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Skydivers get their boogie on



• Skydivers form up over Parakai township, with the Kaipara River visible in the top left corner, and Parakai Airfield in the bottom left corner
- Photo: Stephen Tonson

Eighty skydivers from as far away as Dubai and Australia, and from around New Zealand, took part in a 'Weekend Boogie' event based at Parakai Airfield over Waitangi weekend.

The annual event, run by Parakai-based Skydive Auckland, is part of the company's drive to promote the sport of skydiving, and to provide an opportunity for hobby skydivers to get together at a fun event.

Two x-turbine aircraft spent the three days taking off and landing from the Parakai Airfield, where skydivers jumped from 13,000 feet over Skydive Auckland's regular drop zone, as well as onto both Muriwai and Browns Bay beaches.

Over the entire weekend there were 59 aircraft loads and a total of 761 jumps, of which 672 were sport (or solo) jumps and 89 were tandem jumps. Some flew in wingsuits, others joined up to form large circles in the sky.

The record for most jumps over the weekend went to Seb Wagner, who completed 23 jumps.

Company merger will be boost for Helensville economy

The Helensville economy is about to get a boost with a major expansion to farm supply company PGG Wrightson.

The company will close its Kumeu branch around the middle of this year, and merge all its business, staff and amenities with the Helensville store.

Land has been purchased in Mill Road - where Helensville Hire used to be located - and a new, purpose-built building is to be constructed. Once finished the local branch will move from its present location behind Mitre 10 to the much more visible road-frontage site. A move date has yet to be finalised.

PGG Wrightson group general manager for retail and water, Stephen Guerin, says all local staff will be retained, and Kumeu staff will all be transferred to the new Helensville store.

The new combined team will service the same area as the two separate stores did previously.

Stephen says the company, which has 95 branches nationwide, made the decision on the merger around Christmas time as part of a review of a number of stores.

"The nature of rural towns is changing," he says, pointing out that Kumeu is no longer a rural, farming community. There were other issues to consider as well, such as the high volume of truck traffic entering the Kumeu property and the associated traffic issues in the area.

He sees the stores' merging as a vote of confidence in the future of Helensville, and the move here as a "natural progression" from Kumeu.

Stephen says PGG Wrightson is currently working through planning for the new building and the various council and regulatory consents required.

A more definite date, and a cost for the merger, will be revealed later.

Of the 80 skydivers taking part, 28 jumped over Muriwai Beach on the Friday, while 40 people jumped into Browns Bay on the Sunday. They landed on the beaches around 7pm, providing an impressive and exciting sight as the colorful parachutes approached at high speeds, before landing gently on the sand.

Top skydivers, including Kate Vaughan and Maria Dmitrienko who hold world records or are national skydiving champions, attended the event to pass on their knowledge to sport skydivers, covering a range of skills.

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editorial

I've been a photography steward for the Helensville A&P Show for more than 30 years (!), and it's been interesting to see the changes in locals' photography over that period.

The average quality of the photos entered has improved dramatically, especially those of children, and I put that down to the advent of digital photography, which enables people to take many more photos than they used to, and to try things out without the high cost of developing and printing.

There's a downside though. At its heyday, the A&P Show attracted up to 1000 entries. In recent years, that dropped to around 500 on average, partly because of restrictions placed on the number of entries allowed. But this year, entries were only around 300, and I suspect that is part of a trend where people nowadays don't tend to print their photos.

I am constantly amazed at how few people even make back-up copies of their images. Many people use their smart phones for much of their photography, and hardly anyone I know copies those photos to their computer or some other safe-storage device. If the phone dies or is lost, those photos are gone forever.

In the 'old days' you had a negative, and a print. Lose one, and you still had the other.

Today, people are putting their history at risk - their own family history, and also that of public events, landscapes, buildings...

Museums and libraries do a wonderful job of protecting our recorded past with their collections of photographs. Just call in some time to Helensville Museum and see its vast archive of historic local photographs. But what might happen in another 100 years, when many of the photos taken today have been lost, simply because people didn't either print them, or keep safe copies?

So folks ... make sure you keep those photos safe. Copy them from your phone, or camera, to your computer. And then back-up your PC to external media so you have another safe copy. It's not difficult or expensive - and it'll protect your memories.

- Dave Addison, Editor

First sections on market

The first sections in a new subdivision at Parakai are already on the market, although it's expected to be October before they are issued titles.

The six, 600sq.m. sections have been listed by Harcourts in Henderson, and will cost \$437,000 including GST says realtor Edward Ching.

The first stage of the subdivision, which will be accessible through Chic Gardens, off Parkhurst Road, will have more than 60 sections in total, with sizes up to 650sq.m.

Helensville News first reported on the planned subdivision in 2014. At that stage development fell through, but the project was picked up last year by Legacy Property, which has since on-sold it to another developer who did not wish to talk to the press.

Assuming the development follows its original plan, a second stage will eventually see more sections added to the south, and a

through-road linking in to Fordyce Road.

Currently, the site is being built up with fill being trucked in from outside the area.


New SeniorNet option

Now that the Helensville SeniorNet computer training programme is no longer running, locals have the option of joining SeniorNet Kumeu.

The Kumeu branch meets in St Chads Church, Huapai - and there's a Helensville outpost at a private home in Garfield Rd.

The monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at 10am in St Chads church hall. Entry costs \$3.

For more information, and to find out details about the Helensville service, contact Brian Lacey, email: brian@lacey.nz, phone: 022 183 1811; Beverley Meredith, email: meredithpb@xtra.co.nz, phone: 09 411 5201; or Alwynne Wedgwood, email: alwynneoh@xtra.co.nz, phone 420 9984.



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CAB sets up computer desk



• Helensville CAB volunteer Tim Charman at the new computer desk

Having an email address and an easy way to access emails is almost a necessity of life these days - but not everyone has the inclination or finances to own a computer or smartphone of their own.

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau has noticed an increasing number of locals needing help with accessing the internet.

In response, it has now created a space equipped with a laptop near its front entrance for people to use free of charge.

CAB volunteers can help locals set up an email account, or to write a CV.

"The public are also welcome to use our facilities to print documents," says CAB manager Karen Rutherford. Although she jokingly adds: "any printing is of course within reason - printing a novel might be pushing our generosity just a bit too far!"

The Citizens Advice Bureau is at 27 Commercial Road, and is open from 10am to 3pm weekdays.

'Chill in the Ville' music festival

A day-long music festival will be held at Parakai later this month. 'Chill in the Ville' will be held at the Parakai Springs hot pools from 10am to 10pm on Saturday, March 25.

It's being billed as 'local bands, local DJs, local beer, local people, at the local pool'.

The lineup for the music festival includes The Recipe, Jimmy Christmas (with special guests), Tommy Nee, Flintwater Express, Creature, Awa Brown, DJ WeS, DJ BAKUP, and Kaipara College bands.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$30 for adults, \$15 for children under 15 years, and \$75 for a family pass for two adults and up to three children. Door sales on the day will be an extra \$5 per ticket. Tickets include entry to the music festival, the hot pools and use of the hydroslide. There will be a bouncy castle to entertain younger visitors, food trucks, and alcohol will be on sale to over-18s.

\$2 from every ticket will go to local charity The Angel Fund. Tickets are available from Parakai Springs, Helensville Super Liquor, EventFinder, or phone Andy on 021 685 199.

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Farewell to Jack Hannam

John Alfred (Jack) Hannam
April 22, 1934 - February 5, 2017

A moving honour guard tribute from members of the Waitemata Hunt Club, dressed in full hunting regalia, marked the funeral for Helensville's Jack Hannam, who died on February 5 aged 82.

Club members stood either side of Jack's casket and raised their riding whips, and Huntsman Nigel Tracey blew the hunting horn to help send off Jack, who was the club's patron and a founding member.

Jack was born in Grey Lynn in April 1934, the youngest child of William and Florence Hannam. He was raised initially in that Auckland suburb until the family moved to Whenuapai, where they owned a farm.

One of Jack's chores was to deliver milk around the village on his bike before going to school.

He attended Avondale College, where he developed a life-long interest in music, learning to play the piano and enjoying classical music.

For the last 15 years or so he was a member of the Hilltop Hideaway Country Music Club in Helensville, and had spent an enjoyable day there with wife Ngaere just the day before he passed away.

But Jack's real life-long passion was horses, which started when he got his first horse as a youngster. In 1949 at the age of just 15, he became a founding member of the Waitemata Hunt Club, and 60 years later became the club's patron.

At one stage he was even a jockey, racing at Ellerslie.

When Jack left school he worked as a sales rep for Motor Specialties in Wellington,

selling spare parts.

He was balloted for National Service for three months, and later joined the Territorial Forces, which he served for around 13 years. In 2012 his service was recognised when he was presented with the New Zealand Defense Service Medal by then Prime Minister John Key.

In 1961 Jack married first wife Shirley, and their daughter Kim was born while they lived at Massey. The family spent regular time at a bach at Muriwai, where Jack was a member of the both the local surf club and the golf club.

Jack also introduced Kim to horses, for which she too developed a love.

After Jack's relationship with Shirley ended, he met Ngaere at an Avondale



• Jack and Ngaere Hannam in a familiar situation - the equestrian tent at the Helensville A&P Show

College reunion - a meeting that would blossom into a 44-year marriage.

Eighteen months after Jack and Ngaere met, the couple and their combined five children were in an accident which would change their lives. Driving down Muriwai beach, a tyre blew out and their car rolled. Jack suffered spinal injuries which left him a paraplegic.

He spent the final five months of 1971 undergoing rehabilitation at Middlemore

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Custom chrome coming to Parakai

Expect lots of chrome and fancy paint work when up to 100 chopper motorcycles converge on Parakai in a few days' time.

The customised motorbikes will be taking part in the first Chopper Show & Shine at Parakai Springs hot pools on Sunday, March 12, the first display by the fledgling New Zealand Chopper Club.

The event has been planned as a family day out, and there will be a live band, a DJ, food and bouncy castles. In keeping with the family-friendly theme, no club patches will be allowed.

Organiser Rob Blackthorne says he expects anywhere from 200 to 300 motorcyclists to attend the show.

The bikes on display will be judged in three classes - Choppers, Baggers (which feature built-in side panniers), and Pro Street bikes. Spectators will be able to have their say too, with a people's choice award.

Rob describes owning a chopper as "a passion", and



• A selection of club members' choppers

says building a bike can easily cost upwards of \$40,000, with the more extreme designs going for \$100,000.

Choppers currently for sale on TradeMe range in price from \$15,000 to \$45,000.

The club was formed to bring owners of choppers and other custom bikes together, mostly as a social club says Rob.

The Show & Shine will run from 11am until 3pm, with a wet weather backup date of Sunday, March 26. Entry to the hot pools will be required to see the show.

Jack Hannam (cont...)

• From page 6

Hospital and the Otago Spinal Unit. But he had something to look forward to - marrying Ngaere the following year in New Lynn.

A hallmark of Jack's life was that he never let being in a wheelchair stop him from doing what he wanted to do.

In 1974 he was part of the New Zealand team that went to the Para Commonwealth Games in Dunedin as part of the kiwi shooting team, competing in the small bore events.

He spent time with Kim at her riding lessons at the Hepburn Riding School, where he became a horse riding instructor.

In 1998 he bought an Arab horse called Waimeha Detonator, which prompted a search for a property large enough for grazing - leading Jack and Ngaere to move to Inland Road in Helensville in 1990 - their home ever since.

Jack became a member of the

Helensville A&P Association in 1993 and served as Show president from 1999 to 2001 - the only person to have served as president in two different centuries.

He and Ngaere were a familiar team in the equestrian tent on show day.

Jack was a lodge member for 50 years, first with the Helensville Oddfellows Lodge until it closed, then with the Waitoki Oddfellows Lodge.

He volunteered at the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau for several years, and also worked voluntarily at the Otago Spinal Unit, where he would talk with people with new spinal injuries and help them learn how they could still lead a full life.

Jack and Ngaere enjoyed several holidays in Australia, and also had a timeshare at Paihia in the Bay of Islands.

Ngaere and family would like to thank everyone who sent condolences or provided support following Jack's death.

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Funding challenge for local Parent Aid

A loss of funding received from the Ministry of Social Development means local community organisation Parent Aid Northwest is being forced to look at other ways to raise money.

Its first fundraiser is a quiz night at the Helensville RSA in Commercial Road on Thursday, April 6 from 7pm.

The Ministry of Social Development transferred more than \$11 million in funding from social services programmes, including Parent Aid, to support Whanau Ora outcomes in the middle of last year.

Some Parent Aid organisations were forced to close as a result of the lost funding, but Parent Aid Northwest manager of four years Kim Gordon says luckily the Helensville-based branch had a more diversified funding model and was able to survive.

"[But] some people thought we had closed," she says.

"I work very hard to get funding, and am looking for other funding streams," says Kim. "This is a challenge. The committee is working very hard to come up with other ways of funding [us]."

Parent Aid is currently based in the Helensville District Health Trust's Porter Crescent house after having to move, along with other organisations, from Alison McKenzie House last year.

It provides a free, in-home service for parents of children up to the age of five, covering Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Waitoki, Kaukapakapa and as far north as

Glorit, and down to Riverhead, Muriwai and Kumeu in the south.

A team of home support workers helps parents of pre-schoolers with things such as housework, cooking, and looking after the children when parents have medical appointments. The home support workers usually visit on a weekly basis, for around three hours at a time.

"We support parents through practical help," explains Kim.

"You need a lot of skills to be a home



• The Parent Aid team, from left: Bev Meikle, Tina Knott, Elanie Claassen, Pauline Smit, Kim Gordon, Gabriella Donaldson

support worker - they have to be able to go into people's homes and to relate to a wide range of people, which isn't easy."

Kim says the service will remain "completely free", but a possible change to the organisation's funding model will be to allow families to make a donation to it if they want to.

Parent Aid also provides a creche service for other organisations in the area, such as Living Without Violence, the Helensville Women & Family Centre, and the Helensville Birthing Centre, and supports

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Parent Aid (cont...) JP clinics permanent

• From page 6

other organisations who help upskill parents.

Two new parent support workers recently joined the team in Helensville. Waitoki-based Pauline Smit works in the Kumeu-Riverhead area, while Tina Knott is based at Muriwai.

That means the local team of five can now handle 15 to 20 clients each week.

Home support workers are all experienced parents themselves. They are fully trained in first aid, police vetted, and receive on-going support and training. Kim says the organisation has a "very robust" child protection policy in place.

Tickets to the quiz night, which cost \$10 per person with tables of six people, are available through Kim. People wanting to register, or join a table, can phone Kim on 420 7002. The RSA's bar will be open for the evening, and light meals and snacks will be available from 6pm to 7pm.

A successful three-month regional trial last year of a regular Saturday morning Justice of the Peace clinic has ensured the service will become a fixture in Helensville.

The JP clinics will now be held every Saturday at the Helensville Plunket Rooms below the Helensville War Memorial Hall, from 10am to midday.

No appointments are necessary, and the service is free.

For more information contact Grev Walker, phone 420 7173, or Chas Holst, phone 420-8008.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day will be commemorated with a 5.45am Dawn Service at the Parakai Cenotaph on Tuesday, April 25, followed by a service at the Soldiers Cemetery and a parade down Commercial Road at 10.50am. Breakfast and lunch will be available at the RSA. Poppy Day, the RSA's annual fund raiser, will be the previous Friday, April 21.

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Shingles is an unpleasant condition and one that can cause confusion. Shingles is a reactivation of the chickenpox virus (varicella zoster/herpes zoster), so you cannot get shingles unless you have had chickenpox in the past.

After a chickenpox infection, the virus stays dormant in the body, in a nerve root. When it reactivates, it travels down the nerve and spreads to the area of skin that nerve supplies. This causes a painful, hypersensitive sensation in the skin, often for a few days before the rash appears, and can be associated with flu-like symptoms.

The rash is a blistering rash, but is confined to the area that nerve supplies - so does not cross the midline of the body, but often in a band round one side of the trunk, or one side of the scalp or face.

While shingles is self-limiting over a week, an option is to start antiviral tablets in the first 72 hours from the appearance of the rash. This may minimise the chances of the nerve pain (though the evidence for this is less clear) which can last for weeks after the rash has gone, and also has a modest effect in reducing severity in the acute phase. Also, if the shingles is on the face, it can involve and damage the surface of the cornea of the eye.

It is not clear why the virus re-activates, but it is often opportunistic if the immune system is low, such as when on some medication such as steroids or chemotherapy; when the patient is stressed or run down; or if the skin has been sunburnt recently.

You cannot catch shingles - though people who have never had chickenpox can catch chickenpox from someone with shingles.

The shingles vaccine can be used as a single booster after the age of 50, though effectiveness of the vaccine reduces the greater the age of the person it is given to.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director

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115th Helensville A&P Show

Here's a selection of images from another successful Helensville A&P Show. There are more on Facebook. All photos copyright Helensville News 2011 Ltd



• When you're not quite two years old, tractor driving is a serious business - or so thinks Finnik Green of Parakai

• Right: Highland dancing action

• Gypsy Cob horses, with their extravagantly 'feathered' legs, were a new addition to the equestrian section



- Opposite page, top to bottom:
 1. Local MP and former Prime Minister John Key tries to set entertainer Billy Black on fire in a demonstration of how wool doesn't burn
 2. Waitemata Hunt huntsman Nigel Tracey leads the hounds in a display
 3. Wood chips fly in the woodchopping
 4. Opening a gate in the expanded Farmer's Hack class



• The show was just too tiring for some...



• The look of pure joy on this child's face sums up the fun of the 115th Helensville A&P Show



ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday April 25th, 2017



KAIPARA MEMORIAL RSA (Inc)

The Kaipara Memorial RSA invites the people of the district to join us in commemorating ANZAC Day 2017.
The format for the day is as follows:

- 05.50 Dawn Parade at the Parakai Cenotaph, followed by a service at the Helensville Soldiers' Cemetery.
Breakfast at the RSA \$5.
- 09.30 Kaukapakapa service at Kaukapakapa War Memorial.
- 10.50 Fall In at Super Liquor car park for a parade down Commercial Rd followed by a commemorative service at the front of the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

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

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

RSA Manager: Graham Matthews Ph: 420 8888
kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz

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Spectator & Bike Entrance via Springs Road, Parakai
Event Organiser – Rob – 021 1400 219
Parakai Springs – Dion – 0800 HOT POOLS (468 766)
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4 FOUR SQUARE

PARAKAI Beer Month

Tasting Saturday 18th March. Parakai Four Square. 4:00-7:00pm

The Herbalist Craft Beer

The Herbalist craft beer has been created by local woman Rebecca Stenbeck, who has combined her knowledge as a qualified Herbalist and Naturopath to create a truly remarkable range of craft beers.

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Manuka Ale, 5.4%

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Nettle & Bilberry Lager 5.3%

This well balanced, dry hopped herbal lager has a delicate sweetness, is low in bitterness & layered with subtle & interesting malt and herbal flavours. Food Match: fish, seafood, salmon & berry desserts, or delicious consumed on its own.



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New tutors for HIPPY programme



Meet Martika Panui (left) and Katie McNamara (centre), two new HIPPY tutors who have just started working with the home-based preschool education programme.

They are being mentored by fellow young local parent Christina Newton, who has already completed the HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) programme with son Riley.

Martika's mother Frazerina Panui was a founding HIPPY South Kaipara tutor – making them the first mother and daughter to both become HIPPY tutors in New Zealand. Martika is from Kaukapakapa and has started the programme with her daughter Ava.

Katie is from South Head and is working on the first year of the programme with her son Carter.

All three tutors are looking forward to meeting and working with other young parents with preschool children in the community.

For more information on the HIPPY programme contact coordinator Bernie Malizia on 021 0220 6017 or email: bernie.hippy@clear.net.nz.

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Pizzas, film at Waitoki

A pizza and movie night will be held at Waitoki Hall on Saturday, April 1 starting at 6.30pm.

It will feature gluten-free pizzas cooked in a pizza oven by Vernerdi Bakery, followed by a screening of the family film 'Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium' starring Dustin Hoffman.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 14 to 16 years, free for under-14s, and \$20 for a family pass (two adults and up to four school age children)

Funds raised will go towards upkeep of the Waitoki Hall.

To book phone Lisa on 420 5455 or David on 420 3301.

Free breast screening



The mobile breast screening truck (above) will be in Helensville from Monday, May 29 until Saturday, June 17 in the Mitre 10 carpark in Mill Road.

Locals are encouraged to get in early with bookings for the free service for women aged 45 to 69 years.

Bookings can be made by phone to 0800 279 200, or text 'breastscreen' to 4040.



Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

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

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

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Helensville District Health Trust

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Healthy Helensville

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

Consultation underway

It's hoped preliminary plans for a new look Alison McKenzie House site will be available by the end of the year.

The Helensville District Health Trust has applied to the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund for funding for the next stage of the project. This will involve six months of talking with the community about its ideas for the site, as well as employing specialist architects to create concept plans.

Alison McKenzie House on the corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent has been closed since May last year when engineers deemed it unsafe. The Trust and other tenants have been in other accommodation ever since, while many conversations have been held with council representatives, heritage architects and structural engineers about the best way forward.

Trust General Manager Sue Miller says "this next stage is exciting because in consultation with the public we will be able to create a facility that will meet the community's needs for the next 30 years."

The community will likely be asked for its thoughts from June, with preliminary plans ready to put to council by December.

Healthy appetite for Tuck Shop



The new menu at the Kaipara College Tuck Shop is proving a hit with students. Since the beginning of the school year the food has been prepared and served by the kitchen team at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai.

Here's a taste of the students' reactions:

"The tuck shop staff are really friendly."

"Having an Eftpos terminal makes life heaps easier."

"The smoothies are great and the food is a good price."

If you'd like a taste of what the kids are enjoying, then the kitchen team is also available for catering. To find out more email kitchen@thrivekaipara.org.nz or phone Keryn on 09 420 9983 (probably easier than going back to school!).

At 103 years, John Old lived up to his name

John Ewart Old
1913-2017

John Old arrived in Helensville in 1967 as manager of the then Union Bank of Australia

(now ANZ Bank), and for nearly 45 years was a prominent and well-loved citizen of the town and district.

His long life ended on February 1, when he died aged 103 at Rawene, where he had lived in his daughter's care for several years.

John was born at Waitara in 1913, and brought up on farms in Taranaki and the Bay of Plenty, an experience which stood him in good stead as a rural banker. He was educated at Taneatua Primary and Whakatane High School. One of his teachers there was Gordon Russell, who was Mayor of Helensville when John arrived here.

John joined the Taneatua branch of the Union Bank of Australia when he left school at 16, and rose quickly through the ranks, working in Christchurch, Wellington head office, Te Awamutu and Gisborne. While in Wellington he met Joyce Robinson, who he married in Te Awamutu in 1946. Their daughter Adrienne was born in 1955.

In 1962 the family moved to Gisborne, and five years later to Helensville.

It was at Te Awamutu that John joined the Lions Club, continuing his membership at

Gisborne, then joining the recently formed Helensville Club. He remained a member for 55 years.

John was an active and dedicated Lion, holding all offices at club level and was also a zone chairman. In 1988 he was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship - the highest award available to a Lions member - and in 2001 was made a life member of the International Association of Lions Clubs. John became a life member of the local St John Ambulance, the Helensville Fire Brigade, and the A&P Association. He was also a member of the bowling club, the Board of Trustees at Kaipara College, and the Businessmen's Association.

As an accountant he audited the books of many local organisations for free. He was highly respected as a banker, and with his farming background had an understanding of local needs.

But without a doubt John will be remembered as Santa Claus.

He filled that role for around 20 years with thought and sincerity. He not only rode in the

• To page 14



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- Judy Lawry, patient

Champion show photos

These are two of the top photos from this year's Helensville A&P Show photography competition.

Angie Taft of Rothesay Bay in Auckland won the overall adult Champion Photo with her image of olives splashing into a martini glass. The photo was entered in one of the new classes for this year's show, 'Food'.

As well as prize money, she took home the Stewart Lupton Memorial Trophy.

The Champion Photo by a local competitor was taken by Leanne Pivac, whose shot of a dandelion with some of the seeds starting to blow away was entered in another new class, 'Mostly Blue'. Leanne won prize money and the Kitty Russell Shield.

Overall entry numbers were down by almost 40 percent in the photography section this year, but all the new classes received good numbers of entries.



• Angie Taft's champion adult color photo



• The champion photo by a local competitor, by Leanne Pivac

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making the difference

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

Our March recipients are Nancy Todd, who chose a \$50 Mitre 10 voucher, and Marion Taylor, who received a \$50 Countdown voucher.



• Marion (left) and Nancy (right) with Nicky

Nancy and Marion were nominated by Karen Rutherford and Lindy McDermott of Helensville CAB.

They were part of Operation Christmas Child - Samaritans Purse, which last year sent 31,533 shoe boxes filled with gifts to children in Thailand, Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Cambodian and Vanuatu.

Nancy and Marion say it is great fun to do, and to see the children open them is all the repayment they could ever want.

Their team meets weekly on Thursdays from March, and sends out flat boxes for people to fill. They are then checked and sent to the children at Christmas. It's an almost year-round commitment. Kiwi kids also benefit, such as foster children, children with parents in prison, and families in need. There's a \$9 donation per shoe box, with the work completed by volunteers like Nancy and Marion – true angels in our community say Karen and Lindy.

More information is available online at: <https://goo.gl/V8zR4i>

John Old (cont...)

• From page 12

Santa Parade handing out sweets, but for several weeks before parade day would don the costume and walk up and down Commercial Road greeting locals and giving out lollies. When John's death was recorded on Facebook, many of Helensville's 'once young' responded with their tributes to Santa Claus.

John and Joyce moved to Rawene in 2011 to be near their daughter. Joyce died two years later with John continuing as a loved member of the hospital community for four more years. A memorial service to honour him was held at St Matthews Church, Helensville on Wednesday, February 15, conducted by Rev Felicity Smith, with organist Greville Walker.

Tributes were paid by his daughter Adrienne, Dennis Cummings for the Lions Club, Patsy Carlyle for St John Ambulance, and Rick Croft for the A&P Association. Patsy spoke of John's dedication to St John from the time of the first ambulance in 1969 until he left the town more than 40 years later.

Among his many hobbies, John was a passionate gardener - and a perfectionist. In paying tribute to his work with the A&P shows, Rick Croft brought along two of the show's cups. John's name appeared regularly, along with Kitty Russell, another legendary gardener.

John will be remembered as a kindly and considerate gentleman and family man; for his daily cigars, his friendship and interest in people, his community involvement - and his role as Santa Claus.

- Wynne HaySmith

with Kaipara chef, Peter Brennan

Butternut Red Curry

We have several friends who are vegans or committed vegetarians, so its great to be able to turn out a really tasty meal that anyone would enjoy, meat eater or not.

We are coming to the end of official summer so expect to see butternuts and pumpkins beginning to ripen in the garden and to appear in the shops. The curry below is something my partner makes. Its quick to assemble and cook. You can substitute any number of vegetables, from courgettes to cauliflower, and its a good way to serve tofu.

We eat this with our usual greens and herb salad, and while we still have them fruiting, fresh tomato salad with avocado - this is lovely with toasted pine nuts or cashews sprinkled on top. Just large dice (10mm) everything and squeeze on some lime or lemon juice.

■ Butternut Red Curry with Tofu

- 3 tablespoon red curry paste
- 3 tablespoon oil
- 2cm piece of chopped fresh turmeric
- 1cm piece of chopped fresh ginger
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce (check with your guests).
- or salt to taste
- 2 kaffir lime leaves
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 1 medium butternut diced
- 2 cups peas (fresh or frozen)
- 1 pack of tofu (250-300gm), diced
- 1-2 cups coconut cream or coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon sugar (optional)



In a wok or wide pan, stir fry the curry paste, turmeric and ginger over a low to medium heat for five minutes. Add half a cup of coconut milk and the kaffir lime leaves and simmer for several minutes, stirring frequently. At the same time par-boil the diced butternut in a separate pot until al dente.

Add tofu and simmer for about five minutes and the sauce starts to thicken. Add remaining coconut milk, butternut, peas and sugar (optional) and add the fish sauce (or salt) to taste. Cook for another minute or two, add chopped basil leaves, and serve with rice.

Junior rugby kicks off soon

Helensville Junior Rugby will hold a registration evening on Wednesday, March 8 from 4.30pm to 6pm.

The season starts on Friday, May 5, later than in previous years but in keeping with other codes and school sports.

Girls Rippa rugby will be a big focus for the Helensville club this year, and any

girls wanting to play rippa without the boys are asked to give it a go..

Club fees for 2017 are the same as last year - \$75 for one child, \$140 for two and \$195 for three children

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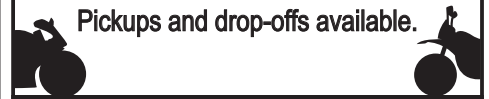
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community tidbits from town and around

■ ST PATRICK'S DAY

The Kaipara Memorial RSA in Commercial Road has a special licence to help locals celebrate St Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17. The kitchen will be open from 6pm for meals.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Kaukapakapa Market is on Sunday, March 19 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be food from the market cafe and Lions sausage sizzle, plus mussel fritters, barista coffee, and candy floss. The Lions book fair, hand made and craft stalls, gifts, plants, local produce, collectibles and car boot stalls will ensure plenty to spend money on. And there will be live music from Jessica on keyboard from 10am to 12pm. For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz

■ DYSLEXIA TUTOR

Jeanette Williams, a tutor who helps people with dyslexia and other learning difficulties, will be at the Kaukapakapa library to speak with locals on Sunday, March 19 from 10am to 1pm. She uses the DanksDavis method, developed by a New Zealander with dyslexia; which uses a seven step programme for adults or children to improve spelling, reading, writing and comprehension. For more information phone Megan Paterson on mobile: 021 959 017 or email her at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

■ GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hibiscus Hospice will hold a golf tournament at Helensville Golf Club on Friday, March 24 with a 12.30pm shotgun start. Tickets are available online at: www.hibiscushospice.org.nz.

■ RSA AGM

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will hold its annual meeting in its Commercial Road club rooms at 11am on Sunday, April 2.

■ WAIONEKE SCHOOL GOLF

Waioneke School will hold its 23rd annual teams golf tournament at South Head Golf Club on Friday, April 7. It's the school's only fund raiser for the year, and is aimed as a fun day, and food is provided throughout the day on the course.

Teams of four can enter, with entry fees starting at \$280 plus GST. To enter, email: waionekeschoolgolfday@gmail.com.

Local businesses that would like to make a donation for the prize table or auction should contact Maria at Waioneke School on the above email or phone 420 2884.

■ WAITOKI MARKET

Local Christina Neubert will be at the Waitoki village market on Saturday, April 8, 8.30am to midday, to show what's involved at her 'artisan workshops', where she teaches time-honoured skills to make traditional items. There will be the usual stalls and food. Kahikatea Flat Rd. 8.30 till noon.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Helensville Aglow will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, April 7 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. The speaker will be Cherie Trent, who heads up Streams Pacific and teaches on dream interpretation and hearing God's voice. For more information email Yvonne Bartlett at: yvonne@hello.net.nz.

■ SENIORS' EVENTS

Local seniors are invited to the following events at Craigweil House, 143 Parkhurst Rd, Parakai this month at no charge: Elvis in the House - Saturday, March 11; Mister Walnut, Tuesday March 14; and Rob and Lydia, Tuesday, March 28. All events are at 10.30am. For more information phone 420 8277.

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Helensville News - Publication Information

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ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, APRIL 4th 2017

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Dave Addison - Ph: 420 7215 • Mobile: 021 178 5568 • Email: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

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



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