

Local art going to Buddhist monastery in Taiwan

In what he describes as “the high point in my art career” Helensville wood artist Ray Scott has two of his artworks going off to be displayed at the Fo Guang Shan Monastery, the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan.

Ray, along with three other Helensville artists - William Robert Boyd, Leda Daniel, and Ruth Sumner - entered artworks in The Art Salon, a prestigious annual art show held in the Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery located inside the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple at Flat Bush in South Auckland.

The exhibition, which coincides with their Cherry Blossom Festival, runs until Saturday, November 30 and will be visited by thousands of people from around the country and overseas.

The four had to deliver their artworks to the gallery a week before the exhibition opening on October 12. Ray entered five of his intricately turned wood art pieces, including two large wall hangings.

“They told me they had not had anything like my art and were excited to include it to the show.

“One was a silhouette of an

albatross cruising the Southern Ocean. The other was a circular piece, representing ripples on a pond, both made from swamp kauri,” he says.

Just 24 hours after delivering the artworks, Ray was notified that both pieces fitted into their Buddhist beliefs, and they wanted to present them to the visiting Head Abbot to signify a special connection between New Zealand artists and their headquarters in Taiwan.

“They asked me as the creator of the works to help make the presentation at the grand opening [of the exhibition].

“This was the high point in my art career - particularly as these pieces are being planned to be displayed in the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Monastery in Taiwan.”

Ray was duly on hand when his two large works of art were presented to the Most Venerable Hsin Bau, the worldwide Head Abbot of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order, based in Taiwan, who was in Auckland for The Art Salon’s official opening.

At the exhibition opening Hsin Bau spoke of how art can bring “kindness



• Ray Scott during the presentation to the Most Venerable Hsin Bau, the worldwide Head Abbot of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order

and beauty” and wished everyone “can go feeling enriched after seeing the artworks.”

Gallery curator Abbess Manshin explained The Art Salon is a platform for cultural and spiritual exchange, and voiced her appreciation of the artists for their “vibrant contributions.”

The Art Salon is now in its eighth year, and the exhibition aims to foster harmony through art. This year 668 artworks by 179 artists are being exhibited - 129 artists featuring in the main Salon currently showing, and the remaining 50 in a Summer Art Salon in January.

Fo Guang Shan is an international Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhist organisation and monastic order based in Taiwan.

Auckland’s Fo Guang Shan temple at Flat Bush is a serene complex with

4ha of landscaped gardens, a vegetarian café, and an extensive multi-room art gallery. Opened in 2007 it is the largest Buddhist temple in New Zealand, designed in the architectural style of the Tang Dynasty.

Free family movie

Local families can enjoy a free screening of the hit Pixar movie ‘Elemental’ on the big screen at Kaipātiki Reserve on Friday, November 2 starting at 7pm. Bring a blanket or camp chairs to sit on at the alcohol-free event.

It’s being jointly hosted by Te Poari o Kaipātiki ki Kaipara, Auckland Council, and Travelling Cinema.



• The Fo Guang Shan temple at Flat Bush in South Auckland

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editorial

By the time you read this, both the Helensville War Memorial Hall and the Kaipara Memorial RSA rooms will have been officially reopened.

What was meant to be a update on the hall building lasting around six months ended up taking almost four times that long - in the case of the RSA, it was shut for 22 months. That's a pretty tough situation for any voluntary community organisation to be in. With no membership subs coming in, the RSA's only source of income was from weekly meat raffles.

It's not just the RSA that was affected by the building's closure - the Helensville Art Centre, Library and Service Centre, Plunket Clinic, and the Helensville / Waimauku Family Budgeting Service all had to shut their doors for varying lengths of time.

We've got coverage of the RSA's official reopening on page 4, and the Family Fun Day held to mark the reopening of the main hall building on page 3.

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

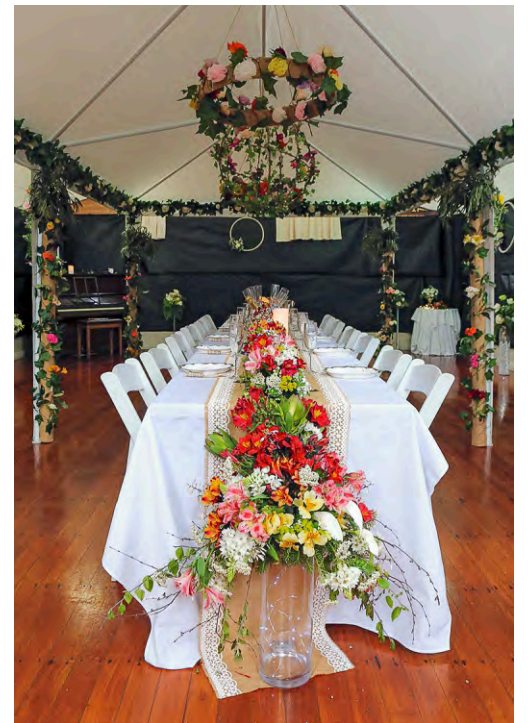
Arts in the Ville another hit event



The ninth annual Arts in the Ville art festival over Labour Weekend proved a hit again, and forecast heavy rain for the Saturday held off to the organisers' delight.

The Crafters Market in the Helensville Hall (above) was jam-packed with stalls by local artisans, while the Helensville Floral Art Group themed their display (right) as a wedding breakfast.

A number of new artists took part this year, including Charmaine Auvae, shown below demonstrating her craft to visitors at her St James Ave studio.



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Plenty of fun for kids at hall reopening



• Families enjoying some of the games inside the newly re-opened hall

Bouncy castles, games, ice cream, sandwiches, and cake - what more could a small child want?

The hundreds who turned up for the 'official' reopening of the Helensville War Memorial Hall, organised by Rodney Local Board as a Family Fun Day rather than a formal ribbon cutting ceremony, were treated to just those as they got a chance to look around the refurbished building.

Outside there were four large bouncy castles, one of Helensville's fire engines, Mr Whippy, and a sausage sizzle. Music played both outside and inside the hall where children could play games like quoits, giant Jenga, and giant snakes and ladders.

Both Helensville Library and the RSA were also open, while downstairs in the Arts Centre children could take part in various arts and crafts activities including paper boat making in preparation for Arts in the Ville's Kaipara Classic race.

Mark Dennis from the Rodney Local Board was very happy with the turnout, estimating around 500 people turned up.

Everything was free and fully funded by RLB.

"We felt it was essential that the whole community felt welcome and included in the event and we didn't want money to be a barrier," says Mark

"The weather was perfect and it was wonderful to see so many children and young families attending and joining in the activities."

"There were a lot of positive comments about how bright and spacious the revamped hall looks. The new modern paint scheme was a big hit, with many people commenting on how it breaths life into the town. Along with the bright red of the RSA and their new decking

area, we expect the new look of the building to bring in more public than ever before. It really feels like the heart of Helensville has returned," Mark adds.

The hall building was closed for around two years during which time an \$8.3 million upgrade was made to address weather-tightness issues and improve seismic resilience.

"The facility had been assessed as being earthquake-prone back in 2021 and the hall and the RSA building needed to be strengthened to address the seismic risk," says Rodney Local Board chair Brent Bailey.

"Considerable structural upgrades have been undertaken with the piling, roof and walls strengthened. Weather-tightness issues have been addressed along with large amounts of asbestos safely removed during construction. The building's subfloor also had to be redesigned and rebuilt.

"On behalf of the local board, we are grateful for our community's understanding and patience during the construction."

The extensive work included:

- A new roof, new deck and work areas for the RSA rooms;
- New ceilings, wall linings, lighting and electrical installed in the hall and RSA;
- New security alarms, fire and access systems in the RSA and hall areas, and fully compliant fire exits;
- New wall heaters and refurbished toilets in the hall;
- New exterior cladding in several areas, and painting of the interior and exterior of the building;
- A new wheelchair accessible ramp to the car park.

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RSA reopens after 22-months

After 22 long months of refurbishment work on the Helensville War Memorial Hall building - a project originally only planned to take six months - the Kaipara Memorial RSA has finally been officially reopened.

The reopening ceremony on Saturday, October 12 was attended by a good size crowd. VIPs who spoke included local MP and Minister for Veterans Chris Penk; Graham Gibson, president of the Auckland District RSA; and Bob Pettis, vice president of the Auckland District RSA, chairman of the West Auckland RSA Homes Trust and of the Ranfurly Trust Grants Committee.

"I can't tell how pleased we are to be back into our refurbished clubrooms," said RSA president Rex Keane at the reopening ceremony.

"It hasn't been an easy 22 months, having to lay off our bar staff, caterers, cleaners, admin and accounts clerks, and having to pack all our possessions into shipping containers back in December 2022.

"The only profit we have been able to make was one meat raffle a week at the Bowling Club."

Rex said the RSA had worked hard with Auckland Council and contractors to ensure the clubrooms were future proofed and fit for purpose. However he did point out the RSA wasn't happy with some of the design aspects, especially those forced upon them because of compliance issues - in particular the size of the new deck facing Commercial Road, which the RSA had hoped to be double its eventual size.

"The bureaucracy to lease the small strip of land for the deck included an application of over 100 pages to Council, and their report back to the Local Board was double that number of pages! The whole process took over a year.

"This was ironic, as the RSA originally owned all this land, but gifted the land to the Helensville Town Board in 1948 as part of the scheme to build the War Memorial Hall and RSA clubrooms."

The lengthy closure had other unforeseen aspects, too.

"Unfortunately our opening was delayed several times, with equipment that hadn't been used for 22 months refusing to work or blowing up. But I guess it's nothing that \$20,000 won't fix!"

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation by Chris Penk of a life membership to associate member and former KM RSA president Noel Bodle.

Noel had followed in his father Bill's footsteps. Bill Bodle was a World War Two veteran and RSA president in 1994 and 1995; Noel became president 22 years later in 2017.

"I am not sure if I should praise him or curse him," quipped Rex. "When he was president he asked me to come and give him a hand for a couple of weeks - yeah right!"



• Minister for Veterans and local MP Chris Penk presents Noel Bodle with his life membership

Rex described how despite the lengthy closure and lack of income, the KM RSA had continued to carry out its core functions of veterans' welfare, commemoration and remembrance.

"With the help of our members and the support of the local community, we held two poppy appeals in 2023 and 2024 raising over \$5000 each year.

"We held ANZAC Day services in 2023 and 2024 with dawn parades at Parakai, wreath laying at the Soldiers' Cemetery, an ANZAC breakfast at the Bowling Club, and a civic service at Kaukapakapa.

"We commemorated Vietnam Veterans' Day and Armistice Day in 2023.

"In conjunction with the Remembrance Army, we identified all the veterans' graves in the Helensville public cemetery and marked each with a large wooden cross," adds Rex.

Among those coming in for special recognition at the ceremony was Jane Burmester of Burmester Realty, who provided the RSA with free use of an office and equipment during the closure.

Also receiving special thanks were Dan and Diana

• To Page 5



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Past and present at College centenary



This is what 100 years' worth of college students and staff look like - or at least the almost 400 that turned up for the Kaipara College and Helensville

District High School centenary recently.

As well as numerous candid shots, plus a range of smaller group photos, Helensville-based photographer Victoria Logan of Stellanova Photography took this massed photo to memorialise the event.

"The centenary celebration was a remarkable event that brought together alumni, current students, past and present staff, and the local community," says principal Cindy Sullivan.

"Overall, Kaipara College's centenary celebration was a resounding success that not only honored its past but also inspired future generations of students. It served as a reminder of how far the school has come while fostering a sense of pride among all stakeholders.

"A huge thank you to all involved."

Cindy says the centenary festivities included an Ag Day, a "stunning" opening ceremony, and an "extensive and fascinating historical exhibition that allowed attendees to explore the evolution of education at Kaipara College as well as significant milestones achieved by its students."

Attendees were also treated to vintage high teas, cultural performances by students, tours of the school showcasing 'live' classrooms, year group photos, rugby and netball competitions involving past and present students, and a closing gala dinner with entertainment from talented performers associated with the school. The celebrations were rounded off with a combined church service.

"Joy is the word I'd use to describe the centenary celebration weekend," says event co-ordinator Erin Stuckey. "Joy seeing everyone enjoy reconnecting with the school and each other over the centenary program. So many happy faces!"

RSA reopens cont...

• From Page 4

Dale from Parakai Four Square, Andy Cummings from River Valley Meats, Mark Biggelaar from Earthwood, Helensville Bowling Club for hosting the RSA, Te Awaroa Museum for displaying the RSA military memorabilia, Liberty Brewing, and Dispense Worx.

RSA - need to know

Did you know...?

- The Kaipara RSA at 49 Commercial Road is open to everyone. Families are welcome and you do not have to have served in the military to be a member.
- You can come as a visitor and be signed in on the spot, before joining as a member. Visitors, or guests of a member, just have to sign in at the bar if buying alcohol.
- Membership is available at only \$30 per year, and members' discounts are available off everything they buy.
- Funds raised by the RSA are used to care for the health and welfare needs of former service men and women.
- The RSA rooms are available to hire for members' private functions.
- The Fern Leaf restaurant has a new family-friendly menu.

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Young farmer new skill for principal

New Waioneke School principal Lynette Ireland has plenty of experience with school ag days - her children were brought up with them - but her first one at Waioneke presented "quite a challenge".

For Lynette found herself having to organise and run the school's Young Farmer contest, held in conjunction with its October 19 Ag Day. None of her previous schools had such a competition so it was a learning curve for her - things like having to get 10 bags of animal organs and body parts for the entrants to identify.

The event ran smoothly though, with Year 7 student Amelia Rapata winning and now set to represent the school at next February's Helensville Show.

Lynette says the Ag Day had record entries, and meant she was able to meet some of the extended



• Waioneke principal Lynette Ireland

Waioneke whānau and former students.

"Ag days are really important for rural schools; they are a great community day," she explains.

Calf Supreme Champion was won by Federico Kern, while Lamb Supreme Champion was taken out by Ella Pitcon.

Waioneke is Lynette's first principalship. Originally from Auckland's North Shore, she has more than 20 years' experience in teaching and has spent the past years at various schools in the north Kaipara such as Papanui, Tinopai, and for the most part Maungatoroto. It was there she completed her leadership training and Master's in Educational Leadership degree.

She had decided she wanted her first principal role to be at a rural school when she saw the Waioneke job advertised.

"I fell in love with it. It's gorgeous," she says, taking up the position in April.

She has spent her first few months at the school getting involved in the local community. Known to the school community as Whaea Lynette, she has been actively engaging in local community life - everything from participating in school events like the school disco and cross country day at Shelly Beach, to taking part in local events such as the South Head Golf Club quiz nights and the odd Friday netball game.

Lynette has put out a survey to find out what the community wants from their school. It's a survey for everyone, not just parents but for family, current and former students, and members of the public to complete.

"Being a new principal it's a great opportunity for the community to tell me what they want," she says, adding it will enable her to develop a strategic plan which aligns with the community's desires.



• Amelia Rapata, Waioneke's Young Farmer winner

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Waitematā Hunt to celebrate 75th locally

The Waitematā Hunt will celebrate its 75th anniversary over five days in March next year with a range of events around the Helensville area.

Organisers are hoping to attract as many former members as possible; the club currently has around 35 members, and could expect up to 100 to take part in the event. Non-members will also be welcome to take part.

The riders will camp at the Helensville Showgrounds, registering on Wednesday, March 19. There will be a burger night and bar in the main showgrounds building that first evening.

They will compete at various events for the Stirrup Cup over four days.

On the first day of activities, Thursday, March 20, riders will take part in a hunt over Raphoe Farm in Old North Road, a property which features views across to downtown Auckland. A hunt breakfast will be provided, and there will be a pizza night at the showgrounds in the evening.

Friday will see riders stay at the showgrounds and compete in hunters trials, followed by a 75th

Anniversary dinner, auction, and a 1980s themed party.

On Saturday, March 21 the club will hunt over the Kidd and Brady farms off State Highway 16, just a few kilometers south of Helensville - properties they have been riding over since the Hunt's formation in 1950. That evening participants will head to Parakai Springs for a relax in the hot pools.

For the final day of the celebration riders will head out to Shelly Beach where they will hunt over a farm with views across the Kaipara Harbour.

Waitematā Hunt is based at a property in Martins Access Road at Makarau, and holds hunts from March until late May, with two or three puppy hunts pre-season to bring young dogs up to speed.

The hunt uses an artificial scent which is dragged across the countryside during the hunt meet. The hounds, huntsman, hunt master, and the riders follow the scent over jumps or through farm gates. Hunts take place primarily in our local area, from Coatesville to the south, South Head to the west, and Glorit to the north.



• The hunt club on display at a recent Helensville Show

Rugby club renovations

Helensville Rugby Club is looking to start a major renovation of its clubroom shower and changing room facilities. The upgrades will include flexi-use spaces, which will be dedicated to the club's female members.

"With the growing number of female players in our club, we are proud to take this important step toward ensuring fit-for-purpose facilities for all players," says club administrator Louise Nasmith.

The work is being funded by a \$180,000 grant from Auckland Council, plus the club's own fundraising.

The club is now reaching out to local businesses, tradespeople, and supporters to help, hoping for some special deals on materials and labour from the multiple trades and professions required.

"Any offer of services in kind, donations, or reduced market rates would be greatly appreciated," says Louise.

"Your involvement will have a direct and meaningful impact on the experiences of our players

and members, helping us continue to foster local talent and strengthen our community ties."

She adds the club will provide exposure and recognition for contributors through its local networks, social media channels, community events, and potentially naming rights to the new facilities.

On the suppliers front, the club would like to hear from suppliers of plumbing, electrical, and building materials, concrete and masonry, HVAC equipment, and paint.

In terms of trades, they want to hear from plumbers, drainlayers, electricians, HVAC mechanical installers, builders, gib fixers and stoppers, painters, concreters, masonry block layers, skip bin suppliers, signwriters, epoxy flooring installers, and cabinet makers.

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Christmas Book fair



The Lions Club of Helensville will hold its Christmas Book Fair at the end of November.

It will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds over the weekend of Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1. Opening hours will be 9am to 4pm on the Saturday, and 10am to 3pm on the Sunday.

The club's previous book fair in May raised \$9593 - all of which has gone towards helping local schools, organisations and individuals.

Entry is free, and the club has kept prices the same, with nothing over \$2 and a large selection of children's and young adults' books just \$1. Many jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and magazines will also be available.

Helensville Lions have again received a large number of book donations since the previous fair, so there will be plenty of new books to choose from.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty in Helensville; for larger quantities contact Chris Clark on 027 646 3324 or any other Lions Club member. The last date books can be accepted for the Christmas Book Fair is Friday, November 23.

New playgroup in Helensville

A new pre-schooler playgroup called Alphabet Art starts in Helensville this month.

It's being held in the Helensville Community Church at 40 Mill Road on Thursday mornings from 10am to midday during term time, starting on Thursday, November 7.

Alphabet Art is planned as a fun learning and play session for babies through to five years, with their caregivers present. It involves a music session, phonics, crafts, play dough, and other play activities.

The playgroup will be run by a registered teacher, Andrea Frame, who has led a similar Alphabet Art playgroup at the Riverhead Family Church for the past six years.

She expects the Helensville playgroup to start out small with just a handful of children taking part, but believes it could grow to rival Riverhead's 40 to 50 children plus caregivers.

Entry is by gold coin donation. For more information phone Andrea on 021 171 1413.

Christmas cakes

Helensville Lions Club's 1kg Christmas cakes are now available for \$22. Proceeds go to local charities. Available from 84 Cabeligh Drive, Helensville, phone: 021 0239 1971.

Art Centre classes

November's exhibition at the Helensville Art Centre is 'Slip/Burn' by Kristen Calder and Kiri Abraham, which runs until Saturday, November 23.

Upcoming classes at the art centre include:

- Kurinuki Ceramic with Kristen Calder. A two-hour workshop on the art of ceramics from 10am to midday on either Saturday, November 9 or 16. \$85 per person, materials and firing included.
 - An eight-week untutored Life Drawing group where participants draw from the human figure. The course fee is \$130 which covers the model and venue hire. Bring your own materials. Very limited spaces available.
 - Drawing Course with Mike Rowland. This runs from 11am to 1pm each Thursday starting November 7 and ends December 12. Tea and coffee provided. The course cost is \$180 per person. Bring your own materials - an A3 drawing pad and a variety of pencils (HB, 4B, 6B and 8B).
- To booking the courses and for payment details email: manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Free family health day

A family health event called Helensville Hauora Day will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 10am to 2pm in the Countdown supermarket carpark.

Organised by the Health NZ Waitematā bowel screening unit, the free event will feature stands by a wide range of health services, and there will be giveaways, spot prizes, and free hotdogs.

Bella, the unit's inflatable bowel will be on site for people to wander through to discover the progression of bowel cancer.

Organisations on hand will include:

- Auckland Regional Dental Service
- Breast Cancer Foundation NZ
- Breast Screen Aotearoa
- Harbour Sport
- Māori Women's Welfare League
- National Bowel Screening Programme
- NZ Blood
- Prostate Cancer Foundation
- Ready Steady Quit
- Hato Hone St John
- Te Ha Oranga
- Waitematā Public Health Nurse
- Well Women & Family - Cervical Screening.

For more information contact co-ordinator Sandra Skipworth, phone: 09 484 0235, mobile: 021 679 287, or email her at: Sandra.Skipworth@waitematadhb.govt.nz.

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I will be in your area from early December for two weeks.

John Eason
020 4007 9983 **waspolnz@gmail.com**

New youth project aims to give local teens more to do

The Rodney Youth Project is a new initiative by Rodney Local Board designed to give local youth aged 12 to 18 years more to do.

It's a response to a calls from the community for more youth activities outside of school and sport.

The aim is build a network of youth development providers across the region that youth can easily access.

There is already one thing happening in Helensville - free youth fitness classes provided by Collab Training. For more information email Ben at: hello@collabtraining.co.nz.

Two youth coordinators, Priscilla McClintock Ngawaka and James Nicholls, will collaborate with youth and local providers to develop a free programme of new and innovative events and workshops Rodney-wide.

"We can access community venues [and] provide funding and mentoring for young people and their projects," says Priscilla.

They are now seeking young people, local artists, musicians, and

community organisations and groups who would like to collaborate with them to deliver those programmes.

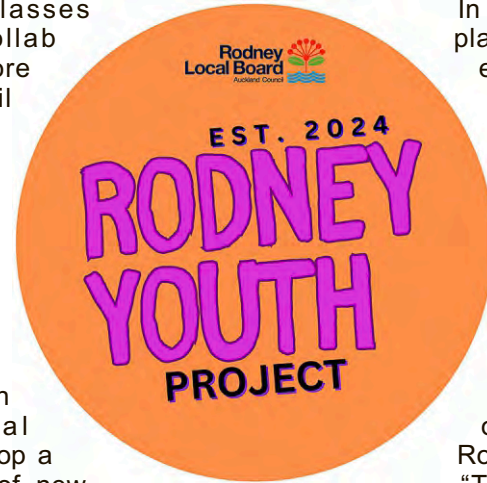
"In particular we are looking for activities that are youth-initiated or led, involve youth in the delivery or design, support and grow rangatahi māori, and activate or use community spaces," says Priscilla.

Locals with suggestions or ideas they would like to discuss can email: priscilla@rodneyyouth.co.nz.

In conjunction with the planned district-wide events, a dedicated Rodney Youth Space has been set up in Warkworth for 14 to 18 years olds. It's a trial, and if it's successful Rodney Youth will look to replicate that in other centres around Rodney.

"They take a lot of resources to run so we are keen to support existing initiatives and build new ideas from there if possible," explains Priscilla.

More information is available online at: www.rodneyyouth.co.nz or on both Facebook and Instagram at: [rodneyyouthproject](https://www.facebook.com/rodneyyouthproject).



Helensville Hauora Day - 16 Nov Free Health Information

Countdown Carpark 10am-2pm, Saturday 16 November

See Bella the walkthrough bowel and meet with other local health providers for information and advice.



Walk through 'Bella' our inflatable bowel. Learn about the progression from a healthy bowel to small polyps, to larger polyps and on to cancer and advanced cancer. Find out about the FREE bowel screening programme available for people aged 60-74.

We can let you know if you are eligible and can arrange for a FREE test kit to be sent to you to do in your own home. To order your FREE Bowel Screening test kit before the day: call Sandra ph 09 4840235 or email sandra.skipwith@waitematadhb.govt.nz

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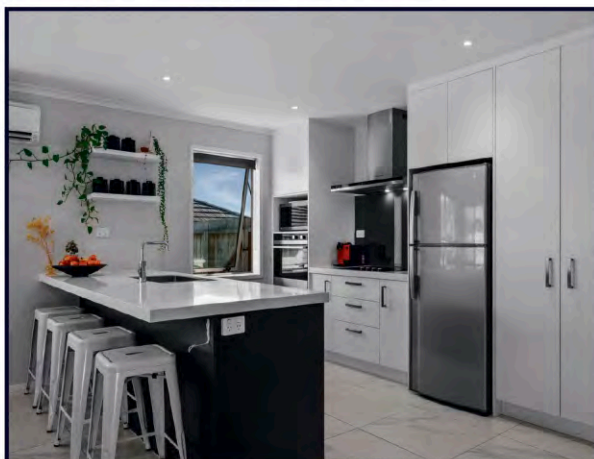
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Library happenings

There's plenty coming up at Helensville Library over the next few weeks:

- Library staff will be at Big Little Local at Rautauwhiri Park on November 23.
- There will be a Falls Prevention Talk at 10am in the meeting room on Thursday, December 5.
- Raumatī Reads, Auckland Libraries' summer reading programme, starts in December.
- The big one - Santa will be at storytime on Thursday, December 19.

Regular events include Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups on Wednesdays from 10am to 10.30am; Crafternoon, for adults on Thursdays from 3pm to 4.30pm and for children on Thursdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm; and Book Chat - next on Thursday, November 28 from 10am to 11am. Take along a book you've enjoyed (or not) to share with fellow readers.

Anne Coppell, senior librarian children and youth, says it's easy for locals to get a library card - just turn up at the library with photo ID and talk the library staff. They'll set you up with a free library card. To access eCollections and online resources right away, join online at: aucklandlibraries.govt.nz.

Lots of Big Little Local giveaways

Locals visiting Big Little Local at Rautawhiri Park on Saturday, November 23 have a good chance of coming away with some great treats.

Firstly, as with last year's event, the first 100 groups turning up on the day will be given goody bags.

There will be a range of door prizes, including drink bottles from South Kaipara Good Food, dog toys from Pro Dog Training, two double passes to Odyssey Sensory Maze, a \$10 KFC voucher and \$25 KFC voucher courtesy of Tasman Cameron, a family pass to Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens, and an 18 hole adult golf pass from Ahoy Matey.

Then there are the silent auctions which include: a \$100 voucher for River Valley Meats and a \$100 voucher for Eleventh Hour, sponsored by Baxter's Decorating; a \$100 Butcher Baker voucher from Drain Ninjas; two gift boxes from Love Curated; a \$250 voucher to use on uniforms,

promo items etc from Gear. Uniforms + Promotions; a double pass valued at \$112 to Tree Adventures; a Soda Stream worth \$199 donated by Harcourts The Difference; an air fryer valued at \$369.99 donated by Nicky Horsbrough; a \$50 The Beer Spot voucher; a five class pregnancy yoga course from Flowers & Salt; two \$50 vouchers from Sweet Az; and a family pass to Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens.

Finally, more goodies will be available through a giant Gumboot Friday raffle.

Organiser Nicky Horsbrough of Harcourts the Difference says there will be more businesses taking part this year - around 40 - and all funds raised from the event will go to the Harcourts Foundation.



The next rates instalments are due on Friday, November 29. Locals can pay online, at the KiwiBank counter in Helensville Paper Plus Select, or at the council service desk in the War Memorial Hall.

Hundreds go to Mill Rd car meet



• A small selection of the cars on show

More than 500 people turned up for a performance car meet held at Helensville Mechanical Services in Mill Road in mid-October. Run in collaboration with Shane 'Corner Hunter' Harris, the event featured a wide selection of performance cars, JDM's, classics, and V8s. So many cars turned up that some had to be displayed at the Helensville Museum.

Food trucks were kept busy with some selling out. High winds meant a bouncy castle couldn't be set up, but there were balloons, giveaways, and lollies for children. Helensville Mechanical gave away a set of Zestino tyres to one lucky winner, as well as a tool kit and an extensive car polishing set.

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med centre notes

Do you have asthma, COPD, or bronchiectasis? New data shows that one in five people in New Zealand have a respiratory disease - and these account for one in 11 hospital stays and cost over \$8 billion a year. (Asthma & Respiratory Foundation 2024)

But asthma is a preventable disease, and there are ways in which hospital admissions for COPD and bronchiectasis can be prevented too. We have robust clinical guidelines here in New Zealand which guide good practice and are regularly reviewed by our expert respiratory clinicians.



• Sue Jones

We are incredibly lucky at Kaipara Medical Centre to welcome Sue Jones, who has been a respiratory nurse for more than 20 years. She was one of the authors of the New Zealand Asthma Guidelines 2020 and she is passionate about helping people manage their respiratory disease.

At KMC Sue is running a respiratory clinic where patients can have their treatment maximised through discussion and education. Patients can explain how their illness affects them and trial treatments to see which is best for them. At the end of their appointment, they will have a personalised plan to help them navigate the bad days and put them in charge of their illness, rather than have their illness control them.

Clinics are by appointment, free of charge, and run on alternate Tuesdays. If you have asthma, COPD or bronchiectasis and would like to find out more please phone our reception team.

In other news:

- KMC continues to be open to new patient enrolments. See our website or speak to reception for more details.
- Cervical screening - a reminder to come in and see our nursing team for your cervical screening. Most women can now do the self-taken HPV test - a free service at Kaipara Medical Centre.
- Diabetes care - If you or someone in your family has diabetes then contact us to book a free annual diabetes check.

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

- Dr Kathryn Elcock
Clinical Lead, Kaipara Medical Centre

the business

Arts in the Ville held over Labour Weekend was another hit this year, with more artists than ever.

The North West Country business hub at Mill Road hosted four local artists. Art is a big part of our local area, and the business hub has a number of art pieces on its walls from local artists, so it was a fitting location.

Christmas is just around the corner and we are looking forward to having a cracking time. We have a lot of things on the go for everyone to enjoy, including our business members.

On Sunday, December 15 the Helensville Showgrounds will host the Christmas market from 8:30am, with a Santa parade at midday. If you want to register a float head to our website and click on 'What's On' to find the registration form. We would love to see you there.

November is also the launch month for our annual Christmas Shop Decorating Competition. This is open to all North West Country members and every entrant has a chance to win one of two \$1500 cash prizes.

Our two winners last year were elated to be chosen from all the entrants, and a lovely cash bump made it even better!

Businesses who want to take part in the competition must register, then throughout November and December we will keep an eye on your business and watch the decorations go up. Our judge will head out in December to make their choices, and the winners will be announced on Saturday, December 14.

The Big Little Local event is on again this month and we hope to see everyone there. 2024 will be bigger and better than before and will showcase a range of local businesses, from big to small, with many giveaways and prizes. Come down to Rautawhiri Park on Saturday, November 23.

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

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



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councillor comment

As the end of the year approaches, how is Auckland Council performing under Mayor Wayne Brown and his election promise to "Fix Auckland"?

Financially the Auckland Council Group performed better than it has under previous mayors, particularly with the additional challenges from last year's weather events.

Auckland has had a large cost of living impact - with high inflation and interest rates affecting the daily lives of many residents and ratepayers.

However, the big financial positive is that Auckland Council's costs are now getting under control. Council is back on track in terms of being in a good position to tackle some of the bigger physical and financial challenges Auckland has put off for too long.

These include;

- Fixing Auckland's infrastructure - although the government's problem of fixing the SH16 traffic congestion remains a major concern;
- Increased transport funding and activities to deliver better, more efficient public transport. The interim busway seems to be performing reasonably well, despite the fact that buses regularly get caught up in traffic;
- Building the financial and physical resilience of the region following last year's weather events. Flood prone areas will continue to flood, however the flood warning systems have improved as have our local emergency response plans;
- Providing fairer funding for local boards so more local community facilities can be built in our area;
- Getting Council finances in better shape for the future. This included repaying debt from the proceeds of selling poorly-performing airport shares, and also making sure Auckland's port is making a profit for ratepayers.

Underpinning this progress is the fact council staff and management have taken on board Mayor Brown's determination for there to be a laser-like focus to stop wasting money. He is not there yet, but he has made a good start within

the bureaucracy, including dramatically cutting out the upper management layer.

The Mayor is particularly pleased to see this layer of bureaucracy and duplication removed. This goes hand-in-hand with moves to find savings and reining in operating spending, while not compromising the activities and services the Council provides to Aucklanders.

At the beginning of the financial year, Council faced a fragile future with a potential budget hole.

But it has been a good year for the Mayor, and ratepayers, because he has stemmed an incoming financial tide.

Additionally he has done a deal to get extra money for Auckland for weather recovery and resilience from central government. He has also put Council in a stronger financial position for the future with the establishment of the 'Future Fund' to mitigate rates rises for Aucklanders if hit by another major weather bomb.

The congestion on State highway 16 remains a major concern, however; the government's suggested solution of an alternative NZTA highway still remains unfunded with no start date. This is disappointing, and although this is not a Council or an Auckland Transport project, the Mayor is keen for the government to build it, and to restore a better quality of life for local residents.

All-in-all, not a bad effort by Mayor Brown during his first term - but of course, there's more to do and he will need to continue to work hard to fix Auckland, and deliver more for Helensville and the Norwest working with myself, the Rodney Local Board, and our local resident and ratepayer groups.

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



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Feedback sought on shoreline

Locals have until Tuesday, November 12 to provide feedback on Auckland Council's draft Shoreline Adaptation Plan (SAP) for the Kaipara Harbour.

The Kaipara Harbour SAP area extends for roughly 400km of the southern Kaipara Harbour and covers South Head, Waioneke, Shelley Beach, Parkhurst, Parakai, Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Makarau, Kakanui, Glorit, Mangakura, Tauhoa, Wharehine, Tāpora, Port Albert, and Te Hana.

The draft plan looks at how the council can respond to coastal hazards and climate change over the next 100 years through adapting council-owned land and assets like boat ramps, sea walls and coastal walkways, and by promoting the preservation and restoration of the coastal environment for future generations.

The plans lists four potential scenarios for every location along the coastline and Kaipara River basin, further divided into short-term (up to 20 years), medium-term (20-60 years), and long-term, (60-100 years).

Those four options are Hold the Line, whereby the existing coastline would be fixed and protected; Limited Intervention with assets and land maintained and managed; Adaption Priority Areas, which require further planning to manage risks; and No Active Intervention, which leaves nature to take its course.

A copy of the plan is available at <https://tinyurl.com/kaiparashoreline>, where there is also information on how to provide feedback.



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To apply, send your resume and cover letter to office@waioneke.school.nz. Applications close at 5pm on November 22, 2024.

Join Waioneke School and help shape the future of our students!

As we round the bend into the final straight for 2024 it seems that things are as busy as ever locally.

I was really grateful to the Helensville Fire Station for opening its doors recently for a day of connecting with the public. These guys and girls are heroes for the work that they do voluntarily - not only fighting fires but also attending car crashes and other emergencies - but they also gave up a sunny Saturday recently to run an open day at the station.

It seemed that many readers of *Helensville News* had the same idea as me and attended with one or more small person in tow, learning a bit about fire safety and having a great time to boot.

And then a few days later another special local event took place just down the road at the Kaipara Memorial RSA. President Rex Keane and the leadership team of the RSA had worked hard over many months (in fact many months more than originally planned, for consent-related reasons) to upgrade this beloved institution.

The RSA is familiar to many people in Auckland's northwest for running ANZAC Day activities at the clubrooms, at Helensville Cemetery, and at Kaipātiki Reserve at Parakai. But of course they also provide hospitality all year round, along with other

remembrance services (eg Armistice Day) plus advocacy and support services for returned service personnel.

Another couple of highlights of the Helensville calendar are upcoming too, with the annual prizegiving event at Kaipara College to occur shortly, and planning in place for a local Santa Parade. This excellent high school continues to impress and I can't wait to see the students, staff and community acknowledge excellence and effort for the year once more. And on that note, best wishes to all local students who are in the thick of exam and assessment completion!

The run-up to Christmas can often be a stressful time and goodness knows this year has been tough for many. Please take care of yourselves and each other, particularly if there is pressure associated with wrapping up 2024 for those at work, school, and life in general.



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

Motorbike 'poker run' to raise cash for Helensville Fire station

Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade will be the recipient of funds raised by this year's 5 Station Poker Run on Sunday, November 24.

The annual motorcycle run, now in its 18th year, can attract up to 200 motorbikes, generally a broad mix of Harley Davidson, Triumph, Norton, Ducati, and Japanese bikes. There are often some older, classic bikes taking part as well as a few trikes.

Riders follow a scenic route around the area, calling in at each of the five local fire stations at Helensville, Shelly Beach, Kaukapakapa, Kumeū, and Muriwai. At each station riders receive a playing card, and at the end of the event the riders with the best poker hands win prizes.

The host station - this year Helensville - is the start and finish point for the run, so locals will have a good opportunity to view a wide range of motorcycles.

Registration starts at 8.30am with the ride itself beginning at 10am. Riders pay \$35 to take part in the run (\$30 if pre-booked online), all of which goes to the host station. Tickets prices include a meal at the end of the ride. The event can raise up to \$6000 for the recipient fire brigade.

The five volunteer fire brigades work together on fire callouts around the district, and the poker run is a way for members to get together in a social way while

raising funds at the same time. It aims to be a fun, relaxed and safe event, with pillion riders welcome and an emphasis on enjoying a ride with other motorcycle enthusiasts.

Flying foxies back for show

It was the new feature that captured the hearts of everyone at this year's Helensville Show - so the Fox Terrier Race will be back for the 2025 Show, to be held at the Helensville Show grounds on Saturday, February 22.

This year's inaugural race attracted 37 Fox Terriers and Jack Russell Terriers and was as chaotic as expected - while most of the little canines chased after the 'drag' along the race track, plenty decided to go off in all directions, much to the huge crowd's enjoyment. Organisers expect even more dogs at next year's race, now sponsored by Vets North.

Full details of the race are available online at: helensvilleshow.co.nz.

While other dog breeds can't enter the race, they don't need to miss out on Show fun - they can enter the regular Vets North Dog Show which has been running for years and is a great way for owners to have fun with their pooch while being in with a chance of a prize.



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HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

■ **DECEMBER 2024 deadline: Thursday, 21st November, 2024**

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, December 3rd 2024

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

Dave Addison

Ph: 021 178 5568

Email: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz

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2024 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Dec 3rd

Copy by: Nov 21st

2025 issue dates and deadlines:

Due out: Feb 4th

Copy by: Jan 23rd

Due out: Mar 4th

Copy by: Feb 20th

■ **Editorial:** Ph 021 178 5568.

■ **Editor & Publisher:** Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874.

■ **Design & Layout:** Dash Design, 021 178 5568.

■ **Printing:** NZME Print.

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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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■ CAR BOOT SALE

The next Helensville Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 8.30am to 12.30pm in the area behind Unichem chemist, off Creek Lane (weather permitting). Stalls cost \$15 and can be booked at FIGG, 44 Commercial Road. No food, drinks, or goods which compete with local retailers. For more information phone Holly Southernwood on 021 488 427 or email: holly@figg.nz.

■ COMMUNITY DINNER

Magnify Church at 116 Commercial Road will hold its next community dinner on Thursday, November 14 at 6.30pm. A koha donation is asked of those attending.

■ HELENSVILLE MARKETS

The next Helensville Village Market will be held at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, November

No-waste Santa parade

The Helensville Santa Parade is partnering with Helensville Zero Waste to create a zero waste event - that means that at the end of the day there won't be any waste heading to landfill, only material for composting and recycling.

The parade starts at midday around the racetrack at the Helensville Showgrounds on Sunday, December 15.

All food vendors will sell food in compostable or recyclable containers, and Santa's helpers will be handing out lollies wrapped in compostable packaging. There will be two waste sorting stations at the showgrounds and Santa's helpers will guide spectators on how to sort their compostables from their recyclables.

"This couldn't have been achieved without the help of Zero Waste Helensville, Auckland Council, and Ecomatters," says North West Country Business Association manager Danielle Hancock.

The parade will be held in conjunction with a special Christmas Market.

17 from 8.30am to 1pm. Stalls will include local crafts, art and gifts; fresh locally grown fruit and vegetables; preserves; plants; and pet products. There will be food, coffee, a sausage sizzle, and ice cream on offer, plus live music, free hair plaiting, and free face painting. No dogs except for assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking.

There will be two markets in December - a Twilight Christmas Market from 4pm to 8pm on Friday, December 6 and a Christmas Market on Sunday, December 15 from 8.30am to 3pm - which will be run in conjunction with a Santa Parade. Parking will be free for the December 15 market.

Email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz for more information.

■ LOCAL BOARD MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Rodney Local Board starts at 10am on Wednesday, November 20 in the Kumeū Meeting Room, 296 Main Road, Kumeū.

■ WESTERN RIDING SHOW

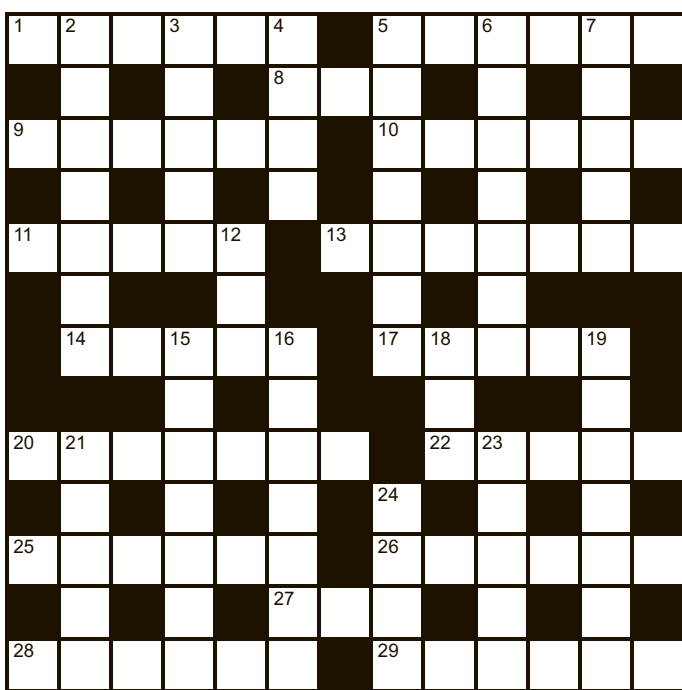
Kumeu Western Riding Club will hold a memorial show on Sunday, November 24 to remember former club members. It will be held at 115 Hutchinson Road, Woodhill. Locals are invited to see what Western Performance horses are all about. Take a chair and a picnic lunch. Free. For more information email: kwrc.nz@gmail.com.

■ CHILL IN THE VILLE

The Chill in Ville Music Festival returns to the Original Kaipara Tavern in Helensville on Saturday, December 7. There will be more than six hours of music starting at 4pm featuring local artists including Jimmy Christmas from the D4. A shuttle van will be available on the day and a food truck will be on site. Tickets are \$40 and are available from Helensville Super Liquor, River Valley Meats, or phone Andy Cummings on 021 685 199.

The Original Kaipara Tavern is reopening in November with several changes to the premises including a newly upgraded garden bar.

crossword



Across

1. Drunk (6)
5. Ornamental flowering shrub (6)
8. Omelette essential (3)
9. Whine (6)
10. Yearn (6)
11. E.g. the Romanovs (5)
13. Athletic shoe (7)
14. Pains (5)
17. Periodic (5)
20. Fuzzy (7)
22. Long-continued practice (5)
25. Leaning letter (6)
26. Mature animals (6)
27. Did possess (3)
28. Stump up in advance (6)
29. Creeping (6)

Down

2. Republic containing the northernmost point in Africa (7)
3. At no time (5)
4. Vale (4)
5. Con (7)
6. Clap (7)
7. Strange and mysterious (5)
12. Observe (3)
15. Facial deformity (7)
16. Incomplete (7)
18. Acknowledgement of debt (1,1,1)
19. Become less dark (7)
21. Coming after (5)
23. Moved back and forth (5)
24. Instructed (4)

October's Answers

Across: 1. Inlet 4. Smash-up 8. Subtype 9. Conga 10. City 11. Overturn 13. Trail 14. Ether 18. Southpaw 20. Fret 22. Radio 23. Scourge 24. Parents 25. Tempt.
Down: 1. Insect 2. Lobster 3. Toys 4. Sleeve 5. Accurate 6. Hindu 7. Prawn 12. High noon 15. Eardrum 16. Lapses 17. Street 18. Scrap 19. Udder 21. Font.

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