

Rugby Club draws up plan for the future

Helensville Rugby Club is for the first time formulating a plan to guide its development and ensure the club's financial viability and future.

While very much in its formative stages and likely to be further developed over the coming months, the plan sets out a number of goals aimed at encouraging players, supporters, sponsors and the community to get involved and develop the club as a community resource.

Club revenue has dropped in recent years with changes to tenant income, and falling bar takings and gaming trust grants. However the club is in a strong financial position with a negligible mortgage, and is one of the last clubs still to own its own fields and amenities.

Being in control of its facilities means the club has opportunities to hold events and sports days other than rugby – an important feature of the new plan, which will look into turning the club into a more general sports club rather than just a rugby club, and to become more involved with the local community.

The plan says the club is “in a position to offer something the Helensville community needs and is lacking, that being a place where everyone can come and participate in sports and events as individuals and as families, and to do so in a safe and friendly environment”.

One of the first steps the club has taken has been to merge the junior and senior clubs, which previously operated with separate committees and in effect competed against each other for local resources such as fundraising and sponsorship.

A new multi-level sponsorship package has been developed, which details how the club can help promote and assist sponsor businesses. It's been designed as a business plan for the club, where the sponsors are treated as partners rather than merely donors.

Platinum sponsors for 2016 are Burmester Realty and Helensville Mitre 10. Owners Jane Burmester and Michael Beale both see their support of the club as investing in its future and in the community.

Mentioning 'code: rugby' when locals shop at Mitre10 Helensville will see a percentage of their purchase revenue go to the club.

The club's other key sponsors are Parakai Springs, SJA Honey and Pita Pit Helensville. Bridgestone Helensville is also sponsoring the club along with others to be confirmed; more sponsors are sought.

\$20 club memberships are also being offered for supporters and anyone wanting to be involved with the club.

Junior team numbers are already up on last year with the introduction of two girls Ripa teams. The club has teams across all



All Black legend Michael Jones (left, above) spoke at a special Old Boys lunch at Helensville Rugby Club a couple of weeks ago - and he brought along fellow former All Black Frank Bunce (far right) for the event. The lunch and a festival game, organised by Andy Cummings, was in honour of the club team which won the Portola Trophy in 1975. It was an opportunity to show off the newly painted club rooms, now lined with photos that go as far back as a team photo from 1900.

junior grades, and for the first time in a number of years has a J1 team, regarded as the pinnacle of junior rugby and which can lead to representative honours with a new J1 regional tournament starting this year.

Heading the senior side of the club are the Western Pioneers, which Helensville Rugby Club has been assured more involvement in. The Raging Bulls for players aged over 35 are back on track, and a new 85kg team will give players of different ages the chance to play fast, exciting football.

The club's plan also calls for a number of cosmetic improvements, including painting of the exterior of the club house, a new barbeque area in front of the shop, a footpath and fence along the road front to number 2 field, and website and social media improvements.

For more information email Brooke Painter at: brooke.painter@xtra.co.nz.

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editorial

Is there a future for newspapers, and journalism in general?

It's no surprise to most people that since the rise of the internet, both the quantity and quality of 'real' journalism has fallen world-wide. Nowadays, it seems, everyone is a 'journalist', and can write pretty much whatever they want and publish it online. People write blogs, and their audience believes what it reads. Often there is no research to back up what they are writing - or worse, the research might be done online where the veracity of the source material might be dubious at best.

Don't get me wrong - I'm not knocking the internet per se. There is a lot of valuable - and correct - information to be found online. But there is a huge volume of dross as well, and sorting out what is correct and what isn't can be daunting.

Attention spans are much shorter these days (thanks, Twitter!) and people often take at face value the snippets and 'facts' endlessly paraded in front of them. Even the Herald has been caught reporting erroneous 'news' sourced from social media.

Some (real) facts and figures - these are from America, as I couldn't source local equivalents. In the eight years from 2007 to 2015, the number of full-time newspaper journalists in the US fell from 55,000 to 33,000. In 2009 alone, 105 newspapers closed. Former Los Angeles Times executive Nicco Mele says: "if the next three years look like the last three years, I think we're going to look at the 50 largest metropolitan papers and expect somewhere between a third to a half of them to go out of business."

When I started in journalism I was a reporter on the Auckland Star, then the second largest paper in New Zealand. There was a newsroom packed full of experienced, qualified journalists, who were expected to file one, maybe two articles a day. Feature writers had a whole week to research and produce in-depth pieces.

Falling advertising revenues are forcing those days to rapidly disappear. Remember when the Herald used to have a whole section of cars for sale ads on a Saturday? They are now all online, courtesy of TradeMe and similar websites.

Unfortunately I don't have the answers. It's sad to see the decline in 'real' journalism, and even sadder to see what's replacing it.

At least the *Helensville News* will keep fighting the good fight!

- Dave Addison, Editor

New person sought to lead community Christmas lunch

The Helensville Community Christmas Day Lunch needs a new co-ordinator for this year's event.

"Unfortunately I will not be 'driving' the community lunch this year due to other projects," says Raewyn Mercer, who has been the chief organiser for the past three Christmas lunches.

The lunch is aimed at locals who for various reasons find Christmas an extra stress, and gives them the opportunity to share the day with others without the worry and expectations they might otherwise feel.

In 2015, 120 people attended the lunch in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

"This is a very worthwhile undertaking," says Raewyn, "and hopefully there will be someone out there who [will] rise to the challenge."

"Some key contacts have been made and I am confident Helensville will rally to the cause."

She says after three years much of the organisation and planning is already in place, which will make it easier for whoever takes over the reins.

Raewyn has had a team of about 40 helpers doing everything from preparing food and cooking through to creating floral displays. She says many of the helpers return year after year.

She also receives support from a wide range of community groups, businesses and families.

They include Helensville Lion's Club; Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara; the Prime Minister's Office; the Helensville District Health Trust; the Hospice Shop in Mill Road; Parakai Springs; Whitcoulls; Morris and James and Countdown Helensville.

Anyone wanting to discuss taking on the role should phone Raewyn on 021 182 0470.

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Forklift, high density baler a boon for recycling centre

The Helensville Community Recycling Centre has a new forklift and a high-density baling machine thanks to funding from the Waste Minimisation and Innovation fund.

The forklift, combined with the baling



• Bronwyn Alexander gets the hang of the new forklift

machine, will make a huge impact on the efficiency of the centre, says site manager Treena Gowthorpe.

The large distance to markets for recyclable materials mean high freight costs, so the ability to compact recyclables into 500kg bales means those freight charges can be spread over a greater tonnage of material.

Treena says it can mean the difference between paying to move recyclable materials off the site, and making an income from recycling.

It has been a buoyant six months for the Community Recycling Centre since signing a new contract with Auckland Council and transitioning into a full recycling centre.

The centre, located down the driveway next to Mitre 10 on Mill Road, employs 10 local staff. Its Reuse Shop is a second-hand bargain hunter's dream, while the on-site Repair Shed provides a valuable service repairing a range of goods for re-use.

The Recycling Centre has made a commitment to 'Employ Local, Shop Local and Support Local' says Treena.

"Supporting the Recycling Centre is supporting your community," she says. "Although we receive valuable funding from Auckland Council, we are still a community-run organisation, here for the benefit of the Helensville community."

Flow-on benefits to the local community have been significant with the Recycling Centre paying over \$100,000 in local wages and to local businesses for good and services, in the first six months of their contract with Auckland Council.

The Recycling Centre is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 4pm. Phone 022 430 3622 or email: helensvillecommunityrecycling@gmail.com

Sweet Sixteen

We're 16 years old this issue.

Helensville News was first published in April, 1999 at the instigation of the now-defunct Mainstreet group. That first issue was just four pages long and had a circulation of around 2000 - compared to 5000 for this issue.

Over the years *Helensville News* has grown in both size and quality. It started out as a single, folded sheet of photocopied A3 paper, with no photographs

It didn't take long for the paper to grow, however, doubling in size to eight pages by the third issue. Over the next few years the size varied: some issues were 12 pages, others eight or 10. The first 16-page appeared in October 2002, although that didn't become the paper's regular size for another four years, when it changed from being photocopied to being professionally printed. Glossy paper first appeared with issue #117.

On page 7 we have a brief overview of some of the milestone issues over the years.

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'Waste Free Warrior' coming

Helensville will host 'waste free parenting warrior' Kate Meads at a special workshop later this month.

Also known as The Nappy Lady, Kate is an environmental advocate who runs workshops sharing inspiration and tips to minimise waste at home, especially for those with a baby or children.

The workshop will show ways to reduce waste at home, introduce participants to sustainable products for home use, demonstrate modern cloth nappy options, and give washing tips and advice.

It will also reveal the environmental impact of the choices people make at home each day.

The one-off Waste Free Parenting Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at the Helensville War Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9.30pm. Tickets are \$25 per household couple, or \$15 for those with a community services card. Bookings can be made online through Kate's website, www.thenappylady.co.nz.

The workshop is being subsidised by the Rodney Local Board through the Sustainable Living Fund, and attendees will receive free samples of environmentally friendly products including modern cloth nappies and sustainable home ware such as Kai Carriers and Honey Wraps (see our free giveaway on page 5).

Kate has held workshops around New Zealand for many years, and while she originally focused on modern cloth nappy options, she now finds there are many other ways people with children can live more sustainably – and at the same time contribute to Auckland Council's vision to be zero-waste by 2040.

"There are so many different household options now that make environmentally-conscious choices so much easier, from reusable baby food pouches and lunch

wraps, to easy-to-use and wash cloth nappies," she says.

Kate says parents "have a vested interest in wanting to protect our planet for the future, and these workshops give great tips on easy ways to do just that.

"If we all just make a small change every day the results will be hugely significant," she adds.

The programme helps deliver the



• Kate Meads at one of her workshops

council's target to reduce waste going in to landfills by 30 percent by 2018, and the aspirational vision of zero waste by 2040.

"The council has a plan to transform waste services to reduce waste, but we also want to encourage people to reduce the waste they make in the first place," says Rodney Local Board chair Brenda Steele.

"We need ways to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as we can, and practical workshops like this help support people to make changes in their homes to minimise waste."

• To page 5

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Meeting to discuss setting up a local cinema

Helensville woman Kura Geere-Watson has organised a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up a community cinema in Helensville.

The meeting is on Thursday, April 29 in the Helensville Art Centre in the War Memorial Hall basement from 6.30pm. Entry will be by gold coin to help cover venue costs.

"I have been working on [this idea] for about a year, and I have not had any negative comments from anyone I have asked if they would support a local cinema," says Kura.

Among suggestions she has received are for a cinema streaming current new releases, a boutique cinema, 'theme nights', and even drive-in movies.

"Several models established in small communities are worth looking at, and it may be useful to consider some before the meeting," she says, citing Kaiwaka Community Cinema, Waiheke Island

Community Cinema, Alexandra's Central Cinema, and Dargaville's Anzac Cinema.

Kura is particularly keen for people with technical experience to attend the meeting - "I'm hoping we have a smart young wiz who is passionate about the idea".

She hopes the meeting will throw up a number of ideas, suggestions, comments and maybe even some donations.

"I am hoping to get a group of interested people together to see what energy there is, and local expertise, to work on this community venture."

Anyone wanting to discuss ideas with Kura can phone her on 021 023 95949 or email: kuragw@xtra.co.nz.

WIN a free parenting pack



Helensville News has a free Waste Free Parenting Pack to give away to one lucky reader. The pack includes two reusable cloth nappies, a Honey Wrap, a Kai Karrier sample pack and a Charlie Banana reusable menstrual pad, as seen here. Simply email us at: giveaways@helensvillenews.co.nz by Friday, April 15th to go in the draw.

Waste Free Warrior cont...

• From page 4

Kate says the audience for the workshop has grown over the years. She says it's not just new parents but "expectant parents, lots of grandparents, care-givers, child care workers and environmentally-conscious child-free people wanting to pick up sustainable tips for the home."

"It's not just the primary care-giver who needs to know these tips, but the entire household, which is why the ticket price will cover two adults from one household," she says.

Kate Meads is a regular guest speaker at parent and child shows, a contributor for baby magazines and has been on television shows such as Good Morning, Breakfast and the news, to educate parents about the effect their choices at home have on the environment and to promote cloth nappies.



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Real estate agency changes hands



• New owners (from left) Colin Hair, Nicky Horsbrough and Nick Langdon

It might be under new ownership, but Harcourts Helensville is still locally owned and operated and it will be business as usual, says local property expert Nicky Horsbrough.

Nicky has taken over ownership of the real estate agency from Graeme McLeod in a joint venture with the Tandem Realty team of Colin Hair and Nick Langdon.

It's the first time in almost 20 years the Helensville office has changed hands, and the whole Helensville team is staying on under the new owners. That includes former owner Graeme, and Nicky, while now a partner in the business, will continue working as a sales agent as she has for the past seven years.

"Graeme has done an outstanding job growing the business and providing top level service to Helensville clients," says Colin. Harcourts will remain in its current Commercial Road premises at least initially, but there are plans to recruit more sales people.

Nicky sees the new ownership model as providing distinct benefits for local property vendors and purchasers.

The Harcourts Tandem Realty franchise group also owns offices in Silverdale, Orewa, Whangaparaoa, Warkworth, and Snell's Beach, and Nicky says the support

network available through the group, which has more than 60 sales people, will be "massive".

"I wanted to partner with Tandem because they are the epitome of what Harcourts offers. It will benefit everyone in Helensville," says Nicky.

Colin says the group's systems and structures, including in-house training and technology, will enable a high level of support not able to be achieved in a smaller organisation.

"We think Helensville now has the best of both worlds - access to one of the larger franchise groups within Harcourts, while still having a local real estate office that is full of detailed local knowledge and community focus," says Colin.

The most noticeable change for locals will be new signage and a new paint job on the Harcourts building, which should be complete shortly after this issue of *Helensville News* comes out.

Circulation grows 10%

The circulation of *Helensville News* has risen by almost 10 percent in the past two years, with 5000 copies now printed and delivered each issue. That's almost twice the number of papers printed when the paper began in 1999.



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16 years of Helensville News

Now up to our 187th issue, *Helensville News* has come a long way from the first, four-page issue in April 1999. Here's a brief rundown of some of the paper's the 'milestone' issues:

■ ISSUE #1 April 1999

4 pages, photocopied.

Main articles:

- Antique Centre and themed cafe planned for Regent cinema
- Cycle shop to open
- Explosion and fire at Mill Rd firewood depot
- Plans for Helensville to become regional growth centre
- Plans to establish a Pioneer Village
- Helensville website established



■ ISSUE #100 May 2008

20 pages, printed.

Main articles:

- 100th issue
- Mobility dog for college student
- HIPPIY South Kaipara
- Talent quest
- Horse Expo
- Art Centre opens
- Nola Keane obituary
- Rail trial



■ ISSUE #50 September 2003

12 pages, photocopied.

Main articles:

- Childcare
- Parakai Home for the Elderly
- College music
- Ngati Whatua sports challenge
- New doctor
- Visit by Human Rights Commission



■ ISSUE #150 November 2012

16 pages, printed.

Main articles:

- Helensville 150th anniversary
- Spring Fling
- Free A&P show community stands
- Museum archives building
- Rodney Coast Challenge
- Parent Aid



medical centre notes

Talking about suicide can leave people feeling awkward, and for those who have been touched by it, it can be painful and emotional. However, suicides are 10 times more frequent than workplace deaths, and currently there are over 500 suicides a year in New Zealand. 75 percent of these are men, and more than half are men of working age, and are more common in rural areas than urban.

It can be hard to pick up any warning signs that someone is thinking of suicide, but these can include people missing time at work; withdrawing from friends and family; worrying about things all the time. They can feel alone, and a burden to people with no escape.

Asking about suicide may feel awkward, but that person may need someone to ask them before they feel able to seek help. Talking about suicide will not give someone the idea, and anyone can have thoughts of suicide. The best way to find out if someone is thinking about suicide is to ask directly: "are you thinking about suicide?" - and then help them to get help.

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- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Arts in the Ville

Following a highly successful inaugural event last year which more than 500 locals attended, this year's 'Arts in the Ville' weekend is promising to be even bigger and better.

Kura Geere-Watson, who along with fellow locals Jo Dixie and Denise Marshall organises the arts festival, says around 40 artists have so far indicated they will contribute this year, including all 23 artists who took part last year, apart from one who has left the district.

But Kura still wants more to participate, and is asking any artists who haven't already been contacted to get in touch with her.

"We are working closely with Helensville Arts Centre and Helensville Museum and Kaipara Coast Garden Centre," she says.

Arts in the Ville 2016, to be held over Labour Weekend, October 22 to 24, will again feature a number of 'pop-up' art galleries, venues and open artist studios. The weekend will include interactive opportunities, and 'pop-up' food and café sites.

"We anticipate there will be an opportunity [for visitors] to try wood carving, knitting, possibly spinning, weaving, [and] crochet," says Kura.

As well as looking for even more artists, Kura has put a call out for knitters to help with 'yarn bombing', which she says will "take a different approach" for this year's festival.

She won't elaborate on what that different approach may be, saying it's "a secret at present, but there may be sneak appearances at various points, from June onwards, as a taster."

Kura would also like donations of balls of wool "for those busy hands knitting to embellish the town for the weekend".

Organisers are also looking at making it easier for people to make purchases from the pop-up venues this year.

Artists or knitters who would like to take part, or anyone with wool to donate, can phone Kura on 420 7724 or email her at: kuragw@xtra.co.nz.



• A fabric sign announcing last year's Arts in the Ville

Call for donations to help flooded playcentre

A flood caused by faulty plumbing has caused havoc at Kaukapakapa Playcentre, resulting in extensive damage to both the property and equipment.

Repair work has begun, but it could take until the middle of next term before the playcentre can reopen. The kitchen, bathroom and several walls need replacing.

Renee Harris, grants and funding officer for the playcentre, has put a call out for donations of either money or equipment - particularly electrical kitchen appliances such as a fridge, stove, electric frying pan and cake mixer.

"The children love to bake, so it's a real set-back to lose these items and the use of our entire kitchen," she says.

A Give a Little web page has been set up at <http://bit.ly/1S2gKi5> so people can make donations.

The playcentre has already received a generous donation of both a laptop and a desktop computer from Andy and Louise Banks of Banx Systems, and a microwave and freezer have also been received. Contact Renee on Mobile 021 268 5644 or 420 4784.

School benefits from sales



• Jana with her first \$200 cheque for Parakai School

Parakai School is set to come into some cash thanks to local resident and real estate agent Jana Mills.

Jana attended a recent 'friends and family' meeting at the school, where ideas for raising funds were discussed.

She thought about what she could do to help, and came up with a plan to donate \$200 to the school each time the sale of one of her clients' properties goes unconditional. All the seller has to do is name Parakai School as their beneficiary.

Jana, whose five-year-old son Cavell is in Year 1 at Parakai School and who moved with her family to a lifestyle block up the road from

the school in Fordyce Road last October, has already handed over her first \$200 cheque.

"Initiatives such as this have the potential to make a huge difference to our school," says Parakai principal Nick Neubert.

"This donation (and future donations from this scheme) will go towards our Friends and Family of Parakai School group, who raise funds for the direct benefit of our students."

Nick says the group's focus for this year is still being decided.

"Last year the group funded a number of key projects including resourcing our new performing arts room, a new PE shed, and new basketball poles."

Jana sells Rodney-wide for Prestige Realty. She can be contacted on mobile 021 509 990 or 420 9953, or on Facebook at 'Jana Mills Real Estate Specialist'.

Lucky competition winner

Gabriella Gillespie of Helensville was the lucky winner in the Allsorts-Helensville News competition we ran last issue to guess the number of Easter eggs hidden in the paper. Gabriella (12) won a basket of goodies courtesy of Jenny from Allsorts, which included a giant Easter egg.



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New owners for spa business

Warren and Bridget Leslie are settling in after taking over ownership of one of Helensville's biggest employers, manufacturing company Trueform Spas.

The West Street based company's 35 staff manufacture fibreglass spa pools and a wide range of associated products, including spa and swimming pool covers, cover lifters and cedar spa surrounds in a collection of large buildings behind Oikoumene.

Trueform supplies 46 dealers around the country, and sells direct in areas where there is no dealer.

Warren says the company has been in business for around 30 years and "has been

a very successful company over the years".

Both Warren and Bridget, who has taken on general manager duties at the company, are originally from Dunedin.

Warren's background is in manufacturing and printing. He was based at Wanaka for a long time, commuting between there and Dunedin and Auckland, and was involved in setting up one of the first major ecommerce systems in the country.

The Leslies then moved to Auckland, living in a downtown apartment while Warren worked as a business consultant, helping merge and turn companies around. After three of four years Warren says they had had enough of apartment living and moved recently to Parnell.

The couple were looking to purchase their own business, ideally in the printing industry, but then were approached about Trueform. It was the right size business and would provide the challenge Warren was looking for – and in October last year they took over the reins.

Warren is now introducing new best-



• Bridget and Warren Leslie (left) with product detailers Ama and Kelly

practice business methods – the major one being a shift away from paperwork to a much more computerised workflow.

"We're becoming smarter throughout the organisation," he says.

He has also investigated sourcing new spa jets from overseas, and is looking at possible new fibreglass products the company could manufacture.

The Leslies have also become involved in the local community, opening up their yard as the assembly area for last year's Christmas parade, and providing a heavily-subsidised spa pool to a child with autism.

Trueform has a sale of old stock, seconds and lines no longer available at their premises on Saturday, April 9 from 9am to 3pm, giving locals the chance to grab a bargain.

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ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Monday April 25th, 2016



Kaipara Memorial RSA (Inc)

The Kaipara Memorial RSA Inc invites the people of the district to join us in commemorating the ANZAC Day landing at Gallipoli. The format for the day is as follows:

05.50 Fall In	Dawn Parade at the Parakai Cenotaph.
06.45	Service at Soldiers Cemetery Helensville Soldiers Cemetery. Breakfast at the RSA.
09.30	Service at Kaukapakapa.
10.50 Fall In	Main Parade down Commercial Road. Fall-in at Super Liquor car park.

Lunch and refreshments will be available at the RSA rooms following the parade.

If your group would like to march in the main parade, or lay a wreath, please contact the Secretary/Manager by April 20th. Wreaths may be purchased through the RSA and must be ordered by April 20th. Wreaths may be picked up from the RSA on the 25th if desired.

Secretary/Manager: Graham Matthews Ph 420 8888



Waste-free parenting workshop

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This fun, inspirational workshop is all about reducing waste.

You will learn more about modern cloth nappies, as well as other waste-free parenting ideas and tips, with lots of waste-free giveaways on the night.

All attendees get a free pack of cloth nappies valued at \$90.

Date: Wednesday 27 April 2016

Time: 7-9.30pm

Where: Helensville War Memorial Hall 49 Commercial Road, Helensville

Cost: \$25 (+ booking fee) for individual or couples
 \$15 (+ booking fee) for community card holders

RSVP: Book at thenappylady.co.nz or text or call 027 2211 242



PM talks local transport

Prime Minister and Helensville MP John Key has suggested the intersection of the Coatesville-Riverhead Highway and State Highway 16 should be a priority for review.

His suggestion follows an article in the last issue of *Helensville News* about a petition to push for State Highway 16 upgrades - one of which calls for that intersection to be upgraded.

Mr Key made the statement at a meeting late last month with Upper Harbour MP Paula Bennett, Transport Minister Simon Bridges, and senior officials from NZTA, Auckland Transport and the Ministry of Transport, to discuss current transport projects in Auckland.

Mr Key also received an update on progress at the intersection of SH16, Muriwai Road, and Waimauku Station Road.

"I'm aware many local residents have some concerns about the safety of intersections in their area, and these concerns have been passed on to our officials," Mr Key says.

Also at the meeting was Kaipara College student Bianca Bailey,



• From left: John Key, Bianca Bailey, Simon Bridges and Paula Bennett at the meeting

who is the Youth MP for Helensville and will be attending Youth Parliament in Wellington in July. She raised the issue of the lack of regular buses from Helensville, particularly at weekends, and current limitations to commuter train services. Bianca says public transport will be a focus for her during her time at Youth Parliament.



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Living wall provides a movable feast

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai has a new addition – a living wall. Kindly created and donated by Judy Cooper, the wall uses upcycled items such as wood and lino to create a functional object. The living wall is able to be used as a room divider, with wheels to enable it to be moved freely, and also to allow it to be positioned where the plants can receive optimal light.



The living wall signifies the ethos of Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai, providing the community with greater wellbeing through healthy food and sustainability. Future plans for the living wall include the growing of microgreens by students attending the centre, and the opportunity for students to design themed living walls.

From left to right Judy Cooper, Martin Heck, Keryn Reardon.

The HotHouse – growing ideas in a shared space

Working, innovating and connecting locally is now an option with The HotHouse. Situated at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai, the initiative is being established by The South Kaipara Community Economic Development Scheme (SKCEDS).

Ian Leader, project manager for SKCEDS, says that when the Helensville District Health Trust was gifted the old tavern building, locals were asked what they wanted to use the facility for.

"Key things identified were a place to meet, and a place to do business. We've brought these two things together to create The HotHouse as a 'bumping space' for entrepreneurs and organisations (both for-profit and not-for-profit) to work, share and learn from each other."

Members of The HotHouse have access to the business lounge, hot desks, a printer and photocopier, free WiFi, complimentary tea and coffee, and preferential room and facility hire rates. There is also the commercial kitchen for testing and producing food-related enterprises.

The HotHouse is offering a special first year price of \$150. For details, contact Ian Leader on 027 510 2091 or email ian.leader@localworks.co.nz

148,740

The tonnage of material we have diverted AWAY from landfill since 01 Aug 2015

75%

The percentage of incoming waste, which we will divert away from landfill by 2020

*Currently we divert 64.32%

\$117,000

The amount we have contributed to the local economy through wages to staff (all locals), and payments to local businesses for goods and services since 01 Aug 2015



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for your amazing
support

10

The number of local staff we employ

4,265

The number of items we have sold through our re-use shop since 01 Aug 2015

1,292

The number of hours generously donated to us by our amazing volunteers, since 01 Aug 2015



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Organic fruit and vege service starts

Makarau couple Roland and Estel Venter have started a business supplying home-delivered boxes of organic fruit and vegetables.

Called Makarau Fresh, they are starting small-scale, with their 6ha (15 acre) property currently only able to produce enough to supply around 20 boxes each week.

Their story began in 2011 when they moved from Auckland to the block on the outskirts of Kaukapakapa. Prior to the move Roland was an IT consultant in Albany. They initially started growing produce just for themselves, but production gradually expanded to the stage where the bulk of their produce was being sold to the Auckland markets.

Roland says their property is currently undergoing a three-year organic conversion: "we are on track to be fully certified organic by 2017".

"We've had enquiries from families looking for good quality vegetables sourced locally," says Roland, explaining the idea behind launching the fruit and vegetable box scheme. The boxes will be made up from locally grown produce, with some items added from other certified organic growers.



• Roland and Estel Venter

Initially two box sizes will be available, with each box containing four to six different vegetables and two to three seasonal fruit. Prices range from \$35 to \$45 which includes delivery.

"Depending on demand we are looking at juicing and salad boxes as well," adds Roland.

The fruit and vege boxes are packed at their Makarau farm "and delivered with love and care", says Roland.

People keen to eat local, seasonal organic vegetables can email Roland and Estel at box@makaraufresh.co.nz, and they will get in touch with more details.

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Photos wanted for ANZAC display at KKK

Following the Anzac Day service at Kaukapakapa on Monday, April 25, 10am to noon, there will be a photo display in the Kaukapakapa library of 40 of the 86 servicemen commemorated on the Kaukapakapa WWII monument.

The photographs have been compiled by Isla Willis from Helensville Museum's collection. It is hoped to be able to source photos of the remaining 46 service people, preferably in uniform.

Photos are sought for: R. Albert, H. Anderson, S. Anderson, K.W. Ashby, H. Augustine, H.H. Barry, H. Butterworth, J.

Causer, J. Clarke, C. Draper, J. Eastman, J. Eyes, W. Gaines, J. Gallagher, R. Gallagher, E. Greenall, W. Greenall, W. Greenall Snr, L. Grey, G. Holroyd, B. Hooper, H. Ihi, W. Lapage-Robbie, J. Matthew, L. G. Merton, J. Moffatt, D. Mowatt, S. McGuire, B. McConnell, S. Panapa, R. Perry, J. Peterson, O. Rapson, G. Rossitto, G. Russell, R. Sands, B. Saunders, V. Smith (nurse), W. Somerville, T. Walker, E. West, W. White, C. Williams, B. Wilson, E.H. Wilson, H. Wilson, and M. Wilson.

Phone Megan Paterson on 021 959 017 or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

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Live-in arts camp

Te Awaroa Youth Club is hosting another live-in Arts Camp for 12 to 17-year-olds during the second week of the April school holidays.

The camp aims to promote youth participation in the arts and to have fun exploring creativity through a variety of art forms.

Those attending will learn skills in various art forms such as mosaic, aerosol art, scrap booking, and painting, as well as enjoy a trip to the hot pools. This year's theme is: 'having an abundant life'.

The camp will be held at Te Awaroa Youth Club, 10 Awaroa Rd, Helensville from 9am, Tuesday April 26 to 3pm, Friday April 29. Participants stay overnight at the club.

Thanks to support from the Creative Communities Scheme and the Break-Away School Holiday Programme fund, this cost is only \$50. There is a limit of 20 places.

To register or for more information phone Heidi Van Duyn on 420 7977 or email her at: manager@teawaroyaouthclub.co.nz.



• Joanne Chapman with some of her artworks from last year's camp

from the frontline

Every day people are affected by crime in their communities.

Reporting a crime that we see, or know about, is an important step in protecting ourselves. Many people may not realise that some of the simplest of actions can make a difference not only in their own life, but also to other members in their community.

Prevention is the most powerful tool in the fight against crime, and one simple and easy step is to speak up about illegal activity in your community.

In today's digital communication age, we all have the ability to contribute to our own well-being and increased community safety. While police have the role to enforce the law, technology allows the community to prevent and assist police to investigate criminal behaviour.

By sharing information you have about a crime, or one that may be committed, you can help the police to solve crime and prevent future crime from occurring.

Sometimes it may be difficult to report crimes, but I encourage you to do so.

If you don't report it, there will be no investigation, very little chance that the offender(s) will be caught, and then there is the possibility more people may suffer what you've been through. Another important aspect is that there will then be no clear picture of the amount of crime and types of crime that actually occur; it is then harder for police and other agencies to address the problem.

It is common for some people to not feel comfortable passing information to the police or other agencies. Are you worried about what might happen if you talk to the police about what you know? Maybe you've seen or heard something about a crime but don't know what to do. Are you scared to come forward and be a witness? Would you say something if no-one knew it was you?

Crime Stoppers is an independent organisation that provides a unique service to help you speak up: "Tell us what you know, not who you are". Crime Stoppers will pass on information to police while protecting the caller's identity. Your information can make a difference and can help to solve an existing investigation or reveal unknown criminal activity.

Speak up - it's anonymous.

Call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or complete the confidential online form at www.crimestoppers-nz.org.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



with Kaipara chef, Peter Brennan

Figs and Balsamic

The fig crop was slow to get going this year, but then after a dash of rain they all seemed to be ready at once.

The soft varieties such as Adriatic and Brown Turkey don't seem to store too well – if you pick too many they will start to melt in the fruit bowl. We have made jams and compotes in the past that have been ok but we are not big jam eaters. It can therefore be a bit disheartening to open the pantry to find a spot for the newest batch, only to find there is a library of jars going back several years, so far untouched.

I often dry figs for use later in the year as an accompaniment to cheeses etc, and these we do enjoy. I find that in Auckland the Brunoro variety is best for drying and dehydrating. The skin is thicker, and they are moist rather than juicy with a decent touch of sugar to keep them stable once dried. The soft-skinned types take too much energy to dry out and become quite leathery and tasteless which somewhat defeats the purpose of preserving them.



What I have found to be a great method for storing the softer types is to stew the fruit with balsamic vinegar and put them in sterile jars for later use.

The vinegar adds a balance to the fruit that makes them an excellent accompaniment to all manner of winter foods. They go well with cheeses and are delicious with corned beef, smoked meats, and even as a dessert with a blob of vanilla ice cream. Very easy to make and well worth the effort!

■ Figs & Balsamic

3/4 fill a medium sized pot with figs. Cut the stalks off but leave the figs whole. Add enough balsamic vinegar to cover the bottom 10 percent of the figs. This is a judgement call – if you add too much it will boil away, not enough and you can add more during cooking.

That's it for ingredients - now just simmer the pot for a couple of hours. You will need to stir the figs to stop them sticking to the pot. Cook until the figs are a thick mix of pulp and pieces. Heat jars in the oven at 150 celsius for 10 minutes and boil the lids. Spoon the hot fig mix into the hot jars and close the lid tight. They will vacuum shut as they cool. Store in the pantry.

April exhibition

Helensville Art Centre's April exhibition is for members of Art Kaipara, the Art Centre's umbrella organisation. Artists working in any media can join Art Kaipara for \$20 (\$10 for people aged 16 and under) for the year, and can exhibit in the April and September members exhibitions. The exhibition runs until Saturday, April 30.

Correction

Last issue *Helensville News* ran an article about Auckland Grammar School's search for its old school hall doors.

Unfortunately the school supplied us with an incorrect phone number for archivist Paul Paton. His correct phone number, for anyone with any information on the whereabouts of the doors, is 09 623 5011.

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community tidbits from town and around

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, April 17 from 8.30am to 1pm. Foster Watkinson will play the tenor sax from 10am to noon, and there will be stalls selling crafts, plants, organic veges, collectibles, food, and barista coffee.

The same day the historic Kaukapakapa Library will host author Vicky Adin from 10am to 1pm. She will talk about her writing and genealogy. Vicky combines her skills of writing and genealogical research to write novels that weave family and history together. Her books will be available for perusal, including her latest release 'The Girl from County Clare'.

For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ ALPACA OPEN DAYS

Waitakere Alpacas will hold open days from 12 midday till 4pm on each Sunday in April at 107 Monk Road, South Head. Visitors will be able to learn about the animals and may get a chance to feed them.

■ WAITOKI LADIES HIGH TEA

Waitoki School will hold its annual Ladies High Tea on Saturday, May 7 from 2pm to 5pm in the Waitoki School Hall, 1119 Kahikatea Flat Road.

Tickets are \$35, and can be purchased individually or as a table of six. The ticket price includes a glass of bubbles on arrival

and a delicious afternoon tea. There will be a silent auction, raffles, and prizes for best hat and best dressed. Eftpos will be available.

Funds raised will go towards an upgrade of the school swimming pool area.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from the school office, ph 420 5244.

■ MOVIE IN A DAY

Helensville Art Centre's Movie in a Day workshop which reported on last issue has had a change of date. The course will now be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10.30am to 4.30pm, and costs \$45. Email Pauline at: coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz or phone 021 158 6859 to book.

■ FREE ARTIST TALK

Local artist Sally Lush will give a talk at the Helensville Art Centre on Monday, April 11 at 7pm. Sally originally studied chemistry before getting involved in the art world as an artist, curator and currently manager of the Helensville Art Centre. Many of her works combine her love of chemical reactions. The free talk is sponsored by the Creative Communities Scheme. For more information phone Pauline on 021 158 6859 or email: coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Glass art on show

An exhibition highlighting 'The Art of Glass' will run at the Art Centre, Helensville, from Saturday, May 7 to 28, and all artists working in glass are invited to submit work for display at just \$3 per item. Jewellery will be \$3 for up to nine items. Guest exhibitor will be Darryl Fagance.

Works should be delivered to the Art Centre in the Helensville War Memorial Hall basement on Tuesday, May 4 or Wednesday 5 May.

Phone Pauline for more information on 021 158 6859 or email her at: coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

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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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