

Show attracts big crowds - and Mayor

A potentially record crowd enjoyed a perfect day at the 118th Helensville A&P Show on 'leap day', Saturday, February 29.

Helensville MP Chris Penk officially opened the show, while Auckland Mayor Phil Goff spent almost an hour wandering around the livestock and trade areas, pausing to hand out ribbons to winning competitors in the cattle and goat sections.

While the day was very hot, good cloud cover and a gentle breeze kept things comfortable.

Interactivity was a theme, with a number of trade stands having games or competitions, ranging from old-fashioned favourites like bobbing for apples through to hanging a farm gate.

And the two live performances of 'Sue & Bruce's Family Feast', were a hit with younger children, who got to help out catching a missing 'pig' and helping a vegetable garden grow before harvesting the produce.

Food outlets were kept busy all day, as was the popular bar run by local prize-winning brewery, Liberty Brewing Company.

After a two-year hiatus cattle were back competing, and many visitors were stunned by the size of a giant pig, one of three animals in the annual 'guess the weight' contest.

A stump-pulling demonstration by local Dave Swale in his huge excavator was a crowd pleaser.



• Auckland Mayor Phil Goff (second from left) shares a joke with sheep section steward Sandy Wishart

Pasifika Festival for Helensville

Helensville woman Marie Takefala Adlam is organising a Pasifika Festival at Helensville School on Saturday, April 4.

Her aim is to create a Pacific Island identity within the local community, and she sees the event as appealing to everyone in the district.

Marie says there are a lot of Polynesian families in the area, and the festival will be a way to bring them together.

The festival will feature performances from Samoan, Nuiean and Maori groups - a

mix of locals and out-of-area groups and including performances by students from Helensville, Parakai and Woodhill schools.

There will be arts and crafts workshops, such as designing tapa and making floral leis, entertainment for children, and a range of Pacific Island, Maori and European foods on offer.

While entry to the festival will be free, there will be stalls selling items such as sarongs, island shirts and t-shirts - and even

• To page 4

Inside...

- New rural constable ... Pg 3
- South Head talent show ... Pg 4
- Literacy programme expands ... Pg 5
- Life jacket hub launched ... Pg 6
- A&P Show photographs ... Pgs 10-11

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ALL AGES

editorial

Another Helensville Show has come and gone, and I think it's fair to say it was a beauty. As the 'official' photographer for the show (see photos pages 10 and 11), I'm privileged to see just about everything that goes on, and while it's a tiring day trekking back and forth around the grounds, it's great to see the show in its entirety.

Spare a thought for the huge number of volunteers, and competitors, who often get no chance to look around anything other than their immediate area. Yet they turn up each year, and without them the show couldn't carry on. Helensville A&P Show has been going for 118 years, and is a great way to showcase both our town, and the rural lifestyle.

On page 3 we meet rural duties constable Kelvin Meeks. It should be reassuring to everyone living in our rural areas that there is a police presence tailored to our needs. Many rural people are quite isolated, so Kelvin's appointment will be welcomed by many.

We've written before about the literacy programme offered by the Helensville Men & Family Centre, and it's interesting to learn (page 5) about how they are expanding that to younger members of our community. There are still many adults who could benefit from this free service however, so if that's you, don't be afraid to call in to the centre and make yourself known.

- Dave Addison, Editor

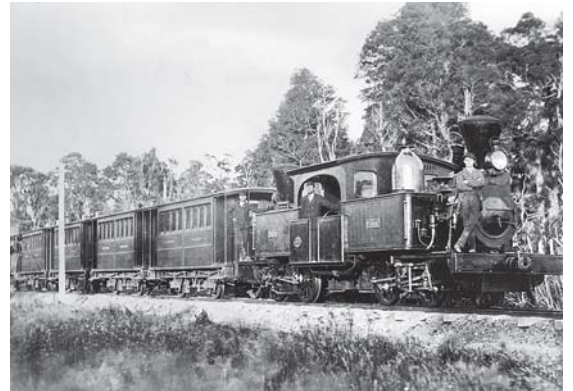
letters

In view of the proposed northern rail line improvements I thought I would send this picture (top right) of the first train arriving in Kaukapakapa on May 3, 1889. It's a double ended Fairlie.

The Makarau tunnel didn't open until July 1897. Interestingly I see there is some talk of lowering the tunnels to take the new freight trains. The Makarau tunnel took eight years to build (bottom right) as: "they ran into soft ground. Then the water of the Waitangi stream (which runs through the Omeru Reserve) found its way into the tunnel workings. A shaft was sunk and a low level drainage tunnel was put in to cope with the water problem. The bricks were made at Kanohi and the full circle of the tunnel was lined with them."

This quote is from 'Kaukapakapa Across the Years 1860 to 1956', by Tom Stevens. The photos are courtesy of the Jordan Collection held by the Kaukapakapa Library.

- Megan Paterson.



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Farming background for new rural constable

When new rural duties constable Kelvin Meek meets with local farmers and rural residents, he will be able to talk with them in their own language.

That's because before joining the police, he spent 10 years as a beef, sheep and dairy farmer, working around New Zealand, and in Australia and Canada.

Now based at a fully-staffed Helensville police station, Kelvin gained up to Level 4 in his national certificate in agriculture, winning several agricultural awards while working on farms in the Central Plateau, and came within a year of completing a Diploma in Agriculture and Business Management.

He is also a keen horse rider, having spent time breaking in Kaimanawa horses while working at Taupo, and mustering livestock on horses in the Australian outback.

But born and raised as a city boy in Waitakere, his life came full circle when he decided to move back to the city, primarily to be closer to family.

Now, as the rural duties officer covering the South Kaipara area from the Helensville station, he has the best of both worlds, working as a police officer but staying in touch with his rural background.

"I really enjoy being at Helensville station because of the way the officers [there] approach community problems," he says.

While he will focus on rural burglaries and drug offending, Kelvin sees developing strong partnerships with trust and confidence with the wider rural area as an important part of his role - and especially

building relationships with local farmers.

He sees getting "communication lines flowing" between the various people and groups in our rural community as vital for fighting crime.

"I believe a community that's together pushes crime out. Crime can't live in a community that talks," he says.

With his background as a farmer, Kelvin is also fully aware of the mental health



• Rural constable Kelvin Meek

issues that can affect the farming sector, and he is keen to talk with people, and put them in touch with the appropriate local groups.

"I want to be approachable," he says. "If you see me, stop and have a yarn." He adds if people see him driving past, wave him down and he'll be happy to have a talk.

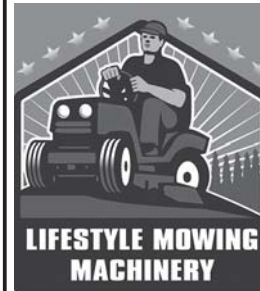
Kelvin says rural locals with any non-emergency incidents should first contact the police non-reporting line by phoning 105 - but says if someone sees a crime being actively committed they should dial the 111 emergency number.

Alternatively any information about crimes being committed can be reported anonymously through Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111.

Kelvin can be contacted directly on email: kmet47@police.govt.nz.

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South Head's Got Talent

Musicians, singers, dancers and maybe even an acrobat will be fronting up to the audience at the first South Head's Got Talent show.

When *Helensville News* spoke with organiser Louisa Currie, she had 10 confirmed entrants, ranging in age from nine years to 60-plus, and was expecting up to 15 to take part.

While aimed primarily as a fun way for locals to show off their talents, there will be prizes for the top efforts on the night, judged by "mystery judges" in the audience.

The show will be held on Friday, March 27 from 6.45pm to 10pm at the South Head Golf Club rooms. Tickets for the audience are just \$2, and meals can be pre-ordered from \$6 per children and \$10 for adults.

Louisa got the idea for the show while driving home from a Muriwai 'Open Mic'



• Louisa Currie

night, "still buzzing from residual performer's nerves/adrenaline."

"It was also inspired by tales of the neighbourhood get-togethers of the past where the guitars would come out and later in the night everyone would have a chance to jam and share just for the joy of it," she says.

While the show is billed as 'South Head', Louisa says "we're all Kaipara, so competitors are welcome from all over the region."

Thanking South Head Golf Club for supporting the even, she says all proceeds will go to South Kaipara Clean Ups.

More information and tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/2vqTJqX> or phone Louisa on 027 230 0997.

Local farmers in Environment Ministry video

South Head farmers Ross and Eleanore Webber feature in a five-minute video made for the Ministry for the Environment.

The Webbers, Auckland Supreme Winners in the 2019 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, talk about their efforts to protect and plant large areas of native bush.

The video is available on the Ministry for the Environment website: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-indigenous-biodiversity>.

Ross and Eleanore will be presenting the Auckland Supreme award to this year's winners at a function at the Holiday Inn Airport on Wednesday, March 25.

Pasifika Festival cont...

• From page 1

a barber. With the aim to make the event affordable for local families, everything on sale will be under \$40.

Modelled as a miniature version of the Pasifika Festival held at Western Springs in Auckland each year, Marie held an initial event two years ago in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, which up to 300 people attended.

Entertainment performers will receive appreciation packs, including discounted admission to Parakai Springs.

Marie hopes the festival will become a biennial event, and also hoped to get support from local businesses for future events.

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Literacy programme expands

The Helensville Men & Family Centre is in the process of setting up a partnership with the Kaipara College Special Education Unit to expand its literacy programme.

The programme was originally established to cater for South Kaipara adults, in particular men, who faced literacy issues, helping them with basic language and number skills and verbal communication.

Manager Mike Bridgman says issues with writing and speaking can affect a person's whole life, from job prospects through to relationships - but he points out they are problems that can be resolved with a good tutor.

"We do the real basics [and] you can literally see their confidence rise in front of you."

But he says while the tutors have already helped a number of locals in this way, it has been increasingly difficult to get adults to come forward with their literacy problems.

So it was decided to expand the programme to incorporate local youth.

"We're very open to dealing with young people," says Mike.

He cites the case of a Year 12 college girl the Men's Centre tutors helped recently. She

was so shy she could barely talk, and couldn't handle exams. Mike says: "she just blossomed. She was very, very sad when we got involved, and now she's living a great life."

The expanded programme will be held at the college, and four students have already been selected and given parent approval to take part.

The children will receive one-on-one help from their tutor 'literacy buddy', using the model developed for the student previously mentioned but tailored for each child.

"They want to learn, but can find it hard to do so in class," explains Mike.

Mike has been with the South Kaipara Men's Trust, which runs the Men & Family Centre in Awaroa Road, for just over two years, and says he believes the trust is operating in the best interests of the local community.

He says the Men's Centre receives on average one new 'client' each week - local men who acknowledge they have an issue and want to help resolve it. It can be a hard decision for some to come forward - one man took three weeks to get up the courage to walk through the door.

Variable speed limit for school?

The NZ Transport Agency wants public feedback on a proposed variable speed limit outside Kaukapakapa School.

Agency Director of Regional Relationships Steve Mutton says variable speed limits help make roads safer for children outside schools.

"When children are arriving at or leaving school, and crossing the road, there can be high volumes of traffic, turning vehicles, parked vehicles reducing visibility, and vehicle speeds often appear too high.

"To make sure speeds around Kaukapakapa School are safe for everyone we propose a variable speed limit that will lower the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40km/h during peak school traffic times."

The proposed zone would span about 350m, with electronic signs on the road outside the school showing the reduced

speed limit. The zone would operate from 35 minutes before school until the start of school, and from five minutes before school ends until 20 minutes after school ends. It could also operate for 10 minutes at other times when there is school-related activity.

Kaukapakapa School Principal Andrea Clarke says the school is keen to have the variable speed limit.

"We have a high volume of traffic past our school as we're on a state highway. A lower speed limit will certainly make it safer."

Submissions on the proposed changes close at 5pm on Wednesday, March 18. They can be completed online at: www.nzta.govt.nz/kaukapakapa-speed-review, or a submission form can be downloaded and mailed or emailed in. Alternatively, phone 0800 44 44 49 to receive a consultation form by mail.



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Lifejacket 'hub' launched

People heading out onto the Kaipara Harbour and the region's lakes could be much safer thanks to the recent formation of a Lifejacket Hub.

It's the fifth such hub to be launched by Drowning Prevention Auckland, thanks to funding from Maritime New Zealand.

70 lifejackets have been donated to Coastguard Kaipara for the community's use.

Drowning Prevention Auckland Chief Executive, Nicola Keen-Biggelaar says the idea behind the hub is to "make it easy for people to access and correctly use lifejackets when they head out on the water, particularly when boating or fishing."

The lifejackets come in a range of children's and adult sizes and are available to be borrowed for a maximum of two weeks for a gold coin donation.

The volunteers at Coastguard Kaipara will use funds raised to maintain and repair the lifejackets, ensuring their longevity.

Coastguard Kaipara president Ian Guilliford says the Lifejacket Hub will help their efforts to educate young people, and reinforce the need to wear not just a lifejacket, but a "fit for purpose" lifejacket. He has no doubt lives will be saved as a result.

"While most people are sensible and take the appropriate precautions around the water, we know that some still head out with no lifejacket or with one that's so old it doesn't serve much good," says Ian.

In 2016 Coastguard Kaipara was involved in the search and rescue attempt of the fishing boat Francie, which capsized in rough seas at the harbour entrance with the loss of eight lives. There were three

survivors. The Transport Accident Investigation Authority's report into the tragedy found it was "virtually certain" everyone on board would have had a better chance of survival if they were wearing lifejackets, particularly if they had been fitted with crotch straps to stop them riding up and slipping over the wearer's head.

Maritime New Zealand says each year in New Zealand around 20 people die in recreational boating accidents - and not wearing a lifejacket is the leading risk factor.



• Volunteers from Coastguard Kaipara and representatives from Drowning Prevention Auckland at the launch of the new Life Jacket Hub

Teaching the importance of life jackets to children is one of the big drivers behind the lifejacket hubs, with schools able to hire them for lessons on water safety.

"We know that elsewhere around Auckland schools have used the hubs to teach children how to fit lifejackets correctly, how they can work as a floatation device, and how to practice being water safe," says Nicola.

"If we can make young people treat lifejackets as a must-have and not an optional accessory to life on the water, then hopefully we can make a generational change that will see the end of preventable drownings."

South Kaipara organisations wanting to use the Lifejacket Hub should email:

South Kaipara Men's Trust

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Late start to year for Art Centre

Helensville Art Centre had a late start to 2020 after being closed since December 21 last year for major storm water drainage construction.

The local art gallery has been flooded three times since moving into purpose-built premises beneath the Helensville War Memorial Hall in October 2015.

Work on the new Rodney Local Board stormwater project had been due to start on January 6 but was delayed a week.

The centre reopened with an exhibition of paintings by the late Bernard Hartwell, which will run until Saturday March 21. 'The Garage to the Gallery' show was given the go-ahead by Bernard's widow so people could enjoy his works rather than them gathering dust. The paintings will be priced to be affordable to many.

The Art Centre reopened with a refreshed workshop space which will allow for more classes and interest groups to be involved. People from any creative class, group or project needing space to bring it to



• Art Kaipara member Barbara Carter will be among exhibitors in April

life should phone 021 153 3593 or email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Following the Hartwell exhibition will be an Art Kaipara members' exhibition titled 'Beautiful Scenes'.

Art Kaipara members can enter up to three works in the exhibition, which will run from Saturday, March 28 through to Saturday, April 25.

medical centre notes

"A university in the UK with an outbreak of gastroenteritis has advised students that in order to reduce spread of the virus that they should restrict their movements."

Amusing double meanings aside, gastroenteritis is not a pleasant experience for anyone. It is the rapid onset of diarrhoea with or without vomiting, fevers and abdominal pain. Thankfully, most infectious causes of gastroenteritis are self limiting, with the body's defence system of expelling the cause in not the most pleasant of ways.

The mainstay of treatment is maintaining hydration - replacing lost fluids and electrolytes. Signs of dehydration in children include dry lips, sunken eyes, inability to produce tears, much reduced urine output, and increasing drowsiness.

For rehydration there are several options, from Pedialyte for children, to Gastrolyte for adults, but diluted apple juice etc can also be as effective. The key here is 'little and often' at maximum rate of a teaspoon of fluid a minute.

If the diarrhoea is prolonged (more than five days) or there is blood in the diarrhoea, or if the patient has travelled abroad or works in food handling, then the delightful task of collecting a faecal specimen is needed to see if it is a notifiable bacterial cause of diarrhoea which may need antibiotics - but each one needs a different antibiotic, and the wrong one could make it worse.

In reality, by the time the result comes back a lot of times the diarrhoea has stopped and so treatment is not needed

- Dr Phill Barter, Clinical Director



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Fun evening at Helensville School



• Who's the strongest: children (and a few parents) take part in a massive tug-of-war during the fun evening

Helensville School held its first Te Pō Ngahau - Whānau Fun Night recently to welcome new families to the school and to celebrate the start of the new school year with all of its families.

Held on Tuesday, February 11, the evening was a big success, starting with a welcome from the school's Kapa Haka group. There were other music items along with a variety of games led by the teachers.

Some families brought picnics, while others bought food prepared by the school's active parent group (PATHS).

Principal Deborah Heasman says: "There was such a nice vibe throughout the evening, and the PATHS team were incredible as always with their support in organising and the food they supplied."

from the frontline



Hi everyone. Like most I was very happy to receive some much needed rain recently to help fill the tanks and water our gardens. It was also a reminder to me that sadly summer is almost over and winter is approaching.

With the change in weather comes a change in road conditions and it's important to remember that after such a dry summer, when it does rain oil is drawn to the surface and roads can become extra slippery.

The change of season is also a good reminder to take a look at our vehicles, and child restraints, and check everything is safe and in proper working order.

When it comes to safer journeys on the road our emphasis is on RIDS: Restraints, Impairment (through alcohol, drugs, and fatigue), Distraction, and Speed. These are the major contributors to serious injury and death on our roads.

We live in an area where rural roads and high speed roads are prevalent, and with the population growth, the traffic volume continues to grow.

Thinking of RIDS, here are a few basic reminders on how to be safer on our roads:

- Restraints - wear your seatbelt and make sure your children are strapped in to their car seats correctly. This will help reduce your injuries if you are involved in a crash, and may save your life.
- Impairment - It's pretty simple, don't drink alcohol and drive or do drugs and drive. If you are feeling tired, pull over somewhere safe and have a rest.
- Distraction - don't text or talk on the phone, read a book or do anything that involves taking your eyes off the road when driving. If you are in charge of a vehicle you have a responsibility to concentrate on operating that vehicle safely on the road and nothing else.
- Speed - slow down and drive to the conditions. It's a fact that the faster you are driving when you are involved in a crash, the higher the impact of the crash, and therefore the higher the risk of serious injury or death to those involved. And if you are going significantly slower than the speed limit, please pull over and let other motorists pass when it is safe to do.

We all want to arrive at our destinations safely, so it's important we take responsibility for our own actions and focus on what we can do as individuals, to make our journeys safer.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to email me at: Melissa.haven@police.govt.nz.

- Melissa Haven, Community Constable

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Saturday 25th April, 2020



KAIPARA MEMORIAL RSA (Inc)

The Kaipara Memorial RSA invites the people of the district to join us in commemorating ANZAC Day 2020.

The format for the day is as follows:

- 05.50 Dawn Parade at the Parakai Cenotaph, followed by a service at the Helensville Soldiers' Cemetery. Breakfast at the RSA \$5.
- 09.30 Kaukapakapa service at Kaukapakapa War Memorial.
- 10.50 Fall In at Super Liquor car park for a parade down Commercial Rd followed by a commemorative service at the front of the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

Lunch and refreshments will be available at the RSA rooms following the service.

If your group would like to march in the main parade, or lay a wreath, please contact the RSA Manager by April 20th. Wreaths may be ordered through the RSA and can be picked up from the RSA on the morning of the 25th.

Contact: Les Coste Ph: 027 499 8066
kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz



HELENSVILLE SHOW

Thanks Helensville!

for coming along to our 118th Helensville A&P Show

We are proud to have supported the following community organisations through this year's Helensville Show:

- Lions Club of Helensville
- Kaipara Senior 1 Netball
- Kaukapakapa Scout Group
- St John Cadets
- St John Op Shop
- Sunny Days Early Learning Centre
- Rural Women NZ
- Compost Collective
- Rodney Beekeepers Association
- Helensville Library
- River Valley Toy Library
- Bridge to Hope
- Coastguard Kaipara
- NZ Fire Service
- Auckland Transport
- NZ Police
- South Kaipara Community Patrol
- Kumeu Small Landowners Assn



Congratulations to all the prize winners in our livestock, equestrian, cooking, and arts & crafts competitions - and especially the Grand Champion winners.

And thanks to our sponsors - we really appreciate your continued support of our community's iconic Helensville A&P Show.

The day wouldn't happen of course without our countless volunteers. Your efforts before, during and after the event are what make Helensville Show such a success. Thanks also to the many local schools for taking part - Kaipara College with volunteers and entertainment, and the many primary schools for participating in our 'leaping frog' artworks, Junior Farmer competition and fun sack races.

Helensville A&P Association Executive Committee



118th Helensville Show in photos



• Above: A pet lamb almost as big as its owner
• Below: Sack races carried through the 'leap year' theme



• Above: Equestrian classes always provide spectator excitement



• Above: Kaipara College Kapa Haka performance



• Above: A big crowd-draw - Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade car cutting demonstration



• Above: Extreme concentration during the Junior Farmer competition



• Above: Cattle were back at the show after missing last year because of M. Bovis



• Above: Ewe looking at me?



• Above: Heavy machinery at work - a stump pulling operation was a crowd pleaser



• Above: Calf feeding at the petting zoo



• Above: Shearing demonstrations were popular



• Above: Cute canines in the pet dog show



• Above: 'Tent Pegging' is an ancient cavalry sport



• Above: 'Sue & Bruce's Family Feast' show was a hit with kids

Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP
Based in Rodney



For appointments and assistance please phone:

☎ 0800 582 325 (0800 LUBECK)

@ marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz

✉ 7a/18 Oteha Valley Road Extension, Albany



Labour

Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

First stage of new playground open

Senior students at Helensville School are enjoying a new purpose-built playground - or at least the first stage of it.

The senior students have been without a playground for a long time, and with new classrooms being located on the top court their play area had been significantly reduced.

Designed by Playground People Ltd with input from senior students, teachers and principal Deborah Heasman, the playground was planned as an area that can be physically challenging, or enjoyed just as a unique hangout for the students.

The School PTA committee, known as PATHS (Parents And Teachers at Helensville School) has spent the past five years raising the \$116,000 needed for 'phase one' of the new senior playground.

That money has been raised through Ag Day, Gibbs Farm tours, discos, high teas, raffles, volunteering for the Tough Guy and Girl Challenge, and beehive auctions - along with numerous other events.

It's been described as a mammoth goal to reach which couldn't have been achieved without the ongoing support of the school community.

Helensville School also received grants for the project from Grass Roots, the Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate, and the Helensville Lions Club.

The final stage of the playground will be the installation of a 'Supernova', a rotating, sloping piece of equipment designed to test children's balance.



• Senior students wasted no time trying out the new playground

Playground People has offered to install this final piece of equipment in the near future, and is happy to wait while the school raises the \$15,000-plus cost - something they hope to achieve by the end of this year.



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making the difference

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Our recipient for March is Sarah Legg, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Mitre 10 Helensville.

Sarah was nominated by Nicky Horsbrough.

She says: "We would like to nominate the lovely Sarah Legg from Riverside Art, Crafts, Gifts and Gift Baskets. Not only does Sarah create the most gorgeous gift baskets



• Nicky with Sarah

(which we use as gifts for our sales), but she also supports our team with every fundraising event we hold, by taking the items donated by our office and adding special goodies and presenting it in the most beautiful way. Sarah also runs the Kaukapakapa Market, held the third Sunday of every month, which we all enjoy and know the Kaukapakapa community really appreciates. We think Sarah deserves to be recognised as one of the people who 'make a difference' in our community."

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from our local MP

'Tanks for Nothing'.

As I write this column, Helensville and surrounding areas have been doing it very tough with a severe shortage of rain water in tanks and bores.

On my regular travels around the area I've witnessed the usual scenes of our standard summer dry period, but it's clear that things are worse than usual this year.

The drought declared in recent weeks for 'Northland' in fact includes areas of the rural north around Helensville (down to the Auckland Harbour Bridge, in fact).

The assistance that a drought declaration provides to farms and families can sometimes be less directly useful than one would hope, mostly because it doesn't always unlock actual water solutions. For example, providing extra time for administration of water-dependent business, such as the extending the deadlines for filing of tax, can be helpful as far as it goes. That is a medium-term consideration, however, and certainly less urgent than obtaining water and/or feed for livestock in a drought.

I have written to the Minister for Primary Industries to advocate for a static tank to be installed - perhaps in Kaukapakapa - for the good people and animals of Helensville. This solution was suggested by local board member Louise Johnston, and I've been in touch on the issue with others too (for example, Vicki Kenny) and Councillor Greg Sayers, who have all been constructive and collaborative in proposing solutions. Kudos to them.

There is a legitimate question to be asked about the role - or rather lack of role - played by Watercare in all this. It seems strange that a local organisation whose whole rationale is providing water to Auckland does not see itself as responsible for helping residents who are on tank supply, in their hour of need.

At central government level, meanwhile, I'd suggest that Helensville will be well served in the future by the establishment of a body such as a new Water Infrastructure Fund (along the lines my party has proposed) to promote resilience and assist councils with water quality issues.

- Chris Penk

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

local board matters

• From page 15

rainwater or leap into paying Watercare significantly more, on an ongoing basis, for a guaranteed urban supply?

Auckland Council staff have led the response to the situation, working through a range of options to mitigate the hardship for those who have run out of water.

Community centres and halls have been opened to allow residents to fill drinking water containers and use showers, large tankers have been deployed at filling stations to allow water carriers to fill up quickly so they can tackle the backlog of customers. There is also a plan (at time of writing) to place large water tanks in rural communities to allow residents to fill up containers closer to home.

I expect longer-term Watercare will be looking at its filling stations and how to increase capacity at them to allow carriers to fill without compromising the water pressure needed for firefighting supply.

There's a plea from water carriers to residents to let them know if you've booked with multiple suppliers and got your delivery. Carriers have turned up at residences to find full tanks, wasting hours of delivery time. This is contributing to the waiting lists and carriers closing off orders.

You can get the latest information on Council's response and services being provided at community centres by visiting: www.ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

- Phelan Pirrie

Chair, Rodney Local Board
phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz Ph: 021 837 167

local board matters

The record-breaking dry weather has caused hardship for many of us who rely on rainwater. With no rain for 40 days (at time of writing) tanks have run dry, catching many people out.

This has led to a rush on water carriers who are now swamped with orders - some have had to stop taking further bookings. I know I'll be looking at putting in another water tank this winter!

There have been calls for Council or Watercare to step in to guarantee water supply for rural communities, and dismay that there are no water restrictions for urban residents on Watercare's reticulated water supply.

Most of Auckland's reticulated water is linked. From Orewa to Pukekohe, residents share the same sources and water supply.

Since amalgamation Watercare (a stand-alone, self-financing unit of Auckland Council) has been very successful in developing a reliable, safe water supply for its urban customers.

Billions of dollars have been invested in water and sewerage infrastructure. This is not paid for by general rates, but through user and infrastructure charges to connect. In some cases, these connection charges can be as high as \$20,000. Watercare has a contractual responsibility with these customers to provide them with water.

Currently there is no shortage of water for the main Auckland urban supply. While Watercare has encouraged people to be careful with water, it has not had to impose the bans seen in the past because it has ensured a robust storage network.

In Rodney, the Helensville, Warkworth, and Wellsford urban water supplies are supplied by each town's own source. Bore water is pumped into reservoirs. Again, millions of dollars have been invested in making these supplies resilient, which is why those customers have not yet seen bans on what they can use water for.

For rural residents looking to top up empty water tanks, there are either suppliers with their own bore water or those that use Watercare's filling stations, of which there are 11 across Auckland. Two of these are in

Wellsford and Helensville.

There is an issue with how quickly carriers have been able to deliver because the demand suddenly spiked for filling station supply as water carriers started working later and later. It affected the aquifers' ability to fill the reservoirs quickly enough to maintain water pressure for fire hydrants.



Because there is normally negligible use overnight the steady flow of the bore supply topped the reservoirs up. However with tankers drawing off water until late at night that wasn't able to happen. In response to the drop in pressure on water mains, Watercare limited or shut off flow to those two filling stations, which slowed down the speed that carriers could deliver water.

Watercare is in a difficult position. It has a responsibility to those that have paid for the infrastructure and rely on the water for not only domestic use but also from fire hydrants in the event of an emergency.

The calls to have Watercare more directly involved in rural water supply need to be considered carefully. This will come at a cost and currently, rural ratepayers do not pay anything towards Watercare's infrastructure (apart from the \$15 per 10,000 litres that water carriers pay if you use their service).

Any move to guarantee supply will involve us all paying a contribution towards Watercare's infrastructure, just like households paying \$20,000 to hook up to the supply in urban areas. Meters may be required to ascertain usage because Watercare would need to know how much water it needed to store for rural users. Geography and the sparse population mean the costs of this would be significant. In order to make it financially viable, everyone may be compelled to contribute. Would it be better to pay a one-off cost of a few thousand dollars to install another tank to collect free

• To page 14



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community titbits from town and around

■ FISHING COMPETITION

Kaipara Cruising and Sports Fishing Club will hold its annual fishing contest on Saturday, March 14, starting at 6am and with the weigh-in closing at 5pm.

There will be prizes for kingfish, snapper, gurnard, kahawai and trevally, plus \$500 in cash for the biggest kingfish and snapper.

Entry costs \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members and tickets are available at the clubrooms in Mill Road, the Helensville G.A.S. station, and Paper Plus Select.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Live music from the entertaining Ukulele Union from 10am to midday will be a highlight of the March Kaukapakapa market.

On Sunday, March 15 from 8.30am to 1pm, the market will feature its usual free face painting for children along with stalls selling everything from locally hand-made crafts, and fresh fruit and vegetables to second hand items, clothing and collectibles, books, and plants. To keep the energy levels up there will be freshly-made coffee, great food, and a sausage sizzle. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz

■ LOCAL BOARD MEETING

Rodney Local Board's March monthly business meeting will be held in Parakai, and is open to the public. The meeting will be at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai on Wednesday, March 18 starting 3pm.

■ STUDENTS VS PARENTS

Kaipara College will hold a Students Versus Parents Quiz Night starting 7pm on Friday, March 27. The cost is \$5 per student

or \$10 per adult, with a maximum of eight people per team. There will be a prize for the best-dressed team. BYO refreshments. To book email: PTSA@kaipara.school.nz.

■ FAMILY GALA

River Valley Baptist Church will hold a family gala at its grounds on the corner of Parkhurst and Fordyce Roads, Parakai, on Saturday, March 28 from 10am to 2pm.

The free community event will feature budget-friendly food and activities, including a bouncy castle, magic carpet rides, an Easter egg hunt, face painting and a plate smash.

There will be a cafe and barbeque, second hand items and clothes for sale along with produce, preserves and baking.

■ HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Cherie Trent, director of Streams Pacific, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of Helensville Aglow, to be held at 7.30pm on Friday, April 3 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. All welcome. For more information email Bridget at: helensvilleaglow@outlook.com.

Scrapbook advice at Kaukapakapa library

Scrap-booking, stamping and paper crafting enthusiast Louisa Vevers will be in the Kaukapakapa Library on Sunday, March 15 from 10am to 1pm.

Having always created scrapbooks, Louisa has for the past five years been the New Zealand consultant for international company 'Close to My Heart', and will be providing advice on their product range to novices and experienced scrap-bookers alike.

People regularly ask Louisa to create scrapbooks for them, and she holds weekly get-together to help draw out creativity in a social and relaxed environment.

The library will be open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa market. For more information contact Megan, phone 021 959 017 or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

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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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