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Marathon effort from primary runners



• Oscar Oliver-Chambers

- photo: Keren Anderson

You can see the effort on eight-year-old Oscar Oliver-Chambers' face as he competes as part of an 18-strong Helensville Primary School team in the recent Auckland Kids' Marathon.

The children ran the marathon over a period of six weeks, running along with their parents, covering approximately 40km in training, for which they kept a log book. They finished up with a final 2.195km run on the day of the Auckland Marathon.

In total, each pupil ran 42.195km - the same distance run on the Sunday by their adult counterparts.

Oscar made the final run in just over 10 minutes, with his team mates all posting impressive times. The whole team enjoyed the experience and atmosphere of the day.

Short story competition

The *Helensville News* is sponsoring a short story competition in conjunction with the indoor section of the Helensville A&P Show in February.

The competition is open to anyone aged 16 or older, and we're putting up \$25 prize money for the winning entry. What's more, the winner will get their story published in either the March or April issue of *Helensville News*, depending on available space.

Each story must contain the words 'cobweb', 'news' and 'black cat', and must fit on a single A4 page, typed in 12pt font (approx 450 words).

And no, despite the choice of the must-use words, we're not expecting a whole bunch of Halloween-themed stories; they were just words picked at random.

Entries will need to be received no later than Friday, February 17. Entries should be made on the standard Indoor Entry form in the A&P Show schedule; copies will be posted to show members shortly, and will be available for download on the Show website - www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.

Depending on space, the winning entry or possibly a selection of entries may be displayed with the indoor exhibits during the show on Saturday, February 25.

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editorial

You could be forgiven for thinking this issue of *Helensville News* is an 'education special'. It wasn't planned that way - it's just that a lot of school-related items cropped up at the same time; they are all interesting and newsworthy, so here they are.

On page 4 there is a report on Parakai Primary principal Sean Valvoi's recent term-long sabbatical in Sweden, Denmark and France, while you can read about Helensville Primary's glowing Education Review Office report on page 7.

Being the end of the college year, we have photos and details of the academic and sporting awards from Kaipara College on page 12, along with an article on page 8 about the Corelli Academic School of the Arts - which while not in our area caters for students from here.

Finally, there are pieces on the Māori Medium class at Helensville School on page 9 and HIPPY South Kaipara on page 11.

What else have we got for you? There's a new doctor starting next week (page 3), Te Awaroa Youth Club has its summer camp coming up again (page 6) and we have a Christmas recipe treat from Peter Brennan in his Kaipara Kai column (page 15). Enjoy!

This is the last issue of *Helensville News* for 2012, my sixth as editor and publisher. As per normal we won't be bringing you a January issue, so make the most of this one until the February 2012 edition.

I wish all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas, a safe and happy holiday period, and look forward to being in touch with you again in the New Year.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Old dairy factory up for auction



• The Kaipara Dairy Company buildings sit between Mill Rd, the Kaipara River and the railway

The dilapidated old Kaipara Dairy Company property at the south entrance to Helensville is due to be sold at auction this week.

Realtor Nigel McNeill of Bayleys Real Estate would not be drawn on what the property would go for, but says it has to be sold no matter what price it reaches.

He says there are at least two seriously interested prospective buyers.

The 1.3 hectare Mill Road site with 12 separate buildings has a government valuation of just over \$2 million and is being sold by Kaipara Investments Ltd.

In August 2009 the *Helensville News* revealed extensive plans by developer Jeremy Dyson to knock down the historic old buildings and replace them with Kaipara Mills, a development incorporating apartments, a hotel, theatre, commercial units and a public market. Despite spending \$500,000 on planning the project never came to fruition.

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New doctor starts next week

Kaipara Medical Centre's newest doctor, Willemijn Baneke, starts next week.

Replacing Maryanne Gane, Willemijn is a young woman GP doctor who has moved to New Zealand from her native Holland with her IT specialist partner Thomas.

She joins experienced GP Dr Richard Davies, who joined the practice last year as Adrian Gane's replacement.

Born in England, Richard spent 14 years in the Falkland Islands before coming to New Zealand. That experience working in a small community means he is ideally suited to medicine in rural New Zealand.

Over the next few months locals may also get to meet Dr Roland Ostring and Dr Elizabeth Eliot. They are a husband and wife team who have moved to Helensville from Christchurch where they ran their own practice. They will help out when the other doctors are away on leave.

These changes will mean some Kaipara patients will be asked to change to another GP as their regular doctor. The staff is asking for the

cooperation of patients so the changes can be made as smoothly as possible.

Another change to how you will see your doctor at Kaipara Medical Centre is the introduction of a daily 'duty' doctor and nurse, with different clinicians taking each day of the week. This is for patients who need to be seen on the same morning, when they contact the practice for an urgent medical matter.

When a patient goes in they will first be seen by the nurse, who will assess them, possibly start treatment and then, if needed, the doctor will attend.

The duty doctor system is being trialled to allow better access to a patient's own GP on the day of their choice, rather than seeing different people each time. The nurses can

also take bookings in advance for CarePlus, diabetes checks, dressings, and blood pressure checks.

The aim is for patients to be able to plan with greater certainty when they wish to visit the centre.

Kaipara Medical Centre continues to be available for ACC accidents and the 24/7 after hours service is also unchanged – patients can still phone the practice number and speak to the after-hours nurse, who will put them in touch with the on-call doctor if required.



• Willemijn Baneke with parter Thomas

Free Christmas Day lunch

Locals who are lonely or without family, suffering financial hardship or just new to the area are invited to a free community lunch at 1pm on Christmas Day.

Organised by local Mili Sipa and a friend, it will be a lunch with all the trimmings held at the Helensville Hall in Commercial Rd, Helensville. There will be games and special treats for the kids, plus entertainment. Volunteers and donations welcome.

People wanting to go must register before December 20. Contact Mili, phone 420 7971, 027 429 5497 or email dmsipa@xtra.co.nz.

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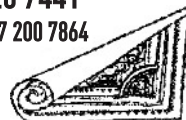


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European sabbatical throws up ideas for education here

Parakai School principal Sean Valvoi believes New Zealand schools should be doing more to turn out students who are problem solvers and innovative thinkers - and we need more emphasis on learning foreign languages and developing students with a global conscience.

However, he thinks New Zealand schools are right at the top when it comes to supporting students who are falling behind.

He has reached these conclusions after a 10-week sabbatical in France, Denmark and Sweden which saw him visit seven primary schools in total, observing classes and playground behaviour and meeting principals and staff.

Sean returned to Parakai School at the start of Term 4 and has written a 13-page report for the Parakai Board of Trustees.

He went with five main areas of enquiry - looking at the schools' leadership and governance; discovering what programmes they have in place for students who are falling behind; learning how they implement teaching foreign languages; looking at how they develop students with a global conscience; and investigating the impact of the Scandinavian countries' more liberal education systems on student achievement.

"There are certain aspects of the way schools are run over there that we can learn a lot from," he says. "I was impressed with the practices I observed in Denmark and Sweden, the importance they place on developing students to become creative and innovative, always approaching tasks from a problem-solving angle.

"I saw kids really excited by learning, and lots of interesting ways of learning."

He says Denmark and Sweden, and to a lesser extent France, place a much higher degree of importance on learning at least one, but more often two, foreign languages.

"New Zealand education needs to place more focus on learning foreign languages from a younger age if we are to be active participants in the international community."

Sean found many differences in the way schools are run in those countries. In France the principal is the sole leader of the school -

there is not even a secretary. In Sweden, many schools have two principals of equal status, with no other managers or leaders.

In New Zealand, says Sean, "we are doing most things right. Our leadership structures are a little bit more liberal and less 'flat', and I think that helps provide a career path for teachers."



• Parakai principal Sean Valvoi

The schools in all three countries had different systems to deal with children who are falling behind. But, says Sean, "it is encouraging that what is being carried out in New Zealand is generally better than what is provided in all the countries visited."

Sean believes the overseas schools place much more emphasis on developing students with a 'global conscience'. They follow the news, and local, national and international issues.

"I feel there is more which can be done [here]," says Sean. "For older students, starting the day with a discussion on current local and global issues would be highly beneficial."

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Rautawhiri Park becomes rally pitstop



• Drivers and crew work on cars in the Rautawhiri Park carpark

The Rautawhiri Park carpark was turned into a 'parc ferme' for racing cars when the Targa New Zealand Rally passed through Helensville recently.

Two of the early stages of the race, which attracted more than 100 cars, were held locally, through Taylors Rd and Old North Road. Those roads were closed for half a day for the racing.

After completing those stages, competitors drove past Kaipara College to Rautawhiri Park, where they could spend an hour changing tyres, making repairs and cleaning the cars.

They then cruised down Commercial Rd on their way to the third stage to Warkworth.

The Targa Rally is characterised by the diverse range of vehicles which enter, this

year ranging from Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Porsches down to basic older cars like Ford Anglias and Escorts. Cars race in either the Metalman Classic or the Modern class.

This was the first time in the event's 17-year history it had travelled north of Auckland.

As well as the competitive entries, around 30 drivers entered the Targa Tour, which lets them drive on the closed roads using racing lines, but at speeds limited by a lead vehicle. The Tour is aimed at owners of older, classic vehicles.

Targa Rally organisers hoped the event would raise \$50,000 for charity Cure Kids. If that target was reached, the Targa Rally would have raised \$500,000 for the charity since 2002.

Golf tournament raises cash for rugby U19s

A fundraising golf tournament held last month to support the establishment of a Helensville Rugby Club U19's team for 2012 raised \$5500.

The rugby club hasn't fielded a team in that division for several years, but with some talented players emerging from the Kaipara College 1st XV this year, the aim is to help local players progress to club rugby and provide a stepping stone to higher honours.

More than 20 teams competed in the tournament at South Head Golf Course, with the Unichem Misfits, representing Unichem Pharmacy Helensville and Westcity, overall winners.

Special thanks goes to All Black Tony Woodcock, who donated a signed training jersey and cap which was auctioned after the tournament. He even showed off his culinary skills on the day, helping barbeque venison at the 8th hole. The organising committee also thanks the local businesses that sponsored holes or donated prizes.

Committee member Scott Narbey says there was a great response from the community which resulted in a fun and friendly atmosphere throughout the day.

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'Survivor'-style summer camp for local youth

Challenging yourself, pushing your boundaries and discovering hidden talents - that's what Te Awaroa Youth Club's summer camp is all about, says club manager Heidi Van Duyn.

The club's annual Youth Summer Camp is on again next month at regular venue Highams Beach, South Head, for five days from Monday, January 16.

Most years around 30 local youth aged from 12 to 17 take part, enjoying activities like beach volleyball, kayaking, swimming and fishing.

Billed for 2012 as the 'Survivor Summer Sensation' it will be packed with 'survivor' style activities and will be facilitated by a team of trained professionals along with youth leaders.

The camp cost has been kept the same as the last camp at \$100, thanks to the Auckland Council and the Community Organisation Grants Scheme.

Heidi says that's a very low price for a camp offering such great activities as well as fantastic food prepared by chef Eileen Taogaga.

"The team at Te Awaroa Youth Club has worked hard to provide youth with a fantastic summer event they'll never forget," says Heidi.

"Our aim is to assist youth in developing skills necessary for future success, and provide them with opportunities to discover their potential."

Camp numbers are limited to 40, and registrations need to be received by this Friday, December 9.



• Participants in the 2011 youth camp

To reserve a spot at the camp, phone Heidi on 420 7977 or 027 685 2073, email manager@teawaroayouthclub.co.nz or visit www.teawaroayouthclub.co.nz

Call for locals to become Show stewards

The Helensville A&P Show team is looking for people to steward at the next show, on Saturday, February 25.

No prior experience is needed, as newcomers will be buddied up with an experienced steward to help them learn the ropes.

Stewards are needed on the Saturday for all horse rings, and for the cattle, sheep, goats and calf club sections. There is also a need for new stewards on the Friday before the show, when the indoor entries are organised and judged.

In both cases if enough stewards are available, it is only a half day job. Entry to the show and lunch are provided. Stewarding is an interesting way to contribute to and see a different side of Helensville's biggest annual event.

Anyone interested in becoming a steward, or who would like to learn more about it, should phone Marion at the show office on 420 7572, or on evenings phone Shona on 420 7215.

For more on the Helensville A&P Show, visit www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.



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Helensville Primary gets top ERO review

Helensville Primary has received a glowing Education Review Office (ERO) report - so good in fact that it's now been placed on a 4-5 year review cycle instead of the more common 3-yearly review.

The report says the school "provides students with a high quality education. The school culture is inclusive and warm relationships between staff, students and whānau are evident.

"Students are confident, capable and proud of their school."

Principal Eileen Brunton says the report is "a very good reflection on the staff, Board of Trustees and parents."

Explaining that only around 10 percent of schools get put on the longer review cycle, she says ERO's review is a "very positive thing for our school."

The ERO report says "many examples of high quality teaching practice are evident in the school. Students respond well to teacher's high expectations for their learning.

"Helensville School provides very well for the learning, engagement, progress and achievement of Māori students" and the report cites in particular the establishment two years ago of Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Awaroa, the school's Māori Medium class.

"There is a school expectation for all students to learn te reo me ōna tikanga Māori."

The report praises the Board of Trustees, saying they "continue to be child-focused and have a clear understanding of their



• Helensville principal Eileen Brunton

governance role."

The staff, too, receive accolades, saying "the school has established high quality leadership and management practices. Trustees are well served by school leaders.

"The principal is strategic in her approach and ... her leadership style is focused on improving teaching practice and raising student achievement.

Submissions on council waste plan

Locals have until January 31 to make submissions on Auckland Council's draft waste plan, which outlines ways to manage and minimise waste.

They may also attend a hearing to speak in support of their submission during February and March 2012.

The draft waste plan was signed off in October, with councillors supporting the streamlining of waste management across Auckland and reducing the amount that is sent to landfills each year.

John Dragicevich, Manager of Infrastructure and Environment Services says the formation of Auckland Council

presented an opportunity to rationalise services for all of Auckland.

"Until now, we've had seven different systems for collecting and dealing with waste across Auckland. We have the opportunity to streamline how we deliver waste services to all households."

The plan includes consistent funding of waste and recycling services for all Aucklanders. All households will pay directly for the kerbside refuse they put out (45 percent already pay directly.)

Any changes will be done in stages over the next four years after the plan is adopted in mid 2012.

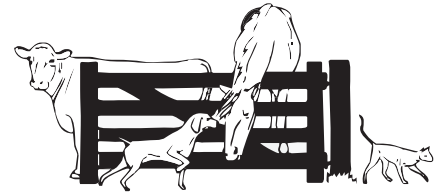
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Local children attending arts school

Locals are being invited to apply for senior scholarships to the Corelli Academic School of the Arts in Browns Bay.

Several local children already attend the private school, which runs its own, heavily arts-oriented academic curriculum where students produce and hold half-hour shows – open free to the public – every Friday at 12.30pm throughout the year. Last year 84 shows were held.

“The community arts support is outstanding,” says arts director David Selfe.

The senior scholarships, available through national charity The Corelli Foundation, are for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students in music, dance, drama, or the visual arts. They provide for 50 percent of tuition fees, except in music where the scholarships cover 40 percent of fees.

The Corelli School is a Cambridge Examination Centre. Students from Year 10 work on the International General Certificate of Secondary Education, usually sitting the examinations at the end of Year 11.

They then move on to the Advanced Subsidiary level in Year 12, and Cambridge A level for their final year, as well as sitting their chosen international performance examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity/Guildhall, and/or the Royal Academy of Dance.

Students are immersed in the internationally-recognised Cambridge System from Year 1, with primary and

intermediate programmes designed to prepare students for the senior examination curriculum.

In 2010, Corelli received its sixth 'Top School' rating with the Cambridge international exams.

The Corelli Academic School of the Arts was founded in 2001 by husband and wife team David and Kirsten Selfe, who saw a need for a kind of 'creative immersion' in New Zealand where the arts play a major role in a child's school curriculum.

They describe the school as a “boutique learning environment that is rich in diversity, expression and progressiveness.”

With the roll restricted to 150 students, strict attention is given to values and ethics in what they describe as a family style school. Students are expected to take responsibility for themselves, and to support the goals of other children of all ages.

Class sizes are small, with mixed-age groups learning together in a curriculum that adapts for different learning levels, peer support and mentoring opportunities, and long-term relationships with teachers.

Despite its small roll, Corelli's focus on artistic output is backed with facilities such as the 184-seat Jonmer Theatre, an audio recording studio, widespread practice rooms and music facilities. On the academic side there's a modern science laboratory. Specialist tutors teach dance, music, drama and visual arts, with academic studies managed by separate qualified staff.

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Māori Medium unit turns 2



Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Awaroa, the Māori Medium class at Helensville Primary, celebrated its second anniversary on Friday, November 4.

As part of the celebrations the tamariki (children) along with kaiako (teacher) Jess Rutherford shared with whānau and visitors from Te Whare Kakano, the Māori Medium class at Parakai School, how their class came to be. They recalled the struggle to find a kaiako, the dawn karakia on opening day, and the day the tables and chairs finally arrived. The class has a roll of 15 students in Years 2-4.

The children went on to share their hopes, including more Māori classes at Helensville, a whare nui built on school grounds and Te Reo Māori strong and alive in their daily lives. A kowhai tree was planted to signify the special day, knowing that when the tree flowers the anniversary of the class is coming up.

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Coaching experience preferred and applicants must be committed and enthusiastic.

Contact:

Innes Kerr-Taylor, Sports Director
or Vicki Beattie, Sports Coordinator

Kaipara College Sports Department
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Email: sports@kaiparacollege.school.nz



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Students off to help at top English school

Helensville Young Leos and Kaipara College Year 13 students Tina Paulsen and Jade Wahanui are off to Gordon's School in England as Gap Assistants.

Officially listed as one of Britain's outstanding schools by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Gordon's is a unique non-selective state boarding school located at Woking in Surrey, just outside London..

As Gap Assistants the girls will be involved in pastoral care, fostering a good

sense of community, organising school House activities and helping run the annual inter-house competitions.

For their work they will receive full board and a small wage.

Students from Kaipara College were able to apply for a one year position at Gordon's School by submitting a personal profile covering their interests, community and school involvement and future careers as well as supplying referees to vouch for their integrity.

Tina and Jade expect to meet lots of new people, and are looking forward to living abroad and travelling during the school holidays - while getting paid for the privilege.



• Tina Paulsen (left) and Jade Wahanui

Thanks from Men & Family

The trustees and staff of the Men and Family Centre wish everyone a blessed and fulfilling Christmas and holiday season.

The Centre will be closed from December 22 and will reopen on January 23.

Director Andrew Connolly would also like to thank all the centre's supporters, clients, volunteers, group participants, funders, advertisers and contract facilitators.

"Its amazing to think it was only seven years ago the Trust responded to community requests to provide support services to men, young men and their families. This year we've been involved with about 2000 individuals in a wide range of ways," says Andrew.

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Call for youth to register for free development programme

Local young people aged 15 to 24 are being encouraged to register by the end of this month for Te Awaroa Youth Club's free 2012 'Youth Vision' youth development programmes.

Four courses will be held next year, with the first running from Tuesday, January 31 to Thursday, March 22. They run over eight weeks on Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9am to 3pm.

"There are age-old lessons being lost to this young generation that Te Awaroa Youth Club recognises as important for adult success," says Heidi Van Duyn.

"Take changing a leaky washer - 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 curriculum includes employments skills; life skills; social and community skills; health and fitness as well as adventure-based learning.

Each module is taught from a strengths-based approach where participants are encouraged to up-skill in a friendly and encompassing environment.

The Youth Vision programme recently finished its first year. It was developed to provide young locals with opportunities to prepare them for their role in society and develop their potential, while at the same time facilitating and promoting positive personal growth.

It's intended to complement, not replace tertiary education. The course is on a 'first in first served' basis and spaces are limited to 12, so early registration is recommended.

Based at Te Awaroa Youth Club in Awaroa Road, the programme makes full use of the club's facilities.

Youth Vision is free thanks to two years' worth of funding from the ASB Community Trust.

For more information on the Youth Vision programme or to register for the first intake for 2012, call in at Te Awaroa Youth Club, 10 Awaroa Road, Helensville, phone 420 7977, or email: youthvision@teawaroayouthclub.

HIPPY group finishes up for 2011



Here are brothers Zevi (2) and Ari Shur (3) with the pet rocks they made at HIPPY South Kaipara's final group meeting for 2011.

Both children and adults spent the morning on a range of fun activities such as learning how to weave flax putiputi, painting rocks, learning flower arranging - and of course making pet rocks.

The finale for the year was the HIPPY graduation ceremony in the Helensville Community Hall last Friday, which celebrated the achievements and hard work put in by the whanau who are on the HIPPY programme.

For more information on HIPPY phone coordinator Bernie Malizia on 420 7434.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

ST MATTHEWS HELENSVILLE

Co-operative Parish, 60 Garfield Rd. Contact May Piesse, 420 8868

- Sunday, Dec 11th: 7pm, Combined carol service at St Joseph's Catholic Church.
- Friday, Dec 16th: 7pm, 'Blue' Christmas for those who have suffered during the year.
- Sunday, Dec 18th: 9.30am, All ages carol service.
- Saturday, Dec 24th: 11.30pm, Christmas Eve midnight service.
- Sunday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day service.

KAUKAPAKAPACHURCH

Cnr Peak Rd & Highway 16.

- Sunday, Dec 11th: 8am, service.
- Sunday, Dec 25th: 8am, Christmas Day service..

HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

40 Mill Rd (opposite Mitre 10). Contact Pastor Warren, 420 7372

- Sunday, Dec 18th: 10.30am, Christmas story focus.
- Saturday, Dec 24th: 7pm, Christmas Eve Carols
- Sunday, Jan 15th: 10.30am, Normal services resume

ST CUTHBERT'S, KAUKAPAKAPA

North Crescent. Contact Pastor Warren, 420 7372

- Monday, Dec 12th: Christmas story focus.
- Tuesday, 3th: 10.30 am, Normal services resume.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

Contact Fr. Mathew V.J. 420 8110

- Thursday, Dec 15: 7.30 pm, Reconciliation.
- Saturday, Dec 24: 7.30 pm, Christmas Carols & Vigil Mass
- Sunday, Dec 25: 9 am, Christmas Mass.
- Sunday, Jan 1: 9 am, New Year Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

- Friday, Dec 9: 4-6.30 pm, Reconciliation for Children.
- Wednesday, Dec 14: 7.30 pm, Reconciliation.
- Saturday, Dec 24: 11.30 pm, Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass.
- Sunday, Dec 25: 10.30 am, Christmas Mass animated by the children.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

- Sunday, Dec 25: 10am, Christmas Service.

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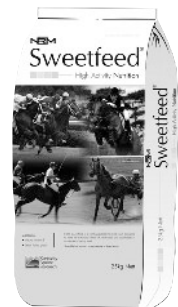
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College awards for top academic & sports students

Mikaela Law was named Dux of Kaipara College at the school's recent senior academic prize giving, with Evie Aldridge named as Proxime Accessit.

By the end of the evening, Mikaela was weighed down by the awards she won - faculty awards for mathematics, science and social sciences; the Lions Trophy for public speaking; and cups for senior chemistry, mathematics with statistics, senior geography and senior biology. She topped that all off with a Jubilee scholarship to Auckland University.

Other Senior Academic Awards:

Pengelly Cup: Mikaela Law & Madeline Shelling

Principal's Award for Head Students: Chris Kelly & Madeline Shelling

Audrey Luckens Writing Award: Justine Waterson

John Key Cup: Matthew Elcoat

Auckland Council Scholarship: Tayla Rees

Auckland University MPI Scholarship: Madeline Shelling

AUT Scholarships: Evie Aldridge & Keisha Bradley

Unitec Scholarships: Matthew Elcoat & Tamara James

McCurdie Cup: Jade Wahanui

Helensville Freemasons Award: Megan Patterson

RCLC Cup: Jacob Lawes

Te Atawhaitia Award for Contribution to Things Maori: Madeline Shelling

Te Ihi Award for Maori Performing Arts: Jacob Lawes

SPORTS

Wade Cozens and Keisha Bradley are Kaipara College's Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year for 2011.



• Mikaela Law



• Evie Aldridge



• Wade Cozens



• Keisha Bradley

The Individual Sporting Performance of the Year went to go-kart racer Daniel Connor, who also won Sporting Honours.

Other Sports Awards:

James Skipper Memorial Trophy: Madeline Shelling

Senior Team of the Year: Senior 1 Netball Coach of the Year: Dan Keefe & Scott Narbey

Contribution to Sport: Trina Smith

Junior Team of the Year: 5th Grade Rugby

Junior All Rounder: Taiaroa Paterson & Jarel Hemeheema

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Doctors honoured by fire brigade

Helensville doctors Adrian and Maryanne Gane, who retired just last Friday, have been made honorary members of the Helensville Fire Brigade.

And what's more, Adrian has also been named Honorary Brigade Surgeon.

Only the second honorary memberships given to our local brigade, they were presented during the Volunteer Firemen's Ball at the Helensville War Memorial Hall, which is an annual ceremony when the Fire Service recognises its members' achievements.

"When we arrived in Helensville we heard the fire siren and wondered what was happening, and whether we could be of

help," says Adrian.

"Since 1987 we have watched with admiration as neighbour Mark Anderson and many others in our community turn out any time, day or night, to emergencies. These vary from the trivial to major vehicle crashes, fires and also medical emergencies when the ambulance is out of town," says Adrian.

Adrian initially phoned the fire station to see what the call was about and, if appropriate, turned out to assist.

"After a while current brigade chief Ian Osborne arranged for us to carry a fire service pager to simplify the process."

He says they were "very pleased and honoured" to be made honorary members.

New venue for final drama production

Nem's DramaWorks' final production for 2011 will feature three students who have been members for eight years.

Mikaela Law, Chris Kelly and Malachai Humphris all graduated from college this year, so it will be their last performance for the local drama troupe. And fittingly the shows will be held in Kaipara College's brand new drama suite, giving the students one last chance to perform at their school.

"I am so proud of these students," says drama director Naomi Bartley.

"Their natural talent, along with their commitment, tenacity and integrity have made teaching them a delight. I will be very sad to see them go."

The production, featuring two plays from the 20th Century protest theatre movement, is open to the public and runs from Thursday, December 15 to Saturday, December 17 at 8pm. Phone 420 8293 to book. Suggested audience age is 13+.

Next year Nem's DramaWorks' plans include a film-making weekend in February to prepare students for entering the 2012 V48hours film festival. For more information phone 420 8293.

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Helensville District Health Trust AGM

At the Helensville District Health Trust's Annual General Meeting, held on October 27th, 2011, the following appointments for the coming year were confirmed:

Appointed Trustees –

- Dianne Kidd (chair)
- Susan Narbey (deputy chair)
- Johnny Hildreth
- Erica McKenzie
- Warren Smith

Public Trustees –

- John Issott
- Louis Keefe
- Gretchen Shelling

Representative to the Trust –

- Linda Harun, Waitemata District Health Board

Birthing Centre Directors -

- James Laurenson (chair)
- Dianne Kidd
- Alison McKenzie
- Charm Torrance

The Board would like to acknowledge Airini Stoney, who retired at the AGM. Airini has served the board for six years; her active and thoughtful contribution has been much appreciated.

If you would like to speak with us regarding health services in Helensville, please contact the Trust Manager, Charm Torrance, on 420-7593.



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Revamp for local bank branch



Pictured above in their revamped bank branch are Helensville ASB team members (from left) Jessie Cooper, Courtney Dickson, Brittany Edwards and manager Carol Hooper.

The branch has undergone a 48 hour makeover, done over a single weekend to avoid disruption to customers.

"We've opened up the branch to create more light and space. We've added tables and chairs [for] our customers, as well as a concierge desk at the entrance of the bank so we can welcome customers and help them as they enter," says manager Carol Hooper.

The ASB opened its local branch in November 1998.

The revamped branch includes many of the latest ASB design philosophies and features, and offers the latest in banking technology such as video conference phones so customers can access ASB specialists face-to-face.

The branch is run by a team of five locals who all enjoy being involved in the Helensville community, says Carol. The most recent arrivals on staff are Brittany and Emma Keefe (who was absent for our photo), with Carol also a reasonably new member of the local team.

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- Saturday 31 December open 8:00am - 1:00pm
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- Re-open Wednesday 4 January, normal hours

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with Peter Brennan of Porcini Cafe

Try Panforte for Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner, and the trouble is that most of the traditional Christmas foods are designed for enjoyment in the colder climates. Rich fruit cakes, sweet fruit mince pies, the big roast, baked hams, and steamed pudding.

I certainly enjoy cooking and eating those items, but I really struggle with cooking up a big meal on Christmas day. To be fair we have usually worked at Porcini up until the last minute so to turn around and do it all again at home can be less than appealing.

This year we held a roast turkey dinner at home at Easter for our family and friends which seemed a much more appropriate time of the year for a day in the kitchen.

One Christmas dish I do enjoy very much is the Italian, or more correctly Tuscan, treat of Panforte. Recipes are diverse, often contain citrus rind, and loads of spices including pepper. There are references to Crusaders carrying the confectionary Panforte, and the use of Panforte in surviving sieges.

And according to Wikipedia, in 1205 Panforte was used as a currency by the people of Siena to pay their taxes to the monks and nuns of the monastery; this payment was made on February 7, hence its connection to Christmas.

My recipe is somewhat pared down, includes no rind or pepper, but does include chocolate and fabulous local spicy honey by Kiwitahi.



• Panforte

■ Panforte

- 2 cups slivered almonds or South Head macadamia nuts, chopped
- 1½ cups dried fruit (currants and small sultanas)
- 2/3 cup plain flour or gluten free flour
- 2 table spoons sifted cocoa
- 1½ tea spoons cinnamon
- 60g dark chocolate (not milk chocolate)
- 60g butter
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1/3rd cup Kiwitahi Manuka honey

In a large bowl combine the nuts, fruit, flour, sifted cocoa, and cinnamon. Mix together thoroughly and set aside.

Place the chocolate, butter, sugar and honey in a bowl and heat to melt and combine. This can be done over a pot of hot water or by short bursts in the microwave. Once the chocolate mix is smooth stir into the dry ingredients and mix by hand until a cohesive mass is formed.

I use a pizza tin at Porcini but any 9inch/23cm round cake tin will suffice. Line the bottom with baking paper and dump in the Panforte mix. Push the mix to the edges of the tin and flatten with your hand or by running the bottom of a spoon over the mix. The Panforte will only be about 10-15mm thick.

Place into a 160° Celsius oven and bake for about 25 minutes. The cake should be soft and still wet looking. Remove from the oven and cool. Once cool place into the fridge and leave for a couple of hours to harden.

To serve, cut in half and then cut thin wedges from the centre to the edge. Serve straight from the fridge with a cup of coffee and a dollop of cream.



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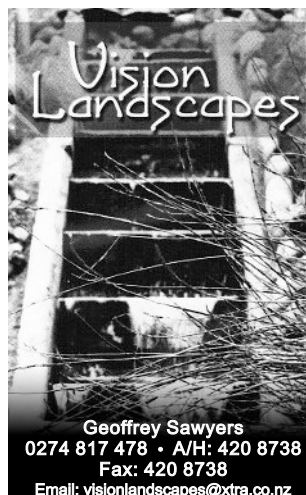
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COMEDY ON THE ROCKS

The Grand Hotel hosts a 'Comedy on the Rocks' Xmas special on Saturday, December 10 at 7 pm, featuring GISH, Mike Loader, Tevita Manukia, Tom Furniss, Alan McKellen, Terry Frisby, Mark Scott, and Anthony Wilson. Pre-sales \$15, door sales \$20.

ALPACA OPEN DAY

Waitakere Alpacas has an open day on Sunday, December 11 from 10am to 4pm at 107 Monk Road, South Head. There will be demonstrations of wool carding and felting, walking with an alpaca, and feeding alpaca mums with their newborn crias (babies). Phone Hans on 420 2185.

XMAS SHOPPING NIGHT

Kaukapakapa School holds its Christmas shopping night fundraiser on Thursday, December 15 in the Kaukapakapa Hall from 7-9pm. The \$5 entry includes a glass of wine or juice, and tickets pre-purchased are two for the price of one. Tickets available from the

school office, Anna's Hair Studio, and on the night. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, and gold-coin gift wrapping. For more information phone Sandy Marshall on 420 4534 or 021 149 6691.

KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, December 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. Santa will be in his grotto from 10am and the Hibiscus Ukulele group will be playing festive music.

LIVING HISTORIES

The Helensville Historical Society is aiming to make a 'living history' DVD with video footage of locals telling stories about themselves and their area, plus photos and other images. They want to hear from anyone willing to talk on camera of their experiences growing up or living in Helensville district. Society committee member Jennifer McCann has experience in filming and media work. Phone the museum on 420 7881.

GRATEFUL THANKS

Cath Rameka, Awhina and whanau would like to acknowledge and thank all the locals who gave their support and care during her sister Aggie Gustafson's recent illness and tangi.

College needs coaches

Kaipara College needs sports coaches for next year. The sports department has put the call out for volunteer coaches for rugby, netball, basketball, football, cricket, hockey, touch and waterpolo.

Sports coordinator Vicki Beattie says the school is looking in particular for coaches for the 1st XV rugby team (1st Grade), the Senior 1 netball team (Premier Grade), the girls 1st XI hockey team (Grade 1) and the boys 1st XI hockey team (Grade 2 or 3). Teams play in the North Harbour Secondary Schools competition. The college would prefer applicants with coaching experience.

Contact Vicki or sport director Innes Kerr-Taylor, phone 420 8640 ext 821 or email: sports@kaiparacollege.school.nz.

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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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