

Helensville to celebrate 150 years

Helensville will celebrate the 150th anniversary of European settlement this year over Labour Weekend, October 19-22.

A special incorporated celebrations society has been set up to plan and run the event. Details of the festivities are still being finalised, but plans include:

- A wine and cheese evening combined with old movies for the opening on the Friday night.
- An arts and crafts display in the Helensville Hall all weekend.
- Pipe bands and the Kumeu Brass Band in a Saturday street parade with a market day.



150 YEARS

HELENSVILLE
1862 - 2012



TE AWAROA

- A dine and dance on the Saturday evening.
- A 'Blessing of the Cairn' in Rata Street for a new plaque, and a church service at St Matthews in Garfield

Road. The church will be laid with a flower carpet all weekend.

- Old-fashioned games on the Helensville Primary fields and a talent quest in the

school hall on the Sunday.

- Heritage house tours hosted by a Historical Society member.
- A farewell to members of families descended from original Helensville settlers who attend the weekend celebrations.

The events are being planned to celebrate all the founding families of Helensville, including the McLeods, Stewarts, Pengellys, Bradlys and many more.

For more information phone Laurence McLeod on 021 418 116 or email laurence.mcleod@helensville150th.org.nz, or to register an interest in the celebrations phone Claire Baker on 021 134 5890 or email claire.baker@helensville150th.org.nz.

Further information is online at www.helensville150th.org.nz.

Helensville became established as a kauri milling centre on the Kaipara Harbour when the McLeod family arrived from Nova Scotia in 1862.

Te Awaroa, as the settlement was then known, was strategically located at the southern entry to the Kaipara. The McLeods were welcomed, encouraged and supported by local Māori.

John and Helen McLeod built their home at the northern end of the settlement and the town was reputedly named after that house, called 'Helen's Villa'.

Isaac and Janet McLeod and family bought land at the southern end.

Helensville remained an important timber and milling centre for over a century. John and Helen moved to Auckland about 1867, but Isaac and Janet remained as one of the districts' pioneering European families, involved in milling, business, farming and community affairs.

The establishment of the railway from Riverhead to Helensville in 1876 and five years later a direct railway link to Auckland opened up access to the whole of the lower Kaipara.

New Shelly Beach loos opened



Four-year-old Sam McNamara of Shelly Beach (above) cuts the ribbon to officially open the new toilet block and changing rooms at Shelly Beach on Friday, March 23.

Helping him are Shelly Beach Residents' and Ratepayers' Association chairman Philip Clark (left) and Auckland Mayor Len Brown.

The \$490,000 project was begun under the former Rodney District Council. Construction started in mid-November last year and the facility opened for use on February 24.

The design is based on toilet blocks that have proven successful in similar coastal locations, and sports a large, colourful mural by local artist Helen Beech, whose work was designed to reflect the local values and culture of the area. She is also responsible for a large mural on the side of the Shelly Beach store. Internal tile art was done by Diane Thomson and Serena Mullahy.

Julie Pickering, Asset Development and Business Support (North) for Auckland Council, says a key emphasis of the project was on waste water disposal and water supply.

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editorial

When I took over as owner and editor of *Helensville News* in July last year, I commented on the amazing number of interesting people with great stories to tell who live in our area. This issue, we bring you articles on three such characters - all from the other side of the world who have landed in our locale, after a series of interesting life experiences.

The new owner of the River View Restaurant in Commercial Road, Manny Correia (see page 5) was born in Portugal and grew up in South Africa. He's now turned up in Helensville and introduced a new menu which reflects each of the cultures he's been associated with.

On page 6 you can read about Helensville shipwright Marco Scuderi, who has made a name for himself restoring old, historic wooden boats. He's a long way from his native Sicily, but loves living and working in our district.

Woodhill photographer Graham Meadows (page 10) hails from England, though he has called New Zealand home for 45 years. He has been a vet, an author, curator at Auckland Zoo, a television presenter - and is now a professional photographer.

A lot of the rest of this issue seems to have a historical theme.

You've probably already read the 'biggie' on the front page - the 150th anniversary of the European founding of our town. With the range of events being planned there should be something for everyone and it promises to be a weekend not to be missed. If you *do* miss it, there's a long wait until the next such big occasion - I suspect too long for anyone of my age or older!

On Page 3 we cover the centenary of the Helensville Bowling Club, while on page 9 we learn about the Kaipara Women's Hockey Association 60th reunion celebration. There's even a little piece on a new book covering the early years of Helensville's settlement - that's on page 9.

- Dave Addison, Editor

medical centre notes

As most of you are aware, we at the Kaipara Medical Centre are going through a period of transition, after the retirement of Adrian and Maryanne Gane last December.

Many of you will have met Dr Willemijn Baneke, who is settling in very well after arriving from Holland.

We are also grateful to have Drs Roland Ostring and Elizabeth Elliot helping us out temporarily, while Dr Richard Davies is on an extended holiday. We will look forward to welcoming him back in June.

Roland and Elizabeth owned their own practice for 20 years in Christchurch and have been practising medicine for 40 years. They recently moved to Helensville, which was when they kindly offered their services. Elizabeth has a particular interest and specialisation in musculoskeletal medicine.

We also have our new registrar, Dr Hollie Shine, who started for her six-month rotation at the end of February. We are always grateful for your patience and cooperation

with our registrars, as we enjoy being a teaching practice and the registrars enjoy their time working here in a rural setting.

As winter approaches, we are pleased to announce the arrival of the flu vaccines. They are free to all our patients over 65 years old; those under 65, with certain chronic health issues, are also eligible.

Please contact the practice if you are unsure if you qualify for the free flu vaccine, or if you would like one anyway. The cost for non-subsidised injections - \$32 - is the same as last year. Please make a definite appointment, so we don't have to keep you waiting too long. As usual, you also need to wait 20 minutes afterwards.

In health promotion, we have had our nurses attending green prescription days at the hot pools, as well as the diabetes education sessions. Many of you will also have seen the breast screening trailer at Mitre 10 in recent weeks.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director

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Bowling club turns 100

Helensville Bowling Club reaches its centenary this coming season.

To celebrate the club will be holding a special member day on October 27, and there will be two days of events on the weekend of January 12 and 13 next year. Details of that weekend are still being worked out.

The club grew from a men's only club which started at Parakai in 1912. In May the following year, the Awaroa Bowling Club was formally created at a meeting in Helensville, and land in Stewart Street purchased from Mr D. Stewart for £50. The club has used that site ever since, now access through Awaroa Road.

The club's first president was Gordon Coates, the member of parliament for the then Kaipara electorate from 1911 to 1943, and Prime Minister from 1925 to 1928.

In 1924 the club was renamed as

Helensville Bowling Club.

A women's club was set up in 1952 with its own pavilion and bowling green. The two clubs worked together, with the men looking after their own and the women's greens, and the women catering for both clubs.

Membership of both clubs fell during the 1990s and the decision was made to amalgamate. The first combined season was held in 1997/1998, and the bowling club has run successfully as an amalgamated club ever since.

There are currently around 60 members, and the club operates two greens and has two green keepers at its Awaroa Road facility.

Highlights of the club year include a popular annual business house tournament, a three-day men's memorial tournament for the late Ross McMurdo, and a two-day women's event.



• Helensville Men's Bowling Club on opening day at Parakai in 1912

Work to start on Rail Trust building

The Helensville Railway Station Trust hoped to start work this week on its new heritage-style building at the southern end of the station property.

The building will cover 174m² including a mezzanine floor and will house a railway museum - and possibly a maritime museum as well. It will include a meeting room and toilets.

Trust members hope it will eventually house a large scale model of the Helensville station and surrounds based on the middle of last century.

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Youth orchestra here next week

The Auckland Youth Orchestra returns to Helensville on Friday, April 13 to perform works of mythical tales and fantasy.

Newly appointed Concertmaster Olivia Francis will lead the string section in the 'Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis' by Vaughan-Williams. Following that, AYO principal bassoon player and winner of the AYO Concerto Competition, Albee Ai, will perform Mozart's 'Bassoon Concerto'.

The evening will finish with 'Scheherazade', the symphonic suite by Rimsky-Korsakov which depicts the story of the legendary Prussian queen.

Olivia, originally from Cambridge, began learning the violin aged seven. She has studied in Canada and Poland, and is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Music at the University of Auckland.

She has performed as soloist with the Christchurch Symphony and Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, and has been a member of the NZSO National Youth Orchestra since 2007 and was its Concertmaster for the 2011 season.

The Helensville concert is being held almost a year to the day after the orchestra's highly successful first-ever visit to our town last year.

The programme starts at 7.30pm at the Helensville War Memorial Hall, and tickets cost \$5 for a child, \$10 for students, \$15 for senior citizens and \$20 for adults. There is a \$40 family pass, and a discounted group

rate of \$100 for 10 people.

The orchestra will follow its Helensville event with performances at Warkworth, Whangarei and in the Auckland Town Hall and then return to Helensville on Sunday, September 30 for a matinee performance.



• AYO Concertmaster Olivia Francis

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Three cultures influence fusion menu for new owners

He was born on Portugal's Madeira Island, raised in Cape Town in South Africa, and now lives in New Zealand.

So it's no wonder the new owner of the River View Corridor Bar & Restaurant in Helensville, Emanuel Correia - Manny for short - insists his menu is a fusion of those three countries.

Manny moved to Cape Town as a small boy, going to school there and later doing his national service.

He studied civil engineering but never finished his qualification, instead going first into banking and then into menswear retail, owning a couple of his own stores.

In his 'time off' Manny helped out at the Correia family's Portuguese restaurant, La Mire, giving him a taste for the hospitality industry.

Manny's South African born wife and restaurant co-owner Karen has two sisters who had moved to New Zealand, so in 2010 Manny and Karen made the move too, settling in Stillwater on the North Shore. Their children, Megan-Rae (5) and Catherine (12) go to Westminster Christian School in Albany.

Manny took over the River View a couple of months ago, and immediately introduced his 'fusion' menu, featuring specialties from both Portugal and South Africa, as well as more traditional Kiwi dishes.

"It's all about tantalising flavours and about the service," says Manny. "I don't believe in providing half-hearted service."

"When they (customers) first come in and we meet, we are acquaintances. When they leave, we are friends," he beams.

He sees running a restaurant in a similar light to working in retail - they are both service industries, and stand or fall on the way customers are dealt with.

Manny has a big, friendly personality, which combined with his attention to detail is

already seeing regular clientele. And as a family man himself, Manny is adamant the River View develops a reputation as a family-friendly restaurant.

All his staff is from the local district, and rapidly growing business means head chef Anthony (who works mornings at the Art Stop Café) has already been joined by a second chef, Daniel.

Karen runs a custom cake/cupcake baking business. Currently mainly servicing corporate clients, she hopes to expand that



• Manny and Karen with daughters Megan-Rae and Catherine

to the River View's as well, with customers able to order cakes for special occasions.

One of the first things customers to the restaurant see are colourful artworks lining the passage that leads in from Commercial Road. Pauline Mee of The Art Centre in Helensville has hung numerous works by local artists on the walls - in some ways bringing the restaurant full circle to its original 'art gallery' style as Gallery 88.

Manny will eventually do some cosmetic refurbishment of the premises, mainly repainting to bring in some colour. He has already introduced live music on Saturday evenings with young local musicians.

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Marco's passion is handcrafting

"If only our hands could talk. Every scar, bruise and stain would tell the story of our passion for wooden boats."

With those first words on his website, local shipwright Marco Scuderi leaves no doubts as to where his passion lies.

Helensville is a long way from his native Sicily, where Marco grew up "always keen on the sea" in the small east coast town of Acireale. In 1989, aged just 15, he began a stint with the Italian navy before studying geology and cartography at university in Italy.

Marco immigrated to New Zealand in 1997. His interest in the country had been piqued by his father, who several years before had shown him some crime statistics showing New Zealand had one of the least corruptible governments in the world. Then one day he picked up a brochure at a travel agent, and 10 days later he had moved here.

In New Zealand, Marco completed a Master's degree in geographic information systems, and worked for both the North Shore and Palmerston North city councils.

In 2002 he married Auckland Alex, and the pair moved to the United States where Marco took up a fellowship to do a PhD degree in urban planning at the University of Maryland, which he finished in 2005.

While in America Marco's love for wooden boats was rekindled by a meeting with master boat builder Paul Rollins during a schooner hunting trip to Maine. Marco then began an apprenticeship at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation in Virginia.

But by 2006 Marco and Alex were homesick for New Zealand and moved back here, living in an apartment in Mission Bay.

Marco joined Salthouse Boatbuilders in Greenhithe where he completed his apprenticeship in conjunction with the Auckland Traditional Boatbuilding School.

Not one to rest on his laurels, he is now

undertaking a second apprenticeship in marine engineering with BITO, the New Zealand marine industry training organisation – and at the same time is finishing by correspondence his third year of yacht design with the Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology in Mystic, Connecticut.

In 2008, Marco set up his own boat restoration business, MCN Shipwrights, at Okahu Bay. He was working on his own boat on the public hardstand, when the neighbouring boat owners asked for some modifications to be done to their boats. Having just resigned from Salthouse, Marco jumped at the opportunity; other boats followed and the work hasn't stopped since.

In August 2009 Marco and Alex moved into an historic homestead in Helensville, and he moved MCN Shipwrights there. He employs one apprentice, Stuart Weeds of Torbay

"MCN stands for a Sicilian expression used in reference to a person who does his job properly and without fuss. We try to stand by our name!" says Marco.

Qualifications are important for the work he does, but in the classic boat fraternity reputation is probably more important, and Marco's is such that he has been entrusted with some important projects.

One such job was the award-winning restoration of the yacht Wairiki, designed by Arch Logan in 1904. A yacht with a huge racing pedigree in Auckland and around New Zealand, she was fully restored in just 17 months - "one of the fastest restorations ever" says Marco. The Wairiki has featured in a number of publications.

In Marco's shed at Helensville now are three other classic boats.

One is the beautiful Barbarella, a 1969 Riva Superaquarama mahogany and chrome Italian speedboat similar to those

• To page 7



• Marco and Stuart dwarfed by the bow of the Ngataki



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repairs on classic wood boats



• Marco Scuderi and his apprentice Stuart Weeds aboard the Ngataki

• From page 6

featured in a couple of James Bond films. With an international history spanning Lake Tahoe in California and a Norwegian fjord, she is undergoing a total strip down and restoration, with Marco repairing damage caused by a monsoon in Hong Kong and further damage that happened when the crafts was being shipped to New Zealand.

Cradled beside Barbarella is the Ngataki, a Johnny Wray yacht built in 1932 which is undergoing serious repairs. Renowned in Auckland yachting circles, the Ngataki's kauri hull has been recaulked, 2500 silicon bronze screws have gone in to put the planks back in place, and the floors, frames and stringers has been repaired or replaced. Structural damage to the starboard side caused when she hit rocks five years ago has been repaired, and the original bulwarks have been recreated from scratch.

Like the Wairiki, she's another craft with a history in print and beyond, having featured in various books and magazines as well as both television and radio programmes.

Finally, one of the great names in Auckland yachting has arrived at MCN's

Helensville premises - Victory.

The 1906 Logan-designed yacht - now owned by Marco himself - will be restored to her 1919 state, the year she was converted from a fishing boat to a racing yacht.

A 38ft keeler, Victory was launched in 1906 and leased for fishing in the Hauraki Gulf. Soon after the First World War she was converted for racing and won the first race for the Balokovic Cup by more than a day. In 1928 Victory was sailed to Norfolk Island, completing the 1200 miles voyage in 91 days, while in 1951 she battled heavy winds and seas to win the Christmas cruising race to the Bay of Islands.

In 1964 Victory was badly damaged by gas cylinder explosion while moored at Great Barrier Island. Skipper Harold George suffered broken bones and concussion while other crew members suffered minor injuries.

Marco will return Victory to her original gaff cutter rig layout, and reinstate her original low profile cabin top and cockpit. He expects the restoration to take from five to six years.

For anyone interested in having a look, there will be a public open day later in the year.

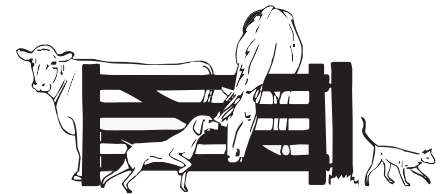
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Swimming school starts at Parakai

Parakai Springs hot pools has set up a 'Swim School' for children aged from six months and up. The swim school incorporates the existing Aquababyz classes with a new Aquatutz pre-schoolers' group and Aquakidz

for school age children.

Aquababyz classes started in 2006 with two lessons, two days a week. The first class was designed for babies with parents in the water, and a second class was for pre-schoolers.

In 2008 Marina Jones took over the classes. Demand grew for more lessons and the following year Nikki Roud became a second permanent team member.

"There are so many benefits," explains Marina. "We teach in shallow and deep water, and because of the temperature of the water, we can teach year round. Our emphasis from the start is water confidence; once children are happy to be in the water they learn much faster."

The pair have decided to hold an intensive holiday programme in the second week of the April School holidays.

"We'll teach anybody who wants to learn or update their swimming skills," says Marina. "You'd be surprised who walks in the door here and asks for lessons!"

Aquababyz is for ages six months to two and a half years. Classes are 30 minutes with parents in the water. Teaching covers water confidence, safety and having fun. Aquatutz is for ages two and a half years to school age. Classes last 20 minutes, with a maximum of four children per class. Teaching covers water safety and basic swimming skills. Aquakidz is for children five and older. Classes are 30 minutes with no

more than six children, and cover water safety and stroke techniques for beginners and the confident.

One-on-one tuition will be available for any age from Term 2.

The holiday programme will run from April 16-20.

There will be classes at 9am and 9.30am each day with a maximum of six participants per class. For more information phone 420 8998.

Cannonball steams into Helensville



• The inbound Cannonball about to pass under Helensville's Mill Road rail bridge

The Kaipara Cannonball steam train visited Helensville again on Sunday, March 25. The JA-class locomotive was here for 90 minutes, and those who caught the ride from Auckland plus a large number of locals took the chance to look around the specially-held market day featuring stalls selling local crafts, food and live music.

The Kaipara Cannonball is operated by the Mainline Steam Charitable Trust, an organisation devoted to the restoration and operation of historic mainline steam locomotives.

'Showstoppers' concert

The 'Pinesongsters' will be performing 'Showstoppers' at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Sunday, April 29.

The concert will feature a wide variety of traditional and modern songs from shows, and the programme will feature solos, skits and full choral items.

The group is named after Pinesong Village in Green Bay, which is home to several of the group's members, including former Helensville residents Eric and Brenda Perrett, Ian and Jan Amoores and Doug and Lois Lilly. It has grown into a major choral entertainment group in West Auckland, performing at numerous venues each year. Doug Lilly has conducted the choir for the past three years.

The Perretts and Amoores were active Helensville Historical Society committee members and workers, while Doug and Lois have strong connections with Helensville as well. Doug was a schoolboy here in the 1940s and returned 20 years later to teach at Kaipara College, and Lois was a midwife at the local hospital.

Doug was involved in the musical and theatrical life of Helensville in the 1960s, as vice-patron of the Helensville Players.

The musical afternoon will run from 2pm to 4pm, with entry \$12 or \$10 for senior citizens. The entry price includes afternoon tea. Tickets are available from the Helensville Museum or at the door on the day.



Sunny Days
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Women's hockey holding 60th reunion

The Kaipara Ladies' Hockey Association is holding a 60th reunion on Saturday, April 28 for local women who played between 1951 and 1976.

Enrolments have already come in from as far afield as Whangarei, Dargaville, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch.

The event will start at the Waitoki School Hall (not the Waitoki Hall as previously planned) at 11am, with a shared lunch at 12.30pm. Those attending are asked to bring a plate for the lunch and a small gift to go in a raffle basket. With no charge for attending, the raffle proceeds will be used to cover the event costs.

The event is being organised by Judith Pitcaithly, whose mother Jean White was one of a group of local women who encouraged

girls to play hockey (and cricket) and set up the Kaipara Ladies' Hockey Association in the 1950s.

Hockey had already started at Waitoki in the 1940s, due to the enthusiasm of Florence Stevens. Kaukapakapa also started a team. When the Kaipara Association was set up Helensville had a team, and Silverdale also supplied players.

There was great excitement when

Kaipara entered a team in the Country Week Tournament, which became one of the highlights of the hockey programme over the years. Two members of the Kaipara Association were selected as NZ representative players.

For more information on the reunion contact Judith Pitcaithly, phone 09 426 8987, email gonana@xtra.co.nz or write to 4a Elizabeth Street, Orewa.



• Kaipara Ladies Hockey Association members at their 25th reunion in 1977

Book on town's early history

A new book about the people and places of Helensville has been written by Helensville Historical Society research and archives team member Laurel North.

Called 'Why Helensville?' it covers the founding of the town in the 19th century and the period from the 1860s through to 1900.

It's particularly suited to children, with photographs from the museum collection and Laurel's own illustrations. There are questions at the back so it can be used for school projects. The A4 sized book is only \$6 and can be purchased at the museum or by contacting the museum office.


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Diverse career path leads to professional photography

Veterinarian, author, zoo curator, television presenter, professional photographer, even a "reluctant soldier" – there doesn't seem to be a lot Woodhill's Graham Meadows hasn't fit into his career.

Born in Bristol in the west of England,

Graham decided at age 13 to become a vet. He duly trained at Bristol University's veterinary school, graduated in 1958, then practiced as a vet for nine years in the heart of Shakespeare country in Worcestershire.

He also spent two years as a soldier doing compulsory military service.

In 1967 he moved to New Zealand, working as a vet in the Waikato before spending five years in marketing and management and running his own property development company.

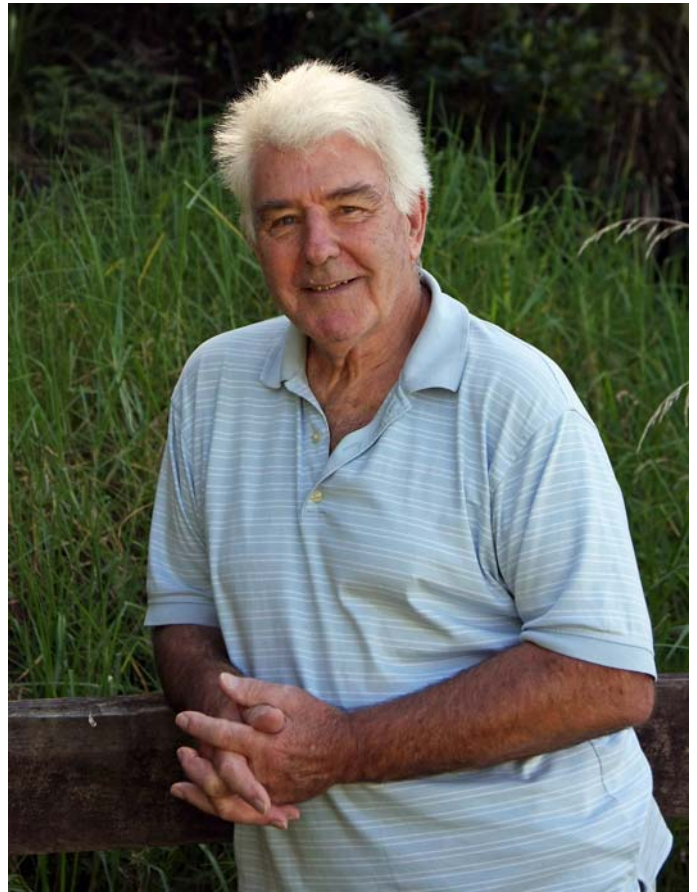
Graham was appointed as curator at Auckland Zoo in 1974. During his five years at the zoo, his work role expanded to take on many of the zoo vet duties, and eventually advertising, marketing and media as well.

When Graham first joined the zoo, none of the keepers were professionally trained or qualified - or female.

He developed a 'Manual of Keeping', established a certified training course for zoo keepers, and only hired new staff with either zoology or vet nursing qualifications; by the time he left, there was only one keeper without formal tertiary education - and he had made front page news by employing two women keepers.

Graham instituted a new, recorded diet system for the animals, and began the zoo's programme of breeding endangered species by importing a pair of rare cotton-top tamarins. He recalls spending 36 hours flying in the hold of an old propeller plane to bring an oryx here from London.

In his first 18 months at the zoo, Graham



• Graham Meadows

reduced the animal collection by around half, and began the process of introducing more natural-style environments to replace the old-style cages.

While working at the zoo Graham devised and presented 48 television programmes on domestic animals aimed primarily at pre-school children, a series called 'Two by Two', for South Pacific Television (now TVNZ).

He later co-presented a series on TV2 about pets and domestic animals, hosted a talk-back radio show and for 10 years wrote a regular newspaper column. His dealing with the media for the zoo and background in stage work with the North Shore Amateur Dramatic Society proved invaluable for his television work.

• To page 11



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Planting native forest for the future

Thomas and Mahrukh Stazyk have received a \$10,000 grant from Auckland Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund to buy native trees for their 24-hectare Kaipara Coast property at Araparera, which they plan to one day gift to the Auckland region.

For the past four years, the Point Chevalier couple have been working to revegetate their property with native bush. They bought the land in 2003 with the intention of creating a retreat where people could meet to exchange ideas.

Mahrukh says their vision was to get people together to work towards creating positive change. But with the pair studying for degrees - Mahrukh in psychology and Thomas in English - there wasn't time to create the centre.

Over the years they had noticed the effect cattle were having on the property, and at the same time saw more and more properties being divided for lifestyle blocks.

That was the impetus they needed to decide to restore the former dairy farm, step by step, to a native New Zealand forest.

"We decided to put a stake in the ground and keep at least one property free of development," says Thomas.

They started their project, called CUE

Haven, in 2008.

Thomas says the initial planting work took place in the wetlands.

"That was the priority because cattle runoff had adversely affected the water quality, and the streams on the property flow out to the Kaipara Harbour."

With the help of the Trees For Survival programme and students from St Kentigern Primary they planted 500 trees that first year.

Last year, they planted about 24,000 native trees on the property, including Manuka, Kanuka, Karamu, Mapou and Mahoe.

They have converted an old milking shed into a nursery and are putting in walking tracks.

Schools, corporate groups and local and international volunteers have all become involved at CUE Haven.

The aim is to have the initial planting completed by 2017. By then, nearly

200,000 trees will have been planted and the couple will apply for QEII status to protect the land from future redevelopment.

"Our long-term goal is to gift it to the community to enjoy as a park or reserve," Mahrukh says.

"We are still creating positive change, and by doing it this way we have been able to get more of the community involved. This has given us so much joy."



• Thomas and Mahrukh's CUE Haven property at Araparera

Diverse career path lead to professional photography

• From page 10

After leaving the zoo in 1979, Graham wrote a novel called 'A Seal on the Motorway' - a book about zoo life that's a lightly-disguised take on his own life.

Then in the late 1980s he embarked on a non-fiction writing career, producing educational books for primary school children.

That led to photography, with Graham teaching himself that art to illustrate his own books and those of other authors. To date he has written and illustrated more than 100 of his own books, and provided photos for more than 250 others.

Working with co-author Claire Vial, Graham has written and illustrated another 50-book educational series for 6-8 year olds in the American market called 'The Dominion World of Living Things', plus a series of 12 books for 5-6 year olds.

In 1986 Graham and his Scottish wife Ishbel moved to a 4.4 hectare (11-acre) property bordering Woodhill School.

They have landscaped and planted the property to create interesting photographic backdrops, and have built a photography studio separate from the house. His work now mainly revolves around photographing models for portfolios.

He has now been photographing professionally for 24 years - including working as Auckland Zoo's photographer one day a week, and, with Claire, running photography courses at the zoo for the past three years.

The zoo recently held a trial one-day course for children, which proved very popular. That gave Graham the idea to hold a course for local children during the school holidays - see separate sidebar article.

Photography course planned for holidays

Graham Meadows is planning to hold a photography course in the April school holidays for students aged 11 up.

His aim will be "to get them thinking creatively", and the course will include photography both around Graham's property and a "fun session" in his studio.

The cost will be kept as low as possible. Anyone interested in taking part should phone Graham on 420 8982, and if there is enough interest he will then set a date.



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short story

Here's the winning entry from the Helensville News-sponsored short story writing competition at the Helensville A&P Show. Entries had to include the words 'black cat', 'news' and 'cobweb'. The judges were impressed with the wide range of subjects and writing styles.

The Old Cottage by Jessica Wilson

I hadn't been here in years. The cracked faded paint on the door showed that. I sighed and glanced at the overgrown property. A black cat materialised out of a forest of weeds and loped towards me. It twisted around my ankles making soft mewling noises. I recognised it instantly.

"Hey Tolly," I murmured as I bent and scratched behind his ears. Standing, I pulled the old key from my pocket. It slid into the lock and with persistent wiggling; I heard the tumblers click into place. Twisting the door handle I frowned. The door hadn't budged. I shoved the door hard with my shoulder. The door groaned and gave way.

I stumbled into the musty hall and leaned on the ancient wall paper. Staring in the gloom, I was hit with memories from some 15 years past.

The cobwebs disappeared from the walls and the wall paper was cheerful and bright. I could see my 5-year old self walking into the kitchen. Following my memories, I tentatively pushed open the kitchen swing door. Once inside, I smiled. Great aunt Mary had been baking. The smell of her famous hokey pokey cookies filled the air.

Great aunt Mary herself was humming and waltzing around the kitchen with the younger me balanced on her feet. My younger self was giggling and smiling as her pigtails swung around as they performed a spectacular turn around the table before stopping.

"My dear Rosie," Great aunt Mary said to my younger self softly. "You make me feel years younger." My younger self smiled.

"I bet you're going to live forever Auntie Mary," my younger self piped with the naive innocence of childhood. Great aunt Mary just smiled and we started to dance again.

The memory faded and I was standing in the kitchen, all alone. Sniffing loudly, I raised a hand to wipe away the tears. I sat on one of the old wooden chairs and heard it creak in protest. I had been so innocent. Of course I had thought Great aunt Mary was going to

live forever. If I had known that she terminally ill with cancer, I would have made the effort to come back more. Instead I had received the news of her death in a cold, impersonal email. I rushed back for the funeral and was told that she had left her little country cottage to me, her favourite niece.

I wandered back out of the kitchen and into the hall. Walking into the front room, I looked at all the musty old furniture with old crocheted covers.

I smiled as I remembered sitting down to play board games or listen to the radio with Great aunt Mary and playing with the holes in the covers. Great aunt Mary didn't have a television so I learnt to read and dance wild dances like the Polka and sometimes we would play gambling games with matches or lollies. She always let me win.

I stood and wandered to the bookshelf. Trailing my finger tips along the ancient spines, I quickly found The Secret Garden. I smiled and pulled it from the shelf, ripping the heavy cobwebs and dust along the shelf. Opening the first page, a small brass key and note fell out.

Unfolding the note, I recognised the handwriting straight away.

"My dearest Rosie. I knew you would find this note. If you are reading this, I've passed on. But don't worry. I've left something for you in the big brass trunk in my bedroom. Here's the key. I love you Rosie. Never forget that. Auntie Mary."

I looked at the key and recalled the trunk. It was always locked and I was never allowed to ask what was in. Well, I thought to myself as I manoeuvred down the hall to Great aunt Mary's room, time to find out.



• Jessica Wilson

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Small fire at Helensville supermarket



The Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the Countdown supermarket in Commercial Road at midnight on a Saturday night last month. A small fire had started in some paper products in a storage area at the back of the building. Because the fire was in such a large building it was classed as a 'second alarm' event and extra appliances had to be called in from outside the area.

Brigade station officer Mark Anderson says the burning products were able to be dragged out into the carpark and extinguished there (pictured above) to avoid damage to the supermarket, which reopened as usual the next morning. The firemen used large fans to disperse smoke inside the building.

"The staff did exactly the right thing," says Mark. "When they smelled smoke they called 111 then evacuated the building."

- Photo: Peter Brennan

Plants or cash needed to help college gardens

Kaipara College needs donations of either plants or money to help with the large amount of landscaping needed as a result of the school's recent major building works.

All the school's funds for the \$4.2 million construction went on the buildings, leaving a challenge to raise funds for the gardens.

The intention is to plant the school using native trees and shrubs. A planting plan has been formulated; now all that's needed are the plants or cash to pay for them with.

South Kaipara Landcare has generously kick-started the project by donating 170 trees and shrubs.

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Easter egg hunt

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden's annual Easter Egg Hunt is on this Sunday, April 8.

Curator Sally Lush says the Easter Bunny will be visiting, and there will be chocolate eggs hidden along the sculpture trail for visitors to hunt out.

The hunt is on from 10am to 3pm and is a chance for families to have a fun time ferreting for the eggs amongst the plants and sculptures.

It's also a chance for the children to dress up as the Easter bunny (and the adults too if they want!)

Normal admission charges to the sculpture garden apply: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged five to 13 years, and \$25 for a family pass. Children under five are free.

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden is on SH16, at 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway, 4km north of Kaukapakapa.



• Ella Hood searches for Easter eggs in a rather prickly looking letterbox

Books pouring in for Lions Club fair

The Lions Club's annual book fair is still almost two months away, but already it's shaping up to be huge.

By early March, donations of books were already far in excess of last year, with around 8,500 books received and the prospect of many more arriving before the fair begins.

The book fair will be held at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 26 from 9am to 4pm, and Sunday, May 27 from 10am to 2pm. There will be big price reductions on the Sunday, but as usual the books are expected to be pretty well picked over on the Saturday.

As well as the usual variety of books there will be a selection of videos, CDs, DVDs and even jigsaw puzzles; bundles of magazines on a multitude of interests will also be available.

Books are sorted before the fair to make it easier for customers looking for a particular subject. Fiction is separated from the non-fiction books, which are split into a range of categories including: animals and birds; cooking; crafts and hobbies; children's; gardening; health and wellbeing; humour; military history; sports and pastimes; IT; religion and travel - with others added if needed.

Most of the hardbacks will sell for \$2, while paperbacks will be either \$1 or 50c. All children's books will be 50c. Videos and CDs will be \$1, and magazine bundles 50c.

All funds raised will go to the Lions Club of Helensville's Charitable Trust Account to support local charities, organisations and individuals.

Anyone with books to donate should phone either Yvonne Hilton on 420 8122 or Chris Clark on 420 8527.



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Dry rubs and marinades for 'lesser' steak cuts

We tend to think of steak as being only the best cuts of beef, namely the eye fillet, the scotch fillet and the sirloin. While these are the recognised 'prime' cuts that offer tenderness and the ability to be cooked quickly on a hot surface, there are plenty of 'secondary' cuts that are fabulous to cook with and pack a load more flavour than the best cuts. These cuts are tougher and require a bit more preparation and handling. They can also be improved with the use of a wet marinade or by dry rubbing with spices, salts and herbs.

Some alternatives cuts to seek out from the butcher:

Tri Tip is a new cut to this country; it's an American cut taken from between the bottom sirloin and the flank. This piece of meat is pyramid shaped, is very lean and weighs between 500g and 1200g. As it is the intersection of several muscles it is firm but packed with flavour. Marinade first or season well and grill on the barbeque over hot coals then rest for at least 20 minutes before cutting into slices to serve.

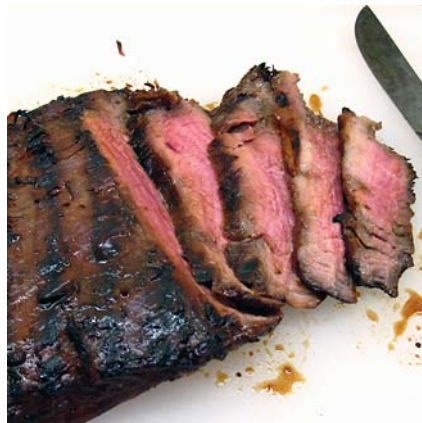
Rump is considered a secondary cut these days, yet is probably one of the most functional. Cutting long thick slices from the point end of the rump will give you fantastic steaks marbled with flavoursome fat. Once grilled and rested, rump will be as tender as sirloin. The thick end of the rump cuts into steaks too, but left whole it makes a great roasting piece or can be diced for pie filling or casserole.

Another cut is the **flank**. In France this cut, known as Bavette, is a favourite with bistro and brasserie style restaurants. It's usually cut in slices across the grain and served rare with shallots. It is a broad slab of meat which is thicker at one end, weighing about 2-3kg. This shape means that when cooked whole, one end will be rarer than the other allowing you to cater to a range of tastes as far as well-done-ness is concerned. As with the Tri Tip this cut can benefit from a tenderising marinade, should be grilled quickly and given at least 20 minutes to rest before carving.

Marinades are most effective when acidic, so the addition of wine, lemon or lime juice and vinegars will all help with tenderising. Some fruits such as kiwi fruit will quickly tenderise meat (remarkably effective on squid). If you intend to grill or barbeque the meat, stay away from sugar and honey as these burn and taste bitter long before the meat is ready. If you are happy to simply go for impact flavour then use a dry rub. This recipe can be made in bulk and stored in a jar for up to a month. Simply put everything in a bowl together and mix.

■ Dry Rub

- 1/4 cup flaky sea salt
- 1 tablespoon black pepper, ground
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons oregano leaves, dried
- 2 teaspoons granulated or powdered garlic
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin



Trim the meat and pat dry with a paper towel. Massage the rub mix into the meat, shake off the excess, wrap in plastic and store in the fridge for two hours at least. Overnight is best. When cooking outdoors make sure there is no flame as the spices will burn, close the lid and let the meat gently grill.



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■ KKK COMMUNITY AWARD

Do you know someone you would like to see recognised for the work they have done for the community in Kaukapakapa?

The Kaukapakapa Residents and Ratepayers Association wants nominations for its Community Award, which will be presented at the association's annual

Comedy Festival comes to Parakai

Several international comedy acts will perform in Parakai as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival next month.

Marcel Lucont from France, Australian Lindsay Webb, and Reuben Lee from England will be joining some of the biggest names in New Zealand comedy including Nick Rado, James Nokise, Anthony Wilson, Dan Brader, Vaughan King and Simon McKinney plus special guests each night at the Parakai Springs private venue on May 5, 12 and 19.

The Saturday events start at 7pm and tickets are \$15 with a group discount of \$12 per person for bookings of six or more. Phone the pools on 0800 468 766.

Parakai Springs has held monthly 'Comedy on the Rocks' standup comedy evenings at the private venue since early last year.

meeting on April 26 at the Kaukapakapa hall. Nominations should be sent to association chairman, Ralph Martin at P.O. Box 8, Kaukapakapa as soon as possible.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Market is on Sunday, April 15 from 8.30am to 1pm. Phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or Kim on 420 5776, or email Sarah at sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

Helensville's Arthritis Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 19, 10.30am in the meeting room at the Helensville War Memorial Hall to hear guest speaker Shirley Elston of Diabetes NZ, who will talk about diabetes and ways to avoid developing it. Everybody welcome; a gold coin is always appreciated. Phone Merle Griffiths on 420 8774 or Ina Stoner on 420 7875 for more information.

■ NEW FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Joan Knight of Parakai is starting up a new local friendship group called the Parakai/Helensville Circle of Friends.

The aim is for people who are alone or lonely to meet together in a friendly group to have fun, play bingo and cards, do arts and crafts and share morning tea and lunch.

The group will meet at Black Pete's restaurant at Parakai each Wednesday from 10am to 1pm. It will cost \$4 per person, which

will cover the cost of lunch and a raffle.

For more information phone Joan on 420 9202 or 021 0295 1753.

■ FUN RUN

Co-ordinator for the recent family fun run from Parakai to the Riverside Reserve, Mihi Shaw, wants to thank the local businesses who sponsored and supported the event - Parakai Springs for the spot prize and Black Pete's for the best dressed team. Special acknowledgement goes to the Lions Club.

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