



Picture: LAURA RICHARDS

BULLS flying doctor Dave Baldwin, left, is spreading his wings to include a fly-in pit-stop service at Palmerston North Airport. He and his friend Richard Speedy and his construction crew have been hard at work creating a hangar and doctor's office at the airport off Milson Line.

# Fly-in medical service gets off the ground

By LAURA RICHARDS

SOON pilots and air traffic controllers will be able to visit the Bulls Flying Doctor at Palmerston North Airport when they fly in.

Construction of the new blue hangar was nearing completion last week when Bulls Doctor Dave Baldwin invited the Rangitikei Mail to his new office.

The hangar is distinctive with Maori carving and painted accents

room, an administration office and a reception. Two huge photographic collages and several display cases filled with aviation memorabilia decorate the office. There is also a pull-down screen so patients can watch movies while waiting.

The fly-in pit-stop service is a family affair, with Dr Baldwin's wife Sandi, daughters Anna and Niki and son Marc involved. His daughters will be providing administration work, while his son, a helicop-

Dr Baldwin is excited about the new venture that adds to his existing Bulls Medical Centre. He has brought Dr Ken Young on board in Bulls, whose specialty is sports medicine.

"My understanding is the service I provide is unique," he said about the new office.

With 1300 pilots and air traffic controllers on his books, he rings them up once a month to see if they want their check-ups. He then

and East Coast destinations the second and in the third to Kaikoura and Blenheim.

On Sunday the pit-stop practice at the airport was to open, with 200 expected guests, among them Civil Aviation New Zealand director John Jones and Dr Baldwin's friend Dave Saxton, who he said was "One of the most famous deer recovery pilots in New Zealand".

Dr Baldwin said it was good to finally get the service "off the