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## Curriculum review, more classrooms at college

New Kaipara College principal Steve McCracken is hitting the ground running, with a complete review of the school's curriculum and a major classroom expansion programme already in the pipeline.

*Helensville News* spoke with Steve just five weeks into his new job, and his enthusiasm for the school, and its future potential, is palpable.

He comes to Kaipara College after 13 years at Westlake Boys on the North Shore. With a roll expected to hit 800 next year, Kaipara is a very different proposition to Westlake, with 2300 boys and 72 different ethnicities.

He describes Westlake as "a big machine".

"I think that's a key difference in terms of bigger schools to smaller schools, that whole concept of it being a machine and corporate business compared to the small, intimate nature that you have with a smaller school like [Kaipara].

"I already know a significant number of the students [here], whereas after 13 years at Westlake I wasn't always able to name them."

A deputy principal at Westlake, Steve wants to reassure the community his new role at Kaipara isn't just a career move.

"This is not a stepping stone for me, this is an opportunity for me to hopefully make a

difference to this school and our community as well. And this is an opportunity for us to continue to grow and develop in an exciting time."

That growth and development will be a major focus for 2018, with the school set to undertake a complete review of its curriculum.

"We want to look at what we currently do, whether it fits our students and our community. If it does, great; if it doesn't then let's look at revamping it for 2019," says Steve.

"That's something exciting. We've got a view, we've got a goal, but what it's going to look like in reality we're not sure of yet. So we want to review everything we do academically to ensure we are best serving our students and community."

Steve has also already been in discussion with the Ministry of Education, and says there are "pretty exciting looking plans" for some new teaching spaces to be on site by the end of 2019.

"We're looking at a 10-plus classroom build happening in the next two years. That'll take our teaching spaces up to 49 [which] will cater for up to 900 students.

"That's the first stage, but there's a three-stage plan. Stages two and three will take us up to 67 teaching spaces in total should the need arise. The planning is happening now for all three stages," he explains.

"It's about ensuring [the school] is future-proofed. I'm of the opinion that we're just caretakers of the school. That goes right

back to 1924 when the first secondary school served the [Helensville] community, and every person that's entered is just a caretaker, and we've got to make sure we leave it in a really good place."

Steve says initial planning for the school's centenary in 2024 will also begin in the next 12 months or so, in conjunction with the newly formed school PTA.



• New Kaipara College principal Steve McCracken

Steve grew up in Edgecumbe, where his parents were dairy farmers. They still live there in the family home, but one of Steve's sisters lives in Waimauku and another in Silverdale, so he has close family ties to this area.

Of Ngai Te Rangi descent, Steve says he did a lot of work with the Maori and Pacifica communities at his previous school.

"That was a big part of my journey through Westlake."

A keen sportsman and former physical education teacher, he met his wife Desiree, who is the team lead for physiotherapy at Auckland City Hospital, through their mutual

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# editorial

Another year, another 11 issues of *Helensville News* complete! We've got a bumper 20-page issue for you to enjoy this month as there's been so much happening over the past few weeks.

Remember, there's no January issue, so we'll be back early February.

I'd like to give a note of thanks to one of our regular columnists, Peter Brennan, who has had to lay down his writing pen because of other commitments. Pete's cooking column has always been one of the most popular features in the paper, and I really appreciate the effort he has put in over the years to write interesting and informative articles. A recipe on its own is pretty dull, but Pete always livened his up with interesting background information and anecdotes.

It's been another busy year in Helensville, and we've covered a lot of interesting stories and met a bunch of fascinating people. Meeting those people is the reason I still get a kick out of producing this paper. The year's major highlight was celebrating our 200th issue in June, which was a pretty massive milestone after 17 years.

I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy festive season, and for those who celebrate it, a very Merry Christmas. Make the holiday about family, not presents, and take care if you are driving during the break.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Changes coming to college (cont...)

• From page 1

love of hockey, playing in the same mixed business house team.

The pair have two young boys, a four-year-old and 21-month old, who Steve says are "a great leveller after a busy day at work".

They both still play hockey, though for Steve cycling has largely taken over. In February he was part of a Westpac corporate team that came third in a Wellington to Auckland cycle race.

He is also very keen on boats and water

sports, and as such is particularly interested in Kaipara's waka ama successes.

He also relishes Kaipara's record in the arts, particularly music and drama.

"It's what education to me is all about, giving students the opportunity to excel at whatever they choose, whether that's sport, music, drama, academics or cultural activities."

Steve is currently about half way through a masters degree in secondary school leadership, which he is doing through the University of Victoria in Wellington.

## letters

Ville?

First it was Shine n d'Ville for the Kaipara Classic Car Club's annual event. Next came Labour Weekend's Arts in the Ville. Then Chill in the Ville. This all seems clever and cutesie.

But when artwork for the Christmas Festival was proposed as 'Christmas in the Ville', I had a lightbulb moment, immediately reacting: "No, its Helensville!"

The realisation dawned that by styling events 'Ville' we are creating a complete disconnect with Helensville's identity and location. Yet highlighting Helensville as a destination is at least part of the point of these events.

I ask that thought be given to rebranding all these events to emphasise 'Helensville'. Otherwise they could be in Dargaville, Morrinsville, Townsville...

- Holly Southernwood



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# Local farm open day

Helensville's Scott and Sue Narbey will have their farm open to the public on Sunday, December 10 as part of a nationwide 'Open Gates' programme being run by Fonterra.

Theirs is the only farm in Auckland chosen for the open day, which will feature 40 farms around the country.

The Open Gates open day is designed to show the public what farmers are doing to protect the country's waterways - things



• Scott and Susan Narbey (right) with Scott's parents Murray and Marie

such as planting, fencing to keep cows out of the water, and managing nitrogen runoff.

It's billed as a chance to talk first hand with farmers, walk around their farms and see what they're doing to care for the environment and their animals.

The public will be able to quiz farmers about their farm management and future plans, and there will be some fun activities for children plus a selection of Fonterra products to sample.

Scott and Sue's 155ha, 405 cow farm near Helensville has been in their family since 1920, and their children Bella (7) and Ollie (5) are the fifth generation to live and farm there.

They are in an equity partnership with Scott's parent Murray and Marie, and aim to keep farming at the highest level and help encourage the next generation of farmers into dairying.

Over the last seven years Scott and Sue have focused on improving infrastructure,

driven by the need for efficiency, sustainability, reduction in environmental impacts, staff health, staff retention and animal health benefits.

They were recognised for their work by winning the Supreme Award at the 2017 Auckland Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Their farm is bordered to the south by the Kaipara River and to the northeast by a large native bush reserve, and the couple see it as their responsibility to protect those areas.

All their farm's waterways and drains are fenced, excluding stock access to the river and the bush. Over the last four years they have carried out wetland development on the farm, fencing, planting natives and carrying out pest control to encourage regeneration and to protect the native bird species there.

Visits to the open day will be held over two time slots, 11am to 1pm and 1pm to 3pm, with a maximum of 250 people per session.

Those wanting to visit the farm must pre-register online at: [www.opengates.co.nz](http://www.opengates.co.nz).

## Youth Club closes

Helensville's Te Awaroa Youth Club has closed after 17 years. It shut its doors for the last time at the end of November.

The club was set up to proactively provide help, support and inspiration to local teenagers, aiding them to acknowledge their options and broaden their horizons.

Manager Heidi van Duyn cites the increased difficulty in obtaining enough funding, the degree of paperwork required to complete applications and accountabilities, and a fall-off in the number of youth using club, as reasons for the closure.

"We have done amazing work over the last 17 years and are proud of our achievements," she says.

Merry Xmas



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## Anika Moa headlines music festival

Multiple award-winning singer songwriter Anika Moa headlines the Chill in the Ville music festival at Parakai on Saturday, December 9.

It's the third Chill in the Ville held this year, the first at the Grand Hotel in January, and another in March held at the Kaipara Tavern after being rained out of planned venue Parakai Springs.

They both drew "a couple of hundred people" says festival organiser Andy Cummings. But he's hoping with a major artist like Anika Moa and the bigger Parakai Springs venue (entry via Springs Road) that a much bigger crowd will turn up this month.

Anika will play at 6pm, and earlier in the day at 3pm celebrity DJ Max Key will be performing at his first big music festival.

The concert opens at 10.30am and runs until 9.30pm, and outside those two major acts the crowd will be entertained by a wide range of mostly local bands and performers.

They include: Tweed, Jimmy Christmas, Awa Brown, The Gannets, So and So, Bad Sport, Tie Fighters, Kara Gordon (2.15pm), Rude Intrusion, Flintwater Express, The Groove Diggers (5pm), Three Rum Coves and The Recipe (following Anika Moa).

While the audience is welcome to bring along their own picnic food, Auckland's iconic White Lady food truck will be on site. It will be joined by local brewer Liberty Beer and Hunting Lodge wines.

There will be no BYO or glass allowed.

"It is set to be an amazing day of live music, giving up-and-coming musicians in the Kaipara region an opportunity to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience, as well as treating locals to Anika Moa," says Andy.

Ticket pre-sales are \$20 for adults, with gate sales on the day \$25. Children under 16 are \$5; children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Advance tickets can be purchased online at: [www.chill.org.nz](http://www.chill.org.nz).

\$2 from every Chill in the Ville ticket will be donated to local charity The Angel Fund, which helps families suffering financial

hardship. Money raised at the first two festivals went to children in need for sports fees, school shoes, warm clothes and petrol vouchers.

A free shuttle bus will pick up concert-goers from the Kaipara Tavern carpark and



• Anika Moa

Photo: Māori Television

Parakai throughout the day, and Ritchies will put on a free bus to take people back to Helensville after the concert.

Chill in the Ville has been organised in collaboration with the NorthWest Country business association, and Parakai Springs, and if successful Andy says it could become an annual event.

## Buy one, give one

Shopping at the Parakai 4 Square supermarket this month could enable locals to help other local families in need.

Supermarket owner Dan Dale has teamed up with Pams and the Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC) to run a 'Buy One, Give One' promotion from Monday, December 4 until Sunday, December 17.

When locals buy any items from a range of 30 Pams or Value products, an identical item will be donated to the HWFC or the Helensville Food Bank for distribution to families in need.

Products on the list range from canned food goods and staples such as rice, through to toothbrushes and sanitary pads.

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# Christmas dinner

Helensville's community Christmas dinner is back on the town's menu.

After a relatively low turnout of diners last year, there was some doubt the dinner would continue.

But organiser Holly Southernwood says there is strong support for it to carry on from local community groups.

"No-one thought we should consider not having it," she says, so the 2017 dinner is going ahead.

Holly has made two big changes for this year.

The first is to do away with the need for locals to pre-register for the Christmas meal;

they can now just turn up on the day. She believes some people may have felt uncomfortable having to put their names down in advance, and says the change will help destigmatize the meal as being just for people who need charity.

The dinner is in fact open to anyone in the community, and those attending are asked to give a gold coin donation, or a little more if they feel they are able to.

The second change is a move to a new venue - previous dinners have been held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, but this year it will be in the Helensville Primary School hall. The school is providing the venue free of charge.

While Holly is cutting back on the amount of food to be prepared this year, she says the dinner "should feed 150 comfortably". Three hams and two lambs will be on offer, and like last year the food will be prepared in the commercial kitchen at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai.

Any leftovers will be distributed to Monte Cecilia in Mangere.

Transport will be provided for anyone who can't get to the dinner under their own steam.

Every child aged 12 and under attending the dinner will receive a Christmas present.

Locals who would like to donate a gift (suggested value of \$10 to \$15 and labeled stating age group and whether for a boy or girl) can leave them at Helensville Library. Gifts bought from Helensville Paper Plus to donate will be Christmas wrapped for free.

Holly is still looking for a few volunteers to help with the dinner. People are needed to help with food preparation and the setup and decoration of the hall on Christmas Eve (both during the day and evening), assisting with the dinner on Christmas Day, and helping with the cleanup on Boxing Day.

She would also love to hear from anyone able to provide suitable entertainment during the event.

Anyone who would like to donate toward the dinner, or volunteer to help, can do so at the Helensville CAB or email Holly at: helchrisfest@gmail.com.

The dinner is supported financially by the Lions Club of Helensville, South Kaipara Rotary Club, local iwi, and BuildLink West.

## Videos on regional park

South Head's Te Rau Puriri Regional Park is the subject of four professionally produced videos available either through the Auckland Council website or on YouTube.

In the first, 'Te Rau Puriri Regional Park - an Introduction', Park Ranger Phil Evans introduces the park, which is described as a scenic gem in progress.

Then two slightly shorter, six minute videos cover park history from the point of view of previous owners.

In 'McLeod's Farm - A Park in the Making' Cedric and Dianne McLeod share history, stories and photos of their former waterfront farm as it transitioned into part of the park.

And in 'Harbour View Farm to Public Playground', Mavis Smeaton revisits her family's former farm, now part of Te Rau Puriri Regional Park.

Finally, a three minute video titled 'From the Saddle - Te Rau Puriri Regional Park' shows the park from a horse rider's point of view, with South Head locals Karen and Erin Leighton riding across the park.

The videos can be accessed on the Auckland Council website : <http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/terapuriri> or by searching for their titles on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

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## Police looking into car crash



Helensville Police are following up the crash of this silver Subaru Legacy in Parkhurst Road in the early hours of Sunday, November 19.

Sergeant Steven Perris says the male driver, believed to be a local, was taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries before being released. No-one else was in the car.

The accident is believed to have been

caused by excessive speed, and police were waiting on the results of a blood alcohol test as *Helensville News* went to print.

The force of the accident ripped a mature tree from the ground and demolished a resident's front fence.

Sergeant Perris reminds drivers to slow down, especially during the holiday season, and to avoid alcohol when driving.

## Children's art on show

Helensville Art Centre's annual Kids' Art Show is on again this month until Saturday, December 23.

"It is lovely to see the pure imagination of the children, and to give them this opportunity to be part of a real exhibition," says centre coordinator Pauline Denton.

Last year's show attracted around 70 exhibits. The exhibition is free and open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.

Running at the same time

is the Art Centre's first 'Cash & Carry' exhibition, aimed at giving locals an chance to purchase art as Christmas gifts.



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# Health Trust manager leaves

A search is underway for a replacement business manager for the Helensville District Health Trust.

Current manager Sue Miller (right) leaves on January 5, to move with her husband to Northland. She joined the Trust in mid-2016 following the departure of long-serving manager Charm Torrance.

"I am no stranger to Northland, so it seemed like the logical place for us to move to," says Sue. "Unfortunately, it means my time at Helensville District Health Trust has been short."

While at the Trust, Sue led a number of initiatives including establishing the contract to run the Kaipara College tuck shop, implementation of a quality framework and health and safety plan for the Trust, and the engagement of a public health registrar to complete a 'health needs assessment' for the South Kaipara community.

She also focussed on making the community centre at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai self-sustaining and a hub for community education and wellness.

"Sue has been wonderful to work with and a real driver for change and innovation, and we will miss working with her," says Health Trust chairperson Erica McKenzie.



She says the Trust is looking to attract "an energetic, passionate and strategic leader who can help us achieve our vision of being 'The Healthiest Rural Community in New Zealand.'"

## medical centre notes

As the weather gets hotter, we all like to spend more time in the water to cool down. This means we get to see more cases of people with sore ears after they've been swimming. Otitis externa is the fancy name we give to one type of earache, and is often referred to as swimmer's ear.

The outer ear canal is the skin-lined tube with hairs (especially as us men get older) and glands that produces wax and which leads to the ear drum.

In hot and humid weather, sweat and water from swimming can enter the canal, and if the lining of the tube is not in good condition - such as from eczema, damage from cotton buds and over vigorous excavations for wax or repeated swimming - the tunnel can become inflamed, swollen and infected. This is very sore, and tender to touch the ear, especially the tragus (the triangular piece of skin in front of ear canal).

This is different to common childhood ear infections, which are often in the middle ear behind the eardrum.

It is treated by ear drops to deal with the infection and calm the inflammation in the canal.

Prevention is best though, so using moulded ear plugs if doing lots of swimming, and avoid poking things into the canal - the ear canal is designed to be self cleaning!

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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# Chris Penk interview

We continue our interview with new Helensville Member of Parliament, Chris Penk. This completes the article begun in our November issue.

As Helensville's new MP, Chris Penk has already undergone a two-week induction into parliament, and is now preparing for his maiden speech, which he will either make just before Christmas or early in the New Year.

"I'm giving some thought to what kinds of things motivate me, and getting a balance between acknowledging the electorate who have put me there in the first place, but also to understand the needs of New Zealanders as a whole."

New Zealand has seen very few single-term governments, so it is likely it will be six, or possibly even nine years, before National come to power again. Assuming he keeps getting re-elected, by that stage Chris will have a number of years' experience as an electorate MP, and potentially in line for a position of responsibility within a new National-led government.

Asked about his future ambitions, Chris says he would look to make a contribution in areas where he already has strengths.

"With my navy background [defence] would obviously be a thing to look towards."

"While I won't be at ministerial level any time soon there will an opportunity at select committee, and also at holding the government of the day to account - which is obviously the other guys - and to be able to say sensible things in relation to that that genuinely contribute to good policy, albeit from opposition benches, whether that's three, six or nine years."

"But also I am keen to get involved in areas that haven't particularly been a strong part of my professional background. For example education - I wasn't a teacher, but do feel very strongly that education is really important for this area, and indeed everywhere in the country."

"It almost goes without saying that if we

are going to succeed in the future we need to educate the young now for their role in the future workforce whatever that looks like, but also just to be good citizens.

"Starting at the local level, that's something I want to build good skills and knowledge [of] and to be able to work with and alongside local schools and to advocate for things that will be helpful for them," he adds.

Chris believes there can be some confusion among constituents as to what central and local government responsibilities are.

"I think often it's about people not realising the distinction, but the reality is that as the local representative, people will

have a legitimate expectation that I will be able to go into bat for them for local causes."

"So while it might be that the funding to relieve a certain problem may rest with council, there is still a role for me to play in liaising with them and advocating on behalf of the constituents, so that Helensville and surrounding areas don't miss out."

In his early stages as our new member of parliament, Chris will be attending as many events in the electorate and meeting as many people as possible, and familiarising himself with local issues.

Constituents will be able to meet with him at his Huapai electorate office - the same one Sir John Key used - but he's going much further than that. Chris is putting together a programme of 'Meet in the Street' events, similar to the 'Mayor in the Chair' sessions former Auckland Mayor Len Brown held, where he will turn up at different locations around the electorate so people can talk with him without having to trek into Huapai.

He is also planning similar gatherings in local parks and fields - working title 'Penk in a Park, which he doesn't like! - where he will



• Chris Penk

• To page 9

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# CHRISTMAS

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# Scream!



• Masks, blood and makeup adorn the actors prior to the Haunted House night

Halloween at Helensville Museum was a scream - literally.

The museum's second Haunted House night, held a few days before Halloween

## Chris Penk (cont...)

• From page 8

set up a gazebo, put on some food and drinks and invite locals to come along for a chat.

The electorate office will be staffed 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and locals will be able to chat with staff there or make an appointment to see Chris in person.

"[They] certainly will have every opportunity to arrange a meeting with me to talk about dealings with government departments in particular, if they're having problems with immigration, ACC, maybe something around education - that traditional role will definitely be filled as well," he says.

"I would love to hear from people if they have any local issues, or even just want to chat about life in the area, and if there's any way I can help them they should get in touch any time."

proper, put the frighteners on locals.

"This year, the actors were really out to scare visitors - which judging by the screams was effective," says museum administration manager Lynn Millar.

The evening was put back by a day to Saturday, October 28 so it didn't clash with the annual Taupaki fireworks display.

But the change of date didn't diminish the number of locals keen to get a good fright, with the event raising \$1185 to go towards projects at the museum.

"At one stage the queue was out the door and down the ramp to the gate," says Lynn.

"People were very patient although the wait was quite long; most made the comment after going through that it was well worth the wait."

Around 20 locals played the gruesome horror character roles for the evening, made up by organiser Jen McCann to look suitably frightening.

A chocolate raffle was included in the \$10 entry price, and torches were available for purchase thanks to the Helensville \$2 Shop.

Plans are already underway for another evening of horror at the museum next year. Anyone with ideas on how the event could be improved should contact Lynn at the museum.



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W: [www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz](http://www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz)

## GATE & PARKING TEAM

Helensville Show is seeking expressions of interest from community organisations to operate the gate and parking at the 2018 Helensville Show, on Saturday February 24th.

Interested parties will need to have a guaranteed staff of approx 50 people with rosters starting at 5.45am through until 4pm.

For full details of the role, or more information, please email [info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz), or phone Merle on 09/420-7572 or 027/524-0383.

Expressions of interest please by 22nd December. Appointment will be made early January and training meetings held beginning February.

# Local properties among top valuation increases

The rateable value of most residential properties in Rodney increased by a much higher amount than the rest of Auckland.

Parakai/South Head values increased by 69 percent. Of the 238 suburbs listed in Auckland Council's latest rateable value review, only eight rose by a higher amount.

And one of those eight - Waitoki/Wainui - is also in Rodney and rose by a massive 102 percent, the second highest increase in the city.

City-wide, the average rateable value increase for residential properties was 45 percent.

Both Helensville and Kaukapakapa easily topped that figure, each on 62 percent. Shelly Beach properties had increases just above the average, at 47 percent, while Waimauku is the only area in the *Helensville News* readership zone that was below the citywide average - but at 44

percent, if it was just a single percentage point below.

The bad news for locals is that rateable values have little bearing on actual market values of properties - just because a property in Parakai had a rating value increase of 69 percent doesn't mean that the property is suddenly worth that much more on the open market.

However, the large increases are likely to result in increased property rates next year.

Auckland Council's Head of Rates, Debbie Acott, says the higher than average increases in areas like Helensville appear to be a result of higher demand in areas where property is less expensive.

"Generally speaking, the values in Auckland's outer suburbs appear to be catching up with the 2014 revaluation."

"Areas that increased the most in the last revaluation - by and large central Auckland -

are now moving roughly along the average. Those that didn't last time - mainly outer Auckland - are the ones with the highest increases this time," she says.

"Property valuations are used to help us work out everyone's share of rates - they don't mean that we collect any more money. However, we won't know the impact of this revaluation on rates until we agree our next budget in 2018, so I encourage Aucklanders to view these valuations with that in mind."

Aside from residential increases, commercial and industrial properties received rises of 43 percent and 47 percent respectively, while lifestyle properties increased by 57 percent and rural ones by 35 percent on average.

Rating valuation increases for individual properties are available now on the Auckland Council website.

# Car show shines on damp day



• American cars made up the bulk of the show



Showery morning weather kept the number of cars which turned up for the Kaipara Classic Car Club's annual Show 'n' Shine at Helensville Museum on Sunday, November 19 down on previous years, but there was still a wide range of vehicles on show for the event.

The annual fundraiser for the museum attracted about half last year's number of vehicles, but the locals who came to look were still impressed with the selection of cars, which ranged from souped-up American muscle cars through to a Rolls Royce, a huge Farmall tractor and a tiny Ford Popular, and covered automotive icons from the 1920s up to the present day.

The event featured live music playing on the museum's Sunshine schoolroom deck, a bar and food outlets.

• Right: there was a lot of peering under bonnets at shiny, chromed engines, like the enormous supercharged V8 in this Pontiac TransAm

• Left: what every hotrod needs - a pirate skull radiator cap



# 'Dare to Explore' at library

Helensville Library staff will join with staff from other libraries in a celebration event at the NorthWest Mall on Saturday, December 9 to launch Auckland Libraries' summer reading programme, Kia Māia te Whai Dare to Explore

They'll be at the mall from 10am to 4pm, along with special guests throughout the day including Geronimo Stilton and Clifford the Big Red Dog.

There will be activities available on the day, and children can join the programme on the spot, pick up their booklet if already registered, and maybe even mark off some challenges as completed.

This day also marks the opening of the Auckland Libraries presence at a pop-up facility at NorthWest Mall (part of the Town Centre area). There will be events at the construction site for the new community facility from December to April, including storytimes, sing-a-longs, and crafts - and they're not just aimed at children.

Flyers with all the details are available at Helensville Library.

Closer to home, Santa will visit Helensville Library on Tuesday, December 19 as part of a special children's time from 10.30am to 11am. And then the library team,

## Christmas tree decorations

A final call has gone out for donations of Christmas tree decorations.

The decorations are to go on trees donated by Nōel's Christmas Trees which will be distributed to local families via The Angel Fund from Saturday, December 9.

Locals can donate decorations, either bought or home-made, at Helensville Library up until Friday, December 8.

There will also be a special stall at the twilight market at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai on Thursday, December 7 from 5pm to 8.30pm, where locals will be able to buy decorations starting at just 50c each, and donate them on the spot.

along with Santa, will return to the library pop-up at NorthWest Mall for a Santa sing-along from 6pm. There will also be a special Storytime with Santa on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, from 6pm to 7pm at the pop-up.

Kia Māia te Whai Dare to Explore will continue at Helensville library throughout December and until January 17.



• Children enjoy last year's Dare to Explore programme

"Children are encouraged and supported to keep their reading levels up during the long summer school break," says Helensville senior librarian Anne Coppell.

"Research shows that reading levels tend to slip over the holiday, but participation in summer reading programmes helps keep their reading levels the same, if not improve them."

Library staff have activities planned to help children complete their challenges.

The library will only be closed on the statutory holidays this year - Sunday, December 24 to Tuesday, December 26, and Sunday, December 31 to Tuesday, January 2.

## New roads named

Mahi Road, Urumaraki Avenue, Minerva Avenue and Turehu Road are the names of the latest roads in Helensville.

The roads are located in the new subdivision at 177 Rautawhiri Road, and the names were approved at the Rodney Local Board's November meeting.

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# Chrome to fore at chopper show



• Show organiser and Parakai Springs manager Dion Tilson on one of the two choppers he had on display at the Show & Shine

Chrome, huge tyres and flash paint jobs were the order of the day at the first Chopper Show & Shine at Parakai on Sunday, November 19.

Organised by Parakai Springs manager Dion Tilson, himself a keen chopper owner who had two motorcycles on display, the New Zealand Chopper Club show drew around 80 gleaming motorcycles despite rainy weather earlier in the morning, with more than 100 visitors on hand to admire the machinery.

While the extremely customised choppers were the clear crowd favourites, there were also beautifully restored classic motorcycles on show, along with some modern bikes, a big display of Indian motorcycles, and a wide range of more mildly-customised motorbikes.

Those attending raised more than \$1000 for the Paw Justice animal rights organisation. Following the success of the Chopper Show & Shine, Paw Justice has decided to use Parakai Springs as a venue for its 2018 Ride for Justice event, a charity motorcycle ride that attracted almost 1000 motorbikes this year.

Band 'Kara Gordon and the Wreckage' played throughout the Show & Shine, and the iconic White Lady fast food caravan was on site to keep the motorcyclists and public from getting hungry.

Dion says another show will be held next year, probably in February, and it looks to become an annual event.



• Rows of motorbikes at the chopper show

## from the frontline

With the festive season here, most of us will be spending time shopping, celebrating and planning a feast or two. It's a great time of the year for most people, with an abundance of goodwill and joyfulness.

Unfortunately there are some people who want nothing more than to spoil our festivities just like that green old Grinch.

As we get busy planning and preparing for the holiday season and our summer

### Noeleen Healey

Well-known local identity Noeleen Healey passed away on Wednesday, November 22.

The former Kaipara College home economics teacher (then Noeleen Lane) was more recently known for her contribution to the local arts scene.

We hope to have a full obituary in our February issue.

breaks away, we can sometimes become relaxed with aspects of security. Because of this, it can be an ideal period for an opportunist thief to take advantage where they can.

So make sure your homes and vehicles are always secure, and that you are aware of your surroundings when walking alone. When making purchases with cards, conceal your pin numbers and be careful when ordering items online.

While out Christmas shopping remember to lock your vehicle and hide all your recently bought bags of gifts in the boot where they aren't in plain view.

Don't openly display all of your Christmas gifts under the tree. There are many burglaries reported to police where wrapped presents have been stolen. It sounds awful, but unfortunately it's a fact. If you are having festive lights outside your home and need access to a power socket be mindful that a burglar will not think twice to enter through an open window.

Don't stack up all your empty gift boxes where thieves can see. Try and break the boxes down and put them in a bin. It's quite tempting for would be thieves to see what Santa or your loved ones gave you on Christmas Day and break into your home.

Incidents of reported domestic violence also increase as we head into the festive season. This is because of, but not limited to, extra financial pressures and stress and an increase in the consumption of alcohol. Because of the increased risk we should all be mindful of the triggers, and once we recognise that people are affected by them take action to keep our families, neighbours and people in our community safe.

So all the best this Christmas and I wish you all a crime free, safe and happy New Year.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



# Riders out in force for horse trek



• Riders head off from the start on Graeme and Helen Bradly's farm

Around 60 riders enjoyed a mostly fine two-hour trek across four local farms on Sunday, November 19.

They were taking part in the third annual fundraiser of its type run by the Helensville A&P Association. A similar number rode in the event last year.

Light rain earlier in the day put off some of those riders who had booked for the trek, but the weather cleared as the riders set out in late morning to ride first across the Bradly Road farm of Graeme Bradly. They then crossed into Richard and Dianne Kidd's property before heading over the neighbouring farms of Richard Bradly and Barry Bradly.

The event raised about \$1300 to go towards the annual Helensville A&P Show, which will be held on February 24.

## Local HIPPY kids graduate

17 young local children graduated from their HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) programme at a ceremony held in the Parakai School hall on Friday, December 1.

Principal Nick Neubert presented the HIPPY children and their parents with certificates and gifts acknowledging their work during the year. HIPPY co-ordinator Bernie Malizia thanked Nick for the support Parakai School has given the HIPPY programme since it became based there in 2011.

Parakai School new entrant teacher Jackie Silby says she loves getting HIPPY children in her new entrant class. She has been a supporter of the programme since 2005, when she noticed that her 'HIPPY kids' stood out in the classroom as being switched on to learning.

Children in the HIPPY programme work with their parents for two years. Parents find that spending quality time working with their children on the HIPPY activities not only prepares their child for school, but also develops a great parent/child relationship.

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# Top college students

Logan Wishart is the 2017 Dux of Kaipara College, and Paice Vaughan has been named Proxime Accessit.

## ■ SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS:

**Pengelly Cup:** Keanna Phillipps; **Audrey Luckens Writing Award:** Sydney Everard; **John Key Cup:** Jamie Beale; **McCurdie Cup:** Jade Williams-Pratt; **Lions Trophy - Public Speaking:** Tom Stenning; **Te Atawhaitia Award for Contribution to Things Maori:** Jamie Beale & Keanna Phillipps; **Te Ihi Award for Maori Performing Arts:** Keanna Phillipps.

## ■ SENIOR FACULTY AWARDS:

**Faculty of Arts:** Taine Ngatai; **Faculty of Phys Ed & Health:** Katie Ashworth; **Faculty of Languages:** Hazel Zalucki; **Faculty of Mathematics:** Hazel Zalucki; **Faculty of Social Sciences:** Hazel Zalucki; **Faculty of Science:** Joshua Brunton; **Faculty of Technology:** Mark Waterson.

## ■ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

**University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship:** Natasha Brown; **University of Otago Maori & Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarship:** Karla Southern-Vasey; **Auckland University Top Achiever Scholarship:** Paice Vaughan; **Auckland University Academic Potential Scholarship:** Hazel Zalucki; **Auckland University Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship:** Katrina Jordan; **AUT Community Partnership Scholarship:** Keanna Phillipps; **Unitec:** Mark Waterson; **Neil Notley Scholarship:** Benjamin Ruzich; **Helensville District Health Trust Scholarship:** Byrony Roberts; **The Order of St John Scholarship:** Renae Thomas.

## ■ SPORTS AWARDS:

**Sportsman of the Year:** James Freshwater; **Sportswoman of the Year:** Malia Hemehe; **Senior Team of the Year:** 1st XV Boys Rugby; **Honours Award:** Georgia Gibbons (equestrian) and Daniel Calder (waka ama); **Contribution to Sport:** James Fuiava; **Student Contribution to Sport:** Jamie Beale; **James A Skipper Memorial Trophy for Best & Fairest Sportsman:** Daniel Calder; **Junior Boy All-Rounder:** Ben Clarke; **Junior Girl All-Rounder:** Kendrah Smith.



## Helensville Birthing Centre

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## Kaipara Medical Centre welcomes new doctor

Dr Rachel Mackie has accepted a permanent position and will be starting 1 February. She has strong connections to South Kaipara with friends and family living in the area. Rachel is moving to the area from Nelson along with her husband and daughter.

Rachel arrives at an exciting time for the medical centre as it looks to make improvements including a reconfiguration of the reception and waiting areas in the new year.

In other staffing news, Dr Hollie Shine has resigned and will not be returning from maternity leave as originally planned. Instead she's taking a job closer to her home.

Meanwhile, patients are reminded that from the beginning of December fees for doctors' and nurses' visits at the weekday evenings and Saturday morning clinics are going up. The new fees will mean the unfunded clinics outside normal weekday business hours will now pay for themselves and will hopefully mean they can continue to be offered as an important service to the community.

## to market, to market



The South Kaipara Harvest & Artisan Market is excited to be hosting its first ever Twilight Christmas Market on Thursday 7 December, 5.00pm – 8.30pm.

There'll be face-painting and pony rides for the kids, a live band and all our usual stallholders, plus a few newbies. Come along and join your friends and neighbours as we get into the festive spirit and make a dent in your Christmas shopping while supporting the wonderful artisans and growers in our area.

And make a note on your calendar for Saturday 20 January when we'll be holding our first Carboot Sale at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. Details on how to book a spot will be available in the new year at [thrivekaipara.org.nz](http://thrivekaipara.org.nz).



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# Fires now by permit only

Locals wanting to burn an outdoor fire will need a permit from December 1.

The annual summer restricted fire season is now in force, and everyone in the Auckland region will need a permit from Auckland Council to burn outdoors.

Permits for burning on the exact same site with the same conditions as a previous fire can be renewed on the council website using the fire permit extension/renewal form. If a burn area is new or different, use the Rural Fire permit application form. If possible new applications should include photos of the burn pile and the surroundings.

A rural fire officer will contact applicants within three days; allow up to five working days for the permit to be issued. The officer may need to visit your property for a site inspection.

No fire permits will be issued from December 20 until January 8. For more information phone 09 301 0101, email [firepermit.auckland@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:firepermit.auckland@fireandemergency.nz), or visit: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ruralfire](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ruralfire).

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

### SOUTH KAIPARA ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

Co-operative Parish, 60 Garfield Rd. Contact Suzie Smith, 420 7835

- Thursday, Dec 14th: 7pm, Blue Christmas.
- Sunday, Dec 17th: 9.30am, Carol Service.
- Sunday, Dec 24th: 9.30am, Eucharist Service. 6pm, Children's Christmas Eve Service.
- Monday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

### ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16. Contact Suzie Smith, 420 7835

- Monday, Dec 25th: 8am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

1 Puriri St, Helensville. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. 420 8110

- Sunday, Dec 24: 7.30pm, Christmas Carols; 8pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Monday, Dec 25: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

### ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

380 SH16, Huapai. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. 420 8110

- Sunday, Dec 24: 6pm, Christmas Carols; 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass. 10.30pm, Christmas Carols; 11pm Midnight Mass, finishing midnight.
- Monday, Dec 25: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

### RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai. Contact Shirley Wood, 420 2559

- Sunday, Dec 24: 10am, Christmas Eve Service.

### HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mill Rd, Helensville. Contact Maree van Alstine, 021 420 730

- Sunday, Dec 24: 10.30am, Carol Service, with food to follow and a gift from Santa.

### HELENSVILLE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE

118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. Contact Sharon, 420 8911

- Sunday, Dec 17: 10am, 'Oh Come all you Faithful' Christmas Service, with coffee/tea and Christmas cake after the service.
- Sunday, Dec 17: 6.30pm, 'Carols on the Corner' followed by coffee/tea and Christmas cake after the service. Co-ordinated by Helensville community churches.
- Sunday, Dec 24: 10am, 'Joyful' Short Christmas Service

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**FEE CHANGES**

Weekday evening & Saturday morning clinic fees will change from 1 December 2017:

**GP Consultation, 15 mins**

Adult: \$45 (was \$28)

13-17 years: \$32 (was \$22)

**Nurse Clinic, 15 mins**

\$25 (was \$18)

Fees for Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.00pm are unchanged.

**Under 13s FREE**

**making the difference**

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

Our December recipient is Michelle Nasey, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Zubu in Commercial Road.

Michelle was nominated by Renee Blair. Renee says: "Michelle is a local midwife who makes a huge difference to local whanau, but she also manages the Helensville Birthing Centre.

"Michelle is continuously going above and beyond for local families, and families who stay at the birthing centre. Michelle is a huge part of the community who contributes so much!"



• Nicky Horsbrough and Michelle Nasey

You're invited to... **OUR ONE DAY SUMMER MADNESS** Sale  
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Our Christmas & New Year **TRADING HOURS**

Friday 23rd December 7:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday 24th - Tuesday 26th Closed

Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th 8:00am - 4:00pm

Monday 2nd January closed

Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th 8:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday 30th December & 7th January

Normal trading hours

Monday 9th January

Normal weekday hours will resume

# local board matters

I've yet to meet anybody who greets the prospect of new government taxes or council rates with enthusiasm.

For the last few terms voters have put in place mayors who promised to keep average rates increases to 2.5 percent, and promising anything else is political suicide. Council politicians promising rates increases find their re-election chances drastically reduced even if it is the honest position to take.

Ratepayers have for decades voted to ensure rates are kept low, and as a result investment in infrastructure has followed the same minimum level.

Ancient stormwater drains discharge sewage into our harbours; roads can't cope with the growth; and council agencies sweat assets well beyond their useful life.

Sooner or later the game of political musical-chairs ends, and we will have to face the fact that many decades of under-investment has left a mess and the only way to deal with it is to find more money.

Council absolutely has an obligation to manage our money properly, and the effectiveness of services should be monitored and costs kept under control.

But suggestions that budget savings are some magic bullet that can plug the growing gap in capital spending, avoiding increases in tax, don't match up with the reality.

Auckland Transport now faces a \$7 billion gap in funding for its 30 year programme of work. Given the necessity of

roads and public transport in a rapidly growing city it's obvious that this situation can't continue.

Neither can we continue to damage the environment, making our most popular beaches unswimmable because of failing infrastructure.

Getting rid of staff not only won't make much difference to the billions of dollars needed, it will also mean reduced levels of service, which will be seen on our streets and parks.

Aucklanders will be asked to make some tough choices next year as part of Council's Long Term Plan budget consultation.

A fuel tax is on the horizon, and we'll be asked if we are prepared to pay a range of targeted rates to prop up budgets that aren't keeping up with the growth in our city.

It will be an interesting discussion for the New Year!

Finally, on an equally sober note, I saw some statistics in an Auckland Transport report that had Rodney with the worst death and serious injury rates in Auckland; this figure has gone up over the last year. As a firefighter who has seen the horrific result of car accidents, the term 'serious injury' does not begin to explain the lifetime of pain and suffering accident victims and their families have ahead of them. Many never recover.

I would plead with people to exercise patience and tolerance with each other on the roads over the Christmas break. In our growing urban areas traffic is here to stay. Dangerous overtaking, road rage, drink driving and speeding puts everyone at risk and in reality, may only save a few minutes of travel.

Summer's here - chill out, enjoy the views of our wonderful district and get to your destination safely!

If you need assistance with council related matters please phone me on 021 837 167 or email me at: phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



- Phelan Pirrie

Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board



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## Christmas dine & dance

Local singer Emilie Harwood will headline a special Christmas dine and dance evening at the Kaipara RSA in Commercial Road on Saturday, December 16.

The evening will feature songs from the 1950s to the 1970s, plus a selection of Christmas tunes.

Tickets, available from the RSA in advance or door sales on the night, are \$10 per person, and the show will run from 6.30pm to 9pm. Tickets are restricted to 18 years or older, or with parental supervision.

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community tidbits from town and around

## ■ TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET

A special twilight market will be held at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai on Thursday, December 7 from 5pm to 8.30pm. There will be hot food, gift stalls, live music and entertainment for children.

## ■ SANTA IN KAUKAPAKAPA

Santa will be visiting Kaukapakapa Library, which has been themed as a sparkly Santa Cave for the occasion, on Sunday, December 17 from 10am to 1pm. Those who visit Santa can pass on their wish list, take home a souvenir photo, and maybe even receive a gift from the man. A gold coin donation would be appreciated. For more information contact Megan, phone 021 959 017 or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

## ■ YOGA EVENING

An evening of 'intuitive flow yoga' and Oro Atua Māori Sound Healing Journey will be held on Friday, December 8 at 6.30pm at Aroha Nui Yoga Centre in Helensville.

Honouring Papatuanuku and Ranginui (the Earthmother and Skyfather), the evening will include a kai kawakawa grounding ceremony. The evening is open to everyone, not just those skilled at yoga.

Contact Linsey Smith at the Paua Room, phone 420 9898. More information is available online at: [www.theartofyoga.co.nz](http://www.theartofyoga.co.nz).

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

A special festive Kaukapakapa Market will be held on Sunday, December 17 from 8.30am to 1pm. Santa will be in his grotto, and there will be seasonal sounds from the Cougar Chorus. It will be a chance to pick up some Christmas gifts from the wide range of craft and gift stall.

The market will be back on Sunday, January 21 with live music, food and coffee, fresh fruit and vegetables and bargains from the car boot area.

For more information or to book a stall contact Sarah 0274 831 542 or email [sarah1@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:sarah1@maxnet.co.nz)

## Toys, food appeal

The Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC) is asking for donations of new toys and non-perishable food items to go in the Christmas hampers they make for local families in need.

There is a particular need for toys for boys aged 10 to 16 years.

The HWFC is being supported by Harcourts Helensville, and any new gifts and food items can be left at the Harcourts office next to Countdown in Commercial Road, or at any Harcourts open home in our area, up until Friday, December 15.

Donations can also be dropped off at the HWFC, in the Old Post Office building at 104 Commercial Road, between 9.30am and 2.30pm weekdays.

## College speech winners

Year 13 student Tom Stenning took out the \$1000 top prize at the Kaipara College Senior Speech Competition with a talk on What Makes Winners, Winners.

The prize money was donated by the Lions Club of Helensville.

Samantha Kay's speech on the fear of failure won her the \$200 Year 11 prize, while Bethany French won a similar amount in the Year 12 section talking about deception.

Among the thought-provoking topics from other contestants were: 'Could the Teacher of the Future be a Computer?'; 'Gender and Sexuality Equality'; and 'Veganism'.

The speeches were judged by drama teacher Stephen Lunt and Helensville Lion Peter Hepburn.

## trade & classifieds

### ■ Helensville Glass

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

### ■ FEBRUARY 2018 deadline: Friday, 19th January 2018

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#### Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:

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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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