

The Westerly

“Te Hauauru”

November (Whiringa A Rangi) 2005

46 years and still going strong...

(Interviewed by Gary Coghlan)

After 46 years Barry Sweetman still enjoys coming to work at Grey Hospital every day.

Barry commenced in 1960 as an apprentice amongst six painters. Steve Barclay was the “man that ran the ship”

The Trades Block, in which Barry worked, was situated where the car park is now (under the bridge) along with the Stores Department, the Boiler House, Laundry department and the Morgue. The hospital consisted of McBreaty, Seddon, Victoria, McBreaty, and O'Brien wards.

The hospital where Barry started his employment has disappeared, replaced by a new hospital, built around 1976.

In 1990 the health services changed to a market model and there were big changes made staffing-wise, with staff employed for the different areas.

Barry met his wife Val here and got married in 1967. Val was the first enrolled nurse to go through the hospital.

In the early days nurses were trained here too. They would have tutorial for three to four days and then would be in the wards for three days. May O'Grady was in charge of the nurses homes. For Barry to take Val out he had to get a permit and then the senior nurses would check the bedrooms at 10:00pm, 1:00am and 3:00am to make sure the nurses were there. The Nurse's home had six chefs and the nurses would eat lunch in the dining room, which was all silver service and really “top notch”.

Barry used to do the scaffolding around the hospital and completed his scaffolding certificates about 15 years ago. The hospital now employs contractors to scaffold, but if it is a small job Barry will do it. Barry is kept busy with travelling around a lot to various clinics: “the bigger the job the



Barry Sweetman shares a few memories from his 46 years at Greymouth Hospital

better!”.

He drove the ambulance for the hospital for 28 years. As well as driving the ambulance Barry worked along side Gary Chapman in the Morgue for 27 years.

A keen sportsman, Barry enjoyed playing Rugby League. He played for the Marist Club for seven to nine years, including representing the West Coast for six years, and competed against teams such as France, Australia, New South Wales and England as well as being a member of the famous Top Town Team.

While a member of the Top Town Team, Barry took part in a tournament organised to raise money for the Greymouth Theatre Trust. The Top Town team competed against various teams around New Zealand and after winning the National competition then went on to play in Australia, where the team finished second.

A hard player, he suffered numerous league injuries, including damaging seven vertebrae in his back and a broken nose but he considers himself “pretty lucky”.

Barry was a foundation member of the Kotuku Life Saving Club. This club originally met down behind the motor camp and then went on to build the clubrooms down in Karoro domain, which are now used by the Suburbs League Team. The Life Saving Club went to many nationals and competed impressively. After 15 years with the club, around the time Barry was leaving, they received their first Surf Boat.

Some of his peers are due to retire in the next few years, including Gary Sara, whom he speaks highly of: “It will be a loss for the hospital when Gary retires, a lot of knowledge will be leaving”. Barry comments on Gary's dancing, “He's starting to slow down now but he can still beat out a good tune with his feet”.

However, Barry still enjoys coming to work each day, even after 46 years, but admits he is looking forward to retirement in three to four years where he plans to travel around various places, visit his sons and then settle down in Greymouth.

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From the CEO's desk

As I write this I am getting ready to work through the first round of CEO forums, which I expect to hold every three or four months.

One of our previous CEOs used to hold these and I think they are a good idea. Essentially these will be open to any members of staff who want to attend, and they are an opportunity for you to ask questions, make comments, or offer suggestions - anything you like. The management culture I want for the organisation is one that makes the best use possible of the incredible range of knowledge, experience and skills that we have throughout West Coast DHB at all levels. What you think is important to me, and to the organisation, and this is one way to

have your say.

The CEO forums will be:

- Hokitika Health Centre November 17, 3pm to 5pm.
- Reefton Hospital November 21, 12.30 to 2pm.
- Greymouth Hospital (Boardroom) November 21, 12.15pm to 2pm.
- Buller Hospital November 30, 3pm to 5pm.

Another way is to take advantage of the suggestion boxes that have been put up around the place. They are for staff, patients, visitors - anyone with a good idea - and they will soon be accompanied by noticeboards letting everyone know what has been suggested and what we have done as a result. In response to the person who suggested "Bring back Buck" I have to say that I agree with the sentiment, but

haven't yet found a way to implement it...

Congratulations to everyone involved in the MeNZ B campaign. I visited the team in action recently and was absolutely impressed by their dedication and skill. This has been the biggest public health campaign ever run in New Zealand and I am very proud that we have been one of the top-performing DHBs. Congratulations also for those involved in recent recruitment successes - overall our workforce is looking more stable and positive, and we are able to now devote more attention to the areas where problems are most pressing. And one last piece of news: recruitment for a new General Manager, Secondary Health Services is about to get under way: believe me when I say that I am really looking forward to having a full management team back on deck!

What's behind the secret door on the stairs of Grey Base Hospital?

Some of you who either work or have who have visited Grey Hospital recently will have noticed a new keypad entry only door on the stairwell of the hospital.

You may have also noticed the odd IT staff member or two ducking in and out of the room.

The new room is part of the DHB's multi-million dollar upgrade of its IT systems.

It is the server room that will house a considerable amount of IT hardware that will power the new systems currently being installed and updated.



Ho Ho Ho, Santa needed

Graham Cooksley has gone into retirement as Santa at Grey Base Hospital after twelve consecutive Christmases on the job.

Expressions of interest are called for to fill this enjoyable position.

The two essential appearances for Santa are "Carols by Candlelight" on one evening in the week prior to Christmas and "Christmas Day morning" in the wards; both for about one hour each.

Any other appearances Santa may make are at his discretion and subject to negotiation.

For anyone wishing to give a little back to their hospital, please apply to the Stores. No CV, previous experience, Santa suit, or beard required.

Parfitt and Foote Wards back to normal

In April this year staff shortages at both Buller and Grey Hospitals meant changes needed to be made...

In Buller it meant the hospital was restricted in the overnight admissions it could take and in Greymouth it meant staff and patients in Parfitt Ward were moved to Morice Ward.

But with staff on the up at both hospitals things are now back to normal. There are now five GPs working at Buller Medical and another is due in December. While in Greymouth recruitment for more nursing staff is underway the situation has improved to the point where the decision to relocate the staff and patients to Parfitt was made.



Jacinta Houston and teddy – back in Parfitt Ward.

Reefton Women's Health Day



Congratulations to everyone involved in the recent Reefton Women's Health Day. And especially to Tina Fox and Dawn Chandler who drove the event!

Pictured (from top left): Tina and Dawn, Pip Meuli (Arthritis NZ), Ruth Harvie (Community dietitian) and Robyn Lawry (Sport Buller), Pip, Robyn, Shona McLeod (getting her BP checked), Janet Hogan (Sexual health) and the Cancer Society.



New GM Planning and Funding: Wayne Turp
New Director of Nursing: Jane O'Malley



Wayne and Jane have both recently joined the West Coast DHB, so if you see them in the corridor, don't hesitate to say hello.

Menz B campaign in schools on the homeward stretch

The start of the fourth school term brings continuation of the third and final dose of the vaccine in the school based Meningococcal B programme and the 10,000th dose of vaccine being delivered in schools.

Project Manager Shona McLeod said it was hard to believe the programme had come such a long way in such a short space of time.

“We had been planning for such a long time, it’s hard to believe we are on the homeward leg of the school based programme.”

She said schools had coped amazingly well with the programme and had assisted wherever they could.

“They have done everything they could to help make this programme a success.”

Around 4500 students have received dose one of the



CEO Kevin Hague recently took the time to find out visit vaccinators at Grey Main School.

vaccine just under-90 percent of the total school population, with 97% of these student having also received dose two of the vaccine.

She said parents needed to remember that it does take all three doses to be protected.

The Meningococcal B programme is the largest public health initiative ever under-taken on the West Coast.

In total around 8500 children and young people are eligible for the vaccination, 5000 of these through the school based programme.

The programme took over a year in planning before the first vaccination was delivered in Hokitika on June 7.

Since then school based programme has seen up to 20 nurses travelling the West Coast vaccinating schools as they go.

SLIPS ... TRIPS ... FALLS

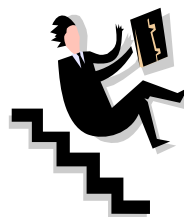
Many injuries are caused by falls:

- Slips and trips are the main causes
- Your approach is the main factor
- Think about trip and slip hazards
- Work to eliminate them
- Provide safe work area for self and others
- Wear the right footwear “Good Tread is Vital”

TRIPS

Normal cause - unexpected obstacle:

- Close drawers blocking passage
- Secure or avoid electrical extension leads
- Keep floor clear ensure even surfaces
- Stack boxes and files neatly with clear access
- Use handrail and one step at a time on stairs

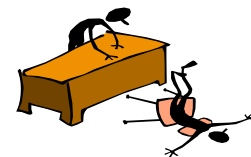


Health and Safety

SLIPS

Surprise change of surface = main problem:

- Fix down mats
- Either or both light and mark steps
- Grit or clear paths if icy
- Repair loose flooring
- Cleanup spills immediately
- Slip proof floors at showers
- Polish floors when no or very light traffic



Osteoporosis New Zealand

TAKE THE TEST??

Have either of your parents broken a hip after a minor bump or fall?

Do you smoke more than 20 cigarettes a day?

Did you undergo menopause before the age of 45?

And more...

Also:

Information for Health Professionals

Prevention and Treatment

News and Events

www.bones.org.nz

Construction underway at Fox Glacier clinic

Construction work has begun to replace the old Fox Glacier clinic. The building will provide a bigger brighter health centre of the people of this township.

