

The Helensville Community News

Issue 197 - April 2026

Helensville Library and Service Centre update

Highlights of our month

Have you seen the miharo art work on the library walls? Yvonne, from Art Centre Helensville, led our children's crafters in a day of art to liven up our outdoor spaces.



Our Lego and Duplo club every Saturday morning is going from strength to strength! We love seeing the creativity and imagination of our children.



New bookmarks!

We had a bookmark design table at the Helensville A&P Show, and our winning entries have now been printed. Pick one up next time you're in. Or, maybe the whole set.



Did you know that we visit many local early childhood centres each month.

If you are involved with a local ECE / playgroup, and would like us to come and do storytime with you, please contact us: helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

We also visit Craigweil House weekly for reading sessions and monthly for sing-a-longs.

These community outreach sessions are some of the best part of being involved in our community.



Introducing: Brain Charge: date and time to be finalised

Join us for free fun activities to exercise the mind.

The monthly sessions will have a variety of activities including learning new skills, crafting, quizzing and having fun.

All are welcome to come along to any of these monthly sessions. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

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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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Helensville Library *Continued from page 1*

Our regular programmes:

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

Minecraft: Wednesdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Crafternoon for adults: Thursdays, 3pm to 4.30pm

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

Baby Play, a playgroup for under 6s and their grown-ups: Fridays, 10am to 11am.

Book Chat: Thursday 23 April, 10am to 11am.

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

Report a problem with Auckland Council

While you're out and about, you may see something that needs fixing. The Auckland Council website is your best place to start. aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/report-a-problem.aspx. Alternatively, you can phone Auckland Council 24/7 on 09 301 01 01. Or visit our service centre desk.

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 / Poukokiri - Children & Youth / Helensville Library and Service Centre

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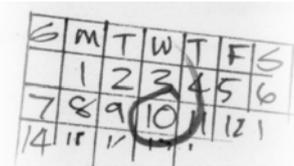
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What's happening this month



Tuesday, 7 April, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm Guest speaker **Dr. John Bray** Physics research fellow. Topic: The Universe in 60 minutes. Guests are very welcome. U3A <https://www.u3a.nz> is a national and international volunteer led organisation for retired and semi-retired people committed to lifelong learning and who enjoy interesting company. South Kaipara U3A has more than 60 members and is thriving. There is an informative meeting on the first Tuesday of every month 10am-12pm. There are also a number of smaller interest groups. Guests and new members are very welcome. For enquiries contact Bev Silvester-Clark bev.s-c@outlook.com phone 0274 316205

Sunday, 12 April, FREE Circus in the Park, 2pm – 4pm, Rautawhiri Park, Thanks to Rodney Local Board. Step right up – Circus in the Park is back! Join us for an open circus activation where everyone is encouraged to give things a go, learn new skills with our professional circus tutors, or just have some fun in the sun! What's On Offer: Juggling balls, rings & clubs, Hula hoops & flower sticks, A range of other circus props to try. Our friendly tutors will be there to teach you the basics or help you level up with new tricks. Drop-In Community Sessions No need to book or arrive at the start – just drop by and join in at any time while we're there! Unstructured play – come and go as you please. Perfect for beginners or those wanting to refine their skills.

A great way to spend time with friends, whanau, or meet new people. All ages & abilities welcome. Whether it's your first time trying juggling or you're ready to master new moves, there's something for everyone. What to Bring: Comfortable clothing, a sense of curiosity and fun
Thanks to Rodney Local Board for supporting this free community event as part of Out and About Auckland!

Sunday, 19 April, 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.

Monday, 20 April, Term 2 Starts

Saturday, 25 April, ANZAC Day (Observed Monday 27 April)

Saturday, 2 May, Festival 2026 To be held at Muriwai Surf Club, between 10am and 12 noon. Come and hear from your local pest free group about what they are up to and what support they can offer. We will have speakers about pest trapping with field demonstrations, pest plants talks, equipment and gear to take home along with many speakers about the wonderful native plants and animals we are protecting. FREE event for the whole family.



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Forty Years of Care

Hospice West Auckland, our hospice, is celebrating 40 years serving our community. Rena Owen, Angela Bloomfield, Joe Naufahu, Fleur Saville, Simon Dallow and Te Radar all have a connection to the west and are encouraging all of us, those who know Hospice West Auckland is worth its weight in gold, to give towards the charity's Annual Appeal. It's on now.

As of November last year, Hospice West Auckland has created He Whare Korowai — a "Home from Home" in Te Atatu. This welcoming, purpose-built space allows patients to receive specialist care close to their community and, whenever possible, return home again. For those who cannot remain at home, it provides comfort, dignity and expert support for both patients and their whānau.

Our community's support will help He Whare Korowai and Hospice West Auckland's community care team keep delivering the best end-of-life care possible. The charity hopes to raise \$100,000 from this appeal so every donation, big or small, will count! Visit hwa.org.nz to donate and Happy 40th Anniversary Hospice West Auckland!

Continued on page 4



THE VILLAGE MARKET
HELENSVILLE SHOWGROUNDS

Sunday 19 April
A&P Showgrounds
8.30am – 1pm

There will be live music from
Kenny Luond

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From tabloids to winter sports: Life at full speed

by Sequoia Thomson, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Looks like another great month has passed already, and the year is flying by. I have found it moving so fast I almost can't keep up, but many graduate students have told me the last year flies by. I like to think all that praying about high school needing to move faster through the years has paid off ... maybe a little tooooooo well.

Just recently passed, and much-awaited, was Tabloids Day, held on Wednesday, the fourth of March. The activities included sack races, relays, and sprints, among many others. Takere took home the gold at the end, narrowly beating Te Ra - Kai, the head student leader of Takere may have just saved that win in the very last activity of the day, our famous Manu comp., held in the pool, it was one of the activities that drew the largest crowds, whether as viewers or participants.

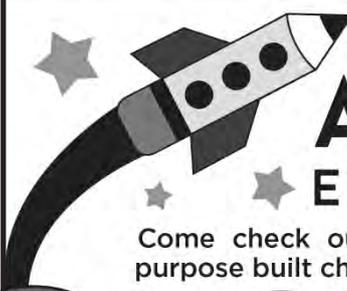
With the fast-moving year, our hot, sunny days are also rapidly disappearing into the past, while icy, dark mornings have already arrived over the past month. Whilst, compared with our usual winter days, it is still practically tropical, it still feels rather brisk on an early wake-up to catch the bus! As much as I myself would rather be cold (I'm a fall girl), I do prefer the dry cold over the wet, which unfortunately does not coincide with Aotearoa's weather plan - it seems Mother Nature has hit us with a couple of showers to get us prepared for the coming months.

Winter also brings winter sports, including netball, football, rugby, and hockey, which are among the most popular. Registrations would have just recently closed when you kind people are reading this, but I congratulate any students giving one of these sports a go for the first time, or even coming back. The experience of playing in a team is highly beneficial, and can help form some new, and potentially very strong friendships - plus, one never knows if they might fall in love with the sport!

Well, as we unwillingly beckon in the colder months, I encourage you to chop some firewood, bundle up and prime those heat pumps - cause gosh, considering how chilly our mornings have already begun to be, they *will* be needed.



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Pampering and Celebrations at Craigweil House

Residents at Craigweil House recently enjoyed a special Spa Day in celebration of International Women's Day, a heartfelt way for staff to thank and honour the wonderful women in our care.

The lounge was transformed into a relaxing spa-like space, creating a calm and welcoming atmosphere for the occasion. Residents were given their own spa-style vouchers and invited to enjoy a range of pampering treatments. Staff prepared gentle hand spa sessions with manicures, while some residents also chose to relax with soothing facials. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and a sense of being truly appreciated.

Experiences like this are especially meaningful for older adults. Taking time for self-care and relaxation can help support emotional wellbeing, boost confidence, and provide a sense of normality and enjoyment. Activities that involve gentle hand care and facial treatments can also stimulate the senses and encourage social interaction, which are both very important for maintaining quality of life in later years.



The celebrations continued at Craigweil House with St Patrick's Day. Residents and staff joined in the fun by wearing green and helping to make festive decorations around the home. The day was topped off with a special afternoon tea, giving everyone a chance to enjoy good company, share some laughs, and celebrate together.

If you would like to learn more about what Craigweil House can offer you or your loved ones, please feel free to drop by or give us a call on 09 420 8277. We would be happy to welcome you.



Helensville Birthing Centre

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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.

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North West Country Inc media release April 2026

April is here and it's all about getting prepared!

What an incredible few months it has been across the North West. The energy out there is amazing and we are seeing real momentum as our community comes together on some truly meaningful projects. From emergency preparedness to destination planning, local history to new tools for business it has been non-stop, and we would not have it any other way.

As always, we have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure our members and our region are supported. Here is what is happening across the North West this month.

Join Us at the CDEM Forum, Registrations Now Open!

Auckland Emergency Management is hosting this year's Community Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Forum, and I am thrilled to be presenting about our Business Emergency Hub in Helensville. This is something we have been working towards for a long time, and it is a real honour to share our story with the wider Auckland community.

The forum takes place on Saturday 23 May 2026 at the Due Drop Events Centre, 770 Great South Rd, Manukau. Plan to arrive from 8.30 am for a 9.00 am start, and it wraps up at 2.30 pm. Both the event and parking are free, so there really is no excuse not to come along!

This year's theme is "Rhythms of Readiness: Stronger together in emergencies" and there will be inspiring speakers, information stands, break-out discussions and plenty of time for networking over morning tea and lunch.

Keynote speakers include Anne Pattillo, one of the country's most experienced community engagement leaders, and Michele

Poole, National Advisor for Public Information Management at Fire and Emergency NZ, who brings over 30 years of experience across major incidents in New Zealand and Australia.

If you want to be part of it, register now by emailing CDEMForum@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz with your name, phone number, organisation, any dietary requirements, access needs, and whether you use NZSL and require interpreters. Ensure your place — register now.

Destination Management Plan One Step Closer

Our first Destination Management Plan workshop was held at The Hunting Lodge with a great turn out of like-minded tourism operators. We all agreed that the North West is a picturesque place, providing space to breathe and reconnect while offering an array of great food places and experiences. Kaipatiki Reserve and Geothermal Pools will host the next workshop and showcase their current facilities and planned upgrades. Don't miss out on your chance to input into the plan, get in touch with me to receive updates and invites.

Supporting Local History Preservation

We are collaborating with Rix Painting Services and Te Awaroa Museum to paint the Courthouse. This project, if funding can be achieved, will be the first in a project to bring life back to our historic buildings and put Te Awaroa Helensville on the map as a heritage village. If anyone wishes to be a part of this work or contribute to the project, please reach out to me at manager@northwestcountry.co.nz.

Kumeu Show a Hit

North West Country had a spot at the Kumeu Show 2026, which was a real hit. We shared our space with some great local businesses — SignVille NZ, Huapai/Kumeu Lions and Skydive Auckland. Both attracted a good range of enquiries, and it was made even more successful by SignVille printing "Up the Wahs" stickers for visitors. With the Warriors winning the night before, there were a lot of fans around!

Across the Helensville and Kumeu Shows, North West Country also invested into marketing business members who also were in attendance, adding our voice to yours to bring more people to your stalls.

PerformIQ Now Live for North West Country Members

Following a successful launch on 24th March, North West Country members can now get access to a PerformIQ subscription. PerformIQ is your online high performance business coach that will provide you with key metrics for your business and display the results in clear graphs. Once at least 50 businesses have joined, North West Country will be able to join and see aggregated and anonymised data that can then allow us to develop support tools. Subscribe today at <https://www.thebetersmb.com/start-now/>

North West Member Discounts Book Coming

We are about to produce an annual Members Discount book where North West Country members can offer member to member deals and help businesses source products and services locally. We are calling for any members who wish to offer discounts to other members and their staff. Books will be issued electronically to all members annually and will show your company logo, images and information. This is a great way to showcase your business and be seen by the wider community. To get your business included in the Webbook, email us now with details of your offer.

Nga mihi,
Danielle Hancock
General Manager, North West Country Inc
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Hop in for CAB Helensville campaign

A family friendly treasure hunt will be springing into action around the Helensville township over the Easter holidays.

The fun, free event is organised by Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville, one of the Auckland CAB branches dedicated to helping communities thrive.

“At CAB, our core mission is Building Auckland’s Communities. We see ourselves as our neighbourhood’s friendly navigators, here to help individuals and local families understand their rights and confidently navigate the complexities of modern life. We believe that from successful individuals and families, strong communities grow together,” manager Rani Timoti says.

The treasure hunt, from Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 19, features a map to explore and learn about Helensville within walking distance from the CAB Helensville office.

“Participants can answer questions and take on challenges while discovering our local gems like the Helensville Community Recycling Centre (Helensville Zero Waste), museum, South Kaipara Good Food, artistic landmark public toilets, library and art centre. Our Te Awaroa Helensville Riverside Walkway is great for scenic photo stops and exercise,” says Rani.

There are also a number of businesses supporting the unique and “egg-citing” event including Mitre 10 Helensville, The Red Door Café, Paper Plus Select Helensville, Helensville Woolworths and The Ville Turkish Café.

These supporters are contributing to Easter hampers which can be won by participating families, teams, groups and interested parties.

Maps will be available at the CAB Helensville office, 16 Commercial Road. Or phone (09) 420 7162 for more information.



Your Local Justice of the Peace

The Helensville District is fortunate to be served by 13 dedicated locals who 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’ve earned as valued members of our area.

The Helensville and District 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.

Helensville and District JPs open their homes to anyone needing documents witnessed, declarations made, or affidavits sworn or affirmed.

At a recent gathering, long-serving Gillian Adshead was recognized for 30 years of dedicated service to the Helensville area.

“It is a great experience being a JP,” says Area Coordinator Lindy McDermott. “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 Helensville and the surrounding areas 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.

But 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 the Helensville area and are passionate about serving your community, consider becoming a Justice of the Peace. It’s a meaningful way to contribute, connect with others, and make a lasting impact. You must be under 70 Years of age and preferably volunteer in the local community. To learn more about how to become a JP, call your local JP coordinator Lindy McDermott 0220492871 or visit the official website for application details.

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We have had a jam-packed start to the year which is encouraging to see as it is only the beginning! As we say goodbye to term 1, we look excitingly into term 2 with creative enthusiasm.

Classes to start term 2; Afterschool kids from 29th April Tuesday and Thursday for ages 6-11, Wednesday ages 12-17 'Project Teen', 8 weeks during school term only \$120.



Painting and drawing with Mike Rowland 6-week course 1st May – 5th June 11-1 DISCOUNT \$160.

Raranga Flax Weaving with Maria Kaka 30th April – 8th June Thursday's 11-1 \$80 for 8 weeks.



Free and koha groups, 'Gas Bag' every Wednesday 11-1 at the Art Centre BYO art and craft tea and coffee provided. Tuesday 'Street Maori' group 6-7:30 Koha donation proceeds go to Te Awaroa Museum.



ANZAC Day Saturday 25 April

The services are as follows-

- Dawn Parade at Parakai 6.00am, parade to Fall-in 5.45am. Kaipatiki Reserve, 150 Parkhurst Road, Parakai
- Cemetery Service at the Helensville Soldiers Cemetery 6.55am (Sunrise). 140 Garfield Road, Helensville
- ANZAC breakfast at the KM RSA 7.30am, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville
- Civic Service at the Kaukapakapa Memorial Hall Cenotaph at 9.30am, Fall-in 9.20am. 947 Kaipara Coast Highway, Kaukapakapa.
- Street Parade and Civic Service at the Helensville War

Exhibition for April is 'Think inside the Box' a display of Diorama art by local artists ending 18th April. Members exhibition 'Something Old, Something New' starts 22nd April opening night 24th April 5-7pm all welcome.



A little glimpse of what our amazing kids and teen classes have been doing inside and outside our space, along with our collaboration with Crafternoon Library kids. Watch this space it's only going to get more vibrant with artwork to come!!



Memorial Hall Cenotaph 11.00am, parade to Fall-in 10.45am at the corner of Rata Street and Commercial Road and march to the Cenotaph, 49 Commercial Road.



The Helensville Street parade will be led by military vehicles, the Kumeu Brass Band and Kaipara College Flagbearers, followed by our Veterans, Ex-Service and Service personnel, RSA members and community groups.

The service will include the National Anthem, the ANZAC Act of Commemoration and Dedication, the laying of wreaths, the Last Post, the Ode of Remembrance, the Reveille and the Lament, closing with the Benediction.

All Veterans, currently Serving personnel, RSA Members, and community groups, including Cadets, Scouts, Guides and schools, are encouraged to attend, and march with the parade.

Medals should be worn, if wearing your relatives' medals, wear them on your right side.

Wreaths.

If you want to lay a wreath on behalf of a community organisation at the Kaukapakapa or Helensville Civic services, email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz, so you can be added to the list.

You can provide your own wreath, or wreaths can be ordered and paid for through the KM RSA at a cost of \$60 each.

Poppy Appeal 2026.

The annual Poppy Appeal is on Friday the 17th of April.

If you can help at one of the collection stands, contact Steve Wilson (AKA Foxy) 027 268 8094.

All donations for Poppies are transferred to Ranfurly's Poppy Foundation Trust (PFT) for the benefit of our Veterans' welfare.

Easter Art Exhibition/ Suffering and Hope

There was a new art exhibition running at St Martins Church in Waimauku.

Helensville artist, Pauline Denton, exhibited her huge fabric work called "Passion" which depicts Jesus at the centre, his head and arms in deep fiery reds and his love and warmth radiating out in a spiral of flame like orange, red and gold colours. The piece comprises of hessian stretched over a large frame with fabric poked into it before the back is glued to tighten and secure it.

The last four years have seen expressions of creativity and art celebrating the beauty and meaning of Easter. The exhibition is named "Suffering and Hope" and each artist has worked with this theme.

Pauline is part of a growing collective of talented artists telling the story of their journey and faith through these exhibitions.

She graduated from Sheffield Polytechnic with an Honours Degree in Fine Art in 1983 and is currently running an Arts and Activities Programme for 'differently abled' adults in Helensville, where she enjoys being able to present people's work well and showcasing them as mainstream artists.

The exhibition was open 10am - 2pm daily until Saturday 4th April. Pop in and relax in the beautiful space and ponder how "Suffering and Hope" can go together. Especially as we get close to Easter. 912 State Highway 16 Waimauku. Look for the big red roof. Contact +64 20 4137 2340 for more details
Or Instagram: OccasionsAroundTheFoundry



Sayers says it

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers. Auckland Transport is being brought under the control of Auckland Council as part of a major shakeup.

The process began in July 2025, when Councillors voted for a formal review of Auckland Transport's structure amid mounting public concern about customer service, delivery delays and rising project costs. Public consultation followed in August and September 2025, drawing strong feedback from ratepayers. In October 2025, the council adopted a transition plan detailing staged changes to be rolled out across 2026.

From January 2026, strategic planning functions shifted to be under Council's management. By April 2026, and reliant on Parliament changing some legislation, transport budgets and capital programme approvals will be aligned directly with the council's budget processes. The final stage — including executive restructuring and updated reporting lines — will be completed by December 2026.

Auckland Transport was established in 2010 after the formation of the "Super City" as an autonomous body responsible for roads, public transport and traffic management. While designed to provide technical expertise and independence, critics argue its arm's-length model created blurred lines of accountability between officials, elected representatives and Auckland's residents and ratepayers.

Auckland Transport staff are currently accountable to a non-elected Board of Directors which cannot be voted out by ratepayers — the customers. Under the new model the staff will be accountable to elected Councillors and Local Board members, who ratepayers can elect, or vote out, based on performance.

Supporters say the changes will streamline decision-making, better integrate transport and housing growth planning, and accelerate key projects such as roading congestion reduction initiatives.

Some transport critics caution that 2026 will be a difficult transition year. They warn that retaining key staff, avoiding political short-term thinking, and ensuring service continuity will determine whether the promised gains in accountability and delivery are realised. Regardless, Auckland Transport's restructuring is now well underway.

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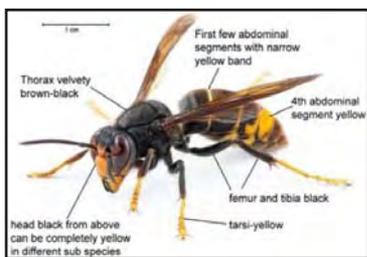
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Hornet Update

We're going into autumn now and we have taken the honey off our hives. Our bees are preparing for winter. Nationally the honey harvest has been quite poor; unsettled weather over spring and summer has affected plants flowering and the behaviour of foraging bees, resulting in significantly less honey for many beekeepers; although there are certain apiaries that have done well. Beekeepers are now checking their bees for varroa mites and wintering down their bees to ensure strong healthy hives in the spring.



The yellow legged hornet (YLH) season should now be slowing down too. The YLH lifecycle is similar to the German and common wasps: the mated queens hibernate over winter and emerge in the spring to build a small nest and raise a few workers; this nest grows throughout the summer with many workers and in early autumn gynes (fertile females) and drones (males) are produced; these gynes mate and then go off and hibernate over winter. The difference between YLHs and wasps is that in late summer they will produce a secondary nest high up in the trees; the queen and workers will move between both nests.

Every YLH queen found so far has been genetically tested and is the offspring of a single queen; indicating that there was only one mated queen that started this incursion. We are at the critical stage where we must destroy all nests before gynes emerge, it is getting harder to find the last few nests but our dedicated teams have gained much experience and have honed their detection and tracking skills. Once a nest is found the team that I'm on swoop in and treat the nest, it is then collected 24 hours later after any stray hornets return to the nest and get killed by the residual horneticidal powder. There are quite a few local beekeepers who are part of the hornet response team - they are well aware of the risks and dangers of the YLH becoming established. The positive response and support of locals has been phenomenal. Everyone in New Zealand, especially in and around Auckland should look for hornet activity and better yet put out a suitable trap (check out the MPI website for up to date information and trap making instructions) to make sure that they haven't accidentally been transported out of Zone A – Glenfield and Birkdale. The response is still ongoing, and despite some misinformation and negative opinions on social media, the team are totally engaged and fully supported by biosecurity NZ; and are confident that we will stop the YLH becoming established in New Zealand.

Ken Brown

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



Connection update

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



Regular events:

Wednesday Raranga/flax weaving - 10.30am - 2.30pm, \$20 for a 2 hour session, Make puti puti (flowers) or kono (basket). Contact Heather 0220366985 Kawakawa Balm workshops (evenings) - register your interest. Contact Heather 0220366985.

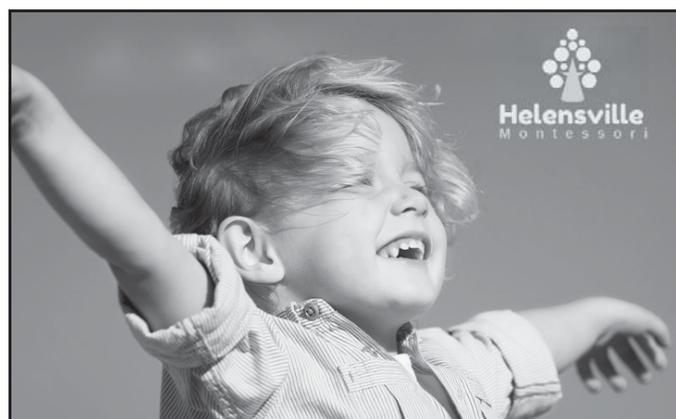
Friday Sewing Circle - 10am to 1pm, \$10 for a 2 hour session. Bring your machine and your mending or a project. Chrissy 0274 671843.

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

ROOM AVAILABLE: Shop 3, Helensville Railway Station. Community rates for meetings, workshops, gatherings, exhibitions, interest groups etc.

Contains comfy chairs on carpeted area, kitchenette, folding tables and 20 chairs, TV screen and DVD player, café next door.

Contact Heather: weaverweb@xtra.co.nz or 0220366985 for rates and availability.



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Principal Jane Coup

From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk

Kaipara College: A School That Cares

Kaipara College is a school that cares. It cares about its students as whole people, about the relationships that hold them, and about creating the conditions in which every akonga can discover what they are capable of. That care is the everyday practice of our kaiako, our support staff, and our wider community, and it is what makes this school what it is.

At the heart of that care is whanaungatanga. At Kaipara College, students are not anonymous, they are known, they are seen, and they belong. Sequoia Thomson describes it from the inside: *"One of the things I love most about Kaipara is our commitment to whanaungatanga, the connection between people. Because our school is smaller, we all know each other, and the effort put into fostering the relationships between students, teachers, and the community is what creates such a welcome, safe environment."* When students feel safe and connected, they are free to take risks, pursue their interests, and grow in ways that matter.

That care shows up in the richness of what is on offer. As Monique Ross puts it, *"There's always something for you at Kaipara College no matter your interest."* This term, Level 2 Earth and Space Science students have travelled to Ruapehu to learn from the land itself, and students have taken on the Australian Mathematics Competition, stretching themselves in ways that build genuine confidence. Our Kapa Haka group is deep in preparation for nationals, carrying the mana of our school and community with them.

Behind every achievement is a student who has been supported and believed in. This week, we received the wonderful news that our show jumping team has won the Pegasus Cup, the national secondary schools show jumping teams event. Brooke Scriviner, Meadow Soons, Riley Howard, and Ellie McDonald represented Kaipara College with tremendous skill and composure, and as part of their win, the team earned the opportunity to train and represent New Zealand in Australia. Year 12 student Zoey Beyleveld has earned her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, a testament to her commitment and character. Good luck to our Waka Ama team, who are competing at the National Championships at the end of the month. Also, Piki Moses has been selected for the Whaikaha Basketball Trust, a high-performance programme for players with intellectual disabilities, with aspirations to compete in Bangkok and Australia. These are not just individual accomplishments, they are the results of a school community that invests in its people.

This month, we welcomed the Educational Review Office to our school. The visit affirmed what we know to be true: that the learning relationships at Kaipara College are strong, and that they provide a powerful foundation for student success. Our WAKA values provide a strong foundation for learning at the school. Like all schools, the review also gave us valuable insights into areas where we can continue to grow and improve. A school that truly cares is one that welcomes that kind of honest reflection, because improving is itself an act of care for the students who come through our doors.

None of this happens without the people who show up every

day and give their best. To every kaiako and support person at Kaipara College; your care for our akonga is the engine of everything we celebrate. Thank you. Your mahi is seen, and it matters deeply.

We look forward to continuing to share the story of Kaipara College with our community. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see the latest from our school. Facebook: facebook.com/KaiparaCollegeHelensville Instagram:

Nga mihi nui,
Jane Coup, *Principal, Kaipara College*



@KAIPARACOLLEGE

The way others see things



Sometimes I come across things that make me sit up and take notice. Recently my wife was listening to Graeson McGaha on her phone. He is an American comedian and social media personality recognised for his sketches on parenting, marriage, and small-town life, with content that focuses on relatable, comedic takes on daily life, such as his popular "feral wife" stories. The sketch below really hits the nail on the head so I thought I would pass it on to you.

Kids only run the house when adults step aside!

Everybody keeps asking what's wrong with kids today. I'm going to let you know straight up, kids did not change, parents did. Kids have always tested boundaries. The difference is, back in the day, those boundaries would push back.



Now you've got some parents negotiating with 9 year olds like it's a hostage situation, because parents today love saying, "kids today have no respect", yeah, who raised them? You!

Kids didn't just magically wake up one day disrespectful. Somebody let them talk to adults like they are arguing with people on Xbox live.

Back in the day, if you tried to talk sideways to an adult, it didn't matter if it was your parents or not, you got embarrassed in front of the whole family.

Kids learn respect from people who refuse to tolerate disrespect. And let's be honest, lets tell the truth, some parents are not gentle parenting they're scared parenting.

They're scared that their kids are going to throw a temper tantrum, scared that their kids won't like them, scared to say no. Back in the day our parents weren't worried about being liked, they were worried about raising somebody who could survive without them.



Now I'm not trying to be mean, but some of you have got excuses for everything your kid does and I hate to be the one to inform you that your kid is not spirited or strong willed, he's just not used to being told no. **Because the real issue isn't kids, it's parents afraid to parent.**

Chris Penk
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Here to help
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chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz • 09 412 2496




From Penk's Pen CHRIS PENK – MP

The Kumeu Show

By Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

The Kumeu Show is always a highlight on our local calendar, and this year's event was no exception. I had the pleasure of attending on both days, and I was struck by the overwhelmingly positive mood that flowed through the Showgrounds from start to finish.

There is something special about an event like the Kumeu Show. It brings together people from all walks of life—families, farmers, local businesses, and community groups—in a way that reflects the very best of northwest Auckland. Whether it was livestock on display, competitive tree climbing or the annual pumpkin auction, there was a real sense of pride and connection throughout.

Meanwhile getting to play conductor for the excellent Kumeu Vintage Brass Band was a personal highlight!

It was also great to hear so much positivity from locals about our recent announcement of the confirmed plans for the high school in Kumeu / Huapai.

What stood out most to me overall though, was the energy and enthusiasm of everyone involved. From the early morning preparations to the final moments of each day, it was clear just how much effort goes into making the Show such a success. Events like this don't happen by accident—they are the result of months of planning and a deep commitment to community.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Show organisers, whose hard work and dedication made the entire weekend run so smoothly. Your efforts created an event that our whole community can continue to be proud of, after all these years.

I would also like to acknowledge the stallholders and exhibitors, who brought such variety, creativity, and quality to the Show—your contributions are what make it such a vibrant experience.

Finally, thank you to the people of Kumeu and the surrounding areas who came along in such great numbers. Your support is what keeps traditions like the Kumeu Show alive and thriving.

I'm already looking forward to next year!

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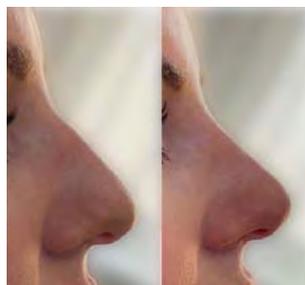
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The alarming cost of Ashes Plots at Auckland Cemeteries has not gone unnoticed. Kaukapakapa's small Church Cemetery has pledged to hold it's fees at half the cost of the other larger Cemeteries. This will benefit the families that reside within the South Kaipara region. See the advert above and call the Cemetery on 02108 290768 for costs and conditions.

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Crime has Consequences again

By Simon Court, ACT MP

A few months ago, Helensville woke up to news that a shop on Commercial Road had been ram-raided at 3am.

A stolen vehicle smashed through the front of the store. Goods were taken before Police arrested four people aged between 17 and 20. For the people who run that shop, it wasn't a headline or a statistic. It was their business, their livelihood, and their sense of security that got smashed through the front door.

But when crime is debated in Wellington, the conversation often drifts away from victims like them.

Instead of focusing on victims, the conversation drifts toward "root causes", endless reviews, and careful language designed to avoid saying something simple: serious harm must have consequences.

For years, the system seemed almost embarrassed to say that out loud. The focus shifted toward explaining offending rather than stopping it. Sentences softened, accountability weakened, and the people expected to carry the cost were ordinary New Zealanders trying to run businesses, raise families, and live safely in their communities.

Now, with ACT in Government, the justice system is beginning to remember its first responsibility: protecting the public.

New Zealand's prison population has now reached 11,000 – the highest ever recorded. Some commentators treat that number as a scandal. The four arrested in Helensville that morning are still working through the courts – that process takes time. But after a decade of softening consequences and recycling repeat offenders back onto the streets, the increase in people locked up may simply mean the system is finally doing what it's supposed to do.

The early results suggest that approach is working. The latest New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey shows there were 49,000 fewer victims of violent crime in the year to October 2025 than two years earlier. Ram raids – once a depressing fixture of the weekly news – have fallen dramatically as well.

Those numbers represent thousands of people who didn't have their homes invaded, their businesses smashed, or their families put at risk.

For too long, ordinary New Zealanders were expected to absorb the cost of crime. Shop owners cleaned up smashed windows. Families worried about safety. Communities watched the same offenders rack up dozens of offences with little to show for it except another court appearance.

Meanwhile, policy debates in Wellington drifted further and further away from common sense.

ACT entered Government to start fixing what matters. That includes restoring a basic principle that should never have been in doubt: when someone commits serious harm, the justice system stands up for victims and the public.

None of this means prison is the only answer. If we want fewer victims in the future, we have to catch people before they get to the point of driving stolen cars through storefronts at 3am. Under Minister Karen Chhour, Oranga Tamariki is being pushed back toward its core job – protecting children and intervening early when young people start heading in the wrong direction. Serious repeat youth offending is falling. More children in care are

receiving proper support from social workers. But early intervention only works if the basic rule of law still means something.

A society that cannot enforce its own laws ends up abandoning the very people those laws are meant to protect.

For communities like Helensville, this isn't an abstract policy debate. It's about whether local businesses feel confident opening their doors each morning. It's about parents knowing their kids can walk through town safely, and it's about making sure the next ram raid doesn't happen in the first place.

The shop on Commercial Road is open again. That's what ACT is in Government for.

SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART					
Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set		
April '26					
1 Wed	1110	4.1	2332	0733	1915
2 Thu	1148	4.1	-	0734	1913
3 Fri	0009	4.1	1223	0735	1912
4 Sat	0043	4.1	1255	0736	1910
5 Sun	0115	4.0	1225	0637	1809
6 Mon	0045	3.9	1256	0638	1808
7 Tue	0116	3.8	1329	0639	1806
8 Wed	0151	3.7	1406	0640	1805
9 Thu	0231	3.5	1451	0640	1803
10 Fri	0322	3.4	1549	0641	1802
11 Sat	0428	3.3	1703	0642	1801
12 Sun	0547	3.3	1825	0643	1759
13 Mon	0657	3.4	1932	0644	1758
14 Tue	0755	3.6	2027	0645	1756
15 Wed	0846	3.9	2116	0646	1755
16 Thu	0933	4.1	2202	0646	1754
17 Fri	1018	4.2	2246	0647	1752
18 Sat	1103	4.3	2330	0648	1751
19 Sun	1147	4.2	-	0649	1750
20 Mon	0014	4.3	1233	0650	1748
21 Tue	0100	4.1	1320	0651	1747
22 Wed	0148	4.0	1413	0652	1746
23 Thu	0243	3.8	1513	0653	1745
24 Fri	0348	3.6	1625	0653	1743
25 Sat	0503	3.5	1738	0654	1742
26 Sun	0611	3.6	1844	0655	1741
27 Mon	0712	3.7	1942	0656	1740
28 Tue	0807	3.8	2035	0657	1739
29 Wed	0855	3.9	2121	0658	1738
30 Thu	0938	3.9	2203	0659	1736
May '26					
1 Fri	1017	4.0	2240	0659	1735
2 Sat	1053	3.9	2315	0700	1734
3 Sun	1126	3.9	2348	0701	1733
4 Mon	1158	3.8	-	0702	1732
5 Tue	0020	3.9	1231	0703	1731
6 Wed	0053	3.8	1306	0704	1730



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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.

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, helensvillerailwaystationtrust@gmail.com, www.helensvillerail.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: Caroline 0221-674-823, caroline.thompson@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
Beauty Therapy	Premier Aesthetics	www.premieraesthetics.co.nz
Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
Budget Service	Francis	420-7740
Business Hub	Northwest Country, Danielle	0204-0027-008
CAB	16 Commercial Road	420-7162
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Curtis	027-200-5456
Chiropractor	Kaipara Chiropractic Healthcare	420-6224
Computer Repairs	Michael - Controlaltrepair	021-251-4138
Concreters	Brewis Concrete	021-992-590
Diggers	Helensville Diggers	021-454-793/420-7023
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
Flooring	Flooring Xtra	09-412-818
Garden Sheds	Baby Barns	022-075-8283/420-3298
Gift Baskets	Riverside Crafts - Sarah	0274-831-542
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
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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	Prestige - Jana Mills	021-509-990/420-9953
Roofing	KPL Ltd	420-9108
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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