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**Electra**

# Caring for Our Community



## Habitat builds foundations

Families chosen for homes enter into an agreement to pay off the cost over 20 years on a no interest basis. This money is recycled to build more homes. They are also required to put aside a small amount each week into a maintenance fund and must contribute 500 hours of labour. In this way it is a hand up not a hand out.

Over the past 11 years, eight houses have been built from Horowhenua down to Porirua and the target going forward is to build at least one a year.

Building work is carried out by local people, assisted by building squads known as "global village teams" who move from country to country working on Habitat projects.

In other areas around the world, New Zealand workers are helping on similar projects in India, Fiji, Samoa and Sri Lanka.

Readers who would like further information about, or who would like to donate anything to Habitat for Humanity can phone Chris Tims at (04) 293-4070 or Max Stevenson on (06) 367-9955.



A Horowhenua family faced with housing problems for a number of years will have their own home within a few months thanks to the organisation known as Habitat for Humanity.

There are now more than 200,000 Habitat for Humanity houses around the world, 256 of them in New Zealand – but this will be the first in Horowhenua.

Habitat homes are for those who are living in sub-standard or overcrowded housing and cannot secure a mortgage by normal means.

Anglican minister the Rev Chris Tims heads up the group directing operations from Kapiti south while Dr Max Stevenson leads the Horowhenua area.

**On Saturday November 26, the Horowhenua team will be taking their message to the community with a Habitat for Humanity float in the Christmas parade. Following the parade Habitat will be holding a garage sale/cake stall at the AP&I Showgrounds.**

"In this way, says Max Stevenson, we can show the community what we do and in turn we hope those who can will support us by:

- Providing cash donations –
- Investing in Habitat's \$1000 club
- Helping with fundraising
- Providing materials free of charge or at discounted prices
- Volunteering free labour to complete building, electrical, plumbing or excavation services

This support will help us build a house in Foxton next year for a deserving, hard working family – father, mother, and five children – who for a number of reasons have not been able to get their own home".

**Winner of the Electra Quiz will be announced in the next Community page!**

## Trees & Powerlines

Trees are wonderful things, but planted too close to powerlines can cause all sorts of problems. Electra has a responsibility to maintain its electricity network including any vegetation that encroaches on our powerlines and equipment.

### Reasons to prune trees

1. To keep safe – for example from an unsuspecting child climbing an overgrown tree close to powerlines risking electrocution.
2. To maintain a reliable electricity supply – branches on lines can cause power outages and fires – usually when we most need electricity!

### Thinking of planting near a powerline?

Find out what the tree will look like in 5, 10 or even 50 years and make the right decision now.

### Overhead powerline safety

Trees need to be pruned periodically, but never attempt to prune trees near powerlines yourself. Use the experts – call Electra first on 0800 567 876 for advice.

### Underground cables

Before you dig, if you think there might be cables – call Electra to on 0800 567 876 to do a location check.



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