

# The Helensville Community News

Issue 148 - March 2022



**Sunday 17th April  
(9.00am to 3.00pm)**



We're holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt again so time to pack up the kids and a picnic and head to Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens this coming Easter Sunday. You may want to just pop out for an hour or you're more than welcome to stay all day.

If you want to come along in your bunny suit or other seasonal dress you won't be alone 😊.

Apart from the kids play ground, picnic and Petanque areas you will also be able to stroll around the beautiful 1.2km sculpture trail which has over 40 marvellous new sculptures created for our 2022 exhibition by local and international artists on display.

There is also now an additional 2.3km nature trail which meanders around farmland and native forest, has a beautiful new lookout point of the Kaipara Harbour and forms an important part of the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre conservation and restoration program.\*



Eggs will be replenished as the event progresses (i.e. between 9.00 am and 3.00pm) to ensure no one is disappointed.

We also have our cute little coffee shop on site plus of course the plant centre.

A wonderful way to spend Easter



**Wouldn't you like to  
just get back to normal!**

Sunday and we're only a few minutes drive North of Kaukapakapa (and around 35 minutes from downtown Auckland).

Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will also be on hand to help with any garden related questions.

\* Trail not suitable for wheelchairs or walking frames.

**All relevant Covid safety processes  
will be in place**

Venue location: Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa  
Entry: \$15 per person or \$35 per family  
Contact: [info@kaiparacoast.co.nz](mailto:info@kaiparacoast.co.nz)  
OR 09 420 5655



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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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## AGM.

### Kaipara Memorial RSA

Thursday 31st March 2022, 6.30pm

At

The RSA clubrooms,

49 Commercial Road, Helensville.

All members are urged to attend.

New committee to be nominated by 11th March 2022.

Notice of Motion;

Moved Rex Keane, seconded Noel Bodle that Steven Wilson be awarded a Life

Membership of the KMRSA, IAW the KMRSA Rule 8E.

For an agenda or information, email [kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz)



## Kaipara Memorial RSA Helensville Service Cemetery

Late last year members of the Kaipara Memorial RSA committee including Kevin Otto, Noel Bodle and President Rex Keane were joined by members of the Remembrance Army, Megan Patterson and Dan Walters and met with Auckland Council staff and Chris Fraser from Bronze Plaques NZ, who are contracted by Veterans Affairs to audit the Service Cemeteries around NZ.

Chris informed us that he checks all the plaques and plinths for condition and that they are not loose, that there is a "Seat of Remembrance" and "a granite sign" in place, the cenotaph is in good condition, the flag pole is in working order and the grounds are neatly mown. One item that Chris noted was that Helensville does not have sufficient parking. He will report back to Veterans Affairs. Chris requests that relatives use the concrete vases next to the plaques for flowers, rather than a glass jar, which get blown over and smashed. Chris also gave us a packet of "Flanders Field Poppy" seeds to grow in time for ANZAC and Armistice Day commemorations.

We did question him about the condition of the Cenotaph at Parakai, but he told us that it is under the control of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. The Parakai Cenotaph has a Council Designation around it, marking it on Council planning maps and documents, to protect it from future developments.

## Remembrance Army

After the meeting, Dan Walters and Megan Patterson showed us some of the Headstones of World War One veterans, which had been restored by the Remembrance Army, they stand out amongst the other grave sites. Whilst a large number of WW1 veterans were KIA and buried in War Cemeteries overseas, those who returned did not have the benefit of a New Zealand Service Cemetery, until they were created after World War Two.

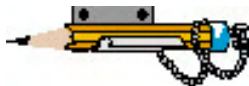
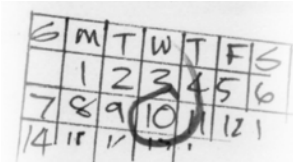
If you have a spare hour or two, wander around the Helensville Service Cemetery, then visit some of the WW1 grave sites, which the Remembrance Army has restored.

President Rex Keane says anyone is welcome to visit the Kaipara Memorial RSA's museum during opening hours or arrange a visit and browse through our library, citations, plaques, medals, badges and military equipment on display. Email [kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz) or phone Rex 027 293 2768 for more information.

*Lest We Forget*



## What's happening this month



**Saturday, 12 March 8:30am and Sunday 13 March 2022 8:30am.**

**Kumeu Show 100th Show.** Kumeu Showgrounds, Access Road, Kumeu, Auckland, Ticket Information - Adult: \$15.00 ea - Senior: \$10.00 ea - Child 5 - 16: \$5.00 ea - Child under 5 years: \$0.00 ea. A huge range of entertainment, activities, competitions and over 500 trade stalls there is something for the whole family. The Show has strong competition for Alpaca, Equestrian, Highland Dancing, Woodchopping and Shearing. Our Indoor Exhibits cater for Junior, Intermediate and Senior competitors wishing to test their ability with flowers, vegetables, crafts, preserves, cooking and photography.

**Saturday, 12 March 9am to 4pm, Pop-up Book Fair in the Helensville War Memorial Hall.** Nothing over \$2. Children's books 50c. Organised by the Lions Club of Helensville. Vaccine passes will be required and social distancing must be observed.

**Sunday, 20 March, Kaukapakapa Village Market Kaukapakapa Hall, 8:30am - 1:00pm** Held on the 3rd Sunday of every month all year round, this lively village market is located in the Kaukapakapa Village a pleasant 45 minutes drive from Auckland City. 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. With its friendly people, great atmosphere and a tempting selection of quality stalls there's something for everyone with everything from locally hand-made crafts, fresh fruit & veg to pre-loved treasures and collectables. Live music from Jessica on the piano keyboard from 10am - 12pm. For more information, stall-holder and music enquiries contact Sarah: Phone: 0274 831542 or Email - sarah1@maxnet.co.nz Eftpos cash out available.

**Sunday, 20 March, Kaukapakapa Historic Library, 9am to 1pm,** Meet Helensville author Janice McMurdo with her new book 'The House Down the Hill'. As with her first two 'The Bird's Nest' and 'Wait for the Tide', her latest is also set on the South Head Peninsula, Kaipara. Featuring a drug boss from Auckland, an ex SAS Australian Army neighbour and the eccentric Georgina with her bees, chooks and cat 'Mr Wilson', the story follows the operation of a local meth lab. Janice is a well-known Helensville identity, for her catering as well as her writing. 'The House Down the Hill' has been dedicated to the late John Perry who, as a child,

had a cat named Mr Wilson. Come along, meet Janice and find out more! Kaukapakapa Library is open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market. For more information email Megan at: threehorses@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 959017.

**Sunday, 20 March, 10am - 2pm. 'Helensville Art Trail' aka HAT** will be holding an Exhibition at the Art Centre. All the HAT artists will be putting some of their pieces in to make a wonderful display. The studio exhibition runs from 2nd March till 27th March, so come and see the Artists in their studios, and then at the Gallery which will be open each Sunday of the exhibition from 10am - 2pm.

**Thursday, 31 March, Kaipara Memorial RSA, AGM 6.30pm** at The RSA clubrooms, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville.

All members are urged to attend. New committee to be nominated by 11th March 2022. Notice of Motion; Moved Rex Keane, seconded Noel Bodle that Steven Wilson be awarded a Life Membership of the KMRSA, IAW the KMRSA Rule 8E.

For an agenda or information, email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz

### APRIL:

**Friday, 1 April, Helensville Aglow, 7.30pm** at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Road Helensville (behind the Hospice shop). All welcome. The guest speaker for this meeting is yet to be confirmed. Contact Bridget at helensvilleaglow@outlook.com for more information.

**Saturday, 9 April 2022 10:30am and Sunday 10 April 2022 10:30am Women's Street Smart Self-Defence, Helensville War Memorial Hall, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville, Auckland**

The Women's Street Smart Self-Defence workshop is probably the most intense, comprehensive, enjoyable & hands-on women's self-defence syllabus in New Zealand. The instructors know not to spend too much time talking and utilise as much time as possible demonstrating and making sure everyone masters the techniques shown. So what sort of things can you expect to learn at this workshop? You learn the vital parts of the body - parts of the body that are vulnerable & easy to attack. Learn how to block an attack confidently. Learn how to defend yourself against slaps, punches, pushes & grabs. Learn to defend yourself against headlock's, hair grabbing, wrist grabs. Learn how to defend yourself against chokeholds, bear hugs. Learn how to defend yourself on the ground. Learn effective rape defence techniques. Learn how to use your hands, legs, knees & elbows as weapons. Learn to defend yourself against many other types of attacks with confidence. This workshop runs over a two day period, the syllabus taught on day one carries through to day two. We do realise not everyone can commit to the two days, so if you were to choose a day then we suggest attending day two. For more details contact Charlie (S.A.F.E Self Defence & Close Quarters Combat) on: Mobile: 027 368 9245. Email: info@selfdefencecourses.co.nz



**Sunday 20th March  
Kaukapakapa Hall  
8.30am - 1pm**

10.00am - 12pm, live music  
from Jessica on the keyboard.

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## North West resource consents

We need more than empty promises on housing. A warm, safe place to live should be the right of every New Zealander. It's the issue that politicians hear about the most and yet the issue the public trusts politicians on the least. And it's no wonder with so many broken and empty promises from successive Governments.

Labour was elected to fix housing after the previous government also failed. The bi-annual report from Core Logic shows it's harder than ever to buy a home in New Zealand. The average property across New Zealand is now worth 8.8 times the average annual household income, and well beyond the long-term average of 5.9.

New Zealand has more land area than the United Kingdom with a population of 65 million. So why can't make enough land available to affordably house five million people?

The gap between homeowners and non-homeowners has never been wider, and the problem seems too difficult for either Labour or National to solve. That problem is the Resource Management Act.

I was contacted this week by a developer planning to replace four standalone homes with 17 new homes in a terraced housing complex. The plans are complete. There is an earthworks and drainage contractor lined up to start as soon as resource consents are issued.

His budget includes new stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. He has budgeted for council development contributions to support parks, reserves, and community facilities.

What he hasn't budgeted for is how long it takes to get a resource consent from Auckland Council. His application for land development and subdivision was lodged in October 2021. In late February 2022, the application has yet to be allocated to a council planner to review, let alone approve.

The Resource Management Act allows councils 20 working days to process a consent, yet after more than 120 days this application sits in a stack of hundreds on a planners' desk.

In November 2021 Labour and National pushed through the RMA Enabling Housing Bill under urgency. ACT was the only party to oppose the Bill because we don't believe the law changes will actually make more affordable land available for housing.

A developer gave evidence to Parliament's Environment Committee that his company burned \$1 million every year on land holding costs alone, because it took so long to get consents. That cost goes straight onto the price of a new home, when it is finally built.

Developers asked for one thing - make the resource consent process simpler and faster to speed up land development for housing. That is why ACT would repeal the Resource Management Act and replace it with separate Environmental Protection and Urban Development Acts.

ACT's repeal and replacement of the RMA would not only accelerate house building this would make a real difference to housing affordability - vital for healthy communities and a healthy economy.

Our reforms to the RMA would increase the certainty for investors, developers, and local councils, giving them the confidence to invest in ambitious projects, without living in fear of planners or the Environment Court.

These kinds of sensible and practical changes will make a real difference and hopefully restore the public's faith in politicians after being let down time and again.



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# From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

## Fast reliable broadband throughout Kaipara ki Mahurangi

It goes without saying how critical the internet is to us today. Our lives practically revolve around it, whether it be accessing emails or software, working from home, paying the bills or ordering those essential items.

Sadly, for some of our communities it's considered a luxury to have fast, working access to the internet. This is obviously a cause for frustration on any regular day but it's another thing entirely to have slow and barely-there internet access during periods of lockdown and self-isolation. Unfortunately, this is the lived experience for some of our local communities.

That is why I'm advocating for fast and reliable internet access for all areas of my electorate as a priority in 2022. And I'm pleased to say that progress is already being made.

Recently I met with a Chorus representative to advocate for individual constituents. One community that has particularly been hit hard with poor internet access is the area of Coatesville. Due to its location, Coatesville was initially considered to be outside of Auckland city coverage to justify ultra-speed broadband, but at the same time was not considered as sufficiently remote or rural enough to justify the Rural Broadband initiative, so the residents were losing both ways.

Thankfully, where there is a will, there is way. Chorus identified around 650 residents who were willing to contribute to the internet trust scheme. Along with some government funding in the mix, we now have nearly all of these residents connected to fast, reliable internet. This is a huge win for our Coatesville constituents as a result of a combined public/private solution.

But the work isn't finished yet. My next mission is to seek out practical solutions for other communities that don't appear to have a silver bullet any time soon, yet who are desperately in need of working internet.

I will continue to lobby the government for a better deal for our north and northwest Auckland. Because reliable, working internet access is something that's worth fighting for.

*Cheers, Chris*

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# Helensville Library and Service Centre news

Kia ora

The Helensville Library team was pleased to support the Helensville A&P Show as their team put together a show – online. The decorated cardboard cut-out piggies have brightened up the exterior of the building.

February saw the Helensville team celebrate Tutu Twos-day on Tuesday 22.02.2022! Some of us leapt at the chance to dress up at work. It was a bit of shock to the stormwater team we met that day, while (metaphorically) wearing our Council Services hats.



February also saw the end of Auckland Libraries' Te Ara Poutama Level Up summer reading challenge for kids and teens. We had a small number of enthusiastic readers take part this year. Each library had a prize draw, drawn by one of Auckland Libraries' Reading Engagement Specialists. We would have been happy with whoever won this – but it was lovely to give the prize to a summer reading regular. Eliza and her family have taken part in the programme each year, since they moved into the area – when Eliza was too young to enter.



*The recipient is Eliza Gilbert. In the picture with her are Sasha and Andrew, who also took part in the programme. Their oldest sibling, Jacqui, took part in the Teen programme – but was at school when the photo was taken.*

## COVID-19 Updates:

As the Omicron outbreak spreads, it could affect our services at short notice.

We have had to go to a Click & Collect service for an afternoon recently – but this could happen more frequently. We could also close at short notice.

All service changes will be posted on our Facebook page as soon as possible.

Vaccination passes and masks are required to enter the Helensville War Memorial Hall building – which includes the library, the service centre desk, and the hall. NB: Children under 12 years and 3 months are not required to have a pass.

Auckland Libraries' Covid update page lets you all know what is available at the current time: [aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/covid-19-update.aspx](https://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/covid-19-update.aspx).

The building opening hours are: Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 5pm. Saturday: 9.30am to 4pm.

Both council and library services are available during these times.

How to contact us:

You can email us at: [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

You can phone us on 0800 695 427. You will be helped by our amazing Te Māpuna Library Connect team who will redirect your call to Helensville Library if necessary. They are open 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 5pm on weekends.

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibrary).

Anne Coppel

Poukōkiri/ Senior Librarian - Children & Youth, Helensville Library and Service Centre

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## Helensville Bowling Classic Fours Sponsored

Craigweil House Home and Hospital were proud to be the major sponsor of the Women's Classic Fours over Waitangi weekend 2022.

A much-anticipated annual event at Helensville Bowling Club, it is the Club's main tournament for women. And it is fiercely competitive with prize money of \$1,000.00.

Held over two days, the second day was lots of fun with a fancy dress theme of "Happy Days." This could be interpreted as harkening to the good old days or, alternatively, to dress-up inspired by the TV show, Happy Days (see Best Dressed Winners pictured).

Craigweil House's Facility Co-ordinator, Deb Presland, is a proud member of the Helensville Bowling Club. Deb entered the tournament with her team mates Georgina Waru, Didge Cullen, and Kelly Clark coming in at 3rd Place.

Taking 2nd place was Michelle Kean, Judy McSweeney, Maureen Howden, and Lin East.

And coming in at a well-deserved 1st place was Jan Harrison, Christine Daizell, Kerin Roberts, and Elaine McClintoch.

Again, Craigweil House wishes to congratulate all the teams this year at the Women's Classic Fours.



**Women's Classic Fours 2022 at Helensville Bowling Club sponsored by Craigweil House Home and Hospital.**

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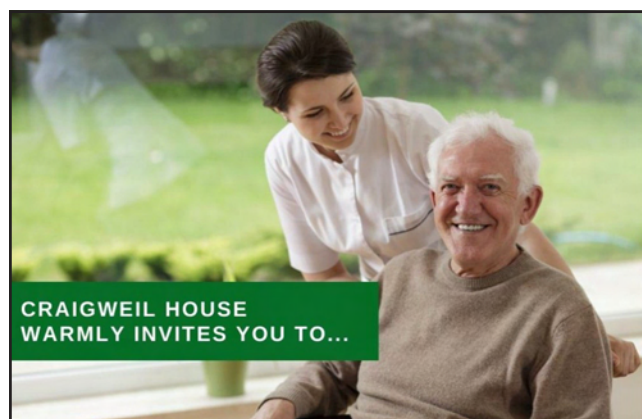
# Club's Women's by Craigweil House



From left: Deb Presland (Craigweil House's Facility Co-ordinator), Georgina Waru, Didge Cullen, Kelly Clark and, in front, David Halewood (Craigweil House's Facility Manager).



Best Dressed Winners: Irene Donaldson, Meralee Simpson, Sheryl Innes, Sue Jackett with David Halewood (Facility Manager at Craigweil House).



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# A busy start to the 2022 school year

by Georgia Shivan, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

The commencement of a new school year creates opportunity for both challenges and successes. After a few weeks of adjusting to a new timetable, classes, and expectations, the chaos that is the beginning of Term 1 is receding and we, as students, are gearing up for another busy (and quite likely disjointed) year at Kaipara College.

In early February, the Peer Support Program successfully inducted seven new Year 9 whanau classes to the school, with the return of all students on February 3rd for their timetabled classes. It has been a hectic few weeks for everyone, with students across all year levels settling back into the routine of full-time on-campus learning for the first time since August. Our school grounds are bustling with students again and the daily notices are full of upcoming events and opportunities.

Sport at Kaipara College is now underway with registrations open and tryouts being held for our badminton, basketball, netball, football, and hockey teams. The whole-school heptathlon being held on February 25th has, however, been cancelled and is now only open to competitive athletes due to current traffic light settings.

Our annual school swimming sports also took place on February 16th with Jasper Evans, Maya Duckworth, Paraone Ratima, Jade Sutherland, Harry Daniels, and Jessica Cameron placing 1st in their respective age divisions. Paraone also broke our school record for the 3 length freestyle race, which has been held since 1996.

Clubs, both new and pre existing, such as the Book Club, Student Council, and Duke of Edinburgh, are also welcoming new members. And for Valentines Day, the PSSP group were busy delivering chocolate roses to students around the school for whom they had been anonymously purchased, a tradition that has been at Kaipara College for a number of years.

Our Board of Trustees Student Representative elections are also taking place after being disrupted by lockdowns at the end of

2021, seeking to find an individual to represent our student body on Kaipara College's Board of Trustees and to help nurture our school in a direction that meets the needs and expectations of their peers.

Towards the end of February, due to staffing shortages caused by isolation requirements, it was necessary for our senior students to complete distance learning on a rostered system in order to give remaining staff the ability to relieve existing classes. So it was back behind our computer screens at our home desks, completing work set for us on Google Classroom, feeling a strange sense of *deja vu*.

Disjointed or not, this school year will be a year of firsts and lasts for all of our students, and will undoubtedly bear witness to each student's own trials and triumphs.



**Year 9 students completing orientation day activities**

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## Kaipara korero

*Principal Cindy Sullivan*

### From the Principal's desk:

Wow, what a start to the 2022 school year. A few days before we were preparing for and excitedly looking forward to welcoming our new Year 9 students, Omicron was declared present in New Zealand. Determined to start as we mean to go on, to carry on despite the distractions, complications and difficulties caused by Covid, we stuck to our plan (adjusted slightly to meet the health and safety requirements!) and welcomed our wonderful Year 9 students on site at the end of January. The students enjoyed a day of orientation activities and fun to help them to get to know each other and feel comfortable in their new school environment, beginning their journey to develop a sense of belonging and experience success. The Year 9 students then relished their first day of teaching and learning, moving through their first day of timetabled classes. The students reported that they enjoyed having the school to themselves and hoped that the "big kids" would be nice to them! The teachers were delighted to meet their new students and support them in settling into high school. Our outstanding team of Year 13 Peer Support leaders, trained in leadership at an overnight camp in the holidays, were a real highlight for both students and staff during these orientation days. These students really do personify our PRIDE values and we are very proud of their ongoing work supporting our Year 9 students.

We welcomed all our students back a couple of days after the Year 9 orientation. The wearing of masks and the physical distancing did not dampen the students' delight at seeing each other and their teachers. The feeling was mutual. It really is great to have all our students back at school face to face after a long hard lockdown. Our students are to be commended for how they have taken COVID requirements in their stride and have settled down quickly to purposeful and meaningful learning. The teachers are working hard with our students to identify the inevitable gaps in learning from the last two years of intermittent lockdowns and to accelerate learning in those areas. We encourage our students to get involved in extra curricular activities that will challenge them and help them grow as individuals. Our students have already participated in and experienced success in equestrian, swimming and wrestling, among other things.

Close tracking of learning progress and achievement throughout last year, targeted interventions to support learning from our teachers, hard work from our students and support from their families, resulted in a general

overall improvement in our NCEA results for 2021, despite the lockdowns. We are thrilled for and congratulate our students who have achieved this success in what was a difficult year and we will continue to support all our students to their own level of excellence and success.

This year we remain positive in a difficult climate and focus on our core business of teaching and learning and having some fun along the way, staying safe, helping each other and are looking forward to supporting our students to be the best they can be. Until next time....

**Cindy Sullivan, Principal**

# ALL SAINTS

## KAUKAPAKAPA

## Plots now available at All Saints Kaukapakapa Cemetery

Thanks to new committee member, Jo Jordan, the restoration of the All Saints Kaukapakapa Cemetery continues with emphasis on the Ashes Berm feature area. The original pencil conifers planted by the late Isla Willis alongside the SH16 boundary had unfortunately succumbed to pests.

We're grateful to the Kaipara Coast Garden Centre for donating the replacement 'Thuja Occidentalis 'Pyramidalis'', as well as the climbers along the fence line. These are a hardier species and are already adding to the well tended look in the cemetery. The Ashes Berm still has some available plots at a cost of \$400 and enquiries may be made to Grev and Maureen Walker, ph 4207173



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# Art Centre Helensville



Our new exhibition beginning in March is Helensville Art Trail.

Helensville Art Trail has become an attraction for our local community. Twelve artists hold open studios on the third Sunday of every month and this has now become a popular event.

This collaborative exhibition of artists will bring together diverse practices, and allow the public to view studios coming together as one body.

The Gallery hours will extend for this one exhibition only! Sundays are included 10-2pm



**Helensville Art Trail**  
March 2 - 27, Wed to Sun  
Art Centre Helensville  
48 Commercial Rd (corner of Main (corner corner))  
Gallery hours: Wed-Fri 10am-4pm & Sat 10am-2pm

**HELENSVILLE ART TRAIL**  
exhibition March 2022

Exhibiting artists: Linda Preece, John Preece, Mike Lunn, John Lunn, William Reed, Jill Thompson, John Lunn, John Lunn, John Lunn, John Lunn, John Lunn, John Lunn

This quaint exhibition of postcards is to populate our workshop room with A5 artworks continuing throughout the year.



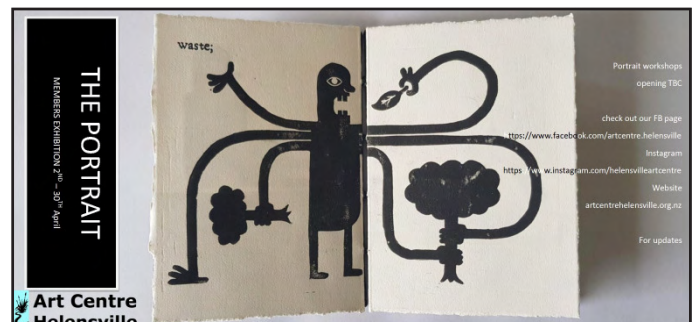
Our member artists can enter as many works at anytime to keep enriching the space with new inspiration.

All works are priced under \$100 to make

purchasing accessible.

In light of the times we are now experiencing, where travel and people contact has been denied or limited, the way in which we connect with one another has taken different approaches.

Revisiting past times of sending postcards as a personal form of communication is symbolized in this event. We already have stamped and addressed artworks delivered to the Gallery and more to come.



Our first member's show of the year 'The Portrait' is in April. The exhibition is a tribute to the long standing tradition of portraiture in art.

Although it presents the obvious head and shoulders, portraiture can take on many alternative forms. Through the lens of abstraction, sculpture, everyday life, innate objects...the list goes on.

Come down in April to see our members interpretation of The Portrait. Follow our pages for updates on workshops and an exhibition opening for the event

We are excited to announce that Roxstar Hair has relocated to our fabulous new salon at 4 Garfield Rd, Helensville. We have a fantastic location right on the corner next to the Awaroa Rd dairy & bakery so there's great parking right at the doorstep and ample parking next to the old picture theatre. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Thank you from your local hairdresser **Roxy**.



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## Three Waters Reform

What does it mean for North Auckland

The announcement by the Minister for Local Government, Nanaia Mahuta, that the Government will create four publicly owned water entities to ensure every New Zealander has access to affordable, long-lasting drinking, waste and storm water infrastructure without ballooning costs to households and families, is a positive decision for Auckland and Northland.

Over the last four years the Government has been investigating a range of options using the best of international and local expertise – and has robustly tested the options with oversight and guidance of the joint Central/Local Government steering committee.

The investigation included assessing options such as central government funding to the status quo, sector-led shared service delivery and regional models, introducing a national centralised fund similar to the NZTA-type model, and regulatory reform alone. The Water Industry Commission for Scotland also assessed 30 different aggregation scenarios ranging from two to 16 entities. Other models considered were unsustainable and unaffordable for large parts of the country.

The reforms are aimed to ensure that all New Zealanders have safe drinking water and to ensure that the fixing our ageing water infrastructure and guaranteeing safe and affordable water for all New Zealanders is actioned. The provision of safe drinking water supplies has been a long-term challenge that successive Governments have ignored, but that the reforms intend to fix.

The reforms will create four dedicated and publicly owned water entities. Without these, we'll keep seeing burst pipes, contaminated water, and skyrocketing costs for households.

The case for change is clear:

- 34,000 New Zealanders get sick from drinking water each year
- Many councils regularly have boil notices in place and close beaches over summer because they aren't safe to swim in due to sewerage discharge
- 64% of councils don't have water revenues to meet the full costs of running water services and assets
- 20% of all water supplies serving 100 people or more don't achieve full compliance with New Zealand drinking water standards

New Zealanders deserve better, and something has to change especially as the cost of each council fixing these problems is very high and will see water costs balloon for the vast majority of New Zealanders over the coming years.

The Government has looked at all the options and sought local and international expert advice, and everyone reaches the same conclusion: this plan offers the most cost-effective way to guarantee safe drinking water and the \$185 billion of investment needed in water infrastructure over the coming decades.

As well, the Government received feedback from councils through the 8-week engagement period helped identify areas for refinement of the new entities – such as in the area of representation and accountability.

The Government will continue to work in good faith with local government to refine the outstanding details of the reforms design and will establish three technical reference groups, similar to the Stormwater Technical Working Group, that will include, iwi,

industry and local government experts. These groups will help refine the reform proposals with regard to oversight and accountability; rural supplies; and the resource management interface.

This further work will be conducted within the government's reform bottom lines of good governance, partnership with mana whenua, public ownership and operational and financial autonomy.

The Three Waters Reforms will save New Zealanders money (amounting to thousands

per year, for many households), keep water assets in public ownership and make it harder to sell them, create jobs across the country, and boost growth.

If we don't act now, the question will always remain as "When?" As we know, procrastination is rarely a winning strategy. Putting our water reforms off will only see the costs rise.

*Marja Lubeck. Labour List MP*

Do you have an opinion on this or any other topic that you would like to share with other readers. Your opinion matters so have your say in a letter to the editor.

All letters, providing they are polite and reasoned, will be published and differing viewpoints welcomed.

Debate is healthy in a democracy and needs to be encouraged lest it be lost forever!

**Ed**

SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART					
Date	High Water Shelly Beach			Sun Rise	Sun Set
March '22					
1 Tue	1039	4.0	2305	0706	2000
2 Wed	1128	4.2	2353	0707	1959
3 Thu	-	4.2	1211	0708	1958
4 Fri	0035	4.2	1251	0709	1956
5 Sat	0114	4.2	1328	0710	1955
6 Sun	0150	4.1	1403	0711	1954
7 Mon	0224	4.0	1437	0711	1952
8 Tue	0258	3.8	1510	0712	1951
9 Wed	0333	3.7	1547	0713	1949
10 Thu	0413	3.5	1630	0714	1948
11 Fri	0503	3.3	1724	0715	1946
12 Sat	0612	3.2	1838	0716	1945
13 Sun	0742	3.2	2007	0717	1943
14 Mon	0854	3.3	2117	0718	1942
15 Tue	0947	3.6	2208	0719	1941
16 Wed	1030	3.8	2251	0720	1939
17 Thu	1110	4.0	2331	0721	1938
18 Fri	1148	4.2	-	0722	1936
19 Sat	0010	4.1	1225	0722	1935
20 Sun	0048	4.2	1304	0723	1933
21 Mon	0127	4.2	1343	0724	1932
22 Tue	0207	4.1	1424	0725	1930
23 Wed	0249	4.0	1508	0726	1929
24 Thu	0335	3.9	1558	0727	1927
25 Fri	0429	3.7	1658	0728	1926
26 Sat	0537	3.5	1814	0729	1924
27 Sun	0659	3.5	1938	0730	1923
28 Mon	0818	3.6	2053	0730	1921
29 Tue	0923	3.8	2153	0731	1920
30 Wed	1017	4.0	2244	0732	1918
31 Thu	1103	4.1	2329	0733	1917





# Regular Events

**60 Plus**, Held the last Thursday of each month, 10am morning tea provided, a great opportunity to meet others in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Held at Magnify, 118 Commercial Rd, around the back, downstairs. (There is a ramp) Jocelyn Read 0211-726-547.

**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](http://www.al-anon.org.nz).

**Circle of Friends**: Meet every Wednesday morning 9.30am - 12.30pm River Valley Church, Fordyce Road, Parakai. Membership \$4 per week, \$10 membership annually. Please bring a plate for lunch. Occasional trips out which are paid for by the club. We also play friendly Bingo games. For more information contact Joan 021 029 51753.

**Core Hit** - Tuesday 5.30. Bonnie Casey, War Memorial Hall, Helensville. Deep core and pelvic floor strengthening, plus cardio workout for ladies of all ages.

**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.

**Fitness League** - Friday 9.45am - War Memorial Hall, Helensville. Exercise to music (posture + balance). \$6 if you are a member, non members \$8. Membership \$20 per annum. Come and check us out. Christine Ph. 425-7108

**Groovy Line Dancing** Tuesday 9.30am - War Memorial Hall, Helensville. \$6 - Levia Aukino-Uruamo. Ph 022-626-7030

**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 cushandez80@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 & NO CHARGE.

**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. Contact Chris 420-8527.

**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

**Kaipara Memorial RSA**. - Quiz night every Wednesday at 7.00pm. 20 easy questions, free to enter, different quizmaster each week. Meals available from 6.00pm. All welcome at the RSA, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville. Any queries, give me a call, Rex Keane, 027 293 2768

**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.

**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 09-411-5151

**Poems After Dark**, bi-monthly in the Community Church, 40 Mill Rd. Story-telling and Poetry Performance 6-8pm on the second Saturday of the second month. Pauline Denton paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com

**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)**. Visitors welcome. Enquiries 021-488-427 or email [tarrassoc@gmail.com](mailto:tarrassoc@gmail.com)

**U3A**, University for the Third Age, Helensville. For more info call 021-131-7308 or 420-7858

**Yoga** - Thursday 7pm - 8pm, Saturdays 10am - 11am. - War Memorial Hall, Helensville. \$10 Orla Slater 0210-455-075. Please bring your own mat. All levels welcome

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