

The Helensville Community News

Issue 203 - October 2026

Are you prepared for the summer fire season? Because she'll be right isn't a plan

Current indicators are pointing to a strong El Nino climate pattern, bringing hotter, drier and windier conditions to many parts of New Zealand. This could lead to an earlier start to the fire season, a later finish and a longer season overall, making it more important to prepare early and stay vigilant.

Every fire season is different, so the timing, location and severity of elevated fire danger will vary. Waitemata Community Risk Manager, Volunteer Firefighter and Fire Behaviour Analyst Leah Hide says, "Weather is the most powerful factor driving vegetation fire behaviour. Keeping an eye on local climate and fire danger conditions will help people understand when the risk is changing and what steps they need to take."

Every day activities remain the major source of uncontrolled vegetation fires, with 98% of these fires caused by people. Behaviours such as waste management burning, including burning rubbish, garden waste and vegetation is the leading cause of open-air fire incidents. Common contributing factors include failing to check conditions before lighting a fire, leaving fires to smoulder unattended, and not monitoring burns closely enough.

Fire and Emergency's statistics show that the North Island accounted for 72% of the country's 4,877 wildfires in 2024/2025. "This year warmer, drier and windier conditions may develop earlier, last longer, and become more severe than people are accustomed to. Making assumptions that this fire season will be just like any other, and not checking the fire risk on the day, could place people, property and communities at greater risk" Leah says.

"You can use our Prepare for Wildfire tool to create a personalised plan to help prepare your property and help reduce the impact of an uncontrolled vegetation fire on you, your family and your community."

For more information on how to be safe with outdoor fires and to protect your community from unwanted fire, go to checkitsalright.nz/prepare-for-wildfire.

Steps to take when lighting a fire:



You should always check you are allowed to light an outdoor fire first – and if you are, you should also check the weather. "As we know, weather conditions can vary from one end of Auckland to the other and can change throughout the day. So, you need to be aware not only of the current conditions, but what is forecast throughout the day and in the days to come," explains Leah.

Fire and Emergency New



Zealand have a simple online tool that tells you whether you can light your fire or do your outdoor work safely. The 3-step tool lets you know what the fire risk is, and what you should do to stay safe.

Simply select your activity, type in your address and specify when you will be doing it. You will then receive your personalised results that will advise if you can light the fire, and steps you can take to do so safely. To use the tool, go to: www.checkitsalright.nz/can-i-light-a-fire

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

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Fire Seasons:

Fire seasons let people know about any requirements or restrictions on lighting open air fires. This is to protect communities from the consequences of unwanted fire.

In New Zealand there are three possible fire seasons; open season, restricted season and prohibited season. Depending on the fire season you may need a permit to light a fire, or a total fire ban may be in place. Always go to checkitsalright.nz before you light.

When hot and dry conditions make lighting fires riskier, the season may be restricted or prohibited, but caution is also needed at other times throughout the year. "Many of our large and dangerous fires occur in the shoulder seasons of spring and autumn when people make assumptions about the fire danger conditions, and people can be complacent" Leah says.

On a windy day, it is far easier for a fire to get out of control, so even in colder weather you should check the wind forecast before lighting a fire. "If it is going to be windy, don't make the mistake of having the "she'll be right" attitude. You really can help us reduce the impact of wildfire on you, your family and your community by taking some simple precautionary steps," says Leah



For more information on how to be safe with outdoor fires and to protect your community from unwanted fire, go to checkitsalright.nz.

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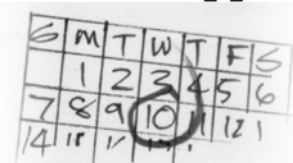
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What's happening this month



Saturday, 10 October, Original Kaipara Tavern 80's Party, 26 Commercial Road, Helensville, 7.30pm – 11.55pm. with proceeds going to the Helensville Primary School reunion. 5 piece band THAT 80s SHOW will be rocking the night away. There is a bar available and plenty of parking nearby, so dust off your flares and sparkles and get ready to boogie the night away.

Sunday, 18 October, 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 Mike Lea, Halloween fancy dress parade and trick or treating, 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.

Saturday, 24 October – 26 October, Arts in the Ville 2026, 10am – 4pm. Helensville will be buzzing with visitors taking advantage of the

vibrant display of art. Join in and you'll experience a variety of media for both your indoor and outdoor spaces. In many cases you will have the opportunity to meet the artist in their studio, discuss pieces with them, and sometimes see them at work. Most pieces will be for sale. The Visual Treasure Hunt is a highlight of the long weekend, made and donated by well-respected, New Zealand sculptor Jeff Thomson, whose studio is located in the heart of Helensville. There will be Makers Market stalls, a Youth Art Competition, Decorated Letterbox Competition and the exciting Kaipara Cup Paper Boat Race! We are working hard to make this event a bright light in your calendar with food trucks, demonstrations, music and activities for kids included. Come for the day, or the weekend, and enjoy the art, local cafes and other local attractions. ARTS in the VILLE should not be missed!

Monday, 26 October, Labour Day

Tuesday, 3 November, U3A Monthly Meeting, 10am – 12pm: Speaker : Carol Smith. Opportunities to learn Maori language, customs, protocol and ways of doing things. Age Concern Rodney. Enhancing quality of life for older people. 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

Saturday, 14 November, King of the West, The Original Kaipara Tavern, 3pm, The Original Kaipara Tavern in Helensville is hosting its 2nd boxing event KING OF THE WEST in conjunction with IRON FIST BOXING. For tickets visit www.eventfinda.co.nz



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**Sunday 18 October
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8.30am – 1pm**

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Halloween fancy dress parade and
trick or treating

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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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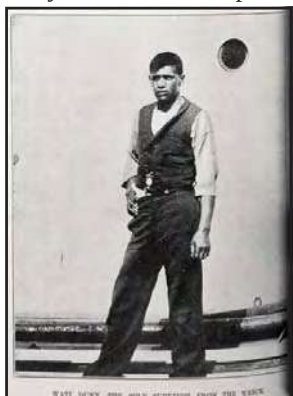
Te Awaroa Museum / September 2026. “Dangers of the Kaipara Harbour”

- written by Dante Numa for Te Awaroa Museum.

The Kaipara Harbour entrance holds a record number of shipwrecks becoming what is well known as ‘The Graveyard’. The bar is only 6-7km wide, with white wash, shifting sand bars and large swells brought by gales. Over 100 ships have wrecked in the Kaipara Harbour, and it still very much feared today, despite new technology. In the sailing era, captains had to navigate through these dangers, relying on local knowledge, maps, and tools such as lead lines. These lines had leather markers attached measuring the depth of the water and the lead weight at the bottom was covered in wax catching sediment to understand what lay on the ocean floor. Later steam boats would help tow sail boats through. Although large gales wrecked ships, the lack of wind could also fail them like the ship ‘Aurora’, which could no longer sail and was then driven by waves onto a bank in 1840. In some cases, the captains judgement was questioned. The ship named ‘Lady Franklin’ was anchored in the harbour but the cable had parted while there was no anchor watch and the ship was driven ashore, she was refloated but became stranded again in 1876. In 1902 the ‘May’ became wrecked. Its tug boat named the ‘Pilot’ captained by Johnny Harrison could no longer control the barquentine in a westerly gale. They agreed to part ways saving the lives of those on the ‘Pilot’ but leaving the ‘May’ to break into pieces.



Barquentine ‘May’



Wati Dunn

When the ship went down a sole survivor named Wati Dunn had managed to swim ashore. He was the Northern Wairoa swimming champion. Shifting sands and tides are still uncovering wrecks, most recently in Pouto Point in July this year, and the importance of preserving them allows the world to discover their stories and honour the lives that were lost.

“The breakers were dashing on several sand bars in an awful manner, about three miles from the

land. The late westerly gale caused the fearful commotion of the rolling waves to bound on these sea sand-spits, dashing the surf to an unusual height. No vessel, of any size or shape, could at this time have entered the Kaipara; instant shipwreck, into a thousand pieces, would have been the result.” -Samuel Polack’s warning of the Kaipara Harbour 1831.

From Penk’s Pen

CHRIS PENK – MP

By Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Working together for northwest Auckland

One of the great privileges of having been the local MP for this area was the opportunity to work alongside the community. There’s been no shortage of issues to tackle together!

Since 2017 (at first as MP for Helensville and then the re-named Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate), I’ve been fortunate to hear what’s needed from many residents, businesses, community organisations and local government representatives.

So I want to take this opportunity now to thank every Kumeu Courier reader who has taken time to raise an issue, offer an idea, share a concern or simply explain what they would like to see improved in our part of the world. And of course I’m grateful to this excellent publication for being so generous as to publish my updates, along with other news from across northwest Auckland of course.

Some of these issues have proven relatively straightforward but most have taken years of persistence and advocacy. And more remains to be done when it comes to almost all of them.

A good example is the long-running campaign for an additional high school in the Kumeu-Huapai area. This has been a priority for me for a number of years, and I was delighted when the Government announced that a new local high school will be established, adjacent to Huapai District School. Thanks to everyone who signed a petition, joined me at a meeting or got involved in some other way. Obviously we need to keep working to get it established. I will quietly support the next MP for the area with thoughts about its construction, school zones and timeframes.

Transport is another issue where we’ve made progress but we’re clearly not there yet. Congestion on State Highway 16 will reduce once those widening works are finally done (and they’re now funded), the Kumeu Bypass is constructed (and the “designation” is now in place) and we have improved public transport connections via a dedicated busway (the stations for which are being built as we speak).

As for flooding, this ongoing concern for many households and businesses needs constant clearing of stormwater facilities, along with an end to ad hoc development. Council is getting the idea now and we just need to ensure that complacency doesn’t set in, when it comes to the clearance activity that continues to be needed.

Progress into the future on all these issues will depend on residents speaking up, local organisations getting involved, councils and government agencies listening, and elected representatives making the case for our community. On that note, thanks again to everyone who has worked collaboratively with me - in my time as local MP - to contribute towards the progress that we’ve made.

And those who follow will have my best wishes and support, whenever needed, so that we can keep moving and finally get the job done.

Cheers, C.



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Spooky season is on the horizon

by Sequoia Thomson, Year 13 Student, Kaipara College

September has come to an end, and mock week is already over and done with - what a relief!

To all those students who put their very best into mocks, or even just attended them for the first 45, no matter what your results are, you showed up, and you tried. I find that with these exams, whilst not only being substantially harder than the real exams (confirmed by secret sources!), you have so little time to prep you are almost set out to do average or below.

What I have learned from now three years of NZQA exams, is to never let mock results discourage you. While you must feel like there's no benefit to them, aside from the potential derived grade in case of emergency, there are actually quite a few.

First off, it's a great learning opportunity to figure out your weak points, try out study techniques, and practice sitting and working in the exam environment.

While that last point may seem silly, (I mean, who needs to practice sitting at a desk?), the empty hall and rows of chairs can be very, very anxiety inducing. Being able to work under stress is a skill, not a given, and it genuinely helps you to adjust to that environment. After a year of working on assignments over periods of weeks, casually in classrooms, and often cozy at home too, exams are very starkly different.

Now, my biggest tip is to remember to have a good look back at the papers you completed for each mock exam, even if the grade was bad. I always like to remind myself that mistakes are not failures, they are simply an opportunity to learn (and to create a great study plan). I also personally recommend spaced repetition, and active recall as great study techniques, as well as the purchase of white-board markers you can use on a window or white-board; for the sake of the trees.

Moving on from mocks, as I am sure we all want to do, one of the most fun holidays of the year is on the approach; Halloween!!!

Whilst not as extravagantly celebrated here in Aotearoa as it is in other countries, it's a fun occasion to dress up and have fun with your mates. I'm currently having a great time planning out my costume and am very set in the opinion that whilst we may age out of trick or treating, dress up and candy has no age limits. Take a short break and have a little fun!

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ARTcentre HELENSVILLE

FREE Holiday workshops for October. Wednesday and Thursday's 1-3pm, come and join in the creative fun locally! (kids under 14 must be accompanied by an adult).



Term 4 afterschool classes taking enrolments now. Tuesday and Thursday for ages 6-11, Wednesday's ages 12-17, NEW Clay classes ages 11-15 Friday's, 8 weeks during school term only \$120.

AFTER-SCHOOL ART CLASSES TERM 4



CERAMICS with Tom Sommerville
Friday's 3:30-5pm
Ages 11-15
\$120 all materials included
23rd October – 11th December 8-week course
NEW – A hands on creative media with firing, learn the process of building with clay.



MULTI-MEDIA ART with Claire Ellery
Tuesday's + Thursday's 3:30-5pm
Ages 6-11
\$120 all materials provided
20th, 21st October – 8th, 10th December 8-week course
Experience diverse art methods from sculpture to interactive art in a friendly environment building healthy connections.



PROJECT TEEN with Yvonne Abercrombie
Wednesday's 3:30-5pm
Ages 12-17
\$120 all materials provided
21st October – 9th December 8-week course
Embark on creative projects and explore a variety of art practices building creative confidence.



FREE art and craft group 'Gas Bag' meets every Wednesday in the Art Centre Library room, 11-1 bring your own craft, tea and coffee provided.

'Street Maori' group meets every fortnight Tuesday's 6-7:30 Koha donation proceeds go to Te Awaroa Museum. Starting back 2nd week term 4.

Raranga Flax Weaving with Maria Kaka Thursday's 10:30-1:30 \$80 for 8 weeks.



The Hub of ARTS in the VILLE 2026

This Labour Weekend, 24–26 October, Helensville comes alive with creativity as ARTS in the VILLE returns for another early-summer celebration of local art, making and community fun!

The Helensville Art Centre, Library, Hall and Council Meeting Room will come together as the central Hub of the event at 49 Commercial Road — the perfect place to begin your art trail adventure. Open 10am–4pm each day, the Hub will feature a lively mix of artists, makers, food, live demonstrations, kids' activities and music.

There's plenty to get involved in this year. The Art Centre will have event brochures and maps, along with entry forms for the Treasure Hunt, Letterbox Competition and Youth Art Competition. Youth Art entries will be exhibited in the Art Centre workshop room. You can also drop off your paper boat at the Art Centre before the event, ready for the Kaipara River Boat Race. And, in the main gallery, have a go at making your own creation with clay!

At the Library, Sharon Dooney will guide visitors in creating Creations with Wool — try your hand at crocheting corals or finger knitting. The Helensville War Memorial Hall will feature sculptural works, with opportunities to have a go at weaving on a loom or trying out a French knitting machine.

This year, a shuttle bus will also connect visitors between the Hub with some of the artists' locations further afield, making it even easier to discover more of the trail.

Whether you're an art lover, curious browser, foodie, or simply looking for a fun Labour Weekend outing with friends and whānau, the Hub is the perfect place to start before heading out to explore the wider ARTS in the VILLE Art Trail.

24–26 October | 10am–4pm daily

Visit www.artsintheville.co.nz for entry forms, a downloadable map and full event details.

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A busway for local businesses is getting closer for North West Auckland

We are celebrating progress on the busway project, between Westgate and Brigham Creek.

The Northwest Busway (Te Ara Hauauru), planned between Westgate and Brigham Creek, has received statutory approvals under the Fast-track Approvals Act. The approval secures the long-term transport corridor and allows detailed design and delivery planning to continue while funding is sought for future construction.

Getting improved transport to our area has always been a focus, especially relieving bottle necks and congestion as our area grows. We will keep you updated with any news that comes out.

We would like to encourage local businesses to prepare for a change in how customers find services online. Instead of searching only through traditional search engines, more people are asking artificial intelligence tools direct questions about where to find nearby products and services. Writing your website with content that AI searches for is your next biggest marketing priority.

Business North West is improving its website and member directory listings to help local businesses appear in these searches. Members can assist by submitting short blog articles that answer the questions their customers ask most often and include a link to their website. Reach out to me at any time with your content.

The organisation has also welcomed Christine Lischner, Managing Director of Kumeu Insurance Services, to its Executive Committee as the representative for the Kumeu/Huapai area. She brings experience in insurance, risk management and business leadership, as well as strong community connections.

We want to offer a huge thank you to Teresa Nobilo-Healey from Zubu Women's Fashion for her nine years of service.

Lastly, a big thank you to Beekeepers Wife in Riverhead for sponsoring our Speed Networking event. We had a great turn out and already are accumulating a wait list for the next one. We were treated to a great atmosphere and the most delicious pizzas.



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Sayers says it

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

A high-stakes clash between local community aspirations and rigid council bureaucracy is unfolding across Auckland's rural towns like Kumeu, Helensville, Riverhead and others, exposing the limits of bottom-up democracy. The debate highlights a stark division in how Auckland's growth is planned, pitting the desire for grassroots decision-making against the massive financial and legal realities of urban development.

While Auckland Council has successfully embraced community-led planning for social, environmental, and disaster recovery initiatives through the Rodney Local Board, it draws a hard line at major housing and infrastructure development. When local groups in Kumeu—reeling from severe flooding—formed committees to propose the community-led *Future Kumeu Concept Plan*, they advocated for relocating parts of the town centre to flood-free zones. However, formal blueprints of this scale, officially known as Structure Plans, remain strictly council-led.

Because these plans bind council budgets, ratepayers' money, and dictate millions of dollars in infrastructure investment, they are enshrined in law to always be council-led. No councils in New Zealand can use a community-led model for Structure Plans; instead, councils rely on strict statutory processes of public consultation to gather local input.

The hesitation to activate a Structure Plan for Kumeu/Huapai stems from a fear of signalling to developers that the town is ready for even more growth. Currently, Auckland Council opposes further development in the area until after 2050, citing a critical lack of infrastructure, flooding and traffic congestion. That includes opening up a new town centre out of the flood plain.

This cautious approach is a direct reaction to past central government interventions. A decade ago, the John Key-led government overrode Auckland Council to fast-track 2,000 unplanned for houses in the Huapai Triage Special Housing Area (SHA) despite council warnings regarding flood and traffic congestion risks. Today, those infrastructure deficits have worsened, leaving council and ratepayers burdened with playing catch-up. History threatens to repeat itself with the Waimauku West development, where the government is once again using fast-track legislation to override council opposition.

Auckland Council prefers the proactive model used in Warkworth, where \$500 million in water infrastructure, new roading links, and a new motorway have been built via a Structure Plan ahead of housing growth. For now, Kumeu/Huapai remains stuck in an unenviable position—where the Council is forced to process consents on land it never wanted developed, while simultaneously fiercely resisting on the community's behalf, private plan changes and fast-tracking applications for more housing, which fall out of sequence with its infrastructure capacity.

The Council believes it will now take until 2050 before the required infrastructure can catch up, including the need for significant continued investment into the roading by NZTA to fix the traffic congestion that has been created.

In the meantime I am pushing hard for the train service to be extended to Huapai and ultimately Helensville.

Hornet Hunting Adventures in Bali

My idea of a holiday is to make the most of a new place that I've never visited before, usually by exploring the history, food and culture, much to the chagrin of my traveling companions. However, I have tempered my youthful excesses - the one and only plan for our holiday was to connect with close family, somewhere between Scotland and Aotearoa. Seasonal beekeeping activities and classes limit when I can be away. It would have been the rainy season in Thailand, so we chose Bali. The villa in Ubud was a tropical paradise for us all; although occasionally referred to as a "mosquito infested hellhole" -after the mozzies had tasted delicate Scottish flesh. It made a change for them from midges though.

I stayed on New Zealand time; four hours ahead, so I had early nights and early mornings. These were great for exploring around the fringes of nearby rice fields and jungle. Insects were most active at this time of day, and I was able to photograph and collect samples of several species of bee and even a very large yellow-vented hornet. The local security guards and farmers got used to the eccentric tourist with his camera and bright green kiddy's butterfly net. The yellow Carpenter bee looked like a black bumblebee with a bright yellow buttercup petal on its back, even the wings were black. One of my favourites was the Sunda blue-banded digger bee, a small bee that had blue-green metallic stripes. This bee is known for its unusual pollination technique - it holds a flower and vibrates the wing muscles, dislodging pollen which then clings to its body via static electricity. Locals seemed to be as unaware of their exciting micro-fauna as the average kiwi townie of their own insect life.

I did manage to swap a couple of relaxing poolside rest days for excursions around the island. One day, our driver took me two hours north to visit a beekeeper who kept Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*). These bees have evolved with varroa mites and the yellow-legged hornet in their habitat. The former is responsible for most beehive colony losses in New Zealand; the latter has been threatening our bees this last year in Glenfield. Neither of which bothered these plucky little bees as they had evolved their own defences. The honey from the hive was fresh and sweet, with a slightly tropical fruit aroma and subtle tartness. I found the bees so gentle that we didn't need a smoker, gloves or veil. I set my GoPro to record the activity at one of their hives, including the interplay between the bees and yellow-legged hornets. I then jumped on the back of a motorbike, and we went to another apiary site.

A few days later we went to the West of the island to the foothills of the Mt Batur volcano. We inspected more Asian honey bee hives and it was interesting to see the hives of the madu kele-kele or native stingless bees. These bees were very small - larger than a fruit fly, but smaller than a juvenile house fly. Their nests looked akin to ant colonies. Their beehives were like small wooden shoe boxes. We later travelled into the jungle to see the beekeeper's swarm traps, where he'd placed empty hives to be populated by a swarm of these tiny bees. These boxes were divided into two interconnected compartments, one for brood and one for food. The former looked like a pile of Rice Krispies; not made of wax, but a resinous propolis with supporting strands. The Queen was relatively large compared to the workers - almost the size of a small honeybee. The other compartment was the larder, with piles of honey pots; larger roundish resinous cells filled with honey. Extraction for the Balinese stingless beekeeper is slower and more tedious than Kiwi beekeepers are used to. Honey from each cell must be vacuumed out, or the cells must be destroyed by pressing

Continued on page 10

Hornet hunting in Bali *Continued from page 9*

the honey out. These resinous cells impart an earthy flavour to the honey.

In my travels, I managed to collect and preserve 8 different species of common Balinese insects: three types of hornet, four of bees, and one species of ant. The ant was larger than the stingless bee but was striped like a bee. Under the Biosecurity Act, it's permissible to bring invertebrates into New Zealand if preserved in ethanol or resin. I must admit there was some excitement at the biosecurity hall at 6:00 AM on a Wednesday morning. Our first contact was with a biosecurity officer; she had been on our NZ yellow-legged Hornet response. She waved us through to the inspection area. The insects weren't the issue, but my jandals, T-shirt and shorts that I'd used when beekeeping were. We did end up with seven biosecurity staff looking at, and taking photos of, my insect collection while listening to my stories of hornet hunting in jandals with my wee Warehouse butterfly net!

By the end of the holiday we were all looking out for the occasional hornet flying around our swimming pool. Jack's girlfriend admitted that she'd never expected to learn so much about bees while on holiday.

Future of Henley House in Kaukapakapa

Auckland council staff have been given the task of recouping a small amount of money from the storm buy out programme by selling some of the storm affected land for nonresidential use. So, some land will be sold as commercial grazing land, some might be sold as open green space to neighboring properties, some land will be sold on the open market but before this happens there will be a flood risk warning attached to the title to reduce the chance of houses being built in the same place by new owners. But in many cases flood land which was bought by council will be retained by council. Some of that land might be held as "nonservice property" and be off limits to the public due to health and safety risks such as landslides etc. or some land might be kept as "in service property" and be modified for public use such as parks, sports fields and other community facilities.

One property which is causing some controversy in the community is Henley House in Kaukapakapa. Henley house is currently protected by a heritage status, and the flood waters did very little damage to the hardwood structure.

Council won't allow the property to be sold for residential use, due to the council's assessment of the property having intolerable risk to life before making the decision to purchase the property, but will the staff and elected members of Auckland Council support a nonresidential use of the heritage house such as a café or a Kaukapakapa museum? Will the heritage home have to be demolished, and the land sold for grazing? or will it remain for a non-residential purpose?

The other topic of discussion is the possibility of a walkway across the land connecting Riverview development with the Kaukapakapa village and school, whilst not a new concept if council retains ownership of the Henley House property that footpath dream might be closer to reality than it was before.

What do you think? Having your say on these things is important and I am keen to hear from you about this and any other issues related to public and community issues.

You can contact me via email, phone, message on Facebook or using the contact form on my website geoffupson.co.nz

Christian Arts Fest Exhibitor, Jodie Allen

Jodie has always had a love of art and majored in art and photography while training to be a teacher. Jodie has been teaching art to children for 30 years, and has now begun to focus more fully on her own passion for art, and connect it with God's purpose in her life.

She is currently exploring the mediums of oil painting and watercolour. Jodie is particularly inspired by nature and highlighting the beauty in God's world around us through visual language, photography and painted images. She enjoys using natural materials, contrasts of light and movement to enhance her work. She works with the Holy Spirit guiding her and is committed to shining God's light through her work, adding scripture and anointing each piece with God's glory and love.

God often gives her visions to work from and each piece is new learning and healing on her journey. However, before Jodie picks up the brush to paint God has already chosen the person who the painting is for. A designer piece, from God, to touch, heal, guide or speak to someone, in some special way.

Jodie designs and sells customised photo frames also. Her work has been on display in exhibitions at the Estuary Art Gallery in Orewa, The Christian Arts Festival 2022 & 2023 and Festival One 2024!

God has blessed Jodie with a studio space to work in which she has turned into a gallery and in which she will be holding art workshops and teaching lessons this year.

Gallery of Light ...Illuminating the beauty of God's world and sharing His love

Opening soon, 23 Puriri Street, Helensville
Website on its way..... galleryoflight.co.nz

Prints are available on request Commissions are welcomed. Contact Jodie: Phone: 0211053417
Email: jodie.allen@xtra.co.nz

Helensville Floral Art Club

Another Day of Bundling at Helensville Floral Art Club

September saw the members of the Helensville Floral Art Club enjoying another day of creativity with a "Bundling" competition.

Members were challenged to create a different design from our previous bundling day, putting their own ideas and floral skills into practice. There were plenty of interesting designs on display, showcasing the different ways flowers and foliage can be combined using bundling techniques.

We were pleased to welcome Myra Jonkers from Kumeu Floral Art Club as our judge. Myra shared her knowledge and gave us some helpful feedback on the entries.

Our own demonstrator, Jenny Holst, also showed members some techniques and ideas for "bundling", making it a valuable learning experience for everyone.

There were 10 members at the club for the day, making it a lovely opportunity to catch up, learn something new and enjoy our shared love of floral art.

A big thank you to Myra and Jenny for making the day both informative and enjoyable. Of course, no club gathering would be complete without a great lunch and plenty of good company!

It was a wonderful day of flowers, foliage, creativity and friendship.

Next month, in October, we will be making posies which will then be given away to local Helensville residents. We are looking forward to creating something special to share with our community.



From the Kaipara College Principal's Desk

Principal Jane Coup

Angitutanga - Strength in Asking for Help

Angitutanga, our value of success, teaches us that to succeed we must learn from our mistakes. Learning from a mistake starts with admitting it, and admitting it often means asking someone else for help. That is not easy. It takes strength to admit a mistake. It takes even greater strength to ask for help in fixing it, and that strength is at the heart of what angitutanga asks of us.

Our students have just sat their practice exams, also known as Derived Grade Exams. These exams matter for more than the grade they produce. They show students what they already know, and just as importantly, where the gaps are. It is in those gaps that the best learning happens, but only if students act on what the exams reveal. Facing that gap honestly, rather than looking away from it, is angitutanga in practice.

There are many ways for a student to ask for help. They can talk to their teacher. Parents can email or call their whanau teacher or dean. Students can attend tutorials, or make use of the resources already available to them around the school. None of these steps require a student to have all the answers. They simply require the willingness to ask, and that willingness is what turns a gap into growth.

We saw angitutanga in action last week, when our Premier Netball team travelled to the Upper North Island Secondary School Championships. The girls faced rain, wind, illness and injury, and at times took to the court with just one substitute, yet nothing stopped them. They finished a commendable 16th place in A Grade, securing our place in that grade for a second year running. Throughout the week they listened to the advice and guidance of their coaches and managers, backed each other through every setback, and dug deep when it mattered most. We want to acknowledge our Year 13 players, Jayla Singer, Ella Glasson, Stella Fairweather, Chelsea Finlay and Kaylen McNabney, for their outstanding service, leadership and commitment to our netball programme over the past three years, and to thank manager Tracy Bradley, physiotherapist Tania Stokes, and coach Mako Wilson for keeping the team supported, patched up and firing both on and off the court. This team showed us that angitutanga is not about avoiding setbacks. It is about facing them, asking for guidance, and pushing through together.

We are asking the same of ourselves as a school. This is why

we have sought help from the Ministry of Education in the form of a Limited Statutory Manager. Bringing that added expertise into our school means our board always has someone to turn to for advice, someone to learn from, and someone who can help us see our gaps and close them quickly. The same goes for me, as principal. Just as we ask it of our students and our netball team. This is angitutanga at the leadership level, the same value we ask our students and our netball team to live by. We have not asked for this help because we doubt our ability to make the changes needed.

We have asked for it because we know that asking is a sign of strength, and because closing gaps fast matters when every one of our students is affected. From the exam room to the netball court to the boardroom, angitutanga looks the same: see the gap, ask for help, and get to work closing it. In doing this, we are role modelling angitutanga for our whole school community.



@KAIPARACOLLEGE

We are excited about the next stage of this journey, ensuring the waka is pointed in the right direction to find calmer waters, so that all our students can succeed.



Kaipara College Premier Netball Team placed in the top 16 at the Upper North Island Secondary Schools Tournament

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Helensville Library and Service Centre update for October

Thank you to those who attended our Adult Learners Week and Dying Matters Week events. We may have had small groups – but the discussions and sharing of experiences were expansive and important.

We loved being able to open a special study space for Kaipara College's mock exams week. We hope to do the same in future. If you know of any students who used the space, we would love feedback so we can improve our set-up.

Spring School Holidays:

Monday 5 October, 10am to 12noon: Movie time! Movie tbc.

Our regular programmes will run throughout the holidays, but with a bird and / or dinosaur theme.

We will also have a New Zealand birds scavenger hunt.

Arts in the Ville:

Helensville Library will be open on Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm, over Labour Weekend, as part of Arts in the Ville.

We will be hosting the fibre artists, led by Sharon Dooney.

Coral Reef Installation: Contribute to our knitted / crocheted coral reef installation. You're welcome to pick up suggested patterns before the weekend.

Tiny Art Exhibition: Pick up a tiny canvas and create your own piece of art to be exhibited over the weekend! Canvases will be available for pick up from Saturday 10 October, with art pieces to be dropped off by Friday 23 October.

General Elections

The 2026 General Election will be held on Saturday 7 November, 2026. The last day to enrol to vote is 25 October. Visit: vote.nz to check whether you're enrolled, or to enrol online.

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 14 October and 28 October, 11am. Note: due to popularity we are running two BrainCharge sessions a month.

Book Chat: Thursday 22 October, 10am.

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 Coppell

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

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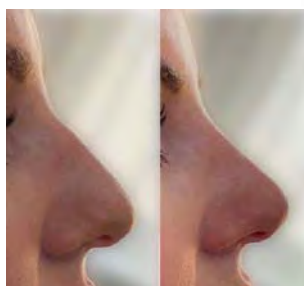
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Unlocking New Zealand's potential starts in the North-West

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

As a civil engineer, I look for practical solutions. In the North-West, that means keeping infrastructure ahead of growth.

People see it in new homes and queues on SH16. Our challenge is making sure growth comes with the infrastructure to support it.

A major step forward came in September, when the North-West Rapid Transit project received fast-track approval. The plan is for a dedicated busway alongside SH16, running from Brigham Creek to Auckland city centre, with seven stations and a park-and-ride at Brigham Creek. When completed, it is designed to provide a reliable 25-minute trip into the city.

Demand is already clear. The Western Express bus service recorded more than 1.1 million passenger trips in the year to May, around 40 per cent above forecast. People will use public transport when it is frequent, reliable and gets them where they need to go.

For Helensville and Waimauku, the next question is how local services connect people to this wider network. A rapid transit route at Brigham Creek can make a real difference across the North-West when people further north have practical ways to reach it.

Transport is one part of a bigger challenge. The 2023 floods showed why stormwater and flood protection must be planned alongside housing. Roads and public transport need to be ready before communities are left trying to catch up. Local businesses need confidence that people and goods can reach them.

That is why the new planning laws matter. With Royal Assent, the Planning and Natural Environment Bills are now law. After 35 years, the RMA era is over. ACT worked for years to replace it with a system that gives greater weight to property rights and makes it easier to build the homes, infrastructure and businesses New Zealand needs while protecting the environment.

Under the new system, land-use planning is separate from rules for managing the effects of resource use. Councils and communities get a clearer framework for deciding where growth should happen and what infrastructure must support it. Implementing that framework will take time. The clearer rules give councils and businesses a better basis for planning and investment.

We also need fair ways to pay for infrastructure. Parliament passed changes to the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act in July. Private investors can fund roads and water infrastructure upfront; the cost is repaid over time through levies on properties that benefit. This is the model that helped unlock infrastructure for thousands of homes at Milldale. The changes make it easier to use for transport and water networks, and allow ongoing maintenance to be funded.

The next step is replacing development contributions with development levies, expected from 2029. They will let councils recover the forecast cost of growth infrastructure across defined levy areas, with charges reflecting the cost of servicing each area. The Commerce Commission will oversee how levies are calculated, and the Crown will pay when its projects add demand to local networks.

Engineering teaches you to plan before you build, get the basics right and deliver things in the right order.

New Zealand has spent too long doing the opposite — allowing homes to get ahead of roads and water infrastructure, wrapping necessary projects in layers of process, and spending too much money without getting enough built.

ACT has spent this term changing that.

We have helped replace the RMA with a planning system that gives greater weight to property rights and makes it easier to build the homes, infrastructure and businesses New Zealand needs. We have improved the tools available to fund growth infrastructure. And our transport policy is built around a simple principle: waste less, build more, and make every infrastructure dollar work harder.

There is still plenty to do.

For the North-West, that means making sure rapid transit is delivered, local communities are properly connected to it, roads and water infrastructure keep pace with development, and planning rules allow investment rather than getting in its way.

The North-West has enormous potential. Unlocking it will take more than another round of plans and promises. It requires stable rules, disciplined investment and a Government prepared to keep reforming the systems that have held New Zealand back.

ACT's case this election is that the reforms started this term need to be carried through, not reversed. A stronger ACT presence in the next Government would give us greater influence to continue reforms in planning, infrastructure, transport and energy — and to keep Labour out of Government.

That is why I am asking for your Party Vote for ACT this election: to lock Labour out, keep the Government moving in the right direction, and unlock New Zealand's potential.

That is the approach I have brought to Parliament as an engineer and as ACT's Infrastructure spokesperson, and it is the work I intend to keep pursuing for Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

SHELLY BEACH TIDE CHART					
Date	High Water	Shelly Beach	Sun Rise	Sun Set	
October '26					
1 Thu	0205	4.0	1431	0657	1924
2 Fri	0251	3.8	1519	0656	1925
3 Sat	0343	3.6	1618	0654	1926
4 Sun	0450	3.4	1733	0653	1927
5 Mon	0612	3.3	1855	0651	1927
6 Tue	0732	3.4	2007	0650	1928
7 Wed	0840	3.6	2108	0648	1929
8 Thu	0937	3.8	2159	0647	1930
9 Fri	1026	4.0	2244	0645	1931
10 Sat	1109	4.1	2325	0644	1932
11 Sun	1149	4.2	-	0643	1933
12 Mon	0002	4.2	1225	0641	1934
13 Tue	0037	4.1	1258	0640	1935
14 Wed	0109	3.9	1330	0638	1935
15 Thu	0140	3.8	1402	0637	1936
16 Fri	0213	3.6	1436	0636	1937
17 Sat	0249	3.5	1515	0634	1938
18 Sun	0333	3.3	1604	0633	1939
19 Mon	0430	3.2	1710	0632	1940
20 Tue	0547	3.1	1829	0630	1941
21 Wed	0710	3.2	1939	0629	1942
22 Thu	0815	3.3	2035	0628	1943
23 Fri	0909	3.6	2124	0626	1944
24 Sat	0956	3.8	2210	0625	1945
25 Sun	1040	4.0	2254	0624	1946
26 Mon	1123	4.2	2338	0623	1947
27 Tue	1206	4.3	-	0621	1948
28 Wed	0021	4.2	1249	0620	1949
29 Thu	0106	4.1	1334	0619	1950
30 Fri	0153	4.0	1420	0618	1951
31 Sat	0243	3.8	1512	0617	1952
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



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
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
Typesetting/Photocopying	Huapai Copy & Print	420-9307
Venue Hire	Kaipara Memorial RSA	420-8888
Your Local Business Book	yourlocalbusinessbook@gmail.com	

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