

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

North West Festival returns

After a two-year hiatus, the North West Wine, Beer & Food Festival returns in a few days' time.

The day of music from leading Kiwi artists paired with some of the finest food and drink the North West region has to offer will be held at The Hunting Lodge in Waimauku on Saturday, February 11.

The music line-up will be headed by award-winning artists Bic Runga, Troy Kingi & The Promises, Hollie Smith, and Georgia Lines, while the Hunting Lodge grounds will be transformed to showcase the best offerings from local vineyards, breweries and restaurants.

The food and drinks on offer will be entirely local, featuring wineries Coopers Creek, The Hunting Lodge, Kumeū River, Soljans Estate Winery, and West Brook Winery, along with beers from Hallertau Brewery and Liberty Brewing Co, kombucha

from Mama's Brew Shop, and special dishes from food vendors including Michael Van de Elzen's Good From Scratch, Hallertau Brewery, The Hunting Lodge, and Morepork BBQ.

Tickets are available from loop.co.nz, and cost \$85 for adults (general admission), and \$25 for children under 18. Children under five are free. With limited on-site parking, return bus tickets from Helensville are available for \$25.

The event's rain date is Sunday, February 12.

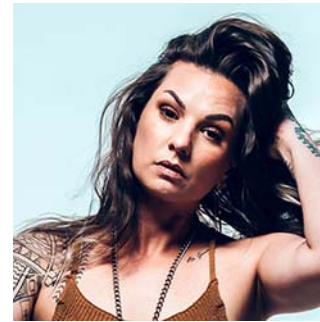
North West Country Manager Phelan Pirrie is excited the festival is finally returning.

"After two years off, I can't wait to see the North West Festival make its return. Previous events have always been a sell-out hit so we're anticipating this to be one of the biggest yet."

Tami Neilson was booked as a headline act, but has withdrawn for health reasons. She's been replaced by another leading Kiwi vocalist, Bic Runga, who will be performing her only Auckland show this summer.

Since the release of her first single 'Drive' in 1996 Bic has been awarded almost every musical honour in New Zealand, including the prestigious APRA Silver Scroll songwriting award, the most Tui Awards by any individual, 20, and Best Female Vocalist four times.

Other headlining acts include multi-award-winning, multi-genre musician Troy Kingi with his band The Promises. A multi-Aotearoa Music Award winner and winner of



• Headline acts, clockwise from top left: Bic Runga, Troy Kingi, Hollie Smith, and Georgia Lines

the APRA Silver Scroll, Kingi will bring his signature sound, moving through funk, soul, folk, and 80's-inspired jams.

Iconic Kiwi soul musician and multi-award winner Hollie Smith will also perform, alongside her full band, following her recent number one album, *Coming In From The Dark*.

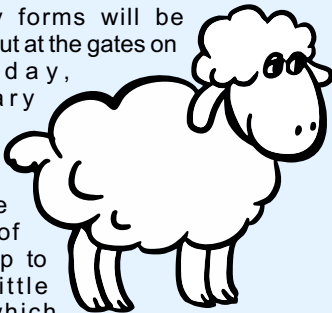
Georgia Lines, who won her first Tui Award this year for Breakthrough Artist at the Aotearoa Music Awards, will make her North West Festival debut. Lines is an R&B-sprinkled pop artist whose recent EP *Human* debuted at number one on the album charts, with the lead single 'Faith' also reaching number one on the NZ charts.

The festival will have a kids zone to make it a truly family-friendly event.

Where's Woolly?

Tying in with Helensville Show's wool theme, a 'Where's Woolly' competition will task Show visitors to find 10 named cartoon sheep, like the one below, which will be printed on A3 boards and scattered around the grounds.

Entry forms will be handed out at the gates on Show day, February 25, so people can record the names of the sheep to win a little treat, which they can claim at the Show office.



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editorial

Firstly, our thoughts go out to all those affected by the recent storm which hit much of the North Island, including us here in the North West. It's not the start to a new year that anyone would have wanted, and here's hoping it's the last bad news for some time.

This issue marks 20 years of my involvement with *Helensville News*.

I started doing the sub-editing and layout work for the paper on the February 2003 edition (issue #43), when the paper was less than four years old, under then-editor Cynthia Thrush. I introduced a completely new look and style to the paper from my very first issue, with an updated layout that has been further tweaked over the ensuing years.

Of course I didn't take over ownership and editorship until 2011, but those 20 years and 220 issues have been incredibly interesting, keeping tabs on all the things that have changed and grown in our area - and also those things that just stay the same. It's been a privilege to be able to put a lot of that information in front of our local community.

February is when we get to enjoy the biggest event on Helensville's annual calendar, the Helensville Show (fingers crossed the weather behaves!). It's one of those things that has changed a lot over its 120 year history, but in many ways also remains the same - still bringing a mix of agriculture and local community and great small-town entertainment.

I've been a photography steward for something like 40 years, and the Show's 'official' photographer for the last 20 of those. And now that my wife Shona has taken on the role of Show Manager, I suspect there won't be much rest for the wicked for the next few years!

We've got a full run-down of what you can expect at this year's Show - back again after a Covid-enforced break last year - on pages 8 and 9, plus various other articles about it on other pages.

Make sure you get along to the Show and have a fabulous day of country fun.

Special community edition

For our June issue this year, *Helensville News* will be producing a special issue listing all the voluntary organisations, community groups, and local clubs in our area. It's an update of the very popular publication we put out in 2015 and again in 2019 and will follow the same format with organisations and clubs grouped into three main categories:

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

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


Many organisations will already have been listed in our 2019 issue, so the first thing you should do is visit: www.helensville.co.nz/helensvillenews/groups. There's a link to a PDF of that issue at the top of the page for you to check if you already have a listing. We will also try to contact directly all previously listed groups just to make sure.

If you do already have a listing but it needs updating, either complete the online form on that page, or email us at: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz with your changes.

Please try to provide as much information as possible - things like what the organisation/club does, membership numbers, how long it's been running, and when meetings or events are held. The more information you provide us with, the better your listing will be. If email isn't an option, feel free to phone us on 021 178 5568.

The deadline for accepting listings is Wednesday, April 19.

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Muscle power at Show

Around 20 of the region's strongest men and women will compete in a strongman competition which will be a new feature at the 2023 Helensville Show and a round of the national New Zealand Strong Man series.

The contest of strength will run most of the day, with competitors competing in four disciplines, doing things like lifting a giant boulder, tossing a beer keg as high as possible, lifting an enormous pole, and pulling a car. The exact disciplines to be used at the Helensville Show competition have yet to be finalised.

The men and women will compete in the fenced-off area behind the food court, where wood chopping has previously been held.

Locals keen to show off their strength can take part, but must enter prior to Show day by emailing organiser Chris Latham at: aucklandstrongmanseries@gmail.com.



doing things like lifting a giant boulder, tossing a beer keg as high as possible, lifting an enormous pole, and pulling a car.



The New Zealand Strong Man series has been held since 2016, and pre-Covid there were usually up to 12 competitions a year, mostly held as part of existing shows.

The Helensville Show is on Saturday, February 25, from 9am at the Helensville showgrounds. Read more on Page 9.

RSA members have options during closure

The Kaipara Memorial RSA clubrooms are not expected to re-open until April or May while Auckland Council completes renovations and seismic strengthening work on the Helensville War Memorial building in Commercial Road.

In the meantime, Helensville Bowling Club has offered KM RSA financial members a social membership for a very fair subscription. That means the RSA committee can continue with its regular Wednesday evening quiz in the Bowling Club rooms, giving members a chance to get together for a social gathering.

Additionally, Waimauku RSA President Mike Toopi has given an open invitation to KM RSA members to use their facilities.

Kaipara Memorial RSA President Rex Keane says the timing of the closure is "not ideal, but it is work that obviously needs to be done."

He says the KM RSA committee is working remotely to help with veterans' welfare and to prepare for the annual Poppy Day appeal on Friday, April 21. ANZAC Day is on a Tuesday, and with the War Memorial Hall cenotaph unavailable due to the building works, the committee is working on alternative arrangements.

Most of the RSA's memorabilia is now on display at Helensville Museum, where volunteers have helped catalogue all the items and set up the displays. The Oerikon 20 mm anti-aircraft gun usually displayed outside the RSA has been removed for restoration.

For veterans' welfare and other enquiries, email: kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz or phone Rex on 027 293 2768, or vice presidents Peter Mills on 021 172 0776 or Bill Rangi on 022 303 8688.

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Big new addition to community gardens

A new collection of garden beds totalling 140m² has been added to the South Kaipara Good Food (SKGF) community garden initiative.

It's a partnership with the Helensville District Health Trust (HDHT), and newly commissioned produce gardens at 1 Porter Crescent in Helensville are already in full flourish.

The HDHT have designated an area of its health campus in central Helensville for the use of vegetable gardens for SKGF.

Jo Ogilvie of SKGF Kai Grow is responsible for the jam-packed garden beds at Porter Crescent which are producing a wide selection of vegetables including capsicum, egg plant, beans, peas, tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, potatoes, broccoli, spinach, and silverbeet.

Jo and her volunteers regularly work at the gardens carrying out weeding, planting, and harvesting the produce.

"It really is so good to see the gardens coming to life and I am surprised at how much produce has been able to be planted in the garden beds. It is such a great initiative and I hope that we (HDHT) can provide the ability to expand the gardens further on other areas of the campus in the near future," says James Scott, general manager of HDHT.

The ethos behind the gardens is that local community members, who can help look after the gardens, learn as they go and can benefit from some of the produce once it's ready for harvest. Remaining produce goes into the food packs which are provided through the Kai Assist program run by SKGF.

"The relationship between HDHT and SKGF has been a long standing one," says James. "HDHT previously provided

operational space at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai to the then Kai Collective back in 2020 so they had premises to compile and provide much-needed food assist packs during the initial Covid-19 pandemic.

"Unfortunately, the need has not



• Veges galore in one of the new Porter Crescent gardens

subsidised and is being felt even more through the cost of living crisis."

SKGF now operates from its own hub on Awaroa Road and is supporting the community through a number of initiatives - Kai Grow, Kai Learn, and Kai Assist.

Anyone interested in helping at the gardens can phone Jo Ogilvie on 021 071 0246.

Literacy programme

The South Kaipara Men's Trust is gearing up literacy volunteers to work with the special education department at Kaipara College now the school year is starting.

"We were all set to start when Covid arrived, which was a shame," says manager Mike Bridgman.

He is keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for the literacy programme.

"It is not necessary to have been a teacher, all it really takes is empathy and the desire to help youngsters," says Mike.

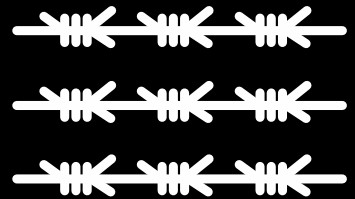
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Storm wreaks havoc in NW



• Above: Kaukapakapa hall, fire station, and old Dye's slaughterhouse completely surrounded by flood water following torrential rain on January 27. Many areas of the North West were inundated during the downpour, with many roads blocked by flooding and slips. The event caused a city-wide state of emergency to be declared.

- Photo: Aurelian Ciobanu

• Below: Giant haylage bales, floated in from a nearby farm, litter SH16 at Kaukapakapa after flood waters receded following the storm.

- Photo: Michelle Smith






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Cooking with fire

Raised on a farm in south-west Brazil, Reginaldo Richard grew up with his family cooking on a fire.

So when he opened The Butcher Baker, his new restaurant in Helensville in mid-December, cooking with fire was a given.

While his mother was a chef and his sisters bakers, and Reginaldo himself learned to cook at a young age, his earlier interests went elsewhere - he played football professionally in Brazil for 12 years, and has been heavily involved with the sport since arriving in New Zealand in 2003, playing at club level and coaching.

But it's his cooking that locals will get to sample, and he comes with a world of experience, having cooked his way from Sweden and Denmark down to Spain and Portugal, and then holding roles as sous-chef at popular Auckland restaurant Odettes Eatery and head chef at Honey Bones, one the city's most popular cafes. He was also head chef at The Boatshed on Waiheke Island and at Platform 8 in Auckland.

When he moved to Helensville two years ago - just a couple of blocks from his new restaurant on the corner of Commercial Road and Karaka Street - he realised the town was missing a good bistro style restaurant.

So he set up The Butcher Baker - named for historic businesses previously on the same site - with interior-designer partner Aisha Ajaani de Beer Smith overseeing the impressive fit-out.

Reginaldo sees the The Butcher Baker as a destination restaurant, and in the few weeks since opening it has already attracted a steady stream of diners to our town - a benefit of Reginaldo having such a reputation in Auckland.

A farm-to-table style restaurant, Reginaldo uses the best locally-grown and foraged produce, which means the menu changes often to use whatever he can source locally at a particular time. Much of that produce is cooked in the restaurant's big woodfire oven, which is front and centre in the open kitchen so patrons can see their food being prepared.

Growing up, Reginaldo's mother would spend hours cooking over the fire, and he says "the food was unbelievable." Now he is bringing this South American tradition to the new restaurant, going back to his roots.



• Reginaldo in front of his woodfire oven

"I want to serve my customers what I want to eat."

Cooking on fire is an art, Reginaldo saying: "you can work with fire, but you can't control it."

Sustainability is important too, and he strives to use all parts of the meat and produce he cooks.

Reginaldo makes virtually everything on site, from ice cream and sauces through to his own pickles and preserves, having to plan a year in advance for their use. He says while he could make his own bread too, there is no point when he can source fabulous product from local baker The Real Bread Project in Mill Road.

He currently employs 10 staff, all local, and says it took just over a year to set the restaurant up.

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Family Fun Day back

The popular Children's Day Family Fun Day is back for the first time in two years on Sunday, March 5.

Promising to be a fantastic day out, the free event is an opportunity for local families to spend quality time in a fun-filled environment without having to pull out the cash.

"This is our favourite event of the year and a real pleasure to organise," says event organiser Rowan Aish.

"We invite a whole range of community organisations to get involved with running fun activities, and it's nice to see so many different people coming together for local children."

A stand-out feature of the Family Fun Days are the performances by local children, and this year Helensville DanceVille Studio will be performing. Rowan would like to hear from any other group keen to perform.

"In previous years we've had a great turnout, including local kapa haka and Pacifica groups, and it's our hope the whole community gets behind this day celebrating our children and whānau."

"Getting up and performing in front of our community is a big moment for these kids," says Kim Wills, clinical manager at



• Fun at a previous Children's Day - Photo: Stellanova Photography

Kindred Family Services.

"They all worked very hard to get to the point of performing, and being able to celebrate our impressive and talented tamariki in this way is a really big part of what this event is about."

Children's Day Family Fun Day is being held on Sunday, March 5 at Helensville Primary School, from 10am to 1pm. All local children and their families are welcome.

Anyone wanting to get involved as a volunteer, sponsor, stall holder, or performer should email Rowan at: rowan@kindredservices.org.nz.

For updates on the event, visit: facebook.com/kindredfamilyservices.

Star pig at Show

A famous movie star will be at this month's Helensville Show - sort of.

He's Alfie the Kunekune pig, who starred in an episode of the Rhys Darby and Taika Waititi comedy pirate television series Our Flag Means Death. Alfie was also a star in the short movie 'Oink' which was a grand finalist in the 48hr Film Festival.

Owner Julie Whiu says: "he's an absolutely wonderful character." Alfie will be led around the grounds during the Show so visitors can say hello.



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Strongmen and 'wool' theme highlights for Helensville Show

For the first time in its 120-year history, the Helensville Show will have a special theme this year.

That theme is 'Wool: NZ's Hero Fibre' and it will be the focus of a wide range of events, activities, displays, and competitions at the 120th Helensville Show on Saturday, February 25.

And as added excitement, for the first time the Show will host a round of the New Zealand Strong Man competition - see our separate article on page 3.

The 'wool' theme will depict the story of wool from sheep through to end use, including some history and interactive areas for Show visitors.

A highlight will be demonstrations throughout the day by world and New Zealand champion blade shearer Allan Oldfield, with wool rep Danielle Boyd demonstrating the art of throwing and processing a shorn fleece.

Displays of several rare sheep breeds such as Baby Doll, Valais Blacknose, and Arapawa will join the regular Show sheep livestock competitions, with prize money bumped up for the stud and flock sheep classes and a new PGG Wrightson Champion Flock Sheep trophy up for grabs.

There will be a fashion parade of woollen clothing ranging from historic items from Helensville Museum and homespun items through to modern clothes from brands like Icebreaker, Swandri and Palliser Ridge.

A mockup of an old shearing shed will feature old shearing items like combs and hand pieces, shears, grinders, wool presses, moccasins, paperwork, and old local wool brands and stencils.



• Sheep will be popular attractions with this year's Wool theme

A number of trade stands will feature unusual wool-based products including lipstick, a surf board, sticking plasters, dog beds, and teddy bears, through to more traditional items like carpet, pillows, blankets, carry bags, baby wear, and clothing.

Show regulars Brightside Spinners will be spinning wool. Visitors will also be able to try loom weaving, and the local knitting group

will be showing visitors the basics of knitting.

Several of the indoor exhibits this year have special wool-themed classes too, in the photography, baking, floral, and craft sections.

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

Helensville Show's popular Guess the Weight competition, which boasts \$100 in prize money, is also angled around wool, with participants having to guess the weight of a sheep, a small wool bale, and a piece of shearing machinery.

Rounding out the wool theme, the Show's ever-popular children's cut-out animal decorating competition run through local schools - now in its 20th year - will this year feature sheep. Always colourful and often amusing, the animals will be displayed inside and outside the main show building, and at other locations around the grounds.

With no show last year because of Covid, local youngsters will no doubt be keen to try out the Sideshow and Amusement Zone, and they are in for a treat as it will feature several completely new rides for young show visitors to enjoy, including a new hydraulic Toboggan Slide, new Laughing Clowns, a new Rainbow Rush obstacle course, a new 4-in-1 Bungy from Go Vertical, and new Disney Cups. Popular returning attractions will include the Kombi Train and Air Ball game.

For adults, the live music on the main stage this year will come from a new band. The Kerry Adams Band will play covers of classic rock and pop hits from the 1960s to 1980s.

Both kids and adults alike are sure to enjoy playing Pops Games, which are giant-sized versions of well-known - and some lesser-known - games like Jenga, Corn Hole, 3D Tic Tac Toe, Connect 4, and Quoits. All up there will be 20 popular games to play - and all for free.

And following the success of old-fashioned sack races for children at the 2020 Show and a water balloon throwing competition the following year, this year's Show will feature a tug-of-war.

For those who prefer to stand back and watch rather than participate, there will be a

raft of displays throughout the day. Those will include Taekwondo, dancing from local dance school Danceville, the Kumeū Brass band, Show regular Highland dancing, and a ukelele performance by Paul Jonson, who will also be doing ukelele repairs on the day.

Blacksmith Chris Ellwood will be demonstrating his trade with an interactive aspect.



• The equestrian competitions are always a drawcard at the Show

Tying in with the Strong Man competition will be a display of Mustang muscle cars, along with a selection of Jeeps.

In conjunction with the popular pet dog competition - which anyone can enter - will be a 'choreodography' display of dancing dogs, put on by the Nor West Dog Training Club.

The annual Junior Farmer competition for local school children will be held by the community stage area this year.

The range of entries in the indoor displays is something Helensville A&P Show excels at, greatly exceeding what you might see at most other shows in the region. Expect hundreds of entries in the baking, preserves, floral, garden produce, crafts, children's, painting, and photography sections.

All these activities are sure to have everyone hungry, and there will be a varied offering of food outlets, everything from ethnic and healthy options through to the traditional show fare of chips and hotdogs. For grownups, popular Helensville brewery Liberty Brewing will be back running the bar at the Show, and will again be joined by The Hunting Lodge with its wines and cider.

Show visitors can bring their own water bottles and refill them for free from the Healthy Water Tanks tanker on site.

Helensville Show has its roots in this area's agricultural and pastoral heritage, and the 2023 show will once again highlight the farming aspect of our community through displays and competitions of animals, including cattle, sheep, horses and mini horses, poultry, pigs, and goats.

There will be a full day of equestrian competitions, this year including a jumping

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Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

First treatment for Zoey

Parakai youngster Zoey Butcher (right) has had her first treatments of Spinraza, the just-approved drug to ease the symptoms of the rare Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 3 (SMA) she suffers from.

The two-year-old had her first injection of the drug under general anaesthetic after an initial attempt to administer it under sedation caused Zoey too much distress.

Mum Chauntel Wedlake says Zoey "was incredibly brave. She was singing 'we are going on a bear hunt' with the anaesthetist all the way to theater.

"That was probably the worse part for me, watching my wee girl go under for the first time and then having to wait anxiously outside for what felt like forever."

Chauntelle says the procedure went smoothly, but Zoey was in a lot of pain with back aches and headaches for the next two days. However she bounced back the next day and the treatment seems to be working.

"We have already noticed little things like she is able to stay in a squatting position for a short period of time, she seems to be quicker, a bit more bounce in her step, and less falls which is incredible!"

SMA is a rare neuromuscular disorder which causes muscle weakness, with some patients completely losing the ability to

stand, walk or even swallow. Zoey was already having trouble standing up, falling frequently, and unable to run or jump.

After four initial injections close together, Zoey will then need an injection every four months for the rest of her life.



Helensville Show cont...

• From Page 9

challenge by Waitemata Hunt.

At the time of going to print more than 80 trade stands had already been booked, covering everything from farming and lifestyle supplies to gifts, homewares, gardening goods and more - and this year including some giant cranes courtesy of sponsor Auckland Cranes.

Once again a number of community organisations have been provided with free trade spaces for the show, including Pest Free Kumeū-Huapai who will demonstrate trapping, St John who will be teaching CPR and the use of AEDs, and Rodney Beekeepers who will have a live bee hive.

The Helensville A&P Show is now firmly established as a zero waste and smokefree

event, with recycling handled by the local Helensville Community Recycling Centre.

Look out for the free tractor rides from the public carpark, accessed through Stewart Street. An Eftpos cash out facility will be available at the show office, and Eftpos will also be available at the show entry gates - or tickets can be pre-purchased online through EventFinda (fees apply).

Some of the trade stands and attractions will have mobile Eftpos, while others will be cash-only.

Schedules listing all the classes people can enter at the Show are available online at www.helensvilleshow.co.nz, or can be collected from a box by the showgrounds entrance, from Helensville Library or from Farmlands, Farm Source, or PGG Wrightson in Helensville.

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Temp home for Art Centre at museum

Helensville Art Centre is temporarily operating from Helensville Museum in Mill Road while the War Memorial Hall building undergoes renovations and upgrades.

The museum has provided the centre with space to run its workshops and exhibitions until the hall building work is finished, hopefully in March.

The Art Centre's first exhibition for 2023 is a combined members' show at Kumeū Arts, which runs until February 18.

An oil painting workshop with Diana Peel, an established New Zealand floral artist and tutor, will be held on Saturday, February 11 from 10am to 2pm. The course costs \$165 which includes all materials required. Locals interested in taking part can email their name and phone number to: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Diana's work can be seen at dianapeel.com.



• Artists at a Diana Peel workshop

Storytime at Show + 'crafternoons'

Helensville Library will have a stand at the Helensville Show on Saturday, February 25, holding pop-up storytimes and songs throughout the day. In tune with the 'Wool' theme for the Show, library staff will be reading as many 'wooly yarns' as they can.

The library has copies of the Show schedules available for anyone interested in entering any of the competition classes.

The much-anticipated Crafternoon sessions have started at the library on Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm. Locals can bring along whatever portable craft they are working on, and use the sessions as a chance to meet other crafters, share their knowledge, and learn new things. For those needing some inspiration, the library team will have small crafts available to do at each session. The sessions are open to all ages, though those under 10 will need someone aged 14 or older to help them.

While the sessions are not just for wool-based craft - any crafts are welcome - the library is looking for donations of yarn, needles and crochet hooks to use in the craft sessions.

"We are also looking at starting a session on Saturday afternoons", says Anne Coppell, senior librarian - children and youth. "Let us know if you're interested."

MP voices concern over rural roads

Local MP Chris Penk has written a strongly worded letter to Minister of Transport Michael Wood about the inadequate maintenance of rural roads in our Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate.

In mid-January Chris visited several locations around the electorate at the invitation of locals concerned at the inadequate and unsafe state of the rural roads.

"I was appalled by what I experienced and saw," he wrote in the letter to the Minister.

Chris Penk wrote of deep potholes, ruts and gouges which forced drivers to swerve onto the wrong side of the road to avoid damaging their vehicles - sometimes on blind corners and very narrow roads - and slips which made roads dangerously narrow. Some roads had no water tables and non-existent or blocked culverts. He described bare clay surfaces, including on hilly roads used by school buses and logging trucks.

"I have heard harrowing stories of cars and trucks sliding on the clay, resulting in people being too scared to drive on the roads they live on," he wrote.

"Where maintenance is carried out, it is usually ineffective, short term, and inadequate, with no thought to fixing the underlying issues (e.g. water management).

"My constituents are asking, where is the money from their rates being spent?"

Chris Penk finished by acknowledging that local roads are the responsibility of local, rather than central, government and he would remain in touch with Auckland Transport and Auckland Council. But he added he believed central government also has a role to play, and asked Minister Wood what his response is.



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February's recipient is Kayla McGuire, who chose a voucher for **F a r m l a n d s i n**

Wendy was nominated by five different people for her work setting up the Our Village coffee group among other things: "I 1000 percent think Kayla should be nominated for running the Our Village coffee group. She's been a little shining light helping keep everyone afloat and thinking of herself last always," says Gemma Gilbert.



• Kayla (right) with Nicky

"Kayla has made an incredible effort and difference for our community in so many ways, not in the least by setting up Our Village. She is so supportive, friendly and kind. A one in a million lady," adds Claire Payn.

"I'd like to nominate Kayla as she's been so amazing with all the time and effort she's put into Our Village. As a first time mum it's been amazing meeting local mums out there!" says Sara-Jane Edmunds.

Kayla was also nominated by Amy Maulder and Kelly Reid.

from our local MP

After a two-year hiatus, I am very pleased to see the return of one of my favourite annual events, the Helensville Show.

This year's event will mark its 120th anniversary with a theme of 'Wool: NZ's Hero Fibre', where you will find many wool-themed attractions flaunting one of NZ's most loved products. This is a day you can expect to see plenty of entertainment, a fashion parade, a tug of war, and even a celebrity or two may be in attendance. There will also be plenty of competitions to watch (or even enter yourself – go on!) including equestrian, livestock and pet lamb competitions, all with prizes up for grabs.

If you want to find out more about this much-loved local event, please visit helensvilleshow.co.nz.

But let's also remember what else this event offers, which is an opportunity to meet the wonderful people of Helensville and support local business. I acknowledge how challenging our times are at present, especially off the back of a very tough 2022. But if we want thriving communities, then this is only possible when they are based on a foundation of a strong local economy. Local events, like this one, provide an opportunity to support our communities so they can continue to supply the goods. Moreover, if we want to see events like these continue each year in our towns, then we do need to show up to them! Which is the easy part, right?

I strongly encourage you to get yourself along to the Helensville Show this year. I really can't recommend this event enough - I promise you won't be disappointed. And please come and say hello if you see me around. I always enjoy the opportunity to catch up with locals and hear your stories. See you there!

- Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
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Plenty of demand for appearance medicine

There's no shortage of demand for appearance medicine locally says Beth Poi, owner of Premier Aesthetics in Commercial Road.

Beth started the business in March last year, and works there on Mondays, Tuesdays, evenings and Saturdays, fitting it in around her role at a nurse practitioner at Kaipara Medical Centre. Another qualified nurse works for her on Fridays.

Originally from near Manchester in England, Beth moved to New Zealand 10 years ago with husband Jonny, a kiwi of Niuan heritage who owns a printing business in Albany. Living in Auckland initially, they moved to a lifestyle block at Kaukapakapa four years ago. Their eldest daughter attends Kaipara College, and two younger children go to Kaukapakapa

School.

Beth became interested in appearance medicine while working as a nurse in the UK, where she says there is a lot of interest in it. She couldn't believe how expensive it was here when she arrived in New Zealand, and also says there was a "real lack of availability" of treatment options.

She was practicing appearance medicine in Henderson before starting up locally, and says many of her clients have followed her here. But she also says there were already many locals who were travelling into the city for their treatments, who can now see Beth locally.

Anti-wrinkle treatments are the most popular, using the botulinum toxin (Botox is the most well-known brand). It's not restricted to just women either - Beth has local male clients, and she refers to their treatment as "brotox".

Botulinum injections can only be administered by a registered nurse or other qualified medical practitioner, and since qualifying as a nurse practitioner last year Beth is now also able to prescribe the product.

As well as anti-wrinkle treatments, Premier Aesthetics offers dermal filling, vampire facials, PRP treatments, and face lifting using PDO threads. Beth hopes to be able to expand her range of services in future by purchasing a machine for laser treatments, and would like to bring another nurse on board to grow the business hours.

With over 15 years' nursing experience both internationally and in New Zealand, Beth completed a recognised advanced Botulinum Toxin A and dermal filler

qualification in Australia. She is a registered member of the Cosmetic Appearance Nurse Network (CANN), and a national trainer for a dermal filler company.

Premier Aesthetics is located at 83 Commercial Road, opposite Sunny Days Preschool in what Beth refers to as "the beauty row of Helensville", where the other businesses are a hair dresser, nail salon, and eyelash business.

the business

Well, another year has ended and we now move steadily in to 2023. With the pandemic still prevalent we should keep in mind the strain this is putting on local businesses - not just with staffing issues, but also the challenges with supply lines through sickness and overseas shipping constraints. So please be kind.

The pressure that businesses have had to endure through the Covid-19 pandemic has been enormous and we are now facing the 'cost of living crisis', which is once again pushing businesses to their limit.

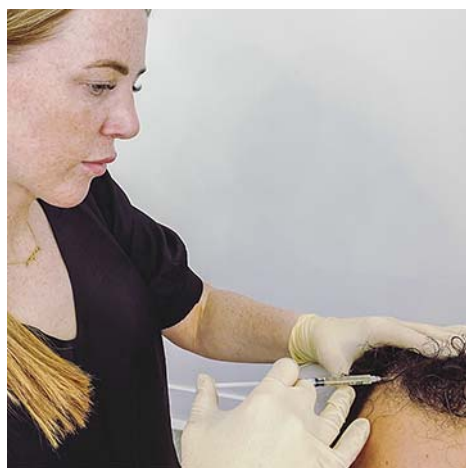
We've said it before and it is still a message that we want everyone to consider - keep it local. If you can, then do. Not only do you support the businesses on your door step but you keep a little money in your pocket through not having to travel out of the area - and we all know how much that can cost with the current price of fuel.

Talking of keeping it local, this year sees the return of the North West Country Wine, Beer and Food festival. The event is being held at The Hunting Lodge in Waimauku. Tickets are selling fast so don't miss out! To find out more about the event see the article on Page 1 or visit: www.northwestcountry.co.nz/north-west-festival.



- James Scott
Chair

North West Country Business Assn



• Beth at work

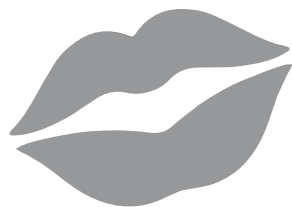
First of John Perry collection goes to auction

The first few hundred items from the massive collection of the late John Perry went under the auctioneer's hammer on January 31.

The Helensville and art world icon had amassed an incredible collection including thousands of Polynesian and African artefacts, original paintings, prints, photography, Kiwiana, and curios.

John, a former curator at Rotorua Museum, died in June 2021. A decorative arts specialist from Webb's auction house has been sifting through the collection, which John had stored in Helensville's old Regent Cinema, where he lived upstairs.

Ben Erren, director of decorative arts at Webb's, says the collection is the largest in terms of lot count ever put to auction in New Zealand. The collection will be auctioned off in lots over the next few years.



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local board matters

First off, an apology to Guy Wishart and Mark Dennis, my running mates in the Kumeū subdivision, for leaving them out of my introduction in the last issue. Anticipation of the festive season break must have got to me! I do hope everyone had a safe and relaxing break.

To other matters, we all know congestion on State Highway 16 is a massive frustration for all residents and businesses in the Northwest. It will be acknowledged that little has been done to increase capacity and support the fastest growing part of Auckland for decades, but there may be a glimmer of hope on the horizon.

Notice of Requirements (NoR) were lodged for six projects comprising the Northwest Strategic Network on December 21 last year. There has been a great deal of interest and concern in the community around these projects, and public consultation will open shortly with a view to finalising the route designation in mid-2023.

The six projects are: Access Road (Auckland Transport), Rapid Transport Corridor (Waka Kotahi NZTA), State Highway 16 Main Road Upgrade (Waka Kotahi NZTA), Alternate State Highway (Waka Kotahi NZTA), Kumeū Rapid Transit Station (Waka Kotahi NZTA), and Huapai Rapid Transit Station (Waka Kotahi NZTA).

The NoR documents are available on the Auckland Council website here: <https://bit.ly/3kBHYHK>.

The Northwest Strategic Network extends from the Brigham Creek Road interchange in the south to a point on SH16 a little north of the Huapai Domain. The Rapid Transit Corridor and Alternate State Highway are proposed to be west of the existing SH16, and an upgrade to Access Road completes the network.

While Helensville, Parakai, Waimauku, and Muriwai residents won't have been involved in the five-year Route Designation process, we will all derive great benefit from the delivery of the improved transport system when it is finally completed.

We must also acknowledge the worry and distress that has faced the many property owners involved and hope that

some relief follows the confirmed route designation mid-year.

There has also been some concern voiced about the project over impacts on the environment and hydrology, and it's pleasing to note these matters have been investigated and conditions imposed to ensure the project does not detrimentally impact on flooding, wetland protection, and protection of sensitive habitats.

Collectively the NoRs offer greater certainty for impacted residents and businesses as all the properties on the proposed route are now identified.

The lodged NoR protects the route from incompatible development and enables faster delivery of the project following detailed design.

Once route designation is finalised this will inform future planning decisions around where growth and urbanisation are best accommodated.

Once delivered these six projects will support planned growth - but it must be said that they are entirely unfunded at this point. Accordingly, no time frames for delivery can be provided. This being the case I feel there is an opportunity to make delivery of the Northwest Strategic Network prerequisite for further growth and urban development in the Northwest.

Auckland Council has had great difficulty preventing the out-of-sequence development and private plan changes that collectively exacerbate SH16 congestion, and in the past central government has legislated in support of this accelerated growth.

In my view we need a moratorium on all development in the Northwest until central government provides funding to deliver the Northwest Strategic Network. I urge our MPs to make this an election issue.



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

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community titbits from town and around

■ STITCHING AT MUSEUM

Locals can learn some basic embroidery stitches and create a gift for their Valentine at Helensville Museum on Saturday, February 11. These hearts (right) are inspired by Victorian sweetheart pin cushions which were made and given as signs of love.



Professional embroiderer Jo Dixey studied at the Royal School of Needlework and now works on public and private commissions, including banners, church furnishings, fashion garments, and movie costumes. A recent volunteer with the museum, she will be sharing her knowledge. There'll be both morning and afternoon sessions and all materials will be provided. Phone the museum on 09 420 7881 or email: info@helensvillemuseum.org.nz.

■ KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

Hand made crafts, knitting, spinning, sewing, soaps, jewellery, used items, bric a

brac and collectibles, locally grown fruit and vegetables, plants, preserves, books and much more - there'll be plenty for everyone at the next Kaukapakapa market, on Sunday, February 19 from 8.30am to 1pm. Market visitors will be able to enjoy coffee, food, and ice cream while listening to live music from Jessica on the piano keyboard. There will also be free hair plaiting for the children.

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

■ FISHING COMPETITION

The Kaipara Cruising and Sportfishing Club's annual fishing contest is on Saturday, February 25.

The competition starts at 5am, and weigh-in closes at 5pm. Only one fish per species per angler will be weighed. There will be gear and cash prizes for kingfish, snapper, gurnard, kahawai and trevally.

Tickets cost \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members, and are available from the clubroom in Mill Road, G.A.S, Caltex, and Helensville Paper Plus Select.

Xmas deco winners

This is Liam Doherty (below), one of the lucky winners of a \$20 Paper Plus voucher in our December 'Home-made Christmas Decoration' competition.

The Makarau seven-year-old won one of the two junior prizes for his home-made snow globe. He joined Lucy Harris (5), who won the other 12-and-under prize with a Fimo Christmas stocking.

There were three prizes in the adult class, won by South Head's Christine Brown for a Christmas tree from old lamp shade frames; Angela Te Wiata of Kaukapakapa for her soft toy; and Amber Brown, from South Head, for her 'rusty' Christmas tree made from "stuff" sourced from the Helensville Recycling Centre.



New venue a hit for Lions book fair

Concerns a new, temporary venue for the Lions Club's annual Christmas book fair would restrict the number of people attending proved unfounded.

Held in the main pavilion at the Helensville showgrounds instead of its regular venue of the Helensville War Memorial Hall, 'chief organiser' Chris Clark says the fair was "a great success", with book sales of \$12,524 exceeding those from the club's May fair - a figure further topped up with proceeds from a raffle and the sale of sausages making a grand total of \$13,714.

The club's next book fair will be held on the last weekend of May, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28, back in the Helensville War Memorial Hall - subject to renovations being completed.

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