



## *Our story*

The building had been derelict for a number of years having fallen into disrepair when the previous occupant, a pharmacy, closed down when Angel Louise Café was developed initially by Anthea Hadfield, a renowned New Zealand anaesthetist who developed the café to be operated by two friends called Angel and Louise both local Raetihi born ladies and was initially called Angel Louise internet Café & Restaurant.



The café operated under the watchful eye of these three ladies for a number of years employing local staff and college students on weekends, it quickly established itself as a part of Raetihi.

The set up was very much one of a feel of Parnell in Auckland rather than a sleepy little rural town and people seemed to recognise this straight away.

By 2015 the three ladies initially involved had parted ways and Angel Louise was leased to a new owner Tracy O'Connell who operated the business for 3 years.

Jump forward to July 2017 and Lyn and Gary (Griffin-Chappel) moved off the Army base in Waiouru having bought one of the oldest properties in Raetihi, the old Punch homestead, Punch having been a saw mill owner in the late 1800 early 1900's having decided it was time to put some roots down with their three children, twin boys Byron and Tristrum and their daughter Devon. As a family there has been a lot of moving around including a two-year stint in the UK so when they first saw, what they call the Villa Raetihi it was obvious they'd found home.

They continued to travel daily to the Army base where they were employed to manage and over see the significant catering operation, production of over 15,000 meals a day not being uncommon.

Lyn and Gary have been in the hospitality industry all their working lives in one form or other with a combined experience of over 60 years, both having worked in five star hotels, the Wellington 'Cake Tin' Stadium and for a number of years owned their own catering company in Tauranga, taking the pet name Lyn has for Gary of Kooks and becoming Kooks Catering. Along with experience in hospital catering management, school and young children catering between them they certainly have a vast skill set.

In April 2018 Tracy was looking to move out of the Café and Lyn saw the wonderful opportunity to have a family business again so took over just after closing for a week over Easter. There was some talk about a name change but it was soon realised that you can't change the name of an iconic café.



With a new menu developed, old and new staff interviewed and significant cleaning and painting done Lyn was ready to step out as the new owner of Angel Louise Internet Café & Restaurant.

Later that year Gary too joined Lyn in the business, having left his position on the Army base.

In early 2018 there was a concession made to amend the name to Angel Louise Café, since the concept of internet cafes was dead and simplifying to café made for sense. So with a lick of new paint the revised logo was born.