

Keys handed over to new animal clinic

The keys to the Nikao government building converted into an animal clinic were officially handed over to the Esther Honey Foundation on Wednesday morning by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation.

The clinic's chief executive officer, Cathy Sue Ragan-Anunsen, gratefully accepted the keys from CIIC property manager Patricia Barton at the new premises in Nikao opposite the Social Centre.

Anunsen is currently on the island to help prepare the clinic and lodgings for the next group of vets and volunteers due to arrive in the first week of September.

The new vets and volunteers will stay in the house on the property with the laundry and storage building alongside the house converted into the animal clinic.

Both Anunsen and Barton agree that the site is the best place for the clinic as all those who need to visit the clinic can easily access it.

Barton says that some people in the area complained that they didn't want to live next to a dog pound, but she stresses that the Esther Honey Foundation is an animal clinic where sick and injured pets are treated.

The clinic may not be a pound but the clinic will always help whether the animals are loved pets or strays.

Anunsen and Barton are both grateful to the landowners of the old research site in Titikaveka for allowing the clinic to stay on the land for an extra three weeks rent-free after the lease had expired.

While the clinic was being packed up for the move, Barton says that the CIIC work crew

worked overtime to get the house renovated and ready for the vets.

The clinic is still being prepared and will not be fully open for service until September.

The house for the volunteers is now partially furnished thanks to donations from Cook Islands Steel, Muri Beachcomber, Furniture Centre, CITC and Puaikura Reef Lodges.

Anunsen would like to say a special thank you to Elmah McBirney who has taken a few days off work to help get the house and clinic ready.

Anunsen says there are many more people to thank for helping the clinic over the past 11 years for their time and help.

The house for the volunteers still needs a few more bits and pieces including some tiling work and shelves.

Those of you who are having a garage sale and have material left over can drop things off at the animal clinic.

As always the clinic can do with old clothes for cleaning rags, pet food and volunteers.

For more details on how you can help the clinic call 22336.

— Matariki Wilson



New animal clinic—from left, CIIC project manager Patricia Barton, Esther Honey Foundation CEO Cathy Sue Ragan-Anunsen and local volunteer Elmah McBirney during the official handing over of the keys to the new animal clinic in Nikao. 0802205