

Delivered monthly to Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill, South Head and Shelly Beach + Online

Local sailors win Coastal Classic race

Two Helensville businessmen, who also happen to be keen sailors, both notched up victories in the PIC Coastal Classic yacht race over Labour Weekend.

Brian Petersen, who has more than 45 years' sailing experience and is well respected in both national and international yachting circles, won the race outright, taking line honours in V5, his 52-foot TP52 craft.

And Tony Poolman, a competitive yachting since around the age of 16, won the race on handicap in his 7m yacht Elevation, as well as winning Division 5 on handicap and crossing the line second in that class.

The 119 nautical mile Coastal Classic is considered one of the world's iconic coastal

sailing races. It runs from Devonport wharf to Russell in the Bay of Islands and has been held since 1982. Tony has taken part about 16 times, and Brian 25.

Tony describes this year's race, held mostly in light airs, as "a very tactical race" while Brian says it was "very pleasant sailing."

In a strange coincidence, both men run local businesses in a similar industry. Brian runs Parakai Birds Ltd, which raises chickens in Fordyce Road under contract to Tegel, while Tony owns Mill Road butchery The Cleaver's Edge.

Brian's line honours win - only the second time since 2009 that a monohull yacht had taken the top spot, with that honour usually going to the faster multihulls - marks a comeback of sorts.

While Brian has an impressive catalogue of races under his belt, including wins in many prestige national and international events, he thought his competitive sailing days might be over when his previous boat, Ran Tan II, lost its keel and had to be abandoned in the middle of the Pacific Ocean while being delivered to the start of the 2019 Transpac race from Los Angeles to Hawaii.

He wasn't on board during the disaster, but he describes the loss of the \$350,000 yacht, in which he had competed numerous races, as "fairly traumatic. I thought it was the end of my sailing career."

But then his current boat, V5, came up for



• Tony Poolman (left) and Brian Petersen in front of Brian's yacht V5

sale "at a good price" and he figured he still had "one more go" in him.

He is now looking forward to a full programme of local races, along with hopefully heading to Fiji to race next June.

Tony has raced internationally as well, competing in events such as the Auckland to Fukuoka race and the Sydney to Southport coastal race in Australia. Elevation, an Elliott 7 design, is only the second racing yacht he has owned, with most of his earlier experience on other people's craft. He too has a full calendar of upcoming events, and was about to head off to race in the 50-mile Allan Civil Memorial Rotoiti Classic just days after *Helensville News* spoke with him.

Phone book listings

Locals wanting to update or add a new entry in the Lions Club's 2023 Helensville Telephone Directory should email: helensvilledirectory@gmail.com or phone 021 0239 1971.

Businesses wanting to advertise in the directory are asked to get in touch also.

WIN for Xmas with Helensville News

Last year we ran a successful Christmas Lights competition - but this year we're doing something a little different.

To give a wider range of people a chance to win, we're running a Best Home-Made Christmas Decoration competition. That can be a bauble to hang on a tree, a nativity scene, or just let your imagination run wild.

There are two age groups - 12 and under, and 13 years and older.

There'll be five prizes of \$20 gift vouchers for Paper Plus Select, courtesy of *Helensville News* - two in the younger age group and three in the adult section.

Email a photo of your entry to us at: xfmas@helensvillenews.co.nz with your name, age and address by Friday, December 16.

The winners will be announced on the *Helensville News* Facebook page just before Christmas.

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editorial

Will it go ahead or won't it?

That's the big question now for the proposed solar farm, which if built will cover 100ha between SH16 and Mangakura Road, just south of Helensville township. We've written about this in the past, and have another article on page 5 with a computer-generated image that clearly shows just how close to our town this solar array would be, and how big.

Public submissions have now closed, with Auckland Council asking the developers for more information. In the past councils have been criticised for rubber-stamping projects like these, but it seems Auckland Council is doing due diligence on this one, which is commendable; perhaps the volume of public backlash to the proposal has forced its hand.

I suspect a decision will still be some way down the track. It will be interesting to see what the outcome is.

Elsewhere in this issue we have two great water-borne articles, one about two local businessmen who won the recent Coastal Classic yacht race (page 1), and the other about an adventurous soul's packraft crossing of the Kaipara Harbour (page 3). It's one of the joys of my job, getting to meet interesting people like these.

Finally, I wish all our readers a happy and safe festive season. We'll be taking our usual break over January, so see you all back here in early February, where we will bring you the latest on that month's Helensville Show.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Auto business moving to Helensville

A long running Riverhead automotive business which has served Helensville clients for 25 years is shutting up shop - and then moving to Helensville.

The Riverhead WOF Centre was set up by Brenda Elliott and her husband Lee Wallace in 1997, and then expanded to include Boomerang Cars & Hire - a business which advertised in *Helensville News* for several years in the early 2000s.

Now 70, Brenda is retiring and the couple are moving to Helensville where Lee will run his business from home for three days a week.

Boomerang Cars was Brenda's baby, set up with the idea of providing cars and converted vans to backpackers visiting New Zealand with a guaranteed buy-back scheme - hence the name. It was an idea that came to her when the English couple moved to New Zealand in 1997 following eight years of travelling and working around the world.

Brenda was rare in being a female car dealer, and says as a result she had many women customers, both from this area and from as far afield as Whangarei and South Auckland. She closed the car sales business down more than a year ago, but says over the preceding couple of decades she sold

"thousands" of cars, many to Helensville area locals - some of whom are still her customers.

Riverhead WOF Centre will shut its doors on Thursday, December 22, and Brenda expects it to reopen in Helensville around February next year.

More plots needed for kai gardens

Growing kai gardens around our community is something Jo Ogilvie, Kai Grow Team lead at South Kaipara Good Food, is passionate about.

"I love my job! Helping our community plant kai is something that excites me every day - but we need more room to grow," she says.

Since September, more than 220sq.m. of land has been planted at five schools, OutWest Youth, and at a local business, along with six beds at the Kai Hub in Awaroa Road. And more are on the way.

Anyone with land available for use as a community kai garden, or who would like to volunteer in creating the gardens, can email Jo at: kaigrow@skgf.org.nz.

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Jana Mills



Adventurer crosses Kaipara Harbour in inflatable packraft

Charity fundraiser Dunc Wilson has successfully paddled from Dargaville to Helensville in a tiny inflatable boat.

Packrafts are small inflatable boats which pack up into a backpack, and are primarily designed for white water rafting. While tough and durable, they are not the fastest or easiest to paddle in flat water.

Dunc's nationwide journey is raising awareness and funds for the Mental Health Foundation, Cancer Society, and UNICEF's Ukraine Appeal, via a Givealittle page.

Setting off from Dargaville, the 41-year-old used outgoing tides over several days to slingshot him and his boat to the northern harbour mouth.

Making stops at Raupō, Ruawai, and Kellys Bay, the intrepid outdoors enthusiast timed his crossing to Manukapua Island, opposite the harbour entrance, to coincide with the rising tide, before a huge paddle past South Head and on to Shelly Beach.

After a mammoth 47km day of paddling from Kellys Bay to Shelly Beach, Dunc completed the crossing in early November with an 18km paddle up the Kaipara River to the Helensville wharf.

Dunc's mission is to raft-hike the length of New Zealand, paddling inland waterways between Cape Reinga and Bluff in his New Zealand-made Koaro raft.

When the water ends, he rolls the raft up, clips it onto his pack, and hikes to the next harbour, river or lake. Along with the boat, paddle and life jacket, he's carrying a tent, stove, food and a personal locator beacon.



• Dunc Wilson in his packraft arriving in Helensville on the Kaipara River

The Kaipara crossing took four days, with Sunday spent ashore at Kellys Bay to allow the weekend's storms to pass.

"I cannot believe I just crossed the Kaipara, one of the largest harbours in the world, in that tiny inflatable boat," says Dunc.

Despite the harbour's notoriously dangerous currents, the crossing was relatively seamless.

"I had a few bumps and swells between Pouto and the island. I also went through a really rough patch over a sandbar on the way to South Head. The main thing was there were no big animals tailing me - I wasn't mistaken for a seal and the boat and I arrived without teeth marks!"

"This stretch has been an Achilles heel for me for this journey. I've been terrified of it and was tempted to just hike around on State Highway 16. But I didn't, I couldn't. I wanted to know what's out there in that beautiful harbour, and now I've seen it."

While the crossing was solo Dunc received plenty of help and encouragement, with round-NZ kayaker Lynn Paterson among those offering advice.

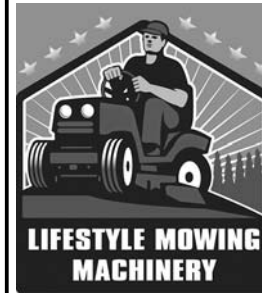
Born in London, Dunc moved to New Zealand in 2008 and has since gained citizenship and lives in Auckland.

The packraft trip isn't his first big adventure here - in 2015 he cycled the coastline of New Zealand, a fundraiser for St John documented in his book *The Big Loop*.

Dunc's Givealittle page is available at: <https://bit.ly/3E9Omws>.

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'Wool' theme for Helensville Show

Next February's Helensville Show will have a special 'Wool - NZ's Hero Fibre' theme.

That theme will be incorporated into many aspects of the Show and will illustrate the journey of wool from sheep to end use, including history and some interactive areas for Show visitors.

As well as demonstrations from world champion blade shearer Allan Oldfield (see *Helensville News* November), PGG Wrightson Northland wool rep Danielle Boyd will be coming from Whangarei to demonstrate throwing and processing a shorn fleece.

Brightside Spinners will be spinning wool and will have interactive games for children. There will be a weaver with a loom for visitors to try out weaving, and the local knitting group will have a 'Give it a Go' for Show visitors to try out knitting.

It's aimed to have a fashion parade featuring woollen clothing, ranging from historic items from Helensville Museum and homespun items, through to modern clothes from the likes of Icebreaker, Swannndri and Kaiwaka Clothing.

It's hoped to include a recreation of an old shearing shed, and Show Manager Shona Addison has put the call out for anyone with old shearing items which can be part of the display - old combs and hand pieces, shears, grinders, wool presses, moccasins, old paperwork - and in particular old wool brands to help create a record of local farms and their brands or stencils.

Trade stands will feature a wide range of wool-based product, everything from carpet and clothing through to insulation, plasters - and hopefully even coffins!

Many of the Show's regular indoor sections will have special wool-themed classes for locals to enter, while there will be increased prize money in the stud and flock

sheep classes and a new PGG Wrightson Champion Flock Sheep trophy on offer.

Rare sheep breeders have been invited to display their sheep.

The Show's regular 'guess the weight' competition will be to guess the weights of a sheep, a small wool bale, and a piece of shearing machinery, and the ever-present children's decorated cardboard cutouts this year will also be sheep.

A 'Where's Woolly' competition will task Show visitors to find 10 sheep around the grounds and record their names for a prize at the end of the day.

Other visitor participant activities could include creating custom wool

brands, and having a go at winding up an old wool press.

Helensville Museum's regular indoor display will cover the history of sheep farming and wool in the South Kaipara. They would like to hear from any locals with photos or memorabilia relating to sheep farming in the area - email info@helensvillemuseum.org.nz.

WOOL
NZ's Hero Fibre

\$2k scholarship going towards orthopaedics

2022 Helensville District Health Trust scholarship winner Abby McMenemy is looking forward to a career in orthopaedics and being an orthopaedic surgeon.

The Year 13 Kaipara College student is planning to begin health sciences studies at the University of Auckland next year before progressing to the university's Medical School to study orthopaedics.

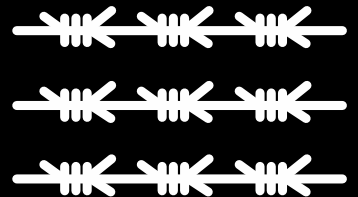
"I have had numerous surgical operations in the last few years and it's amazing how one can go into hospital broken and come out fixed," she said in her interview for the award.

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Image shows scope of solar farm



This is what the proposed Helensville solar farm could look like - at least from up in the air.

It's an image taken by Peter West from above Rimmer Road using a drone at the maximum allowable height of 120m, and then computer-edited to show the extent of the proposed solar array.

Peter is an administrator of the Facebook Group 'Helensville group opposing solar farm construction'.

SH16 and Rimmer Road are visible in the foreground, with Helensville township to the upper left.

The image clearly shows how close to the town and Kaipara River the solar farm would be. However, it's also very different to the view most people would have from ground level, and also doesn't take into account the proposed boundary planting.

If permission to build the solar farm is granted, it will cover 100ha, with more than 80,000 solar panels generating enough electricity to power 14,000 homes.

Since it was first mooted the project has created controversy, with proponents citing the need for clean energy, and those against it concerned with the location and environmental and visual impact.

A statement from the Helensville Group Opposing Solar Farm Construction Inc, which was formed to fight the proposal, says: "As guardians of the land for future generations, the establishment of sustainable energy production is a no-

brainer for most, but it needs to be undertaken ethically, truly sustainably, and should not come at a cost to the environment in which it is constructed."

Public submissions on the project closed in October, with Auckland Council receiving 55 submissions mostly against it and ten in favour.

Following submissions the council issued HES, the overseas-based company behind the solar farm, an S92 request, colloquially known as a 'stop the clock letter', asking for responses to a whole raft of further technical questions - and suggesting the application be put on hold.

The council is now awaiting answers to its questions before making any decision on the consent application, with a public hearing likely to follow.

\$1100+ for Gumboot Friday

A sausage sizzle and raffle held by Harcourts the Difference raised \$1126.40 for Gumboot Friday. The raffle for a huge gift basket was won by Geoff Sawyers, while a 'guess the lollies in the gumboots' competition was won by Frith Daniels.

Summer reading programme

Registrations for this year's Te Ara Poutama - Level Up summer reading programme for five to 18-year-olds open on Monday, December 12. The programme runs until Friday, January 20.

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Helensville sculptor creates statue of war hero

Lesley Park, great-niece of Sir Keith Park, unveiled a clay model of the World War II hero late last month in the studio of Helensville artist Joanne Sullivan in late November.

The 2.4m (eight foot) sculpture will be cast into bronze and will stand at the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield at Thames, where Sir Keith was born. An unveiling has tentatively been set for September 2023.

Locals wanting to follow the progress of the sculpture can do so at Joanne's studio, which is open every third Sunday of the month as part of the Helensville Art Trail.

Known as the Defender of London, Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park was an officer in the Royal Air Force. During the Second World War, his leadership of No. 11 Group was pivotal to the Luftwaffe's defeat in the Battle of Britain.

In Joanne's sculpture he is depicted looking skywards, waiting for the pilots to return over the horizon and holding a stopwatch in his left hand - a nod to his keen use of timing to defeat the enemy.

Park's No. 11 Group faced the majority of the Luftwaffe's air strength, at least 1000 bombers and 400 fighters, during the Battle of Britain. At the start of the battle he had just 350 fighters and 550 pilots across 22 squadrons at his disposal, and timing was vital to meet the incoming enemy.

By meeting them over the English Channel in small Spitfires and Hurricanes, the attacking forces would be delayed and need to return to base to refuel. This gave just enough time for Sir Keith's No. 11 Group to do the same and be back in the air to meet the next onslaught.

Subsequent Chief of the Royal Air Force



• Joanne putting finishing touches on the clay model
- Photo: Stellanova Photography

Lord Tedder best summed up Park's achievements in a quote: "If any one man won the Battle of Britain, he did. I do not believe it is realised how much that one man, with his leadership, his calm judgement and his skill, did to save not only this country, but the world".

The sculpture is the latest in a line of prestige commissions for South African-born Joanne, with previous works including race horse Phar Lap and runner Sir John Walker.

Anyone wanting to donate towards the cost of the bronze casting can do so at: www.sirkeithparkmemorial.org.nz.

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Lots of entries at Group Day

85 primary school children from around the district took part in Group Day at the Helensville Showgrounds recently.

Group Day is the culmination of each individual school's 'calf club' or Ag Day as they are more commonly known these days.

Pupils from Helensville, Parakai, Waioneke, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Waimauku, Taupaki, Dairy Flat, and Coatesville schools took their pet lambs, calves, and goats to the showgrounds to compete in a full-on roster of competitions.

The children compete in age groups in different classes, with the winner of each class from the junior, intermediate and senior rings then vying to be named Champion in that class. Those champions are then further judged to choose the overall Supreme Champion.

Some of the successful entrants will go on to enter their farm pets in the Calf Club section of the Helensville Show in February.

The 2022 Group Day Champions are:

■ LAMBS

Call & Most Obvious Pet - Katelin Francis (Waimauku); **High Jump** - Marley Seakens (Helensville); **Leading & Personal Control** - Koen Neville (Waitoki); **Rearing & Grooming** - Jock Steedman (Helensville); **Local (NZ) Trade Lamb** - Zara Coy (Waitoki); **Champion Wool** - Sam Wilson-Vogler (Waimauku).

SUPREME CHAMPION - Zara Coy.



• Supreme Champion Goat Freddie, with owner Renee Redman-White, from Waimauku School



• Supreme Champion Lamb winner Zara Coy, of Waitoki School, with her pet lamb Rooster

■ CALVES

Leading & Handling - Bayden Neville (Waitoki); **Rearing & Grooming** - Joshua Watson (Waioneke); **Light Breed Dairy Type** - Joshua Watson (Waioneke); **Heavy Breed Dairy Type** - Alanah Salsone (Parakai); **Beef** - Bella Narbey (Helensville). **SUPREME CHAMPION** - Joshua Watson.

■ GOATS

Rearing and Grooming - Harry Browne Hale (Wainui); **Leading & Personal Control** - Renee Redman-White (Waimauku); **Call and Most Obvious Pet** - Renee Redman-White (Waimauku); **High Jump** - Alex Norman (Kaukapakapa).

SUPREME CHAMPION - Renee Redman-White.



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Christmas cakes

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point of view

I was rapt to meet with the Principal Cindy Sullivan and Board of Trustees chair Rochelle Gillespie to celebrate the success of our Kaipara College students last month. The inspirational speeches by the Head Students Riley Gudopp and Billie Stroobant were good reason to celebrate the positive contribution Kaipara College makes.



I was especially pleased to present the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award to Cameron Barrie, whose ambition to become a boat builder came even closer thanks to the help of Kumeū based Blade Runner Boats.

While in Helensville I also met with South Kaipara Good Food, and Ana of Kindred Family Services to celebrate the great work they do supporting the community. I was pleased to present the work Kindred Family Services do in supporting young people in the community with their wrap-around health services to the Minister recently.

So, as we celebrate the successes and achievements of our friends, our families, and our communities this December I have great pleasure in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Marja Lubeck
Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi

from our local MP

I was pleased to host National's leader, Christopher Luxon, in Helensville recently.

A highlight was visiting Health Pod, which provides community telehealth pods which enable patients to connect with their doctor or clinical staff without needing a physical appointment. The pods support those who don't have access to a computer or are without a good internet connection or a private space to receive calls. They are sound-proof pods which let patients attend secure 'virtual appointments' via video and phone. This service can be accessed by making a reservation when booking an appointment with the doctor.

We also had the privilege of visiting Helensville District Health Trust, where we saw some excellent work being undertaken. This included a stop at Helensville Birthing Centre where we heard about their plans for delivering other health services online. This is really exciting news for our community because it's vital online services are available due to travel distances.

Speaking of travel distances, this also highlights the importance of mobile and internet connectivity for our rural areas. I've been lobbying central government for better connectivity in rural Auckland, but progress has been slow. It is welcome news that Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown has announced a campaign to eradicate mobile black spots across the city. I hope that means we can expect progress, and I'll keep you informed on any developments in this space.

On a separate note, I was pleased to attend the Kaipara College Year 13 prizegiving recently. I was impressed by the teachers and students who have worked really hard in difficult circumstances, with so many Covid-related complications over the past few years. It was an honour to present the awards and I wish the Year 13 students all the best for their futures.

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



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Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Farewell to local farmer

Alan Staniland Moore
23/7/38 - 16/10/22

Alan Moore was born in Helensville on July 23, 1938, the second child of Ken and Nellie Moore. He would later be joined by a brother and three sisters, living on the family farm at Mt Rex, Helensville.

He went to school at Helensville Primary School, Helensville District High (now Kaipara College), and then to Seddon College.

Alan was always keen to work on the farm after finishing school, but his father told him he should learn a trade, so he went to Whangarei - where he not only became an A-grade mechanic, but also completed his compulsory military training, and found a wife.

Alan was 18 when he met Joy Sayer. They became engaged at 20, and married in Foxton on April 16, 1960 both aged 21.

After Alan finished his apprenticeship in Whangarei he worked for Stewart Lupton at Parakai Motors. They lived initially at Parakai before moving into the workers' cottage on the Helensville farm in 1963.

Over this period they started a family, first Helen in 1961, then Kim in 1962, June in 1963, and Bruce in 1966.

When his parents decided to leave the farm and move to Kaukapakapa in the late 1960s Alan and Joy moved into the bigger farmhouse and took over running the farm, eventually buying it in the early 1970s. They continued farming until the early 2000s.

Alan was ahead of his time in many ways, in the early days of computing reading up on programming and writing his own farm management programme.

With cows to be milked there weren't many opportunities for family holidays, but

they did manage a fortnight around the South Island in 1975 - a year later marked by the tragic death of daughter Helen, aged just 13.

While the children were growing up, Alan was involved with coaching junior rugby grades, and also with the scouting movement - cubs, scouts, and venturers - so much so that when the family moved into their new house in December 1980 he took the children to the jamboree and left Joy to sort the new house out.

Alan was also heavily involved with the Helensville A & P Association, especially the wood chopping section. He and Joy were made life members of Association.

Around the mid 1990s Alan joined the Helensville Bowling Club, a sport he continued playing, along with helping out behind the bar every Friday, until ill health forced him to stop a few months ago.

Bowling was such a big part of his life that when they decided to move off the family farm they bought a house next door to the club from where he could see the bowling green from the

dining room window.

Travel was another interest, both around the world and around New Zealand. Alan and Joy had five different trips on canal boats in England, and spent time driving around Europe and Australia.

They owned two camper vans and a caravan to further their love of exploring, joining the caravan association and going to rallies, driving up and down the country making new friends everywhere they went. They recently received their 20 year membership badge.

Alan's family joked about him having nine lives, as over the years he had a number of accidents, some quite serious.

• To page 11



• Alan Moore



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Long service certificates

Gloria McLeod has received a certificate to acknowledge 20 years of volunteer service with the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau, while new CAB manager Rani Timoti received her five-year certificate.

Last month the local branch merged with CAB North Shore, keeping the Helensville branch's unique identity while giving it access to specialist teams and resources. Helensville joins six other branches under CAB North Shore, which pool their talents and resources to give more support to managers and volunteers. Administrative roles will be overseen by the umbrella organisation, leaving Rani free to focus on volunteers and delivering a quality service to clients.

Rani is recruiting new volunteers for 2023. Anyone interested can call into the branch at 16 Commercial Road and talk to one of the volunteers Monday to Friday, from 10am to 1pm.

The office will be closed from Friday, December 23 and re-open on Monday, January 9. For more information phone 09 420 7162 or email: helensville@cab.org.nz.



• Rani (left) and Gloria with their certificates



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Farewell to farmer cont...

• From page 10

In one he had a haybarn he was demolishing fall on top of him.

Another time he rolled the farm quad bike, putting the handlebar through his thigh. He got up, pulled the handlebar from his thigh, put a tourniquet on his leg, rode the quad back to the house and told Joy to phone the ambulance.

Then there was the time that he decided to repair the timber on the deck three weeks

after having a hip replacement - he fell off, luckily landing on his 'real' hip on the grass rather than the concrete patio 2.5m below.

In March this year they decided it was time to move off the family farm, buying a small unit in Miro Street in Helensville and getting used to the quieter life.

Alan got sick in August this year and was in and out of hospital since then, spending his last few days in North Shore Hospital before passing away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, October 16.



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Top college students

Jennifer Smith has been awarded Dux of Kaipara College for 2022, and Olivia Moore has been named Proxime Accessit.

In addition to winning Dux, Jennifer also received the Riddering Cup for Design and the Adams Trophy for Excellence in Digital Technology, while Olivia was awarded the Faculty Award for Mathematics, the Pavish Cup for Mathematics with Statistics, and the James A Skipper Memorial Trophy for Best and Fairest Sportsperson.

The college's Year 13 prizegiving in November was a combined celebration incorporating academic, sporting, and whakamana prizegivings, and was the first held since 2019 due to Covid.

■ SPECIAL AWARDS:

John Key Cup for Contribution to a Specific Area of School Life: Lotofara Tavui; **McCurdie Cup for Positive Attitude:** Georgia Shivnan; **Year 13 Dean's Award:** Brandon Horsbrough; **Te Atawhaitia Trophy for the student who most upholds the mana of Te Ao Māori within Kaipara College:** Kaia Morehu.

■ YEAR 13 FACULTY AWARDS:

Arts: Chris Rowe; **English:** Georgia Shivnan; **Mathematics:** Olivia Moore; **Physical Education & Health:** Paris King; **Science:** Abbygail Van Heerden; **Social Sciences:** Alexis Harrison; **Technology:** Campbell Hilton.

■ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Auckland University Kokori Raumati - Pacific Start Scholarship: Lotofara Tavui; **Auckland University Waka Moana Scholarship:** Abby McMenemy; **AUT - Academic Scholarship:** Paris King; **AUT - All Rounder Scholarship:** Campbell Hilton; **AUT Accommodation Scholarship:** Jayda Wright; **AUT - Hiki Ake Scholarship:** Lucye Gardiner; **University of Otago Donna-Rose McKay Entrance Scholarship:** Binly Te; **University of Otago New Frontiers Excellence Entrance Scholarship:** Poppy Tippett; **Victoria University Raukaraka (Leadership Scholarship):** Billie Stroobant; **Te Tumu Herenga Waka Scholarships (2):** Jayda Wright, Kaia Morehu; **Edmund & Edna Stazyk Scholarship:** Brooklyn Vaea; **Lions Award for Community Service:** Ryan Prattley; **Kindred Services Courage and Commitment Award:** Abbygail Van Heerden; **Neil Notley Award:** Reece Mayo (Yr 12); **Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award:** Cameron Barrie; **UHY Haines Scholarship:** Lucye Gardiner; **South Kaipara Anglican Methodist Church of St Matthews Scholarship:** Kaia Morehu; **Helensville District Health Trust Scholarship:** Abby McMenemy; **Munro McLeod Scholarship:** Binly Te; **Bruce Cochrane & The Order of St John Scholarship:** Ashlee Jackson.

■ SPORTS AWARDS:

Blue Supreme Sports Awards for Sporting Excellence & Outstanding Performance in - Basketball: Tej Chawla and Brandon Horsbrough; **Rugby:** Ashlee Jackson; **Waka Ama:** Holly Limmer and Jessica Cameron; **Netball:** Jamie-Lee Binks.

Honours Award - Outstanding Achievement - Vaa IVF World Sprint Championships: J19 W12 500m - Silver, J19 W6 500m - Silver, J19 W6 1000m - Bronze, W1 500m - 7th, **Kaipara College Honours Award for Selection in the New Zealand U19 Girls V1 Waka Ama:** Jessica Cameron.



• Jennifer Smith receives her Dux award at the college prizegiving



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Job opportunities at local herb business

Superb Herb has finally consolidated its entire operation at its Fordyce Road, Parakai location after a two-year delay because of Covid.

While the move officially happened in July, sales and marketing manager Brigitte Hannett says it's taken until now for everyone to settle into the new location.

"We feel now at home here, feel settled in, but there is still heaps to do," she says. "The team is getting accustomed to the processes here and learning where everything is."

Now the hunt is on for additional staff, with the company - already one of the largest employers in the district with 60 permanent staff on the payroll - is keen to employ up to 10 additional full time staff. Brigitte says there could also be opportunities for summer work for local college students.

Around half of the staff from the former Henderson premises have stayed with the company, most commuting here but one moving to the area to live.

Superb Herbs is the largest supplier of fresh herbs in New Zealand, accounting for more than half the country's sales as well as exporting.

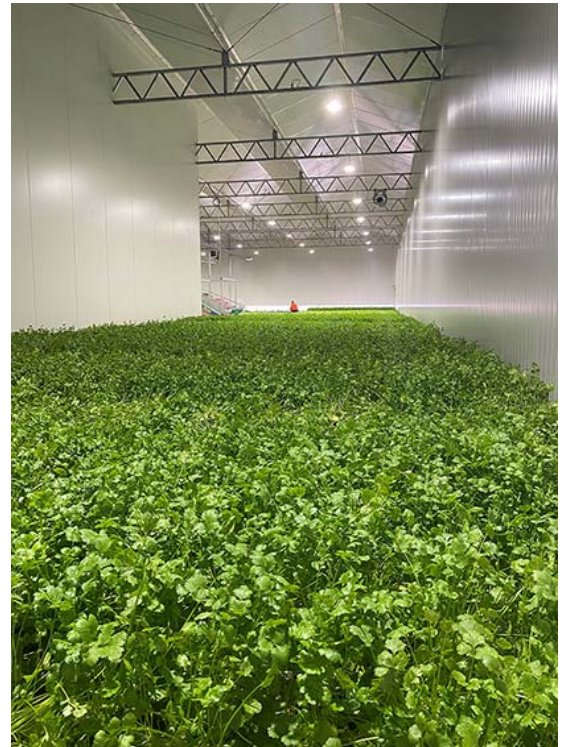
Originally set up by Jim and Valerie Pike in Henderson Valley, the company purchased the 29ha former Parakai dairy farm in 2013 to allow for expansion. The farm had been converted into an orchid-growing operation and so already had 2.3ha of undercover growing space. In 2019 that was expanded with a new state-of-the-art roboticised 1.2ha glasshouse, while a further hectare of land is used for growing outdoor herbs like rosemary and bay.

As well as creating more local employment opportunities, the move will have benefits for the end consumer.

Relocation meant retrofitting part of the large automated glasshouse to add a chilled

packhouse and distribution facility, complete with a refrigerated truck tunnel. That means the herbs are now able to be kept at a constant temperature until they reach the stockists - and a consequent improved shelf life of two to three days.

"We can really control the food chain," says Brigitte.



• A massive harvest chiller room at Super Herb in Parakai

She adds the company plans to keep on expanding, with the first step a major addition to the automated glasshouse. Eventually the other existing growing houses will be decommissioned and replaced by computer-controlled glasshouses.

She says that while that will result in fewer staff needed in some areas of the business, there will be an increase in others.

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local board matters

A few thoughts post the 2022 local body election.

The election certainly surfaced a great deal of passion, frustration and anger in the community.

Perhaps this is understandable given Covid and the lockdowns that pretty much stopped any opportunity for public meetings. Social media is clearly no substitute for a good town hall meeting.

The Rodney Local Board now has a few new faces: Geoff Upson in Kumeū, Michelle Carmichael and Ivan Wagstaff in Warkworth, joining Louise Johnstone in Dairy Flat, Tim Holgate in Warkworth, Colin Smith in Wellsford and myself here in Kumeū.

The opportunity we now have is to ensure that all the newly elected board members work together in a collegiate and respectful spirit of collaboration. We must put the election entirely behind us and focus on what is best for the whole of Rodney.

As Chair I intend to model this behaviour and encourage others to do likewise.

Art Centre closure

Helensville Art Centre will be closed from Friday, December 9 until March 6 next year as part of the refurbishment work on the Helensville War Memorial Hall - but that won't stop things happening.

The popular school holiday workshops will be held instead at Helensville Primary School from December 19 to 21. Book online at: www.creativematters.co.nz.

Previously the Art Centre has offered a reduced rate for Creative Matters holiday programs, but no longer has the funding to continue doing that.

"We are reaching out to the community to ask if anyone would like to sponsor a child so we can continue offering these courses at a discounted rate," says Art Centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie. Email manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz for more details.

The Art Centre's first exhibition in 2023 will be a combined member's show at Kūmeu Arts titled Our Aotearoa. It will run from January 25 to February 18.

In my view, in order to make a difference the Rodney Local Board really needs to create influential relationships with governing body members, including our ward councillor Greg Sayers and new Mayor Wayne Brown, in order to win support for action on matters that are outside our direct control, and through our effective advocacy bring forward much needed investment that addresses decades-long deficits that have accrued through urban sprawl and changes to rural land use.



I hope that with an improved alignment of interests between our councillor and the Mayor there will be opportunities for the Local Board to vigorously support Councillor Sayers in delivery of his long-held objective to seal Rodney roads - and our own advocacy for increased investment in road maintenance.

The chief concern expressed by residents during my previous two terms on the Kumeū Subdivision of the Rodney Local Board, has been frustration with growing congestion on State Highway 16. That's closely followed by concern over our lack of convenient, frequent, and rapid public transport.

We have been advised that improved public transport is the only sustainable solution for this congestion. At some point central government must make this a funding priority as all of Auckland will be vastly more productive once this excessive Northwest congestion is addressed.

On a more festive note, I wish everyone a safe and relaxing festive season. Hopefully it will be a good summer for strawberries, visiting our beaches and regional parks, and for catching up with families to celebrate and share.

Lastly, I look forward to the new term and I will certainly try to be my best self throughout. Thank you for this opportunity.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

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■ **FEBRUARY 2023 deadline: Tuesday, 24th January, 2023**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th 2022

■ **Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor, and Advertising:**

Dave Addison
Ph: 021 178 5568
Email: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz

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community titbits from town and around

■ TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET

An evening market will be held at Helensville Museum on Friday, December 9 from 4pm to 8pm. For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

■ WAITOKI CHRISTMAS MARKET

A special Waitoki Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 8.30am to 12.30pm

The Kaukapakapa fire truck will be on display, and a selection of real Christmas trees will be for sale.

The market will feature edible treats, from sugar cookies to cupcakes and cake pops, and gourmet sausages. There will also be Wainui Valley gourmet mushrooms, Fermented Foods, Kaipara Honey, fresh herbs, pickles and jams, and baked goods, along with the other usual market items such as plants, essential oils, locally crafted gifts, and homemade and used bargains.

All proceeds from the market go back into the local community. Prospective stall holders should contact Gill, phone 420 3301 or email: markets4waitoki@gmail.com.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The final Kaukapakapa market for 2022 is on Sunday, December 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be plenty of unique Christmas gift ideas as well as fresh produce, artisan food and preserves, plants,

books, cakes, doughnuts, ice cream, and coffee. The Cougar Chorus will provide live music, there will be free face painting and hair plaiting for children, and Santa and his elves will be visiting.

The first market of 2023 is on Sunday, January 15.

For more information email Sarah at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz or phone 0274 831 542.

■ SANTA AT THE LIBRARY

Santa will visit the Helensville Library and Service Centre in December. He'll be there on Wednesday, December 21 at 10am in conjunction with Kids' Time. Children will be able to have their photos taken with Santa after storytime.

Turning the Tide raises \$26,000

More than 220 people from all over North-West Rodney took part in the annual Turning the Tide event at Muriwai on Sunday, November 20 to raise funds and awareness for the wellbeing of children and young people.

They raised just over \$26,000, which will fund nearly 300 counselling sessions for young local people otherwise unable to access that kind of support.

The participants ranged from ultramarathon runners in training to families with young children, grandparents with dogs, to university students. They completed either 5km or 17km forest and beach trail. A new addition to this year's event was a Whānau Trail and Treasure Hunt, with children using treasure maps to find painted rocks which they could swap for prizes.

"We have been blown away by the response," says Ana Christmas, Executive Director of Kindred Family Services in Helensville.

"We want to make sure we actively reduce limitations for people in our community to access the support they need to be safe."

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- Sunday, Dec 18th: 9.30am, Carol Service.
- Sunday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

- Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16. Ph: 420 8868
- Sunday, Dec 25th: 10am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC, HELENSVILLE

- 1 Puriri St, Helensville.
- Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110
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- Sunday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, HUAPAI

- 380 SH16, Huapai.
- Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110
- Saturday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols; 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Sunday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST, PARAKAI

- 1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai.
- Contact Jennifer, Ph: 420 2559
- Sunday, Dec 18th: 10am, Christmas Service & picnic lunch.
- Friday, Dec 23rd: 7pm, Christmas Service.