

Retiring Plunket nurse acknowledged during special unveiling

Whānau Āwhina Plunket nurse Claire Henderson has retired after more than 30 years with the organisation – but not before completing a special task.

Mrs Henderson had the honour of unveiling hand-crafted Māori tukutuku panels which are now proudly displayed in Plunket’s newly opened Rotorua community hub on Pukuatua Street.

Whaea Norma Sturley (Ngāti Whakaue) taught the Plunket team how to create the tukutuku panels and supported them through the process. They were woven using harakeke (flax) and then painted, incorporating a unique tohu (design) to represent the Plunket brand which symbolises a nurturing and integral relationship with family and whānau.

Mrs Henderson says it’s been a privilege to work with whānau over the years and be part of such an important journey in her clients’ lives.

“I’ve formed relationships with many different whānau and have seen children I looked after now with tamariki of their own. How special is that! It’s so rewarding helping others to build confidence in their parenting skills.

“I know Whānau Āwhina Plunket is well-placed in Rotorua to now care for the next generations to come! A community hub like the new one we are lucky enough to have will ensure whānau and tamariki have the chance to thrive.”

Rotorua Clinical Leader, Alison Craig, says she knows there are thousands of people in the community who are grateful for the care and support Claire has shown to tamariki and whānau throughout her long career with Plunket.

“She is well-loved by our staff and local families. It is fitting to have Claire unveil the panels during this much-anticipated occasion for the clinic,” she says.

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For more information, please contact:

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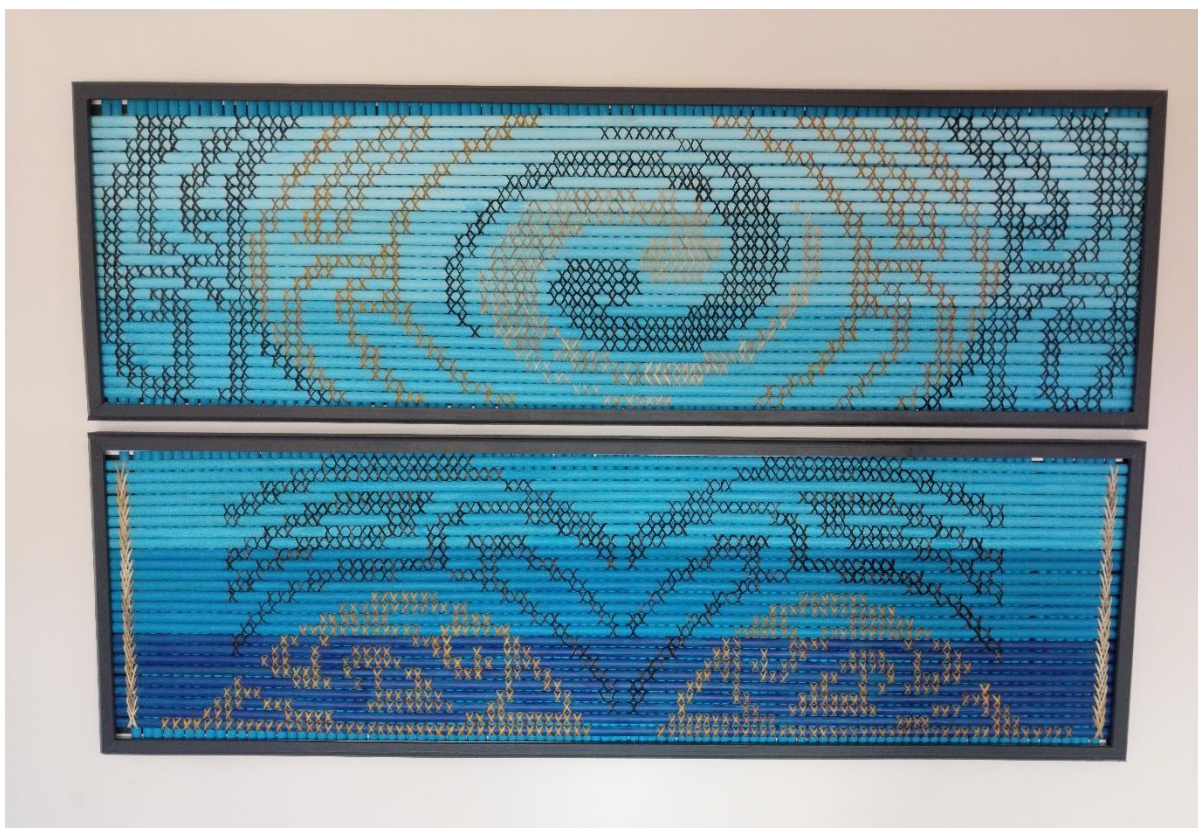
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Photo caption: Retiring Plunket nurse Claire Henderson with her family. (Left to right) Gary Henderson, Sarah Paterson, Quinn Paterson, Claire Henderson and Aleisha Thompson.



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About Whānau Āwhina Plunket

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Whānau Āwhina Plunket. The charity is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits. PlunketLine 0800 933 922 is a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents and whānau, where callers can speak to a registered nurse for advice, or call the Admin Line on 0800 184 803 to make an appointment in your area. Our website plunket.org.nz is one of the country's most widely read digital child health resources, with 1.8 million visits each year. It is available data-free through the Zero Data portal at zero.govt.nz, and you can choose to view it in English or te reo Māori.