

## Visit Leads to Making Tuakau Home

**P**harmacist Carole Baxter was doing a lot of travelling around Auckland as a locum when a stint in Tuakau changed her life. "I had worked as a pharmacist in Wellington, Drury and Auckland and was living in Franklin when I first located in Tuakau. I thought, 'I really like it here.' So when Tuakau Amcal Pharmacy business came up for sale, I was very interested. Becoming a business owner is a big move, but the previous owner Ron was keen that I should take over and I'm so glad I did! I have always liked to get to know the community where I work and over the past seven years, my family and I have become part of that."

The close, friendly community atmosphere in Tuakau is part of the environment at Tuakau Amcal Pharmacy. Staff social events are held several times a year, where everyone has "a lot of fun" – the most recent, an hilarious 70s Night. Once a week some of them also get together for a Fitness Night. Carole enjoys off-road running and is training for her second half marathon over Motutapu and Rangitoto at the end of March. Health and fitness is a pivotal part of life in the Baxter family – husband James is a Podiatrist, while daughters Katie (16) and Minna (13) are very keen on swimming and water polo.

"I am very fortunate to have highly qualified and long serving staff in the pharmacy," Carole says. "All have been here for a long time – Carin Hogan has been here for 16 years and Frances Rastovich for 11 years. Keeping up to date with the latest in health care is an important part of our work. Carin and I have both completed a Natural Health course."



Tuakau Amcal Pharmacy team: (left) Sarah Taylor, Frances Rastovich, Carole Baxter, Alana McKay, Carin Hogan, Catherine Rossiter (Absent Jude Shuker, Nikki Pryor and Anne Rew)

Tuakau Amcal Pharmacy's move last year to the Medical Centre complex in George Street has given the pharmacy spacious new premises, with plenty of parking available. Its positioning is especially convenient for patients to fill prescriptions without having to drive further.

Carole: "Customers have changed over the years. They often access information about their condition and come into the pharmacy already well informed. It's wonderful to be able to get to know people and become part of their lives. Being a pharmacist in Tuakau is a rewarding profession that gets better all the time." ■

**Tuakau Amcal Pharmacy. 5 George St, Tuakau. 09 236 8014.**



Annette and Karen are Front of House at Cairnscorp

## A Whole New Look for Cairnscorp

**C**airnscorp, 'the canvas and PVC people' at 33 Nelson Street (once Cairns and Woodward) has been a well known Pukekohe business run by the same family since 1914. In June 2008 Julie and Michael Madden took over ownership, bringing in sweeping new changes.

"The business is now completely computerised and we have expanded to include a range of domestic products

– interior, exterior, equine and pet products. Our latest service is interior blinds and upholstery for interior furniture, as well as outdoor furniture and marine," says Julie. "We are still serving the transport industry and continuing the mobile repair service, covering Franklin and the Waikato. We are now also an approved distributor of SolarShield Canopies, which have domestic and commercial applications. They are brilliant for schools and covered walkways. Shelter Station has also appointed us their distributor in the area."

Julie and Michael have a staff of 14 at Cairnscorp, including sales reps Tom and Dean. All of the staff live in the local area. Julie: "Our community is very important to us and we will always get behind local groups with their fundraising. We believe in supporting local businesses, sourcing products right here where we can. If we don't have what a customer wants, we are happy to look and source it for them. When people in turn support their local businesses, they are supporting the future of the area." Groups Cairnscorp regularly support are school calf club days, Xmas in the park, Counties Hockey and local equestrian events. Horses are a passion for Julie. Her twin daughters and Front of House Karen and Annette also ride. Naturally, there is a good range of equine products at Cairnscorp, including truck and float rear curtains (see the product at [www.cairnscorp.co.nz](http://www.cairnscorp.co.nz))

Michael has known the area for many years from his days as a soldier at Papakura Army Camp. He is president of Karaka Tennis Club and is part of the committee planning a big development for Franklin, Karaka Sports Park.

The pair is optimistic about the future of the district.

"It's a place with great community spirit. We enjoy being part of activities in the area and helping our customers find the appropriate quality product for their requirements," says Mike. ■

**Cairnscorp. 33 Nelson St, Pukekohe. (09) 238 6793**