRE DEVONPORT



SHOWING NOW

The King of Staten Island (R16) 137min NEW
The Personal History of David Copperfield (PG) 120min NEW
A Bump Along the Way (M) 95min
God of the Piano (M) 80min
Klimt & Schiele: Eros and Psyche (E) 90min
The Greatest Showman (2017) (PG) 139min SPECIAL
Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949) (PG) 107min CLASSIC

EVENTS & LIVE SHOWS

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (M) with Shadowcast 24 JUL
Gary Harvey: The Last Man Standing (Live Show) 26 JUL

COMING SOON

Calm with Horses (R18) 100min 23 JUL
Shirley (TBA) 107min 23 JUL
Waves (TBA) 135min 23 JUL
House of Cardin (E) 95min Advance Screenings 24-26 JUL
Military Wives (M) 112min Advance Screenings 24-26 JUL

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