

'The Everything Shop' opens

The Helensville Community Recycling Centre (CRC) has opened its new reuse shop at its Mill Road site.

The appropriately named 'The Everything Shop' sells reusable and recycled items, either rescued from being thrown out or donated directly to the shop. It's a treasure trove of hardware, clothing, toys, household items, and furniture - right down to the kitchen sink.

Spanning 645 sq.m. the purpose-built retail space was built with a mix of new and old materials reflecting sustainable building practices. Some of the unusual decor, such as door handles made from old plastering trowels and floors made from mismatched tiles provide points of interest and potential inspiration for home DIY.

With the interior and shelving built entirely from reused pallets, the shop exudes an old world charm.

The large floor space has enabled Helensville Zero Waste to have dedicated, room-like areas for furniture, clothing, electronic devices and accessories, household items, artworks, music albums and instruments, bric-a-brac, and much more.

The official opening ceremony took place during Recycling Week in October, attended by more than 260 people from the community, staff, volunteers, elected members, Auckland Council staff, and the Helensville Enterprises Trust.

Since 2015, the Helensville Enterprises Trust has run Helensville Zero Waste as a part of the CRC network to support Auckland Council's goal of zero waste by 2040.

Trust chairman Andrew Connolly says the centre has gone from strength to strength because of local commitment and support.

"While providing zero-waste education and economic opportunities for the local community, the Trust, in partnership with Auckland Council, has been able to expand the centre's services and redevelop the site, which in turn is providing more benefits and opportunities for local families and businesses."

The reuse shop is just one of the many services provided by the community recycling centre. As a resource recovery centre, it accepts many types of recyclable items, scrap metal, green waste, general refuse, and whiteware. The Auckland Council website has a full list of items which can be dropped off, and alternative options for items that cannot.

Helensville Zero Waste processes around 700 tonnes of material annually. Of that, 78 percent is diverted away from landfill, and is either recycled or reused within the local community.

Helensville Zero Waste Site manager Treena Gowthorpe says the centre is much more than just a recycling centre to bring unwanted items or to pick up a bargain.

"The centre is a key part of the social and cultural fabric of our community. Helensville Zero Waste's goal is to provide benefit to all



• The book 'room' in The Everything Shop - like a comfy lounge

members of the community, especially the vulnerable. The CRC works with Corrections, differently abled members of the community, high school students with special needs, and other community agencies.

"It pushes the boundaries of Zero Waste with special projects around house deconstruction and diverting waste away from new house builds.

"Plans include a compost and worm farm education area, celebration of local iwi development, and a Zero Waste education centre for schools and preschools to visit," says Treena.

"The Everything Shop is an important step forward in inspiring our community to embrace the Zero Waste journey. We have phenomenal support locally and look forward to building on our already impressive diversion away from landfill."

The Everything Shop is located at the Recycling Centre on Mill Rd (down the long driveway next to Mitre 10 and PGG Wrightson) and is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9am to 4pm.



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editorial

I learned something that should be of interest to quite a few local businesses recently, brought to light by a Letter to the Editor from local business woman Holly Southernwood (see page 14).

Most readers probably know we have a local business association, or more properly a Business Improvement District (BID) which covers from Kaukapakapa in the north through Helensville, Parakai, Waimauku, and Huapai to Kumeū in the south and out to Riverhead.

Historically we had the Helensville District Business Association, which merged with the Kumeū Coast & Country Business Association to become the North West District Business Association. That in turn became part of Auckland Council's BID program in 2013, joining 47 other BIDs across Auckland. BIDs are funded by a targeted rate from all commercially rated properties located within the BID area, and that rate amount is then returned to the business association as a grant.

But paying that rate - whether because you run a business or just own a commercial building in the BID area - doesn't make you a member of the business association. Like many business owners I assumed that paying the rate would automatically make you a member, but not so - you have to specifically join the association. While business owners were contacted when the BID was set up 10 years ago, I suspect many more recent ones may not be aware they have to pro-actively join.

Not being a member means you won't receive notifications of what the business association is up to, or be able to have a say in what's going on. You will, of course, still benefit from the range of promotions the association runs to promote business in our area.

You don't have any say whether you pay the targeted rate if you are inside the BID boundaries, so it makes sense to become a member to get full benefits.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Armistice Day at hall cenotaph

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will commemorate Armistice Day at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph this year, as the Kaipatiki Reserve is closed for earthworks.

It will be held at 11am on Saturday, November 11, 105 years after the Armistice was signed to end World War One.

Veterans, RSA members, and the public are invited to attend. Medals should be worn; if wearing relative's medals, wear them on your right chest. Any organisations or individuals wanting to lay a wreath should email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz before November 10.

Meanwhile, the RSA rooms remains closed for seismic strengthening work and building upgrades. President Rex Keane says the rooms will likely reopen in the New Year and will be greatly improved.

The RSA committee has been actively involved with the building upgrade, meeting and liaising with the Council and their

contractors to ensure the clubrooms are future proofed and that the ambience, décor and acoustics in the clubrooms are all improved

No parade this year, but Santa at market

There will be no Christmas parade in Helensville this year, but plans are underway to organise one for 2024.

In the meantime, Santa will be making an appearance at a Twilight Christmas Market to be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Friday, December 8, from 4pm to 8pm. That event will feature food trucks, entertainment, and market stalls with a selection of Christmas gift ideas.

For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz

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Coastguard training 'emergency'



A regular Tuesday evening training run for Coastguard Kaipara members in late October turned into a full-on rescue, with a boat run aground in the Kaipara River, injured passengers waving a flare, and a heart attack victim.

Only two of the Coastguard crew attending the scene knew the truth - this was a specially organised training exercise run in conjunction with volunteers from Hato Hone St John and St John Youth, who used makeup effects to look like wounded and ailing boaties.

In all the 'rescue' took about an hour, with the injured safely transferred to the Springs Road, Parakai wharf at the end of what Coastguard Kaipara media officer Richard Downer described as "a great exercise."

Goody bags for first 100 at Big Little Local

The first 100 groups to visit the second annual Big Little Local event at the Rautawhiri Park on Saturday, November 11 will receive goody bags filled with treats and vouchers.

Plus a wide range of local organisations and businesses, including Helensville Show, Sweet Retreat, Plants by Pink Lady, Living Goodness, Tree Adventures, Riverside Art, Crafts, Gifts and Gift Baskets, and Parakai Springs, have made generous donations, meaning there will be lots of prizes, giveaways and silent auctions throughout the day.

More than 30 businesses are taking part, and stalls will have great gift ideas for Christmas.

All funds raised from the silent auctions

will go to local charity Parent Aid North West, a free at-home service for parents.

"They have been looking after our community for such a long time and even helped my family out over 20 years ago. So on a personal level its really nice to be able to give back," says organiser Nicky Horsbrough, of Harcourts the Difference.

Harcourt's huge Gumboot Friday raffle basket will be at the event, giving visitors the chance to support another important charity.

"A special thanks goes to the North West Country Business Association who have supported us with the promotion of the event this year," says Nicky.

Big Little Local is based at the Rautawhiri Park pavilion and will be open from 10am to 3pm.

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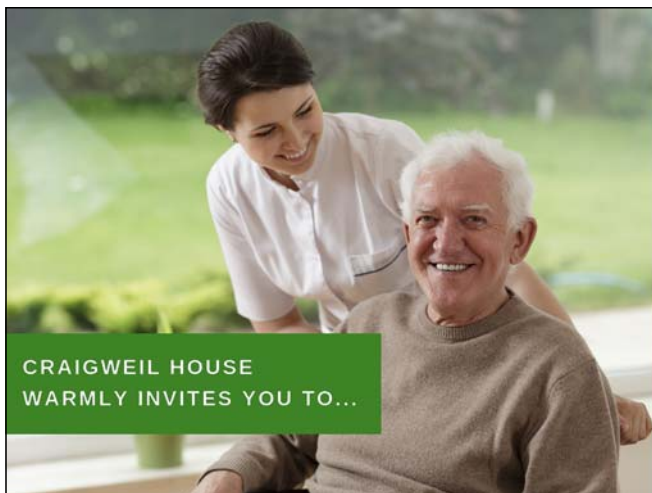
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Emergency planning continues

Work continues locally to prepare for future emergencies such as the devastation that followed Cyclone Gabrielle in March.

Around 25 people led by Rodney Local Board member Mark Dennis, who was at the forefront of the response to the March event, met in Helensville for the latest meeting of the South Kaipara Emergency Network.

Speakers included Mark, Chris Brandolino from NIWA, and Sue Robertson from Rodney Neighbourhood Support, along with brief updates from Josh Grimstock of the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade, Helensville Police Sergeant Simon Brown, Guy Wishart (Kumeū Emergency Network), Iain Gulliford (Coastguard Kaipara) and Den O'keefe (Muriwai Emergency Network/Muriwai Volunteer firefighters).

Among the meeting's outcomes were:

- A community-led centre for Helensville, Parakai, and South Head will be based at the Rautawhiri Park pavilion.
- During a large-scale event, Helensville Primary School hall and the newly developed Helensville Zero Waste centre in Mill Road will be used as shelters and provide support.
- A request will be made for the Rautawhiri Park pavilion to become a Civil Defence Centre, something lacking in our area.
- Helensville Police station is taking steps to be more self-sustainable during an emergency, including obtaining equipment such as generators.
- Talks are under way with the Helensville Lions Club about funding the purchase of a 4000w generator.
- Coastguard Kaipara has offered to store and service the generator at its new marine rescue centre being built at the end of Springs Road, and are keen to provide practical support during an emergency.
- The South Kaipara Community Patrol will be reactivated shortly, with a 4x4 vehicle. They will be integral in an emergency.

NIWA's presentation covered weather predictions for the coming months. With a dryer and windier summer expected there is a higher-than-normal risk of forest fires this summer, which can isolate communities, put

lives at risk, and require evacuations.

There was a call for community meetings to teach locals how to prepare for emergencies.

The South Kaipara Emergency Network now has a Starlink internet system, a portable generator, and basic bedding in stock. Food will be made available in an emergency by South Kaipara Good Food, and bedding and clothing can be provided by Helensville Zero Waste.

"Our funding so far has come from the Anglican Mission," says Mark. "Thank you to Jacynthia Murphy from St Matthews for supporting us in getting this funding - we couldn't have got it without her help."

Mark says a formal written emergency plan is still required.

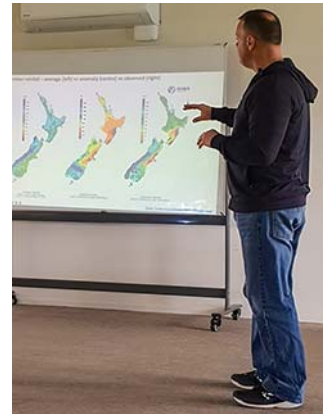
"But at this stage we all agree that networking is the most important thing we can do, so we can work closely and effectively when an emergency hits. A written plan is complex as you need to get it right, and is something we don't want to rush."

It's hoped to have meetings every six months, prior to winter and summer, to prepare for potential weather events and ensure the community and local emergency services remain well connected.

"As we work towards our written plan, we would like to have a wider community meeting also to ensure we get everyone's point of views included," adds Mark.

There is now an official South Kaipara Emergency Network Facebook group.

"This will be the main point where information will come from during an emergency, and where requests for volunteers will be managed," says Mark.



• NIWA's Chris Brandolino talks at the meeting

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Got a fast Foxie? Or a jumping Jack Russell terrier?

If so, the Helensville Show wants you to bring it along for the inaugural Helensville Show Terrier Race, to be held at the 2024 Show on Saturday, February 24.



• Flying Foxie Bo

Open only to Jack Russells and Fox Terriers, the race is a fun event for these wily and inquisitive dogs.

Based on a popular race held in recent years at the Wanaka A&P Show, it's sure to be a chaotic crowd pleaser, with terriers racing off in all directions - hopefully some in the direction of the finish line.

Free community trade stands at Show

Local community groups and not-for-profit organisations can now apply for one of 10 free community trade sites at the 2024 Helensville Show.

The community sites are 3x3m bare sites, so organisations need to provide their own shelter, tables, chairs, and signage.

With a potential audience of over 5000 visitors from around Auckland, along with competitors from the Waikato to the Far North the sites have been very popular in past years, and are on a first come, first in basis.

A booking form is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityTrade>.

For more information, email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz.

This isn't planned as a serious race, rather a fun, casual event. Registrations will be open on the day - there's a \$5 entry fee - and there will be ribbons and product prizes awarded - along, of course, with honour and glory for the fastest three dogs.

There will also be prizes in fun categories, like Most Chilled (laziest dog), the Wanderer (most off-course), and the Wackiest.

The terrier's owners will hold them until the race start and they will then chase a drag (behind a quad) for approximately 100m.

There are a few rules to take into account:

- No bitches on heat (or no matter how aromatic the drag is, the boys will all be off romancing instead!)
- Don't bring a dog if it has been in contact with or had

an infectious illness within six weeks prior to the Show.

- Dispose of all your doggie poop.
- All dogs must be wearing their council registration tags.

Details are on the Helensville Show website at: helensvilleshow.co.nz.

Owners of other breeds of dogs don't need to miss out though. While they can't enter the Terrier Race, entering the regular Dog Show is a fun way to participate in the Helensville Show while having fun with your pooch - and maybe winning some prizes.

Only dogs in the terrier race, dog show, sheep dog trials, or service dogs are allowed at the Show.

Barbie show a hit

47,000 people visited an exhibition of 500 Barbie dolls belonging to Helensville's Patsy Carlyle during the three months they were on display at the Wellington Museum.

The exhibition - which only featured about a quarter of Patsy's collection - was timed to coincide with the recent release of the Barbie movie.

Titled The Barbie Collector, it was also a portrait of Patsy herself, regarded as one of New Zealand's foremost Barbie collectors.

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25 years of Rodney Coast Challenge

Kaukapakapa Scouts will this month celebrate their 25th year of running the Rodney Coast Challenge, an annual multisport competition held as a fundraiser for the group.

The race traverses the Rodney district from Woodhill Forest on the west coast to Wenderholm Regional Park on the east coast and has running, kayaking, road bike, and mountain bike stages.

Sometimes described as a 'mini Coast to Coast', the Rodney Coast Challenge usually attracts around 350 to 400 participants from around New Zealand, with most from the Auckland region. There have been international entrants in some previous events, and some competitors use it as preparation for the tough South Island Coast to Coast race.

Race director and Kaukapakapa Scouts group leader Graeme Hounsell has run the event for the 25 years since the Scouts took it over - though this will be his last year.

"Running a multisport event was originally my idea to bring outside money into the district. Our original event was around the Kaukapakapa area. After three years the block we used was sold. At this time we were offered the Rodney Coast Challenge which had been running for about 10 years, but the partners running it had had a falling out."

It's been held each year since barring a Covid cancellation in 2021, and raises from \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually for the Scout group. That money is used to subsidise activities, camps, training courses and to purchase equipment.

Graeme says he has a team of around 100 to run the event on the day, some coming from other community groups, which receive some of the event's income as well.

The Futureproof Life sponsored event

will be held on Sunday, November 19 starting at 7.15am.

It starts at the Rimmer Road entrance to Woodhill Forest with a 10km run. That's followed by a 30km road bike stage which heads out from Rimmer Road on to SH16 through Helensville, Kaukapakapa, and on to Makarau.

Competitors then swap to mountain bikes for a 25km stage which heads up the Makarau Valley onto Tahekeroa Road, turns right into Upper Waiwera and on to Noakes Hill and Krippner Road.

At the stage end at Puhoi, competitors switch to kayaks for an 8km paddle down the



• Competitors on the mountain bike stage of a previous race

Puhoi River, starting at the back of the Puhoi Park and ending at Wenderholm Park. Then there's a 100m sprint to the finish line.

A prize giving will take place at 1pm, even if some competitors have yet to complete the course. Every competitor gets a medal, and there are spot prizes drawn at the end which all competitors have a chance of winning.

People can enter as individuals or in teams of one, two or three, with different team members competing in separate disciplines during the race. There is also provision for tandem teams of two, who must complete the whole race side by side and cross the finish line together. They can use either single or tandem bikes and kayaks during the race.

Entries are still open for this month's race, and anyone who would like to volunteer as a marshal should visit www.rcc.org.nz.

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Christmas book fair

Funds raised from this year's Lions Club Christmas Book Fair will go toward the giant Jeff Thomson town entrance sculpture featured on the front page of last month's *Helensville News*.

It's hoped to have a mockup and information about the sculpture project on display at the fair.

The last book fair in May raised \$11,823.

The Christmas Book Fair will again be held at the Helensville Showgrounds, over the weekend of December 2 and 3 and open from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday, and from 10am to 3pm on the Sunday.

The twice-yearly fairs moved to the showgrounds for last year's Christmas Book Fair and this year's autumn fair due to the closure of the Helensville hall for refurbishment work. The new venue has proved both popular and practical, and organiser Chris Clark says it looks like being the new permanent home for the fair.

Tweaks will be made to the layout of the books on offer this fair as the club seeks to make the book shopping as simple as possible for local bargain hunters.

No books will cost more than \$2, with children's books just 50c. There will also be many jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and quality magazines available.

Show horse trek fundraiser

The Helensville Show will hold its annual Edwina Francis Memorial Horse Trek over the Bradly and Kidd farms on Sunday, November 26 starting 10am.

The two-hour trek is walking pace only over the two working sheep and cattle farms. It's capped at 60 riders, plus guides.

A popular fundraiser for the Show, the cost is \$40 per person, which includes a homegrown Bradly Beef sausage-in-bread afterwards. Both local farms supply Andy Cummings at River Valley Meats in Commercial Road.

To reserve spaces on the trek email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz with your name, mobile phone number, and number of riders, and deposit \$40 to bank account 06 0254 0158414 00 using TREK as the reference.



• Books ready for sale at the Showgrounds

Non-fiction books will be laid out in 20 categories, including one dedicated to New Zealand subjects.

A new section for music is expected to generate a lot of interest. "A large quantity of sheet music, scores, and criticisms and biographies of composers and performers has come to hand," explains Chris.

"There is also plenty of general non-fiction which you can spend hours browsing through," he adds.

Fiction will be arranged alphabetically by author, with six special genre groups such as a fantasy and science fiction. There will also be many children's and young adult's books on offer.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road. For larger amounts phone Chris on 09 420 8527, or contact any other member of the Helensville Lions. The last date books can be accepted for the Christmas Book Fair is Friday, November 24.

Joint art exhibition

November's exhibition at the newly re-opened Helensville Art Centre is a joint one by centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie and gallery assistant Kiri Abraham, curated by Jeff Thomson.

Yvonne's and Kiri's works couldn't be more diverse, however there is "a kindred response to natural elements which influences them both," says Yvonne.

The exhibition runs from Wednesday, November 8 until December 2, with an opening evening on Friday, November 10 from 5pm to 7pm.

In December the Art Centre will hold its annual Cash and Carry exhibition.



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Poker Run to raise fire brigade cash

The annual 5 Station Poker Run fundraiser for local fire stations will this year benefit the Shelly Beach Volunteer Rural Fire Force.

Now in its 17th year, the popular motorcycle event usually attracts around 150 to 200 motorcyclists, who follow a scenic route around the area calling in at each of the five local fire stations, at Helensville, Shelly Beach, Kaukapakapa, Kumeū, and Muriwai.

Each year one of the five stations plays host to the event, and all funds raised - which can be as much as \$6000 - go to the host station. Kumeū was the host for last year's Poker Run - this year it's the turn of Shelly Beach.

The five volunteer fire brigades work together on fire callouts around the district, and the run is a way for members to get together in a social way while raising funds at the same time.

The host station is the start and finish point for the run. Riders pay \$35 to take part in the run (\$30 if pre-booked online), which all goes to the host station. At each station on the run, riders receive a playing card, and at the end of the event the riders with the best poker hands win prizes.

The motorcycles are generally a broad mix of Harley Davidson, Triumph, Norton, Ducati, and Japanese bikes. There are often some older, classic bikes taking part as well as a few trikes.

The ride is described as a fun, relaxed and safe event, with pillion riders welcome and an emphasis on enjoying a ride with other motorcycle enthusiasts.

This year's 5 Station Poker Run will be

held on Sunday, November 26. Registration starts at 8.30am with the ride itself beginning at 10am.

Motorcyclists wanting to take part can enter on the day, or purchase tickets online up until Wednesday, November 22 at: www.5stationpokerrun.co.nz.

The ticket price includes a meal after the event.



• Participants at the Muriwai Fire Station on a previous Poker Run

Museum calendar

Helensville Museum's 2024 calendar fundraiser - Boats of the Kaipara - is available now from the museum or Paper Plus in Helensville.

The calendar features some of the boats that have been part of the Kaipara's rich maritime history, covering vessels from the mid 1800s - with the arrival of the Sea Gull and the McLeod families - through to 2019, when information was found on the whereabouts of Mahi, originally owned by McLeod descendants.

Each month provides information about the boats and their impact on the community. Did you know the Taheretikitiki waka taua (war canoe) was part of a race against two naval cutters in 1898? Learn the outcome in February! Or that the SS Awaroa was the largest boat on the Kaipara running as a passenger service? More in May...

All proceeds go to the running of the museum. Calendars cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Christmas cakes

Helensville Lions Club is selling its classic Christmas cakes to raise money for local charities. The 1kg cakes cost \$22 and are now available at 84 Cabeleigh Drive, Helensville. Phone 021 0239 1971 or 420 6422.

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Call for locals to update phone book listings

The Helensville Lions Club is putting together its 2024 local business and telephone directory and wants to hear from people wanting to add or update listings - and businesses looking to advertise.

Many people no longer have a '420' landline - club member Roland Ostring says around 10 percent have been disconnected or need updating since the last directory was produced - and now just have mobile numbers.

It's free to list landline or mobile numbers, and an email address can be included if wanted.

There is a form on Page 43 of the current 2023 directory which can be used to add new numbers or update or delete existing listings.

Alternatively, people can email Lynne Morton at: lynne@mortonmedia.co.nz, or phone her on 027 448 3596.

Lynne is also the person to contact regarding business advertisements, which start at \$260.00 +gst for a sixth of a page.

The directory has been published annually as a fundraiser by the Lions for many years, and distributed to 4,600 homes and businesses in the South Kaipara 420 area. Income from the directory is distributed to charities in the Helensville area.

The 2024 directory is due out next March.

Councillor seeks to safeguard rural road funding

Rodney Ward Councillor Greg Sayers is calling on Auckland Transport to safeguard a recent second funding boost to improve rural roads following a history of underfunding.

The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2024 has proposed \$124 million in funding over 10 years for the unsealed road improvement programme. In the previous RLTP 2021, the unsealed road budget was only \$40 million.

That money will be used for work such as sealing, road widening, strengthening, and drain improvements on unsealed roads in Rodney, Franklin, the Gulf Islands, and the Waitakere ranges.

The RLTP will go through a priority filtering process soon and Greg wants to see rural road funding remain intact.

He says most of the \$12.4 million spent annually would be in Rodney as it has most of the unsealed roading network.

"The good news is the unsealed road operating expenditure budgets were already doubled early this year.

"The public will see the difference this is making over the next few months as the number of grading crews have been increased from three to five. That was the first big win for rural ratepayers," says Greg.

"However, we need a second big win and that is to increase the capital expenditure

budget to get more road sealing done. They are different budgets and we need both pots of money in order to get the rural roads up to the standard ratepayers expect."

Greg

met with the Auckland Transport Board, with support from Rodney Local Board members, on September 26 with the backing of Mayor Wayne Brown, AT's chief executive Dean Kimpton, and all five rural councillors to secure the additional \$124 million of capital expenditure budget. He said the board was very receptive.

"Chair Wayne Donnelly acknowledged the historic underfunding for unsealed roads," says Greg.

"My lobbying was about safeguarding the proposed increase from any cuts before it gets final approval in March next year," he adds.



• Councillor Greg Sayers

CHRISTMAS SHOP DECORATION COMPETITION

Get those Christmas decorations out and get creative.
Show us how much your team enjoys Christmas and bring some cheer to the local business area.

Judging will occur on
Saturday, 16 December

\$3,000 in prizes!*

NorthWest COUNTRY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

*Conditions apply

Arts in the Ville brings

A mix of new and familiar artists again drew big numbers of visitors to Helensville over Labour Weekend for the annual Arts in the Ville festival.

Bad weather forecast for the Saturday didn't eventuate, and visitors to the artists' open studios, galleries, and the Makers' Market enjoyed three days of wandering around the town - and driving to a few locations further afield - to see local artistry in action, spend up on special art works and crafts, and chat with artists themselves about their work processes.

When *Helensville News* spoke with some of the artists they were very happy with the numbers visiting their studios.

Adults and children alike took the chance to find 20 'hidden' objects as part of the regular treasure hunt, the prize for which was a Jeff Thomson original floral bouquet sculpture.

The Makers' Market in the Helensville School hall returned for a second year and was again popular for bargain hunters.



• Above: Liana Steedman with one of her paintings, *The Red Shed*



• Josh Grimstock exhibited his works made mostly from recycled metal objects in the new Everything Shop at the Helensville Recycling Centre



• Above: Visitors in the Masonic Lodge admiring the floral and art creations

• Below: Helensville Floral Art Group's exhibition matched floral displays to works by local artists. This oil painting, 'Sweet Reflections' by Lynne Knowles, was turned into a matching floral work by Sue Glasson



• Below: Shona Cameron at work during Arts in the Ville



crowds again



• Above: Painter Ruth Sumner in her Helensville studio



• Above: Visitors to the Inland Road studio of Karleen Winters examine one of her work benches



• Above: Wood artist Ray Scott with 'Summer Rain', a swamp kauri wall art piece which came third in its category at the National Association of Woodworkers 2023 Art of Wood exhibition, and was on show in his Nelson Street workshop

• Below: The Makers' Market in the Helensville Primary School hall was packed with a huge variety of arts and crafts



• Below: Blacksmith Chris Ellwood demonstrating his craft





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Rautawhiri Park update

Installation of lighting at the Rautawhiri Park carpark is due to be completed before December.

Rodney Local Board has set aside just under \$1 million for upgrades to Rautawhiri Park, to be spent between 2022 and 2027.

That money will go towards investigation, design, and physical works, which will include a new playground, renewal of the skate park, and a permanent pump track, says Local Board member Mark Dennis.

There will be smaller upgrades on things such as carpark curbing, wheel stops, parking lines, and fencing.

“When I campaigned for a position on the Rodney Local Board I promised to work hard to improve our play spaces, particularly for families around Helensville and Parakai,” he says.

The current pump track in the Rautawhiri carpark is temporary, set up as a way to gauge how well a permanent facility would be used.

“This is a prudent way to ensure that investing in a permanent pump track will be a good investment for our community,” says Mark. “So far, I am excited to see the pump track has been incredibly well used.”

Due to its current fiscal situation, Auckland Council has asked local boards to make cuts in their budgets.

“But rather than losing these projects we have managed to push them out a little further, which means we have been able to save them and keep them on the work programme.”

the business

We recently put a survey out to our members to see what we could do better as a business association, and focus on what local businesses needed us to do.

We heard that businesses want to hear more from us, want us to continue to showcase the region and what is on offer, and host more networking events.

This feedback is great as it allows us to formulate our strategic plans and make sure we focus our spending where businesses need it most.

As a result of the survey feedback we are preparing more local events to bring people to the area, working on ways to promote our local businesses to a wider audience, and organising networking opportunities.

Our next business networking event will be at The Portage Bar, Riverhead from 5pm on Tuesday, December 5. We invite all members to join the committee for Christmas drinks and celebrate the end of the year.

As a thank you to businesses for providing their feedback we put two cases of bubbles up as prize, and the winners were Geraldine Bayly from Kaipara Coast Plant Centre and Sculpture Gardens, and Fiona Dykes from Living Goodness in Mill Road, Helensville.

Geraldine is a landscape architect and manages the sculpture gardens with her husband David. She served for many years on the business association committee as the Kaukapakapa representative and was pivotal in preparing the Kaukapakapa Design and Development Guidelines.

Fiona and her business partner Peter Kearns started Living Goodness and have turned their products into staple lines on many supermarket deli shelves. Making sauerkraut and kimchi along with other fermented foods, Fiona and Peter’s Helensville business now ships around the country.

We hope to see you at the Kumeū Santa Parade on December 1 where our committee will be decorating and riding a float. And keep an eye out for Christmas window decorations as we run a competition for local businesses in December and see who can lay tinsel the best.



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

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letters

The following is a letter from Helensville businesswoman Holly Southernwood. Responses from the Northwest Country Business Association are in italics.

Are you an owner, or occupier/tenant, of a commercially rated property in the North West (Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waimauku, Kumeū, Huapai, Riverhead)?

Did you know you pay a targeted rate to North West Country Inc, a business association (Business Improvement District or 'BID') governed by Auckland Council?

Did you know that North West Country's AGM was held on October 3? Notification of AGMs have for some years been buried in newsletters emailed to members. Many 'members' are not registered, or do not read the newsletters regularly; consequently almost no members are present at AGMs.

- To be a member of the business association you do need to let us know as membership is not compulsory.

Did you know that while you pay a mandated levy, you have no membership recognition or rights without registering?

- This is correct, under the Auckland Council Business Improvement District Policy 2022 we cannot force people to become a member. This is voluntary. Anyone in the area can join if they own a business or commercial property.

Did you know that at the AGM questions and discussion were banned by the Chair at the start of the meeting?

- All additional questions were asked to be raised at the end of the meeting. Despite this the chair accepted comments and questions from the floor during each item. Where attendees strayed from the motion on the floor, the chair requested the questions be saved until the end of the meeting.

Did you know that at the AGM the Constitution was changed to reduce the elected representation on the executive committee? Now each township requires only one representative. Previously it was three each for Helensville and Kumeū/Huapai. Currently Helensville has just one.

- The constitution was voted to be changed, and the committee agreed we needed a minimum of one representative

from each of our seven townships. The constitution remains the same allowing 13 on the executive committee.

Did you know almost half of the levies collected go to pay for BID management?

- In BIDs with small incomes the ratio of funds spent on managing the business association increases. The manager's fees have not changed significantly for seven years, but did reduce recently. All operating costs are supported by external grant funding where possible.

And that this is to increase to more than half next year?

- The increase to the management fees is dependent on an equivalent sponsorship or grant fund should it be obtained. If this is not obtained the management fee will not change.

Did you know a sizeable chunk of the levies is being spent on a business hub?

- This is incorrect. The annual report shows the business association has savings from running events successfully over the last five years, so the business hub is not being funded by ratepayer money but by external income. We can provide a head office, video conferencing facilities, and meeting spaces to members as well as hot-desking opportunities. Additional external grant applications have been made to fund the space.

What have you got for your contributions?

- All funds received by the business association are spent within the community each year, and with the in-kind sponsorship we can achieve with our partners we are able to deliver added value to our members. Each year an annual report of what the association has achieved is published and made available to the public.

Across the 10 years the BID has existed, I have been forced to contribute around \$20,000. A Christmas tree (relatively recent) in Helensville is the only tangible outcome.

- Holly Southernwood, FIGG, Commercial Rd

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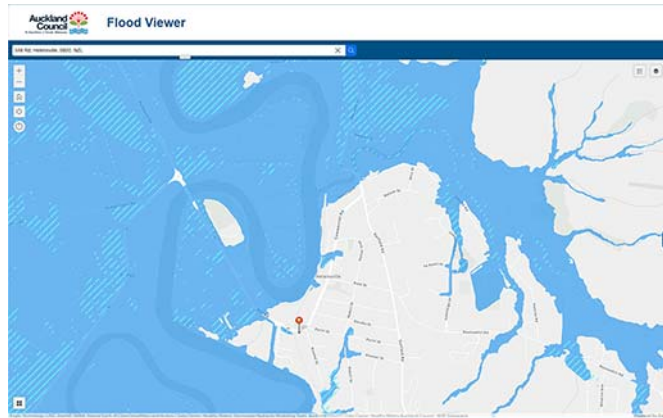
Following the recent flooding events Auckland Council has produced a Flood Viewer that delivers the most up-to-date flood modelling in an easy to access and use manner.

See it at: <https://tinyurl.com/floodviewer>.

The expectation will be that these hazard maps will help in decision making for property owners, tenants, and Council.

Users of this tool will be able to quickly assess flood risk and consider options for moving to safety during a flood event.

In addition, this latest flood modelling will be recorded on property files and LIM reports. This will ensure that this information



• This view of Helensville shows everything north of Awaroa Rd could flood, and almost all of Mill Road and Parkhurst Road

is available when preparing building consent applications and during property conveyancing.

Further it is this flood modelling that informs Council decision making as part of the Making Space for Water programme, which includes removing properties from high flood risk areas and creating new parks and reserves that are available to communities on dry days, while providing open spaces for water to flow through the landscape during storms - called 'blue green' networks.

While flooding is top of mind at present, other risks must also be prepared for.

In the northern hemisphere fire has been a significant threat this year and we in New

Zealand should be thinking about this as our seasonal fire restrictions come into effect. The seasonal closure to vehicles on Muriwai Beach is about managing this risk.

Auckland Emergency Management is the part of Council responsible for understanding Auckland's hazards and the risks they may pose. One of their responsibilities is to help our communities to become more resilient to hazards and better prepared for emergencies.

Locally this involves forming volunteer groups to prepare for emergencies. Some professional assistance has been funded by Rodney Local Board to improve and develop capability in Helensville, Muriwai, and Kumeū; ideally this will repeat across the entire city.

Lastly, with a change of government there is now an opportunity to advocate for changes to the way Auckland's transport planning and

funding is undertaken. Mayor Brown has some sound suggestions and I support his advocacy for change in this.

Auckland, and the northwest in particular, has not been well served by the existing arrangements.

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



Crossword answers

Across: 1. Mexico 5. Tip-off 8. Beta 9. Employer 10. Parcels 11. Opus 13. Beast of burden 16. Shut 17. Admiral 20. Sunshade 21. Evil 22. Canyon, 23. Taller.

Down: 2. Elevate 3. Isaac 4. Overlook 5. Type 6. Prosper 7. Feeds 12. Obedient 14. Squishy 15. Examine 16. Sauna 18. Ideal 19. Vain.



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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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

Dave Addison
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Email: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

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town talk

community tidbits from town and around

FREE DIABETES COURSE

A free one-day course for people with pre-diabetes or Type 2 diabetes will be held in the St Matthews Church lounge, Garfield Road, on Saturday, November 18 from 9am to 3.30pm.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) helps people understand the causes of diabetes and how to maintain or improve health.

The course is presented by a diabetes nurse educator and registered dietitian and covers: healthy eating; how to stop or control the effects of diabetes on the body; what blood tests mean; goal setting; and how to be the best with your health team.

A bag of seasonal fruit and vegies will be given to each attendee. Food and refreshments will be provided. Registration is essential. Phone or text 021 818 568, or email: dsme@comprehensivecare.co.nz.

SUMMERS NIGHT IN HELENSVILLE

Food trucks, live music, family activities and a pop-up bar will feature at Summers Night, to be held at Helensville Rugby Club, 162 Awaroa Road on Saturday, November 18 from 4:30pm to 8.30pm.

It's aimed as a way to welcome in the summer season as a community, and is being put on by The Food Truck Collective and The Hapori Hub.

There will be a wide range of dinner

options served up by the food trucks, including: Sweet As Bowl, Paella Pan, Manila Eats, Lalele Organic Gelato, K Pork, Hapunan Filipino Cuisine, Double Dutch Fries, Butter Baby, and Akemis Gyoza. A pop-up bar will have a range of drinks available; no BYOB allowed. Entry is free.

RUGBY CLUB AGM

Helensville Rugby Club will hold its Annual General Meeting starting at 7pm on Tuesday, November 21, in the clubrooms, 162 Awaroa Road.

VILLAGE MARKET

The next Village Market will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, November 26 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Live music from Jessica on the piano will accompany visitors while they browse their favourite stalls, which will include locally made crafts, art and gifts; fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables; preserves; plants; pet products, and much more. There will be food available from the market café, plus coffee, a sausage sizzle, and ice cream.

A gold coin donation as asked for parking, with proceeds going to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa Scouts jamboree fund raiser. No dogs please except for assistance dogs.

For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

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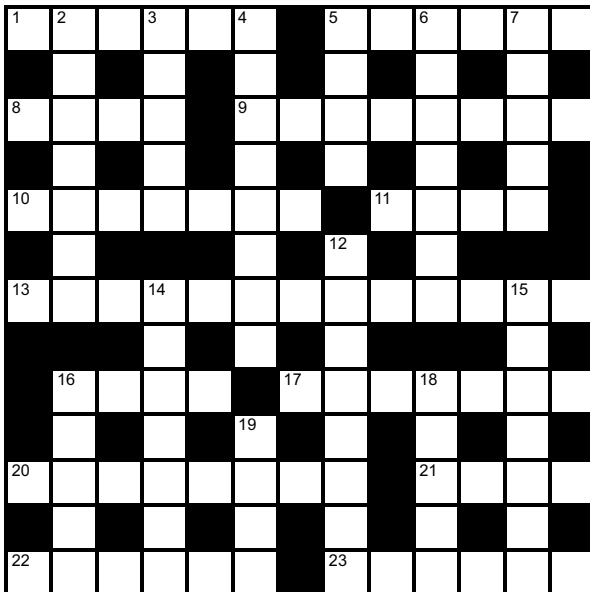
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crossword



Across

1. South North American republic (6)
5. Warning (3-3)
8. Version still being developed (4)
9. Boss (8)
10. Packages (7)
11. Literary work (4)
13. Donkey (5,2,6)
16. Close (4)
17. Commander in chief of a fleet (7)
20. Parasol (8)
21. Wicked (4)
22. Gorge (6)
23. Loftier (6)

Down

2. Lift up (7)
3. Hebrew patriarch (5)
4. Fail to notice (8)
5. Class (4)
6. Flourish (7)
7. Eats (5)
12. Submissive to authority (8)
14. Soft and moist (7)
15. Scrutinise (7)
16. Sweatbox (5)
18. Standard of perfection (5)
19. Futile (4)

ANSWERS

See Pg 15 for this month's answers.

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