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College rockers hard to beat

Kaipara College has again shown itself to be a musical powerhouse, with winning performances at the SmokeFree RockQuest North Shore regional finals.

Four Kaipara bands - Collusion, Rusty Van, Zoned Out, and Selohrae - made it into the top 12 during the May heats, and Selohrae (that's 'earholes' spelled backwards) won the June regional final outright.

Martha Komornicki from band Rusty Van won the Best Vocals award, while Tonies Ponies, the duo of Emma Painton and Nathan Parker, came second in the solo/duet finals.

Selohrae won \$500 worth of musical

equipment from the Rockshop for their efforts; lead singer Morgan Costello (who is also this year's Kaipara College Music Captain) says band members are still deciding what to use that for.

Now, along with Tonies Ponies, Selohrae has to enter a two-song video submission in the hope of making the national Top 30 selection.

The video entries will be judged by a panel of industry professionals who select the best 30 entrants. Those are then re-judged by different music industry judges to choose the top 10 acts which will go into the live National Finals in Auckland in September.

More than \$20,000 worth of music equipment is up for grabs in the finals, along with the winner also getting to record and make a music video, courtesy of NZ on Air.

Christmas Parade returns this year

The popular Helensville Christmas parade will return this year thanks to a generous local sponsor.

After being cancelled last year because of issues financing the event combined with the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and public gatherings, it will be resurrected this year as the Barfoot and Thompson Helensville Christmas Parade.

Sharon Kenny, manager at the local Barfoot branch in Commercial Road, has agreed to sponsor the event to the tune of \$4000 annually, in return for naming rights.

"I am very excited," says organiser Holly Southernwood. "The financial future of this much loved event is secure!"

A welcome perk of the sponsorship is that Barfoot and Thompson's graphics team will produce all the advertising visuals for the event - an area Holly says has been a struggle in previous years.

For the event to go ahead as planned, however, Holly will need volunteers to help on the day.

"So please consider volunteering for a practical role in making the event a complete success," she says. Volunteer registration will be sought from early October.

Finally, Holly says with her "advancing years" she is keen for a group of two or three people to work with her to learn the ropes, with a view to taking over organising the event in future years.

Phone Holly on 021 488 427 or call in to FIGG in Commercial Road.



• Winning band Selohrae (L-R): Finn Gowthorpe (bass), Floyd Clark (drums), Grace Cameron (keyboard and vocals), Morgan Costello (guitar and vocals)

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editorial

Am I the only local pleased to see trees planted in Commercial Road? Judging by the number of negative comments on social media I think I might be.

I can't help but suspect that the people complaining about the trees are the same ones who complain that nothing ever gets done in Helensville, and that we are the 'poor cousin' to the rest of Auckland.

Some of the negative comments have some merit - such as the possibility of tree roots disturbing the road and footpaths. Yes, that could happen - but let's worry about that in 20 or 30 years' time when (or if) it happens. In the meantime we have trees beautifying our town.

Probably the most common complaint is that the trees are the wrong species - but wrong how? Auckland Council and its predecessors have been planting street trees for decades, and have a pretty good idea of what works and what doesn't. They've used a narrow species on the western side so they won't cause problems with the shop verandahs, and a more spreading species on the eastern side where there is more room. And they are natives.

Some complaints are plain stupid - such as the claim people will crash into them. I would suggest that if a person is incapable of driving down Commercial Road at the 50km/h speed limit without crashing into a street tree, then they probably shouldn't be in charge of a car.

Only one complaint really has any basis in fact, and that is that we have lost some parking spaces. I couldn't find the documentation while writing this, but I think in the end we lost three spaces. That's a shame - but it's pretty rare for Commercial Road to be fully parked, and I think the benefit of the trees far outweighs a couple of lost car parks.

I'd love to hear your opinions on this - you can email your thoughts to dave@helensvillenews.co.nz or post (politely please!) on our Facebook page.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Record book fair boosts Coastguard

Yet another record sales tally from a Helensville Lions Club book fair means a big boost to Coastguard Kaipara's Parakai marine rescue centre development.

The club raised \$17,104 from the sale of books plus a raffle and a sausage sizzle at its autumn fair over the last weekend in May, and topped that up to a nice round grand total of \$20,000.

That money has now been given to Coastguard Kaipara to go towards construction of its new rescue centre, to be built by the Springs Road wharf.

"Thank you to all who donated so many high quality books - without you there would be no book fair," says Lion Chris Clark, who organises the twice-yearly fairs.

The fairs have become real community efforts. Partners of Lions Club members helped all weekend, along with members from the local Coastguard. Students from Kaipara College helped set up the fair on the Friday, and members of the Kaukapakapa Scout Group helped with packing up and cleaning the hall after the event.

"Putting together a book fair is a team effort and we wouldn't be able to cope without the assistance we receive from our community," says Chris. "We also wish to thank Phelan Pirrie and the members of the Rodney Local Board for their support, and Burmester Realty for letting us use their premises as a drop off point."

Books left over from the fair will be re-sorted, with any damaged or unsaleable ones going to the Helensville Recycle Centre. Surplus children's books will go to South Auckland for distribution to less fortunate children, and when there is shipping space to Pacific Island schools.

The Lions Club's Christmas Book Fair will be held on the last weekend of November, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 - as usual in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

Helensville Lions will accept books for the fairs throughout the year. Small quantities can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, otherwise phone Chris on 420 8527 or contact any other member of the Lions Club of Helensville.

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Community future assured for Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai is to remain in community hands.

The facility is to be further developed and managed by Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, the co-governance entity made up of representatives of Ngāti Whātua ō Kaipara and Auckland Council which governs Kaipātiki Reserve (formerly Parakai Reserve).

The decision is the result of combined efforts by the Helensville District Health Trust, Ngā Maunga Whakahii ō Kaipara Development Trust, Auckland Council, and Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara.

Ownership of Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai was to officially transfer from the Health Trust to Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara at a signing ceremony on Wednesday, June 30.

The parties agreed to a nominal payment of \$1 to the Health Trust for the property, plus a further \$600,000 in recognition of the trust's redevelopment of the former Parakai tavern building into a community venue.

Helensville District Health Trust chairman Rory MacGillycuddy says the transfer of the Parakai property from the Trust to Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara will result in many benefits for the local community.

"Because Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara already manages the adjacent Kaipātiki Reserve, the former Parakai health facility can now reconnect and be managed in an integrated manner with the reserve to achieve better well-being outcomes for the local community and Ngāti Whātua ō Kaipara," he says.

Helensville District Health Trust closed the Parakai community facility in August 2019, unable to afford to continue subsidising the amenity.

Rory says the trust is now focusing on greater investment in its health campus on Commercial Road in Helensville.

The chairs of Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, Jane Sherard, and Ngā Maunga Whakahii ō Kaipara Development Trust (which represents the interests of Ngāti Whātua ō Kaipara on Te Poari ō Kaipātiki ki

Kaipara), Dame Naida Glavish, are excited about the new plans for Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai.

"The property can now be redeveloped to better address health and wellbeing issues and achieve greater outcomes for the community," Jane Sherard says.

Auckland Council's Parks, Events, Community and Arts Committee chair, councillor Alf Filipaina, says integrating Te Whare Oranga into the adjacent reserve not only honours the Ngāti Whātua history in the area but will also enable an efficient way to manage the reserve area and community facility as one for the benefit of the local community.



• Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai

"Te Whare Oranga is essentially the only community facility in Parakai, so preserving it as part of the reserve will help establish a thriving heart to the Parakai community."

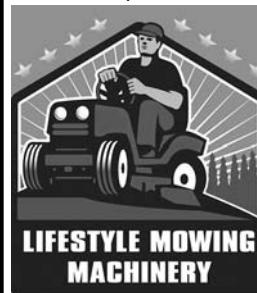
He adds the co-governance model already in place for Kaipātiki has proved to be an excellent template for working in partnership with mana whenua for the betterment of local communities, and this will expand with the inclusion of Te Whare Oranga.

Rodney Ward Councillor Greg Sayers has praised the efforts of the Helensville District Health Trust in maintaining, operating, and keeping the health facility operating for as long as it could.

"Auckland Council recognises and acknowledges that there has been a financial cost to the trust in this, and the trust's dedication to the community in this regard has been highly commendable," he says.

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Helensville culture icon John

**John Francis Perry
1943-2021**

Helensville man John Perry, regarded nationally as a cultural icon, passed away suddenly in early June.

Born in Otorohanga in 1943 to Francis Chaldecott Perry and Cora Amelia Crone, John was educated in Auckland at Cornwall Primary, Remuera Intermediate, and Auckland Grammar, then studied printmaking at Elam School of Fine Art, from where he graduated in the mid-1960s.

His passion for art grew while at Auckland Grammar, and he began collecting while at Elam, starting by buying works of fellow students and lecturers like renowned painter Colin McCahon. He was particularly interested in pop (popular) art.

Since then he worked as an artist, curator, educator, art dealer, consultant, and valuer. He was regarded as one of New Zealand's best known authorities on social history, folk art and natural history.

His lifetime's worth of collecting was on display for the past 20 years at his Global Village Antiques in Helensville's old Art Deco cinema in Commercial Road.

A self-confessed 'art-aholic', John's collection was vast and eclectic. There was an Egyptian vase from 2700BC he bought for \$5, a vast collection of printed material including Andy Warhol originals, a 17th century Rembrandt print, thousands of photographs, and huge amounts of Kiwiana.

He was quoted as saying his favourite item was a Navajo Indian blanket he bought for just \$1.50 at a flea market in Parnell in the mid-70s - although he was also quoted as saying his favourite was "the one I bought last night".

Global Village Antiques - described in a New Zealand Herald article as an antique

shop "that thinks it's a museum" - was divided into numerous 'lands', including Photography land, Movie land, Māori land, Book land, Kiwiana land, Tribal Art land, Hat land, Poster land, Natural History land, Junk land, Magazine land, and Rock and Roll land, among others.

He had three criteria for the items he collected: they had to be unusual, unexpected, or extraordinary.

John first moved to Helensville in 1969, teaching art at Kaipara College. He bought a house in Garfield Road, underneath which

he found boxes containing 200 historic glass plate negatives - right up his alley. He had some of them - portraits of soldiers - printed and sent out on a travelling exhibition.

He then moved to Kaukapakapa, building a house called Black Stump Cottage from an old church, with the help of artist friends.

Then in 1978 he moved to Rotorua to take up what he described as his "dream job" - curator of the city's Bath House Art Gallery. He was there for 19 years, overseeing its amalgamation with the city's museum into

the Rotorua Museum of Art and History, now just Rotorua Museum. Such was his influence, since 2001 he had been retained by the Rotorua Trust to purchase major Rotorua-related artworks that might come on the market.

During his tenure at Rotorua John had his first overseas trip, specifically to look at the world's best art galleries and museums.

He moved back to Helensville and into the old Regent Cinema building 20 years ago, turning it into his home, studio and antiques store.

Of the art prints John created there himself, he jokingly described his style as



• John Perry

• To page 5



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Perry passes away

• From page 4

"ex-perry-menting".

He had been appraising antiques for more than 30 years.

"With appraising, you always have to have your finger on the pulse," he said. "You can find things that can either become gold or dust, and I have had my fair share of both," he told LocalMatters in 2018.

John described himself personally as "almost exclusively 20th century", although he did admit to owning a cellphone. He said his life was an ongoing fight between chaos and structure, and was quick to bring up the question of the fine line between being a hoarder or a collector.

For the future, he believed junk mail and

cellphones would become hot collectors' items as a "reflection of our hard-core consumer society".

Locally, John was a keen supporter of Art Kaipara, holding workshops, contributing to exhibitions, and holding his own one-man Pop Art exhibition at the Art Centre in 2016.

He hosted an Antiques Roadshow-like Weird & Wonderful evening during Arts in the Ville last year, where people could bring along interesting items for him to talk about their history and value. He had been set to repeat that event during this year's Arts in the Ville. He judged the photography and new Māori crafts sections at this year's Helensville Show.

John is survived by sons Jacob, Jerome and Tim, and five grandchildren.

Local St John help ambulance crews

St John Helensville Area Committee volunteers will be providing refreshments once a month to ambulance crews on the Saturday night shift at Auckland City Hospital.

For the last nine New Year's Eves, they have organised welfare stations for ambulance crews at three Auckland's hospitals - Auckland City, North Shore, and Waitakere.

Those New Year's Eves have always been well received by the St John operational staff, so the decision was made to extend that to a monthly service. That means that every shift will have the chance to access the hospitality provided by the volunteers.

The first monthly stall was set up for the night shift on May 22, with Area Committee co-ordinator Eve Issott and husband John, of Helensville, operating the welfare station at the ambulance bay. They stayed on duty until 3am to make sure as many crews as possible could take advantage of the food and drinks over the busy shift. The invitation was even extended to a police crew who found themselves at the hospital.



• Eve Issott (Centre) with ambulance crew members

"We were well wrapped up against the chilly wind and self-sufficient, with hot water in flasks and hot water bottles for us," says Eve.

"I am happy to be able to do this and very grateful for the support of the area committee, St John Helensville shop, and friends. It's our way to show the ambulance crews they are appreciated, and to give something back for all they do."

The original idea for the refreshment stations came from St John Helensville Area Committee member and ambulance officer, Patsy Carlyle.

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Last post for last WW2 veteran

**John Wills
1917-2021**

John Wills, thought to be the last World War 2 veteran from the South Kaipara area, passed away on Wednesday, June 2 aged 103.

John was born in 1917 and raised on a Gisborne dairy farm with his five siblings.

He joined the New Zealand Army in 1940 and after 10 months in Fiji his army contingent sailed to Maadi Camp in Egypt, where they prepared for the desert war.

He was a member of the 7th New Zealand Anti-Tank Regiment which fought in Libya against the German Afrika Korps led by Erwin Rommel in November 1941.

John was one of 1100 soldiers captured by German troops, who were then handed over to the Italian forces and held prisoner in the desert. Along with many others he suffered from the cold and dysentery, until early January 1942 when they were freed by Allied troops and reunited with the New Zealand Forces.

John was promoted to sergeant and saw further action throughout 1942 culminating in the Second Battle of El Alamein, a decisive victory for the Allied Forces.

He then sailed for Italy and was involved in the Italian campaign until the end of the war, including fighting at the Battle of Monte Cassino.

On his return to New Zealand, John met and married Norma. They were granted a Government 'Rehab' loan and purchased a farm at Kaukapakapa, on land that surrounds Sinclair Park.

They raised two children, Vivienne and Jeff, whose families provided John and Norma with six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



• John Wills

John was a keen farmer who never gave up his love for motorbikes, buying one at the age of 85.

He supported the Kaukapakapa School Calf Club Day by teaching children that weren't from farms how to raise and show calves.

He was also a keen bowler, representing Kaukapakapa, Helensville and Orewa through the years, and was a member of numerous title-winning teams in the North Harbour zone.

At 85 he was the lead bowler in a team skippered by Helensville's Ivan Kostanich. John continued to play bowls well into his 90s, with the Orewa club staging a special tournament in his honour when he turned 100.

John was part of a group of veterans who attended the 70th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein in 2012, and in 2014 he attended the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy. He was actively involved

with the RSA and attended many ANZAC services over the years, the last one being the Kaukapakapa service in 2019 at the age of 101.

- by John Tucker

Tough guys, gals return

The Tough Guy and Gal Challenge returns to Rautawhiri Park in Helensville over four days from Wednesday, August 4.

Competitors will battle it out over a muddy course consisting of swamp crossings, a spider's web net climb, a barb wire crawl, bush trails, tunnels, hurdles, a climbing frame, and water crossings, with separate days for juniors, secondary school children, and adults, plus a special women-only Tough Gal Team Challenge.

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Library, council service office combine

Council and library services have been brought together in Helensville.

"From the outside, it may seem that not much has changed - because, it hasn't really," explains senior librarian Anne Coppell.

The same staff are on hand, but now they may be in the Service Centre office or in the library.

Service Centre hours have changed so they match those of the library: Monday to

Friday 9.30am to 5pm (with no lunch time closure) and Saturdays from 9.30am to 4pm.

"Yes, council services are available on Saturdays!" says Anne.

The building will be open from 9.30am, and regular hall and meeting room hirers will still have access prior to that through the use of keys or swipe cards. Anyone needing to arrange that should contact Auckland Council's Venue Hire, phone: 09 379 2030 or visit: <https://bit.ly/3xC68CN>.

medical centre notes

Since the start of Covid-19 last year with its multiple lockdowns and uncertainties, as medical professionals we have increasingly been seeing parents wanting advice on how to help their children and young teenagers with anxiety. Parents play a huge role in helping kids to manage their anxieties. Here are 10 things you can do to help:

1. Be a good role model. Kids will look to you as their role model for how to deal with worry and stress. Set a good example by being optimistic and voicing positive thoughts as often as the ones that bother you.

2. Create a chat time or a worry box. Set aside a time early in the evening to chat about what's bothering your child so they aren't worrying about things in bed. Create a worry box for them to put worries into. They write their worries down, fold them up tight and put them in the box so they can be free of them until the morning.

3. Be a good listener. Being a good listener helps your child open up and talk about their feelings. Take casual opportunities, like driving in the car, to ask them how they are to show them you're available and interested.

4. Offer physical reassurance. Nothing beats a good cuddle when you're worried. Giving reassurance physically through hugs, back rubs, hand holding, or being close can help kids feel better.

5. Use past experience. If your child is worried about something coming up, talk about a similar challenge they've overcome in the past and how they got through it.

6. Brainstorm solutions together. Rather than jumping in to fix a situation for your child, try brainstorming solutions together. This teaches them how to problem solve.

7. Keep things in perspective. Keeping things in perspective and seeing the big picture, without minimising your child's worries, is a helpful tool. Remind them problems are temporary and often solvable and that tomorrow is another day.

8. Spend time together. Spend quality time with your child every day. Even if it's just 10 minutes playing with them with their favourite toy. Allow them to see you having fun and enjoying spending time with them.

9. Build self-esteem. Make sure you give your child lots of praise when they do things like trying something new, walking into a new place, managing a new situation, or making a decision.

10. Foster mindfulness. Encourage your child to practice mindfulness, which helps them focus on the present moment, and not dwell on the past or worry about the future.

If you have any ongoing concerns about your child's level of worrying, please contact your GP for further advice. <https://sparklers.org.nz/parenting> is an excellent website with fun well-being activities if you want further information.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock



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Labour

Things are buzzing at Helensville Primary

School children are usually busy - but those at Helensville Primary are also becoming buzzy.

The school, with the support of Rodney Beekeepers Club, has set up a school bee club which now has 13 members.

The club's programme is aimed at educating a group of children who are interested in learning about beekeeping. It covers the beekeeping calendar year including good beehive management.

Two beehives were moved onto the school grounds in time for World Bee Day, May 20. The bee club students got to see inside the hives and taste locally-produced honey - which was a real buzz! One local honey they tried recently won an award at the Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards.

"It is great to see the kids eager to start their theory lesson or in their bee-suits heading to the beehives for hands-on experience," says Rodney Beekeepers Club

committee member Vicki Allen.

Club members meet every two weeks so the young beekeepers become familiar with the various changes that occur in the hives through the seasons.

"Lessons are both fun and practical, and the kids are learning so much. It is really amazing to be educating the next generation of beekeepers."

The bee club programme at Helensville Primary has already received support from the community in building an apiary, supplying hive-ware and some bee-suits. However, sponsorship for seven more beekeeping suits and pairs of gloves is still being sought.



• Rodney Beekeepers Club president Ian Harris with club members

Anyone keen to support the programme through sponsorship or a donation can phone Vicki on 022 427 4711 or the school office on 420 8005.

Muriwai beach cleanup



A team of 40 Kaipara College students collected a truck-load of rubbish on Muriwai beach last month. The cleanup was the idea of four year 13 students who wanted to do something for their community, and after going for a walk up the beach realised how much rubbish there was. They decided to take action and also inspire their fellow students to get involved - with dramatic results.

"It was awesome to see young leaders organise this solely student-run event," says youth worker McKenzie Bell.

- Photo: Sentit Photography

Dog trial training day

The Helensville Sheep Dog Trial Club is holding another training day with New Zealand champion sheep dog Trialist Murray Child.

It follows a successful similar event held last August.

It will start at 10am on Saturday, July 17 at Otakanini Topu Farm in Tarawera Rd, South Head, and will be signposted on the day from Parakai.

Sponsored by Proplan, the training costs just \$10 per person, and a BBQ lunch sponsored by Farmlands Helensville is included. All proceeds go to the club.

Murray Child is a champion trialist with many years experience who travels all over the country to share his knowledge.

Participants can bring one dog they need help with to receive 'one on one' training with Murray. There will also be other experienced farmers there to learn from.

All working dogs are welcome, but must be hydatids dosed within 28 days of the training day. A dosing certificate must be shown at the registration desk on arrival before dogs can be let out of their vehicle.

Search for new principal

Kaipara College is on the hunt for a new principal. Steve McCracken, principal since the end of 2017, leaves at the end of Term 2 (Friday, July 9) to take up a new role at Whangaparaoa College.

The school hopes to appoint a new principal by the beginning of Term 4.

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Library toy sleepover

Helensville Library will hold another of its popular soft toy sleepovers, including a pyjama party and storytime, on Friday, July 23. Children can bring along a soft toy (not a special one that has to be home at bedtime) to join in the fun.

The pyjama party and toy drop off is from 4pm, with storytime starting at 4.30pm. Children should wear their pyjamas for the bedtime stories with their toy, which they will then leave behind, so the toys can have a library sleepover. The toys can be picked up from the library the next day, Saturday, July 24 between 9.30am and 4pm.

making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

July's recipient is Jackie Watson, who chose a \$100 voucher for use at Eleventh Hour Gifts in Helensville.

Jackie was nominated by Tanya Glover, who says: "I would love to nominate Jackie Watson. Jackie is an angel...basically that's all I want to say about her! I will say she's a dedicated school bus driver, smiles every single day, goes out of her way to help the college community, loves children young and old... she's a beautiful specimen of a human being!"



• Jackie (right) receives her voucher & flowers from Nicky

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from our local MP

The best bit of being a local MP is the 'local' bit. It certainly beats the 'parliament' bit most weeks.

A particular pleasure is visiting community organisations celebrating special occasions. Attending Helensville Rugby Club's 50th Golden Jubilee weekend recently was right up there.

It might seem strange to classify a sports club as a 'community organisation', but local institutions such as Helensville Rugby Club provide so much more than an avenue for scrums, rucks and mauls.

That was very evident as memories were shared in the clubrooms that special afternoon: Helensville Rugby Club has provided a focal point for generous donations of materials and skills as the grounds have been gradually upgraded over the years, a social gathering point, and a way of bringing together the community.

I was particularly taken with speeches that recalled occasions where team mates and club members from all walks of life - brown, white and other - pitched in to improve the place. It was strikingly obvious that for Helensville Rugby Club, the concept of 'team' means much more than 15 guys or girls running around the paddock.

The whole team is everyone who visits the club and contributes. That includes those too old to play anymore, and of course those too young to have laced up the boots yet. It certainly includes those simply there to support loved ones, as well.

All this is to say nothing of the more obvious benefits of sport, of course, such as promoting physical exercise and the skill of working in a team, including and especially for our young people.

Much is said about mental health these days and almost all of it concerns the proverbial ambulance at the bottom of a cliff. Those services are important, of course, but so too are the fences at the top of the cliff. That's exactly where community organisations like Helensville Rugby Club sit.

We are lucky to have sports clubs as part of our national fabric. The final whistle is a long way from being blown on the likes of Helensville Rugby Club. All the best for the next 50 years as a special feature on the local landscape, team.

- Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi



point of view

Queen's Birthday weekend saw official honours bestowed on New Zealanders recognised for their services to the community.

Congratulations to locals Judith Kilpatrick, who was made a Dame for services to nursing and nurse education, in addition to her 1998 Companion of the NZ Order of Merit. Also honoured at Queen's Birthday was Murray Binning, who became a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to fire and emergency.

But beyond these leading lights, there are many people that contribute to health, vibrancy and supportive networks in our community. We all benefit from the social bonds and facilities that are developed by keen volunteers with vision.

In Helensville, these current visions include a sustainable, healthy 'food plan' for the community; the donation of safety gear from the local Lions to the Helensville Fire Brigade; Arts in the Ville, which is turning seven; Coastguard fundraising for its new Marine Rescue Centre; and regular organisations such as the Helensville Tennis Club, the Helensville A&P Show committee, and other advocates for social development and environmental protection working largely as unsung heroes throughout the years.

We invite nominations for future honours, so if there's someone special you think is deserving, please let me know. But thanks to all volunteers whether you get official recognition or not.

- Marja Lubeck
Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi



local board matters

Local Board members recently had an opportunity to speak at a public meeting organised by Kumeu Community Action about our roles.

Auckland Council was established in 2010 with a very different system of local governance from the former Rodney District Council. A decade on there is still a lot of confusion about what we do on the Local Board, so we jump at any opportunity to discuss this with the community.

Local Boards are part of a co-governance arrangement. On one side of this are the 20 Auckland councillors and mayor that make up a 'governing body' that sets rates, makes decisions about regional facilities, sets bylaws, and allocates budgets to 'council controlled organisations' such as Auckland Transport and Watercare.

On the other side are Local Boards, which are responsible for local parks and facilities such as halls and playgrounds, and which have a role advocating to councillors on behalf of the community.

Transport infrastructure is a top issue for our community, and the expectation is that the Local Board should be able to sort this out. Unfortunately, it isn't that simple.

Councillors set the strategic direction and budgets for Auckland Transport which is responsible for our local roads (but not State Highway 16, which is the responsibility of central government). How Auckland Transport then implements this is an operational decision that the Local Board has very little control over.

We do advocate to councillors for improvements like an increased maintenance budget, but advocacy is very different from being able to control and prioritise budgets like we are able to do with, for example, our local parks.

By the time you read this we hope that an increase in maintenance funding will have been approved by councillors. So how will this change things on our roads?

The system used for road maintenance is to a large degree reactive, so if particular roads have a lot of issues, they will be prioritised for renewal or maintenance.

Logging issues such as potholes or safety issues with Auckland Transport quickly is critical.

The IT system they use directs reports to the contractors for action; this should mean that depending on the scale of the issue something is done quickly. A simple pothole may be patched - however if there is an underlying issue, for example a problem with the road foundation, then a temporary fix may be used until a more complex solution can be implemented.

Whether it's a damaged bus stop, footpath or road, the sooner someone logs an issue with Auckland Transport the sooner it can be sorted out. I have logged potholes that have been dealt with quickly, in most cases within 48 hours.

The best way to do this is online. Google 'report a problem Auckland Transport' and the top hit will take you to the start of the reporting process. If you want to be notified of progress, make sure you provide your contact email address.

Taking a few minutes to log problems will help Auckland Transport build a picture of local problem spots and increase the likelihood of longer term solutions to underlying maintenance or safety issues.

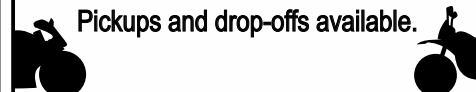
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Brick Show

Helensville Primary School held 'The Brick Show' on Sunday, June 27. Put on by the All Blocks LEGO User Group and sponsored by Helensville Paper Plus Select, the day included children's LEGO building competitions in four age groups.

As well as the LEGO displays and contests there was a range of food and drinks on offer plus a Paper Plus pop-up shop. Money raised from the event will go towards purchasing school sports equipment and hall furniture.

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■ SOUTH KAIPARA LANDCARE AGM

South Kaipara Landcare's annual meeting is on Saturday, July 10 starting 10am in the South Head Hall, 23 Donohue Road, South Head. Guest speakers Belinda Studholme from Auckland Council and Ebi Hussain from Aotearoa Lakes will talk about research being done at South Head's Lake Rototoa. The meeting will be followed by lunch.

■ HELENSVILLE SHOW AGM

The Helensville A&P Association will hold its annual meeting starting 7.30pm on Wednesday, July 14 in the main showgrounds meeting.

■ MATARIKI EXHIBITION

Helensville Art Centre's has a Matariki Exhibition running until Saturday, July 17. It follows a very successful similar exhibition last year.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Free hair plaiting for children and live music from duo Michelle and Darren between 10am and midday will be features at the next Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, July 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. Stalls will include everything from used items, gifts, crafts, jewellery, fresh fruit and winter vegetables, through to plants, preserves, books, food and coffee.

For more information contact Sarah 027 483 1542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Books at a library? Who would have thought! Book dealer and keen collector Graeme Bailey will be at the historic

Kaukapakapa library at its next open day on Sunday, July 18 from 9am to 1pm. Twenty years of experience trading in books has given Graeme a keen eye for a diverse inventory, specialising in New Zealand titles as well as other subjects such as art, architecture, and New Zealand history. Visitors to the library may find a treasure among Graeme's selection, or can talk to him about an elusive book they are hoping to find.

■ RAIL TRUST AGM

The Helensville Railway Station Trust will hold its AGM on Saturday, July 24 at 10am at the Railway Museum, 2 Railway Street, Helensville. All Welcome. Phone Sheryl Walker on 09 420 7126 or Alan Hargreaves on 09 420 2063 for more information.

'Top Art' show coming to college

The annual NZQA 'Top Art' exhibition will be on show at Kaipara College for a week from Monday, August 2.

Top Art features a selection of 60 NCEA Level 3 portfolios which achieved Excellence in Visual Art in the previous year, covering design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. It tours schools, museums, community centres, and galleries around the country from March to September.

This year's exhibition includes the work of Odette Sullivan-Yates, who was a year 13 student at Kaipara College last year.

Odette's portfolio features beautiful paintings based on the historic Dye's slaughterhouse at Kaukapakapa.

Top Art is a chance for secondary students and teachers to understand what is required to achieve Excellence at Level 3, and also allows members of the public to see the high quality art being created in schools.

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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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