

# corrections *News*

magazine of the Department of Corrections



Some of the colourful artwork destined for the new Auckland Hospital.

## Inmate art to brighten new Auckland Hospital

Inmates at Auckland Prison are creating a series of artworks to donate to the new Auckland Hospital, due to open in October. The works will be bright, cheerful and based on multi-cultural themes.

Auckland Prison's Art Tutor, Robyn Hughes, says the project was suggested by an inmate art committee that represents about 30 inmates on the prison's art programme.

"This is a chance for the artists to contribute to the community in a very positive way.

"The project has challenged the men. It requires them to be sensitive towards the

environment the works are intended for and it encourages them to show a great deal of empathy."

The project is being partnered by the Arts Access Aotearoa Trust, which works with the Department to develop art in prisons.

Prison art programmes encourage inmates to strengthen communication skills, engage in constructive activity, and to work toward professional goals.

"Words are not the only way for people to communicate and the arts give people the means to communicate positively in another way," explains Penny Eames, Executive Director of Arts Access Aotearoa.

Arts Access Aotearoa has been working with the Department since the mid-1990s, encouraging prisons to run art programmes and generating support networks for prison programmes. These networks are particularly useful when an inmate is released back into the community.

"Arts Access Aotearoa's networks then provide support for the inmate to continue with his or her creative work," says Penny. **cn**



DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS



## Statement of Intent 2003/04

A part of the documentation associated with the Government's Budget announcement is our Statement of Intent for 2003/04. That Statement outlines the areas of particular focus for the year in addition to meeting the demands of business as usual.

This year's Statement of Intent entails four major themes:

1. *Ensuring Effective Offender Management*
2. *Improving Responsiveness to Maori*
3. *Contributing to Reducing Re-offending*
4. *Enhancing Capability and Capacity*

These themes will also be the ones we are proposing to guide our endeavours over the period 2003/04 to 2007/08 which is the cycle covered by our next suite of Strategic Business Plans (SBPs).

I will probably talk more about the SBPs and the themes when we have completed the consultation processes involved and are getting closer to finalisation of their substance.

Turning back to 2003/04 the strongest emphasis is going to be placed on consolidation and enhancing quality and efficiency. Last year was remarkable in that the Department had to cope with two massive systemic changes.

One was related to the final year of implementing changes to the way in which we manage offenders so as to both improve our ability to protect the public through effective sentence management practices and was also

concerned with increasing our capability and potential in reducing re-offending.

The other set of changes were those relating to implementation of the Sentencing Act 2002, Parole Act 2002 and Victims Rights Act 2002.

The magnitude of both these exercises mean we need a less ambitious and more evolutionary work agenda for this year so as to provide sufficient breathing space to make sure we embed those changes well. This all means taking the opportunity to have a look at systems design and process issues and to make modifications to improve them in the light of experience.

While the time of wholesale change, which has characterised much of the last seven years, is past, we will continue to build on the foundations that have now been put in place. And we will remain interested in looking at opportunities for innovation, to advance strategically, or fill in gaps. However, these are not areas where the major attention for implementing changes will be focussed in 2003/04.

Perhaps the most important piece of work for the future strategic position of the Department will be the new Corrections Act. The Corrections Bill is currently before the Law and Order Select Committee, which will commence deliberation on it next month. It is to be reported back to Parliament later this year and then scheduled for debate. The legislation is not only a companion piece to the three pieces of

legislation that we implemented last

year, but more significantly represents an opportunity to update core legislation principally affecting Corrections, some of which goes back close to 50 years. The new legislation and the principles it requires us to have regard to therefore has the potential to provide strategic and operational guidance to us for a long number of years to come. It represents the outcome of a considerable amount of development work over the last three or so years, which I hope will represent an excellent investment for the future.

While there are a good number of particular work items in the Statement of Intent, a number of them represent a continuation of valuable work already underway or work which had to be done.

While 2003/04 will not be easy, it should nevertheless provide some respite to what we have been used to more recently and thus enable to settle down the advances that have been made and thus provide more certainty and stability. **cN**

## A new way forward with Maori staff

A proposal to set up the Department's first integrated Maori staff network is to be discussed at a hui in Wellington later this month.

Up to 40 key representatives of staff from Probation and Offender Services, Public Prisons Service, Corrections Inmate Employment and Head Office will meet at Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Island Bay.

Charlie Tawhiao, Treaty Relationships Manager, says the proposed network would enable Maori staff to provide a collective input on improving the Department's performance for whanau, hapu and iwi. It would also provide a supportive environment for Maori staff.

It is the first time an integrated network has been proposed, and representatives will be selected based on existing Maori staff networks.

Charlie says the regional integration focus behind the recently

established Regional Management Committees provides the major push for such a network.

"The focus will be on integrating existing networks so that Maori staff who wish to, are able to actively contribute to the Department's Treaty of Waitangi goal of achieving wellness and well-being for the people.

"Working together as a Maori collective offers Maori staff the chance to serve their whanau, hapu and iwi in a practical way. Many Maori staff in Corrections have expressed to me a desire to 'do something for Maori people.' This network will provide them with a means of achieving that aim."

The hui will be opened by Chief Executive Mark Byers and presentations will be made by iwi representatives, who have been working with the Treaty Relationships team regarding the Department's four planned new regional corrections facilities. **cN**

## Budget 2003: increased funding for offender services



Increased funding for the Department's Community Probation Service (CPS) and Psychological Service, plus administrative support services for the New Zealand Parole Board, is the major outcome of this year's budget round.

Overall, CPS's budget will increase by an extra \$8 million in operating funding in 2003/4, rising to \$11.3 million in the following year. This funding will enable the number of Probation Officers to increase by 22 percent, and training budgets boosted by 79 percent.

Probation Officer numbers nationwide, currently 500, will increase by 110 over the next three years. Sixty of these positions will be filled in the first year, with another 40 in the second year and 10 in the third year.

Acting Corrections Minister Margaret Wilson said that the resources in the first year would help meet increased volumes and demand pressures that have occurred since the Sentencing Act and Parole Act were introduced last year. The second and third year funding will be used to help improve the quality of sentence management, particularly for high-risk offenders.

"This will enable the Service to improve the capability of its managers, focus on training and development for existing staff and ensure new staff are well-equipped for the job."

Other funding decisions include increased funding for support services for the New Zealand Parole Board, and an extra \$400,000 a year for Corrections' Psychological Service, in order to manage higher volumes of work.

Funding decisions for the Northland Region Corrections Facility were also confirmed in the Budget. Funding for Auckland Women's Regional Corrections Facility and Spring Hill Corrections Facility will be considered by Cabinet separately over the coming year. **cN**

## PARS, the story so far



Launching *Through the Prison Gate: 125 Years of Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation* are, from left to right: Sally Bray, NZPARS, the book's author Professor Margaret Tennant, NZPARS President Sandra Terewi and NZPARS National Director John Whitty.

**T**he New Zealand Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society (NZPARS) recently marked 125 years of service with the launch of a book about its work and history.

*Through the Prison Gate: 125 Years of Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation* was commissioned by NZPARS to mark their achievement as one of New Zealand's longest-running volunteer organisations.

The first PARS society was formed in Dunedin in 1877, and there are now 20 local PARS societies throughout New Zealand. The national organisation, NZPARS, is based in Wellington and provides administrative support for each society.

Since 1995, Corrections has had an agreement with NZPARS for the purchase of reintegrative support services provided by local PARS societies, valued at approximately \$1.5 million annually.

The support services provided include assisting inmates and ex-inmates to manage finances and relationship issues, and to find suitable accommodation, employment and health care when released. They also help inmates develop community support networks and deal with victim-related problems.

*Through the Prison Gate* was launched in April at Parliament. Attending the launch were the book's author, Professor Margaret Tennant, and representatives from PARS and NZPARS, Corrections and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board (Environment and Heritage), which funded printing of the publication. Corrections Chief Executive Mark Byers attended on behalf of Acting Corrections Minister Margaret Wilson.

The book covers the society's aims and activities of more than a century. It reveals how over the years society's attitudes towards offenders and the people who help them have in some ways changed but in other ways remained firmly fixed. It also highlights some of the colourful key players who have served the organisation.

**Copies of *Through the Prison Gate* are available by contacting NZPARS on (04) 472 4385. **cN****

## First-hand look at prison life for neighbours

Neighbours of the site for the proposed Otago Region Corrections Facility recently took the opportunity to see what goes on inside a prison.

Project Coordinator Justine McDermott says the informative trip to Rolleston and Christchurch prisons was organised in response to a request from the Milburn Neighbours Group. Ten locals from the South Otago township took up the offer to visit the prisons.

“We’ve been talking with neighbours about what a prison is like for some months now. Walking through actual facilities and meeting corrections staff helped build understanding of the work we do,” says Justine.

Also on the agenda was a session with 15 Rolleston Prison neighbours. Justine says the idea was for Rolleston neighbours to share their thoughts and experiences of living beside a prison.

“The notion of living close to a prison can take time to get used to, so it was reassuring to hear from those who are comfortable in that situation,” she explains.

The visitors had a busy schedule, including a tour of accommodation units, programme rooms, receiving area, remand wing, kitchen facilities, inmate employment activities and watching a drug dog display.

Self-care units are planned for the Otago facility so the group spent time with inmates from Christchurch Prison’s self-care units and viewed their living arrangements. These units are designed to prepare longer serving inmates near the end of their sentence for return to community life. They are based on a secure, flatting-type arrangement and only selected minimum security inmates can live in them.

The Department’s rehabilitation programmes were explained, including a presentation from therapist Mary Laidlaw

at Rolleston Prison’s Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit. Two inmates from the unit spoke about their offending and desire to change.

Of particular interest to neighbours was a look at prison landscaping, fencing, lighting and wastewater treatment facilities.

Justine says the group were appreciative of the insight they received.

“Special thanks go to the team at Christchurch and Rolleston prisons for opening their doors and making the visit a success.”

Corrections and the Milburn Neighbours Group met in early May to discuss landscaping and gain feedback on the draft landscape concept plan. The outcomes from these events are being used to progress the new facility planning approval documents expected to be lodged with the Clutha District Council in June. [cN](#)

## Timber training pays off for former inmate

Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) instructor, Chris Mason, was delighted to receive a call from a former inmate thanking him for the training and support he received while working in Christchurch Prison’s timber yard.

“It’s those moments that especially make being an instructor worthwhile,” says Chris.

“This inmate was a gang affiliate when he arrived, but by the time he left prison he had moved on from all of that.

“The difference between this guy and other offenders was that he was willing to listen and wanted to change. He absorbed technical details quickly and picked up several NZQA standards while at the timber yard. He was also receptive to important advice such as how to work in a team and managing relationships,” says Chris.

Chris saw that the inmate showed promise and through the CIE Release to Work scheme, helped the inmate find a job prior to his release with a local timber merchant. The offender kept this job after his release.

“A risk time for re-offending is that transition between leaving prison and finding a job, so having employment upon release makes a big difference to making a successful new start,” he says.



An inmate working and learning in one of CIE’s timber processing operations.

The former inmate has continued his training while working in private employment, gaining further skills in timber grading and using a docking saw.

The star pupil still occasionally keeps in touch with Chris and early in 2003 Chris heard that the former inmate had moved on to a new job at another timber processing plant. [cN](#)

## Milestone towards new women's prison reached

A modern 150-bed women's corrections facility planned for the upper North Island has passed a development milestone.

The Acting Corrections Minister Margaret Wilson accepted the Manukau City Council's recommendation to designate a site, at Hautu Drive in Manukau City, for the development of the much-needed facility. The designation was accepted after making modifications to some of its conditions.

The designation will secure the site for prison purposes, although this can be appealed to the Environment Court.

"The search for a suitable site and the parallel consultation process began three years ago. Reaching this stage is further positive endorsement for the project and recognition of all the groundwork that has

occurred," says Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris.

The new facility will replace Mt Eden Women's Prison, which is too old and small to accommodate an increasing number of women offenders from the upper North Island.

Richard adds that the new prison will be purpose-built, with facilities such as mother and baby feeding and bonding areas, that acknowledge the inmates' family and social role.

Special conditions the Department must meet when building and running the prison are set out in the designation. The conditions include setting up a community liaison group as an ongoing point of contact between the Department, stakeholders and the local community, and planting at the site to improve its current landscape and screen the prison.

Another condition is to place the accommodation units some distance from the boundary to limit any impact of neighbouring facilities on the prison. No building can occur on the site's heritage areas, and consultation with local hapu will occur before any work is carried out on other culturally sensitive areas of the site. Consultation with local hapu is ongoing.

The designation follows a submissions and hearing process earlier in the year, managed by the Council under the Resource Management Act. Twenty-two submissions on the designation application were received. Submitters have 15 working days to appeal the Minister's decision to the Environment Court. If there are no appeals, construction of the prison could begin later this year. **cN**

## Northland prison construction deal sealed

Design plans are turning into reality with construction of the Northland Region Corrections Facility now underway.

Earlier in the year Mainzeal Construction was awarded the contract to build the prison. The site is a few kilometres east of Kaikohe, where the company can be found making headway on the two-year building project.

"Developing a prison is no small task. Awarding the construction contract was a significant event that followed several years of consultation and planning," says Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris.

Chief Executive of Corrections, Mark Byers, and Chief Executive of Mainzeal, Neil Ranford, recently signed the contract to build the prison.

Attending the signing ceremony and acting as witnesses were Ngati Rangi kaumatua Gordon Te Haara and Mac Anania.

"To have Ngati Rangi share in this event was significant for us, as our partnership with them is an integral part of the facility's future," says Richard.

Overseeing the building phase is Construction Manager Duncan Kenderdine. He says the Department is on track to open the facility in early 2005.



Corrections, Mainzeal Construction and Ngati Rangi representatives seal the deal to build the new Northland Region Corrections Facility. Pictured is Chief Executive of Corrections, Mark Byers (second from left, front row), and Chief Executive of Mainzeal, Neil Ranford, flanked by Ngati Rangi kaumatua Gordon Te Haara (left) and Mac Anania. Back-left is Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris and beside him Construction Manager Duncan Kenderdine.

"A positive spin-off from the project is the many construction jobs it creates. About 70 workers are currently onsite and 50 are locals, including 30 who were previously unemployed.

"The number of construction workers will grow to 150 in the near future and over the next couple of years will peak at 350 people."

Made up of mostly single-level buildings, the

350-bed facility will have a contemporary prison design that focuses on inmate rehabilitation. The facility will include a youth unit and Maori focus unit, along with special features to promote the cultural well-being of inmates. Accommodation units will be laid out in a landscaped environment contained by secure fencing and the latest security technology. **cN**

## Leading the way in smart energy use

Corrections is leading the way in the public sector with its target of permanently improving energy efficiency by 15 percent over the next five years.

In April, the Department pledged to work towards best practice in energy use with the ceremonial cutting of a power bill cake at the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) in Wellington.

Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris says Corrections is one of the biggest energy users among the government departments.

“Like everyone, we’re affected by increasing energy costs. We’re serious about energy efficiency and in the current climate of concern over a possible winter power shortfall our energy wise efforts are timely.”

EECA’s Chief Executive Heather Staley says she is delighted to have Corrections on

board. In making a commitment with EECA, the Department is contributing to the overall state sector target of improved energy efficiency and in return, EECA will provide Corrections with information, financial assistance and other support.

The Department’s energy bill has grown to more than an \$4.2 million a year. Through its energy programme Corrections should achieve at least \$1 million in ongoing savings by 2007.

Richard says action plans are being rolled out that aim to get more out of each unit of energy, without cutting back on services. The action plans will implement savings identified by energy audits, improve energy monitoring and build an energy component into decision making.

To help the energy efforts gain momentum, key staff, including regional property managers,

recently attended a three-day customised training session at Rimutaka Staff Training College. Facility design staff took part in a workshop to share ideas on how to incorporate energy efficiency into the Department’s upgrades and new facilities.

“Providing staff responsible for energy use with the tools and techniques to become energy efficient is a vital ingredient for success,” Richard says.

Energy Manager Cees Ebskamp adds that the training session was a valuable chance for staff based at facilities across the country to get together, share ideas, hear from experts and plan for the future.

The Department joins other corrections services worldwide, in particular Britain and the United States, who have extensive energy management programmes. **cN**

## New prison kitchen dazzles stakeholders

Around 40 people attended a function at Rimutaka Prison in late March to celebrate the opening of its new central kitchen.

The kitchen was built as part of an upgrade of the prison’s facilities and is found near the newly constructed accommodation units. It replaces seven kitchens that were located within various units around the prison.

Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) Catering Manager, Ray Wilson, says the new kitchen means the meal-making process flows smoothly, resulting in efficiently prepared, more standardised food.

He adds that the kitchen enhances the learning environment for CIE to train inmates towards NZQA-based catering qualifications.

Staff and their families, suppliers, contractors and other stakeholders took a tour of the new kitchen. The group viewed the meal preparation areas, coolstore, dry goods storage area and appliances. Visitors welcomed the opportunity to look around an environment not typically open to the public.

Ray says an important feature of the kitchen is its energy efficient design.

“There’s dual energy supply - electricity and gas - so that if the power goes down, we can still prepare meals. We’ve chosen appliances that are energy efficient and this will help reduce operating costs and improve overall service delivery.”

The new kitchen houses an enormous automated dishwasher that employs energy efficient “heat recovery” technology. Temperatures inside the dishwasher can rise to



Vegetables in the new coolstore. Fresh vegetables are delivered to Rimutaka Prison up to twice a week from Hawke’s Bay Prison’s garden.

120° Celsius, yet heat is expelled at around 30° Celsius. The excess heat is used to warm water coming into the dishwasher.

The new ovens are also energy efficient. They heat up quicker than traditional models because they are better insulated. Food shrinks up to 50 percent less than in traditional ovens because of the cooking method used.

Catering Manager Ray Wilson praised staff involvement in the kitchen’s development. Instructor Gary Hunter said he was delighted to have been involved from the design stage to the finished product.

In an address to the stakeholders attending the opening, local MP Paul Swain made positive comments about the efficiency of the new kitchen and the work of staff involved. **cN**

## Energy efficiency fact file

- The Department's annual energy consumption is enough to power all the households in a town the size of Masterton for one year.
- Most of Tongariro/Rangipo Prison's hot water and heating is produced by a renewable energy source (biomass, or plant residue from the Department's pine forest).
- A solar panel installed at Unit 6, Auckland Prison, has been producing free hot water for its residents since 1997.
- By putting as many energy saving measures in place as practical, Christchurch Prison cut its energy costs in half, from about \$800 per inmate per year to \$400.
- Waste hot water from Rimutaka kitchen's dishwasher preheats incoming cold water for the next wash cycle (see story on page 6).



Chief Financial Officer Richard Morris and EECA Chief Executive Heather Staley mark Corrections' commitment to energy savings by cutting into an energy bill cake.

## Energy conservation moves into full swing

Corrections is playing its part and contributing to national energy savings by urgently stepping up its energy-wise actions.

With low levels in the nation's hydro-power lakes, the predicted electricity shortfall this winter is serious. Cabinet has asked Government departments to cut their electricity use by 15 percent in the meantime.

While not compromising security, service levels or health and safety, staff at national office and Corrections' various offices and prison sites have been asked to do what they can to reduce energy use.

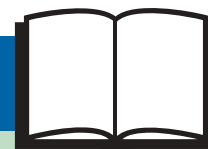
Savings have already started with staff switching off unused machinery, adjusting lighting levels, and reducing air conditioning and heating periods. Actions from the Department's Energy Strategy, such as modernising certain light fittings and energy performance monitoring, have been given priority.

The Department is also looking to mirror energy efficient success achieved by Christchurch Prison at its other facilities. This includes reductions in both internal and external lighting, and technical solutions used to reduce plant running times through the prison's computerised building management system.

"Staff are giving us their ideas and are very aware of the current situation. The energy crisis has highlighted areas where we can become more energy efficient permanently and we're taking action to do so," says Energy Manager Cees Ebskamp. **cN**



Energy Manager Cees Ebskamp with some of the 600 fluorescent light tubes recently removed from National Office in Wellington.



### British study reports encouraging results for cognitive skills programmes

A report lodged on the British Home Office website<sup>1</sup> provides support for the effectiveness of cognitive skills programmes delivered to prison inmates.

The study investigated the impact of a cognitive skills programme (very similar to Corrections' Straight Thinking programme) on subsequent offending of 647 male prison inmates, who were followed up for two years after release. The reconviction rates of these men were compared to the reconviction rates for a sample of 1,801 men who were matched with the treatment group on the basis of risk.

The study found that reconviction rates for those men who received the cognitive skills training were consistently less than the reconviction rates for the group which did not, with the difference being up to 14 percent lower for the treated group.

The investigation also looked at the effectiveness of this programme in relation to the risk level of the participants, and found that the greatest gains were achieved by individuals in the medium risk categories, with the smallest gains being found for the low and high risk groups.

The authors of the study note that, based on the numbers of inmates expected to complete a cognitive skills

programme during 2002/03, the magnitude of the reduction in offending would represent a total of 21,000 crimes prevented in the United Kingdom.

The authors comment that this was one of the largest treatment outcome studies carried out in Europe, and provided strong evidence of the effectiveness of this approach in offender treatment. It also reinforces Corrections' decision to introduce this type of programme into our system. The authors conclude that the favourable results obtained strongly support the rigorous accreditation and quality control processes, providing a clear indication of the potential value of this approach in Corrections' own context.

The authors go on to conclude that the study forms the basis for cost effectiveness analysis of offender programmes. It allows for the resources required for these types of cognitive skills programmes to be offset against the savings to the community and criminal justice system brought about by reductions in offending. **cN**

<sup>1</sup> Friendship C, *et al* (2002) An evaluation of cognitive behavioural treatment for prisoners, [publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

### Boxer's messages a hit with MODS group

New Zealand champion boxer Sean Sullivan had some hard-hitting messages for a group of South Auckland offenders on the Making Our Drivers Safe (MODS) programme.

In April, Sean gave a motivational talk to a small group of Mangere MODS participants, who must complete the intensive 10-week course as part of their community-based sentences. Delivered by the Community Probation Service, MODS is designed for high-risk repeat driving offenders, challenging them to break their cycle of re-offending.

Sean instantly connected with his audience, says Probation Officer and programme facilitator Matehaere Maihi.

"It's not often that someone as well known as Sean comes along to offer guidance. Like the programme participants he spoke to, Sean also grew up in South Auckland. His speech was based on personal experience and triumph over difficult times."

Sean encouraged the group to recognise and remove themselves from negative influences and to seek support from a trusted source.

Making sacrifices to reach a goal, being passionate about what you want to be, and getting involved in sports, school or community activities were themes of Sean's talk.

Matehaere felt the participants were inspired by Sean to "get themselves together".

"Their challenge will be putting the lessons and coping techniques they have learned into practice when they finish."

Matehaere and co-facilitator Jack Kinkaid say their MODS group intends to make Sean proud when he returns for their graduation in mid-May.

Sean Sullivan has worked with youth, whanau, community groups and Police for many years offering motivation and encouragement. **cN**

# Pacific community *So'otaga Aho* at Waikeria Prison

Links between Waikeria Prison and the local Pacific community were strengthened recently by a *So'otaga Aho* initiative in which 50 guests were invited to find out more about the Department's work with Pacific offenders.

*So'otaga Aho* means "joining together day" in Samoan and Niuean. *So'otaga Aho* gave representatives of Pacific community groups and Government agencies the chance to spend a day at the prison and meet staff and inmates.

Lautafi Selafi Purcell, Principal Adviser (Pacific), spoke about the Department's Pacific Strategy and the new *Fautua Pasefika* policy, which enables Pacific community leaders to have greater and easier access to Pacific inmates.

The Pacific Strategy is the Department's first strategic plan developed for Pacific peoples and shows the Department's commitment to reducing re-offending by Pacific offenders.

"The core message of the strategy is based on the Samoan proverb which translates to -

'Bail the canoe or our voyage will not reach its destination'. The proverb encompasses the spirit of total cooperation and working together for the good of all," says Selafi.

"In the islands everyone looks after the well-being of one another in a very cooperative manner. Why should it be different here? We want the community to take an active interest in the well-being of its members who are in prison."

Cultural performances by both guests and inmates proved to be a highlight of the day. Members from the Hawaiian, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Island and Samoan communities all performed. The afternoon culminated in members of the Tokoroa Ministry of Social

Development delegation getting the whole audience to its feet and dancing with them.

Guests also heard from Waikeria Prison staff about different rehabilitative services and programmes provided at the prison.

Unit Manager Sosefo Bourke says the Pacific Strategy is about being more responsive to the needs of Pacific peoples.

"It has opened a door that wasn't there in the past, and *So'otaga Aho* was about getting the key people together for the first step of the initiative."

Meetings will be held over the coming weeks with the various Waikato Pacific communities to build on the results of the *So'otaga Aho*. **cN**



Waikeria Prison's first official *Fautua Pasefika*, Ned Cook, attended the day and spoke on the importance of Pacific solutions by Pacific peoples.



*So'otaga Aho* guests dancing.



Pacific community leaders and Corrections staff, from left to right: Rev. Anatu-Reupena, Niuia Aumua, Paul Smith, Sosefo Bourke, Peseta Misi Tualima, Gavin Dalziel, William Cuthers, Lautafi Selafi Purcell, Leota Scanlan.

# Bulk-buying for inmate food

In the latest phase of the national catering review, registrations of interest are being sought from parties interested in supplying the raw ingredients needed to feed around 6,000 inmates, including dry goods, meat and dairy products.

Mealtimes are a do-it-yourself affair at New Zealand's 17 public prisons, with inmates preparing and serving around 18,000 meals each day under the direction of Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) catering instructors.

Around 181 key foodstuffs were identified and Procurement Manager Simon Tregear hopes to have national purchasing contracts for all items by late 2003.

"Purchasing decisions have historically been made at an individual site or regional level. However, phase one of the catering review - menu standardisation - allowed national demand for key foods to be collated, so now national contracts can be offered," says Simon.

Vegetables have mostly been excluded from the tender process, as prison gardens, also run by CIE, are able to supply a large proportion of the vegetables required.

"Inmates gain useful horticultural skills while working in prison gardens and by growing vegetables ourselves we're helping to lower the cost to taxpayers," says Brent Maughan, Catering Review Project Manager.

Traditionally, price has been the main consideration when evaluating potential suppliers. Simon advises that this tender will consider product quality, delivery arrangements and payment terms.



A typical evening meal at any one of New Zealand's 17 public prisons.

## What do inmates eat each year?

- 29 tonnes of luncheon
- 1 million litres of milk
- 16 tonnes of cornflakes
- 800,000 loaves of bread
- 12 tonnes of baked beans
- 48 kilometres of sausages
- 2 million Weetbix

The main benefits of tendering national supply contracts will be enhanced product quality and consistency, improved prices due to economies of bulk-buying and improved administration. Through the tender process Simon hopes to rationalise the number of suppliers used (currently 200).

The national catering review was initiated in mid-2001 to ensure CIE was delivering an efficient, cost-effective catering service.

Brent says CIE continues to work on other aspects of the catering review, including enhancing quality assurance systems and improving inmate and staff training frameworks. **cN**

# Solomon Islands looks at community-based sentences

Sir John Muria, Chief Justice of the Solomon Islands (centre) met with Department of Corrections managers Jared Mullen, General Manager Policy Development, and Katrina Casey, General Manager Probation and Offender Services, during a recent visit to New Zealand.

The meeting's purpose was to discuss the policy and operation of implementing community-based sentences in the Solomon Islands, where currently only custodial sentences apply.

In addition to providing advice, the Department is supplying copies of New Zealand legislation and sentencing information to assist the Solomon Islands' Government develop community-based sentences. **cN**



## Playground work brings praise

A Community Work group that pitched in at a pre-school's working bee has been praised by locals for its hard work.

The working bee allowed 10 offenders serving the community-based sentence of Community Work to help Tauranga's Bethlehem Community Pre-School finish off their playground. The group was under the direction of Work Party Supervisor Bill Hiamoe.

Anna Hegarty from the pre-school said there was initial apprehension about using the offenders.

"Some parents had commented prior to the working bee that they were unsure about what the work group could achieve. It's great that Bill and the offenders have accomplished so much," says Anna.

The offenders proved themselves by working alongside the parents - barrowing sand, leveling a play area for a new lawn, spreading mulch and digging holes for poles.

Parents and teachers were overjoyed with the efforts of the group and wrote a



A Community Work group has earned praise for its efforts to help finish-off this Tauranga pre-school's playground.

letter commending Bill and the work group for their hard work.

The letter says that Bill understood exactly what was required for the playground project and that the amount of work completed was a credit to him.

The letter also praises the work ethic of the offenders, commenting that they were energetic, hard working and courteous.

The Community Probation Service's

Tauranga Service Centre Manager, Mike Sach, says that community work offenders can offer a lot of help to voluntary groups.

"Offenders serving Community Work are a source of labour and can assist organisations manage more labour-intensive projects in a short time period."

Mike believes that while public perception is generally not a problem in finding offenders projects to work on, the proof is in the doing. **cN**

## Top dogs compete for top honours

The Department of Corrections competed at the National Championship Services Dog Trials for narcotic detector dog teams held recently in Wellington.

Dog handler Barrie Gerbich and Labrador-cross Jess competed against dog teams from Police and Customs in drug retrieval exercises over a two-day period. The activities included locating and retrieving drugs hidden in vehicles and among objects.

Dog handler teams from Police, Customs and Corrections are periodically graded by Police dog trainers and the top teams selected to compete in the annual national championships. Explosive detector dogs have previously also competed in the national championships, however this year all those teams remained on duty, due to the current international security climate.

"I was very pleased to have been selected to compete with the country's top dog handling teams," says Barrie.

Although not a finalist in this year's competition, Barrie and Jess were awarded the trophy for Corrections' 2003 Champion Detector Dog Team.

The team is based at Rimutaka Prison and operate in prisons throughout the Wellington region. The Department has five dog detector teams nationally, which are used to assist prison staff detect drugs in prisons and on people and vehicles visiting prisons.



Jess is praised by handler Barrie Gerbich after detecting drugs hidden among boxes for an exercise at the National Championship Services Dog Trials.

"Drug dog teams are an important part of Corrections' drug reduction strategy," says Tony Coyle, National Crime Prevention Coordinator. "They play a major role in locating drugs on prison property and deterring people from attempting to bring them in in the first place.

"Competitions like the national championships, plus regular inter-Departmental seminars our teams attend, are a good way of making sure our dog handlers are up to speed in terms of skills and knowledge." **cN**

### CARS will make reporting easier

CARS stands for Corrections Analysis and Reporting System. CARS will help the Department meet its ongoing reporting requirements to a variety of agencies.

Corrections already has several significant sources of online data - from IOMS, SAP, PMMS and Payroll. CARS is a reporting system that can pull data from all these sources to make better use of the information available.

The long-term plan is to integrate information from these data sources for users to have a “one-stop shop” for reporting requirements. This would work like a “warehouse” of data, collated at a central point, sorted and then re-formatted in

different ways depending on each user’s enquiry.

IT and business representatives started discussing requirements late last year and the first phase of this project started recently. The project is seen as an incremental process, with continual improvements in data. The initial focus is on loading historical data from IOMS into CARS. By early April the project team had loaded five years worth of IOMS data relating to offender information. Each item had to be checked and then formatted for consistency.

Corrections staff based in national office who regularly create reports and analyse data are now accessing CARS.

“This is very much a user driven process,” stresses IT Manager Derek Lyons.

“The project team is working closely with expert users to create tables and structures that users identify as most useful to them. Eventually CARS will replace Business Objects for reporting purposes, but we are in no hurry to phase out Business Objects.”

The project team has begun building compliance-related tables for the “data warehouse”. Once this is complete and more data is available, more users will be trained.

“When we’re satisfied with our progress with IOMS data we’ll then start incorporating data from the other systems into CARS,” Derek says. **cN**

### Toy library opens thanks to Community Work group

Children in Otorohanga, near Te Kuiti, can enjoy their toy library again after Community Work offenders repaired and painted the room in a local church hall where it operates.

The toy library had been run from a building in the town’s main street until the lease expired last year. Early this year a room in the Methodist church hall became available but the library had no money for the work needed to bring it up to scratch.

Toy library coordinator Robyn Hodges knew just the people to call and contacted the Te Kuiti Community Probation Service (CPS) office.

“CPS offenders had helped out on projects for me before and I knew they would do a good job for the toy library.”

A work party of 10 spent four weekends preparing the room. Probation Officer in charge of the project, John Uerata, says that while the offenders provided the labour, much of the equipment, such as scaffolding, was donated by the community.

To their credit, Robyn says the work party arrived early every time and used their initiative. While preparing the room the workers discovered the ceiling was damaged



Toys are being checked out of Otorohanga’s toy library after CPS offenders renovated the room it operates from.

and set about repairing it. She describes the end result of the repairs as “absolutely amazing”.

John says the workers were enthusiastic about the project and in turn received a positive response.

“We’ve had good feedback about the improvements we’ve made to the room and have been asked to take on more projects because of it.”

He commented that locals are acknowledging that projects like this are a valuable way for offenders to give something back to their community. **cN**

### corrections News

Corrections News is the magazine of the Department of Corrections, New Zealand. Letters and comments are welcome.

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