

# i n Site

*information - service development - technology - emerging design*

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The sun shone – a good omen – and the site of the new hospital was blessed. Minister of Health, Annette King, and her party were welcomed before a crowd of approximately 160. Doug Matheson, Chairman of Wairarapa DHB, celebrated new beginnings and acknowledged past contributions in his speech.

“It is a major accomplishment to stand here today and know that the Wairarapa has received approval for a new Hospital. This outcome is one that the district must feel very proud of. A lot of time, hard work and determination has been put into the project over many years, by many people, including current and past staff, management, Boards and the many people in the community who have fought hard for the Wairarapa to retain its health and hospital services, and for facilities to be maintained or upgraded. The fighting spirit of the Wairarapa people has prevailed.

The facility design is well advanced, with the focus of the project in the last month shifting to service redesign. This involves looking at the processes and work practices that are currently used and how these will be improved and enhanced in the new Hospital. This is a very exciting part of the project that is bringing together primary and secondary services, building on relationships and linkages, and improving collaboration with all health providers. The new Hospital will enable us to deliver our services more effectively and concisely and is the critical player in future service delivery of health services in the region. There will be a much improved working environment, improved information technology, community and electronic reporting systems.

Now that the official approval has been given, optimism among DHB staff, community groups and providers is growing fast. A smoother and improved co-ordination of functions is placing the Wairarapa DHB in good stead to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. The new facilities will enable the planning of the past years to come to realisation, bringing improved health outcomes, especially for the elderly, Maori, children and youth groups.



## Hiki tapu

The hiki tapu/blessing is a traditional ceremony to lift the tapu, to spiritually cleanse the land. It clears the way for construction, making the land safe for those who will work there. The hiki tapu integrates both traditional and modern concepts. Mike Kawana, tohunga, led the hiki tapu at the ceremony with karakia based on pre-Christian thinking, while Anglican ministers, the Rev. Hariata Tahana and Doug Weavers, and Ratana minister, Apotoro Tutahanga Ngatuere completed the ceremony with further prayers. They acknowledged both Papatuanuku (mother earth) and Ranginui (sky father) as the guardians in the whole construction process. Now the way is clear and the path safe.



*Wairarapa DHB - towards our new hospital*



*MPs, mayors, community leaders, staff, health providers turned out to celebrate the beginning of a new hospital for Wairarapa.*

### Let the work begin

“Wairarapa DHB has one of the best boards in New Zealand,” the Minister of Health, Annette King, said. You have concentrated on what is needed in the Wairarapa and staff have worked tirelessly to make it happen.”

She said we deserved and needed a new hospital and that we had waited long enough. She acknowledged the efforts of the community in the ‘Hands around the Hospital’ campaign in the 80s when locals had put things on the line challenging the politicians to provide a more stable future for hospital services.

“This has been a community under threat from losing its hospital for so many years, but it is because people dug in and refused to let it go that the future is more certain than ever before,” Mrs King said.

She commended the foresight of the early hospital planners who allocated land for future development as well as the leadership of the present Board whose concept of a new greenfields site grew from thinking and talking about refurbishment of the existing hospital.

“Your DHB is the second smallest in the country, yet you are unique and special.

You have lived with uncertainty for long enough and now we celebrate the reality of your new hospital which David Meates promises will be delivered ‘on time, on budget and within a few bob’.”



*The first sod is turned*

Following the Minister’s speech, CEO David Meates talked of the excitement a new hospital brings to the community.

“There is no turning back,” he said. “We now look to the future with a lot of certainty as we bring to life the vision of Well Wairarapa.”



#### The Change Team

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