

Mural represents what Kaipara means to students

Staff, students and whānau of Tau Te Arohanoa Akoranga have unveiled a three-panel mural outside their school site at the Helensville District Rugby Club building in Awaroa Road.

The mural is a representation of the Kaipara and what it means to the school's students, says head teacher Jan Porter.

"It is also a symbol of giving and Tau Te Arohanoa Akoranga hopes the community of Helensville will enjoy the mural."

The mural project was started in 2011 to encourage students to identify themselves with their local area, the Kaipara, and their community, says Jan.

The Men and Family Centre donated money so the school could purchase the boards, paints and brushes needed for the murals. Andrew Connolly from the Men and Family Centre was present at the unveiling on Thursday, March 29, along with local kaumatua and kui, Eriapa and Merereina Uruamo.

The school's students travelled around the Kaipara, observing and discussing the features of the area as well as looking into some of the historical and contemporary activities in the area. Then local resident Jim Palmer helped develop the student's ideas and how to put them into the mural. He also helped with the painting process.

Jim, who left Helensville at the end of last year, became involved with the project so he could give something back to the community



• Tau Te Arohanoa Akoranga students, whānau and friends at the unveiling of the mural

which had come to his family's aid some years ago when his house had burned down, destroying most of their property. Locals found them new accommodation, and gave clothing and furniture to replace their loss.

Tau Te Arohanoa Akoranga is a private, composite (years 1-12) decile 7 school with a roll of 30. It provides biblical, bi-lingual and bi-cultural education as a satellite school of KingsWay Christian School in Orewa.

Goods donated for Fiji flood victims

Parakai man Nazmin Buksh held a very successful collection over Easter weekend for clothing and non-perishable goods to help victims of the recent flooding in Fiji.

Nazmin was born, raised and educated in Fiji and his parents and relatives are still there. His parents weren't affected by the floods as they live on high ground, but his brother lost most of the stock in his spare parts shop in the town of Ba, and was stuck on the top floor of his two-storey building for three days waiting for the flood waters to recede.

Nazmin approached Parakai School and River Valley Kindergarten, both across the road from his Fordyce Road business, OT Sheetmetals, for help from their families.

"The response I got was awesome," he says. "I couldn't believe how many things I got from the schools. I didn't get any rubbish items - there were new sealed clothes and near new stuff. There was also some tinned food which was highly appreciated."

He has taken the goods he collected to containers set up in Stoddard Road, Mount Roskill. He is no longer doing the collections himself, but anyone else interested in donating non-perishable items can drop them at a container set up at Mitre 10 in Lincoln Rd, Henderson.

Nazmin says the floods have "left thousands homeless. If people have money there is no food in the supermarkets as most of the supermarkets were under water. The pharmacies were flooded so medications are another thing not available."

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editorial

I've received some nice comments about the last issue of *Helensville News*. It seems our readers love hearing about the interesting folk who make up our community.

So, you're in luck - we have another crop for you this month, starting on page 4 with a piece on former Helensville resident Ross Hughes, who has built an enormous scale model in his basement of the Helensville railway station as it was in 1940 - and it will end up here in Helensville eventually.

That's followed with an article on page 6 about new Waitoki School principal Brenda Williams, who is settling into the school after taking over from her predecessor Ian Skipper, who held the reins there for an amazing 23 years.

Lastly, we bring you an article about Kerrin and Genevieve Revell, who have started a photography business in the district, but who have a story to tell of an adventure few of us could imagine - a one-year horseback ride right around New Zealand. You can read about that on page 8.

It's not just people who make up a community. Sometimes those people get together to form organisations that benefit everyone in the area. Those organisations are often the life-blood of a community, helping imbue towns with their special character.

Helensville is fortunate to have a number of such organisations. There's the Lions Club of course, not unique to our town but vital to it just the same. The club has its annual book sale on later this month; the details are in Town Talk on the back page.

Probably the other two biggest organisations are the Helensville A&P Association, which runs our annual A&P Show - the town's biggest single day event - and the Helensville & District Historical Society, which runs the Pioneer Museum at the Riverside Reserve.

Both help give Helensville its unique flavour - and both are in need of more locals to step forward and give a hand (see page 7). Our museum is a wonderful asset, but it's only open limited hours. With more volunteers - a fun and not onerous job - the museum could open every day. That would be a boon for visitors to our town as well as locals. And the A&P Association is always on the lookout for new blood for the committee which spends the year organising each show.

So come on folks - put your hands up!

- Dave Addison, Editor

medical centre notes

Kaipara Medical Centre is looking to improve communication access to the practice with a new phone system being trialled. This will allow patients to speak directly to a nurse, rather than go through reception. We are also looking to expand patient email access to our team later this year.

We welcome patient feedback while we trial these systems and try to improve them.

For the last seven months we have been running an acute clinic on weekday mornings. This was in response to demand from acutely unwell people in the community to have easier access to care at short notice.

It runs from 8.30am to 1.30pm, still with appointments but patients are seen and assessed initially by a nurse and then the

duty doctor for that day.

This means the other doctors are freed up to have more appointments for their regular patients, hopefully allowing easier and more regular access to the GP of the patient's choice.

A reminder again that the flu vaccines are here, free to over 65s or those with certain medical conditions. Please make an appointment with our team of nurses. It takes up to two weeks to develop full immunity, so the sooner you are immunised the better.

Finally, Kaipara Medical Centre is open for new patient enrolments, so if you are new to the area or have not seen a doctor for more than three years, come in and talk to our receptionists.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director

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Back to the future...

It might not take you into the past - or back to the future - but Graham Everson's 1981 DeLorean will take many people down memory lane.

The DeLorean sports car gained cult status in the 1985 film 'Back to the Future', starring Michael J. Fox, in which a mad scientist fitted one of the cars with a 'flux capacitor' to turn it into a time machine.

But as Graham points out, there is a flaw in the film. In the movie, the car must reach 88mph to travel through time - but the real DeLorean's speedo only goes to 85mph.

By the time you read this Graham, an earthmoving contractor who lives in Inland Road, may have parted with his prize car, which was up for sale on TradeMe for \$34,000 - roughly equivalent to the US\$25,000 the car cost new 32 years ago.

Graham imported his DeLorean, which



• Graham Everson and his cult classic DeLorean DMC-12

is unique among cars with its brushed stainless steel bodywork, from Florida seven years ago.

He bought it unseen, and when it arrived it was in worse condition than described after sitting outside for 10 years. He removed the body and did a lot of work on the car.

Since then he has only driven about 400 miles in it - mostly up and down his road, and to a couple of shows.

The DeLorean was the namesake brainchild of American John DeLorean, aimed at taking on performance cars like the Porsche and Corvette - although with a rear-mounted 2.8 litre V6 engine it could never compete performance-wise.

Built in Ireland, it was originally planned to make 30,000 of the cars a year. However, the DeLorean Motor Company (DMC) went bankrupt in 1982 only having built around 9000 vehicles.

There is good news for anyone thinking of buying one of the cult cars, however. DeLorean produced enough spare parts for 30,000 vehicles, and they are all now available through a company in Texas.

Graham believes there are only a handful of other DeLoreans in New Zealand.

He is in no panic to sell his. He also owns a 1993 Chev Caprice US police car, and a Pontiac Firebird Trans Am painted in the same livery as the car driven by Burt Reynolds in the 1977 film 'Smokey and the Bandit'.

Rodney power station on hold

Don't expect progress anytime soon on Genesis Energy's proposed Rodney gas-fired power station.

Resource consents for the station were granted by former Rodney District Council in March 2009, and a variation to the District Plan created a special 'thermal energy generation rural zone' for the 48ha site on Highway 16 half way between Helensville and Kaukapakapa.

However, Genesis has no plans to proceed with the project at this stage.

"The Rodney Power station is one of a number of strategic generation options that Genesis Energy has sought consent for," says Genesis Energy public affairs manager, Richard Gordon.

"The project will be moved forward if and when the market conditions are right for this type of development."

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35-year labour of love creates railway model depicting Helensville station in 1940

It's taken 35 years for Ross Hughes to build his model of Helensville railway station as it was in the 1940s – and it's still not finished.

"It's a never-ending job," says Ross, who was born in Helensville in 1931 while his father was a train driver based here.

The 1/64th scale model is amazingly detailed, featuring all the buildings in that part of Helensville at that time, such as West's sawmill, the Grand Hotel, and the full-sized Helensville railway station – rather than the shortened version we now have.

Buildings have been modelled from a mixture of original plans and photographs and on-site inspections; Ross paced out the dimensions of the Grand Hotel to make sure he got it right. There is even a still-to-be-finished model of the Wairua – one of the ferries which used to ply the Kaipara Harbour to Dargaville – tied up at a now long-gone wharf.

Ross's father was originally an acting fireman in Wellington – not the sort who puts

out fires, but rather the person who shovelled coal into the steam engines' furnaces. Some days he would shovel as much as two tons of coal.

He then did a stint as a relieving fireman, doing a grand total of 29 shifts over two years, before moving to Helensville where he was based for 29 years up to his retirement. Ross's mother worked in the tearooms at the Helensville railway station, and that's where the pair met.

They lived first in Awaroa Road before moving around 1934 to a railway cottage opposite the Grand in Railway Street, on the site now occupied by the G.A.S. service station.

Needless to say, Ross's family home has been faithfully reproduced in the model.

Ross was educated at Helensville Primary and the Helensville District High School (now Kaipara College), but he left Helensville in 1948 because of a lack of

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• Ross Hughes with his model of the Helensville rail station

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Winter lecture series starts

The first of the Historical Society's winter lectures, on Sunday May 20, will feature images of Kaipara Cruising Club regattas and outings lifted from film taken in the 1940s and 1950s by Mr AH Brackebush.

The lecture will be presented by former Helensville resident Alan Scott, who has spent about two years working on Mr Brackebush's historical films, converting them to digital format and lifting out selected images which can then be presented as slides for closer study.

He has found the names and owners for Knitting demos at KKK market

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, May 20 from 9am to 1pm. There will be stalls, live music, the Lions sausage sizzle and free craft workshops in the hall at 9.30am and 10.30am. This month will be demonstrations of knitting basics, plus a display of items knitted from other mediums. Needles will be available for anyone wanting to have a go, plus there will be a 'how-to clinic' for anyone stuck with their knitting.

35 years of railway model (cont)

• From page 4

available jobs. He took up an apprenticeship with an electrical firm in Auckland, where he worked for 29 years before becoming a power board inspector.

He has lived most of the time since at his home in Birkenhead.

While his modelling skills are mostly self-taught, Ross says he has had a huge amount of help from other members of the North Shore Model Railway Club.

As well as the detailed scenery and buildings, Ross makes his own engines and rolling stock, some from kits and some largely from scratch. He was lucky to acquire some moulds which enable him to cast (in builder's 'bog') the panels for his railway carriages.

His workshop is crammed with carriages and engines in various stages of construction, some almost finished-looking and others still just raw, soldered brass bodies.

Despite his age he has kept a steady

about 30 boats involved in Cruising Club events at that time, and hopes families and friends of many of those will be at the lecture.

The photos will be of interest to a wider audience than just Cruising Club followers, as they show a lot of background imagery of post-war Helensville.

The lecture will be held in the Father Sakey Centre at St Joseph's Church, corner of Puriri St and Commercial Rd, starting at 2pm. The entry fee includes afternoon tea.

About 80 people attended Alan's lecture last year on the Victory Parade at the end of World War 2. Many of the audience were able to recognise themselves, or friends or family, in the photos, and Alan has since spent many hours taking the images around the area to identify more people.

The June lecture will be given by Christine Roberts and Lesley Holt on 'Among the collectables in the Helensville Museum', and the July afternoon will again be a photographic presentation - this time by Colin Lunt on 'Kaukapakapa Past and Present'.

hand, enabling Ross to continue working in fine detail. At the West's Sawmill, stacks of timber are all to scale. There are miniature flax plants that look just like the real thing.

Ross put a curved, vaulted ceiling in the basement room in his house where the model resides, painted to look like sky. The model originally just covered the Helensville rail station area, but over the years it has grown and grown.

Now, the layout wraps right around the room and features both Waimauku and Tahekaroa as well. It has blocked off the door to the basement, so Ross and visitors have to crawl through a gap only about 1m high to get into the model room.

One day, locals will get a chance to see the main Helensville part of the layout, as Ross has promised to donate it to the Helensville Railway Station Trust to go in the new museum they are currently building at the station. But with almost half his life invested in the model, that won't happen "until I'm ready to give it up or I'm dead," he says.

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New Waitoki principal glad to be back in hands-on education role

One of new Waitoki School principal Brenda Williams' aims it to get the school back on a three-year Education Review Office (ERO) review cycle.

It's a theme close to her heart – until she took over the reins at the decile 8 school on February 1 from long-standing principal Ian Skipper, Brenda had spent the previous two years as an ERO review officer in Auckland.

But that doesn't mean she can expect any special treatment when the school, currently on a two-year review cycle, comes up for review later this year – she's quick to point out that reviewers who don't know her will be brought in from outside the Auckland area to look over the school.

Brenda says working for ERO was a great experience.

"It's quite a privilege to work for ERO, but I missed being in a school, seeing children through in their learning.

"I did miss teaching, so I have absolutely loved coming to Waitoki."

Prior to working for the review office, Brenda spent six years as principal at Massey Primary. Before that she worked with education service provider Multiserve after a number of years as a teacher and then principal at Green Bay Primary – which like Waitoki is a 'full' primary school (which includes years 7 and 8). Her first teaching role was at Glenavon Primary in Avondale.

She is well qualified, with a master's degree in education and a post-graduate degree in administration and leadership. She's also keen to get a business degree, but says that will have to wait for now.

Brenda is enjoying the commute from her home at Titirangi and has no plans to move up this way, as husband Simeon works at Auckland Airport, making their home centrally placed for both of them.

The couple have two sons, 21-year-old Hampton who is doing computer studies at Unitec, and Haywood (23) who is a builder.

Brenda says she could not have been made more welcome at Waitoki, where she has had to step into the role held for 23 years by Ian Skipper.

"It's amazing how welcoming the community, staff and children have been," she says.



• Brenda Williams

"Me coming here will obviously bring changes, but everyone has been very open. I think they have looked at having a new person as an opportunity for growth, how we can make it work for the school."

She has met with both the local community and the principals of the other

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Helpers sought by local organisations

Two of Helensville's biggest community organisations - the Helensville Museum and the A&P Association - need helpers.

The Helensville Museum grows and improves by the year - but the volunteers who run it are getting older and it is becoming a struggle to keep the museum open three days a week.

Ideally the Helensville & District Historical Society which runs the museum would like it open to the public on a daily basis - but that would mean more volunteers.

Memorial tree planting on Mothers Day

CUE Haven is holding a special Mother's Day tree planting for Hospice West Auckland on Sunday, May 13 at 2.30pm.

Being held to celebrate lost loved ones, the hospice will plant 10 memorial kahikatea trees to remember lost mothers. The kahikatea is New Zealand's tallest native tree, growing to 80m and living for several hundred years.

As reported in last month's *Helensville News*, CUE Haven is the project of Thomas and Mahrukh Stazyk who are replanting a disused Kaukapakapa dairy farm in native forest to save it from property development.

Locals are invited to join in the planting. There will be activities for children, and tea and coffee afterwards.

Those wanting to plant their own memorial tree should phone Mahrukh on 09 849 5200 for details.

For more information about the Mother's Day Tree Planting, including address details, phone Hospice West Auckland social care manager Trish Fleming on (09) 834 9754.

Now the call is out for locals to become museum attendants. The task isn't onerous, with only two and a half hours' time required each month.

"It is very enjoyable, and a good way to learn about the history of the area you live in, and to meet visitors and other volunteers," says Judy Lloyd.

Anyone able to help should phone the museum on 420 7881, or Judy on 420 5276.

The museum comprises a renovated Edwardian cottage equipped with all the trappings of that era, along with the old Helensville Courthouse, which is listed with the Historic Places Trust. The school master's house has a large collection of old photographs of the area, as well as histories of many of Helensville's prominent families. There is also a barn housing machinery and tools. The Waitoki School 'Sunshine block' and a modcom for storage are also on site but not yet in use.

Like the museum, the Helensville A&P Association is run by a small band of dedicated volunteers, and while plenty of locals step forward to help on show day, the association is finding it difficult to attract new committee members.

The association's executive committee is a small group that meets once a month. Members have a broad range of skills, and there is no requirement for members to have a farming or rural background.

Association president Chris Clark says anyone interested in joining should contact show manager Marion Stutz at the showgrounds office or phone 420 7572 for a nomination form, preferably by the end of May. The election for committee members will be held at the association's AGM in July.

New Waitoki principal (cont)

• From page 6

schools in the area, and says it's great to know she can call on their support or advice if needed.

Asked about her plans for the school, she says it's about "establishing Waitoki as a great place to learn, and to continue what Waitoki has always been.

"The staff and community want us to hold on to the unique Waitoki feel. It's still rural, and the children are very open, articulate, caring and friendly.

"It's a great school, it just needs to sharpen up in some areas. We think we're pretty darn fabulous! But there are always things to work on; we need to be continuously improving."

Waitoki's roll has dropped to 71 from around 90 last year, so one task will be to try to grow that again, which Brenda sees as an "interesting challenge". However, she points out that the lower roll means class sizes are smaller which enables a more one to one teaching style.

Brenda's role as principal incorporates a release teaching component, where she takes over in the class so teachers can pursue things such as professional development.

She also says she is lucky to have stepped into a school which has been largely rebuilt over the past couple of years; when *Helensville News* called on her there was a team of periodic detention workers painting the older rooms to match the new main block which opened last year.

She says that's an example of the wonderful Waitoki community, as all the preparation work was done by parents.




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New photography business follows

They "needed a job that made us excited to get out of bed in the morning", so Kerrin and Genevieve Revell have set up their new Pegasus Photography business from their

Rimmer Road property.

"We both love photography," says Genevieve, "it's what we're passionate about."

The couple both have diplomas in film and television, and say that television background makes them look at still

photography from a different point of view – for them, it's all about telling a story through the images they take.

They have had an interesting relationship right from the onset. They met when Genevieve joined TV3, where Kerrin

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• Kerrin and Genevieve at their Rimmer Rd property

Sunny Days
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horse trek around New Zealand

• From page 8

already worked. On their very first date, Genevieve told Kerrin of her desire to ride right around New Zealand on a horse.

In an effort to impress his new date, Kerrin boldly said he would do the trip with her – despite never having been on a horse in his life.

That was in 2005, and after much planning and help from Kerrin's parents, Fred and Janice Revell, Kerrin and Genevieve set off from Cape Reinga on May 3, 2007 on a 5000+ km horseback circumnavigation of the country which raised more than \$33,000 for cancer charity CanTeen.

The pair had been married in a lakeside ceremony in December 2006, and the ride was to be their honeymoon - although with a camera crew tagging along it was anything but

traditional.

Their sponsors had stipulated the ride must be completed within 12 months. With a carefully planned route and building in plenty of rest days, they reckoned that wouldn't be too difficult; in the end, they arrived back at Cape Reinga on May 3, 2008 – one year to the day after they set out.

The journey, which followed the coast wherever possible, is an incredible tale, and can be read about in their book 'Down, Across & Up' or watched on the DVD of the same name. The film has been shown on Air New Zealand long-haul flights, and also on Country TV.

"We did it because we're crazy," laughs Genevieve.

Three years ago they moved onto a 6.8ha (17 acre) property in Rimmer Road, where Genevieve, who has ridden since she

was 11, keeps five horses. The equestrian theme carried through to their new photography venture, named after the mythological winged horse, Pegasus.

Initially, only Kerrin is working full time in the business, with Genevieve employed as a graphic designer with TVNZ while the photography business grows.

Rather than specialising in a specific field, Pegasus Photography covers everything from weddings and music bands through to family portraits and commercial photography.

"Every aspect of photography excites us," says Kerrin. "It's the little moments that make each job unique that we try to capture."

Servicing the whole of Auckland as well as Coromandel they have set up an airy, modern studio, but are equally happy to do location shoots – and are keen to promote the Helensville area as a beautiful place to be photographed in.

They also see the increase in the popularity of photography with the advent of digital cameras and camera phones as a bonus.

"Because photography is more accessible, professionals have to up the ante and be exceptionally good to stand out," says Genevieve. "People do realise there's a dramatic difference between professional and amateur photography."

Computer store owner leaves for lifestyle change

Long-running Commercial Rd business Computer Solutions has closed its doors, and owner Richard Partridge has moved to Mangawhai.

Richard and wife Letitia moved to Helensville in 1998. The following year, after seven years of running his computer service business from home, Richard decided to move into retail and opened up at 56 Commercial Rd under the Ecom 2000 brand.

He later shifted to premises below Mike Ross Appliances, and then when Mike Ross closed down he took over their large building at 48 Commercial Rd.

The doors closed for the last time on April 24, and last weekend all of Richard's equipment was trucked to his new shop just minutes from the beach at Mangawhai Heads, where he will trade under the Computers Plus banner.

"I'm very sad to leave Helensville in many ways, but also very excited and looking forward to Mangawhai," says Richard.

"We're moving for a lifestyle change, and also a better business climate. It's got harder and harder for businesses in Helensville.

"I'd like to thank all my customers over the last 13 years. I appreciate their loyalty and wish them all the best."

Letitia, who works for Ray White Vista Realty in Kumeu, and daughter Natasha (8) will stay in Helensville until their family home here is sold.

Richard is initially staying with Letitia's parents at Mangawhai, but once the house here sells they will rent while they look to buy a lifestyle block "big enough for a couple of horses".

Richard is keen to stress he isn't abandoning Helensville entirely, and will still be able to remotely service many of his clients, particularly those who use the eScan software he supplies.



• Richard Partridge just days before his departure

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Albertlanders celebrate 150th anniversary

Good organisation, a wide range of events at a variety of venues and good weather all contributed to the success of the 150th celebration of the Albertland settlement, held in the Wellsford area over Easter weekend.

An estimated 700 people attended the opening ceremony – the largest event on the programme – at the Port Albert Domain on the Friday morning. Registered attendees wore name tags coloured coded according to the ships their families arrived on, with blue (the 'Matilda Wattenbach') and red (the 'Hanover') seeming most prevalent.

The event included re-enactments of the settlers' arrival, readings, musical items and speeches from local dignitaries and

representatives of pioneering families.

Bus and boat trips to view different parts of the Albertland settlement, which stretched from Mangawhai on the east coast to Port Albert and Tapora in the west and north to Paparoa, Maungatoroto and Matakoho, were spread over the three days.

Refreshments and photographic displays were set up in the Port Albert Hall, which was also the venue for a memorial tree planting, a well-attended church service and slide presentation on the Sunday.

Lunch and dinner on the Saturday, along with the re-enactments of the settlers' arrival and greeting by local Maori, were held at the recently opened Te Hana marae, while the Wellsford Community Centre showed a locally produced DVD on the story of the settlement.

The upgraded Albertland Museum was open all weekend and attracted many visitors.

There was also a regatta and community fair at the Port Albert Domain on the Sunday.

One of the most interesting facts about the Albertland settlement of the 1860s is that of the approximately 3000 people who arrived in Auckland to settle the proposed city at Port Albert, only a small proportion actually stayed in the area, such were the difficulties of access, establishing their farm holdings, and also the non-suitability of the settlers (shopkeepers, tradespeople, teachers, ministers) for the untamed rural and forested conditions they faced.

However the families of many of the settlers who did stay are still living and active in the district – names such as Levet, Shepherd, Becroft, Marsh, Smith.

The early settlers owed much to the Māori of the area, who welcomed them, supported them by helping with food and shelter needs, and taught them much about survival in what were quite alien situations to settlers from the English Midlands.

This spirit of co-operation and friendship was evidenced in the 150th celebrations.

- Wynne HaySmith

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Hospital and dementia wing open



• The new wing nearing completion

The new hospital and dementia wing at Craigweil House in Parakai should be open within about a week.

As *Helensville News* went to press, workers were putting the finishing touches on deck railings, fences and gardens. The interior was all fitted out and carpeted, and five new beds were already available in the rest home, which was altered as part of the new construction.

Operations manager Richard Parker says they are just waiting for the Ministry of Health to sign off on the facility's certification audit, which was held on April 5. They are also waiting on a permit from Auckland Council for removal of dangerous phoenix palms on the property.

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Birthing Centre changes

Our Birthing Centre Manager **Charm Torrance** has retired from this role on 1 April 2012. I would like to recognise the tremendous contribution Charm has made to the establishment and growth of this important community facility that is now widely acclaimed as the best in NZ. Charm has been involved from the start – 22 years ago, and for more than half of that time she has been its Manager. Her inspirational leadership combined with a firm and friendly management style has ensured best practise and top facilities are available to our mothers and our rural community. Charm, a huge thank you from us all. The good news is that Charm will not be leaving us as she continues to manage the Health Trust. Phew!

Michelle Nasey has taken over as our new Manager. She has many years of midwifery experience, up to date qualifications and has in recent years been the Clinical Manager for the Birthing Centre. This broadens her role to both Clinical and general management responsibilities. Congratulations Michelle.



Matt Hampton, President of the Lions Club, presents Charm with a \$5000 fundraising cheque.

Lion's Club fundraising

The successful fundraising by the Helensville Lions Club from its well supported annual event of the Running of the Roses resulted in the handover of a \$5000 cheque for the St John Ambulance ramp. Thank you Matt and your wonderful team who have worked hard for us on this. The new ambulance ramp is operating but awaits the installation of our Jeff Thomson screens which are now well underway.

Defibrillator donated

Doctors Adrian and Maryanne Gane have very generously donated a sophisticated piece of equipment to the Health Trust. The defibrillator is one of the most up to date models available. It is being made available to the Kaipara Medical Centre to house and use. This will provide access to an excellent life support service to our community that otherwise is only available via our emergency services. On behalf of the Helensville community we would like to thank them both for this wonderful donation.

Healthy Helensville

Finally, can I refer you to our website www.helensvillehealth.co.nz for an update on the way forward for our organic and sustainable gardening venture with Peacemakers Trust. There are so many good things happening locally that it is hard to report on it all. Please call Angie our Secretary on 420 7878 if you would like to be added to our database to receive these special updates.

Helensville Women & Family Centre – Children's day out

The Helensville Women & Family Centre hosted their 5th Children's Day Out event on Sunday 4th March 2012. This year we had a great turnout of parents and their children, including extended family members all participating in many forms of interactive play throughout the three hour event. The free play-dough, rock painting, cookie decorating, nail art, arts and crafts, Mainly Music, Zumba and two bouncy castles brought lots of smiles and fun to the children's and adults' faces.

Pauline Mee from the Helensville Art Centre coordinated an art activity using handprints in bright colours which outlined the shape of a butterfly. The art piece is proudly hanging in one of our counselling rooms at the Centre. Our free raffle was also a big hit with a pool of 40 prizes, as well as countless lollipops! For the first time the HWFC had Polaroid cameras which proved popular as children and their families were able to take a photo away with them at no cost. The idea behind this was that they would have a little keepsake to treasure from a fun filled day.

The team at the HWFC extend a



Mihi Te Aroha Kapea of Helensville after painting a butterfly. She won the prize for the dressed girl.

big thank you of appreciation to local businesses, community organisations, preschools, schools and families who supported the event this year, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

The Helensville Woman and Family Centre Trust have a vacancy on their Trust Board. If you are interested in being involved in your community and would like to volunteer to be part of this long established Trust then please send a letter expressing your interest to Angie at awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz. We look forward to hearing from you.

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HELENSVILLE NEWS

* MAY BEST BUYS *

New adult training options

A new adult education training provider has started up locally.

ABC Vocational Training is currently a voluntary organisation, and has been set up to help bridge the unemployment gap by training locals who are pursuing employment opportunities, formal tertiary training or just up-skilling themselves, says training manager Awhina Cooper.

Courses include:

- Literacy and numeracy support, including understanding loan contract terms and most learning needs.
- Pre-trade training in carpentry, consisting of profiling, framing and small community projects
- Raranga - contemporary and traditional weaving course using local fibre. Includes conservation of native plants and helping local iwi with planting projects. An exhibition will be held in Helensville in either September or October which will include the work of other fibre artists.
- Korero mai Kuki Airani - conversational Cook Islands Maori, imene and kaikai.
- Te Reo Māori.

Spaces are available in all courses, which are free except for any necessary tools, dyes and safety gear which may be required; a gold coin donation is asked for the Te Reo Māori and Cook Islands Maori courses. They are suitable for ages 16 to 75.

At present all courses are delivered by volunteer tutors who are qualified and experienced in their field of expertise.

Most courses are held at the Woodhill

Administration Block in Restall Rd, Woodhill. The literacy and numeracy course is held at 23 Commercial Road in Helensville (by appointment only, Monday to Thursday), while the Cook Islands conversational Maori is held at the Tau Te Arohanoa Akoranga school at the Helensville Rugby Club rooms in Awaroa Rd.

Eight locals enrolled in the pre-trade carpentry course but Awhina says attendance has been poor, although the ones that do turn up are progressing well.

Four people have enrolled in the Te Reo Māori class with room for six more, while the literacy and numeracy support class caters for between five to 10 people weekly. There are six attending the Cook Islands conversational Maori class, with space for up to 10 people.

For more information phone Awhina Creswell on 021 0818 2822.

Kaukapakapa drop-in day

A community drop in day to be held on Sunday, May 20 from 9am until 1pm at the Kaukapakapa Library so people can view draft concept plans for a variety of local enhancement projects. The concepts reflect information gleaned through consultation for the Kaukapakapa Design and Development Guideline.

Local board meeting

The Rodney Local Board's next meeting is on Monday, May 14, 1pm in the Council chamber at the Orewa Service Centre, 50 Centreway Rd, Orewa.

letters

Helensville has not let me down. I would like to express my appreciation to the people of Helensville and district for the tremendous help in my absence, in helping my wife Joyce in the huge upheaval of moving from Helensville to Rawene in the Hokianga. This has entailed a lot of organisation and kindness from a lot of people to make this move possible.

My family, daughter Adrienne and partner Kerry have been invaluable not only in moving but what they have done establishing the purchase of a lovely home overlooking the Hokianga Harbour. Thanks must go to the Helensville Lions Club and the Helensville RSA for all their assistance and interest in our wellbeing.

I will remain a longstay resident in the Hokianga Hospital but will frequent our home often. I cannot emphasise enough, anyone coming north please call in and visit. We would love to see you all, and a big thankyou for all the phone calls already.

- John Old, 31 Pernell St, Rawene. 09 405 7597

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Mayor appeals to govt to prevent 10 percent-plus Rodney rate rises

More than 5500 former Rodney District residential ratepayers face rates increases of more than 10 percent unless Auckland Mayor Len Brown can convince the government to change legislation.

Free text message alerts for CD emergencies

Civil Defence and Auckland Council have set up a free text messaging service for Rodney residents so they can be notified of civil defence emergencies by texts to their mobile phones.

Mobile phone users wanting to receive the service must register their mobile number by texting: OPTNRDCD to 2678.

A text confirming registration was successful will be sent; if that is not received phone Auckland Council on 09 301 0101.

The service is based on an existing texting product provided by Auckland communications provider OPTN Ltd, but has been modified for emergency alerting purposes specifically for Rodney residents.

At this stage the service will be activated only in the event of an official warning situation including tsunami or an impending local emergency such as a cyclone.

council to amend the Auckland Council legislation and allow for a fairer rating transition system.

"The most difficult challenge facing Auckland Council as a result of amalgamation is the government's requirement to merge the eight different rating systems from the previous councils into one single rating system," says Len Brown.

"Because of the move to a single system, some property owners will receive increases and some decreases. That's why we're asking the government to fix the legislation so we can limit any change."

The Auckland Council is proposing an average rate increase of 3.6 per cent across the region.

"Our proposal means in the old Rodney District Council area, 18,276 residential ratepayers will receive a [rates] decrease. However, if we cannot change to a capped system, 5,544 will face rates increases above 10 per cent and that's not fair," says Len Brown.

"It's the same with businesses. Our proposal means 726 Rodney businesses will receive a rates decrease. However, if we cannot change to a better transition system, 221 businesses will needlessly face 10 percent-plus rates increases next year."

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Work starts on museum building

Work has begun on the renovations to the former Waitoki School 'Sunshine' building at the Helensville Museum.

Local contractor Shane Inglis, who repaired the roof after the building arrived on site last year, has put in the foundations and the building has been lowered.

Originally the Sunshine blocks had a concrete verandah as entry, but at the museum wooden decking will be used. Society members Alan and Joy Moore have donated timber for the job.

Historical Society president John Smith says exterior work will include replacing broken windows and doors, and repainting the whole building.

A generous donation from the former Helensville Racing Club has covered a major part of the cost to date, but more fundraising will be needed to finish the job.

The other major building project for the Society is the upgrading of the portable building also on site, turning it into a new museum archives building. An application has been made to the ASB Charitable Trust for that project.

Furniture, bric-a-brac sought by hospice shop

Helensville's Hospice shop is running short on furniture and bric-a-brac.

While it's not quite on the level of New Zealand's Marmite shortage, the store does need help to replenish stock so it can continue to raise funds for Hospice West Auckland.

Locals are being asked to dig out any unwanted furniture - be it a 70s sofa, an 80s coffee table, or a 90s dinner set, and take it to the Helensville shop at 36 Mill Rd. Donations can also be made by phoning 0508 446 7742.

The Helensville Hospice shop is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Hospice West Auckland is partly funded by the Waitemata District Health Board, however the organisation still needs to raise an extra \$2 million each year.

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A big thankyou to everyone who entered our playhouse competition. It was great to meet some of you at the Helensville and Kumeu Shows.

Congratulations to Jasmine and Kyle, and their boys Daniel and Jamie who have won themselves a pretty cool playhouse. As you can see they're enjoying it!

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Home-made Salmon Gravlax

Salmon is a fish we have eaten more often at home the past couple of years, firstly because we read about the huge benefits to be had by consuming it and then because I discovered how to cure fresh sides of salmon.

It is possible to buy world class fresh salmon in New Zealand, the main species being King Salmon, sometimes known as Chinook. This fish is rich in omega 3 fatty acid which assists the body with so many things I could fill the rest of this page.

Bright orange to pink in colour and marbled with fat, salmon is also prized for its ability to store over the winter. The Nordic people are familiar with the cure known as Gravlax. Once cured a side of salmon will last for many weeks in the fridge, slowly drying out and building its flavour.

If you are feeling intrepid then make yourself some Gravlax. Gravlax can be eaten at every meal, is lovely draped over scrambled eggs, or with a crispy salad and thin sliced cheddar cheese or laid onto a toasted bagel with a smear of cream cheese.

Use either a full side or buy a couple of slices from the fish shop. (Oceanz in Silverdale have salmon delivered a couple of times per week and are happy to cut it to any size for you.)

■ Gravlax

- A side of salmon or a few slices of fillet.
- A lemon
- Raw sugar
- Flakey sea salt
- Fresh or dried dill weed (the green bits, not the seeds)

First remove the pin bones that run from the shoulder towards the tail. Removing them with a pair of tweezers before you start will make it much easier to carve slices once the fish has cured. If you are buying a whole side then ask the fish shop to remove them for you (you may not get that level of service at a supermarket).

Lay the salmon in a dish, skin side down. Ensure the dish is large enough for the fish to be laid flat.

Squeeze the lemon into a cup and brush it all over the pink meat, then leave for a few minutes to soak in. (Some recipes use vodka instead of lemon for this process.) Then lay on dill weed evenly so the salmon is lightly covered.

Mix together salt and sugar at the ratio of three parts sugar to four parts of sea salt. For a whole side you will need approx three cups of sugar and four cups of flakey salt. Spoon this mix onto the flesh to a depth of 10mm.

Wrap the entire dish in several layers of plastic wrap and place into the fridge for two days.

The salmon will be cured and ready to eat after a couple of days. To speed up the process lay a weight on top, as this will press the salt into the flesh and will cure it in half the time; it will also compress the meat making it much firmer.

After a couple of days in the cure a rich brine will appear in the dish and most of the salt mix will have dissolved. Remove the fish from the dish and lay onto a cake rack over a tray and brush off the remaining salt with more lemon juice. You will probably brush off most of the dill as well. Simply replace with fresh.

You have now made Gravlax. Cut what you need and store the remainder in the fridge.



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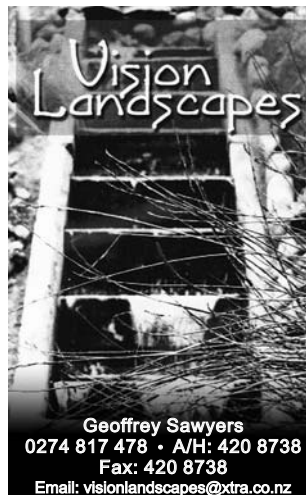
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FREE WOMEN'S MEETING

Aglow International NZ Inc, a Christian based charitable organisation for women, is holding a free interdenominational event entitled 'Come to the River' at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Friday, May 4 at 7.30pm.

Yvonne Bartlett, national field representative for Aglow Auckland Region, says the event will feature inspirational music and testimony, and prayer for the sick - "an opportunity for a fresh encounter with God, a time of refreshing, encouragement and healing in the river of His presence."

Speakers will be Yvonne and Ngaire Harvey, a former Aglow president in Christchurch. More information is available online at www.aglow.org.nz.

GLORIT HALL

Long-standing Glorit Hall secretary and treasurer Raewyn Gray is relinquishing her role, and a new person will be sought for the position at the hall committee's AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday, May 15. The committee members want to thank Raewyn for the years of work she has put into the hall. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to attend.

On the Saturday before the AGM (May 12) the committee is holding a 'meet the neighbours' evening from 5pm. Barbeque

sausages will be provided, but those attending are asked to bring a shared salad or dessert and their own drinks.

LIONS BOOK FAIR

The annual Lions Club of Helensville's book sale will be held over the weekend of May 27-28 at the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Upwards of 10,000 books are expected to be on sale for as little as 50c, plus there will be videos, DVDs, CDs and magazine bundles available. Fiction books are sorted according to author, while non-fiction are arranged in categories.

The sale runs from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday and 10am to 2pm on the Sunday. Anyone with books to donate should phone Yvonne Hilton, 420 8122 or Chris Clark on 420 8527.

TRIVIAL PURSUITS

On Saturday, June 16 the Glorit Hall committee is holding a Trivial Pursuit evening at the hall, designed with questions to suit all levels. For more information phone Andrea on 09 420 5538.

ST JOHN FUNDS RAISED

The St John Helensville Area Committee wants to thank Helensville locals for their support at the A&P Show. With donations and raffle ticket sales the committee raised \$1017

which will mostly be used to support the two local Youth Cadet groups. Raffle winners were: 1st Cheryl Bridge; 2nd Kim Saunders; 3rd Patricia Smith; 4th Pamela of Henderson.

LIONS COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Keep an eye out in your mailboxes for the Lions 2012 Community Directory. It's being delivered around the same time as this issue of the *Helensville News* and has phone numbers for Helensville, Parakai, Wainui, Kaukapakapa, South Head, and Waitoki.

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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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