

The Helensville Community News

Issue 192 - November 2025

Giant plane wows local community

The word travelled fast once it got out. Plane enthusiasts waited for hours on the roads bordering the Air Force Base in anticipation of the pending arrival.

The largest aircraft in the United States Airforce (USAF) was touching down at Royal New Zealand Airforce (RNZAF) Base Auckland.

The C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft had been tasked to deliver components required for a new C-130J Hercules Flight Simulator in New Zealand. A second delivery of equipment is pending in the coming weeks.

There had been a 'Galaxy' plane carrying the Galaxy brand to New Zealand decades ago. It's thought that it would have been around 1984. On that basis, a Galaxy would not likely to have landed at Whenuapai between 1984 and 2025.

Back to the "now"



The pilot First Lieutenant Sean Murray, the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft commander

It was a long wait on a cold night and it wasn't until around 10 pm that the aircraft touched down on the Base Auckland runway and plane spotters on the perimeter fence line got their first look at the massive plane.

Seeing the sheer size of the plane coming in to land close to Herald Island and with the navigation lights shining, the runway approach and the touchdown was a "wow" moment for the locals who had stayed in the cold to watch.

With the Super Galaxy's wingspan of 67.89 metres and a maximum takeoff weight of just over 381 tonnes, the plane was massive. Touch down was smooth. It was going to be a massive



task to fully unload the plane. A few days later there was to be a queue of fuel tankers lined up for the job.

New planes and new technology

Just over a year ago (September 2024) the New Zealand Air Force welcomed the first of five new C-130J Hercules to Whenuapai to replace the old C-130, which had been the workhorses of the Royal New Zealand Air Force for 60 years.

With the new Hercules fleet now in place, the time was right to install a new simulator which has the capacity to train air and ground crews.

Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Andy Scott said

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Helensville Community News

Email: helensville@copyandprint.co.nz

www.helensvillecommunitynews.co.nz

Phone: 420 9307

312 Main Rd, Huapai. P O Box 165, Kumeu

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Giant plane wows local community *Continued from page 1*



the simulator is a critical tool for the provision of technology, including pilot training, loadmaster systems training and engine running training, as well as procedural and mission systems training. "These new developments will take NZDF training to the next level," he said.

It also means that in the near future, RNZAF crews will not need to travel to the US for crew training on US based simulators, as this training will soon be available in New Zealand. As a result, sending flight crews back and forth between New Zealand the US will cease.

RNZAF Base Auckland's Commander Group Captain Brett Clayton, says the opportunities to use the C-5M aircraft to deliver a key piece of capability for New Zealand, should not be underestimated.

Clayton also acknowledges the strength of the relationship between the Royal New Zealand Airforce and the United States Airforce and their respective governments.

Full motion simulator to train air and ground crews

An integrated project team, led by the Ministry of Defence, has been working with the US Air Force, Canadian technology company CAE USA and Lockheed Martin to deliver the simulator to the New Zealand Defence Force.

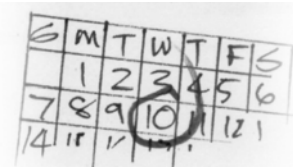
The simulator will train air and ground crews operating the new planes and provide a safe and secure space for pilot training.

He said it's a really exciting time for the New Zealand Defence Force. The flight simulator is a critical tool that will provide pilot training, loadmaster systems training and engine running training.



Photos by Garry Lawrence

What's happening this month



Sunday, 9 November, 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!

Thursday, 13 November, Helensville Food Truck Night at Ruatawhiri Park, 5 – 9pm Ruatawhiri Park Pavilion, what to expect: More trucks than ever before – bigger lineup, more variety! Our Food Truck Collective Bar is back – grab a drink and chill. Good vibes, great people, and the perfect spot to celebrate the warmer weather together. Bring your family, bring your friends, and come hungry – we can't wait to see you there!

Sunday, 16 November, 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 Kenny Luond, 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.

Tuesday, 18 November, North West Country Business Awards 2025, 5.30pm Markovina Vineyard Estate, Kumeu, Come out and celebrate your business achievements at the North West Country Business Awards gala dinner. We have 14 awards to give out on the night, as well as prizes for winners and attendees. Be entertained by the incredible comedian, Nick Rado as we celebrate all things local. Tickets are open to all finalists, friends, family and customers. Come along and cheer your favourite business on as they collect their awards.

Friday, 21 November, Elton John vs Billy Joel NZ Tribute, 8pm - 10.30pm The Original Kaipara Tavern, Doors 7pm, show starts 8pm sharp. After sell-out shows across New Zealand, Cam and Sam bring you an intimate, unforgettable night of the greatest hits from Elton John and Billy Joel – including "Piano Man," "Rocket Man," "Uptown Girl," "Bennie and the Jets," and more.

These seasoned NZ musicians, with two decades of national TV, radio, and chart success, deliver a dazzling Piano Man extravaganza featuring two grand pianos, stunning costumes, lively banter, and timeless songs loved by generations. With over 450 million records sold between them, Elton John and Billy Joel's legendary music needs no introduction — and Cam and Sam do it justice.

Saturday, 22 November, Hoedown! 7.30 – 10pm, Shed 16, 3 North Crescent, Kaukapakapa, Come along and join us for our second Hoedown at Shed16, Kaukapakapa. Join us for a night of country music, line dancing and cowboy outfits. Note: This ticket is for the event only. If you want to enjoy a great meal a booking is ESSENTIAL, via the Shed16 booking system.

Sunday, 23 November, 2025 20th Anniversary Poker Run, It's that time again!!! This year we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of this incredible event. Kumeu Fire Brigade, 8:00am Food Truck opens for breakfast sales, 9:00am Registrations open 9:45am Rider briefing 10:00am ride starts \$\$\$ Pre-purchase via email/message \$40.00 / On the day \$50.00 email: kumeufire1486@gmail.com or message us via messenger for payment information.

Saturday, 29 November, Community Santa Parade, 12 noon Helensville Showgrounds, Come along and see the parade as we travel round the race track. We will have Santa in his grotto, the Helensville Lions Book Fair, bouncy castle and pony rides, Christmas Carols, Hibiscus Coast Pipe Band, Police, emergency services, and give aways. Not to mention ice cream, coffee, hot chips and hot dogs, Lions' sausage sizzle and donuts! Book Fair opens at 9am, parade starts at 12 noon. Stewart St gate opens at 10am for float dressing. Plenty of free parking at Gates 1 and 2.

Saturday, 29 November, Parent Aid Garden Tour Fundraiser, 10 – 3pm, Join us for a truly special day out in nature with the first ever Parent Aid North West Garden Tour – a unique fundraising event offering rare access to four stunning, privately-owned gardens across Waitoki, Kaukapakapa, and Dairy Flat. This self-guided tour invites garden lovers, creatives, and community supporters to explore a series of beautifully curated spaces that are not usually open to the public. Each garden reflects the passion and personality of its owner, and you'll have the opportunity to meet these talented creators, ask questions, and gather inspiration for your own green space.

Saturday & Sunday, 29 & 30 November, Helensville Lions Book Fair, Saturday 9am – 4pm, Santa Parade at 12noon, Sunday 10am – 3pm, Helensville Showgrounds, \$2 Adult Books, \$1 Childrens Books, Eftpos Available.

Thursday, 11 December, Twilight Christmas Market, 4-10pm, 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. No dogs please except for assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking proceeds to the Scouts and St. John Youth.



Sunday 16 November
A&P Showgrounds
8.30am – 1pm

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A Change of Guard

At the AGM in October we sadly farewellled James Scott as our Chair, and welcomed Andrew Howard. James has been Chair for three years and seen the board through a new committee, new General Manager, and recovering from lockdowns to help businesses recover. "James has done a lot for the

association in his time here and we really value that. We wish James the best and are glad he is staying on the committee to represent Helensville," said Nicky Horsbrough, new Deputy Chairperson.

Andrew Howard represents Waimauku businesses and is a Business Strategist and Coach, having over 30 years on commercial and executive experience. Andrew is no stranger to governance and has sat on a number of boards including acting as Chair.

To complete the leadership team we have Nicky Horsbrough, Helensville, as Deputy Chair, and Kelly Perkinson, Riverhead, as Treasurer. We welcome all new members to the board and look forward to a great year ahead. Please head to our website to learn more about your local representative and how to get in contact.

Supporting Kumeu and Huapai Businesses with Flood Resilience

On October 14, businesses in Huapai and Kumeu workshopped a new initiative that could see them part of a pilot study to look at community-led flood resistance and resilience solutions.

With the Auckland Council Healthy Waters team stating that there are no feasible, community-wide flood mitigation solutions, it is seen as worthwhile in communities looking to see how they can adopt solutions together.

Sam Cooper, a local Stormwater Engineer from Holmes Group and Stormwater Engineer Jon Rix from Tonkin and Taylor

presented a proposal to develop a Tool Kit of acceptable solutions, with a possibility of the Rodney Local Board and Auckland Council accepting these solutions which will enable funding to be attracted to the area.

Insurers will also be a part of the tool kit development where assurances will be sought that if solutions are put in place, businesses will then be able to obtain insurance cover.

North West Country will look to sponsor the project and support local businesses. Discussions are ongoing so look out for updates.

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 www.northwestcountry.co.nz.

Keryn Bloxham, Painting and Photography

Keryn is an artist and hobby photographer who paints realistic animals and landscapes in oils, watercolours, and pastels, inspired by the beauty of creation. She shares the stories behind her work on social media and has taught students over the years, with plans to offer online classes in the future. Keryn also paints commissioned pet portraits and offers prints and cards of her artwork.



Pet Portrait Painter - Keryn Bloxham.

Keryn loves to paint the beauty of creation, especially New Zealand - the incredible country she is proud to call her own. She also produces prophetic art that expresses something of the heart of God. Her heart's desire is that her art will bless people... that as you view her art and photography, you would experience peace, receive healing, be amazed at the wonder of creation, and most of all, feel God's love for you.

She will be among the exhibitors at this year's Christian Arts Fest, located in the 'Lighthouse' next to Magnify Church, 118 Commercial Road. This is a part of the annual ARTS in the VILLE 3 day festival over Labour Weekend but will also extend to the following weekend, November 1st & 2nd.

Come along and vote for your favourite among over 100 exhibits, browse the craft tables, enjoy coffee, cake and maybe a toasted sandwich at the 'Pressed & Poured' coffee cart on the Sunday and Monday or watch Andrew Denton as he demonstrates his woodturning outside of the 'Lighthouse'.

Website : www.kerynbloxham.com - Facebook :

@KerynBloxhamArtist - Instagram : @kerynbloxhamartist



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Judging closes
19 December 2025

Results announced
22 December 2025

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Smell that? That's the end of the year.

by Kaiya Jones, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

This last week before exam leave starts has been...quite the experience, to say the least! Year 13 Spirit Week! What a time! Spirit week involves an entire week of dress up and fun for our school leavers, and is a happy conclusion to a final year of secondary school. Each day had a theme, decided by our student leaders, which Year 13's would dress up to match. The themes proceeded as follows: Monday- Anything but a bag day, Tuesday- Dress as your type/swap styles with someone, Wednesday- Dress as a dynamic duo, Thursday- Dress as your favourite childhood T.V. character, and Friday- Dress as a teacher. Monday brought about some very creative "not bags", from shopping trolleys to tires, and even a bread slicer on which a student's stuff was precariously balanced. Tuesday...yes, good ol' Tuesday. Dare I say there were some rather masculine vixens walking around in most stylish dresses and crop tops, all of which I imagine were pilfered from some poor relatives' wardrobe. Let no one say that the students of Kaipara College are afraid of committing to a little fun! Wednesday saw some wonderful duos walking about, my favourite of which was two monkeys and a banana, though that poor banana was vastly outnumbered by a surprising amount of minions from Despicable Me. Thursday sadly didn't go ahead as a strike day fell on that day, but I'm sure it would have been just as good of a turnout as the rest of the days. Spirit week finished off with a barbecue and pool party, with notably more teachers in attendance than who work at Kaipara...ah, those weren't teachers.

I can't say many students are sad to be leaving secondary school, but then again, I've taken no survey. I for one, can't wait to see the tail end of exams and welcome a summer of (hopefully) fun, before plunging into the decisions of next year. Meanwhile, Year 12's will be getting ready to step up and fill the boots of the departing Year 13's and make decisions on how involved they want to be in shaping Kaipara's future. Opportunities for Year 12's going into year 13 include, but are not limited to, Tira leaders, peer support, PSSP (though this is not limited to Yr 12's), and extracurricular activities (e.g. sports) where students represent the school and set an example for junior students. I was a part of the peer support programme, and while I can say it was definitely a challenge, I think it was a good one, and a great step for anyone wanting to get involved in helping support younger students in their transition to high school life.

Let's hope the new student board representative (congratulations Thea), Tira & peer support leaders, PSSP members, and principle serve Kaipara well in the coming year.

Summer is coming, Reader! Get in that sunshine before it becomes so intense you need 50 layers of sunscreen, a radiation suit, and a brolly to prevent your inner lobster from emerging. Look after yourself!

Kaiya J.



Helensville Lions Christmas Book Fair

29th November – 30th November
Helensville A&P Showgrounds
“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 Showgrounds on the weekend of the 29th November - 30th

November, opening at 9.00am on Saturday until 4.00pm and again on Sunday 10.00am until 3.00pm.

This Book Fair we are partnering with South Kaipara Good Food, our local food bank, and we will share the proceeds. South Kaipara Good Food does more than just hand out food parcels; they offer wrap around support to whanau and take pride in their collective approach to wellness within the community.

The last Book Fair held in May raised \$13,000 from the sale of books, for which many thanks. All the money raised went towards helping schools, organizations and individuals in our community that required assistance.

We have had many books donated, so there will be plenty of fresh stock to rummage through. Books are priced to sell, with nothing over \$2. There is a large selection of children's and YA books for \$1. Also, we have many jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs, CDs, LPs and quality magazines available.

All books have been sorted and categorized, Non-Fiction split into twenty separate sections, fiction is arranged alphabetically by authors, with six special interest groups. Popular authors are grouped together at the end of the hall.



Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty, Helensville, or for larger lots, contact Chris on 027 646 3324, or any other member of the Helensville Lions.

Please note that the last date we are accepting books for this Book Fair is Friday 21st November. Sorry, but we cannot accept donations at the Book Fair.

EFTPOS Available



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 resumes 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 19th
November, 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




Helensville Lions Book Fair and Community Santa Parade

Book Fair

Sat 29th Nov 9am - 4pm
Sun 30th Nov 10am - 3pm

HELENSVILLE SHOWGROUNDS

\$2 Adult Books, \$1 Children Books
Eftpos Available

Santa Parade

Sat 29th Nov 12noon
Free Parking

Keeping the Lights On

Rolling straight out of the Heritage Weekend into Christmas, the team at Te Awaroa Museum are already working on the 2025 Christmas Lights display. There was so much positive feedback from the community last year, that the volunteers are giving it their all for more vintage Claus. The event, sponsored by the Northwest Country Business Association, promotes local businesses, and culminates in prizes for 'Best Christmas Windows'. There'll be a range of beautifully lit scenes in each of the Museum's six buildings, making it a 'must visit' for families after dark. Keep an eye on the Te Awaroa Museum's Facebook page for the start date. There's no charge to the community; it's the Museum's thank you to those who have supported us. Let the festivities begin!



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"BECAUSE " artist.

I would just like to thank all the local artists and visitors in Helensville for their support and positive feedback on my very first exhibition during September.

I am looking forward to showing some new art soon.

BECAUSE.

South Kaipara Community Patrol (SKCP)

In September the South Kaipara Community Patrol (SKCP) had much pleasure in presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Harcourts Helensville and Helensville Mechanical Services for their on going sponsorship of the Patrol.

It is this kind of local support that keeps the "wheels turning" and allows the patrol in turn to support local events like The Heritage Weekend, Big Little Local Day out, Christmas Parade and the A&P Show and patrols throughout the week.

To find out more about the Patrol and how to join email us at SouthKaipara@cpnz.org.nz

Give us a wave next time you see us, we are happy to stop for a chat.

Paul Smith, Lead Patroller.



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If someone collapsed with a cardiac arrest right in front of you would you know what to do? This happened at our September monthly meeting with 33 members present. Our guest speaker, 5 mins into his presentation, collapsed.

The good news here is that our members did know what to do, and this man defied statistical probability and survived. He survived because CPR was commenced immediately, emergency services were called and a defibrillator (AED) was rapidly obtained from across the road and put to use. While all this was happening, cars were moved to allow access for emergency vehicles, others were down the road watching out for the fire truck and ambulance. The rest of the group had the sensitivity to stand back, quietly clear the room of chairs to provide easy access for the fire brigade volunteers followed by the ambulance crew. Meanwhile we know of one man who simply sat in his car, intentionally supporting our guest's spirit. There may also have been others sitting prayerfully.

U3A South Kaipara <https://www.u3a.nz/> is part of a wider national and international organisation of retired and semi retired people committed to life long learning and enjoying company. Currently South Kaipara has 55 members.



For 10 or more minutes we were on our own. The AED (automated external defibrillator) shocked our guest 3-4 times and we kept up CPR until the wonderful volunteer fire brigade volunteers took over. The ambulance arrived quite some time later. Active resuscitation continued for more than 30 mins before heading off to North Shore Hospital.

The good news continues, our guest speaker is home again, still rather sore and tired, but with no evidence of brain or cardiac damage. He is eager to finish the book he is half way through writing.

At the fire brigade volunteers next training meeting a group from our U3A went along to thank them and let them know the outcome. We were very saddened to find that they rarely hear what has happened to the people they were involved in rescuing, and even rarer, are they thanked. Our thankyou banana cake went down very well.

Off this experience we strongly encourage all readers, to

- do regular CPR refresher courses no matter what your age,
- know how to quickly locate a nearby defibrillator - download the AED (defibrillator) app on your phone, open it and search for your area. You will be shown a map with locations and times defibrillators are available. Some are 24/7, others set times. Or practice Google searching 'AEDs near me' for AED locations. Go and find an AED in your area and study the instructions on it.
- always carry identity and contact details for next of kin.
- If involved in a crisis, let the emergency responders know the outcome.

For information about the South Kaipara U3A group contact Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com or Pam Muirhead pramby10@gmail.com

Asian Fusion Pop-Up Restaurant at Craigweil House!

Craigweil House recently turned up the flavour with an exciting Asian Fusion Pop-Up Restaurant!

Our dining area was completely transformed into a beautiful restaurant-style setting, complete with themed decorations that set the perfect mood for a special culinary experience.

Residents were treated to a mouth-watering menu featuring miso soup, fresh vegetable sushi, a delicious Asian-style chicken main, and a creamy cheesecake to finish.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, smiles, and plenty of happy taste buds! Everyone enjoyed this unique dining experience and are already looking forward to the next pop-up restaurant, with a brand-new theme to discover and savour.

As we look forward, we're also excited about the upcoming opening of our extended Hospital Level of Care wing. If you or your loved one are interested in learning more about what Craigweil House has to offer, feel free to drop by for a visit or give us a call on 09 420 8277.



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Bees, Swarms and the Sweet Rhythm of Nature

*A swarm of bees in May is worth a bushel of hay;
A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm in July isn't worth a fly.*

This Northern Hemisphere proverb holds true here but starting with October. It neatly shows that a swarm in October will be strong and have the whole season to grow and thrive, ensuring winter survival; their value decreases through the season until they are no longer viable. Honey bees swarming is a natural function of reproduction of the hive. Bees live and die, but for their species to continue these social insects need their colony to

reproduce too. While this is a natural behaviour in honey bees, likely used for about twenty five million years, they now don't usually survive in the wild for much more than a year due to the bees' mortal enemy - the varroa mite. In early spring bees work very hard to rear



their young and bring in stores of nectar and pollen. When they deem that there is sufficient stores and bees, the swarming impulse kicks in and they begin the preparation to swarm. The worker bees build swarm cells and the queen lays eggs in these special cells, with a diet almost entirely of royal jelly, these queens-to-be develop in their cells. The old queen is then put on a diet and chased around to help her to get fit enough to fly.

Nine days later, the queen cells are capped over, this is the signal for the old queen and up to half of the workers who have filled their honey stomachs with honey to depart. In the next week a new queen will emerge and usually kill her royal sisters in their cells. She then goes out on her mating flight and if successfully mated, will stay in the hive laying eggs until it is her time to swarm.

When leaving a hive the swarm will settle on a branch, fence post, eaves of a house or similar about 50-100m from the hive. They will stay there for up to a week but usually a day or two until scout bees find their forever home and then they will depart. It is in this temporary state that they are easiest to capture. If you see a bee swarm, the best thing to do is call an experienced swarm collector, they are volunteers and don't usually charge anything. You could ask on your local community page for swarm collectors or check out Auckland Beekeepers Club website, they have dozens of swarm collectors on their list and will quickly and efficiently collect the swarm, rehousing and treating them for mites and checking for any other diseases. When the swarm has been collected it is taken to the beekeeper's apiary (where their hives are).

An interesting fact about bee swarms is that honey bees are at their most placid when swarming; remember that bees are defensive not aggressive. When they are swarming they don't have brood or food to protect, so will not attack (that's only in the movies or in the Americas with their Africanised bees). Rather than being scared of 8,000 venomous insects on the rampage, marvel at the wonder of nature in all her glory.

*A Southern re-imagining of the proverb -
A swarm of bees in October is worth a field of clover;
A swarm in November is worth a silver sliver;
A swarm in December isn't worth a feather.*

*Ken Brown, President of Auckland Beekeepers Club
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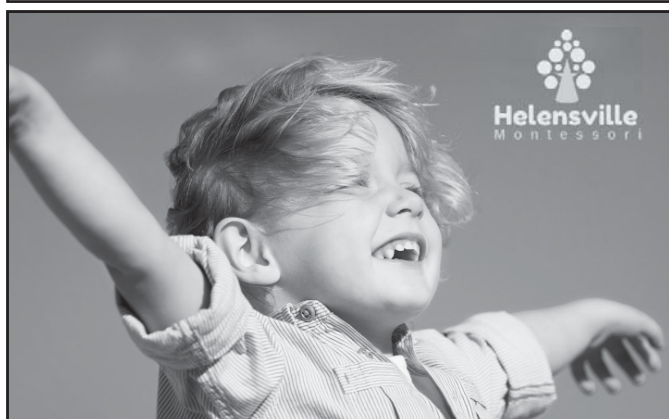
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Helensville Library and Service Centre

Kia ora koutou

My name is Emma and I am the new Manager of Helensville Library. I began my library career in Helensville Library as a volunteer 13 years ago, and I'm excited to come back to work and serve in the same library that started me on this path.

I know the area quite well as I went to Parakai School as a child and then to Kaipara College where I met one of my best friends - now husband, Jason. We have a son who has recently turned one and keeping us all on our toes. We also have the added bonus of family still living in the area who love to look after him which is also a win.

I bring with me experience from over several roles from several locations. In my past role I had been working as a Team Leader Library Network Support for the North-West where I looked after the "roaming" Library and Council Service Assistants from Wellsford to Devonport, Helensville to Henderson. My previous staff were the staff that were called to keep library services running in case of sickness, vacancies, leave or to help out in events.

I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with the area, the community and seeing old faces and new when I am in the library.

Summer is coming:

Raumati 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!

Regular events:

Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups: Wednesdays, 10am to 10.30am

Minecraft Club: Wednesdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays, 3pm to 4.30pm

Crafternoon for kids: Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Lego Club: Saturdays, 10am to 11am.

Book Chat: Thursday 27 November, 10am to 11am.

Bring along a book you've recently read and loved – or disliked – to share with fellow readers.

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





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From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

Column by Chris Penk MP
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

It was great to host the Minister of Transport, Chris Bishop, here in northwest Auckland recently. We spent the day looking at some of the key transport priorities for our community — and it was encouraging to see plans and progress coming together, slowly but surely.



We began with a visit to the current roadworks along State Highway 16. This stretch of highway has long been a source of frustration for locals due to congestion and safety concerns, so it's very welcome to see improvements now taking shape. Once complete, these works will make travel safer and smoother for everyone using this crucial route between our growing townships and the city.

Another key focus was the proposed Kumeu Bypass. For years, residents have called for a better way to divert heavy traffic away from Kumeu's town centre. The bypass will do exactly that, improving both travel times and the local environment. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss with the Minister how we can keep momentum up on this long-awaited project.

We also visited possible sites for an additional secondary school in the area. With our local population continuing to grow rapidly, it's clear that another high school will soon be needed to serve families from Kumeu, Huapai, Riverhead and beyond.

It's heartening to see that, through constructive work between local representatives and the Government, real progress is being made on issues that matter so much to our communities. There's still more to do — but with collaboration and persistence, we're heading in the right direction.

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Opinion: Powering the Growth of North West Auckland

By Simon Court, ACT MP

North West Auckland is booming. From Kumeu to Helensville, families are building homes, small businesses are opening their doors, and the region is fast becoming one of the most dynamic parts of New Zealand.

But with that growth comes a critical question: how are we going to power it?

Reliable, affordable energy isn't just a 'nice to have' for growing communities, it's essential. Whether you're running a café on Commercial Road, a joinery in Huapai, or managing a subdivision in Riverhead, you need electricity that's there when you need it and prices that don't break the bank.

That's why ACT in Government is fixing what matters.

We've scrapped Labour's reckless ban on offshore oil and gas exploration, which was a political stunt that drove up power prices and scared off investors. It didn't cut emissions, but it did cut energy security. ACT is restoring the confidence needed to get real projects moving again.

We're also unleashing offshore wind and marine energy—new industries that could help power Auckland's future, including the fast-growing North West. A new Offshore Renewable Energy Bill backed by ACT lays out a clear path for these technologies to go from concept to construction, with real investor certainty and proper environmental safeguards.

But new energy sources mean nothing if we can't fix the system they plug into. Right now, it's too hard to build anything, whether it's a wind farm, a substation, or the transmission lines needed to connect them. In parts of Auckland, developers are being told they can't build new homes because the grid can't handle more load. That's absurd. Growth shouldn't be punished.

ACT is replacing the Resource Management Act with a system that prioritises common sense, not red tape. That means infrastructure gets built, not blocked. Projects that make our communities better, like modern energy systems, won't get strangled in bureaucracy or ideology.

And we're being honest: renewables are great, but they don't always show up when you need them. That's why ACT backs

gas and coal as firm backup, especially in a city as spread out as Auckland. Keeping the grid stable and the bills low means having flexible options when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing.

North West Auckland deserves to grow with confidence. That means powering that growth with a plan that actually works. We're not here to play politics with your power bill. We're here to make sure your lights stay on, your business can expand, and your community keeps moving forward.

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SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART					
Date	High Water Shelly Beach			Sun Rise	Sun Set
November '25					
1 Sat	0715	3.4	1943	0615	1953
2 Sun	0820	3.6	2043	0614	1954
3 Mon	0918	3.8	2137	0613	1955
4 Tue	1011	4.1	2228	0612	1956
5 Wed	1101	4.2	2318	0611	1957
6 Thu	11.49	4.3	-	0610	1958
7 Fri	0006	4.3	1235	0609	1959
8 Sat	0054	4.2	1322	0608	2001
9 Sun	0142	4.0	1410	0607	2001
10 Mon	0233	3.8	1501	0607	2003
11 Tue	0328	3.6	1559	0606	2004
12 Wed	0431	3.4	1704	0605	2005
13 Thu	0539	3.4	1811	0604	2006
14 Fri	0644	3.4	1912	0603	2007
15 Sat	0744	3.4	2008	0603	2008
16 Sun	0839	3.5	2059	0602	2009
17 Mon	0929	3.7	2145	0601	2010
18 Tue	1014	3.8	2227	0601	2011
19 Wed	1054	3.9	2305	0600	2012
20 Thu	1131	4.0	2340	0559	2013
21 Fri	1205	4.0	-	0559	2014
22 Sat	0015	3.8	1238	0558	2015
23 Sun	0049	3.8	1311	0558	2016
24 Mon	0124	3.7	1346	0557	2017
25 Tue	0202	3.6	1424	0557	2018
26 Wed	0244	3.5	1507	0556	2019
27 Thu	0331	3.4	1556	0556	2020
28 Fri	0426	3.4	1654	0556	2021
29 Sat	0528	3.4	1757	0555	2022
30 Sun	0634	3.5	1900	0555	2023
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

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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.

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Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
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CAB	16 Commercial Road	420-7162
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Diggers	Helensville Diggers	021-454-793/420-7023
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Early Learning Centre	Gumboots	09-411-9038
Early Learning Centre	Helensville Montessori	420-7181
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Gift Baskets	Riverside Crafts - Sarah	0800-831-542
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Gifts & Clothing	Eleventh Hour - 60 Commercial Road	
Glass Services		
	Nor-West & Kumeu Glass Services	09-420-8210/0800-825100
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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
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Plumbers	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	Mid West Pumps	420-7694
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Real Estate	Burmester Realty	420-8360
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Real Estate	Prestige - Jana Mills	021-509-990/420-9953
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sector - making her the first woman in
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During the pandemic, Tea and her
husband launched a joint venture
close to home - the Sweet Az Drive
Thru Coffee Hut and Event Trailer.
With a touch of Kiwi ingenuity,
they turned a challenging time
into a thriving local favourite,
serving coffee and smiles to
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A great addition to our team,
Tea is returning to her sales and
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