

## \$3m Helensville dam upgrade

Watercare is making steady progress on a major upgrade to the dam that holds most of Helensville's drinking water.

The stabilisation of the Mangakura 1 dam face along with strengthening work on its concrete spillway will bring it up to New Zealand dam safety standards and increase its resilience in the event of an earthquake or flood.

"This is the biggest dam upgrade we've undertaken since we strengthened Cosseys Dam in the Hūnua Ranges about 20 years ago," says Watercare dam safety manager Shreesh Basnyat.

"Stage one involved increasing the footprint of the earth-filled dam to stabilise it. Over summer we built a buttress to support the downstream slope of the dam and backfilled to make the dam structure wider and more stable.

"More than 2500 cubic metres of backfill has been added to the dam."

A sand filter layer was also installed in the downstream dam face to prevent internal erosion.

Shreesh says a huge amount of effort was needed even before the upgrade could begin.

"The sand and fill material needed to be a certain grade - it wasn't readily available from a quarry. We had to make our own recipe, ask the quarry to make it for us, and carry out compaction trials to prove it would perform as we need it to."

The dam structural safety surveillance system has also been upgraded to enhance ongoing monitoring.

Work began on stage two - strengthening works on the dam's concrete spillway - in April.

"We're going to be installing anchors and carrying out other strengthening work to make the spillway better able to withstand seismic loads," says Shreesh.

"One of the biggest challenges we'll face in this stage is the weather. We need to make sure the dam is about a metre from spilling at all times, so we may have to draw down the upstream dam and keep it within a metre from spilling too."

The dam upgrade is expected to be completed in spring.

Watercare has carried out several smaller upgrades to protect the dam and its connecting infrastructure, and upgraded its instrumentation and monitoring systems since it became responsible for



• Placing and levelling of the Mangakura Dam 1 embankment fill layer as part of the \$3m upgrade

the dam when the Super City formed in 2010.

Rodney Local Board member Mark Dennis says the Helensville-Parakai area is at capacity for drinking water, and that Watercare is actively looking for new drinking water sources.

"This doesn't mean there is any risk of water being restricted, but does mean that new developments are affected and may require new homes to have water tanks," says Mark.

Meanwhile, Helensville's wastewater treatment plant is performing extremely well after an extensive

\$17m upgrade was completed last year (see *Helensville News*, December 2023)

The plant, the first in New Zealand to adopt membrane aerated biofilm reactor treatment technology, has surpassed expectations, with the average ammonia discharge levels of just 1.6mg/l, compared to the consented limit of 15mg/l.

The upgrades have also made the plant easier for Watercare staff to monitor and operate - and with a standby generator, it can continue to operate during power outages.

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## editorial

People love to moan about their local council, usually from the point of view that they believe they get next to nothing for all the rates money they spend. That's not really the case, of course.

Many years ago I was the public relations officer for the then Auckland City Council (this is pre-Super City days, under Mayor Dame Cath Tizard and during construction of the Aotea Centre). In that job, I was first port of call for many of the complaints coming into the council.

One small group of complainers believed councils should only supply basic services such as water, sewerage, and rubbish collections. Amenities like libraries, art galleries, zoos - or the Aotea Centre - shouldn't be paid for by rates, because "I'll never use them". I tried to convince them that those things were the difference between having a 'liveable' city, rather than one you merely 'live in'.

Since the introduction of the Super City probably the single biggest complaint locally has been that Rodney doesn't get its fair share of the rates 'pie', especially when it comes to things like roading. That complaint has been justified to an extent, but the good news is, it looks like things are going to change - with an extra \$124+ million being pumped into unsealed roads. That's for the whole of Auckland of course, but the fact is that Rodney has an overwhelming percentage of the unsealed roads, so we'll benefit from most of that. See Councillor Greg Sayers' column on Page 14 for more.

One problem of course is that, just like with central government income tax, no-one wants to pay more rates - but everyone wants more, and better, services.

It's important for people to look outside their own little world to see just what they do get for their rates. As well as the basics already mentioned, it's easy to forget when you are watching your kids play football or netball on a Saturday that the field they are playing on is paid for by your rates. When you turn on the tap in Helensville, that water comes from council-run facilities (see front page). There are pools, walking and cycling tracks, cemeteries, public transport, libraries, art galleries, dog parks, recycling facilities ... it's a pretty lengthy list when you get into it. Some could be better - but once again, who wants to pay more rates?

You may not use all those amenities, but I bet you use some, and put together they add up to help make Auckland a pretty liveable city by world standards.

- Dave Addison, Editor  
[dave@helensvillenews.co.nz](mailto:dave@helensvillenews.co.nz)

## Kaipara Harbour shoreline plans

Auckland Council is planning for the future of the Kaipara Harbour shoreline as part of a region-wide preparation of shoreline adaptation plans (SAPs).

The SAPs, being developed in partnership with mana whenua and local communities, will look at how council-owned land and assets can be adapted to respond to coastal hazards and climate change over the next 100 years, and promote the preservation and restoration of the coastal environment for future generations.

The council has sought feedback on how locals use the Kaipara Harbour shoreline and what they value about it, which will be used to identify areas of importance to the community, understand community values and connections to the coast, and make plans to help manage the changing shorelines.

The Kaipara Harbour SAP covers areas along the shoreline of the Kaipara Harbour starting at Te Rau Pūriri Regional Park at South Head and follows the Kaipara Harbour coastline to Tāpora, turning east up Oruawharo River to Te Hana.

Areas covered within the *Helensville News* readership area include Helensville, Parakai, Parkhurst, Kaukapakapa, Makarau, Shelly Beach, South Head, Waioneke - along with other further afield Kaipara Harbour coastal areas.

## June artist talk on Rembrandt

Helensville Community Church will hold its penultimate artist talk on Sunday, June 23 on Rembrandt.

Rembrandt grew up in a windmill in the newly prosperous Dutch Republic. His parents wanted him to become a businessman, but supported him in his desire to become an artist.

He learned rapidly and was soon so talented that all the newly wealthy wanted him to paint their portraits. He also painted himself almost once a year, every year of his life. His self portraits reveal a life that had highs and lows and help us understand his other art.

He experienced great wealth, sadness as those around him died, and finally bankruptcy until all that was left was his faith.

The talk, in the form of a Powerpoint presentation, will be by Helensville's Chris Ellwood during the cafe style church service at Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Road, starting at 10.30am.

Questions are invited during the informal style talk. Food and drink will be available throughout the service, and there is no cost to attend.

For more information, email Pauline Denton: [paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com](mailto:paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com)

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Jana Mills



# Shelly Beach playgrounds get major upgrade

Both playgrounds at Shelly Beach have reopened after a major upgrade - and soon families will be able to hunt for treasure there.

Shelly Beach reserve has three play areas, the foreshore playground, the upper playground, and a basketball court.

The foreshore playground caters for toddlers and younger children. It features a mix of existing and new equipment including a barbecue, picnic tables, bench seats, hammock and climbing frame, double swing set, tunnel, double slide, dolphin rocker, spinner, sand digger, and sand pit filled with concrete items that children can dig for.

The upper playground is aimed at older children and adults, with new and existing equipment such as picnic tables, hopscotch, skate grinding boxes, and fitness equipment.

As well as major rebuilding work on the playgrounds, the basketball court has doubled in size and is now ideal for friendly team play.

Shelly Beach Reserve is governed by the Rodney Local Board.

Local Board chair Brent Bailey is thrilled with the playgrounds' upgrades as the reserve is a popular destination for the local community and visitors to Shelly Beach.

"It's exciting to see the transformation that has taken place at this stunning spot," he says.

"It's a priority for our Local Board to deliver quality recreational facilities which meet a range of needs for families and young people.

"We want everyone to enjoy play, and it's great that more people will have access now the playgrounds have reopened."

Advice from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara helped guide the upgrades.

Board member Mark Dennis is excited about the



• Above: The revamped lower playground, and below: the upper playground and basketball court - Photos: Auckland Council



treasure hunt and that wayfinding signs will point to the upper playground.

"There is a disconnect between the upper and lower levels of the park. Visitors don't know about the existence of the loop track or the upper playground.

"Now this is set to change as everyone gets to explore the park and everything it has to offer.

"Soon there will be treasures to find in the sandpit at the foreshore playground and an exciting hunt for families wanting to learn about tree species in the reserve."

There is still some minor work to complete, including the wayfinding signage which is expected to be installed by the end of this month.

The playground upgrades have cost around \$680,000.

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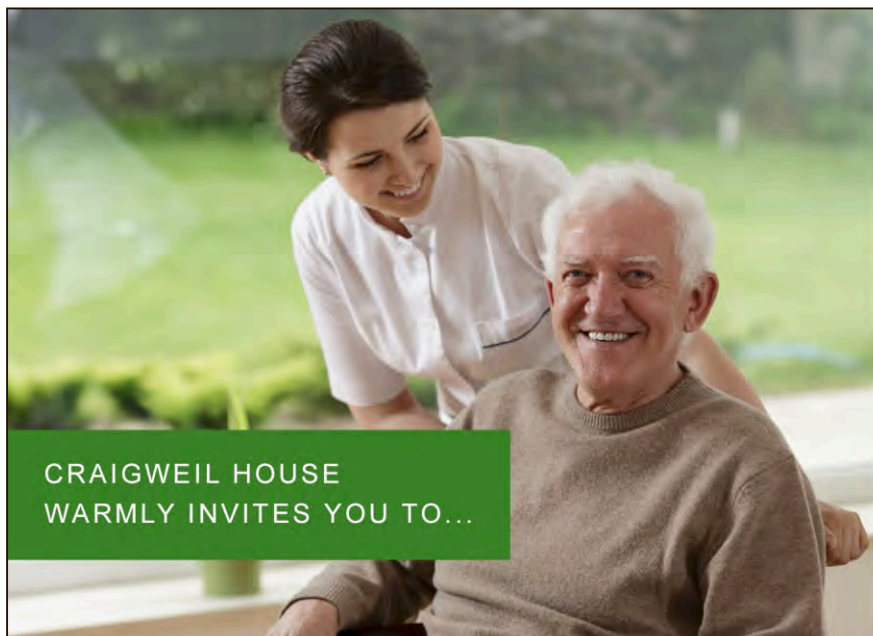
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# Growing food for the community

Seedlings for kai to feed the community are being raised at an exciting new South Kaipara Good Food (SKGF) greenhouse development.

Mihirau Greenhouse Development is a 700m2 greenhouse on the outskirts of Helensville, on a site donated by generous local landowners who loved the idea of giving back to their local community, and who strongly believed in the kaupapa of SKGF.

The name Mihirau was gifted to SKGF by the landowners, who explained: "In the olden days when there were no roads, our tipuna used to go down a river (in the Hokianga) in their waka to connect with other communities along the river.

"Over time, they would have greeted and connected with hundreds of people - and hence, the river became locally known as Mihirau.

"It alludes to that connection and that for you, the growing of seedlings, kai for the community and that the korero over kai from this fosters a hundred greetings for those who eat at the communal table."

Before beginning operations, a blessing ceremony was held in the greenhouse attended by local MP Chris Penk; Glenn Wilcox, Chair of Te Runanga o

Ngati Whatua, and Whaea Te Kahu-iti Morehu from Ngati Whatua; Regional Ministry of Social Development Commissioner for Social Development Dan Brunt; staff from Kindred Family Services and Te Ha Oranga; as well as staff from SKGF. Seedlings were planted by those attending.

"Mihirau is being used to raise seedlings for community and urban gardens and food that will be given to the community in our kai packs," said SKGF chief executive Gemma Donaldson.

"In the coming months, we'll also be making seedlings available for anyone who wants to grow their own kai in their backyard, and we'll help guide them through this if they are new gardeners.

The start-up process has been funded by the Ministry of Social Development, and work in Mihirau is being led by new SKGF employee and project lead, Andrea Sugar.

"This is amazingly exciting because of where I have come from," Andrea says, explaining she has been a client of both MSD and SKGF.

"After Covid, my kids didn't cope very well and I needed to be close to home, so thanks goodness for MSD being able to support me in the last few years during that time."

"I am grateful to have a role I am passionate about. When the opportunity arose to be a part of the SKGF team, I jumped at the chance to use my skills and learn more about working with our community.

"I really like the idea behind trying to encourage people to grow their own food. And people who know me know all I talk about is plants!"

A background in ecology means Andrea takes a holistic approach to the growing of kai, and the environment it's grown in. Using each environment to create the most beneficial habitat for growing has been a rewarding task.

Andrea, who has been busy seeding beetroot and lettuce at the site, thinks there's a generation who may have lost the education around growing food, as vegetables had been cheap in New Zealand before the cost of living crisis.

"This project helps because part of that cost is going to be absorbed by us, and that makes it so much easier."

Gemma says Mihirau has been two years in the making and it is exciting to have it off the ground.

"We are very grateful to the generous landowner who has given us this space. We could not do this mahi without the amazing support of our community, and this is another incredible example of how working together can make a difference to achieve food security in our community," she says.

Anyone with excess packets of seeds they would like to donate can email Andrea at: seedlings@skgf.org.nz.



• Planting seedlings at the blessing ceremony



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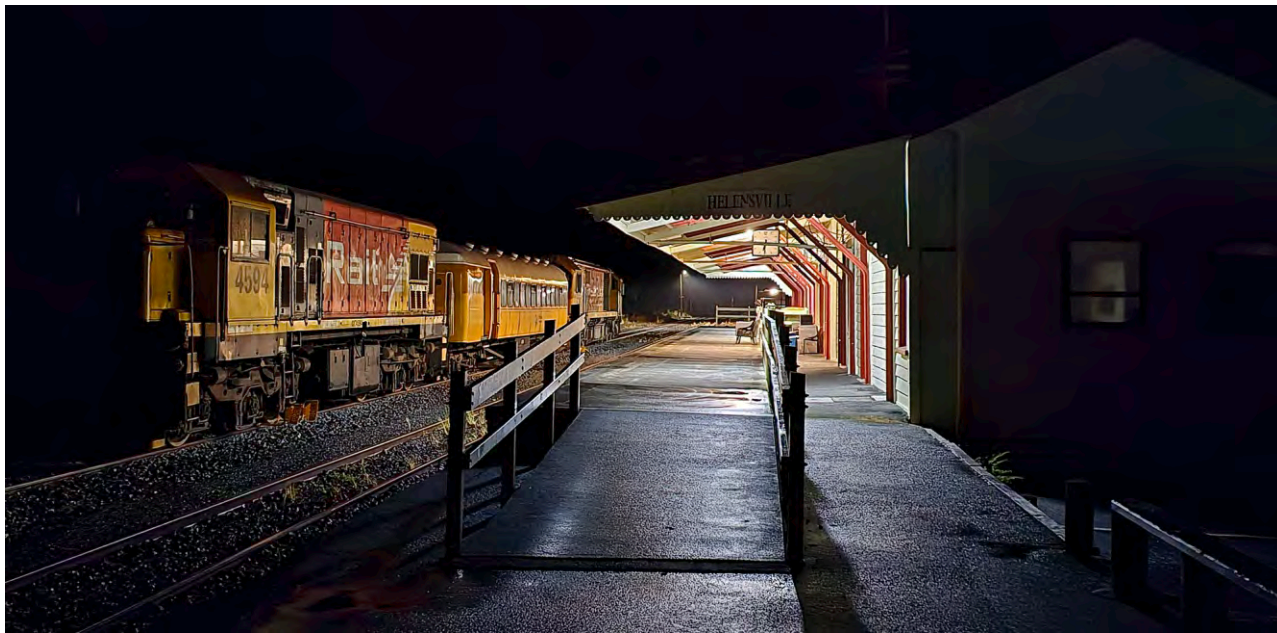
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# Trains returning to local tracks



• A work train at Helensville Station, early morning mid-May

- Photo: Keren Anderson

Helensville will again soon echo to the sounds of freight trains rumbling through the town, with the resumption of freight services to Whangārei set to start in late July.

The line between Swanson and the northern city - some 210km of track - was damaged in around 200 places during severe weather

events in January 2023, many of which suffered further damage during Cyclone Gabrielle a couple of months later.

By the middle of May all but two of the lesser damage sites, and one major damage location, had been repaired, with all but about 25km of the track south of Whangārei fully reinstated.



• The giant Tahekeroa slip, before and after

The damage included overslips and underslips, slumps, and washouts. Locally, there was a 15m long landslide beside the track above the Kaukapapa River, and another 20m slip a few kilometers north of that. And at Tahekeroa a gigantic 35,000 cubic metre slip covered 400m of rail line and took months to clear.

In mid-May, the train pictured above passed through Helensville on its way to load testing of bridges further

north. That testing was part of an extensive re-commissioning of the track, work which will include inspections, detailed assessments of track geometry, and ensuring bridges, signals and other infrastructure is fit for purpose.

More work trains, test trains, and other rail vehicles can be expected to run through Helensville as part of the re-commissioning prior to the line opening for freight services.

KiwiRail worked with ecologists, erosion and sediment control experts, and the Department of Conservation to ensure native flora and fauna were protected during the repair works. This resulted in:

- Relocating native lizards at six damage sites;
- Relocating more than 200 native fish from waterways next to four sites;
- Putting bat management protocols in place during vegetation removal after long-tailed bats were discovered at a site;
- Regular nest bird checks, and mitigations when they were discovered;
- Installing erosion and sediment controls, and progressively stabilising sites upon completion of various work phases.

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## War Memorial Hall project nears completion

Locals will be pleased to hear that the finish line is finally in sight for the redevelopment work on the Helensville War Memorial Hall. It will at last mean an end to the unsightly, plastic-clad construction zone in the middle of Commercial Road.

At the time of writing, priority was being given to getting the Helensville Library operational again - hopefully by mid-July.

Senior Project Manager Peter Bilton explains that different sections of the building - the main hall and

kitchen area, the RSA rooms, and the library section - are separate 'fire cells' and have to be completed and 'handed over' individually.

Work to deal with water tightness issues, earthquake protection, and fire safety improvements started in September 2022 and the project was originally slated to take five months.

By the time the RSA gets their rooms back, at this stage set to be late August, the work will have taken almost two years.



• Helensville War Memorial Hall should be back to normal in a few weeks

The delays and associated cost blowouts have been caused by a number of factors, including the discovery of asbestos, and changes to the scope of the project - including major redevelopment work on the RSA clubrooms, and a late decision to paint the exterior of the whole building, update the toilets, and redo the hall stage and floor.

Peter says some of the exterior finishing work may still be being worked on after the library and RSA are back in the building.

## RSA move-in date pushed back

The re-opening of the Kaipara Memorial RSA clubrooms in Commercial Road has been further delayed due to a late decision by Auckland Council to upgrade all the toilets and repaint the exterior of the War Memorial Hall and RSA building.

The RSA had originally been told they could move back in before Anzac Day, but now a new date has been set for Saturday, August 20.

The RSA committee hopes that date can be brought forward if works progress well.

KMRSA president Rex Keane says on the positive side the clubrooms will be greatly improved with new floor coverings, acoustic ceiling tiles, downlights and coloured LED lights, a two-tone painted shiplap feature wall, new heat pumps and ventilation system, bi-fold doors opening out onto a deck with glass balustrades, and a new PA sound system and eight speakers courtesy of a grant from the We Care Trust.

After being closed for almost two years, Rex says the RSA will have a big task getting former members back on board as well as signing up new members.

"While we want ex-service members to join, we welcome associate members who make up the

majority of our membership numbers," says Rex.

"Whilst the clubrooms incorporating a kitchen and bar are our 'shop window' and have been sorely missed by members, the primary functions of veterans' welfare, commemoration and remembrance have continued throughout the year, as evidenced by our Poppy Appeal, Anzac Day, Armistice Day and Vietnam Veterans commemorations.

"We support the veterans and in turn the RSA needs your support."

The KMRSA has discounted its membership for 2024 by 40 percent to \$30 per person. Anyone interested in joining or re-joining can email: [kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz) for a membership form.

The RSA's annual Poppy Appeal raised more than \$5000 from the residents of Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, and the surrounding districts, which will go into the Ranfurly Veterans' Trust to administer for the benefit of local veterans.

"Donations made through the KMRSA unique QR code using the camera on phones were five times greater than 2023," adds Rex.



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# Reopening nearer for Kaipātiki Reserve



Work is progressing well on the redevelopment of Kaipātiki Reserve at Parakai, with a hoped-for reopening in July, barring any major hold-ups.

When complete the redeveloped reserve will feature:

- A new playground incorporating māra hūpara (traditional Māori play elements);
- A basketball court;
- Barbeque and picnic table spaces;
- New public toilets, paths, and enhancements to the reserve entrance and parking;
- Improved campground access;
- Landscaping and planting;

- Improved site drainage.

The project is being undertaken by Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, a co-governance entity of mana whenua, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, and Auckland Council. The aim is for a world-class recreational facility which aligns with the unique natural surroundings of the reserve and which incorporates sustainable design elements.

Te Poari chair Tamaki Mercer says the redevelopment is “designed to inspire cultural connections with the stories of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, imaginative play, physical activity, and environmental awareness.”

## Helping hands sought to help at College centenary

As the final details of the Kaipara College and Helensville District High School Centenary event schedule, registration process, and ticketing are put into place, event planning is now focusing on finding help to make the special occasion a success.

Little jobs and tasks will be shared on the centenary website over the coming weeks, with the hope that will attract volunteers from the local community to help in a variety of small ways.

“The event will need volunteers at various stages over the weekend to help set up and pack down areas of the school and centenary activities,” says event co-ordinator Erin Stuckey.

She says the school will need school van drivers to help with parking and as alumni transport

co-ordinators. People will also be needed for the door and as security for the Saturday evening event, as volunteer event hosts throughout the centenary, and as event photographers.

“We are also looking for suggestions for our live musical entertainment at the Saturday evening dinner event - solo artists or a band.”

Information on how to volunteer is available on the centenary website ([www.kaipara.school.nz](http://www.kaipara.school.nz), under 'News and Events'). People can also email Erin at: [centenary@kaipara.school.nz](mailto:centenary@kaipara.school.nz) or phone 09 420 8640 ext 800 during school hours to become part of the volunteer team.

Registrations and ticket sales for centenary events should be open by the time you read this.

## July issue of Helensville News

The July issue of Helensville News - our special issue listing all the community groups, clubs, and sports groups in our area - will be out a few days later than normal.

Deliveries should start on the week of July 8.

## Library soft toy sleepover

Helensville Library will hold its ninth annual Soft Toy Sleepover on Friday, July 9. This event is always popular with young children, and the toys usually undergo a big adventure. Keep an eye on the library Facebook page for details closer to the time.



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# Pink Ribbon fundraisers



Farmlands Helensville staff were in the pink recently as they hosted a Pink Ribbon breakfast at their Mill Road store on Pink Ribbon Day, May 23, to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pictured above, (from left) are: Clare Taylor (Farmlands regional manager), Justina Ruzich, Roxy Clarke (Helensville store manager), Kathleen Sainty, Zella Bougen, Kim Orton, and Leanne Crean (FMG).

Roxy estimates between 50 and 60 people turned up for the breakfast over the course of the morning and the breakfast, along with a raffle, raised around \$800. With a few donations still to come in, and the raffle open until the end of the month, she's hoping that total will grow to about \$1000.

"It's a really good cause," says Roxy. "It went so well we're keen to do another."

Harcourts the Difference in Commercial Road also took part in Pink Ribbon Day, holding a lunchtime sausage sizzle and raffle which raised just over \$900. Owner Nicky Horsbrough says they also teamed up with local business Oh Crumbs for a Pink Ribbon cupcake fundraiser, with cupcakes available both for pre-order, and on sale at the sausage sizzle.

# Art Centre update

Locals have until Saturday, June 15 to check out 'f/30 and Other Locals' at the Helensville Art Centre, part of Auckland's Festival of Photography. The exhibition features works by Kaipara College students alongside other local photographers.

The Art Centre will be running an open exhibition for Matariki from Wednesday, June 19 until July 6. Artworks can still be entered for this show up to June 15 - details and an entry form are on the centre's website.

From Wednesday, July 10 to August 3 there will be an exhibition by local artist Susannah Connolly and a guest artist titled 'Nature is Calling.' An opening night on Friday, July 12 from 5pm to 7pm will have poetry reading, and Art Centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie says "it will be a creative night not to miss".

Alongside that exhibition, the Art Centre's Media Room Gallery will be showing work by two local youth artists, Tilly and Yoshi.

'Try July' is back with free workshops each Friday from 11am to 1pm giving locals something new to try out, with no bookings required.

"This is a good way to 'test the creative waters' and find a practice you enjoy," says Yvonne.

Further details of Friday workshops will be posted on the centre's website and Facebook page.

# Have say on Auckland transport

Locals are being asked to have a say on the major transport plan for the Auckland Region's future. Auckland Council's draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) is open for feedback until Monday, June 17, and feedback can be made online at: [haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/hub-page/rltp](http://haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/hub-page/rltp).

The 2024 draft RLTP is basically the Auckland region's 'bid' for transport funding from the National Land Transport Fund, and sets out which projects and programmes the council hopes to fund or partly fund from central government. It proposes \$63 billion worth of investment over the next 10 years.

Auckland Transport's chief executive Dean Kimpton says: "This is a major programme with some big choices and a lot of investment, so we need to hear from as many people as possible. We want to know what your priorities are."

The RLTP is reviewed every three years, with the last published in 2021.

Locals can give feedback on their most and least important transport priorities - and let AT know if there is another priority that should be considered.



• One of AT's electric buses

# Harcourts The Difference



## 51 Makiri Street, Helensville

A comfortable well-appointed 2004 three-bedroom home which includes a new kitchen has been updated to virtually new-home status. Sited on a whopping 988m2 section with generous wrap-around decking.

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## 1a Captain Street, Helensville

This spacious four-bedroom home features an office or potential fifth bedroom. With fresh paint and new carpets, this historic beauty is move-in ready for you to enjoy. This home offers privacy and is set well off the road.

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## 357 McLachlan Road, Kaukapakapa

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## AED for community patrol vehicle

The Helensville Community Patrol vehicle has had an upgrade with the donation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and a fully equipped first aid kit.

The AED, one of several in the South Kaipara area, was jointly funded by the Helensville Hato Hone St John Area Committee and The Lions Club of Helensville. Both organisations have previously funded other AEDs which are located throughout our community.

The new equipment will enable community patrol members to help if they come across a person suffering a heart attack.

The AED is a small device which gives a safe electric shock to someone having a sudden cardiac arrest, increasing the chance of survival. Anyone can use a modern AED without special training. However, while the device itself will provide clear instructions, the Community Patrol volunteers will receive training in the use of the AED; several members have already completed a Hato Hone St John 'Three Steps to Life' AED training session.

Both the Helensville Hato Hone St John Area Committee and the Lions Club of Helensville have donated other AEDs in the community and are looking to introduce more in the near future.

John Issott, treasurer for the Helensville Area Committee of Hato Hone St John, has been

instrumental in obtaining, locating, and maintaining most of the AEDs in the local area. Much of the funding for those came from the Hato Hone St John Shops in Helensville and Huapai.

The Helensville Community Patrol covers its annual operating costs through a mix of local grants, sponsorships, and donations and is now looking for a major sponsor to support the running cost of the vehicle, plus personnel training.

The role of the Community Patrol is to actively prevent crime and minimise harm with volunteers acting as additional 'eyes and ears' for the Police, observing and gathering intelligence.

Signage on the car for the new equipment was provided at cost by local company 'SignvilleNZ'.



• From left: John Issott with the donated first aid kit; Scott Osmond from Helensville Lions Club with the AED; Paul Smith, Helensville Community Patrol coordinator; Helensville Police Constable Danielle Silich; and Sarah Robins and Joh Mayer from SignvilleNZ

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Geoff's course is one of the highest ranking, receiving an average score of 9.6/10. Tickets available to members of the North West Country business association only.

**Helensville Tuesday 11th June 9:15am - 11:45am or  
Riverhead Friday 21st June 10:45am - 1:15pm.**

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# med centre notes

This month we have a focus on the very important topic of cervical screening.

Did you know that in September 2023, HPV testing became the new method for cervical screening in New Zealand? HPV testing is a much better first screening test. It looks for the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes cell changes that may lead to cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, and screening allows for early detection, follow-up testing, and treatment. It finds early warning signs before they become cancer,

This now means that for the vast majority of women, a cervical screening test can be done as a self-taken vaginal swab instead of a cervical sample taken by a health professional (previously known as a smear test).

We have found in recent months that many women who have not wanted to have a smear test for many years are really surprised how quick and easy it is to do the self-taken HPV swab.

Cervical screening is also free for many women. To book in for a test with one of our nurses phone: 09 420 8400. Further information is available online at: [www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening](http://www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening)

In other news:

- As we come into the season of winter coughs and colds, our duty clinic for when you need an appointment on the day is available from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday every week. Please phone from 8am onwards to secure an appointment.
- To protect yourself this winter you can still get your flu jab at Kaipara Medical Centre by phoning to book in with the nurse. For Covid jabs our friends at Unichem Helensville Pharmacy are providing these.
- BreastScreen Aotearoa will be back again providing mammograms from July 1 to 6 outside Mitre 10. If you think your mammogram is due then phone 0800 270 200 or text 'breastscreen' to 4040.

For more information or to enrol at Kaipara Medical Centre, visit: [www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz](http://www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz) or email: [admin@kaiparamed.co.nz](mailto:admin@kaiparamed.co.nz).

- Dr Kathryn Elcock  
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre



# the business

Now that the Business Hub is completed we have had both the boardroom and hot desk facilities booked and busy with activity, so that is great to see. It's available for the use of the whole community, not just business association members.

After a successful opening event we have held two member workshops: '3 Steps For Life' by St John, and 'Unlimited Potential Marketing Workshop' with Graham McIntyre and the team at Kumeū Courier. Both courses were well attended and we received great feedback from attendees. Keep an eye out in our newsletter for repeat events coming later in the year for anyone who missed out.

We have partnered with some great business mentors and will be launching our Business Mentor programme in July. The mentor profiles will be uploaded to the North West Country website, and members will be able to choose a mentor that suits the skillset they need - and we will fund your first hour with the mentor. More information will be coming out over the next few weeks.

We recently launched two incredible workshops for members - The 7 Steps to Rapid Profit Growth. In these trying times, getting the most out of our business effort is paramount, and lauded business advisor Geoff Neal is bringing his 2.5 hour workshop to the North West. Geoff has only chosen a few business districts for his courses and North West was one of them. Join Geoff in Helensville on Tuesday, June 11 or in Riverhead on Friday, June 21. For more information and to register your interest head to [www.the7.nz](http://www.the7.nz). This course is heavily subsidised by MBIE so only costs \$400 - however, if you register with the Regional Business Partners Network you can get the course for only \$100! Seats are limited, so book now.

Are you looking for a great night out, full of comedy and prizes? North West Country is putting on the Great Night Out in July at Markovina Estate. Hosted by comedian Te Radar, you will enjoy a buffet dinner, drinks, and dessert while Te Radar has you on the edge of your seat, calling out over \$15,000 worth of prizes. The top prize is a weekend for up to 11 people at the luxury Woodvale Lodge in Waimauku, perfect for a family event. Marbles People and Culture Hub, The Beer Spot and Hardfell Arborists have all offered significant prize packages, to name a few. For tickets head to [www.northwestcountry.co.nz/event2024](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz/event2024).

- Danielle Hancock  
Manager, North West Country Business Assn  
[manager@northwestcountry.co.nz](mailto:manager@northwestcountry.co.nz)



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# New pick-up system for hold items

Auckland Libraries has updated its hold and pick-up process to enhance customer privacy.

Now, when locals visit the library to collect a requested item, it will no longer be shelved alphabetically by name. Instead, the items will be on numbered shelves in the holds pick-up area.

The new pick-up system is anonymised, paperless, and designed to protect users' privacy.

When items are ready to be picked up, an email will be sent with the details needed to find the held item, including the library item name, pick-up location, the number of the shelf the hold is on, and the pick-up date.

The information will also be available in the account section of the Auckland Council Libraries app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

"Changing to this system will prioritise the privacy of our customers and help us to play our part to reduce paper waste and our environmental impact," says senior Helensville librarian Anne Coppell.

"This innovative technology will also automate some of the manual tasks involved in moving and managing our collections around the library.

"If you need help, remember to ask us."  
In the short term this means it will take library staff a bit longer to collect requests for customers. Longer term, the holds shelves will look slightly different to previously.

"So, the next time you request an item, keep an eye out for the number on your email for the pick-up

location."

Dog registration renewal notices will be sent out this month.

Helensville Service Centre is currently unable to take payments, so renewing online could be the best option, or visit another library - the nearest one is at Kumeū. Alternatively, if you have a renewal notice with a barcode, and no details have changed, you can renew at the NZ Post Shop inside Helensville Paper Plus Select.

■ While operating in a restricted manner, the following services are available:

- Collection of requested items;
- Take 5 bags;
- Printing - if emailed to the library;
- Photocopying;
- Bespoke library item selection;
- Some Council services;
- WiFi;
- Outside seating;
- Kids Time: Wednesdays, 10am (weather dependent);
- Crafternoon - Adults: Thursdays, 3pm (weather dependent);
- Crafternoon - Children: Thursdays, 3.30pm (weather dependent).

Services that are unavailable are: public access into the building; public toilets; public computers; payments - either Council or Library.

## making the difference

*Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 92 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: [nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz](http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz). The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.*

*June's recipient is Kerri Ware, who chose a voucher for Raw Essentials Kumeū.*

Kerri was nominated by Jane Taylor and Leonie. Jane says: "Kerri is a mobile dog groomer. After the sudden closure of our usual groomer I messaged Kerri to make an appointment for our two old doggies. I arranged for her to visit, then heard that a friend of ours was due to take his dog to the old groomer and that his appointment was cancelled. I told him about Kerri and he phoned to make an appointment. I asked Kerri if she could fit him in after our two as he was experiencing some personal issues - she said that was no problem. When he asked to pay the bill Kerri refused payment.

In this day and age, where everyone is struggling personally and in business, such a huge act of kindness is heartwarming. Kerri had never met me or our friend before but she did this for us.

What a gem she is."



• Kerri (right) with Nicky Horsbrough



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KUMEŪ

# Waitematā Hunt rides new local venue

The Waitematā Hunt has been hunting over local farms since it was formed 74 years ago - but in May they hunted over the Helensville Showgrounds and a neighbouring farm for the first time - not once, but twice.

Hunt Master Phil Grainger says the club was approached by Mike Daniel, who offered the use of his and wife Leda's farm for the first time - something he describes as a "fantastic situation".

Non-members are welcome to attend hunts, and one of the biggest draw cards of the Waitematā Hunt is getting to ride over land that's not open to the public. Much of that country has been in families for generations.

While the Daniel farm is a newcomer to the Hunt's repertoire, the club

has hunted over the Helensville Kidd and Brady farms for more than 70 years.

"We are so grateful to these amazing inter-generational farming families," says Phil.

The Waitematā Hunt is based at a property in Martins Access Road at Makarau, where huntsman Alex Maguiness looks after the club's 16 hounds. It currently has around 35 members, both locals and from around Auckland.

Hunts are held from March until late May, with two or three puppy hunts pre-season to bring young dogs up to speed.

The club is open to all ages, and actively tries to encourage younger riders by holding a couple of hunts each year with lower jumps. Eight mothers

and daughters took part in the recent Mothers' Day Hunt.

Not all riders feel like jumping, and those that don't can join a gating group - these riders trot and canter from gate to gate to keep up with the jumping field.

Phil says the club aims to preserve as many of the historic aspects of the sport as possible, such as clothing and etiquette.

However one major difference is in what the hounds chase. The sport originated in England in the 1500s hunting foxes. In New Zealand the other 27 hunt clubs still chase live prey such as rabbits, but the Waitematā Hunt is a 'drag' hunt, the only one in the country that lays down an artificial scent trail for the dogs to follow.

Phil says the drag hunt means there is a guaranteed scent for the hounds, it allows the club to hunt over smaller properties as they can control where the scent trail goes, and that in turn speeds up the hunt process.

Waitematā Hunt will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year, and is hoping to attract many former members to planned events.

Hunting is one of the oldest sports in New Zealand, starting in Pakuranga 152 years ago.



• Waitematā Hunt riders and hounds at the Helensville Showgrounds

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## councillor comment

Mayor Wayne Brown's long awaited 10 Year Budget which sets the future direction for Auckland has been passed - and it includes a number of major wins for Rodney's residents and ratepayers.

Over 70 percent of Auckland is rural. Rural ratepayers do not receive the same level of Council services as their urban counterparts. However, they faithfully pay their rate bills.

For most people living rurally the only substantial Council service they receive is a public unsealed gravel road.

Many of these gravel roads have been crudely maintained due to local rates not being used to keeping them and the road-side drains up to standard. Instead those rates have been syphoned off to bolster urban-focused Council spending.

This is wrong and unjust. There needs to be a fair share spent back for local rural needs.

Some rural roads need sealing, others need potholes fixed, dust suppressed, cambers and cross-falls reinstated, culverts cleaned out, regular grading, ample running-surface gavel applied, widening, and slip hazards stabilised and made safe.

The good news is there has been a massive win to support rural ratepayers. Approved in the budget is \$124.6 million for the unsealed roads to have the above improvements implemented. This money is for capital long term fixes which are long overdue for the rural roads, including sealing.

A well as this, additional money has been allocated by Auckland Transport to greatly improve maintenance. Instead of just one grading crew for all of Rodney area, there are now five. This means there will be a dramatic boost to the quality and safety of unsealed roads.

Such a win has been a long time coming - in fact, since the establishment of the Super City.

I have been pushing hard to have more of our rates

spent locally. In addition to the increase in the spending of rates back into improving local roads, Rodney Local Board has received a massive funding increase to \$48.5 million for the next three years to support important community programs. And an additional increase to \$102.7 million for building new, and restoring old, Council facilities such as toilets and community centres. This is good news for townships across the northwest.

No other Local Board received such a dramatic increase in funding.

These significant wins go a long way towards closing the inequality funding gap Rodney has unfairly experienced since the formation of the Super City.

Plus there is good news for commuters who use bus services. Public transport costs have been capped to a maximum of \$50 per week. That means the cost for people regularly travelling long distances to work, or to school, on Auckland Transport buses will be reduced. This scheme will be in place before Christmas.

These positive outcomes have been achieved by myself and the Rodney Local Board working constructively with the Mayor to represent the needs of Rodney ratepayers.

The only part of the budget I voted against was increasing the fees and other levies Auckland Council can charge. My argument was cost savings and efficiency gains should be made in this cost of living crisis. This was in line with public feedback.

- Greg Sayers

Rodney Ward Councillor

greg.sayers@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ph: 021 285 9900



## from our MP

It might just be my imagination but recently I've noticed that Helensville and its surrounding areas seem to enjoy a disproportionately high number of defence service personnel.

It's possible that I have been influenced to reach this conclusion by the large ANZAC Day turnout at Kaukapakapa a couple of weeks back. It was another excellent ceremony this year, which was welcome following the literal washout of last April's intended equivalent event by those weeks of heavy summer rain, at that same location on SH16 next to Kaukapakapa School.

And of course the services at Parakai and Helensville are always great value too. Fingers crossed that the rebuild of the Kaipara Memorial RSA premises is able to be completed soon.

Going back to the apparent high concentration of service personnel in this area, I think it's most likely explained by the proximity of the Whenuapai airforce base and the naval base on the North Shore.

And while I'm at it - acknowledging those working hard in uniform to keep our community safe - I'd like to give a shout out to Corrections staff who work 'behind the wire' just across the way at Paremoremo. We owe a debt of gratitude to these committed, courageous men and women as well. This acknowledgment is due no less because their hard work goes on largely unseen.

I was very pleased recently that the government announced a large uplift in spending on both defence and corrections.

Keeping our local communities safe, as a matter of personal and national security, is a key role for government.

In addition to advancing our interests and ideals around the world, having a well-resourced military can also help with peacetime priorities such as disaster relief and search and rescue operations.

Areas around the rural northwest know all too well about the need for emergency services to be augmented. I recall the delivery of food by a Defence Force helicopter to South Head, which was isolated by Cyclone Gabrielle-induced road closures, just over a year ago.

A fair chunk of the additional defence funding will be going towards upgrading the various bases around NZ. Successive governments have 'sweated' these assets for years, deferring maintenance in favour of other priorities that (to be fair) also had compelling cases to be made in their favour.

Of course everyone who is working locally (or further afield) is playing a valuable role in society, whether in the sectors I have just mentioned or otherwise. Thanks for all that you're doing to keep things ticking along and take care in this colder winter weather we are now experiencing!

- Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz



# Weather turns it on for horse trek



58 horse riders turned up for a two hour horse trek across the Travers-Bishop farm at the end of Fordyce Road, Parakai in mid-May. Stunning weather meant they were treated to fabulous views out to the Tasman Sea, and the group enjoyed riding through bush and over mostly rolling farmland, with just a few trickier sections to test both the riders and their horses. Participants enjoyed a barbequed sausage and chat after the ride. A fundraiser for the annual Helensville Show, treks like this are held once or twice each year over a variety of local farms, and have become so popular they book out almost as soon as details are released.

## local board matters

As part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) process, Local Boards were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the governing body and in May I did this.

My brief presentation was informed by the recent consultation process and of course by what I understand are the concerns and interests of the Rodney community that I live and work with.

In my presentation I noted that for the most part Rodney supported the mayor's proposed budget, but that there were three areas where we would support the "pay more, get more" option. Rodney wants three things:

### Transport:

State Highway 16 in Rodney has had no investment in additional capacity for more than three decades. In the same period the population has tripled. Auckland Council must negotiate with NZTA to deliver additional capacity on SH16.

Improved public transport can improve network capacity affordably, but to function public transport must be reliable, frequent, convenient - and affordable.

Rural road maintenance should be given higher priority. Rodney has almost all of Auckland's unsealed roads, and long-term under-investment in our rural roads requires that the funding for this is allocated evenly over the entire 10 years of the LTP.

### Planning:

After decades of urban sprawl Rodney wants an end to out of sequence development and central government interference in the Auckland Unitary

Plan, until the transport, horizontal infrastructure, and community facilities provision can catch up.

Rodney supports the Blue Green Network programme that will see Auckland become more climate resilient and avoid what we faced post cyclone Gabrielle.

The buy out of at-risk properties, flood mitigation and flood plain and floodway provision work, is valuable and should be given priority.

### Value for money:

Rodney ratepayers are very interested in any changes to the way Council performs such that the cost of provision is improved. Examples are everywhere - the seemingly endless consultation that is required for delivery seems expensive and time consuming. Surely greater emphasis on representative democracy, staff domain knowledge, and subject matter expertise, will allow projects to get done faster and more affordably.

The mayor seemed grumpy but I did get a smile out of him. The older I get the more I feel that I am beginning to sound like my grandfather!

The Long Term Plan will be confirmed by the Governing body in late June.



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



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## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

### ■ AUGUST 2024 deadline: Tuesday, 27th July, 2024\*

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th 2024

\*Note: our July issue has already closed

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

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#### ■ Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:

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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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# town talk

## VILLAGE MARKET

A mid-winter children's craft market will be a special feature of the next market at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, June 16 from 8.30am to 1pm. There will be 10 tables available indoors for young crafters for just \$10 a table. Locals will be able to check out some great emerging talent. With more than 40 inside and undercover stalls to browse there will be plenty of choice, with the bonus of hot coffee, pies, donuts, and a sausage sizzle, along with live music from Foster on the tenor sax, free face painting, and a children's activity table. Only assistance dogs allowed, and a gold coin donation is asked for parking with proceeds to local scouts and St John youth.

The July market will be on Sunday, July 21, with live piano music from Jessica, and free hair plaiting and children's activity table. There will be the usual range of stalls and refreshments available.

Contact: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz

## LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of Rodney Local Board will be at 10am on Wednesday, June 19 at the Local Board Office at 3 Elizabeth Street, Warkworth.

The Board's July meeting will be held in the Kumeū Meeting Room, 296 Main Road, Kumeū at 10am on Wednesday, July 17.

## ART CENTRE AGM

Helensville Art Centre will hold its Annual General meeting on Saturday, June 22 starting at 2pm in the Art Centre, below the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

Nominations to join the board close at 2pm on Saturday, June 8. A nomination form is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/artcentream>

The meeting is open to anyone who would like to hear what will be happening at the Helensville Art Centre this year.

## HELENSVILLE SHOW AGM

The Helensville A&P Association will hold its Annual General meeting on Wednesday, July 17 starting at 7.30pm in the main building at the

Helensville showgrounds.

Nominations for the committee must be received at the Show office by Wednesday, July 10. They can be emailed to: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz), posted to Helensville Showgrounds, 63 Railway St, Helensville 0800, or dropped in the mailbox at Gate 2 at the showgrounds.

## EQUESTRIAN MARKET

Helensville Pony Club will hold an Equestrian Market Day at the Helensville Showgrounds on Saturday, July 27 from 11am to 3pm.

It's a chance for riders to sell off excess or unwanted riding equipment, and the club says there will be stands from equestrian businesses as well. There will be a sausage sizzle and bake sale.

A table inside the main show building will cost \$20 and a 3m x 3m stall \$50. Outdoor sites will be \$30.

The club has set up a Facebook event for the market day, and those wanting to take part can complete a booking there.

All funds raised will go towards supporting the club.

## FREE DIABETES COURSE

A free one-day diabetes course will be held in Helensville in August, replacing one that was due to be held this month on June 8 but which had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

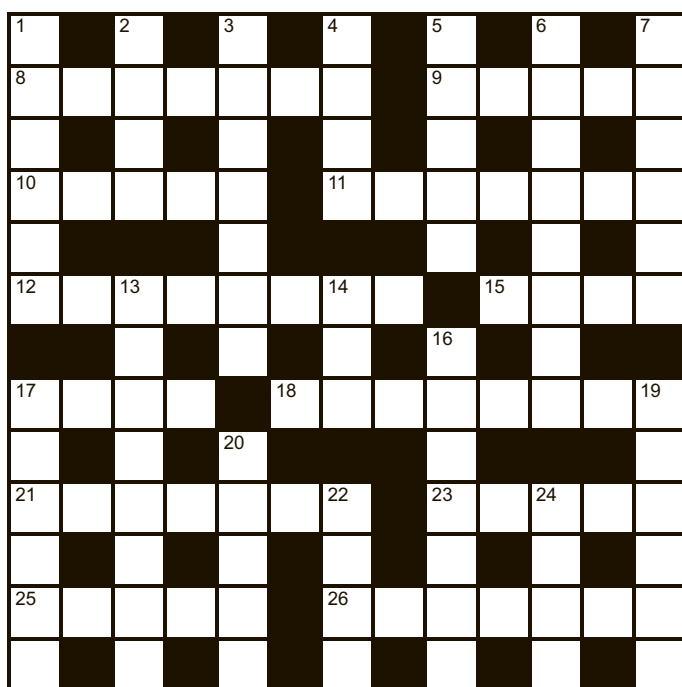
The new event, for people with pre-diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes, will be held on Saturday, August 24 in the St Matthews Church lounge in Garfield Road, from 9am to 3pm.

The course is designed to help people better understand diabetes, its causes, and how to maintain or improve their health. It will be presented by a diabetes nurse educator and dietitian with support from a podiatrist and a health psychologist.

Each person attending will receive a bag of seasonal fruit and vegetables, and food and refreshments will be provided.

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

# crossword



## Across

8. Its capital is Kiev (7)
9. Jewelled headdress (5)
10. Pawnbroker (5)
11. Ignorant (7)
12. Deep-pitched band instrument (4,4)
15. Fourth Gospel (4)
17. Above (4)
18. E.g. Germaine Greer (8)
21. Glass containers (7)
23. Cutting instrument (5)
25. Vision (5)
26. Advantage (7)

## Down

1. Urban commuter belt (6)
2. Voracious aquatic reptile (Abbr.) (4)
3. Fruit drink (7)
4. List from which to choose (4)
5. Water vapour (5)
6. Tubular pasta (8)
7. Collapse (4,2)
13. Dearth (8)
14. Exploit (3)
16. Going down (7)
17. Surprise attack (6)

## Last Month's Answers

**Across:** 7. Cheap 8. Proverb 9. Sweeten 10. Agree 11. Maid 12. Obstruct 16. Decrease 17. Oboe 19. Roses 21. Sunbeam 23. Tadpole 24. Filth.  
**Down:** 1. Celeriac 2. Spite 3. Open 4. Loyalty 5. Heir 6. Absentee 7. Cos 11. Moderate 13. Bus 14. Umbrella 15. Pension 18. Sniff 20. Side 21. Shed 22. MPH.