

## Green soon to be seen in Blockhouse Bay

By Jessamy Malcolm, Corporate Communications [ 04/04/2008 ]



Cheries Macintosh and Ben Eitelberg

The newest branch of The National Bank will be the country's first environmentally sustainable retail bank; purpose-built to include sustainable features wherever possible. Cheries Macintosh, Branch Manager, and Ben Eitelberg, Property, were at the construction site in Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, this week putting up a sign announcing the news with help from kids at Blockhouse Bay Primary School.

Staff at the branch will be able to ride their bikes to work and park in a custom-made locker, before refreshing under a solar powered hot shower; toilets will be flushed by rainwater collected from an onsite tank; and at lunchtime, food scraps can be sent to the compost in the back garden.

The day will be spent under skylights in a building made of renewable resources, and customers can park in a shaded car park with strategically planted trees for improved air quality.

Ben says that the building will also maximise natural daylight and fresh air to reduce the need for artificial lighting and air conditioning.

Rob Perry, Auckland Regional Manager, says that Blockhouse Bay is just one part of our commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

"We have pledged to be carbon neutral by September 2009, and we have a number of initiatives underway to reduce our environmental footprint.

"As one of New Zealand's largest companies, we have a responsibility to conduct our business with high standards of personal behaviour, ethics, customer service and consideration for the environment and wider community," says Rob.

The National Bank Blockhouse Bay is scheduled to open in July. The next branch due for construction is Gore, and a similar approach to sustainability is planned.

