

The Helensville Community News

Issue 204 - November 2026

Te Hapai Hapori | Spirit of Service Awards

On 1 October 2026, the 8th annual Te Hapai Hapori | Spirit of Service Awards were held in Wellington

A few months earlier, I had been invited to join the team presenting the yellow-legged hornet response for these awards. These awards recognise initiatives and individuals that deliver great outcomes for New Zealand and New Zealanders. Run by **Te Kawa Mataaho, The Public Service Commission** they celebrate the mahi of public servants that help to make New Zealand a better place for us all. The awards dinner was fully sponsored, meaning the event did not have to rely on government funding, and the food and wine were unsurprisingly excellent. I was confident that we would win. After all, killing hornets is much cooler than AI use by the Ministry of Justice or Health New Zealand.

I had a free afternoon following a midday flight down to our windy capital, so I raced around Wellington photographing decorated bee sculptures. Bee in the City, is a free, citywide public art trail featuring giant bee sculptures across the CBD, waterfront, and local gardens. I snapped 32 out of 50 before getting dressed for dinner. A couple more were added to my tally in the wee hours of the morning while out celebrating our win.

The overall winner received the Prime Minister's Award and the Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon awarded this year's Prime Minister's Award to the **National Infrastructure Plan** from the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihangā. The plan offers a 30-year, evidence-based roadmap to improve how infrastructure is planned, funded and maintained, supporting better long-term outcomes for New Zealand. They also won their category – Excellence in Public Policy Award.

All entries deserved to be there, it was a hard choice for the judges, the standard was very high. Other entries:

- Better Outcomes Award – **Clean Air Rotorua**, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, and National Public Health Service – Bay of Plenty and Lakes. This initiative is achieving long-term transformation in air quality by combining regulation, support and community partnerships to reduce pollution and improve public health outcomes.

- Maori Crown Award - **Takai Here**, Ministry of Social Development; Te Runanganui o Te Ati Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui; Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira. A trust-based, iwi-led collaboration, Takai Here drives intergenerational change through integrated kaupapa Maori approaches across employment, education, health, and wellbeing, enabling whanau to access opportunities, build capability and thrive.

- Public Sector Director of the Year Award - **Bill Moran MNZM**, Deputy Chair, WorkSafe New Zealand. Bill has strengthened board cohesion, sharpened focus on preventing harm, and upheld the importance of trust between regulator, workers, and industry.

- Young Leader of the Year Award - **Luisa (Lu) Avia**, Chief Advisor, Ministry for Pacific Peoples. A trusted and influential young leader, Lu operates at the highest levels of government

with confidence and humility and creates pathways that empower others across the public service.

- Lifetime Achievement Award is **Raj Rajasekar** for his work with Ministry for Primary Industries. For over five decades, Raj has dedicated his career to serving New Zealand through some of the country's most important international trade, food standards and biosecurity work.

- Innovation Award is the **yellow-legged hornet response**, Ministry for Primary Industries. Biosecurity New Zealand's response to the incursion of the yellow-legged hornet, using

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The Helensville Community News is published as an independent community newsletter in conjunction with the Helensville Community Website, www.helensvillecommunitynews.co.nz, to inform the residents, ratepayers and visitors of events and proposals that affect the local area. Circulation 4,500 — pass it on to your friends.

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Te Hapai Hapori | Spirit of Service Awards -

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advanced technology, large-scale field operations and strong community partnerships to protect key industries and strengthen New Zealand's biosecurity resilience.

A reminder that as the season starts and our bees are building up numbers to collect nectar for your honey, so too could hornets be coming out of winter (if there are any). I reckon that we have killed them all, but we really have to be sure, so please keep an eye out. If you see a suspected yellow-legged hornet or nest, take a photo if it is safe to do so and report it immediately to Biosecurity New Zealand by calling 0800 809 966 or online at MPI Pest and Disease Reporting.

Ken Brown is a beekeeping tutor, President of Auckland Beekeeping Club and Auckland Regional Hornet Champion, tirelessly raising awareness and support for the yellow-legged hornet response.

Armistice Day Commemoration 2026

This year the Kaipara Memorial RSA's Armistice Day Commemoration will be held at the Parakai Cenotaph, Kaipatiki Reserve, 150 Parkhurst Road on Wednesday the 11th of November. There is no march, so the parade will form up in front of the Cenotaph at 10.45am, ready for the Last Post at 1100 hours. Medals should be worn, if wearing your relatives' medals, wear them on your right side.

The Kaipara Memorial RSA extends an invitation to everyone, including pupils from the local schools, to the 108th Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War One, with the Armistice being signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

The ceremony will commence at 10.50 am with an opening address by the KMRSA President Rex Keane, followed by an opening prayer, the National Anthem, the laying of wreaths, the Act of Commemoration and Dedication, two minutes silence, the Last Post, the Ode of Remembrance, the Reville, and the Lament, ending with the Benediction. Light refreshments and drinks will be served at the KMRSA at 11.30am.

If you are intending to lay a wreath, email kaipararsa@xtra.co.nz with your details. (Wreaths are your care).



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What's happening this month



Sunday, 15 November, The Village Market, Helensville Showgrounds, Railway St., Helensville, 8.30am – 1pm. A monthly event that takes place on the third Sunday of every month (except for February) at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds. A lively and friendly market that offers a variety of stalls, Music from duo Gillian and Mike Lea, Summer Seed Sowing Workshop with Cat from Winddale Farm, 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.

Sunday, 15 November, Treasures from Home, Waimauku War Memorial Hall, 24 Waimauku Station Rd, 1pm – 4.30pm. Brought to by NorWest Heritage Society Inc. We have organised a meetup to allow others to see your treasured heirlooms and collections from the past and present and share your passion and memories of them. *This is NOT a competition, and they will not be judged.* Some suggestions are Toys, models, ornaments, photographs, postcards, pictures, art, albums, tools – farm and household, clothing, hats, uniforms, handicrafts, quilts, sewing, crochet, collections that mean a lot to you. Make a display card with details of your items. Tables and chairs, and/or floor space are available for your display. So, bring your cherished memories, meet old friends and make new ones, a true Devonshire Tea will be available for purchase, complete with real clotted cream for the scones.

If you wish to participate, please contact Bunty Condon 027 440 0044 or Peter Biggs 027 571 9937.

Friday, 20 November, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm: **Additional event** Seminar on the art of Monet and Picasso with Chris Ellwood. Nov 20th 10.30-12.30. For further information contact Bev Silvester-Clark 0274.316 205 Non members welcome. 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

Friday, 27 November, Christmas Parade, Commercial Road, Helensville, 6.00pm – 7.00pm, Whether you're entering a float, supporting a local group, or simply coming along to enjoy the festivities, there's something for everyone. Bring a chair, find a spot along the parade route, and enjoy an evening full of Christmas magic and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you in Helensville for another unforgettable Christmas Parade!

Saturday 28 & Sun 29 November, Helensville Lions Club – Summer Book Fair, Sat 9am – 4pm, Sun 10am – 3pm, Helensville A&P Showgrounds, All books \$2, Children's Books \$1 – Eftpos available

Tuesday, 1 December, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm Members Christmas party at the RSA Monthly meetings recommence in February. 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

Friday, 25 December, Christmas Day

Saturday, 26 December, Boxing Day (Observed Monday 28 December)

Thrive Youth Country Hoedown

On Friday 25 September, Thrive Youth hosted a Country Hoedown at Helensville War Memorial Hall, bringing together young people, families and members of the wider community for an evening of country-themed games, dancing and fun.

Everyone was encouraged to dress up, with prizes for best dressed and best dance moves. A highlight of the evening was a special line-dancing session led by Kylie Aspinall from Home-grown Line Dancing, who generously volunteered her time to teach the group some moves. It was great to see young people, parents and volunteers all getting involved.

We're also grateful to the Rodney Local Board, whose funding



towards the hall hire allowed us to offer the event free to the community.



the message of hope found in Jesus. We welcome young people from Helensville, Parakai, South Head, Kaukapakapa, Waioneke and surrounding areas.

Olivia Barber

Kids & Youth Events coordinator - Magnify Church



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Our Village looks ahead with the support of the Lions Club of Helensville

After nearly five years of connecting local families and providing practical support, Our Village is looking forward to its next chapter, with the Lions Club of Helensville coming on board to support its ongoing weekly space.

Based at St. Matthew's Church Lounge in Helensville, Our Village provides a regular Thursday morning drop-in where parents, caregivers and tamariki can connect, access school uniforms and children's clothing through koha (donation), use the cloth nappy library and find out about local services and community activities.

"Our Village has always been about the little things that can make a big difference. Sometimes someone needs a uniform item, sometimes they need help connecting with the right service and sometimes they just need a cuppa and a chat," says founder Kayla Clements.

Over the years, Our Village has worked alongside local organisations and community groups, including South Kaipara Good Food, South Kaipara Clean Ups, Kindred Family Services, Parent Aid, Te Ha Oranga, Citizens Advice Bureau, Helensville Library and St. Matthew's Church.

The initiative has also supported community events and activities,

including Matariki celebrations, community dinners and family-focused initiatives. Our Village also ran a pop-up whānau shop and community hub next to the MSD/WINZ offices, which highlighted the need for accessible, practical support within the community. While the financial and operational pressures made the pop-up unsustainable long-term, Our Village continues to provide support from its regular home at the church lounge.

Our Village is incredibly grateful to Nicky and Harcourts Helensville for almost five years of regular support towards its weekly space.

"Their support has helped us establish and maintain something valuable for local families, and we're genuinely thankful for the part they've played in getting us to where we are today."

With Harcourts' regular support concluding in October, the Lions Club of Helensville has agreed to cover the rental costs for the next 12 months, with the arrangement to be reviewed after that period.

Kayla, who has been a Lions member since May 2025, is pleased to see the two community networks come together.

"Our paths have crossed through the wider community for years, and I think there is something really positive about local organisations supporting each other and working together."

"Our Village isn't about one organisation doing everything. It's about connecting people and organisations and making it easier for local families to find the support and resources they need."

Looking ahead, Our Village welcomes interest from local businesses who may be able to help with morning tea supplies, including tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. Donations of suitable items are also appreciated, along with volunteers who can help sort and organise school uniforms or assist with social media and marketing.

"Our Village is built on community support, and every contribution helps us continue what we do."

Our Village meets every Thursday, 9.30am–12.30pm, at St. Matthew's Church Lounge, 60 Garfield Road, Helensville. Everyone is welcome to pop in. Our Village – For every age, every stage, every journey.

Kayla Clements. 0220-392-096 . ourvillagenorthwest@gmail.com

Chris Penk
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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Welcome back for term four!

by Sequoia Thomson, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

Well, the two-week holidays in all their warm, summery glory have come to an end, and we are all back where we started. It seems like even the weather sympathises with our plight, as misty grey falls across the landscapes, and the crisp cold returns.

Moving on from my slight poetic moment, looking over the first few weeks of this term, we had the MAD awards. A wonderful affair with good snacks; congratulations to all our award winners, who worked so hard to be where they are!

We also held the Auckland Live Showdown Awards Night on Wednesday, 21st October. Also, an incredible event, another congratulations is in order not only to the entire drama and music department for having such a marvellous number of nominations, but also to those who claimed an award.

On another note, over the next few weeks, students will be intensely studying ahead of our oncoming exams. As I have mentioned in previous articles, finding a personalised study technique is a brilliant way to assist in really making your study hours count - less time procrastinating and staring at blank pages, or hours reading the same two chapters over and over again.

Though I have already gone through self-care, time management, and study techniques, one thing of importance I have not yet mentioned when it comes to success is your mindset. Developing a strong mindset is not just about focusing on a singular grade, it's about building a lasting learning habit. How you view your own intelligence and ability to learn also strongly shapes how you study, handle difficulties, and perform in school.

By believing your intelligence and skills can be developed through hard work, good strategies, and consistency, you see mistakes as learning opportunities, you bounce back quickly and ultimately achieve much higher overall success. The key is to identify when set mindset thoughts and actions occur, and to consciously replace them with more growth-oriented thoughts and behaviours as they happen. Mindset plays the biggest role in your ability to succeed - it always comes back to the brain, after all.

I'll leave you with these parting words of wisdom by Buddha: *"The mind is everything. What you think you become."*

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New Tourism North West group ready to put destination plan into action

A new chapter for tourism in North West Auckland begins this November, with the launch of the **North West Auckland Destination Management Plan** and the first meeting of the new **Tourism North West** sub-committee.

The plan brings together work undertaken with tourism operators, communities and industry stakeholders to create a shared direction for the visitor economy. Business North West records show the development process included six workshops and 83 tourism industry contacts, with the plan adopted by the Business North West Committee in September 2026.

The aim is to build a stronger visitor economy while protecting the natural, rural and coastal character that makes North West Auckland distinctive. The plan also focuses on encouraging visitors to explore more widely, stay longer and support local businesses.

Tourism operators and partners will come together for the official launch at Kaipara Coast Plant Centre & Sculpture Gardens in Kaukapakapa on Thursday 12 November. The venue includes 3.5km of garden, sculpture and forest trails.

Alongside the tourism work, November will be a busy month for the wider business community.

On Thursday 12 November from 4.30pm, Gold Sponsor Smith and Partners Lawyers will host a workshop at the Kumeu Showgrounds on buying and selling businesses. The session will look at some of the issues business owners need to consider when buying or selling a business, while providing an opportunity to meet other local business owners.

On Tuesday 24 November from 5.30pm, BNZ will welcome the business community to its newly renovated branch for an early Christmas networking event hosted by Gian Krauer and Jason Corbett.

To book your tickets to any of our events head to <https://northwestcountry.co.nz/whats-on/>

Business North West has also completed its 2026 AGM. The AGM agenda included the Chair's Report, Treasurer's Report, approval of the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the Manager's Report.

Following feedback from members, Business North West is making Board packs and monthly financial reports available on its website, with the aim of making information about the organisation's decisions, finances and work easier for members to access.

Danielle Hancock, General Manager,
manager@northwestcountry.co.nz.

Helensville Floral Art Club – October 2026

Posies to Spread a Little Love

The October meeting of the Helensville Floral Art Club saw 10 members come together for a lovely community project, making posies to brighten someone's day.

A total of 70 posies were created using flowers and foliage gathered from members' own gardens. Once completed, the posies were scattered around Helensville, left in playgrounds, at bus stops, on tables and seats outside cafés, along walkways, and at RSA Drake Village for the elderly residents to enjoy.



Each posy was made with care and love, with the hope of bringing a smile to whoever discovered it. This thoughtful gesture was a wonderful way for club members to share their love of flowers with the wider community and spread a little happiness throughout Helensville.

A big thank you to all the members who contributed their garden flowers, foliage and time to make this special project possible. Sometimes, the simplest gestures can make the biggest difference!

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Plant Centre & Sculpture Gardens open 7 days 9am to 5pm ph 09 420 5655 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway, 4km north of Kaukapakapa Village www.kaiparacoast.co.nz		



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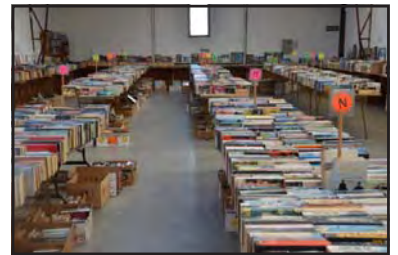


Helensville Lions Summer Book Fair

**Saturday 28th November – Sunday 29th
November 2026**

**Helensville A&P Showgrounds
"The Biggest & Best Book Fair
in the West!"**

The Lions Club of Helensville will once again be holding their November Book Fair at the Helensville A&P Association Showgrounds on the last weekend of November, Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th, opening at 9.00am on Saturday until 4.00pm and again on Sunday 10.00am until 3.00pm.



The last Book Fair held in May raised \$12,418 thanks to the support from our community and many others. The money raised went towards helping schools, organizations and individuals in our community that required assistance.

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

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



Small donations of books can be left at Burmester Realty, Helensville. For larger lots our shed, which is situated behind the Helensville Gull Petrol Station, Mill Road, is open every Tuesday afternoon between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Otherwise contact Chris on 027 646 3324, or any other member of the Helensville Lions.

Please note that the last date we are accepting books for this Book Fair is Friday 20th November. Sorry, but we cannot accept donations at the Book Fair.

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Sayers says it

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers. As of 1 October, one of the biggest changes to Auckland's local government structure since 2010 has taken effect, with significant transport responsibilities transferring from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council.

For most residents, the immediate change should be relatively invisible. However, responsibility for many decisions behind the scenes has changed.

Auckland Transport will focus primarily on operating public transport, including buses, ferries and trains. Auckland Council has taken over road and footpath maintenance and improvements, transport planning, project delivery, public parking, walking and cycling infrastructure, and other transport functions.

Councillors and Local Boards will have greater involvement in transport governance, policy and decision-making. The Mayor and Councillors will oversee arterial routes, while Local Boards will be responsible for local roads.

For Rodney, I see this as an important opportunity for our communities to have a greater say in transport decisions, with elected representatives more directly accountable for outcomes affecting local roads and transport networks.

Rodney has very different needs from Auckland's urban areas. We have an extensive rural road network, unsealed and sealed roads, growing communities, increasing traffic pressures and significant connectivity challenges. Our priorities are different from the inner city.

It also creates opportunities to improve value for money through standardised designs, lower traffic management costs, greater efficiency and increased use of local contractors, while ensuring communities are properly consulted on significant changes.

There will inevitably be some teething issues as the new arrangements settle in. Residents should now contact Auckland Council to report problems with roads, footpaths and street lighting. Auckland Transport remains responsible for public transport services.

Transport is one of the biggest issues facing our communities. Balancing the maintenance of existing infrastructure with investment in future needs will be critical.

The reform gives Auckland Council a greater role. Now we must ensure it delivers better value, better decisions and better transport outcomes for every Auckland community — including Rodney.

Pet Therapy at Craigweil House

There were plenty of smiles at Craigweil House when some very special four-legged visitors came to spend time with our residents.

Pet therapy is always a lovely opportunity to slow down, relax and enjoy some gentle companionship. Our residents enjoyed having the dogs and cuddly rabbits nearby, with lots of pats, cuddles and gentle strokes. For some, it brought back happy memories of pets they have loved over the years, while for others, it was simply a wonderful chance to enjoy the company of an animal.

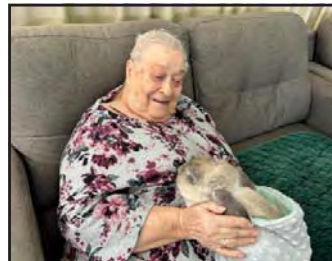
There was certainly no shortage of affection during the visit! Residents happily held the rabbits close, gave them gentle pats and enjoyed watching their furry friends. The dogs were just as popular, receiving plenty of attention and cuddles from our residents.

Visits like these bring a little extra warmth and happiness to the day. They create special moments of connection and plenty of opportunities for conversation, laughter and memories.

A big thank you to our furry visitors for brightening up Craigweil House. We are already looking forward to their next visit!

At Craigweil House, creating meaningful experiences and lasting memories is part of everyday life. Whether celebrating special occasions or enjoying visits from our furry friends, there is always something to look forward to.

If you are looking for a warm, welcoming place for yourself or a loved one, we invite you to come and see Craigweil House for yourself. We'd love to show you around. Ph: 09 420 8277



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Bee aware! Colour abounds!

Rodney Beekeepers Club, which was established in Helensville in 2014, has, for the second time, run a Community Colouring Competition in September to highlight NZ's Bee Awareness Month. Photos can be seen on the "Our Blog" page of our website rodneybeekeepersclub.co.nz.

Bees are a very humble yet vital part of our ecosystem. Our club meets monthly to support, encourage, educate and network with hobbyist beekeepers in the Kaipara/Rodney region. In recent years Honey and Bees New Zealand (formerly Apiculture New Zealand - ApiNZ) launched the annual September celebration of Bee Awareness Month.



Rodney Beekeepers 26 Colour Comp Leaders



Treasures from Home

Come and display your treasured collections and interesting heirlooms, and share stories about them with others

WHEN: Sunday 15th November
TIME: 1:00pm to 4:30pm
WHERE: Waimauku War Memorial Hall, 24 Waimauku Station Rd, Waimauku.

We have organised a meetup to allow others to see your treasured heirlooms and collections from the past and present, and share your passion and memories of them.
This is NOT a competition and they will not be judged.

Some suggestions are:

- Toys, models, ornaments
- Photographs, postcards, pictures, art, albums
- Tools - farming and household
- Clothing, hats, uniforms
- Handicrafts, quilts, sewing, crochet
- Collections that mean a lot to you

Make a display card with details of your items.

Tables and chairs, and/or floor space, are available for your display.

So. Bring your cherished memories, meet old friends and make new ones. A true **Devonshire Tea** will be available for purchase, complete with real clotted cream for the scones.

If you wish to participate, please contact:
Bunty Condon Ph: 027 440 0044 **Peter Biggs** Ph: 027 571 9937



NorWest Heritage Society Inc.
PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF NORTH WEST AUCKLAND
www.norwestheritage.org.nz

The club appreciates the assistance with distribution of entry forms by Helensville Primary School, Woodhill School, Parakai School, Helensville Library, Helensville Art Centre and Kaipara Coast Plant Centre.

From the 92 entries our bee club received, 16 prizes were awarded - 4 for each of 4 categories. At the club's October meeting on 7 October the excited winners were awarded their prizes. The prize-winners were as follows

Our thanks go to everyone who entered the competition. And may the colour of all local gardens keep attracting the real bees as they work their magic for us.



Category winners: above Senior, top right Adult, middle Middle and bottom Junior



Junior Category - up to & including 6 year olds left to right: 1st Madeline Knox, 2nd Elle McGrath (absent for photo), 3rd Leevi Abellana, HC Ella May Russell



Middle Category 7-10 year olds left to right: 1st Thisal Ayubowan, 2nd Georgia, Stringer (absent for photo), 3rd Marley Sienna Gear, HC Finn Bateman



Adult Category 18 - 108 year olds left to right: 1st Olivia Barber, 2nd Jax Lewin, 3rd Angela Davis (absent for photo), HC Tamara Wynyard



Senior Category 11 - 17 year olds left to right: 1st Hansana Ayubowan, 2nd Rhys Lowry, 3rd Miu Kishimoto (absent for photo), HC Matthew Wang



From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk



Principal Jane Coup

Tena koutou katoa, As our Year 13 students finish their time at Kaipara College, we asked our Student Leaders two questions: what is one of your best memories of Kaipara College, and what advice would you give to the Year 9 students joining us next year? Their memories centred on belonging, shared experiences and the friendships built through being part of something together. Their advice focused on getting involved, discovering who you are, setting high expectations for your learning, choosing your friends wisely and making the most of your time at school. I want to share their answers with our whole community.

Most of their memories were about time spent with others. Olly Smith spoke of growing together with the 1st XI Football team from Year 9 to Year 13, and Matthew B-C remembered Saturday morning football games. Blake Young recalled early morning CrossFit with Mrs Enoke and the Year 13 PE amazing race at Muriwai, where the second day was "lowkey suffering but that's what made it fun." May Nguyen and Monique Ross named the musical and our school productions. Yana Mitchell chose the Waka Ama national trips, and Kai Wilson the Japan rugby tour, Tira sports days and karaoke days. Georgie Collinge-Coker listed pride cards, cheap truck shop food, and her Year 9 friends kicking a ball around on the court "without a worry in the world."

Shekinah Lio Nautu described representing our kura at Secondary Kapa Haka Nationals in Tauranga this year, standing alongside his people and sharing our culture. For him, it was "more than just a competition."

These memories reflect Whanaungatanga, our people, and Kaitiakitanga, our place. The friendships, teams and groups our students belong to, and the places they spend time together, are a big part of their school experience.

The most common advice was to get involved. Kai's advice was simple: sign up for it all. Monique encouraged students to try every opportunity and not be afraid to ask questions, "otherwise you might miss out." Olly suggested trying as many activities as possible to discover what you truly enjoy, and Yana reminded us to be open to new opportunities and to change. May added that taking time to learn about yourself helps when you reach the senior school and begin preparing for your future, but to make sure you enjoy what you do.

This is good advice. Sport, culture, the arts and clubs give students the chance to build confidence, make friends and find out what they are good at.

Two student leaders gave practical advice about learning. Matthew urged Year 9s to understand the difference between Achieved, Merit and Excellence early, as it took him time to learn. Blake's advice was to aim for Excellence, because if you fall short, you will most likely still get a Merit. This reflects Angitutanga, our success, and the high expectations we hold for every student.

Georgie offered honest advice about friendships. She has seen people try too hard to fit in and make choices that did not serve them well. Her message is to choose your friends carefully and stay true to yourself. This connects to Aroha, our way, which includes caring for ourselves and each other and holding high expectations.

Shekinah's advice is a good place to finish: "don't spend your high school years trying to become someone people will remember but spend them becoming someone you'll remember." He encourages students to say yes to things that scare them a little, talk to people outside their usual circle, and make mistakes without letting them define them. High school goes by faster than you think, he says, so make the years count.

To our Student Leaders and all of our Year 13 students, thank you for your contribution to our kura. As you finish your final weeks with us, we wish you every success in whatever comes next. To the Year 8 students who will soon be leaving their primary schools, we look forward to welcoming you to Kaipara College next year. Take the advice of our Student Leaders: get involved, aim high and make the most of every opportunity.

Nga mihi nui, Jane Coup Tumuaiki



@KAIPARACOLLEGE



Principal Jane Coup with Head Students



Kaipara College Student Leaders 2026



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Helensville Library and Service Centre update for November

General Elections

The 2026 General Election will be held on Saturday 7 November, 2026. Early voting is available in the Meeting Room of the Hall building from 12pm on Tuesday 27 October.

Voting on the 7 November will be in the Helensville Memorial Hall from 9am to 7pm, or at Helensville Primary.

In Parakai, early voting, and on the day voting, will be at Parakai school.

In Kaukapakapa, early voting and on the day voting, will be in the Kaukapakapa Memorial Hall.

There is also early voting and on the day voting available at Te Aroha Pa Marae and Te Kia Ora Marae, Makarau.

On the day voting will also be available at:

- Wainui School
- Waioneke School
- Waitoki School

Details, including opening hours, are available on the Vote.nz website: vote.nz/2026-general-election/voting-in-the-election/find-a-voting-place

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.

BrainCharge: Wednesday 11 November and 25 November, 11am.

Note: due to popularity we are running two BrainCharge sessions a month. Note: there are no BrainCharge sessions in December, but we will be going to weekly sessions in January.

Book Chat: Thursday 26 November, 10am.

Rates:

Instalment 2 of the 2026/27 rating year is due by 30 November.

Ways to pay: You can pay in person, with a card – at our Service Centre desk. You can pay in person, with a card or cash – and your invoice – at KiwiBank, Helensville Paper Plus Select.

More details are available on the Auckland Council website: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/property-rates-valuations/ways-to-pay-your-rates.html>

Getting in contact:

The Helensville Library and Service Centre is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

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.

facebook.com/HelensvilleLibraryAndServiceCentre

Anne Coppel

Senior Librarian / Poukokiri - Children & Youth

Helensville Library and Service Centre

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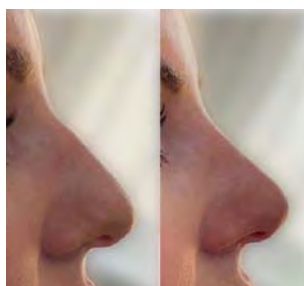
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Cut the costs holding the North West back

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

A farmer gets a better payout, then watches rising costs eat through it. A local business gets busier and still has little left to invest.

Working harder ought to leave you better off.

Helensville depends on the farms and growers around it. When their money goes on unnecessary consent bills, there is less left for local contractors and new equipment. The cost reaches well beyond the farm gate.

ACT will cut those costs.

We will introduce at least ten permitted activity standards for routine farming work. Drain maintenance and on-farm water storage will be covered. So will vegetable growing.

If the work meets the standard, no resource consent is required. Farmers can budget for the job and get on with it. We will develop the detail with farmers and councils so the rules work in practice.

Farmers will also be able to change what they farm without a consent, provided the change meets National Standards.

Councils will have to provide fair compensation when they impose overlays on private land. That includes Significant Natural Areas and Outstanding Natural Landscapes. Restricting what someone can do with their property has a cost. The council must account for it.

I'm a civil and environmental engineer. I want water rules based on science, with limits that reflect each catchment. ACT will remove Te Mana o te Wai from the methodology and focus on measurable environmental outcomes.

That gives farmers clear limits to work within. It also gives councils a sound basis for acting when someone causes genuine harm.

We have replaced the RMA. Now we need to get the detailed national rules right. That is where farmers will see the difference in what they can do and what it costs.

The roads need attention too. A contractor stuck on SH16 still has wages to pay. A pothole can leave someone with a repair bill on the way to work. Those costs can feed through to the prices people pay.

ACT will protect maintenance and renewal funding in the National Land Transport Fund. It will be kept for the existing network, so it cannot be raided to pay for new projects.

On major projects, we will require the lowest-cost safe option to be published alongside the preferred design. Show the cost and delivery time for each. Let taxpayers see what the extras cost and whether they are worth paying for.

Wellington needs to keep its own costs down. ACT will reduce government to 19 departments and 18 ministers, with clear responsibility for budgets and results.

Our fiscal plan balances the books without new taxes. By 2031, debt would be \$12.4 billion lower than current forecasts.

Taxpayers are already paying more than \$1 million an hour in interest. Every dollar spent servicing debt is a dollar unavailable for better services or tax relief.

ACT is campaigning to unlock New Zealand's potential. Here in the North-West, that means cutting the costs that hold back people who work and invest.

I'm asking for your Party Vote to keep that work moving. People here are ready to get on with it. Government needs to make that easier.

Christmas Lights at Te Awaroa Museum!

Christmas is upon us and the museum is excited to bring back our "Christmas in the Windows" exhibition.

Eight different windows will light up the museum's buildings and in honour of the challenges we face, we hope to "shine a light" on those that voluntarily give their time over Christmas helping people and animals.

The lights will go on the night of December 1st and every night until the 5th of January with the best viewing time after 9pm. All welcome, and it's free of charge - our Christmas gift to you.

We thank the Rodney Community for contributing towards the exhibit and we thank our locals and volunteers for the continued support throughout the year.

From our team at the museum, we wish you all a merry Christmas. Remember to be safe during the holidays and to take care of your community and Whānau.

Written by Dante Numa for Te Awaroa Museum.



SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART

Date	High Water Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set
November '26			
1 Sun	0340 3.6 1614	0616	1953
2 Mon	0448 3.5 1724	0615	1954
3 Tue	0602 3.4 1835	0614	1955
4 Wed	0710 3.5 1939	0613	1956
5 Thu	0812 3.6 2037	0612	1957
6 Fri	0908 3.8 2129	0611	1958
7 Sat	0958 3.9 2215	0610	1959
8 Sun	1042 4.0 2257	0609	2000
9 Mon	1123 4.1 2336	0608	2001
10 Tue	1200 4.1 -	0607	2002
11 Wed	0012 3.9 1234	0606	2003
12 Thu	0045 3.8 1307	0605	2004
13 Fri	0118 3.7 1340	0604	2006
14 Sat	0152 3.6 1414	0604	2007
15 Sun	0230 3.5 1453	0603	2008
16 Mon	0312 3.4 1538	0602	2009
17 Tue	0404 3.3 1632	0601	2010
18 Wed	0505 3.2 1735	0601	2011
19 Thu	0612 3.2 1838	0600	2012
20 Fri	0717 3.4 1939	0559	2013
21 Sat	0818 3.5 2036	0559	2014
22 Sun	0915 3.7 2131	0558	2015
23 Mon	1008 3.9 2225	0558	2016
24 Tue	1059 4.1 2316	0557	2017
25 Wed	1148 4.2 -	0557	2018
26 Thu	0007 4.1 1236	0557	2019
27 Fri	0057 4.1 1325	0556	2020
28 Sat	0147 4.0 1414	0556	2021
29 Sun	0239 3.9 1506	0555	2022
30 Mon	0335 3.7 1602	0555	2023
December '26			
1 Tue	0434 3.6 1702	0555	2024
2 Wed	0535 3.5 1802	0555	2025
3 Thu	0635 3.5 1901	0555	2026
4 Fri	0735 3.6 1959	0554	2027
5 Sat	0833 3.6 2054	0554	2028
6 Sun	0928 3.7 2145	0554	2028



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.

Trade/Professional & Services List

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
Builder/Handyman/Maintenance	- Darren Williams	021-210-7721
Business Hub	Business Northwest, 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
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
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
Homekill	The Local Farmer	027-466-3545
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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Your Local Business Book	yourlocalbusinessbook@gmail.com	



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