

## Franz Josef Glacier Health Report June/July 2009

### New Health Centre

We are pleased to report that the work for the new Franz Josef Health Centre has now been put out to tender. This is significant progress towards the development of a health facility that will serve the population of Franz Josef and South-Westland for the foreseeable future. While we look forward to the opening of the new facility early in 2010 it is timely to thank a number of people. These include:

- The people from the community who built the current facility, getting up early on cold mornings to pour concrete, lay floors, paint walls and roof the place. It is a testament to their hard work and skill that the rooms currently used for the health centre have a long future ahead of them.
- Everybody in the community who contributed to the project plan for the new health centre either through donating money, ideas, time, helping with the fund raising events.
- Wayne Champion and his team at the West Coast District Health Board for keeping us involved in and informed about the development of the health centre. We have had the opportunity to influence the design and fitting out of the place on behalf of the community

This early drawing of the planned facility will give a rough idea of the size of the building. As can be seen it also provides the opportunity for us to be closer to our colleagues in the St John Ambulance team. The community also gains access to a shared facility for meetings.



Items for the children's part of the waiting area have now been purchased and brought back to Franz Josef. These include a small table and chairs, wooden building blocks, a skeleton floor jigsaw puzzle and numerous other things for quiet(ish) play.

## **Cleaning**

The West Coast DHB has signed a contract with the Franz Josef Community Council for 2 hours per week of cleaning to be undertaken. John and Jackie have written up a schedule of cleaning. The WCDHB rent for the premises has been adjusted to cover the cost of this service

## **Swine Flu and other seasonal irritations**

Most people will be aware now of the change in policy related to swine flu. The focus is now on community management and containment. The emphasis continues to be on:

1. Personal hygiene – hand washing and care, when coughing and sneezing, not to spray bugs over other people
2. If you are sick stay at home. Don't spread it around your colleagues. It may be a nuisance to be off work but much less of a nuisance than if all of your work mates are off sick because you passed it on.
3. Better to ring for advice rather than come to the clinic in the first place. Read the advice sheet going out with this report.

These precautions apply equally to all types of flu and colds and will have a considerable impact in controlling the spread of illness.

## **Call-outs**

We have had several calls out to ice related accidents. The road to Fox and the area around Stoney Creek are particularly treacherous at the moment and look likely to remain so for some time.

## **Nursing in Franz Josef**

Jackie and John are off on their travels for the next 12 months. Megan Collie will be working as the nurse in Franz Josef Glacier initially and will keep the community advised of any developments.

## **Thanks**

Jackie and John would like to thank everybody who has made living and working in Franz Josef Glacier such a pleasure. Many best wishes for health and happiness over the next 12 months. We look forward to seeing you on our return to this very special place.