

## From the Chairman



This is the first of my quarterly updates to help keep you informed about what your community-owned Health Trust has been doing. We have just launched our own website [www.helensvillehealth.co.nz](http://www.helensvillehealth.co.nz) so now you can find out more about us online. We also have the Helensville Birthing Centre online at [www.birthcentre.co.nz](http://www.birthcentre.co.nz)

The first quarter of 2010 has been busy and exciting. In January we received a letter from the Hon. Tony Ryall, Minister of Health. This confirmed that our request to have the Crown Mortgage of \$250,000 discharged had been approved. We have met all the criteria of our original loan in 1999 to purchase the property and buildings generally known as the Helensville Maternity Hospital. Of course since then we have completed substantial developments and renovations. We have lobbied long and hard for this discharge over several years and appreciate and acknowledge the support of our own local MP and Prime Minister, the Hon. John Key, who has supported us to get this done.

In January we recorded the highest number of births and post-natal transfers for the Helensville Birthing Centre since it opened in 1989, with an exciting 10 births and 36 post-natal transfers. Then March 2010 recorded a total of 21 births and 82 transfers! A very busy quarter and my thanks go to all the staff at The Birthing Centre who do such a fantastic job. The feedback we get from mothers and families is outstanding and we have an excellent facility that we can be very proud of. Of course our local mums get priority bookings. However, our reputation as a leading and certified 'baby friendly' birthing centre means that we have bookings from as far away as West Auckland / Titirangi and Whangaparaoa.

In March we enjoyed a very special Powhiri and opening of our new facility – Parakai Health. This initiative provides a satellite health centre at Parakai with the opportunity for local health practitioners to offer their services from here. Iris Support is relocating from its Helensville office and expanding to provide full time staffing from these new and very comfortable premises. The Kaipara Medical Centre, along with other health specialists, will also be available from the specialist consulting rooms by appointment.

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**Dianne Kidd**  
Chairman



Te Kahu-iti Morehu at the dawn opening of Parakai Health.

## IRIS Support opens at Parakai Health

For nearly twenty years The Helensville District Health Trust has ensured home support services are available to the community. In 1991 the Trust took over from Peacemakers Trust, an organisation funded for a sixties-plus home care contract known as Nor' West Home Care. By 1999 the service had grown to the extent that it required a larger management structure. To achieve this it merged with Focus 2000 to become Focus Nor' West.

The Trust maintained a thirty percent shareholding until 2008. Since then Focus 2000, now known as IRIS Support, has continued to run this much appreciated service in Helensville.

In March IRIS opened its new office in Parakai and is now ready to serve people in the local community. Partnering with local Health practitioners and supported by the Helensville District Health Trust, IRIS sees this integrated office at Parakai as the start of providing a diverse range of health services to people in the local area. 'It was an exciting day for us', says John Wade, CEO of IRIS. 'It's great to have a presence within the community that we have had a long association with. We are now better equipped to provide the right services to people now and in the future, as the needs of the community change and develop.'



## Winter woollies keep babies warm

As winter approaches, babies at the Helensville Birthing Centre are all provided with a hand-knitted woollen item such as a hat, booties or vest. Thanks go to the Rural Women of Kaipara who, for years, have supplied knitted items to the Centre.

Left: Baby Sienna Aiava in hat and booties.  
Right: Baby Zyru Ihaka in new woollen vest.

