

Community Wellbeing Forum to meet again

About 30 people attended the first South Kaipara Community Wellbeing Forum (SKCWF) meeting at the new Parakai Community Hub late last month.

The forum is intended as a chance for people from across the community to meet and share issues and concerns – anything from major issues like the Draft Unitary Plan to smaller local concerns such as potholes in the footpath.

"It's a place where people can identify shared concerns and opportunities for collaborative action," says Arohanui Grace, a strategic broker for the Ministry of Social Development who is working with the forum.

"At the meeting we identified that some people are looking for a sense of vision and structure for the forum; that is, what is the purpose for the forum [and] how will it work? Others just want to get some action underway!

Sky Youth Spring Fair

A Spring Fair will be held at the Father Sakey Centre at St Joseph's Catholic Church from 8am to midday on Saturday, August 31 as a fund raiser for Sky Youth, who are planning an end-of-year trip to Tawharanui Regional Park. It will include market stalls and a car boot sale, and a cafe. For more information phone Selvarani on 420 9391.

"These two agendas are actually both essential. In our next sessions we are going to get both underway."

That next session of the forum is on Tuesday, August 20 from 12.30pm to 3pm at the Community Hub – the old Parakai Tavern building. A third forum meeting will be held on September 17.

"I see the wellbeing forum as a community voice," says Arohanui Grace, "where outside agencies can hear about what is important to our communities [and] bring their funding and development information; as a conduit where community activities

undertaken in the Hub are reported back to the community; where discussion about priorities takes place and new ideas mooted."

She defines 'wellbeing' across a range of contexts including the physical; economic; social; cultural; development and activity; emotional; psychological; life satisfaction; and engaging activities and work aspects of our community.

"Hence the SKCWF has in its intention to be a forum for all issues and concerns that interest the people of South Kaipara, as pretty much everything falls into these categories."

Hairy Maclary celebrates 30th in Helensville



These are just some of about 30 local children who dressed up to help celebrate the 30th birthday of beloved kiwi children's book character Hairy Maclary at a special birthday bash put on by Helensville Library in the War Memorial Hall on Saturday, July 27.

Anne Dickson from Auckland Library read from the series of 12 books featuring the scruffy dog, who shares his adventures with other strangely named canines like Bottomley Potts and Schnitzel von Krumm. The children also enjoyed dancing, a cake and prizes.

Hairy Maclary was created by New Zealand author Lynley Dodd, and the series has sold five million copies worldwide.

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editorial

Well, you can't say Helensville News doesn't cover all age demographics - we have articles about locals ranging in age from four years to more than 100 in this issue.

We farewell one of Helensville's oldest citizens, Murdoch McLeod, on page 6. Murdoch, a direct descendant of one of our town's founders, passed away having just turned 100 recently. And some of our youngest residents - kids from Kaukapakapa Playcentre - got up close with a true NZ icon recently - getting to pat a kiwi (page 9).

There's an article on someone many of you will have dealings with in the coming months - our new A&P Show manager, Caroline Anderson (page 3), plus an insight into one of Helensville's earliest and most prominent families, the Stewarts (page 4).

It was pleasing to see so many locals taking part in the Tough Guy & Gal Challenge a couple of weeks ago. The event looks like hard work, but also a lot of fun. Luckily, having to cover it for the paper means I have an excuse for not entering it myself!

Finally, there's a fun story behind a winning local 'photo' - check it out on page 14.

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters

I am writing in regard to the item on page 13 of Issue 157 concerning the Citizens Advice Bureau. The management committee of the Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville is concerned at the implications this article may cause in applications to other organisations for grants to fund the operation and other aspects of the Bureau.

The Bureau does not receive an adequate grant from the Auckland Council to operate. In fact, the grant to be received from the Council for the 2013/15 year (\$15,376) is approximately 46 percent of the bureau's budget. To meet the shortfall we have to apply for grants from other sources. In the last year the grants from traditional sources have either been cut entirely or reduced in value.

The [Auckland Council] press release and the article infer that our bureau is fully funded by the Auckland Council, which is far from the fact. [The] press release from Auckland Council is only seen from their perspective and does not reflect the financial positions of the bureaux that they fund.

- Ralph Martin, chairman
 Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville

Children's choir being set up

Kaukapakapa woman Heidi Puriri is setting up a Kaipara Children's Choir, and is looking for local boys and girls aged from five to 14 years old who want to join.

The choir aims to give children in the Kaipara area the chance to learn the skills and techniques of singing while developing confidence and a love of music in their "own back yard". No experience is needed.

Heidi has been singing all her life, and aged seven she began singing training with the Australian Youth Choir in Sydney. She spent five years there, earning a place in the International Touring Choir as a 12-year-old.

She has performed in New Zealand and abroad, and has directed primary children, young adult choirs and individual performers both in NZ and internationally. She studied music through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Registrations and auditions are now open, with rehearsals beginning at 5pm on Tuesday, August 6 at the Kaipara Bible Chapel, Kaukapakapa.

For audition times or more information phone Heidi on 09 420 5564 or 021 066 2154, or email her at: musicwithheart1@gmail.com.

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New manager for A&P Show

New Helensville A&P Association secretary/manager Caroline Anderson has never been to the Helensville Show – but she's not a complete novice when it comes to shows and rural life.

She has just taken over the role from Marion Stutz, and is looking forward to running her first show here next year – though she says following on from Marion and Gaylene Ashton before her means she has “big shoes to fill”.



• Caroline outside her new showground office

Caroline was born in the United Kingdom, moving with her parents to New Zealand when she was just nine months old. When she was six her parents moved from their Meadowbank home, buying a 29ha (72 acre) strawberry farm at Clevedon in South Auckland – despite her mother being allergic to strawberries.

Having that land meant Caroline could have pet lambs, which she entered in her school agricultural days – though she says they weren't well enough behaved to enter in the Clevedon A&P Show. She also had ponies, and only gave up riding when she went to boarding school aged 15.

And farming is in the family blood – Caroline's great grandfather Edward Bunyan Anderson farmed an extensive property called Crosslands at South Head before World War I, some of which went to returning servicemen after the war as balloted farmland. Her grandfather Hugh Keith Anderson later took over the remainder, called Haumoana, which he farmed until 1937.

After school and university Caroline moved overseas, to York in England and Florence in Italy, to complete her post graduate studies – a Masters, followed by a PhD, in art history.

She returned to New Zealand to have first son Felix and to be with her family, and lived in Mt Albert with husband Sam Corban, an acupuncturist with a clinic in Westmere.

With “not many work opportunities for a Renaissance art historian” Caroline went back to university, gaining a law degree. She has spent the past two years as a High Court judge's clerk, and clerk to the Rules Committee, which is in charge of the procedural rules the court operates by.

Somehow she also found the time to have another baby, Thomas, who is now 22 months old.

Looking for a lifestyle change, more room for the boys and a chance to be closer to the beach and forest, the couple moved from Mt Albert to a home at Waimauku last December. Felix now attends Waimauku School.

Caroline says the move was a first step toward a lifestyle block – but she still has to convince husband Sam that's a good idea!

With two small children, the part-time job of Helensville Show secretary/manager seemed an ideal fit for Caroline.

“I wanted to be more involved with the local community, and have a job that was varied and challenging,” she says. Surprisingly she says there are similarities between her old job and her new role, albeit with a different scale and purpose.

The history of the show, and the “friendly and welcoming” people behind it, were a big draw card for Caroline.

“I've been blown away by how much people do. [They are] clearly committed to taking it forward.”

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Descendants relate story of



• Daniel Stewart's descendants (from left): Daniel Brownlee, Bob Sceats, Natalie Blair, Gill Brebner, Tom Brownlee, Anne Aitkenhead, Shona Addison, Hec Aitkenhead, Earle Dodd, Glenn Hoare, Chris Hoare, April Breathing

Eleven great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of prominent early Helensville family the Stewarts gave insights into the life and times of the family at the Historical Society's final winter lecture for 2013.

Around 80 people packed the Father Sakey Centre at the Catholic Church in Helensville on Sunday, July 21 to hear the talks by the family members and watch a selection of images presented by Wynne HaySmith.

Daniel Stewart – whose name is immortalised locally in Stewart Street – was born in Fifeshire in Scotland in 1839. In his teens he completed a carpentry apprenticeship with a cabinet maker in Glasgow, and then in May 1859, aged 20, he left Scotland forever, arriving aboard the ship 'Joseph Fletcher' in Auckland in August the same year.

On board that ship, he met John Lamb who was moving to Riverhead, and whose daughter he would marry some years later.

Daniel spent his first year in Auckland at his joinery trade, but when word of the Snowy River gold rush in Australia reached New Zealand in 1860 he sailed to Sydney, walking with his mining companions all the way to Melbourne.

The following year Daniel returned to New Zealand, sailing to Dunedin as he followed news of gold discoveries at Tuapeka. After several years mining there, he set off on foot again, walking from Otago across the Southern Alps to the West Coast,

where he took up a miner's licence at Kaniere in 1865.

After mining there and at other West Coast locations, Daniel moved back to the North Island, mining at Thames from December 1868 until moving to Auckland in early 1870. He left mining behind, instead taking on managing Henderson's flax mill in West Auckland and working as Post Master.

He married long-time sweetheart Jane Lamb in April 1870, and their first son, James, was born there the following year.

Family legend has it that Daniel walked from Auckland to the Hokianga in search of a farm, eventually buying the Otamataenui Block in Helensville – land previously owned by Helensville founder John McLeod.

He built a two-storey home which he called Te Awaroa in Nelson Street on the site of the McLeod's former 'Helen's Villa'; that Stewart home stands to this day.

In 1874 Daniel Stewart opened 'The Terminus Store' near the south corner of the present Awaroa and Commercial Roads. It was a general store in the true sense of the word, selling everything from sugar to clothing, china to coffins. Many of the goods on offer were imported in bulk from overseas by the Stewarts themselves.

Over the years the Stewart family expanded the business with outposts around the Kaipara at Aroa, Raupo, Mititai, Hoanga, Paparua, Matakoho and Maungatoroto.

Daniel Stewart was on the committee

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the Stewart Family

• From page 4

which set up the first school in Helensville, which opened in 1877. He was a member of the first Town Board which was formed in 1883.

Daniel's wife Jane died in 1881, and his sister Wemyss came to New Zealand to look after his eight children – sons James, Jack, and Finlayson (Finn), and daughters Euphemia (Effie), Margaret, Jean, Sarah and Mabel.

As an indication of the family's standing in the area, in 1882 it was recorded that Daniel owned property in Helensville Borough and Waitemata County worth £6515 – a considerable sum in those days.

Daniel Stewart donated land for Helensville's new northern railway station which was built from 1881-82. Two years later, the Star Theatre, destroyed by fire in 1933, was built on land he also donated.

By 1889 the Stewarts' business included the general store, a butchery, and timber merchants' interests. He was chairman of the Town Board, and instrumental in getting Helensville's roads metalled.

At the turn of the century Daniel handed over the business reins to his two eldest sons, James and Jack, who renamed it Stewart Bros. Younger son Finn had moved to Sydney.

The two brothers kept expanding the business empire, trading in kauri gum,

setting up Helensville's first butter factory, a butchery and abattoir, and developing strong interests in shipping. James was a major shareholder in the Northern Union Steamship Company and its manager from 1900. They owned the SS Aotea, which ran the Helensville to Wairoa passenger service, and were part owners of the Concordia, salvaged when it ran aground on Muriwai Beach.

Daniel had been part-owner of the Helensville Terminus Hotel. With its chequered history of being burned down twice (in 1905 and 1931) and eventually reincarnated as the Grand Hotel, it stayed in the family for two further generations.

In 1900 the first Helensville A&P Show was held at the Stewart's property; it returned there after 1954 and has been held there ever since.

Daniel had remarried in 1890 to Emma Ludlow and farmed sheep and cattle at the Otamataenui Block after retiring from the family business. A leading freemason, he died aged 81 in 1921, and is buried in Helensville cemetery with first wife Jane and his sister Wemyss.

By 1926, Kinna and Jean Stewart, the children of James, took over running the Stewart Bros store until a catastrophic fire in 1934 completely destroyed the business, ending 60 years of activity and contribution by the family to the development of Helensville.

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'WhiteOut' art exhibition



• A work at the exhibition by Sally Lush

An exhibition titled 'WhiteOut' where all the works are predominantly white and peaceful has just opened at the Helensville Art Centre in Karaka Street.

The exhibition was inspired by the simple beauty of the predominantly white works by Sally Lush. Sally trained in

chemistry before stepping into the world of art as a curator, creator and cultivator of talent, and in her works she uses chemical reactions to create amazing textures.

Another artist on show is Noeleen Healey, who has created new works especially for the exhibition. The unconventional 82 year old is the 'wild card' of the Helensville artistic community, says Art Centre co-ordinator Pauline Denton.

"You never know what she is going to get up to; it's as if all concepts of how art is created go straight out of the window and she just does whatever she feels like. She's completely refreshing!"

Muriwai's Gaylene Earl has a gigantic ripped paper piece, and up and coming disabled artist Daniel Baal has three canvases on show. Daniel sold two of the six works he displayed at the Big Event Health and Disability Expo at the ASB Showground earlier this year.

Also exhibiting are ceramic artist Anne Crane and Jewish artist Lilach Cohen.

The exhibition runs until August 25, and the Art Centre is open at Karaka Street on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 3pm, and during art, music and craft sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 4.30pm and Fridays 10am to 2pm.

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Farewell to centenarian

MURDOCH GIBSON MCLEOD
11/5/1913 – 17/7/2013

One of Helensville's oldest residents and a direct descendant of Isaac McLeod, one of the town's founding fathers, passed away late last month just nine weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Murdoch McLeod was born on May 11, 1913 in Parnell. He was the middle child of Alfred and Freda McLeod's seven children – Joyce, Molly, Colin, Murdoch, Gwen, Valerie and Jock.

He lived first at a house in Greens Road, Parakai, before moving to a new family home at Haranui.

Murdoch's earliest memory as a young boy was sitting on a hill waiting to see his mother drive home in the horse and trap from shopping in Helensville; he would run down to the road to meet her, asking if she had bought any boiled lollies.

Murdoch went to school at Parkhurst and then to Helensville School. He recalled walking to school one morning and coming across a person who had been thrown from a horse and killed. He got such a fright that in future he gave that piece of road a wide berth, worried the 'spooks' would get him.

When he was older he rode a bike to school. He would go beside his cousin Jean's horse, holding on to the stirrup and being pulled along.

At home on the farm, Murdoch and his siblings were expected to do their fair share of work including milking the cows morning and evening – a task Murdoch didn't enjoy.

When he was a little older – probably in his teens – his father and uncle Harold McLeod were asked to show their milking cows at the Auckland A&P Show at the Epsom showgrounds. Murdoch and his cousin Philip had to take the cows from Helensville railway station in wagons, get them off at the Mt Albert station, and then walk the cows along St Lukes Road to the showgrounds. They stayed at the McLeod house in St Lukes for the duration of the show, and then returned the cows to Helensville by train afterwards.

After leaving school Murdoch worked on the family farm. He learned to shear, and worked around locals farms shearing sheep



• Murdoch McLeod

for two shillings and sixpence per head.

A passionate rugby fan and player – he played on the wing – Murdoch was chosen to trial for the All Blacks. He wasn't selected, which came as a relief as he knew he would have become homesick if he had to go away on tour.

While he didn't get selected for the All Blacks, Murdoch's rugby playing did see him 'selected' by local girl Yvonne Venables. Yvonne and her girlfriends would watch Murdoch play rugby in Helensville, then would walk home from Helensville to Parakai – knowing he would come along in his old truck and offer them a ride. Yvonne always jumped in the cab, and her girlfriends had to ride on the truck's tray.

At 27 Murdoch was still very shy around

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Murdoch McLeod

• From page 6

girls, but romance blossomed and the pair married in 1940 – although Murdoch's homesickness meant they had to come home early from their honeymoon!

The newly married couple took over the mortgage on the property at South Head – land which is now South Head Golf Club – and milked cows for a few years until changing to sheep.

That was during the last years of World War 2, and like many local men Murdoch was called up to serve in the Home Guard.

A small contingent of men would patrol Muriwai Beach on the lookout for Japanese boats. If the Japanese were sighted the men had to ride back to headquarters in Slater's wool shed to report; Murdoch's name and those of his patrol mates can still be seen scratched in the woodwork at the shed.

Acknowledgement

Hilary and David Bott and family would like to thank all of their friends, neighbours and acquaintances in Helensville who supported them on the recent loss in Darwin, Australia of their daughter Linda. They found the many phone calls, cards, visitors, flowers and baking, and the attendance at her memorial service heart-warming and greatly appreciated.

During this time Yvonne was left to look after the dairy farm and two young children – while being pregnant at the same time.

Murdoch was a great horseman, breaking in horses for himself and others. At the Helensville A&P Show he enjoyed riding around the circuit whipping cans and bottles off the tops of fence posts in a race against the clock.

In 1950 Murdoch and Yvonne moved the family to a farm twice the size at Waimauku. The new property was overrun with rabbits and gorse, but hard work saw it developed into a quality sheep and beef farm.

Around that time a rugby field was set up in a paddock at Houghton's farm on Muriwai Road, and Murdoch became team coach.

After 20 years at Waimauku Murdoch and Yvonne downsized to a property in Mangakura Road, Helensville, and then later on they built a new home in Hand Road, where Murdoch spent a lot of time doing woodwork in his workshop – in between helping out with handyman jobs at both the Helensville Museum and the showgrounds.

Over the years he overcame his homesickness and enjoyed a lot of overseas travel.

He was thrilled at his 100th birthday on May 11 to be surrounded by his great grandchildren, who helped blow out the candles.

medical centre notes

We are pleased to welcome Dr Maria Reeves to the practice as our new registrar. Maria was trained in the United Kingdom and has been in New Zealand for a few years with her family, now living in Coatesville. She has spent the previous six months working at Greenwood Medical Centre, and is excited to be doing rural General Practice in Helensville.

In August we are going to be introducing a secure website portal for patients called 'ManageMyHealth'.

This will allow patients, via their secure password, to be able to order repeat prescriptions online, make non-urgent appointments online, and view their tests results with the doctor's comment if applicable. It will also allow email recalls alerting people that they have new results, are due follow-up tests or vaccinations etc. We hope this will allow people easier access to some services, rather than relying on the telephone system or post. Patients can choose to enrol in this service for \$10 a year.

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- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Local tough guys and gals enter muddy challenge



• 'Angry Birds' Kerry King (left) and Barb Ross actually look happy in the mud

About 50 people from Helensville and around 10 from Kaukapakapa took part in the annual Tough Guy & Gal Challenge at Woodhill Sands last month.

Two 'official' locals teams were entered - one by the Helensville Fitness Centre and another by the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Fitness Centre's team consisted of organiser and personal trainer Yvette Amadia, Steve King, Kerry King, Barb Ross, Raywin Cruickshank, Jenny Coles, Lily Guildford, Jenny Rollinson, Carmen Daniel, Leda Daniel, and Alison Howie - who finished in second place in the 12km 'Older Beauties' (over 40) category.

Kerry King and Barb Ross entered the event, dressed in Angry Birds costumes, to mark their impending 60th birthdays.

The team had an eight-week build up with all-weather Saturday morning training starting at 7am at Rautawhiri Park, with a 6-8km walk and run around the park, across the creek onto the neighbouring farm owned by Mike and Leda Daniel.

"The Tough Guy & Gal is a great challenge and a great way to motivate people to keep fit," says Yvette. "Not to mention a lot of fun! I am planning to put a group in every year."

Helensville Fire Brigade entered as a team building exercise and consisted of Danny Kelly, Rodger Bowring, Richard Limmer, Israel Foreman, Oli Pengelly, Sam Higgins, and Alex Van Dam. Oli was the fastest of their crew.

Overall entry numbers for the event were well up this year, with 4500 people braving the muddy course over two days, compared to 3400 last year. Entrants competed over either a 6km or 12km course. The course obstacles were largely the same as last year, except for the inclusion of a short, steep mud slide into a deep drain.

Call out for arty exhibits 'For the Birds'

Calling all arty people - Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens is looking for imaginative bird houses, bird baths and bird feeders for their upcoming 'For the Birds' exhibit.

It's a follow-on from the successful 'Letterbox Project' of the past couple of years, and will see the quirky bird-centric artworks exhibited in conjunction with the garden's next major sculpture exhibition, which opens on Saturday, November 23.

"This project is a great opportunity for creative people who may not consider themselves artists to explore their ideas and let their imaginations go wild," says curator Sally Lush.

"We are asking people to get creative and make imaginative bird houses, bird baths and bird feeders to attract birds to the gardens."

Locals can use any material, such as mosaic, concrete, ceramic, wood or plastic, to make their piece, and prizes will be awarded for the 'most imaginative' and 'best overall' entries. All entries will be on display and for sale as part of the sculpture garden's Exhibition 2014.

Entries should be taken to Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens any time before Sunday, November 3 for inclusion in the exhibition.

For more information phone 09 420 5655, email sculpture@kaiparacoast.co.nz or visit the garden's Facebook page.

Little birds and big birds excite Kaukapakapa playcentre children

Kaukapakapa Playcentre children have had two very different - and exciting - 'bird' experiences recently.

The first involved real birds - the children got to pat kiwis at Mataia Homestead, which features a 400ha conservation project which has been approved by the Department of Conservation as a kiwi habitat. The first North Island Brown Kiwi were released there in May.

Playcentre mum Jenny Hood (whose family owns Mataia) invited the children along to the unique experience.

DOC staff made sure the kiwis were kept calm at all times, despite them being surrounded by small children jostling to get a look and a pat.

"They're big" and "they have spiky feathers" were some of the youngsters' comments.

The playcentre's Melissa Lowe says many of the children probably didn't really understand what a significant moment it was, but as they get older they will be able to



• Charlotte Bull (6) and Edward Bull (4) get up close with a kiwi

proudly say "I've patted a kiwi".

The second 'bird' experience was of a very different nature - considerably bigger and noisier.

The playcentre's 'Big Kids' (four to five year olds who only attend one playcentre session each week) got to visit the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Centre, where the father of two of the children works.

The children got to look inside one of the helicopters and then saw the police helicopter take off.

Free youth programme available again

Te Awaroa Youth Club is again offering a free eight-week youth development programme for locals aged between 16 and 24.

Fifty young people successfully completed the Youth Vision employment training programme during 2011 and 2012, but a lack of funding meant the programme hasn't been able to be held again until now.

Thanks to money from the Mayoress Fund for Youth and the Auckland Council Large Youth Grant, local youth can again take advantage of the scheme, which is designed to encourage and foster self-belief, self-motivation and the skills

necessary for further training and/or employment.

Youth Vision will be held over two intakes, the first starting on August 6 and the other on October 15. Only 12 spaces are available on each course.

The curriculum teaches employment, life, social and community skills, plus health and fitness as well as featuring adventure-based learning.

For more information either call at Te Awaroa Youth Club, 10 Awaroa Road, phone 420 7977, text 021 2991369, or email: youthvision@teawaroayouthclub.

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Key Dates:

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Term 4: 15th October to 5th December



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Free monthly garden workshops

The Peacemakers community garden is to start hosting free monthly 'this month in the garden' workshops at its property at 116 Fordyce Rd, Parakai.

Each month a different and timely aspect of gardening will be covered in the workshops. The topic for August's event, on this Friday, August 9, is winter planting and compost making.

Initially the workshops will be on the second Friday of each month, starting at 9.30am and finishing with a shared lunch at 12.30pm. The schedule for upcoming workshops is still being developed.

While there is no charge for the workshops, it is hoped participants will share their gardening knowledge and experience, no matter how great or small.

Meanwhile, the community garden has received a major boost to its fund through the Peacemakers firewood project, which raised \$5000 through the sale of around 80 cubic metres of firewood. Workers are currently chopping, splitting and stacking firewood to go on sale next year.

In addition to the firewood, some large old Macrocarpas have been felled and the solid logs are to be milled for use in future building projects on the property; timber not suitable for milling will be made into firewood.

Peacemakers send thanks to Ernie Smith for the use of his staff and equipment which made the felling and milling possible.

For more information text Simon Webb on 021 980 773.

Local HIPPYs have mid-year celebration

Local HIPPY children have just had their mid-year celebration, and are now preparing for their end-of-year graduation.

The celebration activities included making hats; beading; sewing pictures; decorating biscuits; and making ula-lole (lolly necklaces), paper sea anemones and stuffed paper crabs. The activities were based around the current HIPPY story books – 'The Rock Pool' and 'Masiva's Best Day'. The children were presented with certificates for their hard work on the HIPPY programme, and finished the morning with a shared morning tea.

HIPPY coordinator Bernie Malizia says the ceremony is the only time many of the children see what they are a part of, as the HIPPY programme is delivered to parents in their homes.

The children completing the full 60 week programme will graduate in the first week of December at a ceremony where they will dress in caps and gowns and receive framed certificates and other goodies.

For more about the HIPPY programme in South Kaipara phone Bernie on 09 420 7434



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Parakai Community Enterprises Hub

The keys of the Helensville District Health Trust's newest asset have now been handed over and first steps taken to turn the ex-tavern into a thriving community enterprises hub. A small steering group is currently gathering up ideas and names of folk who would like to be involved in future activities at the Hub.

All activities need to provide positive benefits to the people in the Parakai and wider South Kaipara communities, and they need to be sustainable. Ideas put forward and currently being considered include:

- a community kitchen for training and preparing food like jams and pickles for markets
- a distribution point for a community farming scheme
- fitness activities
- the 'home' for a green dollar scheme
- a hub for bringing older and younger people together for learning and social benefits

The steering group also agrees that activities undertaken are not only healthy and sustainable but do not undermine local business and commercial activity in Helensville or Parakai.

The venue was recently blessed for its new life and purpose by Ngāti Whātua Nga Rima o Kaipara Kaumatua, Glen Wilcox, and has also held its first community event. The South Kaipara Community Wellbeing Forum held the first of three brain-storming and planning



Members of the South Kaipara community at the blessing.

workshops at the Hub on Tuesday 16 July. There are two more sessions to follow, on 20 August and 17 September. Cissy Rock, Community Development Officer, Auckland Council, is the facilitator. Please feel free to come along and meet other people who are keen to be part of developing and growing our community.

Contact parakai@helensvillehealth.co.nz, or Angie on (09) 420 7878 if you have ideas to share or would like to be involved.

UPDATE FROM THE BIRTHING CENTRE

Birthing Centre continues to please

Helensville Birthing Centre continues to be a popular place for women and their families to stay following the birth of a new baby. Over the last year more than 350 women and their babies have stayed for rest, recovery and breastfeeding support. The birthing centre is staffed by qualified midwives or nurses, all with a passion for women and children's health. Although women and their families come to the centre from all over Auckland, local families in the South Kaipara community are always given priority. Booking forms can be obtained from your midwife, by phoning (09) 420 7878 or through the birthing centre website: www.birthcentre.co.nz

Below are examples of the sort of feedback regularly received:

'Thank you so much for the care and attention we received during our stay. You really helped us transition from a couple to a family.'

'We can't thank you enough for the amazing experience we had there. It's such a fantastic facility and as first time parents it was invaluable for us. Each and every staff member was so helpful.'

'The kindness, care, love, support, food, surroundings and peacefulness here is amazing.'

Community Development Fund

The HDHT is delighted to be the fund holder for the community development fund awarded to the South Kaipara community by the Department of Internal Affairs. The focus of this three year scheme is on local economic development. A process for moving forward with this exciting project is currently being formulated. Our next newsletter will provide more details.



Mihi moves on

On 28 June, the Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC) said farewell to Mihi Shaw as Co-Manager.

Mihi has been with the HWFC for the last seven years beginning as a student on placement while completing her degree in social work. Although Mihi has talents working to support families, she displayed real skills in management and was a co-manager of the centre with Christine Salmon for three years.

Mihi has been a valued contributor to the major changes the centre has gone through. Mihi brought fresh eyes to the centre being able to see strategic connections in our community and assisting in taking the centre forward. Instigating events such as; Children's Day Out, Pamper Evening and the Christmas Drive/Hampers, which have become established, well attended and respected in our community.

Mihi leaves the HWFC in good heart – a recent move to 1 Porter Crescent, well supported contracts for services, collaborations and networks are well established in the South Kaipara community. Thank you, Mihi, for your contribution and leadership.

We wish Mihi all the best for the future and are delighted that she will be continuing to support HWFC in any way possible.

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comment

A group of locals, along with councillor Penny Webster and Local Board members, recently toured South Head, in particular taking note of the 'paper' roads in the area. Here, Pete Brennan gives his views, along with brief comments from Penny Webster and tour organiser Dianne McLeod.

Last Sunday I was invited on a four wheel drive expedition along, around and over South Head.

The group set off in six vehicles and travelled along Muriwai beach. Off the beach at the 18 mile mark and through a track made by locals to South Head Road - this being one of only three places over the 50-odd kilometers of beach where vehicle access is possible.

Once back on the main road travel was more sedate. We called at farms and public parks, all the while seeking another point of access to the coast.

This was, of course, a futile search but we knew that before we set out.

Our passengers of interest were Auckland Councillor Penny Webster, and Rodney Local Board member Thomas Grace.

The point of the six-hour odyssey was to highlight the lack of access to the two amazing Kaipara coasts - the seaward

beach and the inland harbour.

Paper roads are marked all over the South Head peninsula but through attrition they have become the tacit property of the land holder they cross, and while still open to the public their whereabouts are not signposted, and in some cases access is denied by locked gates or roaming bulls.

The roads exist, and laws govern their use. Yet they remain stubbornly out of reach to most.

In the old days you simply phoned the farmer and obtained permission to cross their land; as a country community this system worked perfectly well.

What happens if you are not from around

here, don't know the farmers, and don't have access to their phone number? This of course assumes you are aware of where these paper roads actually are. The answer is that you simply stay on the main road until it runs out at the Defense Department controlled land at the lagoon. Access may be granted here, but it is at the discretion of the caretaker.

The problem is that South Head is a rural farming area; the fields these paper roads cross are often stocked with cattle, deer or may be planted in maize. The farmers for the most part are not opposed to the public using the access way to the beach, but the farm is their business and if the public leave gates open, light fires or leave their rubbish behind on the beach it is the farmer who is left with the problem.

How to educate the public so that they respect the rules of the countryside?

How to decide which of the paper roads should be open to

[It was] an extremely valuable and educative day held out at South Head. Although I have been to parts before, driving around looking and listening to locals gave me a better understanding of the unique place we have here.

Dianne should be congratulated for organising this day, and really there is a need to get other councillors, senior planners and even the Mayor up for a similar trip.

- Councillor Penny Webster

vehicles and which should be marked at the road side with a walking track provided for access?

Then there is the problem that most of these paper roads were drawn on a map by people that never laid eyes on the coast, so the roads wander across the land in haphazard ways.

All of these issues require political will, motivation and cash.

If Auckland is to become the most livable city in the world, and if South Head is to evolve into an Auckland playground, then these are issues that *have* to be tackled.

There was palpable fear on the faces of

• To page 13



SPRING IS NEAR

Fruit trees and roses - new stock available

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Country Garden Day & Helensville Mitre 10's 10th BIRTHDAY Saturday, September 14th

South Head paper road tour continued

• From page 12

the politician and the local board member when pressed by the group for answers. Paper roads are 'a can of worms' and as such are something the decision makers will continue to avoid unless we, the public, decide to make them an issue.

The road we used to exit the beach was pushed through by locals along the route of land gifted to the public by previous owners. At first it was a free-for-all by the Auckland public with people driving modified and unregistered vehicles and motor bikes in reckless fashion; they caused erosion and damage and severely annoyed those living on the land.

The answer was simply to enforce the law. The road is a public road, just like the beach, so all vehicles have to be registered and warranted to use it.

I believe now the road is being used for its intended purpose - access to the coast and nothing more. Further, by opening this road, conservation efforts have improved.

We stopped to take in the state of a lake. Locals have begun a planting and weed eradication project. This has encouraged the

return of bird life displaced by the pine monoculture; already birds are returning and spreading the seeds from the native plants.

None of that would have occurred without the road and the will of the people.



• Some of the participants, from left: Ross Webber, Mike Allen, Tom Grace, Penny Webster, Nicola Osmond, Lars and Alison Fellman

The South Head community have consulted and identified the best places for access. Support them if you want to see constructive change occur on the coast - this is change that ultimately assists us all.

- Peter Brennan

Note: Peter chairs the committee working with Auckland Council planners to address Helensville issues.

Trek not just about paper roads

South Head 4WD tour organiser Dianne McLeod says the trek around South Head wasn't focussed just on paper roads.

"We (the South Kaipara Resident and Ratepayers Association) have some new committee members, so we thought it a good idea that we visit recreational sites on South Head peninsula and look at the issues concerning each of these, and the limited access to both Muriwai Beach and the Kaipara Harbour," says Dianne.

The trip included the Dart Fenton track off Wilson Rd; Te Rau Regional Park; and several paper roads including Higham's, Omokoiti walkway and Mosquito Bay, finishing at Waionui Inlet.

"It is very helpful that everyone see these places for themselves so they have a better understanding of the issues and are then in a better position to discuss these matters."

HWFC wins free 'Going Digital' connection

Helensville Women & Family Centre has just won a free digital television connection in a competition specially for not-for-profit organisations.

Along with eight other organisations in the upper North Island, the centre won a digital Freeview box and free installation. The unit was installed mid-July at the centre's new 1 Porter Crescent building.

"We have a TV at the centre which we use for groups/courses etc so we have set that up in the new reception area," says centre Navigator/Receptionist, Michaela Salmon.

The competition was run by Going Digital, a Ministry for Culture and Heritage organisation.

Going Digital national manager Greg Harford says the competition was established to help not-for-profit organisations in the community that used a television but may not have the funds to buy the equipment needed to go digital.

The competition required entrants to explain in 50 words or less why they needed help to go digital.

The HWFC entry focussed on the desire to offer a warm, welcoming waiting area for clients, along with the need to be up to date with technology.

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Helensville 'photo' wins \$5000 art award



This digitally constructed photograph titled 'Helensville c1959' has won the annual Glaister Ennor Graduate Art Awards.

By Auckland photographer David Austin - who has featured previously in *Helensville News* with his locally-based art photos - the winning work is a re-imagined event from the 1950s.

It was constructed by taking separate photos of models dressed in clothes of the period and then digitally manipulating them into a panorama which has the appearance of a staged photograph.

The story behind the winning image was one of many told to David by Greg Smith, who lives at South Head.

"This story just stood out for its sheer unique craziness and obvious humour. The auto repair business was operated in the 1950s and 60s by Greg's father. The story occurred around the time Greg was born, and has since been shared and retold at various Smith family and social gatherings over the years, Greg told me.

"The man who turned up with the motor on his back and an aircraft propeller was named Durban Pairama. I spoke later to other Helensville and Parakai locals about the story, including those that

claimed to have known Mr Pairama very well, and I did discover he was a character known for making fairly elaborate practical jokes - usually incredibly funny ones too.

"However, on the day of his visit to the garage in 1959 there was no sign he was anything but intent on his request for the garage mechanics to help him put together a one-of-a-kind flying machine so that he could fly around the Kaipara, as he had no car and was tired of walking everywhere. A prolonged discussion took place about the perils of his proposed venture and after some time Mr Pairama realised no one was willing to help him with his risky proposition and he left with his equipment still in separate pieces."

After hearing the story David decided to illustrate (using his digital montage techniques) the moment when everyone realised just what Durban Pairama was asking for.

He has used visual cues from the late 1950s and early 1960s to set the period for the image - cars, mens' and womens' fashion, hats, hairstyles and facial hair, along with the typical workshop wear of the day. While the cars used are actually from the early 1960's David says they looked dated enough to suit the times - "just as with the fashions used, they're 'approximates'.

The characters in the image are not locals but were played by volunteer actors.

The Glaister Ennor Graduate Art Awards have been running since 2006, aimed at encouraging Auckland's emerging artists. Each year Auckland art schools nominate their top post-graduate students, who are then invited to submit any two-dimensional artwork.

David graduated recently with a Masters in Design degree, for which he produced an exhibition of giant, digitally composed images featuring his interpretation of Kaipara history, myths and legends - pictures which featured Helensville, South Head, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Pouto Point and Baylys Beach, along with many local residents.

"The prize was a very sweet way to conclude my Kaipara photo-art project work," says David. "It would never have happened without the participation and stories provided me by good number of residents of the Kaipara region - and for that I will be forever grateful."

The award was announced at OREX Art in Auckland. David won \$5000 and the opportunity to exhibit further work at OREX Gallery.

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• David with his winning work

Crumble pudding to follow hearty soup

Winter time is not all bad - as long as you are warm that is. Home heating and home insulation all keep the house dry and warm.

The same rules apply to us. We need good insulation: the body stores fat for this - some of us are expert at it! - and we cover up with layers of clothes to insulate against the cold.

To keep us warm inside our clothes we need fuel to burn - food.

In our house we make a lot of thick soups, chicken soup with loads of lentils, split peas, chopped fresh onion, pumpkin, garlic, broccoli, leeks, diced kumara, celery whatever I can lay my hands on really. It is all simmered in a big thick bottomed pasta pot with a couple

of chicken legs.

After an hour or so, I lift out the chicken legs and pull the meat off the bones, I chop it together with a few cloves of garlic and a teaspoon of salt. Drop blobs of this mix back into the soup and stir. About 10 minutes before eating I go out to the garden to pick spinach leaves and parsley. Chop the parsley, and cut the spinach leaves into thin strips. Stir them into the pot and add salt and pepper to taste.

An excellent way to get your vegetable quota for the day and follow it with an easy pudding made with fruit.

■ Fruit Crumble

You can make this in a bigger quantity and keep it in the fridge. In an air tight container it will last a couple of weeks.

- 50g rolled oats or quinoa flakes if gluten free
- 60g of plain flour
- 90g of soft brown sugar
- 20g shredded coconut
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 100g butter
- 50g walnuts

Place everything except the walnuts in the food processor and pulse until the ingredients are evenly combined and resemble damp sand. Then add the walnuts and pulse a few times to break them up.

This crumble topping can be spooned over any fruit. If using Granny Smith apples there is no need to cook them first, just peel and chop them into a pie dish, sprinkle with a little sugar and cover with 10mm of crumble mix. If using canned or home preserves, add the fruit and some of the liquid, then cover with crumble mix.

Bake at 180° celsius for about 30 mins. The fruit should be bubbling and the crumble nicely browned. Great with ice cream or with Vanilla Soy milk.



Concert at St Cuthbert's

Violinist and pianist Nick Jones performed a concert for the Friends of St Cuthbert's Church at Kaukapakapa recently.

A music teacher at Rangitoto College, Nick performed a wide range of both modern and classical music.

Highlights included 'Habanera' from the opera Carmen; Mason Williams' 'Classical

Gas'; Simon and Garfunkel's 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters'; piano jazz classic 'Misty'; and violin favourites 'Autumn Leaves' and 'Over the Rainbow'.

The concert was the second of the Friends' '5th Sunday' concert series. Further concerts will be held on September 29 and December 29.

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■ DETERMINED PARENTING

On Wednesday, August 7 from 7.30pm to 9pm at the Waimauku School hall there will be an evening for parents trying to cope with strong-willed children. Presented by Framework for Family and hosted by the Abundant Life Church, the evening will cover tried and true methods to use with determined children. Parents will receive encouragement, gain some practical tools and learn they are not the only ones with this issue. Tickets cost \$10 and are available from Waimauku School office. Refreshments provided afterwards.

■ BLOOD DRIVE

The New Zealand Blood Service will be collecting blood at the Kumeu Community Centre, Access Road, Kumeu, on Monday, August 12 from 1pm to 7pm.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is

on Sunday, August 18 from 9am to 1pm, with indoor and outside stalls selling locally-produced goods, collectables and bric-a-brac, plus the Lions sausage sizzle, Kaukapakapa Play Centre raffle, coffee and food.

Live music will be provided by 'The Musicians' who will perform a selection of well known pop, soft rock and ballads.

For more information or to book a stall contact Sarah on 0274 831542 or 0800 831542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ CABAGM

The Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville will hold its annual meeting at the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room, at 10am on Thursday, August 22. Peter Brennan will be guest speaker, talking about the trials and tribulations of setting up a new business. Morning tea will be served and everyone is welcome to attend.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW MEETING

Mrs Linda Buttner of Eagle Ascend Ministries will speak at the Helensville Aglow meeting on Friday, August 23, 7.30pm at the Helensville War Memorial Hall. The subject of Linda's talk will be: 'Divine Empowerment for the Season'. Linda is in full-time ministry with her husband Len Buttner of Eagle Ascend Ministries. Their ministry is itinerant, travelling throughout New Zealand as well as in the United Kingdom, Australia, Africa, Europe and South Africa. Men and women are welcome.

■ ALL BLACKS AT RSA

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be showing the All Blacks test against Australia in Wellington on Saturday, August 24 on its big screen televisions. There is no cover charge, and non-members can now take advantage of the new 'daily membership' which allows full bar service for the cost of a gold coin donation. Dinners will be available, prepared by the RSA's new chef.

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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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