

The PHOnetic

For anyone interested in primary health



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TLab, on Gladstone Road

TLab Quiets the Critics?

By Clare Webber and Hayley Redpath

On September 1 last year TLab took over as this district's hospital and community laboratory test provider. Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's general practitioners grumbled and its practice nurses lamented as former laboratory provider Medlab Gisborne quietly left the building.

The primary health sector's feelings were understandable. Medlab Gisborne provided an excellent service for a long time and there was apprehension about TLab's ability to match it.

But 12 months on TLab, which is half owned by Tairāwhiti District Health, appears to be saving the DHB money. It also seems to have met general practitioner expectations.

Desmond Road Medical Centre general practitioner Francois Jacobs is one primary health care professional who has been pleasantly surprised by the laboratory transition.

"We have no reason for complaints and any problems they had initially they have sorted them out. I think we have to be honest and say we are getting a good service," he says.

His comments are echoed by Village Clinic general practitioner Murray Smith, but with some caveats. "TLab is now providing a reasonable service. Unfortunately it is the basic lab service."

Dr Smith says many of the extras general practice received from Medlab Gisborne are no longer available.

"These extras were the small but important things like providing faeces containers packed in bags with instructions for clients, and picking up our sharps containers whenever they were full."

"I do acknowledge that we get good service but some things are still a bit slow." He says the best example of that is throat swab results. Often these take four days to come back rather than the two-day turnaround provided by Medlab Gisborne.

Tairāwhiti District Health Board Chief Executive Jim Green said general practitioners were satisfied with the service from predecessor Gisborne Medlab so "were naturally uncertain about the change".

"I believe most GPs are happy with TLab's service and if they are not, they do say so. GPs will always advocate for their patients – as they should."

"In a project that size it was expected that some things might not go as well as expected initially, but that was sorted out quickly."

Mr Green said one of the greatest new clinical benefits of TLab was its shared data repository whereby hospital doctors and general practitioners can access the same data about patients.

"The next phase of this is the sharing of all clinical information between hospital doctors and GPs, as GPs come into TDH's patient management system."

On the issue of savings, at the outset TLab was expected to save the District Health Board \$5 million dollars in five years. Mr Green said while the end of year accounts had not been finalized, TLab was on track to make the expected savings.

"The TLab savings takes the financial pressure off the DHB and enables us to look more at what we can do for the community. We can stop looking backwards and start looking forward to the future."

Dinner held in Keriana's honour

By Hayley Redpath

□ Ninety-three guests attended the surprise celebratory dinner held in honour of Keriana Brooking last week after she was a recipient of a Sir Peter Blake Emerging Leader Award.

Guests were sworn to secrecy ahead of the event that was instigated by Tairāwhiti District Health's Maori Health Manager Maaka Tibble, and organised by Turanganui Primary Health Organisation's Tia Moeke.

Unfortunately, due to a slip of the tongue, Keriana was well aware something was afoot but admits she was overwhelmed by the scale and size of the Emerald Hotel event

"As someone who is usually doing the organising, all who attended were very good at keeping the detail from me, which considering it was 93 people is pretty amazing!" Keriana said.



Keriana Brooking...that woman can TALK!

"Walking into the Emerald, and then past the restaurant into the conference room, I started getting worried about what was going to happen next. It was a pleasant surprise."

Family friend and Lytton High School Deputy Principal Wiremu Elliott was Master of Ceremony during the formal occasion inviting speakers to say a few words in support of Keriana.

Mayor Meng Foon, Labour MP Parekura Horomia, Ngati Porou Hauora Board Chief Executive Ben Tahata, Turanganui PHO Board Chair David Scott, artist and moko expert Derek Lardelli, Tairāwhiti District Health Chief Executive Jim Green, as well as neighbours, relations, friends and even Keriana's personal trainer, took to the floor.

Following dinner Keriana's husband Jack congratulated his wife, and introduced their boys to the crowd. Keriana was then asked to speak.

"I was keen to acknowledge the different parts of my life that had been covered by the different speakers, and was pleased that my whanau got the opportunity to be part of such a special event. It was overwhelming to see and hear the support from all.

"Jack, the boys and I greatly appreciate the sentiments of all and thank everybody for their kind wishes and words of support."

The six 2008 Emerging Leader awardees announced at a banquet dinner in Wellington earlier this month were: Keriana Brooking, Sarah Ulmer, Oscar Kightley, Rebecca Caughey, Julie Helson and Michael Sabin.

To read Keriana's citation and learn more about why she has received the award [click here](#).

*Invited guests to the Emerald Hotel dinner purchased their own meal and drinks.



Turanga Health's Rangatahi Coordinator, Amoe Tarsau. Image: Clare Webber

New Zealand u-19 women's soccer squad.

She has a diploma in Exercise Science and worked at Stirling Sports in Wellington to fund her tertiary study.

As Rangatahi Coordinator Amoe and her yet-to-be appointed colleague, will work with schools and other youth orientated groups providing sporting activities, health information, and nutritional advice.

"For us, it's about getting in there and showing people that it can be fun."

Amoe, who was Lytton High School's former Sports Coordinator, is this month working with Makaraka Primary School.

PHO Pushes Play

Like dozens of other workplaces around the district Turanganui Primary Health Organisation has entered this year's Push Play Challenge organized by Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti.

The team, receiving the Push Play rules and calendar from Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti Active Living Coordinatory Patricia Resende-Sperotto (far right), are: Robert Armstrong, Keriana Brooking, Diane Williams (obscured), Robyne McKeague, Tina Holmes, Tia Moeke, Shelley Mitchell and Netta Kutia

□

Amoe Tarsau is Sports Mad

By Hayley Redpath

Turanga Health's Amoe Tarsau is looking forward to juggling a whole lot of balls in her new role as Rangatahi Coordinator.

The sport-mad 28-year-old says she revels in the fact she can combine her passion for physical activity, with her job. She hopes to inspire youngsters to choose sport as a pastime and a way of life.

"I just love sports, children, action, so this job is perfect."

Amoe has an impressive background in her own sporting pursuits via hockey, soccer, netball, basketball, touch rugby, rugby union, and rugby league. She has played at a regional representative level for many of the above, and when she was younger made the

Community News

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Alzheimers Society Gisborne AGM
Tuesday 9 September, 11am, Alzheimers Gisborne Centre, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Eastwoodhill Daffodil Day Service of Hope, A time to remember and renew Cancer Society Memorial Patch Eastwoodhill. Sunday 24 August, 2pm. Bus leaves from the old Army Hall carpark at 1pm returning by 4.30pm. \$5 per person. Children free. Includes bus fare, afternoon tea, and walk.

Cancer Society's: Out of Sight Out of Mind, Multi Media Production In the lead



Turanganui PHO staff get ready to Push Play

up to Daffodil Day the Cancer Society is touring Out of Sight Out of Mind multi media production. It includes a 10 minute drama by Lytton West High School, a short film by Revolution Youth Media, and a gritty real life short documentary looking at the effects of smoking on New Zealanders.

Make your booking NOW to have the Out of Sight Out of Mind multi media production come to your marae, school, church or community organisation today.

Bookings through Mary Mazengarb at the Cancer Society, (06) 867 1795 .

Tairāwhiti District Health Board Meeting, Tuesday 16 September, 9am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Community and Public Health Advisory Committee/Disability Support Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, 26 August, 9am/11am, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday 15 September, 12.30pm, Morris Adair Building, Gisborne Hospital.

Visit www.tdh.org.nz for all TDH meeting agendas.