



BUS FUSS: The new bus stop outside Whangarei Base Hospital will mean passengers will travel on time.

New stop will ease bus delays

A new bus stop at Whangarei Base Hospital has come about because of recurring delays for passengers. Located on Maunu road at the bottom of the hospital, work started at the new stop in late June and it is likely to open in the next day or two. Bus drivers have been encountering difficulties with the old route around the hospital grounds, according to Whangarei District Council asset manager

(traffic and parking) Wayne Davison. "The buses doing the city's Maunu route were struggling to get access into the hospital grounds and were finding the bus parking provided in the hospital was being used by other parties." Also because of the parking and other traffic the buses were being delayed which affected the rest of the bus timetable." Northland Regional Council transport spokesperson Sharlene

Selkirk says buses were running up to 20 minutes late at times. "And when there's delays in bus timetables it has a flow-on effect." She also explains that with the construction going on at the hospital because of the renovations it would have been "a nightmare" juggling buses and construction vehicles around one another. Mr Davison says although having the new bus stop will be

easier for the bus service, it is further from the hospital entrance, but he believes the hospital is planning to extend the car park shuttle bug to the stop. The cost of the new stop is \$38,451 (excluding GST) which is funded from the Minor Road Safety Works budget. The footpath has also been shifted back for pedestrians. There will be no changes to the timetable because the buses should now be running on time.

Computer show

SeniorNet Computer Inc, Whangarei, is holding a computer show at Forum North, Saturday July 24 from 10am to 4pm. Entrance fee is a gold coin donation. The show is called 'Come Talk Computers With SeniorNet'. We will show programmes and provide information about the Internet, genealogy, TradeMe, Google Earth, Facebook, Skype, MSN, Microsoft programmes, Word, Paint, general computer care and maintenance, anti-virus programmes and several local retailers. For more information, call (09) 437-4992. Photograph/Kenny Rodger

JOKE CORNER

An Australian was showing a visitor from America around various places of interest. But was running out of patience when the American kept remarking that things were much bigger and better in the US. Suddenly, a kangaroo hopped past the window. "What's that?" asked the Yank. "Oh, that's a grasshopper," said the Aussie.

Bike touring the world

It's taken Fred Klein five years and 25 countries to get from Germany to New Zealand by motorbike, and he estimates it will take another 10 to get him around the world. He arrived in New Zealand in January 2009 and he leaves Whangarei in October, heading to South America. He remembers dreaming about motorcycling the world as a teenager and the vision turned to reality five years ago when he turned 44. Mr Klein rides a Kawasaki KLR 650, having traded in the trusty BMW he started his journey with when it started costing more to fix than it was worth. "It had too many years and too much mileage," he grins. He ships his bike ahead of time to the next continent so it's there when he arrives. So far he's clocked up 30,000

kilometres around New Zealand and anticipates travelling a few more before he leaves. His travels are funded through painting and tiling jobs and selling everything he owned in Germany. He has a website www.fredontour.de where stories are posted about his journey. "It's a little report about each country," he says. "What's going on with me, how the bike is going, these sorts of things." Riding around different countries isn't an issue as Mr Klein has an international licence and says normally you can be in a foreign land with your own country's licence for 12 months without problems. He's only suffered one accident in the five years — unfortunately it was here. He was biking a narrow country road on "a short cut to Lake Tekapo"



INTREPID BIKER: German motorcyclist Fred Klein has spent the past five years travelling around the world.

and coming around a corner encountered an oversize combine harvester taking up both lanes. Faced with smacking into the machine or taking the grass ditch he chose the latter, ending up with bruised ribs and a broken wrist. Now healed, he says he's looking forward to the next journey and has no time frame for countries still to cross off his list.

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