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20TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE 20TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE 20TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE 20TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE

Hair yesterday, gone today Community health day



• Shavees (from left): Brooke Christie, Katie Kruger and Dana Nasmith

First the pony tails were lopped off, then the longest hair was cut, and finally the clippers came out for the close shave.

That was the process for three young Waioneke School students who had their heads shaved to raise money for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand (LBC).

Brooke Christie, Katie Kruger, both aged 11, and 12-year-old Dana Nasmith were taking part in LBC's annual 'Shave for a Cure' fundraising event.

Prior to their 'shave day' on March 18, Brooke and Katie had raised almost \$900. Dana joined in on the day to become the third official member of the school's team. By the time *Helensville News* went to print, the trio had raised more than \$2540.

Many of the school's other pupils showed their support by sporting colourful wigs, crazy hairdos or weird hats for the day, and a further \$170 was raised at the school - a creditable effort for a school with a roll of only around 80.

Deputy principal Di Megler - who donned a purple wig for the event - says she "can't believe how brave" the girls were to cut off their locks, and says the girls "look beautiful" with their shaved heads. Jayne Morris from Celtic Rose in Parakai did the honours with the clippers.

On average six New Zealanders are diagnosed with a blood cancer or related condition each day. LBC receives no government funding.

A fun-filled community health event will be held in Parakai on Saturday, April 13.

Called Kaipātiki Ki Kaipara, it's being run by Whiti Ora o Kaipara, a charitable trust under the auspices of the Ngā Maunga Whakahii Development Trust, in conjunction with Auckland Council.

It will be held from 9am to 4pm at Kaipātiki Reserve (formerly Parakai Reserve).

"The main purpose for the Kaipātiki Ki Kaipara event is to showcase the large amount of health providers we have access to within our community," says Ngā Maunga Whakahii's Keanna Johnson-Phillipps.

Health providers taking part will include the Waitemata District Health Board's Bowel Screening Programme, Te Ha Oranga, Breast Screen Waitemata, and the Kaipara Medical Centre.

Entertainment will include live music, kapahaka performances, bungees, and Pacifica performances, and there will be food available.

Harold the Giraffe from the Life Education Trust will be on hand for children to have their photos taken with, St John Youth will be running activities, and HIPPI South Kaipara will be organising craft activities.

Keanna says they are expecting 200-plus people to attend the event.

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editorial

After the horror of the Christchurch mosque shootings, it was heartening to see our local community come together at the Parakai wharf to remember in such a beautiful way those who lost their lives (page 2). Being organised through social media unfortunately meant there were quite a lot of people who didn't realise it was on, but for those that did attend it was a very moving evening.

There are several articles on young people this issue, notably the three wonderful girls on the front page who bravely shaved their heads to raise a big sum of money for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer NZ, and our local kindergarten youngsters (page 6) who are getting right into sustainability - something that should have been taught a generation or two earlier.

Finally, I'm very pleased to announce that the Lions Club of Helensville has taken on the responsibility of delivering the *Helensville News* in the Helensville and Parakai postal delivery areas - I am very happy to be able to support the club in this manner.

- Dave Addison, Editor

20 years of Helensville News

To paraphrase the great Beatles song 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', it was 20 years ago today (almost) that *Helensville News* came into being.

Our first edition, a slender four page photocopied issue, came out in April 1999. Since then we've grown to quadruple that size and into a properly offset-printed paper. Over the previous 219 issues we have covered pretty much every major event in our area, along with a huge number of smaller news items - recording for posterity most of the touchstones of the South Kaipara's recent history. Here are some of the paper's 'milestone' issues:

■ ISSUE #1 April 1999 4 pages, photocopied. Main articles:

- Antique Centre and themed cafe planned for Regent cinema
- Cycle shop to open
- Explosion and fire at Mill Rd firewood depot
- Plans for Helensville to become regional growth centre
- Plans to establish a Pioneer Village
- Helensville website established

■ ISSUE #100 May 2008 20 pages, printed. Main articles:

- 100th issue
- Mobility dog for college student
- HIPPIY South Kaipara
- Talent quest
- Horse Expo
- Art Centre opens
- Nola Keane obituary
- Rail trial

■ ISSUE #200 June 2017 20 pages, printed, colour front and back. Main articles:

- 200 issue roundup
- Future of Parakai Reserve
- Book launch
- New church building opens
- Student to international science school
- Kaukapakapa village
- Firefighter's big climb



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Christchurch remembrance



• Locals make their way onto the pontoon to throw flowers into the Kaipara River

Around a hundred locals gathered at the Springs Road landing in Parakai at sundown on Tuesday, March 19 to remember the 50 people who died in the Christchurch mosque terrorist attack the previous Friday.

After some brief words from Helensville's Fiona MacBride and a performance of the song 'The Rose', those attending went in orderly groups onto the pontoon and threw flowers into the Kaipara River, where they drifted down river in the glow of the sunset.

The group then sang the hymn Abide with Me and the national anthem, and then the half-hour ceremony finished with a prayer from pastor Tim Forlong of Helensville's Magnify Church. Two armed police watched the ceremony from a respectful distance.

College sets NCEA records

Kaipara College has set record pass rates in its school-wide NCEA results for 2018.

The University Entrance pass rate increased by 8.5 percent to 57.8 percent, a record for the school. And the NCEA Level 3 pass rate of 74.5 percent was also a school record.

Principal Steve McCracken says both those results "significantly outperform" both the national average, and the average for Decile 4 to 7 schools.

The college's Level 2 NCEA results showed a pass rate of 78.1 percent, which equals both the national and decile results.

"Nearly 32 percent of our Level 2 students received Merit or Excellence

endorsements, which is very pleasing," says Steve.

He says the school is only one percent off setting a record for NCEA Level 1 passes, which currently sit at 77.3 percent.

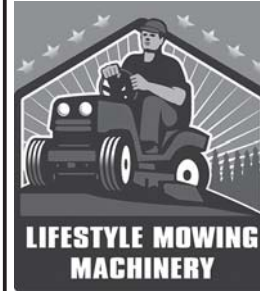
"I am delighted that we have continued the upward trend and our overall results continue to improve."

Last year the New Zealand Qualifications Authority changed the way it reports results publicly. From 2018, all students who attend a school for 70 days or more are counted in public reporting.

"This will streamline the way each school presents their data to ensure transparency of information and clarity to the public," explains Steve.

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Back to the future for Shelly Beach

The clock is being turned back on the Shelly Beach waterfront.

A new 'natural' seawall and five new groynes to prevent erosion, along with placing new sand along 450m of the beachfront, are aimed at bringing the beach back to a more natural, pre-1950s state.

A large mangrove colony developed at the northern end of the beach after a seawall was built in the late 1950s. Part of the seawall and some mangroves were successfully removed in a trial in 2012, and now the rest of the seawall has gone, along with the removal of 3200sq.m of mangroves. Brought-in sand has opened up the beach north of the jetty and restored harbour views.

The seawall and groynes have been constructed from natural beach sediment and Kaipara sand mixed with cement to mimic the area's natural sandstone.

Groynes are structures that modify sea currents and wave energy to help trap sand on the beach.

Finishing off the project will be a pathway joining the northern footpath with the high use area at the carpark, café, and new beach north of the jetty.

The project has taken longer than anticipated due to difficult foundation conditions on part of the site, and the challenges of working in an area frequently inundated by the tide. The work has been



• Work underway on the new 'natural sandstone' seawall

underway for the last nine months, and is hoped to be completed by the middle of July.

Cost has also increased from the initial forecast of \$1.5 million due to additional stormwater and drainage work being needed, and changes to the construction methodology.

Library can help in aftermath

Following the attacks on the mosques in Christchurch, Helensville Library's senior librarian for children and youth, Anne Coppell, says the library can help people trying to explain such events to their children, or who want to introduce them to different cultures.

"At Auckland Libraries we highly value the rich diversity of Aucklanders we have the privilege of serving," she says.

The library's theme for the April school holidays is 'Weird, Wild and Wonderful'.

From Monday, April 15 to Saturday, April

27 there will be a 'How do you measure up?' animal facts scavenger hunt, and activities to do in the library or take away. Special events are:

- Tuesday, April 16, 3pm to 4pm: Weird Science - the return of ever-popular kitchen science experiments.
- Thursday, April 18, 3pm to 4pm: Wild Wardrobes - create wacky looks in real life, or a fashion show online using apps.
- Tuesday, April 23, 3pm to 4pm: Wonderful Wildlife - explore the world of animals and create your own creature.

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New home sought for studio

This music mixing deck, pictured with owner Matt Smith, was once owned by Neil Finn and used in his Roundhead Studios, and before that belonged to his brother, Tim Finn.

In more recent years it's been used in Helensville by Matt at his RedRoom Studios.

But now it's languishing in a warehouse in Kumeu, and the rest of RedRoom is in boxes and pieces without a home.



• Matt Smith with the homeless mixing deck

Matt ran RedRoom Studios in Helensville for more than 10 years, but when his lease wasn't renewed he was given just days to move out. However he says he is grateful for the low cost rent there which enabled him to get the business up and running in the first place.

He has found new premises in Kumeu for his other business, Luma Audiovisual, which among other services supplies video walls and sound equipment for events such as the recent Supertramp concert. It employs eight

people, all from Helensville.

But Matt says it is much more difficult to find somewhere suitable for the recording studio.

"Our vision is to find an old place with heaps of character, like an old barn, hall, warehouse or church," he says.

He describes as "pretty intense" the emotions when he shut down RedRoom's Helensville premises for the last time, but says he is "determined to continue" with the business.

"I would love [it] to stay in the Helensville area. There is incredible artistry in the area.

"We want to continue making great music and taking it to the world."

As well as producing awarding-winning records for the likes of Troy Kingi, whose album won Best Māori Pop Album at the 2018 Waiata Music Awards, RedRoom Studios has been used extensively by local musical talent, notably many of the musicians to come out of Kaipara College.

Matt now has three records which he can't finish, and has had to cancel other upcoming jobs.

Ideally he would like to find somewhere that has some accommodation so artists can stay over while they are recording. It also needs a good power supply and internet access.

Lions Club takes on paper delivery

We are delighted to announce that the Lions Club of Helensville has taken over delivery of the *Helensville News* in the Helensville and Parakai areas.

Club members delivered this very issue to all the non-rural delivery homes in the two towns.

If you have any enquiries about your delivery, please phone editor Dave Addison on 420 7215 or mobile 021 178 5568, or drop us an email at: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz.

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Thank you Helensville for coming along to our 117th Helensville Show. We trust you enjoyed the day.

To our sponsors, we couldn't do it without you and we very much appreciate your continued support. And to our many volunteers, your help at show time and commitment to our iconic country show is priceless. You are what community is all about.

Our thanks to all our trade stands, exhibitors, entertainers, gate keepers and other community groups, we truly hope your day was successful and enjoyable.

We look forward to seeing you all again at our 118th Show on Saturday, February 29th 2020!

- Helensville Show committee

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Kindergarten kids learning all

Learning about sustainability and how to care for our planet and the oceans is coming early to some local children.

Parakai Kindergarten in Fordyce Road, Parakai is focussing on sustainable practices within the kindy environment this year - and head teacher Ebony Taitimu-Moore says the children are right behind it.

The teachers have identified a raft of ways they, the children and their families can work towards being more sustainable.

"It's so relevant now. There's so much information about being waste-free, caring for our oceans, reducing our rubbish, so we kind of ran with it here at kindy, because kindy can produce a lot of rubbish with so many children," says Ebony.

"It's something all the teachers are quite passionate about, and a lot of our parents are passionate about it too, which is awesome."

The kindy started by encouraging waste-free lunch boxes, and pretty much straight away most parents bought containers or beeswax or cloth wraps for the food.

To avoid waste like non-recyclable soft plastics, parents are encouraged to buy

foods like yoghurt and crackers in bulk and transfer them to re-useable containers for the lunches. If the children do have soft plastics in their lunch boxes it is sent back home for the parents to reuse or dispose of.

"That's been a really good process because it has made parents aware of how much rubbish their child's lunchbox is producing," says Ebony. "Some things can't be helped, and we totally get that, but many things can be bought in bulk."

Next term the kindy children will be making their own beeswax wraps, packaging them in threes to be sold to the families as a cheaper alternative to store-bought ones.

"If we can make it easier for parents to gain sustainable resources that makes it a win-win," says Ebony.

Now completely plastic bag free, this term the kindy introduced reusable wet bags for children to keep in their bags for when they have wet or dirty clothes. They are available for \$5 on enrolment, or parents can provide their own.

Food scraps don't go to waste either.

• To page 7



• River Valley Kindergarten teachers (from left): Angela McLeod, Sharon Clayton and Ebony Taitimu-Moore (absent: Jen Gibbs)

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about sustainability

• From page 6

Leftovers are sorted into pig and worm scraps, and recyclable containers like yoghurt pots are put aside for use in the art area. Office administrator Nadine Phillips takes pig scraps for her neighbour, and the kindy has two worm farms for the rest.

Parakai Kindergarten is also into 'upcycling', using old wooden pallets to make bicycle stands and storage units for the plastic pipes they use in the sandpit. They are also reusing items such as cable reels, jars and crates.

"It's all about trying to upcycle what we can as opposed to buying new all the time," says Ebony "and showing the kids we can be more innovative."

The children have spent a lot of mat times learning how plastics affect the oceans, and with teacher Sharon Clayton have been sewing small drawstring fabric vegetable bags for parents to use instead of the disposable plastic ones provided by supermarkets.

"They are a hit [with the kids]," says Ebony. "They take a wee while to make and we can only make a few at a time, but they sell out straight away."

Helensville librarian Anne Coppell has also spent mat time with the children, providing resources, songs and books covering the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' ethos.

And in late March, 30 kindy children

visited the Waitakere Transfer Station's Zero Waste Zone.

The kindy has also moved to using more natural resources for the children. Instead of plastic playdoh tools they now use wood or metal ones, and glass jars instead of plastic containers for paint. At meal times the children are using glass cups and real cutlery rather than plastic, and Ebony says they have proven really capable, with next to no accidents with dropping glasses.

Parakai Kindergarten recently signed up for the nationwide Enviroschools scheme, which provides guidance on how to be more sustainable and natural.

The teachers took part in their first workshop in March.

Next term there will be a waste free parent evening with Kate Meads.

Harbour hui

The Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group will hold its quarterly hui at the Warkworth Town Hall on Thursday, April 18, from 8.30am to 3pm.

The hui will have two main themes, covering a pest-free Kaipara catchment programme that will be introduced, and asking: 'Where do we get 160 million trees over the next three years?'

Anyone interested in attending should email: leahwebb.ikhmg@gmail.com by Thursday, April 12.

medical centre notes

As many of you are aware, there are many changes happening at Kaipara Medical Centre.

We have sadly said farewell to Dr England, but I'm happy to announce the arrival of Dr Vaughan Lock as a permanent GP. He has been working in central Auckland but has moved to a lifestyle property in west Rodney.

We also have had to say goodbye to two of our nurses - Georgia Cray, to a practice closer to her new home, and Marina Ander after 11 years to community nursing.

They were two valuable members of our team and are greatly missed by us all. We are looking for replacements for them, but until we find them our nursing levels are reduced, so I would please ask for patience and tolerance, and kindness as always, for our nursing staff as they will be even busier than their normal high levels of work for the short term.

- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Director



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: Price matching a big local plus

Many people have the perception our local shops are more expensive than the big chain stores in the city - but that's not always the case.

Paper Plus Select owner April Ashton is keen to point out - especially to business owners - that she can usually match anyone else's price.

What's more, goods can be ordered online if wanted, and delivery is free - and often the same day - for business customers. Delivery is also free for private customers for any purchases over \$50.

"We're willing to negotiate [with business clients]," says April. "We want and need their business."

April has worked at the Commercial Road shop, which also doubles as the local Post Shop, Kiwibank and Lotto store, since she was 18. When she began there 15 years ago it was simply called Helensville Stationers. In 2004 it became a Take Note shop, and around a year before April purchased the business then owner Manu Patel converted it to the Paper Plus Select brand.

It's been a full-on couple of years since April took the reins at the end of 2016. She married

husband Daniel only a couple of months after buying the business, and now splits her time between the shop and looking after her baby.

"It's been hard having the baby and not being able to work as much," she says, "but I'm supported well in that respect."

There are six other staff, five of them part-time, helping run the store.

Like many local businesses, Helensville Paper Plus Select has to compete with malls and big chains, and April says the business is holding its own, if not growing as fast as she had hoped.

One area of growth has been supplying local school students with their stationery packs. Currently Helensville, Kaukapakapa and



> April at the Paper Plus Select counter

Waioneke schools take part, and April expects others to join the programme.

Also popular have been community events, such as an evening with Nadia Lim, and a visit from Craig Smith, author of The Wonky Donkey children's book.

: Hire-a Hubby for almost any job

From jobs as small as changing a tap washer or a fluorescent light bulb through to fencing and major home revamps, Gerhard Heslop can help.

Since October he has run the Hire-a Hubby franchise based at Kumeu, which covers the Helensville and South Head areas as well. And because at this stage there is no franchisee for the area north of Helensville, he can help out in Kaukapakapa and the surrounding areas as well.



> Hire-a-Hubby's Gerhard Heslop

The well-known company has a 25-year reputation in both home and commercial maintenance work.

On any given day, Gerhard - Gerty to his friends - can be found painting, cleaning out gutters, doing small carpentry jobs, gardening, or even making major repairs to a property damaged by bad tenants.

He has developed close working relationships with local tradesmen for those jobs that require a plumber, electrician or building work that needs council approval.

It's a big change from his background in commercial management. Swiss-born Gerhard has lived much of his life in Australia, but his work has seen him employed by a major German engineering company, working for four years in China for a refrigeration company, and more recently in the security

industry here in New Zealand.

He has lived since 2005 on a 10ha lifestyle block at Taupaki, and has done all the maintenance and fencing work there - a background which he says has given him a good grounding in hands-on DIY.

With plans underway to subdivide that land - a project he will manage himself - Gerhard wanted more of a lifestyle type of job, working based from home and away from city traffic. He looks at it as semi-retirement.

At this stage he is concentrating mostly on residential work, often working alongside landlords doing repairs on rental properties. But he is also available for commercial work, and recently did floor repair work at Domino's Pizza in Huapai as well as work at the Massey Medical Centre.

An advantage of being part of the national Hire-a-Hubby chain is that people needing work done can book their jobs in online at www.hireahubby.co.nz, with a guaranteed 48 hour response time.

Otherwise, Gerhard can be reached on 0800 248 229 or mobile 021 0870 4320.

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: Four clinics cover all animal care options

What started out in the 1950s as part of the Kaipara Dairy Factory, as a small veterinary practice just for dairy farmers, has grown into a major local business with four clinics employing 50 staff, including 15 vets.

In 2014 Helensville Veterinary Services merged with the Kumeu Vet Clinic to form Vets North. Then in 2016 more expansion came, first with the purchase of the vet clinic at Waimauku, then with the establishment, from scratch, of a brand new Vets North branch at Silverdale.

There is also a rehabilitation centre at Huapai with an animal physiotherapist and a veterinary behaviourist.

Each clinic has its own specialties. Helensville is more farming oriented, Kumeu specialises in equine health, while Silverdale handles primarily household pets.

Mark Anderson, one of the four principals in Vets North, says each of the 15 vets have their own areas of expertise, and whenever possible the best vet for a specific job is assigned. And he points out that for callouts, mileage charges are made from the clinic nearest the patient - so if a

horse vet comes to Helensville from Kumeu, for instance, mileage is only charged from the Helensville clinic.

Amalgamation has enabled Vets North to invest heavily in both continued education for staff, and in technology.

All clinics now have digital x-ray machines, and there is ultrasound equipment, including for horses. There are in-clinic laboratories now, too, enabling many tests to be done in-house, resulting in faster treatments.

The clinics are also geared up to regularly perform endoscopic (key-hole) surgery, and orthopaedic surgery.

"It's a professional service, providing best outcomes for our customers. We really do take that seriously," says Mark.

He says pets - mainly dogs and cats - are still the clinics' biggest clientele, with equine business growing while the number of commercial farm animals are reducing.

"What's changed over the last 10 years?" asks Mark. "Pet pigs are common

now, and pet chickens". He says rarely a week goes by without treating a pet chook.



> Mark Anderson with fellow vet Caroline Elvy

: Community well-being at heart

Audrey Jenkins has been involved with the Helensville Art Centre since before it even existed.

She was one of a group of local artists who decided back in 2004 to form an incorporated society, and came up with the name Art Kaipara. Today, with close to 100 members ranging in age from just 7 years to people in their 70s, that organisation oversees the latest version of the Art Centre, aiming to improve the accessibility of art to everyone in the South Kaipara.



> Heather Steadman, Audrey Jenkins and Pauline Denton

When co-ordinator Pauline Denton started at the Art Centre around 10 years ago - in its previous Puriri Street location - she made the decision there should always be an exhibition on. And that's been the case, with a different exhibition held every month.

She has also run a wide selection of workshops for locals, covering everything from painting and flax weaving through to movie making. Pauline also co-ordinates the art activities of the Mt Tabor Trust, with residents meeting at the centre for four sessions each week.

Helping since the start of this year is new manager and exhibitions curator Heather Steadman, who took on her role following a year on the Art Kaipara Board and brought with her experience and qualifications in managing a not-for-profit organisation. She also used to manage the upstairs gallery at Lopdell House in Titirangi.

Keen to draw on Art Kaipara's vision of having the community's well-being at heart, Heather says some future exhibitions are planned to speak to that vision, including one titled 'Good Grief' which will be designed to help people normalise grief, and another musical-themed one to coincide with Music Therapy Week.

School holiday programmes are being developed, and it's hoped they will be expanded into after-school programmes as well.

For April Art Kaipara members have a chance to put their on works on show, and in May there will be an exhibition held in conjunction with the Helensville Community Recycling Centre, putting on show 'rescued' art that has come into the centre, plus possibly some up-cycled items.

More information is on Facebook under artcentre.helensville.

WWW.NORTHWESTCOUNTRY.CO.NZ
NORTH WEST COUNTRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

1000s of motorcycles to go on show at Parakai

2000-plus motorcycles, many of them custom choppers, will be on show in Parakai on Sunday, April 7.

They'll be taking part in the 2019 New Zealand Custom Bike Show at Parakai Springs

- an event which now in its third year has grown greatly and has become a major fund raiser for the PAW Justice charity.

The motorbikes will be going on display after completing the 'Ride for Justice', an annual motorcycle fundraising event organised by PAW Justice to raise money to help prevent animal abuse.

Last year the ride attracted more than 2000 motorcyclists and raised \$74,000 for the charity, which has provided petfood to rescue shelters around New Zealand totalling 890,000 meals.

Ride organisers are expecting even more entries this year.

The bikes will leave from Smales Farm in Takapuna at 10.30am, and will go on show at Parakai Spring's events arena from around 11am.

As well as the huge range of motorcycles, including choppers, customs, Harley Davidsons and more, there will be

live entertainment, hot food including the famous White Lady, a bar, club displays and trade stands.

The entertainment will include live band Kara Gordon and the Wreckage, DJs, a comedian, an arm wrestling competition, and bike games.

Organiser Dion Tilson says to expect a few celebrities to be present, including Tiki Taane, Shane Cameron and maybe a Shortland Street star or two.

Entry for spectators to the show will cost \$10, with children under 12 free. That price

includes entry to the Parakai Springs hot pools and water slides, and all proceeds will go to PAW Justice. Entry will be from Springs Road.

A highlight of the day will be the chance to win a brand new Indian Chief Dark Horse motorcycle worth \$28,000 (pictured at left).

It's the top prize in a raffle which will be drawn at Parakai Springs at 12.30pm. Tickets cost \$20, and will be on sale at the event to give locals a chance to win.

Indian Motorcycles is the main sponsor of the Ride for Justice.

Second prize in the raffle is a \$3500 Haier fridge/freezer, and third prize is a year's supply of Royal Canin petfood worth \$2500 plus a limited edition Dick Frizzell print.



• Motorcycles lined up at last year's Custom Bike Show
- Photo: Stellanova Photography

If the weather is bad on the day, the ride and show will be held the following Sunday, April 14.

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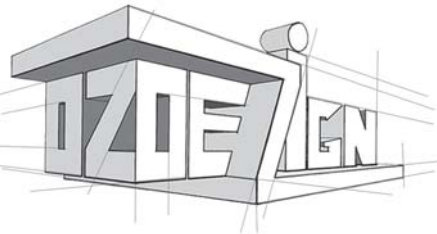
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Business with 'the difference'

A local real estate business has just become 100 percent locally owned and operated - and has come up with a new name to celebrate.

The Harcourts franchise in Helensville has for the last three years been operated by Nicky Horsbrough in partnership with Tandem Realty West, a real estate group with offices throughout Rodney.

Now, Nicky has bought out Tandem director Nick Langdon's share of the business, and is rebranding it as Harcourts The Difference.

And as if the buyout and rebranding wasn't enough, the company has had to move out of its offices beside the Countdown carpark. They were unable to renew the lease there as the building is set to be removed, so have set up in temporary accommodation at 69D Mill Road until they can move into new premises.

They will be in what was the Helensville Insurance Centre at 92 Commercial Road, which will undergo a full refurbishment once the existing tenant has left.

Nicky says the new offices will be a real boon, much more modern and around double the space of the old building.

The buyout has meant developing a new software package for the business. It will be cloud-based, meaning the agents will be completely self-sufficient while out on the road.

The name 'The Difference' was something which resonated with Nicky. "I believe we are different," she says, in the way the company operates and its values, which she says include putting people first, having fun and laughter, being courageous, and doing the right thing.



• Nicky Horsbrough

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Swimming sports

Nine-year-old Ivy Carter (right) competes in a Year 5 breaststroke race during Helensville School's recent annual swimming sports competition.

Ivy was one of 260 senior Helensville School students who took part in the event, organised by Year 7 and 8 teacher Nicole Stokes.

"We had a great day [with] so many children challenging themselves to complete individual goals, from completing a whole length to make the finals and beating their personal bests," says Nicole.

The students have taken part in the intensive Greater Auckland Aquatic Plan (GAAP) swimming programme with instructors at Parakai Springs.

GAAP provides funding



towards swimming instructors for the students. Each team had lessons every day for two weeks, an intensive programme which Nicole says gets results quickly.

"The focus is not only on stroke technique but also survival skills. This is supplemented by teachers also in the pool, teaching more survival skills, water confidence and racing techniques.

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easter church services

ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

South Kaipara Co-op Parish, 60 Garfield Rd.
Contact Administrator, 420 8868

- April 14th: 9.30am, Palm Sunday.
- April 15th - 18th: 9.30am, Holy Week daily service.
- April 18th: 6pm, Maundy Thursday Christian Passover seder meal followed by 7pm Foot Washing Service. RSVP to: skangmeth@gmail.com if coming to the meal. Koha please.
- April 19th: 9.30am, Good Friday.
- April 21st: 9.30am, Easter Day.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16. Contact Administrator, 420 8868

- April 14th: 9.00am, Palm Sunday.

HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mill Rd, Helensville. Contact Pastor Francois Joubert, 022 156 0761

- April 19th: 6pm Good Friday service.
- April 21st: 10.30am Easter service.

MAGNIFY CHURCH

118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. Contact Kim Duncan, 420 8911

- April 21st: 10am, Family Easter Service

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

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

- April 14th: 9am, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.
- April 19th: 3pm, Good Friday Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 20th: 7.30pm, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.
- April 21st: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

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

- April 13th: 6pm, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Saturday Vigil.
- April 18th: 7.30pm, Holy Thursday Combined Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- April 19th: 3pm, Good Friday Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 20th: 7.30pm, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.
- April 21st: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

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

- April 14th: 10am, Palm Sunday family service.
- April 19th: 10am Good Friday 'Colours of Easter' family service.
- April 21st: 10am, 'Colours of Easter' family service.

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The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

Our recipient for April is Marama Stead, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Countdown in Helensville.

■ Marama was nominated by her daughter, Bronwyn:

"I would love my mum Marama Stead to be a recipient for this as she does so much for the community and her whanau.

She is hardly ever home because she is always out doing something for someone and 99.9 percent of the time it is all voluntary. And even after a long hard day at the grindstone, as tired as she might be, she still has time for her mokos. She is just so special and loved by so many."



• Marama receives her voucher from Nicky



Helensville Birthing Centre

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Putting local health first • Te hau ora tua-tahi o awaroa

Alison McKenzie House to stay

The Helensville District Health Trust has announced Alison McKenzie House, the distinctive art deco building on the corner of Commercial Road and Porter Crescent will not be demolished.

It has been closed since May 2016 when engineers deemed the foundations unsafe.

Since then the Trust has engaged expert advice on the state of the building and considered whether to demolish and build again, or to renovate the iconic building and give it a new lease of life for the next 30 or 50 years.

Health Trust Manager Nicola Keen-Biggelaar says the renovation of the building will require significant investment and the Trust is considering it as part of a bigger master-plan of the entire health campus which includes the Kaipara Medical

Healthy Helensville

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

Cooking up a love for food

"Indian food is pretty fun to make, but this is my first time having some," said Helensville Primary's Year 6 student Dezyre Phillips-Foreman at her weekly cooking class.

10 students each from Helensville and Parakai Primary Schools have been enjoying lessons with an Around The World theme at the Health Trust's commercial kitchen at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai.

Chef Keryn Reardon says, "we've been running these classes for a couple of years now and it's amazing seeing the kids' confidence grow and introducing

them to new flavours and ingredients they may not have had before."

This term's Helensville Primary classes have been sponsored by



Superb Herb, with the Parakai students receiving support from the Helensville Lions Club.

Jaimi Walters & Angel Clarke preparing a dough for roti

Centre and the Helensville Birthing Centre.

"We're well aware that this is a big decision, so we're taking our time to ensure whatever decision we make is the right one," says Nicola Keen-Biggelaar.

"While it may not look like much is happening, there is a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes and we're grateful for the community's patience and interest in this project."

OPEN DAYS AT HELENSVILLE MASONIC CENTRE

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Saturday 13th
Sunday 14th
April

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'Proudly associated with the Lodge'

Re-birth of Freemasonry celebrated with open days

Helensville's oldest community organisation, the Duke of Albany Masonic Lodge, will hold two open days this month.

Once thought of as a 'secret society', Freemasonry is experiencing a significant resurgence of interest and membership in New Zealand, says Duke of Albany Lodge Master Russell Taylor.

Freemason membership in New Zealand now stands at more than 7000, and there are more than 10,000 lodges worldwide with six million Freemason members between them, who work with community leaders locally and nationally to provide assistance and support as required.

The Helensville Masonic Lodge in Kowhai Street will open its doors on Saturday April 13 and Sunday April 14 from 2pm to 4pm. Locals will be able to meet Lodge members, view the Lodge rooms, learn about its history, and discover the benefits of belonging to the Lodge fraternity.

It will be the third year in a row the Lodge has held what have become popular open days.

The Masonic Lodge has for many years had the reputation of being a 'secret society', but Russell says that isn't the case anymore. The Lodge is very open these days, he says, and members are happy to answer questions about what it does.

The organisation even has a Facebook page - Helensville Freemasons.

The Masonic Lodge is non-religious and non-political - those are the only two topics members will never discuss. However,

social standing, although membership is restricted to men, and learning the Lodge's rituals is restricted to members. However, members' partners can attend social events which raise funds for various causes.

Russell says members come from all walks of life, and points to the list of Helensville Lodge Masters displayed on the wall of the Lodge, whose names reflect virtually every trade and profession.

Unlike most other local community organisations, the Masonic Lodge doesn't run public fundraising events. Instead, the money it distributes to the community comes primarily from investments and internally from members.



• Helensville Masonic Lodge members in the Lodge temple

Russell says the organisation is complementary to other local groups like Lions and Rotary, rather than competing with them.

There's a \$240 annual membership subscription, and meetings are held from February to November on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The formal meetings in the Lodge temple are followed by a relaxed supper.

Most people who join the Lodge do so in their 40s and 50s, but the organisation is keen to attract younger members.

At 27, Josh Taylor is Helensville Lodge's youngest member. Josh joined when he was 21, but is now living in the United States, where he intends to join a Lodge to continue his Masonic career. Keith Timmins, a recent recruit at the age of 40, says he has met a lot of people he may otherwise not have met and has made a lot of new friends.

Helensville's Masonic Lodge was named after Queen Victoria's youngest son, the Duke of Albany, who died aged just 31 in 1884, just three months before the local Lodge was established. British royalty has a long association with the English Freemasons Lodge movement.

Chas Holst, a member for 49 years, says there is much to be gained from the Lodge fraternity, and encourages locals to call in during the open days to learn more.



**Chas Holst
&
Grev Walker**



Proudly, we are both longstanding members of the Masonic Lodge and also Justices of the Peace for NZ. We welcome your presence at the Lodge Open Days, or call us directly to discuss Freemasonry or the role of a J.P.

Chas 09 420 8008

Grev 09 420 7173

St John first aid kit trade-in offer

Locals have the chance to trade in their old first aid kits and get \$5 off a new St John first aid kit at the St John Helensville Opportunity Shop.

It's a special community deal as part of St John's 2019 Heart of Gold annual appeal week from April 1 to 7.

Staff at the shop can also help with joining the St John Supporters Scheme, which for a small annual



subscription provides free emergency ambulance cover for the subscriber and their family, as well as supporting St John services.

St John relies on public support for its frontline officers. Nationwide the organisation responds to more than 530,000 emergency calls each year, treating and/or transporting more than 480,000 patients.

local board matters

Residents in the area now have a new bus service linking them to Auckland's public transport services.

This new service runs from Helensville, stopping in Kaukapakapa in Opoto Place opposite the school, and in Waitoki opposite the community hall. It finishes at Silverdale terminal.

You can find out more times and the route by Googling 'Auckland Transport Journey Planner', and AT HOP cards which offer a discount off the cash fare can be bought online - Google 'AT HOP Card'.

This bus service is part of the Rodney Local Board's Transport Targeted Rate program.

At the same time the Helensville to Silverdale service launched, a new service from Wellsford to Warkworth started, so there are now services linking Wellsford, Omaha, Algies Bay, and Warkworth to Silverdale.

In the middle of this year a further service will be added providing another east/west route with buses running from Westgate to Albany via Riverhead and Coatesville. These will be followed by park'n'rides in Kumeu and Warkworth.

The Local Board hopes that this public transport finally gives locals better access to the rest of Auckland, whether it's to get out

and about, commute to work, or for education and sport.

There's been a lot of publicity around the proposed speed limit changes across Auckland.

By the time you read this consultation will have closed, but it's still worth finding out about what Auckland Transport is doing to improve road safety as Rodney has the highest level of deaths and serious injuries in Auckland.

Vision Zero is a \$700 million 10-year program that involves improvements in transport infrastructure. AT is working closely with the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and NZ Police to make our roads safe for everybody. The intention is to move towards a more forgiving road network, where a mistake made by a driver or road user does not lead to devastating consequences.

You can find out more by Googling 'AT Safe Speeds'.



- Phelan Pirrie
Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board
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community tidbits from town and around

■ CHARITY MACHINERY AUCTION

South Kaipara Rotary is holding a charity auction of machinery and farm equipment at 190 South Head Road, starting 11am on Saturday, April 6.

The club is looking for farm equipment, machinery, and vehicles like trucks, utes and motorcycles, in any condition. They can either be donated, or the club will sell them on behalf for a 10 percent commission. Pickup is available for donations.

It's hoped the auction will be held every two years, and all profits will go back to the local community. For donations or bookings, phone 420 8905 or 027 495 3240.

■ GIBBS FARM VISIT

Helensville School will hold a fundraising visit to Gibbs Farm on Thursday, April 11, with the money raised going towards a new senior school playground.

Tickets cost \$45.00 for adults, \$25.00 for a child (5-17yrs), with pre-schoolers four and under free with a paying adult. More information and tickets are available online: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2019/apr/gibbs-farm-with-paths>.

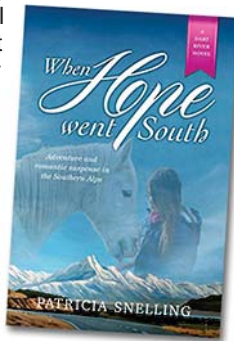
■ MASSAGE AT MARKET

Masseuse Rachel Levenson will be giving soothing massages in a secluded room at the next Waitoki market, open in the Waitoki hall from 8.30am to midday on Saturday, April 13. The market will feature a wide range of stalls selling baked goods, plants, homemade and used bargains, bric a brac, and preserves. Proceeds from the market go back to the

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

■ KAUKAPAKAPA LIBRARY

The author of New Zealand-set novels 'Missing on Kawau', 'When Hope went South' and 'Unshakable', Christian writer Patricia Snelling will be at Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, April 21 from 10am to 1pm.



Patricia writes inspirational romantic suspense and light mysteries. Her stories are based on faith, hope and love and in particular the ability to rise above circumstances and overcome setbacks.

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

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

There will be an Easter egg hunt, plus free face painting and a craft table for children at the Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, April 21 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Live music will be courtesy of Foster on the tenor sax, and there will be the usual car boot bargains, plus hand made soap, skin care, jewellery, fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables, plants, fresh bread, doughnuts, cakes, and pies. For more information or to book a stall contact Sarah 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Denise Reid from 4 Corners Ministries will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of Helensville Aglow, which will be held at 7.30pm on Friday, May 3 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd. All welcome. Email: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

trade & classifieds

■ Helensville Glass

24 hour service. Free measure and quote. Ph: 420 8210

Helensville News - Publication Information

■ MAY & JUNE 2019 deadlines: Tuesday, 16th April, 2019

ISSUES DUE OUT TUESDAY, May 7th 2019 & TUESDAY, June 4th

Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor and Advertising:

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