

Community Constable farewelled

Helensville farewelled popular Police Community Constable Melissa (Mel) Haven at the end of last year.

After 20 years of service she has retired from the police service completely.

Originally from the Kumeū area, she spent most of her childhood in the Bay of Islands before moving back here to spend her secondary school years at Kaipara College. When Mel (right) left the college to join the police in August 2003 she was at the time their youngest female recruit, aged just 17 - so young she didn't even have her full driving licence.

She undertook training at the Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua, and after graduating was posted to Henderson in February 2004. In August 2009 Mel transferred to Kumeū Police station. She worked on the Public Safety Team there and later became their local Community Constable.

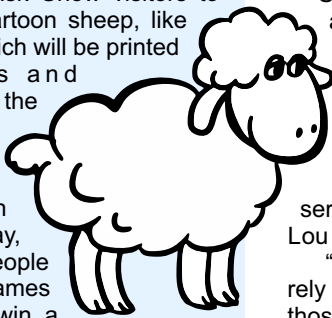
After 10 years at Kumeū, Mel joined the Helensville team as Community Constable in



Where's Woolly?

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

Entry forms will be handed out at the gates on Show day, Saturday, February 24, so people can record the names of the sheep to win a little treat, which they can claim at the Show office.



September 2019. Here, she also worked with the Rodney Family Harm team dealing with domestic violence cases, and as the police liaison officer for the South Kaipara Community Patrol.

She believed being a local was a definite advantage as many people knew her through links built in the local community through schools, the fire brigade, sports, and socially.

"During her time in the area, Mel proved to be an invaluable member of our station and to the community she serves," says Helensville Senior Constable Lou Unkovich.

"She has always been a person you can rely on and has a genuine caring nature for those she crosses paths with. We will miss her infectious smile and outrageous sense of humour."

Look out for next issue!

Exciting things are coming to *Helensville News* - in fact the biggest change to the newspaper since we printed our first issue in April 1999.

This issue is the last you will read in this familiar A4 format. From next month, our March 2024 issue, *Helensville News* will be printed in the larger tabloid newspaper size - and in full colour.

After 273 black and white issues across 25 years, we'll have a more modern look, with everything bigger and clearer, using larger images and bigger fonts to make reading easier.

It'll be more sustainable too, being printed on more environmentally friendly, compostable paper.

For advertisers, the change will be a huge bonus. Advertisements will be roughly 75 percent larger, and printed in full colour - all at no extra cost.

The bigger size will allow for more flexibility in layout too - rather than being restricted to the current one or two columns per page, we'll hopefully be able to bring a more dynamic look to the paper with up to four columns per page.

The new production system should also enable us to bring our deadlines closer to publication date, ensuring content is even more up-to-date.

It'll probably take an issue or two to fully develop the new look, so please bear with us as we tweak things over the coming months.

And of course, if anyone has any suggestions or comments, we'd be happy to hear them.

- Dave Addison
Editor/Publisher

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editorial

After 25 years and 273 issues in this familiar format, this is the last *Helensville News* you will see like this.

From next month, the biggest change to the paper since its inception in 1999 will take place with a move to tabloid size (basically A3) and, more importantly, full colour. We think it'll be a shot in the arm for the paper, a much more attractive proposition for our readers, and a definite boon for our advertisers - without whom we wouldn't be here - with much larger, colour ads for no more cost.

Readers will see the benefits immediately with our coverage of the Helensville Show. In previous years we've run a page of smallish black and white photos of the event - but next month our coverage will be more extensive and in full colour

I'd like to take this chance to thank Rob McCorkindale from Print Matters for his help with production and distribution over the 14 years I've owned *Helensville News*. He's been a life-saver on more than one occasion!

This month we have extensive coverage of everything to do with Helensville's biggest annual one-day event, the Helensville Show on Saturday, February 24. This year is the Show's 120th, an incredible testament to the hundreds of volunteers who have kept the event alive - and growing - for well over a century.

The fact I am married to the Show manager has no bearing on the amount of coverage :)

- Dave Addison, Editor

College/High School Centenary

Kaipara College will celebrate its centenary over three days in September, starting on Friday, September 20 and finishing on the Sunday.

Founded in 1924 as Helensville District High School, the school was renamed as Kaipara College in 1959.

Plans for the event are in the early stages, and we will bring more detail in future issues.

The school aims to hold a public meeting later this month to bring the community and alumni together to ensure the event is an exciting one and inclusive of the Kaipara community and all Helensville District High School and Kaipara College alumni. The hope is to combine ideas from the community meeting with those of the school planning group, to finalise event planning by the end of the current school term.

Locals wanting to keep in the loop can join the Centenary and Alumni Mailing List

by emailing: info@kaipara.school.nz. The Kaipara College Facebook page has a public event live, which users can join to stay up to date with centenary news and event information. There is an online form on the event page so people can join the email list from there as well.

The school's monthly newsletter will feature a 'Where Are They Now' column. The school would like to

hear suggestions for people to be interviewed for the column, or from alumni wanting to be interviewed.

It's hoped the centenary celebrations will kick off on September 20 with the school's new annual community event - the Kaipara College Ag Day. The aim is to have a mix of informal, fun family-friendly events and more formal activities, so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

For more information phone Erin Stuckey on 09 420 8640 ext 800 or 021 229 4535 outside school hours.



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Big Boys Toys for Helensville Show

Lovers of big machinery are in for a treat at this month's Helensville Show, which is shaping up as something of a Big Boys Toys event.

The highlight will be a display of huge cranes by Show sponsor Universal Cranes, the centrepiece of which will be a 230-tonne Liebherr LTM 1230-5.1 crane with a 75m boom - similar to the one pictured.

What's more, some lucky punters will get the chance to climb up into the crane's cab.

Universal, sponsor of the Show's community stage, will also have a couple of other enormous mobile cranes at the Show, plus a hi-ab and trailer.

The Show will have



tractors, farm machinery, and restored vintage engines, while Swale Earthmovers will have their excavators on show, along with machinery from Tricky Tree Removals.

Slightly more sedate, the North Shore Vintage and Classic Car Club will have a number of vehicles on show, including Helensville's historic fire engine.

Regular library events return

February is Helensville Show time and Helensville Library has copies of the Show schedules available for locals interested in entering any of the huge number of classes.

The library will have a stand at the Show and will be doing pop up story times and songs throughout the day.

February also means the return of the library's regular events, starting after Waitangi Day.

Kids Time, aimed at under-6s and their grown-ups, are on Wednesdays from 10am to 10.30am. Each session is different, and content depends on the day's audience.

Crafternoons return on Thursday afternoons, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Locals can bring along whatever portable craft they are working on. These afternoons are a great opportunity to meet other crafters, share knowledge, and learn new things.

Children's crafts are aimed at under-10s, and those taking part will need someone aged over 14 with them.

The library Facebook page will show the

monthly Crafternoon themes. For February, this will acknowledge Lunar New Year and Year of the Dragon. In March, the theme will be pets and animals.

Remedial building work on the library area of the War Memorial Hall building continues, and a date for the library to reopen to the public hasn't been finalised.

In the meantime the library and Council Service Centre is open usual hours - Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm and Saturday 9.30am to 4pm. Any changes to opening hours and availability will be notified on Facebook.

Property rates are due by the end of February. The Helensville Library and Service Centre is currently unable to take payments. That may change over February, and we will update any changes on our Facebook page.

Rates invoices with a barcode can be paid at New Zealand Post inside Helensville Paper Plus Select. The library can print a copy of your invoice if you need one.

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Money for a bunny

9-year-old Helensville girl Emma Harris has raised \$880 for rabbits at the SPCA by organising and holding a solo market stall at Rautawhiri Park a few weeks ago.

Emma came up with the idea herself, and had just minimal help from mum Renee with promoting the event on the Helensville/Parakai Facebook group and the Rabbit Advice and Support New Zealand group.

"So many locals came down to visit her and purchase or donate. I think it's the most wholesome thing I've ever seen," says Renee.

Emma sold a selection of new and second hand items on her stall, plus some packaged sweets. Before the event, her mum thought she would probably raise about \$20.

When husband and wife Shleigh and Jason from the One Stop Bunny Shop heard of her idea, they offered to contribute double what she made to go to the SPCA.

Emma raised \$220 through her market stall and people donating, and that was topped up by the One Stop Bunny Shop with another \$440 - as well as a gift certificate and \$40 shop voucher for Emma.

And since then, Jen from Westley's World Rabbit Resources website has donated an additional \$220, bringing Emma's total raised to \$880.

"It was just such a lovely outcome to all her hard work," says Renee. "We were all



• Emma with her market stall

blown away by people getting behind her and being so generous with their contributions."

Renee says their family had previously adopted Flemish Giant breed rabbits from the SPCA at Mangere, and Emma had seen first hand how much work they put into rabbit rescue, care, desexing, and finding homes for them.

Children's Day returns in March

Kindred Family Services' annual Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki (Children's Day) will be held on Sunday, March 3, from 10am to 1pm.

Planning is well under way for the free family event, part of a nation-wide celebration of tamariki, and it will follow previous years' events in being a feel-good, fun-filled day of games, activities, and laughter.

At the time of going to press a venue had yet to be chosen - that will be announced on the Kindred Family Services website and Facebook page, along with the activities planned for the day. Posters around town will also promote the event.

Children's Day focuses on the well-being and happiness of our tamariki and community connections.



• Children's Day 2023 fun

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'Kaipara Awa' exhibition

Helensville Art Centre's first exhibition for 2024, 'Kaipara Awa - A River That Connects Us' will run until Saturday, February 24.

The Kaipara River which winds through Helensville is as much a defining symbol of our town as it is a physical body of water. The exhibition aims to reflect what our awa means to us, with artworks in a variety of media. The purposefully broad subject allows for the art on show to interpret the theme as imaginatively as desired.

In March local artists Emma Springford-Gough and Shona Cameron will hold a joint exhibition of their works, which centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie says will be a "stand out show, not to miss". It will run from Wednesday, February 28 until Thursday, March 28, with an evening opening event on Friday, March 1 from 5pm to 7pm.

Helensville Art Centre has several new classes and workshops coming up.

Olga Atkins will be starting an Illustration Course for Kids this month, aimed at six to 13 year olds and held weekly after school. It plans to help children discover the magic of drawing and develop imagination and visual language using captivating themes.

Olga will also be running beginners' Portrait Drawing classes for adults, covering proportion, structure and facial features, with step-by-step guidance on painting realistic and playful portraits.

To book for either of the above, email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz or phone 09 973 0852.

Helensville's Mike Rowland will also be

holding a drawing class, while Emma Springford-Gough and Shona Cameron will hold an artist-run workshop on Saturday, March 16 from 11am to 1pm to coincide with their exhibition. The cost is \$25pp.

Details of these and more workshops to come will be on the Art Centre Facebook page and website.

Artists interested in holding an exhibition during 2024 should email Yvonne at: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.



• 'Wine O'Clock' by Helensville painter William Boyd, part of the Kaipara Awa exhibition

'Ultimate Day Out' prize to be won

Visitors to the Helensville Show on Saturday, February 24 will be able to enter the North West Country Business Association's 'Ultimate Day Out' competition when they visit the association's stand.

Anyone who spends \$50 or more during January or February at any local business which is a member of the association can go in the draw. You'll need to take your receipts to the NWBA stand to go in the draw.

The prize pack consists of:

- Tickets for two to the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens at Kaukapakapa.
- Lunch for two at Ginger Crunch Café Helensville.
- A 16,000 foot tandem skydive at Skydive Auckland, Parakai.
- A full body massage for two at Phoenix Beauty Therapy in Kumeū.
- Dinner for two at The Landing, Riverhead.

Entries can also be made online at northwestcountry.co.nz.

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Planting to protect farm and harbour

Local father and son team Johnny and Jordan Hildreth have a clear plan for protecting the waterways, wetlands, and steeper hillsides on their Woodhill Farm.

They have teamed up with the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) programme to fence selected areas of their 200-hectare sheep and beef unit.

Johnny initially leased the land from his father Peter before buying the 140ha home block in 1986. He purchased a neighbouring 60ha farm in the early 2000s and has been caring for the land since - more recently with the help of his son Jordan.

They now run 300 Romney cross breeding ewes, trade 500 to 1000 lambs, and run 200 to 300 cattle.

That is why the pair were keen to align with the KMR programme because they see the value of helping protect the Kaipara Moana by fencing off waterways and wetlands and planting them in natives - while at the same time benefitting their farm.

In 2022 they planted 4500 trees and put in 250 metres of new fence line, while last year they planted another 800 trees and put in a further 450m of fencing ready for the

2024 planting season.

They have also mapped out a plan to retire areas of steeper, less-productive hillsides with at least 400m of new fencing, and that work will hopefully begin later this year, ready for more planting of natives from 2025.

Johnny says they have identified more areas around the farm (totalling 10ha), which they would love to fence off and plant as finances allow.

"When Poppa broke in the farm, he clearly had a bit of an environmental bent because he did not open up everything in search of every blade of grass," says Jordan.

"With our KMR partnership we are focussing on medium plantings and locking up gullies and waterways to go with 45ha of native bush already fenced off including 16ha of a former pine tree block we replanted with 10,000 mānuka after harvest in 2019."

The pair say their river flats flood frequently, and there could be merit one day

• To Page 7



• Johnny (left) and Jordan Hildreth with some of their native plantings

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Muscle power at Show

Around 20 of the region's strongest men and women will compete in a strongman competition which will be a new feature at the 2023 Helensville Show on Saturday, February 24.

The contest of strength, a round of the national New Zealand Strong Man series, will run most of the day, with competitors competing in four disciplines, doing things like lifting a giant boulder, tossing a beer keg as high as possible, lifting an enormous pole, and pulling a car. The exact disciplines to be used at the Helensville Show competition weren't finalised by press time.

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

Locals keen to show off their strength can take part, but must enter prior to Show



competing in four disciplines, doing things like lifting a giant boulder, tossing a beer keg as high as possible,



day by emailing organiser Chris Latham at: aucklandstrongmanseries@gmail.com.

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

Planting to protect farm and harbour cont...

• From Page 6

in putting some of that land back into kahikatea and other natives, as they once used to be.

They did exactly that with Auckland Council's 'Trees for Survival' programme in conjunction with one Auckland primary and an Auckland secondary school in 2017, when they planted natives along the banks of the Kaipara River which runs through the property. Those plants are now thriving and clearly visible from State Highway 16.

Jordan says the KMR planting rates recommended for hillsides and slips of around 2500-4000 plants per ha, and up to 9000 plants per ha for wetlands and waterways, makes sense.

Says Johnny: "If you have good people driving a programme like KMR it makes all the difference. Being in communication with people who are passionate about the environment, with an understanding of how

things work on farm, means problems are easily solved.

"We are setting the scene now for what is to come. Nibbling away at fencing and planting gets the ball rolling and we would love to see all of our river and wetlands planted.

"As farmers, if you can get this sort of activity up your priority list for spending it is hugely rewarding."

Jordan and Johnny say they are thrilled with the KMR programme and are looking forward to doing more work together.

KMR is a multi-year programme which invests in fencing and planting projects with the long term aim of halving sediment flows into the Kaipara Harbour, and is keen to hear from other landowners who are thinking of fencing this summer or planting next winter.

People can email: hono@kmr.org.nz or complete a quick expression of interest at: kmr.org.nz/landowner-expression-of-interest/.



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'Wool' theme a first for 120th Helensville Show

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

That theme is 'Wool: NZ's Hero Fibre' and it will be the focus of a wide range of events, activities, displays, and competitions at the 120th Helensville Show on Saturday, February 24.

And as added excitement, for the first time the Show will host a round of the New Zealand Strong Man competition - see our separate article on page 7.

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

A highlight will be demonstrations throughout the day by former world and New Zealand champion blade shearer Allan Oldfield, then the process of spinning, weaving, knitting through to the end product.

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

There will be a fashion parade of woollen clothing ranging from historic items from Helensville Museum and homespun items through to modern clothes from brands like Icebreaker, Swannndri and Palliser Ridge. Some of the Icebreaker products will be being seen for the first time.

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

be spinning wool. Visitors will also be able to try loom weaving, and the local knitting group will be showing visitors the basics of knitting.

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

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

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

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

With no show last year because of Cyclone Gabrielle, local youngsters will no doubt be keen to try out the Sideshow and Amusement Zone, and they are in for a treat as it will feature several completely new rides for young show visitors to enjoy, including a new 30m long Resene Ride the Rainbow slide, new Laughing Clowns, a new 4-in-1

Bungy from Go Vertical, and new Disney Cups. Popular returning attractions will include the Kombi Train and Air Ball game.

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

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

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

For those who prefer to stand back and

watch rather than participate, there will be a raft of displays throughout the day. Those will include Taekwondo, dancing from the Pan Indian Rifles dance troupe and a 'mass fling' by the Highland Dancers, the Kumeū Brass band, and a ukelele performance by Paul Jonson, who will also be doing ukelele repairs on the day.

Blacksmith Chris Ellwood will be



• Pet lambs are an iconic part of Helensville Show

demonstrating his trade with an interactive aspect.

As well as the ever popular and entertaining pet dog competition, there will be a 'choreodography' display of dancing dogs put on by the Nor West Dog Training Club, and for the first time a Terrier race with prizes from Tu Meke Friend dog food.

The annual Junior Farmer competition for local school children will be held by the Universal Cranes community stage.

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

All these activities are sure to have everyone hungry, and there will be a varied offering of food outlets, everything from ethnic, vegan and gluten-free options through to the traditional show fare of chips and hotdogs. For grownups, popular Helensville brewery Liberty Brewing will be back running the bar at the Show.

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

Helensville Show has its roots in this area's agricultural and pastoral heritage, and the 2024 show will once again highlight the farming aspect of our community through displays and competitions of animals, including cattle, sheep, horses and mini horses, poultry, pigs, and goats.

There will be a full day of equestrian competitions, this year including a jumping challenge by Waitemata Hunt.

• To Page 10



• The Pan Indian Rifles dancers will perform for the first time

wool brands and stencils.

An 'Amazing Wool' display tent will feature unusual wool-based products including lipstick, a surf board, sticking plasters, dog beds, and teddy bears, through to more traditional items like carpet, pillows, blankets, carry bags, baby wear, and clothing.

Show regulars Brightside Spinners will



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WIN clothes at Helensville Show

Visitors to Helensville Show will have the chance to win some amazing wearables courtesy of Icebreaker and Swanndri, iconic Kiwi companies which are taking part in this year's special Wool theme at the Show.

To win the Icebreaker product, show visitors will need to scan a QR code - available outside the Wool Fashion Parade and also in the Amazing Wool display tent.

Swanndri giveaways will also be at the Amazing Wool tent.



icebreaker Swanndri

Helensville Show

• From Page 9

More than 120 trade stands will cover everything from farming and lifestyle supplies to gifts, homewares, gardening goods and more.

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

The Helensville Show is now firmly established as a zero waste and smokefree event, with recycling handled by the local organisation Helensville Zero Waste.

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

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

Show Tidbits

■ Tickets for the 2024 Helensville Show can be purchased in advance to save time at entry through Flicket at: <https://helensvilleshow.flicket.co.nz>. Tickets will also be on sale at the gate, with EFTPOS again available. Adult tickets are \$15 per person (plus fees) and children 16 and under are free.

■ Entries for all classes for the show can be made online through the Show day website: showday.online/show/helensville. First time users will need to register before entering.

Entries can also be emailed to: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz and payment made online, or dropped in at the showgrounds office Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

■ All competitors at the show, except those in the indoor sections and pet livestock classes, will have prize money paid directly into their bank accounts. Bank account numbers should be supplied with entries.

■ Dogs at the Show: dogs are only permitted at Helensville Show if they are taking part in the Butch Family Pet Dog Show or the Terrier Race, or service and entertainment dogs.

There are some conditions about entering dogs in those events - for full details, visit the Show website at helensvilleshow.co.nz/helensville-show-information/dogs/

■ There will be no regular monthly Helensville Market in February, but a selection of regular stalls will be in the trade area at the Helensville Show.

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

■ Helensville Show relies on volunteers, and more people are needed to help on Show Day. Email: info@helensvilleshow.co.nz if you are able to help.

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medical centre notes

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Our NPs are highly skilled and have an additional four years of specialised training that enables them to offer all aspects of healthcare management in a similar capacity to a GP. You may be enrolled under a NP or GP as your primary healthcare provider. Kaipara Medical Centre has two experienced Nurse Practitioners, Sacha Cowell and Beth Poi, who bring a wealth of experience to patient care. We also have Nurse Practitioner Intern Kath Dix, dedicated to honing her skills and contributing to our collaborative environment.

Sacha's expertise is in general surgery and aged health, ensuring a thorough and specialised approach for patients requiring these services. Beth's special interests include skin, perimenopause, youth health and rainbow health, reflecting her commitment to addressing diverse healthcare needs.

NP Intern Kath is passionate about mental health, holistic wellness, and young adult health and wellbeing, demonstrating our commitment to the overall wellbeing of our community.

At Kaipara Medical Centre you can experience healthcare that prioritises trust, collaboration, and a holistic approach to meet your unique needs.

We are now accepting new patients - come in and see us, find out more details on our website: www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz or email: admin@kaipamed.co.nz.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre



• From left: Beth Poi, Kath Dix and Sacha Cowell



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New 'Connection' hub for creativity and wellness

A new creative and wellness hub called 'Connection' has been set up in Helensville by Heather Steadman.

It's in the Helensville Railway Station building in the rooms previously occupied by Patiki Studio, next door to the artists' and crafters' collective The Shoppe, which Heather is also involved with.

"I'd had a vision for a long time for a creative/wellness hub and then voila, got the call about the room," says Heather, who signed the lease on January 1.

Heather says Connection aims to bring people together for creative workshops, health clinics, exercise, and as a gathering space for interest groups

She is sharing the space with three other women to help keep the expenses down. They are Jen Bailey (reflexology), Chrissy Mawhinney (sewing circle/food health presentations) and Sandra Feran (Reiki).

Connection operates on a 'pop in' basis rather than taking bookings, which helps reduce administration.

Heather has already started an exercise/dance class called Patupaiarehe (pronounced Pa-too-pie-a-ree-hee) which features exercise to music with a trained teacher and small class sizes.

Classes are held from 9am to 10am on Wednesdays and 8.30am to 9.30am on Fridays, and cost \$10 per class.

Her Flax Weaving Circle has also begun, on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 2.30pm at \$20 for two hours or \$40 for the whole session. Those attending will learn how to create putiputi, kono and koha kete, with flax and tools supplied for initial sessions.

Heather can be contacted on 022 042 5652.

Chrissy Mawhinney's sewing circle is for like minded locals to get together regularly to sew and talk. The circle is held on Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and costs \$5 per two-hour session.

Those attending need to bring their own sewing machine, scissors, and fabric. Contract: Chrissy on 027 4 67 1843.

Heather says self-motivated tutors are welcome to get in touch to enquire about running other classes and workshops - and likewise with the health clinic; while reflexology and Reiki are already catered for, other practitioners are welcome to contact Heather.

For interest groups looking for a space for meetings or presentations, Heather says it's an airy, light-filled venue with plenty of parking and reasonable rates.

20 chairs, two large folding tables, four room dividers, a screen with HDMI and DVD player, a fridge, kettle/kitchenette, crockery, and cutlery are all supplied.

New Kai Rescue coordinator

After a huge year in 2023 for South Kaipara Good Food (SKGF), including receiving the Environmental Excellence Award at the North West Country Business Awards, even bigger things are on the horizon.

The SKGF Kai Rescue workstream brought in more than 100,000kg of food which was distributed through its Kai Hub to those in the community needing assistance - including those experiencing hardship after the impacts of the Auckland Anniversary floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

Amisha O'Brien, the new Kai Rescue Coordinator for SKGF is passionate about diverting food from landfill.

"The fact that so much edible food goes to the pigs or the local tip is distressing and deplorable - it simply should not be happening when there is a clear and obvious need in our community."

One in five children live in households facing food insecurity while billions of dollars of consumable food is wasted in landfills.

As a member of the Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance, SKGF is well positioned to continue its work building relationships and best practice policies with local supermarkets, farmers, growers, manufacturers and the community.

Locals interested in helping with kai rescue can email Amisha at: kairescue@skgf.org.nz.

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from our local MP

Happy New Year readers of Helensville News! I hope you were able to have something of a break over the Christmas and New Year period.

For me, 2024 has begun with plenty going on, both locally and at a national level.

At the same time, I've been reflecting on some positive and negative events of last year.

In December I was highly disappointed to hear that an important local project - construction of a new Innovation Centre at Kaipara College - had been 'paused'. This project was to have physically started some months earlier. It appears the Ministry of Education hadn't planned appropriately - most importantly, to allocate the funds for the project.

My enquiries, working with the school's leadership and also new Education Minister (my colleague and friend Erica Stanford), uncovered that pausing and cancelling of such projects has been taking place at other schools across the country as well.

Of course that bigger picture will be no consolation to the wonderfully passionate school community of Kaipara College.

In short, with building costs having increased for all projects over the last few years, insufficient funds were set aside to make this happen. Clearly that is unsatisfactory, but a lack of communication and transparency from the Ministry of Education in the second half of the year only compounded matters.

As local MP I've been pushing for the work to finally get underway. I want to highlight the excellent leadership of the school in being so proactive. I have the support of the Education Minister to help obtain what is rightly expected by the young people in our community: spaces to learn well, enabling our excellent teachers to do what they do. This will remain a priority for me in 2024.

Finally, I hope to see you at the Helensville Show! Take care.



- Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz

the business

The Helensville Show is in town and we hope to help make it a success to kick start 2024.

This year we are doing things a little differently after hearing from our membership about what support they need. It can be hard for businesses to take part in fantastic events like the Helensville Show when staff numbers are low and business owners need to manage their stores on weekends, so we have invited local businesses to share our Business Association marquee.

While I'm at the Show telling everyone about the association and our members, I will showcase some of our wonderful businesses who have an opportunity to put their goods on display.

This trial allows businesses to get their products in front of the thousands of people who will come to the show, and we hope it will encourage visitors to spend more time in the North West.

We will also be accepting entries for our Ultimate Day Out competition at the Helensville Show. Anyone who spends \$50 or more with any of our member businesses in January or February can go in the draw. Simply head to our website and upload your receipts for your chance to win, or bring them to our Show stand. The prize pack consists of:

- Tickets for two to the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens Kaukapakapa
- Lunch for two at Ginger Crunch Café Helensville
- 16,000 foot skydive at Skydive Auckland Parakai
- Full body massage for two at Phoenix Beauty Therapy Kumeu
- Dinner for two at The Landing Riverhead.

- Danielle Hancock

Manager, North West Country Business Assn
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I was invited to the opening of 'The Everything Shop' at the Helensville Community Recycling Centre in Mill Road late last year. It is an inspiration and great asset developed from when the original Resource Recovery Centre first opened.

A senior Auckland City Council staff member, who was with Rodney District Council (RDC) during the formation of the original Centre, made an interesting comment to me which made me recall how and why it was first started.

I was chair of the ratepayers organisation at the time, just after RDC had been dissolved in 2000 and put under the charge of a commissioner for one year.

At the time many people in Helensville wanted a walkway along the river bank.

Also about that time the late Cynthia Thrush, then editor of the *Helensville News*, came to see me. She had taken some visitors on a boat ride along the Kaipara River and was extremely embarrassed when they saw a large amount of rubbish along the river bank. She wanted help to work out what could be done about it.

When John Law was elected Mayor a trip on the Kewpie Two was organised with John, some new councillors and Council staff, and those interested in a river walkway. We all saw the disgusting state of the river bank, with cars stacked three-high behind the old dairy factory.

We were all disgusted, but the Council staff must have been embarrassed as that area was their responsibility. About two weeks later that area was clean - sort of; a contractor from out of the area had done a shocking job. I politely told the staff (probably not politely!) and gave them names of some local contractors, one of whom then did a fantastic job.

For the 2001 Annual Plan I applied to have an inorganic rubbish collection in Helensville, which was turned down. Then Cynthia Thrush and I decided we as a community would hold one ourselves. We made up a committee representing local organisations, and when RDC realised what we were doing they decided to help, and staff joined our committee.

Just before the 'Big Clean-Up' as it became known, I asked RDC for some money to help the various groups supplying trucks, trailers, utes etc, and they provided \$5000.

The day of the 'Big Clean-Up' (from memory

Saturday, September 22, 2001) was overwhelming!

We were collecting rubbish and putting it behind the old dairy factory. We ended up with rubbish stacked 3m high. RDC got a local contractor to take it all to the landfill; I'm not sure what we would have done without their help.

Meanwhile some locals asked if we would accept cars. I asked the owners of land opposite the site if we could put a few cars there. I was told later there were 100 motor vehicles and scrap metal piled 2m high on that site. One of the owners of the land came with a huge digger and trucks and trailers and took all the metal away, flattening cars with the digger.

The amount of rubbish put on the road verges was so great it couldn't all be collected on the day, so other contractors collected it the following day. That rubbish was put in an open area close to the Kaipara River bridge. After six weeks all three sites were clean.

What next?

Next, a patient of mine complained about the high cost to take rubbish to a site with a compacting truck. Bronwyn Alexander and I went to watch and noted all went straight into the compacting truck - a very expensive method of dealing with rubbish.

Bronwyn, John Tarrant and I decided the community could do better. Back to my friends at RDC. After two years' lobbying they agreed and a working committee set up. A 10 year lease was signed in November 2005, four years after the Big Clean-Up, but it was 2007 before resource consent was received for the Resource Recovery Centre.

So, what did that Council staff member say to me at the 'Everything Shop' opening?

She reminded me of the persistence and determination I showed in getting the RDC to allow us to start - and even said that if I hadn't been so persistent over those years, the present fabulous site would not exist! But I did not do this alone, and I want to acknowledge those who helped set this up.

The late Cynthia Thrush for the response to her embarrassment and suggesting our own clean-up, and her help on the clean-up committee. All the people of Helensville that helped, and special thanks to the owners of the land that accepted all those cars. And to Bronwyn Alexander and John Tarrant and friends at RDC.

Without the willingness of all these people the original Resource Recovery Centre would not have existed.

Finally, to the determination and perseverance of the present Trust the site has been re-developed. The team that took over nine years ago have done a fantastic job taking the original and turning it into what it is now - a fabulous facility.

I would like to meet the present trustees and hear their plans for the future - and to encourage them to keep doing more!

- Alan Watkinson
Former chair, Helensville-Parakai Ratepayers Assn

RECYCLING CLEANUP

Chairman, Helensville/Parakai Urban Ratepayer Assoc. Inc. Looking back over the last 4 months we can say it was required, it was larger than we expected, but we as a Community have Done it, it is finished.

There had not been a collection of this sort since Helensville was a Borough. The amount of rubbish proves that Lack of involvement by RDC in the past brought this about.

It was larger than we thought. Mountains of rubbish over 10 feet high. Over 100 plus cars plus dozens of motorbikes, push bikes, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines and scores of other appliances.

But with the help of the Helensville Community Groups, it is Finished. Groups that helped were: Helensville Lions, Helensville Rugby Club, Helensville Fire Brigade, Helensville C.C., Kaipara Community Cadets, Helensville C.W.I., River Valley Kindergarten, Helensville Community Play Centre.

Business Firms involved were: Les Corner and Glyn Davies, their use of their land and their expertise was invaluable. Dale Saunders - bobcat, Helensville Plumbers - trucks, Okoumme-trucks and site for fire, ITM - hiab, Premier Panelbeaters - truck, Helensville Hire - free hire of various pieces, Works Infrastructure- trucks and loader, Rodney Waste - trucks and staff, D. Swale - digger & truck. RDC's Environment Committee, and RDC Staff especially Geoff Ward were all encouraging. It is very good to have the RDC.



(mountain of rubbish)

working so positively with us. But what happens now? This situation must not be allowed to happen again!

We must take responsibility for our own rubbish! We must make more use of the recycling area at R & R's in Stewart Street. They accept glass bottles, aluminium cans, paper and cardboard. By recycling everything, from cars, appliances, furniture, even as far as organic material using earthworms. (Re-use, Re-cycle or Refuse)

If you are interested please contact me, phone, 420-8781.

Hear about future community projects at our Ratepayers Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday, 7-00pm, Senior Citizens Hall, Rata Street. - Alan Watkinson



(Andrew Mallin, seeing glass)



(Bronwyn Alexander - the last lot)

- The original 'Big Clean-Up' article from the October 2001 issue of *Helensville News*



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Book Fair donations

Helensville Lions Club is now accepting donations for its Autumn Book Fair to be held on the last weekend of May, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26, at the Helensville Showgrounds.

Small quantities of books can be left with Burmester Realty in Commercial Road; for larger amounts, phone Chris Clark on 09 420 8527, or contact any other member of the Lions Club of Helensville.

The club's Christmas Book Fair raised \$8,413, down slightly on the previous fair, which will be used through the Lions Club of Helensville Charitable Trust to help local people or organisations in need of assistance.

local board matters

It is with great sadness I bring up the recent loss of a young life while 4x4 driving on Muriwai.

Surely we have had enough tragedy in that small community and it is time to change the way vehicles are managed within the Regional Park.

For some years now I have observed a shift in attitude by many in the community to a heightened sense of entitlement and away from a shared responsibility for improving the wellbeing of our community. Service clubs are facing falling member numbers and those that do participate are increasingly elderly.

Why is it that so many people these days are so selfish, self-involved, entitled, immature and anti-social?

Historically Muriwai Beach has been treated as a road, and unsupervised access to the beach treated as a right by some members of the community. But the beach is actually part of the Regional Park and access to it is controlled by Auckland Council.

This being the case I believe it's time to take steps to manage vehicular access to the beach so that all Regional Park users are safe from the anti-social behaviour of the few who seem unable to follow the rules.

Over time there has been a steadily increasing number of visitors, congestion issues and traffic conflicts along with selfish destruction of the coastal ecosystems and biodiversity.

There have been calls for greater enforcement of the rules Regional Parks has set for vehicle access, and in some quarters, there's a strong feeling the police should have a greater role to play in this. While this seems feasible it is in fact completely impossible; the resources to do this aren't available, and police have higher priority work to do.

What is required is a total ban on vehicular access to the beach until such time Auckland Council can set and enforce compliance of these rules by all vehicular beach users. For instance:

- Permits for beach access issued electronically with annual, seasonal,

and daily pricing options.

- All informal vehicular access points to the beach to be blocked. New dedicated access points with automated access controls and monitoring, and vehicle and facial recognition. And lastly a portal where beach users can upload video of vehicles and people breaking the rules will be required.
- Sophisticated systems to undertake surveillance of sensitive areas where vehicular access is forbidden, and issuing of automated offence notices to those not following the rules will also be needed.
- Where unauthorised access is an issue, Council should be able to impound the offending vehicles and owners can reclaim them only after paying for towing, storage, and a fine.
- Unregistered and or unsafe vehicles should be summarily impounded and crushed.



While this may sound like science fiction, these systems are already in use elsewhere.

All this would be expensive, but vehicular users of the beach would need to pay for the privilege of access.

Auckland Council approved some of these actions in 2022 but to date no funding has been made available. Perhaps it's time to invest in making all user communities safer and to take the 'wild' out of the Wild West.

- Brent Bailey

Chair, Rodney Local Board

brent.bailey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Crossword answers

Across: 1. Abbot 4. Arabic 9. Oilskin
10. Cocoa 11. Lemon 12. Uncanny, 13. Bastille
Day 17. Lead off 19. Aaron 20. Steep
21. Enlarge 22. Return, 23. Bowel.
Down: 1. Apollo 2. Bulimia 3. Taken
5. Recycle 6. Bacon 7. Crazy 8. Unqualified
14. Trooper 15. Aircrew 16. Unreal 17. Laser
18. Adept 19. Ad lib.



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Reward offered for wasps

John Eason has put a bounty on German wasps in our area.

His Takaka-based company Waspol NZ collects German wasps for immunotherapy laboratories in the USA, UK, and Italy.

The product the labs produce is used to desensitise people who can go into anaphylactic shock when stung.

"South Head has high numbers of wasps," he says. "Over the last 12 years I have collected over 450kg of wasps from just five or six farms."

"I'm keen to motivate people, so any information leading to unpoisoned German nests yielding 4.5kg or more will be eligible for a \$200 reward."

"I need 45kg of wasps," he adds.



John wants to hear from anyone who is seeing large numbers of wasps, and says he can usually find the nest within a couple of hours.

"The largest nest I've collected on South Head yielded 15kg and was the size of the front of my ute."

Once the nest is found, John sets up a vacuum system to collect the wasps in a bin, which he changes every 10 minutes. Dry ice is used to knock the wasps out and they are bagged frozen and transported under more dry ice. They must remain frozen until the laboratories receive them.

John can be contacted on 020 4007 9983 or email: waspolnz@gmail.com.

Brynderwyn exhibition at Helensville Museum

Helensville Museum's first exhibition for the year will commemorate the 1963 Waitangi Day Brynderwyn bus disaster.

Returning from a Waitangi Day celebration a bus carrying 35 Māori lost control and left the road, crashing into bush in the Brynderwyn hills. Eight of the dead were from Helensville.

This exhibition opens on Monday, February 12 and will cover the accident, its aftermath, and the repercussions for the locals and their families.

Winner, winner!

Congratulations to Erin Spencer of Sheffield Road in Helensville, the lucky winner of our December Helensville Show Goody Bag draw.

We received a huge number of entries, the biggest response to a competition yet.

Erin and her family will be able to enjoy a fabulous day out at the Helensville Show on February 24 with her prize, which includes two adult entry tickets; four coffees (or other drinks); a \$50 sideshow and amusements voucher; a \$50 food voucher for Mobile Catering; four single serve ice creams; and two Helensville Show shopping bags.

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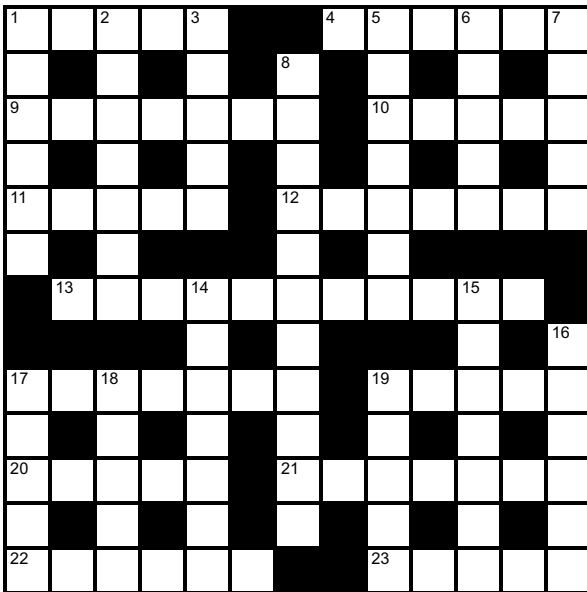
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crossword



Across

- Superior of a monastery (5)
- Type of gum (6)
- Waterproof fabric (7)
- Chocolate ingredient (5)
- Yellowish citrus fruit (5)
- Mysterious (7)
- French national holiday (8,3)
- Begin (4,3)
- Brother of Moses (5)
- Precipitous (5)
- Blow up (7)
- Go back (6)
- Intestine (5)

Down

- Ancient Greek sun god (6)
- Eating disturbance (7)
- Kidnapped (5)
- Adapt for new use (7)
- Cured pig meat (5)
- Insane (5)
- Untitled (11)
- Cavalry soldier (7)
- Flight personnel (7)
- Imaginary (6)
- Intense light beam (5)
- Proficient (5)
- Unscripted (2,3)

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ANSWERS

See Pg 15 for this month's answers.