

# New Kapiti council offices opened

By JOEL MAXWELL

Kapiti's new council headquarters opened Monday morning with mayor Jenny Rowan praising the "refashioned" Rimu Rd building.

Speaking to about 80 people at the official opening Ms Rowan said she hoped Kapiti Coast District Council staff would enjoy their time in their new space.

"You deserve it after years and years of being in very unsatisfactory conditions. We're very proud to present your working space to you now."

The building upgrade and related civic centre works cost about \$8.1 million, along with \$730,000 for the shift to temporary premises in Lindale, and about \$456,000 for other costs including signs, insurance and audio visual equipment. The total cost was \$9.2m.

At the opening Ms Rowan coined a new term for the work as "refashioning" of the old building; a joking reference to controversy over the scope of a refurbishment that only kept the skeleton of the old building.

"We didn't use the right word,



**Design man:** Project architect Neil Kemp charts the project's journey.



**Historic occasion:** (Above) The crowd listens during the opening ceremony.

you remember, when we demolished it – no we didn't fully demolish it. So refashioning this building has been on my to-do list ... ever since I became mayor."

Ms Rowan praised council staff, consultants and contractors involved in the project that came in on-time and budget.

The completed headquarters is a gateway to a civic precinct, Ms Rowan said, that includes Pararaumu Library – the last major building project undertaken by the council, in 2002.

Project architect of the new council building, Neil Kemp, said he would never forget the first meeting he and partner Craig Roberts had with staff.

The new building sees the council chambers shifted to the ground floor, and includes a lift to the second floor, easing access for people with disabilities.

Most staff begin working in the building from today, with the council's customer service centre at Kapiti Lights remaining till the end of next week before shifting.



**Colourful:** The staff room sports bright walls and floor.



**Official opening:** Mayor Jenny Rowan unveils the plaque at the new headquarters.



**Decision centre:** The new council chambers.



**Moving in:** Staff unpack boxes as guests are shown through.

## ► OLD VS NEW

■ Overall floor area for the old building, 2050.1 sqm. For the new, 2562.39sqm.

■ Old council chambers, 115sqm. New, 151sqm.

■ Old floor area for staff, 1935.1sqm. New, 2411.39sqm.

■ Old building area demolished, 385.61sqm. New floor space created, 897.9sqm.

■ Not there before: lift, call centre staff area, atrium.