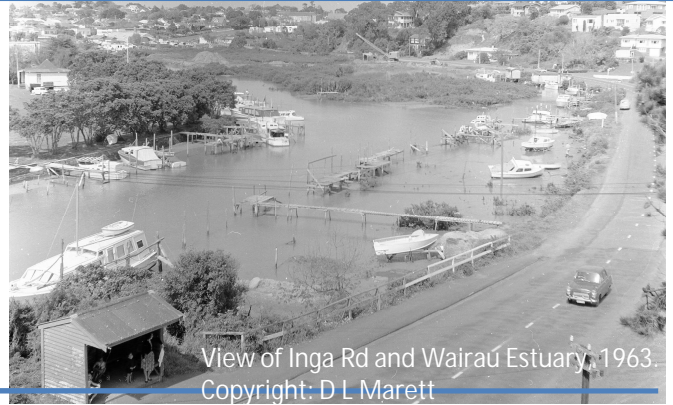




www.milford.org.nz chairs@milford.org.nz
PO Box 31 067, Milford, Auckland 0741



January 2018: heat and humidity, a storm, king tides, rain and a wastewater disaster

Well, what a start to 2018. Just a couple of days after New Year, ex-Tropical Cyclone Ita brought heavy seas and rain in conjunction with king tides. Grant Ewen's photo (R) shows the water sweeping over the Milford Rd seawall and up the street. No wonder there was rubbish strewn about, especially at Ocean View Rd.

Many seawall residents experienced damage to fences and gates. The Ocean View road-end had been very badly damaged back in the big January 2011 storm and it was pleasing to see that, in 2018, the new retaining walls built by the Council appeared totally undamaged. Council contractors also cleared the area of debris within a couple of days.



Thanks to Castor Bay resident, Grant Ewen, for taking these photos.



Widespread flooding was reported. Auckland was lucky compared to inundations at Maraetai, Kaiaua and the serious damage to the Thames to Coromandel Rd. Nevertheless, the northern motorway southbound was flooded for a time and questions need to be asked of local and central government about the raising of State Highway One between Esmonde and Onewa Rds.

The Wairau Creek (L) was also very high with many jetties under water and one launch holed and sunk.

NIWA warned a couple of years ago that we have moved from a 30 year cycle of predominantly westerly winds into a new cycle of easterly winds (as we have seen this year). In combination with the predicted increases in tides, there are some serious issues we will need to address as a coastal community.

Just three weeks later, over one hour on 23 January, torrential rain fell on the North Shore and Murray Hill from the Milford Business Assn captured photos of a raging Wairau Creek (over the page).

Murray's 'before and after' photos of the Wairau Creek at the 'grille' – Council's official name is the Milford Trash Rack – give an idea of the huge volume of water travelling through the culvert and over the rack before it quickly dispersed and calmed in the wider area of the estuary. The photo below shows the rubbish in the Rack the next day.



There have been some suggestions that the rack needs to be made higher and stronger to catch rubbish in extreme events. Norma visited the site with Council staff last week and it was explained that this was a 1 in 80 year event and that to raise the rack would run the risk of flooding properties further upstream. The rack is cleared weekly.

Alma Rd Sewage Spill

This non-weather-related event on the Sunday of Anniversary Weekend was extremely traumatic for the families involved. It has been reported on the radio and in the local paper and Watercare's ongoing help for the families with the clean-up of their properties was praised this week.

It seems that a main sewerage pipe burst at about 1.30am and sewage was pumped at pressure over sections and entered some homes. The first call was to the Fire Brigade who thought they were dealing with a water main failure and contacted Watercare (2.49am). After the Watercare water specialist arrived and discovered it was wastewater, the wastewater emergency responder was sent (3.46am) and attempted to diagnose the fault and isolate the flow. At 5.04 am a Watercare emergency responders field team arrived to clear the work area and clean up the contamination area. The team was about 35 strong throughout the day.

At 8.35 am Watercare received permission from Vector to begin excavation of the site which was within the controlled zone of a major electrical carriageway and transformer. Digging work could not begin until access approval was granted. At 8.40 am Auckland Council Environmental Health Officer gave permission for the Watercare Wastewater pump station in Alma Road to be shut down. This meant that sewage instead flowed into the Wairau Creek and warnings were set up for swimmers at Milford Beach. By 11.30 am, earth moving equipment had carefully uncovered the broken pipe, located next to Vector cables. The repair was completed, tested and the pump station restarted by 6.00 pm. As we know, the Creek and Beach remained contaminated for the next 36-48 hours.

We are sure all Milford people feel a huge amount of sympathy for the Alma Rd families – it could have been any of our homes and properties – and well could be in the future. We have offered help if needed.

We will certainly be interested to read the final report on the failure of the pipe (at about half its life) and also feel that Council communications to swimmers and the surrounding community and to its own Actionline service could be improved. People living close to the creek also say that a strong smell is still present.

Two Festivals in February from Milford Business Association

Urban Street Food Festival, Thursday, 15 February, 4pm-9pm

Forget the cooking and doing the dishes on the 15th. The night food market is coming to Milford again – for the first time in the main Kitchener Rd car park in front of the mall. Car access will be limited to the New World side of the car park. There will be live music by Lee Gray Music, local craft beers and wine by Brothers Beer PLUS gourmet street food trucks including Double Dutch Fries, The Rolling Pin, Judge Bao, Temaki Truck NZ, The Brulee Bike, Play Dough Pizza, Lalele Organic Gelato, NomNom, Wise Boys Burgers, and more.



Vive Le France Market Day, Saturday 24 February 9.30am

"Vive la France" is an annual Milford Market Day event. A great family day with a French theme. The streets will be full of stalls – from local and out of town retailers.

New Year Honours: Milford Residents congratulates Bill Speedy and Aidan Bennett

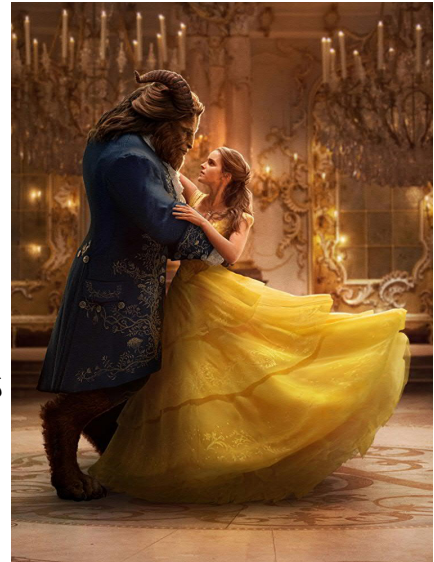
Milford resident, **Bill Speedy**, was awarded an ONZM (Officer of the NZ Order of Merit) for services to philanthropy and watersports. Bill, as founder and Managing Director of Oceanbridge Shipping, donates each year to Coastguard, Surf Life Saving NZ and the Raglan Surf Life Saving. Oceanbridge is also a sponsor of the Billabong Grommet series, which is held each year to promote young surfers. Bill and Oceanbridge are also a great advocate for water safety and watersports at North Shore schools, donating life jackets to Milford School and helping set up a Learn to Sail programme at Bayswater Primary.

Aidan Bennett lives in Takapuna and his company, Benefitz, publishes The Channel Magazine. Aidan was awarded a QSM (Queen's Service Medal) for services to the community. Aidan's involvement with the North Harbour Club since 1988 and his leadership was integral to the expansion of the annual AIMES awards, which makes significant grants to young people aged 10 to 25 years who are achieving excellence in the areas of the arts, innovation, music, education, sport, or service to the community. He is also involved in many other North Shore charities and community and educational initiatives. Milford Residents Assn has benefited from Aidan's community spirit. Benefitz hosts MRA's website at very low cost to us and has always given us great advice and community discounts for all our printing work, including the photos for our annual Heritage Festival exhibitions.

Movies in Parks returns to Milford Reserve, Craig Rd, in 2018.

Beauty and the Beast (2017) PG

Thursday, 29 March 5.20pm (Movie 7.20pm) This is the day before Easter (Good Friday, 30 March).



Milford Mall development - Update

No word yet from NZRPG on their next moves but we have mentioned to them that the hoardings should be removed if no building is about to take place.

There are rumours that a retirement village operator is interested in purchasing the mall site.

North Shore free guided walks

There are a series of free guided walks in North Shore parks between 20 February and 28 June 2018. Good levels of fitness and mobility are necessary. And bookings are essential:

<mailto:anna.baine@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

The full list is here: [North Shore Guided Walks001.pdf](#). Sorry, couldn't find this info on the Council website but did find a brochure in the Takapuna Library.



Photo shows Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve, Orewa.

Guided walk on Thursday 12 April 2018, 9.45-12 noon. Bookings: Email anna.baines@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz