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Waioneke students win AgriKids regionals

Three children from Waioneke School have won the Northern District regional final of the annual AgriKids competition.

They will now represent their school at the national final which will be held in Taupo at the start of July, along with the teams which placed second and third.

Year 7 students Brooke Ross, Kyle Pengelly and Austin Davis are now busy collecting pine cones and firewood to sell to raise around \$1200 to pay for their travel and accommodation in Taupo.

AgriKids is a competition for primary school students aged 8 to 13 years which runs alongside the TeenAg and ANZ Young Farmer contest.

There are seven regional competitions, and the children compete in agriculture-themed modules.

At the Northern District final in Dargaville late last month, the Waioneke trio faced modules including first aid; ageing rings of wood;



• Waioneke School AgriKids team Austin Davies, Brooke Ross, Kyle Pengelly

animal health; farming theory; identifying and treating different sorts of milk (colostrum, mastitis etc); identifying a range of plants; and identifying 20 different nuts and spices.

Then the top seven teams from the heats went through to a 'race-off' which had five activities in a row including driving go karts; assembling a shepherd's crook; and filling a pipe filled with holes. The race-off is a speed event, which Waioneke won.

The race-off scores were added to the heats scores, with Waioneke coming out on top.

Remembering the fallen



• The ANZAC commemoration flag flies outside Helensville RSA

An estimated 2000-plus people turned out in brilliant sunshine for the Helensville ANZAC Day parade to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings on Saturday, April 25. Earlier in the day, up to half that number attended the dawn parade at Parakai Domain.

They were probably the largest crowds ever seen at local ANZAC commemorations.

Locals were treated to a moving parade featuring vintage military vehicles, the Kumeu Brass Band, military personnel and veterans, school students and community representatives. Outside the Helensville RSA, the ground was awash with giant poppies made by the Helensville Floral Art Group and later sold to raise funds for the RSA.

At the official ceremony outside the War Memorial Hall, the armed forces, service groups and others laid wreaths to remember those who died in World War 1.

For a photo tribute to the parade and ceremony, turn to page 8.

Christmas Day lunch food box help sought

The organisers for the annual Helensville Community Christmas Day Lunch are already preparing for this year's event, and they have put the call out for donations of spare bottled fruit, chutneys, jams and sauces, which will go into food boxes for struggling families and those who are on their own at Christmas time.

"The jams and chutneys added to the food boxes last Christmas found very grateful homes," says lunch co-ordinator Raewyn Mercer.

Anyone able to make a donation, or who would like to help at the Christmas lunch or know more about what's happening can phone Raewyn on 021 182 0470.

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editorial

Over the years, mothers-in-law have often found themselves at the butt-end of many a joke, usually themed around them being mean, nasty or just plain evil.

I guess I must have got lucky, because my mother-in-law, Clare Aitkenhead, was the exact opposite. She was always happy, friendly, peaceful, helpful and nice - and not just to me, her son-in-law. The huge turnout at her funeral last month, and the tributes paid to her, were a great testament to her 81 years in Helensville. You can read about her on page 10.

Our front page article last issue on the possible death-knell for steam train visits to Helensville has provoked quite a bit of discussion. It seems many locals are appalled at the idea of no more steam trains, and keen to see something happen to get them back. Suggestions have included installing a turntable to replace the damaged triangle turnaround, to encouraging Mainline Steam to move their entire operation to Helensville - which would have been fabulous for the town if we'd got in a little earlier; they have just moved from their Parnell location to a new South Auckland site.

On a happier note, it's been nice this month to talk with the owners of three new businesses in town, which shows some confidence in our local area and economy. You can read about Aotearoa Designs on page 6, Helensville Motorcycle Services on page 9, and Love Flowers on page 13.

And finally, ANZAC Day - what fabulous turnouts to both the dawn parade in Parakai and the Helensville parade. We have a photographic commemoration on page 8.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Karate group in synch with world

Eight members of the Shorin Ryu karate club took part in a special training exercise recently which was held simultaneously in 26 countries.

Organised in Okinawa, Japan, the event was billed as the '100 Kobudo Kata Challenge'. Kobudo translates as the 'weapon arts of Okinawa', while Kata refers to the set form or pattern of self defence movements.

Each participating dojo (club) from around the world undertook the challenge at a specific time to coincide with the official start time in Japan.

The Rodney team, made up of Tim Herlihy and Fleur Hindt from Helensville, Jim Johnston and Glen Cameron from Kaukapakapa, and Jeremy Bone, Karen Hellier, Mark Pearce, and New Zealand

head instructor Kevin Plaisted, all from Stanmore Bay, completed their training exercise in the Waitoki hall.

They chose the training weapon of Bojutsu (long staff), with which they had to perform 100 consecutive kata. Local instructor Tim Herlihy says the team members "have many more new blisters to remember the event by!"



• Rodney team members, L-R: Tim Herlihy, Jeremy Bone, Fleur Hindt, Jim Johnston, Karen Hellier, NZ Head instructor Kevin Plaisted, Mark Pearce, and Glen Cameron

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College students win FIFA song contest

Year 12 Kaipara College music students Beth Stewart and Josh Somervell have won a competition to write the theme song for the 2015 Fifa U-20 World Cup, which starts at venues around New Zealand on Saturday, May 30.

The song competition was run earlier this year by the Play It Strange Trust and was open to all secondary school students.

Beth and Josh's song 'All For You' was chosen as the joint winner late last month, and it will be played throughout what is billed as the second largest sporting event in the world. It will have a potential global audience of almost a billion listeners says college deputy principal and head of music, Nick Roberts.

The other winner was James Donaldson from Mt Albert Grammar School for his song 'Colours'.

Both winners received a professional recording session at Neil Finn's Roundhead Studio to record their song, and the recording will go on the 2015 Play It Strange CD. They also received a \$250 RockShop voucher.

The judges said the two winning songs were "stylistically different but very

effective in keeping with the focus of the Fifa U-20 tournament. It was a tough decision for the judges."



• Winning songwriters Josh Somervell and Beth Stewart

Beth and Josh are currently negotiating with event organisers to perform their song live during the competition. Josh, who has studied music since Year 9, says that is likely to happen at one of the fan zones.

The pair learned about the competition through school, and entered as "you want to write as many songs as you can," says Josh.

"I'm surprised we won," he adds.

The Fifa U-20 World Cup final will be held at the North Harbour Stadium on Saturday, June 20.



U-20 WORLD CUP
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Calling all clubs & local groups...

Helensville News needs you!

We are looking at profiling local clubs and community groups in a future issue, 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 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.

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Outdoor Pursuits 'scholarship'

Local real estate agent Jana Mills is putting her money where her mouth is to help a disadvantaged local take part in the next Helensville Outdoor Pursuits Club event - and it may not be a one-time offer, either.

The first 'Jana Mills Prestige Realty Outdoor Pursuit Club Scholarship' will give someone the chance to have a go at Blastacars go-karts on Saturday, May 23. Blastacars are a new type of go-kart, specially designed for 'drifting'.

"I'm looking for a solo mum or dad who has been doing it tough, a teenager who needs direction, or someone trying extremely hard to get a job but just not nailing one," says Jana. "Perhaps someone who is bullied at college and needs to have a day out with positive people."

Locals can apply for themselves, or nominate someone else for the exciting afternoon out, which can include transport if needed.

Anyone interested in applying should email: jana@prestigerealtyhbc.co.nz.

"It's something I have always wanted to do," says Jana, explaining how she came up with the idea for the scholarship.

"I was on a course for six months when I was a teenager called the ARK Trust, which fostered growth for youth. I did my first abseil on that course with the army. I remember trying to make my way to the back of the line but one of the leaders grabbed me and said

'you're going first Jana'. It was one of the best things I have ever done and was a real confidence booster and adrenaline rush.

"It would be very rewarding for me to be able to pay that type of experience forward, especially to someone who may be needing a good yank in the right direction or a helping hand. Not everyone can afford these kind of luxuries; a lot of people are going without and struggling just to put food on the table.

"You can't save the world, but you can extend your hand to one person to help make a difference," she says.

"I am looking forward to gifting a scholarship on one of our more extreme adventure challenges," she adds.

This initial scholarship is worth \$50, and Outdoor Pursuits Club activities usually range from \$20 to \$200.

The Blastacars will be the club's first indoor event. At the time of writing enough people had signed up to enable the entire Henderson venue to be booked for an hour, and Jana was hoping to get enough people to book it for two hours.

Future club events are still being decided, but members are looking at the 'Mudd Rush' at Meremere, white water rafting, and a possible a trip to Waiheke Island to do the high ropes course there.

"And we might be having a team building snow sports day at Snow Planet with a mid-winter Christmas lunch," says Jana.

Free financial health check seminar

River Valley Baptist Church will run a free Financial Health Check evening on Tuesday, June 9. Open to anyone in the community, it will start at 7pm with supper provided.

The evening will be run by Baptist Savings, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to teaching people how best to reduce their debt and manage their personal financial situation.

The seminar is aimed at anyone struggling financially or who needs help with mortgage organisation or budgeting. It will provide practical ways to reduce debt on mortgages, credit cards, and insurances.

Those attending will be given the chance to have free follow-up discussions in their own homes on matters such as budgeting,

early repayment of mortgage, and insurance.

The seminar will be run by Andrew L'Almont, a business development manager for Baptist Savings known for his sense of humour. He has been in the banking and finance industries for more than 36 years and is a registered financial advisor.

"The number one stress in the lives of most ordinary New Zealanders today is money (or the lack of it)," he says.

The seminar will be held at River Valley Baptist Church, at the corner of Parkhurst and Fordyce Roads, Parakai. For more information contact River Valley Baptist Church administrator Sue Hadwin, phone 420 6553 or mobile 021 145 1532.

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15,000 books up for grabs

Helensville Lions Club's 'chief book sorter' Chris Clark is promising another great selection of books at the club's two-day Autumn Book Fair later this month.

When *Helensville News* spoke with Chris last month, he already had 332 banana boxes full of books packed and ready to go, and another 60 boxes in the process of being sorted and stacked.

"I estimate that by the end of May we will have about 15,000 books for sale," he says, pointing out there is usually a "flood of books" which come in following publicity for the sale in *Helensville News*.

"An excellent clearance was achieved at the Christmas Fair, and the deliveries of donated books arriving almost daily will ensure a fresh look to [this month's] fair," says Chris.

The fair will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall over the last weekend of May, open from 9am to 4pm on Saturday 30, and 10am to 3pm on Sunday 31.

Putting on the fair is no small task. Chris has to sort and organise the books and store them in his shearing shed, which is pretty much an all-year task now the book fairs are held twice yearly. It then takes a team of Lions members to set up and run the event.

"We start setting up the hall at noon [the day before], which includes bringing in the tables, some hired and some on loan from the Lodge," says Chris.

"Books are loaded out at 2pm and if we get all hands on deck the bulk of the work is

done by 5pm. We try and get a team down at the hall by 8am on the Saturday to set up signs and make any last minute changes and be ready for the rush at 9am."

There is regularly a queue waiting



• Expect thousands of books at the next Lions book fair

outside the hall before the fairs open, eager to snap up the latest bargains.

Bargains they are too; books are priced to sell with paperbacks \$1, hardbacks \$2, and all children's books just 50c. There will also be a selection of jigsaw puzzles, videos, DVDs, CDs, Vinyl LPs plus a good selection of quality magazines.

"This is an ideal opportunity to stock up on reading for those cold, rainy winter days ahead, and our prices are impossible to beat even by e-books!" says Chris.

The Lions' Christmas Fair raised \$6000, and Chris says the Lions Club is hoping to better that figure this sale with all the new and interesting books that will be available.

Donations for the Book Fair can be left at Helensville Copy and Print, or phone Chris on 420 8527.

ANZAC window display at Op Shop

The Helensville St John Op Shop had this special window display (pictured right) to commemorate ANZAC Day.

It was put together by Eve Issott, whose husband John, administration manager for the Kaipara Medical Centre and the Helensville District Health Trust, has served on the St John Area Committee for the past nine years.

The shop has developed a reputation for great window displays, which change regularly.

The OpShop recorded its best month in March, showing how the store, which has operated in Commercial Road for the past two years, is going from strength to strength.

"Our team is passionate about serving the community and raising funds for St John," says Op Shop manager Elaine Murray. "We love to receive good quality goods"

All proceeds go towards keeping the local ambulance service well equipped and ready to respond in emergencies.

To donate items you can now email helensville.opshop@stjohn.org.nz or

telephone 420 9272. The shop is open 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 10am - 1pm.



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New shop follows online store

In these days of internet shopping, many traditional retail businesses grow by developing an online presence.

But new Helensville shop Aotearoa Designs has done things the other way around - it's grown from a successful online store and has now branched out into a 'bricks and mortar' physical shop.

South Head woman Sandra King has run her online shop aotearoadesigns.com for around six years, and now with business partner, Shelly Beach artist Diane Gardiner, has set up shop at 96c Commercial Road, opposite Kaipara Medical Centre.

Sandra says it's important for shoppers to be able to physically see and feel many of the products.

"Especially clothes, and pounamu taonga, people want to touch them."

Diane says the store's focus is on kiwi designed and, where possible, kiwi-made products, as well as sourcing as much as they can locally.

"We're trying to get as many talented local crafts people as possible."

Although only open since Tuesday, April 7, Sandra says there have already been a lot of people through the store, most hearing about it either on Facebook or by word of mouth.

Aotearoa Designs sells a range of hand-carved bone and pounamu taonga; jewellery

- some of it made by Sandra; clothes with Māori motifs by Hardout Kiwi; scarves and bags; kiwiana art prints; and gifts, souvenirs and homewares.

"We've got lots of handcrafted gifts for Mother's Day."

Also in store are Diane's beautiful paintings, predominantly of native birds. She has been a painter for around 20 years.



• Diane (left) and Sandra in their new shop

The pair share shop-keeping duties on alternate days, and on their days off create some of the products that are on sale - in Diane's case her paintings, and Sandra makes jewellery, homewares and tourist-type items.

They intend to expand the store's offerings with more Kiwi products, including goods from local carvers and weavers, rimu products, jewellery and more tourist items.

Aotearoa Designs is open Monday to Saturday and has a rarity for Helensville - off-street parking.

Bus tour of local heritage sights

A guided bus tour of historic Helensville sites will be held on Sunday, May 17.

The Historical Society's heritage event for May will feature Julie Colville as guide, who will bring her usual mix of good humour and interesting information.

The tour, which takes the place of the first of the society's Winter Lecture 2015 series, will start and finish at the museum in Mill Road. Departing at 2pm, the tour costs

\$15 which includes afternoon tea and entry to the museum.

Paid bookings are essential as the last heritage tour was booked out. Bookings can be made by phoning the museum office on 420 7881; in person; by post to PO Box 133, Helensville, or via email to: helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz.

The museum thanks Ritchies for support with the transport.



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Youngsters celebrate 'Sea Day'

Everyone knows fish swim in schools, but at Helensville's Reach Forward Early Learning Centre the children became the fish recently - and yes, they were in 'school'.

Penguins, sharks, jellyfish, mermaids, pirates, Nemo, turtles, seaweed, lobsters and underwater divers all turned up at the preschool recently when it held an 'Under the Sea' dress-up party day to celebrate the end of their current project.

"Children under the age of five love to dress up," says centre director Linda Ward.

"[We] see celebrations as a way to create memories and acknowledge accomplishments."

The project day featured science experiments to explain fresh and salty water, tides, and the anatomy of a fish. Art activities included making fish prints and shell collages. Books such as 'The Rainbow Fish' were read.

Music and movement involved children creating dances that imitated the crashing and swirling of waves. And for maths time the children classified their dress up costumes according to size, colour and type.

Linda says Reach Forward Early



• Sea-themed dress-ups at Reach Forward

Learning Centre, at the intersection of SH16 and Parkhurst Road, promotes a love for learning, and she works with the teachers to create fun activities that engage children's natural curiosity.

The preschool aims to build a framework for academic learning and ensure a smooth transition to school.

medical centre notes

First up, the flu vaccines have arrived now, and so please come and see the nurse for your free flu jab if you are over 65 years young, or have one of the chronic illnesses that qualify for the free vaccine.

This month I thought I would touch upon acne, a common issue for people in teenage years, but which can persist into adulthood. It is inflammation of the sebaceous (oil) glands of the skin, and can cause red bumps, yellow head pustules or painful deep cysts. It affects the face and shoulders mainly. In teenage years it is related to body's reaction to hormonal changes. It is not usually affected by diet, nor by oily hair touching the forehead, but stress can make it worse.

Treatment options are step-wise. Start with a sensible diet; use water when washing, avoiding oily soaps or lotions; and use water-based cosmetics. Over-the-counter scrubs are next, then after that we use topical antibiotic gel and another gel for preventing the blocking of the sebaceous glands in the first place. Next, if these do not work, it is a trial of low dose oral antibiotic medicine, or the use of the contraceptive pill can work. The final step is a medication called Isotretinoin (Oratane - or as it used to be called, Roaccutane); it's a medication that needs monitoring with blood tests due to its potential side effects.

Acne can be very distressing, so support and encouragement are also important from sufferers' families.



- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Helensville ANZAC Parade tribute

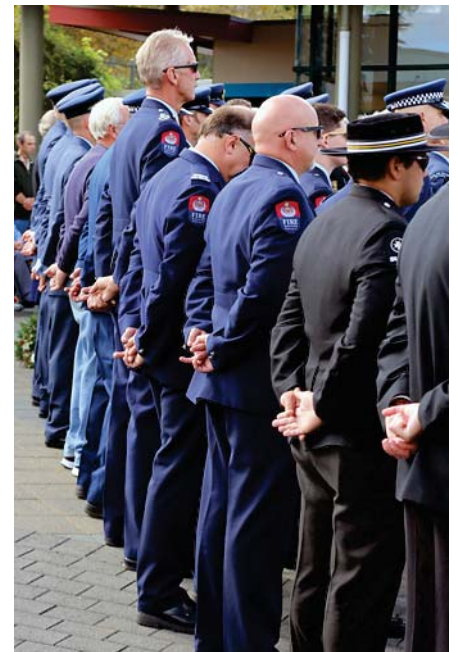


• More than 200 poppies handcrafted by 14 members of the Helensville Floral Art Group formed a carpet outside the RSA. They were sold and raised over \$1000 for the RSA.

• 22 red balloons released by Waioneke School students float above the ANZAC ceremony



• Stephen Green on his father's BSA motorcycle, one of the vintage military vehicles in the parade



• A solemn moment

• Davey Leach lays a wreath on behalf of the Helensville Masonic Lodge



• Officials and the public watch the official ceremony

Training courses for local tough guys and gals

Helensville Fitness Centre is holding special training sessions for locals wanting to prepare for this year's Tough Guy & Gal Challenge at Woodhill Sands in late June.

The training classes, to be held once or twice a week, are open to both gym members and the general public - the latter simply pay \$10 per session.

There will be two forms of training. A 45 to 60 minute cross country workout at Rautawhiri Park and an adjacent farm will start on Sunday, May 17 at 8.30am. That will include walking and running, a hill climb, creek crossing and a net crawl.

There will also be 'boot camp' style group fatigue training at Helensville Fitness Centre at 6.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The training sessions are being run by the fitness centre's team leader, personal trainer Yvette Amadia. She expects the team will be larger this year than that which competed at the 2014 challenge.

"We had 20 last year, and we are expecting 30 plus this year," she says.

The Auckland rounds of the Tough Guy & Gal Challenge, now in its 13th year, will be held over two weekends, June 27 and 28th, and July 4 and 5.

Yvette says locals wanting to compete as part of the Fitness Centre team should select June 28 when they register. They should email her at: yamadia@vodafone.co.nz, or join the gym's Facebook page.

The Tough Guy & Gal Challenge originally started in Rotorua, with Auckland being added in 2009. Challenges are now held all over the country, and organisers are expecting over 20,000 competitors at the various events this year. There are also now Secondary School events and a Junior Tough Guy & Gal Challenge for primary and intermediate-aged children.

The challenge covers a 6km course (which can be completed twice for those so inclined) which features equestrian obstacles, a swamp crossing, crawling under barbed wire and through sand, hill climbs, open paddock running and lots of mud.

Local servicing again for motorbikes

Helensville has a new motorcycle service business.

Called Helensville Motorcycle Services (HMS), it is operating from the premises previously used by Bikesport, behind Helensville Mechanical Services at 90 Mill Road. Bikesport closed in September last year after servicing the local area for around five years.

HMS owner Bernie Flynn, who also owns Helensville Mechanical, says the new business will provide servicing and repair for all makes of motorcycles and farm quads, with a free collection and delivery service.

The workshop has been freshly painted and refitted. MTA-approved, the business will also issue warrants of fitness for motorcycles. A showroom has motorcycle accessories, parts and tyres available, and Bernie says he expects the business to grow into sales of motorbikes eventually.

"It will grow organically as business comes in," says Bernie.

"We had lots of requests [for motorcycle servicing] after Bikesport left. There was a bit of a hole in the marketplace."

The new business is being managed by keen Suzuki dirt bike rider Jason Gwilliam, who has previously worked at both the Repco and Partmaster automotive supply businesses.

Bernie has taken over the lease on the whole Mill Road building to enable the new business to open. He has owned Helensville Mechanical for six years, the last three of those at the Mill Road site.



• Jason Gwilliam in his new show room

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Obituary - Clare Aitkenhead

CLARE ELLEN AITKENHEAD
14/3/1934 - 28/3/2015

A long life packed with local community involvement was celebrated by several hundred people at the funeral of Helensville's Clare Aitkenhead last month.

Clare Ellen Brady was born on March 14, 1934 in Helensville, the third child and only daughter of Edith Mary and David Arthur Lohead Brady.

The family lived in Puriri St. Her father (known as Pip) was a blacksmith, shoeing horses from a blacksmith shop at the rear of his brother's Brady Brothers Garage, located roughly where Countdown is now.

In the late 1930s Clare's mother bought the Gee's Tearooms in Commercial Rd. She cooked and baked meals, pies and cakes for the town and in later years for the American soldiers who were stationed just outside Helensville. Clare got the job of making butter pats and helping to ice cakes. Her father had a large garden and orchard

• Clare Aitkenhead



and that, as well as feeding the family, provided all the fruit and vegetables for the tearooms. Five chicken runs yielded 50-60 eggs a day which were used for the baking in the shop. He also sold dressed chickens; Pip would pluck them and Clare got the job of pulling the guts out, as her hands were small enough to fit inside.

As her mother was worked from dawn till after dusk in the tearooms, Clare spent a lot of time with her father, who would get her up and breakfasted and walk her to school. They would have dinner together at the tearooms, and at night collect the eggs.

Her childhood was not without sadness. Her

youngest brother Ralph drowned in the Kaipara River in 1940 aged 15. Tragedy again hit their family when Clare's oldest brother, Ted, was killed in Tunisia aged 21 while serving with the 21st Auckland Battalion in WWII. Clare visited Ted's grave in Tunisia in the 1990s, a lifelong ambition.

At age nine Clare was sent to board at Diocesan School for Girls. She returned to

Helensville at age 13 for her secondary schooling at Helensville High School. It was there in the third form she met Hector Aitkenhead, who later became her husband of almost 60 years.

When Clare finished school she worked at the Cohen family drapery store in Commercial Road until she married Hec Aitkenhead, who had returned to Helensville after finishing his education at Whangarei Boys High, in 1955.

She moved into the Aitkenhead family home at Parakai, with Hec

milking cows on the farm and Clare becoming a farmer's wife. Their first daughter Anne was born in 1958, followed in 1960 by Shona. That same year the family moved to the top of Fordyce Road, where they ran a beef cattle and sheep farm, and for many years a popular horse hire business.

They retired in early 2013 and moved to the Peninsula Club in Whangaparoa - the first time either had lived outside Helensville apart from boarding school.

Throughout her life, Clare was active in many aspects of the Helensville community.

She was a member of the Helensville A&P Association since her marriage in 1955, involved in many aspects of preparing for and running the annual A&P Show, most notably in the indoor section. Along with husband Hec she was made a life member of the Association in 1991.

One of Clare's greatest local community legacies was her involvement with Girl Guides. She was a guide leader for around 15 years, and eventually became a District Commissioner.

In more recent years she became part of the team at the Helensville Museum, helping on a regular basis to identify old photos and decipher and date material. Having grown up in Helensville, she was a fount of information on the businesses and residents of the town. She was a life member of that organisation as well.

She was a member of the Womens' Division of Federated Farmers for many years, and also delivered meals as part of the now-defunct Meals on Wheels scheme.

Clare was a keen gardener, sewer and knitter, and was widely travelled.

She is survived by Hec, her two daughters and two granddaughters.

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Holiday fire at Parakai School



Someone setting fire to a rubbish bin outside one of the classrooms at Parakai School during the recent school holiday caused \$5000 to \$8000 worth of damage.

The damage was relatively minimal due to the quick actions of a parent who was driving past who saw the smoke, says principal Nick Neubert.

"And then our Board chair (who lives just opposite the school) came over straight away. The fire service was called. Some cables and pipes were damaged underneath the deck and a small area of deck will need to be replaced.

"Luckily, it hasn't affected our operation and kids can still use the class (as the damage was outside the class), but really we were lucky because of the quick actions of a parent," says Nick.

Police have investigated but no-one had been caught by the time of going to print. The cost of the damage is covered by the Ministry of Education.



Helensville Birthing Centre

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Harvest market a hit

We're pleased to let you know that our first two South Kaipara Food Revolution Harvest Markets have gone incredibly well at Te Whare Oranga. If you haven't made it along yet, put the last Sunday of each month from 10am–1pm in the diary (next one Sunday 31 May). With hundreds of locals and 'out of towners' attending, our Harvest Market is restricted to food and food related goods only. A great way to spend a Sunday morning with friends or whanau, come down to Parakai and enjoy barista coffee, hot food, local musicians and more.

Winter Warmers cooking classes this month

Get along to the South Kaipara's new food revolution hub in Parakai and learn some fabulous family friendly recipes with Adrienne and Lisa this month. At just \$70 for two 1.5 hour cooking classes, this is an opportunity to increase your cooking prowess and wow your family and friends with some delicious staple dishes this winter. \$35 deposit upon registering for the classes, limited places of just 8 per class. Thursday 7 May + Thursday 14 May, with two start times to choose from: 10.30am or 12.30pm. The first class will be on 'Pizzas and Passatas' and the second on 'Soups & Broths (complete with scrumptious dumplings and noodles)'. Register your interest or book by emailing adriennej@xtra.co.nz.

PEOPLE'S CORNER



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and Lactation
Consultant.
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for and assisted thousands of new parents and their precious newborns at the Helensville Birthing Centre. The Birthing Centre's outstanding leadership is just one of the reasons she loves what she does. Four years ago she completed the 1000 hours of breastfeeding support necessary to apply to sit her International Board Certified Lactation Consultant exams. She along with two other Lactation Consultants at the Birth Centre (Claire and Debbie) hold regular breastfeeding support groups and coffee mornings in the district.

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Museum moves into new office

Helensville Museum admin officer Lynn Millar has moved into her new office following completion of work on the museum's new archives building.

Office hours remain at 9am to midday Monday to Friday, but entry to the office is now from the carpark gate near the flagpoles.

Facilities in the new building include open office space, a storage room, a small kitchen and a disabled-standard unisex toilet. The archives section has a reception area for accessions, a wardrobe area, a generously-sized study area for research and accessing computer data, and a specially built air and temperature controlled room for storing original papers, photos and other material.

Trained museum volunteers will supervise use of the archives area, and the public will need to make appointments to do personal research. Museum staff can do

research for people by request and make copies of information, but there will be restrictions on the taking of photographs in the archive area (and in some other areas of the museum) for copyright reasons.

As with other museums in Rodney there is a (very reasonable) charge for using the research facilities.

The archives at Helensville Museum are extensive and include family histories, school and cemetery records, newspapers, local body and organisation information, and a very large photographic collection. An oral history section covers many personal and organisation memories. There is also a comprehensive library of history books covering the district and other areas.

The museum gets requests for information from all over New Zealand and overseas. Requests can be made in person, by phoning 420 7881 or by emailing: helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz.

from the frontline

Many incidences of criminal offending go unreported, and I encourage all victims of a crime to report it to police. There are many reasons to do this and in my opinion, no valid reason as to why you wouldn't.

Patterns of offending can be easily identified and resources can be used to minimise or prevent more crime from occurring in a particular area. If these incidents are not reported, there will be no record of any crimes occurring and police will be unaware of how serious the problem is.

The Crime Reporting Line (CRL) is part of the New Zealand Police Communications Centre and was established to provide a nationwide reporting channel available 24 hours a day. Its purpose is to provide a central point of call for members of the public to report non-emergency incidences and historic crime. The victim completes the report over the phone with police staff. This alternative method of reporting to police over the phone makes it more convenient, especially in rural areas where it may not be practical to report in person to the police station.

A file is entered while the victim is on the phone and they will be provided with a police reference/file number. A Complaint Acknowledgement Form will also be sent to the victim containing basic details of the report. The victim can forward this information on to other parties, such as their insurance company. Relevant documentation provided by the victim, such as photographs, can be attached electronically to the file which will then be accessible to police officers anywhere in the country.

After the file is entered it is reviewed by staff at the District File Management Centre and sent to the appropriate station for follow up if applicable.

To contact the CRL to report a historic crime, please phone Helensville Police Station on 420 8967. You may be transferred to someone at the Crime Reporting Line to complete your report for you. For all traffic offending phone *555.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



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Flowers bloom in old butchers

A former butchery may seem like an unusual place for a flower business, but Love Flowers owner Mel Dickins says it's perfect.

The building on the corner of Commercial Road and Karaka Street - right beside the Art Stop Cafe - has housed many different businesses over the decades since it operated as one of Helensville's local butcher shops, most recently a second-hand store.

Mel says the fully tiled building is nice and cool, which keeps her flowers in top condition.

Having the freshest flowers is extremely important to Mel, so she sources hers locally, buying from growers in Parakai, Waimauku, Huapai, Muriwai, Taupaki and Kaukapakapa.

"Buying direct means I'm guaranteed fresh," she says. And she points out that as well as supporting the local economy, buying directly from local growers also means she can keep her prices well below those you would find in the city.

Mel has been a florist for 20 years, working all over Auckland. She owned her first shop at Te Atatu Peninsula 13 years ago, but only ran that for a year as she became pregnant with her first child shortly after opening up shop.

Love Flowers is her second chance at running her own business, started on a shoestring in January this year. With tight budget constraints, she has even been operating without electricity since starting up,

but says the power will be on before Mother's Day, as she will need to work through the night to prepare for what is one of a florist's biggest days.

Mel, who has lived in Helensville for the past three years after moving here from Massey with her partner and two children,



• Mel Dickins in her flower shop

keeps a small selection of made-up bouquets in-store, along with a range of mainly garden or flower-themed giftware.

Most of her business is making up bouquets on the spot for walk-in customers, although she is developing a network of corporate clients who provide regular work.


The entrance to the shop displays a selection of colourful posies. "I've become known for my \$5 posies," laughs Mel.

Those posies led to a little sideline venture, with Mel holding posy classes for children during the school holiday while their mums enjoyed a coffee break at the cafe next door.

New roof for old schoolhouse



Helensville Museum's historic schoolhouse building has been re-roofed with help from an Auckland Council heritage grant - although the Historical Society had to dig into its financial reserves to complete the project. The old double gabled roof had started to leak, making the repair an urgent necessity. The contractors discovered the original framing and wooden shingles were still in place under the steel, which has been replaced with long-run iron.



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Big entries at Pony Club ODE

Around 100 equestrians from as far away as Whangarei, Cambridge and Matamata competed at the Helensville Pony Club's One Day Event at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, April 19.

As well as dressage and showjumping, entrants competed for the first time on the club's newly-made open cross country course.

Showjumping was held at 65cm, 80cm, 95cm and 105cm heights.

Helensville Pony Club has been "going from strength to strength" in recent years, with membership numbers now hovering around 60, up from just 13 three years ago, says vice president Jane Callaghan - helped by the club having the lowest membership fees in the Rodney/Waitemata area. The club now has seven instructors, up from just three.

Individual club members have been performing strongly too, including Elleysa Eastell (16) who won the Dorothy Campbell Challenge Trophy on her horse Voluminous at the New Zealand Pony Club Eventing

Championships last month. It was her first time at the championships.

Jane says the club's events are now getting widespread recognition.

"We're starting to attract a lot of interest in the course," she says.

The club's aim is to bring the NZ Pony Club Eventing Championship to Helensville in 2017 - although that would involve building a third cross country course.

She says the club's success wouldn't be possible without such strong support from local businesses, including Harcourts Helensville, Oikoumene, Vets North, Swale Earthmovers and Downer Construction.

The current season finishes with the AGM and prize giving this month.

At the One Day Event,

only one Helensville Pony Club rider came away with a win, with Emily Stroobant riding to success in the 80cm Unders class. However other local riders did well, with Bronte Sewell winning the 95cm class on Washingtonia and Erin Leighton the 105cm class on Prima Donna Boy.



• Briar Woolley showjumping on Brenwood Pure Blonde



• Alexis Todd on Wildest Dream, on her way to 4th in the 95cm class

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Unhappy with broadband?

Locals unhappy with their current internet broadband supply - or lack thereof - have the chance to let their views be known.

Auckland Council is calling for feedback from people in rural communities - including Rodney - following the announcement of a new funding initiative by central government.

The government has announced millions more in additional nationwide funding to extend Ultra-Fast Broadband to communities not included in the initial 2011 coverage areas, as well as \$100 million to extend the Rural Broadband Initiative, and \$50 million to tackle mobile black spots.

Information gathered by the council through feedback will be used by the Ministry of Building, Innovation, and Employment to decide how to allocate the new funds.

Feedback must be received by the end of May. There is an online feedback form at www.shapeauckland.co.nz, or printed forms are available in libraries.

Green tomato Chutney

Daylight saving finished at Easter this year, which also signals the end of the summer foods at our place. We look to get the winter vegetables under way then, out of the potting shed so they can hang off before planting towards the middle of autumn.

It's always a dilemma having to select stuff to pull out so you can make space for the new. There are always tomatoes that hang on in there, with the fruit a mix of colours from green to pink - they need to make way. With a little effort the unripened fruit can be a real treasure in the pantry. I'm referring to chutney. (You can keep the green fruit

from damaged plants during the summer, just toss them into the freezer until autumn then make a big batch combined with the last of the fresh crop as well.)

We love this chutney, the original recipe came from the Edmonds cook book and over the years we have learned to adapt to suit the ingredients we have at hand. For instance if you are also harvesting the pumpkins, under-sized or damaged ones can be cut up, peeled and diced then added to the chutney during cooking. The same can be done with courgettes and eggplants to name a few.

■ Green Tomato Chutney

- 3kg of green or semi ripe tomatoes.
- 6 medium onions, diced
- 2kg cooking apples.
- 1 litre of cider vinegar (I use cider because it is gluten free)
- approx 2 tablespoons of salt
- 1kg soft brown sugar
- 500-700g dried sultanas and currants
- 4-6 fresh chillies, seeded and diced
- a large thumb sized piece of ginger, grated.
- Peel the zest off a lemon and chop it with a knife into small pieces.
- 3 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 12 whole cloves or 2 teaspoons of ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon of five spice
- 3 teaspoons garam masala powder
- 20 whole black pepper corns



Dice the tomatoes and peeled apples along with the onion. Add to a large thick-bottomed pot and add all the other ingredients. Stir and bring to the boil, turn down the heat and simmer for up to three hours. If you want to add pumpkin, courgettes etc, add these after the chutney has been cooking for about an hour and a half. You may need to add a little water as it continues to cook. Your house is going to smell pretty amazing!

Once the chutney is thick and the apple has broken down, taste the chutney and add a bit more salt if needed.

To store: sterilise jam jars in the oven at 120° celsius and boil the lids in water. Spoon the hot chutney into the hot jars and tighten the lids. Allow to cool on the bench and check jars have sealed before storing in the pantry. This chutney will keep for a couple of years. Delicious with cold meats, cheeses, and as an added topping to pizza.

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■ INTO THE FIRE CONCERT

Kaipara College will hold 'Into The Fire', its annual 'all original music' concert in the school hall on Thursday, May 22 at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 adult and \$5 for students.

The concert is to support the school's entry in the SmokeFree RockQuest competition. This year the college has 27 entries totaling around 80 musicians entering the contest, and their music will cover a full range from singer/songwriter, hiphop, and Latin groove, to techno, hard rock and more.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Jenny Sharkey will talk about 'Finding Joy' at the next meeting of Helensville Aglow, which will be held at 7.30pm on Friday, May 22 in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Jenny has wide experience as a wife and mother, pastor, author and counsellor, and has an MA in clinical psychology.

■ FIREWOOD FUNDRAISER

The Helensville Junior Rugby Club is selling firewood as part of its fundraising for the teams Gold Coast tour in July. Both pine and a 'hot mix' are available. Phone Amy Major on 027 787 6271.

■ GENEALOGY

The Helensville Genealogy Group is looking for new members with an interest in family history. The informal group meets at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month in the Helensville War Memorial Hall

supper room. A family history related topic is discussed each month. Members can share new information they have found, and get advice on their genealogy project.

For the next meeting on Monday, May 11 people are asked to bring an old family item to talk about. June will cover old photographs, and for July a visit to the Auckland Library is planned.

Contact Alison Brooks, phone 420 8624 or email: royal.brooks@xtra.co.nz.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, May 17 from 8.30am to 1pm. It will host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast for the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation. There will be live music from The Cougar Chorus from 10am to 12pm, raffles with proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Foundation, as well as the usual selection of stalls, food, and coffee.

The Pink Ribbon fundraising page is open now for donations at: www.pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/page/sarahleggshostpage.

For children there will be a Pirates and Princesses Parade with prizes for the best fancy dress, plus a scavenger hunt and a special guest princess in the historic Kaukapakapa Library. For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ WAITOKI HERITAGE DAY

A day for exchanging memories of Waitoki and enjoying a shared lunch and entertainment will be held on Saturday, June 27 at Waitoki School.

The Helensville & District Historical Society will display a photographic record of last July's Waitoki School 90th celebrations, plus a commemorative booklet of the reminiscences recorded on that day.

Organisers Daphne Stevens and Meryl Wilson are looking forward to welcoming many people to what is planned as an informal event. More details will be available in the June edition of *Helensville News*.

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