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## Work to start on \$1m pathway

Work on the first two stages of a pathway encircling Rautawhiri Park will start next year.

The \$1 million project will be completed over five stages, with the first two costing \$376,000. That money is coming from Auckland Council 'growth funding' plus \$42,480 from Rodney Local Board.

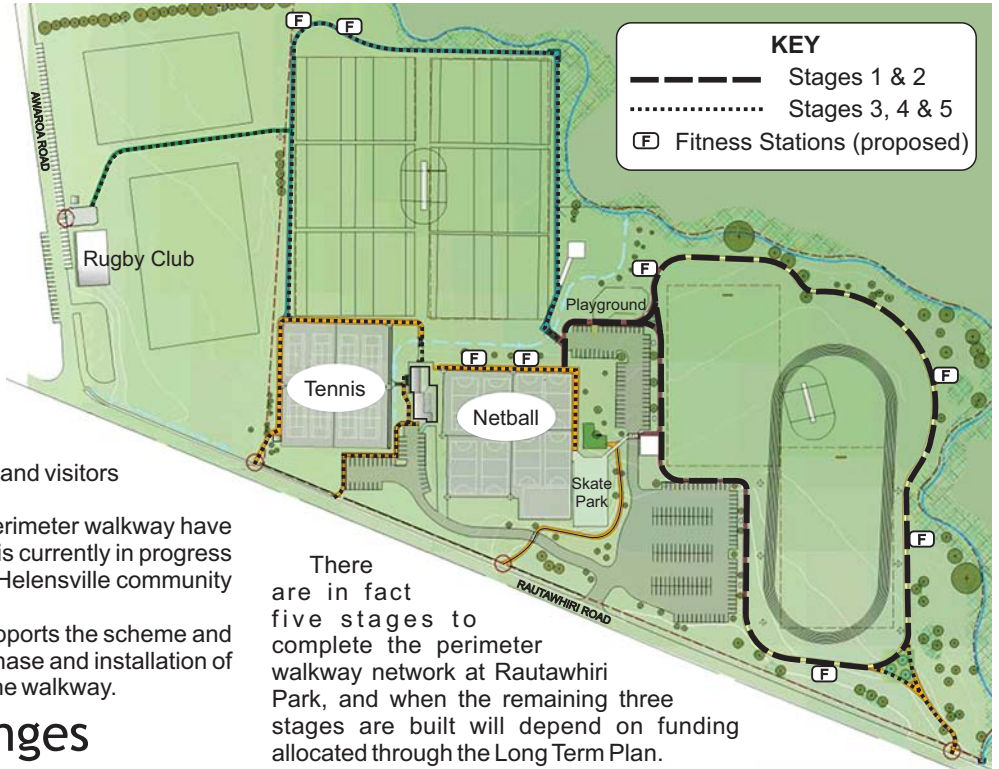
The project was identified last year as a priority in the Rodney Local Board's Recreational Walkways and Bike Trials programme.

"The good news is we now have growth funding from council, together with funding from the local board's play spaces budget, to pay for these two stages to be constructed," says Brent Bailey, chair of the board's Parks & Reserve Committee.

"It will be a great amenity for the community and visitors alike."

Concept designs for the Rautawhiri Park perimeter walkway have been completed, and community engagement is currently in progress with sports clubs, local residents, schools and Helensville community groups.

Brent says the Lions Club of Helensville supports the scheme and plans to contribute financially towards the purchase and installation of five to 10 fitness stations to be located around the walkway.



There are in fact five stages to complete the perimeter walkway network at Rautawhiri Park, and when the remaining three stages are built will depend on funding allocated through the Long Term Plan.

Once complete the concrete path will have links through to existing facilities such as the playground, sports courts, skatepark, sports clubrooms, car parks and toilets, and it has been designed to meet the requirements of sports field users for areas of play and buffer zones.

The funding of \$376,000 (council growth funding and local board funding combined) for the 2017/18 financial year will enable the construction of stages one and two, which will create a walkway circuit around the perimeter of the athletics field and provide links to the playground and toilet facilities.

"It is great for our area to secure this growth funding, but there remained a \$42,480 shortfall. So the Rodney Local Board was delighted to put its money where its mouth is and stump up the shortfall at our Parks and Recreation meeting on October 19," says Brent.

Construction of stages one and two is planned for late summer and autumn next year.

## Recycling service changes

Helensville's R&R Recycling in Stewart Street will close on January 1 next year, and its business will transfer to the Helensville Community Recycling Centre in Mill Road.

R&R Recycling paved the way for recycling in Helensville, operating since 2002 under the care of Robbie (Alan Robinson) and Ronnie Hinds. Robbie has run it by himself since Ronnie passed away in 2014.

Over the years the business won a number of awards, and has been the source of many donations to a number of local community organisations.

Helensville Community Recycling Centre manager Treena Gowthorpe acknowledges the "excellent work of Robbie and Ronnie and the invaluable service they gave to the Helensville community", and says a plaque will be installed at the Mill Road Recycling Centre to honour them.

For any queries regarding recycling services phone Treena on 022 430 3622, or email: [helensvillecommunityrecycling@gmail.com](mailto:helensvillecommunityrecycling@gmail.com).

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## editorial

The idea of a traffic by-pass for Helensville has been raised again (see page 12). It's an issue that has done the rounds for more than 20 years.

I think it's fair to say it would make the centre of Helensville a much more pleasant place, and I think few businesses would suffer adverse effects. Business owners often equate vehicle traffic with customers, but it's been shown again and again around that world that removing vehicles from shopping areas increases business rather than hurting it.

I will be interested to see what locals think of the idea, but regardless of their support or otherwise, the huge cost of such a piece of infrastructure would make it seem unlikely to proceed. The new government is certainly less keen on roading projects.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Medical centre changes

A reconfigured reception desk and patient waiting area, and an on-site prescription dispensary, are among changes coming to the Kaipara Medical Centre.

The changes are designed to improve both the centre's clinical efficiency and the overall health outcomes for patients. They come after an extensive review of the centre by Procure, which looked at options for reconfiguring the site and ways to improve efficiency.

The three key changes to take place over the next 12 to 15 months are:

- A reconfigured front desk and patient waiting area, beginning early 2018.
- The establishment of an on-site dispensary so patients have the option of having their prescriptions filled at the centre.
- From December 1 this year, an increase in fees for extended hours clinics only.

The new layout of public spaces at the centre will result in greater waiting room privacy for patients, and will address the issue of cold weather entering the building from the automatic entry doors. It will also

create room for the on-site dispensary.

It's expected the building work will begin in early 2018, with disruption to patients and staff kept to a minimum.

The new dispensary is an important development for the Kaipara Medical Centre, giving patients the option to fill their prescription on-site immediately following their doctor's appointment. The centre is working with local pharmacies through a tender process to secure the contract to help fund and operate the dispensary.

Board chairman Dianne Kidd says: "this change will bring huge benefit to our community, especially our elderly and disabled patients who can find it difficult to have to visit two locations to see their doctor and then have a prescription filled."

From December 1, fees for extended hours clinics held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings (from 5.30pm to 7.30pm) and on Saturday mornings (from 8.30am to midday) will increase. The extended hours clinics are usually fully booked, and to date have been subsidised by Kaipara Medical Centre.

## letters

The petition requesting a ballot of members of North West Country (business association) to determine the level of support for the Business Improvement District (BID) continuing, now has 300 signatures, 12 times as many as required to meet Auckland Council criteria.

Yet no response has been activated since the petition was presented on 23rd August. Lawyers have been amusing themselves debating the meaning and implications of the words "if necessary" in the petition! Time and members' money wasted.

Auckland Council, Rodney Local Board and the BID itself are all claiming they have no money to fund a ballot. Democracy? When a by-election is required it is never suggested that there is no funding for it. It simply has to happen.

The October committee meeting of North West Country, just the second since the AGM, failed to achieve a quorum. Have they given up? It was expected that processes around the petition/ballot would be determined at that meeting. So nothing is happening? Auckland Council is responsible. Democracy is surely the right of members, or are we being abused?

- Holly Southernwood

*Editor's note: The October meeting of North West Country failed to meet its quorum owing to members being ill. The meeting, which will discuss the petition, was rescheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 1.*



# Local birth centre leads way with breastfeeding

Helensville's Birthing Centre has been acknowledged as one of the nation's best when it comes to breastfeeding rates.

The centre has just received its fourth accreditation from the New Zealand Breastfeeding Alliance (NZBA), the culmination of 12 years of monitoring by that organisation.



• From left: Jane Cartwright of the NZ Breastfeeding Alliance, Birthing Centre manager Michelle Nasey and lactation consultant Debbie Tetlow

The Helensville Birthing Centre boasts a 100 percent exclusive breastfeeding rate at discharge for women who give birth at the centre, and a figure of 95 percent overall - well ahead of the national average of 83 percent and the international standard of 80 percent.

The NZBA monitors all 75 hospitals and other centres that provide birthing facilities throughout New Zealand as part of the The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, a joint international project by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF to improve breast feeding rates.

Full accreditation takes 12 years explains NZBA executive officer Jane Cartwright, with birthing facilities visited at three, six and nine years to receive accreditation before getting a final 12-year tick of approval.

Jane was in Helensville on Friday, October 20 to make a special presentation to Birthing Centre staff on the occasion of its 12-year accreditation, giving them a specially made koru statue as recognition of their high rates of breastfeeding mothers.

In its fourth audit of the Helensville Birthing Centre, the NZBA found "women in Helensville are very fortunate to have such a supportive birthing centre, and the staff are to be commended on the depth of information available to women."

Birthing Centre manager Michelle Nasey said at the presentation that while it's "wonderful to be acknowledged", that's not why they do it. "It's about the culture of what we do" with the staff believing in breast feeding being the best thing for mothers and babies.

Helensville lactation consultant Debbie Tetlow says: "It is especially heartening when women who come to us after having

had births such as caesareans, with the associated negative start to breastfeeding that entails, are able to overcome the initial difficulties and leave our centre successfully breastfeeding."

She says the challenge is to support women to continue to breastfeed once they return home, as there's a big drop off with only one in five babies nationwide being exclusively breastfed at six months - a long way from the WHO recommendation.

She says efforts to improve those rates locally include a well-resourced website with lots of information on breastfeeding; antenatal breastfeeding classes; and ongoing access to Helensville Birthing Centre lactation consultants. The most important support is from the community itself through whanau and popular 'mums and babies' coffee mornings.

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# Christmas Parade & Festival

Popular Kiwi singer Stan Walker's backing band, The Levites, along with support artist Erakah, will be the headline acts at the Helensville Christmas Music Festival, to be held at Helensville Museum from 1pm following the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2.

They will be accompanied by backing vocalists Nathan and Lilo, along with Brass4sho, Ness Abernethy, Adeaze and Ben Lummis. Popular local band Flintwater Express will set the atmosphere at the museum from 12.30pm. Also playing at the music festival will be Miss Peach and The Travellin' Bones and Cuban star Domingo Candelario, performing his toe-tapping neo-Cuban style.

The afternoon will include food stalls, bar facilities, a bouncy pirate ship, Santa photos, face painting, and a lolly scramble.

The Christmas Festival will start in Helensville at 9.30am, with entertainment including Christmas carols by the Kumeu Baptist Youth Choir, a bouncy castle, ice cream, and face painting at Creek Lane. Santa will be available for photos at the RSA, before the Santa Parade begins at midday.

The parade will follow last year's route, starting in West Street and travelling along Commercial Road to finish opposite the museum in Mill Road.

Ritchies will provide free buses to the museum from the parade route, after the parade has passed, with return rides from 3pm to 3.45pm.

A children's bike, trike and scooter decorating competition will be judged before the parade, and entrants can join in the parade outside Helensville Library. Entry forms for the competition - and for people wanting to enter a float in the parade - are available via email: helchrisfest@gmail.com or phone 021 488 427, or from Copy & Print or the CAB.

Thanks go to this year's Christmas Festival sponsors: AAA Productions;



Cuban musician Domingo Candelario is part of the musical line-up after the Helensville Christmas parade

Allsorts; Auckland Council; Gumboots Early Learning Centre; Kaipara College; Lions Club of Helensville; More FM; Mountainside FM; North West Country; Paper Plus; Rural Women; South Kaipara Rotary; Swale Earthmovers; UHY Haines Norton; Harcourts; Helensville Copy & Print; Helensville District Health Trust.

## Christmas tree decorating

Noël's Christmas Trees are donating trees which will be given to local families via The Angel Fund.

Locals can donate decorations, bought or home-made, by leaving them at Helensville Library from Friday, December 1. Trees and decorations will be distributed from December 9.

Helensville Art Centre will hold free workshops on how to make decorations, with all items made donated to this project. Dates are: Saturday, November 18 from 12.30pm to 2pm and Saturday, November 25 from 10.30am to midday. Register at the Art Centre to secure a place.

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# Petrolhead heaven coming to Helensville and Parakai

Local petrolheads - as well as ordinary people who appreciate classic and custom vehicles - are in for a double treat this month.

The annual Kaipara Classic Car Club's show is on at the Helensville Museum on Sunday, November 19.

And the same day, the recently-formed New Zealand Chopper Club will hold its first Chopper Show & Shine at Parakai Springs hot pools - an event that had to be postponed from its originally scheduled date in March due to bad weather.

A free shuttle will be running throughout the day between the two venues, making it easy for locals to enjoy both shows.

The annual Kaipara Classic Car Club show is now in its fifth year, and last year attracted well over 100 vehicles, ranging from vintage cars up to modern muscle cars, with beautifully restored original classics alongside souped-up hotrods.

It's a major fundraiser for Helensville Museum, which received more than \$1100

from last year's show - a figure club treasurer Graeme Ritchie hopes to surpass this year.

The car show will run from 10am until around 2pm, when prize giving will be held. Entry for the public is by gold coin donation; entry for vehicles is \$5 per car and driver. There will be a bar on the museum deck.



• A selection of club members' choppers which will be on display

As with previous years, cars will be judged in several categories, with peoples' choice awards for both cars and bikes.

The inaugural Chopper Show & Shine at Parakai Springs is expected to attract up to 100 custom motorcycles, and has been designed as a family-friendly event. There will be a live band, DJ, food and bouncy castles - and no club patches will be allowed.

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 to be voted on.

Visitors can expect plenty of chrome and fancy paintwork on the bikes, with top-of-the-range choppers costing up to \$100,000 to build.

The Show & Shine will run from 11am until 3pm, and entry to the hot pools will be required to see the show.

The New Zealand Chopper Club was formed to bring owners of choppers and other custom bikes together, mostly as a social club says Show & Shine organiser Rob Blackthorne.

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## Fitness Leaguers celebrate 80 years

Seven members of the Helensville branch of The Fitness League NZ joined with 350 other women recently to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the movement.

They spent a day at the Auckland netball centre in St Johns taking part in general classes and mass items, and enjoying a lunch and birthday cake with members from as far as away as Tauranga and Warkworth.

Fitness League classes started in Helensville in 1997, and Christine Mowat began teaching in 2009. The local branch has 24 members. The movement was founded in the United Kingdom in 1930 by Mary Bagot Stack, with health and well-being as its core principles.

Fitness League is for all ages and combines joint mobility with stretching and strengthening to music to assist with fitness, improved posture and increased energy. The motto is 'movement is life'.

Local classes are held each Friday from

10am to 11am in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, all welcome from 9.30am for a chat. Most members head off to lunch at a local café after class.

Classes are also set to begin at South Head in the new year, once trainee teacher



• Local Fitness League members in the Helensville hall

Heather Steadman gains her qualification. Interest will also be assessed for classes in other areas, including evenings.

Heather can be contacted on 420 2719, and Christine on 420 7108.

## 10 years of sculpture exhibitions

A decade of sculpture exhibitions will be marked with a special 'Curator's Picks' mini-show included among the entries in Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden's tenth anniversary 'Exhibition 2018', which opens on Saturday, December 2.

Celebrating her 10 years organising the annual exhibition, curator Sally Lush has selected one work from each previous show that particularly resonated with her, and asked the artists to either recreate those works or produce new pieces that evoke similar feelings.

Artists to feature in the 'Curators Picks' are Peter Lange (2009), Trish Clarke (2010), Gaye Jurisich (2011), Jin Ling (2012), Ramon Robertson (2013), Faith Tavernor (2014), Audrey Boyle (2015), Janette Cervin (2016) and Jeff Thomson (2017).

Each annual exhibition has displayed more than 40 sculptures from contemporary

New Zealand and overseas sculptors.

The artworks selected for the main Exhibition 2018 reflect and explore themes of natural beauty, flora and fauna, environmental threats, colonisation and socio-political issues relating to the Kaipara area.

A special opening will be held from 3 to 5pm on Saturday, December 2, and includes refreshments and entertainment. The cost for adults is \$30, children aged four to 13 \$15, and those under four are free. Tickets for the opening are available online at: [www.kaiparacoast.co.nz](http://www.kaiparacoast.co.nz) or phone 09 420 5655.

The exhibition will remain on display until November next year, open daily from 9am to 5pm (except Christmas Day and Anzac Day morning). Normal admission is: adults \$12.50, children aged five to 13 \$6, and under-fives free.

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# 'Outsider' and tactile art show

The Art Centre in Helensville will be showing off the ability of artists outside of the mainstream during November's 'Outsider Arts' Exhibition, which will feature work by untrained artists from around the region.

Art Centre coordinator Pauline Denton says: "This is a great exhibition. It celebrates the diverse works of people, from the intensity of those with mental health issues to the pure, untamed expression of those with learning difficulties."

In addition to the Outsider Arts there will be tactile art on show, which is a way for the Art Centre to be inclusive of people who are blind or visually impaired.

With the pieces specially designed to be handled and touched, it's also child-friendly, so parents don't need to be saying "don't touch" or "look with your eyes".

The exhibition runs from Saturday, November 4 until Saturday, November 25 in the basement at the rear of the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Hours are Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm, and Saturday 10am to 2pm.

For more information phone Pauline on 021 158 6859 or email her at: [coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).



• Elizabeth Hollingworth enjoying the tactile art at last year's exhibition along with classmates from the Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Playhouse fundraiser for Parent Aid

A volunteer-built villa-style playhouse will be auctioned on TradeMe before Christmas as a fundraiser for Helensville-based Parent Aid North West.

Members of North Harbour Rugby, the Mitre 10 MEGA team and Parent Aid built and painted the playhouse at a working bee



• Putting the finishing touches to the playhouse

on Saturday, October 21. The playhouse was then put on display inside sponsor Mitre 10 MEGA at Westgate.

It will be a special feature during Mitre 10 Westgate's Ladies Night on Wednesday, November 15 from 7pm. The playhouse will then be promoted at Christmas parades in Helensville, Kumeu and Westgate, before going up for auction - just in time to become a very special Christmas present.

All funds raised through the auction will go to Parent Aid North West, which is a free community-based service that provides practical home help to parents with newborn babies and pre-schoolers.

While based in Helensville, Parent Aid North West services a wide rural community from Riverhead to Gloriot.

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# Farewell to former editor

*We remember Cynthia Thrush, the longest-serving editor of Helensville News, who passed away in August.*

**Cynthia Thrush**  
23/8/29 - 22/8/17

Cynthia Thrush was born Cynthia Elizabeth Green on August 23, 1929 in London, England to Major Ellis Charles (Jimmy) Green and Ruth Dohring. She was followed by two sisters, Shirley and Margaret.

She attended boarding school in India at the Convent of St Joseph & Mary in Simla, while her father served as a Major in the Indian Army. Cynthia fondly remembered the nuns at the school, and could recall in detail visits to palaces during school term breaks, as some of her girlfriends were princesses. It was India where she developed a penchant for curries, and her own pork pilau was legendary.

After the partition of India, the Greens moved to New Zealand to join other family members in Auckland. There, Cynthia completed a

Bachelor of Science in 1953 and a Diploma of Educational Studies. Her dedication to education culminated in a Commemoration Medal for Services to New Zealand in 1990 and an Education Service Award in 1991. She completed a Master of Arts (Education) in 1994.

While at University in Auckland in the late 1940s, Cynthia fell in love with Ron Thrush. They met on a university tramping club trip and courted for four years before marrying in 1951.

Ron joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force, reaching the rank of Wing Commander. The couple's early married life involved frequent moves to Air Force bases around the

country. Their first child Ruth was born in 1954, followed by twins Peter and Liz.

Then came a posting to the RNZAF flying-boat base in Fiji, where their fourth child Gavin was born in 1959. Cynthia taught at the secondary college in Suva.



• Cynthia Thrush

The family returned to Wellington (Defence HQ) in 1959, and for 20 years Cynthia enjoyed activities with the Wellington theatre and education communities. Their fifth child, Amylouise, was born in 1973. Ron and Cynthia separated in 1978 but remained close friends, and she and Amylouise moved to Auckland in 1980.

Cynthia was a foundation trustee of the North Shore Theatre and Conference Centre Trust, which successfully lobbied for a purpose-built venue for Auckland's North Shore - the popular

Bruce Mason Centre. She remained a trustee many years.

Cynthia thrived as a secondary teacher, first as a science teacher in Suva and then at Onslow College in 1961, where she later served for many years as a guidance counsellor. After her move to Auckland, she taught at Avondale College and later Glenfield College from 1981 to 1992.

Retirement led to new challenges for Cynthia including a role as an educational training consultant, contracting to major corporates such as Telecom.

Then came a move, aged 72, to a lifestyle block in Mangakura Road, Helensville. Cynthia relocated part of the former Huapai Golf Club rooms onto the five-acre site and proceeded to renovate, refurbish and landscape the property into a comfortable family home.

While in Helensville, Cynthia purchased the *Helensville News* and developed it into a 16 page monthly newspaper filled with local interest stories, personalities and events. She loved writing 'good news' and being part of the local community, and delighted in calling this her "ninth career".

She lived in Helensville until her 80th year, when she moved to Auckland to be closer to family.

Cynthia passed away with her family at her side on August 22, one day before her 88th birthday. She is survived by her two sisters and four children Ruth, Peter, Liz and Amylouise (Ron and Gavin died in a car accident in 2006).

Family members will celebrate her life at a service at 3pm on Friday, November 10 at The Wintergarden Café, Auckland Domain. All welcome. Please RSVP to Amylouise on (09) 576 8578.

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# New Helensville MP

Helensville News editor Dave Addison had an in-depth interview with new Helensville Member of Parliament, Chris Penk. This article will run over two issues.

New Helensville MP Chris Penk is looking forward to being a 'local' member of parliament and representing and advocating for locals in the electorate.

After being elected with a majority of almost 15,000 and gaining more votes than all the other Helensville electorate candidates combined, Chris is obviously disappointed his party has ended up in opposition, rather than in government.

"Of course I was disappointed my party isn't in government, but I think the opportunity to contribute in a constructive way is still very much there," he says, "and to be an opposition that points out ways that things could be done better, as opposed to seeing the role as creating trouble or opposing for the mere sake of it. I don't want to do that."

"I also want to be pragmatic about what's going to achieve the best results for the Helensville electorate, so sometimes that will be acknowledging good stuff that comes out of the minority government's programme, and at other times pushing them pretty hard to do more."

He says that being in opposition "takes some pressure off".

"From the perspective of someone who's to work hard as an electorate MP, it makes it easier to advocate really strongly on behalf of constituents. I can noisily go into bat for a local school, for example, petition the Minister of Education and be on his or her case quite strongly in a way that would be a little more difficult if it was in your own party."

The flip side to that, he says, is that it will be more difficult to achieve real results – "but I'll do my best anyway".

Chris's background is in the military and law. He began studying to become a lawyer, then put that on hold to join the navy, firstly serving on frigates here as well as spending a year as an aide to the Governor General in

Wellington, then transferring to the Royal Australian Navy so he could serve on submarines.

He rose to the rank of navigating officer, fifth in the chain of command, aboard the HMAS Sheean and was stationed in the Northern Arabian Gulf in late 2007.

Chris returned to New Zealand in 2008 after seven years in the military, joined the National Party, and completed his law degree. He was admitted to the bar in 2010 and worked as staff solicitor in Auckland until



• Chris Penk

establishing with a business partner his own firm, Ong & Penk Lawyers, in 2015.

Outside of family and politics, Chris is a former cricket player and coach and passionate supporter of the Black Caps cricket team. He's also a keen rugby league fan and supporter of the Warriors – though "some years it's real tough" he jokes.

So why did he enter politics?

"Because I'm excited by the opportunity for problem solving," he says. "I see politics as a good chance to work with people to make their lives better. At the most basic level that's what it's all about."

"At the local level it means advocating for things that are very much Helensville-focused, but then given opportunities on the national stage to develop good policy

• To page 10

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# Chris Penk interview (cont...)

• From page 9

that will serve all the country.”

His wife of seven years, Newshub digital media journalist Kim Choe, is fully behind his move into politics.

“She’s very supportive, partly because we’ve both been supportive of each other’s respective aspirations, but also because she knew I was interested in getting into the political realm from the time that we met,” says Chris.

The couple celebrated the arrival of their first child, son Austin, just a couple of weeks before the election.

The Helensville electorate, which spans from Glorit in the north down to the northern Manukau Heads in the south and incorporates all of Waitakere, is one of the safest National seats in the country and of course the electorate of former Prime Minister Sir John Key.

*Helensville News* asked Chris what his thoughts were on being given a pretty much guaranteed path into parliament.

“I think it means I was highly enough regarded in the party to be given the opportunity, but I think to look beyond that in terms of being shouldered tapped for higher honours would probably be a mistake, because it would seem presumptuous within the party. But also if I get ahead of myself and don’t do the hard work locally at the level that I’m currently at, then I won’t stick around,

I won’t survive.

“I’m only in parliament now and into the future because the people of Helensville have voted me in.”

On the campaign trail leading up to his election, Chris was often confronted with the ‘big shoes to fill’ dilemma of taking on the former PM’s seat.

“[But] the message I got, in amongst people saying that I’ve got big shoes to fill, was actually that they were pleased that my focus will be able to be 100 percent local - which is pleasing to me.”

He did receive some advice from the former Prime Minister.

“The ‘key’ advice from Sir John was to work very hard in your early years to establish a reputation as someone who is reasonable, can be trusted, and will work hard, because you have that opportunity early on and if you gain higher responsibilities later as he did, and as I may or may not do, then you will be able to rely to some extent on the good reputation you developed in those early years,” says Chris.

“The other [piece of advice] was that people want to know that you are a good person and that you care, more so than specifics of policy detail.

“I think people expect you to be someone who they can talk to and get stuff done, more than be a policy wonk or talk to them about detail they’re not interested in.”

• To be continued in our December issue

# CHILL in the VILLE

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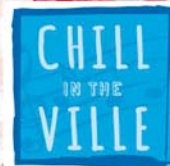
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## making the difference

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 at: <http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz>. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

Our November recipient is Kim McNamara, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at the Ginger Crunch Cafe.



• Kim with her voucher

Kim was nominated by Dene Calvert.

Dene says: "As well as being a busy wife, mum, and grandma who holds down a couple of part-time jobs, Kim is incredibly generous with her time and expertise.

"She is a qualified life coach and I know she has provided wonderful mentoring, at no charge, to many in the community. She is also a fund raiser extraordinaire! Just ask the Kaipara College special education unit, or the local kindy.

"Kim is always ready to roll her sleeves up and help, full of good practical ideas, and fun to work alongside.

"Thanks Kim, our community is fortunate to have people like you!"



## Helensville Birthing Centre

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# Book Fair time again



• Nine-year-old Dan Bain, from Eastern Beach, searches for a bargain at the last book fair

One of the most popular events in Helensville is on again this month.

The Lions Club of Helensville's Christmas Book Fair attracts hundreds of keen book hunters, and will be held over the weekend of November 25 and 26 in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

The fair will be open from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday, and from 10am to 3pm on the Sunday.

Along with its Autumn Book Fair cousin, the Christmas fair is a major fundraiser for the Lions Club. This year's autumn fair in May raised \$8300 for use in the local community - and at the same time provided locals with a bonanza of bargain books, with paperbacks selling for just \$1 and hardbacks for \$2.

Organiser Chris Clark says there will be thousands of fresh titles available for Helensville's avid readers at the November fair.

Donations for the fair can be left at Helensville Copy & Print or phone Chris on 420 8527. The last date books can be accepted for the Christmas book fair is Friday, November 17.

## Commercial Rd bypass mooted

A Commercial Road bypass will be on the menu at the Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Association's Christmas party in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room, from 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 22.

Association members are keen to gauge community support for a bypass from the SH16 roundabout through to Mt Rex, with Commercial Road closing to through traffic. It's an idea that goes back at least two decades, and was revived by Helensville's John Perry, who believes the town needs "a bypass to revive its heart", the only way the town can have a true village centre.

Those attending the Christmas party will be able to sign a petition, which will also be available at Helensville CAB, Copy & Print, and at the Helensville A&P Show next February, and which will eventually be presented to government ministers, new local MP Chris Penk, and Auckland Council and Rodney Local Board.

Those going to the Christmas party are asked to bring a plate, and BYO drink if they choose.

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# Local artists bring in the visitors

Inclement weather didn't affect Helensville's premier arts event, the three-day Arts in the Ville over Labour Weekend, with visitor numbers up on previous years.

"The town had a real buzz to it which is just what we want," says embroiderer Jo Dixey, one of the festival's organisers.

"The weekend was great. I had more than double the visitors through my studio [than last year] and I know the Art Centre was flat out with people taking part in the print making 'have a go'."

And the visitors weren't just looking, with all the artists and exhibitors *Helensville News* spoke to reporting hundreds of visitors and good sales of their artworks. A first for this year's event, a charity auction of artworks held on the Sunday evening raised \$6308 after expenses for the Helensville Women and Family Centre.

Visitor numbers were no doubt boosted by the event getting listed in the Herald's weekend magazine, and better signage around town and professionally printed guides, courtesy of the North West Country business association, all helped.

Arts in the Ville will be back for a fourth year next year says Jo, "so if any local artists that we don't know about want to open their studios or show their work somewhere, we would be happy to hear from them."



• From left: Arts in the Ville organisers Denise Marshall, Kura Geere-Watson and Jo Dixey with the fabric sign outside Helensville Museum



• Visitors look at 'upcycled' works of art created from items taken to the Helensville Community Recycling Centre



• Local spinner Fiona MacBride of Tin Shed Yarns



• Wood chips fly as wood turner Ray Scott crafts a rimu peanut bowl



• Painter Mike Rowlands with one of his works, 'Tourist'



• Inspecting the offerings for the HWFC Charity Auction



# Cafe opens beside Parakai supermarket

Parakai has a new cafe.

Dan Dale, owner of the Parakai Four Square supermarket, opened the cafe in the premises at the end of the supermarket building, previously operated as a takeaway,

in mid-October.

The building was gutted, walls replastered and repainted, and new cabinets installed.

"I thought a cafe would go well in Parakai," says Dan. "The feedback has been really good."

Walking into the new cafe, customers are faced with an array of cabinets.

Immediately to the left are ice creams - both Tip Top scoop ice cream flavours and the popular real fruit varieties in strawberry, blueberry and mango - sure to be a hit with summer on the way.

Beside that is a cabinet for cafe-style food, with salads, meals like lasagne, and cakes and slices.

Alongside that is the counter to order coffee - made from locally ground beans from South Head's High Noon Coffee Roastery, a local company that supplies some big names, like celebrity chef Simon Gault's Euro restaurant.

"Customers like to see us using local coffee," says Dan.

Next around the counter is what Dan says is currently the most popular item - fried chicken. Like a certain well-known brand, it

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• Diana and Dan Dale inside their new cafe

comes in individual pieces, a range of combo-style meals, plus side dishes such as French fries and coleslaw.

A pie warmer is still to be installed along with more outdoor seating, and Dan is also considering offering a hot roast of the day, with left-overs being sold as cold cuts.

Since taking ownership of Parakai Four Square in January last year, staff numbers have grown from 12 to more than 20, with up to four on hand in the new cafe at peak times.

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# local board matters

Rodney Local Board has just completed its first year, and it's worth taking stock of what we have achieved.

We have five main areas of focus: Better Roads & Public Transport; Connecting our Communities; Planning for Growth; Protecting the Environment; and Working with the Community.

Our three-year 'Local Board Plan' looks at ways to address Rodney's transport needs and how council could bring forward funding to deal with the pressures of growth, public transport and road sealing. Our option of a targeted transport rate received enough support for us to explore proposals residents might support. We aim to have something ready for the 2018 10 Year Budget (Long Term Plan) consultation early next year.

We will continue to advocate for more responsive road maintenance and alternative ways of dealing with road sealing.

Greenways, or trailways - paths that can be walked, cycled or used by horse riders - were a popular initiative in our plan. We have allocated \$250,000 this financial year towards helping community groups produce feasibility studies for sections of our existing Greenways plans in Wellsford, Warkworth and Kumeu/Riverhead.

We will complete Greenways Plans for areas that don't yet have them - an area from Kaukapakapa to Dairy Flat down to Coatesville and across to Helensville. This will enable us to target these areas for feasibility planning in the 2019-2020 financial year.

## Firefighters to sell Xmas trees at Waitoki market

Kaukapakapa Fire Brigade will be at the Waitoki Christmas market on Saturday, December 9. They won't be putting out fires - hopefully - but rather selling Christmas trees. Waitoki locals will also have the chance of a photo opportunity dressed up in a fire fighter's garb.

The market will be held in the Waitoki Hall from 8.30am to midday. New stall holders can phone Gill on 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

The centre plan for Kumeu and Huapai is an essential part in both improving the current township for residents and preparing for Structure Planning in Future Urban areas planned for development after 2028. The Board provided \$230,000 towards the 'Huapai Hub' community group's proposal to create a community space in Huapai, and they aim to have this well underway this year. It is an exciting project and is the first step in our Centre Plan for a vibrant town centre.



We are working with the North West Country business association on a town centre upgrade for Helensville, and after public consultation they are now working on plans for some exciting streetscape improvements which we intend to fund over the next few years.

The Board has focused its efforts on improving our harbours and the waterways that flow into them. We have committed \$250,000 to assist landowners to fence off and plant riparian margins on rivers with pollution issues. The upper Kaipara River catchment is one of the priority areas this year, and we have partnered with Fonterra, Beef & Lamb NZ, and Te Uri O Hau to deliver this program. It has been well received on the ground which is a fantastic start.

As part of a \$3 million project to improve Rautawhiri Park, work will start soon on a perimeter path, as will upgrades to the tennis and netball courts.

After three years of planning the Board has chosen the \$12 million Huapai Indoor Court facility as its major advocacy item for the 10 Year Budget. This will be the district's first dedicated indoor sports facility if our business case is accepted. We are presenting this for inclusion in the 2018 plan and public consultation in the New Year.

If you need help with council-related matters, phone me on 021 837 167, or email: phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

- Phelan Pirrie

Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board



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community tidbits from town and around

## ■ PARENTING COURSE

Another Parenting Through Separation course will be held at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai on Saturday, November 11 from 10am-2pm.

The one-off, four-hour course will provide a wealth of information and well-proven ideas to help people who are going through the stressful experience of splitting up to minimise the effect on their children. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Justice and is usually required of people who are going through mediation or family courts.

## ■ GLASS ARTIST AT LIBRARY

Kari Lindsay-Beale, a glass and glass jewellery artist, whose work is an expression of her love of nature, colour and harmony, will be at Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, November 19 from 10am to 1pm.

Working with glass since 2008, Kari now creates award-winning pieces using mainly torch-worked and fused glass.

She says each piece is a representation of balance - light and dark, transparent and opaque, strong and delicate, masculine and feminine, and describes the process as an art form which can be tremendously rewarding, requiring both a willingness to experiment and an understanding of alchemy.

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

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

To celebrate spring and the promise of the upcoming summer, Kaukapakapa Market will have extended hours and extra entertainment for November, including live music inside the hall and buskers outside, and a children's activity table. The market will

be open from 8.30am to 2pm on Sunday, November 29, and will feature all the usual stalls, food and coffee and crafts.

For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

## ■ WAITOKI HALL AGM

The Waitoki Public Hall Society will hold its annual meeting at the hall on Monday, November 27 at 8pm.

## ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Pastor Sandra Weir will be sharing on 'The Greatest Hour' at Helensville Aglow's next meeting at 7.30pm on Friday, December 1 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd. For more information email Yvonne at: yvonne@hello.net.nz.

## Poker Run on again

Money raised by this month's 5 Station Poker Run will go to the Muriwai Volunteer Fire Brigade. The annual charity bike ride, this year on Sunday, November 26, is expected to attract up to 150 motorcycles and raise between \$5000 and \$6000.

Held since 2006, the run is shared between the Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Kumeu, Muriwai and Shelly Beach fire stations. Next year Shelly Beach will be host.

This year the bikes will leave Muriwai at 10am, arriving first at Shelley Beach around 10.40am and then at Helensville Station at 11.30am. They will then ride to Kaukapakapa via Garfield Rd, Old North Rd, Peak Rd, and Kaipara Coast Highway arriving at Kaukapakapa Station just after midday. The motorcycles will be on show for around 15 minutes at each station.

At each stop the riders will go in the draw for a playing card. At the end of the ride, the entrant with the best poker hand from the five drawn cards wins the major prize - still being organised as we went to print.

Motorcyclists wanting to take part can purchase tickets online up until November 22 at [www.5stationpokerrun.co.nz](http://www.5stationpokerrun.co.nz).

## trade & classifieds

### ■ Helensville Glass

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

■ **DECEMBER 2017 deadline: Friday, 17th November 2017**  
ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th 2017

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