

## Pest-free programme bringing results

Hundreds of pests are being trapped around the Helensville area as efforts are ramped up for a pest-free West Rodney.

In just a five-week period, and with more traps still to go in, a trapline in native bush by the Helensville Watercare reservoir caught 57 possums, 45 rats and 11 mice says Boyd Steel, who is joint Rodney West pest free coordinator alongside Shona Oliver. He expects that trapline to rid the bush of 500 to 600 pests over 12 months.

Over a five month period, a trapline along the Helensville Riverside Walkway has netted 42 rats and seven mice, while over the same timeframe a trapline at Rautawhiri Park has caught 14 possums, 13 rats and three mice.

Traplines are checked by volunteers, usually every day or couple of days.

Catches are recorded on the Trap NZ mobile app, which Boyd is keen for locals who are already trapping on their own to download, so they can add their catches to the tally.

The coordinators work with groups such as South Kaipara Landcare and local iwi,

and the Manu in the Ville trapping project set up late last year has seen volunteers make around 100 traps so far.

Boyd says more people need to have traps - particularly rat traps - on their own properties.

The Helensville contact for traps is Tora McKenzie, who can be contacted through the Manu in the Ville Facebook page or by email: manuintheville@gmail.com. Traps cost just \$10, with money raised from their sale going towards making more traps.

"It's the perfect time now, coming out of summer is the best time to trap. This is when we want to catch predators so their numbers are reduced in time for spring bird nesting," says Boyd.



• Boyd Steel checks a local trap

Boyd and his twin brother Cam have been involved with trapping for around three years around Muriwai, and after talking with Auckland Council his current position became available.

Making the South Kaipara pest free is something he is passionate about - "I'm obsessed with it."

While getting rid of pest animals is the main focus, Boyd says Pest Free Rodney West is also keen for people to be removing pest plants, and while much more difficult, he is keen to see pest fish removed from waterways too.

Rodney Local Board appointed the two part-time Rodney West co-ordinators last year.

"With environmental restoration a key priority for the community and local board, it makes sense to invest \$75,000 to co-ordinate community-led initiatives and support landowners undertaking pest control in native bush," says local board chair Phelan Pirrie.

For trapping advice phone Boyd on 021 558 520 or Shona on 022 426 3397.

## Lions book fair back to normal

Helensville Lions Club will hold its Autumn Book Fair on the last weekend of May. With more than 600 banana boxes of books - well over 20,000 in total - the fair will be back to its normal full size after two years of Covid disruptions.

"We should be able to have a full hall this time around being back to normal," says organiser Chris Clark. "Or the new normal, as a lot of folks are still apprehensive about crowds."

The club's two annual book fairs are major fundraisers for the local community organisation, and with cancelled fairs over two years of the Covid pandemic, the club's funds have been "severely depleted". "So we are hoping for a boomer of a sale," says Chris.

A special one-day pop-up book fair held in March raised almost \$4000, which Chris says was a great result considering the restrictions in place because of the pandemic, and the reduced number of books on sale.

The Autumn Fair will be held, as usual, in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, running from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, May 28 and from 10am to 3pm on Sunday, May 29.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, Helensville, or for larger lots phone Chris on 09 420 8527, or any other member of Helensville Lions. The last date books can be accepted for the May fair is Friday, May 20.

# PREMIER

One stop - we do the lot!

- PANEL BEATING
- MECHANICAL REPAIR
- TYRES

Call today for an appointment or FREE quote!

93 Mill Rd, Helensville, Auckland



www.premieronestop.co.nz  
www.tyrepower.co.nz

# PH 09 420 8806



facebook.com/helensvillenews



@HelensvilleNews



helensvillenews.co.nz

MID WEST  
PUMPS



- Water Pump Sales & Servicing
- Water Filtration Systems
- Filter Supplies
- Deep Well & Submersible Bore Specialists

420 7694

[www.midwestpumps.co.nz](http://www.midwestpumps.co.nz)

[info@midwestpumps.co.nz](mailto:info@midwestpumps.co.nz)



River Valley  
Builders

- \* RENOVATIONS \* NEW BUILDS
- \* DECKS \* RE ROOFING

Shane Inglis  
021 193 5000

100% NZ  
SWEET & SPICY

Parakai  
Springs  
Open 7 Days

Naturally Heated Pools  
Water Slides  
Picnic Areas  
BBQ Hire  
and more...

[www.ParakaiSprings.co.nz](http://www.ParakaiSprings.co.nz)  
[info@parakaisprings.co.nz](mailto:info@parakaisprings.co.nz)  
0800 HOTPOOLS (468 766)

## editorial

Last month we ran an article on plans by Auckland Council to lower speed limits on 1646 roads around the city, many of them rural and several of them out our way at South Head.

The claim is that it is to make the roads safer. While that may be the case in some instances - for example on roads around schools - I have to take the more cynical view that it's simply easier, and much cheaper, to cut speeds than to actually maintain or rebuild the roads to a safe standard.

While speed reductions make sense in some cases, dropping the speed limit on the likes of Evans and Tarawera Roads from 100km/h to just 30km/h is ridiculous. I'm sorry, but no-one is going to drive that slowly (except perhaps when dodging ruts and potholes). With virtually zero chance of there being a traffic patrol or speed camera on rural roads like those, people will just keep driving at the speed they are comfortable with.

Really, if the condition of a road is so poor that the speed limit needs to be slashed that drastically, something is seriously wrong.

Presumably these speed reductions tie into the government's 'Road to Zero' plan for zero road deaths by 2050. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency recently announced plans to drop the speed limit across most of Northland's 880km of state highway from 100km/h to 80km/h - a move that has brought widespread criticism.

Road to Zero is a laudable, yet totally unattainable goal. As long as there are cars on the roads with humans behind the wheel, there will be accidents and deaths.

New Zealand's first road death was in 1906, caused not by speed but by a driver losing control on a rutted, muddy rural road (to be fair, they all were in those days, but it seems many haven't improved much!)

The fact is that, with the exception of a few blips, our road toll has been trending downwards for years, as the average safety level of the national fleet improves - from a high of 795 deaths in 1987 down to 318 in 2020 (virtually the same toll as way back in 1953, when there was only a fraction of the number of cars on the road).

But while cars are getting safer, it seems the roads are become less so.

I appreciate that road maintenance is an enormous cost, and Council has a limited amount of funds to go around. Just don't try to fob us off by telling us the speed reductions are for our safety - tell it like it is, that you can't afford to fix the roads to a safe standard. And maybe think about more realistic speed reductions that people may actually obey.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Museum fundraiser

Historic Kaukapakapa Library is holding a fund-raiser for Helensville Museum on Sunday, May 15 from 9am to 1pm, in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa market.

The library will have a selection of books for sale covering the local history of the area, including 'Pioneering Women of the South Kaipara', 'Men Came Voyaging', and 'The Kaipara Line'. As well as other gift ideas, visitors can become a museum member, or make a donation.

Also on show will be one of the beautifully handcrafted scale model carriages (right) from the Van Uden Collection, which were recently donated to the museum.

For more, phone Megan on 021 959 017 or email: [threehorses@xtra.co.nz](mailto:threehorses@xtra.co.nz).



# PRESTIGE

Jana Mills Real Estate Specialist

Mob: 021 509 990

AH: 09 420 9953

[jana@prestigerealtyhbc.co.nz](mailto:jana@prestigerealtyhbc.co.nz)

local  
EXPERT

## BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY?

Knowledge and experience yields many advantages in real estate. I know how to make selling or buying a home an adventure. Call me when you are ready to start yours.

Jana Mills





# Town turns to Toppville

Visitors to some local stores on Friday, April 8 could have been mistaken for thinking they had walked onto the set of a beloved Kiwi comedy.

There was a preponderance of Camp Leaders and Camp Mothers, a bunch of Ken and Kens, and other characters like Raylene and Brenda.

They weren't acting, but rather were celebrating Helensville becoming 'Toppville' for the day to support comedy icons the Topp Twins, who recently announced they both have breast cancer.



• Dame Jools Topp (4th from left) with Foursquare Parakai staff

The Toppville idea came from staff at Foursquare Parakai and owner Dan Dale ran with it.

He set up a raffle which raised \$2350 which has been donated to the Topp Twins' Give a Little page. First prize, an Oklahoma Joe's Smoker barbecue worth \$499 donated by BBQ Boys was won by Shirley. Second prize of a \$300 gift basket from Foursquare Parakai was won by Donna while Malcolm won third prize of two family passes to Parakai Springs. Fourth and fifth prizes, merchandise donated by Dame Jools Topp, went to Glennis and Dawn.

Staff in the store - along with some customers - dressed up as popular Topp Twins characters to show their support for the sisters. They were joined by staff at other locations such as Helensville Library, Paper Plus Select, and Helensville Unichem Pharmacy.

At one stage, customers to Foursquare Parakai were treated to both Camp Mother and Camp Leader on the checkouts. Spot prizes were given to some customers who turned up in costume.

Not content with just raising financial help for the Topp sisters, Dan also ran a Pink Baking sale on the day, with various pink-hued treats raising about \$200 which was donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dan says Jools and Lynda have "certainly touched a lot of people's lives with their kindness, their wit and their amazing talents.

"The Topp Twins have given so much to our community over the years, from attending school fetes, local fundraising, community causes, or just having a chat to a fan in the local Foursquare. They are always happy to help and very generous with their time," he says.

"We wanted to do something to help them and to let them know how much our community appreciates them. A huge thank you to the community for getting behind this cause."

## Joint May exhibition

Helensville Art Centre's May exhibition is titled 'Colin & Luigi'.

It's a joint exhibition by Colin Harris and his good friend Luigi Angeli.

Colin is a prolific artist who has been part of various exhibitions, including exhibiting with Helensville sculptor Jeff Thomson and as an artist of Mapura Studios. Colin was awarded the Wallace Foundation Artist Scholarship in 2019.

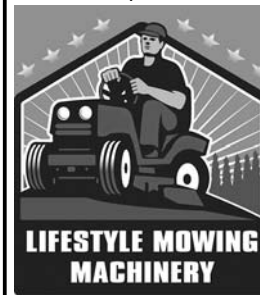
Luigi is a chef who spends his free time developing his personal art practice.

This show will feature individual works by each artist, along with collaborative pieces made by the two of them.

'Colin & Luigi' runs until Saturday, May 28, with a special opening event on Friday, May 6 from 5pm to 7pm.

## LIFESTYLE MOWING MACHINERY

"We will put the fun back into mowing"



- Quality brand mowers & ride ons
- Unparalleled service & support
- Large product range

Come in and see us today!  
8 Stevens Lane  
Waitoki  
0274 955 948

www.moadoc.co.nz



## WATER Wagon 1 Graeme Waterson

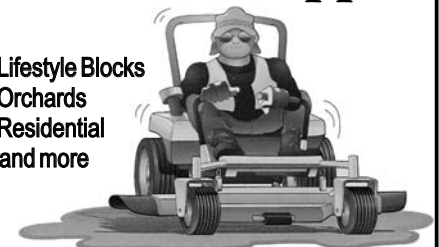


027 280 2630

'Pure Spring Water Carriers'

## The Grass Topper

- Lifestyle Blocks
- Orchards
- Residential
- ...and more



Lawn Mowing & Property Maintenance

Ph Richard: 027 245 6969

Email: thegrasstopper@outlook.com

## COME VISIT OUR UNIQUE BOUTIQUE RURAL CARE FACILITY

Our unique boutique facility is situated on the Twin Coast Discovery Highway off State Highway 16  
Craigweil House is within reach of Muriwai Beach and the Kaipara Coast

A caring environment nurtured by our dedicated team  
Rest Home • Hospital • Secure Dementia • Day Stays

No Premium Room Charges

You're welcome to come in for a cuppa and see us or ring us today to discuss a complimentary day stay

09 420 8277  
143 Parkhurst Rd, Parakai  
info@craigweil.co.nz



**Craigweil House**  
Home & Hospital  
FEEL AT HOME WITH FAMILY



CRAIGWEIL HOUSE  
WARMLY INVITES YOU TO...



**ATL PLUMBING LTD**  
 QUALITY SERVICE AT COMPETITIVE RATES!

- Maintenance
- Renovations
- Cylinders
- Roofing
- Spouting
- Central Heating



Find us on  
Facebook

CONTACT US  
 WITH ANY ENQUIRY  
 OR FOR A  
 FREE QUOTE

Ph: 09 420 7868 Adam: 021 245 9677  
 Or: 0800 285 758 (0800 ATL PLUMBING)  
 Email: adamandanita@xtra.co.nz



- For all your electrical requirements
- Repairs, maintenance & new installations
- Overhead to underground conversions
- Underground services to new homes
- New alarm systems

0274 784 396

Ph/Fax (09) 420 5122, (09) 420 8978  
 email: seangrayelectrical@xtra.co.nz

**Gumboots**  
 Early Learning Centre

The snow man came  
 to Gumboots!!

www.gumboots.cc.nz  
 1157 Peak Road R D 2 Helensville, ph 411 9038

# Councillor calls for new Mayor to appoint independent auditor

Rodney Ward councillor Greg Sayers is calling on mayoral candidates in the October Auckland Council elections to commit to appointing an independent auditor to oversee the council's operations.

The Royal Commission on Auckland Governance, set up in 2007 to look at creating an 'Auckland Supercity' by amalgamating the eight existing local government bodies, recommended an Independent Service and Performance Auditor be appointed.

"Their primary job would be to protect the interests of ratepayers independently of any political spin doctoring, political pressure or self-interest from Auckland Council staff," explains Greg.

The auditor's job would include finding and eliminating council wastage and overspending, and protecting residents' and ratepayers' interests by advocating for them on the reliability and affordability of council services.

"The idea was to have a public watchdog to hold both elected members and council staff to account on being financially prudent, while ensuring the delivery of core public services," he says.

"Neither Len Brown nor Phil Goff sought to appoint an Independent Service and Performance Auditor - instead they chose to ignore this Royal Commission recommendation.

"Accordingly, I have asked each new mayoral candidate to promise to appoint the position. It will be interesting to see if any follow through on this during their electioneering."

Greg adds that in current circumstances, with Auckland Council's finances under pressure due to the combined impacts of the pandemic, increasing inflation, and interest rate increases raising the cost for Council to service its debt, an independent auditor would "help challenge if the Council is managing its finances prudently and sustainability."

He says the Royal Commission also recommended the independent auditor



• Councillor Greg Sayers

would have the power to ensure monopoly services such as water, wastewater, or public transport were being managed and provided efficiently and effectively.

"They could question ideas such as Council's current wish to raise more income by charging all households a new tax to have their rubbish collected (regardless if they put out any rubbish or not) by the Council becoming a monopoly supplier, thus fully destroying the current user-pays option provided to ratepayers by private enterprise.

"Auckland Council will always try to maximise its income, seeking the majority of politicians to vote that way, while the role of an Independent Service and Performance Auditor would be there to help safeguard the ratepayers of Auckland," he says.

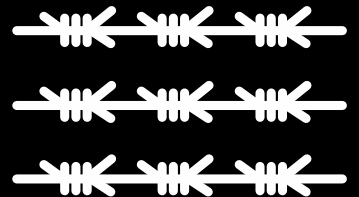
"The reality is the promise of a more cost-effective and efficient Auckland by it becoming a Super City has never materialised - so maybe the Royal Commission had it right."

**KC Farms Ltd**  
*since 2020*

**Rural Fencing Contractor**

**KYLE HOUTEN**  
**027 548 4111**

**kcfencingcontractors@gmail.com**



@kcfencingcontractors



# Young bowler off to world champs

Helensville tenpin bowler Melissa Moore will represent New Zealand at the International Bowling Federation's Under 21 World Championships in Sweden next month.

The 19-year-old, who is the current national junior tenpin bowling champion as well as holding that title in 2018, will travel to Helsingborg in Sweden as part of a team of eight young kiwi bowlers - four male and four female - selected based on their performance.

They will travel with coach Jason Waters and manager David Brown.

Now competing in the youth age category (ages 18 to 21), Melissa says with just four girls selected she "was so lucky to be chosen". It is the first time youth age competitors have been invited to the world championship, which will be held from June 21 to 29.

At those championships she will compete in singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and mixed teams events. And she won't be there for the sightseeing, saying the way to competitive bowling is to put it ahead of "all the other stuff."

The former Kaipara College student got into tenpin at the behest of an aunt, playing in a school holiday programme. She was invited to join a junior league, and then approached by a coach with the aim of becoming more serious at the sport.

Melissa took part in her first national championship in 2014 at the age of just 12 - picked she says because the team was short one girl player.

Winning her first national title four years later came as a surprise. "I wasn't expecting it," she says. "I didn't realise I was at the top."

Last year, just before the second Covid

lockdown, she won team gold playing in the Australian National Youth Team Challenge, an annual trans-Tasman contest.

Melissa, who works as a café assistant in Takapuna, plays for Pins Waitakere, playing weekly league games.

While she is officially in the youth age group, Melissa has also been competing in the ladies adult division - "I'm doing OK, middle of the pack which I'm not unhappy with."

Tenpin is a sport that can be surprisingly technical. While casual players use supplied plastic balls, more serious players use either urethane or 'reactive' balls which allow the



• Melissa with her impressive collection of medals and trophies

player to 'hook' the ball. There is also the art of reading the oil pattern on individual lanes, which will affect how the bowl rolls.

And like any sport at a higher level, injuries are part of the game - Melissa cites wrist, elbow, and ankle injuries during her time in the sport.

Melissa's mum Gail also plays, but just for fun. However she has won a couple of senior titles at centre championships, and says that every time she and Melissa have played each other, they have drawn.

Melissa has a Give a Little page to help raise funds for her Sweden trip - search for Tenpin Bowling Tournament. She can also be followed on Instagram at melissa\_bowling\_nz.

## Mother's Day

- Sunday 8th May -



Help Mum relax with a book this Mother's Day!

Great range of gifts and cards too ... and send it all off in the post on the same day!

paperplus

Select

TICKLE YOUR IMAGINATION

P: 09 420 8646

64 Commercial Road, Helensville

E: helensville@paperplussselect.co.nz

www.paperplus.co.nz



KUMEU PLUMBING LTD

Established 1974

 plumbing

 roofing

 solar heating

 pump shop

 pool & spa

 filtration

 drainage

 woodfires  
wetbacks/radiators

Ph 420 9108

156 Main Road, Kumeu info@kpl.co.nz www.kpl.co.nz

WHY PAY MORE?

2.90%

Commission rate to \$500,000 then 2% thereafter + GST

FREE MARKETING  
FREE APPRAISAL



Support your local

**BURMESTER  
REALTY** LICENSED UNDER THE REAA 2008

Buying or selling?  
Give us a call today...

0800 18 88 80

## Sellers & Co | Lawyers Helensville Law Office

For all your legal services including:

- Wills & Trusts
- Estate Administration
- Property Relationship Matters
- Refinancing
- Commercial Matters
- Land Subdivision
- Residential, Rural & Commercial Conveyancing



69 Mill Road, Helensville

Ph: 09 420 9324

Email: admin@helensvillelaw.co.nz

## ACCOUNTANT

**UHY** Haines Norton  
Chartered Accountants

- Farm & Lifestyle Block Specialist
- Business Planning & Development
- Financial Analysis

OFFICE

MARK FOSTER

**420 7972 021 220 5817**

Office hours 9am - 5pm  
34 Commercial Rd, Helensville  
PO Box 17 Helensville



**PHYSIOTHERAPY  
& HAND THERAPY**

Book online at: [www.physioflex.co.nz](http://www.physioflex.co.nz)

- Discount ACC rates for:
- Kaipara College students
  - Helensville Junior Rugby
  - Kaipara Netball Centre

[facebook.com/physioflex](https://facebook.com/physioflex)

[physioflexhlv](https://www.instagram.com/physioflexhlv)

**Ph 420 8899**

10 Commercial Rd, Helensville

# Amazing path on road to ministry

*With such an interesting background to cover, we will run this profile of Helensville's new Māori Anglican minister Jacynthia Murphy over two issues. This month covers her earlier years in New Zealand and Australia.*

New South Kaipara Co-operating Parish priest Rev. Jacynthia Murphy is the first Māori minister to serve the local parish - and she's almost certainly the only one to have previously worked as a cleaner and taxi driver.

Jacynthia took on her current role, holding services at St Matthew's Church in Helensville and All Saint's Church at Kaukapakapa, in February.

The road to her role as an ordained Anglican minister is as interesting as it is varied.

Born in Auckland but raised in the small Hokianga town of Omanaia, near Rawene, Jacynthia was the youngest of 15 children.

"I was brought up in the school of tough," she says. "It made me resilient, resourceful."

She worked for many years in the transport industry, gaining her taxi licence at the age of 20 and working for Alert Taxis for six years in central Auckland.

While two brothers who were also taxi drivers weren't happy with her doing that job for safety reasons, she says she was never harassed.

"Taxi driving was hugely important in my formation into how I serve today. I have met every possible character you could imagine.

"It was about learning to shut up, learning not to take sides, learning to allow them [her fares] to have a view even if you might not share it," she says.

She became a business woman, owning taxis in Auckland before relocating to Sydney where she owned two taxis, employing four drivers to cover both day and night shifts. She took on the role of taxi radio dispatcher, and then eventually moved to police radio work which she describes as a "very eye-opening experience", having to learn how to calm distressed callers down.

While in Sydney she also managed a fleet of 64 cabs for other owners, and established a cleaning company employing

four staff.

After 15 years in Sydney Jacynthia moved to Brisbane to be with her recently widowed mother, spending eight years there.

She had made a rule to employ people, especially solo mothers, who were unable to find work. One of those in Sydney was "quite exceptional" and Jacynthia gifted the cleaning business to her when she moved.

"I started with nothing, I never saw it as money really, even though it was an income. She has gone on to prosper really well," she



• Rev. Jacynthia Murphy

says of the act of kindness.

She set up a new business on arrival in Brisbane, cleaning an event centre. One of her employees told her about a community radio station, run by the Ethnic Broadcasting Association of Queensland (EBAQ), and told her she spoke so well she should be on radio.

Jacynthia looked into it, found there was a struggling Māori programme as part of the station, and took on running that. She approached Mai FM and other kiwi radio stations to send her resources, such as CDs with modern waiata and te reo, and underwent six months of training to become a licenced radio operator. The programme was a huge success, and was awarded the fastest ever growing ethnic group by the EBAQ.

• To page 7

## South Kaipara Men's Trust

Tama Tu Whanau Ora

Strengthening men and their families to help build better, safer communities.



10 Awaroa Road, Helensville  
(former Te Awaroa Youth Club building)

P: 027 800 8081

Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10am to 4:30pm

## Downsizing, De-cluttering or Moving?



We're locals interested in buying your old stuff for cash - kitchen and dinner ware, tools, wooden furniture, bric a brac + much more.

Ph: 09 411 8565 | Text: 021 046 4263

Email: [remu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remu@xtra.co.nz)



# Kids Time sessions starting again

Helensville Library was so pleased to become Toppville Library for the day, on Friday, April 8.

"We were stunned - and star-struck - when Dame Jools Topp visited to see us all in costume," says senior librarian Anne Coppell.

The library's Kids Time sessions, aimed at under-6s and their grown-ups, restart this month, but now held on a Wednesday.

From May 4, Kids Time will be held in the library from 10am to 10.30am each Wednesday morning.

While physical distancing isn't required at Orange level, library staff ask visitors to try to stay in their whānau bubbles as much as possible. Adults, and older children, are required to wear masks while inside the library.

"Because of these Covid-related requirements, Kids Time will run a bit differently. There will be more singing and dancing - and less reading - while we figure out the best ways to interact and emote," says Anne.

The Library and Service Centre team recently farewelled Freya, who has "been a mainstay and font of knowledge for us all,

including our customers, for the past 11-plus years. We miss her terribly," says Anne.

Staff has been changing over the past few months, with more changes to come. Sally is still manager, Anne the children's librarian (and second-in-charge), and Rachel is the full-time Library and Council Services Assistant.



• Library staff decked out for Toppville

# New Anglican minister cont...

• From page 6

Over the years Jacynthia's following of her Catholic faith had fallen away, but being older she was feeling the need to bring Christ back into her life. She asked on radio if anyone knew of a Māori Catholic church, and was directed to what turned out to be an Anglican church. From outside she heard a familiar hymn and guitar playing and says: "my heart jumped for joy. This was what I had been missing."

She started attending the church, volunteering at first to become the tea maker, then secretary, and finally taking on the treasurer/secretary role.

In 2004 she followed her mother back to New Zealand, landing a job cleaning the Far North District offices in Kaikohe. One of the staff there questioned why someone of her

obvious capabilities was cleaning, and suggested she send in her resume. Within a week she was hired, appointed to the newly-created position of Māori development and environmental management.

She was sent into the community, speaking at marae and with iwi to encourage local Māori to be more proactive in their engagement with the council.

"They needed someone who could talk their language, and I don't mean te reo, I mean tough. Taxis taught me that."

She explained how they were legally entitled to make oral submissions on council issues in te reo - something which initially at least caused some bemusement.

*Next month we will cover Jacynthia's path to becoming a minister and ultimately to serving in Helensville.*



**HELENSVILLE BOWLING CLUB**

Email: [helensvillebowls@gmail.com](mailto:helensvillebowls@gmail.com)

*New social and playing members welcome*

- Two greens, one natural and one carpet (all weather)
- Evening business house bowls in summer
- Indoor bowls during winter
- Weekly roll-ups and regular Club Comps
- Room-hire available

38 Awaroa Road, Helensville  
Phone 09 420 8316

Facebook: [HelensvilleBowlingClub](https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleBowlingClub)



**St John**

**HELENSVILLE STORE**

90 Commercial Rd, Helensville

Mon-Fri: 9.30am - 4.30pm

Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Ph: 420 9272 027 274 5187

**EDC**

ENGINEERING DESIGN  
CONSULTANTS

Sub-division Specialist

Contact us on 09 451 9044 or [team@edc.co.nz](mailto:team@edc.co.nz)  
[www.edc.co.nz](http://www.edc.co.nz)

Building Platforms • Utility Trenches •  
Ponds • Drainage • Drilling •  
Aggregate Supply • Tip Trucks •  
Excavators • Bobcat with Attachments



**DRIVEWAY REPAIRS  
& RE-SURFACING**

Call us for a FREE quote  
**0800 4SWALE** **SWALE**  
EARTHMOVERS  
or 09 420 8352. 103 Mill Road Helensville

**MCLEOD  
MOTORS**

- WOFs
- All Mechanical Repairs
- Auto Electrical
- Tyres & Batteries
- Stockists of 'Total' lubricants

5 Railway Street, Helensville  
Ph: 420 8633



**Support  
our local  
businesses**

**Marja Lubeck**

Labour List MP  
based in  
Kaipara ki Mahurangi

For appointments and assistance please phone:

☎ 0800 582 325 (0800 LUBECK)

@ [marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz)



Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



**Labour**

**Shop Local  
Eat Local  
Spend Local  
Enjoy Local  
(and you'll save on petrol!)**

*NorthWest*  
COUNTRY

**#northwestcountry #wemissyou**



# Jeff Thomson workshop

Helensville sculptor Jeff Thomson will hold a screen printing workshop at Helensville Art Centre on Saturday, May 28.

Aimed as a basic introduction to screen printing, participants will gain an understanding of how images and objects can be used in creative ways to make innovative screen prints.



They will look at the basic technique of screen printing including using light sensitive emulsion to put images onto silk screens, and will have the opportunity to print their own image(s) onto fabric or clothing.

No experience is required, and there is no age limit.

Two sessions costing \$10 per person will run from 10:30am to 12:30pm, and from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

For more information or to book, email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.co.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.co.nz).

## point of view

Over the Easter break I had a great visit to the Helensville area, taking in the first Kaukapakapa and Kūmeu markets since the opening up of NZ from the Covid pandemic.

I chatted with locals about how their communities and schools are coping with the move from Red to Orange Covid alert, and was gratified to pass on to the Prime Minister the thanks and praise for our campaign to keep our communities safe during the pandemic that so many of those I spoke to remarked on. I was pleased people were thankful for the regular updates about vaccination sites across Kaipara ki Mahurangi I have been posting on my Facebook page.



It was heartening to hear that the rural connection of 'locals looking after locals' as we coped with lockdowns and the traffic light system was a feature of the Helensville community.

A large subdivision proposed for the area was brought to my attention, and concern the Council may not be investing enough in infrastructure. It's an issue I will keep a watch on.

I was impressed with the Helensville Art Trail and checked in on Jeff Thomson, renowned local artist of corrugated iron pieces whose work features in many towns across New Zealand. The Art Trail reminded me that it would be a great way for us to celebrate Matariki - the start of the Māori New Year. It's a chance for all New Zealanders to share this special time and enjoy a mid-winter holiday.

Matariki has increasingly become a time of celebration not just for tangata whenua, but for many people across Aotearoa New Zealand, with communities coming together to pause, reflect and look to the future, which a local event like the Art Trail could celebrate.

Iwi and hapū will have a key role to play in helping us to learn about and celebrate Matariki in a way that suits each community. That's why plans are underway for a range of nationwide events to support us to celebrate Matariki across the country. I look forward to seeing how we mark this special time here in Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

Research shows there are many benefits to public holidays, with business representatives noting Matariki will give a much-needed mid-year boost to the hospitality and tourism sectors. As we begin welcoming back international tourists, Matariki is another chance to share Helensville and Aotearoa's unique offerings with the world.

- Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi  
[marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz)

**Harcourts** The Difference

YOUR  
**Trusted**

**LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERTS!**

**CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS**



**SALES**

09 420 7663

[helensville@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:helensville@harcourts.co.nz)

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

09 420 7412 | 021 113 1065

[rentals.helensville@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:rentals.helensville@harcourts.co.nz)

[helensville.harcourts.co.nz](http://helensville.harcourts.co.nz)

92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800

The Difference Limited Licensed Agent REAA 2008



**CYPRESS SAWMILL**

**BUY DIRECT FROM THE SAWMILL**

### MACROCARPA

- Kitset Raised Gardens
- Kitset Compost Bins
- Landscape Sleepers
- Pergolas and Beams
- Dry Macrocarpa for Furniture and Joinery
- Laminated Timber Benchtops
- Live-edge, one piece Macrocarpa Slabs
- Firewood, Mulch and Sawdust

### TREATED PINE

- Posts and Rails
- Retaining Walls
- Tree Stakes
- Decking Timber
- H5 treated Posts & Beams

**Firewood!**  
Get it now  
before  
winter!

700 Kahikatea Flat Rd, Waitoki

[www.cypress-sawmill.co.nz](http://www.cypress-sawmill.co.nz)

**420 5485**

## APPROVED WASTEWATER

Wastewater Design  
Tank Supply & Installation  
Servicing



Ph: 420 9042

69H Mill Rd, Helensville  
info@approvedwastewater.co.nz

www.approvedwastewater.co.nz



## House of Patchwork Ltd

For all your Patchwork and  
Handcraft needs, Kits and accessories



**SHOP HOURS**

Tue – Sat 10am – 4pm

16 Porter Cres Helensville PH (09) 420 6355

houseofpatchworkltd@gmail.com



## Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU K I TE AWAROA

Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

53 – 65 Commercial Road, Helensville

Ph: (09) 420 8747

Email: [bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz](mailto:bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz)

[www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)

## the business

The move to Orange means a busy period for the North West Country Business Association as we are now able to start planning once again for the North West Business Awards, on hold since our last awards in 2020.

These awards celebrate the hard work our businesses put into their trade and customer service, and are a great chance for winners to display their accolades to potential customers.

As part of the government's 'Reactivating Tamaki Makaurau package' we are now able to start putting our delayed family festival into action, with events planned for Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Muriwai, and Huapai. These are fully-funded and will be free for everyone. We hope they will be a great drawcard for local businesses and a well-deserved day out for families.

An upgrade to our website ([www.northwestcountry.co.nz](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz)) will have a new informative section, which will include a Guide for New Businesses to help them negotiate council bylaws which can be complex and confusing. Often businesses don't even know some of the bylaws and rules exist. Not understanding them can be costly, and while Auckland Council tends to take an educational approach to breaches, heavy fines can be imposed. Bylaws cover areas such as where outdoor seating can be placed, promotional material, events, stalls, and how mobile shops can operate.

We will also be adding information on how businesses can become more resilient to unexpected emergencies. Our location is vulnerable to natural events like flooding, strong winds, and fires, which can cause costly damage and prevent business operations for extended periods. And we are all at risk from power outages, water supply failures, and pandemics which every business should have a plan in place for.

No plan can prevent an emergency, but a detailed plan will help reduce losses and allow a business to recover quickly or find ways to operate throughout an emergency situation.

- Mark Dennis, Chair  
North West Country Business Assn



## from our local MP

It was welcome news recently that the compulsory vaccine passes have been scrapped for those wishing to sit their practical driver's test. This was an issue I wrote about recently, where I suggested a negative Covid-19 test could have been made an alternative to vaccination. Now this restriction has been removed, it is a win for our young people as well as those locals who had advocated for the change in policy.

As the saying goes, the squeaky wheel gets oiled. The good news is that when local people, through their local representatives, speak up we can sometimes make a change in government policy, even if it inevitably takes longer than we'd hope.

In January, my electorate office was contacted about the Automobile Association's then-policy requiring anyone who sat their practical driver licence test to be double vaccinated against Covid-19. To be clear, negative Covid-19 tests were not being accepted. One example of an unintended consequence of this requirement was that young people were driving on our roads without the appropriate licence, resulting in more risk for other road users as well as a lack of respect for the law.

We listened to the concerns being voiced by our constituents and took action. National's Transport spokesperson, Simeon Brown MP, wrote to the Minister for Covid-19 calling for vaccine passes to be removed, on the basis of necessity, so every eligible individual could sit their driver's licence test regardless of vaccination status. It is pleasing to see that applying pressure on the government about this rule ultimately led to change of policy.

- Chris Penk  
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi  
[chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz)  
Ph: 09 412 2496



**Chris Penk**  
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

365 Main Road, Huapai

09 412 2496

[chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz)

[chrispenk.co.nz](http://chrispenk.co.nz)



Authorised by Chris Penk, 365 Main Road, Huapai, Auckland.





# local board matters

Empty buses seem to make great 'letter to the editor' or talkback fodder. For some people there's nothing more irritating and wasteful than seeing an empty bus that they're paying for.

So, what is going on? Is it something we should be worried about, and why don't we just run buses that are full?

Normally Local Boards have nothing to do with providing public transport. However in Rodney, the introduction of the Rodney Transport Targeted Rate which is used to give more areas of Rodney - including rural areas - access to public transport, has given us insight into how public transport works and why, sometimes, buses are empty.

The first thing to tackle is subsidising public transport, because the empty bus issue is usually directly linked to subsidies.

All public transport services are subsidised, and that's the same across the world with a very few exceptions - Tokyo and Hong Kong are examples of subway services where fares collected exceed 100 percent, meaning they make more money than they cost to run. It's important to note there is debate about whether you should describe these as making a profit as the costs of building the network aren't included. It's also worth pointing out that both these cities are top 50 for population density, whereas Auckland sits around 115th.

Road building and maintenance are also highly subsidised, and up to 2021 these activities accounted for 62% of National Land Transport Plan spending, compared with just 21% on public transport.

Healthcare, schools etc can all be argued to be subsidised by taxpayers - that's just how things work. So public transport is subsidised, like other public-good services, and that's the same across almost every other city around the world.

So why are there empty buses?

If the company running the service for Auckland Transport (AT) has bought the bus and is paying a driver, it makes sense to keep it running on a loop all day. The best analogy I can think of is walking into a café at 11am and thinking it's about to go bust because there are no customers; an hour

later the place will be packed. You don't close the café and send the staff home unpaid and run the café only over the busy two hours of lunch. This is also why the "just give people taxi vouchers" response to empty buses doesn't work - taxi companies, particularly in suburban areas, don't have the capacity to deal with the peaks of commuter or school demand.



The most important thing is that good public transport systems are frequent and reliable. We've seen this with the three services we put in place. The frequent ones have quickly met AT's standards for a sustainable service. The other one that ran a 90 minute loop service didn't, until we increased frequency and patronage quickly rose, even during Covid-19. People who use buses may need to use them during the day for shift work or appointments; simply not running the buses during those times for fear of running an empty bus means the service isn't available. And finally, just because someone sees an empty bus on one point of the route doesn't mean it isn't being used. Some of our routes are busy at different times of the day in different areas depending on demand. A convenient (frequent) service is essential, and that does mean sometimes the bus will be empty.

Bus services in Rodney provide a range of benefits to both rural and urban residents. The new routes have restored public transport to people who cannot drive and previously had no option other than taxis.

Public transport is going to be an important part of the response to climate change, and providing a frequent service to our growing towns should be just as important as providing roads, water, sewerage, and recreational spaces, even if it means sometimes those roads will be empty and there will be no one using the parks.

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board

[phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

**dizzy heights**  
TREE SERVICES

**Dion Mayes**  
Qualified Arborist

All tree work • Pruning  
Hedges • Council Approved  
Full Insurance • Tree Felling  
Tree Chipping Service

**Difficult Trees a Specialty**

**FREE QUOTES**

0800 349994  
0800 DIZZYH  
021 527219 / 09 4205352

**Creating Nature**  
Landscapes

Landscape Design / Construction / Maintenance  
Water Features / Lighting / Irrigation  
Retaining Walls / Decks / Fencing / Pergolas  
Planting / Plant Supply  
Concrete / Stonework / Paving

info@creatingnaturelandscapes.co.nz  
www.creatingnaturelandscapes.co.nz  
Call Ben 021 285 4469 / 09 947 4298

**Kaukapakapa Drainage**

- Septic Tank Systems
- Drainage
- Truck & Digger Hire
- Pile Drilling
- Drain Unblocking

*Reasonable Rates*      *Over 35 Years Experience*

**Phone/Fax: 420 4149**  
**Mobile: 021 926 301**  
**Email: [gary@kdrainage.nz](mailto:gary@kdrainage.nz)**

## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

■ **JUNE 2022 deadline: Tuesday, 24th May, 2022**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, 7th 2022

■ **Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor, and Advertising:**

Dave Addison

Ph: 420 7215 • Mobile: 021 178 5568

Email: [dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz](mailto:dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz)

■ **Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:**

Email: [subscribe@helensvilleneews.co.nz](mailto:subscribe@helensvilleneews.co.nz)

**2022 issue dates and deadlines:**

Due out: June 7th

Copy by: May 24th

Due out: July 5th

Copy by: June 21st

Due out: Aug 2nd

Copy by: July 19th

Due out: Sept 6th

Copy by: Aug 23rd

■ **Editorial:** Ph 420 7215 or 021 178 5568.

**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.

■ **Copyright:** No material in this newspaper may be copied or reproduced without the publisher's permission.

■ **Disclaimer:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newspaper, but the editor and publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Contributors' views are their own and do not necessarily represent those of Helensville News or its editorial team.



[www.facebook.com/helensvilleneews](https://www.facebook.com/helensvilleneews)

■ [www.helensvilleneews.co.nz](https://www.helensvilleneews.co.nz)

# Dreads come off to raise cancer cash

Fourteen years worth of dreadlocks raised \$3670 for the Breast Cancer Foundation in April.

Helensville man Taylor Blaikie (right) made the decision to lop off the dreads he had been growing since the age of 18 to raise money for breast cancer awareness after his mother-in-law was diagnosed with the disease.

While the Give a Little page he set up to raise funds has now closed, Taylor is keen to point out anyone can donate to the charity at: [www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz](http://www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz).

Taylor 'raffled off' the chance to remove the dreads, with the first 20 people to donate \$50 or more getting the option to cut off one dreadlock, or nominate someone else to do it for them.

His two young sons each chopped one off. They had never seen their father without his lengthy locks, and Taylor says five-year-old Archie wasn't fazed but two-year-old Wolf "was a bit funnier about it."

Professional hairdresser friend Sam Dobney did the tidying up once the 'amateur' cutting ceremony was over.

Taylor says he hasn't had short hair since he was about five or six years old. While he didn't have dreadlocks when he first got together with wife Kelly at around age 16, he did have shoulder-length hair, so she had never seen him with short hair either.

Both he and Kelly are really liking the new short look, and Taylor says he definitely won't be growing the dreadlocks back.

"I'm keeping it short, it's amazing!" he says.



AN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE  
YOUR WHANAU WILL LOVE!

**ACTIVE EXPLORERS**  
HELENSVILLE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

BOOK A VISIT TODAY!  
14 Commercial Road, Helensville  
027 229 9403  
7:00am - 6:00pm  
Ages 3 months - 6 years  
4 or 6 hour sessions  
Short and Full Day options

**MECHANICAL Helensville SERVICES**

Quality auto service and repair at country prices

WOFs - Brakes - Suspension

90 Mill Rd, Helensville  
Ph 09 420 8177

**LIONS INTERNATIONAL**

**THE LIONS CLUB OF HELENSVILLE**

**AUTUMN 2-DAY BOOK FAIR**

Helensville War Memorial Hall  
Saturday 28th May 9am-4pm  
Sunday 29th May 10am-3pm

**Local Board meeting**

Rodney Local Board's next business meeting is on Wednesday, May 18 at 3pm. At Covid-19 orange setting some meetings are held in person while others are held online - email: [rodneyllocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rodneyllocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) for details. Meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed online at: [infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

**trade & classifieds**

- Helensville Glass  
24 hour service. Free measure and quote.  
Ph: 420 8210

**Burnetts**

SEPTIC TANK & WATER TANK CLEANING  
Prompt, Professional Service  
Ph AK 412 9210  
25 Years Experience

MOBILE  
0274 924 494

**NORTHWEST CABINS**

022 1209 562

RENTALS AVAILABLE NOW | FINANCE AVAILABLE

[WWW.NORTHWESTCABINS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.NORTHWESTCABINS.CO.NZ)

**FIRST AUTO ELECTRICAL**

**Full Mobile Service**

Specialists in Auto Electrical & Air Conditioning  
Servicing Vehicles, Heavy Machinery,  
Farm Equipment & Marine

Workshop Parts Accessories

Ph 09 427 5748  
Mob 021 689 700