



*Rick Edmonds with Alistair Sowman*

## Magnificent Artwork for Main Entrance

'Spectacular,' 'magnificent,' and 'the wow factor' are just some of the comments being made by visitors entering the new main entrance at Wairau Hospital. Thanks to the generous sponsorship provided by Geoffrey T Sowman Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons, the community liaison group has been able to progress their vision of a uniquely Marlborough art work for this location.

Local artist Rick Edmonds was engaged to come up with a concept. This became a reality in the talented hands of Debbie Wasiolek, who sandblasted four large glass panels to Rick's design, depicting the river, the plain, and the hills that make up the Wairau district. "The panels have exceeded our expectations," says group chair Karen Fisher. "We are very appreciative of the skills supplied by Rick and Deb, and of course the support of Sowmans, who made it possible."



## The Last Building Comes Down

Demolition of the former wards on the eastern side of the campus has commenced.

Japan's entry into WWII and the threat of war coming to New Zealand was responsible for the 90-bed block being built in 1942. Wood and fibrolite was utilised due to a shortage of more permanent materials, but even the supply of these items delayed completion by more than 10 months. The building was finally occupied in September 1943.

The building ceased to operate as a ward in May 2009, but has seen a variety of other departments come and go during the redevelopment, including Outpatients, Oncology, Dental, the Day Stay Unit and the High Dependency Unit.

## New Face on Project Team

The project team has welcomed Richard Swallow of RDT Pacific to Blenheim. Richard replaces RDT Pacific Project Manager David Hobern, who has moved with his family to take up another role in Christchurch.

Richard will oversee the completion of Stage Four of the redevelopment, which includes the refurbishment of the former Maternity and Paediatric wards for Adult Mental Health and Addiction Services, the construction of a new kitchen facility, and the demolition of the former wards on the eastern side of the campus. Stage Four is scheduled for completion in February 2011.





## Hustle Bustle in November at Wairau

It's been a busy month for staff involved in Stage Three of the redevelopment. In the first week of November, the children's play area and courtyard in the new Paediatrics ward was officially opened by the mayor. On the same day, a preview of the Outpatients, Paediatrics and Maternity facilities was held, attended by approximately 400 members of the Marlborough community. Over the following two weeks, eight individual hospital services relocated and two decommissioning ceremonies took place, firstly for the vacated Maternity and Paediatrics wards and then for the old wards to the east of the campus.

## 'History Walk' In Place

The display of historic black and white images of Wairau Hospital adorning the walls of the main corridor has had an upgrade. The original images were mounted onto backing board only, and after 17 months were looking a little tired. At the request of the community liaison group, NMDHB graphic designer Brandon Kay remounted 30 of the images and sent them off for framing by John McGirr of James Framing in Howick Road. Brandon then installed the images in chronological order along the length of the main corridor. "We are delighted that we have been able to protect this wonderful display of our hospital's history behind glass for everyone to enjoy," says Karen Fisher, group chair.



## Photographic Gift for Maternity

The new Maternity Unit has received a special gift from Blenheim newborn and baby specialist photographer Andrea Drake. Six beautiful images of newborns have been selected, printed onto canvas and hung in a variety of locations around the new facility.

Andrea says that photographing newborns is her passion. "There is just something so beautiful about a brand new life and all the love that surrounds it. Being able to capture that fleeting moment in time and giving families wonderful memories for years to come is a privilege and something that makes me really happy," she says.

More of Andrea's stunning photography can be viewed at [www.andreadrake.co.nz](http://www.andreadrake.co.nz).

## Countdown to Stage Four Construction Completion: Ten Weeks

Queries or Comments? Contact the Communications Coordinator on 03 520 9859 or email [wairau.redevelopment@nmhs.govt.nz](mailto:wairau.redevelopment@nmhs.govt.nz)