

## Anzac services well attended



Good crowds turned out for Anzac Day services at both Parakai and Helensville (above). While the number of people watching the return of the Anzac parade down Commercial Road wasn't large, by the time the service led by Kaipara Memorial RSA president Rex Keane started a crowd of several hundred had gathered outside the War Memorial Hall cenotaph.

Fifteen minutes earlier, three beautifully restored vintage military vehicles led the first Anzac Day parade in several years down Commercial Road from The Original Kaipara Tavern's carpark to the hall. The parade was made up of members of the Kumeū Brass Band, Kaipara College student flag bearers, veterans and former service people, current serving New Zealand Defense Force personnel, and representatives from various local service organisations and schools. Parade photo on page 10.

## Grow your own with 'Homegrown'

South Kaipara Good Food's latest programme, called 'Homegrown', has been developed to help locals grow fresh, nourishing food at their own home.

"Got an overgrown backyard or no garden at all? No worries, we've got you covered," says SKGF communications assistant Kayla Clements.

No expertise is necessary, as SKGF will step in to help locals with tools and guidance.

"You don't need to be a gardening expert, we'll walk alongside you," says Kayla.

Spaces are limited so locals keen to take the first step towards growing their own kai should contact Jo at SKGF, email: [kaigrow@skgf.org.nz](mailto:kaigrow@skgf.org.nz).

Meanwhile, SKGF volunteers have planted up new community gardens at the Kai Hub at 82 Mill Road, Helensville. The gardens are a shared space for locals to learn, grow food, and "be part of something awesome together," says Kayla, who adds it doesn't matter if people have never gardened before or are already experienced.

## Christmas parade

The Helensville Santa Parade will return this year on Saturday, November 29.

Like last year it will be held around the racetrack at the Helensville Showgrounds, and this year will be held in conjunction with the Lions Club's Christmas Book Fair.

A planning committee is working on the event details, but with a date finalised local businesses and community groups can start planning their float designs.



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## editorial

Great to see the return of the Helensville Anzac parade and civic service. While the dawn service at the Parakai cenotaph is amazing to attend, many people simply can't make it to that - especially those families with smaller children. The parade and the service in Commercial Road is a great chance for a much bigger slice of the local population to commemorate the sacrifice our soldiers have made.

Talking of returns, next month sees the return of our special community listing issue. I think this will be the fourth edition over the past decade or so, and this year it has been expanded considerably with plenty of new listings. Hopefully our readers will find it a useful reference for all the community groups, clubs etc in the area - and equally hopefully it might lead to some new members for some of the vital community organisations that continually struggle to attract enough support.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## letters

Let me first say that I live in Waimauku and am not a daily commuter, so it is rare that I am caught up in the daily motorway gridlock. What I do have is a son that lives on my property and works at Auckland University who rings me each evening to pass the time away whilst held up in the usual slow motorway traffic.

Auckland Council's proposed congestion charge is nothing more than a tax grab. Auckland has seen it before with the Phil Goff 10 cent petrol tax to, in his words, "reduce congestion". That tax was paid by everyone including those who never joined the morning and evening rush. Where are his promised improvements to ease congestion? Lets be honest - they were never there, nothing was ever proposed, and the huge sum earned just evaporated.

The northwest is one of Council's forgotten lands. Don't spend any money on infrastructure, but allow unfettered development both domestic and commercial and rake in development costs, permit fees, and rates.

Both Council and the NZTA seem to have employed people who have no idea of forward planning. They don't seem to communicate with other departments to understand what they are thinking.

SH16 from Waimauku to Huapai has undergone major alterations including massive drainage work carried out under contract. This has taken 18 months and counting. At the end of it we will have the same two-lane highway now terminating in a new set of traffic lights at Huapai, and when Council sees money to be made in a massive development in Waimauku, which it evidently will, there will be gridlock.

Huge housing developments are allowed to be built in Riverhead and Kumeū and no thought is forthcoming to the effect on the Riverhead/SH16 junction. This and the Old North Road roundabout cause immense problems; we are promised a bypass to eradicate this but it is always 20 years in the future. In 2006 when we moved in it was 20 years away!

At Brighams Creek the widening of the road and bridge into the huge commercial site has been a joke. Why wasn't a slip road onto the city-bound lanes built before development started and charged to the developer? Its called future proofing. No, let the trucks and traffic block up the roundabout and Brighams Creek Rd.

The recent widening of the Northwestern motorway into the city was advertised at the time as the answer to the problem; it has not worked. Why no bus lane like North Shore or a fast monorail into the city? One of the problems is there is no space available alongside motorways as housing has been allowed up close. Council doesn't seem to understand increasing access corridors over rateable properties.

Commuters have no alternative. The bus 'service' cannot be relied upon, takes hours, costs a fortune, and doesn't take them to where they want to go. Trains? Totally unreliable, cancelled at a moment's notice - and they don't come near the northwest.

A congestion charge does not discourage people who have to meet start and finish deadlines. So will Council be subsidising early education facilities that have to start very early and finish late so that parents can meet your criteria? Will it also be releasing users of the motorways who actually don't work in the city but have to use them to go through the city?

The answer does not lie with just slapping a tax on users and hope it reduces the problem Council and NZTA have created. We all know they wont use the revenue to fix the problem. If the Council and NZTA are unable to understand and fix the problems they have caused then someone that does is perhaps the answer.

- Andrew Denton  
Waimauku

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# Giant mural to grace prime Commercial Road wall

Work will start soon on a gigantic mural in Commercial Road celebrating Helensville's history.

It's a gift to the town from long-time residents and business owners Greville and Maureen Walker, and will cover the entire end wall of the Progressive Building facing the Woolworths carpark - a 14m-wide span and covering almost 80sq.m.

The mural will be the culmination of about five years' worth of planning by Greville, who has owned the historic Progressive Building since 1987.

Final details of the project were still under wraps as we went to press, with discussions still taking place with Woolworths, the artist, and local iwi. However we can tell you it will focus on the period around 1900 and will feature harbour shipping and the arrival of the railway, incorporated with elements of local Māori



• Currently a blank canvas, this wall will soon feature a stunning mural

## Kids' clothes swap

After several hugely successful women's clothes swap events, there will soon be one just for children's clothes - and all proceeds will go to local charity Parent Aid North West.

The first Kumeū Kids' Clothing Swap will be held at the Kumeū Community Centre on Saturday, June 14 from 10am to 3pm. Clothing drop-off will be the day before, Friday 13, from 11am to 7pm.

Organiser Bex Holland says it will be an ideal way for local families to refresh their children's wardrobes, upsize their kids' clothes, grab a few essentials, or get prepared for a new arrival.

Families can take their lightly used children's clothing and shoes (sizes newborn to 10 years) on the Friday, then swap them for 'new-to-them' items on the Saturday. While the first hour of the clothes swap is reserved for swappers, from 11am the swap will be open for everyone with all items just \$2 each.

"In addition to clothing, we're also accepting a limited number of high-quality larger baby items," says Bex. "Think prams, port-a-cots, bassinets, bouncers, breast pumps, baby carriers and more. These will be available for sale at incredibly reasonable prices."

All proceeds from the event will go to Parent Aid North West, a local charity that provides practical, in-home support to families with children under five. Any leftover clothing will be donated to local charities.

culture.

"We've chosen the period around 1900 [as] we really feel that the town was coming of age. The railway had arrived. The Kaipara Line was functioning and connecting with harbour shipping," says Grev.

"Those two things will underpin the whole mural. It's the greatest development period thanks to [the] connectivity of rail and harbour shipping."

He says the focus of the mural will be 'downtown Helensville' and it will have a "strong cultural involvement, as it should."

Grev has been in consultation with local iwi and says: "we wouldn't do anything so prominent for Helensville without them being completely on board. They are a big part of the mural content."

Before the artwork can begin there is still a lot of preparation work needed on the wall such as plastering and painting, which Greville expects will take most of May. He's hoping the artist will begin painting in June and believes it will take two to three weeks for the artwork to be finished - depending on weather of course - and be ready in time for the town to help celebrate the National Heritage Festival in late September.

Greville and Maureen, who now live in a retirement village at Hobsonville Point, say after 38 years in Helensville they feel the mural is something they would like to do for the benefit of the town.

"I genuinely believe that the end result of the mural should be for Helensville like the Hundertwasser Centre is at Whangārei," says Grev.

"I really believe that a mural of this size and scope and content as a feature on history will be to the arts community as important to the southern Kaipara as the Hundertwasser attractions are to the north."

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# Ōtakanini Tōpū caring for South Head land

Farm manager Jeff Bradly is looking forward to a winter planting session with a heap of Ōtakanini Tōpū Incorporation's 1000-plus shareholders.

It will be the start of a multi-year fencing and planting programme to help reduce silt from the farm going into the Kaipara Harbour, and will create a lasting legacy for current and future generations of tamariki and rangitahi.

Jeff is also keen to showcase more of the 1560ha sheep and beef farm at South Head, and let the shareholders know about ongoing development and improvement plans for the block, which is run alongside a 500ha plantation of third rotation, 20-year-old pinus radiata trees.

The Ōtakanini Tōpū team currently runs 600 Angus breeding cows, 4000 Romney ewes, and 1000 hoggets on the pastoral area of the farm.

During the spring and summer months of 2024 and 2025 the Incorporation's focus has been on fencing to protect sacred areas of the maunga, erodible hillsides, and waterways.

Jeff says around 5km of seven wire post and batten environmental protection fencing -

2km of that in partnership with Kaipara Moana Remediation - has been completed. Now, in partnership with KMR, the aim is to plant around 2000 natives across four sites this winter - all areas which lead from the farm down to the Kaipara Moana itself.

A decade ago, similar work was undertaken with the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group and the results of that work are clear to see in the flourishing natives alongside a pristine waterway.

The whole Ōtakanini Tōpū team understands the challenges of farming in the area and is committed to the KMR kaupapa and restoration of the environment for the benefit of the Kaipara Moana.

Having grown up on a neighbouring farm which he now owns, Jeff has a good grasp on environmental challenges due to weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle, which did plenty of damage to the Ōtakanini Tōpū block including washing off a substantial amount of sand and soil from the rolling landscape.

Repairing that damage will begin with planting natives by Ōtakanini Tōpū's farm staff and shareholders - work that will continue for a number of years.

KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund supports landowners and groups to create sediment reduction projects in the Kaipara Moana catchment. The fund is aimed at collectives including hapū, marae, kaitiaki groups, landcare groups, catchment groups, and trusts administering land with multiple ownership including ahuhenua trusts.



• Ōtakanini Tōpū manager Jeff Bradly with KMR field advisor Shona Oliver

Through the Whenua Whānui Fund, KMR is now supporting 91 collectively-led projects to co-design a project, develop a plan to unlock KMR funding, or lead delivery of a project; some of the projects have been already been completed.

For more information about the Whenua Whānui Fund, contact KMR via email to: [hono@kmr.org.nz](mailto:hono@kmr.org.nz) or apply via the website at: [kmr.org.nz/application](http://kmr.org.nz/application).

## Arts in the Ville

Arts in the Ville will take a new approach this year.

While much of the event will be the same as usual, it has been absorbed by the Helensville Arts Centre and will be run under the auspices of Art Kaipara.

A team has been assembled to organise the popular Labour Weekend event and to reach out to artists looking to exhibit at the 2025 festival. Anyone with questions about the event should email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).

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# New supermarket owners at Parakai

Aimee and Dexter Henderson are the new owners of Four Square Parakai - and for one of them it's pretty much business as usual, while for the other it's a whole new ball game.

The couple took over ownership of the store in late March from previous owners Dan and Di Dale, who ran the supermarket for just over seven years.

They have moved here from Morningside, buying a house in Helensville and getting two-year-old son Cooper happily ensconced at Little Firefly Early Learning Centre in Commercial Road.

Aimee has always wanted to own her own grocery store, a dream which had been growing over the past five years or so.

She has worked in supermarkets since the age of 16. Her parents owned a supermarket, and she has since worked at Pak N Save, New World, and Four Square. So buying her own store has been a natural progression.

For Dexter, however, it's been a complete change of scene - although he says he did work as a checkout boy at New World Victoria Park in his youth. Rather than working in the grocery industry, he has spent the past 14 years working for the police 111 call centre, dispatching, training, and supervising.

"I'm really enjoying it," he says of the career change. "I was a bit stuck behind a desk. [I'm still] using my customer service skills but now face-to-face, engaging with customers and getting to know the regulars."

It's the first business the couple has owned, and their first time as employers.

"It's a lot more hours than we're used to," says Aimee. "It's challenging, but rewarding doing it for yourself. We're really excited to be here, and plan to be here for a while."

She says the team at Four Square Parakai have been very welcoming, as has the local community, with regulars coming in and introducing themselves.

As for future plans, "we've got some projects we will work on to make the store even better," says Aimee. We want to put our own spin on things."

However she says they won't be rushing to make



• Aimee and Dexter with son Cooper

changes, preferring to settle in first and see what's already working well.

They spent a couple of weeks in-store with Dan before taking over to see how things were done, and Aimee says her previous work skills have carried across nicely to her new position.

One thing that definitely won't be changing is the legacy the Dales left of supporting the local community. The Hendersons have already supported the RSA's Anzac Day breakfast, a Birthing Centre fundraiser, and the Helensville Primary gala.

"We're keen to give back as much as we can," says Dexter.

In his spare time, Dexter is a keen rugby fan. He has already been acting as a line referee at home games for the local men's premier team, and hopes to be able to referee for junior and school rugby.

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## Ride-on racing takes off at Waitoki



Ride-on lawnmower racing, that most American of motorsports, has arrived locally with the formation of the Waitoki-based Rodney and Waitakere Mower Racing Club.

Considered one of the cheapest forms of motor racing in New Zealand, competitors race in a variety of classes. Those range from pretty much stock standard ride-ons with the mower deck removed, to quite highly modified, lowered, and widened racers with souped-up engines.

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## Next Show to celebrate the horse

The 2026 Helensville Show theme will be 'The Horse'.

Over-arching themes for the show are a recent feature which only began with 2023's 'Wool' theme, while last year 'Dairy' featured.

As part of next year's horse theme, the teams from Helensville Show and Te Awaroa Museum are putting together a history of the Helensville District Racing Club, for display at the 2026 Helensville Show on Saturday, February 28.

The club, of course, held races on the track at the Helensville Showgrounds for many years.

They are looking to borrow memorabilia, information, photographs, and memories of the race meetings, the people involved, the history - and of course, the horses.

Anyone willing to lend any memorabilia to go on display at the Show should email Show manager Shona Addison at: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz).

Photographs can be scanned so the originals don't need to go on show. The teams are also keen to record any oral memories of the club's history.

Another historical aspect the Show would like some help with is of working horses in the area.

"The horse was such a major player in the history of



• Horses played an integral role in the history of the Helensville area, both at work and play. Here a working horse is drafted in for a fun sled ride for members of the Alan Osborne & Ken Tanner families at the Osborne's property in Kaukapakapa

## Art Centre courses and exhibitions

Starting on Thursday, May 15 and running for six weeks, Helensville artist Mike Rowland will be holding a painting course at Helensville Art Centre.

Mike has been running a successful drawing course at the centre and has developed it into a six week painting course running from 11am to 1pm. He will use methods he's developed in his own painting practice, and students will come away with colour, layering, and painting skills along with their own completed artworks.

The course fee is \$220 which includes a starter material pack. To enrol in the course email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).

As a creative outlet for teens, the Art Centre is running a group working on collaborative projects to create artwork that will feed into exhibitions and outdoor sculptures at the centre. Participants will learn a variety of creative disciplines while being part of exhibiting projects. For ages 12 to 15, the fee is \$100 for the six-week course which covers all materials. It will run from May 14 to June 18. Bookings must be made by Wednesday, May 7 by emailing: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).

Two upcoming exhibitions are now open for locals

to enter. A Matariki exhibition will run from May 21 until June 7, with entries due by May 17. 'Sustain', part of the Festival Of Photography, will run from June 11 to 28, with entries due by June 7. Details and entry forms on the Art Centre website.



• Helensville Art Centre has been working with local primary school children and Helensville Library on art projects to go on the outside of its building, thanks to an EveryKid grant. Here local youngsters paint during the Art Centre's recent free school holiday programme

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# New signs mark town's entrances

Helensville has new town entrance signs courtesy of the Helensville Lions.

The northern entrance sign is located on Railway Street (SH16) opposite the start of the Helensville Showgrounds. The southern sign is on the grass berm in Mill Road, a few metres before Te Awaroa museum.

The Lions Club of Helensville funded the two signs in a joint agreement with the North-West Country Business Association.

The design of the signs pays tribute to local heritage, depicting both the Māori name for our town - Te Awaroa - as well as its European name. The signs also feature a stylised silver fern, designed using Māori motifs.

The Lions Club says the silver fern has been accepted as a symbol of New Zealand's national identity since the 1880s.

"To Māori, the elegant shape of the fronds stood for strength, stubborn resistance, and enduring power. To Pākehā, the fern symbolised their sense of attachment to their homeland.

"The silver fern represents the



• The new entry sign in Mill Road

coming together of Māori and European settlers, embodying a shared sense of belonging and national identity for all New Zealanders."

Running up the side of the fern are five stars, with dual meanings. They represent the five awa (rivers) that feed the southern part of the Kaipara Harbour - from north to south the Hotoe, Araparera, Makarau, Kaukapakapa, and Kaipara rivers. They also

represent the five marae of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, again from north to south: Puatahi, Araparera, Kakanui, Haranui, and Rewiti.

In the centre, a depiction of the historic Helensville Post Office represents the pākehā settlers of the Southern Kaipara.

Lions Club of Helensville members are pleased with the positive comments they have received about the signs, particularly on social media.

## End of an era for Lions phone book?

By the time you read this, the 2025 edition of the Helensville Lions phone directory should have been delivered - and it's almost certainly the last one you will receive.

Falling advertising revenue means the directory, which has been delivered to urban and rural homes and businesses in the South Kaipara area for around 35 years, will barely break even this year.

Over the decades it has been a significant fund raiser for the Lions Club, raising money which has in turn gone back into the local community.

Advertisement numbers have dropped by about a third in the last four or five years, while printing costs have risen. Similarly, the number of phone listings have also dropped, with many people abandoning expensive landlines and just using mobile numbers - which they often don't want listed in directories.

Lion Roland Ostring says while a final decision on the future of the directory hasn't been made yet, it's 95 percent certain it won't continue.

"Personally I think it's sad. It's the end of an era," he says.

The Lions Club of Helensville was the first organisation in New Zealand to produce a community telephone directory like ours says the club's longest-serving member, Dennis Cummings.

Originally the Post Office and later Telecom held the copyright on phone directories, but a government ruling changed that to allow communities of fewer than 10,000 to produce their own. As soon as Dennis heard about the new ruling, he went to the Post Office and put in an application on behalf of the Lions Club.


"We were the first outfit in New Zealand approved to produce our own phone directory," says Dennis.

For the first two years the club charged for its phone directory, but soon switched to providing them for free, paid for by advertising from local businesses.

Dennis says over the years the Helensville Lions have produced over half a million of the directories.

He wants to give a shout out to the local rural delivery contractors, who have delivered the directory free of charge to RD address over the years.





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# Free legal service starts at CAB

South Kaipara residents now have access to free legal advice. Helensville's Citizens Advice Bureau is now hosting free legal clinic sessions fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10am to midday at its office at 16 Commercial Road. Lawyers from the Waitematā Community Law Centre will provide initial 20-minute sessions to assess and fact gather information from clients.

"Our work aligns well with the law centre and [the clinics are] a win-win for clients who often need a legal ear for a variety of situations in their lives," CAB Helensville manager Rani Timoti says. "Some of our clients struggle financially and with transport to get to the law centre based in Henderson. However, we try to help them first before referring them on."

Waitematā Community Law Centre principal solicitor Asheeta Nandini says they've been able to recruit seven lawyers so far to provide this new outreach service.

"Asheeta gave us a good run-down on what they do and can't do, as well as interesting information about the law centre. Both of our organisations are keenly interested and looking forward to how this co-action will work out," says Rani.

Since the clinic started officially in mid-March things have been steady.

"We had a short time-frame to promote and get the word out, and clients have been booking in," says Rani. "But once people learn about this service we can expect it to get busier."



• Waitematā Community Law Centre principal solicitor Asheeta Nandini with a client

Clients can fill out the forms at the office which are then sent to the law centre to co-ordinate all the necessary bookings and assess criteria.

Following the initial session, a lawyer can choose to take on the case and all the delivery provision will be free until the end of the case.

"This amazing allegiance has come about through

our CAB North Shore project manager Tim Charman, also a CAB Helensville volunteer and peer reviewer, who has been negotiating with the law centre to operate clinic sessions at different branches," says Rani.

The law centre is also updating branding, brochures and information to cater for the new outreach programme.

Lawyers can do mediation, court applications, and disciplinary meetings as part of their on-going work. They can also help with disputes and tenancy forms.

However, they don't go to court, draft Enduring Powers of Attorney or wills, or witness or advise on EPAs or wills. Other eligibility criteria will apply.

Self-referral is another option for clients on the law centre's website: [www.waitematalaw.org.nz/contact](http://www.waitematalaw.org.nz/contact).

Locals can call in to the Helensville CAB office from Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm or Saturdays from 10am to midday for more information about the legal clinic bookings. Phone: 09 420 7162 or email: [helensville@cab.org.nz](mailto:helensville@cab.org.nz).

## Library update

Helensville Library's children 'crafternoon-ers' made a wreath to present at the public ceremony on Anzac Day. They learnt about the different coloured poppies worn for remembrance days, and their meanings.

- Regular library programmes are:
- Kids Time: for under 6s and their grown-ups, on Wednesdays from 10am to 10.30am;
  - Minecraft Club: Wednesdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm;
  - Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays, 3pm to 4.30pm;
  - Crafternoon for kids: Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.
  - Book Chat: next on Thursday, May 22 from 10am to 11am, for locals to bring along a book they recently read and loved - or disliked - to share with fellow readers.

The Helensville Library and Service Centre is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

To be sure of a reply when phoning, call Auckland Libraries on 0800 695 427. For questions directly related to Helensville Library email: [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

## Ellen Bradly, 'Mother of the District'

With Mother's Day just around the corner, Helensville's Te Awaroa Museum takes a look at the woman known as the 'Mother of the District'.



Born in 1857 in Ireland, Ellen Connolley set sail for New Zealand at the age of 16 aboard the 'Waitangi'. Along with her sister, she was what is now known as an 'assisted immigrant' and was entered in the ship's passenger list as a dairy maid.

First working at Mangere, she soon moved to Riverhead, taking part in the social life of the community and in that way met the Bradly family. Marriage to William Bradly followed in 1878, with the happy couple moving to Helensville and later to their farm at Te Pua. At that time Te Pua was a mass of tall ti-tree and raupo swamp land, and William and Ellen worked hard to carve out their home.

A total of seven children, five boys and two girls, were born to Ellen and William. At this time William had established himself as a painter and paper-hanger in the growing town of Helensville. Ellen was left to raise the family and run the property.

In 1901, when William's brother died leaving his six children orphans, Ellen took the youngsters into her home, raising the total number of her children from seven to 13, the eldest being 22, the youngest six. The task of taking on the extra six children was not easy for the 43-year-old Ellen, especially as there was no social welfare or child support.

Ellen was called by both Māori and Pākehā the 'Mother of the District'. Her home was always open and all residents were sure of a hearty welcome and a helping hand in times of

trouble. Around 1917 Ellen and William sold their farm at Te Pua and retired to Helensville, where Ellen passed away at the age of 66 at her home in Puriri Street.

The Bradly family continue to farm in the Helensville area.

- Taken from 'Pioneering Women of South Kaipara', available from the Te Awaroa Museum.

## 'Differently abled' art show

An exhibition by 'differently abled' local adults called 'Spontaneous Art' is on show at the Helensville Art Centre until Saturday, May 17.

One of those artists is Rachael Clarke. Rachael has a visual impairment but is an accomplished artist and has produced a work titled 'Wild Flora' which is part of the exhibition.

Rachael is just one of the almost 20 people producing arts and crafts which are being exhibited.

The 'Spontaneous Art' title reflects the fact these artists paint without constraint and without preconceptions of what their work should look like.

The exhibition is open at the Art Centre on Wednesdays to Fridays from 10am to 4pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.



• Rachael Clarke's 'Wild Flora'



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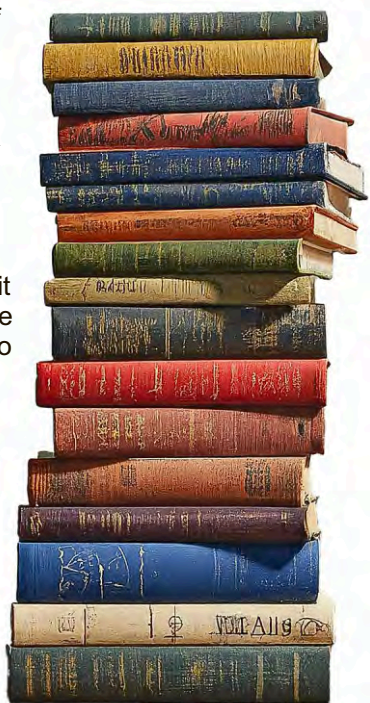


# Lions Club Autumn Book Fair on this month

The Helensville Lions Club's book fairs have become a local institution, with locals eagerly awaiting the next one and lining up for book bargains. And it's a major fundraiser for the club, with all the money raised going back to the local community. The last fair in November raised \$12,000 from the sale of books, and all that money raised went towards helping individuals and organisations in the community. The club will hold its Autumn Book Fair at the

Helensville Showgrounds over the weekend of May 24 and 25, opening from 9am until 4pm on the Saturday and from 10am to 3pm on the Sunday. "We have had a good clean out of the remainders and donations are coming in steadily so there is plenty of new stock to tempt you," says head book fair organiser Chris Clark. As always entry to the fair will be free. Prices remain as before with books priced to sell at

\$2. A wide selection of children's and young adult books will be just \$1. Also available will be many jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and quality magazines. With thousands of books on offer, finding just what you are after could be an issue. Luckily, the Helensville Lions book fairs are known for their organisation, which makes finding books very easy. Non-fiction will be split into 20 categories, the largest one dedicated to New Zealand subjects. Two new sections introduced last year - Art and Music - have proved popular and will return. There will also be plenty of general non-fiction for locals to spend hours browsing through. Fiction will be arranged alphabetically by authors to make it simple to find a favourite writer. There will be six special interest groups, the largest being fantasy and science fiction. Small donations of books for the fair can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, Helensville. For larger lots phone Chris on 027 646 3324, or contact any member of the Helensville Lions. The last date books can be accepted for the Autumn Book Fair is Friday, May 16. Donations cannot be accepted during the fair.



• AI-generated image

## From bags to bins ... rubbish changes coming

New Auckland Council rubbish bins are coming to Rodney homes. Instead of locals having to purchase bin bags, they will use council-supplied rubbish bins for weekly collections. While that will do away with the need to purchase rubbish bags on a regular basis, there will be an annual charge for the bins added to ratepayers' rates bill. That charge will depend on the size of bin used - \$134.63 for an 80 litre bin; \$162.01 for the standard 120 litre bin; or \$268.90 for a 240 litre bin. It is expected the cost of the bins will result in a saving for most people compared to purchasing bags. Deliveries of the default size 120 litre bins will be made during July. Ratepayers can opt to have the smaller or larger size delivered at no extra cost if they let the Council know by May 18. After that date there will be an administration fee of \$40 to change bin sizes.



The 80 litre bins are considered suitable for a household of two people. The default 120 litre bins are for homes with two or three people, while the largest bins are for households of four or more people. Properties with multiple rated buildings on their section, for example a second home or rated granny flat, will receive a rubbish bin for each of those rated buildings - just as with recycle bins. The new bin collection service will start on Monday, September 1. Because the service is starting part way through the rating year, the first year's charges will be pro-rated. For people who pay their rates in instalments, the new bin charge will also be split over those instalments. For more information, visit the new rubbish collection page on the Council website at: [tinyurl.com/rodneyrubbish](https://tinyurl.com/rodneyrubbish).

## Kaipara Medical Centre is now taking enrolments!

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• Locals welcomed the return of the annual Anzac Day parade

## from our MP

Greetings! There's plenty going on locally and I hope everyone is coping OK with a reasonably rough start to winter, weather-wise.

First things first: I'm very pleased to announce here in the pages of *Helensville News* that the area's 'Youth MP' is local student Olivia Kelly.

Each three-year term of parliament, the MPs each get to select a Youth MP - from their respective electorates - to represent young people in that area. The Youth Parliament programme provides an opportunity for these young people to travel to Wellington from around New Zealand and make speeches in the debating chamber (as seen on TV)

about subjects of interest to them.

I was very pleased to be able to select Olivia for this role, given the strong commitment she has demonstrated already to public service, including through various activities at school. Olivia is a top-notch student at Kaipara College and they can rightly feel proud that this status has been accorded to one of their student body.



Speaking of commitment to this community, I recently enjoyed meeting again with the Justices of the Peace (JPs) serving the Helensville area. We met at the Citizens Advice Bureau premises on Commercial Road, which is the location of so much of the good work these wonderful people do. Readers will likely be aware that JPs volunteer their time to assist with various legal and administrative duties. Our discussion focused on helping to improve the system at the national level, so that the JPs locally who do all the heavy lifting are identified and supported.

Finally, as I write this column, Anzac Day approaches once more. I hope everyone who was able to took the opportunity to attend one of the services around northwest Auckland. In previous years I've enjoyed the solemn ceremonies held at Parakai, Helensville, and Kaukapakapa.

As every Kiwi knows, these occasions provide the chance for residents to come together, honour our veterans, and reaffirm our commitment to peace and unity. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have helped organise these events. Lest we forget.

- Chris Penk  
 MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi



• Yours truly with new Youth MP Olivia Kelly

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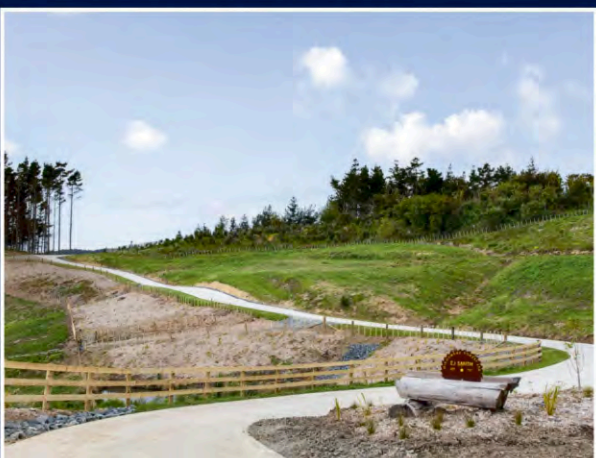
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## med centre notes

**This month a quick update from Jenna, our wonderful Diabetes Nurse:**

"Hi, I'm Jenna, a diabetes nurse at Kaipara Medical Centre. I work alongside people living with diabetes to help them feel more confident and supported in managing their condition.

"Whether you've just been diagnosed or have had diabetes for years, I can offer education, lifestyle advice, and ongoing support that's tailored to you and your whānau. My

goal is to work alongside you and your whānau to make diabetes management a little easier and more empowering.

"I also provide support with Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM), which gives real-time glucose levels throughout the day and night. A continuous glucose monitor is a small device that you wear on your upper arm that measures glucose levels in the fluid just under your skin. It can help you see how food, movement, stress, and medication affect your glucose levels, making it easier to make informed decisions about your care.

"If you're interested in learning more or wondering if CGM might be right for you, feel free to get in touch - I'm happy to chat and help you get started."

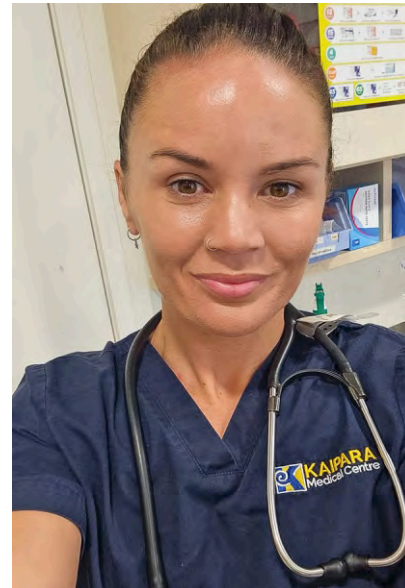
Registered patients at Kaipara Medical Centre are eligible for free diabetes care.

In other news KMC will be open on Saturday, May 10 from 9am to midday for an

extra cervical screening clinic. If you would like to book in to get your self-taken HPV swab or cervical smear test done then please phone to book an appointment. We also welcome walk-ins on the day too - if you think you may be due then please pop in and have a chat. Cervical screening will be provided free of charge on Saturday, May 10 to anyone who attends.

For more, visit: [kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz](http://kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz) or email us at: [admin@kaiparamed.co.nz](mailto:admin@kaiparamed.co.nz) or find us on Facebook.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock  
Clinical Lead  
Kaipara Medical Centre



## the business

Business Security has been a focus for our members for autumn, with an unhealthy spate of thefts, burglaries, and vandalism that our members are facing.

To help develop solutions for businesses we have partnered with three security firms and local police. Launching with a public meeting on April 29 at the Kumeū Community Centre, we heard from local businesses about the struggles they are having and how they are overcoming challenges.

Then Crime Watch detailed how their business can hook into your CCTV footage and monitor for activity, notifying police immediately when a crime is in action. North West Security shared how they offer discounts to neighbouring businesses or body corporates to undertake regular patrols, providing an effective deterrent.

Caught Ya Security showed technology and locking solutions to protect business assets, including alarms and CCTV cameras that can tie in nicely with Crime Watch. We can't overlook the great benefits the two community patrols in our area provide where their patrols of our business areas also helps reduce crime.

It is time to get thinking about the 2025 Business Awards. We will be launching the awards entries process in July and are now open to sponsorship offers. We are looking for sponsors that may want to sponsor a prize division, provide local beer, wine and beverages for the night, or cash sponsorship to get their brand in front of our members. Anyone interested can email Danielle Hancock at: [manager@northwestcountry.co.nz](mailto:manager@northwestcountry.co.nz).

North West Country business association has also partnered with Te Awaroa Museum and Helensville Railway Museum to provide a Helensville Heritage Festival in October 2025. This will form part of the Auckland Heritage Festival and offer the community a way to showcase the great heritage features we have in the area. We hope to have the Glenbrook Steam Train up for the weekend.

Make sure you follow us on Facebook and look out for our monthly newsletters for updates and more information.

- Danielle Hancock  
Manager, North West Country Business Assn  
[manager@northwestcountry.co.nz](mailto:manager@northwestcountry.co.nz)





# Farewell to a local icon

The beloved and much photographed Dye's slaughterhouse at the southern entry to Kaukapakapa is no more, a victim of ex-tropical cyclone Tam.

The historic structure, which had been on life support for decades, has been completely destroyed, blown over on the night of April 16 by the fierce winds the cyclone brought to much of the North Island.

Destruction of the old building follows an editorial in the February issue of *Helensville News* where we asked whether it was time for it to be demolished. We showed photos of the building, last fully intact in the early 2000s, then starting to fall apart in 2010, and most recently as little more than a roof and parts of two walls held together with scaffolding.



• Right - all ex-cyclone Tam left of the slaughterhouse  
- Photo: Lisa Welch

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# Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHĀNAU KI TE AWAROA

## Exciting Changes and Ongoing Support for Our Community

Helensville Birthing Centre (HBC) continues to be a welcoming and supportive space for local whānau, facilitating a calm, low-risk environment for normal births. We are proud to consistently achieve an impressive over 95% normal birth rate, a testament to the quality of care and environment we provide.

HBC is here for you, whether you are birthing at home or in a hospital. You are always welcome to transfer to us after your birth, and we are ready to support you every step of the way with our dedicated team of midwives, nurses, lactation consultants, and healthcare assistants.

In addition to our birthing and postnatal services, we offer a range of resources for expecting and new whānau. Our pregnancy and parenting classes continue to provide valuable education, and our lactation consultants are available through our feeding support clinics to help you on your feeding journey.

We recently launched an immunisation programme, with vaccinations available on pop-up days and every second Friday at our Milk Cafe. This popular group offers new parents and their pēpi the chance to relax, enjoy a cup of tea, eat kai, and make new connections - wonderful for sharing experiences and building friendships.

But that's not all! We have something NEW & exciting coming to HBC, and we can't wait to reveal it to you soon. Stay tuned - we're eager to share this exciting development with you.

The HBC team is backed by a committed board of directors, chaired by Paula Daye, and Centre manager Renee Blair, who are all dedicated to ensuring our community has the best start to life. At HBC, we pride ourselves on providing excellent, compassionate care for all our whānau.

We are here for you, and we can't wait to continue supporting your journey.



Paula Daye



Renee Blair



# Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHĀNAU KI TE AWAROA

At Helensville Birthing Centre, we offer a calm and nurturing space for your birth, guided by our experienced midwives. We're here to support you every step of the way with free pregnancy and parenting classes and access to our Lactation Consultant Clinic, all for local whānau.

Whether you birth with us or transfer from home or the hospital, our exceptional postnatal care will ensure you feel supported, empowered, and cared for. Plus, pop into our Milk Cafe every second Friday, enjoy our immunisation services, and connect with others in our community! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest news, or head over to our website for more info.

Ready to see our amazing centre? Call us today to book your tour - we can't wait to meet you!

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Helensville Birthing Centre

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## Next month...

Keep an eye out for our special June issue, which is an update of the popular edition featuring listings for community organisations, clubs, groups, and sports groups in the South Kaipara area that we've run several times previously. It's been fully updated and a lot of new listings have been added, and it's sure to be a great resource for locals.

Plus we've also got an exciting front page article about an amazing new project happening in Helensville which as well as being a boon for locals, could become a great tourist drawcard.

## councillor comment

There are no plans to manage the retreat of Kumeū due to flooding by relocating it.

However, the Kumeū River does need to be proactively maintained rather than be reactively maintained. The care needs to also include the Kaipara River which the Kumeū River runs into.

Better river maintenance was the message given 'loud and clear' by locals at a recent Auckland Council public meeting.

At the meeting a report was presented outlining the history of flooding in Kumeū-Huapai stretching back to 1926, where the Kumeū Post Office flooded to a depth of 1.2m. Since then there have been five notable floods, most recently in August 2021 and two in 2023. The Council said a second shopping centre is planned to cope with future growth, although that is decades away.

Auckland Council concluded an upstream dam, or a drainage tunnel bored from the river across to the Waitemata Harbour, both costing hundreds of millions of dollars, were not feasible to stop future flooding.

Locals suggested Council was missing a vital and cost-effective solution by not keeping the river clear of dead trees, weeds and other blockages. They said that before the Supercity the former Rodney District Council would regularly carry out work along the Kumeū River, removing material that could potentially cause blockages and increase the risk of flooding. Since the establishment of the Supercity this proactive work has stopped and been replaced by a policy of reactive maintenance work which is they said is often too little, too late.

According to the industrial landowners with businesses along the river edge, as well as affected residential land owners, the lack of river maintenance is resulting in unwanted build-ups of debris restricting water flows during high rainfall events. These restricted areas act like giant 'plugs' backing up the water and eventually spilling over stop banks flooding the low lying land.

Recently the Kaipara River was sprayed to remove weeds which local farmers believed were blocking the river from draining properly during heavy rain.

The strong feeling from the meeting was that if the river was better maintained, and obstacles were removed in advance of storms, this would improve protection of the township from flooding.

Hearing this, I promised those attending I would 'go in to bat for them' with Auckland Council to get the proactive maintenance programme reinstated.

Local contractors at the meeting asked if the new maintenance work could be tendered locally, rather than automatically given to a Council preferred supplier - giving the town greater transparency over the work being done through channels like Facebook, as well as allowing them to use local knowledge to better pinpoint the work that is needed.

The positive outcome has been that Council has listened, and agreed to trial all of the above. This is a great win for the flood-prone property owners along the Kumeū River.

Auckland Council says it will tender out a new proactive maintenance contract this year exclusively to local contractors as a pilot scheme for Kumeū. This is a double win. Not only will the river be proactively maintained, but the work will be carried out by a local firm. If the trial is successful for Kumeū the same concept may be able to be rolled out to other areas of Auckland, such as Helensville and Kaukapakapa.

It is impossible to stop flooding occurring during extreme weather events, especially if rainfall is over 100mm within a seven-hour period. By law Council is still obligated to keep the town's flood plain maps updated to show what properties will flood in an extreme rain event. These maps show the worst case scenario of 200mm falling within a seven-hour period - that amount of rainfall will be very rare. Unfortunately insurance companies do not seem willing to acknowledge this rarity when assessing the insurability of properties.

So what does this all mean? Most importantly it means Kumeū township will be safer from flooding. Property owners, real estate agents, banks, and insurance companies will be able to tangibly see an improvement in the river's maintenance. With the improved protection from flooding local landowners and investors will hopefully have an improved feeling of optimism about Kumeū and Huapai's future. It is also hoped that local contractors will have more of a community invested interest in expanding the work out to include other towns.

- Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor  
[greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
Ph: 021 285 9900





# local board matters

## ■ NZTA Removes Planned Median Barrier from State Highway 16 Between Waimauku and Huapai

At our workshop on April 9 in Kumeū, NZTA advised that the proposed median barrier between Huapai and Waimauku had been cancelled. This is extremely disappointing as the entire project was intended to improve safety and was initially proposed almost a decade ago following a petition from the community.

The changes to the project scope to include walking and cycling delayed the start of the project, eventually resulting in only the Huapai to Waimauku stage being funded. Work on this is expected to be completed this year with no news on when the second stage will be undertaken.

The reason given for the northern section being done first was that the budget available was insufficient to do the Brigham Creek to Kumeū section. Community feedback at this time was that that was the most useful section of the project given the congestion and tailbacks experienced due to Riverhead traffic joining the highway would be relieved when the intersection was improved and the extra lanes south of the Taupaki roundabout were delivered.

Ironically, the investment in the turning bays between Huapai and Waimauku, that are no longer required, may have contributed savings that could have been applied to the southern section of the project had the decision to remove the median barrier happened earlier.

NZTA advised that a flush median would be utilised instead and that this was practically as good as the median barrier. The design change was attributed to resident feedback, although my own view is that we have been subjected to further central

government intervention. More evidence that the present government prefers network efficiency over safety.

### ■ What Can We Do?

What we will need is a campaign for a reduced speed limit on the Huapai to Waimauku section of SH16 commensurate with the additional risks that removing the barriers has created. Given the flush median will create the appearance of a contiguous township between Huapai and Waimauku, maybe it should have the same speed limit as Kumeū to Huapai.

Perhaps it is time for another petition.

### ■ Other Stuff

The Rodney Local Board seems broken. We have one member that feels he is the Minister of Transport, but actually is entirely focussed on operational matters, and some other members that should retire given they had a full set of opinions fitted in about 1970 and seem unable to consider expert advice or new evidence, and only a few good folks that are doing their best but have the impossible task of getting anything substantive delivered by such a dysfunctional group.

For my own part it has been difficult to build a team out of such a sack of cats all the while being characterised as part of a cartel running the board. In truth all the chair really does is run the meetings.

All the best for the new board post the election. I will be in my shed...



- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

## Rescue helicopters busy locally

Northern Rescue Chief Operating Officer and Critical Care Paramedic Karl Taylor (pictured) says Auckland and Whangārei crews have had a very busy start to the year with just under 700 missions completed up to April 17.

47 of those flights were in the Helensville and South Kaipara area, which overlaps the operation areas of both northern rescue helicopter services.

Karl says the efforts of the crews are to be commended given the workload on the air ambulance service this year has increased by 20 percent.

Northern Rescue's Auckland crews have so far completed 332 missions and the Northland operation 362 missions. Both crews worked in the South Kaipara area.

"I think it is important to acknowledge the efforts of

our pilots, doctors and paramedics - not to mention our engineers for keeping our helicopters in the air. There is an immense amount of effort placed into training so when they get the call to assist our community, they are well prepared to put that teamwork into action to help people in need," says Karl.



"They are often working in challenging conditions due to weather, darkness, performing winch operations in thick bush canopy or offshore - not to mention dealing with often traumatic situations at the likes of serious road crashes.

"Like all first responders, our people do their jobs because they care about people and are part of the communities they live in," he says, adding that as a career paramedic he knows firsthand the satisfaction of helping injured or ill people.



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## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

### ■ JULY 2025 deadline: Thursday, 26th June, 2025\*

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, July 8th, 2025

\*Note: Our June issue has already closed

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

Dave Addison  
Ph: 021 178 5568  
Email: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz

#### ■ Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:

Email: subscribe@helensvillenews.co.nz

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Due out: Aug 5th	Copy by: July 24th
Due out: Sept 2nd	Copy by: Aug 21st

- **Editorial:** Ph 021 178 5568.
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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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CAR BOOT SALE

The next Helensville Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 8.30am to 12.30pm at 40 Commercial Road, beside the WINZ building (weather permitting). Stalls are \$15, book at FIGG, 44 Commercial Road. For more information phone Holly on 021 488 427 or email: holly@figg.co.nz.

FARM FINANCIALS WORKSHOP

Beef & Lamb NZ and Farm Focus will hold a 'Mastering Your Financials' workshop at the Helensville Showgrounds on Wednesday, May 14 from 9am to 2:30pm.

It's designed to help farmers understand their financial position and how they can adapt and grow their farming business. It will show farmers how to better use their software to save time and understand their farm finances more clearly. Attendees will learn tools to complete a business health check; gain the skills and understanding of why and how to build an effective budget; acquire skills in using financial reports to assess the financial health of the farm; and learn how to identify key performance indicators for benchmarking within the overall farm business.

Registrations are essential and can be made online at: beeflambnz.com (under 'events').

HELENSVILLE VILLAGE MARKET

The next Helensville market will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, May 18 from 8.30am to 1pm.

There will be food and coffee on offer, local art and crafts, winter knits, candles, gifts, people and pet health products, preserves, plants, fresh fruit and vegetables, homewares, flowers, used bargains, and more. Live music will be courtesy of duo Gillian and Mike, and there will be the usual free hair plaiting and children's activity table. No dogs except for assistance dogs. A gold coin donation is asked for parking with proceeds going to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts and St John Youth. For more information email Sarah at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

ART KAIPARAAGM

Art Kaipara will hold its annual general meeting at the Helensville Art Centre on Saturday, June 28 starting at 2pm. The organisation is hoping to attract some new board members passionate about the arts and seeing the Art Centre thrive in Helensville. There is also a vacancy for a new secretary for the trust which they will be looking to fill.

Trapping workshop to protect kiwi

The Forest Bridge Trust will hold a South Rodney Trapping Workshop at the Kaukapakapa Hall on Sunday, May 4. Presentations will start at 10am and run until midday, when the trapping demonstration itself will begin.

The event will focus on predator control, habitat restoration, and protecting native species and is aimed at everyone from beginners to the more experienced trapper.



THE FOREST BRIDGE TRUST

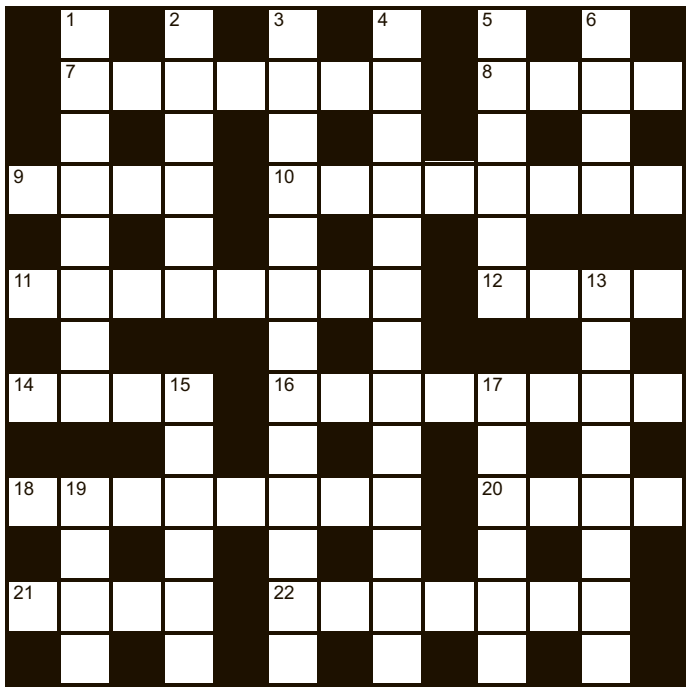
There will be presentations from The Forest Bridge Trust on 'Kiwi Connectivity' and 'best practice' predator control; a community discussion for participants to share thoughts on conservation in their area; and a presentation by Kaipara Moana Remediation on fencing and planting grants; and funding opportunities.

After the presentations, attendees will connect with local conservation representatives and learn about available support.

Starting at midday, The Forest Bridge Trust predator control team will run a trap demonstration. Participants will learn about different pest species, see how traps work, and find out how they can be part of the Predator Free 2050 campaign.

Light refreshments will be provided.

crossword



April's Answers

Across: 7. Epitaph 8. Crab 9. Salami 10. Nectar 11. Tempest 14. Mere 15. Hoar 16. Oatmeal 20. Bremen 21. Safety 23. List 24. Limpopo.

Down: 1. Female 2. Giza 3. Panics 4. Chant 5. Ice cream 6. Damage 12. Playmate 13. Two 15. Heroin 17. Assume 18. Action 19. Knell 22. Foot.

Across

- 7. Maritime (7)
- 8. Reflected sound (4)
- 9. Soufflé essentials (4)
- 10. Staple of Mediterranean cooking (5,3)
- 11. Back and forth (2,3,3)
- 12. Large stone (4)
- 14. Secondhand (4)
- 16. Practise (8)
- 18. Supply with water (8)
- 20. Underground part of a plant (4)
- 21. Surreptitious warning (4)
- 22. Unhurried ease (7)

Down

- 1. Beautiful (8)
- 2. Spice up (6)
- 3. Uneasy (13)
- 4. Severe mental disorder (13)
- 5. Shooting star (6)
- 6. Siamese (4)
- 13. Patron (8)
- 15. Of delicate beauty (6)
- 17. Skylighted lobby (6)
- 19. Hurry (4)

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