

## A quick ride - right around the country

Deciding to ride a horse around the entire country when you have no experience as a rider might seem a little foolhardy.

But for 31-year-old Larissa Mueller, who rode through the South Kaipara area recently on her way to doing just that, it's a way to raise money for disadvantaged youth.

Larissa and her friend Kendall Waugh decided to go shares in a horse back in 2015, even though Larissa had only been on a horse a handful of times as a youngster. During the course of that same afternoon, the decision grew to encompass a ride around the entire coastline of New Zealand.

"The ride came first. We decided to do the ride before we heard about the Leg-Up Trust," says Larissa.

But when they heard about the trust and the work it does using horses to connect with disadvantaged youths, they decided to use their trek to publicise and raise funds for the trust, setting a \$20,000 target.

The original idea was for both Larissa and Kendall to make the ride, planned to take about 18 months in total. They realised they couldn't literally ride around the coast everywhere, but planned a route to be no further than 60km from it.

They started in the South Island, with Larissa on a borrowed horse. She bought her current mare, Sprite, as a five-year-old off a South Island station only a couple of weeks into the ride.

The South Island leg of the trip took place over two summers, with Kendall meeting a man who was to become her husband along the way - and subsequently deciding not to also tackle the North Island ride.

"Then came a three-year gap, trying to figure out the right way to do it alone and earn enough money [to survive]," says Larissa.



• Larissa and her mare, Sprite, at Kaukapakapa

The trained outdoor instructor began the North Island leg of the trek in Hawke's Bay in February, reaching Kumeu in June where she stopped for the winter, working odd jobs to fund the next stage of the ride.

She began again at the start of November, riding up through Helensville, right around the South Head peninsula, then on to Kaukapakapa where *Helensville News* caught up with her. From there she was to take back roads to Makarau and then cross farmland to the Tapura peninsula on her way to Cape Reinga, before heading down the East Coast on her way back to Hawke's Bay.

She estimates it will take another eight to

12 months to complete the ride.

In Helensville, riding up Karaka Street, she was stopped by a woman who ran out of her house to give her a snack bag for the journey.

She receives regular offers of meals and places to overnight, sleeping in spare rooms, sleepouts, caravans, barns or whatever is on offer. She carries a small tent for the nights she can't find a roof to sleep under - about half the time.

"With my background in outdoor instructing I can sleep just about anywhere," Larissa says.

"My priority is finding a paddock for Sprite. I have never yet had to tether her, and hope never to. The people of New Zealand are so generous."

Sprite has been a revelation; despite being only five when starting the ride, she has proven to be 'bomb-proof' in traffic and in towns, and able to keep good condition regardless of the demands of the ride.

As well as carrying Larissa and all the gear they both need, she wears a little donation box around her chest for impromptu donations to the Leg-Up Trust.

Larissa says naivety about what the ride held in store worked in her favour.

"If I'd known, I wouldn't have done it!" she laughs.

While she is doing the ride without backup support, Larissa's boyfriend does meet up with her occasionally - usually with some food and a change of clothes.

Highlights of the trek have included being welcomed into strangers' families and invited to take part in "random" activities like a pheasant hunt, and the privilege she feels being allowed to ride through private land. She has yet to have a farmer say no to her

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# editorial

This is our last issue for 2019, and I hope you have enjoyed reading *Helensville News* over the past year. Remember, we don't do a January issue, but we'll be back right at the start of February 2020.

I'd like to thank all our contributors and advertisers for their support over the year - we simply couldn't exist without you. And of course all of you, the readers, without whom there wouldn't be any point putting this paper out!

There are bound to be a heap of interesting news stories coming up in the New Year.

I wish you all the best for the festive season. Be happy and be safe over the holiday period, spend quality time with your families and loved ones, and we'll see you back in 2020.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## No more building at museum

Helensville Museum has been prohibited from putting any new structures on its site because the land it leases from Auckland Council used to be a rubbish tip.

The museum has now joined forces with Te Awaroa Residents and Ratepayers Association (TARRA) to fight the council.

The museum committee recently sought to install a shipping container on its site to house items which were deteriorating from being left outside.

It took several months and numerous communications to obtain consent for the container, but the council has also told them they cannot put any more structures on the grounds - effectively ending any plans for expansion.

During the process of obtaining consent

for the container the museum was additionally told it could not even plant trees on the land, and that gardening activities should be restricted.

Extra storage facilities are desperately required for the museum's collection, and the council's decision is a new challenge for the museum volunteers who are already battling to save the collection from a bug infestation.

A second issue highlighted by the council's stance is the museum's boundary fence. The northern boundary fence is currently 10m inside the area the museum leases, but the council's ban on digging any holes on the former tip site means the fence can no longer be shifted to make more room for expansion.



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## Ride around the country cont...

• From page 1

riding across their land - and often receives an invitation to camp in a woolshed or similar for the night as well.

"It's kind of like all of New Zealand is our support crew."

She has also been joined on a number of occasions by groups of other riders who tag along for short stints - a welcome change from always riding on her own.

It hasn't been all good times, saying she has had three "near-death" experiences, and at one stage on the South Island leg both she and friend Kendall got very depressed.

Larissa made a rule - if she ever decided she wanted to quit, she had to wait two days before acting. Needless to say, she hasn't given up.

"I've never been as happy as doing this," she adds.

When her long trek is over, Larissa says she will be keeping Sprite. And as for the future?

"I'll sleep a lot, then get depressed, then start planning something else!"

People can donate to Larissa's journey direct through Leg-Up Trust's Givealittle page - comment "homefree" to help her track donations. Her Facebook page is: homefree.



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# New community constable

For new Helensville community constable Melissa Haven, taking on her role in our town is a bit like a homecoming.

Her family is from the Kumeu area, and while she spent most of her childhood being raised in the Bay of Islands, she moved back here and spent her secondary school years at Kaipara College.

She now lives in Helensville with husband Liam - also a local police officer and a member of the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade - and their two pre-school children.



• New Helensville community constable, Melissa Haven

When Melissa left Kaipara College to join the police she became at the time their youngest female recruit, aged just 17.

She was attracted to the police for its camaraderie and team work, the fact that every day on the job is different, and also the fitness aspect.

## Armistice Day

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a 'band of brothers' proudly wearing medals and watched by a small gathering of the public, marched from the Kaipara RSA to the War Memorial Cenotaph, where an Armistice Day commemoration ceremony was held, followed by the laying of a wreath by RSA president Les Coste. Wreaths were also laid at the Helensville service cemetery and the Parakai Cenotaph.

She says the job was a challenge in the beginning, adding that police officers are exposed to things the general public never see, and it's important to talk through those with fellow officers.

Melissa spent her first five years as a frontline constable stationed at Henderson, then a year relieving as a community constable at Massey. For the last 10 years she has been based at Kumeu - the final six of those as a community constable.

She has also been working with the Rodney Family Harm team, dealing with domestic violence cases.

Being a local she feels she has a lot to offer the area, adding it's a definite advantage that many people know her through links built in the local community through schools, the fire brigade, sports, and socially.

Melissa says her day-to-day role is about being the 'face' of Helensville Police and building trust in the community. Locals will see her on foot patrol around the area, talking with local businesses and being approachable for locals to talk about any issues.

She is looking at holding semi-regular 'coffee with a cop' sessions at local cafes, so people can pop in and have a chat about whatever is concerning them.

Melissa is impressed with the wide range of volunteer community organisations in the South Kaipara area, and is looking forward to working alongside them.

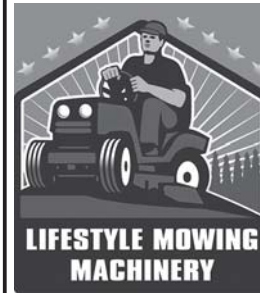
Her community constable role also involves being the police liaison officer for the South Kaipara Community Patrol - a group she is passionate about getting more locals involved with.

"The Community Patrol is really valuable for us [the police], especially in a rural setting," she says. The patrol acts as the 'eyes and ears' of the police by patrolling hot spots - and also acts as a deterrent.

Locals wanting to speak with Melissa can phone her on 021 920 091 or email: melissa.haven@police.govt.nz.

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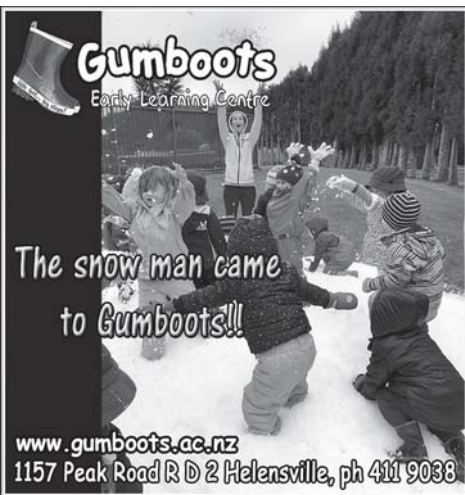
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# New agricultural service business

A new business partnership has seen the establishment of a type of business missing from the Helensville area for some time.

After 15 years in the car industry, most recently as general sales manager for North Harbour Hyundai, Jesse McGregor has joined forces with Mike Wykes, who had been running his Kaipara Mobile Mechanics business from Glorit for the past two years after leaving John Deere dealership Agrowquip in Silverdale.

Jesse's wife Jo runs the office - although she prefers to think of herself as the 'boss'!

Now, under the Kaipara Ag Centre banner, they are providing a sales, parts and repair service for a wide range of agricultural and lifestyle machinery and equipment, based in the old Oikoumene building at 2 West Street.

In terms of repairs, Jesse says they can handle anything from a tiny weedeater motor up to the biggest tractor, with everything in between covering the likes of mowers, ride-ons, chainsaws, farm quads, horse floats, trailers and water pumps.

Nothing is too big - Mike has previously worked in Australia on 800 tonne gold mining machines.

They are agents for Briggs & Stratton, Victa, Dependable Oil and Vapormatic, and the business carries a wide range of spares for tractors and farm equipment, mower blades and belts, pulleys, chainsaw chains, and hydraulic parts - and even replacement cords for pull-starts.

A wide range of lubricants should cover any local's needs.

Mike says setting up the workshop from scratch was a big job, and they have been flat out since opening

Jesse is particularly proud of Kaipara Ag Centre's range of mowers, which have already proved popular sellers since the official opening on October 5, and which

includes a rechargeable, quiet electric Victa model ideal for smaller sections, plus others with push-button start and even a self-drive option.

He says the aim is to beat the big box stores on price - plus anyone buying a mower gets a \$30, \$40 or \$50 voucher to go towards other products or servicing. And with that servicing all done in-house, there's a much quicker work turnaround, too.

Kaipara Ag Centre is open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to 3pm on Saturdays.



• Jesse (left) and Mike with some of the equipment they stock

## Xmas hamper appeal

Helensville Women and Family Centre is busy organising its annual Christmas appeal, and is calling on locals to donate goods for the Christmas hampers it provides to needy local families.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the HWFC in the Old Post Office building at 104 Commercial Road between 9.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday. The last day for accepting donations is Friday, December 13.

The centre will also accept non-food gifts to go in the hampers as long as they are wrapped and marked with the appropriate age and gender.

The HWFC is hoping to distribute more than 55 hampers this year, working collaboratively with other local organisations to determine the families most in need.



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# Alloy boat builder opens in Mill Rd

Helensville boat builder Mike Hopwood travelled half way around the world plying his trade before setting up shop in Mill Road.

Born and raised locally, Mike got his first taste of the boat building industry straight out of Kaipara College, starting by sweeping the floors for Craig Ross at his Calibre Boats business in Whenuapai.

Mike served his boat building apprenticeship at Alloy Yachts International in Henderson.

Then a friend, as a joke, tagged him on a Facebook post for a boat building job in China. Mike got the last laugh - he applied for, and landed, the job.

He has spent the last four and a half years working in China for the company which built the jet boats

for Queenstown's Shotover Jet company, returning recently to Helensville with new wife Jenny and a baby in tow.

While in China Mike had spent a couple of years, in his own time, designing an alloy fishing boat, with friend and naval architect James Hakes making up the build blueprints for him, work which involved extensive computer modelling covering things like buoyancy and stability.



• Mike with his under-construction fishing boat

Mike, a keen fisherman himself, had always dreamed of designing and building a fishing craft.

Two months ago he opened Pelagic Boats at 69 Mill Road, spending the first month setting the business up and then started building a 7.1m alloy boat for local engineer Bryce Canter, of BSC Engineering.

Mike has long-time friend and skilled welder and engineer Shaun Wright working for him. All the alloy components were cut using a computer-controlled CNC machine.

Once the craft is finished, by February next year if everything goes to plan, he intends to create jigs off it to make future boats using the same, size-scalable

design easier to construct.

"I can't believe no-one has done this before," says Mike of setting up a fishing boat building business in Helensville, adjacent to one of the largest natural harbours in the world.

He admits it's a "bit of a risk whether there will be enough business" locally, but believes once this first boat is in the water word of mouth will see orders rolling in.

## Library holiday happenings

Helensville Library is gearing up for its summer reading programme, Kia Māia te Whai Dare to Explore - this year, children aged from five to 12 years will be exploring the past, present and future.

Children can register now for the programme which begins on Monday, December 9 and runs until January 20.

Santa will visit the library for a special storytime at 3pm on Thursday, December

19, with the chance to have photos taken with Santa after storytime.

The library's regular preschool sessions will take a break over December and January, with the last session on Thursday, December 12.

Helensville Library will only be closed on the statutory holiday days, and open regular hours otherwise. It will be closed on

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## Free A&P Show trade stands

Local community groups and not-for-profits are invited to apply for a limited number of free trade spaces at the 118th annual Helensville A&P Show, to be held on Saturday, February 29 next year.

It's a repeat of a successful initiative offered since 2012; this year 10 local organisations will gain public exposure by being provided with the free trade stands.

Because the number of sites is limited, the A&P Association committee will choose the successful recipients from applications received. The sites on offer are standard, unpowered 3m x 3m square sites. Recipients will also receive two free adult

gate passes.

Vehicles won't be allowed on the sites on show day, and there will be some restrictions such as not being allowed to serve food in competition with paying trade stalls. As the show will again be a zero-waste event, successful applicants will have to abide by those rules as well.

Applicants should email show manager Louise Brooks by Friday, January 3 at: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz.

Application forms are available to download from the Trade Exhibitors' page on the Helensville Show website at: www.helensvilleshow.co.nz.

## Top college students

Sam Foster (pictured below, at top) is the 2019 Dux of Kaipara College, and Brooke Kelly (bottom) has been named Proxime Accessit.

As well as being named Dux, Sam received the Year 13 faculty awards for English and Social Sciences, as well as being awarded the \$20,000 Auckland University Top Achiever Scholarship, and the Victoria University Tangiwai Scholarship, worth \$5000.

Brooke took out the faculty awards for Maths and Science, and the Helensville District Health Trust's \$2000 award.

### ■ SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARDS:

**John Key Cup for Contribution to a Specific Area of School Life:** Ruby Johnston; **McCurdie Cup for Positive Attitude:** Lucy McConnell; **Lions Trophy - Public Speaking:** Odette Sullivan-Yates; **Helensville Women and Family Centre Award:** Grace Atkinson; **Te Atawhaitia Trophy for the student who most upholds Mana Māori within the college:** Melody Gray-Hohepa; **Te Ihi Award for Māori Performing Arts:** Melody Gray-Hohepa.

### ■ SENIOR FACULTY AWARDS:

**Faculty of Arts:** Melody Gray-Hohepa; **Faculty of Phys Ed & Health:** Olivia Kelly; **Faculty of English:** Sam Foster; **Faculty of Mathematics:** Brooke Kelly; **Faculty of Social Science:** Sam Foster; **Faculty of Science:** Brooke Kelly; **Faculty of Technology:** James Rule.

### ■ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

**Victoria University Tangiwai Scholarship (\$5000):** Sam Foster; **Auckland University Top Achiever Scholarship (\$20,000):** Sam Foster; **Neil Notley Scholarship (\$2000):** Francisco De Coito; **Helensville District Health Trust Award (\$2000):** Brooke Kelly; **Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award (\$2000):** Kian Mayes; **Bruce Cochrane & Order of St John Scholarship (\$5000):** Grace Atkinson; **South Kaipara Anglican Methodist Church of St Matthews Scholarship (\$2000):** Melody Gray-Hohepa.



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# Community Christmas dinners

Locals can choose from two community Christmas dinners this year.

A Parakai/Helensville Community Christmas Lunch will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Christmas Day, with food served at 11.30am and a gold coin contribution asked for on the day.

Organiser Raewyn Mercer says it's designed as a stress-free day for locals, with fun, prizes and children's activities and a 'Best of Abba' theme - both best performance and best costume.

Register at Helensville CAB or at Nga Maunga Whakahii, 16 Commercial Rd.

Donations of fresh produce or canned food for family Christmas boxes are welcome; anyone able to donate or free to help on the day can contact Raewyn, phone 027 282 0470 or email her at: [tarmskaicity@gmail.com](mailto:tarmskaicity@gmail.com).

The other dinner is in Helensville Primary School Hall. Turn up from 11.30am on Christmas Day at the school hall, with dinner at midday. All children under 13 will receive gifts.

Organiser Holly Southerwood says donations of cash and food would be welcomed - as would more volunteers for

December 24, 25 and 26. A volunteer form will be at Helensville Library from Monday, December 9. Phone 021 488 427 or email: [helchrisfest@gmail.com](mailto:helchrisfest@gmail.com).

## TARRA AGM

A proposal to work with Helensville Museum on council-related issues was well received at Te Awaroa Residents and Ratepayers Association's AGM on Wednesday, November 20.

TARRA chair Holly Southernwood raised the issue of the Helensville Council Service Centre no longer having a direct dial phone number - now people must phone the council's central call centre and be transferred to Helensville - "if the operator could identify the existence of Helensville," says Holly.

"Now the council call centre has no knowledge of any phone number to connect to Helensville, leaving us having to actually go to the service centre.

"The comment from service centre staff is 'people don't talk to people now, the world has changed'. Does this signal the imminent end of Helensville having a service centre?"

## medical centre notes

As the weather warms and the pollen count rises, if you are like me you will be getting a bit snuffly at this time of year.

Hay fever is a common ailment, particularly at this time of year. It is where a person has an oversensitive/allergic reaction to particles in the air, triggering a response from 'mast' cells to release histamine - this is what causes the symptoms of the allergic reaction. It's a similar process to seasonal asthma, but affects the upper airways instead of the chest.

Hay fever can affect the nose - allergic rhinitis - or the eyes - allergic conjunctivitis. Both can be seasonal or perennial.

The triggers are often pollen, but can also include many other things from chemicals to pets, and can be made worse by cold weather or air conditioning.

Hay fever is managed, not cured, often by avoiding the trigger if possible and through medication. Avoid using decongestants; while they work well in the short term, the longer they are used will cause rebound congestion of the nose.

Antihistamines are the mainstay of treatment, with non-sedating medications such as Cetirizine and Loratadine. Less systemic options include mast cell stabilizing eye drops such as Patanol, or steroid nasal spray such as Flixonase.

- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Director



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## The North West Country Business Association held it's AGM at the end of November

The association has representatives elected from Kaukapakapa, Helensville, Parakai, Waimauku, Kumeu and Riverhead plus a Chair to ensure a good level of representation both geographically and from different business sectors. The new executive committee is: Tony Forlong (Chair), Geraldine Bayly (Kaukapakapa), Shona Oliver, Bernie Flynn & Liv McGregor (Helensville), Dion Tilson (Parakai), Jon Williamson (Waimauku), Andy Cummings, Teresa Nobile-Healy & Guy Wishart (Kumeu), Hayley Plowman (Riverhead), Vicki Kenny (Rodney Local Board).

The executive will be working over the next year to deliver the association's strategic plan and work program which includes quarterly business seminars, events and the North West Festival, town centre improvements, advocacy and services for our members.

Members can view the stratgeic plans and other information about our activities and services by visiting: [www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members).



### Business Inorganic Collection Service

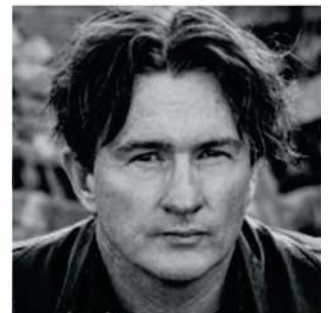
North West Country has partnered with the Helensville Community Recycling Centre to offer local businesses an inorganic waste collection and waste minimisation consultation.

Booking a collection is easy, it's simply a matter of logging into the members' portal and filling out an online form. Businesses who are interested in seeing where they can minimise waste or recycle more can book a free consultation meeting with HCRC staff.

A few businesses have already seen savings from getting their waste assessed, so there's a good financial benefit plus the obvious environmental one with the reduction of rubbish going to landfill.

The collection service and consultations are subsidised by Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation Initiative Fund.

Find out more: [www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members).







## Helensville Town Centre Improvements Start in Early 2020

North West Country engaged with businesses, Council, Ngā Maunga Wakahii o Kaipara and the community in 2018 to help put together a plan for main street improvements in Helensville.

Work starts on the first stage of these improvements in early 2020; most of the work involves planting street trees in dedicated spaces, which will also have a planted area around them and seating.



It has taken many years to finally get improvements started in Helensville; plans have been and gone without being implemented. This work is being funded by the Rodney Local Board.

The association has budgeted to work with businesses and council to continue town centre improvements across our district where there are opportunities to work with body corporates or companies on main street improvements.



### Association Funds Local Events

North West Country has provided \$2500 towards this year's Christmas Parade.

The association was ready to step in and take over this valued community event when there were signs that the current organiser was possibly unable to continue. We are pleased the organiser made the decision to continue this event, however we're always ready to step in if needed and run this.



We were also delighted to support the Arts in the Ville event. This has gone from strength to strength each year due to the efforts of a dedicated, hardworking team of locals. The association has increased its budget for event support in the coming year and will be

working with the Arts in the Ville team to provide further assistance to grow this event.

### Are You A Member of North West Country Yet?

If you're based in the commercial areas of Parakai, Helensville and Kaukapakapa and aren't a member you are missing out on our services and support. We welcome associate members from outside this area. It's easy to join and if you're in the commercial zones you're paying for membership already.

Join now: [www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members/north-west-country-membership/join-up](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz/members/north-west-country-membership/join-up)

# Call to update local phone directory listings

The Lions Club of Helensville wants everyone in the 420 telephone prefix area to update their telephone listing details for the next edition of the local phone directory, due to be delivered to all homes in April 2020.

Anyone whose details have changed, or in particular anyone new to the area, should

get in touch.

“Also, we are encouraging anyone who wants to, to now list their cell phone number for free,” says directory co-ordinator, Dennis Cummings.

Locals can list a landline number, one or more cellphone numbers, or a combination

of both if they wish.

The Lions Club has produced the directory as a free community service for years, supported by advertisers.

Previously, the club received directory listings from Yellow Pages, but that service is no longer available. Last year for the first time the club had to create its own list, manually contacting everyone listed in the previous directory.

“We know there are listings we have missed, particularly those who are new to our district or for some reason were not listed with Yellow Pages,” says Dennis.

Anyone wanting to update a listing or to create a new one, should email the following to: [helensvilledirectory@gmail.com](mailto:helensvilledirectory@gmail.com):

- Surname as you wish it to appear, i.e: SMITH B & M, or SMITH Bob and Mary;
- Your address if you wish it to appear, i.e: 2 Smith St or R.D.1 Hlv;
- Your area, i.e: Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Kaukapakapa, Shelly Beach, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill;
- Your landline number (if applicable);
- Your mobile number(s) if wanted, i.e: Bob 021 999 999, Mary 021 666 666.

Businesses wanting to advertise in the 2020 directory should email [helensvilledirectory@gmail.com](mailto:helensvilledirectory@gmail.com) and the club will send out an application form and details of the different advert options and costs.

## College celebrates 60 years



Former students and staff from Kaipara College got together for this group photo during the school's recent 60th anniversary celebrations, held over Labour Weekend. Around 600 people registered for the four days of events. Participants took guided tours around the school, attended a formal black tie dinner, a golf tournament and a high tea.

## Merry Christmas

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## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

### ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

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

- Thursday, Dec 12th: 7pm, Blue Christmas (a service of remembrance and hope).
- Sunday, Dec 15th: 9.30am, Carol Service.
- Sunday, Dec 22nd: 9.30am, Sunday Eucharist.
- Tuesday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Eve Service.
- Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

### ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

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

- Wednesday, Dec 25th: 8am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

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

- Tuesday, Dec 24th: 7.30pm, Christmas Carols; 8pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

### ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI

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

- Tuesday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols; 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass.  
10.30pm, Christmas Carols; 11pm Midnight Mass, finish midnight.
- Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

### RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI

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

- Sunday, Dec 22nd: 10am, Christmas Service.

### HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

- Sunday, Dec 22nd: 10.30am, Christmas Service, theme.
- Sunday, Dec 29th: 10.30am, final service for 2019.

### MAGNIFY CHURCH

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

- Sunday, Dec 22nd: 10am, Christmas Service

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## HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL CHURCH

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At the Scout Den, 8 Porter Crescent  
(behind the Art Centre Helensville)

Contact Nigel Collis: 027 492 0444

# New spiritual church to open

A new community spiritual church will open in Helensville in the New Year.

The Helensville Community Spiritual Church will open for the first time on Wednesday, January 22 in the Harold Pengelly Memorial Scout Den at 8 Porter Crescent Helensville (behind Helensville Art Centre).

It will then open every Wednesday at 7.15pm, hosted by well-known Auckland spiritualist Nigel Collis.

He says the church will provide spiritual fellowship, development and guidance to anyone in need. Each week a different clairvoyant will be a guest, and healing will be offered during the services.

"The church is set up to provide a service to support those in need of development, advice, and learning," says Nigel.

He says it has already attracted interest

from people from Wellsford, Kaukapakapa, Glorit, Riverhead, and Kumeu wanting to attend.

"As people previously have had to travel long distances to attend spiritual functions, we hope that the church will be well supported," says Nigel.

Nigel previously ran a health shop in Helensville, and is involved in both the Milford and Orewa Spiritual Churches, which he has hosted many times.

A full time spiritual healer currently based at Westgate, he intends to move back to the Helensville area in the near future - ensuring a long term involvement with the fledgling church.

Nigel says as a charitable organisation all profits from the church will be distributed in the community.

For information phone Nigel on 027 492 0444 or email: 1nigelcollis@gmail.com.



• Nigel Collis

## from our local MP

It's hard to believe this will be my final column for the year, given how quickly 2019 seems to have gone. Time flies when you're having fun, right?!

Being the MP for Helensville always feels like an honour, but some days do turn out to be extra special. In late November we received a visit from Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

Opinion may be divided among readers of *Helensville News* on the proper place of the monarchy to New Zealand's constitutional arrangements in the twenty-first century. Personally, I'm of the school of thought that if something ain't broke then you don't fix it, but I appreciate there are other good arguments on both sides.

In any case, it was great to host their royal highnesses, taking an opportunity to showcase why the northwest is one of the

jewels in Auckland's crown (so to speak!) and to be seen on the world stage.

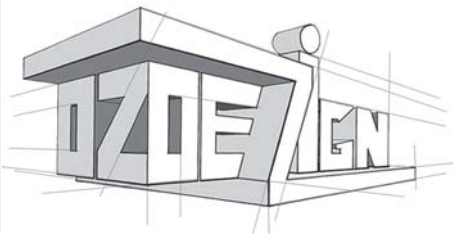
Richard Kidd of Kaipara Farms received a phone call from Prince Charles, who was keenly interested to learn about the way we farm sheep in this part of the world. This kind of high level attention is an excellent reminder to all Kiwis of the importance and value that farmers add to New Zealand.

On a similar note, local business The Hunting Lodge Winery hosted the Duke and Duchess with a wine tasting, where they also learned about the 'paddock to table' approach.

I had the privilege of attending a ceremony at the RNZAF base at Whenuapai, along with our wonderful airforce personnel, with the 'Queen's Colour' flag originally presented by Elizabeth II in 1953 now being replaced by her son and heir.

All-in-all, the royal visit was a great opportunity for Helensville and surrounding areas to exhibit some of the great organisations and people of our area, and an indication of our growing world-class potential.

- Chris Penk  
Member of Parliament for Helensville  
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496.



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## Chris Penk MP for Helensville

365 Main Road, Huapai

09 412 2496

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz

chrispenk.co.nz



Authorised by Chris Penk, 365 Main Road, Huapai, Auckland.



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53 – 65 Commercial Road, Helensville  
Ph: (09) 420 8747

Email: [bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz](mailto:bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz)

[www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)

## from the frontline

Hi everyone, my name's Melissa Haven and I'm your new Community Constable, based here in Helensville.



With summer fast approaching it's timely to talk about Muriwai Beach and Woodhill Forest. While the main part of Muriwai Beach is policed by Kumeu staff, Helensville staff police the northern end, which runs from Rimmer Road through to the top of the beach at South Head.

Already we are seeing an increase in calls to police about driver behaviour on the beach, and illegal fires being lit on the beach and in the Regional Park and surrounding forest.

The following rules apply when using Muriwai Beach:

- A permit is required when driving on the beach. Driving on the beach without a permit is a breach of council bylaws and may result in a fine of up to \$20,000 upon conviction.
- Drivers must follow the road rules. Vehicles must be registered and warranted, you must hold a current driver's license, and abide by the posted speed limits. Police will - and do - issue infringement notices on the beach.
- Vehicles are not permitted in the back dune area or in the forest, which is privately owned. Vehicle have a destabilising impact on the back dune system, which has already been damaged by vehicular activity. Vehicles are also a significant risk to a number of unique and regionally-threatened species.
- Woodhill Forest is privately owned and no one should be entering the forest without prior authorisation from the owners.
- Lighting fires is prohibited at all times in the Regional Park, on the beach, in the back dunes and in Woodhill Forest - this is especially important as the weather heats up.
- The Defence Force area land at the northern end of the beach, commonly called the 'bombing range' is a prohibited area at all times and people are not permitted to enter. There is the very real risk of people encountering unexploded ordinance which could seriously harm or kill them.

And finally - don't forget you are sharing the beach with families, children, fishermen, dogs and horses, so please be safe and considerate of other beach users.

If you have any questions or are unsure please don't hesitate to contact me at [Melissa.haven@police.govt.nz](mailto:Melissa.haven@police.govt.nz).

- Melissa Haven, 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, 92 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 recipient for November is Paul Smith, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Mitre 10 Helensville.



■ Paul was nominated by Marie Adlam.

She says: "My husband and I would like to thank Paul Smith from our community. If there is one representative who is a dedicated volunteer that would be him. He's been a volunteer for over 10 years since we meet him. He's helped at Helensville Primary School as a teacher aid, Helensville Rugby Club, Group day, Helensville ag day and much more. He's a diversity person who gets on with everyone. Thank you, Paul, you legend!"

# local board matters

It is a huge honour to have been elected Chair of the Rodney Local Board at our swearing-in meeting in early November.

Last term's Chair, Beth Houlbrooke, has been a tireless cheerleader for Rodney. She developed an excellent working relationship with the Mayor and Councillors, staff and management and most of all with the board.

Beth has most importantly ensured we maintained a focus on delivering our three-year plan, and worked with the board to form a consensus on our goals, clearly demonstrated by the fact that in three years only three votes weren't unanimous.

I am encouraged to see that the Mayor intends to take a hard look at Council Controlled Organisations (CCO's).

Auckland Transport is a source of frustration for many in Rodney. There are some great staff in that organisation who are

as frustrated as I am with the mixed results. In a democracy, you cannot have an organisation spending billions of ratepayers dollars that appears not to communicate with, engage with, or be accountable to the community that funds it.



It's now almost two years since the Local Government Commission released its report on the North Rodney breakaway application. We have yet to see meaningful progress on the recommendations which included better engagement and communication; Local Board offices in Rodney so our community has better access to our meetings and Board members; and a balancing of the funding inequalities we have compared to other parts of Auckland due to Rodney District Council constrained ability to fund facilities. I would like to see these recommendations be acted upon over the next 12 months.

Over the last five years, the population in Rodney has grown by over 10,000, making us the second-fastest growing ward in Auckland. This growth is set to continue. The Local Board must ensure we are focussed on meeting the needs of our growing towns while not neglecting our rural residents - this requires thoughtful balancing.

I look forward to continuing the excellent work of our previous Chair and the Local Board to maintain productive relationships, consensus and a focus on delivering results for all Rodney residents.

Your Local Board members are:

- > Phelan Pirrie: 021 837 167  
phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- > Brent Bailey: 021 730 892  
brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- > Danielle Hancock: 021 195 9826  
danielle.hancock@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- > Vicki Kenny: 027 670 9968  
vicki.kenny@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board

phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ph:021837167

## Christmas parade in jeopardy again

Helensville's Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7 is in jeopardy again.

Organiser Holly Southernwood says entries for the parade have been pouring in, with a record number of floats entered.

But at the time of going to press, a lack of volunteers to help run the day could still force the parade's cancellation.

"Every body wants a parade, but nobody wants to make it happen," says Holly.

"It's the classic Little Red Hen story - no one wanted to help make bread but when Little Red Hen had baked the bread, doing all the work herself, everyone wanted to eat it. Little Red Hen (Holly) may have to say NO."

Volunteer forms are available at Helensville Library, with five different roles to choose from, with time frames detailed. Alternatively phone Holly on 021 488 427 or email: helchrisfest@gmail.com.

The colouring competition which usually runs as part of the Christmas parade this year will instead happen a week or two later. Holly says next year it will again be part of the Christmas Festival event.



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## ■ SANTA AT THE RSA

Santa will be in his grotto at the Kaipara RSA in Commercial Road before the start of the Helensville Christmas parade on Saturday, December 7. A photographer will be on hand to take photos.

RSA members will also be running quick fire ham raffles, and have food and water available for locals waiting for the parade to start.

## ■ CHRISTMAS MARKET

A Helensville Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, December 14 from 9am to 2pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

The market is a community event for people to sell second-hand goods, arts and crafts and homemade produce, antiques and collectibles, bric a brac, and homemade giftware. The cost for sellers is \$12, bring your own table.

Helensville Lions will be selling quality second-hand books, as well as holding a sausage sizzle and running a raffle, and the Kaipara College Year 10 business class will be selling their locally made products.

Organisers Pete and Liz are inviting a couple of local community groups to go along and fund raise, free of charge.

They hope to run regular community markets in Helensville throughout the year. Email: bigfathen@xtra.co.nz.

## ■ EARLY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Millie's Restaurant in the Kaipara RSA in Commercial Road is holding an 'all you can eat' Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 14. There will be two sittings, 5.30pm to 7pm and 7.30pm to 9pm. Email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz or phone 420 8888 to book.

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

There will be special Christmas performances from 'The Cougar Chorus' and the students of 'DanceVille' at the last Kaukapakapa market for 2019 on Sunday, December 15 from 8.30am to 1pm. Santa will be in his grotto in the Kaukapakapa library next to the market, plus there will be free face painting. As well as fresh produce, artisan food and preserves, plants, books, food and coffee there will be Christmas gift ideas at the wide range of stalls.

## ■ CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The combined churches of Helensville and Parakai will hold a Christmas carols evening on the playing field at Parakai School in Fordyce Road on Sunday, December 15. Starting at 5.30pm, the free event is aimed at local families, who should take a picnic dinner to eat while they enjoy the evening's entertainment, which will include a live band and games for children.

## ■ THE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT COULD

Historic Kaukapakapa library will be open on Sunday, January 19 from 10am to 1pm with its wealth of local information on show.

"Since the reopening of the library in 2014, we have been the fortunate recipients of much information on Kaukapakapa's past - history on the hotel, the school, the hall, St. Cuthbert's and All Saint's churches, along with all the library's original records," says

## Holiday at Library cont...

• From page 5

Christmas Day and Boxing Day, New Year's Day, and the day after New Year's Day.

Over the holiday period the library will give extended loan periods. Until Saturday, January 4, all 28-day loans become 42-day loans, while from Saturday, December 7 until Saturday, January 11, all 14-day loans extend to 28-day loans.

No items will be due, or requests picked up, between December 22 and 5 January 5.

Megan Paterson.

"We have Wyn Jordan's 'Historical Records of Kaukapakapa' and the fantastic Jordan Collection of early photographs, photos of most of the servicemen and [solitary] woman on our WW1 and WW2 memorials, and a lot more information," she adds.

"We may not have all the answers but we will do our best to point you in the right direction." Contact Megan on 021 959017, or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.out the year.



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## Helensville News - Publication Information

### ■ FEBRUARY 2020 deadline: Tuesday, 21st January, 2020

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, February 4th 2020

#### 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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