

Media Release

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Hospital garden project seeks local support

Organisers of a voluntary project to revamp the roof garden at Tauranga Hospital are encouraging people to 'sponsor a plant' to help pay for the new-look garden.

Bay of Plenty DHB project manager Paul Stanbridge says an earlier request for support to buy park benches was hugely successful, and the group felt they should make the most of the community's enthusiasm to help.

"We have a landscape plan that aims to plant significant numbers of New Zealand natives and we are asking people to sponsor the plants for \$5 each," he says.

The plants have been carefully chosen for their durability, size projections and 'fit' with the new design, which aims to create peaceful outdoor 'rooms' for patients and visitors to the hospital.

Thanks to public support the park benches have been purchased and Paul is keen to grow the fund for the plantings so they can be planted by the spring. Anyone wanting to sponsor a plant for \$5 should contact Paul Stanbridge, Bay of Plenty DHB by email: paul.stanbridge@bopdhb.govt.nz or phone 579 8000 or can post a cheque (made out to the Bay of Plenty District Health Board), C/- Paul Stanbridge, BOPDHB, Private Bag 12024, Tauranga 3143.

The group has been overwhelmed by the support offered by community organisations and businesses. The project is being led by Kevin Crawshaw of the Lakes Development landscaping team and landscape designer Michelle McDonnell. Fletcher Construction, (currently building the new Wing at the hospital), used the site crane to lift a digger and a skip bin onto the garden recently to help with preparation works. Tremendous support has also come from Tree Wise Men, Eves and Baileys Real Estate Events Manager – Alison Stewart, structural engineers – Buller George Turkington, Hire Pool, Tauranga Tree Company and Daltons Potting Mix and Bark Suppliers.

Groups or individuals wanting to make a more 'hands on' contribution are also welcome. Volunteers are needed on the weekend of July 3 – 4 to assist with further ground

preparation and the removal of the felled tree roots, and again on July 17 to help with paving and more soil preparation for the garden layout.

“It’s a really rewarding project and our volunteers are enjoying getting their hands dirty, but it’s a case of ‘the more, the merrier’ to get the work done,” he says.

If the weather is poor, the volunteer work will be delayed by a week. Anyone wanting to join the team should contact Paul.

ENDS



The Lakes project landscaper Kevin Crawshaw with DHB employee and volunteer Debbie O’Byrne, in a newly dug over area of the roof garden.

For more information please contact:

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