

The Helensville Community News

Issue 173 - April 2024

The North Harbour Mini Motocross Team

The four boys below are all members of the local North Harbour Mini Motocross Team and all attend Helensville Primary School.

They are currently participating in the New Zealand School Motocross Championship which consists of 4 rounds.

On Friday March 1st the Helensville Primary School team secured a 3rd overall for King of the Schools with over 50 schools participating. The second round was due to be held on March 15th in Patetonga, but was cancelled due to the weather and has been rescheduled to 13th April.

With Hunter Blair placing 1st in the mx50 class, Judah Borrett 2nd in the mx50 class, Ollie Blair was 11th in the intro trail class and Joshua McComb 15th in the intro trail class.

Last year the same team, including Bo Phillips who has now moved on to Kaipara College, won the championship and there are high hopes for this series.



Judah No 64 and Hunter No 32



Left to right: Judah Borrett, Hunter Blair, Joshua McComb and Ollie Blair

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PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE RSA THIS APRIL

YOUR DONATION HELPS US SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND'S VETERANS



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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, 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.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the publishers. While we try to ensure accuracy of information, the publishers accept no responsibility for errors or omissions made by individual contributors.

Publishers: Huapai Copy & Print



Sunday 21 April
A&P Showgrounds
8.30am – 1pm

Live music from Mike Lea
and free face painting
from 10am.

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Spoken Word/Poetry Night and Book Launch

Enjoy an evening of spoken word at the 'Open Mic' night at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Road, from 7pm, Saturday 27th April

\$3 cover charge. Bring a plate of goodies and an original piece of writing or a treasured piece to read/share.

The evening will feature a book launch by local author L. J. Bernard. Hear excerpts from her book 'Insurmountable Faith', which follows the journey of Gemma as she cares for her husband after he sustains a head injury.

A review: "Insurmountable Faith is a poignant read, which clearly shows the trauma of caring for someone with Dementia!" Jill Barnes B.A.(French), Dip Tchg, Diploma in SLD(Module3).

Books will be available for just \$28. For more information contact Pauline paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com



Popular Artist Talks set to continue.

The popular new series of Artists Talks, looking at the spiritual journeys of the Renaissance Artists are set to continue at the Helensville Community Church on the 4th Sunday of the month over the next few months. These talks form the focal part of their 'Cafe Style Services' running for an hour from 10.30am at 40 Mill Road.

'Cafe Church' is a very relaxed style of service with finger food and drinks being available throughout and questions welcomed from those attending.

Talks are as follows: Sunday 28th April Michelangelo - Fall; Sunday 26th May Caravaggio - Passion; Sunday 23rd June Rembrandt - Reflection; Sunday 25th August Vincent Van Gogh .

The talks are by local blacksmith Chris Ellwood, excepting the final one, which will be led by Karyn, Chris' wife, who is a painter and potter. Chris and Karyn will take you through the lives of these artists as they look at the influences of passion, pain and the papacy on their work.

For more information email paulinekiwidenton@gmail.com



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What's happening this month



Thursday, 11 April, Kaipara RSA AGM, 6.30pm, RSA, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville. (TBC). All members are urged to attend.

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 special person. He/she might have a special hankering for pickles or a favourite jam. Maybe a plant or two 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.

Friday, 19 April, Annual Poppy appeal 2024, 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 make a cash donation. A tax receipt can also be requested for your tax return donations using the QR Code, all donations go to the KM RSA Welfare Fund. Any volunteers who can help with the Poppy Appeal on can contact Steve Wilson 021 494 945 or email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz Poppy collection sites are Parakai Four Square, Helensville Chemist, Paper Plus, Helensville Bakery, Countdown and the KKK Store, where we need a replacement for Eddie Barwell who passed away recently.

Saturday, 20 & Sunday, 21 April, 4x4 Outdoor Expo 2024, 9am – 4pm, Kumeu Showgrounds.

New Zealand's Largest 4x4 Outdoor Expo! "The Place To Build Your 4x4" 4x4 Vendors, Show & Shine, Camping & Swap Meet. Applications now open on the website www.4x4outdoorexpo.co.nz

Sunday, 21 April, The Village Market, Helensville Showground's, 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 Mike Lea, free hair plaiting or face painting 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

@thevillagemarkethelensville Eftpos cash out available.

Sunday, 21 April, 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.

Thursday, 25 April, ANZAC Day, KM RSA ANZAC Day Services 2024. The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be holding the following services on ANZAC Day; Dawn Parade at the Kaipatiki Reserve, 150 Parkhurst Road, Parakai, Fall-in 5.50 am, On Parade 6.00 am. Wreaths will be laid during the course of this service. Helensville Soldiers Cemetery, 130 Garfield Road, Helensville, a short Commemoration and Remembrance Ceremony, where the KM RSA will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph at 6.55 am (Sunrise). The service starts at 6.45am. ANZAC Day breakfast 8.00 am, at KM RSA Clubrooms. (TBC) Kaukapakapa Memorial Hall Service, 947 Kaipara Coast Highway, KKK, Parade fall-in 9.50am, Ceremony starts 10.00 am at the Cenotaph, followed by morning tea in the KKK Memorial Hall.

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

Wednesday, 1 May, 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, 7 May, 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.

Wednesday, 8 May, Unlimited Potential marketing Workshop. 9.30am – 11.30am, Business Hub 103c Mill Road, Helensville. Many small to medium businesses find it challenging to build the formality, structure and discipline needed to gain the best customer attraction and retention that could deliver better sale volumes and profitability. Marketing for many organisations is a nice to have not a must have but without a marketing plan and some basic principles your business may struggle to achieve its fullest potential or in tight times might not survive at all. Join us for a morning workshop to give you the tools and the tricks to ensure your marketing brings you returns in 2024. We delve into a range of topics and questions:

Full details next month.

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Summer is nearly over

by Noah Everard, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Is it just me, or did summer leave for a few weeks as the new month came Marching in? A sudden crisp feeling has been present in the morning air, even lingering around till lunch like an ill-favoured guest. This guest, who is draped in an early autumn robe, often comes accompanied by a calm rain. A common visitor of New Zealand's capricious weather patterns.

Nevertheless, I am afraid not much has occurred in my life, when compared to the month of February. The A&P show was a success, due to the generosity of my Kaipara College teachers, who enthusiastically allowed me to commandeer half of their tent in order for me to sell my self-harvested honey, locally sourced from South Head. The show was indeed blessed with good weather and it was pleasing to see the talented crafters and artists, each displaying a unique set of work, which was readily devoured by the wandering customer.

Moving on to more present times, it would be my pleasure to not only mention, but appreciate the prosperity of the Kaipara College Student Leadership Team. I myself am a Student Leader of Kaipara College and therefore can confidently vouch for our team's prowess throughout the start of 2024. Every meeting and event is productive and professional, with each member striving for excellence, achieved not through the success of one but of the whole. The team atmosphere is woven together through bonds of aroha, strengthening the fibres of the caucus and pushing us further in achieving a cooperative angitutanga. We have successfully completed our first four assemblies, with extensive praise and feedback from the teachers. I am certainly looking forward to completing more of our plans throughout the year.

I must reiterate my previous statement about the recent change in season. Today on the 20th of March, the sun was glowing high in the sky. The grass exalted an unavoidable green vibrance, tempting my fellow student and I to roam and relax on the school fields during recess, with the sky a calm sea of endless blue. Now that that is out of the way, I would like to further touch upon the other events of the Month. Such as Women's History Month, taking place this March to commemorate women's contributions to history and our success as a species. Women are pinnacle to this success as they have birthed and mothered every single human ever, whilst being unrealised and oppressed for the better part of history. New Zealand's connection to the bettering of women's rights should not be forgotten, as it was New Zealand who was the first country to allow women to vote, thanks to the valiant efforts of Kate Shepard and the NZ Women's suffrage movement. Without further ado, I thank the Helensville Community News for allowing me to write in their column. Looking forward to the new installations of the coming months.



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Calling for Expressions of Interest

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

YOUR BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY



North West Country Inc. business association is looking to launch a new initiative to support our members called Business Solutions.

This will be a comprehensive service covering tools and templates for business success, as well as regular one-on-one sessions with business mentors based out of our Business Hub in Helensville.

Hoping to launch in July 2024, the organisation is seeking expressions of interest from all local business advisors who would like to join our business mentors team.

Mentors will be asked to join a roster of other business advisors to take appointments for half a day with subscribed association members and provide one hour one-on-one sessions. It is anticipated that mentor sessions will occur once a fortnight, with one mentor in attendance each time.

The service will be free to business members and utilise the business success pack available on the North West Country website, personal knowledge and advice from the mentor, and other resources as can be made available.

All mentors will be compensated for their time. All mentors must be business association members, either full or associate. If you would like to join the programme please email a copy of your CV outlining your business management experience to the General Manager, Danielle Hancock at manager@northwestcountry.co.nz. Expressions of interest must be received by 30 April 2024.



Helensville Birthing Centre

TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

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.

You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

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CAB: More Than Value For Money

What’s a damaged casserole pot, a beat-up printer, busted car door and a cracked letterbox have in common?

“Nothing normally except for needing to be recycled but they became a public thought-provoker,” says Rani Timoti, manager of Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville.

Citizens Advice Bureau Auckland branches, including Helensville, teamed up with TradeMe, to present a series of auctions which metaphorically represented the cost of free advice given by our volunteers throughout February.

The creative campaign featured a cracked letterbox worth \$34,350 (over 229 hours on tenancy advice), a damaged casserole pot worth \$33,450 (over 223 hours on consumer rights), a beat up printer worth \$30,750 (over 147 hours on employment dispute cases), a broken car part worth \$24,450 (on all vehicle advice).

Visitors to the auctions in March could also contact CABs as a forum to ask questions and seek advice.

ACABx, the board responsible for negotiating and administering funding with Auckland Council on behalf of the nine Auckland CABs with 33 branches, secured a timely Radio New Zealand slot to highlight the auctions.

National Radio host Jesse Mulligan started the interview by reading a text from a grateful CAB client before talking to John Farrell, CAB Orakei volunteer and a former CEO of some of the world’s most renowned hotels.

John says despite his previous skills it was like starting again as he went through extensive CAB training to learn how to help clients. “We don’t use our own opinion but point them in the right direction.”

John estimates he’s taken over 700 calls in his six years acknowledging the accuracy and information from CABNET and support of fellow volunteers with expertise on certain subjects.

He says CAB is for everyone, not just those suffering deprivation, and volunteering is very satisfying to empower clients to receive genuine help and provide relief for them.

“There’s a sense of learning and working with like-minded people,” he says about his comradeship with his colleagues.

In illustrating the real-life impact of the CAB’s work on individuals and communities, John articulated the significance of its mission and the collective effort required to sustain its vital service.

“I am also always surprised at how many Kiwis don’t know about our services, that we can help them, for free in their time of need or to help solve the trickiest situations,” he says. “This is our chance to remind New Zealanders of this extremely important service and the impact this advice can have on people’s lives.”



This is the true value of our free advice.



This is the true value of our free advice.



This is the true value of our free advice.



This is the true value of our free advice.

ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

New Works by our member artists will be on exhibition from the 3rd – 27th April, opening night 5th April 5-7pm all welcome.

Artist Jeffrey Thomson is offering two workshops this April. Beginning with a plein-air drawing day in the artist's garden! This will take place on Sunday the 7th April 10-4. Come and enjoy an hour or two (or more) of creativity exploring the garden and studio of Jeff Thomson and Shona Cameron.

The artists say's "explore a rich visual playground full of textures, shapes and colours through drawing, painting or photographing. Bring your own paper and media to work with. Drawing boards and chairs available, Coffee, tea and soup available throughout the day. If you want, bring your own food. 12 Awaroa Road, Helensville; gold coin donation.

Saturday April the 20th will be a French Knitting workshop using diverse media's, Jeff will take you through creating your own French knitting tool to create unique shapes with the method of knitting. \$30 per person which covers materials, limit of 10 people in this workshop so booking is essential. Please email manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz to reserve your space!



French Knit
Workshop
with Jeff
Thomson

20th April
10-12
\$30 limited
spaces
booking
required

1st – 25th of May is a group exhibition by the Helensville Art Trail.. This will be a multidisciplinary show with 2d and 3d artists including jewelry.

Our adult classes will be continuing in term two. We also have lots of new groups and one of our workshops to be a part of, please see our website for dates and details artcentrehelensville.org.nz.

Our afterschool kid's class is growing with lots of drop-in's! Term two we will be extending the Illustration course from 6 weeks to be 8 weeks during the school term. Please visit our website for full course details.



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.

Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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Helensville Library and Service Centre update

We have a possible date for reopening the Helensville Library and Service Centre: Friday 26 April. This date is subject to the completion of the building work.

We want to thank the community for their support and care during the building work. Especially during this final phase, while we were unable to open to the public. We are looking forward to having you in the space again.

The public space will not look any different from when we closed in October. The remedial building work has involved staff space, and the entrance to and from the carpark; and the fire exit from the back courtyard. 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. Adult and children's Crafternoon sessions run concurrently. Adult crafters: 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 April it's all about treasures under the sea.

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 Coppell

Senior Librarian / Poukôkiri - Children & Youth

Helensville Library and Service Centre



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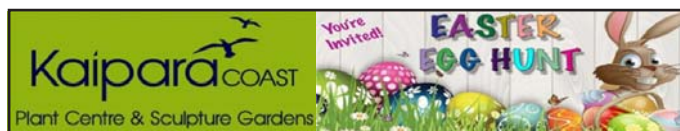
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Mother's Day Special "Harvest" Walk Sunday 12th May (0930 to 1130)



Something special at the centre for mum on this upcoming Mother's Day; David Bayly will be taking you on a guided walk around the Sculpture Gardens as well as our native forest & farm trails at Kaipara Coast Plant Centre and Sculpture Gardens.

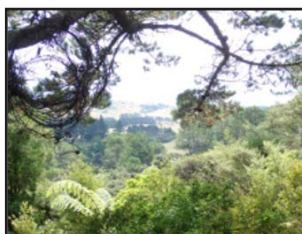
Along the way David will be showing you all of the Exhibits contained within our 2024 sculpture exhibition as well as talking about the local flora and fauna. He will also offer information about the history of the gardens as well as the ecological initiatives being undertaken to conserve and enhance the area.



You will also be able to pick available "in season" produce so you will potentially be able to go home with a posy of flowers/foilage and some fruit.



There are also some wonderful harbour views along the way and great locations in which to have a picnic after your walk (dad and the kids are also welcome).



There are also games areas and many ideal locations to sit and enjoy a picnic as well as our cute little coffee shop in which to relax once you have completed the walk.

Please ensure that you wear suitable walking footwear and may be bring a drink (plus a rain jacket if the weather looks unsettled).

Venue location: 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa. Tickets \$20 per person.
Booking: <https://kaipara.coastplantcentre.com/product-category/vouchers-tickets/>



Save the Bees

We all want to Save the Bees and by doing so help to save the planet, after all bees are the proverbial canary in the coalmine. Their demise would be the warning that we've gone too far. You've no doubt seen Einstein's quote – "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left." But being a brilliant physicist doesn't make him an expert on apocalypticism and there is absolutely no proof that he said it.

When we think of Save the Bees, we naturally think of the honey bee rather than the over 20,000 other species of bees. There are only 6 species of honey bee worldwide, one of which was introduced to New Zealand, the Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*). We have two races or sub-species - Carnolian and Linguistica here in Aotearoa. I'm often approached by people who want to become beekeepers in order to Save the Bees, they soon learn that it isn't as simple as that. I like to point out that saving the bees by becoming a beekeeper is like saving endangered birds by becoming a chicken farmer. It is true that there are many pests and diseases that will harm honey bees and we lose many colonies every year, this is an issue with all livestock and their management. We do rely on honey bees to pollinate a lot of our food, but they aren't the only pollinator. Bumble bees were introduced about 1885 for pollination, originally for clover but now they are essential for greenhouse crops and some orchard fruits. Plants are also pollinated by other bees, wasps, butterflies, birds and even moths. New Zealand has 28 native species of bees, 27 of which are not found anywhere else (Australia has over 1,500 species of native bee!). They are ground dwellers, they're much smaller than a honey bee and don't usually sting.

I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't care about our environment or not actively try to preserve our flora and fauna but we should be aware of priorities. I'm passionate about beekeeping and honey bees and through that I have a much better understanding of insect life and plants in NZ. My garden has several

beehives and rather than out competing other insects, there are an abundance of bumble bees, native bees, butterflies and other wildlife. This is by creating a friendly environment for them.

Anyone with a garden can do some quite simple steps to help foster a habitat where life can flourish. A neatly manicured lawn is beautiful to see and great for the kids to play on but is like a desert for wildlife. Next month I'll suggest tips for making your garden more bee friendly.

Ken Brown

Beekeeper & President of Auckland Beekeepers' Club




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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 make 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.

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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 Poppy collection sites are Parakai Four Square, Helensville Chemist, Paper Plus, Helensville Bakery, Countdown and the KKK Store, where we need a replacement for Eddie Barwell who passed away recently.

KMRSA ANZAC Day Services 2024.

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

Dawn Parade at the Kaipatiki Reserve, 150 Parkhurst Road, Parakai, Fall-in 5.50 am, On Parade 6.00 am. Wreaths will be laid during the course of this service.

Helensville Soldiers Cemetery, 130 Garfield Road, Helensville, a short Commemoration and Remembrance Ceremony, where the KMRSA will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph at 6.55 am (Sunrise). The service starts at 6.45am.

ANZAC Day breakfast 8.00 am, at KMRSA Clubrooms. (TBC) Kaukapakapa Memorial Hall Service, 947 Kaipara Coast Highway, KKK, Parade fall-in 9.50am, Ceremony starts 10.00 am at the Cenotaph, followed by morning tea in the KKK Memorial Hall.

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

ANZAC wreaths: Any organisation or club who wants to lay a wreath at the Parakai Dawn Service or the KKK Service, needs to email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz or text Rex Keane 027 293 2768 with the organisation, the name of the person laying the wreath and at which service. Wreaths are available at \$50 each and can be ordered and paid through the KMRSA. The wreaths are being made by the Helensville Floral Art Club.

KMRSA Clubrooms update

The Council has now given the contractors the 5th April for the RSA clubroom finish date, but no later than the 12th April, which is perilously close to ANZAC Day, bearing in mind the amount of work involved in making the clubrooms operational again.

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 and the Helensville community 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.

KMRSAAGM.

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be holding the Annual General Meeting on the 11th April, 6.30pm at the clubrooms, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville. (TBC) All members are urged to attend.
Rex Keane, President

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Kaipara korero

Principal Cindy Sullivan

From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk:

Recently I attended a public meeting regarding the Kaipara College Centenary celebrations. The meeting was a small but perfectly formed group comprising some old boys and girls, local principals and organisers. What struck me was the energy, enthusiasm and aroha the old boys and girls had and still have for their school. I was treated to many stories of how school used to be, the excited voices exclaiming, "Do you remember...", and "I wonder what happened to...". It also made me nervous, feeling the deep level of investment and expectation these people had for the upcoming centenary celebration. Luckily for Kaipara College we have a heavily invested and dedicated organising committee who understand the importance of this event for the school and the community it lies within.

What also struck me while listening to the banter at the meeting was although many things have changed over the years, the importance of having strong values as the basis for school endures across the ages and remains critical to producing good humans, then and now. Please get involved in making the Kaipara College Centenary weekend a memorable and fabulous event that will bring young and old members of the Kaipara College community together. For more information, and to sign up to our mailing list, visit our Centenary web page under News & Events at kaipara.school.nz or email Erin at centenary@kaipara.school.nz.

On another note, this week is Summer Sports Tournament Week where secondary school students have the opportunity to play summer sports against other schools. Events happen all over New Zealand and our Kaipara College competitors relish this opportunity and the tough competition it provides. This year we have students away competing at Waka Ama Nationals in Rotorua, the 3x3 basketball tournament in Takanini and the North Island Mountain Bike Championships in Rotorua. While we eagerly await news of their progress, I know they will be exemplary representatives of Kaipara College, displaying our WAKA values at all times, making us proud.

These events cannot happen without the many volunteer coaches, managers, helpers and supporters from our community who freely give their expertise, time, energy and commitment to our young people. A huge thank you to all these wonderful people.



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Vital role of Helensville Hospice shop

In the past year, Hospice West Auckland has cared for 778 patients and their families, providing comfort and dignity for those facing end of life. Our organisation is partially funded by Te Whatu Ora (approx. 60%), and we rely on revenue raised through our Hospice Op Shops, donations and fundraising to raise the additional funds required to provide our services for free.

Our Helensville Hospice Shop is located at 36a Mill Road. We accept quality preloved donations and also offer a free pick-up service for large items such as furniture and bulk lots (phone 0508 4 HOSPICE / 0508 446 7742 to arrange). Our store is a favourite destination for op shoppers and offers a myriad of unique treasures at bargain prices. Bring in some items to donate, buy some bargains, and know that you are supporting a great cause by helping Hospice to continue providing vital services for free.





Connection update

CONNECTION, Shop 3, Helensville Railway Station, next to The Shoppe and Ginger Crunch café.

Coming soon! "A Short Term of Discovery." Soil, Food and Health.

This is a series of sessions run by Chrissy and Toni, looking at ways we can reclaim our health.

The body is essentially a self healing organism, given the right support and building blocks, and in these sessions we will discuss ways we can all support our own health. There will be practical demonstrations throughout the sessions, such as sauerkraut making, sprouting and various forms of composting (if time permits).

Chrissy and Toni say they are "not experts but enthusiasts" and as such they want to share what they have found to be helpful as well as looking at what options are available. Life is so much more enjoyable when we have our health.

Looking to start in early May on a Tuesday morning - follow The Connection Hub on FB for further info.

Coming in April:

Macrame Workshop, Saturday 13th April, 1pm - 4pm, \$40 per person. Create your own plant hanger and take it home with you. BYO pot if wanting to make a specific size.

Plenty of colour options and combos available. Contact Kayla Clements 0220-392-096 plantsbypinklady@gmail.com

Wellbeing Pop Up is moving to a Saturday towards the end of April to accommodate everyone in the community.

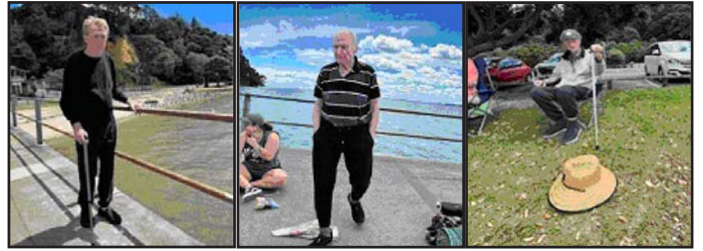
Regular events: Craft Afternoon on Tuesday Dance/Exercise and Flax weaving on Wednesday Meditation on Thursday evening Sewing Circle on Friday. See our facebook page CONNECTION HUB for more details.



Craigweil House

In a heartwarming display of community spirit and engagement, residents at Craigweil House have embarked on an exciting month filled with diverse activities, bringing joy and camaraderie to all.

The highlight of the month was a rejuvenating bus trip to the beach where residents soaked up the sun and enjoyed the sound of crashing waves.



Bus trip to Shelly Beach

Adding to the excitement, residents indulged in a movie and ice cream afternoon, creating a cosy atmosphere filled with cinematic delights and delectable desserts.

Pet therapy sessions brought smiles and warmth to the hearts of the residents. Interacting with furry friends provided comfort, companionship, and a welcome distraction from the routine of daily life, enhancing overall well-being and emotional fulfilment.



Furry Friends

As the month unfolds, residents eagerly anticipate more adventures and opportunities for connection, embracing each moment with enthusiasm and appreciation.

We welcome and thank Baobao, our new activities Coordinator, who brings lots of energy and enthusiasm into her new role.

Upcoming events:

- 17th March – St. Patrick's Day
- 20th March – Tai Chi (welcome back Sally!)
- 31st March – Easter celebration



Movies and ice cream

If you would like to inquire 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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Getting closer to getting somewhere

If you live in northwest Auckland, you will be familiar with traffic jams. This is an obvious problem where the infrastructure has not kept up with the huge population growth over the past decade.

According to Bayleys Northwest general manager Brendan Graves, more than 300ha of land in Auckland’s northwest has been identified for near-term development. Over the next two decades 30,000 new homes will be built within the Whenuapai and Redhills precinct. This will create 20,000 new jobs cementing the region’s status as the city’s most important commercial, industrial, and residential growth node.

This means that demand for safe and efficient transport connections is only going to increase. The Coalition Government has produced a draft General Policy Statement on Land Transport which sets out priorities for investment over the next three to ten years. The previous Labour government plan insisted on a “mode shift” away from cars to walking and cycling everywhere, and where cars were allowed, slowing the traffic down to a snail’s pace. Apparently, that was going to make people want to catch the bus more. “On yer bike” said Kiwis to that lot.

Instead, the Coalition plan makes building major transport projects like the North West Alternative State Highway a priority. This is a proposed new connection between a new interchange at the current Brigham Creek roundabout and State Highway 16 to the west of Huapai.

According to the Supporting Growth Alliance set up to deliver the project, “It will move the existing state highway traffic out of the Kumeu-Huapai town centre and enable a wider range of travel choices for the growing number of people who will call the north west home over the next 30 years. In Kumeu-Huapai alone, the population is anticipated to grow from 3,400 residents to around 25,000.”

It’s not just four-lane roads – the Northwest Rapid Transit project is intended to run alongside SH16 from Brigham Creek to the city centre. According to NZTA, “Rapid transit is fast, frequent and reliable public transport that carries large numbers of people, on dedicated corridors separated from other traffic. This means it is unaffected by general traffic congestion – like the Northern Busway on the Northern Motorway (SH1).”

Knowing the growth is coming, and that roads and transit have to be built, the next problem to solve is how to pay for it.

In my role as Under Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure, I am looking into infrastructure funding and financing tools, including use of public private partnerships, value capture, road tolls, lease backs and other potential new tools.

Taxpayers and ratepayers are feeling tapped out, so we have to look further away and further out to find the money. International investors still see New Zealand as a safe place to put their money, and Kiwis as reliable and hard workers who can afford to pay for good infrastructure over a decent length of time.

The Coalition government has committed to lowering the barriers to overseas investment on the basis that strict tests continue to keep out organised crime and other baddies. By signalling that New Zealand is open for business, we are a small step closer to getting somewhere when it comes to infrastructure.

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Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set		
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
6 Sat	0925	3.9	2157	0738	1908
7 Sun	0920	4.2	2150	0639	1807
8 Mon	1009	4.3	2238	0640	1805
9 Tue	1056	4.4	2323	0641	1804
10 Wed	1140	4.4	-	0642	1803
11 Thu	0006	4.3	1223	0643	1801
12 Fri	0048	4.2	1305	0643	1800
13 Sat	0130	4.0	1348	0644	1758
14 Sun	0213	3.8	1434	0645	1757
15 Mon	0303	3.6	1528	0646	1756
16 Tue	0405	3.4	1638	0647	1754
17 Wed	0520	3.3	1753	0648	1753
18 Thu	0630	3.3	1900	0649	1752
19 Fri	0730	3.4	1957	0649	1750
20 Sat	0820	3.6	2046	0650	1749
21 Sun	0903	3.7	2128	0651	1748
22 Mon	0941	3.8	2205	0652	1747
23 Tue	1016	3.9	2239	0653	1745
24 Wed	1050	4.0	2313	0654	1744
25 Thu	1124	4.0	2347	0655	1743
26 Fri	1159	3.9	-	0656	1742
27 Sat	0022	4.0	1236	0656	1740
28 Sun	0100	3.9	1317	0657	1739
29 Mon	0141	3.8	1402	0658	1738
30 Tue	0228	3.6	1455	0659	1737
May '24					
1 Wed	0326	3.6	1559	0700	1736
2 Thu	0434	3.5	1712	0701	1735
3 Fri	0546	3.6	1824	0702	1734
4 Sat	0653	3.8	1930	0702	1733
5 Sun	0754	3.9	2029	0703	1732
6 Mon	0851	4.1	2124	0704	1731



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.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 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.

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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
Café	Blend Art Café	027BLENDNZ
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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
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Freemasons at Helensville	Duke of Albany Lodge	0210-829-2345
Garden Sheds	Baby Barns	022-075-8283/420-3298
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Gifts & Art	FIGG 44 Commercial Rd	021-488-427/420-6026
Gifts & Clothing	Eleventh Hour - 60 Commercial Road	
Glass Services	Nor-West & Kumeu Glass Services 09-420-8210/0800-825100	

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Livestock	Jensen Cattle Co	0212-388-116
Markets	Kaukapakapa Village Market	0274-831-542
Markets	Waitoki Village Market	Gill 420-3301
Mechanical Repairs	Helensville Mechanical Services	420-8177
Mechanical Repairs	McLeod Motors	420-8633
Mechanical Repairs	Parakai Automotive	09-420-7224
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Plumbers	Aqua Plumbing	021-0275-3821
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Plumbers	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	Mid West Pumps	420-7694
Real Estate	Arizto Real Estate - Kara Singer	021-414-376
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
Storage	J S Storage	021-462-930
Typesetting/Photocopying	Huapai Copy & Print	420-9307
Venue Hire	Kaipara Memorial RSA	420-8888
Water Cartage	Waioneke Water	021-420-2132/420-2131
Water Cartage	Water Wagon 1	027-280-2630
Windscreen Repairs	Bullseye Windscreen Repairs	027-605-4630
Your Local Business Book	yourlocalbusinessbook@gmail.com	

Blend goes ROAD

Exciting News & Hot off the press!

Our crazy and fun-loving Amy sweet talked her partner Carl to buy a second-hand caravan to convert into a mobile food trailer and guess what?

Yes, you guessed it! She got her way and now Blend goes 'ROAD'

After several months of hard work and after hours both Carl, Amy and their family have been working hard to make it all happen and very soon it will be completed. Another crazy idea becomes reality, as if Amy hasn't already got enough to do!

On the 6th & 7th of April, Blend will be at their very first event 'Go Green Expo - the sustainable lifestyle show at Eventfinda Stadium, Northshore. We can expect around 10,000 people to be able to buy a selection of Blends offerings.

So not only can we do events in store we can now come to you for all types of events. Weddings, birthdays, parties and

corporate events. Be quick! Two weekends in April have already gone. You can book emailing blendnewzealand@gmail.com for all inquiries.

See you on the Road!





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