

Lockdown forces numerous cancellations and postponements

The Covid-19 pandemic lockdown has caused the cancellation or postponement of gatherings and events around the country - and the Helensville area has been no exception.

Both regular events, like church services and local markets, and one-off special events have had to go on hold.

Among those planned local events that have been either postponed or cancelled are:

- The Waitoki Pizza and Film evening set for the same day will be held at a yet to be decided date.
- The inaugural South Head's Got Talent show set for late March was cancelled. Organiser Louisa Currie says it may be held later this year or in 2021. "We're gutted, but know that these are unique times and that the health of the community is the most important thing."
- Kaukapakapa library's open day on Sunday, April 19, which was to have been a fundraiser for Helensville Museum, has

been cancelled.

- All events and activities at the Helensville showgrounds, including pony club events, are cancelled.
- Local sports organisations, from rugby through to tennis and bowls, have had to cancel or postpone all competition for at least four weeks.
- The Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group has postponed all community engagements for at least the next four weeks.

- All ANZAC day commemoration services have been cancelled.
- Easter church services, one of the most important dates on the religious calendar, have been cancelled for all denominations. However, Magnify Church will hold online services every Sunday during the Covid-19 restrictions, including an Easter Service on Sunday, April 12 at 10am - www.magnify.org.nz.
- The annual Spirit Horse Festival to be held in late March at Dune Lakes Lodge at South Head has a potential new date of Labour weekend in October. It's been held for four years and attracts around 200 people and 20 international and national presenters as a fund-raiser for charity Equine Pathfinders Foundation.
- Helensville Art Centre has cancelled its April Art Kaipara members' exhibition, and says it is unlikely to hold the planned May exhibition 'Landscapes of the Soul'. They will be providing updates through their Facebook page, and invite artists to share their works on the page as a 'virtual' exhibition.
- The Pasifika Festival was to be held at Helensville Primary School on Saturday, April 4. A decision about its future will be made before October.

Food Collective set up for lockdown

Local community agencies have banded together to create a Foodbank Collective to ensure those locals most in need during the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown have the help they need.

On the same day Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the country was moving first to Level 3 and 48-hours later to Level 4, the Helensville Women & Family Centre, Kia Tīmata Anō Women's Refuge, the South Kaipara Men's Centre, and Outwest Youth got together to form the foodbank.

Strict hygiene rules are in place for the collection, packing and distributing of food parcels.

The agencies are keenly aware there are many families who will face unexpected stresses due to the nationwide shutdown.

"While our office is shut, we're still working from home and doing what we can to make sure our community feels supported," says Helensville Women and Family Centre clinical manager, Nelene De Beer.



**foodbank
collective**

"While this will undoubtedly be an unsettling time, it's been encouraging seeing the community rally around with people offering to go grocery shopping for their elderly neighbours, and small gestures like the Teddy Bear hunt where people are putting stuffed toys in their windows

for kids to seek out when they're out walking with their family."

However, there was a concern that many children who would normally have a healthy

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editorial

For the first time since we were established in 1999, there is no print edition of *Helensville News*. This shortened April 2020 issue is online-only. With all local events cancelled or postponed, businesses shut, and everyone 'confined to quarters' there simply is very little news to report. As the government had deemed community newspapers are not an essential service, we are unable to produce a print copy of the paper this month - and almost certainly not for May as well.

Hopefully, if the lockdown ends after four weeks as planned, we'll be able to bring you a print edition in June ... however, I suspect the lockdown will most likely be extended.

I have to admit to a certain amount of embarrassment at seeing how some in our community have behaved with their panic buying. For some people, it seems to be a case of choosing not to believe the government announcements saying there will be no shortage of supplies and that supermarkets will stay open. For others, it appears to be a 'look after number one' mentality - which is exactly what we *don't* need in this type of situation.

Judging by some of the comments on the various local social media community groups, some people still seem to be woefully misinformed or uninformed - such as asking if Countdown in Helensville is open. How anyone could miss the numerous "supermarkets will stay open" messages is beyond me.

Others don't appear to be able to put their political prejudices aside either - in one case someone actually blaming the Prime Minister for "letting the germ into NZ" in the first place!

This pandemic is basically our generation's world war, but with in many ways even more stringent restrictions on our freedom, and an enemy that's going to be harder to stop. It's unlikely there has ever been an event before that has affected every single person in the country, to such a degree.

It's a time when we all need to think of others in our community, not just ourselves. And when things start to return to normal, please support our advertisers and other local businesses and help our local economy get back on track (and please note that none of the businesses whose adverts appear in this online-only issue are being charged for their ads).

Good luck everyone, stay safe, and do the right thing.

Footnote: two or three of the articles which appear in this online edition may be repeated in our first print issue so they can reach a wider audience.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Food Collective cont...

• From page 1

breakfast at school and other supports would miss out.

Those schools and other agencies will now be able to refer any clients in need to the Helensville Women & Family Centre who will arrange for a food parcel and whatever other support a family may need.

"There may be some people who have never needed our service before, but with job losses a very real possibility for some over the coming months, it's important they know there's no shame in reaching out for help," says Nelene.

Donations of money to pay for items for the foodbank can be made through the Helensville Women & Family Centre website at hwfc.co.nz.

• Right: Food awaiting to be distributed



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New GM for Health Trust

For the last six months James Scott's daily commute has averaged around 90 km.

That'll be cut dramatically to a five minute drive from his lifestyle block just past Mt Rex at the northern end of Helensville, to Porter Crescent in the middle of the town once the country-wide lockdown is over.

James is taking over the role of general manager at the Helensville District Health Trust on Friday, April 3, but will start his new job working from home.

He's swapped the world of a big multinational corporate and 32 direct reports, for the local non-profit with just four staff to manage.

But that's not to say the job's going to be a walk in the park. He's keenly aware that one of his main tasks will be bringing to fruition the Helensville District Health Trust's goal of providing future-focussed health facilities that meet the needs of our growing community, now and for the next 20 or 30 years.

James was elected onto the Health Trust as a community trustee in October 2018, so is well aware of the challenges ahead.

Last year the Trust chose to close its community centre, Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai and has spent the last six months or so focussed on important maintenance work such as removing asbestos and roof repairs on the health campus site on the corner of Porter Crescent and Commercial Road.

"From where we were, to where we are now, we're in a good position and are on the right side of what we want to achieve," says James.

James wants the community to be excited and invested in the Health Trust's plans to redevelop the health campus site.

"Even though we've been here for over 25 years a lot of people still mistakenly think the Health Trust runs the medical centre or we're part of the District Health Board, but in fact we need everyone to appreciate how unique and privileged we are to have a locally owned organisation that's solely

focussed on owning and creating facilities for the community's health needs."

Like many locals, James and his wife Sue have personally benefited from the Health Trust, having a postnatal stay at the Helensville Birthing Centre after the birth of their daughter, soon to be five-years-old Elizabeth.



• James Scott with wife Susan and daughter Elizabeth

"The after-care we received was awesome and what they manage to achieve there is just phenomenal; the community should rightly be very proud of this great asset."

Trust chairperson Rory MacGillycuddy says "since his election as a community trustee James has been a dedicated, passionate contributor, and we're really excited about the continued impact he'll have on our activities in his new role as general manager."

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New home for 'secret' business

It could be one of Helensville best kept secrets - a business which has operated in our town for more than two decades but which many people don't even know exists.

That's about to change now for Thrifty Auto Supplies, which has just moved into a much more visible location in Mill Road, right behind the Real Bread Project.

The business is owned by Les and Maree Raine, who took over the business from Les's father Lindsay Raine in April last year. Maree runs it on a day-to-day basis along with Des Ross.

Lindsay had bought the business, then called Thrifty Auto Spares and located in Railway Street, in 1997. It was primarily a mobile business at that stage, with two trucks covering from Pukekohe to Cape Reinga, providing mechanics, engineers and farms with a wide range of mechanical bits and pieces. Des drove one of the trucks for a while.

Lindsay moved the business into a large shed, hidden away behind a house in Parkhurst Road, Parakai - and it has been run there since, unknown to much of the local population.

"We needed to be more in the public eye," says Maree, explaining the shift to Mill Road.

Des organised the week-long move into the new, slightly smaller premises. Stock was reorganised and rationalised during the move, and Des says there is still room on the shelves to fit more.

With the catch-phrase "for that hard-to-find item", Thrifty stocks an incredible range of more than 500,000 items, covering engineering supplies, brass fittings, nuts and bolts, rivets, stainless steel fasteners, welding and grinding items, and automotive parts and tools.

"It's like a giant-sized man-cave," quips Maree.

Husband Les says "our customers are buying more stainless steel items, so we intend to increase our range in this area."

Thrifty is a Mecca for car restorers who can find new 'old' parts like clips, rubber grommets and light bulbs that can otherwise be hard to source.

Local farmers are also regular customers, and Des Ross, who has a background in engineering, says the business is happy to get items in to order if something's not in stock.

Thrifty is open 8am to 5pm weekdays and 8.30am to midday on Saturdays.



• Des Ross and Maree Raine among some of their newly re-organised half-million products

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Homekill processors specialising in gourmet product and game meats

In a major change of career, a former mechanic has set up a new local homekill business, Gourmet & Game Meat Processors.

Richard Berger, from South Head, has purpose-built a processing unit, coolroom with UV lights to help with ageing, and a smokehouse at his parents' farm property in Twin Springs Drive, just south of Woodhill Sands.

For Richard, it's been a major change in career - and a much shorter commute - after running a successful automotive business in Glen Eden for the past 16 years.

He had the opportunity to be a butcher when he was younger "but I liked cars better," he says.

While Richard is the business owner, he is very much in partnership with Leith Mohi, from Massey. Leith is a qualified chef, and has been a butcher for 27 years, including running a Mad Butcher store.

Both men "moonlight as farmers" and are also keen hunters, and Richard says they "saw the need in the area for a butcher who could concentrate on game meat and quality product."

They can organise local slaughtermen to kill their customer's livestock, or the animal can be picked up in a custom-built trailer and killed on-site after a day's rest - meaning less-stressed meat and no delay getting the carcass into the chiller.

Leith says they are trying to "educate our clientele that there's a lot more we can do with their meat" rather than just the traditional cuts.

With his background as a chef, Leith is especially keen on developing new flavours

when it comes to sausages, with the likes of wild pork and watercress, hot smoked chilli and cheese, and lamb and rosemary made using fresh herbs straight from the garden.

They also specialise in smoked small goods like salamis, bier sticks and cabanossi.

Richard says the meat gained from going

showing how to correctly skin, gut and break an animal down ready for butchering.



• Leith Mohi (left) and Richard Berger

on a hunt should be a reward, not a disappointment, and the pair have a mantra of 'quality, integrity, honesty and consistency'.

"We want people to go home and say 'gee, that's nice'," says Richard. "So far, everyone that's used us has given us good feedback."

Richard is member of the Auckland branch of the NZ Deerstalkers Association, and a couple of times a year he and Leith hold educational evenings for members,

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Skydivers jump over Waiheke



Parakai-based Skydive Auckland spent its last day in operation before the Covid-19 lockdown with a spectacular day of jumping over Waiheke Island (above).

The business took customers tandem skydiving from 12,000ft, which involved freefalling at 200km/h with a backdrop of the island's beaches and vineyards, plus the rest of the gulf islands, including Rangitoto and Great Barrier.

"The day could not have gone better. The Waiheke residents were keen to sign up for this rare experience. We took a couple who jumped to celebrate their 15 year anniversary, we had a mother and son taking the leap together. Everyone loved it," says Fiona McLaren, operations manager at Skydive Auckland.

Fifteen people from Auckland's sport skydiving community jumped solo as well.

Says sport skydiver Sarah-Jane Bayram: "First ever jump onto Waiheke Island, my 200th jump. So well timed getting to jump it at Waiheke. Amazing!"

The day of jumping marked the fourth and final day of a sport skydiving event known as the 'Mad King Boogie', in honour of Parakai local 'Mad Dog' Ross King. The fun four-day event included skydives onto Muriwai Beach as well as coaching jumps, novelty jumps, and competitions at Skydive Auckland's Parakai base.

Skydive Auckland tandem instructor Aaron Marriott took Ross for his second ever tandem skydive over Waiheke.

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Helensville MP available for help

Helensville MP Chris Penk is on call to help constituents during the Covid-19 lockdown.

"I see my role as helping everyone to do the right thing by everyone else. In large part, that looks like connecting people with reliable sources of information and help," he says.

Chris's Facebook page has daily updates on the various key issues that are proving most pressing for the constituents contacting him: www.facebook.com/christopherpenk.

Of the current situation, Chris says "so many people have displayed so much patience and community spirit in the face of fear, which is so admirable. Those reaching out to neighbours in need are heroes."

Chris can be contacted on 09 412 2496, or email: chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz.

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Winning photo

This photo of rock arches on Niue by Helensville's Gaylene Ashton won both Champion and Local Champion photo in this year's Helensville A&P Show photography competition.

Entry numbers were down slightly this year, predominantly in the children's section. The competition was judged by Belinda Coles, of Belinda Coles Photography.

Show comp winners

Winners of two competitions held at the Helensville Show in February by Swale Earthmovers were:

Guess how many Easter Eggs in the Jar (47): Violet from Kaukapakapa

Guess the weight of a bottle full of Scoria (7.245kg): Dwayne from Whangaparoa (guess 7.2kg)



medical centre notes

With the government taking the unprecedented step of effectively putting the country in lockdown for a month to help contain Covid-19, Kaipara Medical Centre wants to assure its patients and the wider community that help is available for those who need it.

Practice Manager Debbie Eastwood says the centre will remain open, Monday to Friday, 8:30pm to 5pm, but face-to-face consultations will only be available for the most urgent of cases - and only after first talking with a doctor or nurse over the phone.

"It's vitally important we continue to implement social distancing as much as possible, so the only people we want to see at the clinic are those who have arranged to do so," says Debbie.

She stresses pharmacies will also remain open so there's no need to worry about accessing medication.

As the situation is changing rapidly, the best advice is to follow Ministry of Health advice (www.health.govt.nz).

If you suspect you may have Covid-19 you should phone the dedicated Healthline 0800 number - 0800 358 5453. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kaipara Medical Centre also now has vaccines available for the 2020 flu strains, and is prioritising those for the over-65s, pregnant women and other at-risk groups.

Again, people need to phone ahead to make an appointment to receive a shot, which will be administered at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. Flu shots for other patients will be available after Tuesday, April 14.

The Helensville Labtests office is closed as a result of the Covid-19 shutdown. The nearest open Labtest centres are in Henderson, Milford, Orewa and Mairangi Bay.

"These are uncertain times for us all, but we're confident that by all pulling together we will get through this," says Debbie, "and that means we all need to extend patience and kindness towards each other, especially [to] those of our hard-working team who are doing their very best under unusually stressful situations."

The Kaipara Medical Centre phone number is 09 420 8400, or visit the centre's website for the latest information: www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz.



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Farewell to woman with long

Margaret Glenn Hoare
21/11/1934 - 20/3/2020

Glenn Hoare, a woman with a long history serving the health of our district's residents, passed away in March aged 85.

Glenn Hoare (nee Aitkenhead), was born in Helensville in November 1934, the youngest child of Vic and Marjorie Aitkenhead, joining older sister Beryl and brother Hector.

Her grandparents on the Aitkenhead side had in 1904 bought the Parakai farm where she grew up, and her mother's family, the Hills, lived in Helensville where grandfather A.J. Hill was headmaster of Helensville School.

Glenn went to Helensville Primary School and later Helensville District High School. After leaving school she took a dressmaking class to teach herself to sew, a hobby she continued all her life.

She first worked at Johno Grey's real estate business doing office work, but having grown up listening to tales of her Auntie Elsie nursing in WWI she dreamt of being a nurse. So in 1952 she headed to Greenlane to do her nursing training, along with Pat Olsen, Donna Fraser and several others locals.

In those days it was quite a commute by bus and then tram. She stayed at the nurses' quarters, initially very homesick but coming to love the student nurse life once she settled in. After three years of training and being rostered around Auckland hospitals, Glenn qualified as a NZRGN.

Once qualified, Glenn moved back to Helensville and started working at Malolo Maternity Hospital with then Matron, Sister Jessie Quarrie.

At that time she met George Hoare, an Englishman who had come to New Zealand as a farm contractor and had been boarding

with the local Hooper family. They married in 1957 and had two children, April and Christopher.

She returned to work at the then-new Obstetric Hospital after April and Chris went at school. In 1972 she returned to study and did her maternity training along with Bev Liddell. She followed that with a year of midwifery, and in 1973 became a registered NZ Midwife.

With her experience working at the



• Glenn Hoare

Obstetric Hospital, Glenn excelled and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Gold Cup for Excellence in Obstetric Nursing, and the Senior Medical Staff Prize, awarded to the best registered Maternity Nurse of the term.

She returned to Helensville and soon

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history in local medical scene

• From page 8

took up the role of Public Health/District Nurse. Glenn loved the variety of district nursing work, although it was seven days a week. As you had to be a midwife for the job, she was in her element.

Then in 1976, the Auckland Hospital Board announced it would close the Helensville Obstetric Hospital, claiming they couldn't find a suitably qualified person to take over the role of matron. Glenn later found out applicants were told not to apply as the hospital was to be closed!

Local doctor Don Liddell and chemist Gerald Munro approached Glenn to take on the role to save the hospital, and on May 1, 1976 Glenn started as matron, a job which involved several nights staying over and working with a much-diminished staff. The staff gradually built back up, and four months later the AHB wrote to Glenn asking her to carry on permanently.

For the next 13½ years Glenn remained the matron at Helensville Obstetric Hospital, delivering many babies in the district - in some cases whole families. She was very proud of the high calibre of the district's nursing staff.

But after warding off several attempts to shut the hospital down, in August 1989 the facility closed, the Helensville District Health Trust was created, and the hospital became a birthing unit - the first such facility in New Zealand and still regarded as one of the best around.

Glenn delivered several of her grandchildren and her wider family's children at the birthing unit.

She and George moved from the district to Sandspit to 'retire' in the 1990's, but shortly after settling there the Warkworth

Hospital was also closed and the three remaining midwives approached Glenn for advice about starting a birthing unit there.

Glenn was instrumental in the decision to create the new Warkworth Birthing Centre, which opened in February 2000. She delivered the first and second babies born there, both on February 5, 2000. In the end she spent 11 years at Warkworth Birthing Centre, often travelling large distances to rural deliveries at all hours of the night.

Whilst nursing dominated her working life, Glenn was the consummate country wife.

Only a few years into their marriage George had a bad tractor accident and spent a number of years in recovery and rehabilitation, with chronic pain for most of his life. As well as nursing George through this, she also ran the family sheep and cattle farm at Parakai, and has been remembered for singing as she drove the tractor through the township!

Glenn was on the Parakai Primary School PTA, where April and Chris had their primary schooling, and was an active member of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers and the Presbyterian Church. Her mother Marjorie Aitkenhead lived with the family at Parakai for many years after father Vic died in 1960.

After retiring fully Glenn and George built their dream home on the clifftops at One Tree Point, near Whangarei, where they remained until George passed away. Glenn spent her final years at the Peninsula Club in Whangaparaoa, enjoying challenging her friends on the putting green and pool table and joining the choir and local church.

Glenn is survived by April, her husband David Breeding, and their sons Hamish and Duncan and grandson Chance, and by Christopher and his wife Suzie, and their family Ella, Abbe and Mitchel and grandchildren, Lachie, Patrick and Florence.

Helensville Aglow

Helensville Aglow will meet at 7.30pm on Friday, May 1 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd. The guest speaker will be Shulamit Ataya who will be sharing about Israel from a Messianic Jewish perspective. All welcome. For more information email Bridget: at helensvilleaglow@outlook.com.

Note: this meeting will depend on the current lockdown conditions.

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from our local MP

It's hard to know what to write about Covid-19. The situation has been moving so quickly that by the time this edition of *Helensville News* comes out, anything that seemed highly relevant just days ago might no longer apply.



That said, I think we can confidently say at any stage of a crisis that one key aspect of a response must be recognising priorities. In general terms, my priority is clearly the health and wellbeing of the good people of Helensville. My office and I will be taking every opportunity to enable that, whether it's sharing public health advice on my Facebook page or connecting those who can help others in the most direct way possible.

Only slightly lower in the pecking order of priorities must be other aspects of Kiwis' well-being, including our ability to keep working through these dark days, as best we can given the circumstances of course. If we find ourselves unemployed in unprecedented numbers then local supplies of essential goods will become scarce and families will find it tough to sustain themselves financially, too.

For this reason, I will be supporting any and all positive moves by the government to combat the virus and its effects. Party politics should be no-one's priority in these tough times, but of course there is still a role for a constructive questioning of official actions. A good example would be encouraging the coronavirus testing regime to move much more quickly and comprehensively than it has to date.

The government has made some good moves, such as announcing wage subsidies to at least some of our most badly affected businesses. In the case of some other priorities, however, it would be well advised to take a more circumspect approach.

As always, my office team and I are standing by to help, so don't hesitate to contact us with any coronavirus-related or other issues.

- *Chris Penk, MP for Helensville*

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496



Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU K I TE AWAROA

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