

Election billboards get tough time

Most candidates in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate have been suffering from vandalism to, and theft of, their election billboards.

"We have been busy fixing the hoardings ever since they went up," says Labour candidate Marja Lubeck.

"I only have the minimum amount of signs up as, like many others I too think they don't really enhance the landscape. At the last tally we have 14 damaged, ripped, destroyed, graffitied, or completely stolen. Helensville, Kumeu, Wellsford, Leigh, Warkworth, Snells Beach, Matakana have all had a turn."

Marja adds that some of her hoardings had been removed completely, including all the wood framing.

"That is not only gutting for my small team who in their spare time go out and put these up, then need to fix them, but also for those who contribute to our fundraising.

"I try keep my sense of humour, and when the culprits put stickers with the word 'stopping' over the 'moving' [on our slogan] as they've done in Wellsford as well as in Helensville, I painted over the 'stopping' sticker so the board now reads: "Let's Keep Labour".

National's Chris Penk has had billboards defaced - literally. On some, the vandal cut out and removed the faces of both Chris and party leader Judith Collins.

"Obviously it's always disappointing to see private property damaged, whether politically motivated or not," says Chris.

"Replacing signs is a waste of time,

energy and money that I wouldn't wish on any candidate of any party. It happens to us all, unfortunately, which just goes to show that there are idiots of every stripe.

"When my signs get hit, I'll sometimes highlight that via social media but tend to look for an angle that's a bit thought-provoking, rather than just expressing anger. Never let haters and wreckers win, basically."

New Zealand First candidate Brenda Steele says so far her billboard damage has been limited to the northern areas of Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

"In some parts our timber has been re purposed by other parties for their signage, which I find interesting. It is not hard to tell our timber. This raises the question of who is trashing signs, and I am sure it is not the young locals of the areas!"

ACT's Beth Houlbrooke has had only one billboard deliberately vandalised at time of going to print, requiring a replacement skin at a cost of about \$30.

"The extended election period means that hoardings which were only meant to last nine weeks now need to hold up for 14 weeks, so extra maintenance is expected," she says.

Only Social Credit candidate Callan Neylon has yet to have any billboards damaged, but says: "I find the amount of vandalism some of my fellow candidates' billboards have received to be appalling.

"It is abhorrent to see the amount of politically motivated damage as well. I am a firm believer in policy not the person; it's a sad reflection on the state of our democracy that there seems to be a large increase from the previous election of people destroying the property of candidates because they do not



• A Labour Party volunteer repairs one of Marja Lubeck's billboards



• National's Chris Penk with one of his 'defaced' signs

like their views or their party."

Marja Lubeck points out it is an offence to damage election signs, being classed as wilful damage under the Summary Offences Act 1981 sections 11 and 11A - an offence that carries sentences and fines.

• To page 2

Election Feature

Turn to page 10 for our four-page election feature, with statements from each candidate in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate.

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editorial

It's almost 'time to tick', for voters to choose what political party they want to lead our country for the next three years - and almost as important, who you want as our local Member of Parliament.

Your two votes don't have to be for the same party, that's entirely up to you. You can choose which party governs, but pick a candidate from a different party as our local representative if you think they are the person best suited for the job.

For most of us, our only interaction with central government is complaining about it! On the other hand, our electorate MP, whatever party they belong to, is the person we will deal with when issues arise.

Starting on page 10 of this issue you have a chance to read about the five candidates standing in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate to help you make an informed decision.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about the project the Helensville Lions Club has to supply face masks to locals in need (page 3) - and on page 14 our 'Making the Difference' recipient is a local 11-year-old girl who has also been making and supplying masks.

The town's first big event since lockdown(s) is coming up in a couple of weeks, so make the most of being able to get out and enjoy Arts in the Ville (page 4). But another event, the annual Turning the Tide walk, has been Covid-adapted into a 'virtual' walk this year - read about that on page 5.

- Dave Addison, Editor



• Henley House (1888) in Kaukapakapa, Morris and Eliza Henley and their daughter Rosa

Photo competition

Locals have until Saturday, October 10 to help create a snapshot in time for the Kaukapakapa of the future.

That's when Kaukapakapa Library's annual photo competition closes. Titled 'A Month In The Life Of Kaukapakapa' the aim is for locals in the area to take a photograph of their home and whanau (not forgetting the pets!) with the entries creating a record for the future of how local homes looked in 2020.

Entrants should email their best three digital shots to: threehorses@xtra.co.nz. There are prizes for under 12 years, over 12, and People's Choice. The competition boundaries are Glorit to Waitoki to Mt. Rex.

Judging will be based on the photographic quality - not the best house or the most attractive family! Photos will be printed and displayed at the Kaukapakapa Village Market on Sunday, October 18 from 9am for voting for the People's Choice prize. Prizes will be awarded in the Kaukapakapa Hall at midday.

Full competition rules and conditions are on the Kaukapakapa library Facebook page. For more information email Megan Paterson at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 959 017.

Election billboards (cont...)

• From page 1

"But more importantly, being able to vote is a hard fought for right, and what is being done to these hoardings is simply disrespectful. Everyone has the opportunity to make their voice heard and their vote count in a few weeks, and that is their chance to vote someone in or out," she says.

"And if they have spare time to go around and tamper with our election signs, why don't they think about maybe volunteering at a hospice or food bank, or delivering groceries for our elderly? There are many constructive ways to spend time - going around and undermining democracy isn't one of them."

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Lions supply face masks

Helensville's Lions Club has put together 100 face mask packs for those in the community unable to get them for whatever reason.

The face mask project was suggested by Lion Patsy Carlyle, an intensive care paramedic who has seen first-hand how Covid-19 can impact the most vulnerable and high-risk people in our community.

The project came about as club members looked at the best ways they could help the community despite the club being unable to meet during the latest Covid-19 lockdown.

Lions have initially put together 100 packs, each containing two surgical grade masks and instructions on how to use them. These have been given to the Helensville Foodbank for distribution with their food parcels.

Additional masks have been supplied to the foodbank for their workers to wear when putting the food parcels together and delivering them. Foodbank manager Frances Swan recently accepted the masks from Lions Club President Roland Ostring.

While wearing of face masks is only compulsory on public transport it is also recommended they be used in

all indoor activities such as shopping, and anytime when around other people whom you do not know. Wider wearing of face masks may become compulsory in future.

The Lions Club is keen to continue to ensure as many locals as possible have access to face masks, especially those more vulnerable to health problems.

Any organisations in need of face masks and who wish to use them to protect the more vulnerable in our community should get in touch with the Lions Club - just search for 'Lions Club of Helensville' on Facebook and leave a message, or phone Lion Scott Osmond on 021 0261 4495.



• Frances Swan from the Helensville Foodbank accepts the face mask kits from Lions President Roland Ostring

Lions planning to outdo Christmas Covid-Grinch

The Lions Club of Helensville is planning a Christmas festival event to replace the town's cancelled Christmas parade. While details are still being sorted out, it will be held on Saturday, December 5 - the usual Christmas Parade day - and will be aimed primarily at entertaining children, "both young and young-at-heart".

Club members were saddened to hear of the decision to cancel the 2020 Helensville Christmas Parade due to the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the likelihood of cancellation after months of preparation. The parade is one of Helensville's biggest annual community events, and the local Lions have supported it every year since its inception with funding, assistance, with marshalling, and more recently entering their own float.

"While many events are being cancelled altogether due to Covid-19, Lions will not accept that the Covid Grinch will steal our community Christmas," says Lion Scott Osmond.

"So, Lions are planning an event that can go ahead and not need so much pre-planning."

The event will be completely different to the Christmas Parade, but with "lots of interest and fun for all the family".

More details on this new event will be in the November *Helensville News*.

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Biggest yet Arts in the Ville

Helensville's annual three-day Arts in the Ville festival will go ahead this Labour Weekend - with appropriate measures in place depending on Covid lockdown levels.

With 75-plus artists spread around 37 venues, it is set to be the biggest yet in its six-year history.

It will be the first time a number of the artists have taken part, and works on display - and mostly for sale - will cover a variety of media from sculpture, embroidery, painting, pottery, ceramics, and etchings, through to glasswork, millinery, re-purposed mixed media, and engineered creations.

While a number of artists will be in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, many will be in their studios, giving the public the chance to talk with them and in some cases watch them at work.

And for the first time not all artists will be locals - there will be an 'Out Of Towners' popup gallery, which will feature works from artists from outside the local area.

Some of the local artists who will be on show are: Kiri Abraham, William Robert Boyd, Leda Daniel, Jo Dixey, Sharon Dooney, Arwen Flowers, Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens, Ann Keane, Gina Lamb, Myra Lloyd, Barbara Mackinnon, Helen Martin and Keith Knewstubb, Helensville Floral Art Club, Dean Masters, Julie Nash, Jacky Pieper, Kerrin Revell, Tracey and Nick Roberts, Mike Rowland, Ray Scott, Mick Smith, Liana Steedman, Joanne Sullivan, Ruth Sumner, The Shoppe, Toni Tanner, and Louise Wild.

A planned Saturday evening market has been canned because of Covid restrictions. But a new 'side' event has been added in the form of a 'spoken performance' evening (see sidebar at right) to launch the whole festival.

The hugely popular visual treasure hunt will return, this year with an avian theme. Those taking part will have to search for birds made by local sculptor Jeff Thomson, and will be in with the chance to win one of Jeff's sought-after sculptures. And the treasure hunt birds will be for sale after the weekend, with proceeds going to Helensville Art Centre.

On the Sunday afternoon from 4pm local art and collectables expert John Perry will lead an event called 'Antiques and Art 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 and possibly value.

• To page 5

Spoken performances to launch Arts in the Ville



• Pauline Denton at a poetry recital

Are you an aspiring poet or story teller? Then you're invited to the 'Spoken Word and Poetry' event which will launch this year's 'Art's in the 'Ville' festival.

To be held at Te Awaroa Cafe on Friday, October 23 from 6pm to 8pm, it will feature performances of original or favourite works, including poetry, stories, and monologues.

Everyone is invited to either participate or be part of the audience. Performances under 10 minutes are encouraged.

To make an advance booking email Pauline Denton at: paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com, or just turn up on the night.

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'Virtual' walk for Turning the Tide

Adaptability and resilience are foremost on event organisers' minds this year.

That's certainly the case for the team behind the annual Turning The Tide fundraising event, which for 2020 has been turned into a 'virtual' walk.

The event was postponed in May due to the first Covid-19 lockdown and was rescheduled to Sunday, October 11. But given the uncertainty around crowd numbers and social distancing restrictions, it was decided to run the event virtually instead.

In previous years more than 200 participants have joined in the event, walking 17km down Muriwai Beach to raise funds for the Kia Tīmata Anō Women's Refuge.

This year people are instead invited to register online, but pick their own distance and location for a walk or run.

Event organiser Rochelle Gillespie says "the wellbeing of our community has always been at the forefront of Turning The Tide.

"As much as we'd love to meet everyone for a mass walk down the beach it's simply not the right thing to do this year if we want to keep everyone safe and ensure we're playing our part in the fight against Covid."

People are instead being encouraged to do the walk alone, or as a small (socially-distanced) team. There will be photo challenges and other fun activities for people to take part in on the day so they feel part of a

Arts in the Ville (cont...)

• From page 4

There will be an interlude during the evening with 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.

Helensville Library will be open for all three days of Arts in the Ville, and are looking for locals to supply crafts or projects they created during lockdown to go on display for the weekend.

All venues will have Covid-19 tracing QR codes, sign-in sheets and hand sanitiser on hand.

For the latest information visit: www.artsintheville.weebly.com.

collective team doing its best to 'turn the tide' on family violence.

Locals wanting to take part in the virtual walk can register online at: turningthetide2020.eventbrite.co.nz.

Silver lining to freezer mishap



• Volunteer Shona Calder (left) and Kai Collective manager Gemma Donaldson loading the food for transport to the Kai Collective

The saying 'it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good' rang true in late September for some locals.

Helensville's Kai Collective food bank was on the winning end, receiving more than \$5300 worth of food from the Parakai 4 Square supermarket which otherwise would have had to be thrown out because of a faulty freezer.

Supermarket owner Daniel Dale has supported the Kai Collective since its inception during the first Covid-19 lockdown in March, having previously donated several thousand dollars worth of food and supplying other goods at cost.

When he discovered one of his freezers broken down on September 22 he immediately called the Kai Collective.

"It's nice to be able to support the local community," he says.

The frustrating thing was Daniel had ordered new freezers in June. They should have already been installed, but their shipping from overseas has been held up because of the global pandemic.

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RSA quiz nights still on

Like many other local organisations, the Kaipara Memorial RSA's events calendar has been badly affected by the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Upcoming events like the Melbourne Cup afternoon and even Santa in the RSA Grotto will both need to be re-jigged.

Wednesday quiz evenings, starting at 7pm, are still going ahead however. There's no entry fee or restriction on team size and all players are in with a chance to win.

Meals are available from 6pm with non-members welcome (sign in at the bar).

For members a 'snowball' cash prize is drawn every Wednesday at 7pm. If the winning member is not there the prize, sponsored by Burmester Realty, snowballs by \$10 each week until struck, after which it

starts again at \$100.

The club is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays for meals, and Thursdays for darts and pool. The RSA is located at 49 Commercial Road, Helensville.

Tough Guy Covid victim

A major annual local event which brings around 6000 people to Helensville has fallen victim to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The long-running Tough Guy and Gal Challenge was set to return to Helensville in mid-September.

But organisers of the extreme off-road running event were forced to cancel the five-day competition because of lockdown restrictions on public gathering size.

letters

What is the point of having a good bus service if it cannot be accessed by those who need it? Over a year ago I contacted Auckland Transport and Council asking why there were no bus stops between Kaukapakapa and Helensville.

I explained that I am visually impaired and the bus service would be a real help to me. I live halfway between the two townships, and as there are no stops between the two I cannot make use of the service. There are no footpaths on any stretch of the highway, so I am unable to walk to either township. Empty buses pass my gate all day long. This is a ludicrous situation. There must be others who would like to use the bus but cannot because of lack of a bus stop.

When I last contacted AT in May 2019, I was told that stops were likely to be introduced within six months. Six months have elapsed, and even accounting for Covid-19 interruptions there are still no stops. I have been told not to ask drivers to stop on request as they will be in trouble if they do. I still have no satisfaction from Council or AT. I live in hope

- Judith Lloyd

Open Letter to Chris Penk, MP and Greg Sayers, Auckland Councillor (Rodney Ward)

We would like to formally thank you both for the efforts you both put into helping us resolve the Council and Auckland Transport related matters connected with our small subdivision in Helensville.

As you are both aware, it has been a very long and drawn out affair and that has made it very difficult and stressful for us, and unnecessarily more expensive due to these delays. We have employed good professional people all along the way, but they and we could make no head-way until you both intervened, including attending at least one meeting with all involved. At that meeting a way forward was proposed and provisionally agreed.

To have the efficient and pro-active backing and assistance from you was both invaluable and very much appreciated. We do not believe we would have achieved the result without you.

- Doug and Jenny Sheldon

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Māori knowledge advisor joins harbour group

Patricia Clark (right) has joined the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group as Mātauranga Māori Advisor.

She joined the team after completing her study and work at the University of Auckland in the fields of environmental science and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).

"I whakapapa to Kaikohe and grew up on a dairy farm in Otaua in the South Hokianga," says Patricia.

"Through my upbringing I spent most of my time outdoors and developed a passion for te taiao (the environment) and wai māori (fresh water).

"I look forward to meeting everyone within the Kaipara and working with them to incorporate mātauranga in restoring the mauri of the harbour and catchment.

Patricia's hobbies mostly involve spending time outdoors, including hockey, hiking, horse riding, and travelling.



Snowboarder retires from national team

Top New Zealand snowboarder Christy Prior, formerly of Kaukapakapa, has announced her retirement from the national snowboard team. After taking up snowboarding in her late teens, the slopestyle and big air specialist rose to the top of the sport to become one of New Zealand's most successful snow sports athletes, one highly respected on the world stage.

She is a five-time World Cup medalist and was named Snow Sports NZ Snowboarder of the Year in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

from the frontline

Hi everyone. Lately local police have been attending a lot of incidents involving livestock found wandering on the road.

I thought this would be a timely reminder for everyone, particularly those with lifestyle blocks and farms, to take a moment to check your fencing and gates and ensure they are all secure.

Livestock owners have a duty to ensure their road boundaries are adequately fenced, meaning the fence is fit for purpose - and if not, owners can be liable for any damage caused by wandering stock.

Livestock wandering on the road can be a real safety hazard for drivers, particularly on our high speed rural roads. If you do come

across livestock on the road and you know where they have come from, a friendly knock on the farmer's door to advise them their stock have got out may be all that is needed to resolve the issue.

Or, if that is not an option call Animal Control on 0800 462 685 to report.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at: melissa.haven@police.govt.nz.

- Melissa Haven, Community Constable



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: Locals supporting locals ethos for hire company

Being 100 percent locally owned and staffed, NJC Hire in Kumeu sees itself as locals supporting locals.

“We pride ourselves on having quality, reputable brands, good quality equipment, expert advice, and old-fashioned customer service,” says Reece Young, who is in charge of business development.

He says the company’s philosophy is to “give back” by supporting other locals, such as Waimauku School, Kumeu Cricket Club, plus athletes such as MMA fighter Brad ‘Wolfman’ Ramsey.

NJC Hire was formed in late 2017 by three friends - Nick Taylor, who previously worked at Kennards Hire and McEntee Hire, Jake Curran and Cory Bertelsen. The company name is simply the initial letters of their respective first names.

They started out with just one machine, but in only two years have expanded to be a fully-fledged hire company with an ever-expanding line of equipment.

“No project is too big or small,” says Reece,

pointing out the growing fleet of 20-plus earthmoving machines and the huge selection of other tools and equipment, for use by trade or home handymen.

For earthmoving, there are diggers ranging from 1.7 to 20 tonnes, rollers, tippers and Bobcats.

There’s a full range of concrete working gear, landscaping equipment, power tools, mobile scaffolding and scissor lifts, pumps, generators, water blasters, heaters, saws, trailers - and even vehicles.

The staff are all north-west locals, who between them have more than 80 years of experience in the hire industry. Staff members Paul and Doug are well-known locally in the industry, having previously worked at the now-defunct Kumeu Hire, and all the rest of the staff have hire backgrounds too.

And despite Covid-19 the company is still



> Paul Malam with some of NJC Hire's heavy machinery

expanding, with a vacancy at the time of writing for a yard person.

For the full range of gear available for hire visit www.njchire.co.nz, or phone 0800 652 555.

: 85 year history for award winning vineyard



> Duty manager Andrea Lochove with hundreds of French oak aging barrels

85 years is an impressive length of time for any business to stay open - especially for a relatively small local company.

Originally set up in Henderson in 1935 by the Ivceovich family, immigrants from Croatia, Westbrook Winery moved to its present site in Ararimu Valley Road, Waimauku in 1999.

It was purchased by the Chen family in March 2018, and the 8ha site is half in grapes with the remainder beautifully landscaped.

While the vineyard produces a full range of wines including pinot gris, malbec, rose and pinot noir, Westbrook’s flagship wines are reisling and chardonnay - the latter of which has won gold medals every year for the past 20 years.

It’s a winery that “punches well above its weight in terms of consistent quality,” says Jasmin Nicholson, who is in charge of marketing and events.

With indoor seating for 80 people and a large lakefront area in the stunning grounds for a marquee, Westbrook Winery is a popular venue for events like weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. Amenities include giant chess, petanque, croquet and cricket.

Needless to say, Covid-19 restrictions have had a serious impact on visitors to the vineyard and shop. Jasmine says around 50 percent of weekday shop customers used to be international visitors.

While outside caterers are used for large events, Westbrook offers a range of wine-matched tasting options including cheese boards, tasting platters, pizzas and a mini-degustation menu.

Jasmin says they are a “fun and informal way to educate people about wine and how it relates to food - how to enjoy and appreciate it.”

The Cellar Door shop has a wall lined with awards - but only a selection of those received, as there are too many to go on display.

Being a boutique winery all the fruit at Westbrook is hand-picked, as are the Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes they source from the Wiffen Estate Vineyards in Marlborough. The locally-grown grapes are bottled at Soljans in Kumeu, so the resulting wines are true low food mile products.

You can contact Westbrook on 09 411 9924 or visit: www.westbrook.co.nz.



Library use in the time of Covid

Helensville Library is open under Covid-19 Level 2 - but how are things different there?

Firstly, the ubiquitous sign-in. While not compulsory it is recommended, with people not using the Covid Tracer QR code scanning app asked to use the paper-based sign-in sheet inside the library.

(Note: information on the sign-in sheet will only be used for Covid-19 contact tracing by the Ministry of Health, and will be securely stored for 60 days then destroyed.)

Because of limits to the number of people allowed in the library at any one time during Alert Level 2, people are asked to limit library visit to 30 minutes or

less, and to observe Ministry of Health physical distancing guidelines: a minimum of 1 metre distance inside public places.

To make visits even shorter, library members can order Ready-to-Go Reads - pre-packaged selections of five books. Book packs can be ordered online at: www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/read-y-to-go-reads.aspx, and you will be notified by email when they are ready to collect.

Locals who are unwell and want to

collect or return an item should ask a friend or family member to do that for them.

Library staff may be wearing face masks, and patrons can wear a mask if they wish.

Hand sanitiser is available at the entry, beside self-check machines, public computing areas, and the EFTPOS terminal.

The library is thoroughly cleaned each night with extra cleaning done throughout the day, including wiping down surfaces, handrails and computers with anti-viral spray.

Public computers and printing access are still available, with physical distancing and hygiene measures in place. Customers are limited to two 30-minute sessions a day. Staff computer help will be minimal during Alert Level 2.

All physical events at Helensville Library have been put on hold, including Kids Time. Jigsaw puzzles and Home Energy Audit Toolkits have been temporarily removed.

The library's planned 'Book Tasting' evening is to be rescheduled. To keep up-to-date with other library happenings visit its Facebook page.



• Inside Helensville Library



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2020

Helensville - 10am to 4pm , 24th to 26th October

Helensville will be alive with more than the vibrant works of over 75 artists in 26 venues during Labour Weekend, 24th to 26th October, from 10am to 4pm. This year there will be a local version of the Antiques Road Show plus a treasure hunt with a prize from world-renowned local sculptor Jeff Thomson.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to view and purchase work created by some of the finest artists from the North West in their own creative environment. This is a free, family-friendly event.

For Artist information, a trail map and details visit: artsintheville.weebly.com



Helensville Electorate candidates

Helensville News asked the candidates in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate and parties contesting the General Election on Saturday, October 17 to write around 250 words on any subject they wished - introducing themselves, party policy, local issues etc. Their responses are printed below in alphabetical order to help you to decide who to vote for.

■ Beth HOULBROOKE ACT Party Candidate

I'm a Kaipara ki Mahurangi resident of over 26 years with a lifetime connection to the area. Helensville was named for my great-great Aunt Helen McLeod.



Currently I sit on the Rodney Local Board as deputy chairperson, and was chair in the last term.

The new electoral boundaries provide a very positive and exciting opportunity - we will finally have our MPs, councillor and local board all working in alignment.

Without a doubt the biggest issue facing the country right now is how we recover from the economic impacts of Covid-19 while keeping our population safe from unmanageable outbreaks. ACT has a fully costed plan for economic recovery, which keeps debt low, cuts taxes, and gets the country back to surplus, while keeping Kiwis in work. ACT's Wellbeing Approach to

Covid-19 considers all the costs of Covid-19 and would maintain elimination while maximising overall wellbeing.

Locally, roading congestion and transport infrastructure deficits continue to plague us. ACT would introduce real time congestion monitoring and pricing to drive efficient use of our existing roads, incentivise public transport, and collect data to inform where new roads or rail are needed. It's fair, better for the environment and the economy, lowers fuel taxes (and would do away with the Regional Fuel Tax), while raising revenue for better maintenance and future investment.

This election I'm asking for your Party Vote to put more ACT MPs into parliament, bring fresh ideas, better quality debate, and to hold all other parties accountable.

www.act.org.nz/policies

■ Marja LUBECK Labour Party Candidate

I've been an MP since September 2017 and my family and I live in Kaipara ki Mahurangi. Living locally, I'm very aware of the issues that matter to our communities.

When people talk to me about congestion on our roads or how the growth of our towns is adding to the pressures on our schools, health care facilities, and environment, I understand. I see it and experience it too.

Because we went hard and early on our health response to Covid-19, our local economy is still in business. The economic consequences of the virus will continue to be a challenge, but Labour's plan is helping New Zealand bounce back faster. Read the details at: labour.org.nz/rebuild.

- We're investing in protecting our environment and creating jobs e.g. the Mahurangi River restoration, which I successfully advocated for.
- We backed hundreds of local businesses with practical support like the wage subsidy to help cushion the blow from the pandemic.
- I represented our region to get funding for

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CONTROL THE DEBT

KICKSTART THE ECONOMY

BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH

"I'm asking for your party vote to put more ACT MPs in parliament. More ACT MPs = more competent MPs with real-world experience to hold the government to account, higher quality debate and better policy."

- Beth Houlbrooke, ACT Candidate Kaipara ki Mahurangi

CHANGE YOUR FUTURE

PARTY VOTE act

Authorised by Beth Houlbrooke, ACT Party candidate for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Marja Lubeck

for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Labour

Bringing her record of achievement to a newly formed electorate:

- The Penlink Project
- The four lane Matakana link
- Restoration of the Mahurangi River

Keep up to date:

/MarjaLubeck @MarjaLubeck

Authorised by Timothy Grigg, 160 Willis Street, Wellington.

have their say

• From page 10

improvements to local infrastructure e.g. Matakana Link and Penlink. We now need solutions to the North-West traffic congestion.

- We're positioning New Zealand globally as a place to trade with and invest in so we can take full advantage of our economic headstart.

I am proud to have successfully lobbied to secure funding for issues that are important for our communities, but there's more to do.

I love our region and want to continue to strongly represent our interests as a member of Jacinda Ardern's Labour-led government.

■ Callan NEYLON

Social Credit Party Candidate

Hi, I'm Callan Neylon, the Social Credit candidate for the Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate.

I decided to become involved in politics when I learnt about my now inspiration, former Social Credit leader



and MP, Bruce Beetham.

I'm standing for Social Credit because they're the party with the most innovative, forward-thinking economic and environmental policies that will provide the best future for Kiwis today and the generations to come.

The government intends to borrow up to \$200 billion by 2024. The Reserve Bank intends to create \$100 billion to give to wealthy private financial institutions; it has already created \$32 billion. Future generations will spend decades paying off this debt. Other parties offer austerity - higher taxes and gutting public services, but Social Credit offer an alternative.

The economic crisis caused by the pandemic has highlighted what Social Credit has been saying for 67 years, that the Reserve Bank can create money. Where it falls short currently is that the new money is going to wealthy private financial institutions instead of going directly to treasury to fund healthcare, infrastructure, schools and housing.

Social Credit says that instead of drowning future generations in debt paying off the borrowed billions, use the Reserve Bank to fund the desperately needed developments and services. This has been done before in our past. Loans from the Reserve Bank were used to build the iconic state houses and fund the Rural Bank and

Produce Boards.

For a debt-free brighter future, give your 'two ticks' to Social Credit.

■ Chris PENK

National Party Candidate (incumbent)

I'm proud to be your National Party candidate for the new Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate, based on the existing Helensville electorate that I currently serve as local MP.



Before entering Parliament in 2017, I'd served as an officer in the Royal New Zealand Navy, first at sea on frigate Te Kaha and then as an aide to the Governor-General. I then joined the Australian navy and worked as a submarine navigator and on Operation Iraqi Freedom. The balance of my pre-Parliament working life was spent as a lawyer, developing skills to advocate for constituents and communities.

On a more personal note, I'm a husband, father and dog owner, living towards the south of the Helensville electorate in the

• To page 12

Callan Neylon

for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

- Passenger rail to Huapai & Helensville
- Fully funded rural mental health support
- Stop the Dome Valley landfill proposal
- Debt free Reserve Bank funding

Authorised by Callan Neylon,
45 Mahurangi East Road, Warkworth

Chris Penk

MP for Helensville

Stop in, the office is open!

365 Main Road, Huapai
09 412 2496
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz
chrispenk.national.org.nz

Authorised by Chris Penk,
365 Main Road, Huapai, Auckland.



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Candidates have say (cont...)

• From page 11

Waitakere area.

I've really enjoyed going into bat for Helensville and surrounding areas as a local MP these past three years. On some issues we've had wins while on other issues the phrase "work in progress" would be a fair description. It's literally a case of "work in progress" when it comes to several key infrastructure issues and projects in the area, including internet connectivity and traffic congestion, as readers of the Helensville News will be well aware.

In these challenging times we must work together to bring back jobs and restore confidence.

I'd love that opportunity to serve you again for the next 3 years so am asking for your vote - for my Party and me in October - so I can do exactly that.

■ Brenda STEELE NZ First Party Candidate

Kia ora, hello.

I am proud to be standing for NZ First in our local area as your candidate for Kaipara ki Mahurangi. My local knowledge, experience in Local Government and not-for-profit organisations, plus local grassroots work is my point of difference.

We need diversity in the chambers of parliament, which is NZ First, who have been quietly working hard since the 2017 election. Below are a few highlights:

- Revamped the Gold Card to the Super Gold Card and winter energy payment for seniors
- Significant investment into the Northern Rail Line, creating local work opportunities.
- Progressively increase the minimum wage to \$20 per hour by 2020, with final increase to take effect in April 2021.
- Re-establish the Mental Health Commission.
- Free doctors' visits for all under 14s, started end of 2018.
- Increased funding for family violence networks, including Women's Refuge and Shakti.
- Increase support for National Science Challenges, including for piloting alternatives to 1080. Provincial Growth Funded \$19.5 million to Predator Free 2050 for alternative eradication, actioned in February 2019.



I hope you and your family are keeping well in these unprecedented times. The 'new normal' is still unfolding so we must 'back our future' for all New Zealanders.

Always happy to chat over a cuppa, or the supermarket trolley, txt 027 306 3541 or email brenda.steele@nzfirst.nz if you wish to discuss anything.

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BRENDA STEELE

KAIPARA KI MAHURANGI
CANDIDATE



PARTY VOTE

NEW ZEALAND FIRST

Authorised by E. Witehira, 25E Rawhiti Rd, RD4, Hikurangi, Northland 0184



VOTE FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN, NOT WHAT YOU WILL TOLERATE

- NZ not UN
- Scrapping Bad Gun Laws
- No Carbon Tax
- Supporting Farmers
- First \$20,000 Tax Free
- No Tax on Tax
- Replace 1080

Leighton Baker PARTY LEADER
newconservative.org.nz

Authorised by K. Stitt 33...ore Road, Mangere, Auckland



Candidates have say (cont...)

• From page 12

■ New Conservative Party

No electorate candidate - Party vote only

The October election gives New Zealanders the opportunity to undo the social and economic damage caused since 2017.

On Covid, New Conservative (NC) will move away from the government's 'lockdown to eliminate' strategy, work on minimisation strategies to protect our vulnerable and keep people in work.



As we face uncertainty in the global market, it will be more important than ever to provide stimulation to the local economy and productivity via tax cuts.

New Conservative will replace the current 10.5% tax bracket with a \$20,000 tax-free threshold plus income splitting for families. All other tax rates will be applied at a higher threshold; huge savings each week. Go to the NC website tax calculator to work out your savings: www.newconservative.org.nz/policy/economic-policy.

To drive down the cost of living, NC will do away with the Zero Carbon Act and the Emissions Trading Scheme saving an estimated \$1.5 billion each year. NC believes in using NZ resources, investing in R&D and reducing red tape allowing business to grow and create jobs.

A vote for New Conservative is a vote for: binding citizens-initiated referenda; equal rights for everyone; freedom of speech; a society that values life and a party that recognises the responsibility of individuals to provide for their families.

New Conservative is about practical common-sense ideas, solutions and fresh ideas. Go to www.newconservative.org.nz/policy/ for more.



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Helensville Drainage Ltd
NJC Equipment Hire
ProBlast & Coatings Ltd
Waimauku Automotive

Not for Profit

Art Centre Helensville
The Kai Collective
Sunny Days Community Preschool Inc

Business or Professional Services

Creative Matters
Marbles Business Solutions
The Secret Garden Huapai

Health & Beauty

Aneia Warner salon
Craigweil House
Physio Flex
The Body Clinic Kumeu

Hospitality - Contemporary Dining & Bistro

Good from Scratch
The Beekeepers Wife
The Hunting Lodge Winery Restaurant
The Riverhead

Hospitality - Family, Informal Dining and Takeaways

Fire n Slice
Hallertau Brewery
The Beer Spot - Huapai
The Real Bread Project
The Vietnamese
Westbrook Winery
Zac's Pizzeria

Recreation

KC Fit Ltd
Skydive Auckland
Studio 16 Pilates Ltd
Tree Adventures

Retail

Eleventh Hour Gifts
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Helensville Paper Plus Select
Kaipara Coast Plant Centre
Kaukapakapa Store
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The Shoppe - Artist and Crafters Collective

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from our local MP



It's sometimes said politics is a numbers game. The expression is usually taken to mean that larger voting blocs will prevail within a parliament, but it also has another meaning. We often consider issues to be more, or less, important according to the number of complaints heard. If the old saying 'the squeaky wheel gets the grease' is true, then it's also true that the number of squeaks is important.

Issues concerning rural roads would be among those raised most consistently by those living in areas served by the Helensville News. By this measure, the fate of local roads - including the state highways that run through this local area - could be the single biggest issue here.

I should just pause for a moment to acknowledge that issues of great significance to a small number of disproportionately affected people are crucial too. I believe strongly that majority-rule democracy should not dash the hopes and dreams of a vulnerable few, such as the funding of medicine needed to battle rare diseases. I will continue to advocate accordingly.

Getting back to the subject of the perennial problem that is road repair, though, it seems to me that discussion tends to fall into three main categories.

The first would be technical discussion about what's needed. Sometimes this focuses on the problem of temporary fixes. Sometimes this is all about the benefits of better technology. An example would be that road 'refurbishment' - rather than simply re-sealing in the traditional way - may achieve the same aim of smoother, safer roads more quickly.

The second category is about equity within 'Auckland'. I use the quotation marks because many living in what used to be Rodney District feel disconnected from the so-called 'super city'. Bluntly stated, rates raised here don't always appear to be reflected in the spending decisions of Auckland Council's decision makers. Your local government representatives are good advocates in this space and I intend to continue adding my own voice to this end.

The final category of course would be funding. I'd encourage anyone who's frustrated with poor roading to check out the various parties' manifestos in relation to this.

Please feel free to contact any of us to discuss our plans. After all, the numbers game would tell me this issue is one of the most important to you... and that's exactly what elections should be about.

- Chris Penk, MP for Helensville

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496.

making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at:

<http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz>. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

October's recipient is Paige Drummond, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at Paper Plus Select in Helensville.

Paige was nominated by Barb Crawley, who says: "I'd like to nominate Paige, [who] is 11 years old and over the recent lockdown made over 165 masks and gave them away to anyone in the community who wants them. This is an amazing and selfless thing for someone of her age to do. [Total at time of going to print 248 - Ed]



• Paige gets her voucher from Nicky

local board matters

This week Local Board members had a walk through Helensville town centre with staff to look at the maintenance of footpaths, gardens and the riverside walkway.

The maintenance of town centre streetscapes has been handed over from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council's Community Facilities Department, which gives us better oversight of how this work is carried out.

Because of the amount of improvements to be done to raise the appearance of town centres we have allocated more money to replanting, furniture and bin repairs and renewal.

There is a lot of work to do. We've heard from many of you that the appearance of town centres is important, particularly to help with the recovery of businesses related to Covid-19. It's obvious there has been a slow decline in the general appearance of many of our towns but hopefully this new focus and budget commitment should see things improve over the next few years.

There are a few challenges to improving Helensville particularly, because the main

road corridor is the responsibility of NZTA or Waka Kotahi, the central government agency that controls State Highways. We have little ability to directly encourage them to approve the appearance of the highway, which is frustrating.

The quality of maintenance varies wildly across Auckland - on some highways there are lushly planted and maintained gardens and art, on others, there are faded road markings complemented by piles of gravel, broken glass, rubbish and weeds. The northwest seems to be particularly neglected by NZTA.

One thing that would make a huge difference is persistent reporting by residents of issues to both Council and NZTA. The more reporting of poor maintenance, damaged signs and furniture, the more attention will be paid to keeping everything up to a higher standard.

You can help by quickly lodging issues with the appropriate agency, rather than on Facebook where it's not seen by the people who have to do the actual work. This is best done online using the links below. Providing your contact details will mean you should get follow up reports, and if you don't see any action within a few weeks of a complaint, I want to hear so we can make sure the work is being done by contractors. My details are below as well.

NZTA: Road issues on State Highway 16: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us/complaints/complaint-form/>

Auckland Transport: Issues on all other roads: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/feedback-form/>

Auckland Council: For issues related to town centres, rubbish, graffiti, maintenance, weeds, cleaning etc: <https://onlineservices.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/councilonline/rfs/landingpage>

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



Vote for local businesses in awards

Voting in the 2020 North West Country Business Awards closes on Thursday, October 15. While the awards cover the entire North West Country Business Improvement District area, a number of local businesses are nominated.

In the Health & Beauty category, Craigweil House at Parakai and Physio Flex in Helensville are both nominees. In Hospitality - Family Informal Dining & Takeaways both Fire n Slice and The Real Bread Project in Helensville are nominated.

All three nominees in the Not For Profit category are from Helensville - The Kai Collective, Art Centre Helensville and Sunny Days Community Preschool.

Parakai's Skydive Auckland, and Tree Adventures at Woodhill are nominees in the Recreation Category, while Helensville Drainage gets a nod in the Manufacturing & Trade Services section. In Retail, local businesses are GAS Helensville, Helensville Paper Plus, The Shoppe Collective at Helensville Railway Station, and the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre at Kaukapakapa. Finally River Valley Meats, PGG Wrightson and Country Meat Processors are all nominees in the Rural Services category.

Voting must be made online at: www.northwestcountry.co.nz/awards.

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PLEASE NOTE: *Because of uncertainties regarding Covid-19 lockdown levels, please check to make sure any events listed here are still going ahead as planned.*

■ WAITOKI MARKET

Information about unwanted plants and how to stop their spread will be the main feature subject at the next Waitoki market, set for Saturday, October 12, from 8.30am until midday. Species such as privet were initially planted to attract birds, but those birds have spread them further around the countryside and into native bush areas. They can exacerbate allergies and displace native plants.

And if you missed the trap setting demonstrations at a previous market, there will be information about dealing with animal pests as well. There will be a community exchange table at the market with information and give-aways, allowing locals to give or share books, seeds, and surplus produce. Plus there will be the usual homemade and used bargains, baked goods, preserves, and plants.

New stall holders should phone Gill on 420 3301 or email waitokihall@gmail.com.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Live music from Ralph of rock project This Flight Tonight, and free face painting and activities for children, will be features of the next Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, October 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. Stalls will be selling fresh local produce, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, soaps, jewellery, gifts, second hand goods and collectibles, along with locally grown plants, herbs, vegetable seedlings and potted colour. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ WORKING DOG WORKSHOP

Top Northland dog trialist Murray Child will hold a workshop on Friday, November 6 to help local farmers get the most from their working dogs. Farmers can bring one dog for a one-on-one session with Murray, receiving instruction on handling and training.

The workshop was to have been held in August, but was postponed because of lockdown restrictions. It will be held at the Otakanini Topu farm woolshed at the end of Tarawera Rd, South Head (6km from Parakai).

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

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

For more information phone Josh Jackson on 027 203 2062.

Gibbs sculpture farm visit

Locals have another chance to visit the spectacular Gibbs sculpture farm in December - and at the same time help raise funds for next year's Helensville A&P Show.

Gibbs Farm contains numerous site-specific large-scale artworks commissioned from some of the world's most significant contemporary artists, along with exotic animals such as giraffe.

Tickets cost \$45 per person, and because Gibbs Farm doesn't charge visitors all money raised will go directly to help fund the show. Bookings are essential.

The visit is from 10am to 2pm on Friday, December 4. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

To make a booking email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz, or phone 09 420 7572. Tickets are also available online at Eventfinda: <http://tiny.cc/5pe8bz>.

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Helensville News - Publication Information

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