

Wins all round for junior rugby tour

The Helensville Junior Rugby tour to Canterbury in July was a huge success, with the 40 children that took part enjoying a mix of game time and fun activities - and winning all their matches.

The touring teams consisted of a J1/J2 tackle team, an Under 13 Girls Rip team, and Under 13 Boys Rip players - all aged between 10 and 13 years.

The teams travelled to Christchurch and played their first game at Hurunui Rugby Club at Culverden on Sunday, July 2, followed by games at the Saracens Rugby Club in Rangiora on the Tuesday and at Kirwee Rugby Club on the Thursday, before returning home later that night.

The teams came away with wins in every game.

The tackle team played some excellent running rugby off dominant set piece play, while the Rip teams showcased their skills and this new game to the Mainlanders, who mainly play tackle rugby.

Staying in the dormitory at St Bedes College, there wasn't much downtime for the team members.

On non-playing days they enjoyed activities including visiting the Antarctic Centre, jet boating, swimming at Hanmer Springs, visiting the Crusaders base and Christchurch Rugby Union, zip-lining at



• The junior rugby players in their tour kit

- Photo: Belinda Coles Photography

Christchurch Adventure Park, and a tram ride through Christchurch City.

Bus sing-a-longs, building people pyramids, dormitory challenges (such as room inspections and dance challenges), and other games kept the kids entertained during any gaps in the busy schedule.

A 'no device' policy was no issue for the children as they were too busy having fun.

The tour committee consisted of Sue and Scott Narbey, Roxy Foreman, Nicole Stokes, Francesca Salsone and Ali Seakens who put in hours of work to pull the tour together.

They thank Helensville Rugby Club for supporting the Junior Tour tradition, and club manager Louise Nasmith and treasurer Kirsten Watson for their support. Special thanks go to the Brewis family, especially Finlay and Riley Brewis, for hosting the tour at the Crusaders-Canterbury Rugby Union base.

"This was an inspirational experience for our young players," says Sue Narbey.

Sponsorship from numerous businesses, including many local ones, paid for a comprehensive tour kit with a jacket, hoodie, pants, beanie, cap, backpack, and gear bag.

Family history wins award

Helensville's Julie Daymond-King's book 'Building a Future: the First Spurdle Family in NZ' has just been awarded the Kevin McNulty award for the best family history book published in 2022, by the New Zealand Genealogical Society.

Julie has worked with Robyn Spurdle of Rotorua for 30 years to produce the book, which traces Julie's late mother's paternal line from emigration to New Plymouth in 1842. She describes it as a probably typical, early colonial family story.

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editorial

Auckland Transport (AT) has released its draft speed management plan for 2024-27, and the changes they are proposing are vast and will affect pretty much everyone.

Some of the changes make great sense, such as variable speed limits outside schools. These will see speeds drop to 30km/h during the at-risk drop-off and pick-up times just on school days. That's a long overdue safety measure to keep our school kids safe.

But other changes I believe go too far, or aren't properly thought out.

Take the road I live on, Fordyce Rd in Parakai. It's currently 80km/h, and the proposal would drop that to 60km/h for its entire length. The trouble is that roughly 3km of it is a perfectly safe, sealed road where 80 is a logical speed. I have no problem at all with 60km/h on the remaining 2km of gravel, as you can rarely approach that speed anyway due to all the potholes. I'm sure many of the other targeted roads are similar.

More concerning are the three blanket Safe Rural Zones AT is looking to introduce, which would see every road in the defined areas have a limit of 60km/h on rural roads and 30km/h in any urban areas. Those zones are huge - most of South Head peninsula, and pretty much the entire Auckland region north of Kaukapakapa! Oh, and Great Barrier Island. No-one else in Auckland gets these zones - presumably a testament to the dreadful state of roads in Rodney.

I recommend locals consider providing feedback to AT (by August 28) so these changes might have some more thought put into them. See our article on page 7.

- Dave Addison, Editor

New drop-in clinic at birthing centre

Helensville Birthing Centre is opening a free midwifery and breastfeeding support drop-in clinic, called Te Hā Tama Ariki.

Following its official opening with a dawn blessing on Wednesday, August 9, the clinic will open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm at 1 Porter Crescent, initially for an 18-month trial.

Te Hā Tama Ariki will provide midwifery and breastfeeding support services to local women and pēpi (babies) covering pre-conception, pregnancy, post-natal, and the first 1000 days after birth. They will be an extension of the services currently provided by Helensville Birthing Centre while also supporting local midwives.

Services will include:

- Pre-conceptual care and advice including pregnancy planning and testing;
- Referral to midwifery care, and where needed to secondary services;
- Social support, advice & referral - food, maternity, and baby clothing, safe sleep;
- Women's health services including sexual health screening and referral;
- Contraception advice and referral;

- Primary mental health support and referral;
- Breastfeeding and lactation support and referral;
- Smoking cessation advice and referral;
- Immunisation advice and referral.

The clinic's goal is to provide a free community midwifery service that increases healthcare accessibility and equity, especially for those who have been disadvantaged in the past.

It's hoped that over the 18-month pilot the range of services will be built on to help bridge the gaps in our rural community between primary and secondary services, says Helensville Birthing Centre manager Michelle Nasey.

"Helensville Birthing Centre is proud of the care we provide that leads to consistently good outcomes for whānau. We have a passion for providing care and services that promote long term positive psychological wellbeing of māmā, optimal care and nutrition for tamariki, and long-term positive health outcomes for whānau."

For more information email: dropin@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz.

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World Cup skydive stunt



• Skydiver Brent Findlay with the giant FIFA World Cup flag over Auckland

Parakai-based Skydive Auckland was brought in to help celebrate the lead up to the FIFA Women's World Cup with a daring skydive over Auckland.

FIFA wanted to showcase Auckland and Eden Park and decided there would be no better way to do that than with some amazing views of Auckland and the stadium from the air.

A plan was formulated to skydive over Auckland with a giant, 8m x 15m banner promoting the world football event - then land in the middle of Eden Park, venue for the opening match between New Zealand and Norway, which the kiwis won.

A normal skydive into Eden Park requires a lot of planning and preparation, but the addition of the 120sq.m. flag made the jump even more technical.

Skydive Auckland enlisted staff member Zac Edwards and local sport skydiver Chris Stewart as videographers for the stunt, and Brent Findlay as the flag jumper. Brent has done multiple flag jumps in the past, but had never landed one of that size into a stadium before.

Flag jumps are more complicated to execute than a normal skydive, with the need to cross over stadium seating prior to landing accurately within a small area.

The team did several practice jumps at

the Green Road, Parakai headquarters of Skydive Auckland, including on the morning prior to the event taking place at Eden Park.

The stunt involved a lot of coordination, with FIFA representatives flying over from Australia.

The weather forecast for the week of the stunt was awful, and there were only two days available to pull it off, as Eden Park was preparing for the opening of the World Cup. However, everything slotted into place on Monday, July 10, and the jump was able to be performed successfully.

Upon landing with the flag, Brent was greeted with a karanga and powhiri ceremony.

"We were really proud to be part of this event, to celebrate the FIFA Women's World Cup," says Skydive Auckland operations manager Fiona McLaren.

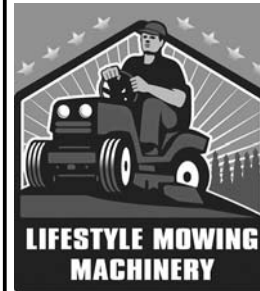
Transport plan feedback sought

Auckland Transport is seeking feedback on its 2023-2031 Regional Public Transport Plan. While the plan is region-wide, it covers things such as potential north-western bus improvements which could affect locals.

Feedback closes on August 17 and can be made online at: <https://at.govt.nz/rptp>.

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Woodhill Hall demolished because of safety concerns

Woodhill Hall was demolished in June this year after more than a century as a local community landmark.

The hall was on land designated as a Local Purpose (Community Buildings) Reserve, which was administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Rebecca Rush, Auckland Operations Manager for DOC, says the hall hadn't been actively used since at least 2006 and had fallen into disrepair. In recent years, the local community had raised numerous safety concerns with the department. DOC engaged with the community, iwi and hapū, and sought heritage advice.

"It was recognised that based on the current state and issues, the most practical option was to demolish the building. This was reinforced by the discovery of asbestos in the building in 2021."

Contractors qualified in asbestos removal were brought in to demolish the hall in June. They worked alongside local hapū to ensure the appropriate tikanga was observed.

"We recognise that this has been a significant site for the community for many years, with great sentimentality attached," says Rebecca.

DOC is now considering the future of the site, and will engage with local iwi, hapū and the community in that decision-making process.

Below we have a Letter to the Editor covering much of the hall's history.

letters

Woodhill Hall is no more. After having served the Woodhill district faithfully for over 100 years the old hall has finally been laid to rest.

In her later years she was sadly left to reach a very dilapidated state owing to a political dispute over her ownership. Passersby could only wonder as to how such a valuable asset could be left to wither away.

In her heyday she was the centre of a thriving and growing rural community with many organisations making good use of her.

Saturday night dances were regular events, usually held to raise funds for local clubs (mainly for tennis and hall upkeep) with enthusiastic dancers coming from far and wide in the hope of meeting mister or miss right. Many were the permanent liaisons that formed at such wonderful evenings. Music was usually provided by well known local dance bands (in the 50s Jerry Stokes and Matty Akariri's Eldorado Dance Band, in the 60s my band Satellites)

or a solo piano player, and earlier even by gramophone and wireless broadcast. The homemade suppers were always a great attraction and well worth the price of admission.

In the early days silent movies were sometime held. A Model T Ford was jacked up outside the hall with a wheel removed and connected to a generator to provide power for the projector. A piano player thumped away to provide the mood for the exciting action on screen - usually the antics of Tom Mix, Buster Keaton, and Mary Pickford.

The hall would then have to be left spic and span for the next morning's church service, held every Sunday, usually with Sunday School first thing in the morning.

For many years Bible Class was conducted on a Friday night for the youth of the district. This was under the direction of the Short family from Rewiti, who endeavoured to drum a little spirituality into the lives of the young people who attended,

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• From Page 4

while also allowing them to let off steam with various noisy games.

Woodhill School always made good use of the hall.

Annual school concerts were eagerly looked forward to with entertainment by school children, Rewiti Māori groups and later, Pacific Island groups from the Woodhill Forest village. Santa always made an appearance, distributing goodies to all the kids on these exciting festive occasions.

A very active Woodhill tennis club ran for



• A dilapidated Woodhill Hall in 2013

featuring local talent, much to delight of the community.

There were also dance classes for the older generation with music provided by, again, local talent. Who cared if the talent only came along to practice their instruments? It was still great fun.

A library, serviced by the Country Library Service, was held in the annex of the hall and local volunteers helped to select new books from the CLS van which came around a couple of times a year. This was much appreciated in the district.

Funerals, weddings, twenty first birthday parties and many other events were held in the hall, and even the occasional 'Smoke Concert' - this was where men gathered around a keg of beer, smoked cigarettes, (everybody smoked in those days!) and were entertained by well known singers such as Rusty Greaves. Proceeds

always went to a good cause.

This is a brief history of our dear old Woodhill Hall which had served the Woodhill district so well for over 100 years. She will ever be remembered and so sadly missed.

- Chas Holst

many years from the hall 'pavilion' where a number of players made names for themselves on the Kaipara Lawn Tennis Association circuit. Trevor Holst was Junior Champion of this association one year, when he was 14, after having beaten all the top players in the surrounding clubs.

Badminton was a popular winter pastime, too, as were indoor bowls and table tennis.

Local women were well catered for with monthly meetings of the Country Women's Institute and Women's Division of Federated Farmers (WDFE).

An Oddfellows Lodge (for men) also held meetings in the hall for a few years.

Mrs Barton from the Woodhill store conducted dance classes for young people of the district, usually on a Saturday morning. These often resulted in a concert

First ever Ag Day for College

Kaipara College will hold its inaugural Ag Day on Friday, September 15.

Still in the planning stages, the day will feature animals plus games, entertainment, local businesses, food and drink, and displays showcasing the school's faculties.

The Ag Day will be held on the school grounds from 2pm to 6pm, with gates opening to the community at 3pm.

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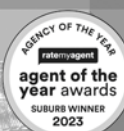
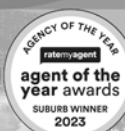
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Local Barbie collector gets Wellington show

Helensville's Barbie collector extraordinaire, Patsy Carlyle, has a pop-up exhibition of around 500 of her Barbies and Kens on now at the Wellington Museum.

With a total collection of more than 1600 boxed Barbie dolls and 300+ freestanding dolls, the Wellington exhibition, titled 'The Barbie Collector' and on until September 10, only features about a quarter of Patsy's full roster of dolls.

Regarded as one of New Zealand's biggest Barbie collectors, Patsy has been collecting the dolls since the 1990s - a hobby which she says "started as a bit of a joke to be honest, then it got a little out of hand!"

Timed to coincide with the release of The Barbie Movie, The Barbie Collector exhibition shines a spotlight on the social history of Barbie, noting how the iconic doll has changed across time.

It's also a portrait of Patsy herself. "People that you least expect collect," says Patsy, who worked as a paramedic for Hato Hone St John Ambulance for 40 years before retiring. "They say people who collect things live longer."

For Patsy, her collection has offered a fun alternative to the stress and seriousness of her job as a paramedic. "Half the fun is in finding the dolls."

She also loves the joy her collection brings to others. "I have so many stories to share!"

The exhibition also features a digital photo series of the dolls by award-winning artist Yvonne Todd, a 'design your own Barbie' craft station, and for the true fan, life-size Barbie and Ken boxes in which visitors can have their photo taken

Wellington Museum is on Jervois Quay, about 750m from Te Papa. Entry is free. A video by the museum on Patsy can be seen at: youtube.com/watch?v=AbddbuaHvCs.



• Patsy with a small selection of her Barbies in Helensville

Deadline looms for local board plan feedback

Locals have until 4pm on Monday, August 14 to provide feedback on Rodney Local Board's draft three-year plan. The final plan will guide local board decision-making in Rodney over the next three years on things like parks and playgrounds, community funding and group support, and events and programmes.

Rodney Local Board chair Brent Bailey says the consultation is vital as communities and the council grapple with the aftermath of extreme weather events, council's financial pressures, and the economy.

"We face many challenges as we enter some of the most difficult financial years we have ever experienced. Everyone knows council budgets are tight, and the impact of council's tough financial situation on local board budgets. We hope this plan will be your plan as much as ours, and that you will talk to your local board members and tell us if we have got it right."

Locals can provide feedback online at: akhaveyoursay.co.nz/localboardplans.

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Defibrillator donated to museum

Helensville Lions Club has donated a defibrillator to the Helensville Museum.

Supplied by Hato Hone St John, the Lions purchased the \$3600 defibrillator and donated it to the museum. St John members will hold a training session with the museum staff on its use.

Museum president Leigh Bosch says she hopes the defibrillator never needs to be used, but it is there if needed in the case of someone suffering a cardiac arrest while at the museum.

The defibrillator is mounted on the outside of the museum's Mill Road administration building, and is available at any time for the public to use in such an emergency.

The Lions Club is

actively seeking new people who would like to join them in helping the local community. Club members enjoy informal company as well as working at having fun while raising money and doing good work for others.

Anyone interested can phone Scott Osmond on 021 0261 4495 for further information.



• From left: Scott Osmond from the Lions Club, Helensville Museum president Leigh Bosch, and Helensville Hato Hone St John Area Committee treasurer John Issott with the new defibrillator

Lots of road speed changes proposed for Rodney area

Auckland Transport has released its draft speed management plan for 2024-27 which would see speed reductions introduced on numerous roads around our area.

Feedback on the plan is open until August 28 at: haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/kko. An interactive map showing all the proposed changes is also on that page.

The plan calls for variable speed limits outside schools, and locally that means Waioneke, Parakai, and Helensville primaries, and Kaipara College. Those variable limits would see speeds drop to 30km/h outside the schools, and in some cases parts of surrounding roads, during the busy morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up periods.

Numerous other roads around the district will see speeds permanently slashed to just 60km/h, in most cases for the entire

lengths of the roads.

The list includes: Alf Access, Bradly, Davidson, Fordyce, Hutchinson, James Mackie, Kaipara View, Kiwitahi (partial), Mangakura, Rimmer, Rogan, Tarrant, Te Pua, Twin Springs, and Wharepapa.

A section of South Head Rd would drop to 80km/h.

The draft plan also calls for the introduction of three 'Safe Rural Zones', which would see speed limits of 60km/h on every rural road in the zone and 30km/h in any urban areas.

All of South Head peninsula beyond Crosland Rd would be classed as a Safe Rural Zone, as would everything north of Kaukapakapa to the northern border of the Auckland region, barring far eastern areas like Warkworth and Matakana. Great Barrier Island is the only other planned 'safe' zone in the whole of Auckland.



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from our local MP

I often talk about how well Helensville and surrounding areas are served by local volunteers. There's a good reason for this: quite simply, we would be lost without them.

In the case of Justices of the Peace (JPs as they are generally known), a crucial role is fulfilled by a highly dedicated but unpaid workforce.

Last weekend I met with a number of JPs in Helensville at the new Citizens Advice Bureau offices on Commercial Road. They were gathering for the AGM and to recognise the 10-year and 20-year service milestones of several of those JPs, under the leadership of Lindy McDermott.

I was invited to present certificates recognising such sterling service, a duty I was only too pleased to fulfil. If I'd had any copies of documents I needed certifying, I would have come to the right place with a dozen JPs to choose from!

These are public-spirited people who are put forward to serve specifically on the basis that they already serve the people. The application for a new JP requires letters of support from community organisations, so this kind of background is essential.

The relationship between a local MP and the area's JPs is an important one, not least because I have a role to play in recommending new applicants to the Associate Minister of Justice.

I tend to pay particular attention to the work of JPs for another reason, though - which is the largely unsung role they play in the justice system.

As the Courts spokesperson for National, I'm keen to ensure that we keep making the most of the 'Judicial JP' role, which is pretty much what it sounds like: JPs who hear cases of relatively minor offending before the courts. Our system of justice is groaning under the strain of massive backlogs, so perhaps we can make more use of Judicial JPs and Community Magistrates to hear cases. Watch this space!



Some of these unsung heroes also approve out-of-hours search warrant requests and provide support to young people in police custody, through roles such as 'Nominating Officers' and 'Issuing Officers'.

Whenever I meet with the JPs from this area, I make a point of thanking them for their service. I'd respectfully encourage you to do the same. After all, we would be lost without them.

- Chris Penk
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
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'Bestie' comes to library

Helensville Library this month introduces 'Bestie'.

Bestie is a new collection of 10 popular must-read books. They'll be available in libraries only, on a first come, first served basis. The library will have multiple copies of the Bestie books, easily identified on display by purple and yellow Bestie stickers.

The first Bestie collection at Helensville Library, available now, is the 'We Read Auckland' collection, featuring 10 books by Auckland authors. From fiction to non-fiction, crime to coming of age, there will be something to interest every reader in these diverse stories of Tāmaki Makaurau.

More information is available on the Auckland Council Libraries website.

Last month's Soft Toy Sleepover at the Library was another huge success, with 53 toys spending two nights at the library.

Following a storytime in the library, the toys were left by their owners. They were then taken across the road to Retts van Dam's Mapu-I-Musika Therapy Fale, a place Children's Librarian Anne Coppel describes as "magical to visit".

"My thanks to our wonderful crew of helpers - in addition to the Library and Service Centre team: Richard, Kate, Sharon, Lisa, Jenny, and the wonderful Jess," says Anne.

Many photos from the toy sleepover are available on the library Facebook page.

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We are entering events season and it is all go in the North West.

The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 is on and businesses in the Helensville area can still make the most of the atmosphere by placing bunting in their shop fronts. Business Association members can receive their bunting for free - simply pop into Harcourts The Difference and speak to Nicky Horsbrough, or speak to James Scott at the Helensville District Health Trust.



Making the most of FIFA, our first local business networking event was held on Tuesday, July 25 at the grounds of the West Coast Rangers in Huapai. The Rangers have two home grounds, one in Huapai and the other in Taupaki, which hosted the Vietnamese team - so we had some international talent right here with us in the west.

Nominations for our highlight event of the year, the North West Country Business Awards, are now open. Visit our website at northwestcountry.co.nz/awards2023/ to get more information and a link to the nomination form. Entrants are given the option of a mystery shopper, and we have a few new business categories associated with fitness and health. Entries close at 6pm on Friday, August 25.

The winners will be announced at a dinner at Allely Estate in early November. This is a fun night attended by hundreds of staff from local businesses across the district and compered by a celebratory MC.

Please get in touch if you have any questions about any of our events, or would like to host a business networking event.

- Danielle Hancock

Manager, North West Country Business Assn
manager@northwestcountry.co.nz



Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

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Clothes swap, sale to help Parent Aid

A women's clothing 'Swap and Shop' event will be held in Kumeū in September to raise funds for Parent Aid North West.

All profits raised from the event will go to Parent Aid, a not-for-profit organisation which since 2002 has provided free home help to parents with a new baby or preschooler who live from Kumeū in the south up to Glorit in the north.

The Kumeū Clothing Swap & Shop will be held in the main buildings at Kumeū Showgrounds on Sunday, September 10 from 10am to 4pm.

Its mission is to promote community and sustainability, reduce textile waste, and make good quality clothing accessible to everyone.

Women are asked to bring lightly used clothes to one of the drop off days. They pay a \$30 donation, then at the event they can take home the same number of items as they donated. If they want more than their quota, additional items are just \$5.

Clothing swappers can come any time on event day between 10am and 4pm, though from 1pm the doors open to the public with all remaining items on sale for \$5.

Event coordinator Bex Holland says it's "an incredible way to buy quality second hand women's clothes for a total bargain.

"Instead of buying new items, you have

the opportunity to breathe new life into pre-loved fashion treasures. By participating in a clothing swap you contribute to reducing textile waste and minimising your carbon footprint."

The drop off days at the showgrounds sheds are: Thursday, September 7 from



• Browsing at the last Swap and Shop event

3pm to 7pm, Friday, September 8 from 9am to 5pm, and Saturday, September 9 from 8am to 11am.

The event will also include live music, coffee, crepes, a raffle, and a silent auction.

More information and event updates are on the Facebook Group 'Kumeū Clothing Swap & Shop' and on Instagram.

making the difference

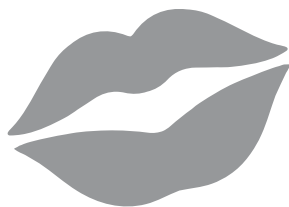
Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz. The lucky recipient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

August's recipients are Jeff and Ros, who chose a voucher for Swale Earthmovers.

Jeff and Ros were nominated by Sara Kinsley-Smith, who says: "I would like to nominate our ex-posties, Jeff and Ros, for 22 years of hard work, good humour, and getting our mail to us - regardless of what the world was throwing at us at the time. Jeff and Ros have constantly delivered great service to our community, and it would be good to call this out, and say 'thank you!'"



• Jeff with Nicky



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local board matters

State Highway 16 safety improvements have been delayed yet again.

I received an email from NZTA on July 21 advising that Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is temporarily pausing Stage 2 of the SH16 Brigham Creek to Waimauku project for six to 12 months due to a significant increase in forecasted costs.

This has come out of the blue.

The Stage 1 works haven't been paused and are planned to start shortly. That said, the decision to begin with this section of the project rather than the vastly more valuable Stage 2 that provides additional lanes and a new roundabout south of the Taupaki roundabout, was controversial. Many in the community have concerns about the existing intersection and the congestion it causes on SH16 north of Taupaki, which reduces southbound traffic in Kumeū to a standstill.

Concerns for elderly

A concerning pattern is coming from older clients of the Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau.

"Lonely older people in our community are lacking support from family or friends, and practical advice on a number of issues including elder abuse," says CAB manager Rani Timoti.

Referrals have been made for them to local support organisations such as Kindred Services and Age Concern Rodney.

Crossword answers

Across: 7. Europe 8. Edison 9. Odds
10. Delicate 11. Unite 12. Twosome 14. Old-time
16. Adult 19. All right 20. Oath 21. Lessen
22. Shadow.

Down: 1. Duodenal ulcer 2. Dorset 3. Tends
4. Yellows 5. Circus 6. Contemplation 13. Imagine
15. Thrust 17. Doodad 18. Stash.



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If there is a need to reduce the scope and hence the cost of this project, surely postponing Stage 1 and continuing with Stage 2 would be preferable?

Given the total lack of progress to date, it seems unthinkable that was not considered.

The most worrying thing about this bombshell is the fact that a six to 12 month pause is very likely to end up as a cancellation of the project.

The almost decade-long history of this project has been plagued with central government interference in the form of increased scope, the need for new business cases due to these changes, delays in approving larger budgets, further cost increases due largely to inflation, and priority being given to the northern Stage 1 over what the community has viewed as the vastly more valuable southern Stage 2.

The previous National Government's imposition of the Huapai 'triangle' Special Housing Area and the raft of private plan changes that effectively doubled the population of Kumeū should have triggered a large-scale investment in SH16 capacity improvements. But as usual central government has instead taken five years just to determine the route. While Notices of Requirement for the Northwest Strategic Network have recently been released the construction of this infrastructure is entirely unfunded at this point.

An argument could be made that New Zealand has entirely failed in the provision of an effective transport network as the budget has been frittered away on popular climate crisis responses rather than providing infrastructure that aids in our national productivity, self-sufficiency, global competitiveness, and attractiveness as a place to live and work.

Something needs to change...

- Brent Bailey
Chair, Rodney Local Board
brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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community tidbits from town and around

KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The Kaukapakapa market will again be held at the the Helensville Showgrounds for August, open from 8.30am to 1pm on Sunday, August 20. Duo 'Take 2' will be providing the live music, and there will be free hair plaiting for the children.

Stalls will include fresh local produce, native plants and trees, artisan food and preserves, fresh coffee, donuts, cakes and pies, handmade crafts and art work, knitting, skin care, gifts, jewellery, collectibles and bric-a-brac - plus Helensville Lions will have books for sale and their regular sausage sizzle.

No dogs please except for assistance dogs. For more information phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email her at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

PROWRESTLING

The 'Action Packed' Wrestling New Zealand Championship will be held at Kaipara College on August 26.

NZ Pro Wrestler J.T. Hollow, known as Voidheart, will fight Charlie Roberts, and there will be a team Tag Team fight with Nu Blood (pro wrestler Zac Hayle and Kid Nova) fighting Horus and Phoenix Tallion.

The evening will also feature a 10-person 'Battle Royale' style fight.

The event will be rounded out with the Wrestling Collectibles NZ Championship.

Doors open at 6.30pm and the fighting starts at 7pm. Tickets are available from Eventfinda.

'Big Little Local' event returns

Planning is underway for another free Big Little Local event this year, to be held on Saturday, November 11.

Like last year's inaugural event, it will be held at Rautawhiri Park and will showcase a wide range of local businesses.

Businesses wanting to book a stand or to showcase their business should email helensville@harcourts.co.nz. There is no cost to have a stand or stall, but donations of prizes or raffle items are being sought.

Harcourts The Difference manager Nicky Horsbrough says they are looking to run silent auctions and have plenty of prizes and giveaways again.

The recipient of funds raised will be announced shortly.

"We had lots of great feedback and requests to do it again from the businesses and the local community, and I thought with the tough times a lot of our businesses have been through it's a great platform for them to connect with the community again," says Nicky. "And we all had a lot of fun!"

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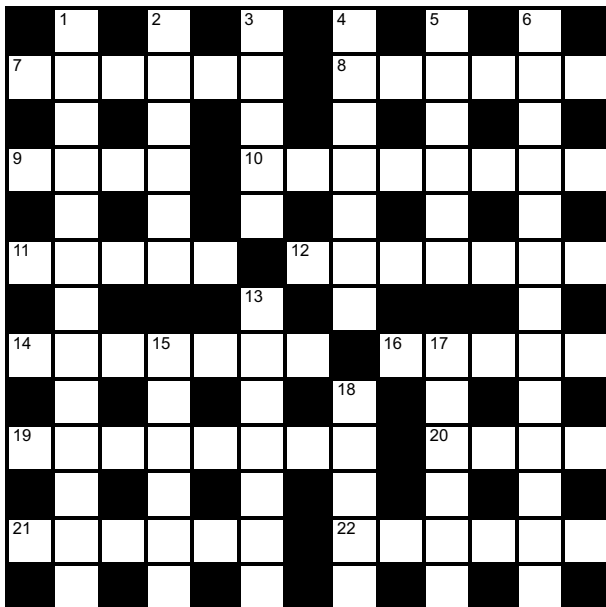
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BATTERY TOWN

crossword



Across

- 2nd smallest continent (6)
- Microphone inventor (6)
- Probability (4)
- Fragile (8)
- Join (5)
- Couple (7)
- Long established (3-4)
- Mature (5)
- Yes (3,5)
- Profane expression (4)
- Reduce (6)
- Vestige (6)

Down

- Painful abdominal complaint (8,5)
- Maiden Castle county (6)
- Is inclined (5)
- Colours developing in Autumn (7)
- Performing animal show (6)
- Reflection (13)
- Conceive (7)
- Shove (6)
- Gadget (6)
- Hiding place (5)

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ANSWERS

See Pg 11 for this month's answers.