

The Helensville Community News

Issue 130 - September 2020

St John Helensville's new ambulance

by Helen Martin

While St John's ambulance operations are 72% funded by Government, the organisation relies on the generosity and support of the public to help fund the balance, including new ambulances and equipment such as first response kits and defibrillators. It was therefore a very joyful ceremony outside the library on 5 August, when ASB Regional Manager Ngaire Angus presented St John Helensville with a fabulous 2020 GEN-4 ambulance. Those at the ceremony included ASB, along with its mascot elephant and St John staff and volunteers and members of the Helensville community. The patron of the St John Northern Region Trust Board Richard Blundell KStJ accepted the ambulance on behalf of the St John Order and, after it was blessed by St John District Chaplain Rev. Dr Colin Marshall, a group of excited St John Youth cadets and penguins unwrapped the sparkling new vehicle.

Acknowledgement was made of the generosity of South Head resident, the late Bruce Cochrane, who gifted Helensville's last ambulance to the community. As explained by St John Waitemata Territory Manager Mike McAulay OStJ, that ambulance is still in use, but because its mileage is now at 330,000 km, to extend its life it will be doing a 12-hour day around Waitakere Hospital from now on. He says St John is grateful for the ongoing support of ASB, as the typical lifespan of an ambulance is eight years. "The new ambulance is fully equipped with lifesaving equipment. It is also fitted with new features including advanced driving aids, which offer both ambulance officers and patients increased safety and security."

Some useful facts and figures:

As a 12-year partner of St John, ASB's donation is the first ambulance to kickstart St John's winter 2020 fundraising campaign to increase the number of frontline ambulances to prepare for winter and uncertainty over COVID-19. On average, St John attended 90 emergency incidents per month in Helensville over the last 12 months to 30 June 2020.

ASB's involvement with St John:

All ASB branches are equipped with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and have first aid-trained staff ready to help in an emergency; in 2016 ASB became the sponsor of ASB St John in Schools, a first aid programme which teaches Kiwi children lifesaving skills and the confidence to take action in an emergency; ASB staff contribute to the St John Annual Appeal fundraising



Unwrapping the new Helensville ambulance was a wonderful occasion

campaign and volunteer on St John Area Committees, at local St John events, and as Caring Callers; this is the eighth ambulance ASB and its customers have donated in recent years to St John.

St John provides emergency ambulance services to 90% of New Zealanders and covers 97% of the country's geographical area. With more than 540,000 calls into their 111 Ambulance Communications centres and more than 470,000 patients treated and/or transported to hospital in the past year, their ambulance officers are at the

frontline of emergency services. St John has more than 4,000 paid and volunteer ambulance officers and more than 700 ambulances and operational vehicles throughout the country, responding to emergencies 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. It offers a range of free community health services including Caring Caller, Health Shuttles, Friends of the Emergency Department and St John Youth and also delivers event health services, medical alarm services and first aid training, and operates St John stores across the country, including one in Helensville.

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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

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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.

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Citizens Advice Bureau

Te Pou Whakawhirinaki o Aotearoa



Stop scams spreading

Scams, like pesky weeds, keep coming up in the nor-west. The key is identifying them before they spread their havoc.

Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville has a national database which includes plenty of detailed information about scams, including from many official sources.

Board Secretary Rani Timoti says scams with sophisticated and professional presentations have been happening in the Helensville district, mainly through phone calls. "Local police say scams are covered under fraud and cases are investigated."

Reporting scams is the best defence, especially to organisations like Netsafe: www.netsafe.org.nz

Netsafe chief executive Martin Cocker says the simple message of 'If it seems too good to be true, it probably is' no longer reflects the reality of the online scam and fraud landscape.

"It would be more accurate to say: 'Even if it seems like a reasonable deal, stop and think is this real or a scam.'"

The organisation advises reporting the fraud, even if you are embarrassed, because you help prevent others being caught in the same trap.

Common online scams include: tech support, romance, cold calling, email phishing, investment opportunity and employment or work-at-home and business email compromise.

Basic precautions include realising scammers want your personal details, ultimately to take your money and even steal your identity.

Know who you deal with - research the one (group, organisation, company) contacting you. Delete suspicious texts, pop-up windows or emails. Always stop and think instead of being pressured into making a quick decision.

More information available @ www.cab.org.nz

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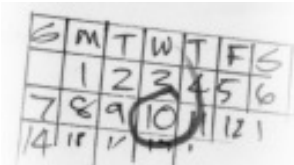
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What's happening this month



Friday, 4 September, Helensville Aglow, 7.30pm at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville (behind the Hospice Shop). At Aglow we have an inspirational speaker sharing life stories and how they overcame obstacles. Guest speaker at the September meeting will be Sandee Everett, from House of Re Ministries. All welcome. Contact Bridget at helensvilleaglow@outlook.com for more information.

Sunday, 6 September, Fathers Day - Arboriculture Workshop Kaipara Coast Plants & Sculpture Gardens, 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway, Kaukapakapa, Auckland Sunday 6 September 2020 9:30am – 11:30am. Here's an event created especially for Dad – it even includes chainsaws!! Trees and large shrubs can be the heart of many gardens but they can also be a challenge if an inappropriate species or incorrect positioning are selected or if they are not properly maintained. This 2-hour workshop will offer some useful information to help you try to avoid these errors, make choices that will enhance your garden rather than create a problem as well as give you an insight into what an Arborist does.

Saturday, 12 September, The Kaukapakapa Scout Group Trivial Pursuit Evening. Doors open: 6:30pm for 7pm start and prize giving at 11pm. 8 - 12 people per table and tickets are \$20 per person. Prizes for overall winning table and best themed/decorated table. Light supper provided. BYO drinks and nibbles for your table. Bookings can be made via trivianighttix@gmail.com or ph/txt 021707835. See page 8 for more details.

Sunday, 13 September, the NZ Remembrance Army will be cleaning and restoring the 29 veteran graves in the All Saints Kaukapakapa cemetery, weather permitting. Sponsored by Bioshield and Resenes their mission is for every service grave in the country to be restored to the same standard of the graves of their comrades overseas. Come along and say hello to these fantastic volunteers and find out more about their awesome task of respect. See page 9 for more details.

Sunday 20 September 2020 9:30am – 11:30am. Bee Keeping Workshop. Kaipara Coast Plants & Sculpture Gardens, 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway, Kaukapakapa, Auckland. If you are thinking of establishing hives on your property or would just like to know some more about these amazing little creatures then this is an ideal workshop for you to attend. This event will give a great overview not only of the techniques employed to nurture bees but also what you can do in your gardens to enhance their health and well being and therefore your gardens appearance. Our guest presenter is Kim Kneijber who has worked with Bees for over 15 Years, is a life member of the Auckland Bee Keeping Club and has a long time association with APINZ. This event will of course only go ahead should the prevailing Covid alert is at level 2 or better on the scheduled date. To Book: info@kaiparacoast.co.nz tickets \$20.00 each

Sunday, 20 September, 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 duo Take Two. Free face painting, kids crafts. 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, 20 September, Kaukapakapa Library, 9.30am to 1pm. A month in the life of Kaukapakapa Photo Competition. The Kaukapakapa Library's photo competition runs between 10th September and 10th October and this year you need to take a photo of your whanau with your home - don't forget your pets! This will give the library a record of the types and styles of housing in Kaukapakapa and who was around in 2020. Timed to run over the school holidays, the boundaries are from Glorit to Waitoki to Mt. Rex, and the rules and conditions are on the Kaukapakapa Library Facebook Page. If you're looking for some inspiration, come along to the library, we'll have on display photos of Kaukapakapa's early settlers and their homes from the beautiful Henley House to bushman's shacks. Help us create a snapshot in time for the Kaukapakapa of the future! Contact details Megan Paterson, threehorses@xtra.co.nz, 021 959017. Library open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market.

Upcoming events

Friday, 2 October, Helensville Aglow, 7.30pm at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville (behind the Hospice Shop). At Aglow we have an inspirational speaker sharing life stories and how they overcame obstacles. Guest speaker at the October meeting will be Kaylene Subritzky, Dove Ministries. All welcome. Contact Bridget at helensvilleaglow@outlook.com for more information.

Saturday, October 10, Waitoki Village Market Day, 8.30 till noon, Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd. There is no market in September at Waitoki, but am working on the October A planned promotion which will be focussing on the spread of weeds. Targeting privet, tobacco weed, wandering willie, pampas plus a couple of others. Stop the spread. A few species are starting to dominate our roadsides and more, creeping at an accelerating rate under the power lines and into the bush. Initially planted to attract birds, birds are now spreading them further and further across the countryside and into our native bush areas.

Those with sinus trouble will be well familiar with the cloying scent of privet, but there are others also. Come along to the next Waitoki market October 10th and find out what you can do to help stop the spread. Come, share and exchange. Bring your surplus garden produce to swap. Want to help plant/trap locally, put your name down. Need help, come and let it be known. Pick up homemade and pre-loved bargains, baked goods, preserves, plants and more while you're there.

Community resilience starts with you, get involved at the Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd. 8.30 till noon. Support your community hall; all proceeds go back to our local community. New stall holders welcome, contact Gill 420 3301 or email waitokihall@gmail.com

Future market dates: December 12th



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From Penk's Pen

RMA: Repeal, Replace, Rejoice

Today's column is brought to you by the letters 'R', 'M' and 'A'.

There aren't many issues on which all mainstream political parties agree but the need to reform the Resource Management Act is surely one. Based on countless conversations with constituents these past three years, I'd say that the repeal and replacement of this particular piece of legislation would be almost universally popular.

Passed with good intentions in 1991, the RMA has evolved in ways that have seen its processes become ever more complicated, cumbersome and costly. Its aim was to promote sustainable development by balancing environmental protection with socially acceptable outcomes, including economic growth. These are all very worthy ideals but the reality has been somewhat different on the ground.

Problems with the supply of land for housing have bedevilled successive governments, with frustration felt across the board. Central and local government alike – together with citizens young and old – have struggled to break free from the RMA's metaphorical red tape, all while genuinely needed infrastructure remains lacking.

Both of the major political parties have undertaken to move the nation beyond the RMA's grip on what's often described as "urban planning". Of course that term that fails to take into account the need for good governance of rural land too, a point that should not be lost on Wellington-based policy advisors.

A month ago, a 600-page review of the RMA was produced. Known as the Randerson Report, it recommended two new pieces of legislation be introduced: a Natural and Built Environments Act and a Strategic Planning Act.

These changes would effectively split the RMA in half to help recognise the need to reconcile strategic long-term perspectives with the need for immediacy in decision-making.

Given how many residents within the boundaries of the Helensville electorate have sought the help of my office in relation to RMA issues, I hope that everyone interested in the subject looks into the political parties' respective plans in this space, ahead of the election.

Chris Penk MP

I have greatly enjoyed the chance to help many wonderful people since I was first elected as an MP.

In rural and remote parts of Auckland, infrastructure has simply not kept up with population growth. I've seen this first-hand through the eyes of a local MP and have been advocating constantly to the government for much more attention to be paid to the rough roads, crowded classrooms, inconsistent internet and traffic trauma of our area.

I'm here to help you. When you see me out and about in the area, please do stop and say hi.



✉ chris.penk@national.org.nz  [chrispenk.national.org.nz](https://twitter.com/chrispenk.national.org.nz)  [@christopherpenk](https://facebook.com/christopherpenk)

Authorised by C Penk, 365 Main Road, Huapoi, Auckland



Search training group seeks new students

Drone flying lessons, emergency rescue training and making lifelong friends are on offer for teenagers who join the Auckland organisation Youth Search And Rescue (YSAR). The three-year training programme consists of outdoor education, search, rescue and emergency response methodologies, and leadership and incident management. Applications are now open for this highly regarded programme, which accepts up to 24 new trainees each year. Successful students participate in a weekly lesson and regular weekend outdoor training exercises that focus on survival, rescue and geotechnical data-gathering skills. The three-year course teaches students to take care of themselves in difficult outdoor environments and eventually help police and skilled volunteers with official searches. Along the way, students aged 14 and over collect first aid and other qualifications, trial specialist technical equipment and aim to complete the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Applications for next year's intake close on September 27.

"We have some really exciting new developments in what's already an enormously impressive and often life-changing programme," says YSAR founder Steve Campbell. "Two years ago, a small group of YSAR students flew to San Francisco to participate in an international exchange programme with a search and rescue organisation there. We've now established very strong ties with the phenomenal Marin County SAR group in northern California, which led to our visit there and a personal meeting with the United States ambassador to New Zealand. We've hosted some of their youth members and they're keen for us to come back to join the major search and rescue exercise they hold in Yosemite National Park each year. It's an incredible opportunity for some lucky YSAR students in the future."

Steve says volunteer work is part of the YSAR course and both current and past students make a major contribution to the community. "Some of these young people will very likely go on to save lives." He credits much of the programme's success to the leadership and knowledge of trainers who include people with military and medical backgrounds, outdoor education specialists, police officers and firefighters.

Since YSAR was launched in 2008 in response to an aging search and rescue volunteer base, it has surpassed all expectations and attracted interest from throughout New Zealand and around the world, including Canada and Singapore. More than 450 students have graduated from the programme, which expanded from Tauranga into the Auckland region three years ago. "Being a YSAR graduate truly does open up a world of possibilities to these young people and they find having this on their resume is a big help when applying for jobs or further education."

For more information and an application form, please visit ysar.org.nz.



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SECURITY LIGHTING

Midwinter Christmas at Craigweil House

Midwinter Christmas arrives at The Henrikwest Care Group's facilities - Craigweil House, The Beachfront Home & Hospital and Catherine Lodge Retirement Home

Residents and staff had a ball at the Midwinter Christmas Festivals held at Craigweil House, The Beachfront Home & Hospital and Catherine Lodge Retirement Home. Traditionally a halfway milestone in the year, Midwinter Christmas parties are looked forward to by residents and for good reasons.

This year was all about enjoying the freedom that lockdown restricted.

"Our residents had a brilliant time dancing, laughing, and singing along with their favourite old songs"

Marie, a long-term Catherine Lodge resident and recently turned 101-years-old, was very excited to discover the infamous and long serving entertainer Joe Fingers was headlining the Midwinter parties. Joe Fingers, renowned for his great voice and engaging tunes, sang her favourite song, "You are my Sunshine."

There were lots of impressive moves on the dance floor at Craigweil House, from the graceful stylings of Virginia, to our rock and roller, Catherine. At Catherine Lodge, Olive donned her Hawaiian dress and performed a beautiful hula.

Staff had great time too, sharing delicious desserts and savouries, getting up for a dance and even getting up to sing. May our (Regional Manager) and Wilson (Chef) each had a turn singing on the microphone at The Beachfront Home & Hospital – the more the merrier!

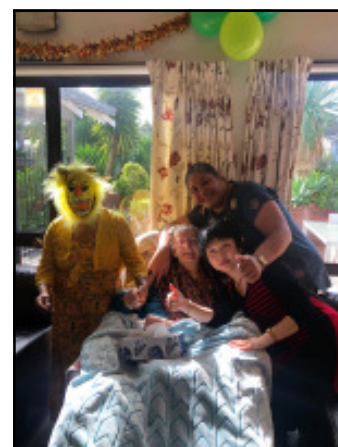
Many residents and staff said that they had an amazing time and that this year's Midwinter parties were the best yet. With what is happening around the world, we all need reasons to celebrate life and just smile. The Midwinter Christmas Festivals chase away winter blues bringing warmth and festive cheer into the heart of winter.



The food table



Olive dancing



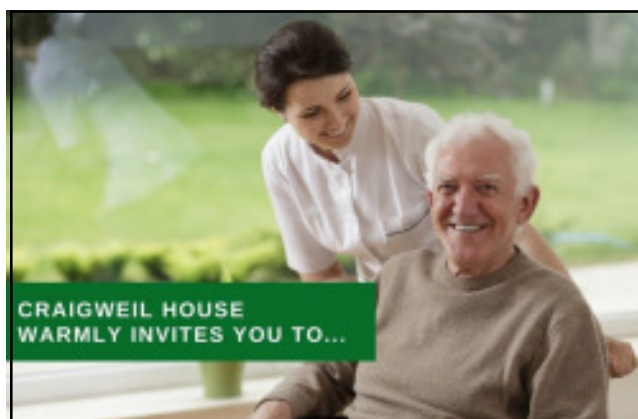
Marie with the staff



Virginia dancing



May and Wilson singing



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The Lions Roar



Well here we go again in "Lockdown 3". It means of course that our Lions Club of Helensville couldn't hold meetings. However we continue to work on our Book Fair to be held on November 28/29.. Thousands of books have been sorted, so don't miss out - make sure this date is on your calendar.

We do hope you are using the Keep Fit Trail around Rautawhiri Park, lovely to walk around or jog!.

Keep safe.

No *NORMAL* Christmas this year?

With the impact of Covid-19, it is unlikely that life will return to previous 'normal' any time soon.

Therefore I am cancelling any preparation for our beloved Christmas Parade and the much appreciated Christmas Day community dinner.

It is unreasonable to give such a huge amount of time as is required, possibly in vain.

With the economic impact of lockdowns etc., I was expecting to fund the parade myself this year, knowing businesses and community organisations are struggling with reduced income. Instead I will endeavour to erect Christmas lights on the fronts of my buildings. Maybe others can do likewise to create some Christmas spirit in our community.

Covid -19 has changed the world, possibly for ever. Let's do what we can to encourage community togetherness.

Holly Southernwood

Getting around Arts in the Ville 2020



As we go to print Arts in the Ville organisers are still working on finessing arrangements for the Labour Weekend festival. With galleries/open studios, pop-ups and gardens open from 10am-4pm for the three days, it promises to be a blast. Disappointingly, Kiwi TukTuk are now no longer able to provide transport around the Ville, but watch this space for a replacement ... Up to date information on the festival is available on Facebook: ARTS in the VILLE and on the new website <https://artsintheville.weebly.com/>, which profiles participants and their work. A map showing venues will be provided for festival visitors to find their way around and labelled flags will be positioned outside each participating venue.



Sunday 20th September
Kaukapakapa Hall
8.30am – 1pm

10am - 12pm, live music
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'Toss a Coin' game is returning and there will be fabulous silent auctions and raffles available on the night!

Please email trivianighttix@gmail.com or phone/txt Emma on 021707835 to book your tickets.

All funds raised go towards supporting our Scouts to attend National Schools and Events and assisting with replacement camping equipment.

The 2019 event was one not to be missed



The Kaukapakapa Hall was packed



The Clampet Clan



The Pirates

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The fallen

Kaukapakapa's historic All Saints Cemetery is showing the ravages of time and we need your help. As a first, stage eight of the worst affected graves have been selected for repair, these headstones are down and broken and will be cleaned, drilled, pinned, rejoined and then refitted onto their existing bases by Thompson Memorials. Finding descendants is a little challenging, not to mention a lesson in Kaukapakapa's past. The eight graves belong to;

Mary Hannah Mumford. Died 1930's

Maria Cox. Died 1912

Frances, John and Agnes McLeod. Died 1919, 1911, 1884

Annie Drinnan. Died 1917

Margaret Hooper. Died 1935

Ann Elizabeth McGuire. Died 1936

Ralph and Sarah Osbaldiston. Died 1904, 1912

Violet Ellen Jones, née Rapson Died 1898

Some of these families may have moved on from the area, but it is our hope that we can find enough descendants who are willing to contribute towards the cost of the restoration. We need these people resting in peace, not pieces. If these are your whanau you can contact Megan Paterson - 021 959017, Zarnie Fergusson - 022 4374514 or Grev Walker 021 08290768, for more info. On Sunday 13th September, weather permitting, the NZ Remembrance Army will be cleaning and restoring the 29 veteran graves in the All Saints Kaukapakapa cemetery. Sponsored by Bioshield and Resenes their mission is for every service grave in the country to be restored to the same standard of the graves of their comrades overseas. Come along and say hello to these fantastic volunteers and find out more about their awesome task of respect.

Below is an example of the amazing results achieved with expert restoration - see the article in our Helensville Community News August issue.



The Helensville cemetery headstone of returned Boer War and WW1 soldier William Smith, before and after restoration.



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Kindred Family Services

There's a new name to get used to around town, Kindred Family Services.

It may take a little while before it becomes part of the local vernacular, but in a year from now it will be as much a part of the fabric of Helensville as "The A&P Show", "The Rugby Club" or "The Grand."

Kindred Family Services is the new name of the recently-merged Helensville Women and Family Centre and Kia Timata Ano Women's Refuge.

"Kindred isn't a commonly used word, in fact it's quite old-fashioned in many ways, but we like it because it speaks to the values we stand by like relationships, community and being kind to one another and we believe it's a name we can really grow into," says Ana Christmas, Executive Director of the new organisation.

So, while the name is new, the staff, their work and commitment to the people of the wider South Kaipara area is long-standing.

The Helensville Women and Family Centre, based out of the old Post Office building, has been a steady presence in the area for over a quarter of a century.

The Kia Timata Ano Trust may not be as widely recognised as it kept its profile fairly quiet, but since 2006 it has run a safe-house for women and children and worked hard to help both women and men live free from violence.

The two organisations have come together as one, retaining all staff and existing services.

With a dedicated family harm team, the safe house which has offered refuge to 14 women and 18 children in the last year will remain a vital part of the organisation.

The friendly staff based in the old Post Office building on Commercial Road invite anyone who wants to pop in for a chat over a cuppa, or who may need more in-depth counselling to call in and learn more about the services? from food parcels through the Kai Collective, to programmes for children who have suffered the loss of a loved one, or events like the always-popular Children's Day held every March.

The new name and brand including a new website will be rolled out until later in September.



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Kaipara korero

by Steve McCracken

Principal Steve McCracken

There is always a silver lining to every situation, even if, at the time, it is completely unknown. For secondary school students throughout the country, particularly those embarking on exams, this current COVID-19 regional lock down is far from ideal. This lockdown has increased the pressure on staff and students to ensure individuals meet their potential and make 2020 a meaningful year. For students that are transitioning out of secondary school, this loss of face to face teaching and learning is significant.

At this time of year, schools are busy preparing students for their final examinations coming up in November. It's a time for placing the final touches on any new and reinforcing existing learning. It's a time for giving students a final nudge towards the finish line and the ever-looming exams. And, for many students who have heavy, portfolio-based workloads, it's a time when effective feedback can be a make or break. This COVID lockdown could not have come at a worse time for students sitting examinations and expecting to pass NCEA in 2020. There is, however, a silver lining, and in this case, it is twofold. We have done lockdown before and slipping back into the online learning world was relatively straight forward for many. We are also incredibly fortunate to have an assessment system that is flexible and meets the needs of individual students and schools. It is very different from when I was at school, with a one-off exam at the end of the school year that determined if you passed or failed the year.

We are also hearing that the gap of inequity has widened through this lockdown. As schools resume and a second new normal begins, the challenge for all schools will be to advance those who have had the ability to complete online learning, whilst putting in remedial measures to catch up those who haven't had the same opportunities. What is important for everyone to remember is that we are all in this together. All schools will be doing their absolute best to bridge the gap and extend those who need it.

Students who are about to embark on life beyond school have possibly suffered the most in this current lockdown. Many tertiary providers have required the completion of applications for courses and scholarships over this period, whilst being limited in capacity to provide the support required to successfully do this. Students who were planning to join the workforce have also been impacted, with the effects of COVID on small business having a flow-on effect to all employment, not just school leavers. The silver lining to that though is that, as some businesses struggle to survive, the opportunity for creativity and ingenuity has never been greater.

There is no doubt in my mind that lockdowns are incredibly challenging. We are all hoping these challenges are short lasting so that some sense of a new, version 2 normal can resume. For secondary school students, it's more than wearing a mask to the supermarket; it's their futures that are being impacted. We can sit and dwell, but now, more than ever, is an opportunity to use the flexibility in our education system, close the equity gap, and create and chase our dreams. As the COVID raincloud clears, the silver linings are the new and exciting opportunities ahead for all young people.

Return to normal...or not?

by Gemma Bayly, Year 12, Kaipara College

Almost as soon as we returned to school after the first lockdown, Kaipara College returned to normal. Students mingled in the quad with their friends before school and pushed their way into the tuck shop queues at interval and lunch. Nobody talked about COVID-19, or even about the lockdown. Sport resumed gradually during term two, and by term three, all the sports' teams were diligently going to their games every week.

For many students and teachers, term two seemed endless. At the end of the term, the internals senior students missed during lockdown piled up on us. In one day, I had three assessments. By the time the holidays finally came after a very long term, everyone was exhausted.

After the school holidays, term three was off to a rolling start. We were just about to have our first assembly back in the hall after spending the last few months having them online. The Kaipara College school ball was held on August 1st, in Settlers in Waimauku, just in time before level three.

The lockdown came as a shock to us. One day we were at school, talking about the mock exam next week or making plans for the weekend with friends. The next day, we were at home.

I was a bit stunned at first. It didn't feel real. I could still hear as many cars on the highway as usual, but school was closed. I was given no new schoolwork in the first week either, so it felt like the holidays. I set to work in the first few days making masks from the last few bits of elastic in the house. But by the second week, emails from my teachers were flying in, with most teachers saying they hoped we would be back at school soon.

There is a bit more urgency surrounding schoolwork in this lockdown, especially for seniors. We are closer to the end of the year, and closer to exams. Teachers already had to squeeze more work in to catch up on what we missed in April and May. Many teachers adjusted the assessments their classes would do this year, opting for more internal assessments (in class) and less external assessments (exams).

The Kaipara College mock exam week was cancelled this year. Instead, mock exams will be held in class. In other years, the topics have to be taught by the mock exams in September, so having no mock exam week takes pressure off students and teachers.

NZQA has made a few changes. The end of year exams have been pushed back by ten days. I heard a few students grumbling, "I have to do exams in December!" after looking at the new timetable. Another change is learning recognition credits. When we earn five credits, we get one learning recognition credit free. This will help us to achieve the 80 total credits needed to pass the

year. Most students are happy to have these in place, in case more assessments are affected by COVID-19. After all, who knows what will happen next for Kaipara College students?



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Bryan Stuart McLeod (1927 – 2020).



Bryan McLeod was 93 when he passed away in July. He was a great great grandson of Isaac McLeod Snr, who was born in Scotland and migrated to Canada before arriving in Te Awaroa from Nova Scotia in 1862 with his brother John and their respective wives Janet and Helen. The McLeod clan, many of whom still live in Te Awaroa, which was renamed Helensville by John in honour of his wife, are very proud of their heritage, as evidenced by the presence of the bagpipes and the number of family members wearing the traditional national garb of Scotland, including beautiful kilts, at Bryan's well-attended Rautawhiri Park funeral.

MC Lawrence McLeod spoke of how Bryan's father Vivian, son of Isaac Jnr., traded by launch and barge on the Kaipara. After serving in France in World War 1 Vivian was balloted a farm at South Head and Bryan and his siblings grew up there. There was initially no road to the farm, so Viv's water skills became the mode of transport for the farming operation as well as general cartage, including metal, wool and cream, on the Kaipara. (Part of the farm

and the family homestead, remodelled, are still in the family, owned by Viv's grandson Graeme and daughter-in-law Janet).

Bryan attended Helensville Primary and Helensville District High, leaving school early to work on the family farm, which he bought from his father when he was 21 while it still had no electricity. With a team of horses, he set about clearing and grassing the land. He gave up milking a small herd of cows and stocked the farm with sheep, coinciding with the outbreak of the Korean War, a time when the Government wanted all the wool it could get for making soldiers' uniforms. This helped Bryan make a good start to his farming career. He was proud of what he was achieving and wanted every piece of his farm to be producing. The steeper areas were planted in pines and the areas too wet to plough were planted in eucalypts.

He married Cynthia in 1950 after meeting her at a dance. They had five children, Graeme, Beverley, Raewyn, Kaye (who, sadly, died at 18 months) and Janette. When the family had grown the couple enjoyed travelling widely.

Bryan was eulogised as a good man who worked hard, played hard and loved a good practical joke. He had oceans of energy. He was on the South Head Hall and Waioneke School Committees, was a member of the Kaipara Harbour Search and Rescue Organisation and Cruising Club and began the country's first commercial Christmas tree farm. This enterprise began almost by mistake. He was always interested in trees and was one of the founding members of the Farm Forestry Association. He realised there were more trees suitable for a Christmas tree in his pine plantation than just the one he needed for his family, and so it began, in 1967, with a few hundred, growing into a best year sale of 25,792 trees.

All those who spoke at his funeral told of his active life and great sense of humour. Like his Dad, Bryan loved the water and spent as much time as he could fishing, diving and water skiing, making his last scuba dive when he was 78. He had several boats. The first, a 12-foot open dinghy with a seagull outboard motor, was used for fishing off the end of the farm in the Kaipara. "Mare-ee-ann", the 16'6" Carl Augustin-design runabout he built from scratch in the wool shed in 1964, was his pride and joy. Over the years his boat covered most of the Kaipara Harbour, attended many of the regattas at Helensville, Dargaville and Pahi, competed in off shore boat races out of the Auckland Harbour, went in and out of Mangawhai Heads fishing and diving, and to Lake Rototoa (known then as Ototoa) water skiing prior to the Council stopping motor boat use on the lake.

A chance visit to Ruapehu in his early 20s ignited a love of skiing and he became an early member of the Boomerang Ski Club. Skiing became a family passion, involving four generations of McLeods. On one memorable day seven years ago at Coronet Peak there were four generations skiing together. Bryan competed successfully in club races and on the Masters' circuit throughout New Zealand ski fields. He loved his many overseas ski trips, often accompanied by family members. One of his proudest moments was being in Torino Italy in 2006 watching his granddaughter Erika compete in the Winter Olympics. He was 88 years old when he had his last ski run down the hill at Ruapehu.

Bryan's marriage to Cynthia lasted 64 years. He missed her hugely after she passed away in September 2013. Not long after that he moved into Craigweil House in Parakai, where he was very well looked after and mostly very happy and where, for a time, he enjoyed mobility scooter races against Joe Donohue.

Bryan is survived by his children Graeme, Beverley, Raewyn and Janette, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

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Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Free lunchtime meeting every Wednesday, 12 midday in small office at rear of carpark Magnify, 118 Main Road, www.al-anon.org.nz.

Circle of Friends: Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm River Valley Church, Fordyce Road, Parakai. \$4 includes a raffle, membership \$10 (covers the cost of trips) Play Bingo, Trips in warmer weather, shared lunch, Contact Joan 021 029 51753.

Combustion Youth: Friday, 7.00-9pm, Meet at Magnify, 118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. For 13-18yrs. Ph 420-8911.

Community Dinner – Whether you are new to the area or have been here for a long time you are invited to the fortnightly community dinner at Magnify, 118 Commercial Rd, Helensville. Starts 6:30pm Contact Niki Greendale 0272-059-573.

Diabetes & Arthritis Group - First Monday in the month unless it's a public holiday. Held at the Council meeting room in the Council and library building on the corner of Porter Ave and Commercial Road, from 10am to 12pm. We have also amalgamated with the Arthritis Group. Morning tea provided. Speaker and fun times. Contact Shirley on 420-6501 or Glennis on 420-2801.

Helensville Aglow, First Friday of the Month at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Road Helensville (behind Hospice Shop) All welcome, Contact yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

Helensville Floral Art Club, Third Thursday of the Month at Helensville Masonic Lodge, 9 Kowhai Street. All welcome, Contact Cushla 420-8905 cushanddez80@gmail.com for more information.

Helensville Healing Rooms, Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Road, Next to the Hospice Shop, Opposite Mitre 10, Every second and fourth Saturday, 11am-12 noon, Need healing in your body or a breakthrough in your life? Visit and experience God's love. ALL WELCOME Phone 0211-230-434 NO APPOINTMENT & NOCHARGE.

Helensville Lions Club, meet 2nd and 4th Mondays of the each month, in the Tennis Club building, 124/164 Rautawiri Road, 6.30pm for 7pm start. Just come along to any meeting to see what we are about - you will be made very welcome or contact Pauline 420-6208.

Helensville River Valley Country Music Club Held 3rd Sunday of the month at Helensville War Memorial Hall. 1pm start. All Welcome Contact Marion 420-8867.

Hot Pool Stretching and Exercise Class: Every Tuesday 8-30-9.30am. Suitable for arthritis sufferers or those wanting to warm up these muscles and stay flexible. Lots of fun; pool noodles available and fully instructed. At Parakai Springs Hot Pools. For more information contact Chrissy on 027-258-2010

Icenz 4 Boys 8-18 yrs, Adventure, life skills, Leadership and Fun – every Tuesday of the school term, 6pm-7.45pm. Held at Magnify, 118 Commercial Road. Contact Adrian Low 021-999-449

Icenz 4 Girls 8-13yrs Awesome programme filled with games, activities and skills - every Tuesday of the school term 6.15pm-7.45pm. Held at Magnify, 118 Commercial Road. Contact Sonja Binks 021-202-4792.

Kumeu Friendship Club. Friendship New Zealand Inc. is a welcoming social organisation for people living in New Zealand who are retired or semi-retired. Come along and join us on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10am at St. Chad's Church, 7 Matua Rd, Huapai.

Noah's Ark Playgroup - Helping parents and caregivers enjoy

the preschool years, every Wednesday of the school term, 9.30am-12pm at Magnify, 118 Commercial Road. Contact Kim Duncan 027-444-3492

Peggy squares knitting group, Wednesdays 10am - 11:30am Join us for a coffee and a chat while knitting your Peggy Squares and assist us in creating community blankets for children in your community. Glenys 09-411-8546

SeniorNet Kumeu Inc., Have you ever thought about joining SeniorNet? The Kumeu branch meets in St Chads Church, Huapai, with a Helensville outpost in a private home in Garfield Rd. The cost of entry is \$3. Why not come along and find out what we have to offer. Contact details: Brian Lacey brian@lacey.nz, 0221-831-811, Beverley Meredith, meredithpb@xtra.co.nz, 09-411-5201.

South Kaipara Rotary: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 - 8pm at Parakai School. All welcome, young or old.

Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Assoc (TARRA), Helensville War Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome. Enquiries 021-488-427 or email tarrassoc@gmail.com

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	3 Thu	1122	4.0	2334	0640	1802
	4 Fri	1155	4.0		0638	1803
	5 Sat	0006	4.1	1227	0637	1803
	6 Sun	0036	4.0	1257	0635	1804
	7 Mon	0107	3.9	1328	0634	1805
	8 Tue	0140	3.8	1402	0632	1806
	9 Wed	0217	3.6	1442	0631	1807
	10 Thu	0300	3.5	1529	0629	1807
	11 Fri	0352	3.5	1628	0628	1808
	12 Sat	0456	3.3	1742	0626	1809
	13 Sun	0613	3.3	1902	0625	1810
	14 Mon	0732	3.5	2010	0623	1811
	15 Tue	0838	3.7	2106	0622	1811
	16 Wed	0932	4.0	2155	0620	1812
	17 Thu	1021	4.2	2241	0619	1813
	18 Fri	1107	4.4	2326	0617	1814
	19 Sat	1151	4.4		0616	1815
	20 Sun	0010	4.5	1235	0614	1815
	21 Mon	0054	4.3	1319	0613	1816
	22 Tue	0138	4.1	1405	0611	1817
	23 Wed	0226	3.9	1455	0610	1818
	24 Thu	0320	3.6	1553	0608	1819
	25 Fri	0425	3.4	1705	0607	1819
	26 Sat	0544	3.3	1823	0605	1820
	27 Sun	0759	3.3	2031	0703	1921
	28 Mon	0903	3.5	2127	0702	1922
	29 Tue	0955	3.7	2215	0701	1923
	30 Wed	1040	3.8	2256	0659	1924

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Markets	Kaukapakapa Village Market	0274-831-542
Markets	Waitoki Village Market	Gill 420-3301

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Big win for local filmmaker *by Helen Martin*

Warm congratulations to Woodhill filmmaker Robyn Grace (Director, Writer) on her film 'Oranges and Lemons' winning the coveted Creative New Zealand Jury Prize for Best New Zealand Short Film at this year's Whanau Marama New Zealand International Film Festival. 'Oranges and Lemons' was competing against 77 other New Zealand short films.

In summary, the jury said 'Oranges and Lemons' "evokes beautifully the world and anxieties of childhood both in visual detail and performance, demonstrates a courage to resist sensationalism and predictability, while at the same time challenging, in a subtle and gentle way, our conditioned assumptions about human behaviour."

Robyn, who was profiled in Helensville Community News in June 2019, says the story, set in 1973, was based on her experience of walking to school when she was five and being bullied by the neighbour's daughter who wouldn't let her walk with them. 'Oranges and Lemons' is about "summer and heat, childhood and bravery, it is a snapshot of a time gone by, when life was simpler, but bullying was just as complicated." She wrote the story seven years ago and put the script away, coming back to it after her mother, Rhonda Grace, died unexpectedly and tragically in 2017. "It suddenly became important to tell the story that comes directly from my childhood and has a moment of my mum, in all her silent strength in the kitchen, keeping us all fed and moving forward.

There are small moments of my mum in the film and it's also about young girls learning to find their voice and their freedom, about women being loud enough to be heard. After the funeral when everything became quiet again, I had a thought about 'Oranges and Lemons' and the new ending sprang out of my brain at 3am. That's when all the good stuff happens."

The self-funded film was produced by Rory MacGillicuddy and the lead role was played by nine-year-old Papamoa Primary School girl Skyler Sylvester.



Nine-year-old Skyler Sylvester in 'Oranges and Lemons' lead role.