

## Marae concern over proposed cemetery

Plans by Auckland Council to create a huge new West Auckland cemetery at 1080 State Highway 16 just north of Waimauku have drawn the ire of Reweti Marae - as well as the land's owners.

The Council has issued a notice of intent to acquire the 172ha block of farmland under the Public Works Act after trying unsuccessfully to buy it at market value in 2022. The land is estimated to be worth more than \$26m.

Representatives of the Whiti Te Rā Reweti Marae community are upset at what they see as a lack of consultation - since acknowledged by Auckland Council - and also the potential impact of the cemetery on the land which once belonged to the hapu Te Taoū.

They are also concerned about the proposed cemetery's close proximity to Waipatukahu River, which they say is a vital waterway which holds great importance to the iwi's health and well-being.

The owner of the land, Halberd Holdings Ltd, whose sole director Ian Humphrey is based at Kumeū, has now lodged an objection with the Environment Court to try to stop the Council's compulsory purchase.

Auckland Council is the largest provider of cemetery services in the Auckland region and has a statutory duty under the Burial and Cremation Act to ensure adequate cemetery capacity for the city, says Taryn Crewe, General Manager of Parks and Community Facilities.

"Waikumete Cemetery in Glen Eden has capacity constraints, and additional land is required to meet future needs.

"Following extensive site assessments since 2019, a parcel of privately owned land at 1080 State Highway 16, Reweti, was identified as the most suitable location for a new cemetery in northwest Auckland," she

explains.

She says the site at Reweti was selected as one that could provide at least 50 to 60 years of burial capacity for West Auckland, but added it was too early to say how many burial plots the site could potentially provide until further planning was completed.

The Council has taken flak from

principles of free, prior, and informed consent, particularly for hapū, and highlights the council's failure to engage meaningfully with affected communities," he says.

"Our sites of immense cultural and spiritual significance are continuously compromised to service the requirements of the metropolis. This

with local iwi and hapū, including with Whiti Te Rā o Reweti Marae, should have been more comprehensive," says Taryn Crewe.

"We are actively working to address this and have started meeting with relevant parties and will continue to do so in the coming days.

"We acknowledge the deep historical, ancestral, and spiritual connections that Te Taoū, Ngāti Whātua, have to this area. We also acknowledge that there are some overlapping interests that other iwi may have in the area."

Reweti Marae deputy chair Luann Tapu has since met with Council staff a couple of times to discuss the issues.

The marae community believes the Council's actions undermine relationships enshrined in the Treaty of Waitangi, and has called on the Council - and local MP Chris Penk - to halt all land acquisitions and infrastructure projects that lack free, prior, and informed consent, demanding a "transparent and inclusive process that respects the rights and interests of all affected parties, particularly hapū."

David Mercer says Reweti Marae will also lodge an objection with the Environment Court opposing the land takeover.

"The real issue at this stage is no dialogue - poor 'engagement' as quoted by Auckland Council. Our immediate aim is to rectify the situation by maintaining a direct line of communication with Auckland Council regarding all future matters."

The Public Works Act 1981 (PWA) grants the Crown - and by delegation local authorities like Auckland Council - the power to acquire land from private landowners for public works. Cemeteries are considered a public

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• A Google Maps view of the proposed cemetery site

Reweti Marae, with leadership there saying they only learned about the proposal through a Facebook post.

The Whiti Te Rā Reweti Marae community "strongly opposes" the Council's intention to compulsorily acquire the land for a cemetery near the marae under the Public Works Act says David Mercer, chairman of the Whiti Te Rā o Reweti Marae Trust Board.

"This approach disregards the

decision, made without adequate consultation, demonstrates a blatant lack of respect for tangata whenua and their role as kaitiaki," he adds.

Now, the council has acknowledged they didn't handle the consultation process effectively.

"While preliminary engagement on the process took place through a council-led mana whenua forum, we acknowledge that direct engagement



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## editorial

Well, who knew that UNESCO was even aware Helensville existed? UNESCO, or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to give it its full moniker, is a specialised agency of the UN which aims to promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture. Most people probably know it best for its designation of various special locations around the world as World Heritage Sites.

But it does much more than that, and I learnt this month that it has had its eye on Helensville's very own Te Awaroa Museum - listing the museum's collection of 'Minute Books' from Helensville's Native Land Court in its New Zealand Memory of the World documentary heritage register. That isn't news in itself - the listing actually happened in 2012, though I suspect very few people probably knew about it - but the museum's efforts to now make these records available to everyone is an exciting project (see article page 3).

The museum's project is mostly in place, but like all projects, money is needed to complete it, And the museum has plans to really bring the wow factor in the future if sufficient cash can be raised, with a second stage including a virtual reality display putting visitors inside a virtual working land court.

All this from a (small) bunch of volunteers with big ideas which could really put our town on the map. Isn't that great?

To other matters - namely Auckland Council's proposed massive cemetery on SH16 just north of Waimauku (see front page).

I guess the first question is, should we be building new cemeteries at all? Are they a logical use for land? Should cremation be the norm? I personally have no desire to be buried (especially not in the immediate future!) but I understand some people's objections to cremation. And the cost doesn't bear thinking about - we're talking tens of millions of dollars here.

But playing devil's advocate, perhaps a cemetery isn't such a bad thing. I mean absolutely no disrespect to local iwi, and understand and sympathise with the concerns raised by Reweti Marae. But there are some definite potential upsides to a cemetery of this scale being built here.

Firstly, I would rather see the land used for that than another massive, sprawling subdivision. Cemeteries make for nice quiet neighbours. Secondly, it has the potential to be a real boon for local businesses. Build a cemetery, and it's likely a funeral home or two will open up locally, providing employment and using local businesses and services. The cemetery itself would require staff to run and maintain it - also possibly more local employment. Then there are the thousands of people who will attend burials, and visit their interred loved ones. Many will likely visit local cafes, gas stations, and other businesses, and use services such as caterers.

A new cemetery may not be ideal, but it may not be all bad.

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

## letters

Thank you, Parakai!

As we bid farewell to Parakai Four Square, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible Parakai and Helensville community for your unwavering support for the past nine years. Your dedication to shopping local and the kindness you've shown us during our journey have been the backbone of our success.

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We are thrilled to introduce the new owners, Aimee and Dexter Henderson, who took over on Monday, March 24. Aimee, a second-generation grocer, brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to the industry. Together, Aimee and Dexter share our passion for serving the community, and we are confident they will continue to build on the store's legacy.

Looking ahead, we're excited to take a well-earned break before exploring new opportunities later in the year. Rest assured, we plan to stay local and look forward to being part of this wonderful community in new ways.

- Dan Dale  
Parakai Four Square

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# Small 'pot of gold' needed for UNESCO listed museum records

Extensive records relating to customary Māori land ownership housed at Helensville's Te Awaroa Museum are UNESCO-listed - and now the museum is looking for a 'pot of gold' to finish the process of making these readily available to the public.

Te Otene Kikokiko and his wife Maata gifted land in Helensville in 1865 for justice and education. The town's Courthouse and Primary School were built on that land, which became known locally as the 'ten acre block'. Today, it runs from the bare piece of land beside the Caltex Station up to the Helensville Primary School on Garfield Road.

The Native Land Court (renamed the Māori Land Court in 1947) was established in 1865 with the purpose of translating customary Māori land ownership into legal land titles recognisable under English law.

The first purpose-built Native Land Court in New Zealand was in Helensville, presided over by Judge John Rogan; it is now one of the main buildings on Te Awaroa Museum's Mill Road site.

The establishment of the court saw the instigation of the 'Kaipara Minute Books', a court record of land sales - 33 volumes of transactions outlining boundaries and whakapapa.

"As Māori people were brought before the court to determine native land entitlements and ownerships, the oral traditions of Māori citing their relationship to the land and the ancestors of it were recorded in these historic books," explains Helensville & District Historical Society vice-president Megan Williams.

"These recitals provide a profound insight into the heritage of the whenua and the people."

In recognition of their value as a unique archival resource and taonga Māori, the Minute Books were listed in UNESCO's New Zealand Memory of the World documentary heritage register in 2012.

"They provide a link to tūpuna, to heritage, and to identity," says Megan.

She says the museum is in the unique position of being able to offer a distinctly local resource to both students and other researchers. Surveyors' maps are available showing original land blocks in the southern Kaipara area which can be tied into the actual land sales, there are diaries and



• A rainbow lands on the old Courthouse building ... now it needs the pot of gold

assessors' notes, and further museum research has uncovered four pages of links to additional information, all to be available on-site.

"Most of the hard work is done, but we need the funds for a bit of infrastructure such as electrical work, computers, and display screens," says Megan. "A small pot of gold to invest in the region's legacy is all we need."

Around \$30,000 is needed to get the initial research part of the project up and running, though the long-term plan is for a much more interactive display with visitors able to put on a headset and watch a virtual reality court scene take place in front of them.

"We're trying to get funding for this, but it's an uphill battle.

"Our dream is that Kaipara College kids will be able to pick a land block, find it on a map, find the sale in the Minute Books, see who was selling it, find out more about them and all the other 'lawful ways' in which the Crown acquired land. We have buy-in from the College," explains Megan.

The aim is to make it easy for anyone to negotiate the mass of information available, and for children to get engrossed in the story and help them with school projects.

A Givealittle page (scan the QR code) has been set up so people can donate toward completing the project, with the aim of raising \$130,000 for the current and future stages.

Anyone able to help can also email the museum at: [info@museum.teawarora.nz](mailto:info@museum.teawarora.nz) or phone 09 420 7881.



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# Tilsons topping tennis

Helensville Tennis Club is punching above its weight, with member Lexie Tilson now the number two ranked Under 17 women's doubles tennis player in the country.

The ranking is even more outstanding when you learn that Lexie, 17, missed a large part of last year's season recovering from a dislocated shoulder injury - an injury not inflicted through tennis but rather while training for the Kaipara College rugby tour to Japan. Lexie was still able to go to Japan, but was forced to stop all tennis for eight months while she recovered.

Her number two ranking may not last long - by the time you read this she may have taken the top spot, depending on the outcome of a late-March tournament. Her aim is to secure the #1 ranking by the end of the winter season, if not beforehand.

Lexie has also been selected to represent Tennis Northern (which covers North Harbour and Northland) at the national teams competition in Hamilton in April.

The Tilson family's tennis success doesn't end with Lexie though. Her older sister Chloé, 19, is now an International Tennis Federation (ITF) qualified coach and is head coach at the Helensville Tennis Club.

Chloé has been leading a remarkable reformation in local junior tennis. Since completing her ITF Junior Development Coaching qualification, she has grown the club's junior coaching programme from two days a week to six, and now coaches more than 100 students daily across five classes.

Through structured coaching and engaging programmes, Chloé has seen impressive progress in young players - even those as young as three years old. Her holiday and in-school programmes have become community favourites, regularly attracting more than 50 children per session.

She leads a team of four assistant coaches, and under her leadership Helensville Tennis Club has grown into one of the most vibrant junior tennis hubs in the Rodney area.

She doesn't, however, coach her own sister - Lexie is coached by an academy coach at Tennis Northern in Albany.

Helensville Tennis Club has been fortunate to

secure funding through Harbour Sports Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa. Last year the club was awarded a \$12,000 grant and recently another \$7000 grant.

That money allows the club to run its popular holiday programme across all four terms. The normally three-day programme attracts an average of 50 children per day, and starts with a full day of tennis coaching. That's then followed by a variety of other sports including soccer, tag, Rippa, touch, dodgeball, and capture the flag, which keeps the children engaged and having fun. The club's coaches are trained in a mixed range of sports to allow them to provide such a varied programme.

The Tū Manawa funding covers 80 percent of the cost.



• Lexie (left) and Chloé Tilson

The club also connected with local primary schools - Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Woodhill, and Waioneke - with two of the coaches delivering in-school tennis lessons to more than 1000 students. For 90 percent of those children it was their first experience of tennis.

The funding has greatly enhanced the club's ability to engage with the community and promote active participation in sports.

Helensville Tennis Club has also introduced an online 'book a court' system where both the public and club members can reserve an astro court at any time between 7am and 10pm. With lighting and coded gate access, users can book their preferred time and be confident a court will be available for them on arrival. The system was introduced in conjunction with Tennis NZ to support community access to tennis courts. For more information on the book a court system at: <https://tennis.kiwi/bookacourt>.

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# Anzac parade, civic service return

After an absence of several years, the Kaipara Memorial RSA's annual Anzac Day parade and civic service will return on Friday, April 25.

The RSA will be holding a full schedule of Anzac Day services this year, now they are finally back in their clubrooms.

The day will start with a Dawn Parade at the Kaipātiki Reserve cenotaph in Parakai at 6am, at which the RSA, the New Zealand Defence Force, and the Kaipātiki Reserve Board will each lay a wreath.

That will be followed by a short sunrise service at the soldiers' cemetery at Helensville Cemetery at 6.55am. Members of the public can place a poppy on their relatives' plaques after the service. Each plaque will have a white cross and a poppy behind them, while veterans in the public cemetery will all have a large wooden cross behind each one so they are easily identified.

"Last year some kind soul knitted a poppy for each and every cross in the Helensville Cemetery - thank you for your kind gesture and mark of respect," says KMRSAPresident Rex Keane.

An Anzac breakfast will be served at the KMRSAClubrooms from 7.30am for everyone who has attended the services.

There will be a 9.30am service at the Kaukapakapa Cenotaph and Memorial Hall, with a full wreath laying ceremony.

A parade down Commercial Road, from The Original Kaipara Tavern to the cenotaph outside the RSA rooms, will feature military vehicles, the Kumeū Brass Band, student flag bearers, veterans, NZDF personnel, and representatives from the Police, Fire Brigade, Scouts, St John Cadets, and primary schools.

The parade will start at 10.45am, and will be followed at 11am by a civic service at the Helensville War Memorial Hall cenotaph, where community groups can lay a wreath. Any organisation wanting to lay a wreath at that service needs to contact the RSA by email: kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz or text Rex Keane on: 027 293 2768. Wreaths can be ordered and paid for through the KMRSAClubrooms from 7.30am for everyone who has attended the services.

Medals should be worn on ANZAC Day. Locals wearing their relatives' medals should wear them on their right side.



# Art exhibition to celebrate Easter



• Karyn Ellwood "playing with mud"

A group of local artists have got together to make 'A Station', an art exhibition celebrating Easter.

It will run from Saturday, April 12 to Saturday 19, from 10am to 2pm daily at St. Martin's Church, 912 State Highway 16, Waimauku. Selected evening openings will be announced closer to the date. Children will have the chance to participate in interactive art activities during the day.

Inspired by the traditional art form of 'Stations of the Cross', the artists have come together to reflect on their personal journeys of faith.

The exhibition will feature works from painters, potters, writers, installation art, and other creative media, offering visitors a chance to contemplate what they see in those journeys.

Karyn Ellwood, one of the featured artists, shares her experience: "I have rediscovered my childhood joy of playing with mud and have taken the time to explore the process of shaping, firing, and glazing beautiful handmade pieces.

"Every time I come to the table with clay and glazes, there are always new boundaries to push and new things to explore. I've discovered that clay can tell stories as well as become useful objects."

For more information phone: 020 4137 2340, or follow the Instagram page: 'a\_station\_in\_waimauku' for updates and announcements.

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## Our world from above



Skydivers perform a four-way formation over Parakai during the recent National Skydiving Championships, which were based at Skydive Auckland.

The photo shows the meandering Kaipara River, with Helensville in the upper-left corner and Parakai beneath the skydivers. The blue rectangle of the Parakai Springs outdoor hot pool is clearly visible. Immediately to the left of the left-most skydiver is a white 'L' shape, which is Parakai School.

Competitors and spectators came from as far afield as Australia for the championship, and the 40 skydivers, including six teams, competed in multiple disciplines such as speed skydiving, four-way formations and wingsuiting. A total of 336 skydives were completed as part of the competition, not counting practice jumps.

During the event wingsuit pilot Jason Dodunski set two Oceania records, gliding at speeds of more than 290 km/h before deploying his parachute. Without propulsion, he flew over 18km in 5 minutes and 20 seconds from 18,000 feet, marking the longest wingsuit flight for both time and distance in the region.

## Storage sought for clothing donations

Our Village - Northwest needs a storage solution to enable it to keep accepting clothing donations.

The community group collects and distributes children's clothing and school uniforms to local whānau in need. However, due to limited storage space they can no longer accept new donations until they can resolve their storage issue.

"We're reaching out to local businesses and individuals who may be in a position to donate clear plastic storage bins, funding, or vouchers to help us continue this mahi," says Our Village's Kayla Clements. "If anyone has spare storage tubs they no longer need, we would be incredibly grateful."

She adds that if any local families are interested in trying out cloth nappies they have a good supply available with no obligation to return.

Te Hā Oranga, an iwi-endorsed health service provider that delivers kaupapa Māori services,

won the North West Country Business Association's Christmas decorating competition and chose to donate half of its \$1500 prize to Our Village - Northwest. That donation has helped Our Village to continue providing support, food, connection, and clothing for local whānau.

"We are beyond grateful for their aroha," says Kayla. "It truly reflects the strength of our community and the way we all come together to uplift one another."

Te Hā Oranga operates under the tikanga of Ngāti Whātua, focusing on manaakitanga (care and support) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) to provide culturally appropriate care for the community.

Our Village - Northwest is now a partner member of the North West Country Business Association, helping it strengthen connections with other local businesses and organisations.

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# Poppy Day

The annual Poppy Appeal will be held on Friday, April 11, a week earlier than usual due to Easter falling the weekend before Anzac Day. Poppy boxes will be in retail stores around town from early April and the Kaipara Memorial RSA will have a QR code so people can donate online using their phone camera. A tax receipt is also issued using the QR code.

KMRSA president Rex Keane says QR code donations last year trebled over those from 2023. Last year's Poppy Appeal raised more than \$5400, which goes to



Ranfurly's Poppy Foundation Trust (PFT). The KMRSA applies to the PFT on behalf of its veterans for welfare assistance, and the PFT paid more than \$17,000 to local veterans in 2024.

The KMRSA also donated \$500 from its Welfare Fund to veterans travelling to the Invictus Games, and a further \$500 to the crew of HMNZS Manawanui to help them recover after the Navy only compensated them \$1000 each for the loss of their possessions when their ship hit a reef and sank off Samoa last year.

# RSA re-elects president

Rex Keane was re-elected as president of the Kaipara Memorial RSA at its recent AGM - held in the clubrooms for the first time in two years after the seismic strengthening project delayed the clubroom opening by more than a year.

Bill Rangi and Steve Wilson were elected as vice presidents, along with a full committee. In his President's Report, Rex said the number of members at the end of 2023 was 115. After reopening in September 2024 and lowering the fees to \$30, the RSA attracted 231 new members in just six months for a total membership of 346. Anyone can join the RSA - membership isn't limited to former service people.



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# Hunt Club celebrates 75th



• A Waitematā Hunt Club member in full flight during the 'Handy Hunter' competition

Around 120 riders took part in Waitematā Hunt Club's 75th anniversary celebrations, held over five days in late March at the Helensville Showgrounds and local farms.

On Friday, March 21 the club held a day-long Hunter Trials competition at the showgrounds, and on other days took part in hunts across three local farms, a fun ride at another farm, held an anniversary dinner and 1980s-themed party, and visited Parakai Springs hot pools.

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# Have a rubbish time at the library!

## ■ Hello New Bin!

The Auckland Council Waste Team will visit Helensville Library during the school holidays for a bin-tastic school holiday session filled with fun games and



• Children taking part in a Crafternoon session at the Library, creating artworks under the watchful eye of Helensville Art Centre manager Yvonne Abercrombie. The artworks will be made into a sign over the ramp from the carpark, leading into the library.

activities. Discover how Auckland Council rubbish bins work and learn about its rubbish service.

This will be held on Thursday, April 17 from 3pm to 4pm, replacing the regular crafternoon session for that day.

## ■ The Return of Minecraft Club

After a break of a year or so, the Helensville Library Minecraft Club has returned. It runs on a Wednesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 4.30pm during the school term. Details on the library Facebook page.

## ■ Digital Classes

The digital classes planned to be run by the Helensville Library team have been delayed. However, Helensville's Jeremie Ryan has started up tech drop-in sessions specifically for seniors, covering things like mobile phones, tablets, laptops and computers, internet and WiFi, social media, online banking, smart TVs, and satellite dishes.

Locals can bring in their device and ask Jeremie about their tech issues; he may have a simple fix, or will refer people to local professionals for more complicated problems.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, April 2 and 9 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm in the War Memorial Hall meeting room.

## ■ Regular Library Programmes:

- Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups: Wednesdays, 10am to 10.30am;
- Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays, 3pm to 4.30pm;
- Crafternoon for children: Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm;
- Book Chat: Thursday, April 24, 10am to 11am. Bring along a book you've recently read and loved - or disliked - to share with fellow readers.

## Family gala

River Valley Baptist Church is holding a Family Gala this coming Saturday, April 5 on the church grounds at 1 Fordyce Road, Parakai from 10am to 1pm.

It's aimed at being a fun, budget-friendly event for local families.

There will be a bouncy castle, magic carpet rides, an Easter egg hunt, games and races, corn hole, and face painting to keep the children entertained.

There will be stalls with second hand goods and clothes, produce, plants, jams, and baking, plus a café and barbeque to keep hunger at bay.

## Cemetery concerns cont...

• From Page 1

work within the meaning of the PWA.

The council must first try to negotiate a purchase with the owner. If those negotiations fail as in this case, the council can then serve a notice under the PWA, outlining the intention to acquire the land.

Landowners can object to the proposed acquisition, with objections heard by the Environment Court. If the acquisition is approved, the Governor-General will issue a proclamation under the PWA, which vests the land in the Crown. The PWA provides for compensation to be paid to landowners whose land is acquired.

With objections lodged in the current case, Taryn Crewe says the Council will "continue to follow the legal process while also working with relevant parties."

Come along and join our FLeXercise/Fitness League Class held at Helensville War Memorial Hall, FRIDAYS from 10 am. One-hour class, low impact exercises to music. A very friendly social class.



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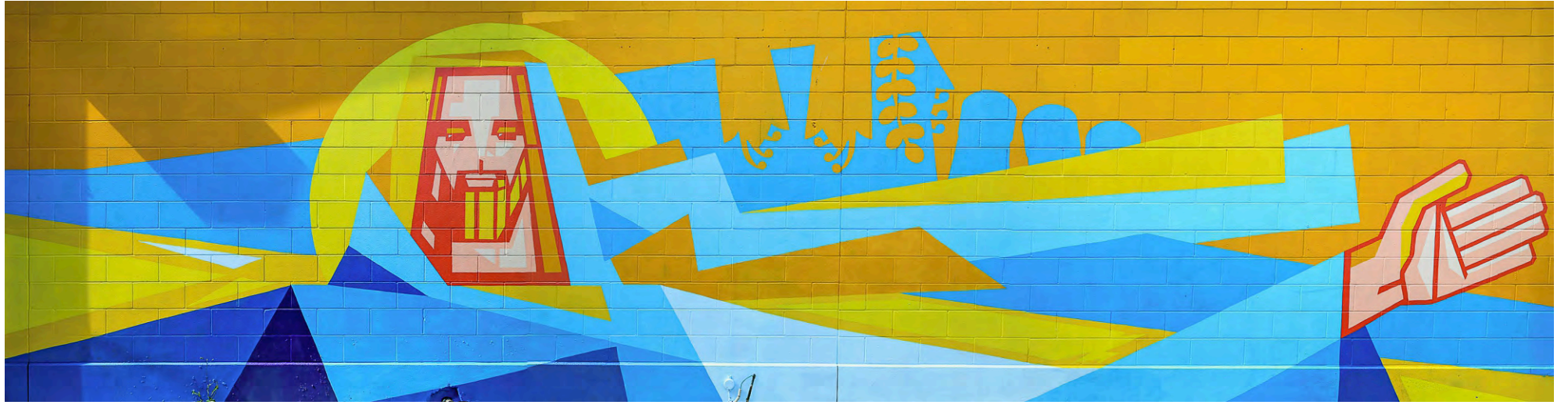
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# Mural brightens walkway entrance



Pedestrians entering or exiting the Helensville Riverside Walkway via the Mill Road pathway are now greeted by an enormous, brightly-coloured 150sq.m. mural.

The 70m-long artwork, the end of which can be glimpsed when driving down Mill Road, spans the length of the Helensville Community Church building, which also houses the Hospice Shop.

The mural was instigated by Green by Nature, a company which has an anti-graffiti contract with Auckland Council spanning from the North Shore as far north as Te Hana.

While much of their work revolves around removing graffiti, they also have a beautification budget which is used for projects like this to help prevent graffiti in the first place.

Georgina Joyce, the graffiti contract co-ordinator for Green by Nature, says the Helensville walkway had come to their attention as a location prone to graffiti.

She approached the church and asked if they would be interested in a mural along the side of their building - an idea she says was very well received. The church then came up with some suggestions for designs, and graphic artist Eduardo Tam created the final concept.

Green by Nature provided the church with enough bright yellow paint to paint the wall of the building prior to Eduardo painting the mural. It was then coated with a graffiti-guard product, that will allow any future graffiti to simply be washed off. The total cost of the project was around \$6000.

Concerning the design, which features a highly-stylised image of Jesus with outstretched arms, Georgina says she had to "really sell it" to the Council, but that was what the church asked for. She believes the contemporary style of the art will assuage any concerns some people may have on the religious content - but once again stresses it is on a church-owned building.

"From the Council perspective, they want to be seen doing brilliant stuff for the community," she adds.

• Above - a large section of the new mural

• Below - Eduardo Tam painting the mural



## from the archives

*What was happening this month in Helensville 10, or even 20, years ago? We've trawled through our archives to bring you the highlights from past issues.*

### ■ 10 Years Ago: April 2015, Issue #176

Our lead article covered the demise of steam train visits to Helensville owing to damage to the 'triangle' the historic locomotives use to turn around for their return journey. The triangle was damaged during a major storm the previous year, with track left suspended over the Kaipara River with no support.

Inside articles included:

- Te Whare Oranga, Helensville District Health Trusts new community health and well-being centre officially opened in the former Parakai Tavern premises, which were gifted to the Trust by the former Parakai Licensing Trust.
- Kaukapakapa School to get new, multi-million dollar administration

and classroom block to replace existing leaky buildings, with the project expected to be completed in around 18 months.

- New business manager Richard Reid starts at Kaipara Medical Centre, tasked with ensuring the centre operates in a commercially viable and sustainable manner.
- Art Kaipara's oldest artist, Noleen Healey, to hold an exhibition to mark her 83rd birthday.
- Former Helensville artist Fiona Whyte, now living in Australia, creates 'healthy body' dolls called Beetle Bottoms.
- Kaipara College waka ama teams win several titles at the 2015 National Secondary Schools Waka Ama Championships at Rotorua.
- Helensville A&P Association looking for new secretary/manager to replace departing Caroline Anderson.
- The Lions Roses Festival changes tack, with a police dog picking the

winner from a spa pool rather than from the Kaipara River.

### ■ 20 Years Ago: April 2005, Issue #66

Our front page featured an article about New Zealand's only all-woman trick horse riding team, which was to perform at the second Horse Expo at the Helensville showgrounds. Articles inside the paper included:

- Helensville Riverside Heritage, the group behind the riverside walkway, plan for a new public toilet near the Kaipara Tavern carpark to replace the Creek Lane one;
- Helensville Christian Life Centre (now Magnify Church) to celebrate its reopening following a major renovation project;
- Record crowd of 7000 turn up for the

103rd Helensville A&P Show - 2000 up on the previous record;

- New Zealand Mounted Games Association held its annual fun competition in conjunction with the A&P Show.
- South Kaipara Youth Forum proposed;
- The Green Prescription physical activity programme to be introduced into Parakai, based at Parakai Springs hot pools;
- Profile on Parakai-based painter Charles Rose.

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## Indoor competitions draw big entries

Helensville Show has always been noted for the quality, and quantity, of entries in its indoor section - and this year's Show was no exception, with near record entry numbers in many classes - a total of 1469 entries.

One example was in the giant pumpkins, with an incredible 23 entries - with the winning entry a 106kg whopper grown by David Ellett of Parakai.

While predominantly for locals, the Helensville Show attracted people from as far afield as Hawke's Bay and Wellington to enter this year. The Russell Cup for most points in the Show went to Linda Wood.

Below are the winners of all the special prizes in the indoor section. For full indoor results, and those for the Equestrian and Livestock sections, visit the Show website: [helensvilleshow.co.nz](http://helensvilleshow.co.nz).

### 2025 SHOW INDOOR RESULTS PHOTOGRAPHY

**Youth Photography:** Champion Youth Photo: Piper Stubbs; K. J. West Rosebowl for Most Points: Piper Stubbs.

**Adult Photography:** Stewart Lupton Memorial Trophy for Champion Photo: Dave Addison; Champion Enlarged Photo: Dave Addison; K. Russell Shield for Champion Local Photo: Dave Addison; R. A. Coles Cup: Deborah Owen; Points Prize: Deborah Owen; Judge's Choice Adult Photo: Rhiannon McKinstry

**PAINTING & DRAWING**  
 Original Painting Acrylics: 1st Chantel Coy; Original Painting Oils: 1st Jodie Allen; Original Painting Watercolour: 1st Keryn Bloxham; Original Painting - Differently Abled Adult: 1st Denise Turner; Original Painting, 10 years & under: 1st Preston Catchpole; Original Painting, 11-16 years: 1st Pyper Hancock; Original Drawing, Adult, any Media: 1st Lyn Catchpole; Original Drawing, 10 years & under, any Media: 1st George Loveday; Original Drawing, 11 to 16 years, any Media: 1st Jock Steedman.

**MĀORIARTS & CRAFTS**  
 Flax Woven Basket (small): 1st Katriona Main; Other Woven Article: 1st Maria Kaka; Youth Carved Article: 1st Piper Stubbs; Youth Other Woven Article: 1st Piper Stubbs..

**GARDEN PRODUCE**  
**Fruit & Vegetables:** Chris Kane Cup: Linda Kay; Snow Russell Trophy: Linda Kay; Ernie Smith Giant Pumpkin Trophy: David Ellett; G. Field Memorial Cup: Nadeen Hamilton; Russell Trophy: Deborah Owen;

Points Prize Garden Produce: Nadeen Hamilton.

### HORTICULTURE

Points Prize Horticultural Section: Marilyn Taft.

**Floral Arrangements:** Helensville Floral Art Group Tray: Stephanie Scott; Helensville Floral Art Trophy: Linda Kay; Kingdom Vase: Lynda Woodhead; Vicky Thornton Trophy: Lynda Woodhead.

**Cut Flowers:** Annie Naughton Donohue Memorial Rose Bowl: Olivia Kelly; Mrs E M Williscroft Memorial Trophy: Stephanie Scott; Rhonda Grace Memorial Trophy for Champion Dahlia: Catherine Callander.

### CRAFT & NEEDLEWORK

Ashton Ross Trophy: Jenny Forrester; Clare Aitkenhead Vase: Sally Hardwick; Wools & Handcrafts Shield: Yvonne Cox; Points Prize Craft & Needlework Section: Yvonne Cox.

### PRESERVES & CONDIMENTS

J Honore Cup: Alison Russell; Points Prize Preserves & Condiments Section: Danielle Smith.

### BAKING

A. G. Robinson Cup: Anne Coppell; Ellett Trophy: Alison Russell; Grace Knox Memorial Trophy: Christine Pikett; Glasson Cup: Alison Russell; Rural Women of NZ competition (Dairy Delight): Samantha Duncan; Points Prize Baking Section: Alison Russell; Judge's Choice Baking Section: Samantha Duncan.



• Visitors to the show admire the huge selection of giant pumpkins entered this year

### YOUTH

R. A. Walton Cup for Champion Model Farm: Grace Brady; A. J. Skelton Cup for Most Points Youth: Ethan Kelly; Cherie Lupton Trophy: Teddy Roux; C. H. McMurdo Vase: Piper Stubbs; Jackie Milina Trophy: Ethan Kelly; Jim & Lysie Forrest Rosebowl: Clara Griffiths; Liza Milina Cup: Piper Duncan; Ray Robinson Cup: Ethan Kelly.

Points Prize 5 & Under: Teddy Roux; Points Prize 6-10 Years: Piper Duncan; Points Prize 11-15 Years: Ethan Kelly.

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# med centre notes

### Walk-in flu vaccination clinics:

With flu season approaching fast, make sure to get your flu vaccine early to protect you and your whānau. The vaccine is available to everyone aged six months and over and is free for patients who are aged 65 and over, or who are pregnant or have a long-term conditions such as respiratory disease, diabetes, or heart disease. For patients not eligible for a free vaccine, the cost is \$35. If you are unsure please contact us to find out.

From Tuesday, April 1 to Friday, April 11, we will be offering a walk-in flu vaccine clinic:

- Weekdays 10am to 12 noon
- Additional clinic Saturday, April 12, 9a to 12 noon.

### Communication of Results:

A friendly reminder that we do not routinely inform of normal test results, unless otherwise discussed at your appointment. Your results will be filed on the patient portal 'My Indici' for you to view. Please speak to reception if you are not signed up for My Indici - this portal is also useful for booking appointments and ordering prescriptions. If a result is abnormal and needs a review we will contact you to advise. If you are not sure, or don't have access to the portal, please contact the practice on 09 420 8400.

### Annual Medication Review:

You may have been asked to come in for an annual medication review if you take long-term medications. Please note that if you are on long-term medications, we must see you a minimum of once a year to review your medications so that we can continue to prescribe safely for you.

### Are you due a Mammogram?

The mobile breast-screening van will be at Mitre 10 in Mill Road from Monday, April 14 to Saturday, May 3. A regular mammogram clinic runs from Maki Street near the Northwest shopping centre at Westgate. Please phone 0800 270 200 to find out more about getting a free mammogram every two years between the ages of 45 and 69.

Kaipara Medical Centre remains open to enrol new patients - if you are looking for local healthcare please see our website or pop in and speak to our reception team. For more, visit: [kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz](http://kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz) or email us at: [admin@kaiparamed.co.nz](mailto:admin@kaiparamed.co.nz) or find us on Facebook.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock  
Clinical Lead  
Kaipara Medical Centre

# the business

One of the most important drivers for the Board of the Business Association is to make sure we deliver value to our members - and much more than are paid in membership fees. We have been strategising about ways we can do more of the good work we have done for the last 11 years.

Did you know that any business association member can post to our Facebook page and get their message instantly in front of more than 6600 people? If you are advertising a deal that benefits our members we may even pick it up and boost it for free!

We have been able to organise members' discounts, such as Bridgestone Helensville offering 10 percent, and Waimauku Pharmacy seven percent, off all goods and services to members.

Members can also send us articles which we can add as blogs to our website, or articles which we can publish in our WEST Magazine and online. And of course they get free entry into the North West Country Business Awards.

We are currently planning for the 2025 Business Awards so get ready. The awards will open in July, with an awards dinner booked in for November. All dates and details to follow over the coming months.

We also have social media training on April 23 hosted by the amazing Loren Tomlinson of The Social Collective. This half-day course has attracted a 50 percent subsidy from the Regional Business Partners network. Our website will soon be updated with more details.

Security is our big topic of the month, with members starting to come to us after burglaries and thefts. Once you start talking to your neighbours you realise how frequent these issues are becoming. We are building a suite of solutions for local businesses and will showcase these at a public meeting in Huapai with local business owners, security firms, Police, and Members of Parliament. We will send out more details soon and would love to see you there.

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](mailto:manager@northwestcountry.co.nz)



# Museum exhibit shows how cables link us to the world

What is buried beneath our feet but also everywhere? The internet!

Communication with the outside world has always been an issue for New Zealanders.

Telegraph technology first arrived in the country in the 1860s but it was only in 1876 that the first international cable was installed across the Tasman Sea to connect with Australia. Further links between Australia, Indonesia, and Egypt brought New Zealand into direct contact with London in 1877.

The existing Trans-Tasman system wasn't designed for telephones, so it underwent several upgrades over the years. It was also moved twice, ultimately settling in Muriwai in 1932.

Te Awaroa Museum in Mill Road has an exhibit which includes information on the laying of the first cables as part of its Post Office and telephone exchange.

Those early cables remained New Zealand's primary means of international communication until 1962, when the

Commonwealth Pacific Cable System (COMPAC) was installed, linking Canada and Australia, with Hawaii and New Zealand. This system went live in December 1963 with Muriwai again the entry point and Northcote the primary station.

Further cables were installed over the years, including the Tasman1 and Tasman2 lines to Australia. In 1984, COMPAC was retired and replaced with ANZCAN, considered a massive technological upgrade. It was this cable that provided New Zealand with its first access to the internet in the 1990s. However, its capacity was insufficient for the internet age and it was replaced in 2000 with the Southern Cross Cable (SX), which runs from Takapuna to Muriwai, with stations in Northcote and Whenuapai.

At Takapuna Beach, a large sign indicates where the SX cable makes landfall. The SX cable is expected to be replaced with a new international telecommunications cable in 2030.

- Derek R. Whaley



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The Helensville District Health Trust (HDHT) is a not-for-profit, community-owned organisation dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing of the South Kaipara region. For over 35 years, the Trust has played a vital role in supporting and developing local health services for our community.

HDHT is the sole shareholder of the Helensville Birthing Centre, supporting its operation to ensure local families have access to high-quality maternity services. The centre has its own board of directors and management team who oversee day-to-day operations.

Additionally, the Trust owns the buildings that house key healthcare providers, including the Kaipara Medical Centre, Te Whatu Ora community services, Awanui Labs, Te Hā Oranga, Parent Aid, and the local Midwives Clinics. Through these facilities, HDHT supports a broad range of essential health and wellbeing services for the community.

One of our current projects is Alison McKenzie House, a heritage property with a long history of serving the community. We are seeking consent to remedy the foundations, and once a fit-out is complete, the building will be able to be reoccupied - watch this space for more updates!

#### Governance and Leadership

HDHT is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees who bring a wealth of experience and community insight to their roles. The Trust is chaired by Alison Seakens, with James Scott serving as General Manager. The Trustees include Nicola Keen-Biggelaar, Mark Dennis, and Felicity Smith.

The Trust is committed to fostering partnerships, enhancing community engagement, and ensuring the people of Helensville and the South Kaipara have access to the healthcare services they need.

For more information, please contact:

James Scott, General Manager, Helensville District Health Trust  
manager@hdht.org.nz



Alison Seakens



James Scott

## Beach visit for residents



Residents from Craigweil House at Parakai spent an enjoyable day at the beach recently when they visited their sister retirement home, The Beachfront at Stanmore Bay.

Staff at The Beachfront went the extra mile, preparing refreshing mocktails and a selection of snacks for the visitors to enjoy. The Craigweil residents settled into the beachfront area of the facility, where they soaked up the sun, listened to the waves, and shared stories with one another.

"It's not often we get to visit our sister facility," said one resident. "This is such a treat!"

## from our MP

What a great Helensville Show! Huge kudos and thanks to everyone who worked so hard to arrange yet another one of these iconic annual events for the area.

The primary sector has been enjoying productive times across New Zealand recently, with the rural northwest of Auckland no exception, albeit with low rainfall levels presenting some challenges.

When our farmers do well, local firms and families do well too, so fingers crossed that drought conditions don't persist long now that we're officially into autumn. More important than finger-crossing will be settings that enable more water storage solutions and that's a key area of policy reform as we speak.

In other news, I'm keen to share with you an exciting proposal being made by the Kaipara Cruising and Sportfishing Club (KCSC). In short, they are proposing a significant marina upgrade. The project plans to replace the three existing marina fingers, add floating pontoons to each new pier, and provide a facility that allows for improved accessibility regardless of tide levels.

The KCSC supports Tu Tangi Ora Waka Ama, a training and fellowship programme for Kaipara College students and adult teams, together with storage and use of their clubrooms. They also hold various other community events and regattas throughout the calendar year.



### Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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The pier upgrade is also intended to provide safer accessibility and appeal to other community groups, enabling them to provide education in boating and water safety, such as St Johns Cadets, Sea Cadets, Scout groups, and local primary schools. As readers of *Helensville News* may well already know, the Kaipara is the Southern Hemisphere's largest harbour.

I was very pleased to be asked by the Club to pen a letter of support and have now done so.

Ideas about getting in contributions will be very well received! The Club would be particularly pleased to hear from any community organisations with experience in making pitches for funding, the Rodney Local Board, and of course any philanthropists out there!

- Chris Penk

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



## Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

53 – 65 Commercial Road, Helensville

Ph: (09) 420 8747

Email: [bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz](mailto:bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz)

[www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)



# local board matters

## ■ New Eyes, New Perspective

I have been having difficulty seeing and reading for about a year. The headaches and unsteadiness have been increasingly evident. Clearly something had to be done, so I have had surgery to replace the lenses in both eyes. I cannot believe the improvement; to describe this as transformational would be to undersell it. I am bifocal again and learning new things about my environment. All this said, some of what I am seeing is concerning.

Social media is a zoo and folks seem far too willing to champion simple solutions to complex problems. There are always consequences when such superficial but popular approaches are put into action. What we need is a better understanding of the real nature of the problems we are trying to solve before

launching off into some hair-brained crusade.

Speed limits are one of these issues. Despite international experience and good science central government has tossed out the National Speed Management Programme in favour of politically-motivated speed limit increases simply because they are popular.

Our communities will face the increased incidence of serious and life-changing injury, and fatalities because of this.

At the Local Board level, I am seeing similar approaches applied to problem solving, and populist positions being promoted and passionately defended, despite this not having any effect on outcomes. Surely this is the madness of doing the same thing time and time again, but expecting a different outcome?

What I feel we need is a group that values the advice of subject matter experts and specialist staff enough to reconsider their personal and predetermined position on matters before the board?

Oddly this closed-mindedness is not solely exemplified in older members - some of the younger ones are similarly constrained by what they believe. What we do not have enough of is a 'learning culture'. Instead, we have a limited choice of tools to bring to bear on what are often complex issues.

Back when I was working in corporates, we had a quote: "understanding precedes strategy, strategy precedes structure, structure precedes action". Politically we are stuck in an environment where transactional reactions to stimulation are attractive to many, and considered responses to problems are considered politically expensive.

## ■ On a Brighter Note

This is a sad situation, but on a brighter note the Fairer Funding that will see Rodney get an increase in operational budget looks to have been saved from reduction or delayed implementation. This will allow us to implement some community programmes that are standard in most of Auckland but in the past have not been able to be funded in Rodney.

Between now and the end of May, we will be developing our planning for the next financial year which will involve setting our funding priorities and selecting the projects and programmes that best meet the objectives of our Local Board Plan.

## ■ Stand for the Local Board

As always, I would encourage all interested in this sort of thing to consider standing for the Local Board at the next election later this year.



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

## Easter church services

**ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN-METHODIST, HVLE**  
60 Garfield Rd, Helensville. Ph: 420 8868

- April 13th: 9.30am, Palm Sunday.
- April 14th-17th: 9.30am, Holy Week services
- April 17th: 7pm, Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae
- April 18th: 9.30am, Good Friday service.
- April 20th: 9.30am, Easter Sunday service.

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC, HELENSVILLE**  
1 Puriri St, Hvle. Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- April 12th: 6pm, Saturday Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.
- April 17th: 7.30pm, Holy Thursday, Combined Mass of the Lord's Last Supper.
- April 18th: 3pm, Good Friday, Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 19th: 7.30pm, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass
- April 20th: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

**ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, HUAPAI**  
380 SH16, Huapai. Fr. Carlos Guleng. Ph: 420 8110

- April 13th: 9am, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.
- April 18th: 3pm, Good Friday, Passion of the Lord Jesus.
- April 19th: 7pm, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass
- April 20th: 9am, Easter Sunday Mass.

**RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST, PARAKAI**  
1 Fordyce Rd, Parakai. E:  
rivervalleybaptist@gmail.com

- April 18th: 10am, Good Friday service
- April 20th: 10am, Easter Sunday service

**HELENSVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
40 Mill Rd, Helensville.

- April 20th: 10.30am Easter Sunday service.



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## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

### ■ MAY 2025 deadline: Thursday, 24th April, 2025

ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, May 6th, 2025

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

Dave Addison  
Ph: 021 178 5568  
Email: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz

#### ■ Free Subscriptions to Online Edition:

Email: subscribe@helensvilleneews.co.nz

#### 2025 issue dates and deadlines:

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Due out: May 6th	Copy by: Apr 24th
Due out: June 3rd	*Copy by: Apr 20th*

- **Editorial:** Ph 021 178 5568.
- **Editor & Publisher:** Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874.
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- **Disclaimer:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newspaper, but the editor and publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Contributors' views are their own and do not necessarily represent those of Helensville News or its editorial team.
- **Letters to the Editor:** Should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.

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helensville.news

■ www.helensvilleneews.co.nz



## POTLUCK DINNER

South Kaipara Good Food and Our Village Northwest will hold a Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, April 5 in the St Matthews Church lounge, 60 Garfield Road. Locals can arrive from 4.30pm, with the dinner starting an hour later. It's an alcohol-free event, and locals are asked to bring their favourite family dish to share. Our Village will have a hot drinks station with tea, coffee, and biscuits, and people can bring other non-alcoholic drinks if they wish.

## CAR BOOT SALE

The next Helensville Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 8.30am to 12.30pm at 40 Commercial Road, beside the WINZ building (weather permitting). Stalls cost \$15 - book at FIGG, 40 Commercial Road. For more information phone

Holly: 021 488 427 or email: holly@figg.co.nz.

## VILLAGE MARKET

The next Village Market at the Helensville Showgrounds is on Sunday, April 20 from 8.30am to 1pm. Expect plenty of unique and interesting stalls, live music from duo Michelle & Darren, an Easter egg hunt, and more. Local art, crafts and gifts, natural pet health products, preserves, fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers, used bargains and books, food from the market café, plus coffee, tea, and the Lions sausage sizzle.

No dogs except for assistance dogs. A gold coin donation is asked for parking with proceeds going to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts and St John youth. For more information email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

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## Last chance - special community edition

For our June issue this year, we will be repeating our special *Helensville News* issue listing voluntary organisations, community groups, and local clubs in our area. This is FREE, and was very well received last year and in the previous times we produced it over the past decade.

It will follow the same format as before with organisations and clubs grouped in three main categories:

- Community & Service Groups
- Clubs & General Interest Groups
- Sports & Fitness Clubs/Groups.

Now we need you to tell us about your group. It's a great chance to boost the profile of your club or group, and maybe increase your membership.

Most organisations will already have been listed in our 2024 issue, so the first visit: [www.helensville.co.nz/helensvilleneews/groups](http://www.helensville.co.nz/helensvilleneews/groups). There's a link to a PDF of that issue at the top of the page so you can check if you already have a listing. We will also try to contact directly all previously listed groups. If you do have a listing but it needs updating, email your changes to: dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz. If you want a new listing, please email us as much of the information listed on the web page as possible. We can also email you a form if you prefer. The absolute **deadline is Friday, April 18** - sooner is much better.

Please provide as much information as possible - things like what the organisation/club does, membership numbers, how long it's been running, and when meetings or events are held. If your organisation has a logo, email that to us too. The more information you provide us with, the better your listing will be. If email isn't an option, feel free to phone us on 021 178 5568.

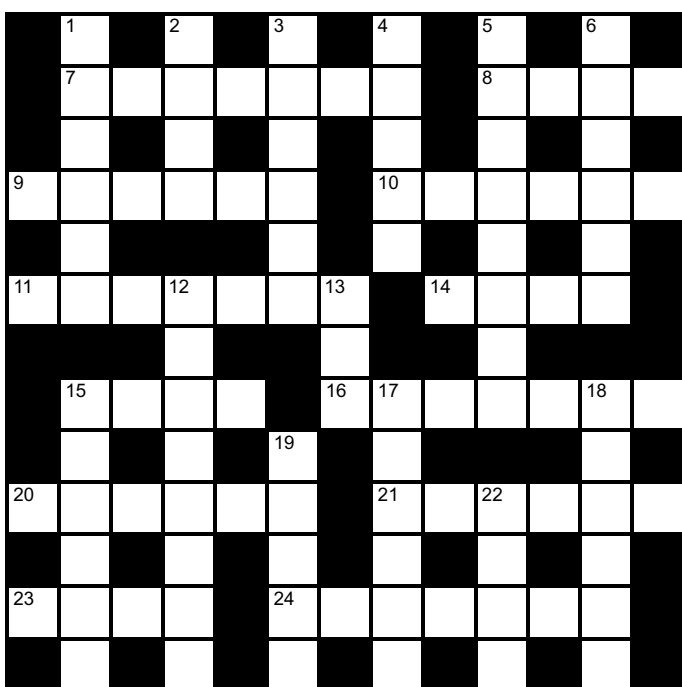
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## crossword



### Across

7. Tomb inscription (7)
8. Crustacean (4)
9. Italian sausage (6)
10. Sweet secretion of flowers (6)
11. Storm (7)
14. Lake or pond (4)
15. Rime (4)
16. Greyish-fawn (7)
20. Major German port (6)
21. Security (6)
23. Heel (4)
24. "The great grey-green, greasy \_\_\_ River" (Kipling) (7)

### Down

1. Distaff (6)
2. Pyramid site (4)
3. Takes fright (6)
4. Repeat rhythmically (5)
5. Frozen dessert (3,5)
6. Injury (6)
12. Companion of a child (8)
13. Lowest card (3)
15. Hard drug (6)
17. Take for granted (6)
18. Legal process (6)
19. Mournful sound (5)
22. Base (4)

### March's Answers

**Across:** 6. Alpha 8. Litter 9. Finn 10. Soulless 11. Unfair 13. Atoms 15. Bah 17. Glory 18. Exodus 20. Lengthen 22. Rite 23. Uranus 24. Alibi.

**Down:** 1. Rational 2. Upon 3. Aloud 4. Stiletto 5. Eels 7. Absorb 12. Arrogant 14. Mountain 16. Hernia 19. Those 21. Ears 22. Rein.

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