

Rail icon leaves Helensville

D170, the cute little 144-year-old steam locomotive which has been on display by the Helensville Railway Museum for the past 24 years, has gone to a new home.

The steam engine is owned by

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by Wednesday, December 18. We'll draw the winner immediately and will email the Show entry tickets along with a voucher to be redeemed at the office on Show day for the rest of the goodies.

MOTAT and had been at Helensville since 2000 on a lease agreement negotiated by the late Arnold Gosling when he owned the railway station with his partner Gail Oxton, prior to the station's ownership passing to the Helensville Railway Station Trust in 2008.

The lease stipulated the engine had to be returned to MOTAT at their request at any time.

In Helensville it had been kept under cover in an open-fronted shed and its condition had been gradually deteriorating. The Rail Trust was unable to fund any preservation or restoration work, and MOTAT now has undercover storage available so the move is a win for both organisations.

On Wednesday, November 6 a giant mobile crane first carefully lifted the shed from its foundations, then picked up the locomotive and positioned it on a large transporter. The railway irons and wooden ties it had been sitting on were also taken with the engine, then the shed lifted back into place.

D170 was trucked to MOTAT where it went on display for the first time in almost half a century, just in time for the its Rail Live Day on November 17.

Now stored undercover at MOTAT to protect it, the condition of D170 will be evaluated for a full restoration to eventual operation - an outcome the Rail Trust describes as an "excellent outcome for this historic locomotive."

Locomotive D170 is a 'D' class engine, a design unique to New Zealand, built by Neilson Brothers in Glasgow, Scotland in 1880. It was in service with New Zealand Railways from 1881 to 1923. It was donated to MOTAT and arrived at the Western Springs museum in 1963, but subsequently underwent a number of moves around the country, as far away



• D170 in the process of being craned onto its transporter

- Photo: Scott Osmond

as Christchurch.

In 2000 MOTAT regained custody of the locomotive and the museum entered into a relationship with the Rodney Community Tourist and Development Trust to allow it to go on display at the Helensville railway station. With the 125th anniversary of the Riverhead-Helensville railway approaching the timing was perfect. With the support of Tranz Rail, the New Zealand Express Company, and the Rail Heritage Trust the locomotive was dispatched from Christchurch, arriving at Helensville on October 10, 2000 - leaving just enough time to paint and tidy it up before the anniversary celebrations on October 30.

Decades of open storage had taken their toll on D170 and by the time the locomotive arrived at Helensville there

were holes in the water tanks and cab, and eventually a significant amount of repair work would be required. Helensville Railway Station Trust built an open-fronted shelter for the locomotive, and later fenced the front to prevent it being climbed upon. MOTAT volunteer Barrie Hendriksen spent many hours working on D170 while it was on display in Helensville, freeing up seized components and painting and cleaning. That helped keep the locomotive tidy and to limit further deterioration.

While D170 itself may not have operated in our town, engines of that class were used in the Helensville area. In fact a D Class locomotive hauled the very first train from Riverhead to Helensville when the line opened in October 1875.

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editorial

Well, here we are, the final issue for yet another year.

It's been a tough year for many people economically, but one that locally hasn't all been bad news. We've seen the reopening at long last of the War Memorial Hall building and RSA rooms, the new Kaipara Marine Rescue Centre opening, and upgrades to important infrastructure like Helensville's water supply dam and waste water treatment plant.

Helensville News will be taking January off as usual, but we'll be back with another great issue full of news and happenings at the start of February.

I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season, and good luck with our Helensville Show competition!

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

Big Little Local draws crowds

A 'bigger' Big Little Local at Rautawhiri Park on November 23 drew what looked like its largest crowd yet.

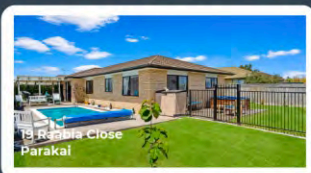
This year stalls filled the lower carpark by the Lions Club pavilion building as well as the upper level as in previous years, and when *Helensville News* called around midday the main Rautawhiri Park carpark was almost completely full.

Stalls included local community organisations, businesses and crafts people, and there were numerous prize draws.

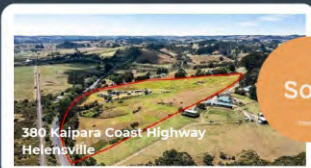
- *Organiser Nicky Horsbrough (centre with microphone) watches one of the prize draws*



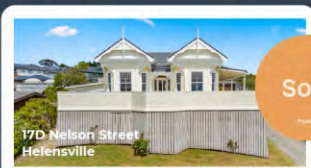
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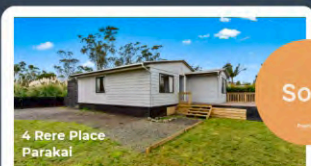
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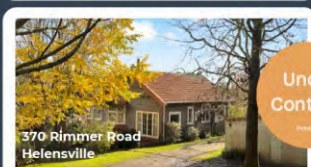
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Football kids enjoying new fields

Ninety local children are learning the joys of playing football - for free.

South Kaipara Football Club was formed in September 2024 for five to 11-year-olds of all different skill levels.

"We have kids who have been playing since they have been walking to 10 year olds who have never put a football boot on," says Trevor Hubbard, the club's chairman.

"It started last summer when a group of kids including my son, his friends and their parents, started having a regular Sunday kick around. That's when I thought about putting something together for local kids in the community. I knew I could not do this single handed, so I reached out for some helpers and Dee, Patrice, Regina, Dan and Richard put up their hands.

The club's motto is 'From the Community, For the Community'.

"We are trying our hardest to keep this a zero cost project for parents and caregivers. We understand from our personal experiences that the cost of living can affect our priorities on what needs to be paid - food, electricity bill etc.

"Offering free football to kids not only helps parents financially but gets the kids off their devices and out getting some exercise. All our volunteers work full time and have families too, and we give a lot of our time to make this work. Seeking funding and sponsorship is a large part of the time we spend. We are currently seeking sponsors for financial support to buy much-needed equipment."

Trevor says anyone willing to help can email him at: trevor@southkaipafc.co.nz.

With 90 members already, the club has a waiting list. More than a dozen adults volunteer with coaching

and things like marketing and tech.

The children started playing at Helensville Primary School, but now have dedicated fields at Rautawhiri Park - one full size and two half-size pitches.

"We started off in Helensville Primary School, with a group doing some football drills and small games. Due to being approached by not only families outside of Helensville Primary School, but even outside of Helensville, we decided it would be a good idea to move to Rautawhiri Park. It's apparent that there really is a demand for a local club," says Trevor



• Players, coaches and supporters at Rautawhiri Park in late November

"Most important was to make sure the fields could fit around all the other sports happening in Helensville. It has been a success and it is so great to see football, touch, and tennis all busy on a Wednesday after school.

Five to eight year-olds play on Wednesdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm while those aged nine to 11 play on Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm. The Wednesday group plays on a full size pitch divided up into smaller pitches, while the Thursday children use the two half pitches.

The children aren't playing competitions against other clubs as yet - "but who knows, maybe in the future." Registrations for next term will be released over the Christmas break and information will be on the club's social media.

There is also an adults team which plays on Monday evenings at 7pm - any adults or older teenagers keen for a kick around can look up Helensville Monday Night Football on Facebook.

Trevor's love of football goes back to watching Charlton Athletic for £1 as a boy growing up in south London.

"I did play football down the local park and at primary school, but secondary school was strictly rugby during winter and cricket during the summer. Since coming to New Zealand 13 years ago, I would never turn down the chance to go see a live game, and now we are lucky to have another new football team, Auckland FC, who we can go and watch."

Sponsor a Kai Pack

South Kaipara Good Food is looking for local businesses to sponsor Kai Packs so it can continue to deliver food to families. The organisation uses rescued food, locally grown food, donations, and purchased food to feed more than 700 families.

A business sponsorship of \$25 per week let SKGF feed a family of four for four days.

Contributions can also be tax-deductible, offering businesses financial benefits while supporting a critical cause in the local community.

SKGF will support sponsoring companies on their website, social media and other outlets.

For those wanting a simpler option, SKGF can accept donations at any time through its website.

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The Mare-ee-an rides again

A runabout boat with a long Kaipara history has had a rebirth, being relaunched 60 years to the day after it first touched local waters.

South Head farmer Bryan McLeod built the Mare-ee-an in his woolshed in 1964 out of marine ply to a Carl Augustin design.

"My older siblings (I was only one year old at the time) would be commandeered after school to hold the dolly under the upturned hull while dad banged in the copper nails, bearing Dad's stern words when the dolly was out of position!" remembers Janette McLeod.

Janette understands that Mare-ee-an's name came from the traditional calypso song 'All Day All Night Marianne' - with her father's spelling slant applied - "as opposed to being named after the neighbour's daughters, Mary and Anne."

The Mare-ee-an was involved in many fun-filled escapades over her 60 years including fishing, water skiing, diving, gathering mussels, regattas, and even competing in the Epiglass 40 and Atlantic 100 races (in which she won the economy classes).

The family did overnights and various explorations aboard her, with the Northern Wairoa and Hotoe River being particularly memorable.

"A terrifying crossing of the Kaipara Heads also lingers in my mind, when an extra large wave came her way giving no time for us to turn around. Thankfully dad was a skilled enough boatman to ride her over it. Scarily, looking back on the event, none of us were wearing lifejackets at the time," says Janette.

Over time Bryan made various alterations such as replacing the windscreen with a more protective one

and attaching alkathene - presumably left over from one of his farming jobs - around the bow as a protector. A new motor was required when Mare-ee-an's was stolen while moored overnight in the estuary at Mangawhai Heads.

"Roller doors were fitted - too late - to the garage under the house after a second motor was stolen from her," says Janette.

"During my teenage years in the 1970s it came time for Mare-ee-an to have a repaint and I suggested



• The big relaunch, with Graeme McLeod splashing Velluto Rosso on the bow while Janette looks on, and nephew Lee in the background

to dad that we change the colour to the more modern tone of the day, orange."

The boat stayed that colour until she was recently refurbished and returned to her original turquoise, the windscreen made as close as possible to the original from what could be gleaned from photographs and the alkathene removed.

"The varnished timber sections at the stern have remained. Dad loved the timber grain and could not bring himself to cover it all with paint so left this region as a feature."

"It's thanks to my husband Tim for encouraging the refurbishment rather than putting Mare-ee-an out to pasture even though it has used up my inheritance!" quips Janette.

Mare-ee-an was relaunched 60 years to the day in the company of Janette's brother and sister-in-law Graeme and Janet McLeod and their nephew Lee. One of Bryan's favourite tipples, Velluto Rosso red wine, was used to christen the launch.

"Mare-ee-an is ready for another 60 years of adventures; I know Dad would be pretty chuffed."

As for the boat's future? Janette's daughter in Hawkes Bay had offered to take it over prior to its refurbishment - but says Janette: "I'm not sure I want to let her go now ... maybe a few more outings on the Kaipara before we decide."



• Bryan McLeod driving Mare-ee-an in the 1970 Atlantic 100 race

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New lease of life for the KT

Helensville businessman Andy Cummings has reopened the Kaipara Tavern, renaming it as The Original Kaipara Tavern.

There has been a Kaipara Tavern on the same 26 Commercial Road site since 1886. Earlier versions burnt down, and the current building dates from the 1970s.

After sitting vacant for some time, Andy decided to revamp the 'KT' as a family-friendly community tavern. He sold his River Valley Meats business directly across the road to new owners Steve and Chrissy Pridmore, and got to work on his latest project.

"I did think about rebranding it but this has always been the Kaipara Tavern," says Andy.

Gone are the pokie machines, and the interior of the main bar area has been significantly lightened by putting in skylights.

The lower bar area has a large stage in place for



• Andy shows off his bar tending skills at The Original Kaipara Tavern

Andy's love of live music - and there's a second stage in the revamped garden bar. Andy already has a range of events and acts booked for the venue, including Chill in the Ville on December 7, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band on December 14, and young, up-and-coming band Rumpus Machine on December 21. There will also be a band playing after the Christmas Parade on December 15.

The D4 are booked for February, and Andy is hoping the Jordan Luck Band will play here as part of their winter tour.

The lounge bar has been redecorated and carpeted, and themed with historic photos of the local area. Tables have been installed to make this room an "upmarket" dining area.

Since opening mid-November there have been food trucks on site on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, but Andy has "big plans" for the KT's kitchen for next year, with thoughts of a gastro pub in his mind.

Breakfasts held for people to eat while watching recent All Blacks tests have been popular. When *Helensville News* called in he already had 40 'all you can eat spaghetti' breakfasts booked for the Italy test - though he admits the snails on toast for the French test weren't so popular!

There are five large TV screens for locals to watch sport on, and beer on tap includes Lion Red, Speights, Guinness, and, in a nod to Helensville's heritage, McLeod's beer (even though it actually comes from Waipu) is the bar's first 'guest' tap beer.

Andy's motto for the reopened bar is: "Live Music, Live Sport, Live People".

"The main thing that motivates me is to make something the whole family can enjoy," he says, adding that feedback so far has been positive. He adds the tavern is available for private functions too.

"I'm proud of how I've got the place looking.

"I want to give special thanks to Mark Trickett, Mike Trainor, and Gail Neal. They put in so many hours helping me get set up. And helping me when I had to try out the freshly cleaned beer lines," he quips.

Horse treks, walks to raise school funds

Waioneke School is hosting two horse treks and walks over parts of South Head not normally accessible to the public.

The fundraising events will be self-guided with clearly marked routes for people wanting to ride, walk or run.

The first trek/walk on Saturday, December 7 is across farmland and beach at Te Rau Puriri Regional Park. It's expected to take riders around two to three hours to complete.

The second fundraiser is on Sunday, February 23 and will run across private farmland and forestry at the very end of the South Head Peninsula, featuring spectacular views. It's expected to take about four hours.

For both events riders can turn up from 7am and there will be a briefing at 9am. There will be raffles, a barbeque, and cold drinks available at both events - bring cash as there will be no eftpos available. Register online using the QR code above.



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64 years of local rainfall records

When was the wettest month recorded locally?

Perhaps not surprisingly it was February last year thanks to Cyclone Gabrielle, when Parakai farmer Walden Ellett recorded 367mm of rain for the month - which followed an already record January rainfall of 261mm.

Walden has been keeping daily rainfall records at his Parkhurst Road dairy farm since October 1960.

He developed his interest in keeping the records in the 4th form at Kaipara College when he and classmate Alan Moore were asked by teacher Mr Swift to record rainfall and wind direction for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Over the years Walden says it simply became "a habit and a routine."

His readings have been taken at the same time every day.

"I'd milk the cows, after milking have something to eat, and then read the rain gauge," he says. He always makes sure to write down the measurement straight away so it doesn't get forgotten.

Explaining how farmers are always interested in the weather - particularly rainfall - he still refers to his records from time to time.

"Dad was always talking about the big droughts and rainfalls of the past," he says.

Walden began his recording in inches, converting to millimetres when New Zealand switched to the metric system. Daily totals were written into home drawn-up sheets, and then transferred to notebooks at the end of each month.

In 2020 Des Ross of Helensville gathered up all of Walden's data, converted all the early imperial measurements to metric, and entered all the monthly and annual totals into a computer programme, creating a simple summary of 60 years' worth of handwritten records.

The summary provides some interesting insights into local weather patterns.

Despite 2023 having the wettest January, and the February being the wettest single month of any in 64 years, it wasn't the wettest year overall. A total of 1746mm fell in Parkhurst that year - a figure topped by a massive 1868mm recorded by Walden in 1962, right near the beginning of his data keeping. But while 2023 received more than a third of its rainfall in just those first two months, in 1962 the rain was spread pretty evenly throughout the year.

The average annual rainfall over Walden's 64 years of records is 1224mm.

So if the wettest January was just last year, when was the driest? Remarkably, only three years earlier in 2020, when just 2mm of rain fell.

In fact 2020 is the driest year on record too with a total of just 932mm - one of only seven years to receive less than one metre of rain since Walden began his records - and that happened only three



• Walden with his well-read rain gauge

years before the second wettest year.

Walden has lived all his life on the Parkhurst Road farm, and while he is mostly retired now he still likes to help out son David - the fourth generation of Elletts to run the farm - as much as possible.

He was an ordained minister for St Matthews Anglican Church in Helensville for 10 years, giving that up just at the end of last year.

Christmas parade

Don't forget - Helensville's first Christmas Parade in several years will be held at midday on Sunday, December 15 at the Helensville Showgrounds. It will be held in conjunction with a Christmas market.

It's not too late for anyone to enter a float - simply visit the North West Country business association website at: <https://tinyurl.com/villexmas>.

Shop window decorations

Take the time to check the shop windows around Helensville - and Kumeū - for those businesses taking part in North West Country's Christmas decorating competition. Even Te Awaroa Museum has got into the festive spirit, lighting up at night and decorating their windows for the contest. Winners will be announced on Saturday, December 14.

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Same old Show? No way!

There will be a raft of new attractions at next February's Helensville Show - along with the welcome return of some old favourites.

German-born performer Zach Washer, who goes by the stage name Zactakular, will be putting on his one man circus show. Exactly what he will be bringing to the Show is still under wraps, but expect acrobatics and fire juggling and eating. Zach has performed at more than 200 festivals and events world-wide.

The Historical Reenactment Society will be putting on a battle reenactment. They were a huge crowd draw when they appeared at Show a number of years ago.

As part of the 2025 'Dairy' theme there will be a milking demonstration - surprisingly something not previously seen at the Helensville Show. Of course there will be a special 'dairy' tent featuring butter churning, displays, and products - we'll bring you more about that closer to Showtime.

Everything will be new on the music front too, with Kenny Luond performing country acoustics on the Universal Cranes

community stage, Ventura Highway bring classic pop to the main stage, and the Hibiscus Coast Pipe Band performing around the grounds and on the main stage.

And after an absence of several years, the hugely popular wood chopping will return to the Show as a demonstration event.

This year's popular new Strongman competition will return,

Still on the canine theme, the wonderful Choreodography dancing dogs will be back, as will the evergreen favourite family dog show. There will again be dog trial demonstrations plus a 'barkup'. And for the first time this year, Show visitors are welcome to bring their own pooch on Show day - provided they follow a few rules (see the Show's website).

Animals are a mainstay of any



• Popular woodchopping returns to next February's Helensville Show

as will one of the highlights of the 2024 show - the hilarious Terrier Race.

A&P show and there will of course be horses (competing in eight rings), cattle - with a special emphasis on dairy cows - sheep, goats, and poultry.

The indoor displays will feature the usual children's crafts, plus baking, crafts, horticulture, fruit and vegetables, photography, Māori art and crafts, painting and drawing - and giant pumpkins!

Other entertainment will include rides and amusements, Pop's giant games and puzzles, a fire display, shearing demonstrations, pony rides, the Junior Farmer competition, and a horse trimming demonstration.

More than 100 trade stands will cover everything from giant machinery to crafts and clothing, while 20 food outlets will include ice cream, coffee, hotdogs and chips, Thai, Mexican, curries, burgers, barbeque, sausages, steak, pies, sandwiches, and vegan and gluten free options.

Summer reading programme

Local children are being asked to sign up for a summer of reading fun with Raumati Reads, a free summer reading programme for five to 10 year olds run by Auckland Council Libraries.

Pre-registrations begin on Monday, December 9, with registrations starting on Monday, December 16 and continuing until the end of the programme on Sunday, January 26 next year.

Local children can register any time from December 9 at Helensville Library, and pick up their activity guide the following Monday. They then have to keep track of their reading, complete activities, then check in at the library to collect incentives.

Auckland Zoo will visit the library in January as part of Raumati Reads. Ask at the library for more information, or phone 09 377 0209, or visit the Raumati Reads website from December 9.

Helensville Library will hold a special Santa Storytime on Thursday, December 19 at 2pm followed by Santa crafts.

The library's regular programmes will continue over December and January unless they fall on a public holiday. These include: Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups: Wednesdays 10am to 10.30am; Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays 3pm to 4.30pm; Crafternoon for children: Thursdays 3.30pm to 4.30pm.



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Prem retires after 24 years of dedicated customer service

After 24 years providing much loved service to the local community, Prem Chand and his wife Reshmi have handed over the keys to their Commercial Road Caltex station.

"It has been a long journey, tiring yet fulfilling 24 years with Helensville Service Station," says Prem. "The time has finally come for us to hand over to someone with vision to continue with the same best tradition of being local and service orientated."

Prem and Reshmi purchased Helensville Service Station in 2000 from Lal and Shanti and their mascot dog 'Chum'.

"He was the centre-piece of the store," says Prem. "He was admired by all, especially when going to the local ASB branch where he would jump on the counter with his front paws and whine for a reward of Tux. Staff behind the counter were always kind to him."

Back then Helensville Service Station was a Shell fuel station, opening from 6am to 9pm.

"We serviced the community from Kaukapakapa and Waitoki to Waimauku and those passing through visitors and tourists. We saw competitors in the area (BP, Mobil, Caltex) leave due to Government restrictions and tough industry competition."

In 2012 Shell also left New Zealand. At that time the station's underground metal tanks had expired and needed replacement. Shell wouldn't instal new ones as they were leaving New Zealand, so Prem approached Chevron/Caltex to undertake the installation.

"We closed off for reinstallation in August 2012 and opened under the Caltex banner in December 2012.

"We were able to find some reliable employees during reopening, and Reshmi tirelessly took over the front of shop operation with those employees," says Prem.

"I was more involved in back-office operations, procuring and forecasting and compliance."

Prem says the couple had some great times during their 24 years. One highlight he remembers was between 2005 to 2009 when the World Rally Championships were held in the area and competitors from all over the world stopped at his service station with their rally cars.

"At 6.30 am the whole forecourt coming into the station was blocked by these cars and was quite a sight for all of us."

Now Prem says: "the journey of 24 years of dedicated customer service has finally come to an end for Reshmi and me."

"We have enjoyed serving the community and would like to say thank you for your custom and loyalty. It will be quite an adjustment and a change of pace for us both."

"It's very heartening and fulfilling to have seen so many kids grow up and get educated and in jobs and travelling the world and even become parents."

Prem says they will miss the local A&P Shows, fishing contests, rugby games, and Christmas parades.

"There was always a buzz and excitement in the community, and it seemed like Helensville Service Station was the centre meeting point."

"We have some great friendships and will finally have the time to live out some of the things we all talked about doing over the decades of our tenure at Helensville Service Station."

Helensville Caltex's new management is headed by Rameez with help from Ashraf, Tanishq, Gagan and Aryan.

Armistice Day commemorated



Former RNZAF and Gulf War and Afghanistan veteran Terry Hay lays a wreath at the Kaipātiki Reserve cenotaph in Parakai to commemorate the 106th anniversary of Armistice Day on behalf of the Kaipara Memorial RSA on November 11.

Armistice Day marks the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany which ended World War I at 11am on November 11, 1918 - the 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month'.

The RSA also held an Armistice commemoration the previous day on Remembrance Sunday, November 10 at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph.

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christmas services

Three groups of Christmas carol singers will be doing the rounds of local homes to bring Christmas cheer. The combined churches of Helensville and Parakai will be bringing carols to local's houses in Helensville or Parakai townships, singing at your door and handing out some Christmas candy between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 11. Scan the QR code at right to reserve a visit. The combined churches will also hold their more traditional Carols by Candlelight, followed by a light supper, at St Matthews Church in Garfield Road on Sunday, December 8, starting at 7pm. Local churches will hold their Christmas religious services as follows.

■ **ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HELENSVILLE**
60 Garfield Rd, Helensville. Ph: 420 8868
Sunday, Dec 15th: 5pm, Blue Christmas, a service of remembrance and hope.
Sunday, Dec 22nd: 9.30am, Carol Service.
Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9.30 am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

■ **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC, HELENSVILLE**
1 Puriri St, Helensville. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110
Tuesday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols;
6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass.
Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

■ **ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, HUAPAI**
380 SH16, Huapai. Contact Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110
Tuesday, Dec 24th: 6pm, Christmas Carols & Mass
10.30pm Christmas Carols & Midnight Mass.
Wednesday, Dec 25th: 9am, Christmas Day Mass.

■ **RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST, PARAKAI**
1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai. Contact Jennifer, Ph: 420 2559
Sunday, Dec 22nd: 10am, Family Christmas Service followed by a picnic lunch and barbeque.



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med centre notes

Kaipara Medical Centre now has an Acute Care Walk-In Service. It operates from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, only for patients enrolled at KMC and operates at standard appointment costs.

Acute care services (sometimes known as Accident and Medical services) are for people who experience sudden illness, accidents, or injuries that do not appear to be life threatening but can't wait until the next day. If this is the case and you need an on-the-day appointment, rather than phoning reception for an appointment, just walk into KMC between 9am and 3pm to be seen. There may be a wait time depending on the number of people visiting at the same time and we will be operating on a triage basis, meaning more seriously ill patients will receive priority care.

Our walk-in service will run on the days that we are open throughout the Christmas period as below. If you have any further questions about the Acute Care Clinic, call our reception team on 09 420 8400. In an emergency, always call 111.

Monday 23 December	8.30am - 5.00pm
Tuesday 24 December	8.30am - 3.00pm
Wednesday 25 December	CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday 26 December	CLOSED - BOXING DAY
Friday 27 December	CLOSED - for urgent health needs please attend a local Urgent Care Facility or phone Ka Ora after 5pm for telehealth options.
Monday 30 December	8.30am - 3.00pm
Tuesday 31 December	8.30am - 3.00pm
Wednesday 1 January 2025	CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thursday 2 January 2025	CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S
Friday 3 January 2025	8.30am - 3.00pm
Monday 6 January	Normal operating hours resume.

Please plan ahead when ordering your prescriptions - last phone call prescription requests for the year can be made until Friday, December 20, and starting again from Monday, January 6. Prescriptions can be ordered throughout this time via the patient portal but will be processed on working days only.

Ka Ora Telecare, our after-hours services, is available to enrolled patients from 5pm to 8am on weekdays, and 24-hours on weekends and public holidays. Patients can simply phone 09 420 8400 during these times.

From the team at Kaipara Medical Centre, we wish you a very Happy Christmas!

For more information visit www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz or email admin@kaipamed.co.nz or find us on Facebook.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre



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Lambs galore at Calf Club Group Day

Despite more urbanisation, the rural character of the South Kaipara area appears to be holding its own, if the number of entries in November's Group Day are anything to go by.

An incredible 70 lambs competed across three rings at the Helensville Showgrounds on November 1, joined by 10 calves and seven goats. That's one of the best entry numbers for lambs in recent years.

And this year Helensville turned on the sun, after last year when the heavens opened and there were some very soggy and muddy animals - and children.

Group Day is the culmination of our local primary schools' calf club or pet days. Any child who gains a first, second, third or fourth placing, or wins champion or reserve champion at their school's event, can enter their pet in Group Day.

It is more competitive, and prepares those children and their pets who want to move on to the next stage of competing at the Helensville Show in February.

At Group Day children compete in age groups, then the winners of each age group compete to be champion in their class. This means juniors stand as much chance of winning a championship as the older entrants.

Schools competing this year were Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waioneke, Waitoki, Waimauku, Taupaki, Wainui, and Dairy Flat. Champion results are below:

LAMBS:

Call & Most Obvious Pet: Aidan Bateman, Waitoki; **High Jump:** Emily Thompson, Wainui; **Leading & Personal Control:** Emily Thompson, Wainui; **Rearing & Grooming:** Evelyn Kidd, Helensville; **Local (NZ) Trade Lamb:** Wyatt Broadbend, Wainui; **Champion Wool:** Jacob Vermeer, Wainui. **Supreme Champion & Points Prize:** Emily Thompson, Wainui.

CALVES:

Leading & Handling: Ruby O'Callaghan, Parakai; **Rearing & Grooming:** Bree Sulzberger, Parakai; **Light Breed Dairy Type:** Ruby O'Callaghan, Parakai; **Heavy Breed Dairy Type:** Bree Sulzberger, Parakai; **Beef:** Alex Norman, Kaukapakapa. **Supreme Champion:** Bree Sulzberger, Parakai; **Points Prize:** Alex Norman, Kaukapakapa.

GOATS:

Call & Most Obvious Pet: Bailey Hopkins, Taupaki; **High Jump:** Bailey Hopkins, Taupaki; **Leading & Personal Control:** Hailey Melville, Waimauku; **Rearing & Grooming:** Liam Chamberlain, Taupaki. **Supreme Champion:** Bailey Hopkins, Taupaki; **Points Prize:** Hailey Melville, Waimauku.



• Former NZ Young Farmer Tim Dangen, a judge in the calf ring, with Ruby O'Callaghan and her champion (in two classes) calf



• Judge Gabrielle Cashmore from Clevedon quizzes Heidi Roosenbrand from Dairy Flat School as part of the Rearing & Handling class



• Competitors in the lamb classes lead their pets to the judging rings.



• There was plenty of silverware on offer for the winners



• Best friends ... entrants relax with their pet calves

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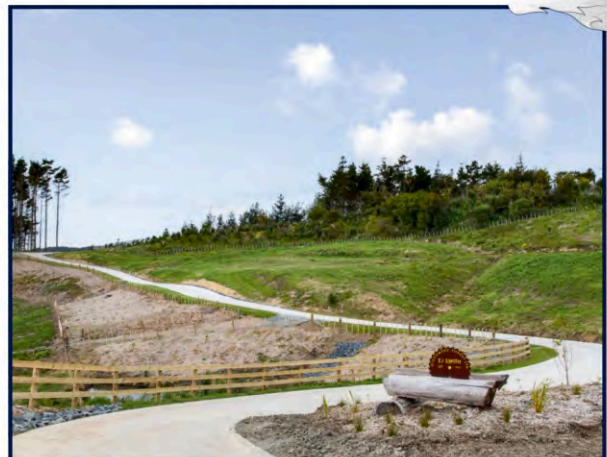
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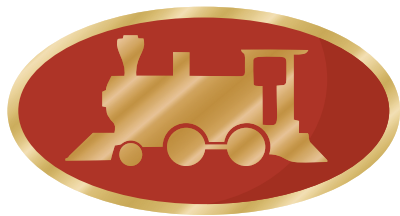
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World's top Lion visits

The world's top Lion made a one-day whistle-stop visit to New Zealand recently - and spent his time locally.

Fabricio Oliveira from Brazil is the International President of the Lions Club International, the world's largest community service club.

The Waimauku Lions Club, which was formed nearly 40 years ago, was the only club in New Zealand to be asked to show off its community efforts to Fabricio, who called into New Zealand on his way to engagements in Sydney, Australia.

Lions dignitaries from all over the country, including Chris and Sue Clark from the Lions Club of Helensville, accompanied Fabricio to Waimauku where Waimauku Lions Club President Harry Hilditch proudly showed off the clock which welcomes people to the village.

The entourage then made its way to the Freshfields Drive playground, which was a major undertaking for the club requiring extensive planning, approvals, and financing.

The tour finished off with a visit to the newly completed Waimauku Scout Den, which the Waimauku Lions Club's support - along with that of



• Waimauku Lions Club members with Fabricio Oliveira (centre in green jacket)

many other local groups - helped make a reality. There Peter Kelly, who was recently made a 'Lions Jones Fellow' and whose hands-on support of scouting goes back decades, gave an outline of the project and how it came to be.

An afternoon tea and brief speeches followed before the official party left.

International President Oliveira said his visit to Waimauku had been a great day that filled him with pride and optimism for the future of the Lions movement and all they do, and encouraged the Waimauku Club to grow its membership.

Top college students

Braydon Gelderman was awarded Dux of Kaipara College, and Tom Benge was named Proxime Accessit at the Kaipara College Year 12 and 13 prize-giving ceremony.

In addition to winning Dux, Braydon also received the Faculty of Mathematics Award, as well as the Raymond-King Cup for Senior Chemistry, the Reid Family Cup for Physics, the Ihi Award for Outstanding Māori Student in the Science Faculty, a Victoria University Tangiwai Excellence Scholarship, a Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship, the McLeod Munro Scholarship, and the Kaitiakitanga Award.

Tom Benge also received the Faculty of Science Award, the Cup for Senior Earth & Space Science, and the Marilyn Aucutt cup for Senior Biology.

Kaipara College is grateful for the support of all of the organisations, businesses, and families who contributed prizes and attended the prize-giving.

■ SPECIAL AWARDS:

McCurdie Cup for Positive Attitude: Samuel Ahorner; **Year 13 Kaitiaki WAKA Award:** Jesse Webster; **Te Atawhaitia Trophy for the student who most upholds the mana of Te Ao Māori within Kaipara College:** Jesse Webster; **Pengelly Cup for Greatest Contribution to School Life:** Olivia Kelly.

■ YEAR 13 FACULTY AWARDS:

Arts: Lillie Welch; **English:** Jesse Webster; **Mathematics:** Braydon Gelderman; **Physical Education & Health:** Tyla Baker; **Science:** Tom Benge; **Social Sciences:** Felix Reinhard; **Technology:** Jade Sutherland.

■ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Victoria University International Experience Grant: Lexie Orange; **Victoria University Tangiwai Excellence Scholarship:** Anahera Abraham; **Victoria University Raukaraka Leadership Scholarship:** Noah Everard; **AUT Find Your Greatness Scholarship:** Tyla Baker; **Victoria University Tangiwai Excellence Scholarship:** Braydon Gelderman; **Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship:** Braydon Gelderman; **Otago University Māori Entrance Scholarship:** Jesse Webster; **Otago University Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarship:** Lily Lockie; **Te Tumu Herenga Waka Scholarships (2):** Nathan Cortland and Jesse Webster; **South Kaipara Anglican Methodist Church of St Matthews Scholarship:** Jesse Webster; **Neil Notley Scholarship:** Anahera Abraham; **McLeod Munro Scholarship:** Braydon Gelderman; **Bruce Cochrane Hato Hone St. John Scholarship (2):** Luke Burgess and Rianna Shipman; **Lions Award for Community Service:** Daniel Scotter; **Kindred Family Services Courage and Commitment Award:** Keisha Longdin; **Helensville District Health Trust Scholarship:** Luke Burgess; **Edmund & Edna Stazyk Scholarship:** Anahera Abraham.

■ SPORTS AWARDS:

Honours: Millie Limmer; **Blue Supreme Sports Awards for Sporting Excellence & Outstanding Performance in Basketball (2):** Oli Lovell and Tom Lovell; **Waka Ama:** Guinevere Jones-Leslie; **Rugby (3):** Rocco Mowat, Keegan Smales & Joe Wingrove; **Football:** Anahera Abraham; **Touch Rugby:** Rocco Mowat; **Sportswoman of the Year:** Jess Sinton; **Sportsman of the Year:** Ottis Oliver-Chambers.



• Dux Braydon Gelderman, above, with Principal Cindy Sullivan, and below, Proxime Accessit Tom Benge



Project aims to make Helensville great again

A Helensville Community Recovery project is in its nascent stage with the aim of bringing the town back to being a thriving and vibrant community.

The Helensville Lions Club has partnered with Kaukapakapa's Danielle Hancock from Far Sky Consulting to launch what Danielle calls "a visionary project" within the Helensville community.

"After years of hardship, distress, disaster, and unsettled economies it is time to bring Helensville back to a thriving and vibrant community," she says.

Now Danielle, along with Kayla Clements and Vicki Mischevski, is after community feedback about what would make Helensville great again, what the community needs to get back on its feet, and what the future of our community looks like.

Those questions will be asked through online surveys and drop-in sessions, and Danielle can also be reached at local events such as the monthly Helensville Village Markets at the Helensville Showgrounds throughout the summer.

Helensville Lions Club is passionate about the local community and has been serving Helensville for over 100 years.

"Helensville has lost its heart and we want to help get it back," says Lions president Peter Hepburn. "This project is a great way to come back together as a community and plan for Helensville to be vibrant again.

"Once we have a plan in place, we have a commitment to see investment in Helensville from the Auckland Council and North West Country Business Association," says Danielle. A similar project is being developed for Kaukapakapa.

"All we need to do is develop the vision and plan, and we expect the whole process to be fun."

Danielle can be contacted on 020 4002 7008 or at: danielle@farsky.co.nz.

Visit the Lions website for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/lionsrecovery> and a link to the survey.

the business

It was great to see the turnout at the Big Little Local event at Rautawhiri Park on November 23, we met a lot of people and got to provide information about the Association and emergency preparedness.

Our Christmas Window Dressing competition is hotting up with a lot of registrations. Our guest judge is watching and will make their decision in a few days so good luck to all entrants!

I hope you all make it to one of our Santa Parades we have across the business region. We have the Kumeū Santa Parade on Friday, December 6 at 6pm, and the Helensville Santa Parade on Sunday, December 15 at midday.

North West Country is proud to work with the Kaukapakapa Area Residents and Ratepayers Association and the Helensville Lions in the Helensville and Kaukapakapa catchments around community recovery. This is a project for our local area where we are seeking your feedback on what our community needs in order to recover from emergencies and get back a vibrant and healthy community. We invite all businesses to complete the online survey or talk to me directly to pass on your ideas (see article above).

Once the survey is complete, we will be collating the ideas and presenting them to Auckland Council, which will assist in delivering some of the outcomes. This is a great chance to have your voice heard so please join in. Head to our website to give us your feedback: <https://northwestcountry.co.nz/business-resilience-and-continuity>.

We also thought you might like to see a snapshot of what we have achieved this year for our members:

- Hosted four business tools workshops providing 90 percent savings to members;
- Hosted the Great Night Out, delivering more than \$15,000 worth of goods and prizes to members for FREE;
- Logged more than 25 improvements requests with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, and NZTA with a 60 percent completion rate within two months;
- Represented local businesses to over 30,000 visitors at the Helensville and Kumeū Shows and Big Little Local;
- Established the North West Country emergency hub in Helensville which is free to use during emergencies for members;
- Gave out \$3000 in prizes to members for supporting local initiatives;
- Provided \$10,000 in grants to support local events to attract visitors;
- Provided \$4000 in grants directly to businesses to support their training needs.

If you know any business owner who could benefit from this mahi please encourage them to join.

Don't forget, please come to me with any questions, ideas, issues, or support that you might need. I am here to help.



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



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councillor comment

Why do councils feel so different from the old days? Why do they seem more impersonal?

Back in the day elected councillors were served by a Town Clerk, and assisted by a small but highly competent staff. The Town Clerk regarded themselves as a public servant working in the best interests of the ratepayer, rather than working for the best interests of the Council.

They provided contestable advice to elected members, which could be heeded, or rejected, according to the best judgement of the politicians. The public trusted the councillors to make the best decisions for the community. Councillors could even arrive at job sites and inspect work standards and oversee how effectively public money was being spent.

Today, however, elected councillors are served by a bureaucracy over which they exercise no effective control. Instead a chief executive of the council runs all operations, interpreting how they see fit the policy decisions voted through by the elected members.

The Auckland Council's Council-controlled Organisation (CCO) model has chief executives for five substantive CCOs, as well as another CEO running the Port of Auckland. Each CCO also has its own board of directors.

Councillors are strongly discouraged from interfering with the CEOs. 'Operational' matters are the CEO's domain and councillors are legally forbidden from adopting a 'hands-on' approach to the governance of the city. Indeed, the council employs a small army of 'democracy managers' to ensure councillors, and Local Board members, are kept well away from the coal face of delivery.

A distressed citizen can no longer pick up the phone to their local council office and complain about an issue directly with a decision maker. Calls are instead filtered by a call centre. Neither is it possible for a councillor to contact a foreman to request a ratepayer's concern be looked into, or to inspect the work standards of a job with a foreman.

If an elected member was that audacious they would receive a call from the Council's democracy manager to be forcefully reminded they are legally prohibited from getting involved in 'operational matters'.

The tail is wagging the dog. Current legislation allows bureaucrats to erode elected members'

power and their autonomy. This erosion of democracy is slow but steady, together with the loss of operational oversight of the spending of ratepayers' money.

Within days of being elected the democracy manager introduces everyone to a document called the 'Code of Conduct'. At the heart of this code is a strict series of prohibitions against saying anything unpleasant or critical about the mayor, fellow councillors or local board members, or about the council staff. Plainly put, this is a gagging order.

Newly elected members are told clearly that while they are entitled to talk about policy, they must on no account attempt to implement it. It is the Council staff who do this and who essentially run things.

What happens if an elected member disagrees with all this, stands up, and bucks against these 'rules'? Then this is when the council's lawyers, paid for by ratepayers' money, enter the picture.

The 'non-compliant' elected member is sat down and told about the risky legal position they are getting themselves into. They will be told that if they voice their concerns or declare their position prior to voting on an issue, then they may have a perceived conflict of interest because of a determined mind-set. Those who have declared their position prior to the Council's official deliberation cannot expect to cast a vote in the advice the lawyers will likely give them. They must instead remove themselves from any involvement in the decision. In fact, it would be most improper if they were even seated at the Council table when discussion is taking place lest they unduly influence the outcome.

In other words, our Local Board members and councillors are democratically elected to govern their communities on one very strict condition - that they never, under any circumstances, attempt to challenge the way the bureaucracy implements their decisions.

Any mayor, councillor or Local Board member who challenges this current set-up, seeking greater accountability of council bureaucracy, should be applauded rather than criticised. Against the odds they have retained sufficient self-respect to say 'no' to a self-fulfilling bureaucratic beast.

If their colleagues in central government really wanted to help conscientious and courageous councillors across New Zealand, then they would legislate to outlaw any attempts by local government bureaucrats to erode elected members' power and their autonomy to serve the people's will.

- Greg Sayers, Rodney Ward Councillor
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Award of health scholarship

Helensville District Health Trust has announced Luke Burgess as the 2024 recipient of its annual scholarship, awarded to a Kaipara College student pursuing tertiary education in the field of health and well-being.

The \$2000 scholarship recognises Luke's dedication to making a difference in the healthcare sector. He will use its to support his studies towards a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in paramedicine.

The Trust said in a statement that Luke's passion for helping others and his drive to excel in paramedicine exemplify the values the Trust aims to support through the scholarship.

• Luke receives his scholarship from Trust member Rory MacGillycuddy



local board matters

For the last while the Local Board has been focussed on budget feedback in preparation for the Mayoral Proposal for the 25/6 budget.

As you read this, it is likely that the consultation material for this has been confirmed and the public will shortly have an opportunity to provide comment and indicate preferences. Following public consultation staff will firm up the detail of the budget ready for adoption ahead of the July 1 beginning of our financial year. What should Rodney be looking for in this budget?

Fairer Funding:

One of the actions agreed in the Long-Term Plan was the implementation of Fairer Funding. This provides for Wards like Rodney with additional operational funding that would address some of the historic under-provision for important community development, place-making, youth, and ecological restoration activities. Given the funding available in the past, the Local Board has not been able to properly prioritise these activities due to our limited budgets. To say we were excited about the potential to do more in these spaces is an understatement. We believe that this opportunity is long overdue.

Sadly the Draft Mayoral Proposal suggests delaying the implementation of Fairer Funding. This is the single biggest issue we have with the proposal. We welcome community input on this to ensure that we can undertake this important work despite this being viewed as a 'nice to have'. Other more established parts of the city have budget for this and so should Rodney.

CCO Reform:

The Draft Mayoral Proposal calls for structural change to the way urban regeneration and property management, economic development, major events, and destination activities are undertaken. These activities will be re-established within Council proper.

Ekuru Panuku would be disestablished and only the Trust structure of Takaki Auckland Unlimited retained to manage regional facilities.

The Mayor would advocate for legislative change by engaging with central government to restore democratic control of Auckland's transport system, bringing all transport policy, strategy, and planning functions back to Auckland Council. Auckland Transport would remain responsible for operations and delivery.



Funding Destination Marketing:

The Destination Marketing and Major Event program faces a \$7m shortfall. Consultation on a proposal to implement a bed night levy is planned. If supported the entire program can continue; if not, the shortfall will not be provided from rates and the program will need to be reduced to fit the available funding.

Making Space for Water:

Some funding for stormwater management projects that reduce risks to townships, commercial property, and infrastructure will be required. Ideally some provision for this should be made in the budget even if it is only further hazard modelling and mitigation business cases. Longer term some difficult decisions are expected.

If these are things you care about, then please consider running for the Local Board in the election next year. Talk with existing board members if you want to learn more.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Rodney Local Board will be held at 10am in the Rodney Local Board Office at 3 Elizabeth Street, Warkworth on Wednesday, December 11.

Wrestling coming

Legacy Pro Wrestling will hold an action-packed professional wrestling show in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on June 14 next year.

Their 2023 local event attracted an audience of 120, and organisers are hoping to double that number next year.

For more information about the event visit: www.legacyprowrestling.co.nz.

Former dairy company staff sought for photo

Helensville Show is organising a photograph of former Kaipara Dairy Company employees to tie in with the dairy theme for next February's Show.

The photo will be taken at the showgrounds on Friday, December 20 at 10am and all former employees are invited to take part. Anyone not an employee, but who knows of someone who was, is asked to let them know.

The Show is also compiling a list of KDC employees and farmers who supplied the dairy company, along with photos and other memorabilia to go on display on Show day. Anyone with access to any such material is asked to call Shona on 021 529 689, email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz, or simply bring it along to the photo shoot.



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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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FALL PREVENTION WORKSHOP

A Fall Prevention Workshop will be held at Helensville Library on Thursday, December 5 starting at 10am. The free workshop will be run by a Harbour Sport community strength and balance trainer.

CAR BOOT SALE

The next Helensville Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 8.30am to 12.30pm in the area behind Unichem chemist, off Creek Lane (weather permitting). Stalls are \$15, book at FIGG, 44 Commercial Road. For more information phone Holly on 021 488 427 or email: holly@figg.co.nz.

DECEMBER MARKETS

There will be two village markets at the Helensville Showgrounds in December.

A twilight market featuring plenty of Christmas gift ideas plus food trucks, live music from The Curls, free hair plaiting and face painting - plus Santa - will be

held from 4pm to 8pm on Friday, December 6.

The regular monthly market on Sunday, December 15 from 8.30am to 3pm will have Christmas gifts along with the usual stalls featuring fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and more. There will live music and entertainment, games, rides, hair plaiting, face painting - and at midday the first Helensville Christmas parade in several years.

No dogs please except for assistance dogs. For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz or check Facebook.

BLOOD DONATIONS

NZ Blood will be in Helensville on Monday, December 23. Fit and healthy locals are being asked to roll up their sleeves and donate blood to help save up to three lives. They will be at the Helensville Community Church at 40 Mill Road from midday to 6pm. For more information or to book an appointment, phone 0800 448 325.

Future proofing the past

Big plans are afoot at Te Awaroa Helensville Museum, which is redesigning its displays to grip the attention of a wider audience.

It will hold a special open day on Sunday, January 26 so locals can find out more about the museum's plans, which are designed to support the school curriculum, encourage and enable whānau research, and to promote inclusivity.

"Telling the stories that are our own is what gives us our point of difference, but we are yet to highlight those stories," says Megan Williams, vice president of the Helensville and District Historical Society.

"Signage within the museum and the lack of Māori content are among areas to be improved."

She says New Zealand's first Native Land Court, having the second largest natural harbour in the southern hemisphere, and the irreversible alteration of our district by timber felling "are amongst the many stories waiting to be told."

"In order to tell these stories, we need to look at the

museum in its entirety and ensure that all of our parts are more than just a display of 'old things' and more of a series of well-told tales," says Megan.

"Through the use of strategically placed artifacts, signage, interactive displays, and digital media we will take you on a journey of the Southern Kaipara."

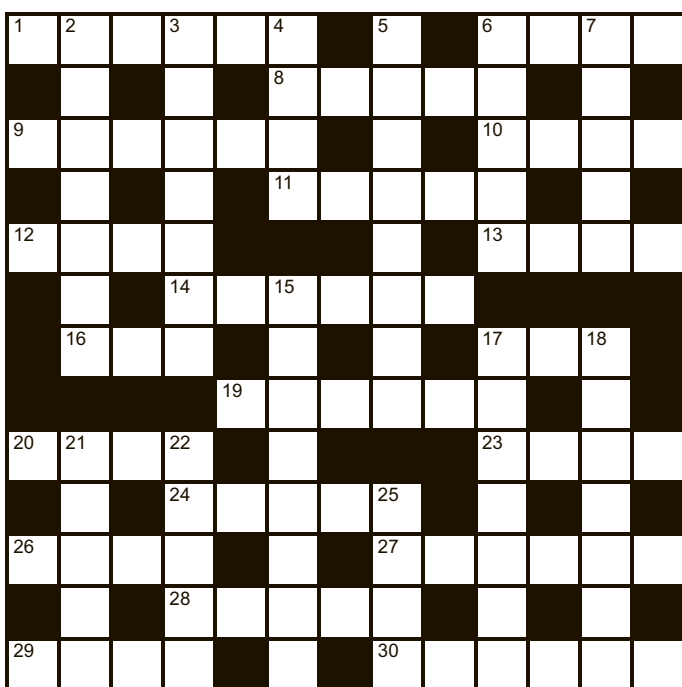
On January 26 starting at 10.30am visitors will be talked through the various projects in each of the buildings, but mainly focusing on the courthouse, and the headmaster's house which will house the Māori galleries and the Kaipara Room.

There will also be a project involving the agricultural machinery in and surrounding Hec Nicholl's Barn.

Entry on the day will be free, but donations gratefully accepted.

Megan says ideally the museum will get the changes done within a two-year timeframe - however with such a lot to achieve it will require grants and hopefully more volunteers and benefactors.

crossword



Across

1. Evening (6)
6. Capital of Norway (4)
8. Rescued (5)
9. Spanish rice dish (6)
10. Something owed (4)
11. Arcadian (5)
12. Yemeni seaport (4)
13. Quick sharp bark (4)
14. Black Sea peninsular (6)
16. Owing (3)
17. Viper (3)
19. Aromatic ointment (6)
20. Temporary pause (4)
23. Poker stake (4)
24. Wrong (5)
26. English public school (4)
27. Ate greedily (6)
28. Home to the Maasai Mara Reserve (5)
29. Tax (4)
30. Prompt (6)

Down

2. Singlehanded (7)
3. Stillness (7)
4. Former Russian ruler (4)
5. Abroad (8)
6. Strangely (5)
7. Defamation (5)
15. Natives of e.g. Venice (8)
17. Dental filling (7)
18. Template (7)
21. Undo (5)
22. Tall and thin (5)
25. Stout pole (4)

November's Answers

Across: 1. Stoned 5. Azalea 8. Egg 9. Snivel 10. Aspire 11. Tsars 13. Sneaker 14. Aches 17. Tidal 20. Blurred 22. Usage 25. Italic 26. Adults 27. Had 28. Prepay 29. Edging.
Down: 2. Tunisia 3. Never 4. Dell 5. Against 6. Applaud 7. Eerie 12. See 15. Harelip 16. Sketchy 18. I O U 19. Lighten 21. Later 23. Swung 24. Bade.

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