

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

Or email the project at:

redvelopment.rhh@dhhs.tas.gov.au

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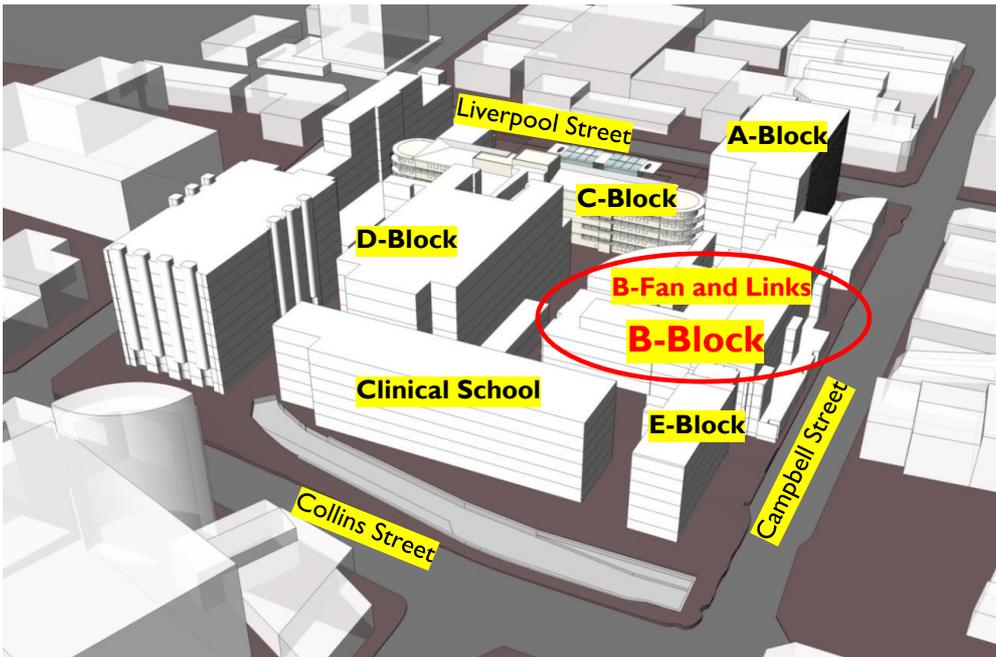
Redevelopment 101

In a recent information session on the RHH Redevelopment we were asked where K-Block was. If you don't know much about K-Block, here are a couple of facts:

The next phase of the RHH Redevelopment project is the construction of K-Block.

Similar services will be co-located including:

- mental health (high dependency unit, closed and open wards)
- medicine (general, respiratory, infectious diseases etc)
- surgery (general, neurosurgery, orthopaedics etc) and
- women's, adolescents' and children's (paediatrics, birthing, women's surgery etc).



K-Block will have a helipad for medical emergencies.

K-Block will also have a new hyperbaric chamber.

A new one-stop arrivals and departure area for patients will be provided in the Campbell Street entrance.

Current RHH site layout

B-Block, including the B-Fan and linked walk-ways to other blocks, will be demolished and K-Block will then be built on the B-Block site.

K-Block will be an inpatient precinct of ten-storeys.

There will be space for almost 250 inpatient beds in K-Block.

There will be seven more operating and procedure rooms in a new theatre precinct that will extend across level 4 of K, A, C and D-Blocks.



Architect's image of K-Block from the Campbell Street entrance.

Post-Operative Options

There are two types of surgeries. There are those that need a longer recovery time because the surgery or the patient's health needs are complex.

Other surgeries need a shorter recovery time however.

These are the more common procedures and are often done through a small incision, for example removing an appendix.

A short recovery time needs a short stay in hospital.

The RHH Redevelopment is making a purpose-built space for patients who only need to stay up to 36 hours in hospital post-procedure.

Nurse unit manager, Catherine Tonkin, will head up the new short stay surgery area.

“Short stay is a contemporary model of care that is used nationally. It gives patients more options for post-operative care,” Catherine said.

“Needing a procedure does not mean you are necessarily sick and well people don't need to be in hospital any longer than necessary.”

Catherine told the *RHH Redevelopment News* that a short stay is best suited to patients who are not complex, are less acute and who are more independent.

“This means that overnight beds are kept for people who have acute care needs,” she said.

The new unit will have eight recovery recliners and four trolleys.

Catherine Tonkin is the nurse unit manager for short stay surgery, the emergency surgical unit and the hyperbaric chamber.



Nurse unit manager, Catherine Tonkin

Medical Specialties Move

The medical specialties ward (IB South) will soon move to level 7, A-Block.

This includes the acute stroke unit, gastroenterology, dermatology, rheumatology, renal medicine and endocrinology.

Upgrades to the 20 bed ward include a new two bed room, a new tea area and a grief counselling room. The design includes some modern and efficient use of space. For example, ward staff will be able to check emails on computers located in alcove space in hallways.

The telephone number will remain the same – 03 6166 8563.

The inpatient physiotherapy gym will also be located on level 7, A-Block.

Critical Construction

Patients are admitted to the department of critical care medicine with life-threatening conditions that need intensive treatment and monitoring. All patients are oxygen-dependent and are supported by a range of medical technologies.

Keeping a critical care unit fully-functioning during building works needs sophisticated planning and coordination by ward staff and many other areas of the hospital.

The RHH's department of critical care is no stranger to delivering complex care in the middle of construction.

The unit received a \$14 million upgrade in an earlier phase of the RHH Redevelopment that opened in December 2013.

It included more spacious bed bays with the latest technology, a new reception and waiting area, and an outdoor area where patients can experience natural light and air.

Critical care medicine is located in the vicinity of the current construction works which means they will be affected by various service outages. There will also be two quarantine rooms constructed adjacent to the unit.

Felicity Geeves has worked in the department of critical care medicine since 1994 including seven years as nurse unit manager. She has worked successfully with her team and other hospital staff to safely plan and manage construction work and service outages in the unit.

She only has praise for staff who constantly adapt to changes from construction works.

'One day there's a door in a certain place, the next day it's gone. They put up with smells, sounds and vibration,' Felicity said.



Nurse unit manager, Felicity Geeves

Felicity explained some of the organisation that goes into a gas shut down on the ward.

"Back up oxygen is brought into the ward. We work closely with WorkSafe to ensure oxygen tanks are secured properly and bolted into each bed space so they are safe for patients and staff.

"We develop a comprehensive plan with staff and other stakeholders like theatre staff and after hours nurse managers. We make sure additional nursing, medical and support staff are rostered on so the process goes smoothly," she said.

Even with good planning, there may be times when the works need to be delayed because of patient needs.

"To ensure patient and staff safety, each plan has stop points for example, additional admissions or an increase in patient acuity. If we get to these stop points, the construction work has to be stopped and rescheduled."

Felicity says the most important thing is to keep staff involved and up-to-date on the plan and their role during the construction works.

The Inside of a Hospital

Take a Virtual Tour

An interactive, virtual tour of the K-Block interior is now available.

The RHH Redevelopment's architects, Lyons with Terroir, have created panoramic, spherical images of the new hospital. These images come to life through 360 degree views available digitally.

Take a walk through the Campbell Street reception, an operating theatre or some of the wards.



Architect's spherical render of K-Block's Campbell Street entrance used to create the virtual tour.

Visit the 'Roundme' website via this [link](#). Or download the 'Roundme' app on your mobile device or tablet and search for RHHR.

Examples of furniture, fittings and equipment

Furniture –bed-side lockers, overbed tables, patient chairs and televisions.

Fittings - sharps bins (for disposal of used needles), toilet roll and other various dispensers, and the brackets that attach them to the wall.

Equipment – hyperbaric chamber, defibrillators, blood fridges, bed pan washers/sanitiser and operating theatre lights.

Defibrillators and Fridges

A great deal of planning goes into building a hospital. A major task involves assessing the furniture, fittings and equipment (FFE) needs of new wards. This determines which FFE can be relocated to the new wards and what will need to be purchased.

The RHH Redevelopment is working closely with the hospital services that are relocating to plan their FFE. Each item is measured and the details on how it is to be used are identified.

Where items need to be purchased, available options are investigated considering quality, maintenance requirements, prices, and timeframes for delivery.

This information is then provided to the nurse unit manager and staff to make sure the right solution for the hospital is recommended for purchase.

When purchased items arrive, they are checked against the original order and to ensure they are in good working condition.

The RHH Redevelopment works with the builder, ward and other hospital staff to ensure the item is installed in the correct location and meets infection control and health and safety requirements.

Staff are also trained in how to use the new item.

Fun Raising

The Redevelopment's builder had some fun raising funds for the serious subject of cancer research, support and prevention.

One team member put his building skills to the test for this year's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

Office Manager for the John Holland Fairbrother Joint Venture and event organiser, Erin Porter, asked the team for something 'a bit out of the ordinary'.

Gary Baird, State Manager, may well have a competitive streak, but it's also clear he's living and breathing the Redevelopment.

Spousal assistance was off limits.

Not to be deterred, Gary designed and decorated a two tower, sugar, K-Block, complete with the exterior façade and a helipad.

We're assured his construction skills are better than his baking skills and K-Block will have all ten floors plus the helipad, and they will all be straight

Well done to the Joint Venture for raising \$250 and to Gary for the inspired cake.



Meet the Team

Darren Oates is a recent addition to the team as a Project Support Assistant. Here are five things about Darren:



Number 1 – Darren works at the RHH as a hospital aide where he provides non-medical support to patients. He has worked at the RHH for 13 years including 11 in the emergency department.

Number 2 – Darren is helping out the team responsible for moving hospital services so B-Block can be vacated including coordinating delivery of supplies and helping schedule the support services needed by wards.

Number 3 – Darren has been a Western Bulldogs fan for 41 years and played AFL himself for 32 years.

Number 4 – Darren has managed his own businesses – delivering concrete and providing a courier service.

Number 5 – Darren and his wife love to get away for the weekend. His new pride and joy is a metallic blue Toyota HiLux, purchased to tow their 'glamper' around Tasmania.