

Top honour for local St John stalwart

Helensville St John stalwart Patsy Carlyle has been honoured as a Commander of The Order of St John.

St John has its own royal awards system, with King Charles III as the sovereign head of the organisation.

Patsy's investiture was held at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph in Auckland on Saturday, October 8 after a two-year delay because of Covid.

She was one of just three St John members to receive the prestige award, one of the highest honours in the organisation, from Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, who is the Prior of the New Zealand Prior Chapter of St John.

Big Little Local

Well over 500 people attended the inaugural Big Little Local event, held at Rautawhiri Park in mid-October.

"It was a great success. We had lots of great feedback at the event and afterwards," says Nicky Horsbrough, owner of Harcourts the Difference in Helensville. She and real estate agent Nisha Page organised the event to bring local businesses, organisations and the community together.

"A lot of stall holders have let us know they had a great day and have leads and work from being there, which is what it was all about."

Big Little Local raised more than \$1200, all of which will go to Kindred Family Services in Helensville.

Nicky says it was nice to reconnect with the community - something she says was a common theme from the feedback received. She would love to see the event on annually, and has had many requests to do so.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank the sponsors and stall holders as they made the event, and the donations to the goodie bags made those really special surprises for the attendees."

The citation which accompanied her investiture described Patsy as an inspirational leader.

"She has endeared herself to St John with her genuine concern for staff welfare," the citation read. "Patsy led the development of the Auckland Welfare Vehicle, a project which assists volunteer availability at hospitals during peak workload and significant demand for ambulance resources. This initiative has been mirrored across New Zealand."

Patsy trained as a nurse at Middlemore Hospital in 1977, spending six years in the emergency department. She combined that role with seven years as a volunteer ambulance officer before becoming a full-time ambulance officer in 1985 - a role she has held for 37 years.

She was the first female officer to gain a rural position in the Auckland Region when she was appointed to Helensville Station in 1992, and was made Operations Team Manager for Rodney in 2001.

Special achievements since coming to Helensville include:

- Gaining experience working with special needs children and adults at Camp Loyaltown in New York;
- Facilitating training programs for new mothers in conjunction with Helensville Women's Center (now Kindred Services) to help prevent accidents in the home;
- Facilitating a water safety campaign in conjunction with Parakai Springs to help reduce instances of near drowning in children;
- Victim support training and the introduction of a victim support team in Helensville.



• Patsy (left) with Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro

Having encountered several injured animals during the course of her ambulance work, Patsy also qualified as a veterinary nurse specialising in general animal science.

Previously to being made a Commander of the Order of St John, Patsy was made a Member of the Order in 1999 and an Officer of the Order in 2011.

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editorial

Congratulations to all the successful candidates in the Auckland Council elections.

We've got a mix of the old and the new, with our councillor re-elected but many new faces on the Local Board (see page 7), so hopefully that will give a good balance of experience and fresh ideas and energy.

I really don't envy any of them their roles. No matter what they do it will be impossible to please everybody - just as with central government - and I'm sure at times they will feel like they are banging their collective heads against a brick wall. It takes a certain type of person to take on those jobs, so good luck to them all.

I suddenly realised while looking over back issues recently that Helensville has just passed a major milestone, which went completely unmarked.

Labour Weekend last month marked the 160th anniversary of the European settlement of our town. Ten years ago we held a huge, three-day celebration to mark the 150th anniversary, complete with a massive parade down Commercial Road, an evening function, a cake cutting, a fly-past, steamboat rides on the Kaipara River, and lots of other activities.

When do you think another celebration should be held - at the 175th in 2037, or wait until Helensville's bicentenary in 2062, when many of us will no longer be around? Or perhaps the days of commemorating things like European settlement should be behind us?

Let me know your thoughts - it would be interesting to gauge the public's opinion on this.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Armistice display at museum

With the Kaipara Memorial RSA closed for renovation work to the War Memorial Hall, Helensville Museum has added some of the organisation's material to its Armistice Day display.

The exhibit commemorates the armistice signed on November 11, 1918 between the World War 1 allies and Germany, and includes photos of people from the local area who served in that war.

Meanwhile, museum committee member Megan Paterson has been searching to find the names of local soldiers to be added to the list of those recorded on the Parakai cenotaph as fallen in World War 1.

Her exhaustive research uncovered information about John Irvine O'Neill, born to John Henry O'Neill and Hoana (Joanna) Te Waaka, daughter of Ngati Whatua Chief Te Waaka Reu, who married at Rewiti in 1892.

John (known as Jack), spent his first years at Rewiti and attended Woodhill School, and was killed in action in 1916 in the first Battle of the Somme at the age of 24. He was a Second Lieutenant in the Māori Battalion.

Megan was thrilled to find a full account of Jack O'Neill's contribution in Sandra Coney's 2017 book 'Gone West', which



• Megan with the book featuring Jack O'Neill

features a photograph of him on the cover.

The job of adding Jack's name to the Parakai cenotaph is now in the hands of Auckland Council and Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara (the new name for the Parakai Recreation Reserve Board).

In the meantime, information about Jack is available at the museum.

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Happy end to treatment plea

Remember little Parakai two-year-old Zoey Butcher, who featured on the front page of the August *Helensville News*?

Zoey (below) suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 3 (SMA), a rare neuromuscular disorder which causes her to experience muscle weakness and disability. Some patients can lose the ability to walk, stand up or even swallow over time.

Her mother, Chauntel Wedlake, said Zoey was already showing signs of muscle weakness, struggling to stand up, having frequent falls, and unable to run or jump.

Chauntel was leading the call for Pharmac to fund treatment for one of the three drugs which can halt the progress of the disease.

Well, Zoey now has great news - Pharmac has announced that from January 1 next year, the drug nusinersen, which is branded as Spinraza, will be funded for people aged 18 years and under with pre-symptomatic SMA or symptomatic type I, II or IIIa SMA - the latter Zoey's diagnosis.

"It would have been much better six months ago but we are just so relieved it is coming," says Chauntel. "We are trying our best in the meantime to keep her strength up."

"Zoey is doing well mostly. Some days are worse than others depending on how tired she is. I've definitely noticed a decline, mostly in her being unable to step up on [things] like pavement stones by herself, and unable to stand without assistance or holding something."

"She is having a hard time at play groups and music groups and has become more

aware that she is slower than the other kids."

Pharmac says up to 50 people could be eligible for funded treatment with Spinraza, a number expected to grow with around four people a year diagnosed with SMA.

People with SMA can't make enough of a protein called SMN which is needed for motor neurons to function properly and send messages from the brain to muscles telling them what to do. Spinraza increases the production of that protein, helping the motor neurons to function.

Zoey will receive her treatment in hospital as an injection into the spine - initially four injections within a couple of months, and then one injection every four months for the rest of her life, or until a different treatment is available.

While Zoey's Spinraza treatment won't cure her SMA, it should reduce how severe her condition is. Clinical trials have shown the treatment can have a positive impact on motor function, need for ventilation, and survival.

"Zoey is still way too young to understand the

treatment or what's going on," says Chauntel, who is excited about the treatment but also nervous as Zoey has never been under general anaesthetic before.

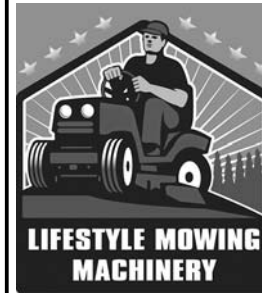
"I have high hopes - I've heard miracles happen with this treatment where some have even been able to walk again after being wheelchair bound."

"I just hope she will not get worse and maintain her independence. Even if she could keep her upper strength and be able to take a couple steps to be able to shower, toilet etc."



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Book fair moves to different venue

The Lions Club's annual Christmas Book Fair will be in a temporary different venue this year.

The two-day fair, to be held over the weekend of November 26 and 27, will be held in the main building at the Helensville Showgrounds.

That's because the regular venue, Helensville War Memorial Hall, is closed for renovations until early next year.

"Our biggest fear is that we will miss out on passing traffic which contributes greatly to our custom," says book fair organiser Chris Clark.

"Let's hope that the work on the hall doesn't carry through into May next year!"

While the new site is a little more out of the way, ample parking means it will be an easy location for locals wanting to pick over the 20,000 books expected to be on sale.

Adding to the usual fare of fiction, non-fiction, and specialty books this year will be more than 100 boxes of books donated to the Lions Club for the fair from the archives of a prominent former New Zealand publisher.

Still unsorted at the time of going to press, Chris says they appear to be mainly non-fiction, and range from the 1950s until the publisher was taken over by an overseas publishing conglomerate.

The Christmas Fair will be open from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday and 10am to 3pm on the Sunday, and there is no entry fee.

The Lions' book fairs are always a source of huge bargains, with nothing over \$2. There will be a large selection of children's books at just 50c, plus jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and quality magazines.

Non-Fiction will be split into 20 subject categories, including one dedicated to New Zealand subjects which Chris says will be the largest ever on offer. There will also be a huge general non-fiction section.

Fiction books will be arranged alphabetically by author, with six special interest groups, the largest for fantasy and science fiction novels. There will also be many children and young adult books.



The club's last fair in May raised \$11,500, all of which went towards helping individuals and organisations in the South Kaipara community.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, Helensville. For larger lots phone Chris on 09 420 8527, or contact any other member of Helensville Lions.

The last date books can be accepted for the Christmas Fair is Friday, November 18.

Christmas cakes

The Helensville Lions Club is selling Christmas Cakes, with proceeds to go to local charities.

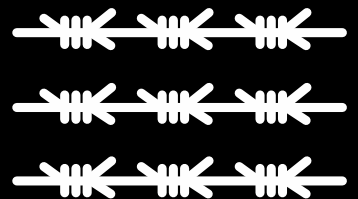
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New Helensville principal

New Helensville School principal Richard Bennett says his door will always be open for parents and members of the community.

"I'm a people person, I really like working with people, getting to know them on a professional level so I can relate to what their goals and aspirations are - and also what parents' aspirations are for their children," he says.

Richard began his new role at the start of the current term in October, and his first impressions are of a warm community and a school with "really enthusiastic teaching and admin staff."

He describes the children he's met as "really respectful" and has told them they can either call him Mr Bennett, or matua rīhari, a name gifted to him at his previous school, Rosebank School in Avondale.

Richard was born in Auckland and grew up in Glen Eden. His father is English and his mother Samoan, and in 1989 the family moved to Samoa, with Richard completing his intermediate and secondary education at Apia.

Back in New Zealand, he completed a business degree in marketing, working for a few years at Affco's head office in Auckland before being made redundant during a major corporate restructuring.

At the time a friend was teaching in South Korea at the International LOY University, and talked Richard into running camps there over the next couple of years.

He realised teaching would be the perfect career change, so he completed his one-year graduate diploma in teaching and in 2007 began teaching at Blockhouse Bay Primary, becoming a team and sports leader as well as leading some of the school's Pasifika education.

He was granted a year's sabbatical to complete his Masters degree, and upon handing in his dissertation was asked by the principal of Rosebank Primary if he would like to become a deputy principal there.

Richard's initial thought was that he

wasn't ready, but then he thought: "why not give it a go?"

At Rosebank his DP role included looking after some of the bilingual units, overseeing teaching and learning for some of the syndicates, and staff appraisals. Eventually the principal suggested he should be looking at a principalship himself, so when the job at Helensville came up he applied.

He attended a powhiri last term to welcome him, and "was able to see the community in action, coming together, I could feel this place has really good wairua, spirit."

Richard is spending his first term at Helensville developing his relationships with



• New Helensville School principal Richard Bennett

staff, students, and community. When *Helensville News* spoke with him, he was looking forward to his first ever 'Ag Day'

He says it's too early to be considering any changes at the school.

"I've come in with no agenda, wanting to get to know everybody, the staff and community, before any change can happen."

"This is not my school, this is the community's school. Any change will be lead through their wants and their needs."

Richard lives in Glen Eden with his partner Terri and their three children, daughter Maia (8), and boys Iain (6) and Zane (4) - with another son due on December 30.

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World Champ blade shearer coming to Helensville Show

The current New Zealand and world blade shearing champion will perform at next February's Helensville Show.

Allan Oldfield, from Geraldine, will hold five demonstrations during the day, each time giving a brief talk about the history of shearing before shearing a sheep with hand shears, and then another using the conventional mechanical handpiece.

His displays will tie in with an overall 'wool' theme for the 2023 Show, to be held on Saturday, February 25.

Allan won the blade shearing world title at the Golden Shears World Sheep Shearing and Woolhandling Championship at Le Dorat in France in 2019, and plans to defend the title at the next world championship, to be held as part of the 20th anniversary Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland in June next year.

In France he also won the world team title with fellow Canterbury blade shearer Tony Dobbs. It was a big event, with 300 competitors from 34 countries.



• Allan hand-shearing a coloured Gotland breed sheep

While his upset win over the reigning world champion was Allan's first competition at that level, he has since gone on to win the New Zealand blade shearing title in both 2020 and 2021, and had previously won a rare sequence of open blades titles at the Royal Ulster, Royal Bath and West, Royal Highland, and Royal Welsh shows in the United Kingdom between 2016 and 2018.

Allan is also a former New Zealand Under 21 wood chopping representative.

Sculpture exhibition hanging in a tree

This is Ian Sangster, a 'differently abled' artist from the L'Arche Mount Tabor community in Helensville, with one of his 'Art in Suspension' exhibits, part of the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden 2022 Exhibition.

The exhibition features nine corrugated iron works suspended in a tree. The concept came from Pauline Denton, who has long felt art should not just be hung indoors. Pauline works with a group of artists in her role as arts and activities coordinator at Mount Tabor.

She got Ian and five other artists - Robbie Sangster, Thomas Hogan, Kevin Widdowson, Rachael Clarke, and Sandy Sturgess - to paint corrugated panels, which were then made into the artworks by Kotare Forge artist Andrew Denton. Funding was received from Creative Communities.

The exhibition runs until mid-November at the sculpture gardens, located at 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway, Kaukapakapa and open 9am to 5pm, seven days. Entry costs \$15.



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Huge majority for reelected Councillor, but new-look Local Board

Rodney councillor Greg Sayers was re-elected in the local government elections last month with the second-biggest majority of any Auckland councillor.

After being re-elected unopposed at the last elections in 2019, he faced much stiffer competition this time.

However his tally of 13,539 votes easily outstripped the combined total of all four other candidates for the position, with his nearest rival, Rodney First's Beth Houlbrooke, coming second with 5850 votes.

Of the 21 councillor positions, only successful Ōrākei Ward candidate Desley Simpson gained a larger majority than Greg, but he only had one rival for his position.

Giving thanks to the voters for their continued support in electing him for a third term, Greg says: "it's a privilege to continue to represent Rodney."

While our councillor remains unchanged, the makeup of the Rodney Local Board is vastly different - although the Rodney First ticket still holds a majority, with five of the nine positions across the four ward subdivisions.

Only four of those positions went

to existing board members - Brent Bailey in our Kumeū Subdivision, Louise Johnston in the Dairy Flat Subdivision (re-elected unopposed), Tim Holdgate in the Warkworth Subdivision, and Colin Smith in the Wellsford Subdivision.

In the Kumeū Subdivision, local road campaigner and independent candidate Geoff Upson easily headed the result with 5340 votes. The remaining three positions were all taken by Rodney First candidates, Guy Wishart on 3978 votes, Brent Bailey on 3708, and Mark Dennis on 3467.



• Re-elected Rodney Ward councillor Greg Sayers

Councillor optimistic re working with new Mayor

Re-elected Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers is optimistic that under new Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown he will be able to "get some traction" in his efforts to end wasteful and unnecessary Council spending and get the organisation back to its core business.

That would help keep rates increases down, and deliver better results while improving the customer experience when dealing with Council, he says.

Greg says he and the Mayor have "got off to a positive start."

"Our discussion included the state of the unsealed and sealed roads within Rodney," says Greg. "The Mayor was very keen to see this rectified."

Greg says the Mayor wants changes

made at the Board of Directors level of Council Controlled Organisations, including replacing professional directors with qualified roading engineers at Auckland Transport - an approach Greg supports.

Trains to Huapai were also discussed at the meeting, with the Mayor wanting to know what opportunities are available for electrification of the rail line to Kumeū and further north, including Helensville.

Greg says he suggested the Mayor ask NZTA Waka Kotahi to bring forward the construction of the Kumeū bypass, citing the need to deal with SH16's traffic congestion and avoiding the escalating cost of land.

"My overall impression is Brown is going to make a number of disruptive changes to Auckland Council for the better," says Greg.



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Arts in the

Perfect weather and a crowd eager to attend events following Covid restrictions and the cancellation of last year's event, saw people flock to Arts in the Ville this year.

By the Saturday afternoon, when *Helensville News* spoke with some of the exhibitors, they had already had almost as many visitors as the whole previous event, with two full days of the Labour Weekend event still to go.

Adults and children alike were taking the chance to find 20 'hidden' red objects as part of a treasure hunt, the prize for which was this Jeff Thomson original rooster sculpture (right).

The new Makers' Market in the Helensville School hall was popular with a wide range of art and crafts on sale.



• Above: 'Yarn bombing' all over town heralded Arts in the Ville 2022



• Above & Right: Parts of the Enchanted Garden exhibit 'grown' by the Helensville Floral Art Club in the Duke of Albany Lodge building

• Below: Sisters Adele Stanley & Kristina Priest with some of Kristina's artworks



ville



• Above: Blacksmith Chris Ellwood doing a demonstration

• Top Left: Musicians playing in the Whimsical Garden of Nick and Tracey Roberts



• Left: The new Makers' Market was a popular venue with a wide range of art and crafts on offer

• Below: Demonstrations of embroidery and spinning took place in the Helensville Library



• Yvonne Abercrombie admires paintings by Rosemary Parcell at Helensville Art Centre



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UK medal haul for Waka Ama youth

Four local youth took a big medal haul at the recent IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championships held at Dorney Lake, London.

Jake Cameron, Jessica Cameron, Sam Lees, and Jacob Lees are all current or former Kaipara College students who had their passion for Waka Ama (known as Va'a overseas) ignited under coach Israil Foreman at the college.

Two years of Covid restrictions and cancellations meant there hadn't been much competition, but the four locals decided to try and gain places on the New Zealand team's Elite Squad.

That meant training solo a lot due to Covid restrictions up until the qualifiers in April, where Jake and his sister Jessica qualified to represent New Zealand in the W1 under 19 category, while all four were selected to represent Nga Hoe Horo Club in the W6 category.

Training through winter involved a lot of time on the Kaipara River and travelling to training camps all over the North Island.

The hard work paid off. Jake (18 at the time) earned one gold, two silver and two bronze while Jessica (17) brought home two silver and one bronze. Sam (16) won one gold, two silver and one

bronze, and Jacob (18) one silver and two bronze medals.

Their London experience has encouraged the four to further pursue the sport with the aim of competing at the next long distance world event in Samoa next year, and the next sprint event to be held in Hawaii in 2024.

They give thanks to River Valley Meats and everyone who supported the meat raffle they ran to help with cost to get to London. They also acknowledge the support of their club Tu Tangi Ora Waka Ama Club, and Parkview Developments for their support and funding towards the trip. Jake and Jessica also thank the Helensville Lions for their support toward the London trip.



• L-R Jake, Jessica, Jacob, and Sam with the medals

New faces at Helensville library

Regulars to Helensville Library will notice some new members to the team there.

Joy started in August as Senior Library and Council Services Assistant. New to libraries, she has a background in education and councils overseas.

There are three new part-time Library and Council Service Assistants: Kim has a background in science and food; Richelle in education, carework, fashion, and props making; and Linda, who has been a casual helper at the library for a number of years, has now joined permanently and helps with the library's read-aloud sessions at Craigweil House in Parakai.

The 'newbies' join the library's more familiar faces: manager Sally, who has been there more than 15 years; 'Rainbow Lady' Anne who is the Senior Librarian Children and Youth; full-time assistant Rachel; and part-timer Alison.

The Library and Service Centre will be operational in one form or another throughout the current refurbishment work on the hall building. Staff are also working with the mobile library team to pop up at other locations over the summer, and are finalising details for a regular stop at Kaukapakapa.

The library Facebook page will list any changes to opening hours and availability.

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New manager, merger for CAB

More big changes are afoot at Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau. After its recent move to a new location at 16 Commercial Road, the Helensville branch has a new manager - and is undergoing a merger.

New manager Rani Timoti has replaced Karen Rutherford, who has re-located with her husband Chris to the South Island.

Rani juggles her part-time CAB position with being an adult literacy and numeracy, English as a second or other language, and communication workplace trainer. She began her new role on November 1. Acknowledging Karen's training and encouragement, she says: "Karen led for seven years and was very much a pillar of support in so many ways, especially helping volunteers and board members behind-the-scenes, never looking for the limelight but serving us as the best leaders do."

"Her consistent hard work and networking with our community continues to be her invaluable legacy for our bureau."

Rani has built up an understanding of CAB work, values, and policies as a volunteer and board member since 2016 and is looking forward to the learning curve of her new role.

"There's so much potential for growing our community connection in Helensville and surrounding districts," says the Muriwai resident. "However, empowering clients and collecting evidence to address issues at a systemic level is our first priority and why we exist."

Helensville CAB volunteers, who have now settled into their new office, are also looking forward to the benefits a merger with CAB North Shore will bring.

"Our merger won't affect our identity and name as CAB Helensville," says Rani. "The public won't notice anything different from our usual service for them. In fact, I expect us to become busier and have a stronger presence in our community."

"The merger benefits us because we'll be free of the administrative side with not having to find a board or do tasks like the accounts."

Helensville will join the six other branches already under the CAB North Shore umbrella.

Benefits of the merger will include being able to tap into specialist teams, and having a larger pool of resources for learning and development, recruitment and training of volunteers, and publicity and media.

"I will be able to just focus on volunteers and networking with the community instead of all the 'paper work' which often goes with this type of role and ties managers to a desk," says Rani.

"Our ways of working need to change and our volunteers are right behind this merger."

Rani says the merger was something the board was looking at especially following the impact of Covid, which brought changing demands on clients who have been directed online by government departments and other organisations, often despite the need for face-to-face support and difficulties with digital literacy.

Helensville CAB is open Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm. Phone 09 420 7162 or email: helensville@cab.org.nz or visit: www.cab.org.nz for the national website.



• L-R: New Helensville CAB manager Rani Timoti, volunteer Lindy McDermott, board member Bethne Smith, board chairman Oliver Glen

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If this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you.
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Lions celebrate 60 years

The Lions Club of Helensville celebrated 60 years of service to the local community recently.

Members, former members, friends, and VIP guests got together for a lunch at the Hunting Lodge at Waimauku to mark the six decades since the club was chartered on September 12, 1962 with 17 members.

The day kicked off with a welcome by President Peter Hepburn, who introduced special guests including Vice District Governor Peter Henderson, former District Governor Murray Peck, Regional Chair Michael Pollitt, Zone Chair and Huapai-Kumeū club President Guy Wishart, Waimauku President John Sumner, and Henderson-West Auckland President Ian Bayer.

The club's longest-serving current member was acknowledged for his "sterling service." Dennis Cummings has been a member since 1976, but was unable to attend the celebration for personal reasons.

Formalities were kept to a minimum and the afternoon was spent reminiscing on past projects and looking toward the future. Guest speaker Peter Henderson spoke with humour about the huge number of projects the club has been responsible for in its 60 years.

Major projects in the early years included the purchase of an ambulance for the town after the mayor was tragically killed in an accident. Money raised in that project also went towards building the ambulance station, opened by then Governor-General Sir Arthur Porritt in 1968 while John Old was club president.

The club's biggest fundraiser for more than 25 years was the Matua Valley Wines Golf Tournament. Many local organisations benefitted from that including the fire brigade, St John, Kaipara College, Helensville Birthing Centre, the Helensville riverside walkway, and Rautawhiri Park.

In 1998 when Helensville's two banks announced that they were closing, the club organized the biggest public meeting seen in the town to protest, and invited the ASB to fill the void. That invitation was accepted, and they served the town alone until the arrival of Kiwi Bank.

The A&P Show has been supported for years and is a source of funds with the club catering for the officials as well as selling food.

Helensville Lions was one of the first Lions clubs to produce a local community telephone directory beginning in 1982, and 40 years later it is still a great source of funds.

The extension to the Kaipara Riverside Walkway was another major project, undertaken by the club to mark its 50th anniversary. More than 800 metres of pathway was built by members, completing the existing walkway. Planting of native species along the walkway continues annually with help from Auckland Council.

The club also played a part in the development of Rautawhiri Park with funding, then furnishing and equipping of the pavilion. More recently a fitness trail was built, with all the exercise apparatus supplied by the club.

The club's first book fair was held in March 2007 and proved so popular it's now held twice a year with more than 20,000 books on sale - a great source of funds for use in the community.

Other projects include the playground behind Helensville Library, a helicopter pad at Rautawhiri Park, the Running of the Roses, the Helensville Heritage Trail, and Christmas parades.

"This is just a snapshot of what the club has been up to over the last 60 years," says Lion Chris Clark. "Many other smaller projects are carried out daily but are no less important."

Like many community organisations, the Lions Club has struggled in recent years to maintain membership.

A 'Friends of Lions' group has been set up to cater for people not able to commit to being full members but keen to keep up with club news and help out at community projects when available.

"Helensville Lions is always prepared to accommodate members with different work or personal situations, and all are welcome," adds Chris.

Anyone interested in helping the community - while having fun - can contact Roland Ostring 420 6422, Chris Clark 420 8527, Scott Osmond 021 026 14495 or any other Helensville Lions Club member.



• Celebrating 60 years of the Lions Club in Helensville

the business

This has been an energizing time for our communities with local elections, a number of new businesses popping up and existing businesses moving premises, and alongside all of this the North West Country Business Awards, which were a great success.

The CAB has moved to 16 Commercial Rd in front of the Helensville Dental Centre, and Upholstery Services Helensville has moved up to the old butchery at 7 Commercial Rd, creating fantastic street views of what is available in-store and bringing life to an iconic commercial building which hasn't been occupied for some time.

Helensville is thrilled to see a number of new shops open on Commercial Rd, reflecting a strong local economy and recovery from Covid. Well-known local Andy Cummings has brought his Kumeū Meat Processors brand to Helensville with the opening of a store where the CAB was previously, and at 85 Commercial Rd we have a new hair salon, 'Chanelle Jade Hair Studio'.

Greatly anticipated, we also have Dominos Pizza opening on the main road next door to Mr Bon Café. While an international franchise will mean potentially unwanted competition for our other pizza restaurants it does show that this franchise has recognised the growing population and customer confidence in the Helensville area.

I would like to congratulate the wider business community which took part in our business awards, and particular admiration goes to South Kaipara Good Foods who cleaned up on the night with four awards including the acclaimed Supreme Award.

This will be my last column as the Chair of the North West Business Association, as I will be stepping down at our AGM to move into my newly elected role as a Rodney Local Board member. I wish our next Chair all the best, and I'm looking forward to working closely with our community on Local Board issues. It has been a real pleasure and honour to hold the position of Chair and to have the opportunity to support our business community through unprecedented times and uncertainties.

I see a bright future ahead for our local businesses which are better prepared and more resilient than ever before. Trying times have brought out the best in us and I can't wait to see what we will achieve in the coming years.

- Mark Dennis
Chair

North West Country Business Assn



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. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice plus a bouquet from Love Flowers.

November's recipient is Wendy Dunn, who chose a voucher for Unichem Pharmacy in Helensville.

Wendy was nominated by Melissa Harvey, who says: "I would like to nominate Wendy Dunn. Wendy is the Learning Support Coordinator at Waimauku School and has been the most amazing support for my daughter. I know Wendy has helped so many children over the years and I'd love her to be recognised for that. Thank you Wendy for all that you do!"



• Wendy Dunn



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KMR programme in full swing

The largest harbour restoration programme in New Zealand - the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme (KMR) - is now well underway.

Efforts to revitalise the health and mauri of the Kaipara Harbour through a globally significant environmental programme are progressing well according to KMR Pou Tātaki (leader) Justine Daw.

The programme is one of the most intensive afforestation efforts globally and one of New Zealand's largest catchment restoration programmes, investing \$4.67 million last year in projects to reduce sediment flowing into the Kaipara Harbour.

Two years after its formation, the KMR's operations are scaling up rapidly.

During its first full year of operations (to the end of June 2020), KMR worked with

fencing completed.

Millions of native plants are being grown at 17 accredited nurseries across the Kaipara area for the 2023 planting season and beyond.

While still in its early days, a key to KMR's success has been its focus on enhancing environmental and social outcomes, says Justine.

"The KMR kaupapa is to invest in local people to develop and sustain meaningful, nature-based employment, and support people who whakapapa to the Kaipara returning home to work on the project," she says.

"By investing in communities, KMR is growing social equity and more sustainable, long-term relationships with the whenua."

KMR recently joined forces with the New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM) to strengthen training and employment outcomes in the Kaipara Harbour catchment and beyond.

NZARM and KMR will work together to upskill KMR contractors across the Kaipara catchment, including kaitiaki from iwi/hapū partners working with KMR, as well as supporting the development of a national network of freshwater farm planners.

The Kaipara Moana is the largest natural harbour in the Southern

Hemisphere, and of global significance. It's the home to rare and threatened species, including migratory birds from the northern hemisphere, and contains some of the rarest ecosystems in New Zealand.

Not only is the Kaipara Moana important ecologically, it has deep cultural and economic significance.

The harbour is home to several iwi/hapū groups, with local taonga species providing food and medicine, underpinning cultural

• To Page 15



• The KMR team, Back: Stephanie Versteeg, Tahiroa Bishop, Darren van Beek; Middle: Karina Marsom, Sandra Harris, Duncan Kervell, Sue-Anne Moo; Front: Justine Daw, Ben Hope, Lisette Rawson, Griffin Hope

285 landowners to deliver Sediment Reduction Plans (SRPs) covering more than 40,000 hectares of land. In addition, KMR landowners committed to an additional 380,000 plants and 238 kilometres of fencing.

By the end of June this year, 253 landowners were actively implementing SRPs, with a focus on fencing land and planting native trees near waterways.

The target for the 2022-2023 financial year is to have more than half a million native plants in the ground and a further 250km of

Top prize at Cruise In for Helensville truck

Helensville's Dave Swale won both the Best Pick Up and Best in Show trophies at the recent Aroha Cruise In, an annual car event held at Te Aroha.

Dave is a member of the Kaipara Classic Car Club, which has attended the Aroha Cruise In since it started in 2007. Including affiliated members, about 40 local car enthusiasts made the trip down to Te Aroha - Dave's birth town - for this year's show.

Dave's 1952 Ford F-2 ute won the Best Pick Up award for the fourth time, and his enormous 1956 Ford F750 Big Job truck, which he used to carry the smaller pick up to the show, took out the Best in Show prize.

He's owned the F-2 pick up for around 15 years, turning it into what's known as a restomod - a stock body but with modified mechanicals. In this case it has a 302 Boss Mustang V8 engine and rides on independent Jaguar running gear, which Dave says means it drives like a modern car rather than the "old bone shaker" it was when he first purchased it.

Another Kaipara Classic Car Club

member, Ryan Peterken, won the Best Custom award for his roof-chopped 1952 Chevrolet sedan.

Aroha Cruise In is held on the main streets of Te Aroha, which includes State Highway 26, and is one of the only car shows in New Zealand to close a State Highway.



• Dave with his trophies and winning trucks, big and not-so-big

Over the years the number of classic cars, motorbikes, hot rods, and other special interest vehicles taking part has trebled to around 900, with 5000 to 6000 participants and spectators.

The event incorporates a food festival, plus a market, live bands, and other entertainment. Elvis even made an appearance this year.

KMR programme cont...

• From Page 14

practices, and connecting people to place.

The Kaipara is also the breeding ground for New Zealand's valuable snapper fishery.

Decades of deforestation and intensified land use have degraded the catchment. Less than 10 percent of original native forest cover and just five percent of wetlands remain, leading to a seven-fold increase in soil erosion and associated sediment washing into rivers and the harbour.

As a Jobs for Nature investment, KMR has a dual focus on growing people into new 'green economy' jobs, says Justine.

Since November 2021, KMR has developed training courses to upskill more than 50 local 'KMR field advisors', including tangata whenua, to work with landowners.

KMR has also accredited 17 nurseries and 22 local contractors, and generated more than 60,000 hours of work, bringing tangible benefits to local communities.

Farmers, iwi/hapū, and community groups interested in fencing off riparian and wetland areas and preparing land for planting over spring and summer are invited to complete an expression of interest at: kmr.org.nz/landowner-expression-of-interest.

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community tidbits from town and around

■ OPEN MIC NIGHT

An inaugural Open Mic Night will be held at South Head Golf Club on Friday, November 11, open from 6pm with performances starting 7pm. Organiser Jas Sergeant is billing the event as a family-friendly variety-style community event, open to anyone to perform whatever they want, be it music, comedy, karaoke, lip sync, magic, or poetry. The only rule is the performance must be family-friendly. Performers have 15 minutes, and must book a time slot with Jas, phone 021 184 2626. Entry is free, though there will be an honesty box for donations to help cover the cost of the venue.

■ KAIPARA BAR SEMINAR

Coastguard Kaipara will hold a free Kaipara Bar Crossing seminar on Tuesday, November 15 from 7pm to 9:30pm in the Helensville Primary School hall in Rata Street, Helensville. Aimed at boaties intending to cross the notorious Kaipara bar, the evening will arm them with the information they need before deciding to

make a crossing. As well as the talk there will be practical learning stations for attendees to upskill or test their skills.

To reserve a spot phone 0800 408 090 or email: bookings@boatingeducation.org.nz by November 11. Light refreshments will be available.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market on Sunday, November 20 from 8.30am to 1pm will feature free hair plaiting for children and live music from duo Take 2. There will be the usual selection of quality stalls and plenty of tasty treats to enjoy with a freshly made coffee. For more information email Sarah on: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz or phone her on: 0274 831542

■ 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.

Poker Run returns to raise fire brigade cash

After a year's absence caused by Covid, the annual 5 Station Poker Run fundraiser for local fire stations is on again this month.

Now in its 16th year, the popular motorcycle event usually attracts around 150 to 200 motorcyclists, who follow a scenic route around the area calling in at each of the five local fire stations, at Helensville, Shelly



• Around 150 motorbikes assembled outside Kaukapakapa fire station for the last Poker Run

Beach, Kaukapakapa, Kumeū, and Muriwai.

Each year one of the five stations plays host to the event, and all funds raised go to the host station - as much as \$6000. At the last Poker Run in 2020 Kaukapakapa was host station - this year it's Muriwai's turn.

The five volunteer fire brigades all work together on fire callouts around the district, and the run is a way for members to get together in a social way while raising funds at the same time.

The host station is the start and finish point for the run. Riders pay \$35 to take part in the run (\$30 if pre-booked online), which all goes to the host station. At each station on

the run, riders receive a playing card, and at the end of the event the riders with the best poker hands win prizes.

The motorcycles are generally a broad mix of Harley Davidson, Triumph, Norton, Ducati, and Japanese bikes, with often some older, classic bikes taking part. There are usually a few trikes as well.

The ride is described as a fun, relaxed and safe event, with pillion riders welcome and an emphasis on enjoying a ride with other motorcycle enthusiasts.

This year's 5 Station Poker Run will be held on Sunday, November 27. Registrations start at 8.30am with the ride itself beginning at 10am.

Motorcyclists wanting to take part can enter on the day, or purchase tickets online up until Wednesday, November 16 at: www.5stationpokerrun.co.nz.

The ticket price includes a meal after the event.

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