



Rest assured your local Health Trust has not been idle over these winter months! We have some new and exciting projects now well underway.

Firstly, the ambulance ramp project. The Trust has approved the design and plans for the construction of a ramp exit for patients going via St John Ambulance from the Kaipara Medical Centre. A tender process was managed for the building contract. Barry Wilson has been advised he has been successful in winning the contract.

We are particularly excited that **Jeff Thomson**, our very own local and famous artist will be designing two special screens that will be the major feature of this new ramp and indeed our health site. We very much appreciate Jeff's support and work on this project. Jeff has proposed plans to work with our local community and encourages contributions that he will capture in these unique art works. Under his guidance, the community will be encouraged to participate in this project which may incorporate a raft of local ideas, thoughts, and local geography into these special screens. For example, hand written contributions can be cut into the steel plate. Watch out for more information on when and how you can participate in this project.

The Trust will commence fund raising for this essential facility shortly, so if your organisation is looking for a project to sponsor this year please contact me or Charm Torrance our General Manager.



How the new ramp will look on completion.

## But wait – there's more!

The Peacemakers Trust and The Helensville District Health Trust have jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding this month to mark the start of a proposed community organic gardening development. Over the last 12 months we have been actively exploring initiatives that might help our rural community create and lead activities that contribute to the well-being of individuals, families and our community at large.

In November 2011 we plan to run a seminar and workshop series which will

be lead by **Chris Ennis**. Chris is a New Zealander who has successfully developed and now manages CERES Organic Farm and Fair Food in Melbourne ([www.ceres.org.au](http://www.ceres.org.au)). It is a commercially viable and very diverse social enterprise. We have an opportunity to consider and develop our own unique model of community organic gardens in the South Kaipara region. If you are interested please let Charm Torrance or me know. More information will be available next month along with invitations to join us for the seminars later this year.

Dianne Kidd



Kerri Powell introduces the Birthing Centre team to Harakeke (flax weaving).

## At the Birthing Centre

We have been very busy during the winter months. One memorable weekend saw us with five mums and six babies (one set of twins!). One family had to stay in the delivery room until a bed became available!

The staff enjoyed a well earned break and a very interesting learning session lead by **Richard Nahi**. Richard spent the morning reminding us of the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi and giving us insight into Maori history and current Treaty claims.

In the afternoon **Kerri Powell** introduced us to Harakeke (flax weaving). Following Kerri's instruction the team attempted some basic weaving – the result of which was a lovely selection of flax flowers now proudly displayed in our entrance hall.

We are hoping to purchase some locally made Whara kura (flax baskets) for baby cribs to be presented to Maori mothers as part of our strategy to encourage safe bed sharing.