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Commute to city to become safer for locals

South Kaipara commuters are in for a safer journey into Auckland with a raft of safety improvements to be made on SH16 between Waimauku and Brighams Creek.

However, they will have to wait up to three years for all of the new safety measures to be completed.

Work on the \$53m safety and efficiency improvements to State Highway 16 is expected to start later this year and be completed in stages, with the first being in the areas with the highest crash history.

The work will include a new roundabout at the Coatesville-Riverhead Highway intersection, extra lanes, safety barriers to prevent head-on crashes, and more space for pedestrians and cyclists.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has

approved funding for the design and construction of the project, which is part of the government's \$600 million Safe Roads programme.

Between 2006 and 2015, four people were killed and 30 seriously injured on this section of SH16.

"Improvements will include extra lanes between Brigham Creek and Taupaki roundabout, a flush median to give drivers more room and a safe place to turn, and a roundabout at the SH16/Coatesville-Riverhead Highway intersection," says NZTA system design manager Brett Gliddon.

Flexible road safety barriers, which can help reduce road deaths by up to 80 percent, will be put along sections of the route.

Changes to speed limits are also being

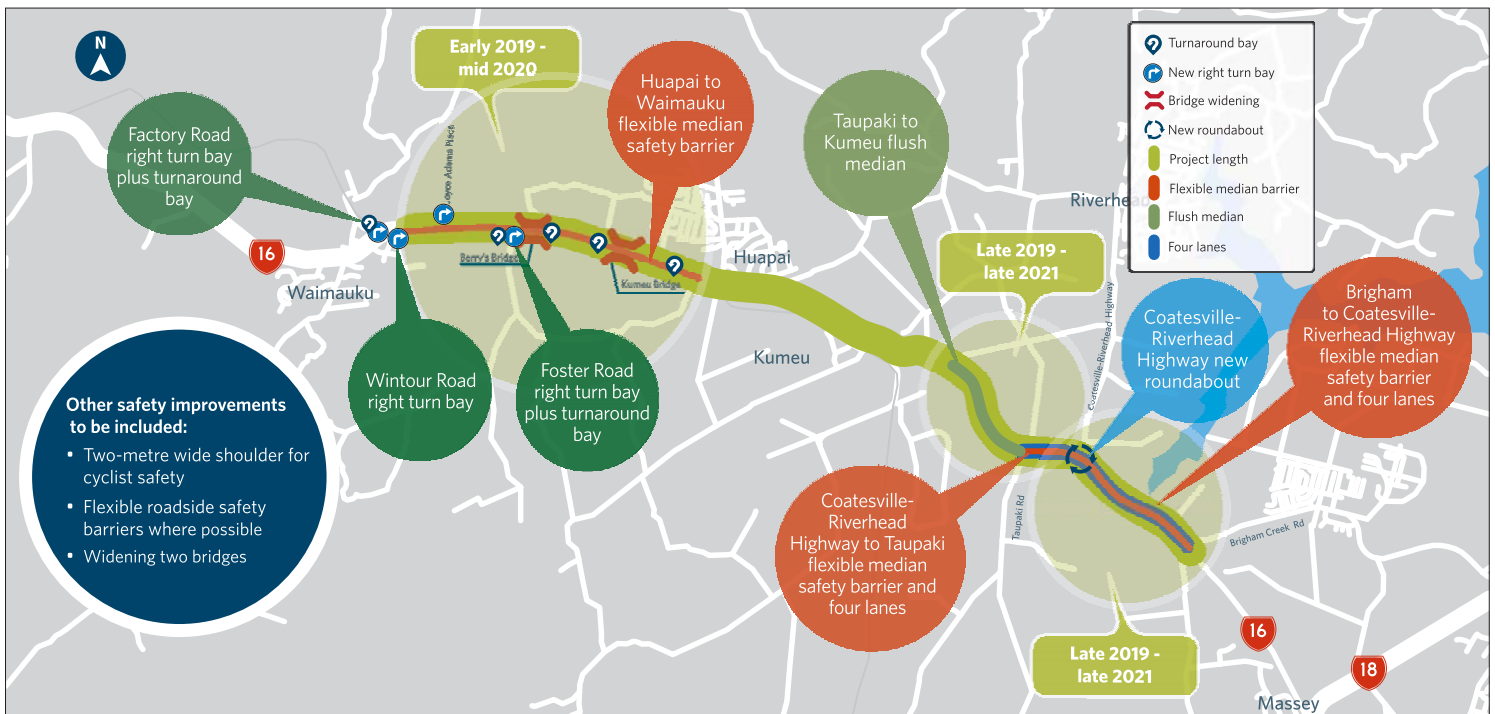
considered following consultation with road users.

Initial work on the safety projects will see surveyors locating boundaries and the positions of utilities such as water and power. Next will come 'enabling works', including moving utility infrastructure and any fences, trees or driveways that may be in the way of the project.

Flexible steel-cable road safety barriers will be installed along the route, except between Taupaki and Kumeu, which will instead receive a painted flush median to provide more room and a safe place for vehicles turn, while keeping traffic flowing.

The road between Brigham Creek and the Taupaki roundabout will be widened to

• To page 11



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Diabetes group clocks up 10 years

The Helensville Diabetes support group celebrated its tenth birthday on August 6.

The group first met on that date in 2008, then in 2015 amalgamated with the Helensville Arthritis Group, some members of which attended the celebration.

Regular group supporter Dr Phill Barter was at the celebration, along with the two original nurses, Barbara McKenzie and Christine Montgomery, who cut a birthday cake (pictured L-R at right). Members enjoyed a few games and a shared lunch.

Helensville Diabetes meets on the first Monday of each month, from 10am to midday in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room. There are currently around 23 members in the group.

For more information, phone Shirley Elsdon on 420 6501 or Glennis Sainty on 420 2801.



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letters

At the Helensville War Memorial Hall last night (August 16), there was the most amazing kapa haka evening. A local kapa haka group showed us how training and enthusiasm can bring about wonderful talent in our youngsters.

The costumes were beautiful, the singing, poi dances and hakas outstanding. The pride shone from their faces, the singing was powerful and beautiful. From small children to teenagers, the performance was exceptional.

The community should be so proud of this group. To the coach and supporters, a big 'thank you' for your time in putting this together. You are all winners in my book. Good luck in competitions, you will do well. The two hakas, by two different groups at the end of the performance, were powerful and full of respect for all the performers.

A lot of love was in the hall last night.

- Jan Scott, Helensville

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To the person who placed the beautiful 'please don't pick my flowers' signs in my plant boxes, a huge thank you. I felt joy and delight when discovering them. I had worked on the boxes until 6pm the evening before, so the signs were done under cover of darkness. I do have cameras, but assume you prefer anonymity. I would love to have one for every box and would be happy to pay.

Thanks also to the creator of the lovely card embellished with butterflies staked into one of my boxes in appreciation of flowers and chairs. I am pleased to see people using and enjoying the chairs. Someone commented it gave the town a 'village' feel. What better than that?

I hope those concerned about potential safety issues with the nails will be pacified by the timber stakes. Cost hundreds of dollars for materials and many hours of time, but the only solution I could come up with. If they spoil the effect of the boxes, thank the small number of careless and destructive amongst us. I never cease to be amazed at the audacity and viciousness of a few. But the generous appreciation from so many keeps me going.

A reminder of an invitation extended more than 10 years ago: the deck at the rear of the WINZ premises is there for the community to enjoy the sun and view. A bench seat provides a good lunch spot.

- Holly Southernwood, Helensville

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Add Regular Chips with burger for	\$1.99
Add Large Chips with burger for	\$2.99

Other options available - see full menu in-store.

Plenty new for Arts in the Ville

Most of the artists who took part in last year's highly successful Arts in the Ville will be back again this year - but organisers promise plenty that's new as well.

The three-day event will again be held over Labour Weekend, October 20-22, with 21 venues already lined up.

There will be new artists exhibiting, plus a new pop-up gallery at the old Art Stop in Commercial Road. It will feature emerging artists, most either recently qualified or still studying, the youngest just 19. Leda Daniels will have her new gallery at 1 Commercial Road open, while internationally-recognised sculptor Jeff Thomson will again open his workshop.

The displays in the War Memorial Hall will be greatly expanded this year, with 11 artists exhibiting there, plus there will be a special fun 'Hat Walk' event on the Monday organised by Myra Lloyd of Marmalade Hats - the details of which are being kept secret, but which we can reveal will involve people being able to try on hats.

The auction held for the first time last year will now be a completely separate event, held on the Friday night before the rest of the weekend's events.

A criticism of last year's event was the lack of refreshment opportunities, and co-organiser Kura Geere-Watson says she has arranged for both The Kombuchery and Husk to stay open all weekend, and other venues may follow suit.

Arts in the Ville has grown each year, and is developing a reputation as an event which draws people to Helensville from outside our area. Over the past couple of years, many of



• Wood turner Ray Scott, demonstrating at last year's Arts in the Ville, will be taking part again this year

the artists reported more than 200 visitors each day, with many also making good sales.

There will be more detailed coverage in next month's *Helensville News*.

For more information, email Kura at: atkuragw@xtra.co.nz.

Art Auction will raise funds for HWFC

Some of the area's most successful artists are contributing work for a fundraising art auction on behalf of the Helensville Women and Family Centre.

The Art For A Cause Auction will be held on Friday, October 19 in the Kaipara College hall, kicking off the annual Arts in the Ville weekend.

Last year's inaugural auction saw 27 pieces go under the hammer, raising more than \$6000 for the centre.

Among the artists donating works this year are renowned corrugated iron sculptor Jeff Thomson, painters Jayne Thomas, William Boyd, Leda Daniel, Arwen Flowers, and former Helensville local Maree Wilson.

Organisers are working hard to ensure a wide range of art is available to suit all budgets, to allow as many people as possible to participate.

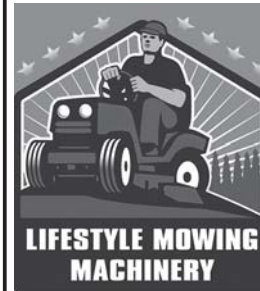
As well as the art auction, the evening will include wine, food and music as the Helensville Women and Family Centre celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Tickets to the evening of art and music are \$20, available from the HWFC in the old Post Office building on Commercial Road.

The works being auctioned will be able to be viewed online by visiting the Art For A Cause Event on the Helensville Women and Family Centre's Facebook page.

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New website for local show

The Helensville A&P Show has a flash new website that's fully compatible with mobile devices.

And it comes with an easier to remember name - helensvilleshow.co.nz - to make it even easier to find.

It's been designed to work seamlessly on computers, tablets or mobile phones.

The new site is live now, but expected to undergo further development over the coming months.

Among new features hoped to be added before the next Helensville Show, on Saturday, February 23 next year, is the ability to buy tickets online for the show, our town's biggest annual single day event.

It is also hoped to encourage more entries to be made online.

The new website includes information on entering the show, the events and attractions on show day, plus full trade space information.

A sponsors page acknowledges the support the Helensville A&P Association receives from a wide range of businesses, many of them local, with links through to those businesses' websites.

The homepage features links to all the major sections of the site, plus a few fun facts about the show.

There are slideshow galleries of the latest show, plus the 100th show and a selection of historic images, some dating back to early last century.

Information on the benefits of being a member of the A&P Association plus a membership form are also included.

"As a show, we want to use technology to make things more efficient for everyone," says A&P Association president Rick Croft.

"Ultimately, we want show tickets to be a simple click away. Show entries and trade exhibitors should find it easy to get all the information they need to be part of the show. Horse measuring is one of the services we provide to the showing community, and we want that info easily accessible on the website.

"The biggest improvement is the ease of looking at the site, whether it be on a computer or a phone," he says.

The new site was built using the open-source Wordpress platform by Helensville

website design company Dash Design.

In conjunction with the new website, the show's main email address has been updated. The new address is: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz, and show manager Merle Kotze says it would be great



if people updated their contacts to reflect the new address. The old address (info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz) will remain functional for several months.

Merle is also keen to receive feedback on the new site, so if anyone has any thoughts or suggestions they should get in touch.

Harbour history cruise

A cruise of historic sites on the Kaipara Harbour with the Helensville and District Historical Society will be held on Saturday, September 29.

The five hour trip with Kaipara Cruises will include a visit to Shelly Beach for lunch. There will be a commentary on the historic sites visited.

Tickets are \$35 per person, and people should bring lunch, or they can buy it at Shelly Beach, where there will be time to take a short walk to the top of the cliff for views over the harbour.

To book phone Lynn on 420 7881 or email: helensvillmuseum@xtra.co.nz.

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Health Trust seeking community representatives

The Helensville District Health Trust is calling on people with a passion for the health and well-being of the South Kaipara community to join the organisation at one of the most exciting times in its almost 30-year history.

The Trust is looking to recruit up to three new voluntary 'community representatives' ahead of its annual general meeting in October.

Trust manager Nicola Keen-Biggelaar says HDHT is keen for people with governance experience, and particularly those with property development expertise, as the Trust looks towards a major redevelopment of its health campus on the corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent.

"It's crucial the decisions we make now are the right ones that will serve the health needs of the community for the next 20 to 30 years," she says.

The Health Trust recently put in place a revised strategic plan, and updated its vision to "the best possible health services for the people of South Kaipara."

The previous vision, "New Zealand's healthiest rural community", had been in place since the Trust was formed in 1989.

Nicola says the Trust is also looking for a new chairperson and deputy chairperson, with Erica McKenzie and Susan Narbey

stepping down from those respective roles.

"Both women have dedicated many hours to the Health Trust. I can't thank them enough for their input and dedication, particularly Erica under whose leadership the Trust is now positioned for exciting growth."

Retiring chairperson Erica McKenzie says: "It has been rewarding in my time as chairperson of the Trust, and I'm sure whoever takes over the role will likewise feel a great sense of achievement for helping create a thriving and healthy community."

Nicola says there are many people who have moved to the area in the last decade or so who may not be fully aware of how the Trust came about as a grassroots response by the community to keep its maternity hospital, when it was threatened with closure in the mid-80s.

"The Trust has always been a real pioneer in regards to community health," she says, "and I'm confident that with the right people we'll continue to hold true to that pioneering spirit in this next exciting chapter of our history."

The Helensville District Health Trust hopes to endorse the new community trustees at its AGM on Thursday, October 25.

To receive a Trustee Pack with more information, email Nicola on: manager@hdht.co.nz or phone 420 7561.

Family sports 'Have a Go' day

Local families keen to try out a number of different sports will be able to do just that at an open day at Rautawhiri Park on Sunday, September 16.

Helensville Tennis Club has joined forces with Harbour Sport and several other local clubs and codes to run the family-oriented 'have a go' day from 11am to 2pm.

Sports on offer will include athletics, tennis, touch rugby, futsal, soccer, baseball, and netball. Tennis Club administrator Gaylene Ashton says it's likely there will be even more sports lined up for the day.

Locals participating will be able to chat with representatives from the various codes and find out information about the different sports at the open day.

Among the other organisations helping organise the day are Helensville Athletic Club, Kaipara Junior Touch, Helensville Rugby Club, and Baseball New Zealand.

There will be a fundraising sausage sizzle, and the Lions Club of Helensville will also be on hand at the Rautawhiri Park Pavilion to talk with visitors about the work they do in our community.

More information is available online at: www.facebook.com/helensvilletennisclub.

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Jools Topp to headline High Tea

Jools Topp of Topp Twins fame will be master of ceremony at an upcoming local event aimed at increasing awareness of breast cancer, a disease which claims the lives of 600 Kiwi women each year.

The Pink High Tea is being put on by the Helensville District Health Trust on Sunday, September 30, the eve of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Trust event manager Amy Wood says the organisers are thrilled Jools has accepted their invitation saying: "she is not only an iconic New Zealand entertainer, but having had her own breast cancer journey this is an issue very close to her heart."

In 2006 Jools was diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent chemotherapy and had a mastectomy.

Other speakers will include former Helensville local Nicola Young, who has also survived breast cancer; Andrew Shelling, head of the Medical Genetics Group at the University of Auckland; and Kaukapakapa's Scott Perry who will share his family's story about the loss of his wife, Michelle in 2016.

Jools Topp and her twin sister Lynda this

year celebrated their 60th birthdays with concerts in London and Auckland and were appointed as Dames in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours for their services to entertainment.

Tickets to the Pink High Tea at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai are \$35, or \$200 for a table of six. To purchase tickets or find out more phone Amy Wood on 420 9983 or email: events@hdht.co.nz.

October Deadline

The deadline for articles and advertisements for the October issue of *Helensville News* will be a few days earlier than usual.

The paper will be going to the printer four days earlier than normal, so the deadline for adverts or articles will be Friday, September 14. We may still be able to accept material up until Wednesday, September 19, but the earlier you can get it to us, the better.

Captain Kirk's middle name?

Helensville Museum's annual trivial pursuits evening on Friday, August 17 drew it's usual good crowd of locals.

The questions posed by quiz master Leigh Bosch ran the gamut of, well, trivia. Participants were asked posers that ranged from the middle name of Star Trek captain James T. Kirk (Tiberius) and the town which considers itself the geographical centre of New Zealand (Nelson), through to what the chemical element Cu stands for (copper) and the name of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara's waka (Māhuhu-ki-te-rangi).

There were even a couple of questions lifted from the most recent issue of *Helensville News*.

Nine teams competed for the trivia 'crown', with 'April's Lot', a team from the Davidson family, winning by just one point.

Funds raised from the evening will go



• The Trivial Pursuits evening in full swing

towards a new home for the museum's recently acquired historic digger.

The annual event is a vital part of the Helensville & District Historical Society's income, as the society receives no outside funding except for a yearly grant from a local family trust. Following feedback from those taking part, there will be some changes to the contest's format next year.

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Painting next up for winter series

Get your brushes out folks - the Helensville A&P Show's mini Winter Series of competitions for this month is for painting.

That's artistic painting, not house painting of course! So whether you are a budding Monet, or just like slopping a bit of paint about, there's a class for you.

Adults can choose from three categories, oils, acrylics and watercolours - any subject matter - and of course can enter more than one class in the competition if they want.

There's also a children's class for an A4-size painting in any medium.

Entries should be dropped off at the main show grounds building on Sunday, September 30 between 9am and 10am. Judging will take place over the following hour, and entrants can collect their winnings and work just before midday. In fact, entrants are welcome to stay through the judging and enjoy some morning tea and a chat with show members and other entrants.

Entries cost \$3 each, and there is prize money of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second and \$5 for third.

The final round of the Winter Series, Photography, will be held on the last



• The Scott family in last month's baking contest

Saturday in October. Adult classes will cover Action, Workmates and Animals, while the children's class is for a 'Me and My Pet' selfie.

medical centre notes

There is much discussion about future health costs and the public health risks associated with obesity.

Studies have shown that if you are overweight, losing five percent of your body weight, whatever your starting weight, is a most effective prevention for diabetes. A 10 percent weight loss shows improvement in osteoarthritis, fatty liver, hypertension and sleep apnoea.

However, losing weight is difficult, and most approaches in primary care achieve only three percent weight loss, and only one person in 20 maintains that weight being kept off for more than six months.

The key is changing the reaction of the brain to feeling full on smaller portions, which involves various methods to retrain the physiological response - which is why sustained weight loss is so difficult.

The best approach from the medical clinic side seems to be a mixed tool of lifestyle enablers to shift the fullness to meal size response - including options (if suitable) such as low calorie meal replacement shakes, or medication to help suppress appetite, as well as support to help increase activity and change how we approach eating. Bariatric surgery works in a similar way, of limiting the size of meal sizes while feeling full on less.

Of course, for some people due to other medical conditions these are not suitable, so always seek advice. Weight loss in obesity has massive impacts on future and current health, and needs a multi-faceted approach. You can't outrun a bad diet - as I've been told.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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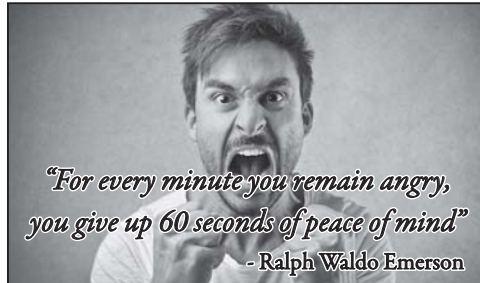
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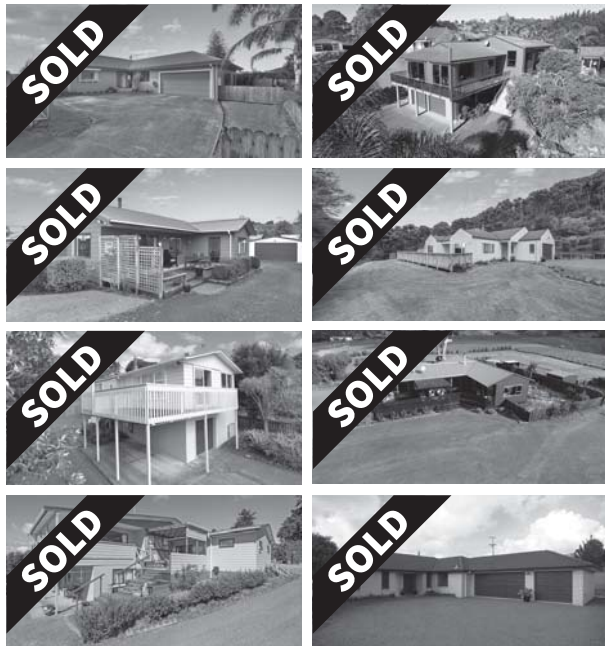
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Old photos, memories wanted for Sunny Days 30th

Helensville's Sunny Days Community Preschool will celebrate its 30th birthday with an open day in October.

And now the call is out for any old photographs, information, or memories as a teacher or child, that can contribute to the day being a special event.

The Commercial Road preschool will have a photo board as part of the celebrations, which will include a bouncy castle, a treasure hunt, spot prizes, cake, free raffles and more. The event's date and more detail will be in the October issue of *Helensville News*.

Anyone with photos, memories or other information they would like to share should contact Sunny Days' financial administrator manager Leesa Shultz, phone 420 7253, or email: sunnydays102@yahoo.com.

Christmas fundraiser for tennis club

Helensville Tennis club is holding a Christmas Heirloom fundraising event on Wednesday, September 26.

Those taking part will meet at Rautawhiri Park at 5.45pm where they will be provided transport to the Christmas Heirloom shop in Ellerslie.

There will be bubbles and nibbles on arrival, with Christmas demonstrations starting at 7.30pm. These typically cover tree decorating, lights, making wreaths and centre pieces, decorating a garland, making bows, Christmas tips and advice.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information or to book, email: helensvilletennis@gmail.com.

from the frontline

Living in a rural area such as the South Kaipara, we all know someone who uses, or has used, a school bus to get to and from school.

So it surprises me that motorists who use our rural roads don't seem to know the speed limit when driving past a stationary school bus which is picking up or dropping off children.

For anyone unaware of the speed to drive past a stationary school bus, remember this saying: "Either way it's 20K".

I can appreciate that to a motorist who has been driving at 100kph along, say, SH16, and sees a school bus ahead, that 20kph may seem a bit too slow. But they are legally required to reduce their speed to 20kph - and let me tell you that 20kph it is not too slow when a person is hit by a moving vehicle.

There's a reason for this 20kph speed limit. Statistics show that almost all pedestrians that are hit by a vehicle at 20kph will survive.

That changes quite significantly if they are hit by a vehicle travelling at 50kph. There is obviously a greater risk they will be more seriously hurt, and in fact 20 percent of car versus pedestrian crashes at that speed result in death.

We all know children can at times be unpredictable, that they are more likely to run out onto a road without looking, and a school bus is a pretty big vehicle that can block not only their view but the view of a passing motorist.

So if you are travelling when there is a possibility school buses will be about, be vigilant, drive to the conditions, and watch your speed.

Don't be the driver who passes a vehicle that has slowed down to 20kph to pass the bus safely (yes, this does happen!) Be the driver that is now educated and conscientious, who slows down to 20kph when they drive past all stationary school buses.

If you don't, you might get an infringement notice for excessive speed, 50 demerit points, or your driver's licence suspended for 28 days for driving 50kph over the speed limit.

I know that I would much rather deal with the enforcement side of this unsafe driving behaviour, than have to attend a fatal crash where a child has been killed because of someone's unnecessary speed past a school bus. Who would want that on their conscience?

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



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 September recipient is Marilyn Dwyer (pictured below with grandson Carter, aged 4), who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Countdown Helensville.

Marilyn was nominated anonymously:

"She is a lady who always says yes whenever you need help. She has been involved with the Kaukapakapa Area Resident and Ratepayers Association for years, and volunteered on the North West Country Business Association when we were in need, and donated her time to support our causes while running a busy business in Kumeu.

"She is the most amazing mother, a faultless grandmother, and is the light of the office as she brings laughter and lightness to stressful situations.

"She totally deserves a shout out."



Helensville Birthing Centre

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

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Healthy Helensville

Our vision: The best possible health services for people in South Kaipara

High tea for breast cancer

The Helensville District Health Trust is hosting a high tea on the eve of Breast Cancer Awareness month to highlight the issue that claims 600 lives a year in New Zealand.

Guests will hear from a range of inspiring speakers, including cancer survivors, family of those who have lost

a loved one and experts in the field about the latest technologies for detection, treatment and recovery.

The event at Te Whare Oranga ĀParakai is 1pm-4pm, Sunday 30 September. Tickets are \$35 or \$200 for a table of six. RSVP to Amy Wood, email: events@hdht.co.nz or 09 420 9983.

Nurturing learning



The Helensville Birthing Centre's Coffee Group for parents and littlies will enjoy a talk on Wednesday 19 September by guest speaker Miriam Jones, on how to nurture

learning and encourage a child's sense of well-being.

Miriam Jones is a registered early childhood teacher and has over 20 years experience working with young children and their families including as a home based educator, a preschool teacher and raising her own four children.

The coffee group is held regularly every second Wednesday 10:30am – 12:30pm at Te Whare Oranga Ā Parakai.

Cooking up a winner

The monthly Kids' Kitchen Cooking Classes at Te Whare Oranga Ā Parakai remain as popular as ever with last month's class a sellout.

Pizza is on the menu at the next class on Sunday 9 September. And the following month, there'll be a special school holiday Kids' Kitchen on Tuesday 2 October. Bookings are a must so secure your spot now by emailing Chef Keryn on kitchen@hdht.co.nz.



'Rescue Run' on again

It's going to be a disaster.

At least, that's what organisers of this week's 'Rescue Run' have planned, with five major disaster zones set up in Woodhill Forest for teams of competitors to race their way through.

The inaugural Rescue Run was held in 2016 over local farms and in Woodhill Forest, and raised more than \$185,000 for charity.

This year five major charities are set to benefit from the run - St John (Northern Region); Coastguard (Northern Region); Fire & Emergency NZ (Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade); Land Search & Rescue

(Auckland); and Surf Lifesaving Northern Region. A separate secondary schools division will be supporting Youthline.

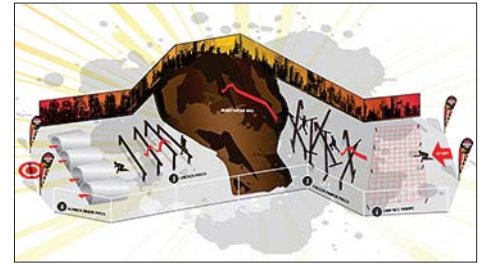
For this year's event, on Saturday, September 8, the 15km course has been completely redesigned. It starts at Parakai Springs for registration and parking, with runners and spectators bussed to Woodhill Forest for the event proper.

Once there, up to 100 teams of six - which must include two females - will tackle a course that traverses open paddocks, forest and native bush, coastal sections, some existing public walkways and forestry roads.

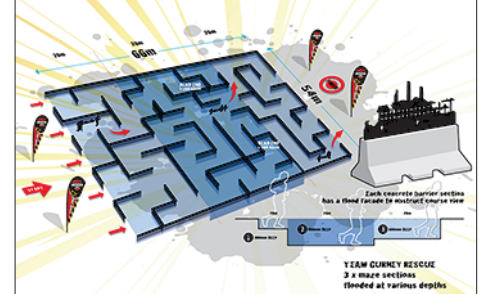
Along the way they will fight their way through five major 'disasters', each of which has been designed by disaster relief and emergency service professionals to as closely as possible mimic potential real-life scenarios.

First up will be the 'Patient Rescue Zone', a simulated first-responder challenge. Using GPS technology, the teams will have to locate survival equipment, rescue an injured patient (in reality a dummy), perform first aid and carry out an emergency evacuation. That dummy will then be carried by stretcher throughout the rest of the course.

Next competitors will encounter the 'Flood Zone', which will feature a 66m by 54m water maze designed to simulate a series of submerged city streets. Teams will need to navigate an escape through water at various depths, while keeping their patient



• The Earthquake Zone (above) and Flood Zone



warm and dry.

A 'Mudslide Zone' will then test the teams' strength and endurance as they carry their patients through a flow of mud and water, using a guide rope to help climb out.

After that they will contest a 'Car Pile-up Zone' which will replicate a multi-vehicle motorway crash site. Teams will traverse a chaotic accident simulation filled with noise, smoke, fire and screams.

The final challenge will be the 60m-long 'Earthquake Zone', with teams entering a quake aftermath simulation featuring damaged buildings and debris.

Suffrage drink

A limited edition drink to mark the 125th anniversary of suffrage in New Zealand will raise a bit of cash for the Helensville Women & Family Centre.

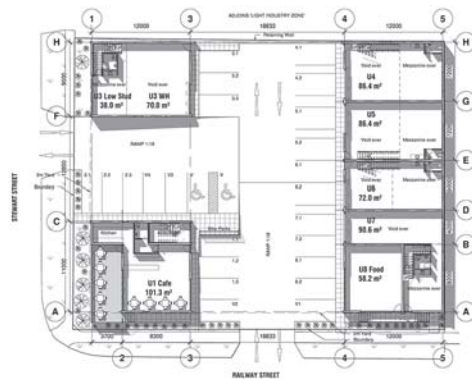
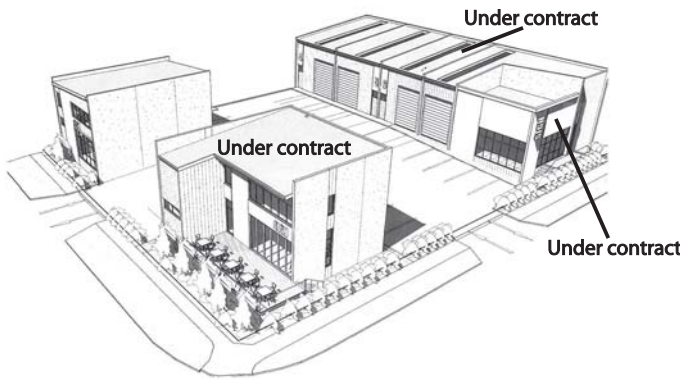
The Kombuchery in Commercial Road is selling the limited edition kombucha flavour just for September. It's a blend of Earl Grey and Rose Petals, and \$1 from every glass or bottle sold will go to the HWFC.

September is the 125 year anniversary of suffrage in New Zealand. The suffragettes, led by Kate Sheppard, presented a petition to parliament, and on September 19, 1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing nation to allow all adult women to vote in general elections.

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local board matters

■ Helensville main street improvements

Over the last couple of years the community has been asked what they think would make Helensville an even better place to live.

Improving the quality of the main street has consistently been identified as a priority. People have talked of the need for an improved look and feel in the town - more trees and street planting, better connections with the river, shops needing to look more loved, and revitalising the retail strip.

Based on this feedback, the North West Country Business Association arranged for draft concept plans to be drawn up that provide for new street trees and vegetation pockets, hanging baskets, upgraded seating, better pedestrian spaces and improved connections with the river.

If you would like to have a look at these concept plans and either comment on them or have some input into the next stage of the process, which will be the detailed design phase, please come along to the Plans for Enhancing Helensville Township Community Drop-in Session.

It's on Saturday, September 8 from 10am to 1pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

This is an exciting opportunity for the local community to see their ideas coming to fruition and influence what happens next.

For more information contact Sue Dodds (Auckland Council), ph: 021 863 326, email: sue.dodds@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, or Geraldine Bayly (Kaipara Coast Landscape Architecture) ph: 021 475 222, email: geraldine@kaiparacoast.co.nz.

■ Wet winter plays havoc with rural roads.

I don't recall ever getting so many complaints about roads as I've had this winter.

The particularly heavy downpours of rain have washed gravel into culverts, blocking them and washing out banks and roads. No sooner is gravel put into a pot hole than the hole reappears within days.

The weather has also delayed rehabilitation projects on sealed roads; one

of the more visible examples being Parkhurst Road in Parakai, which now looks like a patchwork of repairs.

Parkhurst Road was due for complete rehabilitation months ago but this sort of work cannot occur in the wet because the seal won't adhere - the fact that patches pop off within weeks demonstrates this problem.

As soon as the weather improves the work will be able to take place. Rehabilitation of roads is an expensive job and it is better to do it once, properly, in the dry. Continuous patching may seem like a waste of money but that would be nothing to redoing an entire road to see it fail within months because it wasn't done in the right conditions.

I would encourage people to report issues online at this link: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/report-a-problem/>.

If you have been having issues with your road, or a particular issue doesn't seem to be getting resolved, then you are welcome to email me the details so I can follow it up: phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Roll on Summer!



- Phelan Pirrie
Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board

Safer commute cont...

• From page 1

four lanes, and a roundabout built at the SH16/Coatesville-Riverhead Highway intersection. Between Huapai and Waimauku the narrow bridges will be widened and turning bays installed to make it safer at the intersections of Foster, Station and Factory Roads.

Where possible, flexible roadside safety barriers will be installed to protect vehicles from dangers such as power poles, trees and deep ditches.

Cyclists and pedestrians will also welcome the changes, which will include a sealed road shoulder at least 2m wide.



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community tidbits from town and around

■ PONY CLUB ENROLMENT DAY

Helensville Pony Club is holding an enrolment day from 4pm to 7pm on Friday, September 7 at its clubrooms at the Helensville Showgrounds. Those attending will be able to meet the club's five coaches and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

The season membership for riding members costs \$185, which works out at less than \$10 per lesson. The club meets from 5.30pm to 7pm on Wednesdays, and caters for all ages and levels of rider. It also holds a number of events each year.

■ JOURNALIST AT LIBRARY

Local freelance journalist Helen Martin will be the guest at the Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, September 16 from 10am to 1pm.

Helen was first published at age 12 when she won an international short story competition and a £100 prize. That win convinced her she could be a professional writer and, after graduating from the University of Auckland with an MA (Hons) in English, she followed a dual career as a teacher and freelance non-fiction writer.

For many years she taught secondary school English and media studies, then film and television studies at tertiary level.

Her publications include columns as a film critic for magazines including the NZ Listener, OnFilm, and Alternative Cinema and several book chapters, Te Ara online dictionary entries and co-authored books on New Zealand cinema and television. She currently writes for two local rural publications.

Helen has also written a self-published book on her paternal family history, and is now working on its companion, her maternal family history. Since moving to Helensville

she has been helping others with their writing projects.

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

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, September 16 from 8.30am to 1pm. The popular monthly market lets locals relax and enjoy a coffee and food from the stalls while listening to live music - this month tenor sax player Foster.

Stalls will cover local crafts and car boot sales, plus fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables, plants, fresh bread, doughnuts, cakes, and pies. The Lions Club of Helensville will hold its regular book stall, and there will be free face painting and a craft table for the kids.

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

The market is also online at: www.facebook.com/kaukapakapa-villagemarket.

■ QUIZ NIGHT

It's a battle of the generations in the first annual Kaipara College Students versus Parents Quiz Night, in the Kaipara College Hall from 7:30pm on Friday, September 21.

Entry is by koha, with a maximum of eight people per table. There will be a prize for the best dressed table, and food will be available for purchase as fundraiser for the 2018 World Challenge trip to Malaysia and Borneo. To book a table, email: pta@kaipara.school.nz.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Ngaire Harvey will be sharing about 'Facing the Unexpected' at the meeting of Helensville Aglow at 7.30pm on Friday, October 5 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd.

For more information email Yvonne Bartlett at: yvonne@hello.net.nz.

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Helensville News - Publication Information

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