Thames Hospital

Thames Hospital is a small 54 bed general hospital, serving a local population of 45,000 and is just over an hour’s drive from either Hamilton or Auckland. Thames is situated at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula, which is one of New Zealand’s premier local holiday destinations. The population served by Thames Hospital can swell to 150,000 during holiday periods. The hospital has had a major upgrade with new wards, and new emergency and radiology departments.

Thames maintains a 24 hour Emergency Department, manned by medical officers and a part time clinical director who is a fellow of The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine. The Emergency Department has 12,000 attendances a year. There are laboratory and radiology facilities on site, including a modern CT scanner, a digital x-ray system so that films taken in Thames will be able to be reviewed online by subspecialty teams at Waikato Hospital.

There is a 24 hour acute medical service at Thames, maintained by four resident physicians, supported by medical officers and senior house officers.

Thames has three surgeons and maintains a five day a week acute surgical service, and an elective general surgical service, including breast and endoscopic surgery.

An AT&R service is supported by a visiting geriatrician.

In addition to clinics run by local consultants, there are subspecialty clinics provided by visiting consultants from Waikato Hospital.

SHO / registrar posts:
Three SHOs and one registrar posts are available. These posts are different from those in major metropolitan hospitals in that they offer a broader range of experience, including ward, emergency department and operating theatre experience. In particular there is an opportunity to work with the anaesthetists to develop intubation and other anaesthetic skills. Posts at Thames are particularly suitable for 2nd and 3rd year graduates wishing to gain a different sort of experience.

Programmes at Thames can be made flexible to meet individual training needs, including time to attend teaching sessions Waikato Hospital. Thames medical library provides access to Waikato DHB’s extensive online library.

The Waikato Hospital Grand Round and the Trauma Forum are able to be viewed in Thames by means of a direct video link. Work is being undertaken to develop a link for the Waikato hospital medical rounds.

Local accommodation is available. Thames is regarded by all who have worked there as a very pleasant place to work.

Thames - the location:
Thames is a historical gold mining town. Situated right on the coast, Thames offers access to extensive fishing and other aquatic activities, along with stunning bush walks in the mountainous Coromandel Ranges. Being a small town, newcomers are strongly supported by the hospital staff and indeed the whole community.

The medical team at Thames:

Four physicians
Three surgeons
One FACEM
Three SHOs
One geriatrician
Two anaesthetists
Five medical officers
One registrar