

4700 copies delivered monthly to Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill, South Head and Shelly Beach

## Helensville turns 150!

Helensville is set to hit party mode over Labour Weekend as the town celebrates 150 years of European settlement.

A raft of activities designed to appeal to a broad section of the local community will be held across three days, from Friday, October 19 to Sunday 21. The mix of free and paid events will have something for all age groups, and include some attractions not seen here before, such as steam boat rides on the Kaipara River.

Spread over three pages, we have all you need to know about the weekend's events, covering everything in as much detail as possible.

### FRIDAY 19TH

The weekend's festivities kick off on the Friday with an Art, Wine, Cheese and Film Evening starting at 7pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Tickets for this event are \$35 and must be purchased by October 10.

Attendees will get a preview of the Helensville-themed art exhibition, which will

be open free to the public in the hall on the Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 3pm. Organised by Trudi King, the exhibition will feature sculptures, embroidery, photography, painting, and mixed media artworks by a mix of well-known and emerging artists, all with ties to this area.

It is expected that most, if not all, the artworks will be for sale.

There will also be a fashion show of clothing by award-winning designer Donelle Scott.

Those attending the evening function will also get a first chance to view a 'Helensville Through the Ages' film show on the hall stage. The film will also be shown free of

charge to the general public at the Catholic Church hall on the Saturday from 1pm to 4pm.

The film show is a collection of short 16mm movies taken over a period from 1944 to 1952 by local resident Mr A Brackebush and converted to DVD by Alan Scott.

There are eight separate films ranging in length from one to four minutes, and covering a wide range of local activities, including a building site on corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent; primary school children doing clay modelling; the 1945 VJ day; scenes of steam ship 'Ruawai' at Helensville wharf and the 'Minerva' being rebuilt near Creek Lane and various Kaipara Cruising Club outings.

Alan has printed and named 115 images from the VJ day parade and put them in folders, along with folders for the other films.

*The weekend of events is planned to celebrate the establishment 150 years ago of Helensville as a kauri milling centre after the arrival in 1862 from Nova Scotia of brothers John and Isaac McLeod.*

*Prior to their arrival the settlement was known as Te Awaroa. John and Helen McLeod building their home 'Helen's villa' in 1863 at the northern end of the settlement - reputedly becoming the source of the town's European name - while Isaac and Janet McLeod bought land at the southern end.*



• Scene from the Helensville Centennial Parade

These can be viewed at the screenings, with Alan on hand to show people themselves in the photos as well as identifying more people in the images.

### SATURDAY 20TH

The main focus for most locals on the Saturday will be a broad range of street stalls in Commercial Road from 9am to 3pm, and a large street parade starting 11.30am

That parade will feature floats by local schools, each depicting a different 20-year period in the town's history; horse and carriages; a First World War ambulance; a vintage Helensville fire engine (see page 12 for more); vintage cars; and a massed pipe band parade provided by the Auckland Police Highland Pipe Band, the Warkworth and Wellsford District Highland Pipe Band and the Kumeu Brass Band.

There will be about 30 street stalls, plus at least 10 Commercial Road businesses are participating as well, such as the River View Restaurant which will have samples of South African cuisine on offer. Stalls, open from 9am to 3pm, will be located from the ASB to the Helensville Insurance centre and across the road from Porcini's to Harcourts; Creek Lane will not be closed.

Among the goods on offer will be: vintage  
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# editorial

In an odd coincidence of timing, Helensville celebrates 150 years this month, and *Helensville News* will celebrate its 150th issue next month. I realise the two don't really compare, but they are both milestones none-the-less.

And they give us the chance to make a bit of a fuss two months in a row!

Furthermore, the Lions Club of Helensville celebrated its 50th birthday just days ago - you can read about that on page 3.

Funnily enough, there is actually some confusion over just when Helensville's anniversary is. Brothers John and Isaac McLeod settled here in 1862 - 150 years ago. However, their wives and families didn't move here until 1863, and that is when 'Helen's Villa' - the McLeod homestead our town gets its European name from - was built.

So we have the strange situation whereby the town's centenary was celebrated in 1963 to mark 100 years from the date of Helen's Villa being built, while the sesquicentennial comes just 49 years later - but correctly dating from the McLeod's original arrival.

I guess it's a matter of semantics really - the important thing is that it's a big deal for our little town, and a great excuse to show off our heritage.

Needless to say, we have a 150th anniversary themed issue, starting with a large article beginning on the front page and spanning a couple of inside pages as well, which lists in detail everything you can expect to see happening in the town over Labour Weekend.

Continuing the theme there are messages from both Helensville MP and Prime Minister John Key and our Rodney Ward Auckland Councillor, Penny Webster (on page 5); and a piece on an historic Helensville fire engine which will take part in parade during the 150th celebrations (on page 12).

Plus of course there's our usual raft of interesting and informative articles. Happy reading!  
- Dave Addison, Editor

## Kaipara water worst: Council report

The Kaipara has the worst-equal marine water quality in the Auckland region.

That's one of the findings in the Auckland Council's just-released State of Auckland 'report cards', which summarise Auckland's demographic make-up, how Aucklanders rank their quality of life, and the quality of Auckland's land, air, waterways, coast and sea.

Marine water quality is monitored at 35 sites across the Auckland region. The Kaipara River monitoring site tied with Mangere Bridge in having the poorest quality water, while another Kaipara monitoring site in the Makarau estuary ranked little better at 30th out of the 35 sites.

The best quality marine water was found at Goat Island.

Our area fares better when it comes to fresh water quality, with a middling overall 'C' rating for the entire Rodney Local Board area, on a scale from A to F.

The State of Auckland report card gives Rodney a 'D' rating for the quality of land,

based on the amount of indigenous ecosystems (including forest, scrub, and freshwater and saltwater wetlands) within the reporting area. Plantation forests also contributed a small amount to the biodiversity grade.

Among other facts revealed in the report card is that while the Rodney Local Board area is the largest in the city, it accounts for only four percent of the population.

However, between the 1996 and 2006 censuses, the area's population increased by 30 percent, well above the regional growth rate of 22 percent. Population projections show Rodney could have 81,300 residents by 2031.

Rodney's population was 80 percent European, 10 percent Maori, and two percent each Pacific and Asian. A fifth of the population was born overseas.

69 percent of residents were employed - a fifth of those self-employed, the highest proportion in Auckland (excluding Waiheke and Great Barrier Islands).

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# Lions Club celebrates 50 years

Just as Helensville is about to celebrate it's 150th anniversary, the Lions Club of Helensville celebrated its 50th anniversary a few days ago.

The club was formed on September 12, 1962 with 17 members and paid its first dues to the international organisation of five pounds, five shillings that same month.

To celebrate a special anniversary dinner for more than 120 locals and visiting dignitaries was held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 22.



• Helensville's first woman Lion, Pam Persson, cutting the 50th Anniversary cake.

Among the special guests attending were the Lions' District Governor, Vice District Governors, Council Chairman, Regional Chairman, Zone Chairman, the Executive Officer and several past District Governors. Representatives from the Waimauku, Henderson and Glenfield clubs also attended.

Club members celebrated with a dinner and live entertainment including Pauline the Poet, a montage of scenes from three plays by Nem's DramaWorks and comedy and song from Jools Topp - with sister Linda joining in via pre-recorded music.

Over its 50-year history the club has helped numerous local people, groups and organisations. It's first major donation was of an ambulance to the local St John in 1968 following the death of then mayor and Lions member Arthur West.

Over the years many other contributions have been made to St John, and also the Helensville, Kaukapakapa and Ahuroa fire brigades.

Some of the larger community projects include transporting and fitting out the former library; raising funds for the playground behind the hall; providing 'seed funding' for the Rautawhiri Park project; and building a helicopter pad at Rautawhiri Park.

Other local organisations to have benefited from Lions over the years include the Kaipara Coastguard, Helensville and Parakai playcentres, Helensville Women & Family Centre, Men & Family Centre, Drake Village, Helensville Historical Society, Helensville A&P Association and the Helensville library. A monthly donation has been made to the Helensville Emergency Food Bank for at least the last 20 years.

Local schools have also been on the receiving end of the Lions' generosity. Kaipara College was given a mini bus for special needs students in conjunction with Waimauku Lions. The college's annual speech contest winner receives a cash prize. And funding was given to set up a breakfast program at local primary schools.

Local individuals haven't been forgotten, with the Lions Club providing walkers, help with companion dogs and helping dogs, talking books, computers, dogs for the blind and more.

150 150 150

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## Lots of toys donated

Helensville's Avon Aspden wants to thank *Helensville News* readers for their generosity in donating unwanted soft toys. Avon made the plea for the toys, which she washes, mends and donates to the St James food bank in Auckland, in the July issue.

"The request I made for toys has had the most amazing response, and I am overwhelmed by Helensville people's generosity - so a huge thank you," she says.



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# Helensville celebrates 150 years

• From page 1

linen, collectables and gifts; crafts, baby knitting and jewellery; health food for pets and people; mosaics, crochet, soy melts, and fragrant oils; stamped metal and beaded jewellery; preserves; natural soaps; soy candles, plants; teddy bears; liquorice; macadamia nuts; books; ice cream and bric a brac.

Anyone interested in having a stall should phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

The weekend's official opening will be held after the parade at the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Laurence McLeod will perform a traditional Scottish haggis ceremony (with samples available for tasting), and there will be Highland dancing. A light luncheon will be held for dignitaries after the opening.

On the Saturday afternoon, a time capsule containing an array of present-day items and newspaper clippings will be buried at the Helensville Pioneer Museum in Mill Road. The museum will be open free of charge to the public all weekend, and will feature a number of displays following the 150th anniversary theme.

On the Kaipara River, locals will be able to ride in the steam boat 'Puke' for a gold coin donation. The tiny SS Puke is the oldest operational steam vessel in NZ, dating back to the late 19th century, and was one of the first to operate on the Kaipara Harbour, used by the kauri milling industry for towing.

The Saturday's events will wrap up with a Dinner, Dance and 'Time Line' show at Kaipara College in a marquee that can accommodate 500 people. The event will start at 6.30pm and finish at midnight, with a band and cash bar. Tickets are \$60.

The Time Line show promises to be something of a treat. Running for about 20 minutes between the dinner courses, it will use narration, music, song, props and people dressed in character to tell the story

of Helensville over the past 150 years.

It will begin with a narration about the original Maori inhabitants, and then move onto the arrival of the McLeod settlers and a performance of the Skye Boat Song. Then will follow covering of the town's sawmilling past, with period-clothed children sawing a log.

More children, music and narration will feature in a section of fishing, before the story moves on to farming and the role of the Kaipara Dairy Company – a section where Time Line organiser Jackie Milina says to expect a surprise.



• This Oamaru stone carving by former Helensville resident Diane McGarvey is one of the artworks that will be on show

The tale will be rounded off with a narrative about some of the town's long-standing families and the role of the railway before finishing with a song-based finale.

### ■ SUNDAY

The Sunday's events begin with the last two official events of the anniversary.

At 10.15 am there will be a dedication of a new plaque on the existing cairn at the corner of Commercial Road and Rata Street to permanently recognise the town's sesquicentennial, followed by an 11am interdenominational church service at St Matthews Church in Garfield Road. Light refreshments will be served in the church hall after the service.

The afternoon will be taken up with fun and games - literally. At Helensville School

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# Messages of congratulations

I'm proud to be your Member of Parliament representing Helensville.

Helensville has come into its own over the last 150 years - over a century ago, Helensville was a kauri logging outpost at the gateway of the Kaipara harbour, a transit point for those making the journey north, but with the growth of the dairy industry at the turn of the century the region started to come into its own.

Helensville has so much to see, from the untamed beauty of the west coast beaches and the great fishing coastline of the Kaipara, to our annual A&P show - an unmissable event on our calendar.

There are endless things to experience, like the Pioneer Museum detailing the early history, the hot pools at Parakai that draw so many visitors into the region, or outdoor activities for thrill seekers of all ages.

It's great that the region can come together to celebrate the journey of the last 150 years. I hope you enjoy taking part in the celebrations. I'm sorry I can't be there to share this occasion with you all. It's great that the *Helensville News* is covering these events and bringing the people of Helensville the latest news.

Happy celebrations Helensville!



- John Key  
Prime Minister & MP for Helensville

It is with real pleasure that I congratulate Helensville on celebrating 150 years. Helensville was one of the first areas of Auckland I visited with my parents on arriving from England in 1952. I remember driving a long way from Birkenhead to get there. Then later as an adult moving to farm on the Kaipara where Helensville became one of my shopping centres.

It is also timely that just this week a committee of Auckland Council has approved the plan change that recognises the Helensville Residential Heritage Policy area as part of the District Plan, which will in turn become part of the Auckland Unitary Plan. As with the Auckland Plan this will recognise Helensville as a historic town.



- Penny Webster  
Auckland Councillor, Rodney Ward

## Helensville 150th

• From page 4

there will be old fashioned games for both children and adults from 1pm, organised by Yvonne Hilton, while Nick Roberts will be running a talent quest, for all ages, in the school hall at the same time.

At 1.30pm in the Father Sakey Centre at the Catholic Church in Kowhai Street, Dianne McLeod will present a talk illustrated with photographs on the history of Parakai. The talk will last about an hour, and there will be photo boards with extra photos on display. Entry will be \$5 per person, which includes a homemade afternoon tea; proceeds will go to Helensville Museum.

The museum itself will be open free of charge all weekend and will feature live displays of flax weaving, wood turning,

butter making and various handcrafts on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Displays will include stories and photos of early founding European families in the archival centre; and a 'Helensville Then and Now' comparative photographic display along with a continuous slide show titled 'Helensville Through the Years', both afternoons in the courthouse.

McDonald's Farm will be on site at the museum with a variety of tame animals for children to see and touch.

On the Sunday afternoon from 1.30pm Julie Colville will be taking 45-minute narrated bus tours around some of Helensville's historic homes. Up to three runs will be held depending on demand for the gold-coin donation tours.

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## New signs to welcome KKK visitors

Signs like these (right) should soon be welcoming visitors to Kaukapakapa.

Proposals are in place to erect the signs to the north and south of the town on State Highway 16, with a third sign in Kahikatea Flat Road. A fourth sign may be sited in Peak Road.

The signs have been designed using materials identified in consultation with the local community as reflecting the rural character of Kaukapakapa - large, chunky silvered timber posts and steel with a rust effect (known as 'corten' steel).

The steel has cutouts in the shape of the Little Shag; they are designed to let the background scenery show through, allowing the signs to integrate with the local environment.

Inspiration for the signs came from the story behind the name Kaukapakapa. In Māori, 'kau' means 'to swim' and 'kapakapa' means 'flapping'. It is thought that combined, Kaukapakapa means 'to swim with much splashing' - a reference to the sounds birds - most likely the Little Shag - make with their wings when they take flight from the Kaukapakapa River and adjacent wetlands.

Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Rate Payers Association (KARRA) chairman Ralph Martin says: "We are now in the process of pricing the installations and will be initially applying for funds from the Rodney Local Board discretionary fund."

The signs are just part of a much wider plan for improvements to Kaukapakapa's environment, which include concept plans for developing Sinclair Park and Kaukapakapa Reserve, walkways, interpretive signage telling Kaukapakapa's story, streetscaping and public furniture.

The proposal for Kaukapakapa Reserve



• The planned new Kaukapakapa signs

includes the creation of a sports field, a natural play space combined with education about the wetland environment and associated pond and revegetation, and a walkway through a revitalised Kahikatea grove.

"The other enhancement proposals have been presented to the Rodney Local Board," says Ralph.

"These will be implemented over a period of time as there will be a lot of planning required, funds to secure and volunteers to stick their hands up to head the projects."

KARRA is holding a public meeting at the Kaukapakapa Hall on Thursday, October 11 at 7.30pm. There will be a brief presentation of the projects followed by an open forum to discuss sub-committee groups and volunteers for each project, sponsorship and grants, materials, and priorities for work.

Ralph would like to see as many locals as possible at the meeting - and hopes many will volunteer to take part in community working bees to help get the enhancement projects underway.

## South Head field day on again

A field day will be held at 93 Monk Road, South Head on Sunday, October 7 from 10am to 3pm. The day will feature a broad selection of local agricultural and non-agricultural businesses covering areas such as drainage, motor cycles, engineering, building, real estate, and food, plus craft stalls and a charity auction.

There is a voluntary gold coin donation on entry, and all proceeds raised from the event will go to the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Cash or cheques only on the day - no eftpos available. Last year's event attracted more than 100 people despite atrocious weather, so organisers are hoping for more this year.

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# Kaipara Cultural Festival



• Members of the Parakai School Kapahaka Group perform at the festival

23 schools from as far afield as Leigh and Manurewa took part in the 20th Kaipara Cultural Festival in the Helensville Primary hall mid-September.

Performers in the day-long event ranged in age from pre-school (Kohungahunga o Whangaparaoa) through to groups from Mahurangi, Orewa, Rodney and Kaipara colleges.

It was the largest festival in the event's history, with many of the cultural groups

having participated in all previous 19 festivals.

A hangi and food stalls kept the crowds and performers well fed.

The festival committee - lead by Richard Nahi - promotes the non-competitive event as a way of supporting schools, the local community and first-time performers. It is also a venue to promote and encourage cultural belonging and identity, and to recognise the value of our nation's culture.

## medical centre notes

In tune with this issue's history theme, it seems a good time to ponder the changes in medicine of the decades - from where we are now, with so many advances in both treatments and investigations of diseases, and possible future treatments designed for you based on your DNA - to look back at just 80 years ago.

In the 1930s if you were admitted to hospital, your main successful treatment was being somewhere warm, bedrest and being under the watchful eye of the nurses. Doctors could do lots of tests, but treatments were often limited. If you had pneumonia, you could be given rabbit serum; for asthma, you could be put in an oxygen tent. For heart failure, they could bleed you to take some of the pressure off your heart, and also give you a measure of digitalis mixture. Beyond that, options were pretty limited.

Medicine has certainly come a long way - though the nurses still have watchful eyes!

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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## KKK School to hold golf tournament

Kaukapakapa School holds its fourth annual golf tournament at Helensville Golf Course on Friday, November 30 with a 9.30am shotgun start.

On-course competitions will include best dressed team, longest drive and closest to the pin. There will be a prize-giving and auction in the clubhouse afterwards.

Money raised at this year's tournament will go towards a new shade sail for the junior sandpit and the covered walkway to the hall. Always a successful fundraiser for the school, money raised at previous tournaments has gone toward the junior playground and a landscaping plan.

Playing packages for the Ritchies Transport-sponsored event start at \$360 for a team of four players; individuals can also enter and will be put into a foursome on the day.

There will be a complimentary barbeque



• A sense of humour from last year's tournament

in front of the clubhouse and two drinks carts on the course.

For more information contact Tracy Bronlund on 420 4581, email [tracyb@bpl.co.nz](mailto:tracyb@bpl.co.nz) or Sandy Marshall, phone 420 4534, email [lessandy@ihug.co.nz](mailto:lessandy@ihug.co.nz).

## Open day for town's new creative shops

After standing vacant for some time, the shops at the corner of Commercial and Garfield Roads are full again - and there's an 'Open Day' on Saturday, October 13 to celebrate.

Taking the cue from The Gallery, which opened about six weeks ago, the other shops are all creative-type businesses.

Ann Crane has set up a ceramics practice, dividing the shop into a studio and display area. An experienced tutor, she holds studio classes in potting. Her introductory evening last month was fully booked. Phone her on 021 605 330 for more information on classes.

Gillaz Flowers and Things has moved from the railway station into the top half of the shop that formerly housed Riverview Crafts. With more space the shop now stocks an eclectic range of clothes and other treasures, as well as flowers. Gillaz Flowers and Things is open Wednesday to Saturday each week.

Johnny Mac's Metal Gallery has moved into the corner store, previously the town information centre. Johnny works in steel, sometimes incorporating materials like wood and stained glass. The Metal Gallery is open at weekends.

The Gallery will celebrate the Open Day by exhibiting new work, with current artists Hamish MacDonald, Filani Macassey and Arwen Flowers refreshing their exhibitions for the final two months of their residencies. You will be able to meet some of the artists on the day. The Gallery is open 10am to 4pm on weekends. Anyone interested in exhibiting should phone 021 710 367.

## Local house prices rising

Average house prices in Helensville have risen by just 1.5 percent in the latest quarterly results released by Quotable Value - exactly half the average increase for the Auckland region.

That rise is, however, slightly above the average for the Rodney area of 1.3 percent for the quarter ending June 30. In the last 12 months, house values in Helensville have increased by an average of 5.9 percent says QV.

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## Scrap metal project

South Head needs your scrap metal.

After raising more than \$2600 last year, the South Kaipara Resident & Ratepayers Association (SKRRA) is holding another scrap metal drive, with the funds raised this year going to Waioneke School.

Locals are asked to put any scrap metal in the bins provided. That can include old appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, stoves, video players, stereos and computers, but not televisions, and other scrap metal such as old car parts, electrical motors, fencing wire, bolts and nails are also wanted.

Phone Paul Carter on 420 2586 for the location of bins, or if help is needed with large items or large quantities of scrap.

## Book week at Helensville Primary



• Year 2 students Andre England as Hairy Maclary and Kate Larsen as Aphrodite (both aged 6)

Helensville Primary School spent a week celebrating books and all things literary. There was a book fair; daily 'stop, drop and read' sessions; special reading sessions; and a book character parade. The parade had originally been planned for Commercial Road, but that was stopped by bad weather.

## College speechmakers



• Alex Sergeant (left) with Kalib Lawes and Jamie Masters

Kaipara College student leader Alex Sergeant has taken second place in the Zone 4 rounds of the Lions NZ Young Ambassador Speech contest, winning \$300 with a speech on 'following your passion and working towards a goal'.

Alex was part of a three-person Year 13 college team, which included Kalib Lawes and deputy head girl Jamie Masters.

College Career Advisor Claire Couch says the trio "did an incredible job of representing Kaipara College."

Hosted by Orewa Lions Club at the Orewa Community Centre, the students' five-minute speeches were judged by Rodney MP Mark Mitchell, Sue Dixon of Hillcrest Lions, and Wayne Franich from the Surf Life Saving Club.

Gabriella Tennant from Mahurangi College won the \$1000 first place and goes to the district final at Te Atatu on October 14.

# Happy Birthday Helensville!

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## Call to eat more like our ancestors

With the 150th anniversary of Helensville firmly in mind, local health shop owner Lorraine Buswell is concerned people aren't eating as well as their ancestors did.

Back in her grandparents' time, food was less processed and additive-free, and Lorraine believes many of today's health issues are caused by the highly modified foods we now eat. She would like to see locals getting back to eating whole foods.

To help get the message across, she plans to hold an old-fashioned bake-off to coincide with Helensville's 150th celebrations.

Her concerns prompted Lorraine to set up her own health shop at her home in Fordyce Road, Parakai. She had run her Ruishton Cottage Pups pet care business there for around 10 years, and decided about six months ago the time was right to expand into products for Helensville's human population as well.

So the business name was changed to just Ruishton Cottage Ltd, and Lorraine now

carries a range of organic, gluten-free or wheat-free (sometimes all three in one) products in the cute little cottage adjacent to her house.

She has already built up a regular clientele,

some from as far afield as Christchurch and Australia. She is happy to get in any products not already stocked, and likes to source goods locally wherever possible.

Her range is small but diverse, from cans of coconut water, which is a natural electrolyte and ideal for sick people, through to organic soups, pizza sauces, whey-based milk powder, flour made from ancient grains such as buckwheat, organic nachos, baby foods and organic apple cider vinegar.

For those keen to learn more about the food they are buying, she stocks the book 'The Chemical Maze', a pocket-sized reference which lists the origins and derivations of all the additives and ingredients found in food. She also sells products such as ECOTanka stainless steel drink

bottles, which avoid the risks associated with drinking from plastic bottles.

The health shop now accounts for around half of Lorraine's business, with the rest taken up by dog grooming and a wide selection of pet care products.

As with humans, Lorraine is keen to see animals eating healthy, natural foods, and promotes a range of New Zealand made raw meat products which she says have a raft of health benefits for pets.

Ruishton Cottage is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and Lorraine is happy to meet with clients on other days if she is around. She also trades at the Kaukapakapa market and in Helensville by the Kaipara Tavern on Friday mornings, weather permitting.



• Lorraine in the doorway of Ruishton Cottage

## Plenty on at Helensville Art Centre

The Helensville Art Centre has a range of workshops and exhibitions on this month.

There are two children's workshops to create model historic cottages with Pat Kentch, on Thursdays October 4 and 11. Participants must attend both workshops. They will make individual cottages to be completed at home; the finished works will be shown at the centre during the Labour Weekend 150th celebrations.

From October 6 to 29 is the 'Emergence' exhibition of works from Mt. Tabor's artists.

On Saturday, October 6 from 10am to 3pm Jo Ogilvie is holding a Hebal carving workshop (cost \$30) and on Monday, October 8 there is untutored life drawing from 6.50pm to 9pm (cost \$16, BYO materials).

On Friday, October 12 locals can try their hands at free 'rubbish art' with the 'Make Art out of Found Objects' workshop, aided by 'assemblage artist' Andrew Hall, from 10am to 2pm. Bookings are essential.

Finally on Saturday, October 13 there will be a 'Movie in a Day' workshop with Hank Snell from 9.30am to 3.30pm. The cost is \$45, and on the following day at 7pm there will be a screening of the finished movie.

Materials are provided for most of the workshops as part of the course fee. For more information phone Pauline on 021 158 6859, or email her at admins.artcentre@gmail.com.

# Dance show and free dance workshop

A free youth dance workshop and a low-cost contemporary dance performance will be held in Helensville in a few days' time.

'Lazy Suzy Boy' is the latest work by acclaimed New Zealand choreographer Ann Dewey, fresh from having performed at the Sziget Festival in Hungary.

The performance will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Wednesday, October 10 from 7pm, while the free workshop is the day before, also in the hall, from 11am to 4pm.

Lazy Suzy Boy investigates power in relationships - between people, and between humans and our environment. Despite the intense subject matter the work is peppered with Ann's trademark style of excitement, humour and enlightenment.

The dance performance costs \$10 adults and \$5 for children, and is part of a series of seven performances being held across Rodney district and Auckland City.

From cheap ticket prices to the use of community venues and unusual spaces, Dewey looks to diversify her audience and get more people involved in the dance experience.



• Ann Dewey

Led by Ann Dewey and dancers from her Spinning Sun company, the free workshop is aimed at 8 to 16 year olds and will consist of a dance warm-up follow by a series of creative games and movement exercises designed to help students build choreographic skills and performance confidence.

By the end of the workshop a short dance will have been created, which the students will perform informally before the show the following evening - giving them the chance to briefly showcase their talent and

work alongside professional dancers and regular Spinning Sun performers.

Ann Dewey is one of the country's foremost contemporary dance teachers and choreographers. She has performed with professional companies in the UK and New Zealand, including the Douglas Wright Dance Company and Michael Parmenter's Commotion Company.

Dewey and her company are also regular tutors in education projects in Auckland schools, most notably with the Royal New Zealand Ballet. She wrote the country's first contemporary dance syllabus, which is taught throughout New Zealand. She has taught both nationally and internationally at levels ranging from professional companies to community classes.

To book for either the show or the workshop, email Ann at: [ann@spinningsun.co.nz](mailto:ann@spinningsun.co.nz).

## Tu Tangi Ora sports awards

Nominations for the 2012 Tu Tangi Ora Sports Awards close on Tuesday, November 7. The awards ceremony will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Friday, November 23.

Nominations are sought for anyone involved in sports and either representing or living in the South Kaipara area, in the following 10 categories: Junior Female Sports Person; Junior Male Sports Person; Senior Sportswoman; Senior Sportsman; Coach of the Year; Administrator of the Year; Referee/Umpire of the Year; Supporter of the Year; Team of the Year, and Company/ Organisation Sports Initiative Award.

Winners in each category receive a trophy and certificate, and the winners of the senior sportsman and sportswoman categories also receive a small cash prize. Nominations are open to all ages.

For nomination forms or more information, phone Mili Sipa on 420 7971 or mobile 027 429 5497, or email [mili@tutangiora.co.nz](mailto:mili@tutangiora.co.nz).

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## Old fire engine to hit local streets again

Six or seven years' hard work will result in an historic Helensville fire engine driving local streets again - if only for the 150th parade on Saturday, October 20.

The 1936 Chevrolet fire engine has spent the past few years undergoing a major restoration by a band of enthusiasts at the North Shore Vintage Car Club in Albany, led by Neville Gregory of Dairy Flat and Roger Duke.

The club was given the fire engine in the late 1980s, and it put in early duty carting members' families around the club's paddock at their Christmas parties.

The old Chevy was originally a delivery truck for the Farmers Trading Company before being taken to Thames and converted into a fire engine.

It was used by the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade before moving to Warkworth to handle fire duties there. During its career it was fitted with two different bodies; the restoration is of the later style.

Unlike modern fire engines the unit carried no water and with no on-board facility had to tow a pump. It was predominantly used for transporting hoses and firemen.

Neville says the restoration was originally just going to be cosmetic, but in the end the club set a budget and a full body-off restoration took place. Much of the bodywork was sound, although new panels had to be manufactured at the rear and on



• The fire engine with earlier bodywork in service with the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade

the sides.

The wooden ladder is original, although the sliding centre section is now absent as it was too far gone for repair.

Many parts were missing, but most were either donated - such as hoses and a fire hydrant on the rear - or sourced elsewhere, such as the proper headlights which were found on the Trade Me website.

The restoration really started around 15 years ago with just Neville and two others tinkering with it, although most of the work was done over the past couple of years, with up to seven club members working on it.

"It's taken a long time," says Neville.

With work on the fire engine complete, members are now performing a total rebuild on a 1923 Dennis bus as well as restoring a 1939 Chevrolet sedan.



• Neville Gregory with the restored 1936 Chevrolet fire engine



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# Local archaeology talk

Helensville locals will have the chance to dig - figuratively - into the archaeological history of their district this week.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) mid-northern regional archaeologist, Greg Walter, is giving a free public talk on archaeology at the Masonic Lodge hall in Kowhai Street on Thursday, October 4 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival programme.

The talk, titled 'An Introduction to NZ Archaeology with the NZHPT', will also have displays and a fun quiz for people to test their archaeological wits, followed by supper.

"We want to encourage people to come and share information about the history of the Helensville area, and in particular places where they think archaeological features may exist," says Greg.

"There's a huge amount of local heritage knowledge in the community, and we're very keen to tap into that."

Greg works full time for the NZHPT as an archaeologist.

"It's fascinating to see the movement of different iwi groups around the landscape - and the subsequent development of European settlement, all of which is reflected in the many archaeological sites and features that are still present.

"I'm looking forward to sharing some of that knowledge with people from around the area, and also learning more about Helensville's archaeological landscape from

others," he says.

Bookings for the talk are recommended. Email: [infonorthern@historic.org.nz](mailto:infonorthern@historic.org.nz) or phone 09 307 9920.

## New faces at CAB



Meet the two new volunteers at the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau, Natividad (Nat) Flay (left) and Graham Matthews (centre), pictured with Helensville CAB Chairman Ralph Martin.

Nat and Graham have completed their six-week training and trial periods at the CAB, and were given their certificates of completion by Ralph.

They have now begun duties as local CAB volunteers and are looking forward to a long and fruitful experience helping locals.

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# KKK woman sets up online maternity business

Living on a kauri and rimu-covered 2.8ha lifestyle block at Makarau and running an online maternity product business is a far cry from life as an English language teacher in South Africa.

Tracey Crosby, owner of one of our area's newest businesses, moved to Howick from Johannesburg almost four years ago with husband Greg and new baby girl Alora – "for a safer environment for our children to grow up in."

In late March this year, with second daughter Erienne only a few months old, the family followed their dream to live in the country and moved to Makarau.

With their land covered in native trees there is no space for animals, although they would like to get a few chickens.

"It suits us perfectly as we wanted the space, but none of the work that maintaining paddocks and animals entails, says Tracey.

"We are spoiled as we get to enjoy the neighbouring cows, sheep, horses and pig. We love opening the front door and hearing the new lambs. We never dreamed that we would live like this – [it's] a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Jo'burg city! We love it."

Moving to Makarau coincided with Tracey setting up her new online business, Carriwell NZ.

Carriwell, started in South Africa 15 years ago but now based in Denmark, makes a range of maternity and nursing clothing and products - everything from support belts, nursing bras, breast pads, and nursing tops to sleep shirts and overnight hospital packs. It's sold in 30 countries, with the products manufactured mainly in Denmark and South Africa, and with a few sourced from other European countries.

"I used the Carriwell range during my first pregnancy and breast-feeding period in South Africa and was really satisfied with the products," explains Tracey. "When I fell pregnant again in New Zealand, I struggled to find similar products locally at affordable prices and that gave me the idea of approaching Carriwell about starting a distributorship in NZ."

Tracey became sole distributor here in March - right when the family was moving house - but she only actively started selling Carriwell once they were more settled in July. Her website, [www.carriwell.co.nz](http://www.carriwell.co.nz), has been live since mid-August. Husband Greg runs a freight forwarding company from



• Tracey with husband Greg and daughters Alora and Erienne

home.

Selling is something completely new to Tracey. She has a degree in English and linguistics, and in Johannesburg taught English to Japanese expatriates and their families after spending a year teaching English in Japan.

"I've never considered myself a 'sales' person, so this new venture is a real challenge, but one which I am looking forward to."

While the business is an online-only store, Tracey says local expectant mums are welcome to call at her home to try on the Carriwell range. She also attends 'antenatal coffee group' home parties, where those attending can look at and try on the products. She is also looking forward to networking with local midwives.

"Some of the products, such as the birthing/nursing sleep shirts, hospital panties and comfort bras, are unique to Carriwell and ideal for a new mum-to-be's hospital bag."

As for the burning question that faces many South African migrants who choose to call New Zealand home - which rugby team does she support?

"We cheer for both sides," she says diplomatically. "However, when they play each other we still support South Africa. I'm sure that will change once we've been here for a few more years!"

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with Peter Brennan of Porcini Cafe

## Pork Spare Ribs

As the weather improves and daylight saving arrives for the season, I find myself cooking most meals at home, outside. I have a little set up on the deck, namely an old black cast iron gas burner with 3 rings and no legs, this sits on a couple of bricks next to a small barbeque with a lid. I have a great view of the garden and hills beyond so it is a very relaxing place to be after the hectic pace of a Porcini weekend.

Cooking outside seems to create a more relaxed meal, and if the pan's too hot and there is a lot of sizzle smoke, at least I won't be setting off the smoke detectors inside the house!

Cooking over the barbeque is something men seem to gravitate to, maybe its the primaevial seduction of flames and smoke, or maybe its something you can do with a cold beer in one hand while clutching tongs in the other.

Though technically, in New Zealand we tend to grill rather than barbeque, as barbecuing is actually cooking with cooled smoke. If ever you get a chance to watch the Great American Barbeque Show you will know what I'm talking about. Large, and I mean *large*, men with trailer sized vessels in which a whole pig is slowly transformed into an edible wonder over a two-day period - this is serious barbequing. But I digress...

While I enjoy a well made sausage, and steak is fine, I prefer to cook cuts with bones; the best is basically just bones with a bit of meat. I am of course talking about ribs. If you want to have an informal meal with friends then give them something to eat with their hands. Grill a few mussels in the shell and as they open drop in a blob of chilli butter or garlic butter, wait for it to melt then serve them in a pile on a plate and watch them go.

Follow that with a few salads, bread and a platter of these ribs.

### Pork Spare Ribs

- 2-3kg of pork spare ribs
- 1 cup chopped coriander
- 1 thumb of fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 10 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 6 fresh chillies or 2 spoons of crushed red chilli (avoid sweet chilli sauces as they will burn)
- Juice of 2 limes
- Salt
- ½ cup sesame seed oil
- 1 teaspoon tamarind paste (optional)
- ½ glass white wine.



Separate the ribs and stack them in a large container. Process all the ingredients for the marinade and mix together in a bowl then pour onto the ribs. Make sure they are coated and refrigerate for at least two hours, (though 24 hours is best). Turn them a few times in the marinade to make sure they all get an even coating.

Heat the barbeque and turn to low, add the ribs and shut the lid. Turn the ribs to ensure even cooking then serve them on a platter with a bunch of paper towels - these are definitely to be eaten with the fingers.



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## ■ ARTHRITIS SUPPORT GROUP

The Helensville Arthritis Support Group is taking a bus trip to Manukau Gardens for lunch and to view the spring displays this month, instead of its normal monthly meeting. The bus will leave Helensville at 9.30 am on Thursday, October 18. Cost to be advised. Bookings must be made no later than Friday, October 12. Phone Merle on 420 8774 or Ina on 420 7875.

## ■ SOUTH KAIPARA R&R MEETING

The next meeting of the South Kaipara Resident and Ratepayers Association is on Wednesday, October 17 at Waioneke School. Phone secretary Valerie Nicholls on 420 2843 for more information.

## ■ AGLOW MEETING

Helensville Aglow will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, October 5 in the Lion's Lounge at Rautawhiri Park. Guest speaker will be local artist Graham Braddock, who will share some of his life experiences. A selection of his art will also be on display. The next meeting will be on Friday, November 2. Phone Marilyn Gray on 420 4356 with enquiries.

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## ■ KKK PONY CLUB RIBBON DAY

Kaukapakapa Pony Club is holding a Novice Ribbon Day on Monday, October 22. There will be five rings with great prizes. Food will be available on the day. For more information phone Debbie on 420 4586.

## ■ RIGHT ROYAL RAVE UP

Following the Queen's Jubilee and London Olympics is the British-themed Right Royal Rave Up at the Glorit Hall on Saturday, October 27. Tickets are \$20 which includes supper, British music, prizes and plenty of fun. Come dressed as your favourite British celebrity. All money raised will go towards hall maintenance. Tickets from Andrea, phone 420 5782 or from Anna's Hair Salon in Kaukapakapa.

## ■ RAUTAWHIRI PARK TRUST

The Rautawhiri Park Trust (RPT) will hold a half-hour community information session on Thursday, October 25 from 5:30pm, at the Lions Lounge at Rautawhiri Park, to cover Trust developments and its plan for the next year. All sporting codes and groups in Helensville using Rautawhiri Park are urged to attend. For more information phone Richard Binks on 021 107 1893.

## ■ ATHLETICS CLUB REGISTRATION

Helensville Athletics Club will hold a registration evening for the 2012/2013 season on Wednesday, October 17 from 5.30pm at the Lions Lounge at Rautawhiri Park, covering children aged from preschoolers to year 8s. For more information and online registrations visit www.sportsground.co.nz/helensvilleathletic or phone Sonja Binks on 420 9238.

## ■ YOUTH ART EXHIBITION

Waitoki School will hold a Youth Art Exhibition in the school hall on Saturday, October 27 from 9am to 2pm and Sunday 28 from 10am to 1pm. A special preview evening will be held on Friday, October 26 including nibbles, beverages and an exclusive fashion

design range. For more information phone Waitoki School on 09 420 5244 or email admin@waitoki.school.nz.

## ■ ALPACA OPEN DAY

Waitakere Alpacas has an open day on Sunday, October 7 from 10am to 4pm at 107 Monk Road, South Head. Meet alpacas and watch demonstrations. Free entry, no dogs please. All funds raised going to the West Auckland Hospice. Phone Hans Roecoert, 420 2185.



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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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