

New Rooms for Hamilton Eye Clinic

For some years we have been aware that our rooms in Beale St have been inadequate for our needs.

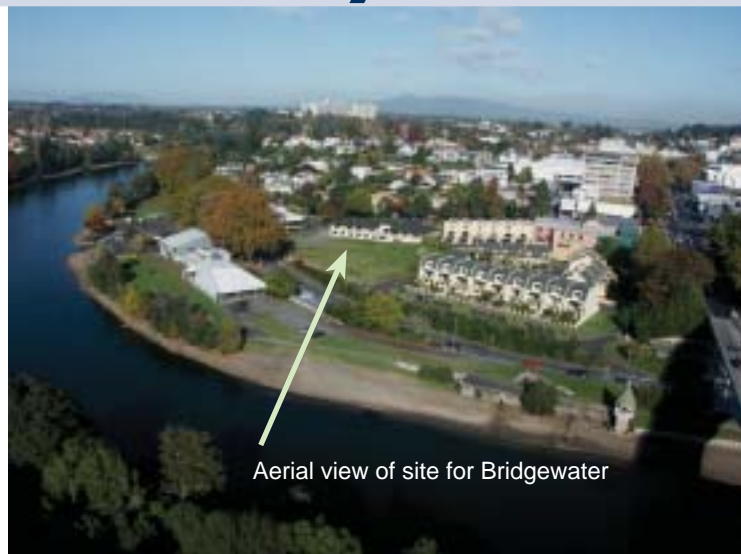
As well as shortage of space, poor access for the disabled and insufficient parking have been problems. Hamilton Eye Clinic has changed from a small general private practice to a major regional ophthalmology clinic with a large tertiary sub-speciality sector. We have given a lot of thought to the future and have decided to pursue the goal of providing a state-of-the-art ophthalmic centre, despite the considerable financial outlay required to do this. On the other hand we want to continue to deliver high quality care for general ophthalmic problems such as cataracts, and to provide a significantly better acute service than we are able to currently.

In addition we have decided to follow the trend of the large eye clinics in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty and to develop our own operating theatre complex, Bridgewater Day Theatre, which will be immediately adjacent to our new clinic. It was difficult to find space that met our requirements of good parking, easy access, space for a 700 square meter clinic alongside an operating theatre complex, and proximity to Waikato Hospital, but eventually we found an ideal site in Grantham St beside the river. Our patch of land can easily be seen from Victoria Bridge

– watch developments there over the next year!

We have been working on this present scheme for 18 months or so and now are at the exciting stage as building should begin in the next month. Early on the long-established Hamilton insurance brokers Law Mooney Williamson joined us and they will occupy the top floor of what will probably be known as the Bridgewater Building. Others are now involved, and shortly we will be going to the market to find tenants for about 2000 square metres on the first, second and third floors.

Bill Miller of RDT Pacific is handling these issues and should be contacted in the first instance, ph: 838 2213



Aerial view of site for Bridgewater

● Laser Sight Centre

Doug Cox will be moving his Laser Sight Centre for excimer laser refractive surgery into the new clinic and theatre. Ophthalmology is becoming more and more dependent on very expensive “high tech” equipment and we will have the full range of modern diagnostic and therapeutic instruments available to all members of the new Hamilton Eye Clinic. We will be employing more technical staff and will be utilising multiple consulting rooms in the clinic to allow more time to be spent with patients, allowing among other things better patient education.

We will keep you informed about when and how we will move – probably the new Hamilton Eye Clinic at Bridgewater will open in May of next year.

In the meantime John Dickson, Stephen Guest, Stephen Ng, Jim Stewart, Clive Straker and David Worsley will continue to work out of the old Hamilton Eye Clinic at 1 Beale St, and Doug Cox out of the Laser Sight Centre at the Anglesea Clinic.

In planning our new clinic we have been given lots of generous advice from the large eye clinics in Auckland and Tauranga, and so we feel our new eye clinic should up there with the best in the country!

Introducing Bridgewater Day Surgery



Bridgewater Day Surgery will occupy half the ground floor of the new Bridgewater Building in Grantham St from May 2004. It will be a three operating room, high spec operating theatre complex for local and general day surgery, and laser refractive surgery.

This theatre is being developed by a new company, Bridgewater Surgical Services Ltd. We intend to perform all types of eye surgery in this complex and have made the decision to build to all current standards, even though this is not a requirement for day theatres. Provision has been made for patient transfer to other institutions if overnight care is needed after surgery.

We are delighted that since March of this year Elspeth Wing has been in position as Project Developer for Bridgewater Surgical Services, and she will manage the Day Theatre once it opens. Over the years Elspeth has at different times run the

eye theatre, eye ward and also eye clinic at Waikato Hospital.

We have, in addition to the contribution of our architects, Chow Hill, who specialise in developing operating theatres, had specialist consultant input from Marg McGill and Carol Jarvis amongst others, so that we will open an operating theatre next year that has adopted and instituted the highest standards in design and process. Hamilton Eye Clinic will perform all its eye surgery in this new facility, but the operating theatre will be suited to a far wider range of procedures.