

## Radiology upgrade complete

In August 2006, the Radiology Department at Middlemore Hospital celebrated the completion of its three year redevelopment project.

The \$16.051 million upgrade resulted in an upgraded CT suite with additional CT scanner, a new Interventional Suite, a new enlarged Ultrasound Suite, additional x-ray rooms and administration and conferencing facilities.

“The improved facility is designed to meet the future needs of the hospital,” says Paul Hewitt, Radiology Service Manager.



Where it all began! The project team gather in the new CT suite. This photo was taken in 2003.

The additional rooms and new equipment means emergency patients, inpatients and outpatients are all able to receive their imaging much more quickly.

The Department is already noticing a reduction in some of its waiting lists. For example, biopsies which were waiting up to 8 weeks are now reduced to 2 weeks, while there is currently no waiting list for Angiography.\*

“Staff working in the Department are very pleased with the improved facilities,” says Paul. “Technicians get to work with the latest equipment, while everyone gets to enjoy a more attractive and roomy working environment.

“Patients have also commented on the reduced waiting times, along with the welcoming reception and waiting areas.”

“The safety of staff and public, while maintaining the day to day running of the Radiology Department was a priority throughout the 12 stages of construction says Project Manager, Graeme Purdie.”

“Ongoing communication between Hawkins Construction and the Radiology Service was critical to ensure everyone knew what was happening,” says Mr Purdie. Strategies were also put in place to minimise any disruption to staff, patients and visitors. For example noisy works in the ceiling spaces were carried out in the early hours of the morning - before the Department opened.

“It was a real team effort and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and commitment to the Project,” says Paul.

\*Angiography - Examination of the blood vessels via x-ray, following the injection of a radio-opaque substance).

## Radiology milestones

	Facility	Completion Date
✓	New consent room and CT change area.	Completion August 2006.
✓	New CT bed wait, nurses station and reporting room. New radiologist offices and administration space.	Completion April/May 2006.
✓	New bed wait and nurses station	Completion January 2006.
✓	New ultrasound and general support services.	Completion November 2005
✓	New intervention and general x-ray.	Completion May 2005.
✓	New CT reception, patient waiting areas and temporary ultrasound.	Completion September 2004.
✓	IT hub room and radiology administration/clerical.	Completion August 2004.
✓	New CT scanner and control room.	Completion December 2003.



*Seminar/Conference Facility*



*Interventional Suite*



*CT Reception*



*CT Scanner*



*Ultrasound*



*General X-Ray room*

## Floor coverings breathe life into existing areas

The Engineering Department is continuing to repair and replace carpet throughout numerous buildings on the Middlemore site. “Requests are assessed on a case by case basis,” says Building Supervisor Nathan Linton, however we need to consider the life expectancy of some areas due to future expansion and rebuilding.”

Floor coverings in the Sterile Supply Unit (SSU) and Theatres in the Galbraith Building have recently been upgraded to improve standards of infection control.

Theatre 3, including the anaesthetist area has had new vinyl fitted to create a more sterile and visually appealing environment. Theatres 1 and 2 are next on the list.



**New vinyl for SSU**



**Theatre 3**

Wards 22, 23 and 24 (Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation) had funds to re-carpet their patient lounges.

“Our old carpet was stained, worn out and a potential trip hazard,” says Sandy Arnold, Charge Nurse, Ward 22. “The new carpet has really brightened up the area, drawing favourable comments from patients and staff.”

“We used a 100% Resistain Solution Dyed Nylon, stuck directly to the flooring,” says Mr Linton.

“The ‘direct stick’ method prevents the carpet from bunching and forming a trip hazard. It also allows wheelchairs, trolleys etc to manoeuvre with less effort.

“Being 100% Nylon it won’t smell when wet and can be cleaned repeatedly without damaging the carpet fibres,” he says.



**A patient enjoys the re-carpeted day room.**

## Construction to commence January 2007 for Assessment and Birthing Unit (ABU)

As you can see from these photos, the ABU Project is underway with the demolition of the old Burns Ward 14.

Materials and rubbish are being cleared from the floor through the metal chute you can see at the front of the Galbraith Building.

Construction is due to start in January 2007 once Ward 15 (Plastics) has moved out.



Demolition – Ward 14



Demolition – Ward 14

The Assessment and Birthing Unit (ABU) will be located on the 2nd floor of the Galbraith Building - one floor below the Neonatal Unit and one floor above operating theatres.

ABU will have 17 birthing rooms and 11 assessment rooms. Non-labouring women will be seen in the assessment area, while the birthing rooms will deliver babies from 22 weeks gestation.

Process Improvement Manager, Margaret Garthwaite says safety and functionality are key features of the areas.

“This has been achieved by the co-location of birthing rooms, the Neonatal Unit and their proximity to theatres,” says Margaret.

“For example mothers needing caesarean sections will have immediate access to theatres and sick babies will have prompt admission to the Neonatal Unit.”

**“Safety and functionality are key features of the new Assessment and Birthing Unit.”**

Improved facilities for families and staff will also be a primary focus. For example there will be a waiting room for families (not currently available) and a change room for staff.

## Construction Updates

<p><b>Levels 4 Adult Medical Centre:</b></p> <p>All the finishing touches are underway. For example walls are being painted, doors are being installed, faceplates are being applied to data and power outlets. Vinyl is being laid.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nurses Station</li> <li>2. Patient bedroom (medical service panels have been installed).</li> </ol> <p><b>Completion date - November 2006</b></p>	  	<p>1</p>  <p>2</p>
<p><b>Level 5 Adult Medical Centre:</b></p> <p>Wall framing continues. Some walls are being gib-stopped and sanded, ready for painting.</p> <p>Electrical cables are positioned inside the framing.</p> <p>Positions for light fittings, data outlets, taps and sinks etc are established.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reception</li> <li>2. Patient bedroom</li> </ol> <p><b>Completion date - December 2006</b></p>	  	<p>1</p>  <p>2</p>
<p><b>Coronary Care Unit (CCU)</b></p> <p>Wall framing continues. Some walls are being gib-stopped and sanded, ready for painting.</p> <p>Medical service panels are being installed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nurses Station</li> <li>2. CCU bed bay</li> </ol> <p><b>Completion date - December 2006</b></p>	  	<p>1</p>  <p>2</p>

## Upgrades continue for CMDHB'S Mental Health Facilities

### Current projects:

#### Tamaki Oranga

The programme continues with an extensive refurbishment of Tamaki Oranga, a 20 bed inpatient rehabilitation unit in Bairds Road. The renovation is currently underway and expected to be completed in November 2006. The works include splitting of four double bedrooms into single units, upgrade of the meeting room / conference area, creation of additional storage and a repaint of the interior of the building. Work has already been completed on improvements to the ventilation in the laundry and kitchen areas. A staff initiative will result in a landscape development designed to encourage use of the grounds by patients.

#### Building 39, Western Campus

Renovations have been completed at Building 39 on the Western Campus. The site will now operate as a satellite clinic for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health team whose staff centre is now at Whirinaki, Springs Rd, East Tamaki. Building 39 has been recarpeted and repainted and now offers five clinics (one with video capability), a reception/waiting area and a kitchenette. Two of the first floor offices will be occupied by Kidz First staff.



Clinic - Building 39

#### The Cottage

The second stage of the refurbishment of The Cottage is now nearing completion. The building is occupied by the Maori Clinical team, The Cottage Community Mental Health team and Faleola (Pacific Mental Health team). Renovations include:

- The relocation of the Whanau (Family) Room to a more client-accessible position
- Conversion of the old Whanau Room into two offices
- Creation of another office adjacent to the reception area
- Conversion of first floor office space into a large meeting room
- Alterations to the reception area

### Future Projects:

Refurbishments are due to start at Awhinatia (Great South Rd, Papakura). The works will include recarpeting, repainting and general maintenance. Awhinatia accommodates an adult Mental Health team (Awhinatia Community Mental Health Centre), Home Health Care and a number of Public Health nurses.

## Historical beginnings

*As we enter into a period of growth and redevelopment it's important to understand our historical beginnings. Each issue of Project EXCEL will take you on a journey through the past 59 years.*

**25 years at Middlemore Hospital – A Matron's perspective. This article was published in 'Middlemore Memories' and was written by Beverly Barker.**

In 1951 I was appointed second assistant Matron at Middlemore Hospital at the princely sum of 360 pounds a year.

In those days Middlemore was a 300-bed hospital – a nice size to administer. It was set in beautiful surroundings with native shrubbery encircling the grounds and a restful outlook over the adjacent Auckland Golf Club.

I was welcomed on my arrival by Miss Gladys Cleland, the first assistant Matron, and some of the senior nursing staff.



**Beverly Barker discusses a patient's care in the ward office. In those days nursing notes were held in a cardex, which were separate from the doctors notes in the trolley.**

The following morning I presented myself to the Matron, Miss Hollan, who introduced me to the medical superintendent Dr John Colvin.

He welcomed me in a most courteous manner, which was the beginning of a cordial relationship with him for the next 12 years.

During the early 50's Middlemore was predominantly an orthopaedic hospital. This could be a physically hard area to work in and back pain was a common ailment amongst the nursing staff. For this reason many nurses were discouraged from working at the hospital. Other reasons included poor transport, lack of entertainment and isolation from the city.

The hospital was initially staffed by nurses who trained elsewhere. Some came from the UK and were highly qualified. There were also student nurses and a considerable number of hospital aides. On occasions some of these junior staff members had to assume responsibilities beyond their actual training, especially the hospital aides. However, they rose to the occasion.

Middlemore Hospital set up a general nursing programme in 1948 with the first nurses graduating in the early 1950's. In 1961 our own obstetric unit opened. Miss Marjorie Crabbe was appointed Sub-Matron in charge of the unit, complete with its own theatres, clinic areas and wards. She was an excellent manager, maintaining high standards of patient care and making sure the students received good training in the specialty. The unit meant that our nurses could receive all their training at the base hospital.

In 1970 a school of nursing was established for Middlemore nurses. It was located in the new household staff quarters over the railway line. No longer did our Middlemore nurses have to travel for their tuition.

## Historical beginnings - continued

The Galbraith block opened in 1964. This housed ward 11 (ENT), ward 12 (intensive care unit) wards 14,15,16,18 and 20 (orthopaedic units) and wards 17,19 and 21 (surgical) as well as operating theatres, accident and emergency, clinic areas, x-ray department and medical administration.

There was also a staff canteen, post office and a conference room.

Auckland Hospital was rebuilt during the 1960's, which meant that some wards, and medical staff had to relocate from Auckland to Middlemore Hospital.

This helped fill up the extra wards and resulted in more nurses being trained at Middlemore. The staffing levels gradually built up, and the hospital gradually grew from a small cosy institution to one of 750 beds.

In 1966 the old Cornwall Hospital wards relocated to Middlemore, arriving in the dead of night. These were refurbished and used for geriatric wards 22 to 24.

The coronary care unit was constructed in 1974 adjacent to the medical wards. It soon proved a valuable asset for the care of coronary patients in the South Auckland area.

The South Auckland base of the district nursing service was established in an old recreation hut and was able to provide district nursing experience for our students.

Ward 9 was set up as a paraplegic ward, anticipating the opening of the Spinal Unit at Otara.

A new nurses' home was built and occupied in 1961. This helped accommodate the extra staff when the Galbraith and obstetrical buildings opened in the early 60's .

Recreational facilities in the home consisted of a well stocked library, canteen, hair salon, TV and piano and tennis courts. In 1967 a swimming pool was built. It meant nurses no longer had to flit in the night to the Kings College baths, which no doubt pleased the headmaster.

For the majority of student nurses Middlemore was a very special place. We all had a sense of belonging and working together as a team. I saw the staff (nursing, medical and ancillary services) strongly supportive of each other.

I suppose the community spirit which was forged in the initial country hospital stayed with us as we grew bigger.

This notion of Middlemore Hospital being a very special place was confirmed in my mind when graduate nurses returned, justifiably proud that they had trained at Middlemore.



Household staff relax in the lounge. This building later became the nurses' library.



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## PROJECT EXCEL Web Site

### Intranet:

Access from '**Projects**' website on SouthNet or under “**P**” in the Services Directory.

### Internet:

In the internet explorer address bar type: <http://www.cmdhb.org.nz>.

Click onto PROJECT EXCEL.

The PROJECT EXCEL web site has been designed to inform staff about the modernisation and redevelopment projects occurring across the CMDHB sites.

You'll find background information and regular updates on the various projects, along with updated photographs of construction activities, floor plans, copies of PROJECT EXCEL NEWS and much more.

## Coming up in the next issue ..

- **Project updates**