

Delivered monthly to Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill, South Head and Shelly Beach + Online

\$17m upgrade to water treatment plant

A group of locals took a tour around Helensville's recently upgraded wastewater treatment plant in late November.

The plant, which treats wastewater from around 1600 homes and businesses in Helensville and Parakai, has had a \$17million upgrade to vastly improved the

quality of its treated wastewater and make it better able to cope with peak flows in wet weather.

The upgrade included installation of New Zealand's first operational 'membrane aerated biofilm reactor' (MABR) - relatively new technology for the biological treatment of wastewater.

Watercare technology innovation manager Kevan Brian says the old plant had an oxidation pond and ultra-filtration which wasn't consistently meeting consent requirements for the level of ammonia in the discharge - to the extent that Auckland Council issued an abatement notice in late 2021.

"We needed to change something and we needed to do it quickly," he says.

"We'd been trialling an MABR at our innovation centre at the Māngere Wastewater Treatment Plant. While it hadn't been done before in New Zealand, we already had the data to give us confidence it was the right solution for Helensville."

Inside the MABR tanks is an army of bugs that eats the carbon in liquid wastewater and reduces the amount of organic compounds and ammonia nitrogen.

"These bugs need oxygen to survive, so we pump air in to keep them happy and healthy. In the MABR, membranes hang down inside the tank like spaghetti, and the bugs cling to the membrane surface. We pump air in, and oxygen diffuses through the

membrane surface. Because it diffuses oxygen, it uses about four or five times less energy from pumping than a traditional aerated bioreactor."

The MABR technology went into service in April and has been closely monitored as part of the commissioning process - and Kevan says performance is exceeding expectations.

"It's significantly outperforming the design standards, which is excellent," he says. "We'd targeted a reduction of ammonia to 10mg/l, which is still below our consent

WIN!

We have a Helensville Show Goody Bag to give away to one lucky reader, worth approximately \$180.

This will give you most of what you need for an exciting family day at the Helensville Show, on at the Helensville Showgrounds on Saturday, February 24.

The Helensville Show Goody Bag contains:

- 2x adult entry tickets (children 16 and under are free);
- 4x coffees to kickstart the day (or any drinks to a maximum value of \$20);
- \$50 voucher to use on the sideshows and amusements;
- \$50 food voucher to redeem at Mobile Catering for lunch;
- 4x single serve ice creams (maximum value of \$20);
- 2x Helensville Show shopping bags.

To go in the draw, simply email your name and phone number to:

xmas@helensvillenews.co.nz

by Wednesday, December 20. We'll draw the winner immediately and will email the Show entry tickets along with a voucher to be redeemed at the office on Show day for the rest of the goodies.



• Locals tour the treatment plant in late November

requirements, but its actual performance sees ammonia levels in the treated wastewater about 1.4mg/l.

"Ultimately it means we're now discharging much higher quality treated wastewater to the Kaipara River."

Other benefits of the MABR system are that it's much cheaper than a membrane bioreactor, it's quieter, it has a smaller footprint, and it reduces the greenhouse gas emissions from the biological treatment process by up to 50 percent.

• To Page 2

PREMIER

One stop - we do the lot!

- PANEL BEATING
- MECHANICAL REPAIR
- TYRES

Call today for an appointment or FREE quote!

93 Mill Rd, Helensville, Auckland



www.premieronestop.co.nz
www.tyrepower.co.nz

PH 09 420 8806

MID WEST
PUMPS



- Water Pump Sales & Servicing
- Water Filtration Systems
- Filter Supplies
- Deep Well & Submersible Bore Specialists

420 7694

www.midwestpumps.co.nz

info@midwestpumps.co.nz



River Valley
Builders

* RENOVATIONS * NEW BUILDS

* DECKS * RE ROOFING

Shane Inglis
021 193 5000

Parakai Springs
Open 7 Days

Naturally Heated Pools
Inflatable Kidzone
Water Slides
Picnic Areas
BBQ Hire
and more...

www.ParakaiSprings.co.nz
info@parakaissprings.co.nz
0800 HOTPOOLS (468 766)

editorial

Season's greetings everyone!

Here's looking forward to 2024 being a more enjoyable year for everyone. After a couple of years of Covid, I think everyone had great hopes for a 'normal' year this year, only to get hammered with extreme weather events, continual rain even when the weather wasn't being 'extreme', and seemingly endless cost of living increases.

So roll on 2024. It looks like we're at least going to have a decent summer - hopefully not one that's too dry for all the farmers and people on tank water out there!

Have a fabulous, happy festive season, and stay safe whether you are travelling away or staying put in our lovely South Kaipara, and we'll see you back with our February issue, where we'll have some exciting news to announce.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Help decorate Art Centre Christmas tree

Locals are being offered the chance to help decorate the Helensville Art Centre's Christmas tree.

Sculptor Jeff Thomson has cut and primed metal shapes ready to be decorated.

Water treatment cont...

• From Page 1

The treatment plant's upgrade also included additional ultra-filtration capacity, the installation of an automated standby generator to keep the plant running during power outages or surges and work to strengthen and restore the capacity in the oxidation ponds by reinforcing the embankments.

Our project manager Tony Morley says the urgency of the project meant a different approach was needed.

"Because we were fast-tracking this project, the designer, contractor, and supplier had to work together to agree who could most efficiently detail the design. This resulted in our contractor detailing up elements of the design to maintain the tight construction programme.

"We used off-site fabrication to speed up the pace of construction, with the construction team focussed on the on-site works," Morley says.

"The two MABR tanks were built off-site and installed in just one day - with no concrete platform and no piles. This worked really well because the site has very little space, being squeezed between the Kaipara River and the oxidation ponds.

They can be picked up from the Art Centre until Saturday, December 9, painted or decorated as you like, then returned to the centre by December 14 to go on the Christmas tree.

December is the gallery's annual Cash and Carry exhibition, with all artwork under \$250. This exhibition runs from Wednesday, December 6 until Friday 22, with a 'Christmas Party' opening event on Friday, December 15 from 5pm to 7pm.

The Art Centre is holding two workshops in December, both with Jacky Pieper. The first is a Wine and Paint evening on Thursday, December 7 from 5pm to 7pm, with all material provided and a \$55 per person cost. Jacky will also hold a Christmas Table Centrepiece workshop on Saturday, December 16 from 10am to midday, cost \$65 with all materials provided. Email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz to book.

Helensville Art Centre will close on Saturday, December 23 and reopen on February 1 next year with its first 2024 exhibition titled 'Kaipara Awa - A River That Connects Us.'

Art Centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie says the Kaipara River "is as much a symbol as a physical body of water" and the exhibition will reflect what the river means to us. Open to anyone and in any media, it's a broad subject which she says can be interpreted as imaginatively as desired. Details and an entry form are available on the Art Centre website: artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Prestige

Real Estate International Ltd
Licenced REAA2008

Jana Mills
Real Estate Specialist

Mob: 021 509 990

jana@prestigerealestate.co.nz

local
EXPERT

BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY?

Knowledge and experience yields many advantages in real estate. I know how to make selling or buying a home an adventure. Call me when you are ready to start yours.

Jana Mills



New Shelly Beach playgrounds

Work on two new playgrounds costing around \$500,000 at Shelly Beach is hoped to begin next January.

The two projects are expected to take three to four months to complete, depending on weather. It was decided to defer starting the work until after the Christmas holiday period so the current playgrounds could still be used.

The existing lower foreshore playground is being removed completely, and the area reinstated with grass and native trees. The current paths will be kept, along with the barbeque and one picnic table.

A completely new playground will be built on the seaward side of the current one. Play equipment will include a hammock and climbing frame, a double swing set, a tunnel, a double slide, a dolphin rocker, a spinner, and climbing hand holds. Part of the playground will have bark surfacing, and the remainder a 'wet pour' rubber safety surface.

A sand area will have a sand digger, sand unit, and concreted items to dig for.

There will be three new picnic tables, a bench seat shaded by a specimen tree, and painted 'find me' images on the concrete path to encourage users to explore the park. The whole thing will be finished off with the planting of shrubs, groundcovers and specimen trees.

On the upper playground, beside the Shelly Beach fire station, the existing basketball court will be retained, but reshaped into a full-sized court.

A climbing frame will be installed over a

bark surface, two picnic tables put in, and a concrete area with painted games and skate grinding boxes created. Like the lower playground, the existing path will be retained and painted with 'find me' images of birds and plants.

Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara were involved in the concept design stage of the project says Rodney Local Board member Mark Dennis, and the fire brigade and local residents consulted.

"The good thing about playground renewals is that they must be of today's standards, which are much higher in safety, quality and design compared to what we have seen in the past," says Mark.

"These [new] playgrounds are no longer simply stock standard out-of-the-box playsets of a swing and a slide on some bark - they are fit for

purpose, designed to reflect the location, community, and landscape. The materials they use are much harder wearing, lower maintenance, and safer to use, while still providing an exciting experience for children."

Mark says that while the existing playgrounds are still in a useable condition, it was important to ensure they didn't get to a state of disrepair or become dangerous for children to use, pointing out that as coastal play spaces they are in a very tough environment.

"[It's] great to see so much funding going into our smaller communities that historically have missed out," he adds.



LOWER PLAYGROUND - LEGEND

Existing: 1. BBQ; 2. Picnic table; 3. Playground; 4. Footpath.
New: 5. 3 picnic tables; 6. Shrubs & trees; 7. Play equipment on bark; 8. Play equipment on wetpour safety surface; 9. Play equipment in sand; 10. Bench seat; 11. 'Find Me' painted on path

LIFESTYLE MOWING MACHINERY

"We will put the fun back into mowing"



- Quality brand mowers & ride ons
- Unparalleled service & support
- Large product range

Come in and see us today!
8 Stevens Lane
Waitoki
0274 955 948
www.moadoc.co.nz

WATER Wagon 1

Graeme Waterson



LIKE US ON facebook

027 280 2630

'Pure Spring Water Carriers'

RIVER VALLEY MEATS

Home of the Tasty Sausage

Locally sourced beef, lamb, venison:

- Steak
- Sausages
- Salami

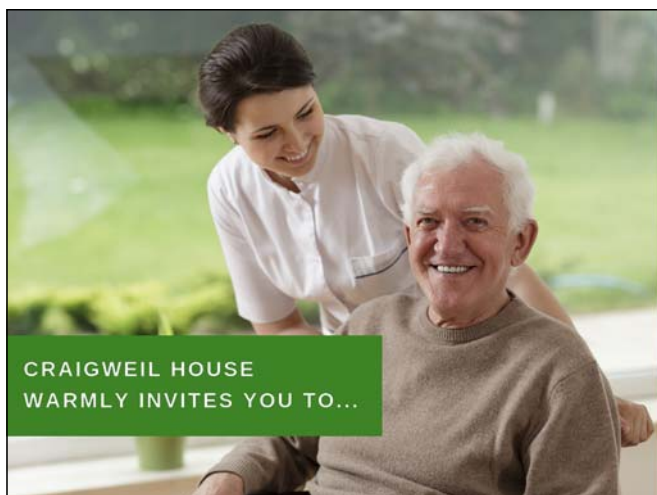




BRADLY BEEF

HELENSVILLE

Andy Cummings 021 685 199
27 Commercial Road, Helensville



CRAIGWEIL HOUSE
WARMLY INVITES YOU TO...

COME VISIT OUR UNIQUE BOUTIQUE RURAL CARE FACILITY

Our unique boutique facility is situated on the Twin Coast Discovery Highway off State Highway 16
Craigweil House is within reach of Muriwai Beach and the Kaipara Coast

A caring environment nurtured by our dedicated team
Rest Home • Hospital • Secure Dementia • Day Stays

No Premium Room Charges

You're welcome to come in for a cuppa and see us or ring us today to discuss a complimentary day stay

09 420 8277
143 Parkhurst Rd, Parakai
info@craigweil.co.nz



Sean Gray Electrical Ltd

- For all your electrical requirements
- Repairs, maintenance & new installations
- Overhead to underground conversions
- Underground services to new homes
- New alarm systems

0274 784 396

Ph/Fax (09) 420 5122, (09) 420 8978
email: seangrayelectrical@xtra.co.nz



ATL PLUMBING LTD

QUALITY SERVICE AT COMPETITIVE RATES!

- Maintenance
- Renovations
- Cylinders
- Roofing
- Spouting
- Central Heating



Find us on
Facebook

CONTACT US
WITH ANY ENQUIRY
OR FOR A
FREE QUOTE

Ph: 09 420 7868 Adam: 021 245 9677
Or: 0800 285 758 (0800 ATL PLUMBING)
Email: adamandanita@xtra.co.nz

Quadski a potential game changer for Coastguard

Coastguard Kaipara is trialling a groundbreaking addition to its rescue fleet - a Gibbs Quadski, courtesy of Gibbs Farm.

With unique capabilities and versatility, the Quadski is poised to significantly enhance Coastguard's operations on the Kaipara Harbour, ensuring more efficient and effective responses to emergencies.

The Kaipara Harbour has challenging characteristics including tidal fluctuations, extensive sandbanks, and narrow, shallow channels, all of which can pose significant operational challenges.

Despite Coastguard Kaipara's well-equipped 8.5m rescue vessel, it has limitations in accessing some areas of the harbour during mid-to-low tides.

The Gibbs Quadski is an amphibious quad bike/ATV which converts into a personal watercraft. It boasts a top speed of 72 km/h on both land and water, features a proprietary marine jet propulsion system, and can transition between land and water in about five seconds. Developed and manufactured by a Detroit-based team, the Quadski shares features with the Gibbs Aquada amphibious car and uses a marinised version of a BMW 1.3-litre engine.

Its features are tailor-made for the Kaipara, offering several key benefits which could revolutionise Coastguard's rescue efforts. These include:

- The Quadski can effortlessly traverse shallow waters without putting the primary rescue vessel at risk of stranding - essential for ensuring Coastguard's ability to help people without delay.
- It allows for fast launching, ensuring a rapid response to emergencies at almost any tide and from multiple boat ramps. Currently, Coastguard Kaipara

can be affected by tides, other boat ramp activity, and waiting for a full crew to assemble; the Quadski's abilities can overcome those issues.

- The Quadski gives Coastguard the ability to deploy a single crew member for immediate response and assessment while the rest of the team is assembled and the primary rescue vessel launched.

A recent incident on the Kaipara Harbour underscores the need for the Quadski's capabilities. In that situation, a jetski with a flat battery was stranded northwest of the Concrete Marker in challenging conditions - an outgoing tide, strong southwest wind, and just one hour until dusk. The jetski operator had limited communication options and insufficient clothing.



• Coastguard Kaipara media officer Richard Downer tests the capabilities of the Quadski

Various options were considered for rescue including waiting for the wind to push the jetski, trying to float a line, or calling for a rescue helicopter. Volunteers did eventually manage to pull the jetski to safety, but it's clear the Quadski's capabilities could have made a significant difference in that scenario.

The trial will continue until around May next year, encompassing both winter and summer conditions, to thoroughly evaluate the Quadski's performance and potential in a range of scenarios.

Gumboots
Early Learning Centre

www.gumboots.ac.nz
1157 Peak Road R D 2 Helensville, ph 411 9038



Helensville Montessori

An Early Learning Centre for children aged from 2 to 6 years.

Where "skillful teachers support children to become confident and competent learners." - Education Review Office

And with generous garden spaces for serious running and playing.

Come and see us anytime. We'd love to show you all that Montessori can offer your child.

58 Garfield Road, Helensville. 09 420 7181
www.helensvillemontessori.co.nz and

Community Patrol relaunched

The South Kaipara Community Patrol has been relaunched, and Helensville Community Constable Melissa Haven is calling for more volunteers to join the patrol.

The patrol was set up in 2009, with members of the Helensville and wider Kaipara community volunteering their time over the following decade.

Recent disruptions such as Covid and its associated lockdowns, weather events, and some key members moving away meant the patrol went into a hiatus for a short time.

But now, with a new vehicle kitted out with all new gear, and a new chairman, the South Kaipara Community Patrol has made a comeback and can again be seen patrolling Helensville and the surrounding areas.

The patrol acts as 'the eyes and ears for police', working closely with and supporting local police by being highly visible in the community and reporting anything suspicious.

"We rely on community members volunteering their time to help and keep our community safe, and with their support it can assist with freeing up police resources", says Melissa.

The minimum requirement for volunteers is one patrol a month, and you can choose a day and time which suits you.

Library summer reading challenge

Raumati Reads: Kiwiana is this year's Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 5 to 12 years. It runs from Monday, December 11 until Sunday, January 21 next year.

Children can complete their reading challenges using a paper log or online, and there are prizes up for grabs.

More information is available from Helensville Library, or online at: aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/schoolholidays.

South Kaipara Community Patrol has a new chairman, James Scott. James and family have lived in Helensville for 11 years; he is also chair of the North West Country Business Association and General Manager of the Helensville District Health Trust.

"I feel privileged to be able to assist with this local community initiative. We cannot do it alone, so the more patrollers we have out in the vehicle the better assistance we can provide to police and our community," says James.



• Long time patrol member Paul Smith behind the wheel of the new 4WD Mitsubishi, with SKCP chair James Scott in the back seat

"Simply being visible in the community has an impact on opportunistic crime. I am hopeful that, one day, with enough patrollers we will be in a position to operate two vehicles, giving even better coverage of the area."

Earlier in the month, West City Auto Group - long-time supporters of the Waitemata patrol groups - kindly donated a Mitsubishi Outlander 4WD to the South Kaipara Community Patrol.

Melissa says: "It's important when patrolling a rural area with such a multitude of different terrains, that we have the right tools to be able to do the job, and having a 4WD vehicle now enables our patrol to do just that."

Anyone keen to join the patrol can get an application pack from the Helensville police station between 8am and 4pm, or email Mel at: melissa.haven@police.govt.nz.

Shop Local Locals supporting locals



paperplus
Select

TICKLE YOUR IMAGINATION

P: 09 420 8646

64 Commercial Road, Helensville

E: helensville@paperpluselect.co.nz

www.paperplus.co.nz

KPL
KUMEU PLUMBING LTD

- plumbing**
- roofing**
- solar heating**
- pumpshop**
- pool & spa**
- woodfires**
- gas fitting**
- drainage**

Ph 420 9108

156 Main Road, Kumeu info@kpl.co.nz www.kpl.co.nz

WHY PAY MORE?
2.90%
Commission rate to \$500,000
then 2% thereafter + GST

FREE MARKETING
FREE APPRAISAL

TOP 100 AGENCY
agent of the year awards
NATIONAL AWARD
2023

AGENCY OF THE YEAR
agent of the year awards
SUBURB WINNER
2023

AGENCY OF THE YEAR
agent of the year awards
SUBURB WINNER
2023

SUBURB WINNER HELENSVILLE
SUBURB WINNER PARAKAI



2023 AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS TOP 100 AGENCY

BURMESTER
REALTY LICENSED UNDER THE REAA 2008

Buying or selling?
Give us a call today...

0800 18 88 80

DANIELLE HANCOCK

Helping you with your
business needs

manager@northwestcountry.co.nz



Sellars Law Helensville Law Office

For all your legal services including:

- Wills & Trusts
- Estate Administration
- Property Relationship Matters
- Refinancing
- Commercial Matters
- Land Subdivision
- Residential, Rural & Commercial Conveyancing



69 Mill Road, Helensville

Ph: 09 420 9324

Email: admin@sellarslaw.co.nz
sellarslaw.co.nz



PHYSIOTHERAPY & HAND THERAPY CLINIC

Book online at: www.physioflex.co.nz

Discounted \$30 flat rate for ACC
appointments for:

- Kaipara College students
- Kaipara Junior Touch players

 facebook.com/physioflex

 [physioflexhlv](https://instagram.com/physioflexhlv)

Ph 420 8899

info@physioflex.co.nz

10 Commercial Rd, Helensville

'Wool' theme for Helensville Show

Next February's Helensville Show will feature a special 'Wool - NZ's Hero Fibre' theme - one that had been planned for this year's event which was cancelled because of flooding.

The theme will be incorporated into many aspects of the Show and will illustrate the journey of wool from sheep to end use, including history and some interactive areas for Show visitors.

As well as demonstrations from former world champion blade shearer Allan Oldfield, there will be a demonstration of throwing and processing a shorn fleece.

Brightside Spinners will be spinning wool and will have interactive activities. There will be a weaver with a loom for visitors to try out weaving, and the local knitting group will have a 'Give it a Go' for Show visitors to try out knitting.

There'll be a fashion parade featuring woollen clothing, ranging from historic items from Helensville Museum and homespun items, through to modern clothes from the likes of Icebreaker and Swandri.

A re-creation of an old shearing shed is planned, featuring old shearing items such as combs and hand pieces, shears, grinders, wool presses, moccasins, and old paperwork. Dozens of old wool brand stencils have been gathered together and will be on show, as well as printed in a folder to create a record of local farms and their brands.

Visitors will even be able to try their hand at creating a custom wool brand.

Trade stands will feature a wide range of wool-based product, everything from carpet and clothing through to insulation, plasters - and hopefully even coffins!

Many of the Show's regular indoor sections will have special wool-themed classes for locals to enter, while there will be increased prize money in the stud and flock sheep classes and a new PGG Wrightson Champion Flock Sheep trophy on offer.

Rare sheep breeders will be displaying unusual breeds that most locals will not have

seen before, such as Baby Doll, Arapawa, Black Nose Valais, Australian Ultra White, Wiltshire, Dorper, and Gotland.

And while the Show's focus is on wool, for the first time there will be a dairy sheep competition, as well as a milking demonstration. It's believed this will be the first time dairy sheep have competed in the Auckland region.

The Show's regular 'guess the weight' competition will be sheep-themed, and the ever-present children's decorated cardboard cutouts this year will be farmers.

A 'Where's Woolly' competition will task Show visitors to find 10 sheep around the grounds and record their names for a prize at the end of the day.

Helensville Museum's regular indoor display will cover the history of sheep farming and wool in the South Kaipara. They

would like to hear from any locals with photos or memorabilia relating to sheep farming in the area - email info@helensvillemuseum.org.nz.

WOOL NZ's Hero Fibre



• Allan Oldfield will demonstrate hand shearing

ACCOUNTANT

UHY Haines Norton
Chartered Accountants

- Farm & Lifestyle Block Specialist
- Business Planning & Development
- Financial Analysis

OFFICE MARK FOSTER
420 7972 021 220 5817

Office hours 9am - 5pm
34 Commercial Rd, Helensville
PO Box 17 Helensville

South Kaipara Men's Trust

Tama Tu Whanau Ora

Strengthening
men and their
families to help
build better, safer
communities.



10 Awaroa Road, Helensville
(former Te Awaroa Youth Club building)
P: 027 800 8081
Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10am to 4:30pm

Work begins on rescue centre

Construction work is well underway on the new Coastguard Kaipara Rescue Centre at the end of Springs Road, Parakai.

It's hoped the 15m x 8m building will be at lock-up stage by Christmas.

Helensville News first reported on plans to build the new Coastguard home back in August 2020, and a groundbreaking

184sq.m. 'fast response' garage for Coastguard Kaipara's 8.5m rescue craft Winstone Rescue, the large 4WD New Holland tractor used to tow it, and the coastguard's second, smaller rescue craft. The third bay will eventually include a workshop, storage, locker room and a bathroom, with a mezzanine above featuring a training room, office and kitchen.

The move from its present location at the Kaipara Cruising Club in Mill Road to the new Parakai site should bring a number of major benefits.

Most important will be faster response times. Being significantly closer to the mouth of the Kaipara River, Winstone Rescue will be able to reach the harbour to respond to distress calls at least 10 minutes faster - a potential vital difference in a life-

threatening emergency.

The Springs Road boat ramp will also give Coastguard Kaipara true 24-hour launch capability. Currently at Mill Road, volunteers are unable to launch for a three-hour period around low tide. When called out during those times, they have to tow Winstone Rescue by tractor to the Parakai ramp anyway, adding to delays.

The near-new ramp and floating pontoon at Parakai will enable fast, easy transfer of casualties to medical staff.

The new home also comes with a huge financial benefit. Coastguard Kaipara has been given a 30-year lease on the land beside the Springs Road wharf carpark for just \$1 per year from Auckland Council, saving the organisation almost \$17,000 a year in rent - almost half a million dollars over the 30 years which will now be available for important maintenance, purchasing and upgrading equipment, and training.

Regular weekly training will also benefit with the volunteer members being able to spend more of their two hours of on-water training actually on the harbour, and less time spent reaching it.



• Framing goes up on the new Rescue Centre building

ceremony and site blessing was held in July this year.

The new building has been designed to future-proof the local volunteer organisation for at least the next three decades.

Two bays will combine to create a

Armistice Day



A good turnout of locals attended the annual Armistice Day commemoration at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph on November 11, to mark the end of World War One 105 years ago.



HELENSVILLE BOWLING CLUB

Email: helensvillebowls@gmail.com

New social and playing members welcome

- Two greens, one natural and one carpet (all weather)
- Evening business house bowls in summer
- Indoor bowls during winter
- Weekly roll-ups and regular Club Comps
- Room-hire available

38 Awaroa Road, Helensville
Phone 09 420 8316

Facebook: [HelensvilleBowlingClub](https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleBowlingClub)

Helensville Railway Museum



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

Helensville Railway Museum is open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 10.30am to 3pm.

Next dates: Sunday 10th Dec.

Sundays 14th & 28th Jan.

Bring the family to see our fascinating displays of working model trains and the history of the railway in Helensville.

Adult \$5, Child \$2, Family \$10. Sorry no Eftpos

Ph 09 420 8961 www.helensvillerail.org.nz

Plus: visit the café and arts and crafts collective in our restored Railway Station.

Building Platforms • Utility Trenches •
Ponds • Drainage • Drilling •
Aggregate Supply • Tip Trucks •
Excavators • Bobcat with Attachments



DRIVEWAY REPAIRS & RE-SURFACING

Call us for a FREE quote

0800 4SWALE 

or 09 420 8352. 103 Mill Road Helensville

MCLEOD MOTORS

- WOFs
- All Mechanical Repairs
- Auto Electrical
- Tyres & Batteries
- Stockists of 'Total' lubricants

5 Railway Street, Helensville
Ph: 420 8633



Mark Dennis

Your Rodney Local Board

Elected Member 

"I'm Local and I'm here to help"

mark.dennis@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



**Hato Hone
St John**

HELENSVILLE STORE

90 Commercial Rd, Helensville

**Mon-Fri: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Saturday: 10am - 2pm**

Ph: 420 9272 027 274 5187

Downsizing, De-cluttering or Moving?



We're locals interested in buying your old stuff for cash - kitchen and dinner ware, tools, wooden furniture, bric a brac + much more.

Call or text on: 020 4120 4777
Email: remu@xtra.co.nz

APPROVED WASTEWATER

Wastewater Design
Tank Supply & Installation
Servicing



Ph: 420 9042

69H Mill Rd, Helensville
info@approvedwastewater.co.nz

www.approvedwastewater.co.nz

Helping New Zealanders do more

We offer personal and business lending for almost anything you might need, whether it's that new vehicle for the family, a ute for the business or even a jetski for the warmer months!

Offer of finance is subject to terms, conditions, lending criteria, responsible lending inquiries and checks. See mtf.co.nz/terms for details.

Talk to Gerrie and
the team today.

☎ 09 399 2478
📍 82A Main Road
✉ kumeu@mtf.co.nz
mtf.co.nz/kumeu



Top college students

Luca Donne was awarded Dux of Kaipara College, and Sherley Peng was named Proxime Accessit at the Kaipara College Year 13 prizegiving ceremony.

In addition to winning Dux, Luca also received Faculty Awards in English, Mathematics, and Science, as well as the Joan Ruzich Cup for Senior English, the Senior Calculus Award, the Reid Family Cup for Physics, the Daymond-King Cup for Senior Chemistry, an AUT Find Your Greatness Scholarship, an Otago Uni Dux Scholarship, a University of Auckland 140th Anniversary Academic Scholarship, and the Year 13 Kaitiaki WAKAAward.

Sherley Peng also received multiple Academic Excellence awards, and the Faculty Cup for Senior Earth & Space Science.

Kaipara College thanks all of the organisations, businesses and families who contributed prizes and attended the prizegiving.

■ SPECIAL AWARDS:

John Key Cup for Contribution to a Specific Area of School Life: James Shaw; **McCurdie Cup for Positive Attitude:** Bianca Bayly and Rosie Gudopp; **Year 13 Kaitiaki WAKA Award:** Luca Donne; **Te Atawhaitia Trophy for the student who most upholds the mana of Te Ao Māori within Kaipara College:** Manaakitia Gray-Hohepa.

■ YEAR 13 FACULTY AWARDS:

Arts: Ellie Kenington; **English:** Luca Donne; **Mathematics:** Luca Donne; **Physical Education & Health:** Lara Middleton; **Science:** Bianca Bayly and Luca Donne; **Social Sciences:** Annaliese Harvey; **Technology:** Brianna Wood.

■ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

AUT Find Your Greatness Scholarship: Luca Donne, Greer Graham, Anna Hilton and Micah Millett; **Massey University Agricultural and Science Scholarship:** Bianca Bayly; **Otago University Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship:** Annaliese Harvey; **Otago University New Frontiers Excellence Entrance Scholarship:** Lara Middleton; **Otago University Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarship:** Tj Esau; **Unitec School Leaver Scholarships:** Zaria Marsh and Amelie De Beer; **Te Tumu Herenga Waka Scholarships (2):** Manaakitia Gray-Hohepa and Chloe Kay; **South Kaipara Anglican Methodist Church of St Matthews Scholarship:** James Shaw; **Neil Notley Scholarship:** Jade Culverwell; **McLeod Munro Scholarship:** Annaliese Harvey; **\$5000 Bruce Cochrane Hato Hone St. John Scholarship:** Ella Fournier; **Bruce Cochrane Hato Hone St. John Scholarship:** Ashleigh Edlington and Lara Middleton; **Lions Award for Community Service:** James Shaw; **Kindred Family Services Courage and Commitment Award:** Scarlet Payn; **Helensville District Health Trust Scholarship:** Xavier Taylor; **Girl Boss Primary Industries Activator Award:** Bianca Bayly.

■ SPORTS AWARDS:

Honours: Jess Smith; **Blue Supreme Sports Awards for Sporting Excellence & Outstanding Performance in Basketball:** Xavier Taylor; **Waka Ama:** Niko Stokes; **Rugby:** Manaakitia Gray-Hohepa and Cooper Sinton; **Football:** Jess Smith; **Sportswoman of the Year:** Jess Smith; **Sportsman of the Year:** Ottis Oliver-Chambers.



• Dux Luca Donne, above, with Principal Cindy Sullivan, and below, Proxime Accessit Sherley Peng



from our local MP

Breaking news: we have a government!

It took a while for negotiations to be completed but - just in time for the deadline for this column - we are now there.

Focusing on local issues, I'm very grateful to have been returned as the Member of Parliament for this area and want to thank everyone who participated in the election. That includes candidates of other parties and everyone who voted ... regardless of whether that was for me or someone else, of course.



I am already working on advocating to the new administration for the needs of Helensville and surrounding areas to be met.

On a related note, I have been given some ministerial roles to perform by the new PM. While these are national issues in the sense that they relate to all of New Zealand, I will be thinking about how best to ensure I stay connected to areas like this when making policy in Wellington.

In my new role as Minister for Building and Construction, for example, it occurs to me when I drive around northwest Auckland that we could do with building practices that involve much less red tape. Obviously the sweet spot is to reduce the cost of building and renovating homes and commercial buildings without compromising quality unduly. As always, getting the infrastructure to match building growth will remain important, but there's no reason for the construction side of things to be unduly expensive.

Likewise with the 'Veterans' portfolio, there are plenty in the Helensville area who have worn a New Zealand Defence Force uniform (such as those found at the Kaipara RSA) so I will be looking out for their welfare no less than that of anyone else in this country.

All in all, I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve and look forward to continue seeing you around. Nothing has changed in that regard.

- Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz

the business

We had a fantastic night of glitz and glamour at our North West Country Business Awards on November 7. 170 people gathered to recognise the 36 finalists competing in 10 different business categories, three special categories as well as the People's Choice Award and overall Supreme Award.

Local celebrity Alison Mau was our MC for the evening and made the whole event come together.

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to all the businesses who took the time to enter this year, and we encourage all businesses to consider running next year. Check our website for more information, and our regular social media posts where we highlight each winner - and make sure you support local.

See page 12 for an article and list of the winners.

Christmas is looming and we want to paint the town green and red to celebrate. Our outdoor Christmas trees should be installed in Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Waimauku, and Kumeū by the time you read this, with the Kumeū Santa Parade being held on December 1. North West Country business association is proud to be one of the major supporters bringing cheer back to the community.

Businesses should get decorating as our Christmas Store Decorating competition opens on Friday, December 1 and runs until Saturday, December 16. We have two cash prizes to give away to the two best-decorated stores.

- Danielle Hancock

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



Harcourts The Difference

Proud

TO BE IN OUR COMMUNITY



GUMBOOT FRIDAY

TOTAL *raised* \$994.70!

BIG LITTLE LOCAL

TOTAL *raised* \$898.00!



Your team at
Harcourts Helensville

WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

09 420 7663 | helensville@harcourts.co.nz

The Difference Limited Licensed Agent REAA 2008

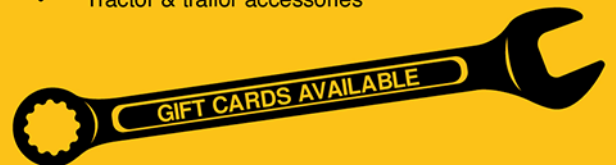
www.thriftyautosupplies.co.nz

Thrifty

AUTO SUPPLIES LTD.

Your locally owned supplier of:

- Engineering accessories, parts & supplies
- Oils, aerosols, adhesives & lubricants
- Wide range of metric, UNC/UNF & rare fasteners
- Automotive batteries, consumables & components
- Hand tools - spanners, sockets etc
- Welding supplies, cutting & grinding discs
- Brass fittings / air fittings
- Chain & rigging components
- Tractor & trailer accessories



Bits & bobs to keep you going.

OPEN: MON-FRI 8-5 | SAT 8-12 PH: 09 420 7127

103 MILL RD HELENSVILLE

Rain doesn't dampen Group Day enthusiasm

70 primary school children from around the district took part in the South Kaipara Group Day at the Helensville Showgrounds last month.

Group Day is the culmination of each individual school's 'calf club' or Ag Day as they are more commonly known these days.

Pupils from Helensville, Parakai, Waioneke, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Waimauku, Taupaki, and Dairy Flat schools took their pet lambs, calves, and goats to the showgrounds to compete in a full-on roster of competitions.

As is often the case with outdoor events

in the Auckland region these days the weather didn't co-operate with steady rain most of the day - but it did nothing to dampen the children's enthusiasm.

Entry numbers were impressive, with 50 school children entering lambs, 18 calves, and five goats.

The children compete in age groups in different classes, with the winner of each class from the junior, intermediate and senior rings then vying to be named Champion in that class. Those champions are then further judged to choose the overall Supreme Champion.

Some of the successful entrants will go on to enter their farm pets in the Calf Club section of the Helensville Show in February.

The 2023 Group Day Champions are:

■ LAMBS

Call & Most Obvious Pet - Olivia Hughes (Taupaki); **High Jump** - Koen Neville (Waitoki); **Leading & Personal Control** - Ava Kidd (Helensville); **Rearing & Grooming** - Sailor Sandwell (Wainui); **Local (NZ) Trade Lamb** - Zara Coy (Waitoki); **Champion Wool** - Koen Neville (Waitoki).

SUPREME CHAMP - Koen Neville.

■ CALVES

Leading & Handling - Harrison Phillips (Parakai); **Rearing & Grooming** - Ollie Narbey (Helensville); **Light Breed Dairy Type** - Harper Israelson (Dairy Flat); **Heavy Breed Dairy Type** - Ella O'Callaghan (Parakai); **Beef** - Ollie Narbey (Helensville).

SUPREME CHAMP - Ollie Narbey.

■ GOATS

Rearing and Grooming - Harry Browne Hale (Wainui); **Leading & Personal Control**



• Nico Jackson, of Waioneke School, with his calf Oreo, who came second in Class 14

- Harry Browne Hale (Wainui); **Call and Most Obvious Pet** - Ava Lee (Kaukapakapa); **High Jump** - Harry Browne Hale (Wainui).

SUPREME CHAMP - Harry Browne Hale.

Santa to call at two markets

There are two markets in Helensville for December.

First up is a special Twilight Christmas Market at the Helensville Showgrounds on Friday, December 8 from 4pm to 8pm. Santa will be making an appearance, and there will be food trucks, entertainment, and stalls with a range of Christmas gift goods. Live music will be by Ukelele Union, and there will be free hair plaiting and face painting for children.

The regular monthly Village Market will be held on Sunday, December 17 from 8.30am to 1pm, again at the Showgrounds.

It'll be a chance to pick up last minute Christmas gifts, plus fresh fruit and vegetables and plants. There will be the market cafe, live music from duo 'Take 2', and free hair plaiting and face painting for children. And Santa will be calling at this market too with a couple of his elves to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Only assistance dogs are allowed at the Showgrounds. A gold coin donation is asked for parking, with the proceeds going to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts jamboree fund raiser.

The first market of 2024 will be on Sunday, January 21. For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.



• Supreme Champion Lamb winner Koen Neville, of Waitoki School, with his pet lamb Alan (named after the farmer Koen got her from, even though she is a ewe lamb!)

Big Little Local a hit event again

The fine weather came out, and so did more than 300 people to the second Big Little Local event, held at Rautawhiri Park in November.

The family-oriented celebration of local businesses and organisations raised almost \$900 for local charity ParentAid, and organiser Nicky Horsbrough, of Harcourts the Difference in Helensville, says she felt it was busier than last year's inaugural Big Little Local.

"We have had some really great feedback from the stallholders, thanking us for holding the event and saying they had fun and will see us again next year," says Nicky.

While organising the event creates a lot of extra work for staff, Nicky says she would "love to" run another next year.

"The feedback from the community and stall holders is all so positive it feels like the right thing to do - and it's a great opportunity to raise some money for one of our local charities."

Numerous raffles and prizes were won on the day. The winners were:

Gumboot Friday Raffle: Christine; Harcourts/BLL Raffle: Kathryn and Heather; Russell Hobbs air fryer: Jane; HP Fitness class card: Josh; Plants By PinkLady macrame terrarium: Michelle H; Tree Adventures double pass: Amelia; Sweet Retreat luxury cake: Wendy; Thomas Sabo bracelet: Michelle M; Love Curated luxury gift box: Heather; Helensville A&P Show pack: Julian; Parakai Springs family pass: Irene; Baby Einstein touch xylophone: Mark; \$2 to win \$100: Doreen; Guess the Lollies in the Jars: Brandon and Lynnette.



medical centre notes

It's been two years since Kaipara Medical Centre last ran a column in the *Helensville News*, so many thanks to editor Dave Addison for giving us the opportunity to start up again.

I wrote my last column in December 2021 just before going on maternity leave, and many in the community may remember we had multiple staff changes at that time.

It hasn't been an easy two years for Kaipara Medical Centre with national staff shortages, the ongoing impact of Covid, and the general pressures on the health system in New Zealand.

However, things are looking more positive for Kaipara Medical Centre now. We now have much better staffing levels, and are pleased to let our community know we are open to new enrolments again.

We have a wonderful team of three doctors and two nurse practitioners, as well as a fantastic support team.

The doctors are myself (Dr Kathryn Elcock), Dr Dean Foster, and Dr Halima Nati - our newest addition to the team. The nurse practitioners are Beth Poi, who has been with us since 2022, and Sacha Cowell, a nurse practitioner who joined us in October this year.

Nurse practitioners are nurses who have many years of experience and have gone through advanced training to be able to offer care in a very similar way to a GP in primary care.

Both Beth and Sacha can be your lead care provider and offer continuity of care for people with long-term health problems. They can offer standard medical and ACC consultations, prescriptions, repeat prescribing for long term medications, investigations, referrals, and medical certificates - as well as offering the holistic approach that a nursing background brings.

Our current Nurse Prescriber, Kath Dix, will also be undertaking further training to work towards becoming a nurse practitioner.

We have also welcomed Jo Reid to the team in the role of Nurse Lead at the clinic. Jo is well known in the local community and has brought energy and drive to the team here to further improve the services and level of care that we offer. Many of our wonderful team of nurses including Sarah, Courtney, Renee, and Jenna will be well known to you, and they continue to offer nurse-led appointments for immunisations, wound care and dressings, liquid nitrogen, ear suction, blood pressure, and diabetes checks.

Many patients will have also met Roz Ryan, our Health Coach, and Robert Vallom, our Health Improvement Practitioner. They are invaluable members of our team, and between them they offer support with diet, lifestyle, exercise, mental health, stress and sleep issues, and referral to community-based support when needed - and their services are free for all enrolled patients.

The team at Kaipara Medical Centre is led by Practice Manager and Helensville local, Pettina Coates, while our administrative team who welcome you at reception support the clinical team and can help you with your enquiries.

We believe our recent newcomers will help ease some of the pressure experienced over the last few years and improve access for those in the community who need to see us.

Currently the wait for a routine appointment with one of our GPs or nurse practitioners is around one to two weeks. For same-day urgent medical needs or accidents, we run a daily duty clinic from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday for our enrolled patients.

If you feel you need to be seen urgently on the same day, then please call reception from 8am to see if this option is right for you. You will be given an appointment time to see one of the nurses, and then reviewed by the duty doctor or nurse practitioner that day as needed. This service is intended to manage timely issues, such as sore throats, coughs and viral infections, urinary infections, acute pain, breathlessness, as well as accidents.

For more information about our staff, services, and information on how to enrol, please visit www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz or follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre



CYPRESS SAWMILL

BUY DIRECT FROM THE SAWMILL

MACROCARPA

- Kitset Raised Gardens
- Kitset Compost Bins
- Landscape Sleepers
- Pergolas and Beams
- Dry Macrocarpa for Furniture and Joinery
- Laminated Timber Benchtops
- Live-edge, one piece Macrocarpa Slabs
- Firewood, Mulch and Sawdust

TREATED PINE

- Posts and Rails
- Retaining Walls
- Tree Stakes
- Decking Timber
- H5 treated Posts & Beams

Kitset
Garden
Beds &
Compost
Bins

700 Kahikatea Flat Rd, Waitoki
www.cypress-sawmill.co.nz
420 5485



Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

Your local primary birthing facility, Helensville Birthing Centre is well-equipped to provide supportive, positive and informed birthing experiences.

Also offering postnatal stays, take your time to rest, recover and establish breastfeeding in a private, homelike environment with meals and round-the-clock expert care.

Please visit our website to learn more.

53 Commercial Road, Helensville

Ph: (09) 420 8747

Email: bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz

www.birthcentre.co.nz

Local cleans up in business awards

Helensville businessman Andy Cummings cleaned up in the North West Country Business Association's Business Awards, taking out two category wins, one special award, plus the Supreme Award.

Andy's Commercial Road butchery, River Valley Meats, won the Retail category as well as taking the special prize for Best New Business.

His Kumeū Meat Processors business won both the Rural Services category as well as the Supreme Award.

South Kaipara Good Food won the special Environmental Excellence Award as well as winning the Not for Profit/Social Enterprise category, with Parent Aid North West coming in as runner-up.

Parakai Four Square was runner-up in the Retail category.

On Andy winning the Supreme Award, the judges said: "Kumeū Meat Processors is all about 'local' and growing 'other locals'. They have clear strategies and demonstrated a very good market understanding. They are very locally-focused and community centric. They also have detailed clarity around what they stand for as a local business."

The awards were held at Allely Estate on November 7, attended by 170 people who gathered to find out who the winners were in 10 business categories, three special categories, plus the People's Choice Award and overall Supreme Award.

The full results are:

■ Special Awards

People's Choice: Hapunan Filipino Kitchen (chosen from almost 13,000 votes cast); **Outstanding Customer Service Award:** Soljans Estate Winery; **Environmental Excellence Award:** South Kaipara Good Food; **Best New Business:** River Valley Meats.

■ Category winners

Beauty: Aneia Warner Salon, H/C Roots to Ends; **Business & Professional Services:** Marbles (People and Culture Hub), H/C Released; **Health & Fitness:** PWR Fit Studios, H/C The Body Clinic; **Hospitality - Licensed:** Morepork BBQ, H/C The Beer Spot and The Hunting Lodge; **Hospitality - Non-Licensed:** Hapunan Filipino Kitchen, H/C Sweet Retreat; **Manufacturing & Trade:** Dan Taylor Plumbing and Gas, H/C Blackout Electric; **Not for Profit/Social Enterprise:** South Kaipara Good Food, H/C Parent Aid North West; **Recreation & Leisure:** KC Fit, The Dance Shed; **Retail:** River Valley Meats, H/C Parakai Four Square; **Rural Services:** Kumeū Meat Processors, H/C Country Meat Processors.



• Andy Cummings with his haul of awards

Ask Andy Cummings what his favourite win in the NWC Business Awards was and he has to stop and think - but just for a minute.

Is it one of his category wins, getting the best new business award, or taking out the Supreme Award?

"To get the Supreme Award was the ultimate," he says. "I've had Kumeū Meat Processors for six years, and a lot of business owners will relate that there have been a lot of challenges over that time," he adds, citing both Covid and two floodings.

But Andy is also thrilled to have won the awards for Best New Business and Retail.

"It was the first time I've entered the retail section. I've had River Valley Meats here in Commercial Road for less than a year, so it was also eligible as a new business."

He says local support for the store has been "really humbling".

"I grew up here, and always wanted a shop in my home town. Even if people don't buy anything, they stop and have a chat," he says, joking that if everyone who stopped to say hello bought something, he'd be a millionaire!

His win in the Rural Services category with Kumeū Meat Processors was his third in a row, taking out that award also in 2020 and 2022 (there were no awards in 2021 because of Covid).

Andy wants more local businesses to enter the awards next year, saying "it's a brilliant way for people to showcase their businesses".



Santa coming to library

Santa Claus is coming to the Helensville Library and Service Centre on Thursday, December 21 - and will be helping out with the library's craft afternoon activities. Details will be on the library Facebook page closer to the time.

At the time of writing, the library was still operating out of a mobile library bus, parked in the front courtyard, while remedial building work on the War Memorial Hall building continued.

Selected library items, and selected library and council services, are available on the bus. Public computers, printing, and photocopying are currently unavailable - people needing these services can visit the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Rates can be paid at the PostShop inside Paper Plus Select; a rates invoice with a barcode will be needed to do that.

"We do not have access to the Helensville Library email, nor the library or service centre direct dial numbers," says

Anne Coppell, Senior Librarian Children & Youth, adding any changes to services or hours will be on Facebook.

The temporary bus-housed Library and Service Centre is open usual hours, with selected council services available 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 4pm on Saturday.

Regular events will continue as weather permits: Kids Time on Wednesdays from 10am to 10.30am, for under 6s to share songs, rhymes, and stories; Craft afternoons on Thursdays at 3.30pm with sessions for both adults and children, to learn new skills, teach others, and chat. All these sessions will finish the week beginning December 17. Re-start dates will be on Facebook.

Locals can contact Auckland Council and Libraries by phoning Auckland Council toll free on 09 301 0101, Auckland Libraries on 0800 695 427, or Facebook at: facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre.



WINNERS

Supreme Award

Kumeu Meat Processors

People's Choice Award

Hapunan Filipino Kitchen

Special Awards

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD - Soljans Estate Winery

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD - South Kaipara Good Food

BEST NEW BUSINESS - River Valley Meats

Recreation and Leisure

WINNER - KC Fit

Highly commended - The Dance Shed

Hospitality Non-Licensed

WINNER - Hapunan Filipino Kitchen

Highly commended - Sweet Retreat New Zealand

Business, Professional and Public Services

WINNER - Marbles (People and Culture Hub)

Highly commended - Released

Manufacturing and Trade

WINNER - Dan Taylor Plumbing and Gas

Highly commended - Blackout Electric

Retail

WINNER - River Valley Meats

Highly commended - Parakai Four Square

Hospitality Licensed

WINNER - Morepork BBQ

Highly commended - The Beer Spot

Highly commended - The Hunting Lodge

Health and Fitness

WINNER - PWR FIT Studios

Highly commended - The Body Clinic

Beauty

WINNER - Anea Warner Salon

Highly commended - Roots to Ends

Rural Services

WINNER - Kumeu Meat Processors

Highly commended - Country Meat Processors

Not For Profit/ Social Enterprise

WINNER - South Kaipara Good Food

Highly commended - Parent Aid North West





**One Contractor
For All Your Needs**

Geoffrey Sawyers
0274 817 478 420 8738
Email: visionlandscapes@xtra.co.nz
www.visionlandscapes.co.nz



**Your local Landscape Design
& Construction Specialists**

Brandon Aaron

021 0203 0500 or 021 130 2710

HELENSVILLE
PANEL & PAINT

- ▶ Collision Repair
- ▶ Car Restoration
- ▶ Insurance Work

63 MILL ROAD 09 420 6050



**ENGINEERING DESIGN
CONSULTANTS**

Sub-division Specialist

Contact us on 09 451 9044 or team@edc.co.nz
www.edc.co.nz

HELENSVILLE
LAUNDROMAT



**OPEN 7 DAYS
7 AM - 8 PM
SELF SERVICE**

63 MILL ROAD 021 211 1547

Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP hoping for positive change in electorate

Local MP Chris Penk hopes that now being in government, rather than in opposition as he has for the past six years, will bring about some positive changes in the Kaipara Ki Mahurangi electorate he won with a huge 19,500 vote majority.

"It would be great for the electorate to have the attention it deserves with investment in infrastructure, [like] transport, namely the roads but also public transport routes and services.

"I'd love to crack the nut finally of passenger rail potentially up to and including Helensville, but maybe less ambitiously initially to Huapai or Waimauku. It seems to me that's an obvious opportunity.

"And while the decision rests with local government, if there's any ability to strike a deal at central government level or get on board some other parties that might be interested, I'd love to have a part in that."

He says long-planned works to improve SH16 also need to happen.

"It's not going to get any cheaper and we need to get on with it. But also a Kumeū bypass which we specifically talked about during the campaign. At some point we have to acknowledge that

SH16 as the main drag for so much density of population is just unmanageable on its current footprint."

Now a 'real' MP, Chris says he is looking forward to the next three years.

However with a swathe of ministerial responsibilities just announced, he may have to spend more time away from the electorate. While he missed out on a position in cabinet with three parties vying for just 20 spots, he has been appointed Minister for Building and Construction, Minister for Land Information, Minister for Veterans, Associate Minister of Defence, and Associate Minister of Immigration.

"I really hope and expect that I can still attend all the local events like Helensville & Kumeū shows and schools that want me to walk through the doors.

"I think you can't be an effective minister or representative unless you're connected to your local community, and can easily lose touch in Wellington I think," he adds.

"I hope to be able to report progress regularly to the electorate in terms of the things we can do for the good people of the North West."

Of the last six years, he says: "I think I'm more aware of how much good work goes on in the community that's nothing to do with politics or government. It is certainly very

humbling in the role as MP meeting with people who are doing an incredible job of looking after their fellow kiwis."

At number 18 on the National Party list, Chris is becoming a more senior member of the party, amplified by the fact he's been the senior whip for the past couple of years, which has meant working closely with party leader and now Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, and deputy Nicola Willis.

He describes the role of whip as "a little bit of pastoral care, morale and discipline, which sounds like a funny kind of mix. You need to be at the centre of the coming and goings of different MPs and you end up having visibility with a lot of what's going on."

He describes his military background as being "not unhelpful" in that whip role.

As for work/life balance he points out his two young children - Austin, 6 (born just two days before Chris was first elected) and Chelsea, 2 - have never known anything other than a father flying off to Wellington every few weeks.

"It's always a balance to juggle that, but I would say there are a lot of people in this area who work long hours and sometimes multiple jobs and have to do shift work or be away from home, so I don't think we're anything special in that regard."

A keen Warriors supporter, Chris was thrilled with the team's performance this year, and as a huge cricket fan has closely followed the Black Cap's fortunes too.

Despite his 19,500 vote majority at the election, you won't hear the National MP refer to Kaipara ki Mahurangi as a 'safe seat'.

"The area has traditionally been very kind to us," he says. "I never use the term 'safe seat' because I think that sounds arrogant. 2020 proved it's possible to lose a seat that has previously been 'safe'.

"I think if you were to turn a 'safe seat' into a marginal seat or one that could be lost, that would be on the back of appearing to take voters for granted."

Chris says he's listened carefully to the issues raised with him over the past six years and taken them onboard and advocated for them. Now he has the opportunity to deliver - and says locals should hold him to account if he doesn't.

"I would hope and expect people would do that."



local board matters

So what is happening in Parakai at the Kaipātiki Reserve?

A fair question really given the difficulty the Te Poari o Kaipatiki ki Kaipara Board and Auckland Council contractors have had in the last year.

Guy Wishart and I are the Local Board representatives on this co-governance board and our first year in this role has been an instructive experience for us both.

The delays brought by Covid were followed by extreme weather events and a combination of windblown trees and soft ground have made the work of contractors a



• An artist's rendering of the finished playground

Muriwai beach closure

Auckland Council's Planning, Environment and Parks Committee has banned motorised vehicles from Muriwai Beach during high-risk and peak summer periods for the next three years.

This summer, the beach will be closed to vehicles from Friday, December 29 though to Monday, January 15 next year.

Vehicle access will also be banned during Guy Fawkes for 2024 and 2025 to mitigate fire risk to the area, as well as over those years' peak summer periods.

Physical barriers will be installed to manage the closures, and signage will go up before the restrictions come into effect.

Further measures are being considered for the future, including more vehicle restrictions and charging for permits, along with fines for unpermitted vehicles.

real battle. That said, the wonderful design was begun in 2015 with the work of a group of Unitec students, and completed through several collaborations and revisions by Resilio Studio in May 2020.



This design informed the Reserve Management Plan which was supported by the Financial Plan and approved budget.

The stage one capital works approved by Auckland Council are nearing completion with delivery expected before the end of this summer in early 2024, but a large part of the reserve is expected to reopen by Christmas.

Even in this partially completed state Kaipatiki Reserve will be an attractive destination for visitors and locals alike. It's a long-overdue enhancement of the environment and facilities that had become very tired and distressed prior to the Treaty settlement and establishment of the co-governance board.

Based on what Guy and I have seen this is a shining example of what co-governance should be.

The momentum that has been built to date is extremely impressive. The contribution of the partners, Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara, and Auckland Council are apparent throughout, and our South Kaipara community will have a great deal to celebrate and enjoy once the reserve reopens.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Crossword answers

Across: 1. Dress 4. Offal 7. Baku 8. Absorbed
9. Psalter 10. Cache 12. Havana 14. Anorak
16. Psych 18. Edition 21. Rotarian 22. Esau
23. Romeo 24. Rodeo.

Down: 1. Dead sea, 2. Equal 3. Spaceman
4. Oust 5. Farrago 6. Leech 11. Gardener
13. Acclaim 15. Avocado 17. Scour 19. Treed
20. Kilo.



Dion Mayes
Qualified Arborist

All tree work • Pruning
Hedges • Council Approved
Full Insurance • Tree Felling
Tree Chipping Service

Difficult Trees a Specialty

FREE QUOTES

0800 349994
0800 DIZZYH
021 527219 / 09 4205352



Landscape Design / Construction / Maintenance
Water Features / Lighting / Irrigation
Retaining Walls / Decks / Fencing / Pergolas
Planting / Plant Supply
Concrete / Stonework / Paving

info@creatingnaturelandscapes.co.nz
www.creatingnaturelandscapes.co.nz
Call Ben 021 285 4469

Kaukapakapa Drainage

- Septic Tank Systems
- Drainage
- Truck & Digger Hire
- Pile Drilling
- Drain Unblocking

Reasonable Rates

Over 35 Years Experience

Phone/Fax: 420 4149

Mobile: 021 926 301

Email: gary@kdrainage.nz

HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

■ **February 2024 deadline: Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, February 6th 2024

■ **Editorial Enquiries, Letters to the Editor, and Advertising:**

Dave Addison

Ph: 021 178 5568

Email: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

■ **Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:**

Email: subscribe@helensvilleneews.co.nz

2024 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Feb 6th

Copy by: Jan 23rd

Due out: March 5th

Copy by: Feb 20th

Due out: April 2nd

Copy by: Mar 19th

■ **Editorial:** Ph 021 178 5568.

Editor & Publisher: Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874.

■ **Design & Layout:** Dash Design, 021 178 5568.

■ **Printing:** Rob McCorkindale, Print Matters, 0274 740 657.

■ **Copyright:** No material in this newspaper may be copied or reproduced without the publisher's permission.

■ **Disclaimer:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newspaper, but the editor and publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Contributors' views are their own and do not necessarily represent those of Helensville News or its editorial team.



www.facebook.com/helensvilleneews

www.helensvilleneews.co.nz

Arts grants up for grabs

Applications are open for Auckland Council arts and culture grants valued up to \$25,000. Two types of grant are available:

The Regional Arts and Culture Grant: Audience Development and Programming supports the delivery of a wide range of arts and cultural experiences capable of attracting audiences from across the Auckland region.

The Regional Arts and Culture Grant: Business Capacity and Development aims to build the sustainability of regional arts and

culture organisations through the development of:

- Strategic, business and marketing plans
- Feasibility studies
- Organisational development
- Digital development activities.

Grants will be awarded in the range of \$3000 to \$25,000, and applications close on February 4 next year.

Full information and an online application form is available on the Auckland Council website.

Christmas Church Services

A Christmas Carols evening will be held at St Matthews, Garfield Road, on Sunday, December 10 starting at 7pm, run by the local churches of Helensville and Parakai.

ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE

60 Garfield Rd, Helensville. Ph: 420 8868

- Thursday, Dec 14th: 7pm, Blue Christmas, a service of remembrance and hope.
- Sunday, Dec 17th: 9.30am, Carol Service.
- Monday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, KAUKAPAKAPA

Corner Peak Rd & Highway 16. Ph: 420 8868

- Monday, Dec 25th: 10am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC, HELENSVILLE

1 Puriri St, Helensville. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- Sunday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols; 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
- Monday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, HUAPAI

380 SH16, Huapai. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- Sunday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols & Mass 10.30pm Christmas Carols & Midnight Mass.
- Monday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST, PARAKAI

118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. Ph: 420 8911

- Sunday, Dec 10th: 10am, Family Christmas Service.
- Sunday, Dec 24th: 7pm, Christmas Eve Service.

MAGNIFY CHURCH, HELENSVILLE

1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai. Contact Jennifer, Ph: 420 2559

- Sunday, Dec 24th: 10am, Christmas Service; 7-8pm, Christmas Eve Service.

AN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
YOUR WHANAU WILL LOVE!

ACTIVE EXPLORERS
HELENSVILLE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

BOOK A VISIT TODAY!
14 Commercial Road, Helensville
027 229 9403
7:00am - 6:00pm
Ages 3 months - 6 years
4 or 6 hour sessions
Short and Full Day options

MECHANICAL SERVICES

HELENSVILLE

mfa ASSURED

Your trusted local Mechanic

- Servicing, Maintenance, and Repairs of all vehicle makes and models
- Warrant of Fitness (WOF)
- Emergency Roadside Assistance.

90 Mill Rd, Helensville
Ph 09 420 8177

Burnett's

SEPTIC TANK & WATER TANK CLEANING

Serving All Areas
Prompt, Professional Service
Ph AK 412 9210
25 Years Experience

MOBILE
0274 924 494

FIRST AUTO ELECTRICAL

Full Mobile Service

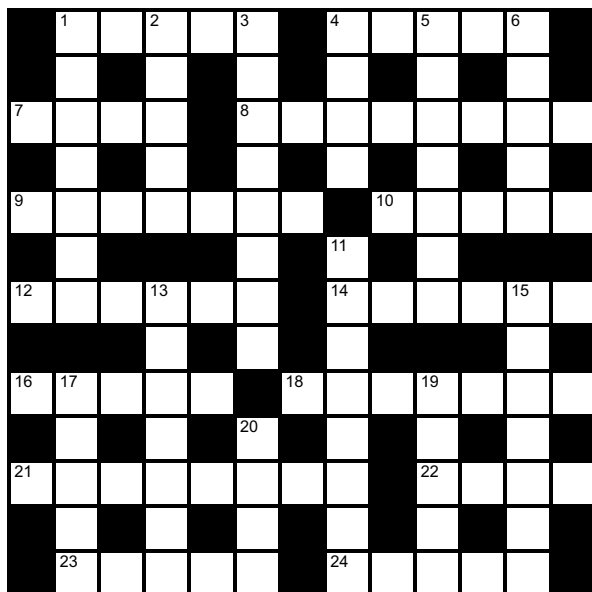
Specialists in Auto Electrical & Air Conditioning
Servicing Vehicles, Heavy Machinery,
Farm Equipment & Marine

Workshop / Parts / Accessories

Ph 09 427 5748
Mob 021 689 700

BATTERY TOWN
PROFESSOR BATTERY SPECIALISTS

crossword



Across

- Apparel (5)
- Viscera (5)
- Capital of Azerbaijan (4)
- Engrossed (8)
- Church songbook (7)
- Hidden store (5)
- Fine cigar (6)
- Windcheater (6)
- Shrink (5)
- Version (7)
- Clubman (8)
- Hairy man of Genesis (5)
- Ardent male lover (5)
- Cowboy display (5)

Down

- Jordan's end (4,3)
- Peer (5)
- Astronaut (8)
- Expel (4)
- Motley assortment (7)
- Bloodsucking worm (5)
- Horticulturalist (8)
- Praise vociferously (7)
- Pear-shaped fruit (7)
- Scrub (5)
- Cornered (5)
- 2.2 pounds approximately (4)

trade & classifieds

Helensville Glass

24 hour service. Free measure and quote.
Ph: 420 8210

ANSWERS

See Pg 15 for this month's answers.