



AGM – 27 JUNE 2025

**Guest speaker:
David Verran**
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NOMINATIONS OPEN

**Join GreyPower's
great committee!**
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TAKAPUNA LIBRARY

**Takapuna Senior
Citizens plea to retain
community building**
SEE PAGE 4

Looking back with
DAVID VERRAN
Noted local historian

PHOTO: RUTH JACKSON

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greypowernorthshore

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COMMITTEE 2024-25

President: Trish Deans

Secretary: Jerina Corban-Banks

Treasurer: Vacant

Membership: Vacant

Committee:

Anne-Marie Coury
Rob Gillbanks
Ruth Jackson
Bill Rayner
Bruce Woodley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

We welcome Letters to the Editor on matters relevant to our senior community.

They must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and should not exceed 150 words.

Courtesy is our watchword. We may not always print all letters we receive and they may be edited for length and clarity.

DISCLAIMER:

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

A busy and vital year ahead for GreyPower North Shore

Welcome to our mid-year GreyPower North Shore magazine. It has been a pleasant, long summer, allowing time for rest and recreation.

However, these periods of calm have been interspersed with wild weather events and political debate on hot topics.

We know we need to plan for the unpredictable weather, and we just weather the unpredictable political dramas.

We are looking forward to our **AGM on Friday 27 June**, at Netball North Harbour, 44 Northcote Rd.

We're delighted to welcome North Shore historian extraordinaire and long-time senior Auckland librarian, **David Verran**, as our guest speaker. David's vast knowledge of the settlement and development of our local area is acknowledged by Auckland's historic societies and academics across New Zealand.

We are now **calling for nominations for the GreyPower North Shore committee and officers** – particularly a new Treasurer. You can offer your own nomination, or nominate someone else (if they agree), by emailing me at president@greypowernorthshore.org.nz.

Our friendly and supportive team meets monthly (a mix of in-person and online meetings), and there are opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of issues and advocacies.

It's a collective effort to help organise the public meetings, become part of a think tank to recognise the issues we should tackle, follow up member concerns, and report back on local issues that need some attention.

On the subject of advocacies – we'd

TRISH DEANS
PRESIDENT
GreyPower North Shore



like to hear from members about what is important to you. This issue includes a **member survey** that asks a few simple questions. Simply fill it in, cut it out, and bring it along to the AGM. If you want to say more than you can fit on the survey form, simply attach a typed or handwritten sheet with your responses.

This issue examines and pursues a **variety of local topics and concerns**, some with national ramifications. Bill Rayner focuses on the importance of retaining the Auckland heritage story and evaluates Council's rates rebate scheme. Bruce Woodley is keeping a firm eye on the comparison of Superannuation schemes with Australia. Ruth has provided an update on the Takapuna Campground. I'll report back on a number of different concerns – have you tried to pop into the new WINZ office site in Barry's Point Rd? Are you concerned about nursing shortages? Did you know Takapuna Senior Citizens contributed significantly to the construction of the Community Services building?

As a committee we are continuing to follow up on the Government and Council's housing options for seniors, and health care for seniors, and we report on the effect of the Government's June budget in the next issue. There is also more to report on a local kitchen scamming scheme and how difficult it is to get NZ Police involved, despite the continued efforts of a local GreyPower member.

Looking back with historian David Verran

By RUTH JACKSON

Historian David Verran's fascination with the past started young – inspired by families stories of his forebears, including original Albertlanders in 1863, and Fencibles, who'd come to New Zealand with dreams of a better life and secure future.

David's boyhood home in Brassey Rd, Birkenhead, also had a grandstand view of a key slice of local history – the Chelsea Sugar Works. 'Back then we could also hear it, and smell it. There was coal smoke from the old boilers.'

David also loved reading – 'but the Birkenhead Library was pretty poor until about 1968. It was a little old place by the toilets under the old council offices,' he says. 'Then I went to Westlake Boys, which had a really great library where I had access to a whole lot of new books.' As a 6th and 7th former he was the volunteer deputy head librarian.

No surprise, then, that after leaving school David did a BA at Auckland University (1970-72), MA Hons specialising in history (1973), and then straight to the NZ Library School's one year course in 1974.

Fresh from Library School he spent 18 months at the Hamilton Library, then back to Auckland where he managed the old Te Atatu Library.

In 1977 he transferred to the Auckland Central Library, working in the Commerce, Science, and Technology section; then from 1989 till his retirement in 2017 in the NZ & Pacific Department, with its extensive local and family history research functions.

'Back in the 1970s I also got really interested in the Symonds Street cemetery,' David says. 'People kept asking where people were buried. So I started doing walking tours of the Symonds Street Cemetery.'



David in his natural element: surrounded by books
PHOTO: RUTH JACKSON

David also became the darling of the speaking circuit – with knowledge both so broad and so detailed that he often doesn't even need notes.

'I once spoke at the Papatoetoe Women's Probus Club about the history of Auckland. I just spoke off-the-cuff for about an hour and a half. I'd only got up to the 1960s, and there was still a lot I could have said, but I looked around and thought they were starting to look a bit thirsty, so I decided to stop there,' he laughs.

Over the years David's been a prolific author on both family and general histories. Among the first was *From Cornwall to the Coromandel: The Story of Charles and William Verran*, co-written with his mother Beryl.

David's book *The North Shore: An Illustrated History* (Random House, 2010) won him the prestigious JM Sherrard Award, recognising excellence in NZ Local and Regional History – an accolade he is rightly very proud of.

David also published several pieces on trade union history, after the Employment Contracts Act in the early 1990s decimated unions.

'My dad was in the Electrical Workers

Unions, and became an electrical inspector at the Waitemata Power Board. My mum was in the Clerical Workers Union. I wanted to make sure all those union records were saved, and their stories recorded.'

The result was a series called *Working Class Heroes*, documenting unions and their officials in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, over various timespans from 1863 to 1970.

'I was working full-time, of course, so I was just doing it in my spare time – and it was quite a thing track down where all the records had gone.'

David's other books include, *Auckland City Libraries: Another Chapter* (2011), and *A Century of Brass: The North Shore Brass Story* (2023).

David's also written a plethora of articles and reviews for publications far and wide, and has been a regular columnist for magazines including the NZ Genealogist and Auckland-Waikato Historical Journal.

David is also a regular volunteer at both the Devonport and Birkenhead Museums, and at Auckland Council Archives. He still leads tours of Symonds Street Cemeteries and is a regular speaker on historical topics.

Library & hub plan needs change

Local board plan tries to ‘squeeze a quart into a pint pot’

The Takapuna Senior Citizen’s Hall, part of the Council Takapuna Community Services Centre, is at risk of being lost in current Devonport Takapuna Local Board plans for a ‘Community Hub’ as part of the central Takapuna development proposals currently before Council.

Extensive public consultations have made very little impact on the size of an partial additional floor on the current Library plan presented, and there is Local Board pressure to have it signed off before the upcoming election.

Further dialogue is needed before this happens.

The Senior Citizens Hall belongs to the Takapuna Senior Citizens Assn (TSCA), which is currently involved with the renewal of its lease and the recognition of the large financial equity it has in the current Community Services Centre.

The TSCA’s primary aim is to ensure the continuation of a dedicated facility for the senior community in downtown Takapuna, as well as the continuation of a larger than planned community hall for the public use - which is both a critical public need for the community, and an important source of income for TSCA.

The Local Board’s preferred development is to squeeze the existing Council community tenants of the Mary Thomas Centre and Community Services Building – including the TSCA – into an additional part-layer on top of the adjacent Library building.

The TSCA’s submission asked that the existing Community Services Building be retained, rather than proceed with the small Library add-on.

Athfield Architects have designed the adjustment to the existing Library building – in essence trying to pour a quart into a pint pot, as well as cutting back on current Library space and facilities. Council will not reveal this cost ceiling – which does not make sense, as Athfield’s must know.

The board has already sold the former library at 2 The Strand for \$3.2 million, and now plans to also sell the Mary Thomas Centre in Gibbons Road, and the Community Services Building beside the current library. Council’s instructions are that Library planning and work must be financed from the three sales.

All three were built with considerable community financing and donations, the old Library fully funded this way.



Takapuna Library. Photo: Ruth Jackson

The TSCA has a special situation in that it was founded in 1965 as Takapuna Old Folks Association and joined with the North Shore Womens’ Club, Plunket and the League for the Hard of Hearing, to organise and finance the first Community Services Building with Takapuna City Council. This was opened in 1970 by Sir Arthur Porritt, with the four groups having long leases.

This building was replaced by the current Community Services Centre in 1986 – again with further fundraising. The Womens Club and Hard of Hearing group were dissolved in the early 2000s, leaving the TSCA and Plunket as residual founders with considerable financial equity in the current building.

This long-standing contribution and financial input must be recognised and not just brushed aside.

A reasonable and fair ongoing arrangement must be reached with the TSCA, and other senior groups.

The Local Board and Council must recognise both the need for a focused senior facility in central Takapuna, and show respect and recognition of the contribution made, and continuing to be made, by our senior community, a growing cohort.

Takapuna as a Council-designated Metropolitan Centre faces massive over-development and population growth which will greatly increase the pressure and problems for all our North Shore community.

Squeezing out the seniors in our community should not be part of this. Nor should cutting back on the Library space, also a critical facility for our older people and for all generations.

By Bill Rayner

Takapuna Library and community facilities

Size DOES matter

Simple maths suggests that the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board’s proposal simply cannot accommodate all the existing tenants and services housed in our community facilities – let alone the extra ideas that the board favours – without significantly downsizing library space and services.

500-600m² – The proposed partial third floor addition to the existing Takapuna Library

3,666m² – Approx total floorspace of the Community Services Building and Mary Thomas Centre – which will be lost under the local board plan to sell both buildings

In addition, we’ve already lost the **850m²** space in the former library at 2 The Strand (previously used for council services that are now partially housed in the library), which was sold last year for \$3.2 million



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Alternatively, post to P O Box 32-635, Devonport (we do not recommend sending cash by post)



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In search of a new Treasurer and committee members

GreyPower North Shore is looking for a new Treasurer. The **Treasurer** role is vital to any organisation: overseeing general financial management, including keeping track of budgets; to keep track of funds; regular financial reports to the committee; and annual accounts.

We'd also like to **expand our committee**. Please consider joining us to participate in the direction GreyPower North Shore will take over the next year.

We meet monthly – sometimes in person and sometimes online – to plan and catch up on Committee matters.

If you are interested, please contact Trish Deans:

Mobile – 021 0862 6675

Email – president@greypowernorthshore.org.nz

AGM Friday 27 June

Be sure to put our Annual General Meeting in your diary now! We're looking forward to our keynote speaker David Verran, an exceptional North Shore historian, archivist and former senior librarian.

Friday 27 June, 1-3pm

Netball North Harbour, 44 Northcote Rd

2025-26 subscriptions due

GreyPower North Shore memberships run until 31 March each year – so are due now, if you have not already renewed.

The membership cards sent last year did not include a renewal date – which has caused considerable confusion. If your card does not have a renewal date, it expired on 31 March 2025, and needs to be renewed.

Those who have renewed already should have received a new card with a 31 March 2026 expiry date.

We know there are some people who have paid in the last few weeks whose cards have not yet been sent out because we currently have no treasurer, and through illness among other committee members filling that role temporarily. If you are certain that this applies to you, then sit tight and your card will arrive as soon as we're able to catch up.

Everyone else will need to renew their membership as soon as possible. There are detailed instructions about how to make payment etc in the subscriptions notice on page 5 ... and we'll also be able to accept cash payments at our forthcoming AGM.

Member feedback survey

It's important to us to know what's important to **you**.

On **page 15** of this issue you'll find a membership survey, where we seek your feedback on GreyPower North Shore. What issues are most important to you? Are there things you'd like us to do more of? Or less of? Your feedback will assist us setting our future direction.

Extra payment for Federation Magazine

There has been some confusion over the GreyPower Federation's new charge for printed copies of the **national** magazine – and a number of members have mistakenly paid this into the GreyPower North Shore bank account.

The \$10 charge (\$2.50 for four issues each year) is only for the **Federation** magazine – and **not** for the GreyPower North Shore magazine. It should be paid directly to the Federation account 38-9018-0089518-00 – with "magazine" and your membership number as references.

Alternatively, you can subscribe to receive a FREE digital copy of the Federation magazine by email (at <https://greypowermag.co.nz/subscribe/>).

Our email address

A reminder of GreyPower North Shore's new email:

president@greypowernorthshore.org.nz

Please update your contacts!

DIARY DATES

Remember to put our meeting dates in your diary!

AGM – Friday 27 June | 1pm-3pm

Annual General Meeting and ordinary meeting

Netball North Harbour – 44 Northcote Rd

Friday 19 September | 1pm-3pm

Quarterly members meeting

Netball North Harbour – 44 Northcote Rd

Friday 28 November | 1pm-3pm

Quarterly members meeting

Netball North Harbour – 44 Northcote Rd

AGM

1pm-3pm, Friday
27 JUNE 2025

Netball North Harbour

44 Northcote Rd

Guest speakers | Latest news
Election of committee & officers

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- and stay for a cuppa'*

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NORTH SHORE



GUEST SPEAKER

David Verran Renowned local historian

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Major Council review of MOTAT underway

GreyPower North Shore urges retention of heritage elements

Auckland Council is carrying out a review of MOTAT, the Museum of Transport and Technology, the quirky heritage institution well known and loved by generations of older Aucklanders, which GreyPower is involved with.

MOTAT is now not what is used to be, with a shift away from a heritage and transport museum to a Science Centre innovation focus, with major changes to displays and presentation.

Council is concerned about the overall levy cost to Council, now approx. \$19 million annually, slow attendance growth, and high staff levels with the shift away from major volunteer involvement of earlier years.

Grey Power North Shore has been making submissions for many years, co-ordinated by ex-President Bill Rayner, a heritage enthusiast, whose own career was in aviation and international shipping, and who has been a MOTAT Board member, and with a continuing association.

The submissions to Auckland Council are part of the Annual Planning consultations for setting the Council Budget, and establishing the rates for the year to be imposed upon us.

Most people don't know that this includes individual submissions to Auckland Museum and MOTAT, who were established by Acts of Parliament which gives then the authority to levy their own rate on ratepayers.

This is a heritage legacy of the pre SuperCity days when the levy cost was shared by all the city's Councils, and is based on original legislation to build the Auckland War Memorial Museum in the 1920s, used as a base for the MOTAT Act legislation in 2000.

Our submission focus was based on the importance of MOTAT to the senior community, both from the heritage element, being the history of our city's development as a community that we were, and are, part of, along with our parents and grand- parents, and a fun place to take our children and grandchildren and connect with stories of the 'olden days'.

Also the important social element of the major volunteer engagement, particularly for men, with MOTAT being built and operated by sector groups of retired technical professionals and 'tradies', a very large percentage being returned servicemen. This was particularly strong in the aviation sector, and MOTAT has an important war memorial element.

This core volunteer involvement is now significantly reduced, with a large museum technical staff increase. It is important for both MOTAT and the younger senior community that this is more in balance, and the passion and depth of knowledge in the museum is strengthened.

Of course, Sci-Tech is part of the museum, but the balance needs to be restored with a refocus on what the MOTAT was, and indeed what the community expect.

We need the puffing of the old trains, rattly trams, chugging of ancient motor vehicles and fire engines, and old planes, and lively activity in the old village and MOTAT display areas again, with the old passionate, knowledgeable volunteer crew to tell the stories.

We now have our GP Heritage group to connect the many of our members who are part of the lively heritage community, vintage car clubs, community museums, specialist heritage technical groups, old Air New Zealand and NZ Railways staff, etc and anyone interested in keeping our heritage alive and active.

Please contact Bill Rayner on brayner@xtra.co.nz, or phone 09 445 3370.



By Bill Rayner

NZ Super: Is the grass really greener elsewhere?

According to a Google search, New Zealand compares very favourably with other countries for both super or old age pension eligibility and low cost or free health care for both NZ citizens and residents alike.

Again quoting Google as a source, New Zealand is cheaper to live in than Australia with Australia's cost of living some 18% more expensive than in New Zealand – and while both countries are ranked as having a high cost of living or expensive countries, they offer a higher standard of living compared to the rest of the world.

This is probably because wages and salaries are normally higher in Australia than for a comparable job in NZ.

For those wishing to live in Australia it is possible to transfer your old age pension benefits for similar benefits in Australia, but you will need to contact the International Services team at Work and Income to advise your intentions and departure dates first.

The state pension in Australia is currently a maximum of \$1149 each fortnight for a single pensioner and a maximum of \$1732 each fortnight for a couple combined.



The Australian taxation system is different to New Zealand with no income tax levied for the first \$10,000 to \$15,000 but many and various other state and federal taxes which do not apply in New Zealand such as a housing purchase or property land tax.

Some countries such as Australia allow a KiwiSaver scheme to be fully transferrable – but be aware that your super balance will affect the amount of pension that you receive in Australia.

A list of countries which offer similar old age pension benefits to New Zealand is available by contacting the WINZ international service team or by seeking on line information from WINZ using the heading Social Security Agreements and special arrangements with other countries.

Some countries do not offer an old age pension until the older person reaches 67 or 68 years of age. In the oil rich countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia the pension may be more generous and offered at an earlier age.

By Bruce Woodley

World Elder Abuse Day

On 15 June 2025, New Zealand Police will host Treasuring Our Seniors, a free event at The Trusts Arena in Henderson, to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The event will focus on celebrating and supporting older adults, offering activities and sharing opportunities. The event is a collaboration with the Office for Seniors and other partners to raise awareness about elder abuse.

Date & time: June 15, 2025 – 10am–4pm
Location: The Trusts Arena, 65-67 Central Park Drive, Henderson.
Entry: Free

Where to get help

If you have concerns about how an older person is being treated - or if YOU are being mistreated, or or feel frightened or at risk, help is available. It's free, and available 24 hours a day.

Freephone: 0800 32 668 65.
Text: 5032
Email: support@elderabuse.nz
If you are in immediate danger, call 111 and ask for the Police.



Treasuring Our Seniors

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 615

Prepare for a day of sharing, creating memories, and taking part in a variety of enjoyable activities.

Save the Date

15 JUNE 2025
10 AM - 4 PM
FREE ENTRY

The Trusts Arena
65-67 Central Park Drive, Henderson

Nursing and healthcare worker issues hit home on North Shore

During the Covid pandemic nurses and healthcare workers formed the backbone of the efforts of medical staff to contain the spread of this highly contagious disease. These essential workers can take credit for reducing the number of fatalities in hospitals and residential care homes, and took the personal risk to keep our hospitals operational.

The public applauded them – literally and figuratively – and recognised how overstretched they were.

Sadly, that’s still the case. Last year, the opening of North Shore Hospital’s new 150-bed Totara Haumaru unit was delayed by many months – due in no small part to staffing shortages.

Today nurses and other healthcare workers are battling to have their concerns over a hospital staffing shortage, and their ability to provide a sustainable care regime, recognised as an urgent issue. At recent NZ Nurses Association meetings on the North Shore and West Auckland, two issues were raised that haven’t received media attention and these need to be aired.

Trainee nurses spoke about the struggle and difficult odds to complete their hospital on-site placements, a required component of their degree. Many trainees have part time jobs in low paid service jobs to pay the bills and meet their expenses – but as part of their training are obliged to commit to unpaid work in weekends in hospital wards. These trainees are in a dire situation, and are asking the Government to commit to an employment agreement that will pay them during those on-site periods. Trainee nurses also want a commitment to employment when qualified and, given nursing shortages, their plea surely can’t be ignored.

The care workers in the hospitals administer basic care to patients – including showering, dressing, toileting, changing linen, and can dress wounds and give medications. Seniors across New Zealand will understand the importance and quality of their skills, as they primarily look after the elderly. The pay equity issue will have an impact on their take home wages.

May also saw the first ever national doctors strike. On 1 May, 5500 senior doctors walked off the job for 24 hours in protest at an offer of a 1.5% pay rise spread over two years (significantly below the current 2.5% rate of inflation).

There are a multitude of issues to be addressed to ensure NZ’s health care standards are maintained and staffing shortages are tackled. These are not issues which



Nurses held public meetings on the North Shore and Waitakere



Staff shortages were a key factor in the delayed opening of North Shore Hospital’s new 150-bed Totara Haumaru unit

have arisen overnight – and they cannot be laid at the feet of just one government or party. But they are issues which require bipartisan co-operation and urgent action, for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

By Trish Deans

Rates rebate scheme

The new Auckland Council rating year begins on 1 July 2025 – so now is the time to find out if you are eligible for the rates rebate scheme, and submit your application. The rebate is up to \$790 – for low income households with a maximum total income of \$31,510 annually (or slightly higher if you have dependants living with you). You can get more information and apply online on the Auckland Council website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz (search “rates rebates”). You can also phone 09 301 01 01 or visit any council service centre for more information.

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NORTH SHORE BASED

Affordable rentals for seniors hard to find

GreyPower North Shore is increasingly concerned at the reduction of affordable rental housing for seniors – as the cost of private rentals soar, and both Kāinga Ora and Auckland Council ‘rationalise’ their rental portfolios.

Tenants in a small pocket of Kāinga Ora senior housing in Kerr St, Devonport, are among those served 90-day notices to leave their homes, so the property can be sold.

The tenants are seniors who have lived in their units for many years. They have been offered alternative accommodation elsewhere on the North Shore – but being disconnected from important elements of their daily lives such as friends, neighbours, activities, familiar shops, doctors, dentists, hairdressers, etc, is incredibly distressing and is causing much heartache.

Meanwhile, Auckland Council is also reducing its senior housing. In 2021, the council sold a senior village in Handley Ave, Devonport – and these homes have not been replaced within the area.

The Council recently also attempted – albeit unsuccessfully – to sell its share in all the ‘Own Your Own Home’ senior villages around Auckland (a scheme enabling seniors to buy affordable homes in designated villages).

We’ve also been following the controversy at former Council seniors village at Marlowe Mews in Blockhouse Bay. The land was donated to Council for the purpose of providing senior housing – but Council subsequently sold the village to Kāinga Ora, who plan to replace it with high-density social housing – with no guarantee of senior housing in the new development.

We are concerned that affordable rentals for seniors in our area will also continue to decline as both social and private owners sell rental properties – especially in areas with the highest land values.

We are particularly troubled about those seniors whose only income is the NZ superannuation and who qualify for the WINZ accommodation allowance – who don’t have the means to buy into Retirement Villages.

Forcibly moving seniors to unfamiliar suburbs and away from established social and other networks lacks compassion, and could negatively affect their physical and mental wellbeing, and increase social isolation.

We urge government and council decisionmakers not to diminish their support for these vulnerable seniors – who have been valuable and contributing members of society all their lives, and who deserve better.

More locals left in lurch with unfinished work

It’s been a difficult path for GreyPower North Shore member ‘Mrs Smith’ (not her real name) to pursue a kitchen company who took full payment for a kitchen renovation but did not finish the installation.

Through diligent and relentless hard work, Mrs Smith has been awarded a full refund by the Disputes Tribunal – but enforcement of Disputes Tribunal orders is notoriously difficult, and we fear that there still won’t be a satisfactory outcome.

GreyPower is now aware of around 15 others who have complained they have been scammed by the same individual (who we’ve chosen not to name at this time for legal reasons) – and we are hopeful that this may now result in police action.

Mrs Smith doesn’t want to see others be taken for a ride and Grey Power North Shore will continue to support her efforts.

Tips when hiring tradies

We recommend that you check tradespeople out carefully before hiring them or paying any money.

- Get written quotes from 2-3 different people
- Quotes should clearly state:
 - * what is a firm price, and what is an estimate;
 - * what work is, and isn’t, included;
 - * how long it will take;
 - * itemised costs as well as a total price
 - * a payment schedule (eg 1/3 deposit, 2/3 on completion).
- Some trades need to be registered – such plumbers & gasfitters, electricians, and builders. Ask to see their registration.
- Don’t let them rush you with tactics like special offers expiring very soon. Don’t agree to anything or sign anything until you have taken all the time you need.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help. If you’re feeling overwhelmed or

unsure, seek advice from friends, family, Citizens Advice, or a lawyer.

- Ask for references – especially any that you can phone to talk to.

There are also some good online resources that you can check. If you are not tech-savvy, you could ask family or friends to help.

- Check their website, and check their address is legitimate
- Check customer reviews on independent websites like No Cowboys (www.nocowboys.co.nz)
- Companies Office listings (www.companies.govt.nz) will show the registered name, address and director names – and show any company insolvency, or bans on directors
- Alternatively, check the NZ Business Number registry (www.nzbn.govt.nz) – an official registry widely used by tradies who are ‘sole traders’ rather than companies



INDEPENDENT LIVING IN A BOUTIQUE VILLAGE WITH RESIDENTIAL HOSPITAL ON-SITE

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Campground upgrade a step closer?

The much-loved Takapuna Beach Holiday Park – a feature of Takapuna’s beachfront for many decades – has taken a step closer to a major upgrade.

The campground’s operators, who took over the lease in mid 2019, have applied for a resource consent which was recently open for public submissions.

The plans appear to be substantially the same as those signed off by the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board in early 2020 – when both myself and GreyPower North Shore president Trish Deans were serving members.

In that plan, the ‘motel units’ proposed were high-quality relocatable cabins along the rear wall – where there had already been cabins for many years – and would not be higher than fence along Allison Ave.

The old kitchen and ablutions blocks, which are in very poor condition, would be replaced by a new building with a viewing deck in the centre of the site, along with a playground and several small cabins.

This plan also shows cabins along the Earnoch Ave boundary and a new ‘reception’ building with manager accommodation at the campground entry.

Sites for tents, caravans, and motorhomes would take up the remainder of the site – including the prized beachfront.

During our term on the board, there were several discussions about vehicle access and pedestrian safety – and the campground explored options for an exit onto Earnoch Ave, or a wider entry/exit through the public reserve past the Takapuna Beach Café (which was not supported by the board). From what I can see in the consent documents, neither of those options is being pursued.

Many locals have been puzzled and frustrated by the lack of progress at the campground in the six years since the new lease was granted. The new lease included undertakings that Auckland Council would do site works including upgraded drainage and flood protection – which must happen before any other upgrades can begin. Those works were then delayed by the 2020 Covid pandemic – but, sadly, have still not happened five years later.

Public submissions closed on 26 May 2025 – but you should still be able to view the plans and documents online at:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/have-your-say-notified-resource-consent/notified-resource-consent-applications-closed-submissions>

(then choose ‘North Auckland’ and scroll to find “R22 the Promenade”).

By Ruth Jackson



Top: Artists impression of the proposed news building housing a shared kitchen, ablutions, and a common area.
Above: Proposed site layout

CAMPGROUND TIMELINE

The much-loved campground, which has been there for many decades, occupies a large portion of a beachfront council reserve at the northern end of Takapuna Beach. When the campground’s lease was due for renewal, Yachting New Zealand put forward a bid to take over the site for a high performance yachting centre.

December 2016 – After six years of often heated public debate, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board voted unanimously to keep the campground on the site, ending the Yachting NZ proposal.

May 2019 – After after an open ‘expressions of interest’ process, the board approved new campground operators, and a new lease signed.

Early 2020 – Members of the new local board tour the site, and approve concept plans for the operators to upgrade the campground facilities, and Council’s plan to honour their obligations to upgrade drainage, flood protection, etc.

May 2025 – Upgrade plans were publicly notified and opened for submissions (submissions now closed).

New Takapuna WINZ office off the beaten track

Quietly and suddenly, Work and Income (WINZ) moved offices from its central location on Lake Road, in the heart of Takapuna’s shopping area, to a difficult-to-access site at 41 Barrys Point Road. Barrys Point Road is not located on a main bus route, the site has limited and difficult parking options, and is already a congested area in a light industrial area.

WINZ does not seem to have given consideration for seniors or anyone else needing their services for ease of access or convenience. WINZ seems oblivious to Auckland Council’s policies for an Age Friendly City which aims to cater for seniors’ accessibility and mobility needs.

Parking at the new site is limited – with just one disabled parking space at the front of the building. When we visited, WINZ staff confirmed there was no other parking for clients – or any future plans to provide any – and that the gated parking underneath the building is reserved for staff.

There are no bus services along Barrys Point Road, and the new office is a daunting distance from existing bus routes:

- * **1 kilometre** from the nearest bus stops in Esmonde Road – including treacherous multi-stage crossings at Burns Ave and Barry’s Point Road.
- * **800 metres** from the Akoranga Bus Station – across busy Fred Thomas Drive (which has no pedestrian crossings) and up the relatively steep Des Swann Drive. (Auckland Council’s online Journey Planner says this is only a three-minute walk ... but we beg to differ.)
- * **430 and 450 metres** respectively from the closest bus stops on Anzac Street, which includes a difficult multi-stage crossing at the top of Anzac Street.

This appears to be another decision made without local consultation. Placing this important facility in an area with inadequate public transport is short sighted and irresponsible.

We will follow up with North Shore MP Simon Watts, Casey Costello (Minister for Seniors) and Louise Upton (Minster for WINZ).



MEMBERS SURVEY

It's important to us to know what's important to YOU - so we're asking a few simple questions to help us set our future direction. If there isn't room, just attach extra written or typed pages.

YOUR NAME

Member No.

What issues are most important to you?

Are there things you'd like us to do MORE of?

Are there things you'd like us to do LESS of?

Are there particular topics you'd like to help/get involved with?

BY HAND:
Hand your completed survey in at the AGM

BY POST:
Member survey, GreyPower North Shore
P O Box 32635, Devonport, Auckland

BY EMAIL:
president@greypowernorthshore.org.nz
Subject line: Membership Survey

www.facebook.com/greypowernorthshore | president@greypowernorthshore.org.nz



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