

# HELENSVILLE

## AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter for our Members

Issue N<sup>o</sup> 2 - August 2015

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## Welcome to our new Show Manager Executive Secretary

Late May saw our new Show Manager/Executive Secretary -  
move into the Show grounds office. David van Dam is a  
Helensville local having lived in town for the last years  
and the District for more than 18 years. -

Married with 5 adult children whom all attended Kaipara College  
he is looking forward to the challenge of running the 2016 A&P  
Show and getting to know the Association members. -

If you are driving past the show grounds on a Tuesday or Thursday -  
then don't hesitate to call in and introduce yourself. You might  
even get a coffee if your lucks in. -

We also take this opportunity to farewell Caroline who has managed -  
the last 2 shows and the association over the last 2 years. I know she  
will be sadly missed and we all thank her for her hard work and  
creative energy and efforts over the last 2 years. Good luck with  
what ever the future holds for you Caroline. -

Finally this newsletter is open to input from all Association members -  
so I welcome your input. If you have anything to contribute then  
please contact the office. The newsletter is published quarterly. -



# Helensville A&P Association 2014/2015

## Presidents Report -

Once again, it is my privilege to report to the members that we have had a very positive year here at the A&P Association. The organisation was in good shape when I took the reins from Jordan Bradly last year, and we continue to be a successful contributor to the Helensville community. -  
Gains and losses -

This year we have experienced important gains and losses. -

We have lost some of our members. Ina Stevens, Roy Young and Rod Moyle. We also lost one of our long standing members with the unexpected passing of Clare Aitkenhead. A life member since 1991 and wife of our Patron Hec, Clare was always a welcome sight on show week – overseeing the indoor section for many years. She will be missed. -

We have also gained a new Show Manager and administrator. David van Dam has taken up the position after Caroline stepped down. We welcome David and look forward to working with him as we prepare for our 114th show. -  
Facilities Improvements: -

We have worked hard this last year sprucing up the facilities to encourage greater availability and use by the wider community. Much of our efforts went into the not-so- glamorous tasks of painting the main hall and kitchen. We also built new cabinetry to better prepare and serve food when needed. We had the concrete floors in the kitchen and hall ground and polished to make them easier to clean and maintain. New skylights in the kitchen have brightened things up and also resolved roof leaks. This work was done by the hard work of several of our members and the generous financial support of the Helensville Lions. Thanks to everyone who helped upgrade our aging facilities. We have recently met with representatives of Auckland Council and in the future there may be some maintenance participation by the Council for buildings situated on the grounds. -

Grounds Activity: -

Several events took place on the grounds. The Waitemata Hunt hosted a training day which went well for them. Our relationship with the hunt has produced new stewards for the show which is a huge benefit for us. -  
The NZ Police hosted a public safety day, and despite the weather not being entirely cooperative, the local support was good. Mandy Bell of the Helensville Police was the driving force behind this, and later in the year she helped with show preparations. -

The Helensville Pony Club has hosted ribbon days and a One Day Event that was well organised, and utilised much of the wider grounds. This year we finally formalised the license agreement with the Pony Club, so we have provided certainty to the relationship. -

We have had steady use by keyholders using the tracks and grounds. While we endeavour to make the entire grounds available as much as possible, our first priority is maintaining the grounds by grazing and producing hay, both for sale and use at the show. This requires closures of tracks and other areas throughout the year. The revenue generated from grazing and hay production is critical to our financial stability. -

Fundraising: -

We hosted two fundraising events this year. A second trivial pursuit night was held at the Helensville Memorial Hall, and we will be doing the same again this year. These nights are always a lot of fun, and we encourage everyone to get a group together and come along to support the show. -  
We also hosted a trip to Gibbs Farm. That excursion was very successful, and those who made the trip were mightily impressed by the massive sculptures featured around the beautiful farm. As a fundraising effort, the event was very successful. We have produced three commemorative tea towels which have proven quite popular. If you would like to buy a towel or three, please contact the office. -

Sponsorship and membership: -

I would like to comment on the need for sponsorship and fundraising. Our primary purpose is to put on a great show for Helensville and the wider Auckland community. Revenue from the show, even on a perfect day, does not cover the cost of putting on the show. The demands of putting on a successful show in today's environment are substantial. Permits, licenses, traffic management, waste minimisation, prize money, awards and dozens of other costs make managing the financials a challenge. Without the support of our generous sponsors, and the continued support of our members and volunteers, we could not continue to operate. Thanks to each and every person who has helped us with time, money or volunteer effort. -

The 2015 Show

Our show this year could not have gone better. We opened up under clear skies, with the grounds in beautiful condition. We were flying the NZ flag over our new A&P flag and it looked beautiful. The show was opened by David Kidd, our very own National Young Farmer of the Year winner. David was very generous with his time, and we thank him for making it to his 'local show'.

Anticipating warm weather, we placed as much shade as we could manage at various locations. This included installing shade sails in front of the stage and in the food and trade areas. We placed umbrellas on stacked hay bales to provide a bit of shade in a few spots, and we installed sails over the presidents' area.

Trade

Our trade sites were well supported this year, and we set up a 'Farmers Market' tent that provided local producers a special place to sell their products. By all accounts this was a big success. The crowds under the tent were shoulder to shoulder. The trade area was buzzing, and despite the heat of the day the crowds turned up to brave the mid day sun.

We reconfigured the main stage by removing a section of track fence so the stage could be moved back from the main hall. This allowed more room in front of the stage. This worked well and we will be using the same setup next year. Our main entertainment for the day was the swing band Sal Valentine and The Babyshakes. Their music had wide appeal. Kids and oldies alike were clearly enjoying the 'big band' experience. Ukulele Union also entertained with a great variety of fun music.

Captain Festus McBoyle and his motley band of pirates roamed the show grounds and entertained the kids - as well as some of the 'grown-ups'. The toughest performers on the day had to be the Imperial Romans Society Gladiators. Dressed for battle in leather and steel in the heat of the day – it was impossible not to be impressed.

Indoor

The Indoor sections provided the usual variety of interesting and unusual displays. There are many different areas of interest, and I would encourage everyone to have a go. Whether it be a painting, photo, quilt or giant turnip there is a category for you!

Equestrian

The equestrian events were reasonably well attended. We upgraded our amenities in the horse tent this year, making sure plenty of cold water and good food was on hand for our judges and stewards. We struggle every year to get the number of people required to successfully run the various horse rings. Ideally, every ring has a judge, ring steward and gate steward. We like to keep the stewards busy no more than half the day so they can take the opportunity to visit the show. We will soon begin the call for stewards, and if anyone is interested, please contact us and let us know. You don't need to be a 'horse person' to help out – just an enthusiastic volunteer!

Livestock

The livestock area looked particularly nice this year. The new boundary rope and the cool shade provided by the trees made it a great place to get out of the sun and enjoy the variety of stock being shown. We had a display of alpacas on hand in the livestock area this year in conjunction with our cardboard alpacas beautifully decorated by local schools.

Junior Farmer

The Junior Farmer competition once again provided a fun and challenging time, testing the rural skills of our local primary school kids. Students compete at their school level and the winners from each school compete at the show. They must show their abilities in everything from wheel barrow handling to public speaking. RD 1 is very generous in providing prize packages for the competitors.

### Food Court

This year we had a new food court configuration, grouping a great selection of foods in one location. While the concept was well received, it became clear during the day that our dated power network was not quite up to the task. We will have to look at an upgrade before the next show, or plan for auxiliary generators to meet the demand.

### Amusements

This year we had tractors on display and our friends with the Cookie Bear road show set up plenty of fun and affordable activities for the kids.

### Summary

The day ended well with everyone in a very upbeat mood. The cricket world cup was on in Auckland, and there were several other major events on the day. We did well to successfully bring in the crowds and show once again that the Helensville Show is a great day out for the family.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to putting on a great show next year on the last Saturday in February!

Rick Croft President

Helensville A & P Association

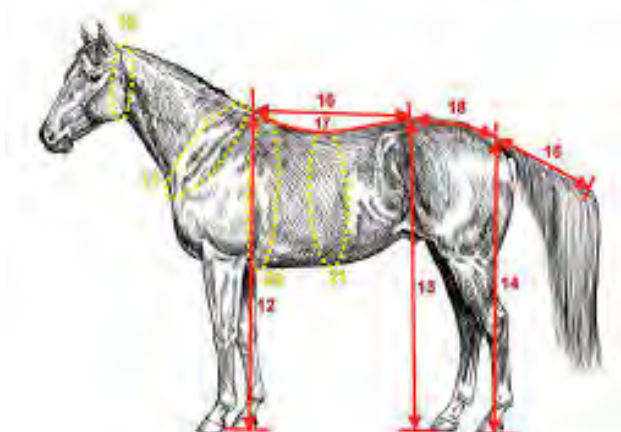


## HORSE MEASURING

Sundays 9.30 am - midday at the Showgrounds.

- 13th September 2015
- 18th October 2015
- 15th November 2015
- 13th December 2015
- 17th January 2016
- 7st February 2016

See the website: [www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz](http://www.helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz) for further details.



## Introducing the 2015/2016 Executive Committee

**Patron:** Hector Aitkenhead  
**Vice-Patron:** Cherie McRobbie

**President:** Rick Croft  
**Vice-President:** Shona Addison  
**Junior Vice-President:** Gaby Corneliuss

### Committee Members:

- Richard Bradly
- Julie Croft
- Laura Glasson
- Anne Holst
- Rachael Boyd
- Jordan Bradly

## For Your Diary

13th November 2015 - 7.30 pm: Association's Quiz Night at the Showgrounds. Tickets \$10 per person, tables of 8. Please email the office for tickets or for further information.

03rd October 2015 - Childrens Day. Activities and games of yestertear for the kids to enjoy. Great family day out. Contact the Helensville Pioneer Museum for further details.

08th November 2015 - Kaipara Classic Car Club Show. Contact the Helensville Pioneer Museum for further details.

05th December 2015 - Helensville Lions Christmas Festival. Parade followed by markets and entertainment.

## Images from the 2015 Show





## Membership

Membership subscriptions for the year June 2015 - May 2016 are due. Membership only costs \$30 and provides a vital financial lifeline for us (and well as lots of perks for members). If you haven't received an invoice, or are not a previous member, please email us your details and we'll send you a form.

## Our Show Sponsors

### Champion

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 J&H Contractors Ltd  
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### Business Supporters

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 And all our Blue, Yellow and Green  
 Ribbon Sponsors who donate money

## ASSOCIATION TEA TOWELS

Yes, at long last, an Association tea towel is back. But these are not just any old tea towels, or indeed any one tea towel; we've got three fabulous designs to collect. Priced at just \$12.50 each or 3 for \$30.00. Each tea towel is printed on high quality 100% cotton, so not only do they look great but they are also highly practical items. The tea towels are also a wonderful commemoration and celebration of over 113 years of Association history.

Contact the office on 09 420 7572 or email us: [info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz](mailto:info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz)



## Contact

David van Dam — Show Manager

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