

## Volunteer and connect with your community

Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai is just 18-months-old, but in its short life it has cemented its reputation as a vital hub for the South Kaipara community. It plays host to a number of courses – from yoga to horticulture – as well as being home to the monthly South Kaipara Harvest Market.

The centre is run by a small and dedicated team, but things are going so well for them, from time to time they need an extra hand around the place.

Kitchen Manager, Keryn Reardon, would love to have a volunteer with hospitality experience to help her run her increasingly popular cooking

classes and assist with commercial catering jobs. In exchange for hard work and enthusiasm, Keryn may be able to help a volunteer get a formal qualification in food standards.

Or perhaps you'd be happy to join a casual roster of volunteers and be the friendly face of the centre when Manager Imelda King is off site. Duties would include answering the phone, directing visitors around the building, and helping set up for events.

If either of these volunteering roles appeals, please call the office between 9am–1pm weekdays on 09 420 9983 or email [tewhareoranga@thrivekaipara.org.nz](mailto:tewhareoranga@thrivekaipara.org.nz).

## A work of heart



June King can vouch for the benefits of volunteering. She's been helping out at Te Whare Oranga since its doors opened last April. One morning a week she sits in the

office and while she catches up on current events reading the paper, she chats to visitors and answers the phone. She says it's been wonderful seeing the centre grow from the former Parakai Tavern into the welcoming facility it is today. "I'd love to see more people using it, especially people from Auckland who could come to a meeting here and arrive relaxed and ready without the stress of traffic and parking hassles they'd get in the city."