

## Parakai community hub to close

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai will close at the end of August.

The Helensville District Health Trust has made the decision to close its operations at the Parakai community hub, and to refocus its priorities on improvements and expansion of its health campus in central Helensville.

"We have thought long and hard about this difficult decision," says Trust chairman Rory MacGillycuddy, "but we believe it is the right one.

"It will allow the Trust to focus our efforts on ensuring the facilities we own on behalf of the community are best able to meet the health needs of our growing population."

Among those priorities are a much needed expansion of the Helensville Birthing Centre, repairs to the building which is home to the Waitematā District Health Board offices, and the redevelopment of Alison McKenzie House on the corner of Porter Crescent and Commercial Road.

"The DHB building alone is in need of asbestos removal, strengthening to bring it up to earthquake standards, and also

requires a full roof replacement," says Rory.

"But as well as those costly maintenance issues, we also have exciting projects demanding investment, including the highly successful Helensville Birthing Centre which is ready to double in size."

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai - in its former life the old Parakai Tavern

- was gifted to the Health Trust in 2013 by the Parakai Licensing Trust, and after extensive renovations opened two years later as a community hub with rooms for hire and a



• Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai

commercial kitchen.

"Despite the best efforts of so many involved over the last four years and of our committed staff, we haven't been able to make the facility financially sustainable," explains Health Trust business manager Nicola Keen-Biggelaar.

The closure of the centre and some other staff changes within the Health Trust mean nine jobs are now being made redundant over the coming couple of months.

However, Nicola hopes some of the catering staff may be able to stay on until the end of the year to fulfil the contract to run the Kaipara College tuck shop.

"We're also talking with the regular users like Te Wānanga o Aotearoa to limit any disruption on their students who have been studying Te Reo Māori at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai this year," says Nicola.

The Trust is now looking to lease the Parakai complex to provide a regular income to help offset the expenditure it's facing on upgrading its other buildings.

## Service, tribute concert for Peter Cape

A tribute concert will be held at Helensville's Magnify Church at 2pm on Sunday, July 21 to commemorate the life of Peter Cape.

Peter was born in 1926 at Helensville's Malolo House (next door to the present church, and then a maternity hospital) and went on to become a nationally-recognised broadcaster, balladeer, author, ordained minister, actor, and a composer of songs which poked gentle, humorous fun at New Zealand life from the late 1950s to the 1970s.

Best know of those was 'Taumarunui on the Main Trunk Line', and other titles included 'She'll be Right', 'Down the Hall on Saturday Night', 'Coffee Bar Blues', and 'Taumata...' (about the town with possibly the longest place name in the world).

The three-hour concert, which will feature Peter's songs, will follow a midday service at All Saints church at Kaukapakapa, where Peter's ashes will be interred.

Peter's son Christopher, who along with others will perform his father's songs at the concert, only recently came into possession of Peter's ashes. He and his sister Stephanie decided the most appropriate place to inter Peter's ashes was in the vicinity of his place of birth, Helensville.

Those wanting to attend the concert are asked to bring a plate for a shared afternoon tea, and a koha to cover expenses.

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# Lecture explores rafting on the Kaipara

The exploits of Mick Scott rafting logs on the Kaipara Harbour were recounted by his son Trevor at the Helensville Historical Society's first Winter Lecture for the 2019 season, held on Sunday, June 16.

His talk was based on stories told to him by Mick over the years.

Mick first started fishing with his father, but a few bad seasons meant he had to find another job. He went to see Charlie West at the sawmill, who promised him two weeks' work hauling off-cuts and sawdust to the furnace around the mill site.

Charlie sent Mick, with his uncle, to collect logs that were ready to come down to the sawmill. Mick ended up

working for the Wests for the rest of his life.

On the West's small launch, the 'Nor-West' they went up the smaller creeks the larger vessels could not go, to make the rafts of logs. The West's larger launch, 'TSS The Minerva', brought the rafts back to Helensville.

Trevor told of a couple of journeys Mick and his Uncle Tom, along with dog 'Ruffy', did together, interspersed with many funny anecdotes. The lecture was illustrated on screen, and with a photo display of the boats.

The talk was followed by a question time and afternoon tea. The afternoon was a fundraiser for the Helensville Museum.

The society's Winter Lecture originally scheduled for July, on the Russell family history, has been postponed until Sunday, August 18 so as not to conflict with the memorial service and concert for Peter Cape (see front page).



• A kauri raft in 1908



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## Lions donate HIPPY books

Helensville Lions Club donated 50 copies of 'The Chill Out Chair' by local author Josephine Carson Barr for children at the recent HIPPY Mid-Year celebration, held at Parakai School.

Pauline O'Neill, representing the Lions Club, presented the books to the children, who also received certificates for working hard on their HIPPY programme.

The HIPPY parents and children enjoyed working together at the celebration on a range of fun educational activities.

They were joined by the Parakai School new entrant class who stayed for a shared morning tea. New entrant teacher Jackie Silby remarked on how well-prepared HIPPY children are when they start school.

The HIPPY programme promotes the ideal of parents as a child's first and best teacher.

For more information on the Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters contact co-ordinator Nadia Herlihy on 021 0220 6017.



• HIPPY mum Amber and son Jasper (4) work on an activity together



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# Māori + Western health workshops

Health providers in Helensville have teamed up with Māori medicine practitioner Donna Kerridge to run three evening workshops starting later this month.

The workshops were initiated by Dr Tomos Longworth from Kaipara Medical Centre to help break down barriers between Māori and Western health systems.

"No health system has all the answers, and we are lucky in Helensville to have a broad range of health practitioners in our community," says Dr Longworth.

"I think collaborations like this are important to demonstrate to our patients how the old and the new can work alongside each other in a way that is safe and respectful of complementary approaches to achieving wellbeing, including rongoā, Māori health services, pharmacy, physio and local GP services."

The workshops are designed to:

- encourage our community to access the appropriate primary health care services in a timely manner in order to prevent more serious health concerns developing;
- introduce whanau and the wider community to mainstream health providers in the area who are sympathetic to the continued use of traditional Māori healing practices, and;
- reconnect whanau to their traditional healing practices.

Each of the workshops will offer Māori medicine presentations, a public question and answer session with a panel of local registered health experts, and facilitated discussions on special interest health topics.

Dame Rangimarie Naida Glavish from



• Dame Rangimarie Naida Glavish

the Auckland and Waitemātā District Health Boards executive leadership teams, and a Ngāti Whatua leader will deliver the opening address for the series.

"I am delighted to be invited, and I am so proud to see my home town taking a leadership role in improving health outcomes for our people," she says.

"This is truly an event for the whole community. It is designed to benefit all

cultures, and all of this has been organised, delivered and funded within the community itself. This is a true collaboration of all facets of our community."

The workshops will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm on the evenings of Tuesday, July 23, July 30, and August 6.

Entry is \$5 per person per event, and prior registration is required and can be made at Helensville Library (the first 50 registrations will receive a goodie bag

on the night).

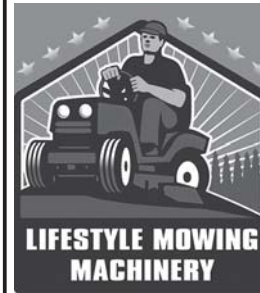
Some transport to and from the events is available for those for whom transport might be a barrier - phone Donna Tapurau, Te Ha Oranga, 420 8523 or 0800 MYTEHA.

For more information about the event email Donna Kerridge at: donna@oranewzealand.com.

The organisers would like to thank the following organisations for their support: Auckland Council (Helensville Library), Helensville Pharmacy, Kaipara High School Kapa Haka Group Ngā Taniwha o Kaipara, Kaipara Medical Centre, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whatua, Ora New Zealand, Physio Flex, Te Ha Oranga, Maori Health Services.

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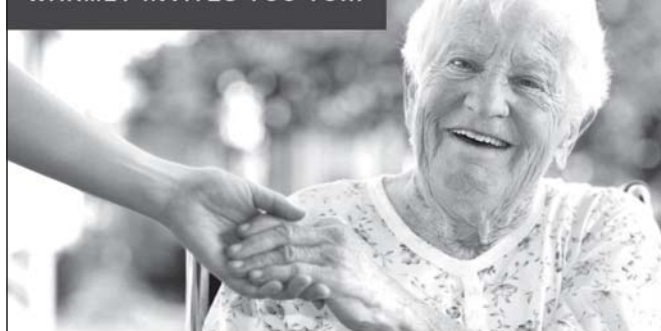


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# Kaukapakapa playground opening soon, thanks to community support

It's hoped Kaukapakapa's new playground will officially open later this month.

The almost \$280,000 nature-themed playground has been nearly seven years in the making, a project largely driven by local mum Nicola Towersey.

Nicola had just given birth to her first child, daughter Hannah, and with the nearest playground a 20-minute drive away, she wanted a place for locals, especially new families, to get together and socialize.

She "very enthusiastically" joined the Kaukapakapa Area Residents and

involved," she explains.

Rodney Local Board allocated \$78,000 to the project, but the bulk of the funding has been raised by the community.

A Givealittle page is still active, aiming to raise the final \$5000, and at the time of going to press was well over half way to that target. People wanting to donate can do so at: <https://bit.ly/2Y26IOa>.

People can also purchase a sponsorship plaque at the playground through the playground's Facebook page.

While the formal playground equipment has been purchased with the money raised,

local contractors have donated time, machinery and goods such as gravel to keep costs down.

The playground has been designed as a natural play area that is dynamic and flexible to support a wide range of children's play.

It consists of landscaping interspersed with boardwalks

and paths, natural play items such as tree stumps and stepping stones, and interactive items such as skink/weta houses. Four raised, major play stations feature a double slide, triple swings, a balance bridge and monkey bars.

There's a crawl tunnel, a hidden maze and picnic tunnels.

The natural theme aims to make it blend in with the remnant kahikatea forest which forms a backdrop to the playground.

A highlight of the design is a 2.5m long eel and seating carved by inmates at the Northland Region Corrections Facility at

Kaikohe. Nicola has spoken with children at Kaukapakapa School, who are making cards and posters of thanks for the prisoners.

By late June all the major equipment had been installed. Nicola was waiting on a tree to be felled for use as seating, and local contractor Sam Owens of Eden Ltd was to complete the final hardscaping and landscaping.

"I'd love to thank everyone in the community who has volunteered their equipment, time, and for all of the encouragement along the way. This wouldn't be happening without them," says Nicola.

She gives special thanks to major sponsors Rodney Local Board, Elise Foundation, Pak n Save Silverdale, Winstone Aggregates, Auckland Council, Eden Ltd, and Helensville Lions, plus the myriad of smaller sponsors, including: Renee Davies 4sight Consulting, Kaipara Coast Plants, Kaukapakapa Store, Sue Beaver Harcourts Realty, All Saint's Kaukapakapa Church Opshop, Kaukapakapa Cartage, Independent Earthmoving, Kaukapakapa Drainage, Swale Transport, Bunnings Silverdale, Placemakers Silverdale, Northern Retaining, South Kaipara Rotary.

## Movie workshop

Helensville Art Centre's popular One Day Movie Making Workshop returns this month.

Short-film maker Hank Snell will run the workshop on Saturday, July 6 from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Students should bring costumes and props, and ideas which will be developed and filmed in just one day.

The edited film will premiere at 7pm the following day, also at the Art Centre.

Art Centre co-ordinator Pauline Denton says the premiere will be "a fascinating opportunity to see just what can be accomplished in one day".

The course costs just \$60, thanks to a subsidy from the Creative Communities Scheme.



• Nicola at the playground with Hannah (6) and James (3)

Ratepayers Association with the idea that getting a playground built wouldn't be too big a job. Little did she know!

But after all the years of hard graft and planning, earthworks began in January with 1000m<sup>3</sup> of fill trucked onto the site, behind the carpark between the Kaukapakapa hall and fire station.

Since then, around 80 local volunteers have done much of the work. Hannah says 50 people turned up on a single day to help with planting.

"A lot has happened in a short time. Much of my work has been about getting people

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# Best friends serve community

Good things come in pairs - at least that's the case for best friends, Jan Scott and Ros Freke.

On Fridays you'll see them volunteering at the St John Helensville shop, serving customers and having a good yarn with the people who pop in for a browse.

Their journey with St John began a little over six years ago, when they spotted preparations under way for a new store in town.

"We saw a shop being set up without the signage and were curious about what it might be," recalls Jan. The signage for the St John Opportunity Shop went up and Jan and Ros signed up as volunteers.

"Ros and I went to a meeting and said we'd like to volunteer together. We got the afternoon shift on Fridays and we have been serving there ever since," Jan says.

"We love it. We really look forward to going there every week. It's like a social thing," professes Ros, who gets a buzz out of engaging with customers and helping them pick outfits for special occasions.

"It's really nice getting to know people in the community and making friends. It's nice seeing young mothers come in with young babies and gradually watching them grow up, on their return visits," adds Jan.

Through the years, the pair have helped countless people; some less fortunate than others.

"We've had a few occasions when people have faced a tragedy and they've lost a lot and have come to us for help" says Jan, who recalls a time when the community came together to support a family who lost everything after their house burned down.

"The local pharmacy put out a call for people to donate goods, so we packed a few boxes of things including clothing, blankets and kitchen items and donated them to the family.

"It was wonderful because we wanted to

help and it was really good knowing we were able to, because we had the resources to do so," says Jan.

The duo's commitment to the store fuels their passion for giving back to the community. But it's not the only cause they serve.

Jan also runs a free service where she drives senior citizens to appointments, including trips to the doctor, hairdresser and



• Ros (left) and Jan outside the St John Opshop

even the supermarket. When she receives donations, she gives them all to St John. When Jan isn't available, Ros has happily filled in for her.

Ros also lends a hand by helping as a board member for the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau.

Both are committed volunteers for life and say they wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'm doing things for my community and I get back from the community their friendliness and so much more," says Jan. Ros agrees, saying: "I'd hate to give it up. I look forward to it every week - it's fun."

Jan and Ros are two of St John's 9600 volunteers being honoured during National Volunteer Week. St John estimates its volunteers contribute more than two million hours to New Zealand communities, and if it could put a financial value on such support, it would be in excess of \$30 million dollars.

## Free talk on dementia

Maria Co, an educator for Dementia Auckland, will hold a free presentation on dementia at Craigweil House in Parakai on Tuesday, July 30.

Craigweil facility manager David Halewood invites locals to visit the elderly care facility for the presentation, so they can learn more about dementia and the support available.

He says they want to "embrace and include those carers who toil away in isolation in our rural community."

"We think it's great for the local community either living with, or knowing someone with, dementia that may not otherwise get a chance to hear about services, information and support," adds Beau Henriksen, business manager for Henrikwest Management, which operates Craigweil.

Maria's talk will start at 11am and will take about an hour, with time for a question and answer session with the audience. The talk will include audio-visual information, and she will also bring leaflets and newsletters for the audience.

Locals wanting to attend the presentation should register their interest by phoning Craigweil on 420 8277, or by email to: [info@craigweil.co.nz](mailto:info@craigweil.co.nz). Coffee, tea and biscuits will be supplied.

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## New KMC practice manager

Debbie Eastwood has been mad keen on horses since she was a girl, so when she learned Kaipara Medical Centre was recruiting for a new practice manager she saw the chance for her lifelong dream of country living to become a reality.

Debbie and her partner Mark have been testing the waters of rural life for the last few months while their property in Parnell has been rebuilt due to leaky-building issues.

The couple have been renting a cottage in Kumeu and commuting to work - Mark travelling overseas as a medical director for a health care company, and Debbie as General Manager of Surgical and Ambulatory Services for the Waitematā District Health Board, based at North Shore Hospital.

They were attracted to his part of the world some years ago after Debbie joined the local hunt club and they began exploring Muriwai and its surrounds.

In fact, four years ago the couple purchased a block at Tupare, South Head with plans to one day build a new home and have enough land for her to keep her three horses.

"I knew when we eventually moved to South Head that commuting to North Shore wouldn't be possible, and my career goal wasn't to do a more senior role, it was to do something more community-focussed.

"So while I've enjoyed working for a large organisation like the DHB, I'd like to be back to a smaller team and being more connected."

Her last two years as General Manager of Surgical and Ambulatory Services has seen her work alongside the Chief of Surgery and the Associate Director of Nursing to make sure every patient gets their

operation.

Prior to that, Debbie worked as General Manager for Medicine and Health for Older People, and was involved in the extension to the Waitakere Hospital emergency department.

That followed more than 20 years at Counties Manukau DHB, beginning with a clerical job at Middlemore Hospital.

"I was of the era when you could study while you worked your way to more senior

roles, so I completed a degree, a post-graduate degree, and eventually a Masters."

She admits the health sector is complicated and can be a challenging environment.

"It's hard enough for staff to navigate, so it makes you realise how hard it is for patients to navigate."

When asked about patient wait-times to see GPs, she acknowledges northwest Auckland doesn't have the ratio of GPs to support the population as other

areas may have, "so the challenge for us is to support people who may not get an appointment on the day, but to ensure they still get some healthcare advice. And also how to balance the needs of patients who come in regularly with those who come in when they need more immediate care."

She says her focus when she joins Kaipara Medical Centre will be to get to know the team and work out how she can best support them to deliver care to the South Kaipara community.

"The Board's goal is to be an excellent rural practice and a leader, and I'm confident that is something that together we can absolutely achieve."

Debbie takes up her new role on Monday, July 22.



• Debbie Eastwood

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# Farewell to long-time Helensville resident

**Grace Eunson Downer**  
17/6/1916 – 29/5/2019

Long-time Helensville resident Grace Downer (pictured below) passed away at the end of May in her 103rd year.



Grace was born at Rotorua on June 17, 1916, the fourth daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Gordon. She was schooled at Whakarewarewa then Epsom Girls Grammar, before moving with her parents to Dargaville.

After leaving school she went to work for the Northern Wairoa Dairy Company, and married Ronald William Downer of Helensville on July 29, 1944.

Their eldest son Ken was born at Te Kopuru in 1945, and the young family moved first to

Helensville, then Fordyce Road in Parakai, and later Pipitiwai Road. The couple's second son Jim was born in Helensville in 1948, and Peter in 1950. Peter passed away in 1957.

Grace worked in a Helensville grocery store, and belonged to a group called the 'Knitting Bee', of which she was the last surviving member.

The family eventually sold their Pipitiwai house, moving into Garfield Road while a new house was built in Porters Crescent.

Husband Ron was a postmaster, and his job saw the family move away from Helensville, first to Pt Chevalier, then Devonport, and finally Papatoetoe, living in houses provided with the job.

After Ron passed away in 1975 Grace purchased a unit in Henderson, but eventually went to live with son Jim and his wife Lorraine, first in St Johns and then in Drury.

Following Jim's death in 2011 she moved back to Helensville, living with Ken in Cabeleigh Drive, before eventually moving into Craigweil House at Parakai.

Grace is survived by son Ken, daughter-in-law Lorraine, six grand-children and nine great-grandchildren.

## medical centre notes

With the recent measles outbreak here and elsewhere in the world, it is now advised that all the immunisations that were normally given at 15 months of age - including the first MMR vaccine - have been approved to move forward to 12 months of age.

This is to improve protection for children at a younger age, and the MMR is also offered to children from six months if they are travelling overseas to United States, Japan and the Philippines, but will still require the two MMR vaccines at a later date also.

The MMR vaccine is also free for people under the age 50 who have not received two MMR vaccines in the past.

The Flu vaccine is also available free of charge to the following groups:

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- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Director



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> INTRODUCING THE PEOPLE BEHIND SOME OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES - BROUGHT TO YOU BY NORTH WEST COUNTRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

## : Petrol in the veins

Brett Peachey says he's been a "motorhead since day one", and it's easy to believe he has petrol flowing through his veins.

He owns two classic American cars, a 1964 Mustang convertible and a 1932 Ford, and for five years ran the now-defunct Caltex service station at Kaukapakapa, which closed nine years ago.

And now, after years of hard work, he and wife Julie are the proud owners of the town's new Gull service station - a business which is already setting some trends.

Probably foremost among those was their decision to not sell cigarettes or any tobacco products. That makes it the first service station in New Zealand to be completely smoke-free.

Having lost friends to cancer, as well as seeing the safety of staff as paramount, the couple took the decision even though Brett says it means turnover "takes a hit".

He's aiming to balance out that hit by making the Kaukapakapa Gull station a full service business. That means as well as being "old school" and pumping gas for customers as well

as checking oil and tyres, the business sells a full range of motoring accessories, such as oils, spark plugs and fuel lines.

He says previously locals have had to travel as far as Albany or Westgate to buy products such as those.

Brett works hands-on in the Gull station most days, where there are two full-time staff plus students in the evenings. There are always two workers on site.

Julie runs their popular local takeaway, Shark & Tatties. Her fresh-baked pies are on sale at the station. That business is now on the market, with Brett saying they need a break after 12 years.

Brett and Julie signed with Gull nine years ago after the closure of the town's previous fuel station, and he says it took three years just to get



> Julie and Brett Peachey at their new Gull station

resource consent.

The new station is a cornerstone of the Kaukapakapa Village retail and residential complex, which has been under construction for several years.

## : New cafe name adds local Māori flavour

"We wanted our own look, and wanted to feel it was ours," says Te Awaroa Cafe owner Naomi Phillips, explaining the reason for changing the business's name.

Naomi and partner Eli Foreman purchased and took over what was previously known as The Kombuchery in late March, and also felt the

cafe's name needed to more closely reflect our area's heritage.

Another touch is a Maori symbol, designed by a friend, which adorns the cafe doors and which stands for unity, love, and bringing people together.

Having the word 'cafe' in the name has also had the added bonus of bringing in many new customers, says Naomi. She explains that many people were confused by the 'kombuchery' name, not realising what the business was - she even spoke with people who thought it was a butchery!

With around 15 years experience in the hospitality industry, including previously having managed the Kaipara Tavern and other businesses, Naomi says:

"I've always wanted to own my own business."

Having worked at The Kombuchery for around eight months before taking it over, she says it was a "really great opportunity" to buy the cafe, with the big plus of already knowing the business inside and out.

Alongside the new name, since takeover Naomi has tweaked the menu to add items like toasties, and has spruced up the interior with more comfortable tables and chairs.

A television promotes local businesses and attractions.

The cafe also opens earlier now, at 7am on weekdays, to give local workers the chance to get a decent coffee before they start work for the day.

As a mother of eight, with five children still living at home, she has found family time hard to come by.

"It's been really hard [for the kids] with not much time with mum." But she says that will change once staffing is fully sorted. She currently has one full-time and two part-time staff working with her in the cafe.

Te Awaroa Cafe is open 7am to 3pm on weekdays, and 8am to 4pm at weekends.



> Naomi in the entrance to Te Awaroa Cafe

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## : Tree climbing heights for everyone

If Jimmy Moore tells you to “go climb a tree” he’s not being rude - he really wants you to.

Jimmy is director of Tree Adventures, one of our area’s foremost adventure tourism businesses, based in Woodhill Forest.

Spread through 4ha of pine forest, the 10 different courses are designed to appeal to all levels of people, from beginner courses for those as young as five - or just not too keen on heights - to more extreme challenges up to 14m above the ground.

The courses include eight ziplines totalling 900m in length.

Tree Adventures was set up in 2004 by a predominantly French group who wanted a site outside France where locals would embrace the adventurous nature of the business. New Zealand - and Woodhill Forest in particular - was ideal.

Today the business can handle up to 100 people at a time, and is especially popular with groups - be they businesses for team-building, families, birthday parties or schools.

A former snowboard instructor, Jimmy started with the company 15 years ago. He

worked his way through the ranks to where now, aged 36, he runs the show.

His intention has always been to keep the business affordable for local families, rather than becoming a high-end tourism operation.

“We’ve tried to position ourselves at a price affordable for local families. My initiative from day one was not to be a high-dollar facility,” he says.

Safety is his primary concern. He says the adventure industry is heavily regulated, and the company is registered with WorkSafe and must pass annual safety audits.

The eight full-time staff, and up to 10 part-time staff, undergo stringent training.

As well as its regular customers, Tree Adventures works with many community organisations, especially youth development

programmes, local iwi, schools, and many different groups catering for people with special needs or disabilities. They also work in closely with the Woodhill Mountain Bike Park.

Tree Adventures is open every weekend, public holiday and school holiday, and on weekdays by appointment.



> Jimmy Moore tries out one of the courses

## : Having a blast at Kaukapakapa



> Duran at his Kaukapakapa workshop

“If a job’s not going to be done bang-on, I won’t touch it,” explains ProBlast & Coatings owner Duran Callaghan, explaining his ethos of doing a job, and doing it properly.

Duran’s Kaukapakapa-based business specialises in blasting and protective, anti-corrosion coatings, and his range of work is broad - everything from removing road markings and stripping car bodies for restoration through to major machinery and seagoing vessels.

When Helensville News spoke with him, he was part-way through a five-week job in Otahuhu sandblasting and applying an anti-corrosive finish to a 500sq.m. barge; he had previously applied corrosion protection to the Mt Rex-based 50m barge Kaipara Karrier VI.

With a focus on offering ongoing maintenance at a fraction of the cost of major repairs, the company has already landed some major regular clients, like Hiway Stabilizers whose fleet of vehicles and heavy machinery is subjected to corrosive materials such as lime. Duran’s corrosion protection can save the company major repair costs.

Duran, originally from Durban in South Africa, has a background in electrical and electronic work, and more recently in automated gates. After migrating to New Zealand 10 years ago, he moved to Kaukapakapa with his wife four years ago, and started ProBlast in 2017.

The business was initially mobile-only, but earlier this year he took over a large workshop in the main road of Kaukapakapa featuring a 4-tonne hoist capable of handling motorhomes and light trucks, and will soon install containers for blasting trucks and other vehicles.

As well as using what he says are the best anti-corrosion products available, Duran can blast with a variety of media including sand, crushed glass, soda or even walnut shell, and specialises in dustless wet-induced blasting.

He can also provide purchasers of new vehicles with a special polymer coating which protects paint from damage from UV, bird droppings, and dirt.

Duran can be contacted on 021 0200 3226 or email [duran@problast.org](mailto:duran@problast.org).

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# PRESTIGE

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## Photo contest winners



This black and white photo of Kaukapakapa Store's Michael Yin, by Alan Golder, won the adult section of the annual 'Day in the Life of Kaukapakapa' photography competition.

Alan's photo was one of a record 92 entries received this year - double the number entered in the previous two years.

The under 12 years prize went to Yenta Wiehahn for her photograph of Moses Road letterboxes, while the people's choice award went to Amanda Bailey for a photograph taken in Omeru Reserve.

Photos had to be taken during the week of June 2 to June 9, and had to be recognisable as being in the Kaukapakapa area.

The competition is expected to return next year.

## Search on for new A&P Show manager

The Helensville A&P Association is looking for a new manager-secretary for its annual show.

The position involves providing administrative, secretarial, financial and promotional support for the A&P Association, and co-ordinating and managing all aspects of the annual Helensville A&P Show. Averaging 24 hours per week, that varies through the year, with the four months from November until just after the show at the end of February being full time.

Management of the annual show is a vital part of the role, and includes organising trade space; co-ordinating judges, stewards and volunteers; arranging and maintaining sponsorship; and booking everything needed to run a successful show.

Full details for the position and an application form are on the show website, [www.helensvilleshow.co.nz/showmanager](http://www.helensvilleshow.co.nz/showmanager), or phone the show office on 420 7572 and leave a message.

Applications for the position close on Friday, July 20.

## Rotary tree planting project

South Kaipara Rotary members and their children have planted 1500 trees at a Wainui farm as part of the Clean Waterways Project.

As part of the project, those taking part learned from Park Ranger Stephanie McLeod (right) how water quality is tested for pH (water acid/alkaline base), temperature and clarity to see if it is conducive for freshwater marine life.



## HELENSVILLE



## School Drivers Wanted

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**RITCHIES**

# Library holiday programme

Helensville Library's annual Soft Toy Sleepover is on Friday, July 5, from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Children should take along a soft toy (not a special one that has to be home at bedtime) and wear their pyjamas for a fun pyjama party and storytime. The toy will stay overnight for a library sleepover, and can be picked up the following day between 9.30am and 4pm.

The library's theme for the school holiday is 'Poles Apart', with all events running from 3pm to 3.30pm.

First up is Navigate the Stars, on Tuesday, July 9, where children will explore celestial navigation in a special Matariki-themed event.

On Thursday, July 11 is Feel the Force, some science fun exploring the forces of magnets and gravity.

Calligraphy is the theme for the final two events, on Tuesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 18, where children can learn skills in both Chinese and Western European calligraphy.

On the Tuesday they will learn about Chinese calligraphy and design and begin an illuminated initial, which will be finished on the Thursday, along with learning about Western European calligraphy.

## Matariki exhibition at Art Centre

Helensville Art Centre's Matariki exhibition, titled Manaakitanga, will have a special opening on Friday, July 5 from 6pm to 8pm. Locals are invited to attend, and local bronze sculptor Joanne Sullivan will talk about the evolution of her new commissioned work.

The exhibition will be open from Saturday, July 6 until Saturday, July 27 and will feature artworks from Nick Stankovich, Tanya Ruka, Liana Steedman, Tony Brown, and Riley Norton, plus Parakai Kindergarten and Helensville Primary School. Normal hours will be Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm.

For more information contact: Heather Steadman, email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz) or phone: 021 153 3593.

## from the frontline

### Staying safe in our Rural Community

Police can and will respond to rural crime, but keep in mind the police may need to travel long distances to get to you.

Call 111 when you need immediate help with a life threatening or time-critical emergency.

Phone 105 for non-urgent situations, to report things that have already happened which don't need urgent police assistance.

Some emergencies will need more than one service (Fire, Ambulance and Police). Ask for the service which is most needed urgently. All emergency services have links to each other, and the first service called will notify the other services if they are required.

For not-urgent situations, call or visit your local police station. If there's no immediate danger, or the incident happened a while ago, then it is probably not an emergency. If you can't decide if it's a real emergency and you're still worried, call 111 and ask us. We'll help you work out what to do.

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime in rural areas by taking precautions.

If living on a farm and leaving your house to investigate something untoward, first ensure someone knows where you're going, as much as possible what you are checking, and how long you expect to take. That could involve phoning the police or a neighbour, waiting for a neighbour to join you, or taking a mobile or hand-held radio with you.

Rural New Zealand has a reputation for tight-knit, supportive communities. Knowing your neighbours, exchanging phone numbers and keeping them handy, and discussing what you could do to alert and help each other in an emergency, is good preparation.

Join or organise a Neighbourhood Support group in your area - contact the Rodney area coordinator, Margaret Faed, on email: [rns.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:rns.coordinator@gmail.com). It doesn't cost anything, it's a great way to get to know your neighbours and keep an eye out for one another, and to let everyone know of any suspicious activity to be aware of.

- Laura Van Doormaal, Community Constable



HELENSVILLE  
AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

## Show Manager/Secretary Part-time

We need a confident, organised and experienced person to take responsibility for the day to day administration of the Helensville A&P Association and the event management of the annual Helensville A&P Show. People skills essential.

This is a sole-charge contract position of approximately 24 hours per week. It's an event management and secretarial role requiring skills in sponsorship, time management, communication and organisation. A sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office, and proven experience in administrative roles are important. Accounts experience is necessary using Xero. The job is based at Helensville Showgrounds.

A complete job description, application form, and information on how to apply for the position is available online at: [www.helensvilleshow.co.nz/showmanager](http://www.helensvilleshow.co.nz/showmanager).

Executive Committee  
Helensville A&P Association  
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# A&P 'Winter Series' returns

Helensville A&P Association's Winter Series of friendly, mini competitions returns over the next few months.

The series was a new initiative last year, and consists of competitions over three months, with the aim of keeping locals interested in their annual A&P show during the off-season. This year will follow a similar format, though the classes for competitions have been changed and expanded.

First up this year will be 'Baking', on Sunday, August 25.

Classes are:

**Adults:**

- Bliss or protein balls x3
- Favourite slice, any kind, 3 pieces
- Anything apple

**Children:**

- Decorated cupcake
  - Flavoured popcorn (half cup)
- The second competition, on Sunday, September 22 the class will be 'Floral'.

**Adults:**

- Recycled arrangement (recycled container, dried or fresh flowers)
- Best flower stem, any kind
- Dried arrangement, may include accessories, any format
- Kokedama

**Children:**

- Jam Jar of groovy greenery.
  - Sand saucer
- The final competition on Sunday, October 20 will be 'Knitting & Crocheting' (in wool or acrylic)

**Adults:**

- Any hat
- Baby Set of 2 items (any combo of hat, booties, blanket or garment)
- Granny Square blanket

**Children:**

- Any crocheted or knitted item
- Entries cost \$3, and should be dropped at the showgrounds hall on the day between 9am and 10am. Judging will start around 10.15am, with results and viewing available by 11am. Entries may be collected from 11.15am. Entrants are invited to stay for morning tea while the judging takes place.

There's prize money of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second and \$5 for third, and there are both adult and 14 years and under classes.

For more information phone Julie Croft 420 7941 or Shona Addison 021 0222 3044.

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## Third fuel station opening soon

A third petrol station will open soon in Helensville.

Gull hopes to have its self-service, pay-at-pump station open in Mill Road, opposite Helensville Museum and the Riverside Reserve, by the end of August.

The site will be an unmanned, drive through station similar to those at Kumeu and Whenuapai.

There will be three fuel dispensers providing 91 and 'Force 10' 98 octane petrol as well as diesel, with a high flow option for all fuel grades allowing faster fuel delivery. They will be covered with Gull's distinctive 'gullwing' canopies.

Two new underground 60,000 litre tanks will be installed, one for 91 octane, and the other which will be split into 25,000 litres of 98 octane and 35,000 litres of diesel.

The site will be surrounded by a timber fence with landscaping.

While not designed as a truck stop, the station has been developed with room for



• The station will look like this Hobsonville one large trucks to fit.

A Gull Ambassador will be on-site during the day for the first six weeks of operation to help customers and show them how the pay-at-pump systems works, as well as on the company's special discount days. Customers can follow the Gull Facebook page for advance notice of specials and promotions.

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# making the difference

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Our recipient for July is Frances, who has chosen to split her voucher into two \$50 vouchers for use at the Helensville Hospice Shop and the Helensville Recycling Centre.

■ Frances was nominated by Julie James:

"I'd like to nominate



• Frances receives her vouchers from Nicky

Frances at the Budget Centre and Foodbank. She goes out of her way to help and advise people even though she's suffering pain from a back problem. She is a kind and caring woman who has the welfare of our community at heart.



## Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

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

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

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Ph: (09) 420 8747

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

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Putting local health first • Te hau ora tua-tahi o awaroa

# Healthy Helensville

Our vision: The best possible health services for people in South Kaipara

## GP of many talents

Many in the South Kaipara community will know Dr Phillip Barter as their local doctor.

He started at Kaipara Medical Centre 16 years ago and is its longest-serving doctor. Needless to say that means he has more patients on his books than the centre's other GPs and partly explains why some patients are faced with a wait for an appointment with him.

But, there are other demands on this popular doctor's time. Dr Phill also acts as supervisor for the GP registrars during their six-month long placement at the centre before they become fully qualified.

On Wednesdays he's in Ponsonby teaching other GP registrars for the Royal College of GPs. Fridays are taken up with administration duties and management meetings in his role as Clinical Adviser for Kaipara Medical Centre. And, twice weekly he performs



Dr Phillip Barter, Kaipara Medical Centre

tongue-tie operations on babies at the Helensville Birthing Centre, the only GP doing this work in the Rodney district.

He's also looking at assisting Dr Trinh Wright with marae clinics in the near future.

All these additional duties are further evidence of why Dr Phillip Barter is such an asset to our community.

He says while he does his best to see those patients who have been under his care for some years, he's pleased Dr Vaughan Lock has just joined the team as a full-time doctor and is also looking forward to Dr Tomas Longworth, the current registrar, completing his registrar year in December when he'll be able to have his own patient list.

## Big Latch On



The Big Latch On, a nationwide event promoting breastfeeding, will be held on Friday 2 August at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai.

The free event is organised by the Helensville Birthing Centre and sees babies latch on to feed at 10:30am. Participants also enjoy morning tea and lots of giveaways thanks to donations from many generous local businesses.

# New owner takes over Mill Rd mechanics

For the new owner of Helensville Mechanical in Mill Road, it's been a business purchase four years in the making.

When Brent Hayfield joined the company as a mechanic four years ago, fresh from working with the Automobile Association, then-owner Bernie Flynn made it clear he would be looking to sell the business once he'd owned it for 10 years, and suggested it would be a great opportunity for Brent.

Now Bernie's 10 years are up, and Brent has jumped at the chance to own his first business - though he says it is "a bit of a scary move".

"We discussed it [buying the business] when I was first offered the job," he explains, describing owning the business as a move forward and a natural progression in his career. He officially took over on July 1.

Having already worked at Helensville Mechanical for four years, Brent will be a familiar face for most of the business's customers.

The biggest change will be in the front

## 'Ephemeral' art, shadow theatre workshops

International story teller, musician, artist and workshop facilitator Gill Taylor will hold two workshops for local children at the Helensville Art Centre in July.

First up is an 'ephemeral art' workshop on Saturday, July 13. Pitched at ages seven to 12, the workshop will cost \$15 and run from 10am to 1pm.

Ephemeral art is art created from nature, either indoors or outside. Photos are taken of the finished pieces, which are then either left to the elements or the children can recreate them into something new.

The workshop aims to help children develop a strong connection with nature and see beauty in the natural world.

A Shadow Theatre workshop will be held the following Saturday, July 20 from 10am to 4.30pm, and aimed at the same age group.

The full-day \$30 workshop will introduce participants to Tāonga Puoro (traditional Māori musical instruments) and to shadow puppetry, teaching how to use both the instruments and puppets.

The children will put on a 4pm performance for parents, siblings and whanau - and any members of the public who would like to see it.

The story to be performed will be a legend from Aotearoa.

Gill Taylor describes herself as an oral storyteller and player of Taonga Puoro who has performed at arts festivals and schools around New Zealand, as well as performing as a story teller in England, Germany, Switzerland and Rarotonga.

She also runs workshops to encourage young people to become storytellers, puppeteers using shadow theatre, and to use instruments in their performance.

office, with Brent's wife Samantha, a qualified early education teacher, taking over Bernie's role as first point of contact for customers.

The couple have lived at Parakai for six years, and their two children, Paige (10) and Maddox (6) attend Helensville Primary.

Apart from a new face in reception, Brent says he has no major changes planned, except for a possible exterior spruce-up sometime in the coming year.

Ideally he would like to expand the business with a third mechanic eventually,

but says in the meantime the business's focus will stay the same, on providing top customer service.

So what will become of Bernie?

He will still be around, managing his second company, Helensville Motorcycle Services in the workshop behind Helensville Mechanical.

"I'll still be running the bike shop, but [also] looking for what else to do."

With plenty of regular customers, especially from local farmers and landowners who he says are holding on to

their older bikes and quads for longer, he is looking at the possibility of growing the business to include a second mechanic.

Bernie sends out a word of thanks to all his customers over the years.

"I know I'm leaving them in good hands," he says.



• Bernie (left) with new owner Brent

## from our local MP

As your local MP I'm always conscious that the political shenanigans are much less important to those outside Parliament than those inside.

In that spirit, I'm leaving all controversy surrounding the government's recent Budget release to others, and will focus on what's important for this area.

It's fair to say that there's some potential for Auckland's west and northwest, but with considerable uncertainty at this stage how much of that potential may actually be realised.

First, on the subject of transport I can report that there has been a funding increase for Kiwirail. That's fine as far as it goes, but unfortunately there's no indication that use of the passenger rail line could be extended beyond Swanson. At best, some line maintenance work elsewhere in the North Island could help us make our case here.

The Budget is even less hopeful for other local transport priorities, meanwhile, with no relief in sight for traffic congestion along State Highway 16 and other choke-points.

Second, it's pleasing that classroom and school building activity in Auckland is to be funded. Recently I launched a petition encouraging the government to allocate land for an additional secondary school here. We shall see!

In other education news, the government

has said it will fund the replacement of some school donations. Unfortunately the majority of schools in the Helensville electorate won't benefit, given that the policy applies only to those at the lower end of the decile spectrum.

To give credit where it's due, the government has allocated extra resources for areas related to mental health. Let's all hope for some relief for those struggling in this way.

My final comment would be that, with the economy now experiencing serious 'headwinds', government policies simply must not result in Kiwis getting a smaller slice of the economic pie. We only have money to spend on what's important when that's baked well.

On all these issues I'll continue to advocate for the best interests of my constituents.

As always please feel free to get in touch via [chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz) or 09 412 2496.



- Chris Penk  
Member of Parliament for Helensville  
[chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz)  
Ph: 09 412 2496.

# local board matters

The Chair of Rodney Local Board, Beth Houlbrooke and myself have been having regular meetings with the Auckland Transport maintenance managers responsible for Rodney wards local roads (not State Highway 1 or 16).

The Local Board does not have any direct responsibility for roads, but we wanted to get a better understanding of the issues around our sealed and unsealed network which are often the topic of frustration on local Facebook groups.

You'd think the issues would be simple to sort out - just roll out more repair teams, and fix things quicker. Certainly that was my view. However, as it often is with infrastructure, it isn't as simple as we'd like.

Here are some takeaways from these meetings, and suggestions for frustrated road users.

For every \$100 of property rates paid, \$36 is spent on transport infrastructure, including new assets and maintaining existing ones, and residents quite reasonably expect to have well maintained roads as a result.

Rodney's roads have suffered from decades of underinvestment going back to the days of Rodney District Council and previous entities. This was because there was never enough money to spread over a sizable road network serving a small, sparse population.

Many roads often are little more than gradually upgraded farm tracks with poorly constructed foundations and difficult geology, meaning some of our roads will always have issues until expensive rehabilitation is undertaken - and that applies to both sealed and unsealed roads.

Auckland Transport has warned councillors and the mayor for at least six years that unless funding was increased for road maintenance across Auckland, the amount of work done would fall and assets would be 'sweated' for longer - meaning bigger gaps between upgrades and general maintenance.

In order to keep up with the growing back-log of work, 2.5 percent average annual rates increases weren't enough. At some point 3-4 percent increases would be needed - plus the longer this was delayed, the worse the problem and the cost to fix it would become, meaning rates would have to rise even higher.

This is a deeply unpopular message for ratepayers. No one wants rates to increase, and politically, this is what has been the outcome. It's not sustainable, but as long as rates are constrained the tough political decision is put off for a future council to wrestle with.

Meanwhile AT managers and residents have to wrestle with our roads!

Weather plays a huge part in issues both on sealed and unsealed roads. Rising water pops the surface off sealed roads and creates similar issue on unsealed roads. Obviously, winter is the worst time of the year

for this, and it's also the worst time of the year to try to repair roads, especially sealed roads as wet weather stops tar adhesion.

Often the only solution is temporary asphalt patches until drier weather allows a long-term repair. This is a deep source of frustration for some, who feel it's either a shonky repair or a contractor doing it on the cheap to save money.

In fact, the best use of your rates is to undertake a full repair in the right weather.

Unsealed roads present a huge challenge. Rising traffic levels due to rural subdivision and activities such as clean fills hammering roads not designed for heavy traffic means regrading is only a temporary fix. Ultimately sealing these roads is the answer, and although \$121m has been allocated to doing this over the next 10 years, there are over 600 roads requiring sealing.

The best thing you can do when there's an issue is report it straight away. It takes a few minutes to go online and fill out a form alerting AT to an issue. In most cases this will lead to quick action - I've had minor potholes filled within 24 hours of lodging a report.

Some issues will take longer to fix and will see either a temporary repair or delays while engineering assessments are done. Often it may seem that a local issue is being ignored, whereas in the wider context across Rodney it's part of a program of work that can be affected by weather or unexpected issues that need instant action; it doesn't mean nothing is happening.

You can report a problem with Auckland Transport by phoning 09 355 3553 or better, log it online with photos at: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/report-a-problem/>

Need help with Council related matters?

- Phelan Pirrie

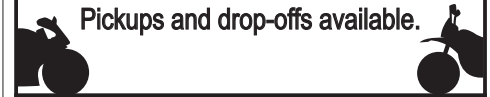
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community tidbits from town and around

## HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Guest speaker at the July meeting of Helensville Aglow will be Richard Brunton, author of 'The Awesome Power of Blessing'. The meeting will be start at 7.30pm on Friday, July 5 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. All welcome. Email Yvonne Bartlett at: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

## A&P ASSOCIATION AGM

The Helensville A&P Association holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 10, starting at 7.30pm in the main showgrounds building. For more information phone 420 7572 or email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz.

## ACTION AUTHOR AT LIBRARY

Local author Mike Boshier will be at Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, July 21 between 10am and 1pm. Mike writes adventure/thriller novels featuring US Navy SEAL John Deacon, in the style of Andy McNab, Tom Clancy and Clive Cussler. His fifth and latest book is 'The Price of Deceit'.

Kaukapakapa Library opens on the third Sunday of each month in conjunction with Kaukapakapa market. For more information phone Megan on 021 959 017 or email her at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

## KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, July 21 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be the usual free face painting and craft table to keep children entertained, and live music will be supplied by Ralph Engle, who will play from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The market will feature hand made and used items, gifts, art, jewellery, fresh fruit and vegetables, plants, preserves, great food and

coffee.

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

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

The Helensville and District Historical Society will hold its AGM at the Father Sakey Room, Helensville Catholic Church, on Friday, July 26 starting 10am. Wynne HaySmith will speak about Coromandel history. The AGM with election of the executive committee will be held after the talk, followed by lunch. Those attending are asked to bring a plate to share.

## New arts and crafts collective

A new artists' and crafters' collective has opened at Helensville Railway Station.

Called 'The Shoppe' it opened in vacant premises beside the Ginger Crunch café on Sunday, June 30.

It's a retail space where members can sell their arts and crafts and keep the shop.

"There's something to suit every budget," says owner Heather Steadman, "so we invite the community to pop down for gift ideas or pick up a treat from the selection of handcrafted goods."

Inaugural members include Heather, with flax weaving and friends' honey and jewellery; Lyn Chapman, Annabel Brechelt, Jan Backhurst and Marcia Barrowman, four artists from the Art on Track gallery with their art, decoupage, floral art and small upcycled furniture; Chrissy Jones with her preserves; Tom Somerville with ceramics; Horatio T Birdbath and Tanya Ruka, both multi-disciplinary creatives; Julie and Lorraine Buswell, with photography and crafts; and Laura Mason with copper and crystals.

Others are expected to join soon.

The Shoppe is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm, and has efpas available.

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

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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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