

## The RSA - use it or lose it

Helensville is in imminent danger of losing one of its longest-standing community organisations.

The Kaipara Memorial RSA, which was incorporated in 1936, could close within three or four months says manager Graham Matthews.

The club is in overdraft with its bank, and if things don't turn around soon it could follow the fate of other small RSAs around the country which have closed in recent years.

"To be perfectly honest it hasn't just happened," says Graham. "I've been here three years and we've been struggling the whole time.

"What's really hit us are the new driving rules. We've seen a massive drop-off in our bar revenue. In no way are we saying [the new rules are] wrong, they've done it for the right reasons, but we've had a marked decrease, which has had a corresponding drop-off in gaming as well, which are our two main revenue streams."

He says a lot of people didn't renew their memberships this year, most probably because of the new drink-drive limits.

Membership currently stands at around 270, although Graham says only 10 to 15 percent of those are regular users. A year ago membership was about 300, and in its heyday in the 1960s and 70s membership was over 400.

Large bills at the end of last year didn't help, including license renewals "which we couldn't really afford" and a big bill for upgrading the gaming machines which was hoped would bring more people in but which "didn't work unfortunately".

The gambling machines have all gone now, and the RSA is trying to rebrand itself as a more family-friendly venue.

An action team of local business people has been formed to come up with ideas to turn the club around.

Increasing membership, hiring out the rooms, getting across the family-friendly message, dispelling the commonly-held belief that the RSA is only for people who have been in the armed services, and making the venue more attractive especially for younger people, are some of the areas planned for action.

"We realise that the place is not a particularly inviting environment, but we have a team working on that. The ladies have got a whole lot of ideas to try to do something about that," says Graham.

Membership is largely associate members these days - that's for people with no armed services background. It costs \$50 a year, while membership for ex-servicemen is \$40 and returned servicemen \$30. There is a half-price discount on all membership rates for the rest of the year.

Graham is keen to point out that locals don't need to be a member at all to use the facilities. Anyone can go along for a drink or



• RSA manager Graham Matthews in the club rooms

meal - they just have to be signed in on arrival by a member, a requirement of the club-based liquor licence.

A new caterer is providing meals, with main courses ranging from \$18 to \$28, along with cheaper options like burgers and a children's menu.

Staff are currently on reduced hours, and the RSA is now only open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings - it used to be open from Tuesday to Sunday, but "we were losing money hand over fist".

Shorter staff hours have reduced the wage bill by \$460 per week, but it is "going to be very difficult for the club to survive," says Graham.

The RSA's main competition comes from the Kaipara Tavern, whose gaming machines have attracted many former members, and people simply staying at home.

A recent successful quiz evening raised a good amount of money, and a 1960s and 70s music and dance night will be held on Saturday, August 13.

If the RSA closes it will affect other local businesses as well, as the club sources its food and alcohol locally.

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# editorial

It's a strange truism that the more our area's population grows, the harder it seems to be for local community organisations to attract members.

You've probably already read our front page article on the RSA, which after 80 years could soon close its Commercial Road doors because of falling membership and a lack of local support. But the RSA isn't alone - the Historical Society, the A&P Association, the Railway Trust, the Helensville Lions Club, the Lodge ... they all struggle to attract new members.

Most are run by small groups of aging locals, with few, if any, younger members joining up to provide continuity for the future. Just think for a minute how much worse off our town will be if we lose the A&P Show, the museum, or all the good works the Lions do. None of those are in immediate danger of disappearing, but look 15 or 20 years down the track, when the current batch of members are no longer around.

I guess the issue is partly the changing nature of the area. Many new residents are happy to live here, but prefer to go elsewhere for their work, shopping and leisure activities. Here's a quick question for you - how many of you have been to the Helensville Museum, or the Railway Museum? Helensville is a heritage town, and what better way to learn about that heritage than at one of our museums. But they don't run themselves, and unless some of the younger members of our community pitch in, their days may be numbered.

On a different note, I was saddened to hear of the death of Don Armstrong a couple of weeks ago. Don could only be described as a true gentleman, helpful to a fault, as anyone who had come across him at Oikoumene would attest. We hope to bring you a full obituary next issue, but in the meantime there's a lovely tribute to Don from Oikoumene on page 14.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Adult literacy programme gets under way

The first three clients for Helensville's new adult literacy programme are now in training, and three other locals have been offered places but not yet taking them up.

Dr Tony Morrison, an adult educator who is the programme's literacy supervisor, says: "[It's] not the heavy response I expected ... but hopefully it will grow."

The free programme, being run under the auspices of the South Kaipara Men's Trust, is designed to help adults in the Helensville and wider South Kaipara region who want help with reading, writing and speaking English.

Organisers have been looking for clients for about three months, following the completion of training of six volunteer tutors.

"We produced fliers and posters which were spread around the local shops and businesses that resulted in several inquiries," says Tony.

"Half a dozen people have enquired, either for themselves or for others, and we now have three clients in training with at least three others who were offered a place but have not yet accepted."

The programme got off to a disrupted start, with the Men's Trust having to move out of Alison McKenzie House in Commercial Road and into Te Whare Oranga o Parakai because of structural issues at the former location.

Tony says Te Whare Orange proved a little difficult for those without transport to get to, but "luckily we have found a very useful space adjoining the Art Centre, so now we are settling into a working format."

Each prospective learner is given an initial assessment to gauge their level and to allow the tutor to develop an individual programme. The tutoring sessions are typically about 60 to 90 minutes a week, and each tutor is expected to report back each week to their fellow tutors and supervisor on progress, any difficulties encountered, and any ideas they may have.

"These weekly meetings of the tutors are very helpful and informative for all," says Tony. "The tutors are typically retired teachers or business people and are well qualified to help. Needless to say, meetings are private with details of learners kept confidential."

Tony says he is keen to see the literacy programme reach more locals who want to improve their written and spoken English, as well as numeracy.

Anyone interested, or anyone who knows of someone who might benefit from the programme, should contact either Frank Veacock at the SKMT, phone 027 228 8603, email: info@skmt.org.nz; or Dr Tony Morrison phone 420 9971, mobile 027 448 6436, or email: kiwimorrison@gmail.com.



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# Bowls no longer just fair weather

Helensville Bowling Club has just opened a new, \$172,000 all-weather synthetic bowling green.

The 'carpet' green was opened at an official ceremony on Saturday, July 23, which club secretary Rod Treadaway expected to be attended by up to 50 people, including representatives of the Warkworth and Waimauku clubs and Bowls North Harbour Centre.

The new green means club members can now play year round - the club's turf greens are closed from mid-May through to early September.

It also means interclub tournaments can be held all year, and in fact the first of

those was held on July 10, prior to the green's official opening. Tournaments can attract up to 64 visiting players, and provide a valuable boost for the club's coffers. Four more tournaments will be held this winter.



• Rod Treadaway with the new green

Rod says the club raised \$63,000 towards the green's construction through grants from Foundation North, NZCT, the Pelorus Trust, the Blue Sky Trust, the New Zealand Racing Board and Taporu Sands Mine & Sales. The balance of the project was financed through club investments.

The artificial surface is guaranteed for 10 years, but Rod says with careful maintenance it could last half again as long.

Construction of the green was a technical challenge, with several different layers of metal and drainage laid down and sealed with a special spray process, followed by an underfelt and then the carpet top layer.

The idea of a synthetic green was first investigated in 2003. It was shelved at the time, but became actively pursued again in 2014 with the establishment of a dedicated sub-committee.

The club, which currently has 49 playing, six associate, and 12 social members, is looking at reintroducing business house bowls, and Rod says they also hope to establish collegiate bowls in conjunction with Kaipara College.

'Have a go' days will also be held over the next couple of months, so any locals who want to try the sport can try before joining.

## Mustangs to visit

Around 150 classic Ford Mustang cars will go on display at the Helensville Showgrounds on Labour Weekend Sunday, October 23.

The cars, covering Mustangs from 1964 up to the latest 2016 models, will travel in convoy from the Spencer on Byron in Takapuna, arriving in Helensville around 11.45am for a V8-rumbling parade down Commercial Road.

They will then go on display at the showgrounds until 2pm.

The visit is being organised by the Auckland Mustang Owners Club, which is hosting the 37th annual Mustang Owners Convention at the ANZ Events Centre at the Viaduct Basin in Auckland over Labour Weekend.

There won't be an admission fee for the Helensville display, though donation buckets may be circulated for the convention's charity of choice, the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust.

The visit is being held in conjunction with the annual Arts in the Ville weekend.

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# Shunting engine moves to rail museum

An eight-tonne shunting engine has been moved onto the site of the Helensville Railway Museum.

The 77-year-old Locomotive TR33, looking a little like something out of Thomas

the Tank Engine, was lifted from its temporary storage at the former Helensville Engineers site by a huge hi-ab truck to its new location opposite the museum's main entrance at 2 Railway Street.

Helensville Railway Station Trust chairman Alan Hargreaves says the dilapidated shunter will be fenced off and roofed over, and he hopes a basic restoration on it will begin this coming summer.

The engine saw service with New Zealand Railways from 1939 until 1986, when it was moved into storage at Papatoetoe before arriving in Helensville in 2012.

The shunter's arrival is just one of a number of recent developments for the trust, which also recently completed a \$60,000 overhaul, mostly carried out by local tradespeople, of the Helensville railway station toilets and kitchen, funded largely through grants from Foundation North and the Paeroa Trust.

Renovation work on the large Ross Hughes model of the Helensville station as it was in the 1940s is well underway, and the model has been extended with a full loop track, which now includes a painstaking recreation of Kaukapakapa station, courtesy of trust member Kenneth Carlyon. A large

backdrop depicting the hills behind Helensville has been painted by the women artists from Art on Track, which until recently operated out of the local station.

Alan says the trust has numerous plans for the future, but a lack of members and volunteers is a problem.

"We are desperately short of members and volunteers. It's hindering our expansion - I want to expand the museum," he says.

Alan would like to see the museum doubled in size, to enable it to house all the collectables which are currently in storage in various places around the area. Some offers of larger memorabilia have had to be turned down because of a lack of space.

Other forward-looking plans include a mini theatre, revamping some of

the existing museum displays, and creating a display for the model trams the museum owns.

The shortage of personnel means the museum is now only open at the weekend, with weekdays by appointment for groups.

Anyone interested in becoming a trust member or a museum volunteer should phone Alan on 420 2063 or email: [info@helensvillerrail.org.nz](mailto:info@helensvillerrail.org.nz).



• Alan Hargreaves with the shunting engine

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## Election candidates' meetings

Candidates for the Kumeu subdivision of Rodney Local Board, and those standing for Rodney Ward councillor in the upcoming Auckland Council elections, will attend a public candidates' meeting at 7pm on Monday, August 29 at the Father Sakey Centre, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kowhai St, Helensville. The meeting is being organised by Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Association.

A second candidates' meeting, including mayoral candidates, will be held at 7pm on Monday, September 5, at the Kumeu Baptist Church. This meeting is being organised in conjunction with Kumeu/Huapai Residents & Ratepayers Association.

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# Local inducted to Order of St John

Helensville's John Issott was inducted as a Member of the Order of St John at a ceremony attended by 600 people in St Patrick's Cathedral in early July.

He was one of 44 people joining the order, with another 14 being promoted within the order.

The Order of St John was founded in Victorian England and recognises service to St John. It is an order of chivalry, with the Queen at its head; the Governor General is the head of the order in New Zealand.

John, the current St John Helensville Area Committee treasurer, has been a volunteer St John committee member since arriving in New Zealand from the United Kingdom 10 years ago. In that time he has worked hard to keep the committee going, along with supporting fundraising and the Helensville St John Op Shop in Commercial Road.

Nominations for the Order of St John are anonymous, and can come from anyone within St John - similar to how the NZ Order

of Merit works. They are first approved by the Priory Chapter (the supreme governance body of the Order and St John in New Zealand) and then the nominations are sent to the Queen for her final approval.

The investitures were performed by Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae, and the ceremony featured a fanfare by RNZAF trumpeters, followed by a procession of senior members of the Order.

The investiture ceremony was followed by lunch at the Heritage Hotel, and a charity dinner was held in the evening for around 300 people, including Sir Jerry and Lady Janine Mateparae, at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Club which raised more than \$8000 for the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

John is not the first person locally

to join the Order. Nancy Head was inducted in recognition of her work in setting up the Op Shop, Patsy Carlisle was made an Officer of the Order for her many years of service to St John, and current Helensville station manager David Baillie is also a member.



• John Issott with Governor-General Sir Jerry Mateparae - Photo: Phototek.nz

# Historians to gather in Helensville

Historians from around Auckland will gather in Helensville on Saturday, August 27 for their annual meeting, this year hosted by the Helensville & District Historical Society. The event is promoted by the New Zealand History Federation.

Helensville's Leigh Bosch will speak on the recognition and presentation of pre-European history at the Father Sakey Centre at St Joseph's Catholic Church in the morning, followed by lunch at Helensville Museum and a look around the buildings and displays.

Neil Curgenvan of the History

Federation, and Gordon Duncan of Discover NZ Tourism, will lead a session describing the setting up of digital stories in museum displays, which can be accessed by smart phones or as recorded presentations. Helensville and Silverdale museums have been selected to trial this new system.

The public is welcome to attend. The cost for the day is \$20, which includes morning and afternoon tea and a hot lunch.

Register with Lynn Millar at the museum, phone 420 7881 or by email: [helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz) by Wednesday, August 24.



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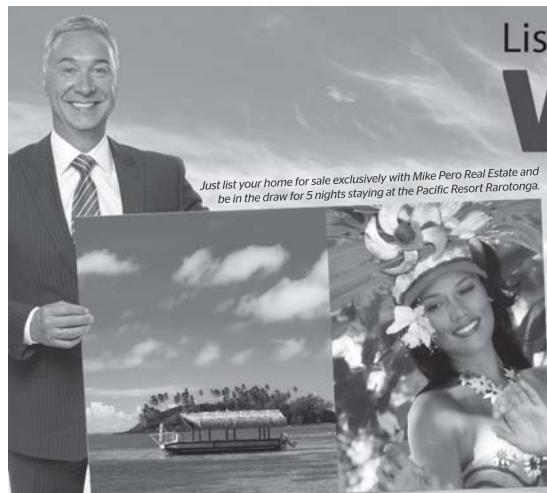


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# New manager for Health Trust

New Helensville District Health Trust manager Sue Miller believes her new job will be more than just the "day-to-day nuts and bolts" of managing the trust.

"I'm hoping to be able to bring to the role some networks and skills and expertise to further opportunities that will enhance the [trust's] vision, and look also at some ways of ensuring services are sustainable in the long-term.

"It's really challenging for small community services. We need to look at how we can make them sustainable or support them to be sustainable."

Sue took over the trust's management role on July 18. She is only the second person to hold the position, as her predecessor, Charm Torrance, had been there since the trust's formation in 1989.

She comes to the role with a background similar in many ways to Charm's.

Originally from Titirangi, Sue is a professionally registered nurse, trained at Whangarei Hospital, who specialised in child and family health. She worked in paediatrics in New Zealand and at the Great Ormond St Children's Hospital in London, and as a nanny for a wealthy family in Miami, Florida.

Back in New Zealand she felt she had gone as far as she could in the clinical career pathway, so decided to move into health management, completing an MBA degree at Auckland University.

She has since worked in a variety of roles, predominantly managing community health services at Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau district health boards. Most recently she was operations manager of radiology and surgical pathology at Waitemata District Health Board, responsible for 300 staff - considerably more than the dozen or so here in Helensville.

During her career Sue has been involved

with several major health initiatives, including working for two years with the Ministry of Health developing, designing and planning the Meningococcal B vaccine programme, and took a lead role in the roll-out of the programme across the Auckland region.



• Sue Miller

"It would be one of the largest and most successful projects in health."

She also had a major role with the district health board in planning and funding.

"It was a different experience but a good one. It gives you the other side of the fence, to understand the full picture of the system. That was really helpful."

Her portfolio for that role was child, youth, maternity and oral health.

Sue also held a national role while at Counties Manukau DHB, leading the development of services in response to the rheumatic fever problem, which in turn led to the establishment of Mana Kidz, a free nurse-led, school-based programme that provides comprehensive healthcare for children in the Counties Manukau District Health Board region.

Sue and her husband Trevor lived in the Huapai-Waimauku area for 15 years and have friends around the area, so she is familiar with the Helensville District.

They now live at Millwater, which Sue

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# Waitoki Heritage Day

A small but positive audience attended the Waitoki Heritage Day held on Saturday, July 2, which was themed around the development of the town as a business and community centre.

Many memories were shared, and the organisers, the Helensville Historical Society and the Waitoki School, considered it a successful event.

When Waitoki School was established in 1924, it became the main focus of district activities, from sport and social occasions to meetings and church services.

Len Stevens described the changes in Waitoki from the 1940s to the present. The first major development was the opening of the hall in 1944, creating a new district centre. It was, and still is, used for social, recreational, business and community events. A big draw-card in the early days was weekly movies.

A hall syndicate was set up by the Stevens family and later passed on to the Waitoki Hall Society.

The same pattern occurred with the opening of the general store, the block of shops and the garage – the building and establishment was sponsored by the

Stevens families, who then passed over the control or sold the businesses.

Work opportunities came from the lime and metal quarries, and in Quarry Road an orchard provided fruit for Oak brand products. More recent businesses include McGlashan's sawmill and Craigie's strawberry farm.

Julie Preston outlined the setting up and expansion of her father's lime delivery and spreading business, an important Waitoki concern from 1956 to 1986. It grew from one to seven trucks, and the business was sold to Stewart and Tennant of Riverhead and P G Smith of Helensville.

87-year-old Archie Drinnan recalled his schooldays in the 1940s, listing his teachers and fellow pupils and where they lived.

Musical entertainment followed a shared lunch, firstly a singalong of old favourites by Audrey Hendon and Roy Steen, then Waitoki School pupils under the leadership of music teacher Kathy Clark provided an ambitious and entertaining programme ranging from classical pieces to arrangements of well-known children's songs.

Some of the items had been arranged or written by the pupils themselves.

## medical centre notes

Red eye, or weepy discharging eye, is a common sight (pun intended) at medical centres.

Conjunctivitis is the most common cause, especially in children. Viral conjunctivitis is where there is a gritty-feeling red eye, with weepy tears, and can be gunky or stuck together on waking. This is normally self limiting but contagious, and best managed with cold compresses and lubricant eye drops.

Bacterial conjunctivitis however, is where the eye is gunky with pus throughout the day, even when the patient is awake, and will need antibiotic drops.

Allergic conjunctivitis normally affects both eyes, making them red, watery and itchy, and respond well to cold compresses and antihistamines.

Red, gritty, dry and crusty eyelids are more likely blepharitis, which responds to warm compresses and good lid hygiene, or sometimes antibiotics

However, if the red eye is also painful, such as a deep burning or boring pain, or painful to move the eye, or the vision is altered, or the pupil is a different size to the other eye, or the patient has an associated high fever, then there may be a more serious eye condition that needs to be assessed urgently.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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*Our Vision: To make the South Kaipara District  
the healthiest rural community in New Zealand*

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**4 FOUR SQUARE**

# PARAKAI Wine Month

**Tasting Friday 5th August  
Parakai Four Square  
3:00–6:00pm**

## Fracheur Du Sud

This Syrah Rose is a fresh, fruity wine offering raspberry aromas complemented by a hint of strawberries. The perfect wine to enjoy with friends as an Aperitif during the long summer nights, or in accompaniment to Mediterranean salads, ratatouilles and sushis.

Languedoc-Roussillon is a region of France, an area which spans the Mediterranean coastline from the French border with Spain to the region of Provence. The area has around 700,000 acres (2,800 km<sup>2</sup>) under vines and is the single biggest wine-producing region in the world, being responsible for more than a third of France's total wine production!



**OPEN 7 DAYS 6:30am – 8:00pm**  
137 Parkhurst Road, Parakai  
T: 09 420 8186

# Water, water everywhere

The Helensville Art Centre, food bank and budgeting offices beneath the War Memorial hall were flooded twice in the space of a single week last month.

The first flood was caused by a burst pipe following work by a contractor on another issue.

Art Centre manager Sally Lush says they had just got the premises back in order when the next flood hit, caused by a combination of torrential rain and a high tide on the Kaipara River causing storm water drains to back up.

“Council knows about this ongoing issue and they deal with most of the clean up,” says Sally.

Luckily no artwork was damaged in either flood, although an art installation by Helensville’s John Perry titled ‘Y Wai Why’ took on extra meaning being surrounded by a pool of silt laden water. Y Wai Why consists of 35 sediment-laden ‘fresh’ water samples taken from Awaroa River in June, which aim to raise awareness about the state of local waterways.

# Woodhill School lands \$2000 science grant

Woodhill Primary School has been awarded a \$2000 grant to help continue its Enviro School programme.

The school will use the Bayer Science Fund grant to help purchase a microscope camera, a hand held microscope, magnifying glasses, soil testing kits, insect boxes and a greenhouse. Woodhill School began its Enviro School programme last year, and is continuing this year by rescuing battery hens, beginning work on a worm farm and composting system, and planning insect hotels.

The grant will enable the school to address irrigation and soil quality problems with their new community gardens. A greenhouse will also increase opportunities to raise seedlings for their gardens and for sale.

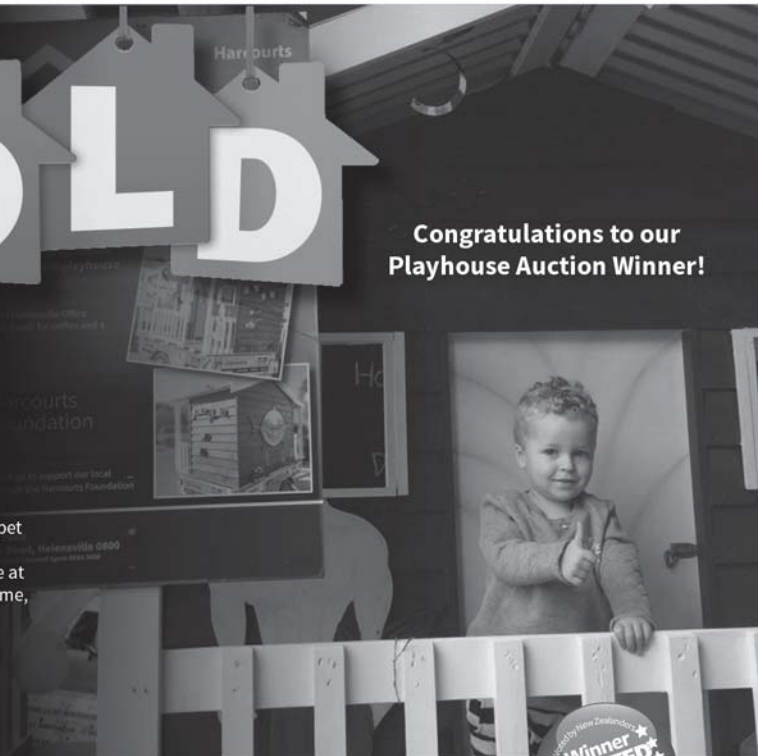
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  - Jake Morgan (photographer)
  - Sarah Legg - Riverside Crafts
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  - Trade Me
- and of course our wonderful team here at Harcourts Helensville donating their time, goods and tons of effort.



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# New insurance brokerage

Big company features with small company service is what new local insurance brokers Rodney District Insurance (RDi) aims to provide.

The company was set up in June by Mark Kreling, of Shelly Beach, and he has already signed up his first clients.

Mark was an insurance broker in England from 1995 to 2005, when he moved with his former wife from London to Auckland. He worked for a variety of insurance companies here, as a broker, branch manager and finally a national manager for an Australian-based company which closed its local business recently.

That prompted Mark, who has lived at Shelly Beach for around eight years, to go into business for himself after realising there was

no longer a local insurance provider in our area.

Mark says RDi can help locals with a range of commercial and private vehicle insurance, home and contents cover, marine insurance, and more specialised offerings such as professional indemnity, trade credit, business



• Mark Kreling

interruption, material damage, ransomware coverage, and public liability insurance.

Initially he will concentrate on local tradespeople, who he believes "get a bad run" from many insurance companies. He cites examples where tradespeople use personal insurance to cover their equipment, only to find when they have a loss that it isn't covered.

Mark says a lot of trade and business insurance is quite specialised, and needs an expert to organise proper cover. Being a broker, he can access products from a wide range of different insurance companies.

"So much stuff now is coverable and people don't know about it," says Mark, who points out the big insurance companies often aren't interested.

In his spare time, Mark is keen on both travelling and wine, passions he tries to combine.

As with many of his fellow countrymen he is a very keen football fan, admitting to getting up in the middle of the night to watch English football matches. He is also a major cricket fan and Black Caps supporter, and has watched them live at venues around the country.

He is also a rail enthusiast, having done many of the major rail journeys in New Zealand, citing the TransAlpine as a favourite.

Mark can be contacted on phone 420 2798, mobile 022 363 2377, or email [m.kreling@rde.nz](mailto:m.kreling@rde.nz).

A website, which will allow locals to manage many of their insurance needs online, will be live soon at [www.rdi.nz](http://www.rdi.nz).

## Health Trust manager cont...

• From page 6

says is an easy commute to Helensville.

She met Trevor, a pipe fitter and welder originally from Liverpool in England, at a party at Herald Island. Their eldest son is a captain in the New Zealand Army, and the youngest is currently travelling, having just finished tertiary education.

They are a close family, and have travelled together a lot, having gone to the United Kingdom several times so the children could also be part of that side of their family.

One of the things that attracted Sue to her new role is the integrity she sees in the Helensville District Health Trust.

"I think they have been very smart with their mergers and acquisitions. They are true to their vision and their community, and when opportunities arise they consider them carefully to make sure they align with their vision and strategy and support the community.

"That would be my first impression, and I think that's refreshing and a nice philosophy to work with."

**4 FOUR SQUARE**

## PARAKAI Wine Month

**Tasting Friday 12th August  
Parakai Four Square  
4:00-7:00pm**

### Sileni Syrah

Rich flavors of plum and blackberry, with a hint of peppery spice. A plate of sweet, spiced fruit and ripe tannins are supported by juicy acidity, for a lengthy finish. Enjoy with a barbecued steak, grilled venison or an aged cheddar.

**\$14.99<sup>ea</sup>**

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**4 FOUR SQUARE**

# PARAKAI Wine Month

**Tasting Friday 19 & 26th August  
Parakai Four Square  
4:00-7:00pm**

**Natural Wine Co.  
Organic Pinot Gris 2015**

Bright, light golden-yellow colour, lighter edged. This has a soft, full nose with delicate aromas of ripe yellow stonefruits and pears with subtle nuances of honeysuckle and musk. With aeration apricot kernel, lifted yellow florals and hints of flint and minerals emerge. Off-dry to taste and medium-bodied, this has a light and gently concentrated core of sweetly ripe yellow stonefruits, yellow florals and honeysuckle. The fruit is balanced by fine, dry phenolic textures and fresh acidity. The palate has good presence and liveliness, and carries to a moderately long, dry finish. This is a gently rich, off-dry Pinot Gris with yellow stonefruit and honeysuckle flavours and a light, dry, textured palate. Match with most white meat dishes and Asian fare over the next 2-3 years.. Certified Asurequality Organic.



Yvonne Lorkin and 4 stars  
Sam Kim, 4 out of 5  
★★★★★



**OPEN 7 DAYS 6:30am - 8:00pm  
137 Parkhurst Road, Parakai  
T: 09 420 8186**

## Students give project cash



• From left: Kaipara College principal Patrick Gale, community social worker Tracey Roberts, HWFC family support worker Cherie George, HWFC groups co-ordinator Jeanette Cummings (partially obscured), student Antonia Smith, HWFC manager Christine Salmon, students Katelyn Reilly, Cassy Jones, Kate Fisher (at rear) and Georgia Gibbons, Eleanor Webber from Burmester Realty, and teacher Deborah Kapa

A group of five Kaipara College students have donated \$250 to the Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC) - money raised through a school business management project.

The Year 11 girls were tasked with developing an idea and a business plan, and creating a product.

Rather than make a physical product, they decided instead to create a video advertisement to promote a local business, which at the same time would show off the attractions of the local Helensville environment and community.

Jane Burmester of Burmester Realty in Commercial Road agreed to purchase the advertisement, and provided input for the business plan.

The project took the girls six to eight weeks in total, although the filming - which they describe as done through trial and error - was completed in a single day, starting at 5am. They even wrote an original score for the advertisement, which was tweaked with help from college deputy principal and head of music Nick Roberts.

The finished video, which will go on the college website and Burmester Realty's Facebook page, focuses on country life and how friendly country people are.

Student Georgia Gibbons says support from the community was a huge help in completing the project - and that was one of the reasons the group decided to put their profits back into the community.

While the students were entitled to keep the profits from their business projects, the girls - whose project had the highest profit of any in their class - decided the HWFC should benefit as they all knew people who have been helped by the local organisation.

Helensville Women & Family Centre manager Christine Salmon says the donation is "wonderful" and indicative of the "broad thinking of the college and community".

"I think the girls are great ambassadors for Kaipara College and our community," she says.

## Building rumour quashed

Rumours that Alison McKenzie House in Commercial Road has been condemned are just that - rumours.

Outgoing Helensville District Health Trust manager Charm Torrance says there is no truth in the rumour that the heritage-listed building has been condemned.

In the June issue of *Helensville News* we reported the building's occupants - the Health Trust, the Helensville Women & Family Centre, the South Kaipara Men's Trust, and Parent Aid - had to move out as unsafe foundations made the building unfit for occupation.

The Trust is now in talks with Auckland Council regarding repairs. There is still a chance the distinctive art deco style building, on the corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent, could be demolished to make way for a new building if it is deemed repairs will be too expensive.



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# KKK Pony Club

Kaukapakapa Pony Club at Sinclair Park will be busy over winter renovating its club rooms and yards before the season opens in September.

The project, needed because of growing club membership, was made possible by a grant from the Helensville Lions Club. Work will include covering the deck area to give more shelter, especially for riders doing theory, re-metaling the entrance and the area by the rooms, and extending storage. The yards will get new rails and be added to to cater for extra horses.

An influx of lifestylers into the area has seen club membership grow steadily, from 24 riders in the 2014 season, to 33 last year and an expected 35-40 this coming season.

"We have a good retention rate of members, especially the more senior ones who often leave riding," says committee member Michelle Caldicott. "They stay because the coaching is very good and are encouraged to assist with the running of activities and coaching."

The club is again offering a 'Riders without Horses' course this season, which gives an introduction to horse care and riding, with some participants taking up riding as a result.

The season will start with enrolment on Thursday, September 15, from 5pm to 7pm, followed by unmounted rallies on theory needed for certificates. Riding rallies will start in October.

## Election special

Next month *Helensville News* will publish an election special for the upcoming Auckland Council elections. Candidates for both the Rodney Ward councillor position and those standing in the Kumeu Subdivision of the Rodney Local Board who wish to participate will have 200 words of editorial to get their message across to voters.

Candidates wishing to be included and not already contacted should email us at: [dave@helensvillenews.co.nz](mailto:dave@helensvillenews.co.nz).



# Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

**Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.**

**You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.**

**53 – 65 Commercial Road, Helensville**

**Ph: (09) 420 8747**

**Email: [awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz](mailto:awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz)**

**[www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)**



Helensville  
District Health Trust

Putting local health first • Te hau ora tua-tahi o awaroa

# Healthy Helensville

Our vision: To be the healthiest rural community in New Zealand

## Alison McKenzie House future still unclear

Most Helensville locals will have spotted the signage and orange plastic fencing around the pale pink and blue art deco building in the centre of town, Alison McKenzie House. But the building's owner, the Helensville District Health Trust, wants to put rumours to bed that the building is condemned. Outgoing General Manager, Charm Torrance says, "It is simply not the case. We are still working closely with council towards how best to repair and redevelop the site, but it will be some time before a decision is made about the building's future."

In May the Trust was told by engineers the building's foundations were unsafe and its occupants had to be speedily evacuated.

Charm Torrance would like to thank the staff, many volunteers and clients of the organisations affected by the closure of Alison McKenzie House, particularly the South Kaipara Men's Clinic and the Women and Family Centre which are now based at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, for their patience and willingness to adapt to the unexpected change.

## New course for expectant parents

Parents-to-be are invited to attend a new antenatal course being run by the Helensville Birthing Centre. It will look at everything from how to keep healthy during your pregnancy, to pain relief options in labour and what happens when baby is here, including breastfeeding.

Local midwife Rene Buisson will be taking the course, which will run for three consecutive Saturday mornings at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai.



Rene Buisson

She recommends it for women who are around 24–28 weeks pregnant, and encourages them to bring a support person or whanau member with them.

The course is free and available for residents living north west of Riverhead. For more information email [anc@helensvillehealth.co.nz](mailto:anc@helensvillehealth.co.nz).

# VOTE PENNY

FOR AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL



Continue delivering results for Rodney

Ask Penny anything at [PENNYWEBSTER.CO.NZ](http://PENNYWEBSTER.CO.NZ)

Authorised by H. Coleman-Ross, 87 Owens Rd, Epsom

## JP service desk starting

Accessing a Justice of the Peace or the Citizens Advice Bureau is about to get easier.

Local JPs and the CAB are joining forces to bring a Saturday 'service desk' to Helensville, starting 10am to midday on Saturday, September 3 and every subsequent Saturday, except over the Christmas break. It will be a free, no-appointment needed service.

The service desk will be at the CAB building at 27 Commercial Road, which has only opened from 10am to 3pm on weekdays until now. A JP service is provided on those days through three in-house Justices of the Peace, with another three who can be called on.

Grev Walker, who represents the local JP support group affiliated to the Auckland Justices of the Peace Association, says there are now around 60 JP service desks around Auckland.

"In years past, if you needed a JP you would call them at home and arrange a time to go visit them. But because of privacy and security concerns, for both JPs and clients, we've seen a move away from this towards service desks," he says.

Local JPs have decided that with so many people working full-time, a weekday-only service can be inconvenient. So they'll be volunteering their time on Saturday mornings for those who need it.

For more information phone Helensville CAB on 420 7162 or Grev Walker on 420 7173.

## Call for Lodge members

The Duke of Albany Masonic Lodge is keen to welcome new members.

Freemasonry is a historic fraternity 'for all good men', and the Lodge has met monthly in Helensville since 1884. Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Prospective members should phone either Chas Holst 420 8008, David Bott 420 7544 or Grev Walker 420 7173.

## from the frontline

Police have recently had many reports of people receiving calls alleging to be from IRD. Many of these callers have foreign accents and request you pass over personal details - they say you are being investigated for outstanding tax, and threaten that if the arrears are not promptly paid a warrant for your arrest will be issued.



This is instilling fear into some people, and unfortunately some are following the instructions of these fraudsters.

A recent scam is where callers tell people to purchase sometimes thousands of dollars' worth of iTunes cards and then to wait for a call, where they are then expected to scratch off the label on the card and relay the numbers on the back to the caller. They are told not to tell anyone, or if questioned by the store as to the large number of iTunes cards being purchased to respond by saying they are for a raffle.

Please don't trust anyone that calls and requests any of your personal information over the phone.

If this does happen to you, request and document their full name and the company they are representing. Never, ever communicate any of your personal information until you know for sure the call is a legitimate one. I personally would hang up and call the published 0800 contact number and arrange a meeting at the nearest branch. A legitimate caller will be able to offer you a location where you can speak to someone in person, such as at a local bank or IRD office.

Know too that most companies or organisations don't have the power to issue a warrant to arrest for money owed. Most engage a debt collector. They definitely won't ask for vouchers in lieu of payment of an outstanding debt, and they won't threaten and intimidate you over the phone.

We are all vulnerable to scams, and there is no particular profile of the type of person a scammer will target; they tend to randomly call hundreds of phone numbers. So please discuss this with anyone you think may be vulnerable, and if you have any doubts as to the nature of a call you receive - hang up.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



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- Judy Lawry, patient

### Contact details

**Kaipara Medical Centre**  
53-65 Commercial Road  
Helensville 0800  
Phone: 09 420 8400





# Parakai lecture popular

The history of Parakai from past to present was a popular topic for the third and final 2016 Historical Society Winter Lecture, presented by Dianne McLeod on Sunday, July 17 to an audience of 40.

Dianne illustrated her talk with photographs from her extensive collection, prompting memories for many in the audience. The talk covered the development of the hot pools as health and recreational services, the growth and decline of the four boarding houses and several motels in the area, the domain

gardens, park, pools and sporting facilities, and the Parakai tavern, which has now been reincarnated as the Te Whare Oranga o Parakai community facility.

Ian Brackebush of Warkworth, son of 'Brackie' the physiotherapist and masseur at the domain from the 1920s to 1950s, told stories of his father's business, and presented the museum with his brass business plaque.

An extensive Parakai photo display was set up from Dianne's and the museum's collections.

## town talk

• From page 16

### TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Helensville Museum holds its annual Trivial Pursuits evening on Friday, August 12 from 7pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Raffles, light supper provided. Tickets \$10 per person. Register as teams or individuals with Lynn Millar, phone 420 7881 or email: [helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz).

### BOARD GAMES

Helensville Community Church will hold free board games at the church building behind the Hospice Shop in Mill Road on Saturday, August 13. Starting 6am with a shared plate meal and the games start 7am. For more information phone Pastor James van Alstine on 021 113 5927.

### HARVEST MARKET

The next South Kaipara Harvest Market will run rain or shine from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, August 28 at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai and will feature goods ranging from freshly baked artisan bread and fine barista coffee to homemade chutneys and sauces. Three sessions of the Kids' Kitchen cooking course will be held in conjunction with the

### community titbits from town and around

market, at 9am, 10am and 11:30am. Children will learn from chef Keryn how to cook kumara waffles. Early booking is essential for these popular classes - email Keryn at [kitchen@thrivekaipara.org.nz](mailto:kitchen@thrivekaipara.org.nz). For ages 3+, cost \$5 each.

### KAUKAPAKAPA LIBRARY

USA Today bestselling author Steff Green will be at Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, August 21 from 10am to 1pm.

Under the name Steffanie Holmes she has published eight steamy historical and paranormal romances, including the 'Witches of the Woods' series.

Before becoming a writer, Steff worked as an archaeologist, museum curator and braille transcriber, and draws on her love of history. Her work is self-published, giving her complete freedom to control prices, cover art, and branding.

She will be available to chat about her writing, self-publishing and all things dark and gothic.

For more information contact Megan Paterson, phone 021 959 017 or email: [threehorses@xtra.co.nz](mailto:threehorses@xtra.co.nz).

## making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that's really made a difference for you or your family? To nominate someone you think deserving, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 37 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: <http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz>. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

Our August recipient is Bob Jackson, who chose Mitre 10 for his voucher. Here is his nomination from Bernadette Collins:

We live in one of four units in Gerald Stokes Avenue, and jointly we would like to nominate our neighbour Bob Jackson. Bob, although a pensioner himself, does all sorts of work for the other three units - such as cleaning out gutters, helping to repair a fence, carrying out rubbish and generally being our jack-of-all-trades.

Last Sunday, while we were at church, Bob climbed up and cleaned out the guttering and the spouting of two units - and never said a word; if Rex had not told us, we would never have known.

Such are the ways of Bob, and I am sure his good deeds do not stop at these four units either; he will do a good turn for anyone, anytime, and he surely deserves recognition for it.



• Bob Jackson

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# A Tribute to Don Armstrong

## a great man & long-time trusted employee of Oikoumene Forest

Like myself Don was born and bred in Helensville and saw many changes over the years.

Don started out working for Dad (Ernie Smith) at weekends and after school, pruning and planting. He built up plenty of muscle cutting and stacking farm fence posts when he joined Ernie's bush crew from 1976 to 1982. He then went on to produce battens, mostly for Oikoumene's post yard. Eventually he found his passion (from 1992) looking after Oikoumene's customers, finding fixes and giving advice in his very friendly manner.

I can't remember Don ever having a cross word, and he always saw the positive in everyone. One famous line that drove the staff crazy was "he means well", which would always start a furore of discussion but would always end with that same line.

Nothing was too much trouble for Don, who would happily shovel landscaping products into bags for customers if they didn't have a towbar; scour through the metal bin if someone wanted offcuts; ferret around in the workshop for loose screws if a customer was only after a few. He would even put air in people's car tyres if he saw they were getting low. Above and beyond - that was Don.

It is said that men can't multi-task but Don gave it a good go. Quite often you would find him trying to help three people at the same time - perhaps talking to a customer at the counter, helping another on the phone, and to a staff member in the office, all the while apologising profusely to each one while he tried to help each person out. Don never liked to see a customer unattended, and would quickly race to their aid.

One of Don's most endearing traits was his ability to have a yarn. He loved to talk and loved to tell tales. He had a lifetime of tales and they were always interesting, laced with plenty of humour. Some I'm sure were pretty tall tales, but he made customers, staff and even our sales reps laugh. Even if you were in a hurry he would not be deterred - he would finish yelling out the rest of the story as you were trying to get out the door.



The truck drivers loved Don. For some reason a lot of our deliveries turn up right when the boys are having smoko. Don was always the first to race down the stairs (even with his crook knees) to get them unloaded and on their way, though not before offering the use of our facilities or a top-up of their coffee flasks. All the drivers appreciated his kindness.

Don loved to make people happy and that was never truer than at Xmas parade float time. Ideas normally started flowing in October and plans formulated for whatever theme was decided on, then Don, Beaver and Noel would spend many hours knocking the float together. Don would ring around his contacts for things they thought might go well on the float. On parade morning the girls would dress the truck up in Xmas decorations while Don made sure his smoker was working or that the stuffed animals hadn't escaped from the Xmas tree. He loved dressing up in character for our themed floats and got a real kick out of the happy faces waving at him.

Don was not one for waste, whether it was food, timber, metal scraps, feed bags, onion bags, bailing twine - anything really. He would always find a use for throw-aways or squirrel them away for future use.

He definitely didn't like to waste food. His famous pig bucket was always a great source of nourishment (mostly to Don), amusement and discussion amongst everyone that sat down with us at smoko time. Don would always offer our fencing contractors first offerings from the pig bucket if they came in before smoko ... needless to say some would politely decline. We always wondered at the size of Don's pig since it had to compete for its tucker with Don!

I remember one year he decided to cook a couple of chickens in the compost heap that we eventually called 'Don's Brew'. Apparently they were the best-cooked, most tender chickens he had ever had. How he even managed to get deep enough in to bury them is beyond me and then dig them out again!

Don was a softie when it came to animals in need. Over the years he bought wounded or motherless lambs, chickens, roosters and even a pig to work because he was worried they wouldn't survive without constant attention. With some, Don managed to convince a caring customer or two to take them off his hands.

Dogs were a big part of Don's life, first Footy and then later Toby. Both dogs went where Don went and so played a major part in all our lives at Oikoumene. Footy was a womaniser who could smell a bitch in heat for miles. Don never worried too much about him; he always managed to find his way home. Toby's favourite pastime at the yard was to chase vehicles out of the yard, then up and down the fence line, barking madly, though in his last few years he preferred to be our 'welcome doormat'.

Sadly we farewelled Toby earlier this year, and we still have customers coming in looking for him. I imagine it will be the same with Don for years to come. We quite often have customers who had moved out of the area years ago but call in on the off chance that Don might still be around. I don't look forward to being the one who has to tell them that he is no longer with us.

Another favourite line of Don's was "you're a gentleman and a scholar" regardless if you were female or male, and this would be said if you had done something that particularly touched Don.

Don, you were all that and more, a true gentleman, a scholar in our eyes with your wealth of knowledge, kind hearted, caring, considerate, hardworking, reliable, generous, helpful, thoughtful, funny and selfless to a fault. A rare and truly wonderful human being.

Don touched everybody that walked through our doors and will be sorely missed by everyone at Oikoumene (past and current staff and their families), all our customers, sales reps, subcontractors and delivery truck and courier drivers.

*Chris & Sheryl Smith*

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## Muffin tins - not just for muffins

We now have a proper kitchen in our office and a comfortable place to relax and enjoy a lunch together. I like that we are taking turns too! I was delighted when my colleague produced these great individual brunch bacon and egg pies. These were without pastry and were gobbled up with mixed salad and chutney.

### ■ Bacon and Egg Brunch

- Large muffin tins (also called Texas muffin tins)
- Baking paper
- Cold boiled potato
- 6 x rashers of streaky bacon
- 6 large eggs
- Cherry tomatoes
- Salt and pepper
- Basil pesto
- Sprigs of flat leaf parsley to garnish

Trim the bacon so that each rasher wraps around the inside of the muffin tin and the ends meet. Set aside. Cut the baking paper into squares, and push them into the tins, the corners should protrude above the tin. Lay in a piece of bacon around the inside of each muffin tin and tuck the paper into the bottom. Cut thin slices of potato and gently push it into the tins. Crack an egg into each tin. Cut the tomatoes in half and spread pesto on each half, arrange 3-4 of these around the egg. Bake at 180° until the yolk is just cooked through.

I realised that over the years I have used the humble muffin tin to make a range of foods that in no way were muffins.

### ■ Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs

- Smoked salmon slices
- 8 eggs
- 1/2 cup of cream
- Teaspoon of butter
- 2 x spring onions finely chopped
- Fresh black pepper and sea salt
- A good firm parmesan such as NZ Talbot Forest
- Fresh chopped dill or chives
- Sour cream
- Lemon

Line the tins with baking paper as above. Lay in a piece of salmon so that it runs down the inside across the bottom and up the other side. Now lay another slice across to form a cross.

In a bowl lightly whisk together the eggs and cream, season with a little salt and pepper. Heat a pot on a med-low heat and melt the butter. Add the spring onions to the pot and pour in the egg mix, stir to a soft scramble. It should be creamy rather than fully scrambled. Spoon the egg onto the salmon and press gently with a spoon to tuck it all in.

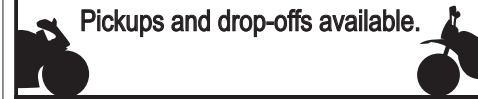
Bake at 180° for 5 minutes. Press with a finger to make sure they have set. Remove from the oven. Lift them out of the tins by the paper and turn them out onto a plate with the salmon facing up. Sprinkle with a pinch of chopped dill, grated parmesan and a grind of black pepper. Stir the rest of the chopped dill into sour cream and serve with lemon wedges and crunchy toast.

### ■ Little Left Over Pies

If you have left over stews and casseroles, you can make great little pies by using flour tortillas to line the inside of a greased muffin tin. Spoon in the left overs and top with sliced cold potato or kumara, brush with butter and bake at 180° until the filling is bubbling. The tortilla will form a great crust.



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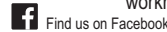
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## community titbits from town and around

### ■ THE BIG LATCH ON

The Helensville Birthing Centre coffee group is holding an event at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai at 10am on Friday, August 5 as part of 'The Big Latch On', a nationwide event to show support for breastfeeding mums. At hundreds of locations around the country, mothers will latch their babies on and breastfeed simultaneously. There will be spot prizes and a nutritious morning tea.

### ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Helensville Aglow next meets at 7.30pm on Friday, August 5 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville, where the guest speaker will be Trent Hodson from Liberty Christian Church in New Lynn. Email: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

### ■ SOUTH KAIPARA U3A

Two speakers will talk at the August meeting of South Kaipara U3A. First up will be Jane from Paula Jane Boutique Cakes, followed after afternoon tea by Colin Johnson of North Shore Driving School, who will speak on 'updating traffic rules for seniors'. The meeting is at 1pm on Friday, August 5 in the St John Ambulance Rooms, 7 Rata Street, Helensville. Gold coin entry includes afternoon tea. Enquiries to Judy Goodsir, phone 09 411 8322.

### ■ CABAGM

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau will hold its annual general meeting from

10am to noon on Wednesday, August 10 at the Helensville RSA, 49 Commercial Road. After a talk by guest speaker Julie Colville of the Helensville & District Historical Society, a light morning tea will be served. Everyone welcome.

### ■ KIDS' GROUP

The Helensville Community Church at 40 Mill Road (behind the Hospice Shop) will hold a free 'Ignite Kids' Group' on Friday, August 12 from 3pm to 4.30pm. There will be games, talk and afternoon tea. For more information phone Pastor James van Alstine, 021 113 5927.

### ■ FREE FILM SCREENING

A film that looks at one woman's triumph over Nazi imprisonment, titled 'The Life of Corrie Ten Boom', will screen for free at the Helensville Community Church at 40 Mill Road (behind the Hospice Shop) on Saturday, August 13 at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be provided, and the film is suitable for an older audience. For more information phone Pastor James van Alstine, 021 113 5927.

### ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Kaukapakapa Market on Sunday, August 21 from 9am to 1pm will have live music from Michelle who will be singing from 10am to noon. Craft stalls, plants, collectibles and car boot sales, face painting, raffles, food, and barista coffee. For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

### ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Helensville Aglow will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, September 2 at Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville (behind the Hospice Shop). Guest speaker will be Pastor Stuart Forlong from Helensville Christian Life Centre. His topic will be 'Healing and Wholeness'. All welcome. Email: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

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## classifieds & trade

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

### ■ SEPTEMBER 2016 deadline: Friday, 19th August 2016

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th 2016

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#### Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:

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#### 2016 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Sept 6th	Copy by: Aug 19th	Due out: Nov 1st	Copy by: Oct 14th
Due out: Oct 4th	Copy by: Sept 16th	Due out: Dec 6th	Copy by: Sept 18th

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

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

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**Letters to the Editor:** Should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.



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