

5000 copies delivered monthly to Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill, South Head and Shelly Beach

Scouts off on Whanganui River kayaking adventure

Kaukapakapa Scouts are off on a three-day kayaking jaunt down the Whanganui River later this month.

At the time of writing, 15 boys and girls from the group were to leave on April 25 after their ANZAC service - girls outnumbering boys by four to one - and travel to Ōwhango, 20km south of Taumaranui.

They leave on their kayak adventure the next morning from Whakahoro, paddling south and finishing three days later at Pipiriki before returning home later that day.

"We are taking a local guide with us so this will be an educational experience as well as an adventure," says Kaukapakapa Scouts group leader Graeme Hounsell.

There has been plenty of preparation for the trip.

During the term Scout Section members have trained in the correct use and safety requirements for using the Group's kayaks, including care of the kayaks, how to hold the paddle correctly, different paddle strokes, rafting up, and effecting rescues.

"Scouts have also had to show that they can fit and wear a personal floatation device correctly and could swim 100m wearing one," says Graeme.

All this activity took place on the Makarau

River, culminating in a mid-March overnight paddle down the river followed by a passage through the mangroves and then 'fly' camping on the river bank, before returning to the start at Jordan Road the next morning.

Four of the older Scouts have also attended a first aid course, gaining comprehensive first aid certificates.

Kaukapakapa Scouts have served the local community for just over 40 years. The Group is a member of Scouts Aotearoa, New Zealand's leading youth organisation, serving over 13,000 young people all across the country, and part of the world's largest non-formal education institution.

The Scout Group consists of three sections - Keas, Cubs, and Scouts - catering for both boys and girls ranging in age from five to 14 years. Members come from across the river valley and surrounding areas.

Kaukapakapa Scouts currently has 68 youth members, a number which continues to grow.

This year the Group is moving to a youth-directed, adventure based programme, and the Whanganui River trip is part of that for the Scout section (11 to 14 year olds).

For more information visit: www.kaukapakapa.waitoru.org.



• Scouts on their Makarau River tryout, and below, fly camping



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Local Board meeting

Rodney Local Board's next business meeting will be held online via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, April 20, starting 3pm.

For a link to join the meeting email: RodneyLocalBoard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

All local board meeting agendas and minutes are published online and can be viewed at: infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

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editorial

Last month I wrote about being patient with all the delays and shortages we are currently experiencing because of Covid. That really hit home this month when I needed to buy a basic building item - two sheets of gib board. I literally phoned suppliers from Hamilton to Whangarei to source some, and everywhere I got the same response - July at the earliest.

Luckily for me I found an acquaintance who had a couple of left-over sheets, so I was spared an inconvenient delay. But it brought home just how much disruption these shortages can cause. No gib board? It's not just the builders, but all the down-stream trades that are affected - plasterers, plumbers, electricians, painters, bathroom and kitchen installers... and that's just one product.

Then I spoke with a friend who runs a specialist car repair shop. He couldn't take on any more jobs because his workshop was full of cars waiting for parts from overseas. He had done everything he could with them, and because they were in pieces he couldn't move them from the workshop. He is basically twiddling his thumbs and waiting - and not earning any income while he does.

So spare a thought for all our local tradies, and other businesses, many of whom will be suffering because of these shortages and delays.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Portrait theme for art workshops, exhibition

Different types of portraits are the theme for the various workshops being held at Helensville Art Centre this month.

The workshops started on April 2 with 'Drawing the Portrait' with Jo Dixey.

Next on the agenda is Air Dried Clay Portrait making with Jacky Pieper. This is a two-day course, starting on Saturday, April 9 from 10.30am to 1.30pm with participants creating two to four faces using air dry clay. Then on Saturday, April 23 participants will complete their faces with paint. Cost is \$25 for both days, materials included.

On Saturday, April 16 Royal School of Needlework-trained embroiderer Jo Dixey will hold a two-part Embroidered Portrait workshop. In the morning workshop, from 10am to 12.30pm, Jo will take participants through stitching an outlined portrait. The afternoon course, from 1pm to 3.30pm will be a more developed version of the portrait. Participants can book a single class for \$15 or both workshops for \$20.

The theme of the workshops coincides with the Art Centre's first member's exhibition of the year, 'The Portrait', on now until Saturday, April 30. The show features local artist's representation of the portrait, some abstract and others more life-like, in a range of media including sculpture, painting and photography.

For the latest on exhibitions and workshops visit the Art Centre's Facebook page and website. Vaccine pass are required for all classes. Email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz for all enquiries and to book.

People interested in holding a workshop should email their proposal to: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.



• Jacky Pieper air dried clay portraits



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Jana Mills



Rugby Club back in Premier 1 after 12 years



• The team after its pre-season game against Massey

Helensville Rugby Club will be competing in the North Harbour Premier 1 division for the first time in 12 years.

After two successful seasons in Premier 2, the Red, Gold, and Black have decided to take a big step up and challenge themselves against the 'big boys' of North Harbour Rugby.

The squad has a strong contingent of former Kaipara College and Helensville Junior players, as well as some exciting talent from Auckland.

Local players to watch include Ben and

Karl Ruzich, Ethan Scott, and former Wellington NPC player Piri Pareone.

The squad has been training since the start of the year under coaches Dean Phillipps and Deon Sampson.

"We've got a good group of young, talented guys who really want to test themselves at the top level," says Dean, who played a record 284 games for the club.

"It's a really exciting time for Helensville Rugby - we can't wait to get stuck into these bigger clubs."

Helensville had an encouraging pre-season hitout against Massey on Saturday, March 19, narrowly going down five tries to three.

While excited about the prospect of returning to Premier 1 for the first time since 2010, coach Phillipps is under no illusions about how tough it's going to be for the Helensville club.

"It's a big challenge but we're not here to make up the numbers, we want to show these bigger clubs that we can play good rugby."

Helensville have a tough re-entry to Premier 1 when they travel to traditional heavyweights Takapuna on Saturday, April 2 before hosting last season's champions North Shore on April 9, followed by another home game against Massey on April 16.

Poppy Day

2022 is the 100th annual RSA Poppy Appeal, making it New Zealand's longest-running charity street appeal.

Poppy Day is on Friday, April 22, and Kaipara Memorial RSA collectors will be out in force. Poppies will also be available from the RSA rooms, and other retail outlets prior to the 22nd.

Locals can also make an online donation to the KMRSA welfare account - 12-3139-0003621-04, reference Poppy Donation. All proceeds from donations for poppies go to the Veterans Welfare Fund.

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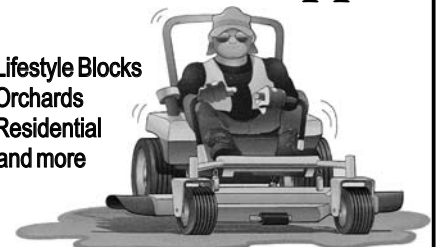


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Chance for school to win \$500

One local primary school stands to win \$500 for designing a mini whale tail as part of the World Wildlife Fund Whale Tales outdoor Art Trail.

Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waioneke and Woodhill schools were all sponsored by Harcourts the Difference in Helensville to decorate the tails for the Auckland-wide art trail.

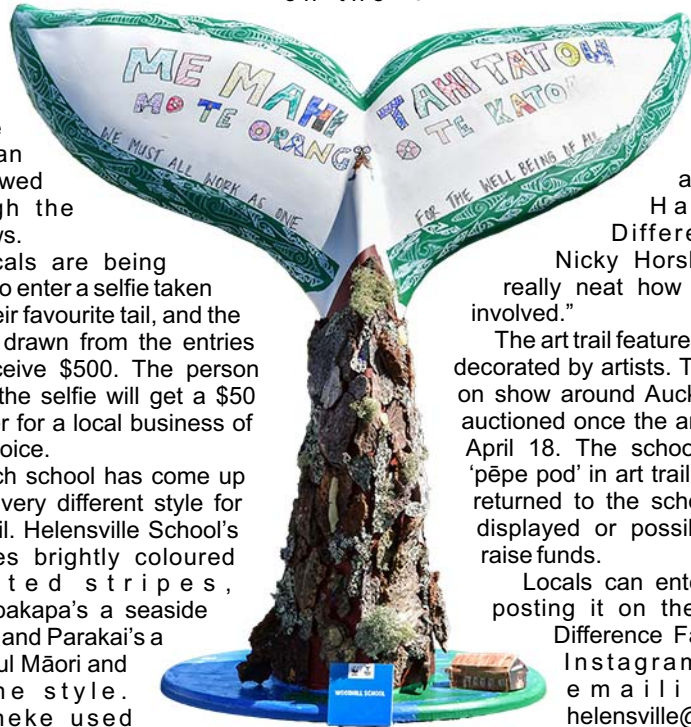
The tails - not so 'mini' at around waist-height - are on display during business hours in the under-cover walkway at Harcourts at 92 Commercial Road. After hours they are put on the conference room table and can be viewed through the windows.

Locals are being asked to enter a selfie taken with their favourite tail, and the school drawn from the entries will receive \$500. The person taking the selfie will get a \$50 voucher for a local business of their choice.

Each school has come up with a very different style for their tail. Helensville School's features brightly coloured painted stripes, Kaukapakapa's a seaside theme, and Parakai's a colourful Māori and marine style. Waioneke used



• The tails on display and below, the Woodhill School entry



geometry to develop complicated patterns, while Woodhills features a more environmental theme with the Maori phrase 'Me mahi tani tatou mo te oranga o te katoa' - 'We must all work as one for the wellbeing of all'.

"They look really stunning and are all so different. It's really awesome," says Harcourts the Difference principal Nicky Horsbrough. "It was really neat how the schools got involved."

The art trail features 80 life-size tales decorated by artists. They are currently on show around Auckland and will be auctioned once the art trail finishes on April 18. The schools' mini tails (or 'pēpe pod' in art trail parlance) will be returned to the schools to either be displayed or possibly auctioned to raise funds.

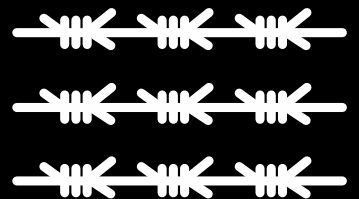
Locals can enter their selfie by posting it on the Harcourts the Difference Facebook page or Instagram feed, or by emailing it to: helensville@harcourts.co.nz.

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Huge jump in demand for food parcels

The Kai Collective has seen demand for food parcels more than double, with a 223 percent increase in the number of parcels sent out in February compared to the same month last year.

There are now more than 260 organisations like The Kai Collective around the country providing food to those in need, and thanks to additional funding from the Ministry of Social Development, supporting those in isolation.

The Kai Collective recently moved into new premises in Awaroa Road, which South Kaipara Good Food general manager Gemma Donaldson says "provides much needed additional space, not only to prepare and pack kai on a Tuesday, but also implement the organisation's food secure plan."

"We look forward to working with local groups on things like fruit and vegetable community gardens, cooking programs, and in the future a central food hub.

"Over the last two weeks, we have completed a number of picking afternoons, which saw 10 boxes of surplus to requirement fruit picked at Peacemakers in Parakai. This rescued food was then stewed and preserved by locals and was forwarded into our local schools and preschools.

"The more we can localise our food networks and make use of available resources, the better we can grow food resilience for our area," Gemma says.

As it has with most Kiwi households, the increasing cost of living has impacted on the Kai Collective.

"We have seen a dramatic increase in spending across many areas, and are blessed to be supported by funders and with ongoing donations from our local community."

Locals in a position to donate can do so online at: skgf.org.nz/donate. Monetary donations are preferred as SKGF has significant purchasing power through buying staple items in bulk amounts.

"Because of the increase in cost of food as well as the significant number of kai packs being forwarded into our community, we have changed certain aspects of our program to allow us to continue to support those in need," adds Gemma.

Locals needing a food pack should email: referrals@skgf.org.nz.

Art Centre sculpture garden



The garden by the entrance to Helensville Art Centre is being turned into a sculpture garden.

"We would like to thank Mitre 10 Helensville for donating a generous amount of soil for our sculpture garden," says centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie.

Local artist Jeff Thomson has made and installed a new plinth in the garden, currently displaying one of his sculptures (above).

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Library at home

Helensville Library can help people unable to visit the library due to mobility, access, or other circumstances. Volunteers and library staff will collect and deliver library items to customers. Anyone needing this service should contact the library - phone 0800 695 427 or email: helenslib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

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Colin Bristow

COLIN GEOFFREY BRISTOW
Nov 18, 1947 - March 6, 2022

Colin Bristow was born on November 18, 1947 at Papakura to mother Topsy and father George.

The family lived in the then small rural district of Hunua, the children enjoying parents who would do anything for them - sports, calf club, camping, and beach visits.

Colin's brother Ian remembers making a bow and arrow from supplejack and a fern stalk, taping a sharpened nail to the end of the arrow.

"Looking for something to shoot, Colin walked around the side of the house. I couldn't resist and shot him in the arse!," recalls Ian. Colin let out a yell, then their mother appeared and banned Ian to his bedroom for the rest of the afternoon.

"I remember Colin sneaking into my room to see if I was OK. He was deeply caring as a kid, which stayed with him in his adult life."

Colin went first to Hunua Primary School, and then on to Helensville School when his parents purchased a local grocery shop.

He attended Kaipara College with brothers Ian and Des, where he excelled at sport - First XV rugby, tennis, swimming, indoor basketball, and gymnastics. He made lifelong friends at Kaipara, among them Stanley Phillips, Richard Russell, Graham Bryant, and Peter Lynch.

After leaving school Colin worked for a short while with his father in the grocery store, then took on an apprenticeship at the then New Zealand Forestry Workshop at Woodhill where he was in his element.

Various girlfriends came and went, then while courting Patricia Jordan, Colin became hooked. Ian jokes he held the land speed record between Helensville and Jordan Road in a Volkswagen. The couple married, and both continued working at Woodhill, Colin becoming leading hand in the workshop and Pat doing office

administration.

They lived in the Woodhill forestry village for several years, then bought the Oakley Service Station south of Whangarei, working seven days a week for several years and welcoming son Peter while there.

As soon as the mortgage was paid off they bought a Range Rover and caravan and went on a working holiday around the South Island, Colin working as a cook and barman at Cobb & Co.

Travels over, they move back to this area, setting up Bristow's Mowers, Cycles and Chainsaws in Kumeū. They were there

more than 20 years, adding to the family with two more children, Phil and Cathryn.

After selling that business Colin worked for a short while at a local service station before buying the Jacaranda Motor Inn in Manukau Road in Auckland. Pat did the administration while Colin did maintenance. They were only there for two years when Pat became terminally ill; Colin was shattered.

He sold the motel, worked for a few months

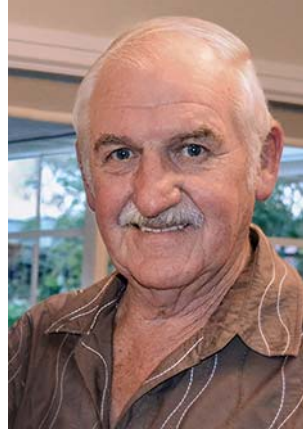
with son Phil in apartment management, then went and lived for two years with brother Ian at his South Head farm.

Life then came full circle with Colin buying a house in Helensville and working for the local branch of Kumeū Hire. While there, at the prompting of friends, he met Joy Findlay, eventually renting out his house and moving in with Joy at her Waimauku farm.

Colin was known to say: "I am living in paradise here".

The pair travelled to America, Australia, and all around New Zealand in a campervan.

Colin was a dearly loved Poppa to Harrison, Jed, Archer, Tom, Oli, Katie, Sophie, Chelsea, Ashlyn and Zoella, and enjoyed supporting them at their sporting events and various endeavours. He passed away aged 74 at his home in Waimauku on March 6 after a lengthy battle with cancer.



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Public ANZAC service back on

The removal of outdoor gathering limits and vaccine pass requirements means the Kaipara Memorial RSA can hold public ANZAC services this year.

They will be held on Poppy Day, Friday April 22 starting with a 6am Dawn Parade at Parakai. Fall-in will be at 5.50am with a march to the cenotaph from the Parakai Springs car park.

At 6.45am there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Helensville Service Cemetery in Garfield Road, followed by a breakfast at 7.30am in the RSA rooms in Commercial Road.

The day will feature the usual Commercial Rd parade, with fall-in at



10.50am outside Super Liquor. Starting 11am veterans, RSA members, and representatives of the Navy, Army, Air Force, Police, St John, Fire Brigade, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, schools, and citizens will parade down Commercial Road to a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial Hall cenotaph. Lunch will follow at the RSA starting midday.

Organisations wanting to lay a wreath at the 11am service should contact the KMRSA. For further information email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz or phone President Rex Keane 027 293 2768.

At the time of going to print the Kaukapakapa ANZAC service was still cancelled. Check the Kaukapakapa library Facebook page for any updates. Locals can lay a poppy at the Kaukapakapa WW1 and WW2 memorials, or visit Auckland Museum's Online Cenotaph to lay a virtual poppy.

Colour-in for ANZAC Day

Kaukapakapa library is marking ANZAC Day by asking locals to colour-in a stylised poppy image.

The poppy picture, which includes Māori motifs, was designed by Koukou Creations (www.koukou.nz).

It's available on the library's Facebook page, and can be printed out, coloured in, and then taken to the Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, April 17 between 9am and 1pm to go on display. Those dropping off their coloured creations will receive some 'Flanders Red' corn poppy seeds.

People unable to print the online image can make up their own design and take that along instead, to help remember those that served.

For more info contact Megan Paterson, threehorsee@xtra.co.nz or 021 959 017.



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Pumpkin winners



This is Boston Stubbs with the 56.3kg pumpkin that gained him third place in the Weight Class of the recent 'virtual' Helensville A&P Show giant pumpkin competition.

First spot was taken by David Ellett with a monster 148.5kg pumpkin, with wife Katie Ellett coming second with a 71.5kg entry.

In the Best Colour Class, first spot went to Caroline James, second to Nadene Hamilton, and third to Sophie Holst.

While all the other classes in this year's online-only A&P Show were judged virtually, the pumpkins were judged in person.

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from our local MP

Let's be honest with each other: New Zealand is living through a cost of living crisis right now.

I've joined others from my party calling on the government for some time now to provide much-needed tax relief for everyday Kiwis. The talk I'm hearing in and around Helensville is that Kiwis are feeling the pinch every time they visit the checkout or fill up at the pump.



Whilst the government's recent announcement to cut fuel excise tax temporarily by 25 cents per litre will provide some form of relief (and credit where it's due for this), in reality this just doesn't go far enough to make a real difference for families struggling to make ends meet.

What middle-income communities really need is income tax relief by adjusting tax brackets for the rampant eye-watering inflation we've witnessed over the past year. National says Kiwis should keep more of what they earn and deserve this now more than ever, particularly as we're confronted with ever-rising living costs with no end in sight. National's proposal that the government enact income tax cuts would deliver the average earner an extra \$870 per year, straight back into the pockets of Kiwis.

The government also announced that public transport costs will be halved from April 1. That's all well and good for some areas of Auckland, but relatively futile for the people of Helensville with few practical public transport options in sight. It's a CBD-centric view of the world that forgets the bigger picture: the majority of New Zealanders remain reliant on their vehicles to get from A to B.

It's time for the government to relieve the cost of living pressure on families. A good place to start would be to cancel all of their new taxes - including every new tax proposal - and give a little back to New Zealanders. Let's do this!

- Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz | Ph: 09 412 2496.

point of view

I know people in Helensville and elsewhere are feeling it at the pump. With international oil prices soaring, the effects are felt worldwide.

We have been and are working on ways to relieve increasing cost of living pressures, that is why the government has cut 25c a litre off fuel excise and cut public transport fares by 50 percent over the next three months, as well as releasing details of a cost of living relief package effective from the beginning of April.



As the Prime Minister said, "We cannot control the war in Ukraine nor the continued volatility of fuel prices, but we can take steps to reduce the impact on New Zealand families. Just as it was our job to get New Zealand through the Covid-19 health crisis it's also our job to put in place a plan to get us through the global energy crisis too."

There's no silver bullet that will fix the cost of living, but the government has a plan and is implementing a range of measures that together will help to make a difference.

I know that the extraordinary increases we've seen in recent weeks impact on everything - from the ability of people to get to and from work, to the cost of supplying goods and services. To support New Zealanders to get through, on April 1 a suite of permanent increases to household incomes will see 60 percent of families earning more from Working for Families, as well as increases to superannuation and benefits. On May 1, one million New Zealanders will also start receiving the Winter Energy Payment which will provide \$30 a week extra to many.

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

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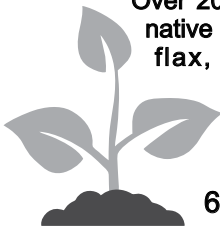
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Big road speed changes

Locals will have some slower road speed limits to abide by - in some cases drastically slower - if Auckland Transport (AT) adopts proposed changes.

AT has identified 1646 roads Auckland-wide which it believes need lower speed limits for safety reasons, including rural, town centre, and residential roads, and roads around schools and marae.

While there are no changes planned for Helensville itself, South Head drivers are in for some major changes.

Parkhurst Rd in Parakai currently changes from 50km/h to 100km/h shortly before Green Road. That limit will drop to 80km/h, which will continue all the way along South Head Rd to 1.5km north of Tarawera Rd. Green Rd, Evans Rd, Tarawera Rd, and Haranui Rd will see their speed limits drop from the current 100km/h down to just 40km/h. The only other road in our area to change will be Dye Access Rd at Kaukapakapa which will drop from 100km/h to 60km/h.

If approved the changes will come into force in November or December this year.

the business

You can't buy happiness but you can 'shop local', and that's kinda the same thing!

Over the next few weeks you will see billboards popping up around the North West featuring the hashtag #WeMissYou alongside a social media campaign, prompting locals to get out, spend local, and show their support to all the small businesses that have been struggling lately.

While supermarkets and large online retailers have been doing amazing business, our small local businesses have been reporting empty shops and low foot traffic around their towns.

Government support is great and needed, but what small cafés, eateries, restaurants, and independently-owned stores need are customers, and they do truly miss you - and need you.

With all the restrictions over the past two years, consumer confidence has been driven down and getting people to leave their homes and go shopping in person or enjoy a meal is really difficult, as people have been encouraged to stay home and shop online. While 'stay home and stay safe' was the right message at the time, we now need people to 'get out and shop local'.

Auckland has reached its peak in omicron cases and as we come down the other side of the curve businesses need to support their customers to come back into stores, remind them that their visits are valued and eating out is safe again. Petrol prices are at record highs, another reason to shop and eat locally.

This weekend I would encourage everyone in the North West to skip the Sunday drive out of town, save some money on petrol, and support where you live - go for a walk, explore some local shops you haven't seen in a while, meet up with some old friends, and enjoy a local meal.



With the significant loosening of Covid-19 rules this month we hope this will drive up consumer confidence again, and not needing to scan in or show vaccine passes will make life easier for businesses and customers alike. We have all done the hard mahi and it's time to start enjoying our rewards.

If your business has experienced a downturn government support is available including three rounds of Covid Support payments of up to \$25,000, interest free Small Business Cashflow loans, and flexibility on tax repayment timings. For details visit: covid19.govt.nz.

- Mark Dennis, Chair
North West Country Business Assn

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local board matters

The rest of the year is looking tentatively positive as we may be about to turn the corner on Covid 19.

The last two years have been very challenging for council budgets. A significant loss of income severely eroded councils' ability to fund capital projects such as new and improved roads, other transport projects, new local assets in parks, and new or upgraded community facilities.

In Rodney it feels like we have been treading water along with the other wards in Auckland, spreading out budgets to cover core business and being realistic about what we can deliver with reduced budgets. Each year it has felt like we have slipped further and further behind in meeting the demands of population growth in Rodney while maintaining the assets we already have.

I was hoping that over the next few years things were going to improve as we moved out of the pandemic, so my heart sunk when we received a financial snap shot of what council's finances are likely to be like from 2023.

Forces outside our control present financial challenges: climate change, the war in Ukraine, Covid 19 global impacts. As some sectors of the New Zealand economy surge ahead creating demand for workers, rising wages, interest rates, and inflation are piled on top of continued population growth, housing affordability, and the resulting traffic congestion and demand for more facilities and services.

Council's response has been to pare back capital spending, find 'efficiency savings' - which means reducing staff and service levels, selling assets including parks and property, and keep borrowing within an envelope that keeps interest rates as low as possible.

There have been positives from this. Rates have been kept relatively low, our credit rating remains very high, and we have achieved some efficiencies. The flip side is that we are unable to meet the demands of a growing community by making long term investments in infrastructure.

Doing more of the above delivers ever-diminishing returns. At some point we run out

of things to sell, and services are reduced to the point they don't deliver what the community expects. Investment in repairing and renewing assets such as roads and facilities are deferred, increasing the risk of failure. Inflation is already starting to impact local projects with rising costs forcing us to reduce the scope of what we planned to deliver.



In hindsight there are some tough decisions that could have been taken years ago.

For example, moving to fully funding depreciation (the cost of maintaining and upgrading) of our assets back in 2012 during the 10 Year Budget round would have required a one-off 11 percent rates increase but would have generated an extra \$2 billion of funding for asset renewals, so we wouldn't have continued to sweat assets like roads and facilities. The other thing that could have happened was slightly higher annual rates increases - 3.5 percent annually over the last 10 years would have resulted in a debt reduction of \$700m and depreciation being fully funded. Alas those things were not politically acceptable at the time.

With population growth continuing unabated we face some very difficult decisions in 2023. Avoiding these decisions will create a funding crisis that will have a huge impact on high-growth areas in Rodney.

Councillors, Local Boards, and ratepayers will need to consider whether we completely review the services we provide to Aucklanders, and whether we are prepared to consider higher annual rates or look at other ways of raising revenue to plug the widening gap between demands on infrastructure and the inflation-ravaged budgets currently in place. 2023 looks like being even tougher than 2021 and 2022!

- Phelan Pirrie
Chair, Rodney Local Board
phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

■ **MAY 2022 deadline: Tuesday, 19th April, 2022**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, 5th 2022

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■ **Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:**

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■ **Editorial:** Ph 420 7215 or 021 178 5568.

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community tidbits from town and around

■ WAITOKIAUTUMN MARKET

The next Waitoki market day is on Saturday, April 9 from 8.30am to 1pm in the Waitoki Hall, 1095 Kahikatea Flat Rd.

An opportunity to shop locally and catch up with neighbours, there will be a range of baked goods, plants, preserves, locally crafted gifts, homemade and used bargains, and bric a brac.

Proceeds from the market go back to the local community. Prospective new stall holders should contact Gill, phone 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market will be on Sunday, April 17 from 8.30am to 1pm. Goods on sale from local crafters, artists, and authors will include hand made gifts and crafts including soap, skin care, knitting, crochet, and jewellery, plus plants, preserves and fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables, books and more. And there will

be more bargains in the car boot area, plus coffee and snacks to enjoy along with music from Flamenco guitarist Maria.

All relevant Covid safety protocols will be in place to keep patrons safe. For more information phone Sarah 0274 831 542 or email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

Service medal ceremony

Kaipara Memorial RSA President Rex Keane thinks it is "appalling" some local veterans have been receiving their medals in mail and wants to organise a ceremony so the medals can be properly presented.

In the February *Helensville News* we reported that more local veterans and their families were eligible for the NZ Operational Service Medal (NZOSM).

Rex was heartened to learn some local veterans had applied for the NZOSM or campaign medals but adds: "Whilst we are pleased the veterans have finally been recognised, the KMRSA thinks receiving 'medals in the mail' is appalling. We would like to hear from any veterans or their families who have recently received their medals so we can organise a ceremony where the medals can be presented in person."

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For appointments and assistance please phone:

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