

FACILITATION

FMD, University of Waikato

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Projects currently on the go:

S Block extension – tenderers are busy pricing up their bids for a major extension to S Block which will provide 4 new lecture theatres and 3 large computer labs. The building will be ready by mid 2006 and will occupy the large grassed area between S Block and G Block. It will match the existing S Block in most aspects.

B Block renovations – these are well under way and by Easter we should be able to have the Financial Services Division back in their offices and the building substantially renovated. There is still some work to do on the first floor but this will probably be delayed until the 2005/6 summer.

Science lab upgrades – John B and Peter B are busy with an extensive upgrade project on 3rd level of D Block and planning is also well advanced for an extension the TRU building. Unfortunately the work on TRU will do nothing to enhance the looks of a building that is already a bit of an eyesore!

Pavilion upgrade – whilst some would argue that it can be likened to making a silk purse from a sow's ear, Trevor, Mua and Robin are currently doing their best to improve the looks of the venue to accommodate a new tenant, the Hillcrest Tavern. They will run it as an adjunct to the "Hilly" and plan on trying to attract a "better class" of clientele (such as FMD staff!)

Academy alterations – whilst there are some long-term extensions planned for the Academy, the current round of projects only involve more minor internal works. An air-conditioning system is to be installed in the Dance Studio (it is intolerably cold in winter and rather stuffy and hot in summer), a stage lift is to be provided in the Playhouse (to facilitate access to the storage area under that area), and extensive alterations are to be made to the downstairs bar area (including a name for the bar and lowering of the counter level which is considered too high by all people less than about 1.65m tall)

Paving alterations in front of the shops – The paved area in front of the shops has looked decidedly dowdy in the last few years and the landscaping between the shops and the lake was also in need of modernisation. A contract or is already on site doing the first half of the paving upgrade and this will be followed by further works in the area as the year progresses. Pay a visit to the Grind Café and see what's happening.

ITS Fire alarm upgrade – the system in ITS is archaic and dire need of modernising in order to provide adequate protection to the server facilities and other equipment housed in the complex. Emma will be keeping an eye on the contractors who due to begin work on the project shortly.

Welcome

FMD welcomes several staff members who have all joined us recently:

Mua Taito - Projects Supervisor in the Buildings Maintenance team - Mua hails from Fiji and more recently has been working in Hamilton and Rotorua. For those who've seen Mua around, you will have noticed that he has helped tremendously to raise the average height of the Buildings Maintenance staff and with Pieter Koers and Michael Anderson, they surely form one of the tallest groups of people on campus excluding the basketball team.

Paul Blair - Draughtsman in the Buildings Maintenance team as well - Paul has come to us from Wintech where he has studied full time towards his Architectural, Quantity Surveying, and Construction Management Diplomas. Prior to that he spent time in Ohope Beach and before that lived in the UK where he worked in the residential construction industry in London. While there he travelled widely to Western Europe, Middle East, and Eastern Africa. So all in all, a man well travelled!

Tony Thompson - Security Assistant in the Security team - Tony is no newcomer to campus as he has been on campus for some 4 years as Supervisor completing the contract security role at night. He has now "crossed the bridge" to become a staff member instead of a contractor and with the extensive knowledge that he already has of the campus and our security procedures, we are sure he will adapt to his new role very quickly.

And wait, there's more

We will soon have a Carpenter joining us as a replacement for Robert Moir, but we'll tell you more in the next issue.

University Merit Award

Every year the Vice Chancellor invites submissions for people that have done outstanding work on the campus and who deserve to be specially recognised. Robin Dunmall seized the opportunity and submitted a proposal that Mike Cagney be given the award in 2004, a submission which spoke of Mike's sustained provision of excellent and timely customer service in all areas related to electrical maintenance, his high standard of workmanship, his response to after-hours callouts, his continual searching for cost-effective solutions, his willingness to offer advice and above all, his sense of humour. The Vice-Chancellor's committee recognised the value of the contribution Mike has made and awarded him one of the two awards that were made in 2004, citing the award "For outstanding and sustained customer service, technical ability, innovation and cost-effective solutions to University needs within the electrical area."

WELL DONE, MIKE!! On being such a worthy recipient of such a prestigious award.



A thank you for the service provided by the Security staff!!

Further to our conversation today, I would like to express my gratitude and pride of our security staff on campus. Last night at our Christmas party, an unexpected event occurred, which eventuated in us requiring the services of the University security team. Security arrived within one minute of calling for their assistance. All three staff were extremely professional, kind and caring towards our situation.

On behalf of Ali and myself, I would like to thank all of the security staff, not only for what they did for us last night, but also the job they do all year. There is nothing easy about working the graveyard shift, and your staff would have made you very proud last night.

Thank you again and we hope everyone in security has a fantastic Christmas and safe new year. We look forward to seeing you all, but hopefully not having to call you in 2005.

Kind Regards, Felicia Connolly, Office Administrator - Deans Office, School of Science and Engineering

News clips

Sheryn, Emma and Karleen are doing a whole lot of training - running and swimming - to get fit for the women's triathlon series. Problem is that they are finding the pool isn't always up to scratch - an issue they'll be taking up with Campus Services. Sheryn has already put her training to good use in her successful completion of the Palmerston North competition. Well done, Sheryn! You're an example to all the rest of us couch-potatoes!

Drew is the proud "owner" of the newest vehicle in the FMD fleet - another wee Suzuki - and so far it's scratch-free, which is more than can be said for the Mazda 6 and the Furniture van. (For those who are not "up with the news", both these vehicles have been knocked out of shape by recent mishaps. On the positive side no-one was injured in any of the accidents.)

Merv was spotted out on the tennis court once again - it's been a while since he injured his ankle, so welcome back and hope you can thrash Mark

Angela has joined us as another one of the Financial Services "imports" that lives in our building - we welcome you, Angela, but wonder if the four of you (with Sheryn, Ron & Ken) are forming a spearhead attack to try and oust us from our building.

The mechanical staff have been hiding a monstrous feather in their storeroom - no it's not Robin's desire to enter the art world, it's just the temporary home for the new sculpture that is to be erected in front of the Academy.

Mark's staff were spotted cutting down some gum trees recently - Trevor couldn't believe his eyes and offered to point out a few more that could go the same way, but Mark declined the assistance.

One of Susan Jensen's parting gestures was to decide on the colours of the feature walls to be painted in some areas of B Block during the current round of renovations - and a good job she made of it as there have only been positive comments. It has certainly brought an element of individuality and flair to the various reception and similar areas.

Phil Jensen is settling down well in his new role as a country laird in the Te Awamutu area.

Emma has traded her car in for a newer one - same brand, Holden, what else! - as she wore out the last one travelling back & forth to Otorohonga.

Derek Freeman has now joined the elite - he has turned 40! Well done, Derek, as your age creeps slowly towards your golf score. (Later news: Derek has broken his collar bone - hope you're well again soon, Derek.)

Hayley Coleman has been a regular in the Grounds Dept during her studies at the uni - she worked here part-time whilst studying - and we will miss her when she moves over to the Mount.

*Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless,
and knowledge without integrity
is dangerous and dreadful ...*

Samuel Johnson



Mystery Trip - FMD Social Club, November 2004.
An excellent day was had by most - not sure about our sleeping beauty.

Picture provided by Lorna Nicholson

FMD SOCIAL CLUB

Lunchtime sausage sizzle: the first Social Club event of the year has already come and gone - a really enjoyable lunchtime sizzle on a dry and warm February day. Well done to the team who put it all together and to Tom and Shar who did the cooking.

KAWHIA BOAT TRIP - Saturday 9th April

There will be a 'history and hangi' harbour trip on Saturday 9th April. Those interested please put your name down on the board in the FMD tearoom. If you require more information contact Tom Reidy.

INVITATION TO FMD STAFF

With the assistance of the FMD social club, John Cameron will be providing a pre-Easter bbq for all FMD staff. This will be held after work on Wednesday 23rd March in the FMD courtyard. For catering purposes please RSVP to Judy Brighting ext 4980 or email judyb@waikato.ac.nz by Friday 18th March.

Super 12 competition

It's all about to begin again soon! Time is running out to get your name on the board in the staff tearoom! Who knows, this year the top prize may be yours!

If you're a little unsure how it all works, there is a copy of the "rules of play" on the noticeboard.

Deadline for names is 16 February. Friends & family are welcome to take part as long as you ensure their entry fee and selections are in on time.