

## CEO Update – 7 December 2010

Canterbury's largest new community dental clinic was officially opened last Wednesday at Hillmorton.

Canterbury District Health Board chairman Alister James opened the \$1.5 million state-of-the-art clinic at an official ceremony, held at the Hillmorton Hospital site on Sylvan Street.

This clinic is part of a nationwide upgrade of oral health services for New Zealand communities and part of a \$13 million upgrade to the Community Dental Service for school children within the Canterbury region. The upgrade will see most of the region's 120 school dental clinics replaced by 12 fixed community clinics, supported by 18 campervan-style mobile clinics.

The Hillmorton Community Dental Clinic is the largest of the fixed clinics being constructed. While other clinics have a four chair capacity, Hillmorton is a six-chair clinic with a special-purpose room for patients in wheelchairs and another for patients with either limited mobility or needing a quiet environment. The wheelchair lift also reclines the patient into a similar position to that in a standard dental chair – it is believed to be the first to be used in New Zealand.

The clinic will be able to cater for about 13,500 patient visits per year. What is also unique about it is it will eventually be accessible to people of all ages in the wider community - not just school children as part of Canterbury DHB's network of dental facilities redevelopment.

It is very pleasing how quickly plans for the new dental redevelopment have become a reality and it was a credit to all the staff and contractors who have worked on the project.

The new clinic was already generating a lot of positive feedback from staff, parents and children. Staff comments have included that they feel more professional and happy in their work environment. They also believe the clinic will make it easier to communicate oral health messages to children and their parents or care-givers because parents/caregivers are required to bring their child to the clinic and sit with them during their check-ups.

Canterbury's first community dental clinic was opened in May last year at Ashburton Hospital. Fixed clinics have opened in Akaroa, Ashburton, Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Hornby and Hillmorton. Further clinics are to open at Woolston, Burnside, Aranui, Northcote, Lincoln and Kaikoura and most are in the process of construction. All except Kaikoura will be open by the end of 2011. Sites for the clinics were chosen based on the areas with the highest need for dental care and after discussions with schools and other interested parties. Meanwhile, 16 mobile clinics have been delivered to the Canterbury DHB, with a remaining two mobile clinics still to be received.

*Left: Spreydon Primary School pupil Angus Shouter checks out the new purpose-built room at Hillmorton dental clinic that is specially designed to accommodate patients in wheelchairs.*

*Below left: CDHB Dental Service Clinical Director Dr Martin Lee (left) and CDHB chairman Alister James inspect one of the rooms at the new Hillmorton Dental Clinic.*

*Below right: CDHB chairman Alister James officially opening the new Hillmorton Community Dental Clinic.*



## Legionnaires' disease on the rise

Gardeners are being warned to take care when handling potting mix and compost this summer with 10 cases of Legionnaires' disease being notified last month.

The warning comes from the Canterbury District Health Board's Community and Public Health following the death last week of an elderly woman from the pneumonia caused by legionella bacteria commonly found in water and soils – including potting mix.

While it is unknown what specific legionella caused the death, since September three people have been admitted to Christchurch Hospital's Intensive Care Unit with legionella. Recent cases are a reminder of the potential risk of getting Legionnaires' disease, particularly from potting mix/compost and gardening. It is important to take care to avoid inhaling the dust when opening the bag and handling the contents. Bags should be carefully opened using scissors and not ripped open, in a well ventilated area, preferably outdoors and away from the face. A disposable dust mask is recommended when handling potting mix or compost. Dampening down the mix with gentle watering is advised. Also make sure that you always wash your hands after handling potting mix and doing any gardening. November is typically the worst month for notifications of the disease.

A total of 38 cases of the disease have been notified in Canterbury and 156 nationally this year. This is an increase in the number of cases on previous years but it may be because of more accurate tests being done on patients presenting with symptoms.

Risk factors for contracting Legionnaires' disease include being over 50 years of age, having a long-term illness – particularly lung disease, being a smoker or having low immunity. Symptoms of the disease may include dry coughing, high fever, chills, diarrhoea, shortness of breath, chest pains, headaches, excessive sweating, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Anyone with these symptoms who has been handling potting mix or compost recently should seek advice from their General Practitioner promptly.



## Cardio Respiratory Integrated Specialist Services (CRISS)

The Cardio Respiratory Outreach Service at Christchurch Hospital has been redesigned. The redesign involves a name change to 'Cardio Respiratory Integrated Specialist Services' (CRISS) and new specialist roles being created. "There is an important group of patients who have complex conditions, that require a team of specialists to care for them," says Dr Michael Epton, Clinical Director Respiratory Services. The redesign is aimed at improving specialist care and working as one integrated multi-disciplinary team, with strong links to the community.

The service will continue to care for people with cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, tuberculosis, respiratory conditions that require domiciliary (home) oxygen, complex heart failure and pulmonary hypertension, sleep disorders/home ventilation and those needing cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation.

The service already has strong links with primary care, community groups, Nurse Maude, HealthcareNZ, Rehua Marae, Canterbury PHOs, Community and Public Health, Respiratory Relief and Asthma Canterbury. The service also works closely with the Canterbury Initiative and the Canterbury

Clinical Network to align its services with their plans. "The patient is in the centre of a whole team of people who care for them, within the hospital, in outpatients and in the community" says Sue Teague, Service Manager Respiratory Services.

The role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in advanced practice sits well with the eight defined speciality areas. The eight specialist areas include dedicated nurse specialists in lung cancer, oxygen services, sleep disorders, pulmonary rehabilitation, heart failure, tuberculosis, cystic fibrosis and Cardiac Rehabilitation. There will be the opportunity to pass on that expertise to other health providers, and act as a contact point for community providers.

The benefit to the patient will be that they are treated by nurses with a skill-set and expertise in their condition. Patients will experience continuity of care. "We have consulted patients, colleagues and community groups and are confident these changes are going to result in a more integrated and responsive service," says Sue.

All contact numbers remain the same for the service. For more information about the redesign contact Maureen Trewin, Nurse Manager CRISS on 88141 or <mailto:maureen.trewin@cdhb.govt.nz>

## Chch Hospital ED specialist recognised

The Health Research Council has awarded Christchurch Hospital Emergency Medicine Specialist Dr Martin Than with the inaugural Beaven Medal for translational research. Named after the late Professor Sir Don Beaven, the medal recognises Don's long time interest in translating research into clinical practice.

The recipient, selected annually, is the investigator who is judged to have the most promising research project funded by HRC in its Health Delivery investment stream.

Dr Than's specific areas of interest and expertise are evidence-based medicine and medical diagnostics. He is principal investigator of the Asia Pacific Evaluation of Chest pain Trial (ASPECT) study - a 4000 patient study investigating the use of risk stratification tools and biomarkers in the assessment of acute chest pain, involving 15 centres and 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. He has also been asked to join an International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) expert project on Education in Cardiovascular Biomarkers, which aims to produce educational materials for clinicians and laboratory workers in clinical practice.

Earlier this year, Dr Than, as principal investigator of a research collaboration based at Christchurch Hospital, secured a grant for \$900,000 from the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) to study more accurate and faster diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome in Emergency Departments. The research - a randomised control trial

comparing current care with a new fast track pathway - will investigate an innovative and workable change to the medical decision-making process for patients presenting acutely to Emergency Departments with chest pain. The research will support knowledge translation by providing the effectiveness in real-time clinical practice. To date, the findings suggest that for significant numbers of patients, an accelerated chest pain pathway can rule-out Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) sooner. This enables progression to the next phase of chest pain investigations and, importantly, allowing early discharge from ED without hospital admission. This outcome benefits the patient who can be reassured earlier a heart attack has been ruled-out and avoid the inconvenience and risks of hospital admission. It will also benefit the health service, which will avoid unnecessary admissions, duplication of staff activities and pressure on urgent care services. The CDHB is supporting the project financially by providing supplementary funding of almost \$200,000.



## Senior chefs gather to celebrate

When you've got more than 60 senior chefs in a room for morning tea, you can be assured of a great spread of food.

Participants from the Senior Chef courses completed this year met in Sydenham last week to celebrate their new cooking skills and friendships. The room buzzed with chat and the table was filled with a delicious assortment of goods from savoury toasties to Christmas cake.

Course co-ordinator and dietitian for Healthy Eating, Healthy Ageing, Hiedee Hantz thanked the numerous organisations and agencies who have supported the courses. These include the Christchurch City Council, Rural Canterbury PHO, Age Concern, Methodist Mission, Partnership Health, Selwyn District Council, Canterbury Men's Centre and the Canterbury District Health Board.

Course participant Lou Harrison-Smith says "each week we expanded our knowledge and skills. We started out with one-pot meals and moved onto cooking sequence meals that required more steps. It's a really smart programme. It's not just about social benefits. The courses are helping older people stay healthy at home. This reduces the number needing rest home or hospital care."

Other participants too were full of praise for the way the courses were run and the benefits they got out of them. More courses will be held in the first half of next year. More information is available from [Hiedee.hantz@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:Hiedee.hantz@cdhb.govt.nz)



*Top: Lou Harrison Smith (right), Ron Davidson (centre) and Joseph Whitehead. Ron and Joseph are flatmates and now take turns at cooking.*

*Bottom left: Lois Hubbard (left) and Marjorie Robinson have given demos of their new skills at the Rowley Avenue Bible Chapel.*

*Bottom right: Geoff Butler gets weekly visits from his granddaughter and is delighted to be able to provide her with a meal.*

## NZ Fitness Award for Nutrition and Physical Activity Co-ordinator

Receiving an award from Fitness New Zealand was both an “exciting surprise” and “a fantastic step forward” for Lee Tuki from Community and Public Health.

Lee was personally invited to the 2010 Fitness Industry Awards held at the end of last month and thought she would just enjoy watching other people receive recognition. She didn't know that she would be the recipient of the Industry's Register of Exercise Professionals Award in the 'Supporting Growth of Professionalism and Standards' category.

Lee works as a Nutrition and Physical Activity Co-ordinator for Community and Public Health.

Along with her team, Lee promotes physical activity as an integral part of a healthy lifestyle, works with workplaces and community organisations to get physical activity programmes up and running, and generally works with other agencies in Canterbury to help people be more active, more often. She combines this role with getting out messages around healthy eating choices and helps to encourage, and make it easier for people to make these choices.

“I love my work and am passionate about it, and get plenty of positive feedback from my colleagues. To be recognised outside of my workplace, though, by a national organisation like NZ Fitness, is just incredible,” says Lee.



What is really exciting, Lee says, is that it is more than just recognition of the work of one person or team of people. The fact that the connection between nutrition and exercise for overall health is being officially recognised by fitness professionals is beneficial for the whole community.

“This year, personally, has been a hard one. This award is really special to me and has boosted my confidence,” says Lee.

*Lee Tuki (left) at the NZ Fitness Awards. With her is Broni McSweeney who operates workshops for the Active Canterbury network.*

## Rangiora Hospital refurbishment complete

Rangiora Hospital is holding an open afternoon next week to promote its recently refurbished primary birthing unit – that's been made possible thanks to the Canterbury District Health Board and local community funders.

The open afternoon is to showcase the new refurbishments and encourage more women to birth at the unit, or transfer for postnatal care from Christchurch Women's Hospital.

Canterbury DHB would like to see more women living in the North Canterbury region use the unit to its full capacity.

The unit has seven maternity beds, two birthing rooms and four general convalescent beds. About 100 women birth at the unit each year while a further 300 transfer from Christchurch Women's for postnatal care. However, Rangiora Maternity could accommodate double the number of births and an extra 100 transfers for postnatal.

The cost of the renovations have totalled nearly \$30,000, with Rangiora Hospital Trust Fund funding \$13,846 for installation of new wall vinyl and lockers and Canterbury District Health Board funding \$10,225 for paint and furnishings.

Friends of Rangiora also donated \$6020 towards the cost of new lounge suites, side tables, notice boards and framed prints, while the remainder was funded by the New Zealand College of Midwives (\$200), Patient Donations (\$250).

The renovations are a vast improvement to modernise the rooms.

And there has been really positive feedback from the mothers who have used them since the upgrades. The open afternoon will be held tomorrow (8 Wednesday December, 2010) from 1pm – 4pm and includes hourly tours of the hospital between at 1.30pm to 3.30pm.



### 'Head Space' Launch

More than 60 people including Sir Tim Wallace and the Hon. Lianne Dalziell attended the launch of 'Head Space: a handbook on brain injury' at the Allan Bean Centre last week.

Co-authors Claire Freeman (left) and Bernadette Cassidy are pictured above. Claire, who works closely with numerous CDHB teams, was also responsible for the graphic design of the book.

### Dr Paul McCormack new chair of WCDHB

The West Coast District Health Board's current deputy chair Dr Paul McCormack has taken up his seat as the new chair of the board.

Dr McCormack has an extensive background in clinical practice, management and governance. He has 30 years experience in General Practice and was Managing Director of Pegasus Health from 2003 to 2008.

Dr McCormack says he is aware he has been appointed to the role at a time when Coasters are dealing with one of their worst mining disasters, at the Pike River Coal mine, near Greymouth.

"Staff at West Coast DHB can be commended for the way they responded to the disaster."

Other ministerial appointed members of the West Coast DHB for the term which began on Monday are:

- Mr Peter Ballantyne, who will be deputy chair
- Mr Warren Gilbertson, who is reappointed,
- And Miss Susan Wallace, who is also reappointed.

They will join elected members:

- Kevin Brown
- Sharon Pugh
- Douglas Truman
- John Vaile
- Elinor Stratford
- Helen Gillespie
- Mary Molloy

### Back to business at 74 Oxford Terrace

The staff forced to evacuate their offices at 74 Oxford terrace after the September 4 earthquake have resumed business as usual back at their old desks.

The building suffered extensive damage from the earthquake, forcing PES (Psychiatric Emergency Services, SPOE (Single Point of Entry) and the North/South Community Mental health team to immediately find new temporary office space.

In the interim, the teams were all moved to Hillmorton Hospital. General Manager for Specialist Mental Health Services, Sandra Walker, says the generosity of the Alcohol and Other Drug team and Rural team saw more than 80 staff squashed into the Fergusson building.

It has taken the past three months to complete the repairs but the building has now been blessed and the teams moved back in yesterday.

"I would like to thank everyone concerned for their patience, tolerance and kiwi ingenuity in making a very difficult situation work and ensuring that patient services were delivered without any disruption. Everyone had done a great job. Thank you," Sandra says.

## Accolade for CDHB Health and Safety Team

The Canterbury DHBs new framework for a safe handling programme received an accolade at the recent New Zealand Ergonomics Conference held in Nelson.

Sue Alexander, Ergonomics Advisor and Safe Handling Programme Lead presented a paper "Development of a Safe Handling Programme in Healthcare: Challenges, opportunities and the Programme itself". She was awarded one of two SCION Awards for Best Presentation/Paper. The judges commented that "the systems level approach and the framework proposed provided a simple basis for addressing a complex range of issues that were presented in an interesting and meaningful way."

The Health and Safety Team have been working on a strategy based on human factors and ergonomics that can be used DHB wide. This exciting initiative is in the consultation phase with key management groups



*From left, Dr Sophie Hide, Sue Alexander and Liz Ashby.*



## Midwives on the go

It all started with a group of midwives having a pre-shift coffee and talking about how good it would be to complete a half marathon to five midwives from Christchurch Women's birthing suite doing the half marathon at Lakehoo in Ashburton last month and raising funds to help those at work who have been affected by the earthquake. "I am amazed at all the support and motivation from people at work and the wider midwifery community," says midwife Diana

Keepahunuhunu. Staff in the birthing suite alone have raised \$1900.

"It has been an amazing journey and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I have personally achieved something great, yet at the same time helped other people in the process. As a team preparing for this event it reflects how well we work together and support each other in our every-day job. Some of us are already looking at doing the Buller half marathon in February 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported us, everything from training advice to positive affirmations.

Also a big thank you to Pam Yee for helping me get through that last lap and to the girls who waited at the finish line for me. We have raised nearly \$4000." says Diana.

*From Left to right is Anna Foase, Diana Keepahunuhunu, Sonya Matthews and Carys Cheetham. Unfortunately Leonie Kaywood and Pam Yee are not in this photo. Leonie did the half ironman and Pam did the triathlon.*

## Seating Changes at Community and Public Health

The sights and sounds at Community and Public Health in Chester Street East and at 242 Manchester Street have been dominated by the “rrrrppp” of boxing tape and collections of re-useable folders during the last few weeks.

CDHB offices at Manchester Street have been vacated and staff have moved in with colleagues at Chester Street in order to make some significant operational savings.

The move has also provided an opportunity for staff in the same programme areas to be seated together. The changes mean that Programme Area (PA) 1, Public Health Information and Capacity and PA4, Chronic Disease and Injury prevention staff now work entirely on level two. PA 2, Emergency Preparedness and Disease Control teams are located on level one. Staff in PA 3, Healthy Physical Environments, are located on level three. The PHIA (analyst) team is located on the ground floor. Phone number extensions have not changed.

*Photo: Chris Woods (left) and Diane Shannon from PA2 get ready to change their desks.*

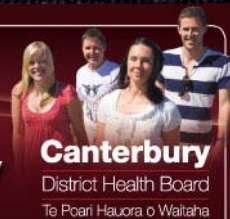


## Divisional Christmas Hours on the intranet

Divisional Christmas hours for Medical/Surgical and Haemostasis Service are now on the intranet—[click here](#).

To add your divisional details, email them to [Vicky.heward@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:Vicky.heward@cdhb.govt.nz) before 20 December.

## Careers Weekly



**Canterbury**  
District Health Board  
Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Medical & Dental

Nursing & Midwifery

Allied Health

More Careers

Please view some of our current vacancies listed below in the latest edition of the Careers Weekly at <http://intraweb.cdhb.local/hr/documents/pdf/CareersWeekly/CareersWeekly.pdf>.

- Contract Administrator, Corporate
- Nursing Director, Surgical Services, Christchurch Hospital
- Registered Nurse, Acute Inpatient Service
- Registered Midwives, Burwood Birthing Unit

The Careers Weekly is updated every Thursday and a full description of all vacancies are available to view on our intranet page at <https://staffvacancies/Search.aspx>.

## Christmas Card Orders

Departments and services can order Christmas cards from Natasha Capon by email [natasha.capon@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:natasha.capon@cdhb.govt.nz). As well as hard copies an electronic Christmas card for emailing is also available. Please include delivery address and cost code.



## Bouquets

### Diabetes Clinic

*"It is always a pleasure to come to the clinic and be greeted and treated by happy staff. Even being told off is not unpleasant! Well done everyone. You are a great advertisement for the clinic and the hospital..."*

*"Thank you all for your great care and support. We are very lucky having you here in Christchurch. Great outlook and spotlessly clean. Great coffee too! Thanks so much."*

### Oncology Department – Christchurch Hospital

*"I cannot over-emphasise how caring and helpful the girls operating the radiation machine are. They allay my fears. They have suggestions to help overcome side affects and are a major role in my treatment. Well done to you all."*

### Ward 26 – Christchurch Hospital

*The nursing staff and everyone else were so nice and friendly. They all work very hard. The food was also good."*

### Medical Day Unit – Christchurch Hospital

*"Excellent staff. They are wonderful."*

### Surgical Assessment Review Area and Ward 15 – Christchurch Hospital

*"I have been very pleased with the care given to me. The nurses, doctors and their assistants are very attentive..."*

### Ward 12 and Cardiothoracic Ward – Christchurch Hospital

*"We are very grateful for the professional care and attention. We appreciated the concise and clear explanations at each stage. Thank you for your kindness and concern. We appreciate very much that Timaru patients have such excellent access to Christchurch Hospital and its facilities."*

### Ward 23 – Christchurch Hospital

*"...has received exceptional care by all. We are so grateful to all concerned. Thank you so much to all concerned."*

### Christchurch Hospital

*"I wish to convey my appreciation of the care my husband received both in admission and on ward 31."*

*The kindness of staff both to him and all the members of our family was exceptional...I feel you should know of the excellent nursing care at the 'coal face'. I cannot speak highly enough of the doctors, cleaning staff etc."*

### Respiratory Department and ICU – Christchurch Hospital

*"Dad mentioned writing you a letter to express his appreciation of your professional care of him in recent times, so I am writing this on his and our family's behalf...he mentioned several times to me how grateful he was that you were the person in charge of his care at Christchurch Hospital. I met you there twice and was impressed myself by your honesty and sincerity. We understand that all of the staff there did everything in their power to effect Dad's recovery...We were appreciative of the care, respect and dignity he was shown in his last days, especially in ICU and are in awe of the people who work there. He and we were shown compassion and the staff made a very shocking and stressful time as comfortable as they could for Dad and us. We will never forget that care and wish to express our gratitude for all you tried to do for our father."*

### Takahe Unit – Hillmorton Hospital

*"To the nurses, nurse aides and housekeeping etc, with enormous appreciation I thought the nursing care was absolutely exemplary! Thank you so much."*

### Thank you from START Inc

*"I am writing to express my sincere thanks on behalf of my small non Governmental organisation, START Inc for a kind donation we received today from some members of your staff. I was spontaneously contacted a little while ago by a staff member from Canterbury Health Laboratories to ask if START Inc would like to be the recipient of a small donation. The money was the proceeds of a staff market day. Naturally we were delighted to accept this generous offer...Our social service has been providing professional ACC accredited counselling for sexually abused children, youth and adults for approximately 24 years here in Canterbury...As a community service that sits in a community setting we need to be valued by our community to survive. All donations such as that from your staff are greatly appreciated. So congratulations to those staff members who raised the money and the CDHB for employing such community spirited personnel. Once again, thanks to all involved for the donation."*

**Take care, David Meates**