

across the board

The Newsletter for **Canterbury** District Health Board Staff



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Workplace Health and Safety Representatives

The Health and Safety in Employment Amendment Act 2002 requires that all New Zealand workplaces now have an agreed health and safety employee participation system as one way for staff to raise workplace health and safety concerns.

The basis for this employee participation agreement was agreed between the Combined Health Employees Committee group and the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) and will be in addition to the other methods for engaging staff in workplace health and safety.

A total of 182 Health and Safety Employee Representatives will be spread evenly across the CDHB. The Health and Safety Representatives will be entitled to two days paid leave on an approved health and safety training course per year. The process of nominating and electing these representatives will take place over the next six weeks.

If you are considering nomination or would like more information, please contact your divisional Health and Safety Advisor or visit the Health and Safety website.

Clinical Board Elections

The Clinical Board elections have resulted in the following outcomes:

Senior Medical Officer – Dr Ruth Spearing, Haematology, Christchurch Hospital.

Nursing/Midwifery – Selene Nikora, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Ward 32, Christchurch Hospital.

Allied Health Professional – Margaret Krauss, Clinical Manager, Social Work Services, Christchurch Hospital.

Thanks

The team at the Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies warmly thanks all clinical partners who have supported their students in their studies during 2005.

From the CEO's Desk



Gordon Davis

The festive season is now well and truly upon us and with 2006 barely two weeks away, it is a time to reflect on the year past and to look forward to the year ahead.

I have commented to many staff as I have had the opportunity of meeting you, that my first impressions of the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) are generally very favourable. After only one month on the job, I have been impressed with the energies devoted to the frontline, the work done in supporting the frontline and the achievements in establishing and maintaining positive working relationships with our many external health providers.

This hasn't been achieved overnight and it has taken all of the five years since District Health Boards (DHBs) were established to put in place the processes that are necessary to ensure this model of health works as it was designed. In fact, I believe it will take more time still to get everything operating smoothly. Such a major change doesn't happen easily and it is inevitable that the remnants of past structures will still exist somewhere in the system.

We need to work carefully and thoughtfully making best use of the resources we have.

While we are working reasonably successfully, there is still much to do. One of the major tasks will be to develop a smoother pathway between the community primary care sector and the hospital services, to the extent that greater collaboration can occur.

We must look at problems from a

collective perspective and explore opportunities that will make for better health outcomes. This means, for example, taking a closer look at our information systems and making wise investments that will enhance health.

Next year we will look forward to the completion of the Home Dialysis and Diabetes Centre and the Stage 2 Refurbishment programme at Burwood. In January the Planning and Funding Team will move to Princess Margaret Hospital and a month later the Corporate Team from Charles Luney House will follow. This will mean for the first time in four years almost the entire CDHB corporate staff will be based in one building.

But there is much more to look forward to. The CDHB's new strategic plan will begin and the Hospital and Specialist Service Division has an extensive work programme on its drawing board. I am looking forward to a year of continuous improvement, not only within our organisation but also in terms of the collaborative approach that we must continue with our many community stakeholders. It is this 'partnership' that will ensure we get the best out of the DHB health model and both fund and provide the best health service to Canterbury.

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. For those of you who are on duty, I am sure the workload will be professionally and well managed and for those of you who are taking a break, I hope you have a safe and restful time.

Gordon



Gordon is greeted at the powhiri.

New CEO Welcomed with Powhiri

The Canterbury District Health Board officially welcomed new CEO Gordon Davies with a powhiri and morning tea at Burwood Hospital on November 14.

Mr Davies began his long career in health as an assistant accountant with the then North Canterbury Hospital Board and has returned as its top executive.

He told staff from across the board that he felt as if he had come home.

'It's great to be here, to join with Board staff and local communities to improve the health status of the district.'

It was clear that a number of problems existed in Canterbury, such as keeping up with new technologies, quality, ethics and other issues, but he could see steps were

being taken already towards their resolution.

'We need to work together. There's no place in health for top down command in operations or improvement. A team approach has to be made in decision making.'

Karleen Edwards, who was Interim CEO for three months before he arrived, said her time at the top had shown her what, '...a stunning organisation we are.'

'There are skilled, dedicated and talented staff at all levels. We are one of the best performing District Health Boards in the country, and we serve this community outstandingly.'

Olive Webb, Deputy Chair of the Board welcomed Mr Davies and said the challenge would be to confront the budget and spend \$1b for the greatest benefit to Canterbury.

New Tree for Christchurch Hospital

There's a brand new Christmas tree in the foyer at Christchurch Hospital this year, a two and half metre American pine which bears a strong resemblance to a traditional New Zealand Christmas tree.

Marcy Craigie, Canterbury District Health Board arts advisor and assembler and decorator of the hospital tree for the past 17 years, says the new tree, '...is as similar to a New Zealand pine tree as you can get.'

Better still, it comes complete with 800 twinkling lights already attached, saving her hours of work. Decorating the tree is a labour of love for Marcy, who receives help from Maintenance and Engineering staff. As in the past, there will be 1000 candy canes hanging from the branches to be given away during the festive season.

Christchurch Women's Hospital will be celebrating its first Christmas on the main campus, and it will also have a Christmas tree in its foyer.

Hospital chaplain, Hilary Barlow says the tree is a Christmas Greeting Tree and carries Christmas cards, handmade by staff, to be given away to patients and visitors.

'People are free to take them. They carry the Christmas wishes of all the staff at Women's.'

Staff will also sing carols throughout the hospital from 7pm on December 20.

Usually about 20 staff and children make up the choir and anyone keen to be part of the action this year should contact Hilary on 85722.

Think Christmas, Think Cake!



But if your name is Trudy Gordon, think outside the square.

The catering chef at Medici Café at the Christchurch School of Medicine has created a gingerbread cake which captures the Christmas spirit perfectly – and it has been on view in the café for the past month.

Completely edible, the house took Trudy 40 hours to make. It is constructed of gingerbread, has windows of coloured toffee, a roof of royal icing, pretzel fences, lollipop trees, popcorn bushes, pebble paths and cinnamon sticks as firewood.

A total of 210 fairy lights line the eaves and light the windows.

The construction was completed over four days and Trudy said the hardest part was putting in the windows.

'I do love Christmas but the house was a spur of the moment idea. I was home on a day off, saw an idea for a gingerbread house in a book and thought I'd give it a go.

'I've done a bit of this kind of work before and won the National Culinaire Competition in Auckland a while ago when I was working in a bakery shop there.

'I love arty stuff, but I've never done a gingerbread house before. Now, seeing how successful this has been, I'd like to do a town – with street lamps, a post office, little shops. I've seen some awesome ones on the internet.'

Watch this space for next Christmas!

How We'll Celebrate!

It's the time of year we all love! A chance to indulge in wonderful food, catch up with friends and family, and hopefully take a break. Here some Canterbury District Health Board staff share their Christmas plans and resolutions for the New Year.

Gordon Davies, Chief Executive Officer

'I'll be spending Christmas relaxing and catching up with wider family. We'll be eating summer stuff – we have a traditional Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve rather than on Christmas Day.

'My New Year resolutions are for a better life balance, and to remember more people's names!'

Bryan Spinks, Site Redevelopment Manager

'I'll be woken up very early by four over-excited children to see if Santa has been and no doubt eat lollies for breakfast, followed by a road-test of all presents until lunchtime. This is a family gathering that stretches until tea time, and then hopefully a quiet evening with happily sleeping tired children (or, alternatively, really grumpy overtired ones who will be sent to bed anyway).

'On the Christmas day menu will be lollies for the children, lots of nibbles, a seafood flavoured BBQ for lunch and ham and salad for tea – and the occasional Christmas spirit.

'My resolution is not to have a New Year's resolution.'

Dave Hiddlestone, Charge Orderly, Christchurch Hospital

'This year I will be working other than the statutory days, so I hope to take some time off mid-January so my wife and I can spend some nights out on our boat in and around the bays trying to catch more fish.

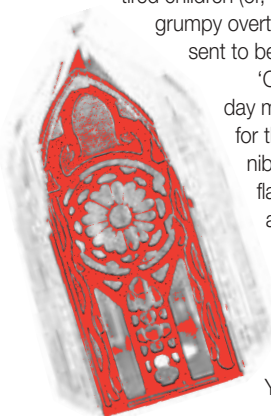
'Like most others we will spend time with family and friends on Christmas Day, eating and drinking far too much, – and then I'll spend the rest of the year trying to lose the weight I will gain over Christmas.'

Mary Ross, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, Rural Health Services

'I'll be spending Christmas at home, on the farm, enjoying the peace and quiet with my immediate family. On Christmas Day I visit the wards at Ashburton Hospital with Father Christmas, who is greeted by both patients and on duty staff with amusement and fun. Father Christmas's visit is a bright interlude on what for some patients can be a sad day.

'I am spoilt! While I'm at the hospital my husband and family prepare and cook a traditional dinner with all the trimmings. Delish! Then we sleep!

'My New Year resolution is to have some fun within the challenges of the health service!'



Donna, Darren and Heather Lead the Way with PDRP Certificate



Donna Galloway, the first nurse to have completed the Professional Development Recognition Programme, celebrates with colleagues. Rebecca Hickmott, PDRP Facilitator and Darren Tatom.

Donna Galloway made Canterbury District Health Board nursing history in October by becoming the first successful Professional Development Recognition Programme (PDRP) applicant.

The PDRP is a new credentialing framework to recognise clinical nurses' level of practice, their competence and proficiency.

Donna, who has worked on Ward 23, Christchurch Hospital since graduating in 2000, felt challenged to apply for the programme and was delighted to discover she was the first recipient.

Now a senior staff nurse with a wide range of responsibilities, including leadership, preceptorship, and Acting Charge on occasions, Donna says nurses have a strong commitment to upskilling and PDRP helps them to do this. She also believes that PDRP provides valuable tools that empower nurses to develop skills at their own pace.

'Medical staff are now working with highly qualified nurses and I believe they need to remain open minded about our ongoing education and not only see us as nurses at the bedside, but also as ongoing educators.'

Since Donna's became the first PDRP applicant to pass the programme there have been two more successes – Darren Tatom is the first recipient from Hillmorton Hospital, and Heather Cullimore is the first from Ashburton Hospital.

Darren has worked with the Community Mental Health Intensive Care Team for the past year. He previously owned a rest home.

He says he was initially motivated to participate in the PDRP by the money, but realised that he was really more concerned about professionalism and confirmation of his practice. His highlights were the positive feedback from the assessment and achieving Proficient Level.

He says he found the assessment process far more interactive than he had thought and

found staff very helpful and enthusiastic.

Although he had to provide more evidence to continue with the process, he says there were a lot of rewards.

'This ended up being the best part from a professional standpoint as I found out so much more about my practice.'

Heather Cullimore has spent most of her working life in Ashburton. She works in the Acute Admitting Unit and is also a PDRP assessor. She applied for Proficient Level because she already had an understanding of the process.

Her highlights were completing the portfolio, sending it in and then finding out that she was successful.

'As a professional my achievement has impacted on other staff putting forward their portfolios. It has made me more aware of my professional development and the importance of recording everything for your portfolio.'

Grinning and Baring it for Burns Centre



Sue Hirst and the Raw Energy calendar.

Not much fazes Canterbury District Health Board Medical Illustrations photographer, Sue Hirst. So when she was asked to photograph the raw talent for Raw Energy 2006, she willingly accepted.

A calendar in the style of Calendar Girls,

Raw Energy 2006 features male volunteers from electrical services industries who decided to bare all to support the National Burn Centre. Sue shot nine of the twelve black and white images (Angie Palmer took the others) and was responsible for the ideas for many of the amateur models' manly poses.

'The thing about this kind of photography is that you have to do it quickly. Initially there can be a bit of embarrassment, but it's my professional job to put them at ease and if the session is kept quite short and well organised, it generally goes well. I always reassured them that anything indiscreet would be eliminated straight away.'

Raw Energy 2006 was inspired by the Calendar Girls movie, and the cause, the new National Burn Centre in Auckland, saw electrical workers, from domestic to industrial, keen to take part.

The cause is also dear to Sue who saw many nasty burns on patients in the Burns Ward at Nottingham City Hospital.

'I had a big involvement with burns patients there. Every burns patient was photographed and their progress was regularly recorded by photograph. Making this calendar was quite easy work compared to that.'

Raw Energy 2006 calendars cost \$10 and are available from Sue Hirst in Medical Illustrations, 80520. All proceeds from sales will support the National Burn Centre which is being built onsite at Middlemore Hospital. It will provide treatment and rehabilitation for New Zealand's most severe burn patients.

One in every 100 New Zealanders is burnt every year. Around 30 suffer a severe burn injury. What takes seconds to burn may lead to hours of reconstructive surgery, years of rehabilitation and a lifetime of scarring.

Bird Flu Planning Well Advanced

Planning for the impact of an avian influenza pandemic is well advanced in the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) and staff can be assured that our team is in the vanguard of action around the country.

Details of the planning are being emailed to staff every Wednesday in a bid to keep everyone well informed about the possible effects for us, our families and our organisation. More importantly, the weekly message is providing good advice on measures to take now.

The Pandemic Planning Group is led by Dr Nigel Millar, Chief Medical Officer, and

under the co-ordination of Baden Ewart.

Baden was seconded from his role as General Manager Pegasus Health to work on the plan during November. He has previously worked as a service manager at the CDHB and as HR and Risk Manager for the Otago District Health Board.

David Roseveare is a consultant to the group. A former military medical officer, David acts as a consultant in health and emergency management.

John Coleman is the emergency planner at Christchurch Hospital and Diana Grice is Operations Manager, Mental Health Services. Adam Creed is the CDHB's Security Manager.



Baden Ewart (seated) and David Roseveare of the Pandemic Planning Group.

'Thank you' Luncheon for MeNZB



There was not a needle in sight when more than 140 staff involved in the MeNZB programme were given a 'Thank You' luncheon at Hillmorton Hospital recently.

Nurses, administration assistants and subsidiary staff who made up the school-based teams were pleased to attend the barbecue and catch up with friends made since June when the MeNZB campaign was rolled out in Canterbury.

'There has been great teamwork, which has meant we've been able to vaccinate a lot of children against a dangerous disease,' said Julia Anderson, co-ordinator of the Schools-Based Programme.

Rayoni Keith, Project Manager for the MeNZB campaign said the school nurses worked tirelessly throughout the campaign and their efforts were commendable as they ensured that all school children had every opportunity to be vaccinated.

She said that of all the Canterbury children who had consented to be vaccinated, 99.3%

had received Dose 1, 98.5% had received Dose 2 and 90.6% had received Dose 3. The campaign continued until December 2 and the overall rate of Dose 3 is expected to climb.

Nurses spoken to on the day said the organisation of the campaign had been excellent, starting from the three days of training prior to the teams being dispatched.

'I learnt a lot in that time about Meningococcal, and that information was really useful in responding with conviction to lots of questions from students who were worried,' said one. 'It was also great to work with a cross section of nurses of different background experiences and to make new friends.'

Mary Gordon, Executive Director of Nursing presented all the MeNZB staff with a certificate and letter of thanks from the CDHB. There were several items from talented groups and everyone enjoyed a two-course lunch under brilliant sunshine.

Masks Get the Thumbs up

Rosemary Brady, Staff Nurse, fits and tests a mask on Debbie Hamilton, a Registered Nurse in the Medical Day Unit.



Staff nurse Rosemary Brady has a new role – fitting and testing staff who may need to wear a full isolation mask in the event of a pandemic or any isolation action.

Rosemary started on the OSH initiative in mid-October and is in the introductory stage of her work. She will gradually work her way through wards and departments in the front line.

'I'm showing staff how to put a mask on properly and how to fit it correctly. This involves testing it to ensure it is sealing and confirming the size and shape of mask for each face, just as with gloves.'

Staff who might be diffident at the start are very delighted when they can see the mask fits securely, she says.

Rosemary tests the efficiency of the mask by first asking the staff member to don a hood through which she squirts an aerosol solution. The smell and taste are immediately apparent. Then the mask is applied, and the same procedure repeated. When the mask is correctly fitted the staff member can detect no smell or taste.

'It's a simple procedure. Our aim is that in a pandemic, staff will feel they're safer at work than at home – and they're certainly getting the message.'

Sisterly Trio Follow Health Careers



Di Tyson, Debbie Hockley, Nicky Hockley.

Three sisters with a passion for caring for others are all employed by the Canterbury District Health Board – and working in the same hospital.

Eldest sister Di Tyson is a staff nurse on Ward 15 at Christchurch Hospital, middle sister, Debbie Hockley is a part-time physiotherapist at The Princess Margaret Hospital and is also doing work at Christchurch Hospital and youngest sister Nicky Hockley is a Therapy Assistant at the Acute Stroke Unit at Christchurch Hospital.

Di trained at Christchurch Polytechnic and then spent a decade working at both TPMH and Christchurch Hospital. For the last two years she has been at the Oxford Clinic but is now back in the fold at the hospital.

‘While I enjoyed my time at the Oxford Clinic, it’s just great to be back. I love the smell of the place. I just love walking into the hospital – it feels like you belong.’

Nicky arrived at Christchurch Hospital in February after working with former Templeton adults in a day – placement location for the past three years, and in a private hospital and rest homes prior to that. Her current work in Ward 31 engages her in both physio and occupational therapy work and she loves it.

‘I really enjoy working in the hospital too. Working with like-minded people is part of it, and I like working with the patients, especially those with whom you spend several weeks. You can often see big improvements and quality added to their lives. It’s about caring for other people and allowing them to keep their dignity.’

Debbie recently completed a project for the New Zealand Artificial Limb Board on developing interdisciplinary guidelines for the management of amputee patients in

Christchurch hospitals. In addition to her PMH job, she is now contracted to the Amputee Society of Canterbury and Westland in a newly-created part-time position as an Amputee Educator.

‘This has been an exciting job development. It’s about letting amputees and their families know what will happen during the rehabilitation process, and endeavouring to answer questions they may have so that they can face their future with more certainty. Hopefully this new position will be helpful for staff, too.’

While Debbie trained as a physiotherapist in Auckland and initially worked at the North Shore Hospital, most of her 17 years as a health professional have been spent at Burwood, Christchurch, Sunnyside and TPMH.

‘I love working in a hospital and although I’ve been a sportswoman all my life, I have never been a sports physio. I’ve got no ambition to work in a private practice.’

Debbie played cricket for Canterbury and New Zealand for 20 years and has been a New Zealand selector for the last 18 months. She is keeping herself fit by training for local triathlons. Nicky does mountain biking and trampolining, and Di does tai chi and yoga.

All three sisters say that while their parents were not engaged in health careers, they are both very caring individuals and growing up in that environment has no doubt contributed greatly to their choice of careers.

Di sums it up by saying, ‘You do because it’s part of who you are. I like the hands-on aspect and enjoy working in the hospital where everyone is there for the same reason, which is basically to look after people until they’re well enough to go home.’

More Glory for Canterbury District Health Board

The Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) has won a 2005 BearingPoint Innovation Award for a project called Optimising Sedation in Critically Ill Patients.

The project, by Dr Geoff Shaw and engineers Richard Dove and Kathryn Greenfield, took the State Sector section of the awards, announced in Wellington in November. It had previously been the supreme winner in the CDHB’s own 2004 Quality and Innovation Awards.

The Canterbury District Health Board had two projects selected as finalists in the BearingPoint awards – the sedation project, and another by Dr Rudy Hidajat and the Ophthalmology Department for a fast system for reporting the Farnsworth-Munsell 100-hue colour vision test. Both projects were finalists in the State Sector section of the awards, and the Innovation in Technology section.

A record number of 42 public sector organisations entered the awards this year. The awards aim to recognise and promote world-class innovation in services to the public, services to Maori, technological innovation and organisational management in the public sector.

Royal NZ Ballet Dancers Visit Children



A snow imp and a nurse from the Royal New Zealand Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker* dropped by the children’s wards at Christchurch Hospital last month – much to the delight of patients and staff.

Cassandra Wilson looked every bit a snowflake in her white net and tulle costume, while Naomi Davies fitted into the hospital setting perfectly in her outfit as a nurse.

The dancers were part of the company’s end-of-year visit to Christchurch with their Christmas production.

Charlotte Hayes, 12, a patient and hip hop enthusiast shared dance stories with the two ballerinas on their visit to Ward 21.

GM's Agenda

Jock Muir



It has been a busy and productive year following the changes in the Hospital and Specialist Service in December 2004. The change in focus from site-based to service-based divisions is working well, I believe, and I thank everyone who carried on 'business as usual' despite the uncertainty that change brings.

In the next few weeks **Shelly Park**, GM Medical and Surgical Services leaves the District Health Board for a new role in Melbourne and we are currently organising the recruitment process for her replacement. Shelly has done a fantastic job leading Christchurch Hospital over the past year and has earned the respect of staff at all levels of the organisation – we will be sad to see her go.

Trevor English starts as GM, Hospital Support and Laboratories in early January, following the departure of Michael Aitken in July. I look forward to working closely with Trevor to continue to build on our first class

laboratory service. I will also take this opportunity to thank **Lisa Brennan**, who has been Acting GM, Laboratories for the past five months and has done a wonderful job.

Pauline Burt, GM Women's and Children's Health had one of the bigger moves of the year with the commissioning of Christchurch Women's Hospital in May. We can all be proud of this wonderful facility and I congratulate those who were involved in such a hugely successful project.

Vince Barry, GM Mental Health, Older Persons' Health and Rehabilitation has worn many hats this year. A lot of thought went into the change in structure to merge two divisions (Burwood Hospital and Older Persons' Health) and Vince has led the service admirably. Our Mental Health service sets a benchmark for other regions and this can be largely attributed to the dedicated staff who work in this challenging area.

Garth Bateup, GM Rural Health Services has done a great job in engaging the community

as part of the Ashburton Clinical Services Review. There is a lot of planning undertaken to provide clinically and financially sustainable models of care in rural areas and Garth has led this resolutely.

Of course, as I express my appreciation to the GMs, I also thank all staff who work within the divisions. Everyone plays a part in providing the best service we can to the people of Canterbury. Orientation to the services and facilities of Hospital and Specialist Service with our new CEO, Gordon Davies has reminded me of just how many different facets of care we provide, from the cradle to the grave.

I hope you enjoy the festive season with family and friends and I look forward to catching up with you again in 2006.

Kind regards,
Jock

Remembrance Service for Lost Nurses



L – R: Teresa Kilkenny (as Florence Nightingale), Janet Tweedie (in uniform from the Boer War), The Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright, Robyn Cummack (in the stepping out dress of World War 2), Mary Sullivan (in the red cape of World War 1) and Lorraine Shannon.

Ninety years after the sinking of the transport ship Marquette in the Aegean Sea and the loss of ten New Zealand nurses, a poignant service was held in the historic Nurses' Memorial Chapel to remember them.

The service was held on October 26 with the Governor General, Dame Silvia Cartwright, representatives of the New Zealand Defence Force, and relatives of those who died and those who survived the tragedy in attendance from all over New Zealand.

The Marquette, a twinscrew steamship built in Glasgow in 1898, was converted to a troopship on the outbreak of war in the 1914. She sailed from Alexandria for Salonika on October 19, 1915 and was sunk on October 23. On board were 95 crew, 449 of the ammunition column of the British 29 Division and 197 of the NZ No 1 Stationary Hospital, including 36 nurses. Of the 167 who died, ten were New Zealand nurses and the historic chapel in front of the new Christchurch Women's Hospital, was built in 1927 as a memorial to them.

The Marquette was struck by a German

torpedo at 9am, listed to port and sank within 13 minutes, Dr Rick Acland, Clinical Director of the Burwood Spinal Unit told the remembrance service.

Her Excellency the Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright told the service that military nurses were courageous women who served their country in danger and who gave professional attention to wounded and dying soldiers.

"They were determined and daring. They were practical, hardworking and loyal to their country and soldiers. I strongly suspect they were also very funny," she said.

Dame Silvia, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Gerard Wood, laid a wreath in the chapel.

The Reverend Peter Williams, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels led the service, which was organised by Lorraine Shannon and the Friends of the Chapel, the Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps and the Canterbury District Health Board.

A Tri-Service Honour Guard of young men and women from the Joint Services Health School, Burnham Military Camp was reviewed by the Governor General on her arrival.

Jasper Joins the NIR



Rachel Rumball with her new son Jasper, Lead Maternity Carer Estelle McCarthy, Midwife NIR Liaison Pip York, and NIR Project Manager Alison Young.

Chocolate cake, lollies, a teddy and a certificate were Jasper Timothy O'Loughlin's rewards for being the first Canterbury baby to join the National Immunisation Register.

Jasper arrived at Christchurch Women's Hospital at 1.31am on November 21, the day Canterbury became linked in to the national register, which has been established so that health professionals can check to find out which vaccinations each baby has had and which it still needs.

Health professionals, including family doctors, nurses, midwives, specialists and Well Child Providers, can access the register to record vaccinations or check if they are up to date.

Older Canterbury children joined the NIR when vaccinated recently against Group B meningococcal disease.

Radiology Service Implementation Update

The report gave 120 recommendations, covering leadership, management and communication resources, quality systems and management of capacity and demand.

Recommendations included a series of minor changes to staffing levels. A proposal regarding these recommendations was released for consultation on September 19, 2005, with feedback due by October 3, 2005. The responses have been considered and the final recommendations forwarded to the General Manager for approval.

All recommendations in the report have been prioritised according to need:

- immediate
- could wait six months
- could wait twelve months.

To date, 23 recommendations have been implemented and 51 more are underway.

Achievements to date include appointments of:

- Recommended Staff Appointments
 - Quality facilitator (commenced)
 - Data Manager (commenced)
 - 2 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) Radiologists above establishment: one radiologist is due to commence in early 2006; other options are in progress for remaining FTE
 - 1 FTE Nursing staff (appointment underway)
- A Radiology Operations Management Group established

- Waiting lists management strategies (implemented)
- Booking system is being established that will provide feedback to referrers and patients about expected wait times for procedures
- Managing demand meetings with clinical representatives from Medical, Surgical and Child Health services have been held. Subsequent meetings with the top eight referring services have also been held
- Radiology Implementation Group, responsible for implementation of the report recommendations, established and meeting fortnightly
- Radiology Quality Monitoring Group established and meeting monthly
- Clinical Audit Committee (previously in abeyance) resurrected, meeting monthly
- MRI
 - Staffing (MRTs) increased from four to six FTEs. Saturday shift restarted on 17 September
 - MRI upgrade: implementation due January 2006. Upgrade will increase capacity by 20%
 - Business Case for the Executive Management Team (EMT) to discuss options for further capacity in MRI is being prepared

- PACS external link with other District Health Boards (DHBs) and private radiology services underway. This enables electronic transfer of images, which commenced in November with the Christchurch Radiology Group and is soon to be expanded to other South Island DHBs and another private provider
- Release of Webcomrad – a web based application that enables viewing of the status of a referral in the Comrad information system in Radiology. Webcomrad enables staff to track the patient's journey through Radiology
- The first meeting of the Radiology Advisory Group has been held. This is a group with representation from senior clinical staff throughout the DHB (Medical and Surgical Division, Child and Women's Health, Burwood and TPMH) and senior management staff from Christchurch Hospital, who will work with and advise Radiology on future directions and strategic planning
- A further audit of Radiology triage criteria is underway.

Ongoing work will take approximately twelve months to complete. However, the Radiology team is enthusiastic and motivated to succeed.

Felicity Woodham, Project Manager
Chris Goodyer, Radiology Service Manager

Breathless not Helpless

'Breathless not Helpless' was the theme of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Day at Christchurch Hospital last month.

The message about the chronic lung disease was highlighted by staff at a special table full of pamphlets and information in the hospital foyer.

Glenys Martin (Clinical Nurse Specialist from Respiratory Outpatients), Tahu Stirling (Maori health worker), Jill Young (Clinical Nurse Specialist from Cardio-Respiratory Outreach), and Teresa Kilkenny (Clinical Nurse Educator) were on hand to answer questions. They spoke to several hundred people during the day, which was part of a global initiative to highlight COPD and ways of dealing with it.

The main messages of the initiative were to: obtain a diagnosis and medication to improve and prevent symptoms; stop smoking; take regular exercise.

The team also spent time taking the information through hospital wards.



Dr Kelvin Lynn and Teresa Kilkenny.

Simply the Best – Christchurch Women's Takes Golden Service Award

Christchurch Women's Hospital has beaten the best in New Zealand to win the Healthcare (50+ beds) category in the Golden Service Awards Ceremony in Auckland.

The award recognises excellence in the building service industry and is held annually in New Zealand and Australia.

Christchurch was up against some strong competition, including the Auckland City Hospital and a number of other Spotless Health contracts.

Sharon Stack, OCS (One Complete Solution) Contract Manager for Christchurch Hospital and Christchurch Women's Hospital went to Auckland to collect the award.

'I was very embarrassed, but I really enjoyed the experience and was very proud to get this award. I want to thank all my team for their hard work and effort.'

Sharon said the award was not only judged on paper but also by a judge who came to Christchurch and conducted a site inspection, checking rooms for quality of standards.

OCS also won awards in two other categories.

Contribute Your News to across the board

across the board is distributed on the first working day of each month. We welcome articles that will be of general interest to staff across all divisions, occupations and locations. If you would like to contribute articles for *across the board* or want to suggest potential stories, contact Jocelyn Johnstone, Publications Editor. The deadline for material for the next edition is January 13.

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha