

7 February 2005 Issue 11

## The Mauri Stones

### Whakatau te mauri ki roto te rua o papatuanuku

On Saturday 5th February a special ceremony was held on the new hospital site to bury Mauri stones.

The ceremony began with a karanga calling people onto the site, clearing the way for the stones to be carried to the area where the ritual took place. There kaumatua Koro Taka Panere, Koro Hemi Rimene and Rangitaane Cultural Advisor, Mike Kawana led the blessing. Four large stones representing the four corners of the Wairarapa were laid into a deep hole and buried. The significance of this ritual is to "instil a life force" (mauri) that will be present in four specially selected rocks. The life force from this mauri will forever enhance all activities from construction to full operation.

DHB Maori Health Director, Piri Te Tau, says the stones represent the four winds and come from north, south, east and west Wairarapa, from the beaches and the rivers. "This ceremony is conducted only for significant buildings – often places of learning or healing e.g. new marae, hospitals, whare wananga," he says.

An information sheet about the ritual was given out at the ceremony and if you would like a copy contact Piri Te Tau, extension 5887.



Mike Kawana, Koro Taka Panere and Koro Hemi Rimene perform the karanga.



The burying of the mauri stones

## Building site update

Last week, the concrete slab for the maternity wing was poured, and the fine weather bodes well for keeping the project on time at this stage. Pre-nailing of framing and trusses for the maternity wing is underway off-site.

Shortly we will see the start of the installation of the sewerage and storm water systems, starting from around the maternity wing, and extending all over the site, then towards Colombo road.

The Helipad has been well used, and has found favour with the Lifelight crews using it. The lights are still to be installed, but even with this limitation, the pad is a significant improvement on landing in the field as in former times.

## A living memory

Preserving the memory of two Masterton District Hospital Occupational Therapists, Christine Kilford and Linda Vening, became one of the redevelopment team's more rewarding challenges in early January. Re-siting two trees along with a bench-seat commemorating the work of these two special women has added special significance to the garden at the corners of Blair Street and Te Ore Ore Road.

Community Occupational Therapist Christine Kilford had worked at the hospital for over ten years and was known and loved by staff and patients alike. She was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of a stand-alone OT Day Centre at 5 Blair St. opened in July 1993 – a development significant enough to attract a visit from the Health Minister of the day. Sadly Chris lost her battle with cancer the following month. The establishment of a commemorative flowering cherry tree and bench seat outside the Day Centre served as a daily reminder for those who knew her. Chris' tree and seat were purchased from donations by staff and patients and a planting ceremony was well attended. Annette King, Occupational Therapy Supervisor, and former colleague, remembers Chris fondly and the occasion well. "We were surprised at the number of people who came to plant Chris' tree with us. It was a very informal occasion but there was quite an atmosphere."

Occupational Therapy Assistant Sue Beardslee remembers Chris as a dedicated professional, always serene and lady-like with a great sense of humour.

The OT team were to plant a second memorial tree outside the Day Centre just a few months later to mark the passing of the locum replacing Chris, Linda Vening. Linda had been both a valuable team member and former tutor to some of the younger Occupational Therapists. "We quietly planted an azalea to commemorate Linda. It was a very sad time for us," says Annette King.

The Prunus Complanata planted in Chris' memory flowers in August each year and the azalea commemorating Linda flowers each spring.

Peter Clayton, Facilities Manager, is keen to preserve as many existing trees as possible. "We hoped to relocate the two commemorative trees in cooler weather but they were so close to site traffic it seemed safer to move them now. Moving trees takes some skill, and a huge area around the roots of the larger prunus was carefully scooped up and the tree re-settled. We've some temporary irrigation to the two trees and so far so good, gardeners will be keeping a close eye on them."



## Workforce reviews

.....the process from here.

There are several rumours currently doing the rounds about what will happen once the workforce groups are confirmed at the end of March.

It's important that you are familiar with the process that will be used, so you don't get taken in by rumour.

Should there be a need to appoint people to positions, Wairarapa DHB is committed to a fair and transparent process followed that must be applied to all.

Any available jobs will be advertised internally first, and will only be advertised externally if they cannot be filled from within the organisation. Where there is more than one person interested in the same position, a selection process as per our HR policy will occur. If there is only one person interested, and they have the skills and requirements necessary to do the job that person will be appointed through a less formal process.

It is important to note that it is our aim to redeploy or retrain as many people as possible, thus making redundancy an option only to be used after every other possibility has been exhausted.

Everyone affected will have an opportunity to express their interest in a position, and a fair and transparent process will be in place so that no-one will be disadvantaged.

If you have any questions about this HR process contact Sueanne McGlashan, HR Advisor, on extn 5204 or any other member of the HR team.

## Workforce consultation meetings

There has been an excellent turnout to the consultation and feedback meetings about the workforce review documents, with up to 30 staff at some meetings.

"At the meetings I have attended so far, the discussions have been in-depth and wide ranging," says Organisation Development Manager, Jenny Prentice. "Staff have raised interesting issues, and have gone about their task of challenging the documents systematically and professionally."

All feedback, both written and verbal, will be used to inform the Senior Management Team before decisions are made at the end of March on workforce requirements.

### Consultation Feedback

The closing date for feedback on the workforce consultation documents is  
**Friday 11 February 2005.**

Please send written feedback to  
Sueanne McGlashan, HR Advisor