



VILLAGE

VOICE

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Make it a staycation this summer



The famous jetty at Cornwallis Beach. Check the plaques to see who helped to fund it.

THE word staycation is not new. It was coined in the early years of this century and neatly blends the ideas of stay-at-home and vacation.



It has become a buzzword recently, with some people, including medical

experts, advocating staycations rather than our usual road trips and holidays away this summer.

They believe staycations would slow the spread of infection during this pandemic, especially in areas where vaccination rates are lower than average.

Microbiologist Dr Siouxsie Wiles (left) recently said, "I'm imploring Aucklanders to 'staycation' rather than to head to other areas,

especially those areas where the communities have asked us to stay away because they are busy getting the vaccination numbers up."

We have plenty to enjoy here on our doorstep without needing to travel great distances. This is especially true for us Westies. We have awesome natural attractions along with suburban ones like Glen Eden RSA, the Playhouse Theatre,

Continued on page 2...

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Continued from page 1...
and our lovely local library.

There are relatively deserted local beaches like Te Henga Bethells and Karekare, and busier ones like Piha, famous for its surfing – you might even catch them filming – and Muriwai Beach, noted for its gannet colony. Manukau Harbour is great for water activities like fishing and boating, but be sure to stay safe on the water.

There are well-maintained walking and jogging tracks in the Waitākere Ranges. The gateway to these beautiful, rugged hills is Arataki Visitor Centre, which is a great place to take children to keep them healthily amused for a few hours.

Coffee addicts in Glen Eden could try somewhere different every few days, with all the great cafes that buzz with life locally.

Staycations have one other huge benefit, too: they keep the money circulating in the local economy, helping to support local businesses.

The person behind the counter or serving you could be your friend or your neighbour.

As the old song puts it, there's no place like home. Happy holidays, whatever you choose to do.

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Ideas for your staycation



Facing page: Try a new sport like tennis or bowling, both of which are popular in Glen Eden; explore Waikumete Cemetery, one of the biggest in the southern hemisphere and full of fascinating history and beautiful wildflowers; if you're planning a wedding, it could be unconventional like this one on horseback at Te Henga Bethells Beach; check out what's happening in our vibrant local library.

This page: See if they're filming *Piha Rescue* next time you visit Piha; try fishing somewhere different like Muriwai or Whatipu; revisit all the murals in Glen Eden for an idea of local history; check out the amazing gannet colony in Muriwai; see what's happening in local venues like Ceramco Function Centre.

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Debbie is really hooked on the property business

DEBBIE ANDERSON had mid- to senior-management roles in various organisations in the financial services sector before she had a career change. She's now happily working in property sales with Barfoot & Thompson.

"My desire to be a residential property sales consultant was inspired by having the opportunity to meet people you would never ordinarily be able to meet," Debbie explains. "I was also influenced by friends and former work colleagues who suggested to me that this would be something they could see me being very passionate about as they could see my excitement whenever the word 'property' was brought up. I love the idea of helping people achieve their hopes and dreams.

"As I am new to real estate my first impressions were about the people and the Barfoot & Thompson brand, the work environment and the support, which were all key factors. It was for me the right idea at the right time backed by the right people."

As for pretty much everybody else, managing during lockdown was challenging.

For Debbie, it was tough not being able to visit friends and family



inside homes. How did she cope?

"For me, it's about keeping the faith and staying positive. Going for walks each day was a good way to reduce cabin fever and improve overall health."

She's proud to call herself a Westie, having lived in Glen Eden for a number of years and being part of the community clubs.

"There is some great community work going on in Glen Eden, like VisionWest. My children went to school in Glen Eden, I served as a member of the Glenora Rugby League Club, where my boys played

for a number of years. I believe the camaraderie amongst parents, players and wider social groups creates trust and goodwill among people."

Debbie would like to see Glen Eden develop through a comprehensive approach by focusing community efforts on education, healthcare, housing, and family development.

Family for Debbie is a partner in the maintenance industry and two adult boys, a 23-year-old who works for the Department of Corrections in Canberra, Australia, and a 26-year-old who is a builder in Auckland.

RSA



Glen Eden RSA
9 Glendale Road
Tel: 818 4219

www.glenedenrsa.co.nz
See our Face Book page
for daily updates

We wish all our members and guests a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Please see story on page 6 for club activities

Thursday Club Night

Happy Hour 5pm-6pm,
Jokers Wild, Monster
Raffles, members' draw.
Aussie Rules 8-ball
competition check-in
7.45pm - all welcome.

Fridays from 5pm

Happy Hour 4pm-6pm,
members' draw, sport on
big-screen TVs, spot
prizes, meat raffles.
Karaoke with Ben &
Marie, 8pm. Free entry.

Foothills Restaurant

Lunch: Friday 12pm-2pm.
Dinner: Thursday-Saturday
5.30pm-9pm and Sundays
from 5pm. Our popular
Sunday sessions are still on
- music from 3pm to 6pm.

Tickets for events are available at the bar beforehand or at the door on the night.
New members and visitors welcome. Provisional membership lets you 'try before you buy'.
Full membership now \$40 and valid until end 2021. Lounge available for functions.



Honouring Linda

MANY readers will remember former Glen Eden resident Linda Armstrong (above right, pictured in 2015 with a friend at the mosque in Waikaukau Road). Linda once worked in Glen Eden library and was known for her cheerful demeanour.

Linda moved to Christchurch to be close to family and was one of the 51 men, women and children killed by the terrorist there.

Khadija Leadership Network has honoured Linda's memory by naming one of their annual New Zealand Muslim Award categories after her. Nominations for the 2021 awards must be submitted by 31 December.

RSA welcomes Christmas is here!

GLEN EDEN RSA is beginning to welcome people in again. Here's the situation under the traffic light system as *The Voice* was going to press.

The bar and restaurant are open in Red. Come along and support chef Billy Tauata in the Foothills Restaurant. There's good food and lots of space to social distance. A vaccine pass is required to enter.

Entertainment like Friday karaoke and the Sunday music sessions will return when Auckland goes to Orange. Check their Facebook page for details.

The club is running a draw to encourage people to join or renew their membership fees promptly. You could win a Steinlager Weber Q2000 BBQ and a Speights Cooler. The winner will be drawn at 6pm on Friday 14 January.

FINALLY it feels more festive in Glen Eden now some of the businesses have put up their Christmas decorations. See what else you can spot around the place as you're doing your Christmas shopping.



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Polarized vs non-polarized sunglasses

Both darken a bright day and both cut out harmful UV light but that's where the similarities end.

Polarized lenses can reduce glare, lessen reflections and make daytime driving safer; they also have a few drawbacks.

The special coating in polarized lenses is highly anti-reflective, working around the clock to reduce reflections, haze and glare.

At the right angle, looking at a lake or ocean through polarized sunglasses will allow you to see past most surface reflections and through to the water below. Polarized lenses make them one of the best types for fishing and boating activities.

Their anti-glare properties are also great for scenic viewing and nature hikes all around; the coating increases contrast during the day and often makes the sky appear a deeper blue.

Polarized sunglasses can be a lifesaver during sunny daytime driving, especially when sunlight hits at just the right

angle to interfere with your vision. Polarized lenses filter the sunlight that reflects off roads, snow and windscreens, neutralizing most or all of it.

Digital screens, like the ones on your smartphone, laptop and TV can sometimes look different when viewed through polarized lenses.

For example, screens viewed through polarized lenses can appear slightly faded or, in some cases, completely dark, depending on the angle from which you're viewing the screen. This usually only happens when the screens are rotated at an unusual angle.

In addition, if you have a heads-up display in your car the screen may disappear with polarized lenses.

Both polarized and non-polarized lenses can be made on prescription if you wear glasses.

We have both polarized and non-polarized sunglasses at the practice here at Glen Eden Optometrist for you to compare.



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Anant retires and Orlando takes over



AFTER many years of owning Glen Eden Dry Cleaners, Anant Jawalkar has retired. He is pictured above in 2015 (when we featured him in our Meet The Locals column) with his wife of nearly 40 years, Vandana.

Orlando Lobo (right, second from left) took over the business from Anant, a family friend.

“My dad owned a family dry cleaning business in India,” explains Orlando. “My mum – only 18 then – came to work for him at the cash counter. They fell in love and married. Their true story inspired me and ironically the deal was agreed on my dad’s birthday. After working for over 30 years in the corporate world, I was



looking at doing something on my own. This business fitted like a glove as it gives me a good work/ personal life balance.”

Orlando worked as a Head of Revenue Management & Pricing for 18 years in the airline industry in the Indian subcontinent and Middle East and after migrating to New Zealand, worked in the same

capacity with Jucy Rentals.

“I have a strong customer service and pricing background and understand the pulse of the market. These qualities, along with some great hand-holding from Anant, will help me take this business to the next level!”

We wish Anant and Vandana a long, healthy and happy retirement, and we wish Orlando every success.

Reflecting on the past year

I hope you and your whānau are well and able to enjoy the extra sun that we are seeing! It’s certainly cheered our family up.

As we reach the end of another year, it’s always a time of reflection and I am mindful that this year has, again, been particularly difficult.

It’s more than 100 years since the last global pandemic, so what we have all been living through is anything but normal. That said, with the introduction of the traffic light system, I hope we can begin to return toward something like normal life, albeit that there will still be some substantial differences to life pre-August, especially while we are in ‘red’.

But there is another threat we must not take our minds from, and that is climate change. For Council this means some fundamental changes to the ways we’ve been doing things. I am heartened by recent discussions in Council indicating an important climate action package to be consulted on next year.

One of the joys of warm weather is the opportunity to get out to the

beach and enjoy a swim in the ocean. I want to say how pleased all of the board is that the long-term swimming warnings at Titirangi Beach and Piha Lagoon are being lifted following improvements to the infrastructure, and analysis by the Safeswim team. It’s great news that the water quality is improving in these areas, and we are also hopeful that Te Henga / Bethells lagoon will also be added to that list once investigations into the impact the recent storms have had on the location are complete.

On behalf of Waitākere Ranges Local Board, I want to wish you and your whānau a fantastic Christmas and a much better 2022. See you next year.

Ngā mihi mahana



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Start planning finances early



Robyn Rule of Barfoot & Thompson Glen Eden writes on property matters

When is the best time to see a mortgage broker or financial advisor? Most people think it's when you start thinking of purchasing a new home or an investment property, and will need a loan.

However, in reality the best time to contact your financial advisor is as early in the game as possible.

Banks have tightened lending policies and the process of borrowing has become an exercise in endurance. Make sure you are fit for the challenge – start preparing early.

You wouldn't wait to start training for a marathon until the last minute, and shouldn't wait until the night before a tender or an auction to arrange your finance.

With interest rates and house prices on the rise, affordability is becoming more of an issue.

One of the banks' newest regulations is so called credit crunch. This is when banks scrutinise all expenses and can turn down an application for one too many subscriptions, as trivial as Spotify.

Discussing your budget with your trusted advisor and making necessary adjustments will put you in a position of strength when borrowing and make you financially fit in the long run.

With the pre-Christmas housing market quietening down, now is a good time to run a financial fitness session and get prepared.

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