

The Helensville Community News

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Issue 121 - December 2019

Scouts in action *by Lisa Bamberger*



As a family we joined the Kaukapakapa Scout Group quite a few years ago, and so began our involvement with the Rodney Coast Challenge. The Future Proof Life Rodney Coast Challenge, as it is now known, is a multisport event (literally multiple sports in one event) that traverses the Rodney District from Muriwai Beach in the West to Wenderholm Regional Park in the east.

This iconic FUNdraising event has been run by Kaukapakapa Scouts for 22 years. But this year was different, this year my daughter competed. I'd like to say this involved lots of good training and preparedness - but she's a teenager and so on the day I was a little apprehensive about how she would go.

On Sunday 17th November, locals would have seen teams and individual competitors, run through the beautiful Woodhill Forest, saunter on road bikes through sunny Helensville and ride up, up, up through Kaukapakapa to Makarau Scout Camp, from there they leapt onto their mountain bikes to courageously venture up and down the infamous Noakes Hill on their way to picturesque Puhoi, then they race down the river by Kayak to the finish line picnic and prize giving at Wenderholm.

My daughter's team, "She'll be right" was made up of brave Scouts with no previous multisport experience but with lots of grit and determination. At the end of her 10km run, Marea, with a huge smile, looking quite

shattered, said "That was great! Could I do it again?" With wonder in my voice I asked "Next year?" and she replied with a cheeky smile "Now would be OK" - ahh the wisdom of youth, or was it adrenalin!

They all had the greatest fun, coming in as the 5th youth team and 1st in the School's Challenge. The first youth team home, with an incredible time of 4 hours and 1 minute, which had them the 8th team home overall, was "Mission Impossible", more Scouts and Kaipara College youth.



Some competitors living far afield, return each year to use the RCC to train for bigger multisport events, others are ticking something challenging off their bucket list and there were at least four instances of two generations entering the event.

With any sport, attracting new players ensures the future strength of our national competition. This year we had 318 competitors including corporate teams, multiple teams from Orewa and Kaipara Colleges, and our youngest ever competitors were a team of Year 6 kids from St Heliers Primary School - they rocked!

Each stage of the event has its challenges, but overall it is a great introduction to a different sort of team sport. With a fun, family atmosphere ensuring the support crews and spectators have as much fun as the competitors.

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We are blessed to have the best sponsorship support team from Rob Howarth, of Future Proof Life, who has been with the event as a sponsor for 19 years. He brings local sporting sponsors Club Physical, Yakima Roof Racks, Star Kayaks, Shoe Science, GMC Cycling together for an awesome array of prizes, including a mountain bike, roof racks, kayak, sports shoes, and gym membership. A big shout out to these guys for their support of our sport.

This is our community at its best, fostering youth development through Scouting, encouraging healthy competition, and family fun.

For more details, this year's results and great photos see <https://www.rcc.org.nz/>

So are YOU up for the challenge next year?



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Helensville Community News

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All correspondence should be legible and include writer's name and address.

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\$95.00 per issue for 12 issues if paid in advance. The above rates include a listing in the Trade & Professional section on the back page. A listing in this section only is \$10.00 per month. All advertisements will attract a 5% discount if paid at the time of booking. If we are required to create the advertisement there will be a one-off typesetting charge of \$40.00. Subsequent alterations will be charged on a time basis.

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The Helensville Community News is published as an independent community newsletter in conjunction with the Helensville Community Website, www.helensvillecommunitynews.co.nz, to inform the residents, ratepayers and visitors of events and proposals that affect the local area.

Circulation 4,200 — pass it on to your friends.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the publishers. While we try to ensure accuracy of information, the publishers accept no responsibility for errors or omissions made by individual contributors.

Publishers: Huapai Copy & Print

Libraries
Nga Whare Matauranga o Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland Council
Te Kaitiaki o Tāmaki Makaurau



December happenings at Helensville Library

Well, we're gearing up for another awesome year of our summer reading programme: Kia Māia te Whai Dare to Explore. This year, we're exploring the past present and future: onamata inamata anamata Where—and when—will our explorers' journeys take them?

Children between the ages of 5 and 12 can register from now. The programme begins on 9 December and runs until 20 January. Library staff are ready to help children complete their challenges whenever they visit the library.

As well as the fun events and activities around Kia Māia te Whai Dare to Explore, Santa will be in the house! He has a busy day planned, with visits around the area.

Santa Storytime at the Library will be Thursday 19 December at 3pm, with the chance to have your photos taken with Santa after storytime.

The sad news is, we will be having a break from our regular preschool sessions over December and January, with the last session on Thursday 12 December. Christmas and New Year hours: Helensville Library will be closed just for the statutory holidays, and open regular hours otherwise (9.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday; 9.30am to 4pm Saturdays). We will be closed on:

- * Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day)
- * Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day)
- * Wednesday 1 January (New Year's Day)
- * Thursday 2 January (Day after New Year's Day) Extended loan periods:
- * From 23 November all 28 day loans become 42 day loans
- * From 7 December all 14 day loans become 28 day loans
- * No items will be due, or requests picked up, between 22 December and 5 January
- * From 4 January all 28 day loans go back to normal
- * From 11 January all 14 day loans go back to normal

Anne Coppell

Senior Librarian, Children & Youth

The Little Library that could

Sunday 19th January 2020. 10am to 1pm.

Since the reopening of the Kaukapakapa Library in 2014, we have been the fortunate recipients of much information on Kaukapakapa's past. History on the Hotel, the school, the Hall, St. Cuthbert's and All Saint's churches, along with all the



Library's original records. We have Wyn Jordan's "Historical Records of Kaukapakapa" and the fantastic Jordan Collection of early photographs. Photos of most of the servicemen and woman, (yes, singular), on our WW1 and WW11 memorials, and a lot more stuff. So, if you're looking for something try us, we may not have all the answers but we will do our best to point you in the right direction. Library open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market. For more info contact Megan 021 959017, threehorses@xtra.co.nz

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What's happening this month



Friday, 6 December, Helensville Aglow 7.30pm at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville (behind the Hospice Shop). Guest speaker will be Ps Tricia Webb from Inspire Church Albany. All welcome. Contact Bridget at bibsundgren@outlook.com for more information

Saturday, 7 December, Helensville Christmas Parade, Celebrate the festive season at this Christmas parade with floats and Santa. Find Santa's helpers who are giving out lollies or get your picture taken with Santa at Helensville RSA at 9.30am. Jump in the bouncy castle; enjoy ice cream, face painting and entertainment in the town centre from 9.30am. Parade starts at 12 noon.

Saturday, 14 December, Helensville Christmas Market, 9.00am – 2.00pm, Helensville War Memorial Hall, The Hall will be full of locals selling local products, arts and crafts, retro and collectible second hand items, vinyl LPs, comics and books in a fun community event. There will be local community groups fundraising with sausage sizzles and food – come and grab a bargain, and a few gifts for the Whanau!

Saturday, 14 December, Waitoki Village Market Day, 8.30 till 1pm, Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd. The ever popular fire truck returns with Christmas trees for sale on the day, giving you a practical opportunity to support the local fire brigade. Not to mention a photo opportunity with you in fire fighters garb! There will also be a brief ceremony to recognise the involvement of the Stevens family to the local community, with the dedication of a seat in the hall carpark. Gather and Gossip, do some Christmas shopping (low carbon miles with locally made gifts), pick up baked goods, plants, homemade and preloved bargains, Bric a Brac, preserves and more. Support your community; proceeds from the Market go back to our local community. New stall holders welcome, contact Gill 420 3301 or email waitokihall@gmail.com

Saturday, 14 December, Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park, 7.30pm – 10.05pm, Auckland Domain, All ages, Admission Free. Once again Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park is supporting Youthline. Please be generous at Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park and buy a light stick or give a gold coin donation.

Sunday, 15 December, Kaukapakapa Village Market, Kaukapakapa Hall, 8.30am-1pm, Held on the 3rd Sunday of every month all year round. With its friendly people, great atmosphere and a wide selection of quality stalls there's something for everyone with everything from locally hand-made crafts, fresh fruit & veg to pre-loved treasures and collectibles. Enjoy a freshly made coffee while you check out the stalls or sit and relax with something tasty from the market cafe while you take in the entertaining atmosphere and live music. There is always something fresh to experience with different musicians, entertainment and new stall holders joining the market each month—a great morning out for the family. Live music from The Cougar Chours, Free Face painting, craft Table from 10am to 12pm. For more information, stall-holder, busker and music enquiries contact Sarah: Phone - 0274 831542 or Email - sarah1@maxnet.co.nz. Eftpos cash out available.

Sunday, 15 December, Kaukapakapa Library 10am – 1pm, Visit Santa in his grotto

Wednesday, 25 December, Christmas Day Lunch, 11.30am - will be held at Helensville Primary School hall. It is again providing an opportunity for anyone to enjoy a festive meal with others in our community. No registration required. Just turn up from 11.30am. Gold coin donations appreciated. Gifts for all children under 13.

Funding is secured from Lions, Rotary and Magnify Church. The school is again allowing free use of their great facility. Donations of cash or food most welcome. Volunteers needed. helchrisfest@gmail.com 021 488 427

Wednesday, 25 Helensville Christmas Day Lunch, 11.30am - in the War Memorial Hall, a gold coin on the day. Lunch will be served at 11.30am. Enjoy a stressfree day with the locals. Fun, prizes, Abba competition, best costume, best performance. Please register C.A.B. Commercial Rd. or Nga Maunga Whakahii at 16 Commercial rd. Any garden produce suitable for the food boxes will be most appreciated, also canned foods.

All enquiries to Raewyn T. Mercer 0272820470 or tarnskaicity@gmail.com

Saturday, 8 February, Waitoki Village Market Day, 8.30 till noon, Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd. Want to know more about how to Felt come and talk to Lisa at the next Waitoki Market. She'll have wool for sale and felted accessories on display, and can tell you about the wool qualities of different sheep breeds and the difference they make to your felt project.

Come and meet her and other locals at the next Waitoki Market, chat, catch up with neighbours, find out what is going on in your community, get involved in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, have a massage, pick up baked goods, plants, essential oils, locally crafted gifts, homemade and preloved bargains, Bric a Brac, preserves, and more. Support your community; proceeds from the Market go back to our local community. New stall holders welcome, contact Gill 420 3301 or email waitokihall@gmail.com Next market 11 April, 13 June.

Christmas Church Services

South Kaipara Anglican/Methodist

St Matthews, 60 Garfield Road Helensville.

All Saints, Peak Road Kaukapakapa

Contact Administrator 420 8868

12 December 7.00pm Blue Christmas St Matthews

(A service of Remembrance and Hope)

15 December 9.30am Carol Service St Matthews

22 December 9.30am Eucharist Service St Matthews

24 December 6.00pm Children Christmas Eve service St Matthews

25 December 8.00am Christmas Day Eucharist St Matthews

25 December 8.00am Christmas Day Eucharist All Saints

St Joseph's & St Patrick's

St Joseph's, 1 Puriri St, Helensville

24 December Christmas Vigil Mass with Carols at 7.30pm and Mass at 8pm

25 December Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am

St Patrick's, 380 Main Road, Huapai

24 December Christmas Vigil Mass with Carols at 6.00pm and Mass at 6.30pm

24 December Midnight Mass with Christmas Carols at 10.30pm at Mass 11pm - 12 midnight

25 December Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am

Magnify Church

118 Commercial Road, Helensville

22 December 10am Family Christmas Service - All Welcome

River Valley Baptist Church

1 Fordyce Road, Parakai

22 December 10.00am Christmas Service



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Arts in the Ville never sleeps

by Helen Martin

Without doubt, with two and half thousand visitors to the event, Arts in the Ville continues to add much to Helensville's creative capital. With new participants impressed by the popularity of the festival and artists keen to continue taking part, there are plenty of ideas already being tossed around for next year's event.

The hall is booked for 2020's festival, which will again give local artists a great chance to display and sell their work. Helensville Primary have accepted the challenge to decorate a large tree in Commercial Road. The live music which was such a hit this year will be expanded in 2020 and street art is looking like a possibility.

Organiser Kura Geere-Watson is grateful to Burmester Realty for funding the very successful advertising, which attracted many from out of town. She is looking at ideas to involve the community even more widely and welcomes suggestions. She says it was disappointing that some of our cafés were closed on the Monday and hopes for more coffee-and-lunch options to be available next year.

Kura can be contacted on kuragw@xtra.co.nz



Organisers Mike, Kura and Jo yarn bomb a tree for Arts in the Ville, 2019. (Photo Ian Baker, 2020 South Kaipara Calendar).

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Local work in Sculpture in the Gardens

by Helen Martin

Since 2007, Auckland Botanic Gardens in Manurewa have curated a large-scale biennial outdoor sculpture exhibition. The November 16 opening of the 2019/2020 exhibition was a lively event, with performances from musicians and refugee and migrant youth group Mixit. Speakers celebrated the many people and organisations who contribute to the Gardens' success, including Friends of the Botanic Gardens, who first initiated the idea of championing New Zealand artists by having high quality outdoor sculpture as a permanent part of the Gardens' attractions.



With the exhibition showcasing 20 works selected from 90 proposals and beautifully displayed along a 2km walking trail, it is of special interest to us is that a piece by Helensville sculptor Jeff Thomson is featured and that Jeff is the only sculptor whose work has appeared in all seven exhibitions. Islands', which is a unique and striking depiction of all the islands in the Hauraki Gulf, is shaped from used corrugated iron, water, galvanised steel mesh, hay, wire and wetland and aquatic plants, some of which were sourced from Helensville.

Votes for the Friends People's Choice Award can be cast at the Visitor Centre or online at sculptureinthegardens.nz

The exhibition is open until 1 March at 102 Hill Road, Manurewa. Entry to Auckland Botanic Gardens is free.

FIGG 44 Commercial Road

The vision for this venture keeps expanding, thanks to suggestions from the community. Love Flowers opened on Monday 2nd December.

From that date art for display and sale will be welcome. There will at least be art from private collection (not for sale) on display.

Information material will be limited initially. A reminder that brochures for businesses (accommodation, fishing charters, etc) will be displayed at a cost of \$10 weekly, which will also provide \$20 weekly worth of advertising on community radio station Mountainside FM 88.3. More volunteers are needed for the (visitor) information centre. 021488427 hollyinvest@xtra.co.nz

During December artist Andrew Denton will be occupying the front window beside the café, sculpting a nativity scene from clay. He will welcome people popping in to chat, and watching him through the window will be ever changing entertainment. The window is available to be booked for a day to a month. Additionally, space within the gallery is available for artists to operate with an audience.

Any one will be welcome to come in, sit, make tea or coffee (gold coin donation), chat. Space for meetings can be arranged for community groups at any time, with no charge (donations welcome) for not for profits. There is a private carpeted room with an expansive view available to hire by the hour or day (suitable for small meetings or consultancy, counselling etc.). Full kitchen facilities complete the potential options for use.



From Penk's Pen

As I write this column, my calendar still reads "November" so it feels pretty early to be reflecting on 2019. That's all the more so given how quickly the year has gone – at least for me – but in any case Christmas will soon be upon us!

The last twelve months have been busy for me, as your local MP, with plenty of local issues to handle, along with the hustle and bustle of Parliamentary politics most weeks of course.

The great majority of local issues that my office and I have been handling could be described as infrastructure-related. The story of West and Northwest Auckland in recent decades has been one of growth and, if we are honest, growing pains. The chapter marked "2019" in that story will be no exception.

I've made a point of reaching out to all schools in the Helensville electorate (of which there are nearly 30) and noted the need for ongoing investment in classrooms and, in some areas, whole new schools to match population growth. I've advocated transport solutions – public and private alike – in countless meetings with decision makers. I've continued to ask for communications and energy networks to provide for our rural and other remote communities much better than they currently do.

I'm sure that everyone reading this will have had a busy year as well and I'd like to acknowledge with gratitude all the wonderful work that's done for our community by so many of you. Volunteers have kept our collective wheels turning, in particular, so please allow me to thank you on behalf of the community (as is my unique privilege, as your elected representative) for another 12 months of selfless service.

Please take care over the upcoming Christmas-New Year period, whether you're earning or learning, caring or volunteering. Let's give our amazing emergency services much less worrying work to do on the roads and in the surf this summer.

Lions Directory

It is a request for everyone in the 420 phone prefix area to update their telephone listing details if for any reason they have changed or in particular if they are new to our area. Also we are encouraging anyone, who wants to, to now list their cell phone number free. More and more people are going cell phone only which means of course there is no way people can look them up unless they have been provided the number by the subscriber. They can still list landline and cell phone if they wish or cell phone only. Please contact me if further info is needed. 420 8980. 021 250 0331 or 21dcummings@gmail.com.

The next Lions Directory will be delivered to all homes in April 2020. Many thanks. Dennis Cummings.

Chris Penk MP for Helensville

365 Main Road, Huapai
09 412 2496
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Sunday 15 December
Kaukapakapa Hall
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Helensville Art Centre

Art Centre news

by Helen Martin

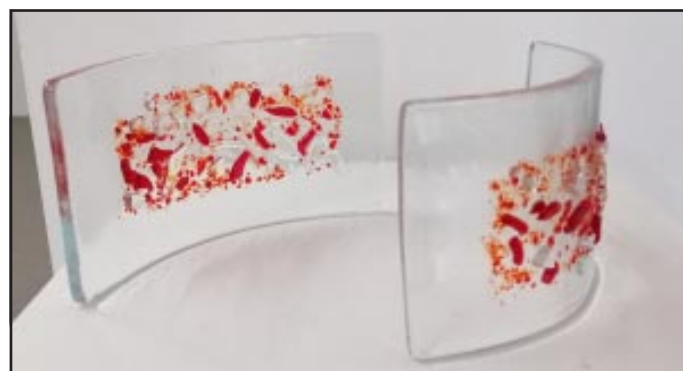
The Art Centre will be closed from December 21 until February 21 as the carpark behind the RSA Hall and Library will be under reconstruction for 12 weeks and during that time there will be no public access to the building. The first exhibitions in 2020 will open on February 21. These will display works by woodturner Ray Scott and painter Bernard Hartwell. The works will be on sale.

There will be two exhibitions at the Art Centre from 30 November to 21 December.

The Annual Kids Art Show, which offers free entry, gives local children, many of whom attend early childhood education centres and primary schools in the area, the chance to embrace their creativity. "We've been promoting it with our colouring-in table throughout the year," says Centre Manager Heather Steadman. "Kids love seeing their art exhibited because they see that it's valued. It's also a great opportunity to bring families in and contribute to that sense of community wellbeing."

The other exhibition, Christmas Cash and Carry, gives local artists the opportunity to sell works retailing for \$50 or less and the public the chance to buy beautiful, original and local Christmas presents.

For more information contact Heather at manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz or 021 1533 593.



The work of Kumeu glass artist Cheryl Germanis will be included in the art for sale at the Christmas Cash and Carry.





Helensville Christmas Market

The Helensville Christmas Market is to be held Saturday 14th December from 9 to 2 pm at the Helensville Hall. The Hall is on the main street behind the Library and beside the RSA.

There's plenty of parking at the back of the hall. The Market is primarily a community event where people come to sell second hand goods, arts and crafts and homemade produce, antiques and collectibles /bric a brac and homemade gift ware.

We will be inviting a couple of community groups to come along and participate to fund raise, free of charge.

At this Christmas Market we have the Helensville Lions who will be there with quality second hand books, a sausage sizzle and raffle.

We have also invited the Kaipara College Year 10 Business class in to sell their locally made products- come and support our locals and our local community.

There will be something for everybody, and great Christmas gift ideas. We are hoping to run regular community markets in Helensville throughout the year, and continue to support our local community. Contact can be made with the organizers at bigfathen@xtra.co.nz

South Kaipara, Kaipara kite Tonga 2020 calendar

Following on from the success of their black and white 2019 calendar, the 2020 South Kaipara calendar, produced by photographer Ian Baker and writer Helen Martin and printed by Helensville Copy and Print features a range of local community groups. Cost: \$20. Available from PaperPlus Select Helensville and Helensville Women and Family Centre.

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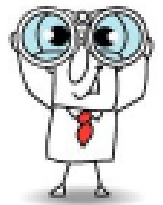

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The way I see things

by Brian Hale



North West Country Business Association AGM. What a tremendous disappointment this was.

Don't misunderstand me, it was perfectly run; It started on the dot, reports were given, motions were tabled and passed, almost without comment, committee members were elected (no voting required) and the meeting was over in 16 minutes.

So why the disappointment – because there were only 13 people in attendance, and I think either 7 or 8 were committee members. This is an organisation which is drawing \$180,000 in subscriptions out of the businesses in the BID district, had a total income last year of \$232,001 and yet of the over 400 members ONLY A FEW showed any interest and turned up to the AGM – **WHY**. The lack of numbers could have been influenced by the fact that the Notice of the meeting was buried on page 6 of the "News from Your Association" email of 10 October. It could have been that it was held at 6pm at the Helensville Tennis Club rooms – not easy to find and finding a parking space was diabolical as the netballers had claimed them all! It could have been that the reports and accounts, which ran to over 50 pages, were only available from the Association website and were not easy to find and download, or it could be that, from my point of view, the Association does nothing relevant to the vast majority of business owners.

The BID Vision: The North West – New Zealand's creative playground and premiere place to live, work and do business and the location of choice for Aucklanders looking for a new experience.

Mission Statement: Inspiring and enabling businesses to thrive in Auckland's Creative Playground.

The "Objectives" and Strategic Plan" (8 pages of it) which I suspect was written by some "marketing expert" from the Council contains phrases like:

Objectives: Work with businesses, agencies and iwi to improve our townships and key destinations.

Achievements: Planning underway in Kumeu for upgrade of part of main street at the entrance to Kumeu in partnership with Auckland Transport and Kumeu Village Body Corporate.

Objectives: Incorporate the history of our district and creative sector as part of our promotional program.

Achievements: Worked with ATEED to develop Triple Harbour map...

AND in the meantime Auckland Transport is planning to remove most of the parking spaces on the main road outside the shops at the end of Matua Road and put a traffic light controlled

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zebra crossing there. Can you envisage what stopping the already manic traffic on a regular basis so one person can cross the road will do? Plans are also well underway to remove parking spaces in Helensville and plant trees in the main street. I am heartily sick of the leaves from the trees in Matua Road blowing into my shop on a daily basis, the last thing I would want in Helensville would be what is being suggested!

To me this has the feel of a disconnected bureaucracy doing what sounds and feels good, but not what is actually good, and not what the people need and want. So, what is the answer? Well get more involved would help; be more informed would help; go to committee meetings – you are entitled to – and let them know what you think; get in the ear of your local committee member (see below); maybe even form your own ‘local’ business group to discuss what matters to you locally and push your views. What do you think?

2020 committee members

Chairman: Tony Forlong - KTS

Kaukapakapa: Geraldine Baily – Shark & Taties

Helensville: Bernie Flynn – Helensville Motorcycles

Shona Oliver – Nga Maunga Whakahihi o Kaipara

Liv McGregor – Mama’s Brew Shop

Parakai: Dion Tilson – Parakai Springs

Waimauku: Jon Williamson – Williamson Water & Land Advisory

Kumeu/Huapai: Andy Cummings – Kumeu Meat Processors

Teresa Nobilo-Healy – Zubu

Guy Wishart – Kumeu Arts Centre

Riverhead: Hayley Plowman – The Riverhead

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Melissa Haven

by Helen Martin

Although she's only been our Community Constable since September 2019, Melissa Haven has a long association with Helensville. She went to Kaipara College, as did her father, it's where she met her future husband Liam Haven, whose family are established locals. Liam is also a Constable



at Helensville Police Station. "Because Liam works shifts, we sometimes see each other more at work than at home," says Melissa. He is also a member of the local volunteer Fire Brigade. The couple live locally with their two daughters.

While Liam joined the Police Force five years ago, having first worked as a plumber, Melissa joined a trainee programme on leaving school. "My brother-in-law was in the Police and when they came to a careers' day at school it got my attention. It seemed like an exciting job, with no two days the same, and I liked the idea of the camaraderie and the fitness side of things." After the six-month trainee programme, where Melissa was introduced to subjects like law, diversity and ethics, she went to Police College, graduating in December 2003. For the next 16 years her work included the front line in Henderson, community work in Massey, front line and community work in Kumeu and the family harm unit in Orewa.

As our Community Constable Melissa works with community groups and schools. She's the Police liaison for the community patrol. "The patrol volunteers are a real asset to the Police, particularly in a rural setting as we sometimes don't have the manpower to cover such a large area alone", she says. "They're doing a wonderful job keeping it running, and we want to increase the number of volunteers to make even more of an impact. "She also works closely alongside Neighbourhood Support, providing coordinator Margaret Faed with information to send out to her street coordinators and attending neighbourhood meetings. Again, the aim is to encourage more people to join.

Melissa explains that Helensville Station is fully staffed, with a Sergeant, two officers on prevention, (herself and Youth Aid Officer Lou Unkovich), and six public safety team (PST) officers, who work on the front line attending 111 calls. When there's more than one call-out, Community Constables are also required on the front line. The large area the station covers runs from Woodhill to the top of South Head, including the beach, Kaukapakapa, Makarau, Glorit, and Waitoki. With their station considered part of Tamaki Makaurau, Melissa and her colleagues are often called to support events in Auckland City like the Royal Visit and Christmas in the Park. As part of Rodney, they're required at events like the Matakana New Years' Eve celebrations and the infamous Crate Day.

The new non-emergency 105 number has recently been established to take the strain off the emergency 111 number. There was a time, not so long ago, when disorderly behaviour and graffiti were an issue in Helensville, says Melissa, but we seldom have those issues now, thanks partly to the presence of the Community Patrol. Burglaries and car break-ins are ongoing and take up much police time. There's always intense public interest when the police

helicopter turns up. "If you see the Eagle helicopter out here it may be that someone's decamped from committing a Crime, like a burglary or from a stolen car. It could be following a pursuit or looking for a missing person." There's more of a police presence now because they're fully staffed. "My goal is to get out there more and be the person who's seen. I'm working on getting to know all the business owners, giving people a chance to chat about their issues."

Melissa loves her job. "Helensville was somewhere I'd always eventually wanted to work. I think it's a cool little rural community. Compared to larger communities growing and losing their community focus there are so many community groups here that really invest in the people, and lots of volunteers doing awesome work. This job has its ups and downs, but I enjoy it. I want to give this role a good go because I feel passionate about the place."

Kaipara College reunion

by Helen Martin

The Kaipara College reunion held over Labour Weekend was a big step forward in plans spearheaded by Deputy Principal Nick Roberts and an organising committee of past students to grow the re-created alumni organisation with a view to reconnecting former students with the school. As the manager of Community Relations, Nick says the event marking the school's 60th year as Kaipara College was a brilliant celebration and a promising precursor to the 2024 reunion, which will celebrate the 1924 opening of the college under the name Helensville District High School.

As well as dinners and sporting and cultural events, a video room was set aside for some of the many students volunteering as school ambassadors throughout the weekend to film past students telling their stories. These interviews will be added to the alumni organisation's growing archive.

Nick Roberts says that at the Saturday night dance, a highlight of the weekend (as long as we don't mention the World Cup), the reunion reached a crescendo, with guests enjoying dancing to the music of former students in the form of the band Old Mate and the M8s.

Awa Hudson, who went to Helensville District High School and who, at 81, was one of the oldest at the reunion, speaks for those who attended and enjoyed sharing memories and catching up with people not seen for years, "It was a wonderful event and I loved every second of it."

The alumni association can be contacted on alumni@kaipara.school.nz or visit Facebook at Kaipara College: Friends of the College.



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Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Association

The Annual General Meeting of Te Awaroa Residents and Ratepayers Association was held on 20th November.

A proposal to work with Helensville Museum on Council issues was well received.

Guests Damian Albert, our senior police officer, and Melissa Haven, our new community constable, engaged in discussion with those present.

Another issue for community concern: Helensville went from having a direct phone line at our Council Service Centre, to having to call Council central call centre to be transferred through to Helensville if the operator could identify the existence of Helensville. Now the Council call centre has no knowledge of any phone number to connect to Helensville, leaving us having to actually go to the service centre. The comment from service centre staff is 'people don't talk to people now, the world has changed'. Does this signal the imminent end of Helensville having a service centre?

Museum facing two-edged sword.

When the Helensville Museum sought to locate a container on the property they lease from the Council, to house items currently deteriorating outside, Auckland Council awoke to the reality of the Museum being sited on an old tip. It took several months and numerous communications to obtain consent for the container to be placed on the grounds. Now Council has prohibited the placing of any new structures thus ending any plans for expansion. As storage facilities are desperately required this has presented some new challenges. During the process of obtaining consent they were also told that they could not plant trees and even that they should restrict gardening activities.

So the Museum is now battling bugs and bureaucracy, a two-edged sword.

The second issue highlighted by this stance of the Council is that of the Museum's boundary fence. The Museum Committee has known for some time that the northern boundary fence should be extended out a further 10 metres to fully encompass the area they are leasing. There was no need in the past to do it but the option is now no longer open to them because it involves digging holes on a former tip site, now prohibited.

The Museum is joining forces with Te Awaroa Residents and Ratepayers Association (TARRA) to form a two-edged sword to battle Council.



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Coffee and a chat

by Helen Martin

In November, a coffee and a chat session, hosted by Community Constable Melissa Haven and Youth Aid Officer Lou Unkovich, was held at TeAwaroa Café to give locals a chance to meet with Helensville Police Officers, South Kaipara Community Patrol and Rodney Neighbourhood Support and bring up any concerns they may have about community issues.

The Police shared important information regarding their contact numbers. The emergency phone number is still 111. For non-emergencies, people are asked to call 105 or go online to 105.police.govt.nz. Non-emergency reports include theft in a public place, theft from a car, intentional property damage, shoplifting and lost property. The site also provides information on reports already made.

Paul Smith, who has been volunteering with South Kaipara Community Patrol for eight years, explained that the job of the volunteers is to regularly patrol their designated area, establishing community awareness of their presence and reporting anything suspicious. As ‘the eyes and ears of the police’, patrols free up Police resources, increase community resilience and identify safety issues. As locals are all too aware, since the South Kaipara Community Patrol has been in operation Helensville’s graffiti problem has all but vanished. The Patrol, which is led by John Tarrant, is keen to sign up more volunteers. The minimum requirement is one patrol a month.

Neighbourhood Support is a nationwide community-led movement that works closely alongside the Police and brings people and neighbourhoods together to create, safe, resilient and connected communities. Rodney Neighbourhood Support coordinator Margaret Faed explained that members are kept up with news via email and was keen to sign up new members to join the 5,500 households who already belong.

Helensville Police Station: 09 420 8967
South Kaipara Community Patrol: southkaiparacp@gmail.com
Rodney Neighbourhood Support: rns.coordinator@gmail.com



Community support representatives at Te Awaroa Cafe for coffee and a chat.

Christmas Book Fair 2019

The Christmas Book Fair, held last weekend, raised \$9,436 from the sale of books and together with the raffle and sausage sizzle, held in conjunction with the Book Fair, a grand total of \$10,379 was raised.

Numbers attending were up on the May Fair, which can probably be put down to additional items on offer such as the excellent record collection and accumulation of DVDs for sale. We are confident that our many customers will be pleased with their purchases and have many hours of enjoyable entertainment ahead. We would like to thank all those who donated items, for without you, there would be no Book Fair.

The Club would also like to thank the wider community, putting together a book fair is a team effort and we would not be able to cope without the assistance we receive from our community, especially the partners, friends and relatives of Club members who were present throughout the weekend. Members from Kaukapakapa - Helensville Scouts also assisted in the setting out and cleaning up of the Hall. We also wish to thank members of the Rodney Local Board for their support and Burmester Realty for letting us use their premises as a collection point.

All the funds raised go into the Lions Club of Helensville Charitable Trust Account and will be used in our community to assist those members or organisations in need of support, as well as into larger community projects such as the Riverside Walkway and Rautawhiri Park.

The books left over will be re-sorted with damaged or unsaleable books going to the Helensville Recycle Centre. Surplus children’s books will go to South Auckland for distribution to less fortunate children, other fiction titles are sent to Fiji to be distributed there. Books are sold at the Lions bookstall at the Kaukapakapa Market, which is held on the third Sunday of each month, and at other events run by the Lions Club of Helensville throughout the year.

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Date	High Water Shelly Beach		Sun Rise	Sun Set	
December					
1 Sun	0213	3.7	1434	0555	2024
2 Mon	0254	3.6	1516	0555	2025
3 Tue	0339	3.4	1602	0555	2026
4 Wed	0432	3.3	1658	0555	2026
5 Thu	0534	3.2	1800	0554	2027
6 Fri	0640	3.2	1902	0554	2028
7 Sat	0743	3.3	1958	0554	2029
8 Sun	0839	3.5	2050	0554	2030
9 Mon	0928	3.6	2138	0554	2031
10 Tue	1013	3.8	2223	0554	2032
11 Wed	1055	3.9	2307	0554	2032
12 Thu	1136	4.1	2350	0555	2033
13 Fri	1217	4.1	-	0555	2034
14 Sat	0033	4.0	1259	0555	2035
15 Sun	0117	4.0	1342	0555	2035
16 Mon	0203	3.9	1428	0555	2036
17 Tue	0251	3.8	1517	0556	2037
18 Wed	0344	3.7	1611	0556	2037
19 Thu	0442	3.7	1710	0557	2038
20 Fri	0544	3.6	1813	0557	2038
21 Sat	0649	3.7	1917	0557	2039
22 Sun	0754	3.7	2020	0558	2039
23 Mon	0857	3.8	2121	0558	2040
24 Tue	0956	3.9	2217	0559	2040
25 Wed	1049	4.1	2308	0559	2041
26 Thu	1136	4.1	2355	0600	2041
27 Fri	1219	4.1	-	0601	2042
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