



Students really dig planting at Kaipātiki Reserve

More than 150 senior students from Helensville and Woodhill schools, and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Raki Paewhenua on the North Shore, planted more than 2000 trees and shrubs at Kaipātiki Reserve in Parakai in late August.

Heavy rain the night before had made the paddock behind Te Whare Oranga rather swampy, but the children delighted in planting the natives, which included titoki, karamu, mingimingi, cabbage tree, kahikatea, kanuka, pukatea, kawakawa, whiteywood, harakeke, and kōwhai.

The planting was part of Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara's restoration programme, which is part of the management plan for the Kaipātiki Reserve (formerly Parakai Recreation Reserve) upgrade.

They partnered with the Auckland Council's Million Trees Programme to fund the plants for this season. Combined with a community planting day in July, more than 4700 plants in total have gone in the ground. Representatives from the programme were on hand to teach the children the species' names and how to go about planting.

Jane Sherard, chairperson of Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, the co-governance entity that oversees Kaipātiki, was also there helping the students with the planting.

Most of the plants came from Wainui-based supplier Scrub Growers, and South Head-based contractor Eli Foreman, who owns Native Tree Services, will undertake the plant maintenance and helped with preparation for the planting days.

• Left: Year 7 Woodhill School student Damien Anderson in planting mode

Hall, RSA to close for half a year

Helensville War Memorial Hall will be closed for approximately the next six months.

Major construction work to deal with water-tightness issues, earthquake protection, and fire safety improvements are due to start in September on the hall and RSA building.

The work, which is planned for completion in February next year, means the hall and meeting rooms will be closed while the work is underway.

"Unfortunately this will mean this important community asset won't be available and this will be inconvenient to all," says

Rodney Local Board chair Phelan Pirrie. "We appreciate your understanding during this time, and look forward to having a safer, improved facility reopened in 2023."

The Kaipara Memorial RSA rooms will also be closed from October 14 for the remainder of the work.

The Helensville library and council service centre will be open throughout the remedial works, but may have to close for short periods - possibly at short notice - due to dust or noise.

Updates will be available on Facebook at: [HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre)

Election feature and candidates' meeting

We have more than six pages of election coverage starting on Page 8. Here you can read what the candidates for both Rodney Councillor and our Local Board have to say.

There will be a public meeting for Rodney Councillor and local board candidates in the Auckland Council elections at St Chad's Church in Huapai, starting 7pm on Wednesday, September 14.

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editorial

Vote.

I can't make the message any simpler than that.

Voting for the election of our Auckland Council - Mayor and local Councillor - and Rodney Local Board starts on Friday, September 16 and runs up to election day, October 8. Eligible voters should receive their voting papers by September 21 at the latest.

There are two things most people like to do - complain about the government, and complain about local government (and their rates bill in particular). So this is your chance to have your say on the latter. If you don't have your say, you don't really have a right to complain...

We've got an election feature starting on page 8 where candidates for the position of Rodney Councillor, and those standing for the Kumeū subdivision of the Rodney Local Board, give us their electioneering best. There are a lot of candidates this election - five for the councillor's job and 11 standing for the Local Board, so there is a lot of choice for once. Most, but not all, candidates chose to take part in our feature.

If you have specific subjects that particularly interest you, ask the candidates directly and see what they are offering. You should be able to contact them by email or telephone. Ask them each the same question (or questions) and see what responses you get.

I would ask that when you do vote, don't just follow your own self interests. Think about what's going to be best for our area as a whole, and also Auckland as a whole. It's easy to be parochial and just think about our little neck of the woods (and sure, we do want the best possible outcome for the South Kaipara) but we are part of the 'super' city after all.

It's also important to remember that, even more so than with central government, there is a limited pot of cash to go around. Yes, we all want better roads, better this, more of that... but that all costs money, and no-one wants to pay more rates. I'm sure there are lots of cost-cutting efficiencies Auckland Council could make that would help, but just remember to be realistic in your wish list.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Scholarships for business, commerce students

Students at Kaipara College are eligible to apply for one of three \$2000 study scholarships towards an undergraduate Bachelor of Commerce or Bachelor of Business Studies qualification.

While the scholarships are being offered by accounting firm UHY Haines Norton, the subjects to be studied and majored within the degree are entirely up to the student and don't have to be accounting-related.

The scholarships are being offered to Year 13 students at selected West and North West Auckland secondary schools, including Kaipara College.

Students may nominate themselves, or be nominated by friends, family, teachers, or community contacts.

The scholarships are aimed at students

who want to pursue a career in business or commerce. In addition to academic achievement, students who demonstrate involvement in additional areas such as sports, arts, culture or clubs will be viewed favourably, as will leadership roles or community involvement.

Applications must be made online at: www.uhyhn.co.nz/study-scholarship, and close on Monday, September 12.

If multiple entries are received from individual schools, those schools may be asked to select one student as their lead finalist. The top finalists will be invited to an interview at UHY Haines Norton's head office in Henderson. The three winners will receive their scholarship certificates at their school prizegivings.

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CAB moves into new home

Helensville's Citizens Advice Bureau has a new home.

It moved to its new premises at 16 Commercial Road - the same building as the Helensville dentist - on August 1, following a request from its previous landlord to move out to make way for a new retail shop.

The CAB had been at its previous location since 2008, and for 17 years prior to that located in the offices of the old Helensville District Council on the corner of Rata Street and Commercial Road.

The bureau's new building is bright and airy and much more spacious. There are sound-proof rooms for clients' privacy, while the volunteers are appreciating greatly improved toilet and kitchen facilities.

Bold signage and a more visible location make it easier for the public to find, plus parking is better and there is increased space, which makes it easier to have

community groups meeting in the rooms.

The location isn't quite as central as the previous one, which was directly opposite the WINZ office, but is still within walking distance, and provides a more private entry for clients, with a modern and roomy



• The new CAB premises at 16 Commercial Road

reception area.

There is space enough to invite people to drop in for coffee and a chat or a private interview with a trained volunteer.

The volunteers love it.

"Having volunteered at the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau long enough to have seen the bureau's three different locations, the latest shift has got to be the biggest and best location ever," says Dawn Bayliss.

Other volunteers see more potential use and community connection with the spacious and modern premises.

Helensville CAB is now fully open following Covid's disruption over the past couple of years. Volunteers are trained to give help and advice in the following categories: consumer; employment and business; family and personal; government and law; health and well-being; housing, land and environment; money; and travel and transport.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the CAB - those with good listening skills, empathy, the ability to ask questions, and research the answers - can call into the CAB to pick up a form to register their interest.

Rally cars to call in

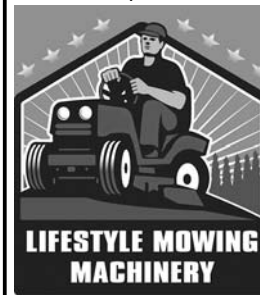
The Rally of New Zealand, a round of the World Rally Championship, will be calling by Helensville on Saturday, October 1.

Locals who don't want to purchase spectator tickets for the local stages at Puhoi and Komokoriki, or an even more expensive Gold Pass to see the 'shakedown' stage on Old North Road, may get a chance to see the cars when they call into Helensville for refueling.

Organisers say the refueling location is "not a spectator spot" and wouldn't provide the exact location, however the map on the rally website shows a route that appears to end at a refueling area somewhere in Railway Street in Helensville.

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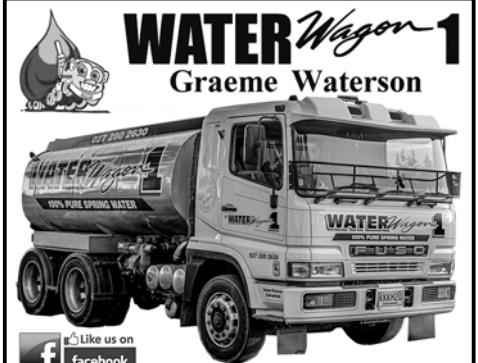
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Butcher focuses on local produce

"Local, local, local."

That's how Andy Cummings sums up his new River Valley Meats butchery at 27 Commercial Road, where the Helensville CAB used to call home (see separate article on page 3).

Almost everything he sells in the store, which opened in mid-August, is produced locally, and even the walls of the shop are decorated with huge photographs of his local suppliers.

"It's all local. We have the best beef and lamb farms in the area," says Andy. "That's what I'm passionate about."

Andy, who has 20 years' experience in the food industry and has lived in Helensville his whole life, stocks Bradly Beef and Whenuanui Kaipara Lamb - both produced within a few kilometers of the shop.

The store's chillers are packed with cuts processed and vacuum-packed at Andy's River Valley Meats & Kumeū Meat Processors plant. They range from premium items like whole eye and scotch fillets, through to popular products like shin on bone, chuck steak, schnitzel, gravy beef, and bolar roasts.

Alongside the beef and lamb are free range, hormone-free Bird & Barrow chicken, plus a whole range of salamis, black and white puddings, biltong, and manuka smoked salmon. Rounding out the range are River Valley Pies (made with Bradly Beef) and St Louis-style pork ribs, with items like cheeses still to come.

"I've had some good comments. People are pleased to see a butcher back in town," says Andy. "I've been really overwhelmed by the community's response."

"I've lived in Helensville my whole life, and it's been a goal to have a shop in my home town."

A keen supporter of the South Kaipara RSA and the Helensville Rugby Club, Andy describes Helensville as "a great town".

He says the River Valley Meats shop is in a perfect central location, and he's done his research, pricing everything "very competitively".

His ultimate dream - and that's what it is at the moment - is to have more shops around Auckland.

"I would like Aucklanders to realise we



• Andy Cummings in his new Commercial Road butchery

have top farms around here, rather than shopping for Hawkes Bay lamb or Canterbury beef."

River Valley Meats is open 10am to 6pm Tuesdays to Fridays, and 8am to 2pm on Saturdays.

The business is on Facebook to make it easy for locals to keep up with any specials or promotions, or Andy can be reached on 021 685 199 for any special requests.

MPs to visit schools

Associate Minister of Education and Minister for Women Jan Tinetti, and Kaipara ki Mahurangi list MP Marja Lubeck, will visit Parakai and Kaukapakapa Schools on Wednesday, September 7 as part of a visit to numerous primary schools in the Kaipara ki Mahurangi and Whangaparaoa electorates.

At Parakai they will look into how the school has worked with its community to establish a successful Lunches in Schools programme.

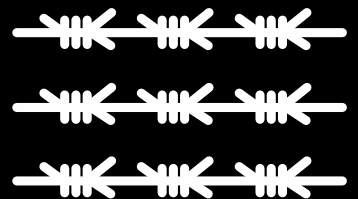
They will be at Parakai School from 10am to 10.50 and Kaukapakapa from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

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'Big Little Local' on at last

It's had a slow gestation, but after a year of delays caused by Covid, Helensville's newest event is happening on Saturday, October 15 from 10am to 3pm.

It's Big Little Local, and its aim is to connect as many people as possible with local service providers and businesses.

The idea came from Harcourts the Difference real estate agent Nisha Page. When she moved to this area, she had no idea of the range of businesses and services the local area has to offer. She since realised many long-time residents aren't aware either - especially when it comes to home-based businesses.

So with branch manager Nicky Horsbrough they have organised what they say will be a family friendly, hopefully annual event, with entertainment, light food, prizes, and free business stands, which will help grow a sense of community.

It's being held in the Lions club rooms at Rautawhiri Park, but a big response from local businesses and organisations means there will be outdoor stalls as well.

There will be a wide range of stalls, covering retail, home businesses, trades, and community and service organisations. Some stalls will have products for sale.

There is no charge for the stands, nor for the public to come.

The first 100 families or groups to arrive will receive goody bags - one of which will have an extra special prize. There will be lots of giveaways, plus silent auctions and raffles, with the proceeds going to Kindred Services in Helensville. Another raffle will support I Am Hope.



• Nisha (left) and Nicky

"I would love it to be an annual event," says Nisha, and Nicky agrees - "I think it will be. People are sick of lockdowns and want to connect again."

Big Little Local was originally planned for September last year. It was postponed a month because of Covid, then put back tentatively to April this year, but eventually delayed until now because of pandemic restrictions.

Rural scholarship returns

After a Covid-enforced break for the past couple of years, the Helensville A&P Association's annual Rural Scholarship is back.

Applications are open for the \$500 scholarship, aimed at local youth interested in pursuing a career in New Zealand's primary industry sector - that could include agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, veterinary studies, bee keeping, aqua farming or equestrian. Applicants must be going to undertake at least one year of full time study at an applicable institution.

The previous scholarship recipient was South Head's Ollie Holst who put it toward a one-year Diploma of Agriculture at Lincoln University.

The scholarship is seen as fitting in well with the A&P Association's aim of fostering excellence in agriculture in the local area. There are few scholarships available in the primary industries sector in the local area, and those that are tend to be tied to specific tertiary organisations.

Applications close on Monday, October 31, and prospective applicants can contact the show office on 420 7572 or email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz. Full information along with an application form is available on the show website - www.helensvilleshow.co.nz.

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Kaukapakapa library shuts door

Kaukapakapa library has closed its doors to the public.

It's been eight years since Sarah Legg and Megan Paterson voluntarily reopened the little Kaukapakapa Library as an adjunct to the successful Kaukapakapa market, with Sarah later stepping back to focus solely on the market.

Prior to that the library, which first opened in 1865, had been locked for 16 years, unavailable for community use.

Determined to give it a purpose again, Megan has since organised monthly events ranging from exhibitions to visiting authors and fundraisers. It even featured in a BBC documentary.

The final opening, on Sunday, August 21, featured the Kaukapakapa Kourier newspaper, which also recently closed.

The commitment over the years has included running the Kaukapakapa Library Photo Competition, as well as a short story competition. Each December Santa has visited, complete with his elves.

"Thank you goes to the many [people] who have taken on the challenge of being

Out-of-zone enrolments open

Helensville Primary School has up to 20 places for out-of-zone students available for next year - but applications close soon.

The school is governed by an enrolment scheme, and applicants will be assessed according to these priorities, in this order:

- Applicants accepted for a special programme (there is currently no such programme)
- Siblings of current students
- Siblings of former students
- Children of former students
- Children of board employees or board members
- All other applicants.

The deadline for receipt of 2023 out-of-zone applications is Friday, September 9, and applications should be made in writing and emailed to Bruce Adin at: commissioner@helensville.school.nz.

There will be no further dates for applications for the 2023 school year.



• Historic Kaukapakapa Library

the attraction in the library," says Megan, "and all those in the community who have offered their interest and support.

"A huge thank you to Athol McLachlan, who has always made available his time and local knowledge at our many events.

"It's been eight years and it has become difficult finding the time to come up with new ideas each month, plus I'm also increasingly occupied with other things," says Megan.

She has been working on the restoration of the All Saints Kaukapakapa cemetery, ending up on the committee for the project. And she is also now on the committee at Helensville Museum.

"We are at the stage of putting displays back together, which is my happy place."

Over the years the library has accumulated a lot of Kaukapakapa history which will be transferred to Helensville Museum to ensure it's availability for the future.

Megan is looking forward to having more time for her other local interests, and acknowledges the many friends and acquaintances she come into contact with through the library.

Megan can be contacted by email at threehorses@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 959 017 for more information.

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Arts in the Ville is back

Arts in the Ville is back again this Labour Weekend after being cancelled last year due to Covid.

Now in its seventh iteration, the arts festival has grown to become a major event for Helensville, bringing visitors to the town over its three days.

With 45 artists and crafts people already signed up at the time of going to print, this year's Arts in the Ville, to be held from 10am to 4pm on October 22, 23 and 24, looks to be every bit as varied as previous festivals.

Many of the artists on show will be familiar from previous festivals, but coordinator Jo Ogilvie says visitors can expect a number of new ones.

"I've managed to get quite a few people who haven't been involved before," she says.

Arts in the Ville will closely follow the lines of earlier events, with artists opening their studios to the public, and pop-up galleries around town.

The main new attraction will be a 'Makers Market' in the Helensville hall, where artists and crafts people will only be able to sell items they have created

themselves. Stalls will be hugely varied, covering everything from cards and handmade books through to Christian merchandise and 'river' tables.

The popular treasure hunt will return, which will again feature a prize by renowned local corrugated iron artist Jeff Thomson (whose studio will again be open for the festival).

Helensville Museum will be open for the weekend and will feature some of Jeff's sculptures. And after missing the 2020 Arts in the Ville, the Helensville Floral Arts club will return with a display.

As well as a chance for the public to meet artists in person and quiz them about their work, there will be live displays including pottery by Louise Wild of 'Wild and Potty' in the Whimsical Garden of Nick & Tracey Roberts, and Sharon Dooney of Jumbuck Carding will be spinning in Helensville Library.

Maps showing the locations of all the artists will be available from the library, local cafes, and other places closer to the event.

For more information phone Jo on 021 071 0246 or visit: www.artsintheville.co.nz.

Member's show on at Art Centre

Helensville Art Centre's current exhibition is its annual September members' show.

Titled 'Storyboard', artists have been encouraged to develop a small series of works showcasing the process behind their practice. The exhibition runs until Saturday, October 1.

A good crowd attended the opening night of Cindy Vida's August exhibition, a display of contemporary yet traditional New Zealand landscapes. The evening (pictured below) featured song and speech, following by the artist talking about her practice. Cindy also ran a series of workshops during her exhibition.

Helensville painter Mike Rowland will hold a solo exhibition during October, while in November there will be a ceramics exhibition.



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Election candidates have their say

The 2022 Auckland Council elections are held by postal vote. Enrolled voters can vote from Friday, September 16. The last day to post voting papers is Monday, October 3, although papers can still be physically deposited in ballot boxes up until midday, Saturday October 8. For voters who want to hand-deliver their papers, or who need to make a special vote, information is available on the Auckland Council's website election pages: <https://bit.ly/2m14Gdz>.

We asked candidates running for the position of Rodney Councillor, and those standing for the Kumeū Subdivision of Rodney Local Board, to provide us with some words about themselves and what they have to offer. For those that chose to take part, here (in alphabetical order) is what they have to say...

>> COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

■ BETH HOULBROOKE (Rodney First)



Beth Houlbrooke is the current Deputy Chair of the Rodney Local Board. Well known for her dedication to community causes and with nine years' council governance experience, she understands the issues facing Rodney and how to solve them.

A resident of Warkworth area for over 28 years, before election to the Local Board in 2013 Beth was an award-winning businesswoman in the transport industry, a farmer, and local business owner.

She sees the key concerns for Rodney being lack of infrastructure, poor roading, and inadequate funding. Rodney has only one councillor out of 20 in Auckland. To make progress on our issues our representative must work with a majority of councillors and the Mayor.

As councillor Beth would focus on

collaboration rather than confrontation, using her vote to get results for Rodney, unlocking funding for rural roads, and dealing with the infrastructure crisis caused by massive residential growth across Rodney.

■ HANNAH NORTH (Independent)



Kia Ora, I am Hannah North. I have lived in the Warkworth subdivision for almost my whole life, going to Matakana Primary and Mahurangi College.

Currently I work for an organisation called Northern Presbytery as a youth coordinator; I resource, train and advocate for youth workers throughout Auckland and Northland. I am also on the Executive Committee for the WCRC as the representative for Australasia - this is an international humanitarian organisation

which is in 108 countries with an estimated membership of 80 million people, where I have been involved in creating policy for them and annually attending meetings around the world.

I am standing for Council because I am the person who can get what Rodney wants done. I am working for our future and have the interpersonal skill to work with any group, and have the experience and enthusiasm to actually get things sorted.

■ ANNE PERRATT (Independent)



Anne believes Rodney has been neglected by Council and if elected she promises to be a watchdog for our interests.

As a mecca for hard-working people wanting to advance themselves, Rodney has challenges transitioning from

• To Page 9

✓ Constructive ✓ Effective ✓ Collaborative

RESULTS
FOR
RODNEY

**BETH HOULBROOKE
FOR RODNEY COUNCILLOR**

find out more www.rodneyfirst.org

Authorised by P Pirrie phelan@rodneyfirst.org

Candidates cont...

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predominantly rural to now include residential and semi-industrial areas.

These developments are not being properly met by Auckland Council.

She will focus on infrastructure around transport and roading, schooling, policing and emergency services, and Council consent processes. And fight for Rodney to get a proper allocation of funding for our growing community.

She will support existing businesses and new enterprises as Rodney's watchdog.

Anne can do this thanks to her wide school and corporate board experience.

She will not look the other way as unelected management roll out political manifestos unconcerned with their impact on Rodney's citizens and ratepayers.

She is proud to be able to treat all New Zealanders equally.

Vote for Anne Perratt. Your Watchdog for Rodney

■ ROB RYAN (Independent)

Firstly, I am a family man. I have a great wife, four kids, and two grandchildren.

My family and I have lived in the Rodney and coast area for 20-plus years, and I also have a small trucking company that I have run locally for the past 12 years.

I put my name forward for council because I know people want change and I'm the person that can provide that.

I believe the money from local rates that gets paid to Auckland Council needs to be put back into the Rodney District. We need a representative to stand and say NO! to wasteful spending.

I am that person.

A vote for Rob Ryan is a vote for change.



• To Page 10

VOTE

NORTH

FOR COUNCIL

Working for
our Future

RODNEY WARD

Hannah North

For Rodney Councillor

✓ Anne
Perratt

Your
Watchdog
For Rodney!

Authorised by
Anne Perratt

I need your vote to be a watchdog for you. Please tick ✓ Anne Perratt.

I'd be honoured to serve as your Rodney Councillor.

Email: Anne@WatchdogForRodney.nz

Visit: www.WatchdogForRodney.nz

VOTE ROB RYAN

Rodney Ward Candidate

Vote for CHANGE • Say NO to wasteful spending • Make your vote COUNT

A vote for Rob Ryan is a vote for change!

Authorised by Rob Ryan
www.WatchdogForRodney.nz

Say it with Sayers

Authorised by G Sayers: 022 611 24 64



Greg Sayers
Rodney COUNCILLOR

www.gregsayers.co.nz

Candidates cont...

• From Page 9

■ GREG SAYERS

(Independent)

No-one fights to get Rodney rates spent in Rodney like Greg Sayers.

He's your current Councillor. His popularity and track record are proven. He gets results.

This year Sayers secured a staggering \$1.3 billion for Rodney and has already begun work increasing that for our people, environment, and future. Sayers has helped 3744 constituents resolve issues, and holds clinics every month across Dairy Flat, Kumeū, Warkworth and Wellsford.

He puts community first.

An experienced businessperson, he's the gutsy strategic champion Rodney needs to insist we don't fund CBD nice-to-haves. He opposes our Local Board's targeted rate - extra tax only Rodney ratepayers now have to pay.

"Elected representatives should fight harder to secure a fair share of what we already pay - not double-dip into Rodney's wallets!"

Sayers values family and integrity. He stands for collaboration, not tolerating wasteful spending, and demanding Council accountability. "I never sell out Rodney's ratepayers."



>> LOCAL BOARD CANDIDATES

■ BRENT BAILEY

(Rodney First)

A current Local Board member with six years' governance experience, Brent Bailey brings considerable business sense to how the Local Board can deliver on key projects for Rodney.

Over the last three years Brent has been involved in local projects including the Huapai Hub, planning a park and ride



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Claire Buckley for Rodney Local Board

- Clear communication with Rodney residents
- Local Board transparency
- Investment in Rodney infrastructure (including road maintenance)

Find me on Facebook



Candidates cont...

• From Page 10

for Huapai, footpath and road safety projects, and as representative on Auckland Council's Rural Advisory Panel.

Brent's background is in sales and project management for the IT and telecommunications sectors.

A rural resident in Muriwai, he is passionate about the creation of employment and enterprise opportunities for Northwest residents.

Brent believes the unprecedented population growth in Rodney should be matched by proportionate funding, so Rodney gets a fair share of regional spending. Increasing the funding and quality of road maintenance needs to be a top priority for Council.

To deliver Results for Rodney vote for all four Rodney First candidates. www.rodneyfirst.org.

■ CLAIRE BUCKLEY

(Independent)

When I look down the list of candidates for Rodney Local Board, I see many names that have been on ballot papers year after year.

I see new subdivisions going ahead - tiny streets, houses jammed together. I also see the shocking state of our Rodney roads, communities lacking facilities, and lack of public transport options.

I am a Kaukapakapa resident and mother of two. I am trained as a teacher and had a successful teaching career, prior to having my children.

Once having my children, I began a business training people in effective communication strategies. This grew substantially and I now work for several organisations training medical professionals on breaking bad news and conflict de-escalation.

I offer the Local Board expert communication advice, and better engagement with the public. The more information the public has the more likely they are to understand decisions that are made and why.

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Vote

WARREN FLAUNTY QSM



RODNEY LOCAL BOARD
Rodney Action

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GUY WISHART DANIELLE HANCOCK BRENT BAILEY MARK DENNIS
RODNEY LOCAL BOARD

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Geoff Upson

Candidate for Rodney Local Board Kumeū Subdivision



Authorised by Geoff Upson 021 0241 0569

www.geoffupson.co.nz



Candidates cont...

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■ MARK DENNIS

(Rodney First)

Mark Dennis is a long-time resident of Helensville with three young children. With over a decade of experience in operations management he understands the importance of working as part of a team to get results.

With a history of involvement in local community groups he has a solid understanding of what is needed in our area.

Mark chairs the North West Country Business Association and is on the South Kaipara Community Patrol steering group. His commitment to the community led him to creating the nationwide Community Fruit and Veg stands movement which has over 200 sites supporting communities across the country. His efforts saw him given a Kiwibank Local Hero award.

Mark will work hard to see improvement of our parks and recreation areas, ensuring that families are getting what they deserve from their communities' facilities.

To deliver Results for Rodney vote for all four Rodney First candidates. www.rodneyfirst.org.



■ WARREN FLAUNTY

(Rodney Action)

Warren Flaunty is a retired pharmacist and has been a northwest businessman for 55 years. He is also a beef farmer on a 350 acre block in Taupaki for 50 years. He is a past rugby referee (25 years) and a current member of the Riverhead Bowling Club.

Warren has a wealth of intellectual knowledge in local government for 40 years, and the rural sector. This knowledge is critical to ensure local boards are well represented on Auckland Council, making informed, sensible, and disciplined decisions on behalf of the community. He believes he has the trust, drive, experience, and enthusiasm to be an effective community representative.

Warren will advocate for the removal of the Rodney transport targeted rate, and ensure all decision making is transparent with independent voting, no team block-voting and rubber stamping decisions. He will work with Waka Kotahi and Auckland Transport to urgently address the traffic problems facing the Kumeū-Huapai-Riverhead area.

Warren received a QSM for public service in 2004, is a past Local Board member - in Rodney for six years, Upper Harbour three years, and Henderson-Massey for nine years - prior to legislation in 2014 preventing members being on more than one board.

Warren was a Massey Community Board member for 15 years before becoming a Waitakere City Councillor for nine years. He has been a member of the Taupaki Ratepayers Assn for the past 15 years, a JP for 35 years, and was a trustee of West Auckland Hospice for 18 years. He is currently an elected Trustee of the Waitakere Licensing Trust (36 years) and was an elected member of the Waitemata DHB for 21 years. He is also chairman of TTCF Community Foundation Ltd.

He owned and operated Massey Pharmacy for 35 years, Westgate Pharmacy for 17 years, and Life Pharmacy NorthWest for five years.



■ DANIELLE HANCOCK

(Rodney First)

Danielle Hancock has been a Rodney Local Board member for three years, and an active representative and advocate for both rural and urban residents. She has served on the Kaipara Moana executive committee, the Auckland Weed Advisory Group, prepared submissions on council and government policy, and coordinated resource consent feedback on behalf of the Local Board.

In her spare time she is the Pest Free Coordinator for Kaukapakapa and lives on a 2ha bush block overlooking the Kaipara Harbour with her husband and two school-aged children.

Danielle spent over 10 years working for Council across the



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Candidates cont...

• From Page 12

resource consents, environmental compliance, and parks teams. Since leaving Council in 2014 Danielle has worked as a business and operations manager.

Danielle will continue to be a strong advocate on environmental matters and planning issues facing our growing community.

To deliver Results for Rodney vote for all four Rodney First candidates. www.rodneyfirst.org.

■ GEOFF UPSON

(Independent)

My name is Geoff Upson and, on your behalf, I want to take on the responsibility and the challenge of holding this council accountable for their applicable duties and responsibilities.

For many years I have been volunteering my time and spending my own money to bring awareness to the deteriorating road conditions in the greater Rodney area. Local and international media have recognised my efforts and determination.

I want to ensure that council meets their obligations to perform the core duties of council. This includes maintaining ratepayer-owned public assets we all rely on.

I have spent most of my life as a tradesman, which gives me practical thinking skills, problem solving skills, actual real-world experiences, and a common-sense approach. Our Local Board needs a positive change and a vote for me is a vote for the community. We have four seats in the Kumeū subdivision; I will announce my preferred team mates soon.



■ GUY WISHART

(Rodney First)

Deeply committed to local issues Guy Wishart brings passion and energy to the Local Board.

Chairman of Kumeū Community Action, he has been a tireless advocate on transport, education, planning, and environmental issues. Guy is president of Huapai-Kumeū Lions, vice-chair of Kumeū Arts, and a committee member of the business association. A Silver Scroll and Folk Album of the Year winner he runs Kumeū Live and helps run Muriwai Open Mic night.

With a Horticultural Science degree Guy has managed orchards, consulted in



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<https://wecare.org.nz>
or from The Kaipara Tavern
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from our local MP

Many of you will be aware of a proposal to establish a solar farm in Helensville. It is proposed the farm will consist of 82,000 glass panels and generate renewable energy to power 14,000 homes.



As your local MP, I've received views from constituents who support this proposal, particularly for sustainable energy generation, as well as from those who have concerns over environmental impacts such as the effect on microclimate, visual and noise pollution, as well as considerations of the aesthetic and cultural qualities of the Northwest.

Last week I wrote to the Department of Conservation (DOC) to alert them to this proposal. My intention was to ensure any environmental concerns are given robust consideration as part of the resource consent process. With DOC having expertise in this area, it seemed appropriate to ensure any resource consent application had the benefit of DOC's evidence-based knowledge and expertise. It is reassuring DOC is taking a proactive approach to this proposal.

I encourage you to engage in any resource consent submission process to have your say on this proposal. From my experience as a MP, when a high volume of submissions is received on an issue it sends a strong message to those receiving the submissions to take a carefully considered approach and not to routinely move forward for the sake of following a process.

Whatever the outcome of this proposal, any resource consent submissions preceding the decision requires democratic procedures to be followed and that the Council are held to account by ratepayers for a fair and thorough process. This can't occur without you, so please take the time to have your say.

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

Vote
WARREN FLAUNTY QSM



RODNEY LOCAL BOARD
Rodney Action

local board matters

The political term is winding to a close with Council elections in October.

This term has been overshadowed by the pandemic and the dramatic effect this has had on Council budgets.

While other Local Boards faced projects being delayed or cut we have managed to deliver progress on transport infrastructure through our Rodney Transport Targeted Rate. We launched three new bus services linking our rural community to the Auckland-wide public transport network. Two of these services are now being paid for and run by Auckland Transport. We have approved \$24m to deliver 35 footpaths across Rodney, 11 of these locally. Some of these have been built, and others are either underway or to be constructed over the next year. We have completed a park and ride in Warkworth and last month approved the delivery of another one in Huapai.

On the environmental front, \$1.5 million has been invested into riparian fencing and planting in partnership with farmers and landowners, match funded to result in over \$2m of restoration work. It's gratifying to see this work is now being prioritised for funding by Council and central Government; next term we can turn our attention and budgets to other issues. We have continued funding support for volunteers running pest-free initiatives.

Other projects delivered include

guidance on best practice forestry harvesting; skateparks; playgrounds and new public toilets; improved compliance monitoring; sports facility upgrades; planning and assessments to inform future investment into community facilities, parks, playgrounds, toilets, trails, and sports fields.



For Helensville and the surroundings area there's been the completion of a new playground in Cabeleigh Drive, new pedestrian crossings outside schools, footpaths and town centre improvements which are ongoing.

Parks and community facilities are core business for the Local Board and it has been our primary focus to ensure delivery of great parks and facilities for a growing community.

Vexing issues such as the state of our roads and their poor maintenance are the financial responsibility of the Auckland Council governing body - our councillors. We have, as we do every year, urgently requested councillors prioritise spending on road maintenance and renewal.

Auckland Transport itself says not enough money is going into roads, and hopefully next term councillors can take this issue with the seriousness it deserves.

This will be my last column as I decided not to stand for re-election. It has been an honour to serve the community over the last nine years.

The pace of population growth and the challenges this brings are relentless. It requires focus, teamwork, and constant vigilance to get the best outcomes for our community. I believe the current Local Board has taken a very professional approach to governance and collectively done an excellent job of getting fantastic outcomes for our community in difficult circumstances and it's been a privilege to work with them.

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

Candidates cont...

• From Page 13

horticulture, and is now a local high school teacher.

Guy lives in Kumeū with his wife Michelle and daughter. Severely affected by flooding last year, he is now part of a working group developing a Community Emergency Response Plan.

He is focused on improving community facilities and transport infrastructure for a fast-growing population.

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■ **OCTOBER 2022 deadline: Tuesday, 20th September, 2022**
ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4th 2022

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2022/23 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Oct 4th	Copy by: Sept 20th
Due out: Nov 1st	Copy by: Oct 18th
Due out: Dec 6th	Copy by: Nov 22nd
Due out: Feb 7th	Copy by: Jan 24th

■ **Editorial:** Ph 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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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.

September's recipient is Mel Moore, who chose a voucher for Vets North Helensville.

Mel was nominated by Tammy Heeps, who says: "I first met Mel when I moved into the area and needed grazing for my horses last year. Mel is one of the most caring, selfless, genuine people I have ever come across. She is the first person to offer help to anyone in need.

"She has helped me on so many occasions looking after my horses if I've been unable to make it due to the kids being sick, or if I've been held up at work or away. If I've ever needed help, she's offered before I've even thought to ask. Most recently she has taken a huge weight off my shoulders looking after the horses while I recover from surgery.

"Mel has been a great listening ear and friend over the past year. I cannot thank her enough for all the help and support she has given me."



• Mel Moore

Kaukapakapa market

Live music from 'Take 2' duo Gillian and Mike along for free hair plaiting for children will be features at the next Kaukapakapa market, on Sunday, September 18 from 8.30am to 1pm. As well as coffee, delicious food, market stalls will include unique local crafts, locally grown plants, native trees, fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables, and

bargains in the car boot area.

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

Pony Club season about to start

The Helensville Pony Club season starts soon, and enrolment is now open online at: <https://bit.ly/3T7Tsiy>.

Expressions of interest are also sought for an evening adult ride. Riders interested should email: helensvillepony@gmail.com.

The Pony Club will again offer the use of its jumps, poles and arena (when set up on the grounds) to Helensville Showgrounds keyholders. Fees and details are still being finalised, but those interested should email the above address.

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