

The Helensville Community News

Issue 199 - June 2026



Community comes together for a Pink Ribbon Dinner

The local community demonstrated extraordinary generosity and solidarity at the recent Pink Ribbon Dinner, held on Thursday 21 May, at The Original Kaipara Tavern. The charity event was a resounding success, culminating in an impressive grand total of \$1,835.00 being raised directly for breast cancer awareness, research, and vital patient support services in New Zealand.

Approximately 70 guests gathered for the special evening, which successfully united residents from across the area. Attendees enjoyed a memorable night filled with exceptional food, spot prizes, raffles, shared laughter, and a profound sense of community spirit. Every aspect of the evening was driven by a shared mission to support a cause that deeply affects numerous Kiwi families.

Event organiser Anita Eggers expressed her heartfelt gratitude to every individual who contributed to the night's success. She extended a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the dinner, purchased raffle tickets, and donated items.

Behind the scenes, an immense amount of effort went into making the night possible. Anita wishes to extend a deeply personal and heartfelt thank you to her Mum Cushla, her daughter Abigail, and friend Trish, whose tireless work and support in setting up the venue ensured the evening ran seamlessly.

In a touching gesture of appreciation, each guest was gifted a beautiful pink soap, which was generously supplied by Holly at FIGG.

Anita would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their immense generosity: Beauty Elixir, Helensville Mechanical, Eleventh Hour, Parakai Four Square, Helensville PaperPlus Select, Fifth Hair Studio, Kaipara Medical Centre, Huapai Copy & Print, Kaipatiki Hot Springs, The Red Door Café, Super Liquor Helensville, and Osteoh.

A deeply appreciative thank you goes to the team at The Original Kaipara Tavern, who graciously hosted the gathering at their venue and provided complimentary arrival drinks. This thoughtful gesture instantly set a warm, welcoming tone for the night. Guests also raved about the exceptional catering provided by Kaipara Kauta. Additionally, a special note of personal thanks goes to Bob Burton for his generous donation of live plants, several of which have already found new homes in gardens across the neighbourhood.

Overwhelmed by the kindness, empathy, and collective effort displayed by the community, Anita is incredibly thankful to everyone involved. She looks forward to organizing and supporting future Pink Ribbon fundraising campaigns to continue fighting the disease.

Sadly on Monday 25th May The Topp Twins' management company confirmed that Dame Jools Topp, after 22 years of suffering from breast cancer, had died peacefully at her home on Saturday with her twin sister Dame Lynda Topp and brother Bruce Topp,



close friends and pets by her side. Jools gave Lynda an envelope and asked her to read it to the public. "I thought it would be something really special for me, to tell me how much she loved and cherished me," Lynda said of the envelope, but instead, Lynda has revealed her late twin sister, left behind a letter asking her: "If you get a chance Lynda, could you thank New Zealand for me?" "And so right now New Zealand, I'd just like to thank you for being there for us for over 40 years, We couldn't have done it without you. You made us who we are, you made us the Topp twins," Dame Lynda told 1News.

Many Helensville locals will remember Jools fondly.

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Everyday stories matter

Te Awaroa Museum is inviting the community to help preserve the stories, memories and history that shaped Helensville and the wider Kaipara.

While major events often make it into the history books, it is the everyday moments that truly bring the past to life. The roads people lived on, the neighbours they knew, the clubs they belonged to, the jobs they worked, and the stories shared around kitchen tables all form part of our district's identity.

The Museum team is hosting upcoming community history open days where locals can share memories, identify photographs, fill gaps in local knowledge, and help preserve stories that may otherwise be lost over time.

"We are not only interested in major milestones," the team says. "We also want to capture the ordinary parts of life because those are often the details future generations find the most fascinating."

The Museum would especially love to hear from people with:

- Family photographs and albums
- Letters, invoices, maps or memorabilia
- Memories of schools, sports clubs, churches and community groups
- Stories connected to local businesses, farming and workplaces
- Recollections of growing up in Helensville and the surrounding districts

Whether you have researched your family history before or simply have stories to share, everyone is welcome.

Community history gatherings will be held at Te Awaroa Museum on:

- Friday 19 June at 11am
- Friday 17 July at 11am. A light lunch will be provided.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Shona Addison: shonaaddo@gmail.com 021 0222 3044

Te Awaroa Museum is located at 98 Mill Road, Helensville.



Helensville Library and Service Centre update for June

Dog registration renewals:

Notices for dog registration renewals will be sent this month. You can make card payments with us. You can also renew your registration online. If you prefer to pay in cash, you have your renewal notice, with a barcode, and no details have changed – you can renew your dog registration at any NZ Post Shop, including Helensville Paper Plus Select.

Save the date:

Our tenth annual Soft Toy Sleepover will be on Thursday 9 July. This is the day before the Matariki holiday, so the toys will be with us for two nights this year.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details closer to the date. facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre.

Regular events: Our regular programmes:

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.

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

Lego and Duplo Club: Saturdays, 10.30am to 12noon.

Book Chat: Thursday 25 June, 10am to 11am.

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

Getting in contact:

The Helensville Library and Service Centre is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. If you want to be sure that someone will help you, please use these numbers: Auckland Council: 09 301 0101 (toll free and available 24/7) Auckland Libraries: 0800 695 427

If your question is directly related to Helensville Library – you can email us on: helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Other contacts:

AT (Auckland Transport):

AT is responsible for all the region's transport services, from roads and footpaths, to cycling, parking and public transport.

09 355 3553 - at.govt.nz

Venue Hire:

The Venue Hire team provide a 24-hour, seven days-per-week service to help Aucklanders book and access any of Auckland Council's 90 community venues with 162 bookable spaces. [09 370 2030 aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/community-venues/Pages/default.aspx](http://093702030.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/community-venues/Pages/default.aspx)

Watercare Faults: 09 970 1467 - watercare.co.nz/ - Waka Kotahi (NZTA): Waka Kotahi is responsible for issues on the state highways, which includes Mill Road and Commercial Road in Helensville. 0800 44 44 49 - nzta.govt.nz/ - Our hours are: Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm. Saturday: 9am to 1pm.

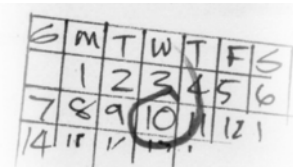
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for any updates: facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre

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

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What's happening this month



Monday, 1 June, Kings Birthday

Sunday, 21 June, 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 duo Darren and Michelle, 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.

Migrant exploitation - When work isn't fair

Last month we briefly covered: *Understanding migrant exploitation in New Zealand — and what you can do if it happens to you or someone you know.*

What does exploitation look like?

This month we cover the issue in much more detail.

Speaking up and getting help

Migrant exploitation should be reported. Doing so can help protect the worker involved and may prevent the same situation happening to others.

Reports can be made to **Employment New Zealand**, either online or by calling **0800 200 088**. Interpreters are available, so workers can speak in their preferred language if needed.

A visa designed to protect workers

If a migrant worker holds an **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)** and needs to leave their job because of exploitation, they may be able to apply for a **Migrant Exploitation Protection Visa**.

This visa allows workers to leave an exploitative employer quickly and stay legally in New Zealand while they look for a new job. It is usually valid for **up to six months**, or until the expiry of the worker's current visa—whichever comes first.

To apply, workers must first report the exploitation to Employment New Zealand. If the situation is confirmed, they will receive a letter that can be used to apply for the protection visa through Immigration New Zealand.

Support while finding a new path

Leaving a job due to exploitation can create financial stress, and the Migrant Exploitation Protection Visa does not automatically provide financial support. However, there may still be options.

Some workers seek assistance from their embassy, community groups, or family networks. In certain circumstances, migrants may also be able to apply for an **Emergency Benefit** through Work and Income. Information about this support is available online or by calling **Work and Income on 0800 559 009**, where interpreters can also be arranged if needed.

A new law protecting workers' wages

Recent law changes also strengthen protections for workers. It has become a criminal offence for employers to intentionally

withhold wages or deliberately fail to pay workers what they are legally owed, unless they have a valid reason.

This includes pay agreed to in employment agreements, as well as pay required under laws such as the **Minimum Wage Act** and the **Holidays Act**.

It also means that when someone leaves or resigns from a job, they are **entitled to receive their final pay**.

Knowing your rights matters

No one should feel trapped in an unsafe or unfair workplace. Understanding your rights and knowing where to seek advice can help workers take steps toward a safer and fairer working environment.

If you're unsure about your situation—or concerned about someone else's—it can help to talk to someone who understands the system and can guide you through your options.

Need more tips? Contact CAB for free, confidential info and advice on freephone **0800 367 222**, online at **cab.org.nz** (send a message or speak with a volunteer on live chat), or visit one of our eight CAB locations around the North Shore & Rodney: **cab.org.nz/find-a-cab/**.

CAB Helensville Location: Office Hours: Mon–Fri : 10am–1pm, Sat: 10am–Noon. JPs are available on these days.



Not sure? Ask us.

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 Helensville | Hibiscus Coast
 Northcote | Takapuna | Wellsford
0800 367 222 | www.cab.org.nz

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 Browns Bay 09 479 222, brownsbay@cab.org.nz
 Glenfield 09 444 9451, glenfield@cab.org.nz
 Helensville 09 420 7162, helensville@cab.org.nz

Hibiscus Coast 09 426 5338, hibiscuscoast@cab.org.nz
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Beyond the ball - Student resources and university preparation

by Sequoia Thomson, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Seems like the school year is moving even faster than I predicted, and we are already almost halfway through term two!

While quite a few things are currently happening within our school, including a plethora of exciting Tira events, one of the most awaited is the Ball. Both the Ball venue, date and theme have been disclosed, with the theme being a tropical one sure to warm the evening in the midst of the cold winter - A night in Paradise, on July 4th!

Tickets are already out for sale, and I want to remind students who want to attend that you will be unable to unless the Ball contract, emailed to you from the school, is filled in and submitted by the 29th of May. In terms of partners, if you want to bring one who's external to the school, you must fill in their details within the ball contract - but once they are approved by our senior leadership team, you are good to go!

As part of our student leadership team and the ball committee, we are hard at work trying to put together a fabulous time for the students, but as I am sure many people recognise, costs are higher than ever. Whilst yes, I know the tickets are expensive, I want to reassure those who are unsure that every dollar of your money is paying for your experience, from the venue, to the decor, DJ and food. I promise that we have tried to make it the most affordable price we were able to, and I think in comparison to some schools, with ticket prices reaching as high as \$230, we are doing *quite* well.

On another exciting note, our year 12 and 13 students are starting to head into a very intense, but incredible time in their lives - beginning the transition into our lives after high school. Over the course of term two, there were multiple different university seminars held in the Library during whanau time, including UoA, Otago, and Vic. For students wanting more information than this, head to your university of interest's information or future students section. This area is dedicated to incoming students and holds all the information you need, from guides on application to financial budgeting. If you have questions, email their student services or admissions office; they are there to help and *want* you to apply. I also strongly suggest a meeting with Mrs Neville, who is doing a wonderful job as our school's careers counsellor!

If university just isn't the path of your choosing, she will be able to inform you of alternative pathways into the future of your choosing, such as apprenticeships and trades.

For students experiencing financial difficulty who are worried about affording university, student loans and scholarships are both huge possibilities for financial aid, and there are millions of dollars invested into scholarships each year. For students who need a guide to student loans, such as study link loans, MoneyHub is a free New Zealand-based resource that provides students with research-backed financial guides, which are a huge help, especially if you don't have someone there to help you! In terms of scholarships, every university has a page dedicated to its available scholarships, and for scholarships external to the university, Studyspy is a fantastic tool, one I personally have very much taken advantage of.

Good luck, good day, and I shall see you next month!

ANZAC Day and Mother's Day at Craigweil House

The past few weeks at Craigweil House Home and Hospital have been filled with meaningful moments, good company, and plenty of fun activities for both residents and staff.

For ANZAC Day, residents helped make decorations around the home and enjoyed getting involved in a baking session led by our Diversional Therapist. Some residents even had a go at making ANZAC biscuits themselves, which everyone enjoyed with a nice cup of tea afterwards. We also held a special ANZAC church service where residents and staff came together to reflect and remember.

We also recently celebrated Mother's Day with a lovely afternoon tea. Our chef made a beautiful cake especially for the occasion, and everyone enjoyed spending time together over tea and treats. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a photo presentation featuring mums from around the facility, including both residents and staff. It brought lots of smiles, laughter, and special memories as everyone watched the photos together.

It has been wonderful seeing everyone come together and enjoy these special occasions as a community.









If you would like to see what we offer at Craigweil House, you are always welcome to drop by for a visit and we would be happy to show you around.



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We're well into winter now and somehow we've blinked and landed halfway through 2026.

The mornings are dark, the heaters are running, and the rain is doing its thing, but the energy across our community feels anything but cold.

We've been busy behind the scenes, and June brings some meaningful updates to share with you. A lot of this work has been months (and in some cases years) in the making, so it's a good feeling to see it come together for the Northwest.

Emergency Hub Steps Into Action: We're one step closer to launching a fully-resourced Business Emergency Hub for the Northwest. Thanks to the Auckland Emergency Management Local Preparedness Fund, we've received four emergency kits that will be stationed at the hub once it's operational. Real resources our community can tap into when things go sideways.

Our Executive Committee has also signed off on installing a backup generator so the hub stays powered through outages. The generator will also be available under certain conditions between emergencies. More details on that soon.

Watch this space for updates and photos as the kits arrive and the generator goes in. This is the start of building a more resilient, better-prepared Northwest.

Backing Our Community Patrols: Safety matters to all of us, residents and business owners alike. We're proud to confirm our continued support for our two local community patrols: North West and South Kaipara.

These patrols are quiet but powerful. Extra eyes and ears on the ground, a real deterrent to crime, and a presence that retailers and residents right across the area genuinely value.

To everyone who volunteers, thank you. We see you and we appreciate every shift.

Calling All Northwest Locals: Community Forum Taking Shape
Are you passionate about the future of your neighbourhood?

Whether you're a resident, part of a local group, a school, an emergency service, or just someone who wants to stay informed, the Northwest Community Forum is being formed and we want you at the table. The Forum brings people from across Northwest Auckland together to:

- Share important updates on transport, housing, planning, and more
- Ask questions and raise local concerns
- Connect with council, developers, and emergency services
- Make sure our voices land where they count

Quarterly meetings: Real conversations. Community-driven action. If you're keen to join or want your group represented, get in touch through our Facebook page or send us a message. Let's build a stronger, more connected Northwest together.

Santa Parade Grants Approved: We're delighted to confirm our continued support for our region's much-loved Santa Parades. This year, \$7,000 in grant funding will be shared between the Kumeu Santa Parade and the Helensville Lions Santa Parade.

These festive events are more than seasonal celebrations. They draw hundreds of families into town, create lasting memories, and give local businesses a real boost in the lead-up to Christmas.

We're proud to help bring the magic to life again, and we can't wait to see our streets filled with music, joy, and a good dose of Christmas spirit.

Did You Know? The Story Behind Mount Rex: Mount Rex in Helensville was originally called Mount Rix. The wharf and a nearby railway station were both named after George Rix, a local property owner, when the North Auckland Railway line extended to Kaukapakapa in 1889. The wharf opened in April that year, and over time the name shifted from Rix to Rex.

Mount Rex played a real role in the early days of Helensville. The town was established as a kauri logging settlement in 1862 and grew into a regional centre for the south Kaipara through the 1870s, built on timber and shipping. Later, sand extraction became a major employer, with processing facilities right near Mount Rex.

Today, the site is managed by Atlas Concrete as the Kaipara Harbour sand processing unit, where Mount Rex Shipping supplies a significant amount of premium sand to Atlas Concrete. A small piece of local history still shaping the place today.

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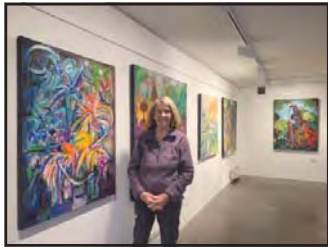


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ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

Our exhibition 'Impressionist Paintings' by Patricia Brickell is on now until 13th June. Patricia is sister in-law to late Barry Brickell, well known NZ potter. Patricia's practice extends to writing and poetry which accompany her paintings throughout each gallery room.



Festival of Photography 2025

Festival of Photography is an annual calendar event at the Art Centre exhibiting Kaipara College photography students, highlighting local talent in our youth, additionally community photographers are included in the show making for a diverse range of imagery. Exhibition 'F-Stop' is 17th June – 4th July, opening event 19th June 5-7pm with Kaipara College music students performing live. Entry details for Festival of Photography, and Matariki are on our website for artists to enter work into these two shows for June and July.

FREE art and creative group every Wednesday 11-1 'Gas Bag' at the Art Centre, BYO art and craft, tea and coffee provided



Time to start thinking about Arts in the Ville 2026! Our annual Art Trail that runs over Labour Weekend in October. Please email for enquiries or join our mailing list for the most recent updates! Visit artcentrehelensville.org.nz to sign up to monthly news.

For the Kids! Every school holiday we offer free workshops for parents and Tamariki to come and give art a go! Next holidays are the beginning of July, keep an eye out for details on what new creative programme we will be offering for you to participate in.



Project Teen collaborative sculpture

Term two kids and youth afterschool programmes. The end of term comes around quick! If you have been interested in enrolling your kids into one of our afterschool programmes, enrolment cut off is 8th of July, spaces fill up fast so send your enquiries through early if interested. Tuesdays and Thursdays for ages 6-11, Wednesday teen class for ages 12-17. Join the creative adventures and be part of exciting projects at the Art Centre!



Afterschool kids



Sayers says it

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

The people have spoken, and Auckland Council would be wise to listen carefully.

The overwhelming rejection of the Mayor's proposed 7.9 per cent average residential rates increase should serve as a wake-up call for anyone who believes Rodney residents are quietly accepting the status quo.

The message from our communities was clear: people are deeply concerned about affordability, fairness, and whether Auckland Council is genuinely listening to outer areas like Rodney.

Following consultation on the proposed rates increase, around 90 per cent of submissions opposed it. That reflects growing frustration from ratepayers who feel they are continually being asked to pay more while receiving less in return. It is the same sentiment I regularly hear at local ratepayer meetings across Rodney.

What stood out most was not opposition to investment itself. Rodney residents understand roads, water systems, drainage, river clearances, flood resilience, and transport infrastructure all require funding. However, many submitters questioned why the proposed increase was largely tied to operating the City Rail Link when rural and outer communities will see little direct benefit.

For many residents, the daily reality remains potholes, unsafe roads, inadequate stormwater systems, unreliable public transport, and infrastructure struggling to keep pace with growth. Communities see billions invested in the CBD while longstanding local issues remain unresolved year after year, including the lack of meaningful investment into improving unsealed rural roads.

The consultation also highlighted growing anxiety from households already under financial pressure. Families, retirees, and residents on fixed incomes are increasingly asking where the limit is, particularly after significant rates increases last year.

Importantly, the feedback was not all pessimistic. People want good infrastructure and value for the rates they pay. I support reviewing the rating system, including increasing the Uniform Annual General Charge, as a way to spread the burden more fairly across Auckland while helping reduce pressure on Rodney ratepayers. Rodney residents are not asking for special treatment. They are asking for fairness — and that expectation is now firmly embedded across our communities.



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Winter Bees live longer and are fatter

Winter honey bees are quite different from summer bees, not just their behaviour but also their physiology. A bit like me putting on an extra layer of fat over the winter, bees increase their fat body cells. These cells contain vitellogenin which are a store of energy and nutrients to help the worker bee survive overwinter without using up too much stored honey or bee bread. Summer bees typically live for up to 42 days, or four to six weeks. They work themselves to death maintaining the colony and collecting the honey harvest for winter stores; this allows winter bees to work less hard and live for four to six months. These bees are female worker bees; the other female in the hive, the queen, will continue for several years until she is replaced with a newer more productive queen. The boys or drones live for up to two months but are usually kicked out of the hive in late autumn unless it is a mild winter.

Honey bees have been perfecting this lifestyle for 25 million years, so as long as their beekeeper has prepared them for winter by ensuring they have stores and the varroa mites are under control they will likely survive until spring. The other bees in Aotearoa have different lifestyles, they are mostly solitary bees rather than social. For them a mated queen emerges from solitary hibernation in the spring and then starts to build a nest; this stage progresses quite slowly as it is just her doing the mahi. She builds individual cells, lays an egg in each and after provisioning with honey and pollen, caps them. She continues to build up the colony until the workers start to emerge who then help to forage and build cells; the colony then starts to grow exponentially throughout spring and summer. The queen will then start to produce drones and then gynes (fertile females). The gynes mate and then go and hibernate alone. The original nest usually dies out over winter and in the spring the hibernating queens awaken and start the cycle again. This process is broadly followed by the 29 species of native bees in New Zealand, as well as bumblebees and wasps.

There are two things that we can do to help these over-wintering insects. The first is to ensure that they have somewhere to hibernate undisturbed over winter. Bare banks, under hedges, unkempt areas of the garden, rotten logs are ideal places for these insects to burrow into until they emerge in early spring. Providing these places is great but leaving them undisturbed is very important. Lawns, weed matting and bark cover can be like a desert to these insects. The other thing that you could do is to provide suitable plants that flower in late autumn and early spring. With these milder winters I have observed bumblebees in my garden in winter, they love the creeping rosemary and dwarf bottlebrush plants that flower all year round. Creating little niches for our flora and fauna to flourish helps to maintain our biodiversity and a healthier environment around New Zealand. What better way to understand more about the environment and bees than to learn how to be a beekeeper? Beekeeping courses usually start in the spring, so now is a good time to start planning. You could also join your local bee club to learn more.

*Ken Brown; Beekeeping Tutor with Land Based Training Ltd. & President of Auckland Beekeepers Club
ken@ministryofbees.co.nz*



Connection update

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



Regular events:

Wednesday Raranga/flax weaving - by appointment - individuals or small groups. Learn the basics, putiputi/flowers and kono/basket including harvesting and tikanga. Contact Heather 0220366985

Friday Sewing Circle - 10am to 1pm, \$10 for a 2 hour session. Bring your machine and your mending or a project. Also Dresses for a Girl Around the World, Pacific cohort. Chrissy 0274 671843.

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

Introduction to Rongoa Rakau

(Native Tree Medicine)

Explore further the use of some common rakau including kawakawa, koromiko and kumarahou.

Learn to make an infusion, decoction, tincture and balm.

Access literature.

Consider further education.

Saturday 13th June '26

10am till we finish or I tell you to go if it's getting late :)

Cafe onsite.

\$65

Ph/txt Heather 0220366985 to attend.

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Principal Jane Coup

From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk

The Future at Kaipara College

Shortly, the final ERO report for Kaipara College will be published, and I want to take this opportunity to speak to our community openly and honestly about what it means for us.

We acknowledge that the report identifies areas where we need to improve. This is not something we shy away from. ERO has given us a valuable opportunity to reflect, to take stock, and to align our planning firmly with what matters most: the outcomes of our akonga. That kind of clear-eyed examination is not always comfortable, but it is necessary, and we welcome it.

It is important, though, that our community understands what the report represents and what it does not. It is a line in the sand. It shows a picture of Kaipara College as it was at the time of the review. It does not capture the improvements we have already made since then, and it does not yet show the future we are actively building together. That future is what excites me, and it is what I want to share with you today.

Our kaiako, our board of trustees, our senior leaders, and I are genuinely energised by the work ahead. A mandate for change is also a mandate for possibility, and we intend to embrace it fully. Some of what I am about to describe is already underway. In Term 3 this year, we will launch a Gifted and Talented programme for Year 9 and 10 students. We are also implementing robust data tracking for our senior students so that no one falls through the cracks, identifying those at risk of not achieving and responding early, with purpose and care. Alongside this, we are establishing a mentoring programme for students who need extra support, wrapping them in the kind of relationship and guidance that makes a real difference.

We are also establishing a Teaching and Learning Committee, dedicated to defining what excellent teaching practice looks like at Kaipara College, ensuring it aligns with the Teacher Council Professional Standards, and making sure that standard is embedded and consistently achieved by every teacher in our school. And we are looking outward too, exploring how we can expand the pathways available to our rangatahi. An Agriculture Academy, a Building Academy, a rumaki or Reo Rua are all possibilities on the horizon. These will take shape with the support and input of our wider community, and I look forward to those conversations.

I also want to say something personal. To every member of our staff: thank you. It is genuinely hard to work as tirelessly as you do and then face criticism. The measure of a team is how it responds to that moment, and our staff have responded with openness, with professionalism, and with a commitment to moving forward. I am proud to work alongside every one of you.

Our school motto is Navigate to Success. ERO has shone a light on our path and helped us find our direction. We are all in this together, kaiako, akonga, whanau, and community, united by the same goal: high achievement and equitable outcomes for every student at Kaipara College.



Kaipara College Student Leaders at the Dawn Service.



Kaipara College students acted as flag bearers, wreath layers, Ode reciters, Anthem singers, and student speakers at ANZAC Day Commemorative Services.

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

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MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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From Penk's Pen CHRIS PENK – MP

Stage 1 complete, Stage 2 under way!

By Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

As our Kumeu and Huapai communities continue to experience rapid development, I know many of you feel the daily strain of traffic congestion and infrastructure lag. Your frustrations are completely valid, and I want to share some tangible progress on the projects and policies that are set to relieve that pressure.

First, I am thrilled to report that Stage 1 of the SH16 safety improvements—the critical stretch between Huapai and Waimauku—is now officially complete. This is a massive milestone that delivers immediate safety upgrades, flexible median barriers, and widened road shoulders for our local commuters.

Even better, we are not losing momentum. Funding has been approved for Stage 2, which will tackle the heavily congested corridor between the Brigham Creek roundabout and Kumeu. We are moving forward with plans to upgrade this section from two lanes to four, build a new roundabout at the Coatesville Riverhead Highway intersection to improve traffic flow, and create a dedicated shared path for walking and cycling. While the necessary property acquisition phase will continue before construction begins, our commitment to breaking this transport bottleneck is absolute.

As our communities grow, so does the need for local infrastructure. On that note, I want to sincerely thank everyone who has reached out with feedback following the announcement of the new secondary school in the Kumeu-Huapai area. Many of you have approached me with thoughtful questions about school uniforms and very valid concerns regarding how new catchment areas might impact our existing schools in the region. Please be assured these issues are being carefully looked at, and I have been actively passing your concerns on to ensure our community's voice is front and centre during the planning process.

Beyond physical infrastructure, I am relentlessly focused on cutting the bureaucratic red tape that delays local development. Recently, I announced a major expansion to the self-certification scheme for skilled plumbers and drainlayers. For rural and expanding areas like ours, this is a game-changer. Trusted tradies should soon be able to sign off on their own work for common onsite systems—including septic tanks and stormwater retention tanks—as well as the majority of residential plumbing. By bypassing lengthy council inspection delays, we are working to get homes finished faster and reduce the cost of building.

While we build for the future, we must also preserve what makes our region special. I was even fortunate enough to catch up with a local park ranger out at Muriwai and we had a great conversation about how the final stages of the track renewal are being carefully timed in response to observed nesting patterns. It's a brilliant example of balancing necessary construction with the protection of our incredible native wildlife.

Now, while central government builds the infrastructure, it is you who build the culture so thank you for your continued resilience and community spirit and I look forward to the ideas, comments, and suggestions that continue to come through our electorate office in Kumeu.

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Chris is talking to the park ranger at Muriwai



Chris is talking to a constituent meeting.



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A practical win for drivers

By Simon Court, ACT MP

For a household running two cars in the northwest, the WoF changes taking effect this November mean roughly \$650 back over the next decade in inspection fees alone – before counting the time spent in half-days rearranged around a vehicle that was always going to pass.

Running a car here is hardly optional. It is how people get to work, get to school, get to the doctor, and run a business. So every WoF appointment has a real cost – time off work, rearranged school pickups, another \$65 fee. For tradies and contractors running multiple vehicles, that multiplies fast.

New Zealand has required more frequent vehicle inspections than comparable countries – including Ireland, Germany, Japan, and Australia – despite those countries achieving similar or better road safety outcomes. The rules have not kept pace with how much more reliable modern vehicles actually are.

From November, that changes. Most light vehicles under 14 years old move to two-yearly WoF inspections. New vehicles won't need their second WoF for four years. Older vehicles and motorcycles move from six-monthly to annual checks.

The Government's cost-benefit analysis puts the savings to drivers at between \$2.6 billion and \$4.1 billion over 30 years – from lower inspection fees, less time spent on compliance, and fewer unnecessary repairs.

The safety case holds up. Vehicle defects contribute to 3.5 percent of death and serious injury crashes in New Zealand. Speed contributes 23 percent. Alcohol and drugs, 34 percent. That does not mean inspections are unimportant – it means they should be focused where the risk actually is. Under the new settings, older and higher-risk vehicles still get inspected more frequently. Inspections will also be updated to check certain modern safety systems, including Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, which current WoFs don't cover at all.

When the Government consulted, 74 percent of submitters supported reducing inspection frequency for lower-risk vehicles. Drivers already knew the existing rules were more frequent than they needed to be.

Most drivers who look after their vehicles have always done more than the minimum. They notice when something feels wrong. They replace tyres and fix brakes without waiting for a letter from NZTA. A WoF should be a backstop, not a substitute for judgment.

This is a rule that stopped making sense and has now been fixed. For people in the northwest, it means less time jumping through hoops and lower costs on vehicles they depend on every day.

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SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART

Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set
June '26			
1 Mon	1104 3.7 2327	0724	1712
2 Tue	1140 3.7 -	0725	1712
3 Wed	0001 3.9 1215	0725	1712
4 Thu	0036 3.8 1253	0726	1711
5 Fri	0112 3.8 1332	0726	1711
6 Sat	0152 3.7 1416	0727	1711
7 Sun	0237 3.6 1504	0728	1711
8 Mon	0327 3.6 1559	0728	1711
9 Tue	0423 3.6 1657	0729	1710
10 Wed	0522 3.6 1759	0729	1710
11 Thu	0623 3.7 1902	0730	1710
12 Fri	0725 3.8 2006	0730	1710
13 Sat	0827 3.9 2107	0731	1710
14 Sun	0929 4.0 2205	0731	1710
15 Mon	1027 4.0 2258	0731	1710
16 Tue	1121 4.0 2350	0732	1710
17 Wed	1214 4.0 -	0732	1710
18 Thu	0039 4.2 1305	0732	1711
19 Fri	0129 4.1 1356	0733	1711
20 Sat	0218 4.0 1447	0733	1711
21 Sun	0309 3.8 1539	0733	1711
22 Mon	0401 3.7 1632	0733	1711
23 Tue	0454 3.6 1726	0734	1712
24 Wed	0548 3.5 1822	0734	1712
25 Thu	0643 3.5 1920	0734	1712
26 Fri	0739 3.5 2016	0734	1712
27 Sat	0833 3.5 2107	0734	1713
28 Sun	0923 3.6 2152	0734	1713
29 Mon	1008 3.6 2233	0734	1714
30 Tue	1048 3.7 2310	0734	1714
July '26			
1 Wed	1126 3.7 2345	0734	1714
2 Thu	1203 3.7 -	0734	1715
3 Fri	0019 3.9 1239	0734	1715
4 Sat	0055 3.9 1317	0734	1716
5 Sun	0132 3.8 1356	0734	1716
6 Mon	0213 3.8 1439	0734	1717

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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
Drain Unblocking	ClearFlow Drain Unblocking	021-223-1513
Early Learning Centre	Active Explorers	09-222-3277
Early Learning Centre	Gumboots	09-411-9038
Electrician	Sean Gray Electrical	0274-784-396
Filtration	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Flooring	North West Flooring Xtra, 10 Shamrock Drive, Kumeu	09-412-8188
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

Ink and Toner	Huapai Copy & Print	09-412-8882
JP's	Lindy McDermott	022-049-2871
Lions Club of Helensville	Chris Clark	027-646-3324
Market Opportunity	Car Boot/ Garage Sale	021-488-427
Markets	The Village Market	0274-831-542
Markets	Waitoki Village Market	Gill 420-3301
Mechanical Repairs	Helensville Mechanical Services	420-8177
Mechanical Repairs	Parakai Automotive	09-420-7224.
Mower Repairs & Sales	Lifestyle Mowing Machinery	0274-955-948
MP	Chris Penk	021-0230-6106
Paddock Mowing	Tractor mowing with mulcher	0274-669-464
Pet Spa	Groomville Boutique	021-246-5354
Plant Centre	Kaipara Coast Plant Centre	420-5655
Plumbers	ATL Plumbing Ltd	021-245-9677/420-7868
Plumbers	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	KPL Ltd	420-9108
Pumps	Mid West Pumps	420-7694
Real Estate	Barfoot & Thompson-Kelly Davison	0274-670-175
Real Estate	Burmester Realty	420-8360
Real Estate	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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