

It makes sense to shop locally



The library is closed for the time being; Sue Ross at Glen Eden Pharmacy says home deliveries of medication will continue as normal and they will phone you if they need to leave a delivery on your doorstep; people should not be concerned about going to places like Marvel Road, our numerous hair salons, beauty parlours, gyms, cafes, restaurants and the village's other businesses – they run extremely clean and hygienic premises and will welcome you.

PEOPLE are naturally concerned about Covid-19 (coronavirus).

But reassuringly the local business owners are doing a lot to keep their customers and themselves safe.

“We sanitise after each treatment,” explained a beauty salon owner, “and use fresh consumables, i.e. towels and applicators. We sterilise equipment by using spray and liquid disinfectant as well as a sterilising machine. We stay safe by wearing a mask and gloves during treatments.”

In Glen Eden Pharmacy, they have increased the number of times they disinfect counters, eftpos machines, bench spaces, phones, and other places that are regularly used and touched by staff and/or customers.

Similarly at the Stihl Shop, they

regularly sterilise pens, the eftpos terminal, keyboards, phones, jugs, calculators – anything that is used communally or customers share use of. They have hand sanitiser on the front counter and in their office.

It is also helpful that you can shop online with Stihl, as with some other local businesses. Go to stihlshop.co.nz and select the Glen Eden branch.

“We have taken extra measures to improve the hygiene levels in our restaurant,” said Bobby Arora, Little India director. “We are open every day for dine in but we understand the situation and encourage our patrons to pick up the food or get delivery.”

These businesses are probably typical of the village as a whole. They are taking sensible precautions.

So why go further than Glen Eden for your needs? By shopping locally (but not panic buying!) you will be keeping yourself safer by avoiding unnecessary travel and you will be helping the local businesses to get through this very difficult period.

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Kauri Karnival – fewer people this year but it was still good fun



FEWER PEOPLE went along to this year's Kauri Karnival, held on 15 March in Parrs Park meadow, but they clearly enjoyed themselves.

Among those spotted by keen photographer (and Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair) Greg Presland were environmental activist Mels Barton (top left, on the left); Michelle Clayton (above, top – not on stilts!), who is active in a number of local associations; local politician Shane Henderson (left, in the middle); and Brian Lawton (above) of Laingholm-based Hands on Creatures.

Keep those kauri standing!



Morgan wins customer service award

MORGAN HAHN from Glen Eden Stihl Shop was recently presented with the company's Fred award for customer service for January.

She beat out over 400 Stihl Shop employees from more than 70 stores nationwide.

The award is compiled from customers' surveyed responses and ratings after their recent purchases and acknowledges the exceptional customer service they received.

Morgan steamed ahead of her nearest rival by nearly 20%.

She is on track to take out the award for the whole year. (We have our fingers crossed for you, Morgan!)

Her boss must be proud of Morgan – it's a family business and owner Graham Hahn is also her father.

EcoFest West scales back, Wheels Out West cancelled

THIS annual environmental festival had over 100 events planned between 21 March and April 19 but has had to scale back due to the Covid-19 (coronavirus) emergency. Visit ecofest.org.nz for updates.

This Glen Eden event was still going ahead when *The Voice* went to press:

- Te Kākano Wānanga
– Native Seed Collecting/Sowing
Wednesday 1 April, 10am–12pm
Ceramco Park Function Centre.

MEANWHILE, the popular Wheels Out West event due to have been held on Saturday 4 April has been cancelled. It will not now take place until 2021.



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ANZ closing Glen Eden branch

THE local ANZ bank is another casualty in a string of branch closures announced by the bank. It will close from 17 April, leaving only BNZ and Kiwibank in Glen Eden. ANZ says it will keep a smart ATM in the area for deposits and withdrawals.

In October, ANZ announced a full-year profit of \$1.825 billion.

We wish manager Jan Emerson and her friendly local team well in their future endeavours. Jan is pictured highlighting one of her branch's many charity fundraisers.

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Jack will help you feel marvellous

JACK LU loves helping people to get well and stay healthy.

A Glen Eden local, he opened Marvel Road Healthy Centre on West Coast Road in November 2018.

Acupuncture and external traditional Chinese herbs are his most popular services, given for pain and a range of other reasons.

He works alone at the moment, typically putting in a six-day week, but would like recruit someone to work on Sundays so he can offer a seven-days-a-week service.

Like many local businesses, his is suffering at the moment due to worries around the Covid-19 virus. He is stoical about it, adopting a 'wait and see' attitude while maintaining the highest standards of hygiene.

Jack has had clients who were enduring pain for years before they went to see him.

One woman, who came from Rotorua, had broken her neck and needed an operation 20 years ago.

Ever since then, she had neck, shoulder and back pain. Her sleep was affected. She felt numbness at



night. Numerous visits to the doctor produced no relief. However, six sessions with Jack were all it took to greatly reduce her pain.

Now her neck is normal and she can lower her chin to touch her chest, which was impossible before.

"She was very happy, and I am happy as well," Jack says humbly.

"There are a lot of happy clients who have been able to stop taking high blood pressure medication, diabetes medication and other pills since they came to see me," he says.

Jack has been keeping himself fit

through exercise for 40 years, as well as eating healthy food. His attitude must help, too – he is an optimist, and loves meeting other people with a good outlook on life.

He is proud of the local Business Association and appreciates the work they do for the local community.

Now more than ever... shop local.

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Glen Eden's got talented people



SEVERAL interesting companies are tucked away in that delightful timber office building in Waikumete Road.

One goes by the name of Automation Central, and it's in the business of helping companies to be more successful with their online marketing. They aim to increase the number of leads a company gets through its web presence, then convert those leads into repeat customers.

Director Matt Jull (above) learned about such matters through experience, as general manager of an events and marketing company that built an online database of

45,000 customers and a multimillion dollar turnover.

Then in 2013, at a consulting company he is involved with, called My Business People, his team were looking at ways to ramp up their marketing and systemise the business.

He was overseas investigating the best online customer relationship management (CRM) systems and by chance came across a powerful, all-in-one system called Ontraport.

Incorporating Ontraport into My Business People with great success, their customers started asking Matt to build sales funnels and marketing systems for their companies.

A few years later, Matt founded Automation Central and became a Certified Consultant for Ontraport.

If your company wants to leverage successfully on its online presence, the answer is on your doorstep right here in Glen Eden.

Floaters & flashes

We receive calls most days from people concerned that they are seeing flashing lights, spots, or things floating in their vision.

Floaters can be annoying but in most cases are harmless. However, if they appear suddenly they may be indicative of eye disease or other health issues and should be checked by your optometrist. Floaters are those blobs in your vision that you sometimes see when you look at the sky or a white wall. They are the result of impurities within the vitreous (the gel-like substance filling the inside of your eye) casting shadows on the retina at the back. Floaters are very common and usually normal, but in around 10-20% of



cases the sudden development of floaters may indicate a more serious eye problem.

What about flashing lights? In 10-20% of cases, these flashes may be an early sign of serious eye disease. Whether young or old, an urgent eye examination is necessary if flashing lights suddenly occur to ensure there is no sign of changes that might threaten your eyesight.

If you get an increase in floaters, vivid flashing lights, a curtain-like shadow or a large black cobweb-like image appears in your vision, visit your optometrist straight away.



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How many times do the words 'Little India' appear in total in this issue of *The Voice*? Email your answer and name and address to villagevoiceeditor@yahoo.com by the 15th. You could win a \$50 voucher to dine in Little India Glen Eden. Congratulations to winner Leanne Appleby.

Most home buyers unfazed by events



HOME BUYERS we have spoken with don't seem overly concerned about the threat of Covid-19 and the turmoil in world financial markets, write Alan Hyslop and Robyn Rule from Barfoot & Thompson Glen Eden.

The fallout from Covid-19 will have two main impacts on the housing market, one almost immediate and quantifiable, the other longer term and not yet quantifiable.

The immediate impact comes from the Reserve Bank's decision to slash the Official Cash Rate, which resulted in an almost immediate drop in floating mortgage interest rates, with cuts to the more commonly used fixed mortgage rates likely to follow over the coming weeks and months.

Normally that would be expected to either push up or at least support current house prices.

The other impact from Covid-19 is that the economy looks increasingly likely to go into recession. If that happens unemployment is likely to rise while wages and consumer spending are likely to be suppressed.

This would probably have a negative impact on the housing market, in terms of rents, prices and turnover.

It is difficult to say when those effects could start to bite, how deeply they will bite and how long they will last.

At the moment, house buyers seem focussed more on the known, immediate effects of interest rate cuts rather than the potential long-term impacts of recession.

Glen Eden stats: February sales 32; average sale price \$768,875; lowest sale was \$285,000 and there were 3 sales over \$1m.



The March issue of Glen Eden Village Voice rolls off the new press...

Voice printer invests in new machinery

WESTPRINT, the New Lynn company that prints the *Glen Eden Village Voice*, has invested in a new printing press. The result is a publication that's crisper and shinier than ever.

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Be strong, be kind, we will be okay

I am sure I have no need to tell you that we are living in a difficult time.

So far locally we have been shielded from the direct effects of the Covid-19 virus but throughout the world we are seeing the effects that the virus is having on health systems and communities. And the economic effects are already being felt.

At a local board level we are also feeling the effects. Last weekend I planned to attend five different public gatherings. Four were cancelled.

Further cancellations are on the way. I have recently heard of the cancellation or postponement of the Titirangi Festival of Music, the Ethkick soccer tournament, the EcoFest festival, Wheels Out West and the board's own Eats and Beats in Glen Eden. Libraries and recreation centres have shut on an interim basis.

Social distancing is critical and the reasons for it are clear. Because of this the local board is changing the way that we perform our functions. The way we conduct our formal meetings will be changed and will be more digital than physical. We have cancelled our next meeting.

We can reassure you that council

remains open for business, which includes our essential services such as rubbish and recycling. This situation is unprecedented and fast moving, and changes may happen from time to time. But we will keep you informed.

Social media will be increasingly important and I intend to use our facebook page to communicate ideas and Council news. If you have not done so already please like the board's facebook page.

Auckland Council is planning ahead so that the essential services we provide continue to be delivered to Aucklanders. We have a crisis management response underway looking at continuity of our essential services and to support our staff as Covid-19 develops.

Please look after yourselves and your families and your neighbours. As our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has said,



be strong and be kind and we will be okay.

Greg Presland
Co-chair

Waitakere Ranges Local Board
Auckland Council



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