

Hope to be in new school rooms early next year

Work is well underway on the massive rebuild at Parakai Primary School, with staff and pupils hoping to move into the new buildings early next year.

People driving up Fordyce Road will have seen the imposing columns for the new double-height school hall rising dramatically at the front of the school premises.

Principal Yolanda Choromanski says obstacles such as Covid 19 and the recent extreme weather events have been well managed.

But she says while the plan is to occupy the new build in early 2024, setting a date can build expectations without taking into account things that can't be controlled, such as any further adverse weather.

"Our team and students are to be applauded for their flexibility," she says, "as they have had to make significant moves to accommodate the process in various stages."

She says the aim has been to limit disruption and facilitate smooth transitions as much as possible.

"Even some staff family members rolled up their sleeves and worked hard for many weekends and out of school hours to support the adjustments," she says.

"Our community has been brilliant. We had parents help us in the moves across the school and gave their 100 percent support.



• A giant crane lowers a wall panel into place between the new hall and the relocated library

"The students have been awesome and are excited about the new buildings."

Yolanda says the junior classes are now settled and won't need to move again, with effort now going into making their rooms as stimulating and connected as possible.

"The middle and senior classes are doing well in their temporary relocated learning spaces," she says. "They are over the moon about their new spaces and watch progress as each week passes."

When complete, the construction project will have replaced much of the school, apart from the main block which only opened about 20 years ago, and the library.

The school's existing library building has been moved to the road boundary beside the

main administration building and is being modernised.

Alongside that, a huge new double-height hall - twice the size of the school's existing one - is rapidly taking shape.

Behind and at right angles to the new hall, work is well underway on a new block of seven classrooms, separated in the middle by a teacher resource room. Each of those classrooms will have separate 'maker spaces' with benches, sinks and running water for art, science, and technology projects. Large sliding doors will enable spaces to be flexible in size and layout.

When the project is finished, the school will have 11 learning spaces including the

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editorial

There has been a lot of talk recently of ensuring the country's infrastructure is made resilient to withstand future extreme weather events. So I was somewhat bemused just before deadline to see Vector turn up to replace the power poles and wires up our road.

Surely, underground would be a better option? I realise it's more expensive, and more difficult to work with once installed - but just look at how many power outages were caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, largely as a result of power lines being knocked out by trees or flying debris.

Flooding can be a problem for underground lines, but on many of our rural roads like Fordyce Road where I live that's not an issue. And being rural, there are no footpaths and wide verges to make it pretty easy to dig trenches for underground cables.

I guess it comes down to money, but years of building infrastructure down to a price rather than up to a standard is why so much of our infrastructure is sub-par nowadays.

We've got lots of interesting news for you this month, so make the most of it - next month there will be virtually none! That's because we're bringing you a special issue listing all the voluntary organisations, community groups, and local clubs in our area. We did a similar special back in 2019 and it was very well-received - a handy resource to see what's available in our area. Who knows, you may find a club or group to join that you weren't aware of.

- Dave Addison, Editor

School building progressing well cont...

• From page 1

existing rooms.

The drop-off area in front of the school will be expanded, and a large new carpark added, while the existing Resource Teacher Learning & Behaviour building will be relocated behind the new classroom block.

The new buildings were designed by Pacific Environments, an architecture firm with specialist experience in the education

sector. They have been designed around Parakai School's principle of a thinking-based curriculum - teaching thinking skills rather than just facts.

In the second half of this year the school will start working on art projects for the new build. "We aim to work alongside past students and whānau on these art ventures so that it reflects our school history and purpose," says Yolanda



• Work is well underway on the new seven classroom block - the new hall is in the background

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Jana Mills



Literacy programme makes comeback

A literacy programme that had to be abandoned because of Covid-19 has just restarted.

"This happened right at the point we were starting support at Kaipara College for students in the Special Education department, as well as our adult literacy work," says Mike Bridgman, manager of the South Kaipara Men's Trust and organiser of the literacy programme.

Three of the original 'tutors' have returned - Mike, Jenni Brown, and Noelene Sheldon, and they have now been joined by "very welcome newcomers" Tina French, Fiona Wilton, and Julie Croft.

The programme was originally set up to cater for South Kaipara adults, in particular men, who faced literacy issues, helping them with basic language and number skills and verbal communication.

Mike says issues with writing and speaking can affect a person's whole life, from job prospects through to relationships -

but he points out they are problems that can be resolved with a good tutor.

"We do the real basics [and] you can literally see their confidence rise in front of you."

While the original programme was initially successful, it became harder to get adults to come forward with their literacy problems - so it was decided to expand the programme to incorporate local youth.

"They want to learn, but can find it hard to do so in class," explains Mike.

He would like to hear from anyone else interested in becoming part of a "volunteer army" to help with the programme.

"It is absolutely not necessary to have been a trained teacher to volunteer for this work," he stresses. "What is required is empathy and the desire to help those who need it."

"It is rewarding activity and done on a part-time basis by the volunteers."

Mike says he has re-connected with the college through Faculty Head Jenny MacDonald, and is in the process of recreating what had been set up pre-Covid.

"There is a substantial demand at the college for support of this kind for students finding literacy and basic numeracy difficult," says Mike.

"We have found in our volunteer work locally prior to Covid-19 that one-on-one support makes a real difference for learners, students, and adults alike."

"There has been a lot in the media of late about how New Zealand students are being rated in comparison with other OECD countries, and the results are very concerning. There is much remedial work to be done, and it is interesting to read that there is a rising amount of comment that more attention needs to be put on the 'basics' - particularly at primary level. Students arriving at secondary school ill-equipped with basic competency in literacy and numeracy face an uphill battle."

Anyone wanting to help can contact Mike on 027 800 8081 or email: sthkaiparamenstrust01@gmail.com.



Winter lectures back?

Helensville Museum is hoping to re-instate its popular winter lectures series, which has been on hold since Covid.

Rather than at the Catholic Church as in previous years, they will now be held on the museum grounds in Mill Road, in the courthouse building.

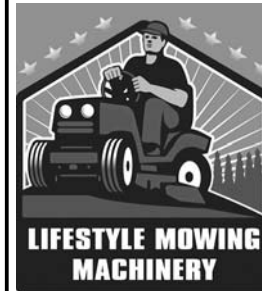
Subjects which could be included this year are:

- Matariki 101 - what Matariki is all about, in simple terms;
- Education - Helensville and district's school history, and how early settlers handled the education of their children;
- Shipwrecks of the Kaipara;
- Pre-European history of the district.

We'll bring more details closer to the time, or visit the museum website at: helensvillemuseum.org.nz or their Facebook page.

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Emergency services get

■ New state of the art fire engine

Helensville's Volunteer Fire Brigade has just received a brand new \$350,000 rescue tender, which has replaced the brigade's old one and joins the standard pump truck at the Helensville Fire Station.

The brigade relies on state-of-the art equipment and resources to respond to the roughly 250 callouts it attends each year.

Helensville Chief Fire Officer Dan Kelly and his brigade are thrilled with the new appliance, which - in addition to coming with the very latest firefighting equipment - allows them to carry hydraulic rescue gear for motor vehicle accidents and vehicle extraction.

The new fire engine's delivery comes after an intense period for the brigade serving the local community through recent extreme weather events.

Dan says the brigade went from one callout to the next without stopping during the three days following the flooding on January 27. It was also deployed to Muriwai to help with flood recovery and rescue, removing fallen trees from roads, and storm clean-up.

He says the recent weather events have raised the profile of the brigade and increased awareness amongst locals of the work it does supporting the local community.

"Since late January we've received a number of applications to join the brigade from people putting their hands up and wanting to help," he says.

With a current membership of 20

volunteer firefighters and eight new recruits about to come on board, the brigade is in good shape.

Ranging in ages from the early 20s through to the mid-70s, the volunteers meet every Monday night for on-station training, which ensures the brigade and its appliances are ready to be on the road within five minutes of the station's siren sounding.

Comprehensive first aid training also allows the brigade to support St John at medical callouts, which make up a substantial part of the volunteers' work.

Dan says the appeal of being a volunteer firefighter is enormous.

"Obviously, supporting the community is the focus but it's also great for your own development and self-esteem," he says.

He says supportive employers and



• From left: Helensville volunteer firefighters Jono Knox and Ambrose Young-Hill stand by as Fire and Emergency group manager Scott Marchant hands over the keys the new machine to chief fire officer Dan Kelly

families are also critical to the successful turnout of volunteers when a siren sounds.

"It's a big commitment, and a big ask of families and bosses to let you drop everything to attend a callout at a moment's notice."



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■ Latest ambulance for St John

Helensville has a new ambulance, dedicated at a ceremony in Auckland in mid-April.

The \$250,000 Mercedes-based ambulance was funded by the We Care Community Trust, a pub charity which receives funding from Kaipara Tavern gaming machines and several other outlets in the Bay of Plenty. It's the third ambulance donated by the Trust.



• Representatives from Hato Hone St John and We Care Community Trust at the dedication for the new ambulance. Peter O'Reilly is second from left, with Patsy Carlyle beside him

The vehicle will be based at the Hato Hone St John ambulance station in Rata Street.

The dedication ceremony was attended by representatives from the Helensville Hato Hone St John Area Committee, Hato Hone St John operations and volunteer personnel, and the We Care Community Trust.

A special guest was Peter O'Reilly, now in his mid-80s and still working with St John. In the 1960s he was the first permanent ambulance officer based in Helensville, driving a Dodge ambulance donated by the Lions Club.

Also at the ceremony was Helensville's

Patsy Carlyle, who in 1992 became the first permanent female ambulance officer appointed to a rural Auckland ambulance station.

The ceremony included speeches by Hato Hone St John Northern Region Trust Board patron Richard Blundell, Central/East Auckland area operations manager Oliver Tyack, Helensville Hato Hone St John Area Committee chairman Dr John Elliott, and Raji Singh, chairman of the We Care Community Trust.

The dedication was made by Hato Hone St John assistant area chaplain Jordan Henare and area chaplain Michael Bancroft.

150 years for Kaukapakapa School

Kaukapakapa School will celebrate its 150th birthday in late October.

On Friday, October 27 the school's classrooms will open for visitors, and speakers and students will share their learning with presentations. Later in the day former students and their families will visit the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre sculpture gardens for afternoon tea and a walk. Tickets for that will be available through the school at a later date.

The next day, Saturday, is the school's annual agricultural day, which will be opened by the senior kapa haka group, and the whole day will be historically-themed, including displays. In the evening will be a dinner and dance.

Details were still being planned at the time of going to press and could change before the event. There will be more information in the October issue of *Helensville News*.

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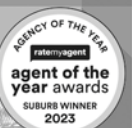
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Book fair staying at showgrounds for now

With the Helensville War Memorial Hall still closed for repairs, the Lions Club's Autumn Book Fair this month will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds.

It's the same venue as the club's previous highly successful Christmas book fair, and if the latest fair goes as well, the showgrounds could become the twice-yearly event's permanent home.

The Autumn fair will be held over the weekend of the May 27 and 28, and will be open from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday and from 10am to 3pm on the Sunday.

"This is a community event and entry is free," says organiser, Lion Chris Clark. "We do not allow traders in before our community."

The Lions Club's last fair in November raised \$12,527 from the sale of books.

"Should this book fair be as successful as the last one the Lions may decide to make the A&P showgrounds their permanent home," says Chris.

All the money raised from the fairs goes towards helping local individuals and community organisations.

The Autumn Fair will run along the same lines as previous events, and with nothing over \$2 locals are sure to pick up plenty of bargains. A large selection of children's books will be just 50c, plus there will be jigsaws, board games, DVDs and CDs, and quality magazines available.

Eftpos will be available.

Non-fiction books will be organised in 20

categories, including a dedicated New Zealand one, plus, a large general non-fiction section which could take bargain hunters hours to browse through.

Fiction will be arranged alphabetically by author, with the usual special interest sections like fantasy/science fiction. There will also be many children and young adult books on sale.



• The Christmas book fair in the Helensville Show hall

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, or phone Chris on 09 420 8527 to organise collection of larger quantities. The last date books can be accepted for the Autumn Fair is Friday, May 19.

Photography exhibition

The Helensville Art Centre, still temporarily housed at Helensville Museum, has an exhibition titled 'Resistance - Kit Dean and the Museum Archive' on during May as part of the Auckland Festival of Photography 2023.

The exhibition will feature works by local photographer Kit Dean, as well as photographs from the museum's collection. It runs from Wednesday, May 10 until Saturday, June 3.

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Challenging times lead to free parenting workshops

A series of free 90-minute workshops - including one online one - are being held locally during May on Parenting Through Challenging Times.

Organised by Kindred Family Services in Helensville, the workshops aim to provide local parents and caregivers with strategies and concepts to support their children through times of change, uncertainty, and heightened anxiety and trauma.

Covid, the cost of living, rapid development, and natural disasters have left many parents - and their children - feeling overwhelmed.

"Change and uncertainty are normal parts of life," says Kindred clinical manager, Kim Wills. "But over the last few years, the sheer scale and frequency of changes have outpaced our normal resilience factors."

Kim says this has led to a huge jump in the number of families using Kindred's support, with a lot of those parents seeking support for their children as well.



With those pressures in mind, Kindred has teamed up with Parenting Place to create workshops tailored specifically to the needs of North West Rodney parents. The 90-minute workshops will draw extensively on research, and will be delivered with an entertaining and practical approach.

They will be facilitated by Jenny Hale and Sheridan Eketone, both family coaches with Parenting Place.

"We're all really looking forward to it," says Gemma Rose-Peacock, team lead at Kindred's Family Centre.

She hopes the workshops will reinforce what parents are already

doing well and provide a few new tools and strategies for supporting children in these uncertain times.

Workshop dates are: May 17, 6-8pm at Helensville Primary School; May 18, 7-9pm online; May 22, 6-8pm at Kaipara College (for parents of teens); and May 29, 6-8pm at Waimauku Primary School. Workshops are also being held at Kumeū and Huapai.

Register for the workshops online at <https://bit.ly/3o7dOxA>.

Music Month at library

The Helensville Library and Service Centre team are focussing on New Zealand Music Month for May.

There are displays featuring local, national, and international music acts in New Zealand, and the library's Learn-A-Craft sessions, held as part of the adult 'Crafternoons', will also be music-themed. Donations of old and scrappy musical scores would be welcomed.

Regular library events this month are:

Crafternoon: Thursdays at 3.30pm, with sessions for both adults and children. These are a chance to learn new skills, teach others, and chat.

Kids Time: Wednesdays, 10am to 10.30am, for under 6s and their grown-ups - songs, rhymes, and stories.

Book Chat: fourth Thursday of the month at 10am (May 25). A chance to share books with fellow readers.



• C'mon stage show tour poster, c1967

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Lion receives award

Helensville Lion Doreen Hogan has been presented with the Lions Clubs International Foundation's Melvin Jones Fellowship.

The fellowship is awarded for 'dedicated humanitarian services' and was presented to Doreen at a recent club meeting by Wendy Miller, a former District Governor of the local Lions District which spans from North Cape to Northern Waikato.

As well as a large plaque, Doreen received flowers and a certificate.

Doreen joined the Lions Club of Helensville in 2010 and has been an active member ever since. She has served as a director since 2015 and has held a number of vice president positions - though has resisted taking on the top job.

Her contributions to running the club having including being editor of the Helensvillion, the club's magazine; minutes secretary; organising *Helensville News* deliveries in Parakai; crewing the club's barbeque trailer; selling books at the Kaukapakapa market; recording news clips



• Fellowship recipient Doreen Hogan (right) with Wendy Miller, who presented her with her award

for the visually impaired; and organising catering for the Helensville Show.

This year Doreen took on the Club Affairs committee, and on discovering the club's 60th anniversary was only a couple of months away she organised a successful celebratory lunch at the Hunting Lodge.

Then as the club was recovering from Covid lockdowns she had to find a new caterer when the previous one passed away suddenly.

point of view

Transport Minister Michael Wood visited the Kaipara region on Friday, April 14 to assess massive cyclone damage to the local roads. My office arranged for Minister Wood to travel through the region, see some of the road damage and meet with concerned locals.

He was accompanied by my office staff, Local Board members, Auckland Transport representatives, and local constituents.

Damage to our rural roads has been significant and needs to be addressed. Minister Wood expressed the same concern as he listened to our stories and witnessed some of our more severely damaged roads.

We greatly appreciate the minister's effort to tour these rural roads, taking time to listen to our concerns.



- Marja Lubeck
Labour List MP in Kaipara ki Mahurangi
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Golf club to celebrate 75th anniversary

Helensville Golf Club will celebrate its 75th anniversary over Labour Weekend in October.

There will be a formal jubilee celebration on the Saturday, October 21, with a get-together of former club captains, life members, and some long-serving current club members. On the Sunday, there will be celebratory tournaments.

A booklet covering the history of the club is also being produced and will be released as part of the celebration.

While there had been a golf club in Helensville previously, it ceased to exist with the advent of World War II. In 1948 a group of keen golfers got together and reformed the club, incorporating it as a society and setting up a nine hole course on a farm at Rimmers Road. While they didn't own the land and only played at the pleasure of the local farmer, the members built a clubroom there.

In 1959 the club raised funds through debentures from members, and purchased the roughly 100 acre block in Peak Road, Kaukapakapa, where the club has remained ever since. The clubhouse was cut in two, carted to the new site on two separate trucks and reassembled.

Today, the club has close to 600 members ranging in age from children up to 95 years old. It holds monthly open tournaments, and twilight golf on Friday evenings during daylight saving months, open to any player. The bar and café are both open to the public.



• Groundskeepers at work at Helensville Golf Club

Feedback sought on Local Board 3-year plan

Rodney Local Board is seeking local feedback to help develop its three-year strategic plan.

As with all local boards under Auckland Council, Rodney Local Board is going to have to change the way it prioritises spending in the face of the rising cost of living, and increased costs of borrowing money and doing business.

Those changes to spending will be spelled out in the final three-year plan. Now, it wants to hear from locals on five key focus areas:

- Supporting people in our diverse communities.
- Protecting our natural environment.
- Supporting community participation with services and infrastructure.
- Supporting growth, development, transport and accessibility.
- Supporting local economic development.

Included in those five strategic areas will be means to ensure the Board contributes to climate mitigation as well as meeting its legal obligations to māori.

Initial feedback, designed to gain an understanding of what locals want before any important decisions are made, can be made online at <https://bit.ly/40hkAhu>. There is a short survey, as well as the chance to share ideas.

This feedback, along with input from the community and existing plans, will be used to create a draft plan for Rodney Local Board which will be published mid-year, when further feedback will be sought. Final changes to the draft will be released on October 31 prior to the plan being adopted.

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'On the Street Where You Live' project

Helensville Museum wants the local community to provide it with histories of the properties they live in.

It's to help complete a project titled 'On the Street Where You Live' which was started at some stage in the past and then fell off the radar.

Historical Society president Toni Walmsley found a folder at the museum with the unfinished project.

"It has street diagrams of house numbers and the names of people who have lived in those houses," she says.

Now the museum wants to continue what the previous volunteers started and build on it. The idea is to gather knowledge about every street and every house in the district - things like who built it and when, who lived there, who owned the farm, what was the land block called, was it a pa-site and if so who's pa was it?

"It will collate houses, people who lived in them, photographs, and memories and recollections," she says.

"Once the town area has been updated, stage two can be Parakai, South Head, Woodhill, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, and the expansive rural areas."

Toni says much of Helensville district's rich history can be accessed at the museum through oral and family histories, photos, and books (all of which are currently being digitised).

"There are town maps, heritage studies, and a number of reports - but as far as memories and recollections go we have only what the community have so far been generous enough to share.

"We have some information, but it is by no means complete," she says.

"This is an important part of the fabric of Helensville and district and an opportunity for new residents to see, hear, and touch the past and to have an opportunity to start off their Helensville history."

By the time this issue reaches readers the museum should have a questionnaire available, or people can create their own histories and send them to the museum.

70-year water plan in pipeline for Helensville

Watercare is developing a 70-year water and wastewater servicing strategy plan for the Helensville/Parakai area and wants input from locals.

Members of the organisation's Strategy Team will hold a community event at the Lions Lounge, Rautawhiri Park, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 3.

The aim of the event is to learn the community's views and concerns so a strategy can be developed which ensures long-term sustainable water and wastewater services for our area.

The child-friendly event will feature visuals of current and future scenarios, and project team members will be on hand to chat. Light refreshments will be provided.

A water and wastewater servicing strategy is a long-term plan that helps ensure communities have clean and safe water, and that the water used is treated properly before being returned to the environment.



It will consider things like finding water sources, making sure water isn't wasted, and building treatment plants to clean water and safely dispose of wastewater. It will also look at how we can ensure we have enough water for the future, and that our assets are durable and resilient to factors such as climate change.

A range of factors will be considered by the plan, including public health and community well-being; population growth; carbon reduction; sustainability; environmental enhancement; mana whenua and community values and aspirations; and affordability and cost-effectiveness.

Watercare is a council-controlled organisation, wholly owned by Auckland Council. More information is available on the Watercare website: <https://bit.ly/3ortE6a>.



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Horse trekkers brave windy weather



• Horse trek riders got stunning views of the Tasman Sea

Around 35 horse riders braved blustery conditions to take part in a fund raising trek organised by the Helensville A&P Association in mid-April.

The riders spent two hours trekking over the Bishop and Travers-Bishop farms at the end of Fordyce Road, Parakai in mid-April, enjoying stunning views across the farmland to the Tasman Sea before returning to a welcome, warming barbeque

Horse treks have become a regular fundraiser for the A&P Association, particularly vital this year after two years of cancelled Helensville Shows meaning no regular income. The next trek will be in November.

Here today, but gone tomorrow?

Glancing through the first couple of issues of *Helensville News* from way back in April and May 1999, it was interesting to see how many businesses are still with us after 24 years - and also how many have gone.

Eight of the businesses which advertised in those two issues are still in the Helensville area today - some with new names or at different locations. They are: Unichem Helensville, Parakai 4 Square, Helensville Hire, Kaipara Vets (Vets North), Helensville Stationers (Paper Plus Select), Sellars Law, Premier Panelbeaters, and Heirloom Boarding Kennels.

But twice as many have gone, among them: Screatons, Helensville ITM, Pat Hayes, Uppercrust Café, Helensville Insurance, Helensville Quality Meats, Helensville Garden Centre, Allsorts, Burkes Liquor, Price Cutters, Kaipara Upholstery Services, and Helensville Plumbing Supplies.

Let's hope many of the current *Helensville News* advertisers are still around in another 24 years!

-Ed

from our local MP

I'd like to thank everyone who turned out on Anzac Day. April 25 must remain a special day in our nation's calendar, even though we've had a few disrupted years lately.

My programme for the day included Parakai for the dawn service and a trip across to the cemetery at Helensville to pay my respects, followed by equivalent ceremonies at Warkworth and Riverhead (also within my electorate).

The usual services at Kaipara RSA and Kaukapakapa were sadly unable to take place this year, for reasons relating to the buildings, but hopefully 2024 will see those back.

Meantime, in the political world attention is turning to the needs of the rural sector. The farming community has supported New Zealand's prosperity and high living standards, and now that times are tough for many, with an uncertain global outlook, it's all the more important that producers of food and fibre are able to get on doing what they do so well.

In the context of post-flooding and post-cyclone recovery, it's disappointing to note that many in the rural community have suffered losses and have not yet received compensation. My work lobbying Wellington is clearly not yet over.

As for regulations that impose barriers on farmers it's important we have a good look at those. Helensville and surrounding areas are hugely impacted by these legal obligations, some of which are justifiable and some of which are not.

For now, though, best wishes to you and your family however you chose to commemorate Anzac Day. Lest we forget.

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



• Riders climb up through farmland during the trek

KMR looks to improve land's resilience

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent weather events, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) programme leader Justine Daw (right) says her team is keen to collaborate with more landowners to get additional planting underway this winter.

This winter KMR will prioritise planting to increase the land's resilience to future floods and storms.

"The impacts of the recent storms are heart-breaking to see, with many areas significantly affected," says Justine.

"Through our investment, KMR helps

landowners to retire and plant steep, eroding hillsides and land bordering streams, rivers, and the coast itself. This is a unique opportunity to join us in improving the health of the Kaipara Harbour, with KMR funding 50 percent of the costs."

Although the programme has been in operation for less than two years, KMR is already working with almost a third of the 1500-odd landowners within the Kaipara Moana catchment.

But Justine is keen for more Northland and Auckland landowners to join the programme and take advantage of funding to fence off waterways and plant them in native trees.

Under a collaborative governance arrangement, Kaipara Moana Remediation aims to halve sediment flows into the Kaipara. It's the country's largest harbour restoration programme, with a goal to plant 20 million trees over a 6000sq.km. catchment in 10 years.

"As a Jobs for Nature investment, our focus is on developing meaningful, local, nature-based employment," says Justine.

"We are looking to offer training and development opportunities, building long-

term relationships with tangata whenua and upskilling rangatahi.

"At its heart, KMR is about growing people by growing trees."



councillor comment

What is happening about the maintenance of our sealed and unsealed roads?

Roads are used by buses, cyclists, commercial and private vehicles. Everyone wants to use safe, good quality roads.

Yet the number of potholes, uncleared drains, and blocked culverts are more abundant now than ever. Repair costs to vehicles and safety for people are being compromised. Why?

The issue of roads 'potholing' and poor roadside drainage is being reported right across New Zealand - it is not just isolated to Rodney's roads.

So why isn't Auckland Transport able to get on top of properly maintaining our roads?

The answer is relatively simple: for every dollar of ratepayer's money AT gets, it is subsidised another dollar from NZTA. That is how Auckland Transport is funded.

Those government subsidies are being weighted more heavily towards providing public transport than towards improving the maintenance standards of the roads. This government directive is clearly outlined in the Government Policy Statement for Land Transport, which is set by the Minister of Transport.

A balanced amount of funding is not being allocated for road maintenance. This explains why the roads are in such a poor state.

The government, through the Minister of Transport and Waka Kotahi NZTA, has intentionally set spending this way. This policy in turn cascades down and sets Auckland Transport's spending priorities

because NZTA matches Auckland Transport's ratepayer-provided funding, on the proviso the money is spent on the Minister's priorities.

Are any of the parliamentary candidates electioneering to change this policy? If not, write to them to ask why not.

Locally, ratepayers are extremely frustrated as they pay their rates in good faith, assuming their money will go into their local needs, which for rural Rodney is maintaining the unsealed roads, including keeping the drains and culverts clear.

Until the priority on transport spending changes at a central government level, Auckland Transport has one hand tied behind its back in its ability to maintain Auckland's roads to the acceptable and safe standards rural ratepayers expect.

Without a change in NZTA's directive for funding Auckland Transport, we will not see any significant improvements to the maintenance standards of our roads.

It is an election year, and only when the government changes the funding formula to include a fair portion of funding for maintaining the unsealed and sealed roading networks will we see the state of our roads to improve.



- Greg Sayers
Rodney Ward Councillor,
Auckland Council
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from the archives

What was happening this month in Helensville 10, or even 20, years ago? We've trawled through our archives to bring you the highlights from past issues.

■ 10 Years Ago: May 2013, Issue #155

Our front page featured an article about comedian Mike King, who teamed up with Kaipara College music students to create a CD to help his goal of preventing suicide in New Zealand..

Other articles included:

- 83-year-old Japanese karate master Kiichi Nakamoto visited Helensville, holding training seminars and attending demonstrations in the War Memorial Hall.
- Kaipara College holding an open day.
- New Helensville Railway Museum opens specially for the arrival of the Cannonball steam train - five months before the museum's official opening.
- Call for feedback on the Auckland Council Draft Unitary Plan, which would cover how Auckland develops for the following 30 years.
- 12,000 books piling up in readiness for the next Lions Club book fair.
- 370 motocross riders raise \$4500 for Wainui School at a special competition held on a Fordyce Road, Parakai farm.
- St John Op Shop opens in Commercial Road.

- Local author and artist Sinda Ruzio-Saban published book on her personal experiences with suicidal depression.
- Kaipara Classic Car Club holds car show at Helensville Museum.
- Local Montessori taking part in performing arts research project with Auckland University.

■ 20 Years Ago: May 2003, Issue #46

The lead article covered the awarding by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Ravensdown Trophy to local farmer Hec Aitkenhead for his more than 60 years of involvement with the Helensville A&P Show.

Other articles included:

- Ground-breaking ceremony to be held later in the month at the Riverside Reserve for the relocation of Helensville Museum.
- Thirty local artists preparing for an Art Kaipara members' exhibition.
- Helensville 15-year-old Steven Jeffries sets sights on racing TQ Midgets at Western Springs.
- Parent Aid Kaipara set up to help new mothers cope with the demands of a new baby.
- Introduction to candidates in Rodney District Council western ward by-election.
- Auckland Lady Anglers' Club celebrates 30 years of fishing on the Kaipara.



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making the difference

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May's recipient is Shirley Elsdon, who chose a voucher for Countdown in Helensville.

Shirley was nominated by Glennis Sainty, who says: "I would like to nominate Shirley Elsdon for making a difference in our community."

"Shirley is coordinator of the Helensville diabetes and arthritis group into which she puts a lot of work all year round. It takes a dedicated person to not only attend meetings but also do a lot of research, which is not easy at our age."

"She is also a retired seamstress and helps a lot of people out by fixing up their clothing. She also jumps on any bandwagon that needs a hand or just advice. She is a special person in our community and we need more people like her."



• Shirley (left) with Nicky



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School crossing concerns

Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Ratepayers Association (KARRA) members are concerned for the safety of children from the local primary school crossing SH16.

"We are in a bit of a pickle over getting a pedestrian crossing installed outside our school to allow kids to cross safely," says KARRA chair Danielle Hancock.

Kaukapakapa School currently has a Kea crossing - some islands to offer a visual clue that children cross there, and a school patrol operates - but there is no formal pedestrian crossing for the children.

Danielle says when Auckland Council was formed in 2010, the Rodney Local Board (RLB) funded development of the Kaukapakapa Design and Development Guidelines.

"These outlined safe pedestrian walkways connecting the residential areas to the village," says Danielle.

NZTA introduced a variable speed limit in 2020, with electronic signs that reduce the speed limit outside the school from 50km/h to 40km/h during peak school traffic time. RLB chair Brent Bailey says testing had shown the average speed outside the school prior to that was 68km/h - well above the 50km/h limit. Around 5000 vehicles pass the school every day.

In 2022 the RLB set aside more than \$3.2m from its targeted transport rate for 400m of footpaths and three pedestrian crossings, one of which is outside the school. It's hoped that work will take place in the next year, with community consultation on the type of



• From left: Danielle Hancock (KARRA chair), pupil Noah, Ant Woodward (KARRA), Danielle Simpson (Kaukapakapa School), Nicola Towersey (KARRA), Mark Dennis (Rodney Local Board), pupil Jacob, James Scott (NorthWest Country chair)

pedestrian crossing expected in the next few weeks.

Support for the pedestrian crossings isn't universal, however.

Brent Bailey says: "the community have been asking for this for years and vigorously support it."

However fellow RLB member Geoff Upson, who was elected on a campaign based largely around getting pot holes fixed, isn't keen. Instead, he would like to see the money that has been earmarked for the project diverted to road repairs and cyclone recovery. However that has been ruled out as not lawfully compliant with what the money has been allocated for.

Geoff says most children are picked up from the school carpark, and believes as the road past the school is a state highway it should be left as clear as possible for traffic.

"I absolutely hate speedbumps on a state highway," he says.

He says he has spoken with residents concerned about noise and vibration at night from heavy traffic driving over a speed bump if one is installed.

NZTA rules say a pedestrian crossing on a state highway with a 50km zone like Kaukapakapa must be a raised design, or for a 30km zone it can be flush. Neither option appeals to Geoff, although he supports a traffic light controlled crossing, which he says could be designed to work only during peak school traffic times like the current variable speed signs.

Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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local board matters

At our Wednesday, April 19 business meeting, held for the first time in our new meeting space in Huapai, we had a presentation from Clare Bradley of the Muriwai Community Association.

This timely presentation was well received, and some very important points were made that I feel will be of interest to the wider community.

Naturally, after what seems like a long time closed, many in the wider community are wondering when the Muriwai Regional Park will reopen.

Auckland Council's Recovery Management has been working with the Muriwai community to develop a 'Pathway for Recovery' that will ultimately see public access to Muriwai reinstated.

That said there are several matters the residents feel need to be addressed as part of this pathway:

- Many properties are presently unoccupied, either permanently (red stickered) or awaiting remediation of issues (yellow) post Cyclone Gabrielle. Security of these properties requires development of an operational plan for managing access to these properties, otherwise looting will be an issue.
- The Regional Park facilities need to be restored and operational. This must include the toilet blocks and carparks. Currently the septic systems aren't operational, and facilities have no potable water supply. Additionally, the carparks presently flood whenever it rains bringing in septic overflows that take some days to subside and even longer to become sanitary.

Our responsibility to this community must be to afford them the support, and importantly the time, to adjust to the effects of this devastating and deadly event.

- At the moment only Waitea Road is open for access as Motutara Road remains blocked by landslides. Removal of those remains problematic as removing the slipped material may cause the uphill section of these slips to come down. Until Motutara Road reopens and the water tankers, construction traffic and service vehicles can return to this preferred route, the cordons must remain, and the park remain closed.
- Vehicle access to the beach via Coast Road must continue to be restricted while the community recovers from the devastation post Gabrielle.



Further, there needs to be a shared understanding of what each of these issues

require in a formally agreed programme of works and operational plan.

Longer term an Emergency Management Plan like the one developed for Kumeu needs to be in place as the potentially unstable nature of the area requires greater responsiveness and preparedness in the future.

For those outside the immediate Muriwai community these matters may not seem significant but our responsibility to this community must be to afford them the support, and importantly the time, to adjust to the effects of this devastating and deadly event. There are other regional parks and beaches we can enjoy.

Lastly, I want to confirm that Rodney Local Board business meetings will alternate between Huapai and Warkworth in future, as this ensures interested locals can attend these public meetings and participate. Deputations and public forum items are encouraged.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Crossword answers

Across: 6. Abdicate, 8. Yaks, 9. Salad dressing, 10. Climatologist, 14. Reincarnation, 17. Weatherperson, 20. Anon, 21. Solidify.

Down: 1. Lira, 2. Bandit, 3. Cereal, 4. Eyesight, 5. Akin, 7. Braille, 11. Monotony, 12. Our, 13 Show-off, 15. Ageism, 16. Nipple, 18. Etna, 19. Reds.

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■ **JULY 2023 deadline: Tuesday, 20th June, 2023** (Note: June issue full)
ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, July 4th 2023

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

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town talk

community titbits from town and around

FREE DIABETES COURSE

A free course on living well with diabetes will be held at St Matthews Church in Garfield Road on Saturday, May 13 from 9am to 3.30pm.

People with Type 2 diabetes will learn how to manage their disease from a registered nurse and qualified dietitian.

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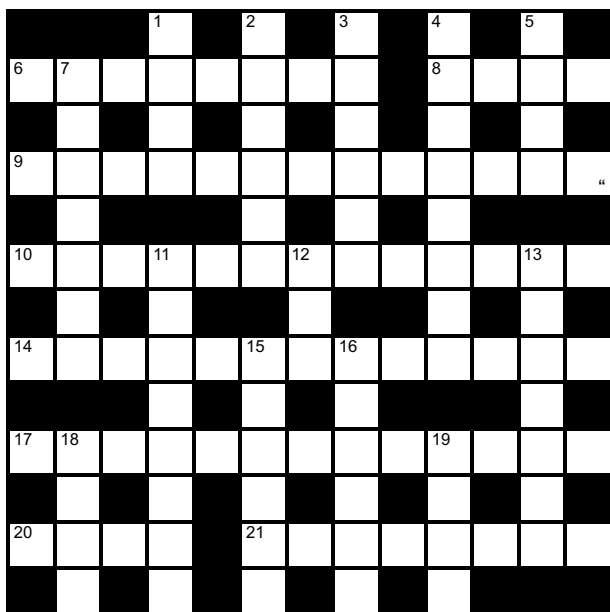
KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The Kaukapakapa market will again be held at the the Helensville Showgrounds for

May, open from 8.30am to 1pm on Sunday, May 21. Duo 'Take 2' will be providing the live music, there will be face painting for the children, plus an interesting selection of stalls. There will be locally grown fruit and vegetables, the Lions sausage sizzle, cakes, pies and doughnuts, freshly made coffee, plus locally made hand crafts, winter hand knits, skin care, jewellery, plants, and preserves - along with bargains from the car boot sale area and the used items stalls. No pet dogs please.

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

crossword



Across

- 6 Relinquish a throne (8)
- 8 Tibetan oxen (4)
- 9 Mayonnaise (5,8)
- 10 Expert in atmospheric conditions (13)
- 14 Rebirth of the soul in a new body (13)
- 17 Meteorologist (13)
- 20 Unknown (4)
- 21 Freeze (8)

Down

- 1 Turkish currency (4)
- 2 Outlaw (6)
- 3 Breakfast food (6)
- 4 Power of vision (8)
- 5 Related by blood (4)
- 7 Blind system of writing (7)
- 11 Lack of variety (8)
- 12 Belonging to us (3)
- 13 Exhibitionist (4-3)
- 15 Prejudice against old people (6)
- 16 Baby's feeding bottle cap (6)
- 18 Sicilian volcano (4)
- 19 Clarets (4)

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ANSWERS

See Pg 15 for this month's answers.

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