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Big plans for local engineering firm

Helensville Engineering has been taken over by local steel-frame building company Macbuilt Construction - and new owner Greg Macdonald has big plans for the company.

He has already employed three new staff - all locals - and plans to expand the size of the Helensville Engineering building at 2 Bridge St to double its present size, which will enable the workshop to fabricate Macbuilt's big commercial buildings.

"Helensville Engineering has been part of Helensville for 35-plus years and I see it as an integral part of the town and wider community," says Greg, "so for jobbing and contractor work on a daily basis we intend to continue and grow the business.

"We're local, and we're here to stay. We know the engineering business is important to Helensville and the surrounding area, so we want to make it bigger and better, smarter and faster."

Among innovations planned are an on-call mobile jobbing repair vehicle which will be able to handle engineering repairs at the client's property, along with a mobile hydraulic repair service - both planned to be

on the road within the next couple of months.

"That will enable us to respond to clients' needs more quickly," says Greg. "We will also be looking at tractor servicing down the track a bit."

The retail shop will be resurrected, with stock of items such as bearings being built up again; items not carried will be able to be ordered for overnight delivery.

"And steel supplies will continue to be sourced from us - nothing will change. Costs will be competitive across the board. We are running a business, but also providing a service."

Greg was originally a mechanic with a hydraulic background, and ran his own mobile hydraulic repair business before studying engineering at university and setting up Macbuilt Construction.

As part of the local Brady clan he has been coming to Helensville for 40 years, and in his youth picked up hay on local farms. He moved with wife Lorraine to Kaukapakapa in 2006.

Anyone who has driven past Helensville Engineering recently will have seen the large

"show home coming soon" sign. In fact there will be two show homes - a large three bedroom house and a smaller, one bedroom farm cottage; both will be relocatable and just a sample of the 10 to 15 designs that will be available.

A showroom will be set up in a custom-modified

container, modelled after the funky new temporary inner city Christchurch shops.

"The idea is we will build the homes using more local people. New Zealand is short of housing stock. It's an opportunity

for locals to purchase a home and have it located on their property quickly," explains Greg.

Owning Helensville Engineering will enable Greg to manufacture all of Macbuilt's steel buildings under one roof.

Macbuilt has its own steel framing machine operating in its Railway St factory, which employs two locals. Current commercial projects being made there include a new Waitakere fire station and a large maintenance facility for the Rainbows End amusement park.

Greg set up Macbuilt in 2005. The

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• Greg Macdonald



• Greg outside Helensville Engineering

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editorial

Small towns have always been hotbeds for rumours, and Helensville is no different. I guess it's something to do with feeling like we know everyone in the town, so have a vested interest in knowing what's going on.

Lots of the rumours are harmless. There has been conjecture for years about the future of the old Kaipara Dairy Company; we now know it's been sold, and *Helensville News* will bring you up to date with what's happening there when we know ourselves!

Other rumours are more mean-spirited, such as the one going round that successful local restaurant Porcini has been sold - the inference being that with a sale, the quality of the restaurant will drop. The rumour isn't true of course, and owner and chef Peter Brennan has assured me the business isn't even for sale.

So next time you hear some 'news' from an unofficial source, take it with a grain of salt.

To happier matters - like what we have for you this issue.

On the front page you'll find out about the developments at one of our town's long-running businesses, Helensville Engineering, while on page 3 there's a plea for help to keep another local institution in business - the volunteer SeniorNet club.

Prime Minister John Key was in town recently, presenting the new New Zealand Defence Service Medal to 37 locals for their dedication to our country's defence forces - see page 4 for that article and photos. And on pages 6 and 7 you can read an obituary on Don Smith, a local butcher, golfer and boxer.

Finally, last month was the 110th iteration of Helensville's biggest event, the annual A&P Show. To celebrate it, we bring you a page of photos on page 11. Enjoy!

- Dave Addison, Editor

Moto-X to raise KKK school funds

Racing motorcross bikes are set to raise some funds for Kaukapakapa School.

The first round of the Honda Warkworth and Cyclespot School Moto-X Series will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 8am at Foote's farm, 2867 Kaipara Coast Highway, Glorit.

Proceeds from that event, along with fundraising activities on the day, will go to the school.

Anyone can race at the event on motorcycles of all sizes. No racing licence is required. There's a \$35 entry fee with \$10 per extra class; spectator entry is by donation. People wanting to enter should

phone Ian at Honda Warkworth on 09 425 9498 or Grant at Cyclespot on 09 486 1136.

Kaukapakapa School successfully took part in the same series a couple of years ago. Two further race days will be held at Dairy Flat.

Junior rugby open day

Helensville Junior Rugby is holding an open day and registrations at the Helensville Rugby Club in Awaroa Road on Wednesday, March 7 from 4-6pm. Phone Roxanne Mulvaney on 09 420 4458 or email her at roxmulvaney@gmail.com.

Plans afoot for engineering firm

• From page 1

company was split into two divisions - Macbuilt Construction and Macbuilt Interiors - in 2009 and the business renamed Macbuilt Steel Buildings Ltd.

Macbuilt Construction designs and builds a wide range of buildings, from small dwellings through to farm sheds and large purpose-designed industrial and

commercial buildings, while Macbuilt Interiors manufactures and supplies steel framing from its Helensville factory for use by interior fit-outs companies, residential housing companies and for Macbuilt Construction's own projects.

Macbuilt also has a civil branch with its own earthmoving equipment.

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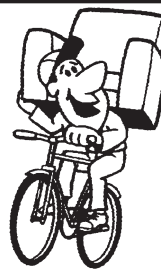
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Help desperately needed to keep SeniorNet up and running

Helensville SeniorNet urgently needs new helpers to volunteer as tutors, or the local computer training group may be forced to close.

SeniorNet is a nation-wide – in fact international – community training network that supports and motivates people aged 50+ to enjoy and use technology in their everyday lives.

Locally, people are taught one-on-one at the Senior Citizens Rooms in Rata Street, as a lack of finance has prevented the set up of a proper classroom facility. That means a tutor is needed for each individual 'student'.

"We seem to have a never-ending waiting list but no tutors," says senior tutor Jennie Williams, "so if there is anybody out there that could help, their assistance would be much appreciated."

"Without their help I may have to close SeniorNet and that would be a shame, as Helensville needs this social club."

SeniorNet was set up in Helensville around 20 years ago by Bill Smith and Blue McMahon, with Dennis Maughan and Jack Hannam joining the team to help with the influx of locals wanting to learn about computing.

Short story winner

Jessica Wilson of Helensville won the inaugural *Helensville News*-sponsored fiction short story competition held as part of this year's A&P Show, with her story 'The Old Cottage'.

If space allows we aim to print Jessica's story in the next issue of *Helensville News*. Jessica won \$25 for her effort.

The stories entered all had very different themes and writing styles, and all used the three required words in unique ways. Watch out for next year's show schedule for the 2013 short story subject.



• Jennie Williams

For the last 11 years, Jennie has been the main tutor, with Jack Hannam still involved as deputy chairperson and Raewyn Gray as secretary. Raewyn has also been covering for the lack of tutors, along with Stephanie Beaton and Barbara Carter who both give a few hours a week.

"Bill Smith along with Dean Mitchell taught me the basics after I had to give up working on the farm because of a back injury," says Jennie. "I returned to SeniorNet for a refresher course and stayed as a thank you for their help."

"The more I learnt the more confident I became, and when Bill had to retire he showed me the ropes so I could take over the running of SeniorNet, helped by Dennis."

"We are a good team and run a tight ship," she says, "with funds from the Lotteries Board which cover our running costs and the fees from clients which pay for the booklets and discs etc."

During her 11 years as the main tutor, Jennie has been unemployed and so has had plenty of time to give to Helensville SeniorNet. But she is now employed to teach, which has halved the time she has available for the club.

"Helensville must have someone who is computer literate and would like to volunteer some of their time to teach others what they know."

"We are only asking for perhaps two hours a week of their time – or obviously more if they have more time to spare."

SeniorNet costs \$45 per person or \$80 per couple to join, with lessons covering a range of topics including: word processing, Excel and file management – eight lessons for \$40; PowerPoint – 20 lessons for \$60; Publisher 10 lessons for \$45; Picasa for photos – six lessons for \$35; email and internet – \$10 for a two hour lesson.

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Medals awarded to locals with military service

Prime Minister and Helensville MP John Key presented 37 local former servicemen with the New Zealand Defence Service Medal at a ceremony organised by the Kaipara RSA outside the Helensville War Memorial Hall last month.

The medals were introduced last year to recognise those who have served in the military for at least three years since the end of World War II.

They are awarded to regular army, navy and air force personnel, members of the territorial forces, those who completed compulsory military training (CMT) and those who completed National Service.

Each recipient receives the same medal, but with a different ribbon clasp identifying their type of service. The medals are engraved with the recipient's name, rank, service number and corp or service.

The oldest recipient was 92-year-old Jim Cauty (pictured opposite page), who was awarded Life Membership of the Kaipara RSA "for many years of meritorious service". Born in England, Jim lived in the Helensville area for around 30 years, taking on a 'rehab' farm in Peak Road after World

War II. Now living on the Hibiscus Coast, he is a former president of the Kaipara RSA, and served on the board of the now-defunct Kaipara Dairy Company.

At least 160,000 former service personnel and over 7000 currently serving NZ Defence Force military personnel are likely to receive the NZDSM; of those around half will be people who have received no



• Jack Hannam after receiving his medal from Prime Minister John Key

medals before. It is the largest medal issue New Zealand has undertaken since 1950-1954, when the majority of the World War II medals were issued.

The medal recipients:

Korean: Frank Bowater, Reg Cauty.
Malaya/Navy: Terry Eastlake, Paula Taylor (father & daughter).
Borneo/Vietnam: Dave Dawson, Neville Dewes, Dennis Palmer, Norman Rodgers.
Vietnam: Dave Chisholm, Vic Colson, Sid Grace.
Operation Grapple/Navy: Lawrence Coker, George Young.
Air Force: Ray Lawless, Peter & Karen Mason (husband & wife), P.J. Read.
Army: Trevor Dickie, Mike Jones, Malcolm Harvey Williams.
Territorial Forces: Thomas Grace, Jack Hannam, Kevin McAlister, Kevin Robertson.
Compulsory Military Training: Gordon Ashton, David Banks, John Belton, Barry Burlace, Lawrence Cooke, Ron Cream, the late Dexter Harvey (received by his wife Betty), Cyril Hodge, Bruce McGechan, Dave McIntosh, Terry Mears, Malcolm Neale, Tom Walsh.

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'Strategic Broker' sought to streamline community services

The Auckland North Community Response Forum (ANCRF) along with local community representatives has developed a project to create an integrated, community-sustained service delivery model for families in the Helensville area.

A Strategic Broker, funded by the ANCRF's Quality Service and Innovation Fund, will be employed to looking at removing the roadblocks currently faced by families in need of support at a local level, and to address gaps and overlaps in the delivery of local social services.

A working group made up of representatives from agencies delivering social services in the Helensville area and representatives from the Auckland North Forum developed the project proposal.

The proposal has received support from Social Development Minister Paula Bennett, and the position is currently being advertised (see page 14).

To mark the beginning of the local initiative, a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the processes, governance and good practise between the ANCRF and the Project Management Group was to be signed today, March 6.

Project Management Group spokesperson Charm Torrance says: "this is a unique opportunity to build stronger relationships between community and government and make real changes for our families."

Community Response Forums were established in 2010 to deliver the government's Community Response Model (CRM). The model's vision is to "build strong, capable families supported by community services".

Forum members, appointed by the Minister, are drawn from communities, iwi, government agencies, and other funders including philanthropic organisations.

The Quality Service and Innovation Fund will be a key tool in improving the way social services are delivered in the community. It does not make general funding allocations to specific organisations.

There are 14 forums nationwide, responsible for engaging communities to identify priorities, scoping existing services, and developing three-year plans in line with government priorities and the communities' identified needs.

For further information phone Charm Torrance at the Helensville District Health Trust on 420 7593, or email ctorrance@helensvillehealth.co.nz.



• Jim Cauty receives his RSA life certificate from Prime Minister John Key

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Former local butcher, golfer

Donald James Smith
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Don's father Harold Smith senior was born and raised in Mangawhai and served with the NZ Machine Gun Corps in the Somme during World War I.

Harold met his wife Anne in England when she was visiting an army hospital when he was sent back from France with illness including irregular heartbeat as a result of trench warfare.

Harold and Anne returned to New Zealand a few years after the war, where he worked at West's timber mill in Helensville and they began their family.

Don was their third son, born in Green Lane, Helensville, on June 16, 1927.

As a small boy, Don moved from Helensville with his parents to a house just north of the town at Mt Rex, where he grew up with his brothers Norman, Charlie and Harold. They were a close family and the boys were great mates.

The brothers made the mile and a half walk in to Helensville to school every day, rain hail or shine.

Leaving school in the early 1940s at the age of 13, Don started work at the butcher shop of Logan Smith, next to the Awaroa Stream. Logan was not a relative, but he was as good as family.

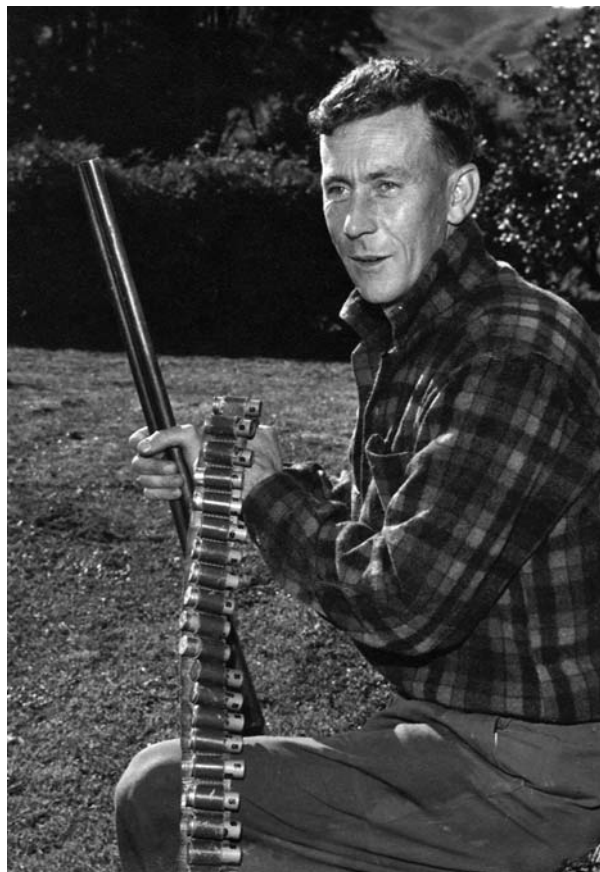
While working there, a girl called Lesley Ferguson began to visit the shop with Logan's daughter Barbara. When she turned 16, Don took Lesley to the Helensville Golf Club ball; in those days the golf course was at Rimmer Rd.

They were eventually to marry and have a great and loving family life of work, sport and travel together.

In his twenties Don had made a name as an accomplished amateur welterweight boxer. In his words, "it was an art, a skill and

a gentleman's sport".

At the Newmarket Hall, he fought 'Cruickshank', a professional boxer trained by the brother of New Zealand welterweight champion Ian Cruickshank. When they finished Don had two black eyes and Cruickshank a lump over one of his like a pear and was "wounded like a true Anzac". The result was a draw.



• Don Smith

Lesley and Don were exceptional dancers and attended all of the dances at the Oddfellows Lodge hall in Helensville, as well as many at Waimauku, Kumeu and Kaukapakapa.

They bought their small house in Awaroa Rd for £375 and worked hard to do it up on £5 10 shillings a week.

• To page 6



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and boxer passes away

• From page 6

Soon after Don had an accident at work with the mincer and lost most of the fingers from his left hand.

When he recovered, he took up golf and, with one and a half hands and using a baseball grip, he played to and maintained a 4 handicap.

In 1953, their first son Brett was born, followed by Mark in 1956. By then, they had moved to their long-time family home opposite the Presbyterian Church in Garfield Rd.

Don served as a town councillor on the Helensville Borough Council alongside locals such as then borough foreman Gerry Stokes, councillors Rudi Glavish, E. Hutton, Bunny Tilby, Tony Goldsmith, mayor Lionel Wotton and former mayor Arthur West.

Lesley was an obstetric nurse at the Helensville Maternity Hospital and still remembers by name many of the babies born during her tenure.

For many years Don was a keen shooter and Acclimatisation Society ranger. He sat on golf club committees, was club champion at South Head and at Leinster in Australia, and played pennants with great determination.

He also had a passion for big game fishing and his name is still inscribed in gold letters at the Bay of Islands Sword Fishing Club in Russell as the 1957 Club Champion for his 37lb striped marlin.

Back then, against popular opinion, Don was adamant marlin could be caught on the West Coast. With modern boats and the ability to get through the Kaipara Heads during good weather, marlin are being caught there today.

In 1956 he was so excited about one catch, that he jumped into his Austin A40 van and drove it 250kms back to Helensville with the marlin tied to the roof. That fish was mounted and graced the back wall of the butcher shop for over 20 years.

Don's family were avid water skiers,

having been introduced to the sport by good friends Bob and Patsy Sawyers. The families skied together at Lake Otatua at South Head, in the mouth of the Kaipara River and on the Hauraki Gulf.

After leaving the butchers shop Don spent a number of years as a stock agent and auctioneer with North Auckland Farmers, travelling extensively throughout the north.

In the late 1970s he worked for the New Zealand Forest Service at Woodhill. At one stage all the Smith brothers worked together at Woodhill, with Norman in the fire department, Charlie, Harold and Don in the carpentry shop and Norm's sons Gregory and Mark in the mechanical workshop.

Don and Lesley followed their boys and moved to Western Australia in 1980 and Don went gold mining, taking his first shift underground at the age of 53. Whilst in Leinster, he used a loader from the mine to

personally build much of the back nine holes of the local golf course.

On a caravan trip around Australia in 1982, Don and Lesley stopped for a swim in accumulated flood water at the

side of a dirt road in the Western Australian Desert. Don was dragged underwater by a culvert and fractured his spine. After a flying doctor flight, three days in the balance and many weeks in hospital at Derby, then more months' recuperation in the caravan park, he hitched up the caravan and he and Lesley finished their trip.

He later went back mining and worked alongside son Mark at North Kalgurli gold mine at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Don's family say he will be remembered for his integrity and the "wicked twinkle in his eyes, full of mischief and laughter". His brother and good mate Harold still flies the flag for the Smith family in the original Helensville family home.

A few days before he died, Don said to those gathered around his hospital bed: "We had a good life didn't we? Better than any book ever written."

"It was an art, a skill and a gentleman's sport."

- Don Smith on boxing

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Running of the Roses & fun run popular

Last month's Running of the Roses saw more than 900 roses cast into the Kaipara River for the Lions Club annual fundraiser.

Participants buy two imitation roses; one is kept and the other is placed in the river at the Riverside Reserve in Mill Rd on the outgoing tide, which carries them to the finish line where the first six over the line win the major prizes.

This year the winners and their prizes were:

1st: Tracy Correlus - Bay of Islands overnight cruise worth \$1000 from Helensville United Travel and Fullers; 2nd: Pauline Mee - 43 inch TV worth \$1000 from Magness Benrow; 3rd: Rebecca Godfrey - Balloon Ride

worth \$780 from Balloon Expeditions NZ Ltd; 4th: Diana Tam - a mobile Phone account worth \$750 from Get Talking NZ Ltd; 5th: Peter Edlington - 1 night luxury accommodation at Sky City worth \$279 from Sky City Grand Hotel; 6th: Matt Hampton - cruise on the Kaipara Harbour to Dargaville worth \$240 from Kaipara Cruises.

The day began with a Family Fun Run which attracted almost 90 participants who ran or walked the 4.2km from Springs Rd in Parakai to Mill Rd.

The Riverside Reserve was turned into a

funfair and market with a bouncy castle, children's entertainment, sideshows and a variety of market stalls, live music, food and refreshments.

On the water, a waka regatta and other waterborne participants cheered on the roses, while kayakers shepherded the roses to keep them away from the mangroves which line the river.

The event raised \$5000 which was donated by the Lions Club to the Helensville Medical Centre's new ambulance ramp fund.

Lions, locals dig deep for cancer victim

The Helensville Lions Club and locals between them have donated almost \$1000 to enable a local woman who is dying of cancer to fulfil her last wish.

Brenda Thompson had a mastectomy in December last year, but a CT scan in January revealed the cancer had spread throughout her body.

"She was told by the oncologist to make the most of summer because she is not expected to see autumn," says her close friend Julie James, of Parakai.

When Julie asked 68-year-old Brenda if there was anything special she wanted to do, Brenda said she wanted to travel up 90 Mile Beach to Cape Reinga. While Julie was prepared to take on the driving duties, neither woman could afford the trip, so Julie wrote to the Helensville Lions, who donated \$400 towards the cost of fuel and the bus trip up the beach.

Then friends Tina Norton and Glenys Sainty approached locals who knew Brenda, and within a week had raised another \$580.

English-born Brenda has lived in New Zealand for 37 years, the last 10 of those locally. She moved to Shelly Beach in 2002, where she worked on and off at the Shelly Beach store. Two years ago she moved to Commercial Rd in Helensville.

Brenda is "overwhelmed" by the locals' generosity, says Julie, and wants to take this opportunity to thank them all for their help in making her dream come true.

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Judge chooses winners from over 500 photos



Trudi King (above) hard at work judging the more than 500 photographs entered in this year's Helensville A&P Show. Trudi had to pick winning photos from across five child and 23 adult classes. The adult champion and local champion prizes went to *Helensville News* editor Dave Addison, while the champion enlarged photo winner was Christine Smith. Shania Leggett won the children's champion photo.

Locals invited to try Scottish dancing

Locals interested in having a go at Scottish folk dancing have been invited to join the Hibiscus Coast Scottish Country Dancing Club, which operates from the Orewa Primary School Hall in Maire Road, Orewa.

The club meets at 7pm each Wednesday; classes for new dancers

begin March 7 for eight weeks, running from 7pm to 8pm, followed by club dancing until 10pm. Soft soled shoes, cool clothing and a sense of humour is all that is required - no partner needed.

Anyone interested should phone Gail Schofield on 09 428 5655 or email her at schofield.clan@xtra.co.nz.

Easter Church Services

ST MATTHEWS HELENSVILLE 60 Garfield Rd

- Sunday, April 1st: Palm Sunday.
- Monday, April 2nd - Thursday 5th: Holy Week, 9.30am morning prayer
- Thursday, April 5th: Maundy Thursday, foot washing service.
- Friday, April 6th: Good Friday, 9.30am Stations of the Cross.
- Sunday, April 8th: Easter Day: He is Risen!

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- Friday, April 6th: Good Friday, 10am.
- Sunday, April 8th: Easter Day, 10am Celebration and Communion.

HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH 40 Mill Rd

- Friday, April 6th: Good Friday, 9.30am meditative service.
- Sunday, April 8th: Easter Day, 10.30am Celebration. Kidz church programme.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

- Sunday, April 1st: Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass, 9am
- Thursday, April 5th: Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm
- Friday, April 6th: Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, 9am & Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
- Saturday, April 7th: The Easter Vigil, 7pm

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, HUAPAI

- Saturday, March 31st: Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass, 6pm
- Thursday, April 5th: Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm
- Friday, April 6th: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 9am & Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
- Saturday, April 7th: The Easter Vigil, 7pm
- Sunday, April 8th: Easter Sunday Mass, 9am

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Roundabout planned for SH16 at Waimauku

The main State Highway 16 intersection at Waimauku is to be replaced with a roundabout.

The NZ Transport Agency's plans to upgrade the intersection of State Highway 16 and Muriwai and Waimauku Station Roads were revealed at a public information day on Thursday, February 23, giving locals the opportunity to provide feedback.

"Although we are at the design stage of this project, we still want to hear the community's views to ensure we have got things right to deliver a solution that satisfies everyone," says the NZTA's State Highways Manager for Auckland and Northland, Tommy Parker.

He added the roundabout would improve safety for both road users and pedestrians, especially safer pedestrian access for Waimauku School students.

"The roundabout will improve safety for all road users," Mr Parker says. "Vehicle speed will be reduced at the intersection and traffic islands will provide refuge for pedestrians and cyclists to cross SH16."

The planned improvements follow earlier community consultation where more than 130 locals attended a series of information days and provided feedback on three initial options. The majority identified a roundabout as the preferred option.

After receiving public feedback at the information day, the NZTA will finalise planning documents which will then be lodged with Auckland Council for obtaining the required alteration of the highway designation and resource consents.

Construction of the roundabout is tentatively scheduled for 2015/16 in the NZTA's draft State Highway Plan and is expected to cost \$2.8 million.

The Waimauku project follows other recent NZTA improvements along SH16, including the Taupaki Road intersection upgrade and the replacement of the Punganui Bridge north of Helensville.

\$4.2 million college building opens

Kaipara College's new \$4.2 million building was officially opened by Prime Minister and local MP John Key on Tuesday, February 21.

Mr Key spoke at a formal school assembly in the newly modified hall after speeches by principal John Grant, kaumatua Richard Nahi, Board of Trustees chairman Stanley Phillips, head boy Sam Sinnott and head girl Courtney Pirie.

The new building is the latest in a series

of construction projects at the college, which have included a new gymnasium and new science block.

The latest stage in the school's rebuilding programme includes drama and music suites, a revamped hall and staff room, and an entire new block incorporating five English classrooms, two IT rooms, a classroom for international students, a careers centre and a new student services facility.

The final stage of the school's redevelopment will start within months, replacing the old science block with a new social sciences building.

Playground revamp

The playground behind the Helensville library has had a substantial make-over.

The work has been carried out as part of the Auckland Council's playground renewals programme, says the council's manager, Asset Development and Business Support North, Julie Pickering.

Over the summer the council has been replacing equipment at various playgrounds across the Rodney area, based on their condition. The Helensville playground was identified as in need of renewal of some play components. New equipment has been installed, along with a new swing frame with two junior swings, plus improved drainage.

Planting will be carried out in the upcoming planting season.



• Kaipara College head girl Courtney Pirie speaks at the opening ceremony

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• Sheryl Brownlee judges baking for the indoor exhibition on the Friday before the show



• Helensville's Emma Painton (8) gets some paint on at the show



• Enjoying the ferris wheel at the Cookie Bear Roadshow



• Showjumping action



• Cherry the Clown towers over the show



• Last minute instructions before highland dancing competitors take to the stage



• Wilson, the wire-haired fox terrier made famous in the Lotto television adverts, visited the Helensville A&P Show with owner Alison Lally, of Wainui



• Prime Minister John Key presents Waldon Ellett with one of two Outstanding Service awards at the show's official opening, the first time such awards have been made. The other award went to former show manager Gaylene Ashton, while Graeme Bradly was awarded life membership of the A&P Association



• Action in the woodchopping arena

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HELENSVILLE NEWS

* MARCH BEST BUY *

Aim to make Shelly Beach cafe a destination for fish & chips



• Warwick and Paula Brown outside The Jetty

The owners of The Jetty at Shelly Beach are aiming to make the cafe a 'destination' fish and chips store.

"We're already getting people from as far away as Manurewa and Howick becoming regulars," says owner Warwick Brown, who with wife Paula took over the cafe in September last year.

With a background in fresh fish procurement and retailing, Warwick is ideally placed to see his dream come true.

"We have always wanted to create a good fish and chip shop," he says. "This place has so much potential."

Originally the cafe was going to be Paula's to run on her own, but Warwick decided to help out for the first couple of weeks and loved the location and lifestyle so much, he gave up his paid employment and took on the cafe too.

Now they alternate between living at their South Head home and spending a couple of nights each week at the accommodation above the cafe.

"It's a bit like a bach," says Warwick.

The couple bought their 6ha (15 acre)

property at South Head six years ago, but only moved there from Greenhithe two years later. It's a true lifestyle block, home to pigs, alpacas, goats and sheep. Son James (10) and daughter Georgia (7) attend local Waioneke School.

The cafe became their 'local', but it took two years of negotiating before they were able to purchase it.

When they first took over the cafe - a new venture for both of them - they immediately installed large new freezers so good supplies of food could be kept on hand. They only use fish that has been frozen at sea while still absolutely fresh. Unlike fish that's not frozen until it's processed on shore, it's "exactly like freshly caught fish" says Paula.

During the six months since they took over The Jetty, Warwick and Paula have concentrated on getting across the message of quality food and service and great value with big servings, and building up a reputation as a place to go.

The menu has been revamped with healthy options, light snacks and lots of

• To page 13

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Free youth course starts in April

Te Awaroa Youth Club's next 'Youth Vision' youth development programme starts on Tuesday, April 24.

The free, eight-week course helps prepare young locals for their role in society and develops their potential, while facilitating and promoting positive personal

Fish & chips to be a destination

• From page 12

home baking – Paula makes her own pies using quality meats and no fillers, plus all her own baking.

"It's not just fried food," she stresses. "And everything is made with love."

Bookings aren't generally required, although for large groups advance warning is welcomed.

The hours are long – the café is open from 8am to 8.30pm Thursday to Saturdays, and from 9am to 7pm Sunday to Wednesday – but the location and the pleasure the Browns derive from seeing satisfied customers balances that.

They won't be resting on their laurels, either. There are plans to enclose the large deck to increase the amount of indoor dining, and Warwick hopes one day to set up a local fishing club. He already organises monthly fishing charters aboard the Serene – which, he says with a grin, are tough because they "force" him to have to go fishing!

growth and discovery.

The curriculum includes employments skills, life skills, social and community skills, health and fitness as well as adventure based learning.

Young people 15 to 24 are eligible to register, but the Youth Vision programme is not intended to replace tertiary education – rather it complements it by filling in gaps.

There are only 12 spaces which are on a 'first come, first served' basis. It runs on Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9am to 3pm, and the April 24 course finishes on June 14.

Phone Te Awaroa Youth Club on 420 7977, call at 10 Awaroa Road, Helensville or email: youthvision@teawaroayouthclub.

New face in store

Locals stepping into Video Ezy in Helensville recently will have noticed a few face behind the counter.

Jo Ogilvie, who owns the Bookstop second hand book store at the other end of Commercial Rd, took over as manager of the store just before Christmas.

She has left her book shop to run itself – with help from Art Stop cafe owner Phil Exeter and his staff – although she is still in the shop on Saturdays from 11am to 3pm.

Jo has started implementing small changes at the video store. A plasma screen now shows highlights of new and up-coming movies, competitions and give-a-ways are being held, and a Facebook page to give "news 'n' reviews" has been set up.

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Locals asked to help create a book of experiences

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens at Kaukapakapa is looking for people to help create a book about their experiences at the sculpture gardens.

The project aims to capture visitors'

responses to the current Exhibition 2012, which opened at the end of last year and features 63 contemporary sculptures.

Visitors can draw a picture, write a poem or a short story, taking a photograph or record their experience at the gardens in any other creative way. Art materials are available for use at the sculpture gardens and the sales area of the shop.

After visiting the gardens, visitors can record their experience then either leave it with the staff, post it or email it to sculpture@kaiparacoast.co.nz.

The best contributions will be published in a book that will be a unique record of the exhibition and available for purchase.

Entries received so far include drawings, photos, stories and poems.

Exhibition curator Sally Lush says: "I am really impressed with the book submissions we have received so far. People are really engaging with the project and coming up with creative ways to respond."

"One has written a poem but presented it in an unfolding spiral format, while someone else has done beautiful drawings of fern leaves, peaches on the tree and a spider web, all unsung works along the trail."

Those whose work is published will receive a free annual pass to visit the sculpture gardens, valid from 9am until 4pm for the rest of this year.

STRATEGIC BROKER

- HELENSVILLE -

The Helensville community is seeking an energetic, creative person who can juggle multiple agendas, accountabilities and tasks.

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- Have strong and diverse community connections, and an ability to work in a collaborative way;
- Be a natural gluer of people and processes;
- Have organisational development experience at a strategic level;
- Be based in Helensville/South Kaipara;
- Have a working knowledge of the territory, the people, local history and the third sector.

The position is fixed term, 30 hours, for 18 months only. Applications close March 20th. A job description is available from: awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz.

Floral art club entering major competition

The Helensville Floral Art Club is entering the Floral Art Society of New Zealand's annual Designer of the Year competition later this month.

Being held as part of the North Shore Home and Garden Show, the competition entries will be on show at the North Shore Events Centre in Glenfield from Friday, March 23 to Sunday, March 25.

The competition is open to all Auckland area floral art club members, and the Helensville Club will be entering both individual entries and a club entry.

The competition theme is 'Super City', and different levels of members must interpret the theme in different ways – junior members will interpret 'diversity', intermediate members 'authenticity', seniors 'Simplicity', and there is an open section on 'ethnicity.' The levels don't reflect members' ages, rather the level of work they have reached within their clubs.

Helensville's club team members - Hilary Bott, Eve Issott, Cushla Hawkes, Carmel Wilson and Jenny Holst - have to interpret the theme in terms of 'electricity'.

The exhibition will be open 10am to 6pm Friday and Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday. There is an entry fee to the show, with a reduced price for seniors on the Friday only.

For more information on the Helensville Floral Art Club, phone Cushla on 420 8905.

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FREE METAL COLLECTION

A major fundraiser for the Tamaki Sports Academy is the free metal collection service it offers.

We will pick up any old metal - whiteware such as fridges, stoves, dishwashers, washing machines; roofing iron; metal piping; venetian blinds; computers; batteries; car panels; cars; metal shelving; filing cabinets; machinery; lawn mowers; engines; and so on.

Tamaki Sports Academy offers mentoring, coaching and work experience to South Auckland youth who have dropped out of the mainstream school system but who show some sporting talent. Academy members are enrolled in the Correspondence School, and work towards unit standard credits and national qualifications.

PH (09) 276 0328

Everything's just peachy

I like to start my day with a fresh coffee and stroll about the orchard or garden. For the past week I have been stopping at the Golden Queen peach tree. We have all sampled fruit from the sunny side and agree they will soon be ready. I took a few nearly ripe fruit into Porcini and we roasted them - delicious with a little whipped cream and syrup.

■ Roast Peaches

- 4 firm peaches, (apricots or nectarines work just as well) halved and the stones removed.
- 30g melted butter
- 1 table spoon of soft brown sugar
- 2 table spoons balsamic vinegar
- 3 table spoons honey (I used local Kiwitahi manuka blend)

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Place the fruit, some facing up and some facing down, in an oven proof dish and brush with the butter, sprinkle on the brown sugar and roast for 10 minutes.

Place the honey and balsamic vinegar in a small pot or pan and stir over heat until combined, no need to boil.

After 10 minutes remove the dish from the oven and drizzle the honey balsamic mixture all over the fruit, return to the oven for 4-5 minutes. Remove from the oven and serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

■ Spiced Peach Relish

- Approx 2kg of firm yellow fleshed peaches
- 180g currants or raisins
- 2 cloves of minced garlic
- 150g diced onion
- 150g crystal ginger chopped
- 2 teaspoons chilli powder
- 2 teaspoons mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 800g soft brown sugar
- 900mls cider vinegar
- 10 black pepper corns
- 3 whole all spice

Put everything into a large pot together and stir while it slowly comes to the boil. Turn down to a low simmer and cook for about two hours. Stir often to stop the mix catching on the bottom of the pot. Once thick and well combined, ladle into hot sterile jars, wipe the rim and seal with a lid. This is not a thick chutney but will set and thicken slightly in the jar. Leave for a few weeks before sampling. Best after six weeks



Correction to last month's recipe

In last month's recipe for Raw Fish Salad, the ingredients were incorrectly listed as including "2 cups slivered almonds or South Head macadamia nuts". Those ingredients should NOT be in the salad - they were inadvertently left over from the previous recipe.

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■ WAIONEKE SCHOOL GOLF

Waioneke School holds its annual Golf Day fundraiser on Friday, March 23 at the South Head Golf Course with a 10.30am shotgun start. Special challenges on the day include the longest drive, a putting challenge, closest to the pin and best dressed-up team.

There is also a 'pimp my ride' challenge for the best-decorated cart or trundler. As usual the event will feature an on-course

barbeque, baking and drinks and a range of spot prizes.

A selection of sponsorship packages are available. Phone Anne Holst on 420 2505 or email a.holst@clear.net.nz.

■ CANNONBALL TO VISIT

The Kaipara Cannonball steam train will visit Helensville again on Sunday, March 25, arriving at 11.40am and leaving at 1.10pm. There will be a market day from 10am to 2pm with stalls, sausage sizzle, music and a brass band to celebrate the visit. Stalls cost \$10 - phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, March 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be free craft workshops with stall holders running 'how to' demonstrations at 9.30am and 11am. Phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz, or phone Kim on 420 5776.

■ ST PATRICK'S DAY

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 17, at the club rooms in Commercial Road.

There will be a \$5 door charge for the evening's entertainment, featuring a top Irish dance group, music and a sing-a-long to the songs of 'Auld Ireland'. The club opens at 3pm, with meals from 6pm.

For more information contact secretary manager Brian Caltaux, email kaipara.rsa@xtra.co.nz.

■ PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Helensville Photography Club is looking for new members.

Open to photographers of all skill levels, from those just learning a simple point-and-shoot camera to keen amateurs with high end equipment, the club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm, either at the Senior Citizens' rooms in Rata Street or 'on location' for practical photography sessions.

Meetings are relaxed and informal, with

the aim of the club for all members to improve their photography skills.

Annual membership costs \$25, which covers the use of the club rooms. For more information phone Roy Brooks on 420 8624.

■ KKK PONY CLUB RIBBON DAY

Kaukapakapa Pony Club's final event for the season will be a novice ribbon day on Saturday, April 14 from 9.30am. Programmes are available online at www.kkkpc.org.nz or phone Debbie on 420 4586.

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