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Guide camp boon for local business



• Part of the Girl Guides 'Kaipara Kapers' camp at the Helensville Showgrounds

The Helensville Showgrounds was turned into a tent village last month - and the local economy given a boost - by the first ever Girl Guides Upper North Zone camp.

267 Girl Guides aged from 10 years, plus 36 Girl Guide Rangers (aged 14-18) took part in the five-day 'Kaipara Kapers' event. They were looked after by 75 volunteer adults - only three of whom, the bus driver, advanced paramedic and security guard - were men.

The event took 18 months to organise and cost \$98,000 to run, with each girl contributing an all-inclusive \$290 and the adult leaders \$110 each. A lot of that money went to Helensville businesses - more on that later.

The Girl Guides Northern Zone is made up of five regions - Northland, North Shore,

Auckland (which includes the Helensville area), Manukau and Hauraki - and spans the upper half of the North Island, from Kaitia to the Hauraki Plains.

All the girls came from within that area, as did all but one of the leaders, a Canadian woman holidaying here who immediately volunteered to help after hearing about the camp.

Helensville Showgrounds was chosen for its central location in the Zone, its large size, and the fact it is in a rural area yet close to amenities and attractions, says organising team leader Angela Anderson.

During the five day camp the girls took part in a wide range of activities. On-site those included various water-based activities, rock wall climbing, archery, and shooting (with real guns). A disco was held on the Saturday night.

A vehicle fleet consisting of a full-size bus, three vans and an 8-seater car ferried the girls around the Helensville area where they took part in many activities.

Those included horse riding at Tasman Horse Rides at Parakai, swimming at the Aquatic Park hot pools, visiting the Helensville Pioneer Museum, challenging

themselves to the ropes courses at Tree Adventures in Woodhill, kayaking at Shelly Beach, and going 'geocaching', which is like a modern-day treasure hunt using GPS technology.

On the Saturday afternoon, the girls took part in a number of local community service projects.

Those included washing the Kaipara Coastguard boat, gardening and general tidying up at both the RSA's Drake Village and Mt Tabor Trust, helping with Lions Club fundraising by pulling tabs off cans at the

Helensville recycling depot, and collecting rubbish and mulching gardens along the riverside walkway.

The camp was officially opened on Wednesday, January 12 by the Governor General's wife, Lady Susan Satyanand, at a ceremony which featured among other attractions a drum show by Rhythm Interactive.

Running the camp was akin to a military exercise.

As well as all the tents and other gear - owned by the Girl Guide Association and provided by each region - there were 20

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editorial

One of the major benefits of living in a smaller town like Helensville or Kaukapakapa is that it is often much easier to feel a sense of community than for those who live in a large, more impersonal city.

Community events help bring us all together, both for those who take part in organising and running them, and for the general public who simply get the enjoyment and camaraderie out of taking themselves and their families to those events.

When you go, for instance, to the annual Helensville Christmas Parade, a large part of the enjoyment is catching up with friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

The first such event for 2011 is the Lions Club of Helensville's annual Running of the Roses on Sunday, February 20 (see article page 5). Not only is it a fun day out and the chance to win some great prizes, it's a fund raiser that will benefit the local community as well.

Next up on the following Saturday, February 26, is Helensville's biggest annual event, the A&P Show (see pages 8 and 9). Now in its second century, it is our town's longest running event, and the only one which regularly brings large numbers of city folks to our lovely town - so it's good for our economy, too.

Later in the year, in conjunction with the Rugby World Cup, Helensville will be holding a special 'Fan Zone' evening following a day of heritage-style celebrations on Saturday, October 8 (see page 12). Two quarter-final matches will be screened live, a sure-fire drawcard for locals and hopefully some visitors as well.

Then there are the wealth of smaller events which happen throughout the year, like the Fly-In at Parakai Airfield later this month (see page 14) and the Kaukapakapa Country Fair (page 13). They all let us get together and feel a part of our community.

So do your bit, and get out there and enjoy them!

- Dave Addison

14,000 visitors per month have eye on Helensville

Helensville receives over 14,000 visitors each month - at least, the town's website does.

The Helensville Online website, at www.helensville.co.nz, gets more than 250,000 hits each month, which translates to 14,000 to 15,000 individual visitors.

And each month those visitors look at around 32,000 pages of information on Helensville and the surrounding area.

"That's a lot of information about our area being shown to the world," says site administrator Dave Addison, of Dash Design in Parakai.

Online now for more than 10 years,

the site consistently ranks first in a Google search.

The most popular pages on the site are the home page, news articles, and the 'things to do', 'business', 'accommodation' and 'what's on' sections.

While almost 70 percent of visits to the site come from within New Zealand, the site receives traffic from all across the world - a recent sample reveals visitors from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Cote D'Ivoire, the Russian Federation, Netherlands, Peru, India, Spain, Japan, Sweden, Thailand and Switzerland, among many others.

Long-running shop shuts doors

One of Helensville's longest running retail stores, Mike Ross Appliances in Commercial Road, closed on January 29.

Mike and wife Ruth opened the first Mike Ross Appliances store at 56 Commercial Rd 28 years ago, after buying the home appliance business of Warner Bailey.

Ten years later they moved into larger premises at 48 Commercial Rd, buying out the Hill & Stewart business of Ian Osborne. They have operated from there ever since, with Ruth in charge of the retail store at street level and Mike's service workshop underneath.

In 1994 they joined the newly formed 100% franchise, giving them the purchasing and advertising power of a large national organisation.

They also ran a shop in Huapai for

about 10 years.

Mike was born in Helensville - one of the last batch of babies born at Malolo House before the Maternity Hospital was established. He has lived and worked here all his life, doing his apprenticeship here before initially working as an electrical contractor.

Ruth, they joke, is a 'foreigner' - only having lived here since the age of two.

The decision to close the shop doors was a long one, made mainly on economic grounds but also because it was time for a change.

Mike and Ruth run a deer farm at their home at Kaukapakapa, and that is taking up more and more of their time.

Mike will retain his downstairs workshop in the meantime, continuing with his servicing work. Ruth will be working part-time around town.



• Ruth & Mike Ross in their store just before its closure

"We have had some excellent customers over the years - some very loyal customers," says Ruth.

"It's been great being part of the growth of Helensville over the years. It's a neat area and has been good to us. We've brought up our kids and grandkids here.

"But we are looking forward to a different pace."

17th year of golf tournament for Waioneke School

Waioneke School holds its 17th annual teams golf tournament at the South Head Golf Course on Friday, March 25.

This year the event is being used to raise funds for the performing and visual arts, and portable seating. As well as team and spot prizes throughout the day, there will be awards for a putting challenge, the longest drive and the person getting closest to the pin. The competition begins at 10.30am with a shotgun start.

There will be fully catered food and drinks on course.

Tickets are \$280 for a team of four, which includes food and beverages, plus a \$350 option which adds a meal platter and complimentary drink in the clubhouse after the event. Businesses can also sponsor holes for \$200.

To register or for more information contact event organiser Anne Holst, phone 420 2505, or email her at a.holst@clear.net.nz.

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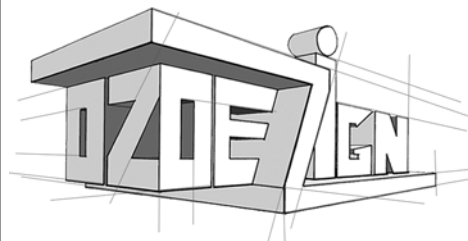
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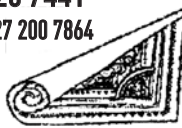


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Guide camp good for business

• From page 1

portaloos set up, along with 18 portable showers and an enormous marquee for dining and meetings.

The tent village was organised by region, and each region set up a specially built themed 'gateway' to their area, complete with night lighting.

The main show building was described by Angela as a giant "walk-in pantry".

Feeding such a large crowd was a formidable task, with the 13 adult volunteers who made up the catering team working from 5am to around 9pm each day. Meal times took 1½ hours with the girls eating in shifts with 10 minute breaks between.

While the bulk food items such as canned goods were purchased at Gilmours, perishable items were sourced locally.

"We ensured we purchased from the local community - items such as veges, meat, bread and milk," says Angela.

The amount consumed was staggering.

During the five days and four nights,

the 303 girls and 75 adults went through 606 litres of milk, 18 litres of cream, 80kg of cereal, 1200 eggs, 2000 litres of juice (made from powder), 300 loaves of bread, 760 bread rolls, 20 chocolate logs and 1300 muffins. They ate their way through 300kg of tinned food - such as fruit and baked beans - every day. One dinner alone used 57kg of corned silverside.

Even the left overs didn't go to waste, instead being donated to locals for pig food.

Simply providing enough hot water for washing dishes was a major exercise, with 11 gas-powered water heating 'jennies' in use.

The organisers were thrilled with the support of the Helensville community, says Angela, and they want to thank in particular the Helensville Meat Centre, Te Awaroa Market Garden, Woolworths and Parakai 4 Square for their help in keeping food supplies flowing.

They would also like to thank the A&P Showgrounds staff for their help, especially Richard Bradley for his help around the grounds.



• Guides try their hand at archery during the Kaipara Kapers camp

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• Kayakers shepherd the roses down the Kaipara River at last year's Running of the Roses

Roses set to float down the Kaipara River again

Helensville will again host the annual Running of the Roses community fundraising event on February 20.

Organised jointly by the Lions Club of Helensville and the Helensville District Business Association, the event features a 'race' down the Kaipara River by 2500 numbered roses - with those first across the line winning big prizes for their owners.

It's a development of an idea by local Matt Hampton.

In keeping with previous years there will be a festival atmosphere. Stalls will be open from 10am with the emphasis this year on 'food fare'.

Entertainment will feature Medieval demonstrations, including dancing and sword fighting.

The main event, the releasing of the numbered roses upriver at the Kaipara Cruising Club, will take place around 1pm. The roses will be washed down the Kaipara River, with the first roses fished out at the finish line deemed winners.

Prizes worth \$5000 are awarded for the first five place getters.

They include an overnight cruise plus a night's accommodation in the Bay of Islands, a hot air balloon ride, a night's luxury accommodation at Vineyard Cottage in Waimauku, a night at the Sky City Grand Hotel, and a booklet of local shopping vouchers. Random spot prizes will also be drawn during the event.

This year's 2500 tickets have sold quickly, but some are still available for \$5 at participating retailers in Helensville, and tickets may also be available on the day prior to the race.

Proceeds from the Running of the Roses go towards local charities and community organisations. This year recipients will include Sunnydays Early Childhood Centre to help with the redevelopment of their playground, and Helensville Primary School to help towards the re-roofing of the school hall.

Helensville Lions Club would like to invite local food producers or suppliers to the participate on the day. For more information phone Matt Hampton on 027 221 3226.

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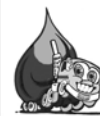
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Young Farmer regional finals to be held at A&P Show

The northern regional finals of the National Bank Young Farmer competition will be held at the Helensville A&P Show on Saturday, February 26.

The competition in the Show's trade area will start around 7.30am and continue until about 3pm. There will be a final, quiz-style round at the Helensville War Memorial Hall that evening.

The Helensville contest will be the first of seven regional finals to be held around the country over the next three months, culminating in a Grand Final at Masterton starting on June 29.

After six weeks of intense district final competition, seven men and one woman will compete at Helensville for one of the coveted seven places in the final.

Contestants are tested on a range of practical skills involving all agricultural industries as well as the theory and technical knowledge required for modern farming.

An aim of the contest, now in its 43rd year, is to create an awareness of the diversity of modern farming practices and careers, from on-farm through to agribusiness and agriscience.

Tests will cover areas such as practical challenges, head-to-head contests, agrisports, market innovation challenges, business planning, an interview, and speeches.

The actual challenges are kept secret until the day of the competition so contestants can't get an unfair advantage.

A successful component added in 2010 was the Community Footprint, which looks at the way a contestant's lifestyle adds value to their community.

Contest operations manager Roz Lever believes it is this diversity that is the great challenge for the contestants.

"Most contestants have an area of

strength where they are comfortable, but the challenge of the contest is handling the unknown. Whether people are more theoretical or practically inclined, whether they are familiar with dairy farming or sheep farming, any activity within agriculture is fair game".

Ms Lever believes this results in people who are more aware of other agriculture industries and the world



• 2010 Northern Region winner James Donaldson assessing deer velvet as part of the Agri-Skills challenge

around them.

"Without realising it, many of the contestants' social, practical and intellectual skills grow tremendously during their time in the contest".

The benefits of competing do not stop at personal growth, with more than \$300,000 worth of prizes to be won.

Also running on the day will be both AgriKids and TeenAg competitions. In AgriKids, teams of four children aged 9-12 compete, while TeenAg is for 15-16 year olds in teams of two.



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New Woodhill equestrian park management proves popular

It is almost six months since the YMCA took over the day-to-day management of the Woodhill Forest Equestrian Park (WFEP), and "the feedback from riders is amazing" says Karen Legg, manager of the YMCA's Massey Leisure Centre.

"There were worries (from riders) at the beginning," she says, but adds that now support for the new park management is "overwhelming".

The park is licenced for equestrian use from Hancock Timber Resource Group, which harvests the pine plantation, by the Auckland Woodhill Endurance Club (AWEC).

Rowena Tyler, president of AWEC, agrees the management change has been beneficial.

"It's been extremely well received.

Clearing anger course

Helensville's Men and Family Centre is running a Resolve - Clearing Anger programme in Orewa, starting February 18.

Centre director Andrew Connolly says at least one carload of locals will go to Orewa for the course.

The programme is designed for men and women who recognise their expressions of anger, hurt, anxiety or fear are not helpful for themselves and those around them.

Organisers meet with prospective members before confirming their participation in the group at an initial meeting.

Participants are encouraged to be engaged in counselling for the eight-week duration of the course, and some funding is available to assist group participants with the cost of counselling.

The programme will run on Fridays from 9.30am to 1.30pm until April 8, and the weekly sessions cost \$10.

For more information contact Andrew, phone 420 8263 or Sandi, phone 09 428 1475.

It's been a big improvement, I believe, in the way the facilities are being managed and the way riders are being looked after," she says.

AWEC is a small, non-profit club which used to manage the park themselves. When Hancock segregated the forest into different recreational areas with a view to making them more commercial, the club realised it would be beyond their means to effectively keep managing the park.

That led to the current arrangement with the YMCA.

While that organisation had no direct equestrian involvement in New Zealand, it was already experienced managing other outdoor facilities, and as a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to help communities and families, the management role seemed a good fit.

Horse riders must be registered with the YMCA before they can ride in Woodhill Forest; there are currently about 700 registered riders, roughly 90 percent of them women.

The riders pay an annual fee, and receive a key to gain admittance.

It has been largely business as usual since the YMCA took over management. The biggest change is that around 10 of the AWEC committee members are now voluntary 'horseback rangers' who help riders who become lost or distressed, or offer advice on where to ride.

The other major advance has been in mapping tracks in association with the Auckland Orienteering Club. All tracks will be named, and a trail sponsorship scheme has been set up; already two Kumeu businesses have sponsored tracks, along with several individuals.

The WFEP features 'The Nursery' which has a kitchen, showers, toilet and bunkroom available for hire for overnight stays. It's proving a huge success and is booked out almost every weekend year round, says Karen.

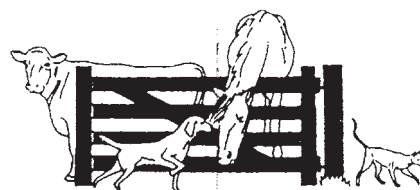
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Helensville Show coming up

The 109th annual Helensville A&P Show is on Saturday, February 26. As always, it will be the largest event on the town's calendar.

The main show's layout will be largely unchanged again this year, although the equestrian rings have been completely reorganised for 2011.

One of this year's highlights will be the regional finals of the National Bank Young Farmer of the Year competition (see separate article on page 6).

Contestants will compete in eight modules, starting at around 7.30am and finish around 3pm, although there will be a final 'buzzer' round in the War Memorial Hall that evening. The entire day's contest will be filmed to get footage for the final, which will be televised in June.

Also new at the Show this year will be entertainer Richard Handley with 30 minute shows on the main stage featuring a mix of comedy, juggling, and audience participation. Show visitors will also be able to take a punt on the Grand Sheepchase, a fun sheep-racing event.

There will be Clydesdale cart rides and pony rides, and for those after something a little 'grunter', rides will also be available at the military vehicle display of tanks, jeeps and trucks.

Once again, the popular 'Carnival' area of sideshows and rides will be around by

the racetrack, adjacent to the wood chopping area which this year will have a full field of competitors.

When it's time to sit back and relax, local band Soul Booth will be playing on the main stage. Entertainment for the younger set will include the Marionette Circus puppet show, returning after a few years away.

Relish the Taste, the 'mini expo' of locally produced food and wine which is always popular, is back again too.

Prime Minister and local MP John Key is booked to visit the show at some stage during the day.

Show visitors in recent years have got used to seeing beautifully coloured and decorated cardboard-cutout works of art by local schools, fastened to the outside of the main building and toilet block and inside the main building. This year, look out for some stunning sheep dogs, following on from previous years which featured tractors, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, trains, gumboots and cows.

Of course the Show would not be what it is without the usual animals, including cattle, sheep, alpacas, miniature donkeys, horses, poultry, and working dogs - plus the equestrian competition.

Add to those regular features like the



• Crowds flock to the 'carnival' area at last year's show

Norwest Dog Training Club, pet dogs, Historical Society butter making, highland dancing, River Valley Amateur Winemakers & Brewers Guild, Brightside Spinners, Old McDonald's Travelling Farmyard, and face painting, and it will be a full-on, fun-filled day for local families - and the many 'townies' who make a special trip to our town for what is the largest one-day A&P Show in the Northern District.

There will be free tractor rides from the public carpark, accessed through Stewart Street, and an EFTPOS cash out facility will be available at the show office. Entry to the show is by cash only - EFTPOS will not be available at the gate.

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HIPPY children number in the hundreds

Since the HIPPY programme started in the South Kaipara area in 2005, 336 children and their families have been enrolled in the programme.

Each year around 70 local families take advantage of the opportunity the programme provides to give their children the best possible start to school and life.

By working regularly on the HIPPY activities, parents understand exactly what their children can and cannot do and are able to fill in the 'gaps'.

Playing the HIPPY games means children learn the social skills of taking turns and how to lose gracefully.

By working regularly with their parents, the HIPPY children develop good listening skills, logical thinking, problem solving skills and perhaps most important of all the confidence to give anything a go.

Parents in turn begin a life-long involvement and interest in their children's education, and long-term studies have shown that by spending regular quality time together, a strong bond is built between the HIPPY parent and child which lasts well into the teenage years.

HIPPY doesn't take the place of early childhood centres, but encourages parents to take their children to those in addition to the HIPPY programme, giving the child a variety of experiences but ensuring that the parent is "in the driver's seat".

Coordinator Bernie Malizia is currently taking enrolments for the 2011 intake, which will be based at Parakai School in Fordyce Road. Children need to be between 3½ and 4½ years.

For more information phone Bernie on 420 7434.



• National Coordinator for HIPPY New Zealand Lin Sauer congratulates 1010 HIPPY student Tyrone Reyland at the recent HIPPY South Kaipara graduation ceremony

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Men & Family Centre plan activities



Tre Flesher-Pairama and his grandfather Chris Pairama size up the next challenge at Tree Adventures during a Men & Family Centre event. The centre has new activities planned for the coming months, following on from those held late last year which as well as Tree Adventures included quad biking and paint balling.

Despite a few bruises and heart in the mouth moments, participants - including some mothers and girls - were very enthusiastic about the events, says centre coordinator Andrew Connolly.

Comments afterwards included one from a boy who said: "Thanks, this experience has helped me and my father".

Future activities can be found on the centre's web page www.helensville.co.nz/community/menandfamilycentre.htm.

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Two Rugby World Cup quarter finals to screen at Helensville event

Two Rugby World Cup quarter final matches will be shown live on a giant outdoor screen at an evening family event in Helensville on October 8.

The games being shown will be played in Christchurch at 6pm, and Wellington at 8.30pm.

The event, which will be located in and behind the Helensville War Memorial Hall, will also feature live music and food, and will have a licensed bar.

Organisers are now taking expressions of interest from businesses and organisations interested in holding food stalls at the event, which it is hoped will attract up to 1000 people.

Initial contact should be made to Sarah Legg, phone 420 9175, email sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

The Helensville Rugby World Cup Committee is also keen to hear from locals who would be willing to provide paid accommodation to visitors during the cup event.

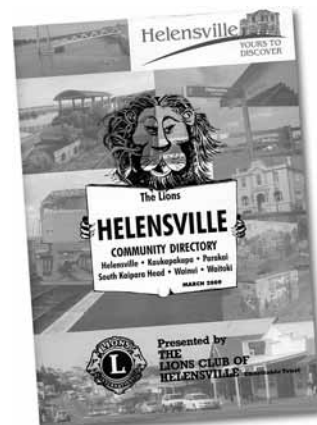
Anyone with a room or two to spare and who would be keen to host paying tourists during the Cup should contact Chrissy Jones, phone 420 2010 or email frech@xtra.co.nz.

Lions directory being produced for 2011

The Lions Club of Helensville latest Community Directory is currently being compiled, and local businesses keen to promote themselves need to get in fast.

The publication has a circulation of more than 5000 and will be delivered next month. Rates and an order form are at www.helensvillelions.org.nz under Projects - Community Directory.

Enquiries to the Lion's Community Directory project manager, Matt Hampton, phone 027 221 3226.



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Tamaki Sports Academy offers mentoring, coaching and work experience to South Auckland youth who have dropped out of the mainstream school system but who show some sporting talent. Academy members are enrolled in the Correspondence School, and work towards unit standard credits and national qualifications.

PH (09) 276 0328

Country fair aims to raise funds for junior playground

Kaukapakapa School holds its biennial Country Fair on Saturday, February 19 from 10am to 2pm.

Parents are busy getting ready for the event, which is the biggest fundraiser on the two-year calendar for the team of hard working parents known as the School Support Group.

Planning started in Term 3 of last year.

This year the Support Group have a specific project earmarked for funds raised – a playground for the junior school, which is estimated to cost \$25,000.

"The smallest children do not have an age-appropriate playground where they can play safely, away from the big children," explains principal Tony Westrupp.

In the past the school has raised \$10,000 at the fair, money which helped pay for library books, Junior Readers, computers for the ICT room, digital cameras, the SRA Reading Laboratory and laptop computers.

In the past people have come to the Kaukapakapa School Country Fair from as far as Whangarei. This year's event will have fairground rides for all ages, a silent auction, quickfire raffles, food and drink stalls, a white elephant sale, plants



• Live music will again feature at the country fair

for sale, horse rides, police dogs, a 'slushie' vendor, a dunking machine and live entertainment.

The major auction is the big event of the day and is always a lot of fun, says Support Group chairman Sandy Marshall.

The Group thanks Baby Barns which donated a 2.3m by 1.5m barn-style garden shed worth \$1250 - ready to be delivered to the lucky bidder on the day.

The Support Group are currently looking for more items for both the major auction and the silent auction, and welcome any donated prizes.

An EFTPOS cash out facility will be available on the day. For more information or to donate auction goods, phone Sandy Marshall, 420 4535.



• Crowds at the last Kaukapakapa School country fair



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Fly-in at Parakai has new time to suit local visitors

Up to 80 aircraft are expected to take part in the annual Fly-In at Parakai airfield on Saturday, February 19.

In previous years the fly-in had been held on A&P Show day, but the decision was made to bring it forward a week this year to let more locals take part.

Aircraft fly in mainly from throughout the upper half of the North Island, although they come from as far south as Ashburton.

While planes will start arriving around 10am, Parakai Airfield manager Simon Lochie says the best time for the public to visit is between 11am and 3pm.

The event, jointly organised by the Parakai Aviation Club and the Northland Microlight Club, will feature primarily "attainable, recreational" types of planes, although there will also be some vintage aircraft and warbirds.

Visitors will be able to take a range of flights starting from just \$20, including flights in a gyrocopter (which is a bit like a hybrid between an aeroplane and a helicopter).

While the fly-in isn't classed as an air show, there will be displays such as synchronised fly-bys, skydiving, and large scale model aircraft doing aerobatics.

There will also be static displays, and food and drink available.



• Simon Lochie

western comment

by Rodney Ward Councillor Penny Webster

Into the New Year and it's all go at the Auckland Council. We have had our first meeting of the Governing Body (at Orewa) for 2011 with each meeting starting with a public forum. Finding our way around has become easier, and learning who to ask for solutions to problems is less than a mission.

There is a punishing schedule of meetings for this year as we have five standing committees of the whole Council plus forums and subcommittees. The challenge will be to make sure this does not become a talk fest but a 'do'ing Council.

We have already had several meetings talking about the Spatial Plan with the difficult decisions as to where the growth will happen and when causing much discussion. The West is crucial in this with the huge development of Westgate and the need to reflect growth in the Kumeu-Huapai corridor that is consistent with the wishes of the community.

The Mayor has set his first suggested rate rise. Under the new Auckland legislation it is now up to him to set the maximum rate, taking into account all the things he wants to achieve.

Although the projects in the LTCCP will make up the bulk of the 2011/2012 Annual Plan there will be the chance to make minor changes. The Council has also resolved to have hearings all around the District.

Finally, work will begin next year on setting policy, who pays, who benefits. There will be a discussion on targeted rates amongst other things. Some of the current Councils have free swimming pools, for example, and that will be a debate that should be quite lively! "What swimming pool?" I will be asking.

Altogether it's shaping up to be an interesting year. The opportunity to be involved in shaping this year will be wide and varied. Knowing the passion in your communities I'm sure you will be at the forefront of discussions.



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Youth camp focused on gratitude

Te Awaroa Youth Club (TAYC) held another very successful youth summer camp in late January, this year focusing on the theme gratitude.

The five day camp catered for 31 youth from the South Kaipara and further afield.

It was facilitated by TAYC manager Heidi Van Duyn, helped on site by nurse Louisa Miller, chef Eileen Taogaga, TAYC projects coordinator Josephine Palmer, Auckland Council youth development facilitator Nicola Reid,

Auckland Council cultural advisor Richard Nahi and TAYC Tutor Charmaine Auvae.

The teams of teenagers were led by youth leaders Fredrick Dill, LeRoy Van Duyn, Christopher Kelly and Malachi Humphris.

The camp was packed with motivational activities that focused on exploring personal boundaries, campaigning youth development, resourcefulness, creativity, mental development and physical achievement.

They included flounder fishing, kayaking, a night out in bush, fishing from boats, musicals, plays, a drug and alcohol free dance party, 'Survivor' and 'Fear Factor'-style challenges, a Treaty of Waitangi workshop, learning the history of the

South Kaipara area, community service and sports.

"I see gratitude or lack of it as a common concern with teenagers. The young people at camp embraced the theme with both hands, showing in various ways how important 'being grateful' is," says Heidi.

"We look forward to offering next year's camp with a theme of 'consequence'."

TAYC would like to thank funding providers Community Organisation Grants Scheme, Lotteries Commission, ASB Trust and the former Rodney District Council, and the generous men who gave time to take the youth fishing on their boats - Hans Van Duyn jr, Noel Higham and Kevin Wright.

For more information on TAYC events, camps, weekly programs visit www.teawaroayouthclub.co.nz or call Josephine Palmer, phone 420 7977.



• Participants in the 2011 youth camp

Sunny Days raising cash for playground

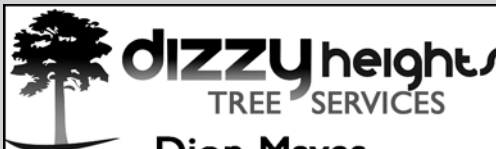
Sunnydays Early Childhood Centre in Commercial Road is extending its playground, and wants help from locals.

For a \$50 donation, locals can 'buy' a river boulder which will be installed in the landscaped garden with an acrylic label attached to mark the donation.

Also available are timber planter boxes for \$250, which will be named with a brass plate to acknowledge the donor.

Any cash donations are also welcome, and for those wanting to make a larger donation there are major items such as shade sails, soft fall matting and other new equipment which can be contributed towards.

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town talk

community titbits from town and around

■ ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

The next meeting of the Helensville Arthritis Support Group is on Thursday, February 17, 10 am at 2 Raabia Close, Parakai, hosted by Ina and John Stoner. All welcome; gold coin donation appreciated. Morning tea supplied. At the meetings members learn from each other how to cope with arthritis through exchange of information and discussion, in a friendly and informal meeting once a month. Guest speakers are invited from time to time. Contact Merle Griffiths 420 8774 or Ina Stoner 420 7875.

■ KKK SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR

Kaukapakapa School holds its biennial Country Fair on Saturday, February 19. Free entry. The event will feature games and activities for all ages, food stalls, a major auction, quick fire raffles, a silent auction, a white elephant sale and more. Contact Tracy Bronlund, email tracyb@bpl.co.nz.

■ FITNESS LEAGUE

The Helensville Fitness League has just started classes for 2011. Run by Christine Mowat, the classes incorporate elements of dance, exercise and yoga choreographed to music. The aim is to improve balance, agility, co-

ordination and rhythmic ability. Classes are held 10am every Friday at the Masonic Hall, Kowhai St. For more information phone Christine, 420 7108 or 021 260 2190.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Kaukapakapa's next Village Market is on Sunday, February 20 from 8:30am to 1pm. Contact Sarah, phone 420 9175 or Kim, phone 420 5776.

■ PONY CLUB O.D.E.

Helensville Pony Club will hold a One Day Event on Sunday, March 6 at the Helensville Showgrounds. Contact club secretary Michelle Gillard, phone 420 8344, or email her at arabian99@xtra.co.nz.

■ PORCINI WINS AWARD

Porcini Bistro & Pizzeria in Commercial Road has just been awarded the New Zealand Beef & Lamb Excellence Award for 2011. It is the fourth year in a row the restaurant has won the accolade (previously called the NZ Beef & Lamb Hallmark of Excellence).

The restaurant is also now able to offer its entire menu gluten-free, appealing to those who suffer the from coeliac disorder.

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For Advertising:

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Letters to the Editor: should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.

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