

The Westerly

“Te Hauauru”

December 2008—January 2009

Smokefree District Health Board



West Coast District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

**To benefit the health of all,
our buildings & grounds are
Auahi Kore / Smokefree**

January 1 2009 sees the relaunch of the Smokefree West Coast District Health Board.

Standardised Smokefree signage has been erected around the facilities and there is now a greater emphasis on keeping the West Coast District Health Board sites entirely smokefree.

New signs at the entrances to the facilities will explain that the grounds are also to be smokefree. Staff can help spread this message if they see visitors smoking in the carparks, etc.

The Smoking Cessation Services at the West Coast District Health Board are available to help patients and staff. The use of Nicotine Replacement Therapy can assist smokers to make it through the working

day without the need to smoke and can make it easier to quit.

Smoking Cessation Practitioners, Mike Dyne at Grey Base Hospital and Jeanette Thomas at Buller Health are available to help those who are having difficulty coping with working and not being able to smoke.

As a health promoting organisation it is important that we are seen as “walking the talk” and that all working for the organisation are seen to be modelling healthy behaviour.

Thank-you for supporting the District Health Board and its Smokefree Policy. Your cooperation will make it easier for West Coasters to be healthy.

2008 Innovation and Excellence Awards

Acting Chief Executive Joel George expressed his pleasure at the high quality of the projects submitted for the second year of the West Coast District Health Board's Innovation and Excellence Awards.

"I wish to commend all entries for their dedication towards the health of the people of the West Coast. All those who rely on health services appreciate the high standards demonstrated. It is only fair to recognise this outstanding work," Mr George said.

Graham Bashford, Director Operations, Accident Compensation Corporation, the co-sponsor of this year's awards spoke to an appreciative audience on the importance of innovation in healthcare.

ACC is also a co-sponsor of the New Zealand Health Innovation Awards. It was particularly pleasing to see two of last year's West Coast award winners make it through a rigorous process to become finalists in the prestigious national competition with last year's West Coast supreme winner "Alternative Pathways for New Patients" also winning the New Zealand Process Improvement award.

Award Winners

Judges' Special Award

Care and Craft Centre, Westport

Recognising 25 years voluntary service to the elderly and disabled population of Westport

Winner, Excellence in Treatment and Rehabilitation

West Coast District Health Board

Boys' Group and Adventure Therapy Camp

Combining adventure and therapy to help boys aged between six and eleven to understand and manage their mental health challenges

Winner, Early Intervention and Prevention

West Coast PHO

HEHA Breastfeeding Initiative
Creating a supporting breastfeeding culture to promote improved long-term health outcomes

Winner, Process Improvement

West Coast District Health Board

Reportable Events Evaluation and Monitoring

A robust and transparent

systems approach to reviewing all incidents within the West Coast mental health service

Highly Commended, Process Improvement

West Coast District Health Board Scholarships and Careers

Attracting young students to health careers on the West Coast through the provision of scholarships, mentoring, contact with the health sector and holiday work in a health environment

Winner, Healthy Schools

Whataroa School

Integrating Health into the School Ethos

Integrating health and wellbeing messages into the school curriculum and ensuring that these are part of everyday school life

Supreme Winner

West Coast District Health Board Reportable Events Evaluation and Monitoring



Farewell

Former Chief Executive and now Green Party Member of Parliament, Kevin Hague was officially farewelled at an afternoon tea on Friday 19 December.



Congratulations

Chris Black, Clinical Nurse Educator—Perioperative Services, and Julie Ritchie, Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control, both graduated in a recent Tai Poutini Polytechnic ceremony with their National Certificate in Adult Teaching and Training.



Chris Black receives her Certificate.

Dr Peter Cox, who is currently working as a house surgeon at Grey Base Hospital has just been awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Peter graduated with his MB ChB with distinction in medicine and surgery from the University of Otago's medical school in 2007. Peter was a New Zealand representative in athletics and holds various national junior and secondary school athletics records. In 2006 he was ranked in the top10 in the Commonwealth for the decathlon. Peter will undertake a DPhil in cardiovascular medicine while studying at Oxford.

2008 in Review

2008 has almost ended so perhaps now is a time to reflect upon all that has happened this year.

- All staff at the West Coast District Health Board have felt the pressures that staffing shortages have had during the year.
- The Sustainability Project has involved many in looking at the way our healthcare services might be into the future.
- Chief Executive Kevin Hague resigned to become a Member of Parliament.
- Joel George arrived as Acting Chief Executive Officer.
- The B4School and HPV immunisation programmes were commenced.
- Carelink was launched.
- Relationships with the West Coast Primary Health Organisation and Community and Public Health continue to strengthen.
- The West Coast District Health Board project "Alternative Pathways for New Patients" won an award at the New Zealand Health Innovations Awards.
- New contractors Spotless and ISS took over the provision of orderly, cleaning, gardening and food services.
- A new Primary Health clinic was opened at Ngakawau.
- Gary Coghlan was elected chair of Tumu Whakarae.

HEHA



Be on the look out in 2009 as the Healthy Eating Healthy Action team look to spread the word about combining sensible eating and exercise with some of the West Coast District Health Board cars featuring as mobile billboards for the HEHA message.

Featuring a variety of healthy eating and healthy action options the cars will be readily noticeable and are a great way of getting the message to the West Coast public.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



I would like to take this opportunity to extend both the Board's and my own best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, whether you are at work, on call, or able to take some leave and be with family and friends.

At this time, I would also like to thank you all for your hard work during the last year. Without your individual and collective efforts we would achieve little, and I know and appreciate how many of you go that extra mile to make sure that we do every thing as well as we can. It is great to see how much you have done for patients, consumers and the people of the West Coast.

We operate in an area of high public expectation, which brings constant attention and demands on everyone. Our patient satisfaction results have been among the best in the country, which is a wonderful reflection on everyone's efforts.

Each year brings its challenges, and I am sure that

next year will bring more and different challenges. Within available resources, we need to continue to search for improvement in all that we do, and to refine the services that we provide or fund to meet the evolving needs of our community.

I hope that those who can, take the opportunity to have a good break from work, enjoy the holiday season, recharge the batteries, and appreciate the opportunities that the festive season brings to share time and fellowship with family and friends.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year. Take care. I look forward to your safe return for another busy year next year.


Joel George
Acting Chief Executive Officer



The West Coast District Health Board hosted Fresh Future Trust chair Ruth Krippner and Progressive Enterprises representative Fred Hawthorn on Wednesday 12 November, for the presentation of a cheque from the Fresh Future Appeal.

At Wednesday's presentation a cheque of \$65000 was presented to Dot O'Connor, the paediatric Clinical Nurse Manager and Jude Bruce, the Clinical Midwifery Manager on behalf of the West Coast District Health Board.

The money will be divided between maternity and paediatric services and used to purchase equipment that will enable newborn babies, children and their families to enjoy an improved level of care and comfort on the West Coast.

Amongst the items to be purchased is a new resuscitator, designed to keep newborn babies warm and provide all gases, etc. necessary for resuscitation in the maternity ward, reclining armchairs for breastfeeding mothers and to allow patients to stay comfortably at their child's bedside when they are in hospital, vital signs monitors and syringe and IV pumps designed to deliver small amounts of drugs over a time period. Also to be bought is a sophisticated resuscitation manikin to enhance the teaching of newborn life support courses to health professionals.

Chris Le Prou, General Manager Secondary Health Services, expressed his appreciation of all the efforts made by everyone involved in the fundraising appeal.



A very happy Jude Bruce and Dot O'Connor flank Ruth Krippner of the Fresh Future Trust at the cheque presentation.

Maori Mental Health



Eunice Brown, Kaiarahi, Te Rauawa o te Waka Hinengaro Hauora flanked by Gary Coghlan, General Manager Maori health and Hecta Williams, General Manager Community and Primary Health Services / Mental Health Services at the recent launching of Maori Mental Health Services.

Based at 79 Cowper Street, Greymouth, the service will fill an important need in the healthcare of West Coast Maori.

On Monday 8th December a Powhiri at the Arahura Whare Wananga was held. This was to welcome the team to Te Rauawa O Te Waka Oranga Hinengaro o Tai Poutini (Maori Mental Health) and introduce them to the wider community.

The reason for offering cultural support to Maori within the clinical setting is to ensure smooth access to good quality clinical treatment with a view to:

- Improve whanau ora and reduce health inequalities.
- Improve access to, and the effectiveness of mainstream services for Maori.
- Deliver the highest clinical standards within available funding.

Cultural support can be defined simply as:

- The process of integrating the service user's perspective of culture, identity and recovery into their treatment pathway.

The role of Pukenga Tiaki and Kaiarahi is to work with clinicians as part of the overall multidisciplinary team to support an effective and responsive service for Maori service users and their whanau. This will incorporate Maori cultural values, beliefs and practices.

