

The Helensville Community News

Issue 172 - March 2024

Young Farmer of the year Riley Sylvester

Riley Sylvester Wins RD1 Young Farmer of the Year at Helensville A & P Show

Riley Sylvester, an 11 year old student from Waitoki Primary School, emerged victorious as the RD1 Young Farmer of the Year at the 120th Helensville A & P Show. The competition, which showcased the agricultural prowess and knowledge of young participants, saw Riley outshine the competition with his impressive skills and dedication.

The judging criteria were diverse, reflecting the multifaceted nature of farming life. Participants were tested on various tasks, ranging from practical skills to theoretical knowledge. The competition included challenges such as dressing in a farmer's costume, building a wall, herding sheep (which cleverly incorporated mathematical principles), identifying sheep breeds and cuts of meat, mastering pastry making, constructing a wire fence, milking a cow, and delivering a speech about wool.

Riley's success highlights his exceptional talent and

commitment to the agricultural industry. His ability to excel in a wide range of tasks demonstrates not only his practical skills but also his deep understanding of farming practices and principles. Moreover, his victory serves as an inspiration to young farmers everywhere, showcasing the potential for youth to make significant contributions to the agricultural sector and exemplifies the bright future of farming in New Zealand.

Congratulations to Riley on this well-deserved win!



Building a fence



Giving a speech



Herding sheep



Sheep breeds & cuts of meat



Making pastry



Milking a cow



Riley with Poppa and Dad

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

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Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 31st March

(9.00am to 3.00pm)



We're holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt again so time to load up the kids and head to Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens this coming Easter Sunday.

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

Egg tokens will be replenished during the day to ensure everyone goes home with Easter eggs.

While on the hunt you walk around the beautiful 1km sculpture trail which has over 40 marvellous new sculptures created for our 2023 exhibition by local and international artists on display.

There is also a 2.5km nature trail which meanders around farmland and native forest, has a beautiful lookout point of the Kaipara Harbour and forms an important part of the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre conservation and restoration program.*



PLEASE NOTE; the popularity of this event plus the limited spaces available means that **BOOKING YOUR ENTRY TIME IS ESSENTIAL**. You can email info@kaiparacoast.co.nz, or phone 094205655. Or for your greater convenience use the ticket link below.

Our cute little coffee shop will be running a sausage sizzle on site on Easter Sunday, plus you can select plants for your garden at the Plant Centre during your visit.

A wonderful way to spend Easter 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.

Venue location: 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa. Tickets \$35 per person,
Booking: <https://kaiparacoastplantcentre.com/product-category/vouchers-tickets/>



What's happening this month



Tuesday, 5 March, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm 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 and Stiches 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 March, Kumeu Show, Access Road, Kumeu 8.30am – 4pm, The Kumeu Show is "Udderly Great Family Entertainment" bringing the Farm to the City. With a range of entertainment, activities, Animal Competitions and over 200 Trade Stalls.

Sunday, 17 March, The Village Market, Helensville Showgrounds. 8:30am – 1pm. Now being held at the Helensville A&P Showground's, 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 from Ralphie, free hair plaiting for the kids and much more... *Please bring a gold coin donation for parking - proceeds going to the scouts jamboree & St John Youth* Sorry no dogs 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, 17 March, Helensville Art Trail. 10:00am – 4:00pm Helensville township, 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.

Sunday, 17 March, Flower Arranging Workshop – Easter Theme, 9.30am – 11.30am, Kaipara Coast Plant Centre & Sculpture Gardens, 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway. Louise Kirkwood, from Old School Yard Blooms, will be presenting another of her extremely popular workshops with an "Easter table-scape" theme. So if you would like to create your own Easter table settings or flower arrangements to celebrate the festival (and impress your friends and family!) this is a "not to be missed" event.

Saturday, 23 March, River Valley Baptist Family Gala, 10am – 2pm, 1 Fordyce Road, Parakai. Come along for some great community time with fun, budget friendly food and activities! Bouncy Castle, Cafe,

BBQ, Magic Carpet Rides, Easter Egg Hunt, Second Hand Goods & Clothes, Ice Cream, Games, Races, Corn Hole, Produce, Plants, James & Baking, Face Painting & more

Saturday, 23 March, Landslide – Fleetwood Mac & Stevie Nicks Tribute Show, 8.30pm, Helensville Rugby Club. Landslide is a live 5-piece band, who have been celebrating the music of Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks for the past 11 years, covering well-known classics from Fleetwood Mac and also Stevie's solo hits! Expect to hear Dreams, Sara, Rhiannon, The Chain, Go Your Own Way, Seven Wonders, Don't Stop, Edge of 17, Tusk, Gypsy, Black Magic Woman, Rooms On Fire, and Little Lies to name just a few! Tickets available from Eventfinda.co.nz

Sunday, 24 March, Gently Loved Markets Kumeu, 10am – 1pm, Kumeu Community Hall, 35 Access Road, Kumeu, Free entry and parking. Stalls selling preloved, vintage, retro and upcycled clothing, accessories and homewares for all ages. All stalls are indoor. Plus, with changing rooms at the venue so you can try before you buy. We love a sustainable lifestyle and what better way to do that than buying preloved. Grab a coffee, your favourite fabric bag and come have a preloved treasure hunt with us. The event is cash only, some stall holders may accept bank transfers. Time for a wardrobe cull or a declutter around the house? Come sell with us! Email us at gentlylovedmarkets@gmail.com for details about a stall.

Easter Sunday 31st March, Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Normal gardens admission fees apply. Bookings for the time you are coming are essential. To book, please select the time you would like to come and order

Wednesday, 3 April, SeniorNet Kumeu 10am St Chad's Church, Matua Road, Huapai. New Member meeting where we will let you know what we are about and why you should join us. Small friendly group learning all about technology. Nigel Dempster 09 411 9444

Tuesday, 3 April, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm 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 and Stiches 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, 13 April, Waitoki Village Market, 8.30am – 12.30pm, Come on down and see if you can find that special little something for your Valentine. He/she might have a special hankering for pickles or a favourite jam. Maybe a plant or 2 for the garden or that special pot that holds pride of place on your deck or entrance. A little trinket or jewellery. Let your imagination go wild. If none of that excites you, just come on down anyway to say hello, catch up with old friends, maybe make some new ones. Our ever popular barbecue will be running with sausages and bacon and egg muffins to fill that breakfast hole.

Want to have a stall, drop a line at markets4waitoki@gmail.com or message us on our Facebook page Waitoki Village Markets Remember this market is held at our local hall 1095 Kahikatea flat Rd and is run by locals (ie could be your neighbour). Other market dates to note in your calendar are as follows June 8, August 10, October 12 and December 7. Looking forward to catching up with everyone.

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What the month of February means to me

by Noah Everard, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

As February drifts by like a summer breeze, I am yet again called to my duties. With my hands outstretched on the keyboard, I begin to recall the recent events and what jubilation they have brought to the stunted month of February. February, although the shortest of the months, never ceases to be abundant with long days of sun, perfect for seasonal events built on the vibrance of summer.

On the 11th I had the pleasure of attending the Holi festival, at the Krishna Temple in Riverhead. The day was colourful and warm, with every attendee being graced with a dash or dollop of bright colour. To be unstained was an abnormal look, fixed only by the smiling stranger, greeting you with a coat of colour on arrival.

Soon after on the 14th, the heart of Valentines began to beat. Pumping Kaipara College with tender ambition to celebrate the day of Love. Kaipara College's PSSP (Peer Sexuality Support Programme) team organised a chocolate heart stand, where every awkward teenager could muster up the courage to buy their crush or lover a \$1 chocolate heart. And of course an option to be an anonymous sender was included.

However, one could not yap about February without mentioning the passing of Waitangi Day. The founding document of the country we live in, heralding a quantity of significance which rightly demands respect. Te Tiriti o Waitangi laid the groundwork for a partnership between Maori and the crown to grow. Although, in past years the dismissal of the Treaty's values and its total lack of influence in our society has led to the birth of disparities within our country, affecting both groups and individuals. Nevertheless, the Treaty's regained recognition and celebration amongst schools and communities, is a step towards integrating a conscious appreciation of the Treaty's values and the equality it radiates.

Whilst still being in the spirit of celebration, the arrival of Helensville's A&P show is creeping around the corner. At Least while I write this. Almost running for 120 years, the A&P show has been the iconic event of Helensville. Acting as the centre of trade and display of arts, crafts and agricultural success. Ever since I was 5 I would always ask my parents the same question, "When is the A&P show?", due to the vibrance it generated and the sense of community it developed. I look forward to attending, with fingers crossed for a blessing of good weather. Without further ado, I want to thank the month of February for the warm memories it has so generously gifted me, and furnishing this year to a good start.



With my friends at the Holi Festival

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Brynderwyn disaster commemorated

On Pepuere (February) 7, 2024, a moving commemoration was held at Te Awaroa Museum to honour the 15 people who died and the 21 who were injured on that date in 1963 when the bus bringing them home from Waitangi Day celebrations crashed at the bottom of the Brynderwyn hills. Those involved in the worst motoring accident in Aotearoa's history were mostly either connected to Rewiti Marae on State Highway 16, just south of Helensville, or to Onehunga.

The Waitangi Day attendees had had a great day on the 6th. They attended the celebrations as part of the Maori contingent from around the country selected to meet Queen Elizabeth, who was in attendance. Concerns about the wooden-framed Army surplus truck, converted to a bus, that arrived in Helensville to take them to Waitangi after they were transferred from their original bus had faded – the feeling was “it got us there so it would get us back” – and the travellers were not prepared for the accident that took so many lives and caused so much pain to the living. The bus had crashed on the last bend in the twisty Brynderwyns due to complete failure of service brakes.

Many whanau of the dead and injured attended the ceremony, officiated by Rev. Warahi Huinga Paki, JP. Interspersed with waiata, hymns and prayers, the names of the dead were read out, a bell was rung, and a candle was lit for each one. Connected forever by the disaster, several whanau gave emotional accounts of their stories from the event, saying that talking about it helps them deal with the grief they still feel. With current issues also front of mind, one speaker emphasised the need to “hold fast to your reo, mana, and lands”.

The special event was organised by Te Awaroa Museum President Leigh Bosch (Ngati Whatua) who lost whanau in the accident and Vice President Megan Williams, assisted by other Museum helpers.

An exhibition of newspaper articles and photographs, including documents from the inquiry held after the accident was of great interest, as was the Mark Sainsbury - fronted documentary ‘Descent from Disaster’, which had screened on television to mark the 50th anniversary of the Brynderwyn accident. This exhibition is ongoing and has been visited by several people since the commemoration.

Whanau who attended the commemoration expressed thanks for the opportunity to come together and honour those involved. “As old as we are we have not forgotten. Out of grief comes growth, and opportunities to connect.”



Candles commemoration.



Continuing community connections

Understanding our community is a critical key for Citizens Advice Bureau volunteers.

“Knowing and growing connections with local groups, organisations and agencies helps us unlock a good service,” manager Rani Timoti says. “The more familiar we are with what’s out there, the easier it is to direct clients.”

When volunteers refer a client to an organisation they’re already familiar with they can share some handy points to make their next steps smoother.

For example, if there’s parking available, what the building looks like, is there a landmark near it, about the friendly staff or who best to see.

Volunteers can save clients time and frustration if they’re aware of some main factors/points with local agencies/organisation.

“Building relationships can also lead to learning and development opportunities for volunteers where people can be invited to speak about their group or service,” says Rani.

This year the CAB office at 16 Commercial Rd has been brimming with community comings and goings.

So far the established Community Support Networking Group, Pro Care’s Ready Steady Quit programme and Otakanini Topu regularly meets there.

Meetings are also held at various times for Oranga Tamariki, the local Justice of the Peace association and a health group.

Clients are also referred to our budget advisor from groups like Parent Aid and South Kaipara Good Foods and agencies like Work and Income.

“This year our budget advisor, who is also a JP, will provide his expertise for South Kaipara Good Foods to continue their support for their own clients who have a rapport with this amazing operation with volunteers just like us who want the best for our area,” says Rani. “To work alongside our community organisations is a privilege for us. We are helping each other to help our locals so it’s a cycle of comradeship.”

Rani already has many ties in the community and will be speaking to local groups and organisation throughout the year about her “indispensable” Citizens Advice Bureau.

The CAB office opens Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm and Saturdays from 10am to noon. Trained and qualified volunteers also include JPs each day.



COMSUP Group meeting.

What a wonderful Helensville Show that was!

No doubt many readers also enjoyed a great day out recently at this iconic annual event. Held at the Helensville Showgrounds, as usual, community spirit and initiative was very clearly on display.

For me there were many highlights. I think this year's choice of theme – wool – was an excellent one. Making better use of this natural product (or by-product, if we think about other reasons for raising sheep) is something that it'll be very worthwhile for government to consider. It will be good for this region if we can crack that nut, with all the environmental and health benefits that go with greater use of wool, as well as obvious wins regarding jobs, the local economy etc.

The organisers of the Helensville Show would have been so pleased to have such good weather and a good turnout on Saturday, particularly in the context of other recent shows having to be abandoned. This time last year, flooding issues prevented the show running and of course in the previous few years a covid-tinged cloud had been hovering ominously.

Not only was the weather spectacular but everyone seemed determined to make the most of the occasion.

The grounds looked good and sounded even better, with Kumeu Brass playing a couple of great sets of classic numbers. Moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, a fox terrier race provided a hilarious opportunity for some enthusiastic four-legged friends to showcase their speed and obedience. A few of them failed to take that opportunity fully, as you might expect, but that was all part of the fun.

As always, it was great to see first responders present and available to talk with the community. I enjoyed chatting to representatives of Kaipara Coast Guard, the local Police and fire service volunteers, who were there along with various other great community organisations of different kinds.

Huge kudos is owed to the organisers of the Helensville Show. I cannot imagine just how many hours the President, Dave and his team must have put into the planning and preparation. They can have the satisfaction of knowing that their hard work paid off handsomely and hopefully now enjoy some time quietly reflecting on a job very well done.

Cheers, Chris Penk



West Auckland's best kept secret "Blend Art Café".

A young local entrepreneur raising 2 children, Amy Brent-Jones, began her business during Covid in 2020.

Out of boredom Blend Art Café was created. Amy used a bag of concrete and a paper towel cardboard roll and with them made a vase out of concrete. She then researched and learnt how to make different mould's that she could use to cast figures like pots, bears and an assortment of others items. From there Sip 'n' paint was created and the rest is history...

What began as making and selling décor from a trailer at various markets to 16 months ago opening her first premises in Huapai.

At the early stages whilst working hard Amy would go home after a long day and sometimes not feel like cooking and the only option was takeaways. Amy saw an opportunity to add wholesome food options to her art cafe. She created her own menu with dairy free, gluten free and vegan choices.

From humble beginnings to creating a unique concept combining Art, an assortment of delicious food, beverages, gifts and a special inclusive environment where everyone can enjoy the offerings at Blend.

Amy and her team thank you all for your support and encouragement in making Blend Art Café possible.

Chris Penk
 MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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Helensville Library and Service Centre update

The Helensville Library and Service Centre team have begun regular outreach visits to our local ECEs and schools. If we haven't contacted you, and you would like us to visit, please contact us via email, at helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Hall building work update:

The remedial building work in the Library area of the building continues. The date for the Library to be open to the public hasn't been finalised. We will open as soon as we can.

If there are any changes to our opening hours and availability, we will update our Facebook page.

facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre.

Our regular events and programmes continue.

Kids Time, Wednesdays 10am to 10.30am. Kids Time is aimed at under-6s and their grown-ups. Each session is different, and content depends on the day's audience.

Crafternoons return on Thursday afternoons, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Bring along whatever portable craft you're working on. It is a great opportunity to meet other crafters, share your knowledge, and learn new things. Children's crafts are aimed at under-10s, who will need someone over 14 with them. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the monthly themes. In March, it's all about pets and animals.

The Library and Service Centre is open our usual hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 5pm. Saturday: 9.30am to 4pm.

Council services are available during these hours.

Anne Coppel

Senior Librarian / Poukōkiri - Children & Youth

Helensville Library and Service Centre

ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

Local artists Shona Cameron and Emma Springford-Gough's exhibition runs from 28th February – 28th March. Their opening event is Saturday 2nd March 3pm all welcome.

Emma and Shona occupy the artist studio at the Railway Station in Helensville, their diverse practices range from Kitsch to complex drawing, abstract to observational painting.

Emma and Shona will be taking an artist's run workshop, Saturday 16th March 11-1pm \$25 per person. For booking and payment details please email manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz

April is our members exhibition 'New Works', for our member artist's the entry form can be downloaded from our website artcentrehelensville.org.nz. Exhibition dates are 3rd – 27th April, opening night 5th April 5-7pm.

Workshops happening this March at the Art Centre are adult portrait classes with Olga Atkins, Drawing with Mike Rowland, and Kids Illustration after school class with Olga Atkins. For details on these classes please visit our website.

If you would like to be kept up to date with classes please email Yvonne at manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz to be put on our mail out list.



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Bees and swarming

I was fortunate to meet Brian and Joan last month when a swarm of honey bees stopped at their property. It was quite small and late in the season, but I am pleased to say that it is doing well. I put them into a hive and the queen has been laying well and the number of bees has increased. They have been out foraging and have amassed some good stores of honey and pollen. I am confident that they will survive the winter.



© Meike Joseph

While a swarm of bees may look scary, thousands of venomous insects flying around, it is useful to know that they are at their most placid when swarming. Honey bees are not aggressive, they are defensive. They protect brood and food i.e. their hive, but when they are swarming they have neither to protect. They have evolved over 25 million years to try to be left alone when they are at their most vulnerable. While being a nuisance to some, swarming is a sign of a very strong, healthy hive. Individual bees live quite short lives, but for the species to survive, the colony of bees must reproduce and that is what swarming does. When a hive has enough bees and food it will swarm. The old queen will take up to half the bees and honey and leave. A new queen will emerge shortly after the swarm has left and then there will be two colonies. The swarm will typically go 50 –100m away onto a branch, fence or other suitable place. From there, scouts will go out and find a suitable new home, this can take from a few hours up to a week. Once they have agreed on a new home, they will all depart. When they move into a new home, they are no longer a swarm, they are a colony.

Now that swarming season is generally over (it is usually spring and early summer) you may still see lots of bees; this is unlikely to be a swarm. It could be a hive that has absconded. This is a hive where there are some bee diseases and they have all left, leaving the honey. These are unlikely to survive. It could be a swarm that has made a home somewhere and has only just been noticed. Once established, it can be quite difficult to rehome. Thirdly and most commonly, it is wasps (they can be quite difficult to identify), I get called out to quite a few misdiagnosed wasp nests.

Honey bees were successfully introduced in 1839, and within a couple of decades feral bees had established themselves throughout New Zealand thanks to swarming. Unfortunately, varroa mites were discovered in 2000 (Australia was the last major

honey producing country to get varroa last year), and since then the feral colonies have been decimated. Usually honey bees in the wild won't survive for more than 18 months now. Beekeepers need to treat for varroa mites and the diseases that they carry for their bees to survive. So, if you see a swarm please report it as soon as possible. There are lots of beekeepers who will be happy to collect them for free or call your local Beekeepers' Club.

I'll be dropping off a couple of jars of honey to our editors from their bees soon.

Ken Brown

Beekeeper & President of Auckland Beekeepers' Club

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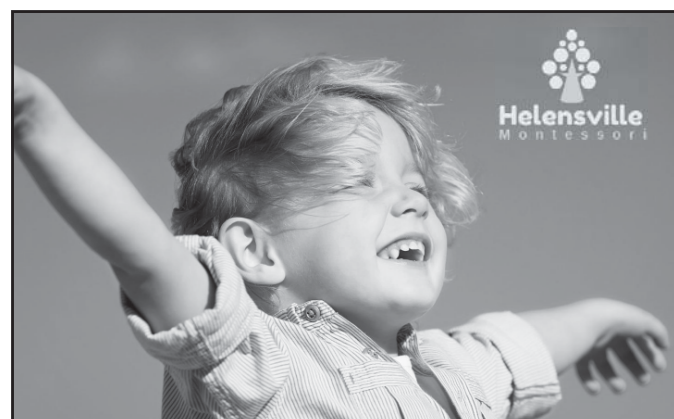
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KMRSA Poppy Appeal 2024.

This year the Poppy Appeal will be held on Friday the 19th April, when our volunteers will be out in force. Additionally the Poppy boxes will be available at the Helensville, Parakai and Kaukapakapa retail stores in early April, along with a QR Code, enabling you to make an early donation using your smart phone or a cash donation. A tax receipt can also be requested for your tax return donations using the QR Code, all donations go to the KMRSA Welfare Fund.

Any volunteers who can help with the Poppy Appeal on Friday 19th April can contact Steve Wilson 021 494 945 or email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz

KMRSA ANZAC Day Services 2024.

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be holding the following services on ANZAC Day;

Dawn Parade at Parakai, Fall-in 5.50 am, On Parade 6.00 am

Helensville Services Cemetery, 6.55 am (Sunrise).

ANZAC Day breakfast 8.00 am, venue TBC.

Kaukapakapa Cenotaph Service, 10.00 am

This year due to the uncertainty about the completion of the RSA clubrooms and the War Memorial Hall, there will no 11.00 am ANZAC service at the Helensville War Memorial Cenotaph.

For any queries phone Rex Keane, KMRSA President 027 293 2768 or email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz

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KMRSA Clubrooms update

The Council contractors have now given the RSA the 12th April for the clubroom finish date, which is perilously close to ANZAC Day, bearing in mind the amount of work involved in making the clubrooms operational again.

One bit of progress is that the roof is now on, the committee is in discussion with the electricians over lights and power points, the refrigeration engineers about the chiller and display cabinets, the painters about colours for the shiplap, the vinyl, the carpet and the position of the flagpole.

The ground lease for the deck has been approved at the Council Local Board meeting last week, so the deck out the front of the clubrooms can now be built, it will be a great asset for the RSA and the Helensville streetscape next summer.

KMRSA President Rex Keane says the most frequently asked question of late has been, "when is the RSA going to be open", so the RSA members are certainly looking forward to getting their clubrooms back after a 16 month closure. New members can join at this year's special price of \$30pp, which includes Associate and Ex-Service memberships. Email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz and request a membership form.

Rex Keane, President

Rodney Local Board update

from Mark Dennis

Crossings coming to Kaukapakapa!

This has been a long time coming, and has involved years of funding discussions, community consultations and political battles to get across the line. The original design was for raised crossings, with the purpose of slowing down vehicles entering the town and passing the school. With the change in government, raised crossings became a political hot potato and has led to them being taken off the table for this development.

The great news is we will be getting two flat crossings, one near the Gull Petrol Station and one outside the Kaukapakapa School, also the current refuge island outside the shops will be renewed and improved.



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Kaipara korero

Principal Cindy Sullivan

From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk:

The 2024 school year is well underway and learning routines are firmly established. After a long summer holiday it takes a while to get "school fit" again, but students have now settled in and there is a focused feel to the school. As learning settles into a routine, we are encouraging students to get involved in some of the extra-curricular activities which we offer.

At a recent assembly I talked to students about Kaipara College being a place of great opportunities. At no other time in a young person's life will they be afforded the myriad of choices and opportunities available to them as they are at high school. For example, currently students are being encouraged to sign up for winter sports. We have a huge variety on offer, all the ones you would expect and a few others besides, for example aquathlon, mountain biking and motocross! Also available among other things are choir, music, band factory, performing arts academy opportunities, library assistant, Whanau group rep and other student leadership opportunities. Students are encouraged to grab as many opportunities as they can fit into their lives. Getting involved in extracurricular activities is a great way to extend friendship groups, learn new skills, learn how to work in a group, learn leadership skills and have some fun. All these things are not only important at school but also in life beyond school.

Through living our WAKA values – Whanaungatanga, Aroha, Kaitiakitanga and Angituutanga – Kaipara College is a school that places high expectations on its students academically, personally, and in participation in extracurricular activities. Secondary school is an exciting and challenging journey for everyone involved. Working with our students and their whanau to support the best outcomes for each of our students is paramount.

Finally, as you may know, 2024 marks 100 years of Kaipara College and Helensville District High School. We will be celebrating this occasion with a series of events over a weekend in September. I imagine many of our parents and/or grandparents are graduates of this school and we would appreciate your input. If you are interested in being involved, please come and join us at the Community Centenary Meeting on Monday the 4th of March in our staffroom. You can also find more information about how to get involved under News and Events on our website.



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Centenary celebration weekend:
20 - 22 September 2024 **SAVE THE DATE**



You're Invited!

to join us for a
Community Centenary Meeting

> Monday 4 March <

See the Kaipara College
website & Facebook page
for more meeting details or
call 09 420 8640 - ext 800

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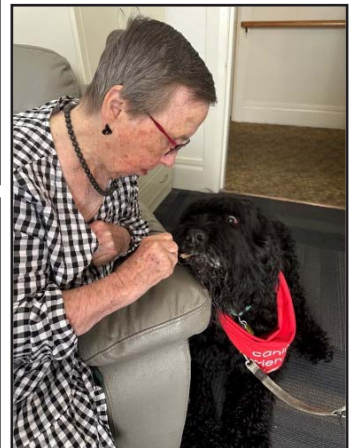
Reflecting on the activities of last month, we had quite a fun and eventful time at Craigweil House.

Auckland Anniversary brought out the artist in us as we painted the iconic Sky Tower in vibrant colors. It was a glorious celebration of our city's rich culture.

The weather was sizzling hot, so we decided to cool down with some delicious strawberry ice creams. A perfect ending to our summer escape.

But that's not all... we also got creative and played badminton with balloons! Who says you need a fancy court to play games?

If you would like to enquire about Craigweil House for your loved one, please get in touch. We are a boutique rural facility with personalised compassionate support and care for rest home, hospital, and secure dementia levels of care – 09-420 8277.



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Connection update

Death Cafe

At a Death Cafe people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death.

Our objective is 'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'.

A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session.



Sunday 24th March 2024 at 3.30pm

Shop 3, Helensville Railway Station

2 Railway St, Helensville.

Donation for room, tea and coffee or please bring cake. All are welcome, no need to book but you can contact Heather 0220 425652

Death Cafe is a world wide movement aimed at destigmatising conversations about death. It is group lead with no particular agenda, except for tea/coffee and cake! While it is not a grief/support group for the bereaved it may lead to something in that arena. I will also be holding workshops in the not too distant future around Advanced Care Planning and DIY Funerals.

On another note we have a Weekly Wellbeing Pop Up (attached) at Connection every Thursday from 9.30am to 1pm. People can drop in for \$20 for a 20 minute session with any of the practitioners.

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Lastly: Crafty Tuesday Afternoons from 1 - 3.30pm. Bring your project, have a cuppa and a natter. \$5 towards rent and kitchen supplies.

See our facebook page Connection Hub for all other services. The space is also available for casual or regular use for meetings or workshops. Phone Heather 0220425652

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Some quick wins, but much more work to be done

It's been a hectic but productive start to the political year, and I am pleased to report a number of actions my ACT colleagues and I have undertaken to deliver real change for the good people of north-western Auckland. I'd like to highlight a small selection.

We've read too many reports in the last few years, including in local papers like this one, of law-abiding Kiwis being victimised by assaults, burglaries, and ram-raids. But there is finally some good news.

The Government has abolished Labour's prison population reduction target, as promised in ACT's coalition agreement. We're restoring Three Strikes legislation to ensure repeat violent offenders are put behind bars. And when someone like a shopkeeper or security guard is assaulted while working "sole charge", that will soon count as an aggravating factor in sentencing.

We've also defunded "cultural reports" – the expensive documents criminals use to justify their crimes to the Courts. And my colleague Todd Stephenson has had his member's bill drawn, which if passed will require prisoners to undertake rehabilitation courses before applying for parole.

On the health front, David Seymour is requiring Medsafe to approve new pharmaceuticals within 30 days of them being approved by at least two overseas regulatory agencies recognised by New Zealand. This means easier access to potentially life-saving drugs.

David has also introduced legislation to restore the over-the-counter sale of cold and flu medicine that actually works. The ban on pseudoephedrine failed to curb the supply of meth into our communities, while making the winter ills all the more miserable.

Come winter next year (or even this year, if the pharmaceutical companies are quick enough), pharmacies in Helensville and beyond will be stocking pseudo-based cold and flu tablets that stop the sniffles from putting us out of action.

Speaking of being put out of action, many New Zealanders tell me they still haven't forgiven the previous government for its COVID response, which curtailed fundamental rights, especially in Auckland with multiple lockdowns.

My colleague Brooke van Velden, as Internal Affairs Minister, has opened up the official inquiry into the Covid response to public submissions, so I hope Kiwis in our neck of the woods have their say at www.covid19inquiry.nz.

But a persistent frustration the north-west of Auckland is transport. And central to transport is infrastructure.

It's imperative that local authorities have greater financial certainty and more funding options if they are to deliver vital projects, whether that's new roads for private vehicles or enhancements of public transport, like improvements to our own northwestern busway.

As the Under-Secretary for Resource Management Reform and Infrastructure, I am working with Government Ministers to

institute long-term city and regional infrastructure deals, allowing public-private partnerships, tolling and value capture rating to fund infrastructure.

The Government has also committed to introduce financial incentives for councils to enable better infrastructure supporting new housing development. For example, we could share a portion of GST collected on new residential builds with the council that issued the consents.

Ultimately, this Government will be judged on what it gets done, and I expect the taxpayers, business owners, tradies, parents, and community advocates reading this to hold us to account every step of the way. Thank you for everything you do.

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Date	High Water	Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set	
March '24					
1 Fri	0243	3.8	1458	0706	2000
2 Sat	0321	3.7	1537	0707	1959
3 Sun	0404	3.5	1625	0708	1958
4 Mon	0458	3.4	1724	0709	1956
5 Tue	0607	3.3	1838	0710	1955
6 Wed	0730	3.4	2004	0711	1954
7 Thu	0849	3.6	2121	0711	1952
8 Fri	0953	3.9	2223	0712	1951
9 Sat	1047	4.2	2315	0713	1949
10 Sun	1136	4.4	-	0717	1948
11 Mon	0002	4.3	1221	0715	1946
12 Tue	0047	4.4	1307	0716	1945
13 Wed	0130	4.4	1305	0716	1945
14 Thu	0212	4.2	1429	0718	1942
15 Fri	0254	4.1	1513	0719	1941
16 Sat	0339	3.8	1559	0720	1939
17 Sun	0430	3.6	1663	0721	1938
18 Mon	0533	3.4	1803	0722	1936
19 Tue	0652	3.3	1924	0722	1935
20 Wed	0807	3.3	2035	0723	1933
21 Thu	0909	3.5	2134	0724	1932
22 Fri	0959	3.6	2222	0725	1930
23 Sat	1041	3.8	2302	0726	1929
24 Sun	1118	3.9	2338	0727	1927
25 Mon	1150	4.0	-	0728	1926
26 Tue	0010	4.0	1221	0729	1924
27 Wed	0041	4.0	1251	0730	1923
28 Thu	0112	4.0	1323	1730	1921
29 Fri	0144	3.9	1356	0731	1920
30 Sat	0218	3.8	1433	0732	1918
31 Sun	0256	3.7	1514	0733	1917
April					
1 Mon	0340	3.6	1603	0734	1915
2 Tue	0436	3.5	1706	0735	1914
3 Wed	0547	3.4	1823	0736	1913
4 Thu	0708	3.5	1946	0737	1911
5 Fri	0822	3.7	2057	0737	1910



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.

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.the.fitness.league.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 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 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 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 for more information. Monday 5.30-7pm during school terms, Makiri Street, Helensville. Contact: Carla. 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 for more information. Tuesday 5.30-7pm during school terms, 1015 Kaipara Coast Highway, Helensville. Contact: Sheryl 0211900591, 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

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. Entry is free. Why not come along and find out what we have to offer. Contact details: Brian Lacey brian@lacey.nz, 0221-831-811, Nigel Dempster 09-411-9444

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 09-420-3007/0211-658-428.

Trade/Professional & Services List

Accountants	ECE Astute Accounting	420-7835
Agecare	Craigweil House	420-8277
Age Concern Rodney		09-426-0916
Acupuncture	Parakai Acupuncture	027-351-7377/09-449-0690 (Parakai Church)
Beauty Therapy	Beauty Elixir	022-465-0727/420-9775
Beauty Therapy	Premier Aesthetics	www.premieraesthetics.co.nz
Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
Budget Service	Francis	420-7740
CAB	16 Commercial Road	420-7162
Carpenter	Maguire Carpentry	021-990-268
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Curtis	027-200-5456
Chiropractor	Kaipara Chiropractic Healthcare	420-6224
Computer Repairs	Michael	021-251-4138/420-9307
Concreters	Brewis Concrete	021-992-590
Diggers	Helensville Diggers	021-454-793/420-7023
Dog Grooming	Christine	021-521-303
Early Learning Centre	Active Explorers	09-222-3277
Early Learning Centre	Gumboots	09-411-9038
Early Learning Centre	Helensville Montessori	420-7181
Electrician	Sean Gray Electrical	0274-784-396
Freemasons at Helensville	Duke of Albany Lodge	0210-829-2345
Garden Sheds	Baby Barns	022-075-8283/420-3298
Gift Baskets	Riverside Crafts - Sarah	0800-831-542
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Gifts & Clothing	Eleventh Hour - 60 Commercial Road	
Glass Services	Nor-West & Kumeu Glass Services	09-420-8210/0800-825100
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JP's	Grev Walker	420-7173
Lions Club of Helensville	Chris Clarke	420-8527
Livestock	Jensen Cattle Co	0212-388-116
Markets	Kaukapakapa Village Market	0274-831-542
Markets	Waitoki Village Market	Gill 420-3301
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Mechanical Repairs	McLeod Motors	420-8633
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Plumbers	KPL Ltd	420-9108
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Real Estate	B&T - Kerry King	0274-587-299
Real Estate	Burmester Realty	420-8360
Real Estate	Prestige - Jana Mills	021-509-990/420-9953
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Water Cartage	Water Wagon 1	027-280-2630
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Your Local Business Book	yourlocalbusinessbook@gmail.com	

Eat, Drink and be Inspired.

Be inspired as a series of artist talks take you through the lives and spiritual journeys of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Rembrandt and Van Gough. These talks will form the main part of Cafe Church at Helensville Community Church on the fourth Sunday of the month for 5 of the next 6 months. Services are in a cafe style with tables around the auditorium where you are free to eat and drink throughout. The talks will also be very interactive with questions welcomed throughout.

Although neither Chris nor his wife Karyn are academics, they are working artists with a passion for the Renaissance artists. Chris working as a blacksmith while Karyn is both a potter and painter.

Services run for an hour from 10.30 at 40 Mill Road, next to the Hospice Shop and opposite Mitre 10. All are very welcome and

there is no charge to attend and hot drinks, cakes etc. are provided throughout.

The first in the series will be entitled Michelangelo - Creation and will be held on Sunday March 24th.



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