



From the Chairman

We were delighted to open a new addition to the Medical Centre

this month. The new ambulance ramp, which brings greater privacy for patients being transferred to ambulance, was opened by the Right Honourable John Key, Prime Minister. Mr Key said that he sees Helensville as a community which is well serviced, and thanked the staff, its supporters and the community.

The ramp includes two splendid screens completed by our local artist, Jeff Thomson. Jeff's signature art work is in corrugated iron. He stated that community involvement summed up the project – Jeff got words and information from locals and used the text to make patterns forming the flow of the Kaipara river.

This has been a truly community-based project with the management, energy, inspiration, construction and funding all local. We are very proud of the services that this strategic health site provides and recognise our long standing strategic relationship with Waitemata Health. We understand that the only way the government can reduce expenditure on secondary health is for communities to take responsibility for supporting healthier lifestyles, and we are proud of our work towards this.

International speaker for Helensville community – a strategic broker seminar

We are pleased to report that as part of the Strategic Broker Project a free seminar presented by Jim Diers will be held on Monday 26 November in Helensville – venue to be announced.

Jim is an international speaker, facilitator and author for building caring, inclusive, and powerful communities. This seminar will provide us with the opportunity to build on work already undertaken by Grace, our broker, including the very successful treasure hunt.

The seminar is open to all members of the community who are interested in building community involvement in all areas, making South Kaipara the best place to live.



Jeff Thomson, Dianne Kidd, John Key and Charm Torrance in front of the new screen.
Below: John Key cuts the ribbon, assisted by Dianne Kidd and Marea Shaw (10) and her sister Kayla (8).



Health Link North launch

Health Link North was launched in Silverdale in October. This organisation has formed as a result of the merger of North Shore Community Health Voice and Rodney Health Link. Its prime purpose is to engage with communities within Waitemata Health's northern region, provide communication on services both planned and existing and receive feedback from communities to enable better planning and management. Our manager will remain on the board of this entity for the foreseeable future representing Helensville and South Kaipara. Any feedback that you have about the services provided by the Waitemata

District Health Board can be sent to her and will be passed on to this group for discussion and action.

In remembrance of Louis Keefe

The Helensville District Health Trust Board was deeply saddened by the death of Trust Board member Lou Keefe this month. Lou, who was an elected community representative, had been on the Trust for two years. He was an active member of the board, always contributing in a positive manner and giving his time to projects willingly and constructively. He will be greatly missed by all.