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'Fashionable Beasts' set to be a highlight at Arts in the Ville

One silver lining to the dark cloud of Covid-19 lockdown is the extra time people have to do things - and local artists preparing for this year's seventh annual Arts in the Ville have been using the unscheduled time to work on the artworks they will have on display.

Two artists taking advantage of lockdown time are sculptor Jeff Thomson and Marmalade Hats milliner Myra Lloyd, who have teamed up for a special exhibition titled 'Fashionable Beasts' - Jeff's sculptured critters wearing Myra's hats.

The idea for the collaboration came from a casual comment sparked by the 'Wood and Wool' exhibition held at the Helensville Art Centre recently which featuring wood artist Ray Scott and textile artist Fiona McBride, both of whom will exhibit during Arts in the Ville 2021, which will be held over the three days of Labour Weekend in October.

Jeff has chosen some of his previously made sculptures and made some new ones.

"Myra saw my creatures as each having personality, their own attitudes, some quirky, others serene, and she wanted to create hats to imbue these qualities for each individual,"

says Jeff.

"In fashion terms, this could be seen as our Spring Collection being launched in Helensville," he quips.

As they work on the project Myra and Jeff are enjoying combining not-so-compatible materials - think corrugated iron and fabrics - to create their novel sculptural hat stands, with Myra having to work with new materials such as thin aluminium.

"The exhibition will be a quirky, whimsical collaboration telling a story about each beast," says Myra.

She's enjoying the challenge.

"Working with an animal in mind has stretched my creativity, made me look harder," she says.

Jeff agrees: "I think the unusualness in the combination will be a memorable experience and have a positive impact viewers will hopefully remember for a long time."

As well as all the artworks on show - some in artists' own studios, some in public venues including the War Memorial Hall, Helensville Library, Helensville Art Centre, and pop-up galleries around the town - Arts in the Ville will again feature the popular treasure hunt which has proven a hit in recent years.

This year's theme is 'red', and Jeff Thomson will again donate one of his

artworks as the prize.

Like and follow Arts in the Ville on Facebook and Instagram to see the artist profiles and keep updated with the news.

Artists or makers who would like to participate should contact Jo Ogilvie via the event's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/artsintheville.co.nz, or phone or text 021 071 0246.

Big Little Local

The free 'Big Little Local' community event planned for late September has been postponed because of Covid-19 lockdown.

A new provisional date of Saturday, October 30 has been pencilled in, but that may change depending on lockdown levels.

Big Little Local is designed to connect as many people as possible with local suppliers, service providers and businesses, and also to welcome new members of the community and raise their awareness of the facilities, businesses, and amenities available locally.

Being hosted by Helensville's Harcourts the Difference, it will be a family-friendly, alcohol-free event running from midday to 5pm, with live music, light food, entertainment, prizes, and more.

The plan is to create an annual event for locals, hosted by locals, which helps grow a sense of community.

Free stands will be provided for businesses, and there is the opportunity for larger businesses to sponsor a small business, or supply prizes and gifts.

All proceeds from raffles, silent auctions, and donations will go to Kindred Family Services.



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editorial

Here we go again - another lockdown making it impossible to produce a print issue of your local newspaper.

In more than 20 years, *Helensville News* had never missed an issue until last year's first Level 4 lockdown, which meant both the April and May 2020 issues had to be online-only. Hopefully this time it will only be a single month - we'll have to wait and see.

Please remember to check regarding the dates of any events mentioned in this issue. With lockdown levels uncertain, some dates are bound to change.

The North West Country Business Association has launched another 'buy local' campaign, and I join with them in asking readers to support our advertisers and other local businesses once things return to 'normal'.

As with our previous lockdown issues, none of the advertisers appearing in this online-only issue are being charged for their advertisements. That's our way of trying to support them through this tough time. I've tried to fit as many regular advertisers in this truncated format as possible, and my apologies if any missed out.

Finally, I've made a little re-jig to the layout at the end of the paper, moving our publication information from the bottom of the back page to the bottom of the inside back page. Some of the text was pretty small previously, and the move gives a little more space to make upcoming deadlines etc more legible.

Please enjoy this issue and try not to let lockdown get you down. It's a challenge for many of us, financially, socially, mentally, and physically. Stay safe and kind everyone.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Kaukapakapa sporting heritage on show

Kaukapakapa's historic library will feature old photos and more from the town's sporting past when it next opens on Sunday, September 19, from 9am to 1pm.

"Long before the days of virtual reality there were actual families and communities connected by organised recreation," explains 'librarian' Megan Paterson.

"In a time when travelling any great distance was difficult, there was a need to make your own fun closer to home, and make fun they did. Gatherings took place which were as much about socialising as exercising and competing - a way to keep up with the news of village life."

In 1885 the Kaukapakapa Jockey Club was formed and the first race meeting attracted more than 300 people. School swimming was for boys only, and involved stripping off behind a hawthorn hedge, swimming naked, and then running up and down the paddock to dry off.

"That's until the girls wanted in!" jokes Megan.

Next came a tennis club with courts marked out at the school, the Kaukapakapa Rifle Club in 1914, the bowling green in 1929, and the school pool in 1953.



• Kaukapakapa youngsters 'fencing' with improvised swords

- Photo: Dye Family Collection

"Add to that rugby, croquet, horse riding, hockey, and cricket to name a few, and you can conjure up an image of a thriving active community."

Anyone with old sporting photos or trophies is asked to take them to the library on the day.

"We [would] love to take copies to add to the library's archives," adds Megan. For more information contact Megan, phone 021 959 017, email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

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Jana Mills



College secures its first basketball championship

The Kaipara U19A team won the Harbour Basketball League 2 division to secure Kaipara College its first basketball championship.

The team was victorious at the championship on August 6, having won nine of its previous 10 games.

"The basketball program has grown leaps and bounds from when I was at highschool," says team coach Matt Rhodes. "In year 9 I had to play in U19s if I wanted to play college basketball."

The U19A team for 2021 consists of Andre de Beer, Jacob Smith, Jaden Kok, Sam Nobilo (who has played for Harbour Basketball's national team), Tamati Birch, Tej Chawla, Jimmy Cheng, and Riley Southern-Vasey.

"This year also saw the formation of the first ever 1st V basketball team at the college, which is the first step towards creating a clear direction of where you can go with basketball in the college if you choose to - similar to the direction of rugby with the 1st XV in the college," says Matt.

"We were fortunate to have Harcourts The Difference Helensville jump on board to sponsor the team, alongside Auckland Towbars."

One downside is the tournament the team was to next compete in has been cancelled due to Covid, meaning it will be next year before the players get to showcase their talent.

Matt says basketball in our area is "booming".

"Within our local Rodney Basketball club we have kids playing basketball on Sundays through school term, with the focus on providing a fun environment that allows skill development.

"Kids from all over our area from different schools that will eventually end up at Kaipara College participating in this program are developing earlier than what we would normally see," says Matt. That means the college will start to see all age groups be competitive rather than the U15s mainly being used as a development group for the U17s.

"This year also saw the first girls team in many years, which is a positive sign for everyone being able to play basketball," adds Matt.

For more information on Rodney Basketball visit: rodneymbasketball.co.nz or facebook.com/rodneymbasketball.



• The winning U19 team, Back L-R: Jacob Smith, Jaden Kok, Andre de Beer, Riley Southern-Vasey, Coach Matt Rhodes. Front L-R: Tej Chawla, Tamati Birch, Sam Nobilo, Jimmy Cheng

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Lockdown final nail in Christmas parade coffin?

Helensville's Christmas parade has been cancelled again, and its future is up in the air.

Organiser Holly Southernwood says she has had "very minimal response" to a call for two or three people to work with her to learn the ropes with a view to taking over organising the event in future.

And a call for a local business, businesses or families to provide money for a fund to cover up-front costs such as traffic management, which would be lost if the parade didn't go ahead, also received no response. Advance costs could be as much as \$1000.

Holly likens the situation to the classic children's 'Little Red Hen' story - "no-one wants to help, but they all want to enjoy the parade".

"Now that we are in lockdown my assessment that there would be more lockdowns before year end has materialised," she says.

"So combining all these factors I am not going ahead with planning a Christmas Parade for Helensville this year, and will not consider doing so ever again."

"It's sad to see it go," she adds.

Holly says she has been organising the parade since stepping in at the last minute in 2013 and that she has since put hundreds of hours into it.

"The parade has been organised at huge cost to me in terms of time and expense. Now I've got the shop [FIGG] do I really want to do all that for nothing?"

The annual parade was previously organised by the now-defunct Helensville Business Association, and was supported (with the exception of one recent year) by the

Helensville Lions Club, which provided some of the funding plus practical help by supplying marshals on the day. The club had agreed to provide marshals again this year.

Other community organisations have also chipped in over the years, and other funding has come from sources such as Rodney Local Board and the North West Country Business Association (NWC).

Last year Holly cancelled the parade due to uncertainty with Covid 19, and the Lions Club organised a successful last-minute Christmas Festival with toy displays, a



• Has Santa waved goodbye to Helensville for the last time?

market, and Santa's Grotto on what would have been parade day.

The fate of the parade's future may not be sealed yet, though, with the business association a potential saviour.

"We have previously offered to run the event with other community groups if the current organiser was unwilling to continue, but this offer has not been taken up," says NWC chair Mark Dennis.

"We remain open to doing this."

Mark says Helensville Lions Club ran a "great family-oriented Christmas Festival last year", and if the risk and costs of a

• To page 5

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Pre-lockdown soft toy sleepover

A number of local children were able to enjoy Helensville Library's annual soft toy sleepover in late July. The children brought in a special soft toy - but not one they couldn't go without overnight - and enjoyed a pyjama party and storytime before leaving their toy at the library for an overnight sleepover, under the watchful eye of a librarian of course.

Being back in Level 4 means most people will need to access many services and information sources online.

"We know there are many out there for whom this is difficult," says senior Helensville librarian Anne Coppell. "Your library and service centre team would like to help as much as they can."

People with an internet connection and a library account can access thousands of eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks through the Auckland Library system.

Anne says any library queries can be made using the options on the Auckland Libraries' website at: aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/contact-us.aspx.

Having an Auckland Council myAUCKLAND online account is useful for managing things such as rates and payments, dogs, and reporting maintenance problems. Find out more at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Pages/myauckland.aspx.

Keep up-to-date with library and service centre matters via the library's Facebook page.



• Local children enjoy storytime before leaving their toys for the library sleepover

Local businesses open under Level 4

For a list of businesses open in the South Kaipara area during Level 4 Lockdown visit the North West Country Business Association's website at: www.northwestcountry.co.nz/essential-services.

Please note this only lists businesses that are members of the business association.

Christmas parade off - or on?

• From page 6

parade are too much while Covid-19 is still active in the community, the business association would be very happy to help them with something similar this year.

He rejects a suggestion from Holly that the business association wants nothing to do with the Christmas parade.

"We have contributed thousands of dollars towards it. That the organiser has suggested that we and other community groups have failed to support the Christmas parade is completely inaccurate," says Mark.

He says the business association received an email from Holly in July asking if the organisation would cover any costs incurred if the event did not go ahead.

"We confirmed funding was available as it had been for the previous year. However this was for delivery of an event - we could not fund something that wasn't going ahead. We have a responsibility to use members' contributions wisely, and paying for an event that isn't happening is not a prudent use of funds."

Mark says the risks around Covid-19 lockdowns are well understood and event organisers need to decide whether to take the risk of spending money on an event that may be cancelled, and see what other options are available to mitigate this.

"We have changed our events to allow them to be moved or postponed without incurring cost, and believe there are ways of celebrating Christmas with a lower level of financial risk."

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Art Centre manager sought

Art Kaipara is on the lookout for a new manager for the Helensville Art Centre.

The organisation aims to be a creative hub for art and design, offering experiences that enrich and strengthen the local community.

The part-time position is for 25 hours a week, with the successful applicant guided by the Art Kaipara Board.

The new manager will be expected to have a love of the arts along with initiative, ideas, energy, and a flair for good customer service. The position involves writing funding applications, verbal and written reporting, curating exhibitions, organising workshops, retail, and marketing.

A full job description is available on request. Anyone interested should email their application and a brief CV to: board@artcentrehelensville.org.nz by Friday, September 10.

from our local MP

For Kiwis of a certain generation, the phrase 'high interest rates' will bring back some pretty bad memories. And the same definitely goes for the word 'inflation' too.

While these may not have loomed large in the lifetime of younger readers of *Helensville News*, it's possible that we are all about to get acquainted with these. I hope I'm wrong.

You don't need a Nobel Prize in economics to appreciate that risks arise when masses more money is printed (or generated by 'Large Scale Asset Purchasing', writing bonds, or similar).

All across New Zealand, we should be concerned at the prospects of a diminished dollar.

Income increases are easily eroded by inflation, for one thing. Higher costs of certain goods and services are also problematic, especially when the necessities of life are involved. This is why it's so troubling to see the recent upward surge in the cost of fruit and vegetables (even with seasonal adjustments taken into account). Another example is building supplies. If we think about these examples from the perspective of human need we're talking food and shelter, hardly areas in which we can happily go without.

The circumstances that lead to inflation are complex but mostly boil down to the fact that, unless there's an increase in productivity in the real world, an apparently booming economy is a fool's paradise.

According to many constituents I talk to, local businesses are finding it more expensive than ever to produce goods and services because they are constrained by labour shortages. With the borders effectively closed (given the lottery that is the MIQ booking system), we've closed the door on 'skilled' and other migrants who could help relieve pressure on these shortages.

Finally, we'll need to watch carefully that government spending is purposeful. The problem is never spending in itself, as good investments can improve our economic position as well as our standard of living. An example for Helensville and surrounding areas would be the upgrading of rural roads: that would allow us to get around more safely and quickly to workplaces and without undue damage to motor vehicles.

Let's hope that inflation doesn't get too much of a chance to rise in the coming months. We need to shut that stable door before our dollar bolts.

- Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
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medical centre notes

This is just a quick update to let you know that Kaipara Medical Centre is still open during this latest Covid outbreak, we just have to operate a little differently in Levels 3 and 4.

For the most people, consultations can be provided over the phone. For an appointment, please phone 09 420 8400 as we are not currently taking bookings through Manage My Health.

A small number of consultations will be available in-person for urgent medical needs every day. If you are asked to come into the clinic, we will be asking screening questions for Covid, we will ask you to wait outside in your car rather than in the waiting room, and the doctor will wear full gown, gloves and mask when they see you. We ask that you also please wear a mask and sign in using the QR code on arrival.

We are continuing to provide free Covid-19 tests for our enrolled patients who meet the criteria set out by the Ministry of Health. If you have symptoms of concern or have been at a location of interest please phone us and we will arrange for a nurse to phone you to assess your condition. This may result in you needing an appointment with the GP and/or a Covid test with the nurse. This is done wherever possible as an in-car assessment. Remember if you have a Covid test please isolate until you get the results - that is very important.

You can also phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In other news, we are currently working on trying to get set up to provide Covid-19 vaccinations locally. This is a more time consuming and lengthy process than it really should be, but we realise the benefits to the local community if we are able to offer vaccinations locally. We will keep you updated on this.

In the meantime please stay home and stay safe.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock



10 year plan feedback

Rodney residents appear to be the strongest opponents to Auckland Council's 10-year Budget, going by the results of the public consultation it held earlier this year.

The council received almost 20,000 pieces of feedback covering a range of topics, and in almost all of them Rodney responses were the most opposed to the council's proposals.

Public responses were sought on a number of topics, including a proposed \$31 billion capital investment over the next 10

years. Rodney respondents made up by far the largest number based on local board areas, and only 18 percent supported the proposal, with 70 percent opposed. Auckland wide, 54 percent opposed the proposal and 34 percent agreed with it.

A council proposal to extend and increase the Water Quality Targeted Rate, introduced in 2018, received 45 percent support Auckland-wide, but only 27 percent from Rodney feedback.

The proposal to increase investment to respond to climate change saw 41 percent of Rodney respondents support the increase and 40 percent oppose it. Auckland-wide, 61 percent supported it and just 27 percent opposed it.

The budget, adopted on June 29, will see general rates rise by five percent in the first year, and 3.5 percent each year for the following nine years. It anticipates Council debt will increase in the short term and aims for \$70 million per annum of asset recycling, plus a \$90 million yearly cost saving.

School turning 150

Kaukapakapa School will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2023.

Locals interested in being part of a committee to help plan the school's celebration are asked to email either Danielle Simpson at: danielles@kaukapakapa.school.nz or Sheree Osborne at: admin@kaukapakapa.school.nz.

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September's recipients are Catherine and Paul Lupton, who chose a \$100 voucher for use at Mitre 10 in Helensville.

Catherine and Paul were nominated by Niki Morrison, who says: "I would like to nominate Catherine and Paul Lupton who have been amazing over the past three years. Paul is one of the Kaukapakapa fire chiefs and Catherine holds the fort while he does that. They are both so giving.

They are the most caring, giving couple I've ever met. They not only help us when they can, they help loads of others too. They are true



• Paul Lupton (right) receives his voucher and flowers from Nicky

giving, open-hearted people. They have two teenage girls, two Saving Hope puppies they adopted, and they so deserve a little thank you for all that they do."

point of view

Lots of positive news which people have been keen to share with me when I visited the local markets recently with my mobile office.

I had a successful Pizza & Politics meeting with young voters in the Northwest, where the big issues were climate change, the need to protect our environment, and the need to keep working to recover from the global Covid pandemic.

At my meetings at the local markets the small business owners were pleased with the support they received to remain viable as part of our Covid Recovery plans and, as a young apprentice plumber reported, the job market was buoyant which was giving him job security.

Other visitors to the mobile office were pleased to be leading 'normal' lives and the chance to enjoy the local markets without the fears of lockdowns and infection that their overseas friends were reporting (*written before current lockdown! - Ed*)

Many people reported being fully vaccinated or at least had received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine; from September 1 everyone who is eligible can book their vaccination online using Book My Vaccine or through the free phone line, 0800 28 29 26.

Our strong public health response has delivered even more positive news with our economy in a better position than expected. We now have an unemployment rate of just 4 percent and our GDP growth is outstripping that of other countries we compare ourselves to. Our vaccination rollout will help lock in these gains, continuing our recovery, and keep growing jobs in Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

- Marja Lubeck
 Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi
marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz



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the business

■ Amazon Moves On

The loss of Amazon's Lord of the Rings production is a blow to local businesses and employment. There were several sites in the north west that were being used for filming, and the wide range of services and goods that were supplied to this production were a huge benefit to our local economy.



The Kumeu Film Studio and Woodhill Forest plus the great landscapes have put the district on the map, with the film industry drawing in talent and providing opportunities for skilled local employment.

Hopefully other productions will come in to fill the gap and allow the industry to bounce back quickly.

■ Christmas is Coming

It seems we're just past mid-year but already Christmas is on the radar. We have just ordered another giant Christmas Tree which we hope can be installed at Kaukapakapa. The Helensville Christmas Parade may, or may not, go ahead which is unfortunately a feature of the uncertainty around trying to run events during the pandemic.

The Association is happy to take on running this event if the current organiser is unable to do this. The community co-operation that makes Helensville such a cool place to live will ensure some sort of community event can be organised, like the Lions Christmas Festival, if a parade can't go ahead.

■ Buy Local

Level 4 lockdown is incredibly hard for many businesses, especially those that rely on foot traffic and face-to-face customers.

We have some really great local companies who offer fantastic services and products, so please help them now, and when things start opening up again, by shopping locally wherever you can. You can find a directory of local businesses that are open through the various alert levels by visiting www.northwestcountry.co.nz.

- Mark Dennis

Chair, North West Country Business Assn

councillor comment

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potential price increases.

However, there are murmurs that house supply water tanks may need compulsory filters added to them. If your property also has staff or customers drinking the tank water then you are likely to have to register this, have a water safety plan, and file a report every year about your water tank's water quality meeting standard. In other words, more cost and more bureaucracy.

The Government has given all councils the months of August and September to consider the information and implications of the proposal and to make any initial feedback. At the end of September, the Government will consider its next steps, including process and the timing for decision-making, which should include the time required for any community or public consultation.

The Government has made it clear that councils could decide if they wished to 'opt in' or 'opt out' of these reforms. However, they could still make it mandatory.

Such an action would be totally unconstitutional. The water assets they are talking about have been paid for by ratepayers, not by Government, and as such any change must be publicly consulted on and agreed to. I will certainly fiercely resist any move towards any compulsory takeover of Auckland Councils' publicly owned assets.

My firm standpoint is communities must be given the right to decide whether they wish to 'opt in', 'opt out', or wish to call for a national referendum on the matter.

It is called democracy.

- Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor, Auckland Council
greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz | Ph: 021 285 9900

councillor comment

Central Government is proposing significant changes to the ownership of, and control over, New Zealand's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems.

The changes are significant and are being described as the Three Waters Reform Programme.

The proposal is that four new entities be set up covering the whole of the country, and these entities take over the management of the three waters infrastructures currently managed by councils.

Auckland Council has Watercare set up as the business unit responsible for managing Auckland's drinking and wastewater, while Auckland Council itself has an internal unit called Healthy Waters responsible for all the stormwater schemes.

Under the Government's proposal Auckland's water assets, and debt, would be taken over by a new 'Water Services Entity' which would cover Auckland as well as the northern regional councils, Kaipara and Whangarei District Councils.

The Government believes there is historic under-investment in the 'three waters' across New Zealand, and an investment of between \$120 billion to \$185 billion is required over the next 30 years.

Councils like Auckland have been investing heavily recently in projects like the central interceptor for wastewater and new plant for freshwater access from the Waikato River. This has driven up its debt. Other councils, for example, such as Wellington and Havelock North have failing infrastructure.

Everyone in New Zealand should be able to expect clean, safe drinking water, and a healthy environment, and this is the Government's key driver for wanting change. However, does one size fit all?

There are several concerns. The proposal would remove Watercare's and Healthy Water's current ability to directly implement Auckland's planned investments to fix our issues, because the new water services entity could favour funding projects in poorer northern councils ahead of Auckland's needs.

What's likely is Watercare will be

rebranded and expanded to become the new water service entity, with a new board of directors and a new ownership structure.

There is concern also being expressed that the overall ownership of the new water company would be 50 percent owned by Mana Whenua and 50 percent by ratepayers, with Auckland ratepayers having only a 35 percent stake holding.

This risks creating a new water entity that is unresponsive to the communities it serves, removing Auckland Council's ability to ensure Aucklanders' needs are put first.

There is also the question of how well the new entity will be able to co-ordinate with Auckland Transport and other agencies around maintenance work and new project builds.

Will the centralisation of Watercare and Healthy Waters from Auckland Council into an even bigger entity result in the loss of local control, delivery, quality, and priorities?

The Mayor and councillors want to work with the Government to achieve the benefits of any reform without losing accountability and responsiveness of a huge part of Auckland's assets.

Then there is the potential hit to the pocket. The Government plans to allow the new water entity to be able to borrow significantly more money to fund the \$120 to \$185 billion of required investment. It is unclear if water rates would increase for Aucklanders to service this increased debt, or if water rates will be insulated from increases due to the debt being able to be paid off intergenerationally. The northern councils who currently include their water rates within their general rates could well end up with split out water rates, like Auckland already does, without any decrease in the general rates, while incurring an additional water rates charge.

Rodney's rural communities who are not on any metropolitan water or waste water systems should be less susceptible to any



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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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■ **Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:**

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Please check with the organisers of any of the events listed below to see if they are going ahead as planned. Some may be cancelled or postponed due to Covid lockdown. - Ed.

■ GIBBS FARM FUNDRAISER #1

Kaukapakapa Scouts are holding a fundraising visit to the Gibbs Farm on Thursday, September 23. Gibbs Farm is a world-class open-air sculpture park located north of Helensville. It features the greatest collection of large-scale outdoor artworks in the country and a series of site specific commissions by some of the world's most renowned artists.

Further information and purchasing tickets are through iTicket. Visit: www.iticket.co.nz/events/2021/sep/kaukapakapa-scouts-gibbs-farm-fundraiser.

Prices are \$65 for adults, \$55 for seniors, \$30 for children, and \$170 for a family pass (2 adults, 2 children).

■ MARKET DAY/GARAGE SALE

A market day and garage sale will be held at Helensville War Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 11 to raise funds for I AM HOPE's Gumboot Friday. I AM HOPE is a youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by comedian Mike King, and Gumboot Friday is billed as a fun way to raise money for kids' mental health.

People wanting to book a stall, or to donate goods or services for raffles should phone Barb on 021 231 7451. Table hire is available for \$5.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Children will be able to enjoy free hair plaiting, while adults will be able to relax to live piano keyboard music from Jessica at the next Kaukapakapa market, on Sunday,

September 19 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Food stalls will include donuts, cakes and pies, sandwiches, and a sausage sizzle - and of course coffee. There will be local crafts for sale, and bargains in the car boot area, and the Lions book stall, along with locally grown plants, native trees, potted colour, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Contact Sarah Legg, phone 0274 831 542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

■ MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Waitoki Hall is hosting a neighbourhood get together - meet and mingle over a shared meal. There is no charge, but those attending should bring a plate of something tasty to share, plus their own plates and cutlery. Tea and coffee provided as well as a sausage sizzle.

The event is on at Waitoki Hall, 1095 Kahikatea Flat Rd from 5.30pm to around 8pm on Saturday, September 25. For more information contact Gill, phone 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

■ ART KAIPARA EXHIBITION

Art Kaipara's second members' exhibition for 2021 was planned to be held in September. Check the group's Facebook page for dates which could change because of lockdown. Annual membership costs \$20 and gives members free entry to two exhibitions a year.

■ GIBBS FARM FUNDRAISER #2

Helensville A&P Association is holding a fundraising visit to the Gibbs Farm sculpture park on Thursday, November 18, with all funds raised going toward the running of the 2022 Helensville Show.

Tickets cost \$60 per person, and are available through the show office (phone 420 7572 or email info@helensvilleshow.co.nz) or will shortly be available through the Eventfinda website.

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