

Alison McKenzie House future still unclear

Most Helensville locals will have spotted the signage and orange plastic fencing around the pale pink and blue art deco building in the centre of town, Alison McKenzie House. But the building's owner, the Helensville District Health Trust, wants to put rumours to bed that the building is condemned. Outgoing General Manager, Charm Torrance says, "It is simply not the case. We are still working closely with council towards how best to repair and redevelop the site, but it will be some time before a decision is made about the building's future."

In May the Trust was told by engineers the building's foundations were unsafe and its occupants had to be speedily evacuated.

Charm Torrance would like to thank the staff, many volunteers and clients of the organisations affected by the closure of Alison McKenzie House, particularly the South Kaipara Men's Clinic and the Women and Family Centre which are now based at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai, for their patience and willingness to adapt to the unexpected change.

New course for expectant parents

Parents-to-be are invited to attend a new antenatal course being run by the Helensville Birthing Centre. It will look at everything from how to keep healthy during your pregnancy, to pain relief options in labour and what happens when baby is here, including breastfeeding.

Local midwife Reneé Buisson will be taking the course, which will run for three consecutive Saturday mornings at Te Whare Oranga ō Parakai.



Reneé Buisson

She recommends it for women who are around 24–28 weeks pregnant, and encourages them to bring a support person or whanau member with them.

The course is free and available for residents living north west of Riverhead. For more information email anc@helensvillehealth.co.nz.