

The Helensville Community News

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Issue 193 - December 2025

Merry Christmas



NorthWest
COUNTRY



Celebrating what makes us special

The North West Country Business Awards 2025 Gala Event was held at Markovina Vineyard Estate and it was a night to remember. All attendees had a blast and were treated to wonderful drinks supplied by local suppliers, delicious food and comedy from host Nick Rado.

Aisling O'Brien Photography set up a glamour photography booth where attendees, dressed to the nines, could get head shots taken. Our resident media man Zach Stark from Wylde Creative was there to capture the night and create videos of winners and runners up to share at a later date.

A big thank you to all businesses that entered, and of course all the sponsors that made the night possible. We look forward to seeing you all enter the next awards in 2027!

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Helensville Community News

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

~ COPY DEADLINE ~ 20TH OF THE MONTH ~

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NorthWest COUNTRY

Continued from page 1

Christmas Window Dressing Competition

It is that time of year again when we celebrate all things North West with some Christmas Cheer. Now bigger than ever, we are opening the Christmas Window Dressing competition and have two prizes of \$1500 to give away to the two best dressed buildings.

Go crazy, put your premises (or tradie van) on the map with lights, colour and bling and create more than just a place to shop for the holidays. More details can be found on our website <https://northwestcountry.co.nz/christmas-window-dressing-competition/>

Business Association Holiday Hours

North West Country business association will be taking a break over the holiday period, closing on 22 December 2025 and reopening on 27 January 2026. Any new membership applications will be accepted during this time and set up at the end of January.



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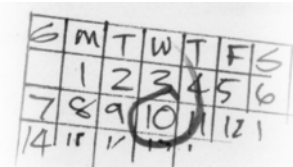
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What's happening this month



Thursday, 11 December, Twilight Christmas Market, 4-8pm, Helensville Showgrounds, a fabulously festive market full of Christmas gift ideas, local arts and crafts, handmade gifts and much more. Food trucks live music plus Santa will be popping in to see if you've been naughty or nice. Live music from Emilie, entertainment from the Border Morris Dancers, free hair plaiting & face painting. No dogs please except for assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking, proceeds to the Scouts and St. John Youth. For more info contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

Sunday, 14 December, Helensville Art Trail (HAT) Returns, our studios will be open on the second Sunday of every month until May 2026. We're excited to welcome you back to explore our creative spaces, meet local artists, and enjoy the diverse art on display. All studios offer free entry, ample parking, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. There's also a brand-new studio to discover this season – another reason to come along and see what's new on the HAT. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Sunday, 21 December, The Village Christmas Market, 8.30-1pm, Helensville Showgrounds, A great opportunity to pick up those last minute Christmas gifts as well as fresh fruit & veg plants, preserves, pickles and more. Delicious food from the market cafe coffee & ice cream live music Cougar Chorus, plus Santa will be popping in to say hello before he takes off on his Christmas rounds. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! No dogs please except for assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking, proceeds to the Scouts and St. John Youth. For more info contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

Wednesday, 24 December, Christmass Eve Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's Helensville, 1 Puriri Street. Carols at 6.00pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm.

Thursday, 25 December, Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am.

Wednesday, 24 December, Christmass Eve Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Huapai, 380 Main Road, Huapai. Carols at 6.00pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm.

Midnight Mass, Carols at 10.30pm followed by Mass at 11.00pm finishing at 12.00am.

Thursday, 25 December, Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am.

Tuesday, 30 December – Friday 2 January, AUM New Year's Festival 2025, Leighton's Farm, 320 Wilson Road, South Head, AUM Festival is Auckland's biggest New Year's event — held on a stunning forest farm near Parakai, just an hour north of the city. Four themed stages with over 200 local and international DJs, bands and performers across three nights — from house, techno and psytrance to dub, drum & bass and chillout. Set on a beautiful deer-filled farm surrounded by Kanuka trees — perfect for sunsets and relaxing. Yoga, dance, circus, breathwork and healing workshops. Live shows including Midnight Cabaret and daytime Gala, Fire and flow performances, art installations, kids' zone and market village with delicious food. More info and tickets: visit the official website or Flicket page.

Sunday, 18 January, The Village Market, Helensville Showgrounds, Railway St., Helensville, 8.30am – 1pm. A monthly event that takes place on the third Sunday of every month (except for February) at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds. A lively and friendly market that offers a variety of stalls, live music from Mike Lea, free face painting or hair plaiting for the kids, and delicious food and coffee. You can find fresh local produce and plants, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, gifts, collectibles, pre-loved items and more. If you are looking for a fun and relaxing way to spend your Sunday morning, you might want to check out this Village Market. No dogs please with the exception of assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking – proceeds to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts and St. John youth. For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.



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HELENSVILLE
SHOWGROUNDS



Thursday 11 December

4pm - 8pm



Twilight Christmas Market

Live music from Emilie with
entertainment from the
Border Morris Dancers.

Free Hair Plaiting and face painting

Sunday 21 December

A&P Showgrounds

8.30am – 1pm

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WINNERS

Supreme Award

Caci Clinic Kumeu

People's Choice Award

Helensville Birthing Centre

Special Awards

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD - Hapunan Filipino Kitchen, HP Fitness, The Picture Framing Company

HIGH PERFORMANCE AWARD - Drain Ninjas

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD - South Kaipara Good Food

BEST NEW BUSINESS - HP Fitness

Recreation and Leisure

WINNER - HP Fitness
Highly commended - Skydive Auckland

Hospitality Family, Informal and Takeaways

WINNER - Hapunan Filipino Kitchen
Highly commended - The Original Kaipara Tavern

Business, Professional and Public Services

WINNER - Released
Highly commended - Marbles People and Culture Hub

Manufacturing and Trade

WINNER - Hardfell
Highly commended - Drain Ninjas

Retail and Education

WINNER - Pet Patch
Highly commended - Kiddywinkles Early Learning

Hospitality Contemporary Dining and Bistro

WINNER - The Riverhead
Highly commended - Shed 16

Health and Beauty

WINNER - Caci Clinic Kumeu
Highly commended - Aneia Warner Salon

Not For Profit/ Social Enterprise

WINNER - Helensville Birthing Centre
Highly commended - South Kaipara Good Food



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The real world

by Kaiya Jones, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Kia Ora, Reader, Slight switch up this time.

As the school year has come to an end, and thus my schooling career with it, I find myself confronted with the cold, hard facts of the world. 'Tis an odd thing to know that I must now step away from the comfort of routine, to make decisions that could impact the course of my life, and find the values around which I define myself. At the ripe ol' age of seventeen. What a life.

I am fortunate enough to have plans to travel to Canada to work at a summer camp in the near future, and if that doesn't turn out, I suppose it's back to the books for me. However, I find it irking that society can be astonishingly hard for newbies like myself to step into, when school is supposed to have prepared us for everything up until this point.

Allow me a query: Have you ever heard of a 'financial literacy' class in high school? 'Emotion regulation 101'? 'Guidance on staying enlightened, relevant, and balanced for noobs'? I'd take a gamble as to say probably not. And before you protest that 'everyone goes through the difficult transition from school to the wider world', I hear you. And perhaps you are correct. But had you considered that the rapid change and modernisation of our world accounts for factors unseen before now? Newer generations are surrounded by challenges and choices which simply weren't there previously. And sometimes too much choice is a burden. Along with too much choice we have to compete with AI, constantly debating the likelihood of a chosen career being overtaken by Artificial Intelligence. It's a hard thing indeed to compete with something which never sleeps, never eats, and never makes mistakes. We also compete with the connectivity of the world. How can the average person compete with a trilingual, well travelled, and experienced individual? On top of this, how do you fight through a recession which has the potential to be worse than the Great Depression...as a student?

Tell ya what, I couldn't tell you the first thing about budgeting, homeownership, taxes, all the important things hovering over young people's heads like the headman's axe. I couldn't tell you the appropriate 'savings / funds for pleasure' ratio. I couldn't tell you how to look someone in the eye when they are saying the fowlest of things, and find the strength to walk away knowing that their opinion is just that - an opinion. One of little consequence and not worth the mental bandwidth it takes to pick apart every little part of yourself which their words may apply to. I also can't tell you how to find a work life balance. School, as a general rule, enforces the mindset of working far past the hours which we are contracted to, and to ignore personal needs to meet unrealistic deadlines. School kills curiosity. Now, I don't mean to lecture you, Reader, but I'm sure you can see how the lack of flexibility in the curriculum would leave many academic careers six feet under, long before they had time to bloom. Not only this, but I find it odd — an odd thing indeed — that CHILDREN, are told to be more 'adult'. To 'grow up'. To vote, drink, and decide our futures, when science has repeatedly told us we are not yet mature enough to be considered so! Surely there is a better way to go about guiding us into our futures? A path where we have been provided all the necessary guidance instead of having our time and energy wasted on analysing Shakespeare. Shakespeare is dead. And it almost feels like the society we're supposed to rely on, to contribute to and nurture, is setting us up for failure.

As always, I hope life treats you well, Reader. Be safe through the holiday season. And I hope you take away a smidgen of an idea, the thoughts which plague the average kid just striving to do well in the modern world.

ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

Our final exhibition for the year is Cash and Carry, all artwork from local artists under \$350. Exhibition dates 26th November – 20th December, opening event Friday 5th December 5-7pm. Come grab a unique artwork for Christmas this year!

Jeff Thomson decorations

Workshops and Classes are winding up for the end of year, and we are taking enrolments for term 1 2026! Classes include afterschool creative space groups, 8-week course 3:30-5pm Tuesday and Thursday for ages 6-11 and Wednesday ages 12-16 during school term.



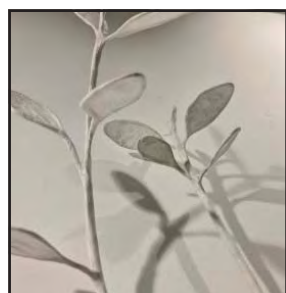
Mike Rowland's drawing and painting course runs for 6 weeks every Friday 11-1pm starting back January 30th

Street Maori', te reo group every Tuesday 6-7:30pm koha donation all welcome, starting back 3rd February.



'Gas Bag' free art and craft group meeting every Wednesday 11-1pm. Enrolments for classes due by 20th December, please visit our website for full details.

Our popular show at the beginning of the year is back again, Formally Kaipara Awa – A River That Connects Us, now 'Te Awaroa' expanding on the broader theme of our local landscape. If you are an artist and interested to enter this show, please visit our website under 'exhibitions to enter' for an entry form and details.



Our afterschool group 'Project Teen' will be working on a collaborative sculpture for our outdoor sculpture garden. At the end of school term, we will be offering a two-day workshop for any 12-16-year-olds who would like to participate in the arts and be involved in a sculpture at the Art Centre. Dates are 17th and 18th December 10:30-2:30pm, \$30 for one day or \$50 for the two days. Sign up is due by the 10th of December please email manager@artcentrehelensville.org.nz for a sign-up form and details.



Connection update

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



Regular events: Wednesday Raranga/flax weaving 10.30 - 2.30pm, just drop in, \$20 for a 2 hour session. Make puti puti (flowers) or kono (basket). Heather 0220366985 Friday Sewing Circle resumed on 14 November - 10.30am to 12.30, no afternoons until further notice. \$10 for a 2 hour session. Bring your machine and your mending or a project. Chrissy 0274 671843.

Room available for hire: Acoustic music practice, Workshops, Meetings, Interest groups, Celebrations, Exhibitions etc. Heather 0220366985.



KAWAKAWA BALM WORKSHOP

Wednesday 17th
December 6-8pm.

Learn about harvesting and preserving
kawakawa for use in your family "go to"
remedies toolkit.

Make a balm to take home.

Explore other methods for keeping
kawakawa at hand for good health.

Venue: Connection Hub, Shop 3, Helensville
Railway Station.

Cost: \$40 per person.

Contact: Heather 0220366985



Melbourne Cup Fun Leads into a Festive Season at Craigweil House

Before the tinsel and fairy lights took over, Craigweil House got swept up in Melbourne Cup fever this November! Residents and staff had an absolute blast getting ready for the big event, complete with fancy hats, colourful outfits, and a good dose of friendly competition.

In the lead-up to race day, residents got crafty and created their very own “horses” using pool noodles, socks, googly eyes, and all sorts of fun materials. There were some real masterpieces — from sleek racehorses to quirky ponies with personality!

When race day arrived, the fun really began. The staff took on the role of “horses,” galloping and laughing their way down the track while residents placed their bets and cheered them on. Later, residents joined in too, taking part in a hilarious “toilet paper race,” where paper horses were rolled in toward the finish line — first one to the end was crowned the winner!

Now that Christmas is just around the corner, the festive spirit has filled the home. The decorations are up, the carols are playing, and there’s excitement in the air.

From all of us at Craigweil House — residents, staff, and our wider family — we’re sending warm Christmas wishes to you and your loved ones. If you’re nearby, pop in and share a bit of festive cheer with us. The kettle’s on, and there might just be a cup of tea waiting for you! Ph. 094208277



Helensville Library and Service Centre

Sign up for a summer of reading fun with Raumatī Reads

Kia ora e te whanau! With the summer holidays right around the corner, it’s almost time to register for Raumatī Reads!

Raumatī Reads is a free, fun summer reading challenge for primary school aged children that will help them maintain their reading levels over the summer break. It’s a must-do for the school holidays offering free events and activities at local libraries across Tamaki Makaurau, with great prizes to be won.



Tamariki and their whanau can register from Saturday 6 December at their local Auckland Libraries branch to begin the challenge, which runs until Sunday 1 February. Stay tuned to <https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/> for all you need to know!

The Library mobile van is visiting:

- December 12, 11am to 3pm: Shelly Beach
- December 19, 11am to 3pm: Kaipatiki / Parakai Reserve
- December 23, 11am to 3pm: Kaipatiki / Parakai Reserve
- January 8, 11am to 3pm: Shelly Beach
- January 9, 11am to 3pm: Kaipatiki / Parakai Reserve
- January 14, 11am to 3pm: Shelly Beach

Santa at Helensville Library: Thursday 18 December

Santa and his library elves will be visiting some of our local early childhood centres, and Craigweil House.

He is also appearing for a couple of events open to the public:

Santa Community Sing-a-long: Thursday 18 December at 2pm.

Santa Storytime: Thursday 18 December at 3pm. Followed by Santa crafts.

There will be a chance for photos with Santa! Thank you to North

West Country Business Association for the loan of Santa’s Grotto!

Our regular programmes will continue over December and January, unless they fall on a public holiday.

Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups: Wednesdays, 10am to 10.30am. From January 16, we will also have a session on Fridays at 10am. Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays, 3pm to 4.30pm Crafternoon for kids: Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm. *Note: in January, our children’s crafternoons will be 10am to 11.30am. Lego Club: Saturdays 10.30am to 12noon.

Report a problem with Auckland Council

While you’re out and about over summer, you may see something that needs fixing.

The Auckland Council website is your best place to start. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/report-a-problem.aspx> Alternatively, you can phone Auckland Council 24/7 on 09 301 01 01.

Our hours are:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm, Saturday: 9am to 1pm.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for any updates: facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre

Anne Coppell. Senior Librarian / Poukokiiri - Children & Youth / Helensville Library and Service Centre





Acting Principal Bernard Coleman

Kaipara korero

From the Kaipara College Acting Principal's Desk:

Helensville Community News - From the Acting Principal of Kaipara College, Bernard Coleman Kia ora e te whānau o Kaipara, Thank you for the support and kindness so many of you have shown our kura as the Board continues the appointment process for our next permanent Principal. My role, as I see it, is simply to keep things steady so the new Principal, whoever they may be, can take the helm confidently.

Like any school community, Kaipara College has travelled through change and growth over recent years. One of the most important outcomes of that journey has been the creation of our WAKA values. Whanaungatanga (Our People), Aroha (Our Way), Kaitiakitanga (Our Place), and Angitutanga (Our Success) have become our compass. These values guide our decisions, our relationships, and the way we care for our young people. They are a legacy our school can be proud of, and they help us live out our mission: *Eke Panuku, Eke Tangaroa – Navigate to Success.*

Over the past month, I've been reminded of the strength and heart within this kura. At our Senior Academic Prizegiving, we celebrated achievements across sport, arts, academics, service, and cultural leadership. Our students carried themselves with humility and pride, and their success reflects the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of our whanau and community. It was one of those evenings that truly makes you feel hopeful about the world, and it was a delight to connect with so many proud families, staff, and students.

While our senior students have embarked on their NCEA external examinations, our juniors have returned from an amazing camp in Mangawhai, with plenty of adventures on the water and in the outdoors. They now prepare for end-of-year exams and the Junior Academic Prizegiving.

At Kaipara College, we have recently taken time to reset expectations in classrooms so every learner can finish the year well. This is not about being harsh. It is about aroha, consistency, and giving each student the best chance to feel calm, settled, and confident heading into the summer break. I want to acknowledge our staff, who continue to show incredible resilience and heart, and our families, whose partnership keeps us grounded. Kaipara

College is strong because of the people who surround it and the belief this community has in its young people.

As we prepare for 2026, including our upcoming ERO review, much of the work ahead is about strengthening our foundations rather than reinventing wheels. I am proud of the Board's unity and their commitment to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This ensures our foundations remain strong and that we can continue to forge a positive path that includes everyone.

Kaipara College has enormous heart, and there is real reason to feel hopeful about what lies ahead.

Nga manaakitanga, Bernard Coleman
Acting Principal, Kaipara College



Students taking a surfing lesson on year 9 camp.



Year 9 students enjoying target practice on camp.

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



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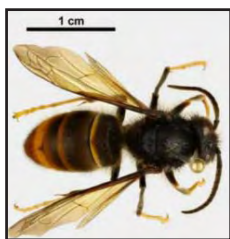
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Hornets in New Zealand – How Bad Could it Be?



The establishment of the yellow-legged hornet would trigger an economic and ecological crisis. The yellow-legged hornet - known as the Asian hornet overseas - is an apex predator that can kill 30-50 honey bees a day. They not only invade a hive but also engage in “hawking”, capturing bees on the wing just metres from the hive.

Under sustained attacks, bees will often just stay in the hive, unable to leave, leading to starvation and collapse. This extra stress reduces bee and colony immunity making them more susceptible to pests and diseases. Not only affecting honey bees, but also our native insects having evolved without such predators, and are poorly equipped to defend themselves. With 28 species of native bees – 27 found nowhere else – the risk to our biodiversity is immense.

We can see exactly what will happen thanks to the accidental introduction of the German and common wasps in 1940s and 1920s respectively. We can see how easily the hornets could spread, and it is terrifying. German and common wasps spread quite quickly and by the 1970s had colonised most of NZ, from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island. We now have some of the highest densities of these wasps in the world, thanks to the lack of natural

predators and favourable climate. We’re the only country that lists wasps as one of the top five causes of hive loss in the International Colony Loss Survey. If hornets get a foothold, they would be so much worse.

The honey industry would be affected at least as badly as when varroa were introduced 25 years ago, which increased the costs to maintain each hive, the increased annual loss of hives and beekeepers leaving the industry. The biggest threat to us though is pollination. Pollination adds about \$2 billion annually to the NZ economy; insects that pollinate our crops include honey bees, bumble bees, native bees and others. Crops that depend upon pollination include fruit & vegetables, seed crops, and pastures and their ancillary industries like grazing – dairy, beef and sheep. MPI’s SOPI report projected over \$8 billion annual export revenue from horticulture up to June 2025; almost half of which is kiwifruit, and a billion dollars from apples and pears. These pollinating insects enhance quality and quantity of fruit set, without which our horticulture industry would struggle to remain competitive

Not only could a disruptive pest like this affect our economy but it will upset our biodiversity and reduce so much of our native fauna, which could then affect our native flora too. Not to mention that hornets are quite aggressive, with most deaths overseas from hornets caused by anaphylaxis. Their stings are longer than a honey bee’s and the traditional beekeeper’s suit doesn’t provide sufficient protection. All in all, any cost to ensure that they don’t gain a foothold in Aotearoa would be money well spent - we don’t want to look back in ten years and question what else we could have done.

MPI are continuing to ramp up surveillance and trapping, so far they’ve only been found in Glenfield. A technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been set up with industry experts and advisors from overseas. As an AP2 with NZBB (New Zealand Bee Health & Biosecurity) and having participated in other honey bee biosecurity protection, I’m aware of the incredible work that goes on behind the scenes.

It is up to every Aucklanders to check for nests and hornets and to report anything suspicious to **MPI** on **0800 809 966** or **report.mpi.govt.nz**

Homemade traps in your garden can be good way to check for hornets but please careful of bycatch; if using a sweet lure like fruit juice, sugar-water or jam dissolved in water – add beer, vinegar or yeast to deter bees. We only have a year or two to eradicate them before they become established here. With a concerted coordinated effort it is achievable – and a timely reminder just how fragile and precious our ecosystem is here in Aotearoa.

Ken Brown

*Apiculture Tutor, Land Based Training Ltd
President Auckland Beekeepers Club*



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.

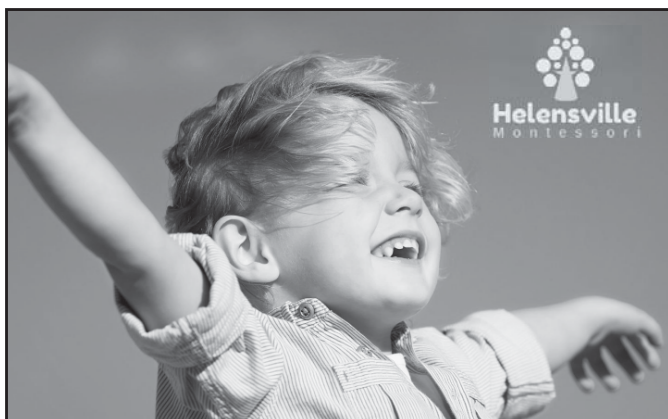
You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

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Are you interested in becoming a Justice of the Peace?

The Helensville area, covering Parakai, South Head, Glorit, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki and Wainui districts are fortunate to be served by 13 dedicated locals. These individuals generously volunteer their time to support our community. Some members have served as Justices of the Peace (JPs) for over 30 years, a testament to their commitment and the trust they have earned as valued members of our area. Local John Smith, last night, received a certificate from Bruce Kilmeister honouring 27 years of service of the Association. John retiring, as well as others leaving the area will have an impact of those left behind. This means lots more work for fewer individuals.

Our local JP group spans a wide age range—from individuals in their mid-thirties to those in their eighties. Their role goes far beyond signing, stamping, and witnessing important documents. JPs are also called upon to support vulnerable youth during police interviews, authorize warrants, and, as Judicial JPs, preside over minor cases and deliver sentences.

They volunteer at local libraries, malls and courts. Many also open their homes to anyone needing documents witnessed, declarations made, or affidavits sworn or affirmed.

You meet people from all walks of life—students starting new journeys, families reuniting from overseas, young couples buying their first home, and those facing hardship. It's an amazing way to see what's happening in our communities. When you see many people withdrawing KiwiSaver for hardship, you know times are tough for some. Other times, you share in the excitement of first-home buyers starting a new chapter.

We are truly fortunate in our area to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated group of JPs. They carry out their duties and open their homes, often for decades, without expectation of reward.

However, if you ask them why they do it, they'll tell you: it's about supporting their local community and making a real difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

If you live in our area and are passionate about serving your community, consider becoming a Justice of the Peace. There is a specific need for JP's in all the areas we cover. It's a meaningful way to contribute, connect with others, and make a lasting impact. To learn more about how to become a JP, reach out to your local JP coordinator: Lindy McDermott 022 049 2871 or visit the official website for application details.

A pre-Christmas dinner was held on 02/11/2025 at Shed 16 in Kaukapakapa where we had a very productive meeting with our Past President Sheryl Wilson and Registrar Bruce Kilmeister.





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This photo was sent to us by Anne Martin, who felt that Ahorangi Starchild's beautiful crocheted blanket deserved to be shared. Ahorangi is close to finishing this blanket, which she plans to donate. She recently completed a similar one and says she sends love to the recipients with every stitch.

Anne and Ahorangi are members of the Helensville Knitting Group, where all participants create lovely handmade items to donate to families in need. The group meets at the St. John Training Room every Tuesday at 10am, and new members are warmly welcomed to come along and join in.

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A Better Deal for Helensville and the Northwest

By Simon Court, ACT MP

Over the past few years, many New Zealanders have felt like they're running up a down escalator. The cost of living surged, interest rates climbed, and the lingering hangover of COVID-era decisions left families, workers, and small businesses feeling squeezed from every direction. People weren't imagining it, New Zealand really was going backwards.

But over the past year, things have started to turn around. That's not by accident. It's because this Government has taken a disciplined approach to spending, ditched the waste, and focused on rebuilding confidence in the economy. When Government stops throwing money around, inflation comes down. And when inflation comes down, interest rates follow.

Now we're finally seeing those mortgage rates ease. We're seeing businesses take a breath. And we're seeing investors – people who build, employ, and innovate – return with the confidence to get things moving again.

One of the clearest signs of renewed optimism is the lift in consent applications. For a long time, the land-development market was flat on its back. High interest rates, high construction costs, and endless planning delays meant it was simply too risky for many to build. The increase in consents tells us confidence is returning, demand for new housing is picking up, and people once again believe in New Zealand's future.

And this is only the beginning. The real benefits of the Government's long-term reforms that reshape how our planning, investment, and infrastructure systems work will begin to flow through from 2026 onward.

ACT is driving the replacement of the Resource Management Act because we know it is the single biggest barrier between Kiwis and lower living costs. The RMA is the reason it's too hard to build a home, expand a business, or construct the infrastructure a growing country needs.

We're replacing the RMA with a simple, commonsense system based on property rights: your land is your land, and you can use it provided you're not harming someone else's property or the environment. Fewer consents. Less red tape. Certainty for builders, investors, and families. And none of the cultural or ideological fluff that has crept into the system over decades.

This will mean more homes, more competition for land and materials, and more infrastructure delivered at a lower cost, all of which puts downward pressure on the cost of living.

Helensville, Kumeu, Riverhead, and our wider northwest communities deserve a planning system that lets us get on with

building warm homes, thriving businesses, and the roads and services a growing population needs.

As we head into summer, I want to wish everyone across Helensville a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy time with family, look after your neighbours, and make the most of our incredible backyard. And if you're into hot sand, mountain biking, or motocross, make sure you head to Woodhill Forest. There's no better place to burn off the Christmas pudding.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

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SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART					
Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set		
December '25					
1 Mon	0738	3.6	2002	0555	2024
2 Tue	0842	3.8	2103	0555	2025
3 Wed	0943	4.0	2203	0555	2026
4 Thu	1040	4.1	2259	0554	2027
5 Fri	1133	4.2	2353	0554	2028
6 Sat	1223	4.3	-	0554	2029
7 Sun	0044	4.1	1312	0554	2030
8 Mon	0134	4.0	1400	0554	2030
9 Tue	0224	3.8	1448	0554	2031
10 Wed	0315	3.7	1538	0554	2032
11 Thu	0407	3.6	1631	0555	2033
12 Fri	0501	3.5	1725	0555	2034
13 Sat	0557	3.4	1821	0555	2034
14 Sun	0654	3.4	1917	0555	2035
15 Mon	0753	3.4	2012	0555	2036
16 Tue	0849	3.5	1501	0556	2036
17 Wed	0942	3.6	2155	0556	2037
18 Thu	1028	3.7	2240	0556	2038
19 Fri	1110	3.8	2322	0557	2038
20 Sat	1147	3.9	-	0557	2039
21 Sun	0000	3.7	1223	0558	2039
22 Mon	0038	3.8	1258	0558	2040
23 Tue	0115	3.7	1334	0559	2040
24 Wed	0153	3.7	1412	0559	2041
25 Thu	0233	3.7	1452	0600	2041
26 Fri	0316	3.6	1536	0600	2041
27 Sat	0403	3.6	1626	0601	2042
28 Sun	0456	3.6	1721	0602	2042
29 Mon	0556	3.6	1821	0602	2042
30 Tue	0701	3.6	1926	0603	2043
31 Wed	0811	3.7	1431	0604	2043
January '25					
1 Thu	0922	3.8	2145	0604	2043
2 Fri	1026	4.0	2249	0605	2043
3 Sat	1123	4.1	2345	0606	2043
4 Sun	1214	4.2	-	0607	2043
5 Mon	0036	4.0	1301	0608	2043
6 Tue	0124	4.0	1315	0609	2043
7 Wed	0208	3.9	1427	0610	2043
8 Thu	0250	3.8	1509	0610	2043
9 Fri	0332	3.7	1550	0611	2043

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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. Chris K 021-157-1692

Aqua Aerobics – Low impact exercises to improve your health - and wellbeing. Classes: Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am – 10am, held in the outdoor pool at Parakai Springs Hot Pools all year except public holidays. Cost: \$2 per class, \$7 pool entry for non-cardholders. Contact Ruth on 0210-2277-481 for more details.

Car boot, garage sale market. \$15 per stall. 2nd Saturday of the month, 8.30am to 12.30pm. Positioned by the bollards up by the street footpath, 40 Commercial Road, beside WINZ. Enquiries to 021 488 427

Citizens Advice Bureau: Helensville, is open Monday - Friday from 10am to 1pm 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 - Helensville War Memorial Hall. 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, email rmowat@slingshot.co.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 classes. Pilates, Functional Fitness & Boxing for Fitness held indoors at the Helensville Rugby Clubrooms, 5 x per week. Please contact Hana on 0211623362 or email hanalundon@gmail.com

Helensville Floral Art Club, Third Thursday of the month at Helensville Masonic Lodge, 9 Kowhai Street. All welcome. Contact Cushla 0212-588-979 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 Monday 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 027-646-3324.

Helensville Railway Museum. 2 Railway Street, Helensville. Open every Sunday 10.30am to 3pm. 09 420 8961, helensvillerrailwaystationtrust@gmail.com, www.helensvillerrail.org.nz

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

Kaipara Memorial RSA. - Dining available from 5.30pm Wed, Thurs, Fri and 11am on Sundays. All welcome at the RSA, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville. Any queries, give me a call, Rex Keane, 027 293 2768

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 9.30am - 1.00pm 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

South Kaipara Community Patrol, Contact Paul on 021345928. or southkaipara@cpnz.org.nz

Te Awaroa Museum Open Monday - Wednesday 10.30am - 1.30pm 09-420-7881 info@museum.teawaroa.nz www.museum.teawaroa.nz

U3A South Kaipara: 1st Tuesday of the month for general meeting. See What's happening this month column for more information or contact Bev Silvester-Clark. bev.s-c@outlook.com 0274-316-205.

Trade/Professional & Services List

Accountants	ECE Astute Accounting	420-7835
Agecare	Craigweil House	420-8277
Age Concern Rodney		09-426-0916
Beauty Therapy	Beauty Elixir	022-465-0727
Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
Budget Service	Francis	420-7740
Builder/Handyman	Dugald Henderson	027-381-9151
Business Hub	Northwest Country, Danielle	0204-0027-008
Butcher	River Valley Meats	0212-130-060/0274-833-400
CAB	16 Commercial Road	420-7162
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Curtis	027-200-5456
Chiropractor	Kaipara Chiropractic Healthcare	420-6224
Clothing	MarvinSmithApparel	021-790-101
Computer Repairs	Michael - Controlaltrepair	021-251-4138
Concreters	Brewis Concrete	021-992-590
Diggers	Helensville Diggers	021-454-793/420-7023
Dog Grooming	Christine	021-521-303
Drainage	Alpha Drainage - Scott	022-352-140
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
Filtration	KPL Ltd	420-9108
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	
Glass Services		
	Nor-West & Kumeu Glass Services	09-420-8210/0800-825100
Handyman	Dale Browne	0274-397-519

Homekill	Country Meat	021-161-4270/420-3113
Ink and Toner	Huapai Copy & Print	09-412-8882
JP's	Lindy McDermott	022-049-2871
Lions Club of Helensville	Chris Clark	027-646-3324
Market Opportunity	Car Boot/ Garage Sale	021-488-427
Markets	The Village Market	0274-831-542
Markets	Waitoki Village Market	Gill 420-3301
Mechanical Repairs	Helensville Mechanical Services	420-8177
Mechanical Repairs	Parakai Automotive	09-420-7224
Mower Repairs & Sales	Lifestyle Mowing Machinery	0274-955-948
MP	Chris Penk	021-0230-6106
Paddock Mowing	Tractor mowing with mulcher	0274-669-464
Pet Spa	Groomville Boutique	021-246-5354
Plant Centre	Kaipara Coast Plant Centre	420-5655
Plumbers	ATL Plumbing Ltd	021-245-9677/420-7868
Plumbers	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	Mid West Pumps	420-7694
Real Estate	Barfoot & Thompson-Kelly Davison	0274-670-175
Real Estate	Burmester Realty	420-8360
Real Estate	Courtney & Co	027-688-0818
Real Estate	Prestige - Jana Mills	021-509-990/420-9953
Roofing	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Roosters, any unwanted	Drop off at 62 Mill Rd, H'ville	022-584-7719
Shuttle Service	Helensville Shuttles	0272-777-339
Shower Installation	GSI Ltd	0800-466-5327/420-8777
Storage	J S Storage	021-462-930
Typesetting/Photocopying	Huapai Copy & Print	420-9307
Venue Hire	Kaipara Memorial RSA	420-8888
Your Local Business Book	yourlocalbusinessbook@gmail.com	

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As a proud part of the Helensville community, Burmester Realty is committed to giving back to the people who make our town the special place it is. Today, we are honoured to support one of our own—Tony Cooper, a true Helensville icon who is currently battling stage four cancer.

Tony has spent decades supporting others, and now it's our turn to support him. With no government funding available for the treatment he urgently needs, the community's help is absolutely vital.

To do our part, Burmester Realty is pledging \$500 from every property sale we make to go directly towards Tony's treatment and care.

We invite local businesses, families, and individuals to stand with us. Every contribution, big or small, will make a real difference in helping Tony fight this battle. Helensville has always been a town that rallies around its own—and now is one of those moments. Let's come together for Tony.



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