

## New food venture will take over where restaurant leaves off

One of Helensville's best loved businesses for the past seven years, Porcini Cafe in Commercial Road, closed its doors for the last time at the end of March.

But it's not the last locals will see of owner and chef Peter Brennan, as he will be starting a new food business in Helensville later this month.

"The time has come to move on to something new," says Peter. "It has taken a huge commitment from my wife and family to indulge me in my venture. Seven years of working nights and every weekend could have taken its toll on the family dynamic, but instead the family embraced the chance to work together on the project."

The 'Porcini project' began in 2006 with a simple brief, says Peter: "to serve good food that was 'real'".

"We wanted to use as much local produce as possible and to use the produce we grew on our property in Kaukapakapa. We shopped local, used local maintenance and repair people and tried to support as many local schools and projects as we could.

"Within months of opening we realised we had grabbed a tiger by the tail and found ourselves in the media spotlight. Winning awards and gaining in popularity, Porcini



• Chef Peter Brennan

became a source of immense pride for us and slowly for the village and greater community as well."

Over his 30-plus years of cooking Peter had collected a wealth of recipes, so rather than chase the latest fashions in cuisine he decided to go back to basics and breathe fresh air into old ideas and cooking methods.

"For the most part the concept has been successful, and above all it has been a pleasure to work in the Porcini kitchen with a wonderful crew of dedicated staff," says Peter.

Later this month Peter will be opening a new food business – unnamed at time of writing – beside Scott's Traditional Butchers in Mill Road.

The shop will sell fresh and smoked fish, takeaways, cakes, coffee, bread, roasted chicken, pâté, pizza, pasta and – for those suffering withdrawal symptoms after the restaurant's closing - Porcini meals to take home.

"We envisage a sort of country Nosh, where everything is made on site," says Peter. "We will also offer catering services, [so] you can have Porcini in your front room or back yard."

With Scott's butchery next door and a fruit and vegetable shop in the same block, Peter expects the Mill Road location to become something of a food destination.

Peter says the reasons for the change in his business approach are varied, but the main one is that the hours of operation will be more conducive to family life.

"And the food the community has come to enjoy will still be available, this time at a much reduced cost."

Peter thanks everyone for the support that Porcini has received over the years.

"I have met amazing people through my work, and hope to see as many of you as possible in the new venture."

And *Helensville News* readers will still be able to learn more about food and get fabulous recipes to try out in Peter's regular column, which will continue to appear on page 15 of each issue.

### Owner sought for books

The Helensville Hospice Shop is looking for the owner of a box full of Bible story books which was left by mistake at the shop before Christmas. When the donor's mistake was realised, the books couldn't be found and were presumed sold. The box has now turned up, and shop staff would like the owner to make contact - phone Jane on 420 8950 or call in to the Hospice Shop in Mill Road.

### Inside...

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# editorial

So Auckland Council has released its draft Unitary Plan - the document which unites and replaces all the disparate plans from the pre-Super City former councils, and which will be the blueprint for Auckland's development over the coming years. But where is Helensville in all this?

Our town appears to be virtually ignored. In all I've read so far, I've only found Helensville mentioned once. Worse, Rodney Local Board organised a series of 'walk-in' meetings to discuss the plan at Muriwai, Warkworth, Kumeu and Puhoi - but not Helensville!

When you think what our town offers, it's hard to accept being overlooked. As prominent resident Dianne Kidd points out, Helensville has the only college between Orewa and Massey; the only Waitemata Health base for regional service delivery; the largest multi-sport complex in the western region (Rautawhiri Park); unique thermal springs; the only river access to the Kaipara Harbour in the region and the only wharf access in the South Kaipara; a large integrated health centre plus a birthing centre catering for a vast catchment; five marae; a wide range of recreational amenities - and of course the history to go with it all.

While great swathes of Auckland are up for zone changes to allow for a whole raft of development options, Helensville seems stuck in limbo. Dianne was one local hoping for zoning changes here. With an admitted self interest, she was hoping for land she and others own above Rautawhiri Park to be zoned residential to allow for subdivision, but that block - and the few others like it in our area - remains stuck as 'future urban', meaning no possible immediate subdivision.

While some will applaud the fact our town will stay much as it is, growth is really the only way forward. Without more people, local businesses may stagnate or die, the range of amenities and services on offer will remain static, and our town risk becoming a sleepy backwater as neighbouring areas explode with growth.

"The point about growth is we want to control and own the growth in designated areas that work for our community, and NOT continue with subdivision of productive rural land along the main roads resulting in urban ribbon development," explains Dianne.

The Unitary Plan isn't set in stone, however - so it's up to Helensville's residents to make their thoughts known to Auckland Council ... before it's too late.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## New war memorial at Kaukapakapa

A new Second World War memorial will be unveiled on ANZAC Day, April 25, in the forecourt of the Kaukapakapa War Memorial Hall. It will utilise four plaques previously displayed on brick columns in front of the hall.

When the hall was moved in 1999, the plaques were taken down and placed in storage.

During the past year, local residents Athol Maclachlan and Megan Paterson have worked with Auckland Council to design and construct a new memorial which will list the names of Kaukapakapa residents who fought in the Second World War.

It will be of classical design, located in front of the hall, with the four original marble plaques placed on its four faces. A seat will be placed alongside.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 2pm on ANZAC Day and will be attended by representatives of Auckland Council, the Helensville RSA and community groups. Locals, friends and relatives of those who served are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the ceremony.



• The names of those who served are currently shown in the hall

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# Local go-karter lying 3rd in prestige Australian series

Getting caught up in a last lap crash left former Kaipara College student Daniel Connor with a disappointing 15th place finish in the final of the latest round of the Australian Rotax Pro Tour gokart event at Lithgow in New South Wales.

Daniel had started 10th in the Rotax Light class race, and by the halfway mark had



• Daniel in action at Lithgow, New South Wales

made his way up to 7th. After the field was bunched up during a red flag incident, Daniel fought his way up to 5th place and was challenging for 4th when he was involved in the crash on the final lap.

"All that hard work, one of the hardest and mentally tough races I have ever driven, was all taken away on the last lap and I got to go home with a 15th place instead - and a beaten up gokart," he says.

"On the plus side the experience was priceless and all the different weather combinations and scenarios with the best karters in the world was well worth the hassle of the rain and the 15th place in the final."

Daniel had gone into the Tour's third

round event lying second overall on points after a second place finish in the final of the second round at Melbourne in late January.

His finish at Lithgow, inland from Sydney, has dropped him to third on points.

Daniel, 19, started gokart racing aged 14. He was the Kartsport New Zealand schools national champion in both 2009 and 2010; Auckland Club champion in 2009, 2011 and 2012; City of Sails champion in 2010 and 2012; and Kartsport New Zealand National Champs champion in 2011 and runner-up last year.

The next round in the seven-round Pro Tour series is at Newcastle in New South Wales from April 12-14.

## Fast5 netball tournament

Kaipara Netball will hold the Kaipara Netball Leadership Fast5 Tournament on Sunday, April 14 from 10am at Rautawhiri Park.

There will be matches for Years 7 to 13 children, as well as both adult and mixed teams.

The cost is \$30 per team, with a minimum of eight and a maximum of 10 players per team. Individuals can take part at a cost of \$5 per player and will be placed in a team on the day. To register a team phone Sandra Hess on 420 4340 or email shess@clear.net.nz.

Kaipara Netball is also on the hunt for Rep coaches. Rep trials are being held on Saturday, April 13 for years 7 to 9, and Under 15s and Under 17s. Contact Kaipara Netball president Naomi Taylor, phone 420 9954, mobile 027 910 6736 or email her at pn.taylor@xtra.co.nz.




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# RAS medal for show stalwart

Helensville farmer and long-time A&P Show stalwart Richard Bradly has been awarded the Royal Agricultural Society's second highest honour.

The red, white and gold medal, presented to an unsuspecting Richard by Prime Minister John Key at the recent Helensville A&P Show, was awarded for his substantial contribution over many years to the Society's Northern District and at national level.

The Society's only higher award, the Gold Medal, is only given to those involved at a national or international level in specific competitions such as the Golden Shears.

Richard says receiving the award was "an honour and a privilege."

Richard has been involved with the Helensville A&P Association since he was a school child showing calves. His mother Helen remembers him consistently winning primary school competitions and going on to compete at both Group Day and the A&P Show. He was dedicated even at that age, never needing to be reminded to spend time with his calves.

At 15, Richard joined his grandfather helping at the Helensville show. He began as a 'runner' for the equestrian hack ring, and with his grandfather organised and ran the annual livestock guess-the-weight competition.

In the 50 years since, Richard has worked in virtually every aspect of show life.

The Bradly family had been involved with the Helensville Show for decades, with Richard's great uncle becoming president in 1938. Richard followed in his footsteps 46 years later, and Richard's youngest son Jordan is the show's current, and youngest ever, president. Jordan announced the award - a complete surprise to his father - at the A&P Show opening and awards

ceremony.

After his early years helping out at the shows, Richard joined the A&P Show committee in the 1970s and served as president from 1984 to 1986, including presiding over a Mini Royal Show in 1985.

He and his wife Geraldine were made life members of the Helensville A&P Association in 2006, after refusing the nomination for a



• Richard receives his RAS medal from Prime Minister John Key

number of years claiming he was "far too young" for life membership.

In 1997 Richard joined the executive committee of the Northern District Council of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS). He became chairman of the NDC in 2006 and held the position for six years.

His involvement and interest in showing saw him stand as chairman of the RAS Dairy Breeds Committee for several years, and he is currently chairman of the RAS United Beef Breeds Society.

• To page 5

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# 'Oh \*\*\*\*' wins photo award

This photo, titled 'Oh \*\*\*\*' has won Kaukapakapa photographer Colin Lunt 'Photo of the Month' for February 2013 by the Auckland Festival of Photography.

His photograph was taken at World's Longest Waterslide event at Woodhill in February, a fundraiser for depression awareness that received worldwide media coverage.

"The most amazing aspect of the picture was that it was a one-off shot and with no cropping or Photoshopping required," says Colin. "[It's] one in a million."

It's the second time Colin has received the award; he previously received it last August for a picture of tree planting at Long Bay.



## RAS medal awarded (cont)

• From page 6

During his years with the Helensville A&P Association, Richard has developed a reputation as a hard worker at the show's various working bees, which have covered everything from concreting, painting, dismantling old buildings, making horse jumps, constructing new buildings, spraying, mowing, fencing, roofing, and weed eating.

"Richard is the epitome of grassroots A&P involvement and everyone on the Helensville committee endeavours to achieve that commitment and knowledge that shows at every level," says former president and current executive committee member Shona Addison.

"When there is a job to be done, Richard is the first man on site and the last to leave.

"His leadership is quiet but confident and he has the total respect of every person involved in our show."

For the past decade, Richard has taken charge of the periodic detention workers the

show employs for a number of days each year. It's a role which takes a fair amount of organisation and commitment of time, and

Richard is well respected by the supervisors of the PD teams for his approachability and leadership in this role.

One of the unofficial roles which Richard has found himself holding for almost 30 years is that of Toilet King'.

No-one else on the committee understands the unique sewerage system at the Helensville show grounds Richard does, and from the day in that he installed a new sewerage pump to the present day, he is the man everyone looks to when something goes haywire with the toilets. On show day Richard keeps the toilets running smoothly – it's a job no-one else is in a hurry to assume!

Richard currently oversees the grazing of the show grounds. He organises maintenance work on the grounds - and often carries out the work himself, with Jordan's help if necessary.



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# New playground gets thumbs up from Sunny Days kids

A rustic new playground has become an instant hit with youngsters attending Sunny Days Community Preschool in Commercial Road.

The fully covered, outdoor playground is made from macrocarpa and pine and features a combat course, swing bridge, stage, a fort with a fireman's pole, a slide and a 'Frodo' hut for the under-twos.

A sunken sandpit is surrounded by decking, and there is a bridge, a boardwalk with tunnels and platforms, a carpentry cabinet, a two-bay swing frame and a 'Tiger Turf' bike track.

There is even a trickling waterfall.

Rounding out the playground installation work is a new garden and landscaping, vegetable gardens, and a new road fence in a style which matches the playground.

The playground is the result of some hard fund raising in the local community



• Alannah Power (4) tries out one of the swings on the new playground

along with contributions from grants which raised \$65,000.

"We would like to thank all the families in the local area for supporting Sunny Days to make this project work," says Sunny Days' financial administrator Leesa Schultz.

Sunny Days Pre School has operated for 25 years in the local area. It's licenced for 34 children and has qualified, experienced teaching staff. It caters for children from six weeks old to five years, with a variety of sessions to suit parents' needs.

More information is available online at [www.sunnydayspreschool.co.nz](http://www.sunnydayspreschool.co.nz).

## Local businesses urged to enter awards

Entries in this year's Westpac Auckland North Business Awards close on Friday, June 14, and the call is out for Rodney businesses to get their entries in. Businesses of all sizes can enter up to three of the eight competition categories, with all winners eligible for the Westpac Supreme Business Excellence Award.

Three extra awards, Best Emerging Business, Small Business of the Year and Best Medium to Large Business, will be selected from the overall entrant pool, where eligibility is met. The 2013 winners will be announced at a black-tie dinner on Friday, September 6.

The categories for the awards are: Excellence in Leadership; Excellence in Strategy and Planning; Excellence in Customer Engagement; Employer of Choice; Excellence in Innovation; Excellence in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability; Excellence in Exporting; Excellence in Research and Development.

Now in its 16th year, the awards celebrate the successes of businesses across all industries between the Auckland Harbour Bridge to Te Hana in the north and across to Kumeu. For more information visit [www.businessaucklandnz.com/awards](http://www.businessaucklandnz.com/awards).



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# 'Witch' cooks up 'magic' food

Being called a witch by a disgruntled client in a former job led to a nickname for Emma Stoddart which has in turn led to the name of her new business - The Witches Kitchen.

Emma purchased the Mill Road lunch bar - formerly Pop's Tucker Box and later Cafe 68 - in mid-February following the tragic death in a motor accident of previous owner Tina Burgess.

Emma will be a familiar face to many in Helensville as a former receptionist at Premier Mechanical, a position she left in June last year.

It's her first foray into the food industry, but she says: "I've always baked, I love baking."

In keeping with the 'witch' theme, she quips it's "all magic food here!"

All the baking is made on-site by Emma, with one specialty being carrot cake muffins. Hamburgers are made from scratch using home-made patties. She is also selling little containers of cookies and fudge, and has introduced 'real' milkshakes and thickshakes to the menu.

With winter approaching she is planning on adding more hot food to the menu, such

as lasagne, macaroni cheese, nachos and hot egg rolls.

Changes already made to the premises at 68 Mill Road include reducing clutter and



• Emma in The Witches Kitchen

installing a new, much larger drinks fridge.

Currently open 7am to 3pm weekdays, Emma is planning to open shortly on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm.

A former Helensville resident - she still owns a house here - Emma now lives on a 20ha property at Muriwai with partner Nigel. Between then they have six children, the youngest at Helensville Primary, three boys at Kaipara College, and the two oldest who have left home.

## medical centre notes

I had a very enjoyable Question and Answer session at the Parakai Springs Green Prescription aquarobics group. Thank you to all involved, and thank you to those present for not asking too many curly questions that I couldn't answer! Next up is a similar session for the Line Dancing Group, and we will try and have other members of staff taking part in supporting these activities.

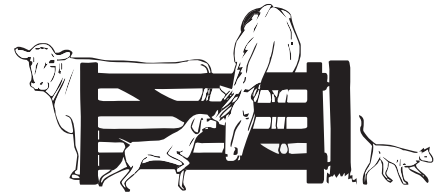
Congratulations to Drs Richard Davies and Rakesh Dogra for passing their assessments to enter the top tier for the Royal College of GPs, having passed their fellowships. We appreciate the hard work they have put into the two-year programme to achieve their goals.

A reminder that the flu vaccines have arrived, and are free for all over 65 year olds, and those with certain chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma etc. If you are unsure if you qualify please ask us at the Kaipara Medical Centre. If you do not qualify for the free flu vaccine they are still available at \$32

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director

As part of the changeover to our new owners (Helensville District Health Trust), the Kaipara Medical Centre has a new bank account. If you pay your account by direct banking or have an automatic payment arrangement, please contact reception to get our new account number, otherwise your payment may not go through.

- John Issott, Practice Manager



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# Short story competition winner

This is the winning entry in the *Helensville News*-sponsored Original Writing section of the Helensville A&P Show. The subject for entries was open, but each story had to include the words 'blue', 'furrow' and 'help'. The winning author is Pauline Denton, of Kaukapakapa, with her story, 'Loss'.

## Loss

Brow so heavily furrowed, his aged, proud blue eyes were barely visible. Could he be wanting help? Always distant, detached, unapproachable. Who would dare even to offer? He was known for his abrupt and volatile manner.

All around stood hushed.

Everyone noticed. And no-one noticed, for no-one dared respond.

He had not always been like this, but after the loss of the child, his wife had not coped, and he had not been able to support her.

Nowadays they call it postnatal depression. Even before the drowning, there was a death in her soul.

This day the air was still and the churchyard seemed to hold its breath. The stone, with its angel and yellow lichen cradling the words 'Eleanor-May, lost before her time', had been removed as its story was added to. This was the forgotten part of the cemetery, where the stories no-one wanted to read were written. It sloped awkwardly towards the corner of the dry-stone wall where the wild flowers grew high and fragrant and the butterflies seemed to drift

between worlds.

Today all acknowledged the re-uniting of mother and child as he dropped the soil on her coffin.

Like frozen statues, no-one shed a tear.

There was no emotion. No grief from the onlookers.

The priest finished his ritual and walked off, his gown muddied by the heavy clay soil.

Time had stopped.

Airless void.

A child's shrill announced: "Mummy, he looks so sad!"

Caught off guard, the old man blinked and the dry blue eyes welled with the tears he'd been holding back, holding back for years. He crumpled to the ground and sobbed uncontrollably.

Even now, no-one dared to approach. But the child, knowing nothing of the reasons why people held back their care, the child ran over to him and nuzzled into his crumpled form.

The child, who knew so little, knew more than anyone that day.

She didn't speak. And the old man didn't speak, but they had the deepest conversation of their lives.

The onlookers stared, open mouthed, then drifted away, awkwardly.

Only the young mother stood her ground. She had watched the pain of her mother, sidelined after the drowning of her sibling and sent to live with a distant aunt.

She had come to farewell a distant grandmother, but the actions of the innocence of her young boy had built a bridge that had melted away the years of distance.

She had come, not to a funeral, but come, at last, to her family.

## High tea time at Craigweil



Craigweil House in Parakai hosted a high tea on Sunday, March 24 for the residents, families and friends.

Those attending enjoyed tea and scones as Mike Lea played guitar in the background - the music encouraging some of the residents to join in with dancing.

The weather was perfect, and one of the family members brought a 1957 Plymouth car which provided added entertainment for some of the residents who got to sit in it - and have been invited to go for a ride in it at a future date..

The staff also enjoyed the day "immensely", and say they are proud of the amenities now available to the community at Craigweil.



# Local for more than 50 years celebrates 100th birthday

Parakai's Ina Tomkins, who has lived more than half a century in the local area, was to celebrate her 100th birthday on Tuesday, April 2.

She was going to mark the occasion at a party for around 40 family members and bowling friends at the Helensville Bowling Club - an organisation she and her late husband Gordon were very active in.

Ina was born in Auckland on April 2, 1913.

She was descended from English migrants John and Leah Embling - her great grandparents - who arrived in New Zealand in 1842. Their daughter Martha married Frederick Carter, whose youngest child, Hilda, was Ina's mother. Hilda died in 1988 aged 103.

As a young girl Ina remembers her father Ted Coppins delivering milk around Auckland by horse and cart.

While Ina was still very young, her parents purchased a farm at Brookby, south of Auckland, where she attended Brookby School and later Alfriston School.

She became a member of the local tennis club, a sport which she remained a keen spectator of until quite recently.

It was through the tennis club that she met Gordon Tomkins, whom she married in September 1935. The couple moved onto their own dairy farm at Aka Aka, near Waiuku, the same year. Their son Peter was born there in 1940.

They stayed on that farm for 13 years before moving in 1948 to another dairy farm in Access Road, Kumeu, where as well as milking cows they reared pigs and ran poultry. During this period Ina joined the Women's Division of Federated Farmers (now Rural Women New Zealand).

In 1960 the family moved again, this time to a 60ha farm in Fuller Road, South Head - at a time when most of the South Head road was still gravel.

Ina and Gordon both played indoor bowls at the South Head hall. Gordon was also involved in the formation of the South

Head Golf Club, becoming a member and regular player. Ina played "a little" golf as well, but says it wasn't her sport.

They both played lawn bowls at the Helensville Bowling Club, where they each had success in tournaments. When a group of club members went to Norfolk Island in 1967 for a tournament, Ina and Gordon went too - it was to be their first, and only, overseas trip.

Ina and Gordon left their family farm in 1975 when son Peter and daughter-in-law Daphne took over the herd in a share milking arrangement.

The farm was sold in 1991 and is no longer in the family.

Keen on their bowls, but not so fond of the long drive over a gravel road to get there, they decided to park their caravan at the Parakai Domain camp ground, where they lived while their house unit in Parkhurst Road was finished.

They moved into that unit - their first new home - in 1976. Gordon died three years later; he had continued to play bowls up until his illness, and Ina kept on playing into the 1980s.

Ina stayed in the unit until August last year, when she moved directly across the road to Craigweil House, which

she now calls home.

She has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



• Ina Tomkins

## Bingo evening to raise funds for building renovation

Helensville Museum is holding a bingo evening on Friday, April 26 to raise funds for the repair of the old Waitoki School 'Sunshine' building.

The classroom, built in 1939, was relocated to the museum site in Mill Road in early 2011. It has since been used for storage, but now the Helensville District Historical Society wants to restore the historic building so it can be used to house displays.

The bingo evening is in the Helensville War Memorial Hall from 7pm. A supper of tea, coffee, cakes and muffins will be available.

Phone the museum's administration officer, Lynn Millar, on 420 7881 to book, or email [helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz).



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# Demolition work nearing completion at KDC



Little remains of the bulk of the buildings at the old Kaipara Dairy Company site in Mill Road.

Over the past six weeks workers from Ward Demolition have knocked down most of the buildings on the site, leaving just the original KDC factory building (at left in the photo), and some of the more modern, corrugated iron buildings at the opposite end of the site. At the time of going to print, the shell of one other structure was

still standing (centre), but it was close to being demolished down too. A demolition worker was spraying water to keep dust down as a large excavator chipped away at the concrete building.

The warehouses that remain will be refurbished for use by several companies aligned with the film industry, which property owner Stephen Pryor is associated with. The original KDC factory building may be sold or leased, though will stay as-is for the immediate future.

# Children's Day Out keeps growing in popularity

Around 200 local children took part in the sixth annual Children's Day Out event organised by the Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC).

Themed 'Treasure our Children', the free event's aim was to promote positive parenting and the value of giving time to children. It was held as part of National Children's Day Out promotions.

A mail drop held in Helensville and Parakai before the event included a colouring competition, which attracted more than 50 entries; the winner received a waterproof digital camera.

Twenty stalls and activities in the Helensville Hall proved popular, as did a range of outside activities. However a talent quest only drew four entries, despite a first prize of an iPod Shuffle and a \$20 iTunes card.

The most successful activity was a 'Passport Initiative', along the lines of that used at last year's community treasure hunt. Each family was given a passport and was encouraged to visit all the stalls. They were given a sticker at each stall they visited, and once the passport was completed each child in that family was entered into a free raffle with 30 prizes up for grabs.

"It was great to see families interacting with the wide range of stalls, from community organisations to day-care centres and schools there was something for everyone," says Michaela Salmon of the Women & Family Centre.

Planning is already under way to make next year's Children's Day Out a bigger and better event, with even more involvement from community groups, schools and families. The HWFC would welcome any ideas on ways to improve and expand the event.

Organisations which held stalls at this year's event included: HWFC, Helensville Men & Family Centre - Tinker Table; HIPPY South Kaipara - information; Te Ha Oranga - information, Reach Forward Early Learning Centre - information and balloons; Parent Aid - information and bubble blowing; Woodhill School - eco plants; Parakai School - information and tea and coffee; Sunny Days Preschool - face painting and play dough; Parcels of Hope - information and wool collection; Strategic Broker - Neighbours Day promotions and ideas wall; Gumboots Early Learning Centre - pony rides and goat; Asthma Auckland - information; The Art Centre - canvas art; Coastguard - Information and promotions; Mainly Music - dancing; Zumba - zumba; Aqua Babies (Parakai Springs) - information; Helensville Lions Club - sausage sizzle.

Finally, the HWFC staff thank the team of 11 student leader volunteers from Kaipara College which helped with the setup on the Saturday, and on the Sunday running activities and to cleaning up afterwards, aided by Massey University student Katie.

Photos of the event are on the HWFC Facebook page, courtesy of Greg Blair



• Freddie & Millie Limmer, who took out third place in the talent contest



• Erena Shaw and Patryce Salmon enjoy the bubble machine

# Book keeping & computer service business opens Mill Road office

A 'new' book keeping and computer service company has opened in Mill Road - but it's not really a new business at all.

Michelle Rauner (right) has been providing accounting services to Helensville area locals and computer services mainly in the Kumeu-Waimauku area for more than eight years.

Now she has brought both her businesses together under one roof, opening an office and workshop in the Helensville Commercial Centre at 69B Mill Road, downstairs from the Helensville Law offices. She is sharing the offices with ECEastuteAccounting.

She has combined Rauner Book Keeping and the former PC Fix under one brand, Rauner Book Keeping and Computer Services.

Michelle has built a strong local clientele for her book keeping work, specialising in MYOB software and support.

She provides a full range of book keeping services, including accounts payable and receivable, payroll, GST, fringe benefit tax and PAYE returns.

With the closure late last year of Computer Solutions in Commercial Road, Michelle felt the time was right to move the computer side of the business into Helensville.

As well as supplying new brand name and custom-built computer systems, the company provides a broad selection of computer-based services from repair work, virus removal and system tune-ups, through to data recovery, networking and cloud-based backup solutions.

Michelle has employed an experienced technician, and the office is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm, or at other times by appointment.

She lives with husband Pete on SH16 just south of Helensville, from where Pete runs his Kaipara Concrete business.



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## Beauty therapist back in town

Helensville beauty therapy business Beauty Elixir is back in operation after a 13 month break.

Owner Melissa Carr and her family moved to Australia in December 2011 so her husband John could take up work in central Queensland as a sales representative for a company that refurbishes mining machinery.

She continued her trade in Australia, but the family decided to return to Helensville, which they first moved to 11 years ago, at the start of this year.

"We really missed our community. It is so nice to be back in our warm spirited, supportive community," says Melissa. "I've been overwhelmed by the loyal support from clients returning; I really missed all 'my ladies'. We have all slotted right back in and been welcomed back by friends and community.

"There's no place like home," she says, adding with a grin that she is "very, very happy not to be worrying about snakes. Where we lived was the start of the tropics which means very hot snake country, hard for this kiwi to get used to."

Sons Dominic (10) and Jackson (8) are now both back at Helensville Primary, with two-year-old Lincoln attending Helensville Montessori.

Melissa works from her home in Karaka Street, where she started Beauty Elixir seven years ago. She has 20 years experience, and stocks the French organic skin care range PHYT'S.

She offers a full range of beauty



• Melissa Carr works with a client

treatments including facials, lash extensions, tinting, waxing, manicures, pedicures, massage and ear candling.

As a 'return to Helensville' special she is offering a free brow shape or lash tint with any other treatment booked until the end of April.

## Rugby legend launches Pioneer's season

Rugby hero Sir Colin Meads was guest speaker at the launch of the Western Pioneers' 2013 rugby season at Helensville Rugby Club's rooms at Rautawhiri Park on Friday, March 22. With such a huge draw card, it was probably the highest attended club function for a number of years.

"You could have heard a pin drop as Sir Colin regaled stories of his illustrious rugby career, which culminated in him being awarded New Zealand Rugby Player of the century in 1999," says Richard Kidd.

The night also recognised and celebrated the 12 Senior Helensville centurion players. They were welcomed on stage by Andy Cummings, who gave a profile of each 100-game player: Bux Nio Aporo, Preston Drage, Jason Flay, Daniel Keefe, Doug Maynard, Scott Narbey, Joel Nasmith, Dean Phillipps, Stan Phillips, Kris Stokes, Scott Stokes. Ngarimu Blair was unable to attend.



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# Farmer retires from TB control role

Helensville farmer John Glasson retired from the TBfree Auckland Committee at the end of March after 30 years at the forefront of the region's efforts to control bovine tuberculosis (TB).

John played an important role in reducing possum numbers and cattle and deer herd TB testing requirements in the South Kaipara Head area.

"I recall my first experience with bovine TB in 1953 when 48 out of my father's 100 cattle tested positive to the disease," says John.

Those kinds of figures are unheard of today in the Auckland region.

His father's encounter with the disease, and the experiences of others, prompted John to become involved with the TB control programme as a member of the Regional Animal Health Committee in the early 1980s.

He recalls large numbers of possums that were passing the disease to farmed cattle and deer in the region.

In 1988, John chaired a meeting of the Auckland committee that was attended by current Animal Health Board (AHB) TB Eradication and Research Manager, Dr Paul Livingstone. It was then that South Kaipara Head, south to Muriwai, was found to have a

high population of TB-infected possums.

John's local knowledge was invaluable in helping the regional council and AHB control TB in the area. His relationship with the local community made him a valuable member of the TBfree Auckland Committee.

"In the following years, possum numbers dropped significantly in the area. In 2004, the AHB declared the area free of infected wild animals. Testing frequencies decreased and, by 2011, herds in the area were tested every three years due to the lower TB risk," says John.

He credits much of this success to co-operation between local landowners, councils, the Department of Conservation and TBfree New Zealand. This allowed the AHB to shift its current focus to eradicating bovine TB from 2.5 million hectares of New Zealand's TB risk areas.

AHB Northern and Central North Island Regional Co-ordinator Frank Pavitt says John and his family helped significantly in controlling the disease.

"The AHB and wider farming community sincerely appreciate the massive contribution he has made," says Frank.

John and wife Megan continue to run their 55-hectare dairy unit just outside of Helensville.



• John Glasson

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## Move to hall for after school care

Children attending Helensville After School Care programme are loving their move into the spaciousness of the Helensville School hall.

Until recently they were in a much smaller classroom, and the extra room and equipment in the hall is proving a boon.

They have the use of gymnastics equipment, badminton nets, the junior playground, a large covered deck and the kitchen.

Children attending don't just get to play however - they have to do their homework as well, with resources available to help with that.

The move has also allowed the programme to cater for more children, says organiser Kim Saunders, with up to 40 children able to be catered for in a single session.

And while equipment such as a Playstation and Nintendo Wii are available, she says they aren't used very much as the



• Indoor softball makes a popular break from homework

children prefer taking part in the more active pursuits such as badminton and softball.

Kim runs the programme with Emily Hutchison and help from two Year 13 Kaipara College students. All staff have Child, Youth & Family approval, first aid certificates, and are police checked.

Helensville After School Care has operated locally for more than 15 years in a variety of venues. It is open 3pm to 6pm Mondays to Thursday, and 3pm to 5.30pm on Fridays. WINZ subsidies are available.

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## KKK School country fair

Money raised from this year's Kaukapakapa School Country fair, on Saturday, April 13, will go toward a variety of School Support Group projects including fencing, landscaping, and sport and electronic equipment.

The biennial event is the school's major fundraising event. The last fair attracted between 1000 and 1500 visitors and raised around \$10,000 which went towards a new junior playground.

Among the new attractions this year will be Cookie Time rides and a 'crockery

smash'. They will accompany long-standing favourites such as horse rides, quick fire raffles, a white elephant sale, plants for sale, a silent auction plus a major auction, a police dog display and of course a wide selection of refreshments.



• The Cookie Time rides

Entertainment aimed to appeal to visitors of all ages will include a roller derby display; cheerleaders; martial arts display; ballet, ballroom, Hawaiian and rock n roll dancers; and music from Kaipara college and Diane and Hubby bands.

The main auction at the end of the day will feature a garden shed worth \$1740 donated by local company Baby Barns, with all funds raised going straight to the school. At 2.3m x 2.4m it is suitable for ride-on mowers or general storage.

Anyone able to donate good for the auction should phone Dee on 09 420 5977.

There will be an Eftpos 'cash out' facility available on the day.

## The summer that never ends...

As I write this in early March, there is no sign of rain, the sun beats down with such intensity that by mid-afternoon, nothing is happening outdoors. Every animal on our property is looking for shade and by evening the gardens are crying out for water.

The gardens have sure produced astonishing amounts of food this summer but the amount of water needed has been huge. I have never had so many tomatoes and chillies. In fact we have had so many tomatoes I have run out of large jars for storing sauce.

The stone fruit harvest was the best ever, and we have eaten so many peaches we were actually glad when they ran out. However, nothing seems to stop the tomatoes producing ever more fruit.

Some time back a customer gave me a jar of Kasoundi, a delicious tomato-based Indian pickle seasoned with ginger and chilli. It is absolutely scrumptious.

When I got to the end of the jar I decided I had to make some for myself. All I had left were small jam jars which were perfect for a pickle. I made a batch and it filled the house with the most fantastic aroma as it bubbled away on the stove. Now I have to wait a few weeks to allow the flavours to infuse properly before I can open a jar. I did manage to lick the wooden spoon clean so I have a pretty good idea how it will taste!

### ■ Kasoundi

- 150 g fresh ginger root, peeled
- 15 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 2-3 green chillies (I used Serrano and jalapeño chillies.)
- 3 teaspoons turmeric powder.
- 200ml cider vinegar
- 250ml olive oil
- 4 teaspoons of yellow mustard seeds
- 3 teaspoons cumin seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder (optional)
- 1 kg fresh ripe and firm tomatoes, diced into 10mm pieces.
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 125g soft brown sugar.



Select a pot with a thick base and add the oil. Tip in the cumin seeds and the mustard seeds and place on a low heat.

Place the peeled garlic, ginger, green chillies and turmeric in the food processor and blend with the addition of half the vinegar. Blend to a smooth paste.

As soon as the mustard seeds begin to pop in the hot oil, add the ginger, garlic and chilli paste to the pot and stir. Allow to cook for a few minutes.

Add the tomatoes, the rest of the vinegar, the salt and the brown sugar, bring to the boil and simmer for about an hour and a half. After 90 minutes I turned up the heat to reduce the pickle to thicken it. When the oil rises to the top of the pot and the pulp is quite thick and gloopy, it is ready to bottle.

Sterilise washed jars in a 140° oven for 10 minutes; place the lids in a bowl and pour over boiling water.

Fill the jars to the top while still hot and screw on the lids. Allow to cool on the bench and check that the lids have vacuumed down once cool. The pickle will now store happily in a cupboard for at least two years.



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## ■ WAITOKI MARKET

The next Waitoki Hall market is on Saturday, April 6 from 8.30am to midday. There will be the usual selection of home baking; jams and pickles; cards; plants and vegetables. For more information phone Shirley on 09 420 5111.

## ■ FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Kaipara Coast Plant Centre is holding free community workshops over the coming months.

The first is 'Compost and Worm Farms' on Sunday, April 14 from 9.30am to 10.30am. It will be a practical look at how to simply set up and successfully run compost piles and worm farms, with the option to have a look inside the plant centre's new 'wormerator'.

The next workshop is on Saturday, May 11 from 9.30am to 10.30am on 'How to plant so they grow' - a hands-on look covering site selection, fertilisers, improving soils, drainage, planting, staking, etc.

To book for either workshop email admin@kaiparacoast.co.nz.

## ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

The next meeting of Helensville Aglow will be on Friday, April 19, 7.30pm at the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room. The speaker will be Pastor Tricia Webb, a former missionary in Brazil. For more information phone Marilyn Gray on 09 420 4346.

## ■ UNITARY PLAN WALK IN SESSION

The Rodney Local Board holds the last in its series of 'walk in' sessions to explain the draft Auckland Council Unitary Plan at the Puhoi Sports Club, Puhoi Domain, Domain Rd, Puhoi on Tuesday, April 16 from 7-9pm.

The Unitary Plan will shape the growth of Auckland and will replace the former Rodney District plan. The session will give locals the opportunity to learn about what the council is proposing and to have their say.

## ■ WAITEMATA HUNT

Waitemata Hunt is now in its 61st year in the Helensville area. Local hunts coming up include one at the Jackson farm in Shine Road, South Head on Wednesday, April 3, and one on the Kidd and Bradley farms on SH16 on Wednesday, April 17. Waitemata Hunt's invitation to the Northland Hunt event will be held at Okakanini Topu at South Head on Anzac Day, Thursday, April 25.

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, April 21 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be more than 40 stalls, a sausage sizzle, raffles, coffee and food plus live music from Foster Watkinson with tunes from the 1930s to the 1960s

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