

Keeping the North Shore Hospital community informed about developments relating to Tōtara Haumaru, the new four-storey, state-of-the-art hospital facility due for completion in 2023 and opening 2024.

Hospital history rediscovered on-site

Thanks to a couple of our eagle-eyed contractors, a plaque commemorating the life of World War Two nurse Eliza Daisy Cargo was rediscovered on the Tōtara Haumaru site and returned to a place of honour in time for ANZAC Day this year.

Eliza, also known as Elvie, was the first matron at the North Shore Obstetric Hospital that opened in 1958 and stayed in the role until 1964.

The original block she worked in was demolished last year to make way for construction of Tōtara Haumaru.

The plaque was placed in the adjoining grounds by staff nearly 60 years ago but became obscured by vegetation over the decades.

It was recovered during the demolition earthworks and unveiled on 22 April in its new location – a garden for patients, staff and members of the public to enjoy on the shore of Lake Pupuke.

The unveiling was observed by a very small number of hospital staff – in keeping with COVID-19 safety precautions. Representatives from the Birkenhead RSA also attended as did two former colleagues who worked with Matron Cargo in 1958 and her grandson, Stephen Bell.

“Eliza played a prominent role in the history of North Shore Hospital,” Waitematā DHB Director of Midwifery Emma Farmer says. “We are also very conscious of her years in the New Zealand Army Nursing.

Service where she and her colleagues frequently risked their lives to help others during World War Two.

“As such, it seemed fitting to unveil the plaque in time for ANZAC Day.”



1. Eliza Cargo pictured at work.

2. The plaque shortly after it was discovered on-site.



3. Eliza's grandson, Stephen Bell, unveils the plaque in its new location.

Concrete pour gets underway

The pouring of concrete floors has commenced, with levels one and two well underway and the ground floor recently started. Each pour is approximately 1000 square metres (that's the same as four tennis courts!) and takes a minimum of 30 concrete trucks.



Each floor requires the concrete to be pumped up through large truck-mounted pumps, then spread and finished by hand. Due to the colder weather, it currently takes over 12 hours for each pour to dry and set.

With over 50% of the building's steel structure already erected, the teams are working on the metal tray-deck and reinforcing steel for the concrete pour on the top floor while also preparing for the ground floor concrete pour where eight theatres will eventually go.

Off-site, the large precast exterior panels and stairs are being made, with roughly seven being completed each day. The panels and stairs are being made locally, with installation scheduled to start this month.

Hours of work

Typically, work occurs between the hours of 7am and 6pm, Monday-to-Saturday.

If an occasion arises where we need to work outside of these hours, advance notification will be provided.



Our teams pouring the internal concrete flooring.



Concrete truck pouring the level 1 floor.



Major progress: a view of Tōtara Haumaru from the entry side of the building.