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Defibrilators available locally 24/7

Helensville St John is partnering with local service organisations to install publicly available Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in easily accessible locations around our area.

The Helensville St John Area Committee has already installed the first one beside the main doors of the Helensville RSA, in central Commercial Road.

This is the first stage of a roll-out of more units providing coverage from Kumeu to Glorit and out to South Head.

The Lions Club of Helensville have purchased an AED from St John, for installation at the Rautawhiri Park tennis club rooms, and South Kaipara Rotary are also looking to assist with the AED roll-out.

The AEDs are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Full instructions for use are on the outside of the cover. To use one, a person must first phone 111 so the St John communications staff can help with unlocking the alarmed cover.

Once the cabinet is unlocked, the AED itself speaks all necessary actions, making it simple to operate.

There is an AED Locations smartphone app which lists a number of AED machines in our area. However, most of those are inside premises and therefore only available when the premises are open.

Recognising that, the Helensville St John Area Committee is working to have more AEDs located on outside walls.

The Helensville RSA has thanked St John for the initiative, and hope that one day the AED helps save the life of a friend or family member. While the RSA has first aiders on its committee, they are thrilled with having the AED available 24/7.

The RSA supports the local community with use of its facilities for fund raising events for local schools, kindergartens, and local volunteer fire and emergency crews.

Helensville St John Area Committee

members would like to talk to any local organisations or businesses that would be willing to have an AED attached to the outside wall of their premises.

Now there are a couple in central Helensville, they are looking further afield. Ideally sites should be on a south facing wall and have a canopy or similar cover.

The units and their covers are very robust, but direct sunlight can speed up the need for replacement. The chest pads and special battery packs are replaced periodically.

Anyone who can help with a suitable site should contact the Helensville St John Op-Shop, phone 420 9272 or email:

helensville.opshop@stjohn.org.nz.

The St John Youth divisions are always keen to demonstrate how to do CPR and talk about using an AED - once again enquire at the Op-Shop.



• Helensville St John Area Committee treasurer John Issott (left) with RSA President Les Coste and the newly installed AED.

Classic car show coming back to museum

Gleaming chrome and shining paint are coming back to Helensville Museum.

The museum will again host the annual Kaipara Classic Car Club Shine n D'Ville in November, this year in association with the Huapai Hotrod Club.

The event has grown into a major fundraiser for the museum, and regularly draws hundreds of spectators and as many as two hundred cars and motorcycles - everything from pristine vintage and classic cars to highly modified custom vehicles.

Sponsored this year by Generation Homes, the gates will open at 9.30. Entry is by gold coin donation for spectators and \$5 per car and driver.

The vehicles on show will be judged from 11am in the following 'best of' categories - Two-door, Four-door, Pick-up, Hot Rod, Work in Progress, Custom, Engine, and Motorbike. There will also be a people's choice award.

A prize-giving will be held at 1pm, following a small auction of donated goods.

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Big numbers for Big Latch On



In a celebration of breastfeeding, more than 35 mothers and their babies (pictured above) took part in The Big Latch On, held at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai in August.

Helensville Birthing Centre lactation consultant Debbie Tetlow says the numbers at the local event were a big increase on last year and second only in Auckland to the event held at National Women's Hospital.

More than 1700 mothers and babies latched on at venues around the country as part of the annual event, which has been running since 2005. Debbie says The Big Latch On is gaining in popularity every year, not only among the participating mothers but also with the many local businesses who support it by donating prizes.

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Service helping family finances

People in the Helensville district are finding financial relief with a free budgeting service at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The service helps them understand how to manage their debt, finances and repayments.

Two recent successful cases have involved clients who did not understand the loan they obtained, says Helensville CAB board secretary Rani Timoti.

This resulted in the finance companies writing off the loan as they may have failed to comply with the Responsible Lenders Code, by not explaining the loan or by the clients feeling pressured into taking out the loan.

Both clients were overwhelmingly relieved in having the debt removed, so the money could pay for other family needs.

Several families have been helped to reduce their debt by creditors refinancing over a longer period or reducing the amount

owing.

Rani says in some cases it can take several weeks to achieve a satisfactory outcome, but the CAB's budget advisers can help right through the process.

"For one client we worked for eight months to reach a burden-lifting conclusion."

The CAB budget advisers can also help with employment issues. This can include helping employers who do not know what to put into an employment contract, employees who don't understand their contracts, or the pitfalls of not having a contract.

Anyone with financial worries or employment concerns can book an appointment by phoning 420 7162 or email: cab.helnv@xtra.co.nz, or book online at: www.cab.org.nz.

The office at 27 Commercial Rd is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm, and provides a wide range of other services.

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New manager for A&P Show

New Helensville A&P Show manager-secretary Louise Brooks started competing in the equestrian section of A&P shows around the upper North Island when she was just 11.

And now her own 11-year-old daughter, Emilie-Anne, has just started competing on her pinto pony - and her first show was this



• Louise raising the flag on the start of her new show role

year's Helensville A&P Show.

"She loved it," says Louise, who was 'horse mum' at the show for the day while Emilie-Anne competed in both in-hand and ribbon classes.

Louise started her new role in late August following 30 years in public relations and event management, working mostly with large corporates in the travel and tourism sector.

"It's really exciting for me to bring a corporate skill base into such a special

community event," she says.

"The opportunity to do something that combines work and community was for me a dream come true."

She sees her large network of contacts as being extremely valuable in her new role.

With experience of A&P shows around the upper North Island, she says the Helensville Show is unique in being so close to a major city while still holding on to its rural traditions.

"I love the sense of history and the opportunity to be involved in a legacy event like the show," she says.

"Helensville's is a really unique offering. It captures the real spirit of what A&Ps are all about."

Louise says it's important the show retains relevancy for people today, and believes it is a wonderful opportunity for people to immerse themselves in rural traditions - "to get up close with the backbone of New Zealand."

"We are probably in the prime position to deliver that experience for the Auckland region."

She is looking to engage even more with local community groups and schools, and youth in particular.

And she is especially excited that cattle - and especially calves - will be back at the show in 2020, after skipping this year because of the mycoplasma bovis epidemic.

With the show cancelled because of weather in 2018, she points out it will be three years

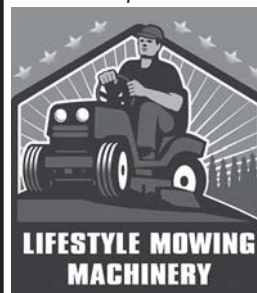
since local children have been able to show their pet calves.

Originally from the Waikato, Louise moved to a Rimmer Road property from Coatesville with her daughter and husband Michael, looking for a "more genuine country lifestyle."

She loves the equestrian scene here, saying she is "spoiled for places to ride." Emilie-Anne has joined Kaukapakapa Pony Club, and plans to do her secondary schooling at Kaipara College.

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Boys' Iconz programme reboots

After a hiatus of around 18 months, the Iconz programme for boys started up again in Helensville in July.

Based at Magnify Church in Commercial Road, Iconz is a subsidiary of Boys Brigade New Zealand and currently has around 16 members locally says Helensville Iconz leader Adrian Low - though he expects that number to grow.

The programme, held on Tuesday evenings during school terms, is based around adventure, activity, and values-based teaching and has a focus of male leadership and role models.

It's catch-phrase is: 'Building Kiwi Boys into Kiwi Icons'.

The organisation's website describes it as having "a blokey culture where the men, who are good mates, share their life skills with a new generation of kiwi blokes".

Adrian says that while it developed from Boys Brigade, Iconz is a much more casual and relaxed programme without the former's emphasis on military-style drills and uniforms.

"Society has changed since the 1960s," he says, explaining the need for the newer style of programme.

Open to boys eight years and older, the participants learn a wide range of life skills

including swimming and safety skills, cooking, games, camping, kayaking, hunting, fishing, and construction.

Adrian says the emphasis is on constructive outdoor activities and keeping the boys active. They also attend camps - the next is at Lake Karapiro in November, organised by the Iconz Northern Region.

The boys learn how to be part of a team but also to recognise their own individuality. They are taught about honesty, integrity, pride, respect, compassion, and other important values. The programme is Christianity-based.

Helensville has eight volunteer leaders who range in age from late-teens up to older married parents. While some have backgrounds in Boys Brigade or similar, they undergo training and hold regular meetings.

While nationwide the group caters to four different age groups, in Helensville there are currently two - Iconz Adventure for 8-10 year olds and Iconz Xtreme for boys 11-13 years. Adrian hopes to expand into the Delta programme for those aged 14 to 18 years.

The Iconz programme costs \$30 per term, and there is a one-off cost of \$25 for the uniform t-shirt. The term fees cover all regular activities, but extra activities such as camps have additional costs.



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Boys and leaders at the first 'new' Iconz evening

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Local student at Hong Kong camp

Kaipara College student Krystal Tuigamala (16, right) was chosen to represent South Kaipara Blue Light as part of a New Zealand team which travelled to Hong Kong to attend the Pat Heung Youth Development Camp in July.

Krystal was one of 18 kiwi teenagers selected for the five-day camp, hosted by the Hong Kong Junior Police Call, where they joined youth from Hong Kong, Macau and four provinces of China.

The kiwi contingent was treated to the sights and sounds of their host city, including a trip to Disneyland.

Blue Light national programmes manager Hannah Ward says: "it was a pleasure to have Krystal on our team. She exudes leadership and has a real presence, honed from years of high calibre kapa haka. Krystal is a real mana wahine with an engaging manner. She was mum, friend, sister and organiser to team members, and led by example.

"The trip was an incredible experience, and the teenagers showed real grit and determination. Each day was action-packed and it took a lot of perseverance and resilience to deal with the heat, the language barrier, and the camp activities."

"Initially the kids felt like fish out of water, but the camp encouraged them to become solutions-based problem solvers. It took maturity and that was when their true leadership qualities shone through."



Blue Light mentor Peter Wright says: "What impressed me most was the impact our kids had on the programme itself. The organisers enjoyed the sense of fun, enthusiasm and good humour our kids brought with them to the camp.

"I think the Hong Kong youth got as much out of it as our kids did."

He says the teenagers represented New Zealand well, performing waiata and haka.

"The real highlight for the youth was to be in Hong Kong," says Hannah, "to experience a totally different country and way of life, and experiencing such an intense metropolitan area, especially for our rural youth."

The Blue Light International Youth Experience is a joint venture between New Zealand Blue Light and the Hong Kong Junior Police Call. Students were nominated by Blue Light branches to apply. Initially there were only 12 spots, but the calibre was so high it was decided to increase that to 18.

The Experience is valued at over \$3000 per person, with each youth contributing \$1000 and the remainder subsidised by New Zealand Blue Light, including flights, accommodation, meals and activities.

3-day film workshop

Helensville Art Centre is hosting another movie workshop in October.

At the three-day film making workshop with international short film-maker Hank Snell, participants will learn how to use a camera, record sound, create a script, edit, and act - all the skills needed to create a short film.

Aimed at 9-16 year olds, and workshop will be held from Wednesday, October 9 to Friday, October 11. Through a Creative Communities subsidy the cost is just \$110.

Bookings are essential and can be made with cash at the Art Centre, or phone co-ordinator Pauline, 021 158 6859 or email: coordinator@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

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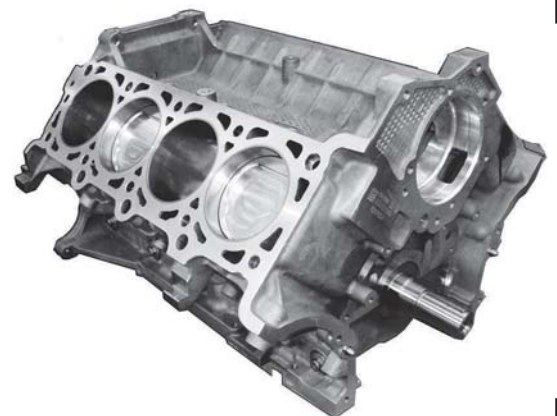
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June Cowper remembered

June Cowper
5th April 1932 – 22nd July 2019

June Beryl Pamela O'Keeffe was born on April 5, 1932 in the family's Puriri St home, where her mother was also born.

She was the eldest child of James O'Keeffe from Kaeo and Riwia Rita Paanganui Aperahama of Helensville.

June grew up in Helensville with her siblings and cousins on her mother's side, spending time with her aunts and cousins in Helensville, Reweti, Henderson and Auckland city. After her father passed away when she was only 5, June would occasionally visit her paternal family in Kaeo, and in later years rekindled her friendship with her Kaeo cousin Rahera Rogers, who became a constant companion in her later years. The bond June had with her cousins remained throughout her life.



• June Cowper

June went to Helensville Primary and Helensville District High School.

She played basketball - what is now called netball - for the Helensville District High team, and remained lifelong friends with many of the team and girls she went to school with, including Lois Pavish, Moira Fraser, Nancy Smith, Barbara Booter, and Norma McCathie.

June's first employment was with New Zealand Railways in the cafeteria at Helensville train station. She talked about how busy it was when trains arrived and how passengers used to leave their teacups and saucers on the platform. She also worked at Hinemoa House, the largest boarding house in Parakai, before getting a job at Spic and Span drycleaners in Helensville.

June married Edward (Ned) Cowper on

October 25, 1952. She gained an instant family, becoming stepmother to Don and Keith whose mother had previously passed away.

June and Ned went on to have four children together, Michael, Linda, Maryanne (who died when she was 2), and Donna.

Once Donna had started school June began work at the Helensville telephone exchange, where she stayed for 23 years until the manual exchange was automated, ending an era of personal service in Helensville. The staff at the exchange became her second family and it was from there that June became best friends with her supervisor, Dot Collins. In retirement June and Dot were often seen together around Helensville, more often than not playing the pokies in the Kaipara Tavern.

June supported Ned in the many organisations he belonged to and spoke fondly of the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade and the social gatherings they had. And she was always willing to help at any functions for the Helensville Bowling Club.

She kept herself fit as she aged, walking everywhere - partly because she didn't have a driver licence. She loved to walk, and joined the Helensville Walking Club.

June was a member of the Women's section of the RSA, Companionship and Morning Activities for Seniors Helensville (CMA), and the Country Women's Association. She also supported Te Ha Oranga and loved attending the kuia and kaumatua hui.

She volunteered at the Hospice shop when it opened in Helensville, working there for a number of years.

June could put her hand to anything -

• To page 7

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Free balls for junior rugby players



This is Helensville Rugby Club's junior women's team, who are among the recipients of more than 3000 free rugby balls.

Equipment hire company Kennards Hire has donated the balls to every junior player in the 11 North Harbour Rugby clubs, in an effort to help support grass roots rugby.

As well as Helensville, junior players from clubs at East Coast Bays, Glenfield, Kumeu, Mahurangi, Marist North Harbour, Massey, North Shore, Silverdale and Takapuna received the free balls.

Winter Series competition is 'floral'

Budding floral artists should get themselves organised for the second Helensville A&P Show Winter Series mini competition.

To be held on Sunday, September 22, there are four classes for adults:

- A recycled arrangement (recycled container with either dried or fresh flowers);
- Best flower stem, any kind;
- A dried arrangement, in any format, which may include accessories;
- Kokedama.

For children (14 years and under) there are two classes:

- Jam jar of groovy greenery
- Sand saucer.

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 dropped off at the main showgrounds hall on the day between 9am and 10am. Judging starts at 10.15am, with the results and viewing available from 11am. Entries can be collected from 11.15am. Entrants are welcome to stay for morning tea while judging takes place.

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

June Cowper cont...

• From page 6

sewing clothes for her family, making preserves, jams and chutneys, and she always had home baking in the tins.

June adored her many mokopuna. When she could no longer get out and about they made the time to visit their nana, even from overseas. As her health deteriorated and she spent more time in bed, her Helensville grandchildren and their partners played a big part in keeping her entertained, updating her about their lives.

June became a great great grandmother

in April this year, meeting her great great granddaughter a few weeks before she passed away.

Whanau was a big part of June's life, and it was them who cared for her at home in her final months.

The family gives thanks to everyone who supported them, especially the wider whanau, friends, Dr Trihn Wright, Hospice West Auckland, district nurses, Te Ha Oranga, Kaipara Medical Centre, Helensville Pharmacy, and June's home-based support carers Eileen and Rangī.

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: Local businesses shine at awards

The Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC) has taken out the Supreme Award in this year's North West Country Business Awards, as well as the newly-introduced Not for Profit category.

And other Helensville-area businesses won another two of the total of nine categories, and an impressive seven of the 11 highly commended awards handed out at the award ceremony MC'd by comedian Michele A'Court.

The HWFC came out tops from the 47 finalists who were chosen from more than 70 nominations. More than 6000 people voted during the awards process, the third year the awards have been run.

The Not for Profit category was introduced for the first time this year.

"These organisations have to be run like businesses and deal with clients in the same way many businesses have to, so we felt it was worth recognising the hard work these organisations do

for our community," says North West Country manager Phelan Pirrie.

In handing out the Supreme Award to the HWFC, the judges remarked: "The comments from your customers are excellent. Your achievements for a year are impressive. Funding is a big issue for you, pleased to see you are using innovative methods to increase this. This was an excellent submission."

"A very well-run organisation that provides an invaluable service. Great involvement in the local community."

Tree Adventures at Woodhill won the Recreation category, with the judges describing the company as: "a wonderful business for the North West area, with a clear commitment to the environment and customer experience. A job well done!"

Our area's third win went to Country Meat Processors at Kaukapakapa, who won the Rural Services category. The judges commented: "Good philosophy and community awareness, seem to be a good team working together in a specific area. Very impressive, your focus on meeting your customers' needs is great."

Highly Commended awards were given to Helensville's WOW Sushi in the Family, Informal Dining & Takeaways category; Craigweil House in Parakai in the Health & Beauty section; Parakai Automotive in the Manufacturing & Trade Services category; Helensville CAB in the Not for Profit class; both Burmester Realty and Harcourts Helensville in Professional Services; and PGG Wrightson & Fruitfed Supplies



> L-R: Wade Hansen of sponsor Smith & Partners, HWFC's Nelene de Beer, NWC chair Tony Forlong, and HWFC's Helen Smith



> Jimmy Moore (centre) of winner Tree Adventures



> Edin Sabab (centre) of Parakai Automotive

Helensville in the Rural Services category.

Phelan says the awards provide an opportunity for local businesses to showcase themselves and gain valuable feedback on their operations and customer service.

"All the entrants were of a high standard and show what a fantastic range of companies and organisations we have in the North West. Entrants were all assessed on the same criteria which included a public vote, independent judging panel, and mystery shopping."

The North West Country business association represents 500 businesses spread from Kaukapakapa to Riverhead and includes Helensville, Parakai and the fast-growing Kumeu and Huapai areas.

Here's the complete list of winners and highly commended (HC), with judges' comments for local entrants in brackets:

- **People's Choice Award** - The Secret Garden Preschool, Huapai.
- **Contemporary Dining & Bistro** - Winner: The Riverhead; HC: Hallertau Brewery & The Hunting Lodge.
- **Family, Informal Dining & Takeaways** - Winner: The Beer Spot; HC: WOW Sushi (Helensville).
- **Health & Beauty** - Winner: Kumeu Dental; HC: Craigweil House Parakai (*'A well run and organised company. I enjoyed your comments on the commitment to customer welfare and involvement. You have a clear*

• Continued on page 9

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> INTRODUCING THE PEOPLE BEHIND SOME OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES - BROUGHT TO YOU BY NORTH WEST COUNTRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

: Staff 'gobsmacked' by top awards win

Staff at the Helensville Women & Family Centre were "gobsmacked" to learn they had won the top prize in this year's business association awards.

"But we feel extremely validated," says HWFC clinical manager Nelene de Beer. "The work we do is not always easy work, so we feel very grateful."

Nelene, who still doesn't know who nominated the HWFC in the inaugural not-for-profit category of the annual awards, says the kudos from the win will be a definite help with the organisation's future funding applications.

The business awards are judged on three criteria - each nominated business must provide a written submission, there is a public vote, and a report is made by a 'mystery shopper' - in the case of the HWFC, someone who called into the office to ask what programmes they could offer for a neighbour going through a tough time.

The centre was one of only four entrants to receive a perfect 100 percent score for the 'mystery shopper' component, which provides a detailed five-page report covering things such as store and staff appearance, the welcome and farewell received, knowledge, courtesy skills, and service levels.

As well as that, the judges have revealed that the HWFC's written submission - a 10-page document put together by Nelene and her admin/receptionist Helen Smith - received the highest score of all the entries. And to top things off, they were only a dozen or so votes off winning the People's Choice award as well.

"This was an excellent submission. A highly professionally run organisation that provides an

invaluable service," the judges' report says.

One immediate outcome of winning the supreme award was a "very generous" donation from Kumeu Dental made on the night, says Nelene.

Originally from South Africa but a New Zealand resident for 19 years, Nelene took on her role in April this year. She has been a social worker since the early 1990s.

She says putting together the award submission really revealed to her the full extent of the HWFC's role in the community.

"I was amazed with how much we actually do. My goodness, we deliver a lot of services!"

The centre services an area pretty much the same as that covered by the North West Business Association - from Riverhead and Kumeu in the south up to Glorit in the north, and South Head in the west to Waitoki in the east.

In the last financial year the councillors helped 178 clients, while the Family Support Service helped 52 families. Separate programmes for children, adults, and strengthening families helped many more.

On top of that the centre holds a wide range of events and workshops, catering for a diverse

range of locals. The centre's groups and programmes are designed to be flexible and change to suit community needs.

Nelene says one big change has been a lot more men using the counselling services - she says it's important locals realise that while the organisation has the word 'women' in its name,



> L-R: Nelene, Helen, and community care worker Tania Mansell

it's there to help all members of families.

As well as three permanent staff - soon to be four - the centre has five contracted counsellors and two contract strengthening families facilitators. Plus of course a team of volunteers who help mainly with special projects or events, like the annual Children's Day Out.

: Local businesses shine at awards

• Continued from page 8

understanding of your market and market needs.');

- **Manufacturing & Trade Services** - Winner: NP Maintenance; HC: Parakai Automotive (*'A good solid business built on sound principles that will only grow more over time. A good entry.'*)
- **Not for Profit** - Winner: Helensville Women & Family Centre; HC: Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville (*'The Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville has a strong focus on the professionalism of its staff and volunteers and the advice and service they offer. Full*

marks for achieving growth in customers over the last 12 months, keeping ahead of societal, commercial, legal and technology changes.')

- **Professional Services** - Winner: The Secret Garden Preschool Huapai; HC: Burmester Realty (*'Obviously a strong business within the community. Good people focus on both customers and staff is evident. A solid business in a very competitive environment.'*); HC: Harcourts Helensville (*'Very well thought through and with a strong focus on clients and team prevalent*

throughout. Shows promise for continued growth well into the future.')

- **Recreation** - Winner: Tree Adventures; HC: KC Fit.
- **Retail** - Winner: Stihl Shop Kumeu; HC: The Source Bulk Foods Kumeu.
- **Rural Services** - Winner: Country Meat Processors; HC: PGG Wrightson & Fruitfed Supplies Helensville (*'A well-established member of the rural community. Your strategic planning and market awareness are outstanding. A solid entry, all well explained.'*)

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

Candidates running for local board

The 2019 Auckland Council elections are held by postal vote. Enrolled voters can vote from Friday, September 20. The last day to post voting papers is Monday, October 8, although papers can still be deposited in ballot boxes up until midday, Saturday October 12. For voters who want to hand-deliver their papers, or who need to make a special vote, the closest venue is Helensville Library or Helensville Post Shop.

We asked candidates for the Kumeu Subdivision of Rodney Local Board to provide us with some words about themselves and what they have to offer. As there was only one candidate for Rodney Councillor, Greg Sayers will be reelected unopposed. In their words, here (in alphabetical order) is what the candidates have to say...

■ **BRENT BAILEY**
(Rodney First)



Brent Bailey has been the Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Rodney Local Board for the past three years. Prior to that he worked in the IT and telecommunications sectors.

He brings considerable business sense and a fresh perspective on how the local board can improve community-based collaboration and outcomes.

Brent has been a parent representative on the Board of Trustees at Kaipara College and has also served on the Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai steering committee.

Living on Peak Road, on the border of Kaukapakapa and Helensville, he is passionate about the creation of employment and enterprise opportunities for North West residents.

Brent believes the unprecedented population growth planned for Rodney should be matched by funding increases for

roading, infrastructure, public transport and community facilities. He is also an advocate for ongoing NZTA improvements to SH16.

Stronger together: Vote for all four Rodney First candidates www.rodneysteam.org.

■ **DANIELLE HANCOCK**
(Rodney First)



Danielle Hancock has worked for over a decade with Auckland Council and its predecessors, including as a local Parks Advisor.

She is currently Operations Manager for a biosecurity consultancy and has a strong background in environmental protection.

Danielle has learned to balance the need for development while ensuring the environment is not degraded. She supports improving the quality of our harbours and waterways, as well as encouraging community initiatives for environmental sustainability. She wants to see the growth of a recreational trail network, including safe

pedestrian, cycle and equestrian links.

She has been involved with the Kaukapakapa Residents and Ratepayers Association, chaired both the North West Country Business Association and Central Park Henderson Business Association, and is a long-time committee member of the Wainui Environmental Protection Society.

Danielle and her husband have two school-aged children who attend Kaukapakapa School.

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■ **VICKI KENNY**
(Rodney First)



Vicki Kenny lives in Woodhill with her husband. She enjoys strong family ties to Helensville. Her great grandparents were Bradlys from Bradley Rd - nearby to where she now lives. What's more, her mother's family all

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Vote for the Team Putting **RODNEY** FIRST



✓ **Brent BAILEY**

✓ **Danielle HANCOCK**

✓ **Vicki KENNY**

✓ **Phelan PIRRIE**

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Protecting our rivers & harbours.

More footpaths & improved road maintenance.

Experienced Team.


Delivered on 2016 election policies.

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Ready to listen & work with our community.

Stronger Together

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have their say

• From page 10

attended school and worked in Helensville.

With four horses at home, Vicki has a passion for animals and organic, sustainable and free-range farming. She is a keen member of the Waitemata Riding Club, a registered rider with Te Ngahere o Woodhill Kake Hoiho, and a volunteer at the Helensville A&P Show.

Starting her first business at age 19, Vicki has always been a hard worker and remains self-employed.

She supports partnerships between government agencies, business, iwi, and communities to find smarter ways to work together. Vicki's also keen to lobby the government and transport entities for an efficient public transport solution for the North West.

Stronger together: Vote for all four Rodney First candidates www.rodneystart.org.

■ STEVEN LAW (Independent)

A vote for me as your Rodney Local Board member will ensure that decisions made reflect the community's wishes and local priorities are not lost within the region or super city. No targeted rates, no expenditure wastage and road maintenance are key issues.

I have the knowledge, skills, experience, enthusiasm and time to competently serve the community.

My family has lived and farmed in Rodney for decades. I'm Rodney born and bred. I live in Helensville.



First aid kit fundraiser



• From left: Leigh Kelly from South Kaipara Rotary, Suzanne McCracken from Parent Aid, and Rotary sisters Jacqui (11), Eliza (7, a Cub), and Sasha Gilbert (10, a Scout)

The Kaukapakapa Scout Group has had a boost to their fundraising efforts thanks to South Kaipara Rotary.

The scout group is raising funds to purchase new camping equipment for its Keas, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers by selling first aid kits, and committee members put the call out to the community that they were for sale.

Always keen to support local community groups, when the local Rotary club heard they purchased 10 large first aid kits from the Scouts, which they will gift to local charities and volunteer groups throughout the year.

The club has already presented Suzanne McCracken from Parent Aid in Helensville with a first aid kit for staff to take with them when visiting parents

And another has gone to the Helensville Foodbank, accepted on behalf by Helensville Library senior librarian Anne Coppell.

Anne says the library is happy to accept donations on behalf of the food bank such as bags, jams and spreads.

Anyone who would like to nominate a local not-for-profit group who could use a quality first aid kit should email Rotary at: southkaipararotary@gmail.com.

26 years on three school boards, seven as chairperson, have me well versed in the governance role, perfect to serve on the Rodney Local Board.

Hockey is my passion. I am a local, national and international umpire.

Now retired, time for further community service is readily available.

I promise you commitment, open two-way communication, transparency, accountability and humour.

* Respect * Responsibility * Results

Ph: 027 450 9864.

Facebook: Steven Law Rodney Local Board Candidate

■ PHELAN PIRRIE

(Rodney First)

Phelan Pirrie has been the Deputy Chair of the Rodney Local Board for the past three years. He has devoted significant time and actively worked with the community, helping groups and individuals with council-related issues since being elected to the board six years ago.

Phelan is Manager of the North West Country Business Association and, as a resident of Muriwai, is Chief Fire Officer of the Muriwai Fire Brigade.

He has helped deliver a Centre Plan for Kumeu/Huapai and secured many new footpaths for local areas. This year he successfully drove the implementation of brand new bus services for the North West. He has championed new community facilities, including securing the planned indoor sports centre for Huapai.

Phelan is keen to ensure Rodney gets its fair share of regional spending and seeks solutions to improving the standard of road maintenance.

Stronger together: Vote for all four Rodney First candidates www.rodneystart.org.



RODNEY LOCAL BOARD



VOTE **STEVEN LAW**
 **Independent**

*** Respect**
*** Responsibility**
*** Results**

027 450 9864

FB: Steven Law Rodney Local Board Candidate

Arts in the Ville painter turns to surrealism

Looking for artistic content with sufficient challenge to drive intense work has drawn Helensville painter Michael Rowland into the realm of surrealistic fantasy.

Michael is on the committee for Arts in the Ville, the annual three-day arts festival in Helensville which will be held this coming Labour Weekend.

As in previous years, his studio will be open to art lovers - one of more than 25 venues in an event that grows bigger each year. Organisers expect in excess of 70 artists to take part in the festival.

Normally a landscape artist and architectural documentarian, the fantasy element has provided Michael with a new mode for social commentary. Architecture is still strong in some of his newer works but tends more towards backdrop than

documentation.

Landscapes are where the market really is, says Michael, but he mixes it up and moves between genres.

His painting style is essentially unchanged, but putting into juxtaposition elements not normally seen together gives him the opportunity to convey the nuances within broader social concepts. Much of his work refers to contemporary issues, such as climate change.

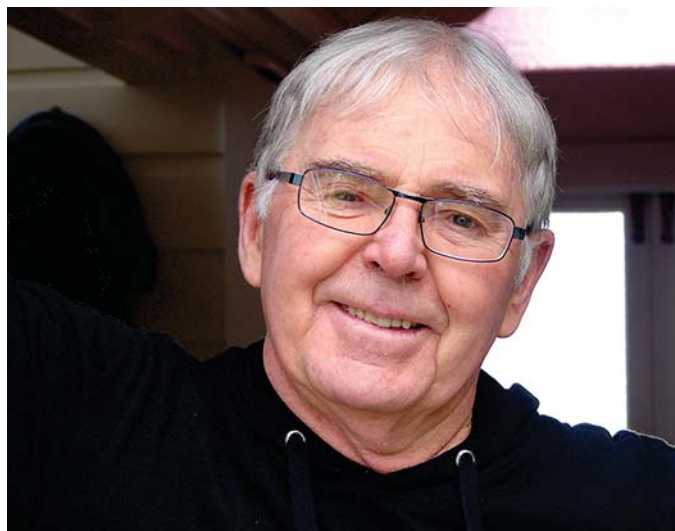
He says fewer people relate instantly to his new fantasy content, but work is regularly being commissioned.

The new works can be challenging for those expecting pleasing landscapes, but he says people make the effort to understand. Viewer interpretations of his paintings are often radically different from his intentions - but that's something Michael finds refreshing.

He says there are "all sorts of indecipherable things in modern art," and adds that art "needs intellectual context, but also to convey feeling."

"It's a reflection of what's happening in society, and art in present day big shows is a reflection of technology. Much of modern fantasy art comes from, or is designed for, gaming, superheroes, and comics."

Performance has in recent years taken a front row seat in Michael's works. Painting figures with eye-catching clothing and



• Mike Rowland

costumes is fun and intended to give people "a bit of pleasure", but the artistic challenge of developing the relationship between characters takes expression to another level.

Circus themes like in his painting titled 'That's Entertainment' stem from visiting a circus in London as a child, and his experience of travelling fairs.

"The circus is such a dangerous world," he says, "Gypsies live edgy lives. It's interesting depicting those kinds of lifestyles."

Early training as a graphic artist in a printing factory set his basic methodology and taught him the focus required by fine work. Still working 50-50 in oils and acrylics, he occasionally combines the two, using acrylics as a base and artisan water-based oils for the foreground.

Most of Michael's works are sold to individuals and several own three or more - one owns nine. Recent commissions include oversize works for a retirement complex, and for an IT firm's boardroom.

"I'm so lucky with what I do. That people like and buy my work is always a wonderful experience. What drives people to write, play music, or sculpt is a mystery, but in my own case it's a constant for which more than anything I feel grateful."

- Theresa Sjoquist



• 'Two Puzzled Girls' by Mike Rowland



• Detail from 'That's Entertainment'

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Music-themed art



'Guitar' by Andrew Denton (above) is an example of the type of artworks Helensville Art Centre is looking for to go in its 'Making Music' exhibition to be held in October.

Locals are being asked to create a music-inspired work of art - it can be any media, as long as there is a music-related theme.

There's a \$5 exhibitors' fee and a 25 percent commission is taken on any sales. Works should be delivered to the Art Centre on either Saturday, September 28 between 10am and 2pm, or on Tuesday, October 1 from 10am to 4.30pm.

The exhibition will open on Friday, October 5 from 6pm to 8pm and will run until October 28. It's been designed to tie in with the annual Music Therapy Week, and will be the Art Centre's exhibition during 'Arts in the 'Ville' over Labour Weekend.

For more information phone Heather on 021 1533 593, or email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

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 September is Mili Sipa, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Mitre 10 in Helensville.

Our recipient for September is Mili Sipa, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Mitre 10 in Helensville.

■ Mili was nominated by Kara Singer: "for all the work she has put in to the Kaipara Netball Centre.

"Mili is the president of the KNC committee and continues to volunteer her time and efforts to the community. She has coached school teams in previous years and continues to develop and coach the rep teams for the KNC this season.

"I would like to acknowledge her past and present contributions, time and efforts for the KNC community and to let her know the work she does behind the scenes and every Saturday morning hasn't been unnoticed. As most of the school delegates will agree, we just want to say: thank you!"



• Mili (right) receives her voucher from Nicky



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from our local MP

'Why keep a dog and bark yourself?' This classic expression is one of my favourites, and of course it's a rhetorical question. If you're going to get someone to do something you might as well let them get on and do it, right?

This is how I've always viewed the role of politicians, and I haven't changed my view since becoming one. Parliament comprises 120 citizens sent to Wellington by the communities of New Zealand to make the laws of the land. The clue to the main role of a Member of Parliament is in the title!



We've all won election in our respective areas (or come in via a Party list, which is a story for another day) and voters have had the chance to test us on any topics of interest whatsoever.

To this extent, your local MP can lay claim to some kind of democratic mandate in casting votes in Parliament. Of course there are quite rightly limits to this power between elections, as well as at the ballot box every three years. I think it is a stretch to suggest that MPs shouldn't be making decisions on important issues of the day, though, controversial as those sometimes can be.

Recently the government has confirmed there will be a referendum at the 2020 election on the subject of loosening the law regarding recreational cannabis. Prior to the last election, whenever I was asked about cannabis, I said I supported a tightly-regulated regime for medicinal cannabis (where the psychoactive element is removed, basically) but I wouldn't support making loose leaf cannabis available without consequence. The reason for my stance is that I'm anxious over the mental health and general well-being of our young people will be placed in jeopardy.

Leaving aside that particular issue, however, the larger point I'm keen to make is that MPs have the time and resources to examine these issues carefully, in a way that most of the rest of the population does not.

It's not that politicians have a monopoly on wisdom (in fact, quite the opposite in many cases!) but the fact is that looking into these matters is the reason the role exists. I'm wary of colleagues across the House who are afraid of making hard calls and seek to contract out conscience at every opportunity. We should do our job and be judged at the ballot box accordingly – that's how a representative democracy works.

On that note, please do feel free to contact me on any issue at any time!

- Chris Penk

Member of Parliament for Helensville

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz

Ph: 09 412 2496.

local board matters

• From page 15

<https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/feedback-form>.

If the next Local Board decides to cancel the Targeted Rate then the bus services, footpaths, and planned park'n'rides will not continue.

You can find our achievements report by Googling 'Rodney Local Board Achievements'.

It's been an honour to serve the community over the last six years. There is much more to do and the struggle to deal with our population growth is relentless. This term the Local Board has been able to work together to make quick decisions, focus on getting the basics right, and put in place plans and budgets that make the most of the opportunities growth brings. To continue to do this we need a team that will work on the core things the Local Board is responsible for and make the tough decisions required to prioritise funding where it is most needed - in our growth areas.

- Phelan Pirrie

Deputy Chair, Rodney Local Board

phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz Ph: 021837167

local board matters

Three years have zipped by, and by the time you read this Council elections will be in full swing. It's a perfect time to reflect on the achievements and disappointments of this term.

Let's start with the disappointments.

The main one would be the failure to get a train service established to Huapai. We investigated this as part of the Rodney Transport Targeted Rate, however the \$18.7 million set up cost and the \$5.5 million annual operating costs were more than the targeted rate raised across the whole of Rodney. It became clear to us that this was a service that needed to be funded by central Government via NZTA and KiwiRail in partnership with Council, just like all the other rail services across Auckland.

The current Government is investigating Light Rail to Kumeu which would be fine, but confusing messages have come out about this and it's not clear whether it will actually happen as the project is not fully funded. We will continue to push the issue because as I've said in other columns, a mass public transport system is urgently needed for our area and it can't wait 10 years!

The other disappointment would be the slow progress on improving safety on our roads. Rodney has the highest rate of deaths and serious injuries in Auckland - that's an appalling toll on our local community.

The proposed speed limit reductions, for which there is clear evidence of effectiveness from overseas, need to be rolled out rapidly. These need to be followed up with effective enforcement to reduce the considerable harm caused during high speed accidents.

As a firefighter I have seen the death and injuries on our roads first-hand. Walking away from an accident with minor injuries or lifelong ones is dependent on the speed at which vehicles collide with each other or ditches, trees, and posts. It's simple physics. 80 km/h or less drastically increases the chances of survival and minimal injury.

The Local Board has worked with NZTA and Auckland Transport and changes are coming in 2020; they can't happen soon enough!

The Local Board's primary role is to manage and develop our parks and community facilities, with a \$20 million annual budget for Rodney.

We have invested millions into improving Rautawhiri Park with courts and pathway upgrades. Helensville War Memorial Hall and Library are to undergo major work next year to improve the facilities and address watertightness issues.



Something that has been talked about for decades, but never done, is work on town centre improvements for Helensville. These are underway with street trees, planting and seating in the first stage to be completed early next year. I will continue to push for the entire plan to be completed over the coming years. This work is long overdue and is essential to create a pleasant thriving space for residents and visitors.

On the environmental front, we started a grants fund to work cooperatively with farmers to dollar match their investment in riparian planting and fencing. This is aimed at improving water quality into the Kaipara Harbour which is struggling with nutrient and sediment runoff. By the middle of next year \$1.5 million will have been invested in making our waterways cleaner.

Our biggest issue, transport infrastructure, has seen progress. We have invested millions of dollars into new footpaths in the area, and there are more to come.

The long-awaited bus service linking Helensville with Kaukapakapa and Silverdale started two months ago and was delivered with unprecedented speed using the Rodney Transport Targeted Rate. Even in this short time the use has exceeded expectations, vindicating our decision to bring forward investment using the Targeted Rate. We are going to assess the service for improved frequency and stops based on public feedback - which you can do by visiting the Auckland Transport website:

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■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Ali Leasuasu from Superfire Ministries will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of Helensville Aglow, at 7.30pm on Friday, October 4 in the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville.

For more information email Bridget at: bibsundgren@outlook.com.

■ MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK

Kaukapakapa Library will hold Kōrero Paki - Māori myths, legends and short stories on Sunday, September 15, 10am to 1pm, to help celebrate Māori Language Week. Children can listen to stories in te reo Māori, colour a bookmark while they listen, and go in the draw to win books. For more information email Megan at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 959 017.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Market is on Sunday, September 15 from 8.30am to 1pm.

There will be plenty of delicious food, including doughnuts, cakes, pies, and a sausage sizzle. Entertainment will include live music, a children's craft table and free face painting. Stalls will feature local crafts, locally grown plants and native trees, and fresh fruit and vegetables - plus bargains in the car boot area. Helensville Lions will again have their book stall with great reading at bargain prices.

For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831542 or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ PARENTS v STUDENTS QUIZ NIGHT

Kaipara College will host a battle of the generations when it holds its second annual Students v Parents Quiz Night, starting 7pm

on Friday, September 20. Entry costs \$10 per adult and \$5 per student, with a maximum of eight people per table. There will be a prize for best dressed table. BYO refreshments. To book a table email: ptsa@kaipara.school.nz.

■ 'HAVE A GO' SPORTS DAY

Helensville Tennis Club, Helensville Athletics, Waka Ama and the Lions Club of Helensville will hold a family fun 'have a go' sports open day later this month.

It'll be at Rautawhiri Park on Sunday, September 22 from 11am to 2pm.

Both the tennis and athletics clubs will be taking registrations for the upcoming summer season, and those participating will be able to try out both sports. There will even be a children's tennis coach on site.

There'll be a waka on display, and the Lions will be on hand to let people know what they do. There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks available. For more information email: helensvilletennis@gmail.com.

The club's Business House Mixed Doubles Tournament starts in Term 4, weekly on Thursdays from October 17. The competition runs for 19 weeks over summer, and is popular with those wanting to get into tennis or come back to it after a break.

The annual Lou Keefe Tournament, hosted jointly by Helensville Tennis Club and the Keefe family, will be held on Sunday November 3. All funds raised at the tournament are donated to Mental Health New Zealand.

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

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Helensville News - Publication Information

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Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor and Advertising:

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