



**HEALTH**  
KwaZulu-Natal



# KZN Children's Hospital

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| What's Happening   | <b>1</b> |
| The History        | <b>2</b> |
| Good News          | <b>3</b> |
| Photographs        | <b>4</b> |
| More Photographs   | <b>5</b> |
| & More Photographs | <b>6</b> |
| Editor's Comments  | <b>8</b> |



## Whats Happening...

I am sure that you have seen something happening along the perimeter of the Children's Hospital...

It is a building that has seen much neglect and has basically begun to fall apart through this lack of attention. It is tragic to think that a building of such significances, expressly built for the treating of sick children within the City of Durban, has been left to deteriorate to such as it is today. But, there is such good news, I just have to share it with everyone...

The Children's Hospital is getting a revamp! The hope is that it will be restored to it's former glory. And this is not just pie-in-the-sky stuff, it really is happening! See page 3 for more details.

As for any building project, the perimeter gets sealed off—called **hoarding**—which means: a temporary wooden fence erected round a building or demolition site; nowadays, it is also referred to as billboards. And we all know that billboards are the ideal way to advertise what is going on. In this case, artwork done by various schools are going to be displayed showing that it is going to be a Children's Hospital—so the following expression of —"what this space" some really good things are happening—is indeed, fitting.



## The History...

The Children's Hospital was built in the late 1920's and opened in 1931. It is situated next to the what is now called the Old Nurses Home, (and is by no means calling the staff who lived in it old!!).

### *The Children's Hospital*

The year 1931 was marked by the opening of a very fine children's hospital directly facing the beach. Though this hospital is for administrative purposes part of Addington Hospital and on the adjoining site, it differed from the rest of the hospital in that it was instigated and paid for by public voluntary

contributions to the extent of £23,000 collected by Mrs. Siedle, the Provincial Administration and the Town Council each adding £14,000.

- Taken from SA Medical Journal, 3 June 1961 pg 448

### (HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN DURBAN\* 1858 -1945

*The Late MAURICE G. PEARSON, F.R.C.S., at one time Senior Surgeon, Addington Hospital, Durban*

\*Reprinted from South African Medical Congress Brochure, 1946.)

This snapshot below is taken from the Addington Hospital Centenary Brochure 1879-1979

The Children's Hospital completed in 1930, consisting of an Out-Patients Department, and X-Ray Department and five Wards, named after birds — Kingfisher, Martin Lourie, Jacana & Heron. The Children's Hospital presently houses a creche for the benefit of the children of the Nursing Staff; it can accommodate 80 children.

Children's Hospital moved across to the main Hospital in November of 1984—taking up the 13th Floor. Medical Children were nursed on 13A and Surgical Children on 13B.

However, the Surgical component was minimised significantly when the Regional Service Level was downgraded to a District Level for Paediatrics at Addington Hospital, and the minor surgical and orthopaedic paediatric services moved across into Ward 13A.

The Neonatal ICU—used to be on the 7th Floor, then moved down to 5th Floor between ICU and CCU, and was eventually closed in 2004 with this service moving to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital.

Children's Outpatients moved from the Children's Hospital facility across to the renovated Addington School in December 2007. This service was the last facility in the once beautiful Children's Hospital that hung in there to the very end. This move to an old school was not ideal, but in typical fashion, everyone pitches in and makes do!

The catch phrase for the 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup has been—"This time for Africa", well, I think it can now read—"this time for the Children of Durban and KZN".



## Good News...

### KZN Children's Hospital gets the Kiss of Life



On **Thursday, 15 July 2010**, The restoration process will be officially launched by the KZN MEC, Dr S M Dhlomo, who will be joined by officials of the Department of Health KZN, Donors, Dignitaries and other Guests of Honour.

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The dream that brought the Children's Hospital to life in 1931, has not faded, though the building itself lies in ruin today. On 15 July, through the strenuous efforts of those visionary heroes who still stand, and a passionate ensemble of visionaries of the future, new life will be breathed into the dream again. KZN Children's Hospital will again be ahead of its time, boasting not only a state-of-the-art children's wellness centre, but a living and breathing work of art, which will close its doors to no colour, creed or race.

KwaZulu-Natal  
**CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  
Integrated Children's Wellness Centre

This is history in the making!!



# Photographs



The Walk-about Group!!  
27 November 2009



Then and Now...  
Dr Bill Winship



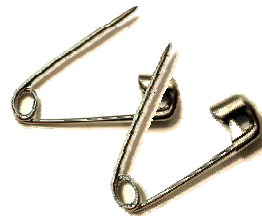
# More Photographs...



The two Professors: Bill Winship and Jerry Coovadia



Kingfisher and Loerie Wards  
Matron Hodgson, Dr Arthi Ramkissoo  
and Matron Chinniah



# And More Photographs—the sadness is evident







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## Thoughts...



### Notes from the Editor:

Dear Colleagues and Friends

It is amazing, it is finally happening, can this be true!

I think that this is a sentiment that most people are experiencing—that the restoration process of the Children's Hospital is actually about to get underway. The more common response is—can it be true: disbelief!!

But, miracles do happen and perseverance does pay off. It is after all for the greater good. There is no appropriate Children's Hospital in the Greater Durban area. It is not as if Children are going elsewhere—there is almost no where else to go!! When one looks at the fact that over 500 babies are born monthly at Addington alone, and Children's Outpatients sees on average 2000 children per month. There is a serious need for this facility.

Children are not adults! They do need to be treated differently from how adults are treated—medically. The misconception of children being small adults is totally false...and it takes dedicated people to look after children—especially—when they are ill. Perhaps I am biased—being trained in Paediatric Nursing, it does take a special kind of person to love this type of nursing. It certainly can be one of the most rewarding nursing specialities, and it can also be the most heart wrenching nursing too—when a child dies, a part of you dies too.

I cannot wait to see this project come to fruition. I am so proud to be a part of history in the making.

Till next time...

Sue

Ps some pictures may be a bit fuzzy—I had to keep the file size down!!

It you want to see the original pictures, please contact me.

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