

Ambulance Ramp Project

Thank you to the Helensville Community for your support. We are a small community and a generous one. You will see that our builder Barry Wilson completed the ramp before Christmas and we are now working on the screen designs by Jeff Thomson. All donors will feature on our very special screens and the community will have the opportunity to participate with ideas. Watch this space! We hope to have all this in place for an official opening later in March.

Donations now total \$18,400 which is approaching our \$25,000 target. I would like to acknowledge the following donors:

- Helensville United Travel
- The Free Masons – Helensville
- The Helensville Lions Club
- The Lion Foundation
- The Paua Room

For those of you who would still like to contribute towards this important local facility – we would still love to hear from you as our coffers are not yet full! As we are a registered Charitable Trust – donations can be receipted and are tax deductible.



Dianne receiving funds raised at the Travel and Fashion Show from Linsey (The Paua Room) and Karen (Helensville United Travel).



Dianne Kidd receiving a cheque from David Bott of The Free Masons.

Farewell to Maryanne and Adrian Gane

In early December the Health Trust hosted a community afternoon tea to recognise and thank Drs Adrian and Maryanne Gane. There was a very large turnout at the War Memorial Hall and tributes for their years of dedicated and excellent professional health services to our South Kaipara community were made by St John Ambulance, The Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Health Trust. All have worked closely with the Ganes and the Kaipara Medical Centre for many years. The good news is that Adrian and Maryanne will continue to reside in our community whilst they take time now for family and pursuit of their many interests including some travel. We wish them very well for this change in life-style.

Garden Project

Finally, The Health Trust co-hosted Chris Ennis from Ceres in Melbourne over a weekend of workshops held at Peacemakers Trust in Fordyce Road in late November. Chris made a real impact and enthused those who attended to work towards sustainable community gardens that can provide local organic produce and learning opportunities for all ages. The weekend was very well supported and a

steering group has been formed to work on several of the ideas that were put forward. The Health Trust will continue to be involved as a member of this community supporting initiatives that contribute to our Vision of being the healthiest rural community in New Zealand.

News from the Birthing Centre

Helensville Birthing Centre continues to be a popular choice for mothers both to give birth and/or enjoy a post-natal stay after delivery, usually in either Waitakere or Northshore Hospitals. The last six months have seen a 20 percent increase in the number of families using the centre. Consumer feedback indicates families are attracted by our reputation for excellent care and accommodation. The majority of our mothers leave the centre breastfeeding, and benefit from the expertise of our well informed and caring staff.

In December another member of our team qualified as a lactation consultant. Debbie Tetlow now joins Claire Payne to provide extra advice and expertise when needed.

Helensville women and their families are given priority, but it is still important to book so that we can plan in advance for your arrival.