

## Delivering Tasmania's state of the art health facility

### Welcome to the RHH Redevelopment project!

The RHH Redevelopment is delivering a state-of-the-art health facility for generations of Tasmanians to come.

*RHH Redevelopment News* provides information and updates on the project.

You can also find information about the project by visiting the website:

[www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au](http://www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au)

Or email the project at:

[redemption.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:redemption.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

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# Before and After Shots

The new ten-storey inpatient precinct known as K-Block, is a major step closer to becoming reality with the site now being cleared of demolition materials.

The K-Block footprint will fill practically all the space that can now be seen within the campus.

For more on the construction progress see [http://www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au/construction\\_progress](http://www.rhhredevelopment.tas.gov.au/construction_progress)



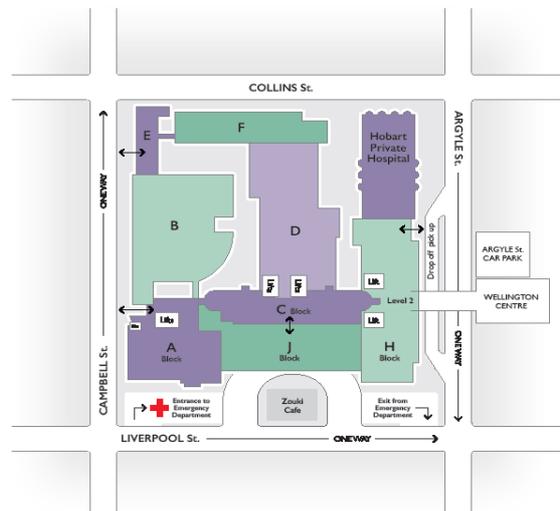
RHH campus from Liverpool Street after B-Block demolition (above and below).



RHH campus from Liverpool Street before construction works commenced on the temporary inpatient facility.



RHH campus from Liverpool Street after completion of the temporary inpatient facility.



B-Block has now been demolished and will be replaced with K-Block.

# Last Dive for Chamber

After 25 years of loyal service, the Royal Hobart Hospital's old hyperbaric chamber has been retired. Over the years, the chamber has assisted 1 850 patients and provided over 29 600 patient treatments.

It was designed by the first head of department, Dr Paul McCartney.

The purpose-built chamber is due for delivery to K-Block in the latter half of 2018, followed by the final commissioning once K-Block is completed.

Hyperbaric oxygen treatment is a well-known treatment for decompression illness.

It assists by squashing bubbles which form in the blood and tissues after divers have been exposed to pressure underwater.



*Current and former staff of the diving and hyperbaric medicine unit celebrate the chamber's historic last dive.*

At the time of decommissioning, the chamber could still boast the largest windows in the world for a six-atmosphere hyperbaric chamber. Other design features such as underground noise suppression and the internal colour palette chosen for its mood and temperament enhancing qualities, were also ahead of their time.

A temporary multiplace hyperbaric chamber has been leased during the construction of K-Block so that full hyperbaric oxygen treatment capability can be maintained and will be able to treat divers who suffer decompression illness.

It is working alongside two new monoplace chambers that will be relocated to complement a state-of-the-art chamber that is currently being purpose-built for K-Block.

It is also used to treat other conditions that affect many Tasmanians every year - tissue injury from radiation treatment for cancer, diabetic wounds and serious infections such as gangrene for example.

The RHH Rescue Taskforce recommended that the decommissioning of the multiplace hyperbaric chamber be brought forward to eliminate risk from its close proximity to construction, and ensure continuity of service.

The temporary chamber has been installed away from the direct impact of the construction on the Collins Street side of the current hyperbaric facility.

# Art Makes You Think and Feel

Look around your own home and you'll probably see photos and decorations. Maybe you have prints, paintings or even sculptures. Whatever sort of art you have, it's there because it makes you think and feel. It might remind you of a place you have travelled, special people or a time in your life. Perhaps it makes you happy or moves you. Maybe you just like to look at it. This is how art makes our lives richer and it's for this reason that art is important in public buildings like hospitals.

Art distracts us from the psychological pressures that often come with being in a hospital. It also makes a space comforting and attractive. This is how art can help make a hospital a richer place for patients, visitors and staff.



*Jonathan Partridge, 2010, Fallen upon me, multi/plate etching, 70 x 110 cm, selected for the waiting room, department of critical care medicine.*

The Tasmanian Government supports the role of art in transforming public spaces through the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme. This scheme requires that Government construction projects allocate funding to public art.

Arts Tasmania is part of the Department of State Growth and manages the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme and the development of the state public art collection.

Arts Tasmania's Program Officer, Julie Stoneman, is managing the public art commissions for the RHH Redevelopment. She has already facilitated the purchase of a number of Tasmanian prints which have been installed in the intensive care unit under the earlier phases of the project.

Julie has worked with Lyons, the RHH Redevelopment project's architects, to develop initial ideas for art to be integrated into the new K-Block. Over the coming months she will develop the artist's brief which will be used to commission new artwork.

Julie will work with key stakeholders from the project and the RHH to ensure new artwork enriches the exciting new space within K-Block.

Julie has worked across the areas of fine art, ceramics, public art and landscape architecture. She has practised as a visual artist and landscape architect and this experience is integral to her knowledge of design within the built environment that she brings to the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme.



*Arts Tasmania's Program Officer, Julie Stoneman.*

# The Best Laid Plans are Positive

Millions of dollars of supplies hit the loading dock each year – medical consumables, provisions, office requisites, pharmaceuticals, linen and more. Every day is an exercise in logistics for the RHH supply department, moving goods off trucks and into the hospital. It's no overstatement to say that their role is critical to the smooth operations of the hospital. Literally, you can't do surgery if the necessary medical equipment hasn't been delivered on time.

K-Block will include a new loading dock and a temporary loading dock was required in the interim. A creative approach to using the available space on campus and managing supplies was called for.

Acting Team Leader Supply South, Glen Seabourne, has provided a great example of what you can achieve with a 'can do' attitude.

"To begin with it was thought that the task would not be achievable. We don't have a warehouse and we had to build a new loading dock with the small amount of space available to us," Glen said.

"We had to split up a lot of our functions. For example, the compactor bin for general rubbish is now in Argyle Street. The Hobart Private Hospital was really supportive and gave us access to some of their car parks. There were also issues with the elevation of the ramp and access for long trucks. We had to ask some suppliers to use smaller trucks so they could manage the ramp," he said.

"There has been a lot of planning and traffic management to make the space work. We now have a mezzanine level that's used by environmental and food services. General medical gas bottle storage had to be relocated and a scissor lift installed which has resulted in easier deliveries because the decanting from the truck into the store area is a lot easier than it was."

The temporary loading dock area for pallet deliveries is a three bay area located off Collins Street in the former Hobart Private Hospital car park. To manage the smaller delivery space an electronic traffic sign in Collins Street was installed, indicating the availability of delivery bays.

To minimise truck movements in the area, a couple of parking bays were leased on Collins Street where trucks could queue while they waited for a bay to become free.



*Michael Withers, Stores Supervisor and Glen Seabourne, Acting Team Leader Supply South*

"We had to encourage everyone involved not to have tunnel vision. Let's sit down and think about this. It was easy to say it won't work but we had to say hang on a minute, we have to make it work," Glen said.

The team developed and negotiated a schedule of supplies taking into account time sensitive supplies like pathology and oncology and sequencing the deliveries coming from the airport each morning.

The supply department's work coordinating deliveries has worked so well they no longer require the queuing bays.

“There were a vast amount of vehicles that were coming between 8 and 9 am and they’ve been spread out over time to better coordinate deliveries and manage the space.”

“All concerned have accepted the changes very well and continuity of the supply of goods and services has been maintained,” Glen said.

## Patient Safe Construction

Keeping hospitals clean is important for patient safety. Construction produces dust so more effort is needed during the RHH Redevelopment to reduce dust from entering the hospital.

A number of strategies have been used to contain construction dust during the RHH Redevelopment works that have occurred within the hospital over the last several years. The redevelopment of critical care medicine (phase 1), cancer services (phase 2) and the extensive refurbishment works completed last year to make way for K-Block (phase 3), are all examples.

The focus of construction will occur outside the hospital in 2017, including demolition, excavation and the ground works for K-Block’s footings.

Patient safety will continue to be our number one priority during these works.

Patients, whose immune systems don’t work effectively, because of their condition or treatment, may be more susceptible to infection from dust exposure.

A great deal of work is occurring behind the scenes to reduce dust from entering the hospital.

### Infection Control Strategies

A multidisciplinary team which includes clinicians, infection control practitioners, independent occupational hygienist, the RHH Redevelopment and the Managing Contractor, has been established to monitor construction and maximise infection control strategies.

These include:

- window and door protections
- building equipment that sprays water to reduce dust
- additional dust filters
- infection control site inspections and air and noise monitoring and
- windows facing the construction area remain closed during works.



*Working together – infection control staff from the RHH Redevelopment, Terri Wieczorski, Nicoll Meade-English, and the RHH, Rachel Thomson*

## Effective Infection Control

Infection Control Nurse Unit Manager, Rachel Thomson, has 20 years-experience in the field.

She knows first-hand how effective controls are needed to prevent infection such as fungal infections, during hospital construction.

“Fungal particles are normally found in the air and generally cause no harm to healthy people. When a person has impaired immunity, increases in these fungal particles in the air can put them at risk of an invasive fungal infection (IFI). This can be a serious health problem especially for patients with impaired immunity as these infections can be very difficult to treat,” Rachel said.

From the commencement of the RHH Redevelopment project, there has been strong engagement with, and support from, the RHH’s Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) staff.

“The focus of shared work has been to limit infection risks to patients at the RHH during the refurbishment works and more recently during the demolition of the B-Block. This has led to the development of effective building controls and regular reviews of these controls by IP&C staff,” she said.

Two IP&C staff are currently working in the RHH Redevelopment team to provide daily input into the project and are supported by the IP&C unit at the RHH.

“A key focus for the team is to recommend controls to limit exposure to dirt, dust and airborne fungal particles that may be released during demolition and early construction. The team has worked closely with the Managing Contractor and have developed a robust management approach over a long period of time,” Rachel said.

Air sampling has also occurred during this time with an increase in testing during the recent major demolition works.

“Pleasingly, the testing during this time has revealed stable air quality within the RHH,” she said.

The IP&C staff will continue to work within the RHH Redevelopment team until the project is completed.

## Meet the Team

Jason Morman is the manager finance and ICT for the RHH Redevelopment. Here are five things about Jason:



**Number 1** – Jason is one of the project’s newest members, joining the RHH Redevelopment team in October 2016.

**Number 2** – He came to the project from TasNetworks where he managed their capital and operating works program.

**Number 3** – When it comes to the choice over coffee or tea, tea wins nine times out of 10. He has the largest teacup in the team.

**Number 4** – Jason holds a Bachelor of Science and recently completed a Master of Business.

**Number 5** – Jason has two boys, Bryce (6 years) and Lex (2 years) and he and his wife Libby have just bought land where they hope to build.