

Braemar Hospital leading the way

ONE YEAR on from opening and **Braemar Hospital** is treating more patients than ever.

Chief executive Paul Bennett says it's been a very busy year for staff and specialists.

"Feedback from patients has been very positive," he says. "They enjoy the hotel-style of our new facility. It doesn't have the traditional feel of a clinical hospital so patients feel more relaxed and comfortable during their visit."

Reminiscent of a five-star hotel, the 14 rooms in the Kowhai wing feature jarrah wood fittings, wall-mounted flat screen TVs, a desk with broadband internet access, shelves for flowers, fully-tiled bathrooms, heated towel rails and bathrobes.

For those wanting to pay less but still enjoy luxury, four-star-like bedrooms are available. All patient rooms are double or triple-glazed to eliminate noise from the two main arterial routes.

Enhancing the quality interior of the two-storey building are dozens of paintings and photographs by local artists, reflecting a Waikato-Coromandel theme.

At the business end of the building, the operating theatres feature state-of-the-art digital technology.

Three of Braemar's six new theatres are digital operating theatres (DORs) and surgeons can share information across theatres via video and audio link during operations. Heat-free operating lights are a further enhancement, providing more comfortable conditions for the surgical team.

Environmentally-friendly, the facility has solar panels, an energy-efficient plant and double or triple-glazed windows throughout.

The building, which surrounds a courtyard with native plants, is already prepared for stage two of the project. "Planning is under way for the next stage which will further increase Braemar's capacity," said Paul.

The new hospital has 68 beds including a five-bed intensive care unit and 16 day-surgery beds. In addition to the new hospital, Braemar has a modern day hospital at Knox St, making it the region's largest private hospital.

Braemar Hospital welcomes patients with and without medical insurance. All nationally recognised medical insurance policies are accepted including Southern Cross, Sovereign and Tower.

Braemar Hospital is 100 percent owned by the Braemar Charitable Trust. "Our fees are very competitive on a local and national basis and surpluses are re-invested into new facilities and equipment for the ongoing benefit of patients," Paul said.

Jose Roman, a leading gynaecologist, values the fact Braemar is a charitable hospital. "This means the surpluses are ploughed directly back into the hospital and the community."

As a trustee, Jose plays a key role in the hospital's administration. He is also a member of the hospital's clinical committee which oversees all aspects of clinical governance.

Both are unpaid jobs that took up a great deal of time last year when the new hospital was being built. He said Braemar was practically the only hospital in New Zealand where everybody – nurses and doctors – has had input. "There was communication with everybody to know exactly what they wanted."

Jose is also happy with the culture at Braemar. He believes the family atmosphere has been preserved in the shift from its previous much smaller premises to the new, state-of-the-art hospital on Ohaupo Rd.

Chairman Dr Rob Cameron is likewise delighted with the outcome. "Now we have settled into our new hospital there is very little that we would change. This is a reflection of the effort put into the planning stage. And we are all looking forward to beginning the same process for Stage 2."

For more information on Braemar, visit www.braemarhospital.co.nz.



**Braemar
Hospital**
Your choice for excellence

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