

New Ward Block on its way ...

Construction of a new 6 storey ward block (plus basement) will be one of the larger building projects on the Middlemore site.

The multimillion dollar L-shaped building will be built next to the existing Adult Medical Centre.

When completed it will provide an additional 240 inpatient beds.



The new 6 storey ward block

CMDHB Chief Operating Officer, Ron Dunham says the district is one of the fastest growing in the country and the Board needs to make sure bed capacity can cope with growth.

By 2020 the district's population is expected to increase by nearly 50 percent. As a result the district's total inpatient bed numbers are predicted to rise from 950 to about 1500.

Outpatient attendances are also expected to grow.

Current facilities will not be able to meet the predicted demand for inpatient and outpatient healthcare services unless the hospital expands.

Mr Dunham says the new block will not be fully occupied initially, rather each ward will be commissioned as the need grows.

"Not only does it give us the beds we need now but it will enable us to expand in the future."

The new block will also make a 'huge difference' during winter when Middlemore reaches capacity, he says.

Initial development will include two floors of wards with 119 beds and a new cardiac investigation unit due to open in June 2009.

"The design is patient focused," says Process Improvement Manager, Gill Cossey.

"There is an emphasis on allowing maximum light and sunshine into the bedrooms and improving patient privacy by having a greater number of single rooms (20 per floor) - double the number in the AMC.

There will be internal bathrooms in each room, as opposed to the existing AMC which has bathrooms on the outside of the building. This enables larger windows and therefore more light and a feeling of spaciousness.

Another design feature is the single rooms situated across an angle in the apex of the L shape, which enables ward beds to be 'flexed' where necessary. For example, rather than having two 30 bed wards, it may be more practical, at certain times of the year to have one ward expand to 32 beds and the other 28 beds.

The flexing of bed spaces and the centralised staff stations also creates an opportunity to look at gaining efficiencies across the floor, rather than having two separate wings functioning independently.

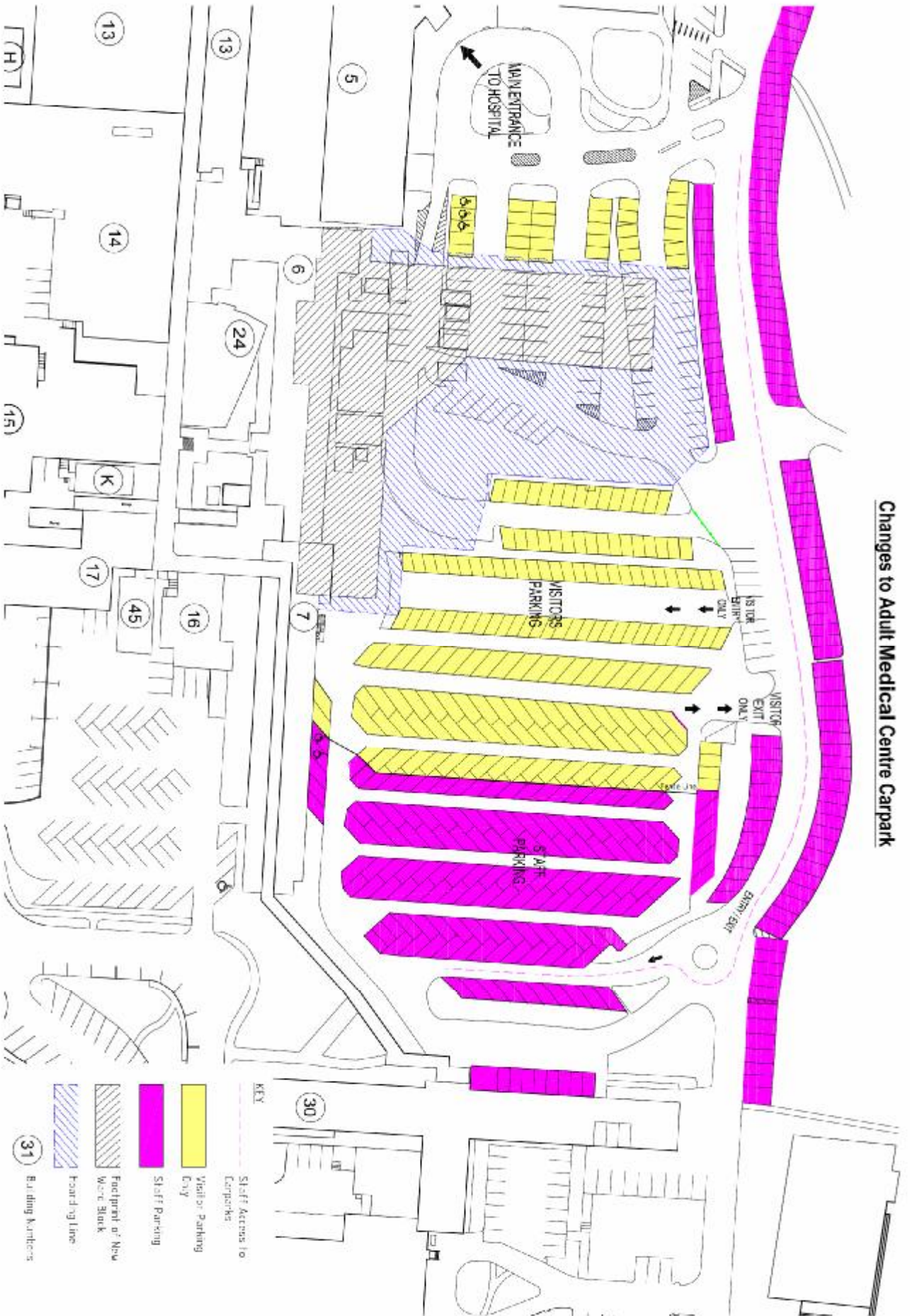
From **Monday 12 November 2007**, site preparation and start-up works will commence for the NEW 6-storey ward block.

One of the first tasks will be to map out a 'footprint' of the new building, which involves blocking off a section of the AMC carpark (refer to map on the opposite page).

This will result in a re-zoning of visitor spaces and a reduction in staff carparks (approximately 77 spaces) on the Middlemore site.

Mobility parks will not be affected.

Changes to Adult Medical Centre Carpark



Installation of new MRI - a first for Middlemore Hospital

Residents living in Counties Manukau now have access to a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, located at Middlemore Hospital.

The first patients were seen on Monday 5 November 2007 with in-patient scanning starting a week later.

The MRI is a first for Middlemore and is CMDHB's commitment to maintaining state-of-the-art equipment in our community.

In the past MRIs were performed off-site, requiring many inpatients to be transferred back and forth via ambulance.

Doctors can now keep their patients on site, with quicker diagnosis and access to results.

"Our staff are very enthusiastic about expanding our services at Middlemore Hospital to include an MRI scanner," says Radiology Service Manager, Paul Hewitt.

"The new MRI magnet provides outstanding image quality. Scan times are shorter than older units and patients can bring in their own music CD's to listen to during the scan. This results in a better overall patient experience."

A specially designed room to house the MRI was built by Canam Construction.

"The space was designed to meet the exact requirements of the advanced technology it contains," says Project Manager Graeme Purdie.

"For instance, the room that houses the six tonne magnet, that is at the heart of the powerful new MRI system, was literally built around the machine.

"The room is shielded with a metal cage against incoming FM radio waves, which distorts the computer generated images. The room is also acoustically lined and is detached from surrounding structures to prevent noise transmission during scans.

"Getting the MRI on site and up and running has been a huge team effort," says Mr Purdie. Many thanks to the Radiology team, Siemens Medical Ltd (MRI supplier), RFI for the 'cage' and Canam Construction for the building structure."



Project Manager Graeme Purdie outside the New MRI room.

MRI is one of the most advanced procedures physicians use to diagnose many conditions or injuries.

It uses strong magnetic fields and radio frequency waves to produce pictures or images of internal organs, muscles, connective tissue or the central nervous system.

An MRI exam gives physicians a wealth of information which may not be apparent on any other tests, procedures and even exploratory surgeries.

MRI does not use radiation. It offers a painless non-invasive way to obtain information about the patient.

Fond farewell to old Delivery Suite - by Thelma Thompson, Director of Midwifery.

On Wednesday 8 October 2007 the old Delivery Suite closed its doors after 46 years.

On Friday 12 October 2007, 60 past and present staff celebrated those years with a closing blessing and a catch up over an afternoon tea. A history wall lining the corridor provided stories and memories from the past.

Middlemore Maternity was opened in 1961 by Mr DM McKay, the Minister of Health. He went to the roof to survey the surrounding area - the golf club, Kings College and quite a few farms and market gardens. He commented "You'll never use all these Obstetric beds. I suppose you could use some for gynaecology". Little did he realise that the unit was to become the largest in the country. The unit was built for 3500 births per year, and managed over 6700 births due to the great staff we have, their skill and attitude.

The unit was renovated in 1975, and plans were drawn up for new facilities in 1976 to be situated where the current carpark is - outside the main entrance, but it didn't go ahead as the birth volumes didn't increase as expected. A new unit was again talked about in the 1980's but no action was taken.

In 1996 the unit was renovated and from concept to completion took 10 weeks.

The closing of the old Delivery Unit celebrates the care that the women and their families have received over the years and the staff who have provided this excellent care.

Middlemore Hospital has been a family to many staff with a lot of fun and tears shared along the way. It is these people who have made this Unit what it is today and the current staff who will take the new unit forward.

Many gave their apologies for this event and I will just mention a few: Miss Matthews, Edna Rae, Helen May, Margaret McCue and Micky Norton.



From left to right: Marie Purcell, Lis Connelly, Suzie Duckmanton, Fiona Tomlinson



From left to right: Trish Isa, Pauline Bradon Brown, Eleanor Lacey, Myra Addison



From left to right: Val Tetley, Marion Hunter, Eileen Gibson, Betty Mcgregor, Colleen Thompson.



Keith Allenby, Nettie Knetsch

New Unit for Gynaecology Care.

On Wednesday 20 October 2007, 15 women made the journey to the new Gynaecology Care Unit on Level 5, Galbraith Building.

The new Unit has an Inpatient facility (15 beds) and an Outpatient component at the front of the Unit consisting of clinic rooms, a procedure room, two Obstetric and Gynaecology Ultrasound rooms and a Hyperemesis room. The Hyperemesis room is designed for the short term care of women with vomiting.



On the move from the old Gynaecology Care Unit

In comparison to the old Unit, the new Unit is spacious, bright and light with views to the east and west. Women also have access to a patient lounge, not previously available in the old unit.

Fantastic NEW facility for Intensive Care Unit

The photo (top right) shows the current Intensive Care Unit. Note the cramped working conditions with poor flow and congestion around the bed spaces.



CURRENT UNIT

The new Unit, pictured below will be spacious, light and modern.

Four bed spaces will be particularly beneficial for the care of children, with additional space in the bed area for parents to recline in a chair overnight.



NEW UNIT

Two positive pressure isolation rooms and a standard isolation room will be equipped to meet the specific needs of patients with severe burn injuries.

Other new features include a shower trolley room, write-up/x-ray viewing room for the many services who contribute to the care of ICU patients, ceiling hoists, a medical service pendant in each bed space and improved computer access for staff. There will be an expanded visitor waiting area and a dedicated interview room for family meetings.



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Towards 20/20 Web Site

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

Click onto Towards 20/20.

The Towards 20/20 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 Towards 20/20 NEWS and much more.

Mental Health Service Facility Development Programme Update

Tamaki Oranga

The refurbishment of Tamaki Oranga, a 20-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit in Bairds road, Otara continues with new carpet currently being laid throughout the facility.

Tamaki Oranga has undergone extensive renovation over the last 18 months. The works include splitting of four double bedrooms into single units, upgrade of the meeting room / conference area, creation of additional storage, a repaint of the interior of the building and improvements to the ventilation in the laundry and kitchen areas.

Remaining work, planning for which is currently underway, includes the development of a new staff room area (with access to an outdoor courtyard) and a new 'Quiet Room' for clients.



New carpet has been laid

Awhinatia - Community Mental Health Clinic

New exterior and interior signage has been installed at Awhinatia as part of an on-going refurbishment project carried out over the past 12 months.

The facility, including the neighbouring Home Health Care building has been repainted and re-carpeted. The final stage will see the installation of air-conditioning in the clinical areas and meeting rooms and a fit-out of the nurses' clinic room.