

Works starts on Kaipātiki Reserve rebuild

Work has started on a major redevelopment at Kaipātiki Reserve in Parakai.

When complete the new facilities will include:

- A new playground incorporating māra hūpara (traditional Māori play elements);
- A basketball court;
- Barbeque and picnic table spaces;
- New public toilets;
- A dedicated entrance off Parkhurst Road separate from the current pools entry, plus parking and paths;
- Improved campground access (via Springs Road);
- Landscaping and planting;
- Drainage improvements.

Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, which manages the reserve, engaged Resilio Studio for the design work, and they worked closely alongside Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and cultural expert Bernard Makoare.

The first stage of the work is expected to be completed by year's end. Display boards with more detail about the project will be located at the reserve.

Most areas at the front of the reserve will

be closed during the works, but the entrance and carpark to the geothermal pools will remain open.

Te Poari Chair, Jane Sherard says: "I'm thrilled to see our vision and aspirations over the last five years come together and for the project to begin.

"We are excited to share history and stories of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and the Kaipara through the design of the space, and to bring state of the art design to our humble community. We look forward to providing our community and visitors with an enriching recreational and cultural experience."

Kaipātiki Reserve suffered during



• An artist's impression of the finished recreation area

Cyclone Gabrielle with 24 trees uprooted, including several cherished English oaks. The campground had to be closed for repair and maintenance from storm damage but is now partially open with Pūkoro bach and Mahana tiny home bookable on the Auckland Council website. Self-contained motor sites remain closed for now.

Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara management team worked alongside specialists and geotechnical experts to assess the safety of remaining trees and other areas of the geothermal site following the cyclone. That work has ensured that the reserve is again safe for locals and visitors.

Free dinner for rural folk

The saying is there's no such thing as a free lunch - but there is a free dinner.

Rural Support is holding a free barbecue dinner for local rural people at the Helensville Showgrounds on Thursday, April 20.

It's not just limited to farmers but anyone involved in primary industries, including horticulturalists, bee keepers, and even those who are part of support industries like trucking. Similar dinners around the lower part of Northland have attracted up to 120 people.

The free meal is a family event, and local farmers are encouraged to bring their families and workers. It's designed as a response to recent extreme weather events to be a chance for local farmers to communicate with others in the area.

Rural Support is a network of regional trusts made up of local, rural people who provide support for those facing the pressures of the farming industry. They help with all kinds of situations and challenges such as health and wellbeing, financial issues, employment, animal welfare, and weather and natural disasters.

Team members will be on site from 5pm and the dinner will start at 6pm and close around 8.30 to 9pm. Meat for the Helensville barbecue and the next 15 dinners is being donated by Greenlea Farms in Morrinsville. To reserve a spot email Hazel at: nh.macmillan@xtra.co.nz.

NEW - Crossword!

Over the years we've had repeated requests for a crossword in *Helensville News* - and we're please to say that's now happening. There may not be room every issue, but we'll do our best.

See the back page for this month's.

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editorial

While most of us are slowly getting on top of the destruction and trauma caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent extreme weather events, spare a thought for our neighbours at Muriwai who are still struggling in the extreme.

With more than 170 homes red stickered and a third of residents displaced, local organisations are pulling together to help the community, with fundraising events aimed at helping residents there affected by the landslides.

The first was a charity lunch and auction held in late March at Allely House which hoped to raise \$150,000. Unfortunately our publication schedule meant we couldn't bring you the results of that.

Next up is a 'Big Bash' golf tournament at the Muriwai Golf Links on April 27, with tickets costing \$1200 for teams of four and including entry goodies, an evening feast, a live band, and "bad dancing". There'll also be an auction, and plenty of prizes at the Barfoot & Thompson sponsored event. Visit <https://www.muriwai.kiwi> to book a team.

On a happier note, we're thrilled to introduce a crossword in this issue (back page). It's something I've been asked for numerous times over the years, and hopefully it will be popular. I can't guarantee there will be room to run it every single issue, but I'll do my best.

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters

My partner and I really love your monthly newspaper and look forward to receiving it. It keeps us informed and entertained.

A quick question though... would it be possible to include a crossword (preferably cryptic but anything would do)? I think it would be well received if added to your lovely newsletter.

Please keep up the good work.

- Fleur Shaw

Last Chance!

For our June issue this year, *Helensville News* will be producing a special issue listing all the voluntary organisations, community groups, and local clubs in our area, like we did in 2015 and 2019. Organisations and clubs are grouped in three categories:

- Community & Service Groups
- Clubs & General Interest Groups
- Sports & Fitness Clubs/Groups.

Now we need YOU to tell us about your group. It's a great chance to boost the profile of your club or group, and maybe increase your membership.

Many organisations will already have been listed in our 2019 issue, so the first thing you should do is visit: www.helensville.co.nz/helensvillenews/groups. There's a link to that issue at the top of the page for you to check if you already have a listing. If you do have one but it needs updating, either complete the online form on that page, or email us at: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz with your changes.

Please try to provide as much information as possible - the more information you provide us with, the better your listing will be. If email isn't an option, feel free to phone us on 021 178 5568.

The deadline for accepting listings is Wednesday, April 19.

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Jana Mills



Mullets are hair (fund)raising

Two young local lads have raised more than \$1000 for the Mental Health Foundation as part of its 'The Mullet Matters' fundraising campaign.

Seven-year-old Cooper Roser of Waimauku achieved his goal of \$500, while five-year-old Ollie Blair of Helensville just exceeded his goal, raising \$525. That money will go towards the \$300,000 annual funding shortfall of the Mental Health Foundation's Resource and Information service.



• Ollie Blair



• Cooper Roser

Ollie, who goes to Helensville Primary School, was already growing a mullet when his parents heard about the fundraiser and asked him if he would like to help - mum Renee says he was only too happy to put his stylish hair to good use.

Cooper, a Waimauku School student, has an aunt who works for the Mental Health Foundation, so his dad Matt suggested he might like to take part in the fundraiser.

The foundation's Resource and Information service distributes almost a million free mental health resources each year - like booklets, pamphlets, posters and website downloads - covering topics such as suicide prevention and loss, workplace wellbeing, depression, anxiety, and borderline personality disorder.

The Mullet Matters campaign was launched in January, and more than 800 people nationwide signed up to try to raise \$100,000 to help meet the shortfall.

Poster article draws interest

An article in last month's *Helensville News* about a rare Helensville Hot Springs poster for sale overseas for more than \$4000 brought responses from as far afield as Leeston in south Canterbury.

Bruce Stead wrote in to say that in 2017 he and his wife were browsing shops in Leeston, where they had just purchased a property, and found the same poster for sale. As his mother's family was from Helensville he bought it - at just \$80.

"She was very surprised to see it, as like the article says, we had never seen it before either."

Closer to home, Scott Osmond of the Helensville Railway Station Trust points out the Helensville Railway Museum has a

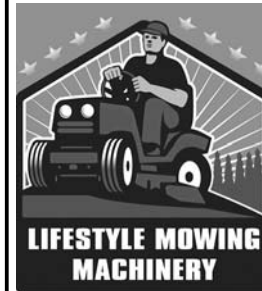
smaller A4 size copy of it on display, and provided some background on it.

"This poster was created by the New Zealand Railways in their own design studio, called 'Railway Studios', which existed from 1920 to 1987," says Scott. The studios produced all publicity for the then New Zealand Railways. A beautifully illustrated book was produced in 2022 to mark the centenary of the Railway Studios' founding and features the poster from our article on page 191.

Scott says he was "shocked" to see the \$4209 asking price for the poster on the Danish website, and quips that "the Helensville Railway Station Trust will NOT be putting in an option to buy [it]!"

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Hundreds enjoy Kids' Day

More than 445 children and close to a thousand people in total took part in a hugely successful Children's Day Family Fun Day last month.

Held at Helensville Primary School and organised by Kindred Family Services, the annual event is dedicated to celebrating tamariki and fostering family togetherness.

"This event came at a very important time for our community, says Kindred Family Services executive director Ana Christmas.

"After the devastation of the cyclone, many local events were cancelled, and we considered doing the same. However, the team at Kindred felt strongly that a fun-filled and completely free day out for local families would be very positive for the well-being of tamariki, and it seems in the end the timing was just right.

"Thanks to volunteers Florence Te Ohaere, Jaylene Penetana-Fitzgerald, and Michelle Rapana-Wharewaka who helped organise the event under some pretty tight time pressures."

The event featured a variety of games and activities, free ice creams and sausages, and a host of performances and entertainment.

Activities on the day included:

- Helensville Rugby club and West Coast Rangers provided field games and activities.
- Lou from Helensville Police timed how fast children could run with his radar.
- Young Guns Skate School taught skateboarding to children - and some parents.
- A 12 meter inflatable obstacle course.
- Parent Aid and South Kaipara Good Food collaborated to make Easter bunny pot plants, with seedlings inside.
- Parakai Kindy, and Helensville and Kaukapakapa playcentres ran arts and craft type activities for under-5s.
- Plunket had a 'self-esteem tree' where parents could write their child's name on a leaf and a quality they really love about the child.

- A face painter.
- HIPPI South Kaipara ran activities.
- Kaipara Medical Centre provided free tea, coffee, hot chocolates, and chocolate snacks.



• Shaun Darlison and his daughter Lola enjoy meeting one of the pony ride horses
- Photo: Stellanova

A highlight of the day was Helensville Primary's kapa haka and Pasifika groups, whose performances drew big crowds.

In addition to Kindred, around 17 local organisations collaborated to make Children's Day a success.

The event received sponsorship from Kaipara Medical Centre, Paper Plus Helensville, Helensville Lions, Ninja Kiwi, Generation Homes, and Christine & Joe Wood, who helped fund the entertainment, kai, and ice-creams throughout the day, ensuring everything, from sausages to pony rides, were completely free.

Positive feedback on the day included at least one child overheard shouting: "This is the best day of my life!"



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Art Centre at museum a little longer

The Helensville Art Centre had hoped to be back in its own premises beneath the War Memorial Hall this month, but delays to work on the building means that now doesn't look like happening until May.

Until then, the centre will keep operating from temporary premises at Helensville Museum.

"We have been so grateful to the museum for hosting us over the past few months," says Art Centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie. "I have really enjoyed getting to know the staff [and] volunteers.

"We have loved having different people come through as a result of being at the museum."

The Art Centre has a members' exhibition titled 'New Works' on over April. Members have been encouraged to produce works not previously shown. The exhibition runs from April 12 to 29, with an opening night on Friday, April 14 from 5pm to 7pm.

Ceramics classes are also on the agenda, with a venue to be announced. Local artist Rachel Murphy will be teaching a six-week slip casting course each Friday from 10am to 1pm starting April 28. The cost is \$200 for the entire course which includes all materials. To reserve a space email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz with your name and contact number.

Workshops on Oil Painting with a Palette



• Oil painter Diana Peel

Crossword answers

Across: 7. Armoured, 8. Atom, 9. Amass, 10. Regatta, 12. Slider, 13. Abash, 15. Cue, 16. Death, 18. Resign, 20. Lanolin, 23. Lever, 25. Sets, 26. Academic.

Down: 1. Trembled, 2. Mossad, 3. Art, 4. Edge, 5. Sahara, 6. Holt, 11. Arch, 13. Aero, 14. Hygienic, 17. Arouse, 19. Sweden, 21. Abel, 22. Iraq, 24. Rat.

Knife, with artist Diana Peel, have been a huge success with classes fully booked, so they are set to continue on a regular basis. Details of upcoming classes and workshops will be on the Art Centre's Facebook page and website: artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Membership of Art Kaipara allows locals to participate in three members' exhibitions each year with free entry, being able to present their work in a gallery setting regardless of skill level or training. Details of how to join are on the website.

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

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- April 6th: 7pm, Maundy Thursday.
- April 7th: 9.30am, Good Friday service.
- April 9th: 9.30am, Easter Sunday service.

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1 Puriri St, Helensville.

Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- April 6th: 7.30pm, Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Last Supper.
- April 7th: 3pm, Good Friday Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 8th: 7.30pm, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.
- April 9th: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, HUAPAI

380 SH16, Huapai.

Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- April 7th: 3pm, Good Friday Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 8th: 7.30pm, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.
- April 9th: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

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1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai.

Email: rivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

- April 9th: 10am, Easter Sunday service

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40 Mill Rd, Helensville.

Email: minister@hcc.skpp@gmail.com

- April 7th: 10.30am Good Friday service.

SAINT CUTHBERT'S, KAUKAPAKAPA

18 North Crescent, Kaukapakapa.

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- April 9th: 2pm Easter Sunday service.

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Farmers embrace programme to improve Kaipara health

Glorit farmers Gill and Kevin Adshead are embracing the opportunity to partner with the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme (KMR) to improve the health of their farmland - and that of the Kaipara Harbour.

Mataia, their 1300ha family-owned property has been in the Gardner family since 1868. It backs onto the Kaipara and has a significant area of shoreline, so the couple felt compelled to play their part in the KMR programme to protect even more of their waterways.

That means utilising KMR funding, which they will match dollar for dollar, to fence off many kilometres of drains, waterways, and gullies.

The couple have paved a way for environmental restoration that can be a lesson for others.

After a two-year sabbatical in the Solomon Islands in the early 2000s they returned to their family farm on the Kaipara Coast Highway with a new-found perspective on looking after the land.

Flying into Honiara they saw the mess

• Kevin and Gill Adshead

they were making and realised there was a need to manage native bush.

Gill, a teacher, and Kevin combined to put their practical skills to work in the Solomons, and built a library for a local community, along with finishing the house that locals started building for them. Based at a remote boarding school, they were a five and a half hour walk from civilisation which

required crossing eight rivers or taking a canoe along the coast.

It was while sourcing building products that they saw the immense damage to the landscape from the felling of native trees - and the subsequent murky waters in nearby shorelines and harbours courtesy of sediment run off.

They didn't like it and feared it could happen on and around the family farm. That foreign adventure completely changed their outlook on farming and life.

"We realised we needed very little in life when it comes to possessions. After seeing the pollution there we decided we needed to come home and do a whole lot more to look after our land. We realised we had to start reversing the trend of bush being degraded."

So in 2005 they set about giving back to



the land through an array of environmental initiatives and plenty of their own hard work and financial investment. They now live off grid in a large bush block and love the simplicity.

With the help of friends and family the couple have made a concerted effort since then to protect the land, retiring more than

• To Page 7

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ANZAC commemoration

There will be no ANZAC parade down Commercial Road or service outside the Helensville War Memorial Hall this year due to the current closure of the hall and RSA clubrooms, says Kaipara Memorial RSA President Rex Keane.

However the public are invited to the annual Dawn Parade, which will be held at the cenotaph in Kaipātiki Reserve at Parakai on Tuesday, April 25.

Veterans and service organisations should fall-in at 5.50am at the Parakai Springs carpark, to be marched to the cenotaph by Parade Commander Peter Mills for the 6am service. Members of the public can gather in the carpark in front of the cenotaph to watch the service.

That service will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Helensville Service Cemetery at 7am, then an ANZAC breakfast at the Helensville Bowling Club from 7.30am.

Rex says medals should be worn to the services; if wearing a relative's medals they should be worn on your right side.

Representatives from local service or civic organisations who would like to lay a wreath at the Dawn Parade should register



by emailing: kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz, no later than a week prior to ANZAC Day.

This year in addition to the white crosses with a poppy being placed on each veteran's plaque at the Helensville Service Cemetery, the Kaipara Memorial RSA with the help of the Remembrance Army will place wooden crosses with a poppy on all 22 of the veterans' graves in the Helensville public cemetery. Some of those date back to the Boer War, while most are from World War One with the remainder from World War Two and some contemporary veterans.

The crosses will be put up the weekend before ANZAC Day, and the Rex asks the Helensville community to visit the grave sites in the both the public area and the service cemetery to pay respects.

Helensville Museum will be open from 1pm to 3pm on ANZAC Day to display the RSA's memorabilia.



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Improving Kaipara health (cont)

• From Page 6

400ha of the property which is covered in native species - with more to be added. Dozens of kilometres of fencing has been put in to protect waterways, gullies, swamps, wetlands, bush blocks, and the shoreline of the Kaipara Harbour. A further 23km of fencing is planned, along with plenty more native planting days.

More than 7500 native trees have been planted every year since 2005, and those efforts are supported by intensive farm-wide pest and predator control. Around 150,000 native trees have been planted so far.

Where there was once bare ground there are now Nikau palms and abundant bird life, including North Island Brown Kiwi.

They also realise many people around New Zealand are doing their bit for the environment and say being part of both Sanctuaries of New Zealand and Save the

Kiwi helps them learn from like-minded folk.

Their work and passion is a clear personal commitment to the environment, which was also the driver to establish The Forest Bridge Trust in 2014.

The trust aims to create a connected landscape of healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east. It supports farmers and landowners to work toward setting and achieving environmental goals for their properties; Gill and Kevin see KMR doing the same.

"We have 10 years to finish what we set out to do, but sometimes feel like we are running out of time and energy!

"The results are stunning and we love sharing the farm with people. People who plant here have ownership too, and when we show them the results of their efforts they feel so proud."

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councillor comment

Auckland Council is facing unexpected additional costs as a result of January's weather bomb and Cyclone Gabrielle.

The cost to repair the damage is estimated at \$1.2 billion. Capital costs form the largest part, based on a like-for-like replacement of damaged assets along with operational costs such as the immediate clean-up.

The estimate does not include any provision for enhanced infrastructure resilience, or acquisition of any private properties impacted by the weather events.

The Council was already grappling with how to plug a \$295 million budget shortfall.

Just a few months into his new job the mayor had put out for public consultation options on how he thought that budget shortfall might be filled, by making internal savings and a 4.6% rate increase.

However, things have got considerably worse since then. Add in the storm damage costs, and the announcement the City Rail Link (CRL) needs an additional \$1 billion to complete it, with Council's share of that 50/50 Crown partnership \$500 million.

When all added up, the Council was having to find \$295 million in budget shortfall, but this has now skyrocketed to a staggering \$2.5 billion.

Government help is what is needed to bridge these massive numbers. But will it come?

To date the recovery package for Auckland's storm damages remains unclear.

Mayor Wayne Brown accepts Auckland Council will have to pick up a share of the CRL project budget blowout, but says he will hold "tough" talks with the Government asking it to pay for more than its 50 percent share because of Council's mounting financial pressures.

The need for the extra money for the CRL is said to be the result of Covid - time away from the CRL work site due to lockdowns, delays in materials due to international shipping supply chain slowdowns, inflation, and increasing labour costs are all said to have escalated the project's costs.

The builders of the CRL say they have endured two level four lockdowns, and 280

days of restricted working conditions under the Covid traffic light system. They also say they lost 3.2 million building hours through illness among staff as more than 800 workers on the project caught Covid.

In total, due to Covid-19 lockdowns and lost time, the project's cost has increased to \$5.493 billion.

However, Transport Minister Michael Wood appeared to sink any hope the government would help with the costs, announcing he wanted the payment arrangements to remain evenly split.

The revised completion date for the project's stations and the supporting rail infrastructure is now November 2025.

The CRL should always have been a fully central government funded project. It is the only major rail project not to be centrally funded. It is the country's largest infrastructure project ever undertaken. However, it will be very difficult for Mayor Brown to renegotiate any new terms.



- Greg Sayers

Rodney Ward Councillor,
Auckland Council

greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ph: 021 285 9900

Poppy Day on April 21

Poppy Day 2023 is on Friday, April 21, and Kaipara Memorial RSA collectors will be out in force, collecting for New Zealand's longest-running charity street appeal.

Poppies will also be available at the usual retail outlets prior to Poppy Day. All proceeds from donations for poppies go to the Veterans Welfare Fund.

Locals can also donate online to KMRS account: 12-3139-0003621-04, reference Poppy Donation.

Locals able to help collect donations in the Helensville, Parakai or Kaukapakapa retail areas on the day can contact Steve Wilson: 021 494 945.

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Library bits & bobs

The Helensville Library and Service Centre team have a number of events planned for April, many of which will continue as regular events. These include:



• Kids' Time with Anne Coppell

- **Book Chat:** On the fourth Thursday of the month at 10am. A chance to share books read and enjoyed - or hated! - with fellow readers. Next date: Thursday, April 27.
- **Crafternoon:** Thursdays at 3.30pm. There are sessions for both adults and children, and are a chance to learn new skills, teach others, and chat.
- **Minecraft Club:** Wednesdays 3.30pm to 4.30pm. If the lack of a device is stopping anyone taking part, contact the library team.
- **Kids' Time:** Wednesdays, 10am to 10.30am, for under 6s and their grown-ups to share songs, rhymes, and stories.

Locals are invited to visit the library during April to see the ANZAC Memorial Wall for local service people, and find out more about some of the locals whose names appear.

The library is also running a poppy project with the aim of decorating the wall with handmade poppies - see the library team for a pattern, or use your own.

Eco-Warriors School Holidays - children can become an eco-warrior during the April school holidays, with activities and challenges aimed at 5-12 year olds, and 13-18 year olds.

The Wednesday morning Kids' Time sessions will be eco-warriors themed and aimed at older children, while the Thursday afternoon crafternoon sessions will be making poppies using recycled materials.

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from our local MP

"You may not be interested in Auckland Council, but Auckland Council is interested in you" - I've adapted an old saying to highlight the importance of paying attention to local government matters.

I recently attended a community meeting at South Head along with Councillor Greg Sayers and Rodney Local Board members Geoff Upson and Mark Dennis. It was great to see such an engaged group of locals putting various gnarly questions to us. Greg was rightly able to point to his advocacy within Council on these very issues on our behalf.

I am strongly of the view that Council expenditure should focus tightly around the key things needed to keep our community safe. Clearing of drains and culverts should be top of the list, for example, with luxury items such as sponsoring festivals and parades a very distant second.

There are of course areas where local government and national politics intersect. This is literally the case with roads, as state highways (such as SH16) belong to central government and others are local roads under Auckland Transport.

The railway line is the property of central government. At the very same time as our roading network was wrecked - and for

essentially the same reasons - the tracks failed.

If anything could have gone wrong during the recent cyclone and other flooding events, it did go wrong. You could be forgiven for thinking that Murphy's law should be re-named "Gabrielle's law".

The lesson must surely be that we need each individual network to be as resilient as possible and to include redundancy options.

As an example, internet connectivity is a single point of failure for many people living in rural and remote areas. A fragile system of degraded copper wires is not getting repaired because, we are told, ultra fast broadband is being provided instead. In some areas, however, this is simply not true - so residents risk losing out entirely. Communications towers and satellites must be used to provide an additional layer if we are to survive natural disasters in the future ... and live our best lives in the meantime too.



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

the business

After five years at the helm, our manager Phelan Pirrie has decided to move on. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Phelan for all of the hard work and diligence he has put in to the Northwest Country Business Association, ultimately leading to the great success we are in today. All of us on the executive committee wish him well for his future endeavours!

We are now on the lookout for a new manager of the Northwest Country Business Association.

If you are a self-starter who is a collaborative team player who works towards mutually beneficial solutions, then this could be for you. The role is all about building relationships and making a difference. You would need to be from a managerial/leadership background and have a demonstrated interest in urban development. If you are interested in taking this role on then please get in contact for further information.



- James Scott
Chair, North West Country Business Assn

local board matters

Post cyclone Gabrielle things have been a bit of a blur.

The elephant that is Auckland Council has begun to respond to the many challenges the extreme weather has caused in Auckland and Rodney in particular. Our share of the devastation has been massive.

In some discussions early estimates of the damage to roading assets has been estimated at around \$400 million for the region and \$50 million in Rodney alone.

Auckland Transport is flat out responding to all of this, but it will clearly take time to deal with the massive workload - and at the same time 'business as usual' tasks will be building up.

I urge all of Auckland to exercise some patience in the coming months.

As I understand it some of the larger jobs will take up to 18 months to properly deal with, but in most cases interim access will be available during this time, even if it is only single lane with traffic control and reduced speed limits.

While being briefed by AT on the enormity of the work ahead, some board members expressed interest in reallocating the Rodney Local Board Targeted Transport Rate funding from pedestrian safety (Kaukapakapa) and public transport (Warkworth) projects to an as-yet undefined

rapid response to deliver urgent maintenance and repairs to rural roads.

While I understand the attractiveness of this in response to the very real needs of residents waiting on AT to attend to storm damage, I do not support this approach. In my view AT will have pretty much reached capacity to deliver these works, and just throwing money at them may not improve response times.



Further, any delay in delivering the projects already started will result in them needing to be de-scoped as inflation erodes the delivery budget.

Construction costs are going up at more than 30 percent per annum at present, and with an extra \$400 million of work needing to be undertaken in Auckland over the coming couple of years this price pressure is likely to get worse in the short term.

I am all about finishing the projects already decided on and looking at new opportunities moving forward.

Here's something to consider: in Sweden there are over 140,000km of roads privately owned and operated by Private Road Associations, groups of homeowners serviced by these private roads.

My challenge is to the groups who feel that taking control of road maintenance back from AT, and giving decision making and budgets to the homeowners that live on them, will deliver better value for money. How about we work together to investigate this further?

I urge the people of Kaukapakapa and Warkworth to make deputations to the Local Board in support of the pedestrian safety and public transport projects that may be about to be paused. There is a real risk these will be compromised by well-intentioned but misdirected attempts to undertake road maintenance work that will be being undertaken by AT.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Venturers wanted

The hunt is on for locals aged 15 to 18 to join a fledgling Venturers group.

Venturers is the next level on from Scouts, and Jacqui Gilbert of Kaukapakapa, along with some of her friends who have also recently graduated from Scouts, wants to keep going with her scouting career.

"We do heaps of fun stuff like hiking, swimming, kayaking, camping and fire lighting."

Activities are mostly outdoors, so this term the group is meeting at different places such as Orewa Beach, Makarau Scout hall, and when it reopens, Kaukapakapa hall.

Anyone interested in joining should email Kahu at: ghounsell@xtra.co.nz.

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town talk

community tidbits from town and around

MARKET AT HELENSVILLE AGAIN

The next Kaukapakapa market, on Sunday, April 16 from 8.30am to 1pm, will again be held at the Helensville showgrounds.

Organiser Sarah Legg says Auckland Council has closed the market's regular venue, the Kaukapakapa hall, and cancelled all bookings until further notice, following cyclone damage.

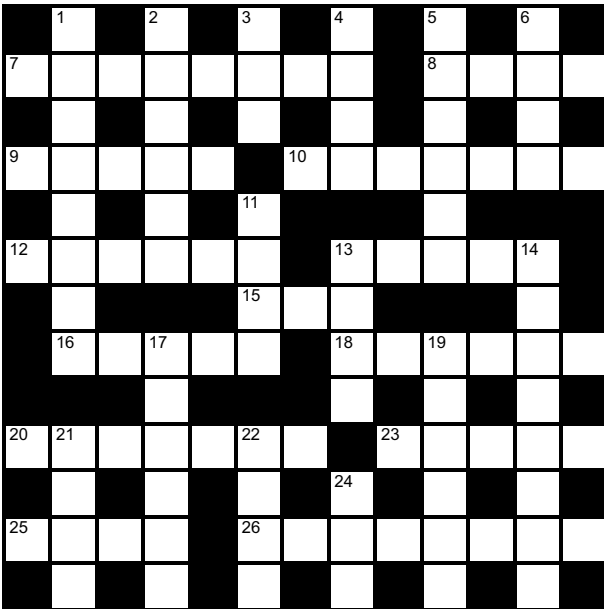
"It's looking like we will be at the showgrounds until the end of the year," says Sarah. "March went well with lots of positives from the stall holders, and we had a lovely day."

Sarah says despite the different venue it's the "same great market", with a wide range of goods made by local crafters as well as bargains in the car boot area. Goods on offer will include knitting, quilting, spinning, candles, jewellery, and art as well as plants, preserves, and fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables, natural pet products, books, coffee and food.

Live music will be courtesy of Foster on the tenor sax, and there will be free hair plaiting for children.

For more information contact Sarah on 0274 831542 or email here at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

crossword



Across

7. Provided with protective covering (8)
8. Speck (4)
9. Gather (5)
10. Boat race (7)
12. Type of variable electrical control (6)
13. Embarrass (5)
15. Stimulus (3)
16. Expiry (5)
18. Yield post (6)
20. Wool fat (7)
23. Crowbar (5)
25. Hardens (4)
26. Pertaining to a school (8)

Down

1. Quivered (8)
2. Israeli intelligence agency (6)
3. Illustrative craft (3)
4. Verge (4)
5. Largest desert (6)
6. Wood (4)
11. Mischievous (4)
13. Relating to aircraft (4)
14. Sanitary (8)
17. Excite (6)
19. Scandinavian kingdom (6)
21. Second son of Adam and Eve (4)
22. Formerly Mesopotamia (4)
24. Grass (3)

ANSWERS

See Pg 5 for this month's answers.

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