

The Helensville Community News

Issue 168 - November 2023

West Auckland film nears completion

What started as a vampire-themed photoshoot idea in April 2020 has now developed into a short feature film for Whenuapai couple Chris and Petra Gloyn.

Entitled *Bloodlines* the film is a collaboration between Icarus Productions and JS Visuals. Described as a psychological thriller, it has been filmed on location in Whenuapai, Swanson, Kumeu, Piha, Dairy Flat, North Shore and Waiuku.

Petra jokes about how she came to be scriptwriter. "When our Director of Photography, Joel Staveley, suggested turning the photoshoot idea into a film I said, 'You'll need a script', electing myself to the role. Three days later I had an initial draft."

It was meant to be a short film, but the vision grew and developed, undergoing many scriptural changes along the way.

"As our first film," Chris, the director, said, "it has been quite a learning curve. We started with a small cast and crew but our complement has grown exponentially as the story evolved."

It hasn't all been plain sailing. There have been many cast changes and location issues, and Petra had to come up with creative ways to solve them. All these issues are now behind them and cast and crew are working toward a December wrap date, or mid January at the latest.

Casting for the project was done initially through the couple's own talent agency, Icarus Talent Ltd.

"The Agency couldn't supply all the cast we needed," Chris said, "so we engaged a Casting Assistant, Leonard Matthews, who runs Pasifika Actors Group on Facebook."

The project is self funded and actors and crew are collaborating in the project for no payment. Shoot dates were organised around people's schedules.

"We took largely unknown people," Petra said, "and threw them in the deep end. We have been blown away by what we have got from the actors. We believe we'll have a product that everyone can be proud of at the end."

The couple took a different approach to other production companies, allowing cast to put forward ideas to improve the script, and dispensing with the normal practise of separating extras from cast and crew.

The production is in the final stages of principal photography and the editorial process has just begun for scenes already shot. The couple already has cinemas interested in showing the film and they are looking at a release date in 2024.



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

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7PM

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162 AWAROA ROAD, HELENSVILLE

Armistice Day 2023

The Kaipara Memorial RSA will be commemorating Armistice Day at the Helensville War Memorial Hall Cenotaph this year, as the Kaipatiki Reserve is closed for earthworks. It goes without saying that it will be held at 1100 hours on Saturday the 11th of November, 105 years after the Armistice was signed to "End the war of all wars", World War One.

Veterans, RSA members and the public are encouraged to attend. Medals should be worn, if wearing relative's medals, wear them on your right chest and wear them with pride. If there are any organisations or individuals wanting to lay a wreath, please email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz before the 10th of November. (Sorry, wreaths are your care).

KMRSA clubroom update

The Kaipara Memorial RSA remains closed for seismic strengthening works and building upgrades, President Rex Keane says that a date for re-opening is not known at present, but likely to be in the New Year. Whilst a 12 month closure is far from ideal, our veterans who have gone before us endured far greater suffering, so we shouldn't sweat the small stuff. Rex says that when the clubrooms re-open they will be much improved and a great community asset for the next generation to enjoy. The committee is also looking forward to reconnecting with our Veteran and Associate members, which will help the mental wellbeing of everyone.

In the meantime the RSA committee has continued with our primary tasks of Veteran's welfare and commemorations in 2023, including ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Armistice Day. The committee has also been actively involved with the building upgrade, meeting and liaising with the Council and their contractors to ensure the clubrooms are future proofed and that the ambience, décor and acoustics in the clubrooms are all improved.



What's happening this month



Tuesday, 7 November, U3A monthly meeting, 10.00-12.00. Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street, Helensville. Guests are very welcome. U3A is a unique organisation of retired and semi retired people who enjoy learning from each other and sharing their skills and expertise through meetings and interest groups. Members have a general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and choose special interest groups to join. Groups at present include: Book Club, Food and Wine Appreciation, Mah Jong, Gardening, Critical Thinking, Shared Reading, NZ History, Out n About, Needle Stitches and TED Talks. Costs are minimal. For more information contact Gloria Middleditch jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com 09-420-3007/0211-658-428 or Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com phone 0274316205.

Saturday, 11 November, The Big Little Local, Rautawhiri Park, Helensville. 10am – 3pm. A family friendly event to connect the people of our community with their local small businesses and service providers. Market stalls, information stands, food, music, raffles, silent auctions and prizes are some of the fun to be had on the day. With all proceeds being donated to our local charity Parent Aid North West.

Friday, 11 November, Food trucks in Huapai, Huapai Domain, 5pm. Join us in Huapai for an unforgettable evening filled with delectable delights and a lively atmosphere! Our Food Trucks are back, bringing together a fantastic array of culinary experiences that are sure to tantalise your taste buds. Indulge in a variety of mouthwatering dinner options served up by a lineup of top-notch food trucks.

But that's not all – the good vibes will be flowing as we create the perfect setting for a delightful family outing. With something for everyone, including the kids, this event promises to be a memorable gathering for all ages. Don't miss out on the chance to savour delicious dishes, bask in the community spirit, and treat yourself to a wonderful time.

And for those looking to raise a toast to the evening, we've got you covered with our pop-up bar featuring a selection of refreshing beverages. Please note that while we're providing the drinks, this event is not BYOB. So come ready to enjoy a fantastic dinner and a great time without having to worry about bringing your own drinks.

Mark your calendars and join us in Huapai for a Food Truck night that's more than just a meal – it's an experience! Your taste buds, your family, and your appetite for fun will thank you. See you there!

Saturday, 18 November, Composting Workshop – Helensville, Come along to Pip's workshop at Helensville War Memorial Hall, and learn all about composting.

The workshop offers an introduction on how to compost with Bokashi bins, worm farms and cold compost bins. Ask all your composting related questions, and decide which system works best for your needs.

All confirmed participants get a \$40 discount towards a composting system that can be redeemed online after the workshop - and, a free rat trap too!

This course is proudly supported by Auckland Council and delivered by the Compost Collective.

REGISTER THROUGH THE COMPOST COLLECTIVE WEBSITE: https://compostcollective.org.nz/.../composting-workshop...

Saturday, 18 November, Summers Night in Helensville, Helensville Rugby Club 4:30pm Join us in Helensville for an unforgettable evening filled with delectable delights and a lively atmosphere!

Our Food Trucks are on their way, bringing together a fantastic array of culinary experiences that are sure to tantalise your taste buds. Indulge in a variety of mouth watering dinner options served up by a lineup of top-notch food trucks.

But that's not all – the good vibes will be flowing as we create the perfect setting for a delightful family outing. With something for everyone, including the kids, this event promises to be a memorable gathering for all ages. Don't miss out on the chance to savour delicious dishes, bask in the community spirit, and treat yourself to a wonderful time.

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Mark your calendars and join us in Helensville for a Food Truck night that's more than just a meal – it's an experience! Your taste buds, your family, and your appetite for fun will thank you. See you there!

A big thank you to Hapori Hub Helensville for their support with this event!

Sunday, 26 November, The Village Market, Helensville Showgrounds, 8.30am – 1pm. Now being held at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds, 63 Railway Street - New venue - same great market! Friendly people, great atmosphere and a tempting selection of quality stalls with everything from locally hand-made crafts, plants, preserves, fresh fruit & veg to pre-loved treasures and collectibles, coffee, food, live music, free hair plaiting or face painting for the kids and much more... Our November music will be by Jessica on the piano *Please bring a gold coin donation for parking - proceeds going to the scouts jamboree* The Helensville A&P Showgrounds management have a no dogs policy with the exception of assistance dogs as there is stock grazing in the grounds. Email: sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz Phone: 0274 831542 @kaukapakapavillagemarket Eftpos cash out available.

Tuesday, 5 December, U3A monthly meeting, 10.00-12.00. Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street, Helensville. Guests are very welcome. U3A is a unique organisation of retired and semi retired people who enjoy learning from each other and sharing their skills and expertise through meetings and interest groups. Members have a general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and choose special interest groups to join. Groups at present include: Book Club, Food and Wine Appreciation, Mah Jong, Gardening, Critical Thinking, Shared Reading, NZ History, Out n About, Needle Stitches and TED Talks. Costs are minimal. For more information contact Gloria Middleditch jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com 09-420-3007/0211-658-428 or Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com phone 0274316205.

Friday, 8 December, Twilight Christmas Market, Helensville A&P Showgrounds, 4pm – 8pm. Solve all those Christmas gift dilemmas and join us for a relaxed evening with food, entertainment and market stalls offering a great selection of Christmas gift ideas. Local crafts and art, handmade gifts and much more. A great opportunity to shop local and pick up something unique. For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

Wednesday, 20 December, Term 4 ends

Monday, 25 December, Christmas Day

Tuesday, 26 December, Boxing Day

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The Voices of our Future

by Lauren Morley, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

I have always believed that exercising the right to vote is one of the most important things a person can do to contribute to society. In my experience, the voices and opinions of young voters are often overlooked, so I wanted to use this opportunity to share my own voice as well as a couple of other first time voters from Kaipara College.

As I have grown increasingly aware of the way in which our country is run and decisions are made, I have immersed myself in as much political and civic knowledge as practicably possible. During the lead up to this election, I thought about where I will be and what I will be doing over the next 3 years, as well as what I want for this country as I grow older. As someone who is moving into university halls of residence and a new city next year, there were several issues which were important to me when casting my vote. Like many people of all age groups, the cost of living was a big factor in my decision, particularly the cost of petrol and healthy foods. I am a big believer in cheap and accessible public transport (which would benefit both me, and the environment), and in 2025, I will most likely begin renting, so affordable housing and healthy home standards largely contributed to my vote.



Casting my first vote!

Kingston Dean

"During this election cycle, my specific interest lay in the antagonistic relationship between the wealthy and the workers. As a young person, this is a relationship I myself am entering so I think it best to stay informed and vote for the collective interests of the working class. Modern information on this subject is often clouded with bias and propaganda so I largely formed my understanding and opinions from historical essays and ideas that I then applied to the modern context which has made me feel like I am voting in the most informed way I can."

Scarlet Payn

"As a first time voter at 18, this election felt pretty important! Finding information about policies from different parties was difficult, as some don't particularly cater to young people. I felt cost of living was massive and what drew me in was policies focused on remedying this. After seeking out information, what piqued my interest the most was wealth and capital gains taxes. I found that some parties made a great effort to engage with young voters and others didn't. This was important too, I wanted to feel that the party I was voting for would represent myself and my needs in parliament. Overall, the most important issues to me this election were renter's rights, the housing crisis and cost of living crisis"

This article was particularly important to me as I hope to forever advocate for young people and their right to be heard and represented. I acknowledge my bias in regard to this topic, however I encourage you all to never discount young voices as they will pave the way for our future.

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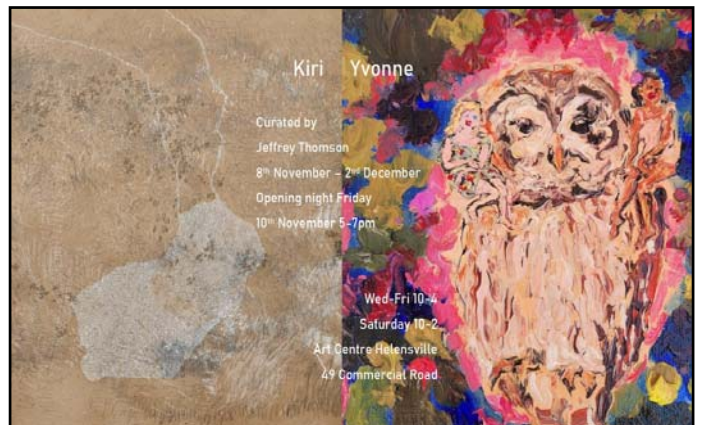
Art Centre Helensville

Call for exhibition proposals 2024

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

If you are an artist and have a show in mind, please send your proposal to manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz

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



This November will be an exhibition curated by Jeffrey Thomson of the Art Centre, manager Yvonne Abercrombie and gallery assistant Kiri Abraham.

Abercrombie, a pickler to painter, Abraham cultivator to contemporary mark maker - their works couldn't be more diverse. However there is a kindred response to natural elements influencing both practices. This exhibition celebrates the fundamental roots of existence, humanistic and landscape.

Like a devout forager, Kiri seeks earthly provisions for each process in her work, from material used to the homage of the work itself being imbued in the birth and decay of creation.

Edible textures and resplendent colours, Yvonne's oil painting embodies the permissive pleasures of nature. There is an ingenuous candor in the respect of self and body, and a semblance of flowers and verdure. Exhibition curated by local acknowledged artist Jeffrey Thomson. 8th November until 2nd of December, opening evening 10th November 5-7pm all welcome. This December is our Cash and Carry exhibition and February 2024 is an open exhibition themed 'Kaipara River.' Please refer to our website for entry forms and details.

We are now accepting proposals for 2024 exhibitions. If you are an artist and wish to have an exhibition with us we would love to hear from you.

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From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

Elton John once sang that “sorry seems to be the hardest word”. That may be so but I certainly know that the easier to utter must be “thanks”.

As the dust settles on the recent general election, I am feeling very grateful for a number of things.

First, we live in a country where free and fair elections are able to be held. Even on occasions when each of our respective political parties and candidates are unsuccessful (and my side was spectacularly unsuccessful overall as recently as 2020) it's heartening to see that in this country we still have a culture whereby the democratic will of the people is respected. Citizens of some other nations are not so lucky.

Second, I am grateful for the support that many people in this electorate have shown me personally through voting for me as a candidate recently. Naturally I am available to serve everyone in the community, regardless of who they may have voted for.

I also want to acknowledge the other candidates who put themselves forward so that we could have that conversation and a choice at the ballot box. I would welcome the opportunity to work with each of them (or continue working with them, in the case of those who are on the Rodney Local Board) in the years ahead.

Next, naturally I am also keen to express appreciation for the strong party vote result for the blue team across the country. At the time of writing, we don't know exactly what the new government will look like, pending special votes being tallied and any coalition negotiations.

Whatever may eventuate, I am certain that we have a stable government that works in the interests of all New Zealanders. Certainly this nation deserves no less.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to the local groups (for example, Kumeu Community Action) who arranged meetings at which members of the public could grill candidates on policy positions.

For now, take care and thanks again to everyone reading this column. I look forward to seeing you around northwest Auckland as your local MP again, for the next three years at least.

Cheers, Chris

Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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Judging will occur on

Saturday, 16 December

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The time is nigh and we are celebrating our best and brightest businesses in the North West. On Tuesday November 7th we hold our gala dinner and event at Allely Estate where the winners of the North West Country Business Awards 2023 will be announced.

We have Alison Mau as our MC for the night, a most talented speaker and sure to be a highlight. Peter and Catherine Cook from Allely Estate are passionate about celebrating local and have placed local beer, wine and food on the menu. Additionally, the couple offer an opportunity for ticket holders to purchase wine or french bubbles with your label making these ideal Christmas gifts. Any orders made before the night will be available for collection at the event. For further information and to get your business logo on some unique gifts head to www.wintime.co.nz. Tickets to the event are on sale now and we want to see the whole community turn out to celebrate these amazing people so head to our website events page to book your seats.

To celebrate the year we will also be hosting a Christmas drinks business networking event at The Portage Bar, Riverhead on Tuesday December 5th from 5pm. Come along and have a drink and some nibbles while mingling with fellow business owners.

If anyone wants to get into the Christmas mood we will be running a store/ office decoration competition where businesses will have a chance to win a cash prize pack. Keep an eye out in our regular newsletter for more information.

In the new year we will host our first Ultimate Day Out Competition. Customers will be encouraged to shop local and submit their receipts to our website. Three lucky winners will win an Ultimate Day Out, be it Wine Country, Artisan Country or Adventure Country days out. We are calling for interested businesses who would like to be showcased for one of the prize packs to contact Danielle Hancock now, at manager@northwestcountry.co.nz.



Business Awards 2023

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CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR 2nd & 3rd December 2023 Helensville A&P Showgrounds "Still the Biggest & Best Book Fair in the West!"

The Lions Club of Helensville will be holding their Christmas Book Fair at the Helensville A&P Association Show grounds on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of December, opening at 9.00am on Saturday until 4.00pm and again on Sunday 10.00am until 3.00pm. As this is a community event entry is free, and we do not allow traders in before you, our community.

Our last Book Fair held in May raised \$11,823 from the sale of books, for which many thanks. All the money raised went towards helping individuals and organizations in the community that required assistance. The funds raised from this Book Fair will go towards the sculpture by Jeff Thomson being planned for the entrance to the town. A mockup and information on this project will be on display at the Book Fair.

All books are priced to sell, with nothing over \$2. There is a large selection of children's books, still at 50c. There are also many jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, and quality magazines available.

Non-Fiction will be split into twenty separate categories, including one section dedicated to New Zealand subjects, which is still our largest section. Of interest is a new section for music. A large amount of sheet music, scores, criticism and biographies of composers and performers has come to hand.

There is also plenty of general Non-Fiction which you can spend hours browsing through.


Fiction is arranged alphabetically by authors, with six special interest groups, the largest of which is the Fantasy/Science Fiction section. There are also many Children's and YA's books.

Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty, Helensville, or for larger lots, call Chris on 09 420 8527, or any other member of the Helensville Lions.

Please note that the last date we are accepting books for this Book Fair is Friday 24th May.

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Helensville Te Awaroa Museum and the Aotearoa history curriculum

One of the highlights of 2023 at Helensville Te Awaroa Museum was a series of well-received talks on Aotearoa's history, given by Arina Bosch and her mother Leigh, the organisation's President. Motivated by changes to the NCEA social studies classes curriculum (for students in Year 1 to Year 10), the talks were titled Polynesian Migration, Becoming Maori, Tribal Society, First Contacts with Europeans, Kaipara's History and Matariki. "The idea of the talks was to do a sweeping overview from Pacific migration up to immediately before the Treaty with the hope of raising some of the achievements and events that are sometimes overlooked," Arina explained.

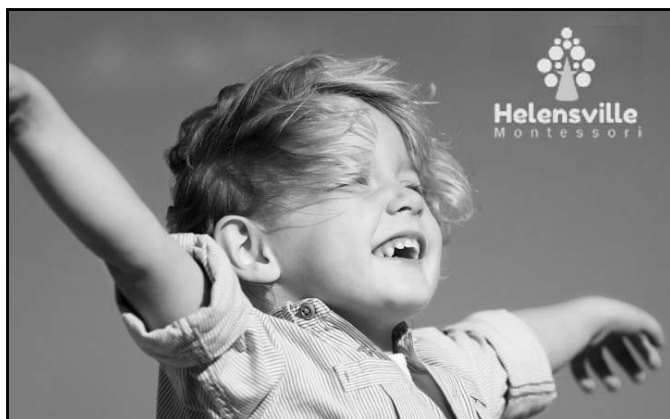


Arina Bosch contributing to the NCEA curriculum changes at Helensville Te Awaroa Museum.

Arina was keen to help expand the conversation around New Zealand history by challenging received wisdoms, "There's a lot happening around elevating our histories and I wanted to contribute to that. I think many of us who whakapapa to Ngati Whatua have been inspired by the mahi of the Pihema, Kapea, Wikiriwhi and Skipper whanau to name a few, who have shown tireless dedication to reinvigorating our language and stories and artforms. It's made us all want to contribute in whatever small ways we can."

Arina says the curriculum change was asked for by a NZ History Teachers Association petition. "It was about creating a push towards enforceable inclusion of more of our own history, not to the exclusion of other things, but it would be guaranteed a place." Bringing teachers up to speed has included training seminars, feedback loops and conference days. "The underlying message is that history is constructed and contested - it's the story of what happened, and it looks different through different lenses. It's a case of treading lightly, there's not an intention to reframe any narrative as the 'right' one. It is more to elevate the conversation. History should stand up against rigorous debate."

The talks at the Helensville Te Awaroa Museum were designed to help schools resource this new curriculum area and feedback so far has been extremely positive.



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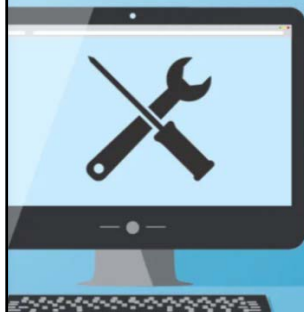
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Kaipara korero

Principal Cindy Sullivan

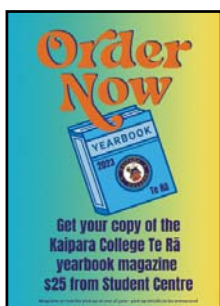
From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk:

Celebrating Success

As we come closer to the end of the school year we reflect on our success. This time of year brings many formal events that celebrate student success. Recently we held our Sports Prizegiving in which we acknowledged and celebrated the successes of our many talented and exceptional young sports people at Kaipara College. What impresses me most in all the sport I have seen this year, is not only the talent shown by our students but their ability and willingness to work as a team in our team sports, the support they show for each other, with many examples of tuakana teina where older students coach and support our younger ones, fabulous sportspersonship and the way they proudly represent the school and themselves. The Prizegiving also an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the huge contribution to successful sport at Kaipara College from the staff, parents and the community as a whole.

Over the next little while we will also be celebrating the success of our Music, Art and Drama students at the MAD Awards, our Celebrating Excellence assemblies and our Senior Prize Givings. We also celebrate our leavers with a week of student-led activities for our leavers to enjoy, our Year 13 Academic Prize Giving and our Whakamana Awards evening. Although these events acknowledge and celebrate success annually, these successes are built on smaller but nonetheless significant successes. At Kaipara College we learn that success is the result of many smaller steps, each with its own success. We learn that success requires clear vision and goals, hard work and perseverance, continuous learning, adaptability and learning from failure, resilience, passion and purpose, emotional intelligence and leadership, innovation and creativity, and patience and persistence. These are qualities we nurture at Kaipara College through Te WAKA o Kaipara.

Recently we have been working as a school to develop a graduate profile by asking "What is a successful graduate from Kaipara College like? What skills, knowledge, dispositions, attributes and values do we want students at Kaipara College to develop while here?" so that we are achieving our purpose as a school: *"Our purpose is to teach our rangatahi so they all reach their potential and are able to take their place as curious, connected, confident and contributing citizens in their community, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the world"*



The many successes of Kaipara College in 2023, both individual and collective, are show-cased in our fabulous new look yearbook "Te Raa". If you would like a copy of Te Raa 2023 so that you can find out about the successes we have celebrated at Kaipara College, please order a copy. The cost is \$25.00. Copies can be ordered from the student center by calling 09 420 8640 ext. 926 or emailing info@kaipara.school.nz.

Sportswoman of the Year 2023, Jess Smith with alumni, Karl Ruzich & Madeline Shelling



Sportsman of the Year 2023, Ottis Oliver-Chambers with alumni, Karl Ruzich & Madeline Shelling



Head students brainstorming ideas for the Kaipara College graduate student profile



Te WAKA o Kaipara: Navigate to Success
Te WAKA o Kaipara: Eke panuku, eke Tangaroa



2024 Sculpture Exhibition – Grand Opening

**Saturday 2nd December
2.00pm to 5.00pm**

A key attraction of the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre is our beautiful Sculpture Gardens. Each year the 40 sculptures, created by local and overseas artists, are replaced and remain on continual display for the following 12 months.

Gather up your friends and family and come along for this year's grand opening of the new exhibition and be amongst the first to see these wonderful artworks which are located along the 1km gardens trail. There will also be opportunities to mingle with the artists as well as drinks & nibbles to enjoy.



There is also our nature trail, which covers an additional 2.5Km, for you to explore. This is set in the lovely Kaipara countryside and placed so as to blend sympathetically with the surrounding environment and

offering some great views of the Kaipara.

This is a great way for all the family to spend a fun and relaxing afternoon as we also have an extensive kids play area plus BBQ area within the gardens.

There is also our cute little coffee shop on site plus of course the Plant Centre for you to browse through. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will also be on hand to help with any garden related questions.



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

To book tickets for the opening event, please go to:
www.kaiparacoast.co.nz

Venue location: 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa. Tickets \$15 per person, Gold Card \$12, Children (5-13) \$7.50 under 5s free, or \$35 per family (2A + 3C) ~ To Book go to www.kaiparacoast.co.nz



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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.

**53-65 Commercial Road, Helensville
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Email bookings@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz

www.birthingcentre.co.nz

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Floundering over Finances?

Financial difficulties often leave clients floundering before they come to Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville.

However, empowerment is at hand with free budget advice available with trained and empathetic volunteers.

"Sometimes it's just about having a listening ear first and foremost as we can provide the light at the end of the tunnel or different paths with options they've never thought about," says Rani Timoti, manager.

Issues could be directly related to mounting debt from a lack of income, loss/reduction of employment or credit card overspending to missed payments for rent, tax and the "growing scourge" of afterpay.

And of course there's the worrying surprises of unexpected bills and life's events, not meeting ends meet or finances being a part of a package of problems people are going through.

Nationally, the CAB national office gets over 8000 enquiries each year relating to general financial difficulties or budgeting.

"Our volunteers understand, as we all experience or know family and friends who have gone through these trials, that our clients may be embarrassed, stressed, worried, angry and vulnerable," says Rani.

Volunteers provide active listening skills, are not judgemental and confidential in their delivery of service. Clients are empowered and sometimes asked to write a timeline of events leading to their issues or given a budget worksheet.

Although referrals to the Budget Service or budgeting advisors are a main point of contact, volunteers can offer other suggestions-asking clients if they've spoken to their bank if they have a mortgage, approaching WINZ if they have rent arrears or asking family or friends to help with an interest free or low interest loan to clear debt.

As the festive season approaches it may be timely to prepare finances so families are not starting the year with major debt.

Budgeting burdens can be lifted by booking our budget advisor by appointment on Tuesdays, 10am to noon.



Letter to the Editor

Your opinion matters



DID YOU KNOW?

Are you an owner or an occupier/tenant of a commercially rated property in the North West (Riverhead, Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku, Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa)?

Did you know that you pay a targeted rate, a membership levy, to North West Country Inc, which is a business association, a Business Improvement District (BID) governed by Auckland Council BID Policy. Did you know that the AGM was held on 3rd October at Kaukapakapa?

Notification of the AGM's has, for some years, been buried in newsletters emailed to members. Many 'members' are not registered, or do not read the newsletters regularly, certainly not to the end. Consequently almost no members are present at AGM's.

Did you know that whilst you pay a mandated membership levy, you have no membership recognition or rights without filling out a registration form? Did you know that at the AGM questions/discussion were specifically banned by the Chair at the commencement of the meeting?

Did you know that at the AGM the Constitution was changed to reduce the elected representation on the executive committee? Now each township requires only one representative. Previously it was 3 each for Kumeu/Huapai and Helensville. Currently Helensville has just one, a real estate agent. Where is representation for retail, industrial, service, professional or hospitality?

Did you know that almost half of the levies collected has always gone to pay for management of the organisation? Did you know this is to increase to more than half next year?

Did you know that the Big Little Local event in Helensville, 11th November, is being funded by the BID this year? Whilst it is the sort of event the BID could/should be facilitating, it is significantly promotional for the business organising it. The owner of that business is on the executive committee of the BID. Do your representatives not understand conflict of interest? There was a specific item on the AGM Agenda for declaring any conflicts of interest. None were declared. I only found out about the funding of this event because I suggested to the BID Chair, subsequent to the AGM, that it was the sort of event the BID should be providing.

The event is a fundraiser for a local charity. So your hard earned \$'s are contributing to promotion of someone else's business and a charity, albeit a very worthwhile charity. Did you know of the opportunity available to you to promote your business at this event?

Did you know that a sizeable chunk of the levies is now being spent on a business hub – leasing a place for the board to meet etc., including fit out, furniture, security etc.?

What have you got for your contributions?

Across the 10 years the BID has existed, I have been forced to contribute around \$20,000. A Christmas tree (relatively recent) in Helensville is the only tangible outcome.

Holly Southernwood 021 488 427 holly@figg.nz

Rodney Local Board update

from Mark Dennis

Helensville Recycling Centre Opening

Thank you Helensville Zero Waste for the opportunity to speak at your opening ceremony and be part of the unveiling of your amazing new building, a building that was not only built by local hands but almost entirely out of recycled materials. The new building is a massive improvement and provides a much larger retail space for recycled goods, and a drive through for drop-offs. I highly encourage everyone to find time to go check it out. Encouraging people to see waste as a resource, and not rubbish, is a step towards a better tomorrow.



Kaipatiki Reserve (Parakai) Update

Some exciting photos of the new playground and walking tracks going in the Kaipatiki Reserve, next to Parakai Springs.

Great to see the native planting going in this month.



Scout Hall going for \$1!

The Helensville Scout Hall is on leased council owned land, but the building itself was built and currently owned by the Scouts, their lease expired in 2014. Since the expiry of the lease the council has been unable to successfully obtain a lease application from the Helensville Scouts and this means the lease will now be open for expressions of interest.

The Hall is in a bit of a state (it isn't new) and a new lease holder would be required to commit to a significant upgrade to bring the building up to standard.



This would include some asbestos removal and seismic strengthening. This is a great building in a prime location, so for the right community group this could be a great opportunity.

If no lease holder can be found, then the Scouts would be required to remove the building and return the site back to grass.

If any groups are interested in expressing their interest, please email Karen Walby karen.walby@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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New Zealanders Demand Real Change: ACT's Vision for the Future

The recent General Election in New Zealand has brought about a seismic shift in our political landscape. Kiwis have voiced their frustration with the status quo and voted for a change of government, and for good reason. The Labour-led government has presided over issues that have long plagued our nation, from rising crime rates to economic concerns, and their refusal to address these problems head-on has left many disillusioned.

One of the major grievances among New Zealanders was the perceived rise in violent crime and the belief that criminals were going unpunished. Labour's response that there was no increase in crime left people feeling gaslighted and disconnected from the reality they saw around them. It is evident that the public was crying out for a government that would take a tougher stance on law and order.

Another pressing concern was the impact of wasteful spending and excessive red tape on the cost of living and inflation. Many Kiwis simply couldn't buy into Labour's narrative that their policies had no bearing on these economic issues. The truth is that every dollar wasted and every unnecessary regulation imposed has a tangible impact on the everyday lives of ordinary New Zealanders. Voters wanted a government that would prioritize responsible fiscal management and reduce the burden of red tape.

Perhaps one of the most contentious issues was the perception that the Labour Government treated healthcare and land use differently depending on the ethnicity of individuals' parents or grandparents. New Zealanders were appalled by this divisive approach and the implications it had for our unity as a nation. The desire for a government that treats all its citizens equally and respects the principles of fairness and individual rights was evident in the election results.

This election was about more than just grievances; it was a call for real change. New Zealanders are not satisfied with merely trimming the sails; they want a complete change of direction. They voted for a government that will address these pressing issues head-on and deliver the change they yearn for.

A key part of this change is building a more productive economy that can generate the wealth required to fund high-quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Resource management rules need to be reformed to make it easier to develop housing and infrastructure. Property owners should have the presumption that they can use their land, and objections to development should be limited, ensuring we can meet the housing and infrastructure needs of our growing population.

Transport projects like the long-delayed Kumeu bypass should be able to proceed with private funding and be financed by tolls if local people prefer that option. This approach will alleviate the burden on taxpayers and expedite vital infrastructure

development.

Energy policy should prioritize affordability and reliability for both businesses and consumers, without being fixated on a particular type of fuel. It's time to end the era of using energy policy as a blunt tool for decarbonization. A ban on oil and gas exploration has been detrimental to our economic prospects and needs to be reversed. We should also cut the red tape that hinders resource development, which is crucial to restoring a productive economy.

ACT envisions a coalition government with a focus on productivity, wealth creation, and education. New Zealanders have spoken loud and clear, and they deserve a government that listens and acts in their best interests. It's time for a new direction, and ACT is ready to lead the way.

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Date	High Water Shelly Beach			Sun Rise	Sun Set	
November '23						
1 Wed	0116	4.0	1340	0616	1953	
2 Thu	0154	3.8	1418	0615	1954	
3 Fri	0232	3.6	1457	0614	1955	
4 Sat	0314	3.4	1542	0613	1956	
5 Sun	0405	3.2	1641	0612	1958	
6 Mon	0516	3.1	1758	0611	1959	
7 Tue	0636	3.1	1908	0610	2000	
8 Wed	0742	3.2	2006	0609	2001	
9 Thu	0838	3.4	2055	0608	2002	
10 Fri	0925	3.6	2138	0607	2003	
11 Sat	1007	3.7	2218	0607	2004	
12 Sun	1046	3.9	2257	0606	2005	
13 Mon	1124	4.0	2336	0605	2006	
14 Tue	-	4.0	1202	0604	2007	
15 Wed	0015	4.0	1241	0603	2008	
16 Thu	0056	3.9	1322	0603	2009	
17 Fri	0140	3.8	1405	0602	2010	
18 Sat	0226	3.7	1453	0601	2011	
19 Sun	0319	3.6	1547	0601	2012	
20 Mon	0420	3.5	1651	0600	2013	
21 Tue	0529	3.5	1759	0559	2014	
22 Wed	0638	3.5	1905	0559	2015	
23 Thu	0743	3.6	2007	0558	2016	
24 Fri	0844	3.8	2105	0558	2017	
25 Sat	0940	3.9	2158	0558	2018	
26 Sun	1032	4.1	2248	0557	2019	
27 Mon	1119	4.1	2334	0557	2020	
28 Tue	-	4.0	1202	0556	2021	
29 Wed	0017	4.0	1243	0556	2022	
30 Thu	0057	3.8	1321	0556	2023	
December '23						
1 Fri	0136	3.7	1359	0555	2025	
2 Sat	0214	3.6	1435	0555	2025	
3 Sun	0253	3.4	1515	0555	2026	



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 Mike on 0276462121

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

Peggy squares knitting group, Wednesdays 10am - 11:30am Join us for a coffee and a chat while knitting your Peggy Squares and assist us in creating community blankets for children in your community. Glenys 09-411-5151

SeniorNet Kumeu Inc., Have you ever thought about joining SeniorNet? The Kumeu branch meets in St Chads Church, Huapai, with a Helensville outpost in a private home in Garfield Rd. The cost of entry is \$3. Why not come along and find out what we have to offer. Contact details: Brian Lacey brian@lacey.nz, 0221-831-811, Beverley Meredith, meredithpb@xtra.co.nz, 09-411-5201.

U3A South Kaipara: 1st Tuesday of the month for general meeting. See What's happening this month column for more information or contact Gloria Middleditch. jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com 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
Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
Budget Service	Francis	420-7740
Butcher	River Valley Meats	021-685-199/412-2007
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
Garden Sheds	Baby Barns	022-075-8283/420-3298
Gift Baskets	Riverside Crafts - Sarah	0800-831-542
Gifts & Art	FIGG 44 Commercial Rd	021-488-427/420-6026
Gifts & Clothing	Eleventh Hour - 60 Commercial Road	
Ink and Toner	Huapai Copy & Print	09-412-8882
JP's	Grev Walker	420-7173

Lions Club of Helensville	Chris Clarke	420-8527
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
Mower Repairs & Sales	Lifestyle Mowing Machinery	0274-955-948
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Painters	Robert Wright & Company	027-374-1105
Picture Framing	The Picture Framing Company	0800-372-633
Plant Centre	Kaipara Coast Plant Centre	420-5655
Plumbers	Aqua Plumbing	021-0275-3821
Plumbers	ATL Plumbing Ltd	420-7868
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	Harcourts - Nicky Horsborough	027-288-0113
Real Estate	Prestige - Jana Mills	021-509-990/420-9953
Reiki Healers	The Healing Heart of Helensville	420-9098
Storage	J S Storage	021-462-930
Typesetting/Photocopying	Huapai Copy & Print	420-9307
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