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• Commercial Road was jammed with locals and out-of-towners for the 150th parade

One of the largest crowds ever seen in Commercial Road turned out in perfect weather for the Saturday parade to mark the 150th anniversary of Helensville's European settlement at Labour Weekend.

In a strange coincidence, this is the 150th issue of *Helensville News*, so to recognise both milestones we have a selection of photos from the town's birthday weekend on pages 4 and 5, and a brief overview of this paper's history on page 6.

The 150th parade started on time and kept the crowds entertained for about an hour with floats including schools and businesses

showing off their history, military displays, vintage and classic cars, the SS Puke steamboat, a Kaipara College Waka Ama, Morris dancers and a spectacular massed pipe band.

There was a genuinely good vibe among the crowds, many of whom stayed to watch highland dancing and the official opening by kaumatua Nick Rata and Auckland Councillor Penny Webster.

That was followed by an impressive haggis ceremony, presided over by the head of the event's organising committee,

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# editorial

I guess some of you will be getting sick of the figure '150' by now - but here goes with some more!

Fresh from celebrating the 150th anniversary of the European settlement of Helensville a couple of weeks ago, now it's the turn of the *Helensville News*; this is our 150th issue. And while it's only my 16th as Editor, I've been involved with the production of this great little publication for 108 of those issues in total.

You can read some of the highlights of *Helensville News* over the years on page 6.

But getting back to our town's 150th celebration - wasn't it fabulous? We were really lucky with the weather turning on a perfect day for the Saturday's events, and the crowd that turned out in Commercial Road was astonishing - by general consensus bigger than that for most Christmas parades, and I think exceeding everyone's expectations.

What was even better was that the crowds didn't disappear after the parade. Instead, they stayed around for the street stalls, the haggis ceremony, the official opening and then turned up in numbers at the various other attractions and activities happening around the town - the church floral displays, the museum, the Art Centre, and riding on the little steam boat SS Puke.

Unfortunately the previous week's nasty weather returned in force on the Sunday, forcing the cancellation of a couple of the remaining events - but that couldn't put a damper on the wonderful day before - a day which really showed the sense of community that still exists in our town.

My congratulations and thanks go to Laurence McLeod and his committee for organising this memorable occasion, to all the local groups and organisations that participated, and to the numerous local businesses who sponsored the event. Well done!

You can view a selection of photos from the celebrations on pages 4 and 5.

On a more sombre note, I was saddened to learn of the recent, sudden death of local identity Lou Keefe. He will be sorely missed, and my thoughts go to Lou's family and friends.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Helensville's 150th celebration

• From page 1

Laurence McLeod. Large numbers of the crowd stayed for that too, many bravely sampling the haggis.

The official opening was brought to a close by the cutting of a memorial cake by the event's patrons - Murdoch McLeod (99), Jean Robinson (101) and Jean Narbey (102).

For many of the afternoon was spent checking out other attractions associated with the event, such as the huge variety of street stalls in Commercial Road, stunning floral displays at St Matthews in Garfield Road and the Catholic church in Puriri Street, photographic and live displays at the Helensville museum, and queueing for rides on the tiny SS Puke steamboat, which took small groups of passengers on a 15-minute round-trip from the Kaipara Cruising Club wharf in Mill Road to the Creek Lane jetty and back.

The previous evening around 140 people attended a wine and cheese evening in the War Memorial Hall, a highlight of which was a fashion show by Donelle Scott.

On the Saturday evening, a slightly smaller number attended a dinner, dance and time-line show at the hall.

After such a stunning day on the Saturday, the weather vented its fury on the Sunday, causing the cancellation of some events such as old fashioned children's games at Helensville Primary, and further trips on the Kaipara River by the SS Puke.

The blessing of a new plaque at the cairn on the corner of Commercial Rd and Rata Street to commemorate the 150th anniversary went ahead - briefly - despite the weather, followed by a church service.

The weekend's events were rounded off with more rides on the SS Puke on the Labour Day Monday.



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# Spring Fling more child-oriented

The South Head Spring Fling festival will be held for the first time in the garden of Barb Ross on Sunday, November 18.

It will be the fifth venue for the annual event, now in its 12 year.

Barb has lived on Haumoana Farm at 9 Slater Road, South Head for 18 years, and she has spent the past 15 developing the garden. Special features include a fairy garden, a beach area, a subtropical garden, and vegetable and succulent gardens. Seating throughout makes it an ideal venue for Spring Fling.

Barb is no stranger to catering for large groups of people.

She hosts cruise ship passengers who visit the sheep, beef and deer farm for a country experience including sheep shearing, mustering and a typical Kiwi barbeque. She has also run her own catering business for more than 20 years and has an 'A Grade' certification for her kitchen.

In fact Barb did the food for last year's Spring Fling, and will be providing a wide range of café style food this year. There will also be a Helensville Lions barbeque and a hot Seafood stall.

"This year we have put more of a focus on families," says Barb, "and a number of the stalls will be child-orientated, including pony rides, face painting, Old MacDonald's Farm, homemade sweets, toys, and clothing.

"There will be petting, feeding and

looking at the animals including lambs, ducks, deer, and more."

Barb expects about 30 stalls at the festival, which has a 'Jazz in the Garden' theme, with a band called 'The Gold Card Boys' providing live music. Barb held a successful Jazz in the Garden event in her garden 10 years ago as a fundraiser for the Helensville A&P Association.

A major feature at this year's Spring Fling - and a first for the event - will be the Waioneke School scarecrow competition. Judging will be done by the public on the day for a gold coin donation, with all proceeds from that going to the school.

As with previous Spring Flings there will be a stalls covering local arts and crafts, jewellery, clothing and toys. There will be a large number of plants for sale, including herbs, natives and bromeliads.

Barb says there is plenty of free parking in an adjacent paddock.



• A small corner of Barb Ross's garden

## Free trade sites on offer for A&P Show

Local community groups are being urged to apply for a limited number of free trade spaces at next year's Helensville A&P Show on Saturday, February 23.

The A&P Association made the decision to make several small trade sites available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations and schools as a way to help those groups gain wider exposure.

Because the number of sites is limited, the Association committee will choose the successful recipients once all applications have been received.

The show is the largest one-day event in the Helensville area, and as such has a wide audience of both locals and people from outside the area.

The sites are 3m by 3m square and are unpowered. Recipients will also receive two free adult gate passes. Because of the small size of the sites, vehicles will not be allowed on the sites on show day, and there will be some other restrictions on use such as not being allowed to serve food, which would compete with paying trade stall holders.

Applications for the sites close on Friday, December 7. Groups and organisations wanting to be considered for a site should email show manager Marion Stutz at info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.

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• Modelling fashion by Donelle Scott at the Friday wine and cheese evening



• Direct descendants of Isaac McLeod (from left) Anne Ryan of Wellington, Beatrice Poppe and Malcolm Poppe of Tauranga



• The massed pipe band added colour to the parade



• Johnny Hildreth's 'tank' was popular with the parade's younger watchers



• Oikoumene's float captured the town's logging history



• Marching out in parade formation

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# its 150 birthday



• Morris Dancing action



• Louise Owen all dressed up for the parade



• The stunning floral carpet in St Matthews church



• Jean Robinson (101), Jean Narbey (102) and Murdoch McLeod (99) cut the 150th Anniversary cake



• Laurence McLeod performs the haggis ceremony



• There were queues for rides on the SS Puke steamboat

• All photos © 2012, Dave Addison, Helensville News 2011 Ltd

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# 150 issues of Helensville News

Now at its 150th issue, *Helensville News* has come a long way from the first, four-page issue put out in April 1999 at the instigation of the now defunct Helensville Mainstreet group.

Over the years it has grown in both size and quality. It started out as a single, folded sheet of photocopied A3 paper, with no photographs and a circulation only about half of that today.

It took almost five years to reach its present 16 page size and to be professionally printed. High quality glossy paper made its first appearance with issue #117.

Three advertisers - Allsorts, Helensville Vets and Aon Insurance - have been with us from issue #1, and by issue #25 they had been joined by three others who have become regulars, Helensville Law Office, Oikoumene and Premier Mechanical.

Here's a brief rundown of the 'milestone' issues in the paper's history:

#### ■ ISSUE #1 April 1999

4 pages, photocopied.

Main articles:

- Antique Centre and themed cafe planned for Regent cinema
- Cycle shop to open
- Explosion and fire at Les Comer's firewood depot in Mill Rd
- Plans for Helensville to become regional growth centre
- Plans to establish a Pioneer Village in Mill Rd at a cost of \$100,000
- Mural being painted on end of hall
- Helensville website established



#### ■ ISSUE #75 February 2006

16 pages, printed.

Main articles:

- 90th birthday Eddie Reyland
- Changes for A&P Show
- Harbour cruise for womens centre
- Gumboots Early Learning Centre opens
- New pastor for South Kaipara parish
- Once-a-day milking



#### ■ ISSUE #25 June 2001

12 pages, photocopied.

Main articles:

- River Reserve development
- Kaipara College league tables
- Wellness & Wellbeing special (most of issue)
- Gardening column



#### ■ ISSUE #100 May 2008

20 pages, printed.

Main articles:

- 100th issue
- Mobility dog for college student
- HIPPIY South Kaipara
- Talent quest
- Horse Expo
- Art Centre opens
- Nola Keane obituary
- Rail trial



#### ■ ISSUE #50 September 2003

12 pages, photocopied.

Main articles:

- 50th issue
- Childcare
- Parakai Home for the Elderly
- College music
- Ngati Whatua sports challenge
- New doctor
- Visit by Human Rights Commission
- Spring Fling



#### ■ ISSUE #125 August 2010

16 pages, printed.

Main articles:

- Helensville Heritage Policy
- Local businesses in Manaakitanga awards
- Alpaca breeder
- Plans for KKK 150th
- Birthing Centre celebrates its birthday
- Feature film shoots locally.



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# Helensville Christmas parade

The Helensville Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 1 starting at 12 noon. It will follow the same route as previous years, travelling up Commercial Road, turning left up Rimu Street, around the Makiri Street - Kowhai Street block (as per the map below) and then heading back along Commercial Rd to West St.

Floats will assemble in West Street by 11am for judging prior to the parade.

The roads shown on the map will be closed for the duration of the event, approximately from midday to 1pm. Detours will be in place to move traffic up Puriri St and along Garfield Rd to rejoin SH 16 again.

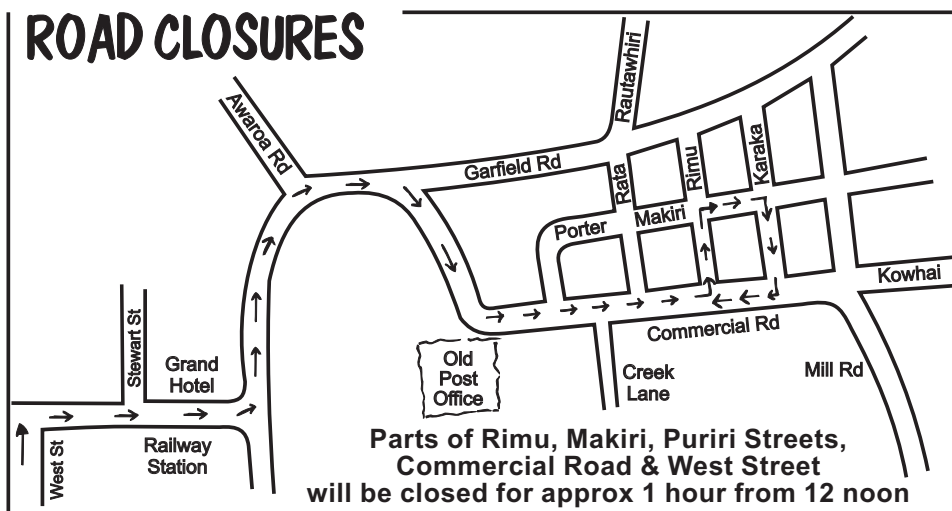
Commercial Road will be coned off to keep the road clear for the parade and reduce the danger of accidents during the parade, and to give spectators a better view.

Public parking will be available in Porter Crescent, the Kaipara Tavern and Countdown supermarket car parks, and Creek Lane as well as side roads not affected by the parade or detours.

As usual, there will be stalls, raffles and sausage sizzles. Children will be able to have their photographs taken with Santa in 'Santa's Grotto' at the Kaipara RSA room from 9.30am to 11.30am, for a gold coin donation.

Anyone wanting to take part in the parade should complete and return an entry form as soon as possible says parade organiser Noel Harris. Entry forms are available at the Helensville Information Centre or from Noel at Abbey Press.

For any enquiries contact Noel, phone 09 837 1824.



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## Farewell to Lou Keefe

A crowd of around 1500 spilled out onto the street and parking lot at the Helensville War Memorial Hall to farewell well-known local Lou Keefe, who died suddenly on Wednesday, October 3.

Lou, aged 57, had served as a volunteer with the Helensville Fire Brigade for 30 years, and around 60 fire fighters, police and members of St John formed an honour guard at his funeral service.

Active in the community, Lou had served on the boards of trustees for both Helensville Primary School and later Kaipara College, along with a number of other organisations. The McLeod Motors mechanic also had a lengthy association with the Helensville Rugby Club, where he was a senior player.

Donations to help Lou's family can be made to ASB account 12-3139-0089867-50.

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## Dream to own cattery comes true

"My dream has always been to have my own boarding cattery," says Ellis van Leuven – and now that dream has come true.

The Dutch veterinarian recently opened her Cat Hotel Stoney Creek at Kaukapakapa, where she lives with husband Paul.

The pair, along with cats Vincent and Dirkje, moved to New Zealand from the Netherlands in 2003, originally living in Hawkes Bay then moving to Whangarei.

"The Netherlands is a charming country with lots of history, but it has about 18 million people and the country is a quarter the size of New Zealand. Needless to say, many people live too close together, which we wanted to escape from," Ellis explains.

Eventually Ellis and Paul decided to move to Auckland because of better job prospects, renting in Browns Bay before moving to Kaukapakapa in March this year. They had lived rurally in both Hawkes Bay and Whangarei, and needed to stay rural to set up the cattery.

Ellis had been working at a boarding cattery in Takapuna, and when that business closed down she took over the units and database and set up her own home-based business.

Cat Hotel Stoney Creek is purpose-built building right beside Ellis and Paul's house, featuring an open plan design which can house 16 cats in a sunny lounge area with country views, cosy beds, scratchers and



• Ellis and Paul in front of the cattery, with Dirkje

toys. It opened in July.

Ellis also works part time at both Henderson and Westgate. Paul works from home as a professional photographer specialising in food and product photography, but also works part time in Glenfield as an optical dispenser, fitting lenses to glasses. Between them, they have arranged their shifts so one is always home during the cattery's opening hours.

Ellis is pleased some of the customers from the Takapuna business have been happy to transfer their pet's care to Kaukapakapa.

"There were quite a few customers happy to keep seeing me, which is wonderful. They like the fact that I'm a veterinarian, I guess, and that it's right next to our home, and that their cat can have a real 'country retreat'," she says.

Customers can book online at [www.cathotelstoneycreek.co.nz](http://www.cathotelstoneycreek.co.nz) or phone 420 4859.

## Locals get chance to make a movie in a day

A 'Movie in a Day' workshop will be held at the Helensville Art Centre on Saturday, November 10 from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Award winning short film maker Hank Snell will talk the group of eight through the 'how to' of short film making before getting them to brainstorm ideas and then setting them loose around Helensville with filming equipment.

Hank has worked as a filmmaker in a number of countries and met Queen Elizabeth when a short film he worked on with a Down's Syndrome man came to her attention. The workshop has been subsidised by Creative NZ and costs \$45, which includes a DVD of the edited movie.

The movie will have a free public premier the following evening at 7pm in the Art Centre. Phone Pauline, 021 158 6858 or email [admins.artcentre@gmail.com](mailto:admins.artcentre@gmail.com) for more information.



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# Work well underway on museum archives building

Helensville Museum's new archives building should be all closed in by the middle of this month.

Bryce Coles of local renovation company Smith & Sons has already been working, along with subcontractors, on the job for around a month.

The old Modcom building, which the museum received at no cost, has been lowered onto its foundations, and when *Helensville News* called in the foundations, floor and framing for a 46sq.m. extension at the rear of the building were mostly completed.

That extension, when finished, will be about two-thirds taken up with a fire-proofed archives room to store the museum's huge collection of valuable historic photographs and documents.

The rest of the extension will become a resource area, while the existing building will eventually be divided up into several rooms including a large research area, an office and a disabled toilet.

A new deck has been built along the front of the Modcom, which eventually will be joined up to the old Waitoki School 'Sunshine' building, once it receives its much needed renovations.

The work has been progressing thanks to an \$80,000 grant from the ASB.

Bryce says at this stage the new extension will probably only be taken through to closed-in stage, with lining and other finishing work completed as more funds become available - although he says they are doing their best to get as much done as possible with the existing funds.

"We're really trying to help them out."

The Modcom building, which came fully



• Bryce Coles with the extension to the archives building

carpeted, was put to its first public use during the Helensville 150th celebrations, housing one of the photographic displays put together for the occasion.

Historical Society president John Smith acknowledges the contribution of Eurovision movers, who lowered both the Modcom and the Sunshine building onto their foundations free of charge.

## Free Christmas carol evening

There will be a free family 'Carols in the Park' evening at Parakai Springs Aquatic Park after this year's Christmas parade on Saturday, December 1.

Presented by local community church groups, the carols will run from 6pm to 8pm at the Aquatic Park arena, with free entrance and parking off Springs Road, Parakai. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the entertainment and giveaways on the night.

The evening is sponsored by Parakai

Springs, Abbey Press, the Helensville Christian Life Centre and the Helensville District Business Association.



• Families enjoying last year's carols evening

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## Local woman selling gourmet culinary goods and liquors via party plan

Esther Te Aotonga has started selling a popular range of liquors, culinary goods and other alcoholic drinks using the 'party plan' method first popularised by Tupperware.

The Woodhill woman is the only active agent for Prenzel Pantry in an area spreading from Orewa to Pukekohe.

Prenzel is a Blenheim-based company which manufactures natural products including fruit brandies, liqueurs, flavoured schnapps, flavour-infused rice bran oils, gourmet culinary vinaigrettes and sauces and a number of other alcoholic products.

Many locals will recall the Prenzel tasting room in Kumeu. While there are still several tasting rooms around the country, they now tend to be in larger centres - opening the way for the party plan style of selling in areas not large enough to support a bricks and mortar store.

Esther was born in South Auckland but moved to Helensville aged nine, attending Helensville Primary. When she finished school and moved out of home she left this area, working as a primary school teacher in Massey. But when she and husband Dave, an engineer for a Hobsonville super yacht company, wanted to buy some land, the pull was back here.

Now they live in Woodhill with their two children, Josiah, aged three, and 17 month old Seth.

When *Helensville News* met her, Esther had recently held her first tasting party in Helensville, and already had several others booked for November. She was expecting party bookings to start rolling in with Christmas coming up, as she says the products make idea gifts.

The tasting parties are popular as the hosts receive free gifts as well as discounts of up to 60 percent on any products they order for themselves.

Holding the parties fits in well with having small children.

"I wasn't ready to go back to work full time, and I don't really want to do relieving while Seth is still so little," she explains.

Esther says one of things that differentiates the Prenzel products is they use all natural ingredients, rather than flavourings. Initially she will just be supplying the most popular products, but says that will expand in future.



• Esther with her range of Prenzel Pantry products

## Red Team cleans up in paint ball battle

Eighteen local fathers, sons and grandsons had fun shooting each other - with paintballs - in Woodhill Forest recently as part of a Helensville Men & Family Centre organised day out.

Two teams - designated red and blue - battled it out at Delta Force Paintball in Lookout Road during six separate encounters played out in three differently themed locations.

Armed with 300 paintball shots each, the red team won the first two encounters in a pyramid location, and then took another two victories in the log cabin setting, where the goal was to occupy and hold the cabins.

The final encounter was in a 'graveyard', with the red team sustaining its first loss to the blue team; however, with ammunition running low the red players came back to take the final encounter, winning the day with 50 points from a total of 60 on offer.



• Red Team members on the attack in Woodhill Forest



## From the Chairman

We were delighted to open a new addition to the Medical Centre

this month. The new ambulance ramp, which brings greater privacy for patients being transferred to ambulance, was opened by the Right Honourable John Key, Prime Minister. Mr Key said that he sees Helensville as a community which is well serviced, and thanked the staff, its supporters and the community.

The ramp includes two splendid screens completed by our local artist, Jeff Thomson. Jeff's signature art work is in corrugated iron. He stated that community involvement summed up the project – Jeff got words and information from locals and used the text to make patterns forming the flow of the Kaipara river.

This has been a truly community-based project with the management, energy, inspiration, construction and funding all local. We are very proud of the services that this strategic health site provides and recognise our long standing strategic relationship with Waitemata Health. We understand that the only way the government can reduce expenditure on secondary health is for communities to take responsibility for supporting healthier lifestyles, and we are proud of our work towards this.

## International speaker for Helensville community – a strategic broker seminar

We are pleased to report that as part of the Strategic Broker Project a free seminar presented by Jim Diers will be held on Monday 26 November in Helensville – venue to be announced.

Jim is an international speaker, facilitator and author for building caring, inclusive, and powerful communities. This seminar will provide us with the opportunity to build on work already undertaken by Grace, our broker, including the very successful treasure hunt.

The seminar is open to all members of the community who are interested in building community involvement in all areas, making South Kaipara the best place to live.



Jeff Thomson, Dianne Kidd, John Key and Charm Torrance in front of the new screen.  
Below: John Key cuts the ribbon, assisted by Dianne Kidd and Maraea Shaw (10) and her sister Kayla (8).



## Health Link North launch

Health Link North was launched in Silverdale in October. This organisation has formed as a result of the merger of North Shore Community Health Voice and Rodney Health Link. Its prime purpose is to engage with communities within Waitemata Health's northern region, provide communication on services both planned and existing and receive feedback from communities to enable better planning and management. Our manager will remain on the board of this entity for the foreseeable future representing Helensville and South Kaipara. Any feedback that you have about the services provided by the Waitemata

District Health Board can be sent to her and will be passed on to this group for discussion and action.

### In remembrance of Louis Keefe

The Helensville District Health Trust Board was deeply saddened by the death of Trust Board member Lou Keefe this month. Lou, who was an elected community representative, had been on the Trust for two years. He was an active member of the board, always contributing in a positive manner and giving his time to projects willingly and constructively. He will be greatly missed by all.

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## Rodney Coast Challenge on again

The annual Canoe & Kayak Rodney Coast Challenge multi-sport race will be held on Sunday, November 18.

The event, which starts at Muriwai Beach, has been held for more than 20 years and was taken over as a fundraiser by the Kaukapakapa Scout Group in 1998.

The race attracts more than 400 participants each year. They do a 10km forest run, a 30km road cycle race, a 25km mountain bike race and an 8km kayak leg.

Race director Graeme Hounsell says the race usually raises around \$5000 to \$6000 for Kaukapakapa Scout Group, with another \$2000 to \$3000 going to other organisations that help out on the day.

The money raised this year will be used to support activities for local youth, and to subsidise Scout camps, training, and other activities and events.

Kaukapakapa Scout Group also runs family activities where the Group picks up part of the cost, enabling all families to be able to afford the experience. Those range from family camps to day activities like the Zoo Experience and trips to Rangitoto or Tiri Tiri Matangi.

The Rodney Coast Challenge will start at 8.15am with a 250m run up the sand dunes at Muriwai Beach followed by a 10km forest run to Rimmer Road. Competitors will then

swap their legs for wheels and do a 30km road cycle race from Rimmer Road onto SH16, heading through Helensville and Kaukapakapa.

That will be followed by a 25km mountain bike stage on gravel roads which will head up the Makarau Valley then via Upper Waiwera to Puhoi Park.

There, competitors will leap into kayaks for an 8km paddle along the Puhoi River to the Wenderholm Regional Park, where they leave the kayaks to run a final 150m sprint to the finish line.

Graeme says competitors are a mix of individuals and teams of two to four people, who share the different legs of the challenge. The fastest can complete the course in about two hours, with others taking up to five hours to finish the 73km total race length.

Entry forms for this year's race are available at [www.rcc.org.nz](http://www.rcc.org.nz).



• Competitors at the start last year

- Photo: Anna Stevens

## Exhibition by award winning painter

The Art on Track Gallery at the Helensville railway station will hold an exhibition by award-winning Muriwai painter Bruce Ferguson from Wednesday, November 7 to Sunday 25.

Bruce, who has previously exhibited at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington, recently won the two-dimensional painting section of the Rodney District Art Awards. He has numerous other awards and was a finalist in the Australian

Artist Magazine 'Prize Challenge Series'.

Bruce works solely in oils in a photo-realistic style. His subjects are mainly coastal scenes and landscapes, with emphasis on the reflective influences of light and filtered sunlight on water featuring strongly in most of his paintings.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 3.30pm. The resident artists are always in attendance and their art is permanently on display.



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# Parent Aid shifts focus to child

Local family help organisation Parent Aid has rebranded and refocused its local service to put an emphasis on helping the child, rather than the parent.

"The reason for doing this is that many mums find it extremely difficult to ask for, or accept help, but if the service is for the children, then [the] mum may feel ok about asking for help," says Parent Aid Northwest manager Lynette Edmunds.

"What we have tried to do with rebranding is change perception of Parent Aid being for the parent's benefit, because the parent needs help, but instead we are helping for the children's benefit.

"By changing the image to something warm, friendly and child-focused, we hoped to make it that little bit easier for mum to ask [for] or accept assistance," she says.

Parent Aid helps by providing childcare so, for example, a mother can catch up on sleep, or by playing with the older children so a mother can care for a newborn. They can also make a dinner or multiple dinners to freeze, and help around the home with things like folding washing, vacuuming, and doing dishes.

"All parents need a hand sometimes for one of the hardest jobs - good parenting,"

says Lynette.

Parent Aid also helps fathers and grandparents, but mothers makes up the majority of those receiving assistance.

The local Parent Aid team has all been together for many years and has a huge amount of knowledge passed down from the hundreds of families they have supported. They are all mothers themselves, first aid certified and have attended workshops on parenting, safety and general information to enhance the service.

"They have played with hundreds of children, made many dinners, hung an unbelievable amount of washing out and folded it, and left many mums, dads and grandparents at the door happy and smiling with the children begging for their friend to come back and play again," says Lynette.

Parent Aid is a free service for families with children aged zero to five years who live in north-west Auckland, covering an area from Riverhead to Glorit. Parents usually receive up to 12 hours of free home help.

Parents interested in the service should phone 420 7002 or book online at [www.parentaidnorthwest.org.nz](http://www.parentaidnorthwest.org.nz).



• 3-year-old Niamh is one Helensville child to benefit from Parent Aid's services

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## Exhibition to focus on local area

A sculpture exhibition focussing on issues that relate to and explore the natural beauty of the Kaipara area, its flora and fauna, threats to the environment, the history of the land, colonisation and socio-political issues, opens at Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens north of Kaukapakapa on Saturday, December 1.

Called 'Exhibition 2013' it will feature 50 works by emerging New Zealand artists including Andrew Hall, Carol Green, Cherrie James, Clovis Viscoe, Darryl Fagence, Greg Maddox, Jin Ling, John Botica, Jonny Brugh, Margaret Sumich, Niko Thomsen, Phil Bonham, Ramon Robertson and Sue Hill.

Among the works featured will be 'Kaipara Panorama' by Carol Green, which consists of 10 large-scale panels arranged in an outdoor gallery setting depicting places of local significance, including the Auckland to Helensville train, the disappeared kauri forests, sand mining, the Kaipara River and the Kaukapakapa slaughterhouse.

More whimsical will be a giant steel dragonfly by Clovis Viscoe. Clovis has a background in animation but has always wanted to break out into the more physical realm of sculpture.



• Clovis Viscoe at work on his giant dragonfly

Entry to the special exhibition opening featuring entertainment and refreshments at 2pm on Saturday, December 1 costs \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 5-13 years, with under-5s free. Normal entry to the exhibition costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for 5-13 years olds.



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## Surprise roll jump at Parakai School

Parakai School's roll jumped by nine students in the first two days of Term 4 - a surprising leap according to principal Sean Valvoi.

"Usually we get one or two students at the beginning of each term, not nine - which is actually a six percent increase in the school roll."

The new students ranged in age from five-year-old new entrants to 12-year-olds in the senior school

"We've added another new entrant class as the Year 1 roll has grown," says Sean. "Our Maori Medium Education class, Te Whare Kakano, is now up to 14."

The school also already has many pre-enrolments for next year, so planning has already begun for that.



• New Parakai School students, from left: Rear - Nick Granville (12), Charm Fenton (12), James Brown (10), Georgia Brown (8), Katarina Heta (11); Front - Andreous Kingi (7), Moko Pairama (5), Kaitlyn Lucich (5) & Celia-Paree Kingi (5)

## Parakai School gets major IT upgrade

Parakai School has undergone a massive IT infrastructure upgrade over the last two months with the school spending around \$25,000 of its own funds installing powerful new wireless hotspots, a new computer server, and buying and laptops for the students.

The school is now connected to ultra-fast fibre optic broadband, funded by the government, and has just received approval to upgrade all the school's cabling to further increase internet access speed. The Ministry of Education will fund the upgrade at a cost of up to \$80,000.

Parakai principal Sean Valvoi says students are already enjoying the benefits the laptops are making in improving their learning. The next stage of IT improvements will be the introduction of the new server, which will allow the students to bring their own laptops, iPads and other devices and connect them to the school server.

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## Become a pasta master

The first time I made my own pasta I was staying with an Italian family, under the direction of "Mama".

A large space was cleared on the kitchen table and flour was sifted onto its surface. Eggs were gathered and cracked one at a time into a cup; only the eggs with the brightest yolks were selected. With plenty of gestures and with her sleeves rolled up Mama began to slowly incorporate the eggs into the flour with her fingers. As the mess cohered into a dough, Mama smiled and had me do the kneading. This of course was the part requiring some effort but after a few minutes "arresto!" Mama said, waving her hands at me. "Stop, it is perfect."

After resting, the dough was rolled out and cut into long strips then hung over a broom handle to dry.

I tend to make pasta dough in 1.5 kg batches. We use what we want fresh and the rest we dry and store, or simply freeze the dough wrapped in plastic wrap for use another day. You can make any weight of dough by following the ratio.

- **To make 1.5kg of dough:**  
10-11 large eggs (550g)  
1kg of "oo" Tipo flour (ask at the supermarket)  
Semolina or polenta for dusting

Crack the eggs into a bowl and weigh them. The eggs will need to equal 55 percent of the weight of the flour used. So, divide the weight of the eggs by 55 then multiply the result by 100 - this is the weight of flour you will need. For example, if the eggs weigh 550g then you will need 1000g of flour.

If mixing the dough in a machine put the eggs in first and tip the flour on top. Attach a dough hook and mix for about 6 minutes, or until a dough forms and begins to tighten. If mixing by hand, make a pile of the flour, form a well in the centre and add the eggs. Slowly incorporate together with your fingers and gather into a dough. Knead for a few minutes then wrap the dough in plastic and rest in a cool place for about an hour.

Divide the dough into 8 equal pieces, wrap the dough you don't need in plastic wrap and freeze for later. Lay a fresh sheet of baking paper on the bench and sprinkle with either Polenta (coarse ground corn) or Semolina (coarse ground wheat).

To roll out, take a piece of dough and gently roll out adding more polenta as necessary to stop sticking. Keep working with the pin from the middle towards the edges until the dough is about 2mm thick. Use a knife to cut strips and allow to dry before cooking.

Dry by either leaving on the bench or gently lift the strips and lay them over a broom handle, back of a wooden chair or from a cake rack as in my photo. The pasta is now ready to use. To store the pasta allow it to dry until 'snapable', then pack into air tight jars and store away from light in a cool place.

To cook, bring a big pot of water to the boil, add a handful of salt and a splash of oil. Cook for about 3-4 minutes depending on thickness, test before draining then stir in your favourite sauce.



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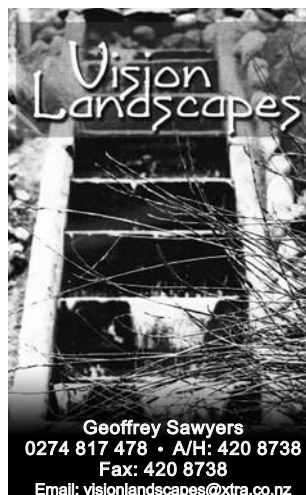
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## ■ ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

The Helensville Arthritis Support Group will meet on Thursday, November 15 in the Helensville library meeting room at 10.30am. Everyone welcome and tea and coffee will be served. Gold coin donation appreciated. For more information phone Merle on 420 8774, Ina on 420 7875 or Judy Dean on 420 6058.

## ■ TWO-DAY HORSE TREK

Waitemata Hunt will hold a two-day horse trek in the Atiu Creek Regional Park over the weekend of December 1 and 2. Suitable for all levels of riders, it will cost \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. There will be a party on the Saturday night with three drinks included in the entry cost, plus breakfast provided on the Sunday morning. Barbeque facilities will be available on the Saturday

night. Bookings can be made online at [www.waitematahunt.co.nz](http://www.waitematahunt.co.nz). For more information phone Alison on 420 2772 or 021 0273 2861, or Steve on 09 416 3307 or 0274 748 712.

## ■ SAVE THE CHILDREN

A selection of Christmas cards is available now at Helensville Library with proceeds going to Save the Children.

Another volunteer is sought to oversee the small amount of work involved in spreading the Save the Children message in the Kaipara district; anyone interested in helping should phone Gabrielle Hildreth on 420 7022.

## ■ TU TANGI ORA AGM

Tu Tangi Ora will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, November 8 from 5pm at the Lions Lounge, Rautawhiri Park. Supper and refreshments provided. For more information phone Mili Sipa on 420 7971, mobile 027 429 5497 or email her at [mili@tutangiora.co.nz](mailto:mili@tutangiora.co.nz).

## ■ PONY CLUB RIBBON DAY

Helensville Pony Club will hold a Novice Ribbon Day on Sunday, November 11 starting at 9.30am. Cost \$30 full day and \$25 half day. Six Bar (jumping) competition at lunch time. Second hand gear sales - sell your old gear for \$10 a site. For more information phone Michelle on 420 8344 or email [arabian99@xtra.co.nz](mailto:arabian99@xtra.co.nz).

## ■ TU TANGI ORA SPORTS AWARDS

The annual Tu Tangi Ora Sports Awards are on Friday, November 23 at the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Nominations for awards in 10 categories close on November 7. Contact Mili Sipa, phone 420 7971, mobile 027 429 5497 or email [mili@tutangiora.co.nz](mailto:mili@tutangiora.co.nz) for nomination forms.

## ■ KKK SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Kaukapakapa School's annual golf tournament is on Friday, November 30 with a

shotgun start at 9.30am at Helensville Golf Course. Prizes for longest drive, closest to pin, best dressed team and more. Entries close Wednesday, November 21. Phone Sandy Marshall, 420 4534 or Tracy Bronlund, 420 4581 or email [tracyb@bpl.co.nz](mailto:tracyb@bpl.co.nz).

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, November 18. Contact Kim on 420 5776. or phone Sarah on 0274 831 542, or email [sarah1@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:sarah1@maxnet.co.nz).

## classifieds & trade

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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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