

## Helensville Show - it's war!

War is set to break out at the Helensville Show on Saturday, February 22 - but it will be a casualty-free occasion.

One of the headline features at this year's 121st annual show will be mock Second World War battle by the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society (HRS), which will be bringing both Allied and German 'troops' to the show.

The battle will be held on the hillside adjacent to the sideshows around 1pm, and will feature New Zealand infantrymen, soldiers from the US Airborne, and - hiss - the German baddies battling it out. Expect plenty of noise with real guns firing blanks - very likely including the Bren Gun machine

gun.

The society will set up displays depicting typical WWII German, Kiwi, and American tents, decked out with radios, field equipment, and guns for visitors to look at. Between 20 and 30 society members will be dressed in full uniform, and a number of them will put on parade and rifle drill demonstrations throughout the day.

While details were still being finalised at press time, there should be a WWII jeep or two on show, hopefully joined by a Bren Gun Carrier.

The equipment the re-enactors use is almost entirely authentic, including the weapons which include German Mausers rifles, Thompson submachine guns, Bren guns, and various other rifles and machine guns.

Members will be on hand to explain to the public about their equipment, and children may have the opportunity to have a photo taken wearing a helmet and holding a rifle.

The HRS put on a similar display at the Show in 2016 which was hugely popular, and they also took part in Helensville's 150th anniversary parade in 2012.

The society initially formed two units, one Allied and one German, for a TVNZ display battle, and went on to provide extras for several local television programmes including 'The Charles Upham Story', 'The Call Up', and 'Heroes', as well as several short films.

It has toured New Zealand, appearing at the Warbirds Over Wanaka, Ardmore, Classic Fighters Omaka, Wings Over Wairarapa, Whangārei, and Matamata airshows, the Motat Military Live Day, various gun and military shows, and in many ANZAC and RSA parades.

The society has military re-

enactment units based on the Kiwi 18th Battalion; the German 100th Gebirgsjäger Regiment; and the American 82nd Airborne Division.

HRS members take part in monthly

training days which include foot and rifle drill, weapon safety skills, tactical training, and World War II history.

For more on Helensville Show attractions see pages 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10.



• Members of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society

## WINNER!

Congratulations to Laikynn Stead-Hill, who won our December giveaway of a Helensville Show goody bag worth approximately \$180.

Laikynn's name was drawn from a large number of entries received.

Her prize includes two adult entry tickets to Helensville Show on February 22 (children 16 and under are free); vouchers for any four drinks up to \$20; a \$50 voucher for the sideshows and amusements; a \$50 food voucher for lunch from Mobile Catering; four single serve ice creams (up to \$20); and two Helensville Show shopping bags.

"My whānau feels very privileged to have won such an awesome prize, and we're all really looking forward to attending the show in February," says Laikynn.

## Plans to commemorate historic battle

Helensville's Te Awaroa Museum is looking forward to commemorating the Battle of Te Ika-a-Ranganui.

"This watershed event occurred in 1825, and there will be a range of commemorative events across the Kaipara, including at the museum, to mark 200 years since this battle took place near Kaiwaka," says Helensville & District Historical Society vice-president Megan Williams.

Plans for what the museum will do to mark the bicentenary of the battle are still being formulated.

The Battle of Te Ika-a-Ranganui was an important conflict in shaping the Kaipara, as approximately 500 heavily-armed Ngāpuhi defeated warriors from the confederation of Ngāti Whātua tribes. Although the battle was hard-fought, and hard won by Ngāpuhi, it has gone down as one of the fiercest battles of the Musket Wars. Ngāpuhi forces broke into smaller taua (war parties) and pursued surviving Ngāti Whātua far and wide, including into the South Kaipara.

"It was after this that all but a handful of Ngāti Whātua men left Kaipara and withdrew to Waikato for some years. While all the land on the Kaipara river was uninhabited there is evidence that Paieka Te Hekeua of Oruawharo visited this area at intervals and thus kept the claim of Ngāti Whātua possession alive," says Megan.



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## editorial



Is it time?

Has the time finally come to say goodbye to a beloved Kaukapakapa institution, the old Dye's slaughterhouse on SH16? The tiny historic building has been deteriorating for many years, and I believe belated attempts to preserve its remains - while undoubtedly with the best intentions - have been too little, too late.

These days it is little more than a pile of scaffolding with only parts of two walls and the roof still attached. Is it still an historic building, or has it become little more than firewood? The scaffolding is pretty much the most noticeable thing about it now.

It's such a shame as it was a cute little building in its day - and probably one of the most photographed structures in Kaukapakapa. Above are some photos I've taken of Dye's slaughterhouse over the years, showing its gradual decay - the first is from 2003, then 2010, and finally as it is today. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

While on the subject of decrepit old buildings, I believe the old Oddfellows lodge building, beside the Grand Hotel, is overdue for a demolition notice. While I hate to see buildings with historic significance disappear (even if in this case with little aesthetic value), from a layman's point of view the Oddfellows building looks well beyond salvage, and in its present state certainly does nothing to improve Helensville's northern entrance.

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

## Music projects for old and young

Helensville musician Jimmy Christmas, co-founder and former singer/guitarist for internationally successful kiwi rockers The D4, has set up an adult 'band factory' for budding local musicians.

He is also planning a workshop and development programme for youth aged 15 to 19 years.

Jimmy (right) has set up the programmes under his Magnus Octopus music mentoring initiative, which aims to empower people through the "transformative power of music."

The Magnus Band Factory for Adults is an eight-week programme at which participants will work closely with Jimmy to refine skills in songwriting, jamming, and performing. Full backline, instruments, and amp equipment will be provided for the sessions.

The band factory will run for two-hour sessions on Tuesday evenings from 7pm, starting on February 4, and costs \$295. It will run out of the Kaipara College music department in conjunction with Nick Roberts and the Academy of Performing Arts Kaipara.

"I am also working with Rodney Local Board to deliver a youth-oriented program starting with a two-day free workshop in the Helensville War Memorial Hall on February 1 and 2, and then an eight-week programme starting on February 10," says Jimmy.

Details and costs for the youth programme were still being finalised at print time, but it will be aimed at bringing creative ideas to life, developing musical skills including songwriting, performing, recording, and jamming, and learning about the music industry. "I am incredibly passionate about working with young people to find a voice through the creative medium of songwriting and musical performance," says Jimmy.

During his time as guitarist, co-songwriter, and lead frontman with The D4, Jimmy toured globally and shared stages with legendary acts such as Iggy Pop and the Foo Fighters.



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*Jana Mills*



# Headstone repairs finally completed

Repairs to the final headstone at the All Saints Kaukapakapa Cemetery have been completed.

A number of years ago a 148-year-old wooden headstone was found under All Saints Church, and as no corresponding plot could be found it was passed into the care of Te Awaroa Museum in Helensville. It stayed there until the decision was made to return it to the church. Wooden headstones are rare as they are prone to rotting at the base - but in 1875 timber was the most available material for headstones.

The final headstone repair was to that of Fanny Johnstone who died on August 27, 1898, aged 50. She was the wife of Henry de Harcourt Johnstone and mother of Sydney (died 1876, aged 1 year and 10 months).

Her fallen over and broken headstone has now been repaired and reinstated, with the wood headstone of her son Sydney attached to the reverse side. Sydney's father died by suicide two and a half years after the death of his wife and is buried nearby.

"Our thanks to Steven, Valu, and Isea from Monumental Headstones and Plaques for their care and respect," says Cemetery Committee member Megan Williams.

The headstone project started in 2020 when Megan read on Facebook about an organisation called the Remembrance Army who would restore veteran's graves as a free, voluntary service.

"I knew the All Saints Cemetery wasn't in great shape and did a bit of research and found around 30 graves that qualified," she says. That led to the Remembrance Army restoring those headstones.

Megan says with the veterans' graves completed it was apparent the rest of the cemetery wasn't in great condition, with a number of headstones fallen over and broken.

"I talked to the cemetery committee about trying to sort the situation out. We established about 35 graves needed attention, from minor repairs to some which were quite major."

The restorations were split into three lots, with Thompson Memorials doing the first two and Monumental Headstones and Plaques handling the last round.

The restoration project cost about \$17,500. Megan put the project on Facebook several times with names listed, and some families came forward from that to donate. Grev Walker chased up some of the others that he knew were still in the area, and again some of

those donated.

Megan says the donated funds covered around 40 percent of the project, with the Cemetery Committee covered the balance from available funds.



• Above: workers put the finishing touches on the final headstone and Below: the restored Johnstone headstone



## Free Circus in the Park

A free Circus in the Park event will be held at Rautawhiri Park on Sunday, March 2 from 2pm to 4pm - giving locals young and old the chance to learn circus skills like juggling, hula hoop, acrobatics, ribbons, and spinning plates.

Run by Circability as part of Auckland Council's Out and About summer programme, it's free for locals to attend thanks to funding from Rodney Local Board, and suitable for all ages and abilities.

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# Former dairy company staff gather



• L-R, Back Row: Danny Jones, Peter Ward, Laurence Stokes, Barry Bradly, Alister Menzies, Hilton Jones, Gary Sherman, Wayne Bradly, Tony Cooper. Middle Row: Tony Milina, Len Stevens (supplier), Vic Marr, Ian Fullam, Alan Robinson, Walter Marsh, Morley Faulkner, Ron Cowper, Rhys Montgomery. Front Row: Judith Davidson (nee Harris), Beth Shepherd (nee Moore), Noelene Lawson (nee Strong), Noelene Cowper (nee Blundell), Judith Curren (nee Allen), John Pikett, Keith Willis (Director), Alan Scott, Waldon Ellett.

Almost 30 former staff members who worked at the Kaipara Dairy Company (KDC) in Helensville gathered for this group photograph, taken at the Helensville Showgrounds.

In its heyday the KDC was the biggest industry and employer in town.

The get-together was organised by Helensville Show manager Shona Addison to tie in with the 'dairy'

theme for this year's Show, to be held at the showgrounds on Saturday, February 22.

Te Awaroa Museum's display in the Show's special dairy-themed tent will feature memorabilia and information from the days of the KDC in Helensville along with other dairy-related historical information.

See our main article on page 9 for more on the dairy-themed attractions at Helensville Show.

## Drop-in midwifery clinic closes

Te Hā Tama Ariki, the Helensville Birthing Centre's midwifery-led drop-in clinic, closed on January 31.

"Despite the clinic's success and its alignment with Ministry of Health objectives, we are forced to close due to insufficient financial support," says Paula Daye, chair of the Helensville Birthing Centre.

"This decision was exceptionally difficult as we know the importance of the clinic to our community."

Te Hā Tama Ariki was launched in August 2023 and provided free services including pregnancy tests, midwifery, and postpartum support. It also ran workshops on various topics and facilitated pop-up car seat safety checks with Auckland Transport.

"It served as a safe, non-judgmental space for mothers, including in hard-to-reach communities," says Paula. "A special thanks to midwives Eartha Healy and Tulsi Parsons for their exceptional expertise and compassion."

Despite community support and successful fundraising efforts, including \$2100 raised through an Auckland Marathon Givealittle campaign, the clinic couldn't secure sustainable long-term funding.

"We explored numerous avenues but sadly these were insufficient. Undoubtedly we are in challenging financial times, and cuts in New Zealand's health sector have affected many similar services."

While the drop-in clinic has closed, Paula says they are considering other ways to support the community, such as volunteer-led groups - and adds any new services will continue to be inclusive and accessible.

The Helensville Birthing Centre Trust Board stresses the Helensville Birthing Centre itself will remain open and continue to support families through pregnancy, labour, birth, breastfeeding, postpartum, and early parenting. See: [www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz).

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# Grace 'slaying it' for charity

Woodhill 11-year-old Grace Te Aotonga is using her recently set up body care product business, Slay!, to raise money for charity.

While sales of most of the products are helping to raise funds for Grace to continue her years-long dance hobby, each month she makes a special Soap of Hope - all the proceeds of which go to her chosen charity.

In December, she donated \$100 to West Auckland based Give a Kid a Blanket. Her January donation was to go to South Kaipara Good Food, and after that she plans to give to another local charity, Outwest Youth.

Grace's parents Esther and Dave run the Helensville RD2 postal route, and their children - including Grace - earn money helping sort all the 'junk' mail.

But Grace has been dancing since age two, covering most disciplines - contemporary, jazz, ballet, and tap, as well as musical theatre - and needed more funds to cover her fees and other costs. That, combined with a need to find skincare products suitable for her psoriasis, led to her founding Slay!.

All the ingredients for her products - which include body butters; body, foot and lip scrubs; lip balms; foot soaks; and soaps, are ethically sourced, organic, and vegan friendly.

She has learned through trial and error how to make the products, following recipes purchased online. Mum Esther says it's important to use these recipes, rather than the many free ones available, as they have been stability tested to 43°C to ensure the end product will last well.

Only starting last October, Grace has been making her products in the family kitchen - but says it had "taken over the whole house." She has now been given a

portacom which has been fixed up and outfitted as a proper production facility.

Grace designed her own logo, and with the help of her uncle Timothy has professional-looking labels and a website - sheslays.co.nz. Product containers are currently sourced online through Temu, but she says once she is making more money she aims to find more sustainable packaging, hopefully locally.

While she makes all the products herself, Esther says Grace has to be supervised when making the soap, as it has lye in it which is caustic and requires special protective gear to work with it. She says making the products can be quite technical: "it's a lot more involved than we thought it would be."

Grace has already been to both Albany and Helensville markets, and had a successful stand at Big Little Local. Next, locals will be able to find her and her products at the Helensville Show, where she is running a trade stand.

The name 'Slay!' comes from Grace's dance competitions, where she says the competitors all tell each other to "slay it" when heading into a test.



• Grace with some of her Slay products

## Kaipara Awa art exhibition

'Kaipara Awa - A River That Connects Us' is Helensville Art Centre's current exhibition, with works relating to our local river and harbour. It runs until Saturday, February 22.

A new Youth Art Group for ages 12 to 14 is starting soon at the Art Centre. Lead by Kiri Abraham it will explore a variety of art forms such as drawing, painting, printing and sculpture, with an emphasis on participants giving things a go. It runs on Wednesdays from February 12 to April 2 from 3.30pm to 5pm and costs \$120 per term.

After school children's classes for Term 1 for ages six to 11 years resume on Tuesdays from February 11 to April 1 and Thursdays from February 13 to April 3. The cost is \$120 with all materials provided.

Kiri will take these classes as well, experimenting with painting, drawing, 3D work, clay, textiles, and printing.

A new evening group called Sketchy Bunch is a six-week untutored group on Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm, starting on February 13. The \$40 fee covers venue hire and occasional models and it is aimed at those interested in joining a group of comfortable drawers.

Email: [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz) for more information about these groups or to book.

'Gas Bag' returns every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm at the Art Centre. This is for anyone who would like to have a space to work on their creative practice while joining in lively and friendly conversations.

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## Zoo visit library summer highlight

A visit by Nic and Tory from Auckland Zoo's education team was the highlight of Helensville Library's summer reading programme.

Thirty children and 20 adults spent a fun and educational hour with Nic and Tory in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. They learned about enrichment for animals, and made some enrichment toys for their own animals.

They also learnt about the work of the zoo vets, and practiced their skills on soft toys. Display tables were set up which included things such as x-rays for which the children had to guess which animal they came from.

Anyone wanting to learn more about the work of the zoo's education team can visit their website at: [learn.aucklandzoo.co.nz](http://learn.aucklandzoo.co.nz).

Helensville Library will be at the Helensville Show on Saturday, February 22.

Leading up to the Show the library's children's crafternoon sessions have been focused on creating entries for the youth arts and craft classes.

Entries to the youth section are free, and the library is a designated drop-off point for youth entries for those who can't make it to the Show office at the Helensville Showgrounds during their opening hours.

More information on children's classes is available



• Children listening to Nic from Auckland Zoo

on the Show website: [helensvilleshow.co.nz](http://helensvilleshow.co.nz).

The library's regular programmes are as follows:

- 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, February 27, 10am to 11am. Bring along a book you've recently read to share with fellow readers.

Visit the Library Facebook page for any updates

## Award-winning comic to lead local comedy show

Award-winning Irish comedian Alan McElroy will host the first live comedy show at the revamped Original Kaipara Tavern on Saturday, February 8.

McElroy, a stand-up comedian who has lived in New Zealand for the past decade, is fresh off winning 'Best MC' at the 2024 NZ Comedy Guild Awards, making him the ideal person to host the evening.

There are three other top-billed acts, plus three supporting comedians.

Paul Douglas is probably the best-known, a master story teller and regular headliner at the Classic Comedy Club in Queen Street, Auckland who has also featured on 7 Days and TVNZ's Comedy Gala.

Logan Kitney will be bringing magic to the stage - literally - as he combines hard hitting but polished comedy with magic tricks that create the punchline to the stories he weaves.

Anthony Wilson, who lives in Parakai and is organising the Helensville event, rounds out the lead acts. A former full-time comedian known for pushing boundaries, he now considers himself more of a hobbyist and is taking the opportunity to showcase his 'out the gate' stories and well-written jokes.

Craig Westenberg, Renee Church, and Bridget Davies (who grew up at Kaukapakapa) are three up-and-coming support acts who will round out the evening's bill.

Anthony says he's hoping for an audience of around 120 at the Original Kaipara Tavern. All going well, the comedy shows could become a monthly event. The February 8 evening runs from 6.30pm to 9pm and is R16. Tickets are \$20 plus fees and are available through Eventfinda, or at the bar.



• Comedian Alan McElroy will MC the comedy evening

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# Local kids have fun youth days

Groups of more than 30 youth got to take part in two Youth Days - one for boys and one for girls - late last year thanks to Dairy Flat-based charity Feeling Fab.

Feeling Fab worked with Equine Films, which provides horses, wranglers and stunt riders to the film industry from their Goudy Road, Helensville property, to put on the day.

Equine Film's Wayne and Chelsea McCormack and their team shared their big screen film-making experiences and put on displays of stunt riding, liberty riding, and whip cracking. The children got to try riding and lassoing - and sword fighting for the boys - and could pet miniature ponies. Feeling Fab provided hot dogs, ice cream, a coffee truck, and goodie boxes.

"A great time was had by all, as reflected in the smiles and testimonials from the kids and families who attended," says Feeling Fab admin co-ordinator Brooke.

She says the team at Feeling Fab thank the Sky City Community Trust and Oceanbridge Shipping for sponsoring the two events.

Feeling Fab is a local charity run by a small team of volunteers, led by Elizabeth York-Caines. The 'feeling fab' concept was born following the death of Elizabeth's husband Allan in a car accident, which left her to raise three young

boys.

The charity provides 'Wellness Days' for people in local communities who are navigating grief, loss, trauma, and bereavement, with a focus on

Wellness Days and the programme has expanded to include both men's and youth Wellness Days.

Feeling Fab's goal is to take their programme to small towns



• Trying out lassoing at the boys day

bringing joy, support and connection to those people.

In the early days the events were known as Pamper Days and focused purely on women; they included hair styling, makeup, nails, hand massage, reiki, and food, and gave participants the opportunity to connect with other people going through shared experiences. Over time, the Pamper Days evolved into

and rural communities throughout New Zealand. They hope to hold more similar local events in the future, depending on funding.

The charity's team feels it is a privilege to help people and make a difference to them at a stressful transitional time in their lives.

To nominate someone for one of the wellness days, email: hello@feelingfab.org.nz or visit: www.feelingfab.org.nz.



## Zaktakular? Spectacular!

Spectacular one-man circus performer Zaktakular (left) will be a highlight entertainment attraction at this month's Helensville Show.

German-born Zach Washer, who over almost 20 years has performed at more than 200 festivals and events world-wide, will be performing for Show crowds throughout the day, juggling, fire eating, and doing acrobatics.

He is known for his loud and friendly persona, joking with the crowds and often pulling in audience members to help with his acts.

## South Kaipara Men's Trust

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# HELENSVILLE SHOW

## Saturday, February 22nd

From 9am at the Helensville Showgrounds

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- » Terrier Race – enter your Foxie or Terrier
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- » Sideshows & rides
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# It's Showtime folks!

This month's Helensville Show will put the spotlight on the local dairy industry.

The 121st Show on Saturday, February 22 will feature a wide range of events, activities, and displays focusing on all things dairy - an industry with a long and proud history in our town.

There will be a giant milk tanker on site which the kids - and adults too - will be able to climb inside to see all the high-tech computerisation.

Right beside the tanker, a special dairy-themed display tent will feature cheese tasting (and possibly other dairy delights to try out); a Kids' Corner with quizzes and activities; information on the 'grass to glass' story; butter churning; dairy farmers to chat with; displays of memorabilia, memories, and history of the Kaipara Dairy Company including lists of personnel over the years; and the dairying history of the South Kaipara courtesy of Helensville's Te Awaroa Museum.

At the nearby trade stand for Farm Source, Show visitors will be able to make their own milkshake - by riding a bicycle!

The dairy theme will also feature a milking demonstration, and there are a number of special dairy-themed classes in the photography, baking, floral art, and craft sections.

Helensville Show's popular Guess the Weight competition, which boasts \$100 in prize money, is also angled around dairy; the three things to be guessed this year are being kept secret until Show Day.

The Show's children's cardboard cut-out decorating competition run through local schools - now in its 21st year - will this year feature dairy cows and calves. Colourful and often amusing, these works of bovine art will be displayed inside and outside the main show building, and at other locations around the grounds.

In other attractions, a huge highlight will be the return of wood chopping to the Helensville Show for the first time in four years.

And as added excitement, the New Zealand Strong Man competition will return to the show after its inaugural visit to the Show last year.

A mock World War II battle and displays and demonstrations by the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society will be a big crowd draw - especially when they fire up a machine gun - see our separate article on the front page.

One-man circus act Zach Washer - aka Zaktakular - will be thrilling the crowds with his performances - see page 7.

One of the most popular attractions from last year's 'wool' Show theme will

be returning, a mockup of an old shearing shed with live hand shearing demonstrations throughout the day by former World and New Zealand Champion Allan Oldfield.

The shed will be decked out with old shearing items like combs and hand pieces, shears, grinders, wool presses, moccasins, paperwork, and historic local wool brands and stencils.

Universal Cranes will have their giant mobile cranes on hand, and Tricky Tree Removals will have a portable sawmill on show. The Kaipara Classic Car Club and the NZ Jeep Club will be putting on displays, and there will be a completely original condition 93-year-old Model A Ford pickup on hand too.

Show regulars Brightside Spinners will be spinning wool, and the local knitting group will be showing visitors the basics of knitting.

The ever-popular Sideshow and Amusement Zone will return as usual

the day.

Highland Dancing is a perennial Show favourite, while blacksmith Chris Ellwood will be demonstrating his trade with an interactive aspect.

As well as the regular entertaining pet dog competition, there will be a 'choreodography' display of dancing dogs put on by the Nor West Dog Training Club. And one of the highlights of last year's Show - the Vets North Terrier race - will be back for more canine mayhem.

All entrants in the Terrier Race this year will receive a participation gift courtesy of Vets North, and be up for prizes for first place, wackiest, most chilled, and the wanderer.

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

The range of entries in the indoor displays is something Helensville Show

highlight the farming aspect of our community through displays and competitions of animals, including cattle, sheep, horses and mini horses, poultry, pigs, goats, and mini donkeys.

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

130 trade stands will cover everything from farming and lifestyle supplies to gifts, crafts, homewares, gardening goods and more.

Once again a number of community organisations have been provided with free trade spaces for the Show, including St John who will be teaching CPR and the use of AEDs, Rodney Beekeepers who will have a live bee hive, the Kumeu Small Landowners Association, Vintage Engine Restorers Auckland, the Compost Collective, Helensville Lions, CAB Helensville, KMR/Forest Bridge Trust, Helensville



with rides for young show visitors to enjoy, including a 30m long Resene Ride the Rainbow slide, Laughing Clowns, a 4-in-1 Bungy from Go Vertical, and a Disney Cups ride. If a free tractor ride from the carpark isn't enough, Show visitors can also hop aboard the Kombi Train for rides around the grounds.

For adults, the live music on the main stage this year will come from rockers Ventura Highway, with local country artist Kenny Luond on the Community Stage; for the more traditional at heart there will also be the HBC Pipe Band.

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

Last year's hugely popular tug-of-war will return, once again catering for everyone from small children up to adults.

For those who prefer to stand back and watch rather than participate, there will be a raft of displays on throughout

is known for; expect hundreds of entries in the baking, preserves, giant pumpkin, floral, garden produce, crafts, children's, painting, and photography sections.

New classes this year include Bloke's Cake Baking, Biggest Thistle, Decorated Pumpkins, Holy Cow Floral Art, Adult Lego, a Rural Rusty Creation, and many more

All the activities are sure to have everyone hungry, and there will be a varied offering of food outlets, everything from ethnic, vegan, and gluten-free options through to the traditional show fare of chips, hotdogs, and candy floss.

For grownups, popular Helensville brewery Liberty Brewing will be back running the bar at the Show - this year featuring their new gin release as well as their prize winning beers.

Show visitors can bring their own water bottles and refill them for free from the Laser Plumbing Silverdale truck in the trade area; both they and Vets North have dog drink stations.

Helensville Show has its roots in this area's agricultural and pastoral heritage, and the 2025 show will as always

Community-led Restoration, Rodney Neighbourhood Support, L'Arche Mt Tabor, and Rural Women Makarau.

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

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

QR codes around the grounds will link to a programme of Show events and attractions, making it simple to avoid missing any highlights.

Schedules listing all the classes people can enter at the Show are available online at [helensvilleshow.co.nz](http://helensvilleshow.co.nz), or can be collected from the box by the showgrounds entrance, from Helensville Library, or from Farmlands, Farm Source, or PGG Wrightson in Helensville.

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## Get-together to remember long-time Helensville resident



A memorial gathering will be held in a few days' time for long-time Helensville resident Betty Harvey (née Miers) who lived in the town from 1967 to 2012 and who died recently.

Betty (above) worked for many years at Collins Radio in Commercial Road, and her late husband Dexter worked for the Power Board. Both were active members of the Helensville Bowling Club, the Kaipara Memorial RSA, Senior Citizens, and the Country & Western Club.

She passed away aged 86, and a memorial get-together for friends and family will be held at the Helensville Bowling Club in Awaroa Road starting 12.30pm on Sunday, February 9.

Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to Adele, phone: 027 771 1799.

## Service centre update

The next Auckland Council rates instalment is due at the end of February.

For options on how to pay your rates visit: <https://tinyurl.com/helensvillerates>.

You can pay by card at the Helensville Service Centre desk, or by cash at the Kiwibank counter inside Helensville PaperPlus Select. You will need your rates notice with the barcode for this - that can be printed for you at the Service Centre desk.

To report a problem with any Council property that may need repair, visit this page on the Auckland Council website: <https://tinyurl.com/councilproblem>.

You can also phone Auckland Council 24/7 on 09 301 0101 or visit the Helensville Service Centre.

Hours are: Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm; Saturday: 9am to 1pm.

## Show Tidbits

■ People who buy their tickets to the Helensville Show online before Thursday, February 20 will go in the draw to win a \$120 meat pack.

Tickets can be purchased in advance through Humanitix at: <https://events.humanitix.com/helensvilleshow> - or scan this QR code.

Tickets will also be on sale at the gate, with Eftpos available - however buying in advance saves time when entering the Show and gives a chance to win. Adult tickets are \$15 per person (plus fees) and children 16 and under are free.



■ Entries for all classes for the show can be made online through the Showday website: [showday.online/show/helensville](http://showday.online/show/helensville). First time users will need to register before entering.

Entries can also be emailed to: [info@helensvilleshow.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshow.co.nz) and payment made online, or dropped in at the showgrounds office Monday to Friday 10.30am to 4pm.

Schedules listing all classes are available at [helensvilleshow.co.nz](http://helensvilleshow.co.nz) or from Helensville Library.

■ For the first time this year, QR codes around the grounds will link to a programme of Show events and attractions, making it simple for visitors to avoid missing any highlights.

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

■ People wanting to enter their pet dog at the Helensville Show - either in the Vets North Family Pet Dog Show or in the Terrier Race - should visit the Show website at [helensvilleshow.co.nz/helensville-show-information/dogs/](http://helensvilleshow.co.nz/helensville-show-information/dogs/) for conditions about entering dogs in those events.

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## Helensville Railway Museum



### OPEN SUNDAYS

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## Poker run raises \$9500 for local brigade



• Motorbikes cover Makiri Street in Helensville for the Poker Run

- Photo: Shane Gibbons

Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade is better off by \$9500 thanks to money raised at the annual Five Station Poker Run, held late last year.

While not quite a record, an impressive 236 motorbikes took part in the ride, which took a scenic route around the five local volunteer fire stations which take turns each year to host the event and benefit from the money raised. Next year Kaukapakapa station will be the beneficiary.

At each station riders are issued with a playing card, and at the end of the ride, those with the best poker hands win prizes. There were no incidents on the ride, and with perfect weather plenty of public turned out to watch the motorcyclists.

## med centre notes

Happy New Year from the whole team at Kaipara Medical Centre.

Our new Acute Care Walk-in Service that started in November has been exceptionally well used by the community - and very well received too. This was clearly a service that was needed locally. We appreciate the positive feedback we have received about this service.

We have now changed the start time of the Walk-in Clinic as we found many people were queuing to be seen earlier than our start time. It now runs from 8.30am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.

The Walk-in Clinic is for people who experience sudden illness, accidents, or injuries that do not appear to be life threatening but can't wait until the next day. If this is the case and you need an 'on the day appointment' you can just walk

into Kaipara Medical Centre to be seen. This service is only for patients enrolled at KMC and operates at standard appointment costs. Please note there may be a wait time depending on the number of people visiting, and we operate on a triage basis, meaning more seriously ill patients will receive priority care.

Congratulations to our Nurse Manager Jo Reid, who is well known to many in the community and is doing a fantastic job of running our nursing team. She has recently completed her Prescriber in Community Health qualification. If you come into the Walk-in Clinic then you may see Jo, who can see and treat you for minor illnesses such as a sore throat, urinary tract infection, or wound infection. Congratulations Jo on this amazing achievement.

In other news:

- Kaipara Medical Centre is still open for new patient enrolments. Please see our website or speak to one of our reception team for more details.
- A reminder about the online patient portal - MyIndici. If you are not already signed up for this then please consider doing so for easy repeat prescription requests, booking appointments online, and reviewing your test results easily. See our website for more details and speak to our reception staff to sign up for this service.

For more information visit [www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz](http://www.kaiparamedicalcentre.co.nz) or email [admin@kaiparamed.co.nz](mailto:admin@kaiparamed.co.nz) or find us on Facebook.

- Dr Kathryn Elcock  
Clinical Lead  
Kaipara Medical Centre

# \$15k grant for SKGF

South Kaipara Good Food (SKGF) has received a grant of \$15,000 to help it continue its work of reducing food waste and providing food security in the Helensville area.

It's one of around 30 food rescue organisations that collect food from every Woolworths or Countdown store across New Zealand. This financial year Woolworths NZ will distribute around \$1m to its food rescue partners, including customer donations for food rescue.

SKGF is also getting great reviews for its latest endeavour, Kai Nourish. Set up last May, it's a collaboration between local community agencies, a philanthropic chef, and SKGF. Local support agencies highlighted the large number of local people unable to cook for themselves in the short term. Kai Nourish provides pre-cooked meals which simply need re-heating for people in situations such as undergoing chemotherapy, having an illness which requires bed rest, the end of life process, and those with significant mental health issues.

Paul, a local chef who hails from Nigeria, uses food rescued by SKGF to prepare about 150 of these meals each month. The meals are based on what food is at hand, but have included mince bolognese, a broccoli and blue cheese soup, basil pasta (made with fresh basil from SKGF gardens), frittata, and a stew. Some are gluten free and dairy free.

Kai Nourish was started as a pilot but it soon became obvious it was a necessary service in the South Kaipara community.



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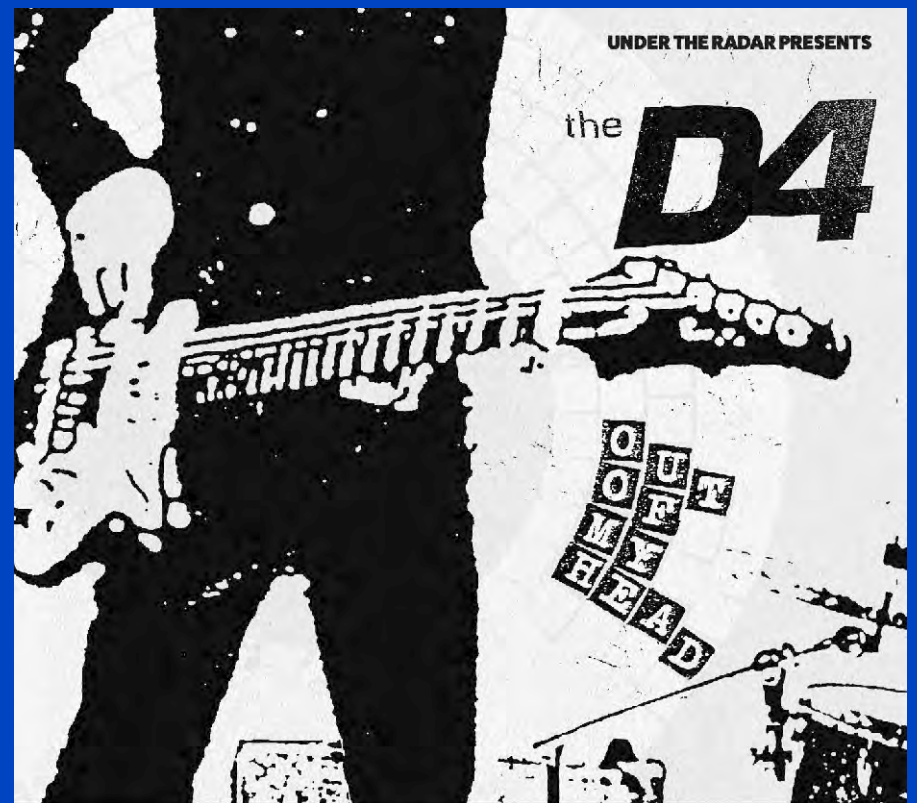
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# the business

February is all go as we gear up for a great 2025.

We are hosting a fantastic Employer Services Expo on Wednesday, February 19 at the Country Club Huapai. At the expo we will have presenters from the Ministry of Social Development, Here Toitu, Ember, and Out West Youth who will showcase all the free employer services they have to offer.



This is a small expo so registrations are essential. Make sure you head to our website and go to What's On to register your seats.

Did you know that in the North West as an employer you are entitled to:

- Free recruitment services;
- Free driver license training for employees;
- Free support to employees who are injured and need assistance to work and who fall outside ACC;
- Free advice and support;
- Salary subsidies for employees, and much more.

The annual Helensville Show will be held on Saturday, February 22 and this will be one of the biggest shows ever. Trade stalls are sold out and the showgrounds will be packed with lots to do and see. Make sure you get down to the Show and see what is on offer.

If you have been concerned about your digital safety, and are looking for tips to make sure your team members don't accidentally click on the wrong link, John King is hosting a free Digital Security Workshop on Wednesday, March 5.

John will showcase how easy it is for hackers to impersonate your business when sending spam, how to protect against compromised accounts, how to check whether your emails have been 'blacklisted', and how to get easy reporting on your systems so you can see what is going on.

This is a MUST DO workshop. Head to our website and click on What's On to register for this event.

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

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

# councillor comment

When Wayne Brown campaigned to become Auckland Mayor in 2022 he stood on a platform which included 'taking back control of council organisations'.

On arriving in the Mayor's office, he was confronted with the Auckland Council's budget hole of \$295 million.

It took a bit of work but Mayor Brown came up with a plan that was supported by councillors to address this shortfall and to get things back on track without imposing huge rate increases on property owners.

Now it is time to get on with restoring democratic accountability over the very organisations (Council Controlled Organisations or CCOs) Auckland Council is supposed to run - Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku (property development), and Tataki Auckland Unlimited (economic development).

In this year's council budget-setting process this is exactly what is being proposed to Aucklanders - bringing back democratic accountability while tackling inefficient decision-making and wasteful spending.

There are long-standing issues with the CCO model that have allowed these organisations to make decisions, and spend money, in a way that causes

concern and confusion among those picking up the bill - the ratepayer - with very little scrutiny.

We need to make structural and cultural change to remove inefficiencies, poorly aligned strategies, and to strengthen democratic accountability.

This will improve public trust and confidence, cost effectiveness, and overcome the duplication of services funded by the ratepayer.

CCOs absorb over half of Auckland Council's annual operating budget of around \$6.4 billion and control two-thirds of the region's publicly owned assets, valued at almost \$47 billion.

They are 40 percent funded from rates collected. There is no plausible argument for the people elected by the public to not have proper oversight of these organisations.

Mayor Brown is proposing Auckland Transport (AT) be put on a short leash while he continues discussions with the Government about the legislation required to make the desired changes.

In the meantime, he has proposed immediate steps to begin the process of taking back power from AT. These measures include Auckland Council assuming control of AT's back-office functions.

This means Auckland Council taking back responsibility for all regulatory, policy, and strategic planning functions for which AT does not have a statutory controlling role.

Unlike Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku and Tataki Auckland Unlimited do not require a legislation change to bring them back under Council.

Eke Panuku will be disestablished, with urban regeneration and property management coming back in-house under council control.

All policy, strategy and planning functions would also return to the council, with local boards having greater decision-making power over local urban amenity projects like playgrounds and street improvements, so there is a community-focused approach.

Tataki Auckland Unlimited will be retained to manage regional facilities such as Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland Zoo, theatres, and stadiums. However, economic development, destination marketing, and major events would be consolidated within the council.

These are sensible changes that allow representatives elected by the people to have proper oversight of what is happening with public money.

This will all be happening early this year.

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



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## HELENSVILLE NEWS - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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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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# Health Trust appoints new chair

Ali Seakens has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Helensville District Health Trust.

She brings extensive experience and a proven track record in governance. Since 2014, she has served as a board member of Parent Aid North West, including eight years as chairperson.

Her leadership, expertise, and vision are expected to play a key role in driving the success and growth of the Health Trust.

Also joining the Trust are new community trustees, Nicola Keen-Biggelaar and Mark Dennis, who both bring significant governance experience to their roles.

"We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to [outgoing chair] Rory MacGillycuddy for his invaluable contributions. Rory's dedication and impact on the Trust's mission have been profound, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours, says James Scott, general manager of the Helensville District Health Trust.

# town talk

## ■ CAR BOOT SALE

The next Helensville Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 8.30am to 12.30pm at 40 Commercial Road, beside the WINZ building (weather permitting). Stalls are \$15, book at FIGG, 44 Commercial Road. For more information phone Holly on 021 488 427 or email: holly@figg.co.nz.

## ■ FOOD TRUCKS VISIT

The Food Truck Collective will visit Helensville again this month, with a range of food trucks setting up at Rautawhiri Park on Saturday, February 15 from 5pm to 9pm. Food options will include burgers, wood-fired pizza, and decadent desserts. This visit the trucks will also be accompanied by a pop-up bar.

Locals can bring a picnic blanket or camping chairs to enjoy their meal onsite, or buy it as takeaway. Dogs on leashes are welcome at the family-friendly event.

## 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 was very well received last year and in the previous times we have produced it.

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

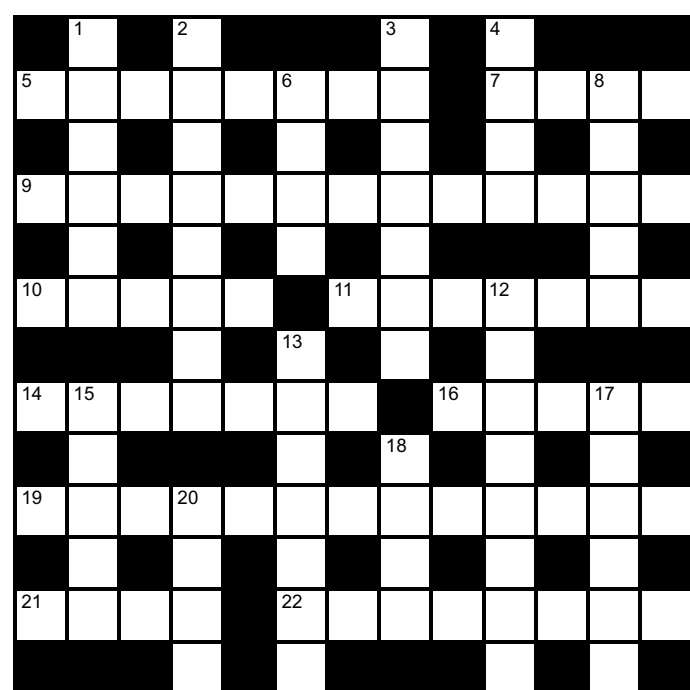
- Community & Service Groups
- Clubs & General Interest Groups
- Sports & Fitness Clubs/Groups.

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.

Many organisations will already have been listed in our 2024 issue, so the first thing you should do is 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 for you to check if you already have a listing. We will also try to contact directly all previously listed groups just to make sure. If you do already have a listing but it needs updating, email: [dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz](mailto:dave@helensvilleneews.co.nz) with your changes. If you want a new listing, please email us as much of the information listed on the above web page as possible.

Please try to 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.

# crossword



## Across

5. Strangle (8)
7. Defeat (4)
9. Style of painting (13)
10. Stage whisper (5)
11. As a rule (7)
14. Part of town (7)
16. Penniless (5)
19. Culinary measure (13)
21. Serpents (4)
22. Performs surgery (8)

## Down

1. Longest English river (6)
2. Hallway (8)
3. Most creepy (7)
4. Paradise (4)
6. Protruding tooth (4)
8. Agave fibre (5)
12. Its capital is Little Rock (8)
13. Café (7)
15. Mountain range (5)
17. Sickness (6)
18. Fail or misplace (4)
20. Speech defect (4)

## December's Answers

**Across:** 1. Sunset 6. Oslo 8. Saved 9. Paella 10. Debt 11. Rural 12. Aden 13. Yelp 14. Crimea 16. Due 17. Asp 19. Balsam 20. Lull 23. Ante 24. Amiss 26. Eton 27. Pigged 28. Kenya 29. Levy 30. Remind.  
**Down:** 2. Unaided 3. Silence 4. Tsar 5. Overseas 6. Oddy 7. Libel 15. Italians 17. Amalgam 18. Pattern 21. Untie 22. Lanky 25. Spar.