

## Turmoil as museum battles bug problem

Personality clashes have resulted in a big shakeup at the Helensville & District Historical Society - at the same time members are battling through a bug infestation which has closed Helensville Museum for months.

The issues came to a head at a meeting in early August just days after the society's annual general meeting. Newly re-elected long-serving president John Smith resigned, feeling unable to work with some of the newer members. Several other long-standing members sided with him and also resigned, along with the museum's office administrator.

Much of the dispute centred on how best to manage the insect problem the museum was facing.

With John gone, his former vice president Leigh Bosch, who stood unsuccessfully against John at the AGM for the top role and then resigned (rather than continue as VP), was elected as president. Recent member Robyn Stewart was elected as vice president.

"I'm very disappointed," says John. "I love that museum. I hope it will survive."

Leigh says with some of the original committee members remaining, and being joined by several new members, "the committee has upended, but we haven't lost all the experience and we have some new blood in there.

"I felt we were stagnating. We were struggling to do things because 'that's not the way it's done'.

"I actually feel we have a bit of a vibrancy about the committee at the moment," she says. "[it] is feeling a bit positive. It's almost like we're starting from scratch because of all the things we have to do. It's almost like setting up a whole new museum."

There is certainly a lot to do, with the bug infestation meaning the museum will remain shut until early next year at the soonest, and

even then probably only the schoolhouse building will reopen initially.

Leigh likens the pests to Africa's 'Big Five' game animals - except the museum's big five are less glamorous: borer, domesticids, mice, silverfish and clothing moths.



• Leigh with piles of thawing, sealed-up artifacts

"We're doing what we can," she says, explaining how an integrated pest management plan has been developed to make sure the issue doesn't recur.

A large industrial freezer costing \$450 a month has been installed across the road by the Kaipara Classic Car Club rooms, because of the need for three-phase power.

"Without the car club, without Dave

Swale, and without the meat processors, we would be sunk. They have been awesome."

Every item in the museum made of wood, paper or fabric has to be first wrapped in acid-free tissue, then sealed in heavy polythene plastic and then frozen. Once frozen, they have to be thawed, unwrapped and cleaned, but only in buildings which have already been treated themselves.

"It's a logistical nightmare," says Leigh. "There can't be anything that hasn't been processed. It's an absolute nightmare."

So far all buildings apart from Hedley House and the office have been fumigated. But even that fumigating isn't enough - it won't kill borer that's inside wood items too large to be frozen. So each individual borer hole has to be injected to kill the bugs inside, a hugely laborious task.

She says practical help has been provided by Auckland, Matakohē and Warkworth museums, while advice has been sought from museums in Washington, London, Perth and Dunedin.

"We don't always have the expertise in New Zealand," says Leigh, adding that almost as much time has been spent researching or talking about how to treat exhibits as actually doing them.

Leigh says there has been one upside to the problem, and that has been finding numerous items no-one knew existed. So in conjunction with the treatment process, every item is being photographed and recatalogued.

"There's stuff we just didn't know was here."

Leigh says the plan, once the museum is fully reopen, will be to have fewer items on display at any one time, with displays rotating while other items are in storage. That will keep displays fresh for repeat visitors, and help with preservation of the artifacts.

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## editorial

There have been a lot rumours floating around about the recent problems at Helensville Museum, and hopefully our front page article will help explain the situation somewhat. It's difficult enough for many of the voluntary organisations in our area to function, with a lack of membership and lack of finance causing constant stress for the volunteers who run them.

When personality clashes cause even more problems - as they almost inevitably will at some stage in most organisations - it is a sad situation.

Here's hoping the Historical Society is able to put all this behind it and focus on the future, and get the museum up and running again as soon as possible. It's a fabulous asset for our town, and deserves everyone's support.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Library

October is book-ended with activities for Helensville Library.

The beginning of the month is the school holidays with the theme 'Top Secret', which will include an I-Spy Shadow Box hunt throughout the holidays.

Special holiday events, all from 3pm to 3.30pm, are: Tuesday, October 1: It's a puzzle; Thursday, October 3: Bee-friendly seed-bombs; Tuesday, October 8: Message in a bracelet; and Thursday, October 10:

History of Helensville Library.

More details are available at the library and through its Facebook page.

At the end of the month, the library will be open for the whole of Labour Weekend in support of Arts in the Ville.

There will be art and crafts from staff on display, and some library users are providing their works to join the display. It's also planned to have work from the Rodney Homeschool group on show.

## letters

Meet the candidate meetings are being held around the nation this month as mayoral and local board candidates pitch their policies and promises to local ratepayers. Members of Rodney First, a party that holds a majority on the Rodney Local Board, fronted to locals at the Kaukapakapa hall.

The old chestnuts of improving roads, public transport and footpaths didn't appear to have much sway with those gathered at the hall. There were complaints made about the desecration of the Kotipu stream as a result of illegal earthworks, and concerns aired on costs attached to the recently launched bus services. But a large proportion of the audience were intent on voicing their concerns over the presence of the Auckland Shooting Club.

While the club no longer officially exists, its founders have stated they will proceed with a resource consent application to re-open the club after the second round of gun control legislation is passed. Local board member Phelan Pirrie acknowledged the board had received "hundreds and hundreds of complaints" over the noise of gunfire and un-consented actions by the Auckland Shooting Club. He further added "there was a good chance" any resource consent application submitted by the club would be publicly notified.

But a 'good chance' is not good enough for neighbours of the neophyte shooting range. The community are demanding certainty. They believe any attempt by the club to re-insert itself into the Makarau community must be laid open to public scrutiny. Failure to do so will mean a repeat of the original folly of not notifying the ratepayers. It would also be contrary to one of the key planks inherent in Rodney First's policy - that of 'empowering communities'.

- Richard Driver

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# Arts in Ville tempts artist to move to Helensville

Ruth Sumner was so impressed with last year's Arts in the Ville, she moved to Helensville.

Needing to downsize from their Dairy Flat home, Ruth and her husband were looking at smaller houses, and happened to call in to Helensville during the annual three-day arts festival last year.

A painter and print maker herself who has exhibited both nationally and internationally, she was immediately taken by the feel of the town and the strong arts community here, and the decision was made to move to Helensville.

"I was just enchanted," Ruth says, explaining how she had been working in her Dairy Flat studio for years without the support of a local arts community.

She has now opened a 'pop-up' gallery in the old Arts Centre building in Karaka Street, and will be one of the new artists exhibiting at

believes the 2019 festival will attract even more than the 2500 people counted at just one venue last year.

The first Arts in the Ville featured 20 artists - this year, more than 70 will have works on show at 26 venues around the town, featuring every conceivable style and medium of art. Those venues will include artists' home studios, pop-up galleries, and 'cluster' venues in the hall, the former Art Stop Gallery building, and at 79 to 87 Commercial Road, along with the Railway Collective at the town's old train station.

Many of the artists will be familiar from previous years, but there will also be a number of new ones to keep interest up.

Last year's popular 'Hat Walk' will be repeated this year at 4.30pm on the Sunday, and another treasure hunt with a prize of a Jeff Thomson sculpture will also be held.

Entry forms will be at the Helensville Art Centre and in the War Memorial Hall meeting room.

Venues this year will be easy to spot, with huge 1.8m pink free-standing flags outside each, a major \$3000 investment for organisers.

Helping with sponsorship this year are Burmester Realty, Rodney Local Board, Jeff Thomson and the North West Country business association.

More information is available online at: [www.artsintheville.co.nz](http://www.artsintheville.co.nz), and on the Arts in the Ville Facebook page.



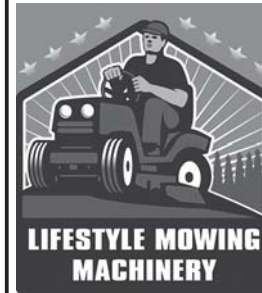
• Ruth Sumner in her new pop-up gallery

this year's Arts in the Ville festival, on over Labour Weekend, October 26 to 28.

It's an event which grows each year, and one of the organisers, Kura Gere-Watson,

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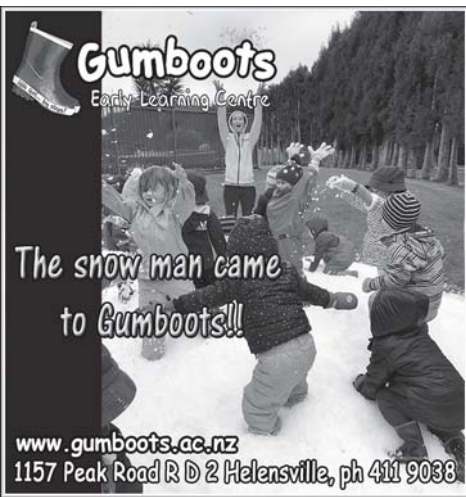
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# Trekkers out to help kids

Parakai mums Elyse Hannay and Sam Hayfield will be driving their bright yellow 'bubble' car in the Trillian Blue Light Mini Trek later this month.

The annual trek is a smaller, three-day version of the week-long Trillian Trek, formerly known as the Variety Bash. The events are colourful, non-competitive charity car rallies that provide help and raise money for Kiwi children.

Traditionally, up to 70 entrants drive unusual or highly decorated vehicles in the treks. Last year, both women took part with Elyse's father, Trevor Crowther, in an original 1989 Mitsubishi Police car. He's taking part again this year - his 28th participating in the treks - in the same car.

The vehicles are often large - think fire engines and trucks - so Elyse says people will really notice their tiny Nissan S-Cargo (the model's name is a play on the French 'escargot' meaning snail).

This year's Mini Trek starts on October 18 in Te Awamutu and visits schools on the way to Waihi, then travels around Coromandel before finishing at Thames.

At the schools, the 'trekkers' give away BMX bicycles supplied by Trillian, plus smaller gifts from the entrants themselves. They usually help at the schools too, doing things like gardening.

On the Sunday, the teams will take part in a 'Coro Surf Carnival' at Waihi Beach, competing in tasks like making and flying kites and paper planes, and building sand castles.

Both the Airforce and the AA go on the treks to help with the inevitable breakdowns.

Sam and Elyse will be hoping for the best in that regard - their car is one of the courtesy vehicles from Sam's husband Brett's Mill Road Helensville Mechanical business. It's been thoroughly gone over before the trek, with parts supplied free of charge by BNT

Kumeu.

Other sponsors helping the pair out are 4 Square Parakai, Bernie at Helensville Motorcycles, Cherie at Fern Design, Zen Landscaping, and of course Helensville Mechanical.

"Sam and I had so much fun last year,"



• Elyse (left) and Sam with the yellow 'bubble' trek car

says Elyse, "and you see how much benefit the kids get."

They can be followed on their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/daisiesofhazard](http://www.facebook.com/daisiesofhazard).

## Spring Fair

A one-off Community Spring Fair will be held in Helensville on Saturday, October 12 in the War Memorial Hall.

Helensville Lions Club is organising the event, which will run from 9am to 2pm, and is calling on anyone with goods, produce or crafts to sell to book a table - the cost is just \$12.

The fair will also feature music, raffles and sausage sizzle

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# Directing Brokenwood leads back to roots

Directing episodes of hit television series The Brokenwood Mysteries gives former Parakai local Murray Keane a chance to revisit locations from his youth.

"I enjoy doing Brokenwood - it's a chance to come back to Helensville. I know the area well, which works well for finding locations," he says.

Murray was raised on the family farm in Springs Road by his parents Ronnie and Nola, who also had a run-off farm in Rimmer Road.

He says his family home, which had been vacant for several years when it burnt to the ground two years ago, had a reputation as "quite a famous place" in the area, where locals would go to party after the Parakai Tavern shut.

"It was a great place to grow up."

Murray went to Parakai Primary and Kaipara College.

"I have fond memories of being at college," he says, but adds in those days there was no such thing as a drama department.

"I was the one who would cajole people into doing lunchtime shows."

Murray left Helensville in 1981 to go to university in Christchurch, and after three years there was accepted into Toi Whakaari, the New Zealand Drama School in Wellington.

That led to a career as an actor, and more recently - "after my looks had faded" - as a director.

Murray's acting career included roles in series such as Shortland Street, Xena: Warrior Princess, and Shark in the Park among many others.

Movie roles have been as diverse as

playing the character Smiler in noted Gallipoli film Chunuk Bair, and a zombie victim in Peter Jackson's 1992 movie 'Brain Dead'.

His move into directing has seen Murray helm some of this country's top programmes, with nine credits on Outrageous Fortune and 12 on sequel series Westside, along with 13 episodes of The Almighty Johnsons, 19 episodes of The Tribe, and episodes of Go Girls, Power Rangers, and Shortland Street.

He directed one episode in the 2015 debut series of The Brokenwood Mysteries

would like to make - "I just need a few million" he quips.

Asked to name a career highlight, Murray came up with two. The first was Outrageous Fortune.

"Working on Outrageous Fortune - it was very successful in every way. A great programme, full of Westies which I was familiar with, fun to do and won all the awards," he says.

The other was a much smaller, more personal project, a 12-minute short film called Falling Sparrows.

Written and directed by Murray and filmed locally, it was his way of atoning for a teenage prank featuring the Parakai Domain war memorial.

The film, which was nominated for Best Film and Best Script at the Nokia NZ Film Awards and in 2001 screened at the CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival and the St Petersburg Short Film Festival, is about a group of boys playing war games and being confronted with the reality of war.



• Murray Keane (right) with camera operator Ayrton Winitana during filming of episode three of the latest Brokenwood Mysteries series

(To Die or not to Die), two the following year (Over Her Dead Body and A Merry Bloody Christmas), and one each in 2017 (Stone Cold Dead) and 2018 (Scared to Death).

Murray recently completed directing episode three of season six, which will screen on Prime in the coming months.

Brokenwood, a series of two-hour murder mystery telefeatures, has become something of an international hit, screening in 16 countries including the United States, Australia, France, Italy, and Denmark. It has a rating of 7.8 on the IMDB website.

Directing these days has to fit in around Murray's job as a tutor at the South Seas Film and Television School in Auckland. However, he has a couple of film scripts he



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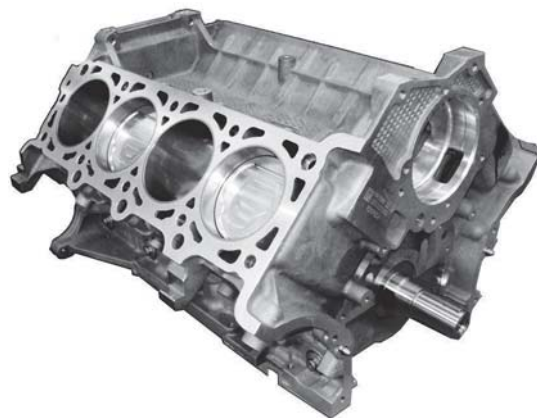
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*Thomas Grace*



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## New business recycling service

The Helensville Community Recycling Centre and North West Country Business Association have teamed up to help member businesses manage their waste in a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly manner.

A heavily-subsidised inorganic collection service starting at \$38.50 per cubic metre is now available to all members, as well as a free waste reduction consultation to ensure businesses are making the most of recycling opportunities.

Helensville Community Recycling Centre already supports most businesses in the Helensville area with recycling, and with the arrival of a new truck and crane now has the capacity to broaden its service to include business inorganic collections in the Kaukapakapa, Waimauku, Kumeu, Muriwai and Riverhead areas.

Both North West Country and Helensville Community Recycling Centre have received funding from Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation and Innovation fund to provide the new service.



• The new crane truck, soon to be signwritten

Business association members wanting to take advantage of the service should email: [manager@northwestcountry.co.nz](mailto:manager@northwestcountry.co.nz) to book a collection.

## Locals urged to get a health WoF



Locals are being urged to get a health 'Warrant of Fitness' at a free health check day in Helensville.

The event will be held in the Countdown supermarket carpark in Commercial Road on Friday, October 4 from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Up to 10 trucks, vans and caravans will be present, representing a range of health agencies including Stroke NZ, Well Women and Family Trust, Diabetes NZ, Te Ha Oranga, and Craigweil House. They will be providing information about health and well-being support services available.

Locals will be able to receive on-the-spot tests, including blood-pressure checks and non-fasting blood sugar tests for diabetes. No appointment will be needed, and there will be no charge.

Waitemata District Health Board, which is organising the event, will have 'Bella', its giant inflatable bowel, set up, and visitors will be able to chat with their bowel screening team. It's pictured at left being checked out by visitors to Craigweil House in Parakai, where it was recently on show.

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# Off then on again for Xmas parade

It was almost a case of 'Santa Claus is NOT coming to town'...

At the 11th hour a funding shortage has been resolved and the Helensville Christmas parade, a fixture on Commercial Road each December since 1959, will go ahead again this year on Saturday, December 7.

Organiser Holly Southernwood decided in mid-September to cancel the parade, which costs more than \$8000 to put on, because of a funding shortfall. The North West Country business association voted a couple of days later to take over running the popular event. However Holly was at the last minute able to find the additional money needed for her to run the parade.

This year's event will run along very similar lines to previous years, with two exceptions: there will be no post-parade festival in the Helensville Museum grounds, and Santa will probably be parading in a classic convertible car rather than in his usual sleigh, which needs a lot of work to bring back to a useable standard.

While the parade will be held again this year, Holly says a long-term, sustainable method to fund it needs to be found.

"We can't limp from year to year chasing funding," she says.

Christmas parade day will begin as normal with photos with Santa at the RSA, and a bouncy castle, face painting, ice cream and entertainment in Creek Lane from 9.30am. Also returning will be competitions for decorating bicycles, trikes and scooters, mobility scooters and prams, buggies, and push chairs. Entry forms for those will be available at Helensville Library and can be returned there.

South Kaipara Rotary Club's colouring competition entries will be available through schools and preschools, and from Paper Plus Select in Commercial Road.

Anyone wanting to enter a float who has yet to receive an entry form can get one from Helensville Library. The parade will start at midday as usual, and will again follow a one-way route, starting in Railway Street and ending in Mill Road.

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## medical centre notes

Measles was once a rare sight for doctors. Since I went to medical school in 1991 I had only seen one measles case in my career until the last year. So the outbreak at the moment is hugely distressing for patients, parents and health professionals alike.

Measles is a highly infectious virus that spreads easily and quickly, which is why if measles is suspected cases are isolated at home, or in special rooms at clinics.

There are potentially serious complications with measles including pneumonia and encephalitis (swelling of the brain). It presents in a non-specific pattern, including a high fever, runny nose, cough and sore red eyes. A few days later a rash starts on the face and neck, and then spreads to the rest of the body, and the patient is often very miserable with the infection.

The best protection is to have two vaccinations of the MMR vaccine; one dose protects 95 percent of people, two doses protects 99 percent. Normally vaccinations are given at 15 months and four years of age, but at time of writing during this outbreak that has changed to 12 months of age, and can be as early as six months depending on risk of exposure - though they will still need two MMR vaccines at the usual schedule times. It can take up to two weeks after vaccination for immunity to be achieved.

Adults born before 1969 are assumed to be immune, as this was before the vaccination schedule started. The national immunisation records have data going back to 2005, so people born between 2005 and 1969 have to check their Plunket books or GP records.

- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Director



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## : Upholstery business covers many aspects

If you expect stepping through the door of Upholstery Services on the corner of Commercial and Garfield Roads to see furniture being recovered, think again.

Reupholstering furniture - which covers (pun intended) everything from lounge and dining suites to car seats, caravan squabs, boat interiors and even farm quad bike seats - is just one string to owner Curtis Davies' bow.

What you will see first is a huge range of antique furniture, in particular large, often ornately carved dressers, sideboards and writing desks. These can be up to 150 years old, and some feature rare 'mottled' kauri, which Curtis says are now almost impossible to find.

Then there are the artworks - paintings, sculptures and even steampunk works - made by mostly local artists, which adorn the walls and shelf space. Look up, and you will see everything from antique chairs to an old bicycle hanging from the ceiling.

While the antiques are a passion for Curtis, his upholstery business, which has just clocked up four years in Helensville, provides his day-

to-day work.

Almost hidden behind all the antiques is the work area where Curtis reupholsters treasured items, along with racks of fabric samples from his three major suppliers, Warwick Fabrics, Charles Parson and James Dunlop.

Curtis says many people are realising much of the new, imported furniture available today isn't made to last, and reupholstering better-made existing furniture makes more sense.

Curtis also runs a carpet and upholstery cleaning service, and has a full commercial extraction unit which he uses for on-site cleaning work.



> Curtis among his antiques

Upholstery services is currently open 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturdays, but Curtis is thinking of closing one week day, and opening all weekend, which would better suit the antiques side of the business.

## : Gym has transformed over last couple of years



> Saxon (left) and Richard

Since taking over the Helensville gym in Mill road two and a half years ago and rebranding it as Forge Fitness, owner Richard Price has developed the facility at an impressive pace.

In that time, membership has grown from around 180 to 450, and Richard now employs two full-time staff members, qualified personal trainers Saxon Flowers and Zane Kuha-Heaps, who can help develop fitness programmes for members.

Apart from the repainted physical walls of the building, almost nothing remains of the business Richard took over.

He has replaced all the gym equipment with state of the art American-made Hammer Strength and Life Fitness machines.

The shoulder press is the same exact model Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson uses in his own gym, and cross trainers feature LED screens that let you 'run' through real scenery from around the world, with the equipment altering the amount of effort required according to the track being followed on the screen - think uphill harder, downhill easier.

Members' safety is extensively catered for, with rigorous pre-screening of prospective members, an on-site AED (automated external defibrillator), and soon to be introduced 'panic button' necklaces for use when members are alone in the gym during non-staffed hours.

Richard has introduced morning and evening time-based 'burn' circuit classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, free for members.

"Fitness is our passion," says Richard. "My staff and I love fitness. You could put us anywhere in the world and this would rate as a very good gym."

Forge fitness remains open 24/7, with entry now by the tap of an electronic keyfob.

The next major development, one Richard has been working on for several years, is the establishment in a separate building of a boxing training facility.

A boxer himself, Richard has David Tua's former boxing ring in storage, and with finance almost in place he says a "best case" scenario would see the new facility open in February next year - though he stresses that dateline could move.

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## : Kiwi-grown flowers a must for local shop

Sourcing flowers locally is a really important aspect of Mel Dicken's Commercial Road florist business, Love Flowers.

She estimates she buys 70 to 80 percent of her stock locally.

"I really prefer to buy local and New Zealand-grown," she says, explaining that cheaper flowers like those sold through outlets such as supermarkets are almost always imported, mostly from India but also from countries like Japan and Colombia.

Mel moved her business into her present shop opposite Sunny Days Preschool in early 2017; she had previously been beside the now-defunct Art Stop Cafe at the other end of town.

Since the move she has increased her range of giftware even more, and has got more into stocking indoor plants and 'fashionable' items like kokedamas. She says 1970s-style plants such as Monsteras are popular again.

She has also recently starting stocking her popular floral posies at Shark & Tatties and the Gull service station in Kaukapakapa.

Love Flowers now belongs to two

international flower agencies, Direct 2 Florist and Petals, allowing Mel to both send flower orders overseas, as well as receiving international orders for local delivery.

She has weekly contracts with a number of local businesses, an aspect she is keen to expand on. Real estate agents use her skills to liven up open homes, and also as gifts for house buyers.

Locals - and out-of-towners for that matter - will be able to see Mel in action during the Arts in the Ville festival being held over Labour Weekend this month. She will be open all three days, running interactive, hands-on posie workshops.

Love Flowers is open 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday, and 10am to 1pm Saturdays. Mel has a



> Mel in her Love Flowers shop

part-time helper for when she has to go to flower markets, but at other times when the business is shut she is more than happy to take orders by telephone - 420 6572 or 021 295 2117 - and go down to the shop specially to make them up.

## : Locals welcome to call in for bargains

Trueform Spas owners Warren and Bridget Leslie says locals are welcome to call in anytime to check out his company's range of one-off designs and seconds if they are after a bargain.

The business also holds occasional factory sales, and Warren says locals should look out for

another one in the coming weeks.

He says many of the specials are one-offs made to trial different colours, while the seconds only have very minor imperfections - just enough to stop them being supplied to the company's regular stockists.



> L-R: plant manager Kim Bishop, Warren, and Kerry Radford

In the four years since they purchased the business, they have made a raft of changes to Trueform's spas pool range. Those include an enhanced look with extra trim, higher grade timbers, quieter operation, fixed moulds, and updated heaters, pumps and controllers.

The spas can now feature in-pool LED lighting and time controllers, and can even be operated via a smartphone app.

A special large spa has also been developed for use by hotels and retirement villages.

Warren says Trueform is now "very much competing against Chinese imports" in terms of pricing, and more so on quality. He points out many imports have inferior insulation, which can make them more expensive to run.

Trueform's swimming and spa pool cover business, which trades as South Pacific Covers under manager Kerry Radford, has continued to grow, with the manufacture of many custom size and shape covers. One giant pool cover was such a big job that staff drove it all the way down to Tekapo in the South Island to install it personally.

The West Street-based business usually employs around 25 staff, though that grows to about 30 around Christmas time.

Warren says that while spa pools have traditionally been thought of as 'hot tubs', most house sections now don't have enough room for a swimming pool, so people install a spa instead, and simply turn the temperature down so they can cool off in hot weather.

While most of Trueform's spas end up in the New Zealand market, they have exported to Australia, and recently sent a whole container load to, of all places, the Shetland Islands.

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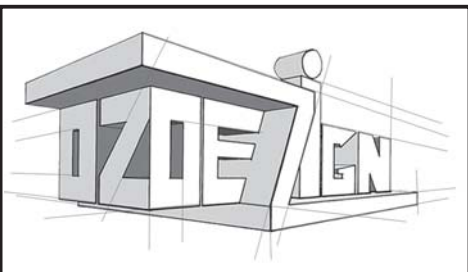
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# Horse trek kicks off November

Helensville A & P Show's annual farm horse trek is on again at the start of November.

The roughly two-hour ride has been held since 2015, and last year attracted 90 riders and raised more than \$2500 towards the town's A & P



• Riders head off from the start on a previous A&P Show trek

Show. This year's ride will again feature a follow-the-leader, easy-going ride across the Brady and Kidd family farms in Brady Road, traversing a mix of rolling hill country and flats.

Riders should meet at 10am on Sunday, November 3 for a briefing at the top of Brady

Road, with the ride starting 30 minutes later. The cost is \$30 per rider, which includes a barbeque sausage sizzle (BYO drinks).

Bookings can be made in advance - contact the show office on 09 420 7572 or email: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz). Riders will also be able to join and pay on the day.

## Final competition of Winter Series

The final competition in the Helensville A & P Show Winter Series is for knitting and crochet (in wool or acrylic), on Sunday, October 20.

There are three adult classes: Any hat; Baby Set of 2 items (any combo of hat, booties, blanket or garment); and Granny Square blanket. There's a single 'any knitted or crocheted item' for children.

Entries cost \$3 each and there is prize

money in each class of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second place, and \$5 for third.

Entries should be taken to the main showgrounds hall between 9am and 10am. Judging starts at 10.15am, with the results and viewing available from 11am. Entries can be collected from 11.15am.

For more information phone either Julie Croft on 420 7941, or Shona Addison, 021 0222 3044.

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# Art meets music

This is Bronwyn Conlogue, in the top photo rolling metal into a corrugated form in the workshop of local artist Jeff Thomson, and at bottom with her finished drum artwork.

Bronwyn's drum will be one of many music-inspired works of art which will be on show at the Helensville Art Centre from this Friday, October 4, from 6pm to 8pm, in an exhibition designed to coincide with New Zealand Music Therapy Week.

The exhibition will stay open during normal Art Centre hours until Monday, October 28, and will be the Art Centre's feature show for Arts in the Ville over Labour Weekend.

Among other works created at the workshop held by Jeff were an aluminium ukelele by John and Eli Scott; a piece based on a musical stave by Angie Bickerstaff; an artwork modelled on a treble clef by Helene Blomfield; another based on a bass clef by Julie Buswell; a 'Treble Bass' by Art Centre Co-ordinator Pauline Denton with help from husband Andrew; and 'Gasoline Alley Blues' by Peter Borthwick - an artwork which may even be playable.

Local music therapist Retts Van Dam will hold an hour-long percussion and drumming workshop at the centre on Saturday,



October 26 from 11am. The cost will be just \$5, and while bookings are recommended, some drop-in spaces may be available.



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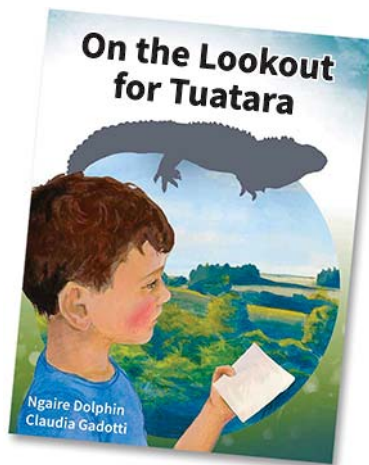
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Ngaire will be at the library from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, October 20 in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa market. For more information phone Megan on 021 959 017, or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

# Tuatara encounters

Visitors to Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, October 20 will be able to learn more about our country's 'living dinosaur' and meet author Ngaire Dolphin, whose passion for the tuatara is revealed in the two children's books she has written.

As a teacher and librarian Ngaire has always been keen to find interesting stories for children. Inspired by her local surroundings and a desire to help a young, struggling reader, she began writing her own books, discovering a passion for tuatara and their habitat in the process.

Ngaire's second book 'On the Lookout for Tuatara' follows on the heels of 'Be Careful Where You Sit!'. Both books are beautifully illustrated by Claudia Gadotti and will be on show at the library.

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# Scouts raise \$5000+



The Kaukapakapa Scout Troop raised more than \$5000 at its recent Trivial Pursuit Night fundraiser.

The total of \$5115 was a record haul for the annual event, which this year was won by a new team called the Cheeky Keas (pictured above), who narrowly beat former winners and regular entrants Donkey's C\*\*\*.

The emphasis of the evening was putting the 'fun' in fundraising.

As well as subsidising activity costs, money raised will go towards attending the Scout Jamboree at Mystery Creek in Hamilton this summer - an event which costs more than \$1000 per youth, with leaders' and staff costs to cover as well.

The Kaukapakapa Scout Troop runs in both Helensville and Kaukapakapa, and has programmes for youth from ages five through to 18 - details of session dates and times and contact information are on their website: [www.kaukapakapa.waitoru.org](http://www.kaukapakapa.waitoru.org).

Organisers of the Trivial Pursuit evening send special thanks to the evening's many sponsors, including: Affco, Albany Auto Air, Anna's Hair Studio, Antics Marketing, Apollo Entertainment, Art Down the Lane, Automotech, Beauty Elixir, Bunnings Warehouse, MP Chris Penk, Cool Drive, Countdown Helensville, Dalan D'Olive, Danceville, Dizzy Heights Tree Services, Farm Source, Filtermaster, Fonterra, Fruit World Silverdale, Gilmours North Shore, Ginger Crunch Cafe, Hard Yardz Property Care, J A Russell Ltd, Kaipara Coast Plant Centre, Kaipara Fresh Fish, Kaukapakapa Dairy, Kaukapakapa Gull Station, Motech 4x4, Paper Plus Helensville, Power Adventures, Printitpinc, Shark & Tatties, Swiss Bliss, Tree Adventures, and Unichem Helensville.

## 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 October is Samie Baker, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Ginger Crunch Cafe.



• Nicky gives Samie her voucher

■ Samie was nominated by Katie Hillebrand: "Samie spends so much of her time caring and being there for her family, her friends and now the community in her new, adored job at the vet clinic. She truly deserves to be rewarded."



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## from our local MP

As I write this column from Parliament I'm acutely conscious of the distance between Wellington and the Helensville electorate that I'm so privileged to represent.

The government's 'Essential Freshwater' proposals, as recently broadcast from the Beehive, are set to inflict huge costs onto ratepayers and councils.

For an essentially rural area such as Helensville, the costs to my constituents will be vast and have far reaching consequences.

The Minister claims the changes have been "well canvassed within the sector" and that they have "come to a common ground", but this is hardly the case.

Huge turnouts to meetings called to discuss the government's proposals have caught the Ministry for the Environment on the hop. At a recent meeting in Winton up to 150 farmers had to wait outside because the venue couldn't accommodate them all. The day before, in Ashburton, approximately 400 farmers had turned up. It shouldn't have been a surprise.

All New Zealanders want to swim, fish and enjoy freshwater as our parents and grandparents did. We also need clean water to drink and irrigation to support a sustainable economy. No-one would argue with that.

But the government's proposals ignore that fact that the key drivers of water quality vary between catchments. In some catchments it is sediment, in others E. coli or other contaminant, in some a combination, and in others, none.

It's worth noting that Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) 2008-2017 national water quality data shows that about two thirds of monitored sites are stable or improving in terms of water quality. There's no widespread crisis, in other words, that would justify a crude and blunt one-size-fits-all approach.

Farmers are not saying that all the work is done, but why not target the hotspots, and support those regional councils that still haven't got suitable regulations and discharge limits in place?

Some councils are still working to implement previous environmental initiatives, but these new proposals will result in greatly increased costs to all ratepayers.

I'm usually among the first to criticise Auckland Council when unnecessary costs are imposed on Helensville, but here it's the government imposing an unrealistic burden. In other words, it seems pretty clear the problem is in Wellington.

On that note, the government is holding sessions around New Zealand to discuss these and other proposals. I'd urge anyone keen to review the proposals and submit feedback to go online to do that: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-for-healthy-waterways>. Submissions will close on October 17.

- Chris Penk

Member of Parliament for Helensville

[chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz) | Ph: 09 412 2496.

## Kapa Haka at Craigweil



A group of 25 Kaipara College students performed kapa haka for residents at Craigweil House in Parakai last month. The 30-minute presentation was very well received by the Craigweil residents.



# local board matters

Don't forget to vote!

By the time you read this you will have received your voting papers for Council elections in the mail. Many of you will possibly have voted.

If you're one of the 60 percent of people who didn't vote last elections or just haven't got round to it yet, read on...

You will possibly be a bit confused by your ballot paper this election. Our Councillor was unopposed so there is no vote taking place for that position. This leaves the Mayor and Rodney Local Board.

You may be wondering why it's worth bothering voting for the Local Board - you may even be unsure what they do.

Local Boards are not something we had with the old Rodney District Council. They are a level of local governance that is primarily focussed on parks and recreational facilities. Local Board members should not be confused with Councillors, who have the responsibility for budgets for things like transport, setting rates, and regulatory and regional decisions that affect all Aucklanders.

The Rodney Local Board begins each term by consulting with the community in developing a three-year plan that sets the strategic direction for decisions around investing a \$20 million annual budget. The majority of that spending goes on managing the 300 plus parks across Rodney and the associated community facilities - halls, sports fields, public toilets, libraries etc.

Competent management of these budgets and the facilities is essential. Making sure they meet the needs of a

## Movie workshop

A three-day film making workshop with Hank Snell will start on Wednesday, October 9 at Helensville Art Centre and culminate with a premiere of the new movie at 3.30pm on Friday, October 11. Everyone is invited to see what a group of 8-14 year olds have created during the workshop where they will learn to use a camera, record sound, create a script, edit, act and all the other skills needed to create a short film. The cost is \$110.

growing population, and building new playgrounds, buying parks space and developing facilities in those areas that have none is equally something that requires a Board focused on delivering value on its core responsibilities.



The Local Board also has a role to identify and communicate the views of local people on regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws to the governing body, and provide input to Councillors and the Mayor on any regional decision that impacts Rodney. This is best termed as 'advocacy', and over the last three years the Board chair and members have spent more time in front of Councillors and the Mayor arguing our case on a range of issues affecting our community.

This may sound a bit disconnected with your daily life, however if our facilities aren't up to scratch and playing fields and courts, halls, libraries and town centres aren't maintained and upgraded, and missing footpaths built, then we soon hear about it from the community. Likewise if your views are not communicated with Councillors and the Mayor the many issues we face will never be resolved.

The Local Board's grass roots democracy and engagement with Council, that spends billions of dollars a year on your behalf, is something that is often taken for granted, but is important.

Taking a few minutes to learn about the Local Board candidates, what they would do as your representatives, and how they would treat our locals parks and facilities or prepare our town centres for the future, is something worth doing over the next few weeks.

Exercising your right to vote and getting your voting papers in the mail means you're fulfilling an essential part of our local democracy.

- Phelan Pirrie

Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board  
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## ■ PET BLESSING

St Matthews Church in Garfield Rd, Helensville will hold a Pet Blessing service on Sunday, October 6 at 9.30am.

All pets will be able to receive a blessing from the minister. Pets must be brought in carriers or on leashes or leads, and the service will be held rain or shine. Donations on the day of pet food and/or money will be passed on to Gutter Kitties and the Saving Hope Foundation.

## ■ SPACE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Helensville's Magnify Church has an 'Outer Space'-themed school holiday programme on for 7-13 year olds, from 9am to 3pm, Tuesday, October 8 to Thursday, October 10. \$20 per day. To book email: emmauscourtney@gmail.com.

## ■ WAITOKI MARKET

'Fabulous Felt' will be the feature theme at the next Waitoki market on Saturday, October 12 from 8.30am to midday.

Lisa Clapperton will have wool for sale and felted accessories on display, and will be explaining to visitors about the wool qualities of different sheep breeds and the difference they make to felt projects.

Market visitors will also be able to have a massage, pick up baked goods, plants, essential oils, locally crafted gifts, homemade and used bargains, bric a brac, and preserves. All proceeds from the market go back to the local community. Prospective new stall holders can phone Gill on 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

## ■ WOMEN'S CENTRE AGM

The Helensville Women & Family Centre will hold its AGM on Wednesday, October 16,

starting 10.30am at its premises in Commercial Road. Morning tea will be supplied. Those planning to attend should RSVP to: nelene@hwfc.co.nz.

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Stalls selling fresh local produce, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, gifts and collectibles, plus locally grown plants, herbs and vegetable seedlings ready for summer planting will feature at the next Kaukapakapa market Sunday, October 20 from 8.30am to 1pm.

There will be live music from Mike Lea, and children's activities like free face painting and a Halloween craft table. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

## ■ TARRA AGM

Helensville Police Station Officer in Charge, Sergeant Damian Albert, will be guest speaker and answer questions at the annual general meeting of Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Association on Wednesday, October 30, starting 6.30pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room. Everyone is welcome, and annual membership subscriptions of \$10 may be paid at the meeting.

For more information contact chair Holly Southernwood, phone 021 488 427 or email: tarrassoc@gmail.com.

## ■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Pastor Tricia Webb from the Inspire Church at Albany will be guest speaker at Helensville Aglow on Friday, November 1. The meeting will start at 7.30pm in the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd. For more information email Bridget at: bibsundgren@outlook.com.

## ■ CHURCH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Magnify Church in Commercial Road will hold a 40 Year Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 3, starting with a 10am service and followed by lunch.

All former members of the church, and any other locals who would like to join in, are invited to the celebration.



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