

AN OCCASIONAL & SEASONAL NEWSLETTER
FOR THE OWNERS & RESIDENTS OF
DEVON PARK

NUMBER 15. AUTUMN 2017

THE

DEVON PARK

BODY CORPORATE COMMITTEE

COMMUNIQUE'

Contents:

A couple of photos have become available that cast some light on the land on which Devon Park was erected. These together with other information from the past are recorded under Historical Notes.

We say goodbye to our gardener for several years, Delwyn McDonald. Delwyn left in January after many years of service to Devon Park. The Garden Committee has taken responsibility meanwhile for the employment and management of a replacement contractor. In addition the Garden Committee outlines plans for the remainder of the year.

The re-vitalised foyer is finally complete and following input from a number of residents the décor of this area is being discussed by a committee chaired by Catherine Kelly. The objective being to agree on a possible change to the colour of the wall paint and to select some pieces of furniture for the area in front of the lift.

Miscellaneous Snippets

- 10 Minute Park
Please remember that the parking space outside the main entrance is to assist with the loading and unloading of residents' cars – it's usually shopping bags – rather than for extended periods.
- Tiling – East Entrance
The eastern entrance to the tower (next to the mail boxes) has been smartened up with a lowered ceiling and new paint. The floor and steps have been re-tiled using the same design as the foyer.

Historical Notes

A couple of photos have become available that cast some light on the land on which Devon Park was erected in the late 1960's. Here is a Google Earth photo from 1963 showing a largely open site, now covered in garages, carparks, the pool and the apartments. A picture of the elegant villa that graced the garden is shown on the next page. To the east of the site another large house can be seen together with tennis courts stretching almost to the cliff edge, part of this land was incorporated into Devon Park.



Apparently in those days it was de rigueur to tip your garden rubbish over the cliff, imagine the mess it must have made in the harbor – but all quite acceptable apparently. Note, there is no staircase to the beach and no slipway/wharf.

Other interesting stories include finding musket balls, and even cannon balls, in the cliff face; probably from as high as small hands could climb at low tide. The story is that ships arriving in port in the 1880's sometimes fired their guns at the cliffs; perhaps because having primed a muzzle-loading gun there was no way of unloading other than by discharging the shot.



South side
of the
graceful
original
house at
No. 45

The drive sweeps round from the left of the picture ending in a turning-circle in front of the steps, complete with a flower bed at the centre.



Turning the
first sod?

Site of the
proposed Devon
Park development
at Stanley Point,
1967. *North Shore
Times Advertiser*

Delwyn McDonald



Delwyn has been at Devon Park for 12 years, looking after our gardens. During this time she has worked closely with Dennis, the Building Manager, and also with residents having a particular interest in the gardens.

In the past Delwyn was involved with the development of the Motutapu Island Restoration Project, this included the design and maintenance of the Motutapu island nursery; and also the organisation and management of volunteer planters.

“Ashore” again in Devonport, Delwyn spent a number of years as a private garden contractor working in the Cheltenham, Devonport and Stanley Point areas; and of course at Devon Park. These days Delwyn is spending more time at Stanley Bay School, providing vital extra help for children who need it.

The Body Corp Committee joins past and present owners in thanking Delwyn for her hard work and wishing her all the very best for the future.

Garden Committee Plans

For the balance of this year the committee plans to continue the work along the west edge of the drive where weeds have been pulled and agapanthus thinned. Replacement plantings have taken well and will provide more colour in the future. The puriri trees have had dead wood cut out and one stunted specimen has been removed, but will be replaced.

At the southern end of the drive the remaining mondo grass from beneath three lemonwood trees on the narrow strip leading to visitor's parking, will be removed. This bed will be replanted with star jasmine taken from around the swimming pool.

At the pool it is planned to remove the remaining small area of grass on the east side over winter, and improve drainage and soil composition prior to early summer planting.

A Golden totara is to be planted in the middle of the rose bed on the lawn outside the pool. But first we will have to remove the stump of the tree that was taken from this spot several years ago, after it became a danger to passing traffic. A nikau palm will be planted in the West Wing garden.

Should a potential problem with the crib wall, between the east wing and the boundary fence, eventuate then the plans have been formulated for the garden above the wall. These include removal of flax plants and the subsequent re-planting of the area.

These plans have been contributed by Dianne Vigneau.

Dianne has worked tirelessly throughout the summer months and many of the changes you see are the direct result of her planning and hard work. The Body Corp Committee has expressed its thanks to her on your behalf.

Reminder



The Jetty Gate

The locking mechanism has been replaced following loss of the combination padlock. Whenever you use the stairs to the jetty please remember to re-lock the gate both when you leave and when you return home.

Laugh Line

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a government.

John Adams

Recommended by Body Corp Committee members involved with the recent Foyer upgrade project:-

