

# The Helensville Community News

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Issue 170 - January 2024



## Summer at Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens



Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens is located within some of the most stunning countryside in Auckland and offers something for everyone.

The Sculpture Gardens are easily accessed from most parts of Auckland via the main arterial highways as it is located only 4km north of Kaukapakapa Village on SH16, with the entrance to the gardens and carpark at Kaipara Coast Plant Centre.

\*There are approximately 40 sculptures (some interactive) located along a 1km exhibition trail, which are changed each November. Also if you are feeling like a little more energetic, the recently created 2.5km nature trail meanders through long established as well as newly planted areas of native flora and with a real focus on regeneration and sustaining the ecological diversity and integrity of the area. There are also some amazing rural and harbour views.\*

The gardens were established in 1994 by the local Bayley family who still own and run it, and are now a 4 star NZ Gardens trust nominee.

There are games and activities along the trail suitable for all ages with seats and shady trees dotted along the way.

There is also a barbeque area as well as many ideal locations to sit and enjoy a picnic as well as our cute little coffee shop.

The Gardens are open 9am to 5pm - 7 days (with the last entry at 4pm).

Our gardens offer a truly memorable day out for the whole family.

**\*Please note: Trails not suitable for wheelchairs or walking frames.**

Venue location: 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa  
Tickets: Adults \$15  
Gold Card \$12.00  
Children (5-13) \$7.50  
(under 5's free), Families (2A + 3C) \$35



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## Helensville Community News

Email: [helensville@copyandprint.co.nz](mailto:helensville@copyandprint.co.nz)

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

Phone: 420 9307

312 Main Rd, Huapai. P O Box 433, Kumeu

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

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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 4,500 — pass it on to your friends.

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## El Niño to blow hot and cold this summer. What does it mean for Aucklanders?

It means we can expect stronger or more frequent winds from the west which will encourage dryness in eastern areas and more rain in the west with periods of unseasonable warmth followed by sharp cold southerlies.

While it's looking like it's going to be a hotter than normal summer and that's great news for holidaymakers and beachgoers, it's not so good for rural Aucklanders who don't have access to mains water supply.

Auckland Council's General Manager Healthy Waters Craig McIlroy says if there were lessons to be learnt from the 2019-2020 drought, it's the need for rural communities to be prepared.

"As the summer rolls around, it's a timely reminder for rural residents to think about their water supplies.

"If you're reliant on rainwater tanks for your drinking water, check the tank levels regularly, use water wisely and book a delivery early.

"Forward planning is key to avoiding the experience of 2019-20, so it's important to keep your "eye on the ball" adds McIlroy.

Facing the prospect of another dry summers Auckland Council has established 26 permanent community water sites around rural Auckland to help mitigate the situation and assist with future drought management should it arise.

The bollards will provide a back-up drinking water supply in an emergency where residents will be able to collect 20 litres of water per person per day for the filling of water bottles year-round.


Auckland Council has a network of 78 rain gauges across the region which are monitored for rainfall levels. Automatic alerts for low rainfall notify the operations team to set up the bollards for bottle filling with all the sites meeting current drinking water standards.

Find your closest community water bollard here:

### Steps to take now before you run out of water:

- check your water tank levels regularly
- monitor your water usage and make lifestyle changes, such as shorter showers
- consider the needs of livestock if they are using your rain tank supply
- find out the local water supplier, in case you need a top-up over the holidays
- plan and book water refill deliveries early
- ensure tanks are well maintained and roof guttering is free of debris
- install water-saving devices in showerheads and taps
- consider investing in extra tank capacity.

El Niño is an oceanic and atmospheric phenomenon that marks the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It is associated with a band of warm ocean water that develops in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific (approximately between the International Date Line and 120°W), including the area off the west coast of South America. The ENSO is the cycle of warm and cold sea surface temperature (SST) of the tropical central and eastern Pacific Ocean. (From Wikipedia.)



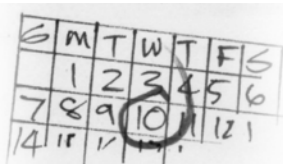
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## What's happening this month



**Sunday, 21 January, The Village Market,** Helensville Showgrounds, 8.30am – 1pm. Now being held at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds, 63 Railway Street - New venue - same great market! Friendly people, great atmosphere and a tempting selection of quality stalls with everything from locally hand-made crafts, plants, preserves, fresh fruit & veg to pre-loved treasures and collectibles, coffee, food, live music, free face painting, for the kids. Our January music will be live music from Mike Lea \*Please bring a gold coin donation for parking - proceeds going to the scouts jamboree\* The Helensville A&P Showgrounds management have a no dogs policy with the exception of assistance dogs as there is stock grazing in the grounds. Email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz Phone: 0274 831542 @kaukapakapavillagemarket Eftpos cash out available.

**Sunday, 21 January 2024 10:00am – 4:00pm, Helensville Art Trail.** Helensville township, 56d Kaipara Coast Highway, Helensville, Free Admission. Third Sunday of each month until May. Open studios are all conveniently situated within three kilometres of central Helensville. Head into Helensville for a wonderful way to spend the day. Follow the signposts. All studios have maps and info. The artists have spent years honing their skills in an extensive variety of genres. Enjoy meeting them and gaining an insight into the processes involved in creating a diverse array of artworks. Works include: lost wax casting in bronze and crystal glass; figurative and abstract paintings and prints; corrugated iron shaped into incredible forms; intricate woodwork; ceramics; mixed media creations, jewellery crafted from reclaimed items and much more. Visitors have the opportunity to purchase a treasure, large or small, directly from the artists should they wish.

**Monday, 22 January 2024 9:00am – 3:00pm Kumeu Arts Centre** Full day holiday programme:

\$85.00 each, 300 Main Rd, Kumeu. Join Brain Play for Minecraft Madness in the January 2024 School Holidays! In this whole day programme we'll work in creative mode to construct some epic builds, learn how to make awesome redstone contraptions, and the most advanced attendees will learn some commands to take their Minecraft skills to a new level. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, don't miss this chance to unleash your creativity! Ages 5 - 12. 9am - 3pm (childcare outside of these hours available). New & returning students welcome. Please read BYOD instructions on the booking site. <http://me.aimyone.com/brainplay/booking/course-list/100130>

**Wednesday, 24 January 2024 9:00am – 3:00pm Kumeu Arts Centre, Coding, Robotics, Electronics Holiday Programme:**

\$85.00 each, 300 Main Rd, Kumeu. Join Brain Play for Coding, Robotics, and Electronics in the January 2024 School Holidays! In this whole day

programme we'll learn coding in fun puzzle and game based settings, we'll build, modify and control robots, and we'll experiment with electronic game controllers! We'll cover all 3 topics to ensure the day is full of learning, challenges, new STEM experiences & fun! Ages 8 - 13. 9am - 3pm (childcare outside of these hours available). New & returning students welcome. Please read BYOD instructions on the booking site. <http://me.aimyone.com/brainplay/booking/course-list/100130>

**Kaipara College Term 1. Thursday, 1 February. Year 9 Orientation (DAY 1). Friday, 2 February. Year 9 Orientation (DAY 2)**

**Saturday, 3 February 2024 2:00pm – 10:00pm. Sonorous Festival 2023** The Hunting Lodge, 307 Waikoukou Valley Rd, Waimauku. Early Bird tickets: \$99.00 each. Relive the special moments that can only be experienced at Sonorous, this time at the stunning Hunting Lodge Winery. Expect only the best in sound design attached to a picturesque backdrop, featuring the most influential DJ of the past 30 years: Audiology and Collude collide once again for the biggest house & techno odyssey this side of the Tasman. Carl Cox (UK), plus: Josh Butler (UK), Juliet Fox (Aus), All your favourite local selectors A-Z. Aunty El, Cam Harris, Dick Johnson, Kady Webster, Logan Baker, Miss B Rayza, Sanoi and Seb Selknam.

**Tuesday, 6 February, U3A monthly meeting. 10.00-12.00.** Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street, Helensville. Guests are very welcome. 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, Needle Stitches and TED Talks. Costs are minimal. For more information contact Gloria Middleditch [jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com](mailto:jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com) 09-420-3007/0211-658-428 or Bev Silvester-Clark [bev.s-c@outlook.com](mailto:bev.s-c@outlook.com) phone 0274316205.

**Saturday, 10 February 2024 11:00am – 2:00pm. Arts in Action.** Kumeu Arts Centre, 300 Main Rd, Kumeu. Free admission. Arts in Action is an arts festival and community open day giving everyone the opportunity to try a range of art-based activities. Join us in fun-filled Arts in Action at Kumeu Arts and try a range of art-based activities completely free of charge. Bring your family and Whanau for this fun, unique, and educational experience for all ages. Activities include: Clay, Painting, Badge-Making, Flax Weaving, Botanical Art, Teen Zine-Making, Creative Matters, Brain Play (3D printing), Art for Under 5's, a Live Band, Face Painting and more.

**Saturday, 24 February 2024, Helensville A & P Show, 9am – 4:30pm.** Adults \$15, Children under 16 FREE. The Helensville A&P Association held its first show in 1900 – and barring three occasions it's been held every year since. The Helensville Show is easily the biggest event on Helensville's annual calendar, and is the largest one-day show in the Royal Agricultural Society's Northern District.

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# Thank You and Goodbye

by Lauren Morley, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Kia Ora and Happy New Year Helensville community!

Today I am writing to you for one final time. I want to start off by saying thank you to each and every one of you who read these articles. I have always had an interest in journalism and writing in general, and this has been such a great way to fulfil that passion of mine. In 2022, I was able to watch my close friend, Georgia Shivan, write these monthly articles, and I was always a bit jealous, so when I got offered this role, I jumped at the chance.

Kaipara College was, for me, a great high school, and being able to share the events and my experiences throughout my final year with the Helensville community has been so special. I can't wait to look back on these articles in a few years and relive everything I wrote about. From covering our Easter fundraiser, Ag Day, Valentine's PSSP (Peer Sexuality Support Programme) activities and school production to writing more personal articles such as my experience in the gateway programme, peer support camp and the beginning and ending of year 13, each and every one of these articles will keep a special place in my heart.

One thing which I will forever remember is the members of our community reaching out to me to tell me they've been reading my writing. I have loved hearing from my friends, fellow students, colleagues, teachers (both past and present) and many others. You have truly made writing these articles worthwhile.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Noah Everard, who will be writing this column on behalf of Kaipara College this year.



Noah and me at the Kaipara College Market Day.

Noah is a great friend of mine whom I have known since primary school, and he has always been a very kind, compassionate and hard working person. As well as taking on this responsibility, Noah has also been elected to be one of this year's Student Leaders and a member of the PSSP team. His dedication, involvement in the school and beautiful writing give me nothing but confidence in passing the baton over to him.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this column over the past year, and thank you for all of your kind words in response. I have loved every moment of researching, interviewing and writing for these articles, and it is a monthly habit which I will greatly miss. Best wishes for 2024, see you around - Lauren xx



# Latest Listings



**FOR SALE  
\$599,000**

**2 BED | 1 BATH | 3 CAR**

## 31F SPRINGS ROAD, PARAKAI

This cosy two-bedroom home is tucked away on a private 565sqm section down a shared driveway. The home has two bedrooms, has high ceilings and a heat pump, with the main bathroom boasting both a shower and a corner bath, with a single garage.



**PRICE BY  
NEGOTIATION**

**4 BED | 2 BATH | 6 CAR**

## 69A PIPITIWAI DRIVE, HELENSVILLE

This spacious residence plays host to four bedrooms and two bathrooms. With mature trees, mature orchard and vegetable gardens, glass house, shade house, chicken house, with a separate barn/workshop with bathroom facilities and a bedroom/office.



**PRICE BY  
NEGOTIATION**

**3 BED | 2 BATH | 3 CAR**

## 10 MAHI ROAD, HELENSVILLE

If you have been looking to escape the hustle and bustle of the city, this exceptional near-new family home is the one for you. With three bedrooms and open plan living and dining area that flows seamlessly to the outdoors, creating a vibrant space.



**PRICE BY  
NEGOTIATION**

**3 BED | 1 BATH | 4 CAR**

## 118 TRIG ROAD, SOUTH HEAD

If you are looking for a property with potential, then this is it! With 4.3725 hectares, this property is a rare find. With 3 bedroom open plan living and a single garage. The land is split into 5 paddocks with water, a large workshop, storage shed and chicken shed.

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## **LIONS CLUB of HELENSVILLE Christmas Book Fair**

The Christmas Book Fair was held on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of December, at the Helensville A&P Association's Showgrounds. The weather managed to hold off on Saturday but deteriorated on Sunday. Book sales totalled \$8,413, down on May but still a very satisfactory result. Further adding to the funds raised were the proceeds from the raffle, sale of Christmas cakes and the BBQ Trailer. All funds raised are deposited into the Lions Club of Helensville Charitable Trust and are used to help those individuals or organisations in our community who are in the need of assistance.

Thank you to all who donated so many high-quality books, without you it would not have been possible to hold the event. Thanks also to the families of Club members who were with us all weekend and the students from Kaipara College who helped in the set up on Friday, also the Kaukapakapa/Helensville Scout troop and Friends of Lions who assisted in packing up and cleaning the Hall on Sunday. Putting together a book fair is an all-round team effort and we would not be able to cope without the assistance we receive from our community. Especially the Helensville A&P Show who gave us the unlimited use of their grounds for the lead up to the weekend, this will now be our home for the foreseeable future. A special thanks to Burmester Realty for letting us use their premises as a drop off point.

The books left over will be re-sorted with damaged or unsaleable books going to the Helensville Recycle Centre. Surplus children's books go to South Auckland for distribution to Playcentres and Kindergartens. Other books are sold at the Lions book stall at the Village Market, which is held on the third Sunday of each month and is also held at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds.

The next Book Fair is our Autumn Book Fair which will be held on the last weekend of May, Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th.

As a further service to the community the Helensville Lions will accept books throughout the year. Small amounts can be left with Burmester Realty, Commercial Road, Helensville, otherwise contact Chris at 420 8527 or any other member of the Lions Club of Helensville.

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# From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

I hope that everyone has a relaxing summer break in prospect. It's been a tough couple of years for many people locally, particularly with such poor weather placing a real dampener on any sense of holiday occasion 12 months ago.

With the last Christmas-New Year period having been marred by flooding and a literal cyclone, it was inevitable that the following year would feel tough for many. The struggle has been particularly hard when it's come to displaced households, businesses going underwater (in a literal and sometimes figurative sense) and all the mental burden that comes with it all.

But it's the festive season now, so a sense of optimism feels appropriate. Recently I've taken part in Santa Parades in different parts of the electorate that have been exceptionally well attended. People are ready to hear good news!

Parliament has resumed after a quiet period down there, before and after the election. As always, I'm especially interested in debates on laws that will impact the good people of northwest and north Auckland.

We've just seen the repeal of the ute tax (aka "clean car discount") that had seen rural areas disproportionately required to subsidise expensive EVs such as Teslas. To my mind, that's a positive.

We've also just seen the cancellation of a boondoggle project in the form of the Cook Strait Ferry replacement. This had seen massive blowouts (to the tune of billions) without the project even getting underway in any concrete sense, so it seems a no-brainer to end that waste. With funds freed up in the transport budget available across New Zealand by that cancellation, areas needing attention in terms of new roads and rail – and repairing and maintaining existing ones – will benefit as a result. Watch this space!

And the big news in this political week was the coalition government's confirmation that the "3 Waters" centralising project will be canned in the New Year. Spending huge amounts of taxpayer money on a bureaucracy to support water infrastructure (before a single dollar is spent on culverts, pipes etc.) simply cannot be justified. And that's before you get to the loss of local democracy inherent in that scheme.

I'm feeling optimistic about our country's future and hope you are too.

*Merry Christmas!*

*Chris Penk*



**Chris Penk**  
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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## What plans do you have for the Summer?





# NorthWest COUNTRY Christmas Shop Windows



The North West Country Inc. business association enabled a few businesses to end the year with a bang when we announced the winners of the Christmas Shop Window Decorating Competition. We had stiff competition with many businesses going all out to create stunning shop fronts.

Two winners were chosen across all entrants in our rural



villages, with Chanelle Jade Hair Salon in Helensville and Zubu Women's Boutique in Kumeu both taking home a \$1,500 cash prize each. The business association hopes to make this an annual competition that will help put North West Country on the map and allow Christmas shoppers some fun as they shop locally.



Chanelle and Teresa were both over the moon with the prize winnings, with both business owners excited to receive funds that they could immediately invest into their business. "It has been such a hard year," said Teresa Nobilo-Healey, "it is nice to have this competition to close the year and this means so much to us." Chanelle and the team were so excited to hear the news. "It took a while to sink in," said owner Chanelle Haywood, "but we couldn't be happier. We put a lot of effort into the window display. This is wonderful."

2024 is the year that everyone is looking forward to, and we hope to make it a top year for our business members. Starting the year off is the Ultimate Day Out competition. The competition is open in January and February, with the prize draw in March at the Kumeu Show. Simply spend \$50 or more at any North West Country member's business in this time, save your receipt, and upload it to our website [www.northwestcountry.co.nz](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz). The winner will win an ultimate day out for two in Adventure Country. More details on our website.

Regards, Danielle Hancock



# Art Centre Helensville

We have had a rocky year which has made being back in our building that much more rewarding as we look ahead, serving our community and artists.

We are closed from December 22nd – January 31st. Our first exhibition back 31st January – 24th February is open to all artists, 'Kaipara Awa – A River That Connects Us'

*The Kaipara River, which winds its way through our town, preceding the settlement of Helensville, and at times defining it, is as much a symbol as a physical body of water. This new year at the Art Centre, we will be hosting an exhibition which reflects what our awa means to us.*



*This show is open for all to participate in, young and old, and in any media of your choice. It is a purposefully broad subject which can be interpreted as imaginatively as desired.*

Entry form and details can be found on our website [artcentrehelensville.org.nz](http://artcentrehelensville.org.nz). The opening night is Friday 2nd February 5-7pm in which we welcome the community to come along.

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# **Art Centre Helensville**

We have a full lineup of classes ahead, all details will be added to our website soon, or email [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz) to be added to our newsletter for regular updates.

Classes include drawing with Mike Rowland, Painting with Sam Mitchell, Kids Illustration with Olga Atkins, children's after school programs and much more.

## **Illustration Course for Kids (6-13 Year's old)**

Unleash your child's creative genius with our enchanting illustration art classes.

Embark on an extraordinary artistic journey this new school term, starting in February 2024. Join us weekly after school for an immersive and tailored experience just for kids.

- ✦ Discover the Magic of Drawing!
- ✦ Captivating Themes: Your little artist will bring their favourite characters to life on Paper.
- ✦ Develop the Power of Imagination and Visual Language.

Classes art taught by Olga Atkins. [https://www.instagram.com/art\\_atkins\\_art/](https://www.instagram.com/art_atkins_art/)

For enquiries and enrollments email [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz) or phone 08-973-852



## **Call for exhibition proposals 2024**

Our gallery doors are now open! We have fresh new walls and gallery lighting ready for 2024 exhibitions!

If you are an artist and have a show in mind, please send your proposal to [manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz](mailto:manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz)

We have two gallery rooms for rent, Main Gallery \$120 for the month and Media Room Gallery \$60 for the month.



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[www.helensvillemontessori.co.nz](http://www.helensvillemontessori.co.nz) and 







## Kaipara korero From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk: The year gone by

As I reflect on last year, I am grateful for many things. The year began with disruption in the form of cyclones, flooding, and industrial action, and it was wonderful to be able to leave these behind us in the second half of the year and return to school as usual after three years of constant uncertainty driven by closures caused by covid, extreme weather and industrial action.

I am truly grateful for all of our community's support, patience and understanding as we navigated the various challenges of the last few years and again in 2023. For 2024 I look forward to good weather and a teaching staff that feel valued by our government and society, freeing us up to focus all our energy on exceptional teaching and learning.

I am grateful to all of our amazing staff who put in long hours to plan innovative lessons and organise amazing events across the year. There are too many to list in full, but here is a sample from across the faculties – Mathex competitions and science fairs, community plantings, Matariki celebrations, Ag Day stands, sporting events with Kaahui Ako schools, PE camps, art exhibitions, prize givings, leadership programmes, school production, Band Factory, Angel Fund, Community Action Projects, FSE picnic and more. I appreciate all the extra effort, and the late night and weekend work that goes into making these possible.

A particular highlight was our first Year 9 camp in many years! This was an exceptional opportunity for our young people to engage in learning outside the classroom, including teamwork, collaboration, surfing, rifle shooting and archery as well as enjoying the wonderful outdoors at Mangawhai.

We are looking ahead to 2024 being an exciting year full of learning and opportunities. We will continue with our journey of weaving Te WAKA o Kaipara values into every aspect of life at Kaipara College and continue to work hard to navigate our success towards our strategic goals as set by our school Board.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school for the 2024 school year.



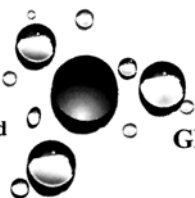
Year 9 Camp activities



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## Rodney Local Board update

from Mark Dennis

### More funding to manage freedom camping this summer.

The council will be better equipped to educate the public on rules around freedom camping this summer, thanks to a funding boost secured through the Ministry of Business, Employment and Innovation's (MBIE) Freedom Camping Transition Fund.?

Auckland Council successfully secured \$256,000 of the government's nationwide package, which offered \$10 million over two years to help councils manage the transition to new freedom camping rules.?

As Shelly beach no longer has a managed campground, this is exactly what we require for our community.

For more information see Auckland Council welcomes funding to manage freedom camping this summer - OurAuckland



### Do we care about Heritage?

The Heritage Counts programme started in 2018. It involves collecting statistics and research on Auckland's heritage places.

The research aims to raise awareness of the extent and variety of heritage places, and the social and economic benefits they bring. Helensville is a great example of how heritage can help shape a community and how we see ourselves. For more information checkout this great link Auckland's Heritage Counts 2023 annual summary ([aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz))



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Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

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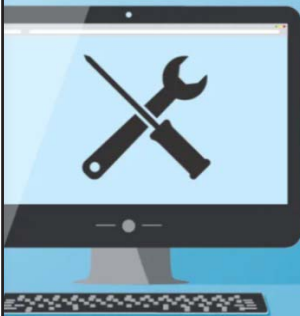
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# Helensville Library and Service Centre update

Auckland Council Libraries staff in Helensville are receiving praise for stepping up to continue delivering library and council services to their local community – throughout a challenging year. Renewal works to address maintenance and seismic strengthening issues at the Helensville War Memorial and Library building, which also houses Kaipara RSA, Plunket, Art Centre Helensville, and the Helensville/Waimauku Family Budgeting Service, started in October 2022.

Unexpected issues have extended the completion timeframe, including the removal of asbestos detected in parts of the building. The library has been able to continue operating up until October this year, when remedial works to update the library fire exits began.

Since then, the team has set up a temporary library in a mobile bus, providing an alternative space for customers to browse books and other reading resources once the library building had closed. The bus's electrical system then developed a fault, so staff adapted once again to work on laptops while a replacement bus was considered.



To minimise further changes, the library team have opted instead for a small but welcoming service in the library's front foyer that will continue until repairs have been completed – estimated to be in late February 2024.

Helensville Library manager Sally Hardwick says customers can choose 'Take 5' lucky-dip bags and a click-and-collect service at the foyer throughout summer, along with printing, scanning services, and Wi-Fi.

"Our focus has been to ensure access to our collections and services remain available to everyone. We are grateful for the



# Helensville Library and Service Centre update



understanding and support our customers have expressed and we are looking forward to inviting them back into our library in the New Year, to have the opportunity to browse our collections once again,” says Sally.

Helensville Library services are available from the library’s front foyer. Meanwhile, book requests can be submitted via email at [helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) and most council services are available from the foyer. Tables and chairs are available to read the paper, sign paperwork, or to sit and have a chat.

Regular events and programmes are continuing through summer, with Santa expected to make a library visit on 21 December.

Auckland Council’s General Manager of Parks and Community Facilities Taryn Crewe says internal weather tightness issues have led to the library project expanding in scope and taking longer than expected, on top of the challenges encountered to complete the rest of the building works.


“We understand the current situation may be frustrating for some people but, by early next year, Helensville will have a building that is well set up to serve the community for many years to come. It’s important for us to get this right.

“We do appreciate the support customers have shown for the tremendous work our library team is doing throughout this process,” she says.

Once the works are finished, the library will have a new wheelchair accessible ramp to the car park and fully compliant fire exits in place, as well as a new office area.

Meanwhile, customers can continue to return books to the Helensville Library or to any other Tamaki Makaurau library site.

  
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## Coalition Change is under way

As we reflect on the strides made by the Coalition Government, it's clear that a tide of optimism and contentment is sweeping through New Zealand. The collective sigh of relief echoes the sentiment that a competent group of individuals with real-world experience is now at the helm, steering the country toward a brighter future.

One of the most tangible victories for everyday Kiwis was the timely repeal of the ute tax just before Christmas. This decision has been met with widespread appreciation, particularly from our hard-working farmers and tradies. Now, as they contemplate upgrading their petrol or diesel wagons in 2024, there's no need to scramble for an extra \$8000 to subsidize Tesla buyers. It's a welcome shift toward fairness and practicality, ensuring that those who keep our nation running can do so without shouldering unnecessary financial burdens.

The staggering reality that over \$100 million was extracted from farmers and tradies since 2021 to support electric vehicle (EV) buyers, while still leaving a \$300 million shortfall in the Clean Car Discount account, highlights the wasteful spending on misguided policies by the previous government. Fortunately, such fiscal irresponsibility came to an abrupt halt when the new government, with ACT Ministers in pivotal roles, took charge. The commitment to delivering what the voters asked for is not just a promise but a reality shaping the course of our nation.

ACT Minister Brooke Van Velden wasted no time in delivering on the party's campaign promises, passing two crucial laws within the first two weeks of Parliament. These laws are designed to set up employers and workers for better work stories in 2024, marking a swift departure from the complex and unworkable "Fair Pay" laws. The removal of these rules prevents scenarios where a supermarket worker could be tied to three separate agreements with different unions, a bureaucratic nightmare that would have hampered businesses and reduced national productivity.

The replacement of the Fair Pay laws with a 90-day trial period for workers is a forward-thinking move that fosters a more flexible and inclusive job market. This change benefits workers with marginal employment histories the most, providing them with opportunities they might otherwise miss out on. It also addresses the concerns of employers who may hesitate to hire individuals coming out of prison without the safety net of a trial period. The Coalition Government, with ACT at the forefront, is actively delivering solutions that bridge the gap between workers and businesses.

In your community, the north-west of Auckland is poised to benefit significantly from a greater investment in roads and public transport, thanks to the accelerated efforts of the Coalition Government. As the Under-Secretary for Resource Management Reform and Infrastructure, I am proud to announce the initiation of a work program aimed at making the process of obtaining consents and building approvals more straightforward. After six years of discussions, the next three years are dedicated to action and tangible results.

Helensville, as we navigate through this era of change and progress, rest assured that the Coalition Government, with ACT Ministers leading the way, is committed to delivering on its promises. The newfound optimism and enthusiasm are not just sentiments; they are the building blocks of a more prosperous and equitable New Zealand.

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## SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART

Date	High Water	Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set
January '24				
1 Mon	0231	3.6	1448	0605
2 Tue	0308	3.5	1525	0606
3 Wed	0348	3.4	1608	0607
4 Thu	0435	3.4	1656	0607
5 Fri	0528	3.3	1750	0608
6 Sat	0628	3.3	1850	0609
7 Sun	0733	3.3	1953	0610
8 Mon	0840	3.5	2059	0611
9 Tue	0943	3.7	2201	0612
10 Wed	1038	3.9	2258	0613
11 Thu	1128	4.1	2350	0614
12 Fri	-	4.0	1215	0615
13 Sat	0038	4.0	1301	0616
14 Sun	0125	4.1	1346	0617
15 Mon	0212	4.1	1432	0618
16 Tue	0259	4.0	1519	0619
17 Wed	0347	3.9	1608	0620
18 Thu	0438	3.8	1701	0621
19 Fri	0534	3.6	1758	0622
20 Sat	0637	3.5	1901	0623
21 Sun	0746	3.5	2009	0624
22 Mon	0855	3.5	2117	0625
23 Tue	0956	3.7	2216	0626
24 Wed	1048	3.8	2306	0627
25 Thu	1132	3.9	2350	0628
26 Fri	-	3.9	1211	0629
27 Sat	0028	3.8	1246	0631
28 Sun	0103	3.8	1318	0632
29 Mon	0135	3.8	1348	0633
30 Tue	0206	3.8	1419	0634
31 Wed	0239	3.7	1452	0635
February				
1 Thu	0314	3.6	1529	0636
2 Fri	0353	3.5	1611	0637
3 Sat	0440	3.4	1701	0638
4 Sun	0535	3.3	1759	0639
5 Mon	0642	3.3	1908	0641





## 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, 12.30 pm in small office at rear of carpark Magnify, 118 Main Road, [www.al-anon.org.nz](http://www.al-anon.org.nz).

**Aqua Aerobics** – Low impact exercises to improve your health - Green Prescription – with or without. Classes: Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am – 10am, held in outdoor pool all year, except public holidays. Cost: \$2 per class. Parakai Springs Hot Pools. Contact Ruth on 0210-2277-481 for more details.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**: Helensville, is open every Saturday from 10am to noon at 16 Commercial Rd, Helensville. JPs are always available. Come for information and advice.

**Diabetes & Arthritis Group** - First Monday in the month unless it's a public holiday. Held at the Anglican-Methodist Church, 60 Garfield Road, Helensville, from 10am to 12pm. Morning tea provided. Speaker and fun times. Contact Shirley on 420-6501 or Glennis on 420-2801.

**FLexercise with Fitness League**: Friday 10am - Kaipara Cruising Club. FLexercise low impact exercise to music incorporating balance and flexibility-move dance enjoy. All ages and abilities. Call Christine 0212602190 Web [www.thefitnessleague.org.nz](http://www.thefitnessleague.org.nz)

**Freemasons at Helensville**; Regular meetings at The Duke of Albany Lodge, Kowhai Street, Helensville. For more information call Bob Greenough on 0210-829-2345

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

**Hana's Group Fitness Classes**, small group fitness bootcamps at Rautawhiri Park 3 times per week Mon, Thurs & Fri at 9am.

Please contact Hana on 0211623362 or on Facebook @HanasGroupFitnessHelensville.

**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](mailto:cushanddez80@gmail.com) for more information.

**Helensville Healing Rooms**, now at outside rooms of River Valley Baptist Church, Fordyce Road Parakai, opposite Parakai Primary School, Every 1st and 3rd Saturday, 11a.m-12p.m. We offer prayer for help with what you need healed, All welcome, no appointment, no charge, ph 0276-058-225

**Helensville Lions Club**, meet 2nd and 4th Mondays of the each month, in the Tennis Club building, 124/164 Rautawhiri 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 Tennis Club Building, Rautawhiri Park. 1pm start. All Welcome Contact Marion 420-8867.

**Helensville St John Youth**: Ages 5-18 yrs see [youth@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:youth@stjohn.org.nz) for more information. Monday 5.30-7pm during school terms, Makiri Street, Helensville. Contact: Carla. [carla.lang@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:carla.lang@stjohn.org.nz)

**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

**Kaukapakapa St John Youth**: Ages 5-18 yrs see [youth@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:youth@stjohn.org.nz) for more information. Tuesday 5.30-7pm during school terms, 1015 Kaipara Coast Highway, Helensville. Contact: Sheryl 0211900591, [sheryl.pawley@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:sheryl.pawley@stjohn.org.nz)

**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.

**Our Village Coffee/Playgroup** - Northwest (Find us on Facebook). Social community group for all ages and stages.

Everyone welcome along: Parents, caregivers, grandparents, all the whānau, with/without children. Every Thursday 930am - 130pm St Matthews Church Lounge - 60 Garfield Rd, Helensville. Email: [ourvillagenorthwest@gmail.com](mailto:ourvillagenorthwest@gmail.com)

**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

**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](mailto:brian@lacey.nz), 0221-831-811, Beverley Meredith, [meredithpb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:meredithpb@xtra.co.nz), 09-411-5201.

**U3A South Kaipara**: 1st Tuesday of the month for general meeting. See What's happening this month column for more information or contact Gloria Middleditch. [jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com](mailto:jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com) 09-420-3007/0211-658-428.

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# Santa came to town (in 2013)

Even the weather could not dampen the spirit of Christmas.



Saturday 7th dawned with rain forecast just about the time the parade was due to start. Fortunately it came early and by midday the sky was bright and clear. Santa was in his grotto with a long queue of children waiting to see him.



The streets were lined with people and the pavements overflowed with stalls. Behind the hall the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade demonstrated what to do in the event of a kitchen fire, using a pot lid, bread boards (even a plastic one) and damp towels. The strongest messages were never to try and pick up a burning pan, dial 111

and then buy some time for the Fire Brigade to arrive.



Then it was time for the parade, and the band, and cheering, and lollies, and waving, as the floats moved between the very well-behaved crowds, before turning around and going back again.



**HO! HO! HO!**



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