

Christmas message

I appreciate the opportunity to extend both my own and my Board's sincere thanks to Wairarapa District Health Board Staff for their excellent effort and commitment in 2007.

We can look back with a great deal of pride and satisfaction with the results we have achieved both from our Provider Arm and from our primary, community and public health sectors.

Though we operate in an environment that is demanding with high public expectation, the excellent level of community satisfaction and recognition we are receiving is gratifying. The Board is not resting on its laurels and accepts the need to continue to search for improvements and where possible to increase and improve services for our regional communities.

Again thank you to all our staff and best wishes for a restful Xmas and for your continuing support and commitment in 2008.

Bob Francis
Chairman Wairarapa DHB Board

Relationship agreement signed

A significant agreement between the Wairarapa District Health Board and local Maori was signed on 14 December. The agreement lays down the ways in which the DHB and Iwi Kainga will work together to improve Maori health.

"This relationship agreement is a landmark in the development of the DHB," says Bob Francis, Wairarapa DHB Chairman. "It renews the commitment by Wairarapa Iwi and the DHB to work together and it provides a pathway for Iwi to effect change for Maori living in the Wairarapa.

Janice Wenn, chairperson of the Iwi Kainga committee says, "We want to become a truly professional body that has input into all Board strategic matters relevant to Maori health. We are breaking new ground and a continuing relationship whereby we automatically have input and are consulted is very important to us. This is an important and exciting development."

The first relationship agreement between local Maori and the DHB was signed in 2003. Since then the governing body, previously known as the Mana Whenua caucus, has changed its name to Iwi Kainga. In Te Reo Maori the term

'Mana Whenua', implies a wide focus and is seen to encompass all things of interest and business pertaining to Wairarapa Iwi. Yet the primary function of the Mana Whenua Caucus was to provide advice and input into the planning and monitoring of health services for Maori living in the Wairarapa. The group has now changed its frame of reference and their new name is 'Te Oranga O Te Iwi Kainga' – the health and wellbeing of the home people. The new committee, known as 'Iwi Kainga', is represented by Rangitane o Wairarapa and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa iwi. The engagement of local Iwi leaders on Te Iwi Kainga, the governing caucus, will enable Wairarapa DHB to continue to develop and strengthen health strategies that work for Maori whanau, increase health service responsiveness to Maori and reduce inequalities.



From top left (back row) Yvette Grace, Board member; Mere Kerehi, Rangitane o Wairarapa; Hariata Tahana, Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa; Hone Hurihanganui, Rangitane o Wairarapa
Front row from left: Janine Vollebregt, Board Deputy Chair; Bob Francis, Board Chair; Jim Rimene, Rangitane o Wairarapa; Janice Wenn, Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa. **Absent:** Kim Smith, Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa

Walk Wairarapa and New Zealand

Twenty-seven Wairarapa teams of 10 recently completed the 'Walk Wairarapa' challenge, where they vied with each other to walk the virtual distance around New Zealand, over a 12 week period.

"All teams which completed the programme walked, at the very least, the length of New Zealand – a magnificent effort and the first time this has happened since I started Walk Wairarapa in 2000," says Wendy Woodhouse from Wairarapa Public Health. "In fact, fifteen teams walked up to three times the distance."

Teams came from across the Wairarapa, and from schools, businesses, and government agencies. Sport Wairarapa was a partner in the programme and involved several whanau teams.

"Teams all had their own secrets for success," says Wendy. "One team had a greenkeeper on board, another had someone who delivered junk mail. There were some wonderful success stories - one person lost 14kgs during the programme with the amazing health benefits of a lowered blood sugar, lowered blood pressure and a return to a normal liver function."

*From left: Linda Tatton, Ann Ross, Jo Goodin, Karen Hess
Front: Franky Spite, Gail Morrison,*

Several organisations put in more than one team – and Wairarapa DHB fielded six.

Pictured are some of the DHB's Allied *Health Amblers* team, who managed to clock up more than 5,500 kms



Xmas cheer around the hospital



The Children's Ward is lit up with lights, angels and a special nativity scene to brighten everyone's Xmas. Marilyn Elliott shows off her bright, child-friendly uniform which has been a hit with the kids.



Lucinda Tomlin with a gorgeous pohutukawa creation in outpatients.



Russell Barrett has worked hard to transform the front memorial garden beside the Blair Street exit into a peaceful and colourful place for visitors and staff to enjoy.