

Close look at future of Parakai Reserve

A cultural centre, upgrading the existing campground and adding cabins, and a health spa and hotel were the most popular suggestions for the future of Parakai Reserve at a meeting last month to discuss a draft 'Master Plan' for the reserve.

Around 30 locals, ranging from long-time residents to complete newcomers to the area, spent a couple of hours going over a raft of suggestions from the Parakai Recreation Reserve Board, and then brainstorming their own ideas.

The meeting, at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, was led by board chair Margaret Kawharu.

She outlined more than two dozen possibilities for future development of the 18ha reserve, which borders Parkhurst and Springs Roads and the Kaipara River, and is currently home to the Parakai campground, the Parakai Springs hot pools complex and the Parakai War Memorial.

Board suggestions included:

- Ecological restoration and habitats for birds
- Maara Kai (a community food garden)
- A health spa, making use of the natural geothermal water resource
- Native planting, meadows, tracks and picnic areas
- A worm farm
- Upgrading the carpark
- Story boards, signs and maps to tell the

story of the reserve

- A cultural hangi area
- Campground improvements including adding accommodation buildings that can be booked
- An old fashioned tea kiosk with semi-formal gardens
- An obstacle or fitness trail
- Swimming training facilities and sports fields
- Ngāti Whātua cultural centre
- A health retreat.

"It's just lots of ideas at the moment," says Margaret. "Nothing is set in concrete at this stage."

The ideas were developed following an informal community consultation at the reserve in March.

After her presentation, Margaret asked each person at the meeting for their views on the reserve, the Parakai area in general, and any suggestions they had for potential future development.

They were then asked to vote, by way of placing blue dots on photographs, which of the plan's suggestions were most favoured. Upgrades to the Parakai campground, in particular establishing cabins, was most popular.

Suggestions from those present at the meeting included establishing an exclusive hotel or resort; a maze; a BMX bike park; water features; artworks and sculptures; an adventure playground and a dog exercise area. A common theme was to provide facilities for children in particular, and also attractions for tourists.

The Master Plan is underpinned by a number of ecological and cultural baselines.

The board believes establishing

ecological baselines for the entire reserve must be the first step in its development. These include removing pest animal and plant species from the reserve; ensuring an ecologically appropriate waste water retention and disposal system is developed for the hot pools; ecological enhancement of the reserve's salt marsh/estuarine wetland area including removal of pampas and other exotic plants; and ensuring developments on the site restore and enhance the



• Margaret Kawharu points out areas for possible development

environment of the reserve.

From the cultural point of view, the board aims to support cultural and archaeological research to enable the reserve's history and culture to be understood by the local community and visitors.

The board also believes all plans for the reserve must be developed to give an authentic cultural experience which reflects Ngāti Whātua and caters both for the local community, visitors and tourists.

The Parakai Recreation Reserve Board was created by the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Claims Settlement Act 2013. Members in addition to Margaret are Rodney Local Board chair Brenda Steele, councillor Penny Webster, Waata Richards, Phelan Pirrie and Te Kahui-iti Morehu.

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I attended a very interesting meeting last month at which the Parakai Recreation Reserve Board presented its draft master plan for the future development of what could be - and probably should be - the crown jewel of our area (see front page).

It's a resource which in days gone by was a huge draw-card for people from Auckland, and even the rest of the country and overseas. It's hard to imagine now that Parakai once needed four boarding houses to handle the number of people coming to the town - although of course in those days it wasn't just a 40-minute drive up the motorway from Auckland.

A lot of thought had gone into the board's long list of suggestions for development of Parakai Reserve, but when the meeting was opened up to the public present to get their ideas, that list rapidly grew.

Some of the suggestions were perhaps a little over-ambitious (such as a luxury retreat hotel) while others were very simple and highly

achievable, like walking tracks and cycleways, and dog exercise areas.

Making use of the one feature that makes Parakai unique while so close to Auckland - the natural geothermal water - seems like a no-brainer.

Balance is going to be the key. For every call to build facilities to bring tourists, there was a similar one to retain the quiet, country feel of the area. It's going to be hard to achieve both. Yes, the area needs more jobs, and some of the suggested developments will bring those. But they will also bring visitors and tourists, which will mean more traffic, people and noise.

Also in this issue we cover the long-overdue redevelopment of the War Memorial Hall basement (page 4) - a project which will result in a great facility for this town, but one which hasn't been without its critics.

We also wish happy birthday (page 12) to the woman who is almost certainly our district's oldest resident - 105-year-old Jean Narbey, who has seen more of the changes to our area than anyone else.

Enjoy the reading.

- Dave Addison, Editor

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Students learn driver awareness

84 Year 12 Kaipara College students last month attended a one-day Rotary Youth Driver Awareness programme highlighting crucial road safety messages last month.

Students took part in six interactive, sometimes emotional sessions on speed and stopping; hazards and distractions; a personality test; rights and responsibilities; after the crash; and Genevieve's story.

The programme aims to equip young people with the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe on the road, combating such key issues as speeding, drink driving, fatigue, seatbelts and distractions.

In conjunction with the third UN Global Road Safety week the students had to take a 'selfie' holding a sheet filled in with a message to a younger brother, sister or friend and post it on

social media.

It was the second year the college's Year 12 students have attended the course, and the students thought it was well worth while and thought-provoking. The school will offer the programme again next year.

The course was fully funded by the Rotary Club of New Zealand and was held at Trust Stadium in Henderson.



• Sativa Tarau-Peehikuru and Rina Paraone with their posters

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New manager for CAB

New Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau manager Karen Rutherford has come to her new role with 22 years experience in the not-for-profit sector.

Now in charge of the bureau's 20 local volunteers, Karen is undergoing exactly the same training routine as all new CAB volunteers - and at the end of her training she'll be signing her name on the volunteer's roster to help out, in addition to her 15 hours a week managing the Commercial Road office.

Karen says it is "unbelievable the services that are on offer" at the local CAB.

"People have the right to be empowered, and that's what the CAB does. I love their values. It's truly rewarding."

The local office handles up to 150 enquiries a month, predominantly foot traffic. Enquiries can be as simple as a 5-minute bus timetable explanation to a one- or two-hour meeting on any of the huge range of topics the CAB can help with.

Karen is full of praise for the Helensville CAB's team of volunteers, who are only rostered on for 2.5 hours once a week.

"I've never felt so welcome, they are so friendly and so polite. [They are] an amazing bunch of volunteers."



• Karen Rutherford

Among Karen's previous experience was four years with the Child Safety Foundation, where she worked her way up from librarian to manager and board secretary.

She also spend two years as secretary with Kartsport Auckland, and a year as the homes co-ordinator for Mt Tabor Trust in Helensville.

Immediately prior to starting at the CAB Karen was studying full time at Unitec, and she is now only two papers away from completing a degree in social work and counselling.

Karen and her husband Chris, who runs a successful electrical business primarily servicing retirement villages, moved from Te Atatu South to Mangakura Road in Helensville four years ago.

"I love it here," she says. "It's very much a tight-knit community."

Karen's son Scott (21) is following in his father's footsteps, and has almost completed his electricians apprenticeship. Daughter Amy (17) has now left Kaipara College and is studying agriculture at Telford University in Balclutha.

In her spare time, Karen is researching the history of her pre-1900 house, and also makes a wide range of crafts, which she sells at the Love Flowers florist in Commercial Road, where she helps out owner Mel Dickens from time to time.

Wetland planting

South Kaipara Landcare is holding a planting day at Te Rau Puriri Regional Park on Saturday, June 6.

Locals are asked to help with the first planting in a recently established wetland area.

The planting starts at 10am at 2911 South Head Road, and those taking part are asked to bring a spade, gloves and sturdy footwear. A barbecue lunch and hot and cold drinks will be provided.

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Hall basement will be new home for Art Centre, budget office, food bank

Work on a \$775,000 rebuild of the Helensville War Memorial Hall basement should be finished by the end of July.

When finished, the basement will house the Helensville Art Centre, which will move from its current Karaka Street location, plus the Helensville Emergency Foodbank and the Helensville-Waimauku Family Budgeting Service.

The Art Centre will occupy half the basement, with a 55m² gallery, two workshop areas, an office/kitchen, large storage areas and two toilets, one of them accessible. The new area will be almost 70 percent larger than the centre's current premises.

The remainder of the basement will be split into a large storage area for the food bank, two offices, two meeting rooms, a waiting area and a 20m² common space.

Outside there will be a large, split-direction ramp for wheelchair accessibility, which will be bisected by stairs.

The work isn't restricted to the basement, however. Inside the hall, a staircase will be built against the back wall to allow access to the mezzanine floor, which for years has only been reachable by ladder.

The mezzanine itself will also be modified, with offices built at either end, and a central room that can be used to control stage lighting.

The project has been funded primarily with Treaty of Waitangi settlement money from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, who purchased the old Rodney Council building in Commercial Road that currently houses both the food bank and budgeting service.

Rodney Local Board has topped up those funds with around \$70,000 of its own money.

The project has come under some heavy

criticism from Helensville businesswoman Holly Ryan, who believes the plans should have been developed with community consultation. However Local Board member Phelan Pirrie says that as the basement is being redeveloped for the three specific tenants, whose input was sought during the design process resulting in several plan changes, no community consultation was required.



• Excavators prepare for the ramps into the basement

Holly also strongly believes a lift should have been incorporated into the design, and even offered at the Rodney Local Board's May meeting to finance that with \$100,000 of her own money. However the board voted to "regretfully" decline her offer. Installing a lift had already been investigated and rejected during the early planning stages, and changing the plans now, with work already underway, would according to the board create unacceptable delays.

Holly employed an architect to develop what she believes is a superior design for the hall basement, and presented those plans at the meeting.

"If she had come to us a year ago we

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We will be profiling local clubs and community groups in an issue later this year, and would like to hear from any clubs, sports groups or other voluntary organisations. It's a great chance to boost the profile of your club or group, and maybe increase your membership.

Once we've got your contact information, we'll send out a brief questionnaire to get a few facts and figures from you - things like what the organisation/club does, membership numbers, how long it's been running, and when meetings or events are held. Then we'll put together a special feature later in the year covering all of that information.

Email is our preferred method for gathering this information - you can email us at: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz with your club name and contact details. If email's not an option, feel free to phone on 420 7215.

Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire online right now by visiting: www.helensvilleneews.co.nz/questionnaire.

Hall basement project (cont)

• From page 4

might have been able to incorporate some of her ideas," says Phelan. "But she came to us after the design was finalised and tenders already put out."

The basement refurbishment has the full backing of the Art Kaipara board, which runs Helensville Art Centre.

Several meetings were held between Art Kaipara, the two other user groups and Auckland Council, and changes were made to the plans as a result of those groups' feedback.

"Everyone agreed with the final plans," says Art Kaipara board member and former treasurer, Jo Ogilvy.

"At no point have we been unhappy with what council came up with."

Jo says the final design is a compromise with what the Art Centre would ideally have liked - in particular the lack of any outdoor area - but says the board is very pleased with the final design.

An added bonus will be greatly reduced costs for the Art Centre, which presently pays \$12,000 in rent each year. In the new premises they will only pay a peppercorn rental, plus rates of around \$4500 - leaving more money available for classes and projects.

The tender for the construction work was awarded to Legacy Construction, who began work in mid-May.



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New series of timeline boards track history of WWI

The first in a second series of timeline billboards commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War has gone up on Commercial Road.

Located on the wall of the historic Screamton building - currently occupied by

look for another six sponsors and do another six boards which will take us right through to the end of World War One in 1918."

At this stage the problem is finding enough places in Helensville to display all the billboards. One solution will be to remove the earlier signs and replace them with the newer ones.

Keith says the hope is that all the boards will eventually go on permanent display at the Helensville Museum in Mill Road.

Meanwhile Keith is recently returned from Gallipoli where he attended the 100th commemorative Dawn Parade and visited Chunuk Bair, and other historic sites such as Troy and Assos.

Part of a tour group of 105 people which included four military historians, Keith says he made some great friends, and the Turkish guides were able to give another perspective to the history.

"The experience was marvellous, every day was amazing," he says. "There were days when it was emotional," says Keith.

"The day that really stood out for me was the day we went to Chunuk Bair. We all laid poppies on the Chunuk Bair memorial, so for me that was quite overwhelming."



• Keith with the latest timeline billboard

WINZ - the board features Reg Screamton's son Thomas, who died on May 8, 1915 at the Second Battle of Krithia in Turkey.

The new series of eight billboards will follow on from the first nine, which went up around Helensville over the past year - the final one being mounted outside the Kaipara Memorial RSA on Anzac Day, April 25.

Five of the new billboards will feature members of local families who were involved in the war. The families have sponsored the signs' manufacture.

"These eight boards run from the 8th of May 1915 right through to the 17th of June 1917, which is the Battle of Messines," says RSA vice president and project co-ordinator Keith Cowper.

"The hope is in a about a year's time we'll

Local fire fighters in Sky Tower climb

Four volunteer fire fighters - Richard Limmer, Dan Kelly, Alex van Dam and Israil Foreman - from the Helensville fire brigade took part in the annual Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge on Saturday, May 23.

They ran in full fire fighting kit with helmet and breathing gear, weighing up to 25kg, climbing 1103 steps before reaching the top.

They were among 750 firefighters from around the country as well as 23 overseas participants from the United States, Germany, Chile and Australia, who between them raised more than \$1 million for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand.



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These old diesel locomotives and rolling stock (above) belonging to Auckland Transport are likely to stay parked up at Helensville station for some time.

The trains - and others like them at Henderson and in South Auckland - are being stored until they can be sold. They have been partially shrink-wrapped in bright blue plastic to prevent damage by taggers.

A tender has been called for the purchase of the trains, but an Auckland Transport spokesman said he had "no idea" when they were likely to be sold - if at all. He described them as "pretty old", and pointed out that New Zealand's railway track gauge is narrower than most other countries, limiting potential markets for the trains.

medical centre notes

Firstly, congratulations to Dr Hollie Shine and her husband Kris, for the arrival of their lovely new daughter, Natalie Mae, born on May 8 weighing in at 3.49kg. We're so happy for them as they start this new exciting time in their lives.

During the election campaign last year (how time flies), one of the government policies relating to health was for funded free visits being extended from under-6-year-olds to include up to under-13-year-olds from July 1 this year.

As at the time of writing, we have been informed by our Primary Health Organisation, ProCare, that with only six weeks to go, there are still issues with the details of how the funding initiative will be implemented.

We are keen to join this scheme as soon as we are able to, and once the processes and funding is in place, we hope that will still be on July 1 - but this may cause a delay. We will keep you updated as we get more firm information.

Finally, flu vaccines have been going well. If you haven't had yours yet, and you are over 65 or have a chronic illness that qualifies for a free vaccine, come and see our nurses soon.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Kaukapakapa Village Centre up for grabs

Kaukapakapa's yet-to-be-built Village Centre development is up for sale.

Helensville News detailed the development of the 1.4ha commercial property in February 2013. At the time, developer and 50/50 partner in the project, David Brown, estimated the cost of the 3000sq.m. village, which was planned to open in April last year, at around \$10 million.

It's now up for tender, and real estate agent Dave Crow of Ray White in Orewa says he understands the current owners have spent just under \$2 million on the site, which combined with the value of the land and cost of resource consents already approved would put the value somewhere around \$3.5 million as the project stands.

While little has happened on the site over the past 12 months, a lot of the sub-ground work has already been completed.

Resource consent has been issued for the project, and much of the remaining technical work is also approved, including engineering consents, geotech, traffic and landscaping, and structural engineering and construction drawings for stage one. Building consent for stage one has been lodged.

The Kaukapakapa Village Centre is planned to feature a petrol station, a small supermarket, retail stores, office space, apartments above the shops, and parking for 120 vehicles.

Deposits have already been paid for leases on the petrol station - believed to be by Gull - and one of the retail stores. Two others are also leased without deposits, and there is an expression of interest on one of the apartments. Between them they cover much of the first stage of the project.

Dave says two parties have registered their interest in leasing the supermarket, which would be part of stage two. Others have expressed interest in leasing spaces for a bakery, a deli and a chemist shop (dependant on there being a local doctor's office).

Designed by leading architects Jasmax, the project aims to create a true town centre for Kaukapakapa, with an attractive design and quality materials.

Tenders for the property close on Friday, June 5.



• An architect's drawing of the proposed village centre

Local St John wins two awards

The St John Helensville Area committee won two top awards at the St John Northern Regional Awards in May.

The first was the Community Initiative award, received for work the committee has done over the past three years providing baking, snacks and drinks to ambulance crews and hospital staff at North Shore, Waitakere and Auckland hospitals on New Year's Eve. Several current and former committee members took part in that project, instigated by Helensville's Patsy Carlyle.

The second award was the Supreme Area Committee Award, which recognised the large number of achievements the Helensville Area committee has made. The success of the St John Op Shop in Commercial Road played a large role in the local committee winning that award.

Both awards are currently on show in the Op Shop window.

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Free debt advice service now available locally

Helensville Christian Life Centre has partnered with national debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to bring free help to locals facing serious debt issues.

CAP offers a combination of advice, financial education, expert budgeting, insolvency services and ongoing support to people living under the burden of unmanageable debt.

While the service is run through the church, it is non-denominational.

Debt Centre manager Sharon Kostanich, of Helensville, says her team is excited to be able to reach the people of Helensville and surrounding area with this "life-transforming" service.

"Being able to work with people to help release them from the burden of debt and enjoy the lives they should be experiencing is such a privileged opportunity," says Sharon.

Clients can access the CAP service through a number of ways - some contact CAP directly, but many are referred through government agencies and other community organisations.

Sharon acts as the local CAP debt coach for the greater Helensville area, and with a support worker visits new clients with their families to learn about their financial situation and other support they may need.

Then, professionally trained credit liaison officers from the CAP head office in Otahuhu negotiate with creditors on the client's behalf, offering repayments that the clients can afford. By working with local utilities and national financial institutions, CAP aims to offer a sustainable solution that helps break the cycle of poverty, creating a budget that allows clients to both repay their debt and provide for their own needs.

The service can be provided for free because CAP is a charity which receives



• Sharon Kostanich

donations from many churches and individuals who want to help people in debt.

Clients are supported each step of the way as they work their way out of debt. Currently, CAP is helping more than 700 clients nationally, and in five years has seen 323 client families become debt free.

CAP operates in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Locals struggling with debt are encouraged to phone CAP free on 0508 227 111

Winston Peters to speak at South Kaipara ratepayers AGM



• Winston Peters

New Zealand First Party leader and new MP for Northland Winston Peters will talk at the annual meeting of the South Kaipara Residents and Ratepayers Association (SKRRA).

The meeting will be held in the Waioneke School hall on Thursday, June 18 at 7pm.

SKRRA has asked locals via its Facebook page to suggest topics for Mr Peters to speak on, and association secretary Alison Fellman says "things like roading and harbour access" were looking most popular.

The school hall holds around 200 people and the meeting is expected to be very popular with Mr Peter's presence.

An entry fee of \$5 will be charged for the meeting, which will give those attending membership of SKRRA. If people do not want to become a member their entry fee will go to Waioneke School.

Alison says she expects most people attending the meeting will be from within the association's area of coverage.

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New youth manager for St John

The Youth Division of St John in Helensville has a new divisional manager.

Anita Hall has been actively involved with St John youth for 35 years and brings a wealth of experience to the role along with a passion for the benefits being a St John youth cadet offers.

All five of her children are cadets, and eldest daughter Sarah has just taken on the corresponding role for St John Kumeu youth.

"I met my best friend on my first night at St John as an 8-year old-cadet. 42 years on we are still best of friends," says Anita.

"I love the confidence cadets gain, and the ability to act in an emergency situation. It provides comradery with people from different

walks of life and well as enabling them to gain valuable life skills."

Anita gained the Grand Prior Award in 1981 - the highest cadet award that can also be worn on an adult uniform - which recognises a

self-motivated and capable young person's ongoing commitment, compassion and support.

She worked as the volunteer area manager from 2009-2013 in Massey, Helensville and Kumeu, and was admitted to the Order of St John Order investiture in 2007.

St John cadets can achieve four badges per year, selected from among six compulsory badges (drill, St John, first aid, caregivers, communication, and community awareness) and 10 optional badges (including topics such as road safety, animal safety, home tech, faith, and international understanding).

"We are currently completing the International Understanding badge, which is one of my favourites," says Anita. Cadets choose a country to learn about on a daily basis, and finish with an international dinner dressed in the clothing of their chosen country.

The St John Youth Division programme operates during school terms on Mondays from 6pm to 7.30pm at the St John Ambulance Station in Rata Street. For more information visit: www.stjohn.org.nz, phone 0800 STJOHN, or phone Anita on 021 294 0544.



• From left: Melanie, Sam, Anna, Anita, Caitlin and Sarah Hall

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Our new name: NorthWest Country

NorthWest Country - that's the new brand name our area is to be known by.

The name will be used to promote the broad area covered by the Business Improvement District (BID), which incorporates Kaukapakapa, Helensville, Parakai, Kumeu, Huapai, Riverhead, Waimauku, and Muriwai, as a day-trip destination for Aucklanders.

The North West District Business Association revealed the new catch phrase on May 26 after it engaged branding firm Onemata to create a brand that reflected all of the area covered by the BID.

"Our new brand aims to West area as a destination BID manager Gary

Country is an opportunity to differentiate the region from other Auckland day-trip destinations. The objective of the brand is to leverage off the existing equity of the region, while giving it a consistent personality and voice that is natural, progressive and spirited."

The Business Association is now formulating a communications plan to launch the brand to the wider Auckland market later this year.



promote the wider North that is adventurous," says Holmes. "NorthWest

Country is an opportunity to differentiate the region from other Auckland day-trip destinations. The objective of the brand is to leverage off the existing equity of the region, while giving it a consistent personality and voice that is natural, progressive and spirited."

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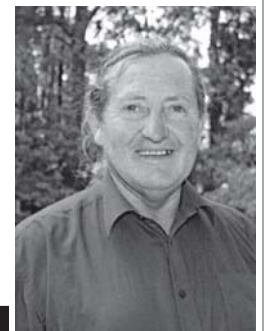


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Interschool triathlon



• Tyler Ingham of Waitoki School competes in the cycling section

Seven local primary schools and a record 369 children took part in the annual inter-school Kaipara Triathlon at Parakai School on Friday, May 22.

The event has been held at the school for more than 33 years, and this year students from Parakai, Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Waioneke, Woodhill and Waimauku schools participated.

Organiser Janine Fiebig says every year the competition is "getting bigger and bigger".

Students in Years 5 to 8 compete either individually or in teams to complete the swimming, running and cycling legs of the event in the quickest times.

The swimming section is held at Parakai Springs hot pools, while the 6km cycle race goes for a loop from the school along Parkhurst Road and up Fordyce Road to the start of the gravel. The running race around the neighbouring streets is 1.5km for the younger students and 2km for the older pupils and team competitors.



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business networking events held on site, Te Whare Oranga provides great opportunities for entrepreneurs and SMEs. With reasonable hourly/daily rates & free parking please contact us at tewhareoranga@thrivekaipara.org.nz / 09 420 9983 or visit www.thrivekaipara.org.nz

Volunteers needed

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai will be calling for volunteers to help man our fabulous new community facility. If you think you could assist for a few hours a week please do get in touch with Imelda King at tewhareoranga@thrivekaipara.org.nz or call (09) 420 9983

PEOPLE'S CORNER

Angie Wright, Manager's Assistant and Secretary



Angie joined the Health Trust in 2008, initially working for the Birthing Centre before taking on

the wider Trust and its four Boards across its different services and business units. An incredibly busy role, Angie loves the variety it provides, witnessing daily what a wonderful, strong community we have here. Originally from the UK, where she graduated from Hove Secretarial School, Angie lives with her husband and growing family in Helensville.



105 years span over two thirds of Helensville's history



When Helensville's Jean Narbey was born in 1910, the town itself was less than 50 years old.

So it's hardly surprising that in the ensuing generations Jean - almost certainly the oldest person in our district - has ended up related to a good percentage of the town's families.

More than 130 people attended her 105th birthday party (shown above) in the Lions

Club rooms at Rautawhiri Park on Sunday, May 17 - though her official birthday wasn't until the following day.

Those guests spanned the generations, from Jean's four children - Rhonda, Wallace, Harris, and Murray - through the gamut of her 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

The prize for the greatest distance travelled went to the daughter of Jean's niece Anne, who came to New Zealand from England for her mother's 80th birthday and managed to fit in Jean's birthday as well. Other guest came from Australia and all over New Zealand.

Jean, born Anne Jean Ellett, has lived in Helensville her entire life apart from an eight-year stretch in Auckland where she worked as a dressmaker.

She married Hector Narbey in 1942 at the age of 32, and was widowed in 1969. She stayed on the family farm in Mangakura Road until 1996, when she moved into a flat in Gerald Stokes Avenue. Jean lived on her own there until just two weeks shy of her 105th birthday, moving into Craigweil House in Parakai following a fall which saw her briefly hospitalised.

Jean played bowls at the Helensville Bowling Club until the age of 80, and drove right up to 94.



• Jean cuts her birthday cake



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book review

Voyages Of The Pioneers To New Zealand

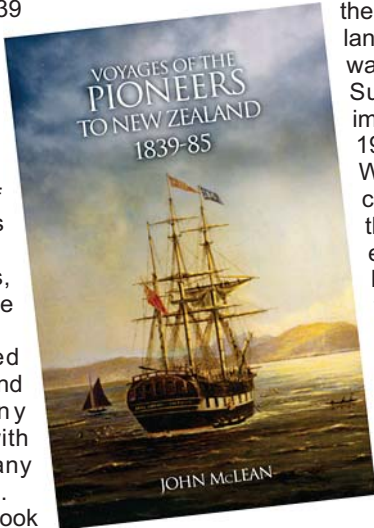
272 pages, Winter Publications, 2015

John McLean must have covered virtually every emigrant ship that came to these islands between 1839 and 1885. The story is neatly arranged into 50 'bite-sized' chapters that cover every aspect of life immediately before and during the voyage, and the experience of disembarkation at the ports on arrival.

Helensville's founders, the McLeod brothers, are mentioned early on.

The author has used some magnificent first-hand accounts of the many experiences, together with amusing anecdotes, many from diaries of the voyagers.

Most importantly the book seeks to uncover why people would make what was in 99 percent of cases a one-way journey to an unknown land, to which in some cases they were attracted by salesmen with fixed agendas. Perhaps therefore the most important chapter is the second, headed 'Why emigrate?' The answer is neatly provided by a quotation from Colonial Experiences by Alexander Bathgate – "because I hoped I should better myself."



Essentially however, as the author makes clear, the United Kingdom was full. Four thousand squires owned more than half the land of England and Wales. The better-off classes could no longer buy farms for their sons, but for the poor, the prospect of owning freehold land, albeit half a world away, was a massive inducement. Such a thing was virtually impossible for the labourers in 19th century Britain, but under Wakefield's scheme of colonisation in New Zealand the future for many young, enterprising people began to look very attractive – "there was boundless opportunity and elbow room waiting in lands beyond the oceans..."

Despite being the heart of a might empire, Victorian London, like many cities, was actually a cesspit of ill health and disease. There were several outbreaks of cholera, and in the 1860s the central sewers flushed tons of raw sewage into the tidal Thames daily. Child mortality was terrible, and these conditions did nothing to deter the fit and able from making a bid for greener pastures, frequently with their families.

Mr McLean has provided a very attractive account of the anxieties, joys, and perils of the emigration process to New Zealand, in this very readable account.

- Crispin Caldicott

Forestry project ends up with tidy profit

The Araparera Forest Joint Venture between Auckland Council and a hapu of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara is being wound up with the profitable harvest of the trees.

The joint venture, which invested in and grew a crop of more than 200ha of pine, grew from a Maori Land Court settlement enabling the hapu to work with the then Rodney Council to turn unproductive land into an asset.

Profits from the harvest will be shared between the partners based on their respective contributions to the venture. The council's share of the profit is expected to be around \$2.4 million plus interest.

The joint venture was created in 1984 and harvesting started in 2012. A total of 96,000 tonnes of timber was produced, with 70 percent of the revenue coming from exports. The hapu is now considering future uses for the land, and may replant the land with a variety of trees once profits have been distributed.

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Two professional development seminars

Two low-cost professional development training seminars for the community sector are being held in Helensville this month.

The first is titled 'Effective Leadership' and is on Wednesday, June 10. It will explore building strong leadership in not-for-profit organisations.

The second seminar on Tuesday, June 30 is 'Building Capability and Resilience in Your Organisation'. It will cover topics such as the stages of organisational development, and focusing on things that will make a difference.

Both seminars will run from midday to 2pm in the Helensville Hall, and are being brought to Helensville by Auckland North Community and Development with support from Auckland Council.

Both seminars are being presented by Carol Scholes, who has more than 25 years of management experience working in commercial and not-for-profit organisations both in New Zealand and Australia. Her company Threshold Management provides board and executive coaching, mediation, facilitation and strategic planning with corporate, government and not for profit organisations in New Zealand.

Each seminar costs \$20 which includes lunch and resources. Locals wanting to attend should register online at: www.ancad.org.nz or email: info@ancad.org.nz.

Wool day attracts crafty folk to Waitoki



At least 150 people attended the Waitoki Craft Group and the Northland Auckland Black & Coloured Sheep Breeders Association joint annual Craft Day (above) at the Waitoki Hall last month.

Organiser Lisa Clapperton says it was "a great day of displays and demonstrations showing the versatility of wool, with incredibly simple, inexpensive and effective ideas right through to some very elaborate high fashion garments".

All the crafts on display were created locally, and many were made from wool produced locally too.

Lisa says visitors came from as far away as Waipu and Hunua, and the demonstrators were pleased with the genuine interest shown by visitors in fibre and its crafting. Demonstrations on the day included needle felting, spinning, weaving, felting, knitting, crocheting, and dyeing techniques.

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from the frontline

What do you do when you are driving along the road and emergency flashing lights and sirens come up behind you?

Slow down? Slow down and move to the left? Pull over to the left and stop?

According to The Official New Zealand Road Code all drivers must know what these signals are and what to do when you see them. There are many types of flashing lights and they are associated with many different situations.

Police, Customs, Fisheries and Marine Reserve officers all have the power to stop vehicles while carrying out their duties. Drivers must pull over to the left and stop as soon as possible. Customs, Fisheries and Marine Reserve officers have blue flashing lights.

If an emergency vehicle (such as an ambulance, fire engine or police car) is coming towards you or behind you, and is using sirens and/or flashing red, blue, or blue and red lights, you must pull over to the left and, if necessary, stop and allow it to pass. What does 'if necessary' mean? Essentially it means to pull over and stop if the emergency vehicle is going to be put in danger whilst it passes you. Remember, it will take longer for the vehicle to pass you if you are still moving along the side of the road. So in all cases where you are not on a straight road with at least 100 metres visibility, indicate to the left, pull over and stop to allow the emergency vehicle to pass safely.

Other lights you may see are green flashing lights. These are used by doctors, nurses and midwives and you must also pull over and allow their vehicles to pass. Service vehicles, tow trucks and road maintenance vehicles use a yellow flashing light. When you see these lights whilst driving on a road slow down and be prepared to stop.

Also be aware that loud music can mask the sound of sirens. You should be continually checking your mirrors, at least every ten seconds.



- Mandi Bell, Community Constable

Gluten-free Feijoa & Coconut Cake

Last year at about this time I wrote a recipe for a feijoa and date cake, which was loosely based on a Lumberjack cake recipe, and it was a recipe that has produced a great deal of feedback. It was a lovely cake and perhaps it had added popularity because it was something different to do with feijoas.

This season we seem to have another bumper crop of the fruit and my partner, who can't eat gluten foods, started playing around in the kitchen until she came up with a delightful version of cake that works perfectly with feijoas.

Feijoas are a guava so they always benefit from a little aging before eating. Some fruit increase in sweetness when picked and left on the bench for a couple of days before eating - guavas definitely fall into this group.



■ Feijoa and Coconut Cake

- 1.5 cups feijoa flesh
- 2 cups ground almonds
- 1/4 cup desiccated coconut
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 2 tablespoons coconut flour or plain baking flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 large eggs
- 5 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Cut the fruit in half and dig out the flesh with a spoon, mash about half of it and leave the rest chunky. Whisk the eggs together then add the honey and the vanilla.

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Then add the wet ingredients and the feijoas and combine.

Line a 20cm cake tin with baking paper and preheat the oven to 150 celsius. Pour the mix into the tin and bake for about 40-50 minutes. Open the oven and give the cake tin a little shake, the cake will wobble if still wet. Cook for a further couple of minutes until the surface is firm and when you gently shake the tin the cake barely moves.

Allow to cool in the tin then remove and keep in the fridge. The cake should be just cooked, over cooking will make it dry out.

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■ U3A MEETING

Artist and writer Jenny Hunt will be the main speaker at the June meeting of South Kaipara U3A, to be held on Friday, June 5 at 1pm in the St John ambulance rooms at 7 Rata Street, Helensville.

Jenny's fibre wall hangings and free-standing sculptures have been exhibited widely throughout New Zealand and overseas, and her work is held in many public and private collections.

The second speaker will be Chrissy Jones. Chrissy runs Chrissy's Natural Preserves from her organic avocado orchard, Frech Orchards Estate, at Shelly Beach as well as running a homestay.

Entry by gold coin, and the meeting includes afternoon tea.

The following month's meeting on July 3 will be held at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, with Helensville District Health Trust chairman Diane Kidd as speaker. Phone Judy on 411 8322 for more information.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

The next meeting of Helensville Aglow will be at 7.30pm on Friday, June 26 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd (opposite Mitre 10). The speaker will be Kevin Riley, a prophetic evangelist from South Africa. Kevin is currently on the ministry team at King of Kings Church in Manukau City. He has preached in South Africa, USA, Argentina, the United Kingdom and more recently in New Zealand. For more

information email Yvonne Bartlett at: ybartlett@maxnet.co.nz.

■ ALPACA OPEN DAYS

Locals can feed alpacas and learn about the animals at two alpaca open days being held on Sundays June 14 and 28, from midday to 4pm at Waitakere Alpacas, 107 Monk Road, South Head. Free admission. Phone 09 420 2185.

■ COMEDY CABARET

Sunny Days Preschool is bringing the Limelight Comedy Cabaret to Helensville as a fundraiser. Doors will open at the Helensville War Memorial Hall at 7.15pm for an 8pm start on Friday, June 19. Tickets are \$30 per person which includes a light supper, and can be purchased from Sunny Days, or phone 420 7253 or mobile 027 200 7864, or email: sunnydays102@yahoo.com.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, June 21 from 9am to 1pm. Poet musician Rob Edwards will perform songs and poems ukulele-style from 10am to noon, and there will be the usual stalls, food, and barista coffee.

The historic Kaukapakapa Library will have a scrap-booking display and workshop from 10am to 1pm with Yvonne Worthington from 'Close to My Heart' - ideal for the traditional scrap booker, card maker or anyone who likes making crafts. Yvonne has been scrap booking for more than seven years

For more information or to book a market stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ A&PAGM

The Helensville A&P Association will hold its annual meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, July 15 at the Helensville show grounds. Anyone is welcome to attend, but only financial members of the association are eligible to vote.

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Helensville News - Publication Information

■ JULY 2015 deadline: Friday, 19th June 2015

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, JULY 7th 2015

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2015 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: July 7th	Copy by: June 19th	Due out: Sept 1st	Copy by: Aug 14th
Due out: August 4th	Copy by: July 17th	Due out: Oct 6th	Copy by: Aug 20th

Editor & Publisher: Dave Addison, Helensville News Ltd, PO Box 59, Helensville 0840. **Editorial:** Dave Addison, 420 7215.

Design, Subediting & Layout: Dash Design, 420 7215. **Printing:** Rob McCorkindale, Print Matters, 0274 740 657.

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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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