

Last college building project nears end



• Work is well under way on the new social sciences buildings

Students will start next year at Kaipara College able to move straight into the school's new social sciences block.

The school's old 1960s-era science block was demolished in August, and building started straight away on the new 400sq.m. buildings, which will face each other across a large hard surface courtyard with seating and planter boxes.

When complete the \$1.4 million building will feature four social sciences classrooms and one maths room. There will also be a large social sciences resource room at the end of one of the buildings.

The new buildings replace the old social sciences rooms which were destroyed by a fire at the school in 2006.

The new classrooms, as with those opened in earlier stages of the school's rebuilding, carry over themes from the original Helensville District High School, with wide roofed-over verandahs and weather

board siding.

Unlike those older buildings, the new blocks are completely modern in construction with a mixed timber and steel structure and "kilometres" of wiring and data cabling, says principal John Grant.

The school has already been enjoying power savings brought about by the new efficient, commercial double-cycle air conditioning system installed in much of the rebuilt school, including classrooms and the gym.

The completion of the new social sciences block will see the finish of rebuilding work at the college - a four-stage, six-year transformation which has seen the majority of the school demolished and replaced. The old tech block is about the only remaining original section.

Other work needed to bring the whole project to completion will be mostly landscaping, with a large central open

courtyard and grassed area to be established, and the school canteen to be moved.

As part of the previous rebuilding work, the school hall had its large fixed stage area removed; the college is now arranging funding to purchase a 2m by 6m mobile stage.

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editorial

Well folks, this is it for another year.

This is the last issue of *Helensville News* for 2012. We will be back in your mailboxes early in February next year.

We've had some great stories over the past year, and as usual the best have featured our interesting locals. This year, sports people in particular have come to the fore, and we've been thrilled to cover leading international snowboarder Christy Prior of Kaukapakapa; Helensville's Helena Horswell, who is the reigning world champion in her class of the Access Liberty yachts for disabled sailors; the Western Pioneers rugby team who won the North Harbour championships; and Kothar Esau at the world Waka Ama championships.

The 150th anniversary of the European settlement of Helensville was probably the biggest story of the year - for many readers it will be the only such town milestone they'll see in their lifetime.

I'd like to give a special word of thanks to Wynne HaySmith for her contributions to the paper over the year. Wynne helps keep me (and the readers of course) up to date with what's going on in our town's historical circles.

And thank you to Pete Brennan of Porcini Cafe too, for his monthly recipes, which always come accompanied by a little bit of interesting background. I know this is a very popular feature in the paper, so thanks Pete!

Finally, thank you to our advertisers for continuing to support this paper - it's been a tough year for many businesses, so your support is especially valued - and of course to our readers. Without you, there would be no reason to produce *Helensville News*. I started in journalism 34 years ago on the Auckland Star, and my contributions to that publication went virtually unnoticed; by contrast, it is very heartening to receive the fairly frequent nice comments I get about my work on this paper. It's great that you've been enjoying *Helensville News*, and I'm sure you will continue to do so in 2013.

Have a very merry Christmas everyone, and a safe, fun and relaxing New Year.

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters

The 150th issue of the *Helensville News* [last issue] - my goodness, that's fantastic! I remember the inception of the paper, and am so proud that it has carried on and evolved and is in such capable hands.

150 issues ago, Helensville resident and journalist Bernie Walsh approached me, along with her British-based publisher partner, Peter Stonham, with the idea of starting a local paper. They set the format, which though expanded, still remains. Town Talk was always my favourite section.

Bernie and Peter wrote the first issue, and passed it along to New Horizons, Helensville's Main Street committee. New Horizons took on the role of publisher, with contributing journalists (which I recall you were one of) along the way. After a while, we were approached by Cynthia [Thrush], a new Helensville resident who offered to take over as editor in order to get to know her new community better.

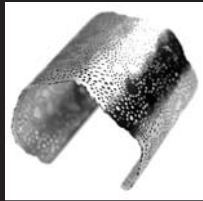
I have copies of the first few years' of the paper in a special file at home. When I first moved back to Canada in 2004, my mother-in-law Edythe Mullin used to pack up a few months' worth of copies and mail them off to me.

I am very proud of my connection with the paper, and am thrilled to be able to continue to read it online. You can take the girl out of Helensville, but you can't take Helensville out of the girl. Thank you for continuing the tradition. All the best.

- Andrea Mullin



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Interest sought for carving project

Local carver Denise Marshall has a dream to install a series of carved public benches around Helensville - but she needs help to achieve her aim.

She has been donated a macrocarpa log, currently stored at the Art Centre, but says it would be a struggle to take on the project alone.

"I want more people to become involved - I want it to become a community project," says Denise.

"It's a major undertaking for one person."

She believes there are locations for three to five seats in places such as the Riverside Reserve in Mill Road, Rautawhiri Park, outside the Commercial Road council service centre and on the small Bridge Street reserve overlooking the Awaroa Stream.

Her plan is for each seat to be site-specific, featuring themes in the carving related to its location - subject matter like sports for a Rautawhiri Park seat, and perhaps dog walking for the Riverside Reserve.

Ideally Denise would like a core group of five or six people to help, though she says there would be room for others to help out to a lesser degree.

She doesn't believe the project would be onerous for an enthusiastic group, and estimates each seat would only take about five days to complete, with the work split over five weekends, working three to four hours at a time over the 10 days.

Denise also says it doesn't matter if volunteers have no previous carving experience, as she is willing to teach the basics.

"The 'roughing out' is a learning process. The initial stage would be building confidence, with more input from me," she says.

"As they get their confidence they will bring in their [own] ideas."

Denise says the council's parks department supports the project - although she was unsuccessful with an application for arts funding for it - and the Lions Club of Helensville has offered to provide wood

carving chisels.

At this stage she isn't expecting a firm commitment from locals - she just wants to gauge how many people may be interested in getting involved.

Anyone interested can phone Denise on 021 205 7172 or call in at her Helensville Collectables shop at 72 Commercial Road



• Denise Marshall in her Commercial Road shop

on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings.

Denise moved to New Zealand from England with husband David and son George in 2007, and the family decided to live in Helensville just three weeks after emigrating.

She had spent 30 years working in the electronics industry, designing circuit boards and writing software. She began carving in her spare time, and eventually resigned so she could spend more time carving, gradually building up a regular flow of commissions before moving here.

Craigweil House

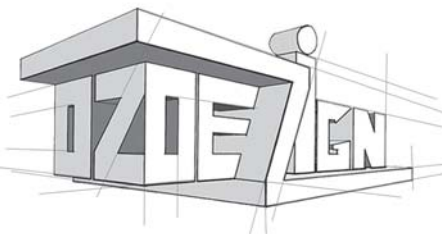
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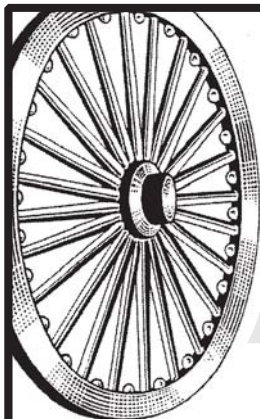
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New manager for Parent Aid

Nadine Phillips of Helensville has taken over as manager of Parent Aid NorthWest. She took over late last month from Lynette Edmunds, who held the role for seven years.

Originally from Wellington, Nadine moved to this area with her family in 2006, living variously at Wainui, Kaukapakapa and now Helensville.

Daughter Briana (8) and son Daniel (6) go to Wainui School, while four-year-old Tara attends Kaukapakapa Preschool.

Nadine takes on her role as manager at Parent Aid with first-hand knowledge of how the support organisation works, having benefited from its services when Tara was a baby. She was thrilled to learn that the home support worker who helped her then is still part of the team.

"I already knew and had respect for [Parent Aid], and I've always been drawn to non-profit organisations," says Nadine. "This seemed like an amazing opportunity."

The opportunity to work in our community with its wide range of support options was also a big plus.

"There are lots of support groups and organisations [and] they all work together so well."

As manager she will report to Parent Aid's governing committee, handle all the administration, marketing and finances, and co-ordinate with the four support workers, matching them to clients.

In Wellington Nadine was employed for many years as a legal executive and secretary. She then worked as membership secretary for the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, before moving into the veterinary sector. She worked as both a veterinary nurse and receptionist, finally spending six years as practice manager for the Onewa Road Veterinary Hospital.

Since moving to this area she has worked part time as a teacher aide at Wainui School. She served on the Wainui Playgroup's committee for many years, and is currently on the Wainui School PTA.

"My two passions are animals and child care," she says.

While stressing that it is early days in her new role when it comes to plans for the future, she does believe there are some "neat opportunities" to explore, especially around the issue of funding. Currently, ParentAid relies entirely on grants.

"And there are always further opportunities for how we can support people."



• Nadine in her Parent Aid office at the Kaipara Medical Centre

Meditation centre holding open day

The Vipassana Meditation Centre at Makarau will hold a free open day on Sunday, December 9 from 1pm to 4pm.

Visitors will have a chance to look around the centre and learn about courses offered. Afternoon tea will be provided, and there are pleasant bush walks for those who have time.

The Vipassana Meditation Centre is located at 153 Burnside Road, Makarau. From State Highway 16 north of Kaukapakapa, turn right into Makarau Rd, then after 2.5 km, turn left into Burnside Rd. The centre is 1.7 km along Burnside Rd on the left. It is signposted on both SH16 and Makarau Rd.

For more information phone 420 5319, email: info@medini.dhamma.org or visit the centre's website: www.medini.dhamma.org.


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Local fire fleet updated

Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade's new Iveco pump rescue tender is a "big upgrade" says station officer Mark Anderson.

The seven-year-old fire engine, which came here from former duties at Kumeu, has replaced a "very old" Dennis unit with a machine more in line with the national fleet, which Mark says is currently undergoing modernisation.

A rescue tender is a dual-purpose vehicle, working in rescue situations such as car crashes, while also being fully equipped to fight fires.

It has an almost new loadout of rescue equipment, including cutters, spreaders and hydraulic rams.

Having the latest equipment is important, says Mark, as it means firefighters from other stations who may be called in to help with a fire will be able to use the gear straight away.

Helensville's local volunteer fire fighters have spent a lot of time training on the rescue equipment, including using old vehicles for 'scenario'-type training.

On the fire fighting front, the new Iveco tender has one major benefit over the old Dennis, and the station's other fire engine - as well as carrying 1800 litres of water, it has built-in foam. Foam is much better than straight water when fighting, for instance, grass or scrub fires as it 'sticks' better, and also conserves water - important considerations for a rural brigade.

"This is a really good advance for us," says Mark. "It's really worthwhile in a rural area."

The Iveco is designed to operate with a minimum crew of four, but usually carries six

fire fighters.

Helensville volunteers are also looking forward to receiving the latest breathing apparatus, which the Fire Service is in the process of replacing nationwide.

The new masks have built-in microphones and electronics to amplify speech, making communication between firemen while fighting fires simpler and clearer, and therefore safer.



• Mark Anderson with the new rescue equipment

Shelly Beach community sports day

The annual Shelly Beach community sports day will be held on New Year's Day starting at 10am.

At the time of going to print, the venue had yet to be finalised from two options, the beach or the top reserve. The event's location will be signposted on the day.

The family day will be held rain or shine, and each child attending will get free drink, iceblock and sausage included with their \$2 entry charge.

Events will include a Mr and Miss Shelly Beach competition for a range of age groups, classic sports events like egg and spoon races (using a golf ball instead of an egg), and novelty events such as gumboot throwing. In addition there will be face painting, quick-fire raffles, a grocery basket raffle, a lolly scramble and water balloons.

For more information, phone Tui on 420 2140 or Elizabeth on 420 2816.

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New exhibition at The Gallery

The Gallery at 81 Commercial Rd will showcase a new line-up of local artists from Saturday, December 15 - with a sneak preview the previous evening at the official opening night from 7pm to 10pm.

Painting, photography, bronzes and metal assemblage will be on display, along with pottery, jewellery, t-shirts and various crafts, as they become available.

This exhibition will be on display from 10am to 4pm weekends until April 14 next year.

Arwen Flowers, who runs The Gallery, will continue to show her original paintings, and will also present a variety of works on paper plus a small line of unique, hand-made jewellery.

Works on display will include:

- Framed, limited edition photographs taken both locally and from further afield by Hamish Macdonald;
- Paintings by new Helensville resident Michael Rowland, whose style is realism with elements of surrealism. Michael has exhibited throughout New Zealand and paints full time;
- Photography by Alan Ashworth of Muriwai Beach. Alan's photography focuses on sports, action and coastal scenery;
- A series of works using both oils and paper by Muriwai's Gaylene Earl;
- Textured and layered paintings by Elsjá Smedicus of Helensville, inspired by the rugged West Coast's landscape;
- Bronze works by Shannon Marjason, who is currently setting up her own foundry at her Wishart Road home studio. Shannon blends Manga, retro and science fiction into her pieces;
- Photos by Helensville's Trish Gribble, whose favourite subjects are close-ups of plants, flowers and trees, sunsets and beach scenes;
- Jewellery in metal, wood, paper, glass, threads and textiles by Tanya Bogdanova who is inspired by the folklore, magic and pagan traditions of her homeland, Bulgaria;
- Functional domestic pottery in stoneware and porcelain, and sculptural work themed around native birds, by Sophie Lankovski;
- Abstract sculptures formed from vintage

corkscrews from Lucia Narayanan.

Also on display and available for purchase will be a biography by Helensville resident Theresa Sjoquist of iconic NZ artist, pioneering potter and inspirational arts educator, Yvonne Rust, QSM.



• Hand-made earrings by Arwen Flowers

Swimming water quality to be tested at South Head lakes

No Kaipara beaches are on the list to be monitored over summer by the Auckland Council Safeswim water quality programme.

However, two South Head lakes - Ototoa and Kereta - are among 10 freshwater lakes being monitored.

The Safeswim monitoring programme began on November 62 and runs until the end of March next year.

The monitoring programme is designed to provide regular assessments of water quality at 69 beaches around the region - plus the lakes - in an effort to reduce the risk to public health. Water samples are collected regularly from the selected locations and tested for bacteria.

Results are available on freephone 0800 723 379.

At the most recent test for cyanobacteria on November 16, both South Head lakes were rated safe for swimming.



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Women's fishing competition

This is Helen Green of Helensville, discovering a great new sport right on her back door step - fishing on the Kaipara.

Helen is pictured aboard the charter vessel Serene during the annual Kaipara Cruising Club women's fishing competition on Saturday, November 10.

The harbour was dotted with craft of all sizes for the event, filled with 96 keen fisherwomen doing their best to land the biggest snapper, kahawai, gurnard or trevalli.

The competition's boundary ran from South Head to Pouto Point, putting the popular 'graveyard' fishing ground out of bounds – and making it even more difficult to catch really good fish.

The day ended back at the clubrooms where the best fish were weighed in and prizes awarded. Spot prizes were also up for grabs, so those that may not have hauled in the largest catches didn't miss out either.

Xmas tree fundraiser

The Kaukapakapa Volunteer Rural Fire Force is holding its annual Christmas Tree fundraiser again. Trees cost \$30 and orders can be placed now for availability mid-December. Phone Ali, 022 420 5815.

The Cruising Club's next event is a childrens' fishing competition on Sunday, January 6, with a Regatta on the River on Saturday, February 9 and the annual fishing competition on Saturday, March 9.



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medical centre notes

As many of you will now be aware, there are more changes to come at the Kaipara Medical Centre.

Our senior GP and clinical leader, Dr Phillip Barter is leaving the practice in January 2013 to further his medical career with a move to a large new centre at Silverdale. Although we are all very sad to lose him, we also realise that our doctors' careers are important and fully support him in his move.

Everyone at the practice wishes him well, and on behalf of our patients thank him for his dedicated work over the last nine years.

The owners of the practice, Peak Primary Ltd, are working closely with the Helensville District Health Trust, exploring all options to ensure continuity of care and the maintenance of the high standards to which the community has been accustomed. Naturally, we are taking steps to recruit a replacement doctor and we hope to have more news in the next issue.

It just remains for the doctors and staff at Kaipara Medical Centre to wish all our patients a happy, safe and healthy holiday season and 2013.

For the two-week holiday period the centre will be open every day, except for the statutory holidays and Sundays. We will be closing at 5pm each weekday and midday Saturday, but don't forget you can always call our out-of-hours service at any time for help and advice.

Just remember to stay 'sun smart' in the long, hot summer we are all promised!

- John Issott, Practice Manager

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College awards for top academic and sports students

Aimee Hopwood was named Dux of Kaipara College at the school's 2012 senior academic prize giving, with Connor Jensen taking the Proxime Accessit award.

Aimee, who a few weeks earlier won the Year 13 speech competition with a speech on 'Misperceptions', also received a scholarship to AUT.

Her other awards included the Faculty of Arts trophy; the Brooks Cup for senior graphics, the Hens Hansen Cup for photography, the Riddering Cup for design and the Mitchell Plate for being the top art student.

Connor won the faculty awards for both Science and Physical Education & Health; the Daymond-King Cup for senior chemistry; and the Reid Family Cup for physics.

Senior Academic Awards:

Pengelly Cup: Courtney Pirie

Principal's Award for Head Students: Sam Sinnott & Courtney Pirie

Audrey Luckens Writing Award: Kalisha Wasasala

John Key Cup: Kalib Lawes

Auckland Council Scholarship: Joshua James

Helensville District Health Award: Alex Sergeant

AUT Scholarships: Aimee Hopwood & Sam Sinnott

Unitec Scholarships: Avalon Hewitt & Tony Nolan

McCurdie Cup: Hayden Gribble

Helensville Freemasons Award: Hayden Gribble

Neil Notley Scholarship: Scott Holden

RCLC Cup: Jessica Barton

Lions Trophy - Public

Speaking: Aimee Hopwood

Te Atawhaitia Award for

Contribution to Things Maori:

Jamie Masters

Parakai Trust Awards:

Faculty of Arts: Aimee Hopwood

Faculty of Phys Ed & Health: Connor Jensen

Faculty of Language: Sam Sinnott

Faculty of Social Sciences: David Lincoln

Faculty of Science: Connor Jensen

Faculty of Technology: David Lincoln

SPORTS

Piri Paraone and Jamie Masters are Kaipara College's Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year for 2012.

The Individual Sporting Performance of the Year went to Billy Bowman for ocean swimming.

Other Sports Awards:

NZ Representative: Jamie Masters

James Skipper Memorial Trophy: Connor Jensen

Senior Team of the Year: Mixed Touch team

Coach of the Year: Lee Exler

Contribution to Sport: Anand Govind

Junior Team of the Year: Division 1 Boys W6 Waka Ama crew

Junior All Rounder: Anna Lawton & Jarel Hemeheema.



• Aimee Hopwood



• Connor Jensen

College film wins \$7000

Kaipara College Year 10 students have won a \$7000 award towards their Outdoor Pursuits Week in the annual OPC Genesis Energy 'Students vs Wild' film competition.

In a riff on hit movie 'The Hunger Games', the college film was called 'The Hungry Games Kaipara' and was shot by student Richard Smith in the college grounds. It won the Auckland and Northland regional section of the competition. The cast and crew go to OPC in the first week of December.

Youth camp on again

Te Awaroa Youth Club's annual Youth Summer Camp will be held at Higham's Beach, South Head from January 14 to 18.

Registrations for the popular camp close on Friday, December 14.

"Summer time is all about getting outdoors and engaging in beach volleyball, kayaking and of course swimming and fishing," says youth club manager Heidi Van Duyn.

The camp can cater for up to 40 youth aged from 12 to 17 years, and spaces are on a first in, first served basis.

Facilitated by a team of trained professionals with help from youth leaders, the camp provides a multitude of summer activities as well as opportunities for participants to challenge themselves individually and in their teams. The week is a structured competition between four teams each with 10 members, and offers fun and entertainment.

Activities will include fishing, swimming, kayaking, beach volley ball, drama, arts

and crafts, music and other sports.

In addition there will be both 'Fear Factor' and 'Survivor' style challenges, an overnight bush stay and a dance party.

There is no set charge for the camp; instead, Te Awaroa Youth Club asks for a donation.

For more information or to register, phone Heidi on 420 7977 or 027 685 2073, email manager@teawaroayouthclub.co.nz or visit www.teawaroayouthclub.co.nz.



• Team fun at the 2012 summer camp

Running of the Roses

The Helensville Lions Club's annual Running of the Roses fundraiser will be held again on Sunday, February 10 at the Riverside Reserve in Mill Road.

As in previous years, the 2013 Running of the Roses will take place on the Kaipara River, where roses will be released on an

outgoing tide. The first five roses retrieved at the finish line will win major prizes.

The event starts at 10am with market stalls, a sausage sizzle, live music, children's activities, and entertainment. A fun run - held for the first time this year - will begin at 11.30am from Springs Road in Parakai, and the Running of the Roses race will be around 1.30pm, depending on the tide. The event will finish at 3pm

Roses to enter cost \$5 and can be purchased from participating retailers in Helensville. All proceeds go to local charities and community organisations.

For stall holder enquiries phone Sarah Legg on 0274 83 1542, or for more information about the day phone Matt Hampton on 027 221 3226 or Pauline O'Neill on 420 6208.

The event is run with the support of the Helensville District Business Association.

South Head horse trek

Waitemata Hunt will hold a two-day horse trek over one of the largest and most spectacular farming properties in the district - Otakanini Topu at South Head.

Held over Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10, the trek will cost \$65 for members and \$75 non-members, which includes a Saturday evening party with live band, and Sunday breakfast.

All levels of riders are welcome. Book online at www.waitematahunt.co.nz or phone Yvonne 0274 599 432

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Corridor Gallery opens

The Corridor Gallery, in the entrance to the Riverview Restaurant at 88 Commercial Rd, will be officially opened with a public ceremony on Thursday, December 6 at midday.

Locals are invited to the free event, which will include complimentary gourmet nibbles courtesy of the Riverview Restaurant.

The gallery showcases work by local artists in a 'French stacking' style of display, where artworks are packed tightly together like sardines.

"This means that upwards of 200 works are crammed along the corridor, almost to the point of overloading your artistic sensibilities," says Art Centre co-ordinator Pauline Mee.

Local artistic celebrities will perform the opening ceremony. Pauline says Helensville "is fast becoming the 'Nelson of



• Artworks cram the walls at the Corridor Gallery

the North' due to its phenomenal number of resident artists."

A huge turn out is expected at this milestone event in the exposure of the region's artists.

To go on the waiting list to have art exhibited at the Corridor Gallery, phone Pauline on 021 073 8372.

Summer solstice party

A summer solstice party will be held at Dune Lakes Lodge at South Head on Saturday, December 22.

The evening event will start at 5pm with "sharing sacred space, divine love visualisation

and meadowtating (meditating)," says Dune Lakes Lodge owner Rosemary Wyndham-Jones.

From 7pm onwards the party will "celebrate being, sharing food, connection, company, music, dance, the beauty of nature and the ambience of friends."

The party is designed to "celebrate the birthing of the new earth in all her resplendent glory during earth's alignment with the galactic core of the Milky Way," says Rosemary.

"The paradigm for the new earth reflects the profound truth that 'we are one with all life' and that there is no separation. Let us acknowledge, give thanks and continue the adventure."

Those attending are asked to bring a contribution for pot luck meals and any drink they want, a musical instrument if possible and a tent and/or sleeping bag if wanting to stay overnight.

"Please also bring something special to you that represents a new paradigm, and place it in the pyramid for us all to enjoy while you are here," says Rosemary.

Dune Lakes Lodge is at 470 Wilson Road, South Head. Phone 420 2040 to RSVP.

Short story competition on again

The *Helensville News* is again sponsoring a short story competition as part of the indoor section of the Helensville A&P Show next February.

As with last year, the competition is open to anyone aged 16 or older, and the winning entry will receive \$25 prize money. The winner will also get their story published in either the March or April issue of *Helensville News*, depending on available space.

There is no theme for the competition, but each story must contain the words 'blue', 'help' and 'furrow' (in any order), and must fit on a single A4 page, typed in 12pt font (approx 450 words). Depending on space, the entries will be displayed inside the main show building on show day, Saturday, February 23.

Entries will need to be received no later than Friday, February 15. Entries should be made on the standard Indoor Entry form in the A&P Show schedule; copies will be posted to show members shortly, and will be available for download on the Show website - www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.

Locals flock to Spring Fling

As many as 500 locals braved windy conditions to visit the annual Spring Fling event at Barb Ross's South Head garden on Sunday, November 18. Luckily the previous day's bad weather had abated, and even the wind eased off by midday.

"We had a great day," says Barb. "Both paddocks of car parks were pretty full all day."

Children were especially well catered for at this year's event, with attractions including 'My Roly Poly Hill', pony rides, Old McDonald's Travelling Farmyard, and face painting.

Food was a highlight for everyone, with whitebait fritters and venison sandwiches particularly popular. Helensville Lions held a sausage sizzle and book stall, and the 'Scarecrow Café' served a selection of sandwiches, cakes and slices, Devonshire teas and antipasto platters.

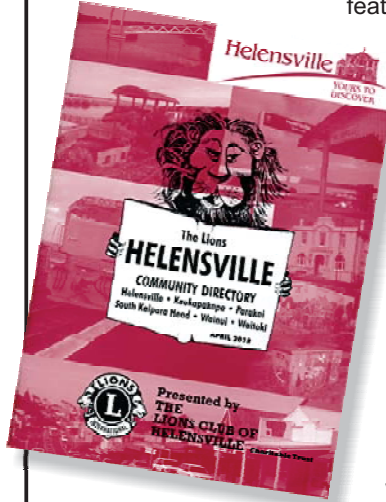
Stalls covered a huge array of products and services including: children's clothing; cellphone accessories; handmade Christmas goods; jams and pickles; jewellery and crystals; reflexology, readings, and healing; wooden toys; candy floss; espresso coffee; scarves; Tupperware; Harcourts real estate; recycled native timber goods; antique aprons and glass bead jewellery; plants; pet and people health; needlework; licorice and fudge; and clothes from the East.

"Special thanks to the team who helped set up and clean up," says Barb, "and to Waioneke School for the scarecrow competition."

Lions phone directory

The Lions Club of Helensville's next Helensville Directory is due to be published in April next year.

It will be in the same format as the current directory, with white pages listing everyone living in the 420 telephone area, along with emergency and service contacts, a map of the district and bus timetable, and pink pages featuring advertisements for local businesses.



The directory will be distributed free to all homes in the Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Woodhill, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki and Waitohi areas. This is made possible by sponsorship from the advertisers and help from local rural delivery contractors.

The Lions Club has contractual obligations to Yellow Pages Ltd to print the white pages listings as supplied by them. Anyone wishing to change the way their name appears in the white must contact Yellow Pages on

pages section

0800 803 803 or visit www.yellow.co.nz and click on 'report an error'.

Anyone wanting to place an advertisement in the directory and not already contacted should phone Dennis Cummings on 420 8980 or Anita Eggers on 420 7820.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

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At the Helensville War Memorial Hall

- Sunday, Dec 9th: 7pm

ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

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

- Sunday, Dec 16th: 9.30am, Carol service and dressing of the Christmas tree.
- Friday, Dec 21st: 7pm, 'Blue' Christmas service.
- Sunday, Dec 23rd: 9.30am, Church service.
- Monday, Dec 24th: 11.30pm, Christmas Eve service.
- Tuesday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day service.

KAUKAPAKAPA CHURCH

Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16.

- Sunday, Dec 9th: 8am, service.
- Tuesday, Dec 25th: 8am, Christmas Day service.

ST CUTHBERT'S, KAUKAPAKAPA

North Crescent. Contact Pastor Bruce Eirena, 09 422 3000

- Sunday, Dec 23rd: Christmas story focus.
- Sunday, Jan 13th: 2pm, Normal services resume.

HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

- Sunday, Dec 23rd: 2pm, Special Christmas service followed by afternoon tea.
- Sunday, Jan 13th: 10.30am, Normal services resume.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

1 Puriri St, Helensville, Contact Fr. Mathew V.J. 420 8110

- Thursday, Dec 20: 7.30 pm, Reconciliation.
- Monday, Dec 24: 7.30 pm, Christmas Carols & Vigil Mass.
- Tuesday, Dec 25: 9 am, Christmas Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

380 SH16, Huapai, Contact Fr. Mathew V.J. 420 8110

- Sunday, Dec 9: 9 am, Advent Mass for Children.
- Wednesday, Dec 19: 7.30 pm, Reconciliation.
- Monday, Dec 24: 11.30 pm, Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass.
- Tuesday, Dec 25: 10.30 am, Christmas Day Mass.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

- Sunday, Dec 23: 7pm, Community Carol Service followed by supper (no morning service).
- Tuesday, Dec 25: 9.30am, Christmas Service.



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Helensville District Health Trust AGM

At the Helensville District Health Trust's Annual General Meeting, held on October 25th, 2012, the following appointments for the coming year were confirmed:

Appointed Trustees –

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

Public Trustees –

- John Issott
- Gretchen Shelling

Representative to the Trust –

- Linda Harun, Waitemata District Health Board
- Olive Rudolph, Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara
- Te Kahuiti Morehu, Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara

Birthing Centre Directors -

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

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

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McLeod history book review

The Pioneering McLeods of Helensville
by John McLean

Hardback, 94 pages, illustrated.

Published by, and available through, Clan McLeod Helensville, 184 Govan Wilson Road, RD5, Warkworth 0985, phone 09 422 9928. Also available from the Helensville Museum.

John McLean is the author of several historical books examining the early days of New Zealand, and is himself descended from the Scottish/Nova Scotian settlement at Waipu in Northland.

The Clan McLeod, a prominent part of that migration, commissioned him to write the history of their family beginning with the extraordinary John McLeod, and his less flamboyant brother Isaac.

John McLeod was an entrepreneur. In an age in which obstacles were merely physical rather than obstructive and bureaucratic, he got things done.

Recognising the huge value and demand for quality timber the McLeod brothers opened a mill in the heart of the kauri country at the southern tip of the Kaipara Harbour. Today it is easy to criticise previous generations for their exploitation of resources. In the 1860s and beyond, the resources of the mighty kauri trees that covered Northland must have seemed

infinite – just as oil and coal probably did a century later.

The mill at Helensville “grew by leaps and bounds” and ultimately employed more than a hundred men, both Maori and immigrants. John McLeod built a “comfortable dwelling house for himself” and his family which was named, in honour of his wife, “Helen’s villa”. Sadly, this first house that gave what became a prosperous little

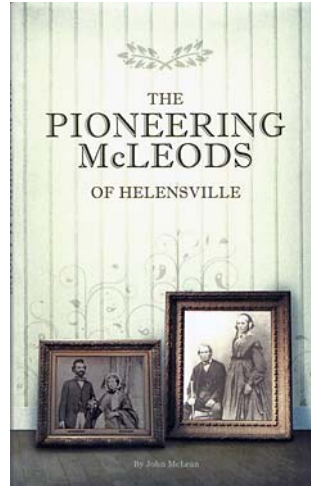
town its name, was later pulled down and replaced.

Isaac stayed on in the district, but John McLeod became involved in a long list of enterprises – the coal mine at Kawakawa, the lime works in Auckland, gold mining in Coromandel and also as politician. He was first nominated for a seat in the Auckland Provincial Council in 1865 and became an active, eloquent and well-educated member.

John McLean has produced a delightful and factual account of this remarkable pioneering family.

In an age of revisionist history it is refreshing to find an historian who has so diligently sought contemporary accounts. The plentiful quotations from the Southern Cross and other newspapers are testament to the quality of writing and journalism then in vogue. It serves to place this hard working, god-fearing pioneer family at the centre of the events, as well as being most enjoyable for its clarity.

- Crispin Caldicott



Christmas carols at Waimauku

A family carol-singing evening will be held at the Waimauku School court from 5pm to 8pm on Sunday, December 23.

The event will begin with free activities for children, including face painting and a bouncy castle. Families can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the court with others from their community, and from 7pm can take part singing carols, lead by singer Lou Lou (www.listentoloulou.com).

There will be espresso coffee, a sausage sizzle and other treats available for purchase, along with giveaways and spot prizes. If the weather is bad the event will be held in the Waimauku School hall. Waimauku School is on the corner of SH16 and Muriwai Road.

The event is sponsored by Abundant Life Church - visit www.abundantlifenz.org.

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Christmas crafts and Brainwave Trust

HIPPY South Kaipara parents enjoyed a Christmas crafts morning which included a demonstration by tutor Wendy Purnell on how to make hot chocolate drinks on a stick.

That involved melting chocolate, adding marshmallows and a stick, and allowing the mixture to set in an iceblock tray. When set they were wrapped with instructions on how to melt them in hot milk.

Other Christmas crafts made during the morning included Christmas crackers, cookies in a jar, folded gift boxes, and Christmas chocolates.

The following week HIPPY parents and other locals attended a Brainwave Trust presentation by HIPPY coordinator Bernie

Waitoki market morning

There will be a market morning at Waitoki Hall on Saturday, December 8 from 8.30am to midday. There will be a barbeque, cakes and other food, plants, Christmas gifts and more. Stalls cost \$10, with proceeds going to the Waitoki Hall Society. To book, phone Shirley Stevens, 420 5111.



• HIPPY parents making 'hot chocolate on a stick' presents

Malizia.

The Brainwave Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers easy to understand information on infant brain development, allowing parents and caregivers to understand how the brain works. Parents then have a better understanding on how to give children the best to ensure they are able to reach their full potential.

For more information on the HIPPY programme, phone Bernie on 420 8014.

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Waka Ama teams win champs



• The Waka Ama Junior Boys W6 team in winning action, (from left) Ryan Cooper, Jarel Hemeheema, Matthew McDougall, Josh Hepburn-Knight, Kevin Calis & Michael Thompson

Kaipara College teams have won two championship titles at the Auckland Secondary Schools Junior Waka Ama Regatta held at Orakei Basin in Auckland a couple of weeks ago, beating teams from 19 other greater Auckland secondary schools.

Achieving their best results yet, the college's Junior Boys placed first in the Division 1 championship final, while the mixed double hull team, which combines both boys and girls to make a team of 12, also won their Division 1 championship final.

Kaipara College has made the transition over the last four years to Waka Ama after a number of highly successful years in Dragon boating, with each year's results getting progressively better.

The school entered six junior teams, four in Division 1 and two in Division 2. As well as the two championship wins, the college's top Division 1 mixed team placed second in its final, while the junior girls team came third in their final. Two year 9 development teams also made it through to the championship semi-finals.

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Friday 28th December: 8am - 4pm
Saturday 29th December: 8am - 4pm
Sunday 30th December: 9am - noon
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Christmas cake

It is almost Christmas time already, as I write this the decorations are up in stores and children are listing the must-haves for the holidays. Flicking through my notes and recipes this one for Christmas cake literally fell out onto the floor - self selection that can't be ignored! Of course it is a family recipe, but whose family I couldn't really tell you. When my mother passed away I inherited her ring binder of hand written recipes. Not all are in her hand, such as this one. However, I have used it for many years at home and at work and it never fails. The fruit can be interchanged as long as the general quantities remain the same. I have used crystal ginger with extra rind to make a truly spicy version, cherries instead of the prunes, even dried figs instead of raisins.

It looks like a bit of an effort when you see the list of ingredients, but nowadays you can buy bags of premixed fruit which cuts down considerably on the assembly time. Soak the fruit in the brandy a day before you make the cake.

This makes a 220mm x 70mm round cake; use a spring tin if you have one. Grease it with butter and line it with 2 layers of baking paper on the bottom and 2 layers around the sides.



Ingredients:

270g raisins	270g sultanas
270g currants	180g prunes (de-stoned and chopped)
150mls brandy	
80g candied peel	50g slivered almonds
220g plain flour or 210g gluten-free baking flour	
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon mixed spice	1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
250g soft brown sugar	250g butter
5 eggs	1 tablespoon black treacle or golden syrup
Blanched almonds for decoration.	

You will need four bowls.

Day 1: In the first bowl place the dried fruit and the brandy. Cover with plastic wrap and leave to swell over night. Stir it a few times during the day to ensure all the fruit gets to soak up the brandy.

Day 2: In a second bowl combine the candied peel and the slivered almonds, with a table spoon of the flour. Mix it through to stop the peel clumping together. In the third bowl sift together the remaining flour, baking powder, cinnamon, mixed spice and nutmeg. In the last bowl large enough to hold all the ingredients, cream together the butter and sugar, adding the eggs one at a time and finally fold in the treacle.

Using a metal spoon cut the flour and spices into the butter mix in three batches. Then cut in the peel and slivered almonds. Finally cut in the soaked fruit.

Spoon the mix into the cake tin and decorate the top of the cake with blanched almonds.

Bake at 150° Celsius or 140° fan bake for 3 hours. Test with a skewer, if not cooked after 3 hours turn the heat down to 100° and test every 10 minutes until the skewer comes out clean.

Allow to cool completely in the tin before turning out. This cake can be made well before Christmas and benefits from a wee drizzle of brandy or sherry once per week until Christmas.



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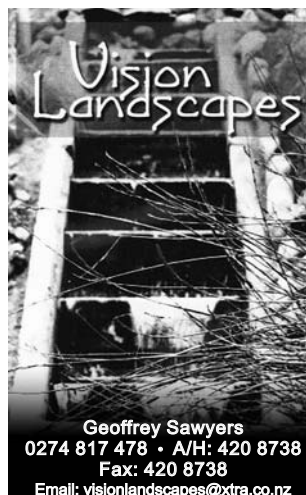
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COMBINED CHURCHES CAROLS

The six churches in our area will be holding a Combined Churches Carol Service at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 9 from 7pm. Expected to run for about 90 minutes, it will consist of items from each of the churches interspersed with carol singing from the congregation. A light supper will be served afterwards. Entry will be free, although a donation of (preferably tinned) food for the local food bank would be welcomed. An offering (also voluntary) will be taken to help persecuted Christians in Asia.

HELENSVILLE AGLOW

The next Helensville Aglow meeting is at 7.30pm on Friday, December 7 in the Lions

Lounge at Rautawhiri Park. This will be a coffee and dessert evening followed by singing, items and testimonies. Men and women are welcome. People are asked to bring a finger food dessert. Phone Marilyn Gray on 420 4356 for more information.

DONATE BLOOD

The New Zealand Blood Service currently has no dates booked to come to Helensville, so locals are being asked to call at the Kumeu Community Centre main hall in Access Road, Kumeu on Monday, December 10 between midday and 6pm. Donors are asked to bring their Donor Card or photo ID (driver licence, student ID or passport).

CAB CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau will be closed from Friday, December 21 until Monday, January 7. From then until January 13 the opening hours will be shorter than usual, 10am to 1pm. From January 14 normal hours of 10am till 3pm will resume. The CAB is keen for new volunteers to join. A training session is normally held in February and is ideal for locals looking for an opportunity to serve their community.

KKK CHRISTMAS MARKET

Kaukapakapa is promising a 'cracker of a Christmas market' at the Kaukapakapa Hall on Sunday, December 16 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be more than 40 stalls, live music and craft demos, a sausage sizzle, coffee and food, free face painting and balloon animals, plus Santa in his grotto from 10am. Enquiries to Sarah ph 0274 831542, email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz or Kim 09 425 6023. The January market will be on Sunday, January 20 from 8.30am to 1pm.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP:

The next meeting of the Helensville Arthritis Support Group will be in the Helensville Hall meeting room from 10.30am to 2pm on Thursday, December 20. Those

attending are asked to bring a plate of Christmas lunch, and a 'Secret Santa' gift of no more than \$5 value. A raffle will be held. For more information phone Merle 420 7884, Ina 420 7875 or Judy 420 6058.

SHELLY BEACH MARKET

A market day will be held every Sunday during summer at Twin Palms Garden in Shelly Beach Road from 10am to 2pm. The market will feature plants, crystal and copper jewellery, healing and more

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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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