

The Westerly

"Te Hauauru"

May (Haratua) 2005

End of an era for the old nurses hostel



The Old Nurses hostel which provided accommodation to students in the Greymouth area for more than 70 years closed its doors on May 13. General Manager of Operations, Ebel Kremer, advised that a structural report indicated sufficient concern for the continued use of the building to be higher than acceptable risk for people living there. Ebel said he was sad to see the hostel, which has housed thousands of students in its life time, close. "It's the end of an era, but the time has come for us to make some tough decisions about the building. At this stage we will close it until we have had a chance to look at all the options for the building." Contrary to some reports there are no scheduled plans for demolition. The hospital social club recently took the opportunity to say goodbye to their social club rooms.

World Smokefree Day May 31st: *Wishes can come true*

World Smokefree Day 2005 *Homes and Cars should join the club*

May 31, World Smokefree Day could be just the excuse you need to take the leap and make your home and care smokefree.

Practical Steps to making your home smokefree:

- Make a rule – your home is smokefree at all times for everyone.
- Let other people know – put Smokefree Home / Whare Auhai Kore stickers in places around your home where everyone will see them.
- Remove all ashtrays from inside your home.
- Ask people you want to smoke to go outside.
- Celebrate your home being smokefree.

In the car:

- Make a rule- your care is smokefree at all time, for everyone.
- Let other people know – put Smokefree Car / Waka Auahi Kore stickers in the care where everyone will see them.
- Clean out the car astray and remove the cigarette lighter.

Remember the West Coast DHB is Smokefree



Smoking cessation services available on the West Coast

If you want to give up smoking and need to talk to someone call:

- Darcy Vaka at Community and Public Health (03) 768 1160
- Wendy McNeish at the West Coast District Health Board (03) 768 0499 ext 2757#
- Or in Buller ring Jeanette Thomas (03) 788 9030
- Quitline 0800 778 778

(Pictured above are Wendy and Darcy)

From the Boardroom

The big news from the May meeting of the West Coast DHB was the appointment of Kevin Hague as Chief Executive.

Kevin will take over the position as CEO on August 1. At that time Glenys Baldick will resume her role with the Board.

Until August 1, Kevin will continue in his position as GM Planning and Funding and can be contacted through the Planning and Funding office.



Tai Poutini Runanga

Chairman Gregor Coster reported the DHB had held a very productive meeting with the two Runanga from the West Coast.

Buller Medical Service Report

An abbreviated version of the Vause report on health services in the Buller region was presented to the Board. The establishment of a Buller Health Unit was also discussed. A Buller Health Unit would include BMS, Buller Hospital, Community Services and Mental Health Services.

The unit will be established to address leadership and business issues and the structure would give more input for staff into leadership.

One board member noted he did not agree that the structure would work as he believes there should be separation between BMS and Buller Hospital. However, other board members felt it was an opportunity to stop fragmentation between the services

It's almost here.

June 7,
Meningococcal B

The West Coast's largest ever public health initiative. But we still need to hear from parents who have outstanding consent forms.

The consent forms around the West Coast have been fantastic.

If you have any questions about Meningococcal B then ring

0800 20 30 90

June 27, is the first day children and teenagers not enrolled in school can receive their vaccination through their GP



What's happening in the world of the DHB's IT department and how does it affect you? Contributed by Chief Information Officer Adrian Hendry

February's Westerly introduced the first of several IT updates for West Coast DHB. These updates are to keep staff informed of the major IT projects currently underway. These are:

- Network Upgrade project
- Storage Area Network (SAN) project
- PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) project
- PAS/CIS (Patient Administration System/Clinical Information System) project
- PrISM (Primary Integration Systems Management) project

To assist with patient information flow around the DHB there needs to be a fast, secure network. While a suitable 'room' has been located, adjoining the main Grey Base Hospital

stairwell, we have been waiting for the new fire-rated door to be constructed and installed. Planning for fitting the room out with the necessary power, air-conditioning and fire safety equipment is well under way and installation should begin before the end of the month. At the same time, planning for the network equipment upgrades and fibre optic cable was finalised last week.

Meanwhile, while we will have a faster network for moving all that information we will also need somewhere to store it. That is where the Storage Area Network (SAN) project comes in. As explained last time, a SAN can be thought of as one large hard drive, even though it is a large number of separate hard drives. A closed competitive tender process has been followed, with three different proposals evaluated

against DHB requirements, and a preferred supplier chosen. Delivery and installation of the SAN equipment is expected to be around late July.

In conjunction with the Radiology Department, we are also working hard on introducing a digital PACS, which will allow x-ray images to be stored digitally and electronically shared with other DHBs. This will enable West Coast clinicians to share x-ray images and seek advice about complex cases from counterparts at other DHBs.

The ability to digitally share x-ray images will also mean that whenever a patient is transferred from the West Coast DHB to another DHB, the patients files and x-rays will already have been seen by the doctor before they even arrive at hospital.

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International Nurses Day celebrated



Nurses from around the West Coast took part in celebrations for international nurses Day on May 12. Nurses celebrated with an afternoon tea in each of the regions where they worked.

Green prescription contact omission

In last months Westerly, contact details for Donna McBrydie were left off the list on GRx contacts.

Donna can be contacted on 0800 228 483 or 03 755 8321 or email donna@sportwestcoast.org.nz

South Westland to get new nurse

The people of South Westland and particularly those living in the most remote parts of that region, are to benefit from a newly established nursing position.

The permanent part-time Rural Nurse Specialist position to be based in Haast will provide additional support to the full-time Rural Nurse Specialist based in the town as well as being able to provide additional cover for the nurses in the South Westland area.

Clinical Nurse Director Hellen Bygate said the additional nurse cover would provide greater access to health services for the people in the Haast area.

Hellen said the position would also mean when the current Haast nurse had their regular days off that cover was not being provided from Fox Glacier.

"People will know that there will be a health professional on duty 24/7 in Haast once the new nurse begins."

The new nursing position further enhances the changes made in health services in South Westland this year. An additional nurse has also been employed full time in Whataroa, and after months of relying on locum cover a permanent GP, Martin London has been appointed for South Westland and takes up this role in September.

She said health services in South Westland were looking the best they had in some time.

The World of IT *continued...*

The biggest project, in scope and cost is the replacement Patient Administration System/ Clinical Information System (PAS/CIS). Expected costs are approximately \$1.1 million and the implementation timeframe has yet to be determined, but it is expected to take 18 months to fully install. The Ministry of Health approved the business case for the PAS/CIS in late April, and the contract with iSOFT was signed before the 30 April deadline.

The West Coast DHB has been working closely with Southland DHB in order to learn as much as possible about the process and resources required to implement the iSOFT software. Southland started their iSOFT implementation in January. Benefits from the PACS will be improving patient outcomes, aiding the recruitment and retention of radiology staff, by offering them the chance to

work with the most up-to-date equipment, and decrease radiology staff exposure to chemicals, used when developing x-rays. PACS is expected to be up and running by October 2005.

The PrISM project will increase and extend information flows between primary and secondary health facilities, giving patients a better continuity of care. Doctors and nurses at outlying clinics will have secure and fast access to health information by giving them access to electronic laboratory results, email and Internet, and helping to extend the continuity of care for patients. Eventually clinical staff will have access to information from the PAS/CIS.

In the last update, PrISM was in Phase 2, which established a fully functional pilot site in Harihari. This phase finished in late February. Phase 3, which



Chief Financial Manager Wayne Champion, signs the new PACS contract

rolled out services to the other South Westland sites (except for Haast due to telecommunication issues), went "live" on 12 March. PrISM is now in Phase 4, which is to bring new and existing sites north of Greymouth onto the PrISM network. PrISM's completion date is expected to be late June 2005.

There will be further updates and progress reports throughout the year and I hope that you will share our enthusiasm as these projects are progressed.

MBA Success

West Coast District Health Board Chief Financial Manager Wayne Champion was one of just two graduates to be awarded the Masters of Business Administration degree with Distinction. In Massey University's Palmerston North capping ceremony this month.

The MBA degree is a highly sought after qualification and it is great to have achieved this with distinction, Mr Champion said.

Wayne not only achieved distinction but he also maintained an "A" average through the entire three-year course.

He was aware a number of West Coast DHB staff were currently undertaking study, either in advanced nursing, medicine or business studies and hoped his success served as a role model for them.

"It's great to show others that you can achieve ambitious targets like an MBA whilst living on the West Coast."

In addition to the MBA Wayne has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Finance from Otago University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business and Administration (in finance) from Massey University.

Congratulations Wayne

Te Waipounamu Health Promotion Coalition Hui

On a rainy day in early May, over 100 people met to discuss how organisations and workers on the West Coast could work better together to achieve what we are all trying to do—Better outcomes for West Coasters.

Guest speakers were Hine Martin, Brian MacKenzie, Brenda Wraight and Kathryn Cannan. Thanks also to Adrian Te Patu and Julie Kilkelly who facilitated superbly.

Groups and organisations represented at the Hui included the DHB, Community and Public Health, Cancer Society, Police, Buller and Westland REAP, Rata Te Awhina Trust and many others.

Participants were asked to mention what two things would tell a significant other about today. Some comments are included below. (Note: Hine Martin was frequently cited as a tremendous speaker.)

- How thought provoking it was and I may need to rethink how I can make a difference to reduce health inequalities.
- The positive messages by all presenters for the need to connect and work together better, to not be happy to stay in the game you are currently in but to think outside the square and ACT.
- That the Treaty is not scary. Hine Martin exceptional presenter.
- The value of Hine Martin's presentation. Clarity, integrity, humour.
- Don't be afraid to try to understand and learn things Maori esp. the language. Maori don't want more they just want what is rightfully theirs.
- That now understand how to apply the Articles of the Treaty rather than the 'principles'. Feel motivated to go out & network with agencies.

What is a Professional Development and Recognition Program?

A competence-based programme that assesses nursing practice against competencies, recognises levels of practice and supports ongoing professional development.

Contact Michele Barber for more information: Phone ext 2656

What is the relationship between the PDRP and the annual practicing certificates?

A PDRP may be approved by Nursing Council as meeting the requirements for a practising certificate.

Will my years of experience count?

Yes, you will be remunerated on years of experience up to five years. However to access the two merit payments, proficient/expert RN or proficient/accomplished EN, you will need to meet the additional requirements for those levels of the PDRP.

Upcoming Events

- **World Smokefree Day: Tuesday May 31.**
- **WCDHB Board Meeting: Friday June 3.** Corporate Office, Greymouth.
- **MenZB Vaccinations start: June 7** for all schools, June 27 for eligible out of schoolers.
- **Mid-Winter Christmas Charity Ball: Saturday July 23.** Omoto Racecourse. Tickets cost \$35, includes finger food supper and 2 complimentary drinks. Band: Jox-Trapp. Raising money for St John ambulance stations in Greymouth and Hokitika. Tickets available from Greymouth or Hokitika I-Sites, or contact Alisa (ext 2747) or Melanie (ext 2643).
- **National Summit Living Well Conference: Wellington, 12 August.** For more information see www.healthsectorconferences.org.nz

Let us know if you have any upcoming events