



VILLAGE

# VOICE

ISSUE 90 APRIL 2022 · DISTRIBUTED FREE TO HOMES & SHOPS · LIVING, WORKING & SHOPPING IN GLEN EDEN

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## Glen Eden's green spaces win international recognition again



Left: Waikumete Cemetery is known for the wild flowers that grow in abundance there. Above: Parrs Park has excellent well-marked walks.

NOT ONE BUT TWO local green spaces have again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award, the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Waikumete Cemetery and Parrs Park have both been awarded the prestigious honour, which recognises and rewards parks and green spaces providing high-quality, innovative recreational experiences for our communities.

The award sets a benchmark standard for recreational outdoor spaces worldwide.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair Saffron Toms is delighted by the awards: "Once again two of our amazing parks have been awarded these prestigious awards.

"It stands as a testament to the fabulous work done to care for the parks that they continue to receive the awards each year.

"Our communities love them and it's easy to see why. Both Parrs Park and Waikumete Cemetery are well used and cherished by the community. In many ways they are at the heart of the local area and these fabulous

open spaces have a really positive impact for everyone nearby.

"The board is delighted that the parks have won the awards. It just goes to show how wonderful our area is."

Gary Marshall, chairman of Friends of Waikumete, says: "This is a great achievement for the staff at Waikumete Cemetery and particularly for Sheree Stout, the Manager/Sexton, who is passionate about the history and the care of the cemetery.

"Waikumete Cemetery is a destination of memory and interest covering many religions and a treasure of stories and history, peace and reflection. Congratulations to all involved."

The awards scheme was launched

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in England in 1996 and introduced to Australasia in 2012. It assesses how well green spaces meet the needs of the local community.

Managed locally by Recreation Aotearoa and overseen by Keep Britain Tidy, judging criteria for the awards include quality of services, safety, maintenance, community involvement and sustainability.

The purpose and aims are:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and

other open spaces, regardless of where they live

- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve
- To establish standards of good management
- To promote and share good practice in the green space sector
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.



Waikumete Cemetery sexton Sheree Stout (right) pictured on a previous occasion at which the cemetery was being recognised.

### Waikumete Cemetery

At 108 hectares, Waikumete is NZ's largest cemetery, and the southern hemisphere's largest burial ground for service personnel. Operating since 1876, it is the final resting place for over 70,000 people. Burial options include garden and lawn memorials and natural burials as well as a columbarium and mausolea. Its heritage buildings include The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks built in 1886, often used for weddings. Waikumete has a rich history and includes memorials to Erubus, the Holocaust, the Influenza Epidemic and the ANZAC Cenotaph.

### Parrs Park

Parrs Park is located where Oratia stream becomes two streams, Oratia and Waikumete. Project Twin Streams is a restoration project for local streams begun in 2003. Since 2006, EcoMatters Environment Trust has worked with the Glen Eden community on it. Together with Auckland Council contractors, they tend 15.6 km of the Waikumete Stream catchment, including at Parrs Park. West Auckland's largest Mataawaka marae, Hoana Waititi Marae, is on the park's eastern boundary. It has a kura (school) and is very active locally.



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# They helped to get Auckland recognised as an Age-friendly City



Between them, through their involvement in many different organisations, Gayle Marshall (left) and Janet Clews have given many decades of service to Glen Eden and wider Auckland.

TWO Glen Eden residents were central to Auckland gaining acceptance recently into the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

Community stalwarts Janet Clews and Gayle Marshall have been co-chairs on the Seniors Advisory Panel – from 2018 and 2020 respectively – which worked on the submission together with Auckland Council staff and other organisations.

“The Seniors Panel are the kaitiaki (guardians) of Age-friendly Auckland,” says Gayle, “and working on this has

been a pleasure. It's great that two seniors from Glen Eden were involved in this achievement.”

She says joining the Global Network is an important milestone for Auckland, especially as the city's population ages.

“We know older people experience barriers to participation across all areas of life, and if we want to be a world-class city, we need to commit to better access for everyone.

“The Global Network brings together like-minded cities and communities committed to becoming more age-friendly. It's great to see Auckland recognised in this space and

we're looking forward to sharing ideas with other members.”

The WHO Global Age-friendly Cities Guide identifies core characteristics of an age-friendly city in eight areas of urban life:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services.

## Playhouse Theatre staging M\*A\*S\*H

GLEN EDEN Playhouse Theatre is staging M\*A\*S\*H in April. It's a comedy suitable for all ages set in the Korean War. The show follows the misadventures of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) as Hawkeye and Duke and their fellow doctors and nurses attempt to save lives during the war and send their Korean friend, Ho-John, to America. Tickets from Eventfinda.

## Networking

Greater Glen Eden Networking Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Glen Eden Methodist Church Hall from 10am to midday. It's your opportunity to network with other groups.

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## They don't get much more local than Erin

IF the new Optical Assistant behind the counter at Glen Eden Optometrist seems familiar, it's because Erin Gribble has always lived in Glen Eden.

"It is home and full of wonderful diverse people," she says. "I am blessed to be not only living in this wonderful town but now working within it too. I ride my bicycle to work and people I pass are always quick with a smile."

She hopes to see Glen Eden thrive. "I believe there has been a real shift toward a 'shop local' culture and I hope this continues to build. It is something I believe in and practice myself."

Erin has been working in the optical industry since she left high school.

"I love being an optical assistant because I get to help people see



better and look fabulous while doing it. Nothing beats matching a gorgeous set of glasses to someone's personal style."

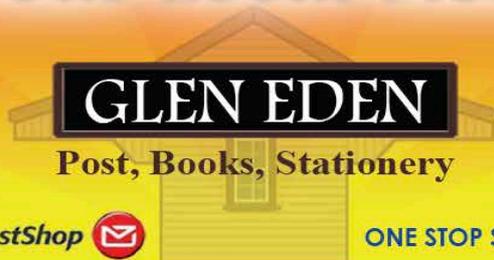
She has worked in corporate optometry as well as private. "It is really lovely to be back working with a small privately owned

practice that really puts our patients' care and wellbeing above selling products. It is taking a minute for me to get to know our patients by name but it is so refreshing to find patients that

Continued on next page...

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See our Face Book page for daily updates

## 2 April at 7.30pm: Elvis Show with Che Orton

Tickets \$20 from [elvisfanclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:elvisfanclub@xtra.co.nz)

**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 Rest.**  
Dinner  
Thursday 5.30pm-8pm.  
Friday 5.30pm-8.30pm.  
Saturday 5.30pm-8pm.  
Sunday 5pm-8pm.

No vaccine pass required from 4 April

Our popular Sunday sessions are still on - music from 4pm to 7pm.

Tickets for most 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. Lounge available for functions.

Continued from previous page...

want to know my name also and build real relationships with them.”

Since Erin has been working at Glen Eden Optometrist, she has already seen two of her primary school teachers. “Thankfully they didn’t recall me so I can’t have been too naughty!” she laughs.

Outside of work, Erin likes spending time with family.

“I have two sons – one at GEIS, one at Konini School – and now a 9-month-old-daughter. They keep me very busy and very happy. In our spare time you will catch us on the cycleways, especially now we have a baby seat – we load up and roll out.”

After a maternity break recently, she hopes to return to her role as a Kea/Cub Leader with the Oratia Scout Group soon. She’s also a volunteer on the Friends of Konini PTA. Drop in and say hello to Erin next time you’re in Glenmall Place.

## EcoFest West

ECOFEST WEST continues with more outdoor experiences, whānau-friendly activities and interactive workshops on offer until Sunday 17 April. Here’s what’s happening in Glen Eden and online:

- Hugelkultur Construction: Lucinda Community Orchard, 8 Lucinda Place, Sunday 3 April, 9.30–11.30am
- Love Your Stream: Wednesdays 6 & 13 and Thursdays 7 & 14 April, 9am–12pm. Email Alanah for locations: alanah@ecomatters.org.nz
- Babies Can Potty: Friday 8 April, 10–11am, online
- Gardening with Tikanga Māori: Saturday 9 April, 10.30am–12.30pm, online
- Connect and Thrive through Timebank Auckland: Wednesday 13 April, 6.30pm–8pm, online

Visit [www.ecofest.org.nz](http://www.ecofest.org.nz) for full details of all EcoFest West events.

## As property prices soften...



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

HOUSE PRICES are edging down in some cases. Most forecasts are saying the downward trend will be somewhere between 5% and 7%.

We’re already seeing that price softness seep though – some properties have been selling for up to 10% less than they would have at the end of last year.

That’s not consistent across the board, though, and the fact that some houses are selling for 10% less definitely doesn’t mean the entire market has dropped by as much.

It’s the old golden rule: properties that are scarce – high quality ones, in areas where there’s still hot demand – are continuing to perform really well.

But with less demand, supply increasing, and tighter and more expensive lending, it’s not good news for properties that are unattractive or not well presented, that don’t have code of compliance, or that leak. Such properties will inevitably take a bit of a hit.

For anyone who’s been sitting in the market for years, with significant capital gains under your belt, the implications should be pretty minimal.

You may feel a little less well-off because that underlying investment has gone backwards slightly in value, but the actual material impact is probably marginal – and the likelihood of ending up with negative equity is pretty much nil.

Glen Eden monthly statistics  
37 sales for the month of February  
Total: \$37,063,500  
Average: \$1,001,716  
Highest: \$2,400,000  
Lowest: \$599,000

## International recognition for our green spaces

Kia ora

Big congratulations to Parrs Park and Waikumete Cemetery, which have both won the Green Flag award once more. The award is international and recognises and rewards parks and green spaces providing high-quality, innovative recreational experiences for our communities.

Congratulations to Auckland Council staff, the maintenance contractors and the community groups and users who continue to care for our treasured green spaces.

We are very lucky to have these world-revered places on our doorstep. I hope you manage to get out and enjoy Parrs Park and Waikumete Cemetery as we move into Autumn.

We also recently heard the news that our proposal to create a safer transport zone for the children of Konini school has been successful. This is great news and will mean that aspects of the school transport

plan can be trialled, which will include wayfinding options, possible pop-up cycleways and safer crossing points. I’m looking forward to seeing the plans.

Finally, a big shout out once again to all the organisations doing a tremendous job helping people through the pandemic. As the Omicron outbreak has been spreading through the community, it’s really heartening to know that so many of our local organisations and people have been going the extra mile for those impacted.

It really shows the fabulous community spirit we have here, and I am proud to be part of it. Take care and stay safe everyone.



Ngā mihi mahana

Saffron Toms  
Waitākere Ranges  
Local Board Chair

# Local U3A group would welcome new members

THE University of the Third Age (U3A) – now an international movement – was founded in France in 1973 to provide continuing learning opportunities for retired people.

By 1989 branches were opening in New Zealand.

A recent TV documentary on mental and physical health in later life made three recommendations: activity, learning new things, and social contact. U3A provides all of these in various combinations.



Photo: Greg Presland

The local group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1pm at WestLynn Gardens, 73 Parker Road, New Lynn. The current president is Glen Eden local, Heather Tanguay (pictured).

Moira Kennedy-Mayne is a committee member. “We are for those 60+ who are interested in informal, new learning experiences through nearly 20 study groups covering a vast range of subjects, monthly meetings with guest speakers and social events,” she explained. “Our members are mostly from the Titirangi and Glen Eden areas and we welcome new members from all walks of life.”

For more information contact Heather on 027 699 5480 or email [heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz) or visit [www.U3A.nz](http://www.U3A.nz).

# Library news

THE April school holiday starts soon so make sure you don't miss the fun activities that the wonderful Re Creators team will be facilitating outside Glen Eden Library.

Try your hand at 'Macrame & Braiding', 'Making Stamps & Printing' and the one that library staff are most excited about, the 'Making a Fart' workshops for kids!

There will be movies in the library in the holidays, and the Children's Librarian will be teaching how to make winter ice-cream for the birds.

Please keep an eye on the library's Facebook page for updates and details: [www.facebook.com/GlenEdenLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/GlenEdenLibrary) or the Auckland Libraries website

[www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/](http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/)

“Thanks to all our community for your understanding and support at this time,” says library manager Dave Tucker.

## Optometrist v Ophthalmologist v Dispensing Optician

Optometrists are the first line of care for your eye health. They perform routine eye exams to diagnose vision problems and eye diseases, and provide solutions to vision problems including prescribing glasses and contact lenses.

Also, they monitor or manage eye disease such as cataracts and know when a person needs to be referred to see an ophthalmologist.

The bachelor of optometry degree is a 5-year course at the University of Auckland. It is the only programme in New Zealand that will enable a graduate to apply for registration to practice as an Optometrist.

Ophthalmologists are medical doctors that specialise in the care of more complex eye disorders and perform eye surgery if required. To

become an ophthalmologist one must work for two years as a house officer (supervised junior doctor) in a hospital, work for another five years as a registrar with specialist training, and pass examinations to become a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.

Dispensing opticians interpret prescriptions from optometrists and ophthalmologists for glasses or contact lenses, assemble and fit glasses, and advise customers on frames and lenses. To qualify as a dispensing optician you need to get a job as a trainee dispensing optician at an optometrist practice and while working there complete the Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing New Zealand through the Australasian College of Optical Dispensing.



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by the 15th. You could win a \$50 voucher to dine in Little India Glen Eden. Congratulations to our latest winner;

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# Carla Gee confirmed as EcoMatters CEO



THE EcoMatters Environment Trust Board of Trustees has confirmed that Carla Gee will take on the permanent role of CEO, after six months as its acting head.

EcoMatters chair Charlotte Moore says Carla has shown exceptional leadership during a challenging time and the board is delighted that she has accepted the permanent role.

“Over the last six months, Carla

has demonstrated the passion, commitment and values critical to the role of CEO. We’re delighted to have such a capable leader in place and are looking forward to working alongside her,” says Charlotte.

Carla has been with EcoMatters for six years, and was their Head of Operations before being appointed acting CEO in late July 2021. Her professional experience also includes

managing large teams in the retail and wholesale travel industry.

“I’m grateful to the trustees for putting their faith in me and excited to take on this challenge. We have an amazing team here and I’m looking forward to working with them and our community to further develop the organisation and fulfil our vision, mission and purpose,” says Carla.

EcoMatters Environment Trust was established in 2002 and works alongside communities to deliver environmental initiatives with key entities such as Auckland Council, the Ministry for the Environment, philanthropic funders, and not-for-profit and community groups.

It aims to connect people and place and to nurture kaitiakitanga (guardianship), by supporting the community with knowledge and tools to restore nature, grow food, reduce waste, ride and fix bikes, and live more sustainably.

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