**Official opening Toiora High Street Cohousing** Friday 30th July 2021

The proceedings will kick off in the Montpellier St entrance at 2pm with a blessing from Ngai Tahu, brief speeches (Catherine, Donald) and Anne doing the EmCeeing. The mayor has accepted our invitation to attend. There will be afternoon tea in the common house.

The outreach group is suggesting adding another feature to the occasion: the planting of a tree to commemorate the opening.

It is short notice to agree on this but after a fair amount of thought, consultation with garden planner Maria and research with nurseries, we’re proposing we plant a southern rata in the patch of garden to the left of the steps leading from the car park to the common house.

A 1m specimen costing $245 can be couriered from a nursery in Invercargill for $70. A 1.5m tree would cost $645.

It’s a slow-growing tree with spectacular red flowers from December and is very attractive to bees.

We hope the meeting will agree to a minute to the effect that:

“*We agree to buy a southern rata for $xxx for planting in the garden near the common house as part of our opening-day celebration.”*

**Open day Saturday 31st July 21 2.30 pm +**

The following day we’re holding the neighbours’ and friends drop-in occasion. We plan to do an invitation letter-box drop on Sunday. Anyone able to help can gather at the common house at 1.30pm to collect invitations and work out who will distribute them where.

We also have a roster for people to make themselves available in the common house during the afternoon to meet and greet visitors. Food contributions are welcome. And those visitors who want to are invited to join in a pot-luck meal from 5.30pm.