

Doctor shortage

Patients at the Kaipara Medical Centre are being warned of a possible delay in getting an appointment to see their family doctor over the early winter period. The centre has been working hard to secure a locum to cover one of its GPs while she is on maternity leave, but unfortunately has fallen short due to the nationwide shortage of locum doctors.

A doctor has been secured from the UK, but is only available for seven months from the beginning of July, which means that throughout May and June, there will be no locum providing cover.

The centre's existing doctors will be working additional hours to help fill the gap, but the community is being asked to be aware that there may be some delay in getting an appointment to see a GP.

The Kaipara Medical Centre team is encouraging patients to enrol for its online secure health service, **Manage My Health**. This will help ease some of the pressure on busy reception staff by allowing patients to book their own appointments online as well as view results and order repeat prescriptions. Ask at reception next time you visit the Medical Centre and the friendly team will help you set up your account.

Mark your diary

Be sure to visit the South Kaipara Harvest and Artisan Market on Sunday 26 May and help support the local growers and craftspeople in your area.

The market is held on the last Sunday of every month from 10am–1pm at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai (next to Parakai Springs).

New stallholders are always welcome and are available to book from just \$12. Email foodrevolution@thrivekaipara.org.nz for more information. We'd also love to hear from anyone who would like to provide live musical entertainment for our market goers.

