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Poppy project is blooming



• Keith Cowper with the rapidly 'growing' poppy wall

A wall with hundreds of blood red poppies is rapidly growing in the entrance foyer to the Helensville RSA in Commercial Road.

Designed to commemorate New Zealand's involvement in World War I and the centenary of the ANZAC Gallipoli landings next year, the wall already boasts around 700 hand-made poppies and is about two thirds complete.

Many have been made of various types of paper, while others are knitted, crocheted or made from felt.

The poppy wall was suggested to the RSA by Helensville's Jackie Milina, who had read about a similar '5000 Poppies Project' being run in Australia and Wellington.

Jackie kick-started the project by making 500 paper poppies. Western ITM in Kumeu donated plywood sheets and RSA WWI centenary project co-ordinator Keith Cowper mounted black-painted polystyrene to that so the poppies could be pinned up.

He made a number of paper poppies himself, and Jackie, along with locals Jan Scott, Anne Keane, Sheryl Mathews and Jenny and Sonya Viselich of Hobsonville have made numerous others from a range of media.

Rather than simply mounting the poppies in a flat display, they are being bunched to give a 3-D effect.

Now the call is out for more people to make poppies for the wall, particularly RSA members. The aim is for around 1000 poppies in total, which will be left on display in the RSA foyer until ANZAC Day next year.

Anyone interested in making poppies to contribute to the wall should phone Jackie on 420 8328.

She says that once the wall is full, if there are left over poppies the plan is to get a large polystyrene cross and cover that with poppies and mount it on the RSA foyer's opposite wall.

New classes for 2015 A&P Show

A range of new classes added to the schedule for next February's Helensville A&P Show are just some of the changes in store.

New arts sections will include drawing, print making and both indoor and outdoor sculpture - all available in classes for children and adults. Show manager Caroline Anderson says they will be a great opportunity for locals to exhibit their work before an audience of around 6000 people.

Works on display will also be able to be offered for sale, with the A&P Association taking a modest 10 percent commission.

Entrants in the photography section will have a major new incentive too. The winner of the champion adult photo will see their entry go into the Royal Agricultural Society Northern District's new 'Supreme District Photo' competition, with \$500 in prize money up for grabs. The winner will also receive a sash and a certificate.

Show schedules should be available early December.

Keeping with the arts theme, a free public art workshop will be held on show day by artist Andrew Hall, who with the support of Auckland Council Creative Communities NZ will help show goers create sculptures from waste.

That in turn ties in with the 2015 show being a zero waste event for the second year running, following a successful trial at this year's show.

Entertainment on the main stage will be by Sal Valentine and the Babyshakes, and Captain Festus the Pirate will be wandering the grounds, singing, playing pirate games and telling tall tales of the sea.

The main stage will be moved back to its original position in front of the main show hall, and food and wine vendors will have stalls around the bar area. The large marquee in the trade area which last year housed food stalls and demonstrations will be set up as a farmers' market for next year's show.

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editorial

Who's going to the Helensville Christmas parade this year?

I think for the first time since I've lived here - close to 30 years - I'm not, because of a prior engagement. But I wish I was, as it's looking like being a doozy. Now under the auspices of the Helensville Lions Club, and being managed this transitional year by Holly Ryan, it is having the biggest shakeup in decades, with a new route and attractions tying it in more closely with Parakai and making it a much more cohesive event. You can read the details on page 3 opposite.

I did make it to the Community Crime Prevention and Safety Day at the Helensville showgrounds a couple of weeks ago (page 10). Organised by local community constable Mandi Bell, it's an event that has promise for the future (though it needs a more fun-sounding name!). Unfortunately as so often happens in Auckland with outdoor events, the weather didn't play ball, but the hardy public who did turn up really seemed to enjoy the day, especially the kids who had a great time taking part in the various interactive challenges and activities.

I hope 2015 is a great year for all our readers, and I wish you all the best for the festive season and a safe and happy holiday period. As usual there won't be a *Helensville News* in January, but we'll be back with more great stories for you to enjoy early in February.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Call for more goods to stock op shop

Stock at the St John Op-Shop is running low after a busy year, and manager Elaine Murray is calling for donations.

Money raised through the shop has been used to buy an improved defibrillator for the second Helensville ambulance, as well as a high tech, interactive mannequin for training staff and cadets. Area training manager David Bailey says it will be of huge benefit to St John and other local organisations such as the volunteer fire brigade and medical centre staff.

The youth divisions have also benefitted with new trophies and awards. The Helensville Youth Division has a new leader in Anita Hall, a long-time member of St John who previously ran the Kumeu division.

New St John Helensville Area committee chairman Selina Halewood says the committee is looking for another couple of community-minded people to help the local St John for a few hours each month. Anyone interested should call into the Op-Shop at 90 Commercial Rd.

10th HIPPY graduation ceremony

Seventy South Kaipara families will celebrate the completion of another year of the HIPPY pre-school education programme at a graduation ceremony on Friday, December 5.

Twenty of the children will be wearing their graduation robes after completing the full two year (60 week) programme. They will receive framed certificates, t-shirts, books and a small gift.

The rest of the families will have either completed the first year (30 week) programme or be working towards completion. All of these children will also receive gifts and certificates acknowledging their hard work - as do the parents who have

committed to working with their HIPPY child on a regular basis.

The ceremony in the Helensville War Memorial Hall will open at 6pm with a karakia followed by a performance by the Parakai School drumming group, reprising their popular performance at last year's graduation.

HIPPY South Kaipara was established in 2005, so this will be the 10th graduation ceremony.

A special ten-year celebration will be held on Saturday, March 7 next year involving all past HIPPY children and parents, tutors and supporters. There have been 550 families enrolled since 2005 and 26 parents employed as HIPPY tutors.

"The first HIPPY children are at Kaipara College now and doing well," says local HIPPY co-ordinator Bernie Malizia.

She says parents are keen to talk about how HIPPY has made a difference to their child's ability to settle into school and have the confidence to take on new challenges in life. Bernie will be collating these stories to share at the ten-year celebration next year. Anyone who would like to contribute can phone her on 420 7434.

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It's Helensville Christmas parade time again on Saturday, December 6.

Sponsored by the North West District Business Association and ASB Bank, the parade has been redesigned this year to take in more of Helensville and tie it in to Parakai as well.

It will start at 12.30pm from the Oikoumene yard in West St, before heading up Commercial Road and then continuing on its new route to the Riverside Reserve beside Helensville Museum in Mill Road.

Shops will be holding promotions in Helensville from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and at Parakai from 3pm to 4pm, where locals who spend \$20 or more will have a chance to win \$20 vouchers.

The traditional 'photo with Santa' gets a twist this year, with two sittings - from 9.30am to midday in Santa's Grotto at the RSA in Commercial Road, and in a classic convertible car at the museum from 1pm to 3pm. No family photographers or 'selfies' will be allowed.

A Christmas tree decorating competition will begin at the museum at 10am, with judging by public vote from 11.30am until

1pm. Winners will be announced at 2pm, followed by Santa's Countdown-sponsored lolly scramble.

There will be markets and entertainment at the Riverside Reserve from 1pm to 3pm, and a flyover by Fly West in association with Parakai Airfield will provide extra thrills.

From 3pm entry to Parakai Springs will be discounted to \$5 per person, with children under 5 free (discounted entry only via Springs Road). There will be entertainment from 3pm in the events arena including a DJ and jugglers The Bling Bros, followed by Carols in the Park presented by local churches.

Ritchies will provide a bus from the Caltex station in Helensville to Mill Rd at 1.30pm for just \$1; from Mill Rd to Parakai Springs at 3pm for \$1; and from Parakai back to Helensville at 8.30pm after the carols for \$2.

Public parking will be available in Mill Road from midday at the following commercial locations: Premier Panelbeaters; Placemakers; Helensville Glass; Helensville Plumbers; and Helensville Mechanical.

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New owner, name for long-running local business

One of Helensville's longest-running businesses, Hayes Chainsaws and Mowers, has a new owner.

South African-born André van Zyl took over the Railway Street business, which Pat Hayes had run for more than 30 years, about six weeks ago. He will be renaming the business Helensville Mowers Ltd.

Coming from a rural area near Pietermaritzburg in South Africa, André began working in the mower business on his 18th birthday in 1998, taking charge of the machinery at his uncle's large-scale garden service business.

He also spent time supervising the work crew, which meant he became familiar with how the machinery was operated by the end-user, and spent a year in a mower shop to further his learning.

After moving to New Zealand André initially worked in road maintenance - including looking after State Highway 16 through Helensville. He spent the next six years working at Hauraki Mowers on the North Shore, then switched to Gardening Aids in 2009.

Four years earlier André qualified as a Briggs & Stratton master service technician, passing the five-hour exam with an 82 percent mark. That qualification has to be updated every year.

More recently he studied online at the Husqvarna University, gaining his gold service technician certificate.

André had been looking to purchase his own business for several years when the chance to take over Pat Hayes' came up; he already knew the business from his time working at Hauraki Mowers, which supplied the Helensville business with parts.

"I've always wanted to get into my own shop," he says.

As well as renaming the business, André plans to expand the offerings to include ride-

on mowers, and is also looking into on-site servicing.

He currently lives on the North Shore with his wife Tarryn, their six-year-old daughter and two sons, one a four year old and the other just a few months old.

However he's planning to move to the Helensville area, probably around the middle of next year.

"I grew up in the sticks in South Africa, and I like the idea of a more rural area."



• André van Zyl

Community Xmas lunch

Locals have until December 19 to book for the Helensville Community Christmas Lunch, which will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Christmas Day.

The free lunch (a gold coin donation will be appreciated) is aimed particularly at people who are alone or under extra stress at Christmas time.

The day will start at 10am with Christmas carols and fun activities for children. Lunch will be served at 11.30am. Transport will also be available from home and return if needed.

Those wanting to attend need to book at Te Ha Oranga, the South Kaipara Men's Trust, the Women & Family Centre, Income Support or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

For more information phone Raewyn Mercer on 021 182 0470.

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World & Olympic champion wins Woodhill event

Former Olympic and double world champion Blyth Tait won the premier class at the International CIC Horse Trial held at Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre last month.

Blyth, riding Leo Distinction, was second after dressage, competing against 11 other combinations in the Fiber Fresh Feeds sponsored CIC Two Star event. He picked up four show jumping penalties but gained victory with a clear cross-country round and only 8.8 time faults.

Charlotte Grayling on NRM Lowenberg led the dressage on 39.5, but retired early in the cross-country. That paved the way for former local Jock Paget to move into second place on Coleraine Coaltown. Third after dressage, Jock added just four show jump penalties and jumped clear on cross-country.

Helensville's Shelley Ross, Coleraine Coaltown's regular rider, was the show jumping course designer.

Ararimu rider Dannie Lodder and his horse Waitangi Icon were untouchable in the



• Blyth Tait winning on Leo Distinction
- Photo: Nick Depree photography

Prydes EasiFeed CIC One Star event. He held a 15 point lead after the dressage, and was unthreatened throughout. Jock Paget finished second on Elvis II, with Helen Connett on Lea Rosa in third.

Olympian Heelan Tompkins won the Equine Vet Services CNC Two Star Plus division. She maintained her dressage lead on Cortaflex Watkins to win the class, ahead of Glenda Thomson on Private Benjamin.

500+ kids learn to swim at Parakai

More than 500 children learnt to swim locally over the last year.

They took part in the Parakai Springs Swim School, which caters for children aged five years and over in the outdoor pool after school, and younger children from age 6 months to five years in the indoor pool during the morning.

Three new teachers were added this year to meet the demand, bringing the team to seven fully qualified teachers with more than 25 years' experience between them.

"It is important to us that as many children as possible in our community learn to swim," says Parakai Spring's operations manager, Dion Tilson.

"As the Swim School continues to grow, we hope to keep working with our older squad swimmers with the goal of taking them

to local and national competitions," he adds.

Dion says for the third year running Parakai Springs will be working with local schools to provide free lessons to up to 700 local children from Years 1 to 8.

Their School Holiday Fast 5 lessons, to be held from January 19 to 23, will focus on water safety and the use of lifejackets. Daily 30-minute lessons will run from 8.30am and 10.30am according to the child's swimming ability, at a cost of \$40 per child with discounts for siblings.

"These classes are a great way to build swim fitness and stamina as well as building swim skills quickly," says Dion.

Swim School for Term 1 next year runs from February 2 to April 2. More information is on the Parakai Springs Facebook page, or email: swimschool@parakaisprings.co.nz.



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Major win for college in drama awards

Kaipara College has won one of the top drama awards at 'Showdown', the Auckland Secondary Schools' equivalent of the Oscars for performing arts.

Nominated in eight of the 10 possible categories, the college won 'Best Props', 'Best Sound' for Josh Somerville, and finally the premier 'Most Outstanding Play of 2014' award for its production of Romeo and Juliet.

Kaipara was competing against 24 other schools from around the Auckland region, and a total of 18 plays and 18 musicals nominated.

Held at Sky City in November, a large group of supporters from Helensville accompanied Kaipara College drama teacher Patrice Wilson and the cast of the Shakespearian play to the awards.

One of the Auckland judges said it was one of the best productions he had seen in years from a secondary school.

Patrice, who is nearing the end of her second year of teaching at secondary level, praised the cast of Romeo and Juliet, the

musicians, lighting technicians, supportive parents and the audiences who made the production possible.

The Showdown competition, held since 2008, aims to encourage young performers and foster excellence in the performing arts; to promote the performing arts as an option for tertiary study and as a career path; and to raise the profile of performing arts in schools.



• The college Romeo & Juliet crew

10th Japan trip for local karate proponent

Helensville karate instructor Tim Herlihy has just returned from two weeks of intensive training in Okinawa, Japan - the tenth time he has visited there.

As part of a three member team Tim and fellow kiwis Jim Johnston from Kaukapakapa and Kevin Plaisted from Whangaparaoa



• From left, Sensei Kevin Plaisted, Kaicho (president) Yoshitaka Taira and Tim Herlihy

attended numerous training clinics as well as participating in a three-day memorial seminar.

The highly successful seminars were held to remember the passing of World Matsubayashi Ryu karate master Soke Takayoshi Nagamine, and as well as the New Zealand team drew attendees from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Europe and the United States.

"This was a fantastic two weeks of training where many areas of my karate and kobudo (Okinawan weapons) were fine-tuned and consolidated," says Tim.

"Meeting friends from around the globe is always amazing," he says. "When training, sweating and socialising together we all share a common passion and language. That is Okinawan karate."

Anyone interested in karate training classes in Helensville should phone Tim on 420 8120.



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Students take on police challenge

A team of four Parakai School students competed in the Blue Light Norwest Zone Police Physical Competency Test challenge for Year 7 students late last month at the North Shore Events Centre.

Renee and David Povey, Tyrone Brown and Krystal Tuigamala had to complete a range of challenges such as pushing a trailer 10m, scaling a wall, carrying a 'body' (actually a stuffed dummy) and climbing through a window.

The course, designed to challenge their ability to handle common physical activities, was based on the police physical competency test which all New Zealand police constables, sergeants and senior sergeants have to sit every two years.

The competition gave an insight into what police do, and the importance of teamwork.

While the Parakai team - in its first year in the competition - didn't gain a place in the national finals in Wellington, principal Nick Neubert says "the team were an absolute



• The Parakai team put their backs into pushing a trailer

credit to the school in their effort, attitude and participation".

"I would like to make this a regular event for us to enter," he says. "We have amazing talent at this school and I want to expose this talent to new challenges and competitions in Auckland."

medical centre notes

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a common abnormal heart rhythm, affecting one in every 100 people. Some of the causes are high blood pressure, damaged heart valves or muscle, over active thyroid, high amounts of alcohol or severe infection (such as pneumonia)

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Also the muddled flow of the blood increases the risk of forming clots, which may travel to the brain (stroke) or lungs, and because of this we calculate a person's risk for stroke to determine what form of 'blood thinning' medication they should be on, from aspirin, to Warfarin or Dabigatran.

On a lighter note, a Merry Christmas to everyone from us all at the medical centre.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Top college students

Rachel Meadows was named Dux of Kaipara College at the school's 2014 senior academic prize giving last month, with Judith Glasson taking the Proxime accessit award.

Rachel's other awards included the Senior Faculty Award for the Faculty of Language; the Senior Faculty Award for the Faculty of Technology (jointly with Judith); the Joan Ruzich Cup for senior English; the Audrey Luckens Writing Award; the Lions Trophy for public speaking, the Chris Heaslip Cup for Accounting (jointly with Jimmy Atkin); and the Marilyn Aucutt Cup for Biology (jointly with Judith).

Head girl Judith also won the Senior Faculty Award for the Faculty of Technology (jointly with Rachel); the Rodney Board Scholarship; and Marilyn Aucutt Cup for Biology (again jointly with Rachel).

■ SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS:

Pengelly Cup: Billy Bowman

Principal's Award for Head Students: Billy Bowman and Judith Glasson

Audrey Luckens Writing Award: Rachel Meadows

John Key Cup: Pearl Hindley

McCurdie Cup: Savannah Cox

Rodney Board Scholarship: Judith Glasson

Auckland University Alumni Scholarship: Pearl Hindley

Helensville District Health Award: Eloise McIntyre

AUT Scholarships: Rachel Meadows and Ellice Protheroe

Unitec Scholarship: Marc George

Unitec Success Packs: Kristen Stokes and Hifo Taione

Crown Institute Scholarship: Maygan Rollinson

Helensville Freemasons Award: Billy Bowman

Neil Notley Scholarship: Izaak Wells and Melissa Bowers

Helensville Women & Family Centre Award: Ellice Protheroe

Lions Trophy - Public Speaking: Rachel Meadows

Te Atawhaitia Award for Contribution to Things Maori: Marc George

Te Ihi Award for Maori Performing Arts: Troy Studholme

Senior Faculty Awards:

Faculty of Arts: Troy Studholme

Faculty of Phys Ed & Health: Niko McIntyre

Faculty of Language: Rachel Meadows

Faculty of Mathematics: Candy Yoo and Dylan French

Faculty of Social Sciences: Candy Yoo

Faculty of Science: Dylan French

Faculty of Technology: Judith Glasson and Rachel Meadows



• Proxime accessit Judith Glasson (left) and Dux Rachel Meadows

Happy Holidays

from Jana Mills



I would like to thank all of my loyal clients, family and friends. Your support has been extremely overwhelming and appreciated. I am looking forward to achieving many more successful transactions for Rodney residents in 2015.

My summer will be spent in the Rodney area so please feel free to call me anytime if you need to discuss your real estate matters and I will be more than happy to help.

Merry Christmas, Safe Travels and a very Happy New Year.

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Find me on Facebook – Jana Mills Real Estate Specialist

Mob: 021 509 990 | A/H: 09 420 9953
Email: jana@prestigerealtyhbc.co.nz

Poker Run raises \$6000+ for local station



• Motorcycles run through Commercial Road at the start of the run
- Photo: Roger Haven

The 2014 5 Station Poker Run motorcycle run last month raised \$6320 for the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade, which will go towards covering the cost of the brigade's centenary celebrations.

195 registered riders came from as far away as Whakatane, Napier and Hamilton for the event, which is shared on a rotating annual basis between the Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Kumeu, Shelly Beach and Muriwai stations.

Caring for animals with special requirements

A Waitoki-based cattery and 'doggie homestay' is specialising in caring for elderly or very young pets, and those that have special needs or medication requirements.

Catz Pyjamas is run by veterinary nurse Bubbles Otway from the 40ha sheep and beef farm she and husband Colin Hawken live on in Valley Road.

She describes it as a "boutique" service, catering for a maximum of nine cats and six dogs at a time.

Originally from Tomorata, Bubbles says many catteries and kennels can't easily accommodate animals with special requirements, or very young pets that have yet to be vaccinated or desexed. Pets can be isolated if required.

"My 'guests' are treated as if they are my own pets," she says.

Bubbles has spent the last four years helping train vet nurses at Unitec, and before that worked in animal emergency and after-hours care on the North Shore.

The cats have a purpose-built accommodation block behind the house, while dogs are catered for with kennels and a large outdoor run area.

"For the active dog we have lots of farm walks and running free time."

Dog care is mostly for people that also



• Bubbles with 6-month-old rescue fox terrier Dexter

have cats that need looking after.

Bubbles says her big passion is animal rescue. She works closely with the Humane Society and also Auckland Council's Silverdale animal shelter, taking in homeless dogs.

Those animals are treated for fleas and worms, vaccinated and desexed, and then assessed to work out the best sort of family for them. They are then advertised on TradeMe, and a suitable home is chosen from applicants. The \$150 donation asked for doesn't even cover the Humane Society's costs, says Bubbles.

"I cannot speak highly enough of this organisation."

Merry Christmas to everyone from

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Te Whare Oranga Update: The building works start

We are excited to announce that over the Christmas and summer period our builders will commence the interior renovations at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. Unitec's Interior Design students have blown us out of the water with their ideas for our finished interior and we can't wait to open the doors so you can see the finished product at long last.

A big thank you to the South Kaipara Golf Club who have been working hard throughout October and November demolishing the bar and chiller area to prepare the site for building works.

The Helensville District Health Trust has signed a relationship agreement with Unitec to formalize our partnership and we're incredibly excited about the endless opportunities our two organisations have to work together. From Unitec's Bridgepoint programme to the designs and skills behind our renovation of Te Whare Oranga, we feel we've only just scraped the surface of what's possible. We'll keep you updated as further opportunities evolve.



October 2014 AGM

The Helensville District Health Trust AGM was well attended this year and featured three generations of McKenzie women as pictured above. Founder of the Trust Alison McKenzie is retiring from her role on the Board for the Helensville Birth Centre, with her grand daughter Hilary Steedman taking up a Board role with the Birth Centre. Hilary's mother Erica McKenzie is on the Board of the Helensville District Health Trust and Chairs the Helensville Women & Family Centre, a long term Trust tenant at 1 Porter Crescent.

Above: Alison McKenzie, Hilary Steedman & Erica McKenzie

PEOPLE'S CORNER

Liz McCracken



Liz McCracken recently joined the Trust as our new Accounts Assistant, working from Alison McKenzie House alongside our Accountant, Anne-Marie Spice. Liz has over 21 years experience

as a book keeper (extraordinaire!) and is looking forward to working with the local community in her new role for the Trust. Working close to home and the opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances were part of what attracted Liz to the role.

Liz and her husband Graham have lived on their farm in Kaukapakapa for 24 years and enjoy spending family time with their three adult children & partners who all live close by.

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Community day gets thumbs up

Four lucky young locals will be going for a ride on the Police launch Deodar III on Sunday, December 7 as the winners of the Community Crime Prevention and Safety Day art competition.

Theo Bayley won the 5-6 year age group; Kaleb Travis 7-8 years; Bianca Bayley 9-10 years; and Hayden Hill the 11-12 year group.

Unfortunately bad weather with gale force winds struck Helensville on the day of the event. Around 140 people braved the conditions to take part, "which was a great turnout considering", says organiser, community constable Mandi Bell.

"I want to thank everyone that braved the weather to come along, and hope they all learnt something they didn't know before about keeping themselves and their property safe," she says.

"I have had so many positive comments from the public and exhibitors about the day and what it represented, and many people have already asked when the next one will be. Watch this space!"

Children in particular enjoyed the interactive activities, such as dusting for fingerprints, being clocked by radar to see who could run fastest, and completing obstacles while wearing 'booze goggles'.

South Kaipara Blue Light, Out West Youth and Angel Fund all benefited from the gold coin entry donation.



• Cruze Holder (4) of Muriwai hugs Civil Defence public education mascot Stan



• Dog handler Senior Sergeant Pete Pedersen talks to the crowd



• Kaukapakapa's Nathaniel Shipton (11) is clocked at 22km/h by senior constable Karen Murphy

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Annual youth summer camp

Forty teenagers will take part in Te Awaroa Youth Club's annual youth summer camp at Highams Beach, South Head in January.

The week-long camp, which will run from Monday, January 19 to Friday 23 next year, is an action packed event for youth aged from 12 to 17 years.

The camp environment is team-focused. Four teams of 10 will compete against one another in 'Survivor' style games as well as adventure, fishing, kayaking, arts, drama, music and fear factor activities. It is facilitated by trained professionals and youth leaders.

"The camaraderie developed amongst participants has shown over the years to extend well beyond the event," says Te Awaroa Youth Club manager Heidi Van Duyn.

She says the young people who take part gain increased skills, particularly with self-development and environmental and social awareness.

The camp almost harks back to a simpler time. Mobile phones must be handed in at the start of the camp, and other electronic equipment like music players are banned. The camp is also alcohol, cigarette and drug

free, and there is a 10 push-up penalty for anyone caught swearing.

The camp is free thanks to the support from the NZ Lottery Board, the Rodney and Hibiscus Coast Subdivision Local Board subcommittee and the Ministry of Social Development's Break-Away School Holiday Programme.

More information is available at www.teawaroayouthclub.co.nz or by contacting Heidi Van Duyn on 09 420 7977 or email: manager@teawaroayouthclub.co.nz.



• Youth leader Rangipai Dobson with the sand pyramid fellow campers made last year

from the frontline

The holiday season is fast approaching and many of you will be taking time off to go away to relax, and spend time with friends and family. If you are going away please consider taking the following precautions:

- Make arrangements for your mail and newspaper to be stopped or collected by a friend or neighbour.
- Hide valuable items, financial documents and spare keys to vehicles.
- Lock your garage and any sheds.
- Set timer switches on lights and/or radio.
- Don't mention on your answering machine that you will be away.
- Safeguard your property by recording it at www.snap.org.nz. This website serves to prevent the incidence of burglary and property offending. Register on the website and enter all details of your valuable items including photographs. SNAP assists in the apprehension of criminals if they are caught with stolen property matching known serial numbers in the Police database via SNAP.
- Don't post on social media your plans to go on holiday and the details, such as dates and times you will be away.
- Get a neighbour or friend to make regular checks on the property. They can even close curtains in the evening and turn lights on to give the appearance someone is at home.
- Ask a friend to house-sit.

And I wish everyone have a safe and happy holiday period over the next four weeks.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



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Saturday: 8am to 5pm
Sunday: 9am to 5pm till the end of Feb



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CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

SOUTH KAIPARA ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

Co-operative Parish, 60 Garfield Rd. Contact Suzie Smith, 420 7835

- Sunday, Dec 21st: 9.30am, Christmas Carols.
- Wednesday, Dec 24th: 6.30pm, Christmas Eve service.
- Thursday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day service.

SOUTH KAIPARA ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16.

- Thursday, Dec 25th: 8am, Christmas Day service.

HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH (combined with St Cuthbert's, KKK)

40 Mill Rd. Contact Pastors Glenys and Kevin Coombridge, 420 2995

- Wednesday, Dec 24th: 7pm, Christmas Carol service.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

1 Puriri St, Helensville, Contact Fr. Alfonso Dujali. 420 8110

- Wednesday, Dec 24: 7.30 pm, Christmas Carols; 8pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Thursday, Dec 25: 9 am, Christmas Day Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

380 SH16, Huapai, Contact Fr. Alfonso Dujali. 420 8110

- Wednesday, Dec 24: 11.30 pm, Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass.
- Thursday, Dec 25: 9 am, Christmas Day Mass.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

Cnr Fordyce & Parkhurst Rds, Parakai. Contact Sue Hadwin, 420 6553

- Sunday, Dec 14: Family/end of year service and children's function.
- Thursday, Dec 25: 10am, Christmas Service with theme: Christmas around the world.

Christmas deserts (cont)

• From page 15

- 1 cinnamon stick
- Slice of orange peel
- 2 cups black grapes
- 2 cup cherries

Heat together in a pot the water, merlot, sugar, cinnamon stick and slice of orange peel, stir, bring to the boil and simmer for a couple of minutes. Add the grapes and cherries, cover and bring back to the boil, give it a bit of a shake to move the contents about and cook for about 1 minute. Take off the heat and strain the fruit retaining the liquid in the pot. Discard the cinnamon and peel. While the fruit cools return the pot to the stove, and over a medium heat, reduce the contents by half, or until it begins to thicken. Remove from the heat and fold the fruit back in. Chill until needed.

Sable Biscuits

- 140g unsalted butter, softened
- 100g white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups (260g) all purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon mixed spice

Pre-heat oven to 170° celsius, grease baking trays and line with baking paper. Place them in the fridge.

Beat the butter, vanilla essence and sugar together until fluffy, add the egg and beat to combine.

In another bowl sift together the flour, mixed spice, baking powder and salt. Combine the dry ingredients and the butter mix loosely and turn out onto a floured board. Knead gently to combine. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 10 minutes in the fridge.

Flour the board and roll out the dough to about the thickness of a pencil. Cut out your shapes and lay on the chilled baking sheets until the tray is full then bake for about 15-20 minutes, cool on a rack.

To serve, layer the biscuits with a blob of cream, spoon in some fruit, drizzle the juice about and pop another sable on top dusted with icing sugar. Garnish with mint leaf and grated dark chocolate.

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Wed 24th Dec - Fri 26th Dec: Closed Mon 29th Dec - Wed 31st Dec: 8am - 4pm
 Thu 1st Jan - Fri 2nd Jan: Closed Mon 5th Jan - Fri 9th Jan: 8am - 5pm
 Weekends: Normal trading through holiday season - Sat: 8am - 4pm, Sun: 9am - 1pm

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Christmas desserts

Here are a couple of my favourite alternatives to the standard Christmas pudding menu, much of which can be prepared ahead of time.

■ Sticky Date Pudding with Toffee Sauce

■ Pudding:

- 2 cups pitted dates
- ½ cup water
- 1 cup orange juice
- Zest of an orange
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 180g butter softened
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 cups standard flour or gluten free plain flour
- 2 teaspoons dried ginger
- ¼ teaspoon salt.



Set the oven to 150° celsius and line a greased cake tin with baking paper.

Put the water, zest and orange juice in a pot. Use kitchen scissors to snip each date into 3 pieces, add them to the pot and set on the stove at a medium heat. Stir and allow to come to the boil then remove from the heat. Sprinkle in the baking soda and stir into the hot fruit. It will foam up but that's ok. Allow to cool on the bench.

Beat together the softened butter and the brown sugar until light then add the eggs one at a time, beating as you go. Add the flour, ginger and salt to the butter mix and stir through. Add the warm fruit mix to the cake batter and combine. I stir with a rubber spatula to get all the bits off the bottom of the bowl and then tip into the lined cake tin. Bake for about an hour at 150° celsius.

■ Sauce:

- 1 cup cream
- 1 cup brown sugar

Put the cream and sugar in a thick bottomed pot. Heat on low stirring gently all the time, bring it to the boil and turn down to low. Stir until it is gently simmering then leave to cook for 3-5 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool. If you want it thicker then allow to cook for longer, reduce in volume and thicken. Stores well in the fridge, stir it together if it separates.

Serve with soft whipped cream, and garnish with thin sliced crystal ginger and mint leaves. Pudding stores well in the fridge, can be made as individuals in a muffin tin just adjust the cooking time.

■ Grape and cherry shortcake with Merlot syrup

- 100 mls water
- 150 mls merlot
- 100g sugar

• To page 14

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U3A MEETING

South Kaipara U3A will hold a 'Victorian Picnic Lunch' on Friday, December, 5 at 1pm in the St John Ambulance rooms, 7 Rata Street, Helensville. Performance poet Pauline Mee is the invited guest. The lunch will feature sandwiches, savouries, fruit, meat, pies, and lemonade to emulate a picnic held from 1814 until the present day. All welcome, gold coin entry. For further information phone Jenny on 09 827 8861.

LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE

Kaukapakapa's Christmas 'Light up the Village' is on again this year, and organiser Oliver Vitali is looking for help with prizes for the best entries. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: best fairy lights, best nativity display and, for children, best Christmas letterbox.

The Kaukapakapa Rural Fire Service will again have the local station lit up for Christmas following their impressive display

last year.

Anyone able to help can phone Oliver on 420 5192 or 021 772 595 or on the Light-Up-The-Village Facebook page.

KKK MARKET

Next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, December 21 from 8.30am to 1pm. A special Christmas market with Santa in his grotto and live music from the Cougar Chorus performing seasonal songs. Stalls, food, coffee and more. For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

KAIPARA RSA WEBSITE

The Kaipara RSA has a new website at www.kaipararsa.co.nz featuring news, general information and the latest restaurant menu. The association is keen to welcome new members. A courtesy bus is available for the Helensville/Parakai areas for a small charge.

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Shelly Beach New Years Day sports fun

The annual Shelly Beach Community Sports Day will be held again on New Years Day, starting at 1pm at the Top Reserve.

Games on offer will include running races, a tug of war, gumboot throwing, a hammer and nail drive, pegs on the line and water balloon throwing.

The day will also feature a Mr and Miss Shelly Beach contest, quick fire raffles, a lolly scramble, hamper raffles, face painting and spot prizes.

The family-oriented event normally attracts up to 100 people and runs until around 4pm or 5pm. It will be held rain or shine, and a barbeque will be available for people to cook their own food on.

The cost is \$5 per family, which includes entry into the last prize draw. For more information phone Julie on 420 2033 or 021 242 5963, or Kara on 021 414 376.

Helensville News - Publication Information

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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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