

Welcome to the first Project Maunga newsletter. The newsletter will be published regularly and be available on the Taranaki District Health Board website www.tdhb.org.nz and on the staff intranet.

About Project Maunga, the Redevelopment of Taranaki Base Hospital

The redevelopment includes three stages phased over five years. The first stage, which is being progressed now, includes six new operating theatres (an increase of two), ambulatory elective surgery and procedure services, and a new inpatient ward block. There will be 152 new beds, an overall increase of 26.

Visit by Health Minister Tony Ryall



TDHB Chief Executive Tony Foulkes and Health Minister Tony Ryall (left).



From left: TDHB Board Deputy Chairman Peter Catt, Tony Ryall, Tony Foulkes and New Plymouth MP Jonathan Young.

Health Minister Tony Ryall visited Taranaki Base Hospital on 9 November 2009. The purpose of his visit was to be updated on the progress of Project Maunga. Staff explained how the project was developing and showed him plans of the redevelopment. He also had a tour of the hospital site.



Site Investigation Drilling



TDHB Project Coordinator Russell Hughes (second from left) and Tony Foulkes (right) with Pro Drill representatives.

Site investigations at Taranaki Base Hospital have revealed signs of Taranaki's volcanic past.

Building engineering consultants Beca carried out the tests in October. Samples were taken to identify the type of soil conditions underlying the construction site.

The tests, which involved drilling holes deep into the ground, will help determine the types of foundations needed for the redevelopment and what is required to mitigate earthquake risk.

Geotech Manager Nicola Ridgley said what they found was typical of the area. "Taranaki has its unique geology."

She said the top layer contained between 12-15m of New Plymouth ash overlying 5-8m of organics and ash. At depths of 20-25m below the ground surface were debris flow and lahar material of the Maitahi formation, which contained boulders and sand. This continued to a depth of about 45m where sandstone bedrock was encountered.

She said the ash and soil were from eruptions and lahars from Mt Taranaki and the Central Volcanic Plateau over hundreds of thousands of years.

The test sites were in the doctors' car park near the main entrance of the hospital and the afternoon staff car park at the rear of the site. Further sites were on grassed areas near the afternoon staff car park.

Team Checks out Melbourne Hospital



St. John of God's new reception/ward clerk area, with the multidisciplinary work room at rear.

In October, a team of five visited St. John of God, a private hospital in Ballarat, which is about an hour's drive North West of Melbourne.

The hospital is a recent design by the Architects Silver, Thomas Hanley who are the lead architects for our new west wing. The purpose of the visit was to look at some of the features of the building, which were being considered for our design, and to talk to staff about how the design worked for them. The team were fortunate enough to spend time with the Project Director, who passed on some great ideas, not only for the design but the issue of moving when the new build is finished.

One of the interesting features of this new hospital wing was the use of carpet throughout the wards, including bedrooms.

Team members who visited the hospital were Project Director Ian Grant, User Group Facilitator Robyn Kemp, Ward 5 Staff Nurse Sarah Hall, Architect Phil Grey (Warren and Mahoney) and Outpatient Services Manager Lee McManus.

Online Forums for Staff to Contribute Ideas

Taranaki DHB has a new way for staff to contribute their ideas and suggestions towards Project Maunga. The forums, which are accessed from the intranet, allow staff to post ideas and respond to comments from colleagues. Alternatively, staff can email feedback or ring the Project Maunga team. The team also encourages staff to visit the offices on Tukapa St.

User Groups' Contribution Appreciated

In May 2009, 15 User Groups were formed to develop design principles for the new west wing building. The majority of the group members are hospital staff, with the exception of three groups (Cultural and Pastoral, Arts and Memorabilia and Disability) which have outside stakeholder input.

User Group Facilitator Robyn Kemp says the work and time put in by the group members has been phenomenal, and has recently taken us to the end of the concept design stage. "We are now progressing with preliminary design which is where we will decide the final location of all the support rooms on each level."

The original 15 user groups have evolved in three main user groups - Generic Inpatient Team, the Older Persons Health and Rehabilitation Services and Allied Health Workers Team, and the Theatre/Day Stay Unit/Sterile Services Team. The groups meet fortnightly with Ernest Girardi, Health Planner/Architect, to continue development of the design. Information on design is then taken from Melbourne back to the various workplaces for comment and input from staff.

All staff are encouraged to pass their feedback through the user group team leaders or to Robyn in the project office. User Group membership is on the Project Maunga page of the staff intranet.

Value Management Workshop



From left: Hamish McKenzie (Holmes Consulting), Phil Grey (Warren and Mahoney), Daryn Glasgow (Beca) and Stuart Smith (Beca) at the Value Management Workshop.

Following the completion of the concept design reports by Warren and Mahoney (architecture), Building Services and Fire (Beca) and Structure (Holmes Consulting), the quantity surveyors (Rider Levett Bucknall) presented the cost report to the Project Director.

The Value Management workshop, facilitated by Allan Johns, (NCounter) included representation from the design team, DHB executive team, Project Maunga team and Engineering Services. The objective of the workshop was to ensure that the value added by the project was able to achieve the required function for the DHB, at the best value for money. The day generated 54 ideas to be reviewed during the next phase.



Concept Design Approved



PROJECT MAUNGA TDHB
PERSPECTIVE VIEW 1



Project Maunga reached another important milestone with the completion of the concept design.

The concept design, which determines the relationship between various departments, was supported at the Taranaki DHB Board December meeting.

Taranaki DHB Chief Executive Tony Foulkes said an important part of the concept design stage was gaining feedback from the user groups, made up of staff members and community representatives. "It's really exciting to see this stage of Project Maunga completed, after a tremendous contribution by user groups and staff in affected areas working together with the design team," Mr Foulkes said.

He said it was fantastic to see all the hard work of the staff begin to take form. "I am sure the finished building will give the community something to be proud of."

The development will see the construction of a three-storey, L shaped ward wing resting on a larger single floor containing theatres and recovery areas. Stage one also includes five 30-bed wards, allied health and day treatment facilities for older people, sterile services and a day procedure suite. The development will be located at the southern side of the existing Stainton Ward Block. The Stainton Building will be demolished.

The façade of the new building is proposed to be a mixture of warm, textured terracotta material around an aluminium curtain wall, with wide windows for optimum outlooks.

Project Maunga Director Ian Grant said the internal clinical floor plans were progressing smoothly, with more detailed design continuing next year. "The new hospital building will provide a place where patients can be cared for in enhanced comfort and dignity, and in an accessible, friendly and caring environment." Mr Grant said.

