

Museum reopens (some of) its doors

Helensville Museum has re-opened - at least, partially.

The museum closed two years ago after discovery of an infestation of pests, including borer and silverfish. That closure was only meant to be for a couple of months, but once the scale of the job became clear, the closure deadline blew out.

The museum team had to hire a huge industrial container freezer at a cost of \$450 a month, which was installed across Mill Road at the Kaipara Classic Car Club rooms, as the museum didn't have the requisite three-phase power.

Then, every item in the museum's collection made of wood, paper or fabric had to be wrapped in acid-free tissue, sealed in heavy polythene, and then frozen. After freezing they had to then be thawed, unwrapped, cleaned and stored.

The museum buildings themselves were fumigated - but even that wasn't enough to ensure borer in wooden items too large to

freeze were protected - so each individual borer hole had to be injected by hand to kill the bugs inside - an extremely laborious task.

It's been a daunting and expensive task for the museum team, led by president Leigh Bosch, to take back control from the pests. But finally the freezer has been removed, meaning no more visits into the -28 degrees cold, no more struggling to open a frozen-shut door, no more days of lifting, loading and shifting.

An integrated pest management plan has been developed to help ensure the same sorts of problems don't recur in future.

One upside of the process is that it has allowed museum volunteers to photograph and catalogue the entire collection - and resulting in the discovery of many items no-one even knew were in the collection.

The Hector Nicholls Barn, which houses farming, fishing, milling and other equipment, re-opened in March.

Now, both the original Helensville Courthouse, built in 1864 as the first New Zealand Māori Land Court, and Hedley House, which is representative of an Edwardian pioneer dwelling, have re-opened as well.

Those three buildings are now open from 10am to midday Monday to Wednesday, and by appointment for groups. Entry is koha until the museum is fully open again - hopefully in the near future.



• Museum president Leigh Bosch (right) with her vice-president Toni Walmsley celebrate the departure of the freezer

Work is also progressing well in the archives and research centre, with access to family histories again available.

The rest of the museum is still a work in progress, with a lot of work to do restaging rooms, unpacking, cataloguing and archiving items.

From a visitor's point of view, the reorganised museum should be a more attractive prospect, with less cluttered displays, and displays that will be regularly refreshed with other items from storage - meaning repeat visitors will see different things each time they call in.

Helensville & District Historical Society, which runs the museum, is keen to attract more volunteers, too. For more information phone the museum 09 420 7881, or email: helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz.

Community event

A free event - dubbed 'Big Little Local' - is planned for late September.

Being organised by Nikki Horsbrough of Harcourts the Difference, the aim is to connect as many people as possible with local service providers and businesses.

As *Helensville News* went to press the event was still in the early stages of planning, with a proposed date of Saturday, September 25 and venue at Helensville Tennis Club still to be confirmed. We'll have more next issue.

It's planned as a family friendly, hopefully annual event, with live music, light food, entertainment, prizes, and free business stands, which will help to grow a sense of community.

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editorial

The 'Howl of a Protest' organised by Groundswell NZ in towns around the country a couple of weeks ago raised some interesting points.

Firstly, while the ute and tractor 'parade' down the southern motorway and Queen Street looked effective (at least on TV), by contrast our local one, from Mill Road in Helensville to Orewa, looked anything but. While there were a lot of participants, showing that feelings are high among a big sector of the local population, the parade itself was so spaced out, fast moving, and interspersed with other non-protest vehicles pulling into it, that it lost much of its impact. Also, while I assume a decent proportion of the utes were genuine tradie vehicles, an awful lot looked suspiciously, to outsiders, like shiny Epsom tractors rather than work horses.

The protest was also unfortunate in that it seemed to focus the public's attention on the so-called 'ute tax', being brought in by the government on all high-emission vehicles (not just utes) to help fund subsidies for electric and hybrid vehicles. In fact the protest was about a lot more than that - notably things like the huge costs and loss of production being faced by some farmers from being forced to fence waterways and wetlands.

The costs for some of those measures will be crippling for many in the rural sector, whereas an extra \$2000-3000 on top of the cost of a \$50-60,000 ute, while a bitter pill, isn't going to put any farmer or tradie out of business.

I think 'in theory' the tax is a sensible idea, just badly implemented. I cannot see that it is too difficult to exempt genuine commercial users - farmers, trades people, couriers for example. And introducing it before any viable low-emissions alternatives are available seems ill advised. But by the same token I can't see how it's too difficult to remove GST from fresh fruit and vegetables, but we had nine years of the previous government telling us it is. Maybe things are harder for politicians than for mere mortals!

I'm also not sure about the focus on electric vehicles. Once again 'in theory' they are a good idea, especially for a country with predominantly renewable electricity. But how will our creaking power infrastructure cope with potentially millions of electric vehicles drawing from the grid? Not to mention the potential huge environmental impact of battery disposal.

Many car manufacturers are now focusing research into hydrogen vehicles, which seem like a more practical and cleaner option. I can't help feeling that in say 10 years, we'll be told we should be buying hydrogen vehicles and that electric ones have had their day.

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters

Your comment that the people complaining about trees in Commical Road [sic] are the same people who complain about lack of work done in Helensville - they have a perfect right to be those people.

I think the council is doing a PR job by making an in your face "look what we are spending in Helensville for you lucky people". The millions collected in rates, taken out of this local area, is obviously not coming back as improvements.

I did an extensive tour around all of the streets in Helensville yesterday, and was very impressed by the upkeep of most people's homes. They have a pride in their investments. After recently staying and being very impressed in the towns of Thames and Coromandel, the comparison of Helensville main street is huge. In fact part of our main street is disgusting. One may say Thames has tourism to bolster it's finances, but it is not in Auckland Council either.

Still no passing bays on South Head road, and still a lack of practical commercial-zoned land in Helensville. Plenty of very nice trees planted around homes in Helensville.

- Don Nicholls

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Jana Mills



It takes a village...

The African proverb says "it takes a village to raise a child."

Now, locals have the opportunity to put that into practice as part of a just-launched online community platform called Parent Village.

Parent Village is a free social enterprise created by Rowan and Miranda Aish, inspired by their own two children, Dory and Amira.

"We created Parent Village because of our own experience of raising children in a new town, away from our friend and family network," says Rowan. "I think every family experiences difficulty at one stage or another, and it's normal to feel isolated at these times."

"We wanted to make it easier for parents to access support, network with other parents, and get to know their local parent community."

It's aim is to help families develop strong community connections, with the goal of fostering a positive sense of identity and belonging in children, parents and whānau.

Parent Village connects parents with other mums and dads and caregivers near them, as well local family services and activities.

It has just launched a new online community platform for parents in north-west Rodney, spanning from Helensville to Kumeu and Riverhead.

Members will have opportunities to meet other parents face-to-face at 'Village Meets', take part in honest conversations about parenting, and help find practical ways to help new parents, and parents who are new to the area, feel less lonely and more confident in their role.

"We're asking local parents and grandparents to take a look at the website, have a look around, then sign-up to the village that is most interesting to them," says Rowan.

"We would also love to hear from established mums and dads who want to get

involved as local 'guides' or 'village elders', and play a role in forming and maintaining their local parent village group."

Parent Village operates three types of 'villages' - All-in Parent Villages for local parents, grandparents, and caregivers of all ages, stages, and preferences; Village of Mums for local mothers and grandmothers who want to connect with other mums; and Village of Dads, for local fathers and



• Rowan and Miranda Aish with son Dory (left) and daughter Amira

grandfathers who want to hang out with other dads, find support, lend a hand, and share ideas.

Rowan, who has degrees in psychology and social anthropology, works locally for Kindred Family Services as a mens support worker, and rangatahi mentor. Miranda also has a degree in psychology and is completing her masters in developmental psychology.

Visit www.parentvillage.co.nz for more information or to join up.

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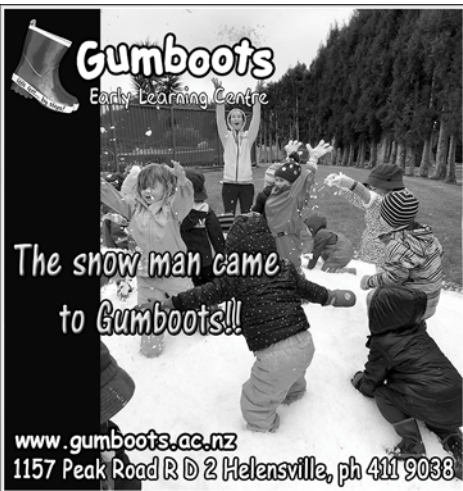
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Covid led to new local business

Built by locals, for locals.

That's the motto for Northwest Cabins, who have been building a range of small cabins at their Mill Road site at the entrance to Helensville since lockdown last year.

Company operations manager Cameron Starr says around 80 percent of the cabins are sold locally. They are used as tiny homes, rental accommodation, baches, and sleepouts.

Being local is important to the business. The owner and Cameron both live at Shelly Beach, and the rest of the six staff are locals too - all except one, but he is about to move to Kaukapakapa.

"We spend a lot of money here, the cabins are being made here, and we are providing work locally," says Cameron, adding they are one of the largest customers for both Warehouse Building Supplies and Mitre 10 in Helensville.

That local ethos also extends to direct community involvement, sponsoring shirts for Helensville Rugby Club, and donating \$3000 - twice the agreed commission - on the \$15,000 sale of a cabin the company provided for the recent South Kaipara Rotary charity auction.

Northwest Cabins is a subsidiary of York Construction and was set up by the owner during the first Covid-19 lockdown as the buildings were considered emergency housing. That meant the company's staff could be kept employed.

Business couldn't be much better, with around 50 cabins already built and the whiteboard in the office packed with jobs on the go, and those still being finalised.

There are four standard sizes available, from 4.8m x 2.4m up to 6m x 3m, with the larger size selling for less than \$40,000 fully

equipped with a kitchenette, toilet and shower with gas hot water. Most are finished to customers' specifications.

Cameron says that renting one out can see a cabin recoup its initial cost in about three years.

Around two thirds of the cabins are built at the Mill Road site, the remainder on-site at the customer's premises.

When *Helensville News* spoke with Cameron, he was waiting on approval of a quote to build four structures on Motuihe



• Cabins at various stages of construction in Mill Road

Island in the Hauraki Gulf for the Department of Conservation. If the job goes ahead, it will include two 8-person bunk rooms, an ablution block with six showers and two toilets, and a separate kitchen building.

Information on the cabins is available online at www.northwestcabins.co.nz. Site visitors will in the near future be able to fully spec and order their cabin online.

Retro chair fundraiser

Helensville Art Centre has been gifted a number of retro chairs to help raise funds for the centre. They cost \$80 each, but the price is negotiable for purchases of more than one. They are on view at the art centre, or on the centre's Facebook page.

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Help sought to identify photos

Kaukapakapa library is hoping visitors to its next display will be able to help identify people and places in some of the photos on show.

The library recently received a collection of old Kaukapakapa photos courtesy of the late Ina Stevens of Waitoki. While many are already incorporated in the Jordan Collection, there are also many 'head librarian' Megan Paterson hasn't seen before.

"As always seems to be the way, a number of photos have no details with regard to names or place. Come along to the library and see if you can help us solve some of these mysteries," says Megan.

The Stevens Photo Collection will be on display at the library on Sunday, August 15 from 9am until 1pm.

For more information contact Megan, phone 021 959 017 or email her at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.



• George Dye on Starlight, from the new Stevens Photo Collection

Business award nominations

Nominations for the 2021 North West Business Awards close on Friday, August 20.

Aimed at celebrating the commercial, creative, and customer service successes of businesses in the greater North West area, the fifth annual awards are open to any North West Country business association member. Businesses can self-nominate or be nominated by their customers.

There are nine categories: Retail; Hospitality (contemporary dining and bistro); Hospitality (family, informal dining and takeaways); Health and Beauty; Business and Professional Services; Manufacturing and Trade Services; Recreation; Rural Services; Not For Profit/ Social Enterprise.

Special awards this year are for the Best New Business (under 18 months old as at 1/6/21) and an Environmental Award (for best practice towards reducing a businesses environmental footprint). As usual there will be a People's Choice Award and the coveted Supreme Award.

Visit www.northwestcountry.co.nz/business-awards/ or contact organiser Mark Scherer, phone 027 457 7577 or email: mark@cherry.org.nz, for more information.

Arts in the Ville turns 7 this year

Planning is well underway for the seventh annual Arts in the Ville arts festival, to be held in Helensville over Labour Weekend in October. The event draws thousands of visitors to the town, and features local artists who open their studios or show their work in pop-up venues throughout the town, along with other special events.

New this year will be a 'Makers' Market' in the War Memorial Hall, with stall holders only allowed to sell their own creations. Downstairs, work produced by artists participating in the festival will be exhibited in the Helensville Art Centre from October 1 for a month. Each piece will have information about the artist and where they can be found during Arts in the Ville - giving locals a preview of the sorts of things they can see during the three-day festival.

The ever-popular treasure hunt will return this year, with Jeff Thomson again donating an artwork as the prize.

For more information please contact event co-ordinator Jo Ogilvie on 021 071 0246 or email her at: events@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

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Background ideal for new A&P

When it came to putting together his first CV in decades, new Helensville Show manager Dave Mason pretty much ticked all the boxes for the job - a background in both farming and horticulture, an A&P Show competitor and horse rider, business experience, and skills in marketing.

Dave started in his new role on Monday, August 2, taking over from Louise Brooks who oversaw the successful running of the last two Helensville A&P Shows - both held amid extraordinary circumstances because of Covid-19.

Born in Auckland, Dave began running away from his Meadowbank home at the tender age of four, the first time going missing for 16 hours before being found!

The youngest of three children, his art teacher solo mother decided he needed a change of scene, so sent Dave to live with her second cousin on his Waikato farm at Te Akau. He grew up learning the ins and outs of farming, competing in the Waikato A&P Show with his pet calves and in equestrian events.

He moved back to live with his mother at the age of 13 so he could attend Selwyn College.

When he left school Dave spent two years working for his boat designer/building father at his company Mason Clippers.

At that time the Muldoon-led government introduced a hefty boat tax which severely affected the local boat building industry, leaving no future in it for Dave. But around the same time his uncle badly injured himself, so Dave moved back to Te Akau to run the farm for him.

He stayed farming until 1984, working all over the country, shearing and mustering with teams of dogs on high country stations.

"High country mustering really appealed

to me," says Dave, explaining how it let him earn a living while enjoying two of his favourite things - horse riding and working with dogs.

His involvement with the latter expanded into dog trialling, getting good enough to place in the North Island championships with one of his heading dogs. He is keen to see dog trialling more prominent at the Helensville Show.

He also spent a season locally, working at Ōtakanini Tōpū, falling in love with the South Head area at the same time.

While managing a thoroughbred horse



• Dave Mason with best friend Tanner

stud in the Whitford area Dave met his wife Christine, and then a job came up managing a 24,000 livestock unit Landcorp station inland from Reparoa, between Lakes Rotorua and Taupō, where they raised their family.

In 1988 after what he describes as a well-rounded farming career, but unable to look at purchasing a farm for themselves, Dave and Christine moved back to Auckland, where Dave "lucked into" a trainee position with a retail advertising agency - helped by a natural ability to draw.

He worked there, learning the ropes, until 1995 when with a friend he set up his

• To page 7

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Show manager

• From page 6

own business, Brand Group, later renamed as DesignLand and counting businesses such as Flight Centre and Sky City as clients.

In 2012 after searching the Auckland region for some land, Dave recalled his love of South Head and the Masons moved there, buying a property near Lake Otatua.

Two years later he passed the design business on to his son, and at a friend's request set up an 8ha, 800-tree avocado orchard near Katikati in the Bay of Plenty, initially 'commuting' from South Head for the first year before moving south.

In 2019 they received a "silly offer" for the avocado orchard so sold that and moved back to South Head, buying a house on an 8ha block not far from Lake Otatua.

Dave and Christine have now planted half that in avocados, leaving some pasture free for a few steers and - hopefully - a horse so Dave can get back into riding.

"I'm looking forward to riding again. I loved horses, stockwork and mustering. Breaking in was part of my upbringing." To that end he's planning to build an arena so he can get back to breaking in horses.

He also likes riding of a different sort - motorcycles, and with friends has done the Burt Munro Challenge several times.

medical centre notes

This issue I'm writing about prostate cancer and PSA (prostate specific antigen) screening. We recently had a clinical meeting at Kaipara Medical Centre to discuss PSA testing and how we manage this as a practice.

There is no national screening programme for prostate cancer like there are for other common cancers like cervical, breast, and bowel cancer. The difficulty arises as there is no single good screening test for prostate cancer. A PSA blood test can be raised for a number of different reasons, prostate cancer being just one of them. It can also give a false negative if a prostate cancer releases little or no PSA.

Prostate cancer is increasingly common with age - it's estimated around one in 500 men in their 40s have it, one in 50 men in their 50s, and one in nine men in their 70s. However, the majority of prostate cancers identified will be slow growing and never cause any adverse outcomes; only one in 30 men diagnosed with prostate cancer will actually die of the disease itself.

Prostate biopsies to confirm diagnosis, and treatment options for prostate cancer such as radical prostatectomy and radiotherapy, carry significant risks such as infection, urinary incontinence, and erectile dysfunction.

Currently, best guidance in New Zealand says that for men with no symptoms, screening with a PSA blood test is appropriate for those aged 50-69 years every two years; men aged 40-69 years every two years if there is a family history of prostate cancer; and for men aged 70+ PSA testing may continue if it is deemed appropriate by your GP or specialist.

These tests won't be automatically ordered for you if you've never seen your GP to discuss getting one done. If you think you should have a regular PSA test, see your GP.

If at any point you have symptoms such as changes in urinary flow, getting up to pass urine multiple times a night, frequency during the daytime, dribbling after passing urine, or passing blood in the urine, then the best course of action is to see a GP. A PSA test will often be done along with a more thorough assessment which may include a prostate examination (a gloved finger inside the rectum to feel the prostate), other blood tests, and urine tests.

For more information book and discuss with your GP or read more online at: <https://bit.ly/2V4xSSL>.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock



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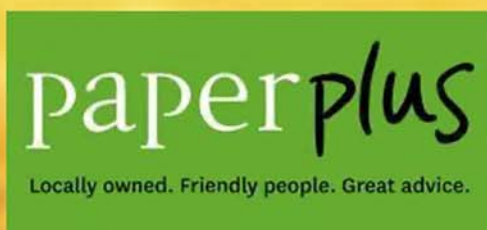
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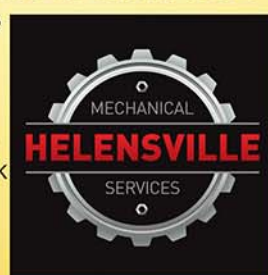
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20m+ trees to be planted around Kaipara Harbour

More than 20 million trees will be planted around the Kaipara Harbour in coming years as part of the \$200 million Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) project.

It will be New Zealand's biggest harbour restoration project, with plantings spanning 6000sq km of land with more than 8000km of waterways. Initial riparian planting work will be expanded with millions more native trees and plants in coming years.

The KMR aims to lift the health of the harbour by slashing sediment running into its waters, reducing nitrogen levels, and boosting swimability and shellfish health. Currently about 700,000 tonnes of sediment run into the harbour each year - an estimated seven times more than before human settlement.

"Ninety-six percent of the west coast's snapper comes from breeding grounds in the Kaipara," says Tame Te Rangi, chairperson of the Kaipara Moana Remediation joint committee.

Many of the 1500 farms across the catchment have already fenced-off waterways with riparian strip planting.

Eco-sourced native trees and plants will be produced over the next decade by nurseries in or close to the catchment. These will be bought by landowners to plant on riparian margins and in wetlands. Mātauranga Māori and western science are combining in the KMR project. Native plants

will include taonga species used for purposes such as medicine or health.

Last October the government put \$100m into the KMR project, with the local community expected to match that.

The KMR joint committee includes representatives from Kaipara uri Ngāti Whātua, Te Uri o Hau, Te Roroa and Ngā Maunga Whakahi o Kaipara, Northland Regional Council (NRC), and Auckland Council. Monthly meetings have been held at Haranui Marae near Parakai, Puatahi Marae north of Helensville, and Taita Marae at Mamaranui, north of Dargaville.

The formation of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee will see the disbanding of the Integrated Kaipara

Harbour Management Group (IKHMG), which has spent the last 25 years promoting a healthy and productive Kaipara Harbour. IKHMG philosophy and principles are being embedded within the remediation programme.

The KMR project is New Zealand's second large-scale harbour catchment repair project after the Whāingaroa Harbour Catchment Care project at Raglan, which saw 2.1 million trees planted across 150 property owners' land in the 450ha catchment from 1995. As a result, sediment in Whāingaroa Harbour has fallen by 90 percent and other water quality indicators have improved, with fish catch rates increasing more than 50-fold.

Winter solstice heralds early Christmas party

Santa arrived early for residents at Craigweil House in Parakai when it celebrated its Midwinter Christmas Party recently. The annual party was held to coincide with the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year) and is designed to bring warmth and good cheer to that a cold part of the year.

There was live entertainment with singer, keyboardist and frequent Craigweil House visitor Joe Fingers performing a winter-themed concert. Santa and Mrs Claus made a special appearance bearing small gifts and sweets and having a dance with residents.



• Foreground, L-R: Eileen, Keith and Shirley receive some sweet treats from Santa

The event was

fully catered with a spread including savouries, club sandwiches, and sweet baked goods. Residents and members of the Craigweil team mingled, danced, and enjoyed some singalongs, and the home itself was decked out with tinsel and other Christmas décor.



KAIPARA COLLEGE 2022 ENROLMENT

The Board invites applications from parents who wish to enrol their children at Kaipara College for next year.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on the school's website, as is all enrolment information including a digital enrolment form. Please email: enrol@kaiparaschool.nz with any queries.

The Board has determined that ten places are available for out-of-zone Year 9 students in 2022. The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is midnight on September 1, 2021.

Parents of students who live within the home zone should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year.

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot is required it will be held on September 8, 2021. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Rodney residents strongest 10 year plan opponents

Rodney residents appear to be the strongest opponents to Auckland Council's 10-year Budget, going by the results of the public consultation it held earlier this year.

The council received almost 20,000 pieces of feedback covering a range of topics, and in almost all of them, Rodney responses were the most opposed to the council's proposals.

Dubbed the Recovery Budget, it was designed to respond to the impacts of Covid-19 and the effect the pandemic had on the council's finances. The budget was adopted on June 29.

Public responses were sought on a number of topics, including a proposed \$31 billion capital investment over the next 10 years. Rodney respondents made up by far the largest number based on local board areas, and only 18 percent of supported the proposal, with 70 percent opposed. Auckland wide, 54 percent opposed the proposal and 34 percent agreed with it.

A council proposal to extend and increase the Water Quality Targeted Rate, introduced in 2018, received 45 percent support Auckland-wide, but only 27 percent from Rodney feedback.

The council's proposal to increase investment to respond to climate change saw 41 percent of Rodney respondents support the increase and 40 percent oppose it. Auckland-wide, 61 percent supported it and just 27 percent opposed it.

The adopted budget will see general rates rise by five percent in the first year, and 3.5 percent each year for the following nine years. The budget anticipates Council debt will increase in the short term and aims for a target of \$70 million per annum of asset recycling, plus a \$90 million yearly cost saving.

Meeting All Black a rugby tour highlight

For many kiwi kids the school holidays are a chance to hang out with their mates, maybe play a bit of rugby, and for some lucky ones perhaps a trip to the pools. But for 39 local children, the July holidays saw them doing all of that but on a scale which meant memories that will last a lifetime.

They were part of Helensville Junior Rugby Club's five-night tour to Canterbury.

For some years Helensville Rugby Club has held a biennial tour to the Gold Coast in Australia for its J1 and J2 players. This year, because of Covid-19, that couldn't happen, so the sunny beaches were swapped for frost-covered fields and a trip to Crusaders country.

For some of the children it was their first time on a plane, and for many their first trip to the South Island. It was also the first time a girls' quick rip rugby team was part of the tour.

Rugby was definitely the focus of the tour with three playing days, a visit to the Crusaders' home base at Rugby Park, and a special meeting with an All Black.

The team of 39 players and 13 adults based themselves in the boarding house at St Bede's College in Christchurch.



• The Helensville Junior Rugby tour team and crew at St Bede's College in Christchurch

mother of team members George and Josh, says her highlight was hearing the Crusaders and All Blacks centre's advice to the children around team-work and reaching your goals - and when George managed to get a sneaky autograph from the All Black.

Emily Coe, who played in the Under 11 and Under 13 tackle teams, says her best moment on the field was running from the outside backs, cutting back in and zig-zagging through the Saracen pack only to come to a sudden stop as she ran into their number one loose head prop!

11-year-old Jaxon Keefe says one of the best things to happen on tour was "playing rugby and hanging out with my mates."

In between the rugby there were plenty of other thrills and activities, including standing in a -18 degree wind chill 'storm' at the International Antarctic Centre, jet-boating on the Waiau River near Hanmer Springs, an afternoon at the town's hot pools and

hydroslides, and zip-lining down the Port Hills.

Lakhenzie Sinisa has this advice for any young player thinking of going on any future tour: "Go if you have the chance, because we got to play some good games and I got to do things I have never tried before."



• Chance Kaio about to score a try against Saracens Rugby Club in Rangiora

There were games again Hurunui Rugby Club at Culverden, Saracens Rugby Club at Rangiora, and Shirley Rugby Club at Christchurch city.

"The three clubs were incredibly welcoming and such great hosts," says tour chairman, Ati Wynyard. "We've extended the invitation and hope that sometime soon we might be able to repay the favour and host them here in Helensville."

Inevitably, there's always one trip to A&E on a trip like this, and that happened on the first playing day, when Ati's son Hamiora came off in the first half of the first game with a broken hand. But he became the team's biggest supporter, cheering on from the sideline for all the other games.

Hamiora says his favourite part of the tour was meeting All Black Jack Goodhue, who came to meet the team before their last game and handed out their playing shirts.

Tour 'minder' Kirsten Watson,



• Team members jet boating on the Waiau River near Hanmer Springs

Helensville Rugby Club chairman Scott Narbey says following the immense success of this tour the 2023 tour group may follow this format again, "building even stronger relationships with our new friends in Canterbury and keeping our young players engaged and excited in the game."

The club and the tour committee thank all the trip supporters, especially the sponsors who paid for the substantial tour kit, with gear the team definitely needed to stay warm with some -4 degree starts.

Platinum Sponsors: Generation Homes Auckland North, SJA Honey.

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Library & Council services

It's time to be registering your dogs, if you haven't already done so. Unfortunately it's too late now this year to receive the discount, but all Responsible Dog Owner Licence (RDOL) holders are eligible for greatly reduced fees. If you haven't applied for an RDOL before, now is a good time to look into it to make the saving next year.

Dogs can be registered and paid for online at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, or you can pay in person at the Helensville service centre desk.

To make life easy you can set up a myAUCKLAND online account, which can make it easier to pay rates (first instalments for the year are due by August 31), manage dogs, report maintenance issues, and more.

Helensville library and service centre staff can help locals set up an account.

The Helensville library and service centre is open 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am to 4pm Saturdays (including for council services).

Regular hall or meeting room hirers should contact Auckland Council Venue Hire, phone: 09 379 2030 to arrange for use of keys or swipe cards to enter they building outside those hours. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2UTOJYn>.



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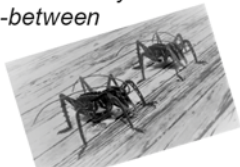
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Art to stimulate all senses

Textured images perfumed with spices, layered with clay, and embedded with other natural elements feature at an exhibition by Jewish Helensville artist Lilach Cohen (right), on now at the Helensville Art Centre.

Lilach says her works are designed "to stimulate all the senses, not just the visual".

The exhibition, titled 'Woman-Nature', runs until Saturday, August 21 and is open 10am to 4.30pm Thursdays and Fridays, and 10am to 2pm on Saturdays.

Describing the ideas driving the work, Lilach says the exhibition focuses on the relationship between herself as a woman and her deep connection to Mother Earth.

"Each material that comes from mother earth is one strand of our femininity," she explains.

"For example, clay represents the sensual aspect of women. Shells represent our spirit or our soul. Different spices have the aroma of our childhood and can represent our past experiences. Charcoal or burnt wood represents my people who have suffered in the Holocaust."

Lilach was born in Israel in 1971, just before the Yom Kippur War, a child of an exiled French Jewish family.



With half her childhood spent in shelters, her growing up was accompanied by the sounds of sirens, death, and survivors on a daily basis.

She discovered her creativity while in the shelters, escaping from the dangers into an imaginary world by using found objects - burned matches became pencils, old bubble gum was shaped into animals, and spices were used for colours.

For Lilach, writing, drawing and painting were her safe place.

Later on in life and looking for a safe place to call home, Lilach immigrated to New Zealand in 2003. She trained at Whitecliffe School of Art and exhibited at North Art Gallery and the Helensville Art Centre.

She was commissioned and collaborated in the design and detail for a number of significant ritual projects for both the Beth Shalom Progressive Synagogue and Auckland Hebrew Congregation.

Lilach recently moved to Helensville from the North Shore, and now holds art therapy workshops at the local art centre. She works with gifted youth and with women to express themselves through creativity, and encourages students to explore natural resources concerning them with their identity.

JPs cover South Kaipara

One of the most common questions asked on local social media groups is whether there are any Justices of the Peace (JP) in the Helensville area.

JPs are volunteers who provide their services free of cost - and neither do they receive any remuneration from Department of Justice, under whose jurisdiction they come.

They work either from home or on Service Desks. There are two JP Service Desks in Helensville:

- At the Citizens Advice Bureau at 27 Commercial Road, manned from 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday;
- At the Helensville Plunket Room, adjacent to the library, manned from 10am to midday each Saturday.

There are also JPs spread around the South Kaipara at Helensville, Shelly Beach, South Head, Glorit, Kaukapakapa, and Waitoki.

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■ Helensville Main Street

The North West Country business association is pleased to see the progress on improving the main street of Helensville with tree planting, and is looking forward to the completion of stage one.

It's been well over a decade since any significant work has been done in Helensville so there's a lot to do to make the township a pleasant place for residents and visitors.

The association was involved in the initial consultation with the community and businesses, and the changes had a high level of support at the time. Hopefully the next stages of work won't take quite so long to implement, and we support this work being continued through the whole of the business area including down Mill Road towards the roundabout.



■ Traffic Taking a Toll on Business

The traffic problems plaguing the North West's State Highway 16 are having a negative effect on local businesses.

The project to improve the highway between Brigham Creek and Waimauku has been in the pipeline since 2016, and the recent news that it won't start being constructed until 2023 is incredibly frustrating.

Traffic is now built up in both directions seven days a week, and the costs to businesses in terms of logistics and lost business are mounting. Steady residential growth has not been met with the appropriate level of transport infrastructure, and waiting another two years for work to start is going to become an increasingly difficult burden for local businesses.

We think Waka Kotahi, the government transport agency responsible for SH16, needs to accelerate long-delayed plans to improve the road corridor and look at ways to fast-track delivery of this project.

- Mark Dennis

Chair, North West Country Business Assn

RSA welfare meeting

The Kaipara Memorial RSA (KMRSA) is holding a meeting later this month to explain to service and former service personnel what welfare help is available to them.

South Kaipara locals donated more than \$5000 to KMRSA's Poppy Appeal this year. In association with the Ranfurly Trust's Poppy Foundation, KMRSA has in turn helped veterans, both returned and ex-service, with more than \$20,000 of welfare assistance over the last 18 months.

To potentially extend the reach of this welfare, KMRSA will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 16, starting 6pm at the RSA rooms in Commercial Road. It is for all service and former service personnel, which includes those who have operational service, routine military service (Navy, Army, Air Force), Territorial Service, National Service, Home Guard, Compulsory Military Training (CMT), Vietnam veterans, and family members.

West Auckland RSA District Support Manager Ari Panapa, and District Support Advisor Tania Good, in liaison with the KMRSA welfare advisor Les Coste, will explain what welfare help is available, where it comes from, and to whom it applies.

KMRSA president Rex Keane says while commemorations and veterans' welfare are its primary functions, the RSA also promotes 'well-being' among its members. He says clinical psychologists and the Mental Health Foundation advocate personal connection with other people as a top priority for well-being and mental health.

"The KMRSA and other community clubs and organisations play an important role in the community, by bringing people together within their clubs and facilities for social interaction with other like-minded people, to help them 'feel good' about themselves, and to enrich their everyday lives," he adds.

Anyone can join the local RSA. For more information phone or text Rex on 027 293 2768 or email: kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz.

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from our local MP

"We don't know how lucky we are, mate".

I suspect many readers will recall the classic Fred Dagg number and be able to recite at least a few of the lines. It's an ode of appreciation for everything that's best about our little country, of course, but I think the sentiment often applies more widely.

In that spirit, I'd like to pay tribute to the local media we have in this part of the world.

Readers of *Helensville News* will surely agree with me that we're so well served here. It's easy to forget most other parts of New Zealand don't enjoy this level of coverage of local news and views. I know this from numerous conversations with fellow MPs.

Local press outlets are increasingly finding it difficult to survive in a highly competitive news environment. Part of the problem is the online world, with social media, international news sources, and subscription services combining to crowd out rational, local voices.

The mainstream media at national level is struggling for many of the same reasons. Recent examples of government largesse (by which I mean the application of taxpayer funds) must be seen in this context. It's understandable but also unfortunate for our democracy that political players - who have a vested interest in the way news stories are told - are holding the purse strings.

Viewing the situation in a positive way, though, my essential point is that we should value and encourage the local media who serve us so well.

Local issues are discussed and debated in a way we simply won't see on a larger stage. Local personalities shine through in these pages, as well often being unsung heroes. These are women and men you don't see interviewed for the 6 o'clock news but who are making a real positive difference to those around them. Local businesses and community groups can advertise in these pages, too, providing opportunity that wouldn't exist elsewhere.

As many were quick to say in the immediate aftermath of the first Covid-19 lockdown, we should "support local" at every opportunity. Let's ensure this includes everyone who publishes and enables local news and views to be heard.

Let's be thankful for what we have here. Fred Dagg was right: we don't know how lucky we are.

- Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496.

local board matters

• From page 15

As we end the year, Auckland Council has confirmed its Recovery Budget for the coming year. It will continue to be challenging for some time, but we look forward to the year ahead, and to continue building on what we are achieving in Rodney.

I pledged at the beginning of the term to push for resolution of the Local Government Commission recommendations.

The Local Board now has all its business meetings in Rodney, either in Parakai or Warkworth, and I anticipate this year we will be in a position to announce a base for the Local Board in Rodney along with dedicated meeting spaces, and vastly improved engagement with Auckland Transport.

Finally, it's worth reminding people about what we do and don't do. We don't decide the level of rates or have any control over things like transport budgets beyond our targeted rate - these are the responsibility of councillors. Our primary role is to manage and develop local parks and community facilities, and to plan for the future at a very local level.

- Phelan Pirrie
Chair, Rodney Local Board
021 837 167

phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

local board matters

■ RLB Annual Report 2021

The past year has had its share of challenges and uncertainty with the grip Covid-19 has had on the world, and the different ways that has impacted us all.

Auckland Council was hit hard financially, and implemented an Emergency Budget to respond to its financial shortfall. Tough choices had to be made, and ultimately activities that should have progressed during the year had to be deferred.

No-one was immune from that reality, and in Rodney we simply couldn't achieve the level of activity we would have achieved in previous years.

But when we reflect on the achievements of the year, I am still extremely heartened by what we've delivered as a Local Board, as well as the larger, multi-year projects we've started or progressed.

Our local parks and community facilities, and protecting and enhancing our environment, are at the heart of the work of the local board, and much progress has been achieved.

A snapshot, but by no means the entire picture, of the achievements of the past year includes:

- Delivering another successful year with the Rodney Healthy Harbours and Waterways Fund, which provides match-funding for landowners, community groups and iwi, with the aim of enhancing waterways through riparian planting and fencing. The fund was once again fully subscribed.
- We have delivered on the Rodney Transport Targeted Rate Program, and early next year Auckland Transport will take over the Wellsford to Warkworth, and Riverhead/Coatesville bus services, and we have increased the Helensville to Silverdale service to hourly to try and increase users. Construction starts soon on a number of footpaths from Wellsford to Riverhead. None of these things would have happened without us taking control of our issues and bringing forward

investment by decades.

- A successful trial of the Forestry Ambassadors Programme - a new initiative which works with forestry block owners to provide materials and education on best practice to reduce sediment run-off into local waterways, and engages industry and stakeholders to help ensure sustainable harvests and reduce pollution incidents. This programme received much positive feedback from stakeholders, and will continue into the coming year.
- Key renewal work was completed, including the renewal of the Kumeu Library which was in need of watertightness work, the refurbishment of the interior of Leigh Hall, and the renewal of Warkworth wharf.
- We continued our investment in town centres. In Helensville our focus has been on improving the streetscape, with improvements to street furniture and the planting of native trees along Commercial Road. This work will continue in the new financial year from July.
- We renewed and installed playgrounds across the Rodney Local Board area.
- We also completed the renewal of the sports fields, toilets and changing rooms at Rautawhiri Park.

Local board funding has also supported significant environmental work to be carried out throughout the year, with a total of 40 community group-led projects, and eight school-led projects working with us to support environmental outcomes in local parks across Rodney.

We are grateful to our community volunteers who have continued to strive for progress during a challenging year. This includes community members who give their time to organise events and activities that bring people together.

A number of our annual community events that the local board supports had to be re-scheduled or re-invented to withstand the potential impacts of Covid-19. That included a number of the annual Christmas Parades which bring together the people of

our towns and villages.

Our volunteers are a testament to our community, and demonstrate our ability to withstand challenges and achieve strong outcomes when we work together. These partnerships are greatly valued by the local board.



• To page 14



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■ WAITOKI MARKET

The next Waitoki Village market is on Saturday, August 14 from 8.30am to midday in the Waitoki hall.

Members of the Waitoki Evening Craft Group will be on hand to give crafting advice, particularly about how to knit, crochet, cast on or off, and how to read a pattern - plus offering help solving problems.

As usual the market will feature homemade and used bargains, baked goods, preserves, and plants, and a barbeque brunch will be on offer too. All proceeds from the market go to upkeep of the hall and the local community. Prospective stall holders should contact Gill, 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

■ POETRY PERFORMANCE

The next Poetry Performance Night will be a fundraiser for the Helensville St John ambulance. It will be in the old BNZ bank, 108 Commercial Road, from 7pm to 9pm on Saturday, August 14, and cost \$10.

It will be an 'open mic' event where anyone who wants to can read a poem, monologue or story, original or otherwise. This bi-monthly event has been running at various locations since last year's Arts in the Ville. For more information or to book a performance slot, email Pauline at: paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Ralph Engle will provide live music at the next Kaukapakapa market, open on Sunday, August 15 from 8.30am to 1pm. Stalls will include fresh local produce, native plants and trees, artisan food and preserves, coffee,

doughnuts, cakes and pies, handmade crafts, knitting, greeting cards, skin care, gifts, second hand books, jewellery, collectibles, bric-a-brac, and the Helensville Lions sausage sizzle. There will also be free hair plaiting. Contact Sarah, phone 027 4831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AGM

The Helensville CAB will hold its AGM on Tuesday, August 17, starting 10am in the Maranga Mai room in Rata St. Everyone is welcome, and morning tea will be provided. Email: manager.helensville@cab.org.nz for more information.

■ GIBBS FARM FUNDRAISER

Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau is hosting a tour of the Gibbs Farm and Sculpture Park on Thursday, September 23.

The visit to the spectacular Kaipara Harbour property which features gigantic sculptures and exotic animals costs \$60 per person and includes transport to and from Helensville plus lunch.

Plan to bring all-weather gear, comfortable walking shoes and a camera or mobile phone.

Registration forms are available at the CAB at 27 Commercial Rd from Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm. For more information email: helensville@cab.org.nz or phone 09 420 7162.

■ ART WORKSHOP

Helensville artist Lilach Cohen is currently running a series of workshops at the Helensville Art Centre on using mixed media and natural resources. The workshops continue until Friday, September 3. Lilach says "I want to bring women together to explore their health and well-being using creativity."

Classes are on Fridays from 10.30am to midday and enrolment in the series costs \$60 per person, thanks to a generous subsidy from Creative Communities NZ.

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■ Helensville Glass

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Helensville News - Publication Information

SEPTEMBER 2021 deadline: Tuesday, 24th August, 2021

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, September 7th 2021

Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor and Advertising:

Dave Addison - Ph: 420 7215 • Mobile: 021 178 5568 • Email: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz

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2021 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Sept 7th	Copy by: Aug 24th	Due out: Nov 2nd	Copy by: Oct 19th
Due out: Oct 5th	Copy by: Sept 21st	Due out: Dec 7th	Copy by: Sept 21st

Editorial: Ph 420 7215. **Editor & Publisher:** Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874.

Design, Subediting & Layout: Dash Design, 420 7215. **Printing:** Rob McCorkindale, Print Matters, 0274 740 657.

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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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