

Crowds turn up for playground opening

An estimated 300 to 350 people turned up for the opening of the new playground at Kaipātiki Reserve in Parakai in mid-July. Since then, the fantastic new facility has been put to regular use by local children.

A blessing for the new facility was held at an early morning ceremony by Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara led by mana whenua elder Glen Wilcox, with a full pōwhiri and karakia taking place before the opening of the playground.

The special gala opening day featured face painting and balloon twisting by Happy Kids Face Painting; rock painting by Social Nexus; a harakeke workshop by the Repia/Holland Whānau; sausage sizzles and a Halo Project station by Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara; and a ReWild the West Pest free station by South Kaipara Landcare. Parakai Springs donated pool vouchers and provided security on the day.

Redevelopment work at the reserve began in early 2023 and includes the new playground designed with māra hūpara (traditional Māori play elements), a carpark, paths, a basketball court, multiple covered barbeque areas with seating, a new toilet block, and enhancements to the reserve entrance.

There are also two rentable holiday cabins - one suitable for those with accessibility needs - and five self-contained campervan sites available for temporary stays, which can be reserved through the Auckland Council accommodation booking system.

The playground's design was guided by prominent artist and designer Bernard Makoare (Te Uri o Hau, Ngāti Whātua, Te Waiariki, Te Kai Tutae, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi-nui-tonu) and incorporates narratives which aim to appreciate the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara



• A drone's-eye view of opening day at the new playground

people, lands, waters, heritage and ancestry.

The playground and reserve redevelopment was the work of Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, the co-governance entity that oversees Kaipātiki Reserve.

Te Poari chair Tamaki Mercer says they are very satisfied with the project and believe it has been finished to a high calibre as planned. She extends special thanks to the contractors and others who worked on this project over

the years.

"We look forward to welcoming the community, in particular the tamariki, to enjoy this long-awaited space of recreation and taiao (environment) upon this historic whenua of the Kaipara," says Tamaki.

In addition to creating a hub for recreational activity, the project aims to enhance the mauri (life force) of Kaipātiki and Te Awa Kahawai, the local geothermal field.

The reserve remains a taonga tuku

iho (treasure) to be passed on says Tamaki. This is achieved through stormwater drainage improvements and extensive ecological and restoration planting undertaken on site. Care has been undertaken by Green Space led by Eli Foreman and his team specialising in native fauna.

Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara have long connections with the geothermal springs located on the reserve, the mineral springs being recognised for their rongoā (natural healing qualities).

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editorial

First, a bouquet - the new playground and associated redevelopment of Kaipātiki Reserve at Parakai (see front page) is a credit to everyone involved, and shows what can be achieved when people work in partnership, such as with Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, the co-governance entity that oversees the reserve.

This a fantastic new amenity in an area that has traditionally been lacking in vision and investment, and will be a source of joy for locals for many years to come.

And now, a brickbat (of sorts).

Are the empty shops in Commercial Road ever going to be filled with new businesses?

It's such a shame to walk along the road and see vacant premises, some of which have been empty for many months. We're not alone in this of course - with tight economic times and the current downturn in retail, towns all across the country are suffering.

It would be a brave person to open a retail shop at the moment.

A couple of the empty buildings have been filled by relocating existing stores - but that just leaves their previous premises vacant.

Another couple have had businesses open in them over the past few months of course, namely the vape shop and Dominos, but I'm not sure they really improve the town much - one because it's a vape store (!) and the other because it's a branch of a huge international fast food chain which is directly competing with two well-established local businesses.

God forbid our little town lose its character like our neighbour Kumeū, which is now a sea of chain fast food stores - Burger King, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Dominos, Subway - all competing with the existing food outlets in a very challenging marketplace.

Unlike many other similar sized towns around the country, Helensville has the additional challenge of its proximity to the rest of Auckland. We've got the much bigger 'town' of Kumeū just a few minutes' drive down the road, and then the Westgate, Silverdale, and Albany centres all within easy reach.

A high percentage of locals work outside the Helensville area, so it's natural for them to shop closer to where they work. But we do have some great shops in Helensville, and the more residents that can support them, the better our town will be for it.

- Dave Addison, Editor
dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

Parent Aid to benefit from clothing swap

September's Kumeū Clothing Swap and Shop will help support local young families by raising funds for Parent Aid North West. A fundraising goal of \$20,000 has been set.

The event will be held at the Kumeū Showgrounds on Sunday, September 22 from 10am to 4pm.

The clothing swap celebrates sustainability in fashion.

"Instead of buying new, swap your gently used clothing items for something fresh and exciting. It's a guilt-free way to update your wardrobe while reducing the creation of textile waste and minimizing your carbon footprint," says organiser Bex Holland.

She says the swap allows women to update their wardrobe affordably while supporting a great cause. Instead of spending money on new clothes, people can exchange items they no longer wear for something new to them.

People wanting to participate can take lightly used women's clothing, shoes, and accessories to

one of the pre-swap drop-off days - September 19, 20, and 21 at the Kumeū Showgrounds.

They then pay the entry fee and get a wristband with the number of items they have donated items on it. At the swap they use the wrist band to 'buy' new-to-them clothing items. If they want more than their quota, additional items are just \$5.

Anyone wanting to help run the event or sponsor it can email Bex at: bex.holland@outlook.com.



• Shoppers at last year's Swap and Shop

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Jana Mills



New Whare Ako to open early 2025

Kaipara College's Māori students hope to be in their new Whare Ako by the end of term one next year.

Construction is already well under way on the 250sq.m. structure, located right in the centre of the school overlooking the playing fields - or "in the heart of the school" as the students are referring to its new site.

Whare Ako is a dedicated space for the delivery of te ao Māori within the school, a place that brings together the students' study, culture and whānau.

Kaipara College's original Whare Ako up near the school's carpark was built in 2003. It was demolished in December last year - in part because it was a leaky building, but also to make way for a dramatic new three-part project: a \$30m Innovation Centre, a new special education facility, and a new Whare Ako.

The high cost of the Innovation Centre saw it canned along with the special ed facility by the new government, but the Whare Ako received a green light for Ministry of Education funding.

"If I had to pick one, it would have been Whare Ako as it's so essential to the school," says principal Cindy



• Deputy Principal Brianne Te Paa (left) and Principal Cindy Sullivan outside the construction site

Sullivan. However, she says the loss of the Innovation Centre was "a huge blow for us. It would have been great for the community and the school."

The school's Māori students, who make up 27 percent of the school's roll, are using a new prefab building at the back of the school as a temporary home while the new Whare Ako is built.

Deputy Principal Brianne Te Paa, whose roles include raising Māori student achievement, says parents have had a lot of input into the design of the new building, with whānau hui going back three or four years creating a 'wish list' for the architects to try to incorporate.

Students also had input into creating designs for the facade of the building.

As well as learning space, there is a stage, a resource room, a kitchen, toilets and showers, and storage rooms for 50 mattresses.

The site was blessed just after the election last year, but building work didn't start until the last day of February this year.



• An architect's rendering of the completed Whare Ako

Raid on Parakai property ends in arrest

A 29-year-old man was taken into custody following a raid on a Fordyce Road, Parakai property on Friday, July 5 as part of an investigation into cannabis and firearms.

The man was scheduled to appear in the Waitākere District Court on Thursday, August 1 facing firearms, drugs, and threatening to kill charges.

With the case before the court the police were unable to comment further. However *Helensville News* understands from speaking with neighbours of the raided property that a significant number of police vehicles attended the execution of the search warrant on the rural property, along with the police helicopter and officers using a drone to search nearby farmland.

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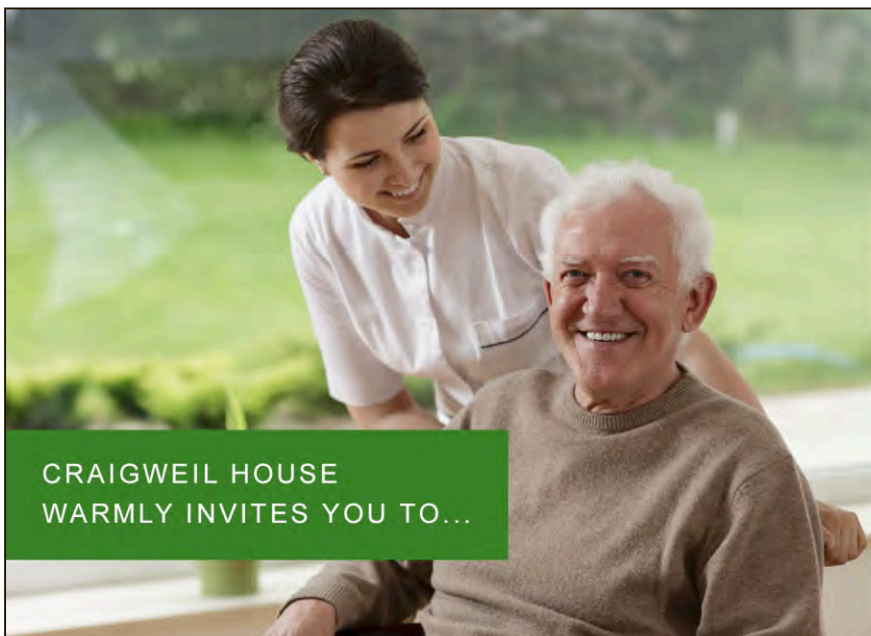
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Only weeks until Centenary celebration

With only weeks until the Kaipara College and Helensville District High School Centenary celebrations in September, the event programme has been revealed and is online at: kaipara.school.nz.

The first event is a fundraising Golf Day on Friday, September 20 from 9am to 2pm at South Head Golf Club. Tickets are \$45, with money raised going to the college's Japan rugby tour.

Next up is the college Ag Day on the school grounds from 3pm to 6pm.

"This will be a fun for all ages affair. We welcome the wider community to join us for this afternoon event," says event coordinator Erin Stuckey.

At the same time as Ag Day, there will be an exhibition in the college library of historical and memorabilia items, including printed material and videos spanning the school's 100 years.

On the Friday evening there will be a Social, hosted at the Kaipara Memorial RSA rooms in Commercial Road. This events was still to be confirmed at the time of going to print.

The official Centenary Ceremony on the Saturday will run for an hour from 9.15am in the school hall, then from 10.30am to 4.30pm all the school's learning areas will be open for event attendees to explore, with a guided tours run by student leaders until midday.

Two ticketed morning teas will be held. The college staff room will be decorated as a vintage tearoom, and as well as freshly brewed coffee and tea there will be freshly baked scones with jam and cream.

The History and Memorabilia Exhibition in the library will be on show again on the Saturday from 10.30am to 2pm.

Lunch will be from midday to 1pm, and guests are welcome to either bring a picnic lunch, or pre-order a lunch bag. Straight after lunch will be the official

Givealittle fund for Centenary dinner

Two former students have set up a Givealittle page to raise funds to help reduce the cost of the Kaipara College & Helensville District High School Centenary celebration dinner.

"I attended the 50th and 75th school celebrations, and I was on the organising committee," says John Glasson. "They were great occasions to meet school acquaintances and see the development occurring where our education took place."

He believes at \$240 a double for this year's dinner, many won't be able to afford it.

The Glasson family is donating \$1000 to start the fund and the hope is to raise \$15,000 and reduce the dinner cost to around \$40 or \$50 per person. Tickets already purchased would be discounted according to funds raised. People can search the Givealittle website for Kaipara College Centenary Dinner, closing August 20.

For more information, email John Glasson at: johmeg73@gmail.com.

Centenary Photo Call, with group shots planned for all attendees, staff groups and decade groups.

The Saturday afternoon will feature an invitation-only afternoon tea in the Faculty of Special Education, a Time Capsule and blessing, and a sports showcase including a netball game and a rugby match between a pre-2000s team and post-2000s players.

From 5.30pm to 10.30pm there will be a dinner event with live entertainment and a cash bar at the Helensville Rugby Club rooms.

The Centenary Celebrations will finish on the Sunday with a special centenary church service in the college hall, led by local community churches.

At the time of going to print almost 100 people had registered for the celebrations, and the college wants all registrations in by Monday, August 12 if possible.

People can register online at: kaipara.school.nz, in person during school hours at the school office, or phoning 09 420 8640, ext 800 or email: centenary@kaipara.school.nz for other options.

More success for Libby



Kaukapakapa St John Youth cadet Libby Pawley (above) has done it again.

In May, we reported on how the 17-year-old had won most of the tests in the 2024 National St John Youth competition, contributing to her Northern Region winning the shield for champion region.

Now, Libby has become the Waitemata St John Youth district champion - winning all five of her tests and emergency scenarios and becoming overall champion.

A St John Youth member since the age of six, Libby will now go on to represent the district at the regional competitions in September.

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Cleaning up our area

South Kaipara Clean Ups and Our Village North West have joined forces to clean up Helensville.

The two volunteer community groups have been collaborating monthly since March, and together have removed 36 bags of rubbish from the streets of Helensville and a small section of the Helensville riverside walkway.

"The invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers have been instrumental in achieving this significant progress. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously offered their time and effort to help," says Our Village North West's Kayla Clements.

Kayla says a major challenge has been the financial burden of disposing of the collected rubbish.

"HP Fitness has graciously sponsored the disposal fees for the past three events, without which our efforts would not have been as successful. Vets North Helensville allowed us their skip bin use for our July clean up which was truly beneficial," she says.

The groups meet at 10am on

the third Thursday of each month at the old Kaipara Tavern carpark at 26 Commercial Rd - where Helensville Fresh Mart is now located. The volunteers then meet again around 11:30am to offload their bags of rubbish before heading to St Matthews church, 60 Garfield Road, for a hot drink and light refreshments.

Dates for the next clean-ups are: August 15, September 19, and October 17.

Local businesses keen to support the clean up venture - for instance by donating rubbish bags and gloves, helping with rubbish disposal costs, or having a skip bin that could be used occasionally - can email Christina Norton of South Kaipara Clean Ups at: christinaandriley@hotmail.com.

Businesses that have so far supported the clean ups include: HP Fitness, River Valley Meats, Vets North Helensville, FIGG, Farm Source, and Helensville Fresh Mart.

For updates on future events, both South Kaipara Clean Ups and Our Village - North West are on Facebook.



Community potluck dinner

The traditional potluck dinner is coming to Helensville next month thanks to South Kaipara Good Food and Our Village North West.

It will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Saturday, September 7, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

"With spring around the corner, it's a perfect time to get together with friends and make some new ones," says Libby May, Kai Learn coordinator at SKGF.

Libby wants locals to dig out a favourite family recipes and cook up a dish to share. SKGF will be providing a cooked ham and rolls. There will be a crèche for children five years and under, a face painter, and maybe live music.

The potluck dinner will be an alcohol free and zero waste event. Crockery and cutlery will be provided, but those attending should bring something to drink, and to drink out of.

Serving dishes should be clearly named, or use a container organisers can recycle.

Anyone able to provide a ride for those who don't have transport, or who would like to take part behind the scenes, can contact Libby on 021 378 232 or email: kailearn@skgf.org.nz.

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Museum work tidies up access

Helensville Museum has been the recipient of generous community donations.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child - well, it also takes an army to maintain a museum," quips museum administration officer Fiona Wilton.

With volunteers tired of traipsing through a muddy area at the front of the museum office and archives building, Dave Swale of Swale Earthmovers - located directly across Mill Road from the museum - donated his time and earthmoving equipment to build up the area with sand and metal to create a tidy and fresh-looking entrance.

Michael and Maria from Woodhill Group provided the subbase metal, while Winstone Aggregates provided the bulk top layer metal via a sponsorship grant.

"Thanks Winstone - you have made our volunteers and visitors very happy," says Fiona.



• Dave Swale spreading out sand as a base for the metal

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Former Helensville character farewelled

RON HALL
26/7/1931 - 30/6/2024

Well-known local character Ron Hall passed away in July at the Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village in Birkenhead.

Norman Ronald (Ronnie) Hall was born in Helensville on July 26, 1931, the youngest of three brothers.

Ron arrived in a hurry, born in the family's Karaka Street house in a matter of minutes; with no time to get to the Helensville Maternity Hospital it was fortunate a midwife lived next door.

However he was tiny and not expected to live more than a few weeks - let alone the almost 93 years he managed in the end.

His parents had emigrated from Ireland in 1924 and settled in Helensville the following year. The family moved to Parkhurst when Ronnie about seven to be nearer to where his father was working as farm labourer.

Ron attended Helensville Primary then Helensville District High School, now Kaipara College, playing scrum half in rugby.

He left school at age 15 to work as bicycle delivery boy for a local butcher, then changed jobs when he turned 16 to become a shift worker on the manual telephone exchange run by the Helensville Post



• Ron Hall

Office - in those days a shared 'party line' system. He worked at the exchange for five years.

Ron left to become a share-milking hand on farms at South Head and Waiuku for two years.

During that period he alternated weekends between compulsory military training at the Papakura Military Camp where he worked in the stores and provisions department, and being a jockey riding horses at beach race meetings from Pakiri in the north to Waiuku in the south.

Ron then spent time in Wellington driving buses with his friend Max Jenkins, before returning to settle in Helensville.

He first met Marjory Granville when her family moved into the house next door at Parkhurst when she was only about 13 years old.

Fast forward a few years, and Ron and his mates from Helensville used to go to dances around the district, including as far away as Puhoi. Some of those dances coincided with times when Marjory was holidaying at her grandmother's house there - and romance blossomed.

Ron and Marj married on April 22, 1961, and three

children duly arrived - Mary-Rose, Kevin, and Michael.

As well as his 'Irish' sense of humour, Ronnie was known for his work ethic, working three consecutive jobs for many of his children's early years.

They included driving school buses around Kaukapakapa, Makarau and Waitoki, running the office side of McLeod Motors as a part owner, and operating a succession of food outlets - initially a Commercial Road dairy opposite the Kaipara Tavern, then for a short time a smaller dairy and takeaway shop opposite the Helensville War Memorial Hall, and later the food concession at Aquatic Park in Parakai (now Parakai Springs).

A life-long horse racing fan known to enjoy a flutter at the TAB, Ron organised the totalisator for the annual Helensville races (which used to be held at the Helensville Showgrounds racetrack), the family's dining table covered in rubber bands, paperclips, tickets, and finger sponges for days leading up to race day.

Ron was remembered at a service at the Puhoi Church and wake at the Puhoi Pub, an area he frequented in his younger years, riding his motorbike to attend dances and courting Marj.

Ron Hall is survived by his three children and five grandchildren - Daniel, Ailise, Louis, Sylvie, and Gemma.

Book fair raises almost \$10k

Helensville Lions Club's Autumn Book Fair raised almost \$10,000 for the local community - which lead organiser Chris Clark describes as "a very satisfactory result".

He says that despite inclement weather a good number of booklovers from around Auckland and beyond attended. The book sales money was further topped up with proceeds from a raffle and the regular barbeque sales. All funds raised go into the Lions Club of Helensville Charitable Trust and are used to help local individuals or organisations.

The next Lions Book Fair will be held on Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1 at the Showgrounds. Small quantities of book donations can be left at Burmester Realty in Commercial Road. For larger amounts phone Chris on 027 646 3324 or contact any member of the Lions Club of Helensville.



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Awards given at A&P AGM

Three locals received awards at the Helensville A&P Associations's annual general meeting, held at the showgrounds on Wednesday, July 17.

Andy Holst was awarded the Royal Agricultural Society's Excellence award for his services to the Helensville Show, Rick Croft received an RAS Centenary medal for his current role with that organisation, and Justina Ruzich was named Helensville Show Steward of the Year.

Andy, who runs small block fertiliser spreading business Kaipara Farm Services from his South Head property, took over as announcer at the annual Helensville Show in 2013 following the 'retirement' of long-time Show 'voice' Yvonne 'Hilty' Hilton.

On Show day Andy wanders the showgrounds, microphone in hand, announcing events and attractions, talking with exhibitors and tradies, and introducing sponsors. This year he compered the inaugural Fox Terrier Race, a highlight of the Show.

He spends most of the week prior to the Show, and many other times throughout the year, helping keep the showgrounds in top-top condition, hoeing and rolling, mowing, carting dirt and hay, doing running repairs, erecting stages and signage - and then helping with the pack-up the day after the Show.

While Andy's award was announced at the A&P Association's AGM, he will have to wait until next year's 121st Show on Saturday, February 23 to receive his award in person.

Rick Croft, a former Show president and current committee member, received a Royal Agricultural Society Centenary Medal for his role as National Horse Measuring Convenor for the society. All current serving members of the RAS received similar recognition for their roles in the organisation during its centenary year.

The Helensville A&P Association introduced a Steward of the Year award about 10 years ago, to recognise the helpers who are the lifeblood that keep Helensville Show running on the day. This year's recipient, Justina Ruzich, is following a long family tradition of helping at the Show.

Her great grandmother Annie Ellett was the first woman on the Show committee and still has the trophy for most points in the cooking section named after the family, while her great grandfather Walter was president in 1917/18. Her grandfather Douglas Honore stewarded in the calf club ring for more than 30 years with Justina helping by taking records to the office. Those early years led to Justina becoming a passionate advocate for school calf club and group day competitions, along with stewarding in Show classes over the years.

Justina has encouraged her own children to get involved with showing animals and entering indoor entries, while she herself has been a regular entrant in the indoor section, where these days she is a long-standing steward.



• Andy Holst on Show day announcer duties



• Rick Croft with his RAS centenary medal

Food trucks visiting

The Food Truck Collective is set to visit Helensville again this month, bringing delicious dinner options from a range of food trucks to Rautawhiri Park on Friday, August 30 from 5pm to 8pm.

Options will include gourmet burgers by local legend Eats, ramen from Miso Ra, Dutch fries from Double Dutch Fries, African food from Taste of Rwanda, and sweet treats from Butter Baby.

There will be no seating area or bar. Locals are welcome you to bring a picnic blanket or camping chairs to enjoy their meal onsite, or buy it as takeaway.



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Volunteers help property recover from cyclone damage



• From left: Tanya Wilson, Heays Cooper, KMR field advisor Shona Oliver, Cash Cooper, Richard Wilson and CVNZ's Kiri Huddleston.

A team of volunteers from Auckland joined forces to plant more than 1100 native plants on a Kaukapakapa lifestyle block in a matter of hours.

Representatives from Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ) and Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) teamed up with landowners Richard and Tanya Wilson for the planting effort.

Richard and Tanya's lifestyle block was hammered by flooding during last year's Cyclone Gabrielle, and they have since been on a mission to remove willows from Te Kuru Stream to improve waterflow, while also planting appropriate native plants on both sides of the stream to protect the banks from erosion and slow future floodwaters.

By the end of winter, they will have planted 3200 natives along the banks of the stream, which flows into Kaukapakapa River.

inspiring them to keep making a difference by managing and protecting our environment.

"This really aligns with KMR's kaupapa, too," says Kiri.

Kaipara Moana Remediation Pou Tātaki Justine Daw says the initial planting day took place on World Ocean Day to highlight the importance of taking action on the land to protect our seas - plus to show the positive impact the KMR programme is having on the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana.

"I am so pleased to be partnering with Kiri and her team at CVNZ because this really adds momentum to the KMR movement. Not only does KMR's partnership with CVNZ bring together like-minded people to get even more natives in the ground, it also brings communities together - young and old - to engage with nature and understand its importance. The land connects with the waterways, and these connect with the sea," says Justine.

She says the planting day on the Wilson's property was just the start of KMR's collaboration with CVNZ.

"Based on the success of this day, we look forward to working with even more Auckland volunteers at our upcoming collaboration planting days.

The two organisations also held a planting day in late July at the South Head farm of Ross and Eleanor Webber.

Since its establishment KMR has supported the development of more than 600 sediment reduction plans or projects - something Justine describes as "a great achievement."

KMR's long-term aspiration is to halve sediment flows into the harbour through the restoration of wetlands, fencing off rivers and streams, planting trees, and regenerating forests on erosion-prone land. So far more than 1.7 million plants, mostly native grasses and trees, have been planted or are contracted to go in the ground this winter.

More than 440 hectares of riparian margins, wetlands or hill country have been planted, or are under contract to be planted.

For more information visit www.kmr.org.

CVNZ regional manager Kiri Huddleston says the initial planting day was inspiring, and the volunteer team took part in two more planting days during July - again partnering with KMR.

"Our collaboration supports the KMR project - which is amazing - to get more volunteers on the ground at every planting day," she says.

"We are stoked to be able to help out and add our expertise to such a huge initiative as KMR. Our kaupapa as an organisation is about empowering people to be kaitiaki for nature and guardians of a healthy and sustainable environment and

'Low fuss' lunchboxes

South Kaipara Good Food is joining forces with Our Village North West for a monthly Kai Learn experience, teaching people how to make healthy low-fuss creations for the children's lunchboxes.

Run by Libby May, the Kai Learn Coordinator for South Kaipara Good Food, the first session taught participants how to make a no-bake muesli slice. Coming sessions have yet to be announced.

The aim is to help people during these times of high living costs by making more for less while feeding their children something homemade.

The Low Fuss Lunchbox events are held during one of the regular Thursday coffee/playgroups held by Our Village North West in the St Matthew's Church lounge, behind the main church building, at 60 Garfield Road.

The next will be on Thursday, August 29, from 9.30am to 1.30pm, and Libby's course will start at 10.30am. The following ones will be on September 26 and October 24.

Those wanting to take part can register their interest via the Facebook event page or email Libby at: kailearn@skgf.org.nz or Kayla at: ourvillagenorthwest@gmail.com.

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Rodney at top end of growth in census

The Rodney Local Board (RLB) area has had the fourth biggest population percentage growth in Auckland - and the sixth highest in all of New Zealand - according to the latest 2023 census figures.

The census recorded the RLB area population at 77,949, up 17.4 percent on the previous census in 2018. However that growth rate was less than the 21 percent rise our area grew between the 2013 and 2018 censuses.

Since 2013, the area's population has risen by more than 23,000, from 54,882.

The number of dwellings in the RLB area increased by 5244 since the 2018 census, a rise of 18.7 percent - the third highest percentage increase in Auckland, but second in the number of actual new dwellings built.

Our area's ethnic makeup is changing, too.

The number of people identifying as European in the RLB area has fallen from 90.9 percent in 2013 to 84.9 percent at the latest census. Meanwhile, those identifying as being of Māori descent has grown from 13.1 percent in 2013 to 14.9 percent in the 2023 census.

In line with the rest of New Zealand, the local population is ageing, too. In 2013 the median age in the RLB area was 25 years - that's now risen to 28.2 years.

Every group from zero years to 24 years saw a fall in their numbers as a percentage of the total local population. Conversely, every age group from 50 years and above saw an increase in their percentage of the population - with the percentage of those aged 75 to 79 doubling since 2013.

Family mini op-shop planned

Our Village North West is looking to set up a 'mini op-shop' for local families.

"I want to create a space where cost isn't a barrier," says Kayla Clements.

"How many of us have drawers, bags and wardrobes with clothes and items they no longer need, want or even fit?"

"Let's gather it at Our Village and get it to where it can be used and loved in a new home."

The proposed shop will be available to anyone in our community. Items will be accessible with koha suggestions.

"If this is a barrier we can work with local organisations to make sure you have what you need," adds Kayla.

Space is already available to set the shop up and Kayla is confident filling it with stock won't be an issue.

"We will be focused on clothing from size premature up to and including size

12, and anything parenting-related that isn't too bulky as a start."

The volunteer group will hold fundraisers to get shelving and storage equipment, and once that is ready the shop will open to the community.

Kayla would like to hear from anyone able to support the project in any of the following ways: sponsorship or funding support, shelving units (Industrial metal brackets), storage equipment (like air tight containers), products or vouchers for raffles, or volunteering time on Thursdays to help set up shelving and sort through stock.

Donations of items can't be accepted until the shop is properly set up to store them.

Contact Kayla on 022 039 2096 or email her at: ourvillagenorthwest@gmail.com.

Skydivers help set world record



Fifty-six people took part in 141 skydive jumps at Skydive Auckland in Parakai to mark World Skydiving Day in mid-July.

It was part of a worldwide effort to set a world record for the most skydives done in a day. In all there were 30,351 jumps made around the world.

As New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see the sunrise, Skydive Auckland kicked off the day with a sunrise skydive. However they couldn't claim the kudos for being the first place to skydive on the day because people at another location did a night jump.

It was the first World Skydiving Day and the first global record attempt to take place. Aimed at bringing together the global community of skydivers, it will become an annual event on the second Saturday of July.

Any category of skydiver can take part whether they are licensed skydivers, those learning to skydive solo, or tandem skydivers. The event was headed up by the United States Parachute Association.

Concrete food on show

Helensville Art Centre's August exhibition is 'Meat and Three Veg', with artist Murray Silverstone showcasing concrete sculptures of meat and vegetables (pictured below).

Exhibiting alongside are works by a group artists from Yvonne's painting class who have created a wide range of paintings around the genre.

"The opening will be a feast," quips Art Centre coordinator Yvonne Abercrombie. The opening evening is on Friday, August 9 from 5pm to 7pm and the exhibition itself runs until August 31.

A ceramics course which starts on

Wednesday, August 14 is now open for enrolments. Participants will make domestic ware and sculptures through the art of slip casting, taught by the Rachel Murphy. To enrol, email Rachel at: rachelkmurphy@gmail.com.

Mike Rowland will be continuing his six-week drawing course starting on Thursday, September 5. To sign up, ask at the Art Centre for more details.

Annual memberships are due in September. Current members, or locals who would like to become friends of the Art Centre by joining as a member, can fill out a membership form on the centre's website.





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Council proposes major Local Board boundary changes

Auckland Council is proposing major changes to the way Rodney District is split up into subdivisions under Rodney Local Board.

It's part of a review of how locals are represented throughout Auckland, but Rodney's proposed changes are the most far-reaching.

The proposal would increase the number of subdivisions in Rodney to five, creating two new rural subdivisions.

Helensville and Kaukapakapa are currently in the Kumeū Subdivision, which stretches from just south of Taupaki to north of Glorit. Under the proposal, the Kumeū Subdivision would shrink to a tiny area just encompassing the Kumeū-Taupaki area, designed to match the urban and future development zones around those centres.

Helensville would become part of a new South Rural Subdivision which would stretch to the east incorporating Waitoki and across to Pine Valley.

Kaukapakapa would be in a newly formed North Rural Subdivision, which would continue right up to Auckland's northern boundary, incorporating the current Wellsford Subdivision, and east to take in

much of the present Warkworth Subdivision, which like Kumeū would shrink considerably.

Only Dairy Flat subdivision remains unchanged under the proposal.

Rodney Local Board Chair Brent Bailey says residents should take the opportunity to consider how Rodney is represented by its elected members as the opportunity may not happen again until 2030.

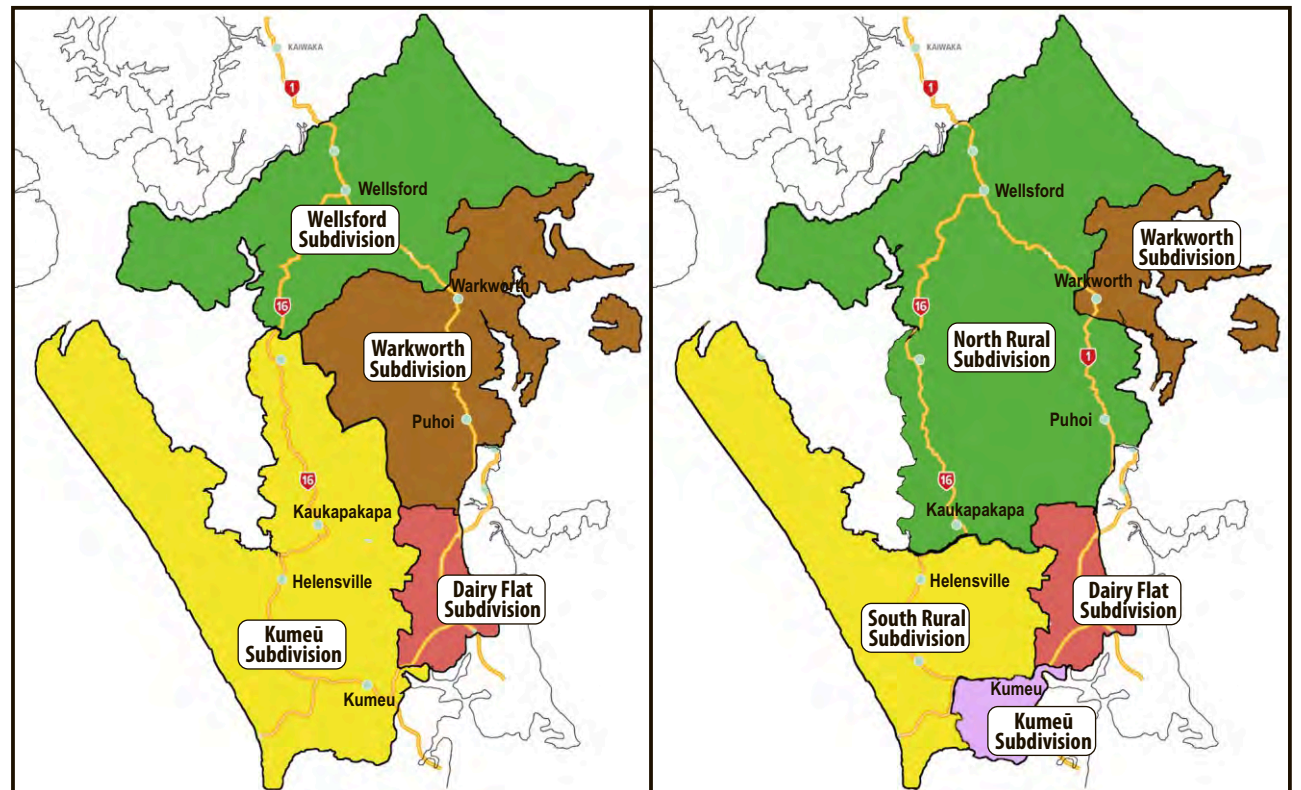
"Residents are being asked how they want to be represented in the future. The council must ensure the structure is fair, effective and keeps pace with region's growth.

"The current structure has been around for almost 15 years, and now you should give your views on how you think it can be improved.

He says the proposed subdivision changes have been driven by the Northern Action Group, and says: "frankly, I'm not a supporter of these [changes]."

"It's solving a problem that doesn't exist."

Locals can visit akhaveyoursay.nz/represent to find out more about the proposed changes and have until 4pm, Thursday, August 8 to give feedback.



• The existing four Rodney Ward subdivision boundaries (left) and the proposed five new subdivisions

Which way up for art? You choose...

Moving Perspectives is a new concept in art exhibitions, where the viewer can re-hang the artworks in the way they prefer.

On during August at the Helensville Art Centre the exhibition will feature works by local artist Thomas Hogan. As Thomas' work is expressionistic in nature, it can be viewed from many angles - hence the 'moving perspectives' concept.

"If Thomas has painted on a square canvas, then that gives up to 8 different ways of viewing it," says Pauline Denton, who facilitates weekly two-hour painting sessions with Thomas in her role as arts and activities coordinator for L'Arche Mount Tabor Helensville.

"So, the concept is that the viewer can choose which perspective they view the canvas from by re-hanging it to find the one they prefer."

Thomas' exhibition will run from August 7 to 31 in the library room at Helensville Art Centre, in the basement of the Helensville War Memorial Hall building. It's open Wednesdays to Fridays from 10am to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.



• The paintings which can be re-hung by viewers

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Final artist talk

Famed painter Vincent van Gogh will be the topic for the final in current series of Artist Talks at the Helensville Community Church on August 25.

Local potter and painter Karyn Ellwood (right) will talk about the art and life of van Gogh and show a Power-point presentation in what will be the last of the popular talks which have run as part of the church's 'cafe-style' morning service over the past few months.

When people think of van Gogh's art, they think of Starry Night, Sunflowers, or the Night Café.

"We might also wonder if he was a bit crazy," says Pauline Denton. "Didn't he cut off his ear? End up in an asylum? And commit suicide?"

In his lifetime van Gogh sold just one painting - but that work, Wooden Cabins Among the Olive Trees and Cypresses, sold in 2021 for US\$71 million.

As a man who was passionate about beauty and caring for others, he tried his hand at several career options before he found his passion in drawing and painting. He began his work like in an art dealership before trying pastoring and then becoming a missionary - but it was his creativeness that won out in the end. He was an artist for the last 10 years of his life and in that time painted over 900 paintings and wrote more than 900 letters.

With the camera becoming widely used Vincent didn't want to reproduce a 'painted photo'. He wanted to develop a visual language in his art to express and communicate the depth of emotion he felt. He wanted to connect with the viewer on a deeper emotional level, and to express what we all feel and question.

Today his works help people to visualise their feelings.

Karyn will tell his story on starting at 10.30am in the church at 40 Mill Road. The auditorium will be set out with cafe tables, and participants are free to eat and drink throughout at no cost.



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To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

August's recipients are Anne, Sally and the entire Helensville Library team, who have chosen to receive pot plants for the office from Mitre 10 Helensville.

The Library team was nominated by a grateful reader, who wants to remain anonymous.

They said: "Under lengthy, compromised construction conditions, they have maintained a service for appreciative readers. Despite challenging physical circumstances, the usual helpful, cheerful attitude has continued."



• The Library team with Nicky Horsbrough (4th from left)



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med centre notes

Kā Ora is the new after-hours provider for Kaipara Medical Centre. Kā Ora provides medical advice and telehealth appointments for rural whānau and communities outside of our usual business hours.

That means that if you call our practice after 5pm on weekdays, or during the weekend on 09 420 8400, you will be connected through to Kā Ora. After an initial consultation with a nurse or kaiāwhina, if you wish you can be referred to a doctor for a further telehealth consultation at the same rate we charge at Kaipara Medical Centre.

This is a great option, as it means you can still access great healthcare and a consultation over the phone even when we are closed. More details are available on the Ka Ora website: <https://kaora.co.nz>.

In other news:

- We are currently recruiting for a new GP to join our team as we have said farewell to Dr Dean Foster. For those of you who have seen Dr Dean as your doctor, you can continue your ongoing care with one of our other experienced clinicians - currently working at the clinic are Dr Kathryn Elcock, Dr Halima Nati, and Nurse Practitioners Beth Poi and Sacha Cowell.
- Our daily acute care clinic runs from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday for your immediate medical needs - please phone the clinic from 8am daily to get an 'on the day' appointment.
- As well as our regular weekly walking group that runs every Monday 9.30am, our Health Coach Roz now runs weekly chair fitness classes on Wednesdays at 1pm, at 7 Rata Street. Both are free for our enrolled patients.
- As the coughs, colds and winter illnesses increase please consider wearing a mask when coming into the clinic to protect both yourselves and your whānau, as well as our team and their whānau. Thanks for your understanding.

For more information visit: www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz or email: admin@kaiparamed.co.nz.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre



the business

August is all about business strength and getting to know your business in more detail.

David Altena hosted our first AAA Roadmap to Productivity workshop on July 30, giving members insights about their productivity and creating a new suite of metrics to measure how well their businesses are doing over time.

"New Zealand businesses tend to be taught to focus on sales and profits without measuring their productivity and comparing that to others in their industry," says David, of Altena Solutions. "With three key steps, I can show businesses how to make business decisions based on outputs for effort, maximising return without capital investment."

David has completed research on his Roadmap and has exclusively offered up to six North West Country members a 12 month continued case study opportunity with him to take his findings further. Interested business owners can contact him at: david@altena.solutions.

North West Country Business Solutions has launched our business mentors programme. We have five mentors available to members who can help with whatever questions you might have. All members are entitled to a free one-hour session with a mentor of their choice; however the programme has limited funds so make sure you book your slot now. Mentors can show businesses wanting to go further how they could be eligible for grants to receive further advice. You can meet our mentors below, and book your first appointment by emailing me.

For more information visit: www.northwestcountry.co.nz/businessmentors.

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



Feedback on draft shoreline plan

Auckland Council wants feedback on its draft Shoreline Adaptation Plan for the coastline from the mouth of the Manukau Harbour to South Head.

The area consists of long stretches of undeveloped coastline characterised by cliffs, dunes, and mostly black sand beaches with small settlements including Muriwai, Piha, Te Henga/Bethells, and Karekare.

The plan, one of many region-wide, consider the potential impacts of coastal erosion and inundation, catchment flooding, and climate change including sea level rise, and looks at how Council-owned land and assets can be adapted to respond to these over the next 100 years. Feedback closes on Monday, August 12 and can be made online at <https://shorturl.at/bcgJL> or by email to: shorelineadaptationplans@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.



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Kaukapakapa footpath project starting any day

Work is due to start any day on a major footpath upgrade and pedestrian crossing installation at Kaukapakapa.

"Historically Kaukapakapa has suffered from under-investment much like other small towns in our area," says Rodney Local Board member Mark Dennis.

"But thanks to the Transport Targeted Rate we are now able to fund a major footpath programme for the township and a couple of crossings. This will take about six months to complete."

The improvements will include improved footpaths, with areas widened and new driveway entries in Kaukapakapa township, two new zebra crossings, and improved sight lines and safety for pedestrians.

The angle of carparks outside the shops in the town centre will be realigned to make it safer for people to reverse onto the road. That will reduce the number of car parks by three, but will also allow for wider footpaths and easier access to local amenities.

Several areas of the road will have new broken yellow lines (no stopping at all times) to help with sight lines for people using the crossings on foot. There will be pedestrian zebra crossings with central refuge islands outside Kaukapakapa School and just north of the Gull petrol station. New road markings will encourage drivers to slow down.

Mark says the project follows a year of major investments in Helensville and Parakai.

Recent investments include the \$17m upgrade to Helensville's wastewater treatment plant and the \$3m upgrade to the Mangakura dam; more than 2.5km of footpaths around Helensville and leading to Parakai; renewal of the Shelly Beach Café building; two new playgrounds at Shelly Beach; renewal of the Helensville War Memorial Hall building; planting of nearly 100 semi-mature trees in Parakai for street beautification; and the newly opened Kaipātiki Reserve playground.

Helensville Library is back!

Helensville Library is back!

The library and Council service centre have reopened and are back to business as usual, following months of disruption during rebuilding work on the Helensville War Memorial Hall building.

The library's annual soft toy sleepover (right) was able to be held again, and Anne Coppell, senior librarian children and youth says: "the toys had a lovely time, and didn't get up to too much mischief." Photos are available on the library's Facebook page.

August is 'We Read Auckland' month at Auckland libraries, and library members are invited to dive into a packed programme of author events and workshops, as well as discovering special reads by local writers in this year's Bestie collection.

"Unravel mysteries with celebrated crime writers, empower yourself with financial experts, discover remarkable wartime women, and much more," says Anne.

"Our Bestie collection is designed to help readers access the best new books without waiting in the holds queue. This August we're adding 16 new Besties by local authors including Michael Bennett, Saraid de Silva, and Dai Henwood."

Multiple copies of the Bestie books are available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Free tickets for We Read Auckland events can be booked at:



www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/we-read-auckland.aspx.

Finally Anne says: "Ngā mihi nui to the person who nominated us for Harcourts' Making the Difference, we are humbled by the honour." (See page 12)

councillor comment

The new Auckland Future Fund versus retaining Auckland Airport shares:

It became glaringly obvious that Auckland Council had not financially prepared for the devastating, and costly, effects of the natural disasters of Cyclone Gabrielle or the Auckland floods of January 2023.

Lead by Mayor Wayne Brown, Auckland now has a solution in advance of the next natural disaster, called the Auckland Future Fund. It is a diversified asset portfolio of \$1.3 billion that earns compounding interest, thus is continuously growing in size. Its primary purpose is to be available as an emergency civil defence fund.

The fund is managed externally to Council by professional firms to maximise the financial rate of returns. To protect this large fund from being raided in the future, for purposes other than what it is intended for, a Trust has been established to administer the money giving it an extremely high level of protection against any raids.

Auckland Council has also gone one step further, asking the Government to pass legislation offering even more protection to these funds for their primary purpose to assist Auckland to recover quickly if another disaster occurs.

Auckland discovered it didn't have the liquidity, or cash at hand, to get the necessary repairs and recovery needs for families underway fast enough. Months of negotiating with central Government slowed the start of essential work.

Where did this \$1.3 billion come from to start this fund? The money came from selling Auckland Council's 11 percent stake holding in the Auckland Airport.

Why sell these shares to create a civil defence fund? Two very important reasons.

Firstly, the airport shares make a typical financial return of 1.4 percent pa for ratepayers. The managed fund will make a typical financial return of 7 percent pa for ratepayers.

You don't have to be good at maths to see one of those numbers is far greater than the other.

Secondly, the money in the fund is protected to give Aucklanders true resilience against natural disasters - whereas the airport shares were slowly but surely being sold off by consecutive councils to plug their overspending and debt problems.

The Auckland Future Fund money is being used proactively to create ratepayer wealth, rather than

ratepayer money being used reactively, and dwindled away, through the sale of shares to cover up budget holes and Council debt.

Here are some of the bigger issues that were part of public consultation, debates and final decision making:

1. Auckland Council is losing control of the airport:

Auckland Council did not have control over the airport. You need at least a 52 percent shareholding to have control and 20 percent to get a director appointed. Council only had 11 percent of the shares. This shareholding was only in place to get a financial return for ratepayers, not for control of the airport.

2. Council is selling the family silver:

Isn't silver meant to go up in value? Airport dividends were 1.4 percent pa. The Auckland Future Fund's cash contribution is expected to be \$400 million more than the projected dividends from airport shares over the next 10 years. This equates to a \$40 million dollar savings in rates each year, the equivalent of avoiding an additional 4 percent rates increase each year.

If the airport shares are the family silver, then Council is selling them to buy gold!

3. Auckland needs the cashflow from the airport shares:

Ratepayers are only getting a 1.4 percent dividend return from the shares. Council could get better returns from a bank savings account!

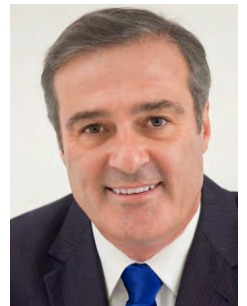
4. The fund will just be raided in the future:

The Mayor has put in place ample and multiple protections to prevent it from being raided. Compared to the ease by which Council continuously keeps raiding and selling airport shares, the Auckland Future Fund is significantly more secure.

5. We can't trust Council to manage the fund well:

Council won't be managing the fund. Experts who do that for a living will be managing the fund. It's the equivalent of putting your money into a retirement fund - somebody else manages it for you.

- Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor
greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
 Ph: 021 285 9900



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local board matters

Our system of government is a representative democracy. Each voter has a say in who represents them in Parliament and in Local Government. In Auckland this means you can elect a Mayor, Ward Councillor, and one or more Local Board representatives in your subdivision.

Typically, this means choosing the candidates that can be relied on to represent the interests and concerns of their community. In the case of your Local Board, you may want someone from your neighbourhood. That said the Local Board acts for all of Rodney, but having a local voice is valuable as Rodney is massive - 46 percent of Auckland City by area. So a visible and accessible local representative allows you to have face to face contact.

The Ward Councillor role is hugely demanding for Rodney as it involves attending community events and meetings all over the ward as well as the actual governing body work with the Mayor and Councillors.

Selecting a Mayor seems to have gone well for Auckland this term, and the positive relationship between the Mayor and our Councillor has been advantageous for Rodney.

Given all this, who does what?

Local Boards are pretty much only responsible for governing local parks and community facilities. This includes new builds, renewals, and maintenance. Those tasks are delivered by Council staff and contractors who report to and advise the Local Board. We also provide feedback to the governing body, Auckland Transport, and Watercare on policy.

Pretty much the entire first half of our three year term is taken up with developing of our budget and

work program.

Our Councillor is our representative on the governing body and this is where our funding, budgets, and all regulatory matters are determined. This includes roads, public transport, regional facilities, and advocacy on behalf of the Local Board.

Often there is confusion over who is responsible for what, and a great deal of staff and elected member time and effort is spent on things outside our areas of direct decision making.

As this is my last term as Rodney Local Board chair, I have encouraged all elected members to engage and communicate actively with their local communities. This makes them more visible and allows them to build skills and confidence.

For me the tough part has been herding the team through agreeing on priorities and allocating budgets so we can have staff develop the work program that will deliver these priorities. I've tried to keep the team focused on the matters over which we have decision making authority, and reducing the needless noise some feel the need to create on other areas.

The community will have another chance to elect representatives next year. I encourage you to take a good look at who is working on the important things and who is spinning their wheels on fashionable stuff.



- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

from our MP

I have been thinking a lot about how closely connected rural northwest Auckland is to Northland. Some of the issues faced by areas such as Helensville relate very closely to those further up SH16 and SH1. And of course there are important physical connections between the two areas, in the form of those state highways and the rail line as well.

Recently Northland has suffered a number of travails that will be familiar to readers of *Helensville News*, including with road degradation and power outages.

I am very hopeful that recently announced increases to pothole prevention funding will assist both areas with road maintenance. As for the Brynderwyns suffering ongoing disruption due to slips, it is hoped these are resolved promptly. SH16 is an alternate route when SH1 becomes impassable which raises the stakes on the condition of that road.

Meanwhile, the huge disruption caused to our northern neighbours by the loss of a power pylon recalls the considerable outages of 2018 in Helensville and surrounding areas due to storms.

The moral of the story is surely that across New Zealand - not only the upper end of the North Island - infrastructure investment has not kept up over many years.

As your local MP, who travels the local roads and highways when visiting groups in the area, I am aware of the need to ensure Auckland's rural northwest gets its fair share of increased funding - and will keep advocating to government for exactly that!



- Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz



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■ **Letters to the Editor:** Should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.

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VILLAGE MARKET

The next Village Market will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, August 08 from 8.30am to 1pm.

Stalls will include local crafts, pet health care, jewellery, crystals, candles, soaps, preserves, art, hand knits, indoor and outdoor plants, locally grown fruit and vegetables, flower bouquets, and eggs. There will be a range of treats at the market café, fresh coffee, donuts and more on the food front, while entertainment will be live music, free face painting, and a children's activity table.

No dogs except for assistance dogs. A gold coin donation is asked for parking with proceeds to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa Scouts and St John Youth. Email Sarah at: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

LOCAL BOARD MEETING

The August ordinary meeting of Rodney Local Board will be on Wednesday, August 21 at the RLB

office, 3 Elizabeth Street, Warkworth.

September's meeting will be held on the 18th in Kumeū meeting room, 296 Main Road, Kumeū.

FREE DIABETES COURSE

A free one-day diabetes course will be held in Helensville on Saturday, August 24 for people with pre-diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes.

To be held in the St Matthews Church lounge in Garfield Road, from 9am to 3pm, the course is designed to help people better understand diabetes, its causes, and how to maintain or improve their health. It will be presented by a diabetes nurse educator and dietitian with support from a podiatrist and a health psychologist. Each person attending will receive a bag of seasonal fruit and vegetables, and food and refreshments will be provided.

Registration in advance is essential. Contact Margot McDonald, 09 448 0019, phone or text 021 818 568, or email: dsme@comprehensivecare.co.nz.

Moa footprints found at South Head

Thirteen large moa footprints have been discovered near South Head - only the 14th recorded discovery of moa footprints in 150 years.

Geoscience communicator Julian Thomson and geologist Dr Bruce Hayward were in the area making a video about four other moa footprints, discovered nearby in 2022, when they came across the fossils.

"Fossilised moa footprints are extremely rare," says Bruce.

Of recorded finds, these were the second oldest occurrence at about one million years old, he said.

"The large number of footprints on one surface is highly unusual."

Most previously recorded moa footprints were preserved in mud or volcanic ash in stream valleys, says Bruce, but these footprints were left in wet sand at the top of a beach.

"Their crisp form was captured by dry sand blowing across them and filling them up, and further beach

sand and dunes deeply burying them.

"They have remained buried until recent sea erosion has exposed them. They are captured in soft sandstone which is now rapidly frittering away."

Julian Thomson says it was "so lucky" the pair were able to capture the footprints on video.

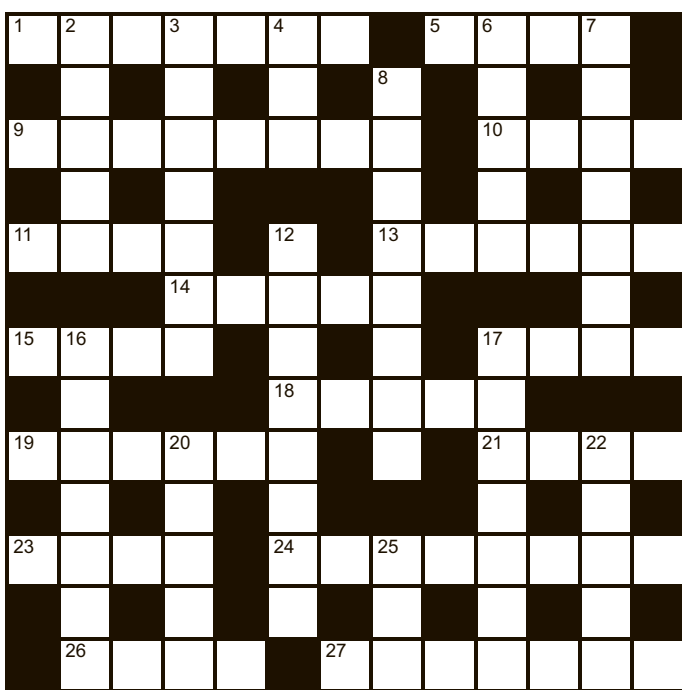
"They will not last long and at least we now have a record for the future."

On the pair's second visit to the location, paleontologist Dr Daniel Thomas - a specialist in fossil birds - took measurements and images to make a 3D model of the site before it succumbed to further erosion. His work would allow for detailed study of the moa's size, weight and behaviour.

The video Thomson and Hayward were originally making, about the four other moa footprints, would be added to their Out There Learning YouTube channel, which highlights Aotearoa's geology and landforms.

- Article courtesy of Radio New Zealand

crossword



Across

8. Stopping place (7)
5. Goat's milk cheese (4)
9. Appreciative (8)
10. Uncommon (4)
11. Basic unit of heredity (4)
13. Capital of Inner Mongolia (6)
14. Horned African animal (Abbr.) (5)
15. Agile (4)
17. Keen on (4)
18. Avian incubators (5)
19. Drinking vessel (6)
21. Easy stride (4)
23. Separate article (4)
24. Old liners (8)
26. Sweet palm fruit (4)
27. Armed robbery (5-2)

Down

2. Californian resort lake (5)
3. Leather factory (7)
4. Rotten (3)
6. Soil (5)
7. Aerodrome (7)
8. Tavern (8)
12. Very large woman (8)
16. Schemed (7)
17. Mohammedan (7)
20. Boundary (5)
22. Hidden (5)

June's Answers

Across: 8. Ukraine 9. Tiara 10. Uncle 11. Unaware 12. Bass drum 15. John 17. Atop 18. Feminist 21. Bottles 23. Knife 25. Sight 26. Benefit.
Down: 1. Suburb 2. Croc 3. Limeade 4. Menu 5. Steam 6. Macaroni 7. Cave in 13. Shortage 14. Use 16. Sinking 17. Ambush 19. Treaty 20. Slate 22. Sobs 24. Info.

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