



Facebook: One Stop Kai Shop
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GREAT Business People

ONE STOP KAI SHOP

In just two months, Raupunga's One Stop Kai Shop convenience store has turned into a go-to for locals and travellers.

From paua pies and hangi to a selection of tasty treats, the booming business has spiralled in popularity since its Labour Weekend opening.

The One Stop Kai Shop has been the dream of Nathan Aranui and Addissa Poipoi for over a decade, with the SH 2 main road site the same spot where Nathan's Mum Maraea had lived, and run a shop from.

Initially, Nathan and Addissa began refurbishing the existing building and, after a fire, decided to start fresh and relocated a school classroom on site. Hours of work then went into preparing the building and surrounds and getting ready to set up shop. "Starting from scratch has been a massive job," says the hardworking couple.

One Stop Kai Shop has already built up a top reputation, with around 50 of the homemade paua pies selling per day. "We can't keep up. We would make more, but we can't get enough paua," laughs Addissa.

Hangi, which features chicken, pork, lamb and stuffing, along with pumpkin, kumara and potato, are also super popular as are the burgers and steamed puddings. Behind the scenes, Francis Waihape is the secret behind the kai creations. The menu changes

regularly, and as well as fast food favourites feature tastebud temptations from whitebait fritters and raw fish salad to butter chicken.

The packed lunches are also a huge hit, bursting with baking, fruit, sandwiches and buns.

Nathan and Addissa say their plan had always been to return to Nathan's home and his mum and whānau. Before opening the shop, the couple had been working as horticultural contractors. Nathan also runs the Raupunga recycling for Wairoa District Council and the couple run a gym at their nearby hauora.

Addissa, originally from Napier, has a background in hospitality, retail and tourism, so she was able to blend her experience to create the One Stop Kai Shop.

"The shop is a community hub. It gives locals a place to come and means they don't have to drive to town for an ice cream or a pie, and it is a stop-off for travellers to have a rest, grab a drink or a bite to eat."

Addissa says setting up the shop is more than a business. "It is a continuation of what Nathan's mum started and adds another dimension to our community. We have been overwhelmed with how popular the shop has become. We have people driving from town to come and get a paua pie. We have got lots of plans for the future – watch this space."