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Around 40 Corrections staff from Public Prisons Service, Community Probation Service, Psychological Service and Head Office attended the Department's first integrated Maori staff network hui.

Maori staff working to support Maori aspirations

A productive hui held last month, at Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Wellington, confirmed the place of an integrated Maori staff network to provide collective input on the Department's Maori issues.

Charlie Tawhiao, Treaty Relationships Manager, says the network will be a valuable way for staff to actively contribute to the Department's Treaty of Waitangi goal of achieving wellness and well-being for the people.

"It's about recognising the durable solutions that Maori staff, working in a Maori way, can generate to address Maori issues."

Iwi representatives spoke at the hui and added weight to the need for Maori staff to work together to support iwi aspirations of wellness and well-being.

The network includes key representatives of about 40 staff from across the Department and taps into existing Maori staff networks. It will provide a forum for Maori staff input on improving the Department's performance for whanau, hapu and iwi.

Charlie said the network's pepeha, or guiding statement, is *Whakaiti kia pu mau mo te iwi* - which loosely translated means, "maintain humility to strengthen yourself to serve the people".

"Many Maori staff have expressed to me their desire to do more for Maori people. There is plenty of positive energy among them to achieve our guiding statement through the supportive environment of the network."

Chief Executive Mark Byers addressed the hui, endorsing the principle and reasons behind it. Corrections' General Management Team will give full consideration to the proposals that arose as outcomes of the hui.

Attendees are now taking feedback from the hui to their existing Maori staff networks for discussion and endorsement. The new network will be regionally-based, aligned with the existing Community Probation Service structure. **cN**



DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS



Where we are at: Improving responsiveness to Maori

One of the four major strategic themes for the period July 2003 to June 2008 will centre on improving responsiveness to Maori.

The Treaty of Waitangi Strategic Plan covering that period continues the emphasis on:

- Partnership - involving strategic and mutually beneficial arrangements with Maori
- Effectiveness - quality programmes and services to Maori
- Responsiveness - building the capability and capacity of our people and systems so we can perform well for Maori.

The plan will provide further details on issues to be covered under these headings and will be published over the coming months. It will include a mixture initiatives entailing a continuation of some recent projects and identifying some new areas of endeavour. At the same time we want to ensure the plan is not a straightjacket and will allow for more development work to be added in, in light of our experience and what we have learnt from previous initiatives. In other words, an evolutionary, albeit accelerating, approach where each step we take will hopefully better inform us of the next steps to be taken. Equally,

we need to stop doing things that are not doing as well as we would hope after they have been given a reasonable period to be properly implemented and tested. Some of the things that will continue on are:

- Cultural Supervision pilot
- Cultural Assessment pilot
- Kaiwhakamana initiative.

While some of the new areas will include:

- Development of whanau involvement plan
- Pilot for a Tikanga programme for women
- A revised Te Reo strategy.

Many of the current and future initiatives point to developing a greater involvement of the Maori community in Corrections. The relationships we are developing with Maori as part of the Regional Prisons Development Project are a case in point. The inter-service Regional Management Committees have an explicit mandate to represent an integrated, ie, "one" Corrections face in their regions and to develop effective relationships with iwi and other local community entities.

The developments brought about by IOMS and IOM either enable better integration to occur across the Department or point to a requirement for an integrated approach to occur

if we are to achieve our potential effectiveness. Consistent with this need has been the recent hui to promote the aspiration to bring all our own Maori people together in an integrated network in order to strengthen our various efforts to improve our responsiveness to Maori and give better effect to the Treaty of Waitangi Strategic Plan. This development will build on changes made last year to establish the M-Team and for the Managers of Treaty Relationships and Cultural Perspectives to be part of the General Management Team.

I have talked before about wanting us to be the best Corrections system in the world. I have also been clear that to achieve that status the Department must be effective for Maori in a number of ways, including reducing re-offending by Maori. In accepting a further period as Chief Executive I intend to continue to make improving our effectiveness for Maori a major focus for personal commitment and support over that time. **cN**

Maori and Pacific Peoples PS staff hui

A cultural support network of about 20 Maori and Pacific Peoples Psychological Service (PS) staff, Te Roopu Whanau Maanaki, met recently at a hui in Taupo.

On the agenda were discussion and action points aimed at supporting roopu members and progressing cultural values in PS. The network includes psychologists, programme facilitators and whanau liaison workers, based at offices and prison sites across the country.

PS Operations Adviser, Liz Pokia, says the roopu hui is held twice a year. A key benefit is sharing national and local Corrections' happenings among the network's geographically dispersed members.

"We discuss what's going on culturally within the Department and invite guest speakers from Head Office to talk about their work. We also provide collective feedback from a cultural point of view on PS and Department-wide polices."

Liz explains that the roopu is proactive in helping the

Service's management team further develop its cultural outlook.

"Senior Psychological Service managers attended a three-hour question and answer session. New information was shared and good ideas developed."

Liz adds that a valuable spin-off of the hui was learning about new members.

"We talk about 'who' we are, 'what' we represent and how this fits into our work.

"In the last few hui the roopu has been finding its feet, setting a vision and a mission statement. I'm pleased to report there's plenty of group enthusiasm to carry us forward."

Te Roopu Whanau Maanaki will meet again in August. The group also links into Corrections' first integrated Maori staff network, which encompasses staff from all service areas of the Department (see cover story). **cN**

Department has new Minister

The Department of Corrections has a new Minister, the Hon. Paul Swain.

As well as Minister of Corrections, Mr Swain's portfolios include Transport, Communications and Information Technology. He is also Associate Minister for Economic Development.

Mr Swain entered Parliament in 1990 as MP for Eastern Hutt. Since 1996 he has represented the Rimutaka electorate. Rimutaka Prison is located in his electorate, and as the local MP, he already has good first-hand knowledge of this aspect of the Department's operations. He recently

opened the refurbished kitchen at the prison.

On taking up the portfolio Mr Swain spoke highly of the Department's Statement of Intent for 2003-2004, saying the document provided an excellent overview for him as a new Minister.

Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Swain worked for the Council of Trade Unions Research Office. He also has experience in teaching.

Mr Swain takes over from the Hon. Mark Gosche, who stood down from Cabinet and resigned his portfolios to allow him to spend more time caring for his wife, who is unwell. **cN**



The Hon. Paul Swain is the new Minister of Corrections.

Forest Research joint venture steaming ahead

Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) and Forest Research's partnership to develop "hi-tech" pine trees for the forestry sector has moved into full swing.

CIE Primary Sector Manager, Scott Gretton, says the project has progressed well since August 2002, when CIE and Forest Research announced their six-year, multi-million dollar partnership agreement to develop a new breed of pine tree for the farm forestry sector.

Ross Bayer from Forest Research says the aim of the project is to develop a breed of pine tree that is more suited to fast growth, high fertility sites and without some of the naturally occurring imperfections that are inherent in pine trees.

"Exactly which aspects we're improving and how we're doing it is a well-guarded secret," he says.

Under the agreement CIE raises cuttings at several prisons around the country from parent stock provided by Forest Research. Cuttings are then harvested and transported to private nurseries where they are set in beds, and sold one year later as planting stock to forest owners.

Forest Research has been happy with the project's progress over the last eight months, Ross adds.

"CIE has started training staff and inmates in growing the cuttings and harvesting them, and will shortly deliver cuttings to commercial nurseries as part of the pilot programme.

"We've also completed a joint risk management exercise, helping us identify future threats and opportunities," says Ross.

Scott says the agreement works well for both parties because they complement each other's respective strengths.

"Forest Research are experts in tree

technology, and CIE is always looking for meaningful training opportunities for inmates. This venture is labour intensive, making it ideal for our purposes as we can train more inmates.

"Forestry is an expanding market sector and skilled workers are always in demand. There are plenty of post-release employment opportunities for inmates who are involved with the project, which was a big attraction for us when we formed the agreement with Forest Research." **cN**



Thousands of pine trees at Tongariro/Rangipo Prison ready to be planted out.

New policy to strengthen searching procedures

Public Prisons Service (PPS) senior staff have been visiting New Zealand's prisons to explain and discuss the Department's new Prison Entry Searching Policy, prior to its introduction this month.

The policy requires that all entrants to a prison site are liable to be searched. This includes staff, managers, statutory visitors (such as MPs and Parole Board members) and service providers, as well as family and friends of inmates.

The requirement will provide protection to staff and visitors, and is similar to practice of overseas corrections jurisdictions such as Australia and England, says Phil McCarthy, General Manager Public Prisons Service.

"We have to prevent drugs and other contraband entering prisons. There are times when some inmates might pressure visitors to bring this material to them. Having a single search policy means no one group is treated differently."

Search procedures include vehicle checkpoints, use of drug dogs, metal detectors, hand-held scanners and bag searches. Entry searching will occur on a random basis.

"For example, all entrants to a site may be searched on any given morning or afternoon. In its current application, the policy is similar to the 'anytime, anywhere' approach of driver alcohol testing. What it establishes is the principle that as an

entrant to a prison site you may be searched," Phil explains.

Searches must be performed legally and correctly. Entrants to a prison site have the right to refuse to be searched but they can be denied entry as a result.

Other measures to keep drugs and banned material out of prisons include new perimeter fences at many sites. However, this can increase the likelihood of visitors or staff being targeted by inmates to bring in illegal material.

During 2002 about 5,000 visitors' vehicles were searched at New Zealand prisons. This resulted in 80 arrests and the seizure of drugs, drug paraphernalia and weapons. **cN**

Northland Region prison site manager appointed

Mike Hughes is the newly appointed Site Manager for the Northland Region Corrections Facility.

Mike will lead the commissioning process for the new facility, which is currently under construction, until its expected opening in March 2005. This includes having the facility ready and able to handle systems, staff and inmates when it opens. After that time his role will turn to managing the prison.

A key element of Mike's position involves working closely with the Ngati Rangī hapu, local iwi and the Northland community. Ngati Rangī are *Kaitiaki mo nga taonga katoa* - local guardians of all treasured things and people.

Mike and construction company Mainzeal were recently welcomed to Northland at a powhiri at Ngawha Marae.

"I appreciate the importance and cultural significance of the powhiri. In accepting the challenge ahead I am very much aware of the trust and responsibility being placed in me by Ngati Rangī," says Mike.



Construction Manager Duncan Kenderdine (left) shows Site Manager Mike Hughes some of the foundations being laid for the 350-bed Northland Region Corrections Facility.

Mike joins Corrections after 18 months with Australasian Correctional Management, where he was involved in both project management and operational roles. He has also worked as a senior adviser on an international project team for the development of a new 3,000-bed prison in South Africa, and project managed a new

immigration detention facility in South Australia.

Prior to those roles, Mike's resumé includes time with accounting firm KPMG as a business consultant, and a 20-year career in the New Zealand Army that culminated in commanding the Officer Cadet School and an infantry battalion. **cN**

Faith-based unit planned for Rimutaka Prison

The Department's General Management Team has approved the establishment of a 60-bed faith-based unit at Rimutaka Prison, expected to open in October.

The unit will provide a therapeutic community environment characterised by Bible-oriented programmes, a prayer-centred daily routine, regular spiritual "retreats" and twice-weekly worship involving a variety of church groups. Inmates will continue to take part in the prison's rehabilitation programmes, education and employment activities.

Phil McCarthy, General Manager Public Prisons Service, says that chaplaincy



Inside the chapel at Corrections' first faith-based unit, due to open at Rimutaka Prison in October.

services have always been offered in prisons, but the unit is a first.

"The unit occupies a similar place in our spectrum of interventions to the Department's Maori Focus Units. The faith-based unit aims to address inmates' spiritual needs, just as Maori Focus Units address Maori inmates' cultural needs.

"Staff will need to be comfortable with, and supportive of, the unit's ethos, and volunteer to work within the unit," Phil says.

Inmates' residence in the unit will be voluntary. Preference will be given to inmates at high risk of re-offending and motivated to address their offending behaviour. Of these, priority will be given to inmates reaching the end of longer (more than 18 months) sentences.

Prison Fellowship New Zealand will be responsible for developing and implementing Christian programmes within the unit. The Fellowship acts as a resource to the church and community by promoting Christian ministry to current and previous inmates, their families and victims.

Kim Workman, the organisation's national director, says that evidence in favour of faith-based interventions is strong, with numerous successful examples in prisons abroad.

A study trip to USA prisons last year convinced Kim that such initiatives can work. Prisons in Iowa and Texas with "Inner-Change" faith-based units are achieving good results, he says, with low rates of re-offending by former inmates.

"These facilities provide an option for inmates wanting to

address their offending and explore their spirituality," says Mr Workman.

"A key feature is that inmates are required to come to terms with the consequences of their crime and lifestyle on victims, family, friends and the wider community. They are challenged to restore key relationships and come to terms with the harm they have caused others. That in turn motivates them to address the behaviour which triggers offending, such as violence, drug and alcohol abuse."

Permission has also been granted for a faith-based inmate reintegration programme, Operation Jericho, for the Wellington prisons region, to work in tandem with the unit.

"We believe Operation Jericho addresses a gap in present reintegrative strategies, in that it provides intensive and ongoing pre and post-release support," says Mr Workman.

Operation Jericho complements the Department's reintegrative programmes. Trained volunteer mentors from local church groups will be assigned to an inmate before release, and will help ensure the offender's spiritual wellbeing is catered for once released.

Mr Workman says the whole project has been developed in partnership with the Department.

"Prison Fellowship sees this as the start of an enduring partnership between a government agency and a community provider."

The developments are a two-year pilot scheme, and if successful may be offered nationwide. Long term evaluation will be carried out by the Department's Policy Development group. **cn**

Health and safety in action

Two Mt Eden Prison corrections officers, Phil Nicoll and Paul Young, have learnt first-hand the value of the Department's health and safety programme.

The Department is committed to health and safety management and performance. As part of the ACC partnership programme, the Department ensures employees injured at work receive enhanced medical care over the ACC entitlement. Active rehabilitation is an important component of this commitment.

Health and Safety Manager Gordon Tait says like any workplace, the prison environment might result in injuries, with one hazard being the sometimes unpredictable behaviour of inmates.

"Corrections officers are trained to handle such situations but, for a variety of reasons, injuries may occur. When they do, the Department offers employees support and rehabilitation."

A few years ago, Phil Nicoll had his nose broken by an inmate. His unit manager and the prison's human resources team worked together to ensure that he received the best possible care.

"They really went the extra mile to help me return to work on full duties," says Phil.

Paul Young slipped while at work and ruptured his Achilles tendon. CRM (Corporate Risk Management), the Department's rehabilitation provider for work

related injuries, organised for him to have surgery to correct the injury. CRM and the Department then arranged ongoing medical care including having the surgery team closely monitor Paul's progress.

"My injury isn't fully healed yet, but I told my unit manager that I wanted to get back to work as soon as I could. My manager and CRM organised some alternative duties for me and I'm now back at work and much happier," Paul says.

Gordon says these examples show that medical care is one part of rehabilitation, with supporting the employee through the process to return to work being the ultimate goal. **cN**

New facilities in Innovate NZ Awards

Opus International Consultants Ltd has entered Rimutaka Prison's new facilities project in the prestigious Innovate NZ Awards.

The annual awards are run by ACENZ (Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand) to recognise excellence in consulting skills, from research through to construction.

Earlier this year Rimutaka Prison, located in Upper Hutt, near Wellington, opened three state of the art accommodation wings, along with a new kitchen, control room, inmate receiving area, health facilities and visits area. The integrated computerised security system that was installed is among the most advanced in Australasia. Despite some initial teething problems the system is now working well.

Opus was contracted to the challenging job of meeting the Department's project brief, working closely with Mainzeal Construction to fast-track the new development within budget.

Opus Architect Tony Nixon says the project required careful interpretation of the Department's needs and the provision of innovative solutions within a tight timeframe.

"We had to consider a range of factors, including the life cycle of the buildings and that they must provide a safe and secure environment for both staff and inmates. They must also allow for Corrections' inmate rehabilitation focus."

The project was of considerable scale, taking two years to complete. It encompassed upgrades to water, sewage and

electricity infrastructure across the entire prison site, all while keeping existing facilities running.

National Property Manager William Whewell says the project was marked by continuous, positive participation between the Department, consultant and contractor.

"Opus took on board the Department's experience in prison construction and the result was a true partnership effort."

The 2003 Innovate NZ award winners will be announced in August. Information on the entry can be found at www.acenz.org.nz. **cN**



Work by Opus International Consultants Ltd on Rimutaka Prison's new facilities has been entered in the Innovate NZ Awards.

Inmates put pen to paper

Locked Down, a recently published anthology of New Zealand prison poetry contains poetry and artwork by inmates from three North Island prisons.

The book's editor, Corrections Officer Mike Subritzky, noticed through his daily contact with inmates at Waikeria Prison that many of them wrote expressive poetry, often during the prison's "lock down" hours. "Lock down" is the period when an inmate is locked in his or her cell. This is normally during the night but for security reasons can also be at other times.

The poems in *Locked Down* were selected from entries to a prison poetry competition open to inmates from Waikeria, Tongariro/Rangipo and Ohura prisons. They give the reader an overview of life in a New Zealand prison and a chance to see life from an inmate's perspective.

The inmates wrote about their feelings and thoughts on being inside, about the families they miss and about their crimes.

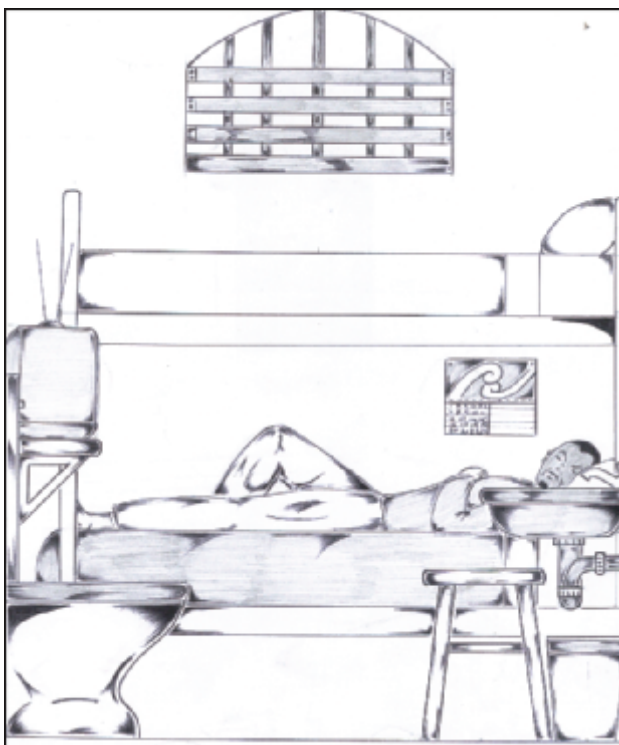
Mike was pleased with the quality of work submitted for the poetry competition.

"Some of the work touches your heart and some of it makes you smile," says Mike. He adds that the book gave the inmates involved an opportunity to do something positive during their sentence, as well as a chance to see their work in print.

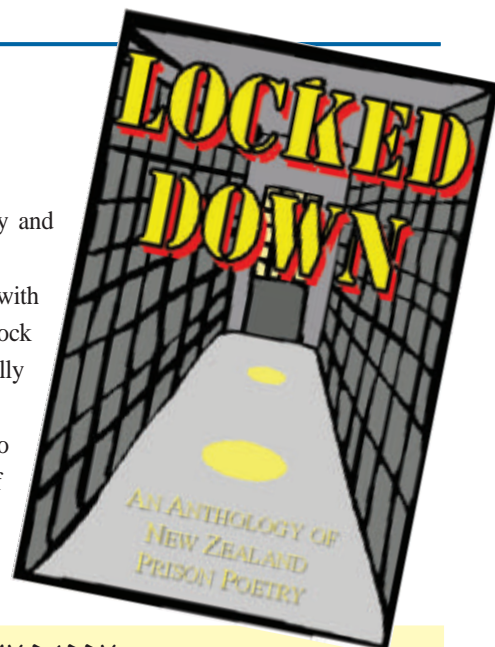
Mike says many inmates are also very artistic and he has used about 12 inmate illustrations in *Locked Down*.

The book is on sale for \$15 and all profits go to Victim Support. To purchase a copy call Graham Dallas, Unit Manager, Waikeria Prison on 07 871 1416.

cN



Some of the inmate drawings featured among the prison poetry collection in *Locked Down*.

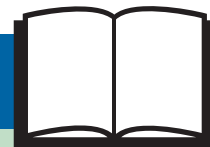


MY DADDY

Was my daddy really dangerous
Or was it just his dangerous talk
'Cause to me he's just my daddy
Staunch and true in his own walk.
My daddy loved me heaps
And just to crush his pride
The vultures set out after him
Like great whites at low tide.
They took my daddy away
Those fellows dressed in blue
I cried for them to bring him back
What else could I do?
I love my daddy with all my heart
But they put him back inside
Just for trying to pursue
The things he was denied.
My mummy still loves daddy
'Cause I still hear her cry at night
I just wish my dad was here with us
And everything was alright.
I lay awake some nights
Thinking of the times we've had
Just the three of us together
Me, my mum and dad.
Then loneliness starts rolling in
And so too does the tears
I just miss my daddy's hugs and kisses
They showed me that he cares
I'm only three years old
How stupid could he be
Didn't he think that he'd get caught
Did he stop to think of me?
I'm getting used to being alone
Though it still feels pretty strange.

JOK

A poem from *Locked Down*, an anthology of prison poetry.



An alternative approach to the indigenous offender

A major issue facing corrections jurisdictions worldwide is how best to respond to the needs of indigenous offenders and reduce the likelihood they re-offend. A recent Canadian article¹ reports on the experience of implementing “healing lodges” for Canadian indigenous offenders.

There are currently six healing lodges in Canada, two of these being managed by Canada’s Correctional Service, and the remainder managed by indigenous agencies or communities.

While the size and structure of these facilities varies, both staff and residents comment favourably on their experiences in them. The overwhelming majority of residents report a high degree of satisfaction with the healing lodge experience, indicating that it helped them in understanding themselves. It was also noted that the offenders were less angry and more in control of their emotions.

Viewed as an important part of the healing lodge experience was access to

elders, cultural activities, going to activities outside the lodge, and the availability of a traditional native American Indian practice - sweat lodges. Significantly, almost all of the offenders indicated their experience and interaction with staff was positive.

The healing lodge environment, providing access to elders or spiritual advisers, as well as a range of cultural activities, enhanced residents’ awareness of their culture. This experience seems to have had a positive impact on those who previously were ambivalent about their culture or traditions before entering the lodge. Once the offenders had the opportunity to learn more about their culture, it enhanced how they viewed themselves and others, as well as positively impacting on their behaviour.

The impact of the lodge experience also had a bearing on relationships between staff and residents. As the staff were predominantly indigenous, they were felt to be able to assist in the healing process. For their part, the staff demonstrated a

commitment to working with the offenders and aiding them in their healing. The authors noted that staff who believe in what they do created a positive and accepting environment.

An interesting point made was that offenders in the lodges had a slightly more extensive criminal history than indigenous offenders in the general minimum security population. More lodge residents had previously been segregated for disciplinary infractions and had tried to escape more often. They were rated at a higher risk of re-offending, with more needs and lower reintegration potential at the time of initial reception into prison. This clearly shows that the positive healing lodge experience was unlikely to be the result of specially selecting more manageable offenders for placement in these facilities. **cN**

¹Crutcher, Nicole and Trevethan, Shelley. ‘An Examination of Healing Lodges for Federal Offenders in Canada.’ *FORUM on Corrections Research* 14, no. 3 (2002): 52-54.

University students give prison top marks

A recent tour of Manawatu Prison proved an eye-opener for 55 Massey University students.

Site Manager Trevor Riddle says that bringing the students into the prison was a valuable exercise for both the students and the Department.

“We’re helping them with their studies and at the same time taking the mystery out of prisons by explaining what really goes on behind the gates. Hopefully we’ve also tweaked their interest in a Corrections career.”

After a presentation on the prison’s history and an introduction to the Department’s work, the students were escorted through the facility. They were shown cells, visiting areas, programme rooms and inmate employment activities.

The students visited in two groups. Community psychology students learned how the prison, with its unique structure and own set of rules, is a community within a community. Rehabilitation studies students focused on the work done to rehabilitate and prepare offenders for release.

Senior Lecturer Robert Gregory said the visit left a lasting impression on his psychology class, triggering their thinking around society’s role in justice issues.

“Visiting Manawatu Prison was a ‘physical’ experience that can’t be replaced by reading a textbook. I appreciate the effort of Trevor and his team to make the trip as educational as possible.”

Rehabilitation Studies Lecturer Gretchen Good added that her class was very curious and at times overawed by the prison atmosphere.

Trevor remarked on the prison’s longstanding relationship with Massey University, noting that classes have visited almost every year since 1984.

“Manawatu Prison is a few kilometres from Palmerston North and not visible from the main road, so it’s easy to overlook that we’re here. The university visits are one of the activities we do each year with local organisations to build awareness of our work.” **cN**

Waikeria Prison's dairy farms keep pace with the times



Facilities and equipment at Waikeria Prison's dairy farms are being upgraded.

Construction is underway to modernise Waikeria Prison's four dairy farms, in one of the biggest capital projects for Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) this year.

The upgrade is expected to increase milk production by 50 percent says CIE Primary Sector Manager Scott Gretton.

"A big part of the improvement involves extending one of the four milking sheds, increasing farm drainage and improving effluent irrigation. Five new feed 'bunkers' are being built and extensions are being made to the existing maize feeding pads.

Allan Bullick, Waikeria Farm Manager and

project manager for the upgrade, says the "bunkers" will increase maize storage capacity. With more feed, the number of cows at the prison's farms will rise from 3,300 to 3,600.

"Cows fed extra maize also produce more milk and the overall result will be an increase in the milk yield," he says.

Upgrade planning began in October 2002 and construction started earlier this year. The new facilities and improvements are expected to be operating by the time the new dairy season begins in June.

Scott explains that the changes were driven by economic necessity.

"The dairy payout has reduced by 30 percent this year, from \$5.70 to \$3.70 per kilo of milk solids. It is expected to plateau at this level for some time. We face the same commercial realities as the private sector, so must operate more efficiently to maintain the same level of financial return.

"Long gone are the days when prison industries were there just to keep inmates busy. Today we teach inmates real skills for real jobs - and must do so in a commercially viable manner.

"Any surplus from the farming operation goes straight back into the business to help train inmates," concludes Scott. **cN**

All in a day's whanau liaison

Psychological Service's whanau liaison workers have a unique role bridging Maori inmates with their whanau support, aiming to put offenders in a strong position to successfully return to the community.

A liaison worker is based at each of the Department's five Maori focus units. The units operate within prisons, and through the practice of Tikanga Maori, aim to bring about positive change in inmates' thinking and behaviour.

Director of Psychological Service, David Riley, says the liaison workers involve inmates' whanau in the offenders' case management and release planning.

"We're tapping into the great support resource that whanau can offer."

Whanau liaison workers have a diverse role, maintaining relationships with a variety of people.

"They work with corrections officers who are assigned to case-manage offenders, the probation officer overseeing his parole,

and link whanau to Maori and other agencies that can help inmates when released. They also work closely with the prison's cultural adviser."

After piloting the position from 1997, the first whanau liaison worker officially started in 2000. David says that regular hui are held to assist the liaison workers in their evolving roles. At their April hui, whanau liaison

workers discussed the future direction of their jobs in the context of current Department initiatives and the programmes organised to reintegrate offenders into the community.



The Department's whanau liaison workers are, from left: John Maihi, Stewart Heremaia, Makere Riwaka-Love and Steve Hoperi (not present is Tony Kahura).

After the hui, the whanau liaison workers joined in Psychological Service's Te Roopu Whanau Maanaki hui for its Maori and Pacific Peoples staff (see story on page 2). **cN**

Improvements in store for Wanganui Prison

Wanganui Prison is the centre of a major redevelopment to coordinate and improve inmate facilities and security. Features include a new perimeter fence, new buildings and system upgrades.

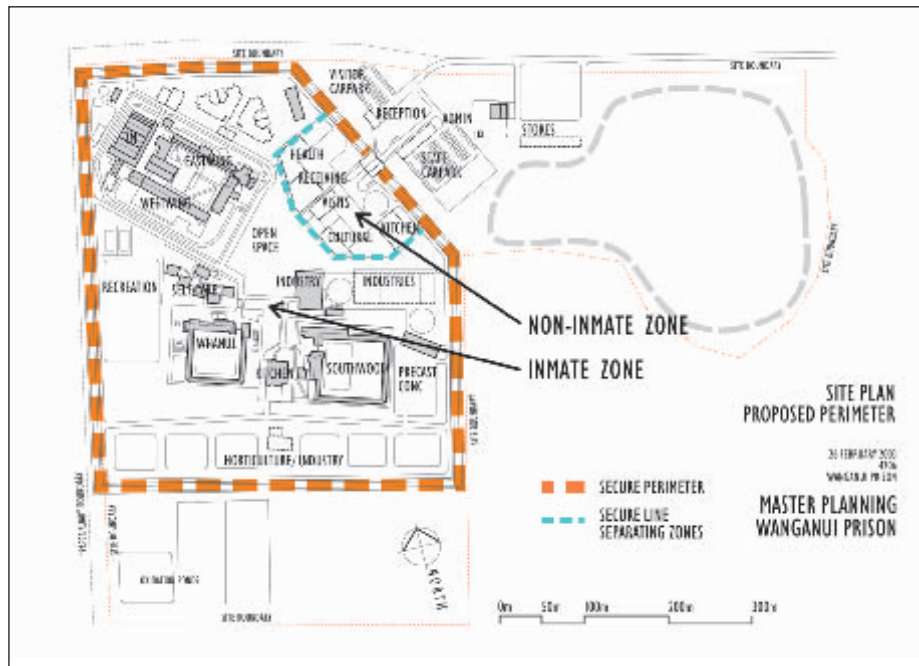
In the design and planning stages are a new health unit, receiving office and visits facility. All will be located on the boundary of the “non-inmate” and “inmate access” parts of the prison. This zoning will be established with the new fence and will allow controlled access by visitors, staff and suppliers.

“We expect to have contract commitment towards the end of June,” says Senior Property Advisor, Crispin Kay.

“The receiving office, which contains a new central control room, will be one of the first areas tackled and is currently being designed.

“The health, programmes and visits facilities will follow. In the future, plans allow for a cultural centre, gatehouse, administration building and new kitchen to be built. This long-term planning approach to the upgrades required across the prison site will produce the best results.”

An \$8 million upgrade of the prison’s Kaitoke wing accommodation areas also features. Cells will be brought up to more modern standards and the work will include improvements to ventilation and fire control systems, plus painting and flooring improvements. Cells with two beds will be made



Wanganui Prison’s upgrade plans.

bigger and facilities for inmates with disabilities will be added.

Improving the prison’s security and systems infrastructure is a major focus of the project, says Crispin.

“The Department is putting sustainable issues high on the agenda, in terms of the resources used by the site.

“This means that we’re addressing things such as wise energy use, and planning ahead for utility needs, such as water supply and sewage removal.”

A 4.5 metre high perimeter fence plus two outer, delineation fences, will be erected to enclose

the site. Along with making it more difficult for inmates to escape, the fencing will help deter “unwanted visitors”, such as people seeking to deposit drugs on the property.

Work at Wanganui Prison is part of a wider maintenance and improvement project being carried out at many New Zealand prisons, says Crispin.

“Hawke’s Bay, Christchurch, Christchurch Women’s and Manawatu prisons are all at various stages of upgrade planning or completion, and work at Waikeria Prison will follow at a later stage.” **cN**

Energy savings kick in

Over the past six weeks the Department has stepped up its energy conservation efforts, playing its part towards national electricity savings. Energy Manager, Cees Ebskamp, says savings so far have been thanks to a great team effort and Corrections can take pride in its energy efficiency achievements.

Priority has been given to activities in the Department’s Energy Management Strategy, relevant staff have been encouraged to implement permanent energy-wise solutions, and there have been plenty of reminders to “switch off when not in use”.

- Raw data on 80 percent of prison electricity use shows that prisons, which account for the bulk of the Department’s energy bill, have begun a downward trend in energy use, saving around 7.5 percent to date. This comes on top of energy savings already made during the past year, despite accommodating an increasing number of inmates and with the onset of cooler weather.
- Many prisons are heated by gas, diesel, coal and wood. At Waikeria Prison, staff have insulated hot water cylinders and pipes, and are using cold water for laundry washes.
- Head Office is using almost 20 percent less energy. Air conditioning hours were cut back, hot water thermostats turned down and around 800 fluorescent light-tubes were removed.

All energy efficiency efforts are being put in place without compromising security, service levels or health and safety. **cN**

Cooking classes teach life skills to young inmates

Young offenders in Rimutaka Prison's Youth Unit have been sharpening their culinary skills through a practical cooking course that also reinforces some important social skills.

"While the young men are learning to cook healthy meals they are taking on board some valuable lessons," says Miriam Letoa, Youth Unit Manager.

"They're taught what food is best for a young family, as some of these inmates are fathers too. Nutrition and budgeting are key parts of the course, and they develop their relationship skills from interacting with others while they cook."

The cooking classes are a first within New Zealand prison's four youth units, which accommodate teenage inmates aged between 16 and 20 years.

Since April, two cooking courses have been run at Rimutaka Prison's Youth Unit. The classes are run by Robyn Turner of Wellington PARS (Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society). Inmates attend five three-hour lessons held in the early evening. Interest from the inmates currently exceeds the number of places available, says Miriam.



Rimutaka Prison's Youth Unit inmates are learning to cook.

"The classes focus on giving the young men practical skills to take with them when they leave prison. Being able to provide good, nutritious meals, whether it's a soup or salad, is something many of us take for granted," Miriam explains.

"Once the meals are prepared the inmates sit around the dinner table, share their food and talk to each other. This setting is typical of what many families do every night.

"We're very proud of the cooking course because it's struck a chord with the young offenders who take part. Cooking is a constructive activity that will help them enhance their family relationships, which in many cases contributed to their offending.

"In fact, the classes are so successful that other youth units have expressed interest in running something similar," concludes Miriam. [cN](#)

Prison networks with emergency services

Successfully handling any emergency situation lies in the planning and preparation beforehand. With that in mind, local emergency services turned up to Manawatu Prison last month to familiarise themselves with the prison's emergency response processes.

Representatives from Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, Civil Defence and the nearby Army camp learned about how the prison deals with emergencies. Trained prison staff demonstrated how they can provide emergency services with safe access into the prison, for example, to put out a fire or to treat injured inmates.

Site Manager Trevor Riddle says the session was triggered by a bomb scare at the prison earlier this year.

"Although it was a false alarm, at the debrief we realised that emergency services had mixed understanding of our emergency planning and capabilities.

"Input from these services is an integral part of prison emergency planning. We brainstormed how we can work more closely together and a follow-up meeting has been planned."

Every prison has a set of detailed emergency plans for various scenarios, and staff are trained in first aid and how to manage basic incidents.

"Fortunately, major incidents are rare, but whether it's an earthquake, riot or power cut we need to be ready. Plans include back-ups for food, medical services and alternative inmate accommodation," says Trevor. [cN](#)



A new look for intranet

Changes are planned next month to the look of the Department's intranet, CorrNet. CorrNet is being streamlined in its look and feel to match the Corrections' recently redeveloped internet site.

An obvious difference will be the change in screen colour to match the Department's corporate colours.

Aside from the changes to colour, information on the intranet will be managed differently through new layout and navigation.

"A document on the Department's internet site provides public information about Corrections," says IT Manager Derek Lyons.

"If a slightly different version of the document exists on CorrNet then there's potential for misinterpretation. Once our Content Management project rolls out we'll be able to ensure that documents on both CorrNet and the internet have exactly the same source content."

Not all CorrNet information will be placed on the Department's

internet and any information placed on CorrNet will remain secure to Corrections users only.

IOMS Trust Accounting improvements

From late June, changes to the Trust Accounting module in IOMS will give Public Prisons Trust Accounting Clerks improved reporting capability. Inmates can operate "trust accounts" while in prison, managed by the Trust Accounting Clerk, to buy goods such as telephone cards, clothing and sweets from money deposited by family or friends, or earned through inmate employment activities.

Seven new reports will be available and eight existing reports enhanced. Some rarely used reports will be removed from the "report tree".

Trust Account Clerks and IOMS Business Coaches are being updated on all the changes. **cN**

Upper Hutt CPS Service Centre opens



Upper Hutt Community Probation Service (CPS) staff celebrate the recent opening of the city's new CPS Service Centre.

Corrections Under-Secretary Mita Rinui officially opened Upper Hutt's new CPS Service Centre, at a ceremony attended by kaumatua and representatives of Orongomai Marae, local council representatives, CPS staff and members of the Upper Hutt community.

The centre is part of the Department's co-location project, in which CPS offices and work facilities are located under one roof, making dealing with CPS a "one-stop shop".

CPS staff are delighted with the new facility, which is in Railway Avenue, near to Orongomai Marae, with whom the centre has a close relationship. Previously CPS Upper Hutt had operated from administration offices in Main St and a Community Work building in Goodshed Road. **cN**

corrections News

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Letters and comments are welcome.

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