

# New Thames Hospital almost here

The new buildings at Thames Hospital are continuing to make good progress and are on track for completion by the end of the year.

Patients and visitors can expect to be entering through a new entrance off Mary Street, and attending clinics in brand new premises from as early as September.

Hospital area manager Jacquie Mitchell is looking forward to the work being finished.

"We've been waiting over 10 years for this so the end will be

welcomed by all.

"The excitement among staff is growing as the time for when they will be working in these new buildings get closer.

"This is something we haven't had here for a long time," she said.

The new clinical centre and inpatient unit are now linked and with all the framing almost complete, the new rooms, corridors and courtyards can be identified.

Visitors coming to Thames Hos-

pital can clearly see the progress being made on the new buildings and can even watch some of the activity happening inside.

Hoardings over a window next to the main entrance have been removed so that visitors can have a look at what's going on in their new emergency department as they arrive at the hospital.

"Visitors will also see the earthworks being done next to the main entrance that is bringing the former service lane up to the same height

as the building for the new ambulance bay."

Changes inside the existing buildings are also evident with new bathroom facilities now available for use at the main entrance and next to the Sperry Lane Café.

Ms Mitchell said the facilities are "a huge improvement" and the first of many that the Thames, Coromandel and Hauraki community can look forward to being introduced at Thames Hospital this year.

This construction work at Thames Hospital is part of Waikato District Health Board's Service and Campus Redevelopment (SCR) project which is also underway at Waikato Hospital.

**For more information about what's happening with the redevelopment at Thames Hospital visit [www.waikatodhb.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz).**

## Progress on new buildings clearly visible

By the end of the year, Thames Hospital will have two new buildings that will house most hospital services.

Construction started last year and good progress has been made to ensure the work kept to schedule to allow completion by the end of the year.

### Thames Clinical Centre

The building is all closed in now with the roof and walls complete and the hoardings that was blocking any view from the main entrance have now been removed.

Work on the interior is underway and the clinical centre is expected to be open in September.

When complete, it will be home to the emergency department, radiology and all outpatient clinics.

### Inpatient Centre

This 54-bed building is being built in three stages which are all starting to come together now.

One section is all closed in with a roof, walls, windows and framing on two sections almost complete.

Work on the interior will get underway shortly for completion by the end of the year.

When complete, the hospital's High Dependency Unit will move into the Inpatient Centre along with the wards. Each room in the ward will have its own ensuite and some will have window views of the new courtyards.



**LINKED:** The Inpatient Centre is being built in three stages with the third connecting to the new clinical centre.



**PEEK INSIDE:** The inside of the Thames Clinical Centre are starting to form and work is to be complete by September.



**TEST ROOM:** This demonstration room was created to test the design and practicality of the ward bedrooms.

## Mock ward bedroom for practice

A demonstration room has been established inside the new clinical centre for staff to see how the new ward bedrooms will look and to identify any errors in design.

The room will be ready for staff to view in August and will be an exact replica of what is planned for the final design of the ward rooms.

## Getting ready to move into new buildings

With the end in sight for the redevelopment of Thames Hospital, plans are now underway to make sure the facilities are ready for services to move in.

Staff completed an exercise earlier this year to find out how the new buildings will affect their daily routines.

A summary of the previous day's patients was used with real scenarios of what is wrong with the patient, what care they require, where they have come from and where they need to go.

Ms Mitchell said the exercise went well and participating staff found it very helpful.

"About 30 members of staff took part and found it

to be a very practical way of looking at how the new hospital will work and what things we do will need to be adjusted to suit the new facilities.

"Any changes will be an improvement in the service that we provide but it was important for us to identify these before we move in," she said.

The plans from the exercise are now on display in the hospital library for staff to view and learn from before the buildings open.

Over the coming months, further plans and procedures will be put in place to ensure a smooth transition between the old and new buildings so the hospital can remain operational at all times.

## Expect changes when visiting Waikato Hospital

Waikato Hospital is the regions major tertiary hospital so attracts patients for clinics and treatment from all over the North Island.

It is quite likely that you will visit Waikato Hospital sometime over the next year to visit a friend or attend a clinic, so it is important that you are aware of changes that have occurred at the Waikato Hospital campus.

After more than 100 years of entering the hospital at the top of the hill, the old main entrance is now closed and a new one has been established.

Pedestrian access through the old main entrance remains but only emergency department and clinic drop off parking is available outside.

Next time you visit Waikato Hospital drive in through the new Gate 1 entrance off Pembroke Street (by the blood centre) and follow the signs to the new carpark building.

This building will put you directly into the hospital and if you need help, you can ask one of our friendly volunteers inside.

They will be waiting to help you find your way.