

Spoonville craze comes to Helensville



A lockdown craze which started in Berkshire in England last year and spread around the world has made it to Helensville.

Called Spoonville, it involves decorating disposable spoons with faces, clothing and accessories and 'planting' them in a 'community garden' on the front verge.

Helensville woman Michelle Somers saw how Spoonville had taken off at a Te Atatu address and thought it would be a great idea locally.

"We have an arty town, and I thought it would go so well here," she says.

So she and her five children, aged 17 down to just four years of age, along with other family and friends, made the initial bunch of spoon people - and then she promoted the idea on Facebook.

As the Somers' live up a right-of-way, she asked

her two friends who own properties side by side on Cabaleigh Drive in Helensville if she could use the berm between their places. They were happy to oblige.

Michelle buys boxes of ecologically-friendly bamboo spoons, and puts them in plastic bags 25 at a time on the road fence for contact-free retrieval by other locals who want to add to the Spoonville family.

And add they have, with more than 170 spoon people on site when *Helensville News* went to press.

The variety of decorations is astonishing, and sometimes familiar - there's Where's Wally, Spongebob Squarepants, Oscar the Grouch, and Harry Potter characters among others.

The only draw-back is having to pull them all up, and then replace them, when the grass needs mowing.

Michelle and her children are still adding to Helensville Spoonville, and she has even taken up administering a

nation-wide Facebook page dedicated to the phenomenon.

She has also spoken to Arts in the Ville organiser Jo Ogilvie about Spoonville featuring in that event in November - on the proviso they stay in good condition, which depends on the weather gods.



which depends on the weather gods.

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editorial

'Shop Local' is a message we are all familiar with. It's been a regular promotion of the North West Country business association, and we've supported that in these pages. And it's something I try wherever possible to do on a personal level.

In fact in this issue (see pages 4 & 5) we have a list of businesses in the local area where you can shop for Christmas under Level 3 restrictions - a great way to help local business owners and support the South Kaipara economy.

But ... and there is a big 'but'. I don't mind paying a small premium to support local businesses (and indeed independent businesses over large chain stores), but should we be expected to take a big hit price-wise to keep our business local?

Here are three examples, the first a positive one.

A while back I wanted to buy a specific book as a gift. My immediate thought was "the Warehouse will be cheapest". I checked out their price, then thought I should check out the local option. In fact Paper Plus Select in Commercial Rd was exactly the same price as everywhere else. They didn't have the book in stock, but I was happy to wait a few days for it to arrive and in the process support a great local shop.

More recently I had to purchase two identical products. I don't want to 'name and shame' specific local businesses here, so I also won't identify the product. Suffice to say they were \$72 each locally, so \$144 for two. Five minutes on Google and I had found the exact same item available from an Auckland-based online store for \$49 each - with free delivery. That's a saving of \$56. Or in other words, the Helensville shop was almost 50 percent more expensive.

For my most recent purchase I approached a local company first (not in Helensville, but in our readership area). Their price was \$1103 plus \$60 delivery. I sourced the exact same product from a firm in Silverdale for \$904 with same-day delivery \$75. So a saving of almost \$200, with the local option almost 25 percent dearer.

Everyone knows online shopping has changed the way we buy stuff, so the onus is on local businesses to offer competitive prices. I think most people would like to support our local shops, even at a small price premium. But probably not 25 or 50 percent.

- Dave Addison, Editor

We asked North West Country business association chair Mark Dennis for comment:

It's important to remember smaller businesses usually have far lower turnover than their larger rivals, particularly if competing against nationwide franchises or international companies. That means their profits margins are lower and ability to order discounted bulk stock is sometimes impossible.

This puts smaller local businesses in a difficult position as they know they must remain competitive on price while covering overheads and trying to earn an income. Small local businesses are generally aware of this and often offer alternative products, or unique products hard to find in large chain stores. That gives the shopper the opportunity to buy a product at a reasonable price knowing the shop owner backs that product or brand.

But shopping isn't always just about the price tag, flashy advertisements and unrealistic discounts. Shopping is about an experience, being able to walk (or scroll) through a personalised shop which makes you feel valued, and that your dollar is appreciated. It's about the right item for the right job with the right advice.

Small and medium size local businesses often pay their staff higher wages, support local events, sponsor local sports teams and schools, and keep our communities active and alive. When you buy a coffee, a product, or pay for a service, you are part of that important community cycle and you can leave that shop knowing that you did more than just buying local. Even when the product might be identical, shopping local can offer you a shopping experience that your loose change can't buy.

- Mark Dennis, North West Country



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New Helensville principal

"The first classroom I walked into I realised that was where I was meant to be," says new Helensville Primary principal Stephen Kendall-Jones.

"Sometimes you need to be pushed into a situation to realise what your passions really are, and mine was definitely teaching young children."

However that 'first classroom' came well into his working life, the first part of which was in the corporate world.

Stephen took over the reins at Helensville Primary the Monday after New Zealand went into its most recent Level 4 lockdown, which he says has been "a very strange transition".

While he had met the staff and children at a welcome powhiri held before the lockdown, he started the job under tight restrictions.

With just 28 children, mostly of essential workers, at the school, Stephen says: "I've got to know about 30 children and about 12 of the teachers through that, but all the rest is on Zoom."

Stephen was born in Wales but brought up in Manchester - hence what he describes as his "Coronation Street accent" - but recently found through an Ancestry.com test that his DNA is actually 70 percent Irish, which came as a bit of a surprise.

Armed with a business PhD Stephen initially worked in the corporate world in England, mostly for large companies such as Marks & Spencer, Carlsberg, and Elf Oil.

He was offered a job as a strategic-level buyer for Woolworths in New Zealand, and moved here in 1994, meeting his wife Tracy just before emigrating.

After his time at Woolworths the couple moved to Fiji, where Stephen took on the role of general manager for Morris Hedstrom, Fiji's largest wholesale and retail organisation, spending two years there.

"It was an eye opening, exceptional

introduction to the South Pacific, living with the Fijians and Fijian Indians and seeing how it works, the poverty and how they cope with it, the fact they always have smiles on their faces," he fondly recalls. "You wonder who's got the right life, don't you?"

Returning to New Zealand they decided to be self-employed, Tracy opening a series of card and gift shops.

"At that time I was well into my martial arts, karate in particular. I opened the first full-time dojo (training centre) for karate in Australasia.

Wanting to be a better karate teacher, Stephen took on formal teacher training, completing a one-year post-graduate diploma at Massey University.

"The first classroom I walked into I realised that was where I was meant to be. So that's life's journey and the convoluted way it got me into education at a later stage."

With his corporate leadership experience it didn't take long for Stephen to land leadership roles in schools, initially as

deputy principal at Sunnynook Primary on the North Shore. He then joined a private company called Visible Learning, which researches what works and what doesn't in education.

Then around eight years ago he took on the role of principal at Albany Junior High, a position he held until his move to Helensville Primary in August.

While Albany is a much bigger school, living in Wishart Rd for the past three and a half years had led to the desire for more community involvement.

"Coming into a great community like Helensville, the friendliness of the people, that just doesn't happen in those larger metropolitan areas," says Stephen.



• Stephen Kendall-Jones

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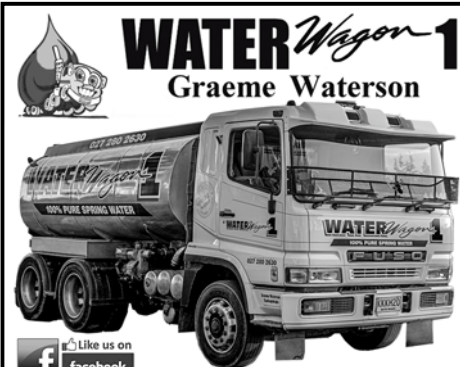
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Where to shop locally for

There are plenty of local businesses operating under Level 3 restrictions where people can purchase a wide range of items suitable for Christmas gifts. Many offer multiple ways to buy under L3, including online, telephone, email, and even via Facebook.

This listing is just those businesses that replied to us by publication deadline. Other businesses offer gift vouchers which are perfect for gifts and still mean you support local businesses - they just might not be able to be used until a lower lockdown level. And of course the big stores like Mitre 10, and rural supply stores like Farmlands, Farm Source and PGG Wrightson, stock many items suitable as gifts and have strong systems in place for selling under Level 3.

Please note that conditions may change when Auckland moves to Red Level.

■ Beauty Elixir

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☎ Maria: 022 465 0727 (text)

✉ mariasbeautyelixir11@gmail.com

📘 facebook.com/Beauty-Elixir-Helensville-with-Maria-Schofield-112878242579494

📷 Instagram - beauty_elixir_

■ Caz's Candle Creations

Based in Puriri St, Helensville. Website selling candles, wax fragrant melts, lamps, homewares, wall art, and gifts suitable for women, men and children. Free gift with every order.

Contact-less pick-up or post options. Pick-ups available within minutes of placing an order for locals. Post options for those out of town.

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creations.myshopify.com/collections

☎ Carrie: 027 343 5999

✉ cazscandlecreations@hotmail.com

📘 facebook.com/cazsc

■ Eleventh Hour Gifts

Open Monday to Saturday 11am to 1pm. Purchases at the door, online, by phone, or email. Contactless collection or free delivery within 15km of the store (free anywhere on orders over \$100). Afterpay and laybuy available.

Full range available including fresh flowers from Love Flowers Helensville. Clothing can be exchanged if sizing is a problem.

25% off online orders over \$50 until L2. Use code LOCKDOWN2021 at the checkout. All online orders also go in a draw

to win a \$150 gift voucher with Beauty Elixir, drawn in L2.

60 Commercial Road, Helensville

🌐 eleventhhourgifts.store

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✉ info@eleventhhourgifts.store

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44 Commercial Road, Helensville.

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Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Christmas gifts

• From page 4

■ LoveSoul Beauty & Spa

Online store open for skin care products and gifts at L3 with courier delivery. No pick up available. Gift vouchers can be purchased online, either an e-voucher for instant download, or a handwritten version delivered by courier.

During L3 contact is by email only - hello@lovesoul.co.nz - as the phone line is unmanned while Waimauku premises are closed. Holistic skin care and product advice is available via email.

🌐 lovesoul.co.nz

✉ hello@lovesoul.co.nz

■ Naturally Gifted

A home-based business located at Shelly Beach, manufactures to order a wide range of unique ceramic tiles and gifts with images and artwork of the customer's choice. Also a range of baby printed muslin fitted bassinet sheet, swaddles and dream blankets, plus safari and woodland animal prints for nurseries.

🌐 Web: naturallygifted.co.nz

☎ Phone Serena: 021 108 4305

✉ E: info@naturallygifted.co.nz

📘 FB: facebook.com/NaturallyGiftedTiles

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☎ Phone: 09 420 8646.

✉ E: helensville@paperpluselect.co.nz.

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■ Riverside Art, Crafts & Gifts

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Products can be ordered by email, phone, or Facebook message.

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■ Skydive Auckland

Expects to resume tandem skydiving and skydiving training under L3 stage 3.

Vouchers valid for one year available online, and tandem skydives and training courses for specific dates can be booked online. Bookings can be rescheduled if alert levels change. Current deal \$150 off a 20,000ft skydive for fully vaccinated people (not available with gift vouchers). No door sales.

🌐 skydiveauckland.com

☎ 0800 921 650

✉ info@skydiveauckland.com

📘 facebook.com/SkydiveAuckland

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letters

I have just come back from Parakai 4 Square store, I left my phone in the trolley, drove home, and couldn't find it any where. I phoned the store knowing I had done something stupid! It had been handed in, phew. To the wonderful person who did that, a huge thank you. Very much appreciated, you're a star. They didn't leave a name so I couldn't thank them in person.

- Ray Scott, Helensville

New principal (cont)

• From page 3

His desire to work at Helensville School was "driven by the passion to make a difference for my community. In a metropolitan kind of school you are more of an executive type of principal, rather than building relationships and getting to know the kids very well and getting to know the teachers and the parents.

"That was the attraction, to make a difference."

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Innovation Centre on the way

A new Innovation Centre, work on which will hopefully begin early next year, has new Kaipara College principal Cindy Sullivan excited.

"It's a really exciting prospect for growing our technology faculty in terms of digi-tech and robotics and things like that," she says.

The new facility will also house the art faculty, enabling art and technology students to work together and use a lot of the same resources.

"Students will be really upskilled in those areas when they go out into the world."

And with the current building not fit for purpose, planning is underway for a new Te Whare Ako for Māori students at the college.

"It will be in the centre of school to honour the fact the school is on Ngāti Whātua land and many students are Ngāti Whātua."

Cindy took over as principal at Kaipara College at the start of August, having joined the school in March last year as deputy principal and then becoming acting principal for Term 3 this year following the departure of previous head Steve McCracken.

Born in Auckland, Cindy trained at the Auckland College of Education, beginning her working life at Massey High as a horticulture teacher. After a couple of years there she took on a role at her old school, Takapuna Grammar, before becoming Head of Science at Marist College, and then later taking on the same role back at Takapuna.

She interspersed her teaching with two other positions.

One was with NZQA as a biology moderator.

"My job was to get samples of work from around New Zealand and quality assure it for how teachers were marking it, and giving feedback to teachers so there was a national standard."

Cindy also spent a couple of years with Auckland University as science adviser through a professional learning organisation for teachers called Team Solutions, running workshops at schools mostly around the upper North Island on how best to teach science.

Immediately prior to coming to Kaipara, she worked at Hobsonville Point Secondary School and then Rosehill College in Papakura.



• New college principal Cindy Sullivan

She says she has always been a science specialist.

"I love teaching science - I love teaching kids actually - and always try to bring in the relevance of it, so really go beyond science per se into how it's relevant to our lives, to how things work."

"Science has been my subject, but students are what I teach," she says.

Spending her initial time as principal has of course had its challenges. Everyone - students, staff and Cindy herself - have been working from home.

There have been regular Zoom meetings to support staff, and students have 'whānau teachers' who contact them on a weekly basis.

The school has opened a few times each week to allow students studying subjects like art and woodwork to collect materials they can use at home.

Even though secondary schools are now allowed back, Cindy says Kaipara "won't be open with the usual school timetable, but will be running targeted workshops for kids who need that extra support, if they are doing

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at Kaipara College

• From page 6

external exams or portfolio subjects like art.'

She says online learning will continue.

"We're trying to minimise the contact between kids as well as meeting obligations to be open.

"Personally I think learning online at home has been a good balance for our kids. We've worked really hard to meet all of them

and have a plan for all of them.

"There are some subjects where you absolutely need to be at school, art, woodwork and things like that, and some of the exam revision classes, but otherwise we are encouraging students to work from home," she says.

"Obviously face to face is the best way, but trying to balance health concerns with learning is tricky."

from our local MP

They say that there's a silver lining in every cloud. When it comes to responding to a global pandemic, however, sometimes the clouds seem pretty dark and the lining more grey than silver. I'm conscious that many people in the Helensville area are doing it really tough right now.

I want to highlight a positive aspect of the past couple of months, though, which is the continued commitment of local organisations. The volunteers for various groups making life better for everyone do an amazing job at the best of times, but the way they have gone the extra mile during lockdown has been a wonder.

Lockdowns bring challenges of both practical and psychological natures. Community groups are affected by these no less than anyone else.

The practical difficulties are probably obvious, even if the solutions aren't always. The tyranny of social distancing - necessary as it may be - really makes it hard for services and goods to be delivered to vulnerable members of the community.

The psychological difficulties also probably speak for themselves. Many of you will have been affected by the uncertainty of these trying times. Planning to teach, learn, work, and generally live a good life is so hard when no-one knows what's around the corner.

Creativity is being used by people in our area to overcome the practical difficulties, in a way that would make our pioneering forebears proud. The virtual equivalent of number 8 wire is holding communities together right now. And coming together as one people in this place remains the only way we can emerge victorious from the psychological battles we now face.

An example of what I'm talking about is the Helensville District Health Trust. I hope these local legends won't mind me highlighting what they have managed to continue providing - nothing less than excellent service - even in these trying times. In the Birthing Centre, for example, they've epitomised that sense of creativity and coming together, being strongly determined to look after the mothers, babies and whanau/families of our area. Nothing can derail their ambition to be the best of birthing centres in this country - and they are.

- Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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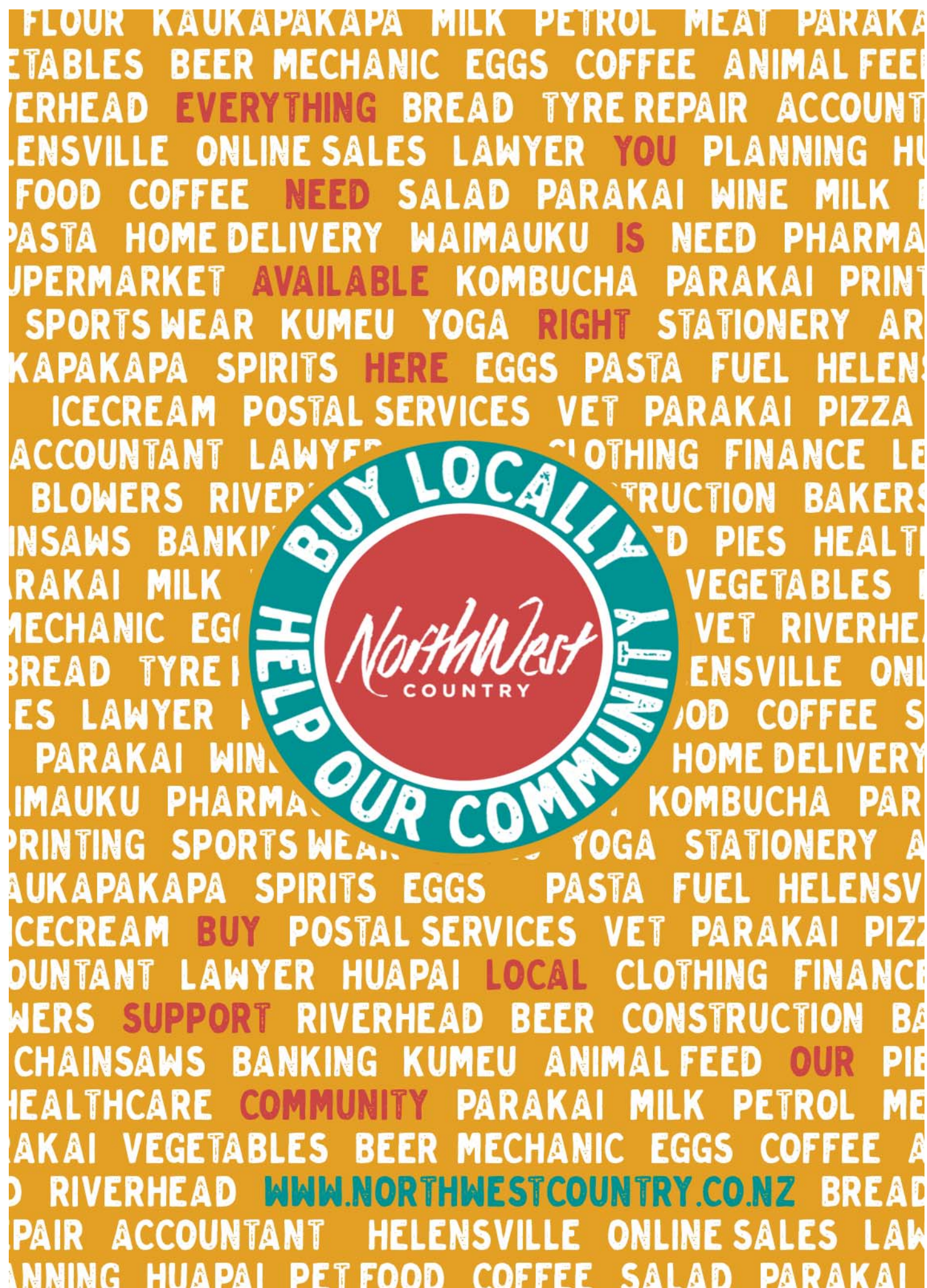
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Arts in the Ville

Arts in the Ville has a new date and a shorter, two-day format thanks to lockdown.

The event will now be held on Saturday, November 27 and Sunday, November 28.

As the new date conflicts with the Lions Club's summer book fair, there is a change of venue for the Makers' Market, which will now be held in the main building at the Helensville Showgrounds.

Organise Jo Olgilvie says it should still be a popular venue, as visitors will have to drive right past it to get to one of the most popular studios on offer, Joanne Sullivan's bronze sculpture studio.

Jo suggests the showgrounds could be a great picnic lunch stop for arts festival visitors.

A planned display by the Helensville Floral Art group has been cancelled as they can't create the display under L2 restrictions, as that requires numerous people working in close contact.

However, Jo has added another pop-up gallery to fill that gap, booking the Masonic Lodge in Kowhai Street.

Helensville's Pauline Denton will be exhibiting six large wallhanging works as part of the 'Born to Create' Christian Arts Fest being held at Magnify Church in Commercial Road in conjunction with Arts in the Ville.

Pauline has loved to draw for as long as she can remember. Completing a Fine Art Degree at Sheffield Polytechnic in the UK in 1984, she began working on large wall-hangings when she had a studio space in the Refinery Gallery in Nelson in 2006, and loved the way she could convey a 'spiritual truth' using fabric and an abstract image.

New Art Centre manager

Yvonne Abercrombie (pictured below) has been appointed as the new manager for the Helensville Art Centre.

She is an artist, teacher, and arts administrator with an arts background and broad experience which the Art Kaipara Board says makes her perfectly suited to her new role.

While studying painting at Unitec, Yvonne ran the Unitec art gallery, The Gallows, a role which included promoting and exhibiting student work, and multi-media marketing within Unitec and to the public.

After gaining a Bachelor of Design and Visual Arts degree she studied for and graduated with a Masters of Design, which involved researching contemporary painting and art history, presenting papers and running workshop seminars, and helping undergraduate students in their set briefs.

After graduating Yvonne worked for Mobile Art Gallery, combining administrative duties with curating exhibitions.

She has continued her own art practice, exhibiting in group and solo shows, including being a finalist in the Molly Morpeth and NZPPA awards.

Yvonne worked as a freelance artist, gaining valuable experience teaching art classes and tutoring individuals, before being employed full-time in 2018 at the Kumeū Arts Centre.

Working in a community arts centre proved to be Yvonne's 'happy place', as she loves working with community artists and serving the public by providing creative outlets.

Yvonne will start as manager of Helensville Art Centre in mid-November.





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the business

The North West Country business association is calling on the government to put in place measures to allow businesses to re-open.

A significant number of local businesses have been unable to trade during lockdown. We have restaurants, bars, hairdressers, barbers, osteopaths, physiotherapists, and others who haven't done any business for over two months.

We believe there are ways to allow them to open while keeping their staff and customers safe.

We want the government to allow businesses like bars and restaurants to run 'fully vaccinated' premises with no restrictions on numbers. This could work if businesses were legally able to request all staff to be fully vaccinated, and require customers to prove their vaccination status using the vaccine passport.

Currently the law doesn't allow this, but it would allow businesses to operate close to normal while protecting public safety and limiting the spread of Covid19.

Some of the association's retail, beauty and health service members would also like mandates to let them operate in a way that manages issues posed by unvaccinated staff and customers. This could mean government requiring people to show mask exemption certificates or vaccine passports on request as a condition of entry.

We believe business owners should have a choice on how they operate their businesses, and if they can do this safely with these changes, they should be put in place.

If lockdowns continue to stop businesses re-opening, or when open to operate economically, we will have members closing their businesses. Many owners are fast approaching the limits of their ability to stay afloat with no income.

- Mark Dennis

Chair, North West Country Business Assn



point of view

After the recent Super Saturday Vaccination Drive we must continue getting as many people as possible vaccinated.

It was heartening to see the enthusiastic response to the event in Helensville, with 250 vaccinations on Super Saturday, and more people going into the pharmacy for their first vaccination since then. It is good to hear that over 7000 vaccinations have been given in Helensville.

If you haven't got your first shot yet, I'd really encourage you to get it done, so that you're fully vaccinated for summer. Getting vaccinated is really easy: book online at bookmyvaccine.nz, or phone the Covid-19 Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26.

Some vaccination centres don't even require a booking - you can simply turn up and get your shot when it suits you. Check out covid19.govt.nz to find somewhere close to you.

If it's been more than three weeks since your first dose, there's no need to wait the full six weeks until your original appointment.

More than two million New Zealanders are now fully vaccinated, and if you're one of them, there are still ways you can support our vaccination rollout. Chat with family members about getting your vaccine and encourage them to get theirs, or offer to book an appointment for someone who is having trouble doing it on their own.

Finally, I know some people might still be a little unsure about the vaccine. If you have questions or want more information, you can find that, along with advice from medical experts, at covid19.govt.nz. You might also like to check in with your GP or health provider.

Thanks again for everything you've done to help keep your community safe.

- Marja Lubeck

*Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi
marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz*



local board matters

The announcement that both Labour and National have agreed to enable three-storied housing to be built bypassing Auckland Council's Unitary Plan is yet another blow to efforts to address the yawning gap in infrastructure across Auckland.

While Local Boards aren't responsible for transport infrastructure, we're already way behind the level of investment needed for community infrastructure such as improvements to our towns, parks, and sports facilities.

There is little to indicate where the money we need is going to come from. We are entering another year with very limited capital spending, and all we're really doing is trying to keep our existing assets maintained.

National's Special Housing Area's (SHA) kicked off the current situation. It didn't do a thing to address housing affordability, and simply created a mess by overriding the structure plans for Helensville and Kumeū and used legislation to force Auckland Council to accept more housing despite there being no funding to provide the infrastructure this new housing would need.

That was 2013, here we are heading into 2022, nine years later, and none of the roading agreed to at the time with the government has been built.

housing while ignoring the infrastructure funding issue.

Auckland Council's Unitary Plan provides a clear blueprint for growth. Within the plan there is provision for hundreds of thousands of new homes across Auckland. The plan allows for growth in appropriate areas where the infrastructure can be provided within the limits of Auckland Council (and ratepayers') ability to fund it.



Places to build houses, including much-needed high-density houses around planned transport corridors, isn't the problem - funding the public transport, roads, water, sewerage, and community infrastructure are.

It now appears this is all being thrown to one side.

That would possibly not be a bad thing were the government to have come up with a realistic infrastructure funding plan. Unfortunately, the \$3.8b funding package announced earlier in the year is for the whole of the country, not just Auckland, and we need three times that amount just to catch up with current needs.

Sadly, successive governments led by both major parties have gone for the easy announcements, such as the latest one, and avoided making the tough calls about addressing the billions of dollars required to provide a liveable city.

What does this mean locally?

Based on our experience to date it means more traffic misery, insufficient public transport, local parks and facilities not coping with the demand, and more frustration and anger directed at a council that has been removed from the ability to influence the outcomes for the community's benefit.

It certainly isn't making for a liveable city.

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board
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phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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The traffic and associated issues have grown worse, little to none of the funding needed has been spent, and the government's latest bipartisan solution is to put in yet more

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■ RUGBY CLUB AGM

Helensville District Rugby Football Club will hold its Annual General Meeting in the club rooms, 162 Awaroa Road, on Tuesday, November 16 starting at 7.30pm.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

After missing recent markets due to lockdown, organisers are hoping the next Kaukapakapa market can go ahead on Sunday, November 21 from 8.30am to 1pm. Local crafters and artisans have been busy during lockdown so there will be plenty items suitable for Christmas gift ideas available, as well as fresh locally grown produce, artisan food, plants, books, secondhand goods, and collectibles. As always there will be food and fresh coffee to imbibe while enjoying live

music from duo 'Take 2'.

For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542, or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ POETRY & SPOKEN WORD NIGHT

Are you an aspiring poet or story teller? If so you are invited to the next 'Spoken Word and Poetry' event to be held in the Magnify Church cafe, 118 Commercial Road, from 6pm to 8pm on Saturday, November 27. You can perform original or favourite works, poetry, stories, or monologues. Performances under 10 minutes are encouraged. To book email Pauline on: paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com or just turn up on the night. \$5 cover charge, bring a plate.

Christmas Book Fair - fingers crossed

The Lions Club of Helensville is planning to hold its pre-Christmas Summer Book Fair on the last weekend of November - although organisers aren't confident it will actually be able to go ahead.

"The hall's booked, tables purchased, signage vinyls have been ordered," says the Lion in charge of the fair, Chris Clark.

"Our only outlay is the signage so we can afford to hold out until the last minute. But realistically things don't look promising, as we could only operate under Level 1," he says - unless the Government tweaks Level 2 rules.

The fair is set to take place in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on the weekend of November 27 and 28, running from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday and 10am to 3pm on the Sunday.

"This is of course Covid level dependent, and the restrictions that the Auckland Council place on the hall," says Chris. "The Council

are very cautious when it comes to reopening the hall."

The club's Autumn Book Fair in May raised \$15,803 from the sale of books. When combined with proceeds from raffles, sausage sizzles, and a top up from the club, \$20,000 was given to the Kaipara Coastguard for its new Marine Rescue Centre to be built in Parakai.

Proceeds from the Summer Book Fair will be used in the community to help families and organisations affected by Covid-19 lockdowns.

As usual at the fair there will be nothing over \$2, with children's books just 50 cents, plus jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and quality magazines.

Non-fiction will be organised in 20 categories, including one specific to New Zealand subjects, plus a large general non-fiction section. Fiction will be arranged by author, with six special interest groups. There will be many books suitable for children and adolescents.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, or for larger lots phone Chris on 09 420 8527. The last date books can be accepted is Friday, November 19.

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