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Police deny claim gangs here in large numbers

Police have refuted a claim by New Zealand First deputy leader and police spokesperson Ron Mark that more than 70 high ranking gang members have moved into the Helensville and Kumeu areas.

Mr Mark made the claim during parliamentary question time on February 16 and in a subsequent press release, saying the gang members have moved here "as a direct result of police under-resourcing."

But Inspector Mark Fergus, Rodney Area Commander for the police, says: "Our intelligence does not support [Mr Mark's] statement that 'over 70 high ranking gang members' reside in Helensville and Kumeu."

"However, we are aware of the presence of patched outlaw motorcycle gang members residing in these communities, as they do in many other communities across the country, both urban and rural."

Mr Mark questioned the Minister of Police, Judith Collins in parliament on whether she knew about the activities of the Hell's Angels gang in Kumeu and Helensville.

While claiming no knowledge of the matter, Ms Collins said the Government takes organised crime "extremely seriously."

"The members of the Hell's Angels and other ridiculous gangs are involved in very serious criminal activities and we have a plan to crack down on them," she said.

That plan is the lengthily-named 'Whole-of-Government Action Plan to Reduce the Harms caused by New Zealand Adult Gangs and Transnational Crime Groups'.

The plan brings Government agencies together to gather, share and analyse information on adult gang members and gang prospects in New Zealand.

It's a multi-agency approach involving intelligence-gathering, enhanced law enforcement, prevention, intervention, rehabilitation

and reintegration to address gangs and transnational crime groups.

"[It] is not just about enforcement," says Inspector Fergus. "It's also about strengthening families and inspiring the children at the bottom of the family tree, creating different and positive pathways, and reducing the harms gangs disproportionately represent. This is long-haul, inter-generational work."

He says that locally, police work on a number of levels to reduce the harm caused by gang members.

"This includes enforcement of road rules, monitoring motorcycle gang runs, and gathering intelligence to pass to our organised crime units."

Inspector Fergus says members of the public should speak to their local Community Constable or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 about suspicious activities or movements of patched gang members.

Ella nabs a top prize



This is Ella Glasson, a little 7-year-old who won big at the Helensville A&P Show on Saturday, February 27.

Ella, in Year 3 at Helensville Primary, won the 'stitched article' class for children at the show, and then was chosen as champion from the winners of three classes.

For her efforts, Ella won a fabulous new Bernette Rome 5 sewing machine, donated to the show by Cheryl Houston, owner of All Things Patchwork in Waimauku.

The A&P Show went off without a hitch in perfect weather, and we've got a whole range of pictures on pages 8 and 9.

WIN for Easter

You can win a bunch of Easter goodies with Allsorts and Helensville News.

It's easy - simply count every Easter Egg in this issue (some may be hiding, and don't forget to check the Allsorts advert!), then go into Allsorts in Commercial Road and ask Jenny for an entry form. All correct entries will go in a draw to win a container full of Easter treats, courtesy of Allsorts.

Entries close Thursday, March 25, and the winner will be drawn on Easter Saturday, March 27.



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editorial

There was a huge, collective sigh of relief from the organisers of the Helensville A&P Show when the weather gods decided to spare the event the forecast terrible weather. In fact if anything the weather was *too* good - it was swelteringly hot, but that didn't deter thousands of people from enjoying what was an extremely successful event.

It's always heartening to see so many locals come together to prepare for and run the show; it's pretty impressive that after 114 years, it's an event that still excites the local population and which seems to get better each year.

I was asked to be a photography steward for the show more than 30 years ago, and as seems to happen, once you're in, you're in for life - I'm now the senior steward, and 'official' show photographer to boot (not sure how that happened!). If you didn't make it to the show, you can check out our photo coverage on pages 8 and 9 to see what you missed; if you're on Facebook, there are more photos on our page, too.

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters



I have to say *Helensville News* is my most favoured local paper to read - I love all of your articles. Thanks so much for putting this together each month.

- Danielle Hancock

Chairperson, North West District Business Association

Hunt on for old school hall doors

A pair of large, arched, iron-bound wooden doors, which may be gracing a Kaukapakapa farm barn, could have a significant history to them.

Auckland Grammar School is trying to track down the original doors from its school hall, which were removed and sold in 1957 - the school believes to a Kaukapakapa farmer for use on his barn.

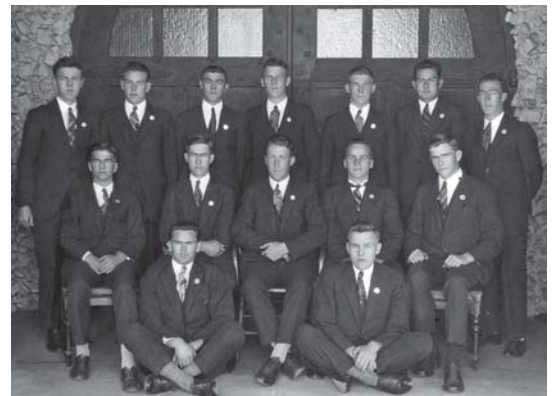
Next month Auckland Grammar will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the hall - and the school in its present location - in 1916 by then Governor General, Arthur Foljambe, the 2nd Earl of Liverpool.

The school was originally opened in 1869 in Howe Street, and shifted to Symonds Street around 1878, before moving into the purpose-built Californian Mission-style building in Mountain Road, Epsom, in 1916.

The hall doors were removed for renovations in 1957 in an effort to let more light into the hall.

If any Kaukapakapa farmer has the doors, the school would like to hear from them - but don't worry, it doesn't want the doors back, but would just like to find out what happened to them.

Any information on the whereabouts of the doors should be directed to Auckland Grammar School archivist Mr Paul Paton, email: p.paton@ags.school.nz or phone 09 623 5639.



• Auckland Grammar prefects in front of the hall doors

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Petition to push for SH16 upgrades

An online petition aimed to push the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) into upgrading State Highway 16 already has almost 2500 signatures, and organiser Phelan Pirrie is hoping to get 5000 on board.

Phelan says the highway, the main route in and out of our district, is "congested and dangerous".

"Our district is growing fast, and over the next few years thousands of homes will be built bringing thousands more residents.

"NZTA promotes SH16 as an alternative to SH1 and it has become a popular tourist route. Traffic congestion and public safety will get worse unless the problems are urgently addressed by NZTA," he says.

The petition asks the NZTA to look at five specific areas:

1. Widening of SH16 between Brighams Creek and Huapai to four lanes to ease traffic congestion.

2. Construction of a new intersection at the junction of SH16 and the Coatesville Riverhead Highway to cope with growth and improve public safety.

3. Fast-tracking the Tapu Road/Station Road/SH16 realignment.

4. Urgently reviewing speed limits in areas where public safety is poor, such as Waimauku and Kaukapakapa.

5. Construction of passing lanes, guard rails and median barriers to improve public safety in identified areas between Brighams Creek and Wellsford.



It also calls on the NZTA to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for SH16, working with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and the community to identify critical infrastructure and budgets for the next 15 years.

The petition can be signed online at: www.change.org/p/nzta-fix-state-highway-16.

Phelan says construction starts this year on the two Special Housing Areas (SHAs) at Huapai of more than 2500 houses.

"When these SHAs were announced in 2013 by the Government we were assured that infrastructure would be provided to cope with the fast-tracked housing.

"There are already over 1000 houses under construction or nearing completion in the area. NZTA has had three years to plan for growth, and nothing substantial has happened," says Phelan.

"Taxpayers should reasonably expect a major State Highway will receive timely investment to cope with growth and allow residents to travel safely."

One bright spot on the horizon is the long-awaited Waimauku roundabout, originally slated for construction in 2020. That was moved forward to this year as the result of a local petition which raised 900 signatures. Work was due to start this month, but has been put back until October because of delays with the compulsory purchase of some small blocks of land for the project.

Check phone numbers for local directory

The Lions Club of Helensville is in the final stages of putting its 2016 Community Directory together, to be distributed in April.

Directory organisers have discovered a number of people have been dropped off the phone number list the club purchases from the Yellow Pages Group, says club member Lyn Curran - usually as a result of people changing their telephone provider, or making changes to their telephone plans with their existing provider.

He suggests people check their listing on the White Pages website -

www.whitepages.co.nz - to ensure their information is present and correct. If there is anything wrong either phone 0800 803 803 or email: help@yellow.co.nz. If emailing, copy the email to the Lions Club at: helensvillebooks@gmail.com so the organisers can ensure the correct information is in the new directory.

Lyn says it's not too late for business owners to advertise in the directory. Anyone interested should either complete and return the form on page 56 of the current directory, or phone Lyn on 420 9349.

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New principal for college



When new Kaipara College principal Patrick Gale (above) was looking for his first position as a school head, he knew exactly what sort of school he wanted to lead.

"I knew what I was after, and Kaipara ticked a lot of the boxes," he says.

That wish list included being a real community school, having good facilities, and having potential for growth – the latter a "biggie" says Patrick.

"I wanted a school where I thought I could go upwards."

Patrick says he had quite a lot to do with Maori students at his previous school and really enjoyed that, so the strong Maori community here was an added draw – as was Kaipara's reputation for excellence in music and drama.

"Kaipara's a good-sized school. You are able to know the kids personally here rather than get lost in a sea of faces. My challenge for this year is to get to know as many as possible."

Originally from Devon in England, Patrick first came to New Zealand in 2001, after advertising for an exchange position in the Education Gazette. He ended up at Rosmini College in Takapuna, where he had a "great year".

He returned to England with his then girlfriend Kate, whom he married on his return before selling up everything and moving permanently to New Zealand in 2003. He stepped straight back into Rosmini College, first as Year 13 Dean, then Head of Geography, before becoming part of that school's senior management team.

He's been there ever since, until taking over the helm at Kaipara College at the start of this year from John Grant, who stepped down last year after 18 years as head of the school.

"I got the opportunity to grow there [Rosmini]. It kept me engaged, it kept me learning, which I was keen to do."

Wife Kate, also a teacher, is on the staff at Rangitoto College, and the couple's two children go to school on the North Shore;

they live at Mairangi Bay, so Patrick says at least initially he'll be commuting to Kaipara College.

Patrick wasn't a complete newcomer to the Helensville area, having friends at Muriwai and having competed in the Rodney Coast Challenge as well as cycling around the area. He read up about the town in back issues of *Helensville News*, and visited the college to watch rugby games to help get a feel for the place.

He's a keen sportsman, and has tried his hand at many different sports. He has played a lot of hockey in the past, as well as social soccer. He's been coaching school hockey and has previously managed Northern region rugby teams and the North Harbour under-18s. He also enjoys surfing, but freely admits: "I'm a very bad surfer!"

Patrick believes it is very important for students to take part in extra-curricular activities, whatever form that takes.

"It allows teachers to see them in a different light, it allows them to grow a whole range of skills which benefits them both inside and outside the classroom."

Taking over the principal's role at Kaipara hasn't been without hiccups. About a month after being accepted for the job, asbestos was found in the main hall building. That meant Patrick, his senior management team, support staff, and some students have had to be temporarily relocated to other areas of the school.

Patrick is sharing a classroom with the rest of the senior management team. However, he says it's more of an inconvenience for the existing staff. In fact, he points out it's been a great opportunity for him to work with the school's senior management team in such close proximity, and he's been able to get to know them really well.

As far as future plans for Kaipara College are concerned, Patrick says: "at the moment I'm all about just looking and

• To page 5

Great response to call for tutors

There has been an "absolutely extraordinary" response to a call for locals to become adult literacy tutors.

"We've had an amazing response," says project co-ordinator Holly Southernwood. "I'm just staggered."

Following an article in the last issue of *Helensville News*, 12 local residents have come forward to volunteer as tutors, with another offering to train them.

The first three budding tutors have already had their first training session with John Latham, who is qualified in adult literacy.

Once fully trained they will be available to teach reading skills to local adults who have difficulty reading.

Holly says the budding tutors are a diverse group and several already have some teaching experience. Eight are women and four men.

The programme came about after a number of local adults, primarily men, were found to have limited reading skills when trying to create work CVs to use to register with Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ).

Holly expects the initial intake of clients will be mainly men, and be referred through WINZ, although further down the track clients are expected to be suggested by other sources, such as local schools.

"I imagine WINZ will keep us busy in the initial stage."

Clients will initially be assessed by John to determine their literacy level, and then assigned a volunteer tutor. Tutors may be reassigned depending on a client's requirements or preferences.

"As far as the volunteers go, it's entirely up to them how much they take on," says Holly.

The exact nuts and bolts of how the literacy programme will eventually turn out will be developed gradually.

"We're kind of making it up as we go," explains Holly.

As with many such community initiatives, funding is an issue she says.

Frank Veacock at the South Kaipara Men's Trust (SKMT), which is the driving force behind the literacy programme, is hoping to attract funding to purchase a couple of laptop computers for use by tutors and clients says Holly.

She is hopeful local businesses may offer to sponsor the programme.

Anyone wanting to volunteer as a tutor, or any business wanting to discuss sponsorship of the programme, should phone Holly on 021 488 427, John Latham on 027 318 0501, or Frank at SKMT on 420 8263 (Thursdays and Fridays only).

College principal (cont...)

• From page 4

listening and trying to find out as much as I can from the students, the parents and the community, and once I've got that information I'll look to plan more strategically into the future."

He has "some initial impressions", but wants to consult widely and "get everyone on board and moving in a common direction".

"My job is not just to accept the status quo, it is also to challenge the status quo and see how we can improve the school," he explains.

He will focus on continuing to raise the

academic achievement of the students, while ensuring they still retain the strong set of values the school has been pushing.

"I'm very much a fan of values-based education, but I think academic achievement has to be at the forefront of what all schools are trying to achieve."

Patrick says the role at Kaipara has "grown drastically" and is almost 700 now – more counting the short-term international students.

"There are some good teachers here, some great kids. They've been pretty friendly and welcoming to me."

"We need to make people see the value of what Kaipara College has to offer."

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Artist on creative residency



Helensville artist Arwen Flowers is on a month-long creative residency during March.

The talented painter and graphic designer, who has exhibited around Auckland for more than 20 years, is spending the month at The Waygood Foundation in Piha. Her residency there was awarded by Earthskin Muriwai, a charitable trust whose mission is environmental stewardship to foster and inspire the creative arts.

While there she will be looking at how to incorporate photographic images into her work beyond drawing or painting.

"Photography is one of the common methods used to record the world around us so I've been thinking it would be an ideal medium to express ideas about cataloging and collecting.

"I am curious about the results of recording a specimen or location with a collector/researcher's approach and then working with the resulting images from an artist's perspective."

When Arwen studied photography at the Elam School of Fine Arts, from where she graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, she didn't really move beyond the darkroom. The Earthskin residency will allow her to explore the importance of the initial images as an integral part of her work.

Her objective during the residency is to explore ideas around collecting and cataloging as a way of promoting native species preservation, and the relationship those practices have with supporting a bio-diverse, sustainable future.

It is the first time Arwen has been granted an artist's residency, and she says it will be the longest period of concentrated art-

making she's done since art school.

Arwen has had to take leave from her job as a graphic designer for Auckland Transport in its Henderson design studio to complete the residency, which will include giving a talk at the Earthskin on March 27.

Arwen, her husband Mark, who is the national studio operations manager for Foodstuffs at Mt Roskill, and their children



• Arwen at work in her home studio

moved to Helensville about four and a half years ago.

"We felt Helensville was a community-minded, rural place that had all we needed - schools, doctors, supermarket - and we could afford it back then!"

• To page 7



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Creative residency (cont...)

• From page 6

Arwen, who was recently featured in Verve magazine, grew up around the Waitakere Ranges and West Coast beaches - her mother was a painter - and they feature heavily in her current work.

"I love the rugged coast line, smell of the bush and sea. The atmosphere of the place. I grew up in Waitakere so it feels like 'home'; I find it restorative to go on beach walks particularly," says Arwen.

Her studies at Elam included two years of photography, followed by tutoring in the arts by well-known artists such as Don Binney and Dick Frizzell. Now, she works primarily from photographs, and while almost exclusively using acrylics up to 2014, her paintings are now roughly a fifty-fifty split between acrylics and oils.

"It depends on the weather, the time I have available and the look of the work I'm trying to achieve."

At a rough estimate, she can spend anywhere from 20 to 50 hours on a painting.

"It really does depend on size, detail in the composition, the media. Sometimes a

piece comes together with good flow, sometimes it's difficult and I don't want to look at it for a while," she says.

Over the past couple of years Arwen's paintings have changed quite dramatically, from abstract to depicting more realistic West Coast landscapes.

"I'm enjoying the style of painting I have been developing for the last few years and don't feel the need to make any radical changes, however I am relishing exploring the alternative media that I'm employing with the residency work," she says.

"I don't see it taking over from the painting post-residency, but I can imagine it continuing on. Change is not really something I plan, but it does happen as a result of exploration, so I guess I can't rule it out, even though I am especially striving for consistency in my painting."

Arwen was the driving force behind a collaborative art gallery - called simply 'The Gallery' - which opened in Commercial Road in Helensville in August, 2012 and opened at weekends for around 18 months, run on a roster-basis to provide low-cost exhibition space for local artists.

medical centre notes

Ingrown toenails are a common and painful problem, with teenagers being particularly susceptible. They can cause painful swelling, recurrent infections with redness, swelling and pus - not nice to look at in summer in jandals.

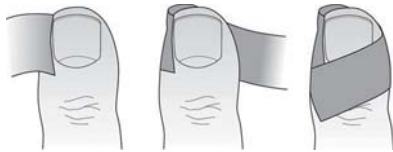
Prevention is key, and when cutting nails the advice is:

- Cut toenails either straight across or with a gentle curve, taking care not to cut too deeply down into the corners of the nail; podiatry-grade clippers may be required to cut tough, thick nails.
- Use a nail file to prevent jagged edges and create a smooth, rounded edge. A Black's file (a thin file designed to clear debris from the nail sulcus [gutter] and file the edge of the nail) is recommended as the thin design helps to access difficult to reach areas, such as the spicule.

If the nail does become ingrown, the taping method pictured here can help the nail to grow out. If this does not work we can do a surgical solution where a wedge of the nail is removed to its base on the side of the nail that is ingrown, and the growth matrix chemically burnt to stop it regrowing on that edge. However, despite this there is still a 30 to 50 percent regrowth rate.

On another matter, we are expecting the seasonal flu vaccines to arrive this month.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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The 114th Helensville A&P Show

Bad weather that threatened all week to disrupt the Helensville A&P Show stayed away - and that meant the crowds visited in their thousands, in perfect conditions, for what turned out to be another highly successful show. Here's a selection of photos taken on the day. More are available on our Facebook page and the A&P Show's Facebook page. (all images copyright 2016 Helensville News 2011 Ltd)



• Ribbons in the pigtails, ribbons on the horse...



• Spent cartridges fly from a machine gun during a live firing demonstration by the WWII Re-enactment Society



• We're not sure who's enjoying this more - the dog or the owner!



• Using a very large excavator to pick up a very small egg



• Making clearing the jumps look easy



• Penning reluctant sheep in the dog trials competition



• Concentration, muscles and sweat in the woodchopping



in pictures



• Part of the WWII Re-enactment Society's large - and popular - display



• Wheelbarrow slalom action in the Junior Farmer competition. Local school children competed in several different practical events and ended with a speech contest



• Showing cattle is an A&P Show mainstay - and the entrants, and their entries, come in all sizes and ages



• Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade drew a big crowd with its demonstration of cutting a car open using the 'jaws of life'

GENERAL MANAGER HEALTH TRUST

After 25 years our current Manager, Charm Torrance is retiring and the Trust is looking for an energetic, passionate and strategic leader to continue the good work towards achieving its vision of being 'The Healthiest Rural Community in New Zealand'.

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Please apply in writing to:

Mrs A Wright, Secretary. PO Box 13 Helensville 0840
or email: awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz.

Closing date 24th March, 2016.



Helensville
District Health Trust

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ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS Monday April 25th, 2016



RSA

KAIPARA MEMORIAL RSA (Inc)

The Kaipara Memorial RSA Inc invites the people of the district to join us in commemorating the ANZAC Day landing at Gallipoli. The format for the day is as follows:

05.50 Fall In	Dawn Parade at the Parakai Cenotaph.
06.45	Service at Soldiers Cemetery Helensville Soldiers Cemetery. Breakfast at the RSA.
09.30	Service at Kaukapakapa.
10.50 Fall In	Main Parade down Commercial Road. Fall-in at Super Liquor car park.

Lunch and refreshments will be available at the RSA rooms following the parade.

If your group would like to march in the main parade, or lay a wreath, please contact the Secretary/Manager by April 20th. Wreaths may be purchased through the RSA and must be ordered by April 20th. Wreaths may be picked up from the RSA on the 25th if desired.

Secretary/Manager: Graham Matthews Ph 420 8888

'3 For All' exhibition kicks off busy few weeks at Art Centre

The first '3 for All' exhibition at the new Helensville Art Centre below the Helensville War Memorial Hall is on now, until March 26.

The twice-yearly event, at which locals can exhibit any piece of work for just \$3 per

item (or \$1 for those aged 16 or under), has run since 2011 at the Art Centre's previous home in Karaka Street.

Works on show do not need to be for sale – locals are welcome to exhibit artworks simply because they are proud of them.

While entries for the exhibition officially closed last Thursday, Art Centre co-ordinator Pauline Denton says she will be happy to accept late entries from Tuesday, March 8 up to Thursday, March 10.

Pauline says past 3 For All exhibitions have shown the great diversity of work produced locally, from Marion Taylor's painted skull to artful clothing by Kim Nesbit, Avon Aspden's detailed pen and ink stippling animals to works from people with severe physical restrictions.

The 3 For All exhibition is only part of what's happening at the Art Centre in the coming weeks, including a series of free artists' talks.

On Monday, March 14 at 7pm ceramic artist Ann Crane, a four-time Portage Award nominee, will speak at the Art Centre. She has a unique approach to her work, creating



• Helensville artist Jayne Thomas with one of her paintings

such things as a ceramic wedding cake.

Two weeks later, Helensville's Jayne Thomas, noted for taking a blowtorch to her works to create distressed paint effects, will talk at 7pm on Monday, March 28.

Finally, on Monday April 11, Art Centre manager, artist and Kaipara Coast Sculpture Trail curator Sally Lush will speak at 7pm.

There are classes coming up too.

At the time of going to print there was just one place left for a two-day Ceramics with Susan Browne class. Participants will make a piece on Saturday, March 12 from 10.30am to 2.30pm, then glaze if on Saturday, March 26th, at the same times.

On Saturday, March 19 Jo Bain will run a 'Collage for all Ages' workshop from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The cost is \$10.



• Kim Nesbit with her clothing at a previous '3 For All' exhibition

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South Head



22nd year for Waioneke School golf tournament

Waioneke School will hold its 22nd annual golf tournament at South Head Golf Course on Friday, April 8.

The popular event is a major fund raiser for the school. Last year 25 teams competed and raised \$11,900. Funds raised this year will go towards the school's environmental upgrade.

The tournament will begin with a 10am shotgun start, and there will be competitions for putting, the longest drive and closest to the pin, as well as spot prizes and a prize for the best dressed-up team.

Competitors will be greeted with warm home-made savouries on arrival. There will be an on-course barbeque, and home baking and beverages will be delivered to teams on the course.

There are a range of business sponsorship packages available, starting with a basic \$280 team of four, and hole sponsorship is also available.

Registrations for the event close on Friday, March 18. For more information phone Waioneke School on 420 2884 or email: waionekeschoolgolfday@gmail.com.

New clay art workshops for kids

A new series of fun clay art workshops for five to 12 year olds are designed to stretch the children's imagination and creativity.

The first one-hour workshop is on Saturday, March 12th, and subsequent workshops will be on the second Saturday of each month from 10.30am. The cost is \$25 per child, and they will create beautifully colourful pieces that don't require any firing.

The classes have been held around Auckland since 2009, and are suitable for groups of up to 40 children.

Bookings are essential. Contact Amanda on 021 148 3821, email info@claymaster.co.nz or visit: www.claymaster.co.nz.

The workshops will be held in the Helensville Art Centre, in the basement of the Helensville War Memorial Hall.



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Kids Kitchen Club a success!

The inaugural Kids Kitchen Club was held during January's South Kaipara Harvest Market at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai, and introduced children to the skill of sushi making. The two sushi sessions were a huge success, with all 21 places fully booked in advance. The excited children were instructed by Keryn Reardon, Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai's new Kitchen Manager. Keryn's ethos is that food doesn't need to be complicated or time intensive, it just needs to be fresh, which she says is a great message to be teaching children of the community.

"It is so great to have so many of our kids having fun at our Kids Kitchen Club" she says. "If we can get them interested and finding out what is in our food and how easy it is to have good food, then we can put them on the road to make good choices in the future."

The next Kids Kitchen Club is 'Pizza Pizza' so come and roll, toss and spin your own flavours using fresh local produce! Suitable for children aged 3 years and over, it will be held during the next Harvest Market on the 28 February in the Ruru Room at 10.00am and 11.30am. The cost is \$5 per child and places are limited to ten children. Contact Keryn on kitchen@thrivokaipara.org.nz or (09) 420 9983.

Children play safely thanks to the Helensville Lions Club

The children who visit Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai can now play safely on the grassed area outside the Kidd Room. Thanks to the work of the Helensville Lions Club, who kindly relocated and installed a recycled fence from the Helensville Women & Family Centre.

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai wants to hear from you!

It's hard to believe that it's only been a year since Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai opened its doors to the communities of South Kaipara. Collaboration with the community is at the heart of Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai – and the staff, the Steering Group, and the Helensville District Health Trust Board are keen to know what the community thinks about the centre and what it offers.

During the South Kaipara Harvest Market on Sunday 27 March, there will be the opportunity to provide feedback. Comments may also be emailed to info@thrivokaipara.org.nz during the week 21 March to 4 April, or dropped into the centre.

Wide range of local involvement celebrated at

Gabrielle Hildreth 1925 - 2016

Gabrielle (Gay) Hildreth was born in Whakatane in 1925. From age five her family moved first to Dargaville, then on to Opotiki, Whangarei and finally settling in Rotorua when Gay was 12. In all she attended seven different primary schools.

After two years at Rotorua High School, she became a boarder at Epsom Girls Grammar in Auckland before gaining a scholarship to the University of Auckland where she graduated in 1946 with an MA with honours in English.

After a teaching spell at Nelson Girls Grammar School, Gay spent two years overseas with life-long friends Barbara Guy and Frae Walters, teaching in England and travelling around Europe by car, camping everywhere.

She returned to Epsom Girls Grammar to teach from 1953 to 1955. Two of her former students spoke at her funeral of Gay's brilliance as a teacher, inspiring in her students a love of literature and the skills of writing and speaking.

Gay's friend Barbara came from Woodhill, and while attending her wedding there, Gay met local farmer Peter Hildreth. After her teaching at Epsom, Gay moved to Fiji to teach, but decided to return to New

Zealand to marry Peter in 1956.

Becoming a farmer's wife at Woodhill meant a very different lifestyle, but Gay embraced it with enthusiasm, becoming involved in local activities such as the tennis club and the Drama Circle of the Country Women's Institute.

Sons Guy, Johnny and Brian were

to their grandparents in Rotorua.

Gay's interest in education lead her and a group of other Helensville women to set up a local branch of the Playcentre movement in the early 1960s. The playcentre still functions in Helensville today.

When her sons were older, Gay took up a tutoring position in 1971 in the English Department at the University of Auckland, which she held for many years. During these years she also wrote and published short stories, and for a number of years was a docent at Auckland Art Gallery.

In 1970 Gay bought a bach at Stanmore Bay, Whangaparaoa, overlooking the bay and close to the beach. This became her sanctuary; she used to say that she could be herself there.

With Gay's love of music and drama, and Peter's expertise in making and fixing equipment, it was no surprise the Hildreths were involved with the Helensville Players in the mid-1960s. In the company's first production, 'The Lisbon Story' (1965), Gay was amused to be asked play the young female lead.

When the Kaipara Toastmistress branch was formed in the mid-1970s Gay joined and soon became a leading light in all aspects of

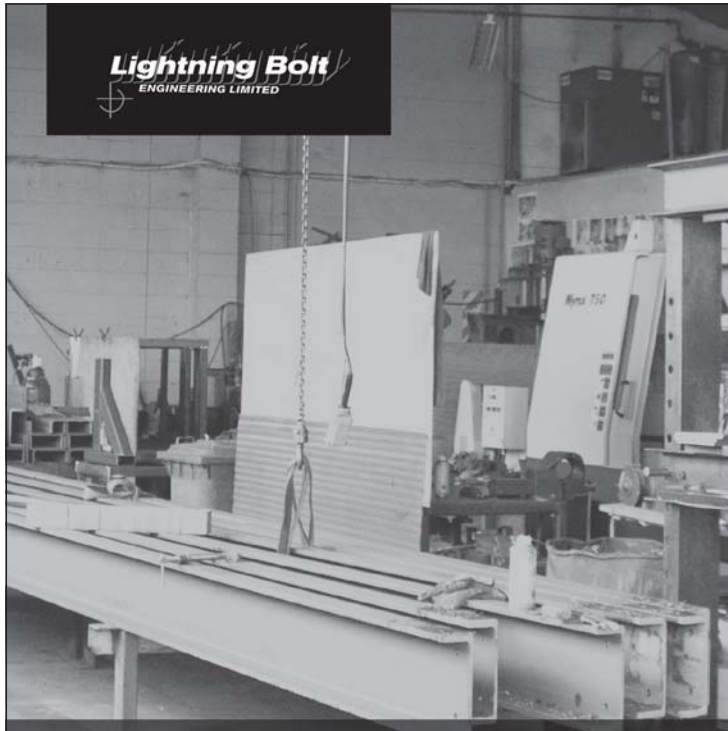
• To page 13



• Gay Hildreth

brought up involved in all the farming and motoring interests of their father, and taken on adventurous holidays with their mother and the Woods (Barbara Guy) and Blanshard (Frae Walters) families, and often





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passing of Gay Hildreth

• From page 12

speech making, meeting procedures and in particular encouraged debating. The club was a great training ground and confidence building organisation and Gay mentored and encouraged many new members. Her sense of humour was greatly appreciated.

Gay was a keen traveller, and with friends or on her own visited many countries, travelling to places such as South America and Mongolia.

When Gay joined the Helensville and District Historical Society she saw a need to record the stories held in particular by the older residents of the district. In the 1980s the Oral History project received funding, and the current collection of more than 90 tapes was gradually built up. Each recording involved hours of preparation, interviews, recording, editing and transcription, and Gay

formed a team of helpers. Copies of the oral histories are held at the Alexander Turnbull Library and Auckland Public Library, as well as Helensville Museum.

When the Society decided to make a book of stories of pioneering women as a millenium project, Gay was one of the writing/editing team for what became 'Pioneering Women of South Kaipara', published in July 2000. In recognition of her valuable contributions to the written and spoken recordings, Gay was made a Patron of the Historical Society.

As well as her interest and contribution to many local organisations, Gay had a love of flowers, gardening and crafts, and was active in the Floral Art Club and the Spinning Group. Gay was an encourager and a mentor to novice members.

- Wynne HaySmith

'Movie in a Day' project returns

Helensville Art Centre's popular 'Make a Movie in a Day' with Hank Snell is returning on Saturday, April 23.

Subsidised by the Creative Communities Scheme, the fast-paced workshop will cost \$45 to take part in.

Participants will spend the Saturday from



• Hank Snell with participants at the last 'Movie in a Day' workshop

10.30am to 4.30pm making a short movie, and then attend the movie premiere – open to the general public – the next day at 7pm.

Hank starts the day with a brainstorming session, then ties everyone's ideas together into a single 'plot' before assigning people tasks to create the movie.

Participants are encouraged to bring along any props, costumes, musical instruments or other items they may want to use. They will receive a DVD of their completed movie.

Three movies made at previous workshops, lasting about three minutes each, are looped onto a DVD playing at the Art Centre and include some stop frame animation with Lego and some puppets that one participant bought along.

Hank is no newcomer to making short films. He has worked in both his native Canada and the UK, receiving an invitation to Buckingham Palace as recognition for a movie he made with a disabled young man.

The Art Centre is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm, and Saturdays from 10am to 3pm.

For more information email Pauline at coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz or phone her on 021 158 6859.



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from the frontline

For anyone that didn't know, Neighbours Day will be held this month on March 19 and 20. Neighbours Day is a celebration of community spirit, and aims to build positive connections within a neighbourhood. It's been running in New Zealand for the past eight years, initially starting in Auckland City.



Neighbours are important because strong relationships with neighbours can, and do, change a community. Being socially connected also makes people feel good, reducing feelings of loneliness, isolation and depression. By being connected with your neighbours you can swap fear and solitude with friendship and support, especially with the elderly and vulnerable.

Having a neighbourhood that communicates amongst its residents is instrumental in the fight against crime, and builds a sense of community well-being and safety. Communities definitely work better when people know and communicate with their neighbours.

So if you haven't already, why not start thinking about a street barbeque or a pot luck dinner, to catch up with the neighbours you know and meet the ones you don't? I know I regularly think about organising a street barbeque and then never seem to get around to actually going through with it.

Or if you haven't got the time for a barbeque or dinner how about just popping over to the neighbours for a cuppa? Dropping off a cake to the people that moved in a few months back just to introduce yourself? Any small, simple gesture has to be better than doing nothing.

Or why not do something productive and organise a park clean up near your home, or a chalk drawing competition with all the kids in the neighbourhood?

The NZ Neighbours Day website is <http://neighboursday.org.nz> - it has heaps of ideas and resources to get you started in making this community just that little bit better.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable

Waka Ama teams off to world champs



Two Kaipara College Waka Ama teams will compete at the IVF Va'a World Club Sprint Championships on the Gold Coast of Australia in May.

They qualified at the Te Wānanga o Aotearoa Waka Ama Sprint Nationals at Lake Karapiro where 1762 teams competed.

The U16 Boys team 'KC U Later' of (L-R below) James Freshwater, Daniel Way, Andrew Kelly, Daniel Calder, Liam Otto, Max Lusty, qualified fourth in New Zealand in the W6 1000 event and sixth fastest in the W6 500.



The Under 19 Girls team 'Hakuna Matata' were fourth in the women's W6 500 event and fifth in the W6 1000. Team members (right) are L-R: Tara Mansell-Sawyers, Sativa Tarau-Peehikuru, Sophie Fisher, Carissa Mansell-Sawyers, Anna Lawton, Keegan Cooper.



with Kaipara chef, Peter Brennan

Chilli

We are big chilli fans in my household. We began with a taste for sweet chilli sauce and have progressed to hotter and more pungent sauces with time. Sweet chilli sauce just tastes, well, sweet to me these days, with a small hit of heat. I have also steadily reduced the sugar in my diet over the past couple of years and now find enjoyment in the complexities of sour and bitter flavours - natural back canvas flavours to the heat of peppers.

We also began to make fermented foods a couple of years ago, when we realised that loading up the freezer each year with the excess produce from the garden meant we were dependant on power to keep our food intact for the winter.

I have always bottled fruit and tomatoes etc, which involves cooking and boiling and sterilised jars, which to be honest can be a bit of a chore in the hot late summer. The first fermented food I made was sauerkraut. It was one of the easiest things to make, required little attention once it was under way, and the end result was happy in a jar and stored in the pantry.

Fermenting foods for storage is as old as civilisation, it involves using the lacto bacillus freely available in the air we breath along with yeasts and fungi spores that also free float in the atmosphere. Easily attracted to food they are often blamed for spoiling food, but without them there would be no bread, cheese, yoghurt, traditional salami or beer and wine, vinegar ... the list just goes on and on.

■ Chilli Sauce

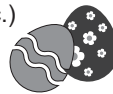
- 1.5kg fresh chilli peppers (Scotch bonnets, Jalapenos, Serranos, cayenne etc.)
- 4 to 6 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 tablespoons unrefined cane sugar
- 2 teaspoons unrefined sea salt
- If you have made sour kraut then the addition of 1/2 cup of the brine or 1/2 cup of water kefir will speed up the process otherwise just add 1/2 cup of filtered water.

Cut the stems off the chilies, but leave their green tops intact. Combine all ingredients in a food processor and process until chopped to a fine pasty texture.

Spoon the chilli paste into a clean glass mason jar to about half full and allow it to ferment, covered, at room temperature for five to seven days. (We cover the jar with a paper towel and secure with a rubber band, this allows the micro organisms to enter but keeps out the insects.)

Allow the chilli paste to bubble and brew for about a week, on the bench in a warm place but out of direct sunlight. If white mould appears just scrape it off and discard, then continue to ferment. Once the seven days are up and the mixture has stopped bubbling press it through a fine sieve with a wooden spoon into a bowl. Then bottle the liquid and store in the fridge. It will keep for many months.

The left over fermented chilli can be also stored in a jar in the fridge and used to flavour stews or cooked into chutneys.



4

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RADIO FLYERS OPEN DAY

The Hibiscus Coast Radio Fliers Club will hold a free Open Day on Sunday, March 13 from 10am to 3pm at Wainui Pony Club, Wainui Road. Up to 50 radio-controlled model aircraft will be on display and flying. No dogs please.

FREE COMPOSTING COURSE

The Compost Collective will hold a free two-hour course on composting at the Lions Lounge at Rautawhiri Park, Helensville, on Tuesday, March 15 from 7pm. The course will provide an introduction to the three basic composting systems - traditional composting bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets.

The purpose of the Auckland Council-supported course is to encourage people to minimise their waste and ideally turn it into compost to be used in their gardens.

Bookings for up to two people per household are essential and can be made online at: www.compostcollective.org.nz.

KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, March 20 from 8.30am to 1pm and featuring live music from Avon Hansen and the Ukulele Union from 10am to midday. There will be the usual selection of craft stalls, plants, organic vegetables, collectibles, food, barista coffee and more. For more information or to book a stall email Sarah at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz or phone 027 483 1542.

SELF PUBLISHING TALK

Chris Else from bookprinting.com will talk about printing and self publishing at the historic Kaukapakapa Library from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, March 20. Aimed at new authors or those considering writing a book, Chris will go over the decisions needed before getting started or getting a book printed. To learn more phone Sarah on 027 483 1542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens is on Sunday, March 27 from 9am to 3pm. Children will be able to search for hidden chocolate Easter eggs along the trail amongst the sculptures and plants. Easter 'bunnies' will be topping up the eggs during the day so that children that come later won't miss out. Children are invited to dress as an Easter bunny, fairy or their favourite fantasy character. Admission is \$10 adult, \$5 children 5 to 13 years, under 5's free and \$25 for a family of 2 adults and 3 children. Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens is on SH16, 4km north of Kaukapakapa.

GARAGE SALE

Kaukapakapa School will hold a garage sale at the Kaukapakapa hall on Saturday, April 2 from 10am to 2pm. There will be clothing, toys, books, movies, music, kitchenware, dinnerware and more. All items must be sold. Money raised will go towards buying an 'archgola' for sun protection for students on outdoor activities. People with items to donate please should phone Jane on 021 269 0081 or Brenda on 0275 734 028.

HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Author and counsellor Jenny Sharkey will talk on 'Heaven Is For Real' at the next meeting of Helensville Aglow, at 7.30pm on Friday, April 1 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville (behind the Hospice Shop). Men and women are welcome. For more information email Yvonne Bartlett: yvonne@hello.net.nz.

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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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