

The Helensville Community News

Issue 201 - August 2026

Helensville Library and Service Centre update for August

Our 11th annual Soft Toy Sleepover was held over Matariki weekend. The weekend began on Thursday afternoon, with a Matariki themed storytime in Art Centre Helensville, with a chance to see the amazing glow in the dark lanterns made by the children crafternoon-ers, with the help of Yvonne, Art Centre Helensville Manager. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to this year's soft toy sleepover: Yvonne, the Helensville library staff, and Anne's whanau. Photos are available on our Facebook page: facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre



Adult Crafternoon: Special Guest!

On Thursday 6 August, Shona Addison from Helensville Show, will be a special guest at our adult crafternoon session (3pm to 4.30pm) to talk about show craft judging.

Everybunny Reads!

Saturday 15 August, 1pm to 3pm (after the library closes for the day): Come along and adopt a soft toy bunny! Promise to read to them every day. Get a pre-adoption check from Vets North Helensville. Gift bags available, with some gifts sponsored by Paper Plus Select Helensville. Other activities will be available that afternoon. Aimed at children 6 to 12 years old.

Limited to 50 children. Register in person, or 0800 695 427; helenlib@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

2026 / 2027 rating year

The rating year is from 1 July to 30 June. The first invoice for this rating year will be sent in early August, with the first instalment due Monday 31 August. Are you eligible for a property rates rebate? Find out more on the Auckland Council website, or ask us at the service centre desk. The threshold has changed for SuperGold cardholders. If you have received a rebate in previous years, you should receive a pre-filled in form with your first invoice.

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/property-rates-valuations/help-low-income-households-community-groups/apply-rates-rebate/

Regular events:

Our regular programmes:

Kids Time, for under 6s and their grown-ups: Wed, 10am to 10.30am
Minecraft Club: Wed, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Crafternoon for adults: Thur, 3pm to 4.30pm.

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

Baby Play, under 6s and their grown-ups: Fri, 10am to 11am.

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

BrainCharge: Wed 12 August, 11am.

Book Chat: Thur 27 August, 10am.

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. Tel: 09 355 3553 Web: 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. Tel: 09 370 2030 Web: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/community-venues/Pages/default.aspx

Watercare Faults: Tel: 09 970 1467 Web: watercare.co.nz/
Anne Coppell

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

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

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Letter to the Editor

Your opinion matters



Dear Editor,

We would like to apologise for a small mix-up in our recent submission.

In June, we sent through our regular Business North West update, but unfortunately attached the June 2025 edition in error. We understand this may have caused some confusion for readers, and we sincerely apologise for that.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify our position regarding upcoming community events. Due to significant budget pressures and the need to make some tough decisions, the Business North West is not able to fund Christmas parades in 2026.

That said, we are very pleased to hear that the Helensville Christmas Parade has secured a sponsor – this is wonderful news for the community. We have also submitted funding requests to the Rodney Local Board to support each parade, and we hope these applications will be successful.

We appreciate your understanding and ongoing support, and we remain committed to supporting our local business community in every way we can.

Kind regards, *Danielle Hancock. Business North West*

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What's happening this month



Tuesday, 4 August, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm: Speaker - Geri and Sue with Colin for moral support, **Title -** Discovering Waikumete Cemetery. Guests are very welcome. U3A 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 Heather Hyland heathertrish.hyland@gmail.com 021 829454

Tuesday, 11 August, West Auckland (Kumeu) Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge, 9.30am – 1pm, Kumeu Showgrounds, Gate 2, Access Road, Kumeu. This is a chance for primary and intermediate aged kids (years 3-8) to get involved in New Zealand's biggest mud run series in a version tailored especially for them! The Carpet Court Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge includes a stunning finishers medal for all competitors, the chance to experience the challenging obstacles, scenic courses, hot showers at the end and spot prizes galore - as well as a school prize for the brightest dressed crew! To register a school group, please email: info@eventpromotions.co.nz Online entries are available for competitors not entering with a school group. For more event information visit the

event website: www.eventpromotions.co.nz/tough-guy-gal/
Friday 14 August, Open Circle Free Community Food Truck Night, 5pm – 8pm, Rautawhiri Park, Open Circle Tour is heading out of the city and rolling into Rautawhiri Park, Helensville — for a free community food truck night you won't want to miss. Local food trucks, good people, and a Friday evening in your own backyard. No entry fee. No catch. Just great food and great vibes. Helensville is Stop 03 on the Open Circle Tour — a series of 17 free food truck nights running across Auckland from August to November. This one's for you.

Sunday, 16 August, 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 Gillian & Mike, free hair plaiting for the kids, and delicious food and coffee. You can find fresh local produce and plants, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, gifts, collectibles, pre-loved items and more. If you are looking for a fun and relaxing way to spend your Sunday morning, you might want to check out this Village Market. No dogs please with the exception of assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking – proceeds to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts and St. John youth. For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz.

Tuesday, 1 September, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm: Speaker - Teresa Burns Audiologist. Topic: Hearing Health. Guests are very welcome. U3A 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 Heather Hyland heathertrish.hyland@gmail.com 021 829454



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Gillian and Mike
Free hair plaiting

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KAUKAPAKAPA TAKEAWAYS



Welcome to our new store. We opened our store on 19 May, 2026 and look forward to staying for many years to come.

We are proud to serve the community with daily fresh Kebab foods and soon will be including Burgers, Coffee, Tea and a variety of snacks to our range as requested by our ongoing regular customers.

Our menu currently includes:- Delicious Chicken, Lamb, Falafel and more in wraps, on rice and on chips. We have a variety of side dishes, from fries, wedges and more plus our very yummy garlic pita bread and our very own delicious hummus



Come and try out our delicious iSkender.

Some of our regulars keep coming back for this as an ongoing addition to their weekly menu

Imran and Carole are dedicated and hard working, always willing to go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction.

Imran's knowledge of the Turkish food industry surpasses many and Carole's 30 years of management skills keep everything ticking over.



Soon we will be fully up and running with Google and other social media sites - keep an eye out for this coming soon.

.....



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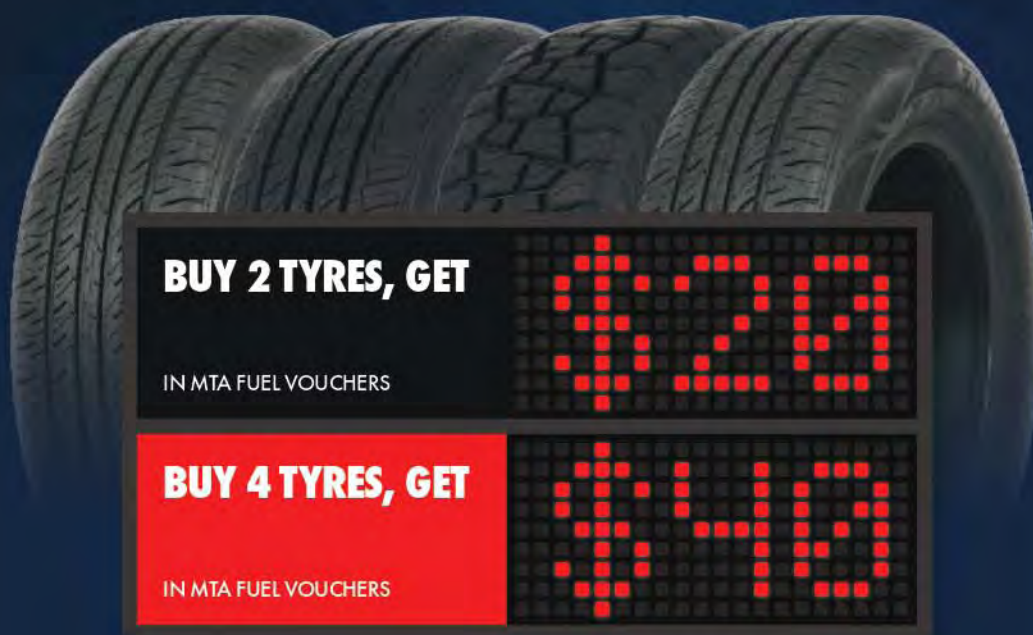
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The Importance of Rest: Avoiding Burnout in a Busy School Year

by Sequoia Thomson, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Yet another fresh start is here - Isn't it just crazy that term three is upon us!

I know I seem to reflect on the passing of time in each article I write, but time never ceases to fascinate me. But as John F. Kennedy said, "We must use time as a tool, not as a couch."

Term three is upon us, and it's back to the grind!

To all the other year thirteens around me just dreading term three, and the ill-fated mock exams, I really do understand. Mock exams I find are so much worse than the real thing, simply because you are SO much more unprepared. Plus, the management of all the exam prep, and your normal schedule including work, sports, socialising, rest, chores, etc. is hard to keep already. I recommend starting prep early to reduce your stress levels, and pacing it out - remember not to burn yourself out. Rest, rest, rest!

But, look on the bright side - we are almost through the season of sickness. I myself wrote this with a strong case of the sniffles, a smacking of headache, and a decent dose of brain fog, which, whilst not too bad compared to the rest of my family, is nonetheless a hindrance to my day-to-day activities. When it comes to healing from the common cold, I do find that honey, lemon, and ginger are the way to go. While Lemsip *does* contain actual medicine and is good for temporarily relieving the symptoms of a cold, I just cannot stomach the taste of the drink. It just truly is awful. The natural healing effects of a honey lemon ginger tea include the anti-inflammatory properties of ginger, the immune-boosting vitamin C of lemon, and the antibacterial soothing of honey, all combined to create the perfect drink for the mid-winter shivers.

Now, a quick reminisce over the last few exciting events of term two. The ball went flawlessly, with all the gorgeous students trussed up in a range of beautiful suits and dresses - just wonderful! I must say the food was all very delicious too, quite good picks on the student leaders' behalf. There was a nice range of salads and meat dishes including a potato salad and a chicken curry, as well as a wonderful sticky date pudding for dessert (there were other desserts, but the pudding had my heart). We all danced our hearts away over the course of the evening - and many pairs of heels came off in order for the fun to continue. Overall, a genuinely fun evening which I hope lived up to the expectations of the many who attended.

A little suggestion for those of you who are a little financially drained following the ball, you are able to sell your ball dress for a pretty similar price as you bought it on online resale apps such as Depop, or designer warehouse - I personally have sold and bought multiple items on both apps, and have found my experience overwhelmingly positive. Though it is hard to let go of such a gorgeous gown, they are often not worn again and find themselves sitting in wardrobes un-worn. Maybe someone else will find their dream dress in yours!

Best wishes to all for the coming month; let's hope it goes as smoothly as the last!

Focus On: Helensville Mechanical Services

Building Trust, One Vehicle at a Time



When Sam and Brent Hayfield purchased Helensville Mechanical Services in 2019, they weren't just buying a workshop—they were investing in the community they proudly call home.

Since then, the business has grown from a team of three to eight staff and recently expanded into a second building with nine vehicle hoists. Despite that growth, their focus remains unchanged: providing honest advice, quality workmanship and friendly, personalised service.

Located on Mill Road, Helensville Mechanical Services carries out servicing, Warrant of Fitness inspections, diagnostics, tyres, wheel alignments and mechanical repairs for all makes and models. The team also looks after fleet vehicles, tradie utes, classic and performance cars, and proudly serves as local AA Roadservice contractors.

For Sam and Brent, what sets their business apart isn't just the work they do—it's how they treat people.

"We know that visiting a mechanic can sometimes feel overwhelming," says Sam. "Our job is to explain what's happening, answer questions and help customers make informed decisions without feeling pressured."

The couple's journey into business ownership began when Brent left managing large Auckland workshops to work closer to home and spend more time with their young family. After becoming second-in-charge at Helensville Mechanical, the opportunity to purchase the business arose, and they decided to take the leap.

While Brent's passion lies in the workshop, mentoring technicians and ensuring every job is completed to the highest standard, Sam focuses on developing the business, improving customer experience and finding new ways to support both the team and the wider community.

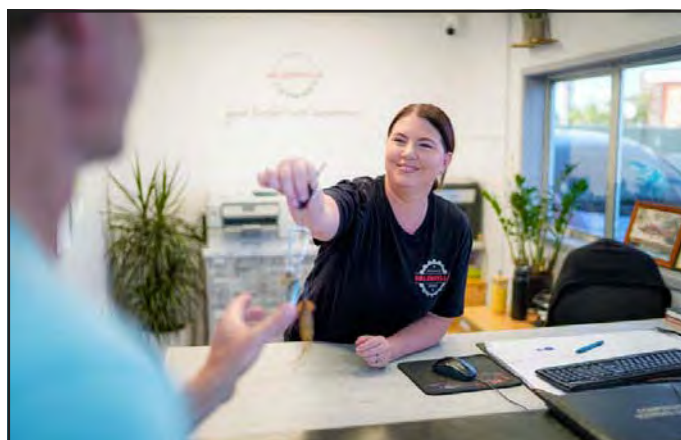
That community connection is something they value deeply. Helensville Mechanical regularly hosts community car meets, Ladies' Nights and Teen Driver evenings, while also supporting local organisations and promoting other businesses through networking events and social media.

"We've received so much support over the years," says Sam. "Giving back and helping strengthen our local community is incredibly important to us."

Outside of work, family comes first. The Hayfields enjoy camping, spending time with friends and making the most of everything the area has to offer. Brent's love of cars continues beyond the workshop, while Sam is passionate about supporting local businesses and raising awareness of chronic illness through her personal project, Sam & Smudge.

Looking ahead, the couple plans to continue investing in their team, improving their services and building on the trusted reputation they've earned.

After all, for Sam and Brent, success isn't just about repairing vehicles—it's about building lasting relationships and making a positive difference in the community they love.





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North West Country is Now Business North West

We have a new name. From this month we are Business North West, and over the coming year you will see us slowly change over our signs and marketing collateral as we introduce our new logo, colour scheme and look.

"After all these years our name finally says what we actually do," says General Manager Danielle Hancock. "Same team, same patch, same commitment to the businesses that make this place what it is."

Part of the work will also involve an upgrade to the website, with a focus on improving the member directory so it works harder for the businesses listed on it.

Confidence Returning for North West Businesses - Business owners across the region are telling us trade is picking up, and the national numbers back it up, with card spending edging up, business confidence lifting through June and fuel prices easing off. "I've been out talking to business owners across the region, and the mood has been shifting," says Danielle. "People are telling me they're seeing more orders coming through which is a nice change."

New Tourism Membership Class Opens - We are now offering a Tourism Membership class to help deliver our tourism action plan.

Tourism members get marketing and promotion across the region, assistance to create packages and link to our tour operator partners, access to the Destination Partnership Programme we have with Tataki Auckland Unlimited, and a listing on our new tourism website.

Membership is graded based on the size of your business, from \$500 a year for emerging operators through to \$2,500 for major tourism stakeholders. All tourism fees are placed in a secure bank account and only allocated to tourism spend, so you know exactly where your money goes.

If you are a tourism operator and want to register your interest, email our General Manager today on manager@northwestcountry.co.nz

The Year Ahead - We started a new financial year in July, so here is what is on the horizon for the team:

- The Destination Management Plan will be completed and launched in October, and we will then start on the new tourism website
- Flooded businesses will be visited for the flooding toolkit pilot, with visits complete by September

- Our High Performance cohort will receive 12 months of specialist coaching through the PerformIQ programme
- Rebecca Beavis, our new Membership Ambassador, will reach out to every single one of our members
- We will complete our rebrand and then commence the website upgrade

Advocacy Delivering Results - We have been busy advocating on your behalf to the Rodney Local Board, and they have been listening. The Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 contains reference to North West tourism and economic improvements for our town centres.

We have made a submission to support these initiatives and sought further support to improve our water infrastructure, especially for our commercial areas that do not have town supply water or sewerage.

AGM Date Confirmed - Our AGM is set for Tuesday 13 October at The Riverhead. We will send out more information about this closer to the time.

Danielle

Business North West. Supporting the people who power our local economy.

General Manager, Business North West
manager@northwestcountry.co.nz

Bundling with Helensville Floral Art

Following on from last month's *Twist & Turn* workshop, the Helensville Floral Art Club met for another creative day, this time exploring the theme of **Bundling**.

Guest tutor **Sharon Banton** from the Hibiscus Floral Art Club showed members how to create contemporary designs using bundles of hydrangea pruning's, bamboo, branches, and flax caddie, combined with foliage and flowers. As always, each arrangement was unique, reflecting the creativity of its maker.

We were also shown a new technique, weaving with twine and 6cm branches. A very special addition to our designs. It was another fun and inspiring workshop, with members learning new techniques while enjoying great company.

Next month the club will hold a friendly competition.

New members are always welcome. The Helensville Floral Art Club meets on the **third Thursday of each month** at the **Helensville Masonic Hall, Kowhai Street**. Come along and discover the enjoyment of floral art.



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Sayers says it

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

We must keep Muriwai's recovery moving. When I spoke at Auckland Council recently, I called for staff to accelerate projects that will help Muriwai continue its recovery from the devastating 2023 storms.

While much has been achieved over the past three years, many residents are still living with the trauma and practical impacts of that devastating event.

Muriwai has endured more than most communities could imagine. The landslides devastated homes and neighbourhoods, and we tragically lost two volunteer firefighters who gave their lives trying to help others. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Many property owners who accepted voluntary buy-outs have now been able to move on. However, many others remain in the community and continue rebuilding their lives.

The message I've consistently heard is that Auckland Council was not adequately prepared for an emergency of this scale. The initial response was too slow, communication was poor, and confidence was shaken. While significant improvements have been made, Council must now focus on the practical steps that will help Muriwai recover faster.

Two priorities are rebuilding the Sand Dunz Café, which closed because of safety concerns, and reopening the gannet colony walking tracks.

The Sand Dunz Café is far more than just a building. It is a community meeting place, a destination for visitors, and an important symbol that Muriwai is rebuilding. Every effort is being made to accelerate this project.

Fortunately, the Council has been working constructively with the local community on the café's redesign. For more details please feel free to contact the Muriwai Community Association via the email: muriwaicommunityassociation@gmail.com

All of the gannet colony tracks will reopen to the public well before summer, with the refurbished café anticipated to be open by summer next year. Temporary food vendors will continue to operate until then.

Recovery is about more than replacing buildings and infrastructure. It's about restoring confidence, rebuilding community spirit, and showing the people of Muriwai that Auckland Council stands alongside them.

I will continue advocating for practical measures that help Muriwai, and our other communities, recover ensuring they receive the attention and investment they deserve



**Kindred
Family
Services**

is moving to Kumeu

Kindred Family Services is pleased to announce that from 5 August 2026, it will be operating from its new premises at 993 Waitakere Road, Kumeu.

For more than six years, Kindred Family Services has provided vital support to individuals and whānau experiencing family harm throughout the Northwest Rodney region. While the organisation's location is changing, our commitment to supporting the community remains unwavering.

Kindred Family Services provides free and confidential services to people across the region, from Taupaki to Makarau and everywhere in between. Services include family harm support, safety planning, advocacy, refuge, social work support, counselling, programmes and therapeutic services for tamariki, rangatahi and adults.

Executive Director Barbara Williams says the move marks an exciting new chapter for our organisation.

"Our new premises will provide a modern, welcoming space that better supports our team and the people we work alongside every day. While we are leaving Helensville, our commitment to the communities we serve remains exactly the same. We will continue to provide outreach and community services across the entire Northwest Rodney area and remain dedicated to ensuring individuals and whānau can access support when they need it most."

The new centre has been carefully chosen to provide a more central location for the organisation's service delivery area, enabling improved access for both community and clients while supporting the future growth and sustainability of services.

Kindred Family Services acknowledges the support of the Helensville community over the years and looks forward to continuing its important work from its new base in Kumeu.

Family harm can affect anyone. No one should have to face it alone. Kindred Family Services remains here to walk alongside individuals and whānau on their journey towards safety, healing and wellbeing.

If you or someone you know is experiencing family harm, support is available.

Contact Details:

Kindred Family Services

Phone: 0800 437 033

Website: www.kindredservices.org.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.



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ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

We had the most wonderful school holiday workshops! Tamariki and their whanau came and enjoyed free creative programmes and what an outcome! We are heading into a full term of 3 day a week afterschool classes then we look forward to offering more free workshops next school break!

'Scratch, Scribble and Sketch', 'Stick Friends' and 'Portrait Pillows'



Our exhibition for August is 'We Read', in conjunction with We Read Auckland month. The artwork is themed around text, we will have member artists, community artists and our youth will have an exciting surprise on display! This was a great hit last year, for the opening we held an 'open mic' poetry and book reading night which was greatly received by the community! We had people reading memoirs, poems, performances and writing they did many moons ago being dusted off and presented on the night. This year we cannot wait to see the line up! The exhibition dates are 12th – 29th August, 'Speakeasy' open mic opening night Friday 14th August 5-7pm all welcome!



'We Read Auckland' 2025

Te Taiao

Our mural is now up!!! This has been a significant achievement for the Art Centre, after 3 years of working to get to this point. We are so happy to see it come to life! Thank you to Auckland Council for funding the mural, and the sincerest thanks to Mei Hill for gifting her design to the Community and centre building.

The title of the mural is Te Taiao, which refers to our 'natural environment'. Mural design by Mei Hill, Ngati Whatua Tūhura, mural artist Ross Liew of over two decades experience and Sade and Aroha Hill-Hobbs from Kaipara College also offered two days as work experience in the creative industries.

We hope to add more of Mei's designs to the building and



Beekeeping & Community

Much like us bees are social beings. Society matters; we thrive on being part a community. The act of beekeeping may be solitary, but the art of beekeeping is communal and is improved with interaction. There aren't many hobbies that can reap the rewards of beekeeping. Buckets of honey may seem the obvious one but increased flowers and fruit set in your garden from pollination will surprise you. Might as well have a meaningful hobby rather than collecting corkscrews or rubber ducks. Beeclubs bring together people from all walks of life who might never otherwise cross paths; we're all about the bees – contentious topics are usually left at the apiary gate. Beekeepers come from many different directions; common interests include gardening, woodworking, environmental care, a love of nature, crafting with beeswax or baking with honey – there is so much to get out of beekeeping. Beekeeping builds life skills that extend beyond the hive - patience, attention to detail, humility, with a love and never-ending wonder of nature. Learning on the job is fine; picking it up as you go, learning from your mistakes is an easy way but often leads to the loss of a hive and bitter disappointment. The easiest way to master a hobby is to learn from a passionate mentor or tutor.

Beekeeping is a simple pleasure, that like many things in life is better appreciated when you have mastered many of its intricacies. Understanding the lifecycle and behaviours of bees will help you to be a better beekeeper. Knowing what can harm bees and how to counter these threats. Appreciating honey and wax with the amazing things that can be created from them.

Beekeeping clubs around the country are now organising their spring classes. I'm fortunate to be teaching at Auckland Beekeepers Club with their Beginners Beekeeping Class (2 days & 2 evenings), and with the more extensive Land Based Training Ltd Apiculture level 3 course that runs throughout the season on two Saturdays a month from August to May. All aspects of beekeeping are covered including equipment, bees, honey and plants.

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

surrounding area in the upcoming future, watch this space!

We are now taking entries for Arts in the Ville 2026! If you are an artist, artisan or maker market artist and wish to be involved this year, please visit Arts in the Ville website, or Art Centre website under events for a copy of the entry form. Submissions are due by the 15th August.

Arts in the Ville is a significant annual event, now in its 11th year, it runs over Labour Weekend 24th – 26th October. We are very fortunate to have Rodney Local Board fund this year's event, the local board have been our number one funder now for over a year, and we are so grateful for their support. Activities we will be offering is artists talks, demos, open studios and makers markets, food trucks and creative play activities for kids! Last year we found offering a wider range of generational programmes really helped the whole whanau come out for the art trail weekend. Additionally, is the Treasure Hunt and Paper Boat race run by Jeff Thomson, the Art Centre will be holding Paper Boat workshops for kids prior to the event to help with participation! What's new, community invite to 'decorate your letterbox!' This will help colour our town and we will have a prize for the best dressed letterbox!

Arts in the Ville 2025, David Black and Jörg Schulze





From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk



Principal Jane Coup

Navigating their first 10 months: A message from the board

As I settle further into my first year at Kaipara College, I thought it was a good moment to ask our School Board members about their experience over the last ten months: what has stood out, what they've prioritised, and what they're looking forward to.

Here's what they had to say. For board member Christine, the biggest shift has been understanding the difference between governance and management, and everything that comes with it: the responsibilities, the accountability, the legislation. "It's been a journey with a very sharp learning curve, that hasn't stopped and will continue into the future," she says. What has stood out most for her, though, is the people. "It's been wonderful meeting the other board members with the common goal of wanting the best for our students and our community. There's amazing talent, skills, enthusiasm and energy around the table."

By far the biggest task facing the new board was one it had to tackle almost immediately: appointing a new principal. As board member Tom puts it, "the most important decision a school board has to make, by far, is the appointment of a new school principal," and the board faced that exact challenge within weeks of being formed. After a thorough recruitment process, I was appointed, coming across from Waitakere College, and started in time for the beginning of the new school year. I'm grateful for how welcoming the board, staff and community have been as I've settled in, and for the trust they've shown me. That recruitment process also gave the board an early and valuable window into the community's hopes for the college. As Tom says, "the board was able to use the community consultation performed around the principal appointment as a real accelerator." Feedback from parents, students and the wider community helped the board understand what people wanted to see, and where the opportunities for improvement lay.

With a principal now in place, our attention has shifted toward attendance and academic performance, and to getting a clearer picture of the school's finances, policy and governance. That groundwork is now feeding into a five-year Strategic Plan, which the board and I are developing closely together. It will draw on the community consultation already carried out, alongside further input from students, teachers and whanau, and will set out our priorities and the actions we'll take to reach our goal: making Kaipara College the school of choice for families in the area once again.

Looking ahead, board members are looking forward to steadier waters and to being present for the moments that make up college life. Christine reflects that the road may not always be smooth, "there are bound to be rough seas and tough times," but at the heart of it, the board is simply made up of parents trying to do their best for our students and community.

Tom looks forward to seeing the board out and about supporting students beyond the boardroom, from the Powhiri and prize-givings to the sidelines of rugby and football, the netball and basketball courts, exhibitions, drama performances, Waka Ama, and cheering on the bands at Smokefree Rockquest. Fellow board member James was quick to add one more to the list: "don't forget the surf team!" James says Tom's reflections sum things up

well, and that what has stood out most for him has simply been the challenges and learning that come with being on the board, and getting to know the people on it, in the school, and across the community. I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with a board so committed to our students and our community, and to sharing more as our Strategic Plan takes shape. Facebook: facebook.com/KaiparaCollegeHelensville Instagram:



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Horticulture has been hosting some orphaned lambs as we begin trialling Agriculture as a subject.



Year 10 Science students investigating the voltage measured in different fruit

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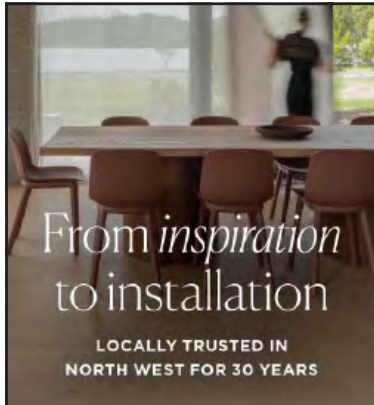
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From Penk's Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

By Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

It is fantastic to be able to spend an extended time in the beautiful Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate after a few busy sitting weeks in Wellington and a recent trip to the NATO Summit in Turkey. I have thoroughly enjoyed being back and driving around our local winter landscapes and catching up with constituents—even if I'm a bit harder to spot right now in my unmarked car!

Speaking of getting around the electorate recently, it is great to see so much activity and earthworks up and down the electorate, even if it means navigating the inevitable "stop/go" signs. While inconvenient for the daily commute, they are ultimately welcome signs of tangible progress laying the foundation for our future. And as such I am delighted to confirm that the next stage of vital SH16 upgrades are fully funded and moving ahead, and the Mill Flat Road Bridge is finally receiving its finishing touches (see cheesy photo!). While we might all quite understandably wish these projects were completed faster, steady progress wins the race and allows for the vital community engagement that keeps our democracy robust and grounded.



This activity is also a welcome reminder that, despite recent economic hurdles and fuel shocks, our local businesses are getting back to basics, and I remain quietly confident in a bright future for our great corner of the country.

There is still much more to be done though, of course, so please keep the conversations coming and I look forward to seeing you out and about or hearing from you through the electorate office in Kumeu soon.

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If you'd like to learn more about me and Little Moo's, you can visit my educator profile on Home Grown Kids:
<http://edubase.co.nz/educators/nicole-w/>

I'd love to chat about your family's childcare needs or arrange a visit so you can see Little Moo's for yourself.
 Feel free to send me a message.
 I look forward to meeting you and your little one!



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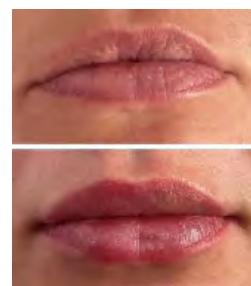
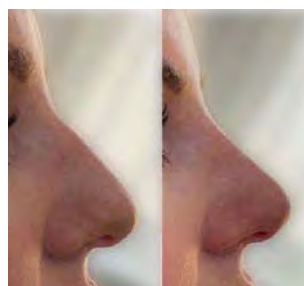
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Unlock the North-West's potential

By Simon Court, ACT MP and candidate for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

I'm a civil engineer by trade. Engineers are trained to solve problems.

When a road is overloaded, you build another route. When a community floods, you fix the stormwater system. When thousands of new homes are planned, you build the infrastructure first.

That's common sense. Unfortunately, common sense has been missing from planning in the North-West for decades.

Successive governments have allowed housing to spread across Kumeu and Huapai without delivering the roads, flood protection and water infrastructure needed to support it. The result is what locals deal with every day - sitting in traffic on SH16, worrying about flooding, and wondering why nobody planned ahead.

State Highway 16 is the clearest example. Thousands more people use it every year, yet through-traffic is still squeezed through the middle of two growing townships on what is effectively yesterday's road.

People don't want another decade of studies, consultations and promises. They want the bypass built. The same goes for flood protection.

The 2023 floods showed what happens when development gets ahead of infrastructure. Now another major housing proposal has raised understandable concerns because people have seen what happens when the roads, pipes and stormwater aren't in place first.

As an engineer, I've seen that good infrastructure and good environmental outcomes usually go together. Better stormwater systems, restored waterways and sensible flood management protect communities while making room for growth.

The obstacle isn't engineering. It's politics.

For too long, governments have made it too difficult to build the projects New Zealand needs. The RMA rewarded delay instead of delivery. Infrastructure funding relied on today's ratepayers paying for tomorrow's growth. Projects that should take years have taken decades.

That's exactly what ACT is changing. We're replacing the RMA so infrastructure can actually get built. We're backing modern infrastructure funding so growth pays for growth instead of dumping the cost on existing ratepayers. And we're making it easier to get on with projects instead of getting buried in process.

People tell me New Zealand is moving in the right direction. They're also asking why it still takes so long to get anything built.

That's where ACT makes a difference. Our role in Government is to keep pushing for practical reforms that get projects moving, remove unnecessary barriers, and make sure good ideas don't spend years tied up in red tape.

The North-West shouldn't be Auckland's forgotten frontier.

With the right infrastructure, Kumeu and Huapai can become thriving town centres instead of traffic bottlenecks. Families should be spending evenings at home, not sitting on SH16. Businesses need certainty to invest. And when new houses are built, the roads and pipes should already be there.

That's what unlocking New Zealand's potential looks like.

The North-West has enormous potential. The only thing holding it back is politics. Let's get on and build it.



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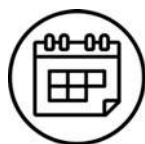
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SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART

Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set
August '26			
1 Sat	1219 3.9 -	0719	1735
2 Sun	0033 4.1 3.9	0718	1736
3 Mon	0109 4.0 1332	0717	1736
4 Tue	0148 4.0 1413	0716	1737
5 Wed	0230 3.9 1458	0715	1738
6 Thu	0919 3.7 1550	0714	1739
7 Fri	0415 3.6 1654	0713	1740
8 Sat	0522 3.5 1809	0712	1740
9 Sun	0640 3.5 1931	0711	1741
10 Mon	0801 3.6 2043	0710	1742
11 Tue	0910 3.8 2141	0709	1743
12 Wed	1007 4.0 2232	0708	1744
13 Thu	1057 4.1 2317	0707	1745
14 Fri	1141 4.2 2359	0706	1745
15 Sat	1222 4.2 -	0704	1746
16 Sun	0038 4.2 1300	0703	1747
17 Mon	0115 4.1 1337	0702	1748
18 Tue	0151 3.9 1414	0701	1749
19 Wed	0227 3.7 1452	0659	1749
20 Thu	0307 3.5 1537	0658	1750
21 Fri	0355 3.3 1634	0657	1751
22 Sat	0459 3.2 1750	0656	1752
23 Sun	0619 3.2 1912	0654	1753
24 Mon	0740 3.2 2015	0653	1753
25 Tue	0840 3.4 2104	0652	1754
26 Wed	0927 3.6 2145	0650	1755
27 Thu	1007 3.8 2222	0649	1756
28 Fri	1044 3.9 2257	0648	1757
29 Sat	1119 4.0 2332	0646	1757
30 Sun	1155 4.1 -	0645	1758
31 Mon	0008 4.2 1231	0643	1759
September '26			
1 Tue	0045 4.1 1309	0642	1800
2 Wed	0124 4.0 1349	0641	1801
3 Thu	0207 3.9 1434	0639	1801
4 Fri	0256 3.7 1528	0638	1802
5 Sat	0356 3.5 1637	0636	1803



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 Kaipatiki 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, helensvillerrailwaystationtrust@gmail.com, www.helensvillerrail.org.nz

Helensville River Valley Country Music Club Held 3rd Sunday of the month at Tennis Club Building, Rautawhiri Park. 1pm start. All Welcome Contact Marion 420-8867.

Helensville St John Youth: Ages 5-18 yrs see youth@stjohn.org.nz for more information. Monday 5.30-7pm during school terms, Makiri Street, Helensville. Contact: Carla. carla.lang@stjohn.org.nz

Hot Pool Stretching and Exercise Class: Every Tuesday 8-30-9.30am. Suitable for arthritis sufferers or those wanting to warm up these muscles and stay flexible. Lots of fun; pool noodles available and fully instructed. At Kaipatiki 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 Heather Hyland. heathertrish.hyland@gmail.com 021-829-454.

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Accountants	ECE Astute Accounting	420-7835
Agecare	Craigweil House	420-8277
Age Concern Rodney		09-426-0916
Beauty Therapy	Premier Aesthetics	www.premieraesthetics.co.nz
Birthing Centre	Commercial Road, Helensville	420-8747
Budget Service	Francis	420-7740
Business Hub	Business Northwest, Danielle	0204-0027-008
CAB	16 Commercial Road	420-7162
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Curtis	027-200-5456
Childcare	Little Moos - Nicole	021-161-9585
Chiropractor	Kaipara Chiropractic Healthcare	420-6224
Computer Repairs	Michael - Controlaltrepair	021-251-4138
Concreters	Brewis Concrete	021-992-590
Container Roofs	Container Roofs NZ	0274-669-464
Diggers	Helensville Diggers	021-454-793/420-7023
Drain Unblocking	ClearFlow Drain Unblocking	021-223-1513
Early Learning Centre	Gumboots	09-411-9038
Electrician	Templeman Electrical - Jordan	021-127-1708
Electrician	Sean Gray Electrical	0274-784-396
Filtration	KPL Ltd	420-9108
First Aid Kits	The First Aid Company	0274-759-598
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
Mower Repairs & Sales	Lifestyle Mowing Machinery	0274-955-948
MP	Chris Penk	021-0230-6106
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
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