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## Award-winning Matariki book by Helensville author

An award winning children's picture book has just been launched by Helensville author Brianne Te Paa.

The Matariki-themed book is available in both English under the title *How My Koro Became a Star*, and in Māori as *Kua Whetūrangitia a Koro*.

The Māori language edition of the book won the 2022 Storylines Te Kahurangi Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira Award, which is for a manuscript written originally in te reo Māori and carries a \$1500 prize as well as assurance of publication by Huia Publishers.

The award recognises Te Kahurangi Kāterina's contribution to New Zealand literature in te reo Māori in her publishing output for children, young adults and adults, and her work promoting the use of te reo Māori.

Brianne Te Paa (Ngāti Kahu, Ngā Puhī, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, and Te Whānau-a-Apanui) was born in Helensville and has lived at Reweti for most of her life.



• Author Brianne Te Paa

She was a student at Kaipara College from 1998 to 2001, and returned as the Head of Faculty for Māori Studies in mid-2013. She was appointed Assistant Principal in Term 4 last year, and currently teaches the Year 9 te reo Māori class and the Level 2 and 3 te ao Māori class.

She originally created the story as a spoken word poem, sharing it on social media. She then reimagined it as a picture book, with illustrations by Brisbane-based Story Hemi-Morehouse.

"Story completely brought my story to life with her skillful illustrations. I could not have imagined the book any better," says Brianne.

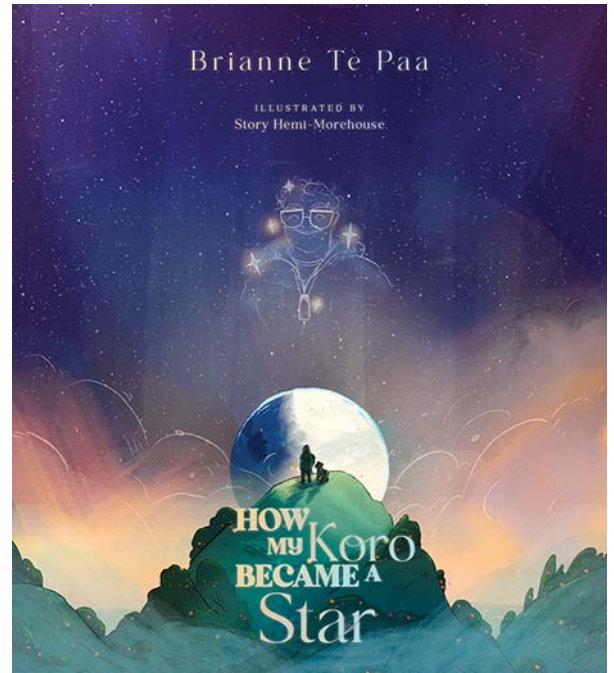
Brianne was inspired to write *How My Koro Became a Star* after a reo wānanga with Rangī Matamua, author of *Matariki: The Star of the Year* and *Matariki: Te Whetū Tapu o Te Tau*.

Her picture book has been endorsed by Rangī as it is underpinned by his Matariki teachings.

*How My Koro Became a Star* centres on the special relationship between a grandfather (Koro) and grandson. It's a heart-warming story about whānau and the passing of loved ones.

Koro teaches his grandson several Matariki rituals - climbing to the top of a mountain to see the star cluster rise, preparing a food offering, calling out the names of those who have passed - and traditional knowledge such as Te Waka o Rangī and the moon phases when Matariki is recognised.

The books were launched at a function in the Kaipara College library in mid-June, and



• *How My Koro Became a Star*

are available at Paper Plus in Commercial Road, Helensville.

*How My Koro Became a Star* is Brianne's debut book, although she has always enjoyed writing poetry and short stories.

"*How My Koro Became a Star* and *Kua Whetūrangitia a Koro* are my first ever publications. I write poetry and short stories for my own enjoyment and for whānau and friends. '*Kua Whetūrangitia a Koro*' was my first attempt at writing poetry in Te Reo Māori and I really enjoyed it. It is definitely something I will do more of in the future."

So are there plans for any further books?

"I love the idea of people being able to read something and then putting what they've read into action," says Brianne. "The next idea I have for a story will hopefully allow children and their families to do just that."

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# editorial

We've all experienced the frustration of having to wait to get a doctor appointment. For the latest appointment I made at Kaipara Medical Centre, the wait was just a couple of days shy of a month. In the meantime, I had to trek down to the emergency clinic at Westgate.

It's important to remember this isn't a Helensville problem. General practices around the country, especially rural ones, are having trouble attracting staff in the first instance, and maintaining those numbers during a pandemic (like many other businesses). We're no exception. And we've all seen the headlines about the staff shortages, cancelled surgeries, and huge A&E waits at hospitals around the country.

Fortunately, three new staff have just joined Kaipara Medical Centre (see below) so at least in our little neck of the woods, things will hopefully be looking up.

- Dave Addison, Editor

## New doctor, nurses to ease pressure at local medical centre

Kaipara Medical Centre has welcomed three new medical staff to the team, which should help ease the delays in getting appointments which patients have been experiencing.

General Practitioner Dr Jeff Garon will be on duty four days a week, while Nurse Practitioner Beth Poi and Nurse Prescriber Kath Dix will each be on hand three days a week.

The team at KMC has been working tirelessly over the past few years to keep the community safe and healthy throughout the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected us since early 2020.

Like many practices nationwide, Kaipara Medical Centre has battled the challenges of keeping the community safe and healthy through the Covid-19 pandemic, facing staff shortages through illnesses, isolations, and a reduced workforce.

The centre has found it increasingly difficult over the last few months to keep up with demand for appointments, which has resulted in some people having to wait longer than usual to see their doctor.

It's hoped the three new staff will help ease the pressure and increase availability for those looking for an appointment.

## First associate life member at RSA

Steve Wilson, fondly known as Foxy, was made a Life Member of the Kaipara Memorial RSA at its recent AGM following 28 years of service to the organisation.

Steve is the first KMRSA associate member to be awarded a life membership - all the previous life members have been former service personnel.

Foxy joined the KMRSA and became a bar manager under then president Bill Bodle in 1994. While serving as a bar manager he undertook the cleaning, ran club raffles, the Handle Club, the Jokers Board, and the Christmas ham raffles, travelling to Otahuhu to pick up 30 whole hams.

After eight years as bar manager, Foxy

was invited to join the RSA Executive Committee. He later served as a Vice President for three years before becoming President in 2010, serving two years in that position. He has remained on the Executive Committee since.

KMRSA President Rex Keane says: "Foxy has been heavily involved in organising the poppy collectors on Poppy Day and the ANZAC Day and Armistice Commemorations, every year for as long as I can remember.

"During his 28 years of loyal service and commitment to the KMRSA, Steve has never looked for rewards, just a simple thanks with a smile."

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# First 'telehealth pod' opens in Helensville

Waitematā DHB has just launched its first community telehealth pod in Helensville, enabling patients to connect with clinical staff without needing to attend a physical appointment.

Helensville's Sorrel King became the first patient to use the community pod, which is being operated by the DHB and Helensville District Health Trust and lets patients attend secure 'virtual appointments' via video and phone.



• Sorrel King and son Leith Rushton, first to use the pod

It's located at the Kaipara Medical Centre campus in Commercial Road.

## Dog registrations

Dog registrations are now due for renewal. People who renew during July (before August 1), will receive a significant discount on their fee.

Supergold Community Services Combo Card holders also received greatly reduced rates.

Dog registrations can be renewed in person at the Helensville Service Centre, or online at <https://bit.ly/2K7BGfC>.

The DHB's clinical teams used telehealth appointments widely during Covid-19 lockdowns, but this is the first time a community pod has been offered.

Developed by the DHB's Institute for Innovation and Improvement, the pod offers patients, where clinically appropriate, the ability to talk with their doctor from a private, sound-proof pod.

Not everyone has access to a computer, a good internet connection or a private space to take a call, and the telehealth pod project aims to bridge that digital divide.

Helensville District Health Trust recently installed a wheelchair-accessible ramp to make the pod available for community appointments.

Dr Dale Bamley, Waitematā DHB CEO, says: "Alongside the Helensville community and the Helensville District Health Trust, we have delivered a new option that will make it simpler for people to engage and connect with our teams to provide the care they need."

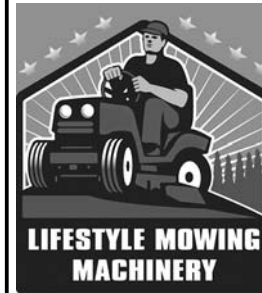
Sorrel, who was delighted to be the first patient to use the telehealth pod, says: "Having easy access to the team that looks after my health, here within my own community, has made a huge difference to both my family and me. Being able to pop down the road, instead of driving into town and spending \$25 on parking, is a massive saving of time and money."

The popularity of video appointments has grown significantly among Waitematā DHB patients, rising from 1,785 at the end of May 2021 to 5,343 as of June 2022. There are now 27 healthcare specialties providing telehealth appointments.

Waitematā DHB is working on the placement of two more pods, at Coast2Coast Primary Care in Warkworth and with Ngāti Whātua (location still to be decided).

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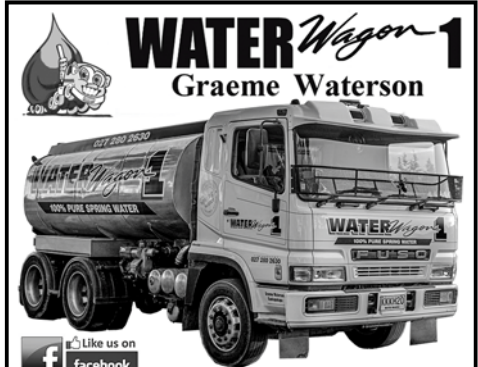
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# Decades of experience for new Helensville Show manager

New Helensville Show manager Shona Addison has been competing at the local show for more than 50 years - as well as being a former Show President, long-serving committee member, and steward.

She was appointed to the position by the Helensville A&P Association committee last month, and took up the part-time role at the start of July.

Born in Helensville, Shona grew up on her family's farm near Parakai and went to Parakai Primary and Kaipara College.

Her family on the Aitkenhead side has a long history with the Helensville A&P Association, with four generations serving as president, five serving on the committee, and two generations being Show Patrons.

Shona's great-grandfather Hector Aitkenhead was Show president from 1915 to 1917, her grandfather Vic Aitkenhead held that role from 1937 to 1938, and her father Hector Aitkenhead was president on two occasions, from 1967 to 1969 and again for the 100th Show in 2002. Both her grandmother Marjorie and father were patrons of the show.

The event was even held on the Aitkenhead family farm at Parakai during 1952 and 1953.

Shona herself was president from 2003 to 2004 and again for the 2020 and 2021 shows, and has been a committee member for almost 30 years.

She brings a lifetime of experience to the show, with knowledge of virtually all aspects of Helensville's biggest annual one-day event, as well as knowing many of the people involved with the Show.

And with a work background including secretary, sales, marketing, and trade fairs (both as a purchaser and sales manager), she has the range of skills the role requires.

"It means I won't have to go through the lengthy learning process most of our recent show managers have faced," she says.

To take up the role she has left her position as marketing manager with North Shore-based homewares importer John Raine Ltd, where has worked for 39 years.



• New Show manager Shona Addison

Shona grew up around the show, competing in the indoor classes and pet lambs from her earliest years. She is still a regular entrant in the baking, preserves, floral art, and photography competitions.

Much of her involvement has been in the show's equestrian areas.

She was a foundation member of the Show's horse measuring team, and has stewarded for many years in the equestrian rings - not just at Helensville, but also at other Northern District shows. In recent years she has helped chief equestrian steward Gaby Cornelius organise the rings, and has been involved in the Association's annual fundraising horse treks.

"I love the Show family and have really enjoyed my years of involvement with the committee and Association," she says.

"Helensville Show is as much about the history and family and community involvement. I am excited to take on the role, but have some big shoes to fill! Luckily there are many people who I can call on for advice and information. I especially thank Retts van

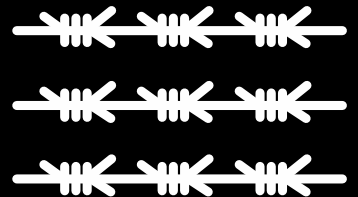
• To page 5

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# Rock with the police and win...

Helensville Police rock!

Our local police station is going to hide 100 colourful hand-painted rocks around Helensville for some school holiday fun on Wednesday, July 13.

Each child who finds a painted rock can take it to the Helensville Police Station in Rimu Street between 9am and 2.30pm on the day to receive a prize pack.

There will also be five well-hidden rocks for parents to find, and they too will receive a prize if they bring it to the Helensville station.

General locations for the rocks will be revealed at 8.30am on the day of the event on the North Shore/Rodney/West Auckland Police Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NorthShoreRodneyWestAucklandPolice](http://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreRodneyWestAucklandPolice)), along with any updated information on the event.

There will be a police vehicle and mobile police unit at the station for the children to have a look at, and also the chance to try on a police uniform.

"This event provides families with an opportunity to have a positive interaction

with police in a low stress environment, and allow our tamariki to feel comfortable coming into a police station," says Helensville Community Constable Melissa Haven.



• Hunt for these rocks and win!

"Even if you don't find any painted rocks, we welcome families to come down and visit the police station anyway."

A 'rock hunt' has been held by Whangaparaoa Police for a couple of years now and the rocks are all painted by a woman at that station.

## New Show manager cont...

• From page 4

Dam who has done wonderfully managing the job over the past difficult year.

"I'm also looking forward to finally being able to work in my community after four decades of commuting. Hopefully the new commute will be by pedal power," she laughs.

Shona is married to *Helensville News* editor Dave Addison, who is the Show's 'semi-official' photographer and with Shona has been a photography steward for the show for more than 35 years.

Both their now adult daughters, Courtney and Nikki, competed at the Helensville Show for many years as children, and still steward on the day when available. And Shona's older sister Anne also carries on the family tradition, stewarding, judging, and helping out at show time.

## Arts in the Ville

Arts in the Ville 2022, to be held over the three-day Labour Weekend in October, is gearing up to be a strong event.

Event manager Jo Ogilvy has contacted all artists who have previously taken part in the annual event, and now the call is out for any other artists or crafts people who want to be involved.

Artists can open their own studios to the public or exhibit in one of the pop-up galleries around the town, and there will be a 'Makers Market' in the War Memorial Hall for crafts people who create their own wares.

Phone Jo on 021 071 0246 or message her via the Arts in the Ville Facebook page.

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## Motocross comp at Parakai

More than 200 children from around the upper North Island competed in the King of the North motocross competition on a Fordyce Road, Parakai farm in late June.

The annual competition is the North Harbour Mini Motocross Club's only competitive event.

Club president Lindsey Heilsen says the club's focus is on "getting kids into the sport and developing their abilities to race" rather than being competitive.

"The King of the North is the biggest event we hold, and the only competitive one," he says.

The children, aged from just four years up to 13 years old, raced in nine classes, competing in three races per class. Most of the entrants came from Pukekohe north, though one rider traveled all the way from New Plymouth. A number of Helensville riders took part.



• A high-flying competitor in the King of the North contest

The club uses the Fordyce Road farm over the wetter months, and has a summer track at a Makarau farm.

## Have a say on local parks

Rodney Local Board has prepared a management plan for all local parks and reserves in the local board area for which it has decision-making responsibility. That covers around 330 parks and more than 1400ha of land.

The Draft Rodney Local Parks Management Plan describes how people use parks, which areas need protection, and what to consider before improving a park.

Now the Local Board wants input from the Rodney community to make sure they have got the plan right.

The draft plan is available on the Auckland Have Your Say website (<https://bit.ly/39odN13>) and at local libraries and service centres in the Rodney Local Board area. It's in two volumes, the first of which sets out the scope and purpose of the

plan, while four second volumes provide detailed looks at every individual park. The Kumeū Subdivision one covers the parks in the *Helensville News* readership area.

Feedback can be submitted through an online form on the Auckland Have Your Say website. Alternatively, suggestions about the draft plan can be emailed to: [rodneypmp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:rodneypmp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or post them to Rodney Local Parks Management Plan, Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142.

A drop-in session will be held at the Kumeū Library on Thursday, July 28, with council staff on hand to answer any questions about the draft plan.

The consultation period closes on Monday, August 15.

## South Kaipara Men's Trust

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# Time for toys to enjoy a sleepover

It's not the Teddy Bears' Picnic, but definitely in a similar vein.

Helensville Library is holding its annual Soft Toy Sleepover on Tuesday, July 12, and it's promising a fun time for some loved toys.

"For six years, toys have been having a sleepover night at Helensville Library," says senior librarian Anne Coppell.

"They have tried to escape from the library. They have danced through the library. They have had flying lessons. They have visited a world famous Barbie collection - and toy trains. They have tried to fry each other for dinner. They have tried to hijack an ambulance and a fire engine.

"What will they get up to this year?" she wonders...

Toys are welcome from anyone - adults included. "Just not special toys that have to be home at night," says Anne.

They can be dropped off at the library, and paperwork filled out, between Saturday, July 9 and noon on Tuesday, July 12.

The toys will stay Tuesday night at the library, and can then

be picked up from Wednesday morning, when there will be a special 'dinosaur storytime' at 10am.

The toys' souvenir booklets will be available for pick up from Saturday, July 16.

Photo albums from previous years, and videos made of the booklets for each year, can be viewed on the Helensville Library and Service Centre Facebook page.



• Anne reading to overnighting toys at a previous sleepover

# Community Patrol to be reinstated

The North West Country Business Association is working closely with the Helensville Police this month to help get the South Kaipara Community Patrol back up and running.

The Patrol previously had a strong presence in town, but following a downturn in members and the Covid lockdowns, it has effectively stopped operating.

"Community Patrols play an important part in crime prevention and are particularly helpful to our business community," says North West Country Business Association chair Mark Dennis.

"Regular patrols provide an extra set of eyes on the street beyond what police can provide, and using local knowledge means patrols can target specific areas and times of the day that might be of most potential risk of theft or vandalism."

People keen to support the local community by joining the South Kaipara Patrol, or who you would like to find out more about what is involved, should contact Senior Constable Melissa Haven at the Helensville Police Station or email her at: melissa.haven@police.govt.nz.

## Local Board meeting

Rodney Local Board's next business meeting is on Wednesday, July 20 at 3pm.

At Covid-19 orange setting some meetings are held in person while others are held online - email: rodneylocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for details. Meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed online at: infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.



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## Swim school provides vital service

When Cara Emirali moved with her partner Rob to Parakai last year, she wanted swimming lessons for her eight-year-old daughter Pyper, but nothing was available.

A keen swimmer herself and a former competitor with the North Shore Swim Club, Cara did the only thing she could - she set up Kaipara Coast Learn to Swim, based at the Parakai Springs hot pools.

Since then the business has grown to employ eight staff - all locals - in addition to Cara and has more than 300 children enrolled. Classes are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday mornings for three different age groups: water babies aged six to 36 months, pre-schoolers aged three to five years, and school aged children.

Cara also offers classes for adult learners - currently her oldest student is in their 70s - and can also provide private lessons, including for people with special education needs.

The teachers all have international Austswim qualifications, and range in age from college students to adults. Cara herself has a lengthy background in swimming education, having run

both Learn to Swim and Water Skills for Life programmes at Auckland schools, as well as managing swim schools at Auckland Council pools. She has also completed some Early Childhood Education papers to gain a deeper understanding of the learning and behavioural needs of young children.

“We have a very strong water safety focus,” she says. “We want kids to be safe in and around the water.”

Class sizes are kept small, with a ratio of just three children to one instructor for pre-schoolers and five to one for school age children and adults.

Kaipara Coast Learn to Swim also offers the Coastguard safer boating programme. The photo shows children learning how to load a boat and exit a boat safely.

Families enrolled with Kaipara Coast Learn to Swim can purchase a \$60 per term membership to Parakai Springs, giving unlimited access Monday to Friday (excl. public holidays) for the children enrolled and two parents.

For more information visit [www.kaiparaswim.co.nz](http://www.kaiparaswim.co.nz).



> Cara with some of her pupils

## FIGG - Flowers, Info, Gallery & Gifts

Stepping into FIGG at 44 Commercial Road is a bit like visiting an old-time emporium, such is the huge range of goods available. It's one of those stores to spend time in, picking through the vast selection of products.

FIGG, acronym for 'Flowers, Info, Gallery and Gifts' and which opened in 2019, offers visitor and community information services,

local artists' original creations, Helensville and New Zealand souvenirs, and a wide selection of home décor and gift items.

Run by local businesswoman Holly Southernwood, the store stocks both fresh and artificial flowers. There is the range of Macnut Farm macadamia products including nuts, oil, and body care items, as well as confectionery, savoury and dessert sauces, pounamu jewellery, Māori soft dolls, balloons, toys including the ever-popular Buzzy Bee and other wooden toys, art prints, manuka honey-based cosmetics, china, cushions, fashion clocks, gift cards, and gifts of all sorts ... the list goes on.

Big sellers include art works by Helensville's Bernette Malizia, and baby clothes (clothes are available for children up to age 7).

“I buy what I like,” says Holly, “and people say they love all the stuff in store.

“There are gifts for most ages and stages.”

It's all housed in one of Helensville historic commercial buildings, built by Holly's maternal grandfather, she believes in the mid- to late-1920s. It originally housed the Kaipara & Waitematā Echo newspaper which was printed in the basement. Over the years it variously served as a bookshop and stationery, TAB and Lotto, post shop, and craft store.

Holly substantially renovated it in the 1990s, installing the new front windows and period-style facade, based on concepts drawn up by former New Zealand Herald cartoonist Malcolm Evans, who had created illustrations of the whole town's main street recreated as an old-style western town.

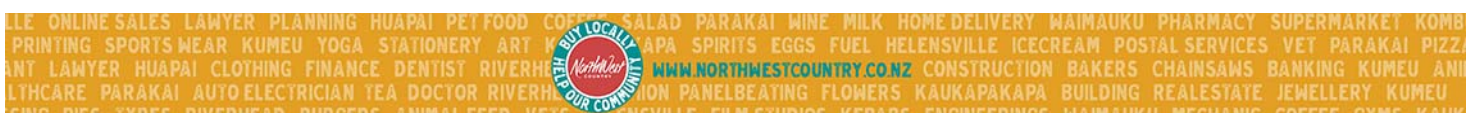
Holly says visitor information was popular with overseas visitors pre-lockdown, but still gets used by domestic tourists.

A computer is available with assistance, to search for things to do and make bookings.

FIGG is open 10am to 4pm 7 days, with a late 8pm closing on Fridays and an earlier 8am opening on Thursdays. After hours service may be available - phone Holly on 021 488 427.



> FIGG at 44 Commercial Road







> INTRODUCING THE PEOPLE BEHIND SOME OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES - BROUGHT TO YOU BY NORTH WEST COUNTRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

# : Something for everyone at The Shoppe

For the widest range of local arts and crafts in Helensville, the place to visit is The Shoppe, located next to the Ginger Crunch Café in the historic Helensville Railway Station.

The brainchild of local Heather Steadman, who set it up three years ago, The Shoppe is an artists' and crafters' collective - a social enterprise rather than a commercial one she says.

The Shoppe is divided into 10 spaces, and 14 local artists and crafters rent either a full space or share a space with another member. All profits from the sale of items go directly to the artists and crafters; with no commission prices are able to be kept as low as possible.

While Heather says most members aren't looking to make a living from selling their wares, some are doing "very well". There is a waiting list of artists and crafters wanting to join.

Current collective members are: Heather - Weaverweb flax kete, baskets and wall art; Tom Sommerville - Muddy Fingers Ceramics; Lyn Chapman - paintings, mixed media, cards; Annabel Brechelt - paintings, painted rocks; Jan Backhurst - paintings, upcycled small furniture, found objects; Marcia Barrowman - paintings,

cards; Chrissy Jones - preserves, gift baskets; Laura Mason - Kaipara Copper and Crystal jewellery, dreamcatchers; Linda Ruzich - kiwiana handtowels and bibs, wood fired ceramics; Linda Lewis - upcycled clothing, knitted baby clothes, beanies, blankets; Susan Strassnick - Rock Art crystals; Kayla (aka Pink Lady) - succulents and cacti in funky pots; and Hilary Caskey, bespoke and commissioned cards, eco produce bags, cleaning cloths, and make-up removers.

"There's something to suit every budget," says Heather.

"We now have spaces available with shelving supplied for \$40 a month and one rostered Saturday or Sunday every four weeks for artists or crafters looking to have consistent visibility for their wares."

Its location beside Ginger Crunch café gives The Shoppe a good amount of foot traffic from locals and visitors to the town alike.

"We want to thank our community for supporting local," adds Heather.

The Shoppe is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm, and has eftpos available.



# : Local foods shine at Cleaver's Edge

The Cleaver's Edge in Mill Road, Helensville is positioning itself as something of a mini food market - one that features specialty foods sourced from local artisan producers.

While the business is primarily focused around homekill,



mostly servicing lifestyle blocks but also recreational hunters, the diversification into specialty foods is something new for local foodies to enjoy.

Tony Poolman and Corina Paterson bought the Cleaver's Edge a year ago, seeking a change in lifestyle. They have set up a small retail 'meat vault' with a selection of fresh and smoked meats, including beef, lamb, pork, chicken, bacon, gourmet sausages (including gluten-free), and salamis.

All the meat on offer is aged; steaks are aged at least two weeks then vacuum packed and either ready to eat or be aged for up to six more weeks.

That meat selection is now complemented by the specialty foods, which include the likes of olive oil, cheese, macadamias, chocolates, mushrooms, coffee beans, and even freshly bottled Jersey milk and cream. Corina says the range will be expanded - for instance, local honey will soon appear on the shelves.

The products are all displayed with information sheets about the producers so purchasers can be assured of the local provenance.

"The idea of a small food market developed so we could promote local produce alongside our retail meat products," says Corina. "We want to support other small local businesses like ourselves by offering something different than the usual fare."

Tony has been a butcher for more than 20 years, and previously ran the meat department at the Big Fresh supermarket in Rotorua, one of the largest in the country at the time and in charge of a staff of 42. At Cleaver's Edge the team is much smaller - Tony is joined by experienced butcher Joe Courtney and production hand Danielle Hood.

Old-fashioned manuka smoked bacon cut into thick rashers, and garlic, pepperoni, and chili salamis made from beef and venison are some of Tony's specialties.

Entry to the Cleaver's Edge store is by a short alley beside the Kaipara Fresh Fish takeaway store. For more information visit [www.cleaversedge.co.nz](http://www.cleaversedge.co.nz) or phone 420 9999.





## Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

365 Main Road, Huapai

09 412 2496

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz

chrispenk.co.nz



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

# Years of community service come to end

**David William Bott**  
8-3-1938 to 18-5-2022

Many years of local community involvement ended recently with the passing in May of David Bott.

During more than 30 years in our town, he was involved with the Helensville Rugby Club, A&P Association, Helensville Riverside Heritage Trust, the Masonic Lodge, and the Railway Station Trust, among others.

David was born in Levin in 1938, the only son of Jessie and Ellis Bott. Educated in Levin, he began his working life at the Commercial Bank of Australia in that town in 1956.

His life there centered around the Methodist Church and its activities, including being an organist and choir member, and playing both badminton and tennis.

He left New Zealand in 1958 for

an OE in England, working in London for merchant bank Lombard Banking as a cashier and foreign exchange officer.

During his time in London he met Hilary, and the couple married there in 1960. They moved back to New Zealand in 1962, David working for Lombard in Wellington for two years before leaving to work for NAC, the country's domestic airline, in 1964. He became the first person to represent the company at IATA fares conferences around the world.

That same year the Botts adopted son Andrew, and three years later they adopted Linda. Their daughter Catherine was born in 1970.

The family moved to Auckland in 1978 after NAC and Air New Zealand merged. Over the following 14 years David represented Air NZ at many IATA conferences, logging up more than three million kilometres in air travel.

David and Hilary moved to Helensville in 1989 to live a country life - David saying many times it was the best move they ever made - "this place is home."

In 1993 he joined business services company Ernst & Young, where he stayed until his retirement 10 years later.

Gardening was a passion, and David and Hilary opened their Mangakura Road garden 'Swimbridge' to the public, attracting busloads of visitors and taking part in various garden ramble fundraiser events.

David was a keen supporter of the Helensville Rugby Club, serving 10 years on its committee including a stint as president and being a junior delegate to the North Harbour Union.

He was a founding member of the Helensville Riverside Heritage Trust, and with others took on the task of clearing and planting alongside the river and planning, along with the council, the walkways and lookout.

David was a trustee of the Helensville Railway Station Trust which maintains the town's historic railway station, and was involved with the establishment of the Railway Museum.

He was also involved with the Helensville & District Historical Society, helping plan the gardens when the museum moved to its present location. A member of the Helensville A&P Association, he helped set up the trade space for each year's Helensville Show.

A volunteer at the Helensville Information Centre, he was also a member and treasurer for the Duke of Albany Masonic Lodge.

In 2009 David's community work was recognised with the awarding of a Rodney Community Service Award, presented by then Rodney Mayor Penny Webster.

David loved music of many types. He learned to play the clarinet with the hope of playing in a 'big band'. But with no such band in his hometown of Levin, he settled for playing the piano at Saturday night dances. As well as playing the organ at the Methodist churches in Levin and Upper Hutt, he played at the Westminster Methodist Central Hall while in London. He enjoyed dancing, and later in life won a bronze medal with Hilary.

While he generally kept good health, David did battle cancer twice, once just months before his marriage to Hilary, and again at the time of his retirement.

He was a proud Kiwi who flew the flag, but also loved the United Kingdom where his ancestors, and Hilary, came from. They enjoyed travel, taking the family to the United States, the UK, and Europe a number of times.

Not one to talk about his achievements, David wished to be remembered "as an ordinary person."



• David Bott



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## We Care Community Trust Grant Funding

*In this tough time we are here to help*

We Care Community Trust is a recently licensed gaming machines society operating from The Kaipara Tavern in Helensville.

We Care has funding available for qualifying organisations in the local community.

Applications are now being received and considered by the Directors of We Care Community Trust in accordance with their authorised purpose statement and the funds that are available. Applications close at the end of each month for consideration the following month.

Applications can be obtained online from:

<https://wecare.org.nz>

or from The Kaipara Tavern

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## Helensville Railway Museum



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## Kaipara Moana forum



The Kaipara Moana Remediation team recently convened its new KMR Partnership Forum (pictured above) - the first time in nearly a year it was able to bring together major partners from around the Northland and Auckland regions.

KMR is a partnership of landowners, councils, Kaipara Uri, the private sector, and central government, working together to restore the health and mauri (life force) of Kaipara Moana. The \$300m Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme is the largest landscape programme underway in New Zealand and involves planning, collaborating, and problem-solving to restore the Kaipara Moana.

KMR will hold regular Partnership Forums to ensure it best targets its investments and support for landowners wanting to improve the environment and their whenua. It's also holding public 'Zuis' - huis held over Zoom. For more information visit [kmr.org.nz](http://kmr.org.nz).

## 'Crafternoon teas' planned

The Helensville Library and Service Centre team is looking to host some relaxed 'crafternoon' gatherings.

"These would take place on a day and time that suited the majority of those who are interested," says senior librarian Anne Coppel.

The afternoons would be an opportunity for locals to bring along portable crafts and chat with other crafters.

"If there is a craft or technique you'd like to learn or explore - let us know. If there is a craft or technique you'd be willing to share - let us know," says Anne.

"If you visit the library, you may see my 'Papillon' shawl on display. If you are interested in doing a 'knit-a-long' for this shawl - which is actually not that complicated, I promise! - let us know."

The library is planning on making this part of its Arts in the Ville offering for October.

Locals interested in taking part can either call into the library to chat about it, message

the team on Facebook, email: [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz), or phone 0800 695 427.

## RSA update

The Kaipara Memorial RSA raised more than \$5000 for its veterans welfare, thanks to a very successful annual Poppy Appeal.

President Rex Keane says the RSA has been struggling to get its books back into the black since reopening in December after the prolonged Auckland lockdown

"However we had turned the corner with new caterers Rajen and Pam Moodley and members returning in increasing numbers over the last couple of months," he says.

"Tragically, Rajen suffered a heart attack and passed away on May 13. Everyone at the RSA was shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. The club carried out a blessing and karakia by kaumatua Richard Nahi, and the RSA dedicated the 'Ode of Remembrance to the Fallen' to Rajen."

## » your local community website

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## from our local MP

I was pleased to attend the Emergency Services recognition dinner, held within my electorate recently

It acknowledged the hard work our emergency personnel and first responders carry out every day, including Police, Fire and Emergency and St John Ambulance. It was particularly rewarding to meet workers from the emergency services and witness them be honoured for their dedication to the service they provide.



Our emergency services carry out valuable work at any time, but I particularly want to acknowledge their efforts during our country's response to Covid-19.

You have honestly taken a significant risk on yourselves and your loved ones just to treat our people in time of need, all whilst Covid-19 has continued to circulate in the community. It is no mean feat to do what you do every day with additional layers of complexity, like Covid-19 restrictions, thrown in the mix. Additionally I wish to thank our emergency services for continuing to sustain our country during the various lockdowns - we couldn't continue to operate as a country without you.

I also want to shout out to the employers who graciously allow their people to volunteer to emergency services, and I acknowledge the families of emergency responders who are constantly making sacrifices, knowing their loved ones are out during all hours of the day and night, facing all kinds of risky situations including interacting with people who are positive for Covid-19.

Finally, I want to point out the response our emergency services provide for people with mental health issues, who are currently receiving a higher rate of incidents than usual. Across St John Ambulance, Police and the Fire Service, our emergency services are facing many callouts linked to mental health issues, which no doubt take a personal toll on our emergency workers at a time of increased uncertainty and stress.

I encourage you to remember the work our emergency services provide. If you personally know of anyone who serves, take the time to appreciate them and thank them for their contribution.

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

## making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: [nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz](http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz). The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice plus a bouquet from Love Flowers.

July's recipient is Lee Schofield, who chose \$50 vouchers for Paper Plus and Eleventh Hour in Helensville.



• Lee (left) with Nicky Horsbrough

Lee was nominated by daughter Maria Schofield, who says: "My mum Lee Schofield was my absolute rock through the last lockdown with giving me money and making sure my mental health was ok. She continues to always be my pillar of strength. I am forever grateful to her and would love her to receive something special as she has been battling health issues and feeling like crap, but always shows up no matter what."

## the business

Things are getting tight for businesses with increasing fuel costs, transport, upward pressure on wages, and products across the board becoming hard to access - and it feels like they will only get tighter before things get easier for businesses.



There are a number of causes behind this and most are completely out of our control as international conflicts and policies start to affect New Zealand and our economy.

What can you do to help?

There are things we can do help take the pressure off local businesses and ensure they continue to operate smoothly:

- Make sure you pay invoices on time or as soon as they arrive;
- Buy from local suppliers;
- If you are ordering in bulk get your orders in early to ensure they are able to keep healthy stock levels;
- If you are looking for a better price, talk to your local suppliers first and see what they can do for you.

Ensuring small businesses have a strong cashflow is vital to get them through this tough period.

The North West Country Matariki Festivals have been a huge success, bringing in people from outside the targeted areas, showcasing local goods and products, and providing a much needed injection into local businesses surrounding the locations of the festivals.

We envision the Matariki long weekend will grow to become an important period in the business calendar and a time of year we will all celebrate and create memories around.

- Mark Dennis  
Chair  
North West Country Business Assn



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# Matariki exhibitions at Art Centre

Helensville Art Centre is celebrating Matariki with two exhibitions this month.

The media room features an installation of stars, while the main gallery has artists' work representing Matariki. The exhibitions run until July 30.

School holidays begin on the July 11 and Creative Matters will be running holiday programmes both weeks at the Art Centre. Dates are the July 13 and 14 and July 20 and 21, 9am to 3pm each day. The fee per student would normally be \$88, however the Art Centre is part funding this as a start up initiative so the cost will be \$50 per student per day.

In August, Cindy Vida will hold her first solo exhibition in the main gallery. Alongside the exhibition Cindy will teach a series of workshops using acrylics. She will take participants through mixing colour and painting interpretive versions of landscapes. For details and to book, email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz). Cindy will also hold an artist's talk on Saturday, August 6 and will have her published book on display.

Thomas Hogan's exhibition of expressive paintings will be in the Media Room gallery from August 3 to 27.



**Support our local businesses**

**Marja Lubeck**  
Labour List MP  
based in  
Kaipara ki Mahurangi

For appointments and assistance please phone:  
☎ 0800 582 325 (0800 LUBECK)  
@ [marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz)



Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

## Face masks causing hearing aid loss

Wearing a face mask in conjunction with behind-the-ear hearing aids is causing problems for some people.

Audiologist Lisa Greene, who's company Hear4U services the South Kaipara area, says: "it has become apparent the combination of mask wearing and hearing aid wearing can be problematic.

"If you have flicked off your hearing aids while removing your mask, you are not alone. Sadly, this has become a common cause of people losing their hearing aids," she adds.

Her suggestions include wearing masks that have over-the-head straps rather than behind the ear straps, or making or buying a

purpose designed neck strap.

Lisa says while those options reduce the chance of hearing aids falling off, they aren't a 100 percent safeguard, and she recommends people get in the habit of checking their hearing aids immediately after removing masks.

She says a more guaranteed solution is to use hearing aid clothing clips. These clip to clothing at the back of the neck and prevent hearing aids falling due to mask removal, taking glasses on and off, and pulling clothing over the head. While the hearing aid may still fall off the ear, it will still be attached to the wearer's clothing and so won't get lost.



**Helensville Birthing Centre**

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## Kaukapakapa library

Kaukapakapa Library will open on Sunday July 17, from 9am to 1pm in conjunction with Kaukapakapa market. Over the past seven years it has hosted authors, photo competitions, readings, colouring competitions - anything that might appeal to community groups.

Started in 1865, the library is now a valuable local history resource, with all its original records still existing, and a lot more local information has been added over the years including photo collections and many other records.

## local board matters

• From page 15

worst in Auckland despite having the smallest population of any ward.

Putting aside the statistics it is worth considering the impacts on our community and families. For every death this is a family ripped apart, for every injury this is often a lifetime of ongoing medical and mental health issues.

As a firefighter I have personally been involved in extricating people from car accidents on our roads. It is impossible to forget the injuries and trauma inflicted on children and adults. The deaths are tragic, the effects on the survivors lifelong.

We shouldn't accept deaths and injuries that can be avoided by the simple measure of reducing the speed limits. We should all be able to use our roads safely, and if that adds a few minutes onto a journey I'd argue that's a small price to pay.

I make no apologies for supporting lower speed limits; one day we'll look back and wonder why we waited so long to do this. Lowering speed limits because they are safer for all road users should be something we all embrace.

- Phelan Pirrie  
Chair, Rodney Local Board  
[phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



# local board matters

Residents will have noticed the reductions of speed limits on our roads.

There are more to come, and this has sparked debate about whether this is necessary.

Setting speed limits is an operational decision for Auckland Transport on local roads, and Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency) on state highways. Neither the Local Board, nor governing body (councillors) make these decisions.

Rodney Local Board has an objective in our three-year plan to support measures to make our roads safer - this was because of calls from our community for safety improvements due to the high numbers of deaths and injuries on Rodney's roads.

What's behind the speed limit reductions, and is it simply a cunning tactic from Auckland Transport to avoid investing in road maintenance?

Reductions in speed are part of Waka Kotahi's 'Vision Zero' program to reduce deaths and injuries. This isn't just about reducing speeds, it includes billions of dollars of investment including median barriers, changes in road designs etc - a local example being the long-delayed \$160m-plus Brigham Creek to Waimauku safety improvements.

Vision Zero isn't something Waka Kotahi dreamt up, it originated in Sweden in 1997. The program has been adopted by a number of countries including the UK, Canada, Netherlands, Norway and India. The best summary of the principals behind this are summarised on Wikipedia: "Vision Zero is based on an underlying ethical principle that 'it can never be ethically acceptable that people are killed or seriously injured when moving within the road transport system.' In most road transport systems, road users bear complete responsibility for safety. Vision Zero changes this relationship by emphasising that responsibility is shared by transportation system designers and road users."

No one could accuse Waka Kotahi of rushing into this program without assessing the data and science. The results from Sweden are stark: from 1997 to 2020 deaths

fell from 541 to 204, during a time traffic volumes grew. Sweden is a good comparison to New Zealand; it has a smallish population, a large area and similar road network, a mix of urban and rural - including gravel - roads. The program has been subject to extensive investigation over a long time and while results differ from country to country it has without exception led to a reduction in deaths.



The optimal speed limits to achieve these reductions are defined as: locations with possible conflicts between pedestrians and cars - 30km/h; intersections with possible side impacts between cars - 50km/h; roads with possible frontal impacts between cars, including rural roads: 70km/h; roads with no possibility of a side or frontal impact (only impact with the infrastructure) 100 km/h+.

Installing median barriers on every road is both impractical and cost prohibitive, so speed reductions are the best way to reduce risk to drivers.

The consequences of a vehicle hitting a stationary object or another vehicle moving at speed are simply a matter of physics. It is scientific fact that a tonne of steel hitting another tonne of steel both travelling at 100km/h is going to result in death at worst, or horrific injuries at best.

The idea our transport agency would come up with a program to improve road safety merely as a way to save money on road maintenance is quite preposterous.

I agree more money should be invested in road maintenance and renewals. However even if we miraculously had all the money needed it would make no difference to the issues behind the road toll. This argument illustrates part of the issue Vision Zero is trying to address, that we all have a part to play in reducing the deaths and injuries, it's about driver behaviour not the roads. Rodney's road toll in 2017 was the

• To page 14

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## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

■ **AUGUST 2022 deadline: Tuesday, 19th July, 2022**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 2nd 2022

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

Dave Addison

Ph: 420 7215 • Mobile: 021 178 5568

Email: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

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### 2022 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Aug 2nd

Copy by: July 19th

Due out: Sept 6th

Copy by: Aug 23rd

Due out: Oct 4th

Copy by: Sept 20th

Due out: Nov 1st

Copy by: Oct 18th

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

**Editor & Publisher:** Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874.

■ **Design, Subediting, & Layout:** Dash Design, 420 7215.

■ **Printing:** Rob McCorkindale, Print Matters, 0274 740 657.

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community tidbits from town and around

## ■ HELENSVILLE FLEA MARKET

Saturday July 9, from 9am to 1pm in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

A combined flea market and garage sale, stalls will include bric a brac, second hand clothing, vintage tools, vinyl records, books, baby clothes, toys and games, retro items and collectibles, and second hand household goods. Helensville Lions will be selling books, DVDs, and board games.

Email [remu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:remu@xtra.co.nz) to ask about holding a stall. Preference is given to local sellers, and organisers welcome community groups wanting to run a garage sale at the market, and collectors downsizing. Charities

## \$11k+ from book fair

The Helensville Lions Club's Autumn Book Fair raised more than \$11,500, with a raffle and sausage sizzle adding to that total.

While the amount was down a bit on last year, organiser Chris Clark was happy with the result knowing that many people are still reluctant to attend gatherings because of Covid.

Books left over from the fair will be re-sorted with surplus children's books going to South Auckland for distribution to playcentres and kindergartens. Other books will be sold at the Lions book stall at the Kaukapakapa market, the flea market held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on the second Saturday of each month, and at any other event attended by the Lions Club of Helensville. Damaged or unsaleable books will go to the Helensville Recycle Centre.

"Thank you to all who donated so many high-quality books, without you there would have been no book fair," says Chris.

He also wants to thank the partners of club members who helped at the fair, the Kaipara College students who helped in the set up on Friday, the Friends of Lions who assisted in packing up and cleaning the hall after the fair, Phelan Pirrie and the members of the Rodney Local Board for their support, and Burmester Realty being a local drop off point.

"Putting together a book fair is a team effort and we would not be able to cope without the assistance we receive from our community, especially April from Paper Plus Helensville," he adds.

The next fair is the annual Christmas Book Fair which will be held on the last weekend of November, Saturday 26 and Sunday 27, in the War Memorial Hall.

Donations of books can be accepted throughout the year. Small amounts can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, or phone Chris on 420 8527

and community groups receive free selling space - email photos and/or descriptions of what will be sold when inquiring.

## ■ HELENSVILLE SHOW AGM

The Helensville A&P Association will hold its annual general meeting starting 7.30pm at the Helensville Showgrounds on Wednesday, July 13. Nomination forms for committee membership are available by emailing: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz)

## ■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

On Sunday, July 17 from 8.30am to 1pm, the market will have stalls with everything from hand made and used goods, gifts, crafts, jewellery, fresh fruit and winter vegetables, through to plants, preserves, books, plus food and coffee. The musicians this month are 'Take 2' duo Gillian and Mike, playing from 10am to 12pm.

For more information email Sarah at: [sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz](mailto:sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz) or phone her on 027 4 83 1542.

## ■ TENNIS CLUB AGM

Helensville Tennis Club will hold its annual general meeting starting 5pm in the Rautawhiri Park Lounge on Saturday, July 23. Nomination forms available by email from: [helensvilletennis@gmail.com](mailto:helensvilletennis@gmail.com).

## ■ RAIL STATION TRUST AGM

The Helensville Railway Station Trust will hold its annual general meeting starting at 10am on Saturday, July 23 in the Railway Museum building, 2 Railway Street, Helensville.

## ■ HELENSVILLE PLANTING DAY

On Sunday, July 31 starting 9.30am at the Helensville River Reserve - enter the walkway beside 104 Commercial Road and follow the path.

The planting is organised by Auckland Council and supported by Helensville Lions Club and other community volunteers.

Volunteers should bring water, suitable rain-proof clothes and shoes, and gloves. A barbeque lunch will be provided.

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