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Helensville businesses sweep awards

Helensville businesses have again shone at the North West Country Business Awards, taking out all the top prizes along with five of the eight category awards.

South Kaipara Good Food was the hero of the awards night, held in late September, taking out the Supreme Award along with the Environmental Excellence Award, Best New Business, and the category win for Best Not For Profit.

The other top prize, the People's Choice Award, went to Commercial Road retailer Paper Plus Select.

In the individual business categories, Skydive Auckland won in Recreation, WOW Sushi in Hospitality, Helensville Mechanical Services in Manufacturing and Trade Services, and River Valley Meats in Rural Services.

Highly Commended gongs went to Parakai 4 Square in the Retail category, Parent Aid North West in Not For Profit, and Cleaver's Edge in Rural Services.

The other three category winners were: Marbles People & Culture Hub Huapai (Business & Professional Services); Anea Warner Salon Kumeū (Health & Beauty); and Stihl Shop Kumeū (Retail).

The supreme winner was chosen from the winners of the eight business categories, and the judges called the winner, South Kaipara Good Food, "an outstanding organisation."

They went on to describe SKGF as having "excellent marketing strategies which contribute greatly to the success of this non for profit."

"You have phenomenal community involvement. You deserve to be very proud of the work and your achievements to date - and the future looks very positive with people like you doing what you do."

"We are truly humbled by the judges' feedback and their recognition of what we are doing to address food insecurity within the South Kaipara community," says SKGF chief executive Gemma Donaldson.

"It was one of the biggest privileges of my life to stand up and represent our team and those we support. A special thanks to those who have supported us on our journey and lent a hand with time, advice, or a donation. It means the world to us and the whānau we support."

In the closely-fought People's Choice Award, the judges said it was good to see how winner Paper Plus Select kept in contact with its customers during lockdown to keep business going, adding: "being recognised for good results in tough times [is] a great achievement."

"I'm incredibly proud and incredibly humbled," says Paper Plus Select owner April Ashton. "The love that we've received has been great."



• SKGF volunteers, staff and board members celebrate their award

River Valley Meats, which recently opened a retail outlet in Commercial Road, came in for praise from the judges for its win in the Rural Services class.

"The way your business connects with its community is a mixture of passion and strategic partnerships. Good planning, business agility, and genuine hard work are obvious."

Commenting on WOW Sushi's win in the Hospitality category, the judges said it was "great to see a business able to get growth even while being hit by Covid and lockdowns. Overall, a great business with thought going into sustainability, community support, and those medium term goals."

Parakai-based Recreation category winner Skydive Auckland also received the judges' kudos, describing it as "an exceptionally diverse and innovative business."

"You have a great many achievements, good market awareness, multiple streams of activity, and goals you hope to achieve, all of which will add to the sustainability of the business."

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editorial

After two years of lockdowns and restrictions, it's great to see life coming back to the Helensville area with some major events on the way.

First up is a completely new event, Big Little Local, which will be held at Rautawhiri Park on Saturday, October 15. It looks to be a bit like a giant-scale 'meet your neighbour' type of event, getting locals in touch with each other, and with local businesses and community organisations. As editor of this paper I probably have my finger on the pulse of what's going on around our town a little better than most, but I still find myself coming across businesses - usually home-based - that I didn't even know existed. Read more on page 8, and make sure to support this new event.

Next is the return of Arts in the Ville (page 9), which got caught in Covid's crosshairs last year. From fairly humble beginnings it has grown into a major event for the town, bring in visitors from around Auckland - and always very popular with locals, too. We really are lucky to live in an area with so many talented arts and crafts people.

And finally (at least until the return next February of our biggest event, the Helensville A&P Show) is the first Auckland Blues Festival (page 3), being held at South Head in early November. Boasting a lineup of leading New Zealand and overseas blues talent, this is something completely new for our area and sure to bring in lots of out-of-towners.

Lastly, congratulations to all the winners in the Northwest Country Business Awards, announced just before we went to press. Just being a finalist is a fabulous effort, and the winners can be justifiably proud to be chosen as the best of the best locally - a superb effort which has again seen Helensville businesses punch well above their weight to take out most of the awards. See the front page for the rundown of winners.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Minister, MP visit local schools

The Associate Minister of Education and Minister for Women, the Hon Jan Tinetti, visited a series of local schools and work sites in early September.

She was hosted by MP Marja Lubeck, the Labour list MP in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate.

The Minister spent a busy two days visiting eight schools and meeting with young women apprentices.

The Minister visited Parakai, Kaukapakapa and Huapai schools among others. As a former principal of a Decile 1 school in Tauranga Minister Tinetti was impressed with the school lunch programme operating at Parakai School, which was developed in conjunction with the Parakai Four Square supermarket.

Principals at the schools she visited had a chance to discuss with the Minister about how the schools are coping with the challenges of recovering from the Covid 19 pandemic.



• Kaukapakapa School had the welcome sign out for its visitors, Hon Jan Tinetti (left) and Marja Lubeck

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Jana Mills



Blues Festival coming to South Head

After nearly two decades of planning, the first Auckland Blues Festival will be held at South Head on Saturday, November 12.

The event's line-up reads like a who's who of the blues music scene, including leading New Zealand musicians like Midge Marsden Band, Ash Grunwald, and Fiona Boyes & The Fortune Tellers, along with top Australian artists like Jeff Lang and Nathan Cavaleri.

The acts also include Albi & The Wolves, Cat Tunks Ft. Blackstratblues, Jimi Kara & The Psychedelic Bluesos, Kokomo, Blue Collar Band, Laura Collins & The Back Porch Blues Band, Original Sun, Paul Ubana Jones, The Caramelos, The Flaming Mudcats, The Solomon Cole Band, and Lil Lach, with even more expected.

Many of the artists have played internationally.

To be held at Leighton's farm in Wilson Road, South Head, the one-day, one-night festival will feature two stages, the White Stag stage complete with shade canopies and rain cover, and the Blues Jam Bar, between them covering all styles of blues music.

There will be food trucks, boutique licensed cocktail bars, buses to and from site as well as free camping, glamping, and other luxury on-site accommodation options.

The bar and entertainment for campers will continue for around 90 minutes after the main stage closes, and breakfast and coffee will be available in the morning for over-nighters.

The event is being organised by the same people who put on the three-day Aum New Year's Festival, a music, dance and art event held at the same venue.

They say the Auckland Blues Festival will feature "one of the best sound systems in the world" and describe the event as "a beautiful family focused, boutique and

bespoke blues festival designed for discerning tastes."

Describing the Wilson Road venue as one of the most beautiful festival sites in the country, they add: "expect a day in paradise and to be treated like family."



• Blues artist Ash Grunwald will perform

Tickets for the festival cost \$195 excluding fees, and are available online from: www.ticketfairy.com. For more information visit: www.bluesfestival.co.nz.

Society formed to fight solar farm

An Incorporated Society has been formed to fight the consenting of the proposed solar power farm off Rogan Avenue in Helensville.

The Helensville Group Opposing Solar Farm Construction Incorporated has already held several meetings, with a focus on the environmental impacts of the project.

Anyone can join, with membership costing \$10. For more information email: hgosfcinc@outlook.com or phone 021 252 9204. The group is also on Facebook.

Submissions to Auckland Council close on Thursday, October 6. Submissions can be made online on the Auckland Council website at: <https://bit.ly/3f8TreR>.

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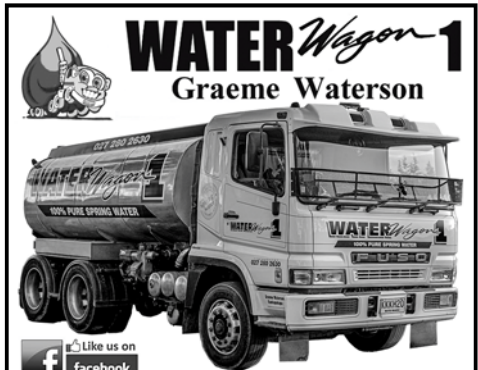
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Plans afoot for Good Food project

After winning four awards - including the Supreme Award - at last month's North West Country Business Awards, South Kaipara Good Food isn't resting on its laurels.

Chief executive Gemma Donaldson says a number of new initiatives will start in the coming months.

Kai Grow is one such initiative, focused on community, urban and market gardens.

Kai Grow team leader Jo Ogilvie is working with local organisations to establish the community garden concept in the area. Plans are underway to augment existing food gardens, with local schools like Helensville Primary and Waioneke School already on board with the project.

In October, another project commences at the Health Trust campus.

James Scott, general manager of the Helensville District Health Trust says: "we are very excited to be able to support this vital community initiative. There are areas of under-utilised garden space at the Trust's campus on Commercial Road and Porter Crescent, so it really makes sense. To be able to support the health and well-being of the community by providing space to grow fresh kai really aligns with the Trust's principles."

Thirdly, an educational programme called Kai Learn will kick off its spring/summer schedule in the coming months. Classes such as cooking with food rescue, saukraut for gut health, cheese making on a budget, and preserving and jam making are already planned.

Gemma is immensely proud of her team. "Only with enthusiastic and client-focused staff, volunteers who contribute



• Helensville Primary student Harrison Havill gets his hands dirty in the school's vege gardens

more than 320 hours a month, and a community that truly cares, are we able to achieve what we do."

SKGF's Kai Assist programme (previously called Kai Collective Te Awaroa) has provided more than 4000 food parcels since November 2021. Financial hardship in our community has seen a significant rise in demand for the parcels, with roughly 125 headed out the door each week - a figure which is growing.

New footpaths for Kaukapakapa

Two new footpaths are being planned for Kaukapakapa to better link the village with the school, community hall and local residential area. Rodney Local Board has set aside \$3.25 million from the Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate fund to design and construct the footpaths, which are aimed at improving pedestrian safety and access in the village.

A 420m footpath on the eastern side of SH16 to the north of the village will link North Crescent with the village centre and will include two pedestrian crossings, while a 164m (new and upgraded) footpath on the west side of SH16 from the village shops to Kaukapakapa School and the hall will include a new pedestrian crossing, a new parking layout, and outdoor amenity space near local businesses.

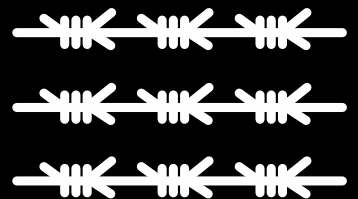
AT will work with Kaukapakapa stakeholders and Waka Kotahi over the next few months to develop a detailed design, with construction planned to start early next year.

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St John service awards

The Hato Hone St John Helensville Area Committee held an afternoon tea in early September to recognise and celebrate service awards received by local members - an event long-delayed by Covid 19.

Presentations were made by Northern Area patron, Sir Richard Blundell KStJ following an introduction by Helensville Area Committee chair Dr John Elliott OSTJ.

The St John Service Medal is awarded after 10 years of service and every five years, a bar is added to it. The Service Medal is unique as it is the only one still issued which features the profile of Queen Victoria, under whose charter of 1888 the Order of St John was established as a Royal Order of Chivalry.

A 10 year medal was presented to Ali Constable, who has been an ambulance officer at Helensville since 2008 and has served as an Auckland training tutor. She is currently the Helensville operations support officer.

Marcel Hendricks, who started in Helensville as a volunteer ambulance officer in 2005 and who is still at Helensville Station as a Volunteer EMT, received his 15 year bar, as did John Issott. John started with St John in 2006 with the Helensville Area Committee and since 2014 he has been the treasurer. He also works in the Op shop and is a member of the Regional Order Affairs Committee. For his services to St John, he was made a Member of the Order, by the

Queen, in 2016.

The final award went to John's wife, Eve Issott - a Priory Vote of Thanks. These are awarded, on the recommendation of the Priory Honours Committee and Priory Chapter, to recognise significant service, contribution, or support given to St John.



• L-R: Marcel Hendricks, Ali Constable, Lorene Cassidy-Venczellak (Northern Order Affairs Manager), Eve Issott, Dr John Elliott (Hvle Area Committee Chair), John Issott, Julie Wall (Hvle Station Manager), Sir Richard Blundell (St John Patron)

They can be awarded to external individuals, societies, groups, or businesses, as well as to St John members.

Recipients receive a framed certificate, signed by the Governor General, who is the St John NZ Prior, along with St John Chancellor, Mr John Whitehead CNZM KStJ. Eve's award, from last year, was one of the last acts by Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM QSO DStJ.

Eve received her award for organising and leading welfare support for the operational crews, both locally and monthly at Auckland hospital, overnight on Saturdays, throughout the year. Since the start of Covid, with the huge demand on ambulances, crews were often not getting a proper break. Taking hot drinks and food to the hospital bay enables them to have a short respite and recharge.

After the presentations, family and friends joined the recipients for an afternoon tea to recognise the support they give which enables members to do their roles.

Local Board meeting

Rodney Local Board's next business meeting is on Tuesday, November 1, when the new local board members will be inducted and a chairperson and deputy elected.

Meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed online at: infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

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Turning the Tide walk to raise funds to help children, youth

Helensville-based Kindred Family Services is inviting the communities of North West Rodney to take to Muriwai Beach on Sunday, November 20 to help raise \$30,000 to support children and youth.

The Turning The Tide fundraising event has options of a 17km walk or 5km gentle walk on Muriwai Beach, and for the first time this year there is a 1.5km whānau trail with fun activities for children and families to enjoy.

Kindred invites locals to choose the walk which best suits them, and encourages groups of five or more to enter the teams event and compete for prizes, recognition, and social status.

Kindred clinical manager Kim Wills, says Kindred has accepted, on average, seven new referrals per month over the past year for children and youth facing complex and overwhelming challenges in their lives. That's 84 young people annually requiring at least 10 counselling sessions for themselves and their families.

That's a significant increase on previous years - a symptom of the trials of Covid 19 - and Kindred believes referrals could easily triple given the growing demand, which is stretching the organisation's funds.

"Our work with tamariki and rangatahi in our communities has demonstrated to us that they are brave, intelligent, resourceful, and hopeful for a better future," says Kim.

"We can work together with schools,



• L-R: Dale Wallace, Karen Greenbrook, and Sonja Boric enjoy the last Turning the Tide walk

families, and our community to provide the necessary care and support they need to heal, build on their strengths, and grow into thriving, confident citizens."

Ana Christmas, executive director at Kindred, also highlights how, not only are the counsellors in high demand but there is a need for more spaces for therapeutic sessions to take place, both in and out of the school environment. She hopes the community will get behind the fundraising effort and help Kindred to create these spaces so it can reduce the barriers to support for local children.

"With \$30,000 Kindred can deliver an additional 300 therapy sessions for children, youth, and their families," says Ana.

"This intervention will work alongside existing programs and tools that promote a loving, safe, and supportive home environment through these challenging times."

With the help of local organisations, including Generation Homes, Rollercoaster, and Lions Waimauku, Kindred are already partway toward their \$30,000 target, and are optimistic the community will show up on the day and help get them all the way there.

For more information and to get tickets, visit the Turning The Tide events page on Facebook, or the Kindred Family Services website, www.kindredservices.org.nz.

Rugby Club AGM

Helensville District Rugby Football Club will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, starting 7pm in the club rooms at 162 Awaroa Road.

For more information visit: www.helensvillerugby.co.nz.

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Descendants of settler family celebrate

Almost 40 descendants of early Parakai settlers James and Catherine Archibald gathered in Helensville last month to celebrate the 140th anniversary of their family's arrival in 1882.

With one member coming from as far afield as Australia, they visited the family grave at Helensville Cemetery, toured through the old Archibald homestead, and visited Helensville Museum.

James and Catherine were both born in 1851 in Scotland, James training as a shipwright.

Shortly after their marriage in 1876 they emigrated to Port Pirie in South Australia, where James worked as a ship builder and their first two children, Betsy and Maggie, were born.

Then in April 1882 they came to New Zealand, buying a 140 acre farm at Parkhurst, which they named Glencairn after the family farm in Scotland.

James built first a small shack, and then a proper house, which still exists today at 85 South Head Road. He tried a range of cropping on the farm, and raised cattle, sheep and horses, and also did repair work on the tall ships which arrived in the Kaipara Harbour.

The couple's other four children were

New (temporary) home for Book Fair

The Lions Club's Christmas Book Fair will be at a different location this year.

Because its usual venue, the Helensville War Memorial Hall, is closed due to remedial construction work, the fair will be held for the first time in the main building at the Helensville Showgrounds, over the weekend of November 26 and 27.

While a little further away than usual, the showgrounds is only five minutes from the hall and has ample parking, making it an ideal venue for book bargain hunters.

And their should be plenty of those bargains, with organiser Chris Clark saying: "There's fresh stock arriving almost daily, so there will be plenty there for all tastes."

born at Parkhurst, James III (1882), Adelaide (1886), Alexander (1889), and Chloris (1891).

The children attended Parkhurst School, located on the corner of South Head and Evans Roads and which closed around 1920. James served on the school committee there for 10 years, and later on son James III (known as Jim) did too.

Daughter Maggie was a teacher at Te Pua School for a time, riding side-saddle on her horse from the family home at Parkhurst.



• Three generations of Archibald family descendants visit Helensville Cemetery (with Glenn Archibald far right)

Son Alexander had died at the age of 9 and was buried at Helensville Cemetery. When James died from cancer in 1910 he was buried in the same plot, as was Catherine when she passed away some years later.

After James' death Jim took over the family farm, staying there until 1921 when the entire family moved to Papakura.

The family get together was organised by Glenn Archibald, who says it was "a very successful event and brought the current day families together, and hopefully will rebuild some broken connections."

The descendants also visited family locations around Papakura, and Glenn says a 150th anniversary based there is planned.

He gives special thanks to Kevin and Dawn Bayliss for allowing the visitors to tour the old family farmstead where they now live, to Helensville Museum for opening specially, Helensville St John for the use of their premises as a gathering point, the Auckland Council northern cemeteries staff.



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Big Little Local



Helensville first 'Big Little Local' event is on Saturday, October 15, and Nisha Page, who came up with the idea for the event, says she has had "an enthusiastic response from local suppliers and service providers to join the event."

Based at the Lions Club rooms at Rautawhiri Park, the event will run from 10am to 3pm.

The first 100 groups through the door on the day will receive goodie bags which will include a raffle ticket for spot prizes drawn throughout the day - and one of the bags will hold a mystery prize worth \$200.

Big Little Local is free, although there will be chances to spend a little money, with food trucks on hand, plus raffles (\$2 each or three tickets for \$5) to raise funds for Kindred Family Services. There will also be silent auctions for a cake sponsored by Sweet Retreat, a bespoke bouquet of flowers from Love Flowers, and a \$200 Spa voucher Nisha, a real estate agent at Harcourts the Difference in Commercial Road, has donated.

The aim of the event is to put locals in touch with the many local businesses and organisations they may not know about.

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Lodge will open during arts festival

Helensville's Duke of Albany Lodge - affectionally known as 'The Duke' - will be open to the public during Arts in the Ville over Labour Weekend, October 22-24.

As well as being the venue for the Helensville Floral Art Club's display, Lodge members will be on hand to answer the question: 'what lies behind the closed doors?'

Ask many people about Freemasonry and the response is usually about secret societies and handshakes. Over the weekend, Lodge members will explain to visitors the layout of the Lodge Room, its symbolism, the various roles, and progression within the Lodge structure. The hope is to attract new, younger members.

The Floral Art Club will hold its display in the Lodge's refectory, and the Lodge Room itself will be open from 10am to 2pm, with a free sausage sizzle from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

The Duke was named after Queen Victoria's son Prince Leopold, and has been a presence in Helensville for 138 years.

It was established in September 1884 and met at various venues in the town until a dedicated Lodge was built on the present site in Kowhai Street. That original building was destroyed by fire in 1939, and its replacement, still in use today, was completed in 1941.

The Lodge Room is a representation of King Solomon's Temple. The rituals

undertaken comprise allegories and symbolism which along with various stone mason's tools are used to communicate the principles of Freemasonry, with a focus on self-improvement.

As well as the Lodge Room the building incorporates a refectory or dining room with attached kitchen and store room.

Regular monthly meetings, originally held on the full moon to allow members arriving on horseback to find their way home in the dark, is made up of two distinct parts - a formal part incorporating any associated ritual held in the Lodge Room, and a meal in the refectory for socialising.

While handshakes of recognition form an important part of the ritualised initiation of candidates to the different degrees of Freemasonry, the layout of a Lodge Room and the foundation of the rituals themselves are freely communicated.



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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



Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Have you ever wondered about the interior of a Masonic Lodge and the Masonic tradition that dates back over 300 years?

The Duke of Albany Lodge

will have the LODGE ROOM open for viewing and explanation during the floral art display by the Helensville Floral Art Club during ARTS in the VILLE over Labour Weekend 22/23/24th October 10am - 2.00pm.

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE OPERATING BETWEEN 10.30 & 1.30

Helensville Masonic Centre, 9 Kowhai Steet, Helensville
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Arts in the Ville

The seventh annual Arts in the Ville festival will be held over the three days of Labour Weekend, October 22-24.

60 artists will be displaying their wares at 35 venues - a mix of artists' studios and pop-up galleries - around the Helensville district, with most of the artworks on sale.

Locals will be able to chat with the artists about their work methods.

A 'Makers' Market will be held for the first time, with craftspeople only allowed to sell items they make themselves. Because of the closure of Helensville War Memorial Hall for renovations, that will now be in the Helensville Primary School Hall.

Venues will be marked with bright pink flags to make them easy to spot, and maps showing all the locations will be available from the studios and the Arts in the Ville 'headquarters' in the school hall. Maps can also be downloaded from the event website: www.artsintheville.co.nz.

Venues will be open from 10am to 4pm each day, and the popular treasure hunt with a prize of a sculpture by Jeff Thomson is returning.

Locals may have seen the 'knitted graffiti' which has appeared around town, courtesy of local embroiderer Jo Dixey, to help promote the event.

For more information visit the website or check out the event's Facebook page.

Christian art festival to be part of AiV

A second Christian Arts Festival will be held as a 'pop-up gallery' as part of Labour Weekend's Arts in the Ville festival.

Keryn Bloxham (right) is one of the 26 artists who exhibited artwork at the first Christian Arts Festival over Waitangi Weekend this year, and she will exhibit again for Arts in the Ville.

The Christian Arts Festival pop-up will be held at 'The Lighthouse', which is part of Magnify Church at 118 Commercial Road.

"It was a great experience joining the exhibition," says Keryn. "The Lighthouse was full of different artists' work, and the opening night was a fun and relaxed event with different artists sharing poetry, song and more. I look forward to exhibiting again over Labour Weekend."

For Keryn, who lives in Helensville, drawing and painting realistically is her passion, with subject matter ranging from animals to landscapes. In the last five years she has also painted commissioned pet portraits in oils.

"Oil painting is probably my favourite medium, as the paintings are durable, ready to hang without framing, and I love the way oil paints blend so beautifully. I also love



• Keryn with one of her paintings

painting with watercolour and chalk pastels, plus photography."

At Arts in the Ville she will be displaying some larger works, like the painting she is pictured with here, and smaller more affordable prints on canvas and cards.

Her website is kerynbloxham.com, and her social media accounts are linked on her website.

Christian artists interested in exhibiting over Labour Weekend can email Pauline Denton at: paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com for a registration form. Artworks will need to be delivered to 'The Lighthouse' on Monday, October 17 between 2pm and 7pm.



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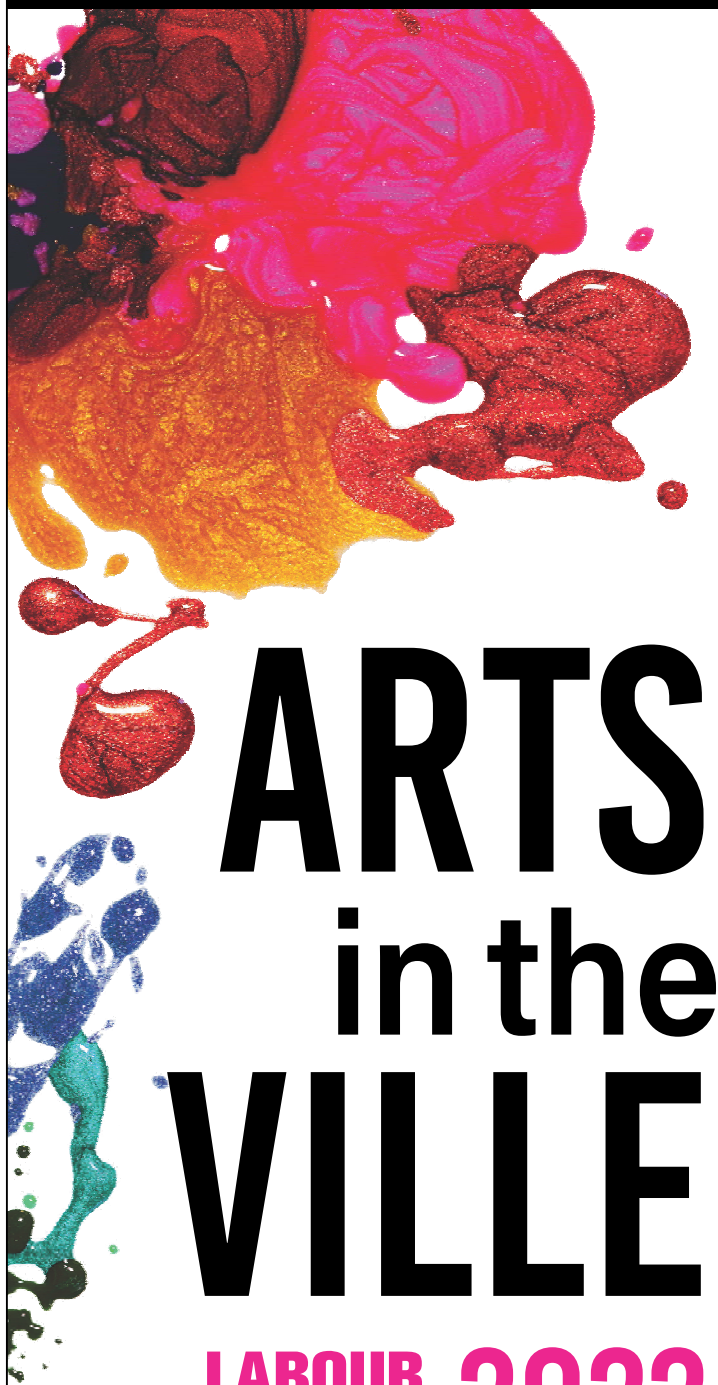
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Local athletics season starts this month

Helensville Athletics Club's season starts on Wednesday, October 26.

For children and youth aged from five years up to 14 years old (as at December 31 this year), the club enables local children to participate in a variety of track and field events such as sprints, high jump, long jump, shot put, and discus.

Affiliated to Athletics New Zealand, the club incorporates their 'Get Set Go' and 'Run Jump Throw' programmes.

The junior athletes are supported to train for their own personal goals - but also have the chance to set a club record, and even represent Helensville at interclub competitions if they wish.

Training during club nights is taken by trained student coaches from Kaipara College.

The club's aim is to provide fun, fitness, and healthy competitiveness while developing the children's skills and self-confidence.

Club days are held at Rautawhiri Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm, and the season runs until Wednesday, March 15, with a break over the summer holidays.

Registrations are available online at: www.sporty.co.nz/helensvilleathletic.

Season fees are Juniors (age 5 to 6) \$70, Juniors (age 7 to 9) \$85, and Squad Trainers (10 to 14 years old) \$95.

For more information follow facebook.com/helensvilleathletics.



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Armistice Day commemoration in November will be last RSA event before building closure

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will commemorate Armistice Day at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph at 11am on Friday, November 11 - 104 years after the Armistice was signed to end World War One.

Veterans, RSA members, and the public are encouraged to attend. Medals should be worn; if wearing a relative's medals they should be worn on the right chest. Light refreshments and drinks will be served in the RSA clubrooms after the service. The clubrooms will be open for meals on the Friday evening.

Any veterans who received their NZ Operational Service medal in the mail recently, are asked to please contact the RSA with their details.

The Armistice commemoration will be the Kaipara Memorial RSA's last event for 2022, as it has to close for seismic strengthening work being undertaken by Council contractors, which start on November 16.

Now, RSA members have to pack up and store all of the building's chattels and memorabilia until it reopens, hopefully at the end of February next year.

KMRSA president Rex Keane says the closure is far from ideal.

"We were just getting back on our feet after having to close over the last two years for the pandemic lockdowns and operating under the traffic light system, which has only just been abolished.

"However our veterans who have gone before us endured far harder times, so we shouldn't sweat the small stuff."

The RSA will continue to administer veterans' welfare and will relocate its mailbox and computers, so it can be contacted at the usual address - 49 Commercial Road, Helensville or email: kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz.



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Museum getting back on track

Helensville and District Historical Society was set up in 1968 to preserve material pertaining to the area's history, and the Helensville Museum was set up to house that material.

The museum is now coming out of a lengthy closure forced on it in 2019 by pests, mould, and rot attacking the collection.

That now dealt with, the museum's volunteers are turning their attention to its original purpose - to house archival material and display the artefacts which tell the stories of the district's history - and of course make them accessible to the public.

Archival material is still in the process of being scanned, digitised, and cross-referenced by Society President Toni Walmsley and other volunteers, while rejuvenating the museum's courthouse, the oldest building in Helensville and the first of its kind in New Zealand, has been a priority for other volunteers.

Two displays are now on show there, Kees van Uden's models of historic transport featured in the June 2022 issue of *Helensville News*, and the district's pre-digital Post Office, which has been upgraded with an illustrated timeline detailing stories from the past.

Plans are in place to add more features like a

hologram, a soundtrack, and a copy of the original Kaipara Land Court minute books.

Helensville Museum will be open during Labour Weekend's Arts in the Ville, with a display of Jeff Thomson sculptures.

Visitors will have the chance to be photographed in period costume using the tin-type photography methods of the 1800s. The cost per photograph is \$125 and people can provide their own costumes and props or hire a museum period costume for \$5. Photographs can be booked online at: www.helensvillemuseum.org.nz.

The museum has one paid employee, administrator Carol, with everything else done by volunteers with a range of expertise. There's currently an opportunity for a volunteer with experience in building work such as construction and gib installation. Anyone interested can email Toni at: helensvillemuseum@xtra.co.nz.

The museum is now open 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Wednesday, and at other times by arrangement.



• The historic Post Office has been upgraded with a timeline

Minecraft club starting at library

A free club for local children keen on playing the game Minecraft starts this month at Helensville Library. The idea of Jen Jones, it's being run along similar lines to Minecraft clubs held at other Auckland libraries.

Jen says it's an opportunity for children to meet other kids that love Minecraft, complete a weekly build challenge, and progress their digital skills and creativity.

Minecraft is a 3D computer game where players can build anything. The game has been described as like an online version of Lego and involves building blocks and creating structures across different environments and terrains. Set in a virtual world the game involves resource gathering, crafting items, building, and combat.

The club will formally start in Term 4 on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Children need to bring their own device with the Minecraft app on it, or they can share and learn with another kid. Jen is keen to hear from any Minecraft-loving parents or students who would like to be involved.

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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st 2022

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■ **Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:**

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■ www.helensvilleneews.co.nz

community tidbits from town and around

■ WAITOKI MARKET

A 'Mini Food Fest' featuring locally sourced produce will feature at the next Waitoki Market, in the Waitoki hall on Saturday, October 8 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Goods will include freshly smoked venison and beef salami, and traditional manuka smoked bacon supplied by The Cleavers Edge in Helensville, Wainui gourmet mushrooms, Fermented Foods, Kaipara honey, fresh herbs, pickles, and jams. Plus the market will have its usual range of baked goods, plants, essential oils, locally crafted gifts, and homemade and used items.

Prospective stall holders can email Gill at: markets4waitoki@gmail.com or phone her on 09 420 3301.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA CEILIDH DANCE

A ceilidh dance - Scottish dancing akin to a barn dance - is being held as a fundraiser for Kaukapakapa School on Saturday, October 8 in the Kaukapakapa hall.

Billed as fun for the whole family, doors will open at 7pm and dancing starts 7.30pm. It's a BYO drinks and nibbles events, although dessert, tea, and coffee will be available from the kitchen.

Tickets cost \$20 per person - phone Emma on 022 436 1800 or email: kpoevents587@gmail.com.

■ MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

The Waitoki Hall Committee is holding a Meet the Neighbour evening at the hall on Saturday, October 15 from 4.30pm to around 7pm. Locals are invited to bring friends, family, and their dinner, or just to call in to say hello to their neighbours.

There will be information about local businesses, and locals will be able to find out what's on at the hall and sign up, join in, or start their own class or event.

They will also be asked to help choose a colour to paint the hall, as well as discussing a 'shared food community stand'. There will be a free sausage sizzle as well.

For more information about the evening email: waitokihall@gmail.com, or visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/waitokicomunityhall.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, October 16 from 8.30am to 1pm, featuring live music from Jessica on the piano, free face

painting for children and a wide selection of stalls. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

■ HELENSVILLE PRIMARY AG DAY

After two years disrupted by Covid, Helensville Primary School will hold its Ag Day on Friday, October 28 from 4pm to 7.30pm. It's a chance for the school's budding farmers, agriculturists, and craft enthusiasts to show off their abilities.

The evening will feature animals, games, music, performances, displays of student work, and of course food.

In a move to keep the event low-waste, people are asked to bring their own plates, cutlery, and cup.

■ COMEDY MAGICIAN VISITS

Multi-award winning comedy magician Jarred Fell, who has performed extensively internationally, will hold a show at Kaipara Cruising Club on Saturday, October 29 from 7pm. A fundraising event for Sunny Days Community Preschool, tickets cost \$25 and include a light supper. Tickets are available from Sunny Days, or contact Sheena Johnson via Facebook or phone 021 144 0878.

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