

29 March 2007

Special Edition Celebration Week coming....

Congratulations everyone - it's been a remarkable journey for us all over the past four years, and a whole year since we began the big 'migration' to our brand new Wairarapa Hospital.

The Board would like to invite you to participate in and enjoy 'CELEBRATION WEEK' from 30 April to 4 May, to coincide with the anniversary of our official opening on 4 May 2006. A suggested programme is overleaf, and I know any further suggestions will be welcome to the organizing committee.

I am very proud of what we have all achieved over the past 4 years. 4 years ago we were faced with the reality of needing to cut services, there was very little / no staff training or education happening, we had incredibly high staff turnover and the perception of the Wairarapa and the services that we provided were not great. In short the Wairarapa had a clinically and financially unsustainable service framework

Do you remember the times of constant downsizing as we tried to balance costs with the services we provided? Now, for the first time in its history, the DHB is delivering health services to contract within its available funding, and is able to invest in critical areas such as Primary Care, School Clinics, Aged Care and Mental Health.

We are no longer a poorly performing 'poor relation' of the health services - instead we are seen as a forward thinking, innovative and increasingly confident planner, funder and provider of health services for our community.

It is hard to believe that on January 3 2005, the first bit of dirt was shifted to make way for the foundations of the new hospital. And this time last year, we began our migration to Wairarapa Hospital.

So what have we achieved??

So much has been achieved by so many. Building our brand new hospital involved hundreds of hours of staff input as did maintaining service delivery through a very difficult change process.

I am seeing the emergence of real areas of service excellence, an increasing number of staff involved in post-graduate and other training, the increased number and range

of patient compliments about the services that they have been part of, the increasing sense of confidence and pride by staff, the community and other DHBs in what we are all doing. Over the past month, I have been involved in a number of public forums where the reaction to the new hospital and the professionalism of staff has been overwhelming.

Clinical activity has increased significantly when the first six months activity is compared with the same period 12 months earlier.

The range of services now provided in the Wairarapa has significantly increased with ENT, Urology, ophthalmology and dental services all seeing changes to the way in which they are delivered.

24 visiting consultants are now an integral part of the service provision framework within the Wairarapa.

For the first time in many years, the DHB is close to full staffing establishments. This will remain an area that we will need to keep vigilant as this situation can change so quickly.

A wide range of new technology has been introduced including Digital Radiology / PACS, new monitoring equipment, Winscribe Digital Dictation etc

At the same time as the development of the new Wairarapa Hospital, the DHB also went through a major change in the way in which Mental Health Services were provided throughout the Wairarapa. This resulted in a change of NGO providers and the closure of the inpatient Mental Health Unit. The impacts of this change have been huge with 40% less people now traveling outside the region to access acute inpatient mental health service.

Health is and will remain a challenging environment. However I think that we are better placed to deal with the challenges that will be thrown our way now and in the future.

Thank you to you all for helping secure the future of health services in the Wairarapa. What a great job everyone has done. There is so much to be really proud of.

David Meates, CEO

Celebration Week

30 April - 4 May 2007



Suggested programme (your other suggestions welcome)

Monday 30

Monday - Lunchtime session - presented by mystery guests. Lunch provided - details to follow - not to be missed! Plus a surprise for all staff.

There will also be other smaller activities going on - but we have to have some surprises up our sleeves!

Tuesday 1

Grand Round (hopefully to work in with Clinical Society meeting - GPs), Chapel service

Wednesday 2

Rainbow Theme day - staff may wear rainbow coloured clothing / hats / accessories, including staff who normally wear uniform. Consider redecorating your Migration Tshirt! Prizes for most colourful - most bizarre etc.

Thursday 3

'Departmental interloan' day. You can apply to 'be' someone else for 1 or 2 hours - or longer if that's what works - see invitation opposite.

Lunchtime session - Our future - CEO and panel. Come and 'grill' them - lunch provided.

Friday 4

Bubbly BBQ brunch - lunch - after-work munch with the Board (as we did after Migration Week, but running until later in the day at the request of staff).

Have you ever wanted to 'be'
someone else?

Here is your chance!

'Departmental Interloan' day, Thursday 3 May.
Write and tell us who you would like to 'be' and why - and we will try to organise it as part of Celebration Week.

You name it - maybe an ambulance officer? a nurse? the CEO? the Duty Manager? a groundsman? and orderly? the Director of Nursing? a 'bean counter'? the helpdesk operator?

You will need to agree to be photographed and interviewed as part of the 'exchange', so your experience can be shared with others - and maybe your learnings too.

Write or email
jill.stringer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz to apply - let your imagination go wild!

