



## From the Chairman

Happy New Year to  
you all.

The Trust is very  
pleased to announce

the purchase of number 1 Porter Crescent – a property with significant community interest and heritage – from the McLeod Family Trust in October. This adjoining property provides us with the opportunity to extend our office space as the services we facilitate continue to grow.

The house is conveniently surrounded by our other properties, with lovely grounds and outlook. We already have an access point through the fence leading to the medical and birthing centre. Coupled with the removal of a large hedge (we have been busy), it has already become part of the Trust's complex with easy access for our staff.

The compact house has a rich local history having originally been the Catholic Presbytery (circa 1926). Crosses on the old shutters are indicators of this history. At the time, the Catholic church was on the corner where the Alison McKenzie Community House is now, so we are truly on 'blessed land'. It just goes to show that relocating buildings has been happening for quite a long time!

We are delighted to have the opportunity to renovate the house in its original style. Renovation we will not involve any structural changes but will modernise wiring and plumbing and revive



Number 1 Porter Crescent, recently purchased by the Helensville District Health Trust.

old features like the original floor boards and fireplace.

The Women's Centre staff who are currently upstairs in the Alison McKenzie Community House are looking forward to moving into ground floor accommodation to improve access for their visiting families. They will share the premises with other women's health services yet to be confirmed. We hope to have the house ready for its new occupants by the end of March.

## Strategic Broker

We are now half way through the Strategic Broker's contract and are pleased with

progress so far. In late November our international guest Jim Diers was welcomed to South Kaipara by Ngati Whatua o Kaipara. Jim, an acclaimed community development expert proceeded to inspire and motivate over a hundred people who attended the hui that followed.

A small working group has been formed to build on the work of this hui, and will develop a South Kaipara application to the Community Development Scheme funded by the Department of Internal Affairs.

We are looking forward to the last half of this project as we continue to build a more connected and collaborative community.



Baby Hill appreciates the comfort of a cloth nappy.

## Cloth nappies – reducing environmental impact

Current figures suggest that disposable nappies make up about 2 percent of New Zealand's total landfill waste – approximately 296 million nappies a year! Depending on how they are laundered, using cloth nappies can reduce environmental impact by 40 percent. At Helensville Birthing Centre we try to maintain sustainable practices, not only by using the council recycling programme but also providing cloth nappies for families to use during their stay. If you would like to know more about the benefits of reusable nappies visit [www.thenappynetwork.org.nz](http://www.thenappynetwork.org.nz)