

# The Helensville Community News

Issue 152 - July 2022

## Rock hunt in Helensville

On Wednesday the 13th of July 2022, 100 hand painted rocks will be hidden in Helensville area. Locations will be revealed at 0830hrs on the North Shore/Rodney/West Auckland Police facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreRodneyWestAucklandPolice>

Every child who finds a painted rock can bring it to the Helensville Police Station on the 13th July between 9am and 2.30pm to receive a prize pack.

There will also be 5 well hidden rocks for the parents to find, and they too can receive a prize if they bring it to the Helensville station.

There will be a police vehicle and mobile police unit on site for the children to have a look at, and also an opportunity to try on a Police uniform.

This event provides families with an opportunity to have a positive interaction with Police in a low stress environment, and allow our tamariki to feel comfortable coming into a Police station.

Even if you don't find any painted rocks, we welcome families to come down and visit the Police Station anyway.



Updated information can be found on the North Shore/Rodney/West Auckland Police facebook page. We look forward to meeting everyone!

Senior Constable Melissa Haven

Helensville Community Constable

## Rock hunting and hiding: The rockin' new hobby spreading kindness in New Zealand

Painted rocks all began in the U.S with a little group called Port Angeles Rocks founded by a group of women who thought that a community art project such as this would be fantastic for homeschooled students in Kitsap County. It now has well over 7,000 members, providing a sense of community among local families and residents as well as an exciting weekend or after school activity.

Vic Rocks in Australia (which has over 30,000 members) was founded by Jude Rangitaawa and Julie Walker in 2017. They run the Moongala Women's Community House in Bentleigh East and thought the activity would be a perfect way to instill a community vibe and get children enjoying the great outdoors.

If you love the idea too, why not start up your own local community Facebook Group? We bet it would rack up the followers in no time.

We can't tell what children would love more - creating magnificent rocks, or finding their own special little treasure!

In New Zealand rock hunting is spreading throughout the country. Children can be spotted in public places at all hours of the day, searching under bushes, enjoying their new hobby. Sometimes parents get caught up in the expeditions, on which any disappointments are quickly dispelled by the thrill of a find.

The activity, which taps into the need for positivity in an

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uncertain world, comes with its own language. There are 'rockers', 'painters', 'hiders', 'rock drops', 'rock hunts' and 'rock pals'.

Forty-year-old Auckland rock star Rachel Pascoe started the

*Continued on page 2*

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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](http://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.

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Sunday 17th June  
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from duo "Take Two".

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[sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz](mailto:sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz)

## Rock hunting and hiding:

*Continued from page 1*

local Facebook group Rocks New Zealand in March; the site now has more than 2800 members.

It's two years since she first heard about the craze, but rock hunting and painting now takes up a lot of her time, along with bringing up her seven-year-old daughter, Katherine, and two-year-old son, Max.

It all began when Rachel's mum, Bev Foreman, who lives near Taupo, sent her a couple of rocks she'd painted and asked her to hide them. "I thought she was a bit weird," says Rachel.

"When you think about it, drawing a picture on a piece of rock, then sticking it in the bush somewhere – what's the point?"

Rachel says her husband gave her a funny look when she told him what she was off to do. Nevertheless, "We started hiding them – but didn't find anything for two months."

Undeterred, she joined the local rock group, one of dozens throughout the country. "One of the ladies gave us some tips on how to find them, and then we found our first one, a rainbow rock," says Rachel. "We replaced it with a red ladybug."

They found a couple more and shared their pictures with a Facebook group. Before they knew it, the hobby had become addictive. "A couple [of rocks] came home [with us] but then we'd go out and hide others," says Rachel. "On weekends, we'd go together, and then I'd sneak out by myself during the week."

A bonus was that the activity gave this rocker an excuse to go for a walk. "It's a weird feeling, but it got us out of the house a lot more than what we otherwise would have," she says.

Some days, the family would spend two to three hours at the Botanic Gardens; they were walking four to five kilometres every weekend.

"Katherine didn't whinge... she didn't realise how far she was walking as she was stopping to look behind trees, watching the bees, learning about plants... When Max came along, we were going four or five times a week to the gardens, and frantically making more rocks each night."

The artwork doesn't need to be elaborate to appeal to children, says Rachel. They simply love the joy of the find.



**Rachel Pascoe with a 'find'**



## What's happening this month



**Friday, 1 July to Saturday, 30 July, Dog Registration renewals at a discount.** If you have a Supergold Community Services Combo Card take it along with you.

**Tuesday, 5 July, U3A Monthly meeting, 10.00-12.00.** St Johns Hall behind the ambulance station, Rata St, Helensville. Guests are very welcome. Wear masks please. U3A is a unique organisation of retired and semi retired people who enjoy learning from each other and sharing their skills and expertise through meetings and interest groups. Members have a general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and choose special interest groups to join. Groups at present include: Book Club, Food and Wine Appreciation, Mah Jong, Gardening, Critical Thinking, Shared Reading, NZ History, Out n About and TED Talks. Costs are minimal. **For more information** contact Gloria Middleditch jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com 094203007/0211658428 or Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com phone 0274316205

**Saturday, 9 July, Helensville Fleamarket 9am – 1pm Helensville War Memorial Hall.** behind the Helensville Library An awesome community flea market/ garage sale right in the heart of Helensville! There are sellers of bric a brac, second hand clothing, vintage tools, vinyl records, books, baby clothes, toys and games, retro and collectibles, good used second hand household goods- come and grab a bargain! The Helensville Lions will be there, selling quality second hand books, DVDs and puzzles/ games. We may have spaces for sellers, email us on remu@xtra.co.nz . Preference for local sellers, we welcome community groups who want to run a garage sale from this market, or collectors downsizing! Charities and community groups will be given free space to sell, please send photos and /or descriptions of what you are selling when enquiring.

**Tuesday, 12 July, Soft toy sleepover at the Helensville Library.** Full details on page 4.

**Sunday, 17 July, 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 collectibles. Live music from Due "Take 2" and we have free face painting for the kids from 10am to 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, 17 July, Kaukapakapa Historic Library, 9am to 1pm, Here Lies . . .** Find out more of Kaukapakapa's local history from the photographic collection created by the late Alan Jordan and the amazing research completed by Bruce Shanks. Learn about who lies in the historic All Saints Kaukapakapa cemetery dating from 1864, and discover the details of the seventy unmarked graves. We know who they are, we know where they lie, but they remain forgotten. Are you their whanau? For more details contact Megan, threehorses@xtra.co.nz or 021 959017. Library open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market.

**Tuesday, 2 August, U3A Monthly meeting, 10.00-12.00.** St Johns Hall behind the ambulance station, Rata St, Helensville. Guests are very welcome. Wear masks please. U3A is a unique organisation of retired and semi retired people who enjoy learning from each other and sharing their skills and expertise through meetings and interest groups. Members have a general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and choose special interest groups to join. Groups at present include: Book Club, Food and Wine Appreciation, Mah Jong, Gardening, Critical Thinking, Shared Reading, NZ History, Out n About and TED Talks. Costs are minimal. **For more information** contact Gloria Middleditch jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com 094203007/0211658428 or Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com phone 0274316205

**Wednesday, 3 August, 8:30am–12:30pm, Thursday, 4 August, 8:30am–12:30pm, Auckland Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge,** Kumeu Showgrounds, Access Road, Kumeu. Ticket Information: Fee from 1st Feb to 1st August 2022: \$25.00 ea. Fee from 2nd August 2022: \$30.00 ea. So you're tough, but are you tough enough to take on the Auckland Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge? This is a chance for primary and intermediate aged kids to get involved in New Zealand's biggest mud run series in a version tailored especially for them! The Junior Tough Guys and Gals will take on a 1.5km or 3km muddy obstacle course consisting of swamp crossings, a spider's web net climb, crawl under obstacles, beautiful native bush trails, tunnels, hurdles, a climbing frame, water crossings and not to mention, mud, mud and more mud! All competitors will receive a special finishers medal for taking part! 1.5km Course Option - For school years 3-4; 3km Course Option - For school years 5-8

**Saturday, 6 August, 8:00am – 2:00pm** Auckland Tough Guy and Gal Challenge. Kumeu Showgrounds, Access Road, Kumeu.

**Saturday, 6 August, 8:00am – 2:00pm** Auckland Glow Lab Tough Gal Team Challenge. , Access Road, Kumeu.

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## Helensville Library and Service Centre news Annual Soft Toy Sleepover:

For six years, toys have been having a sleepover night at Helensville Library.

They have tried to escape from the library. They have danced through the library. They have had flying lessons. They have visited a world famous Barbie collection – and toy trains. They have tried to fry each other for dinner. They have tried to hijack an ambulance and a fire engine. What will they get up to this year?!

Yes, the welcome return of the Soft Toy Sleepover! But, this year will be a little bit different.

Toys can be dropped off – and paperwork filled out – between Saturday 9 July and noon on Tuesday 12 July. Toys will stay Tuesday night at the library. Toys can be picked up from Wednesday morning. There will be a special Dinosaur Storytime on Wednesday 13 July at 10am. The toys' souvenir booklets will be available for pick up from Saturday 16 July.

### Finer details:

Toys are welcome from all humans and animals. Just not special toys that have to be home at night. Yes, grown-ups, you, too, can drop your toy off for a night of fun, and get a special booklet with all their memories in them.

You can see albums from previous years, and videos made of the booklets for each year, on the Helensville Library and Service Centre Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre>

### Calling all crafters!:

The Helensville Library and Service Centre team would love to host some relaxed 'crafternoon' gatherings.

These would take place on a day and time that suited the majority of those who are interested. Bring along your portable craft and chat with other crafters. All welcome!

If there is a craft or technique you'd like to learn or explore, let us know. If there is a craft or technique you'd be willing to share, let us know.

If you visit the library, you may see my 'Papillon' shawl on display. If you are interested in doing a 'knit-a-long' for this shawl (which is actually not that complicated – promise!) let us know. We are planning on making this part of our Arts in the Ville offering in October. If you want to make an early start, come and chat.

You can message us on Facebook, email us on [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz), phone us on 0800 695 427, or have a chat next time you're in.

### Dog Registration Renewals:

If you have a dog, it is time to renew your dog registration. If you renew before 1 August (i.e. this month), there will be a significant discount in your fee.

If you have a Supergold Community Services Combo Card, please bring it along with you.

### Matariki at Auckland Libraries:

Are you interested in finding out more about Matariki? Auckland Libraries has a variety of events, booklists, and other resources available on our website.

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/matariki.aspx>

Anne Coppel

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

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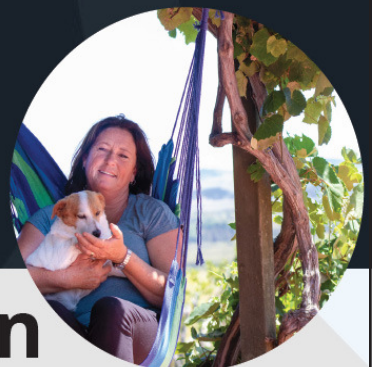
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# **Art Centre Helensville**

Come celebrate Matariki with us this July. We will be holding two exhibitions to mark this significant cultural event. In the media room there will be an installation of stars, and the main gallery will be artists' work representing Matariki. The exhibition runs 1st – 30th July with the opening event Friday 1st July 5-7pm.



School holidays begin on the 11th of July and we are excited to announce Creative Matters will be running holiday programmes both weeks at the Art Centre. Dates are the 13th and 14th July 9-3, 20th and 21st July 9-3. Fee per student is normally \$88, however the Art Centre is part funding this as a start up initiative and the cost is \$50 per student per day.



We have a full month of activity coming up in August. Cindy Vida will be having her first solo exhibition in the Main Gallery.

Alongside the exhibition the artist will be teaching a series of workshops using the medium acrylic. Cindy will take participants through mixing colour and painting interpretive versions of landscapes. For details and booking please email [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz)



Cindy will also be doing an artist talk on Saturday 6th August and will have on display her published book.

Thomas Hogan's exhibition of expressive paintings will be in the Media Room gallery 3rd-27th August. Opening event TBC.

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## Taskforce the result of not having a solution

New Zealand needs more houses. Housing affordability for first-home buyers is the worst it's been in six decades and this is largely driven by a lack of supply.

After presiding over one of the most spectacular public policy failures in New Zealand's political history in Kiwibuild, Labour are now trying to figure out what they'll do about the current pressing issue – a shortage of materials.

The truth is that plasterboard is a sandwich of plaster and cardboard. What first world, industrialised country gets itself into such a pickle? An overly bureaucratic one is the answer.

Despite the issue being present for months now, Labour's solution has been to recently create a 'plasterboard task force', which we all know is just window-dressing for having no solution at all.

What does the Minister expect this taskforce to achieve that she and her entire department hasn't been able to to date? The industry has been clear about what the issue is and they want the Government to solve it, not keep talking about it.

A recent report from Castalia found that regulatory barriers around materials are a large contributor to New Zealand's woes, it says: *"relaxing planning and consenting standards could both directly and indirectly resolve the issue of lacking competition and innovation in the building materials market."* and suggested streamlining the substitution process for approved products as a solution.

ACT's proposal is for the Government to enact a Materials Equivalence Register, which would allow access to foreign approved substitute materials that can be used to build houses.

The reality is that excessive regulations are getting in the way of building houses and preventing competition in the market, this would help fix that – at least in the area of building materials.

How it would work: MBIE would be tasked with keeping a Materials Equivalence Register. They would initially focus on

plasterboard substitutes for dry areas of buildings, e.g. not bathrooms, where the risk is lowest. A material could get on the register in one of two ways. The first way is that an applicant would apply to have a material deemed equivalent. That might be an importer or producer of an equivalent material. The second way is that MBIE would proactively assess Material Equivalents in foreign countries, starting with Australia, and deeming any products available there as equivalents.

Councils would then be required to accept Material Equivalency as a matter of course, if they refuse then consent is granted as of right. Councils would be absolved of liability for a decision to accept deemed Material Equivalent.

This is a practical solution that will provide better outcomes almost immediately. It will also lead to more competition and choice in the building materials market over time.

Kiwis shouldn't have to wait for a taskforce to go away and deliberate before eventually coming to a conclusion and eventually provoking some action. Major party housing policy has followed a familiar pattern in recent years. Promise. Win. Fail. Apologise. Labour is now approaching the fourth and final stage.



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### Kaipara korero

Principal Cindy Sullivan

School is so much more than what happens in the classroom. Notice I didn't say "just" what happens in the classroom, because what does happen in the classroom is super important for sure.

Learning occurs all the time, both in and outside the classrooms. Students at Kaipara College are involved in many activities outside the classroom. Most recently ranging from community service activities such as local Anzac Day commemorations, supporting the local Lions Club Annual Book Fair and coaching local primary school sports teams to winter code sports practices and games, Aotearoa Pride Week activities, Samoan language week activities and last week celebrating Matariki at dawn, activities throughout the week and an exceptional performance of our Nga Pua Kowariki o Kaipara group at the inaugural Matariki Festival, this year hosted by Whangaparaoa College. This week we see our student's and staff's exceptional work in the arts, music and drama culminating in a unique version of "Dracula".

In each case the initiatives and activities are partly or fully initiated and run by students for students, with support from our amazing school staff, whānau and the community at large. In



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conversation with our First XV coach Steve King the other day I thanked him for his work with the young men in that team saying it takes a village to raise a child. This is very much the feel at Kaipara College with the staff, whānau, and community wrapping around our students to support them to be the best they can be. A big thank you to all involved!

As I write, we are looking forward to our 2023 Open Evening on Monday, 4 July commencing at 6:30pm, and showcasing the great learning experiences that happen at school, to the community and in particular intermediate age students and their families. We are now open for enrolments for 2023 and encourage families to go to our website and complete the online enrolment process.

This process must be completed by parents and caregivers on behalf of their children. If you have any problems at all with the online enrolment process, please don't hesitate to contact our helpful support staff via phone or email on 420 6840 or [info@kaipara.school.nz](mailto:info@kaipara.school.nz).

Kaipara College is in great shape with many great learning activities occurring both inside and outside the classroom. We look forward to continuing to celebrate and share our learning journey and successes with you. I look forward to meeting many of you out and about in the community supporting Kaipara College sporting and cultural events.

If you would like more frequent information about the great things happening at Kaipara College, please follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Search 'Kaipara College' for our official pages on both platforms.

These photographs show some of the amazing learning activities and events occurring outside the classroom at Kaipara College over the past month!!

*Until next time...*



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# Smokefree Rockquest at Kaipara College

by Georgia Shivan, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Kaipara College is undoubtedly home to a highly successful music department. On June 10th, eight bands from Kaipara College, composed of members in Years 10 to 13, competed in the annual Smokefree Rockquest regional heats. This is a nationwide music competition for bands and solo/duo competitors at an intermediate and high school level. Rockquest has a 34 year history, with New Zealand musical successes including Opshop, Brooke Fraser, and Bic Runga, all having roots in the competition.

Smokefree Rockquest is divided into four stages. First, all bands and solo/duo competitors are invited to compete in the regional heats. This year, heats for the North Shore region were held at Auckland Girls' Grammar School in the Dorothy Winstone Centre – an amphitheatre-style auditorium boasting 795 seats and an impressive sound system. Kaipara College's bands each performed live an original song of up to five minutes in length to a panel of judges and audience members. They were competing against 36 other bands from the North Shore area.

The top twelve bands from each region, as decided by judges, are invited to participate in the online regional finals. Four of Kaipara College's eight bands have qualified for the 2022 regional finals, Haze of Youth, Rusty Van, Sonitus, and Zoned Out. These four bands had three weeks to record themselves performing an additional original song to submit to judges, alongside their live performance, for regional award consideration and the selection of bands to compete in the semi-finals.

The top two bands from each of the 22 regions are considered for the semi-finals, where the leading 30 acts (10 solo/duo competitors and 20 bands) in New Zealand will have the opportunity to perform three songs to a live audience. The top 10 acts from the semi-finals are then invited to the national finals, held in Auckland on September 24th, 2022.

Thousands of dollars worth of Rockshop equipment are awarded to place-getters in the regional and national finals, along with a professional studio recording session and mentoring for all semi-finalists.

All Kaipara College band members are enrolled in music classes at the school and have three classes a week to work on their songs. Students also attend Band Factory – an after-school music workshop where they can practise and meet other like-minded peers. In addition to this, bands collaborate outside of school to fine-tune their performances. Kaipara College students practise for upwards of seven and a half hours a week in preparation for Rockquest and other similar music competitions throughout the year.



Kaipara College band Sonitus performing at the Rockquest regional heats.

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# From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

## Education should be a priority

New Zealand has officially reached a truancy crisis and its only getting worse. The Ministry of Education has confirmed a total of 67,000 students were chronically absent from school in Term Four 2021, compared to 57,621 in Term Three 2021. Rewind to 2017 and the number was 37,900. That's a 76 percent increase in chronically absent students since Labour - an incredibly disturbing statistic.

I acknowledge that Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns have caused significant disruption to our children's education and that many students will have become disengaged from school during this time. However, the government hasn't done anything to address truancy, despite stating that "school attendance has to improve". They have however spent an additional \$5 billion each year for education but without any plans or targets for children to be attending school more regularly. We're left wondering as to what this spending has achieved because today, children not only are regularly absent from school but, worse yet, are being caught up in juvenile crime, including stolen cars, ram raids and thefts by children as young as nine.

And it's not just our truancy rates either. Our 2021 NCEA results confirm that literacy and numeracy achievement is also declining under Labour. It was found that literacy attainment for Year 11 students at decile 1-3 schools have taken a significant plunge, falling from 78.5 per cent to 74.8 per cent in just one year. Numeracy attainments have also taken a dive, falling from 76.9 per cent to 73.8 per cent.

Despite an extra \$5 billion a year being poured into education, achievement and attendance is going backwards. It really is a mystery as to where all this money is going. The one thing that is clear, however, is that this government is utterly failing to deliver in education and our children are sadly suffering the consequences.

Attendance at school is critical to our children's future, which buys them an opportunity to be successful. Literacy is an essential skill needed for a lifetime and sets our children up for their future. National has consistently voiced the importance of school attendance and last year we released a comprehensive plan to get our schools back on track.

I held a public meeting on education with Erica Stanford MP for East Coast Bays and National spokesperson for Education on Monday 4 July, at Te Manawa, Kokiri Auditorium, 11 Kohukohu Lane, North West Shopping. If you were unable to attend but are concerned about your children's education please feel free to contact my office in its new location behind Craig Walker Building Removal's office.

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