

# Tokoroa Hospital changes

## Putting people before design

Tokoroa Hospital's recent alterations designs have kept both staff and community in mind.

The changes to reception and the district nursing treatment area have streamlined the way hospital staff can provide care to patients.

Where there used to be a separate reception area for outpatients and radiography – and no reception at all for ED patients – all three areas now have a shared reception.

Tokoroa Hospital administration manager Nora Creigh-Smith said the improvements to reception have meant the services are streamlined, with much more support offered to the ever-busy clinical staff.

"Which in turn, means a more efficient service is provided to our patients," said Mrs Creigh-Smith.

Having done some research, it was found that people will spend more time watching fish swim than a television while in a waiting room – so fish it was.

Facilities service technician Shaun Carlton, designed and installed the hospital waiting room's fish tank, which has proved a hit with young and old alike.

"Fish are more calming as well – children particularly love it," said Mrs Creigh-Smith.



NAUTICAL THEME: Tokoroa Hospital facilities service technician Shaun Carlton designed and installed this calming fish tank in the reception waiting room.

To add to the comfort levels of staff and patients, Tokoroa Hospital's district nursing treatment area was also completely refurbished in September.

"An audit of the area showed some improvements needed to be made to meet infection control standards," said Mrs Creigh-Smith.

"Some improvements to the layout of the room have assisted in creating a safer working environment for staff as well."

And the renovations only continue for the 21-bed hospital, with a triage area planned for ED in the New Year.

"The triage area is very important, as

it will provide patients with more privacy than what they currently have," said hospital manager Jane Chittenden.

"This is particularly important when most people who come into ED are in great distress."



BEFORE: Tokoroa Hospital district nursing treatment area before renovation.



AFTER: New and improved.

## Public Health Nurses find 'the magic within'

For the first time, Tokoroa are hosting a Regional Public Health Nurse Day today.

The event is being co-ordinated by King Country and South Waikato Public Health Nurses (PHN), who have chosen the theme 'The Magic Within', depicting the good work these nurses carry out every day.

"We felt 'The Magic Within' was quite an uplifting theme to boost the spirits of all who take part," said Tokoroa PHN Maureen Leger.

"We want everyone who comes along to be inspired and feel good about themselves and the role they play in the

community, by the time they go home for the day."

South Waikato PHNs are expecting between 30-40 colleagues to attend the meeting from throughout the Waikato District Health Board region.

Taking place at Te Wānanga O Aotearoa Tokoroa from 10am-3pm, objectives for the meeting include the provision of inspiration and encouragement to PHNs in their daily work, to update and inform one another of new ideas and resources to be used, and to have some fun and 'catch up'.

"Tokoroa Hospital staff are excited to be hosting the regional day, as we have

never held it here before," said Tokoroa Hospital manager Jane Chittenden.

"It's not only about professional development for our region's PHNs and other staff, but bettering and furthering skills and resources for our communities through learning from one another."

Mrs Chittenden will open the meeting, followed by an address by Waikato DHB Rural Services and Family Health Teams manager Jill Dibble.

Guest speakers at the event include author, columnist, adult educator and self-proclaimed 'entertainer' Lisa McKimm.



STATE-OF-THE-ART: Tokoroa Hospital manager Jane Chittenden (centre) with theatre nurses (from left) Wendy Jones, Hilary Dawson and Jo Thorburn and the hospital's new anaesthetic machine and operating table.

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## BRIEFLY

### Foodsafe Week is here

This week is New Zealand Foodsafe Week.

Running from November 12-19, this week is aimed at promoting safe food practices in New Zealand. This year's campaign has a particular focus on youth, to ensure these vital messages are learnt at a young age. Visit [www.foodsafe.org.nz](http://www.foodsafe.org.nz) for more details about resources that can be used at your local schools, competitions and heaps of 'foodsafety tips'.



## New structure for South Waikato nurses

Along with a revamped Waikato DHB nursing management structure, comes Rebecca Haywood and Anne Green, who will now have more involvement with the South Waikato.

Mrs Haywood has taken on the role of district nursing clinical nurse manager, while Mrs Green holds the same role for public health nurses.

Mrs Haywood is one of four clinical nurse managers for the district nursing service across the Health Waikato district.

She has the responsibility for day-to-day management of staff and clinical supply requirements for district nurses in the Te Kuiti and Taumarunui Family Health Teams, as well as in Tokoroa.

Meanwhile, Mrs Green holds the same role in the King Country and South Waikato, with 10 public health nurses from these areas directly reporting to her.

Mrs Green said due to reshuffling, a new public health nurse position has been dedicated to Tokoroa, and this will be filled in January.

## Technology update

### Modern gadgets just what the doctor ordered

Tokoroa Hospital staff have put their hands up to utilise spare equipment from Waikato, for the benefit of its own residents.

A new nurse call system will become operational early in the New Year, when it will be installed in the maternity and inpatients wards.

"The new technology will replace the current system which is about 10 years old, and out of date," said maintenance supervisor John Dowdell.

"Basically, it will give us a reliable and up-to-date, modern call system which will make it much easier for nurses to respond to patients when they are needed.

"The system consists of a digital display positioned in the corridors that is connected to a bell beside each of the patients' beds.

"When the patient presses their bell, the nurse only has to pop out into the corridor to see which patient requires attention."

In addition to the purchase of the

call system, Tokoroa has received an acuity monitoring system from Waikato Hospital.

This system will be installed in the inpatients ward and emergency department, allowing doctors working in ED to monitor patients in other wards.

"Not only that, but the monitoring system also records patient information, keeping everyone up to date – it really is very clever," said Mr Dowdell.

Two other recent purchases for the hospital have made a significant impact.

These include a new anaesthetic machine, which monitors patient's vital signs and a new state-of-the-art operating table.

"We are really excited about the constant improvement in service and technology at Tokoroa Hospital," said manager Jane Chittenden.

"There are really positive investments being put into all aspects of the hospital, including day case surgery."