

Feedback sought on regional park

Public feedback is sought on the concept plans Auckland Council has come up with for developing Te Rau Pūiri Regional Park at South Head.

The plans cover a range of recreational activities, and includes a strong environmental and cultural ethos, as well as retaining the land's farming roots.

The first land for the regional park was purchased in 2005, a 247ha property previously deer farmed. In 2014 Auckland Council purchased an extra 15.6ha block referred to as the 'Prawn Farm', which features man-made ponds used in the 1970s for freshwater prawn farming. The following year the council purchased the 78ha farm block known as the McLeod Farm.

The concept plan process began for the full 341ha site in August 2018.

Te Rau Pūiri Regional Park is a mix of rolling farmland, wetlands and steep gullies, with expansive coastal views. A range of shorebird species visit the park's coastal area.

The park isn't heavily used for recreational purposes at present.

While there are marked tracks on the original block of land, no walking tracks exist outside of that to connect to the McLeod Farm and prawn farm blocks. Horse riding is

a controlled activity at the southern end of the park, with float and horse truck parking at the entrance off South Head Road.

The concept plan envisages more facilities and infrastructure for recreation and other types of use, which could include camping and barbeque facilities, orienteering, and extended walking and horse riding tracks.

Potential greater public use of the northern (prawn farm) end of the park includes developing that area as the park's main entry, plus car parking and visitor information.

Camping, including for motorhomes, boat launching and even potentially bach accommodation are all being looked at, as are possible areas for filming or sporting events, and volunteer accommodation.

Along with creating new walking and tramping connections, picnic areas and lookouts, the concept plan investigates linking Te Rau Pūiri with the west coast and Hillary Trail at Muriwai through Ototoa Scenic Reserve, which borders the park's western end.

The aim is to encompass all user groups, from the local community, mana whenua and day visitors through to campers and tourists, schools and other educational groups.

Auckland Council wants the park's development to align with its commitment to fight climate change, which would include things such as enhancing and restoring natural environments, and making the development and infrastructure climate compatible.

The project would seek to conserve and enhance the park's natural landscape and improve biodiversity through restoration and education. Specifically that could include restoring, enhancing and protecting the shore and shorebird habitat, the wetland species and habitat, existing native vegetation, threatened plant, bird and reptile species, and the health of the Kaipara Harbour.

The Te Rau Pūiri concept plans aims to retain and protect the site's character while acknowledging its cultural history.

The park contains significant archaeological features including pā sites, platforms, terrace complexes, pits and middens, along with geographical features such as coastal cliffs and an interglacial terrace. There are panoramic views over rolling farmland and of the Kaipara Harbour.

The natural environment and environmental health would be protected, restored and/or enhanced.

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• Te Rau Puriri Regional park features beautiful coastal vistas

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editorial

Welcome back to *Helensville News*, in print again at last! As well as all the other challenges brought on by the Covid-19 lockdown, not being able to produce a print issue of the paper for two months was rather interesting.

I'll now offer an apology - to those of you who have already read some of the articles in this issue. Because the circulation of the online-only issues I put out for April and May was so much smaller than our regular print run, I felt many people would still want to read these - and the fact is, good news stories are in short supply at the moment, too. Hopefully by next issue, things will be getting back to much more like normal under Level 2, and there will be a few upcoming events etc to report on.

Meanwhile, make sure to read our front page article, and to have your say, on the possible future development of South Head's very own regional park, Te Rau Pūiri. This is an amazing amenity right on our doorstep, so it makes sense for us to have a say in its future development.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Feedback on park (cont...)



• The park features some beautiful Kaipara Harbour beaches

• From Page 1

Recognising and celebrating the site's history would be done through story telling and interpretation.

The development concept incorporates Te Aranga Māori design principles. The status of iwi and hapū as mana whenua will be recognised and respected, and Māori names celebrated. Mana whenua significant sites and cultural landmarks would be acknowledged, and iwi/hapū narratives captured and expressed creatively and appropriately.

Finally, the plan aims to continue to farm the majority of the park as open pasture to

recognise its rural heritage, which could include farm experiences for visitors.

Land would be retired where practical, erosion minimised, and open pasture retained as a feature.

Locals can give feedback up to Friday, June 12. After consultation closes, the feedback will be analysed and the draft plan changed accordingly.

A revised plan will go back out for consultation in July/August, with the aim of signing off the final plan in September.

More information and feedback options are available on the council website at: <https://bit.ly/2Yk8dET>.

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New GM for Health Trust

Previously, James Scott's daily commute averaged around 90 km.

But that was cut dramatically to a five minute drive from his lifestyle block just past Mt Rex at the northern end of Helensville, to Porter Crescent in the middle of the town once the country-wide lockdown ended.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



• James Scott with wife Susan and daughter Elizabeth

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

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

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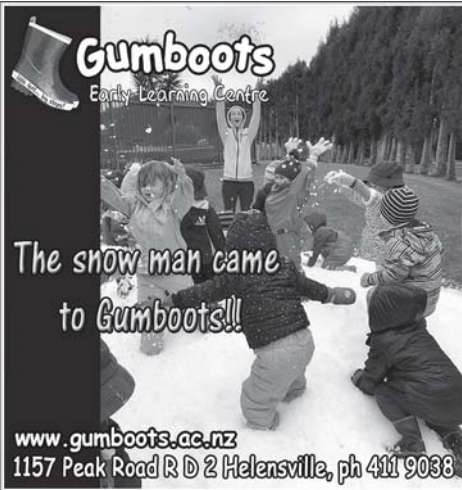
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New home for 'secret' business

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Homekill processors specialising in gourmet product and game meats

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Richard says the meat gained from going

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



• Leith Mohi (left) and Richard Berger

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

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

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

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Farewell to woman with long

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With her experience working at the



• Glenn Hoare

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

She returned to Helensville and soon

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history in local medical scene

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

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

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

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

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

around.

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

She and George moved from the district to Sandspit to 'retire' in the 1990's, but shortly after settling there the Warkworth Hospital was also closed and the three remaining midwives approached Glenn for advice about starting a birthing unit there.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Arts in the Ville set for Labour Weekend return

Helensville's popular Arts in the Ville will be on again this year.

Despite uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Kura Geere-Watson, one of the annual event's organisers, says the three-day arts festival will go ahead over Labour Weekend at the end of October.

While still very much in the planning stage, Kura is promising a number of new events - one of which will be along the lines of television's Antiques Roadshow.



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: Mortgage service can come at zero cost

Kaukapakapa local Paul Bateman of Mortgage Link helps his clients get the best possible deals on mortgages - and says most of the time his services don't cost his clients anything.

"I work for my clients, not for the banks, so my priority is getting the best deal and solution for them," he says.

"It's all about relationships, and understanding my clients' goals and needs so I can work with them to achieve these. I have access to more than 20 lenders which means I can source solutions that work best for them and their situation."

As a mortgage and business finance broker, Paul works with clients to help them obtain and structure home loans.

"I can work with first home buyers up to established investors with large portfolios. I can assist people with low deposits or adverse credit history. I can also assist existing home owners with the refixing of their home loans."

For businesses, he works with sole trader and small to medium sized companies to obtain

different business finance options and solutions.

Before going out on his own as a Mortgage Link advisor, Paul spent more than 15 years in the banking industry across personal, business, asset finance and commercial lending.

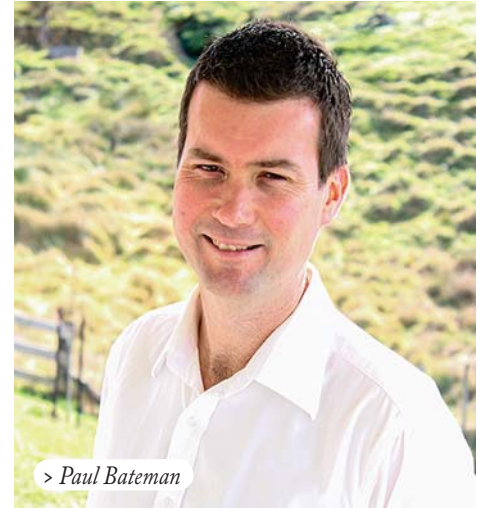
As well as home loans and business lending, he can help people with personal loans, debt restructuring, asset finance and car loans, and commercial loans.

A local business owner who operates under a Mortgage Link licence, Paul can work with clients from anywhere in the country, but prefers to work with locals within the North West area.

Paul has lived with his wife and three sons, who are all under six years, on a five acre block at Kaukapakapa for six years. After the birth of their first son they decided to make the change from city to country living.

"I grew up on the Hibiscus Coast, but have family history with the area as my mother was born and raised in Helensville, and my grandfather worked at the old dairy factory.

He loves the rural, small town community feel of the area, and the opportunities and



> Paul Bateman

experiences that living closer to the land and nature brings for his children.

Paul is also treasurer for the Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Ratepayers association.

: No shortcuts taken in making real bread



> Dan Cruden of The Real Bread Project

The Real Bread Project in Mill Road began as a garage-based project to create 'real' bread made without cutting any corners, which Dan Cruden set up while working at Amano in Auckland.

He's been a baker for around 20 years - but it's a profession which almost didn't happen.

Dan was originally working towards an animation degree, and started working part-time in a bakery to help cover the bills. The big moment came when he was offered a job in Wellington with Weta, doing animation on the Lord of the Rings films. But Dan found the idea of moving to Wellington a bit daunting, so turned the offer down and carried on with baking bread instead, expanding his skills to cover patisserie as well.

He's helped in his Helensville shop by head baker Luke Frew of Kaukapakapa, who he met at Amano and who won a 'best young baker' award in 2018.

To produce exactly the product he wants, Dan has imported his own flour mill from Austria, which he says gives "a new meaning to Mill Road."

The business of course operates at 103 Mill Road.

"It's really hard to get stone-ground flour in New Zealand," says Dan, explaining that it gives bread more flavour and has better nutrients - goodness that is lost in the roller-milled flour produced in this country. The mill means Dan is the first person in the country producing stone-ground flour, and he sources all his wheat from the same South Island farm.

Dan has lived at Parakai for around five years with his wife Carolyn, a teacher at Massey High School, and their two children, Alison (10) and Joseph (6), attend Helensville Primary School.

"We moved out here looking to buy our first home and found an amazing community for our family," says Dan.

The Real Bread Project sells a changing range of artisanal breads, pastries, muffins, bagels and coffee. During the Covid-19 lockdown, customers have been able to order their goods online for collection the following day.

: Master craftsman loves working with wood

Helensville's Mark Biggelaar of Earthwood in Mill Road has one of those rarest of jobs - he's been doing something he absolutely loves for the past 46 years.

Mark's company mostly restores and refinishes timber furniture, and he gets huge satisfaction from seeing a piece of furniture that came in battered and damaged returned to the customer looking like new again.

While he will work on any timber furniture, and even makes some of his own pieces, it's restoring antiques that is his real passion.

Mark initially learned his trade working at his father's woodworking factory, and is proud to be keeping alive traditional techniques such as labour-intensive French polishing, in which up to 30 coats can be hand-applied to woodwork to give a high-gloss finish with beautiful depth to it.

It's not just furniture that come's under Mark's caring hand. He has worked on musical instruments, old radios, wooden vases and even an old wood-rim steering wheel off a vintage car.

He's willing to tackle just about anything, be it something as small as turning a new wooden knob to match others on a cabinet, through to

restoring huge sideboards and lounge and bedroom furniture.

While much of his work is undertaken at his workshop behind Firestone Tyres in Mill Road, he can also provide an on-site service for difficult to remove items like wooden bench tops or built-in cabinetry.

Earthwood has customers Auckland-wide, and provides a pickup and drop-off service one day a week throughout the city.

The company has a number of commercial customers, and handles jobs such as interior timber detail repairs including floors, wall-panelling, bars/benches, veneers, and general fit-outs. As well as traditional finishes such as wax or French polishing, Mark is experienced in all modern timber coatings and finishes and in stain matching.

"I'm an artist and I do what I do really well," he says proudly, describing himself as a "master craftsman".

Mark originally set up Earthwood in 1981 in Stranmore Bay, and moved the business here in 2007. He's been in his current building for around eight years.



> Mark Biggelaar of Earthwood

: Call in at Saturday collective

Food for Thought at 72 Commercial Road (opposite the library) is a quirky little shop which operated for many years as a luncheonette, but which now opens just on Saturdays as a cooperative.

Henrietta Nesbit-Smith has smart, quality used clothes for sale, Susan Strassnick sells jewellery and other items, and Janice McMurdo

(who originally set up Food for Thought) makes interesting and tasty food which can be eaten on the premises or taken away. There's even coffee, served in small ceramic cups for just \$3.

Janice, who describes herself as "a foodie who understands the spiritual side of life", also sells home-made salad dressings, Oriental Dressing and Balsamic Reduction, plus Brinjal Kasundi Chutney. Dressings are \$8 each or two for \$15 and the chutney is \$6.

Also available for \$20 is Janice's revised book, *The Bird's Nest*, a fictional story about South Head and the Kaipara Harbour. The first edition sold out so she edited, revised and reprinted it, with a different cover designed by Jacky and Georgia Black.

Janice originally set up the Café Regent in Helensville's old Regent Cinema in 2001, adding cinema seats, a large screen,

and a DVD projector and holding popular dinner and movie evenings on Saturday nights. Café Regent closed in 2007, and in 2013 Janice established Food for Thought and Onion Jam Creative Foods, the former of which closed about 18 months ago, while the latter is the brand for her dressings and chutney.

Janice is a qualified hypnotherapist, which she finds useful for issues such as giving up smoking. She also trained in Emotional Freedom Technique and OldPain2Go. She says pain sometimes remains in the body for no discernible reason.

"The physical and emotional paths in the body are the same, and OP2Go is extremely useful in detecting these paths and eliminating the pain. Often the pain relates to an old message that has no need to be there any more."

It's a once-only treatment that "bargains with your unconscious processes to ask it to remove old, unwanted and unnecessary pain. Because it is your own system doing the work it will know if the pain needs to be there as a safety system, or whether it can remove that old pain message and allow you to be pain free."



> The Food for Thought collective in Commercial Road

Showgrounds reopen for riders

Helensville Showgrounds has reopened for keyholders under Level 2. A number of locals pay an annual fee which allows them to enter the grounds and ride their horses on the race track, but had been unable to do so under lockdown Levels 4 and 3.

Race horse trainers were able to use the track throughout, as training was considered essential to the welfare of their horses.

Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP
Based in Rodney



For appointments and assistance please phone:

☎ 0800 582 325 (0800 LUBECK)

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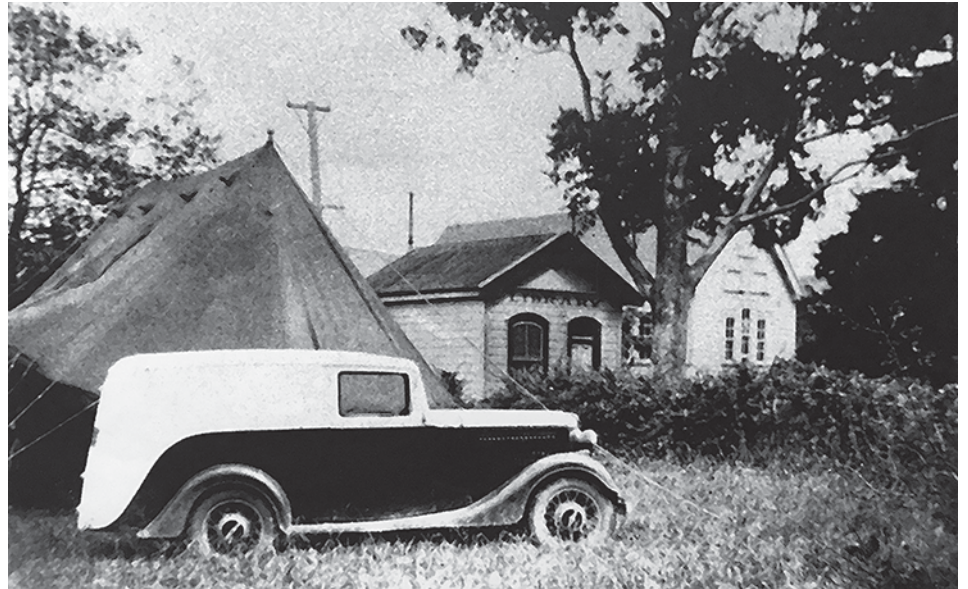
Old photos at Kaukapakapa Library

Kaukapakapa's historic library will be back open to the public from 9.30am to 1pm on Sunday, June 21 with the huge Jordan Collection of photographs showing the history of the Kaukapakapa area on display.

The photos cover everything from old school photos to the building of the Makarau tunnel, settler's homes to sporting events, as

well as family information on early European settlers. Also on display will be the entries from the library's Short Story Competition which ran in April.

For more info contact Megan, phone 021 959 017, email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz or visit the Kaukapakapa library Facebook page.



• The second Kaukapakapa school, built in 1879 and the library in their original position. Taken on Calf Club Day in the 1950's. The van belonged to H. Hale who was chairman of the School Committee. A photo from the Jordan Collection.



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Our recipient for June is Daniel Dale, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Helensville Paper Plus Select.

Daniel was nominated by Mark Dennis.

"He does amazing things for the local community and really goes out of his way," says Mark.



• Diana and Daniel Dale with Nicky

Daniel, who runs the Parakai Four Square supermarket, has supplied eggs to the local community produce stand. Open as an essential service during the Covid-19 lockdown, Daniel also donated more than \$2000 worth of groceries to the Helensville Foodbank Collective.

Rest home stays safe and happy though lockdown

The Covid-19 lockdown was a challenge for every person and business in New Zealand, but rest homes were - and still are - particularly vulnerable to ravages of the pandemic.

Here, David Halewood, facility manager at Craigweil House in Parakai, writes about how our local rest home and its residents and staff handled the lockdown.

Who would have thought 2020 would bring such a turbulent and unprecedented time not only for New Zealand but for the world?

Craigweil House and its residents have, however, managed to stay safe and happy in their bubble. In fact, some very neat and interesting things happened in the home that were helped to be made possible by our amazing and dedicated Diversional Therapy Team.

Residents enjoyed new exercise classes, first time video chat sessions, and a growing competitive spirit amongst some of our prize-hungry activity attendees!

As the lockdown started, Craigweil

Jigsaws one of many ways to pass lockdown



Locals came up with hundreds of different ways to get through lockdown. Lynda Miller (above) passed much of the time making jigsaws on a specially made table at the Fordyce Road home of her sister, Parakai School deputy principal Sue Caltaux and brother-in-law Bob.

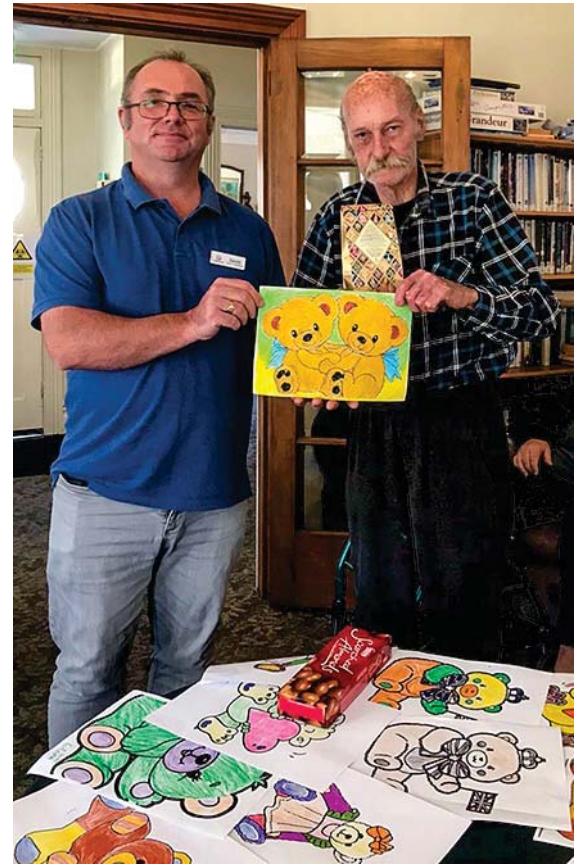
House generously received a couple of donations from some local growers, including a wonderful donation of avocados and some very pretty carnations. These growers were restricted from trading and chose to offer these gifts to Craigweil House instead of letting them go to waste. A very bright way to begin the bubble indeed! Thank you, Linda Anderson and Steve Krzystynika.

Being in lockdown meant it was important to keep active and fit. Isolation can leave some people feeling vulnerable and lonely. The residents enjoyed the various exercise classes which were on offer. One exercise class was a 'Push Up' challenge. The residents enjoyed participating together with staff - or perhaps just a chance for a lay down! A standing wall press was also allowed.

Over the course of the five-week Level 4 lockdown, two friendly turkeys decided to move in, frequently being seen on the front lawn; they are yet to receive names.

Facetime and Skype have been the new norm for outside communication. Some residents loved the idea of using tablets to call their family and friends - this was particularly important on Mother's Day when simultaneously the team held a YMCA dancing competition as flowers from families and hugs were of course not possible.

Other lockdown activities included a day following an ice cream cart and tasting different flavours, and a chance to take part in the nationwide 'Teddy Bear' bubble effort. The team wanted to let the community know that spirits were high inside Craigweil, so a teddy bear colouring-in competition was



• David Halewood with Michael Milburn, winner of the teddy bear colouring competition

held, with the coloured bears cut out and stuck on the inside of Craigweil's front windows so people passing by could see them. Well done resident Michael Milburn for getting first prize.

Craigweil House currently has vacancies at all levels of care including rest home, hospital and memory care. We continue to provide quality care while following Ministry of Health guidelines.

- David Halewood, Facility Manager

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Go take a jump!

New Zealand Red Cross wants you to throw yourself out of an aeroplane.

But they have the best intentions - it's a new fundraiser called 'Jump! in July' they are running in conjunction with Parakai-based Skydive Auckland on Saturday, July 25.

Jumping from 13,000ft, participants will experience 45 seconds of freefall, then once their tandem skydive parachute opens they will get to enjoy beautiful views across Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf, before landing at the Green Road airfield.

To take part, people need to register at: <http://everydayhero.co.nz/event/jumpinJuly>. They then need to raise a minimum of \$500 to do the skydive. People who raise \$800 will also receive a skydive photo package, while those who raise \$1000 will also get a video of their jump.

If the event can't take place, due to poor weather conditions or government restrictions, a voucher will be provided so participants can re-book at a later date.



During the Covid-19 lockdown, the Red Cross Meals on Wheels and migration services were classed as essential.

The Meals on Wheels service delivered 11,500 meals to vulnerable Kiwi's each week during lockdown, while the migration service continued to support 358 former refugee families. In addition, 130 Red Cross Disaster Response volunteers were deployed across the country to provide community support, from delivering food, medication, and clothing parcels to providing support to evacuees from Wuhan in Whangaparaoa.

Moody views...

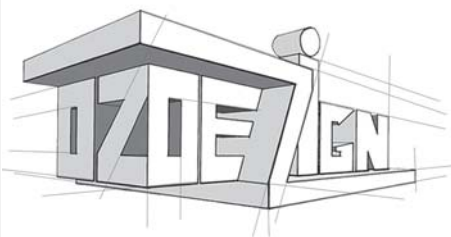


• Recent beautiful weather has lead to some gorgeous, moody sunrises in the Helensville area

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from our local MP

Would you agree that consultation can be overdone? Do you feel there are too many questions asked? Are consultation exercises annoying all the time, some of the time, or never? How about now? And now?

Consultation is one of those things in life that's nice in theory but can get a bit tiresome in practice. Auckland Council is about to consult ratepayers on how large the rise in your local government rates should be, when the new rating year begins on July 1.

The options on the table are a 2.5 percent or a 3.5 percent rise. You're not going to be asked whether there should be a rise at all, despite significant sections of the community probably feeling as though a 'rates freeze' would be the most appropriate option in these economically troubled times.

I was pleased to see that our Councillor for this area, Greg Sayers, was one of those arguing that a zero rates rise should at least be considered as an option.

It is a difficult subject. The lockdown associated with Covid-19 has meant that local government revenue from public facilities has taken a big hit, so in that sense it's understandable that the Mayor and his team are looking to make up the shortfall.

I know that in this area most will be anxious that we don't end up with even worse local roads on which to drive (etc), so making an argument for lower rates does necessarily entail that savings are made elsewhere within existing budgets.

Some suggestions are in the public domain about how local government organisations could tighten their belts, at a time when individuals, households and businesses are doing likewise.

The Mayor has said that Council would waive the bed tax ('APTR payment') between April 1 and June 30, for all accommodation and tourism businesses. I also understand that ratepayers experiencing financial hardship will have the opportunity to defer payment of their fourth quarter rates instalments.

My personal preference would be that ambitious projects, such as a waterfront stadium, not be pursued at the moment, in favour of infrastructure that's actually important (such as rural roads) being maintained to a higher level than is presently the case, ideally.

Whatever you're thinking, please be sure to have your say, including to say that you are wanting a rates freeze if that's your view.

And I hope you're doing OK in these difficult days. Please reach out to someone you trust if you're feeling the pinch, whether financially or in any other way.

- Chris Penk

Member of Parliament for Helensville
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496.

Book Fair back in Dec?

Helensville Lions Club had to cancel its annual Autumn Book Fair due to be held in late May - but the plans at this stage are for the regular Christmas Fair to still go ahead at the end of November.

The Autumn Fair was due to be held over the weekend of May 30 and 31, but Auckland Council is keeping the Helensville War Memorial Hall closed until July 31 in response to the Covid-19 situation.

"We had all the books packed up and ready to go, hoping that under Level 2 we may have been able to operate, but it was not to be," says fair organiser, Chris Clark.

"However as long as the virus doesn't return we intend to hold our Christmas Book Fair on the last weekend of this November."

In the meantime the club is still accepting donations of books. Contact Chris on 09 420 8527 or any other member of the Helensville Lions Club.



local board matters

■ Council Facilities Open Following COVID-19

Council facilities have been gradually opening over the last few weeks, however some of the halls and community facilities have been a bit slow, with staff suggesting some may not reopen until July.

For regular users of our halls this is not going to work and so I have been pushing for quicker opening.

If you're a user and are having issues, please contact me on either 021 837 167 or phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

■ Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park Concept Plan

Between 2005 and 2014 Council purchased three blocks of land to create a new 340ha Regional Park.

From Lake Rototoa to the Kaipara Harbour, Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park is a mix of rolling farmland, wetlands and steep gully systems broadly covering the Pataua Creek Valley. There are a range of shorebird species that visit the coastal area of the park, with the Kaipara Harbour being one of the three areas in the Auckland region of national and international ornithological significance.

Much of the original vegetation cover within the park boundaries has been removed during its conversion to farmland in the 1800s, and the majority of vegetation seen today is regenerating forest, scrub and shrubland.

There are a number of recorded archaeological sites within the area, including pā sites, platform or terrace complexes, pits and middens. There is a regionally significant geological site at the Pataua Creek, being "one of the best examples of 6m high coastal terrace formed during the last interglacial sea level high" as listed in the Geopreservation Inventory.

Presently the park is not heavily used for recreational purposes. There are marked tracks existing through the original block of

land (the Neil property) however, no walking tracks exist outside of this to connect through the McLeod Farm block to the Prawn Farm. Horse riding is a controlled activity through the southern end of the park with float and horse truck parking at the entrance off South Head Road.



It's been a long time coming, but finally Regional Parks have developed a draft plan with some options for the future development of this significant regional park.

There are four main principals applied to the draft plan:

- Conserve and enhance the natural landscape and improve biodiversity through restoration and education.
- Retain site character and acknowledge history.
- Manage and maintain recreational opportunities for the enjoyment and well-being of the local community, mana whenua and visitors.
- Continue to manage open space farming.

Existing recreation includes walking, horse-riding, and other forms of passive recreation.

It is intended that more facilities and infrastructure be provided to enhance recreational use and provide different types of use. This may include: camping, BBQ facilities, orienteering and extended walking and horse-riding tracks. Feedback is also being asked for on facilities for camping, day activities and for launching boats.

This is your opportunity to have your say on what you would like to see included in the development of Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park.

Submissions close on Friday, June 12. Google: 'Te Rau Pūriri Have Your Say' to see the concept plans and provide your feedback.

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board

phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ph:021 837 167

Kaukapakapa market

The Kaukapakapa Market will return on Sunday, June 21 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Live music from duo Barry and Maryanne, who will play a selection of easy listening classics from 10am to midday, will provide a relaxing accompaniment for shoppers while they browse the selection of stalls, which will include food, coffee, hand-made crafts, preserves, art, plants, books, bric a brac and collectibles, jewellery, natural soap, gifts, knitting, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

"We look forward to seeing everyone again soon, says organiser Sarah Legg.

For more information phone Sarah on 0 2 7 4 8 3 1 5 4 2 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

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Library back in action

Helensville Library is back in action - albeit under Level 2 restrictions - since having to close after March 20 for the country-wide lockdown.

"Thank you for your support and messages during lockdown," says senior librarian Anne Coppell.

There will be no fines incurred at the library until the end of June. People needing

books they should be returned through the 'after-hours' returns slot, which is open 24/7.

To pick up requested items, simply show staff your ID at the door and they will bring them to you - again, that won't require check-in.

"Our regular programmes and visits are on hold for the duration," says Anne.

"That means, alas, no Kids Time, no visits to ECEs or schools, no singing and poetry at Craigweil.

"To fill the gap, we will keep posting Kids Time videos, but now just once a week, on a Thursday timed to coincide with our [regular] Kids Time slot of 10am."

Anne says locals unsure what to read next should check out the curated booklists on the Auckland Libraries' website, the latest additions

to our collection, or ask for a personalised reading list from the 'My Librarian' team: <https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/new-and-recommended.aspx>

If you want to know what the wider Auckland Libraries' team got up to during lockdown, their blog has some pretty stunning statistics, says Anne, with nearly half a million eBooks and eAudiobooks issued.

<https://aucklandlibrariesblog.blogspot.com/2020/05/libraries-lockdown-in-a-glance.html>.

Anne says now is a good time for everyone to think about how the library can support the community - and to let library staff know how they can help. The best way to keep up to date with what's happening, is to like and follow the Helensville Library Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibrary.



• Socially distanced computer terminals away library visitors

to renew items can do so by phone (09 307 7 7 9 5) or online at: www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz.

Anne says the library tried to stay in touch with the local community through daily videos posted on its Facebook page for Kids Time, plus a book review each day.

Under Level 2 everyone who enters the building (including those just going to the toilet) must check-in. That can be done using a mobile device by scanning the QR codes by both doors; library staff can help if needed.

Check-in isn't required to just return

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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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