

## Lockdown food bag service to continue

When the advocate from the local Kia Tīmata Anō women's refuge arrives to deliver a food parcel, 3-year-old Ava thinks all her Christmases have come at once.

"She gets so excited when we receive them because in lockdown she didn't get to go to the shops because I had no work and we were stuck in the house," says Ava's mum Diana.

After fleeing an abusive marriage last year, Diana took Ava and spent a number of months at the women's refuge, rebuilding their lives.

When she was ready and able to leave the refuge, staff helped her find a small place to rent and she found some casual work. But as an immigrant without residency, when the country went into lockdown she was left with no income and no access to welfare.

"When I got that food parcel each week it made me feel that I was not alone in the world," she says.

During the early days of the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown some local agencies got together and pooled their resources to create and deliver food parcels for local families in need.

The Kai Collective was initially set up as a response to an immediate crisis, but anticipating the need will only grow as the economic downturn continues to bite, the agencies involved have made a commitment to continue to operate as long as the need and the funds are there.

The collective involves Helensville Women and Family Centre, Kia Tīmata Anō Women's Refuge, Outwest Youth, South

Kaipara Men's Centre, Te Hā Oranga, Kaipara College, Helensville District Health Trust, Parent Aid Northwest, and the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau.

The collective is supported by the Angel Fund, local police, schools, and doctors, as well as those who have supplied food, including Parakai Four Square, Helensville Countdown, Kumeu New World, River Valley Meat and Kiwi Harvest, and the Kumeu Baptist Church.

feed."

The collective has secured funding from Auckland City Council's Civil Defence fund, the Auckland Foundation, and the Ministry of Social Development, and together with cash donations from the public is able to buy the grocery items families need most.

It has also employed a co-ordinator, Gemma Donaldson, who will ensure the smooth operation of the service, including the team of volunteers who get together once a

week to pack the parcels that include pantry staples, canned goods and fresh produce and meat, as well as recipes for wholesome family meals.

After just a few weeks in the role, Gemma says she has been humbled by the impact the collective is having.

"I've been so impressed by what a great operation the people behind this initiative managed to start up, and at a time when the country was in its strictest lockdown," she says.

"What really excites me is knowing it's not just food that's being offered, but with all the agencies taking care of their own clients we know [those] who are facing a tough time right now are getting the extra help they need."

Cath Rameka agrees, saying: "The food parcels mean that families who have some big challenges going on - job losses, mounting bills, sickness - they have one less thing to worry about that particular week; we're trying to rebuild their mana so they can get to a point where they're able to stand on their own again."

One of those to receive the parcels said it

• To page 2



• Each week volunteers like these pack about 45 food parcels for local families. L-R: Myra Lloyd, Julie Croft, Shona Calder, Amisha O'Brien & Jo Dixey, with Kai Collective co-ordinator Gemma Donaldson and Ana Christmas from Kia Tīmata Anō Trust

In the 14 weeks since the first food parcel was created and delivered, the Kai Collective has packed and distributed more than 460 packs for around 147 households.

Cath Rameka from Te Hā Oranga says the need is great.

"For many whānau the Covid situation has seen some family members move home, and that's putting lots of pressure on household budgets with more mouths to

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# editorial

Well this editorial is a turn-up for the books: I am going to get political!

We've got an election coming up in a couple of months, and it's a chance for all Kiwis of voting age to put some careful consideration into the future direction of our country.

I have never subscribed to the theory of blindly supporting one political party. I believe most parties have some good ideas and some bad ones, some good policies and some bad ones, some good politicians and some not so good. And the fact is the two major parties, National and Labour, are much closer ideologically these days than in the past so it often comes down to a raft of smaller policies which can sway my vote.

Each election, I take the time to compare the good with the bad, balance things out, and choose whoever I think is the best option at the time. Consequently, I have voted for different parties at various elections, and since MMP have often split my electorate and party vote - while I might think Party A will do a better job of running the country, I may prefer Party B's candidate as my local MP.

I'm afraid I don't have time for people who rabidly support one party, believing it can do no wrong, while at the same time slamming their opponents as useless on all fronts. I have heard a number of supporters over the years of both the National and Labour parties (including close family members!) who have said the other will destroy or wreck the country if they are put in charge.

It's all rubbish. We've had both National and Labour governments since the 1930s, and guess what? Neither of them has destroyed the country. We're still here, and our governments, and prime ministers, have generally tended to be pretty stable compared to many other countries. Yes, both parties have made some bad decisions over the years, but I think that has to be expected, and none have terminally hurt New Zealand.

Perhaps I am naive, but I genuinely believe most people get into politics for the good of the country, and while some do get waylaid over long careers (read: power hungry), on the whole they do their level best to run our country well.

When it comes time to vote, I guess it's an easy option to just tick the box for your preferred party, but I believe that does New Zealand an injustice. Put some thought into it, and try to view all the parties' policies with an unbiased eye before making your decision.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## Kai Collective (cont...)

• From page 1

made a huge difference to bringing back some normality to his family's life - "When the food parcels started arriving we realised how much we were struggling on a daily basis. It made us proud of the local community and people for supporting us."

Diana agrees, particularly on the weeks when Ava's favourite, mac 'n' cheese, is on the menu: "Those people truly are our fairy godmothers, I don't know what we would have done without them."

Anyone wanting to donate or volunteer can email Gemma Donaldson at: kai.collective20@gmail.com. Online donations can be made via the Helensville Women and Family Centre website, hwfc.co.nz/donations.

## Equestrian market

A second Auckland Equestrian Market will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Saturday, August 8 from 10am to 3pm.

Designed as a space for local businesses to showcase their wares and for second hand sellers, 18 equestrian businesses such as Vivant Equi, Holbrook Equestrian, and Blackbridge Equestrian have booked stands, along with 15 other stalls selling second hand gear, crafts and food.

People came from as far afield as Cambridge and Northland to attend last year's inaugural market. This year's event had to be postponed from May because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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# New features for Arts in the Ville

Helensville's annual three-day Arts in the Ville festival has some exciting new features planned for this year.

Now in its sixth year, the event will again be held over Labour Weekend (October 24, 25, and 26), from 10am to 4pm.

"This is going to be the best yet," says Kura Geere-Watson, who is organising the festival along with local artists Mike Rowland, Raywin Cruickshank and Arwen Flowers.

"A lot of energy has been put into making this year a bit different, in order to show the whole of the Auckland area that Arts in the Ville is the happening place to be over Labour Weekend," says Kura.

New for 2020 will be:

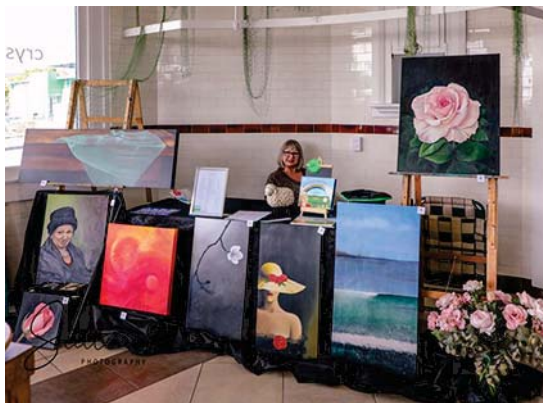
**Tuktuks:** For those who want a unique way to get around the huge number of art venues, Kiwi Tuktuks will have two drivers on hand with their weather-proof, electric tuktuks based at the Helensville War Memorial Hall forecourt in Commercial Road. They will be available to drive visitors around the venues, open studios, and popup galleries for a small charge.

**Twilight Market:** From 4pm on the Saturday there will be a twilight market with food trucks and music, at a yet-to-be

confirmed venue. There will be a range of stalls, but festival organisers have stipulated no crafts or art stalls so as not to compete with the art exhibits on show. The market is being organised by Andy Cummings.

The food trucks will be back on the Monday, when local cafes are closed.

**Antiques:** On the Sunday from 4pm local art and collectables expert John Perry will lead an event called 'Antiques And Art,



• Ann Keane with her works at last year's Arts in the Ville - Photo: Stellanova Photography

Show And Tell' in the Magnify Church hall in Commercial Road. Along the lines of television's Antiques Road Show, locals will be able to bring in treasures which John will then talk about.

The evening will also feature a small fashion parade by Myra Lloyd of Marmalade Hats, and Helensville-based Amy Howatt of Northwic Alternative Bridal Boutique, who specialises in bespoke bridalwear and corsetry and who has clients in Australia and the USA.

**Out of Towners Popup:** Also new this year will be an 'Out Of Towners' popup gallery, which will feature works from eight artists from outside the local area.

Many popular artists from previous Arts in the Ville events will return this year, along with a number of new ones. The first Arts in the Ville featured just 20 artists - last year there were 76 spread across 26 venues.

The popular treasure hunt will be happening again, and Arts in the Ville will be launching a new website at the start of August, which will link to artists' websites.

## Fiona Whyte

Well-known artist and former Helensville resident Fiona Whyte passed away last month in Australia.

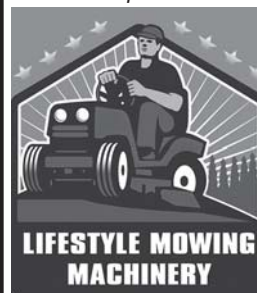
She was known mainly for colourful acrylic paintings showing New Zealand rural and urban landscapes, which while highly detailed had a naive, child-like quality. Widely exhibited in New Zealand, her paintings and sculptures are held in private collections around the world.

A mother of five, she initially studied at Auckland's Elam School of Fine Arts before her art career took off. She moved from Helensville to be closer to her children and grandchildren in Australia.

We hope to bring a fuller account of her life, and especially her time in Helensville, in next month's issue.

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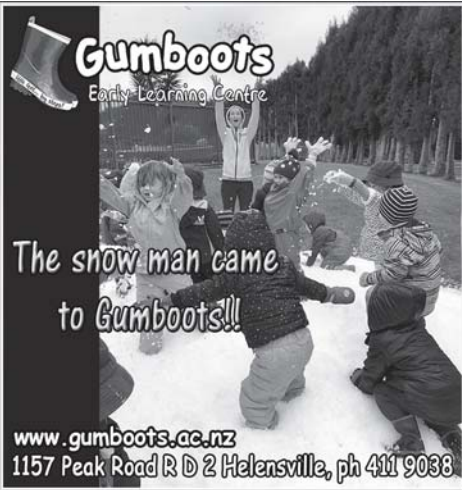
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# Park farm wins awards

The team which looks after Te Rau Pūiri Regional Park at South Head has won four awards in this year's Auckland Ballance Farm Environment Awards, run by the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

Auckland Council's Garry Hewson, Laura Wallis and Dene Noonan run the 340ha sheep and beef farm, which as reported in last month's *Helensville News* is coming up for major development.

Between them they took out the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Soil Management Award, the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award, the Synlait Climate Stewardship Award, and the Auckland Council-sponsored Water Quality Enhancement Award.

The judges commended the Council team's significant achievements, clear strategy and capital commitment to ensure efforts are built on in the future. They added the farm management showed leadership in both innovation and livestock health.

A digital farm plan which electromagnetically maps out soil was praised by the judges for its innovation and leadership, while they were also impressed with excellent overall health and safety.

"It's satisfying to see the team acknowledged for the work they've put into farming this park," says Auckland Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore, himself a farmer.

"The challenge between farming profitability, minimal environmental impact, and recreation is not an easy one, and this

team is managing to get this balance right." Te Rau Pūiri is one of 19 regional parks incorporating farming activities across the Auckland region, each linked to the others through shared operations.

The Kaipara Harbour property runs 650 ewes and 160 Hereford cows.

Dene Noonan, Auckland Council's Manager Farm Business & Operations, says they entered the awards as a way of gaining further guidance on sustainably improving the park's physical and financial performance.

"Stock health is a high priority; our pastures have been significantly improved over the past couple of years by the introduction of a beef breeding herd," says Dene.

The team has worked with local vets to develop an animal health plan, and systems are being implemented to tackle a potential triple drench resistance problem.

"There is also a strong environmental and social focus in what we do."

The judges acknowledged the teams efforts to protect the environment, and geological and cultural sites on the park. Recently funding has been secured for the retirement of a large wetland on the property which will boost biodiversity and filter water entering Kaipara Harbour.

For information on the concept plan currently being developed for the park, see the front page of the June 2020 issue of *Helensville News*.



• Dene Noonan, Garry Hewson, and Laura Wallis

Photo - Auckland Council

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## Local survivor hosts cancer breakfast

A mother from Kaukapakapa who is celebrating 20 years surviving breast cancer is encouraging Kiwis to get involved with Pink Ribbon Breakfast month this July.

Vicky Newman was diagnosed with grade 3 breast cancer in 2000, at the age of 34. She had a mastectomy and chemotherapy, but less than a year after receiving her initial diagnosis, Vicky learnt the cancer had returned in her neck.

Despite being told she wouldn't survive, Vicky responded well to an international clinical trial for Herceptin and has since been cancer-free. She's now celebrating 20 years as a cancer survivor by hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast this month.

Says Vicky: "I was told I had a less than 30 percent chance of responding to Herceptin and was likely to be terminal. But after two doses, it took all of my secondary spread away, never to be seen again.

"Going through this was a huge eye-opener on what's important in life, and that was to be there for my children and husband.

"Seeing as I'm still here, 20 years later, I thought it was time to celebrate with my friends and family, raise some money and give back. I wanted to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast to raise awareness and funds to show people what amazing support is



• Vicky in 2000 with her children Daniel and Georgia

available for those affected."

Last year more than 1200 Pink Ribbon Breakfasts were held in the Auckland region. More than 3300 women across the country are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, and more than 650 a year die from it.

Proceeds from Pink Ribbon Breakfasts go towards helping these women get the support they need, as well as to those already undergoing treatment. They will also help to drive early detection and ground-breaking research to prevent further deaths.

For more information and to register to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, visit [www.pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz](http://www.pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz)

## Kaipara mozzies eradicated

Biosecurity New Zealand says a small population of an exotic mosquito species detected near the Kaipara Harbour has been successfully eradicated - with local community help. Larvae of the Culex Sitiens mosquito were found in March 2018 in the Kawau Parua Inlet, near Parakai. No adult mosquitoes were ever found.

The mosquito is wide-spread in Southeast Asia, the South Pacific and Australia, and can transmit diseases such as Ross River virus.

Stamping out the pest involved extensive ground surveillance and aerial spraying. There have been no further finds of the mosquito in the two years since initial detection.

"It's now been two years since any have been found, and we're confident we can declare them eradicated," says David Yard, principal response manager with the Ministry for Primary Industries. He says community involvement in the eradication effort was crucial to the success of the response.

"Our thanks go out to the community around Helensville and Parakai, who attended the public consultation meetings, allowed us onto their land, and supported Biosecurity New Zealand to deliver the response in a seamless fashion."

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## Soft toy sleepover coming up

"We're getting back to normal after lockdown, but there are still a few changes for the next wee while," says Helensville senior librarian Anne Coppell.

The focus for July will be the library's fifth annual Soft Toy Sleepover, which will be held on Friday, July 17.

leave their toys behind to spend the night at the library - with library staff keeping watch.

Children can pick their toys up the next day and - technology permitting - collect an album of their toy's overnight antics.

The library's regular half-hour Kids Time sessions return on Thursday, July 23 at

10am. Aimed at under-six-year-olds, Kids Time is designed to suit the day's audience, so some days there may be more books than others, some days more songs, for example.

With Matariki and the school holidays coming up, the library will have activity sheets for children to do onsite or to complete at home.

In August, the library hopes to resume weekly visits to Craigweil Rest Home at Parakai, with poetry readings and sing-a-longs. And Anne is working on a calendar of outreach visits to local schools

and early childhood centres.

To arrange a visit email Anne at: [anne.coppell@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:anne.coppell@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz). Adult groups who would like a visit should email Sally Hardwick at: [sally.hardwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:sally.hardwick@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

To stay up-to-date with library happenings, 'like' and follow: [www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibrary)



• Senior librarian Anne Coppell reads to last year's Soft Toy Sleepover group

Children can drop off their toys between 4pm and 5.30pm on the day. It's suggested they don't bring a special toy that has to be home at bedtime.

Toys will be registered and given name tags, and children will be able to decorate provided boxes to use as their toy's bed for the night. From 5pm, there will be a special pyjama storytime, and at 5.30pm families will

## Slain constable spent time in Helensville

The 28-year-old police officer killed during a shooting at a routine traffic stop in West Auckland on June 19 spent a month relieving at Helensville Police Station in October 2018.

Constable Matt Hunt carried out general policing duties while here, and "thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of rural policing and experiencing isolated areas such as South Head, and getting to work in a tight-knit community," says Inspector Mark Fergus, Area Commander for Waitemata North.

Being raised on the Hibiscus Coast, Matt was proud to serve the people of Rodney, spending the rest of his time until a few weeks before his shooting at Orewa.



• Constable Matt Hunt

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# In-home hearing service

After more than 20 years as an audiologist, Lisa Greene saw a gap in the market for an in-home hearing service.

So earlier this year she set up Hear 4U Ltd, covering the west and north-west of Auckland. Unfortunately the Covid-19 lockdown meant she wasn't able to start seeing clients until the country moved into Level 1.

Lisa will be a familiar face to many of the people who will use her new service, as for the past eight years she worked for Bay Audiology, based at Kumeu and holding a weekly hearing clinic at PhysioFlex in Helensville.

She says her main point of difference is a focus on maintaining the hearing aids her clients already have.



• Lisa Greene of Hear 4U

She adds many people, especially the elderly, can find it difficult to get into a clinic, while people still working, or clients' family members, often have to take time off from their job. Seeing them in their homes can relieve a lot of often unnecessary stress.

Many people struggle to keep their hearing aids working properly, she says. Often the problem is just a case of them being gummed up and requiring a clean - something Lisa can easily do onsite, along with many other repairs.

Her aim is to keep people using their hearing aids for as long as possible, rather than thinking they need replacing.

Lisa will be providing a full hearing test service.

She says seeing clients in their homes brings other benefits. For instance, sometimes people have trouble hearing on the telephone, and don't even realise they can change the phone's volume. Also, smart televisions and cellphones can be linked to modern hearing aids, something Lisa is happy to help clients set up.

And with the Covid-19 pandemic fresh in people's minds, Lisa says many people are happier for her to come to their home, rather than having to sit in a crowded waiting room at a clinic.

Lisa expects many of her clients will be elderly, but she is happy to work with any age - "I was a paediatric audiologist for years."

While she's happy to take individual bookings, she's settled on a subscription model where people can join and receive four, six, 12, 26 or 52 visits a year, depending on their needs.

Hearing aid batteries and most consumables are included in the subscription fee. Generally the only additional cost would be if a hearing aid had to be sent out for repair.

Before becoming an audiologist, Lisa worked at not-for-profits such as IHC and the Blind Foundation (now Blind Low Vision NZ). As a service co-ordinator at the latter she dealt with people who had other disabilities, often hearing-related. It was getting to know about audiology through that role that got her interested in becoming an audiologist herself.

After qualifying she spent two to three years in the public sector at Whangarei Hospital followed by 10 years working with children at the Kelston Deaf Education Centre, before moving into private practice.

Lisa is a full member of the New Zealand Audiological Society and registered with ACC, and keeps up-to-date with on-going education.

Until the end of July, Lisa is offering locals the chance to win a pair of new hearing aids - full details are on her website at [www.hear4u.nz](http://www.hear4u.nz), or phone 0800 119 510.



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## : Business promotion every which way

With 27 years' experience in his field, there isn't much Mark Adcock doesn't know about promoting businesses.

Smashing Promotions started as a home-based business, but over the years has had numerous homes including a converted cow shed at Muriwai and custom-built premises in Shamrock Drive in Kumeu, before finally settling at its current location in the Waimauku shopping centre.

There, Mark heads a team of five people - four of them locals - who can help with all aspects of branding and promotion.

Smashing Promotions originally began with a much narrower focus than it has today, mostly manufacturing sand-blasted glass products and ceramics.

Today, with clients all over the country including many local firms, schools and organisations, the business has a range of 30,000 products it can put branding onto.

It also has a wide range of apparel available for branding, using traditional techniques such as screen printing and embroidery through to more

high-tech solutions like digital printing and lasering.

"We're always on the lookout for new technology and better ways to approach jobs," says Mark.

The company can even bespoke manufacture school uniforms and sports uniforms for children who are outside the normal size ranges.

Mark is especially keen to help local schools and community groups, providing clothing and other services at greatly reduced rates - and often organising sponsorship so the products don't cost the customer anything at all.

"I like to support the community to avoid them squandering resources."

Three years ago Smashing Promotions moved into digital promotions under the SmashingIT brand, with a full-time in-house website developer to create websites and help with social media promotion.



> Mark Adcock in the Smashing Promotions showroom

Among other services offered are the design and production of print material like brochures, business cards, and display stands. Branded sweets are another line, as are trophies and awards.

Mark can be contacted at 09 412 6235 or email: [info@smashingpromotions.nz](mailto:info@smashingpromotions.nz).

## : Butcher has long history in meat trade

Cleaver's Edge owner Brendon Ryan has worked in the meat industry all his life - but not always as a business owner.

Hailing from Pinetown, near Durban in South Africa, he began his career as a cleaner and

labourer, progressing to butcher, then on to management and finally becoming a shareholder in Mndeni Meats. Wife Allison managed an agency of Standard Bank.

In 2008, with Allison, daughter Tarryn and son Bryan, Brendon sold up and emigrated to New Zealand, where he was offered a butchery management position with Freshchoice at Springlands in Blenheim. When they sold to Countdown in 2010 the family moved to Timaru and Brendon worked for the Alliance Group, heading up their Further

Processing' facility for national trade.

The couple moved to West Harbour in Auckland and purchased Cleaver's Edge in 2018.

Both Brendon and Allison work in the business, which now focusses primarily on processing home kill.

Brendon says due to the impact of Covid-19 and the surge of 'click n collect' sales the retail shop has had to close, though he is currently investigating the possibility of establishing an online shop.

For home kill, the Cleaver's Edge website has a number of cutting forms which people can complete online to specify how they want their meat processed. There are basic, standard and premium options for processing beef.

For venison, clients are asked to complete the form when they bring the animal in from the hunt.

Sure to be popular with many local organisations, Brendon says he is "more than happy" to help with supplying meat for fundraisers.

Cleaver's Edge is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 2pm on Saturdays at 64b Mill Road, Helensville.



> Brendon (left), Bryan and Allison in the Cleaver's Edge

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## :52 years in earthmoving business

The chances are if you've needed a driveway formed or house site levelled, a farm dam or drains dug out, or foundation piles driven into place, you've probably come across Helensville's Dave Swale.

With 52 years behind the controls of heavy machinery, Dave runs Swale Earthmovers in Mill Road, one of Helensville's longest running businesses.

Leaving school at 15, Dave first spent three years working on a dairy farm before learning the ins and outs of heavy machinery work with a company based near Matamata.

In 1973 he formed DW Swale (now Swale Earthmovers) and spent seven years working on a Ministry of Works contract, helping build Auckland's 'spaghetti junction'.

When the contract ended, Dave and wife Bev purchased a small dairy farm at Woodhill, with Bev handling the milking while Dave continued contracting around the Auckland region.

He built the business up to where he employed eight to 10 people and had four excavators, bulldozers, scoops, and two tipper truck and trailers.

Unfortunately the business was hit hard by the share market crash in the late 1980s, and Dave was forced to downsize, selling most of his equipment and only retaining two operators.

Since then he has grown the company again, with machinery now including tipper trucks and trailers, excavators ranging from two to 14 tonnes, and rollers along with much more equipment.

Major local projects over the years include both stages of the Kaipara River flood stop bank at Parakai, helping build the hydrosides at Parakai Springs, stage one of the Helensville riverside walkway, and the Makiri Street reserve.

Swale Earthmovers are also the major local supplier and transporter of lime rock, sand, metal, aggregates, scoria and river rocks.

Under the Kaipara Hire banner, small earth working

equipment is available for locals to use.

Dave was a founding member of the Helensville Raging Bulls rugby team, playing with them for 25 years. A former stock car racer, he is also a founding member of the Kaipara Classic Car Club, and his beautifully restored 1956 Ford F100 pickup is a regular at local car shows.



> Dave Swale at work in his digger enlarging a farm dam

## :Social and community cultural well-being

Helensville Art Centre manager Heather Steadman is still surprised when she meets locals who don't know the art centre is located beneath the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

"Not having a road frontage is a disadvantage," she says, but points out that a lot of tourists travelling through the town see the signage on Commercial Road and call in for a

visit.

In fact the centre boasts around 7500 visitors annually, boosted in recent years by participation in Arts in the Ville. Heather knows those figures only too well, as part of her job entails applying for funding. Currently funding from Auckland Council, Foundation North and the Lotteries Grants Board covers wages, with the rest of the centre's outgoings met through donations, the sale of retail artworks, and commission on the sale of exhibited works.

Now Heather and her "fantastic board" of eight locals are looking to increase the visibility of the centre through a range of public activities. She says the centre's role isn't just about holding exhibitions, but as it's mission statement says, about social and cultural community well-being through activity.

With some funding now available through the Creative

Communities Scheme, the plan is to hold a wide range of affordable workshops, costing just \$5 per hour to make them accessible to as many locals as possible.

While details of those are still being sorted, expect to see subjects such as acrylic painting, screen printing on t-shirts, flax weaving, writing and illustrating children's books, mixed media painting using a famous artist as reference, clay sculpting, recycled works, and plenty more.

And they won't all necessarily be held at the Art Centre itself, but some could be out in the community - such as potentially a men's art workshop at the Men & Family Centre.

Helensville Art Centre only reopened in June after being closed early in the year for major outside drainage works, and then being hit by the Covid-19 lockdown just as it was preparing to reopen.

With the first exhibition a pared-back photography show, the centre is now back in full swing with a Matariki exhibition on all July.

"We want [the Art Centre] to be a gathering space," says Heather, "a place where locals can drop in for a cuppa and chat."



> Heather with some of the centre's retail artworks



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## from the frontline



Kia Ora. This month I would like to acknowledge what a wonderful community we are a part of.

Covid 19 and lockdown saw us living through some pretty stressful and uncertain times, and it is times like these that often bring out the best in people and see the community pull together.

I would like to highlight the amazing efforts put in by the Helensville Women and Family Centre, Outwest Youth, and Kia Tīmata Anō Trust (women's refuge).

They have worked tirelessly to provide food bags for vulnerable families, ensuring no one went hungry during lockdown. And our local essential workers, including our Countdown staff who worked day in and day out in sometimes stressful circumstances.

The effects of Covid19 will be ongoing, so it's really important to continue to support each other over the next few months. Check in with your friends, family and neighbours, support local businesses, and be kind to one another.

If you are going through rough times please reach out to someone, or one of the many organisations we have in our area, for support.

And finally, the recent loss of a colleague and friend has left our police whanau devastated. The outpouring of love and support from our community has been tremendous. The constant flow of flowers, food, and messages of support has been truly heart warming, and on behalf of the Helensville Police I would like to thank you all for your kindness. I really do feel proud to be a member of the Helensville community.

If you ever have any questions, or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to contact me at [Melissa.haven@police.govt.nz](mailto:Melissa.haven@police.govt.nz).

- Melissa Haven, Community Constable

## 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.*

*July's recipient is Victoria Logan, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Helensville Mitre 10.*

Victoria was nominated by Sarah Legg, who says:

"I would like to nominate Victoria Logan of Stellanova Photography. For many years Victoria has supported local activities and events, attending with her camera at the ready, donating

her time and skills to create photographic memories - Christmas parades, Lions events, and local markets to name a few.

Most recently Victoria used her lockdown time to put together a Helensville Community - Shop Local Facebook album, a showcase for our local businesses, services and organisations and her way of encouraging us all to support and shop local. A great initiative and Victoria deserves a little recognition for her great community spirit."



• Victoria (right) with Nicky (& Vic's parrot, Van)

# letters

Over a month ago I was advised that Council will likely reduce, at least, Christmas parade funding, due to the economic impacts of Covid-19. Yet 'wellbeing'/(morale) is supposedly a high priority.

At the time of last year's parade I was advised the event cannot create any waste that goes into Council street bins. The bins are to be covered for the event! The cost of procuring covers and sending people and vehicles to install them, then later remove them? The current cost slashing may stall this proposal? I am unwilling to take on the logistics of dealing with the event on this basis. The only ready solution I can come up with is for some households or businesses to make their recycle wheelie bins available for the day. More volunteers needed!

Will our Christmas parade cease due to Council cutting funding and this waste removal provision?

At the recent Kumeu Huapai Residents & Ratepayers AGM meeting both Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers and Local Board chair Phelan Pirrie spoke of the budget constraints. To my questioning wage/salary cuts for Council staff and elected personnel, Councillor Sayers' reply was that Council is 'protected'. I retorted that ratepayers are not 'protected'. (*Council staff earning \$100,000+ have been asked to take a pay cut - Ed.*)

Phelan Pirrie gave an account of the dire

situation, explaining there will be no maintenance funding, meaning that as playgrounds, public toilets, halls and libraries need maintenance, they will be closed down. It was pointed out that both Helensville and Kumeu libraries have leak issues and are likely to be closed at some stage!

Our four local (Kumeu subdivision) Rodney Local Board members receive annual combined salaries of \$217,500. Ten percent of this would cover the Kumeu and Helensville Christmas parades in full, plus a lot more. Most sectors of our communities have shared the financial pain of the coronavirus lockdown. Why not our elected leaders?

Many local businesses were already struggling and have been hit hard. What about a 10 percent (or more) reduction in North West Country Business Improvement District levies for the coming financial year? Whilst small, it would encourage struggling businesses, putting around \$6000 back into the Helensville/Parakai/Kaukapakapa economies.

The general feeling of those at the meeting was that we expect our leaders to lead by example, and that as things stand Council creates a perception of being out of touch, even untouchable.

- Holly Southernwood



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## Have your say on the future of Rodney

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 community by having your say. Submissions must be received by **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.*



# Rural scholarship open

Now in its third year, applications are open for the Helensville A&P Association's 2020 Rural Scholarship.

Anyone interested in pursuing a career in New Zealand's primary industry sector - that could include agriculture, horticulture-viticulture, veterinary studies, bee keeping, aqua farming or equestrian - can apply for the \$500 scholarship.

Applicants must be going to undertake at least one year of full time study at an applicable institution to qualify.

The scholarship is seen as fitting in well with the A&P Association's aim of fostering excellence in agriculture in the local area.

Few other scholarships are available in the primary industries sector in our area, and they are mostly tied to specific tertiary organisations, says A&P Association committee member Anne Holst, who initially suggested the scholarship idea.

"It's our way of encouraging and promoting agriculture locally."

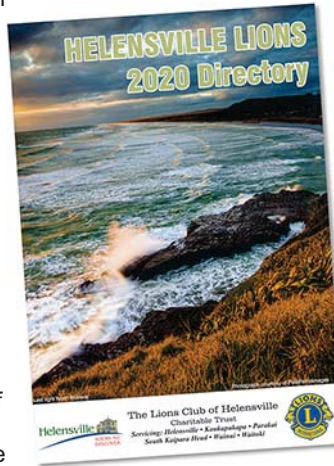
The inaugural scholarship recipient in 2018 was Erika Earnshaw of Helensville, while last year's was won by Ollie Holst of South Head, who put the money towards a one-year Diploma of Agriculture at Lincoln University.

Applications close on Saturday, October 31, and prospective applicants can contact the show office on 420 7572 or email: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz).

Full information, along with an application form, is available online at: <https://bit.ly/2BHtZJK>.

## Local phone book delivered

The 2020 edition of the Helensville Community Directory has now been delivered to all homes in the '420' telephone prefix area. Delivery was slightly delayed due to the Covid 19 shutdown affecting the printer.



This year's issue features a colourful cover photo of Muriwai Beach created by local photographer Peter Ferris.

Anyone wanting extra copies can get them for free from either Helensville Library or the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau in Commercial Road.

Locals wanting to make additions, alterations or deletions to appear in next year's directory should complete the form on page 43 of the directory. That particularly applies to new residents in the Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Kaukapakapa, Woodhill, Waitoki, and Wainui areas. There is no charge, and the listing of mobile phone numbers is welcomed.

## Medical Centre looks to grow

As its core team of doctors and nurses grows, Kaipara Medical Centre is looking to take on new patients.

The local GP practice has been going from strength to strength since being purchased by ProCare at the end of November last year, buying the business from previous owners the Helensville District Health Trust, the Waitemata District Health Board, and two shareholding GPs.

Dr Phillip Barter, who has been with Kaipara Medical Centre for 17 years and is its longest serving GP, says patients won't have noticed too much change, "except they might have seen me smiling more," he jokes.

For a number of years the medical centre had difficulty recruiting and retaining staff, but Dr Phill says the current seven GPs are proving a strong, committed team.

"I think we are lucky to have a varied group of doctors with different skills sets and personalities, and with most of them now living locally they're more invested in the area."

Dr Francesco Lentini is the new chairperson of the Kaipara Medical Centre

Board, as well as acting as clinical director.

He says the focus for the next six months will be to slowly build on the good work already achieved, and to add another doctor and another nurse to the team to ensure there are more appointments available.

"We're working to streamline the back end of the service, all the stuff the patients don't need to see but that is so important to good quality care," says Dr Lentini, "as well as ensure the staff are well resourced so the people around Helensville continue to enjoy high-quality healthcare at a much lower price than so many other New Zealand communities."

One change patients may notice are upgrades to the main treatment room, an investment Dr Lentini says is about ensuring the centre is up-to-date and modern.

He also thanks the medical centre staff and the wider community for their understanding and patience during the various levels of Covid-19 lockdown.

"We're incredibly proud of how the team and community responded, and we should all take our share in the success of the

country in eliminating the spread of the disease through the community."

ProCare is a cooperative network of 170 GP practices around Auckland, but the purchase of the Helensville practice is the first time it has become the owner of one.

"It's been an adventure for ProCare as well," says Dr Lentini, "but, as we've put our mark on the practice we've been very impressed with the skills of the staff and the value they bring, and we know how much they're appreciated by the community."



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**DR KATHRYN ELCOCK**



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**DR MARTINE GERRITSEN**



**DR VAUGHAN LOCK**



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

## from our local MP

There are very few topics more worthwhile for us to reflect upon than service and sacrifice.

As I write, the nation is mourning the tragic death of a young man killed in the line of duty: Constable Matt Hunt. Universally respected, admired and loved (along with his colleagues also in the firing line that day), Matt had a particular connection to Helensville, having served here for some time. May he rest in peace and may we be reminded that those who encounter danger daily are placed in harm's way so the rest of us might be safe.



It's also National Volunteer Week, a welcome chance to consider the ways our community is kept going by the wonderful women and men of this area who donate their time, energy and resources to helping others, all without any tangible reward.

On another level, veterans of Helensville and surrounding areas also deserve our thanks and praise. It's been my honour recently to be entrusted with the role of National's spokesperson for Veterans Affairs.

Legislation is currently passing through Parliament that is intended to make it much more straightforward for services to be accessed by veterans and their families. There is a fundamental question to be answered in all of this, which is the very meaning of the word 'veteran'. The answer will have profound implications for access to entitlements, such as the right to be buried in the services section of a cemetery, or receive counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder, just to name a couple of examples.

Veterans' matters are traditionally treated in a non-partisan manner, which is appropriate given the high esteem in which these Kiwis are held by others. I'll continue that tradition for sure.

This electorate is home to many veterans, a number of RSAs and of course the Royal New Zealand Airforce base at Whenuapai, so these are matters of some local significance (as well as reflecting my personal interest in the subject, as a former naval officer myself).

Although we were unable to celebrate ANZAC Day this year in the usual way, another significant milestone recently arose with 70 years now having passed since the Korean War began. We can - and we should - always reflect on the ideals of service and sacrifice that have made this country what it is today. Lest we forget.

- Chris Penk

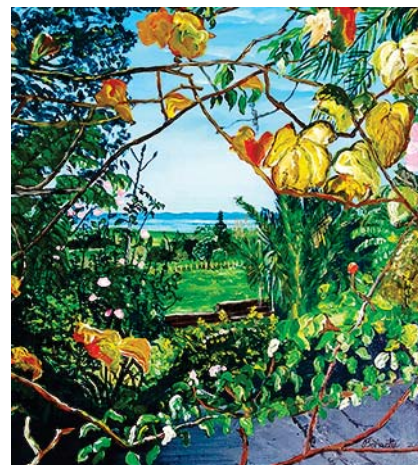
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[chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz) | Ph: 09 412 2496.

## Matakiri at Art Centre

Helensville Art Centre held a 'Chalkathon' on Saturday, July 4 to celebrate the opening of its Matariki exhibition, rather than the traditional evening opening function.

Aimed at getting children involved, the Chalkathon was overseen by leading Helensville artist Jeff Thomson, and was to be held on the concrete paving outside the lower level of the War Memorial Hall where the Art Centre is, or inside on paper if wet.

The exhibition, titled Turangawaewae, runs until July 25 and features original artworks by Helensville's Bernette Malizia and line drawings by first-time exhibitor Hoani Kii Keepa. While Bernette has painted ceramic tiles on sale at the Art Centre, and prints at FIGG, she has never exhibited original work before.



• Kaipara Harbour, South Head from Mum's Garden, by Bernette Malizia

# local board matters

## ■ Progress on one of our area's most needed transport improvements.

Plans for an alternative state highway to SH16 between Brigham Creek Road and Waimauku are progressing, with a preferred route expected to be confirmed to property owners around the middle of next year.

Property owners were told last year that they were in a 'study area' for the proposed new state highway. The study area is much wider than the land that will be required for this new transport route.

The Supporting Growth Programme team, who are leading this planning work on behalf of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Transport, have sent letters to the property owners contacted last year to update them on progress and timeframes for what happens next.

The team have told me they're currently refining the route and will ask to meet late this year with property owners still affected once the refinements are done. They then expect to be able to confirm that route in mid-2021. The next step will be for the route to be finalised by a designation process, which could take two further years.

The alternative state highway is set down to be built in line with the anticipated rezoning and land release timeframes of the wider Kumeu-Huapai areas later this decade.

As well as improving congestion and travel times, the alternative state highway means the existing SH16 through Kumeu-Huapai will become a really important part of those revitalised town centres, with much-reduced through traffic.

The Supporting Growth team is also progressing the planning for a network of new and upgraded public transport connections, walking and cycling paths and roads for the north west in the long term, and will be talking to communities as these progress.

For more information, including a map of the indicative route of the alternative state highway, see [www.supportinggrowth.nz](http://www.supportinggrowth.nz), email: [info@supportinggrowth.nz](mailto:info@supportinggrowth.nz) or phone 0800 4769 255.

## ■ Challenging few years ahead with Council's Emergency Budget.

Councillors will shortly be making a decision on the levels of rates increases (3.5 or 2.5 percent) and wrestling with the implications of a predicted \$500m fall in revenue on the coming year's budget.



What is not widely known is that property rates only provide 40 percent of Auckland Council's income. With the sharp drop in revenue from fees and charges, and dividend payments from the shares Council owns in Auckland Airport and Ports of Auckland, there is now not enough money to fulfil all the previously proposed budget spending. Increased borrowing is not possible as it would inevitably lead to a lowering of Council's international credit rating and push up the interest rate paid to borrow money which would mean more income would be diverted to repayments at a time when that income has fallen.

Council has moved swiftly to reduce spending, shedding 1100 staff in the last few months - making it second only to Air NZ in terms of job losses. More of this, and budget cuts, will follow.

At a local level we are still working through what this will mean, but it is going to see projects delayed for a year or longer.

Having spent the last six years battling for infrastructure to meet growth and parity of services with the rest of Auckland this is a frustrating time. The next three years were going to finally see the delivery of some larger projects and these may now be delayed or cut depending on how large the cuts are. Progress on some local projects is contingent on the Government stepping up with 'shovel ready project' funding which will plug the yawning hole in Council's budget.

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board

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community tidbits from town and around

## ART KAIPARA AGM

Art Kaipara's AGM is on Saturday, July 18 starting 2 pm at the Art Centre, Helensville War Memorial Hall basement. Those wanting to join the Art Kaipara Inc board need to complete a nomination form - email [board@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:board@artcentrehelensville.org.nz) to request a form by email or post - to be received by 4pm Thursday, July 9. Only paid members of Art Kaipara can join the board or vote at the AGM. You can join Art Kaipara at the Art Centre, and also pick up a nomination form there.

## SAVING THE PAST

Kaukapakapa Library's theme for July is 'Saving the Past' - specifically it will be holding a fundraiser for Helensville Museum on Sunday, July 19 from 9am to 1pm.

Items for sale will include beautiful trays made from kauri reclaimed from the museum's old courthouse building, and the books 'Pioneering Women of the South Kaipara' and 'Men Came Voyaging', which both offering a great insight into local history. The Jordan Collection of photographs will also be on display.



• Kaipara River scene, 1910s  
- Photo: Auckland Library collection

"Come and find out about volunteering," says Megan Paterson. "They [the museum]

need help with gardening, building, data entry, photocopying and filing, accounts, carpentry and machinery servicing. Help to maintain our past for our future and get the Helensville Museum open again for everyone."

Contact Megan, phone 021 959017 or email: [threehorses@xtra.co.nz](mailto:threehorses@xtra.co.nz).

## KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Shop to live music from Foster on the tenor sax (from 10am to midday) at the next Kaukapakapa market, to be held on Sunday, July 19 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Market stalls will feature hand-made crafts, jewellery, gifts, fresh locally grown fruit, vegetables and preserves. Plus there will be free face painting for the children plus a children's craft table.

Phone Sarah on 027 483 1542 or email: [sarah1@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:sarah1@maxnet.co.nz) for more information.

## A&P ASSN AGM

The Helensville A&P Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, July 22 from 7.30pm in the main showgrounds building.

Committee nominations and agenda items close on

Wednesday, July 15. For nomination forms and a copy of the agenda email: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz).

## COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

Kaipara College will hold an open evening on Thursday, July 23 from 6.30pm. It's designed for Year 8 students and their families looking to go to the school next year. They will be able to speak with students, staff and management, explore the campus, and experience the college's learning and co-curricular clubs, teams and activities.

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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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