

Building a Modern Health Facility for Tasmanians

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

Or email the project at:

redemption.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au

In this issue...

In the October 2017 edition you'll find:

[Construction Close-up](#) – take a look on site.

[Our Cranes Have Names!](#) – meet Liana Stubbs, winner of the crane naming competition.

[Lights, Cameras, Surgery](#) – find out about the smart technology that will be used in K-Block's theatre precinct.

[Room for Kangaroo Care and More](#) – hear from neonatal and paediatric intensive care staff about the planned K-Block NPICU.

[Meet the Team](#)



Construction Close-Up



The John Holland Fairbrother Joint Venture is transforming the construction site into the new inpatient precinct.

A great deal of activity is occurring on site. These photos show the lift and stair wells, the K-Block tunnel and sections of the lower ground concrete slab.



The K-Block tunnel will be part of a new services pathway around the hospital campus. This new pathway will allow for easy installation, maintenance and upgrading of services including a ring main system.

Scaffolding has been erected to allow further concrete pours of K-Block floors.

Three Tasmanian firms have been subcontracted to supply concrete components for K-Block.



The Precasters Pty Ltd is supplying precast concrete façade panels and shell beams for K-Block.

Stephen Little Constructions Pty Ltd is supplying concrete superstructure components.

Duggans Pty Ltd, whose work can be seen in the photos, is supplying precast concrete walls, core panels and columns for the K-Block structure.

Our Cranes Have Names!

You can't beat the ingenuity of kids. Ten-year-old Liana Stubbs has devised uniquely Tasmanian names for the two tower cranes that are helping build K-Block.

Liana was inspired by a furry Tassie friend and the historic name for Hobart's wharf area.

"I chose *Nevil the Devil* because of the Tasmanian devil," Liana said.

The Tasmanian devil is an international icon, a fifties screen idol and as an endangered species, work is currently underway to save them from the ravages of the terrible facial tumour.

Liana recently read Alice Hansen's *A devilish tale*, which is a story about a little devil named Nevil who searches the Tassie wilderness for his family.

It's fitting that one of the names recognises this natural treasure.



Liana holding the prize for her school courtesy of Titan Cranes and Rigging.

Liana's other crane name is just as clever. The area near the hospital down to Hunter Street was known during colonial settlement as Wapping and the tower cranes are around 120 metres in length.

"I chose Wapping Big Crane because the hospital is built in the historic area called Wapping and it's a play on the word whopping."

Liana obviously has a great sense of humour and could be a budding history buff too!

As the prize winner, Liana gets to see the cranes proudly wearing their names and she received an award certificate for her efforts.

She also won an iPad for her class 4 Red at South Hobart Primary School, kindly donated by Titan Cranes and Rigging.



Class teacher, Helen Rothwell, was almost as thrilled as Liana with the prize.

"Teachers are always encouraging students to 'have a go' and enter competitions. Liana did so without any expectation of winning and her classmates were so excited that she won the competition and the cranes have her names on them," Ms Rothwell said.

"Our class can always benefit from extra technology and we are currently doing Stop Motion animation, so the iPad will be put to use straight away."

Ms Rothwell and members of Liana's family also got a close-up of the construction and the giant cranes.

John Holland Fairbrother Joint Venture made sure Liana was kitted up with her own safety gear including a kid-sized high-viz vest for use during her visit and as a take home souvenir to commemorate her win.

Name the crane competitions are routinely run on large scale public construction works as a light-hearted way to raise awareness of the project and to involve the local community.

The runner-up was also tremendously popular in the RHH staff vote with the names *Craneasauourex* (because it's big) and *Sky High* (because it's tall).



Teacher, Ms Rothwell, and Liana on site.

Other noteworthy submissions included *Jean Miles* and *King Radcliff*. The reason given by the entrant was that Jean Miles was a Tasmanian nurse that was trained to go to WWI at the RHH and died serving Australia. Jannet Radcliff and Alice King were best friends who went to WWI and both survived and their names were combined.

Stairways to the Future 1 and 2 were also nominated because the crane drivers have to climb stairs to get to their cab; constructing a building is like a stairway where one layer goes on at a time like the next step appearing in front of you; and K-Block will be the newest hospital building and will be used well into the future.



Lights, Cameras, Surgery

Improved surgery and teaching will result from access to smart technology that is currently being procured.

Jason Morman is leading the equipment tender for the seven new operating and procedure rooms and four refurbished endoscopy suites that will be part of the RHH's new theatre precinct.

“People tend to think of theatres as operating tables and surgical lights. This equipment is going to provide us with a significant overlay of technology,” he said.

“The technology includes a number of surgical and anesthetic pendants around the operating table and screens that will provide clinicians and nurses with access to a host of advanced clinical information.”

Clinicians will have far more information at their fingertips with the new equipment.



Pam Taylor and Jason Morman from the RHH Redevelopment team working on tender evaluations.

“The surgical pendant will provide access to clinical imagery such as x-rays, CTs, and imagery from angiography and the cardiac cath labs. All that information will be able to be consumed on-screen, in the theatre,” he said.

Jason said that clinicians would be able to use telemedicine.

“Cameras and microphones will also allow clinicians to share what's happening in theatres with remote sites and they will be able to record those procedures for diagnostic and teaching purposes.”

Room for Kangaroo Care and More

Skin-to-skin contact with parents helps preterm babies thrive. It's known as kangaroo care because the baby is kept snuggled on the parent's body not unlike a marsupial with a joey in their pouch.

Depending on a baby's circumstances, they can lie on their parent for long periods, sometimes for several hours. It keeps them warm, helps with bonding, supports breastfeeding and reduces anxiety.

Parents need adequate space and privacy to provide kangaroo care for their babies. This will be one of the important benefits of the new neonatal and paediatric intensive care unit (NPICU) that unit director, Dr Tony De Paoli, and nurse unit manager, Sonia Gallahar, are looking forward to.



Unit director, Dr Tony De Paoli.

“More privacy for families in the K-Block NPICU will allow us to achieve better contact between parents and their babies, infants and children, including skin-to-skin contact. We will have sufficient space around the baby cots and incubators to enable optimal family-centred care.

“This will flow directly on to the wellbeing of the parents which we know is vital for healthy infant development. When parents are relaxed and skin-to-skin contact is facilitated, breastfeeding is also easier, which is particularly important for vulnerable newborns,” Tony said.

“Our new ward in K-Block will be a much larger space overall. Our current unit is congested. The space for babies, staff, equipment storage, even the space for parents to sit with their babies by the bedside is so cramped,” Sonia said.

The new ward on K-Block will be predominantly configured in single rooms.

“Currently, we need screens just so mums can breastfeed privately. Families will be able to spend more time with babies because they'll have their own rooms.



Collage of photos of NPICU patients and their families.

“That’s the biggest thing. They can spend more time with their baby by their bedside and allow them to do more of the day to day care of their babies based on what each parent can and wants to do,” Sonia said.

As the statewide referral service for neonatal and paediatric intensive care, the NPICU also cares for families from the North and North West Coast.

“Those families are already displaced from their own homes so they will have a much more comfortable space for long hours by the bedside,” Sonia said.

Tony said that more space would be a huge factor across the board.



In the current unit, space is at a premium.

“There’s currently no facility for families in our existing unit. In the new unit, we’ll have a larger reception area and a break-out space for families where they can make a cup of tea without leaving the ICU. There will be better, dedicated rooms for family counselling in the unit. Such private, quiet spaces are vitally important during times of great stress for parents and their families.”

Improved safety comes with more space too.

“It is physically difficult for medical and nursing staff to move around the cots and beds in the existing unit due to the confined space. This can be a hazard for the patients as well as the staff.

“The new unit will provide space at the national standard allowing us for the first time to have enough space for the equipment we use. Less crowding will also allow better infection control in the new units,” Tony said.

Natural light is another big plus for the new unit.



Nurse unit manager, Sonia Gallahar.

“Right now you can barely see out to the open, there are some small windows behind the ICU bays only. In K-Block, people will be able to see outside. There’ll be so much more natural light, river views and a much brighter space. We won’t know ourselves,” Sonia said.

The new space will meet contemporary Australian standards for neonatal and paediatric intensive care and special care nurseries.

Along with more single rooms, it will also have two additional isolation rooms, increasing to four in total with two for paediatric patients and two for neonatal patients.

The RHH Redevelopment is currently tendering for the supply of pendants to the 12 new NPICU rooms and three high dependency rooms in the special care nursery.

“We’ll get the latest design for these pendants but it will be the increase in floor space that will allow us to make best use of them, both in the ICU and in the high dependency area of the nursery. We will be able to attach equipment to the pendants for acutely unwell babies and when a baby doesn’t require that intensive support, we can push the pendants against the wall to help normalise the space for families as much as possible,” Tony said.

“Currently the unit has to store equipment such as incubators, ventilators and transport cots in corridors and meeting rooms; spaces intended for other purposes.

“Overall, it will be a much nicer place for families, a more pleasant environment for staff, and a safer space for clinical care of our sickest and most vulnerable babies and children,” he said.

The new NPICU will be located on level 8 of K-Block.

About Sonia and Tony



Tony and Sonia in the unit.

Sonia has been in her current role around four years and has worked in the unit for 13 years.

She says it's fantastic to see tiny little babies come through the unit and to be able to watch them grow and get better and go home with their families. It can of course be challenging when they lose some babies and when babies are really unwell, but to see a little 500 gram baby grow up and get to go home to a normal life is very rewarding.

Tony is in his third year as director and has worked as consultant to the RHH since 2005.

He is inspired by the nursing, allied health, medical and other support staff of the NPICU whose sole focus is to constantly strive to provide excellent care and improve the outcomes for vulnerable babies, infants, children and their families.

Meet the Team

Terri Wieczorski is an infection prevention and control nurse for the RHH Redevelopment. Here are five things about Terri:



Number 1 – Terri joined the RHH Redevelopment in 2015, initially to backfill leave and now as a full-time team member.

Number 2 – Her role provides expert infection prevention and control advice to the RHH Redevelopment team and the builders on the project. This includes monitoring construction works and providing risk mitigation strategies to reduce infections that may be caused by dust.

It also includes reviewing work zone permits to ensure that appropriate dust barriers are erected in the necessary locations and are maintained so they are airtight for the duration of the build.

Number 3 – Before joining the RHH Redevelopment, she worked as a registered nurse in the persistent pain service and cardiac rehabilitation.

Number 4 – Terri and her partner are avid hill climbers and enjoy overseas adventures planned where they can scale mountains.

Number 5 – She's a massive foodie who also enjoys delicious vegetarian epicurean adventures.