Helensville News

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Otakanini finalist in Maori farming awards

Sustainable farming, culturally sensitive practices and new initiatives at Otakanini Topu near Helensville have impressed judges in the BNZ Maori Excellence in Farming Awards.

Otakanini Topu is a 2,750 hectare Maori incorporation farm stretching from Muriwai Beach to the southern end of Kaipara Harbour. It is a finalist in the Ahuwhenua Trophy, which is the premier award for Maori in agriculture.

Manager of 17 months, Ray Monk was surprised at their placement in the top three, as entry had been to explore the criteria and make some adjustments.

"We're obviously on track and ahead of where we thought we were ... we realize we can now go further, do some fine tuning and take on some new challenges," he says.

Ray replaced widely respected manager Heta Tamahori, who retired after 34 years. His experience working with similar environmental and climatic conditions on a previous Maori incorporation farm impressed the farm's administrators, who approved his new farm management plan.

The farm covers 2,750 hectares, with 16,000 stock units wintered on 1,550 effective hectares. There are 600 hectares in forestry and the rest is unproductive land in mudflats and wetlands.

Since his appointment in October 2009. Ray has introduced a new water reticulation system utilising on-site artesian wells.

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Fay Brown obituary

Having worked through the drought of 2009 and 2010 he was determined to capture the 90,000 litre water source. and to make it available to the extensive sheep and beef

This also supports his new 'finishing' program which fattens the sheep and beef sold directly to the works, ensuring greater profits.

The quality water increases the quality of stock for sale, which more than doubles after lambing and calving, he says.

Consultants are used for projects, "but where we can

do it ourselves, we do", says Ray. He is adamant he can manage effectively due to the skilled and competent team working with him. These include Connie Povey, Claude Fill and Witai Povey along with Cyril Hodge who with Connie has been part of the team for more than 25 years.

Another initiative has been to work with the Auckland Romney Development Group to introduce a strain of sheep genetically resistant to facial eczema. This has been a problem in the past and costly when losing one ewe and potential lambs has a value of \$300, according to Ray.

Since its formation in 1951 from the amalgamation of local Maori family farms and the return of government-administered land, Otakanini Topu has mapped and maintained the property's many cultural and historic sites. These include urupà and old pa sites, all of which have been marked on GPS systems for future reference.

This was one of the features which impressed the judges of the prestigious award

Finalists receive a medal and \$15,000 in cash and farm related products and



• Ray Monk, manager of the Otakanini Topu farm

services. The supreme award winner, which will be announced at a gala awards dinner in Rotorua on June 3, will receive a replica of the original trophy, up to \$40,000 in cash along with farm related products and services.

The premier award for Maori in agriculture was established in 1932 by Sir Apirana Ngata and alternates between sheep and beef farms and dairy farms.

Chair of the Otakanini Topu Incorporation, Hemi Rau says: "We entered this year primarily for the experience and to flag our determination to win the accolade. We are delighted that our hard work and determination to overcome the challenges experienced by our particular property has paid off."

Ray says he is facing a bright future compared to the past 20 years in farming. New Zealand's strengths were in grass fed animals and with many farms converted to dairy this had increased competition and international demand.

"We've just experienced our best year for sheep, cattle and wool."

- Linda Powell

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editorial

Once again we honour some great achievements by Helensville residents in our front page story on the Otakanini Topu farm. Also we congratulate Dianne Kidd on her appointment to the thriving Unitec Council (see story opposite). We also celebrate the proactive lives of two residents who were inspirational in our community and are saddened by their passing, recently.

For the cooler evenings and onset of the winter term we have some delicious soup recipes from local award winning chef Peter Brennan. The pumpkin soup has been a hit in our household already (see page 11).

As promised the Rodney Local Board want to be representative of the local community and during the recent months Board members have been out and about listening to what the community has to say about priorities and projects.

The Rodney Local Board is keen to lobby for the best for our area, particularly around issues such as transport, economic development, water and waste water and the management of growth. The results will be drafted into the 2012 - 2015 Rodney Local Board Plan this month which has the vision: 'Productive, progressive and dynamic rural communities.' We hope you will contribute through the formal series of submissions and hearings to follow. For further information contact a local board member or email: rodneylocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

- Linda Powell, Editor

Helensville life in the 1940s

Images of life in Helensville in the 1940s will feature at the first of the Historical Society's Winter Lectures for

The 16mm monochrome movie film was taken by the late Mr A H Brackebush, and is being transferred onto DVD by Alan Scott of Snells Beach.

Alan will be presenting a selection of these images at the lecture on Sunday, May 15, 1.30pm at the Catholic Church's Father Sakey Centre, Kowhai Street, Helensville.

According to a report in the newspaper of the time (the 'Kaipara and Waitemata Echo') the Anzac Day celebrations in 1947 were attended by 400 people, and 117 former servicemen from the Boer War and both World Wars marched behind the Ponsonby Boys Band. Also in the parade were local groups including many children. Max Jenkins, a lad at the time, told Alan that he and the late Mr George Cowper Snr led the parade. Shots from that film will be presented at the lecture.

Other films which may feature are 1944 images of the building of Dr J Macky's home and surgery in Porter Crescent, primary school activities (1946) and boats 'The Minerva' and the 'Ruawai' (1946).

Alan has been researching the films and has been able to identify and name almost 100 people -some of whom are still living in the district.

Mr Brackebush was a physiotherapist at Parakai Domain, and was a member of the first Borough Council, elected in 1947. His home was near the corner of Garfield Road and Rautawhiri Road.

- Wynne HaySmith



• Men in the Anzac Parade, April 24, 1947



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Local appointed to Unitec Council

Local identity and Chair of the Helensville District Health Trust, Dianne Kidd has been appointed to the prestigious Unitec Council.

Dianne's new appointment along with that of Martin Udale will bring a wealth of professional experience to the



• Dianne Kidd

College riders and Waka Ama crews do well

A seven rider Kaipara College equestrian team competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools Ribbon Day event recently, with team captain Jasmine Sawyers-Mullin winning Reserve Champion on the Flat in the Novice Hack category. Kayla Erceg, Natalya Weekes, Emmaus Foster, Jessica Crack, Bridget Fisher and Tanya Merkulov also took home ribbons in a variety of colours.

The College's Waka Ama crews put in some solid performances at their national competition against 64 other schools. It was only the second nationals they have attended and they ended the event with most teams ranked in the top 50 percent.

institution, says Council chairman Ted van Arkel.

Dianne was previously the Head of Wholesale Distribution with ASB Group Investments and has also acted as the national sales manager and relationship manager for Colonial First State Investments. She is currently a director of AsureQuality Limited and Chair of Iris Limited, which provides community based services to people with disabilities or health problems.

"Dianne brings an excellent understanding of marketing and relationship management to this role," says Mr van Arkel. "Her extensive background in investment management will assist the Council to meet our objective to continue to exercise responsible stewardship of Unitec's financial assets."

Dianne's appointment to the eight member Unitec Council was made by the Minister of Education and is effective for four years. A former school teacher with experience in national curriculum development, Dianne says of her appointment: "It is lovely to be part of the education community again in this way."

Dianne lives on the family's 1000 acre sheep and beef farm in Helensville and is a founding member of the Helensville District Health Trust which was formed in 1989. She has been Chair of the Trust since 2009.

After many years of commuting to Auckland for work Dianne decided in 2007 to work from home in government roles which interested her namely in the areas of education and health.

Her role with the Helensville District Health Board was extremely rewarding; particularly to be involved with a community organisation with more than \$5m in assets including the strategic health site in Commercial Rd, Helensville, says Dianne.

Unitec is Auckland's largest Institute of Technology and has 23,800 students. There are four existing campuses and from August this year a campus at Albany will open to replace the Takapuna site.



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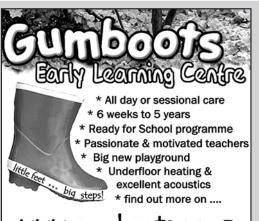
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Craigweil House to expand with major renovations

Major works have begun at Craigweil House in Parakai which will add a 21 bed hospital wing, a 20 bed dementia wing and seven more beds to the rest home.

The development includes refurbishment of the original house built in 1908 and the bathhouse with its distinctive stained glass window from the 1930s.

New owners, the Allenby Group NZ took over the 21 bed aged care facility, formerly the Parakai Home for the Elderly, last December and restored the original name of Craigweil (spelt with an 'ei' from the original early 1900s name.



• Craigweil House

Manager Deborah Presland says most locals had continued to call it 'Craigwell', when the name was changed to Parakai Home of the Elderly, sometime ago.

Craigweil House is the original name for the heritage listed building, which was built by Mrs Elizabeth Goad in 1908. It was a replacement for her property on an adjacent site which was built in 1904 and burnt down.

The name is of English origin and the new property was run as a guest house. The bathhouse with its own thermal bore dates from the 1930s and 'taking of

therapeutic waters' was a popular holiday pastime. The thermal waters have been associated with healing properties such as easing arthritis, aches, pains, stress and worries. The 'slipper' baths were used by returned serviceman with missing limbs for ease of access to the soothing waters.

The house changed names again in the 1950s when it was purchased by a Mr Lurman. He called it 'Lurman's Health Resort' and later 'Craigweil Self-Service Guest House'.

An early visitors' book from the 1950s shows entries from Auckland honeymooners along with international

v i s i t o r s describing it as 'the best holiday ever' and 'C'est le paradis'. Jewish John, who visited in 1969, wrote: "I slept in the bath".

Deborah has been working at the home since 1988 and recalls the operational 10 sq.m bath which included a hoist to maneuver seniors in and out. She is delighted the

development includes refurbishment of the bathhouse in its 1930s style along with an extended deck area for ease of access.

The Parakai development will add another 30 staff to the facility currently operating with 23 staff, according to operations manager, Richard Parker.

Auckland architectural firm, Eclipse Architecture has been engaged to create a design in keeping with the existing weatherboard frontage. There are numerous other features which will be retained in keeping with the Art Deco

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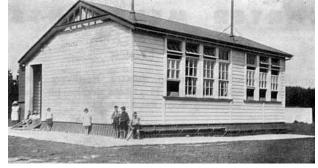
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Waimauku School 90th Jubilee

Old school photos related to . Waimauku School and district are sought for the 90th Jubilee in July this vear.

Jubilee coordinator Rocky Roberts said the photographs received already are providing great information about the



• The single Waimauku School building in 1933

school and the history of the area.

Registrations have been steady for the event, which includes a school open day and 'Walk Down Memory Lane' on Saturday, July 2 from 1-3pm and a dinner dance in the evening.

And why a 90th Jubilee? There had been much interest from former students who are now in their 30s and 40s who were absent for the last reunion which was 15 years ago, says Rocky. They were either too young or overseas, and this is a great opportunity for them to catch up. We have 'class loads of registrations' coming in, she says.

A 90th Jubilee Gala Day was held in March this year and included gumboot throwing, a 'cowpat grid', craft and produce stalls and rides. More than \$29,000 was raised for IT equipment for the school which will include data projectors for the classrooms.

For further information email jubilee@waimauku.school.nz or call Rocky on 412 9396.

Craigweil House renovations

• From page 4

and Neo Classical period of the buildings, says Richard.

These include restoring the kauri

• The 1930s Art Deco stained glass bathhouse window

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mantle piece in the main house, erecting original pillars to the front of the bathhouse and re-leading and cleaning all of the stained glass including the 1930s bathhouse window.

> They were also consulting the Napier museum to assist in recreating the Art Deco trellis which once decorated the space between the house and bathhouse, he says.

"The kauri mantle piece has been sanded back and finished with Danish oil and an Art Deco statue purchased to decorate it."

The build of the new wings is expected to start in July with a completion date set for late January, according to Richard.

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Former Principal passes away

FRANK McCULLOUGH 1928 - 2011

Frank McCullough, principal of Helensville Primary from 1965 to 1978, lived life to the full as the people of the Helensville and Whangaparaoa districts who spoke at his funeral on March 25

His enthusiasm for his family, his teaching and his leisure time activities (drama, Lions Club and other community organisations) was infectious and he was a great encourager and inspirer, persuading people to tackle whatever his current project was.

Frank was born in Taihape in 1928 where he lived with his parents and sister. Apart from a two year spell with his grandparents in Christchurch he spent all of his school days in Taihape. He returned to Christchurch to attend

Training College, and indulged in his love of tramping and drama.

Frank returned to the North Island to teach at Ohakune, where he met another teacher, Catherine Murray. They married in 1953 and taught at Little Akaloa on Banks Peninsula, and at Koromiko, near Picton. By the time they moved to Okaiawa School in Taranaki (where Frank was deputy-principal) they had a family of three

sons and two daughters, and their youngest son was born in Taranaki.

Frank had already made a name as a enthusiastic and progressive teacher, and when he and Cath brought their family to Helensville in 1965 he continued to introduce new ideas to the school curriculum and programme. Team teaching, club activities, reading and maths initiatives and drama involved not only the teachers and students, but parents and the community as well.

Cath was also teaching and between them they hosted parties, fundraisers and other events. New initiatives had to be funded, and Frank was a dab hand at thinking up ways for his Home and School Association to raise money, where Frank took on a variety of roles including auctioneer, cheerleader and general organiser.

A large undertaking, spearheaded initially by Frank, was the School Centennial celebration in 1977. About this time too the Education Board closed the Headmaster's house and planned to demolish it. An enthusiastic and active committee supported and encouraged by Frank was able to retain this building, and it served many useful years as the 'School Centennial Centre' until replaced by a full sized Hall in the

During his Helensville years Frank was active in the Helensville Players,

and the Lions Club which gave free reign to his love of drama and support of community organisations and events.

In 1978 Frank faced a new challenge with his appointment as founding principal of Stanmore Bay Primary School, and he and Cath were able to leave their print in a very real way in the setting up of a new educational establishment.

After his retirement from teaching Frank took a more active part in community affairs. Already in the Lions Club, he also joined Probus and followed Cath into the Horticultural Society. In 1990 Frank was awarded a Queens Service Medal for services to the community.

For over 30 years the McCullough's time at Whangaparaoa was full and active until ill health forced both Cath and Frank to move to Beachfront Rest Home, where Cath is still a resident.

- Wynne HaySmith

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New beginnings with new owner

'New owner, new mechanic, new beginnings," is the motto for Bikesport in Mill Road.

After a rocky partnership, new owner Stuart Livingston is keen to focus on the future and moving forward. He is encouraging locals to give him and his new mechanic, Jamie Moohan a chance to prove their passion and commitment to top customer service and quality work.

Jamie moved back to Auckland from Invercargill two years ago and has extensive experience in the rural and farming communities of Invercargill.

He also specialises in servicing road bikes and cruisers such as Harley Davidsons, Triumphs and Boulevards.

Both men are passionate about riding and have recently purchased motocross bikes to compete in fun weekend events. There is also talk of Bikesport-branded meets for the future as an opportunity to invest in the local community.

Jamie races solo speedway on a

500cc Jawa bike at his home base in Rosebank Road.

Primarily a Suzuki sales and service agent, Bikesport has worked hard to keep its status as an approved dealer, although is happy to service any brand. There is an expanding range of accessories such as the Teknic and Shoei brands for road riding and Fly, Troy-Lee, Axo and Fox for motocross.

Stuart, who takes care of the retail side of the business, says the recession has meant farmers have held onto existing vehicles for longer which has created a massive demand for second hand quad bikes. The few they get "just disappear".

After a turbulent and costly start to a business partnership, Stuart is relieved to be the official sole owner and hopes locals will put their trust back in Bikesport.

He settled in West Auckland in 2000 and is passionate about his industry and providing top service to the "people out west"



• Bikesport's Jamie Moohan (left) and Stuart Livingston

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Farewell to Fay Brown

FAY BROWN August 1, 1934 - April 13, 2011

Fay Brown was born in Makarau on the Hooper family farm on August 1, 1934 - a birthday present for her mother, Phyllis.

Her early childhood there was filled with activities which shaped her lifelong love of farming. Fay had an affinity with animals and there were always pets in her life; there are stories of how she would go riding with her pet cat tucked into her jumper.

Fay's early schooling was at Makarau, then at age 12 she went to St Cuthberts boarding school in Epsom for her secondary school years. There she enjoyed a variety of sports - swimming, netball, tennis, cricket, and hockey.

After four years of secondary school - the only time in Fay's life she lived in a town or city - she returned to Makarau to help on the farm.

In 1951 the family moved from Makarau to the Te Pua farm where Fay continued to live for the rest of her life.

Soon afterward Fay began work at Marmont Motors in Commercial Rd, on the site now occupied by Woolworths. She was their office girl, and learned bookkeeping skills.

She loved to help her father on the farm. As she was good with numbers she kept the farm books too, a skill she put to good use throughout her life as treasurer for the many organisations that she was involved with.

Fay continued with her sporting activities after leaving school - riding her horse in show competitions, playing tennis and hockey.

In 1956 at a hockey dance she met a young man from Northland who was

visiting his friend Hec Aitkenhead, and the romance between Robin Brown and Fay began. They soon became engaged and were married in 1957 at St Andrews church in Helensville.

The newlyweds started married life working on Fay's parent's farm. They lived in a little cottage on the site that was the former Te Pua School. Daughters Alison and Jennifer were born soon after.

Fay soon became involved in groups like Play Centre, Plunket, the

Parakai Home and School committee, Women's Division, Tennis Club and

the Helensville A&P Association.

Fay and Robin's farm grew as they purchased more land on Te Pua School Rd and they took over Fay's parent's farm, moving in 1965 into the main family home.

Fay was a handson farmer. Robin milked the cows and Fay fed the calves. She had a knack and patience for tending sick animals back to health. The couple eventually employed share milkers, but while the burden of

hands-on farmers their entire lives. With more free time Fay and Robin fulfilled their dream of travelling, visiting Britain, Europe, Canada, the United States, South Africa, Asia and Australia. Some of their favorite adventures were in Britain, visiting cousins and places their ancestors had come from.

milking was gone they both remained

Fay was competitive in her sporting encounters - equestrian events, tennis, badminton, hockey and skiing, winning many championships and trophies. In her 40's when her experience on the hockey field couldn't match youthful exuberance, Fay learned to ski,

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Fay Brown cont...

• From page 8

becoming an accomplished skier.

She continued to ski for the rest of her life - teaching many other family members to ski. With her sister Elaine she enjoyed many adventures skiing in the United States.

Fay also took up golf, but it wasn't fast enough for her - and the ball would never quite go where she wanted!

Fay was a keen gardener, and was always shoveling compost, digging, heaving trees and plants around, and dealing to weeds.

She painted, wallpapered, could lay carpet, cover furniture, preserve fruit and made all the family's clothes when her family was young. She could fix a pipe, repair a fence, dig a ditch, or clean a culvert.

Naturally shy, Fay believed you should participate in life and so worked hard to overcome her reserve.

Fay was involved in many community activities.

Both she and Robin especially enjoyed many years' involvement with the Helensville A&P show. Over the years Fay was a competitor, volunteer, and committee member. She was a life member of the Show, and recently became a Vice-Patron.

In recent years she enjoyed a volunteer role at the Helensville Museum, working with the archive team.

Fay was raised in the Presbyterian Church, and continued a strong involvement with the St Andrew's Presbyterian Parish, latterly Helensville Community Church. The church family was very important to her; she was a church elder and a faithful servant of the Lord in the community.

Most of all Fay was dedicated to her family. She was always helping - her parents, children, grandchildren and extended family. She was strong, firm but fun, teaching her grandchildren to ride bikes, care for calf club pets, ski, and drive. She was always ready with a joke and loved to play a game.

- edited by Dave Addison

2 June art exhibitions

There are two exhibitions at the Art Centre in Helensville next month.

Local photographers can display their works for \$3 per piece in 'Moments', part of the Auckland 'Festival of Photography'.

Also in June will be Helensvillethemed 'Panel' exhibition, with 24 panels painted by locals being judged and hung in the Art Centre's courtyard from Queens Birthday weekend.

Get egistration forms from Copy and Print, the Council Service Centre, the Art Centre and the Book Stop, or email admins.artcentre@gmail.com or phone Pauline on 021 158 6859.

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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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City left behind for bush and bird

A 'tree' change prompted Susan Beaumont of the 'The Healing Tree' to leave the city and the cafes behind for the tranquillity of native bush and bird life in Makarau, near Kaukapakapa.

The IT account manager commutes 68km each weekday so she can enjoy the 12 acres of paradise, she now calls home. She has a passion for alternative, natural therapies and has been a student of various modalities for many

Susan had been looking for 12 months for a property, and knew when she drove up the driveway and was surrounded by trees and birds it was the perfect location for her new chapter and healing rooms.

After 12 months fixing up the property and preparing her rooms, she is ready to share her expertise and tranquil location with others.

The Healing Tree offers a range of holistic healing, primarily using the complementary modalities of First Light Flower Essences of NZ, Reiki and crystals.

All originate from ancient cultures and many associated wisdoms to facilitate healing in the 21st century.

These modalities work in harmonious co-operation against energy blocks that may be causing physical, emotional, mental or spiritual disharmony, and assist the letting go of those emotions and beliefs that can contribute to illness, stress or 'dis-ease', says Susan.

The Healing Tree's natural and gentle healings release deep seated trauma, emotional pain, negative attitudes, self limiting beliefs and thought patterns while supporting a peaceful and dignified transitional passage.

Susan offers confidential one on one appointments, distant healings, email and phone consultations. For further information call Susan on 420 3478.



• Susan Beaumont of The Healing Tree



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

kaipara kai

with Peter Brennan of Porcini Cafe

Winter is not far off, and there's something comforting about the aroma of soup simmering on the stove. Every culture has soup as part of the diet, with combinations and ingredients only limited by imagination and cultural rules. One of my favourite home-style soups is a chicken and vegetable soup my mother used to make. The advantage is you also get an extra meal from the cooked chicken.

Chicken Soup

50g butter 1 med/large Leek 4 carrots 3 stems of celery 2 onions 8 cloves garlic Bay leaf Cloves

3-4 litres of cold water Chicken (med size) Cup of uncooked rice (washed under running water)

½ cup pearl barley (washed under running water) - omit for Gluten Free version

½ cup chopped parsley Salt and pepper.

Wash the leek, carrot, celery, onions and garlic, and dice them finely.

Put the butter in the bottom of the pot and add the diced vegetables, place onto a low heat to melt the butter and gently sauté the vegetables for 2 minutes.

Add the bay leaf, cloves, rice and pearl barley, sauté another minute then add the whole chicken and enough water to cover the bird completely.

Bring to the boil, turn the heat to simmer and set the timer allowing 20 mins per 500g of chicken plus 10 minutes more at the end. Once the chicken is cooked, carefully remove it from the pot and place on a large plate to cool. Test it is cooked by piercing a thick part of the leg and check the juices that run out are clear; if not return to the pot for a few minutes.

Add salt and pepper to taste and pull the bird apart and flake in chicken meat, reserving some for use later. Test the tenderness of the pearl barley and rice; if need be allow to simmer longer until the grains are soft. Finally add chopped parsley.

Note: it is important the bird only simmers - the water should not boil but gently move with a rolling motion and not bubble. Simmer temperature is at 95° Celsius.

Pumpkin Soup: another favourite and inexpensive soup

1 med sized sun ripened pumpkin or butternut. 3 med brown onions 4 cloves garlic ½ teaspoon Cumin seeds 1/4 cup olive oil

Salt and pepper

Cut up the pumpkin, remove the seeds and trim off the skin. Dice 2 onions and slice one onion. Crush 3 cloves of garlic and slice one clove of garlic thinly

Place 3/4 of the oil, diced onion, crushed garlic and cumin seeds in the bottom of a large pot, gently sauté without browning for a few minutes then add the pumpkin and cover with a lid. Allow to steam or 'sweat' together for a couple of minutes, then remove the lid and add cold water until the pumpkin is just covered. Leave the lid off and bring the pot to the boil. Allow to simmer for approx 30 mins. or until pumpkin is very tender. Remove from heat and either mash with a potato masher or blend to a smooth soup. Add salt and pepper to taste.

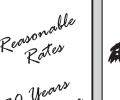
When ready to serve, heat a small pan, add the remaining oil, the sliced onions and sliced garlic, cook these until they are browned and sticking together, add salt and pepper and drop on top of the bowls of steaming hot soup.

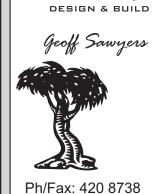
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town talk

community titbits from town and around

FREE MUM'S DAY TREAT

The annual Easter Egg hunt at Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens was a roaring success. Children enjoyed finding chocolate eggs among the sculptures. Some families have chosen to make the event an Easter tradition.

Mother's will be treated to a free day at the sculpture gardens this Sunday, for Mother's Day. Families are invited to bring their mums for a picnic day and relaxing walk. For free entry, a mother must be accompanied by her child.

■ LOCAL BOARD MEETING

The Rodney Local Board will meet in the Helensville War Memorial Hall at 2pm on Monday, May 9, Any local group or community organisation that would like to address the meeting should contact the board secretary, Raewyn Morrison, on 09 427 3399 or email her on morrison@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.



 Adam Deare of Tauranga with the bounty from his Easter egg hunt

Time again for annual Lions Book Fair

The Lions Club of Helensville holds its popular annual book fair on the weekend of May 28-29 in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

The opening hours are 9am-4pm on the Saturday and 10am-3pm on the Sunday. All proceeds from the sale go to local causes.

Donations of books have been arriving throughout the year but more would be welcome. To arrange collection of books phone Hilty on 420 8122 or Chris on 420 8527; alternatively smaller lots can be left at the Helensville Information Centre.

The club already has a wide range of non fiction which has been sorted into 12 sections, and fiction which will be displayed in alphabetical author order. Books will sell for \$2 for hard backs, \$1 or 50c for paperbacks, and 50c for children's books. There will also be a good selection of DVD, CDs and videos for sale.

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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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