

### 'The Benefit of working together'

The need for support to women was accentuated during lockdown. The Kāpiti Women's Centre continued its primary role of supporting women in need with the provision of food parcels, access to counselling, a safe place and even in one case provision of a new cell phone: a life-line in lockdown. Despite the Centre being closed during Level 4, volunteer counsellors provided support sessions, either online or by phone, and volunteers answered the crisis phone line calls ensuring that support was given to the caller. When the Centre was able to increase its functions at Level 3, volunteers provided support by answering phone calls and ensuring that Level 3 precautions for distancing were in place to ensure the safety of all women entering the Centre.



*A volunteer's handwork to keep both staff and visitors safe*

The Women's Centre received essential support from other community organisations. Kapiti Rotary, the Refinery Bar and Eatery Kapiti provided food donation packages which the Women's Centre gave to women they knew were in need. Members of the Soroptimists donated bags of goodies which were also distributed. A broadcast on Coast Access Radio enabled the Women's Centre to reach out to women during the lockdown.

Despite the strictures and difficulties imposed by the lockdown, the Kapiti Women's Centre, with the support of its staff, volunteers and the wider Kapiti community, proved the benefit of working together to carry out its primary role of supporting women in need.