

## Business shuts doors after 44 years

One of Helensville's longest running businesses, BuildLink West in Railway Street, closed at the end of May after 44 years.

Opened in 1974 and known as Oikoumene Forest until the start of last year, the business had lately struggled in a highly competitive and price sensitive market, says owner Chris Smith.

Oikoumene was set up by Chris's father Ernie, who had a local forestry operation. The timber yard, which was only open at weekends until the retail shop opened in 1974, was a way to sell some of the product he was producing.

For the last four-plus decades the business has been one of Helensville's biggest suppliers of timber, fence posts, gates, hardware and tools, and in more recent years a range of lifestyle products.

Chris, who has spend the past 32 years in the business, says the closure had been "coming for a while".

"There has been more and more competition over the years coming in, and the likes of Westgate and Silverdale have been biting at all the retailers. It's all nipping away slowly, and we've ended up with not enough volume to make it worthwhile.

"We've had some really loyal customers, but there's so much competition in a very price sensitive market where you can't make



• Chris and Sheryl shortly before the store's closure

any money. There have been lots of little things slowly eating away at the bottom end," he says.

"There has definitely been a change in dynamics with more Aucklanders moving in to the town, and they are probably still buying from the stores they used to," he says, adding that online shopping had pretty much killed power tool sales.

Chris and wife Sheryl became a member of the BuildLink group in 2008, and fully rebranded Oikoumene as BuildLink West at the start of last year.

"Being part of BuildLink helped with buying power and marketing, but it's the volume thing, you need the numbers coming through the door," says Chris.

He says it was a very hard thing to tell the staff the business was closing.

"There were some pretty long faces when I first told them, but I think they have all managed to get jobs.

"It was something I had to think about long and hard," he says. "It's not just the staff, [but] my family, the community and the suppliers."

Chris says the bulk of the stock had gone by mid-May, and some suppliers and other BuildLink stores would take some of what remained. Whatever was left would be sold through an auction at the end of June.

The Railway Street property is owned by Chris's parents, and will be leased out.

Chris has hung onto the lifestyle gate side of the business, and has taken a part ownership in Wooden Gates Waiuku as well as an agency for an aluminium gate firm. He will work from home locally, supplying residential customers Auckland-wide.

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# editorial

It's only three issues since I wrote in this editorial about Helensville losing two of its top, long-term retailers. Now, we say goodbye to another one, with the closure at the end of May of BuildLink West, formerly Oikoumene Forest, after 44 years of serving our town.

I know retail is hard, and even more so for smaller, independent retailers. But it's those 'local' stores that give a town its character and identity.

I've harped on about this before, but it will be a sad day when all the towns in our country look identical to one another, with the same big-box type stores (Warehouse, Mitre 10 etc) and the same fast food outlets. You only have to go into a Westfield Mall and you will know what I mean. They are pretty much interchangeable - same stores, just a different location.

Part of the issue was highlighted by Chris Smith when I talked to him about the closure of BuildLink West (page 1), when he said there has been a change in dynamics in our town, with people moving in from other parts of Auckland. They often work, play and shop where they always have, back in the city, using Helensville mainly as a dormitory because of its lower than average house prices.

What's the solution? Unfortunately, I have no idea. This is a problem that is happening nationwide, and indeed world-wide. Do any readers have some ideas?

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Groups signing up to use Men's Centre

Local groups are starting to fill up the revitalised Helensville Men and Family Centre.

As reported in our April issue, the centre, run by the South Kaipara Men's Trust (SKMT), is now based in the former Te Awaroa Youth Club building in Awaroa Road.

New manager Mike Bridgman's vision of the premises becoming a community hub is already coming to fruition, with his plan for the development of the centre adopted by SKMT.

He says he wants it to be "a real family centre, open pretty much every day".

One of the first groups to be using the new space is SKY Youth, which has operated from a local farm for 14 years. With that property on the market the group was in need of a new home.

With around 15 members under the guidance of youth worker Jeanette Cummings, SKY will now meet at the Men & Family Centre each Thursday.

But the move to the much larger premises presents other exciting opportunities says Jeanette, with SKY Youth now also looking to hold a range of youth-led community initiatives such as movie nights, workshops and a homework club, with the possibility of the centre becoming a youth drop-in on Fridays as well.

Also signing up to move to the centre are the St John Cadets, who with around 40 cadets aged from eight to 18 years have outgrown their room at the rear of the Helensville ambulance station.

They will now meet each Monday at the centre, which has room to spare for the cadet's drills.

And the Helensville Lions Club will be using the building to sort and store books for its twice-yearly book fairs.

Still in the planning stages are several other initiatives says Mike.

He's looking at a version of a "Men's Shed" where local men can get together and bond while repairing things, a "Mr Fix-it" place. Mike says "guys talk better" when they are doing things with their hands.

Mike is also hoping to get a separate men's support group up and running, possibly for solo dads although plans are still fluid at this stage.

Finally a garden group is planned, with the former youth club garden in the process of being cleaned up over winter and readied for spring planting.

Mike is now looking for locals to act as leaders for the various activities.

"I'm sure there are loads of retired people who would like to make themselves available."

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Add Regular Chips with burger for	\$1.99
Add Large Chips with burger for	\$2.99
Add Pepsi or M-Dew can for	99c

# Local teen wins Blue Light award

Helensville teenager Lane Rivers (17) was awarded the top 'Peer Choice - Overall Course Award' at a Blue Light Life Skills Camp held at Mangawhai in May.

He beat a strong group of about 30 young people from around the North Island to take the prize on the week-long residential course, held from May 7 to 11.

Blue Light Life Skills co-ordinator Hannah Ward says: "Lane was chosen by his peers for being an overall great team member, helpful, encouraging, kind and



• Inspector Scott Webb and Peer Choice Award winner Lane Rivers

excelling in all ways.

"[He] was always respectful to staff and fellow course members, and ultimately the person you would love to have in your team."

The programme is run by New Zealand Blue Light in partnership with police and the New Zealand Defence Force. It provides 14- to 17-year-olds with a residential-based course delivering quality life-skills and leadership training. The programme specialises in building self-respect, respect for others, working within boundaries, self-care, team work, and problem solving.

Up to 12 courses are held each year around New Zealand in Auckland, Taupo, Waikanae and Christchurch.

Blue Light programmes and activities are designed to reduce the incidence of young people being an offender or victim of crime, and to encourage better relations between young people, their parents, the police and communities we live in.

Originally started in Australia, Blue Light has run for the past 30 years in New Zealand.

While Blue light is supported by police officers, who carry out Blue Light activities outside their normal police duties along with civilian volunteers, the organisation operates independently and doesn't receive any funding from police.

For more information about the Blue Light Life Skills Camps visit [www.bluelight.co.nz](http://www.bluelight.co.nz) or phone (09) 475 9301.

# Fire fighters in climb challenge

Fire fighters from the Helensville, Shelly Beach and Kumeu volunteer fire brigades took part in the recent Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge.

The annual event is a fundraiser for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand, and attracted entrants from around New Zealand and overseas including Australia, the United States, Chile and Germany. This year's challenge raised \$1.25 million.

The fire fighters have to climb 51 flights of stairs - 1103 individual steps - while wearing up to 25kg of fire fighting equipment.

Overall, Helensville's team came 56th out of 92 teams and Shelly Beach 73rd.

There were 950 individual competitors.

Individual results were:

- Helensville - Graham Sorby, 201st, 15m48s; Chris Macdonald, 338th, 18m04s; Dan Kelly, 383rd, 18m57s; Hayley Garnett, 528th, 24m43s.

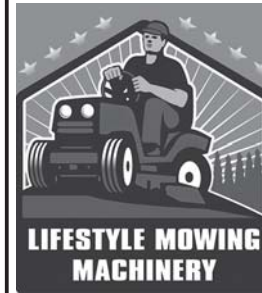
- Shelly Beach - Brian Flood, 268th, 16m49s; Joseph Ineson, 275th, 16m57s; Leah Hide, 527th, 24m40s.

- Kumeu - Michael Ferkins, 45th, 12m58s; Daley Jones, 240th, 16m19s.

The fastest firefighter, winning for the eighth year in a row, was Josh Harrison of Mt Wellington Fire Brigade, who set a new record of eight minutes and 11 seconds.

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# Call for greenways input

Locals are being asked to give Rodney Local Board their ideas on how best to develop greenways in our area.

Greenways plans are being developed for the Helensville, Muriwai and Taupaki areas, and for Kaukapakapa, Wainui, Dairy Flat and Coatesville areas.

The aim is to identify routes that can become walkway, cycleway and bridle path projects in the future.

Auckland's greenways plans are developed by local boards and their communities to improve walking, cycling and ecological connections across the region.

In this initial phase, Rodney Local Board is holding two drop-in workshops, one in Helensville and the other at Kaukapakapa, to gather local knowledge about potential routes, away from busy roads, that people would like to use to get around.

That information will be used to map out a greenways network of walkways, cycleways and bridle paths for future construction.

The drop-in workshop for the Helensville, Muriwai and Taupaki greenways plan will take place on Saturday, June 9 from 9.30am to 11.30am in the meeting room at the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

A second workshop will be held the same day in the Kaukapakapa Hall from 1pm to 3pm for residents to give their thoughts on greenways for the Kaukapakapa, Wainui, Dairy Flat and Coatesville areas.

Council staff will be on hand to take people through the information for each area, answer questions and help record ideas and feedback.

The information gathered will be used to put together a draft document which will go out for public feedback, followed by the local board adopting the final plan.

The greenways plans will also help the local community, Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and developers prioritise future active recreation connections and develop new projects.

The plans are scheduled to be completed by spring this year.

Once adopted the plans are intended for long-term planning purposes. Each plan's network will have a number of priority greenways routes, determined by factors

such as ease of construction, community support, funding (private and/or public), benefits, and housing development.

The routes will be implemented as and when opportunities arise.

Some funding has already been allocated for greenways implementation in Rodney Local Board's budget. However the scheme is a long-term one, and funding will need to come from a variety of sources, including both central and local government, and private enterprise.

Options include Auckland Transport funding, the NZ Transport Agency's regional cycleways fund, and the national cycleways fund.

Greenways are also worked into projects planned by partners including Auckland Council's Healthy Waters, the Council Controlled Organisations, and external agencies. Joint projects with other government departments such as Housing New Zealand and the Ministry of Education are also possible, as are public-private partnerships and private housing developments.

Rodney Local Board has already completed three other greenways plans for Riverhead, Kumeū, Huapai and Waimauku, Pūhoi to Pakiri and Wellsford.

## Arts in the Ville

The call is out for even more local artists to take part in Arts in the Ville, to be held over Labour Weekend in October.

While last year's three-day arts event had a fairly packed roster of artists showing their wares in their home studios, popup galleries and other venues around Helensville, organisers would like to see even more take part this year.

They are also looking for a local person who can run pavement art during the weekend, and – a first for Arts in the Ville – and someone to help with face painting.

Anyone interested should email Kura Geere-Watson at: kuragw@xtra.co.nz.

Changes coming for the 2018 event include a shuttle van and driver, courtesy of the North West Business Association, to help people move around between studios, and expanded displays and demonstrations.

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# More delays for Kaukapapa village

Opening of the first stage of the Kaukapapa Village Centre has been held up by an overburdened construction industry and delays in getting the road widened.

Stage 1 of the \$11 million project was originally slated to open late last year.

Realtor Dave Crow, who is marketing the property, says the Gull petrol station and first block of shops can't open until road widening

However Dave says they have been unable to find contractors to undertake the work, so will do the road widening in-house.

Once that is done, it is unknown how long it will take for the power to be put underground, with Vector still inundated with work caused by the recent Auckland storms.

Other than that, work is progressing well on the buildings.

Stage 1 includes the six-pump gas station, a liquor outlet, Dave's real estate office, and one yet-to-be leased premises.

Upstairs are two apartments, a 120sq.m two bedroom unit facing the road, and a three bedroom, 146sq.m. apartment at the rear, both of which Dave says will be "quite upmarket".

The second stage of the village development will start as soon as stage one opens, and will include four separate



• Building is well underway on the Stage 1 shops and apartments

has been completed and power alongside the property has been put underground.

The widening design was initially approved in 2013, but late last year the NZTA told the developers the rules had since changed and a redesign had to be submitted. That has now been done at a cost of an extra \$22,000, with the only significant change the addition of a cycle lane.

buildings.

A full medical centre and pharmacy has been confirmed and will occupy one complete building. Two other buildings will have up to eight additional retail outlets and up to seven apartments, and the final building will be a supermarket. An offer to lease is currently being considered for the supermarket.

## Lions directory still needs more listings

Helensville Lions Club has had a good initial response to its call for locals to supply their contact information for the club's annual Helensville directory. As reported in last month's *Helensville News*, Yellow will no longer supply the club with its phone book listings.

"The response has been good and they are still coming in via mail," says directory organiser Lyn Curran. "But we still have a long way to go to get to the 2000-plus lines we have had from Yellow in the past."

Locals can either post in their listing information using the form in the recently-delivered 2018 edition, or email it to: [helensvilledirectory@gmail.com](mailto:helensvilledirectory@gmail.com). One big advantage of the club producing its own listing database is it is not restricted to the information supplied by Yellow. That means, for instance, people running a home business can now have both personal and business listings.

"We are very happy to have listings for businesses as they are very much part of our community. We have the option of being able to show whatever we want, and are happy to have landlines, mobiles, fax or email addresses – whatever people want," says Lyn.

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## Record numbers for schools triathlon

A whopping 390 local children took part in the Kaipara Schools Triathlon, held at Parakai School on Wednesday, May 9.

That's almost double the number of competitors in previous years says the organiser, Parakai School deputy principal Sue Caltaux.

After an almost total whitewash by Waimauku School last year, where that school's students won 13 of the 16 classes, the results were more evenly spread out this time - although Waimauku pupils still had their fair share of success, taking out nine of the classes overall. Full results are:

### INDIVIDUAL:

Year 5 Girls: 1st Mila Laarakkers, Helensville; 2nd Georgie Collinge-Coker, Helensville; 3rd Zari Lindsay, Waimauku.

Year 6 Girls: 1st Ellie Harrison, Kaukapakapa; 2nd Lexie Tilson, Helensville; 3rd Alexis Fagan, Waimauku.

Year 7 Girls: 1st Luci Hollister, Waimauku; 2nd Anneke Tinsel, Wainui; 3rd Kyla Middleton, Helensville.

Year 8 Girls: 1st Bianca Bayly, Kaukapakapa; 2nd Reilly Irvine, Waimauku; 3rd Rosie Gudopp, Waimauku.

Year 5 Boys: 1st Tom Pilkington, Helensville; 2nd Lake Gould-Roberts, Waimauku; 3rd Elvis Orange, Helensville.

Year 6 Boys: 1st Kalani Mataio, Waimauku; 2nd Milo Lindsay, Waimauku; 3rd Alex Vlasveld-Monk, Kaukapakapa.

Year 7 Boys: 1st Dominic Lloyd, Waimauku; 2nd = Beau Symes, Waitoki; 3rd Harvey Banks, Helensville.

Year 8 Boys: 1st Thomas Steen, Wainui; 2nd George Pilkington, Helensville; 3rd Lucas Pritchard, Waimauku.

### TEAMS:

Year 5 Girls: 1st Caitlyn Isherwood, Lily Bulman, Makaiah Dunn, Waimauku; 2nd Alba Dew, Brooke Fenwick, Isabel Morgado, Waimauku; 3rd Emma Mabbett, Allegra Collins, Emilee Coe, Helensville.

Year 6 Girls: 1st Eden Grundy, Jessica Sinton, McKenzie Kruck, Waimauku; 2nd Luka Kirk, Maya Duckworth, Zoey Collins, Waimauku; 3rd Olivia K, Sapphire S, Olive B, Waioneke.

Year 7 Girls: 1st Zoe Grey, Ali Campbell, Grayce Brothers, Wainui; 2nd Maddie Ross,



• Exertion shows on the face of Parakai year 7 student Rocco Mowatt during the running leg of the triathlon

Lily Hall, Sophie Jackson, Waimauku; 3rd Maddison Ditchburn, Celeste Hamilton-Dowling, Ruby Hamilton-Dowling, Wainui.

Year 8 Girls: 1st Lara Middleton, Kayla Hutchison, Daisy Oliver-Chambers, Helensville; 2nd Kiyana Pakenham, Eve Canter, Lauren Tanner, Helensville; 3rd Lisi Foua, Bree Burgess, Melissa Wilson, Parakai.

Year 5 Boys: 1st Jack Steffens, Remi Leitch, Will Samways, Waimauku; 2nd Daniel R, George W, Felix M - Waioneke; 3rd Basel Scott, Ryan Hunter, Coby Mallet, Waimauku.

Year 6 Boys: 1st Dylan Smith, Rocco Stevens, Jai Parsens, Waimauku; 2nd Archie Samways, Max Webster, Harry Barnes, Waimauku; 3rd Riley W, Cory A, Cody J, Waioneke.

Year 7 Boys: 1st Jamie Hunter, Tom Lovell, Rishi Raj, Waimauku; 2nd Tommy Leallifano, Caleb Clark-Smith, Braydon Gelderman, Helensville; 3rd Quinn Jude, Isaac Sommerville, Daniel Alexander, Waimauku.

Year 8 Boys: 1st Cooper Sinton, Connor Macdonald, Will Sherriff, Waimauku; 2nd Sam Carpenter, Eugene Lawry, Cairo Stevens, Waimauku; 3rd Zac Plunkett, George Payn, Dylan Bulman, Waimauku.

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# Med centre dispensary on hold

Kaipara Medical Centre has decided to put the building of an on-site dispensary on hold until after winter.

It was hoped building to reconfigure the space and accommodate the dispensary would begin in July, but the centre has been under pressure with two of its doctors unexpectedly taking sick leave in the middle of May.

Helensville Health Trust chairman Dianne Kidd says: "While we know the community is excited about being able to collect their prescriptions at the same time as their doctor's visit, we felt it was best to put the building work off until our team was back to full strength and we're over the busy winter period."

The Medical Centre has also decided to stop accepting any new enrolments in an effort to prioritise its enrolled patients and emergency care.

Centre business manager Richard Reid says: "Most of our new enrolments come from people who are new to the area, and while we'd like to welcome them to our community, we just don't have the capacity right now."

He says the medical centre reception staff are able to help those new residents

find alternative nearby GP practices to enrol with.

Dianne Kidd says the Kaipara Medical Centre team has been heartened by the understanding of its patients as resources have been juggled to best manage the staffing situation, and also of the many get-well messages received for the doctors on sick leave.

"We're very lucky in South Kaipara to have a GP clinic that is part-owned by the community it serves, and we do our very best to ensure a high standard of care," Dianne Kidd says.

She says most patients were very understanding if they had their non-urgent appointments rescheduled, and with some of the extended-hours clinics being reduced.

She acknowledges that sometimes there can be frustrations over not being able to see a preferred GP.

"Like many other practices, our dedicated GPs only work part-time hours, so getting in to see your GP on a particular day isn't always possible," she says.

Patients are reminded to use the Manage My Health online portal to book appointments and order repeat prescriptions.

# Community dinners to be held for struggling locals

Helensville Christian Life Centre in Commercial Road is to hold regular twice-monthly community dinners.

The hot cooked meals are aimed at those locals who for one reason or another are struggling to provide for themselves and their families, says organiser Niki Greendale.

The dinners will be held on every second Thursday from June 7, starting at 6.30pm. Patrons will be asked to contribute a gold coin donation towards the meals.

Niki, who ran the church's impromptu community dinner during the recent lengthy Helensville power outage, says the church can cater for around 80 people - about twice the number who turned up for the power cut dinner.

There is no set menu, and what's on offer will vary from dinner to dinner according to what ingredients become available. But Niki says locals can expect the likes of stews and vegetable soups, desserts like apple crumbles, and tea and coffee.

"They will be good, hearty meals," says Niki.

She has already received an offer of meat from a congregation member, and says desserts will be made by church members, who will provide whatever they feel like baking.

Niki hopes to source other ingredients through Parakai 4 Square, as it's a locally-owned business.

## HELENSVILLE BOWLING CLUB

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## Congratulations to the 2018 North West Country Business Award Winners!

Thanks to all those that entered, voted and attended the North West Country Business Awards ceremony - what a great night it was!

Finalists were those businesses which had been nominated (either by themselves or by a member of the public) and then went on to complete the entry process.

The winners were then chosen after input from a mystery shop (where applicable), evaluation of their submission from an independent panel of qualified judges, and the public vote combined.

Congratulations to the finalists in each category, and photos from the night will be available on our website!

**Visit: [northwestcountry.co.nz/bizawards](http://northwestcountry.co.nz/bizawards) for more photos from the awards night!**



2018 Supreme Award winners - Skydive Auckland with North West Country Chairman, Tony Forlong.



2018 People's Choice winners - The Riverhead with North West Country Chairman, Tony Forlong and Rodney Local Board member, Phelan Pirrie.

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**| BUSINESS AWARDS 2018 |**

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### Hospitality (Licensed):

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The Hunting Lodge

### Recreation:

Skydive Auckland  
*Highly Commended:*  
Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens

### Retail:

Parakai Four Square & Cafe  
*Highly Commended:*  
Love Flowers

### Rural Services:

Country Meat Services  
*Highly Commended:*  
Vets North Kumeu

### Manufacturing & Trade:

Hallertau Brewery  
*Highly Commended:*  
Mama's Brew Shop

**[WWW.NORTHWESTCOUNTRY.CO.NZ/BIZAWARDS](http://WWW.NORTHWESTCOUNTRY.CO.NZ/BIZAWARDS)**



# Te Waka Huia play takes to stage again

After a highly successful tour of Auckland and Northland culminating in two sell-out shows at Kaipara College, a play that focuses on a tragic part of Helensville's history is returning to the stage.

Te Waka Huia was written by local playwright Naomi Bartley and inspired by the Brynderwyn bus crash of 1963, which killed 15 people, many of them from Helensville, as they returned from Waitangi Day celebrations which the Queen had attended.

Last year the play was performed in small town theatres, loosely following the route of the original bus trip from Waitangi.

The tour ended in Helensville, with two emotional performances, after which audience members stood and shared their own connections and stories related to the tragedy.

Naomi says she was honoured to have been invited to be part of the Basement Theatre's Matariki season, with the central Auckland location opening up the story to a whole new audience.

She says "memories of the Brynderwyn bus tragedy sit very close for many in our community, and my sincere hope is that Te Waka Huia will serve as a respectful acknowledgement of the pain and loss still deeply felt."

The play received rave reviews last year from critics and audience members alike. Junior Mimoso who played the main character, Pahi, is returning but the rest of the cast is new.

Te Waka Huia is on at 8pm, Tuesday, July 3 to Saturday, July 7 in the Basement Theatre, Lower Greys Avenue, Auckland.

# Drawn from Life: two decades as a life model

Twenty years ago, Fred Mans first posed in a life drawing class. He happened to have a camera with him, and took a couple of photos of the students' work.

From that day on he always took his camera with him to document the students' drawings.

To date he has amassed around 6000 images, 3000 of which he has both printed and put onto a memory stick - and those images are now on show at the Helensville

Art Centre as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography.

As well as printed images, a slideshow of Fred's photos will run in the centre's media room during the festival, from June 2 to 30.

Around 500 different artists are represented in Fred's collection.

Some of the classes he poses for are tutored while others are untutored, and they range from animation art schools and university courses to senior citizens and community studios - 95 percent within the Auckland region.

Some artists have been drawing Fred throughout the 20 years.

Fred finds the classes energizing, and enjoys the fact that people get immersed in the experience of drawing a living subject.

While not a local, Fred has posed at Helensville Art Centre as a life model. Some of his photos were shown at the previous Art Centre in Karaka Street, and a slideshow of his works was held last year.

Fred doesn't drive and has taken numerous abstract photos around bus stops while waiting for buses.



• Fred Mans with some of his 'bus stop' abstract photos



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# Town's latest evening venue

The latest place for an evening out in Helensville has been planned as a relaxing and friendly environment that's "all about being local".

It's the latest development for The Kombuchery in Commercial Road, which is now open up to 11pm on Thursday to Sunday evenings, serving a range of Hunting Lodge wines, local craft beers such as Hallertau and Liberty, and signature kombucha cocktails.

The business, the only kombucha taproom in New Zealand, initially opened last August as a daytime only venue, serving kombucha, coffee and a range of bagels and baking.

It almost came about by accident.

Friends Liv McGregor and Rene Schliebs had been brewing kombucha - basically a fermented, lightly effervescent non-alcoholic sweetened tea - in a garage in Rautawhiri Road. When they ran out of room they took over the back of the former butcher's premises at 54 Commercial Road to set up Mama's Brew Shop on a more formal basis.

With the brew shop in the back and the building's road front space empty, they decided to open the country's first kombucha taproom - a venue that has since become a popular addition to the local scene.

Their Mama's Brew Shop kombucha is sold to bars and restaurants around the country as a non-alcoholic alternative, and the Kombuchery is their showcase.

The expansion to evening opening is aimed at providing a "cool place to catch up with friends," says Liv.

"It's never going to be a late night boozy atmosphere," she says. "We've always been very conscious of it being somewhere that the community feels it's for them."

While kombucha, Eighty coffee, Best Ugly Bagels and Dr Feelgood icecreams are mainstays during the day, on the late opening evenings the vibe changes.

Local guitarist 2 Tall plays from late afternoon every second Saturday, and Liv and Rene have plans for open mike nights and other musical entertainment. And there are nibbles like meat and cheese platters and pates to accompany the range of drinks on offer.



• Liv in the Kombuchery

Being the first of its kind in New Zealand, The Kombuchery has attracted wide media coverage, and Liv says it regularly attracts out-of-towners to Helensville for a visit - something she says is important for both her business and others like it, and the future of Helensville in general.

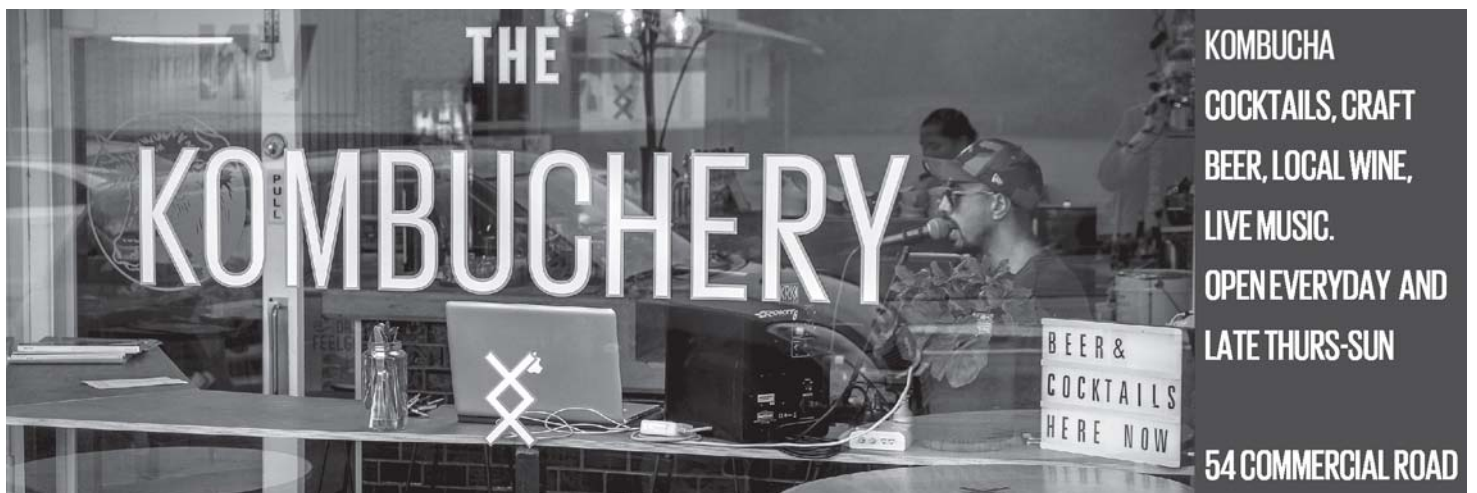
"[Helensville] needs to be a destination place," she says. "It's really cool that people come up here from Auckland."

## Magic and hypnosis

Magician Dave Upfold brings his show of comedy, hypnosis and magic to Kaipara College on Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 at 7pm as a fundraiser for students going to Malaysia and Borneo at the end of the year.

Tickets cost \$20 per person and can be booked on [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz) or through the college.

There will be an auction on the Saturday evening for a money tree laden with \$60 worth of scratchies.



# Cuppa with our Community

Staff from Helensville Police along with other local community service groups will hold a 'Cuppa with our Community' event in the South Head hall on Sunday, June 10, between 10am and midday.

There will be no agenda or presentations - it's simply an opportunity for locals to have a chat and voice any concerns they may have over a complimentary cup of tea or coffee.

In addition to the police, there will be representatives from Neighbourhood Support, South Kaipara Community Patrol, Age Concern, Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau, South Kaipara Men's Trust, and the Helensville Women and Family Centre.

"After running three 'Coffee with a Cop' events over the last three years I realised there was a need for other agencies to be involved," says Helensville Community Constable, Mandi Bell.

"When I approached them, they were all supportive. By all being in the same place at the same time, people can come along and hopefully get the advice or answers they are seeking."

"Bringing people together in a relaxed and neutral environment. I hope that people in the South Head community take this opportunity to come along and speak frankly and openly to us.

"People can come and get advice about anything."

Coffee with a Cop aimed to reduce the barriers between police and the community. The first event was held in Helensville in December 2015.

"I found the idea whilst researching crime prevention initiatives online. It originated in California in 2011 and now operates throughout the USA very successfully," says Mandi.

"This event is something I am quite passionate about. It's a great way for our community to feel listened to and to get support.

"And what better way to do that than with other local services where we can make our community safer, addressing problems and issues together."



## Helensville Birthing Centre

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# Healthy Helensville

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## Doctor boost over winter

The Kaipara Medical Centre is pleased to announce that it's secured another locum doctor, increasing its GP numbers over the busy winter season. Dr Tomas Longworth will be the Duty Doctor on Mondays and Fridays for four months from mid-June. He and his wife, Dr Kathryn Elcock, who is also a GP at the centre, recently moved to the Helensville area with their young daughter.

## Simply superb

Each week Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai's kitchen team receives surplus stock from Superb Herb's greenhouses in nearby Fordyce Road. The herbs are then used in catering and food for the Kaipara College Tuck Shop.

Kitchen Manager Keryn Reardon says, "It's a hugely beneficial relationship as it keeps our costs down, lets Super Herb cut their waste and helps us fuel young minds and bodies with fresh, healthy food and that's what our mission is all about."



Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai's Chef Keryn Reardon receiving some of the donated herbs from Chris Dale Operations Manager at Superb Herb's Parakai base.

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## We love our local Community!

**Congratulations** to our Mothers Day promotion winner Karina and **thank you** to all those who visited our recent sausage sizzle fundraiser in support of Hospice.



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# Harcourts

## 'Movie in a Day' workshop

Helensville Art Centre's popular annual 'Make a Movie in a Day' workshop with short filmmaker Hank Snell is back again on Saturday, June 30. The cost is \$60.

Children in particular enjoy these fast-paced workshops, where brainstorming, filming and acting all happen in the course of one day. Participants should bring any costumes, props, or musical instruments they may wish to use. The movie will be edited overnight and will be ready for its premier the following evening.

The workshop runs from 9.30am to 4.30pm on the Saturday, with the movie premier on Sunday, July 1 at 7pm.

## from the frontline

Indicating at a roundabout seems to cause confusion for some drivers, so I thought that it would be helpful to clarify the rules around driving up to, through, around, and off a roundabout.

Essentially all you have to remember is that you are legally required to follow the directional arrows in the lane leading up to and on the roundabout, and to indicate when you exit.

All other basic intersection road rules apply; if you are turning left at the roundabout indicate your intention to turn left as you approach the roundabout just like you would any intersection.

If you are intending to turn right you should be in the right lane if it is a multi-lane roundabout and indicating your intention to turn right as you approach the limit lines. There is usually a right turn arrow painted in the lane as you approach. Once you have turned right and passed the exit before the one that you are intending to get off at, you are required to indicate left showing your intention to leave the roundabout. If it's a multi-lane roundabout you have to stay within the lanes throughout the whole manoeuvre, and never change into the left lane.

Always indicate your intention so other drivers are aware of where your vehicle is travelling.

If you are travelling straight ahead, enter the roundabout in the correct lane and indicate as you exit the roundabout. Do not indicate right as you approach the roundabout - you are not turning right. This is a common mistake with many drivers who travel straight through. Drive through the roundabout and exit in the same lane.

Never change lanes on a roundabout when you find yourself in the wrong lane. Indicating doesn't remedy or excuse this type of driving and it is an offence. Also never suddenly stop in the middle of a roundabout if you find you are in the wrong lane (this does occur, unfortunately).

If you do find yourself in the wrong lane, my best advice is to continue around the roundabout until you can safely and legally get into the correct lane or take the next available exit. If you do have to take a detour just drive up the road until you find the next right hand turn and turn around to then re-enter the roundabout. This is a much

safer option than trying to cut into a lane where you may be responsible for causing a vehicle crash.

If you witness to any bad driving behaviour and want to report it phone \*555, or head into your nearest police station where you can fill out a driving complaint form for police to follow up.

- Mandi Bell,  
Community Constable



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# Helensville MP opens office

Helensville MP Chris Penk officially opened his electorate office at Kumeu last month with help from National Party leader Simon Bridges.

The office is the same as that used by our former local MP and Prime Minister, Sir John Key.

Local community leaders attended the opening, and a blessing was given by Chaplain Stuart Hight from the RNZAF base at Whenuapai.

"This office is about the phrase 'how can we help'," said Chris during his opening speech. "So if someone comes here we don't question where they've come from (provided they are within the electorate boundaries) but in terms of their politics or their background, we are here to help."

"The significant thing about the phrase 'how can we help' is that it's a question, so we're inviting the priorities of others; it's not about what we say we want to do, it's inviting the community to say what it is that's important to them."

Transport reared its head and almost drowned out his voice as Chris introduced Simon Bridges, who was Minister of Transport in the previous government. Quipped Simon: "I didn't do a good enough job out here!"

The Leader of the Opposition kept the mood light, saying to Chris: "No pressure, but the last guy [in this electorate] was prime minister. I'm sure you will do well, but join the queue buddy. I've got first dibs."

Simon did have some serious advice for our local MP.

"For myself, probably the hardest thing about being an MP, certainly in the early years, is the balance between Wellington and your local community."

"You need to be in Wellington to be a voice for the people you represent, you've

got to be pushing down there. If you don't do that you won't ever be able to be as effective as they want. But what's also true is if you're not there in the community dealing with their issues day in and day out you lose touch and you're useless. I know you'll get that balance right."

The National leader went on to describe Chris as a "fantastic addition" to the party's caucus.

"I really admire what Chris brings. He's someone who is understated, who doesn't talk a lot in caucus, and that's a good thing, because when he does people really listen."

"He's sort of the thinking woman's crumpet. He's very thoughtful."

Since his election last year, Chris has been meeting constituents, attending local events, and advocating on issues important to locals.

"Advocating with local and central



• Helensville MP Chris Penk (left) and National Party leader Simon Bridges

government about the challenges we face with transport and other infrastructure is one of my biggest priorities," says Chris.

"I've met with many constituents who bring up these issues, and I've taken those concerns into meetings with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and NZTA."

The office is staffed 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, and Chris is available for meetings between 10am and 3pm on Mondays and Fridays by appointment. Chris can be contacted by email at: [chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz) or phone 09 412 2496.

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**Chris Penk**  
 MP for Helensville

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 09 412 2496

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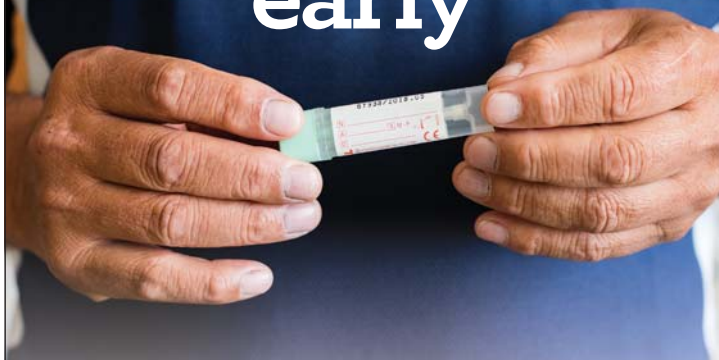
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## On the street where you live

Alan Scott's description of the various Helensville houses he has lived in during his lifetime was the background to an interesting illustrated talk titled 'On the Street Where You Live'.

Held in May, it was the first of the Helensville Historical Society's 2018 winter season lectures, and was attended by a packed house of 40 people.

Focusing on a 1940s White's Aviation aerial photograph of Helensville, he was able to identify which families had lived in many of the houses in the Helensville South area.

After inviting comment from the audience the talk became a very interactive conversation, with many of those present having lived in the area during those years.

Alan also acknowledged a treasure trove of material given to him by the Brackebush family, contained in a series of old movies. Mr Brackebush was a physiotherapist (then known as a masseur) at the Parakai hot pools during the 1940s and 1950s. He had obtained coloured movie film, not then available in New Zealand stores, from American soldiers based in the area during World War 2.

One section of film which Alan showed was taken on a trip to a Pahi Regatta on C. S. West's boat 'TSS The Minerva', and he was able to identify many of the locals shown in the film - including a number in the audience.

The Society's second winter lecture is on Sunday, June 17, from 2pm in the Father Sakey Centre at the Helensville Catholic Church, Kowhai Street. It will be presented by Trevor Scott, who will describe his family's involvement in shark fishing on the Kaipara Harbour. Three generations of the Scott family have fished on the Kaipara.

## 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 June recipient is Ken Pengelly, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at the Ginger Crunch Cafe.*

Ken, pictured below, was nominated by Kirsten Pease, who says: "I would like to nominate my neighbour, local businessman and super granddad for this award. Ken is a real can-do kiwi bloke and would do anything for anyone. Ken works full time, is a life time member of the local rugby club and Muriwai Surf Club, plays tennis, is a grandfather of four, and a loving husband to Liz.

From bringing in the neighbour's rubbish bin, mowing family and friends' lawns, to helping the elderly when they lock themselves out of their homes, Ken is one of the friendliest, most helpful and kind-hearted people I know, and thus deserves recognition for all that he does."



# local board matters

This month I'm going to borrow from an excellent column written by our Local Board chair, Beth Houlbrooke.

By the time you read this the Board will have made a decision which way it has headed on the Rodney Local Board's 'Transport Targeted Rate' proposal.

The proposal was a local targeted rate that would only be spent in Rodney on bringing forward investment in a range of projects across the Local Board area.

Whatever the outcome, this has not been an easy process for us politically. Given some of the comments directed at us online, one would think that we have raised this possibility simply to make ourselves unpopular - but what could our motivation be?

We consistently hear that transport is a priority for Rodney, that the local board is "toothless", lacks influence, and that our residents want more local decisions made locally.

You may recall where this all started. We have all been paying \$114 on our rates bill as an Interim Transport Levy for the past three years.

Many people believe we have not seen any benefit from this rate, and that the money has all gone towards central city projects.

So, the local board asked: how can we ring-fence the levy so that it is only spent in Rodney? The answer to that question was that the only mechanism that would achieve

the objective of having 100 percent of the money collected in Rodney, spent in Rodney, was via a targeted rate.

Whatever is decided, it has been a very useful exercise for a number of reasons.

It's highlighted the constraints the local board has to work within - a very small footpath budget, and only advocacy on road sealing and parking.

It's revealed that there are options open to us if the public want us to use them.

And it has given some very useful feedback that we can take to the governing body of Auckland Council to demonstrate the frustrations of our residents.

We have had one of two choices:

- Not to implement a targeted rate and continue to work with inadequate budget to address the lack of better public transport, a long list of footpath requests, and a continuation of the current rate of road sealing, or
- Implement the targeted rate and finally start to see things happening.

In other words, we have the ability to do something about this, make some progress, or still be talking about it next year, and the year after, and again in three years at the next long-term planning cycle.

The decision may be unpopular either way, but do you want your elected representatives to be more concerned about their re-election, or to be courageous and seek the change they came into this job to make?

In the words of another more famous (or infamous) politician: "We do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard".

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance with Council related matters; email me at: phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or phone 021 837 167.

- Phelan Pirrie

Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board

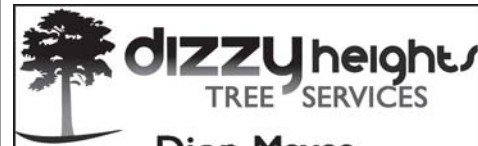


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## Māori art

Helensville Art Centre is calling for local artists who specialise in Māori and Polynesian arts to exhibit in the centre's July exhibition, which will celebrate Māori and Polynesian arts and crafts.

The cost is \$3 per exhibit, plus a 25 percent commission on any sales goes to the Art Centre. Works should be delivered to the centre on Saturday, June 29 between 10am and 2pm or on Tuesday, July 2, between 10am and 4.30pm.

The exhibition will run from Friday, July 6 through to the Friday, July 27.

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community tidbits from town and around

## ■ CIVIL DEFENCE AT WAITOKI

Following on from the lengthy power outages our area recently suffered, local Debra Ellis will talk about Civil Defence at the Waitoki Market on Saturday, June 9, covering topics such as being prepared for when the power goes off, and household emergency plans. She will also have giveaways. Debra works as an emergency management advisor, and is a former Civil Defence Coordinator with the Far North District Council.

The market, at the Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd from 8.30 to midday, will also have baked goods, olive oil, plants, homemade and used bargains, bric-a-brac, and preserves on sale. Proceeds from the market go back to the local community.

Prospective stall holders should contact Gill, phone 420 3301 or email her at: waitokihall@gmail.com.

## ■ PHOTOS ON SHOW

Entries from the 'A Week in the Life of Kaukapakapa' photography competition will be on display in the Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, June 17. A people's choice award will be voted on during the morning with the winner announced at midday. Prizes for best under 12 and 12 and over entries will also be awarded by the competition judges. Entries must be taken and entered between June 3 and 10. Full details available online at: www.clc-photographic.com, or contact Megan Paterson, phone 021 959 017 or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Free face painting for the kids, and fresh coffee and live music from Foster on the tenor saxophone for the adults will feature at the

Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, June 17 from 8.30am to 1pm.

The market will have a wide selection of quality stalls with everything from locally hand-made crafts and fresh fruit and vegetables to used items and collectibles.

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

## ■ TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Helensville Tennis Club's annual Trivial Pursuits fundraiser is on Friday, June 22, from 6.30 for a 7pm start. Teams can have up to eight members. BYO drinks and nibbles, with supper provided. For tickets contact Gaylene Ashton, phone 021 753 380 or email: helensvilletennis@gmail.com.

## ■ ART CENTRE AGM

The Helensville Art Centre will hold its AGM on Thursday, June, 28 starting 6.30pm. All welcome.

## ■ A&P ASSOCIATION AGM

Nominations for the Helensville A&P Association's committee must be received by Sunday, July 1 ahead of the organisation's AGM, which will be held at the showgrounds starting 7.30pm on Wednesday, July 11. For more information contact the office on 420 7572 or email: info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.

## ■ TENNIS CLUB AGM

Helensville Tennis Club will hold its annual meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, July 4, followed by a committee meeting. The AGM is expected to take 20 to 40 minutes.

## ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Cherie Trent, director of Streams Pacific Training Centre, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of Helensville Aglow on Friday July 6, starting 7.30pm in the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. All welcome. Email: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

## trade & classifieds

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

### ■ JULY 2018 deadline: Friday, 15th June 2018

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#### Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor and Advertising:

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

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Due out: Aug 7th	Copy by: July 20th	Due out: Oct 2nd	Copy by: Sept 14th

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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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