

# New facilities to open at Thames Hospital

Patients, visitors and staff will reap the benefits of Thames Hospital's multi-million-dollar makeover next month when the first new clinical building opens its doors.

The Thames Clinical Centre will be fully functional by the end of October and house all outpatient clinics, radiology and the emergency department.

It will be a busy place.

Completion of the Inpatient Unit won't be far behind either with construction to finish in December, signalling the end of the redevelopment at Thames Hospital.

Hospital area manager Jacquie Mitchell said it has been a long time coming and at times a bit trying with construction but the payback will come when everyone sees inside.

"The clinical centre is looking fantastic and will be quite a change for everyone.

"Definitely a good change though.

"The new facilities are a huge improvement on the old and I'm looking forward to next month," she said.

The inside of the new building is currently the hospital's best kept secret, most staff have not been inside yet.

"Tours have been kept to a minimum because we didn't want to disrupt progress on the building.

"The area is a construction site that requires protective clothing to be worn at all times so we've left the workers to get on with it.

"We wanted them to get it done on time with minimum disruptions," Ms



**ALMOST READY:** From next month, patients can enter the Thames Clinical Centre off Mary Street for their clinic appointment.

Mitchell said.

The construction at Thames Hospital is part of Waikato DHB's Service and Campus Redevelopment project.

Staff from the project team, based

at Waikato Hospital, played an active role in ensuring everything in the new building is correct, right down to the very fine details.

"Everything from where the rubbish

bins go to the height of the shelves has been checked, and in some cases fixed.

"We need to make sure everything is installed, working and as it should be

when we open," Ms Mitchell said.

New hospital signage is being installed to help patients and visitors find their way around the hospital on their next visit.



**PEACEFUL SETTING:** The Thames Clinical Centre courtyard provides a restful place for patients to relax and rehabilitate.

## Peaceful courtyards for relaxation, rehabilitation

Garden courtyards are a big feature of the new Thames Hospital buildings for rehabilitation, relaxation and of course, they make for a nice view.

The Thames Clinical Centre is no exception and has its own courtyard in the middle with patient rooms looking out into it.

Area manager Jacquie Mitchell said the courtyards were created with patients' needs in mind.

"We want them to go out and use them as much as possible.

"Whether it's for relaxation, rehabilitation or they are hoping to catch a bit of sunlight.

"For patients unable to mobilise, the courtyards will be a restful view," she said.

A group of Thames Rotary Club members worked on the clinical centre courtyard one weekend to plant trees, shrubs and organise the garden.

"They did a fantastic job and it looks wonderful.

"On a sunny day it will be a lovely, warm place to be," Ms Mitchell said.

The Thames Clinical Centre courtyard is located by the outpatients' reception.

When the building opens next month and you attend your next appointment, make sure you take a look.

## Thames Clinical Centre a busy place

Whether you are staying for a long or a short time, all Thames Hospital patients will have the chance to see inside the new facilities from the end of the year.

Area manager Jacquie Mitchell said that inpatients will have access to brand new bedrooms and outpatients will have new clinic rooms.

"And those who get hurt or injured will be assessed in a new emergency department," she said.

The Inpatient Unit, when open in December, will house a High Acuity Unit for acute patients and the hospital wards.

"The unit has more single and double rooms than in the old wards, the bedrooms are larger, each has its own ensuite, and some will have a view of

the new courtyards," Ms Mitchell said.

The Thames Clinical Centre will be a busy place for emergency, radiology and clinic patients.

Ms Mitchell hopes that the local community are not nervous about coming to the hospital because of the changes.

"Visiting hospital isn't always pleasant and you don't need added stress by not knowing where you are going.

"To help, we've employed volunteers to be on-hand when you arrive.

"The volunteers have already started at the hospital and will be here Monday to Friday to help you find your way around these new buildings when they open.

"Please ask for help if you need it," she said.



**FINISHING TOUCHES:** The clinical centre interior is nearing completion as everything is checked and finalised. Including the emergency department assessment bay (top) and outpatients reception (bottom).