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## Parakai company wins top Auckland business award

Parakai-based Skydive Auckland has won the Supreme Business Excellence Award at the Westpac Auckland Business Awards 2020 for the North and West region.

As well as taking the top award from 46 other competing businesses, Skydive Auckland won the Excellence in Marketing award, and was a finalist in the Excellence in Strategy and Planning, Employer of the Year, and Excellence in Community Contribution categories.

The Skydive Auckland team was presented with its awards at a gala dinner where the best of business in Auckland's North and West came together to celebrate and network.

Skydive Auckland opened its doors in December 2011 after identifying an opportunity in the Auckland region following the success of sister company Skydive Taupo.

The adventure tourism operator offers the highest tandem skydive in the Southern Hemisphere, at 20,000 feet.

The business now employs 25 people and also runs the New Zealand Skydiving School which offers the New Zealand Diploma in Commercial Skydiving, the only qualification of its kind in the world.

Customers at the Parakai business have ranged from as young as seven years right up to 97-year olds, as well as those who are blind or paralysed.

The company offers tandem skydiving, learn to skydive programmes, and sport skydiving to local, domestic and international markets.

The win is seen as something of a coup considering the trying times tourism operators have faced this year.

Entering the awards involved answering specific business-related questions for each award, along with supplying supporting evidence. Skydive Auckland 'met' with judges over Zoom because of Covid-19 and discussed multiple areas of the business



• The Skydive Auckland team celebrate their win at the awards ceremony

relating to each category they entered.

On September 1 - also via Zoom - the company was announced as a finalist for four awards, even though it only entered three - the judges decided Skydive Auckland should also be finalists for the Excellence in Strategy and Planning category.

"That was a great surprise," says sales and marketing manager Jo Austin.

"The awards were a great excuse to get the team together to celebrate all of our successes, which was especially exciting after everything that has happened this year," says Jo.

Tandem skydiving is very popular with international tourists, so having the country's borders closed has impacted business.

"We were so happy to be finalists for four categories, and absolutely thrilled to win the Excellence in Marketing award," says Jo. "The skydiving and tourism industries are so competitive, so it's fantastic to be recognised for our marketing.

"We were so honoured to then win the overall supreme business award, and have

been on a high ever since!"

Auckland Business Chamber chief executive Michael Barnett says: "They have used the awards in the past to challenge their plan and direction and have been successful. This is a story of belief and an ability to adapt," he said.

All winners from the evening will head to the Westpac Auckland Business Awards Best of the Best Awards early next year, alongside the winners of each category in the Central, and South and East regions.

### Four roles for local MP

Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP Chris Penk has been given four shadow cabinet roles in the National Party's reshuffle, announced by party leader Judith Collins on Wednesday, November 11.

He will be shadow Attorney-General, as well as covering the defence, courts, and veterans portfolios. Chris is number 24 in National Party ranking.

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## editorial

This is our last issue for 2020, and I bet there aren't many readers out there who will be sorry to see the end of this year. Like many businesses we were forced to close during the early lockdown, so here's hoping we can bring you a full complement of issues in 2021.

This issue you can read about the huge successes by local businesses (pages 1 and 5), and how local businesses are putting community to the fore, supporting the annual Christmas hamper appeal (page 3). We'll be back with our first issue for 2021 in early February. Have a safe, enjoyable (and hopefully Covid-free!) festive season.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## letters

Have you wondered why Auckland's roads look patchy and seemingly not that well maintained? Even sealed roads are falling apart around the district. Have you wondered if it is the roading contractor's workmanship, or a case of not enough money being spent?

The unequivocal answer was given by Auckland Transport's Chief Executive Officer to the Mayor and Councillors in November. He said Auckland Council was choking the financing required to renew and maintain Auckland's roading network.

He explained that since the start of the Super City repairs were having to be withheld because inadequate funding was being allocated. AT said it was indisputable roads were deteriorating and effectively going backwards. The situation was critical, and the problem was clearly visible to residents, ratepayers and visitors across Auckland.

For years AT has requested a budget of \$420 million per annum. AT explained they were consistently only being allocated \$170 million per annum by Council. Rodney receives \$1.4 million of that. The shortfall is staggering and goes a long way to explain why roading contractors are often forced to carry out minimal, low quality repairs.

How to maintain existing roads, without significantly hiking rates, has proven to be Council's Achilles heel.

In 2018 Auckland Council introduced the Regional Fuel Tax to improve the transport infrastructure. Last year Council received \$129 million from the tax, but only spent \$89 million of it, citing the need to carry out planning work before spending the money.

This year Auckland Council received \$148m and spent even less, \$79m, so what's happened to the unspent \$109 million? Ratepayers may be shocked to learn the Council can use the unspent money on its daily operational expenses or for financing ballooning debt.

When my investigations uncovered these inconvenient facts I was so outraged I whistle blew the figures to the Auditor General, who acknowledged my concerns about the inequity of such an approach by Auckland Council, but said it was not illegal.

Surely such an accounting practice is wrong, and all Regional Fuel Tax money should be spent on transport-related projects? If the standard of roading is to improve then fuel taxes need to be used the way the public was promised. I will continue to pursue this on the public's behalf.

- Greg Sayers, Auckland Councillor, Rodney Ward

Recently I had the privilege of meeting with [local MP] Chris Penk and his staff member Emily at his office in Huapai. I found Chris was very understanding with regards to my issues.

He fitted me in at very short notice, which I greatly appreciated, and I found he has a very caring and understanding nature for those of us in the community who are in need of help.

In my case, many years of worry were eased as a direct result of my meeting with Chris, due to his very helpful advice. I will not hesitate to recommend Chris as a very capable, talented and understanding MP to all my friends and acquaintances.

- Natasha Yang Jiao



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# Businesses behind hamper drive

For almost 10 years Kindred Family Services, formerly called Helensville Women & Family Centre, has created Christmas hampers for families in need, filled with non-perishable food and gifts to ensure every child and family has a treat under the tree on December 25.

This year is no different, and local businesses and organisations are right behind the scheme.



• Dan and Diana Dale with children Henry and Hannah with the pallets of toys and gifts they're donating to charity

Helensville Mechanical in Mill Rd is a drop-off point, and for every gift they receive they'll donate one more.

Paper Plus Helensville is offering half-price books and wrapping paper to donate to the hamper drive. Harcourts Helensville is raising funds with a barbeque and raffle, and the students, staff and families at Helensville Primary are donating too. The police pitch in, as does Kumeu Rotary.

And then there's Parakai Four Square. Dan and Diana Dale have taken the spirit of giving to a new level this year with the offer of 5000 toys. Yes those zeros are correct!

"I knew Foodstuffs had some clearance toys, so I said I'd take all they had, expecting it to be around 1500, but it was 15,000!" Dan explains, "so, a bit more than I expected, but I thought, oh well, that's just more to give away to those who need it."

A promotion he ran in November was hugely successful.

"We sold out of a few lines with the beach

towels being the most popular," Dan says. They sold 1500 towels in just five days.

Kindred Family Services will be the recipient of a lot of the gifts from Parakai Four Square, but those they don't use will be distributed to agencies serving those in need elsewhere in Auckland.

The local families who receive the hampers are those who have used Kindred's services during the year, perhaps by using a social worker, or having counselling, or who have shown a real commitment to making positive change in their lives. They're also given to their women's refuge clients.

"It's a stressful time for parents, stretching budgets, keeping the pantry full and giving gifts to their children with a limited budget," says Tania Mansell, community support worker,

"So, it's nice for us to recognise their efforts and to do something to end the year on a positive note."

Tania says they prefer gifts to be unwrapped, "that way parents or caregivers also get to wrap their kids' presents themselves, and that's a really rewarding and fun experience for them."

Donations are requested by December 11, so there's time to get the hampers ready and distributed. Cash donations are also welcome and can be made online at [kindredservices.org.nz/donations](http://kindredservices.org.nz/donations).

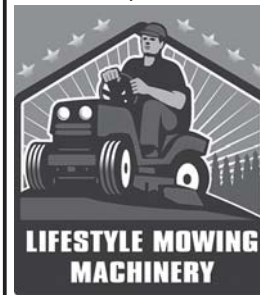
## Māori crafts for Show

Next year's Helensville Show will feature more cultural offerings across food and performance to celebrate Tikanga Māori in our region.

And youth and adult weavers, carvers, and creators are encouraged to enter the new Māori Arts & Crafts section which has been added to the indoor competitions. Entries open on Friday, January 1 and the schedule will be available online early December at [www.helensvilleshow.co.nz](http://www.helensvilleshow.co.nz).

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## New vet here on bonding scheme

The Helensville area is getting a new rural vet, courtesy of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Vet Bonding Scheme.

Jess Slattery will be working based at Vets North Helensville after taking up the scheme following her graduation.

"I grew up in north Auckland, so consider myself very privileged to return to the area and help the locals get the most out of their animals and their farmland," says Jess.

"I am particularly looking forward to working alongside the Kaipara dairy farmers, and am enjoying my first spring immensely."

MPI's Vet Bonding Scheme supports graduate vets to work in rural veterinarian practices that have a focus on production animals.

The scheme was designed to help ease the shortage of rural vets working with production animals, and aims to attract and retain graduate vets into rural practice.

Graduate vets taking part in the scheme are eligible for \$55,000 (\$11,000 each year) over the five years of the scheme. MPI pays the first instalment in the third year of the scheme, with the second and third instalments made after the fourth and fifth years respectively.

"The scheme provides a healthy incentive to draw new vets to areas which in turn enables farmers to benefit from enthusiastic new veterinary talent when the legendary farm vets of old are nearing retirement and looking to pass on the

mantle," adds Jess.

Graduates aren't placed by MPI, rather they apply for a vet practice of their choosing and if it's an eligible practice they can apply for the grant.

To be eligible a vet practice must have an overall production animal focus; or be the only veterinary practice in the area servicing production animals and/or working dogs, and be at risk of having a vet shortage, either currently or expected, within two-three years, among other criteria.



• New vet Jess Slattery

## Art Trail on over summer months

Following on from the success of the annual Arts in the Ville, Helensville now has a new Art Trail - at least, for the summer months.

Eleven local artists, all within two kilometres of central Helensville, are opening their studio doors from 10am to 4pm on the third Sunday of each month until April. It's a chance for locals and out-of-towners alike to meet and talk with the artists, learn how they produce their works, and maybe come away with an artwork direct from the artist.

The range on show is diverse, from lost wax casting of bronze and crystal glass, painting and corrugated sculptures, through to intricate turned woodwork, elegant hats, and jewellery. The artists taking part are: sculptors Joanne Sullivan and Jeff Thomson, wood turner Ray Scott, textile artist Fiona McBride, printmaker Ruth Sumner, painters William Robert Boyd, Michael Rowland and Raywin Cruickshank, hat maker Myra Lloyd, resin artist Leda Daniel, and gemstone carver Julie Nash.

Copies of a brochure listing all the artists and their locations can be downloaded from Facebook - search for Helensville Art Trail. All participating artists will also have copies available and their studios will be signposted on the open days.

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# Top business award won for second time

Helensville's Physio Flex won the overall Supreme Award at the recent North West Country Business Awards - for the second time in the awards' four year history.

The Commercial Road-based business also won the Health & Beauty category at a ceremony which saw local businesses win many of the top prizes.

Physio Flex owner Sue Narbey says for her personally the win, which followed similar success in the 2017 awards, was "a great boost in a very difficult and challenging year as a business owner and employer.

"At times the pressure was immense to make compliance, financial, and operational decisions that would impact the entire team of staff, our clients, and also my own family. Particularly in such a customer-facing service we were very limited by Covid regulations and had to close for 10 weeks of this year, using Telehealth instead.

"The positive feedback and support via social media and the public voting for us was fantastic, and it's just great to feel like you are doing enough and meeting the needs of your customer base. The feedback to our staff has been lovely to hear from our clients."

The business employs six physiotherapists and five administration staff as well as Sue, who says: "Everyone was really excited about the win and pretty proud of what we achieved, particularly against some much larger businesses."

Helensville's Kai Collective, formed just this year by local community organisations during the first Covid-19 lockdown, took out the People's Choice award, as well as the award for Best New Business and a highly commended in the Not For Profit category. It was the only business or organisation to get three nods in this year's awards.

"This is a huge testament to the generous spirit of this community - from our amazing volunteers, to all the suppliers and food producers who donate to us, and of course, all the hard-working advocates who ensure those folk who receive our kai packs get whatever other help they need to overcome their rough patch," says Kai Collective manager Gemma Donaldson.

"It was particularly heart-warming to hear the judges' description of Kai Collective, which started as a response to Covid, as quick and effective local action on the back of such a significant social, and financial health event.

"They also said they were impressed with the honour we afford our clients, and that's really important to us, as treating people in a way that builds their mana is one of our guiding principles."

Kaipara Coast Plant Centre, based just north of Kaukapakapa, won the Environmental Excellence Award, while Helensville Art Centre came first in the Not For Profit class.

"We were surprised and delighted to win the Not For Profit category," says Art Centre manager Heather Steadman.

"We're committed to building capacity through enhancing the social and cultural well-being of people in the community by hosting an exciting and motivating space to meet, create and share knowledge. We understand that our work is 'For Social Profit' in a 'Not For Profit' context.

Finally, River Valley Meats topped the competition in the Rural Services category.

And adding to those successes were a number of 'highly commended' awards won by local businesses.


Parakai-based Skydive Auckland, the recent Supreme winners at the Westpac Auckland Business Awards (see front page article), was highly commended in the Recreation category, along with The Real Bread Project in the Hospitality - Informal section, Waimauku Automotive in the Manufacturing & Trade, PGG Wrightson & Fruitfed Supplies Helensville in Rural Services, and Commercial Road shop Eleventh Hour Gifts in Retail.

Winners are chosen through a mix of











• Some of the Physio Flex team, with Sue third from left

public voting; judging of written entries on topics such as key performance indicators, environmental impact, marketing, and managing Covid-19; and feedback from 'mystery shoppers'.



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## Long-running business to close

One of Helensville's longest running businesses is to close early next year.

Sally Houghton Optometrist will close the doors on its Commercial Road shop by March 31 after 22 years.

"With accelerating advances in technology I would need to spend over \$100,000 to upgrade the eye testing equipment here, and I'm never going to see the numbers to make that money back," says Sally.

"This has forced my hand, and I am not renewing my lease when it comes up in February 2021."

The practice has only ever been part time, and after closing Sally will keep working on the locum optometrist circuit

which she has been doing since 1996.

"Unfortunately, the corporate optometry business model and the internet are making the independent optometrist redundant," says Sally. "Already, some of my New Zealand colleagues have had to close their doors and just walk away."

Sally will keep all her patient records after closing, so the next optometrist people visit can contact her to have their records sent through - "or the patient can contact me direct and have their previous records transmitted electronically".

In February Sally Houghton Optometrist will have a "giant" closing down sale - details will be in the February 2021 issue of *Helensville News*.

## New website for Helensville Show

Helensville Show has a flash new website (right).

Designed from the ground up to make all Show and showgrounds information as easy to find as possible, the new mobile-friendly site went live in November, just as the show management is gearing up to put schedules and entry forms for the 2021 Helensville Show online.

While the show's previous site was already mobile-friendly, the new one features greatly improved navigation, enabling users to find whatever they want from any page of the site.

Show visitors will be able to link directly through to Eventfinda to purchase advance tickets for next year's show, to be held on Saturday, February 27.

Local equestrians wanting to ride their horses on the showgrounds can apply for a grounds key through the website, as can people wanting to hire the grounds for events.

There is information for people wanting to have a trade stand, a programme of events and list of show attractions (to be updated closer to Show day), information on accessibility, plus a Frequently Asked Questions page for answers to many basic enquiries.

The site was built by local web design company Dash Design.

Next Show: Saturday, February 27th, 2021  
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## Farm walk fundraiser

Locals have the chance to spend an hour walking around a 40ha working farm as part of a fundraiser for the Helensville Show. It's on Sunday, January 24 starting 9am at 500 Fordyce Road, Parakai. Tickets cost \$20 - enquiries to Shona, 021 0222 3044. Sensible footwear please, and no dogs.

## New rooms for schools

Kaipara College and Waitoki School are both to receive two new classrooms as part of a \$30m 'short-term roll growth' programme in Auckland, announced by the Government in late November.

The money is part of much larger \$164 million investment to build new classrooms and upgrade schools around the country

# Partner sought to develop Parakai geothermal offering

Expressions of interest are being called for from potential long-term commercial partners to develop a unique thermal water offering at Parakai.

The Kaipātiki Thermal Offering Expression of Interest (EOI) has been called by Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara (Te Poari) the co-governance entity of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Auckland Council formed as part of the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Claims Settlement Act 2013.

Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara operates as a Treaty partner with the Council in Te Poari, which is responsible for the oversight and management of Kaipātiki (formerly the Parakai Recreation Reserve and home of the Parakai hot pools).

Te Poari wants to find a partner with an interest in working together to develop "a unique thermal offering that brings to life the vision for Kaipātiki and delivers on the values of the Treaty partner Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and the local community".

Currently under lease until 2026 by Parakai Springs Complex Limited, the

Parakai hot springs have been a favourite family destination for Aucklanders for more than 100 years.

The Parakai geothermal reservoir - Te Awa Kahawai - is a relatively small, low temperature reservoir with more than 90 bores ranging from 25 to 270m in depth.

Subject to resolution of the existing lease, a new lease for up to 33 years may be granted with a potential extension for up to 66 years.

The current lease area of 2.3 hectares contains a variety of assets, including thermal pools, an office and administration block, and changing rooms.

The land is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and the intent is to retain recreation at the heart of any offering. Additional land could be made available for the right offering.

For more information email Rob McGee, rob.mcgee@geoffcanhamconsulting.co.nz, who is leading the process on behalf of Te Poari. EOI's close at 5pm on January 29, 2021.

## medical centre notes

All of us are looking forward to the end of 2020 in the hope 2021 is a better year.

We should be proud about how New Zealand has handled the pandemic this year, especially when I compare us to my family and friends back in the United Kingdom. We should not be complacent about our ongoing approach to Covid-19. And I still hear people comparing it to the seasonal flu. Covid-19 does have a higher mortality rate than the flu, and also a higher hospitalisation rate.

And I think what is often not highlighted enough in the media reports is that what is not counted is the 'indirect' mortality rate effect of the Covid-19 pandemic - when hospitals and medical services are swamped with Covid-19 cases, nearly all other services stop.

I have a friend in the UK who, as an orthopaedic surgeon, has not operated on an elective case for nearly a year. There is no planned surgery going on as there are not the hospital bed spaces due to the numbers of patients with Covid-19 illness. And this is before the impact on diagnostic tests, hospital and GP appointments, and the delay this causes on not only diagnosing other illnesses, but often their treatment as well. In the UK it was estimated in its first lockdown that 2000 cancer cases had delayed diagnoses each week.

So, I know it is tiring and annoying wearing masks etc and following the advice, but we have done amazingly well so far, and we have to keep it up.

- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Leader



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Avoid the busy shopping malls this silly season and shop local! Eleventh Hour is a boutique gift and clothing lifestyle store at the northern end of Helensville's main street.

With a wide range of products to choose from you will find something for everyone's budget and taste, plus loads of great Christmas gifts. We offer friendly service, gorgeous gift wrapping, and free delivery for locals if you prefer to shop online.

Follow us on Facebook to hear about our sales and giveaways and stay up to date with new products. Or pop in sometime, we would love to see you!

Open 10 - 4 Tuesday to Friday, and 10 - 2 Saturdays. And we'll also be open on Mondays throughout December!

[www.eleventhhourgifts.store](http://www.eleventhhourgifts.store)    [www.facebook.com/giftseleventhhour](https://www.facebook.com/giftseleventhhour)    83 Commercial Road



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lovesoul is a locally owned and operated small business in the centre of Waimauku. We are open Mon - Sat from 9am, and will close for the holidays between 24th Dec to 10th Jan 2021. This is the busiest time of our year, so don't miss out. Book online today and be in to win! You deserve it! [lovesoul.co.nz/book](http://lovesoul.co.nz/book).



## : Craigweil House Home & Hospital

Christmas has arrived at Craigweil House after what has been a challenging 2020 for all. "It was only a month or so ago that we were able to celebrate our mid-winter Christmas," says one resident.

The nationwide lockdowns required an extremely strict but necessary set of Covid-19 risk identification and infection control protocols to keep residents and staff safe. Nevertheless, Craigweil has continued to keep up a lively, fun, and active home during this year. From competitions to new exercise classes, residents have kept up a cheerful smile. Recently Craigweil House celebrated the Melbourne Cup, seeing resident Frank Cowen (pictured) take home the first prize. All players on the day also took home a small prize.

Craigweil House offers both long and short stays. As always you are welcome to pop in and meet the team and see our fabulous home. We are over the road from the Parakai pools.

We wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas!



## : The Shoppe

The Shoppe - Artist and Crafters Collective at Helensville Railway Station will be selling locally made art and craft for Christmas right up to Thursday, December 24. Our 12 members take turns to 'Shoppe-keep' so you will always meet one of the talented artisans on site. With no commission on sales all profits go to the artist, which lets us keep prices down - a win/win for seller and buyer!

Come and see us for original paintings, decoupage and upcycled small furniture, upcycled clothing, handknit and crocheted baby clothes and blankets, flax woven kete and baskets, honey and ceramics, prints, paintings and jewellery, dreamcatchers, suncatchers, copper and crystals, soaps and balms, avocados and preserves, bibs and hand towels, pottery, table centre-pieces and a variety of cards.

We reached the finals in the NorthWest Business Awards and had record sales during Arts in the 'Ville. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm. Email: [weaverweb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:weaverweb@xtra.co.nz), phone/text 022 036 6985.



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Visit [www.skydiveauckland.com](http://www.skydiveauckland.com), phone 0800 921 650 or email: [info@skydiveauckland.com](mailto:info@skydiveauckland.com).



## : Art Centre Helensville

The Art Centre thanks everyone who has supported us through the difficult year we've all experienced.

October was very busy with our Art Kaipara Members' exhibition which had record sales. We had 530 visitors through the Art Centre over the three days of Arts in the Ville. And to top things off, we won the Not For Profit category in the NorthWest Country Business Awards! Thanks to the business association for the fabulous awards event and to everyone who voted for us.

Our annual Christmas exhibition this year, on until Saturday, December 19, is titled 'Something to Celebrate'. It's cash and carry so people can take their purchases home, with something for every budget. Alongside this our annual Kid's Art Exhibition features work from local children.

Open Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm, and Saturday 10am to 2pm. We will be closed from December 20 until January 23. Ph/text 021 586 859 or email [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz).



## : FIGG - Flowers, Info, Gallery & Gifts

FIGG offers visitor and community information services, local artists' original creations, Helensville and NZ souvenirs, and décor/gift items including quality artificial flowers. Open 7 days, Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, weekends and public holidays 10am to 2pm, with late night Tuesdays to 8pm and early start Thursdays at 7.30am. A computer is available, with our assistance, to search for things to do and make bookings. After hours service may be available - phone Holly on 021 488 427. We supply 110ml & 500ml tubs of Wanaka-based PURE New Zealand Icecream, gelato, sorbet, all gluten and nut free, with some vegan and dairy free options. Buy a tub with spoon provided and sit in the shade on the outside chairs to enjoy!

Christmas Promo: Spend \$200+ on original art and go in the draw for a \$50 gift basket from Riverside Crafts.



## : Living Goodness

Christmas is just around the corner, and it's never been easier to get into the festive spirit! Jazz up that Christmas ham by adding some delicious Living Goodness Sauerkraut.

There are six fantastic flavours; Sassy Sauerkraut which combines dill, caraway seeds & juniper berries and is fantastic with salmon; Sum Yum Kimchi which is spicy & tangy (contains fish sauce) and goes beautifully with Asian dishes; Heartbeet Kraut is a purple delight, a fabulous addition to any salad; Super Superkraut packed with kale & Wakame seaweed and great with sushi. Quick Draw Slaw is a fermented coleslaw with celeriac, garlic, ginger, chilli and perfect for a cheese sandwich, and finally the Naked Kraut - just pure cabbage & salt.

This Kraut doesn't just look good, it tastes great too! Packed full of live probiotics, this should be on everyone's menu! For stockists & tasty recipe ideas check out our website: [livinggoodness.co.nz](http://livinggoodness.co.nz)





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# Life membership for museum stalwart

Former Helensville resident Wynne HaySmith has been made a Life Member of the Helensville & District Historical Society.

Wynne has been a member of the society, which operates Helensville Museum, since its formation in 1968.

Helensville celebrated its centenary in 1963, and with the interest that stimulated it was decided in 1968 to form an historical society to preserve the material collected.

Wynne's aunt, Margaret West, was a founding member, and through her involvement Wynne joined as well. Since then she has held most offices in the society apart from secretary - president and vice president, constant committee member, and

heritage convenor.

Along with John Pyatt and Julia Rewi she promoted the establishment of the museum's archive centre, now an important asset for the society.

With a background in journalism, Wynne edited the second and third editions of the Historical Society's book 'Men Came Voyaging', and edited the first edition of 'Pioneering Women of the South Kaipara'.

Her family's interest in the district dates back to 1884, when the West brothers, Arthur and Edward, moved to the district and set up a timber business, which at first included chairmaking, and after a fire in 1888 was rebuilt to include a full sawmill.

## Helensville Railway Museum



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## 'Wood & Wool' exhibition

A Wood and Wool exhibition by two local artists will be held at Helensville Art Centre from Saturday, January 23 until Sunday, February 21 next year.

Woodturner Ray Scott and textile artist Fiona MacBride decided to combine forces for the exhibition after Covid-19 scuppered Ray's exhibition plans, and Fiona already had a booking for the art centre.

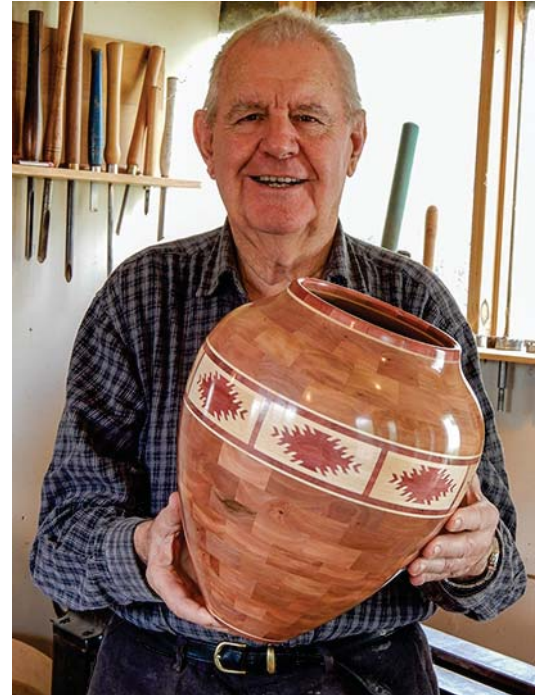
"It was a friendly, practical solution," says Fiona. "The media work well together - wood and wool. Both are natural, mostly locally sourced. They are tactile form and function."

Ray is a third generation Helensville resident who has always had a love for wood. Six years ago he took up woodturning, a hobby which has evolved into high-end 'segmentation' work and the creation of many stunning collectors pieces - and awards.

Fiona has been involved with textiles since childhood, making clothes for her dolls. That expanded into knitting, then spinning and eventually teaching Fabric Technology. Since moving to Helensville she has entered the Helensville Show, and has opened her studio for Arts in the Ville and

most recently as part of the Helensville Art Trail (see page 4).

Exhibition visitors will be able to meet both Ray and Fiona at the Art Centre on Sundays.



• Ray Scott with one of his segmented pieces



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@ marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz

✉ 7a/18 Oteha Valley Road Extension, Albany



Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

# Peace relay calls at Parakai

Runners in history's longest relay for world peace, the annual Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, called in at Parakai Springs in late October.

They were met there by local MP Chris Penk, who helped unveil a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion. The visit was originally planned for August, but had to be delayed because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Children and teachers from Huapai School took part in the international run which since its inception in 1987 has traversed over 150 nations and territories and touched the lives of millions. It's estimated the torch has been carried more than 632,000 km. The run is inspired by the simple goal of encouraging international friendship and world peace.

A highlight of the visit was the dedication of Parakai Springs to world peace, part of a worldwide initiative called the Sri Chinmoy Peace Blossoms

programme which creates 'focal points' for peace in communities on six continents.

The Peace Run was established by the late Sri Chinmoy, a lifelong peace advocate who believed a running relay dedicated to peace would have a positive effect on world affairs. In addition to numerous international celebrities, top New Zealand sports people such as Valerie Adams, Scott Dixon and the All Blacks have held the Peace Run torch to show their support for the event.

For more information please visit our web site: [www.peacerun.org](http://www.peacerun.org).



Local school children hold the Peace Run torch aloft

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## Vintage train to A&P Show

A special heritage train is being put on to bring visitors to next year's Helensville Show, thanks to a partnership with Auckland Tourism, Events & Economic Development (ATEED).

The train will allow more people from around the Auckland region to visit the show.

The partnership makes the 119th Helensville Show, on Saturday, February 27, part of Auckland's Summernova Festival Series, which has been designed to wrap around the 36th America's Cup programme being held in the city this summer. The Show will be one of the first events to kick off the series, which will run until the end of March.

"By supporting the Helensville Show we are able to encourage more people to get out and explore other parts of Auckland they might not usually travel to," says ATEED General Manager Destination, Steve Armitage

"The special addition of the Glenbrook vintage train makes it more accessible for visitors, and provides a unique way to get to the show and then enjoy the day learning more about the rural traditions, culture, history and heritage of the area."

## Dressage competition

Dressage Waitemata will hold its 2020 Premier League Show at Woodhill Sands over the weekend of December 12 and 13.

"This is a show for anyone to come and watch, especially at the higher levels. You don't need to be a horse person to appreciate how athletic and fancy these horses look, says Tash Alexander, the marketing and PR person for Dressage Waitemata.

The event is free for spectators. Around 160 riders are expected to take part, coming from around the North Island. They will be competing for \$4500 in prize money, along with trophies and rugs.

Dressage Waitemata is a not-for-profit local club run by volunteers and based at Woodhill Sands that is in its 36th year of operation.



**LIONS CLUB OF HELENSVILLE**



## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Helensville War Memorial Hall  
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Let's lookout for one another and ensure we share the roads safely when driving near schools like Kaukapakapa school. Everyone deserves to get home safely.

Rural roads often have higher speeds than those closer to the city. Navigating around livestock, along winding roads or coming out of driveways means we should be looking ahead for what's around the corner. Drive at a safe speed for the conditions of the road.

When death or serious injuries happen on our roads they affect the whole community, not

just the person's immediate whānau. It's up to all of us to make the right choices when driving. All crashes are preventable.

**"Children can be unpredictable, and easily distracted. We need the adults to be the super careful ones. Please, please slow down going past our school."**

**Andrea Clarke.** Principal Kaukapakapa School.

Together we can make everyone's journey safe by choosing a safe speed. Kia manawanui!

WHY LOWER SPEEDS?

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Concerns raised by the community.

Vehicles exceeding speed limits.

Close to schools, local shops, community facilities & parks.

High risk or high crash areas on open roads.

Some roads have unsuitable speeds for winding, hilly or unmarked lanes.

Rural hazards like tractors, livestock or people on horses.



[AT.govt.nz/ourcommunity](https://at.govt.nz/ourcommunity)

## Recycling bin clips

South Kaipara Landcare is offering its members a greatly reduced price on rubber clips designed to stop recycling bin lids blowing open in the wind.

The clips automatically release when tipped upside down by the recycling truck. They usually cost \$11.95 each, but South Kaipara Landcare members can get them for a subsidised price of just \$5 per clip. Non-members will need to join the group to take part in the offer, at just \$5 per year per family. For more information email: sthkaiparalandcare@gmail.com or visit: southkaiparalandcare.org.

## Calf club, pleasure horses at Show

Calf club will make a welcome return to the 2021 Helensville A&P Show. Show manager Louise Brooks says: "If the recent South Kaipara Group Day is anything to go by, we should have a great line-up of young handlers and their super cute calves."

And an all-new 'Pleasure Horse' section, sponsored by Farmlands, has been added to the equestrian section.

"The Pleasure Horse ring enables a wider range of equestrians to participate at A&P level, and still with lovely ribbons and prizes," says chief equestrian steward Gabrielle Cornelius.

## Ottis takes Young Farmer title

This is Ottis Oliver-Chambers (right), who won Helensville Primary School's coveted Young Farmer title for 2020.

While the school had to cancel its annual Ag Day this year because of Covid-19, it was able to hold its Young Farmer and lamb and calf competitions.

The Young Farmer competition is for year 6 to 8 students, who compete in a range of activities to earn points towards a final score.



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# Christmas

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## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

**ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE**  
60 Garfield Rd, Helensville. Contact Administrator, 420 8868

- Thursday, Dec 17th: 7pm, Blue Christmas (a service of remembrance and hope).
- Sunday, Dec 20th: 9.30am, Carol Service.
- Friday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

**ALLSAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA**  
Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16. Contact Administrator, 420 8868

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

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELENSVILLE**  
1 Puriri St, Helensville. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. 420 8110

- Thursday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols; 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Friday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

**ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, HUAPAI**  
380 SH16, Huapai. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. 420 8110

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

**RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PARAKAI**  
1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai. Contact Shirley Wood, 420 2559

- Sunday, Dec 20th: 10am, Christmas Service.

**MAGNIFY CHURCH**  
118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. Contact Kim Duncan, 420 8911

- Sunday, Dec 20th: 10am, Family Christmas Service

# Happy Holidays

from Jana Mills



I would like to thank all of my loyal clients, family and friends. Your support has been extremely overwhelming and appreciated. I look forward to achieving many more positive real estate outcomes for Rodney residents in 2021.

My summer will be spent in the Rodney area so please feel free to call me anytime if you need to discuss your real estate matters and I will be more than happy to help.

Merry Christmas, Safe Travels and a very Happy New Year.

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## Helensville Birthing Centre

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Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

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Ph: (09) 420 8747

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

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

## Lions hunt new members

The Lions Club of Helensville is looking for new members so it can continue its work in the local area.

Over the past 56 years the club has helped numerous local groups, organisations and individuals, putting its support - and money - behind projects both big and small.

Member Yvonne Hilton says "through our club you will meet new folk and form relationships with people of all ages, nationalities and occupations."

If becoming a full member is not an option, locals can instead join the newly created Friends of Lions to help with activities and enjoy the company of club members. There is no membership cost for Friends. For more information phone: Yvonne Hilton - 420 8122; Pauline or Mike O'Neil - 420 6208; or Chris Clark - 420 8527.

## from the frontline

Hi everyone. It's hard to believe it's that time of year again, and what a year it's been! With Christmas just around the corner I thought I would share some tips on how to stay safe during the silly season.

If you are heading away to the bach for the holidays, it's a good idea to let your neighbours know so they can keep an eye on your property. Make sure your property is secure before you leave, and take any valuables with you. Please ensure your animals have water and are well looked after if you are leaving them at home.

Check your vehicles before you go, including tyre pressures, brake fluid level, and lights. Make sure you keep your speed down, drive to the conditions, and have patience, so your family and other road users can arrive safely at their holiday destination.

If you're attending work functions and other parties, arrange a sober driver, look after your friends and family, and please be responsible so we can all have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the festive season.

- Melissa Haven, Community Constable



## point of view

During the election I was often asked about efforts to improve broadband connectivity across Kaipara ki Mahurangi, particularly in light of the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Covid pandemic has highlighted the vital role digital connectivity plays across New Zealand, including here in Kaipara ki Mahurangi where internet services can be patchy.

As a government we've already made good progress on boosting internet connectivity in rural areas, including continuing to roll-out the second phase of the Rural Broadband Initiative, which will connect around 84,000 rural homes and businesses to improved broadband by 2023.

And as part of the government's economic response to Covid-19, we're investing in new broadband infrastructure to create jobs and boost access and capacity to UFB across New Zealand, especially in areas where congestion and capacity constraints emerged during the lockdown.

But we know there's more to do. We will invest an additional \$60 million to increase connectivity in under-served rural regions, including in rural Auckland. This will increase connectivity in our worst-connected regions to deliver faster, more reliable internet connections. Our plan will boost connectivity, providing more reliable services, while creating skilled jobs as we continue our Covid-19 recovery.

- Marja Lubeck, Labour List MP in Rodney  
[marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz)



# local board matters

As 2020 draws to a close many will be drawing a sigh of relief; it's been a difficult year and no doubt everyone is looking forward to a 'vanilla' 2021!

For Auckland Council the budget challenges continue, with predictions of further shortfalls in income to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. Council relies on 60 percent of its income coming from non-rates sources, and councillors are going to be grappling with some very tough decisions next year following public consultation on the Annual Budget and the refresh of the 10 Year Plan.

Over the last week there has been discussion about 'rural representation' for Rodney and a suggestion from our Councillor and the North Action Group (NAG) that boundaries should be changed for the Rodney Local Board subdivisions to enable better representation of rural issues.

This comes at an odd time - not only is Council battling unprecedented budget issues due to Covid-19 but an Auckland wide review of boundaries was completed last year and none of the suggested changes were raised then.

Currently only one Local Board member lives in an urban area (Warkworth) - the rest of us living in rural areas. I live at Muriwai, which could be described as a rural township but we have no water or sewerage services; Vicki Kenny lives in Wharepapa on a gravel

road; Danielle Hancock at Kaukapakapa, again on a gravel road; and Brent Bailey in Waimauku on a rural property.

The Local Board has always been a strong advocate of rural issues such as maintenance and sealing of gravel roads, because not only do we understand these issues first-hand, but we're engaged with the community we represent. Having just signed off the fourth Local Board Plan since 2010, it clearly contains strong advocacy for our huge rural area.

There is always a balance to be struck between our rapidly growing urban towns and the needs of rural communities, and we continue to debate and cooperate as a board to ensure facilities and assets we manage on your behalf are fairly distributed and funded.

The main objections from NAG are around issues like road sealing, which unfortunately the Local Board has no direct control over as councillors are the ones who decide how much money is allocated to this.

Our Councillor lives in a fully urban area on the North Shore, but no one would suggest he hasn't been a vocal advocate for rural issues. That suggests it is not about electoral boundaries or where people live, but whether they are engaged with the communities they represent.

The Rodney Local Board has achieved much over the last 10 years and continues to be a voice for the grassroots in our community. We are proud to be part of a team of nine that enables your voices to be heard, and the team that represents this area have worked hard to ensure we are focusing on core business and delivering for the district. We're all looking forward to continuing this work in 2021.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and safe Christmas.

- Phelan Pirrie,  
Chair, Rodney Local Board  
Ph 021 837 167

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## Tennis Club is tops

Helensville Tennis Club has been awarded Club of the Year for 2019-2020 by Tennis Northern.

The award recognised the club's success at growing stronger and more vibrant, and becoming a valuable member of the Helensville community.

Tennis Northern is an amateur sports body which promotes and manages the game of tennis from the Auckland Harbour Bridge north to Cape Reinga. Based at the Albany Tennis Centre, it has 24 directly affiliating tennis clubs and a further 19 Northland clubs, totalling 7000 affiliated members.

### Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

365 Main Road, Huapai

09 412 2496

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## ■ ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE

Brown Sugar, the ultimate Rolling Stones cover band, will be playing all the greatest hits at the Rolling Stones Experience in the Helensville Rugby Clubrooms from 8pm on Saturday, December 5. Tickets \$30, from [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz). This is a fundraiser for the Helensville Junior Rugby tour to Canterbury in 2021.

## ■ WAITOKI CHRISTMAS MARKET

Local firefighters will have a fire truck full of Christmas trees for sale at the Waitoki Village Christmas Market on Saturday December 12. It's a practical opportunity to support the local fire brigade - and a chance to get a photo taken dressed in fire fighter's garb.

The market in Waitoki Hall will run from 8.30am to 1pm, and local goods on offer will include baked items, plants, homemade and used bargains, bric-a-brac, preserves and more. Prospective stall holders should email Gill at: [waitokihall@gmail.com](mailto:waitokihall@gmail.com) or phone 420 3301

## ■ SANTA AT PARAKAI

Santa will be visiting Parakai Four Square from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, December 19 so children can have their photo taken with him. If possible bring a can of food or a new, wrapped toy to be donated to Kindred Family Services in Helensville

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Santa will feature at the next Kaukapakapa market, on Sunday December 20 from 8.30am to 1pm. He will be in his sparkly grotto in the historic Kaukapakapa library next to the hall, ready for photos with

the children - plus there will be free face painting. And there will be special Christmas performances from the The Cougar Chorus and the students from DanceVille.

The market is a chance to buy local this Christmas with unique gift ideas from the craft and gift stall holders, as well as fresh produce, artisan food and preserves, plants, books, food, coffee and more.

The first market for 2021 will be on Sunday, January 17. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email: [sarah1@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:sarah1@maxnet.co.nz).

## ■ CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

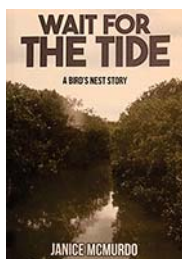
A free Christmas in the Park evening will be held at the new Kaukapakapa community playground from 4.30pm to 7.30pm on Sunday, December 20. Organised by the Kaukapakapa Collective, it will feature a band playing both traditional carols and modern Christmas tunes, guest singers (including children), giveaways, games, a lolly scramble, and of course, Santa. People should bring a rug or mat to sit on, and snacks to eat.

## ■ AUTHOR AT LIBRARY

Author Janice McMurdo will be at the historic Kaukapakapa Library with her new novel 'Wait for the Tide' on Sunday, January 17, from 9am to 1pm.

Linked to her earlier work 'The Bird's Nest', Janice's second novel is also set around the Kaipara Harbour and South Head peninsula. Janice has drawn on both her memories of the Kaipara area and her study of hypnotherapy for her inspiration, and writes in an easy, natural way.

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



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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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