

Proposed Kaipara gas power station shelved

Genesis Energy has abandoned plans to build a controversial \$500 million natural gas-fired power station just north of Helensville, and is selling the land it purchased for the project.

"Genesis Energy no longer has an intention to build the Rodney power station," says Genesis public affairs manager Richard Gordon.

The 48ha site, on State Highway 16 halfway between Helensville and Kaukapakapa, was chosen for its proximity to the main gas pipeline and electricity transmission lines.

The power station proposal dated back to 2005, and the original plan was to be generating 240 megawatts of power by the summer of 2008-09. A second stage to boost production to 360MW would have depended on increasing the gas pipeline's capacity.

The proposed development included a substantial upgrade or replacement of the Helensville waste water treatment plant.

State-owned Genesis Energy was

granted resource consents including air discharges by the then Auckland Regional Council in 2008, and land use resource consents by Rodney District Council the following year. A variation to the District Plan created a thermal energy generation rural zone between Helensville and Kaukapakapa.

The resource consents gave Genesis 15 years in which to build the plant.

"At the time there was a high growth in demand for electricity, and all electricity generators were looking to create development options," says Richard.

"The market has changed substantially since then. Several base load geothermal stations have been built as well as several wind farms.

"Also, demand growth has slowed, and investment in the national grid has improved the efficiency and capability of the country's electricity transmission, particularly into major centres.

"As a result, Genesis Energy has no requirement to build the Rodney power station and is selling, over time, the land it acquired for the project," says Richard.

That land included a core section for the power station and water treatment plant, and a number of buffer properties to reduce the station's effect on neighbouring land owners.

When it was announced the power station project came under heavy criticism from several fronts, including local residents, the Kaukapakapa Area Residents & Ratepayers Association, Greenpeace, and the Green Party, whose co-leader at the time, Jeanette Fitzsimons, described the proposal as simply "a bad idea".

Walkway gets a makeover with help from youth groups



• The team take a break from making the path

Volunteer youth from South Kaipara Blue Light, South Kaipara Youth and committee members teamed with Helensville Lions late last month to metal the Riverside Walkway from the Creek Lane platform through to the most recently completed section behind the old BNZ and Post Office buildings.

Working over two days, the team of workers spread and levelled crushed concrete over a 300m stretch of the walkway, with the metal held in place with timber boxing. Auckland Council funded the materials and Countdown donated food for a sausage sizzle for the hungry workers.

Youth involved were: Qunique Monga Tarawa, Trizhan Monga Tarawa, Kyle Brown, Sahara Peehikuru, Joseph Heke, Ewen Heke and Caitlyn Heke

"We're happy to be able to do this in conjunction with Blue Light," says Lions spokesman Dennis Cummings.

Community Constable Mandi Bell was putting her wheel-barrowing skills to good use, shuttling loads of metal along the path.

She says the project was about "activating the space [and] encouraging people to use it." She hopes with more people able to use the walkway that will help reduce incidences of graffiti.

Inside...

- Hall basement almost ready ... Pg 3
- College principal retiring ... Pg 4
- South Head beekeeper ... Pg 5
- Physio centre rebrands ... Pg 6
- Pauline Poland obituary ... Pg 7
- Te Rau Puriri to expand ... Pg 8
- Managing local halls ... Pg 12

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editorial

Every issue, a week or so out from deadline, I suffer the same form of panic: 'I'm never going to fill the paper this month!'

I'll be staring at a list of planned articles that haven't come to fruition, and a whole bunch of empty pages in the layout. Yet every month (so far at least, touch wood) the paper is full - in fact usually over-full, and I have to leave out some stories completely, and edit down other articles that really deserve a lot more space, to make everything fit. One example of that is where we meet the new face of the South Kaipara Men's Trust, Jens Hansen on page 10 - it was such an interesting interview, and I could have easily filled two whole pages of the paper with what we talked about.

It's a balancing act between doing justice to the stories I receive, and getting as much variety and interest into each issue. Hopefully, I'm pulling that off in a satisfactory manner most issues.

And now a reminder that our October issue is being produced early, straight after I send September to the press, so if you have anything for that issue, get in quick!

- Dave Addison, Editor

Youth employment expert visits

International youth employment consultant Dave Turner visited Helensville businesses and Kaipara College last month while in New Zealand for a series of North Island workshops for the Mayor's Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ).

The MTFJ is a nationwide network of New Zealand's mayors, working together towards the vision of all young people under 25 being engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other positive activity in their communities.

Dave's workshops, held with support from the Tindall Foundation, were about the role of local government and employers in working with education to help the career development of young people and to tackle youth unemployment.

Dave was brought to Helensville at the behest of Ian Leader, manager of the Department of Internal Affairs funded South Kaipara Community Economic Development Scheme.

While here - taking a day out from his MTFJ duties - he held separate meetings with the business association and employers; senior Kaipara College students; and youth agencies.

Dave says it is vital to bring the worlds of education and employers together. He says local government and employers need to work better with schools, and schools need to be more "partnership ready" to work with those people.

He believes young people can learn a lot about forging a career by simply talking with employed people and learning their work stories. At the college, he queried students about their motivations when seeking a career.

Dave was born in Adelaide, but works around the world, especially in the UK, Switzerland, the US and Australia.

He says while unemployment in New Zealand is quite reasonable, the ratio of young people affected here is very high.



• Dave Turner

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Hall basement almost ready



• Project manager Pauline Dillon-Lai in what will be the Art Centre's new gallery space

Rebuilding of the Helensville War Memorial Hall basement should be complete this week, with tenants expected to be moving in over the next few days.

The only part of the project which won't be complete in time for the opening is the construction of a combined staircase and triple ramp to the carpark behind the hall. That has been delayed by bad weather, says council project manager Pauline Dillon-Lai.

Ten workers from Legacy Construction have been on the site for the past couple of months. While most of the work has gone smoothly, Pauline says there were issues with preparing the basement floor, and outside there were several pipes in places not shown on plans.

Those issues have added to the cost of the \$775,000 project, but Pauline says it is "still tracking within budget".

Once finished around half of the basement will be occupied by the Helensville Art Centre, which will have a gallery space, two workshop rooms, offices, storage, toilets and a kitchen.

The rest of the basement will be used by the Helensville Foodbank and the Helensville/Waimauku Family Budgeting Service. There will also be meetings rooms and a common space.

Floor to ceiling windows along the back wall make the new rooms surprisingly airy, although the more internal rooms will rely entirely on artificial light.

In conjunction with the basement work, three rooms have been built on the mezzanine floor inside the main hall, which has been opened with the construction of a large staircase against the hall's rear wall.

Local country music legend passes away

Popular country music singer and guitarist, and founding member and vice-president of the Helensville River Valley Country Music Club, Graeme McCardle, passed away on July 2.

Graeme founded the popular club, which meets on the third Sunday of every month in the Helensville War Memorial Hall, 30 years ago this month. He was a life member of the club.

Winner of numerous music awards, a highlight of his music career was becoming runner-up at the New Zealand Entertainer of the Year Awards in 1989. He also released several music CDs, and performed at eight Mildura Country Music Festivals in Australia.

He is survived by wife Linda and family Marty, Sue, Simon, Kelly and Fraser.

We hope to print a full obituary in the next issue of *Helensville News*.

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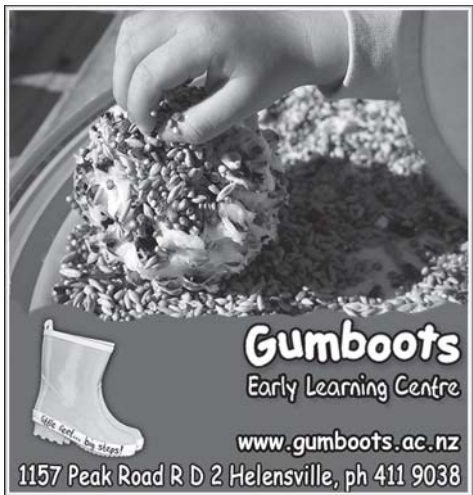
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College principal retiring

Kaipara College principal John Grant will retire at the end of this year after 18 years at the school.

He came to the college in 1998 after 11 years as principal at Tamaki College.

"I came here because I wanted to work in a different community but still in a small school, because I like community orientated schools. That's what Kaipara is," he says.

"Kaipara is a very mixed community, which is one of its great strengths."

John began his teaching career with two years at De La Salle College in Mangere - before he was even trained.

"The essential qualification for being a teacher at the beginning of the seventies, they were so short of teachers, was that if you had a body temperature in the range they would employ you," he quips.

He then went to teacher training college, followed by four years at Tokoroa High School. He then became head of biology at Kawerau College for three years before returning to Tokoroa as its head of science. That was followed by his time at Tamaki College and then Kaipara.

"When I came here the school already had a philosophy and approach to education that I liked a lot - a community school that focuses on giving kids a broad education and lots of good experiences, outside the classroom as well as inside the class.

"I wanted to strengthen that, and together with the staff, the team at school, we've strengthened it," he says..

"The kids didn't really appreciate how much skill and talent they had. I think they do now. They see they are good at doing things, and they still retain their essential humility and good humour. I really like that.

"Seeing the kids do well at sport and music and drama as well as the improving achievement rate is a great pleasure.

"I think the kids have really good attitudes. I really enjoy working with them. As they get to become seniors they turn into really solid citizens. Good people.

"That comes because the district has good families. The overwhelming number of our kids are growing up with good, solid parents in good, solid kiwi families."

John says there have been a whole raft of highlights during his time at the college, covering everything from academic results through to sports and music.

"The fire was quite devastating and



• John Grant outside his 'home away from home' for the past 18 years

tough to manage, but it did unlock a big redevelopment in the school. That really did give our community a modern school. We're very happy with the design, and the kids are happier."

John says he has no regrets about his time at Kaipara, though he says it has been hard work at times.

"The only frustrations I really feel could be fixed by more money - if the Government gave us more money we'd fix most of our frustrations," he semi-jokes.

John has no firm plans for his retirement, but says he'll "probably do a little bit of this or that if the Ministry [of Education] has work for me. I'll do something to keep active."

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Bee keeping the domain of 'muscular nerds'

Being a "muscular nerd" is as good a job description as any for being a beekeeper, according to Jason Everard.

Muscular, because there is a lot of physical work involved, lifting heavy hives around. And a nerd, because there is a lot of science associated with running successful bee hives.

Jason, one of several commercial or semi-commercial beekeepers in our district, runs Everbee Honey from an 8ha property at South Head with his wife Eve.

By day Jason is an IT specialist with tech company Cisco - but that didn't stop him producing around six tonnes of honey over the past year, a figure he hopes to double in the coming 12 months.

He and Eve sell most of their honey in bulk, but also at the Kaukapakapa and Parakai markets, and through the Helensville Meat Centre in Commercial Road, Shark & Tatties in Kaukapakapa, and the Gourmet Gannet at Huapai.

Born in California but raised in Ohio, Jason met Eve while living in her native Germany.

In New Zealand, they originally lived on the North Shore before buying a house in Helensville. But with close to 300 bee hives spread around approximately 50 properties from Kaukapakapa to South Head - most of them on the South Head peninsula - it made sense to look for some land out that way.

The couple and their four children, aged eight to 15 years, are now renting at Kaukapakapa while they build a home beside their large honey processing shed at South Head.

Jason is keen to find more properties to place his hives, generally lifestyle blocks and larger. Close to pasture or gardens with a variety of flowers is good, but the hives need to be at least 100m from houses. The hives also need to be readily accessible by Jason, who checks them monthly during winter

and three or more times a month during spring and summer. He currently pays property owners in honey.

He says New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world with a healthy bee population: "there have never been more bees here than today".

However he is concerned the industry is "rife for a crisis" because of the explosion in beekeeping. He says migratory bee keeping, where hive owners shift their hives around the country, can spread diseases. And while he encourages hobbyist bee keepers, he says they should try to learn their craft from a proper bee keeper.

"It's a lot of work [and] passion is not enough," he says. "It's animal husbandry in the truest sense."



• Jason and Eve at their South Head property

Last call for clubs & community groups

Helensville News wants you!

We will be profiling local clubs and community groups in our October issue, and would like to hear from any local clubs, sports groups or other voluntary organisations. It's a great chance to boost the profile of your club or group, and maybe increase your membership.

Once we've got your contact information, we'll send out a brief questionnaire to get a few facts and figures from you - things like what the organisation/club does, membership numbers, how long it's been running, and when meetings or events are held. Then we'll put together a special feature later in the year covering all of that information.

Email is our preferred method for gathering this information - you can email us at: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz with your club name and contact details. If email's not an option, feel free to phone on 420 7215.

Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire online right now by visiting: www.helensvillenews.co.nz/questionnaire.



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Local physio clinic rebrands



• The PhysioFlex team, from left: Sophie Holst, Grace Fletcher, Susan Narbey, Gaylene Ashton, Mary Dunning, Lynn Hunger and Kath Long

PhysioFlex is the catchy new name for Helensville's local physiotherapy centre.

Formerly known as the Helensville Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Centre, the rebranding has been designed to give the business a fresher, more modern appeal with a shorter, more useable and workable brand.

The physiotherapy clinic was set up nine years ago in purpose-built premises in Commercial Road by local physios Susan Narbey and Kath Long.

Susan bought out Kath's share in the practice late last year.

"She's a really experienced physiotherapist and a huge asset to our practice," says Susan, "and [staying on] keeps continuity with the patients."

Susan says apart from a few small changes and the fresh branding, not much else will change.

"It will be the same service delivery, the same physios."

The new branding was developed by a design agency, and Susan says it gets across the message of movement while utilising the key term "physio".

Accompanying the new branding is a new website, due online any day at

www.physioflex.co.nz.

While the website won't feature an online booking facility - Susan believes most locals still prefer to have personal contact - it will provide information about the practice, its staff and facilities.

There will be information about treatments such as acupuncture, and links through to the other service providers that operate from the centre.

Those now include ultrasound scanning with Andrew Graham on Tuesdays from 8am to midday; Linda Tulett's Foot Focus Podiatry practice on the third Thursday of each month; and Bay Audiology on Mondays.

Michelle Gibbs provides massage therapy, including pregnancy massage, at the centre on Fridays, while Miriam Reesink holds both private and group 'powerhouse' pilates sessions.

Susan says about 80 percent of the physiotherapy clinic's work is ACC-based, and points out that patients don't need a doctor's referral to attend. The clinic also contracts to ACC for its returning to work and functional rehabilitation programmes.

She says PhysioFlex is currently looking to employ another part-time physiotherapist.

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Farewell to Pauline Poland

SHIRLEY PAULINE POLAND
1939 – 2015

Heartfelt tributes were paid to Pauline Poland at her funeral in St Matthews Church, Helensville on Friday, July 10. Pauline died on July 4, after a period of failing health.

Pauline's bright and friendly personality, her strong support of her family, her strong friendships, hospitable and caring nature, and her creative genius were all recognised.

Pauline was born and brought up in the One Tree Hill area of Auckland, attending Cornwall Park Primary School and Epsom Girls' Grammar School. She met Doug Poland, a Kaukapakapa mechanic, at a 21st birthday party at Glorit, and they were married in 1959.

Their first home was in north Kaukapakapa and they later built a new home at the corner of Peak Road, opposite the Methodist Church, where they brought up their family. They moved to Rimu Street in Helensville 22 years ago.



Pauline made many friends over the years, and was always helpful and caring to those in need.

Through her own and her family's interests, she supported sport, school activities and groups such as Anglican Young Wives, and Plunket Mothers. She played golf, and was a keen walker. One of the reasons for the move to Helensville was for better opportunities for regular walks.

Hospitality was an important part of Pauline's life, and as her husband and family recalled, they were all "educated" into cooking and preparing meals.

Pauline was a highly creative person, and had a real love of beautiful things, especially antiques and fine linen. She arranged exhibitions, and was an advisor to many on the care of fabrics - including the collections at the Helensville Museum. She created a beautiful garden at her Helensville home, and her house and garden were opened to the public on several occasions.

She will be missed by family and friends.
- Wynne HaySmith

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medical centre notes

I would like to acknowledge the feedback we get from our patients and the community. It is greatly appreciated, and on behalf of the team at Kaipara Medical Centre, I want to assure you we listen to your concerns.

Patient access is clearly a big concern, especially during the busy winter season. We ask that you please bear with us while we work hard to roll out a range of initiatives to improve patient access and services.

Plans are in place with actions already underway based around deploying a mix of technology, process refinements and ultimately increasing the size of our clinical team to better match the growth in our Medical Centre's patient numbers and patient health needs.

In the short term, we will be doubling the number of phone lines in and out of the practice. We will also, in the very near future, be funding the ManageMyHealth resource free to our patients. This is an online healthcare resource, like a banking website, where you will be able to make appointments online, request repeat prescriptions and view test results online, and receive email reminders from us. There is also a smartphone app for ManageMyHealth.

Hopefully these developments will allow people easier access to make appointments and access services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we strive to deliver a service that our community can be proud of.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Local halls managed locally

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18 August at 7pm, Wellsford Community Centre, 1 Matheson Road, Wellsford

20 August at 7pm, Shoemsmith Hall, Corner Shoemsmith Street and Brown Street, Warkworth

24 August at 7pm, Riverhead Citizens Hall, 1011 Coatesville/Riverhead Highway, Riverhead

27 August at 7pm, Helensville War Memorial Hall, 49 Commercial Road, Helensville

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Farm bought to expand regional park

The 78ha South Head farm of Cedric and Dianne McLeod has been purchased by Auckland Council and will be used to expand Te Rau Puriri Regional Park.

The farm, which has extensive beachfront, had effectively split the park into two separate sections, and its acquisition will enable the council to create one contiguous park, while at the same time increasing the park's size by about 30 percent. It will also give the public easy access to the beautiful Waipiro Bay.

"This land, with its ecological and cultural heritage values, will significantly add to Te Rau Puriri as well as consolidating the parkland," says council Parks, Recreation and Sport committee chair Christine Fletcher.

"It also means in the future we will be able offer a range of recreational opportunities and access to a significant length of Kaipara Harbour coastline."

The council will run a small number of dry stock on the land while it carries out further ecological and heritage assessments and develops a concept plan for future development and use of park land.

Auckland Council manager of regional parks, Richard Hollier says any development of the park is a way off yet.

"We've still got a bit of work to do, and in the future will be working with neighbours, residents and iwi on developing a concept to protect and activate the park for visitors."

Cedric McLeod has lived on the farm since the 1950s, and Dianne since 1971. At this stage they have no definite plans for the future. Dianne says she hopes the council does "some really nice" developments to bring people to the park.

"I hope people enjoy the place, it's a beautiful part of the world."



• The Waipiro Bay beach

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For further information contact
Jasyn Yearbury 0276 554 363

Free rural development course

NorthTec will hold its second free Sustainable Rural Development course at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai, starting on Thursday, August 27.

The free-fees course will run for 19 weeks on Thursdays and Fridays and will provide participants with a Level 3 qualification.

Course tutor Heidelind Luschberger says the course is ideal for people wanting to gain land-based skills and knowledge, in particular learning how to develop their own or community land in a sustainable manner, and increasing the productivity of land using sustainable and organic principals.

Course participants will:

- Learn how to plan, plant and maintain an orchard capable of producing fruit year-round;
- Learn how to produce reusable decomposed organic matter;
- Learn how to effectively use native planting;
- Undertake a small-scale project based on sustainable rural activities.

While course fees are free, there may be some course-related costs. Locals interested in enrolling should phone 0800 162 100, or contact Heidelind on email: hluschberger@northtec.ac.nz or mobile 021 023 06465.

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Need for improved adult male literacy in South Kaipara

Jens Hansen, the new Activities and Services Leader for the South Kaipara Men's Trust, believes there is a major need for improved literacy among fathers and men in the South Kaipara.

"If we can do something about that, it's a need that I perceive. I'm interested in that happening as a future thrust [of the trust]."

Initially, however, with just two days a week in the part-time role, Jens will be concentrating on ensuring the trust delivers its core services, such as making sure counselling is available for men, young men and their families.

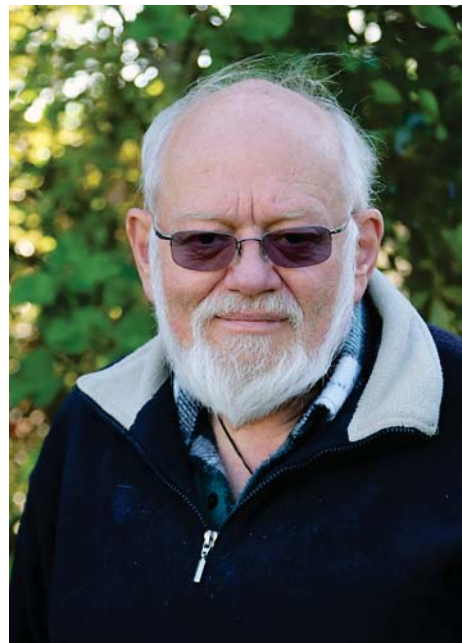
His work involves liaison with local schools and social services providers, chasing up funding, and making sure the SKMT's raft of projects and activities happen.

Jens was originally asked about five years ago to do an evaluation of the trust, to review the work it was doing, and its then public manifestation, the now-closed Men & Family Centre.

From there he was asked to become a trust board member, eventually taking over as board chairman on the retirement of Rob Ellis.

A restructuring of the trust saw the appointment of Tony Silvester-Clarke in an administration role. Tony was responsible for implementing the review, which suggested the trust should be the 'centrepiece' with services radiating outward from it into the community, rather than people having to come into the central Men & Family Centre for those services.

Jens runs the Woodhill Park Research Retreat, where he mentors MA and PhD students through their research and theses. His own doctorate investigated uses of technology for informal adult learning, and among other qualifications he is an Honorary



• Jens Hansen

Fellow of the anthropology department at the University of Auckland.

Earlier in his career he established the Rural Education Activities Programme for the west coast of the South Island, covering everything from early childhood education through to adult literacy and major community education events.



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Talk on local WWI commemorations

Helensville's Keith Cowper presented a comprehensive report on the World War 1 commemorations organised by the Kaipara RSA, at the Historical Society's second 2015 Winter Lecture in July.

He described the three projects being undertaken by the RSA and supported by individuals and groups in the district.

First was the establishment of big 'Lest We Forget' display boards in the RSA foyer, featuring red ANZAC poppies made from fabric and wool. 200 poppies to add to the boards were sent from Taranaki by a women's group who had called in at the Kaipara RSA for a meal and seen the display. A board was on display at the lecture.

Second, a register of First World War soldiers whose names appear on the Parakai, Helensville and Kaukapakapa memorial boards, has been compiled by the RSA and the Historical Society. Each soldier's researched details have been printed as individual booklets, making a valuable resource for the soldiers' families, genealogists and other researchers. Keith told the audience it had been a challenge to find information on some of the soldiers, whose names or families were not familiar. The booklets drew a lot of attention from many at the lecture.

The third project - the one most seen by the public - is the series of display boards on show around the town marking important dates or events of the war. Ten boards are

already on display, and 17 boards have been completed. The eleventh will go up in August to mark the Battle of Chunuk Bair. Keith explained that probably another six boards would be made to complete the series.

College deputy principal Nick Roberts is the principal designer of the boards, which feature text, pictures and graphics. Each board has been sponsored by a soldier's family or local organisation. After the end of the celebrations in 2018, the boards will go into the care of the Historical Society.

Keith was fortunate to win seats through a national ballot to the 100th anniversary Anzac dawn ceremony at Gallipoli. He described the tour as an eye-opening chance to envisage just what life must have been like for the soldiers involved in the war campaign with a talk well illustrated by photographs.

Glenn Hoare, whose aunt Elsie Aitkenhead was a wartime nurse, brought along photos and information about Elsie's work in World War 1. Elsie was on the New Zealand hospital ship 'Maheno' on its initial tour of duty, as was another Kaipara nurse, Lottie Le Gallais of Mangakura, Hotoe.

Keith's presentation was greatly appreciated by those present and prompted much discussion, and questions kept everyone busy over afternoon tea.

- Wynne HaySmith



• Keith Cowper

Locals can raise cash for schools

Motorists who redeem their AA Smartfuel card savings at the Helensville Caltex station can help raise money for local schools.

Manager Prem Chand says his petrol station is taking part in the Caltex 'Fuel Your School' initiative, which aims to raise \$100,000 nationwide which will go to schools for science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities.

Each time a customer redeems their AA Smartfuel points from now until Sunday, August 23, Caltex will donate 25 cents to the Fuel Your School Fund. Schools throughout the Kaipara district (and nationwide) will be able to apply for grants of up to \$5000.

"At Caltex Helensville we're always looking for ways to support our local community," says Prem, "and we'd love to see schools in Kaipara applying for funds."

He hopes the local community will get behind the initiative, not just in redeeming their Smartfuel savings but by encouraging local schools to apply for funding.

Get in early for October issue

We will be producing the October issue of *Helensville News* much earlier than normal due to personal matters - so anyone wanting advertisements, articles or Town Talk notices published should get in nice and early.

The deadline for our October 2015 issue will be Friday, August 20. That's just one week after the deadline for the September paper (Friday, August 14).

The October issue will come out on its regular date - the first Tuesday of the month, October 6 - but will be smaller than usual, and owing to the early production timing won't feature 'current' news articles. However there will be to a run-down of clubs and community organisations in our area.

Anyone wanting to participate in that should either email: dave@helensvillenews.co.nz or go to www.helensvillenews.co.nz/questionnaire.



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FREE Gardening programme gives fresh look to Te Whare Oranga o Parakai

A raised bed garden built by NorthTec students is set to provide fresh vegetables and herbs for the kitchen at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. The raised bed was built by students on the Sustainable Rural Development programme, the first course to be based at Te Whare Oranga, now nearing completion.

The next Sustainable Rural Development programme will begin on 27 August and will run



until 18 December. Tutor Heidelind Luschberger says the plan for this programme is to plant a fruit orchard, and the students will be tasked with analysing the site, considering the layout of the land and the soil conditions, then designing a plan, selecting and planting the trees.

Requirements for the course are that you have to be aged over 16, able to commit yourself to two days a week in class and to a project you do in your own time – and of course a love of gardening. The course is FREE and leads to a NZQA qualification in level 3 after successful completion, which opens new pathways to further education in this field.

For more information or to enrol, contact Heidelind Luschberger on 021 0230 6465. You can also visit www.northtec.ac.nz or call 0800 162 100.

PEOPLE'S CORNER

Dr Dean Foster
GP, Kaipara Medical Centre



Dean grew up in Titirangi and was a keen swimmer prior to studying at Auckland Medical School

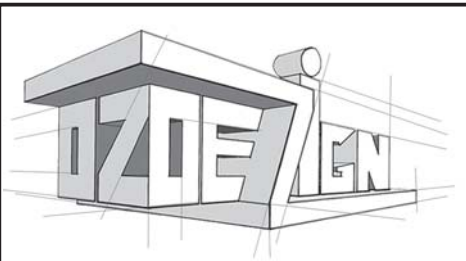
to become a GP. Although he enjoyed his hospital experience, he decided to pursue general practice for its variety, personal contact and chance to also enjoy things outside medicine. For the past 17 years Dean has worked in general practice and accident and emergency. When he's not working at the Kaipara Medical Centre, Dean loves getting outdoors and enjoying family time with bikes and horses in Woodhill Forest.



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How should halls be managed?

Locals are being asked to tell Auckland Council how halls in our area should be managed.

"Our rural halls have always been at the centre of community life and are a great gathering place," says Local Board communication specialist Debbie Klein.

She says Rodney Local Board has begun a review of the way the council-owned halls throughout Rodney are managed, and wants people in the communities affected to have their say.

The 24 council-owned halls in Rodney are managed in a mix of ways - some are council-run, while others are run by community advisory groups initially appointed for a three-year term by the former Rodney District Council.

In our area, the Council-run halls are: Helensville War Memorial Hall; Kaukapakapa Memorial Hall; South Head Hall; Waimauku War Memorial Town Hall; and Wainui Hall. The only advisory group run hall is Glasgow Park Hall in Waimauku.

Beth Houlbrooke, chair of the Rodney Local Board Parks, Culture and Community Development Committee, says: "Before we

can make any decisions about setting up a hall management structure, we need to hear what people think is working, what isn't working, and what needs to change.

She says the local board acknowledges the important role of the halls and reserves advisory groups.

"Our existing advisory groups have told us they are proud of their halls, but that these must be properly maintained and accessible for local use. They have also said they would like to decide on hall improvements."

Locals can give feedback at a community meeting at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Thursday, August 27 at 7pm.

Alternatively, feedback can be given online at shapeauckland.co.nz; via email to: rodneyruralhallsreserves@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz; or by picking up a feedback form at Helensville Service Centre.

Feedback can be made from Monday, August 10 until Friday, September 25.

Other community meetings will be held around Rodney District, at the Wellsford Community Centre on August 18; the Warkworth Memorial Hall on August 20; and the Riverhead Citizens Hall on August 24.



• Local halls, clockwise from top left: Kaukapakapa, Wainui, Helensville, South Head

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letters

Congratulations editor Dave on your July editorial. Business is economics. Profit or loss.

I have many loyal customers who enable me to keep Allsorts' doors open whom I am very thankful for. Thank goodness also for visitors/tourists who appreciate and use the services that our local community provides.

Wouldn't it be good if the growth in our local population equalled an increase in local customers? Helensville will survive without a standalone bank, but businesses will not survive without support.

So come on, shop local and help our little town prosper.

- Jenny, Allsorts

from the frontline

Do you know someone who is struggling to pass their drivers licence? The cost for each test as you progress through the graduated licence process can become quite expensive if you don't pass the first time round.



There are three programs run in Helensville that local Police are involved with, to assist people to get their full licence and to achieve the skills to become safe and competent drivers.

Senior Constable Bernie Watt, the Rodney School Community Officer, runs a theory based course at Kaipara College. This concentrates on traffic law to educate students in preparation to sit the theory test for a car learner's licence. There are three, two-hour sessions and the courses run each term.

Outwest Youth Community Trust runs an interactive session for 16 to 20 year olds. Drive Ed is held every second Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm at River Valley Baptist Church, in Fordyce Road, Parakai. The evening consists of scenarios and revision of the road code in preparation to sit the learners licence theory test. This initiative started a year ago and involves Outwest, Auckland Council and Rodney Police. Since it started, 12 youth have passed the theory test and got their learners licence - that is an 80 percent pass rate, which is pretty impressive.

There are currently nine youth coming along to these sessions and several are just about ready to book their theory test. Auckland Council provides a number of free driving lessons through AA and Passrite. The goal is to assist local youth throughout the whole graduated driver licensing process. For more information phone Nem Bartley on 022 416 6859 or email: nem@outwestyouth.org.nz.

Senior Constable Simon Brown runs a six-week coaching session for anyone who doesn't have a full licence. The next one will be at the Awhina Centre at Kakanui on Wednesday, August 5 starting at 6pm. These sessions are both practical and theory based and cover a broad range of topics relating to driving lawfully and safely. No judgments - just genuine instruction and revision for anyone that wants it. For more information phone Simon on 021 191 4505.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable

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Comfort food: smoked fish pie

One of my fondest memories is of family fishing days out on our old plywood boat, followed by cleaning fish once on shore, then my father selecting the biggest fish to go into his smoker. This was a converted water tank that sat on its side in the back yard under a willow tree.

The smoking process was an inexact science and we never knew quite how long it was going to take. One thing for sure was we all paced about with the bread buttered in anticipation. I can still remember the sticky, tasty loveliness of that fish fresh from the smoker dumped onto newspaper on the outside table, torn apart with fingers and devoured with fresh white bread.

We had the opportunity this week to relive a piece of those times when we enjoyed a work team-building day out on the harbour. We came across a huge number of gannets dive bombing the sea; as much as that spectacle was exhilarating, so was getting the lines in the water to haul in Kahawai. Still one of my favourite fish, especially when smoked.

Eating it freshly smoked is one thing, but turning it into smoked fish pie makes it into one of my favourite comfort foods. I like to keep it really simple and maximise the smoky flavour, so here is my mum's method for an old family favourite.



■ Smoked Fish Pie

- One smoked kahawai
- Half an onion, diced
- 50g butter
- 50g flour
- Chopped parsley
- 400mls milk
- Salt and pepper
- Potatoes and kumara for mashing.
- Frozen peas

You can buy whole smoked kahawai for a very reasonable cost, compared to other fish. Lay it on the bench and slowly work your way through it lifting out the bones and flaking the fish into a pot.

Barely cover the fish with milk, so adjust the amount to suit, and bring it to the boil. As soon as it boils give it a gentle stir and remove from the heat. Tip the contents into a sieve over a bowl and catch all the liquid that runs out.

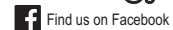
Melt the butter in a large pot and add the finely diced onion. As soon as it sizzles and the onion is lightly cooked remove the pot from the heat and add 50g of flour (if using gluten free flour make sure it is plain, not baking flour as that has baking soda in it). Stir to combine the butter and flour and add the hot liquid from the fish, whisk to remove flour lumps, and reheat for a couple of minutes before adding the fish along with a big handful of chopped parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Spoon this into a pie dish or casserole.

Boil together potatoes and kumara, then mash them with salt and a little milk. Spread this on top of the fish mixture and bake in a hot oven until bubbling and the top has browned. Serve a spoonful of the pie on top of hot peas.

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U3A MEETING

Lillian Grace, the founder of Wiki New Zealand, a collaborative website which makes data about New Zealand visually accessible for everyone, will be the main speaker at the next meeting of South Kaipara U3A at 1pm on Friday, August 7 at the St John Ambulance Rooms, 7 Rata Street, Helensville.

The meeting's 'minor speaker' subject will be 'Dijbouti (The Horn of Africa)', covering its history and relevance in the Middle East conflict today, presented by the Travel Study Group. Entry is by gold coin and afternoon tea will be served.

The U3A September 4 meeting will start with a short AGM followed by speaker Christine Rose talking on the basics of philosophy

For more information phone Judy Goodsir on 09 411 8322.

CABAGM

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, August 12 at 10am in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room.

Guest Speaker will be Helensville District Health Trust manager Charm Torrance, who will talk about her work with the Trust and her connection to Te Whare Oranga o Parakai's

vision of fostering community health and well being.

MUSEUM TRIVIAL PURSUITS

The Helensville & District Historical Society holds its annual Trivial Pursuits evening on Friday, August 14. Doors will open at 7pm with the quiz starting at 7.30pm. Entry is \$10 per person, and teams can have eight to 10 members.

Supper, tea and coffee will be served at half time, and those taking part are asked to bring their own nibbles and drinks. There will be raffles on the night, and prizes for the winning team. All proceeds will go towards renovation work on the museum's Waitoki Sunshine Block building.

KAUKAPAKAPA MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, August 16 from 9am to 1pm with live music from 'The Musicians' Darren and Shell from 10am to noon. There will be stalls, food, barista coffee and more.

The same day in the historic Kaukapakapa Library from 10am to 1pm locals can meet the 'river writer', Jean Louise Allen. She will have her new book 'River at War', the sequel to 'River River Raupo Rye', which features a book cover chosen at a market competition last year. Plus Jim Allen will be there with his popular series of fishing books.

For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Craig Marsh will be guest speaker at the next meeting of Helensville Aglow, at 7.30pm on Friday, August 28 at the Helensville Community Church, 40 Mill Rd, Helensville. Craig will be sharing on the topic 'Nothing is impossible for God', the story of his miraculous healing from a chronic terminal disease. Contact Yvonne Bartlett, email: ybartlett@maxnet.co.nz.

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Helensville News - Publication Information

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2015 issue dates and deadlines:

* Note extra-early October issue deadline

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



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