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## New marine rescue centre planned for local Coastguard

The volunteer Coastguard Kaipara wants help from locals to raise the \$450,000 it needs to build a new Kaipara Marine Rescue Centre by the Springs Road wharf at Parakai.

The move to Parakai will bring a number of major benefits to the rescue organisation over its present location at the Kaipara Cruising Club in Mill Road, where it has been for more than a decade.

Most important will be a reduction in the time it takes the Coastguard Kaipara's 8.5m rescue craft, Winstone Rescue, to reach the Kaipara Harbour to answer any distress calls.

The Parakai location is expected to shave at least 10 minutes off each callout, time currently spent slowly navigating the extra length of the winding Kaipara River from the Mill Road ramp. That could make a vital difference in a life-threatening emergency.

Then there's a huge financial benefit. Auckland Council has offered Coastguard Kaipara a 30-year lease on land beside the Springs Road wharf carpark for just \$1 per

year. That will save the organisation almost \$17,000 a year in rent, which they currently pay to the cruising club. Over 30 years, that's a saving of more than half a million dollars.

Coastguard Kaipara media officer Richard Downer says that's money which will then be available for important maintenance, purchasing and upgrading equipment, and training.

Thirdly, the Springs Road ramp is a better option than the Mill Road one. Richard says it is pretty much an all-tide ramp, whereas at Mill Road the Coastguard volunteers are unable to launch for a three-hour period around low tide. When called out during those times, they have to tow Winstone Rescue by tractor to the Parakai ramp anyway; with the new rescue centre, they will have true 24-hour launch capability.

The near-new ramp and floating pontoon will enable fast, easy transfer of casualties to medical staff.

Training will also benefit. Members

currently spend two hours every Tuesday at on-water training, and the Parakai location will mean less time reaching the harbour, and consequently more actual training time. And while Coastguard New Zealand covers the cost of fuel used during rescue missions,



• An architect's impression of how the building will look on the site

Coastguard Kaipara has to provide its own fuel for training purposes - so the money saved on current rent will help with that, too.

Coastguard Kaipara is currently going through the resource consent process.

"The council has been helpful pushing things through," says Richard, and local iwi have given their full support to the project.

When construction actually starts is as yet unknown, but "the sooner the better" says Richard, who describes the decision to move Coastguard Kaipara's operational base to Parakai as a "no-brainer".

At the time of going to print the organisation's fundraising drive had already raised more than \$84,000 of its \$450,000 target.

Locals can contribute online toward the cost of the new building at [www.coastguardkaipara.org.nz](http://www.coastguardkaipara.org.nz) and clicking on the big red 'donate' button. Richard says the organisation also wants to hear from suitable tradespeople and suppliers who may be able to contribute in kind.

Coastguard Kaipara vice president Greg Skinner has been a driving force behind the project, along with president Iain Gulliford.

• To page 2



• Coastguard Kaipara members at the site of the proposed new headquarters, L-R: Richard Downer, Iain Gulliford (President), Rod McMurdo, Jacob Wilson, Jo Holden, Peri Matia, Greg Skinner (Vice president)

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# editorial

After getting political last issue, this month I'm going to have a good old-fashioned whinge. The subject? People who move to an area, then complain about the things which are already there.

This has been a bit of a hobbyhorse of mine since my late teens (four-plus decades ago!) when I purchased and started racing a T.Q. Midget at Western Springs speedway. My second season of racing (1978-79, I think) was the first year the racing cars were required to use mufflers, following complaints about noise from home owners around the circuit.

Now, speedway started at the Springs in 1929, and anyone buying a house nearby should have rightly expected noise from the racing. But over the years residents have chipped away at the council, resulting in first the mufflers, then earlier finishes for race evenings, then fewer race nights each season, and eventually the racing being forced to move to South Auckland (which has yet to actually happen for various reasons).

I hear stories like this all the time. A year or so ago, a new neighbour complained to me about the noise my tractor was making going past their house. I recently had a report of another recent arrival complaining about horse trek riders riding past their home - as customers of a business which has operated continuously for 50 years. And I heard of a farmer who found his cows moved from the paddock he had put them in, as the new neighbour didn't like the smell and noise they made outside his new house!

Really? Some folk new to the country seem unrealistically to think it will be a lovely peaceful idyll, and seem completely unaware how noisy the country can actually be. People need to do due diligence, and use some basic common sense, when moving to a new area.

- Dave Addison, Editor

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## Marine Rescue Centre (cont...)

• From page 1

The new 15m by 18m building has been designed to future-proof the organisation for at least the next three decades.

Two bays will combine to create a 184sq.m. 'fast response' garage for Winstone Rescue, the large 4WD New Holland tractor used to tow it, and the coastguard's second, smaller rescue craft. The third bay will include a workshop, storage, locker room and a bathroom, with a mezzanine above featuring a training room, office and kitchen.

"This is a project for 30 years," says Richard. "We want facilities appropriate for what we do."

He says with a growing north-west Auckland population, there are more craft than ever on the Kaipara Harbour, and says the current season has been the busiest yet, with an average of two callouts a week and members "doing some massive hours".

Coastguard Kaipara was formed in 1979 and operates on the Southern Hemisphere's largest natural harbour, with an operational

area of 4800sq.km of Tasman Sea and harbour from as far north as the Hokianga down to Manukau and out to the 10 Mile Limit

The 100 percent volunteer crew are on call 24 hours a day.

Winstone Rescue is an 8.5m aluminium NAIAD Rhib powered by twin 225hp Honda outboards and capable of rescue speeds in excess of 44 knots and with a range of up to 700km. She is equipped with a full electronic navigation and search suite and high power LED search light bars. On board equipment includes a fire/salvage pump, defibrillator, oxygen, and other medical gear.

Affectionately known as 'Winnie' to the crew, she can handle seas of up to 10m with ease - a not unusual occurrence on the notorious Kaipara Harbour bar.

As well as search and rescue incidents, Coastguard Kaipara takes part in exercises, community events, conservation work, regular patrols, education, and public displays such as at the annual Helensville Show.

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# Life-size eagle sculpture will be on show at Arts in the Ville

Growing up on Vancouver Island in Canada, Mick Smith has always loved eagles.

Now, he is nearing completion of a 200kg life-size steel sculpture of one which he hopes to have finished in time to go on show at Arts in the Ville over Labour Weekend in October.

Mick says up to four months' worth of work will go into the finished eagle, which will likely have a price tag of around \$25,000. He says he spent hours looking at photographs and watching videos of eagles in flight to make sure he got the sculpture anatomically correct.

His sculptures will be on the main stage in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Last year was his first taking part in the festival, and he was thrilled to sell a bonsai tree sculpture within 10 minutes of the exhibition opening.

Mick's sculptures are made almost entirely from steel reinforcing bar, with some flat steel added in certain instances. The reinforcing iron is ground down to provide a variety of finishes.

When *Helensville News* called into his local workshop, he was working on the legs

and stainless steel talons for the eagle, with the protrusions on the reinforcing bar being partly left on show to represent the texture of the eagle's legs.

He usually has more than one artwork on the go, and other works currently in progress include another bonsai tree and a large koru. And among his plans for Arts in the Ville is a life-size (think 2m-plus tall) Nikau palm frond.

Mick's well-equipped workshop includes a table-top knife-makers forge, which he uses to heat the steel rod for bending.

Originally a teacher, he spent a number of years working as an engineer for his father and completing a blacksmithing apprenticeship, then worked as a fireman before completing his doctorate and becoming a psychologist.

These days, he is happiest either creating his artworks or working on his classic cars, and is in the process of building a bespoke studio where he will be able to create his sculptures and which will feature a larger, coke-fired forge.

Arts in the Ville will be held at venues around Helensville for the three days of Labour Weekend, October 24-26.



• Mick Smith with his life-size eagle sculpture

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# Major expansion planned to enlarge Helensville railway museum

Helensville Railway Museum is planning to almost double in size.

Quotes are currently being sought for a 100sq.m. extension to the current building, expected to cost in the region of \$100,000, plus another \$50-60,000 to fit out.

The extra room will allow the Helensville Railway Station Trust, which owns and runs the museum, to put on display many items which at the moment are held in storage because of a lack of display space.

It is also planned to develop rotating displays, so there will always be something fresh for returning visitors to see. A mockup railway workshop, a small sit-down theatre area with videos to watch, a mockup railway house interior, and even a real railway carriage are all possibilities for the new extension.

Trust chairman Alan Hargreaves says the extension would be added to the back end of the present building. It will most likely be a single-span construction, rather than the 'American barn' style of the existing building.

The public entry will be moved to where the two buildings join. The current building will become devoted entirely to model railways, and all other displays will go in the new extension.

That current museum building is already home to a large working model railway, made by the late Ross Hughes, which shows Helensville station and its environs including many heritage buildings as they were in the 1950s and 1960s. There is a second much smaller model railway, and the museum has also recently been gifted around 40 impressively detailed buildings made by railway enthusiast and renowned broadcaster, the late Merv Smith and his

friends, to depict a fictional Glorit railway. They will be assembled into a working model once the new building has been finished.

At this stage there is no firm date for construction, but Alan hopes it will be finished in the next 18 months to two years. The first stage will be to bring in \$30,000 worth of sandstone fill to build up the site, which Alan hopes might happen towards the end of the coming summer, once the ground has dried out. The concrete pad could follow shortly afterwards.

As always, raising funds will be a major hurdle for the Railway Station Trust, with Alan saying "grants are not all that easy to get at the moment".

Locals wanting to donate toward the new building can contact the trust through its website, [www.helensvillerrail.org.nz](http://www.helensvillerrail.org.nz), or phone or text Alan on 027 593 6222 or Sheryl Walker on 09 420 7126.

The museum is one of the few privately owned rail museums in the country, on land owned by the Trust. However, it is only one facet of the Trust's work - "our main thrust is the upkeep and maintenance of the railway station," says Alan.

With that, and the planned new building in mind, the Trust is very keen for new members to join - contact as above.




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• Looking over model railway exhibits at Helensville Railway Museum

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# Men's talking group

Getting men to talk about their lives, frustrations, health, and the needs of their families is the goal behind a 'new' free 'Men's Talk' programme starting this month at the South Kaipara Men's Centre.

The programme isn't really new at all, but is rather a development and expansion of the 'Dads' Toolbox' held last year by the centre, which manager Mike Bridgman says was a "very good beginning", with nine mostly young men communicating well.

It was felt the reference to 'dads' in the title may have put off some men from taking part, so this year the programme is designed for all local men, whether fathers or not.

The first session will start at 7pm on Thursday, August 6 at the Men & Family

Centre in Awaroa Road. There is no requirement for participants to attend every session.

As with last year's Dads' Toolbox, the programme will be split into five main components.

The first of those, which Mike believes is the most vital, is Communication, and it will occupy the first three sessions. It will cover "the skill of being able to communicate, and understanding the trigger points which can trigger arguments, and which can flow on to family violence," says Mike.

The second component will be Budgeting with a Plan, looking at the advantages of budgeting and the "why and how" of planning.

"It [the plan] doesn't have to be major, it can be as simple as wanting to be able to buy better Christmas presents."

The third topic will be Positive Relationships, talking about the ability to stand back and ask what you are looking for in a relationship, which Mike says can be especially valuable for younger men.

Preventing Family Violence is the fourth Men's Talk component, where participants will talk about and learn techniques to avoid violence, referencing the earlier programme components.

The final topic will be Food - "kai for guys" covering easy, quality male nutrition. This will be presented by nutritionist Alice Sharples, currently head nutritionist at a number of sporting organisations including the Vodafone Warriors.

Mike says that with the economic hits felt by many families due to Covid-19, many men are struggling.

"These guys are copping it at home as they don't know how to deal with it [the situation]." He sees being able to discuss issues such as this and sharing ideas with their peers as a major help.

Men's Talk members will also be treated to regular guest speakers.

Local men can register for the Men's Talk group sessions by phoning 027 800 8081, by email: sthkaiparamenstrust01@gmail.com, or by dropping in to the Men & Family Centre at 10 Awaroa Road between 9am and midday or 1pm to 4pm on a Monday or Tuesday.

## Election candidates to have their say

A general election candidates' debate will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Tuesday, August 25 starting 7pm.

Rather than a traditional debate, it will be more of a moderated discussion, with senior Stuff journalist Todd Niall in charge of keeping the discussions on track.

Candidates will have some key local issues put to them - such as public transport, rail to Helensville, SH16 safety improvements, and Resource Management Act reform - and will be asked to give their party's views on those issues.

Organised by the NorthWest Country business association, it's billed as 'How to Get the North West Moving' and it expects candidates from Act, Labour, National and Social Credit will participate, and possibly New Zealand First if they name a candidate before the event.

And look out in next month's issue of *Helensville News*, where we will bring you an election special with comments from local candidates.

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## A look into teens' brains

Renowned neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis will hold a 'Teen Brain' community talk in Helensville.

Host of documentary 'All in the Mind' and co-host of series 'The Secret Life of Girls',

The talk is aimed at helping parents understand the changes taking place in their teenagers' brains and how to successfully navigate those important years.

He will explain how, during adolescence, the parts of a teenager's brain responsible for controlling moods, understanding consequences, and thinking about the well-being of others, shuts down "for renovations".

Nathan Wallis has a background in child counselling, teaching and social service management. He has lectured on Human Development at the University of Canterbury, and was a board member and senior trainer with the national body responsible for the dissemination of neuroscientific research to professionals.

He has a reputation as a lively and engaging speaker who uses humour and plain language to make a complex topic come to life.

Tickets for the talk are \$35 plus booking fees, available at [www.eventfinda.co.nz](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz).



• Nathan Wallis

Nathan is being brought to Helensville jointly by Helensville Primary and Kaipara College.

The event will run from 7.30pm to 9pm on Thursday, September 3 at the college.

## Turning the Tide

The Turning The Tide fundraising event is set to go ahead on Sunday, October 11, after being rescheduled from May due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

This will be the fourth year the event has been held to raise awareness of family violence, as well as vital funds for the local women's refuge, Kia Tīmata Anō.

Participants walk or run the length of Muriwai Beach from the Rimmer Road access near Helensville, finishing 17km later at the Muriwai Surf Club.

Kia Tīmata Anō executive director Ana Christmas says the need is greater than ever with increasing demand on their services during and after lockdown.

"Through lockdown, police across the country saw a 22 percent increase in family violence call outs, and calls for refuge were

up 20 percent," she says.

"Our team worked around the clock to ensure women and children had a safe place to go, as well as working with men and women remotely to give them the advice and tools to stay safe with the added pressures of Covid. In the weeks since lockdown we've seen a surge in demand for our counselling services and support groups."

Another way Kia Tīmata Anō has been helping those in need during the pandemic was by being at the forefront of the formation of the Kai Collective, a foodbank set up at the start of lockdown to ensure those most in need would receive food parcels.

In the 16 weeks since the first food parcel was created and delivered the collective has packed and distributed close to 700 packs for around 170 households.

## South Kaipara Men's Trust

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# Business awards return

A 'Local Hero' award voted on by the public will be a new feature in the 2020 North West Country Business Awards.

It will recognise a business that made transformational changes to its practice which benefited the community during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Also new this year are a Best New Business award, and an Environmental Award for a business with the best practices towards reducing environmental footprint.

Now in their fourth year, the awards are designed to celebrate the commercial, creative, and customer service successes of businesses in the North West. They are open to any business of any size working within the boundary area who are members of the North West Country business association.



The categories for 2020 are:

- Retail
- Hospitality (contemporary dining and bistro)
  - Hospitality (family, informal dining, and takeaways)
  - Health & Beauty
- Business and Professional Services
- Manufacturing and Trade Services
- Recreation
- Rural Services
- Not For Profit / Social Enterprise.

Rounding out the awards will be the popular People's Choice Award and a Supreme Award.

Nominations close on Friday, August 7 and finalists will be announced on Tuesday, August 18. Winners will celebrate at a black tie awards dinner on Tuesday, October 27 at The Riverhead.

# Jools Topp at Kaukapakapa library

Horse lovers are in for a treat this month, with local 'horse whisperer' and renowned entertainer Dame Jools Topp visiting the Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, August 16 from 9am to 1pm.

From pony club to yahooing at the back of the farm, horses have always been a central thread in Jool's life - a love instilled by her late father, Peter.

She has found her happy place in the equestrian world, using the Vaquero training method which dates from the 1700s. A way of life more than a discipline, the vaqueros took great pride in taking the time to develop intimate communication with their horses, using a long-term approach.

Keen to emphasise the importance of taking time to build a foundation of trust, Jools will be happy to talk through any horse or rider concerns with library visitors.

For more info contact Megan Paterson - threehorses@xtra.co.nz, 021 959017, Kaukapakapa Library Facebook Page.



• Dame Jools on her horse *Intrigue*



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## : Colour a specialty at 'quirky' salon

Many people change professions during the course of their working life, but not so South Head's Roxy Donaldson - she's been a hairdresser right from leaving school.

Originally from Kaiwaka, she has family history in this area, with her great uncle Johnny Harmer one of the first people to round up wild deer at South Head.

After working in salons in Auckland and Brisbane, where she received training as a men's barber, as well as tutoring hairdressing herself at both Cut Above and the Premier Institute of Education in Takapuna, she moved to Helensville about 10 years ago.

That move was sort of by accident. Roxy was visiting a friend in the town and "fell in love with it - I really liked it."

She set up Roxstar Hair initially in the block of shops near Countdown, then about five years ago moved to her present location at 85 Commercial Road, opposite Sunny Days Early Learning Centre.

She loves the old buildings that make up her current location, and is thrilled with the other

businesses that have joined her there over the years, making the spot something of a local destination.

Of her salon itself, she describes the decor as "arty and quirky".

Most striking is a huge graffiti-like mural by local tattoo artist Hayden Stead-Hill which spells out the salon's name. The wall in front of the 'business end' of the salon is adorned with antique gold-framed mirrors and a huge clock made by local Fiona Russel from the end of an old wooden cable spool.

"I like to support locals," says Roxy, and the result is a stylish and unique look to the salon.

As well as being the only local salon offering men's barbering, Roxy's main specialty is complex hair colouring.

Self-employed, she enjoyed the enforced



> Roxy, with the bold mural behind her

break caused by the Covid-19 lockdown, and the challenge of repairing the many home-done haircuts she came across when reopening. While she had to work longer hours post-lockdown to meet demand, she is now open 10am to 4pm Tuesdays to Saturdays.

For bookings phone 021 430 525.

## : Plumber a keen fisherman

With a company name like Tackle Plumbing, it's no surprise Waimauku plumber Richard Kennerley is a keen fisherman.

One of the benefits of being self-employed is

being able to take his 6m Seaboss boat out on the Kaipara Harbour on a weekly basis when conditions are right, looking for a good catch of snapper or gurnard. And when he's not fishing,

Richard enjoys trail bike riding in Riverhead Forest on his old 250cc Kawasaki.

Richard has been a plumber for 23 years, but came by the trade a l m o s t b y accident. At the age of 22 he decided he should do some sort of apprenticeship, then while out driving saw a plumber's van in front of him. He contacted the Pakuranga-based

plumber, landed a six-month trial which led to a full five-year apprenticeship, followed by another year at Unitec getting his craftsman certification.

He's been self-employed for the past 15 years, working firstly around Howick and Pakuranga, then on the North Shore, before buying a 4ha lifestyle block at Waimauku, beside Riverhead Forest, where he and partner Fiona Neill moved three and a half years ago.

There they have a few cattle and sheep, and Fiona, who owns an organic avocado orchard on Matakana Island near Tauranga, keeps five horses. She sells her avocados to outlets around Auckland like Naturally Organic in Albany and Organics Out West in Glen Eden.

Meanwhile, Richard is looking to expand his client base in the North West.

Among the services he offers are new spouting and repairs, blocked drains, alterations and plumbing on new builds, hot water cylinder repairs, roof repairs, water pressure problems, and general maintenance.

Richard can be contacted on 021 581 703 or email: [rwkennerley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rwkennerley@xtra.co.nz).



> Richard Kennerley of Tackle Plumbing







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

## : Something for everyone at The Shoppe

For the most diverse range of arts and crafts in Helensville, you need look no further than The Shoppe, located next to the Ginger Crunch Café in the historic Helensville Railway Station.

The brainchild of local Heather Steadman, who set it up in June last year, The Shoppe is an artists' and crafters' collective - a social enterprise rather than a commercial one says Heather.

The Shoppe is divided into 10 spaces, and currently 14 local artists and crafters rent either a full space or share a space with another member. All profits from the sale of items go directly to the artists and crafters; there is no commission taken on sales, which means prices are able to be kept as low as possible.

The rent and running expenses are split evenly among collective members, who take turns running the shop - effectively only having to work there one day a fortnight.

While Heather says most members aren't looking to make a living from selling their wares, some are doing "very well". There is a waiting list of artists and crafters wanting to join.

Current collective members are: Heather,

with flax weaving and a friends' honey and jewellery; Lyn Chapman, Annabel Brechelt, Jan Backhurst and Marcia Barrowman, four artists from the former Art on Track gallery with their art, decoupage, floral art and small upcycled furniture; Chrissy Jones with preserves; Tom Somerville with ceramics; Laura Mason with copper and crystals; Linda Lewis with knitting, cushions and crochet; Linda Ruzich with kiwiana bibs and hand towels; Helene Blomfield with framed kiwiana giftware; Siets Andringa with organic vinegars, ointments and plants; Glennis Sainty with table centrepieces; and Ruth Sumner with prints.

"There's something to suit every budget," says Heather.

"We invite the community to pop down for gift ideas or pick up a treat from the selection of

handcrafted goods."

The location beside Ginger Crunch gives The Shoppe a good amount of foot traffic. It will be open again for Arts in the Ville over Labour Weekend - last year 350 customers called in to the shop during the arts festival weekend.

The Shoppe is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm, and has eftpos available.



> Heather with a small selection of goods in The Shoppe

## : Helping kids get creative

A demand for rich, creative opportunities for children - both in and out of school - led to Mandy Jakich founding Creative Matters five years ago.

Her company now runs 25 creative after school workshops for children throughout Auckland. Locally that includes Helensville and Waimauku schools, although participation there is open to children from any local school.

Classes, limited to just 12 students each term, cover a range of artistic endeavours over the course of a year, such as painting, drawing, sculpture and construction.

The educational, creative art classes "value the entire creative process," says Mandy, allowing opportunity for individuality, creative thinking, exploring, experimenting, reflecting, and sharing, as well as creating.

To date the Creative Matters' 15 art educators have taught more than 300 creative workshops. They also hold school holiday workshops, the closest local one being at Kumeu.

Mandy taught for more than 25 years at primary and intermediate schools across Auckland, and spent four years as an

art educator at the Auckland Art Gallery where she designed and delivered visual arts programmes for primary, secondary and special needs children, as well as Professional Development (PD) courses for teachers.

She has carried that experience through to Creative Matters, which runs PD courses for primary teachers and early childhood educators, and locally has trained teachers from both Helensville and Parakai schools.

Creative Matters has been working with the Helensville Art Centre to hold a fully-funded two-day school holiday art workshop for local children. The programme was put on hold because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but Mandy expects it to be held during an upcoming school holiday.

Lockdown did, however, provide a boost for Creative Matters Online, the company's online subscription art programme which features instructional videos created and presented by Mandy.

For more information phone Mandy on 021 808 126 or visit the company's website: [www.creativematters.co.nz](http://www.creativematters.co.nz).



> Mandy (second from left) with some of the Creative Matters team





# Chance to have say on local board plan

Locals have until 4pm on Thursday, August 13 to have a say on Rodney Local Board's plan for the next three years.

The plan guides what the local board will do over the next three years, and chair Phelan Pirrie says its focus is to achieve sustainable growth, develop infrastructure to cope with that growth, and to protect the environment.

"Geographically, our local board area is extensive, stunning and unique," says Phelan.

"But we face challenges and opportunities that come with the changes that growth brings. This plan is about what we, as a community, can achieve and in the best possible way.

"We must balance projects and funding across the Rodney area to deliver a work programme that is agile, responds to community needs, builds resilience and supports a strong recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

"The reality is that funds and resources are finite, even more so this year, and it's important to prioritise and deliver initiatives that will get the best results," he adds.

Phelan says that over the years locals have told the board what its priorities should be.

"Now it's time to hear from you if we've got the plan right.

"Talk to your local board members and tell

them if you agree with what must get done and when," he says.

The draft plan can be viewed at local libraries, service centres and the local board office, where submission forms are also available.

The plan can also be downloaded, at [akhaveyoursay.co.nz/loveLocal](http://akhaveyoursay.co.nz/loveLocal), and submissions can be made online.

Once public consultation closes, submissions will be evaluated, and the final plan will be adopted in November.

## 'Book Tasting' at library

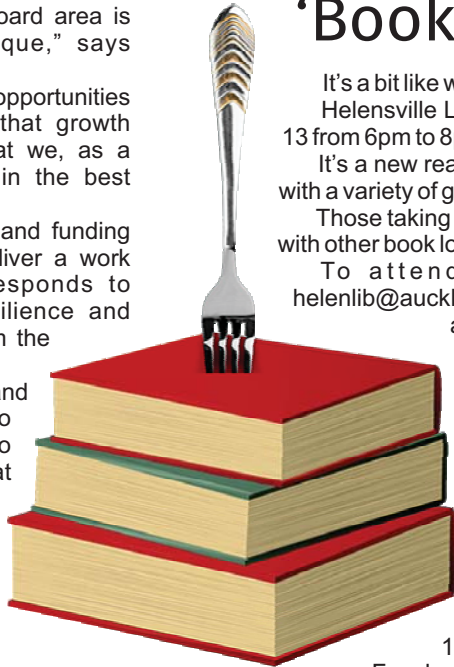
It's a bit like wine tasting - except with books rather than booze.

Helensville Library is holding a 'Book Tasting' evening on Thursday, August 13 from 6pm to 8pm

It's a new reading event for adults to give a taste of new books at the library, with a variety of genres available to take home, chosen by our local librarians.

Those taking part will be able to discuss new and familiar reads, and socialise with other book lovers. Light refreshments will be served.

To attend, RSVP at the library front desk, or email: [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) with your name and library card number, so a spot can be reserved for you.



Locals who may have seen a fire engine outside the library on the evening of Friday July 17 needn't worry. The visit was all part of the library's annual Soft Toy Sleepover - which was a huge hit again this year.

More than 40 toys joined library staff for a night of fun and antics, preceded by toy bed decorating and storytime. The toys' adventures were captured on the night with the help of photographer Richard, and Dan and Josh from the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Each toy received a scrapbook of its night, and nearly 150 photos have been added to an album on Helensville Library's Facebook page.

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## Buy local and win promotion

Locals have the chance to win one of five voucher prize packs worth \$500 - simply by shopping locally.

The Buy Local promotion, which runs until the end of September, has been devised by the Northwest Country business association to encourage people to shop locally and help the local economy recover from the hit it took during the Covid-19 lockdown.

To enter, purchasers just need to scan the QR code on the poster at participating retailers and businesses, and then complete the online entry form. Winners will be notified by email.

## letters

A letter to the editor last edition incorrectly quotes the number of staff being made redundant from Auckland Council.

Auckland Council is cutting 500 full time jobs due to the financial impact of Covid-19. The acting chief executive Patricia Reade has said full-time equivalent staff numbers would reduce from 6,500 to about 6,000. These job cuts are on top of 600 part-time staff who have already been let go by the council during level 4 lockdown. In total 1100 staff are being let go.

Auckland Council's property rates make up about 40 percent of the Council's revenue with the balance coming from fees, development contributions, and dividends from Ports of Auckland and Auckland International Airport. This non-rates income has crashed by \$525 million because of the recession.

- Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor, Auckland Council

[I would like to] thank a lady called Geraldine who found my purse which I had stupidly left on the bench in the bus shelter. Luckily for me Geraldine (no other info) found it and rang me to say she would leave it at reception at the doctors. I didn't even know I had lost it!

Sure enough it was at the doctors' reception just as I had left it, all intact. The receptionist was very helpful, saying they had put it in the safe overnight. Great service, thank you.

How many other places could you leave a purse and get it returned? Thank you Geraldine, you have restored my faith in humanity.

- Judy Lloyd



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## Have your say on the future of Rodney

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Our local board has come up with a three-year plan outlining the key initiatives we want to focus on to help our communities thrive and support the recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

**Now we need your help to check if we've got it right.**

So love local and get vocal about your local community, and don't forget to provide your feedback before **4pm, Thursday 13 August**.

For more information, a copy of the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2020 and to provide your feedback go to [akhaveyoursay.co.nz/lovelocal](http://akhaveyoursay.co.nz/lovelocal)

*Together we can love local.*



## Horse measuring

Horse Measuring for the current season starts at Helensville Showgrounds this month.

Measuring will take place from 9am to midday on the following Sundays: August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. There will be additional measuring days next year on January 10 and February 7.

There is no need for horse owners to book on those days, but special measures can be held at other times by appointment and at additional cost.

Horse owners wanting to compete at A&P shows and other equestrian events around the country have to have their horses measured annually to determine which classes the horses are eligible for. Life certificates are also available.

Helensville A&P Association is one of only two Royal Agricultural Society authorised horse measurers in the Auckland region, the other being in Franklin.

For more information phone Graeme Brady on 420 8632.

## Kaukapakapa photo competition

First it was 'a day in the life', then 'a week in the life', and now it's 'A Month in the Life of Kaukapakapa'.

The annual Kaukapakapa Library photo competition got bumped due to Covid-19, but now it's back in a lengthened format.

"The Jordan Collection of photos of old time Kaukapakapa has many photos of settlers with their homes, so for this year's competition we're asking entrants to take a photo of their whanau with their home," says organiser Megan Paterson.

The aim is for the entries to give the library a record of the types and styles of housing in Kaukapakapa, and who was around in 2020.

The competition will run from Thursday, September 10 to Saturday, October 10. The boundaries for entrants are from Glorit to Waitoki to Mt Rex. More rules and conditions will be on the Kaukapakapa library Facebook page.



• Elizabeth and Andrew Bonar, the first European settlers in Kaukapakapa in 1858. Photo taken 1863 by Daniel Manders Beere.

"Judging will be based on the photographic quality - not on the best house or most attractive family!" says Megan.

"Help us create a snapshot in time for the Kaukapakapa of the future."

Contact Megan Paterson on phone 021 959 017 or email: [threehorses@xtra.co.nz](mailto:threehorses@xtra.co.nz).

## 'Lockdown' art goes on show

Helensville Art Centre has a 'Lockdown Art' exhibition on until Saturday, August 29, with locals exhibiting creative projects made during the Covid-19 lockdown.

In September the gallery will hold an Art Kaipara members' exhibition, which will run from Saturday, September 5 until Saturday, October 3.

Several workshops start at the gallery in August.

Janet McLeod from Create Wellbeing will be teaching Art Journaling on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, starting on August 13 for five weeks. Thanks to a Creative Communities subsidy classes are just \$10, and can be taken individually.

Still Life Drawing classes will run for four Tuesday evenings starting on August 4 from 7pm to 8.30pm. Jeff Thomson will supervise the first evening and from there it will be a group effort to support each other. \$5 per class and no need to register.

Beginning on Friday, August 21 from 10.30am to 12.30pm will be a six-week beginner class in Writing and Illustrating Children's Books, cost \$10 per session, followed by an eight-week intermediate course starting Friday, October 16.

There will be a final three to four hour wrap-up session on Friday, December 11.

For more information on all these exhibitions and classes, email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).

## local board matters

• From Page 15

### ■ Give some of Auckland's GST back to Auckland Transport:

Every year we individually cough up many thousands of dollars of GST. As we have seen this year, property rates are not providing the funding needed to deal with transport infrastructure. The time has come for a change. Providing a small portion of GST back to Auckland's transport agency, specifically tied to growth related projects, would free up money for better road maintenance and local projects. Will a party be brave enough to promise this?

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board

[phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Ph: 021 837 167

## Helensville Railway Station Trust



### Are you interested in - History? - Trains?

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#### Contact:

Alan Hargreaves 027 593 6222 or  
Sheryl Walker 09 420 7126



## Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP  
Based in Rodney

For appointments and assistance please phone:

☎ 0800 582 325 (0800 LUBECK)

@ [marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz)

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## Chris Penk MP for Helensville

365 Main Road, Huapai  
09 412 2496

[chris.penkp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkp@parliament.govt.nz)

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# Working dog workshop

Top Northland dog trialist Murray Child will hold a workshop later this month to help local farmers get the most from their working dogs.

Farmers can bring one dog each for a one-on-one session with Murray, receiving instruction on handling and training.

The workshop will be held on Friday, August 14 from 10am, at the Otakanini Topu farm woolshed at the end of Tarawera Rd, South Head (6km from Parakai).

Those wanting to attend can register at Farmlands in Mill Road, Helensville. Tickets cost \$10 which includes a barbecue lunch, with all proceeds going to the Helensville Sheep Dog Trial Club.

Follow-up assistance and training will be available from members of the club.

For more information phone Josh Jackson on 027 203 2062.



• Murray Child (with stick) at a previous dog workshop



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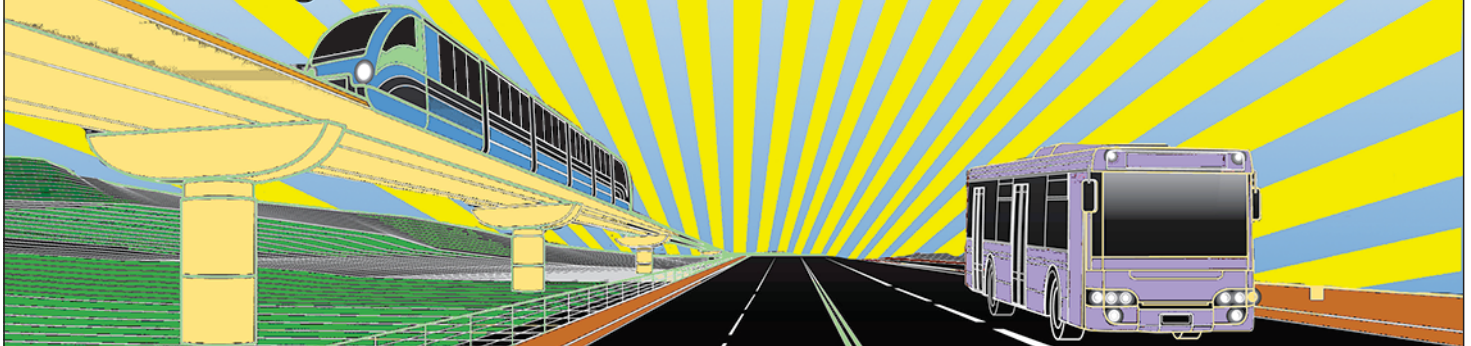
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[www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)

## from our local MP

One of my favourite expressions is the old classic about there being 'more than one way to skin a cat'. This doesn't reflect any ill will towards our feline friends, of course, but simply notes that in life sometimes you have to work at finding solutions a bit creatively.



That's certainly the case for a local MP whose party isn't currently in government.

Over the past three years I've lobbied anyone who will listen about the value in passenger rail for the northwest. The fact that an existing line already runs to Helensville represents a great opportunity to showcase this great area, to those who would live and work in Helensville and tourists alike.

At the upcoming election I'll be standing on a platform (pun intended) of bringing passenger rail back to Auckland's northwest, initially beyond Swanson station to Kumeu/Huapai. It's important for those living or working in Helensville to know that this need not be the end of the line but rather a necessary step towards bringing trains back up here as well. The trial that took place on very limited terms a decade or so ago, between Helensville and Auckland CBD, need not be the final word on this matter.

This is where the cat-skinning comes in, as we should ensure that the staged approach I've just outlined is supplemented with other options. For example, I am very keen that a special train be chartered to service the Helensville Show in February 2021. This would be useful to remind decision makers that there's no insurmountable obstacle to using the rail line. And indeed there is every good reason to do so. A trip on the train from Auckland's CBD to Helensville (and vice versa) will only add to the exciting experience that is the Helensville Show, especially for the next generation.

I'm delighted to report that the Show Manager, Louise Brooks, is fully onboard with the idea and has been working hard to gain all the necessary approvals. I wish her lots of luck in herding all those cats (and skinning as needed!).

- Chris Penk

Member of Parliament for Helensville

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

## 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.

August's recipient is David Lacey, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at *CalTex* in Helensville.



• David receives his vouchers from Nicky

David was nominated by Susan Strassnick, who says:

"I would like to nominate David Lacey for his contribution to the Helensville community, for

taking patients to hospital appointments free of charge - myself included last year. He was reliable throughout the 11 months of cancer treatment I received. A very selfless man indeed."



# local board matters

Over the coming weeks, everyone will be turning their minds to the September general election. Here are some specifically local things you might want to consider when casting your vote.

## ■ Better Public Transport:

Investment in roads drives housing development. The bigger and more expensive those roads means more houses will follow because that will make up part of the cost-benefit considerations for the inevitable business case. The alternative route being planned for SH16 is to take traffic from the housing expansion in north Huapai after 2028. This means that road will end up servicing roughly 6500 new residents, so it's going to be busy.

What is needed for the North West is a range of public transport options that can be scaled with the coming growth which is going to impact all residents north of Kumeu.

Buses and trains are the obvious solutions - there are tracks and roads, and these will be faster and cheaper solutions than an entirely new rapid transit network. Fast and cheap are critical. The more expensive the solution the slower the delivery and less likely it is to happen, as we have seen with light rail.

Dedicated busways like on the North Shore are proven solutions. We need one from the CBD to Huapai along the North Western Motorway. The current upgrades to the rail line also make it possible to put in a train service. Having both gives us access to a wider Auckland and also provides resilience.

Look out for parties that promise construction or delivery of a busway and train service starting within three years. If this doesn't happen quickly, the traffic will get exponentially worse over the next decade.

## ■ Faster Road Upgrades:

When Special Housing Areas were put into Huapai we were promised infrastructure to match. Seven years later we're still waiting. While the NZ Transport Agency has got work planned it's been painfully slow to deliver this and, in fact, none of it is

specifically intended to deal with residential growth. There are ways this work could be speeded up to get delivery prior to 2024. Providing four lanes to Kumeu to remove bottlenecks is obviously required.

Pushing the safety work to provide safe travel north of Waimauku should be a priority, there are too many injuries and deaths on this road.

Look out for a focus on accelerating the widening and new roundabout already planned, and moving north with further safety improvements on SH16 needed from Waimauku to Helensville and beyond.

## ■ No More 'Special Housing Area' Type Developments:

Many of the issues with our local infrastructure can be neatly pinned onto the decision to override council planning and shove in housing without giving much thought to the funding of infrastructure.

Think it couldn't happen again? Think again!

The previous government had Special Housing Areas; this government has an Urban Development Agency. Both focus on doing whatever it takes to deliver housing. Building houses is only one part of the equation, as we all now know road upgrades and community facilities are the other part.

Reforms to the RMA need to protect community input into large scale changes to an area. Any changes that promise to "unlock" or "quickly deliver housing" by removing or reforming the RMA mean the first casualty will be the ability of both the community and council to have a say.

We are nowhere near catching up with the last attempt, any further attempt would be a disaster.

Look for politicians who will undertake to fight any further large-scale developments pushed through by the government.



• To Page 12



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community tidbits from town and around

## ■ SKRRAAGM

The South Kaipara Residents and Ratepayers Association will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday, August 6, starting 6.30pm at the South Head Golf Club. Everyone welcome.

## ■ FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

Landslide, the Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks tribute show, will perform at the Helensville Rugby Club rooms at 162 Awaroa Road, Helensville on Saturday, August 8 from 8pm to 11pm, covering well-known classics from Fleetwood Mac plus Stevie's solo hits. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees, available on Eventfinda.

## ■ WAITOKI MARKET

'Murder and Mayhem in our Hood' is the theme for the next Waitoki market, on Saturday, August 8 from 8.30am to midday in Waitoki hall.

Stealing by stealth, rats and possums have flourished over the previous season, and the market aims to do its bit towards control in the community.

Over lockdown two Waitoki 'Phils' made boxes, set traps and caught rats, mice, possum and mustelids. Both men will be at the market.

Phil Grainger will be demonstrating and sharing tips on making cheap boxes and setting traps. Phil Waddington, inventor of the Doc 200 trap and a kiwi trapping guru, will also be on hand to share his knowledge. He will have a 'How to Trap in NZ' booklet available at the market.

People wanting to help with trapping locally will be able to put their names down.

There will also be information and giveaways on composting systems, making

kombucha, and seeds. Market visitors are invited to bring surplus garden produce to swap.

The market will feature a range of homemade and used items, baked goods, preserves, plants and more. All proceeds go to the local Waitoki community.

Prospective stall holders should phone Gill on 420 3301 or email her at: waitokihall@gmail.com.

## ■ VJ DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan on Saturday, August 15 with a 5pm sunset ceremony featuring a parade, wreath laying, and a short service at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph. Everyone is welcome to attend. Medals should be worn; if wearing a relative's medals, wear them on your right side.

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Live music from Ralph Engle of rock project This Flight Tonight will be a highlight at the next Kaukapakapa Market, from 8.30am to 1pm on Sunday, August 16. The selection of stalls will include fresh local produce, native plants and trees, artisan food and preserves, a sausage sizzle, food from the market café, coffee, handmade crafts, knitting and greeting cards, skin care, gifts, Helensville Lions second hand books, jewellery, collectibles, and bric-a-brac. There will again be free face painting and a free kids craft/activity table. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

## ■ QUIZ NIGHT

Helensville Tennis Club's annual quiz night is on Saturday, August 22 - arrive from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Teams of up to eight players cost \$100 per table (BYO drinks and nibbles). Supper and prizes will be provided.

To book a table, email: helensvilletennis@gmail.com or contact the club on Messenger.

## trade & classifieds

### ■ Helensville Glass

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## Helensville News - Publication Information

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**Letters to the Editor:** Should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.



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