

## FREE Gardening programme gives fresh look to Te Whare Oranga o Parakai

A raised bed garden built by NorthTec students is set to provide fresh vegetables and herbs for the kitchen at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. The raised bed was built by students on the Sustainable Rural Development programme, the first course to be based at Te Whare Oranga, now nearing completion.

The next Sustainable Rural Development programme will begin on 27 August and will run



until 18 December. Tutor Heidelind Luschberger says the plan for this programme is to plant a fruit orchard, and the students will be tasked with analysing the site, considering the layout of the land and the soil conditions, then designing a plan, selecting and planting the trees.

Requirements for the course are that you have to be aged over 16, able to commit yourself to two days a week in class and to a project you do in your own time – and of course a love of gardening. The course is FREE and leads to a NZQA qualification in level 3 after successful completion, which opens new pathways to further education in this field.

For more information or to enrol, contact Heidelind Luschberger on 021 0230 6465. You can also visit [www.northtec.ac.nz](http://www.northtec.ac.nz) or call 0800 162 100.

### PEOPLE'S CORNER

**Dr Dean Foster**  
GP, Kaipara Medical Centre



Dean grew up in Titrangi and was a keen swimmer prior to studying at Auckland Medical School

to become a GP. Although he enjoyed his hospital experience, he decided to pursue general practice for its variety, personal contact and chance to also enjoy things outside medicine. For the past 17 years Dean has worked in general practice and accident and emergency. When he's not working at the Kaipara Medical Centre, Dean loves getting outdoors and enjoying family time with bikes and horses in Woodhill Forest.