

Helensville's new national champions!



• From left, Agrikids Champions David Olsen, Zoe Cook and Benjamin Cook

Meet Helensville's latest national champions.

Pictured at left are David Olsen (12), Zoe Cook (10) and Benjamin Cook (12) who have just won the New Zealand AgriKids title at the grand final of the 2011 National Bank Young Farmer competition in Masterton. Agrikids is the junior section of that competition, for primary-aged children.

The Helensville Primary trio - none of whom live on farms but who called themselves the 'Future Farmers' - came second in the northern region championship at the Helensville A&P Show back in February, a result which gained them entry into the national final.

In the final at the Maserton A&P showgrounds, they battled it out against 17 other teams from seven regions around the country.

In the first part of the final they had to complete seven 10-minute challenges covering pest control, sheep drafting, first-aid, pony tacking and grooming, vehicle checks, naming (real) sheep organs and, finally, making sausages.

Points were awarded for each challenge with the top seven teams making it into a race-off, which was a test of speed and teamwork.

Tasks included getting from A to B without touching the ground by using only two planks of wood and four circles of string, putting staples into a piece of wood, and bobbing for apples and then with the apples in their mouths putting army face paint on. They then had to crawl to a hay bale and shoot a picture of a possum, whip cream and put it on a sponge cake and eat it, put potatoes in a sack and sow it up, put a golf ball through a pipe, and finally pop balloons.

"We were stunned and excited to have won out of the whole of New Zealand," says Benjamin. "We got heaps of awesome prizes and had heaps of fun. We recommend it to anybody who wants to give it a go. We are so proud to be this year's national Agrikids champions!"

Prizes they won included t-shirts, beanies, a cap, a board game and \$50 Farmlands gift vouchers.

David and Benjamin hope to enter the TeenAg competition next year, and Zoe will enter AgriKids again if she can form a team.

Runner-up in the AgriKidsNZ competition was South Makirikiri One from the Taranaki-Manawatu region, and third was the team known as the MISiles from Masterton Intermediate.

The Young Farmer competition is divided into three age groups, Agrikids for primary students, TeenAg for college students, and adults compete in the full Young Farmer event.

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RockQuest successes



Year 11 Kaipara College student Hannah Horsfield (right) won best female musician and came second overall in the North Shore SmokeFree RockQuest music competition with her songs 'Dear Romeo' and 'Hi Then Bye'. With Year 10 student Savannah Cox (left) winning the award for best lyrics for 'Teacups', this year has been Kaipara's most successful yet at RockQuest.

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editorial

Is it just me, or are many of you already getting sick of the Rugby World Cup? Not the actual competition - I'm looking forward to that, but rather the heavy-handed way it's being organised.

The Government was keen for local communities to get behind the cup and set up events and fan zone activities. But then came the obstacles.

In Helensville, we have a small Rugby World Cup committee, planning six weeks of events, culminating in a combined Helensville Heritage Day and fan zone evening, complete with live screenings of two quarter final matches on a giant screen behind the War Memorial Hall on Saturday, October 8.

Then the committee was told it couldn't use the term 'Rugby World Cup' - or even 'RWC' - to promote any of the events (without forking out thousands of dollars for the right to do so). Even the terms 'giant screen' and 'fan zone' were off-limits. At one point, the committee was told the only way to promote the event was word of mouth!

The Cup organisers are obviously terrified people in their droves are going to abandon attending the live matches and instead beat a path to Helensville to watch them behind our hall!

Luckily, freedom of the press lets me say what the Helensville committee can't. So diary in October 8 for Heritage Day and live screenings of two Rugby World Cup quarter final matches on a giant screen behind the hall. And keep a look out in the next issues of *Helensville News* for details of the other events, or check out our local RWC web page at www.worldcuphelensville.co.nz (just don't expect to see the phrase 'Rugby World Cup' anywhere on the page...).

- Dave Addison

Helensville News now available online

The *Helensville News* can now be read online or downloaded as an e-newspaper - in colour.

This means locals who may currently miss out on delivery of the hard copy version of the paper - such as those with 'no circulars' on their mailboxes - can now be kept up-to-date with local news and happenings.

To make things even easier, people can subscribe to the colour online version by simply emailing the paper at subscribe@helensvilleneews.co.nz. They will then be sent an email when each month's issue comes out, with a link direct to the electronic version of that issue.

The electronic version of the paper also means people outside the area can read about what's happening in our area. Considering the Helensville Online website receives around 15,000 unique visitors each month, there is already plenty of interest in what's happening in our town.

It's also a bonus for advertisers, who

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August 2011

The *Helensville News* Online Edition

The *Helensville News* is Helensville's local community newspaper. It comes out on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) and is delivered free to homes and businesses. It's been produced since April 1999.

Click on the large button at left to download a copy of the latest issue in PDF format. Note: you will need the free Adobe Reader to view the paper. Click here to download if you don't already have it.

Back issues of the paper can be downloaded here.

A message from the Editor

Helensville is all about community. We are only 40 minutes from the biggest city in the New Zealand, but our town and the surrounding rural area and townships retain that close-knit, small-town feel.

The *Helensville News* aims to keep locals abreast of the important news affecting our area, provide an insight into the many interesting personalities that make up our community, and keep locals up to date with events and activities in the area.

If you have any ideas for good articles, or know of someone with an interesting story to tell, please get in touch.

- Dave Addison, Editor & Publisher

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Issue 119: Nov 1st
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Motorway extension opens this weekend

The new Hobsonville motorway and Brigham Creek extension opens this Sunday, August 7 - six months ahead of schedule - and is expected to save travel time for Helensville commuters to the North Shore and Auckland City.

Locals wanting to try out the new motorway can do so on Saturday, August 6 at an open day on the East-bound lanes of the Hobsonville section. Pedestrians will be able to traverse the 6km stretch between midday and 2pm, and cyclists from 2-3pm.

The day's festivities will include information displays and family activities including a bouncy castle and face painting, food and drink stalls, and performances by students from Massey High School.

For Helensville residents, being able to join the motorway at Brigham Creek is expected to cut off-peak travel times into Auckland and the North Shore, but peak travel will still be affected by the Westgate traffic build-up.

Travel to Westgate and West Auckland from Helensville will be unchanged. Heading south there is no offramp to Westgate from the new motorway, so drivers will have to use the old SH16 route, which is being renamed Fred Taylor Drive.

There is a direct Helensville link to the new motorway's construction, with local artist Jeff Thomson decorating a 600m

stretch of the 3km orange walls alongside the extension.

Instead of his trademark corrugated iron, Jeff is using plywood and paint to create a sculptural tyre tread pattern inspired by tire tracks in the black sand at Muriwai Beach.

The \$220 million project has two motorway components: the 6km-long, four-lane Hobsonville motorway which connects the Upper Harbour Bridge and Greenhithe sections of SH18 with the Northwestern Motorway (SH16) to the west, and the 3km-long four-lane extension of the Northwestern motorway from Westgate to a new roundabout at Brigham Creek Road.

"The project will have a significant impact on congestion in north-west Auckland and will shorten travel times for people and freight between the West and the North Shore and make journeys more reliable and safer," says NZ Transport Agency State Highways manager for Auckland and Northland, Tommy Parker

"Traffic on Hobsonville Road is expected to reduce from almost 40,000 to 6,550 per day when the motorway opens."

As well as reducing commute times, the project will be an important step toward catering for the expected growth of the Northwest region as Auckland's planners look to find room for 330,000 new dwellings that will be needed within 30 years.



• The new Brigham Creek roundabout, looking south toward Auckland City

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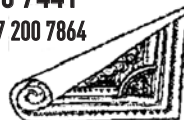
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Helensville Show will be a first for new manager

New Helensville A&P Show executive secretary and manager Marion Stutz is set for an interesting time at her first show next February - she has only ever been to one Helensville Show and stayed for just half an hour because it was pouring with rain!

"I've never seen a fully-functioning Helensville A&P Show," she says.

But she's quick to point out she's not a newcomer to A&P shows in general. As a resident of Waimauku for 18 years she has been to many Kumeu shows, and in her native Australia went to Sydney shows when she was growing up.

The farm animals won't faze her either. As a child she regularly spent holidays at her aunts' dairy farm, and she and husband Peter keep homekill cattle on their 10 acre lifestyle block.

She also has years of horticultural experience, growing everything from lettuce and chillies to bougainvillea and clematis to supply both markets and wholesalers.

Following school in Sydney Marion studied hotel management and has worked in senior positions in hotels in Australia, the UK and New Zealand. Her last role was with the Park Royal in Auckland, where she managed 70 staff.

She has travelled widely in Asia, including Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka, and extensively through Europe. She met Swiss-born Kiwi Peter in London, and they settled in Westmere in Auckland in 1986.

Since leaving the hotel industry Marion has worked for a hospitality recruitment company and as an art technician supporting the art department at Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland.

"Art is a huge interest," she explains. Volunteer work includes spending time with Plunket, Playcentre and the Waimauku School PTA and Board of Trustees.

Peter works in East Tamaki as Auckland manager for Vulcan Steel. Son Alex, a keen musician, is in Year 13 at Kaipara College, while daughter Emma followed her sporting interests and is in Year 10 at Massey High.

Despite her background in hospitality and event management she says she is "not undaunted" by the prospect of running the Helensville show.

"It's a huge task and I have big boots to fill. I'm not coming in to change things that already work well - but over time I expect I will put my own stamp on things.

"It's going to be a learning curve from many angles," says Marion.

"I'd like to thank the Helensville A&P

Association and locals involved with Helensville Show for being so welcoming and supportive.

"The AGM on July 13 was a great opportunity to put faces to the names of some of Helensville's community members.

"I'm also looking forward to meeting Helensville business owners and locals in the near future over the build-up to the 2012 Helensville Show.



• New A&P Show executive secretary/manager Marion Stutz

Former Show secretary/manager Gaylene Ashton hasn't cut her ties with the show completely - she remains as treasurer and will handle online 'Showday' entries.

As well as her Helensville Show role, Marion works part time at both Wine & Art in Kumeu and Arcadia in Waimauku Village.

South Head field day

A field day will be held at 93 Monk Road, South Head on Sunday, September 25 from 10am to 3pm.

The day will feature a broad selection of local agricultural and non-agricultural businesses covering areas such as drainage, motor cycles, engineering, building, real estate, and food, plus craft stalls. The aim is for an interesting and family oriented day. Stalls are free.

For enquiries contact Anthony phone 420 2848 or Gillian phone 420 2080, or email alltrades@paradise.net.nz.

European music trip wows students



Thirteen students and four staff from Kaipara College have just returned from a three-week music history tour of Europe.

The tour's programme was developed to provide a chronological overview of the evolution of Western music.

After transit stops in Brisbane and Dubai, the first visit was to Austria. The students, a

mix of years 11, 12 and 13, stopped at Vienna where they visited the Austrian Opera House and the Vienna Theatre, and attended baroque and classical concerts, covering the evolution of music from 1450 to 1750. They continued on to Salzburg where they focused on music from 1750 to 1900, taking part in a Sound of Music tour.

The group then moved to Germany, where they spent a moving day visiting the former Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.

Next stop was Paris in France for music from 1900 to the 1950s, where they visited the grave of Doors singer Jim Morrison, along with some relaxation at EuroDisney.

Their final destination was London, where the group covered music's evolution from 1950 to the present, incorporating the Rock Experience.

It was "planned as a trip the students will never forget," says Nick Roberts, head of music at the college.

As well as studying music, the group visited palaces, monasteries, and shops, viewed famous art and architecture, sampled local foods, and attended live concerts and gigs.

The trip took three years of fundraising and community and parent support to raise the nearly \$150,000 needed to cover travel costs.

The group kept in contact with the college on a regular basis during its travels with photos and tour updates.

Raffle for 'Wandatrack'

Locals have the chance to win a gift basket with over \$250 worth of goodies in a raffle being run to raise money for the New Zealand Police Search and Rescue Department's 'Wandatrack', scheme, which provides a pendant or watch to be worn by an elderly person with dementia or a child with autism.

Tickets at \$2 each or three for \$5 are available at Riverside Crafts in Helensville where the gift basket is on show, and at the Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, August 21. Second and third prizes are family passes to Parakai Springs Aquatic Park, worth \$45 each. The raffle will be drawn at Kaukapakapa Market on Sunday, August 21.

Thanks to these local businesses that donated goods for the raffle: Anna's Hair Studio; Helensville Liquor Centre; Helensville Pharmacy; Helensville Veterinary Services; Helensville Mitre 10; Parakai Springs Aquatic Park; Riverside Crafts; River Valley Hair & Beauty.

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Photographer seeking locals for art photography project

North Shore based photographer David Austin is looking for local groups to take part in a photo-art project as part of his Masters degree in design.

Titled 'Small Town Revelations', David's project is a nation-wide one; he will travel throughout New Zealand photographing groups in around 15 towns, with the intention of ending up with 12 superb photos which will go on exhibition in Auckland.

He is looking to work alongside residents and locally-based dramatic, performance, and community groups from Helensville or nearby Kaipara communities in an effort to portray the local histories, myths and/or legends that represent each area he visits.

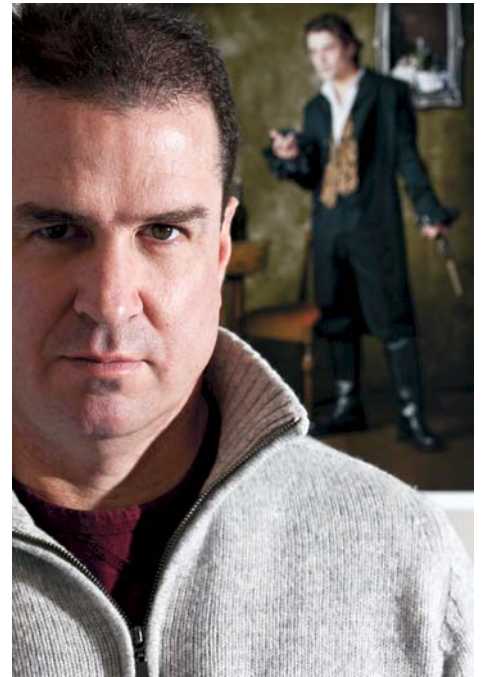
He intends to work collaboratively with the groups to work out what best represents the towns.

David became a professional photographer in 2005 after 18 years in commercial fire and life insurance, and now runs Island Bay Photography, focusing on advertising, editorial, illustrative and portrait photography.

He had been a keen hobby photographer, and when his accountant wife went back to work full time that gave the opportunity to work at what he was passionate about.

David's photographs are works of art, and he is heavily influenced by a number of internationally-acclaimed photographers.

After turning professional he undertook a two-year Diploma in Contemporary Photography at Unitec in Auckland, which he completed in 2007. He then spent two years working for a medium-format camera rental business before continuing his education with a Bachelor in Design and Visual Studies



• David Austin

- Photography (BDVA) degree, which he received in April this year.

Now, he's taking that one step further to gain a Masters in Design, majoring in photography, which will take him an extra 18 months to two years to complete.

The photo art project is a major part of the degree, and he will be judged on the final public exhibition.

Any local or local group interested in taking part in 'Small Town Revelations' should phone David on 027 416 7920 or email islandbay@orcon.net.nz.

Future of Kaukapakapa village discussed

More than 20 people from as far away as Makarau attended a meeting of the Kaukapakapa Residents and Ratepayers Association to discuss ideas for improvement and beautification of the village. The meeting looked at the position of Kaukapakapa in relation to Auckland City.

A rural theme will be the focus of any work, and different ways of funding projects would be explored. Suggestions included the formation of a community trust that could be used to apply for grants from various organisations. Among those present was landscape architect Geraldine Bayly, who agreed to produce an initial concept plan for the future of the village and surrounding area.



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Variety performances and artisan market proving popular

Old fashioned, home grown entertainment was the name of the game at the Art Stop Café recently when it hosted the monthly artisan market and variety afternoon.

A mixture of poets, musicians and storytellers delighted more than 30 people in the café. Artisan stall holders sold a variety of goods such as strange fabric creatures, creepy ant bracelets and crochet cloche hats. Performers and stall holders came from as far as Orewa and central Auckland.

The afternoon is open to anyone to perform, and each month more people are finding the courage to stand up for the first time in front of a live audience, performing alongside those with sometimes years of experience.

The next variety afternoon and artisan market is on Sunday, August 14 from 2-4pm for the performance afternoon and 1-4pm for the market. Stalls are free but vendors must produce what they sell.

For more information phone Pauline Mee on 021 158 6859.



• Robert Jackson, Cherie George and Sandy Sturgess, all from Helensville, perform together for the first time

Waimauku School 90th Jubilee

Former students, teachers and families celebrated Waimauku School's 90th Jubilee Reunion last month, with a 94-year-old as the oldest former pupil. The day finished with a dinner/dance. Photos from the event are available on the schools' website at www.waimauku.school.nz.



• Waimauku students from the 1950s

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Kaipara Liquor reopens with new owner

That the new owner of Kaipara Liquor in Commercial Road, Hitesh Patel, is experienced in liquor retailing isn't surprising.

He also owns liquor stores in Red Beach and Hilltop, Orewa.

What is surprising is that he comes from Gujarat State in North-West India - which is an alcohol-free state.

So until he moved to New Zealand with wife Chetana in 2003, he knew nothing about the industry, or indeed alcohol.

An extremely friendly man, Hitesh in his homeland was a computer engineer. But as

with many migrants, his qualifications aren't accepted in New Zealand, and because he didn't have any local work experience he couldn't get a position in his chosen field.

It wasn't economically viable to undertake local computer qualifications, so Hitesh initially worked as a fibreglasser for a spa pool company on the North Shore, then drove a bus for a year.

Then, the opportunity arose to purchase a run-down Super Liquor store in Kerikeri. Hitesh owned that for two years before selling and taking over the Hilltop Super Liquor at Orewa, which was also in a run down state.

Then last year he bought the liquor store in Red Beach where he lives, followed only weeks later by purchasing the Milford Liquor store. However, Hitesh says he "took on a bit too much with Milford as well" so he sold that store after a short period.

Now, he has taken ownership of Kaipara Liquor, and as we went to press was waiting to hear if he had got the Super Liquor franchise for the area.

He is running the shop personally most

days, but expects to employ a part-time helper in the next four or five months. His aim for the Helensville shop is to focus on friendly service and better pricing.



• Hitesh Patel outside his new store



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Pioneering Women book gets reprint

A reprint of the Helensville Historical Society's popular 'Pioneering Women of South Kaipara' book is due out soon.

The first edition, published in July 2000, sold out in nine years. The book features stories of many pioneering families in the South Kaipara area, from Glorit in the north to Riverhead in the south.

When the society decided to reprint, a decision was made to extend the selection and 15 more pioneers have been added, including Helensville's first business woman, Irapeta Nelson, Waimauku's first postmistress, Mary White and New Zealand's first registered woman veterinarian, Ann Leighton.

The text has now been checked and corrections made, and some photographs have been edited to make articles run together better, for clarity or consistency of style. The editing work on this edition has been done by Leigh Bosch (nee Keane) and Wynne HaySmith with help from proof

readers Julia Rewi and Gabrielle Hildreth, and liaison work by Sue Hadwin. Dave Addison of Dash Design has upgraded the quality of some of the photographs.

The first proofed copy has been submitted to the printers, and it is hoped to have the book ready for release shortly.

Pioneering Women of South Kaipara is truly a great collection of fascinating stories.

Lions elect new officers

The Lions Club of Helensville's annual Change of Officers took on a very tropical theme this year in honour of incoming president Matt Hampton's recent wedding in Fiji.

Officers elected were: Dennis Cummings (tail twister), Chris Clark (bulletin editor), Ed Hayhoe (publicity), Mark Biggelaar (club affairs), Matt Hampton (president), Lyn Curran (treasurer), Pauline O'Neill (community affairs), Mike O'Neill (secretary), Iain Gulliford (fundraising).



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Indoor netball

The first local indoor netball games of the season have just been held.

The Women's League played its first games on Monday, August 1. Games are held from 6.15pm on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Helensville Primary school hall.

A Kids League, which plays on Thursdays from 5.30pm, holds its first matches this week, on August 4. The Kids League is open to Year 5 to Year 8 boys and girls from any local school.

Both leagues are sponsored by Helensville Veterinary Services and also received a donation from the Helensville Christian Life Centre to help get the competition under way.

Games are played using normal (outside) netball rules, with seven players on court. Games are 40 minutes long.

The season will run until the end of September, finishing off with a prize giving.

For more information contact Racheal Cook, phone 420 6202, mobile 027 503 0267 or email cookie.br@igrin.co.nz.

Free 'Youth Vision' course

Te Awaroa Youth Club is running 'Youth Vision', a new free eight-week youth development programme to help prepare local young people for adulthood.

"There are age old lessons being lost in this young generation," says Heidi Van Duyn. "Take changing a leaky washer for one. It's a simple process similar to many other life skills taught at TAYC, but some of these basic DIY skills are foreign to youth."

The programme was developed to provide young people opportunities that prepare them for their role in society and develop their potential, while at the same time facilitating and promoting positive personal growth.

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

The 'Youth Vision' program is based at TAYC, making use of the facilities such as the on-site café where youth can prepare nutritious meals harvested from the adjoining community garden.

Youth Vision is for locals aged 15 to 24, but is not intended to replace tertiary education but instead to complement it by filling in gaps.

Only 12 spaces are available on a 'first in first served' basis for the course which starts on August 16 and runs Tuesdays to Thursdays weekly from 9am to 3pm. There will be overnight excursions and a couple of weekend trips away.

Youth Vision is free thanks to funding from the ASB Community Trust for a period of two years.

For more information call at Te Awaroa Youth Club, 10 Awaroa Road, Helensville, phone 420 7977 or email youthvision@teawaroayouthclub.

western comment


by Rodney Ward Councillor Penny Webster

As part of the Auckland Vision discussion document Auckland Council has received thousands of submissions. Most of the debate is around how the city will grow and if it should be expansive or compact. The majority are leaning towards a compact city with growth nodes outside around transport hubs - sub-regional centres of the future.

The discussion has been that Helensville is an obvious place for future growth as it is on the rail line and the new motorway is good for a busway. In the meantime the restrictions are the sewerage and water supply, so these will need to be aligned with any future plans. It is important we continue with the planning in the upcoming Long Term Plan as the need is urgent.

Helensville is very much an historic town and protecting heritage is high on the agenda of the council. Council has decided to set up a panel to protect heritage in the way we have an urban design panel to keep an eye on good urban design. Some of the developments around high rise have certainly put people off the concept, so having well designed areas is critical so that we do better in future if we are to attain the goals of a compact city.

The Draft Auckland Plan incorporating all the suggestions from the discussion document feedback will be out by the end of August. Hopefully because of the work the council is doing now, there will be many who agree with the direction taken as the Mayor wants the final document to be finished by the end of this year.



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'Helensville Players' founder passes away

Garth Clark came to Helensville in 1963 from Gisborne with parents Ewen and Gladys and brother Brian, when the Clark family took over the Kaipara Hotel.

It was only eight years before the family moved on to Auckland but Garth's impact on Helensville's community history in that short time was legendary.

News of his death in Auckland in June aged 75 has revived memories for many locals of the heady days of the Helensville Players, and all that this lively group achieved in the seven years of Garth's leadership.

Garth was involved in musical theatre in Gisborne, and soon after arriving in Helensville made connections with theatre work in Orewa. As a result he persuaded that group to bring their production of 'Chu Chin Chow' to Helensville, and it played to full houses for a short season.

Garth and Frank McCullough, who had also recently arrived in Helensville, shared a love of music and drama, and following the success of 'Chu Chin Chow' it wasn't long before a group of locals were floating the idea of Helensville producing its own show.

Gerald Munro remembers that the recently established Lions Club became involved and offered expertise in managing the front of house and advertising.

Garth's choice - 'The Lisbon Story' - was a dramatic story set in wartime Portugal which offered real challenges for production.

From the community Garth drew an amazing range of talent - lighting, electrical and building technicians, make-up artists, musicians, costume designers and sewers not to mention the cast!

Players from Orewa joined with local teachers, business and professional people, farmers and housewives - most of whom had no previous experience in theatre. He was able to prove to them they could take on challenging roles and succeed.

Garth had the ability to persuade people to bring to reality his visions for the lighting, sets, staging, musical backing and

supporting and chorus performers, men and women.

'The Lisbon Story' came to life in 1965. The participation of the Lions Club won for them the prestigious Ron Usmar Trophy for an outstanding Lions community project.

The show was very popular with the public, setting the scene for the Helensville Players under Garth's leadership to produce successful shows for the next six years - 'Bells are Ringing', 'Calamity Jane', 'Careless Rapture', 'Camelot' 'Chu Chin Chow' and 'South Pacific'.

Garth produced all the shows except Calamity Jane in 1967, when Bobby Alderton took over, while Garth spent that year in London studying colour television.

• To page 11

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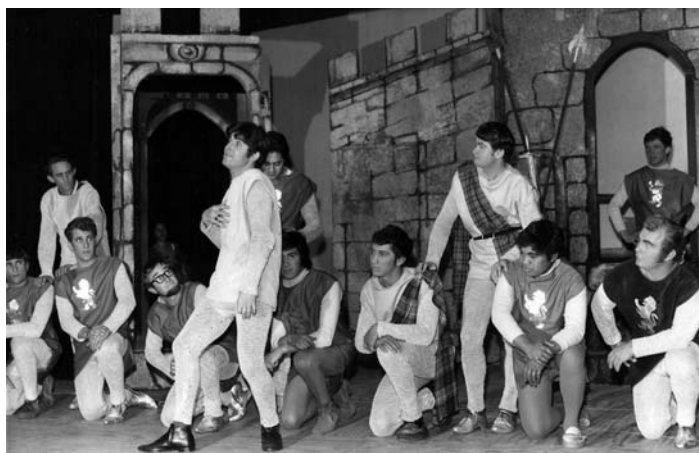
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• Bob Shanks, then of Kaukapakapa and now an active member of Centrestage theatre, as Merlin, with Sandra Sewell from the Auckland Operatic Society, who played Nimue



• The men's chorus in a castle scene from Camelot

Photos from the June 1969 production of Camelot, which ran in Helensville and then in the Auckland Town Hall concert chamber.

-Photos: D. M. Eteveneaux

New local couple set to make mark on arts scene

Two new locals are set to make a big contribution to the arts scene in the Helensville area.

Scot Hall and Kimmy Muncaster (pictured at right) have moved here from Hamilton following Kimmy's appointment as the new Head of Drama at Kaipara College. And while she is training up future actors, Scot will be focussing on teaching singing.

The pair have had a long association with Hamilton-based theatre company Full House Productions, performing in numerous productions from contemporary plays, classical tragedies, French farce, original New Zealand works and even an improvised musical.

"We met in the rehearsal room for something," recalls Kimmy "and from then we kept being cast as lovers because the directors said we had 'chemistry'. We took the hint."

Kimmy, whose acting roles have been as diverse as playing the Tooth Fairy and Marilyn Monroe, is originally from Tokoroa. She is loving Kaipara College.

"I love it. The kids are amazing and the staff are cool."

While his partner teaches during the day, Scot, who was born in South Africa but moved to New Zealand aged eight, has set up a singing studio in his Garfield Road home.

"I love teaching singing. The human voice is an amazing instrument. It makes the most exquisite music from nothing but breath, tissue and bone."

Scot's training includes work with artists such as soprano Pamela Wallace, Master of Voice at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (London) Stuart Pearce, and New Zealand voice coach Kirsty O' Sullivan.

He says a solid technique is essential for all forms of singing.

"It doesn't matter if you sing jazz, pop, fusion or musical theatre ... it all comes down to the same basic techniques. I am always happy to work on any repertoire that gets a student excited about music, but no matter what their style is they begin each lesson with a classical foundation to develop a healthy, robust instrument."

Lions book sale raises \$5500+

The Helensville Lions' book fair raised just over \$5,500 this year, which will be used to support local causes.

The Lions Club of Helensville wants to thank all those who donated books and purchased book at the sale.

Books that were not sold were resorted. Badly damaged books went to the Helensville Recycling Centre. Those still saleable but of a lower quality went to the Helensville Transfer Station shop, while some cookery books and magazines went to the food technology department at Kaipara College. The best of the leftovers are back in storage, ready for next year's sale.

The Lions Club is happy to collect books throughout the year. For collection phone Hilty on 420 8122 or Chris on 420 8527.

'Helensville Players' founder (cont)

• From page 10

Maggie Allison recalls that the fact Garth did not follow up on this study shows how despite his talents Garth wasn't ambitious for himself, but for what he could get others to achieve.

The most ambitious of the Players' productions was 'Camelot' which had dramatic costuming and staging. Despite the limited size of the Helensville stage a double revolving platform was used.

Following the Helensville season, 'Camelot' was taken to Auckland and performed in the Concert Chamber of the Auckland Town Hall.

Garth's departure from Helensville wasn't the end of the Players and local theatre. Other producers stepped up and a variety of successful shows, including a pantomime, continued to entertain local audiences. Some performers and back stage people joined the Waimauku Village Theatre, or became involved in Auckland societies.

Apart from the family involvement in the Players' productions, the Clarks also ran a very good hotel and staged several important events, including hosting Vice-Regal visits.

Garth's part in the Auckland musical theatre community was recognised in tributes paid to his passion and talents, particularly in the field of lighting design. In 2007 he received a Musical Theatre Merit Award for 47 years of service to Musical theatre.



• Scot Hall and Kimmy Muncaster

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Chance to learn from top chef

Budding Helensville cooks have the chance to learn from a master chef how to produce fabulous tasting food.

Chef Mark Dronjak will hold a cooking demonstration starting at 4pm on Saturday, August 6 in the basement kitchen at the Helensville Christian life Centre.

He will produce tantalising dishes for people to enjoy during the course of the afternoon, and share cooking tips that take food from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

Among the dishes he will prepare are a

“sensational” seafood chowder, a seafood risotto with salmon, white wine, shrimps and rocket, and Asian inspired pork with a pickled ginger and pineapple slaw.

He intends making the demonstrations quite interactive and might get a couple of audience members to help out.

Mark will also hand out some products from Regal Salmon and also Village Press oils as prizes.

Mark has cooked in many restaurants and ran his own business, the Prestige Catering Company. He has been featured in magazines such as Your Weekend, Foodtown Magazine, Gourmet Traveller and Australian Fare, and in Australia hosted a radio talkback show called 'Fine Food Down Under'.

More recently Mark was one of five chefs who contributed recipes to the New Zealand Seafood Cookbook, and is currently a presenter of master class cooking at the Auckland Seafood School.

Mark is passionate about his work and loves sharing that passion with others. After spending time as a consultant he discovered a love for teaching. Since 2001, Mark has been involved with the Hospitality Standards Institute, an industry training organisation involved in developing talent in the hospitality industry. He is a member of the World Association of Chef Societies (WACS) and the New Zealand Chefs Association.

Tickets for the afternoon are \$15 and can be obtained by phoning the Helensville Christian Life Centre on 420 8911 or email admin@hclc.co.nz. For more information on Mark visit www.markdronjak.co.nz.



• Chef Mark Dronjak

CAB Helensville gets \$4000 grant

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville has just received a \$4000 grant from the Lottery Grants Board.

Bureau co-ordinator Joy Florence says: “We receive a cheque from the Lottery Grants Board each year and it is greatly appreciated. This year the funds have gone towards wages and the phone bill. This will help us continue to deliver a high quality service to the people of Helensville district.”

Joy says the trained advisers at our local CAB can help people with information on almost any issue including consumer rights, work and unemployment, budgeting, finance and tax, health and counselling, housing and tenancy.

Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville is at 27 Commercial Rd, Helensville and is open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm. Phone 420 7162 or email cab.helinv@xtra.co.nz.

Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Joy.

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Course challenges tough guy and gals



For a brief second, it almost looked as though Craig Foster could walk on water ... but the second photo tells the true story. Aucklander Craig was one of more than 2200 competitors who took part in the two-day Waikato Draught Tough Guy and Gal Challenge held at the Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre in July.

Competitors in age groups battled in either a fully competitive 12km challenge or a shorter 6km social challenge, over a course which included obstacles such as a farm drain to run down, crawling under wire netting, leaping hurdles, hill climbs, paddock running, a sand crawl and swamp crossings.

Prizes were given for the top placed competitors, and also for best fancy dress; one man completed the race in a suit, business shirt and tie. Tough Guy and Gal challenges are also held in Palmerston North and Rotorua.

- Photos: Dave Addison, Dash Design

97-year-old notches up 50 years as a Lion

John Old has just recorded his 50th year of service to the Lions Club.

And at the age of 97 - he turns 98 next month - John is in a small but elite group of very senior Lions Club members. However he can't lay claim to being the oldest, as there are at least two 100-year-old members in New Zealand.

Born in Taranaki on September 9, 1913, John joined Te Awamutu Lions Club as a charter member in 1961. When he moved to Helensville in 1967 to manage the ANZ Bank he transferred to Helensville Club.

Two years later the Mayor of Helensville was killed in a railway accident and as Lions Club president John was instrumental in raising the funds to provide the town with an ambulance and ambulance station, which was officially opened by the Governor General Sir Arthur Porritt.



• John Old (right) receives his 50 year Service Badge from Pen Coster, who was Installing Officer at the Helensville's Club's Change of Officers ceremony

After a recent upgrade of the Ambulance Station, partially funded by Helensville Lions Club, John helped Prime Minister John Key at the official opening.

John was Lions Zone Chairman in 1974 and 1987, became a Melvin Jones Fellow in 1988 and was made a life member of Lions International in 2001.

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Final lecture covers rises and falls in Helensville's past

Greville and Maureen Walker painted a comprehensive view – in words and pictures – of how as a rural service town Helensville's fortunes have risen and fallen over the years at the Historical Society's final winter lecture.

Greville's talk was backed up by a PowerPoint presentation put together by Sue Hadwin, of the museum office. The images brought their stories to life, and stirred the memories of many of the 40-strong audience.

Fifteen topics, divided into 'ups' or 'downs', covered many of Helensville's social and commercial activities over the last 30 to 40 years.

The changing fortunes of some, like the Kaipara Dairy Company, which was for many years a major positive in the life of the district providing employment and services, started as an 'up' and ended as a 'down'. The death throes of the KDC began with the closure of the dairy factory in 1988, and despite some later production units working at the factory the decay of the buildings became inevitable, and it has become a negative entrance to the town.

The closure of the ANZ and BNZ banks in March 1998 left Helensville without a trading bank after 87 years, and was definitely a 'down', as it also threatened to put paid to the chance of getting a supermarket in the town. A strong reaction from the community, and the dedicated efforts of a Bank Action Committee persuaded the ASB to open its branch in the town.

With banking services assured, along with other factors, Woolworths was persuaded to build a supermarket in Helensville – which increased economic confidence – another 'up'.

Other success stories documented were the Christmas parades, the New Horizons group and probably the biggest positive on the programme, the Riverbank Heritage Trail.

The reduction over a period of time of the manning of the police station along with other factors brought a 'down' by the increase in crime, particularly tagging. A more recent increase in police presence,

and support from the community has helped reduce this problem.

Another 'down' mentioned by Greville which has turned a positive corner was the Helensville tip site. From 1965 when it was opened, for maybe 20 years it was an eyesore at the entrance to the town. Finally after being capped and tested it was finally named 'The River Reserve' and is now an open park area, and the home for the Helensville Museum complex.

The influence of the Business Association and the Lions Club have provided strong leadership and action on many Helensville issues, over the years, Greville said.

It is planned to have a follow-up lecture next winter on the history and development of Helensville's business sector.

- Wynne HaySmith

College music students to play with Split Enz members and NZSO

Kaipara College has been invited to perform alongside members of Split Enz and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra at the Auckland Domain on Monday, October 24. They will perform the Split Enz song 'I Hope I Never'.

Says head of college music Nick Roberts: "It will take a lot of work and a new direction for our department. What a challenge and what a reflection on our kids' amazing talent."

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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.

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kaipara kai

with Peter Brennan of Porcini Cafe

During my time in the UK I took many opportunities to travel about the countryside. Experiencing the rural life and country towns of Britain was so relaxing after the fast pace of life in London.

As I have a large Scottish family I spent time in the highlands and lakes visiting them. For the most part they were farmers and worked their long days from before first light. Appetites were substantial with the house kitchen producing two breakfasts, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and high tea, then supper and often, soup. They all remained slim in spite of the large amounts of butter, cream, and animal fat consumed.

In winter the day's work comes to an end by afternoon tea time; the sun would be setting by 3pm and the cold creeping in from the north. On the table would be savoury items, buttered things, others with blobs of jam and cream, and always a tea cake of some sort.

Tea cakes are made with creamed butter or oil and sugar, usually have nuts and fruit in them and are rarely iced. Think Dundee cake, Christmas cake, fig cake etc. My Aunt Mary made this orange and almond cake one day that was just perfect with a cup of tea, a fire in the grate and sleet "agin' the winda's."

Orange and Almond Tea Cake

Makes a 24 cm cake (12 good portions)

- ½ cup melted butter
- ½ cup olive oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tea spoons vanilla essence
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups warm water
- 2 oranges (NZ)
- 2 cups dried fruit, sultanas, currants etc.
- 1 cup sliced or slivered almonds
- 2 tea spoons baking soda
- 3 cups plain flour



In a mixer or bowl with a hand whisk, cream the melted butter, oil, vanilla essence and sugar then add the eggs 1 at a time and beat in.

Put the oranges in a food processor with the water and puree, or mince and stir in the water afterwards.

Whisk this into the butter, sugar, egg mix.

Don't worry if the mix separates, it will all pull together when the flour is cut in.

In a large bowl combine the sultanas, almonds, baking soda and flour and cut this into the wet ingredients. Pour the batter into a greased and paper lined tin and bake at 180°C fan bake for approx 90 minutes.

If the cake starts to over-brown, lay a sheet of tin foil on top, place the cake on the bottom shelf of the oven, and drop the temperature to 170°C. The cake is cooked when a skewer comes out hot, it will still be sticky to the touch but that is because of the orange and the oil. Allow to cool thoroughly before cutting.

If you don't like your cake plain, make your tea cake fancy by melting three table spoons of marmalade with one table spoon of boiling water and brush it onto the top of the cake or just simply sprinkle on a little icing sugar.

NB: Use New Zealand oranges - they are now in season and in the shops, besides imported oranges are usually 'waxed' and taste bitter when cooked.



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community titbits from town and around

■ TERITO O TE HARAKEKE

An exhibition of artworks by three local Maori women - Tash Keefe, Adair Menzies and Rachel Keefe - at the Art Centre, Karaka Street closes next Monday, August 8. Open Saturday-Monday 10am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday 11am-4.30pm, Friday 11am-3pm. Contact Pauline Mee on 021 158 6859.

■ MID WINTER DANCE

Helensville Primary is holding a Mid-Winter Dance on Saturday, August 13, 7.30pm in the school hall in Garfield Rd. Tickets are \$20 from the school office, and include a complimentary drink and supper. Cash bar, live band 'The Jolly Fraudsters', prizes, raffles and games.

■ ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

The Helensville Arthritis Support Discussion Group next meets on Thursday, August 18 at 10.30am at 23 Omana Ave, Shelly Beach. The group will learn foot massage, Gold coin donation appreciated. Phone Merle 420 8774 or Ina 420 7875 for information on car pooling if required.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village market is on Sunday, August 21st from 9am to 1pm. Contact Sarah, phone 420 9175 or Kim, phone 420 5776.

■ 'THE MIX' EXHIBITION

Art exhibition by Kaipara College tutors and friends at the Art Centre, Karaka Street. Opens Friday, August 12 and runs till Monday, August 29. Hours Saturday-Monday

10am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday 11am-4.30pm, Friday 11am-3pm. Contact Pauline Mee on 021 158 6859.

■ DINE AND DANCE

A 'Welcome 'n Spring' dance is being held on Saturday, August 27 at the Kaipara Memorial RSA, 49 Commercial Road. Cost is \$25pp with a \$5 door charge for non-diners. Music by Roger Skinner. Contact: Sue, email: kaipara.rsa@xtra.co.nz.

■ FORESTRY MEETING

A free meeting for landowners is being held by MAF at the Helensville Hall on Wednesday, August 31 from 1-3pm to discuss issues surrounding pre-1990 forestry and the Emissions Trading Scheme. Contact Nicky Roderick, phone (07) 921 3401 or email: nicola.roderick@maf.govt.nz.

■ STEAM TRAIN VISIT

The steam train will visit Helensville again on Sunday, September 4.

■ CHESS SETS WANTED

Kaipara College has started a chess club and is looking for chess sets. Anyone with a set they would like to donate to the club should call the school office on 420 8640.

■ CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Helensville Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, December 3 at midday. Anyone with ideas on ways to improve the parade, or wanting to enter a float or help out, contact Noel or Rhonda Harris on (09) 837 1824 or email abbey@ihug.co.nz.

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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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