Helensville News

Issue 207 February 2018

5000 copies delivered monthly to Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, Waitoki, Wainui, Woodhill, South Head and Shelly Beach

It's war at the A&P Show

War is set to break out at the Helensville A&P Show on Saturday, February 24.

The World War II Historical Reenactment Society (HRS) will be putting on a half-hour battle re-enactment, featuring an assault by 'American' troops on a fortified 'German' encampment.

One of the headline features at this year's 116th annual show, the mock battle will feature soldiers decked out in authentic Second World War uniforms firing weapons including a machine gun - loaded with blanks. Military vehicles may also be involved.

The re-enactment has been timed to coincide with the lunch break in the equestrian rings around 12.30pm. A live firing demonstration by the society at the 2016 show went without a hitch, despite some concerns animals could be frightened.

The battle will be held on the steep hill siding above the sideshow area, running down onto the flats.

For the rest of the day, the HRS will be occupying an encampment near the show's trade area. It will set up displays depicting typical WWII German, Kiwi and American tents, equipment and weapons, with members dressed in full uniform.

The equipment society members use is almost entirely authentic, including the weapons such as German Mauser rifles, Thompson submachine guns, Bren guns and various other rifles and machine guns.

• Spent shells fly during the HRS live fire display at the 2016 A&P Show

Members will be

on hand to explain to the public about their equipment, and children may have the opportunity to have a photo taken wearing a helmet and holding a rifle.

As well as appearing at the 2016 show,

Children's Day Out coming up

HILDREN'S DA

SUNDAY OF

Helensville's annual Children's Day Out will be held this year on Sunday, March 4 - the 11th time it has been held.

Organised by the Helensville Women & Family Centre (HWFC), the event aims to promote the key message of 'Treasure Our Children' - the theme of this year's national Children's Day Out – Te Rā O Nga Tamariki.

A free family event, it will be held in the Helensville War Memorial Hall and carpark from 10am to 1pm.

Local parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends are invited to

enjoy a fun-filled, positive family day, having fun and playing with the children.

The day is planned as a chance to meet new people, and also find out about other local community organisations and pre-school options.

Other attractions on the day will include dance and music performances, food stalls, indoor and outdoor activity tables, face painting, plus prizes. All activities are aimed at children aged up to 12 years old.

This year's event is being sponsored by Stevenson Village Charitable Trust.

the society took part in Helensville's 150th anniversary parade in 2012.

The HRS was formed 20 years ago and is based at the Museum of Transport & Technology in Auckland. It has around 40 members, with another 10 part-timers.

The society initially formed two units, one Allied and one German, for a TVNZ display battle, and went on to provide extras for several local television programmes including 'The Charles Upham Story', 'The Call Up', and 'Heroes', as well as several short films.

It has toured New Zealand, appearing at the Warbirds Over Wanaka, Ardmore, Classic Fighters Omaka, Wings Over Wairarapa, Whangarei and Matamata airshows, the Motat Military Live Day, various gun and military shows, and in many ANZAC and RSA parades.

HRS members take part in monthly training days which include foot and rifle drill; weapon safety skills; tactical training; and World War II history.

For more on the A&P Show, see page 8.





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BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY?



editorial

February of course is show time for Helensville, with our annual A&P Show set to be held on it's regular last-Saturday-in-February spot. If you haven't been before - go! If you have been, go again!

Nothing else on our town's annual calendar comes close to the scale of our A&P Show, both in terms of on-the-day appeal, crowd numbers, and the huge amount of work done by a small army of volunteers.

I'll be running my feet off again this year, taking photographs to record the show for posterity. We hope to bring you a selection of those photos in next month's issue. In the meantime, enjoy the great articles we have for you in this edition.

- Dave Addison, Editor

Rollin', rollin', rollin'...

Helensville A&P Association president month's A&P Show. Rick Croft spent several days in January driving a 4-tonne vibrating roller, flattening out the trade area in preparation for this

The show grounds, like most farms in the district, suffered badly from pugging over the extremely wet winter last year.



• A&P Association president Rick Croft on the roller

While the rolling has helped smooth out the worst of the rough ground, Rick says visitors to the show should still take care when walking around.

The show's equestrian arenas were also affected by all the wet. Power harrows have been used to restore the bumpy competition areas, which have also be rolled.

Plenty of rainfall in January has helped towards the repaired grounds regaining their usual grass cover.

letters

Following our local Christmas parade I was very disappointed with the support given by our local schools and pre-schools. A quick count-up shows we have seven or eight preschools and six or seven schools in our area. Only one school (Helensville) and two preschools bothered to support this community event.

One aspect worth noting is that all these institutions request support from the community groups and businesses for their school galas, agricultural days, sports events, education trips etc. Surely, to gain support, they must give support.

I cannot believe there are not parents/caregivers and supporters who if asked would willingly give their time to be involved. This event is just once a year. I also cannot understand the lack of support given to other Christmas festival activities. There is a small group of hard working locals who spend hours in preparation but are really disappointed by the lack of reciprocal support.

- Yvonne Hilton



Billboards go up to urge speed to go down

Ten billboards featuring local people have been installed around the Helensville area as part of an Auckland Transport effort to reduce traffic speeds locally.

They show local people like former college teacher Brian 'Boris' Stewart, Helensville electrician Tony Cooper, and Parakai's Heena King and her children. transposed over backgrounds of local scenes.

"Nearly everyone we spoke with could name at least one person in the pull up banners, which means the right talent were chosen by locals," says Coralie Owens, Auckland Transport's community transport co-ordinator - north west.

"We had a lot of in-depth conversations with locals and people visiting the area, about speeding issues in the community. Interactions were very positive and people

says Coralie.

cards, featuring the majority of the local safety message, were also printed for the speed reduction campaign, and distributed with help from the community to Helensville households.

banners have been installed at Helensville Primary School.

The sites chosen for the billboards were based largely on road deaths and serious injury data from the New

Zealand Transport Authority. However some sites, such as at Kaukapakapa and outside the Helensville showgrounds, were chosen because of their high visibility and the large volume of passing traffic, while those installed in Parkhurst Road at the entry to Parakai were chosen with the help of local knowledge gained at the focus group.

Rounding out the 'Slow Down' campaign is the production of website tiles and banners to go on local community websites, and Coralie hopes to also produce a few short videos featuring the people on the billboards talking about speeding and slowing down when driving around roads in and around the community.

The campaign will finish in March, when the billboards will be taken down.



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• Heena King with 9-month-old son Ihaia, beside the billboard at the entry to Parakai that features them and six-year-old daughter Senesi. Heena, who runs a local fitness group for women and mothers, was asked by Nem Bartley to be one of the faces for the campaign

They feature the words 'Slow Down' in bold text, some with smaller messages underneath such as 'For Us', 'Love our Kids', and 'Love Being a Local'.

Auckland Transport held a focus group in Helensville late last year, where suggestions were made for local people who would be good to feature in the campaign, and then photo shoots were held.

Those featured on the billboards between them represent local families, schools, farming, youth, businesses, and people involved in the community such as volunteer firefighters.

A number of pull-up banners were also produced, and were on display at a stand Auckland Transport had at the Helensville Christmas parade in December.





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Town's namesake on market

Probably the most famous building in Helensville has come on the market for the first time in 20 years.

It's Helen's Villa in Nelson Street, the house that gave our town its name.

It's not the original house, of course - that burned down only a few years after it was built around 1863 by one of the town's first settlers, John McLeod, and named for his wife Helen.

wardrobe a small area of original scrim lining has been left as a nod to the building's history.

While mature trees on the 2000m² have blocked some of the home's views, the Kaipara River can still be seen from the upstairs deck, and the Helensville showgrounds and the hills beyond from some of the bedrooms.

When the current owner purchased the

property in 1998, he also bought a

separate 657m² adjoining property on the eastern side, and moved the house that was on it off so Helen's Villa would have a larger section. That separate title is also being

sold

conjunction with

building and next

door section are

The heritage

the main home.

i n



Helen's Villa today

Daniel Stewart bought the property in 1870 and rebuilt the house as a much larger, two-storey building, using predominantly locally-milled kauri timber.

In the town's early days, it was the only European building visible from ships as they came up the Kaipara River.

The current owner purchased the property in May, 1998 as a retirement project, and has spend the last two decades lovingly restoring, renovating and extending the almost 150-year-old historic building.

Now aged 80, he has finally decided to slow down says Jane Burmester of Burmester Realty in Commercial Road, which is marketing the property.

The home has been more or less doubled in size so it now covers 376m², and features six bedrooms and six bathrooms, a huge kitchen and dining room, a large formal lounge with a fireplace, a 2m-wide central hallway, a library and a ballroom.

Original kauri match lining features throughout, and in the master bedroom

for sale by fixed date offer. Offers will be presented to the vendor on February 28 if not sold prior.

Christmas dinner

Attendance at the Helensville Christmas Day community dinner was double that of the previous year.

"The change of venue to the Helensville Primary School hall facilities was a huge improvement in many ways," says organiser Holly Southernwood. "The many volunteers contributed to an enjoyable community and family celebration."

Those who attended enjoyed the food and Christmas music, with children receiving gifts. Left over food went to local families and the Island Child Trust at Point England.

Holly thanks Helensville School for the free use of the hall, and Helensville District Health Trust for the use of the ovens at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai.

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Fire crews battle forest, scrub fire



Firefighters load a monsoon bucket at Rautawhiri Park ready for dousing the blaze by helicopter
- Photo: Victoria Logan, Stellanova Photography

Fire crews from Helensville, Kaukapakapa, Shelly Beach, Kumeu, Silverdale and Puhoi battled a fire which burnt approximately 3ha of young pine forest and scrub on the hills above Helensville mid last month.

Plumes of smoke could be seen from many parts of the Helensville district, with many locals posting photos and videos on social media.

Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade deputy chief officer Dan Kelly made the decision to bring in a helicopter and monsoon bucket from Warkworth to help fight the blaze because of the difficult terrain.

He says once the helicopter arrived the fire was brought under control within a

couple of hours, but it took a long time to completely extinguish, with firemen still on duty the following day dampening hot spots.

The monsoon buckets were filled through a hydrant by the Helensville Rugby Club building, run through a fire appliance to control the flow.

Dan says the cause of the fire had yet to be determined, but the property's owner has had issues with children on his land in the past, and thinks they may have been the cause.

The burned land was mostly covered in two- to three-year-old pine trees and areas of scrub. No buildings were endangered by the fire, but fire crews had to keep the blaze from nearby high tension power lines.







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Local businessman Peter Ashton

Peter Ashton 18/5/61 - 6/12/17

Well-known Helensville business owner Peter Ashton passed away late last year.

Peter, eldest son of Audrey and Rex Ashton, was born at Malolo Hospital in Commercial Road on May 18, 1961.

By the age of seven or eight Peter, with his younger brother Phillip, was aiming guns at ducks and rabbits, had taken up rugby, had begun to play tennis (at which he later competed at club championship level), and had picked up the guitar.

Father Rex was a commercial fisherman,

so many weekends were spent on the boat. Peter developed a passion, shared with Phillip, for fishing, and it became a serious pursuit in adulthood.

Peter went to Helensville Primary and Kaipara College. By the time he got to secondary school the guitar had become a big part of his spare time, playing for his own pleasure.

After leaving school he did an apprenticeship with Gavin Hutton at Premier Panelbeaters in Mill Road, earning an Advanced Trade Certificate, the trade's highest qualification. He

stayed with Premier, apart from a couple of sojourns with other panelbeaters, until 1994 when he bought the business.

Over the years he expanded Premier into a paint, tyre, and mechanical workshop as well, and the business remains in family hands.

An active member of the Collision Repair Association, he was devoted to the interests of small business panelbeaters nationwide and worked on their behalf to forge links between the association and insurers.

Peter was a perfectionist - a trait he pushed so far it earned him the nickname 'Stress'. His attitude to those who suggested he shouldn't panic was that he had so much going on, they just didn't understand what had to be done. He went grey very early!

A keen car enthusiast, initially with Austin Sevens then Chevrolets, Peter's passion eventually shifted to WW2 military vehicles. He spent many hours researching war history, and was an aficionado of global war events and war artefacts.

In his late 40s he joined the Military Vehicle Collectors Club and his passion for things military exploded. Contacts made through the club enabled him to acquire more project vehicles, and he managed to finish most of them.

He provided as many as 10 military vehicles and drivers for the annual Helensville Anzac Day parades, and



Peter Ashton in one of his beloved military vehicles

although he always swore he'd never do another one, the next year he'd do it again.

In 2014 Peter met new partner Michelle when she brought in her car to be repaired. He invited her to the Anzac Day parade, and later they drove an army jeep to a Kumeu rest home to take a few of the residents for a spin.

Peter allowed himself to truly relax during family holidays at the bach at Whangateau, where for many years he was a trustee of the Whangateau Cemetery Board. His children remember him dragging them around all the antique shops and to auctions on the hunt for artefacts.

No-one is perfect, and Peter's most obvious flaw was his diet. It's claimed he





passes away

• From page 6

couldn't boil water without burning it. During his 11 years at school he ate nothing but baked bean sandwiches for lunch. Green things were off the menu, and when he fed himself it was cheese on a bun, or a packet of chicken chips for dinner.

He liked to play golf at South Head Golf Club and had a respectable handicap, but while he played competitively, the real attraction was the social aspect.

Peter loved nature and animals, particularly dogs, and owned three Labradors.

At home he planted large areas of native trees and made walkways through them, and it was one of his great pleasures to sit and enjoy the landscape he'd planted.

In July 2016 Peter underwent a lung transplant, which produced intermittent health challenges over the following 17 months. Although he was never 100 percent again, he still managed to get a lot done and to enjoy life. When he was admitted to hospital late last year with a virus, everyone had expected him to bounce back as before. On the day he died, Peter suggested to his transplant specialist that perhaps a little bit of a miracle would come through, but he was told the time for miracles had passed.

Peter's death in December meant he just missed the weddings of son Devin and his fiancée, Katherine in late January, and daughter Hailey and her fiancé, Bryn, later this month.

Refuge seeks angel

A guardian angel is sought to help local women's refuge clients for a few hours once a week during the weekend.

The Kia Timata Ano Trust is an independent women's refuge serving northwestAuckland.

The volunteer position could suit someone who has been affected by family violence and who would like to help others, or someone who has worked with vulnerable people in their career.

"We envisage our volunteer will become something of a mentor to our clients, building up their confidence and resilience," says Trust chairman Dr Harry Hillebrand.

For more information about the role, email the trust's executive director at: ana.kiatimata@gmail.com.

medical centre notes

Summer is in full flow, so now with the beaches crowded it's a good time to talk about sunburn, even if it feels like I'm being a bit of a killjoy. The ultraviolet rays in light cause inflammation in the skin.

With mild sunburn the skin is mildly red and uncomfortable, which lasts about two days. Moderate skinburn has red hot and tender skin and takes

three to five days to settle, often with peeling of the skin. With severe sunburn the skin is red, hot, very painful and swollen, with blisters, and other effects of that much sun exposure can include headache, fever, nausea and even delirium. In New Zealand we have to be careful even on cloudy days, and

especially on water or snow and even concrete, where the rays are reflected back up. Some medication can increase the risk, such as the antibiotic doxycycline, where less sun exposure is needed to burn.

Avoidance is best, but sunburn is managed by cold compresses, increased fluid intake, mositurising creams, calamine or weak steroid cream.

Sunburn in the teenage years is linked to a much higher risk of future skin cancer, such as melanoma. So it's vitally important people cover up, wear broad brimmed hats and use high strength sun screen - and don't forget to do the tips of your ears!.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director





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Helensville A&P Show will be buzzing

The 116th Helensville A&P Show on Saturday, February 24 will be buzzing with excitement - quite literally in places.

The show has something of a bee theme this year.

The hugely popular annual children's cut-out animal decorating competition run through local schools, features bees as the animal of choice this year. Always colourful and often amusing, they will be displayed inside and outside the main show building, and at other locations around the grounds.

Three bee-related trade stands round out the theme to create a "complete bee experience" says show manager Merle Kotze.

Leading the way will be Beehive Corner, where children will be able to don beekeeping attire and be led inside a giant live beehive. Other stalls will feature a

range of honey products (including honey tasting), and a full range of beekeeping equipment.

The leading entertainment activity at this year's show will be a re-enactment of a World War II battle - see our full story on page 1.

It won't just be guns going 'bang' at the show, with a first-time performance lined up for the Auckland Regional Drumline, billed as New Zealand's premier marching percussion drumline. On the more traditional music front, there is a special treat in store with a Doobie Brothers tribute show playing on the main stage. The Groove Diggers band will return again this year, and also on the stage will be



• Interacting with farm animals is one of the joys of the show

Helensville's own Emilie Harwood.

The Helensville A&P Show has its roots in this area's agricultural and pastoral heritage, and the 2018 show will do what it does best each year - highlight the farming aspect of our community through displays and competitions of animals, including cattle, sheep, horses, poultry and working dogs. Many of the 130-plus trade stands will be farming or lifestyle-themed, plus there will again be a Junior Farmer competition for local school children.

There will be a range of restored farm machinery from the 1900s to 1950s on show courtesy of the Auckland Vintage Engine Restorers club. It will be a live display of

stationary engines as used to power wool-sheds, cowsheds, and pumps, plus examples of driven machines.

Youngsters will be kept amused by Poppy the clown and Carmel's face painting, along with the popular McDonald's Travelling Farmyard where they will be able to pet and feed lambs, piglets and goats.

No show is complete without sideshows, and this year Funco Promotions, Gills Amusements, and Go Vertical Events will be bringing a selection of rides to the show's Carnival Zone, including: a Stunt Jump and Slide; Wipeout Balls; Boot Camp Obstacle Course; Pirate Ship; Bugs the Bug Ride; Hot Rods; Laughing Clowns; Tea Cup Ride;

Water Balls; and Vertical Bungee.

New Helensville MP Chris Penk will be opening the show at 10am and later judging the best trade displays.

Dog lovers will enjoy the regular pet dog show and agility competition, watching canines that often have their own idea of what they are meant to be doing.

Talking of dogs - the Greyhounds as Pets

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HELENSVILLE A&P SHOW Saturday, Feb 24 from 9am

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➤ World War 2 battle re-enactment ➤ Doobie

Brothers Tribute > Live music with The

www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz

later this month

• From page 8

charity will have a trade stand at the show, with a couple of greyhounds on hand to be petted.

When the sun gets too hot, the indoor displays are always a big hit at the Helensville A&P Show; expect plenty of entries in the baking, floral, produce, crafts, children's and photography sections.

Also helping show visitors cool down will be the bar, this year to be run by local firm, Liberty Brewery.

Paul Stroobant will be running his clydesdale-drawn carriage rides, which give visitors a relaxing overview of everything that's happening at the show, while the North Harbour Axemen will be in action again - woodchopping is one of the show's most popular spectator sports.

Once again a number of community organisations have been granted free trade spaces for the show. This year they are: South Kaipara Land Care; St John Opportunity Shop; Rural Woman New Zealand; Compost Collective; Helensville Lions Club; McCosh Charitable Trust; Helensville Playcentre; South Kaipara Rotary; and the Waitoru Zone Scouts.

The Helensville A&P Show is now firmly entrenched as a zero waste and smokefree event. This year, for the first time since the show went zero-waste five years ago, the recycling will be handled by the local Helensville Community Recycling Centre.

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UPDATE FEBRUARY 2018

A MESSAGE FROM NWC CHAIR TONY FORLONG

North West Country is definitely where all the action is going to be during 2018. Our second North West Wine Beer and Food Festival is just days away and we

Food Festival is just days away and we are looking forward to sharing all that this region has to offer with thousands attending this event.

Locally, we are pleased to open nominations for the 2018 North West Business Awards and we would encourage you to nominate your favourite business and help us celebrate business excellence in the North West area. A new initiative this year will be a Business Expo which will be held in Kumeu mid-year as an opportunity to showcase an even wider range of businesses to local residents.

One of our projects this year is to advocate for, and assist with, improvements to our town centres, starting with Helensville. It's also pleasing to see high speed fibre being rolled out in Helensville over the next couple of months and while there may be some shortterm disruption, businesses and residents will benefit greatly from faster connectivity.

Our new mobile app is currently being tested by a small number of our businesses before being rolled out across the region in March so keep an eye out for this exciting initiative and ways that you can win monthly prizes.



Make sure you have your tickets to this years North West Wine, Beer and Food Festival! There will be door sales available, but **last year sold out** - so don't miss out this year!

2018 NORTH WEST BUSINESS AWARDS

They're back! The annual North West Business Awards for 2018 are here, and nominations are now OPEN!

Visit **www.northwestcountry.co.nz/bizawards** to nominate your favourite local businesses to show your appreciation for all their hard work, for their growth or development, for their outstanding customer service - or for just remembering your name!



The Business Awards are open to any and all businesses operating in the greater North West Country boundaries. For more information and the T's and C's, visit the North West Country website - then get nominating!

WWW.NORTHWESTCOUNTRY.CO.NZ

New Health Trust manager



The Helensville District Health Trust has appointed a local, Nicola Keen-Biggelaar (above), as its new business manager.

For the last 12 years Nicola has commuted to the city from Helensville in her role managing community investments for a large corporate.

Nicola and her husband Mark, who runs a local woodworking and furniture restoration business, have three young children. She's also an active board member of two local charities.

"It's a great privilege to bring my depth of experience in the notfor-profit sector, and my passion for community development, to my own home town," says Nicola.

"I'm really looking forward to working with other community organisations here in Helensville to make South Kaipara an even more healthy and vibrant place to live."

Nicola takes up the new role on Wednesday, February 21.



TE PUNA WHANAU KI TE AWAROA

Helensville Birthing Centre is your local community facility. It provides a free service for women who choose to give birth in a low-tech environment. Alternatively, women who give birth in hospital can then transfer to us for the opportunity to rest and establish breastfeeding.

You are welcome to call in and have a look around, or browse our facilities online.

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Make 2018 your year to learn

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai is looking forward to hosting a number of educational courses this year.

Te Reo Māori will again be on offer after a hugely successful Level 2 course last year. The majority of those 25 students will be returning to do Level 4 with tutor, Tuwhiti Happy. He is also looking at running another Level 2 course for beginners. The free Te Reo Māori courses are run by Te Wananga Aotearoa in collaboration with Whiti Ora o Kaipara.

Te Wananga Aotearoa is also looking at running a weekly evening course on Money Management. Course tutor Colin Frampton says the Level 3 qualification is suitable for people on all income levels and in all financial situations. Learn how to take control of your future by managing debt, create and protect wealth and plan for your retirement. It's about making your money work for you and your whānau.

To register your interest and find out when the Information Evenings on these courses will be held visit **thrivekaipara.org.nz** or contact Amy Wood on **a.wood@hdht.co.nz** or call 09 420 9983.

New mums and bubs welcome

Any new mums and bubs are invited to join the Helensville Birthing Centre Coffee Group. The group meets fortnightly at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai. As well as informal chit-chat, the group often has guest speakers covering everything from babywearing to post-natal depression. The first catch-up this month is on February 7, then every second Wednesday. To find out more email Debbie on **Ic@helensvillebirthingcentre.co.nz**.

Baby Ihaia Harris and mum Heena at a Helensville Birthing Centre Coffee Group event.



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200m paper chain on show

As children, many locals will have made paper chains. But it's unlikely any would have been on the scale of the one on show at the Art Centre in Helensville - or have the meaning behind it.

Artist Tracey Cannon's 'Chain of Events' exhibition, which runs until Saturday, February 24, features a 200m paper chain made of 2239 paper links aimed at highlighting the ongoing effects of the diagnoses of mental disorders.



• Tracey with part of her paper chain

It was made from an entire volume of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Volume 4.

Tracey, from Laingholm, says the exhibition combines two of her passions: art and mental health.

"I came to this work after recovering from some challenging mental health experiences in my mid 20s, and wanting to address some of the not so great parts of my own experiences.

"I happened to come across the [book] I made the chain out of in a bookshop fire sale. I didn't know at the time what I would do with it, and couldn't say how the idea came to me ... it just popped into my head one day," she says.

making the difference

Is there someone special who has done something that's made a difference for you, your family or our town? To nominate someone, write to: Nicky Horsbrough, Harcourts Helensville, 37 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800 or fill out the form online at: http://nickyhorsbrough.harcourts.co.nz. The lucky recipient will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice.

Our February recipient is Esther Te Aotonga, who has chosen a \$100 voucher for use at the Helensville Unichem Pharmacy.

Esther was nominated anonymously for the '24 Acts of Kindness' she and her children did on the lead-up to Christmas.

They counted down the days to Christmas by doing little acts of kindness each day, such as taking fudge to the elderly, writing someone a letter, drawing a picture for someone, taking treats to the

Silverdale animal shelter, and leaving notes on cars with a little candy cane attached.





• Esther (left) with children Naomi (2), Seth (6), Grace (4) and Josiah (8), with Nicky

Farewell to Isla Willis

Isla Willis 9/4/1931 – 17/11/2017

Long-time local resident Frances Isabel (Isla) Willis (nee Scott) came to the area from the Waikato in the mid-1940s at the age of 12, when her family moved to a farm in Waitoki.

Apart from time away for travel, university studies, teacher training and work, she spent the rest of her life in the district.

Isla gained a BA at the University of Auckland and attended Teacher Training College in Auckland. She was a primary school teacher and a teacher of the deaf in the local area before spending three years abroad.

After her return, she met future husband Keith at church. They married in 1960 and, after Keith completed his Ag Science degree at Massey University, they took over the family farm at Kaukapakapa, naming it 'Amenbury' after Keith's grandfather's property in England.

After her marriage, Isla became a member of St Andrews Church in Garfield Rd, where she taught Sunday School. She worked alongside



Keith on farm tasks, raised their four children, and was involved in a variety of community affairs, including the Presbyterian Church; playcentre; Girl Guides, where her years of leadership earned her a Long Service Medal; and later the Helensville Historical Society.

An interest in history, specially of the Kaukapakapa district, drew Isla to the Helensville Historical Society and she was one of the society's long-standing committee members.

She master-minded several special events, including a pageant of local families at the opening of the museum at its present site in of European settlement of

• Isla Willis, dressed in period costume at a Helensville Museum open day

2006, and the 150th celebration of European settlement of Kaukapakapa in 2010.

In later years Isla joined the cemetery committee of the Kaukapakapa Methodist Church, and as sexton did a lot to upgrade the cemetery and headstones there.

Her special interest in the Kaukapakapa area included investigating and recording the 1883 murder of Matilda Thompson and her 14-year-old daughter Olivia, and she was one of the team who collected the histories of local women into the book 'Pioneering Women of South Kaipara', published by the Historical Society.

Her collecting of family portraits and histories of local people resulted in the establishment of the family history wall at Helensville

Museum. Isla also began a pictorial and item collection highlighting the history of the Kaipara Dairy Company, which is a developing display in the m u s e u m 's schoolhouse.

Her years of community work were recognised in 2009 when she was a w a r d e d th e K a u k a p a k a p a Community Award.

- Wynne HaySmith







Speeding is the single biggest road safety issue in New Zealand today.

Within the Parakai and Helensville communities speed related crashes between 2012 and 2017 resulted in 6 deaths and 10 serious injuries*. These crashes could have been avoided by slowing down.

The faster the speed at which a pedestrian is hit, the more serious their injuries. A pedestrian hit at 30 km/ph has a 5% chance of dying, compared with a 40% risk of death at 50 km/ph. Hit at 70 km/ph, 96% of pedestrians will die.**

Being part of a community includes looking out for each other and sharing the roads. There is a huge impact on family and friends when loved ones are killed or seriously injured.

Let's tackle this speeding problem together by driving at a safe speed within the speed limits. Helensville Primary School, community organisations and local heroes have come together to help change our culture of speeding.

Love being a local – Slow Down.

* New Zealand Transport Agency, Crash Analysis System Data ** http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/nz-pedestrian-profile/6.html



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Men's trust seeks new blood

The South Kaipara Men's Trust (SKMT) is looking for two or three new trustees.

"We're looking for new trustees because the existing ones by and large are of retirement age, and we're looking for a younger generation, with drive and initiative," says current trustee, Rob Ellis.

The SKMT has operated in Helensville for around 13 years, and over that time has provided a raft of services to local men, ranging from counseling and adult literacy through to fishing trips and father and son days.

'There's been a history of success at the Men's Trust, and that need has not gone away," says fellow trustee Jens Hansen.

"What there is a need for is re-invigorated blood, new ideas, new people. So same old need, different people in governance."

Rob says the ideal candidates would be local men with schoolage children, but says current trustees are "very flexible" in terms of who could become a trustee.

"Because it's a men's organisation, they need to be men. We have one woman who is prepared to be a trustee, but we can't have a predominance of women.3

Adds Jens: "We want the most suitable people possible. The aim of the organisation is to look after the welfare and needs of men, young men and their families. If we're going to be advocating for and looking at working with men, it makes sense that men should be as involved as possible.

"It's not a matter of political correctness or conflict against women, but it's a matter of looking to get the most suitable people, who might be able to work within the community and agencies to make sure men, young men and their families receive the best services possible.

Both Rob and Jens stress the role is not onerous. Trustees will need to attend one evening a month.

"And possibly to do occasional small assignments in between times, but nothing particularly onerous as far as time is concerned," says Rob.

The trust's role is in governance, not management. Trustees set policies and validate future directions, and network as appropriate. Day to day management is handled by the Trust's recently-appointed new manager, Mike Bridgman, who operates from an office at the Helensville Budgeting Service, in the lower level of the Helensville War Memorial Hall.

While the manager's position is paid, trustee positions are purely voluntary with no remuneration available.

Local men interesting in becoming trustees can contact Mike Bridgman on 027 800 8081, or email him at: info@skmt.co.nz.

Local racetrack to feel pounding of hooves again

People keen to see race horses back in action at the Helensville showgrounds are in for a treat - the sand track is to become regularly used for training purposes.

Avondale Jockey Club is re-sanding the track at it's own cost, to enable Waimauku-based Natalie Tanner of Tanner Racing to train her horses there.

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Natalie was one of the last trainers

regularly using the now mostly-closed Avondale race course for her training, along with four or five other trainers who used it on an occasional basis.

As well as providing the sand, the Avondale club has given rails and half a dozen starting boxes for the Helensville facility.

Natalie won her first horse trial on the Helensville race course, and is looking forward to bringing her horses back to the town. While she will be the main user of the revamped sand track, she expects some other trainers to use it as well.

Natalie also trains at Woodhill Forest and on Muriwai Beach.

local board matters

It's 2018 and Auckland Council is kicking things off with consultation on its '10 Year Budget', formerly the 'Long Term Plan'.

The Mayor has published his vision for the 10 Year Budget, and as an executive mayor, rather than the type of mayors we had under Rodney District Council, he leads this process. You can find out where he's headed by Googling 'Mayor's Vision For Auckland'.

I can imagine a few rolled eyes at this point and the usual justifiable cynicism about the whole process: "why bother" you'll be asking yourself, "no one will listen and they've made their minds up already...'

The 10 Year Budget sets out the spending goals for your council.

This budget will determine the level of rates council sets over the coming years, the services council provides, how it spends your rates and money it borrows for capital spending, the major projects it undertakes whether for community facilities or transport infrastructure, how it's going to manage its finances and ensure the 'books are balanced', and what will be cut to ensure that.

Given we've got a lot of residential growth in our district, and all the associated infrastructure pain that comes with that, it's very important we engage with this process and provide feedback for or against the proposals.

The Local Board has a number of important things we want feedback on.

We have a planned multi-purpose indoor sports facility for Huapai to meet demand for sports courts and out of season use by the growing sports clubs in the area. Getting widespread public support for this \$12m project will be essential if it's to go ahead.

We are also planning to undertake main street upgrades in Helensville, and want to ensure this is widely supported before we allocate funding to this work.

We have heard from you about the transport issues we face and there was tentative support for a proposed targeted rate to bring forward transport spending. We have spent more than six months working with the council's finance team and Auckland Transport on a range of projects that could be financed by a \$150 targeted rate per property. It includes additional road sealing for local roads like Wilson Road in South Head, and footpaths in Helensville and Kaukapakapa. And more buses from Kumeu, a new



bus service from Riverhead, and a Park'n'Ride in Kumeu.

Unfortunately, our proposals for a targeted rate are against the background of other targeted rates across Auckland for improving water quality and environmental issues.

Residents will have to weigh up the benefits of these targeted rates proposals and decide whether they offer value for money.

Targeted rates have one positive attribute - they must, by law, be spent on the purpose they are levied for. This means you can have confidence the money will go where it's meant to be going. There are arguments for and against, however the Local Board received feedback that residents wanted the option and so we have presented a viable package for your consideration. It is now going to up to your feedback whether we proceed with this.

It is essential we get as many people as possible providing feedback either for or against the plan, as the community's future will be guided by these budgets.

A detailed document will not be sent out to ratepayers, with the push being to get people to provide feedback online, or visit their local library for a feedback form.

Consultation starts in late February and March. Keep an eye out here or on Facebook for information, or Google 'Auckland 10 Year Budget' for more information

Yo can phone me on 021 837 167 or email m e at: phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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town talk

ATTRACTING BEES

Locals wanting to attract bees into their gardens will be able to get advice and discuss that with Lisa Clapperton of Waitoki Plants at the next Waitoki Village market on Saturday, February 10.

The market will feature the usual range of baked goods, coffee, olive oil, plants, homemade and used goods, bric a brac, and preserves, and will be held in the Waitoki Hall from 8.30am to midday. Proceeds from the market go back to the local community.

Prospective stall holders should contact Gill, phone 420 3301 or email: waitokihall@gmail.com.

KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa market is on Sunday, February 18 from 8.30am to 1pm.

There will be stalls selling hand-made goods, plus everything from locally grown fruit and vegetables to second hand items, plus snacks at the market café, freshly baked cakes, donuts, barista coffee, and the Helensville Lions sausage sizzle.

The musicians this month are Ukulele Union who will perform from 10am to midday.

For more information or to book a stall contact Sarah, phone 027 483 1542 or email: sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

OLD & NEW PHOTOS

Kaukapakapa library will hold a 'Yesterday and Today' photo exhibition on Sunday, February 18 from 10am to 1pm.

The exhibition will display historic images of Kaukapakapa, alongside current-day photos of the same locations, giving people new to the area a chance to learn some of Kaukapakapa's history.

The library is open in conjunction with the

trade & classifieds

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Helensville News - Publication Information

MARCH 2018 deadline: Friday, 16th February 2017 ISSUE DUE OUT TUESDAY, MARCH 5th 2018

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2018 issue dates and deadlines:			
Due out: March 5th	Copy by: Feb 16th	Due out: May 1st	Co
Due out: April 3rd	Copy by: Mar 16th	Due out: June 5th	Co

Editorial: Ph 420 7215. Editor & Publisher: Dave Addison, Helensville News (2011) Ltd, 502 Fordyce Rd, RD1, Helensville 0874. Design, Subediting & Layout: Dash Design, 420 7215. Printing: Rob McCorkindale, Print Matters, 0274 740 657. Copyright: No material in this newspaper may be copied or reproduced without the publisher's permission.

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Letters to the Editor: Should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.

www.facebook.com/helensvillenews

community titbits from town and around

Kaukapakapa village market on the third Sunday of each month.

Contact Megan Paterson, phone 021 959 017 or email: threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

PARENTING COURSE

A Parenting Through Separation course will be held at Te Whare Oranga \bar{o} Parakai on Saturday, February 24 from 10am-2pm.

The four-hour course will provide ideas and information for people with children going through the stress of separating. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Justice.

To register or for more information, contact Jess Hale, phone 09 818 6834, or email: jessh@lifewise.org.nz.

■ TARRAMEETING

Te Awaroa Residents & Ratepayers Association's first meeting for the year will be in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room at 7.30pm on Wednesday, February 28. Discussions will include a potential town bypass and the proposed Kaipara Medical Centre dispensary.

HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Helensville Aglow will next meet at 7.30pm on Friday, March 2 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. The guest speaker will be Richard Brunton, author of 'The Awesome Power Of Blessing'. Email: yvonne@hello.net.nz for more information.

A&P Show (cont...)

• From page 9

Look out for the free tractor rides from the public carpark, accessed through Stewart Street, and an EFTPOS cash out facility will be available at the show office. Entry to the show is by cash only - EFTPOS will not be available at the gate.

Show manager Merle Kotze thanks the show's sponsors, supporters, and the "countless volunteers who make the show possible".

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