

FRANKLIN ROUNDUP

has changed, computers came in – we had lots of paperwork to start with. When we were at Edinburgh Street, we had to catch buses with little wooden boxes containing specimens and made house calls by taxi. Now couriers do it all. As the district grew, the doctors asked if we could take rooms where they are in West Street.”

When Diagnostic Medlab lost the DHB contract, the firm fought the decision, but the writing was on the wall and the new firm took over on August 10. It was the end of an era for the staff of DML, including Jo and Rob, who have both worked part time for the past five years.

“I don’t understand why things weren’t left as they were when they

have always worked so well. But in this day and age, money is more to the fore. DML has been like a home to me, with such a lovely lot of team players who have worked with us. I can’t fault our firm on anything. They have always been very good to the staff. I know so many local people and I have ‘bled’ the babies of patients whom I ‘bled’ as babies. There have been some very sad times and some good times and of course, there are those patients I had a very soft spot for.

“Rob and I have always enjoyed working together and we haven’t retired yet. When we do, Rob is a lady of many talents, a wonderful gardener, a skilled dressmaker – there’s nothing she can’t do. And we both have our grandchildren to look after.” ■

Local Business Killed Off By Council Bylaw

The Buckland Cafe and Dairy has been forced to close, largely through the adverse impact of yellow no-stopping lines painted outside the business. The retro style Cafe and adjacent dairy was opened in October 2007 and was well supported by locals and passersby. But since February, business has halved and owner Diane Hargraves has been forced to lay off over five staff and close the Cafe and Dairy. The takeaway is still operating and is available for take out or dine in from Thursday to Sunday from 4-8pm.

“When we bought the business we understood there would be changes made to the railway crossing and that the pedestrian crossing was being moved but we never realised there would never be parking made available again, something any dairy owner knows is crucial to business,” says Diane.

“There was parking out the front until the redevelopment of this building, and overnight yellow dotted lines appeared. Upon questioning the council, we were told it was a bylaw change. It was a terrible blow just as we were opening a new business in Franklin, employing staff, and offering a service to the community.”

“People don’t know where to go to park and providing 12 carparks at the back of the building hasn’t helped. Drivers are past before they work out where they can stop. Those customers who parked on the yellow lines and ducked into the dairy to pick up a loaf of bread could get a \$60 fine in the post a few days later.”

Diane says she realises that everyone is feeling the recession and that trade can fall off over winter, but that the loss of customer parking was the killer. In addition, the landlord refuses any rent reduction, with 12 months left on the lease.

“We’re not giving up and will keep offering takeaways, with the choice to dine in. We keep hearing we have the best burgers, so why not dine in and try them. We are offering a 20% discount to dine in



Diane Hargraves with her son Ethan (6)

customers. Our motto is “Best burgers, best prices, best deals.” If it goes well, we will expand the menu to include fresh fish and steak dishes and run special offers.”

Parking available at rear for takeaway customers. ■



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