A TARANAKI DAILY NEWS ADVERTISING FEATURE



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Congratulations Bowlarama on your Major Refurbishment CLEM ELECTRICAL LTD
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Mini-golf to complement tenpin bowls

Strikes and spares are going up on the scoreboard screens again as tenpin bowlers return to the lanes at a fully refurbished Bowlarama in New

returnisates bowha ania in New Plymouth. A new type of scoring will also start up early next month. Work is almost complete on an innovative pirates and sea-themed, glow-in-the-dark mini-patt golf course as part of the \$15 million. The re-opering has been eagerly anticipated. Bowlers did a starve early this year as the tennin facility closed.

anticipated. Bowlers did a starve early this year as the tenpin facility closed down at the end of January for a complete upgrade with new lanes and equipment. "We were closed for mere than three months," says manage; Shelly Hawke, acknowledging the effect that had on regular bowlers. "On the first day we re-opened, one of our league bowlers came in and

of our league bowlers came in and bowled 13 games." That's an impressive effort, Shelly notes, considering regulars usually bewi



Ahoy, me hearties! This pirate figure is part of a themed decor for a new mini yolf facility opening at Bowlarama in early June.

be ween three and 15 games each week.
"I think a few people felt a bit sore that first week," she says with a smile.
After the weeks off the lanes, the bowlers quickly appreciated the new equipment and improvements that have been done at Bowlarama.
The work carried out during the

refurbishment is extensive. It includes 16 new synthetic surface lanes, new pin-spotting equipment, new bowls and new hire shoes.

And it's a lot more comfortable with the installation of an air-conditioning system for the facility – keeping it cool in summer and warm in winter.

The action also takes place in a different area of the facility. Shelly's parents Frank and June Szedlak have owned Bowlarama since they established the facility in the city in June, 1991. It wasn't their first formy the stablished the facility in the city in June, 1991. It wasn't their first formy the stable stable

creation of the mini-putt golf course. "There are not a lot of winter activities available in New Plymouth, so we decided to pit in mini golf here." The spaces for the golf action are being painted bales; throughout and IV lighting will provide the glow-in-A specialist installation team from Canada is presently finishing a miniputt course in Europe and will be heading straight here when that is completed in the next few days. Shelly expects the New Plymouth mini-golf facility to be ready early next month. It will provide a challenging experience as well as an entertaining time, she says, with the 18 holes spread over two levels.

The reinvestment at Bowiarama is part of a long-term view for the city -facility, says Frank Szedlak. "We want to provide the best experience possible ... to deliver quality entertainment. The mini golf here will be one of the













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best available . . . like a set-up you would see in Disneyland.
"This is now one of the best complexes in New Zealand." he adds. "We have had that competition. New Zealand." he adds. "We have had that competition." specified that competition is specified to other centers for competition." specified that the competition of the competition. The specified conding to Frank. "It's top of the range . . . you can't buy anything better."

The synthetic surfaces that replaced timber on the lanes are a little faster and bowls travel slightly differently on it. "It's more accurate," says Frank. "Feverything goes where it showlaruma in New Plymouth has also been sanctioned for top-level competition, he notes. "We will be seeing at least two national tournaments each year. Pringing in 200-300 people."

As well as competitive appeal.

people."
As well as competitive ap Bowlarama offers safe fami entertainment, Shelly adds. Soft drinks and other



refreshments and snacks are available from the central bar and reception area, and there are beer and wine choices for adults, she says.

We are very conscious that this is a family environment, so we are very diligent in how we are leadnool.

A varriety of tenpin league competitions involving about 130 bowlers are held on the Bowlarama laines, drawing some bowlers in experitions, have followers who play from weekly to once a month and there are also community organisations using the lanes

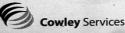
occasionally - including disabled bowlers, Special Olympics groups and residents from city retirement facilities. Evenings and weekend are the busiest time from the presence of the busiest time for Bowlarama. "But we do have groups that pop in during the day for a quiet pame," says Shelly, "Vifice games and pool tables provide an allermative to bowling or a fill-in it waiting for families come in just to play pool and video games." There's also a party room for birthday and other celebrations that is very popular.





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