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Driving mentor scheme starts in Helensville

Helensville has become just the second area in Auckland to establish a free driver mentoring programme to address the barriers learner drivers in the 16-24 age group can face.

The pilot programme is designed to help young drivers who have already completed the learner phase of their licence to gain their restricted licence and improve their levels of safe driving.

A partnership with the local OutWest Youth Community Trust, Auckland Transport and the AA, and it is modelled on the NZ Transport Agency Community Driver Mentor Programme.

That programme underwent successful trials in Porirua and Gisborne and has since been adapted in Te Kuiti, Christchurch East, Northland, Glen Innes in Auckland, and now Helensville.

OutWest youth coach Naomi Bartley says the trust has been running its own driver training programme for some time with support from Auckland Transport and local police.

This new programme will be a major boost, however.

A large number of people wanted to be among the ten on the pilot programme, and Waitemata iwi liaison officer Senior Constable Karen Murphy selected candidates based on strict criteria.

The successful candidates have been

matched with volunteer driving mentors. Senior Constable Murphy says they're now keen to get behind the wheel.

"We want them to develop good habits and skills in order to drive safely."

Students will initially be assessed by AA driving instructor and former police officer Mark Revill-Johnson, and then will undertake 10, one-hour lessons per week with one of the eight approved local mentors, who underwent theoretical and practical training hosted by OutWest and run by Mark.

They will then have a lesson with Mark, with the mentor riding along, and then be assessed after every 10 mentoring sessions and before the restricted test.

"I'm confident we can get a 100% pass rate," says Mark

"Plenty of good supervised practice is critical for new learner drivers. Mentoring programmes like this mean they're learning



• Learner driver Meinata Hemana (17) with driving mentor Marama Pairama at the launch of the programme on May 20

and putting into practice driving skills that will help to keep them safe on the road for the rest of their lives," he says.

While the programme is free, the learner drivers will have to pay for their restricted licence fee up front, to keep them invested in the programme.

AT has provided a decommissioned automatic Hyundai Getz fleet car for the programme.

Naomi says it is possible Helensville may share Glen Innes's manual transmission car as well.

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Waitoki Heritage Day coming up

The 2016 Waitoki Heritage Day will be held at the Waitoki School on Saturday, July 2, starting with registration at 11am. There will be displays of old school photos and a talk about Waitoki's past, with shared memories from people who have lived, worked and raised families in the area.

Lunch will be shared, so those attending should bring a plate. After lunch there will be a variety of entertainment. The day is being billed as a fun-filled chance for those new to Waitoki to meet their neighbours and find out how the area grew into the community of today.

The cost is \$10 per person plus a plate for the shared lunch, and funds raised will be shared between Waitoki School and the Helensville & District Historical Society. The society's share will go towards renovating the Waitoki School 'Sunshine Block' at Helensville Museum.

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editorial

It never ceases to amaze when I learn of some of the stories in Helensville's past. Talking with Naomi Bartley about her upcoming play (see page 3) I was astonished to learn about the Brynderwyn bus crash. I had heard about the accident, of course, but had no idea that almost all those killed or injured were from Helensville. The town was a much smaller, sleepier place in those days, and the shock must have been awful for everyone. It's hard to imagine the dreadful effect it must have had on the local Māori community. Kudos to Naomi for bringing this story to our town's attention.

Our article on page 4 about Robyn Grace and the upcoming short film she is making is another great example of a local making their mark on the national and international stage. Getting the rights to a story by a leading international author is no mean feat, and is a tribute to Robyn's perseverance.

Last issue we farewelled three local identities, all of whom had contributed to the local community in various ways. This issue we say goodbye to another, someone closer to home for me - my father-in-law, Hec Aitkenhead (page 12). It was sad to him deteriorate over the past year since his wife died, but through it all he was still able to come out with the cheeky grin I have always associated him with. Rest in peace Hector.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Scouts fundraise for Jamboree

Kaukapakapa Scout Group will take 17 local scouts aged 11-14 years to the national Scout Jamboree at Renwick, Blenheim in December.

They will travel with 17 scouts from Massey to form a scout group contingent, leaving by bus on December 28 and will be at

Jamboree until January 7, camping in group contingents with around 3000 other scouts from NZ and around the world.

At Jamboree they will experience two overnight activities away from the main Jamboree site - bush craft at Pine Valley, and 'Sand, Sun and Surf' in the Marlborough Sounds.

Other activities will include a plane or helicopter ride at Omaka; community service around the Renwick area; abseiling, archery, paintball and survival skills; and military activities with cargo nets, high walls and mud.

Jamboree is designed to give the scouts an opportunity to gain independence,

confidence, and leadership skills, and can create friendships that last a life time. They cook all their own meals as a group, and have to do their own washing.

Following Jamboree the Kaukapakapa Scout Group contingent will take a sight-seeing trip around the mid to upper part of the South Island. They will visit Christchurch, cross the Alps to the West Coast to stay at Franz Joseph Glacier, then head to Hokitika, Greymouth and then to the Buller Gorge. They will return home on January 15.

The trip will cost almost \$40,000, so the scout group is in fundraising mode.

Its first fundraiser is comedy hypnotist Dave Upfold, who will hold a show in the Helensville War Memorial Hall from 7pm on Friday, June 24. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available on Ticket Master, or phone Josie Cameron on 420 3363. Group bookings for 10 will receive an extra ticket free.

Kaukapakapa Scout Group will be selling raffle tickets locally over the coming months, as well as holding other fundraisers. Anyone interested in sponsoring the scouts, or donating goods to help fundraising efforts should phone Josie.



• Scouts held a carwash supported by Water Wagon 1 at the Kaukapakapa Market in May, raising around \$350 towards Jamboree

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Play explores trauma caused by dark episode in local history

Helensville's Naomi Bartley has written a play inspired by one of the darkest events in our town's history, the 1963 Brynderwyn bus crash, and will hold a public reading of it later this month.

That crash, still ranked as New Zealand's worst road accident, claimed 15 lives, 10 of them from Helensville - five of those from a single family - and all Māori. All the other 21 on board, also mostly from Helensville, were injured, many of them seriously.

Titled *Te Waka Huia*, which translates as 'the treasure container', the play is a work of fiction and set in the modern day, but draws on the trauma caused by the accident for its story.

Naomi, better known as Nem, has an MA in drama studies from Auckland University, and for many years ran Nem's Drama Works in Helensville. She is currently a youth coach with the OutWest Youth Community Trust.



• Naomi Bartley

She says that while she has lived in the town for 20 years, she only learned about the Brynderwyn crash a few years ago.

"This shocked me. I couldn't believe that such a significant tragedy in a small town like Helensville could remain 'tucked away' for 50 years, and be virtually unknown to the majority of the current residents," she says.

The accident happened on February 7, 1963, as the group of predominantly local Māori were returning from Waitangi Day celebrations in the Bay of Islands, which that year had been attended by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. The ancient bus's brakes failed, and despite valiant efforts by the driver, it plunged down a 15m drop on the last corner of the Brynderwyn hill. The wood-bodied bus was totally destroyed.

When Naomi started researching the

accident and talked to some of the remaining survivors and whanau members, she realised the ongoing silence about the crash had had a "devastating effect".

"A friend who lost members of her whanau in the crash urged me to explore giving a creative voice to the story."

That started a three-year project which will be brought to life at a two-day wānanga (development workshop) at Peacemakers in

Parakai on June 23 and 24, followed by a public reading at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai at 7.30pm on Friday, June 24 (entry by gold coin donation).

With professional director Chris Malloy taking the helm, it is hoped *Te Waka Huia* will eventually be fully staged in Auckland.

The play focuses on three 'homeless' characters: Emi, a 16-year-old Taiwanese Kaipara College student; fellow student Jack who is bored with his rural town existence and ready to quit school and

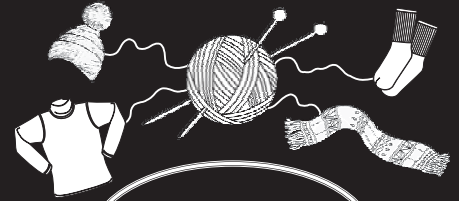
leave town; and Pahi, a 67-year-old Maori who has been homeless since losing his entire whanau in the crash when he was 16.

The ghosts of Pahi's past have taken up residence in a derelict bus in an overgrown Helensville paddock, and Pahi is drawn there to re-live the events that changed his life.

Nem says the trio's relationships with each other, the bus and the ghosts "create precarious, humorous, confronting moments". Matters come to a head when a council official threatens to have the eyesore of a bus removed, and Jack realises it must be saved for the sake of his friends, and the town that is ignorant of the treasure it holds.

The workshop will include script read-throughs, rehearsals and writing activities, and is also open to limited numbers of viewers - phone Naomi on 022 416 6859.

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Local film maker to shoot Marian Keyes story

Woodhill film maker Robyn Grace will this month film a short film based on a short story by acclaimed best-selling Irish author Marian Keyes.

Titled 'A Woman's Right to Shoes' it will be filmed around central Auckland over "five hard and fast days" and will feature some top Kiwi acting talent, including Brooke Williams, Antonia Prebble, Taylor Hall, Michelle Blundell, Andrew Beattie, and Dan Musgrove.

How Robyn came to get the rights to the story is convoluted.

Two of Marian Keyes' 15 novels had already been filmed; both were considered very disappointing, and Marian decided not to let any more be adapted.

"This is a long story, years long..." says Robyn. "I had to go through her agent and publisher in London, who all humoured me for a year or so, then got a bit annoyed, then just started ignoring me."

She was travelling to the UK and asked for a meeting to discuss her intentions with them, but unsurprisingly "they were going to be very busy at the time of my visit".

Telling the story to friends in Dublin, they told her that the author lived just six doors down the road.

"I had written [Marian] a very personal letter about me, my life and why I wanted to tell her story on the big screen." Robyn had sent the letter to her agent several times asking for it to be forwarded on, to no avail.

"[So] at about midnight I jumped out of the car outside her house and dropped the letter straight into her letterbox. The next day I got an email from her agent simply saying 'Marian said yes'."

"I consider myself so lucky to have this opportunity, and the letter made the difference. [Marian] has been incredibly supportive of this venture."

In the short film, 'A Woman's Right to Shoes', Robyn will tell the story of a heartbroken woman's demise into madness, wearing a different shoe each night.

To be eligible to screen at various film festivals, the film will be no longer than 15 minutes.

"Short films need to go out to specific festivals worldwide, you have to apply to get accepted, and then hope like hell that someone likes them," says Robyn. "Because it is a Marian Keyes story we are hoping that there will be an audience for it."

While this will be Robyn's first film directing effort, she has a solid background to call on.

She directed four theatre productions for

Kaipara College "in the deep past" and two series of Korero Mai for TVNZ.

But she has also had assistant director roles on numerous local and international productions. Those include being second assistant director on the Peter Jackson-produced Neill Blomkamp film 'District 9'; first assistant director on Roger Donaldson's new film 'McLaren', about Kiwi motor racing legend Bruce McLaren; and first or second assistant director on several popular television series including Go Girls, Power Rangers, Westside, Outrageous Fortune and Filthy Rich.

A Woman's Right to Shoes is something



• Robyn during filming of the upcoming movie, 'McLaren'

of a labour of love. Robyn raised just over \$20,000 through a Kickstarter campaign, and another \$10,000 from a private investor.

"\$30,000 is still not enough to pay for it all. The crew will be working for minimum wage, everyone will get the same amount of money no matter how far up the hierarchy they are," she says.

"My family will be amongst the crew all doing it for love! Dad [Rodney Local Board member Thomas Grace] will be lifting heavy things. Mum's in charge of catering, my son Connaugh is the art department assistant, and my sister Lynda is in charge of coffee and well-being – considered one of the most important jobs on a film set!

"So I am begging, borrowing and potentially stealing. We are currently unable to pay for the post production, but I have been overwhelmed by the constant offers of free stuff to help me out."

In future Robyn says she "would love to direct feature length stories. The short film is considered a necessary stepping stone."

She has two other short film scripts based on her childhood, and three feature-length scripts "swimming about in my head. I just need the time to sit down and write them."

"For me the most important thing is that they are stories about women. I do think there is a lack of great stories about and for women. That's sort of what 'A Woman's Right to Shoes' is about, in a very typical Marian Keyes way we will all laugh at the absurdity of life and how women deal with it."

Unsafe building forces shuffle around for local community organisations

The Helensville District Health Trust, Parent Aid, and the South Kaipara Men's Trust have had to move out of their home as the foundations of their building on the corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent have been found to be unsafe.

The landmark art-deco Alison McKenzie House, built in the 1930s as a doctor's clinic and residence, closed temporarily for repairs late last month, resulting in a major shuffle-around for several community organisations.



• Alison McKenzie house

The Helensville District Health Trust administration team and Parent Aid have moved next door to the Women and Family Centre building at 1 Porter Crescent, Helensville. That's meant the Women and Family Centre, along with the South Kaipara Men's Trust, has had to move into Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai - although the midwife clinic has been able to remain at 1 Porter Crescent.

"This could have been a major upheaval for staff, volunteers and clients, but thanks to the immense cooperation and goodwill from all involved, new homes have been found for everyone with minimal disruption to

services," says Health Trust manager Charm Torrance.

No cost for the repairs or a timeframe for their completion is known yet.

She suggests people call the main office number for the various organisations for the most up to date contact information, or the Helensville District Health Trust on 4207878.

Charm asks the community to be patient during the unforeseen disruption, which she says everyone is working as hard as possible to minimise.

The trust bought the former doctor's building in 2004 and named it in honour of Alison McKenzie, the trust's founding chairperson.

Call for sculptures

Artists are invited to submit proposals for exhibiting at the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden 2017 exhibition.

Proposals that reflect current New Zealand art practice including object, installation, video, participatory and ephemeral works will be considered. Curator Sally Lush says she is looking specifically for works that are informed by the site near the Kaipara Harbour.

"Works [that] will relate to, reflect and explore the natural beauty, the flora and fauna, threats to the environment, the history of the land, colonisation and socio-political issues relating to this area, New Zealand and where New Zealand fits in the global arena," she says.

Sculptures will need to be installed from Friday 11 to Sunday, November 13 with the exhibition opening to the public on Saturday, December 3 and running until November 2017.

Proposals should be submitted by 5pm Monday, June 20. Proposal forms are available online at: www.kaiparacoast.co.nz or email Sally at: sculpture@kaiparacoast.co.nz.



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Health Trust manager leaving

Ask Charm Torrance for the standout highlight of her 26 years with the Helensville District Health Trust and she can't name one - but she can name two.

They are the setting up of the Helensville Birthing Centre, which she proudly says is "the best birthing centre in New Zealand", and the establishment of Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, which she describes as "one of the things closest to my heart".

Charm retires in August after 26 years as manager of the Health Trust, having worked with the trust initially as a consultant since it was first formed in August 1989.

Originally from Birmingham, England, Charm married her husband Graeme in Oxford before emigrating with their two young children to New Zealand in 1974. A qualified nurse when she arrived here, she returned to England for a year in 1979 to train as a midwife, and then back in New Zealand qualified with a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree a decade later.

She says she was on one of the last planes into New Zealand where those arriving could walk straight in, without having to follow any immigration procedure, and after five years here was granted citizenship.

In the workforce here, Charm worked her way up to nursing supervisor level, and then moved into nurse education, first becoming a tutor in nursing at Greenlane Hospital, then taking enrolled nurses courses before moving on to in-service education, training already-qualified nurses in a range of specialities.

She finally taught in-service for the then Auckland Area Hospital Board, before deciding in 1989 that she no longer wanted to work for the board, but preferred to be self-employed.

"This was in the early days of people going into consultancies. I decided to turn myself into my own business and really offer my skills, and by that time I was pretty smart at writing policies and procedures," she

says.

That is how she came into her role in Helensville, learning about a "small trust board up in Helensville" that was trying to set itself up and needed a hand doing so.

Initially she helped the trust take over the local homecare business "which we ran very, very successfully for many years and sold for a profit in the end".

The birthing centre was just being established by local midwives at that time, and Charm took on the job of establishing policies and procedures.



• Charm Torrance

"The end result was - and I would like to be quoted on this - the best birthing centre in New Zealand.

"It's got policies and procedures to die for, and it also has a brilliant quality assurance programme," she says.

While overseeing numerous other important health developments in Helensville over the years, including the building of the Kaipara Medical Centre, it's the "entrepreneurial" Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, for which she was project manager, that Charm considers the other highlight of her time with the Trust.

"It's not just another community centre," she says, "it's suitable for all sorts of things." She adds it is "brilliant" that in only its second year it is already earning enough to cover its operational costs.

"Whilst the birthing centre I'm certainly very proud of, I'm equally proud of the

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D.D. leaves after 14 years at CAB

2016 is shaping up as an eventful year for Makarau local, D.D. Tulloch.

In April she celebrated her 80th birthday. At the end of May she had her last volunteer shift after 14 years at the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau. And in the coming weeks she and husband Tommy will leave their home of 35 years, and move to a retirement village in Kerikeri.

While she's looking forward to a warmer climate, D.D. will miss being an active member of the South Kaipara community, especially her weekly shift at the CAB.

14 years ago the craft store she ran at Kaukapakapa closed down, and she was asked if she would have time to volunteer at the bureau. Initially she was reluctant, believing the job was to give advice rather than information.

"If someone acted on my advice and it went wrong," she says "I'd never forgive myself."

D.D. has noticed many changes during her 14 years at the bureau, not least of which was the introduction of computers.

"I'm not the most brilliant of operators on



• D.D. Tulloch

the computer," she says, "but someone is always here to help, and what I have learnt has helped me on my computer at home."

She says she's proud of the service provided by the bureau and its volunteers, and has noticed a steady increase in inquiries, particularly people wanting a Justice of the Peace to sign documents.

"It's gratifying that you are helping people. It's good company and I shall always be very grateful for my time here."

D.D. won't have to wait long to be reunited with her fellow volunteers, both past and present, as many of them will gather at the Helensville RSA on Tuesday, June 21 for a special lunch to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau.

She and her husband will definitely be back for that "very happy occasion."

Correction

In last month's article on new local physiotherapist Tania Stokes, we said she had previously worked with the Mystics netball team in her roll at the Trusts Stadium Physio Rehab Group. She in fact worked with Auckland-Waitakere representative age group teams, and high performance development feeder squads for the Mystics.

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Manager leaving (cont...)

• From page 6

concept of Te Whare Oranga. I really am."

She is also proud of being named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (M.N.Z.M) in 1998 for her services to nursing, when she did consultancy work in the Cook Islands for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade during the 1990s (concurrent with her role at in Helensville).

When Charm retires in August it will be after a three-week overlap with the Trust's new manager, who has yet to be appointed (although interviews have been completed).

Leaving will be a little bitter-sweet, as she says "I very much feel part of the community" and jokes that she probably knows Helensville better than where she lives in Laingholm.

After a trip back to England to visit family, she then intends to spend more time with her grandchildren, who range in age from five to 19, and in her "beautiful" garden, and possibly touring Australia by campervan.

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100+ at farm field day

About 110 people - including 30 agricultural/horticulture students from Mt Albert Grammar School - visited a field day held at Richard and Dianne Kidd's 376ha Helensville sheep and beef farm last month.

The field day was a followup to the Kidds being named the Auckland region supreme winners in the 2016 Ballance Farm Environmental Awards.

Visitors to the field day learned about stock management, the farm's extensive native plantings, and the water quality on the farm. Auckland Council water testing on farm had just revealed the water quality leaving the farm was better than when it entered.

Guest presenters were owners Dianne and Richard Kidd, Andrew McKenzie of Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Vanessa Vujcich of Auckland Council (talking on biodiversity), and Dylan Clarke of Auckland Council (talking about water quality).

After the farm stops visitors were ushered to the woolshed for a barbeque lunch of Kaipara lamb, sponsored by



• Checking out displays at the field day

Countdown and prepared by the Helensville Tennis Club members.

Richard and Dianne will represent the Auckland region at the 2016 National Sustainability Showcase being held at Waitangi on Wednesday June 22. The winner of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy will be announced at that event, with the recipients recognised as ambassadors of sustainable and profitable farming in New Zealand and receiving an overseas study trip as part of the award.

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Kids Lit Quiz team comes 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Helensville Primary School's senior team in the annual Kids Lit Quiz competition last month have the dubious distinction of possibly being the only team ever to finish first, second and third in a single heat.

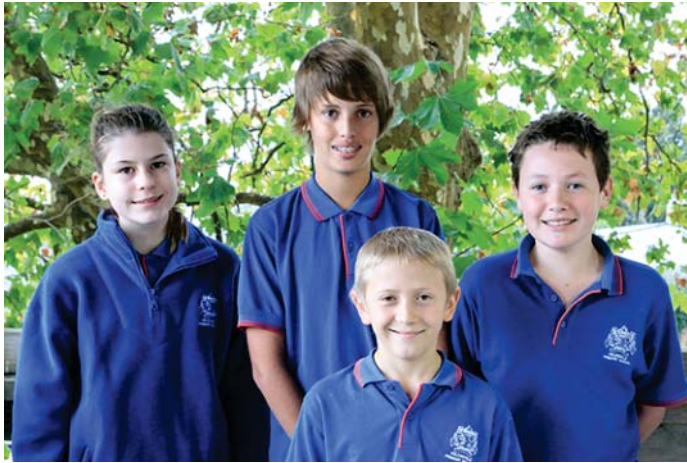
The team of Kata Ispanovits and Regan Neville (both Year 8), and Campbell Hilton and Christopher Rowe (Year 7) came first equal with a team from Alfriston School on the day, but then dropped to second place following a 'sudden death' play-off question.

Then the following day it was discovered the judges had made a calculation error, and that a Northcote Intermediate team had beaten both Helensville and Alfriston – relegating Helensville to an official third place.

"Perhaps they are the only team ever to have been first, second and then ultimately third, in the same heat!" jokes Helensville GaTE (Gifted and Talented) teacher Sara Meadow.

Helensville School competed against 56 other Auckland school teams in its round of heats in the competition, the 18th year the school has taken part.

The Kids Lit Quiz competition, for



• L-R: Kidz Lit team members Kata Ispanovits, Regan Neville, Christopher Rowe and Campbell Hilton

children aged 10 to 13, was founded by New Zealand quizmaster Wayne Mills, and is now also held in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, the USA, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Teams answer 100 questions about anything to do with children's literature. Questions are divided into 10 categories like poetry, authors, titles, settings, characters, and nursery rhymes, but those change from year to year so the teams have no idea beforehand what they will be.

The winning team from each heat competes in a national final, won this year by Wellesley College. National champions then compete in the world final, which this year will be held at the Aotea Centre in Auckland on August 19.

160 to battle tough maths questions

160 Year 5 to 8 pupils from 10 schools will compete in a Norwest Mathex competition which will be held at Kaipara College on Friday, June 10.

It's been co-organised by Helensville School mathematics specialist teacher Jo Knox and Paige Bayliss from the college, and follows a successful inaugural event last year.

The college was chosen as a neutral host venue, and college students will write the questions for the contest - "a mathematically worthwhile and challenging task for them," says Jo.

Helensville, Parakai, Waimauku, Huapai, Hobsonville, Riverhead, Hare Krishna, Waitakere, Massey, and St Pauls schools will compete, with 56 students entered at Year 8 level, the same number in Year 7, and 48 entries for Years 5 and 6.

Students will work in teams of four to solve mathematical problems, one problem at a time. Once they have an answer, they run to the scorer who gives them the next question if their answer is correct, or gives them the option of having another go at the question or passing and moving to the next if they are wrong.

The winning team will be the first to answer all 20 questions correctly, or the team with the highest number of correct answers after 30 minutes.

The winning teams in each age category will hold the title of Norwest Mathex champions for the year and receive a trophy to keep for the year.

All teams taking part are eligible to compete at the Auckland Mathex competition in August, regardless of placings in the Norwest contest, which Jo says is "a great practice run" for the Auckland-wide competition.

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Christmas lunch future secure

The future of the Helensville-Parakai Community Christmas lunch has been secured.

Holly Southernwood, who also organises the annual Helensville Christmas parade, has agreed to take over the organisational reins from Raewyn Mercer, who has stepped down after running the event for the past three years.

Aimed at locals who find Christmas a difficult time for a variety of reasons, 120 people attended the 2015 Christmas day lunch, which only costs a gold coin donation to help cover costs of the following year's lunch.

Raewyn send a special thank you to local chef Peter Brennan and his family for organising and cooking the Christmas hams for the past two years.

Second winter lecture on historic homes

A humorous, illustrated talk on the historic houses of England by Chris Hagon on Sunday, June 19 will be the second in this year's Helensville & District Historical Society winter lecture series

Chris lived in some of the heritage houses as part of his job of caring for the houses and grounds in England before coming to New Zealand. He will talk about how the buildings were protected, and the families who lived in these houses.

Chris spoke briefly at the society's last AGM and had the audience laughing with his anecdotes of life in the big houses.

Afternoon tea will be served afterwards, and there will be a chance to ask Chris questions. The talk will be held in the Father Sakey Room at St Joseph's in Helensville at 2pm. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$8 for current Historical Society members.

Tennis trivial pursuits

Helensville Tennis Club is holding a trivial pursuits evening at the Rautawhiri Park pavilion starting 7pm on Friday, July 1. Teams of eight, and supper will be provided. There will be raffles and prizes.

The club's AGM will be held two days later on Sunday, July 3 at 5pm and will include a barbeque.

Importance of Being Earnest

Kaipara College's drama department will hold three performances of the noted Oscar Wilde play 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.

Sessions will be at 7pm on Wednesday, June 22 through to Friday, June 24. Tickets cost \$15 and are available from the college reception, or phone 420 8640 extn 800.

making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that has 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 email: nicky.horsbrough@harcourts.co.nz. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice. Our June recipient is Geraldine Bayley, who has chosen a voucher for The Paua Room. Here's her nomination from Danielle Hancock:

Geraldine runs her own landscape architecture business, while being a wife and mum to three children. When her children were at Kaukapakapa Playcentre she gave much of her time to that organisation, designing and organising a new playground. Now her kids are at Kaukapakapa School she does the same there, hosting fundraising events at her garden centre for the kids.

Geraldine also volunteers on the North West District Business Association, representing Kaukapakapa businesses, setting up networking events and promoting business growth. She now leads a group looking at promoting local area artists and running events to bring people to the area.

On top of that Geraldine has spent years on the Kaukapakapa Area Resident and Ratepayers Association, which she has just

given up due to time constraints. As part of that role she was instrumental in helping create the Kaukapakapa Design and Development Guidelines with a fellow landscape architect, which involved hours of work with the Sinclair Park Reserve Advisory Committee and Kaukapakapa Reserve Advisory Committee helping design future playgrounds, and then working with Auckland Council to see if we could get them programmed for development.

Geraldine was so helpful when I was expecting my second child, giving me pregnancy clothing, toys, and baby clothes. She gives her time and love to so many people in need in our local community; most people in the village know Geraldine and speak highly of her.

If you need anything, Geraldine is right there and she is the most wonderful person.



• Geraldine Bayley

Parents learn too

It's not just local children taking part in the HIPPY educational programme who are learning new things – their parents are too.

The parents of HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) children meet every second Tuesday where they learn crafts, attend cooking demonstrations, and hear from guest speakers.

Already this year, Helen Smith taught the parents how to weave flax putiputi and how to create effective leaves using a pasta-making machine. That was so popular Helen returned to show the group how to make the flowers into a posy.



• Weaving flax putiputi

Guest speakers have included Kim Gordon from Parent Aid, Glendith Samson and Kath Rameka from Te Ha Oranga, and Dean Martin from the Open Wānanga o

Aotearoa, who spoke about their free in-home learning courses.

The HIPPY tutors - Chelsea Freeman, Shannon Mafi, Laura Gardner and Christina Norton - are parents who work on the HIPPY programme with their own children. They share interests and skills with the parents such as scrap-booking, rock painting, button picture frames, and glass bottle decorating, says HIPPY co-ordinator Bernie Malizia.

"They can also see the benefits of spending 15 minutes a day with their children doing the HIPPY activities and spending quality time together," she says.

For more information about the HIPPY programme in our community phone coordinator Bernie Malizia on 420 7434 or 021 0220 6017.



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Financial Supporters Visit Te Whare Oranga

Foundation North, formerly the ASB Community Trust, was one of the biggest donors for the renovation of the old Parakai Tavern into the upmarket community health and wellbeing centre it is today, Te Whare Oranga o Parakai.

So it was with great pleasure that the Helensville District Health Trust which runs Te Whare Oranga o Parakai hosted the Foundation North Trustees to a tour of the building at a special morning tea on May 23.

Foundation North CEO, Jennifer Gill, says it was a real thrill for the trustees who "don't often get to see first hand where the money they have granted has been spent."

She says the Te Whare Oranga o Parakai development is just the latest in a long and fruitful relationship with the Helensville District Health Trust.



Foundation North CEO, Jennifer Gill and Helensville District Health Trust Chairman, Erica McKenzie.

In the past it has been a major financial supporter of the Helensville Birthing Centre renovations, the building of the Kaipara Medical Centre as well as providing funding to Parent Aid Kaipara Inc., the South Kaipara Men's Trust and the Helensville Women and Family Centre which are all based at the unique health campus in Helensville.

Flu Fighting Juice

As winter makes its belated arrival, it's time to give your immune system a boost with this Cold and Flu Tonic courtesy of Keryn Reardon, Kitchen Manager at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. Keryn says don't be put off by the ginger, garlic and chilli, as the honey and parsley will neutralise those strong flavours.

- 2 oranges, juiced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 cm piece fresh ginger, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- Small pinch of chilli (optional)
- 2 tsp manuka honey
- Handful of fresh parsley

Place all ingredients into a blender and blend till smooth. Serve immediately, ideally first thing in the morning on an empty stomach.

Farewell to community stalwart

Hector Mcloughlin Aitkenhead
2/1/1933 - 28/4/16

Helensville farmer and community stalwart Hec Aitkenhead passed away in late April. A life member and patron of the Helensville A&P Show, and a life member of the Lions Club and Historical Society, he had a life filled with local community service.

Hector (Hec) was born in January 1933, the second child and only son of Marjory and Victor Aitkenhead. Hec had two sisters, Beryl and Glenn.

They lived at Parakai on a family farm which ran from Fordyce Rd along Parkhurst Rd to Greens Rd, with the house on the main road opposite Parakai Domain.

Horses dominated Hec's early years; he rode to Helensville Primary where his horse spent the day in the pony paddock, sometimes taking other horses to the blacksmiths in Commercial Road to be shod by Pip Brady, who would later become his father-in-law.

At school Hec met lifelong friends Peter Mount at Helensville Primary, and Robin Brown while boarding at Whangarei Boys High School. And at Helensville District High School he sat behind a girl called Clare Brady; she would later become his wife.

In 1936 Hec's father bought part of a farm at the top of Fordyce Rd, and in the late 1940s purchased a further 250 acres which extended the property to Woodhill Forest.



• Hec Aitkenhead

Vic and Marj moved up to that farm in 1958.

Hec rode from an early age, and while school age competed at events in Waiwera, Puhoi, Kumeu and Helensville. When he was 11 or 12 he started after-school work as a drover, driving cattle for various people between South Head and Helensville.

Once Hec left school he really got into the showing circuit, competing at shows from Whangarei to Hamilton and taking up most of his summer weekends.

By the early 1950s Hec and Clare Brady were an item at all the local dances. They married in 1955 and moved into the Parakai house. Hec was milking full-time as well as helping his father on the Fordyce Rd farm.

Daughter Anne was born in 1958 followed by Shona in 1960, and the same year they moved to the Fordyce Rd farm following Vic's death.

The Fordyce Road property was a challenge, with the back run covered in manuka, lupin and rushes and little pasture; the land took a lot of work to break in.

But it wasn't all hard work and there were regular holidays, camping around New Zealand and visiting family and friends.

In later years Hec and Clare travelled extensively overseas, to Australia, parts of Asia, the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, Canada, and southern Africa, often traveling with friends. More recently they spent a lot of time with family at their beach house at One Tree Point, near Whangarei.

During a downturn in farming in the 1970s Hec decided to follow a hunch and set up a horse hire business. Tasman Farm Rides started with six horses, and eventually grew into a business with around 40 horses which he ran for 27 years before selling it; the business still operates today.

Hec and Clare were both very community minded. In their early days they

• To page 13

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Hec Aitkenhead (cont...)

• From page 12

belonged to Young Farmers and Young Wives, and worked on school committees, school working bees and calf club days. They delivered meals on wheels for many years, and worked at the Helensville Museum, where they were both made life members of the Historical Society.

Hec was a member of the Helensville Lions Club for more than 38 years, becoming a life member. He was club president in 1986, and also took on the role of zone chairman.

It was the Helensville A&P Show that was closest to Hec's heart.

As well as competing from the age of nine, he was one of the workers that got the show ready every year. He served on the committee, was president from 1967 to 1969 and again for the show's centenary in 2002, and more recently was show patron.

Hec was involved with all shows in the Northern District of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) as an equestrian judge, was a councillor for the RAS Northern District Council for 12 years, and chairman of its horse steward council. In Helensville he was chief horse steward for many years, and was instrumental in setting up the A&P Association's horse measuring unit.

In 2003, he was awarded the gold medal Ravensdown Trophy for his services to the Northern District of the RAS.

In 1997 Hec sold the bulk of his farm and the horse hire business, keeping 100 acres around the house to run a few sheep and cattle, and keeping busy with growing granddaughters and travel.

Three years ago he and Clare moved to a retirement village at Whangaparaoa, the first time either had lived away from Helensville apart from their boarding school years. Clare passed away in early 2015, and Hec was bereft at losing his wife of 60 years.

He moved to the Kumeu Village rest home late last year, and passed away at the end of April following a period of deteriorating health.

Cooking classes at Parakai

Two different cooking classes will be held at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai this month.

Cooking for Busy Families is on Monday, June 20 from 6.30pm to 9pm. Participants will learn how to create three different meals from one base recipe with the aim of taking the hassle out of weeknight dinners, as well as how make their own crackers and how to flavour their own noodles. \$15 per person.

The Kids Kitchen Club will be held on Sunday, June 26, where children can learn how to create quesadillas. There will be sessions at 10am and 11:30am, and the cost is \$5 per child.

To book a place in the classes, email Keryn at: kitchen@thrivekaipara.org.nz.

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Muriwai artist to feature in Helensville Matariki exhibition



Muriwai artist Hemi Kiwikiwi (above) will have his work showcased in the Matariki Exhibition which will run from Saturday, July 2 to 30 at the Helensville Art Centre, Helensville.

"Hemi's work is contemporary, colourful and exciting," says centre co-ordinator Pauline Denton, "and we are looking forward to showcasing his latest works."

Hemi spent time amongst Aboriginal people learning their artistry, and also worked as a prop maker on the set of the 'Yogi Bear' movie.

Pauline says the exhibition is open to anyone who would like to exhibit work in Maori art forms. It will cost just \$3 per piece to put artworks in the exhibition. Works should be delivered to the Art Centre between 10am and 4.30pm on Tuesday, June 28 or Wednesday 29, or by arrangement with Pauline. Phone 021 158 6859 or email: coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz for more information.

from the frontline

House building/development sites are common targets for criminals, primarily because of the ease of accessibility into a partially-built house and also because of the vast selection of materials and tools regularly left on a site to steal.



There are three types of building site thieves/burglars: the opportunist who will steal small items and tools; the insiders, who work for a contractor; and the professional thief who usually doesn't work alone and who steals specific materials where a bit more organisation is required. I do hate to call them 'professional', and only do so as it implies a bit of planning is involved.

As housing demand grows the number of development sites in the Rodney area will continue to increase. This means a likelihood of criminals coming into our community to commit crime, usually under the cover of darkness.

Building sites can be hard to monitor due to the transitional nature of the site, with contractors coming and going, and also because a lot of the time a house under construction is unoccupied. This is where I ask that we all do our bit to prevent crimes from occurring, or help to catch thieves by being observant and then acting on what we see by calling police.

If you live near a site that is either being renovated or built from scratch, be confident that it is extremely rare for contractors work after dark, even if they are wearing a high-vis vest. If you see or hear anything suspicious call 111 and try to take down as much information for the call taker as possible - the number of people seen, vehicle description, vehicle registration number, whether the vehicle is towing a trailer. In my opinion it is better to have police on the scene as soon as possible to a false alarm, rather than to hear the following day that thousands of dollars of materials were picked up by the seemingly legitimate people creeping around the site at night.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable

with Kaipara chef, Peter Brennan

Wild duck

A few of my mates have been asking for tips on cooking the ducks they now have stacked up in the freezer; it appears there is a growing tradition that the bloke that shot it can clean it and cook it as well.

First thing to remember is that wild ducks come in all ages, young and plump equals tender, old and plump means you will need to cook it longer. As such I like the French system for wild birds - the rules are simple: cook it slow, cook it wet and cook it long.

Make sure your duck is defrosted, and cook a couple of birds at a time. Use a big pot with a thick bottom so you can simmer the birds slowly.

Wild Duck

- Ducks x 2 or 3
- Olive oil x 3 tablespoons
- Water
- Onion x 2 roughly sliced
- Celery 3 stems chopped
- Thyme or rosemary (fresh bunches)
- Whole star anise x 3
- Apple juice x 500ml
- Zest of two mandarins
- Cinnamon stick x 2
- Black pepper corns x 8
- Bay leaf x 1



For the sauce:

- Orange juice x 100ml
- Triple sec (inexpensive orange liqueur) to taste.
- Salt

Heat 3 tablespoons of olive oil in the pot on medium heat, add the ducks breast side down and colour for a few minutes in the hot oil, turning the ducks on their sides and bottom to colour all sides. Then add half a litre of apple juice and enough water to almost cover the ducks. Add the sliced onion, chopped celery, herbs, whole star anise, the mandarin zest, cinnamon sticks and pepper corns.

Bring to the boil and turn to low, simmer uncovered for a couple of hours, turning the ducks from time to time. You may need to add a bit more water as you go. Skim the top of the pot to remove any grease. After about an hour and a half test the ducks by lifting out of the pot and gently pulling the leg bone, if it comes away easily and the meat falls away, then set aside and allow to cool. If the bone resists then continue to simmer until it comes away easily.

Strain the cooking liquid into a clean pot, add the orange juice and triple sec and bring to the boil, allow to boil away until you have about 300mls (1½ cups) left. Check the seasoning and add salt to taste.

Heat the oven to 220° Celsius. Cut the cooked and cooled ducks in half and pull out the rib bones. Place the ducks skin side up in a roasting tin and pop into the oven, cook for about 30 minutes until starting to brown and crisp at the edges. Add the sauce to the roasting tin and return to the oven for another 10 minutes.

Serve on a large platter and drizzle the sauce over the ducks. Serve with steamed vegetables and mashed kumara.

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community tidbits from town and around

■ FREE COMPOSTING COURSE

A second free, two-hour composting course will be held on Wednesday, June 15 at Peacemakers in Fordyce Road, Parakai. Participants will learn about traditional composting techniques, worm farming, and the Japanese-developed bokashi composting system. Participants also receive a \$40 discount on a system that suits them. To book, phone 021 104 1680 or email rosie@compostcollective.org.nz.

■ ALPACA OPEN DAYS

Waitakere Alpacas will hold a series of free open days on Sundays June 12, 19 and 26 from midday to 4pm at 107 Monk Road, South Head. Visitors can feed and learn about alpacas, and there will be demonstrations of spinning and felting. For more information email Hans Roecoert at: info@waitakerealpacas.co.nz or phone 420 2185.

■ AVIATION AUTHOR

Author and aviator Ron Pemberton will be at the Kaukapakapa Library from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, June 19. Ron specialises in writing aviation books. He has self published two biographies, and is currently working on another biography about a New Zealand soldier captured in Crete in 1941, which he expects to complete by the end of the year. Ron will chat with visitors, who will be able to view his books as well as a selection of aviation books by a Skyhawk pilot who flew for the RNZAF. For more information phone

Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The Kaukapakapa Village Market on Sunday, June 19 from 9am to 1pm will feature live music from The Roselles - Rosie McHugh & Lesley Ward - performing easy listening, popular songs from the 1960s onwards, from 10am to midday. There will be the usual selection of craft stalls, plants, organic vegetables, collectibles, food, and barista coffee. For more information email Sarah at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz or phone 0274 831 542.

■ HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

The Helensville & District Historical Society will hold its AGM on Friday, June 24 at 2pm in the Father Sakey Room at St Joseph's church in Helensville. There will be a talk before the meeting starts, officers and committee members will be elected, and afternoon tea will be served afterwards.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Helensville Aglow will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, July 1 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville with guest speaker Julie Calvert, who is the director of Healing Rooms NZ. There will be an opportunity for those attending to receive prayer for healing. All men and women are welcome. Email Yvonne Bartlett at: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

■ SOUTH KAIPARA U3A

Kumeu chemist Simon Allen will talk about prescribed medications and health supplements and whether they can be combined at the Friday, July 1 meeting of South Kaipara U3A, which will start at 1pm in the St John Ambulance rooms, 7 Rata Street, Helensville. Also talking will be Paula Jane from Paula Jane Cake Boutique at Muriwai. Entry is by gold coin, and afternoon tea is provided. For more information phone Judy Goodsir on 09 411 8322.

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